

# CLASSIC MEKONG - DOWNSTREAM (TONLE PANDAW)

There can be no tapestry of river life as fascinating and varied as the River Mekong. Indeed there can be no more striking a cultural contrast as that between the bustling Vietnam delta and the tranquility of Cambodia. We pass from the vibrant French colonial port of Saigon, through the vast delta so rich in human life and endeavour, to travel along the main channel into the rich countryside of Cambodia. With a full day in charming Phnom Penh we then explore remoter waterways as we progress to the great monuments of Angkor.



### **ITINERARY**

### DAY 1 SIEM REAP

Embark on your Pandaw at Kampong Cham following a road transfer from Siem Reap (Angkor). The vessel will proceed upstream to moor midstream for cocktails and to meet key crew.

#### DAY 2 KRATIE AND THE DOLPHIN GROUNDS

Morning visit to Koh Trong Island a small Mekong River hamlet which can be explored by bicycle or ox cart with a real immersion into Khmer rural life visiting local schools and English





classes then visiting a reforestation site where you can leave your mark by planting your own tree. Passengers should feel free to donate items for use in the schools such as books & pens etc. After lunch, moor off Kratie and continue to the dolphin grounds by local boat where we will observe the elusive Irrawaddy Dolphins.

#### DAY 3 SILK ISLAND

Sailing downstream all morning, with lectures and film presentations, past Phnom Penh and up the Tonle River to board our expedition vessel, the Pandaw Explorer, to visit Koh Okhna Tey, or 'silk island' to study the entire silk making process from worms to weavers. There will be a demonstration of the ancient Khmer martial art of Bokator. Return to ship and return down the Tonle River to turn up the Mekong at the confluence. Evening lecture on Angkor and Khmer culture.

## DAY 4 PHNOM PENH

Morning orientation of Phnom Penh by cyclo visiting the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda followed by the National Museum with its marvellous collection of Angkorian statuary. Afternoon optional visit to the Killing Fields and Genocide museum or take a tuk-tuk to explore the riverfront and finish with High Tea at Raffles Hotel. Overnight in Phnom Penh city port with its lively bars, restaurants and night life.

## DAY 5 VIETNAM BORDER

Early sailing to the Vietnam border for formalities and during this stationary period there is an optional tour of the working ship and fruit carving classes on deck. Afternoon, explore the labyrinthine canal system around Tan Chau to visit a Taoist temple where the monks will read fortunes. Continue through local villages by Xi Loi stopping off to help locals tend their fields

before stopping off to visit a fish farm and earn merit by releasing fish back into the Mekong.

### DAY 6 CON PHUOC ISLAND

In the morning sail up a small canal to moor off Con Phuoc Island and go ashore to explore the island by tuk-tuk seeing basket production and visiting a 100-year old Catholic Church and local woodworking artisans. After a short cruise downstream in the afternoon we take a short coach trip where we visit Gao Giong 'green oasis' with its bird sanctuary. Here a diverse selection of water birds and egrets that gather in the tens of thousands across the Duong Tharp Muoi or 'Plain of Reeds'. Rowing boats traverse the canals to take us to see the principal nesting areas.

#### DAY 7 BEN TRE

After breakfast the ship moors off Cho Lach island for pot making and further glimpses of Delta life, agriculture and local Viet hospitality including a culinary lesson in making traditional Banh Xeo. Upon return to the boat we take a cruise downstream to Ben Tre. Where we travel by sampans through mangroves and bamboo groves to the fruit orchards of Ben Tre. In these local artisans are at work and are invite visitors into their homes for tea, fruit and honey products made from their own honey. This is an area rich in bird life and on our return journey we travel by horse cart through the lush countryside.

### DAY 8 MY THO TO SAIGON

Moor at My Tho for road transfer to Saigon.

#### Please Note:

Itineraries are subject to change.





# YOUR SHIP: BASSAC PANDAW

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VESSEL TYPE: River Boat

LENGTH: 167ft / 50.9m

PASSENGER CAPACITY: 60

BUILT/REFURBISHED: 2012

The third of these rather grand Vietnamese sisters, along with the Orient and Indochina. She is a good looker, and turns many a head as she ploughs in state across the Delta or into the bustling hub of the Phnom Penh port. ACCOMMODATION · 20 upper deck staterooms and 10 main deck staterooms · 170 square feet, finished in teak and brass · Panoramic French window, leading to personal deck space · Kimonos and slippers · Spa-branded amenities · Unlimited mineral water · Electric mini safe · Imported quality linens with duvet and two kind of pillows · Premium mattresses · Convertible bed configuration · Welcome flower arrangement and welcome gift · Make-up mirror · Multi-configuration plugs · Generous closet space and under-bed storage · Hair dryer · Nightly turndown service · 24h laundry service · Complimentary evening canapes WINING & 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 local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes · Extensive wine list with premium wines · Series of cultural performances, educational talks, cooking classes, and ship tour · Welcome drink on arrival · Welcome cocktail · Farewell

reception · Theme dinners · Spacious, air-conditioned saloon bar with nightly entertainment · Sundeck bar with complimentary ice cream from sunrise to sunset · 24hrs hospitality bar · Onboard bakery with daily freshly baked breads and rolls ON EXCURSIONS · Admissions · Shoe cleaning after excursions · Bottled drinking water · We give away aluminium water bottles · Cold towel service after excursions · Refreshing drink following excursions · Full-size motor coach on all excursions · Deluxe sampans with cold towel service, fresh fruit, and tea/coffee · Comfortable "Pandaw Explorer" excursion boat · 1st aid trained assistant guide to follow all tours and excursions SAFETY & SECURITY · All onboard crew is trained and certified as per international marine standards (VIRES) · Fire alarm system in all cabins, public areas and back areas · Fire fighting system in all ship areas · Expert marine superintendant · 24 hrs watch on duty · Certified hygiene standards for all areas (Johnson & Diversey) ONBOARD STAFF · Captain · River Pilot · First Officer · Chief Engineer · 1st Engineer · Electrician · Bosun & nautical crew · Ship manager · Housekeeping · Dining · Bar keeper · Chefs · Spa therapist · Local tour guides PUBLIC SPACES · Guest relation desk · Fair-trade shop · Lecture and meeting room with oversized flat screen TV, LSD projector and sound system · Art gallery featuring local art and artists · Library with contemporary and classic literature · Wireless internet in all

public areas





# **INSIDE YOUR SHIP**

Main Deck Stateroom. From Upper Deck Stateroom. From







# **PRICING**

12-Oct-2024 to 19-Oct-2024	
Main Deck Stateroom. From	£2948 GBP pp
Upper Deck Stateroom. From	£3617 GBP pp
26-Oct-2024 to 02-Nov-2024	
Main Deck Stateroom. From	£2948 GBP pp
Upper Deck Stateroom. From	£3617 GBP pp
09-Nov-2024 to 16-Nov-2024	
Upper Deck Stateroom. From	£3617 GBP pp
Main Deck Stateroom. From	£2948 GBP pp
23-Nov-2024 to 30-Nov-2024	
Upper Deck Stateroom. From	£3617 GBP pp
Main Deck Stateroom. From	£2948 GBP pp
21-Dec-2024 to 28-Dec-2024	
Main Deck Stateroom. From	£2948 GBP pp
Upper Deck Stateroom. From	£3617 GBP pp
04-Jan-2025 to 11-Jan-2025	
Main Deck Stateroom. From	£2948 GBP pp
Upper Deck Stateroom. From	£3617 GBP pp
18-Jan-2025 to 25-Jan-2025	
Upper Deck Stateroom. From	£3617 GBP pp
Main Deck Stateroom. From	£2948 GBP pp

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Upper Deck Stateroom. From	£3617 GBP pp
15-Feb-2025 to 22-Feb-2025	
Main Deck Stateroom, From	£2948 GBP pp
Upper Deck Stateroom. From	£3617 GBP pp
01-Mar-2025 to 08-Mar-2025	
Main Deck Stateroom. From	£2948 GBP pp
Upper Deck Stateroom. From	£3617 GBP pp
15-Mar-2025 to 22-Mar-2025	
Upper Deck Stateroom. From	£3617 GBP pp
Main Deck Stateroom. From	£2948 GBP pp
29-Mar-2025 to 05-Apr-2025	
Upper Deck Stateroom. From	£3617 GBP pp
Main Deck Stateroom. From	£2948 GBP pp
ADDITIONAL CHARGES:	Port Taxes 65 USD pp

01-Feb-2025 to 08-Feb-2025