Cruise Details

Name:	Charms of the Mekong (Smithsonian Journeys)
Reference:	AMAKC270118UJ
Operator:	Ama Waterways
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	AmaMaya
Regions:	Mekong
Departs On:	18 Jan 27
Departs From:	Ho Chi Minh City
Arrives On:	25 Jan 27
Arrives At:	Kampong Cham
Cruise Nights:	7
Total Vacation Days:	7

Itinerary

Day 1: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM – MY THO – EMBARKATION. Transfer via motorcoach from Ho Chi Minh City to AmaDara at My Tho Port for your 7-night river cruise and then meet fellow travelers at a Welcome Dinner as the ship cruises to Cai Be. (L,D) * All cruise only guests should meet us at Sofitel Saigon Plaza at 11:30am in Ho Chi Minh City on Embarkation day to join the transfer to the ship in My Tho Port. We recommend that you fly into Ho Chi Minh at least one day prior to embarkation; please inquire about important arrival arrangements prior to your cruise.

Arrives On: 18 Jan 27

Day 1: My Tho (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 18 Jan 27

Day 2: Cái Bè (Vietnam)

CAI BE – SA DEC. Take a local boat to Cai Be. You will have an opportunity to visit candy and rice paper making workshops, or you may also choose to add an active walking tour to the historic Kiet House followed by a visit to candy and rice paper workshops. 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, home to the unique religion of Caodaism in Southern Vietnam. It is a fusion of Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Confucianism. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 19 Jan 27

Day 2: Sa Déc (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 19 Jan 27

Day 3: Tân Châu (Vietnam)

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. You may also choose the trishaw ride with visits to craftsmen’s workshops, followed by an active walking tour to “Evergreen Island.” As a third alternative, explore the stunning Mekong Delta on a small group tour through Vietnam's Tra Su Forest and Sanctuary. This region thrives in lush greenery encompassing majestic cajuput trees, lotuses, water lilies and a carpet of bright green moss in the rainy season that appears to glow as you gently drift through it. Glide by sampan through this diverse ecosystem that includes more than 70 species of birds, including the painted stork and oriental darter.* Later in the day, cruise from Vietnam to the Cambodian border en route to Phnom Penh, the capital city of Cambodia. (B,L,D) *Please Note: Tra Su Forest visit is capacity controlled.

Arrives On: 20 Jan 27

Day 3: Port information not found

Arrives On: 20 Jan 27

Day 4: Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA. This morning, you will visit the Royal Palace and the spectacular Silver Pagoda. After, you also have the opportunity to shop for unique treasures at the bustling Central Market. Alternatively, you can choose to tour the National Museum which has an outstanding collection of Khmer crafts with an expert guide for an in-depth experience. Alternatively, savor a variety of Cambodian delicacies on a special tasting tour in Phnom Penh’s

city center. Enjoy lunch on board before your excursion takes you to Cambodia’s infamous Killing Fields and the Khmer Rouge’s grim Tuol Sleng S21 detention center (Genocide Museum), where you may have the opportunity to speak with a Cambodian Civil War veteran. After returning to the ship, enjoy Khmer folk dancing performed by the local community in the Saigon Lounge. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 21 Jan 27

Day 5: Oudong (Cambodia)

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. Later in the day, experience Phnom Penh via a tuk tuk ride and be enchanted by the city's French Colonial architecture and tree-lined boulevards set amidst monumental Angkorian architecture. (B,L,D)

Arrives On: 22 Jan 27

Day 5: Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 22 Jan 27

Day 6: Oknha Tey Village (Cambodia)

OKNHATEY - ANGKOR 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 AmaWaterways – Marketing Detailed Itinerary July 28, 2025 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)

Arrives On: 23 Jan 27

Day 7: Angkor Ban (Cambodia)

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 to Wat Nokor, perhaps the most treasured monument within the ancient complex of Banteay Prey Nokor. Fusing the Old-World with

the “new,” this centuries-old temple now boasts a contemporary pagoda within its walls inside which you will delight in the colorful depictions of Buddha’s life. Alternatively, board a 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)

Arrives On: 24 Jan 27

Day 7: Kampong Cham (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 24 Jan 27

Day 8: Kampong Cham (Cambodia)

DISEMBARKATION – KAMPONG CHAM – SIEM REAP. Your cruise concludes in Kampong Cham, where you disembark and motorcoach transfer to Siem Reap. (B) *Guests booking cruise only will be transferred from the ship to Sofitel Angkor hotel in Siem Reap. We recommend that you schedule your onward flight to depart Siem Reap after 4:00pm today to avoid potential missed connections.

Arrives On: 25 Jan 27

Day 8: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 25 Jan 27

For more information on this cruise, please call +44 (0)1202 767926.
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