



TRAVELLING TO NEW PLACES WITH CONFIDENCE

# Indochina: Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam

## 13-Day, 12-Night Journey

*Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Mekong Delta, Siem Reap, Luang Prabang, Hanoi, Ha Long Bay*

This journey is designed around three Indochina countries: Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam and aims to highlight the best attractions in them. Experience the wonderful sights and sounds from the amazing destinations when we visit the majestic Angkor Wat, serene Luang Prabang and the magical Ha Long Bay to name a few. Get to know the culture firsthand with visits to local farms and villages. The natural scenery amongst the beautiful waterfalls and lush rice fields will simply have you mesmerized.



Ha Long Bay Overnight Cruise



One Pillar Pagoda



Angkor Thom



Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica



Mekong Delta



Kuang Si Waterfalls

## 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

- ▶ International & Domestic Air Fare
- ▶ Travel Insurance
- ▶ Medical Expenses
- ▶ Visa Fee
- ▶ Gratuity
- ▶ Personal Expenses

## Nearby Airports

Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) - Tan Son Nhat International (SGN)  
Hanoi - Noi Bai International Airport (HAN)

## Itinerary

### DAY 1: HO CHI MINH CITY (HCMC)

Welcome to Vietnam! Arrive at **Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon)**. Your driver will meet you at the airport for a transfer to your hotel. The remainder of the day is free.

[3 nights in HCMC. Meals: None]

### DAY 2: HO CHI MINH CITY TOUR

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.

Ho Chi Minh City tour, see the beautiful structures from the French colonial times such as the **Presidential Palace**. Followed by the remarkable **War Remnants Museum** (showcases the two Indochina wars.). Walk through the shopping street of Dong Khoi, known as Rue Catinat during the days of French rule. Then discover downtown Saigon on a short walking tour which takes you past **Notre Dame Cathedral** and the historic **Central Post Office**.

[Meals: Breakfast]

### DAY 3: MEKONG DELTA EXCURSION



In the morning, travel from HCMC to **Ben Tre** in the **Mekong Delta**. Transfer to a **boat excursion** to visit a traditional brick kiln, coconut processing and sleep mat workshops along the canal. Take a motor cart (xe lô) or bike on shady road. Pass by rice fields and vegetable gardens to see daily life and find out about tropical culture from the locals.

In the afternoon, ride on a rowing boat along water palm creek.

[Meals: Breakfast, Lunch]

#### **DAY 4: HO CHI MINH CITY | CU CHI TUNNELS & SIEM REAP**

A journey to **Cu Chi Tunnels** about 1.5 hours outside the city. The site where the Viet Cong lived and fought during the war. It has over 75 miles of underground tunnels, with trapdoors, living areas, kitchens, storage facilities, armories, hospitals, and a command center.

Afternoon, transferred back to HCMC airport for your flight to Siem Reap. Upon arrival, transfer to hotel for check in.

[3 nights in Siem Reap. Meals: Breakfast]

#### **DAY 5: SIEM REAP | ANGKOK WAT**

After breakfast, full day **Angkor Temple Complex** excursion (UNESCO World Heritage Site). 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.

Hike up **Pre Rup temple** complex for a spectacular sunset view of jungle.

**Note:** *Dress code for visiting the Bakan tower of Angkor Wat Temple*

- *Visitors are required to wear proper attire, covering shoulders and knees (no shorts, miniskirt or short trousers).*
- *Visitors have to wait in a queue to climb up to the Bakan tower.*
- *Children under twelve years old are not allowed to climb the steep stairs up this tower.*
- *Closed on Buddhist religious days (four days a month).*

[Meals: Breakfast, Lunch]

#### **DAY 6: ANGKOK TEMPLE COMPLEX**

Discover some of the Angkor complex's lesser-known gems today, visiting **Ta Keo, Chan Sey Tevoda, Thommanon, Preah Kahm** and **Preah Neak Pean**. You'll also visit **Ta Phrom**, beautifully temple overgrown by jungle. The sight of giant trees growing through the walls of the temple buildings is quite incredible, and makes for a truly atmospheric experience.

[Meals: Breakfast, Lunch]

#### **DAY 7: FLOATING VILLAGE, SIEM REAP - LUANG PRABANG**

After breakfast, visit the **floating village of Chong Khneas** located 6 miles south of Siem Reap. We take a boat trip in a **traditional wooden boat** on **Tonle Sap Lake**, the "Great Lake" of Cambodia and one of the largest in Asia.

This afternoon, transfer to **Siem Reap International Airport (REP)** for your flight to **Luang Prabang**. Upon arrival, you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the day is free [2 nights in Laung Prabang. Meals: Breakfast]

#### **DAY 8: LUANG PRABANG CITY TOUR, KHUANGSI WATERFALL**

**Luang Prabang** blends together the architectural styles of Laos and colonial France. The whole town is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Visit the magnificent **Wat Xieng Thong** which represents classical Laotian architecture.

Then cruise upstream on the **Mekong River** with a visit to the mysterious **Pak Ou Caves**. We will also visit villages known for rice wine making, silk weaving and traditional Saa paper making. Then **Ban Phanom weaving village**. Return to town and take a gentle 300 step walk up to **Mount Phousi**, Luang Prabang's highest hill to see the sacred stupa **Wat Phousy** and a spectacular panoramic view.

[Meals: Breakfast, Lunch]

#### **DAY 9: KHUANG SI WATERFALLS – HANOI**

An optional early start gives you the fantastic opportunity to participate in the daily morning rituals of saffron-clad monks collecting **offerings of Alms** from the faithful residents. This tradition is very unique in Laos, being the only Buddhist nation still preserving the ritual.

After breakfast at the hotel, we transfer to the beautiful **Kuang Si waterfalls** which is the biggest in the Luang Prabang area with three tiers leading to a 50-metre drop into spectacular azure pools before flowing downstream. The pools also make great swimming holes and are very popular with both tourists and locals. There is also the chance to walk to the nearby village of Ban Thapene, and explore the hidden waterfalls, which is rarely visited by other tourists.

Take a short visit to the **Bear Rescue Center**, which houses a couple of dozen animals rescued from the hands of poachers and traffickers. On the way back to Luang Prabang, we will take a short visit to the **Ock Pop Tock Living Craft Center**, set serenely close to the Mekong, this beautiful, traditionally styled workshop, where weavers, spinners and batik makers produce top-quality fabrics, offers free tours every half-hour.

In the evening, transfer to airport to fly to **Hanoi**.

[1 night in Hanoi. Meals: Breakfast]

#### **DAY 10: HANOI - HA LONG BAY | OVERNIGHT CRUISE**

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, visit sea cave or floating village, swimming, and fishing. Settle onto your deck chair and witness a spectacular sunset amongst the bay's rock formations. 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.

**Note:** *Ha Long Bay activities may change without prior notice, due to cruise, sailing and weather conditions.*

[1 night in Ha Long Bay. Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner]

### **DAY 11: HA LONG BAY - HANOI**

Greet the day with a sunrise Tai Chi lesson with a beautiful view of the bay. Breakfast on the boat followed by a choice of activities. After Ha Long Bay, return to **Hanoi**.

Afternoon, afternoon with **rickshaw** ride around the **old quarter** has to be the best way to see this historic part of Hanoi.

[2 nights in Hanoi. Meals: Brunch]

### **DAY 12: HANOI CITY TOUR**

A day tour of this historic city that is full of charming lakes, parks and shaded boulevards. Your first stop is the **Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum** (closed on Monday and Friday) where the father of modern-day Vietnam lies. Visit famous attractions including the **One Pillar Pagoda**. Then drive to the **Temple of Literature** (built in 1070, dedicated to Confucius).

After lunch we visit **Vietnam Museum of Ethnology** for a glance at the life-style of 54 ethnic groups of Vietnam. Following is the **Hanoi 'Hilton' Prison**. The exhibits focus on the sufferings of Vietnamese revolutionaries who were confined (and sometimes executed) here during the French colonial period in the early part of the 20th century.

Optional Add-on: End of the day with an enjoyable **Water Puppet Performance**.

[Meals: Breakfast, Lunch]

### **DAY 13: HANOI | END OF TOUR**

After breakfast, the tour comes to an end. Hotel check-out and transfer to **Hanoi** Noi Bai International Airport (HAN) for your flight home.

[Meals: Breakfast]

\*Hotel check-out time is generally around 11 am. If your flight departs in the evening or past midnight, we suggest you consider adding a post-tour hotel night during booking, to be comfortable and well rested before your flight home.

## **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.



**DAY 1: MAJOR USA AIRPORT - SIEM REAP (REP)**

**DAY 2: TRANSIT**

**DAY 3: ARRIVE SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA**

**DAY 4: SIEM REAP | THE TEMPLES OF ANGKOR (B, L)**

**DAY 5: SIEM REAP | BANTEAY SREI TEMPLE, TA PROHM, FLOATING VILLAGE (B, L)**

**DAY 6: SIEM REAP - LUANG PRABANG (B)**

**DAY 7: LUANG PRABANG | CITY TOUR, KHUANGSI WATERFALL (B,L)**

**DAY 8: LUANG PRABANG | MORNING MARKET, PAK OU CAVE (B, L)**

**DAY 9: LUANG PRABANG - HANOI | ORGANIC RICE FARM (B, L)**

**DAY 10: HANOI – FULL DAY CITY TOUR (B, L)**

**DAY 11: HANOI - HA LONG BAY | CRUISE (B, L, D)**

**DAY 12: HA LONG BAY - HANOI - HO CHI MINH CITY (B, L)**

**DAY 13: HO CHI MINH CITY (SAIGON) | HALF-DAY CITY TOUR (B)**

**DAY 14: DEPART HO CHI MINH CITY (SAIGON) (B)**