

Craig
travel

INDOCHINA'S HIDDEN CHARMS

BOOK BY MAY 29, 2026
SAVE \$200 PP

NOV 7 - 23, 2026 | 17 DAYS | 45 MEALS | ALL EXCURSIONS
PANDAW CRUISES • RV MEKONG PANDAW
JOURNEY LEADER: KAREN CULLEN

Stunning Bayon Temple, with its extensive and detailed relief carvings in Angkor Thom

Experience an exciting voyage on the Mekong River, journeying through Indochina and exploring Cambodia's secluded backwaters. As one of the most sought-after new river cruising destinations, this wonderful trip is sure to book up quickly!

Showcasing the best of the region, our journey begins in Hanoi, Vietnam's vibrant northern capital. After a magical overnight cruise on Ha Long Bay, we fly to Siem Reap to marvel at the magnificent ruins of Angkor, Southeast Asia's most impressive ancient temples. Then, board the elegant RV Mekong Pandaw, designed for cruising these waters and sure to delight even the most discerning travellers. Sail along the Mekong and Tonle Sap Rivers, exploring quaint villages and ancient temples. Enjoy time in Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital, before heading to the legendary and thrilling Saigon.

Designed for the experienced traveller, this journey moves at a good pace, with ample time to experience the uniqueness of this fascinating part of the world.



Inclusive Features

- Return economy airfare with Cathay Pacific
- Deluxe hotel stays in Hanoi (2 nights), Siem Reap (3 nights), Ho Chi Minh (2 nights)
- 7-night deluxe cruise on the RV Mekong Pandaw
- 1-night cruise in Ha Long Bay on a Paradise traditional junk boat
- All outside staterooms on RV Mekong Pandaw with private facilities
- All cruise meals with beverages and complimentary local beer/spirits, water, tea, juices, and soft drinks (wine at extra cost) while cruising on the RV Mekong Pandaw
- Welcome Cocktail and Farewell Reception
- Guided excursions in each port and local guides throughout the cruise
- 45 meals as noted in the itinerary (B - 15 breakfasts, L - 15 lunches, D - 15 dinners)
- Transfers between airports, hotels and the ship
- All sightseeing and entrance fees on tours as mentioned throughout the itinerary
- Bottled water on transfers and sightseeing excursions
- Baggage handling at the hotels and shipside
- Services of your local Cruise Director and our Journey Leader from Canada
- Gratuities for all included services (guides, drivers, hotel and ship staff)
- Visa fees (for Canadian passport holders)
- All taxes and fees including departure and port taxes
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare

Journey Leader

Karen Cullen retired after over 30 years in the travel industry, serving as a Director in Business Development for both a global travel agency and a travel insurance provider. Passionate about history, culture, and volunteering, her travels have taken her across Europe, as well as Australia, Hawaii, Central America, the Caribbean, and the Bahamas. She's hiked glaciers in Iceland, kayaked in Newfoundland and Tofino, and skied the Rockies. One of her proudest moments was volunteering in Malawi with Women for Fair Development. Karen looks forward to sharing her love of travel and meaningful connection with fellow travellers.



NOV 7, Saturday

DEPART CANADA

Tour members gather in the evening on November 6 for our just-passed-midnight flight to Hanoi, connecting through Hong Kong and arriving on Sunday morning.

NOV 8, Sunday

ARRIVE HANOI, VIETNAM

Upon arrival, we'll gather for lunch at a local restaurant before settling into our hotel. In the evening, we'll regroup for a warm welcome dinner at the hotel.

Pan Pacific Hanoi (2 nights)

LD

NOV 9, Monday

HANOI

We'll dive into the vibrant rhythm of Hanoi's back alley culture as we explore the storied Ancient Quarter, also known as the 36 Streets District. Wandering through its maze of narrow lanes, we'll uncover hidden water wells, timeworn staircases, and the quiet secrets tucked behind the city's bustling facade. We'll marvel at the fascinating and innovative architecture and refresh with a drink at a 'locals only' store. We will see a peaceful series of walled courtyards and graceful gateways, and one of the best serving examples of traditional Vietnamese architecture at the Temple of Literature. After a tasty lunch at a local restaurant, we'll visit Tran Quoc Pagoda, the oldest Buddhist temple in the city. Take in the beauty of the tree-lined streets, resplendent with French colonial

architecture including the restored Opera House. Our day wraps up with the charm and spectacle of a traditional water puppet show! BLD

NOV 10, Tuesday HANOI / HA LONG BAY

We drive to Vietnam's Ha Long Bay and board a traditional junk boat for a cruise amongst this UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its magnificent natural beauty. On board, we will enjoy a seafood lunch and cruise through the islands as we explore a series of breathtaking caves and grottoes. **Paradise traditional junk boat** (1 night) BLD

NOV 11, Wednesday

HA LONG BAY / HANOI / SIEM REAP, Cambodia

We disembark and return to Hanoi, stopping for lunch at a local restaurant along the way, before boarding our flight to Siem Reap. Upon arrival we transfer to our hotel.

Borei Angkor Resort and Spa (3 nights) BLD

NOV 12, Thursday SIEM REAP

We visit Angkor Thom, the last capital of the Khmers. We shall see the Elephant and Leper King Terraces together with the stunning Bayon Temple, with its extensive and detailed relief carvings, and the Baphuon Temple. Our next stop is Ta Prohm, a temple site reclaimed by the jungle and only recently rediscovered. This afternoon, explore the world's largest temple, Angkor Wat. With the volume of stone equaling that of the pyramids in Egypt, this temple took thirty years to complete and has been occupied by Buddhist monks ever since. Of special note are the bas-reliefs on the exterior walls. Then, we visit a school dedicated to teaching traditional arts, stone and wood carving, lacquerware and more. BLD

NOV 13, Friday SIEM REAP

This morning we have a special treat: a Khmer cooking class at a local restaurant. Following a briefing we will visit the morning market to purchase the ingredients that we will need. Back at the restaurant, we will help prepare a three-course meal of local delicacies, then savour our creations over lunch. This afternoon, we visit the Banteay Srei, the "Citadel of Women". This tiny enchanting temple is a true jewel of Khmer architecture. Built with red sandstone in the 10th century and dedicated to the Hindu God Shiva, this is the most Indian of all Angkor temples. Finally, we visit Banteay Samre, dating from the early 12th century. BLD

NOV 14, Saturday SIEM REAP/ EMBARK

We transfer by coach to Steung Trang to embark on our ship and new home for the next week. Enjoy lunch onboard, and set sail this evening on the Mekong River.

RV Mekong Pandaw (7 nights) BLD

NOV 15, Sunday CAMBODIAN CRAFTS

Relax on board with some Tai Chi or a cup of coffee as we cruise to Peam Chi Korng, a local hub for pottery. A short tuk tuk ride from the shore brings us to see the potters in action, before we explore the village and market. Later, we'll step ashore at the remote village of Pak Russei, where local artisans weave silk and craft handmade noodles using time-honoured techniques. Before returning to the ship, we'll witness a private performance of a traditional Cambodian martial art - an intimate glimpse into the cultural spirit of the village. BLD

NOV 16, Monday OUDONG / KAMPONG TRALACH

In the ancient capital of Cambodia, Oudong, we'll pause at the Vipassana Dhura Meditation Centre for a brief meditation class. Admire its impressive Khmer architecture before we rejoin our ship in Kampong Tralach. This afternoon travel by ox-cart around the river side villages to



Fishermen on the banks of the Mekong River



Cruise amongst UNESCO World Heritage Site Ha Long Bay



The timeless gaze of a temple guardian, Angkor Wat

get a sense of rural life. This evening locals share their culture with us, featuring a traditional dance performance and cocktails around a village fire pit. BLD

NOV 17, Tuesday PHNOM PENH

This morning we are in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, famous for its French colonial architecture, busy cafes, vibrant nightlife and scenic riverfront. Our morning visit will be by private cyclo, a style of transport unique to Southeast Asia which provides an excellent way to experience the hustle and bustle of the city. Visit the Royal Palace, the spectacular Silver Pagoda and the National Museum displaying Khmer crafts. After lunch, we visit the Killing Fields and Genocide Museum. We will spend the night in port. BLD

NOV 18, Wednesday VIETNAM BORDER

Say farewell to Cambodia as we make our way down river towards the border. We sail towards Chau Doc where we can unwind on an evening stroll before dinner. BLD

NOV 19, Thursday**CHAU DOC**

A short drive takes us to Sam Mountain, where we climb the 400 steps to visit the Hang Pagoda with stunning views of the Mekong River. We visit the floating fish farms by sampan before being treated to a private lion dance performance at a local village. BLD

NOV 20, Friday**BEN TRE / HO CHI MINH**

Journey by sampans through mangroves and bamboo forests to the fruit orchards of Ben Tre. This is fertile farming land that is home to half of Vietnam's rice production. Savour lunch onboard as we sail the Cho Gao Canal toward Saigon. As night falls, we drift into central Saigon, where dinner is served with sweeping views of the skyline. BLD

NOV 21, Saturday DISEMBARKATION / HO CHI MINH

We say farewell to our ship this morning as we disembark at in the southern city of Ho Chi Minh, formerly known as Saigon. We'll explore the city's layers of history, beginning at the stately Presidential Palace and continuing through the exhibits of the History Museum. The stunning Notre Dame Cathedral offers a moment of quiet awe before we face the powerful stories told at the War Remnants Museum, ending in the colour and energy of Ben Thanh Market. **Sofitel Plaza Saigon** (2 nights) BLD

NOV 22, Sunday**HO CHI MINH**

Saigon, once the capital of the French colony of Cochinchina and the "Paris of the Orient" is now Vietnam's largest city. This industrial, cultural and educational hub still retains vestiges of its colonial past. We will tour the incredible underground network at Cu Chi Tunnels, followed by Chinatown and the impressive Thien Hau Temple. Time permitting, we will visit the Binh Tay market. Tonight enjoy our farewell dinner at a local restaurant. BLD

NOV 23, Monday HO CHI MINH / HONG KONG / CANADA

After breakfast we transfer to the airport for our journey back to Canada. B

Our River Boat • RV Mekong Pandaw

The beautiful **RV Mekong Pandaw** was designed to provide luxurious cruising on Asia's legendary Mekong River. It carries a maximum of just 48 guests and has three decks. All staterooms are 170 sq. ft. or larger, ensuring that all of our creature comforts are exceeded. Public areas include a main restaurant serving Asian and Western specialties, a small gift shop, lounge and bar, library, spa, plus a pool table on the Sun Deck. All staterooms feature twin beds (that can be converted into one large bed), a comfortable sitting area, safe, private bathroom with shower, bathrobe, slippers, hairdryer and more. All staterooms are outside, with panoramic French windows leading to personal deck space, and individually controlled air conditioning. Smoking is not allowed anywhere within the ship and the ship does not have an elevator. Most of the ship's staff speak English.

Sun Deck: bar with complimentary ice cream.

Upper Deck: saloon bar and staterooms.

Main Deck: gallery, store, dining hall, and staterooms.

Lower Deck: gym, library, front desk, spa, and gift shop.



CT Rating 3.5/5 - Challenging: Members can expect a busy itinerary in a region known for hot and humid conditions - daytime temperatures will exceed 30°C. The visits to Angkor involve long walks with many steps and over rough terrain. The riverboat does not have an elevator. Members must be fully mobile and physically active to fully enjoy this journey.



**Book and deposit by May 29, 2026
and save \$200 per person**

**Tour/ Cruise Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person**

Land / Cruise Only* (Join / leave at hotel)	\$10,545
Vancouver.....	\$12,275
Victoria.....	\$12,375
Calgary / Edmonton.....	\$12,425
Winnipeg / Regina / Saskatoon	\$12,645
Toronto	\$12,545
Ottawa / Montreal	\$12,695
Halifax / St. John's / Fredericton.....	\$12,825
Cabin Supplement Upper Deck (pp twin)	\$1,225
Single Supplement (Land w/ Main Deck)	\$2,545
Single Supplement (Land w/ Upper Deck) ..	On request only

Singles are very limited.

*Land/Cruise Only price is based on joining and leaving the group at the first/last hotel in destination, and excludes international flights.

Cruise rates are per person based on sharing a Main Deck Outside Twin cabin. Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Airfares and air carriers are subject to change and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Refer to inclusive features. Prices are based on a minimum of 20 members and on rates, taxes, and fees effective July 2025 and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control. Visa fees are included for Cambodia and Vietnam for Canadian passport holders.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for terms and conditions.

Final payment is due by July 28, 2026

1st Deposit is \$500 per person, due at time of booking

2nd Deposit is \$1000 per person, due March 17, 2026

To reserve your spot on this tour, you can either book online through our website or submit an enrollment form along with your deposit to:

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