



Luke Nguyen's Vietnam And Mekong River Cruise

HO CHI MINH TO SIEM REAP

2019

16 Days

From £5,590 GBP pp

TRIP CODE: VEMRLN16F

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS



Souvenirs In Koh Chen

Visit the home-workshops that manufacture hand-made copper souvenirs in Koh Chen



Learn About Luke

Learn about Luke Nguyen's background and passion for the region



Angkor Wat Sunrise

Enjoy a special sunrise experience at Angkor Wat

TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION



Welcome Aboard The RV AmaLotus

Experience Vietnam and Cambodia in all-inclusive luxury on a seven-night Mekong River cruise.



Meet Luke Nguyen

Luke will escort guests on this unique gastronomic holiday, offering an authentic look at the region through his eyes.



All Balcony Suite Ship

Newly refurbished in 2016, every suite on board now features both an Outside Balcony and a Panoramic Balcony.

YOUR HOLIDAY INCLUDES

- Home-to-airport transfers by private car*
- All-inclusive sightseeing in up to nine destinations
- Everything as detailed including gratuities and onboard lectures
- Complimentary beverages served on board your cruise*
- Return scheduled flights from the UK*
- APT's Freedom of Choice Inclusions in three locations
- Seven-night Mekong River cruise aboard the RV AmaLotus
- Finest dining - a total of 34 meals

TRIP NOTES

- Itinerary and inclusions are subject to change
- Days escorted by Luke Nguyen and duration are subject to change
- Other disruptions to itinerary may occur
- Prices include port charges, gratuities and sundries
- Luke escorts the VEMRLN16F on Days 3-7 (subject to change)
- Prices are for land/cruise and flights as specified only

MAP & ITINERARY



Signature Experiences

DESIGNED EXCLUSIVELY FOR APT GUESTS

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

These once-in-a-lifetime moments allow you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive moments, incredible cultures and charming surprises

LUKE NGUYEN SIGNATURE INVITATION

Vietnamese cuisine related experiences with celebrity chef and APT Ambassador, Luke Nguyen

FREEDOM OF CHOICE™ - SIGHTSEEING

Personalise your holiday with a choice of included sightseeing options sure to leave you with lifelong memories

FREEDOM OF CHOICE™ - DINING

Choose from a variety of included dining options sure to tantalise the tastebuds of every guest

DAY

1

Depart London

Make your way to London Heathrow for your flight to Vietnam.

DAY
2

Arrive Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)

Upon arrival in Ho Chi Minh City today, you'll be met and transferred to your luxury hotel to begin your exciting journey.

Stay: Three Nights: Ho Chi Minh City, Park Hyatt Saigon

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Lunch ● Dinner

DAY
3

Ho Chi Minh City

LUKE NGUYEN SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Meet APT Ambassador Luke Nguyen this morning. He'll then guide you through the bustling streets of Old Saigon where you'll wander the atmospheric neighbourhoods. Dodge swarms of motorbikes as they whirl amid the bustling streets. Watch families tending to their bottomless pots of steaming broth. Pass hawkers touting their tasty homemade treats, and observe throngs of locals slurping soup and noodles at roadside stalls. During the walk, you'll also visit the area in which Luke's parents grew up and meet his extended family of aunts and uncles. Next, enjoy an exclusive cooking class with Luke at his culinary school, GRAIN by Luke Nguyen, where you'll learn how to prepare some of his favourite Vietnamese dishes. Later, relax with a pre-dinner cocktail before heading to Luke's Vietnam House for a special Luke Nguyen-inspired dinner with matching wines.

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Lunch ● Dinner

DAY
4

Ho Chi Minh City, Long Tan OR Cu Chi Tunnels

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Today, perhaps journey to Ba Ria and learn about the Battle of Long Tan. Afterwards, attend a memorial service at Long Tan Cross. Alternatively, visit the Cu Chi Tunnels, an incredible tunnel network constructed by Vietnamese resistance fighters during the war.

LUKE NGUYEN SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Back in Ho Chi Minh City tonight, enjoy dinner at a restaurant personally recommended by Luke.

Today you are able to select one of two fascinating Signature Experiences, before enjoying a delicious dinner at a restaurant personally recommended by Luke.

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Lunch ● Dinner

DAY
5

Ho Chi Minh City, My Tho, Embark Ship

FREEDOM OF CHOICE™ - Sightseeing

Today you are able to explore this exciting Vietnamese city on one of our Freedom of Choice activities. Perhaps enjoy a walking tour of Ho Chi Minh City, taking in the charming French colonial architecture as you visit the Notre Dame Cathedral and the Central Post Office, before taking a cyclo ride. You might like to jump on the back of a motorbike and tour the city or visit the Ky Long Art Villa to learn the techniques of Vietnamese lacquer art and see active artist workshops. Alternatively, join a shopping tour.

LUKE NGUYEN SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Tonight, perhaps sample fresh and fragrant pho as you enjoy an exclusive Luke Nguyen Vietnamese dinner.

After your chosen sightseeing experience, transfer to My Tho Port to embark your luxury river ship.

Stay: Seven Nights: Cruise the Mekong River aboard APT's RV AmaLotus

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Lunch ● Dinner

DAY
6

Cai Be, Sa Dec

A local boat will take you to the river-land town of Cai Be today. Once here, you'll step ashore to visit the French Gothic cathedral as well as the colourful port area, which is filled with colonial buildings and delightful flower gardens. Afterwards, visit a rice paper manufacturer then enjoy lunch back on board as your ship cruises towards the quaint town of Sa Dec. This is where French writer Marguerite Duras met her Vietnamese-Chinese lover, Huynh Thuy Le. On arrival, tour Huynh Thuy Le's old house and learn the story behind Duras' best-selling novel, *The Lover*. Later, visit a colourful Cao Dai temple, watching visitors and pilgrims come and go as they worship and appreciate the artistry of the building.

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Lunch ● Dinner

DAY
7

Tan Chau, Evergreen Island, Border Crossing

LUKE NGUYEN SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

On board this afternoon, take part in an exclusive 'Get to Know Luke' session, where APT's Ambassador will discuss fascinating details of his background and passion for food while border formalities are carried out and you cross into Cambodia.

After a breakfast on your ship, disembark and transfer to a small boat for a journey along the tiny tributaries that snake around Tan Chau. Cruise past a floating fish farm, then step ashore for a rickshaw tour. Ride past shops, rice wine rooms and friendly locals eager to say hello. Later, step back in time during a visit to an evergreen island as you observe traditional rural Mekong life. The remainder of today is then spent on board. Enjoy a delicious dinner later this evening. After entering Cambodia, your ship will continue to cruise overnight towards the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh.

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Lunch ● Dinner

DAY

8

Phnom Penh

FREEDOM OF CHOICE™- Sightseeing

After breakfast, enjoy a guided tour of the dazzling white and gold Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda, which is located on the south side of the palace complex and houses many national treasures. Alternatively, you may wish to discover some of Cambodia's sobering history with a moving excursion to the infamous Killing Fields, before visiting the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, located on the site of the Khmer Rouge's notorious Security Prison 21 (S-21). Here, you'll learn of the atrocities inflicted upon Cambodians during Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge regime in the mid-to-late 1970s. Another option is a visit to the National Museum of Cambodia. Home to one of the world's largest collections of Khmer art, there is plenty to discover here. Or, you might like to embark on a guided city tour in a tuk tuk, which takes in sights including the Independence Monument and Wat Phnom, a sacred Buddhist pagoda.

Perhaps rise early to take in Phnom Penh's river promenade as your ship nears the capital. After breakfast, disembark in Phnom Penh and embark on your chosen activity.

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Lunch ● Dinner

DAY

9

Phnom Penh, Koh Chen

With some free time at hand, perhaps you'll enjoy a late breakfast and a restful morning on board. Or, you can set out to discover the city's many attractions independently. Later, your cruise continues, this time to remote Koh Chen, a small village specialising in silverware and copperware. On arrival here, you'll visit some of the home workshops that manufacture fine handmade silverware and copperware. You will also have the chance to purchase a handicraft memento of your journey. Return to your ship for a relaxing afternoon before dinner.

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Lunch ● Dinner

DAY

10

Prek K'dam, Oudong, Kampong Tralach

Disembark in Prek K'dam and travel by coach to Oudong, the fascinating royal capital of Cambodia from 1618 until 1866. During your time here, visit the monastery for a Buddhist blessing experience. Continue to Kampong Tralach for a visit to Wat Kampong Tralach Pleu pagoda before an ox cart takes you through rice fields and a small village to rejoin your ship and continue your journey.

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Lunch ● Dinner

DAY
11

Kampong Chhnang

Enjoy an authentic glimpse into the local way of life today with a small boat excursion into the wetlands near Kampong Chhnang. Afterwards, you'll return to your ship and cruise back towards Prek K'dam. This evening, reflect on the days that have just gone by as you enjoy your last night on board your ship and indulge in a Farewell Dinner with your fellow guests. Take some time to relax and prepare for the next portion of your journey.

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Lunch ● Dinner

DAY
12

Prek K'dam, Disembark Ship, Siem Reap

FREEDOM OF CHOICE™- Dining

Tonight in Siem Reap, choose where to enjoy dinner from seven unique and delicious restaurants.

Farewell your crew in Prek K'dam and transfer to your luxurious hotel in Siem Reap. After settling in, head to World Heritage-listed Angkor Archaeological Park. Visit the last and most enduring capital of the Khmer Empire, Angkor Thom, where you'll see the 12th-century temple, Bayon.

Stay: Three Night: Siem Reap, Hotel Sofitel Angkor

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Dinner

DAY
13

Siem Reap

SIGNATURE EXPERIENCE

Rise early this morning and travel to the Angkor Archaeological Park for a glass of champagne as you enjoy a special sunrise experience at Angkor Wat.

Afterwards, enjoy a guided tour of this impressive temple, the best-preserved temple of Angkor is said to be the world's largest single religious monument. Afterwards, return to your hotel for breakfast and some time at leisure. This afternoon, you'll explore the intriguing temple of Ta Prohm, a World Heritage-listed site famous for its bewildering intertwined trees. Later, visit 'Opportunities of Development thru Art' (ODA), a Siem Reap organisation that provides education opportunities for disadvantaged children. A free evening in the city then gives you the chance to step out and explore the local dining scene at your leisure. Your APT Tour Director can point you in the direction of some fantastic restaurants for dinner.

Daily : ● Breakfast

DAY
14

Siem Reap

FREEDOM OF CHOICE™ - Sightseeing

Today, embark on your selected sightseeing activity. Perhaps visit the temple of Wat Preah Prom Rath and participate in a Buddhist blessing; enjoy an exciting tuk tuk ride to the Senteurs d'Angkor workshop, where you can shop for local handmade crafts; participate in a fun Apsara dance class; take off on a thrilling quad bike adventure; enjoy a leisurely bicycle tour across the Cambodian countryside; take a horse and cart ride; partake in a traditional Khmer cooking class; go on a shopping adventure; or perhaps indulge in a relaxing spa treatment.

With the afternoon at leisure, perhaps step out to explore the city independently. Tonight, enjoy a traditional Apsara dance performance as part of your Farewell Dinner.

Daily : ● Breakfast ● Dinner

DAY
15

Depart Siem Reap

Your journey comes to an end this morning as you transfer to the airport for your onward flight.

Daily : ● Breakfast

DAY
16

Arrive UK

Daily : ● Breakfast