



## Cruise Details

Name:	Indochina Mekong Journey
Reference:	EMERALDEWHS110126-2
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Harmony
Regions:	Mekong
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Departs On:	11 Jan 26
Departs From:	Hanoi
<hr/>	
Arrives On:	02 Feb 26
Arrives At:	Ho Chi Minh City
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Cruise Nights:	22
Total Vacation Days:	23

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Hanoi (Vietnam)

Xin Chao and welcome to Hanoi! On arrival, you will be met by your Emerald Cruises representative and transferred to your hotel, situated in downtown Hanoi, for a 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: 11 Jan 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 boat 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

Arrives On: 12 Jan 26

#### Day 2: Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 12 Jan 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. Return to your traditional junk boat after a full day of exploration. Tonight, try squid fishing after dinner.

Arrives On: 13 Jan 26

#### Day 4: Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)

Enjoy the sunrise and breakfast before beginning your cruise back through the magnificent rock formations, visiting Sung Sot Cave before arriving back at port. Bid farewell as you transfer to Hanoi. The remainder of the day is yours at leisure in Hanoi. As part of **EmeraldPLUS** back in Hanoi, you will enjoy dinner tonight at KOTO (Know One Teach One), a unique restaurant set up to train and educate disadvantaged children.

**EmeraldPLUS**  
Dinner at KOTO Restaurant

Arrives On: 14 Jan 26

#### Day 4: Hanoi (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 14 Jan 26

#### Day 5: Hanoi (Vietnam)

Enjoy a morning city tour and learn about Ho Chi Minh, known as 'Uncle Ho' and the father of modern Vietnam, by seeing his mausoleum from outside. Admire the exterior of his imposing mausoleum, his humble stilt house and the One Pillar Pagoda before moving to the nearby Temple of Literature. The Temple of Literature was Vietnam's first university and it was established to educate Vietnam's royalty, mandarins and members of the elite. The university functioned for an incredible 700 years and its gardens and well-preserved architecture offer a fascinating glimpse into the country's past.

After lunch, visit Hanoi's Old Quarter also known as the '36 streets'. This bustling area of narrow streets and alleys is home to literally thousands of small

businesses and shopkeepers. It is a great place to explore with plenty of photo opportunities. Visit Hang Be Market, also located in the Old Quarter, before enjoying a walk around Hoàn Kiếm Lake located in central Hanoi. Here walk across the red bridge to Ngọc Son Temple located on the 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.

**Included Excursion** Visit Hanoi's Old Quarter

**Included Excursion** A traditional water puppet show

Arrives On: 15 Jan 26

#### Day 6: Hanoi (Vietnam)

After a morning at leisure, bid farewell to Hanoi and transfer to Hanoi airport to board your flight to Vientiane, the capital of Laos. Upon arrival, visit The Cooperative Orthotic and Prosthetic Enterprise (COPE). COPE's mission is to help people with mobility-related disabilities move on by supporting access to physical rehabilitation services in the Lao PDR. Check in to your hotel for your included stay.

Arrives On: 16 Jan 26

#### Day 6: Vientiane (Laos)

Arrives On: 16 Jan 26

#### Day 7: Vang Vieng (Laos)

Arrives On: 17 Jan 26

#### Day 7: Vientiane (Laos)

After your breakfast, commence a morning tour of the capital with visits to Pha That Luang, a national symbol that is a gold-covered large Buddhist stupa in the centre of the city and Patuxay Monument, a war monument built between 1957 and 1968 that is dedicated to those who fought in the struggle for independence from France. After lunch drive to Vang Vieng and check into your boutique resort located alongside the Mekong River. For the remainder of the day take in the dramatic vista of the surrounding mountains and countryside from the pool lounge or your balcony.

Arrives On: 17 Jan 26

#### Day 8: Vang Vieng (Laos)

Vang Vieng is home to some amazing natural formations and beautiful landscapes. Take in this natural beauty of the region with visits to the beautiful turquoise 'Blue Lagoons' and Chang Caves, discovered by villagers seeking refuge deep in the forest during the wars. After lunch transfer to the local train station to experience travelling on the new high-speed train to Luang Prabang, the spiritual capital of Laos.

In this UNESCO listed town, enjoy a three-night stay. Later take in the surrounding views from Mt Phousi, a 100m high hill which lies in the heart of the old town peninsula and is bordered on one side by the Mekong River and on the other side by the Nam Khan River.

Arrives On: 18 Jan 26

#### Day 8: Luang Prabang (Laos)

Arrives On: 18 Jan 26

#### Day 9: Luang Prabang (Laos)

Today visit the city's main sites including Wat Xieng Thong, one of the most important and oldest temples in Laos, Wat Mai, the city's largest temple and the former Royal Palace, now converted into the National Museum. Later, enjoy a 2-hour cruise along the Mekong River to explore the Pak Ou Caves (locally called Tam Ting) flooded with thousands of gold Buddha statue buried within a limestone cliff. This well-known attraction is a must-see in Laos. When returning by road, stop at a village to partake in a local game with the villagers. Tonight is yours at leisure leaving you with free time to shop in the well-known night market for those gifts to take back home.

Arrives On: 19 Jan 26

#### Day 10: Luang Prabang (Laos)

A truly beautiful and empowering moment awaits upon the streets of Luang Prabang. Rise early to attend the morning ritual and admire the silent movements of the local monks as they collect their daily alms. Afterwards return to the hotel for breakfast before heading out for the day. Travel to Kuang Si waterfalls, a set of picturesque, tiered waterfalls and swimming holes set amongst the dense jungle before returning to Luang Prabang for lunch.

Later this afternoon as part of your EmeraldPLUS program immerse yourself in local spirituality during a traditional Baci ceremony and pay respects to ancient traditions of Laos. The Baci is performed in celebration of an important event such as weddings, births, or for welcoming guests and is a means of expressing good will and good luck to others. The Lao believe that each person has 32 spirits which constitute their spiritual essence and the Baci is the ritual used to call back any escaped spirits into the body. During the Baci, special flower trays and food treats are prepared which you then touch while a Buddhist mantra is chanted. After the chanting is completed, cotton threads are tied around your wrist whilst you receive an individual

blessing. </p></p><p><strong>EmeraldPLUS</strong><br /><span>Baci Ceremony</span></p>

Arrives On: 20 Jan 26

#### Day 11: Luang Prabang (Laos)

<p><p>Say farewell to Laos and fly to Siem Reap, Cambodia. Sous Sdei and welcome to Cambodia. You will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel for your included three-night stay in Siem Reap. Today meet your Cambodian local guide to learn more about the days ahead.</p></p>

Arrives On: 21 Jan 26

#### Day 11: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 21 Jan 26

#### Day 12: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

<p><p>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 afternoon is free time to visit the markets or try a DiscoverMORE tour.</p></p><p><p>This evening as part of your EmeraldPLUS<strong> </strong>programme, attend Phare, The Cambodian Circus, where a combination of acrobatics, music and dance tell a uniquely Cambodian story.</p></p><p><strong>EmeraldPLUS</strong><br /><span>Phare Cambodian Circus performance.</span></p><p><strong>Included Excursion</strong><br /><span>Visit to Angkor Thom</span></p><p><strong>Included Excursion</strong><br /><span>Visit to Ta Prohm Temple</span></p><p><strong>DiscoverMORE</strong><br /><span>Vespa tour of Siem Reap (extra expense)</span></p><p><strong>DiscoverMORE</strong><br /><span>Evening – Sunset Drinks Gondola Boat at Bayon (extra expense)</span></p><p><strong>DiscoverMORE</strong><br /><span>Evening - Cambodian Street Food Discovery Tour (extra expense)</span></p><p><strong>DiscoverMORE</strong><br /><span>Evening – Local Fare at Phare Circus (extra expense)</span></p>

Arrives On: 22 Jan 26

#### Day 13: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

<p><p>Rise early and witness the sunrise over Angkor Wat. Afterwards walk through this UNESCO World Heritage-listed site known for its elaborate decorations and intricate carvings throughout. This afternoon, enjoy free time to explore Siem Reap, or join a DiscoverMORE excursion. Later, as part of your EmeraldPLUS experience, enjoy an immersive evening and farewell dinner at Satcha Handicraft Centre, accompanied by an Apsara dance performance.</p></p><p><strong>EmeraldPLUS</strong><br /><span>Apsara dance performance and dinner show</span></p><p><strong>Included Excursion</strong><br /><span>Sunrise visit to Angkor Wat</span></p><p><strong>DiscoverMORE</strong><br /><span>Siem Reap Countryside by Vespa (extra expense)</span></p><p><strong>DiscoverMORE</strong><br /><span>Banteay Srei Temple and APOPO (extra expense)</span></p><p><strong>DiscoverMORE</strong><br /><span>Tonlé Sap (extra expense)</span></p><p><strong>DiscoverMORE</strong><br /><span>Khmer Cooking Class (extra expense)</span></p><p><strong>DiscoverMORE</strong><br /><span>Senteurs d'Angkor Workshop (extra expense)</span></p>

Arrives On: 23 Jan 26

Day 14: Prek Kdam (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 24 Jan 26

Day 14: Port information not found

Arrives On: 24 Jan 26

Day 14: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

<p><p>Today, leave Siem Reap and venture to the town of Prek K'Dam to embark your Emerald Cruises award-winning Star-Ship. En route, stop in Kampong Kdei and see the impressive Angkor Bridge, before having lunch at a local restaurant. On arrival, you'll be welcomed by your captain and crew. Later, set sail up the Tonle River to Kampong Tralach whilst you enjoy your first dinner on board with your fellow guests.</p></p>

Arrives On: 24 Jan 26

Day 15: Kampong Tralach (Cambodia)

<p><p>Begin the day with an Ox Cart ride in Kampong Tralach to a local temple before driving to Oudong. Oudong was Cambodia's former royal capital until it relocated to Phnom Penh in 1866. In Oudong Monastery's main temple, receive a traditional Buddhist blessing from the resident monks, as part of your EmeraldPLUS experience.</p></p><p><p>Return to Emerald Harmony and sail to Phnom Penh. Spend the afternoon at leisure, either experiencing one of our DiscoverMORE

excursions, visiting the Central Market, or relaxing on board. After dinner, as part of your EmeraldPLUS experience, enjoy Phnom Penh by night on a remork (local Tuk-Tuk) tour.

**EmeraldPLUS**  
A traditional Buddhist Monk blessing

**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: 25 Jan 26

#### Day 15: Oudong (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 25 Jan 26

#### Day 15: Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 25 Jan 26

#### Day 16: Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

This morning, learn more 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 be able to stroll through the fields, visit the memorial and understand more about the country's sombre chapter. Afterwards, visit the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum (known as 'S-21'), a former school converted to the Khmer Rouge's main prison and torture headquarters. Back on board, savour a Cambodian Street Fair lunch, before visiting the majestic Royal Palace, with its French-inspired gardens. This evening, for your EmeraldPLUS experience, enjoy a cultural performance by the Cambodian Student and Children's Organisation, before sailing for the border.

**EmeraldPLUS**  
Cultural Performance by the Cambodian Student and Children's Organisation

**Included Excursion**  
Killing Fields at Choeung Ek and Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum

**Included Excursion**  
A visit to the Royal Palace

Arrives On: 26 Jan 26

#### Day 17: Port information not found

Today, you'll cross the border into Vietnam and sail on to Tan Chau. Relax on board, or join our DiscoverMORE excursion to Tra Su Bird Sanctuary, before returning for a late lunch on

board.

This afternoon, embark on a sampan to Evergreen Island for a stroll through a local village, revealing the lives of the local farming community. Reboard your sampan to travel back to Tan Chau and as part of our EmeraldPLUS, programme, visit the recently renovated Cao Dai temple. The religion of Cao Dai is a syncretic, monotheistic religion established in southern Vietnam in the city of Tây Ninh in 1926. Here, you will learn more about the mix of ideas that form the basis of this fascinating religion. Afterwards ride in a Xe Loi (local form of cyclo) from the temple back to your sampan before returning to Emerald Harmony where, later this evening as part of our EmeraldPLUS, programme, you'll be delighted by a traditional Lion Dance performance on board.

**EmeraldPLUS**  
A visit to a local Cao Dai Temple and Xe Loi ride

**EmeraldPLUS**  
A Lion Dance performance on board

**Included Excursion**  
A visit to Evergreen Island

**DiscoverMORE**  
A visit to Tra Su Bird Sanctuary (extra expense)

Arrives On: 27 Jan 26

#### Day 17: Tân Châu (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 27 Jan 26

#### Day 18: Giêng Island (Vietnam)

Known as 'Mango Island,' Cu Lao Gieng is a small, scenic island that is 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, boat construction and temple incense sticks.

Return to Emerald Harmony by sampan and sail 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, wander through coconut farms and immerse yourself in traditional village life.

**EmeraldPLUS**  
Listen to some local folk singing in My An Hung

**Included Excursion**  
See the local industries in Gieng Island

**Included Excursion**  
A visit to My An Hung village and its Monkey Bridge

Arrives On: 28 Jan 26

#### Day 18: My An Hung (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 28 Jan 26

#### Day 19: Sa Déc (Vietnam)



Take a short ride on a sampan to Sa Đéc, a Mekong Delta hidden gem. Enjoy a walking tour around town with a stop at the home of Mr. Huynh Thuy Le, who inspired Marguerite Duras' celebrated novel, L'Amant, and a stroll through Sa Đéc's bustling central market. Return to Emerald Harmony by sampan for lunch, while cruising to Cái Bè.

Upon arrival, travel via sampan to Tan Phong, a small island located nearby, rich in alluvial soil suitable for cultivating tropical fruit orchards year-round. At this established ecotourism destination, try a hands-on experience at a workshop specialising in weaving water hyacinth into artistic crafts. Board a motorised buggy for a ride through fruit orchards, stopping to sample tropical fruits. Reboard the sampan and cruise back to Cái Bè, discovering local cottage industries where families produce rice-paper and sweets from pop-corn, pop-rice and coconuts. Return to Emerald Harmony.

**Included Excursion**  
A visit to the bustling Sa Dec Markets and the home of Mr. Huynh Thuy Le

**Included Excursion**  
An excursion to the local industries of Cai Be

Arrives On: 29 Jan 26

#### Day 19: Cái Bè (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 29 Jan 26

#### Day 20: My Tho (Vietnam)

After sailing from My Tho, you'll leave the Mekong Delta and enter the Cho Gao canal, considered one of Vietnam's major arterial canals that connects Tien Giang Province with Ho Chi Minh City. Today, you'll be fascinated watching the heavy commercial traffic navigating this important waterway, where upwards of 1,800 vessels transit each day. Relax on board, taking in the everchanging vistas of mangroves, cargo barges and local fishing boats. Tonight, you'll dock in the heart of Ho Chi Minh City, where you can admire the city lights; due to Vietnamese customs regulations, you'll not be permitted to venture ashore.

Arrives On: 30 Jan 26

#### Day 20: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 30 Jan 26

#### Day 21: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

After disembarkation, drive away from Ho Chi Minh City port 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, enjoy a traditional Pho (noodle soup) lunch then check in to the

Sheraton Saigon Hotel and Towers for your included two-night stay. Tonight join a DiscoverMORE excursion.

**Included Excursion**

Cu Chi Tunnels

**DiscoverMORE**

An evening Saigon Street Food walking tour (extra expense)

One Night in Saigon (extra expense)

Arrives On: 31 Jan 26

#### Day 22: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

Enjoy a guided tour of Ho Chi Minh City, starting with a visit to the city's most iconic building, the Reunification, or Independence Palace. Formerly the South Vietnamese Presidential Palace, images of the building were seen around the world on 30 April 1975 when tanks stormed the gates as Saigon fell to the North Vietnamese. Then, stroll through Ho Chi Minh City's colonial quarter, walking past scenes of everyday life on the way. Admire the beautiful architecture of the Opera House, Notre Dame Cathedral and the old Saigon Post Office and listen to the stories about the glory days of French Indochina and how that era continues to influence aspects of modern Vietnamese culture. Tonight, enjoy your farewell dinner with your fellow guests.

**Included Excursion**

An orientation tour of Ho Chi Minh City

Arrives On: 01 Feb 26

#### Day 23: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

After breakfast this morning, you will be transferred to the Ho Chi Minh City airport to catch your onward or homebound flight.

This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons such as high and low water. As such, the cruise may operate altered from that stated above.

Arrives On: 02 Feb 26

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

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