

EXCLUSIVE NOBLE CALEDONIA DEPARTURES FOR JUST 20 PASSENGERS

SPECIAL
OFFER – SAVE
£200
PER PERSON

KINGDOMS OF THE MEKONG & ANCIENT CHINA

An escorted journey from Chiang Rai to Chengdu
including a three night river cruise aboard the Anouvong
4th to 20th March & 26th October to 11th November 2028



NOBLE CALEDONIA

Each day of this new and exclusive tour offers incredible experiences, having been designed to enable a leisurely journey through the region, combining a cruise along the Mekong aboard the 20-passenger Anouvong with time exploring Thailand, Laos and southwest China from centrally located hotels. Our itinerary offers a perfect balance of discovery and comfort, allowing ample time to appreciate each of the destinations in the company of a small group of like-minded travellers. We will take in the natural beauty and poignant history of Indochina and discover unspoilt countryside, fascinating cultures, bustling cities and timeless villages, before enjoying a weeklong exploration of southwest China's Yunnan and Sichuan provinces, with their dramatic landscapes, rich biodiversity, charming old towns and diverse ethnic cultures.

Our journey begins with a two night stay in Chiang Rai, allowing time to visit its fascinating sites, after which we journey to Laos where we embark our river vessel to discover the lesser-travelled stretch of the Mekong River between Huay Xai and Luang Prabang as it flows past remote villages, quiet riverbanks with grazing buffalo, and through lush forests and gently rolling verdant hills. Laos remains one of Southeast Asia's most enchanting countries, and one of the most memorable experiences of the journey will be encountering the charm and natural warmth of the local people, for whom the Mekong plays such an important role. After our cruise we enjoy a three night hotel stay in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Luang Prabang. This mystical city is sure to captivate even the most jaded of travellers with its crumbling French colonial architecture, splendid golden wats with their hundreds of resident monks, and bustling markets.

Our journey continues by high speed rail into southern China, where the landscapes shift to dramatic stone forests, terraced fields and elegant lakeside cities. We arrive in Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province, where highlights include the UNESCO-listed Stone Forest, an otherworldly karst landscape, and beautiful Lijiang, nestled beneath the snowy peaks of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain and home to the Naxi people. We then fly to Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province, and spend our final days wandering its lively streets with their traditional tea houses, hutongs and spicy cuisine. It is here that we encounter Sichuan's most famous residents, the giant panda, as well as the charming red panda.



Cocktails on the sandbank

Pak Ou Caves



Kuang Si Falls

THE ITINERARY

Day 1 London to Chiang Rai, Thailand. Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

Day 2 Chiang Rai. Arrive today and transfer to Le Meridien Hotel for our two night stay. Enjoy the remainder of the day and evening at leisure.

Day 3 Chiang Rai. Founded in 1262, Thailand's northernmost city boasts a fascinating architectural history in a mix of Thai and Burmese styles. After breakfast we begin our morning tour with a visit to the ancient temple of Wat Phra Kaew, original home of the Emerald Buddha which is now housed in Bangkok. A replica was made and placed in the same spot where it was found. We continue to Wat Phra That Doi Chom Thong with its large gold stupa. Our final stop brings us to Wat Rong Khun, better known as the White Temple, which is different from any other temple in Thailand. In contrast to the ancient temples, this temple was built in 1997 and was designed using white glass. While travelling through the city, observe the influence of the city's Chinese communities. Return to the hotel for an afternoon at leisure and this evening join your fellow travellers for dinner. (B, D)

Day 4 Chiang Rai to Huay Xai, Laos. This morning we transfer to the border and after passing Lao immigration we head to Huay Xai Pier to embark the Anouvong for our three night river journey along the Mekong. After settling into our cabins, we begin our journey downstream surrounded by uninterrupted views of natural beauty. Later, we call at Ban Pak Sith, a small riverside village mainly inhabited by the Khmu ethnic minority. Life here is simple and closely tied to nature, with families primarily sustained by rice and vegetable farming. Some households continue the traditional craft of blacksmithing, producing essential tools such as knives, hoes, and spades. Here, if available, the village blacksmith will demonstrate his time-honoured methods and skills. Join the expert onboard guide for a lecture delving into the rich history of the country and its former royal dynasties before dinner on board. (B, L, D)

Day 5 Pakbeng & Khok Aek. Early risers can join a morning yoga class on the terrace deck, where the breathtaking Mekong scenery becomes a serene backdrop as we sail to the charming village of Pakbeng. Along the riverside opposite Pakbeng and nestled in the jungle lies Laos' most sustainable elephant sanctuary. Here, in an almost pristine natural setting, we have the privilege of encountering these majestic creatures. Once employed in the logging industry, they now live in a peaceful and natural environment, their ability to survive in the wild having been curtailed in captivity. The sanctuary, a symbol of ecotourism and sustainability, reflects a deep commitment to these principles. After lunch you can find a spot to relax on board or maybe join a cooking class where you will learn to prepare Lao and Thai classics that you can easily recreate at home. Later this afternoon another breathtaking riverine spectacle awaits as we arrive at Khok Aek. Here the ethnic Lao, Khmu and Hmong tribes live a sustainable life growing organic fruit and vegetables, each with their own unique history, traditions, ways of life, family dynamics, and housing styles. Venture into the village to a family home where representatives from each ethnic group will showcase and explain their differences and

characteristics in day-to-day life. Tonight we will enjoy a performance by local villagers on the Terrace Deck, featuring the traditional "Kene" instrument. (B, L, D)

Day 6 Ban Baw & Khok Luang. After breakfast, our morning excursion leads us to two traditional adjacent villages, where Lao Loum and Khmu communities have lived side by side for generations, each preserving their own traditions in quiet harmony. Most villagers are farmers, cultivating seasonal crops and tending small gardens, while in Ban Baw, a handful of women keep alive the intricate art of cotton and silk weaving. During our visit, we can witness a demonstration of this enduring craft, observing weavers as they work on traditional handlooms using labour-intensive methods that have remained unchanged through the ages. The village also has a small temple tending to the community's spiritual life, where those who wish can join the resident monks for a short private meditation session. Return to the ship for lunch as we resume our meandering journey down the river toward Khok Luang. This village is home to the Khmu ethnic group whose communities span China, Laos, Thailand, Burma and Vietnam. Strolling through the village, we gather for a Baci ceremony, a heartfelt Laotian ritual led by local elders (and possibly monks), bestowing blessings for your onward journey. Our evening unfolds with a cocktail on the sandbank, followed by a farewell dinner served in this memorable setting (B, L, D)

Day 7 Pak Ou Caves & Luang Prabang. This morning we approach the illustrious Pak Ou Caves. Nestled along the rocky shore of the Mekong, there are two grottoes sheltering approximately 4,000 sacred Buddhist statues and images. We explore the lower cave, the most impressive and easily accessible. Return to the ship for lunch as we sail into Luang Prabang, the former royal capital of Laos and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Disembark in the early afternoon and transfer to the Avani+ Hotel for our three night stay. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure before we meet for dinner this evening. (B, L, D)

Day 8 Luang Prabang. After breakfast in the hotel we start our day with a visit to the National Museum, formerly the Royal Palace. Displayed inside is a collection of personal artefacts of the former Laotian Royal Family. Later we follow the quiet back lanes to the beautiful Heuan Chan Heritage House. Explore the house and its historical items and architectural charms while learning about the connection it has with the Royal Palace. We continue our walk up the peninsula to the country's most historic and enchanting temple, Wat Xieng Thong. With its roof that sweeps low towards the ground, this temple's architecture best represents the classical Luang Prabang style. After lunch the remainder of the day and evening is free to explore at your own pace or relax in the hotel. (B, L)

Day 9 Kuang Si Falls & Luang Prabang. This morning we drive south of Luang Prabang and take a leisurely hike through the natural park to the Kuang Si Bear Rescue Centre, established by the Free the Bears Project and home to a group of rescued Asiatic Black (Moon) Bears. Afterwards we will continue to the



Chengdu Giant Panda Breeding Centre



Wat Pa Phai Temple, Luang Prabang



Heming Teahouse



Stone Forest, Kunming

beautiful Kuang Si Waterfalls. Below the 90 metre drop of the main cascade are a series of pools, connected by smaller falls and cascades. At low water levels the water is a remarkable turquoise, and swimming in the lower pools is a great way to cool off. Return to Luang Prabang for an afternoon at leisure before we meet for dinner this evening. (B, D)

Day 10 Luang Prabang to Kunming, China. Today, those wishing to rise early can witness and partake in the daily morning ritual of 'Tak Bat' or giving alms to the monks. Return to the hotel for breakfast before we check out and transfer to the railway station for our scheduled train to Kunming (please note the journey will be approximately eight hours). Spend the day travelling through the Laos countryside before crossing the border into China. On arrival in Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province, known as the 'Spring City' thanks to its temperate climate, we will transfer to the Sofitel Hotel for a two night stay. (B, L*, D)

Day 11 Kunming. After breakfast in the hotel we visit the famous Stone Forest, a UNESCO World Heritage Site featuring 270-million-year-old limestone karst pinnacles, creating a maze-like "forest" of stone. Here we learn about the formation of karst landforms and Yi ethnic legends. Following lunch, there will be free time to explore independently before we meet for dinner this evening. (B, L, D)

Day 12 Kunming to Lijiang. This morning we transfer to the railway station to join the high-speed train to Lijiang, which blends Naxi ethnic culture with breathtaking natural scenery. Lijiang features stone-paved alleys, traditional wooden houses, and clear streams in the old town. On arrival enjoy lunch in a local restaurant before we check in to the Intercontinental Lijiang Ancient Town Resort for our three night stay. Enjoy some time at leisure to explore Dayan Ancient Town before we meet for dinner this evening. (B, L, D)

Day 13 Lijiang. After breakfast, we visit the Black Dragon Pool where we see the mirror-like reflection of Jade Dragon Snow Mountain from Suocui Bridge, then visit Ming and Qing-era ancient buildings like Wufeng Tower and Deyue Tower. We continue on to visit Shuhe Ancient Town, one of the earliest settlements of the Naxi people. It is also an important and well-preserved post of the Ancient Tea Horse Route, an important trading route across south-west China where horses were the principal means of transport. After lunch, enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. Meet for dinner this evening (B, L, D)

Day 14 Lijiang. Today we visit Baisha Village, where we wander through this ancient Naxi settlement, exploring century-old courtyards and handcraft shops. Later, we continue to the Baisha Mural Paintings to admire the exquisite Ming-dynasty religious fresco art. After lunch, we visit Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. Ride the cable car to Spruce Meadow to enjoy the snow-covered alpine scenery, then head to Blue Moon Valley to take in the views of its turquoise waters. Enjoy the live performance 'Impression Lijiang', immersing yourself in the stunning cultural charm of local folklore. Meet for dinner this evening. (B, L, D)

Day 15 Lijiang to Chengdu. This morning we transfer to the airport for a flight to Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province and a vibrant blend of ancient history and modernity. On arrival enjoy lunch and check in to the Kempinski Hotel for our two night stay. This afternoon we visit People's Park and continue to Heming Teahouse to experience authentic gaiwan tea culture over a cup of jasmine tea accompanied by salted peanuts. (B, L, D)

Day 16 Chengdu. This morning we visit the Chengdu Giant Panda Breeding Centre, which is beautifully landscaped with lush plants and lakes. A highlight will be observing the panda cubs play with each other, climbing up and down trees, rolling and tumbling with endless energy. Also, visit the Small Red Panda Centre with 40 red pandas in residence who roam freely. After lunch we visit the Sanxingdui Museum, a major archaeological museum showcasing an extensive collection of Bronze Age relics from the Shu Kingdom. This evening we enjoy a farewell Sichuan hot pot dinner accompanied by a traditional face-changing performance, a 300-year old highly skilled dramatic form of art from Sichuan opera. (B, L, D)

Day 17 Chengdu to London. Check out this morning and transfer to the airport for our scheduled indirect flight to London. Arrive this evening. (B)

PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £200 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Cabin Description	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
Deluxe Stateroom	£8695	£8495
Deluxe Executive Stateroom	£8995	£8795
Signature Suite	£10295	£10095
Deluxe Stateroom for sole use	£10695	£10495

PRICE INCLUDES: Economy class scheduled air travel • Two nights hotel accommodation in Chiang Rai • Three nights accommodation aboard the Anouvong • Three nights hotel accommodation in Luang Prabang • Two nights hotel accommodation in Kunming • Three nights hotel accommodation in Lijiang • Two nights hotel accommodation in Chengdu • Meals as indicated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, L* - Light Lunch, D - Dinner) • House wine, beer and soft drinks with included lunches and dinners • Tours and shore excursions as described • Noble Caledonia Tour Manager • English-speaking local guides • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes • Airport taxes.

Not Included: Travel insurance, Laos visa, China visa.

NB. Changes to the itinerary may be necessary, depending on the weather, river conditions, or orders by local authorities. In such cases, transportation will be provided by slow boat and an overnight hotel provided if needed. Hotels are subject to change.



THE ANOUVONG

Launched in 2023, this boutique river vessel accommodates just 20 passengers across eight spacious staterooms and two luxurious suites. The atmosphere on board is intimate and the public areas include a spa, restaurant, and a lounge with an expansive sun deck from where there is ample opportunity to watch the world gently pass by as you relax on board your floating hotel.

Your Cabin/Suite

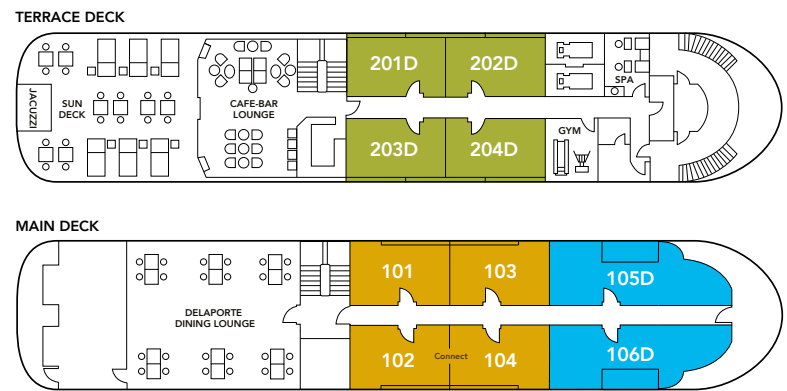
The eight staterooms and two suites are attractively furnished with a décor that combines the elegance of French colonial style with gentle tones, Laotian patterns and handpicked local artwork. The staterooms offer up to 21 square metres of space and have a panoramic sliding door with a French balcony. The en-suite bathroom features a walk-in shower. The two luxurious Signature Suites are located at the front of the Main Deck and offer 30 square metres of space as well as a three square metre private balcony at the front of the vessel. A large floor-to ceiling window allows the sun to bathe the living areas in natural daylight and the luxurious French colonial beds face the window for spectacular views. The suites bathrooms are complete with a double basin vanity unit, a large walk-in shower and a Jacuzzi.

Your Space & Dining

The Anouvong is both elegantly furnished and spacious throughout the public areas. The indoor cafe-bar and lounge on the Terrace Deck with its floor-to-ceiling windows, sofas and cushioned rattan chairs is a relaxing air-conditioned environment from which to watch the passing scenery, read a book or enjoy a drink from the bar. The lounge is also used for onboard activities such as lectures, demonstrations and film screenings. The spacious Terrace Deck features a Jacuzzi, comfortable sun loungers as well as shaded seating areas and makes for the ideal place to relax and marvel at the breathtaking views. There is also a small gym with treadmill and exercise bike. The Bodhi Spa is located on the Terrace Deck and offers a selection of treatments. The Delaporte Dining Lounge evokes the beauty of the temples of Luang Prabang and the dark brown colonial furniture together with the gold tones creates a timeless elegance, while the large full-sized windows on both sides of the vessel flood the room with sunlight. The Chef and his culinary team will serve flavourful dishes from Laos and Southeast Asia as well as international cuisine, all using the freshest of ingredients and guests can also enjoy open-air barbecues, al-fresco breakfasts, aperitifs and in-suite afternoon teas.



DECK PLAN



Please note: D = staterooms/suites with a fixed double bed
 DELUXE STATEROOM DELUXE EXECUTIVE STATEROOM SIGNATURE SUITE



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