

Cruise Details

Name: Grand Indochina & Luxury Mekong

Reference: SCENICVMCL160126-1L

Operator: Scenic River Cruises

Cruise Type: River

Cruise Rating: Luxury

Ship: Scenic Spirit

Regions: Mekong

Departs On: 16 Jan 26

Departs From: Hanoi

Arrives On: 11 Feb 26

Arrives At: Vientiane

Cruise Nights: 26

Total Vacation Days: 27

Itinerary

Day 1: Hanoi (Vietnam)

Welcome to vibrant Vietnam, a world of colour, culture and food. Enjoy the day at leisure and settle into a two-night Special Stay. This colonial 'grand old lady' of Hanoi boasts luxury rooms and amenities with an exceptional staff to cater your needs and comforts.

Arrives On: 16 Jan 26

Day 2: Hanoi (Vietnam)

Rise and shine to a day of exploration in this nostalgic city with your first Scenic Freechoice.
/p>Freechoice:
br />Choose to visit the History Museum and Hoa Lo Prison. The National Museum of Vietnamese History displays monumental components stretching across every period. Housed in a colonial French building completed in 1932, the design incorporated French colonial and traditional Vietnamese architecture. Continue to Hoa Lo Prison, which was used by the French for political prisoners, and later by North Vietnam for

prisoners during the Vietnam War.

/>cbr />Alternatively, visit Ho Chi Minh Quarter and his Mausoleum, the resting place of Ho Chi Minh himself before visiting the Temple of Literature, originally built in 1070 as a university dedicated to Confucius, scholars and sages. Then discover the charm of the Old Quarter with its narrow alleys and stop at a local coffee shop to savour one of the local favourites, an egg coffee.

/>cbr />Thirdly, visit the ancient village of Bat Trang, a traditional porcelain and pottery community. Interactively learn the intricate steps involved in making these ceramic works of art. Afterwards at a house where locals worship their ancestors, a local elder explains the unique aspects of Vietnamese culture and its spiritual beliefs. Conclude the trip by learning all about Bánh Cuon or rice pancakes, a dish of northern Vietnam that you'll enjoy as part of a tasty self-made lunch of local specialties.
//span>
/p>Enjoy a "green" electric car tour through Hanoi's old quarter to tonight's Enrich activity.
//span>
/p>Enrich
/strong>cbr />cspan>For your Enrich Activity, attend a customary performance of Hanoi's famous water puppets. As a VIP ticket holder, you will have premium seating as well as the opportunity to learn the secrets behind this illusionary show thanks to your special backstage pass.

Arrives On: 17 Jan 26

Day 3: Cát Bà Island (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 18 Jan 26

Day 3: Hanoi (Vietnam)

After breakfast, checkout of your luxury accommodation and begin your four-hour journey to Halong Bay. Along the way you will drive through the prosperous farmlands of the Red River Delta before joining a two-night cruise onboard the new luxury Bhaya Soul for an awe-inspiring trip through the picturesque waters of this spectacular World Heritage-listed icon.
This stunning vessel provides a first-class experience from beginning to end. The luxurious features and suites allow a comfortable and exquisite way to explore Halong Bay reaching areas of the bay far beyond the day trippers and overnight cruises.

Arrives On: 18 Jan 26

Day 4: Cát Bà Island (Vietnam)

After breakfast, enjoy a Tai Chi lesson on the Sun Deck as the ship sails deeper into the National Park. Take control and jump into a kayak to paddle your way through a limestone cave system, and later take a bike ride on Cat Ba Island. Cat Ba Island has to be one of the hidden beauties of the region. Twined with jungle and wildlife, the island remains mainly untouched from large development.
After your adventure ashore head back to the ship to enjoy an exclusive to Scenic quests Sundowners activity whilst at anchor. Soak up the aromas in a

wine tasting set against the backdrop of the karst Islands at sunset. Later, after enjoying the fine local cuisine in the onboard restaurant, try your hand at some squid fishing from the boat.

Arrives On: 19 Jan 26

Day 5: Cát Bà Island (Vietnam)

Relax during your morning cruise back to the harbour. After stopping for lunch and shopping en-route back to Hanoi, arrive back for an overnight stay. Later join a historical bunker tour at the hotel to learn about its place in the history of this capital city, a history that spans over 1000 years.
/p>Freechoice Dining:
for />Tonight, you have a choice of venues for your dinner through Scenic's Freechoice. Inspired by Parisian cafés, enjoy a taste of France right in the heart of Hanoi's bustling street life at the La Terrace at your hotel.
for indulge in Vietnamese dishes with a refined Indochine style at Ha Thanh Mansion Restaurant, housed within a century-old villa that stands as a testament to the rich history of Tonkin.
Tonkin.
For the more adventurous, ride tandem on the back on a Vespa with a guide for a foodie tour of Hanoi's Old Quarter, stopping at local food haunts for authentic Hanoi Street food with free flow drinks enabling you get a feel of the nightlife and vibe of the local Hanoi culture.

Arrives On: 20 Jan 26

Day 5: Hanoi (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 20 Jan 26

Day 6: Hanoi (Vietnam)

After breakfast, check-out and transfer to Hanoi Airport for your flight to Danang. Upon arrival continue south past Marble mountains to the ancient trading port town of Hoi An. Here enjoy a three-night stay at your resort, which includes a daily spa journey as part of your stay.Freechoice Dining:

 />After you have settled into your little slice of heaven, take the opportunity to enjoy a range of carefully selected dining venues for your Scenic Freechoice dining.Dine on Vietnamese street food style dishes at Morning Glory Signature Restaurant or choose Mango Mango Restaurant nestled in the heart of Hoi An's Ancient Town.Alternatively, nestled amongst the surrounding farmland, dine in the middle of rice paddies in a cosy and romantic setting whilst enjoying traditional Vietnamese and fusion cuisine at The Field Hoi An Restaurant and Bar.

Arrives On: 21 Jan 26

Day 6: Hoi An (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 21 Jan 26

Day 7: Hoi An (Vietnam)

Step back in time as you take a walking tour of Hoi An's World Heritage-listed Old Quarter, visiting the Japanese Bridge and central market where you can experience its incredible sights and aromas. Afterwards try some local street food specialties of Hoi An such as Com Gà, Cao Lau and Bánh Mì at a local restaurant.
The afternoon is at your leisure, perhaps to get a massage using your included spa treatment, swim in the hotel's large resort style pool or continuing shopping in the old town, visiting the many tailors the town is known for.
Sunset Drinks
br />Enjoy your Scenic Sundowners, a time to relax at a reception in the Blue Bar with included beer and wine.

Arrives On: 22 Jan 26

Day 8: Hoi An (Vietnam)

Start the day refreshed and ready to join your Scenic Freechoice activity.Freechoice:
The option of a half day drip to My Son provides a glimpse into the area's ancient history and a truly cultural highlight of Central Vietnam. The remaining structures of the Tower Temples provide an atmospheric image of the majesty of the Champa Kingdom. Stroll through the ruins and visit the small museum at the entrance to My Son before a local lunch.

->br />The second option is to ride a bicycle to a local village to learn about the local lives of Hoi An's fishermen. Climb into a small, round bamboo fishing basket and learn to cast a fishing net in the traditional way. Then continue to an area filled with water palms and coconut trees and learn about the history of this part of Hoi An. Round off the with the representative of Reaching Out, an NGO established in 2000 and gain an insight into their efforts in providing opportunities for people with disability to learn skills and gain meaningful employment. Undertake a Lantern Making Class at their workshop located at an old merchant house and get a glimpse into how this NGO helps the disabled to integrate fully with their communities and lead independent and fulfilling lives.

Alternatively, you have the choice of participating in a bicycle ride to a local farm in Tra Que Village. Soak in the beauties of the vegetable gardens and participate in the preparation of the land and fertilizing it with seaweed with the local farmers. You will learn how to prepare 'Tam Hu'u', a local delicacy before sitting down for a home cooked meal including 'Banh Xeo' a specialty savory pancake wrapped in rice paper.After your morning of adventures, arrive back at the Almanity Resort where you are then free to head back into town to explore on your own.

Arrives On: 23 Jan 26

Day 9: Hoi An (Vietnam)

This morning travel via the breath-taking Hai Van Pass to Hue, the former imperial capital. During an inspiring visit to Duc Son Pagoda, talk with the nuns and learn how they are supporting their orphanage through different initiatives, including the proceeds from your Vegetarian lunch at Tinh Tam Restaurant. In the afternoon, wander though the grandeur of Hue's Imperial Citadel ruins before enjoying a cyclo ride back to the hotel. Afterwards check into your hotel in Hue, your home for the night.
/span>
/>Traditional Vietnamese cuisine is served family style at the private Garden House accompanied by Royal Hue court music and a glass of wine.

Arrives On: 24 Jan 26

Day 9: Hue (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 24 Jan 26

Day 10: Hue (Vietnam)

Your final day in the centre of Vietnam starts with breakfast before checking out and setting off on a morning excursion to the Mausoleum of Emperor Tu Duc, the last independent emperor of Imperial Vietnam before French colonisation. After exploring the grounds, head to the airport for your flight to Ho Chi Minh City.After your flight to Ho Chi Minh City, transfer to your hotel for the next two nights. Before dinner take a leisurely walk around Notre Dame Cathedral, the Opera House, and the Central Post Office.

Arrives On: 25 Jan 26

Day 10: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 25 Jan 26

Day 11: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

After breakfast, travel to the Cu Chi Tunnels and spend the morning learning about the development and establishment of this hidden covered tunnel network that the Viet Cong soldiers hid in for months on end. Return to the city for a Pho lunch with the remainder of the afternoon at leisure.
/span>
Freechoice Dining:
br />Tonight, choose your Scenic Free Choice dining option from an exhilarating Vespa ride at night as your experienced driver winds in and out the hectic traffic of the streets, stopping at all the best local spots for the most scrumptious Vietnamese cuisines. Sample the best authentic street food and an unlimited supply of drinks and eating however much your stomach desires.
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Alternatively, dine at Mandarine Restaurant, designed in the style of the Hue imperial court serving individual

Vietnamese dishes.

/>cbr />cbr />Or for something totally different dine at Noir Dining in the Dark, a restaurant dedicated to helping the blind and visually impaired community.

/>choices include experiencing the street food and bars of Saigon on a Vintage Jeep or enjoying the offerings at Buffet 19 at your hotel.

Arrives On: 26 Jan 26

Day 12: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 27 Jan 26

Day 12: Port information not found

Arrives On: 27 Jan 26

Day 13: Cái Bè (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 28 Jan 26

Day 13: Sa Déc (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 28 Jan 26

Day 14: Port information not found

Arrives On: 29 Jan 26

Day 14: Tân Châu (Vietnam)

You may want to start with some exercise in the on-board gym, try stretching at the early morning yoga class or relax in the sauna. Then set off to discover the areas surrounding Tan Chau. Freechoice:
You could leave the city life behind at Tra Su Bird Sanctuary in Tra Su Forest. Travel by sampan through endless tranquil waterways, flanked by mangroves and lush greenery. This eco reserve spans 850 hectares and is an ecological haven for fauna and flora, home to more than 100 species of waterbirds.

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br />Or experience a traditional way of life on Evergreen Island, joining local farmers for a morning of discovery. Back in Tan Chau, ride in a xe loi, a three-wheeled bicycle rickshaw that was introduced by the French in the 19th century and is a common form of transportation in rural Vietnam. Visit the recently renovated, brightly coloured Cao Dai temple. Caodaism is a new religion, established in 1926 in the southern Vietnamese city of Tây Ninh, and brings together beliefs and practices from Buddhism, Christianity, Taoism and Confucianism. Here, you will learn more about the mix of ideas that form the basis of this fascinating religion.

For your third choice, board a speedboat to visit Chau Doc, a major city in the Mekong Delta, and Tay An temple. Set at the foot of Sam Mountain, this elaborate temple is a mixture of Indian and Islamic architecture. Afterwards, board another sampan to visit Vinh Te canal and view life along the riverfront of Chau Doc, before

stopping at a family-operated fish farm on your way back to Scenic

Spirit.After lunch upon your arrival back on board, enjoy sailing to the Vietnamese and Cambodian border. Some down time is a great way to relax and what better way to do that than heading to the Wellness Centre or Beauty Salon for a bit of pampering. After the ship clears immigration into Cambodia at the border, settle in for an overnight sail towards Phnom Penh, bidding farewell to Vietnam.

Arrives On: 29 Jan 26

Day 15: Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

Welcome to Cambodia, arriving into the capital of Phnom Penh early this morning. After breakfast, it will be time to head out and explore the city.
You can choose to journey to the infamous Killing Fields and take a tour of the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, housed inside a former prison. These sites are a sobering reminder of the terrors unleashed by the Khmer Rouge regime in the 1970s. This moving tour will give you a deeper insight into the tumultuous history of Cambodia and the resilience of its people.

y-cooking class. Take a trip to the bustling market with a local chef to purchase your ingredients, then head back to the kitchen to cook your own lunch, testing out the styles and flavours of Cambodian cuisine.

-> br />Alternatively, travel by remok, a local style of tuk tuk, to explore the French architecture and history of Phnom Penh. Finish the tour with shopping at the Central Market, famed for its unique Art Deco design and bright yellow façade.At the conclusion of your tour, return to Scenic Spirit for lunch. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure.Sunset Drinks
Later this evening, revel in our Phnom Penh by City Lights tour. You'll get to witness the nightlife of the capital before stopping at a local rum distillery for your exclusive Scenic Sundowners experience, including a private tour and tasting.

Arrives On: 30 Jan 26

Day 16: Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

Board a bus this morning for the short drive to the ancient capital of Cambodia, Oudong. Here, experience the life of the monks and nuns who reside at the peaceful monastery. If you are lucky, you may be able to partake in one of the many festivals and traditional rituals often held here.
/p>After you return to the city, discover the opulence of Phnom Penh's Royal Palace and the famous Silver Pagoda within. Set on the riverfront, this dazzling palace was built in the 1860s and still serves as the official residence of the King of Cambodia. After returning to the ship and before setting sail, enjoy a cultural performance by the Cambodian Student and Children's Organisation.
Sunset Drinks
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backdrop of Phnom Penh's lights and stunning scenery as the ships sets sail towards Oknha Tey, commonly known as Silk Island.

Arrives On: 31 Jan 26

Day 16: Oudong (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 31 Jan 26

Day 17: Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

This morning, you will explore the island of Oknha Tey, dedicated to the art of silk weaving. Travel by traditional tuk tuk to the farm, meet the workers and learn about silk production. Return to Scenic Spirit for lunch and some free time. This could be the perfect opportunity to escape the heat of a South East Asian afternoon with a swim in the pool and a refreshing cocktail.
After lunch, you will call at Angkor Ban, a small settlement where time stands still. Explore its historic wooden houses, which date back over 100 years and survived the destruction of the Khmer Rouge. You can also visit a local school that teaches English to the students alongside their regular lessons. Back on board, learn the many ways to wear a krama, the traditional Cambodian scarf, as the ship sails towards Kampong Cham.

Arrives On: 01 Feb 26

Day 17: Angkor Ban (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 01 Feb 26

Day 18: Kampong Cham (Cambodia)

established by the French before stopping at a village known for growing betel nut, an important part of Cambodian culture.

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Story of Cambodian culture.

Story of Cambodian culture.<br/

Arrives On: 02 Feb 26

Day 18: Kampong Cham (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 02 Feb 26

Day 19: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 03 Feb 26

Day 20: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

The second day of your Siem Reap exploration starts with a delicious champagne buffet breakfast at the hotel.Freechoice:
As part of Scenic's Freechoice you have multiple options to choose from. Explore the 10th-century Banteay Srei Temple, a temple commonly referred to as the Ladies Temple because of its pinkish sandstone and dedication to the Hindu god Shiva. Afterwards visit the Landmine Museum, founded in 1997 with the aim to make the country safe through the removal of mines.

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founded in 1997 with the aim to make the country safe through the removal of mines. />On another option visit Senteurs d'Angkor workshop to try your hand at producing your own local souvenir. Through different hands-on workstations, discover how the artisans make by hand soap with coconut oil, natural cosmetics, subtly scented balms, aromatic candles and local spices in Lake (July to February), a picturesque UNESCO biosphere reserve and dive deep into discovery when visiting and experiencing the life of a floating village.

Or take flight in a tethered balloon to discover the aerial beauties of the combination between traditional and modern Siem Reap. Enjoy the fresh air and take some remarkable photographs of the skyline as you lift into the skies of Siem Reap overlooking Angkor Wat below before visiting a Lotus Flower workshop.Later this afternoon explore Angkor Wat itself, the largest religious monument in the world. Originally constructed as a Hindu temple dedicated to the god Vishnu for the Khmer Empire, it was gradually transformed into a Buddhist temple towards the end of the 12th century. An afternoon visit provides the perfect light for those idealic pictures of this colossal structure. After the day of adventure, tonight is free to shop away at the night markets of Siem Reap or venture to Pub Street, both in walking distance or a short tuk tuk ride from your

hotel.

Arrives On: 04 Feb 26

Day 21: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

Enrich
Begin the day with an early morning Scenic Enrich, marvel at the sunrise over the magnificent Angkor Wat before moving to a special location near a temple for a scrumptious champagne breakfast with food prepared by a Scenic sponsored, NGO supported local bakery school. After breakfast, visit the atmospheric, jungle covered Ta Prohm Temple, before stopping at Angkor Thom and the multi-faced Bayon Temple. Fortunately, you have the remainder of the afternoon to discover more of the Siem Reap markets or relax at your luxury hotel after your early morning start.Enrich
The final Scenic Enrich is truly a special and exclusive one, one that is best experienced first-hand to fully appreciate it's scale. Your tour directors and Scenic team will leave you in awe as you enter a private magical gala themed dinner at Prasat Kravan, a small 10th-century temple consisting of five reddish brick towers on a common terrace. Including free flow drinks and a show featuring Apsara dancers in front of the candle lit temple ruins, this evening brings a most incredible end to what is a remarkable trip.

Arrives On: 05 Feb 26

Day 22: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

Checkout this morning and transfer to Siem Reap Airport. Fly to Luang Prabang, the spiritual capital of Laos, for a three-night Special Stay. This luxury property is in a prime location of this UNESCO heritage city. The vast amount of greenery and island like décor provides the ultimate stay in this colonial style building.

Arrives On: 06 Feb 26

Day 22: Luang Prabang (Laos)

Arrives On: 06 Feb 26

Day 23: 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. 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: 07 Feb 26

Day 24: Luang Prabang (Laos)

Arrives On: 08 Feb 26

Day 25: Luang Prabang (Laos)

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.
After lunch transfer to the local train station to experience travelling on the new high-speed train to Vang Vieng. Check into your boutique resort located alongside the Mekong River and take in the dramatic vista of the surrounding mountains and countryside from the pool lounge or your balcony.

Arrives On: 09 Feb 26

Day 25: Vang Vieng (Laos)

Arrives On: 09 Feb 26

Day 26: 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.
ye>Later drive to the capital, Vientiane, a city full of a mix of French colonial architecture and Buddhist temples. 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.
ye>Later check into your hotel for an overnight stay. This evening enjoy your delicious farewell dinner and relive the memories together from your journey.

Arrives On: 10 Feb 26

Day 26: Vientiane (Laos)

Arrives On: 10 Feb 26

Day 27: Vientiane (Laos)

After your breakfast, commence a morning tour of the capital including 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.
/span>
p>Then say farewell to Laos with many wonderful memories and fly to Bangkok where your journey ends on arrival.
/span>
p>Please book your flight to depart out of Bangkok after 07:00
PM.
p>This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons such as high and low water. As such, disruptions to cruising and alteration to itinerary arrangements may occur. Hotels are indicative and are subject to change.
/span>

Arrives On: 11 Feb 26

Day 27: Bangkok (Thailand)

Arrives On: 11 Feb 26

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