

Vietnam & Cambodia – Ancient Kingdoms of Indo-China

Tour Code VC

6 – 23 January 2020

A fabulous journey through the ancient lands of Indo-China, considered in French colonial times to be the earthly paradise of South-east Asia. Culturally rich and steeped in centuries-old charm, Vietnam's appeal lies in its unique artistic, religious and architectural heritage set against a backdrop of diverse natural beauty. The great legacy of Cambodia's Khmer civilisation has left the splendour and awesome collection of temples at Angkor, a wonderful climax to an extraordinary tour



Buddhe Face, Angkor
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ITINERARY

Day 1 Fly to Hanoi

Various flight options available from London Heathrow

Day 2 In Hanoi

We arrive into Noi Bai airport this morning and transfer to our hotel. This afternoon we have a cyclo ride and walking tour of the city's Old Quarter. A welcome dinner has been arranged at a smart local restaurant. Two nights at th Chi Boutique hotel (B,D)

Day 3 In Hanoi

This morning we visit the Ba Dinh Square where silent sentries guard the marble Mausoleum of Ho Chi Minh. We continue to the ornate Temple of Literature and striking One Pillar Pagoda. The afternoon is left at leisure before we take an early restaurant dinner in order to enjoy a performance of the city's famed water puppetry (B,D)

Day 4 Visit Halong Bay

We venture to an area of the country's most spectacular scenery today, specifically the world heritage listed natural marvel of Halong Bay; famous for its emerald waters, limestone outcrops, echoing caves and hidden bays. We board a traditional junk (Premium 4*) for an overnight stay and will be able to stop at some of the grottoes and caves on the islands to explore on foot. Overnight on board in balcony cabins with dinner (B,L,D)

Day 5 In Halong Bay. Fly Hue

This morning we cruise through Halong Bay passing beautiful spots like Trong (Drum), Trinh Nu (Virgin) and Me Cung Caves and Coc Ngoi (Toad) Islet before disembarking for our road journey back to Hanoi to take an early evening flight to Hue. Overnight stay at the Eldora hotel with dinner

Day 6 Perfume River trip. Drive to Hoi An

This morning we visit the historic monuments of this once great city including the Citadel and the Imperial Enclosure within it before we taje a short cruise down the picturesque Perfume River and visit some of the majestic Royal tombs of the Emperors. This afternoon we head south stopping at the fabulous Museum of Cham Sculpture at Danang before arriving at the idyllic riverside town of Hoi An. Two nights at the Historic hotel. Dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

Day 7 In Hoi An. City Tour

Hoi An is an enchanting riverside town recently listed UNESCO World Heritage status. After a guided tour of its Old Town this morning, the rest of the day is left free to enjoy Hoi An at your own pace. Dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

Day 8 Visit My Son. Fly to Ho Chi Minh City

We visit the jungle-strewn site of My Son this morning, dating from the 7th century ancient kingdom of Champa. UNESCO listed, the ruins are set in a stunning lush valley and the drive there is equally scenic. We return to Danang for a waterfront lunch before driving to the airport for our late afternoon flight to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). We transfer to the Millenium Boutique hotel for three nights. Dinner tonight is at a top city restaurant. (B,L,D)

Patrick Syder Travel

Escorted Cultural Tours – Zenobia House, 23 Bowmans Close, Steyning, West Sussex BN44 3SR
Tel/Fax: +44 (0)1903 879737 email: info@sydertravel.com www.sydertravel.com

Day 9 In Ho Chi Minh City

This morning we have a city tour and include a visit to the striking Reunification Palace and view the excellent collection of artefacts housed in the History Museum. We also visit the American War Museum, a poignant reminder of Vietnam's recent terrible conflicts. The afternoon is left free to explore this buzzing and absorbing city. Dinner at a city restaurant (B,D)

Day 10 In Ho Chi Minh City. Visit Cu Chi Tunnels

The morning is left free for further time to enjoy the city. In the afternoon we visit the Cu Chi tunnels made so famous from the legacy of the Vietnam War. Dinner at a city restaurant (B,D)

Day 11 Visit Mekong Delta villages

Today we venture into the fertile Mekong Delta, the nation's rice basket to allow a glimpse into the life of Vietnam's agricultural workforce. We visit the floating market at Cai Be, where we pause for lunch and continue to Vinh Long to see the traditional stilt houses. We drive to the busy harbour town of Chau Doc for our overnight stop at the charming colonial style Victoria hotel with dinner (B,L,D)

Day 12 Mekong River Cruise to Phnom Penh

This morning we cruise by motorboat on the Mekong River via Chau Doc located on the Cambodian border arriving into Phnom Penh, with its exotic river setting and French colonial charm. We have a late lunch at the renowned Foreign Correspondents' Club located on the Riverside. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure. Two nights at the Villa Langka hotel with dinner (B,L,D)

Day 13 In Phnom Penh

Our morning tour includes the National Museum with its impressive collection of Angkor sculptures and the Royal Palace with its stunning Silver Pagoda. In the afternoon there is the option to visit the infamous Killing Fields of Choeung Ek, a memorial to the horrors of Pol Pot's despotic regime. Dinner at a local restaurant (B,D)

Day 14 In Phnomh Penh. Fly Siem Reap

A morning at leisure in the capital before our afternoon flight to Siem Reap, our base for the next three nights and located close to the remarkable ancient temple complex of Angkor. Three nights at the La Niche d'Angkor Boutique hotel with dinner (B,D)

Day 15 and 16 Visit Angkor Temples

We have two full days to explore the spectacular temples and jungle ruins around Angkor. The highlight of the tour, these ancient Khmer ruins are one of the world's most magical and breathtaking archaeological sites. Our visits will include the majesty of the Bayon and Ta Prohm temples, to the captivating setting of Angkor Wat itself. We will also be able to venture to some of the more remote ruins. Dinner is taken at the various restaurants available in Siem Reap (B,D each day)

Day 17 In Siem Reap. Fly to London via Singapore

We have the option to return to the temple complex of Angkor Wat this morning and explore the site at our own pace. Otherwise the local markets in Siem Reap or even a relaxing swim in the hotel pool are available. In the mid-afternoon we transfer the short distance to the International airport for our various flight options home (B)

Day 18 Arrive London

We arrive into Heathrow Terminal 3 in the early morning

Cost £2695.00 per person in a twin room (excludes international flight) Single supplement charge additional £595



Price includes -

- ▶ Tour accompanied from London by Patrick Syder FRGS
- ▶ Specialist Vietnamese and Cambodian guides throughout
- ▶ Three scheduled domestic flights with Vietnam Air and Angkor Air
- ▶ All transportation in private a/c coach
- ▶ Full sightseeing programme including entrance fees
- ▶ Quality local four star hotels on a half board basis
- ▶ Included dinners and lunches at quality restaurants
- ▶ Halong Bay traditional junk overnight stay (Premium Class)
- ▶ Chartered speedboat journey along the Mekong Delta
- ▶ All airport transfers
- ▶ Porter, hotel and restaurant staff gratuities

PLEASE NOTE – personal travel insurance, applicable visa fees, alcoholic drinks, guide and driver gratuities, international flights are not included in the land tour cost