Cruise Details

Name:	8-Day Majestic Mekong Cruise
Reference:	EMERALDEWVC130528-2
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Harmony
Regions:	Mekong
Departs On:	13 May 28
Departs From:	Phnom Penh
Arrives On:	20 May 28
Arrives At:	Ho Chi Minh City
Cruise Nights:	7
Total Vacation Days:	8

Itinerary

Day 1: Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

Welcome to Cambodia (Please arrive at hotel before 2:00PM). Upon arrival, you'll be transferred to the Hyatt Regency Phnom Penh, before travelling to Rokar Koang to embark your Emerald Cruises award-winning Star-Ship. You'll be welcomed aboard Emerald Harmony by your captain and crew. Later, set sail up the Tonle River, past Phnom Penh at night to Kampong Tralach whilst enjoying your first dinner on board with your fellow guests. Emerald Cruises transfers are only available for flights arriving into Phnom Penh prior to 01:00 PM.

Arrives On: 13 May 28

Day 1: Rokar Koang (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 13 May 28

Day 2: Kampong Tralach (Cambodia)

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.

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: Receive a traditional blessing from a Buddhist monk in a local pagoda. Learn how to pray and take part in a meaningful ceremony that supports the resident monks’ daily meal, gaining a respectful insight into Cambodian spiritual traditions. EmeraldPLUS
Phnom Penh by night on a remork (Tuk-Tuk) tour: See Phnom Penh after dark from a traditional remork, Cambodia’s tuk-tuk. Travel through lively streets and past illuminated landmarks, taking in the capital’s changing rhythm as markets, cafés and evening gatherings bring the city to life. DiscoverMORE
A silk farm tour at Koh Oknha Tei (extra expense)
Board a ferry boat and cross the Mekong River to Koh Oknha Tei Island. Travel by tuk-tuk through the local villages and learn about the farmers lives with a stop at a villager’s house for some local fruit tasting. Continue to Chamka Snae Silk Craft where you can witness the entire process of silk creation, through the life cycle of the silk worm, to the harvesting of the silk cocoons and the creation of beautiful silk weavings on wooden hand looms. Best of all, you may find a lovely handmade souvenir of what you saw being created.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 2.5 hours DiscoverMORE
Craft Beer Adventure by remork (extra expense)
Travelling around Phnom Penh by local remork, visit a couple of local breweries to enjoy a tour of their facilities, and of course, some samples of their craft and local pub grub. Try tasting boards of some of Cambodia’s best–selling craft beers to determine which is your favourite to try again! The tour includes lively visits to an underground brewery, cosy beer gardens, personal brewery tours with the brewers, when available, giving you the opportunity to mix with the locals and expats at their favourite hangouts.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 2.5 hours DiscoverMORE
Samai Distillery (extra expense)
Embark on an immersive journey through the art of rum-making at Samai, Cambodia’s first premium rum distillery. Delve into the meticulous process behind creating handcrafted local rums, each one a testament to the unique flavour profiles and character derived from Cambodia’s rich terroir and natural resources. Engage your senses as you explore the raw materials, savour signature rum tastings, and uncover the secrets of crafting creative rum cocktails. Elevate your experience and skills with a hands-on bartending techniques training session led by an expert mixologist, where you’ll create your own cocktails. Then, immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere of the free-flow bar, accompanied by Latin music and a selection of cold

cuts, as you soak in the ambiance before returning to the ship.
Activity Level: Moderate, Duration: 2.5 hours

Arrives On: 14 May 28

Day 2: Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 14 May 28

Day 2: Oudong (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 14 May 28

Day 3: 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. EmeraldPLUS
Cultural Performance by the Cambodian Student and Children's Organisation: Enjoy an engaging performance by young Cambodian artists, where traditional music and dance share stories of the country's cultural heritage. Colourful costumes, graceful movements and live melodies create an uplifting celebration of Cambodia's enduring artistic traditions. Included Excursion
Killing Fields at Choeung Ek and Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum: Visit the Killing Fields and Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum for a respectful insight into Cambodia's Khmer Rouge era. Reflect among the memorials at Choeung Ek, then explore the former S-21 prison, bearing witness to those who suffered during this devastating period. Included Excursion
Visit to the Royal Palace: Explore Phnom Penh's Royal Palace, the ceremonial residence of Cambodia's monarchy. Admire its ornate Khmer architecture, gilded roofs and elegant courtyards, then visit the Silver Pagoda, home to treasured Buddhist artworks. This striking complex offers a vivid introduction to Cambodia's royal traditions and spiritual heritage.

Arrives On: 15 May 28

Day 4: Port information not found

Today, enjoy a relaxing morning on board Emerald Harmony as you sail to the Cambodia and Vietnam border. Cross the border into Vietnam, then continue onwards to Tan Chau.

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 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
Lion Dance on board: Enjoy a traditional lion dance performed by young artists from rural Vietnam. Colourful lions, dragons and unicorns move to the rhythmic sound of drums, cymbals and gongs in a vibrant performance believed to ward off evil spirits and welcome good fortune. Included Excursion
A visit to Evergreen Island: Explore Evergreen Island, where peaceful waterways and lush landscapes reveal the rhythms of Mekong Delta life. Wander through rural lanes and meet local residents, discovering everyday traditions shaped by the island's close connection to the river. Included Excursion
Local Cao Dai Temple and Xe Loi ride: Visit a local Cao Dai Temple to discover the distinctive beliefs and vivid symbolism of this Vietnamese faith. Then ride by xe lôi, a traditional form of transport unique to the Mekong Delta, along rural lanes framed by everyday village life and verdant landscapes.

Arrives On: 16 May 28

Day 4: Tân Châu (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 16 May 28

Day 5: 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, 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 local folk singing in My An Hung: In My An Hung, listen to local folk singing that brings the village's cultural traditions to life. The gentle melodies and shared performance offer a warm insight into the community's heritage and everyday spirit. Included Excursion
Local industries on Gieng Island: Discover the local industries of Gieng Island, where skilled artisans preserve traditional livelihoods passed down through generations. Visit family-run workshops to see the work behind handmade crafts and local produce, gaining an engaging insight into the island's resourceful community and enduring traditions. Included Excursion
My An Hung Village: Step into everyday life in My An Hung, a rural village in the Mekong Delta. Discover traditional Vietnamese customs through local crafts and cultural performances, meet residents and experience the warmth of a community where time-honoured traditions remain part of daily life.

Arrives On: 17 May 28

Day 5: My An Hung (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 17 May 28

Day 6: 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 popcorn, pop-rice and coconuts. Return to Emerald Harmony. Included Excursion
Mr. Huynh Thuy Le and bustling Sa Đéc: Discover the lively Mekong town of Sa Đéc, where colourful market stalls and riverside streets reveal everyday local life. Visit the former home of Huynh Thuy Le, whose romance with French novelist Marguerite Duras inspired The Lover, and explore its blend of Chinese, French and Vietnamese architectural influences. Included Excursion
An excursion to the local industries of Cai Be: Discover Cai Be's local industries, where family-run workshops preserve traditional skills and flavours. See how regional specialities are made using time-honoured methods, meet the people behind these small-scale enterprises and gain an engaging insight into the Mekong Delta's industrious community life.

Arrives On: 18 May 28

Day 6: Cái Bè (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 18 May 28

Day 7: Chợ Gạo (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: 19 May 28

Day 7: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 19 May 28

Day 8: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

After breakfast this morning, you will be transferred to Ho Chi Minh City airport to catch your onward or homebound flight. Emerald Cruises transfers are only available for flights departing out of Ho Chi Minh City after 12:00 PM. 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: 20 May 28

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

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