



RIVER CRUISE

## VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA HIGHLIGHTS

2024 – 2025

VEM13



13 days / 12 nights River Cruise



Siem Reap to Ho Chi Minh City

### ITINERARY

To view the itinerary in greater depth, simply click on your preferred day from the interactive list to unveil its details. Discover daily activities, immersive experiences and insider local tips that make your travel unforgettable.



### SIEM REAP TO HO CHI MINH CITY

13 days / 13 nights River Cruise

DAY 1

#### Arrive Siem Reap

Be met on arrival and transfer to your luxurious hotel in the heart of the city. Once you've settled in, enjoy the day at your leisure. Tonight, savour dinner with your fellow travellers.



**Stay:** Three Nights, Siem Reap, Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra Golf & Spa Resort

**Daily:** • Dinner

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## DAY 2

### Siem Reap

Begin your exploration of the World Heritage-listed Angkor Archaeological Park with a visit to Angkor Thom, the last and most enduring capital of the Khmer Empire. Built during the heyday of the Empire in the 12th century, this is an extraordinary complex of Hindu and Buddhist monuments. Head to the intriguing Bayon temple, with its carved stone smiling faces of gods, goddesses, and other mythological beings. Visit the Terrace of Elephants, which used to be the base for the king's grand audience hall and the Terrace of the Leper King, which housed the royal crematory.

Journey to Ta Prohm, known for the thick jungle of fig trees and vines that have enveloped the structure, giving it a lost-world feel. Ta Prohm is commonly referred to as the 'Tomb Raider Temple' due to it being used as a location in the film 'Lara Croft: Tomb Raider', which starred Angelina Jolie. The temple offers a captivating glimpse into the past and is a testament to a bygone era. En route to the hotel, enjoy your Signature Experience. Later this evening, delight in another captivating Signature Experience.

#### Signature Experience – Local Charity Visit

Visit Opportunities of Development thru Art (ODA), a OneTomorrow partner. ODA provides free English education and an introduction to computer skills to children living in Siem Reap's remote villages, with the aim to improve future employment opportunities.

#### Signature Experience – VIP Circus Show and Backstage Visit

Be welcomed backstage at Phare Circus to meet some of the performers and witness a mesmerising performance from your VIP seats. This unforgettable spectacle showcases the country's rich culture and talent by combining captivating acrobatics, theatre, and storytelling.

Signature Experience:

These all-inclusive, once-in-a-lifetime moments allow you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive moments, incredible cultures and charming surprises.

**Daily:** • Breakfast

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## DAY 3

### Siem Reap



Wake early this morning and travel back to Angkor Archaeological Park for a special Signature Experience. Afterwards, join a guided exploration of this well-preserved temple, then return to your hotel for breakfast. This afternoon, set out on your Freedom of Choice activity. Tonight, your Signature Experience awaits. Set amid a stunning garden, this promises to be an enchanting and memorable evening.

### **Signature Experience – Sunrise at Angkor Wat**

Visit Angkor Archaeological Park to witness a spectacular sunrise at the magnificent Angkor Wat. Observe the iconic temple complex shimmer in the reflective ponds in front of this World Heritage-listed monument, while brilliant shades of orange and pink light up the sky.

### **Signature Experience – Gallery Visit with Khmer Dinner and Apsara Performance**

Treat yourself to a private visit to Theam's Gallery and discover this talented Cambodian artist, known for his unique sculptures, paintings, and intricate crafts. Indulge in a tantalising five-course Khmer dinner while enjoying a traditional Apsara dance performance accompanied by live musicians.

### **Freedom of Choice – Tuk Tuk Ride to Senteurs d'Angkor**

Enjoy an exciting tuk tuk ride to the Senteurs d'Angkor workshop, a handicraft centre where you can observe the artisans in their workshops and gain an appreciation for their ancient crafts. Discover how they integrate contemporary designs inspired by Khmer know-how.

### **Freedom of Choice – Quad Bike Adventure**

Embark on an exhilarating quad biking experience in the Cambodian countryside outside Siem Reap. Venture along quiet off-road tracks and see rice fields, forgotten temples and local communities.

### **Freedom of Choice – Bicycle Tour**

Journey to the countryside villages next to Siem Reap. Surrounded by rice paddies and ancient ponds, you'll cycle along quiet back trails to experience local rural life at its most picturesque. Observe daily farming activities.

### **Freedom of Choice – Horse and Cart Ride**

Climb aboard a hand-made horse cart and set off on an authentic journey into the heart of rural Cambodia. Travel off the beaten path, navigating a variety of terrain through the beautiful countryside.

### **Freedom of Choice – Khmer Cooking Class**

Travel to a market and meet your Khmer chef. Then, continue to Lum Orng, Cambodia's first farm-to-table restaurant, which is famed for its New Mekong cuisine. Here, prepare a selection of dishes to taste.

### **Freedom of Choice – Siem Reap Shopping Adventure**



Explore Siem Reap's vibrant arts and crafts scene, starting at the Angkor Handicraft Association. This Fair-Trade Village is home to a wide variety of artisans who produce handmade goods using traditional techniques.

### **Freedom of Choice – Khmer Massage**

Let your cares melt away and be rejuvenated by the healing powers of traditional Khmer massage. This oil-free 60-minute massage uses firm acupressure and muscular stretching to rebalance your energy.

**Signature Experience:**

These all-inclusive, once-in-a-lifetime moments allow you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive moments, incredible cultures and charming surprises.

**Freedom of Choice:**

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options to suit your interests.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Dinner

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**DAY 4**

### **Siem Reap, Kampong Cham, Embark Ship, Koh Pen, Angkor Ban**

Travel through remote Cambodian villages to Kampong Cham, where you'll board the Mekong Serenity, your home for the next seven nights. Following lunch on board, discover the island of Koh Pen with its wooden stilt houses and local farming culture during your Signature Experience. Tonight, a welcome dinner awaits, showcasing the diverse flavours from the region.

### **Signature Experience – Tuk Tuk Tour of Koh Pen**

Journey by local tuk tuk around a riverside village and gain an insight into village life. Travel along the shaded lanes past stilted houses and see a varying range of crops growing.

**Signature Experience:**

These all-inclusive, once-in-a-lifetime moments allow you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive moments, incredible cultures and charming surprises.

**Stay:** Seven Nights, Mekong River, Mekong Serenity

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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**DAY 5**

### **Angkor Ban, Oknha Tey, Phnom Penh**

Join a walking discovery of Angkor Ban, one of the few villages in Cambodia not destroyed under the Khmer Rouge regime in the 1970s. Later, your ship glides between the lush banks of the Mekong to Oknha Tey, which is renowned for its silk weaving traditions. Stroll among the stilt houses and gain an insight into the traditional silk



weaving process. Watch as the village women create beautiful Khmer fabrics from their wooden looms.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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## DAY 6

### Phnom Penh

Today presents a wealth of included sightseeing choices. After lunch back on board, you may wish to explore Phnom Penh independently or simply relax.

#### Freedom of Choice – Killing Fields and Genocide Museum

Learn about a confronting part of Cambodian history during a sobering visit to the Killing Fields and Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum.

#### Freedom of Choice – Cyclo Ride

Explore Phnom Penh by what was the most popular form of transportation throughout Southeast Asia in the 1960s, the cyclo. Weave past some of the city's most iconic sites.

#### Freedom of Choice – Visit the National Museum

Accompanied by your private museum guide, discover the most important pieces within the National Museum of Cambodia. The collection includes the world's finest display of Khmer sculptures, art and relics.

#### Freedom of Choice – Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda

Discover Cambodia's Royal Palace, the official residence of the King. Completed in 1870, the palace is an extraordinary example of Khmer architecture with elements of French influence. The palace also houses the Silver Pagoda.

Freedom of Choice:

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options to suit your interests.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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## DAY 7

### Phnom Penh, Oudong, Koh Chen, Phnom Penh

Disembark in Phnom Penh and discover Oudong, a place of pilgrimage for Cambodians. While here, enjoy a Signature Experience. On the way back to your ship, take a leisurely stroll through the village of Koh Chen and visit some home workshops that make copperware. The afternoon is yours to explore Phnom Penh as you wish.



## Signature Experience – Buddhist Blessing Ceremony

Take part in a traditional Buddhist blessing ceremony for good luck, health and safe journey, with resident monks at a monastery in Oudong.

Signature Experience:

These all-inclusive, once-in-a-lifetime moments allow you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive moments, incredible cultures and charming surprises.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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### DAY 8

## Phnom Penh, Border Crossing, Tan Chau

Spend the day cruising towards the Vietnamese border. While border formalities are carried out, enjoy the onboard activities, which could include a lively presentation from your local guides, a fruit-carving demonstration, or even a cooking workshop where you will learn the art of creating Vietnamese spring rolls. Alternatively, relax your body with a rejuvenating treatment from the Spa and Wellness Centre. Cross into Vietnam and cruise to the riverside town of Tan Chau, the first stop after the border.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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### DAY 9

## Tan Chau, Evergreen Island, Sa Dec

Transfer to a small boat for a journey along the tiny tributaries that snake around the riverside town of Tan Chau. Cruise past a floating fish farm, then step ashore for a rickshaw tour of Tan Chau. On board your rickshaw, you'll glide past small shops and meet locals who are always eager to say hello. Stop to pay a visit to a local silk and rattan weaving workshop. Later, step back in time during a visit to Evergreen Island, where you'll experience authentic rural Mekong life. The remainder of today is left free for you to relax and take a moment to watch local life gently glide by as you cruise towards Sa Dec.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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### DAY 10

## Sa Dec, Cai Be, My Tho

Journey by small tender boat past floating fish farms to Sa Dec, where French writer Marguerite Duras met her Vietnamese-Chinese lover, Huynh Thuy Le. Tour his former home and learn the story behind Duras' best-selling



novel, 'The Lover'. Afterwards, visit a traditional Cao Dai temple. Return to the ship and sit down to a delicious lunch while you cruise towards Cai Be. Board your tender boat, where you'll visit French gothic Cai Be Church and the port area. Then, visit a rice paper manufacturer to learn how this Vietnamese staple is made.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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## DAY 11

### My Tho, Disembark Ship, Ho Chi Minh City

Disembark in My Tho and continue to Ho Chi Minh City, once the bustling French colonial city known as Saigon. A range of Freedom of Choice options await today before sitting down to dinner.

#### Freedom of Choice – City Walking Tour

Discover the city's iconic landmarks and French colonial architecture on an informative guided walk. Stroll by the Saigon Opera House, Central Post Office and Notre Dame Cathedral.

#### Freedom of Choice – Motorbike Ride

Jump on the back of a motorbike like a local for a thrilling sightseeing adventure. Weave through the streets past the Central Post Office and Independence Palace. Visit Chinatown and Thien Hau pagoda.

#### Freedom of Choice – Cooking Class

Meet your chef, visit the market and discover Vietnamese ingredients. Continue to a villa and relax in the outdoor garden before you create your dishes. Learn the intricacies of making bánh mì xù mại.

#### Freedom of Choice – Ho Chi Minh City Shopping Adventure

Seek out the city's boutiques and discover high-quality handmade goods on a visit to Mekong Quilts. Saigon Kitsch sells quirky souvenirs, while L'Usine is a trend-setting lifestyle store.

Freedom of Choice:

Give your holiday a personal touch with a choice of included sightseeing or dining options to suit your interests.

**Stay:** Two Nights, Ho Chi Minh City, Park Hyatt Saigon

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Dinner

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## DAY 12

### Ho Chi Minh City



Leave the city behind and enjoy your Signature Experiences today. Tonight, relish a delectable dinner during another Signature Experience.

### **Signature Experience – Cu Chi Tunnels Visit**

Set off on a thrilling speedboat journey along the Saigon River to the Cu Chi tunnels, built by Vietnamese resistance fighters during the war.

### **Signature Experience – Private Gin Tasting**

Meet a Master Distiller at Lady Triệu Distillery and enjoy a guided tour and private tasting of the multi-award-winning gin. Follow up your tour with a light lunch, accompanied by a refreshing Lady Trieu gin and tonic.

### **Signature Experience – Dinner at Vietnam House**

Savour dinner at the highly acclaimed restaurant Vietnam House, and delight in a special cocktail designed specifically for APT guests.

Signature Experience:

These all-inclusive, once-in-a-lifetime moments allow you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive moments, incredible cultures and charming surprises.

**Daily:** • Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner

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DAY 13

### **Depart Ho Chi Minh City**

Enjoy breakfast before you are transferred to Tan Son Nhat International Airport for your onward flight.

**Daily:** • Breakfast

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