



TRAVELLING TO NEW PLACES WITH CONFIDENCE

## Best Of Vietnam & Cambodia

### 15-Day, 14-Night Journey

*Hanoi, Ha Long Bay, Hoi An, Ho Chi Minh City, Phnom Penh, Siem Reap*

Experience the vibrant cultures and historic national treasures of Vietnam and Cambodia on this inspiring two-in-one tour. Make the most of your time and enjoy a wide range of experiences while exploring the best that each country has to offer. Each country boasts unique historical sites. You'll enjoy delicious live cooking classes, and explore the ancient Angkor monument (major bucket list item) and many other beautiful sites you won't find elsewhere!

In Vietnam there's a new adventure at every turn which includes cruising-in-style on Ha Long Bay (UNESCO World Heritage Site) as well as visits to top cities such as Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Capture the past and present influences in these cities from colonial France to the Vietnam War. The awe-inspiring temples of Angkor Wat, Bayon Temple and Angkor Thom in Cambodia are the most iconic ruins in the world and the top reason why many tourists visit Cambodia.



Ha Long Bay Overnight Cruise



Japanese Bridge, Hoi An



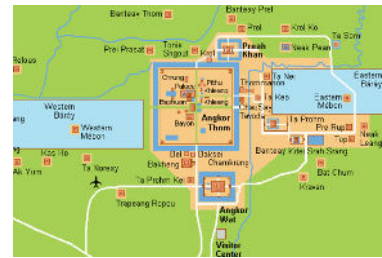
Tran Quoc Pagoda, Hanoi



Angkor Wat, a UNESCO site



Preah Khan Jungle Temple  
(Raiders of the Lost Ark film location)



Angkor Temple Complex

## Inclusions

- ▶ Private Airport Transfers
- ▶ 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 Airfare
- ▶ Travel Insurance
- ▶ Medical Expenses
- ▶ Visa Fees
- ▶ Gratuities
- ▶ Personal Expenses

## Nearby Airport

Hanoi - Noi Bai International Airport (HAN)

Seam Reap - Seam Reap International Airport (REP)

## Itinerary

### 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.

[3 nights in Hanoi. Meals: None]

## **DAY 2: 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. Then drive to the **Temple of Literature** (built in 1070, dedicated to Confucius). Visit the lakeside **Tran Quoc Pagoda**, the oldest pagoda in the city.

Drive through the city's **Old Quarter** to explore the small streets and handicraft shops. End this afternoon at one of the dozens of museums in the area.

[Meals: Breakfast, Lunch]

## **DAY 3: 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, visiting a 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.*

[Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner]

## **DAY 4: HA LONG BAY - HANOI – HOI AN**

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 airport for your late afternoon flight to Da Nang. Arrive in Da Nang and transfer to **Hoi An** for hotel check-in.

[3 nights in Hoi An. Meals: Brunch]

## **DAY 5: HOI AN | COOKING CLASS & HOI AN ANCIENT TOWN TOUR**

**Hoi An** had been acquiring a rich cultural heritage from Chinese, Japanese and European traders since 16<sup>th</sup> century, no wonder it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The local shops offer inexpensive silks, express custom-made outfits as well as handicrafts. Hoi An is also a magnet for foodies with lush neighboring farms and fishing villages.

This morning, we visit a farmer's house in **Tra Que Vegetable Village**. Stroll around the vegetable garden with your guide before joining the farmer to learn about the traditional farming methods of preparing and fertilizing the soil with seaweed from the nearby river. Followed by a hands-on **cooking class** taught by the farmer's family or a local chef to prepare some of the famous local dishes such as

“Banh Xeo” pancake and “Tam Huu” rolls (menu is subject to change). Enjoy your lunch with local specialties as well as dishes from the cooking class. Then we drive back to hotel.

Afternoon visit to **the ancient city of Hoi An**. The **Japanese Covered Bridge Pagoda**, first constructed in 1593 by the Japanese community in the city as a link to the Chinese quarters across the stream. Explore life as it was over one hundred years ago at **Phung Hung Ancient House** and take in the stunning **Phuc Kien Assembly Hall**. Stop at Hoi An’s busy **local market**.

[Meals: Breakfast, Lunch]

## **DAY 6: HOI AN | DAY OF LEISURE**

Full day at leisure.

[Meals: Breakfast]

### **① Add-on: BA NA HILL WITH GOLDEN BRIDGE**

Depart to visit Ba Na Hills 5000 feet above sea level. You journey up a mountain via the longest (19000 feet) non-stop cable car in the world. Visit: Deer Park, Quang Noodle, Debay wine cellar. See Linh Ung Pagoda where Buddha Shakyamuni is nearly 90 feet high. Have lunch at a restaurant while enjoying the breathtaking scenery. Take some memorable photos at the Golden Bridge. The tour guide takes you for a walk to explore the natural ecological Ba Na. Conquer the mountain on one of the hiking or biking trails. Fantasy Park has entertainment for all ages. Descend by cable car and return to Hoi An.

### **① Add-on: HOI AN MEMORIES SHOW**

*Every evening except Tuesdays, from 7:30pm to 8:45pm*

Let's take a ride down the memory lane with Hoi An Memories Show, an outdoor visual arts performance focused on the rich history, culture, and identity of Hoi An. With 5 impressive performances, the show celebrates and elevates Vietnam's iconic ao dai (traditional dress) into an artistic language to tell the story of Hoi An 400 years ago. It masterfully blends music, lights, visual arts, and performance to create an experience that will take you on an emotional journey and create long-lasting memories. This is a show that you have to experience!

*Included: Transfer, English Speaking Guide, Economy Class Ticket*

## **DAY 7: HOI AN – HO CHI MINH CITY (HCMC)**

Depart to Da Nang airport and fly to **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: Breakfast]

## **DAY 8: CU CHI TUNNELS**

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.

A half-day excursion to **Cu Chi Tunnels** about 1.5 hours outside the city. This is 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. Transfer back to HCMC.

[Meals: Breakfast]

### ① **Add-on: SAIGON BY NIGHT – SCOOTER STREET FOOD TOUR (GROUP)**

DAILY NIGHT DEPARTURE: 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM (4 to 4.5 hours)

Experience Saigon night life and food. First, you will be picked up at the hotel by an experienced driver on a vintage Vespa scooter, then enjoy a welcome drink at a local bar (included) while taking in the sunset view of Saigon.

A tour of the landmarks and narrow streets follows.

At our next stop, taste Vietnamese pancakes and spring rolls.

Continue to a local seafood restaurant.

Taste a delicious dessert drink at a local acoustic music cafe and enjoy some music performed by Vietnamese singers.

Last stop is rock or jazz bar before returning to the hotel.

### ① **Add-on: A O SHOW - TRADITIONAL VIETNAMESE CULTURE SHOW**

The A O Show is a must-see event! It is a unique fusion of bamboo circus, acrobatics acts, contemporary dance, traditional Vietnamese music and theatrical visual art. The name “A O” derives from “Lang Pho” which means village and city. It showcases the contrast between the charming beauty and cultural richness of Vietnamese life in the countryside and the modern nation’s racing urbanization. This one-hour show is a chance for those who want to transcend time and space for a front-row immersion in the artistic and emotional life of Vietnam.

## **DAY 9: MEKONG DELTA EXCURSION**

In the morning we 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 we ride on a rowing boat along water palm creek.

[Meals: Breakfast, Lunch]

## **DAY 10: HO CHI MINH CITY – PHNOM PENH**

After breakfast, transfer to **Moc Bai Border** (Vietnam side). Upon arrival, your Cambodian guide will meet you at **Bavet Border** (Cambodia side) and drive to **Phnom Penh** (5 hours).

[2 nights in Phnom Penh. Meals: Breakfast]

## **DAY 11: PHNOM PENH DAY EXCURSION**

Visit the **Toul Sleng Prison Museum** and the **Killing Fields of Choeung Ek** both grim reminders of Cambodia's bloody past under the dictator Pol Pot. Today Choeung Ek is a peaceful place. Visit the Memorial Stupa (a Buddhist memorial) that commemorates the victims.

Afternoon, we continue to visit the **National Museum** (Musée des Beaux-Arts). The Khmer-style museum contains a collection of Khmer sculptures and artifacts. We end our day trip at **Wat Phnom Temple** and enjoy views over the tree-lined avenues of Phnom Penh during sunset.

[Meals: Breakfast]

#### **DAY 12: PHNOMPENH – SIEM REAP**

Breakfast at the hotel. Then drive to **Siem Reap** with your tour guide (5 hours). Upon arrival check in at the hotel. The rest of the day is free at your own leisure.

[2 nights in Siem Reap. Meals: Breakfast]

#### **DAY 13: SIEM REAP | THE TEMPLES OF ANGKOR**

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.

The **South Gate of Angkor Thom** is famous for its series of colossal human faces carved in stone. Visit the impressive **Bayon Temple, the Royal Enclosure, Phimeanakas, the Elephant Terrace, the Terrace of the Leper King. Angkor Wat** is the largest as well as the most complete. It is crowned with five soaring towers and embellished with intricate sculptures and carvings.

We visit the jungle covered temple of **Ta Prohm** which is an incredible sight. Enormous fig trees and gigantic creepers embrace the stone foundations of the structure giving the impression of man's creation being reclaimed by the powerful forces of nature.

**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 14: SIEM REAP FLOATING VILLAGE & HANDYCRAFT**

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. After that we visit the "**Chantiers Ecoles - Les Artisans d'Angkor**" which provides training to young Cambodians in an effort to revive the ancient Khmer traditions of stone carving and wood sculpting. We drive to the Pouk district about 10 miles west of Siem Reap town to visit a **silk farm**, a fascinating farm/workshop where you can see the entire silk creation process including growing the



food for the silk worms, breeding the worms, silk extraction and refinement, traditional kit dying pattern creation and looming. There is a retail silk and souvenir shop. On the way back, visit the **West Baray** reservoir measuring 8 km by 2.3 km which provides water for the intensive cultivation of lands around Angkor.

[Meals: Breakfast]

## **DAY 15: SIEM REAP | END OF TOUR**

After breakfast, the tour comes to an end. Hotel check-out and transfer to **Siem Reap International Airport (REP)** for your flight home.

[Meals: Breakfast]

## 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.

