

Vietnam & Cambodia

Depart Cairns 19 October at 10.45AM arrive Singapore 3.25PM – Silk air

Accommodation: Village Hotel Changi by Far East Hospitality IN: 19 October OUT: 20 October

Depart Singapore 20 October at 9.20AM arrive Hanoi 11.40AM - Singapore airlines

Commence the following tour in Hanoi on the 20th October and ending in Bangkok on the 06 November

Day 1: Hanoi

Welcome to Vietnam. Your adventure begins with a welcome meeting at 6 pm. Please look for a note in the hotel lobby or ask reception where it will take place. We'll be collecting insurance details and next of kin information at this meeting, so please ensure you bring these details to provide to your leader.

If you arrive early into the capital of Hanoi, there's plenty to see and do. Consider booking the Hanoi Highlights Urban Adventure with an expert local guide to introduce you to the city. Start by visiting the Temple of Literature, drop into a traditional tea house, and learn the stories of the Hoa Lo Prison museum. This tour concludes at Hoan Kiem Lake, surrounded by modern office buildings and ancient Buddhist temples. Or take it at your own pace and wander the Old Quarter and admire the city's French-colonial architecture, relax in a park, or enjoy some street food.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Optional Activities

- Hanoi - Women's Museum - VND30000
- Hanoi - Museum of Ethnology - VND40000
- Hanoi - Hanoi Highlights Urban Adventure - USD40
- Hanoi - Citadels, Karsts & Cycle Urban Adventure - USD88
- Hanoi - Ho Chi Minh Complex: Ho Chi Minh, Stilt House and Museum - VND80000

Meals Included

There are no meals included on this day.

Special Information

To book an Urban Adventure before you meet your tour leader, go to

<https://www.urbanadventures.com/>

Day 2: Halong Bay

Travel by private minibus to the spectacular World Heritage site of Halong Bay in the Gulf of Tonkin (approximately four hours). The bay is dotted with sandy coves, grottoes and 1,600 limestone islands, which have been formed over millennia by wind and water erosion. Board a private boat and cruise the bay, exploring island caves and perhaps even enjoying a swim from Ti Top Island Beach during the warmer months. To end the day, spend a peaceful night aboard the boat beneath the night sky.

Your wooden junk-style boat has twin share cabins with air-conditioning and private facilities. There's also a dining room and bar to enjoy lunch, dinner and breakfast.

Accommodation

- Overnight boat (1 night)

Included Activities

- Halong Bay - Overnight boat cruise with seafood lunch and dinner
- Halong Bay - Cave entry

Optional Activities

- Halong Bay - Kayaking - VND250000

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Special Information

It is recommended to pack a smaller overnight bag to take to Halong Bay for ease of boarding and disembarking. You can store your main luggage in Hanoi for tonight.

Kayaking and swimming is restricted to designated zones within the bay.

There are restrictions on the number of boats that are permitted to stay in the bay overnight, sometimes resulting in a shortage. To ensure all Intrepid travellers can enjoy the experience of a night on the water, occasionally you will stay on a larger boat (with approximately 12 cabins) and share your boat with another group. Or your group may be split across different vessels, in which case an Intrepid group leader will be present on each boat, and the route taken and inclusions on board will remain the same.

[Day 3: Hanoi - Overnight Train](#)

Return by boat to Ha Long, and at approximately midday travel by bus back to Hanoi. Arrive late this afternoon, and use free time to shop, explore the sights or just relax. Later tonight board an overnight train to Hue.

Accommodation

- Overnight sleeper train (1 night)

Meals Included

- Breakfast

Special Information

There are shared day use hotel rooms available this afternoon in Hanoi if you would like to freshen up before the overnight train. There is one room provided between up to 6 members of the group. Single Supplements do not apply to day rooms.

Sleeper trains typically have four-berth compartments (occasionally six berths depending on the season), which have bench seats that convert into sleeping bunks. A sheet, pillow and blanket are provided (although some travellers prefer to bring their own sleeping sheet). Most trains have a dining carriage serving simple food, but you may like to stock up on some food supplies before departure.

[Day 4: Hue](#)

Arrive into Hue at approximately 11 am and transfer to the hotel. Once the imperial capital of Vietnam, Hue holds the treasures of the country's royal past. You'll have free time in the morning to rest or explore. The bustling Dong Ba Market is a great place to sample some of the foods that once graced the Nguyen emperors' tables, such as banh khoai (royal rice cake). Reunite with the group to visit the war-damaged ruins of the Hue Imperial Citadel complex, which once contained temples, state houses and the emperor's palace.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities

- Hue - Imperial Citadel

Meals Included

There are no meals included on this day.

[Day 5: Hue](#)

Today, tour the sights of Hue on the back of a motorbike driven by a local guide. Enjoy a stop at Thanh Toan to see the 18th century covered bridge and villagers shopping at their local market. Visit the 17th-century active Buddhist monastery of Thien Mu Pagoda. During the visit you'll see the car of a former monk who drove to Saigon in 1963 to set himself alight to protest the poor treatment of Buddhists by the South Vietnamese regime. Enjoy a short boat cruise down the Perfume River before eating lunch inside a nunnery. Finally, visit the lakeside royal tomb of Emperor Tu Duc before heading back to Hue.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities

- Hue - Perfume River cruise & Thien Mu Pagoda
- Hue - Royal tomb
- Hue - Highlights & back streets by motorbike (lunch included)

Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch

Special Information

This motorbike activity has been assessed for safety and is closely monitored. To participate please ensure your travel insurance covers riding pillion on a motorbike up to 125cc. If you prefer not to participate, please let your leader know and they will arrange car transportation (cost included).

Boats for the Perfume River trip may not be available if you're travelling during festival periods. During these times you'll travel by land to reach the activities instead.

[Day 6: Hoi An](#)

This morning travel by bus through coastal rice paddies and the spectacular Hai Van Pass. After a brief visit to Lang Co Beach, arrive into Hoi An. Recently declared a World Heritage site, Hoi An was a major international trading port during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Today, parts of the beautifully preserved town retain the feel of centuries past. It's also a shopping mecca, famous for its plethora of tailors. On arrival your leader will take you on a sightseeing walk through the Old Town and visit a handful of the city's major attractions. You'll also be given a sightseeing pass so you can further explore select attractions at your leisure.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities

- Hoi An - Old Town walking tour

Optional Activities

- Hoi An - Hoi An Boat & Bike with Sunset BBQ Urban Adventure - USD51

Meals Included

- Breakfast

[Day 7: Hoi An](#)

Today is a free day to explore Hoi An. Browse the town's cobbled streets and art galleries, or hire a bike and cycle through rice paddies out to Cua Dai Beach. Shop for paintings, ceramics and colourful cloth lanterns in the town's markets and preserved Chinese shop houses. Perhaps visit one of the hundreds of tailors in the city to get something special made. Hoi An is also known for its delicious regional food, so be sure to enjoy a meal at a riverside restaurant or perhaps partake in a cooking class.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Optional Activities

- Hoi An - My Son Cham tour (entrance fee, guide and transport included) - USD35
- Hoi An - Food Adventure Urban Adventure - USD28
- Hoi An - Hoi An Walking & Cooking Class Urban Adventure - USD49

Meals Included

- Breakfast

[Day 8: Ho Chi Minh City](#)

Today take a short early morning flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Formerly known as Saigon, Ho Chi Minh City has a fascinating history and is arguably Vietnam's capital of commerce and culture. After landing, take a sightseeing bus tour around the city. Pass the Reunification Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral and the Opera House, stopping in at the War Remnants Museum to discover some of the sobering stories of the Vietnam/American War.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities

- Ho Chi Minh City - War Remnants Museum
- Ho Chi Minh City - City tour

Optional Activities

- Ho Chi Minh City - Reunification Palace - VND40000
- HCMC - A O show - VND1050000
- Ho Chi Minh City - Saigon Street Food by Night Urban Adventure - USD35

Meals Included

- Breakfast

[Day 9: Mekong Delta - Ho Chi Minh City](#)

This morning head out on a day trip to explore the Mekong Delta. Board a boat to Ben Tre to visit the coconut gardens, stopping at a local home to sample tropical fruits & coconut jams. Afterwards, paddle in sampans (small rowing boats) past water coconut trees along the Mekong. Take a tuk-tuk tour around the villages, learning about local rural life and how they make their living making coconuts products like brooms and coconut fibre mats. Eat lunch at a restaurant in the heart of the Delta, sampling regional specialties such as the famous elephant ear fish. Then it's back to the private boat to cruise the delta's major waterways to Ben Tre boat pier. After the cruise return via bus to Ho Chi Minh City.

Enjoy a final group dinner at KOTO restaurant, an organisation dedicated to developing the hospitality careers of disadvantaged youth.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities

- HCMC - Mekong Delta day trip including coconut gardens & village tuk-tuk tour
- HCMC - KOTO dinner

Meals Included

- Breakfast

- Lunch
- Dinner

[Day 10: Ho Chi Minh City](#)

Today you may be required to move to a different hotel in Ho Chi Minh City, for the next section of your trip. Your leader will let you know if this is the case, and will help with the transfer to the next hotel. You have a free day to consider many optional activities. You also have the option today to take an Urban Adventures tour to the Cu Chi tunnels outside the city. This underground tunnel network in the middle of the jungle was used by the Viet Cong during the war. As this is a combination trip, your group leader and the composition of your group may change at this location. There will be a group meeting to discuss the next stage of your itinerary and you're welcome to attend, as this is a great chance to meet your new fellow travellers.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Optional Activities

- Ho Chi Minh City - Reunification Palace - VND40000
- Ho Chi Minh City - War Remnants Museum - VND40000

Meals Included

There are no meals included on this day.

[Day 11: Phnom Penh](#)

Travel by public bus through rural Vietnam and Cambodia to Phnom Penh (approx. 10 hours including two border crossings and lunch). You will cross the border, exiting Vietnam at Moc Bai and entering Cambodia at Ba Vet. Your leader will assist you with border crossing procedures. Cambodia's capital city is set on a major junction of the Mekong and Tonle Sap rivers and boasts some fine examples of French-inspired architecture. If you're looking for a tasty beverage on arrival, head to the Foreign Correspondents' Club for a mojito on the rooftop. If you're in the mood for shopping, stop in at the art-deco Psar Thmei (Central Market) or travel out to Psar Tuol Tom Pong (the Russian Market) for the best range of local souvenirs.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Meals Included

- Breakfast

[Day 12: Phnom Penh](#)

Confront Cambodia's tragic past on a guided tour of the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, a former school which served as a Khmer Rouge torture centre. It's estimated that more than 20,000 people were held and tortured here. You will also head out to the Choeung Ek Memorial, where a stupa made up of some 8,000 human skulls marks the site of the infamous Killing Fields, the execution ground for the torture victims of Tuol Sleng. You can learn about a brighter period in Cambodian history from an optional visit to the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda. Wat Phnom, shrouded in myth, is equally worth a visit, as is the National Museum with its excellent Khmer collection. Cyclo tours

around the city are a great alternative to walking and generally include the central market, US Embassy, Wat Phnom, Mekong river front, independence monument and Royal Palace. Keen shoppers can hit the art-deco Psar Thmei (Central Market).

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities

- Phnom Penh - Choeung Ek (Killing Fields)
- Phnom Penh - Tuol Sleng Prison Museum (S21)

Optional Activities

- Phnom Penh - Royal Palace & Silver Pagoda - USD10
- Phnom Penh - Wat Phnom - USD2
- Phnom Penh - National Museum - USD10
- Phnom Penh - Cyclo tour - USD4

Meals Included

- Breakfast

[Day 13: Battambang](#)

Travel by private vehicle to Battambang (approximately 6 hours). Break up an otherwise long trip with a visit to Kampong Luong, a marvellously colourful village that floats on the water. Spend an hour traversing between houses and other boats alike before hitting the road once more.

Cambodia's second-largest city, Battambang (pronounced Battambang), is a pretty riverside town of French elegance, friendly Khmer people and beautifully preserved colonial architecture. There's also an optional cooking class to learn the secrets of local dishes such as amok, Khmer curry & fried spicy chicken.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities

- Kampong Luong - Tonle Sap floating village visit

Optional Activities

- Battambang - Cooking Class - USD12

Meals Included

- Breakfast

Special Information

See our guide to Battambang here: <https://www.intrepidtravel.com/adventures/battambang-cambodia-travel-guide/>

Day 14: Siem Reap

Spend a bit of time riding around the countryside by bike, travelling out to local cottage industries to meet with on-site producers. Get a better insight into rural life in Cambodia, share a few snacks, then continue by private bus to Siem Reap (approximately 3 hours). Arrive in Siem Reap in the evening and relax as you prepare for your much-anticipated visit to Angkor tomorrow. Perhaps hit the markets for some delicious street food.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities

- Battambang - Rural Food and Cycle Tour

Meals Included

- Breakfast

Day 15: Siem Reap / Angkor Wat

Temple-hop with your local guide and make the most of your visit to the world-famous Angkor complex. The temples, dating back as far as the 9th century, were believed to represent the cosmic world and were set in perfect balance, symmetry and composition. The intricately carved bas-reliefs and architectural designs are mind-blowing and there are spectacular photo opportunities at any time of day. Watching a sunrise or sunset is a must. The ruins are scattered over an area of some 160 square kilometres, but the main cluster of temples is close to Siem Reap, so there will be plenty of time to fully appreciate the great archaeological sites of Angkor Wat, the Bayon and the jungle-covered Ta Prohm.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities

- Siem Reap - Three day Angkor Pass
- Siem Reap - Angkor Temples Guided Tour

Meals Included

- Breakfast

Special Information

Temperatures and humidity can be high in Cambodia, especially walking around sights like the Angkor complex where there may be little shade. Be prepared by taking plenty of drink breaks and wearing appropriate skin protection. Some travellers find an umbrella handy to keep the sun off (this will also come in handy should it rain!)

[Day 16: Siem Reap / Angkor Wat](#)

Continue your explorations of the Angkor complex. You may like to spend just the morning making further discoveries here, and save your afternoon for an optional activity elsewhere. Keen adventurers can take the Angkor zip-line adventure which gives an amazing birds-eye view of the rainforest, not to mention an adrenaline rush.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Included Activities

- Siem Reap - Angkor Temples Guided Tour

Optional Activities

- Siem Reap - Angkor Zipline - USD129
- Siem Reap - Landmine Museum - USD5

Meals Included

- Breakfast

[Day 17: Bangkok](#)

It's a long drive by private bus from Siem Reap to Bangkok (approx. 10 hours including two border crossings and lunch). You will exit Cambodia at Poipet and enter Thailand at Aranyaprathet. Your leader will be on hand to assist with border crossing procedures. Arrive in Thailand's bustling capital and take in this exciting world of tuk tuks, khlong boats, and street vendors serving up delicious Thai food. Perhaps head out to sample some local specialties as a final farewell with your fellow travellers.

Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

Meals Included

- Breakfast

[Day 18: Bangkok](#)

Your trip comes to an end this morning, with no further activities planned. If you are spending more time in Bangkok we can help you to book additional nights accommodation just contact your sales agent. You might also like to do an Urban Adventure tour while you are in Bangkok.

Optional Activities

- Bangkok - Bangkok by Bike Urban Adventure - THB1980
- Bangkok - Bangkok Chinatown Food Discovery Urban Adventure - THB2149
- Bangkok - Jim Thompson's House - THB150
- Bangkok - Temple & River of Kings Urban Adventure - THB2465

- Bangkok - Bangkok Tuk Tuk Experience Urban Adventure - THB2175

Meals Included

There are no meals included on this day.

Depart Bangkok 6th November at 8.25PM arrive Singapore 7th November at 12.05AM – Singapore airlines

Depart Singapore 7th November at 1.00AM arrive Cairns 9.55AM – Silk air

[View this trip in reverse](#)

Inclusions

Meals

14 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners

Transport

Boat, Motorbike, Overnight sleeper train, Plane, Private Vehicle, Taxi

Accommodation

Hotel (15 nights), Overnight boat (1 night), Overnight sleeper train (1 night)

Included activities

- Halong Bay - Overnight boat cruise with seafood lunch and dinner
- Halong Bay - Cave entry
- Hue - Imperial Citadel
- Hue - Perfume River cruise & Thien Mu Pagoda
- Hue - Royal tomb
- Hue - Highlights & back streets by motorbike (lunch included)
- Hoi An - Old Town walking tour
- Ho Chi Minh City - War Remnants Museum
- Ho Chi Minh City - City tour
- HCMC - Mekong Delta day trip including coconut gardens & village tuk-tuk tour
- HCMC - KOTO dinner
- Phnom Penh - Choeung Ek (Killing Fields)
- Phnom Penh - Tuol Sleng Prison Museum (S21)
- Kampong Luong - Tonle Sap floating village visit
- Battambang - Rural Food and Cycle Tour
- Siem Reap - Three day Angkor Pass
- Siem Reap - Angkor Temples Guided Tour

Cost per person \$3,552*pp and includes the following:

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- Airfares
- Airport taxes
- One nights accommodation in Singapore
- 18-day tour with inclusions listed below including 14 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 dinners and sightseeing as per itinerary