



Famous Temples of Angkor Wat & Mysteries of the Mekong!

Exclusive TRIPS Charter with Just 36 passengers!

**Temples of Angkor, Ha Long Bay Junk Cruise,
7 Nights on the Mekong River, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and More!**

18 Day - 15 Night Cruise/Tour

Let TRIPS take you on a 5 star Lifetime Moments Tour as we travel in luxury to Southeast Asia.

A Mekong river cruise consistently rates the highest of any river journey in the world beating out the likes of other famous rivers such as the Rhine, the Danube, and the Yangtze. This deluxe and private 18 day, 15 night cruise/tour lets you experience not only the beauty of this area but provides rich cultural experiences throughout your journey!

The small size of this privately chartered vessel allows us to stop in places that larger boats simply can not visit.

Imagine visiting a local temple with a water blessing by the monks with just 36 passengers as opposed to 130 passengers from other vessels. Then, experience 5 Star luxury on the only boat to sail directly into Ho Chi Minh City with staterooms featuring floor to ceiling sliding glass doors. Throughout your trip, you'll be immersed in fascinating cultures, rich with tradition as you embark on an inspiring journey. Marvel at spectacular scenery and interact with the friendly local people. Your first glimpse of Angkor Wat leaves you speechless as will the beauty of Ha Lang Bay where you enjoy a cruise onboard a traditional Junk. Along the mighty Mekong, you'll get a first hand look at floating markets where goods are bought and sold. Experience an ox cart ride passing rice paddies in the stunning countryside.

See craftsmen turn silver into works of art and take part in a traditional blessing by local monks. Visit palaces and museums to learn about the long history of Cambodia and Vietnam and the lifestyle of those who live here.

Day 1 - Your Lifetime Moments Tour Begins

Board your flight bound for Cambodia crossing the International Date Line.

Day 2 - Arrive Siem Reap, Cambodia

Welcome to Siem Reap, your base during your visit to Angkor, considered by many to be the most spectacular architectural ruins on Earth! On arrival late today you'll be met by your TRIPS representative and assisted with your hotel transfer.

Overnight: Siem Reap - Park Hyatt

Day 3 - Temples of Angkor

This morning, start your sightseeing of the Temples of Angkor. Constructed between the 9th and 13th centuries, they are unmatched among ancient ruins anywhere in the world. First, visit the best preserved and most famous of all the temples, Angkor Wat, honoring the Hindu god Vishnu. Featuring five trademark towers and stunning bas reliefs, it has become a symbol of Cambodia. Then visit Banteay Srei, a unique temple dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva. Unlike other temples, it is built on a small scale from red sandstone, which can be carved like wood. The golden age of the Cambodia (Khmer Empire) was between the 9th and 14th century, during the Angkor period, during which it was a powerful and prosperous empire that flourished and dominated almost all of inland Southeast Asia. This evening, you will enjoy a private dance performance where the ancient Khmer culture is brought to life.

Overnight: Siem Reap - Park Hyatt

(B/L/D)

Day 4 - Siem Reap

Continue your sightseeing of the Angkor temples starting with Angkor Thom where you explore Bayon Temple. One of the few Buddhist temples in Angkor, it features some 200 striking faces carved in 54 towers and impressive bas reliefs. Next is Ta Prohm, which, unlike the other temples, has been left relatively untouched. Tree roots grow over and through the ruin walls, allowing you to experience the temple with the same wonder as the early explorers who discovered it. Lastly, stop at Les Artisans D'Angkor, a development project teaching young adults traditional handicraft techniques. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore this charming town.

Overnight: Siem Reap - Park Hyatt

(B)

Day 5 - Siem Reap - Embarkation

This morning, transfer to the port to board the luxurious Siem Reap beginning your journey down the Mekong River through Cambodia and Vietnam. This afternoon, enjoy time on board as you cruise through Tonle Sap (Great Lake). After the rainy season, this massive body of water can cover around 10,000 square miles and provides the perfect breeding ground for fish, providing food for those living on the

lake. This evening, you'll enjoy a welcome reception on board. *(Note that in the event of low water conditions, you will fly from Siem Reap to Phnom Penh for embarkation. No included sightseeing will be missed.)* (B/L/D)

Day 6 - Cruising the Mekong

Today your day is filled with tremendously rich cultural experiences, beginning with an ox cart ride in the beautiful Cambodian countryside passing lush rice paddy fields. Along the way, stop to meet with a local farmer and learn about his daily life. You also visit a silversmith village where you'll observe talented craftsmen turn pure silver into works of art using age-old techniques. After lunch, visit a village where silk weaving is a well preserved tradition and learn about how silk is produced. (B/L/D)

Day 7 - Cruising the Mekong

As with every day on your Mekong cruise, your days are filled with amazing moments as you gain first hand knowledge of the lives of the people who live here. This morning, visit an 8th century temple located on a hilltop with stunning views of the surrounding area. Here, take part in a water blessing given by local monks. This centuries old tradition is said to bring peace and happiness and is truly a unique experience. After lunch, enjoy a walking tour through a rural village where you'll see traditional Khmer houses and visit a local school. The Khmer people are the predominant ethnic group in Cambodia arriving over 4,000 years ago and the majority are rice farmers or fisherman. Their lives revolve around the way (temple) and the majority live in small villages along the Mekong and its tributaries (B/L/D)

Day 8 - Cruising the Mekong: Phnom Penh

Today, visit Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital since the French colonization. Founded in 1434, it is considered one of the loveliest cities in Indochina retaining its French charm. This morning, your sightseeing tour by private cyclo (similar to a pedi-cab) includes a visit to the Royal Palace, the residence of the King of Cambodia. Visit the spectacular silver pagoda housing national treasures such as gold and jeweled Buddha statues. After, visit the National Museum featuring an outstanding display of Cambodian artifacts. The remainder of the day is at leisure to explore the city. Before dinner this evening, enjoy a special event planned for TRIPS, with entertainment featuring local children performing native song and dance. (B/L/D)

Day 9 - Cruising the Mekong: Phnom Penh

This morning, visit a Genocide Museum, located in a former high school, to learn about the atrocities inflicted on the people of Cambodia by the Khmer Rouge regime. Of the over 17,000 prisoners it is believed that less than a handful survived. Then visit one of the killing fields where tens of thousands were killed by the Khmer Rouge. This afternoon, sail toward the border where you'll anchor for the night. (B/L/D)

Day 10 - Cruising the Mekong: Vietnam

Enjoy the morning at leisure as you cruise across the border into Vietnam. After lunch, board a sampan for sightseeing and observe scenes of local life including traditional Vietnamese floating markets and villages. At a local fish farm, see how traditional fishing nets are thrown and learn about the fish found in the Mekong. Continue down the backwaters to the religious sites at the base of Sam Mountain as well as stopping to see a local market where shop owners sell dried goods. (B/L/D)

Day 11 - Cruising the Mekong

This morning board another sampan and enjoy scenes of daily life along the river around Sa Dec. Stop at a brick factory to see workers forming the clay bricks that seemingly fill the landscape. Here you will also learn about the importance of the rice husk in fueling the brick kilns. For those familiar with French novels, your next stop is at the ancient home of a wealthy Chinese man featured in the semi-autobiographical book, *The Lover*. After, walk through the local market and absorb the atmosphere as locals are busy buying and selling fish, meat and produce. After lunch, board a sampan for a cruise through the harbor passing the city's beautiful French Gothic cathedral that you'll later visit. First though, you'll stop to see how rice paper, rice wine and traditional candies are made. (B/L/D)

Day 12 - Disembarkation: Ho Chi Minh City

After disembarking in Ho Chi Minh City, enjoy a walking tour of the city formerly known as Saigon, strolling past some of the famous and historic landmarks in the heart of the city. Stop at the Rex Hotel for a refreshing drink at the popular rooftop bar where the US Military held the infamous "Five O'Clock Follies" during the war. Next, visit the War Remnants Museum, followed by the Ben Thanh Market, the largest and oldest in the city. For lunch today, participate in a hands-on Vietnamese Cooking Class as you learn to prepare, and enjoy, local dishes and the techniques to recreate them at home! The remainder of the afternoon and evening are at leisure to explore this lively city.

Overnight: Ho Chi Minh City - InterContinental Asiana

(B/L)

Day 13 - Ho Chi Minh City

This morning drive through vast expanses of rice paddies to visit the Cu Chi Tunnels. This extraordinary network over 120 miles in length was used by the Viet Cong as a hideout and secret village during the war. Learn how the tunnels were constructed and walk through a section to experience what it would have been like to live underground. Return to Ho Chi Minh City later this afternoon for lunch on your own and time at leisure. This evening, enjoy a special dinner hosted by your Siem Reap cruise director.

Overnight: Ho Chi Minh City - InterContinental Asiana

(B/D)

Day 14 - Ho Chi Minh City to Hanoi to Ha Long Bay

This morning transfer to the airport to fly to Hanoi. On arrival, depart the city and travel through the fertile countryside to Hon Gai, gateway to stunning Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Overnight: Ha Long Bay - Novotel

(B/D)

Day 15 - Ha Long Bay to Hanoi

Today, board a traditional junk boat for a cruise on Ha Long Bay. Legend has it that a great dragon descended from the mountains flailing its tail gouging out valleys and crevasses forming a mystical landscape of limestone islets that rise dramatically from the emerald waters of the bay. Admire the beauty and dramatic scale of this majestic setting which many find too beguiling for words. Both mystical and magnificent, this incredible feat of nature never fails to impress. Sail past caves and amongst the islets before stopping at one of the many secluded bays. This is sure to be the pinnacle of your experience in Vietnam! Later this afternoon return to Hanoi to check into your hotel with the remainder of the evening at leisure.

Overnight: Hanoi - InterContinental Westlake (B/L)

Day 16 - Hanoi

This morning, learn about the life of Ho Chi Minh, the father of modern Vietnam. Visit the mausoleum and the humble cottage from which "Uncle Ho" ruled Vietnam until his death in 1969. Next on the agenda: One Pillar Pagoda, the Ho Chi Minh Museum, and the Presidential Palace. Stop at infamous "Hanoi Hilton" before continuing to mystical Hoan Kiem Lake, where you will enjoy a brief guided walk. Also visit the ancient Temple of Literature, over 900 years old and Hanoi's first university. Lunch today is at Koto, a non-profit restaurant and hospitality program that trains local street children in restaurant skills they can use to find a job and build a stable life. After lunch, enjoy a cyclo ride through the fascinating Old Quarter, 36 ancient streets where peddlers trade as they have for centuries. Dinner this evening is followed by a delightful farewell performance of Hanoi's renowned Water Puppets, a traditional art form dating to the 11th century.

Overnight: Hanoi - InterContinental Westlake (B/L/D)

Days 17 and 18 - Your Lifetime Moments Tour Ends

Today you transfer to the airport in Hanoi and your return flight home. Memories of Famous Temples of Angkor Wat and Mysteries of the Mekong are sure to last a lifetime! (B)



Inclusions

- Round-trip International Airfare to Siem Reap and returning from Hanoi (checked baggage fees are not included)
- 3 nights accommodations in Siem Reap (Angkor Wat, Cambodia) including breakfast
- 7 nights deluxe cruise accommodation onboard the Siem Reap
- All meals while onboard the Siem Reap in spacious, open-seating dining room
- Welcome Reception onboard with open bar (local beer/spirits) & hot and cold hors d'oeuvres
- 6 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches and 4 Dinners are included during the land portion of your tour including a special dinner hosted by your Siem Reap Cruise Director
- 2 nights accommodations in Ho Chi Minh City including breakfast
- 1 night accommodation in Ha Long Bay including breakfast
- Cruise onboard a tradition Junk in Ha Long Bay
- 2 nights accommodations in Hanoi including breakfast
- Included excursions during your cruise and land tour with Certified Local Guides
- Complimentary coffee, tea, soft drinks, local beer/spirits with lunch & dinner onboard. Wine is available with dinner.
- Complimentary local beer and spirits throughout the day at the bar while cruising
- Flight from Ho Chi Minh City to Hanoi
- All airport and dock transfers
- Portorage of 1 full size suitcase, per person
- All taxes, government fees and port charges
- Passports are required!!

The taxes, fuel surcharges, and other fees imposed by airlines and cruise lines have been included in the cost of your tour as of printing. Any increases in these fees or baggage fees imposed by any air carriers or cruise lines are the responsibility of the individual passenger. TRIPS makes arrangements with airlines, hotels and other independent parties to provide travel services you purchase. We do not own or operate any of the accommodation, transport or other facilities used in connection with our programs. We therefore cannot accept liability for negligence of the staff of these organizations. These parties are independent suppliers over whom we have no direct control. TRIPS is not liable in the event of any failure by any person or company to render any transportation, accommodation or other travel service provided on tours, or for expenses incurred due to delays caused by weather, strikes, war, civil disturbances, natural disasters, flight delays, government actions, mechanical failures or any acts of God. TRIPS cannot assume any responsibility for flight delays, cancellations or missed connections and is not liable for any expenses or consequences resulting therefrom, and such expenses are to be borne by the traveler. Specific airline Conditions of Carriage will apply. These conditions are the subject of International Agreements and may limit or exclude liability. The participant waives any claim against TRIPS for any damage to, or loss of, property or injury to, or death of, due to any act or negligence of any airlines, surface transportation companies, hotels or any person rendering any of the services or accommodations included. TRIPS cannot be held responsible for any claims, losses, damages for delay of baggage or other properties, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, upset and disappointment, distress or frustrations, whether physical or mental, resulting from the act or omission of any party providing services. The participant assumes and understands that all travel has inherent risk that may result in injury or death and that participation in activities, including but not limited to: driving, hiking, walking, touring, visiting archaeological sites, walking on uneven surfaces, riding on rough roads, rafting, boating, riding in helicopters, on trains, boats, swimming, horseback and any other activities. The information contained in this brochure and online has been compiled with all reasonable care, is accurate to the best of our knowledge and is given in good faith. All services are subject to the laws of the countries in which services are rendered. Payment for any TRIPS tour shall constitute consent to all provisions in these Terms & Conditions and is binding on all travel participants.