

Mekong Dragon Eyes/Mekong Eyes Cruise

(Saigon – Phu Quoc)

Itinerary Overview

Option 1: Saigon – Mekong – Phu Quoc Island 2 days

Route*: Saigon – Cai Be – Can Tho – Phu Quoc Island

Day	Destination	Meals
Day 1	SAIGON – MEKONG – PANORAMA CRUISE	L/D
Day 2	LIFE ON THE WATER & FLOATING MARKET – PHU QUOC ISLAND	B

Option 2: Saigon – Mekong – Phu Quoc Island 3 days

Route*: Saigon – Can tho – Cai Be – Can Tho – Phu Quoc Island

Day	Destination	Meals
Day 1	SAIGON – MEKONG – PANORAMA CRUISE	L/D
Day 2	LIFE ON THE WATER & FLOATING MARKET	B/L/D
Day 3	AN EXOTIC WORLD OF ITS OWN – PHU QUOC ISLAND	B

Note*: B: Breakfast / L: Lunch / D: Dinner

Detailed Itinerary

Option 1: Saigon – Mekong – Phu Quoc Island 2 days

Day 1 SAIGON – MEKONG – PANORAMA CRUISE

Pickup at the hotel in Saigon to Cai Be. You board your comfortable wooden

Note*: this is a copy of the itinerary on Indochina Treks Travel Official Website and not the final itinerary.

Mekong Dragon Eyes/Mekong Eyes Cruise vessel around noon. After a refreshing welcome drink we show you our on-board facilities and your cosy cabin. As lunch is served, the Mekong Dragon Eyes/Mekong Eyes Cruise starts cruising. Sit back and watch the fantastic scenery and the daily life of the Mekong people.

In the afternoon you can disembark for a guided leisurely stroll through a village and the surrounding fruit orchards or rice fields. Meet the friendly locals and taste the local produce and fruits.

Get back on board and enjoy a drink at the bar or relax on deck as the sun sets over the magnificent water landscape of the Mekong river. The Mekong Dragon Eyes/Mekong Eyes Cruise will anchor for the night. The day ends with a delicious on-board dinner. You stay overnight on board your floating hotel in the Mekong Delta.

Meals: Lunch/Dinner

Accommodation: Mekong Dragon Eyes/Mekong Eyes Cruise

Day 2

LIFE ON THE WATER & FLOATING MARKET – PHU CUOC ISLAND

Wake up well rested to the sound of the river and get ready for another exciting day of sightseeing in the Mekong Delta. At 6.30h the cruise vessel sets off for a sunrise cruise. Watch the locals go about their daily work drying exotic fruits and building ships on the wooden yards while enjoying an early breakfast. After breakfast, we will board a sampan boat to Cai Rang floating market, the region's busiest and most lively market. Marvel at the sheer abundance of exotic fruits and vegetables. We will pull up to the boats for talking and bargaining with the merchants. We will also visit some of the local candy and cake making factories or boat through the green water landscape to see local houses, verdant orchards and ship-building yards. Later in the morning you can boat through the green water landscape on a little rowing sampan to see local houses, verdant orchards and ship-building yards. Alternatively you can discover the nearby town by foot or explore the small side canals of the Mekong river on a bicycle.

Disembark at the jetty at 11:00. Pickup and transfer to Can Tho airport for the flight / or to Rach Gia port for speedy boat to Phu Quoc Island. Trip ends.

Note*: The floating markets in the Mekong Delta are no tourist markets but wholesale markets where produce of the Mekong Delta like fruits and vegetables are traded. For this reason the number of boats on the market fluctuates depending on harvesting seasons and market demand. Furthermore, modern wholesale markets are becoming more popular in Vietnam. This can result in decreasing numbers of boats being present on the markets.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: n/a

Option 2: Saigon – Mekong – Phu Quoc Island 3 days

Day 1

SAIGON – MEKONG – PANORAMA CRUISE

Pickup at the hotel in Saigon to Can Tho. You board your comfortable wooden

Mekong Dragon Eyes/Mekong Eyes Cruise vessel around noon. After a refreshing welcome drink we show you our on-board facilities and your cosy cabin. As lunch is served, the Mekong Dragon Eyes/Mekong Eyes Cruise starts cruising. Sit back and watch the fantastic scenery and the daily life of the Mekong people.

In the afternoon you can disembark for a guided leisurely stroll through a village and the surrounding fruit orchards or rice fields. Meet the friendly locals and taste the local produce and fruits.

Get back on board and enjoy a drink at the bar or relax on deck as the sun sets over the magnificent water landscape of the Mekong river. The Mekong Dragon Eyes/Mekong Eyes Cruise will anchor for the night. The day ends with a delicious on-board dinner. You stay overnight on board your floating hotel in the Mekong Delta.

Meals: Lunch/Dinner

Accommodation: Mekong Dragon Eyes/Mekong Eyes Cruise

Day 2

LIFE ON THE WATER & FLOATING MARKET

Wake up well rested to the sound of the river and get ready for another exciting day of sightseeing in the Mekong Delta. At 6.30h the Mekong Dragon Eyes/Mekong Eyes Cruise vessel sets off for a sunrise cruise. Watch the locals go about their daily work drying exotic fruits and building ships on the wooden yards while enjoying an early breakfast.

After breakfast, we will board a sampan boat to Cai Be or Cai Rang floating market, the region's busiest and most lively markets. Marvel at the sheer abundance of exotic fruits and vegetables. We will pull up to the boats for talking and bargaining with the merchants. We will also visit some of the local candy and cake making factories or boat through the green water landscape to see local houses, verdant orchards and ship-building yards.

Later in the morning you can boat through the green water landscape on a little rowing sampan to see local houses, verdant orchards and ship-building yards.

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The Mekong Dragon Eyes/Mekong Eyes Cruise boat then resumes its journey as lunch is served. In the afternoon there will be another side trip to one of the exotic villages along the way.

Note*: The floating markets in the Mekong Delta are no tourist markets but wholesale markets where produce of the Mekong Delta like fruits and vegetables are traded. For this reason the number of boats on the market fluctuates depending on harvesting seasons and market demand. Furthermore, modern wholesale markets are becoming more popular in Vietnam. This can result in decreasing numbers of boats being present on the markets.

Meals: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Accommodation: Mekong Dragon Eyes/Mekong Eyes Cruise

Day 3

AN EXOTIC WORLD OF ITS OWN – PHU QUOC ISLAND

After breakfast and an early start through the glorious morning atmosphere on the Mekong river we will visit another floating market. Be sure not to miss the great photo opportunities for authentic snapshots of the Mekong people and their life.

Take another sampan side trip right into the lush rural landscape, the fertile fields, the exuberant green. Then it's time to pack up and return to the pier from which we started.

Disembark at the jetty at 11:00. Pickup and transfer to Can Tho airport for the flight / or to Rach Gia port for speedy boat to Phu Quoc Island. Trip ends.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: n/a

Inclusions & Exclusions

Inclusions:

- All meals included in selected program by Mekong Eyes
- Accommodation on board based on twin share
- English speaking guide during the cruise
- Sight-seeing of Mekong Delta
- Transfer from Can Tho to Airport/or port in Rach Gia
- Flight ticket from Can Tho – Phu Quoc or Speedy boat from Rach Gia – Phu Quoc

Exclusions:

- Transfers from/to Saigon to/from port of embarkation

- Drinks
- Tour guide gratuities
- Any visa fees

Important note*:

- PROGRAMS & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASING ON ACTUAL SITUATION.
- For overnight registration, we will need passport information (Full name, sex, Nationality, passport number, date of birth) of passengers at least four weeks prior to cruise date.
- The price shows in the calendar is proposed rate for Saigon – Mekong 2 days. The price would vary depending on your selected itineraries, date of departures, number of passengers. Please book the tour or contact us for best rate of your itinerary.

Important Information

Clothes

We recommend wearing loose and comfortable clothing made of cotton or modern material that can readily cool off sweat and body heat. The type of shoes will depend on the excursion types so best to have both light, open toed shoes as well as good walking/hiking shoes with you. A sun hat is always a good idea to bring along.

Southern Vietnam and Cambodia are warm all year-round, but our other cruise destinations can get chilly during the winter months (Laos, Myanmar or northern Vietnam). Therefore, it is always recommended to bring a pullover or a warm jacket with you during this period.

Many of our cruises include visits to local temples or pagodas. When visiting these holy sites, make sure to wear appropriate clothing which covers your shoulders and knees.

Sea sickness

Generally speaking, the rivers we are cruising on in Southeast Asia are very calm and there is hardly any motion on any of our ships. A bit of motion can occur during monsoon rains with stormy winds, but the amount of motion is much less than one would feel during bad weather on the open ocean.

Sea cruises as we offer in Halong Bay or Lan Ha Bay can sometimes encounter heavier waters and ship motion, although this happens very rarely and port authorities will most likely not allow sailing under any such circumstances anyway.

If you are new to cruising or prone to motion sickness, it does not hurt to bring along some motion sickness medication. Drinking a nice hot fresh ginger tea is a natural remedy and tasty alternative our staff is always happy to make for you.

Food and Beverage

All food and beverage on board is completely safe to eat and enjoy, including the ice cubes you enjoy in your chilled drinks. We do not recommend drinking water straight from the tap anywhere, including onboard. We provide you with complimentary clean drinking water throughout your cruise.

You may want to be bit careful with local dishes as they can be spicier than you are used to from home. Approach new dishes slowly and carefully. If you have a sensitive stomach, then you may like to double check with our chef or onboard managers about specific dishes or meals.

On excursions, it may be a good idea to avoid local foods and snacks unless offered by our tour guides. Besides the above, in general we recommend the following motto for your pre- and post-cruise travelling in the Southeast Asian tropics: boil it, peel it, cook it, wash it or forget it!

Health risks

The most effective protection from personal contamination is ensuring strict attention to personal hygiene and in particular, frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water and refraining from hand-to-mouth contact. Colds and other viruses can spread quickly in an enclosed area such as a ship. Continue to practice common-sense hygiene and respiratory courtesy. Wash your hands often and cover your coughs and sneeze. It is recommended that passengers carry anti-bacterial hand sanitizer, which does not require rinsing with water. Use sanitizer frequently and throughout the day, particularly after shore excursions and prior to meals. If you have any questions regarding your health or safety, please do not hesitate to ask your cruise director.

Motion sickness can be a problem for some people when cruising, flying or travelling on coaches and trains and it is a good idea to take precautionary measures. Over-the-counter drugs for treating motion sickness can be purchased at pharmacies in most countries, though a side effect can be drowsiness. Alternatives such as ginger tablets and acupressure wristbands are also available and work well for some people.

Insurance

We recommend at least purchasing travel health insurance which covers both in- & outpatient visits and medical repatriation. Buying additional trip cancellation and interruption coverage may also be beneficial in case you have to cancel your travel plans due to unforeseen circumstances.

Electrical adapters

We always recommend bringing a travel adapter as a standard item in your travel kit. You can borrow an adapter on board, but these may be limited.

Electricity

Indochina Countries use 220V, and a mixture of flat 2-pin, round 2-pin or 3 pin plugs. It is recommended to bring a universal plug adapter.

Tipping

It is customary in Asia to tip service providers such as waiters, at approximately 10%, depending on the service. Tipping is expected - though not compulsory - and shows an expression of satisfaction with the people who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides or drivers we use. Recommendations for tipping drivers and local guides would range from \$3-\$5 USD per person per day depending on the quality and length of the service.