

15 Days Magnificent Mekong

Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City



VIKING INCLUSIVE VALUE

WE INCLUDE MORE FEATURES & SERVICES THAN OTHERS:

- ✓ One complimentary shore excursion in every port of call
- ✓ Free Wi-Fi (connection speed may vary)
- ✓ Visits to UNESCO Sites
- ✓ Enrichment lectures & Destination Performances
- ✓ Beer, wine & soft drinks with onboard lunch & dinner
- ✓ 24-hour specialty coffees, teas & bottled water
- ✓ Port taxes & fees
- ✓ Ground transfers with Viking Air purchase

YOUR STATEROOM INCLUDES:

- ✓ River-view stateroom
- ✓ Hotel-style bed with optional twin-bed configuration; luxury linens & pillows
- ✓ 40" flat-screen LCD TV with complimentary Movies On Demand
- ✓ 110/220 volt outlets & USB ports
- ✓ Refrigerator; security safe; hair dryer
- ✓ Spacious glass-enclosed shower
- ✓ Heated bathroom floor & anti-fog mirror
- ✓ Premium Freyja® toiletries; plush robes & slippers
- ✓ Stateroom steward & twice-daily housekeeping

 Cultural Curriculum®	 Meals including regional specialties	 Most al fresco dining on the rivers	 Walking track & sports deck	 24-hour Guest Services	 Welcome Cocktails & Farewell Dinner	 Curated library	 Viking Service Guarantee
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Itinerary

Day 1 — Hanoi, Vietnam

Fly to Hanoi, former capital of French Indochina, then transfer to your hotel. Check in for a two-night stay, then relax or take a walk to stretch your legs and get acquainted with the city.



Day 2 — Hanoi, Vietnam

After breakfast, take a tour of this unique, thousand-year-old Asian capital where old and new combine in a lush setting of parks and lakes. Visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, the final resting place of Vietnam's revered revolutionary leader, and Hanoi's Temple of Literature. Founded in 1070 as Vietnam's first university, this maze-like compound features inviting courtyards, gateways, pavilions, walkways, lakes and a museum.



In the afternoon, visit the Museum of Ethnology, which includes a number of fascinating exhibits that bring Vietnam's history and astonishingly diverse culture to life. Continue on to the One Pillar Pagoda, an 11th-century monument that was rebuilt after being destroyed by the French in 1954. En route, pass colonial landmarks such as the magnificent Opera House and St. Joseph's Cathedral. Then tour the notorious "Hanoi Hilton," the Hỏa Lò Prison where American POWs were held captive during the Vietnam War. Relax this afternoon before dinner at a local restaurant. (Breakfast, Dinner)



Day 3 — Hanoi, Vietnam

In the morning, take a leisurely ride through Hanoi's Old Quarter by "green" electric car. Enjoy free time before your short afternoon flight to Siem Reap in Cambodia. Check in to your hotel for a three-night stay; tonight's dinner is accompanied by a traditional Apsara dance show. (Breakfast, Dinner)



Day 4 — Siem Reap, Cambodia

Siem Reap is the gateway to Angkor, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most important archaeological sites in the world. Begin your day with a visit to one of Angkor's largest Khmer temples, Angkor Wat, built for King Suryavarman II in the 12th century AD. With its beautiful proportions and extensive, intricate bas-relief stone carvings, it is one of the most spectacular sights in Southeast Asia.

In the afternoon, spend time exploring the fortified city of Angkor Thom, which houses several of Angkor's most popular attractions, such as the Terrace of the Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King with their dramatic bas-reliefs. Dine at a local restaurant and relax this evening.

(Breakfast, Dinner)



Day 5 — Siem Reap, Cambodia

Today, you will visit Ta Prohm, one of the most popular of the Temples of Angkor. Unlike many other buildings, it has remained largely untouched since its discovery. Continue on to the spectacular 10th-century Hindu temple Banteay Srey ("Citadel of Women") to see magnificent carvings of Shiva and Vishnu.

This afternoon, you will stop by an elementary school sponsored by Viking. Spend time amid the children's contagious enthusiasm and get to know a little about them. Your young hosts will share some of their lessons, and you can talk with the teachers and learn about the positive contribution that Viking's scholarship has made to the school and its community.

This evening, enjoy dinner in a local restaurant followed by a Cambodian Circus show that uniquely blends together theater, music, dance, acrobatics, juggling and aerial acts.

(Breakfast, Dinner)



Day 6 — Kampong Cham, Cambodia

After breakfast, check out of your Siem Reap hotel and begin your coach tour through the Cambodian countryside, which brings you to your ship in Kampong Cham via the provincial capital of Kampong Thom. Due to its central location, this area is rapidly becoming an important hub for fishing and agriculture. It also has a rich archaeological heritage, to which its 200 temples—some of which predate the Khmer Empire—attest. This afternoon, board your ship. After you get settled in, meet the ship's officers over a welcome cocktail.
(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Day 7 — Kampong Cham, Cambodia

This morning, visit the Twin Holy Mountains of Phnom Pros and Phnom Srey, with their many temples and pagodas that are still used during traditional Khmer festivals.

After, visit a Kampong Cham village and learn about the self-sustaining practices of its residents.

This afternoon the ship sets sail toward a silk-weaving village. Take a walk through the village of Chong Koh and admire the rich local fabrics.

This evening, enjoy a welcome reception on board.
(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Day 8 — Phnom Penh, Cambodia

After breakfast, disembark in Cambodia's picturesque waterfront capital and explore the city in style, in a cyclo. This mode of transportation provides many Cambodians with a source of income and visitors with a speedy and enjoyable way to get around. See the magnificent Royal Palace with its spectacular Silver Pagoda, built in the 19th century by the French but inspired by the centuries-old architecture of the Khmer.

Then take a tour of the National Museum of Cambodia, which houses treasures of Khmer art and craftsmanship and displays art that predates the mighty empire.



Day 8 — Phnom Penh, Cambodia (cont.)

After lunch, join an excursion to the sobering memorial in the Tuol Sleng detention center, a former high school in which thousands of victims of the Khmer Rouge died, and the Killing Fields of Choeung Ek.

Or, you may choose to explore the city's maze of small alleys, markets and busy streets on your own. Tonight's dinner is accompanied by a folkloric performance.
(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Day 9 — Phnom Penh, Cambodia

This morning's excursion takes you through the Cambodian village of Kampong Trolach. Afterward, take a short ride to the Udon Monastery for a guided tour and to receive a blessing by the monks. Then continue to the neighboring village, famous for its silversmiths. Rejoin your ship and enjoy lunch as we cruise into Phnom Penh.

Your afternoon is free to explore Phnom Penh's historic riverfront area with its restaurants, art galleries and silk shops, or perhaps visit the distinctive Central Market or the "Russian Market" where you can buy jewelry, curios, clothes and souvenirs. You might prefer to visit more of the city's *wats* (monastery temples): Wat Langka, Wat Botum, Wat Koh or Wat Ounalom, each with its own special character and purpose. Late this afternoon, enjoy an onboard presentation about recent Cambodian history by a local expert. Dinner is served on board the ship.

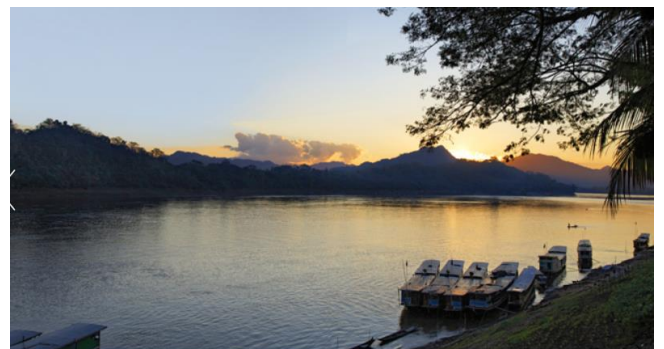
(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Day 10 — Mekong River, Cambodia

Sail down the Mekong, one of the world's great rivers, toward the Vietnamese border. The Mekong is truly the "Mother River of Southeast Asia," sustaining civilizations through the centuries. Pass by some of the Mekong rice fields. The Khmer Empire was founded on a rice surplus, and rice is still the main staple of Vietnamese cuisine. This evening, attend an onboard screening of the 2002 film *The Quiet American*, based on the Graham Greene novel set in 1952 Saigon.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



Day 11 — Tân Châu, Vietnam

Savor a rare glimpse of rural life as it has been lived for ages. Begin your morning with a ride on a traditional rickshaw in Tân Châu.

Afterward, visit a floating fish farm by wooden sampan, then take a boat ride to Vinh Hoa, known as “Evergreen Island.” Here, you can take a short walk to see various methods of traditional Vietnamese farming and the crafts and other daily activities of local people firsthand.

Set sail in the afternoon, observing daily life along the way.

This evening, enjoy a screening of the film *l’Amant* (*The Lover*), which prepares you for tomorrow’s visit to Sa Đéc.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 12 — Sa Đéc, Vietnam

This morning, board a sampan to explore the backwaters and canals of the Delta. Small factories line the river channels; get a glimpse of industry in the region with a visit to a brick factory.

Stop in Sa Đéc and see the house of Mr. Huynh Thuy Le, the protagonist in best-selling author Marguerite Duras’s autobiographical novel, *l’Amant* (*The Lover*).

After lunch, visit the colorful floating market of Cái Bè; see local workers producing rice noodles, coconut candy and a host of other handmade products.

(Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Day 13 — Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Bid farewell to your ship this morning as your cruise through Cambodia and Vietnam comes to an end.

Disembark in Mỹ Tho, a busy river port not far from the capital of South Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known as Saigon.



Day 13 — Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (cont.)

On your way to Ho Chi Minh City, tour the Cu Chi tunnels—mysterious, once-secret tunnels used as supply routes, hospitals and living quarters by the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War. These subterranean passageways outside Ho Chi Minh City are a tiny part of a huge network that extends through much of Vietnam.

Upon arrival in the city, check in to your hotel for a two-night stay, then spend the rest of the day at leisure, getting acquainted with Ho Chi Minh at your own pace. See some of the historic French colonial architecture and soak up some of the city's youthful energy. Tonight's dinner is in a local restaurant.
(Breakfast, Dinner)



Day 14 — Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

After breakfast, begin another full-day tour of this bustling metropolis with a visit to its historic center. Take a stroll along Dong Khoi Street, the main shopping boulevard in the old colonial heart. See the grand City Hall, Reunification Palace, the old Opera House with its soaring arched entryway, the Chinatown area and a lacquer factory. Complete your tour at Ben Thành Market.

The rest of your afternoon is free. Explore the city's neighborhoods or do a bit of last-minute shopping at the local markets before this evening's festive final dinner at a local restaurant.
(Breakfast, Dinner)



Day 15 — Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and proceed to the airport for your return flight. Or, continue your Southeast Asia adventure with a three-night stay in Bangkok, Thailand's exciting capital. (Breakfast)



* One shore excursion included per port; all others available at an extra charge. Itinerary is subject to change.



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