

WALKING CAMBODIA & VIETNAM

Greetings from Walking Adventures!

Long mired in regional and international conflicts, Cambodia and Vietnam have entered into a period of stability that is allowing their economies to grow and flourish. Foreign travelers are now discovering the beauty and charm of a region that suffered greatly during the second half of the 20th century. The verdant Mekong Delta is the geographic phenomenon that unites these two nations, and a beautiful riverboat is our platform to launch this exciting voyage of discovery up the Mekong River into Southeast Asia!

Two days have been added to this year's edition of Cambodia and Vietnam to slow the pace at the beginning in Saigon and provide a more measured experience at the Angkor Temples at the tour's end. We are confident that these two days add excellent value to an already profound and unforgettable experience!



How do I lock in my place on this Adventure?

To save yourself a spot on this Adventure, send in your completed Registration Form and a \$500 payment as soon as possible. Reservations for this departure will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis!

Cancellation policy

Due to the changing contract policies of our vendors, we have adjusted our cancellation policy for 2010. **Please see the General Tour Conditions sheet for more details.**

How is airfare arranged?

Airfare is not included in the program price. Though we investigated the possibility of a group flight, we concluded that travelers are better served booking individual flights. Booking individually generally allows better routing from your home town, and hopefully a better schedule. The official starting point for this Adventure is Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and the official finish point is Siem Reap, Cambodia. A transfer from the airport to our hotel in Ho Chi Minh City and from the hotel to the airport in Siem Reap is included in the price of the Adventure. More details about flight arrangements and travel agent contact information will follow in the *Adventure Advice* memo mailed after registration— **please do not book your airfare prior to receiving the Adventure Advice flyer!**

Our Ship

The *R/V INDOCHINE* is a river cruise ship built specifically for sailing the shallow waters of the Mekong Delta. She is built in the gracious colonial style with only 23 cabins on two decks, all outward facing and oversized (145 square feet each). The Adventure price reflects a booking in a twin cabin in category C on the Main Deck. A limited number of category C cabins are available on a first come, first serve basis! Upgrades are available in two categories for a fee of \$225 per person for category B (Main Deck) and \$300 per person for category A (Upper Deck). *Cabin A pricing has been corrected from the brochure.*

Travel Insurance

Walking Adventures has negotiated with an insurance carrier to provide travel insurance in the form of a Preferred Benefits™ policy. We are pleased to make this package available and believe that it will provide travelers with an important element of security at a reasonable price. (See the enclosures for more detailed information.)

IMPORTANT: The insurance policy includes time-sensitive coverage provisions for a couple of extra benefits, including pre-existing conditions and trip cancellation coverage for any reason (with additional fee), **provided you purchase the insurance within 14 days of your registration.** *Should you choose to add the cost of your airline tickets to your insurance policy, contact our office after you purchase your airfare.*

Group Travel Credit

If you are part of a Group, remember that your full deposit of \$500 is still required to hold your spot on this Adventure. Your group leader is responsible to submit your name to us before you pre-register, qualifying you for the Group Travel Credit, but a full deposit is needed to officially reserve your place.

“Voluntourism” Optional Extension in Phnom Penh!

Last year in Phnom Penh, we had the opportunity to spend a morning with a group of kids at an orphanage served by Tommy and Serena, whom we know through a mutual friend. Tommy and Serena (they are also known as Jean-Luc and Pannee Temmam) operate a small charitable organization called Family Care Foundation (www.familycare.org/network/a04.htm), based in Phnom Penh, that provides aid and inspiration to several state-run orphanages throughout the city. Cambodia is still struggling to recover from the unimaginable devastation of the Khmer Rouge years, and the decades of civil war that followed. Life can therefore be very hard. Most of the population is accustomed to surviving in what we would consider impossible conditions. Our impression of the morning we invested at the orphanage with Tommy and Serena and the kids is that those two hours made a greater impact on us than any other two hours during the Adventure—by far!

We are now in touch with Tommy and Serena about a return visit during the tour, and an additional longer stay of 3 to 4 days at the end of the Adventure to see what we can do to help. The package would include transportation from Siem Reap back to Phnom Penh, lodging in a 3-star hotel, meals to be determined, and the chance to do whatever needs to be done to help make a difference in this needy land. Pricing will be very reasonable. Activities could include helping to teach English, hygiene & health, cleaning and painting, and any variety of odd jobs and interactions with the kids. Our expectation is that this experience will do more for us than anything we can do to help the kids!

Details will be forthcoming, but if you would like to be considered for this opportunity, we would like to hear from you; it will help us in setting up our plans if we know about how many travelers to plan for.

What Happens Next?

Upon registering for this Adventure, you will receive a welcome letter and an *Adventure Advice* flyer with important information about steps to take in the months before your trip. The final payment for the program is due 90 days before departure, and you will receive a final billing about 2 weeks prior to that point, along with a factsheet of additional information about the Adventure to help you get prepared! Then, about 3 weeks before departure, you will receive a final packet with all the details of the program, including hotel names and contact information, a list of fellow travelers, and a more detailed daily schedule.

So envision your journey through this beautiful and ancient region of Southeast Asia as you read the enclosed itinerary.

Imagine yourself relaxing on deck as we cruise past picturesque Vietnamese villages; walking through markets saturated with exotic sights, sound, and smells; learning firsthand the dramatic story of Cambodia; or standing amidst the awesome spectacle of the Angkor Temples. Call today to join WAI on this unforgettable, one-of-a-kind river cruise up the Mekong Delta through *Cambodia & Vietnam!*



WALKING ADVENTURES INTERNATIONAL

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