



2019 RICHES OF THE MEKONG

16 DAYS · TRAVEL TO HANOI, VIETNAM AND RETURN FROM HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM

SPEND 2 NIGHTS IN HANOI, 1 NIGHT IN HA LONG BAY, 3 NIGHTS IN SIEM REAP,
7-NIGHT PREK K DAM TO HO CHI MINH CITY CRUISE AND 2 NIGHTS IN HO CHI MINH CITY

Your journey begins in Vietnam’s capital, Hanoi, followed by an excursion to breathtaking Ha Long Bay for an overnight stay aboard an elegantly appointed ship. A short flight to Siem Reap brings you to the gateway of the ancient Khmer empire where you’ll explore the temples of Angkor Archeological Park. Unleash your inner adventurer as you explore Angkor Wat’s amazing temples, including Banteay Srei, Angkor Thom, the Terrace of the Elephants, the pyramid temple of Bayon, Ta Prohm—the vine-covered “jungle temple”—Angkor Wat and other key sites. Cruise along the Mekong as you are transported back in time to another era, where the rhythms of the countryside move at a slower pace and allow for fascinating glimpses into a traditional way of life. After visiting rural villages, local workshops and markets, a monastery and two capital cities, conclude your cruise with a two-night stay in Ho Chi Minh City—once known as Saigon and the “Paris of the Orient”—now a bustling economic boom-town that offers a heady mixture of historic and modern delights.

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.

BRIEF ITINERARY

DAY	DESTINATION	ACTIVITIES
1	Hanoi	Hotel check-in
2	Hanoi	City tour and rickshaw ride Water Puppet Show
3	Hanoi Ha Long Bay	Motorcoach transfer to Ha Long Bay Bay excursion Overnight cruise
4	Ha Long Bay	Transfer to airport Flight to Siem Reap
	Siem Reap	Hotel check-in
5	Siem Reap	Angkor Thom, Ta Prohm and Banteay Srei temples
6	Siem Reap	Angkor Wat
7	Prek Kdam Koh Chen	EMBARKATION Silversmith village visit Welcome Dinner
8	Kampong Chhnang Kampong Tralach Oudong	Motorboat excursion to floating village and local markets Oxcart ride Monastery visit with special Buddhist blessing Ship sails to Oknhatey
9	Oknhatey Village	Visit a silk village and local school Ship sails to Phnom Penh
	Phnom Penh	Tuk Tuk ride
10	Phnom Penh	Killing Fields and Genocide Museum excursion OR Central Market Royal Palace and National Museum
11	Tan Chau	Border crossing from Cambodia to Vietnam

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12	Tan Chau	Trishaw ride to craftsmen’s workshops OR Local village
13	Sa Dec	Local boat ride to Sa Dec Visit local market
	Xeo Quyt	Xeo Quyt excursion
	Cai Be	Visit local workshops and historic Kiet Old House
14	Ho Chi Minh City	DISEMBARKATION (My Tho Port) Motorcoach transfer to Ho Chi Minh City City tour
15	Ho Chi Minh City	Cu Chi Tunnels
16	Ho Chi Minh City	Return flight home

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1, ARRIVE IN HANOI, VIETNAM. After arriving, check into your hotel. Enjoy free time getting to know Hanoi, Vietnam’s capital city, which boasts a rich cultural heritage that blends in harmony with its vibrant present. From ancient temples to French Colonial architecture and modern-day skyscrapers, along with beautiful parks and lakes, Hanoi is an eclectic and lively city.

Day 2, HANOI. Discover some of Hanoi’s most famous historic and cultural sites on your guided tour that includes Ba Dinh Square and The Temple of Literature. You’ll also visit the infamous prison that American POWs sarcastically dubbed the “Hanoi Hilton” during the Vietnam War. Take an authentic rickshaw ride, known as “cyclo,” in Hanoi’s bustling Old Quarter, and then enjoy a traditional water puppet show. (B)

Day 3, HANOI – HA LONG BAY. Ethereal Ha Long Bay is considered by many to be the Eighth Natural Wonder of the World, and AmaWaterways’ guests will be treated to this exclusive once-in-a-lifetime experience. Spend the night on board an elegantly appointed ship designed with all the modern conveniences to ensure smooth sailing. The backdrop of the bay’s magnificent scenery as well as dramatic limestone cliffs and rock formations provide you with the perfect setting for a memorable sojourn. (B,L,D)

Day 4, HA LONG BAY – HANOI – SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA. Spend the morning sailing across the emerald waters of Ha Long Bay with more than 2,000 small islands rising from the water like a dragon’s back. Later in the morning, disembark the ship and transfer to Hanoi Airport for a short flight to Siem Reap, Cambodia, the gateway to Angkor Archaeological Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the former capital of the Khmer empire. (B,L)

Day 5, SIEM REAP – ANGKOR. Begin your morning exploration of the Angkor temple complex at Angkor Thom, meaning “the great city.” This is home to Bayon Temple, best known for its gigantic smiling stone faces, as well as the Terrace of the Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King. You’ll then visit nearby Ta Prohm, known as the “Kingdom of Trees,” for the way in which the temple stones have become intertwined with thick forest vegetation over the centuries. Afternoon excursions take you to the fascinating jewel in the crown of Angkorian art, Banteay Srei, meaning “Citadel of Women,” as it has been said that the carving is too fine to have been done by the hand of man. Cap this memorable day off with a special “Apsara Dance Show” at your hotel, featuring local Cambodian/Khmer folk dancers. (B,D)

Day 6, SIEM REAP – ANGKOR. Discover the heart and soul of Cambodia and the most iconic of all Angkorian Temples, Angkor Wat. This is one of the largest religious monuments ever constructed and a true masterpiece of Khmer architecture built by King Suryavarman II in the early 12th century to honor the Hindu god, Vishnu. (B,D)

Day 7, EMBARKATION – PREK KDAM – KOH CHEN. Transfer via motorcoach to the AmaDara in Prek Kdam, a small village on the Tonlé Sap River, for your seven-night cruise. Take a leisurely walk through Koh Chen, which specializes in silver- and copper-smithing. As you walk through the village, listen to the villagers tapping with small hammers and watch as they make ornamental items out of silver and copper, including



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delicately engraved tropical fruits, which are used in traditional ceremonies. Meet fellow guests at a Welcome Dinner as the ship sails to Kampong Chhnang. (B,L,D)

Day 8, KAMPONG CHHNANG – KAMPONG TRALACH – OUDONG. A local motorboat takes you into the lakeside wetlands that form the mouth of Tonlé Sap River. Enjoy the stunning variety of bird life here as well as tranquil floating villages and its busy waterfront market. Revel in an authentic experience, an oxcart ride through a local village along the river bank. Afterwards, you'll take a motorcoach to Oudong, Cambodia's former royal capital from the 17th century until 1866; today, Oudong is a place of pilgrimage for Cambodians. While here, you'll visit one of Cambodia's largest monasteries, where you'll witness a memorable Buddhist blessing ceremony. Your ship departs for Oknhatey Village and moors midstream. (B,L,D)

Day 9, OKNHATEY VILLAGE – PHNOM PENH. Koh Oknhatey, or "Silk Island," located on the lush banks of the Mekong River, is known for its rich tradition of silk weaving. You'll go to Oknhatey, where you'll visit a local elementary school and observe the traditional silk weaving of handicrafts. Later, your ship departs for Phnom Penh, the vibrant colorful capital of Cambodia. Experience Phnom Penh via an authentic tuk tuk ride and be enchanted by the city's French Colonial architecture and tree-lined boulevards set amidst monumental Angkorian architecture. During the evening on board, enjoy a Khmer folk performance presented by local children. (B,L,D)

Day 10, PHNOM PENH. You will have a choice of excursions this morning. Visit Cambodia's infamous Killing Fields and the Khmer Rouge's grim Tuol Sleng S21 detention center (Genocide Museum) or, if you prefer to stay in Phnom Penh, you can visit the bustling yellow-colored Central Market. After lunch on board, you'll explore the highlights of the city, followed by the Royal Palace, the spectacular Silver Pagoda and the National Museum, which has an outstanding collection of Khmer crafts. (B,L,D)

Day 11, PHNOM PENH – BORDER CROSSING – TAN CHAU, VIETNAM. Spend the day cruising the Mekong River as your ship crosses the border into Vietnam. (B,L,D)

Day 12, TAN CHAU – SA DEC. Enjoy a visit to Tan Chau, a small Mekong River town unspoiled by tourism. You will have the opportunity to get an authentic experience and take a traditional "xe-loi" (trishaw) ride around the town, with stops at silk-making and rattan mat workshops, followed by a boat ride through the narrow channels of the Mekong River to "Evergreen Island." Alternatively, simply take the boat ride to Evergreen Island and return to Tan Chau, where you will visit a rattan mat workshop. Later in the day, cruise to Sa Dec. (B,L,D)

Day 13, SA DEC – XEO QUYT – CAI BE. Once ashore in Sa Dec, tour the town where French writer Marguerite Duras spent many years in her youth. Visit a colorful local market and the 19th-century house of Mr. Huynh Thuy Le, Duras' Chinese paramour. Later, board a motorcoach for Xeo Quyt, once used as a base during the French and U.S. wars and now an important ecological site. You will have an opportunity to visit candy and rice paper-making workshops and the historic Kiet Old House. Cap the day off with a festive Farewell Dinner on board. (B,L,D)

Day 14, HO CHI MINH CITY – DISEMBARKATION. Disembark the AmaDara in My Tho Port and transfer to Ho Chi Minh City. Vietnam's former capital of Indochina was once known as the "Paris of the Orient," and today, it is an industrial, cultural and educational hub. Explore such famous landmarks as the former Presidential Palace, the Central Post Office, Notre Dame Cathedral and the War Remnants Museum before visiting the Ben Thanh Market—one of the oldest and most iconic structures in Ho Chi Minh City. (B,L)

Day 15, HO CHI MINH CITY. Visit Cu Chi Tunnels, an immense underground network built during the Vietnam War. Spend your afternoon at leisure exploring more of Ho Chi Minh City. (B)

Day 16, DEPART HO CHI MINH CITY. Bid farewell to Vietnam as you prepare for your homeward flight. (B)