



Cruise Details

Name:	Wonders of Vietnam, Cambodia & the Mekong
Reference:	EMERALDEWVS121224-1
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Harmony
Regions:	Mekong
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Departs On:	12 Dec 24
Departs From:	Ho Chi Minh City
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Arrives On:	24 Dec 24
Arrives At:	Siem Reap
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Cruise Nights:	12
Total Vacation Days:	13

Itinerary

Day 1: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

Fly from the UK to Ho Chi Minh City. Xin Chao and welcome to Ho Chi Minh City! On arrival, you will be met by your Emerald Cruises representative and transferred to your hotel, situated in downtown District 1, for a two-night stay. After checking in, you will be free to explore the city before meeting your tour director for your welcome briefing and dinner at a local restaurant.

Arrives On: 12 Dec 24

Day 2: 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 lunch with 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
One Night in Saigon (extra expense)

Arrives On: 13 Dec 24

Day 3: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

After checkout, enjoy a tour of the city, 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 after lunch 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: 14 Dec 24

Day 3: Port information not found

Arrives On: 14 Dec 24

Day 4: Ben Tre (Vietnam)

This morning travel through the bustling Cho Gao. The Cho Gao canal is one of the major arterial canals of Vietnam connecting Tien Giang Province in the Mekong Delta with Ho Chi Minh City. Today is a fascinating morning watching the heavy commercial traffic navigate this important waterway which can see upwards of 1,800 vessels transit each day. This afternoon once on the Mekong River, you'll visit the Tan My Floating community followed by a ride through the local plantations to visit a mushroom farm, a fruit farm with samplings and a honey farm with local sweets before returning to Emerald Harmony to sail onwards to Sa Đéc, a hidden gem on the Mekong Delta.

Included Excursion
Visit the Thoi Binh hamlet and its farming and fishing communities, untouched by tourism

Arrives On: 15 Dec 24

Day 5: Sa Đéc (Vietnam)

After a short ride on a sampan to Sa Dec enjoy a walking tour around town with stops at 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 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** programme, enjoy some local folk singing during the visit.

EmeraldPLUS Listen to some local folk singing in My An Hung

Included Excursion A visit to the bustling Sa Dec Markets

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

Arrives On: 16 Dec 24

Day 5: My An Hung (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 16 Dec 24

Day 6: 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.

The afternoon is yours to enjoy your free time on board or, if you prefer, partake in a DiscoverMORE optional excursion to the Tam Nong Ramsar Bird Sanctuary in An Long.

Included Excursion See the local industries in Gieng Island

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

Arrives On: 17 Dec 24

Day 6: Long An (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 17 Dec 24

Day 7: Port information not found

Arrives On: 18 Dec 24

Day 7: Tân Châu (Vietnam)

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.

Back on board your luxury Star-Ship, cruise to the border between Vietnam and Cambodia. Whilst at the border, as part of our **EmeraldPLUS** programme, you'll be delighted by a traditional Lion Dance performance on board. Tonight, celebrate crossing the border with a Cambodian-style family dinner.

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

Arrives On: 18 Dec 24

Day 8: Phnom Penh (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. 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. Spend the afternoon as you please exploring our DiscoverMORE excursions or simply relaxing on board Emerald Harmony. In the evening, as part of your **EmeraldPLUS** programme you will have a chance to experience an evening remork (local Tuk-Tuk) ride through Phnom Penh to enjoy the city lights.

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

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

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

DiscoverMORE Craft Beer Adventure by remork (extra expense)

Arrives On: 19 Dec 24

Day 9: Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

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. In the afternoon, you will visit the majestic Royal Palace with its gardens, followed by the Central Market located in the heart of

the city. Back on board, as part of your **EmeraldPLUS** programme, enjoy a cultural performance by the Cambodian Student and Children's Organisation. Afterwards set sail, gliding past the illuminated Phnom Penh at night for a short sail to Koh Khsach Krao.

EmeraldPLUS

A traditional Buddhist Monk blessing

EmeraldPLUS

Cultural Performance by the Cambodian Student and Children's Organisation

Included

Excursion

A visit to the Royal Palace and Central Market

Arrives On: 20 Dec 24

Day 9: Oudong (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 20 Dec 24

Day 9: Koh Khsach Krao (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 20 Dec 24

Day 10: Koh Khsach Krao (Cambodia)

Disembark Emerald Harmony in the morning and continue by road to Siem Reap for your included three-night stay. Stay at the beautiful Shinta Mani, a deluxe boutique property of world-class design that takes great care in honouring the environment and paying homage to the traditional and local aesthetics. 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

DiscoverMORE

Dinner at Phare Circus (extra expense)

Arrives On: 21 Dec 24

Day 10: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 21 Dec 24

Day 11: 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 this evening.

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)

Arrives On: 22 Dec 24

Day 12: 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. Later this evening, enjoy your farewell dinner as part of your **EmeraldPLUS** programme, accompanied by an Apsara dance performance.

EmeraldPLUS
Apsara dance performance and dinner show

Included Excursion
Sunrise visit to Angkor Wat

DiscoverMORE
Vespa tour of Siem Reap (extra expense)

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

DiscoverMORE
A visit to Tonlé Sap (extra expense)

DiscoverMORE
A culinary tour of Cambodia (extra expense)

DiscoverMORE
Senteurs d'Angkor Workshop (extra expense)

Arrives On: 23 Dec 24

Day 13: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

After breakfast this morning, you will be transferred to the Siem Reap 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: 24 Dec 24

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

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