



# HALONG BAY & RED RIVER

#### VIET TRI TO HALONG BAY - 10 NIGHTS

#### DOWNSTREAM

On a Pandaw ship travellers are able to explore the key sites of Northern Vietnam by river ship traversing the Red River delta and its main tributaries, connecting the wonders of Halong Bay with the excitements of downtown Hanoi, and then on into the interior, well off the beaten track. This is a combination of scenic beauty, lively and interesting (sometimes industrial) life of the river and exploring rivers where no other tourist craft operate.

Sailing deep into Highland Vietnam we will discover the mountain villages and a number of tribal areas. We will go as far as is navigable up the Song Red River and then down the little known Da or Black River. Note that this is a real river expedition and itineraries and schedules very much subject to change due to uncertain local conditions.

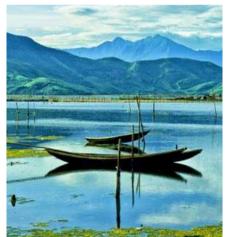




**VIEW ONLINE** 

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# ROUTE MAP



DOWNSTREAM







# ITINERARY DOWNSTREAM











#### DAY 1 VIET TRI

Transfer from Hanoi to your ship moored along the Red River in Viet Tri. After lunch we visit Lac Long Quan or the Hung Kings Temple and learn about the history of the Hung Kings and the founding of the first nation in Vietnamese history. We return to the ship for your welcome dinner and introduction to your crew.

#### DAY 2 THE LO RIVER

A day of exploring the various crafts produced throughout the delta. We start with a visit to Hung Lo temple where we will be serenaded with traditional folk music as well as enjoy an exploration this quaint traditional town. In the afternoon we visit the smith village of Ly Nhan to witness first-hand the traditional production methods still being used to this day.

#### DAY 3 UPPER RED RIVER

We visit the UNESCO praised village of Duong Lam an ancient village that is a well preserved example of a traditional Vietnamese village from centuries ago with intricate architecture and fascinating culture. After lunch we continue downstream on the Red River and visit a timeless Arcadian Vietnam with emerald green rice paddies punctuated by lime stone rock formations. We make a stop at a small village dedicated to the handmade production of Vietnam's most famous headwear, the Non La conical hat before continuing to Thay Pagoda. Hardly known, yet with exquisite temples dating from the 11th century, we visit this beautiful temple beside a lake and explore the village that surrounds the pagoda.

#### DAY 4 HANOI

Dropping anchor in the bustling city of Hanoi, passengers will visit some highlights of this Asian metropolis including must-sees like the notorious Vietnam war prison known as the Hanoi Hilton and the Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first University that is dedicated to the Chinese Philosopher Confucius. We also stop outside The Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum along the way to discuss the work required to preserve the body of 'Uncle Ho.' In the afternoon we take a walking tour of Hanoi old quarter, a bustling maze of food and shopping that is an assault on the senses. We visit a coffee shop to learn about Vietnam's famous coffee making industry and try an authentic coffee.

#### DAY 5 BAT TRANG CERAMIC VILLAGE

This morning we visit Bat Trang ceramic village, a hub of ceramic production for generations. The ceramics made here are famous throughout Vietnam and adorn many homes both north and south.

# ITINERARY DOWNSTREAM











Before returning to the ship, a local dance troupe will treat us to a lion dance on the pier. This colourful and energetic dance is customary during festivals throughout Vietnam, most notably during Tet. We sail through the maze of waterways this afternoon and are entertained onboard by your Pandaw Chef with a cooking class and fruit carving.

#### DAY 6 DAY RIVER

After breakfast we head ashore to Co Chat village, Nam Dinh. Here we visit local craftspeople making silk by hand and the local markets filled with exotic produce. After lunch onboard we moor at Khanh Thien Village, a quaint town known for it's skilled craftspeople. We explore this cultural hub by local transportation or bicycle and discover a host of handicrafts including water hyacinth weaving and a variety of rice paper and cakes. We end the evening with a performance by the locals of 'Chau Van' singing, an ancient art form local to this area.

#### DAY 7 NINH BINH

Discover 'Halong on Land' today as we visit Ninh Binh and take small bamboo rowing boats through the magnificent limestone caves. Visitors in September and October or April and May will witness the valleys shine golden as the rice fields prepare for harvest. After lunch we continue our exploration of the Red River Delta with a journey to Phat Diem, home to Phat Diem Cathedral, a 19th-century Roman Catholic church built in an eclectic blend of Vietnamese and European architectural styles. We continue upstream on our journey to Halong.

#### DAY 8 LUOC - THAI BINH - KINH THAY RIVERS

Observe the lively and interesting life on the river as we spend a morning sailing the delta. Enjoy an exploration of your vessel with a ship tour before lunch.

In the afternoon we visit Thanh Ha Commune, considered the origin of water puppetry in Vietnam. After a stroll or bicycle through the quaint village, we enjoy a private water puppet show set under shade by a beautiful pond of lotus and lilies, as it has been enjoyed for centuries.

We drop anchor near Hai Phong Port, the gateway to Halong Bay.

#### DAY 9 HALONG BAY

Cast off early morning along the river before entering Halong Bay's amazing island scenery with its 2,000 dramatic limestone islands and extraordinary rock formations dating back 20 million years.

Exploring Halong Bay, we stop at the so called "Dark and Bright Cave" where we take a kayak or a local basket boat rowed by fishermen and

# ITINERARY DOWNSTREAM





enter this remarkable cave into an enclosed area similar to a crater. Bats can be heard in the cave and massive stalagmites hang from the ceiling.

We continue our cruise through Halong Bay until we drop anchor in a quieter part of the bay.

#### DAY 10 HALONG BAY

Continuing our sailing we make a stop at Viet Hai Village. We continue our journey by mountain bike or electric buggy to visit the village's vegetable farm and typical village houses. It is a breath-taking trip along a small road winding its way through the limestone rocks.

In the afternoon we will continue cruising towards Lan Ha Bay for a visit to a floating fishing house.

Weather dependent, we will end the day with cocktails at a beautiful secluded beach.

#### DAY 11 HALONG BAY

Morning sail to Tuan Chau Jetty. Disembark and transfer to Hanoi Noi Bai International Airport or central Hanoi with a stop for lunch at a local restaurant.

# WHATS INCLUDED & TRANSFERS DOWNSTREAM

**Cruise Price Includes:** Entrance fees, guide services (English language), gratuities to crew, main meals, local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes. Transfers between ports of embarkation and Hanoi International Airport at the start and end of the voyage.

Cruise Price Excludes: International flights, port dues (if levied), laundry, all visa costs, fuel surcharges (see terms and conditions), all beverages except local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes and tips to tour guides, local guides, bus drivers, boat operators and cyclo drivers.

### **Transfers & Joining**

DAY 1 VIET TRI

#### TRANSFER FROM HANOI AIRPORT

We pick you up at Hanoi Noi Bai International Airport – Seat in coach. Last departure is no later than 12.00 noon. Pandaw guide will be waiting for you with a Pandaw Sign at column No12, on the right hand sided of the international arrival exit.

Please note: Guides and drivers are not allowed inside the terminal building. We will be waiting for you outside with a Pandaw sign. Hanoi Airport has two exits; if you don't see us, please try the other exit on the same level (30 meters).

#### TRANSFER FROM HANOI CITY

Meeting point for embarkation in Hanoi will be the Pan Pacific Hotel (1 Thanh Nien Road, Ba Dinh Dist., Hanoi 10000, Vietnam) and registration will be at 09:30am in Song Hong Bar. Please ensure you are checked out and ready on time, departure 10:00am.

For those not staying at the Pan Pacific Hotel, please ask your hotel reception support by arrange a taxi to the meeting point at 09.30am for registration.

#### DAY 11 HALONG BAY

Disembarkation at 09:30 Tuan Chau Port at Halong Bay. After lunch at local restaurant departure for Hanoi Noi Bai International Airport and central Hanoi hotels. Estimated arrival at Hanoi Airport at 15.30 PM, hotels in Hanoi arriving around 16.30 PM.

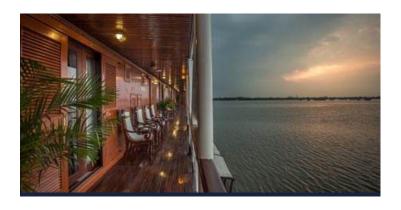
Your flight out of Hanoi airport must be after 16:30 (domestic) or 17:30 (international).

Our last drop off at Pan Pacific Hanoi Hotel for passengers stay in Hanoi.

# PANDAW STATEROOMS

### The Pandaw stateroom is the most celebrated feature of our ships, combining splendid colonial-era character with exquisite contemporary comfort.

Finished in brass and teak, the main and upper deck rooms are a spacious 168 square feet (15.6 sqm), with the exception of the Zawgyi Pandaw which is 150 square feet (14 sqm). As the space is much loved by all our passengers, we have ensured that with each ship we build, the stateroom remains essentially the same. Be advised: our cabins do not have mini-bars, satellite TV's, internet access or telephones. Passengers tend to choose Pandaw in order to escape from the tiresome features found in international business hotels.



- Fruit and flowers on arrival
- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Unlimited mineral water

Bedroom 12' x 10' Bathroom Showeroom 2' 8" x 3' 4" 6'7" x 3'3" Single Bed



DOUBLE CONFIGURATION



TWIN CONFIGURATION







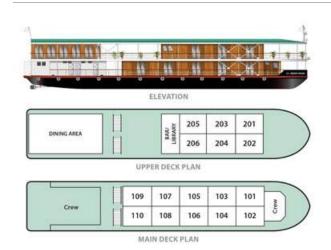
### PANDAW SHIPS

### **RV Angkor Pandaw**

Sister to the Katha and from the same yard delivered in 2013, the only difference with the Katha is an enclosed air conditioned dining room insisted on by an American charterer. Originally on the Mekong in 2015 we transferred her to the Red River in North Vietnam. In fact the enclosed dining room has proved useful as it can be cold up there in winter.

The ship has quality mountain bikes for your independent exploration.

#### Images of RV Angkor Pandaw



Build: 2012 in Saigon Length: 138.61ft / 42.25m 8.50ft / 8.70m Beam: 3ft / 90cm Draft: Berths: 32 pax

#### **ACCOMMODATION**

- 10 main deck staterooms and 6 upper deck staterooms
- Air-conditioned panorama dining room
- Spacious, open-air lounge
- Observation deck
- Lounge bar
- 24hrs hospitality bar
- Fair-trade Shop
- Guest relation desk
- Library with contemporary and classic literature
- · Hair Drvers in all cabins

#### WINING & DINING

- · Local master chef heading an experienced international culinary team
- Semi-buffet breakfast, Semi-buffet lunch, and seated theme dinners
- Daily lean & light menu options
- Complimentary local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes
- Extensive wine list with premium wines
- Series of cultural performances, educational talks, cooking classes, and ship tour
- Welcome drink on arrival
- Welcome cocktail
- Farewell reception
- Theme dinners
- Lounge bar
- 24hrs hospitality bar
- Onboard bakery with daily freshly baked breads and rolls

#### ON EXCURSIONS

- Admissions
- Shoe cleaning after excursions
- Bottled drinking water
- We give away aluminium water bottles
- Cold towel service after excursions
- Refreshing drink following excursions
- Full-size motor coach on all excursions
- 1st aid trained assistant guide to follow all tours and excursions

#### SAFETY & SECURITY

- All onboard crew is trained and certified as per international marine standards
- Fire alarm system in all cabins, public areas and back areas
- Firefighting system in all ship areas
- Expert marine superintendant
- 24 hrs watch on duty
- Certified hygiene standards for all areas (Johnson & Diversey)

#### ONBOARD STAFF

- Captain
- River Pilot
- First Officer
- Chief Engineer
- 1st Engineer
- Electrician
- Bosun & nautical crew
- Ship manager
- Housekeeping
- Dining
- Bar keeper Chefs
- Spa therapist
- · Local tour guides

#### **PUBLIC SPACES**

- · Guest relation desk
- Shop, supporting fair trade
- Library with contemporary and classic literature
- Wireless internet in all public areas

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

# Pre Tour HUE & HOI AN 4 NIGHTS



Hue and Hoi An are two of Vietnam's scenic and historic highlights and a 'must see;' on most people's visit to this most wonderful country. Our included trip on the Perfume River and visit to the enormous Hue Citadel are fascinating. Hoi An is best explored independently and retains a charming village feel which comes alive after sunset with the glow of red lanterns and the senses of Asia. And, of course, enjoy time to relax at your beach resort.

We are pleased to offer a pre and post extension staying in delightful and specially selected boutique hotels, including a connecting domestic flight, all transfers, excursions in Hue, a scenic journey from Hue to Hoi An and 2-nights in Hoi An. It is possible to extend your stay in Hoi An if required.

This is a Pandaw group tour.

**DOWNSTREAM** 

#### DAY 1 ARRIVAL IN HUE

Individual arrival at Hue airport, meet your local guide and transfer to your hotel for a 2-night stay on a bed and breakfast basis. The rest of the day is free to enjoy the hotel and relax. Meals: none

#### DAY 2 HUE

This morning we take a boat trip on the serene Perfume River to the best-known pagoda in Middle Vietnam, Thien Mu. Then we visit to the impressive tomb of former Emperor Tu Duc and a beautiful garden once belonging to the royalty followed by a royal style lunch at a local restaurant (included). In the afternoon, visit Hue citadel including Noon Gate, Thai Hoa Palace, Royal Urns and the ruins of the Forbidden Purple City. Meals: Breakfast at the Hotel, Lunch at local restaurant.

#### DAY 3 HUE - HOI AN

After breakfast we leave Hue for Hoi An. En route we'll travel through the Ocean Clouds Pass, visit Non Nuoc Beach and the fascinating Cham Museum. We continue to your hotel in Hoi An. In the afternoon, you will have time to explore this charming and wonderfully preserved merchant town that retains Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese and European influences from its flourishing old days. Meals: Breakfast at hotel.

#### DAY 4 HOLAN

Day at leisure. Explore the beautiful old town of Hoi An or relax at the beach. Meals: Breakfast at hotel.

#### DAY 5 HOLAN - HANOL

Transfer to Danang Airport for morning flight to Hanoi Airport, followed by transfer to the Angkor Pandaw. It is possible to extend your stay in Hoian - please email information@pandaw.com for availability and prices. Meals: Breakfast at hotel.



Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

#### Silk Path Grand Hue

Hue is unlike anywhere else in the country. Tree-lined streets branch from the winding Perfume River. Tombs and temples lay embedded in the countryside. Pagodas and palaces offer mysterious and enticing atmospheres. The Silk Path Grand Hue Hotel captures all of these elements, wrapped by a broad French boulevard and a snaking canal. The character of the neighborhood – colonial mansions, traditional garden houses and the city's historic train station – inspired the hotel's concept and design.

02 Le Loi Street, Hue, Vietnam Tel: +84 234 397 5555

Visit Hotel Website



#### Victoria Hoi An Beach Resort & Spa

Victoria Hoi An Beach Resort & Spa replicates a traditional fishing village with small streets, water ponds and village houses with clay tiled roofs. The resort offers comfortable rooms incorporating unique design features inspired by traditional Vietnamese, Japanese and French colonial elements. Combining the elegance of local handicraft with the comfort of an international hotel.

Cua Dai Beach, Hoi An Town, Quang Nam Tel: 0235 3927 040 Visit Hotel Website



#### Rates include

English speaking guide on tours, 1x lunch at local restaurant, economy one-way domestic air ticket Danang - Hanoi, hotels as advertised, transportation by AC vehicle, daily breakfast, and entrance fees.

#### Rates exclude

International flights, visa, travel insurance, not mentioned beverages and meal.

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

### Pre Tour

### SAPA & HANOI

#### **DOWNSTREAM**

Explore Sapa with Pandaw in combination with your Red River expedition. Famous for its terraced rice paddies & highlands, Sapa is home to more than 30 colorful hill tribes and close to Vietnam's highest peak, Mount Fansipan. During colonial times Sapa - surrounded by what is referred to as the "Vietnamese Alps" - was a hill station where the French escaped the Hanoi heat, and this heritage is reflected in our elegant, regal interior design and architecture.



#### DAY 1 ARRIVAL IN HANOI

Our guide will pick you up at the airport and bring you to the hotel. Enjoy this bustling Asian metropolis at your own leisure.

Overnight: Silk Path Boutique Hanoi

Meals: none

Please note: Guides and drivers are not allowed inside the terminal building. We will be waiting for you outside with a Pandaw sign. Hanoi Airport has two exits; if you don't see us, please try the other exit on the same level (30 meters).

#### DAY 2 HANOI - SAPA

Check out after breakfast and enjoy Hanoi further with a full day tour. We visit the Royal Palace, the Ethnic Minority Museum as well as the house of Uncle Chuong to learn more about ancient Hanoi. We then take dinner in a local restaurant before heading to the train station for your overnight train to Sapa. Stay in a VIP cabin aboard the luxury Chapa train.

#### DAY 3 SAPA

Arrive to Lao Cai Train Station early in the morning and drive 1.5 hours to your hotel in Sapa for check in. After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to Fansipan Cable Station for an amazing trip to reach the Indochina Roof, 3143m above the sea level. Starting by cable car and step up to the Peak, enjoy the fresh air and the beautiful landscapes from what so call "the roof of Indochina".

Overnight: Silk Path Grand Sapa Meals: Breakfast & Lunch



Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

#### DAY 4 SAPA

Today we explore the various hilltribe peoples that reside in this mountainous region with trekking through the breathtaking terraced mountainsides and local village visits. We enjoy a picnic lunch amidst the dramatic scenery before continuing to visit the H'mong people and Red Dao people but exact stops are dependent on weather conditions and physical ability and can be tailored with your local guide.

Overnight: Silk Path Grand Sapa Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

#### DAY 5 TRANSFER TO SHIP

In the morning after breakfast transfer from Sapa to the Angkor Pandaw.

Meals: Breakfast

#### Silk Path Boutique Hanoi

Welcome to our charming boutique hotel situated a stone's throw from Hoan Kiem Lake, the historical center of Hanoi. Silk Path Boutique Hanoi is an oasis of distinguished design and serenity in the bustling heart of the city, putting you on the doorstep of the capital's most inspiring sights, top shopping areas and the street food delights that have put Hanoi on every foodie's bucket list.

21 Hang Khay, Hoan Kiem, Hanoi Tel: +84 24 3938 5555 Visit hotel website



#### Silk Path Grand Sapa

Welcome to our mountain resort, perched on a private spot atop one of Sapa's highest hills. Here time stands still, giving you ample opportunities to stroll through the flower gardens and absorb captivating views of the surrounding mountain range. During colonial times Sapa – surrounded by what is referred to as the "Vietnamese Alps" - was a hill station where the French escaped the Hanoi heat, and this heritage is reflected in our elegant, regal interior design and architecture.

Doi Quan 6, Group 5, Sapa, Lao Cai, Vietnam Tel: +84 214 3788 555 Visit hotel website



#### Rates include

Transfers and tours as per itinerary, accommodation at the Silk Path Boutique Hanoi and the Silk Path Grand Sapa, with daily breakfast and three lunches and one dinner during the tour.

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

# Post Tour HUE & HOI AN

### **4 NIGHTS**

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This is a Pandaw group tour.

#### DAY 1 HANOI - HUE

Disembark and fly from Hanoi to Hue. On arrival at Hue airport, meet your local guide and transfer to on a bed and breakfast basis. The rest of the day is free to enjoy the hotel and relax. **Meals:** none

#### DAY 2 HUE

This morning we take a boat trip on the serene Perfume River to the best-known pagoda in Middle Vietnam, Thien Mu. Then we visit to the impressive tomb of former Emperor Tu Duc and a beautiful garden once belonging to the royalty followed by a royal style lunch at a local restaurant (included). In the afternoon, visit Hue citadel including Noon Gate, Thai Hoa Palace, Royal Urns and the ruins of the Forbidden Purple City. **Meals:** Breakfast at the Hotel, Lunch at local restaurant.

#### DAY 3 HUE - HOI AN

After breakfast we leave Hue for Hoi An. En route we'll travel through the Ocean Clouds Pass, visit Non Nuoc Beach and the fascinating Cham Museum. We continue to your hotel in Hoi An. In the afternoon, you will have time to explore this charming and wonderfully preserved merchant town that retains Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese and European influences from its flourishing old days. **Meals:** Breakfast at hotel.

#### DAY 4 HOIAN

Day at leisure. Explore the beautiful old town of Hoi An or relax at the beach. Meals: Breakfast at hotel.

#### DAY 5 HOI AN - DANANG

Transfer to Danang Airport for your onward flight. It is possible to extend your stay in Hoian – please email information@pandaw.com for availability and prices. **Meals:** Breakfast at hotel.

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Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

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#### Rates exclude

International flights, visa, travel insurance, not mentioned beverages and meal.

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

### Post Tour **HANOI**

### (SOFITEL LEGEND METROPOLE)

#### **DOWNSTREAM**

Hanoi is a magical and charming city. You will find that the character, history and romance of the Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi may add a little extra special something to your journey here. Savour the French art de vivre blended with elegant Vietnamese touches and enjoy this wonderful place.



#### DAY 1 HANOI

Transfer from the disembarkation point to Hanoi by Pandaw. Overnight at your hotel in Hanoi.

#### DAY 2 HANOI

Room available until check out time at 12:00 noon. Transfer to Airport for your flight.

#### Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi

Located in the heart of the old city, the Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi is an iconic award-winning luxury Hanoi old quarter hotel. Blending a heritage colonial style with neo-classical luxury and a dash of modernity, you'll find an elegance during your stay you're unlikely to experience anywhere else. Located only 35km away from Hanoi Noibai airport, and mere steps from the Opera House in Hanoi's culturally rich French Quarter, one of Hanoi's prime locations for leisure and business trips.

15 Ngo Quyen Street, Hoan Kiem District, 15 Ngo Quyen, Hoan Kiem 100000, Hanoi Tel: +84 24 3826 6919



#### Rates include

Visit hotel website

All transfers as above by coach or car with local guide, 1 night accommodation.

Pre & Post Bookable via Pandaw.com as add on

### **Post Tour**

### **HANOI**

### (SILK PATH BOUTIQUE)

#### **DOWNSTREAM**

Welcome to this charming boutique hotel situated a stone's throw from Hoan Kiem Lake, the historical center of Hanoi. Silk Path Boutique Hanoi is an oasis of distinguished design and serenity in the bustling heart of the city, putting you on the doorstep of the capital's most inspiring sights, top shopping areas and the street food delights that have put Hanoi on every foodie's bucket list.



#### DAY 1 HANOI

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#### DAY 2 HANOI

Room available until check out time at 12:00 noon. Transfer to Airport for your flight.

#### Silk Path Boutique Hanoi

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#### Rates include

All transfers as above by coach or car with local guide, 1 night accommodation.

# OPTIONAL PACKAGE ADDONS & OTHER INFORMATION

### Optional cruise add ons

PRE-BOOKABLE HOUSE WINE PACKAGE Read more

FREE FLOW DRINKS Read more

FREE FLOW DRINKS & WINE PACKAGE Read more

### **River Conditions Warning!**

The rivers you will sail on are subject to seasonal rises and falls of water level, in some places as much as 30 metres. Water levels can change dramatically overnight and a sudden rise can impede our progress upstream considerably and even prevent us from passing under certain bridges. A sudden fall can result in our being unable to get into certain places or go as far upstream as we would hope. Groundings on sandbars are not infrequent and are part of the excitement of any Pandaw expedition. Published itineraries are indicational only and subject to sudden change. In such events alternative itineraries will be provided and we do our best to ensure that if a stop is missed we make up for it with another stop. Passengers are thus forewarned and expected to be flexible and patient. River cruising in Asia can be a dramatic and adventurous experience - not like cruising the controlled waterways of Europe or America. Note also that we operate in areas with little or no developed infrastructure and subject to the strictures of local officialdom. Be prepared for this and it is all more the fun!

### **Useful Links**

**BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS** Read more

GENERAL INFORMATION & LIFE ON BOARD Read more

VISA INFORMATION Read more

#### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA





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