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Dates

February 21 - March 8, 2026

Deposit

The deposit is \$500 per person + \$75
Paull Travel agency booking fee.

Final Payment

Due November 18th, 2025.

Charms of the Mekong



Itinerary at a glance

FEB 21 to MAR 8, 2026

Explore two vibrant cities, Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, which will serve as the perfect starting and ending points for your amazing journey. Sail along the Mekong and visit rural villages, historic pagodas, local markets, and a Buddhist monastery where you can witness a special blessing by monks. Unleash your inner explorer in Siem Reap as you discover the magnificent temples of the UNESCO-designated Angkor Archeological Park, including Banteay Srei, Angkor Thom, the Terrace of the Elephants, the pyramid temple of Bayon, Ta Prohm (the vine-covered "jungle temple"), Angkor Wat, and other significant sites. Conclude your adventure in Hanoi, Vietnam's current capital, and enjoy an overnight stay aboard an elegantly appointed ship in the UNESCO-designated Ha Long Bay.

● FEB 21, 2026



Arrive in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Ho Chi Minh City, still affectionately referred to by locals as Saigon, is Vietnam's former capital. Once known as the "Paris of the Orient," it is now an industrial, cultural and educational hub.

● FEB 22, 2026



Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Always bustling, Ho Chi Minh City is a city of contrasts blending old and new, and east and west. In the morning, explore some of the city's most famous landmarks, including the former Presidential Palace, the Central Post Office, Notre Dame Cathedral and the War Remnants Museum. In the afternoon, visit Chu Chi, an immense underground network built during the Vietnam War. **(Breakfast / Lunch)**

● FEB 23, 2026



Arrive in Ho Chi Minh City, My Tho, Embarkation

In the morning, visit Ben Thanh Market—one of the oldest and most iconic structures in Ho Chi Minh City. Transfer via motorcoach from Ho Chi Minh City to AmaDara at My Tho Port for your river cruise and meet your fellow travellers at a Welcome Dinner as the ship cruises to Cai Be. **(Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**



Charms of the Mekong



Itinerary at a glance

FEB 21 to MAR 8, 2026

● FEB 24, 2026



Cai Be and Sa Dec

Take a local boat to Cai Be. You will have an opportunity to visit candy and rice paper-making workshops, or you may also choose to add an active walking tour to the historic Kiet House, followed by a visit to candy and rice paper workshops. Later in the day, journey to Sa Dec, a sprawling town on the Mekong Delta, where French writer Marguerite Duras spent part of her youth. You will visit the colourful market, Cao Dai Temple, home to the unique religion of Caodaism in Southern Vietnam. It is a fusion of Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Confucianism. **(Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

● FEB 25, 2026



Tan Chau - Border Crossing

Enjoy a visit to Tan Chau, a small Mekong River town unspoiled by tourism. Be treated to an authentic experience on a traditional "xe-loi" (trishaw) ride around the town, with stops at silk-making and rattan mat workshops. You may also choose the trishaw ride with visits to craftsmen's workshops, followed by an active walking tour to "Evergreen Island." As a third alternative, explore the stunning Mekong Delta on an intimate tour through Vietnam's Tra Su Forest and Sanctuary. This region thrives in lush greenery encompassing majestic cajuput trees, lotuses, water lilies and a carpet of bright green moss in the rainy season that appears to glow as you gently drift through it. Glide by sampan through this diverse ecosystem that includes more than 70 species of birds, including the painted stork and oriental darter.* Later in the day, cruise from Vietnam to the Cambodian border en route to Phnom Penh.

(Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

*Please Note: Tra Su Forest visit begins August 2024 and is capacity controlled.



Charms of the Mekong



Itinerary at a glance

FEB 21 to MAR 8, 2026

● FEB 26, 2026

 Phnom Penh, Cambodia

This morning, you will visit the Royal Palace, the spectacular Silver Pagoda and National Museum, which has an outstanding collection of Khmer crafts. Alternatively, you may wish to shop for unique treasures at the bustling, yellow-coloured Central Market after you visit to Royal Palace. After lunch on board, the excursion takes you to Cambodia's infamous Killing Fields and the Khmer Rouge's grim Tuol Sleng S21 detention centre (Genocide Museum). After returning to the ship, enjoy Khmer folk dancing performed by local children in the Saigon Lounge. **(Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

● FEB 27, 2026

 Oudong - Kampong Tralach - Phnom Penh

Visit Oudong, Cambodia's former royal capital from the early 17th century until 1866. Today, Oudong is a place of pilgrimage for Cambodians. While here, be treated to a memorable Buddhist Blessing Ceremony at a monastery. You may walk around Oudong's monastery or take an active walking tour to see panoramic views of the Oudong plain. In Kampong Tralach, you will have a truly authentic excursion – an oxcart ride through a local village. Later in the day, experience Phnom Penh via a tuk ride and be enchanted by the city's French Colonial architecture and tree-lined boulevards set amidst monumental Angkorian. **(Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

● FEB 28, 2026

 Oknhatey - Angkor Ban

In the morning, set sail for Oknhatey Village. Oknhatey is the "Silk Island," located on the lush banks of the Mekong River and known for its rich tradition of silk weaving. While here, you will visit a local elementary school and observe the traditional silk weaving, an art that has been preserved for centuries. Your cruise continues to sail to Angkor Ban. **(Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**




Charms of the Mekong



Itinerary at a glance

FEB 21 to MAR 8, 2026

● **MAR 1, 2026**

 Angkor Ban - Kampong Cham

Go on a walking tour of Angkor Ban, one of the few villages in Cambodia that was not destroyed under the Khmer Rouge regime in the 1970s. Here people still live in their traditional wooden abodes and keep their old cultural traditions alive. Hundreds of wooden houses stand intact on stilts, shaded with banana trees, among the hustle and bustle of the daily agricultural on-going of the local villagers. After visiting here, the ship sets sail for Kampong Cham, where you will go on an afternoon excursion to Wat Nokor, perhaps the most treasured monument within the ancient complex of Banteay Prey Nokor. Fusing the Old-World with the "new," this centuries-old temple now boasts a contemporary pagoda within its walls inside which you will delight in the colorful depictions of Buddha's life. Cap the day off with a festive Farewell Dinner on board. **(Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

● **MAR 2, 2026**

 Disembarkation - Kampong Cham - Siem Reap

Disembark in Kampong Cham and transfer by motorcoach to Siem Reap, gateway to the Angkor Archaeological Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the former capital of the Khmer empire. You'll visit nearby Ta Prohm, known as the "Kingdom of the Trees," for the way in which the temple stones have become intertwined with thick forest vegetation. **(Breakfast / Dinner)**



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Itinerary at a glance

FEB 21 to MAR 8, 2026

● MAR 3, 2026

 Seim Reap - Angkor

Begin your morning exploration of the temple complex at Angkor Wat, the most iconic of all Angkorian temples, built by King Suryavarman II in the early 12th century to honor the Hindu god, Vishnu. You will have the option to take an "early riser" tour to visit Angkor Wat by seeing the colour changes of the temple with the natural sunlight or a "late riser" tour if you wish to relax longer in the morning at your beautiful hotel. An afternoon excursion takes you to see the fascinating jewel in the crown of Angkorian art, Banteay Srei, which means "Citadel of Women," as it has been said that the carving is too fine to have been done by the hand of man. During the evening, be treated to a special "Apsara Dancing Show" at your hotel, featuring local Cambodian/Khmer folk dancers. **(Breakfast / Dinner)**

● MAR 4, 2026

 Seim Reap - Hanoi

After breakfast, you will have a guided sightseeing tour of Angkor Thom meaning "the great city" and the last capital of the Khmer Empire. This is home to Bayon Temple, best known for its gigantic smiling stone faces, as well as the Terrace of the Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King. Later in the day, take a short flight to Hanoi, the capital city of Vietnam. **(Breakfast / Lunch)**

● MAR 5, 2026

 Hanoi

From ancient temples to French Colonial architecture and modern-day skyscrapers, along with beautiful parks and lakes, Hanoi is an eclectic and lively city. A morning sightseeing tour will showcase some of Hanoi's most famous historic and cultural sites, including The Temple of Literature and Tran Quoc Pagoda, one of the oldest temples in Vietnam. You will also visit the infamous prison that American POWs sarcastically dubbed the "Hanoi Hilton" during the Vietnam War. In the afternoon, experience an authentic rickshaw ride (known as a "cyclo") in the Old Quarter, followed by a traditional Water Puppet Show. **(Breakfast)**




Charms of the Mekong



Itinerary at a glance

FEB 21 to MAR 8, 2026

● MAR 6, 2026

 Hanoi - Ha Long Bay

Take a scenic drive from Hanoi to one of Vietnam's most renowned locations, Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Board an elegantly appointed ship designed with all the modern conveniences to ensure smooth sailing for an incredible once-in-a-lifetime experience. The backdrop of the bay's magnificent scenery and dramatic limestone cliffs and rock formations provide you with the perfect setting for a memorable sojourn.

(Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

● MAR 7, 2026

 Ha Long Bay - Hanoi

Spend the morning sailing across the emerald waters of Ha Long Bay with over 2,000 small islands rising from the water like a dragon's back. Later in the morning, disembark the ship and transfer back to Hanoi, where you can enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.

(Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)

● MAR 8, 2026

 Depart Hanoi

Bid farewell to Vietnam and prepare for your homeward flight.

(Breakfast)



Charms of the Mekong



Summary

FEB 21 to MAR 8, 2026

| Day | Destination | Activity |
|-----|----------------------------|--|
| 1 | Ho Chi Minh City | Hotel Check-In |
| 2 | Ho Chi Minh City | City tour and Chu Chi Tunnels |
| 3 | Ho Chi Minh City My Tho | Morning visit to Ben Thanh Market Transfer to My Tho EMBARKATION Welcome Dinner |
| 4 | Cai Be - Sa Dec | Local boat ride Visit local workshops Or local workshops and active walking tour to historic Kiet House Sa Dec Local boat ride to Sa Dec Visit to local market and temple |
| 5 | Tan Chau | Trishaw ride to craftsmen's workshops OR Trishaw ride to craftmen's workshops and active walking tour to Evergreen Island OR Tra Su Forest and Sanctuary* Border Crossing from Vietnam to Cambodia **You will need this information for your visa applications: Exit Point from Vietnam: Son Tien Landport Entry point to Cambodia: Koh Rokar |
| 6 | Phnom Penh | Royal Palace and Central Market OR Royal Palace and National Museum Killing Fields and Genocide Museum excursion |



Charms of the Mekong



Summary

FEB 21 to MAR 8, 2026

| Day | Destination | Activity |
|-----|---|---|
| 7 | Oudong Kampong Tralach Phnom Penh | Buddhist Blessing Ceremony Oxcart ride Tuk tuk orientation tour |
| 8 | Oknhatey Village | Visit Silk Village and local school |
| 9 | Angkor Ban Kampong Cham | Walking tour Wat Nokor |
| 10 | Kampong Cham Siem Reap | DISEMBARKATION Motorcoach transfer to Siem Reap Hotel check-in Ta Prohm Temple |
| 11 | Siem Reap | Angkor Wat and Banteay Srei |
| 12 | Siem Reap Hanoi | Angkor Thom Flight to Hanoi Hotel check-in |
| 13 | Hanoi | City tour and rickshaw ride Water Puppet Show |
| 14 | Hanoi Ha Long Bay | Motorcoach transfer to Ha Long Bay Bay excursion Overnight cruise |
| 15 | Ha Long Bay Hanoi | Transfer to Hanoi Hotel check-in |
| 16 | Hanoi | Return flight home |



Charms of the Mekong



Frequently Asked Questions



What meals are included in the land package?

Most meals are included except the following:

- Day 1 – meals depending on arrival time
- Day 2 – Dinner
- Day 11 – Lunch
- Day 12 – Dinner
- Day 13 – Lunch + dinner
- Day 15 – Dinner

For more details, refer to the above itinerary.



Visas and Passport Validity

Please ensure your Canadian passport is valid for six months beyond your travel dates, so until at least September 8th, 2026. It will be your responsibility to obtain your electronic visas, which can be quickly done online without sending your passports away.

Vietnam: For our itinerary, you will need a multi-entry electronic visa (\$50US per person). Apply for an e-visa - Immigration Department of Vietnam - <http://www.xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn/>. The visa is valid for 90 days once issued, so do not apply before the middle of December.

Cambodia: A Tourist Visa is required. The cost is currently \$36US per person. [eVisa Kingdom of Cambodia \(Official Government Website\)](#)



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Frequently Asked Questions



Inclusions on the River Cruise:
What is included/excluded?

All your meals, daily tours, unlimited complimentary wine with lunch and dinner, as well as house brand spirits, local beer, and soft drinks throughout your cruise. Imported wine and premium alcoholic beverages are available to purchase at an additional cost. Complimentary water is replenished daily.



What flights are included?

There's one flight included, on Day 12, from Siem Reap to Hanoi.



What about tipping?

Ship's Crew: The entire amount will be divided equally amongst all crew members. Recommendation: US\$80 per week per guest.

Cruise Manager: Your Cruise Manager is not part of the ship's crew and is the AmaWaterways representative who also accompanies you on any pre-and/or post-cruise hotel/land extensions you may have booked. Recommendation: US\$30 per week per guest; US\$4 for each additional day per guest for pre- and post-cruise hotel/land extensions.

The suggested total for gratuities per person, for the 15 nights is \$118



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April 2026

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