Cruise Details

Name:	Wonders of Cambodia, Vietnam & the Mekong
Reference:	EMERALDEWVS030127-29
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Harmony
Regions:	Asia
Departs On:	03 Jan 27
Departs From:	Siem Reap
Arrives On:	17 Jan 27
Arrives At:	Ho Chi Minh City
Cruise Nights:	14
Total Vacation Days:	15

Itinerary

Day 1: 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. In the evening, you'll meet your Cambodian tour director to learn more about the days ahead.

Arrives On: 03 Jan 27

Day 2: 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 afternoon is free time to visit the markets or try a DiscoverMORE tour. This evening as part of your EmeraldPLUS programme, attend Phare, The Cambodian Circus, where a combination of acrobatics, music and dance tell a uniquely Cambodian story. EmeraldPLUS
Phare Cambodian Circus performance. Included Excursion
Visit to Angkor Thom Included Excursion
Visit to Ta Prohm Temple DiscoverMORE
Siem Reap Countryside by Vespa (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Evening – Sunset Drinks Gondola Boat at Bayon (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Evening - Cambodian Street Food Discovery Tour (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Evening – Local Fare at Phare Circus (extra expense)

Arrives On: 04 Jan 27

Day 3: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

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 dinner at Satcha Handicraft Centre, accompanied by an Apsara dance performance. EmeraldPLUS
Apsara dance performance and dinner show Included Excursion
Sunrise visit to Angkor Wat 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: 05 Jan 27

Day 4: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

Today, leave Siem Reap and venture to the town of Rokar Koang 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 you’ll set sail for Angkor Ban while enjoying your first dinner on board.

Arrives On: 06 Jan 27

Day 4: Peam Chi Kang (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 06 Jan 27

Day 4: Port information not found

Arrives On: 06 Jan 27

Day 5: Angkor Ban (Cambodia)

In historic Angkor Ban, visit the rural wooden houses that survived the Khmer Rouge and a classroom that teaches English to local students after regular school lessons. In the village, you'll learn how to pray in a Buddhist pagoda and receive a traditional Buddhist blessing from the resident monks, as part of your EmeraldPLUS experience.

Afterwards, set sail for Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh. Known as the 'Pearl of Asia,' this city was almost entirely evacuated by the Khmer Rouge in 1975. Later, as part of your EmeraldPLUS experience, enjoy an evening remork ride through Phnom Penh, admiring the glittering city lights. Included Excursion
Walk around the historical village of Angkor Ban EmeraldPLUS
A traditional Buddhist Monk blessing EmeraldPLUS
Phnom Penh by night on a remork (Tuk-Tuk) tour

Arrives On: 07 Jan 27

Day 5: Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 07 Jan 27

Day 6: Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

Today, you'll 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 a cultural performance by the Cambodian Student and Children's Organisation Included Excursion
Killing Fields at Choeung Ek and Tuol Sleng Genocide

Museum EmeraldPLUS
Cultural Performance by the Cambodian Student and Children's Organisation 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: 08 Jan 27

Day 7: Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

This morning, you'll visit the majestic Royal Palace with its French-inspired gardens and Silver Pagoda.

After returning on board and enjoying a Cambodian Street Fair lunch, enjoy a relaxed afternoon of cruising as you move onwards to the Cambodian and Vietnam border. Upon entering Vietnam, you'll cruise to Tan Chau.

Later this evening, for your EmeraldPLUS experience, you'll delight in a traditional Lion Dance performance on board. Included Excursion
Visit to the Royal Palace EmeraldPLUS
Lion Dance performance on board Emerald Harmony

Arrives On: 09 Jan 27

Day 7: Port information not found

Arrives On: 09 Jan 27

Day 8: Tân Châu (Vietnam)

In Tan Chau, embark on a sampan ride to Evergreen Island for a walk through a Mekong Delta farming village. Reboard your sampan to travel back to Tan Chau for a visit 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. Once back onboard Emerald Harmony, cruise onwards to An Long. Included Excursion
Visit to Evergreen Island EmeraldPLUS
A visit to a local Cao Dai Temple and Xe Loi ride, unique to the Mekong Delta

Arrives On: 10 Jan 27

Day 9: Long An (Vietnam)

The morning is yours to enjoy at leisure on board or, if you prefer, partake in our DiscoverMORE excursion to Tràm Chim National Park, home to the Tam Nong Ramsar Bird Sanctuary.

After lunch, sail to Gieng Island. 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.

Afterwards, reboard Emerald Harmony and sail to My An Hung Island. Included Excursion
See the local industries in Gieng Island DiscoverMORE
Visit to Tam Nong Ramsar Bird Sanctuary in Tram Chim National Park (extra expense)

Arrives On: 11 Jan 27

Day 9: Giêng Island (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 11 Jan 27

Day 10: My An Hung (Vietnam)

Recognised as a cultural and historical destination, this small Delta village specialises in cultivating red-hot chilli. As part of your EmeraldPLUS experience, enjoy local folk singing, wander through coconut farms and immerse yourself in traditional village life. Return to Emerald Harmony and, after lunch on board, you’ll 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. Included Excursion
Visit to the home of Mr. Huynh Thuy Le and the bustling Sa Đéc Markets Included Excursion
Visit to My An Hung village EmeraldPLUS
Listen to local folk singing in My An Hung

Arrives On: 12 Jan 27

Day 10: Sa Déc (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 12 Jan 27

Day 11: Ben Tre (Vietnam)

After a relaxing morning cruising, this afternoon you’ll visit Tan My Floating community in Ben Tre. Take a ride on a buggy through the local plantations to visit a mushroom farm, a fruit farm with sampling and a honey farm with local sweets. Later, you’ll reboard Emerald Harmony

before sailing on to My Tho. Included Excursion
Visit the Thoi Binh hamlet and its authentic farming and fishing communities

Arrives On: 13 Jan 27

Day 12: Chợ Gạo (Vietnam)

From My Tho, you'll enter the Cho Gao Canal, considered one of Vietnam's major arterial canals that connects the Mekong Delta's Tien Giang Province with Ho Chi Minh City. You'll find it fascinating to watch the heavy commercial traffic navigate this important waterway, which sees upwards of 1,800 vessels transit each day. During your day of relaxation on board, soak up the everchanging passing scenery, enjoy a dip in the infinity pool, or indulge in a spa treatment (at additional cost). 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: 14 Jan 27

Day 12: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 14 Jan 27

Day 13: 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) DiscoverMORE
Saigon After Dark by Vintage Jeep (extra expense)

Arrives On: 15 Jan 27

Day 14: 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: 16 Jan 27

Day 15: 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. 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: 17 Jan 27

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