

THE LOST CIVILIZATION

Siem Reap – Saigon (8 Days/7 Nights downstream)

DAY 1: SIEM REAP – TONLE SAP LAKE

“Waterworld”



The water level varies a great deal according to the time of the year and the amount of rainfall recorded. Thus, changes may occur for the different seasons. We will start our journey in either high water or low water.

High water program (approx. between July and December)

Approximately between July and December. At 11:00 AM gather at the meeting point and transfer to The Jayavarman, who is looking forward to embracing our guests close to the floating village of Chong Khnea. Welcome cocktail and lunch on the cruise liner. The Jayavarman sets sail towards the stilt villages of Kampong Phluk. We tour the flooded forest and stilt villages on a rowing boat. Welcome dinner at the Sun Deck and mooring on the lake.

Low water program (approx. between January and June)

At 8 AM, gather at the meeting point and transfer by coach to Udong on the Tonle River. Enjoy snacks and cold drinks on the way with a brief stop at Kampong Thom, one of the first settlements in the pre-Angkorian period.

Embarkation and welcome cocktail early afternoon. Welcome to the former capital of Cambodia and on board. The Jayavarman sets sail upstream towards the great Tonle Sap Lake. Cruise along the meandering Tonle River to Kampong Chnang. We wind our way through the jungle and as the river narrows, it makes you feel at peace with yourself and the community. Later that evening, welcome dinner and mooring midstream.

DAY 2: TONLE SAP LAKE – KAMPONG CHNANG – KAMPONG CHAM

“Cambodia’s province and the wetlands”

High water program

Before the sun rises, The Jayavarman set sail to cross the Tonle Sap Lake. As the ship is about to exit the lake, the marshlands exhibit spectacular scenery with temples along the river banks of Kampong Chnang. We see the rich tapestry of rural Cambodian life. The afternoon cruise will follow the meandering Tonle River, which narrows through leafy swaths of the South East Asian Jungle touching Phnom Penh. In the late afternoon we enter the upper Mekong River bound to Kampong Cham to stop for a walk at a rural village.

Low water program

Kampong Chnang, is a busy rural port town with bustling markets, potteries and silver smiths at work and lots of children to greet us on our way around. We will take a wonderful motor boat excursion into the lakeside wetlands that form the river mouth of the river. Here a stunning variety of birdlife may be seen and of considerable interest are the great fish traps, some half a kilometer long, which nets a huge tonnage of fish after each monsoon as the fish migrate from the falling lake into the Tonle River. The afternoon cruise will follow the meandering Tonle River, which narrows through leafy swaths of the South East Asian Jungle.

DAY 3: KAMPONG CHAM – PHNOM PENH

“Monks and hilltops”



We cruise past the Mekong’s timeless villages and mind blowing river life with scores of fishermen on duty. Visit the pagoda of the mountain “Man”, Phnom Pros. Thereafter the mountain “Woman”, Phnom Strey - truly, rural Cambodia at its best. After lunch, our tour continues towards Peam Chi Kang Village visiting the mysterious monastery and school. Feel free to explore this peaceful and friendly community. By mid-afternoon, The Jayavarman casts off towards Phnom Penh.

On-board Khmer cooking class and introduction to Phnom Penh (movie night) on the way.

DAY 4: PHNOM PENH

“Pearl of the East”



Get up early in the morning to witness a truly indescribable scenery while approaching Phnom Penh’s river promenade. After breakfast, embark on a city tour in this dynamic, historical capital of Cambodia which has retained its French colonial charm. Sightseeing in the morning, will include the dazzling white and gold architecture of the Royal Palace, outstanding displays of Khmer crafts at the National Museum and the temple on a hill - Wat Phnom.

After lunch in a local restaurant, examine the painful, heart wrenching reminders of Cambodia’s ugly past under the Khmer Rouge regime with an excursion to the infamous “Killing Fields”, the former detention, and torture and execution centers during the Cambodian civil war.

Introduction and onsite lecture by a local history professor. Thereafter, to ease the nerves: a variety of cocktails will be at your disposal, followed by Cambodia’s traditional Apsara dance performance. Experience the brilliance and richness of the culture, the soothing sounds of traditional music, the freshness of incense sticks and a delicious Khmer food eastern buffet.

DAY 5: PHNOM PENH – border crossing – CHAU DOC

“Highway Patrol”

The Jayavarman casts off for a day cruising the main Mekong Channel. This is pretty much an international shipping route. Psyche yourself up for Prek Touch, a lively jungle village. After that, visit well laid out fruit orchards. Overnight, the ship moors mid stream.

The next day we set off to the Vietnamese border for the usual formalities, which in this part of the world takes a bit of time.

DAY 6: CHAU DOC – CAN THO

“Taste of aqua cultural life”

Welcome to the circus of fish. The early birds will be treated to Thai Chi lessons. In Chau Doc brace yourself for a boat excursion to the exciting floating villages and catfish farms witnessing tons and tons of bassa fish being fed, hand in hand with a shore excursion to the village of the local Muslim Cham community. Take a ride through this fascinating town of rich French colonial architecture and see its bustling market flooded with tropical fruits in full display by women in cone shaped palm leaf hats. Observe a skill passed on from one generation to another. That is, beautiful traditional textiles being woven on old wooden looms.

By late - afternoon, The Jayavarman casts off, heading towards Can Tho.

Day 7: CAN THO

“Vietnamese inventiveness”



See “Cai Rang”- Asia’s largest and most impressive floating market whilst sipping your favorite latte on the breakfast deck. Wooden poles at the front of each boat display wares for sale, such as jackfruit, sugar cane, morning glory stems or even freshly baked baguettes.

Take a small boat to see the market up close and continue navigating the narrow canals. Watch as local workers fire their brick kilns, make coconut candy and rice paper by hand. Listen to the fruit orchard owner’s explanation while tasting the various fruits plucked from the trees. A lunch picnic in one of the fruit orchards will be presented by The Jayavarman’s crew. The Jayavarman sets sail for a cruise towards Saigon along the traffic of sand and rice barges through scenery portraying smoking kilns of brick factories, fruit drying homes and rice paddy fields.

In the evening, a mouth watering farewell dinner will be served on the Sun Deck.

DAY 8: CAN THO – SAIGON



The journey of The Jayavarman comes to an end. But in fact, this is actually the beginning of the end, as you will discover. Enjoy the cruise as we sail towards the buzzing city of Saigon.

Eventually, we will disembark and transfer to the hotel: 10:00 am.