Cruise Details

Name:	Grand Tour of Vietnam & Cambodia
Reference:	EMERALDEWHH181226-19
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Harmony
Regions:	Asia
Departs On:	18 Dec 26
Departs From:	Hanoi
Arrives On:	09 Jan 27
Arrives At:	Siem Reap
Cruise Nights:	22
Total Vacation Days:	23

Itinerary

Day 1: Hanoi (Vietnam)

Xin Chao and welcome to Hanoi. On arrival, you'll be transferred to downtown Hanoi and your hotel for your included one-night stay. Relax at the hotel, explore the city, or wander Hanoi's romantic West Lake. This evening, meet your tour director for your welcome briefing.

Arrives On: 18 Dec 26

Day 2: Hanoi (Vietnam)

This morning after breakfast, leave Hanoi and travel to Halong Bay where you will board your elegant Au Co cruise ship. Cruise through the bays and islets enjoying the stunning scenery of this magnificent region. Enjoy the tours offered on board, learn more about the main livelihood of the locals in the area or simply choose to relax. Towards the end of the day, the ship anchors for the night in the Trinh Nu area among the karst formations where dinner will be served on board. Included Excursion
A two-night Halong Bay

cruise on the elegant Au Co cruise ship

Arrives On: 19 Dec 26

Day 2: Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 19 Dec 26

Day 3: Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)

Today, continue sailing further into the region’s more untouched areas towards Lan Ha Bay. From a smaller boat, enjoy swimming on quiet beaches and kayaking in Ho Ba Ham Lake. Then visit Cua Van fishing village by rowing boat. After a full day’s exploration, you’ll return to your cruise ship and after dinner, try your hand at squid fishing.

Arrives On: 20 Dec 26

Day 4: Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)

Enjoy the sunrise and breakfast. Then cruise through breathtaking rock formations and visit Sung Sot Cave, before arriving back at port for your transfer to Hanoi. On arrival back in 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.

This evening enjoy a traditional water puppet show, a unique North Vietnamese art form depicting scenes from rural life and episodes of historical significance. As part of EmeraldPLUS, you'll enjoy dinner at KOTO (Know One Teach One), a unique restaurant set up to train and educate disadvantaged children. EmeraldPLUS
Dinner at KOTO Restaurant Included Excursion
Visit Hanoi’s Old Quarter Included Excursion
A traditional water puppet show

Arrives On: 21 Dec 26

Day 4: Hanoi (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 21 Dec 26

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. Depart Hanoi and transfer to the airport for your included flight to Da Nang (Hoi An). Upon arrival in Hoi An, transfer to your resort for your included three-night stay. Tonight you can join a DiscoverMORE excursion. DiscoverMORE
Hoi An Memories Show (extra expense) Included Excursion
Hanoi City Tour

Arrives On: 22 Dec 26

Day 5: Hoi An (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 22 Dec 26

Day 6: Hoi An (Vietnam)

Today, start with our EmeraldPLUS visit to the Reaching Out Project. Reaching Out is an NGO (non-governmental organisation) established in 2000, which provides opportunities for people with disabilities to learn skills and gain meaningful employment. Visit the workshop and get a glimpse of how this NGO helps them to integrate fully with their communities and lead independent and fulfilling lives. After, enjoy a walking tour of Hoi An and see the old merchant’s houses, the Japanese Covered Bridge and the Assembly Hall of the Chinese Congregation. Tonight, after a dinner menu sampling the local style street food, the evening is yours free to wander the historical lantern lit streets and their many shops or bars. EmeraldPLUS
Reaching Out Project Included Excursion
A walking tour of Hoi An

Arrives On: 23 Dec 26

Day 7: Hoi An (Vietnam)

Enjoy a day of leisure to explore Hoi An and its surroundings. Perhaps take the time to explore the Old Town and visit one of the many tailors Hoi An is known for, or take a cyclo (bicycle style rickshaw) to An Bang Beach. Alternatively venture out on one of our DiscoverMORE excursions. The choice is yours. DiscoverMORE
My Son Historic Kingdom Tour (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Hoi An Rural Life (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Thu Bon River Sunset Cruise (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Red Bridge Cooking Class (extra expense)

Arrives On: 24 Dec 26

Day 8: Hoi An (Vietnam)

Leave Hoi An for Hue, the former imperial capital of Vietnam. You will drive through Danang before crossing the Hai Vân Pass, known as the Ocean Clouds Pass before dropping down to the wonderfully photogenic fishing village of Lang Co. In Hue, you will visit the Imperial Citadel where the Nguyen Dynasty ruled between 1802 and 1945. Enjoy a relaxing cyclo (bicycle-style rickshaw) ride from Dai Noi 'Old City' to Tinh Tam Lake where the Emperors where the emperors used to go to relax. Then later, join a boat trip to visit Thien Mu Pagoda before checking into your hotel for the night. This evening, for your EmeraldPLUS experience, savour a traditional Vietnamese royal dinner menu. Included Excursion
Cyclo ride from Dai Noi 'Old City' to Tinh Tam Lake Included Excursion
A visit to the Imperial Citadel Included Excursion
A boat tour on the Perfume River to Thien Mu Pagoda EmeraldPLUS
A traditional Vietnamese royal dinner at a local restaurant

Arrives On: 25 Dec 26

Day 8: Hue (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 25 Dec 26

Day 9: Hue (Vietnam)

Today, you'll be transferred to Hue airport for your flight south to Ho Chi Minh City, also known as Saigon. After checking into your hotel in downtown District 1, you are free at leisure to explore Vietnam's largest and most dynamic city. Take a stroll around the historic centre to admire the impressive French colonial architecture, or enjoy one of the many Saigoonese restaurants and cafés.

Arrives On: 26 Dec 26

Day 9: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 26 Dec 26

Day 10: 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: 27 Dec 26

Day 11: 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: 28 Dec 26

Day 11: Port information not found

Arrives On: 28 Dec 26

Day 12: Chợ Gạo (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 find this a fascinating sight, observing the heavy commercial traffic navigate this important waterway, where upwards of 1,800 vessels transit each day. During your morning of relaxation on board, soak up the ever-changing passing scenery, enjoy a refreshing dip in the infinity pool, or indulge in a spa treatment (at additional cost).

Once on the Mekong River, this afternoon you'll visit the rural 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 cruise onwards to Sa Đéc, a Mekong Delta hidden gem. Included Excursion
Visit the Thoi Binh hamlet and its authentic farming and fishing communities

Arrives On: 29 Dec 26

Day 12: Ben Tre (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 29 Dec 26

Day 13: Sa Déc (Vietnam)

This morning is a leisurely cruise to Sa Đéc.

Later this afternoon, take a short ride on a sampan to arrive in Sa Đéc, a delightful old provincial city in the heart of the Mekong Delta. Enjoy a walking tour around town with a visit to the home of local resident, Mr. Huynh Thuy Le, who inspired Marguerite Duras' novel L'Amant ('The Lover,'), and the town's bustling central market to peruse its varied produce.

Afterwards return to Emerald Harmony by sampan to anchor for the night. Included Excursion
Visit the home of Mr. Huynh Thuy Le and the bustling Sa Đéc markets

Arrives On: 30 Dec 26

Day 14: My An Hung (Vietnam)

After a short sail with breakfast, transfer ashore by sampan to explore the village life on My An Hung Island. Recognised as a cultural and historical destination, this small village in rural Vietnam specialises in red-hot chilli and peppers. For today's EmeraldPLUS experience, enjoy some local folk singing during the visit to this charming riverine community.

After returning to Emerald Harmony, enjoy an afternoon cruise to Gieng Island. Included Excursion
Visit My An Hung
Village EmeraldPLUS
Listen to local folk singing in My An Hung

Arrives On: 31 Dec 26

Day 15: Giêng Island (Vietnam)

Locally known as 'Mango Island,' Cu Lao Gieng is a small, picturesque 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 various local industries, including mango farming, various types of boat construction and a factory that produces temple incense sticks.

The afternoon is yours to enjoy at leisure on board as we cruise to Tan Chau. Upon arrival and for today's EmeraldPLUS experience, delight in a traditional Lion Dance performance on the Sun Deck of Emerald Harmony. Included Excursion
Visit local industries in Gieng Island EmeraldPLUS
Lion Dance performance on board Emerald Harmony

Arrives On: 01 Jan 27

Day 16: Tân Châu (Vietnam)

In Tan Chau, embark on a sampan ride to Evergreen Island for a walk through a local village, affording an insightful glimpse into the ‘Delta farming community'. You’ll then reboard your sampan returning to Tan Chau for a visit to a local Cao Dai Temple. Cao Dai is a syncretic, monotheistic religion established in Tây Ninh, Southern Vietnam, in 1926. At the temple, you can learn more about the hybrid of philosophies that form the basis of this fascinating and complex religion. Afterwards, take a ride in a Xe Loi, a local form of Cyclo unique to the Mekong Delta, back to your sampan and return to Emerald Harmony. Back on board your Emerald Star-Ship, you’ll cruise towards the border between Vietnam and Cambodia. Included Excursion
Visit to Evergreen Island, a Cao Dai Temple visit and Xe Loi ride

Arrives On: 02 Jan 27

Day 16: Port information not found

Arrives On: 02 Jan 27

Day 17: Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

Welcome to Cambodia. Today, you’ll awake in Cambodia’s capital, Phnom Penh. Known as the ‘Pearl of Asia’ during the French Indochina-era, this city was almost entirely evacuated by the Khmer Rouge regime in 1975. This morning, learn about the Khmer Rouge and the darkest days of Cambodia’s history. A short drive takes you to the Killing Fields at Choeung Ek, where you can stroll through the fields and visit the memorial, understanding more about the country’s sombre chapter.

Afterwards, visit the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum (infamously known as ‘S-21’), a former school converted to the Khmer Rouge’s main prison and torture headquarters. Spend the afternoon as you please, either joining one of our Emerald DiscoverMORE excursions, visiting the Central Market located at in the heart of Phnom Penh, or simply relaxing on board Emerald Harmony.

This evening, as part of your EmeraldPLUS experience, you’ll enjoy an evening remork (local Tuk-Tuk) excursion through Phnom Penh, admiring the glittering city lights. Included Excursion
Killing Fields at Choeung Ek and Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum EmeraldPLUS
Phnom Penh by night on a remork (Tuk-Tuk) tour 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: 03 Jan 27

Day 18: Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

In the morning visit the majestic Royal Palace, captivating with its French-inspired gardens and Silver Pagoda. Once back on board, as part of your EmeraldPLUS experience, you'll enjoy a cultural performance by the Cambodian Student and Children's Organisation. After lunch set sail from Phnom Penh and enjoy an afternoon of relaxed cruising as you continue further up the Mekong River to Angkor Ban. Included Excursion
Visit to the Royal Palace EmeraldPLUS
Cultural Performance by the Cambodian Student and Children's Organisation

Arrives On: 04 Jan 27

Day 18: Angkor Ban (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 04 Jan 27

Day 19: Angkor Ban (Cambodia)

In Angkor Ban, explore its historical rural wooden houses which survived the Khmer Rouge. In the village temple, partake in an alm's ceremony, learn how to pray in a Buddhist pagoda and receive a traditional Buddhist blessing from the temple's resident monks from as part of your EmeraldPLUS experience. Afterwards set sail to your final destination, Peam Chi Korng located further upstream on the Mekong River. Included Excursion
Walk around the historical village of Angkor Ban EmeraldPLUS
A traditional Buddhist Monk blessing

Arrives On: 05 Jan 27

Day 19: Peam Chi Kang (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 05 Jan 27

Day 20: Peam Chi Kang (Cambodia)

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 in to 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: 06 Jan 27

Day 20: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 06 Jan 27

Day 21: 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: 07 Jan 27

Day 22: 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: 08 Jan 27

Day 23: 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: 09 Jan 27

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