

The Small Cruise Ship Collection

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CRUISING THE LOWER MEKONG RIVER - 4 DAYS

The mighty Mekong - a mysterious body of water flowing through six countries in Asia. Giving love and life to millions, it received its fame by the legendary God King of ancient Cambodia, King Jayavarman VII, who linked hands with the waters of the Mekong to build the magnificent Angkor civilization. Our 3-Night lower Mekong cruise "Pearl of the Orient" explores the delta's rich diversity in every facet. The Delta is a powerhouse for agriculture (in particular rice) and fish farming. The pulsating and energetic life on the river stands in stark contrast to the charming and relaxed village life, where locals often make their living with specialized handicrafts.



ITINERARY

DAY 1 Saigon - My Tho - Cai Be

We greet our guests in the morning at our welcome lounge in Saigon. Kick back with a second coffee as our staff collects your details for boarding. We bid farewell to the hustle and bustle of Saigon and travel 70 kilometres south over land towards My Tho to embark on our vessel. After checking into your luxurious floating "home" for the next several days, your first inclination

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may be to step on your balcony to watch the ship set sail on its fascinating Mekong River voyage. A lunch buffet is served in the restaurant while the vessel steadily glides upstream. Now it is time to get acquainted with one of the largest streams in Asia, which runs an estimated length of 4,909 km (3,050 mi) and discharges 475 cu km (114 cu mi) of water annually. Millions of people - from China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam - pay tribute to this mighty river which provides sustenance and protection over its inhabitants. Let your soul float and your eyes wander while the boat makes its way upstream. It is often stated that "nautical air" makes you hungry, so you are cordially invited to our afternoon tea in the open-air bar as twilight bathes the Mekong Delta in a golden haze. Get to know your fellow travellers while enjoying some tasty treats. The rest of this cruising day is fully yours to relax on your private balcony or be pampered by our therapists at the Apsara Spa. While you savour your delightful dinner, the ship reaches Cai Be. This historic town was established in the 19th century by Vietnam's last ruling family, the Nguyen dynasty, on the Mekong River where three provinces meet: Tien Giang, Vinh Long, and Ben Tre. Cai Be would later become the surrounding region's predominant water-based trading hub, as we will see in tomorrow's visit to the floating market. We anchor mid-stream near Cai Be and moor there overnight. If you are in the mood for some evening entertainment, there is a cinema in the lounge showcasing classic movies and interesting documentaries on a nightly basis. Meals: Lunch, Dinner

DAY 2 Cai Be - Sa Dec - Tan Chau

Wake up early to witness the spectacular scenery at the break of

dawn. To make the experience complete, join our daily morning Tai Chi class. Afterwards, a rich breakfast buffet awaits, or if you prefer, we can serve breakfast directly to your room. We arrive at Cai Be, a charming market town which is famous for its Catholic French church and the manufacturing of traditional crafts and food products. The once enormous floating market of Cai Be gets smaller year by year since trading on the water is continually shifting towards modern markets. However, you can still see boat-to-boat trading of local goods, such as fruits and agricultural products and imagine what this must have looked like on a larger scale. We learn from our guide about the long-lasting trading culture and how each boat has a special marker to let buyers know what goods they are selling. By local boat, we sail along the green canal network and watch the farmers working in the fields. A visit ashore of a workshop shows us the manufacturing of rice paste, rice paper, rice cookies and rice wine. Cai Be's surrounding areas are covered by palm trees, which is why the region is also famous for the production of coconut candy. While the vessel continues sailing upstream, you can enjoy time to yourself or head to the bar to and enjoy a true Vietnamese coffee as you watch the life on the riverbanks float by. In the afternoon, the vessel reaches the area of Sa Dec and arrives at one of the larger islands in the vast stream of the Mekong, Binh Thanh Island. Several communities have settled here and make their living by growing water hyacinths. We exclusively visit one of these untouched areas. By wandering through the village, we get a deep understanding of native life. One of the local artisans, for example, demonstrates the entire process of traditional mat making. You can try weaving yourself. We also meet a local elderly couple who share their story of living on this island. They are always happy to chit-chat with our guests. Back on board, you may take a dip in the pool on the

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sun deck. In the evening, our expert guide offers a presentation on life on the Mekong Delta as the ship continues sailing to Tan Chau, a pleasant, slow-paced border town near the Cambodian border with a sizeable Chinese, Kinh and Khmer community. We moor near the city with views on the riverbanks. Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3 Tan Chau - Border crossing - Phnom Penh

Once on shore, we see Tan Chau's vibrant town-life as we hop on "xeloids", which are local vehicles still used as a taxi in this area. Your personal xeloi driver slowly navigates through the streets to observe all the workshops, houses and shops while feeling the laid-back vibe of this place. We stop at the colourful, local market near one of the town's temples. This is a great opportunity to interact with the vendors of this friendly town and try your hand at bargaining with them. To see what Tan Chau is famous for, we board local boats and head to a floating fish farm. You are about to get an exclusive look into the world's largest inland aquaculture industry. Each of the floating structures has netting hanging down into the water to enclose the fish, which are raised and fed on a daily basis. The region's specialties are tilapia and the Basa catfish, or Pangasius, which is unique to the Mekong River basin and rapidly gaining popularity on the international seafood market. Back on board our "home", we sail towards the Vietnamese-Cambodian border. Get ready for a fascinating and leisurely cruise through the deep Cambodian countryside towards Phnom Penh. The whole afternoon is at your own disposal. From here, even the last passenger turns on their cruise mode and hopefully experiences the relaxing influence this mighty river emanates. The afternoon

is perfect for massages, relaxation on a terrace deck sunbed or private balcony kick-backs. Conjure up a spell to merge with the river and float into a state of mild bliss. You also may like to visit the bridge as the captain always has a little story to share about "his" river. Or, if you are curious to learn more about Khmer gastronomy, join a culinary workshop to sharpen your knowledge about local cuisine. After our relaxing cruise during the whole afternoon into the evening hours, the boat arrives at Phnom Penh (docking mid-stream or at the pier). Enjoy your time onboard with our onboard entertainment, social at our public venues or relax in the privacy of your cabin (due to immigration regulation passengers may not be allowed to go on land this evening). Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4 Phnom Penh

Welcome to Phnom Penh - the city once named Paris of the East. Despite its rapid development, it has retained a lot of its rustic charm and elegance. It is an amazing town with centuries of incredible history and culture which can still be felt at many street corners. Enjoy your last breakfast aboard your floating home before disembarking the ship. We hope you enjoyed this fascinating river cruise, just as our crew does every single time. Moreover, take the enchanting memories and friendships along with you and share the stories of this amazing river - the Mighty Mekong. Meals: Breakfast

Please Note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

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YOUR SHIP: JAHAN

YOUR SHIP: Jahan

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

The Jahan offers some of the finest accommodations on the Mekong River. Little else can begin to compare with her for outstanding staterooms, decor, service and food. Public Areas : The ship is fully air-conditioned. Outdoor areas include the Pool Deck, with both covered and open-air spaces, a Jacuzzi and a bar. The Lounge, located on the Upper Deck, has a library, full service bar and facilities for films, slide shows and presentations. Guests are welcome on the "Open Bridge" to meet the Captain and Officers and learn about navigation. Meals : Served in single seatings with unassigned tables, for an informal atmosphere and easy mingling. The menu is international, with a focus on the outstanding Vietnamese and Cambodian cuisines. Cabins : All face outside, and all have glass doors and private balconies for enjoying the scenery along the Mekong River and its tributaries. There is a mix of twin-bedded and queen-size bedded cabins. Each has private facilities and hair dryer, individual climate control, music entertainment system and a mini bar. A choice of pillows is provided on request. Special Features: There is a Spa, offering a choice of massage treatments, and a gymnasium with exercise equipment. The Boutique has a fine selection of local artwork

and textiles. Morning Tai Chi classes are offered on the Terrace Deck. DVD and iPod players are available on request. The deck plan for the Vietnam and Cambodia-Mekong River cruise varies from



what you see.

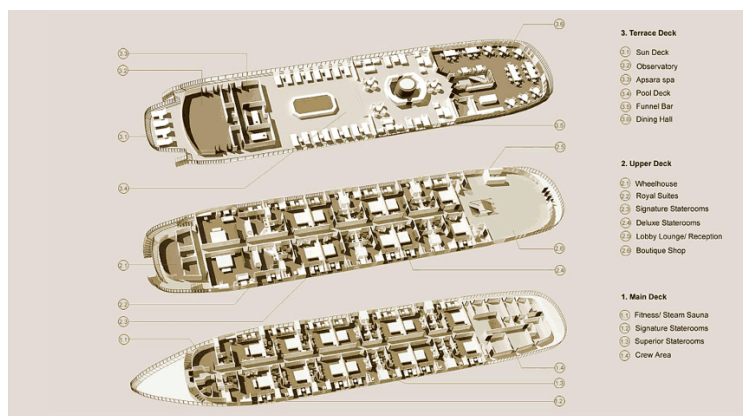
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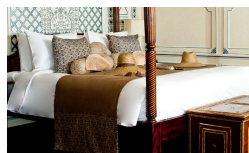
INSIDE YOUR SHIP



DELUXE STATEROOM NOBLE SUITE



SIGNATURE SUITE



SUPERIOR STATEROOM

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06-Jul-2024 to 09-Jul-2024

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DELUXE STATEROOM	£981 GBP pp
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03-Aug-2024 to 06-Aug-2024

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25-Sep-2024 to 28-Sep-2024

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