



~ TOUM TIOU ~

Programs 2011 – 2012

Saigon – Siem Reap, 8 days / 7 nights

~ High water program – from July to December ~

Day 1 - Saigon – My Tho

- 15:45** Toum Tiou is open for embarking.
- 16:00** Clearance of departure formalities.
- 16:30** Departure for My Tho, security briefing.
- 19:00** Welcome drink and info meeting about cruise, crew introduction. Welcome dinner. Overnight onboard.

Day 2 - My Tho – Cai Be – Vinh Long

- Departure of the Toum Tiou early in the morning.
- 07:00** Breakfast during navigation on the marvelous canal of Cho Gao.
- 10:00** Arrival at My Tho – Toum Tiou drops anchor on river in the proximity of Thoi Son Island. On the banks of a northern arm of the Mekong, My Tho, which translates as "fragrant herb", where tourists come to discover the beauty of the delta. It's a quiet, prosperous city of about 100,000 inhabitants, famous for its many fruit orchards, gardens and the huge rice fields that surround it. The climate is warm and pleasant year round. The surrounding countryside is home to one of the most luxuriant gardens of Vietnam, with its coconut palms, banana and mango trees. Local boats are coming alongside Toum Tiou to pick up passengers and transfer to the mainland. Departure for short panoramic tour of My Tho town on the way, stop for a visit of My Tho market. Return at the pier - Passengers cruise on the river to dragon Island by local boat to visit the island, explore local people's daily life and enjoy locally seasonal fruits
- 11:30** Passengers re-embark Toum Tiou and leaves My Tho for Cai Be. Lunch and leisure on board.
- 15:30** Toum Tiou drops anchor at Cai Be. Local boats are coming alongside Toum Tiou, picking up the passengers and cruise around Cai Be Floating Market. Continuing for Vinh Long - a brick and pottery factory, the Binh Hoa Phuoc Islet Nursery of Fruit Trees as well a typical house and a show room of traditional farming tools. Vinh Long, which translates as "Majestic Dragon", is right in the middle of the delta, between two arms of the Mekong. The soil of Vinh Long is enriched by silt deposits, making it ideal for growing mandarins and other citrus fruits. Life is organized around the water. Houses on stilts, hawkers in boats, hundreds of small craft crisscross in all directions. The hospitality of the locals makes it a tourist destination par excellence.
- 18:00** Return on the Toum Tiou, departure for Sa Dec.
- 19:30** Arrival at Sa Dec, Toum Tiou drops anchor on the river. Dinner and overnight on board.

Day 3 - Sa Dec – Chau Doc

- 06:00** Breakfast.
- 07:00** Sa Dec - Short panoramic tour and transfer to Trung Vuong primary school. Continuing to Kien An Cung Pagoda. Stroll around Sa Dec Market along Sa Dec River bank. This small city of 30,000 inhabitants is fascinating in its unspoiled authenticity and undisturbed by tourists. It provides a glimpse of the delta where a few colonial houses still remain, including the "Chinaman's house" (from Duras' novel "The Lover", also made into a movie).
- 09:00** Passengers re-embark; Toum Tiou leaves Sa Dec for Chau Doc, lunch and leisure on board.
- 17:00** Arrival at Victoria Hotel Chau Doc jetty. Departure for fish raising rafts and Cham minority village by local boat. Return to the Victoria. *If the timing is allowing it, watch of the sunset on the Sam Mountain which peaks at 237 meters. Its well-known Buddhist sanctuaries offer an unobstructed view over the mosaic of glistening rice paddies below. To the left is Cambodia, the flow of the Mekong on the horizon breaks into an infinity of silver ribbons. Visit on the way of the Lady Chua Xu temple and Tay An Pagoda.*
- 19:30** Return to the boat, Dinner at the Victoria Hotel's restaurant.



Overnight onboard at the jetty of the hotel; passengers are free to enjoy the hotel facilities (swimming pool, billiards, bar, Internet) or stroll in Chau Doc.

Day 4 - Vinh Xuong – Phnom Penh

- Toum Tiou leaves early in the morning for Vinh Xuong (Vietnamese border). Breakfast during navigation.
- 08:00** Arrival at Vinh Xuong check-point – Formalities clearance for Toum Tiou to cross the border.
 - 10:30** Toum Tiou leaves Vinh Xuong check point for Phnom Penh. Lunch during the navigation.
 - 19:00** Arrival at Phnom Penh. Passengers free to enjoy evening in Cambodian capital. Dinner and overnight on board.

Day 5 - Phnom Penh

- 08:00** Breakfast, departure for Tuol Sleng Museum, old center of detention, of torture and execution between 1975 and 1979. The visit of this place is essential to understand what could be the fatal madness perpetrated by the Khmer Rouges.
- 12.00** Return to Phnom Penh, lunch onboard.
- 15:00** Balance of the day free exploration on own. Suggestions can be made up on the interest of passengers. FCC, Russian market, other boutiques (antiques), etc.
- 19:00** Return to the boat. Local group performs on board traditional "APSARA" show for 45 minutes. Dinner at local restaurant.

Day 6 – Phnom Penh – Kompong Tralach

- 07:00** Breakfast, half day city sightseeing tour including the Royal Palace and the National Museum.
- 12:00** The Toum Tiou leaves Phnom Penh for Kompong Tralach. Lunch during navigation.
- 16:00** Arrival at Kampong Tralach to visit its wonderful Vihara belonging to Wat Kampong Tralach Leu pagoda. To get to it, we cross Kampong Tralach Krom village along a small road perpendicular to the river, crossing some gorgeous stretches of emerald rice paddy as we leave the river behind. The Vihara dates back to early last century. It was probably built on an older site, as indicated by the latérite foundations, and is home to some outstanding mural paintings. These, however, are starting to suffer from weathering. They remain one of the last survivors of cultural destruction that continues unabated due to widespread indifference. Standing by itself in the middle of rice fields, it is a modest pagoda that receives very few visitors. Its isolation may well be its undoing, as was the case for Wat Tani Pagoda in the province of Kampot.
- 18:00** Passengers re-embark. The Toum Tiou drops anchor few miles away. Diner and overnight on board.

Day 7 - Kampong Chnang – Chnok Tru

- 07:00** Departure of the Toum Tiou early in the morning. Sail to Kampong Chnang. Breakfast during navigation.
- 09:00** Arrival at Kampong Chnang. Located some 56 miles from Phnom Penh, the town of Kampong Chnang is one of the largest fishing ports on the Tonlé Sap. Fish farming is also widely practiced in the area. The area is famous for its pottery ware, unchanged in style for centuries, which is produced in sufficient quantities to supply the entire country. And not to be overlooked are the products of the Thnot tree (sugar palm – a real national symbol) that abounds in the area: a mellow tasting, caramel-colored sugar sold in large cakes and palm wine.
- 11:30** Passengers re-embark the Toum Tiou. Lunch on board on the way to Chnok Tru.
- 16:30** Arrival at Chnok Tru. Local boats are coming along the Toum Tiou and picking passengers for the visit. Almost totally overlooked by tourists because of its remoteness and difficult access, the village is completely self-sufficient. A floating school, factories to make ice for fish preservation, church, pagoda, service stations, pigsty, stores, boat or television repair shops, video club, karaoke bar, police station... everything is on the water. All trades are represented and everybody from children to grandparents goes by boat through the network of canals that cross this little town.



#30 street 240, s/k Chaktomuk
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

tel. : +855 (0) 23 21 60 70
mobile : +855 (0) 12 24 08 59

www.cfmekong.com
office@cfmekong.com



- 18:00** Passengers re-embark. The Toum Tiou stays overnight in the proximity of Chnok Tru.
19:30 Farewell cocktail (1 glass of local liquor or juice) with Master of Ship & Cruise Manager.
Captain's farewell dinner (Enriched menu + 1 glass of wine). Overnight on board.

Day 8 - Chnok Tru – Siem Reap

Departure of the Toum Tiou early in the morning. Time to pack and relax a half a day by crossing the Tonlé Sap Lake.

- 11:00** Arrival at Phnom Krom pier (~5 miles from Siem Reap)



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