

## SEVEN NIGHTS ITINERARY – UPRIVER – LOW WATER SEASON (Ho Chi Minh to Phnom Penh) – From December to Mid - August

### Day 1: Friday

#### MEKONG RIVER - MY THO - HO CHI MINH - VIETNAM

We will collect you at the Ho Chi Minh meeting point and transfer you by air-conditioned coach to My Tho dock where we will welcome you aboard the Aqua Mekong. Settle into your floating retreat, with its window wall conferring an endlessly captivating panorama. Enjoy these private Mekong moments on your California king bed, terrace or daybed.

### Day 2: Saturday

#### MEKONG RIVER - BINH THANH/SA DEC - MY AN HUNG

Begin the day at Binh Thanh mat weaving village or opt to visit Sa Dec where we will peruse the vibrant market and see the famous house of Marguerite Duras' legendary lover, Mr. Huynh Thuy Le. In the afternoon, visit a typical Mekong Delta village called My An Hung where we will walk through verdant plantations. We will be invited to a local's home to taste local fruits while hearing traditional folk songs performed by villagers followed by a unique unicorn dance. A 17-kilometer Biking option is also available.

### Day 3: Sunday

#### MEKONG RIVER – CHAU DOC - VINH XUONG – KA'OM SAMNOR BORDER

Travel by skiff along Bassac Canal to Chau Doc floating market then head off by van to Long Son Pagoda atop Sam Mountain. Ask the monks about their age-old Buddhist practices. Return via the bustling morning market. Optional 18 kilometers bike ride on Long Khanh Island or take a rickshaw ride to visit Tan Chau Market with chef. After lunch, relax by the pool, try traditional Khmer massage or learn to cook Mekong inspired dishes while we cross the border.

### Day 4: Monday

#### MEKONG RIVER - KOH OKNHA TEY - PREAH PROSOP

On this river of time we admire dexterous Khmer artisans dyeing and weaving *kroma*, the ubiquitous item no Khmer lives without. Explore the riverbank on two wheels if you wish, past Buddhist temples and thatch houses perched on spindly wooden stilts while white oxen wade just offshore. After lunch, we board our marine-grade aluminum skiffs and head towards the tamarind trees of Preah Prosop, a remote village little changed over several lifetimes.

### Day 5: Tuesday

#### PHNOM PENH - CAMBODIA

We show off the Cambodian capital to our passengers by motorized *tuk-tuk*, the Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda and the National Museum of Cambodia, home to the world's largest collection of Khmer art. For those who wish, we visit the Tuol Sleng Museum of Genocide and the Killing Field or shopping at Russian Market. We bid farewell to 4-night guests who are disembarking in Phnom Penh.

Return to welcome our 3-night passengers over custom sundowners like the Salted Watermelon Crush with Thai basil. Together we celebrate the onward journey towards the heart of this mighty river with a Khmer *Apsara* performance, an indigenous tradition memorialized on the temple walls at Angkor Wat.

**Day 6: Wednesday****TONLE SAP RIVER - KOH CHEN - KAMPONG PRASAT - CAMBODIA**

In the silversmith village of Koh Chen, we watch artisans producing the magnificent silverware favored by Khmer royalty. We continue to Udong, the royal capital from the 17-19<sup>th</sup> centuries, where we learn about a uniquely challenging Buddhist practice at the Vipassana Dhura Mandala, a meditation center. In the afternoon, a walking tour of Kampong Prasat offers a close up perspective on local lives and their riverside environment.

**Day 7: Thursday****TONLE SAP RIVER - KAMPONG CHHNANG – KAMPONG TRALACH – CAMBODIA**

In the cooler hours, we head into the lush countryside to visit traditional potters and palm-sugar producers, astride mountain bikes or chauffeured by shaded *tuk-tuk*. Into the rice paddies we pedal to watch wizened masters scale sky-piercing palms towering over us. Cruise across the glassy water and disembark among the lotuses for an ox-cart ride along the Tonle Sap riverbanks, past lacquered wooden houses where during these dry months residents take refuge in the relative cool of these outdoor impromptu living rooms.

**Day 8: Friday****PHNOM PENH - CAMBODIA**

Customized exploration of Phnom Penh and disembarkation.

*Note: All itineraries are subject to change, due to weather and other conditions.*