Mekong Delta & Angkor Temples: Vietnam & Cambodia 9-Day Journey

9D / 8N	Easy	Private	USD 745 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Depart from Ho Chi Minh City on an immersive 9-day tour, traversing the Mekong Delta's waterways to Vinh Long, Can Tho, and Chau Doc, before a speedboat transfer to Phnom Penh and Siem Reap in Cambodia. Discover bustling floating markets, ancient temples, and vibrant local life across two fascinating countries.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Ho Chi Minh City → My Tho → Can Tho → Chau Doc → Phnom Penh → Siem Reap

TOUR OVERVIEW

Tour Overview

This comprehensive 9-day, 8-night adventure begins in the dynamic Ho Chi Minh City, offering a deep dive into Vietnam's southern culture and history. Travelers will journey through the fertile Mekong Delta, experiencing its unique riverine lifestyle, before crossing into Cambodia. The tour culminates with an exploration of Cambodia's majestic ancient wonders in Phnom Penh and the iconic Angkor temple complex in Siem Reap, providing a rich blend of cultural immersion, historical insight, and natural beauty.

Journey Highlights

Experience the vibrant contrasts of urban centers and serene rural landscapes. Explore historical sites that tell compelling stories, and witness daily life along the Mekong River. This itinerary is designed for those seeking a profound connection with the heritage and natural splendor of Southeast Asia.

Route Summary

The expedition starts in Ho Chi Minh City, then proceeds south into the Mekong Delta, visiting My Tho, Can Tho, and Chau Doc. From Chau Doc, a speedboat transports you to Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh. The final leg of the journey involves a transfer to Siem Reap for an extensive exploration of the Angkor archaeological park and Tonle Sap Lake, offering a diverse and engaging travel experience.

Who This Tour Suits

This tour is ideal for families and private groups interested in a blend of cultural discovery, historical exploration, and natural landscapes. It caters to those who appreciate guided experiences through significant landmarks and enjoy interacting with local traditions. The pace allows for comprehensive sightseeing without being overly strenuous, making it suitable for a wide range of travelers.

Practical Information

Accommodation is provided in comfortable hotels throughout the journey. Meals are included as specified in the itinerary, offering a taste of local cuisine. Transportation is arranged via private vehicles, boats, and a speedboat for the international transfer, ensuring a smooth and convenient travel experience. English-speaking local guides accompany you at key destinations to enhance your understanding and enjoyment of the sites.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

* Discover the historic Cu Chi Tunnels, an intricate underground network.

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* Experience a half-day city tour of Ho Chi Minh City's colonial architecture and landmarks.
* Cruise the Mekong Delta's narrow waterways, visiting orchards and local workshops.
* Witness the bustling Cai Rang Floating Market from a traditional boat.
* Explore Phnom Penh's Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda, and National Museum.
* Marvel at the ancient temples of Angkor Wat and the Bayon in Angkor Thom.
* Observe daily life in the stilt villages of Kompong Phluk on Tonle Sap Lake.
* Enjoy traditional southern Vietnamese music and an Elephant's Ear Fish lunch.
* Shop for local crafts at Phnom Penh's Russian Market and Siem Reap's Angkor Night Market.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 — Ho Chi Minh City Arrival & Leisure

Stay: Vien Dong Hotel | Transport: Private transfer

Upon your arrival at Tan Son Nhat International Airport (SGN) in Ho Chi Minh City, a pre-arranged transfer will meet you and provide comfortable transportation directly to your hotel. After checking in, the remainder of your day is free for personal exploration or relaxation. You might choose to unwind at the hotel or take a gentle stroll to familiarize yourself with the immediate surroundings of this bustling metropolis.

This initial period offers a chance to settle in and prepare for the adventures ahead, whether that involves enjoying a local meal, exploring nearby shops, or simply resting after your journey. Take advantage of the free time to adjust to the local rhythm and climate.

Activities: Airport pickup and hotel transfer
Free time for personal leisure

Day 2 — Ho Chi Minh City Landmarks & Cu Chi Tunnels

Meals: B, L | Stay: Vien Dong Hotel | Transport: Private vehicle

Your day begins at 8:00 AM with a hotel pickup for a captivating half-day tour of Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known as Saigon. The morning itinerary includes visits to significant historical and architectural sites such as the former Presidential Palace, a pivotal location in Vietnamese history. You will also explore the War Remnants Museum, offering poignant insights into the country's past conflicts. Further stops include the iconic Notre Dame Cathedral and the historic Saigon Central Post Office, both showcasing French colonial influences.

After a local lunch, the afternoon takes you approximately 65 kilometers (a 1.5-hour drive) outside the city to the remarkable Cu Chi Tunnels. This extensive underground network, constructed by Viet Cong guerrillas, played a crucial role during the war. En route, observe rural Vietnamese life, with glimpses of cashew nut farming, duck breeding, and the traditional production of rice paper. The tour concludes around 5:00 PM with your return to Ho Chi Minh City, leaving your evening free.

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Activities: Visit the former Presidential Palace
Explore the War Remnants Museum
See Notre Dame Cathedral
Tour Saigon Central Post Office
Stop at a lacquer ware workshop
Discover the Cu Chi Tunnels
Observe rural Vietnamese life

Day 3 Mekong Delta Exploration & Can Tho City

Meals: B, L | Stay: Wink Hotel | Transport: Private vehicle, Boat

At 8:00 AM, your guide and driver will collect you from your hotel in Saigon for an excursion to My Tho, a tranquil city in the Mekong Delta. Upon arrival in My Tho, embark on a full-day exploration of the Mekong's watery landscapes. The journey through fertile paddy fields and past water buffalo offers a glimpse into the region's agricultural heart. A boat trip along narrow waterways will lead you to various orchards and local homes.

During your boat trip, you'll have the opportunity to visit workshops where rice paper is made and enjoy a selection of tropical fruits while listening to traditional Southern Vietnamese “Tai Tu music.” Lunch will be a memorable experience, featuring the local specialty, Elephant’s Ear Fish, served at a restaurant situated on one of the delta islands. Following the boat trip, a private vehicle will transfer you to Can Tho, with a stop to visit the ancient Vinh Trang Pagoda. Upon arrival in Can Tho, check into your hotel and enjoy some leisure time before dinner at a charming restaurant on a branch of the Hau River. The evening is free after dinner, with an overnight stay in Can Tho.

Activities: Excursion to My Tho
Boat trip along Mekong Delta waterways
Visit orchards and local houses
Observe rice-paper making
Enjoy tropical fruits and Tai Tu music show
Lunch with Elephant’s Ear Fish
Visit Vinh Trang Pagoda
Transfer to Can Tho
Dinner at a riverside restaurant

Day 4 Cai Rang Floating Market & Chau Doc Transfer

Meals: B, L | Stay: Chau Pho Hotel | Transport: Boat, Bus

After breakfast at your hotel, you will be transferred to the pier to embark on a boat ride along the Mekong River, renowned as one of Asia's longest and most productive waterways. The highlight of the morning is a visit to the famous Cai Rang Floating Market, where you can observe the vibrant daily life of local people trading their goods directly from boats. This bustling market provides a unique insight into the delta's commercial activities.

Following the market visit, the boat will navigate through smaller canals, leading you to a local family's orchard. Here, you'll have the chance to taste fresh tropical fruits and enjoy some green tea, experiencing the hospitality of the Mekong Delta. After

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lunch, a bus transfer will take you to Chau Doc City. Upon arrival, check into your hotel and enjoy some free time to relax or explore the city at your own pace.

Activities: Boat ride on Mekong River
Visit Cai Rang Floating Market
Cruise small canals to a local orchard
Taste tropical fruits and green tea
Bus transfer to Chau Doc City

Day 5 Chau Doc to Phnom Penh & City Highlights

Meals: B, L | Stay: Cardamom Hotel | Transport: Speedboat, Private vehicle

Today, your journey takes you from Vietnam to Cambodia. After breakfast, you will board a speedboat in Chau Doc for a scenic transfer to Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia. Upon arrival at Phnom Penh port, you will be warmly greeted by your Cambodian tour guide, who will assist with a short transfer to your hotel for check-in. Following this, you will proceed to a local restaurant for lunch, preparing for an afternoon of cultural exploration.

The afternoon's itinerary in Phnom Penh features a visit to the magnificent Royal Palace compound, established in 1866. This complex is a striking example of Khmer architecture and houses the Silver Pagoda, also known as the Emerald Buddha Temple, which displays numerous Buddha statues adorned with precious materials. You will then visit the Independence Monument, commemorating Cambodia's liberation from French colonial rule in 1954. The tour continues to the National Museum, a distinctive red building housing over 5000 art objects. Finally, explore Wat Phnom Daun Penh, a historic pagoda built on a small hill, and conclude your day with some shopping at Toul Tompong Market, famously known as the Russian Market, where you can find local specialties and observe daily life. You will stay overnight in Phnom Penh.

Activities: Speedboat transfer from Chau Doc to Phnom Penh
Meet Cambodian tour guide
Visit the Royal Palace compound
Explore the Silver Pagoda (Emerald Buddha Temple)
See the Independence Monument
Tour the National Museum
Visit Wat Phnom Daun Penh
Shop at Toul Tompong Market (Russian Market)

Day 6 Phnom Penh to Siem Reap & Angkor Temples

Meals: B, L | Stay: Angkor Holiday Hotel | Transport: Private car

Following breakfast at your hotel, a private driver will transfer you from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap. This journey, without a guide, typically takes around six hours by private car, offering views of the Cambodian countryside. Upon your arrival in Siem Reap, your local tour guide will meet you and facilitate lunch before beginning your afternoon explorations of the Angkor archaeological park.

The afternoon highlights include Ta Prohm, a temple famously left largely as it was found, with massive tree roots intertwining

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with its stone structures, creating a dramatic scene that illustrates nature's reclaiming power over human creations. You will also visit Banteay Samre, known for its exquisite rose-colored sandstone walls adorned with intricate carvings and bas-reliefs, considered some of the finest examples of Angkorian art. After a day of exploring these ancient wonders, you will check into your hotel for an overnight stay in Siem Reap.

Activities: Private car transfer from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap
Visit Ta Prohm temple
Explore Banteay Samre temple

Day 7 Angkor Thom, Angkor Wat & Sunset Views

Meals: B, D | Stay: Angkor Holiday Hotel | Transport: Private vehicle

Today is dedicated to an extensive exploration of the Angkor area, focusing on the ancient capital of Angkor Thom. Your tour begins with a visit to the South Gate, followed by the captivating Bayon Temple, renowned for its 54 towers adorned with over 200 smiling faces of Avalokiteshvara. You will then proceed to Baphuon Temple, a pyramidal structure representing the mythical Mount Meru, and explore the Phimeanakas temple within the royal complex.
Further exploration includes the Elephant Terrace, a grand platform used by kings for viewing spectacles and public gatherings. You will also see Preah Palilay, an older temple nestled deeper in the forest. The journey continues to the magnificent Angkor Wat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site celebrated for its immense beauty and intricate bas-reliefs depicting Hindu mythology. The day culminates with a breathtaking sunset viewing from Phnom Bakheng. In the evening, enjoy a dinner show at a local restaurant, followed by an opportunity to stroll along the lively Pub Street or browse the Angkor Night Market.

Activities: Explore Angkor Thom (South Gate, Bayon Temple, Baphuon Temple, Phimeanakas)
Visit the Elephant Terrace
See Preah Palilay temple
Discover Angkor Wat
Watch sunset from Phnom Bakheng
Enjoy a dinner show
Walk along Pub Street or Angkor Night Market

Day 8 Tonle Sap Lake & Kompong Phluk Village

Meals: B | Stay: Angkor Holiday Hotel | Transport: Private vehicle, Longtail boat

After breakfast, you will drive to the edge of Tonle Sap Lake, Southeast Asia’s largest freshwater lake, where you will board a traditional longtail boat. The boat ride will take you towards Kompong Phluk, an isolated Khmer community comprising three villages built on stilts. These unique stilt houses, ranging from six to eight meters in height, are designed to withstand the massive annual flood pulse of the lake.
During your cruise, you will navigate through a submerged mangrove forest, a vital ecosystem that supports a rich diversity of birds, fish, and mammals, showcasing why Cambodia's swampy deltas are recognized as international biodiversity havens. This immersive experience offers a fascinating insight into the unique aquatic lifestyle of the local community and the natural environment. After returning to downtown Siem Reap, the rest of your day is free for leisure or further personal exploration.

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Activities: Drive to Tonle Sap Lake
Board a longtail boat
Cruise to Kompong Phluk stilt village
Explore the submerged mangrove forest
Observe local life on the lake
Free time in Siem Reap downtown

Day 9 Siem Reap Departure

Meals: B | Transport: Private transfer

Enjoy your final breakfast at the hotel in Siem Reap. The morning is yours to spend at leisure, perhaps for some last-minute souvenir shopping at the Old Market, or simply relaxing before your departure. At the appropriate time, a transfer will be arranged to take you to the airport for your onward flight, concluding your memorable journey through Vietnam and Cambodia.

Activities: Breakfast at hotel
Free time for leisure or shopping
Transfer to Siem Reap airport for departure

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- v Hotels as mentioned (Double or Twin share)
- v Meals as mentioned in the program
- v Boat trips in Cai Be Vinh Long, Can Tho, Tonle Sap
- v Speed Boat Chau Doc – Phnhom Penh
- v Entrance fees
- v English speaking local tour guides
- v Private car/Van transfer
- v Drinking water

NOT INCLUDED

- x Flight ticket
- x Personal expenses
- x Drinks
- x Others not mentioned above

PRICE INCLUDES

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- v English speaking local tour guides
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CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-1FD9A31FF927