



TRAVELLING TO NEW PLACES WITH CONFIDENCE

Best of Vietnam, Cambodia & Thailand

15-Day, 14-Night Journey

Hanoi, Ha Long Bay, Ho Chi Minh City, Siem Reap, Chiang Mai, Bangkok

Experience the vibrant cultures and historic national treasures of Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand on this inspiring three-in-one tour. Make the most of your time and enjoy a wide range of experiences all while exploring the best that each country has to offer. Each country boasts unique historical sites to see, live cooking classes, mouthwatering evening food tours and beautiful sites you won't find elsewhere!

In Vietnam we enjoy a new adventure at every turn which includes a cruise in-style on World Heritage Site, Ha Long Bay as well as visits to the top cities such as Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Capture its past and present influences in these cities as Vietnam is also known for their great war history. The awe-inspiring Temples of Angkor Wat, Bayon Temple and Angkor Thom in Cambodia are the most iconic ruins and the top reason why many tourists visit. Then there's Thailand, which is known for great eats and many temples that play a significant role in everyday Thai society. A temple in Thailand is much more than a place to worship. In fact, these influences are easily seen in everyday Thai life-styles, mannerisms, and more. Temples serve as the center of village life and also other purposes such as for school, orphanage, meeting hall, political center, youth club, the list goes on.

◆ Customizable Private Tour

Trip Overview (*UNESCO World Heritage Sites)

- ▶ Hanoi City Tour
- ▶ Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and Museum
- ▶ One Pillar Pagoda
- ▶ Traditional Vietnamese Dinner
- ▶ **Ha Long Bay*** Overnight Cruise
- ▶ Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) Tour
- ▶ Saigon Street Food Tour
- ▶ Vietnam War Tunnel
- ▶ **Angkor Archaeological Park***
- ▶ Angkor Wat
- ▶ Angkor Thom
- ▶ Bayon Temple
- ▶ Bapoun Temple
- ▶ Terrace of the Elephants
- ▶ Terrace of the Leper King
- ▶ Sunset View at Phnom Bakheng Temple
- ▶ Roluos Temple
- ▶ Buddhist Ceremony & Blessing
- ▶ Elephant Hospital
- ▶ Wat Phra That Lampang Luang
- ▶ Wat Hariphunchai
- ▶ Cooking Class with a Chiang Mai Family
- ▶ Taste of Bangkok China Town
- ▶ Bangkok City Tour by Boat
- ▶ Chao Phraya River
- ▶ Grand Palace
- ▶ Emerald Buddha Temple
- ▶ Wat Pho
- ▶ Wat Arun
- ▶ Waterfront Lunch

Why You'll Love This Tour



AN EMPIRE OF TEMPLES

The Khmer Empire was the largest empire of Southeast Asia and flourished between the 9th and 15th century. The ultimate expression of Khmer genius is found in a UNESCO World Heritage Site called the Angkor Wat, and is matched by only a few select spots in the world such as Machu Picchu or Petra.



BAY OF THE DESCENDING DRAGON

Cruise in style through Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in the comfort of a cruise ship featuring many adventurous activities. More than 3000 towering limestone pillars and tiny islets topped with forests rise from the emerald waters.



THE ART OF THE TEMPLES

Thailand's classical arts developed almost exclusively in the service of Buddhism. The best showcases are the Buddhist temples that come in all different shapes and sizes, in gold, white and wood, and range from ancient ruins to modernistic architecture.

Inclusions

- Airport Transfers, Meet and Greet
- Hotel Accommodations
- Daily Breakfast & Selected Meals
(See tour plan for details)
- English-speaking Local Guide
- Entrance Fees to Monuments and Attractions per Itinerary

Exclusions

- Air Fare
- Travel Insurance
- Medical Expenses
- Visa Fee
- Gratuity
- Personal Expenses

Nearby Airport

Hanoi - Noi Bai International Airport (HAN)

Bangkok - Suvarnabhumi International Airport (BKK)

Itinerary

(B)-Breakfast, (L)-Lunch, (D)-Dinner

DAY 1: HANOI

Welcome to Vietnam! Your driver will meet you at the airport for a transfer to your hotel. The remainder of the day is free.

Hanoi is one of the most ancient capitals in the world.

Travelers can find well-preserved colonial buildings, ancient pagodas, and unique museums within the city center. This

French colonial city is known for its delectable cuisine, vibrant nightlife, silks and handicrafts, as well as a multi-cultural community with Chinese, French and Russian influences.



DAY 2: HANOI | HALF DAY CITY TOUR (B, D)

Today begins with a blast from the past. See Vietnam's traditional ways of life and replicas of old homes. Visit the **Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and Museum** honoring the revolutionary guerrilla leader who pursued independence for Vietnam. We then visit the lotus-shaped **One Pillar Pagoda** which dates back to the first Vietnamese empire that was independent of China.

Dinner at Grandma's Restaurant.

DAY 3: HANOI - HA LONG BAY | OVERNIGHT CRUISE (B, L, D)

Depart for your overnight cruise on **Ha Long Bay**, often called Vietnam's eighth wonder of the world. Ha Long means Descending Dragon. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore the bay with adventure excursions such as kayaking, swimming, and fishing. Settle onto your deck chair and witness a spectacular sunset. Join in a cooking demonstration featuring traditional Vietnamese cuisine, followed by a gourmet dinner onboard. Retire to your cabin to enjoy a restful night's sleep as the waves lap gently against the hull.

DAY 4: HA LONG BAY - HANOI - HO CHI MINH CITY (SAIGON) (B, L)

Greet the day with a sunrise Tai Chi lesson overlooking the bay. Brunch on the boat followed by an excursion to the most beautiful and biggest cave in the bay or to a floating village that was voted as one of the 11 insanely beautiful small towns around the world by Huffingtonpost.com. After Ha Long Bay, return to Hanoi to fly south to **Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)**.

DAY 5: HO CHI MINH CITY | MORNING CITY TOUR, EVENING FOOD TOUR (B, D)

Ho Chi Minh City has risen since the Vietnam War to become a modern city with sleek skyscrapers while still retaining its elegant French architecture and broad boulevards. It is dotted with ornate temples and pagodas.

Admire the old French colonial architecture that contrasts with the modern high rises during your morning tour. This evening, enjoy a taste of Saigon as your guide takes you on a **street food tour**.

DAY 6: HO CHI MINH CITY | VIETNAM WAR TUNNELS (B, L)

Sneak-peek at the underground life of Vietnamese soldiers back in 1948. A journey to **Cu Chi Tunnels** on a private speed boat. The site has over 120 km (75 miles) of underground tunnels, with trapdoors, living areas, kitchens, storage facilities, armories, hospitals, and a command center.

DAY 7: HO CHI MINH CITY - SIEM REAP (B)

Transfer to the airport for a flight to Siem Reap. **Siem Reap** is a tourist friendly town that still retains its original small-town colonial charm. Upon arrival into **Siem Reap**, you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is free for you to explore.

DAY 8: SIEM REAP | THE TEMPLES OF ANGKOR (B, L)

Today, we see an astonishing profusion of ancient monuments in both size and number. Not to mention the intricate artistry of an idealized representation of the Hindu cosmos carved in stone.

Explore **Angkor Wat**, this iconic temple complex is considered the heart of Cambodia. It is crowned with five soaring towers and embellished with intricate sculptures and carvings. Continue to “Great City” of **Angkor Thom** with 54 towers, each decorated with 4 huge mysterious smiling faces. Let's wonder through the extensive grounds including grand **Bayon Temple, the South Gate, Bapoun, the Terrace of the Elephant** and the **Leper King**. Hike up **Phnom Bakheng Temple** complex for a spectacular sunset view of Angkor Wat.

DAY 9: SIEM REAP | ROLOUS TEMPLES (B)

Venture to the less traveled area of Angkor Park to the 9th century **Roluos Group of Temples**. They are the oldest temples in Angkor and the remains of Hariharalaya, the first important capital of the Khmer Empire. For a local, touching experience, attend **a private ceremony by a Buddhist monk**, followed by his blessing for your good health and a safe stay in Cambodia.

DAY 10: SIEM REAP - CHIANG MAI (B)

Transfer to the airport for a flight to Chiang Mai. Upon arrival into **Chiang Mai**, you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is free. Chiang Mai is famed for its 300 temples, many of them are within the old walled city. Northern Thailand is filled with ancient monuments, museums, mountains and markets filled with distinctive local handicrafts and awesome food.

DAY 11: CHIANG MAI | ELEPHANT HOSPITAL, TEMPLE TRAIL (B)

Visit the first **elephant hospital** in the world and some of the best temples in northern Thailand without the overt commercialization in the cultural cities of **Lamphun** and **Lampang**. 15th century **Wat Phra That Lampang Luang** is both famous and beautiful, built on an 8th century fortress. **Wat Hariphunchai** is Lamphun's most famous temple.

DAY 12 - CHIANG MAI | COOKING WITH A LOCAL FAMILY (B, L)

Spend the day with a local family for a deep appreciation for how Thai dishes are cooked. Prepare the dishes from scratch using local kitchen utensils. Finish off the class by enjoying your freshly prepared meal.

Chiang Mai food is distinct from other regions with more pronounced influence from Burma and China, resulting in milder curries and the heavier use of ginger and turmeric. Sticky rice instead of steamed rice, is the main staple at every meal and goes very well with a range of nam prik (chilli dips) unique to northern cuisine.

DAY 13: CHIANG MAI - BANGKOK | EVENING TASTE OF CHINATOWN (B, D)

Fly south to **Bangkok** today. Upon arrival into Bangkok, you'll be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel. Bangkok is the vibrant capital city of Thailand that dazzles visitors with its vivid contrasts – serene temples, gardens and royal palaces amid ultra-modern skyscrapers and bustling city crowds.

This evening we enjoy a **mouthwatering exploration of Bangkok's** 200-year-old **Chinatown**. You will get to sample all sorts of Thai-Chinese cuisine and tasty eateries. Whether it be from street vendors with tables on the sidewalk or atmospheric and traditional family restaurants. Explore the labyrinth of Chinatown's side streets and alleyways. The scent of exotic foods and spices permeates the air as we sample all kinds of eats such as dim sum, dumplings, fresh seafood and Thai desserts.

DAY 14 – BANGKOK | BANGKOK BY BOAT (B, L)

Complete Bangkok's main highlights in one day by boat in the canals and main **Chao Phraya River** to explore the **Grand Palace, the Emerald Buddha Temple, Wat Pho** and **Wat Arun**. **Waterfront lunch** at Sala Rattanakosin located along the eastern bank of the legendary Chao Phraya river.

DAY 15: BANGKOK | END OF TOUR (B)

After breakfast, the tour comes to an end. Please inform us of your international flight details in order to schedule your transfer to **Suvarnabhumi International Airport (BKK)**.

Hotels

We carefully handpick our hotels to ensure they provide you with the best comfort and experience. For Private Tours, you may request a specific hotel as one of the customizable options.

