

# PRIVATE CHARTER

## A COMPASS SOCIETY EXCLUSIVE



THE  
COMPASS  
SOCIETY  
CTM

# LAOS UPPER MEKONG *and* THAILAND



PRIVATE CHARTER: 14 CABINS ONLY

Enjoy the splendour of Laos on Pandaw's 10 night **private charter expedition** on the Upper Mekong. Sailing from Vientiane, the old French capital through Laos to Chiang Khong on the Thai-Laos border, you will witness stunning scenery, meet amazingly warm and friendly locals and learn about Laos' national animal, the

majestic elephant. We stop for three nights at the UNESCO World Heritage City of Luang Prabang with its dazzling wood-carved monasteries as well as heading deep into the mountains, through rapids and gorges on our luxury 2018-launched Pandaw vessel. We'll also enjoy time in both Vientiane and Chiang Mai.

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- 3 nights pre-cruise in Vientiane, Laos
  - » Includes breakfast daily and transfers
- 10 night exclusive Upper Mekong river cruise private charter for The Compass Society aboard RV Sabaidee Pandaw
  - » Includes all excursions, meals and drinks (only 14 cabins)
- 2 nights post-cruise in Chiang Mai, Thailand
  - » Includes breakfast daily and transfers
- Includes return international airfare ex Tasmania



 PANDAW

PREMIUM  
ESCORTED  
TOUR &  
CRUISE

WITH EXPERIENCED TOUR ESCORT

Cathi Burnett-Cosgrove

18 Days • Departing **22 February 2024**



Andrew Jones  
TRAVEL

KNOWS TRAVEL

# TOUR INFORMATION

## TOUR PRICE

### TWIN SHARE

\$12,490\* per person

### SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

\$2060\* per person (very limited availability).

While this pricing is current as of August 2023, fluctuating fuel surcharges, fees and/or taxes may result in an increased cost.  
\*See page 10 for tour terms and conditions.



Your Tour Escort: **Cathi Burnett-Cosgrove** at Andrew Jones Travel in Hobart

Phone: (03) 6221 3499 or email: [cathi@ajtravel.com.au](mailto:cathi@ajtravel.com.au)

## BOOKINGS

For bookings, contact **Cathi** (details above) or your favourite consultant at **Andrew Jones Travel in Hobart or Launceston:**

**HOBART** Level 1, 61 Salamanca Place, Hobart 7000

Phone: (03) 6215 8799 • Email: [hobart@ajtravel.com.au](mailto:hobart@ajtravel.com.au)

**LAUNCESTON** 44 Charles Street, Launceston 7250

Phone: (03) 6215 8798 • Email: [launceston@ajtravel.com.au](mailto:launceston@ajtravel.com.au)



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[www.ajtravel.com.au](http://www.ajtravel.com.au)





*Laos*

# THE LAOS MEKONG

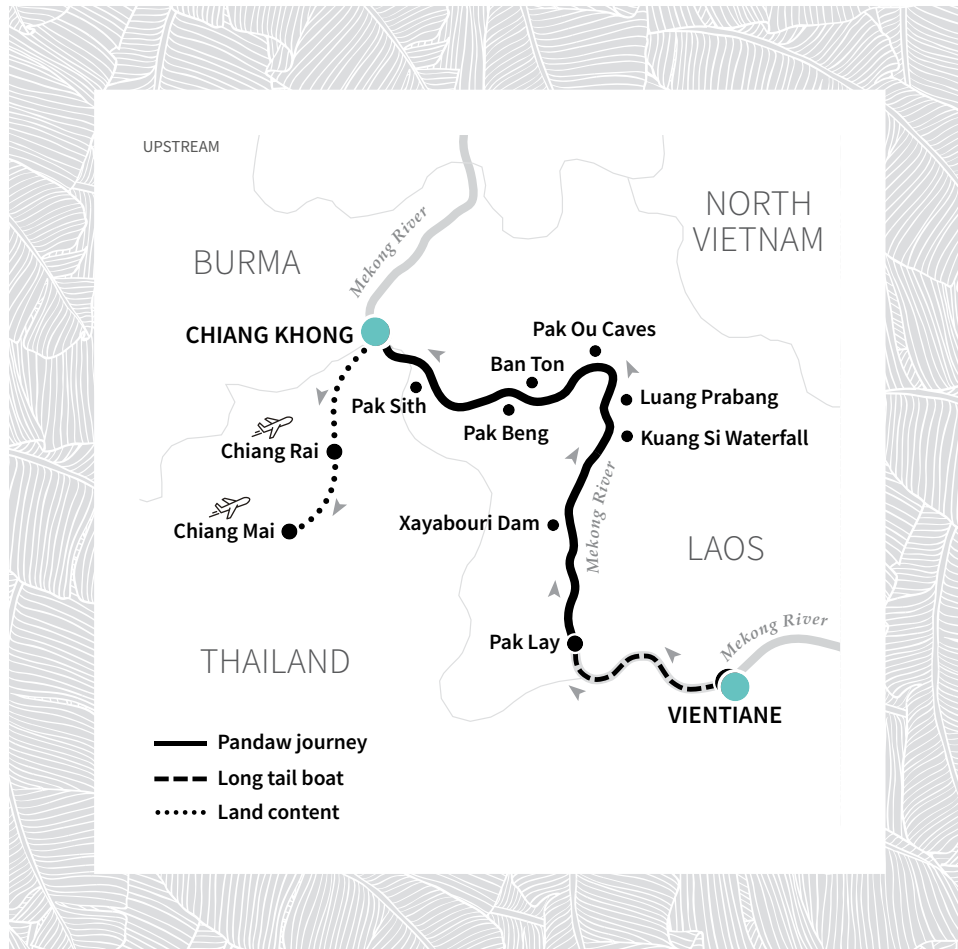
VIENTIANE TO CHIANG KHONG - 10 NIGHTS

UPSTREAM

Enjoy the splendour of Laos on Pandaw's 10 night expedition on the Upper Mekong. Sailing between Chiang Khong on the Thai-Laos border, and through Laos toward Vientiane, the old French capital, you will witness stunning scenery, meet amazingly warm and friendly locals and learn about Laos' national animal, the majestic elephant. We stop for three nights at the UNESCO World Heritage City of Luang Prabang with its dazzling wood-carved monasteries before heading deep into the mountains, through rapids and gorges on our high-powered little Pandaw vessels.



# ROUTE MAP



UPSTREAM



# ITINERARY UPSTREAM

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## DAY 1 VIENTIANE

Pick up from your hotel in Vientiane at 08.00am, followed by a local long-tail boat expedition to your Pandaw vessel upstream. Lunch and drinks will be provided on the local boat by your Pandaw chef and bar staff. Embark your Pandaw in the afternoon for a welcome briefing and welcome drinks. We moor overnight at Pak Lay.



## DAY 2 CRUISING THE MEKONG

Cruise upstream on the Mekong, passing lush jungle scenery and tiny riverside villages. Morning presentation on the Lao language after a short walk at Pha Laeb village. If time permits, we will also enjoy an afternoon walk at Ban Khok Fark.



## DAY 3 XAYABOURI DAM

Morning walk at Ban Pak Bor Khummu village before passing through Xayabouri Hydroelectric Dam, taking an inside look of the workings of this somewhat controversial attraction as we navigate the locks. Afternoon visit to Ban Na San village, a Hmong minority village.



## DAY 4 KUANG SI WATERFALLS

In the morning we moor at the village of Ban Mouang Khai and visit the dramatic Kaung Si waterfall. On the way back to the ship, we stop at the Laos Buffalo Farm, a social enterprise utilizing the abundant buffalo in Laos. Arrive in the heart of the temple city of Luang Prabang mid-afternoon where there is a buzzing night market and many great cafes and local restaurants. Traditional Laos Bacci ceremony and dancing on the upper deck during happy hour. Moor overnight in central Luang Prabang.



## DAY 5 LUANG PRABANG CRAFTS & CULTURE

Today we explore the various handicrafts of Laos in more detail. We start with Ock Pop Tok, a social enterprise providing sustainable employment and training for the women of local weaving villages. We then head to TAEC (Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre) to understand more about Laos musical instruments. After lunch aboard the ship, we sail toward Ban Chan and take part in a pottery demonstration at the local pottery workshop. We finish the day with a sunset cruise on the Mekong alongside Luang Prabang, returning to moor overnight in the centre of town.

# ITINERARY UPSTREAM

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## DAY 6 LUANG PRABANG

Early morning walking tour to observe the alms offerings to the hundreds of monks who walk around the city every morning. We continue after breakfast to the morning market before taking tuktuks for a city tour of this well preserved and unique world heritage site with its many Buddhist temples, libraries and royal palace. The afternoon is free to explore the beauty and unique atmosphere of Luang Prabang.



## DAY 7 PAK OU CAVES

Morning at leisure in Luang Prabang before setting sail at midday upstream. Afternoon sightseeing by local boat exploring the unique Pak Ou Caves, a Buddhist sanctuary with spectacular limestone cliff faces. See the production of local Laos whisky at the Whisky village and shop for locally produced handicrafts.



## DAY 8 BAN TON AND SANDBANK BBQ

Day of sailing upstream along the Mekong with morning walk through Ban Ton village. In the evening, we moor alongside a sandbank for a special riverside barbecue and cocktail party. Light paper lanterns with the crew and enjoy a dance in remote Laos.



## DAY 9 PAK BENG ELEPHANT SANCTUARY

Laos is known as 'The land of a million elephants' and today we will visit a rescue sanctuary that is helping to preserve the elephants of Laos and provide sustainable alternative employment for Mahouts who once trained and rode these beautiful creatures. Afternoon walk at Ban Pak Sith Khummu village.



## DAY 10 PAK SITH - CHIANG KHONG

Today we sail the final leg of our journey upstream toward Huayxay. Cross over into Thailand via the Thai-Laos Friendship Bridge before rejoining your ship in Chiang Khong. Enjoy a ship tour of your Pandaw vessel and fruit carving demonstration from your Pandaw Chef. Farewell cocktails and Thai traditional dance on board for your last evening.

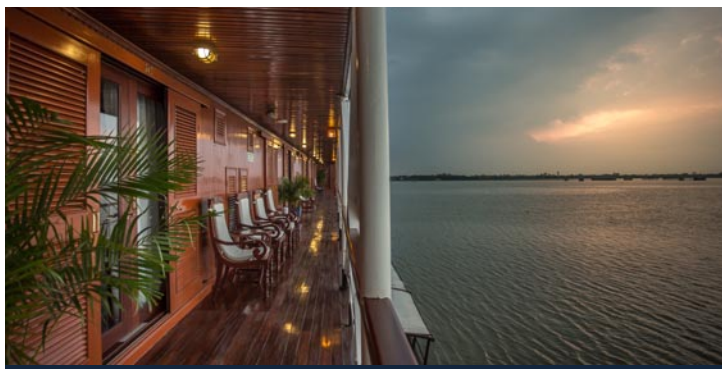
## DAY 11 CHIANG KHONG

Disembark by 8.30 in Chiang Khong and group transfer to hotel/airport. En route, explore the Golden Triangle including a visit to the opium museum. Continue to airports or city hotels in Chiang Rai (2 hours) and Chiang Mai (6 hours).

# PANDAW STATEROOMS

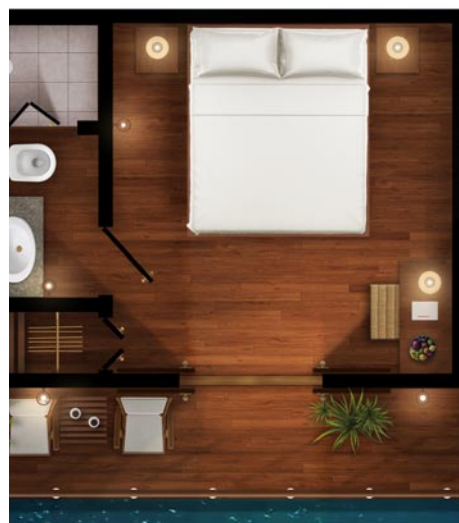
The Pandaw stateroom is the most celebrated feature of our ships, combining splendid colonial-era character with exquisite contemporary comfort.

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.

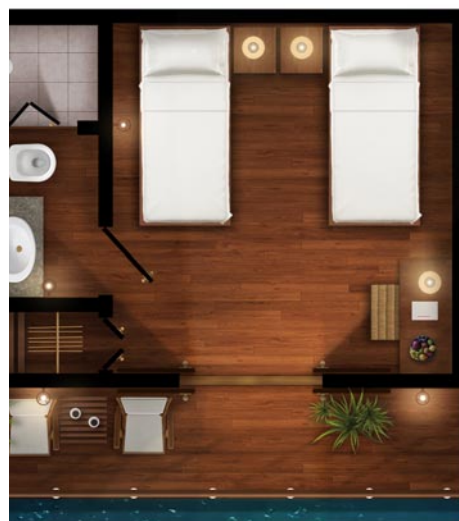


- Fruit and flowers on arrival
- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Unlimited mineral water

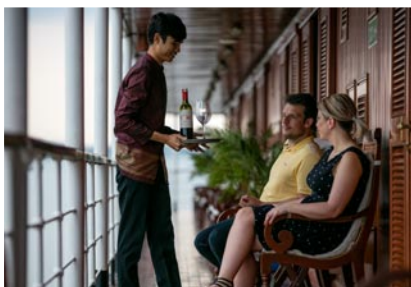
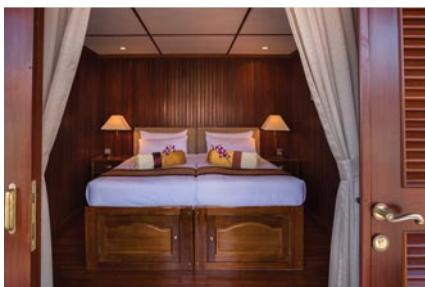
|            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| Bedroom    | 12' x 10'     |
| Bathroom   | 6' x 4'       |
| Showroom   | 2' 8" x 3' 4" |
| Single Bed | 6' 7" x 3' 3" |



DOUBLE CONFIGURATION



TWIN CONFIGURATION



# PANDAW SHIPS

## RV Sabaidee Pandaw

The RV Sabaidee is our seventeenth ship to the Pandaw Flotilla which was constructed to meet demand on our very popular Laos to China route across Yunnan.

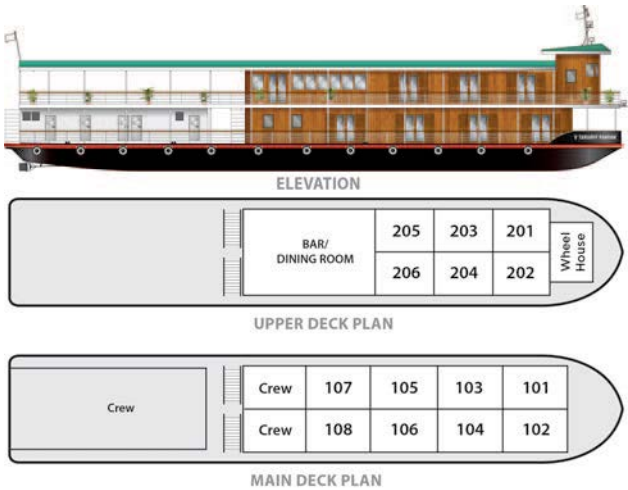
In true Pandaw style this double decked vessel is designed to meet the navigational challenges of shooting rapids in the Laos gorges and sailing through shallow waters all the way to China.

The Sabaidee has just fourteen classic Pandaw staterooms; 8 on the main deck and 6 on upper deck as well as an open plan saloon with flexible indoor or outdoor dining. The Sabaidee is handcrafted to our usual level of excellence in teak and brass and provide all the comforts of the personalised service our guests expect.

The ship has quality mountain bikes for your independent exploration.

### ACCOMMODATION

- 6 upper deck staterooms and 8 main deck staterooms
- 170 square feet, finished in teak and brass
- Panoramic French window
- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Unlimited mineral water
- Electric mini safe
- AC with individual control
- Imported quality linens with duvet and two kind of pillows
- Premium mattresses
- Welcome flower arrangement and welcome gift
- Mirror
- Multi-configuration plugs
- Generous closet space and under-bed storage
- Hair dryer
- Nightly turndown service
- 24h laundry service
- Complimentary evening canapés



- Sailing from 2018
- Berths: 28 pax

## DISCOVER what others say about their experience on tours with The Compass Society and Cathi Burnett-Cosgrove...



The *Tasmania at its Finest* Tour reminded this group of seasoned travellers what we value as Tasmanians... a unique opportunity to reconnect with the things we love – beauty, quality and connectedness. **Organised by the best** in the business, **it was an outstanding experience.**

– Barbara Lypka

“The Planning. The Places. The People. **Pure Perfection.**”

– Glenn and Wendy

“P.S.: And the Pub!”

“So many thanks for a wonderfully crafted tour. What a magnificent mix of history and scenery plus stunning food and wine stops. **So many memorable experiences** and you even managed the weather gods for our surprise helicopter ride over the NE vineyards, what a day that was. **Cathi, you are such a fabulous facilitator**, leaving us with amazing memories and fantastic friendships, thank you!”

– Rob Pryce-Jones

“Thank you Travel Goddess for a great trip. **Loved Ireland! St Kilda in Scotland was special** and you even managed a wonderful weather!

– Robert & Jan

“Cathi, **what a great trip!** Really appreciate all your planning **and surprises.**”

– Sincere thanks, Sally

“Thankyou for **another wonderful adventure, lots of fun and good people.** Looking forward to more.”

– Wendy

“My first and, hopefully not my last trip with the indomitable Cathi.

Thank you for **all your hard work prior to travel and special care.** Thank you for all the **delightful surprises.**”

– Robyn N

“To our very dear friend Cathi, thank you so much for putting together such an amazing trip. **We couldn't think of a nicer person to spend a month with exploring some of the most beautiful places on earth.** Looking forward to many more travels with you.”

– Love and best wishes, Lyn & Laurie.

“Thank you Cathi for a wonderful tour through the ages in Ireland, the Scottish Isles and Iceland. **Amazing places, fantastic experiences and great company.** This trip has **exceeded our expectations once again.**”

– Gen and Robert

“Dearest Cathi, many, many thanks for **another wonderful trip.** It was really enjoyable and **such good company.**”

– Phil & Sue

“So full of contrasts – **am loving this next adventure/ magical tour.**”

– Rosie

“Many thanks for another wonderful trip. You have a **unique ability to find the most interesting places to visit.** Loved the trip & the company.”

– Helen & Doug

“Thank you Cathi for organising this amazing trip – we have done **so many different things and seen so much.**”

– David & Christine

“This week long tour **certainly lived up to its name.**

Our group was so fortunate to visit scenic sensations. Places we saw in a new light due to our assiduous, inventive leader, Cathi. We shared gastronomic delights, often in totally unique venues...gourmet heaven!

Each day brought **super, superior surprises** yet we always had our restful, contemplatory times. It was a wonderful experience. **We were SO lucky.**

We were safe & spoilt. Next trip... hopefully soon!!”

– Gae

“A typical of a tour organised by Cathi – **a thoughtful and well-planned itinerary which goes beyond the superficial,** but still leaves room for spontaneity, like finding a good cup of coffee, having a drink with the locals at a country pub or checking out the Little Blue Lake!

As is always the case with Cathi's tours, the emphasis was on enjoying local produce and the quality of the included meals was exceptional.

The tour included **a number of unique offerings which could not otherwise be experienced.**”

– Wendy



# BENEFITS OF AN ESCORTED GROUP

Being part of our premium, escorted group means you leave home with an experienced, personal tour escort. Not only this but you will be with someone who understands the travel industry, as Cathi has worked in retail travel for more than 35 years. You will travel with a local group of like-minded people (who you meet before we go, at our pre-tour get together(s)), who are great company and

understandably excited about the adventure ahead. Along the way you will meet new friends and enjoy the peace of mind of travelling in a professionally organised group.

Best of all, you will want to come back for more! Your holiday memories will last a lifetime and you will benefit from Cathi's expertise in crafting a unique experience that avoids the obvious and goes "above and beyond".



"Really enjoyable and such good company" "Lots of fun and good people."

**"You connect us, giving us extraordinary experiences which remain as special friendships & unique memories."**



## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

**TOUR PAYMENTS** A non-refundable deposit of \$3,000 is due within 7 days of booking. The full payment is due not later than Friday 15 December 2023.

In the event of cancellation, all monies are non-refundable. Should the tour be cancelled for any reason associated to Covid-19 it is important to note that the operators involved will not generally offer refunds. Andrew Jones Travel is committed to securing credits for future travel and therefore the tour will be postponed to a future date. Travel Insurance is strongly recommended. Travel Insurance will cover some Covid-19 related scenarios – please request a copy of the Product Disclosure Statement provided by the insurer of your choice from your consultant.

**CANCELLATIONS** Tour payments are strictly non-refundable. Cancellation fees may also apply to any additional services, reserved prior to, during and after the tour. Notice of all cancellations must be made in writing to Andrew Jones Travel on or before final payment due date. **Loss of payment.** After final payment due date: 100% of total price. Cancellation fees also apply to any additional services, reserved prior to, during and after the vacation.

Andrew Jones Travel Pty. Ltd. and the carriers, accommodations, and other suppliers providing tour services shall all be known as the 'Operators' and reserve the right to cancel or re-schedule any vacation departure. If cancellation is made prior to departure of the tour, the only responsibility of the Operators will be to refund to the passenger the amount we have received for the reservation. We will try to re-book the same vacation with a different departure date, or a similar tour. Where the Operators have confirmed flights, we will try to confirm air seats for the selected new dates, subject to availability. The Operators cannot assume responsibility for any additional costs or any fees relating to the issuance and/or cancellation of air tickets or other travel arrangements.

**REVISION FEES** A fee of \$150 per transaction will be charged for any alteration or revision made to a reservation, plus any additional costs from Operators. Airline penalties may also apply. A change to traveller name, vacation date or tour itinerary at any time will be treated as a cancellation and new reservation; standard cancellation fees apply.

**PARTICIPATION** For the benefit of everyone on your holiday, the Operators reserve the right to accept or reject any person as a holiday participant, and to remove from the tour any participant whose conduct is deemed incompatible with the interests of the other participants.

**TRAVEL FITNESS** All tour participants must be able to walk a minimum of 2km over uneven ground, handle their own luggage including carrying up and down flights of stairs if necessary, and be in a position to board and alight transportation without assistance. If guests are unable to fulfill these requirements individually, an accompanying travelling companion must accompany travellers to provide direct assistance with these requirements throughout the trip.

**TRAVELLERS WHO NEED SPECIAL ASSISTANCE** You must report any disability requiring special attention to Andrew Jones Travel at the time the reservation is made. The Operators will make reasonable attempts to

accommodate the special needs of disabled travellers, but is not responsible in the event it is unable to do so, nor is it responsible for any denial of services by carriers, hotels, restaurants, or other independent suppliers. Most transportation services, including the touring motor coach, are not equipped with wheelchair ramps. We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance to a tour participant for walking, dining, getting on and off motor coaches and other vehicles, or other personal needs. A qualified and physically able companion must accompany travellers who need such assistance, and must assume total responsibility for the disabled participant's well-being. Motorised scooters are unsuitable for touring vacations in this brochure.

**SMOKING** Smoking is not allowed on transportation or accommodations.

**PRICE GUARANTEE** Air tickets booked via Andrew Jones Travel are guaranteed when we receive full payment. This does not include any Government/airport tax increases and currency fluctuations. Vacation prices are per person, based on two persons sharing a room. Single room supplements are listed where applicable.

**ACCOMMODATIONS** The accommodations listed in this brochure are intended to be used on this departure; however, if a change becomes necessary for any reason, the accommodations substituted will be equivalent in standard to those shown. Every effort is made to reserve your preferred room request. It may occasionally happen that an accommodation provides some double-bedded or twin-bedded rooms, as room configuration is at the discretion of individual hotels. Please note that accommodation check-in times vary worldwide. Paying for a single supplement ensures own room, not necessarily a twin bedded room.

Accommodation throughout this tour will be variable in style and standards, however we have secured the best options available in the areas we will visit.

The Tour Escort's decision is final, and check-in to all hotels will be the responsibility of your Tour Escort.

**BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE** Porterage including airport portage at beginning and end of the vacation is not included. Due to limited coach capacity, this single bag should have dimensions not exceeding 76x53x-28cm (30x21x11"). We regret we are unable to accept a second suitcase, or any luggage exceeding these limits. Please talk to your agent for baggage weight restrictions. We recommend you consult your air carrier as size and weight limitations vary from airline to airline and even according to destination, and are becoming more restrictive. The Operators are not responsible for additional fees imposed by air carriers. Regulations within most airports require that travellers handle their own luggage through customs.

Your carry-on bag should not exceed the dimensions of 30x28x14cm (12x11x6"). For safety reasons wheeled carry-on bags are not suitable as hand luggage on motor coaches and mini-buses.

No responsibility is accepted for loss of or damage to baggage or any of the tour participant's belongings. Baggage insurance is recommended.

**DINING** A restaurant or date of a dinner may be substituted at any time due to reasons beyond the Operators' control.

**NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE** Unless otherwise stipulated, drinks with meals other than breakfast; all items of a personal nature.

This tour is not guided by a Tour Director. We will meet with local guides wherever possible.

**HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTIONS** During local or national holidays, or due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, certain itinerary features and facilities such as museums and restaurants, sightseeing tours and shopping may be limited or not available. Alternatives will be offered whenever possible.

**SAFETY** Please be aware that during your participation in vacations operated by the Operators, certain risks and dangers may arise beyond our control including, but not limited to, the hazards of travelling in undeveloped areas; travel by boat, train, automobile, aircraft or other means of transportation; the forces of nature, political unrest and accident or illness in remote regions without means of rapid evacuation or medical facilities. The Operators will not have liability regarding provision of medical care or the adequacy of any care that may be rendered. It is understood that the Operators will use its best efforts to ensure that adequate measures are taken.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE** is compulsory and passengers must take out travel insurance to cover any unforeseen circumstances which may arise (including, but not limited to cancellation fees, loss of luggage, early return following death of a relative as defined in the respective proposal forms). The Operators will not be held liable for any act of government, terrorism, revolution or other act. The Operators reserve the right to cancel the tour at any stage due to an act of government or terrorism.

**PASSPORTS AND VISAS** All passengers must have a valid passport with at least 6 months validity from return date. It is the responsibility of each passenger to ensure any applicable visas for all countries visited have been obtained prior to departure. Failure to obtain correct documentation will mean the passenger will be unable to participate in particular shore excursions and may be denied boarding and/or entry into certain countries. Meeting necessary passport and visa entry requirements and costs is the sole responsibility of passengers.

\* Conditions apply. Price is per person, twin share or as stated. Price is correct at time of publication (August 2023) but may fluctuate due to changes in taxes, charges, airfare, surcharges and currency. Price is ex Hobart and does not include airfares except as shown. Price does not include taxes imposed directly by third parties. Tour is subject to availability and terms and conditions as listed. Minimum tour numbers apply, see booking conditions for more details. A service fee and credit card surcharge will apply. Please note: From February to April there may be an increased risk of smog across Laos and northern Thailand. This is due to the annual crop burnings and whilst usually mild, can sometimes be quite severe. We would advise any passengers with respiratory issues consult with their doctor before booking. Most departures and travellers will be unaffected, however. Images used throughout this brochure are representative of the destinations only, and may not depict your precise tour itinerary.