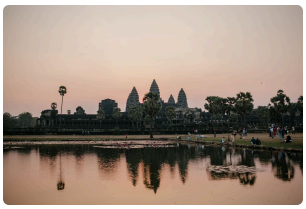
Rebecca Batz
Travels Under the Sun



Riches of the Mekong

Experience a 7-night AmaWaterways cruise along the Mekong River through Cambodia and Vietnam. This journey reveals a vibrant world along the river's shores, from traditional stilted villages and colorful markets to ornate temples, royal palaces and poignant historic sites. Enjoy authentic local encounters, including Buddhist blessing ceremonies, visits with skilled artisans, and rides by ox cart, tuk tuk and trishaw. Your cruise begins with a transfer from Siem Reap to Kampong Cham and concludes in My Tho with a transfer to Ho Chi Minh City.



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Day 1 - Siem Reap to Kampong Cham & Embarkation

AmaWaterways - Riches of the Mekong Overview

Cruise along the Mekong through Cambodia and Vietnam as you are transported back in time to another era, where the rhythms of the countryside move at a slower pace and allow for a fascinating glimpse into a traditional way of life. Visit rural villages, colorful markets and a monastery, where you will receive a special Buddhist blessing by monks. Delve into the peaks and valleys of Cambodia's history in the Royal Palace and National Museums of its beautiful capital, Phnom Penh. Witness skilled artisans who create exquisite handicrafts and delicacies, and be treated to authentic experiences, including rides via oxcart, tuk tuk and trishaw. On this transformative journey, the Mekong truly reveals a vibrant world along its shores.

Note: Itinerary is subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, please refer to the itinerary schedule you receive with your final documents.

Transfer from Siem Reap to Kampong Cham

Activity

Location
Motorcoach transfer from Siem Reap to Kampong Cham

Pickup location
Sofitel Angkor hotel, Siem Reap

Transfer via motorcoach from Siem Reap to Kampong Cham to embark your seven-night AmaWaterways Riches of the Mekong cruise aboard the AmaDara. All cruise-only guests should meet at the Sofitel Angkor hotel in Siem Reap at 8:00 am on embarkation day to join the transfer to the ship in Kampong Cham. It is recommended to fly into Siem Reap at least one day prior to embarkation and to confirm any important arrival arrangements prior to your cruise.

Embarkation & Welcome Dinner

Activity

Location
AmaDara
Kampong Cham Port, Cambodia

In the evening you will embark the AmaDara in Kampong Cham and join fellow guests for a Welcome Dinner on board. This festive first night sets the tone for your seven-night journey along the Mekong, giving you an opportunity to meet your fellow travelers and crew while enjoying a

multi-course dinner. Dinner is included this evening.

Riches of the Mekong 7-Night Cruise

Cruise

Departs from
Kampong Cham, Cambodia

Ship / Stateroom
AmaWaterways AmaDara

Arrives in
My Tho, Vietnam

Duration
, 6 ports

Day 2 - Angkor Ban & Oknhatey Village

Angkor Ban Walking Tour

Activity

Location
Angkor Ban Village
Mekong River, Cambodia

In the morning, enjoy a guided walking tour of Angkor Ban, one of the few villages in Cambodia that was not destroyed under the Khmer Rouge regime in the 1970s. Locals still live in traditional wooden houses on stilts surrounded by banana trees, and daily agricultural life continues much as it has for generations. This visit offers a close-up look at village life along the Mekong and an opportunity to observe preserved cultural traditions.

Silk Island Visit & Local Elementary School

Activity

Location
Oknhatey (Silk Island)
Mekong River, Cambodia

After visiting Angkor Ban, sail to Oknhatey, also known as Silk Island, located on the lush banks of the Mekong River. This island is renowned for its rich tradition of silk weaving. You will visit a local elementary school and observe traditional silk weaving, an art that has been preserved for centuries. Your ship will moor in Oknhatey village overnight.

Seasonal note: From August through September, the port of Angkor Ban may be inaccessible, in which case Wat Hanchey will replace Angkor Ban as the port of call.

Day 3 - Oknhatey Village & Phnom Penh

Cruise from Oknhatey Village to Phnom Penh

Activity

Location
Mekong River Cruise to Phnom Penh

Continue sailing from Oknhatey Village toward Phnom Penh, Cambodia's bustling capital, enjoying views of life along the Mekong as you approach the city.

Phnom Penh Highlights with Royal Palace & National Museum

Activity

Location
Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda & National Museum
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

This morning's excursion takes you through the highlights of Phnom Penh, including a visit to the Royal Palace, the spectacular Silver Pagoda and the National Museum, which houses an outstanding collection of Khmer crafts. You will gain insight into Cambodia's royal and artistic heritage while exploring these landmark sites.

Royal Palace & Central Market

Activity

Location
Central Market
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

As an alternative to the National Museum visit, you may instead continue from the Royal Palace to Phnom Penh's bustling yellow-colored Central Market. Here you can shop for unique local treasures, handicrafts and souvenirs while experiencing the energy of one of the city's busiest marketplaces.

Killing Fields & Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum

Activity

Location
Killing Fields & Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

In the afternoon, visit Cambodia's infamous Killing Fields and the Khmer Rouge's grim Tuol Sleng S21 detention center, now the Genocide Museum. This moving excursion provides important historical context to the tragedies of the Khmer Rouge era and is a powerful, somber experience. After returning to the ship, enjoy Khmer folk dancing performed by local children in the Saigon Lounge.

Day 4 - Oudong & Phnom Penh

Oudong Visit & Buddhist Blessing Ceremony

Activity

Location
Oudong Monastery & Hilltop
Oudong, Cambodia

This morning, travel to Oudong, Cambodia's former royal capital from the early 17th century until 1866 and now a place of pilgrimage. Here you will be treated to a memorable Buddhist Blessing Ceremony at a local monastery. You may walk around Oudong's monastery grounds or take an active walking tour up the hilltop to enjoy panoramic views of the Oudong plain.

Phnom Penh Tuk Tuk Orientation Tour

Activity

Location
Tuk Tuk City Tour
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Later in the day, experience Phnom Penh via a traditional tuk tuk ride and be enchanted by the city's French Colonial architecture and tree-lined boulevards set amidst monumental Angkorian landmarks. This relaxed orientation tour provides a fun overview of the city from street level.

Tuk Tuk Orientation Tour with Wat Phnom

Activity

Location
Wat Phnom & City Tour
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

As an alternative, you may choose a tuk tuk orientation tour that includes an active walking visit to Wat Phnom, one of Phnom Penh's most famous landmarks. This option combines the charm of seeing the city by tuk tuk with time on foot exploring this historic hilltop temple.

Day 5 - Border Crossing into Vietnam

Mekong River Day of Cruising & Cambodia–Vietnam Border Crossing

Activity

Location
Mekong River Border Crossing
Between Cambodia and Vietnam

Spend the day cruising the Mekong River as your ship continues downstream and crosses the border from Cambodia into Vietnam. Enjoy time on deck watching riverside life, relaxing with onboard amenities and taking in the changing scenery as you officially enter Vietnam.

Visa Information: Exit point from Cambodia: Phnom Penh. Entry point to Vietnam: Vinh Xuong. Please use these details for your visa applications as required.

Day 6 - Tan Chau & Tra Su Forest

Tan Chau Trishaw Ride to Craftsmen's Workshops

Activity

Location
Tan Chau Trishaw Experience
Tan Chau, Vietnam

Visit Tan Chau, a small Mekong River town largely unspoiled by tourism. Enjoy an authentic experience on a traditional "xe-loi" (trishaw) ride around town with stops at silk-making and rattan mat workshops. This excursion offers insight into local craftsmanship and daily life in the Mekong Delta.

Tan Chau Trishaw Ride with Evergreen Island Walk

Activity

Location
Tan Chau & Evergreen Island
Tan Chau area, Vietnam

As an alternative, choose a trishaw ride through Tan Chau with visits to craftsmen's workshops, followed by an active walking tour to Evergreen Island. This option combines the charm of the xe-loi with time on foot exploring rural island life along the Mekong.

Tra Su Forest & Sanctuary Excursion

Activity

Location
Tra Su Forest & Sanctuary
Mekong Delta, Vietnam

Another alternative is an intimate tour through Vietnam's Tra Su Forest and Sanctuary in the Mekong Delta. Board a traditional sampan boat and glide through a diverse ecosystem that includes more than 70 species of birds, including the painted stork and oriental darter, along with lush greenery, cajuput trees, lotuses, water lilies and a carpet of bright green moss in the rainy season that seems to glow as you drift through it.

Please note: The Tra Su Forest visit is capacity controlled and subject to availability.

Evening Cruise to Sa Dec

Activity

Location
Mekong River Cruise to Sa Dec

Later in the day, continue cruising along the Mekong River as the ship sails to Sa Dec, arriving in time for the following day's explorations.

Day 7 - Sa Dec & Cai Be

Sa Dec Local Boat Ride & Town Tour

Activity

Location
Sa Dec Town Exploration
Sa Dec, Vietnam

Go ashore in Sa Dec, the town where French writer Marguerite Duras spent many years in her youth. Begin with a local boat ride to Sa Dec and then tour the town, gaining insight into its colonial-era atmosphere and riverfront setting.

Sa Dec Local Market & Cao Dai Temple

Activity

Location
Local Market & Cao Dai Temple
Sa Dec, Vietnam

Visit a fascinating local market and a colorful Cao Dai Temple, home to the unique religion of Caodaism in Southern Vietnam. This syncretic faith blends elements of Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Confucianism, and the temple's vivid décor reflects this rich fusion of

traditions.

Sa Dec Local Market & Lover's House

Activity

Location
Local Market & Lover's House
Sa Dec, Vietnam

Alternatively, you may choose to visit the local market combined with a tour of the house of Mr. Huynh Thuy Le, Marguerite Duras's Chinese paramour and the inspiration for her prize-winning novel "The Lover." The house now serves as a small museum showcasing a blend of architectural styles, original furniture and family memorabilia.

Cai Be Candy & Rice Paper Workshops

Activity

Location
Candy & Rice Paper Workshops
Cai Be area, Vietnam

In the afternoon, visit candy and rice paper making workshops in the Cai Be area, observing traditional methods used to produce these local specialties. This hands-on look at cottage industries highlights the ingenuity of Mekong Delta artisans.

Cai Be Workshops with Kiet Old House Walking Tour

Activity

Location
Local Workshops & Kiet Old House
Cai Be area, Vietnam

Alternatively, you may choose a visit to local workshops combined with an active walking tour to the historic Kiet Old House. Explore this traditional residence and learn about its architecture and history before returning to the ship for a festive Farewell Dinner on board.

Onboard Farewell Dinner

Activity

Location
AmaDara
Mekong River, Vietnam

Cap your final full day on the Mekong with a festive Farewell Dinner on board, celebrating your journey with fellow guests and crew as the ship continues along the river.

Day 8 - My Tho & Ho Chi Minh City

Disembarkation in My Tho & Transfer to Ho Chi Minh City

Activity

Location
Motorcoach Transfer from My Tho Port to Ho Chi Minh City

Pickup location
My Tho Port, Vietnam

Your cruise concludes in My Tho Port, where you will disembark the ship and transfer via motorcoach to Ho Chi Minh City. All guests will be transferred from the ship to the Sofitel Saigon Plaza in Ho Chi Minh City.

Flight Recommendation: It is recommended that you schedule your onward flight to depart Ho Chi Minh City after 2:30 pm on disembarkation day to avoid potential missed connections.