

A red circular logo with the word "Craig" in white and "travel" in a smaller font below it.

Craig
travel

INDOCHINA'S HIDDEN CHARMS

NOV 15 - DEC 2, 2025 | 18 DAYS | 47 MEALS | ALL EXCURSIONS

PANDAW CRUISES • RV MEKONG PANDAW

JOURNEY LEADER: JOAN PITMAN

Angkor Wat, one of the most important archaeological sites of Southeast Asia

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 EVA Air
- Deluxe hotel stays in Hanoi (3 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 Paradise Elegance
- 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 on board (wine at extra cost) on RV Mekong Pandaw
- Welcome Cocktail and Farewell Reception
- Escorted excursions in each port and local guides throughout the cruise
- 47 meals as noted in the itinerary (B - 16 breakfasts, L - 15 lunches, D - 16 dinners)
- Transfers between airports, hotels and the ship
- All sightseeing and entrance fees on tours
- 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

Joan Pitman was in the airline industry for 25 years and remains in the travel industry today. As a Tour Director she has travelled extensively to Alaska, Asia, across Canada and the US, and Europe. Personal travel has also taken her to South America, Australia, Asia, New Zealand, Africa, Central America, and Bali. A Whistler weekender since the mid 70's, and a full time resident from 2000, Joan and her husband **George** also maintain a home in Vancouver. Joan and George have 6 children between them and 9 grandchildren. They are looking forward to sharing this exciting Indochina journey with all those who will join them.



NOV 15, Saturday

DEPART CANADA

Tour members gather in Toronto / Vancouver in the evening on Nov 14 for an early morning flight to Hanoi, connecting through Taipei and arriving on Sunday morning.

NOV 16, Sunday

ARRIVE HANOI, VIETNAM

Upon arrival, we transfer to our hotel to settle in before gathering for our welcome dinner.

Sofitel Plaza Hanoi Hotel (3 nights)

D

NOV 17, Monday

HANOI

Immersing ourselves in Hanoi's vibrant back alley culture will be a treat this morning, as we wander through the labyrinth of hidden alleyways to uncover secret water wells and ancient staircases. We'll marvel at the fascinating and innovative architecture and enjoy a refreshing drink at a 'locals only' store. Photo opportunities abound!

BLD

NOV 18, Tuesday

HANOI

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, followed by the miniature One Pillar Pagoda and Ho Chi Minh's Stilt House (viewed through the windows). After enjoying lunch at a local restaurant, we'll embark on a walking tour of the Ancient Quarter or 36 Streets District. Ancient homes and temples are interspersed with stores in this souvenir hunter's paradise. An exciting traditional water puppet show will top off our day!

BLD

NOV 19, Wednesday HANOI / HA LONG BAY

We drive to Vietnam's Ha Long Bay and board Paradise Elegance 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 Elegance** (1 night) BLD

NOV 20, Thursday**HA LONG BAY / HANOI / SIEM REAP, Cambodia**

We disembark and make our way back to Hanoi, with lunch at a local restaurant en route, to board our flight to Seam Reap. Upon arrival we transfer to our hotel.

Borei Angkor Resort and Spa (3 nights) BLD

NOV 21, Friday**SIEM REAP**

This morning 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. 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 22, Saturday**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 which we will then enjoy at lunch. This afternoon, we visit the Banteay Srei, the "Citadel of Women". This tiny enchanting temple is one of the jewels of this Khmer. 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 23, Sunday**SIEM REAP / EMBARK**

This morning 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. **RV Mekong Pandaw** (7 nights) BLD

NOV 24, Monday**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 go ashore at Pak Russei, a remote village, to see the crafts people weaving silk and producing handmade noodles. Before returning to the ship we learn of a traditional form of martial art with a private performance. BLD

NOV 25, Tuesday OUDONG / KAMPONG TRALACH

Visit the ancient capital of Cambodia, Oudong, to visit the Vipassana Dhura Meditation Centre for a short meditation class. Enjoy the impressive Khmer architecture before we rejoin our ship in Kampong Tralach. This afternoon travel by ox-cart around the river side villages to 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 26, Wednesday**PHNOM PENH**

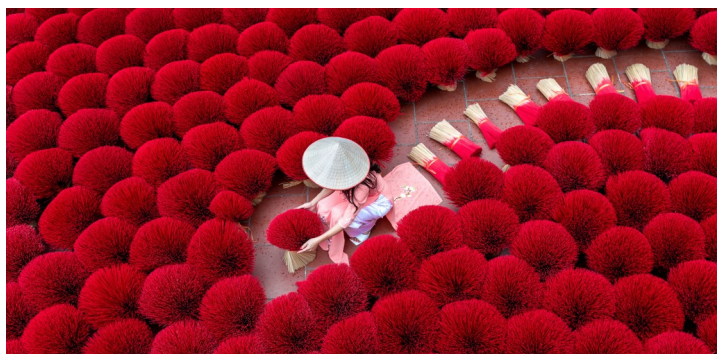
This morning we are in Phnom Penh, the capital of



Fishermen on the banks of the Mekong River



Cruise amongst UNESCO World Heritage Site Ha Long Bay



Drying colourful incense, Hanoi



Buddhist monks at Angkor Wat

Cambodia, famous for its French colonial architecture, busy cafes, vibrant nightlife and renovated river "corniche." Our morning visit will be by private cyclo, a style of transport unique to the Orient 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 27, Thursday**VIETNAM BORDER**

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

NOV 28, Friday**CHAU DOC**

A short drive takes us to Sam Mountain, where we climb the 400 steps to visit the Hang Pagoda and stunning views of the Mekong. We visit Cham village and a catfish farm in Chau Doc. BLD

NOV 29, Saturday**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. Enjoy lunch onboard as we sail the Cho Gao Canal toward Saigon. This evening we sail into central Saigon and enjoy the skyline over dinner. BLD

NOV 30, Sunday 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 will visit the majestic Presidential Palace, delve into the rich heritage at the History Museum, marvel at the stunning Notre Dame Cathedral, reflect on the past at the War Remnants Museum, and experience the vibrant atmosphere of Ben Thanh Market.

Sofitel Plaza Saigon (2 nights)

BLD

DEC 1, Monday**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 China Town and Temples. Time permitting we will visit the Binh Tay market. Tonight enjoy our farewell dinner at a local restaurant. BLD

DEC 2, Tuesday**HO CHI MINH / TAIPEI / 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 from sunrise to sunset.

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.

Tour/ Cruise Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person

Land / Cruise Only* (Join / leave at hotel)	\$9,745
Vancouver	\$11,725
Victoria	\$11,795
Calgary / Edmonton	\$11,825
Winnipeg / Regina / Saskatoon	\$11,995
Toronto	\$11,975
Ottawa / Montreal	\$12,075
Halifax / St. John's	\$12,225
Single Supplement	\$2,295

Singles are 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 an Upper 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 January 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 August 6, 2025

Deposit is \$900 per person

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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