

Full Itinerary

SAILING THE CLASSIC MEKONG: SIEM REAP TO SAIGON

TALK TO OUR WELL
TRAVELLED TEAM OF
EXPERTS

0844 3350 197

Monday to Friday 09:00 - 18:00
GMT

JOURNEY SNAPSHOT

ACTIVITY LEVEL:

Level 2

DESTINATION:

Sailing the Classic Mekong: Siem Reap to Saigon

DURATION:

8 days / 7 nights

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Please arrange your flights to Siem Reap International Airport (SAI) on Day 1 and to depart from Ho Chi Minh City Airport [SGN] on Day 8

PICKUP LOCATION:

Siem Reap

OVERVIEW

Nov 2026

A Timeless Voyage Along the Mekong – Discover the Spirit of Vietnam & Cambodia

The date listed above is for our scheduled group departure. If you'd prefer to travel privately with friends or family,

© The Big Journey Company 2020 - 2025. All rights reserved.

Holiday tours are operated by The Big Journey Company Limited. Registered in England. Registered office: Marron Bank, Branthwaite, Cumbria, CA14 4SZ. Registered number: 6532140. The Big Journey Company Limited is a member of The Travel Trust Association member number U5675 and holds an Air Travel Organiser's License number T7282.



we'd be delighted to arrange a bespoke tour on your preferred dates. Just contact us via email and we'll take care of the rest.

Sail into neighbouring Cambodia on this unforgettable Mekong River cruise extension following your Highlights of Vietnam escorted journey. Drift through the heart of Indochina, uncovering timeless riverside life, vibrant cultures, and the majestic landscapes of both Vietnam and Cambodia. Explore bustling delta towns, serene temples, and floating villages, all while enjoying the comfort of your Pandaw vessel, expert guides, wonderful company, and delicious cuisine. A journey along the Mekong not to be missed!

ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAY 1 - Welcome Aboard in Siem Reap

DAY 2 - Into the Mekong Delta

DAY 3 - Life on the Tonle Sap River

DAY 4 - Discovering Phnom Penh

DAY 5 - Cruising to Chau Doc

DAY 6 - Chau Doc & Sam Mountain

DAY 7 - Ben Tre & Sailing into Saigon

DAY 8 - Disembark in Saigon

FULL ITINERARY

DAY 1 - WELCOME ABOARD IN SIEM REAP

Your Mekong adventure begins in captivating Siem Reap, the gateway to the magnificent temples of Angkor and the heart of Cambodia's ancient heritage.

After a warm welcome, step aboard your beautifully crafted Pandaw vessel, your floating home for the next seven nights. Settle into your comfortable cabin, then head to the sun deck to take in the first sweeping views of life on the river. As the ship gently casts off, enjoy cocktails and canapés while getting to know your fellow travellers and friendly crew.

This evening, savour a delicious welcome dinner on board as the serene Cambodian countryside drifts by, and the mighty Mekong River beckons us onward on our journey through the heart of Indochina.

Included meals: Welcome Dinner

Accommodation: RV Bassac Pandaw

DAY 2 - INTO THE MEKONG DELTA

Start your morning on deck with a peaceful sunrise cruise to Peam Chi Korng, an untouched gem and a hub of traditional Cambodian pottery. After a short tuk-tuk ride from the banks of the Mekong, witness local potters at work and explore the vibrant village market, where you can try your hand at the local language while browsing fresh produce and handmade goods.

In the afternoon, step ashore at Pak Russei, a small, remote village where local craftspeople create silk and handmade noodles. Here, you'll learn about the ancient art of Bokator, a traditional form of Khmer martial arts, with a private performance in the village — an intimate insight into Cambodia's proud cultural traditions. Return to the ship in the evening, carrying with you memories of a day steeped in creativity and local life along the Mekong.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: RV Bassac Pandaw

DAY 3 - LIFE ON THE TONLE SAP RIVER

Today we travel by coach to Oudong, Cambodia's ancient capital. Here we visit the Vipassana Dhura Meditation Centre and enjoy a short meditation class, allowing a moment of calm reflection amidst the stunning Khmer architecture. Stroll through the sprawling complex, taking in the historic stupas and scenic surroundings before returning to the ship in Kampong Tralach for lunch.

In the afternoon, experience rural life along the river as we travel by ox-cart through riverside villages, local markets, and temples. See how villagers go about their daily lives and immerse yourself in the rhythms of the Tonle Sap communities. As evening falls, enjoy cocktails around a village fire pit, where locals join us to share traditional dancing, music, and stories — a perfect introduction to Khmer culture.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: RV Bassac Pandaw

DAY 4 - DISCOVERING PHNOM PENH

Wake to find yourself in Phnom Penh, Cambodia's vibrant capital, where French colonial charm blends with golden spires and lively riverside boulevards. After breakfast on board, set out on a guided cyclo tour, the traditional rickshaws that weave through the city's bustling streets. Take in elegant French villas, tree-lined avenues, and the bustling waterfront before pausing to soak up the city's lively atmosphere.

Visit the Royal Palace and the Silver Pagoda, followed by the National Museum, home to an exquisite collection of Angkorian art and statuary. In the afternoon, gain a deeper understanding of Cambodia's recent history with visits to the Killing Fields and the Genocide Museum, learning more about the Khmer Rouge era.

As evening falls, Phnom Penh comes alive with twinkling lights and the hum of riverside life. Join your fellow travellers for an optional evening excursion to experience the city by night — perhaps a lively bar or a local restaurant — before returning to the ship. The vessel moors here overnight, giving you time to savour the energy and charm of Cambodia's captivating capital.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Farewell Dinner

Accommodation: RV Bassac Pandaw

DAY 5 - CRUISING TO CHAU DOC

We raise anchor early this morning and cruise downstream along the mighty Mekong, making our way toward the Vietnam border for immigration formalities. Relax on deck and watch the riverbanks glide by, taking in the villages, rice paddies, and riverside life that define this enchanting region.

Later, we arrive in Chau Doc, a bustling riverside town brimming with local character. As evening falls, enjoy a leisurely stroll along the river, soaking up the atmosphere before returning to the ship for dinner on board, sharing stories of the day with your fellow travellers.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: RV Bassac Pandaw

DAY 6 - CHAU DOC & SAM MOUNTAIN

This morning, we set off with a sense of adventure, taking minivans up to Sam Mountain, where the Hang Pagoda (Phuoc Dien Tu) awaits. Climb the 400 steps at your own pace, enjoying playful glimpses of local life along the way, before being rewarded with breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding countryside and the sparkling Mekong River.

Afterwards, we return to the ship and sail alongside the picturesque border town of Chau Doc. Step into the waterways aboard traditional sampans to explore floating fish farms and witness life along the Mekong up close. Along the way, we visit a Cham village, gaining insight into the lives and traditions of Vietnamese Muslims in this unique community.

After a leisurely lunch on board, the ship continues deeper into the heart of the Mekong Delta, cruising past verdant landscapes, riverine villages, and the everyday rhythms of life on the water.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: RV Bassac Pandaw

DAY 7 - BEN TRE & SAILING INTO SAIGON

This morning, we set off by sampan through winding mangroves and bamboo-lined waterways toward the fertile fruit orchards of Ben Tre, a heartland of the Mekong Delta where half of Vietnam's rice is grown. Along the way, enjoy glimpses of traditional river life and visit a local village specialising in handicrafts, witnessing the artisanal skills that have been passed down through generations.

After returning to the ship, enjoy a leisurely lunch on board as we sail through the historic Cho Gao Canal. Constructed in 1876 by the French, this vital waterway is still bustling with trade and offers a fascinating window into everyday life along the Mekong.

As evening falls, the vessel glides into central Saigon, where the stunning skyline provides a dramatic backdrop to our farewell dinner on board, a perfect way to celebrate the end of your Mekong journey.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Farewell Dinner

Accommodation: RV Bassac Pandaw

DAY 8 - DISEMBARK IN SAIGON

After breakfast, it's time to say goodbye to your Pandaw home and the wonderful crew who have looked after you along the way.

We disembark in lively Saigon, the bustling gateway to southern Vietnam. Take a final moment to enjoy the city's vibrant streets, markets, and the charming mix of French colonial architecture and modern skyline.

You'll leave with treasured memories of riverside villages, floating markets, and magical Mekong sunsets, along with the new friendships you've made along the way. To make your onward journey completely stress-free, individual airport transfers will be provided, whether you're continuing your adventure or heading home.

Included meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: None

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 7 nights' accommodation onboard a Pandaw river vessel in a main deck or upper deck cabin with private ensuite facilities
- Full board throughout the cruise: daily breakfast, lunch, and dinner with coffee, tea, and water included
- Welcome cocktail, canapés, and Captain's Farewell Dinner
- All scheduled shore excursions with expert local guides
- Entrance fees to sites and attractions as per the itinerary
- Use of ship's facilities including sundeck, bar, and lounge
- Services of the English-speaking Pandaw crew and guides
- Port charges and taxes
- Transfers included (subject to arriving/departing at the designated airport and staying at the tour hotel on the official tour dates)
- Tour Director from The Big Journey Company as well as the local tour guide (subject to minimum group size being reached)

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International flights to/from Vietnam and Cambodia
- Transfers on arrival or departure, to/from the airports, outside of the journey dates
- Drinks other than those mentioned (alcoholic beverages, soft drinks)
- Tips and gratuities for crew and guides
- Visas, travel or medical insurance
- Any personal items and anything not mentioned under included in price above
- Any meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Any optional activities offered
- Any COVID tests or related entry & exit requirements

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **Flights:** International flights to/from your chosen destination are not included in this package. The Big Journey Company will be happy to provide a quotation for your flights—please contact us for further details.
- **Vaccinations & Health:** Vaccinations may be recommended depending on your destination. Please consult your doctor or travel clinic for the most up-to-date medical advice.
- **Visas & Entry Requirements:** Entry requirements vary by destination, and a visa may be required. Please refer to the travel tips section for full details. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the necessary travel documentation prior to departure.
- **Medical Needs:** Please inform The Big Journey Company prior to travel of any medical conditions or medications you take that we should be aware of to help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience.
- **Accommodation Check-in/Out:** Unless otherwise stated in your itinerary, check-in is after 2–3pm and check-out is before 10am. Please note that hotels may be subject to change to the same or similar standard due to availability.
- **Cancellation Policy:** Cancellations made within 90 days of departure are subject to a 100% cancellation fee. Deposits are non-refundable, and balance payments are due 14 weeks prior to departure. It is your responsibility to ensure adequate travel insurance is in place to protect against the need to cancel your holiday.
- **Minimum Numbers:** The Big Journey Company host will accompany the tour should minimum guest numbers be met. We will confirm this closer to the departure date.
- **Terms & Conditions:** Further terms and conditions apply and will be provided upon request or at the time of booking. The Big Journey Company reserves the right to withdraw any offer prior to accepting a reservation. This does not affect your statutory rights. All offers are subject to availability and space is limited.

BOOK YOUR JOURNEY

Choose from the list of dates below

Call to Book

0844 3350 197

Monday to Friday 09:00 - 18:00 GMT