

Vietnam, Cambodia, & The Mekong

| 15 Days • Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) to Hanoi

January 16th to 30th, 2025



Inclusions

- 7 Night Cruise, All Suites On The Mekong Jewel
- 7 Nights In 5 Star Hotels
- Airfare Between Siem Reap and Hanoi
- 14 Breakfasts, 9 Lunches, 9 Dinners
- Onshore Lunches Include Soft Drinks, Coffee and Tea
- Complimentary House Wine, Local Spirits, Beer, Soft Drinks, Coffee And Tea On The Ship and During Off Shore Dinners.
- Transfers On Arrival and Departure Days
- All Gratuities To The Ship's Staff and Crew
- All Included Excursions
- Complimentary Wifi and Internet On Board
- All Entertainment and Activities On Board The Ship
- A Pre-Trip Documents Party In Louisville
- University of Louisville Hosts

Exclusions

- Airfare To Ho Chi Minh City and From Hanoi
- Port Charges Of \$245 (per person)
- Gratuities To Local Guides and Drivers
- Services, Meals, and Beverages Not Included In The Tour
- Optional Tours and Items Of A Personal Nature
- Vietnam & Cambodia VISAS

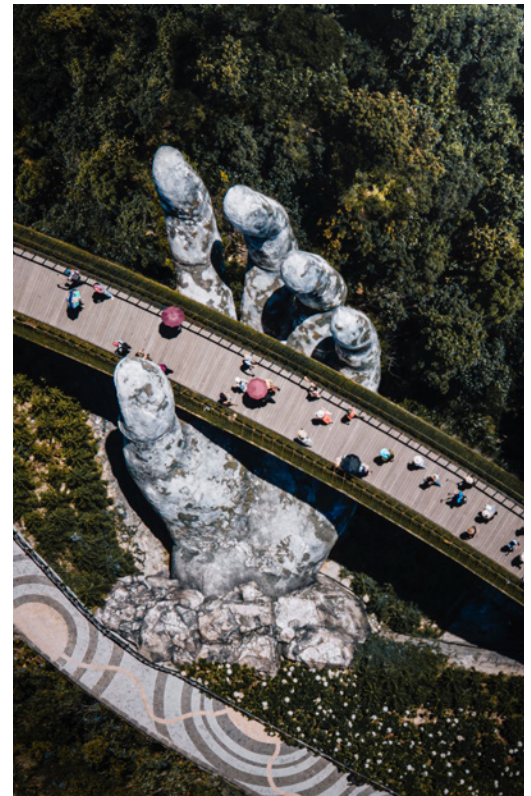
Accommodations

Stateroom	Uniwold	UofL (double-occupancy)	Pay In Full	Past Passenger	Past Pay In Full
Suite	\$7,199	\$6,137	\$5,939	\$5,765	\$5,579
Grand Suite	\$10,699	\$9,392	\$9,089	\$9,020	\$8,729
Royal Suite	\$12,299	\$10,880	\$10,579	\$10,508	\$10,169

Rates are based on double occupancy. U of L and pay in full rates expire Sept. 20, 2024. Pay in full rates must be made at the time of booking. A deposit of 10% is required at time of booking for not pay in full rates. There is a \$200 per person cancellation fee up to 120 days prior to departure. **Final payment is Sept. 10, 2024.**

For questions or to reserve your cabin, please contact David Cassel or Ilse Chavira.

Phone: 817-275-3330 | Email: UofL@novustravelltd.com



A Fascinating, Rewarding, and Multi-Layered Adventure

Two of the most beautiful, historic and friendly places in all of Asia, dynamic Vietnam and pastoral Cambodia are intriguing studies in contrast. Each possesses its own unique charm and social traditions, its own tragic history and complex past.

Ho Chi Minh City offers a heady mixture of old and new, often surprising visitors with its charm. As the lifeblood of

Southeast Asia, the Mekong teems with colorful floating villages. Phnom Penh, Cambodia's thriving capital, is fast-forwarding to the future yet retains a provincial intimacy. And colorful Siem Reap provides the gateway to the vast UNESCO-designated jungle temple complex of Angkor Wat. This is truly a wonderful and exciting cultural travel experience.

Itinerary | Vietnam, Cambodia, & The Mekong

Day 01 – January 16 | Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Arrive at Tan Son Nhat International Airport in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon). If you are arriving today, your cruise/tour package includes a group arrival transfer or if you have purchased a private arrival transfer, you will be greeted by a Uniworld representative and transferred to the Park Hyatt Saigon. Tonight, consider stepping out to explore the lively Ben Thanh Night Market or one of the city's quintessential evening cafés—either choice would mark a splendid start to your adventure.

Note: For Arrival, Departure and Transfer details, please visit [Uniworld.com/transfers](https://www.uniworld.com/transfers). For Port Location details, please visit [Uniworld.com/ports](https://www.uniworld.com/ports).

Day 02 – January 17 | Ho Chi Minh City

Experience how ancient history melds with the boisterous present in Vietnam's largest city, where skyscrapers tower over ancient temples and motorbikes putter along picturesque alleys on your panoramic city tour. Also visit a lacquer showroom to learn about a craft that has been practiced in Vietnam for 700 years.

Featured Excursion | Dynamic Ho Chi Minh City Tour



Day 03 – January 18 | Ho Chi Minh City, Transfer To My Tho (*Embark*), Tien Loi (*Ben Tre*)

Today's featured excursion provides a fascinating glimpse of the Viet Cong's vast network of incredibly narrow tunnels dating back to the Vietnam War Begun by Viet Minh in 1945 as a shelter from French air raids. These tunnels were expanded in the 1960s by the Viet Cong with booby-traps and underground chambers where people lived. Following lunch, you'll be transferred to your ship, the Mekong Jewel.

Featured Excursion | Vestiges of war—Cú Chi Tunnels

Day 04 – January 19 | Tien Loi (*Ben Tre*), Vinh Long, Sa Dec

Today, you'll witness the hustle and bustle of delta river life as the local traders take their produce to market. After breakfast, you'll board a traditional sampan boat and explore the narrow canals and backwaters of this famed region as you sail into town. The untouched island of Tien Loi awaits on a unique excursion created exclusively for Uniworld guests, where you can see how local farmers make rooster cages, decorate bonsais in their yards and more. Upon arrival to Vinh Long, your sampans will bring you to a traditional rice factory. Back onboard, savor an authentic Vietnamese meal this evening.

Featured Excursion | Village Life On The Mekong

Day 05 – January 20 | Sa Dec, Gieng Island, Hong Ngu, Cruising The Mekong River

Following breakfast, continue your journey via sampan, where you'll observe the daily routines of the villagers in the Sa Dec's narrow canals as the children frolic in the water, fishermen ply their trade, and women care for their families. Visit a colorful temple, the home of Mr. Huynh Thuy Le and then sail to Gieng Island, where you'll experience how a local family makes incense sticks and the conical hat as well as seeing 19th century churches and monasteries. From here, visit the colorful market on your way to the romantic, lace like Huynh Thuy Le House, a 19th century home made famous by the French novelist Marguerite Duras, author of the best selling novel, *The Lover*.

Featured Excursion | Sampans and Romance



Day 06 – January 21 | Hong Ngu, Cruising The Mekong River, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Today you'll get a taste of the way of life on the Mekong Delta during another sampan tour that takes you through the floating villages that line the banks of the Mekong. The local island village of Hong Ngu, a major producer of the traditional Khmer scarves located not far from the Vietnam-Cambodia border. Since they're woven in many homes around the village, you'll have the opportunity to see the process first-hand. You'll also stop at a local temple dedicated to a unique religion founded in this area of Vietnam, Hoa Hoa. After visiting the temple, hop aboard a rickshaw for a ride to a factory where you can watch baskets and mats being hand-woven. Then reboard your sampan and cruise to Evergreen Island, where another rickshaw ride through the village awaits you. Your adventure today ends with a visit to the local home of a retired VC General.

Featured Excursion | Daily Life On The Great Delta

Day 07 – January 22 | Phnom Penh

Today, you'll discover the thriving capital of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Phnom Penh. It stands at the juncture of three captivating rivers and represents a dizzying blend of architectural styles—French colonial, Khmer, modern and everything in between. Here, you'll find an alluring riverside esplanade amid numerous bewitching Buddhist temples and palaces. A tuk tuk will then whisk you down wide boulevards laid out by French colonials in the 1860s and see beautiful pagodas and saffron-robed monks on your way to the Royal Palace. You'll also see the National Museum, which features an incomparable collection of the nation's archaeological and artistic treasures. This afternoon, enjoy time on your own to take in shopping and lively entertainment venues of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Featured Excursion | Cambodia's Capital—Phnom Penh

Day 08 – January 23 | Phnom Penh, Cruising The Mekong River, Angkor Ban

Today's featured excursion may be the most profound and memorable experience of your entire journey. You'll learn about the infamous Killing Fields of the Khmer Rouge, where 17,000 people were slaughtered. Also visit a former school-turned-prison that is now a genocide museum.

Featured Excursion | The Killing Fields—Tragedy And Reconciliation In Cambodia



Day 09 – January 24 | Angkor Ban, Wat Hanchey, Kampong Cham

If yesterday was an exploration of Cambodia's dark past, today is a celebration of the country's bright future. You'll meet young children at a local school and friendly villagers in their homes, and have a rare opportunity to receive an unforgettable water blessing from local Buddhist. Also visit Wat Hanchey Temple for incredible views of the Mekong River.

Featured Excursion | Cambodia's Vibrant Cultural Life

Day 10 – January 25 | Kampong Cham (*Disembark*), Transfer To Siem Reap

You'll disembark in the morning and transfer via executive motorcoach to Siem Reap, the gateway to Angkor, the legendary archaeological site. You will enjoy three nights at the Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra Golf & Spa Resort, minutes away from the famed temple complex of Angkor Wat. Climb aboard a remork (a motorcycle driven tuk tuk) for a relaxing tour of the streets of Siem Reap, with stops at artisans' workshops, a young performers dance association, and workshops of hand-carved wood and stone sculptures, lacquer works, silk paintings, and silk fabrics locally hand-made the traditional way.

Featured Excursion | City Tour & Artisan Visit By Remork

Day 11 – January 26 | Siem Reap, Angkor Wat Temple

Today is a bucket list kind of day as you explore the ancient temples of Angkor Wat, a gigantic religious complex that is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Built 900 years ago, Angkor Wat Temple is the largest religious monument in the world and is simply breathtaking in both size and scope. It was part of a 250 square mile city that has largely disappeared into the jungle. Excavation efforts are still ongoing.

Featured Excursion | Angkor Wat Temple

Master Piece Collection | Khmer Culinary School - or - Cambodian Acrobatic Drama

Note: Order of sightseeing may change on Days 11 and 12. Temple visits are subject to change due to factors beyond our control.

Itinerary | Vietnam, Cambodia, & The Mekong



Day 12 – January 27 | Siem Reap, Angkor Thom, Baynon, & Ta Prohm

Today you will enter the spectacular remnants of Angkor Thom, the royal city. Built during the heyday of the Khmer dynasty in the 12th century, this extraordinary complex of Hindu and Buddhist monuments was once lost to the world for many years, hidden under dense jungle vines. After lunch, visit the amazing “jungle temple” of Ta Prohm which has been left almost as it was many centuries ago. Massive trees grow like magic out of stone walls and roofs, their tentacle-like roots pouring over doorways and stretching across courtyards. Next, visit the unfinished temple of Ta Keo. When the temple was struck by lightning, construction was suspended since that event was considered a bad omen. This evening, indulge in a lavish dinner with an Apsara dance show.

Featured Excursions | South Gate Angkor Thom, Bayon and Ta Prohm - *or* - Apsara Show and Dinner

Master Piece Collection | Bakheng Hill Sunrise Gondola Ride

Note: Order of sightseeing may change on Days 11 and 12. Temple visits are subject to change due to factors beyond our control.

Day 13 – January 28 | Siem Reap, Fly To Hanoi

Enjoy free time in Siem Reap before your flight to Hanoi. Then, check in to your luxury accommodations, the Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi Hotel.

Master Piece Collection | Quad Bike Tour

Day 14 – January 29 | Hanoi

Hanoi’s elegant boulevards are lined with trees and handsome buildings, as you’ll see on today’s fascinating tour of the city. At the same time, this lively cultural center—Vietnam’s capital city—is replete with bustling streets, food vendors, museums and historic sites, making for an intriguing study in contrasts that rivals any other metropolitan destination. Spend the day exploring this city many call Asia’s most beautiful. Visit the Temple of Literature, originally built as a Confucian temple in 1070. Next visit the dank cells at the notorious “Hanoi Hilton”, a prison for American soldiers during the Vietnam War.

Featured Excursion | Hanoi City Tour

Day 15 – January 30 | Hanoi

Check out of your luxury hotel and head to the airport for your flight home or continue to Ha Long Bay for an optional 3-night post tour adventure.

About The Ship | Mekong Jewel



About The Ship | Mekong Jewel

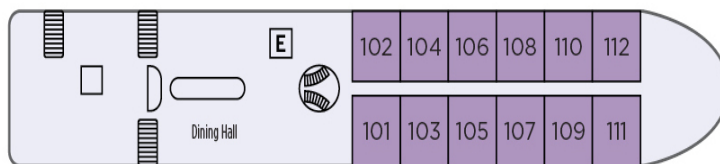
Debating in January 2020, the Mekong Jewel is the newest and most luxurious ship on the Mekong River.

This all-suite Super Ship includes two dining venues: one main restaurant and an al fresco eatery on the upper deck. The Mekong Jewel was constructed with sustainable, eco-friendly materials, and features a swimming pool, spa, sauna and steam room, gym, hair salon, nail bar, two lounges, and a library.

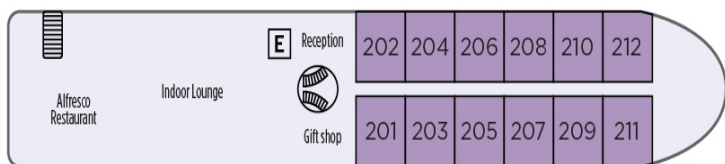
Sun Deck



Lotus Deck



Orchid Deck

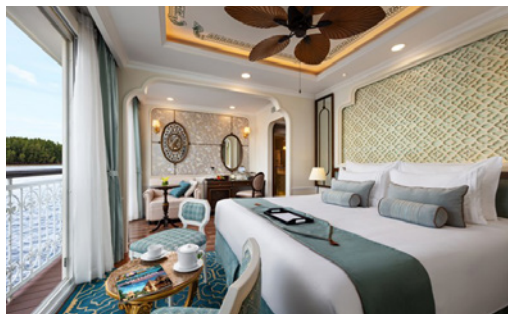


Jasmine Deck

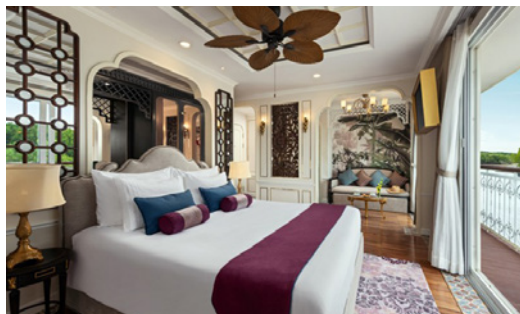


Royal Suite
 Grand Suite
 Suite
 E Elevator

Staterooms



SUITE (339 sq ft)



GRAND SUITE (551 sq ft)



ROYAL SUITE (924 sq ft)

Optional Post-Cruise Tour | Ha Long Bay

| 4 Days • Ao Ech, Viet Hai, and Hanoi

January 31th to February 4th, 2025



Inclusions

- One Additional Night At The Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi Hotel (Or Similar)
- Two Nights On The Paradise Junk (Or Similar), Ha Long & Lan Ha Bays With All Meals Onboard
- Breakfast Daily, Two Lunches, Two Dinners
- All Service Charges, Taxes, And Portage
- Viet Hai Village Visit
- Kayaking Excursion In Ao Ech
- Dark And Bright Cave Visit
- Discover Natural Lagoons In Lan Ha Bay
- Group Transfers From Airport To The Hotel And Hotel To The Ship
- Uniworld Guide Throughout The Tour
- Motorcoach Transportation Throughout The Tour Exclusively For The UofL Group.
- Sightseeing And Entrance Fees For Included Tours
- Portage
- Morning Orientation Upon Arrival
- All Hotel Taxes And Fees

Exclusions

- Gratuities To The Guides And Driver
- Non-Included Meals
- Items Of A Personal Nature

Pricing

\$1,349 per person | Based on Double Occupancy (A minimum of 25 passengers is required for this tour)

*Deposit of \$250 per person due at time of booking. Once deposit is received there is a \$100 per person cancellation fee up to final payment. Final payment due by **Final payment is Sept. 20, 2024.***

For questions or to reserve your cabin, please contact David Cassel or Ilse Chavira.

Phone: 817-275-3330 | Email: UofL@novustravelltd.com



Day 01 | Hanoi, Ha Long Bay, Ao Ech Friday, January 31

Featured Excursion: Kayak Ao Ech

After enjoying breakfast at your hotel in Hanoi, you'll board a motorcoach that will carry you on a scenic drive to the bay, where you'll be transferred by speed boat to board the luxurious paradise junk (or similar) and begin your breathtaking cruise. Precipitous limestone pillars and isles—hundreds of them—rise out of the emerald water of the bay. Settle into your stateroom, then enjoy lunch with a matchless view as you sail among these astonishing formations, the result of eons of tides and rain. You will have time for optional kayaking around the beautiful Ao Ech area. Enjoy a delicious BBQ buffet dinner prepared by the boat's chef. Afterward, relax on deck and enjoy more scenic sailing.

Day 02 | Ha Long Bay, Viet Hai Saturday, February 1

Featured Excursion: Viet Hai Village Visit

Welcome your second day onboard paradise junk with a Tai Chi session on the sundeck as the sun rises. The first destination is Viet Hai village. You can explore the majestic landscapes and the simple life of local people there by going cycling or hopping in an electric car. We'll pass by a fish farm and bee houses, experience a fishpond foot massage, and sit for lunch on the boat. After Viet Hai, you can visit Castaway Island with a swimming and/or kayaking trip. Return to the ship for dinner.

Day 03 | Ha Long Bay, Hanoi Sunday, February 2

Featured Excursion: Dark And Bright Cave

Early this morning, participate in Tai Chi on the sundeck and enjoy breakfast prior to your excursion.

The Karst islands of the bay are dotted with caves. Join an early-morning excursion to one of the most spectacular, the dark and bright lagoon.

You will be transported there by locals rowing bamboo boats, or you can kayak at your own pace. This is a poetic and stunning location that acts as an access way to a beautifully tranquil lake, surrounded by walls of stones in different scales and sizes.

After our visit, you will be transferred on a speedboat to return to Tuan Chau Marina for check out. You'll disembark and return to Hanoi, where you'll check back into your previous hotel.

Day 04 | Hanoi Monday, February 3

Following breakfast at the hotel, you will be transferred to Hanoi's Noi Bai International Airport for your flight home. Your extraordinary journey is over, but the memories you've made will last a lifetime.