



Go with the FLOW

RIVER JOURNEYS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

Travelling by river is a relatively recent phenomenon in South East Asia for visitors, but in the last few years some fantastic river journeys have become available on board boats brimming with character and charm. Our specialists describe some of their favourite trips.

MEKONG RIVER, LAOS

Wat Phou Rice Barge

A leisurely two-night cruise along the fascinating Mekong to the '4,000 Islands' offers a taste of river life from days gone by and allows the visitor access to the pre-Angkorian temple of Wat Phou. The boat is a traditional barge that has been stylishly converted into a floating hotel. Each of

Charlie Read, Laos specialist 01869 276 234

the twelve comfortable and elegant air-conditioned cabins is well appointed and the onboard food is a fantastic fusion of Laotian and Continental cuisine.

A 12-night tour of Laos including the Wat Phou cruise costs from £1,595 per person based on twin share.



MEKONG RIVER, INDOCHINA

RV Mekong

Alongside other Asian rivers the Mekong seems sleepy. There are no major cities along its route but this great artery literally teems with life, from the Tibetan plateau to the lush Delta. Whilst underneath you the river swarms with fish, above deck life is easy aboard the colonial RV Mekong with teak-lined cabins, a bar and good food in abundance. Also, lest you

Huw Owen, Indochina specialist 01869 276 274
become too comfortable, shore excursions include rural Chau Doc, royal Phnom Penh, and many small riverside villages. The cruise can be combined with a visit to explore the majesty of Angkor in Cambodia.

A 14-night tour of Indochina including the seven-night Mekong cruise and a visit to Angkor costs from £1,595 per person based on twin share.



SEPIK RIVER, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

MV Sepik Spirit

In the midst of hundreds of square miles of dense jungle, luxuriate in the spacious comfort of the air-conditioned MV Sepik Spirit. The nine en suite cabins and dining and lounge areas offer panoramic views of the passing landscape. The three-night cruise provides a unique opportunity to explore this river highway with its traditional villages and culture. The villages along the riverside are renowned for their craftsmanship, producing beautiful statues, masks, basketry and jewellery from this remote region.

A 12-night tour of Papua New Guinea including the Sepik cruise costs from £2,995 per person based on twin share.

Chris Orme, South East Asia Programme Manager 01869 276 203



IRRAWADDY RIVER, MYANMAR

RV Pandaw

A journey on the Irrawaddy River in Myanmar is one of life's great travel experiences. No vessel could be more appropriate for this than the RV Pandaw. Built in the same style as the original Irrawaddy Flotilla Company steamers from Glasgow, she is furnished in colonial style with teak steamer chairs and rattan loungers. All accommodation and public areas are air-conditioned, and the food onboard is of a high standard. The Pandaw undertakes several voyages throughout Myanmar, but the most popular by far is the two-night cruise between Bagan and Mandalay or vice versa. The stops at villages en route make this an interesting insight into Burmese life as well as a relaxing and enjoyable cruise.

A 14-night tour of Myanmar including the two-night Pandaw cruise costs from £1,795 per person based on twin share.

Natalie Lewis, Myanmar specialist 01869 276 246

