VIDOTOUR

VIETNAM . LAOS . CAMBODIA . MYANMAR . THAILAND

THE MEKONG

– a river that gives life



NEWSLETTER

November – December 2026

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LIVING WITH THE MEKONG

One River • Three Countries • Countless Ways of Life

More than a river, the Mekong is a lifeline. It nourishes fields and orchards, sustains fisheries, connects communities and supports local economies. Along its waters, everyday life, flavours and traditions follow the rhythm of the seasons.

In this issue, we follow its story — from the river islands of Laos and Cambodia's great lake to Vietnam's lush delta orchards. Discover how this remarkable river supports communities and connects travellers with local people.



LIVING AT THE RIVER'S PACE

LAOS

LUANG PRABANG
— Spirit of the Mekong

Between the Mekong and Nam Khan, a timeless world of temples, traditions and riverside life unfolds.



PAK OU
— A Sacred Journey Upstream

The river is the road. Cruise the Mekong past forested mountains, riverside villages and fishermen towards the sacred Pak Ou Caves.

No rush. No highway
Just the Mekong







VANG VIENG – Where the River Meets the Mountains

Part of the Mekong basin, the Nam Song River winds through dramatic limestone mountains and peaceful villages, offering scenic kayaking, riverside cycling and a glimpse of rural Lao life.









VIENTIANE
— Capital on the Mekong

Life unfolds along the Mekong — sunset strolls, lively markets, local flavours and riverside evenings reveal the relaxed rhythm of Laos' capital.



WAT PHU
— Ancient Civilisation by the Mekong

At UNESCO-listed Wat Phou, mountain, temple and Mekong come together in a sacred landscape shaped by centuries of history and civilisation.







SI PHAN DON
— A World of Islands

In southern Laos, the Mekong unfolds into the legendary 4,000 Islands, a world of sandbanks, villages and slow river life.





THE THREE ISLANDS
— Life Along the Mekong

Explore Don Khong, Don Det and Don Khone for laid-back island life, traditional villages, rice fields, scenic cycling, colonial heritage and waterfalls.

KHONE PHAPENG
— When the Mekong Roars

Witness the Mekong's untamed power as it crashes over rocky rapids in a spectacular display of nature.



LIVING WITH THE GREAT WATERS

CAMBODIA



PHNOM PENH – Cambodia's Great River City

Where the Mekong, Tonlé Sap and Bassac rivers meet, Cambodia's capital comes alive along its waterfront. Explore Sisowath Quay, local markets and riverside dining, or enjoy a sunset cruise and encounters with communities across the river.













KOH DACH
– Island Life on the Mekong

Just outside Phnom Penh, Koh Dach (Silk Island) reveals a quieter side of the Mekong. Cycle through peaceful villages, discover traditional silk weaving, meet local artisans and experience riverside life, from fishing and farming to daily journeys by boat.





TONLÉ SAP
– Cambodia's Great Lake

More than a lake, Tonlé Sap reveals Cambodia's deep connection with water. During the wet season, the Mekong causes the Tonlé Sap River to reverse its flow, dramatically expanding the lake and transforming its landscapes, ecosystems and everyday life.











KAMPONG PHLUK – Living Above the Water

Discover a village where towering stilt houses adapt to Tonlé Sap's changing water levels. Explore fishing communities by boat and glide through the flooded forest, experiencing a way of life shaped by the rhythm of water.





PREK TOAL – Where Water Becomes Wilderness

Explore Tonlé Sap's remarkable wetlands, home to rich birdlife and important breeding colonies of waterbirds. A captivating destination for wildlife photography, nature discovery and responsible tourism.





BATTAMBANG – From Water to Rice Fields

Connected to Tonlé Sap by the Sangker River, Battambang reveals Cambodia's rural heartland. Cycle through rice fields, visit local farms and traditional craft villages, and discover a way of life shaped by water, agriculture and local traditions









SIEM REAP – Ancient Water, Living Water

From Angkor's ancient reservoirs and canals to rural villages and Tonlé Sap, discover how water has shaped Cambodia's civilisation for centuries — and continues to sustain everyday life.





Life Shaped by Water
From hand-planting rice seedlings to ploughing with oxen, Cambodia's rural traditions reveal the enduring connection between water, land and livelihoods.



LIVING WITH THE DELTA

VIETNAM

The Mekong Becomes a Way of Life

In southern Vietnam, the Mekong unfolds into a maze of rivers, canals and waterways, shaping life along its banks. Boats connect communities, orchards flourish, traditions endure and homes welcome travellers. Experience the Delta slowly — by boat, bicycle, on foot and around the family table.











BẾN TRE
– Into the Delta

Leave the city behind and enter a world shaped by water, coconut groves and quiet village lanes.





MỸ THO
– Gateway to the Mekong

Set on the Tiền River, a major branch of the Mekong, Mỹ Tho is a lively gateway to the Delta. Boats lead from the city to orchard islands, village workshops and the rhythms of river life.

THE RIVER WE CALL HOME

The river leads to the village. The village opens its home.
Through shared food, living crafts and local encounters,
the Mekong becomes personal.

Contribute Locally

Support family-run accommodation, local producers,
đờn ca tài tử masters and local artisans — sustaining livelihoods and
keeping Mekong traditions alive.



CÁI THIA
– Along the Orchard Paths

Follow the waterways by boat,
then cycle through Cái Thia's
orchards. Meet locall families,
make rice paper at Bà Năm's home
and fry bánh tiêu with Cô Chín.













AN BÌNH ISLET – Út Trinh Homestay

A homestay is not simply where you sleep. It is where you share meals, stories and everyday moments with a local family — and where the destination becomes personal.





MĂNG THÍT – Crafted from Earth & Water

Along Măng Thít's waterways, historic brick and ceramic kilns reveal a world shaped by clay, water, fire and human skill. Meet local craftspeople, discover traditional techniques and see how the river once carried materials and finished wares between villages and markets.







Nature • Community • Craft

The journey begins with the river and surrounding landscape, moves into the communities that grew along its banks, and ends with the hands of local crafts people

SA ĐÉC – Where the Delta Blooms

Along the Mekong Delta's waterways, Sa Đéc comes alive through flower gardens, riverside nurseries, local markets and heritage houses — a colourful blend of horticulture, daily life and old-world charm.









CẦN THƠ –
The Delta's River City



The urban heart of the Mekong Delta, Can Tho blends lively riverfronts, floating markets and vibrant food culture with peaceful canals and lush countryside. Discover a city where the river shapes everyday life.

The Delta Wakes on Water

At sunrise, Cái Răng reveals the Mekong Delta's floating trading traditions. Though quieter than in its heyday, the market remains a living symbol of river commerce, where boats, local produce and breakfast on the water bring the delta to life.

TRÀ VINH & SÓC TRĂNG
– The Khmer Soul of The Mekong





Discover the Khmer heritage of Trà Vinh and Sóc Trăng through colourful pagodas, Buddhist traditions, peaceful villages and distinctive flavours, where Khmer, Vietnamese and Chinese influences shape a rich cultural identity.





WHEN THE MEKONG CELEBRATES

From the thrilling Bảy Núi ox races of An Giang during Sene Dolta to the spectacular Ghe Ngo boat races of Sóc Trăng during Ok Om Bok, Khmer festivals celebrate community spirit, ancestral traditions and the deep connection between people, land, water and faith.







CHÂU ĐỐC – The Borderland Mekong

Where Vietnam meets Cambodia, Châu Đốc reveals the Mekong's cultural diversity. Explore riverside markets, fishing communities, sacred sites and the landscapes of the Hậu River — a natural gateway from the Vietnamese delta into Cambodia.



TRÀ SƯ CAJUPUT FOREST – Into the Green

Glide by small boat through a flooded cajuput forest carpeted in vivid green duckweed. Rich in birdlife and wetland biodiversity, Trà Sư reveals the Mekong Delta at its most tranquil and immersive.











FACES OF THE MEKONG









BEACH FRONT LUXURY REIMAGINED ON HALONG BAY

InterContinental Halong Bay brings a fresh resort lifestyle to this legendary landscape.

Contemporary design, panoramic views, refined dining and signature wellness come together in one striking new address.





- 275 suites, residences and private villas
- Six distinctive restaurants and bars
- Signature spa, pools and fitness facilities
- Elevated leisure — exclusive kids' club, cinema, games lounge and curated daily recreation



HOIANA
RESORT & GOLF

BEACHFRONT LIVING, MADE FOR FAMILY MOMENTS

New World Hoiana Beach Resort offers a refined coastal escape for families, couples and leisure travellers, within easy reach of Da Nang International Airport and UNESCO-listed Hoi An Ancient Town, and a beachfront gateway to the wider Hoiana experience.





NEW WORLD

HOIANA BEACH RESORT

VIETNAM



AT NEW WORLD HOIANA BEACH RESORT

- 330 spacious rooms & suites
- Direct beach access
- Outdoor pools for adults & children
- Complimentary weekend kids' foam parties
- 2,700 sqm PLAY Kids' Club
- Complimentary shuttles to Da Nang, Hoi An & Da Nang International Aipport

From relaxed days by the sea, Feel Your Way into vibrant dining, entertainment and memorable experiences across Hoiana Resort & Golf, a world-leading integrated destination where exceptional stays and local character come together.





MORE TO DISCOVER

- Indoor Entertainment Hub
- Award-winning Hoiana Shores Golf Club
- 25+ restaurants & bars

GARRYA
Mù Cang Chải

MICHELIN
2026

ONE MICHELIN KEY
ONE EXTRAORDINARY DESTINATION

Discover an award-winning wellbeing retreat where thoughtful design, local heritage and nature come together.











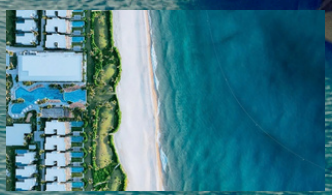
GARRYA
Mù Cang Chải

THE OCEAN RESORT
by fusion
QUY NHON

Refined Seaside Comfort

Set between the ridge and shore, overlooking the turquoise waters of Phuong Mai Bay, The Ocean Resort by Fusion Quy Nhon offers a range of thoughtfully curated accommodations and activities for couples, families, and leisure groups amidst lush tropical gardens.




The Ocean Resort by Fusion Quy Nhon
Cat Tien Commune, Gia Lai Province, Vietnam
Tel: +84 (0) 256 390 0808
Email: reservations.torf@fusionhotelgroup.com

Sjourney Luxury Train

– A Journey of Elegance





Travel in style from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City aboard SJourney, covering 1,726 km of spectacular landscapes, charming villages and vibrant towns, with immersive cultural encounters and authentic local cuisine along the way.



Katien Safari – Discover Cat Tien's Wild Side

Katien Safari is a premium adventure brand under Oxalis Adventure. Based in Cat Tien National Park, Dong Nai Province, it combines nature exploration with wildlife conservation and community livelihoods.

Programmes ranging from 2 to 4 days include gentle wildlife discovery, family outings, jungle trekking and forest patrols alongside rangers. The experiences support forest protection and create jobs for local communities in Tà Lài village, where visitors can also discover Mạ culture and traditional weaving.











Welcoming Spring at Thái Hải Village

Meaning “Going to the Field”, Lồng Tồng is a traditional Tày and Nùng festival celebrating hopes for favourable weather,abundant harvests and peace.



Visit on a day trip from Hanoi, departing early for the main ceremonies, or stay overnight in the village before the festival for a fuller experience.



Taking place on **11 February 2027**, the festival will feature harvest rituals, ceremonial ploughing, *Còn* ball throwing, *Then* singing, *Tính* lute music and traditional games.

ANGSANA
QUAN LAN HA LONG BAY

BÁI TỬ LONG
— A Secluded Island Escape

Nestled on Sơn Hào Beach with a two-kilometre private coastline, Angsana Quan Lan blends island tranquillity with contemporary luxury, offering 156 elegant rooms, indoor and outdoor pools, bars, a spa and onsen experience.





ANGSANA
QUAN LAN HA LONG BAY





ANGSANA QUAN LAN
— A Journey to the Untouched Bay

From seaside relaxation to local cultural encounters, it offers a refreshing coastal retreat in Northern Vietnam.



NEW GARRYA HOTEL COMING TO DA NANG

Garrya Danang opens later in 2026 as Banyan Group's first Da Nang property and second Garrya hotel in Vietnam, after Garrya Mù Cang Chải.

Located in An Thuong, the boutique hotel will offer 106 rooms and suites with a modern, wellbeing-focused design featuring natural light and greenery. Its wave-inspired architecture uses rainwater collection and natural ventilation to reduce environmental impact.







TUI SUNEO OLYMPIA PHNOM PENH

Opened in September 2026, TUI SUNEO Olympia Phnom Penh is the brand's first hotel in Cambodia.

Formerly Olympia City Hotel by Dara, it offers 168 rooms with private balconies, a pool, dining, wellness and meeting facilities near the Olympic Stadium — a budget-friendly option for leisure travellers, families, groups and business guests.











TINI TINOU CIRCUS FESTIVAL RETURNS TO CAMBODIA

The 13th Tini Tinou International Circus Festival will bring together over 100 artists from 10 countries for circus shows, parades, street performances, workshops and craft markets.

Siem Reap | 17–19 Nov 2026
Phare, The Cambodian Circus

Battambang | 21–24 Nov 2026
Phare Ponleu Selpak Campus







SIEM REAP – "NO TOURIST" Art Exhibition

A World According to Bill Bensley



Inspired by travels across 108 countries, renowned architect and designer Bill Bensley presents original drawings and watercolours at Park Hyatt Siem Reap, a property he personally designed.

Dates: 18 September 2026–March 2027





ORIS CRUISES

VAN DON - BAI TU LONG

A Boutique Cruise
Beyond the Familiar

Inspired by Northern Vietnam's landscapes and heritage, ORIS sails from Van Don through quieter waters, dramatic limestone scenery and lesser-known corners of Ha Long Bay.





HARMONY
BOUTIQUE CRUISE

LAN HA BAY

Harmony Boutique Cruise, part of Big Bay Group, introduces a refined luxury cruising experience in Lan Ha Bay.

The vessel features 28 spacious suites, each with a private balcony and panoramic views of the bay.

Inspired by Asian craftsmanship, the cruise combines natural materials, warm interiors and expansive open decks with premium facilities.







MEKONG SAGA CRUISE

CAN THO ↔ CAI BE



The Boutique Mekong Cruise

Scheduled to launch in early 2027, Mekong Saga offers an intimate 2-day/1-night cruise between Cần Thơ and Cái Bè.



Featuring 24 elegant suites, an infinity pool, refined dining and full facilities, it blends Indochine-inspired elegance with authentic cultural encounters along the Delta's waterways.





AMIRAL EXPLORERS®

Amiral Explorers® is a new luxury speedboat offering private day journeys to **Cu Chi & Can Gio Mangrove**. It combines scenic river travel with cultural and nature experiences.

The private speedboat excursions depart from Bach Dang Wharf in Ho Chi Minh City and are designed for groups of 10–25 guests, with two day-trip options:

- Cu Chi Tunnels: 6 hours, from 7:00 AM to 01:00 PM
- Can Gio Mangrove Biosphere Reserve: 8 hours, from 07:45 AM to 03:45 PM







Vietjet to Launch Direct Ho Chi Minh City (SGN) – Western Sydney (WSI)

New route launching on 9 January 2027.
To be operated by Airbus A330.

- SGN–WSI / 21:20-10:00 (+1) / 26
- WSI–SGN / 12:05–16:30 / 37

Vietravel Airlines Expands Its Domestic Network

Service resumed on 15 September 2026.

- Hanoi (HAN) – Da Lat (DLI): Daily

New routes launched on 1 October 2026

- Ho Chi Minh City (SGN) – Hai Phong (HPH): Daily
- Ho Chi Minh City (SGN) – Thanh Hoa (THD): Daily

Sun PhuQuoc Airways Launches Direct Hanoi (HAN) – Hong Kong (HKG)

New route launched on 30 September 2026.
Operated by Airbus A330.

- 9G530 / HAN–HKG / 09:20–12:05 / Daily
- 9G531 / HKG–HAN / 13:05–14:00 / Daily

IndiGo Restarts Direct Kolkata (CCU) – Siem Reap (SAI)

Relaunched direct flights in October 2026.
Operated by Airbus A320neo.

- 6E1655 / CCU–SAI / 01:50–06:20 / 146
- 6E1656 / SAI–CCU / 07:20–08:55 / 146



Cambodia Airways Expands Siem Reap Regional Connections

From 15 September 2026, Cambodia Airways introduced new route services connecting Siem Reap with regional destinations.

- Siem Reap (SAI) ↔ Bangkok (BKK): 5 flights per week | 23467
- Siem Reap (SAI) ↔ Da Nang (DAD): 4 flights per week | 1357
- Siem Reap (SAI) ↔ Ho Chi Minh City (SGN): 2 flights per week | 26

Lao Airlines Adds Siem Reap Connections

Started in October 2026.

- Vientiane (VTE) ↔ Siem Reap (SAI) / 246 / Stop at Pakse
- Luang Prabang (LPQ) ↔ Siem Reap (SAI) / 246 / Stop at Pakse
- Pakse (PKZ) ↔ Siem Reap (SAI) / 246 / Direct service

ĐÔNG DƯƠNG
HO CHI MINH CITY

A spacious Vietnamese restaurant dedicated to preserving the country's culinary heritage through street-food favourites, family-style dishes and regional specialities.

Vibe: Warm, elegant and nostalgic, with traditional Indochine architecture, dark timber, patterned tiles and private dining rooms.

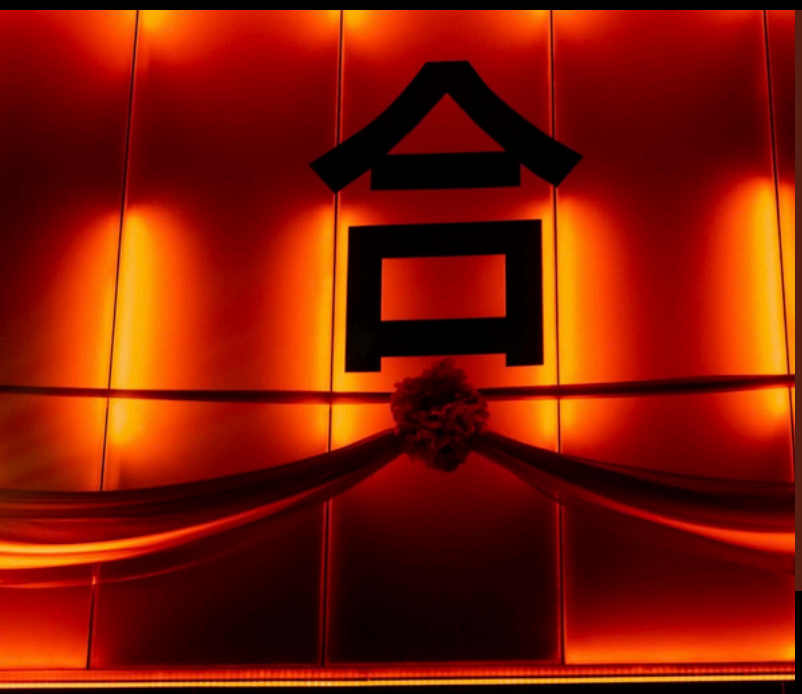


26 Truong Dinh, Xuan Hoa, Ho Chi Minh City
Reservation: +84 888 352 626



HỢP 合 SKYBAR

ROOFTOP BAR & LOUNGE



HỢP 合 pairs panoramic Saigon skyline views with neon-lit vibes, creative cocktails and house music — a stylish rooftop spot for lively evenings in the heart of the city.



Level 27, Centec Tower
72 Nguyễn Thị Minh Khai, Ho Chi Minh City




VIDOTOUR
VIETNAM . LAOS . CAMBODIA . MYANMAR . THAILAND
UNTIL THE NEXT JOURNEY
More places • More stories
More reasons to explore
Your trusted DMC for
INDOCHINA
MOBILE