



The Small Cruise  
Ship Collection

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## HALONG BAY, RED RIVER & LAOS MEKONG RIVER CRUISE

For the first-time travelers will be able to explore the key sites of Northern Vietnam by river ship traversing the Red River delta and its main tributaries, connecting the wonders of Halong Bay with the excitements of down town Hanoi, and then on into the interior, well off the beaten track. This is a combination of scenic beauty, lively and interesting (sometimes industrial) life of the river and exploring rivers where no other tourist craft operate. Combined this with a three-country expedition as we will traverse Laos to touch Thailand and Burma at the once notorious Golden Triangle. From Vientiane, the old French capital, and so redolent of L'Indochine, beyond Luang Prabang, Pandaw is the first river expedition since prewar days to cross all Laos. This trip included flight between Hanoi and Vientiane or v.v. with a one-night hotel stay. Please note: During the months February to April there may be an increased risk of smog across Laos and northern Thailand. This is due to the annual crop burnings and whilst usually mild, can sometimes be quite severe. We would advise that any passengers with respiratory issues consult with their doctor before booking for this period. Most departures and travellers will be unaffected, however.

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1 - Chiang Khong

Transfers from airports or any city hotel in Chiang Rai (2 hours) and Chiang Mai (6 hours) including Lunch at Ban Rai Sabaidee Farm plus guided visit to the Golden Triangle and the now infamous opium museum. Embark your ship by 16.00 and enjoy welcome drinks on the sundeck with traditional Thai dancing.

#### Day 2 - Into Laos

Pass through immigration formalities at the Thai/Laos border and re-join the ship. Set sail downstream on the beautiful Upper Mekong River, Morning presentation on the Lao language. After lunch, if time allows, sightseeing on foot in Pak Sith.

#### Day 3 - Pak Beng Elephant Sanctuary

Morning walk at Ban Luang Tong Lao Lowland village. Laos is known as 'The land of a million elephants' and after Lunch we will visit a rescue sanctuary that is helping to preserve the elephants of Laos and provide sustainable alternative employment for Mahouts who once trained and rode these beautiful creatures. In the evening we moor at a sandbank for a special riverside barbecue and cocktail party. Light paper lanterns with the crew and enjoy a dance in remote Laos.

#### Day 4 - Ban Bor And Yoi Hai Khmu Villages

Today we discover the Khmu minority group and learn about their remote way of life. In the morning we will visit Ban Bor village, home to the Lao & Khummu people. We will have the opportunity to support locally produced handicrafts and walk through the Khummu village of Yoi Haoi in the afternoon.

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### Day 5 - Pak Ou Caves

Continue cruising downstream to Pak Ou, sightseeing by local boat exploring the unique Pak Ou Caves, a Buddhist sanctuary with spectacular limestone cliff faces. See the production of local Laos whisky at the Whisky village and shop for locally produced handicrafts before sailing into the World Heritage City of Luang Prabang. Moor overnight in central Luang Prabang.

### Day 6 - Luang Prabang Crafts & Culture

Today we explore the various handicrafts of Laos in more detail. We start with a morning walk up the 228 steps to Phousi temple where the best views of Luang Prabang can be found. After lunch aboard the ship, we visit Ock Pop Tok, a social enterprise providing sustainable employment and training for the women of local weaving villages. We then head to TAEC (Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre) to understand more about Laos musical instruments. Cocktail hour is accompanied by a traditional Bacci ceremony onboard highlighting some of the instruments seen in the afternoon.

### Day 7 - Luang Prabang

Early morning walking tour to observe the morning alms offering by local people to the hundreds of monks who walk around the city every morning. We continue after breakfast to the morning market before taking tuktuks for a city tour of this well preserved and unique world heritage site with its many Buddhist temples, libraries and royal palace. The afternoon is free to explore the beauty and unique atmosphere of Luang Prabang.

### Day 8 - Kaung Si Waterfall

After breakfast sail downstream to Ban Chan where we take part in a pottery demonstration at the local pottery workshop. After Lunch we moor at Ban Mouang Khai and take a short drive to

see the deep jungle pools at the Khaung Si Waterfall where you can swim in the crystal-clear waters. We then stop at the Laos Buffalo Farm, a social enterprise utilizing the abundant buffalo in Laos before rejoining the ship. We sail downstream for a sunset cruise and moor overnight at Ban Na San.

### Day 9 - Xayabouri Dam

Morning walk through Ban Na San Hmong Village. In the afternoon we pass through Xayabouri Hydroelectric Dam and take an inside look of the workings of this somewhat controversial attraction as we pass through the locks. Afternoon walk at Ban Khok Fark and moor overnight.

### Day 10 - Ban Pak Yun To Pak Lay

Explore Ban Pak Yun Mixed minorities tribe in the morning, a rural local village before setting sail to Pak Lay, our final destination. Enjoy a tour of your Pandaw ship and fruit carving demonstration on the sundeck in the afternoon before farewell cocktails and dinner in the evening.

### Day 11 - Vientiane - Hanoi

Disembark at 08:30am followed by a local long-tail boat expedition downstream to Vientiane. Lunch and drinks will be provided on the local boat by your Pandaw chef and bar staff. Arrival to Vientiane around 17:30 to transfer to Vientiane airport for your flight to Hanoi. On arrival in Hanoi transfer to your hotel with the rest of the evening at lesiure.

### Day 12 - Hanoi - Halong Bay

Transfer from Hanoi to Tuan Chau, Halong Bay (approximately 130km and 2.5-hour journey) by bus with a guide. Upon arrival, embark your Pandaw ship and enjoy lunch on board. Cast off in the afternoon with a welcome cocktail for an evening sail,

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dropping anchor in Coconut Beach a sheltered bay amidst the beautiful island scenery.

### Day 13 - Halong Bay

Morning sail around Halong Bay and beyond with its 1,500 dramatic limestone islands and extraordinary rock formations, dating back 1 approximately 20 million years. We make a stop at Viet Hai Village and continue our journey by mountain bike or electric buggy to visit the village's vegetable farm and typical village houses. 2 Enjoy a breathtaking ride along a small road winding its way through the limestone rocks. In the afternoon, we will continue cruising towards Lan Ha Bay for a visit to a floating fishing house. Weather 3 permitting, we will end the day with cocktails at 3-Peach Island's beautiful beach in Halong Bay.

### Day 14 - Halong Bay - Hai Phong

Our exploration of Halong Bay continues, and we stop at the so-called "Dark and Bright Cave." Take a kayak or a local basket boat rowed by fishermen and enter this 1 remarkable cave into an enclosed area similar to a crater. Bats can be heard in the cave, and massive stalagmites hang from the ceiling. In the afternoon, we leave Halong Bay and enter the river, where we drop anchor near Hai Phong.

### Day 15 - The Kinh Thay River

Observe the lively and interesting life of the Kinh Thay river, a key commercial waterway. In the afternoon we visit Thanh Ha Commune, considered the origin of water puppetry in Vietnam. After a stroll or bicycle through the quaint village, we enjoy a private water puppet show set under shade by a beautiful pond of lotus and lilies, as it has been enjoyed for centuries. We continue cruising until late evening and drop anchor midstream.

### Day 16 - Day River

This morning, we sail along the Lower Red River and Day River while getting more acquainted with your expedition vessel during a ship tour. After lunch onboard, we head ashore to Co Chat village in Nam Dinh. Here, we visit local craftspeople who are making silk by hand and explore the local markets filled with exotic produce.

### Day 17 - Khanh Thien Village

We continue our exploration of the Red River Delta, cruising towards Ninh Binh before mooring at Khanh Thien Village. In the morning, we disembark and embark on a journey to Phat Diem, home to the magnificent Phat Diem Cathedral, a 19th-century Roman Catholic church showcasing a unique blend of Vietnamese and European architectural styles. After lunch, explore Khanh Thien Village by local transportation or bicycle, discovering a host of local handicrafts including water hyacinth weaving and a variety of rice paper and cakes. Conclude the day with an enchanting performance by local artists showcasing 'Chau Van' singing, an ancient art form unique to this region.

### Day 18 - Ninh Binh

Discover 'Halong on Land' today as we visit Ninh Binh, and take small bamboo rowing boats through the magnificent limestone caves. Visitors traveling in September and October, or April and May will witness the valleys shine golden as the rice fields prepare for harvest. We then return to our ship and sail upstream on the Red River towards Hanoi.

### Day 19 - Hanoi

Dropping anchor in the bustling city of Hanoi, passengers will embark on a captivating journey through Hanoi, venturing beyond the typical tourist trail. Explore the historic Temple of

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Literature, a testament to Vietnam's Confucian roots, and gain a poignant understanding of the city's past at the Hoa Lo Prison. Immerse yourself in the vibrant Old Quarter, a sensory feast of sights, sounds, and aromas. Witness the unique spectacle of Train Street, sipping Vietnamese coffee as a train passes just inches away. Explore the local markets of Hang Da and Hang Gai Street and meet for transfer back to the RV Angkor at Thang Long Theatre.

### Day 20 - Bat Trang Ceramic Village

This morning, we visit Bat Trang ceramic village, a hub of ceramic production for generations. The ceramics made here are famous throughout Vietnam and adorn many homes both north and south. Before returning to the ship, a local dance troupe will treat us to a lion dance on the pier. This colourful and energetic dance is customary during festivals throughout Vietnam, most notably during Tet. We then set sail into the lesser visited upper Red River beyond Hanoi. We make a stop at a small village dedicated to the handmade production of Vietnam's most famous headwear, the Non La conical hat before continuing to Thay Pagoda. Hardly known, yet with exquisite temples dating from the 11th century, we visit this beautiful temple beside a lake and explore the village that surrounds the pagoda.

### Day 21 - The Upper Red River

In the morning we go ashore to visit the UNESCO praised village of Duang Lam. This ancient village is a well preserved example of a traditional Vietnamese village from centuries ago with intricate architecture and fascinating culture. In the afternoon we visit the smith village of Ly Nhan to witness first-hand the traditional production methods still being used to this day. We then sail upstream for your farewell dinner onboard.

### Day 22 - Viet Tri

Disembark after breakfast and enjoy a morning excursion en route to Hanoi. We start with a visit to Hung Lo Temple, where we will be serenaded with traditional folk music and enjoy an exploration of this quaint traditional town. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant followed by a transfer to Hanoi Noi Bai International Airport or Hanoi City.

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.

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### YOUR SHIP: ANGKOR PANDAW

<b>YOUR SHIP:</b>	<b>Angkor Pandaw</b>
<b>VESSEL TYPE:</b>	<b>Luxury River Cruising</b>
<b>LENGTH:</b>	<b>42.2 m</b>
<b>PASSENGER CAPACITY:</b>	<b>32 passengers</b>
<b>BUILT/REFURBISHED:</b>	<b>2012</b>

Angkor Pandaw is a handsome two-deck riverboat, a luxurious yet unostentatious replica of a colonial-era vessel dating from 1865. The upper deck with its walk-around promenade has six cabins of 170 square feet. All have twin beds, air-conditioning and French windows. Bathrooms have good showers, with bathrobes, hair dryers, and slippers provided. Cabins also have desks and safes. There is an onboard laundry and crew clean shoes after excursions. The main deck is similar with 10 cabins. Passengers spend their leisure time on the covered upper deck, from where they can take in the sights of Asia going by from teak loungers. The upper deck also has a library, shop and a small covered deck. There is an open-bridge policy. Meals are served in the air-conditioned upper deck restaurant affording panoramic views. Breakfast is buffet style but preceded by coffee, tea and light bites on the sun deck for early risers. Lunch is served either buffet style or standard sit-down, while dinners are four-course affairs. Produce is fresh, regional and seasonal. Coffee, tea, soft drinks, ice cream (available all day), beer and domestic spirits are complimentary and served at the bar on the upper deck. There is wifi, which is often slow due to the remote areas traveled. However, guides can help find internet shops in

some of the riverside towns. Tipping is optional. Angkor Pandaw has two guides who give briefings at cocktail hour every night on the upper deck, and accompany all excursions, which are daily and free. Some local entertainment is offered, such as folkloric dancing and puppet shows. DVDs and mini-players can be borrowed from the library. Overnights often involve stopping in the middle of nowhere and securing the ship with lines attached to stakes hammered into the riverbank. Sometimes part of the gangway is little more than a plank, making this trip difficult for those with disabilities. But plenty of willing crew hands are always there to assist. Most passengers see Pandaw as a world away from conventional cruising and take such measures



in stride.

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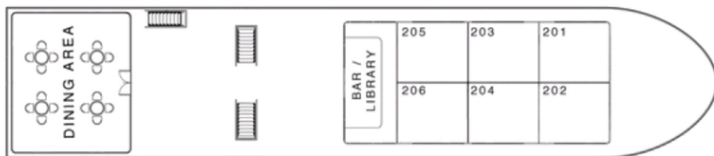
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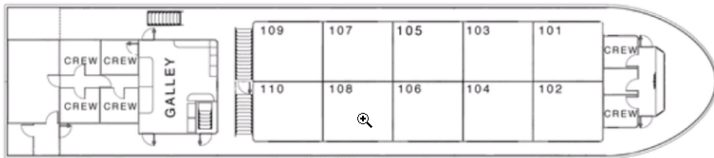
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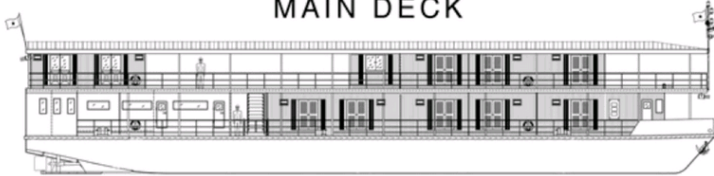
## INSIDE YOUR SHIP



UPPER DECK



MAIN DECK



ELEVATION

Main Deck Twin Sharing    Upper Deck Twin Sharing



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## PRICING

### 23-Dec-2027 to 13-Jan-2028

Main Deck Twin Sharing	£8963 GBP pp
Main Deck Twin Single Use	£10763 GBP pp
Upper Deck Twin Sharing	£11152 GBP pp
Upper Deck Twin Single Use	£13383 GBP pp

### 03-Jan-2028 to 24-Jan-2028

Main Deck Twin Sharing	£8963 GBP pp
Main Deck Twin Single Use	£10763 GBP pp
Upper Deck Twin Sharing	£11152 GBP pp
Upper Deck Twin Single Use	£13383 GBP pp

### 14-Jan-2028 to 04-Feb-2028

Main Deck Twin Sharing	£8963 GBP pp
Main Deck Twin Single Use	£10763 GBP pp
Upper Deck Twin Sharing	£11152 GBP pp
Upper Deck Twin Single Use	£13383 GBP pp

### 25-Jan-2028 to 15-Feb-2028

Main Deck Twin Sharing	£8963 GBP pp
Main Deck Twin Single Use	£10763 GBP pp
Upper Deck Twin Sharing	£11152 GBP pp
Upper Deck Twin Single Use	£13383 GBP pp

### 05-Feb-2028 to 26-Feb-2028

Main Deck Twin Sharing	£8963 GBP pp
Main Deck Twin Single Use	£10763 GBP pp
Upper Deck Twin Sharing	£11152 GBP pp
Upper Deck Twin Single Use	£13383 GBP pp

### 27-Feb-2028 to 19-Mar-2028

Main Deck Twin Sharing	£8963 GBP pp
Main Deck Twin Single Use	£10763 GBP pp
Upper Deck Twin Sharing	£11152 GBP pp
Upper Deck Twin Single Use	£13383 GBP pp

#### ADDITIONAL CHARGES:

Port Taxes & Fees 180 USD pp