

# DETAILED ITINERARY

## Day 1 - Depart UK

Depart UK and fly to Ho Chi Minh international airport.

## Day 2 - Arrive Ho Chi Minh and explore the city

Transfer to your hotel then explore the city at your own pace.

## Day 3 - Escorted tour of Ho Chi Minh city (Vietnam)

Morning tour Ho Chi Minh city. Visit 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. The rest of the day is free to explore.

## Day 4 - Fly to city of Hue (Vietnam)

Fly to Hue which served as Vietnam's capital from 1801 to 1945 during the reign of the Nguyen dynasty emperors. On arrival transfer to your hotel and explore at your leisure.

## Day 5 - Sightseeing in Hue (Vietnam)

Begin the day with a leisurely dragonboat cruise along the timeless Perfume River. Visit the Thien Mu Pagoda and the tomb of the former emperor Minh Mang. Visit the Tomb of Emperor Tu Duc (1847-1883). In the evening visit the citadel to spend a couple of hours exploring Hue's ancient royal walled city and the Forbidden Purple Palace enclosed within. Finish with a cycle ride through the leafy side streets to the vibrant Dong Ba market.

## Day 6 - Drive to Hoi An (Vietnam)

Scenic drive to Hoi An through a region of Vietnam blessed with magnificent rural and coastal scenery. After lunch, take a walking tour of the Old Town where you can visit an Ancient House, a Chinese Assembly Hall, the Japanese Covered Bridge and a Museum.

## Day 7 - At leisure in Hoi An (Vietnam)

Today is free at leisure. You could rent bicycles and set off to explore the surrounding countryside or take a boat trip on the Tu Bon River.

## Day 8 - Fly from Hoi An to Ha Noi (Vietnam)

Fly from Hoi An to Ha Noi. On arrival in Ha Noi transfer to your hotel.

## Day 9 - Sightseeing in Ha Noi (Vietnam)

Enjoy a morning city tour of Ha Noi, showcasing some of Ha Noi's most interesting attractions. Visit the One Pillar Pagoda, the Temple of Literature and the Hoa Lo Prison, better known to many as the 'Ha Noi Hilton'. Your afternoon is at leisure. We recommend wandering around the city's Old Quarter, situated to the north of Hoan Kiem Lake - a great (and easy) place to get lost in for a couple of hours.

## Day 10 - Drive from Ha Noi to Ha Long and board the Jasmine Cruise (Vietnam)

Leave Ha Noi and drive to Ha Long port where you board the boat and head out into Halong Bay, enjoying a seafood lunch on the way. During the cruise, you will stop to visit a cave and enjoy a swim and perhaps do some kayaking. After mooring up in the bay for the night, the crew will prepare a superb dinner whilst you watch an incredible sunset. Overnight on board the Jasmine Cruise.

## Day 11 - Disembark the Jasmine Cruise, return to Ha Noi and fly to Siem Reap (Cambodia)

In the morning, cruise back to Ha Long port where you disembark and drive back to Ha Noi. The afternoon is at leisure. In the early evening transfer to the airport for a flight to Siem Reap, Cambodia. On arrival in Siem Reap, transfer to your hotel.

## Day 12 - Sightseeing at Angkor Wat and Siem Reap (Cambodia)

Start the day with a healthy breakfast before sightseeing in Angkor. The crowning jewel of Khmer architecture, Angkor Wat is a must see. Continue the visit with a look at Ta Prohm and Ta Som followed by Neak Pean temple. Afterwards discover Preah Khan, a temple with towered enclosures and shoulder-hugging corridors in a jungle setting.



## Day 13 - Sightseeing in Siem Reap (Cambodia)

Visit Lolei and later discover Preah Ko. Afterwards visit the Banteay Srei temple, considered to be the jewel of classical Khmer art because of its small size, and Pre Rup temple.

## Day 14 - Fly from Siem Reap to Luang Prabang (Laos)

Following breakfast at the hotel, transfer to Siem Reap airport for your onward flight to Laos. Upon arrival, meet your local guide and transfer to your hotel for check in. The rest of the day at leisure to explore the city.

## Day 15 - Sightseeing in Luang Prabang (Laos)

Visit the Royal Palace (national museum) and the beautiful temple Wat Xiengthong. Then embark on a boat trip up the mighty Mekong to visit the Buddha cave of Pak Ou. Lunch at a local restaurant in Pak Ou village opposite the cave. After lunch return by boat back to Luang Prabang with a stop at Ban Sanghai to observe how Lao rice whisky is distilled. Late afternoon you arrive in Luang Prabang and climb up to the top of Phousi mountain to catch the finest panoramic view of the city and to watch the sun set. Later stroll along through the night market and back to the hotel.

## Day 16 - Fly from Luang Prabang to Vientiane (Laos)

Early morning visit to the fresh market before returning to your hotel for breakfast. Later transfer to Luang Prabang airport for a short flight to Vientiane. Upon arrival at Vientiane airport you will be met by your guide and transferred to your hotel. Late afternoon explore the town by the river bank and watch the sunset.

## Day 17 - Sightseeing in Vientiane (Laos)

Visit the historical temple of Wat Sisaket then Hor Prakeo, the former residence of the emerald buddha, and visit Laos's national symbol, Thatluang stupa. Then visit Victory Gate Pratuxai. End the morning tour by visiting the centre market (Morning market) and transfer back to your hotel. The rest of your day is at leisure.

## Day 18 - Fly from Vientiane to your departure airport then fly home to UK

Following breakfast at your hotel, your time is at leisure until you transfer to the airport for your onward flight home to the UK.

Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos 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 and Luang Prabang in Laos.

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.

The ancient cities of Vientiane and Luang Prabang in Laos showcase some great colonial architecture and some temples to rival the best of Cambodia's. Laos is very laid back and is perhaps the most authentic Asian experience around, with the exception of Myanmar.

Once you have absorbed the culture and sights of each country, a stunning array of beaches await.



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

## HIGHLIGHTS OF INDOCHINA

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 Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos

16 nights (9 in Vietnam, 3 in Cambodia, 4 in Laos)

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Reunification Palace in Vietnam
- A dragonboat cruise along the timeless Perfume River
- Hoi An's vibrant markets and food stalls
- Angkor Wat temples in Cambodia

### ITINERARY IN BRIEF:

- Ho Chi Minh city x 2 nights (Vietnam)
- Hue x 2 nights (Vietnam)
- Hoi An x 2 nights (Vietnam)
- Ha Noi x 2 nights (Vietnam)
- Jasmine cruise x 1 night (Vietnam)
- Siem Reap x 3 nights (Cambodia)
- Luang Prabang x 2 nights (Laos)
- Vientiane x 2 nights (Laos)



*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*