

Highlights of Vietnam & Cambodia

April 15 - April 30, 2024

7 Night Luxury Mekong River Cruise with 8 Night Land Discovery



Highlights:

- 7 Nights AmaWaterways Luxury River Cruise onboard AMADara on the Mekong River
- 2 Nights Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam, 2 Nights Siem Reap Cambodia, 2 Nights Hanoi Vietnam, 1 Night Ha Long Bay Vietnam & 1 Night Post-cruise Hanoi Vietnam
- Indulge your inner adventurer in Siem Reap, exploring the grand temples of the UNESCO designated Angkor Archeological Park, including Banteay Srei, Angkor Thom, the Terrace of the Elephants, the pyramid temple of Bayon, Ta Prohm—the vine covered “jungle temple” - Angkor Wat and other key sites
- Conclude your journey in Hanoi, Vietnam's current capital, along with an overnight sojourn on board an elegantly appointed ship in the UNESCO designated Ha Long Bay

Head Office

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Day 1 / Mon, Apr 15: ARRIVE IN HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM.

Ho Chi Minh City, still affectionately referred to by locals as Saigon, is Vietnam's former capital. Once known as the "Paris of the Orient," it is now an industrial, cultural and educational hub.

Day 2 / Tue, Apr 16: HO CHI MINH CITY

Always bustling, Ho Chi Minh City is a city of contrasts blending old and new, and east and west. In the morning, explore some of the city's most famous landmarks, including the former Presidential Palace, the Central Post Office, Notre Dame Cathedral and the War Remnants Museum. In the afternoon, visit Chu Chi, an immense underground network built during the Vietnam War. (B,L)

Day 3 / Wed, Apr 17: HO CHI MINH CITY – MY THO – EMBARKATION

In the morning, visit Ben Thanh Market—one of the oldest and most iconic structures in Ho Chi Minh City. Transfer via motorcoach from Ho Chi Minh City to AmaDara at My Tho Port for your river cruise and meet your fellow travelers at a Welcome Dinner as the ship cruises to Cai Be. (B,L,D)

Day 4 / Thu, Apr 18: CAI BE – SA DEC

Take a local boat to Cai Be. You will have an opportunity to visit candy and rice paper making workshops, as well as the historic Kiet Old House. Later in the day, journey to Sa Dec, a sprawling town on the Mekong Delta, where French writer Marguerite Duras spent part of her youth. You will visit the colorful market, Cao Dai Temple and the house of Mr. Huynh Thuy Le, Duras' Chinese paramour, which her prize-winning novel, "The Lover," is said to be based on. (B,L,D)

Day 5 / Fri, Apr 19: TAN CHAU – BORDER CROSSING

Enjoy a visit to Tan Chau, a small Mekong River town unspoiled by tourism. Be treated to an authentic experience on a traditional "xe-loi" (trishaw) ride around the town, with stops at silk-making and rattan mat workshops, followed by a boat ride through the narrow channels of the Mekong River to "Evergreen Island." Alternatively, take a boat ride to Evergreen Island and return to Tan Chau, where you will visit a rattan mat workshop. Later in the day, cruise from Vietnam to the Cambodian border

en route to Phnom Penh. (B,L,D)

Day 6 / Sat, Apr 20: PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

This morning's excursion takes you to Cambodia's infamous Killing Fields and the Khmer Rouge's grim Tuol Sleng S21 detention center (Genocide Museum). Alternatively, you may wish to shop for unique treasures at the bustling yellow-colored Central Market. After lunch on board, you will explore the highlights of the city, followed by a visit to the Royal Palace, the spectacular Silver Pagoda and the National Museum, which has an outstanding collection of Khmer crafts. After returning to the ship, enjoy Khmer folk dancing performed by local children in the Saigon Lounge. (B,L,D)

Day 7 / Sun, Apr 21: OUDONG – KAMPONG TRALACH – PHNOM PENH

Visit Oudong, Cambodia's former royal capital from the early 17th century until 1866. Today, Oudong is a place of pilgrimage for Cambodians. While here, be treated to a memorable Buddhist Blessing Ceremony at a monastery. You may walk around Oudong's monastery or take an active walking tour to see panoramic views of the Oudong plain. In Kampong Tralach, you will have a truly authentic excursion – an oxcart ride through a local village. Later in the day, experience Phnom Penh via a tuk ride and be enchanted by the city's French Colonial architecture and tree-lined boulevards set amidst monumental Angkorian (B,L,D)

Day 8 / Mon, Apr 22: OKNHATEY— ANGOR BAN

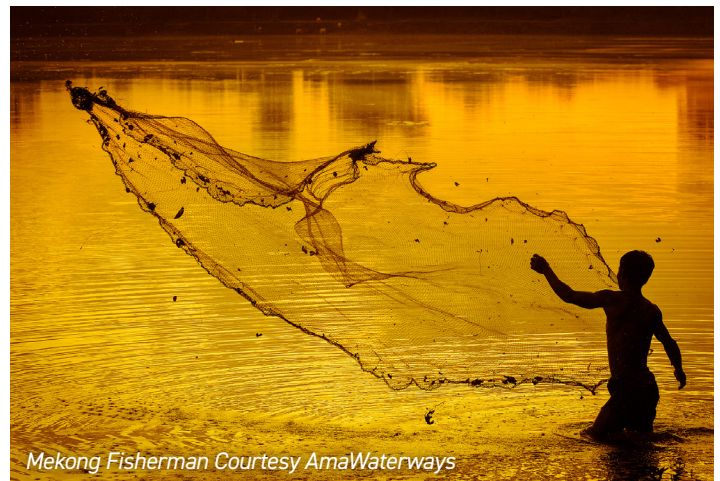
In the morning, set sail for Oknhatey Village. Oknhatey is the "Silk Island," located on the lush banks of the Mekong River and known for its rich tradition of silk weaving. While here, you will visit a local elementary school and observe the traditional silk weaving, an art that has been preserved for centuries. Your cruise continues to sail to Angkor Ban. (B,L,D)

Day 9 / Tue, Apr 23: ANGKOR BAN – KAMPONG CHAM

Go on a walking tour of Angkor Ban, one of the few villages in Cambodia that was not destroyed under the Khmer Rouge regime in the 1970s. Here people still live in their traditional wooden abodes and keep their old cultural traditions alive. Hundreds of wooden houses stand intact on stilts, shaded with banana trees, among the hustle and bustle of the daily



AmaDara Courtesy AmaWaterways



Mekong Fisherman Courtesy AmaWaterways

agricultural on-going of the local villagers. After visiting here, the ship sets sail for Kampong Cham, where you will go on an afternoon excursion via motorcoach to the Twin Mountains, known as Phnom Pros and Phnom Srei (male and female mountains). In the annals of Khmer legend, the twin mountains were formed as the result of a competition between the men and women of an ancient Cambodian kingdom to resolve which gender would be responsible for wedding proposals. Cap the day off with a festive Farewell Dinner on board. (B,L,D)

Day 10 / Wed, Apr 24: DISEMBARK – KAMPONG CHAM – SIEM REAP

Disembark in Kampong Cham and transfer by motorcoach to Siem Reap, gateway to the Angkor Archaeological Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the former capital of the Khmer empire. You'll visit nearby Ta Prohm, known as the "Kingdom of the Trees," for the way in which the temple stones have become intertwined with thick forest vegetation. (B,D)

Day 11 / Thu, Apr 25: SIEM REAP – ANGKOR

Begin your morning exploration of the temple complex at Angkor Wat, the most iconic of all Angkorian temples, built by King Suryavarman II in the early 12th century to honor the Hindu god, Vishnu. You will have the option to take an "early riser" tour to visit Angkor Wat by seeing the color changes of the temple with the natural sunlight or a "late riser" tour if you wish to relax longer in the morning at your beautiful hotel. An afternoon excursion takes you to see the fascinating jewel in the crown of Angkorian art, Banteay Srei, which means "Citadel of Women," as it has been said that the carving is too fine to have been done by the hand of man. During the evening, be treated to a special "Apsara Dancing Show" at your hotel, featuring local Cambodian/Khmer folk dancers. (B,D)

Day 12 / Fri, Apr 26: SIEM REAP – HANOI

After breakfast, you will have a guided sightseeing tour of Angkor Thom meaning "the great city" and the last capital of the Khmer Empire. This is home to Bayon Temple, best known for its gigantic smiling stone faces, as well as the Terrace of the Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King. Later in the day, take a short flight to Hanoi, the capital city of Vietnam. (B,L)

Day 13 / Sat, Apr 27: HANOI

From ancient temples to French Colonial architecture and modern-day skyscrapers, along with beautiful parks and lakes, Hanoi is an eclectic and lively city. A morning sightseeing tour will showcase some of Hanoi's most famous historic and cultural sites, including Ba Dinh Square and The Temple of Literature. You will also visit the infamous prison that American POWs sarcastically dubbed the "Hanoi Hilton" during the Vietnam War. In the afternoon, experience an authentic rickshaw ride (known as a "cyclo") in the Old Quarter, followed by a traditional Water Puppet Show. (B)

Day 14 / Sun, Apr 28: HANOI – HA LONG BAY

Take a scenic drive from Hanoi to one of Vietnam's most renowned locations, Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Board an elegantly appointed ship designed with all the modern conveniences to ensure smooth sailing for an incredible once-in-a-lifetime experience. The backdrop of the bay's magnificent scenery and dramatic limestone cliffs and rock formations provide you with the perfect setting for a memorable sojourn. (B,L,D)

Day 15 / Mon, Apr 29: HA LONG BAY – HANOI

Spend the morning sailing across the emerald waters of Ha Long Bay with more than 2,000 small islands rising from the water like a dragon's back. Later in the morning, disembark the ship and transfer back to Hanoi where you can enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure. (B,L)

Day 16 / Tue, Apr 30: DEPART HANOI

Bid farewell to Vietnam and prepare for your homeward flight (B)





AMADara Stateroom Courtesy AmaWaterways



Weaver Courtesy AmaWaterways

*TOUR COSTS

Cruise & Land Package Price

Per person based on double occupancy

Category: B \$7835 CAD French & Outside Balcony

Category: A \$8231 CAD French & Outside Balcony

Category: S \$8891 CAD Suite with Balcony

Category: L \$10738 CAD Luxury Suite with Balcony

INCLUDED

- Accommodation in five star hotels and onboard the luxurious AMADara
- Meals as per itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Complimentary Wine, Local beer, House Brand Spirits and soft drinks at lunch and dinner during AMAWaterways Cruise
- Private air-conditioned coach transportation
- Comprehensive sightseeing incl. local guides and admission fees as per itinerary
- Economy airfare & taxes from Siem Reap to Hanoi

NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare
Canada – Vietnam – Canada
- Travel insurance (please contact our office for a quote)
- Optional Gratuities
- Items of a personal nature

FLIGHT OPTIONS

Please contact our office for a quote.

TOUR PACE

This itinerary includes some walking through historic city centres and to/from sites – easily accomplished if you are comfortable walking a few kilometres at a standard pace.

Travellers with restricted mobility are welcome but may be unable to enjoy all of the walking tour portions or may require taxis.

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT:

\$500 pp deposit due at time of booking
2nd installment of \$1000 pp due by September 30, 2023
Balance due by January 9, 2024
Tour documents will be sent to you approximately 14 days prior to your trip departure, provided full payment has been received.

TOUR PRICES:

All tour prices for land arrangements are based on rates effective at the time of printing and are expected to be in effect at the time of departure. Should these rates change, it may be necessary to surcharge the price of your vacation. Should the tour price increase by more than 10%, the passenger shall have the right to cancel within seven days of notification without penalty.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS:

Notice of cancellation must be made in writing. The effective cancellation date is the date when written notification is received by Special Travel International (hereafter called STI). **Deposits are non-refundable.** The following scale of charges will apply when cancellation is received prior to departure:

Until Sep 30, 2023	\$500 pp
Sep 30, 2023 – Jan 9, 2024	\$1,500 pp
From Jan 9, 2024 and onwards	100% non refundable

NB: different payment/cancellation policies apply to airline tickets; you will be advised at time of booking.

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

STI strongly recommends that each tour participant has health, cancellation, interruption, accident and baggage insurance for the duration of his/her travels.

RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY:

STI acts only as an agent in securing all services related to the tours described in this brochure, including transportation, sightseeing and accommodation. STI shall not be responsible or liable for any loss, cost, damage, injury, delay or expense arising from the use of any conveyance, accommodation or service or from acts of God, strikes, weather, quarantine, accidents, sickness, government regulations, insufficient documents and any loss expense resulting from the above contingencies shall be borne by the tour member. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort of the passenger, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operators. Additional expense, if any, shall be borne by the passenger. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, and also to decline to accept or retain any passenger as a member of the tour. In such instances, full or equitable amounts will be refunded.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, VISAS AND VACCINES:

It is entirely the passenger's responsibility to possess whatever documents, visas and vaccines are required by the law of the countries visited on the tour.

AIRLINE RESPONSIBILITY:

Any air carrier providing transportation in connection with these tours is not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passenger is not on board its planes. The passenger contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchase of these tours and/or passenger. Similar responsibility as noted applies to all types of carriers, including car rental companies.



Siem Reap Sofitel Swimming Pool Courtesy AmaWaterways



Apsara Dancers Courtesy AmaWaterways

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