

8-Day Majestic Mekong Cruise

Day 1, Sat, February 21st

Phnom Penh - Prek K'Dam

Welcome to Cambodia (Please arrive at the hotel before 1400). Upon arrival, you'll be transferred to the Hyatt Regency Phnom Penh, before travelling to Prek K'Dam to embark on your Emerald Cruises award-winning Star- Ship. You'll be welcomed aboard Emerald Harmony by your captain and crew. Later, you'll set sail for Kampong Tralach.

Day 2, Sun, February 22nd

Kampong Tralach - Oudong - Phnom Penh

Begin the day with an Ox Cart ride in Kampong Tralach to a local temple, followed by a drive 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 remark (local Tuk-Tuk) tour.

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A traditional Buddhist Monk blessing

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

DiscoverMORE

A silk farm tour at Koh Oknha Tei (\$35 per person) Activity Level: Moderate 2.5 hours

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 home 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 silkworm 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.

DiscoverMORE

Samai Distillery Tour (\$66 Per Person) Activity Level: Easy 2.5 hours

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 flavor profiles and character derived from Cambodia's rich terroir and natural resources. Engage your senses as you explore the raw materials, savor 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.

DiscoverMORE

Craft Beer Adventure by remark (\$70 per person) Activity Level: Moderate 2.5 hours

Travelling around Phnom Penh by local remark, visiting multiple 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 favorite. The tour includes lively visits to an underground brewery, cozy beer gardens, and personal brewery tours with the brewers, when available, allowing you to mix with the locals and expats at their favorite hangouts.

Day 3, Mon, February 23rd

Phnom Penh

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 can stroll through the fields, visit the memorial, and gain a deeper understanding of the country's somber chapter. Afterwards, visit the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum (known as 'S-21'), a former school converted to the Khmer Rouge's central prison and torture headquarters. Back on board, savor 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 Organization, before sailing for the border.

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Cultural Performance by the Cambodian Student and Children's Organization

Included Excursion

Killing Fields at Choeung Ek and Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum

Included Excursion

A visit to the Royal Palace

Day 4, Tue, February 24th

Cross Vietnam/Cambodia Border - Tan Chau

Today, you'll cross the border into Vietnam and sail on to Tan Chau. Relax on board, or join our DiscoverMORE excursion to Tra Su Bird Sanctuary, before returning for a late lunch on board. This afternoon, embark on a sampan to Evergreen Island for a stroll through a local village, where you'll discover the lives of the local farming community. Reboard your sampan to travel back to Tan Chau, and as part of our EmeraldPLUS program, visit the recently renovated Cao Dai temple. The Cao Dai religion is a syncretic, monotheistic faith established in southern Vietnam, specifically in the city of Tay 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 program, you'll be delighted by a traditional Lion Dance performance on board.

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A visit to a local Cao Dai Temple and Xe Loi ride

Emerald PLUS

A Lion Dance performance on board

Included Excursion

A visit to Evergreen Island

DiscoverMORE

A visit to Tra Su Bird Sanctuary (\$55 per person) Activity level: Active 4 hours

Depending on your itinerary, visit either Tra Su or Tam Nong Bird Sanctuary. These wildlife sanctuaries are estimated to house over a quarter of Vietnam's bird sanctuaries. You'll be guided on a tranquil paddle boat along the gnarled, green sunken forest, observing the most unique fauna.

MOBILITY NOTE: NOT RECOMMENDED FOR GUESTS WITH MOBILITY ISSUES

Day 5, Wed, February 25th

Gieng Island – My An Hung

Known as 'Mango Island,' Cu Lao Gieng is a small, scenic island that is 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. Recognized as a cultural and historical destination, this small rural village specializes in cultivating red-hot chili and peppers. As part of your EmeraldPLUS experience, listen to local folk singing, wander through coconut farms, and immerse yourself in traditional village life.

Emerald PLUS

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

Day 6, Thurs, February 26th

Sa Dec – Cai Be

Take a short ride on a sampan to Sa Dec, a Mekong Delta hidden gem. Enjoy a walking tour around town with a stop at the home of Mr. Huynh T huy Le, who inspired Marguerite Duras' celebrated novel, L'Amant, and a stroll through Sa Dec's bustling central market. Return to Emerald Harmony by sampan for lunch, while cruising to Cai Be. 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 specializing in weaving water hyacinth into artistic crafts. Board a motorized buggy for a ride through fruit orchards, stopping to sample tropical fruits. Reboard the sampan and cruise back to Cai Be, discovering local cottage industries where families produce rice-paper and sweets from popcorn, pop-rice, and coconuts. Return to Emerald Harmony.

Included Excursion

A visit to the bustling Sa Dec Markets and the home of Mr. Huynh T huy Le

Included Excursion

An excursion to the local industries of Cai Be

Day 7, Fri, February 27th**My Tho – Ho Chi Minh City**

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 vital waterway, where upwards of 1,800 vessels transit each day. Relax on board, taking in the ever-changing 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.

Day 8, Sat, February 28th**Ho Chi Minh City Disembarkation**

After breakfast this morning, you will be transferred to Ho Chi Minh City airport to catch your onward or homebound flight. This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons, such as high and low water levels. As such, the cruise may operate differently from that stated above.