

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 - Depart UK

Depart UK and fly to Ho Chi Minh international airport.

Day 2 - Arrive Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

Transfer to your hotel and spend the rest of the day exploring and unwinding.

Day 3 - At leisure in Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

Guided tour of the Reunification Palace (formerly South Vietnam's Presidential Palace), War Remnants Museum, the French-built Notre Dame Cathedral and the Gustav Eiffel-designed Central Post Office. This evening spend the evening with the locals to see the real city on the back of a Vespa scooter, visiting a series of local restaurants. After sampling some of the best delicacies the city has to offer you will then be taken to a local jazz club to listen to some fantastic live music.

Day 4 - Mekong Delta River cruise (Vietnam)

Leave HCMH and embark on the river boat at Cai Be. Cruise along one of the world's most famous waterways in a region known as the 'bread basket' of Asia. Lunch onboard. Disembark in the afternoon for a stroll through a village and surrounding fruit fields. Dinner onboard.

Day 5 - Cruise | HCMC (Vietnam)

Enjoy breakfast on board whilst sailing through Can Tho floating market, the region's largest. Disembark at 11am in Can Tho and return to HCMC where you have the remainder of the day at leisure.

Day 6 - Fly to Hue (Vietnam)

This morning visit the famous Cu Chi Tunnels which were used to devastating effect during the Vietnam war. Later this afternoon transfer to the airport for your flight to the imperial city of Hue. On arrival transfer to your hotel.

Day 7 - Explore Hue (Vietnam)

Begin the day with a one hour escorted bicycle ride through the streets of Hue, experiencing a view of the city from street level as the locals do. Visit the Imperial Citadel and the Forbidden Purple City, which was modelled on the Forbidden City in Beijing by the Nguyen emperors in the early 19th century.

Day 8 - Thien Mu Pagoda | Hoi An (Vietnam)

This morning board a riverboat and cruise to the Thien Mu pagoda. Situated on the riverbank outside the city, this octagonal seven-tier stupa has long been regarded as the symbol of Hue and was founded in 1601. There is a possibility of meeting the monks who reside there. Visit Tu Duc Mausoleum and then discover the art of 'Phap Lam' enamels which were used for decoration in the palaces of Hue and other local architecture. This afternoon leave Hue and transfer across the Ha Van Pass to the pretty town of Hoi An. Overnight in Hoi An.

Day 9 - At leisure in Hoi An (Vietnam)

We suggest taking a walking tour of the Old Town where you can visit an ancient house, Chinese Assembly Hall, the Japanese Covered Bridge and a museum.

Day 10 - At leisure in Hoi An (Vietnam)

We suggest visiting the fish market and sampling fresh produce, particularly a bowl of Cao Lau, a special noodle soup which is a speciality in the area.

Day 11 - At leisure in Hoi An (Vietnam)

Watch traditional Vietnamese folk games being played in the pedestrian-only areas in the morning, afternoon and evening. Or take a trip to visit the UNESCO ruins at My Son.

Day 12 - At leisure in Hoi An (Vietnam)

Hoi An is famous for its tailors. To most western visitors the choice available is mind-boggling and your guide will be able to advise you on a reliable establishment.

Day 13 - Fly from Danang to Hanoi (Vietnam)

Leave Hoi An this morning and transfer to Danang airport for your flight to Hanoi. Transfer to your hotel and overnight in Hanoi.

Day 14 - Halong Bay (Vietnam)

Leave Hanoi this morning and transfer to Halong Bay. During the three-hour drive you will pass through dramatic paddy field scenery interspersed with newer industrial areas. You may like to stop at the Hong Ngoc Humanities Centre which supports disadvantaged and disabled adults and children from the local area. Join the cruise boat and sail through Halong Bay, visiting limestone cliffs, secluded grottos and enjoying the emerald waters for a few hours. Disembark the cruise late-afternoon and transfer to Halong Bay city where you have the rest of the evening to relax.

Day 15 - Transfer to Hanoi (Vietnam)

After breakfast start your journey from Halong Bay city back to Hanoi. Afternoon at leisure in Hanoi.

Day 16 - Hanoi (Vietnam)

Today starts with a city tour of Hanoi visiting Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, One Pillar Pagoda, Tran Quoc Pagoda and the Temple of Literature. Follow this with a bicycle tour around the old streets and ending with a traditional Water Puppet Show. Overnight in Hanoi.

Day 17 - Ky Son village (Vietnam)

Drive to Ky Son and take a pleasant walk or bicycle ride around the village. Watch a cookery demonstration and eat the results for lunch. Take a bike ride to Duong Lam Village, Mia pagoda, traditional houses and local temples before returning to Ky Son village. Drive back to Hanoi.

Day 18 - Fly to Siem Reap (Cambodia)

Leave Vietnam this afternoon and fly from Hanoi to Siem Reap, then transfer to your hotel to relax.

Day 19 - Temples of Angkor (Cambodia)

In the morning visit the immense walled city of Angkor Thom whose scale is simply staggering. Then journey to Angkor Wat, built in the 12th century and believed to be the world's largest religious building. Take a guided tour inside to the inner sanctuary then go to the very top of the building. Watch the magical sunset over Angkor Wat.

Day 20 - Ta Phrom (Cambodia)

Rise early to travel to Ta Phrom in the dawn light to see how nature has reclaimed man's endeavours. Continue to Sala Kdei for breakfast then on to Banteay Srei, Angkor's ultimate art gallery, ending with a rare visit to one of the last remaining fully integrated silk producers in the world.

Day 21 - Fly home to UK

Your day is at leisure before you transfer to Ho Chi Minh City airport this evening for your onward flight home to the UK.

Day 22 - Arrive UK

Arrive back in the UK and transfer home.

Vietnam and Cambodia have incredibly varied and beautiful landscapes. Their climates vary from the relative cold of Hanoi in the north to the tropical climate of Saigon and Phnom Penh in the southern reaches of the peninsula.

Each country has its own highlights from the amazing temple complex of Angkor Wat in Cambodia to the UNESCO heritage sites of Hoi An in Vietnam.

The great link between them all is the huge snaking Mekong river which provides some awe inspiring river cruising options, particularly between My Tho in Vietnam and Tonle Sap lake, a few hours drive from Angkor Wat in Cambodia.

There is much to see in Cambodia: the Royal Palace at Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital city, is home to the Cambodian royal family and a symbol of the nation. The Silver Pagoda is named after the 5,000 silver tiles covering the floor, each weighing 1kg.

Ta Phrom is a former complex in Cambodia which has been abandoned to the elements: a reminder that while empires rise and fall, the riotous power of nature marches on, oblivious to the dramas of human history.



The Douc Langur is a small monkey found in Cambodia, China, Laos, and Vietnam.

VISIT VIETNAM & CAMBODIA

Indochina comprises the three neighbouring countries of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. It covers a total area of over 740,000 square kilometres stretching south from the Chinese border as far west as the Thai and Burmese borders.



TOUR DETAILS

A superb tour which visits the sights of Vietnam and Cambodia

21 nights (16 in Vietnam, 3 in Cambodia)

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Reunification Palace in Vietnam
- A cruise along the Mekong Delta River
- Hoi An's vibrant markets and food stalls
- Angkor temples in Cambodia

ITINERARY IN BRIEF:

- Ho Chi Minh City x 3 nights (Vietnam)
- Mekong Delta cruise x 1 night (Vietnam)
- Hue x 2 nights (Vietnam)
- Hoi An x 5 nights (Vietnam)
- Hanoi x 1 night (Vietnam)
- Halong Bay city x 1 night (Vietnam)
- Hanoi x 3 nights (Vietnam)
- Siem Reap x 3 nights (Cambodia)



Ta Prohm, Cambodia



Commuting at Siem Reap, Cambodia



Floating market at Hoi An, Vietnam



Pagoda in Ha Noi, Vietnam



Sunset over Siem Reap, Cambodia



Rush hour in Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam