

CHARMS OF THE MEKONG

WITH DICK AND LESLIE WEST



Join Dick and Leslie on this cruise along the mighty Mekong with a land tour to Angkor Wat, Hanoi and Ha Long Bay, discovering a glimpse into another era; one where people still happily honor the timeless traditions passed down through the centuries from their ancestors. Throughout your trip, immerse yourself into the culture and heritage with visits to rural villages, historic pagodas and colorful markets. Be treated to a special blessing by monks in Buddhist monastery, and witness skilled artisans who create exquisite handicrafts and delicacies. Experience all this and more on this life-enriching cruise-tour exploring Vietnam and Cambodia.



FEBRUARY 17-28, 2024

12 DAYS/11 NIGHTS WITH ANGKOR WAT

EMBARK: HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM

DISEMBARK: SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA

SHIP: AmaDara

12-DAY CRUISE-TOUR FROM: \$4,996

+ \$224 Port Charges

ITINERARY

Day 1 – Feb 17 - ARRIVE HO CHI MINH CITY

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 – Feb 18 - 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 Cu Chi, an immense underground network built during the Vietnam War. (B,L)

Day 3 – Feb 19 - HO CHI MINH CITY - EMBARKATION

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

Day 4 – Feb 20 - SA DEC - CAI BE, VIETNAM

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 – Feb 21 - 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 silkmaking 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 – Feb 22 - PHNOM PENH

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 – Feb 23 - 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 – Feb 24 - OKNHATEY VILLAGE

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 – Feb 25 - 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 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 – Feb 26 - KAMPONG CHAM - SIEM REAP - DISEMBARKATION. 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 – Feb 27 - SIEM REAP – ANGKOR WAT

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. 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 – Feb 28 - SIEM REAP - ANGKOR THOM - HANOI or FLY HOME

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 transfer to the airport to begin your journey home, or take a short flight to Hanoi, the capital city of Vietnam. (B, L)

Day 13 – Feb 29 - 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 – Mar 01 - 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 – Mar 02 - 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 – Mar 03 - DEPART HANOI

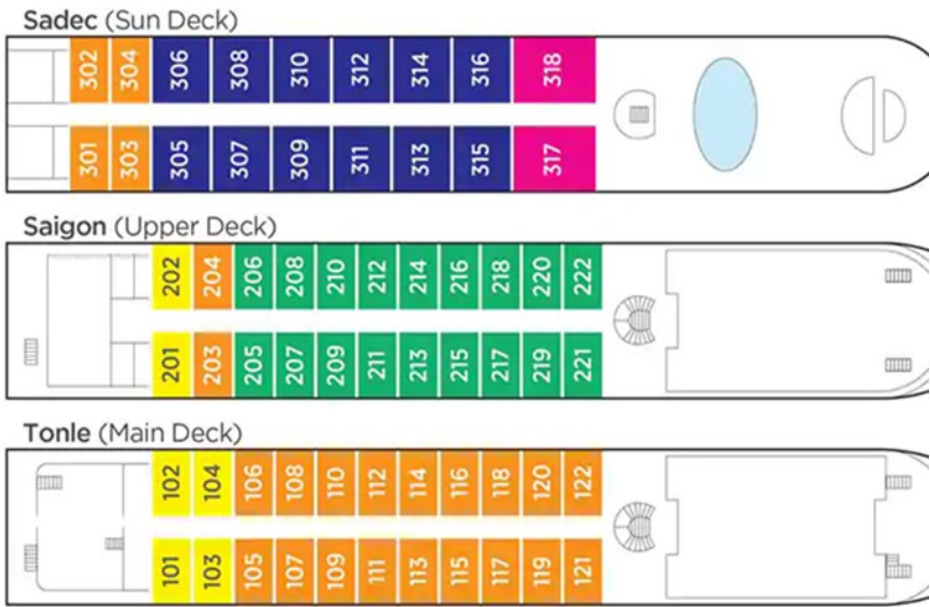
Prepare for your homeward flight. (B)



FEB 17, 2024 CRUISE-TOUR RATES – PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

12-DAY CRUISE- TOUR – HCM TO SIEM REAP	CATEGORY C	B	A	SUITE	LUXURY SUITE
REGULAR RATE	Sold out	\$ 4,996	Sold out	Sold out	Sold out
PLUS - Port Charges - \$224					

AmaDara Deck Plan



Reservations & Information
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