

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

A relaxed exploration of two fascinating countries from the luxury of 'the most splendid ship 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 Saigon [Ho Chi Minh City], Vietnam |
| Max altitude       |   |

**Private Departures & Tailor Made itineraries available**



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# Departures

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## Group departures

### 2023 Dates:

Wed 18 Jan - Tue 31 Jan

Wed 01 Feb - Tue 14 Feb

Wed 15 Mar - Tue 28 Mar

Wed 15 Nov - Tue 28 Nov

Wed 27 Dec - Tue 09 Jan 2024

This detailed itinerary is for our 2023 departures only. A separate itinerary is available for our 2024 departure dates which can be downloaded from our website or requested from the Mountain Kingdoms office.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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

## At a glance itinerary

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|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Days 1 -2  | Depart UK and fly to Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City)   |
| Day 3      | Visit Cu Chi tunnels and Saigon city tour  |
| Day 4      | Transfer to RV Mekong Pandaw to start cruise. Sampan trip to Ben Tre.  |
| Day 5      | Visit Gao Giong bird sanctuary and Con Phuc Island.  |
| Day 6      | Visit villages, temple and fish farm around Chau Doc, Chham village and Sam Mountain. Cross border in Cambodia.            |
| Day 7      | City tour of Phnom Penh. Optional Killing Fields tour.   |
| Day 8      | Silk Island Excursion.   |
| Day 9      | Morning cruise to Prek Kdam. Visit Oudong. Reboard at Kompang Trollach. Afternoon visit to local villages.                 |
| Day 10     | Visit Tonle Sap floating market and villages.  |
| Days 11-12 | End cruise. Disembark and transfer to Siem Riep. Visit Angkor Wat and other ruins in area. Attend Cambodian 'circus' show. |
| Days 13-14 | End sightseeing and depart Siem Riep. Arrive 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.

The tour begins in Saigon, Vietnam's largest city, an absorbing blend of ancient cultural traditions and modern economic dynamo. Staying in a centrally located 5\* 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.

Boarding the luxurious RV Mekong Pandaw you set sail on your seven night cruise 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, cyclo and on foot.

Having crossed into Cambodia from Vietnam you will take a tour of the capital city, Phnom Penh, visiting the ornate Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda. In Cambodia, you will also have the opportunity to spend time at the thought provoking Killing Fields, explore traditional villages and visit fascinating temple complexes.

Aboard your Pandaw ship you will cruise in style with large, well-appointed cabins, spacious viewing decks and first-class facilities including a professional spa, gym and library. The food is exceptional and varied with a wide range of international cuisine and you can also enjoy complimentary evening canapés and 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.

The cruise ends at Siem Reap where you disembark for further 5\* comfort and an in-depth tour of the incomparable Angkor Wat temple complex - one of the most important archaeological sites on all of Southeast Asia and a fitting end to this memorable holiday.

### 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 2 suites, 14 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 and tea, and local beers
- Sundeck bar with complimentary ice cream from sunrise to sunset
- Spacious, air-conditioned saloon bar with nightly entertainment
- 24 hrs 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 superintendant
- 24 hours watch on duty
- Certified hygiene standards for all areas

**Optional drinks 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 Saigon

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Fly London to Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) by overnight flight.

**Overnight: In flight**

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## Day 2: Arrive Saigon (Ho Chi minh City). Group transfer to hotel. Afternoon at leisure.

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On arrival in Saigon you will be met and transferred to the Intercontinental Asiana Hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure for you to relax after your long flight and to adjust to the sights and sounds of this vibrant city, formerly the French colonial port of Saigon. Saigon is the capital of southern Vietnam and after Hanoi is the country's second city.

**Overnight: Intercontinental Asiana Hotel, Saigon**

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## Day 3: 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 4: Transfer from your hotel to the port of My Tho to embark on your cruise. Sail to Ben Tre and excursion by sampan to Ben Tre Village.

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This morning you will be collected from your hotel and transferred to My Tho port situated on the Mekong Delta, where you will be welcomed on board your cruise vessel, the RV Mekong Pandaw. Your Vietnamese guide will be ready to welcome you from 10am at the front of the hotel, where you can leave your luggage. Please then feel free to join the rest of your group in the Purple Jade Bar - 1st floor of the hotel. The coach will depart at 10.30am and will expect to arrive at My Tho Port around 12.30 noon.

On arrival you will meet your crew and they will brief you about the ship and safety on board. You will then cast off for the start of your adventure on the river. Today you will get your first taste of life on the river with the lush green landscapes of the Mekong Delta. You sail past paddy fields, orchards, sugar cane fields and villages of stilt houses as well as the varied traffic of the river such as elegant sampans and lumbering cargo boats. Arriving at Ben Tre your ship will anchor midstream.

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 rice wine and coconut candy. Here you will see how these specialities are manufactured as well as having the opportunity to try them for yourself, including the local "moonshine."



You return to MV Pandaw for dinner. In the evening you will be entertained by a Vietnamese cultural group highlighting "Life on the Mekong Delta".

Please note that today your guide will collect your passports at the meeting point in order to arrange immigration formalities.

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

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**Day 5: Morning sailing and afternoon excursion to Gao Gon Bird Sanctuary. Cruise to Con Phuoc Island.**

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In the morning you will sail through the delta which will give you an insight into life along this mighty waterway. After lunch, you will have a short drive through lush countryside to visit the Gao Giong 'green oasis', a 1,000-acre of eucalyptus forest and a listed wildlife sanctuary. The sanctuary has over 200 species of birds including a diverse selection of water fowl, ducks and egrets which gather in their tens of thousands across the Duong Thap Muoi or 'Plain of Reeds'. You will explore by rowing boat along the canals to see the principal nesting areas where there will be lots of photo opportunities.

After returning to the boat you cruise upstream to Con Phuoc Island. You will moor in a small canal off Con Phuoc Island and go ashore to explore the island, seeing basket production and visiting a 100-year old Catholic church.

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

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**Day 6: Visit Chau Doc, Cham village and Sam Mountain. Vietnam/Cambodia Border.**

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In the morning your boat will dock alongside the picturesque border town of Chau Doc. Here you will visit the famous floating markets and fish farms by Sampan, as well as a local Chham Village where you will see the lives of some local Vietnamese Muslims. You then drive the short distance to Sam Mountain. You climb the 400 steps to the top to visit Phuoc Dien Tu, the Hang Pagoda, an 'official historic monument' of Vietnam'.

You then return to the boat and cruise local canals before dropping anchor on the Vietnam/Cambodia Border to go through immigration formalities.

**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. There are various markets that you can walk to, such as the central market or the night market. Please note the port gate closes around 11.00pm. You are sure to have a memorable day in the capital of Cambodia.



Back on the ship this evening you may enjoy a traditional Cambodian / Khmer shadow puppet show or other entertainment.

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

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#### **Day 8: Visit Silk Island.**

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Today's excursion takes you to Koh Okhna Tey, or 'silk island'. To reach the island you first sail to board the smaller expedition vessel, the Pandaw Explorer, which will take you along the narrower waterway of the Tonle River.

On reaching Silk Island you will discover the fascinating intricacies of the entire silk making process from worms to weavers. You will also see a demonstration of the ancient Khmer martial art of Bokator. After, you will return to the ship, enjoying the picturesque scenery of the Tonle River and observing the vibrant local life along the river banks.

This evening there will be a lecture on Angkor and Khmer culture.

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

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#### **Day 9: Morning Cruise to Prek Kdam. Visit Oudong. Reboard at Kompong Trollach. Afternoon visit to local villages.**

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After a short morning cruise along the Tonle Sap River you will disembark at Prek Kdam and drive to Oudong, the ancient capital of Cambodia. You will have a session of relaxation & meditation at the Vipassana Dhura Meditation Centre and then visit the old capital.

You will reboard your boat in Kompong Trollach for lunch. After lunch you will travel by ox cart to meander along the Tonle Sap River, visiting local villages, markets and temples.

In the evening you will enjoy 'cocktail hour' around a fire-pit in one of the local Khmer villages. Here you will learn something of their local culture and see some Khmer dancing, and perhaps even join the villagers in some local dancing.

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

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#### **Day 10: Visit Tonle Sap floating villages and markets.**

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Today is one of the highlights of the trip as you navigate the very narrow canals of the Tonle Sap River for a close-up view of local riverside villages.

After lunch, you arrive in Kampong Chhnang where you will board the "Pandaw Explorer" to visit the famous Tonle Sap floating villages and markets. Here you will see locals fishing and tending their floating vegetable gardens. You then cruise back to Kampong Chhnang City and disembark from the Pandaw Explorer. Here you may take a walk along the newly constructed river walkway, where locals go for a stroll along the Tonle Sap river or gather to socialise in the evening or enjoy the sunset.



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

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#### **Day 11: Disembark and transfer to Siem Reap - approximately 5 hours. Afternoon visit to Angkor Wat.**

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After a final early breakfast on board, you will say a fond farewell to your crew. You will then be transferred to the Victoria Angkor Resort in Siem Reap by a comfortable air-conditioned coach. Refreshments will be provided en route and you will stop along the way for a short break. You will arrive at Siem Reap around mid-afternoon. On arrival at your hotel you will be met and briefed by your guide who will look after you for the last part of your trip.

After lunch at your hotel, you will visit Angkor Wat, the world famous temple of Cambodia. It is visually,

architecturally and artistically breathtaking. With its massive three tiered pyramid crowned by five beehive-like towers rising 65 metres from ground level, this temple is the centrepiece of any visit to the temples of Angkor. Late afternoon is the best time for photography at Angkor Wat as the warm sunlight bathes the temples producing their familiar 'red glow' it is also the perfect time to take in the romantic view at sunset from Bakheng Hill.

You will then return back to your hotel. There are many nearby restaurants serving Asian or Western cuisine.

**Overnight: Victoria Angkor Resort & Spa, Siem Reap (Meals: B L)**

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**Day 12: Full day sightseeing of Angkor Thom. Experience a cultural Cambodian show.**

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Following a hearty breakfast in your hotel you will have a full day's sightseeing tour with an air conditioned car 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 can try the local Khmer curry. After your lunch break 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.

You will then be driven back to your hotel and have the rest of the evening at leisure.

**Overnight: Victoria Angkor Resort & Spa, Siem Reap (Meals: B L)**

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**Day 13: Morning sightseeing. Afternoon transfer to Siem Reap airport. Overnight flight to London.**

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After your breakfast you will check out from your hotel and will meet your guide at reception.

There may be an opportunity to visit more temples, such as, Preah Khan, Neak Pean, Ta Som and East Meborn. Alternatively your guide may take you on a short city tour before you transfer to the airport for your flight back to the UK.

**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.

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## 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:

- ✓ 2 nights at the Intercontinental Asiana, Saigon, bed & breakfast on twin-share basis
- ✓ 2 nights at the Victoria Angkor Resort & Spa, bed & breakfast on twin-share basis
- ✓ 7 nights on board the RV Tonle Pandaw in a twin share cabin on full board basis
- ✓ 11 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 7 dinners
- ✓ Local soft drinks, local beer and local spirits on the cruise
- ✓ 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
- ✗ Imported beer, wine and spirits on board ship
- ✗ Optional 'house wine 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.



### **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.



### **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 RV Mekong Pandaw is the only P-Class ship with suites, a spa and a gym.



### **Victoria Angkor Resort & Spa, Siem Reap**

This 5 star Victoria Angkor Resort & Spa features elegant rooms each with its own balcony, facing the Royal Garden. The style of the The Victoria Angkor Resort & Spa is inspired of the 1930's colonial architecture.

The hotel has an outdoor swimming pool, a spa and beautiful gardens. It is located in the Siem Reap city centre, close to the old market, and 6km from the internationally renowned Angkor temples.

## 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.

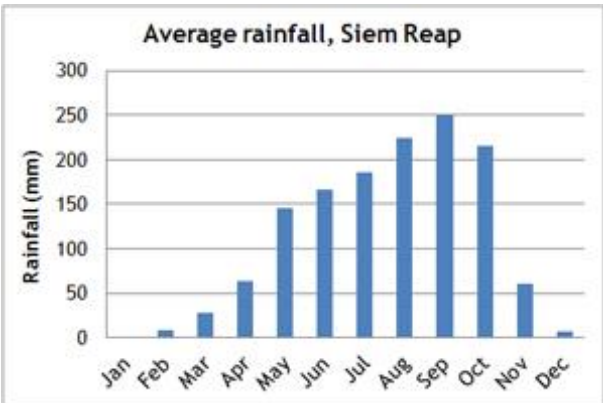
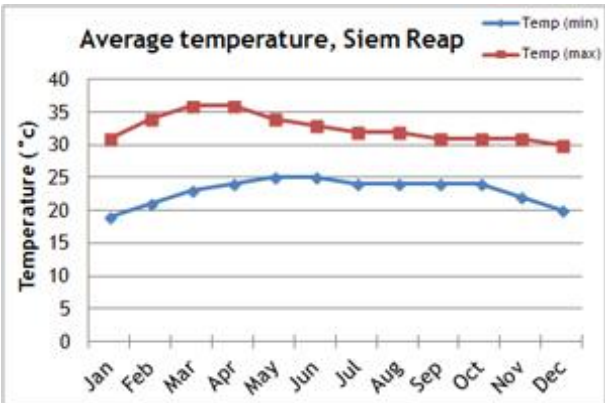
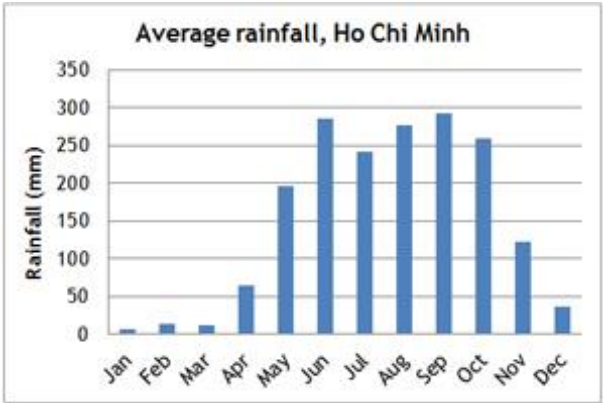
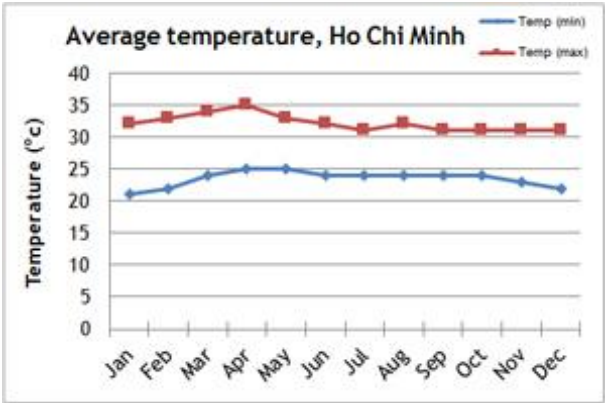
## The nature of adventure travel

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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 classic Pandaw P Class boats, the most luxurious river cruise boats on the Mekong River. They provide excellent, first class service, facilities and cuisine onboard
- 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 5 star hotels: Intercontinental Asiana Hotel in Saigon and Victoria Angkor Resort and Spa in Siem Reap.
- We include ample time to explore the temple complex of Angkor Wat.
- As our minimum group size for this trip is only 2, it is extremely likely to get up and running.
- 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.
- 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 team 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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*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

*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



# 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.

