Cruise Along the Mekong, from the Temples of Angkor to Saigon

Born from the snows of the Himalayan range in Tibet, the Mekong, one of the greatest rivers in Asia, begins its irresistible journey through southern China. Over more than 4,000 km, the deep gorges of Yunnan, the four thousand islands of Laos, the emerald rice fields and the incessant traffic of boats in Vietnam make up the identities of this king of rivers. At the end of its course, on the edge of the China Sea, it languishes in a delta so vast that it could be a country in itself. Through the monumental splendors of the successive capitals of the ancient Khmer Kingdom, through the lukewarm languors of My Tho or Vinh Long, through the bustling Cholon, the Chinese quarter of Saigon, you will cross worlds, marked by an ancestral tradition and a smiling modernity… In Cambodia, you will discover the universe of Theravada Buddhism in which the monks play an essential role in the organization of society, particularly in education, health and justice. In Vietnam, cults can be associated: Mahayana Buddhism is joined, particularly in the delta region, by the cult of ancestors.

- Regions / Countries: **France** **Cambodia** **Vietnam**
- Duration: **14 Days / 13 Nights**
- Tags: **City, Mainland port, Popular, Romantic, Nightlife, Town, Village**
- URL: https://embarq.travel/boats/marguerite/cruise-along-the-mekong-from-the-temples-of-angkor-to-saigon/



Day 1



France / Paris

City, Mainland port, Popular, Romantic, Nightlife

DAY 1: FRANCE – SIEM REAP

Departure on scheduled flight with stopover(s).

Day 2



[Cambodia](#) / [Siem Reap](#)

Town

DAY 2: SIEM REAP (Cambodia)

Arrival in the morning in Siem Reap. Transfer to the Sokha Angkor Resort 5* hotel (or similar). Depending on the arrival time, free time, then lunch at the hotel and installation. In the afternoon, first discovery of Siem Reap with the visit of a village located on the banks of the Tonlé Sap lake.
Dinner at the restaurant and overnight at the hotel.

Day 3



Cambodia / Siem Reap

Town

DAY 3: SIEM REAP – ANGKOR TEMPLES

In the morning, departure to discover Angkor and one of the ancient capitals of the Khmer Empire, Angkor Thom. At the center of this fortified complex with monumental gates, visit the remarkable Bayon, built by the great builder king Jayavarman VII .
The temple, surrounded by towers sculpted with smiling faces, extends into the Terrace of the Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King overlooking the central square of this ancient royal city. Angkor Thom also has two important pyramid temples, the Phimeanakas and the Baphuon, the restoration, by the French School of the Far East, was completed in 2011.
In the afternoon, visit the spectacular Ta Prohm. This temple immersed in tropical vegetation has been deliberately left in a state close to that of its rediscovery at the beginning of the 20th century.
Dinner at the restaurant and overnight at the hotel.

Day 4



Cambodia / Siem Reap

Town

DAY 4: SIEM REAP – ANGKOR TEMPLES

Departure for a full day dedicated to Angkor. In the morning, visit the Banteay Srei temple. Nicknamed "the Citadel of Women", this flat temple surrounded by moats is a marvel, built in the 10th century, whose appearance has retained a remarkable freshness. Based on laterite, the pink sandstone has been sculpted with extreme finesse. Lunch in a restaurant in town.
Continuation by the Temple of Angkor Wat, the largest of the temples of the Angkor site, whose majesty and harmony constitute a culmination of Khmer art. The exterior galleries, decorated with sculptures and narrative bas-reliefs, support a central sanctuary, kingdom of the gods.
Visit to Senteurs d'Angkor. This company, whose mission is to sustainably and equitably develop artistic crafts in the Angkor region, trains young Cambodians from disadvantaged backgrounds in the professions of candle design, food products
Return to the hotel. Dinner at the restaurant and overnight at the hotel.

Day 5



[Cambodia](#) / [Kampong Cham](#)

Town

DAY 5: SIEM REAP – KAMPONG CHAM

Departure and transfer by coach (5h) to Kampong Cham where you will join your boat. A packed lunch will be offered during the journey. Stop at the Kampong Kdei bridge dating from the Angkorian era, built during the reign of Jayavarman VII.
Arrival on board the R/V La Marguerite in the middle of the afternoon. Welcome buffet and installation in the cabins. Start of navigation to Wat Hanchey. Welcome dinner on board.

Day 6



Cambodia / Kampong Cham

Town

DAY 6: WAT HANCHEY - KAMPONG CHAM

After breakfast, visit the pre-Angkorian temple of Wat Hanchey, located on top of a hill overlooking the Mekong. Dating from the 8th century, its ancient brick structures characterize the architecture of the Chenla Empire, which preceded the glory of Angkor. Return on board for lunch. Continue sailing to Kampong Cham during lunch and stopover. In the afternoon, departure by bus to discover the temple of Wat Nokor. This 12th century Buddhist temple, built on the ruins of an ancient temple, is unique in Cambodia.
Return on board and resume navigation. Dinner and overnight stay on board.

Day 7



Cambodia / Phnom Penh

City

DAY 7: ANGKOR BAN – SILK ISLAND – PHNOM PENH

Arrival at Angkor Ban in the morning. Overlooking the Mekong, Angkor Ban offers a peaceful and majestic image of the river bathed in the morning light in this still preserved part. Angkor Ban is one of the very few villages not to have been burned or destroyed during the Khmer Rouge period. It is a dive into intimate Cambodia, at the pace of its inhabitants. Visit the village on stilts, discovery of the pagoda and traditional houses, some of which are more than a hundred years old.
Back on board for the continuation of the navigation. After lunch on board, navigation and discovery of a weavers' village on Silk Island. Stop at a school. Back on board, then navigation to Phnom Penh. Arrival in Phnom Penh at the end of the day. Traditional Khmer dance show on board and dinner on board.

Day 8



[Cambodia](#) / [Phnom Penh](#)

City

DAY 8: PHNOM PENH

In the morning, visit the Royal Palace, residence of the King of Cambodia. This complex of pavilions and pagodas makes up a vast architectural ensemble. Visit the Silver Pagoda which houses some national treasures. Then, continue to the National Museum, the main historical and archaeological museum of the country, which presents one of the most important collections of Khmer art. Passage through the central market of Phnom Penh before lunch on board.
In the afternoon, visit the Tuol Sleng Museum. This former detention center, sinisterly known as S-21 between 1975 and 1979, was set up in a former high school. Here, in a meditative atmosphere, the visitor can take the measure of the drama experienced by the Cambodian people under the Khmer Rouge regime. Then, free time for an individual discovery. Dinner on board.

Day 9



Navigation

DAY 9: NAVIGATION (border crossing)

In the morning, resume navigation towards the Vietnamese border. In the afternoon, the R/V La Marguerite stops at the border for the formalities of exit from Cambodia and entry into Vietnam. Lunch and dinner on board.

Day 10



Vietnam / Tan Chau

Village

DAY 10: TAN CHAU (Vietnam)

After breakfast, embark on local boats to discover Tan Chau. This small town is very representative of this part of Asia, shared between rurality and a lively economic activity. Start of visits by cyclo-tire to stop at a mat factory, then walk in the village of Vinh Hoa. Lunch on board and navigation to Sadec. Dinner on board.

Day 11

Vietnam / His Dec

Town

DAY 11: SA DEC - CAI BE (TAN PHONG)

Arrival in Sa Dec, where the French writer Marguerite Duras spent part of her childhood. City tour to soak up the atmosphere marked by Mediterranean sweetness of this lively city in the delta where a few colonial houses still exist. Visit the "house of the Chinese", described in The Lover, transformed into a small museum, then a Caodaist temple, a syncretic religion very present in the South of Vietnam.
Discovery of the local market. Lunch on board. Crossing of the province of Vinh Long, the “Majestic Dragon”, located in the center of the delta regions, between two arms of the Mekong.
Arrival in Cai Be. Departure in small local boats to reach the island of Tan Phong. Walk to discover the making of decorative objects from water hyacinths. The afternoon continues by taking small vehicles through the fruit fields. Stop in a garden for an introduction to exotic fruits. Before returning on board, boat trip in front of the Gothic cathedral of Cai Be and meeting with a family producing rice leaves and coconut candies. Return on board at the end of the afternoon. Traditional music show and dinner on board.

Day 12

Vietnam / Saigon

City

DAY 12: MY THO - SAIGON

Disembark at My Tho in the morning. Transfer to Saigon. Arriving in Saigon, stop at Cholon Market, the ancient Chinese trading city.
Then, continue to a lacquer factory. Lunch at the restaurant, then transfer to the Sofitel Plaza 5 * hotel (or similar).
Departure for a panoramic tour through the main arteries of the city center to discover the colonial past of the former capital of the south: the Reunification Palace (exterior view) former presidential palace and symbol of the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975; the majestic Notre-Dame Cathedral of Saigon and the famous central post office built by Gustave Eiffel. Dinner in town. Night at the hotel.

Day 13

Vietnam / Saigon

City

DAY 13: SAIGON

In the morning, continue the visit of Saigon with the History Museum which brings together important collections from the prehistoric period to that of the Nguyen dynasty. Lunch, then free time. In the afternoon, transfer to the airport and flight to Paris on a regular flight with one or two stopovers.

Day 14



France / Paris

City, Mainland port, Popular, Romantic, Nightlife

DAY 14: PARIS

Arrival.


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