

# Classic Mekong River Cruise, Saigon to Angkor Wat in Style, Vietnam & Cambodia

A relaxed exploration of two fascinating countries from the luxury of 'one of the most splendid ships on the Mekong'.



## Group departures

See overleaf for departure dates

## Holiday overview

Style	Adventure Cruising
Accommodation	Hotels, River Cruise Ship
Grade	Tour
Duration	14 days from London to London
Min/Max group size	2 / 12. Guaranteed to run for 2
Trip Leader	Local Tour Leader Vietnam & Cambodia
Land only	Joining in Siem Reap, Cambodia Departing from Saigon, Vietnam

Private Departures & Tailor Made itineraries available



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# Departures

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## Group departures

### 2024 Dates:

Wed 09 Oct - Tue 22 Oct R V Bassac Pandaw

### 2025 Dates:

Fri 31 Jan - Thu 13 Feb R V Bassac Pandaw

**\*Thu 20 Mar - Wed 02 Apr R V Mekong Pandaw**

\*This detailed itinerary is for our March 2025 departure only. An itinerary for the other departures can be downloaded from our website or requested from the Mountain Kingdoms office.

## Deposit and payments

A higher deposit is required to secure your booking on this holiday and your final balance is due 95 days before departure. For full details please contact the office or refer to our terms and conditions on our website <http://www.mountainkingdoms.com/essential-information>.

We will confirm cabin availability for this trip before processing your booking.

## Single Cabins

If you are travelling on your own and are willing to share, we will attempt to pair you up with another solo, same sex traveller. Where this is not possible a resulting single cabin has to be paid for. Please contact us for prices.

## Group prices and optional supplements

Please contact us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or visit our website for our land only and flight inclusive prices and single supplement options.

## No Surcharge Guarantee

The flight inclusive or land only price will be confirmed to you at the time you make your booking. There will be no surcharges after your booking has been confirmed.

## Will the trip run?

This trip is guaranteed to run for 2 people and for a maximum of 12. In the rare event that we cancel a holiday, we will refund you in full and give you at least 6 weeks warning. Many trips do fill up quickly - we advise you to book early if you want to secure a place(s) on the dates of your choice.

## Insurance

We offer a travel insurance scheme - please contact us for details.

## Private Departures

We can also offer this trip as a private holiday. A Private Departure follows exactly the same itinerary as the group departure but at dates to suit you (subject to availability) - please contact us with your preferred dates.

## Tailor Made service

We pride ourselves on the level of quality and choice we provide for our clients who want a fully tailor made holiday. A holiday will be created especially for you by one of our well-travelled experts. They will be able to advise on the accommodation best suited to your needs, the sights you should visit (and those to avoid!) and the best walks and activities matched to your ability. In short, we will work together with you to create your perfect holiday. If you would like to explore the idea of a Tailor Made holiday with Mountain Kingdoms then please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or see the Tailor Made pages of our website for further inspiration.

## Your guide

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Our English-speaking guides in Vietnam and Cambodia have an intimate and expert knowledge of the history, culture and nature of these wonderful countries. They will be sure to provide you with an unforgettable experience.

Onboard crew are all highly trained and offer a personalised service.

## Your trip highlights

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- Enjoy seven nights onboard the luxurious RV Mekong Pandaw
- Cruise the bustling Mekong Delta in Vietnam and the quieter waters of the Mekong in Cambodia
- Discover the highlights and history of Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City)
- Tour the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh and visit iconic Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom
- Visit charming villages and enjoy the beautiful river landscapes
- Stay in 5\* hotels in Saigon and Siem Reap
- Explore by a variety of transportation including tuk tuk, sampan, ox cart and on foot

## At a glance itinerary

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Days 1-2	Depart UK and fly to Siem Reap, Cambodia.
Day 3	Visit Angkor Wat and other ruins in area. Attend Cambodian 'circus' show.
Day 4	Transfer to Mekong Pandaw river cruise boat to start cruise.
Day 5	Visit Angkor Ban Village. Sail to Silk Island to see silk weavers and martial arts experts.
Day 6	Travel to Oudong and tour city. Evening at Khmer village. Cross the border into Cambodia.
Day 7	City tour of Phnom Penh. Optional Killing Fields tour.
Day 8	Sail to border. Cross into Vietnam and sail to Chau Doc.
Day 9	Visit Sam Mountain, Chau Doc and a Chham village and. Explore Con Phuc Island.
Day 10	Sampan excursion to Ben Tre. Sail to My Tho Pier.
Days 11-12	End cruise. Disembark and transfer to Saigon. Visit Cu Chi tunnels and Saigon city tour.
Days 13-14	Overnight flight back to UK.

## Trip summary

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This superb tour highlights the very best that Vietnam and Cambodia have to offer taking in cultural wonders, fascinating historical sights and beautiful scenery whilst travelling in real style throughout.

Your holiday begins with an in-depth tour of the incomparable Angkor Wat temple complex - one of the most important archaeological sites on all of Southeast Asia. Transferring to Kampong Cham, you board your luxurious Pandaw cruise ship and set sail for seven nights along the Mekong River. Perhaps the most scenic river in Asia, the Mekong is also the most vibrant and there is much to see as you cruise along, including floating markets, picturesque villages and countless temples. Each day there are excursions which will reveal different aspects of local life and history which you will explore by boat, tuk tuk and on foot.

In addition to time on the river in Cambodia you will also take a tour of the capital city, Phnom Penh, visiting the ornate Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda, as well as having the opportunity to spend time at the thought provoking Killing Fields.

Crossing into Vietnam there are further shore excursions to important cultural and historic sights, places of natural beauty and lots of local colour and culture.

The cruise ends near Saigon where you disembark for further 5\* comfort in Vietnam's largest city, an absorbing blend of ancient cultural traditions and modern economic dynamo. Staying in a centrally located hotel, you will discover many aspects of its complex history as you stroll down leafy boulevards past atmospheric colonial buildings, visit a traditional market and see a variety of cottage industries in action. You will also visit the Cu Chi tunnels - one of the most haunting remnants of the Vietnam war.

Aboard your Pandaw ship you will cruise in style with large, well-appointed cabins, spacious viewing decks and first-class facilities. The food is exceptional and varied with a wide range of international cuisine, there's even unlimited ice-cream served on the sundeck! In the evenings, you can relax in the comfortable saloon bar, enjoy the cultural performances or take in the educational talks and films that are provided by the highly experienced ship's crew and onboard experts.

## Special notes

### Departure dates

Departure dates can occasionally be changed by the cruise provider, sometimes at short notice. We therefore advise that you contact the Mountain Kingdoms office prior to booking to confirm dates and availability.

### RV Mekong Pandaw

The original P-class ships were built by Yarrows of Glasgow in the late 1940s to replace the ships of the old Irrawaddy Flotilla Company lost in the war. The design was based on earlier 1930s designs with side paddles and the addition of a flying bridge. All the ships had a name beginning with P and one of these was the original Pandaw that was acquired in 1998 and lovingly restored. The P-class ships with their broad beam and shallow draft were all deployed on the Bhamo to Mandalay route.

Built in Rangoon (Yangon) in 2002 the RV Mekong Pandaw sailed round to Saigon under her own power and with many a drama as described in Paul Strachan's Pandaw Story. This ship was designed specially for the Mekong and unlike the other P class ships does not have a flying bridge. The reason was so that she could get under a road bridge. She did actually scrape under on her maiden but it was so scary that Paul Strachan, then standing on the bridge, never dared attempt it again. As a result, they ended up with this incredible 750 square metre teak deck that even has a full-size billiard table.

The MP, as she is affectionately known, is a most spacious ship with wider promenades, a larger dining hall and more public space per passenger than any known ship afloat.

In 2012 she was refitted and lower deck cabins removed in favour of a professional spa, gym, library lounge and office. She is quite justifiably the most splendid ship on the Mekong and the envy of anything that is afloat.

Built 2003 in Yangon, refit 2013

Length: 200ft / 60m

Beam: 36ft / 11m

Draught: 4ft / 1.5m

Berths: 48 pax

There are many different river cruise ships, we believe the RV Pandaw ships are the best choice because:

- They offer high quality, personalised service
- The ships echo the old colonial times and have high-class atmosphere
- They provide a fine dining experience
- They have excellent facilities and beautiful cabins
- They are the best ships operating the Mekong River
- The history dates back to the original Irrawaddy Flotilla Company

### Accommodation

- RV Mekong Pandaw has 18 upper deck and 6 main deck staterooms.
- The ship has large cabins (170 square feet) finished in teak and brass
- New bathrooms with natural stone shower and branded quality fittings
- Panoramic french window, leading to personal deck space
- Electric mini safe
- Central air-conditioning with individual control
- 24 hour laundry service
- Complimentary evening canapés
- Unlimited mineral water
- Kimonos and slippers, hairdryer and spa-branded amenities
- Daily nightly turndown service
- Multi-configuration plugs

### **Wining and dining**

- Local master chef heading an experienced international culinary team
- Semi-buffet breakfast, semi-buffet lunch, and seated theme dinners
- Daily lean & light menu options
- Complimentary coffee, water, tea, soft drinks, local beer and spirits
- Sundeck bar with complimentary ice cream from sunrise to sunset
- Spacious, air-conditioned saloon bar with nightly entertainment
- 24hrs hospitality bar
- Onboard bakery with daily freshly baked breads and rolls
- Series of cultural performances, educational talks, cooking classes and ship tour
- Theme and gala dinners

### **Complimentary for excursions**

- Entrance fees (if applicable)
- Shoe cleaning after excursions
- Bottled drinking water
- Cold towel service after excursions
- Refreshing drink following excursions
- First aid trained assistant guide to follow all tours and excursions
- Deluxe sampans with cold towel service, fresh fruit, and tea/coffee
- Comfortable "Pandaw Explorer" excursion boat

### **Safety and security**

- All onboard crew are trained and certified as per international marine standards
- Fire alarm system in all cabins, public areas and back areas
- Fire fighting system in all ship areas
- Expert marine superintendent
- 24 hours watch on duty
- Certified hygiene standards for all areas

### **Optional house wine package**

Unlimited tea, coffee, tisanes and mineral water are available free of charge on every Pandaw owned ship. However, as other drinks are not included, we can offer a 'free flow drinks & wine package' which includes unlimited soft drinks, local beers and spirits plus house wine (red or white) to go with your meals. The cost of this wine package is approximately £155 per person. We can confirm this cost upon booking. Please advise at the time of booking if you would like to add this on.

### **Optional private dining**

Whilst dining with Pandaw is very much a convivial experience, there may be times when you would prefer to have a table for two. All Pandaw ships can now offer this flexibility. Please let us know at the time of booking if you would like to opt for private dining, either for the whole cruise or for certain days. There would be no additional charge.

# Your trip itinerary

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## Day 1: Fly London to Siem Reap.

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Fly from London to Siem Reap in Cambodia by overnight flight.

**Overnight: In flight**

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## Day 2: Arrive Siem Reap. Group transfer to hotel. Afternoon at leisure.

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On arrival in Siem Reap you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure so that you can relax after your long flight. If you want to stretch your legs and explore a little, your hotel is well-located close to the Royal Residence and gardens, the National Museum, Pub Street and a night market.

**Overnight: FCC Angkor, Siem Reap**

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## Day 3: Full day sightseeing of Angkor Thom. Experience a cultural Cambodian show.

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Following breakfast you will have a full day's sightseeing tour with an air conditioned vehicle and English-speaking guide. This morning you will visit the South Gate of Angkor Thom, as well as other significant temples and sites such as Bayon, Baphoun, Terrace of Elephant, Terrace of Leper King and Pimean Akas.

Your lunch will be served in a local restaurant where you may like to try a Khmer curry. After lunch you will enjoy visits to Thommanon, Chau Say Teveda, Ta Keo, Ta Promh, Banteay Kdei and Sras Srang. The photogenic and atmospheric combination of trees growing out of the ruins and the jungle surroundings of Ta Prohm have made it one of Angkor's most popular temples with visitors.



In the evening you will experience an entertaining and original Cambodian show featuring talented, young performers at Phare Ponleu Selpak's Circus.

**Overnight: FCC Angkor, Siem Reap (Meals: B L)**

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## Day 4: Transfer from your hotel to the dock at Kampong Cham. Board the R V Mekong Pandaw and take a sunset cruise.

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This morning you will be collected from your hotel and transferred to Kampong Cham, situated on the Mekong Delta, where you will be welcomed on board the R V Mekong Pandaw. You will meet your crew and they will brief you about the ship and safety on board. Please note: Your guide will collect your passports at the meeting point in order to arrange immigration formalities.

In the evening you will enjoy a sunset cruise on the Mekong.

**Overnight: R V Mekong Pandaw (Meals: BLD)**

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## Day 5: Morning visit to Angkor Ban Village. Afternoon travel to Silk Island.

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After breakfast onboard you will visit Angkor Ban Village. Here you will have chance to see how the local villagers live in Cambodia and to visit the school library which was donated by Pandaw. You may like to gift a book to the library. Books in English, suitable for children aged between 8 and 15, would be greatly appreciated.

After lunch you will travel to Koh Nghe Tei, also known as 'Silk Island'. On the island you will discover the fascinating intricacies of the entire silk making process from worms to weavers. Also on the island, you will see a demonstration of the ancient Khmer martial art of Bokator which involves impressive weapon skills.

**Overnight: R V Mekong Pandaw (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 6: Drive to Oudong and tour the ancient city. Rejoin your ship at Kampong Tralach. Afternoon tour of local villages.**

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This morning's shore excursion by coach makes its first stop at the scenic Vipassana Dhura Meditation Centre (a Buddhist monastery) where you may see the resident monks and nuns following their ancient, daily rituals. From there you continue to Oudong, the ancient capital of Cambodia and now a UNESCO World Heritage City. Your guide will explain its history and cultural significance as you drive around its sights. You rejoin your ship at Kampong Tralach. After lunch, you'll take a tour by ox-cart round the villages and temples along this stretch of the Mekong.

In the evening you will enjoy cocktails around a fire-pit in one of the local Khmer villages. You will learn something of their culture and see some Khmer dancing.

**Overnight: R V Mekong Pandaw (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 7: Morning city tour of Phnom Penh. Afternoon visit to the Killing Fields (optional).**

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This morning you will travel by a cyclo to the Royal Palace and the Silver Pagoda which has silver floor tiles totalling five tons of gleaming silver. After, you will visit the National Museum which houses the world's finest collection of classical Angkor period sculpture. Please note that you are required to wear clothes that cover your shoulders and knees, no shorts are allowed in the Royal Palace.



Later on today you will have the option to visit the Killing Fields and Toul Sleng Genocide Museum. You will be taken by coach which will take approximately 1 hour. The Toul Sleng Museum provided the base for the Khmer Rouge security force and prison and interrogation centre, S21. The building, formerly a primary school, together with the photographs of many of the victims displayed on the walls, now stand testament to the brutality and murderous actions of the Pol Pot regime. After the prisoners were interrogated here they were taken to Choeung Ek to be executed. Many of the country's intellectuals along with some Westerners were labelled 'enemies of the revolution' and killed in this complex. There now stands a stupa filled with human skulls as a memorial to the victims.

Important note - if you wish to opt out of this afternoon excursion to the Killing Fields and Genocide Museum, then this is fine. Please let us know at the time of booking, if you wish to visit the Killing Fields.

There is ample time to enjoy your stay in Phnom Penh as the ship will be moored in the city jetty and you are free to go ashore at any time while the ship is there and the port gate is open (it closes around 11.00pm). There are various markets that you can walk to, such as the central market or the night market.

**Overnight: R V Mekong Pandaw (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 8: Sail to Chau Doc - cross into Vietnam. At leisure on board.**

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Anchors away early this morning as you set sail once again. When you reach the Vietnam border you drop anchor whilst the crew go through the immigration formalities. Afterwards, you sail on to Chau Doc; a lush, forested region of the Mekong Delta with many natural and cultural treasures. In the evening a lion dance will be performed on board to welcome you to Vietnam.

**Overnight: R V Mekong Pandaw (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 9: In the morning visit Sam Mountain, floating fish farms and a Chham village. In the afternoon sail to Con Phuoc Island and explore by tuk tuk. Sail to Sa Dec.**

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Your first excursion today is to nearby Sam Mountain. If you are feeling energetic you can climb the 400 steps to the top to see the famous Hang Pagoda, one of several on the mountain. Also known as Phuoc Dien Temple it is an historic monument with caves beneath it that house many statues of Buddha. There are excellent views from the pagoda across the surrounding fields and villages. You will next board a small sampan to visit the floating fish farms of Chau Doc and finally stop at a Chham village, home to Vietnamese Muslims. After lunch you will sail to Con Phuoc Island for a further shore excursion. Firstly you will visit local



craftspeople and watch them weaving bamboo baskets using traditional methods. You'll then hop on board a tuk tuk for a fun drive through the village, stopping at a 100 year old Catholic church and meeting more friendly locals.

Returning to your ship you sail on to Sa Dec and drop anchor for the night.

**Overnight: R V Mekong Pandaw (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 10: Sail to Ben Tre. Sampan excursion to a local village. Sail to My Tho pier.**

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This morning you can relax and watch the world slip gently by as you cruise to Ben Tre. After lunch you will travel by sampan through mangroves and bamboo forests to the fruit orchards of Ben Tre - an area rich in birdlife - then transfer to a local rowboat. You will slowly explore through the bamboo covered canals and arrive at village which specialises in making local products such as rice wine and coconut candy. You return to your boat and sail on to My Tho Pier. After dinner you will be entertained by a Vietnamese dance troupe.

**Overnight: R V Mekong Pandaw (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 11: Disembark and transfer to Saigon. Time at leisure.**

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After a final breakfast on board, you will say a fond farewell to your crew. You will then be transferred to your well-located hotel in Saigon. After checking-in the rest of the day is free for you to relax and enjoy the facilities at your hotel or to venture out and begin exploring this fascinating city.

**Overnight: Intercontinental Asiana Hotel, Saigon (Meals: B L)**

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**Day 12: Full day sightseeing tour of Saigon including Cu Chi tunnels.**

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Today after breakfast you will be taken to the extraordinary Cu Chi tunnels, approximately 1½ hours drive from Saigon. The complicated underground network was built by the Viet Cong guerillas and used extensively during the Vietnam War. En route to the tunnels you may have the chance to see how rural people live and work, seeing occupations such as rice farming and the production of rice paper - a key ingredient in Vietnamese cuisine. You will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.



In the afternoon you will have a tour of the city. It is easy to walk around the central district and to explore the broad leafy boulevards and splendid French colonial architecture - Notre Dame Cathedral and the General Post Office. You will also see the former US Embassy, City Hall, the Reunification Hall and War Museum of Remnants. You will end the day with a visit to Ben Thanh market, a busy market and one of Saigon's liveliest areas, selling everything from foodstuffs to souvenirs.

You will then be taken back to your hotel. Saigon is a great place to dine with some excellent French and Vietnamese restaurants.

**Overnight: Intercontinental Asiana Hotel, Saigon (Meals: B L)**

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**Day 13: Transfer to airport and fly to UK.**

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After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home.

**Overnight: In flight (Meals: B)**

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**Day 14: Arrive UK**

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Today you will arrive back to the UK.

## Our grading system

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The Classic Mekong River Cruise is graded as a tour, as described below.

### **Tours**

Tours may include any of the following activities: sightseeing, visiting local villages, exploring temples, game viewing, birdwatching, husky sledding, mountain flights, city tours and dramatic journeys by road, rail, or river. Occasionally there will be short, gentle walks so that you can properly explore the cultural sites you are visiting.

## What the price includes

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**Mountain Kingdoms** aims to offer the best value for money. We do not charge extra for meal packages or apply local charges and try to ensure that all the key elements of your holiday are included.

### What's included:

- ✓ 4 nights in good quality hotels on a twin-share, bed & breakfast on basis
- ✓ 7 nights on board the RV Mekong Pandaw in a twin share cabin on full board basis
- ✓ 11 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 7 dinners
- ✓ Tea, coffee, mineral water and tissanes
- ✓ Port transfers and port taxes
- ✓ English-speaking, expert guides
- ✓ All excursions specified in the itinerary
- ✓ Gratuities on board to crew
- ✓ International economy flights and applicable taxes (flight inclusive option)
- ✓ Single, timed group airport transfer on arrival and departure
- ✓ Carbon offsetting with the Ecoan Tree Planting Project (for clients taking our flight inclusive option)
- ✓ A free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle
- ✓ The opportunity to attend one of our pre trip meets in the Cotswolds

### Airport transfers

The cost of a transfer to/from the airport is included in the price of your holiday. This is a single group transfer which is arranged to coincide with the timings of the group flights. If you book your own flights which arrive/depart at different times to this, or we book flights at your request that have different timings, we will be happy to provide a quote for a separate transfer. Please contact us should you require any further information.

### What's not included:

- × Travel insurance
- × Visa fees
- × Tips to local tour guides, hotel staff, boat operators / drivers and cyclo drivers
- × All drinks except tea, coffee and mineral water
- × Optional drinks package on board
- × Evening meals and some lunches in Saigon and Siem Reap, please refer to the itinerary for the meal plan

### Water-to-Go Reusable Bottle Campaign

We have joined the campaign to help cut down on the use of plastics and, in particular, single-use water bottles. To do this we have teamed up with the revolutionary company, Water-to-Go who have developed a multi-use drinking bottle with a reusable filter that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants. This makes water from virtually any source safe to drink and significantly reduces the need for travellers to buy bottles of water wherever they are in the world.

Our clients who are not given a free Mountain Kingdoms kit bag for their holiday (these are required for certain treks), will instead receive a free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle. These unique Water-to-Go bottles can also be purchased from us at a discounted rate.

For further information about our campaign visit <https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign>.

## Your accommodation

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We will endeavour to secure the hotels named in the itinerary but if our first choice of hotel is unavailable we will book a suitable alternative of a similar standard.



### **FCC Angkor, Siem Reap**

Formerly the residence of the French Governor, this historic building has been converted into a stylish, peaceful haven in the heart of the Old French Quarter of Siem Reap. The deluxe rooms have courtyard views and are contemporarily styled with furnishings accented by Cambodian textiles. The hotel's Scribe bar is a social gathering point and the Mansion restaurant offers Khmer cuisine and Asian fusion dishes



### **R V Mekong Pandaw**

A charming ship, which has been hand-crafted in brass and teak. The ship is renowned for its excellent on-board service, cuisine and facilities. The generous cabins are en suite and have A/C units as well as a large, panoramic french window leading to your personal deck space. The ships are small scale and the atmosphere onboard is informal and very friendly.



### **Intercontinental Asiana Hotel, Saigon**

This 5 star luxury Ho Chi Minh City hotel is located in the city centre, just a short stroll to famous landmarks such as Notre Dame Cathedral and Saigon Opera House.

## Meal arrangements

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Bed and breakfast throughout, full board on Pandaw cruise ship and some lunches in Saigon and Siem Reap. 11 x breakfasts, 10 x lunches and 7 x dinners are included.

## Flight arrangements

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### Flight inclusive from price

Our 'Flight inclusive from' price is based on the best fare available at the time of printing. As airfares change on a constant basis, this should be used only as a guide price. Rest assured that, at the time of booking, we will endeavour to get the best possible price for the flights you need. Remember, the earlier you book the greater your chances of securing the best fare.

Flight inclusive packages booked through Mountain Kingdoms are protected through our ATOL bonding scheme.

### Flight upgrades and regional Airports

Please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 for flight options from regional UK airports, Business Class upgrades, alternative airlines and stopovers. Please also check our website for the most up to date flight inclusive 'from' prices.

## Further information

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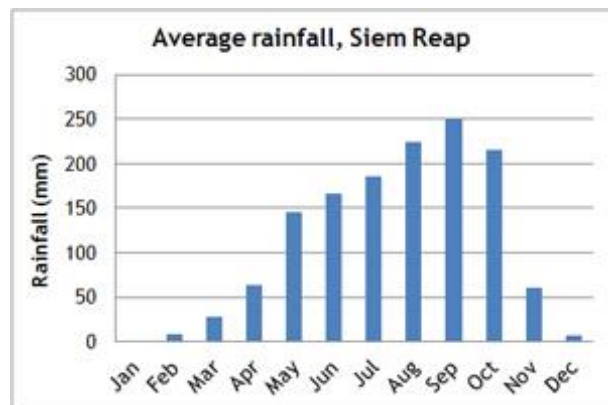
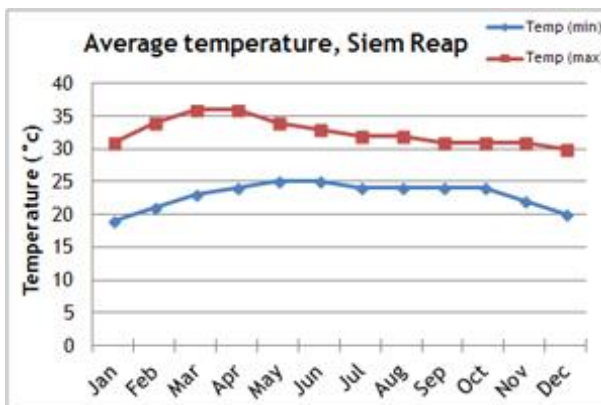
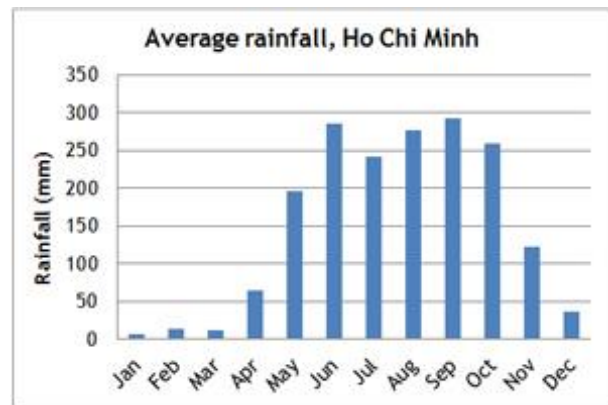
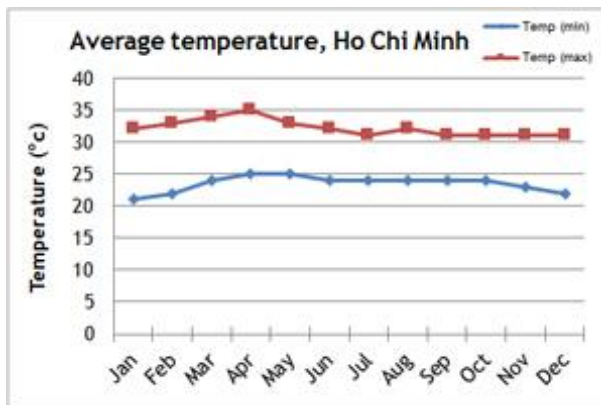
When we receive your booking, we send you a full Trip Dossier which contains details of any visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. If you do have queries at this initial stage do call us on 01453 844400 and we will be pleased to offer advice.

## The nature of adventure travel

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Every effort will be made to keep to this itinerary but we cannot guarantee that things may not change, either before you travel or while you are away. By its very nature, adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected, particularly in more remote areas. A variety of factors such as adverse weather conditions, changes to local schedules and difficulties with transportation can all contribute to the need to make changes to the itinerary, often at the very last minute. Our Operations Manager and your Trip Leader will make every effort to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary and minimise the impact of any changes, but an easy-going and flexible nature is a real asset! Please note that all timings and distances given are approximate.

# Climate information



# Extensions

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## Extending your holiday

If you would like additional inspiration on how or where to extend your holiday please call us on 01453 844400. Alternatively, you can download a range of extension information sheets on our website, at [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com).



There are many ways you can extend your holiday with Mountain Kingdoms. You could have additional hotel nights, relax at a beautiful beach resort, take a personal sightseeing tour or enjoy some other exciting activity. In fact whatever's available, we can help make it happen. We're happy to suggest ideas, provide quotes and make all the arrangements. We can also assist with flight and hotel upgrades.

## Why book this holiday with Mountain Kingdoms?

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- Our carefully considered itinerary that explores the many cultural and historic sights of Vietnam and Cambodia at a relaxed pace.
- We use the Pandaw line river cruise boats, the most luxurious on the Mekong River, with first class service, facilities and cuisine.
- You will have experienced, English-speaking tour leaders throughout the trip and you will be accompanied on all shore excursions.
- The hotels used for this itinerary are of a very high standard.
- We include ample time to explore the temple complex of Angkor Wat.
- We have a wealth of travel experience in the company, with the majority of our staff having visited Vietnam and Cambodia. If you have any questions about any aspect of this holiday please feel free to give us a call - 01453 844400.
- As part of our commitment to 'Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency', we will be carbon-offsetting all international flights booked through us by donating funds to the Ecoan Tree Planting Project in Peru.
- We are an IATA accredited agent and work directly with some of the world's major airlines. If you wish to fly with a specific airline, from a regional UK airport or on alternative dates to the main group we would be happy to arrange this for you. Please contact our Flights Manager, April, for flight options, quotes and further information.

If we've tempted you to take your next holiday with us, we advise you to check availability and you can do this via our website: [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com) or by calling the team on +44 (0)1453 844400. Bookings can be made online, by phone or by completing a booking form and returning it to us. We can also provisionally hold places if you need time to consider your options.



## What our clients say

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*We much enjoyed our holiday in Cambodia and were delighted to meet so many happy, friendly people along the way. The temples were astounding, the Killing Fields were chilling, the country side was lovely and filled with so many interesting sights and photographic opportunities - overall Cambodia was a delight to visit, and our guides were wonderful.*

*-Mrs H, Northamptonshire*



*This trip was a truly inspiring and memorable experience encompassing beautiful scenery, wonderful cuisine and fascinating culture. The warmth and friendliness of the local people together with unforgettable historical sights has left me with long-lasting memories. Truly amazing!*

*- April, Flights Manager, Mountain Kingdoms*

# Mountain Kingdoms - distinctly different

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## **Truly independent**

In an age where many so-called 'independent' travel companies have in fact been bought out by multi-national giants, we remain fiercely independent with all the benefits this offers our clients.

## **Value for money prices with an emphasis on quality**

We are not in the business of cutting our itineraries and services to the bone to offer eye-catching cheap prices. We use some of the best airlines, and typically 3 or 4 star hotels in cities. We include the majority of meals and private transport for road travel. We use excellent equipment and appoint well-trained staff and leaders. Last year, over 98% of our clients rated their Mountain Kingdoms holiday as 'excellent' or 'good'. We are members of AITO and bound by their quality charter.

## **Complete financial security**

You can book with us confident that your holiday has full financial protection. Flight inclusive holidays are financially protected by the Civil Aviation Authority under ATOL licence number 2973 and 'Land Only' holidays are covered by a bond secured with ABTOT.

## **No Surcharge Guarantee**

Your peace of mind is important to us so we have a No Surcharge Guarantee on all Land Only and Flight Inclusive bookings. This means that there will be no change to the price of your holiday once we have confirmed your booking, regardless of fluctuations in exchange rates or fuel prices.

## **Award winning Responsible Tourism**

We feel strongly that all our holidays should benefit local communities, protect the environment and respect local traditions, religion and heritage. You can read more about the charities we support and our Responsible Tourism commitments and initiatives on the following page or at [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com).

## **Genuine small group travel**

Almost all of our holidays have a maximum group size of just 12, plus leader. This provides more contact with your leader, readier access to off-the-beaten-path areas, greater interaction with local communities and a reduced environmental impact.

## **Loyalty Discount**

If you have previously travelled with us we recognise your loyalty with a discount on future trips.

## **Booking your holiday - it couldn't be easier**

Once you've chosen your Mountain Kingdoms holiday you can book online, call the office or complete and post a booking form which can be found in our brochure or downloaded from our website. If you would like to hold a place on one of our trips, whilst you make up your mind, please give us a call to make a provisional booking. This is a no-obligation, no-cost booking and we will hold your place until space comes under pressure or we need your decision.

## **Comprehensive information**

When we receive your booking we send you a full trip dossier which contains details of visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. In fact, everything you need to know to give you peace of mind and allow you to prepare for your trip of a lifetime.



## RESPONSIBLE TOURISM STATEMENT CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLAN



For over 33 years, Mountain Kingdoms has been offering people the chance to visit amazing places on this extraordinary planet. We now offer trips to all corners of the world, but we are conscious that inevitably our holidays have a detrimental impact on the world around us, and we want to do all we can to reduce our carbon emissions. We are a signatory to Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency, along with a growing number of like-minded, reputable tour operators. For more information, please visit [www.tourismdeclares.com](http://www.tourismdeclares.com)

From 2020 onwards, we will be focusing on how we can reduce the carbon emissions that our holidays produce, and how to counterbalance this carbon by supporting carbon offset measures. Here are some of our current and future plans to minimise the impact of our business as a whole:

### Carbon Offsetting

#### Already doing:

- ✓ We have been offsetting carbon since 2007, but will be increasing our donations to the [Ecoan tree planting project](#) in Peru this year. This is with a trusted partner where the funds go directly to a project where the community plants trees on its own land.

#### Will do:

- ✓ We are working on making our carbon offsetting more accurate and targeted.
- ✓ In future, we will add to that a further estimate for carbon produced by hotels, local road travel, trains and internal flights to arrive at a carbon offset sum for each trip we operate.
- ✓ Carbon offsetting will be included in our holiday prices. For our Flight Inclusive holidays it will include the international flight and any emissions produced by inland travel and accommodation. Our Land Only prices will include the cost of offsetting emissions caused by inland travel and accommodation.

### Reducing Carbon Emissions

#### Already doing:

- ✓ We already offer the majority of our customers a free filtered water bottle which means they can instantly cut down on their single-use plastic consumption. This will be an ongoing project.
- ✓ We already predominantly use locally owned hotels, but will continue to ensure that, where possible, we use these rather than multinational chains.
- ✓ We have joined the Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency initiative to stand alongside like-minded travel companies, to work together to initiate best practices to make tourism as sustainable as possible.

#### Will do:

- ✓ We will re-evaluate our flights to make sure we are using the most fuel efficient airlines with the youngest fleets and, where possible, direct flights for each trip.
- ✓ We will stop offering unnecessary optional flights – for example our Everest sightseeing trip.
- ✓ We will eliminate unnecessary staff flights wherever possible.
- ✓ We will look at minimising internal flights.
- ✓ We will be asking all our worldwide agents and suppliers to look at their own carbon footprint and encourage them to reduce it.
- ✓ We will promote our more low impact trips to give customers an informed choice.

As part of our wider commitment to Responsible Tourism, we will continue to support a number of charities with whom we have had a long standing relationship over many years. These include: Shiva Charity in Nepal (Ginette Harrison School), Simien Mountains Mobile Medical Service and Porter Welfare, as well as setting aside a sum for emergency disaster relief should the need arise.

