



(Approved By Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India)

# Secret of The Mekong (09 Nights / 10 Days)



Routing: Phnom Penh - Silk Island - Kratie - Koh Trong - Steung Treng - Siem Reap - Angkor Temples - Banteay Srei - Kampong Phluk

#### Day 01: Phnom Penh Arrival

On arrival at airport, you will be met and transferred to hotel for check. Remain of the day is free to recover from the jet lag. Overnight in Phnom Penh.

## Day 02: Phnom Penh - City Tours (B, L)

After breakfast - spend morning to the infamous Tuol Sleng Museum and Cheung Ek, better known as the Killing Fields, where large numbers of people were killed and buried in mass graves. Afternoon, continue to visit Independence Monument commemorates the end of Cambodia's ruled by France in 1953. Wat Phnom, an ancient pagoda stand up on the hill, marks the legendary founding place of the capital city Phnom Penh And then continue to National Museum built in 1917-18 is exclusively dedicated to Khmer arts. The Royal Palace built in 1866 and Silver Pagoda located within the Royal Palace compound. The Silver Pagoda is so named because of its floor, which is made up of 5000 silver tiles. Evening enjoy 1 sunset cruise along the 4 face rivers for cruising to view Phnom Penh city. Overnight in Phnom Penh.

### Day 03: Phnom Penh - Silk Island (B, L)

After breakfast, our Tuk tuk driver will pick you up and transfer to the pier where you will embark on Kanika Cruise (share cruise) to the Silk Island. Cambodian silk production thrived since the 13th century. The know-how of craftsmen who survived to the Khmer Rouge regime is perpetuated in villages of silk-weavers, along the Mekong. You will silk farm and a pagoda at Prek Bong Kong and enjoy on board of BBQ lunch cruising on the Mekong with fresh fruits, free flow beer & soft. Disembark and transfer to your hotel. Overnight in Phnom Penh

### Day 04: Phnom Penh - Kratie - Koh Trong (B, L)

After breakfast, share bus to Kratie (315 km-6 hour drives). Kratie City is a real outpost town on the banks of the Se San River just off the Mekong. The tranquility in the region shows us an authentic and remote "face" of Cambodia.

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Upon arrival, meet our guide & driver, then you will transfer to have lunch before embark on sharing wooden boat with local people, ride about 20 min across the Mekong River to the island of Koh Trong for check in to home-stay or hotel for refreshment.

After a short rest, you will visit the community center where your guide will give you information about the village and jump on a local bicycle follow your guide and a community facilitator to do a round-island bicycle tour. By a small local dirt path, you will pass many friendly local families and kids and see the charming rural lifestyle on the island, including an interesting Vietnamese floating village and learn about its history. Your guide will bring you to visit a local pagoda where you can find out how locals practice their beliefs. Additionally, you will go past a local grapefruit plantation where you will stop to taste some if there are grapefruit available. After enjoying a tasty grapefruit, you will be led by your guide to plant some trees for the community. "Grow Tree" is a reforestation project of the community which aims to improve air quality in their village and make a contribution to improving the environment. Overnight in Koh Trong

#### Day 05: Kratie - Conservation & Cultural Experience Tour (B, L)

Morning embark on boat to mainland and gets on a local Remorque, (Khmer TukTuk) travels to Thma Krae village which is famous for making sticky rice roasted in bamboo called Kralan in Khmer & Nhem, or fish paté, is also produced in the village. Next stop is Sambok Mountain, this age-old quiet pagoda is known as a great place for people who are seeking a peaceful environment for meditation. You will arrival Kampi Dolphin pool which is the biggest dolphin pool in the Mekong River where tourists can view dolphins all year long. The Mekong Irrawaddy dolphin is an endangered species and there are many conservation NGOs working to conserve them. After a 10 minute presentation by our guide about the dolphin ecology, you will embark on a wooden boat, driven by an expert local fisherman who benefits from the dolphin conservation project. The boatman will guide the boat nearby the pool for about 1 hour for you to spot the dolphins and take pictures. Then we continue to Sambou district where you will see the 100 pillars pagoda and turtle conservation center. 100 pillars pagoda is also called Wat Sasar Mouy Roy in Khmer, and is the most popular pagoda in Kratie province. It has an interesting history dating from around the 13th century and also events that occurred much later during the pol pot regime. 100 pillars pagoda is unique amongst the pagodas in Kratie province in having a turtle conservation center inside the pagoda. The center was established to conserve the Mekong Turtle as it is endangered. In front of the pagoda, you will stop for a short break and have a drink before travel back to your hotel around 4pm. Overnight in Koh Trong

#### Day 06: Kratie - Steung Treng (B, L)

Morning check out and embark to mainland where you will continue by a private taxi to Stung Treng Town, 90 km with 2 hour drives. Stung Treng is a beautiful province located on a high sandy bank overlooking the Mekong River where it is joined by the Se Kong River. It is about 455 km from Phnom Penh and some 40 km to the Laos border.

This charming city is linked to Banlung (Rattanak Kiri) and is actually more than just a 'stopover'. The Sekong Bridge, itself an attraction, serves as a convenient passage to the border of Laos. Check in to hotel on arrival and have so relax before tour.

This afternoon, meet our local guide and start cycling along the Sekong river visit culture noodle village to see many families made noodle by hands since our ancestor work for support the hold province. Ride to Mekong Blue where the Stung Treng Women's Development Center aims to help poor women and children. Then enjoying kayaking cross Sekong river to another site (Hang Khou Ban) Laos villagers make Krolan (Sticky Rice). Watch as villagers cook this very popular travel snack in its bamboo packaging. Stung Treng ingredients: sticky rice, coconut, milk, salt, soybeans. Kayak back to the town, see sun set view on the kayak and local people make fishing.

Overnight in Stung Treng

Day 07: Steung Treng - Siem Reap (B)

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After breakfast, sharing a local taxi to Siem Reap. Upon arrival, meet our guide and then you will transfer to check in at hotel. Remain of the day is free and overnight in Siem Reap.

#### Day 08: Angkor Temples (B, L)

After breakfast, we drive to visit the antique capital of Angkor Thom (12 century): the South Gate with its huge statues depicting the churning of the ocean of milk, the Bayon Temple, unique for its 54 towers decorated with over 200 smiling faces of Avolokitesvara, the Phimeanakas, the Royal Enclosure, the Elephants Terrace and the Terrace of the Leper King. In the afternoon, it is time to visit the most famous of all the temples on the plain of Angkor, Angkor Wat. The temple complex covers 81 hectares and is comparable in size to the Imperial Palace in Beijing. Its distinctive five towers are emblazoned on the Cambodian flag and the 12th century masterpiece is considered by art historians to be the prime example of classical Khmer art and architecture.

Overnight in Siem Reap

#### Day 09: Banteay Srei - Kampong Phluk (B, D)

Heading out of the town, we drive on a newly paved road to the intricately carved and well preserved temple of Banteay Srei. On the way, we make stopover at the Preah Dark village and follow these with a visit the Banteay Samre temple, adorned with impressive reliefs depicting scenes of Vishnu as well as Krishna legends. We continue to the Kampong Phluk. This amazing floating village is built on 8 to 10 m high stilts and it is also one of natural tourisms and a mangroves for hundreds species of fresh water fishes and birds and decorated with ethnic stilted houses line over the water surface up to the air. The villages are primarily Khmer and have about 3000 inhabitants between them, most of who live in stilted houses. The people depend largely on fishing and tourism for their incomes. We embark on the traditional wooden boat through the flooded forests of the Great Tonle Sap Lake, habitat of many bird species it will bring you to Kampong Phluk. We visit an island pagoda, a school and traditional stilt houses to interact with the local families then return to hotel. Evening, enjoy farewell dinner at Chef D' Angkor Restaurant and have 60 minutes of foot/body massage before drop you off at hotel. Overnight in Siem Reap.

### Day 10: Siem Reap - Departure (B)

After breakfast, depending on your flight free in morning or transfer direct to Siem Reap International Airport for onward flight to next destination. End of Service!

Good times need never end! As you get ready for the airport and your flight back home, relive the high points of your Trip. We are confident you will join us again sometime soon...

Please do give us your valuable feedback on same.