



Small Group Tours by **EMBARK**

15 DAY HOSTED TOUR WITH MICHELLE BARKER
26 JANUARY 2027 - 9 FEBRUARY 2027

CAMBODIA & THE MEKONG





Let's explore Cambodia and the Mekong River!

Imagine immersing yourself in the heart of Southeast Asia on a beautifully balanced two-week journey through Cambodia and Vietnam, a region rich in history, colour, and unforgettable flavours. We begin with six unforgettable nights in Siem Reap, giving you the rare luxury to unpack once and truly experience this remarkable city in depth. Siem Reap is the gateway to the legendary Angkor temple complex, home to Angkor Wat – the largest religious monument in the world – and a powerful symbol of Cambodian pride, even featured on the national flag.

Beyond the temples, Siem Reap is known for its vibrant food scene. We'll dine at some of the best restaurants in the country, blending traditional Khmer cuisine with modern creativity. For the adventurous, there's also the chance to try one of Cambodia's most famous street-food curiosities – a scorpion, considered a local delicacy!

From here, we board AMA Waterways for a seven-night Mekong River cruise, sailing one of Asia's most iconic waterways. The Mekong River stretches over 4,300 kilometres, supporting millions of people who rely on it for food, trade, and daily life. As we glide through Cambodia and Vietnam, you'll encounter floating markets, golden temples, and villages built on stilts along the riverbanks. Each bend reveals deeper insight into the traditions, flavours, and spirit of Southeast Asia.

We finish this incredible journey with an unforgettable group experience in Ho Chi Minh City – a lively, sensory feast of sights and sounds. Our final night takes us on a thrilling food tour through the city on the back of Vespas, tasting iconic Vietnamese dishes while weaving through neon-lit streets. It's the perfect finale for our time together!

With a maximum of 20 guests, our small group tour allows us to go beyond the 'normal' itineraries you'll see for Cambodia. Embark on the journey with us, it's immersive, cultural, adventurous and truly unforgettable.

Itinerary Overview

- 6 nights' accommodation Siem Reap Cambodia
- 7 nights' accommodation onboard AMA Waterways Mekong Cruise
- 1 nights' accommodation Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam

Want to stay on longer and explore Vietnam? We have a fantastic local operator to help plan any extension of this holiday throughout Vietnam. Want to relax on the beach, we can take you across to the island of Phu Quoc! Want to keep experiencing the culture of Vietnam, travel North into Central Vietnam through Hoi An and Hue. We have endless options and can help create an amazing, private itinerary to continue your travels through Vietnam and beyond.

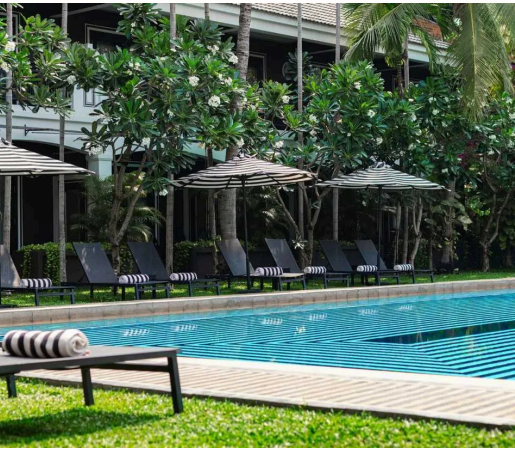




26th January 2027 : Day One (Light refreshments)

Today you can arrive in Siem Reap at any time and you will be transferred from the airport to your accommodation. An option for an air-inclusive package will be offered 10-months prior to departure.

Our home in Siem Reap is the stunning Shinta Mani Angkor, a luxury property set within the tree-shaded Royal District. In this unrivalled location, the hotel seamlessly blends iconic design by acclaimed architect Bill Bensley with remarkably refined service and a strong commitment to meaningful local philanthropy. It is both stylish and soulful — the perfect place to return to after days of exploration.



Before it became a boutique hotel, Shinta Mani Angkor was a tuition-free hospitality school for underprivileged Cambodians, founded by Bill Bensley and Sokoun Chanpreda. The school remains part of the Shinta Mani Angkor complex, and it is one of many projects of the Shinta Mani Foundation, which is funded in part by room revenues. Which means that by staying here, you are making a real, positive impact on the Cambodian community.

Here, you can unpack once and settle in for six nights, using Siem Reap as your base to explore the temples of Angkor and the surrounding countryside at a comfortable, unhurried pace — allowing time to truly absorb the atmosphere of this unique and captivating destination.



This evening, join Michelle for a cocktail and light snack at 'Bensley's Bar'. Located in the resort, it's a vibrant space where art, music and exceptional cocktails come together.

27th January 2027 : Day Two (B, L)

We'll begin our day early, with an unforgettable sunrise over Angkor Wat, the most famous temple of Siem Reap. The early morning start is definitely worth it as you witness the soft golden light slowly revealing the world's largest religious monument.



Built in the early 12th century, Angkor Wat is so deeply woven into Cambodian identity that it proudly appears on the national flag — a rare honour shared by very few landmarks worldwide. This visually spectacular, three-tiered temple was originally designed to represent Mount Meru, the sacred home of the gods in Hindu mythology, and remains the best-preserved temple in the Angkor complex.

After soaking in this magical moment, return to your hotel for a relaxed breakfast and time to refresh before continuing your exploration. Next, visit Ta Prohm, one of Cambodia's most beloved and atmospheric temples. Left largely as it was found, this jungle-clad site is famous for its enormous tree roots winding through ancient stone walls — a powerful reminder of nature's ability to reclaim even the grandest human creations.



A short stroll brings you to Porch Cambodia Restaurant for a leisurely lunch, where you'll enjoy a refined and luxurious dining experience in a relaxed setting.

In the afternoon, enter Angkor Thom through the impressive South Gate, lined with striking statues representing the forces of good and evil. Continue on to the mesmerising Bayon Temple, renowned for its hundreds of serene, smiling stone faces that gaze out in all directions. The temple's intricate bas-reliefs tell vivid stories of everyday life, ceremonies, and epic battles of the ancient Khmer Empire.

Your journey through Angkor concludes at Phimeanakas, a pyramid-shaped temple once reserved for royalty. Climb to the top for sweeping views across the ruins below, before strolling past the Terrace of the Elephants, where row upon row of carved elephant trunks once formed a grand platform for royal ceremonies. It's a day filled with wonder, history, and moments you'll remember forever.

Being a small group means we have flexibility. After an early start to the morning, we may move one of the afternoon temples to a different day - depending on the energy of the group.

This afternoon and evening are yours to enjoy at leisure. If you're feeling like continuing the adventure, join Michelle and hop in a tuk-tuk to head into lively Pub Street, where you can savour a local meal and wander through the bustling markets, filled with unique handicrafts, souvenirs, and the vibrant energy that makes Siem Reap so memorable.

28th January 2027 : Day Three (B, L)

This morning offers a meaningful and eye-opening insight into Cambodia's recent history, balanced beautifully with art, culture, and local life. Begin with a visit to the Cambodia Landmine Museum, where you'll hear the powerful and inspiring story of Aki Ra — a former child soldier who dedicated his life to clearing landmines and helping communities rebuild. The museum provides thoughtful context on Cambodia's past, while also highlighting the ongoing efforts that continue to save lives and restore hope.

From here, travel on to the exquisite Banteay Srei Temple, often called the "Citadel of Women." Built in the 10th century, this smaller but remarkably detailed temple is celebrated for its intricate red sandstone carvings, considered some of the finest examples of classical Khmer art. Its beauty and preservation make it one of the most treasured temples in the region.

On the return journey to Siem Reap, enjoy a stop at Preah Dak Village, a charming rural community surrounded by lush rice paddies and tropical greenery. Here, you'll gain a glimpse into traditional Cambodian village life and have the chance to sample popular local cookies loved by residents — a simple but delightful taste of everyday Cambodia.

Afterwards, continue back to Siem Reap for a relaxed lunch at a local restaurant, before returning to the Shinta Mani for some downtime.





There's no better way to unwind after a day exploring the temples or the alleyways of Siem Reap than with a dip in one of the Shina Mani's two pools. The striking, 23-meter (75-foot) Bayon Pool gets all-day sun and is distinguished by its geometric patterned tiles, while the 20-meter (66-foot) Angkor Pool is flanked by towering palms and perfect for swimming laps.



This evening, immerse yourself in Cambodia's vibrant contemporary arts scene with a visit to the renowned Phare Cambodian Circus. This extraordinary performance blends acrobatics, aerial ballet, mime, tightrope walking, and live music to tell powerful Cambodian stories. Run by an NGO, Phare supports disadvantaged Khmer youth through arts education and performance training, making this not only an unforgettable show, but one that gives back to the community. The performance runs from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm, with the show lasting approximately one hour.

29th January 2027 : Day Four (B, D)



Today, we'll immerse ourselves in the daily life of a Cambodian rural community. The Kok Sangke Community is located 35km from Siem Reap, and for many years agriculture was the heart of the village. Life at Kok Sangke village has always been simple, with most people working in farming or fishing. There are no large hotels or crowded streets, only small homes and peaceful surroundings.

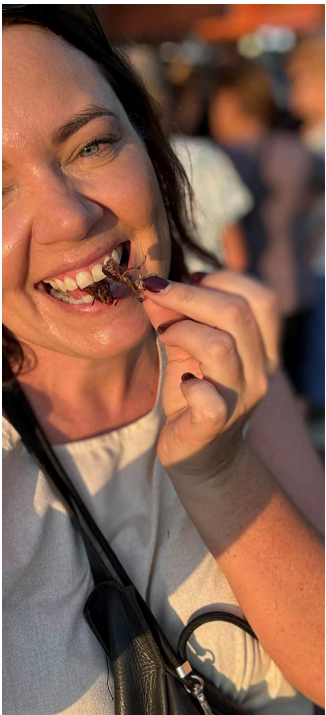
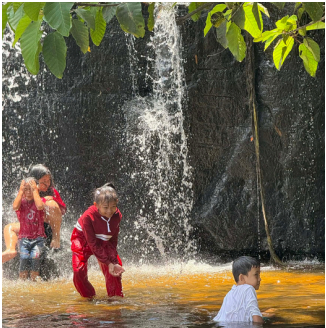
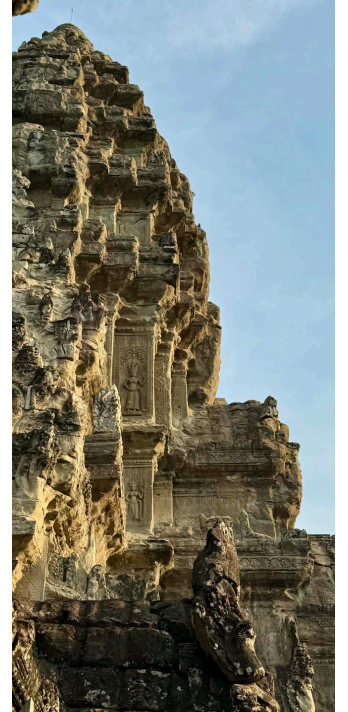


Education options were once limited, with only basic schools available. Healthcare services were also modest, with a small local clinic serving the community. In 2020, everything began to change. Together with local monks and community leaders, our local partners helped Kok Sangke explore a new direction through community tourism. Instead of mass tourism, the village embraced community-based tourism as a way to create local opportunities, strengthen education, and support long-term community development. Money from tourism is shared fairly and used for community needs. Some of it supports schools, health care, and village projects. This way, community tourism gives back more than it takes, and people stay in control of their future.



We will visit local families and farms to gain insight into their traditions and livelihoods. Learn how bamboo sticky rice is made, observe blacksmiths crafting metal tools, and visit a family producing traditional rice wine. As you walk through the village, meet families raising livestock and growing vegetables, and discover the art of craft weaving and palm sugar production (when in season). Enjoy a light snack, fruits, soft drink at the community venue before visiting a local pagoda, where the Chai Yam Music Band will welcome you with traditional music. Our visit to Kok Sangke Community finishes with a special monk blessing before returning to Siem Reap.

This evening it's time to hop into tuk-tuks for our evening street food market tour! Indulge in an adventurous culinary journey, sampling Siem Reap's best street food. Head to the outskirts of the city to taste a variety



of Khmer street food, from grilled quail eggs and noodle dishes to more daring options such as fried crickets and tarantulas. Sample barbecued meats and fresh tropical fruits, washing it all down with a refreshing local beer, or soft drink.

30th January 2027 : Day Five (B, D)

After breakfast in the hotel, you will be picked up and then travel to Wat Atvea, to meet one of Cambodia's most celebrated contemporary artists - Channy Chhoeun. A 'local legend', you will be welcomed into Channy's home studio and gallery to discover the incredible story behind his journey into the world of art. Learn about his early life, growing up in a remote jungle community before enrolling in the renowned Phare Ponleu Selpak art school. Passionate about wildlife and environmental conservation, Channy expresses these themes in his paintings. Enjoy tea and snacks while exploring his artwork and gaining insight into his creative process. Next, return to town and enjoy a quick tour at Artisans D' Angkor, one of the most popular cultural attractions in Siem Reap — a social enterprise and arts-and-crafts centre dedicated to preserving traditional Khmer craftsmanship while empowering local communities.

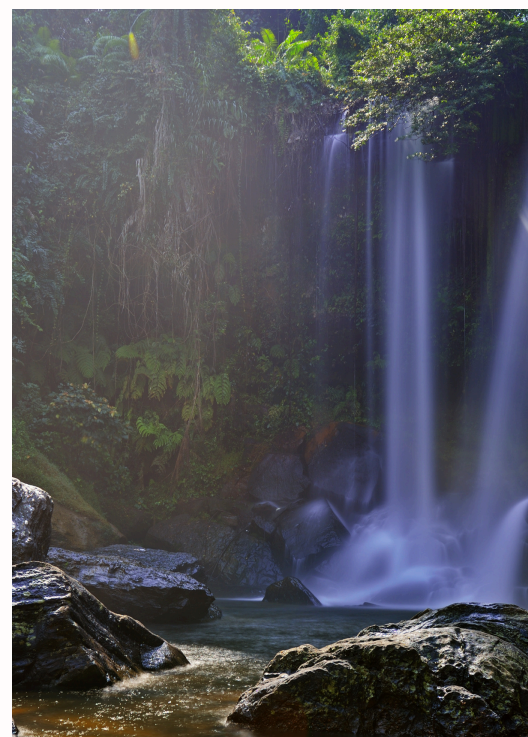
In the afternoon, you will be transferred to enjoy Sunset Cocktails & dinner at Khmer Heritage Village. This charming cultural site showcases a collection of traditional Khmer wooden houses, each reflecting the unique architectural styles and lifestyles of Cambodia's past. Upon arrival, enjoy a unique experience as you witness the traditional process of making Khmer Rice Wine (Sra Sor) and sample its distinctive flavor. Enjoy a special dinner and take in the beautiful sunset over the tranquil countryside.

31st January 2027 : Day Six (B, D)

Today you will have a choice of included activity.

Our 'active' option is to Kulen Mountain and Waterfall. Considered the birthplace of the Khmer Empire, Phnom Kulen is a sacred mountain range located approximately 90minutes' drive from Siem Reap. It was here in 802 AD that King Jayavarman II declared independence from Java and established the cult of the linga. During the visit, explore the River of a Thousand Lingas, carved into the riverbed, and visit the impressive reclining Buddha statue dating back to the 16th century. Approximately 150 steps will take you to the third tier of the waterfalls, and where you can swim in the cool natural pools. You'll have a picnic lunch included before returning to Siem Reap.

Our alternative option is to immerse yourself with a hands on cooking experience with the Sampos Family. From the hotel, you will travel to Chreav village, where you will be greeted by Chef Samphos. Begin with a walking tour of local vegetable farms, before visiting a bustling market to source fresh ingredients. Return to the kitchen, where Chef Samphos will guide you through preparing traditional Khmer dishes while sharing cultural insights. Enjoy a delicious lunch of your creations before returning to the Shinta Mani.





In the evening, we'll gather for a special dinner at the renowned Kroya Restaurant at the Shinta Mani. Still to this day, this is one of the most amazing meals I've eaten!

"Kroya" means "food" in the Khmer Royal language, and Kroya Modern Cambodian Cuisine by Chef Chanrith evokes the Cambodian cuisine of the past while sharing a vision of its future, reinterpreting traditional recipes with modern flair. Chef Chanrith's menu highlights fresh, locally sourced ingredients and native herbs and spices to create an innovative fine-dining experience.



As we arrive at the restaurant, you will be warmly welcomed with a traditional lady drum performance. For our dinner, we'll be joined by some special guests - offering a meaningful opportunity for connection, shared stories, and cultural exchange. Enjoy an elegant dining experience in a refined setting, creating a memorable highlight of our time together in Siem Reap.

1st February 2027 : Day Seven (B, L, D)

After an early breakfast, it's time to farewell Siem Reap. We will be transferred to Kampong Cham to embark on our AMA Waterways 7night 'Riches of the Mekong' adventure.



We will be onboard the AmaDara for 7 nights; this distinctive ship is in a class of her own! The AmaDara (which is being refurbished in 2026) features French Colonial décor and richly carved wood furniture inspired by the history of the region, as well as local artifacts made by native craftsmen. Air-conditioned interior corridors lead to spacious staterooms and suites, most featuring twin balconies that invite the ever-changing scenery of Southeast Asia inside. On board, the AmaDara caters to your every whim, with massage rooms, fitness room, gift shop, hair salon and sun-deck pool. The Saigon Lounge provides respite by day and unites guests over intriguing local entertainment by night. Savor authentic regional delicacies and Western cuisine in the Main Restaurant or dine at The Chef's Table specialty restaurant; and throughout your cruise, be treated to unlimited complimentary wine with lunch and dinner, as well as house brand spirits, local beer and soft drinks throughout your cruise.



2nd February 2027 : Day Eight (B, L, D)

This morning you will be able to go on a walking tour to 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 sails to Oknhatey or 'Silk Island', located on the lush banks of the Mekong River.

This island is known for its rich tradition of silk weaving. While here, you'll visit a local elementary school and observe traditional silk weaving - an art that has been preserved for centuries. The ship moors in Oknhatey village.

3rd February 2027 : Day Nine (B, L, D)

Today offers a deeper understanding of Cambodia's past and present as you explore Phnom Penh, the vibrant capital city and cultural heart of the country. Home to over 2.3 million people, Phnom Penh sits at the confluence of the Mekong, Tonlé Sap, and Bassac rivers and has been Cambodia's capital since the 15th century. Today, it is a city of contrasts — grand colonial architecture, golden temples, bustling markets, and a rapidly growing modern skyline.

This morning's excursion takes you to the highlights of Phnom Penh, including a visit to the Royal Palace and the Silver Pagoda. Afterwards visit the National Museum, which houses an outstanding collection of Khmer crafts or shop for unique treasures at the bustling Central Market.

A poignant part of the day is a visit to the Killing Fields of Choeung Ek, one of the most significant memorial sites in Cambodia. During the Khmer Rouge regime between 1975 and 1979, an estimated 1.7 to 2 million people — nearly a quarter of Cambodia's population at the time — lost their lives through execution, starvation, or forced labour. Choeung Ek serves as a powerful place of remembrance, honouring the victims and offering quiet reflection on the resilience and strength of the Cambodian people. This moving experience provides important historical context and a deeper appreciation for Cambodia's journey forward.

Returning to the ship for the evening, Khmer folk dancing will be performed by local children in the Saigon Lounge.

4th February 2027 : Day Ten (B, L, D)

This morning's cruise excursion takes us to 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 Buddhist Blessing Ceremony at a monastery. You may walk around Oudong's monastery or take a more active option to see panoramic views of the Oudong plain. Later in the day, experience Phnom Penh via a Tuk Tuk ride and be enchanted by the city's French colonial architecture and tree-lined boulevards.

5th February 2027 : Day Eleven (B, L, D)

Spend the day onboard the AmaDara as we cruise the Mekong River. Relax by the pool or perhaps book in a massage (spa treatments are at your own expense). Today we will cross from Cambodia to Vietnam.

6th February 2027 : Day Twelve (B, L, D)

Today 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 town, which makes stops at silk-making and rattan mat workshops. Afterwards you'll have a choice of activity. Take an active walking tour to 'Evergreen island' or explore the Mekong further on a traditional sanpan boat. Glide through the diverse ecosystem of the Tra Su Forest and Sanctuary, which is home to more than 70 species of birds.

Later in the day, we'll continue cruising to Sa Dec.

7th February 2027 : Day Thirteen (B, L, D)

Once ashore in Sa Dec, tour the town where French writer Marguerite Duras spent many years in her youth. Visit a fascinating local market and a colourful Cao Dai Temple, home to the unique religion of Caodism in Southern Vietnam. This is a fusion of Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Confucianism. Alternatively, you may wish to tour the house of Mr Huynh Thuy Le - Duras's Chinese paramour, on whom her prize-winning novel "The Lover" is said to be based. The house itself now serves as a small museum showcasing a blend of architectural styles, original furniture and family memorabilia.

In the afternoon you will have an opportunity to visit candy and rice paper making workshops, or for a more active option - visit the historic Kiet Old House.

Cap off the day with a festive Farewell Dinner onboard.

8th February 2027 : Day Fourteen (B, D)

This morning we will farewell the crew of the Amadara and disembark in My Tho Port. It will take approximately two hours (depending on traffic) to transfer to Ho Chi Minh City/Saigon.

Tonight immerse yourself in the cosmopolitan nightlife of this bustling city by joining a (safe!) adventure on the back of the vintage and iconic vehicle, the Vespa. Soak up the energy of this urban metropolis at our central city location while watching the world go by we sip on our first drinks and try out some tasty snacks. Your expert driver will then zoom through the busy streets of Saigon as you check out some of the famous highlights in this bustling city. Feel like a local as we feast on authentic, fresh seafood dishes, eating streetside and then enjoy the local favourite that is the delicious Banh Xeo, a traditional Vietnamese savoury pancake. Bring a healthy appetite and a sense of adventure as our guides show you their city by night. It's the perfect ending to our two week journey together!

9th February 2027 : Day Fifteen (B)

This morning the tour officially ends and you can leave at any time. Transfers will be provided to the airport at any time today. An option for an air-inclusive package will be offered 10-months prior to departure. Perhaps extend your time in Vietnam to explore further!





Your 2027 Embark Tour includes

INCLUDES

- Arrival Transfer in Siem Reap / Departure Transfer in Saigon
- 7 nights, 5 star accommodation
- 7 nights onboard the AmaDara
- Sightseeing and transport as per the itinerary - all entrance fees included
- Meals: Breakfast (B), Lunch (L) and Dinner (D) where indicated in the above itinerary
- Small Group of only 20 (plus guides and Embark Travel representatives)
- Embark Travel tour manager, travelling with you
- Local sightseeing experts throughout
- Pre-tour get together
- All tipping throughout
- Departure Pack (luggage tags, luggage straps, ticket wallet etc)
- Cambodia and Vietnam Tourist Visas

PACKAGE COST: \$11,300 per person twin/double share

SAVE \$500 PER PERSON EARLYBIRD PRICING IF BOOKED/DEPOSITED BY 28 FEBRUARY 2026

This is based on a Category B cabin onboard AMA Waterways.

Solo Supplement, from \$4,900 - please enquire for availability.

First deposit is \$2,500 per person (due within 7 days of booking)

Balance due 4 months prior to departure. All payments are non-refundable unless otherwise specified.

UPGRADES on AmaDara

- Upgrade to a Category A Cabin - additional \$480 per person twin/double share
- Upgrade to a Suite - additional \$2080 per person twin/double share

Airfares from Sydney will be offered 10 months prior to departure.

Please note that twin share option is only offered when you are booking with the person you are sharing with. If you are a solo traveller, the solo supplement must be paid. Please request full terms and conditions of our group tours for further details.



ARE YOU READY TO EMBARK?

TO SECURE YOUR PLACE, CALL
0402335919

OR EMAIL
MICHELLE@EMBARK-TRAVEL.COM.AU

