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From Saigon to Phnom Penh in Three Nights: Pandaw Reinvents Mekong Delta Discovery

For the 2026/27 season, Pandaw will dedicate the RV Tonle Pandaw entirely to its three-night upstream route from Saigon to Phnom Penh, operating two departures per week. This new format caters to the growing number of travellers seeking shorter, nature focused journeys that offer immersion without the time commitment of a full week onboard. With four Pandaw ships already operating seven-night Mekong expeditions, the addition of a dedicated three-night sailing expands the range of options allowing guests to choose between a Mekong exploration deep into Cambodia or a high-impact city-to-city experience.

The three-night itinerary provides a smooth city-to-city connection between Saigon and Phnom Penh while offering guests a look at the landscapes, villages, and cultural traditions of the Mekong Delta. In just a few days, travellers experience sampan explorations through Ben Tre's mangroves, visits to local fruit orchards, a guided walk up Sam Mountain, and the floating fish farms outside Chau Doc. The format also resonates strongly with Pandaw's growing short- and mid-haul markets, where travellers typically plan shorter trips than traditional long-haul guests. As an accessible entry point to the Pandaw experience, this three-night journey often becomes a stepping stone to longer expeditions, with 45% of guests returning for a second voyage.

The shorter format also speaks directly to the needs of DMC and tour operator partners, who increasingly look for a premium river component that can integrate smoothly into broader regional tours. "Our partners have consistently highlighted the need for a shorter, high-touch Mekong option that fits easily within overland programmes," said Yves Van Kerrebroeck, Commercial Director at Pandaw. "This itinerary is a direct response to those conversations. By dedicating the RV Tonle Pandaw to a three-night schedule, we're giving our partners the flexibility they've been seeking while preserving the service that define a Pandaw journey."

According to [Booking.com's 2026 forecast](#), travellers are increasingly seeking restorative, nature-led trips, with [43% planning holidays](#) specifically to feel closer to the natural world. As an upstream-only voyage, the new itinerary also allows for a smoother operating rhythm with predictable schedules, benefitting both guests and regional partners. For travellers looking for an elevated onboard experience, agents can also book guests into the new Tonle Suites, Pandaw's largest accommodation category, offering double the room of a traditional cabin and a more luxurious option for those wanting added comfort during their Mekong journey.

Future bookings for the RV Tonle Pandaw's 2026/27 season will start at \$1,950 USD per cabin (2 passengers sharing). Details can be found at www.pandaw.com/expeditions/saigon-to-phnom-penh

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About Pandaw Cruises:

Founded in 1995, Pandaw Cruises is renowned for its unique, innovative and immersive river cruise experiences across Asia. With a fleet of 13 beautifully crafted ships, designed with a distinctive colonial charm, Pandaw Cruises provides travelers with intimate access to the heart of Asian culture, heritage and natural beauty.