

CAMBODIA & VIETNAM & THAILAND 13 DAYS

ITINERARY:



Day 1 : Arrival Phnom Penh (D)

Upon arrival at Phnom Penh International Airport transfer to hotel. Start a Phnom Penh city tour, visit the Independence Monument and the National Museum. Continue to the Royal Palace, built by King Norodom in 1866 and the Silver Pagoda. Situated within the Royal Palace, the Pagoda has its name because of the floor made out of 5,000 silver tiles. End your afternoon with a visit to the city's namesake, Wat Phnom built in 1373, the pagoda houses Buddhist relics washed ashore by the river.

Meals: Dinner **Lodging:** Intercontinental Hotel

Day 2 : Phnom Phen - Siem Reap (B / L)

After breakfast transfer to the airport for flight to Siem Reap. Upon arrival transfer to hotel. Start your visit with the temples of Thommanon and Chau Say Tevoda, Takeo and Ta Prohm. Continue to Banteay Kdei, Srah Srang, ("the Pool of ablutions") used in the past for ritual bathing and Prasat Kravan temple with its unique brick sculptures. In the afternoon, visit the most famous of all temples the Angkor Wat. Its distinctive five towers are emblazoned on the Cambodia flag and the 12th century masterpiece is considered by art historians to be the prime example of classical Khmer art and architecture. Enjoy the sunset at Angkor Wat.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch **Lodging:** Sokha Angkor Resort

Day 3 : Siem Reap - Angkor Thom (B / L)

For early birds: Sunrise from Phnom Bakheng, one of the two hills dominating the plain of Angkor, from where you have a spectacular view of the Western Baray and the surrounding plain or sunrise at Angkor Wat. Return to the hotel for breakfast. In the morning visit the ancient capital of Angkor Thom (12th century), the South Gate with its huge statues, the Bayon temple, unique for its 54 towers decorated with over 200 smiling faces of Avolokitesvara, the Royal Enclosure, the Phimeanakas, the Elephants Terrace, and the Terrace of the Leper King. For a well deserved break enjoy a relaxing 1 hour reflexology massage. Continue your visit with Preah Khan temple, built by the King Jayavarman VII. See Neak Pean, a fountain built in the middle of a pool representing the paradisiacal Himalayan mountain lake. Ta Som, Mebon Oriental, guarded at its corner by stone figures of harnessed elephants and the "Mountain Temple" of Pre Rup until sunset.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch **Lodging:** Sokha Angkor Resort

Day 4 : Siem Reap - Hanoi (B)

After breakfast morning free at leisure before transfer to Siem Reap airport for flight to Hanoi. Upon arrival transfer to your hotel. The capital of Vietnam for almost a thousand years. Hanoi is located in the centre of the Northern Delta. Even though some relics have not survived through wars and time, the city still has many interesting cultural and historic monuments.

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** Sheraton hotel

Day 5 : Hanoi - Halong Bay (B / L / D)

After breakfast drive to Halong Bay. Your boat ride across Halong Bay starts around noon at Tuan Chau Island the doorstep of Vietnam's most fascinating wonder. Discover some of the treasures across the Bay of the Descending Dragon during the afternoon: fascinating caves, pristine beaches, picturesque floating villages, fantastic rock formations rising up out of emerald water. On board the ship attend a chef's cooking demonstration where you can try your skills in the art of traditional Vietnamese cooking.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner **Lodging:** Paradise luxury cruise

Day 6 : Halong Bay - Hanoi (B / L)

Early birds can attend a Tai Chi demonstration on the sundeck at the break of dawn. Start the day enjoying some Paradise delights with a colourful buffet breakfast. Continue exploring Halong Bay sailing across its 2000 islets and visiting some of its major highlights. 10:30 hrs: Disembarkation at Tuan Chau Island pier and transfer back to Hanoi in time for lunch and an orientation tour of Hanoi with a visit to the Temple of Literature, the historic Ba Dinh Square; see Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and the One-pillar Pagoda.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch **Lodging:** Sheraton hotel

Day 7 : Hanoi - Danang - Hoi An (B / D)

After breakfast transfer to Hanoi airport for your flight to Danang with an en route visit to the Museum of Ethnology. Upon arrival at Danang airport transfer to Hoi An. Listed by UNESCO as a World Culture Heritage and was once a well-known trading centre in Southeast Asia from the 16th to 18th centuries, its size able community of foreign merchants resulted in a unique architectural style with Vietnamese, Chinese and Japanese influences. Check in the hotel and time to relax before your guide takes you on a stroll through the ancient town. It's friendly inhabitants, narrow streets, old houses, temples and wooden bridge are charming.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner **Lodging:** Sunrise Resort Hoi An

Day 8 : Hoi An - Danang - Hue (B / L)

Enjoy a morning at leisure before your visit to the Hoi An Silk Village located in Ma Chau Village in Duy Xuyen District, just one kilometer away from the centre of Hoi An ancient town. The combination of eco-tourism and traditional handicraft product development has helped to preserve the cultural life of people in Quang Nam. Then start the journey to Hue, the former Imperial City of the last dynasty of Vietnam. En route take a photo stop at Marble Mountain, a scenic spot with caves, temples, shrines, pagodas and a great view of the surrounding area. Arrive in Hue located in Central Vietnam, it is the only place in the country where many historic, cultural, architectural as well as artistic values have been preserved. Hue is also the site where the northern and southern ecosystems meet, the area of river-hills, greenery and beautiful landscapes.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch **Lodging:** La Residence Hue hotel

Day 9 : Hue - Ho Chi Minh city (B / L)

In the morning after breakfast, enjoy a scenic boat trip on the Perfume River to visit the Thien Mu or Heavenly Lady pagoda, one of the oldest ancient architectural structures for religious worship in Hue. After the boat trip visit the Imperial Citadel of Hue with the Purple Forbidden City. The Hue Citadel covers an area 500 ha and has a system of three circles of ramparts: Kinh Thanh Hue (Hue Capital Citadel), Hoang Thanh (Royal Citadel) and Tu Cam Thanh (Forbidden Citadel). Visit the local Dong Ba market before continue to Tu Duc Royal Tomb. Later transfer to Phu Bai airport for your flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Upon arrival, transfer to hotel. Over the past few centuries, Saigon called the "Pearl of the Far East" and was an important trading centre for Chinese, Japanese and Western merchants who travelled along the Saigon River.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch **Lodging:** Pullman hotel

Day 10 : Ho Chi Minh city - Cu Chi Tunnels - Ho Chi Minh city (B / L)

After breakfast drive to Cu Chi district to visit the amazing complex of underground tunnels. There are more than 200 km of tunnels, comprising a main axis system with many branches connecting to underground hideouts, shelters and other tunnels. You have the chance to crawl through the tunnels before returning to Ho Chi Minh City. In the afternoon a walking tour takes you from the Saigon River past the Opera House, Town Hall, Notre Dame Cathedral to the old Post Office. Afterwards experience a fantastic view of Saigon city and its surroundings from the observation deck atop the 262m high Bitexco Financial Tower. Next is the famous Ben Thanh market before a relaxing foot massage.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch **Lodging:** Pullman hotel

Day 11 : Ho Chi Minh city - Bangkok (B)

After breakfast transfer to the airport for flight to Bangkok. Upon arrival transfer to hotel.

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** Royal Orchid Sheraton

Day 12 : Bangkok - City tour (B)

After breakfast start your tour with three Buddhist temples: Wat Trimitr with its invaluable Golden Buddha (5 1/2 tons of solid gold). Wat Po with its colossal reclining Buddha and the Chedis of the Kings. Then see the Grand Palace, not only the seat of the king and his court but contained the entire government administration. The palace served as the official residence of the kings of Thailand from the 18th to the mid-20th century. The most famous building on the palace grounds is Wat Phra Kaew regarded as the most sacred Buddhist temple in Thailand. The main temple building is the central ubosoth, which houses the Emerald Buddha. The green colored Buddha is carved from a single piece of jade and though only 17 inches tall, is the most revered object in Thailand. Also within the grounds are several palaces used for various occasions: the Funeral Palace, Reception Palace, Throne Hall, Coronation Hall and the Royal Guest House.

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** Royal Orchid Sheraton

Day 13 : Bangkok (B)

After breakfast transfer to Bangkok International airport for your international return flight.