

River Cruise on the Mekong

CAMBODIA / VIETNAM




**CroisiEurope
Cruises**

— COLLECTION —



River Cruise on the Mekong



The Mekong River is an expansive waterway that has been a silent witness to thousands of years of history. Join CroisiEurope on a profound and fascinating journey on the “Mother of Rivers”.

From buzzing metropolises to calm countrysides, sumptuous temples to infinite rice fields, floating villages to dazzling markets, this exceptional cruise will introduce you to amazing sites such as the Angkor Temples, Halong Bay, and the ancient imperial cities. Immerse yourself in age-old traditions and the delicious cuisine found in Vietnam and Cambodia.



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From the Angkor temples to the Mekong Delta

YEAR-ROUND DEPARTURES



CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

- A spectacular cruise through Asia
- CroisiEurope exclusivity: our ships dock in the centre of Hô-Chi-Minh City
- Crossing through the beautiful Chao Gao canal in Vietnam

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED:

- Discover the historical cities of Siem Reap, Phnom Penh and Hô-Chi-Minh City
- Explore the amazing temples of Angkor Wat
- Visit typical villages and meet the locals in Koh Chen, My Tho and more

Our ships are available
on both FIT & Charter basis.

From the heights of the Himalayas to the southern shores of the China Sea, the Mekong, wherever it flows, fascinates people and shapes their lives.

We invite you to sail down this great and generous river, from the remains of Angkor to the Tonlé river, then on to Phnom Penh and Hô-Chi-Minh City, a city still strongly imbued with the French colonial presence.

This meditative journey will allow you to live to the rhythm of the Mekong and its tributaries on board a ship combining comfort and colonial charm.



1. PHNOM PENH, THE ROYAL PALACE AND ITS SILVER PAGODA
2. MY THO, SAILING IN SMALL SAMPANS
3. NAVIGATING THE CHAO GAO CANAL





ANGKOR TEMPLE

11-DAY / 10-NIGHT PROGRAMME REF. 1R3_PP / 1H3_PP

DAY 1 | Siem Reap (Cambodia)

Programme depends on time of arrival

Lunch

Boat trip on Tonlé Lake to discover the floating villages.

Overnight at the hotel

DAY 2 | Siem Reap • Angkor Temples

Excursions proposed:

- Visit of Ta Prohm temple
 - Tour of Angkor Thom including the Bayon Temple, the Terrace of the Elephants and that of the Leper King
 - Visit the Senteurs d'Angkor and the B.R.B. crafts centre
 - Dinner at a local restaurant and Phare Circus Show
- Overnight at the hotel

DAY 3 | Siem Reap • Angkor Temples • Tonle Sap River

Excursion proposed:

- The Angkor Wat temple

Road⁽¹⁾ to Koh Chen, discovery of a traditional village and boarding Or

Transfer to the ship, boarding and afternoon cruise on Tonle Lake

Introduction of the crew and welcome cocktail

Overnight on board

DAY 4 | Koh Chen • Kampong Tralach

Excursions proposed:

- Tour of Koh Chen with villagers specialized in silver and copper smithing
- The Wat Kampong Tralach Leu pagoda

Cruise towards Kampong Chhnang

DAY 5 | Kampong Chhnang • Phnom Penh

Excursion proposed:

- Visit of Kampong Chhnang and tasting of local products

Cruise towards Phnom Penh

- Tuk-tuk ride through the city

Apsara dance performance on board

DAY 6 | Phnom Penh

Excursions proposed:

- The Royal Palace and its Silver Pagoda
- The National Museum
- Tuol Svay Prey S21, former detention centre

Free time at the local market

DAY 7 | Chau Doc (Vietnam)

Cruise towards Chau Doc

Excursion proposed:

- Tay An pagoda and Ba Chua Xu temple

Cruise towards Sa Dec

DAY 8 | Sa Dec • Vinh Long • Cai Be

Excursions proposed:

- The local market and Huynh Thuy Le's former home in Sa Dec

Cruise on Vinh Long

- Visit to a brickyard

- Discover a handcraft manufactory producing puffed rice, rice-paper wrappers and rice alcohol

DAY 9 | My Tho • Hồ-Chí-Minh City (formerly Saigon)

Excursion proposed:

- Visit to a honey bee farm with tastings of honey tea and exotic fruit

Cruise through the beautiful Chao Gao Canal towards Hồ-Chí-Minh City

DAY 10 | Hồ-Chí-Minh City

Excursions proposed:

- Tour of Hồ-Chí-Minh City: the Reunification Palace, Notre-Dame Cathedral and the Central Post Office
- Visit to the Museum of Vietnamese History
- Tour of the Cu Chi Tunnels⁽²⁾

Farewell cocktail and dinner

DAY 11 | Hồ-Chí-Minh City

Disembark

Excursion proposed:

- Tour of Cholon, the local Chinatown

Lunch in town before the end of our journey

(1) Approximately 5/6-hour bus journey to Siem Reap and Koh Chen. (2) The transfer by coach takes approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes each way.

The Mekong in a different way

Between adventure and must-see sites

YEAR-ROUND DEPARTURES



CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

- An authentic, dynamic trip in small groups
- Crossing through the splendid Chao Gao canal

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED:

- The hidden treasures of the Mekong by bike, kayak, sampan or on foot
- Discover historic cities: Phnom Penh and Ho Chi Minh City
- Meet the locals and discover their way of life in Sa Dec, Cai Be...
- Pottery wheel demonstration and take a cooking class to immerse yourself in the local culture
- Climb the astonishing Oudong hill

Our ships are available
on both FIT & Charter basis.

As a prelude to this active cruise, explore the magnificent Angkor temples, a UNESCO World Heritage Site featuring treasures like Ta Prohm, Bayon, and the iconic Angkor Wat.

Continue aboard the Toum Tiou 2 for an intimate Mekong journey blending cultural immersion and light adventure.

Enjoy activities like biking, kayaking, sampan rides, and walking tours, with highlights including village visits, Udong Hill, and a boat tour of Tra Su Forest.

This journey perfectly combines culture, nature, and adventure for an unforgettable experience.



1. ANGKOR WAT
2. CHAU DOC
3. LOCAL MARKET IN VIETNAM





WALK THROUGH THE RICE FIELDS

11-DAY / 10-NIGHT PROGRAMME REF. 1R3_ADPP / 1H3_ADPP

DAY 1 | Siem Reap (Cambodia)

Programme depends on time of arrival

Lunch

Boat trip on Tonlé Lake to discover the floating villages

Visit of the "Angkor Night Market"

Overnight at the hotel

DAY 2 | Siem Reap • Angkor Temples

Excursions proposed:

- Visit of Ta Prohm temple

- Tour of Angkor Thom

Lunch and visit of the Senteurs d'Angkor

- Dinner at a local restaurant and Phare Circus Show

Overnight at the hotel

DAY 3 | Siem Reap • Angkor Temples

Excursion proposed:

- The Angkor Wat temple

Transfer to the ship, boarding

Introduction of the crew and welcome cocktail

Overnight on board

DAY 4 | Koh Chen • Kampong Tralach

Sail to Kampong Chhnang

Visit Kampong Chhnang, one of the largest fishing ports

on the Tonle Sap Lake

Option: Active travelers can cycle along the riverside at Kampong Chhnang before visiting the local pottery village

DAY 5 | Oudong • Kampong Tralach • Phnom Penh

Excursion proposed:

- Visit the Vipassana Dhura Pagoda

- Visit the beautiful Vihara of the Wat Kampong Tralach Leu pagoda

Return option: Enjoy a gentle mountain bike ride through peaceful countryside and picturesque rice fields before returning to the ship

Cruise towards Phnom Penh

Enjoy a performance of classical Khmer dancing and music then dinner

DAY 6 | Phnom Penh

Excursions proposed:

- The Royal Palace and its Silver Pagoda

- The National Museum

- City tour by tuk-tuk to get a closer look at everyday life in Cambodia, visit to the Art Deco central market and Wat Phnom pagoda

DAY 7 | Chau Doc (Vietnam)

Cruise towards Chau Doc

Excursions proposed:

- Explore Tra Su Forest

- Ascend Mount Sam by cable car

- Visit to the Ba Chua Xu temple

Cruise towards Sa Dec

DAY 8 | Sa Dec • Cai Be

Excursion proposed:

- Sa Dec by local boat and walk through the market

Cruise towards Cai Be

Excursion proposed:

- Cooking class with a local chef, kayaking in the Mekong Delta and mountain biking in the surrounding countryside

Cruise towards My Tho

DAY 9 | My Tho • Hồ-Chi-Minh City (formerly Saigon)

Excursion proposed:

- Thoi Son Island by sampan and bicycle

Afternoon cruise on the magnificent Chao Gao canal

Evening excursion proposed:

- "Saigon after dark"⁽¹⁾ taste local flavours while riding from stop to stop on the back of a Vespa scooter

DAY 10 | Hồ-Chi-Minh City

Excursions proposed:

- Tour of Hồ-Chi-Minh City: the Reunification Palace, Notre-Dame Cathedral and the Central Post Office

- Local Chinatown and experience the daily life of the people

- Visit of the Giac Lam Pagoda

- Visit of the Flower Market and Binh Tay market

Farewell cocktail and dinner

DAY 11 | Hồ-Chi-Minh City

Disembark

Excursion proposed:

- The War Museum

Lunch in town before the end of our journey

Lunch in town before the end of our journey

(1) Included for departures from January to April 2026, optional for departures from August 2026, in which case it must be booked at the time of registration.

Hanoi and Halong Bay

EXTEND YOUR STAY ON THE MEKONG



HANOI, ONE PILLAR PAGODA



HALONG BAY



HIGHLIGHTS

- *Cruise across Halong Bay, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site*
- *The beautiful caves of Halong Bay*
- *Tai Chi class in Halong Bay at sunrise*

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED:

- *Hanoi, the historic heart of the nation*
- *Tuk-tuk ride through the Old Quarter in Hanoi*
 - *Vietnamese cooking class*



4-DAY / 3-NIGHT PRE- OR POST-PROGRAMME

REF. 1R6_PP / 1H6_PP

DAY 11 | Hô-Chi-Minh City • Hanoi

Transfer to the airport
Flight to Hanoi
Dinner and accommodation at the hotel

DAY 12 | Hanoi

Full-day excursion:
• Guided tour of Hanoi
Lunch and dinner at a local restaurant
Traditional water puppetry show
Overnight at the hotel

DAY 13 | Hanoi • Halong Bay

Transfer to Halong Bay (approx. 3h30 travel time)
Boarding a boat, welcome cocktail and lunch
Cruise through the mythical Halong Bay
Overnight on board

DAY 14 | Halong Bay • Hanoi

Participate in a Tai Chi class on the deck
• Visit one of the most beautiful caves of Halong Bay
Brunch and disembark at 11:00 a.m.
Transfer to Hanoi
Stop off in Dinh Bang village
Light dinner before the end of our journey

HANOI, TEMPLE OF LITERATURE

The Imperial Cities

EXTEND YOUR STAY ON THE MEKONG



HOI AN



KHAI DINH MAUSOLEUMS



HIGHLIGHTS

- *Cruise across Halong Bay, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site*
 - *Visit to one of the largest caves in the bay*
- *Tuk-tuk ride through the Old Quarter in Hanoi*

EXCURSIONS INCLUDED:

- *Discover Hue and its Imperial City*
- *The partially ruined temples in My Son*
- *Hanoi, the historic heart of the nation*



7-DAY / 6-NIGHT PRE- OR POST-PROGRAMME

REF. 1R9_PP / 1H9_PP

DAY 11 | Hô-Chi-Minh City • Hue

After lunch in town, transfer to the airport for flight to Hue
Overnight at the hotel

DAY 12 | Hue

Excursion proposed:

- The mausoleums of Khai Dinh and Tu Duc, Tu Hieu pagoda, the imperial city and Dong Ba market

Overnight at the hotel

DAY 13 | Hue • Da Nang • Hoi An

Excursion proposed:

- The Pagoda of the Celestial Lady in Hué, the village of Kim Long and the Museum of Cham sculpture in Da Nang

Arrival in Hoi An and overnight at the hotel

DAY 14 | Hoi An • My Son

Excursions proposed:

- My Son and its cluster of abandoned and partially ruined Hindu temples
- Hoi An and the Fujian sanctuary

Overnight at the hotel

DAY 15 | Hoi An • Da Nang • Hanoi

Transfer to Da Nang airport for flight to Hanoi. Lunch in town

Excursion proposed:

- The old quarter of the city

Tonight we'll watch a traditional water puppetry show

Overnight at the hotel

DAY 16 | Hanoi • Halong Bay

Transfer to Halong Bay (approx. 3h30 travel time)

Boarding and welcome cocktail

Sailing in the mythical Halong Bay

Overnight on board

DAY 17 | Halong Bay • Hanoi

Tai Chi session on deck

Excursion proposed:

- Visit to one of the largest caves in the bay

Disembarkation and transfer to Hanoi

Before arriving, we'll stop off at the Dinh Bang communal hall, one of the largest and finest communal houses in Vietnam

Transfer to the airport for your return trip

End of our services around 6.00 p.m. at the airport

Welcome aboard our

RV INDOCHINE II - PREMIUM SHIP

Sailing along the legendary Mekong, the RV Indochine II invites you on an unforgettable journey through Vietnam and Cambodia, where UNESCO-listed sites, centuries-old traditions and culinary delights await at every stop. An exotic and authentic escape awaits, rich in colour, fragrance, and unforgettable flavours.

The RV Indochine II is an intimate, premium vessel, 65 m long and 13 m wide, accommodating **62 passengers in 31 spacious, bright, and comfortable cabins** across three decks. Each cabin features a private balcony and all the amenities needed for a relaxing and enjoyable stay.

Crafted entirely from exotic wood paneling, the ship's design beautifully blends colonial and contemporary influences, combining charm, comfort, elegance, and refinement. The main-deck restaurant serves delicate cuisine in a warm, inviting atmosphere, with large picture windows offering uninterrupted views of the passing scenery.

Also on the main deck are the reception area and a massage salon, while the sun deck provides an ideal space to unwind, featuring a swimming pool and a spacious lounge/bar where guests can relax and admire the landscapes.



- 1. SUN DECK
- 2. LOUNGE
- 3. CABIN
- 4. RV INDOCHINE II

Discover
our ship



ships on the Mekong river

RV INDOCHINE - STANDARD SHIP

The RV Indochine sails the legendary Mekong, stopping at enchanting ports amid UNESCO-listed sites, centuries-old traditions, and the rich culinary heritage of Vietnam and Cambodia. It promises an exotic, authentic adventure, alive with vibrant colours, scents, and flavours.

The RV Indochine is an intimate vessel, measuring 51 m in length and 11 m in width, accommodating **48 passengers across 24 elegantly appointed cabins** on two decks. Each cabin is thoughtfully equipped to ensure every comfort throughout your journey.

Built in a colonial style with rich exotic wood paneling, the ship blends charm and luxury seamlessly. The upper-deck restaurant serves refined cuisine amid large picture windows, allowing guests to fully savour the surrounding scenery. Meanwhile, the sun deck, complete with a lounge and bar, offers the perfect spot to unwind and admire the passing landscapes.



Discover
our ship



- 1. SUN DECK
- 2. RESTAURANT
- 3. CABIN
- 4. RV INDOCHINE



RV LAN DIEP - STANDARD SHIP

The RV Lan Diep elegantly crosses the Mekong river. Inspired by the Mekong's ancient tradition of riverboat building, it perfectly blends into the green and authentic scenery along the river.

The RV Lan Diep, a **22-cabin river ship**, can accommodate **44 passengers** spread over 2 decks. Its hull, covered with exotic wood of ancient style, gives it a refined look.

The RV Lan Diep's intimate size creates a sense of warmth and well-being, enhanced by its elegant wood décor and luxurious amenities. On board, every space is designed for comfort and tranquility, ensuring your cruise is a truly unforgettable experience.



Discover
our ship



- 1. SUN DECK
- 2. RESTAURANT
- 3. CABIN
- 4. RV LAN DIEP



RV TOUM TIOU II - STANDARD SHIP



The RV Toum Tiou II offers an unmatched cruising experience of the Mekong with spectacular views of its fauna and flora and opportunities to observe day-to-day life of the people of Cambodia and Vietnam in close proximity.

The size of the RV Toum Tiou II perfectly combines intimacy and charm. The exotic wood panelling of the **14 double cabins** gives it an ancient style with a unique atmosphere.

- 1. CABIN
- 2. RV TOUM TIOU II
- 3. RESTAURANT

Discover
our ship



RV TOUM TIOU I - STANDARD SHIP



This ship with an intimate atmosphere can access the most remote areas of the river. Due to its size, the RV Toum Tiou I offers its passengers an exceptional view of the landscapes and villages along the Mekong river, affording passengers priceless views of people, flora and fauna, barely touched by modernity.

The RV Toum Tiou I has **10 double cabins** and all the amenities that will make your cruise on board unique.

- 1. CABIN
- 2. RV TOUM TIOU I
- 3. RESTAURANT

Discover
our ship



History by country

CRUISES ALONG THE MEKONG RIVER



HỒ-CHI-MINH CITY

VIETNAM

HỒ-CHI-MINH CITY (formerly Saigon)

District 1 is the place to be if you want to travel back in time. The Reunification Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral, and Saigon Central Post Office are all splendid testimonies to what the French call “The Pearl of the Far East.”

Our ships dock in the heart of Ho-Chi-Minh City, the financial core of the country. The Chinese District, Cholon, where nearly half the population lives, is teeming with life and vibrant marketplaces. Yet, a quick step inside one of the grand temples brings a sudden sensation of peace and serenity.

SA DEC

Sa Dec, also known as the “little Venice of Asia” thanks to the countless number of canals located in the area, is a small and romantic provincial town based along the Mekong Delta.

The town of Sa Dec is a hidden gem that is rarely populated with tourists. This is surprising as there is much to see and do here, despite its relatively small size. Of course, those people who have made the journey here have usually done so due to it being the original setting of Marguerite Duras’ famous autobiographical novel “The Lover” (L’Amant)

Sa Dec isn’t only famous for its place in the annals of classic literature. The town is also famous for its flower village (in Colonial times, Sa Dec was known as Garden of Cochin-China), and it’s little surprise that one of the main careers in the town is flower growing. Situated on the banks of the Tien River, you have free access to the flower and bonsai gardens here, and you can also talk to the local farmers if you want to get an understanding of their day-to-day life in the town.



1. SA DEC, FLOWER VILLAGE

CAMBODIA

THE TEMPLES OF ANGKOR

Twisted like sleeping serpents, the temples of Angkor are a source of national pride. The complex is huge, and history has deemed it to be the most impressive advanced city in the world during its time. This former epicenter of the powerful Khmer empire between 802 and 1431 has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There are over 1,000 temples in the complex, including the prized Angkor Wat; the Bayon Temple, best known for its 216 smiling faces; the Elephant Terrace, a former viewing stand during public ceremonies; Ta Prohm, one of the most stunning and popular temples in the complex.

ANGKOR WAT

The Angkor Wat temple, which lends its name to the entire complex, is itself one of the largest religious sites ever built. Constructed between 1113 and 1150, it was originally a Hindu temple dedicated to Vishnu that was later converted into a Buddhist temple.

Angkor Wat is surrounded by a large moat that helps protect it and stabilize the foundation. The main entrance is lined with statues of guardian lions. The heart of the temple is the central tower, surrounded by four smaller towers and a series of walls. One of the reasons for the temple’s fame are the intricate bas-relief friezes integrated into its architecture. The site has sustained significant damage from overgrowth, earthquakes, and war, but remains an important source of national pride for the country and a focus of ongoing restoration efforts.

PHNOM PENH

Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, is a buzzing, modern metropolis that remains entrenched in a certain colonial nostalgia. Its main sites include the sumptuous Royal Palace complex—the apex of Khmer art—and the National Museum, which houses magnificent collections in its Museum of Fine Arts.

The Central Market, a bright yellow Art Deco landmark, is packed with treasures and souvenirs and is surrounded by the hustle and bustle of a city on the perpetual go.

Practical information

VIETNAM

INFORMATION

POPULATION: approximately 99,5 million.

AREA: 127,890 sq. mi. (331 000 km²).

CAPITAL: Hanoi.

LANGUAGES: The official language is Vietnamese. Many dialects are spoken. English is popular among the educated and in tourist areas. Vietnamese has its own set of characters that have been historically influenced by a variety of Asian languages, especially Chinese. Since a large number of minority groups exist that speak a variety of languages and dialects, a number of sign languages have developed in the cities. When it was a colony, French used to be the principal language in education, administration, and commerce, and within a certain generation, it is still spoken. Nevertheless, English has taken the forefront in the hotels.

GOVERNMENT: One-party socialist state.

CLIMATE

Overall, Vietnam has a hot and humid climate from north to south, although there can be large variances according to altitudes. The "green season" is from May to September when temperatures vary from 27°C / 80°F to 35°C / 95°F and sometimes up to 40°C / 104°F. When traveling through the south, we recommend light clothes: T-shirts, cotton shirts, and lightweight, cotton pants. You'll want a sweater or two and a windbreaker when you're on the ship and for the extended trips between November and March. In the north, we recommend warmer clothes between December and March. It can become cold in Hanoi and on Halong Bay.

CURRENCY

The national currency is the Vietnamese dong. It comes in 1,000; 2,000; 10,000; 20,000; 50,000; 100,000; 200,000; and 500,000 bills. Coins are rare. If you wish to buy souvenirs, we recommend that you change about £20 or \$20 into dongs on arrival (NB: they will not be accepted in Cambodia). Credit and debit cards are not widely accepted. Visa cards are usually accepted in the larger hotels and stores. A 4% tax is charged for any card purchases.

CUSTOMS

You can bring a maximum of 1.5 liters of alcohol and 400 cigarettes with you into the country. PLEASE NOTE: When entering the country with over \$5000 in cash (or its foreign equivalent), you must declare this to the authorities. For accurate, up-to-date information on customs regulations, please visit <https://www.vietnam-online.com/visa/customs-regulations> or contact your local Vietnamese embassy.

CUISINE

Food in Vietnam is fine, light, spicy, and varied. Southern foods tend to be sweeter than in the north, with coconut milk added when cooking. The central areas of the country use an enormous amount of seafood. The Vietnamese eat with chopsticks. There are three types of rice: normal, sticky, and aromatic. Rice is served as a side or main dish (with ginger, mushrooms, etc.). As in most Asian cultures, it is a staple that has contributed to the country's existence. A well-known proverb states: The educated man precedes the farmer. But when the rice begins to run short, it's the farmer who comes first. For additional flavour to their cooking, fish sauce is found on almost every table. The country seems to overflow with fish and shellfish. Chicken, duck, squab, pork, and buffalo are the main selection of meats. Beef and lamb are rare. One of the most basic meals is pho, a delicious soup of broth, noodles, herbs, and meat. During your tasting adventures, please only drink bottled water that you open yourself. Tap water, even in the cities, is not drinkable. Tea is the national drink and is often free or very cheap in restaurants. The most popular is green tea served in porcelain cups. Vietnamese coffee is very strong. Beer is the most popular alcoholic drink, with Saigon, Tiger, and 333 as the most well-known brands.

POPULATION

The Viet ethnic group makes up over 85% of the country's current population. They have significant political and economic influence over the country and live mainly in the coastal plains or large cities. Vietnam is also home to many other ethnic minorities, who tend to dwell in the highlands. Hanoi is the administrative capital, but Ho-Chi-Minh City is the real economic and commercial hub. In the former Annam region, Hue has been the country's intellectual and artistic center since the Nguyen Dynasty.

PURCHASES

Ho-Chi-Minh-City has a magnificent choice of painting, sculptures, pottery, stamps, and traditional crafts. Embroidered goods and antiques can be found mostly in Hanoi. Pay particular attention to fraud when shopping for antiques, and be aware that it is illegal to export real antiques from Vietnam without a permit. Permits can be obtained in Ho-Chi-Minh City at the Customs Office. For more information, consult the official website of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Vietnam. Also check with your country's customs regulations when bringing gifts and items back home. Like most countries, and especially in larger cities, pickpockets can be rampant.

CAMBODIA

INFORMATION

OFFICIAL NAME: Kingdom of Cambodia.

AREA: 69,898 sq. mi. (181,035 km²).

CAPITAL: Phnom Penh.

POPULATION: Approximately 17 million. Over 95% of the population are ethnic Khmers, who speak the official language. Minority groups include Chams, Vietnamese, and Chinese (each under 2%).

GOVERNMENT: Elective constitutional monarchy.

KING: Norodom Sihamoni.

LANGUAGES: Khmer is the official language. The Khmer script is used to write the language. Street signs are now in Khmer and English.

CLIMATE

Cambodia is located in a tropical zone and benefits from exceptional sunlight all year round. The average temperature is about 27°C / 80°F with the lowest temperature at 17°C / 62°F. There are two seasons: the green season and the dry season. The green season is from May to October. Intense, brief storms tend to occur at the end of the afternoons, but never last long. The temperatures vary from 27°C / 80°F to 35°C / 95°F and sometimes up to 40°C / 104°F. The dry season is from October to April.

CURRENCY

Although the official currency is the Cambodian riel, US dollars in good condition are accepted almost everywhere. Be careful though, because dirty or ripped bills are often refused. Carry small denominations with you (\$1, \$5, \$10 and/or \$20 bills). Please note that most of the Cambodian businesses do not accept US dollars issued before the year 2000. Make sure to mention this to your personal banker when ordering the change (the issuing date is written on each banknote). Credit and debit cards are not widely accepted, except in international hotels and souvenir shops. Traveler's Checks are hard to cash.

CUSTOMS

You can bring up to two liters of wine, 400 cigarettes, and 350 ml of perfume with you into the country. You can bring up to \$10,000 with you in cash without declaring it on arrival. Check with your country's customs regulations when bringing gifts and items back home.

CUISINE

Rice and fish are used in most of the traditional dishes. Meals are usually composed of soups, sautéed vegetables, and grilled meats. Dishes are usually enhanced with curry, lemongrass, mint and flavourful herbs, and world-famous Kampot pepper. Coconut milk is used abundantly, as is prahok, a salted and fermented fish paste. Chinese and Vietnamese cooking is also available in Cambodia.

POPULATION

The largest population in Cambodia is the Khmer, who are indigenous to the lowland regions. The minority populations include the Khmer Loeu, Chinese, and Vietnamese. Although the Khmer people originated in Cambodia, there are now significant populations in Thailand and Vietnam. The Khmer were part of the Indianized Kingdoms and benefited immensely from the economic and cultural diversity found along the East Asian maritime trade route. Historically, the Khmers live primarily as rice growers. The Chinese-Cambodians constitute a majority of the commercial middle class. They also have a strong presence in Cambodia's political scene. The Cham communities in Cambodia are largely Muslim, and most earn their livelihood from fishing. They are the descendants of the Kingdom of Champa. The Khmer Loeu is the collective name for various ethnic groups residing in the highlands of the country. They live in scattered villages with only a few hundred inhabitants each. The villages are usually governed by elders or a village head. They cultivate a wild variety of plants, but the main crop is rice. The Vietnamese community is traditionally involved in fishing. They are located along the banks of the Mekong and Tonle Sap lake. In cities, the Vietnamese are mostly craftspeople.

PURCHASES

Common souvenirs include gemstones (be very careful about fakes!), gold jewelry, silver and bronze objects, handmade silk fabrics, and local crafts (baskets, wooden and stone sculptures). Haggling prices is expected. Be very careful about buying counterfeit items (clothes, shoes, perfumes), since your country's customs regulations might prohibit their entry on your return.



— C O L L E C T I O N —

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