



Cruise Details

Name:	Wonders of Cambodia, Vietnam & the Mekong
Reference:	EMERALDEWVS041224-2
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Harmony
Regions:	Mekong
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Departs On:	04 Dec 24
Departs From:	Siem Reap
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Arrives On:	16 Dec 24
Arrives At:	Ho Chi Minh City
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Cruise Nights:	12
Total Vacation Days:	13

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: 04 Dec 24

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 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
Evening – Sunset Drinks Gondola Boat at Bayon (extra expense)

DiscoverMORE
Evening - Cambodian Street Food Discovery Tour (extra expense)

DiscoverMORE
Dinner at Phare Circus (extra expense)

Arrives On: 05 Dec 24

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 is free time to visit the town and markets or try a DiscoverMORE tour, before enjoying dinner accompanied, as part of EmeraldPLUS programme, by an Apsara dance performance.

EmeraldPLUS
Apsara dance and dinner show

Included Excursion
Sunrise visit to Angkor Wat

DiscoverMORE
Vespa tour of Siem Reap (extra expense)

DiscoverMORE
A visit to Banteay Srei & Apopo Visitor Centre (extra expense)

DiscoverMORE
A visit to Tonlé Sap (extra expense)

DiscoverMORE
Khmer Cooking Class (extra expense)

DiscoverMORE
Senteurs d'Angkor Workshop (extra expense)

Arrives On: 06 Dec 24

Day 4: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

Today, leave Siem Reap and venture to the town of Koh Khsach Krao 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 to Phnom Penh whilst you enjoy your first dinner on board with your fellow guests.

Arrives On: 07 Dec 24

Day 4: Koh Khsach Krao (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 07 Dec 24

Day 4: Port information not found

Arrives On: 07 Dec 24

Day 5: Oudong (Cambodia)

Wake up in Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh. The city, known as the "Pearl of Asia", was almost entirely evacuated by the Khmer Rouge in 1975. Start your day with a visit to the Oudong Monastery and Temples. Located north of Phnom Penh, Oudong was the former royal capital of Cambodia up until it moved to Phnom Penh in 1866. Important remnants on the temple site include the burial sites of Khmer kings as well as religious artefacts dating back more than a hundred years. In the main temple of the Oudong Monastery, receive a traditional Buddhist blessing from the temple's resident monks as part of your **EmeraldPLUS** programme. Spend the afternoon as you please exploring our **DiscoverMORE** excursions or simply relaxing on board Emerald Harmony. After dinner, as part of your **EmeraldPLUS** programme, enjoy Phnom Penh by night on a remark (Tuk-Tuk) tour.

EmeraldPLUS A traditional Buddhist Monk blessing

EmeraldPLUS Phnom Penh by night on a remark (Tuk-Tuk) tour

DiscoverMORE A silk farm tour at Koh Oknha Tei (extra expense)

DiscoverMORE Craft Beer Adventure by remark (extra expense)

Arrives On: 08 Dec 24

Day 5: Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 08 Dec 24

Day 6: Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

This morning, you will learn more about the Khmer Rouge and the darkest days of the country's history. A short drive will take you to the Killing Fields at Choeung Ek. Here you will have the opportunity to walk through the fields, visit the memorial and learn about this sad historic chapter. Afterwards visit the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum (also known as S-21). This is a former school that was converted to the main prison and torture headquarters of the Khmer Rouge.

Back on-board Emerald Harmony, enjoy a Cambodian Street Fair lunch, before visiting the majestic Royal Palace with its French-inspired gardens, followed by a shopping trip at the Central Market located in the heart of the city. This evening, as part of your

EmeraldPLUS programme, enjoy a cultural performance by the Cambodian Student and Children's Organisation, before setting sail to 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 and Central Market

Arrives On: 09 Dec 24

Day 7: Long An (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 10 Dec 24

Day 7: Tân Châu (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 10 Dec 24

Day 7: Port information not found

Cross the border then sail to Tan Chau. Relax on board this morning or join our **DiscoverMORE** tour of Tràm Chim National Park, home to Tam Nong Ramsar Bird Sanctuary.

This afternoon, embark on a sampan to Evergreen Island for a walk through a local village to get a glimpse into 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.

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

EmeraldPLUS
A Lion Dance performance on board

Included Excursion
A visit to Evergreen Island

Included Excursion
Experience a Xe Loi ride, unique to the Mekong Delta

DiscoverMORE
A visit to Tam Nong Ramsar Bird Sanctuary in Tram Chim National Park (extra expense)

Arrives On: 10 Dec 24

Day 8: Giêng Island (Vietnam)

On Gieng Island you can travel through the island's villages to visit families who work in a variety of local industries including boat building of different types and creating incense sticks for temples. Also visit Vietnam's oldest church.

Return to Emerald Harmony by sampan and sail to My An Hung Island. Recognised as a cultural and historical destination, this small village in rural Vietnam specialises in red-hot chilli and peppers. As part of our **EmeraldPLUS** excursion enjoy some local folk singing during the visit, wander through coconut farms, meet the locals and learn about life in the village.

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: 11 Dec 24

Day 8: My An Hung (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 11 Dec 24

Day 9: Sa Déc (Vietnam)

After a short ride on a sampan to Sa Dec, enjoy a walking tour around town. Stops include the home of Mr. Huynh Thuy Le, who inspired Marguerite Duras' novel L'Amant, and enjoy a walk through the central market to peruse its varied produce.

Return to Emerald Harmony by sampan and, after lunch on board, you'll arrive in Cai Be. Travelling via sampan, visit a coconut candy workshop to learn how coconut candy and other local sweets are made, then visit a local French colonial heritage villa.

Arrives On: 12 Dec 24

Day 9: Cái Bè (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 12 Dec 24

Day 10: My Tho (Vietnam)

After sailing from My Tho leave the Mekong Delta and enter the Cho Gao Canal. This canal is considered one of Vietnam's major arterial canals that connects Tien Giang Province in the Mekong Delta with Ho Chi Minh City. Today is a fascinating day watching the heavy commercial traffic navigate this important waterway which can see upwards of 1,800 vessels transit each day. This is the perfect opportunity to enjoy the ever-changing vistas from the pool, to enjoy a treatment in the Wellness Area (additional expense), or to read a book and chat with new friends. Cruise past mangroves, narrow canals, fish farms, busy cargo barges and local fishing boats alike. Tonight,

dock in the heart of Ho Chi Minh City with views of the city lights. (Due to customs regulations, you will not be able to go ashore this evening)

Arrives On: 13 Dec 24

Day 10: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 13 Dec 24

Day 11: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

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 to Ho Chi Minh City, check into the Sheraton Saigon Hotel and Towers for a two-night stay with 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
One Night in Saigon (extra expense)

Arrives On: 14 Dec 24

Day 12: 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, City Hall 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: 15 Dec 24

Day 13: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

After breakfast this morning, you will be transferred to the Ho Chi Minh City airport for your flight to the UK.

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: 16 Dec 24

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

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