

Your number one

# travel

weekly



## UNITED IN SPLIT

The Travel Network Group welcomes members to its annual conference in Croatia pages 3, 6, 13, 14 and 36

**JOBS ▶ PAGE 77**



### IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

- EasyJet Holidays 'closing in on number-three spot' page 4
- Thomas Cook opens 11 dedicated cruise stores page 5
- Monarch 'on track' to complete restructure back page



Hollie samples a cocktail

## CRUISE INDOCHINA

**AmaWaterways** will launch the 124-passenger *AmaDara* on the Mekong next year. With 48 staterooms, 14 suites, two restaurants, a sun deck with a swimming pool, a fitness room, salon and massage rooms, the ship will sail seven-night cruises on the Mekong between Ho Chi Minh City and Siem Reap, with pre- and post-cruise stays and add-ons to Hanoi and Halong Bay available. [amawaterways.co.uk](http://amawaterways.co.uk)

**Pandaw River Expeditions** will be the first river cruise operator to introduce sailings on the Red River in Vietnam. The luxury line will offer a trip to Halong Bay combined with a sailing along the remote river. The 10-day itinerary on the 16-suite *Angkor Pandaw* is bookable now for sailings from next July. The cruise-only price starts at £1,451, including tips, excursions and premium drinks. [pandaw.com](http://pandaw.com)

**Aqua Expeditions** is launching its third river ship to sail on the Mekong. The *Aqua Mekong*, which launches this month, will have an Observation Deck, a spa, fitness centre, library and screening room. It will operate three, four and seven-night itineraries from Siem Reap to My Tho, near Ho Chi Minh City, stopping in Phnom Penh along the way. [aquaexpeditions.com](http://aquaexpeditions.com)

### ● ADD-ON CHOICE

The option to choose between independent and escorted travel exists both pre and post-cruise too with APT's range of add-on tours.

When I met APT boss Geoff McGeary earlier this year, he described the importance of a "blended holiday experience" – a mix of touring and river cruising – so I was pleased to experience it with both a pre-cruise add-on in Siem Reap and a post-cruise stay in Ho Chi Minh City.

In the former we visited the spectacular temples in Angkor including Angkor Thom, Ta Prohm – better known as the Tomb Raider temple – and the cream of the crop, Angkor Wat. Despite a late night on Siem Reap's Pub Street and a 4.30am alarm call, the awe-inspiring sight of the sun rising over the temples put paid to any hangover.

Having tried it out, I can safely say that I'm a fan of Geoff's holiday 'blend' – it gave us the

opportunity to vary the pace of our trip by mixing and matching from a menu of experiences.

But then, as anyone who experienced my karaoke night could tell you, I'm a fan of a cocktail of any kind.

**Book it:** APT currently has a Companion Flies Free offer on its Essential Vietnam and Cambodia itinerary. Bookings made before October 31 lead in at £2,845 for the first passenger and £1,895 for the second passenger. **TW**

