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VIDOTOUR IN FOCUS

VIDOTOUR’S MEKONG & THE RED KINGDOM FAM TRIP

Last September, the Vidotour Saigon team travelled to Vinh Long for a two-day familiarisation trip hosted by our long-standing partner, Mekong Travel.

The team explored the Delta by boat, cycled through fruit orchards and quiet village lanes, discovered traditional crafts in Cai Thia, and visited the Mang Thit brick kilns – a potential new experience for our programmes. At Út Trinh Homestay, we enjoyed local dishes and listened to Đờn ca tài tử by oil-lamp light.

The trip inspired fresh ideas for connecting our clients with the people, crafts and culture of the Mekong Delta.

Our sincere thanks to Mr and Mrs Út Trinh and the Mekong Travel team for their warm hospitality and for making the journey so memorable.





TRAVEL UPDATES

VIETNAM

Vietravel Airlines Expands Its Domestic Network

Service resumed on 15 September 2026

- Hanoi (HAN) – Da Lat (DLI): Daily

New routes launching on 1 October 2026

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



ORIS CRUISES Sets Sail from Van Don

Launching in October 2026, [Oris Cruises](#) offers a boutique journey from Ao Tien International Port, Van Don, exploring the quieter waters and lesser-known corners of Ha Long Bay.

Inspired by Northern Vietnam's heritage, the cruise blends traditional charm with contemporary comfort, featuring private-balcony cabins, a restaurant, lounge, spa and outdoor Jacuzzi.



HARMONY BOUTIQUE CRUISE to Launch in Lan Ha Bay

Set to debut in October 2026, [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, including a spa, nail salon, ocean-facing fitness room and mini-golf area.



Amiral Explorers®: New Speedboat to Cu Chi & Can Gio Mangrove

[Amiral Explorers®](#) is a new luxury speedboat offering private day journeys that combine 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



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.



Seahorse Resort & Spa Mui Ne Announces Room Expansion

[Seahorse Resort & Spa](#) will begin construction of a new 58-room building from 15 October 2026, with some bungalows in the area temporarily unavailable during the work.

The four-star beachfront resort currently offers more than 152 Deluxe Rooms and Bungalows, along with a tropical garden, infinity pool, spa, restaurants, and conference facilities.

New Boarding Point for Mystic Day Cruises

Effective 10 August 2026, all guests joining Mystic day cruises in Can Tho must embark and disembark at Sao Hom Restaurant, Ninh Kieu Pier, in central Can Tho.

Following changes to local port regulations, Mystic Cruise can no longer collect or drop off guests at the private piers of Victoria Can Tho Resort or Legacy Mekong.

The Vietage Announces Annual Maintenance Schedule

The Vietage by Anantara offers a luxury railway experience through Central Vietnam, combining scenic coastal journeys with fine dining and personalised onboard service.

The service will temporarily suspend operations for annual maintenance during the following periods:

- 24 January–21 February 2027: Services suspended
- 22 February 2027: One carriage operating from Da Nang to Nha Trang
- 23 February 2027: Full operations resume with both carriages



Vinpearl Onsen Resort Tuyên Quang to Open in November 2026

Vinpearl Onsen Resort Tuyên Quang will welcome its first guests on 20 November 2026. Inspired by Japanese wellness culture, the resort features 235 rooms and villas. Located in Mỹ Lâm, around 12.5 km southwest of central Tuyên Quang, the five-star resort is centred around the area's natural hot mineral springs. The Vinpearl Seiko Onsen area, offering a range of mineral baths and private onsen experiences, is set to open from 20 December 2026.



LAOS

Luang Prabang reopens Mount Phousi Walking Path

Luang Prabang reopened the Mount Phousi walking path on the National Museum side on 9 September 2026, following renovation works that began on 3 August. The project upgraded the staircases and access path for improved safety, convenience, and appearance. Visitors can now access Mount Phousi via both the National Museum and Nam Khan routes, offering greater flexibility for sightseeing.



Lhai Heua Fai Festival – Luang Prabang

Lhai Heua Fai (Festival of the Boats of Light) is one of Luang Prabang's most striking cultural celebrations, filling the Old Town and Mekong riverfront with candles and lanterns at the end of Buddhist Lent. It takes place from 26–27 October 2026.

On the 26th, Boun Ork Phansa is marked by morning alms-giving, temple ceremonies, and candlelight processions.

On the 27th, Lhai Heua Fai brings the main celebration, with illuminated bamboo-and-paper boats paraded through the Old Town before being carried to the Mekong and released onto the water.

Vidotour Tips:

- Arrive before dusk for a good viewing spot
- Expect large crowds and restricted vehicle access
- Walking is best for getting around the Old Town
- Dress respectfully (shoulders and knees covered)
- Wear comfortable footwear for the steep riverside steps



CAMBODIA

Cambodia Airways Expands Siem Reap Regional Connections

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

- Siem Reap (SAI) ↔ Bangkok (BKK): 5 flights per week | Tue, Wed, Thu, Sat, Sun
- Siem Reap (SAI) ↔ Da Nang (DAD): 4 flights per week | Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun
- Siem Reap (SAI) ↔ Ho Chi Minh City (SGN): 2 flights per week | Tue, Sat



New Mekong Zipline Opens in Phnom Penh

The newly opened Mekong Zipline at Coconut Park offers a new way to experience Phnom Penh from above. Unlike traditional forest-based ziplines, the attraction provides an urban adventure with views across the city and Mekong River. Guests can choose between a seated ride or the more adventurous Superman-style position. Operated by Hornbill Adventure Partners, the experience is supported by internationally certified safety rangers.



The "No Tourist" Art Exhibition

After travelling to 108 countries with a pencil, paintbrush and portfolio in hand, award-winning architect and designer Bill Bensley brings his view of the world to Siem Reap in an exhibition of original drawings and watercolours.

Fittingly staged at a property he himself designed, "No Tourist – A World According to Bill Bensley" runs from 18 September 2026 through late March 2027 at Park Hyatt Siem Reap.



HANDPICKED STAYS & SPOTS

VIETNAM

LY CLUB

Refined French–Vietnamese fusion using local ingredients and contemporary techniques.

Must try:

- Pumpkin chicken soup
- Salt-brick-grilled Wagyu beef
- Tamarind prawns and pomelo prawn salad

Vibe: An elegant restored French colonial villa with live piano music, a wine cellar, cocktail bar and tranquil gardens.

Address: 12 Le Phung Hieu, Hoan Kiem, Hanoi

Hours: 07 AM – 22:30 PM

Reservation: +84 962 540 088



CAMBODIA

FARMHOUSE RESORT & SPA

STAY, GIVE BACK – Beyond a holiday

At Farmhouse Resort & Spa, luxury means privacy, memorable experiences and purposeful travel that supports local communities. At Restaurant Un, fresh ingredients are transformed into refined dishes celebrating farm-to-table freshness and new Khmer flavours. Mentored by Michelin-starred chefs, Mariya Un Noun now leads and trains young chefs at restaurant UN.



SMILING GECKO CAMPUS

Empowering Communities in Kampong Chhnang

- A leading example of tourism as a force for good—combining sustainability, cultural preservation, and community empowerment.
- Support for education, local livelihoods and community development.
- Tour the campus, the school, kindergarten and community projects.
- A visit directly supports long-term, ethical development in rural Cambodia.



LAOS

Kiridara Luang Prabang – A New Perspective on the City

Fully renovated under Souphattra Group, Kiridara Luang Prabang reopened in March 2026 with a refined luxury-meets-nature concept.

The resort features 43 rooms and villas with panoramic Mount Phousi views and its signature infinity pool.

A peaceful hillside retreat for travellers seeking privacy, tranquillity.

Vidotour Tips:

Kiridara's hillside setting offers a different perspective of Luang Prabang, with beautiful sunrise views over Mount Phousi. Ideal for travellers seeking tranquillity, privacy and scenic surroundings away from the Old Town.



TOUR OF THE MONTH

LAOS

Mekong Elephant Wonders – Pak Beng | Half Day

Nature & Wildlife Protection

ITINERARY

The half-day experience begins with a longtail boat journey across the Mekong to Mekong Elephant Park. Guests then walk into the forest to observe the elephants in a natural setting, watch their daily river bath and learn about their veterinary care, mahout routines and positive-reinforcement training.

The visit ends with feeding the elephants fruits and vegetables, followed by a local lunch at the park before returning across the Mekong.

- Departure: Daily | 08:30–13:00
- Group size: Join-in, maximum 12 guests; private options available.
- Activity level: Soft hike with narrow, uneven and occasionally slippery trails. Long trousers and mosquito protection are recommended.

Vidotour Tips

- Set in the remote countryside of northern Laos, Mekong Elephant Park in Pak Beng provides a safe haven for endangered Asian elephants.
- The experience allows guests to spend time observing the elephants, understand their behaviour and learn more about the conservation of their natural habitat.
- Certified by ACES (Asian Captive Elephant Standards), the park puts elephant welfare first.
- Each visit supports their long-term care while offering a respectful wildlife experience.
- Ideal for travellers seeking ethical animal encounters, conservation-focused experiences and the tranquillity of rural Laos.

