Cruise Details

Name:	Treasures & Temples of Vietnam & Cambodia
Reference:	EMERALDEWHA020527-1
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Harmony
Regions:	Asia
Departs On:	02 May 27
Departs From:	Hanoi
Arrives On:	18 May 27
Arrives At:	Siem Reap
Cruise Nights:	16
Total Vacation Days:	17

Itinerary

Day 1: Hanoi (Vietnam)

Xin Chao and welcome to Vietnam. On arrival in the capital, Hanoi, you'll be transferred to the city and your hotel for your included one-night stay. Relax at the hotel, explore the historic streets of this ancient city, or take a stroll with the locals around wander Hanoi's romantic West Lake. This evening, you'll meet your Tour Director for your Welcome Dinner and briefing for the exciting days ahead.

Arrives On: 02 May 27

Day 2: Hanoi (Vietnam)

This morning after breakfast, you'll leave Hanoi and travel to UNESCO World Heritage-listed Halong Bay where you'll board your elegant Au Co cruise ship. Cruise through the bays, passing countless limestone Karst islets and soak up the magnificent scenery of one of the most spectacular natural wonders in Asia. Enjoy the immersive experiences available on board, learn

more about the key local livelihoods of the region, or simply choose to relax. Towards the end of the day, the ship will anchor for the night in the Trinh Nu area among breathtaking karst formations, where dinner will be served on board. Included Excursion
Two-night Halong Bay cruise on the elegant Au Co cruise ship

Arrives On: 03 May 27

Day 2: Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 03 May 27

Day 3: Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)

Today, continue cruising deeper into the region’s more untouched areas bound for serene Lan Ha Bay. From a smaller boat, enjoy swimming on secluded quiet coves and kayaking in Ho Ba Ham Lake. Later, you’ll pay a visit to Cua Van fishing village, which is reached by rowing boat. Spend the day at this charming community and enjoy a unique glimpse into the traditional life of Vietnamese fishermen and the surrounding natural beauty. Afterwards, you’ll return to your cruise ship and following dinner, can try your hand at squid fishing on board with the crew.

Arrives On: 04 May 27

Day 4: Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)

Enjoy breakfast and sunrise over this magical ‘Bay of the Descending Dragon.’ Then cruise through incredible rock formations and explore mythical Sung Sot Cave, before arriving back at port for your transfer to Hanoi.

On your return to Hanoi, you will explore the Temple of Literature, Vietnam’s first university established to educate Vietnam’s royalty, mandarins and members of the elite. The university functioned for an incredible 700 years, and its charming gardens and well-preserved architecture offer a fascinating glimpse into the nation’s storied past. Later you’ll visit the historic Old Quarter, also known as the ‘36 Streets’. This atmospheric and bustling area of ancient narrow streets and alleys is home to literally thousands of small businesses as well as revered temples and traditional ‘tube houses.’ The Old Quarter is a fascinating place to explore, with plenty of photo opportunities at every turn. You can also visit the local-style Hang Be Market. Then enjoy a stroll around the legendary Hoan Kiem Lake, located nearby in the heart of Hanoi. Here, you can walk across the iconic Red Bridge to ancient Ngoc Son Temple located on Jade Islet within the lake.

Later, enjoy a traditional water puppet show, a unique North Vietnamese art form depicting scenes from rural life and episodes of historical significance. For your EmeraldPLUS experience, enjoy dinner at KOTO (Know One Teach One), a special restaurant established to train and educate disadvantaged children. Included Excursion
Visit Hanoi’s Old Quarter Included Excursion
Traditional water puppet

show EmeraldPLUS
Dinner at KOTO Restaurant

Arrives On: 05 May 27

Day 4: Hanoi (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 05 May 27

Day 5: Hanoi (Vietnam)

Begin your morning city tour and learn about ‘Uncle Ho’, Ho Chi Minh, regarded as the father of modern Vietnam. Admire the exterior of his imposing mausoleum, before continuing to the Ho Chi Minh Quarter to glimpse his humble stilt house and the small but iconic One Pillar Pagoda.

Bid farewell to Hanoi and transfer to Hanoi airport to board your flight to Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known as Saigon. After checking into your hotel, you will be free to explore the city. Included Excursion
Hanoi City Tour

Arrives On: 06 May 27

Day 5: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 06 May 27

Day 6: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

Drive away from Ho Chi Minh City to Cu Chi Tunnels, watching the city skyline fade into the distance as the road winds through rice paddies, villages and scenes typical to southern Vietnam. Spend a couple of hours walking around Cu Chi’s rugged grounds with a local guide. Upon your return to Ho Chi Minh City, enjoy a Pho (noodle soup) lunch with the remainder of the afternoon and evening yours to enjoy at leisure or venture out on one of our DiscoverMORE excursions. Included Excursion
Cu Chi Tunnels DiscoverMORE
An evening Saigon Street Food walking tour (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Saigon After Dark by Vintage Jeep (extra expense)

Arrives On: 07 May 27

Day 7: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

After checkout, enjoy a guided city tour, visiting the Notre Dame Cathedral, Opera House and Town Hall. Then, visit the Reunification Palace before transferring to the port where you will board your Emerald Cruises Star-Ship, Emerald Harmony. You’ll be welcomed on board by your captain and crew before setting sail down the Saigon River to Cho Gao canal where you will anchor

for the night. This evening, enjoy your first dinner on board with your fellow travellers. Your Cruise Director will conduct a port talk to review the activities and itinerary for the days ahead. Included Excursion
An orientation tour of Ho Chi Minh City

Arrives On: 08 May 27

Day 8: Ben Tre (Vietnam)

This morning, you'll cruise through the bustling Cho Gao canal, one of the major arterial canals of Vietnam connecting Tien Giang Province in the Mekong Delta with Ho Chi Minh City. You'll be fascinated watching the heavy commercial traffic navigate this important waterway, where upwards of 1,800 vessels transit each day. Once on the Mekong River, this afternoon you'll visit the Tan My Floating community followed by a ride through local plantations to visit a mushroom farm, a fruit farm with sampling and a honey farm with local sweets. Later, you'll sail onwards to Sa Đéc, a Mekong Delta hidden gem. Included Excursion
Visit the Thoi Binh hamlet and its farming and fishing communities, untouched by tourism

Arrives On: 09 May 27

Day 9: Sa Déc (Vietnam)

After a short sampan ride to Sa Đéc, enjoy a walking tour with a visit to the home of Mr. Huynh Thuy Le, who inspired Marguerite Duras' celebrated novel, L'Amant, and the town's bustling central market. Return to Emerald Harmony by sampan, then sail on to My An Hung Island. Recognised as a cultural and historical destination, this small rural village specialises in cultivating red-hot chilli and peppers. As part of your EmeraldPLUS experience, listen to local folk singing during your visit. EmeraldPLUS
Listen to some local folk singing in My An Hung Included Excursion
A visit to the home of Mr. Huynh Thuy Le and the bustling Sa Dec Markets Included Excursion
A visit to My An Hung village

Arrives On: 10 May 27

Day 9: My An Hung (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 10 May 27

Day 10: Giêng Island (Vietnam)

Known as ‘Mango Island,’ Cu Lao Gieng is a small, scenic island untouched by tourism, located along the upper Mekong River. Travel by local motorcycle rickshaw through the island’s villages to visit families who work in a variety of local industries including Mango farming, different types of boat building and a factory making incense sticks for temples. The afternoon is yours to enjoy at leisure on board. As part of our EmeraldPLUS experience, you’ll delight in a traditional Lion Dance performance on board. EmeraldPLUS
A Lion Dance performance on board Included Excursion
See the local industries in Gieng Island

Arrives On: 11 May 27

Day 10: Long An (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 11 May 27

Day 11: Tân Châu (Vietnam)

Embark on a sampan ride to Evergreen Island for a walk through a local village, giving you a glimpse into the lives of the local farming community. Reboard your sampan and return to Tan Chau and as part of our EmeraldPLUS experience, visit the local Cao Dai Temple. Cao Dai is a syncretic, monotheistic religion established in Tây Ninh, southern Vietnam, in 1926. At the temple, learn more about this fascinating and complex religion. Afterwards, ride in a Xe Loi (local form of cyclo) back to your sampan before returning to Emerald Harmony. Back on board your Star-Ship, you’ll sail to the border between Vietnam and Cambodia. EmeraldPLUS
A visit to a local Cao Dai Temple and Xe Loi ride, unique to the Mekong Delta Included Excursion
A visit to Evergreen Island

Arrives On: 12 May 27

Day 11: Port information not found

Arrives On: 12 May 27

Day 12: Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

This morning, you’ll awake in Cambodia’s capital, Phnom Penh. Known as the ‘Pearl of Asia,’ the city was almost entirely evacuated by the Khmer Rouge in 1975. Today, you’ll learn about the Khmer Rouge and the darkest days of Cambodia’s history. A short drive will take you to the Killing Fields at Choeung Ek, where you’ll have the opportunity to stroll through the fields, visit the memorial and understand more about this country’s sombre chapter. Afterwards,

visit Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum (also known as ‘S-21’), a former school converted to the Khmer Rouge’s main prison and torture HQ. Spend the afternoon as you please, either exploring our DiscoverMORE excursions, visiting the Central Market located in the heart of Phnom Penh, or simply relaxing on board Emerald Harmony. This evening, as part of your EmeraldPLUS experience, enjoy a remork (local Tuk-Tuk) tour through Phnom Penh to admire the city lights. EmeraldPLUS
Phnom Penh by night on a remork (Tuk-Tuk) tour Included Excursion
Killing Fields at Choeung Ek and Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum DiscoverMORE
A silk farm tour at Koh Oknha Tei (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Craft Beer Adventure by remork (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Samai Distillery (extra expense)

Arrives On: 13 May 27

Day 13: Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

Located north of Phnom Penh, Oudong was the former royal capital of Cambodia until it relocated to Phnom Penh in 1866. Start your day with a visit to the Oudong Monastery and Temples. Important remnants here include the burial sites of Khmer kings as well as religious artefacts dating back more than a century. In Oudong Monastery’s main temple, receive a traditional Buddhist blessing from the resident monks, as part of your EmeraldPLUS experience. In the afternoon, you’ll visit the majestic Royal Palace, with its French-inspired gardens and Silver Pagoda. Back on board, as part of your EmeraldPLUS experience, enjoy a cultural performance by the Cambodian Student and Children’s Organisation. Afterwards set sail, gliding past the illuminated Phnom Penh at night, to Rokar Koang, a small town located further up along the up the Mekong River. EmeraldPLUS
A traditional Buddhist Monk blessing EmeraldPLUS
Cultural Performance by the Cambodian Student and Children’s Organisation Included Excursion
A visit to the Royal Palace

Arrives On: 14 May 27

Day 13: Oudong (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 14 May 27

Day 13: Rokar Koang (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 14 May 27

Day 14: Rokar Koang (Vietnam)

Disembark Emerald Harmony in the morning, then continue your journey by road to Siem Reap for your included three-night stay. Upon arrival in this lively northern city, check into your beautiful hotel, a deluxe boutique property of world-class design, which takes great care in honouring the environment and paying homage to the traditional and local aesthetics.

This evening, for your EmeraldPLUS experience, you're invited to Phare, The Cambodian Circus, where a combination of acrobatics, music and dance tell a uniquely Cambodian story. Enjoy a special Emerald DiscoverMORE dinner while attending the circus, to further support Phare's work. EmeraldPLUS
Phare Cambodian Circus performance. DiscoverMORE
Evening – Local Fare at Phare Circus (extra expense)

Arrives On: 15 May 27

Day 14: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 15 May 27

Day 15: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

Today, start with a visit to Angkor Thom, not a single temple such as the historic sites it neighbours, but rather one of the most remarkable royal cities of the Angkor Period and an architectural wonder. As the last capital of the Khmer Empire, it was a fortified city, home to priests, officials of the palace, military and buildings for administering the kingdom. Afterwards, visit the sacred Temple of Ta Prohm. In an incredible standoff between human creation and nature, the jungle's root systems have reclaimed this spiritual location now enshrouded in wild vegetation. The backdrop to many Hollywood scenes, the incredible Ta Prohm is both a cinematic and contemplative location. This evening is free to visit 'Pub Street' or try a DiscoverMORE option. Included Excursion
Visit to Angkor Thom Included Excursion
Visit to Ta Prohm Temple DiscoverMORE
Evening – Gondola Boat ride at Banyon with drinks (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Evening - Cambodian Street Food Discovery Tour (extra expense)

Arrives On: 16 May 27

Day 16: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

Witness a mesmerising sunrise over Angkor Wat. Afterwards, walk through this magnificent UNESCO World Heritage-listed site, renowned for its intricate carvings. This afternoon, enjoy time at leisure to explore the town, or join a DiscoverMORE excursion. Later, as part of your EmeraldPLUS experience, enjoy an immersive evening and farewell dinner, accompanied by an Apsara dance performance. Included

Excursion
Sunrise visit to Angkor Wat EmeraldPLUS
Cultural night dinner show with Apsara dance performance DiscoverMORE
Siem Reap Countryside by Vespa (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Banteay Srei Temple and APOPO (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Tonlé Sap and Lotus Workshop (extra expense, operating Aug-Feb only) DiscoverMORE
Khmer Cooking Class (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Senteurs d'Angkor Workshop (extra expense)

Arrives On: 17 May 27

Day 17: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

After breakfast this morning, you will be transferred to the Siem Reap airport to catch your onward or homebound flight. Rivers and waterways are subject to variations in water levels. While every effort is made to adhere to the planned itinerary, changes in river conditions, ad hoc local government regulations or local festivities may require journey modifications. These will be made based on the advice of local authorities or for safety reasons. Hotels are indicative and are subject to change.

Arrives On: 18 May 27

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

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