



Vietnam & Cambodia Highlights

13 Days – Siem Reap to Ho Chi Minh City

3 Nights Siem Reap | 7 Night Luxury Mekong River Cruise | 2 Nights Ho Chi Minh City



Your Included Signature Experiences

- Enjoy a sunrise at Cambodia's Angkor Wat, with drink in hand
- In Ho Chi Minh City, choose to explore the Cu Chi Tunnels or take an exclusive Long Tan tour and attend a memorial service at the Long Tan Cross
- EXCLUSIVE!** At Luke Nguyen's Vietnam House in Ho Chi Minh City, enjoy an authentic dinner tied together with an Australian accent

KEY

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

FREEDOM OF CHOICE™ – Sightseeing

FREEDOM OF CHOICE™ – Dining

(B) Breakfast (L) Lunch (D) Dinner

ARRIVE & DISCOVER THE TEMPLES OF ANGKOR

Day 1. Arrive Siem Reap.

Touching down in the bustling northwest province of Siem Reap, you'll be met by an APT representative and transferred to your luxurious hotel in the exciting city centre. Near the business and entertainment districts, a stay at the Hotel Sofitel Angkor is the perfect introduction to Cambodia. Once you've settled in and freshened up, you can enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure.

Three Night Stay: Siem Reap, Hotel Sofitel Angkor.

Day 2. Siem Reap.

Meet your tour director and fellow travellers this morning at your welcome briefing and then head to Angkor Archaeological Park to visit the last and most enduring capital of the Khmer Empire, Angkor Thom, and the 12th-century temple of Bayon. This afternoon, you'll explore the intriguing temple of Ta Prohm, a World Heritage-listed site famous for its bewildering intertwined trees. Later, visit 'Opportunities of Development thru Art' (ODA), a Siem Reap organisation that provides education opportunities for disadvantaged children. Tonight, enjoy a Welcome Dinner and a traditional Apsara

dance, a performance once reserved for the royal family's entertainment.

BD

Day 3. Siem Reap.

Rise early this morning and travel back to Angkor Archaeological Park to enjoy a special sunrise experience at Angkor Wat with drink in hand. As the sun rises over the spectacular World Heritage-listed monument, raise a bubbling glass in celebration. Afterwards, enjoy a guided tour of this impressive temple, the best-preserved temple of Angkor and said to be the world's largest single religious monument. Return to your hotel for breakfast and some time at leisure. This afternoon, embark on your selected sightseeing activity. Perhaps visit the temple of Wat Preah Prom Rath and participate in a Buddhist blessing; enjoy an exciting tuk tuk ride to the Senteurs d'Angkor workshop where you can shop for local handmade crafts; participate in a fun Apsara dance class; take off on a thrilling quad bike adventure; enjoy a leisurely bicycle tour across the Cambodian countryside; take a horse and cart ride; partake in a traditional Khmer cooking class; go on a shopping adventure; or perhaps indulge in a relaxing spa treatment. Tonight, select from a number of local restaurants for dinner.

BD

Day 4. Siem Reap, Embark Ship, Prek K'dam.

Transfer to Prek K'dam to embark your luxury river ship. Settle in to your suite before an exclusive Luke Nguyen Welcome Dinner showcasing the diverse flavours from the region of Luke's heritage.

Seven Night Stay: Mekong River, APT's RV AmaLotus.

BLD

Day 5. Kampong Chhnang, Oudong, Kampong Tralach.

Today brings you an authentic glimpse into the local way of life as you jump aboard a small boat and head into the wetlands near Kampong Chhnang. Known as the 'Clay Pot Port', the local people craft pottery under their stilt homes on the river. Here, watch out for water birds and traditional fishing traps near the riverbank. Afterwards, take a coach to Oudong, the fascinating royal capital of Cambodia from 1618 until 1866. Calling in on a local monastery, you are met by Buddhist monks before receiving a special blessing from them – an unforgettable experience. Afterwards, continue to the village of Kampong Tralach for a visit to the Wat Kampong Tralach Pleu pagoda. Then, take an exciting ox cart ride through the countryside, passing lush rice fields and smiling locals on your way back to your ship.

BLD



In front of the reflection ponds, take the quintessential photo of Angkor Wat temple at sunrise

ITINERARY OVERVIEW

Day	Destination	Included Highlight	Day	Destination	Included Highlight
1	Siem Reap	Arrive in Siem Reap	7	Phnom Penh	Freedom of Choice
2	Siem Reap	Angkor Thom, Bayon	8	Phnom Penh	Crossing to Vietnam
3	Siem Reap	Angkor Wat at sunrise	9	Tan Chau	Rickshaw tour
4	Prek K'dam	Mekong River cruise	10	Sa Dec, Cai Be	Rice paper workshop
5	Oudong, Kampong Tralach	Buddhist blessing, ox cart ride	11	Ho Chi Minh City	Long Tan OR Cu Chi Tunnels
6	Koh Chen	Copper workshops	12	Ho Chi Minh City	Vietnam House dinner
			13	Ho Chi Minh City	Farewell

Day 6. Koh Chen, Phnom Penh.

Today, continue sailing to the village of Koh Chen for a walk to visit the fine copperware workshops. Watch the craftsmanship, learning about the process, before taking a look at the final products. Later this afternoon, you are free to explore Cambodia's buzzing capital, Phnom Penh. You might like to wander the streets and familiarise yourself with the city before returning to your ship for dinner.

BLD

CAMBODIA'S ROYAL CAPITAL

Day 7. Phnom Penh.

After breakfast on board, disembark and join your chosen activity. Perhaps enjoy a guided tour of the dazzling white and gold Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda, which is located on the south side of the palace complex and houses many national treasures. Alternatively, you may wish to discover some of Cambodia's sobering history with a moving excursion to the infamous Killing Fields. Afterwards, visit the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, located on the site of the Khmer Rouge's notorious Security Prison 21 (S-21). Here, you'll learn

of the atrocities inflicted upon Cambodians during Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge regime in the mid-to-late 1970s. Your other options are a visit to the National Museum of Cambodia, or a guided city tour in a tuk tuk providing an exciting way in which to take in a range of city sights, including the Independence Monument and Wat Phnom.

BLD

CROSS INTO VIETNAM

Day 8. Phnom Penh, Border Crossing.

Your morning in Phnom Penh is free for exploration or relaxation – whichever strikes your fancy the most. This afternoon, you might like to take in a fruit-carving demonstration by one of the ship's chefs while border formalities are carried out and you cross into Vietnam. Alternatively, sit back and watch daily life unfold on the riverbanks – gliding between the two countries can be a distinct experience in itself – before enjoying a dinner served on board your ship later this evening. After entering Vietnam, your ship will continue to cruise towards Tan Chau.

BLD

Day 9. Tan Chau, Evergreen Island.

Transfer to a small boat for a journey along the tiny tributaries that snake around the riverside town of Tan Chau. Cruise right past a floating fish farm, then step ashore for a rickshaw tour of Tan Chau. On board your rickshaw, you'll glide past shops, rice wine rooms and friendly locals who are always eager to say hello. Disembarking your rickshaw, you'll pay a visit to a local silk and rattan weaving workshop. Watch as the materials are strung together skilfully, resulting in a number of beautiful and traditional items. Later, step back in time during a visit to an evergreen island where you'll experience authentic rural Mekong life. The remainder of today is left free for you to relax on board your luxurious river ship. Perhaps take a moment to unwind in the spa, or enjoy watching the scenery float past as you lounge on the Sun Deck. This evening, a delicious dinner is served on board.

BLD

Day 10. Sa Dec, Cai Be.

The morning takes you towards the quaint town of Sa Dec as your ship cruises past scenes of charming rural life. This delightfully sleepy locale is where French writer Marguerite Duras met her Vietnamese-Chinese lover, Huynh Thuy Le. On arrival, tour Huynh Thuy Le's old house and learn the story behind Marguerite Duras' best-selling novel, *The Lover*. Later, pay a visit to a traditional Cao Dai temple. Watch visitors and pilgrims come and go, and appreciate the beauty of the building. This afternoon

you continue to Cai Be. Once here, step ashore to visit the French Gothic cathedral as well as the colourful port area, which is filled with crumbling colonial buildings and delightful flowering gardens. Afterwards, you'll visit a rice paper manufacturer and learn about how this traditional Vietnamese food is made. BLD

Day 11. Disembark Cruise, Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Long Tan OR Cu Chi Tunnels.

Ⓢ Disembark at My Tho Port, where 11 Day VEM11 guests transfer to the airport.

Remaining guests will continue to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). Once a bustling French colonial city previously known as Saigon, today Ho Chi Minh City offers a myriad of attractions that display both its rich culture and fascinating history. Your first day in Ho Chi Minh City offers you the chance to choose from two Signature Experiences, during which you'll learn about Vietnam's recent past. On the first Signature Experience, **journey to Ba Ria and learn about the Battle of Long Tan. Afterwards, attend a memorial service at Long Tan Cross** – a memorial



In Ho Chi Minh City, the streets overflow as there's one bike for every two people

erected by the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, which is set in a rubber plantation and marks the site of the Battle of Long Tan. On the second alternative, **visit the impressive Cu Chi Tunnels, an incredible tunnel network constructed by Vietnamese resistance fighters during the war.** These tunnels served as Viet Cong hiding spots, supply and communication routes, as well as hospitals and weapon caches.

Two Night Stay: Ho Chi Minh City, Park Hyatt Saigon.

BLD

Day 12. Ho Chi Minh City.

S Choose from our extensive range of Freedom of Choice Sightseeing activities today. Perhaps enjoy a leisurely walking tour of Ho Chi Minh City, visiting the Reunification Palace and the Central Post Office. Or jump on the back of a motorbike for an exciting city tour. Alternatively, tour the Ky Long Art Villa where you'll learn about Vietnamese lacquer art and see artist workshops.

You may like to try out your culinary skills with a fun cooking class at GRAIN by Luke Nguyen cooking studio, or delight in an exciting shopping tour. **This evening, head to Vietnam House where a dinner menu created by APT Ambassador Luke Nguyen awaits.** BD

Day 13. Depart Ho Chi Minh City.

Enjoy breakfast and a free morning in Ho Chi Minh City. Later you will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight. B

Your Unforgettable Holiday Includes

- ✿ All-inclusive sightseeing in up to 10 destinations
- ✿ APT's Freedom of Choice Inclusions in three locations
- ✿ Seven-night Mekong River cruise aboard the RV AMALOTUS
- ✿ Everything as detailed, including gratuities and onboard entertainment
- ✿ Complimentary beverages served on board your cruise
- ✿ Finest dining – a total of 31 meals

2019/20 DATES & PRICES (A\$)

13 Days Siem Reap to Ho Chi Minh City from

\$6,695

per person twin share

13 Days Siem Reap to Ho Chi Minh City (VEM13)			
2019	RV AMALOTUS	Twin from	Solo from
July 27; Aug. 2, 10, 16, 24, 30.	Deluxe Twin Balcony	\$6,695	\$9,395
Sept. 7, 13, 21, 27.	Sadec Twin Balcony	\$8,890	\$13,240
Oct. 5, 11, 19, 25.	Owner's Suite	\$9,290	\$14,590
Nov. 2, 8, 16, 22, 30			
Dec. 6.			
2020	RV AMALOTUS	Twin from	Solo from
Jan. 11, 17, 25, 31.	Deluxe Twin Balcony	\$6,795	\$9,545
Feb. 8, 14, 22, 28.	Sadec Twin Balcony	\$8,990	\$13,390
Mar. 7, 13, 21, 27.	Owner's Suite	\$9,390	\$14,740
Apr. 4, 10.			
11 Days Siem Reap to Ho Chi Minh City (VEM11)			
2019	RV AMALOTUS	Twin from	Solo from
July 29; Aug. 2, 12, 16, 26, 30.	Deluxe Twin Balcony	\$5,745	\$7,945
Sept. 9, 13, 23, 27.	Sadec Twin Balcony	\$7,940	\$11,790
Oct. 7, 11, 21, 25.	Owner's Suite	\$8,340	\$13,140
Nov. 4, 8, 18, 22.			
Dec. 2 , 6.			
2020	RV AMALOTUS	Twin from	Solo from
Jan. 13, 17, 27, 31.	Deluxe Twin Balcony	\$5,845	\$8,095
Feb. 10, 14, 24, 28.	Sadec Twin Balcony	\$8,040	\$11,940
Mar. 9, 13, 23, 27.	Owner's Suite	\$8,440	\$13,290
Apr. 6, 10.			

For the most up-to-date prices, visit aptouring.com.au/VEM13 or VEM11

PLEASE NOTE: Bold dates indicate tour operates in reverse (VEMR13/VEMR11). Prices are based on Cat. C Deluxe Twin Balcony, Cat. Sadec Twin Balcony and Cat. Owner's Suite aboard the RV AMALOTUS. See page 103 for deck and suite plans. Indicates Luke Nguyen will prepare a Vietnamese dinner on board the RV AMALOTUS on Day 1 of the cruise and host a 'Get to Know Luke Nguyen' session on Day 3 of the cruise. Prices include port charges, gratuities and sundries. Disruptions to itinerary may occur. See pages 106-107 for further information as well as all terms and conditions.

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Lanterns decorate many of Vietnam's shops