

OUTLINED ITINERARY

- DAY 01: Phnom Penh arrival (-)
- DAY 02: Optional tour: Phnom Penh Highlights (B)
- DAY 03: Optional tour: Visit Kampong Chhnang And Udong (B)
- DAY 04: Phnom Penh – Fly to Siem Reap (B)
- DAY 05: Optional tour: The Angkor Essential (Ta Prohm-Angkor Thom-Angkor Wat) (B)
- DAY 06: Optional tour: Visit Phnom Kulen Waterfall (B)
- DAY 07: Siem Reap – Fly to Hanoi (B)
- DAY 08: Optional tour: Ha Noi City Highlights - Train to Sapa (B)
- DAY 09: MA TRA – TA PHIN (L)
- DAY 10: Y LINH HO – LAO CHAI – TA VAN (L)
- DAY 11: TA GIANG PHINH VILLAGE. SA PA-HA NOI (B)
- DAY 12: HA NOI – LAN HA BAY (L, D)
- DAY 13: LAN HA BAY (B, L, D)
- DAY 14: LAN HA BAY – HA NOI (B)
- DAY 15: Optional tour: Discover Ba Na Hill and Golden Bridge (B)
- DAY 16: Optional tour: Hoi An Walking Tour And Boat Trip (B)
- DAY 17: Optional tour: Visit Hoi An Craft Villages By Boat (B)
- DAY 18: Danang – Fly to Ho Chi Minh city (B)
- DAY 19: Optional tour: Cu Chi Tunnels & Ho Chi Minh City Highlights Tour (B)
- DAY 20: Optional tour: Insight to The Rural Life of Mekong Delta to Ben Tre (B/L)
- DAY 21: Ho Chi Minh city departure (B)

DISCLAIMER:

- Please be advised that this is just primary proposal for your reference.
- Tour quotation is based on the suggested hotel/room categories. Price is subject to change due to availability and fluctuation in airfares.
- We will only proceed the reservations upon receiving your written confirmation. We recommend your early confirmation to avoid disappointment of unavailability and varying prices.

DAY 01 - 22 Mar 2024: Phnom Penh arrival (-)

Upon arrival at Phnom Penh Airport, after you finish all customs and immigration procedures, please head to the exit gate and look for your guide who will be waiting for you, holding a welcome signboard with your name on it. Then, you will be transferred to your hotel in town by a private vehicle.

Overnight in Phnom Penh.

DAY 02 - 23 Mar 2024: Phnom Penh at leisure (B)

(Optional tour) Phnom Penh highlights

Once known as "The Pearl of Asia", Phnom Penh used to be one of the finest cities in the region. Situated at the junction of Mekong River, Phnom Penh has been Cambodia's capital for a majority of the last six centuries. Rich in history, the city offers several cultural and historical sites to discover.

Start your day with the visit to the Royal Palace, originally built in 1866s by the grandfather of the current Cambodian King. The palace is a complex of splendid regal buildings with its classic Khmer roofs, ornate gilding, and intricate layout of defensive walls, featuring a great mixture of Khmer architecture and slight French touch. It includes the official residence of the royal family with parts of the massive palace compound, partially opened to the public. Wind your way to the nearby Silver Pagoda that houses many national treasures including many golden and jeweled Buddha statues. Perched within the Royal Palace compound, this is the most sacred temple in the country. Visit the National Museum, which is designed in Khmer style by a French archaeologist and painter in 1917, dedicated exclusively to Khmer art and sculpture. Gain insight into Cambodian history from Cambodia's "Golden Age" of Angkor, with an excellent collection of Khmer art and sculpture from archaeological sites across Cambodia. Take your time to learn about the turbulent Khmer Rouge years with the visit to Tuol Sleng, a high school turned interrogation prison known as S-21 during the Khmer Rouge era and now a genocide museum dedicated to showcasing the sad story of the thousands of innocent Cambodian people who were tortured on its grounds. Tour the museum, through the narrow corridors and former classrooms of the buildings for an overview of Cambodia's turbulent past.

Notes:

- *Tour duration: Full day (08.30-17.00)*
- *Accessibility: all vehicle types*
- *The Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda are open from 08:00 to 10:30 and 14:00 to 16:00 but are subject to closure at short notice in the event of official ceremonies*
- *All visitors need to wear shorts that reach to the knees, and a T-shirt or blouse that reaches to the elbows; otherwise they will have to buy an appropriate sarong as a covering at the entrance*
- *Please get yourself ready for some of the displays at Toul Sleng that might get you shocked*

Overnight in Phnom Penh

DAY 03 - 24 Mar 2024: Phnom Penh at leisure (B)

(Optional tour) Visit Kampong Chhnang and Udong

Start the day with a transfer to a small provincial town located 3 hours north-west of Phnom Penh, Kampong Chhnang that translates "Port of Pottery". The Kampong Chhnang Province is known for its beautiful landscape, sugar palm trees, and floating village on Tonle Sap Lake. Upon arrival, board a local wooden boat for a leisure boat trip discovering Kampong Chhnang floating villages where you will observe the local lifestyle of the people living on the lake in their floating and stilted homes.

Return to the mainland and transfer back to Phnom Penh. En route, make a short stop to visit Udong, the former capital of Cambodia, and the site of a mountain called Phnom Preah Reach Trap, topped with the spires of stupas like a fairytale castle rearing from the plain. Challenge yourself with over 500 steps from the front entrance to the top of the mountain, or choose the easier entry from the backside. Take your time to enjoy a panoramic view of the surrounding countryside featuring innumerable sugar palm trees.

Notes:

- *Tour duration: Full day (08.30-17.30)*
- *Accessibility: all vehicle types*
- *The cruise in Kampong Chhnang is only available from August to March*

Overnight in Phnom Penh.

DAY 04 - 25 Mar 2024: Phnom Penh – Fly to Siem Reap (B)

Transfer from your hotel to the airport (with guide) for your flight to Siem Reap.

Upon arrival at Siem Reap Airport, after you finish all customs and immigration procedures, please head to the exit gate and look for your guide who will be waiting for you, holding a welcome signboard with your name on it. Then, you will be transferred to your hotel in town by a private vehicle.

Overnight in Siem Reap.

DAY 05 - 26 Mar 2024: Siem Reap at leisure (B)

(Optional tour): The Angkor Essential (Ta Prohm-Angkor Thom-Angkor Wat)

Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Angkor complex is one of the most important archaeological sites in South-East Asia as it contains the outstanding remains of the different capitals of the Khmer Empire, from the 9th to the 15th Century. Today, set off to encounter the beautiful temples which are considered as Angkor's jewel. Transfer from your hotel to Ta Prohm, perhaps most popularly known as The Tomb Raider temple. Built in the late 12th and early 13th Centuries as a Buddhist temple dedicated to the mother of Jayavarman VII, this beautiful temple is the photogenic and atmospheric combination

of trees growing out of the ruins and the jungle surroundings. The magnificent tree roots have merged over the centuries with the temple's huge stone blocks, emphasizing a 'forgotten city' feeling.

Explore the ancient Angkor Thom, founded by King Jayavarman VII in the 12th Century and was one of the largest Khmer cities and remained the capital until the 17th Century. Get inside the reinforced city of Angkor Thom to admire the mysterious Bayon temple, crowned with the large number of serene faces sculpted on its towers. Also, take this chance to learn more about the intricate carvings of the Terrace of the Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King.

Your temple exploration continues as you enter the gate of Angkor Wat, a vast temple complex originally constructed in the early 12th Century by King Suryavarman II. Originally constructed as a Hindu temple dedicated to the god Vishnu for the Khmer Empire, it was gradually transformed into a Buddhist temple. Stroll through the intricate and astonishing bas-reliefs that represent hundreds of fine carvings of Apsara, Hindu mythology as well as key events in its narrative tradition. Be amazed by the sheer size of the temple and learn how the Khmer Empire prospered between the 9th and 13th Century.

Notes:

- *Tour duration: Full day (08.30-17.30)*

Overnight in

DAY 06 - 27 Mar 2024: Siem Reap at leisure (B)

(Optional tour) Visit Phnom Kulen Waterfall

Today, depart from downtown Siem Reap for an exciting 1.5-hour drive, passing through the countryside area. Considered to be the most sacred mountain in Cambodia, Phnom Kulen Mountain played a significant role in the history of the Khmer empire as it existed since 802AD when Jayavarman II proclaimed Cambodia's independence from Java and contained a myriad of significant archaeological sites from sculpted riverbeds and caves to ancient hydraulic structures and 1200-year old temples. The mountain is supposed to be the birthplace of the ancient Khmer Empire.

On top of the mountain, you will visit the modern style pagoda Preah Ang Thom that offers stunning views over the Angkor area. Admire the eight-meter tall statue of a reclining Buddha and wash your hands at the Linga statue to purify your mind and body. Continue your journey to the magnificent river of the One Thousand Lingas etched with carvings of Hindu gods and symbols. Opt to take a refreshing dip in the stream of the nearby waterfall.

Notes:

- *Tour duration: Full day (08.30-15.30)*

- *Guest is allowed to get inside the Phnom Kulen by 12.00 and leave after 12.00*

Overnight in Siem Reap.

DAY 07 - 28 Mar 2024: Siem Reap – Fly to Hanoi (B)

Transfer from your hotel to the airport (without guide) for flight to Hanoi.

Upon arrival at Noi Bai Airport, after you finish all customs and immigration procedures, please head to the exit gate and look for your guide who will be waiting for you, holding a welcome signboard with your name on it. Then, you will be transferred to your hotel in town by a private vehicle.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 08 - 29 Mar 2024: Hanoi at leisure – overnight train to Sapa (B)

(Optional tour) Ha Noi city highlights

The capital of Vietnam, Ha Noi is a perfect blend of old and new, Asian and European, a dynamic unification of tradition and progressive 21st-century thinking.

Despite recent rapid development, the city has retained much of its traditional identity

Visit the **complex dedicated to Ho Chi Minh**, the nation's founder and affectionately known to the Vietnamese as "Uncle Ho". Make the first stop at the historic **Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum**, an imposing monument built to serve as the final resting place of Uncle Ho. Continue walking through the beautiful botanical garden of the **Presidential Palace** to visit **Uncle Ho's humble house**, built based on a rural Vietnamese stilt house with simple design in a tranquil setting, reflecting his simple, pure and noble lifestyle. Tour the **One Pillar Pagoda**, built in 1049 of wood on a single stone pillar, designed to resemble a lotus blossom, a symbol of purity.

Continue to the **Tran Quoc pagoda**, Hanoi's oldest pagoda, located on a small island of **West Lake**.

In the afternoon, visit the **Temple of Literature**, the first university of Vietnam. Constructed in the 11th Century, this stunning temple constitutes a rare example of well-preserved traditional Vietnamese architecture and is featured on the back of the 100,000 Vietnamese dong banknote.

The **cyclo (rickshaw) ride** is an excellent way to experience Ha Noi at close hand as the atmosphere is lively, hectic, and sociable. Your local driver will pedal you off, behind your guide, into narrow streets of the **Old Quarter**, known for its '**36 streets of 36 wares**'. Within the Old Quarter, as they had since the 15th Century, the narrow 36 streets of the Old Quarter bear names that reflect the business once conducted there; silk street, rice street, paper street, lacquer ware street, and jewelry street. Explore the fascinating maze of back streets, discover your bargaining

power, and come away with unusual items that will always remind you of this memorable afternoon.

Cap off your trip by wandering around the scenic **Hoan Kiem Lake** "Lake of the Returned Sword", named after a magical sword once used by the most revered heroes to defeat the Chinese Ming Dynasty and then returned to the Golden Turtle God of the lake.

Notes:

- *Tour duration: 7.5-8 hours (08.30-17.00)*
- *Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum is CLOSED on Mondays, Fridays and all afternoons.*

Transfer to the railway station for the **overnight train to Lao Cai**. The overnight train to Sapa is a fun and unique experience. Private four-berth cabin.
Overnight on train.

DAY 09 - 30 Mar 2024: MA TRA – TA PHIN (L)

Arrive at **Lao Cai Station early morning**, transfer to Sapa town, passing through beautiful landscapes filled with ethnic village houses which are bestrewn around the valley, stunning mountains and rice, and maize fields

Take a rest and then starting the **hiking trip past rice paddy fields and spectacular mountain scenery to the village of Ma Tra** with the possibility of seeing tea plantations and cardamom gardens (seasonal) along the way. **Ma Tra village** is the **home to Black H'mong community**, who lives mainly on rice cultivation in terraced fields on high terrain.

Wind your way to the quaint **hill tribe Ta Phin Village**, home to the minority groups **Black H'mong and Red Dzao** who have been living in harmony despite having different customs, cultures, and dress.

Notice the distinctiveness from the way of life, costumes, and culture of two minority groups. Traveling between Jul and September which is planting and harvesting time, you will have a great opportunity to capture the overwhelming vastness of terraced fields as well as local farmers in action.

Return to Sapa by your private vehicle after the exploration. Wanderer around the town with the **stop at Sapa market, Sapa Stone Church or choose to enjoy a cup of Vietnamese coffee at a local café** offering magnificent views of mountains and hill tribe villages.

Overnight in Sapa.

Note:

- *Hiking Grade: Easy, 7km on paved road*

Optional Experience: Textile experience in Ta Phin Village

Visit a local handicraft textile workshop to get a better understanding of the traditional method

of H'mong ethnic group that has been handed down for generations. As H'mong people don't have their written language, this is their unique way of communication by using special symbols to describe their lives and then weaving them on a textile that is made from natural materials. Participate in a hands-on experience to understand deeply a step-by-step process from weaving, drawing by batik to dying a textile product with the guidance of a local artisan.

Overnight in Sapa

DAY 10 - 31 Mar 2024: Y LINH HO – LAO CHAI – TA VAN (B, L)

Today, transfer by your private vehicle to **Y Linh Ho village**. From the main road, **hike to the village of Black H'mong people** and notice their traditional clothing made from hemp cloth dyed a deep indigo blue and decorated with batik flowers. Have a friendly **chat with local people** to understand how they preserve their traditional customs and way of life before the hurried development of society. Follow a dirt trail to **Muong Hoa valley** while enjoying the spectacular scenery of terraced fields, vegetable patches, and verdant hills. This is also home to the **largest terraced rice field of Sapa**. Traveling between July and September which is planting and harvesting time, you will have a great opportunity to see the local farmers in action. Make a **stop at a local H'mong family in Lao Chai Village** to have a **chat with family members to understand their traditional lifestyle and custom**. Notice how their houses are typically built without windows due to the cold weather in the winter. Continue your exploration to **Ta Van village**, set within picturesque Muong Hoa valley and also home to the **Zay people**, originally from China and well-known for their unique cultural costumes, being simple than other ethnic groups, less embroidered and only brightly colored bands around the neck and lapels. Have your camera ready to capture the magnificent view of terraced fields dotted with local houses or the portrait of friendly villagers. Return to Sapa town by your private vehicle after the exploration Overnight in Sapa.

Note:

- *Hiking Grade: Easy, 8km on paved road*

Optional Experience: Making traditional colorful sticky rice with H'mong family

Be ready for a hands-on experience making traditional colorful sticky rice by following the enthusiastic guidance of the host. The whole process of making traditional colorful sticky rice is also the opportunity for the family to come together. Learn how to extract colors from the natural material (flowers, leaves...), dye the rice, and cook it. Savor the lunch with your creation in a relaxing atmosphere, surrounded by mountain and terraced fields.

Overnight in Sapa

DAY 11 - 01 Apr 2024: TA GIANG PHINH VILLAGE. SA PA-HA NOI (B)

Today, enjoy a scenic drive to **Ta Giang Phinh**, a remote hill tribe village along a peaceful stream where the traditional custom of H'mong people has been well-preserved despite the influence of outside modern life. **Hike through wild and unspoiled scenery with stunning mountains and endless terraced fields.** Stop on the way to **interact with Blue H'mong people** to notice the differences featured in their traditional customs, dress from other group ethnicities. Observe the local villagers engaging in their daily activities. Have your camera ready in hands to photograph friendly villagers as well as picturesque landscapes that are formed by terraced fields, streams, and mountains. A transfer will take you back to Ha Noi in the afternoon. Arrive in downtown Ha Noi at the end of the day.

Note:

- *Hiking Grade: Easy, 4km on paved road*

Optional Experience: Experience music performance by local student

Wander around the village, visit a local church & be welcome by a Pastor. Hear stories about how the Protestantism & God's belief developed in a remote area of Sapa & enjoy a music show perform by the local children learn more about H'mong traditional custom & the interferences of Western religion and local culture.

Overnight in Hanoi

DAY 12 - 02 Apr 2024: HA NOI – LAN HA BAY (B, L, D)

Located south of Ha Long Bay and east of Cat Ba Island, Lan Ha Bay spreads over more than 7,000ha, with some 400 islets scattered over the area. Considered as a seascape with majestic limestone mountains in many different shapes, hiding behind each shape is a lively folk legend, Lan Ha Bay has gradually gained popularity for any travelers who look for a pristine and less-crowded destination. This morning, depart for a 2.5- hour private journey to Tuan Chau Marina where you will get ready to take in a relaxing cruise to the magnificent Lan Ha Bay, every bit as beautiful as its famous neighbor of Halong, but still relatively undeveloped. Take some time to have a look around the vessel or watch the magical landscape go by and then enjoy a special lunch of fresh seafood. When lunch is finished, the cruise completes its entry to Lan Ha Bay. The area is surrounded by an extraordinary limestone karst landscape. Opt to kayak in the crystal clear waters of the bay and/ or swim. Then venture back to the main boat to cruise to the location where we dock overnight. Have time to enjoy a Vietnamese cooking demonstration, a great way to learn how to prepare delicious appetizers. Dine on a special dinner in the restaurant before spending the evening at leisure.

Note:

No tour guide escort on transfer and English speaking staff is available on cruise

Itinerary is different from each cruise and subject to weather condition

Overnight in Ha Long cruise.

DAY 13 - 03 Apr 2024: LAN HA BAY (B, L, D)

Early birds are welcome to attend sunrise Tai Chi on the upper deck—an excellent way to get your energy levels up for today's adventures. You will be fascinated by the exquisiteness in the early hours as you enjoy a coffee, tea. Choose to take in a relaxing ride on a local bike to explore or hike to a scenic village where you can see rice fields, fruit plantations, and experience local life. Walk around the village for an up-close view and be amazed by the stunning scenery of rice fields on the way. Lunch is served with a set menu on our day boat. Afterward, there will be free time for kayaking and swimming in a peaceful area situated in the middle of a narrow, rectangular area, with all four sides enclosed by vertical cliffs (if the weather permits). Return by tender to the main boat and witness one of the most brilliant sunsets you will ever see during happy hour. A special dinner will be served to offer outstanding food. In the evening, try your hand at some night squid fishing or relax in your cabin.

DAY 14 - 04 Apr 2024: LAN HA BAY – HA NOI – FLY TO DANANG (Brunch)

Wake up early to witness the sunrise over the bay with a cup of tea or coffee in hand on the sundeck. After, there will be an early and gentle Tai Chi demonstration. Enjoy breakfast in the fresh air of Lan Ha Bay while the boat continues cruising around the bay passing the most beautiful and quiet areas. Relax on the sundeck or in the dining room enjoying the bay scenery while approaching the wharf. The vehicle is ready awaiting your disembarkation at approximately 1030 for driving back to Ha Noi. Opt to make a stop on the way to a local village for stretching your legs or having a chance to witness the local life of the Northern countryside.

Transfer from cruise marina to the airport for flight to Danang.

Upon arrival at Da Nang Airport, after you finish all customs and immigration procedures, please head to the exit gate and look for your guide who will be waiting for you, holding a welcome signboard with your name on it. Then, you will be transferred to your hotel in town by a private vehicle.

Overnight in Da Nang

DAY 15 - 05 Apr 2024: Danang at leisure (B)

(Optional tour) Discover Ba Na Hill And Golden Bridge

Today, drive to **Ba Na Hill**, a scenic mountainous area with panoramic vistas reminiscent. Standing more than 1,400 meters (4,878 feet) above sea level, the temperature of this place is mostly cool year-round.

Arrive at Ba Na Hills cable car station, ride on a modern system of cable cars and Get a bird's-eye view of nature which is strikingly beautiful, while enjoying a feeling of flying in the blue sky among the clouds and wind. Experience the feeling of walking in the clouds when you walk on the **Golden Bridge** which seems to be supported by a pair of giant hands jutting out of the mountain.

Then, enjoy your leisure time on Ba Na Hills for further activities such as **European Architecture Villas, in-door game, French Wine Cellar, flower beds and pagodas.**

Notes:

- *Tour duration: Half day (07.30-13.00 or 13.00-17.30)*

Overnight in Da Nang

DAY 16 - 06 Apr 2024: Danang at leisure (B)

(Optional tour) Hoi An walking tour and boat trip

Known as a prosperous trading port between the 15th and 19th Century, the riverside town of Hoi An still retains many remnants of its glorious time as evident in the bustling market and abundance of souvenirs and tailor shops. What makes Hoi An is remarkable is that its Old Quarter has been beautifully preserved. The streets still lined with old tile-roofed shop houses, shady pagodas, and colorful communal halls that contribute to its status as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Today, enjoy a **guided walking tour around Hoi An Ancient Town**, which is recognized for its well-preserved architecture, pedestrian-only streets, and typical local cuisine. During this leisurely exploration on foot, observe some of the historic merchant and community houses, ancient pagodas, and traditional places of worship with influences from Chinese, Japanese and Vietnamese architecture. Make a stop at the iconic over **400-year-old Japanese Covered Bridge** first built by the Japanese community in 1590s as a way to reach the Chinese quarter across the water. Visit the **Assembly Hall** of the Chaozhou Chinese Congregation notice its gorgeous woodcarvings on the beams, walls, and altar while unraveling with your guide some untold stories about the Chinese community during their time in Hoi An. Continue strolling around **Hoi An's back street** and feel soft, clattering hum which is the sound of sewing machines. This little charming town is also home to hundreds of tailor shops and nobody can explain exactly when, how, or why it became sewing central. **Visit a tailor shop** where you can get some express made-to-order clothes.

Wind your way to the local pier and **board a local boat for a one-hour boat trip on the Thu Bon River** for close views of the fishing boats, country villages along the river before returning to your hotel.

Notes:

- *Tour duration: Half day (08.00-12.30 or 13.00-17.30)*
- *Walking distance: 2-3km, easy on the flat terrain*
- *The Hoi An entrance ticket is valid for entry to 5 sightseeing spots in Hoi An including merchant houses, the Japanese Covered Bridge, museums, pagodas and assembly halls for*

24 hours. It also provides entry into Hoi An Ancient Town for as long as you are in Hoi An. Please keep the entrance ticket with you at all times should you independently visit Hoi An later in the evening or on another day

Overnight in Da Nang.

DAY 17 - 07 Apr 2024: Danang at leisure (B)

(Optional tour) Visit Hoi An craft villages by boat

Situated on the maritime Silk Road, the thriving port of Hoi An attracted its fair share of skilled artisans from the 15th to 19th centuries. Some of these traditions have survived in small single-craft villages that surround present-day Hoi An. Meet with the guide at your hotel and transfer to the pier where you will embark the boat for **cruising to Thanh Ha Pottery Village**, famous for earthenware that was sold in many provinces throughout Central Vietnam. The bricks, tiles, and floor slabs for old buildings in Hoi An and the surrounding areas are made in Thanh village. You will have a chance to observe the process of producing pottery products such as vases, pots, and kettles, chat with the villagers, and try your hand to make handicrafts.

Return to your boat and enjoy a **30-minute cruise** up Thu Bon River heading to the **Kim Bong Carpentry Village** which was formed in the 15th Century by the immigrant from the North. Visit the riverside shipbuilding area where wooden fishing vessels are built by traditional technic. Wind your way to a carpentry workshop to see how the skillful craftsmen create stunning products such as furniture, religious statues...After the visit, cruise back to downtown Hoi An.

Notes:

- *Tour duration: Half day (08.00-12.00 or 13.00-17.00)*

Overnight in Da Nang

DAY 18 - 08 Apr 2024: Danang – Fly to Ho Chi Minh city (B)

Transfer from your hotel to airport for flight to Ho Chi Minh city (without guide).

Upon arrival at Tan Son Nhat Airport, after you finish all customs and immigration procedures, please head to the exit gate and look for your guide who will be waiting for you, holding a welcome signboard with your name on it. Then, you will be transferred to your hotel in town by a private vehicle.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh city

DAY 19 - 09 Apr 2024: Ho Chi Minh city at leisure (B)

(Optional tour) Cu Chi tunnels & Ho Chi Minh City Highlights Tour

Formerly known as "Saigon" before 1975, Ho Chi Minh City today is Vietnam's commercial centre that never sleeps. Although it's a dynamic metropolis undergoing dramatic change, the city still retains the strong connection to its past through historical sites and French colonial monuments.

This morning, depart Ho Chi Minh City for 1.5-hour drive northwest to the famous **Cu Chi Tunnels**, passing through urbanized areas and a typically lush southern Vietnamese countryside. Originally dug as a base to organize guerrilla-style actions against the French, the Cu Chi tunnels were expanded during the Indochina War to become an ingenious and incredible underground network to protect the Viet Cong guerrillas from the French air and ground sweeps. Tour the vast network of underground passageways to gain an insight into the tunnels' history, life in the tunnels as well as the tenacity and resourcefulness of the Vietnamese during combat. Drive back to the town after exploring the tunnel complex.

This afternoon, visit the **War Remnants Museum** which presents a partial yet vivid view of the American War through the Vietnamese's eyes as it contains fascinating remnants and photographs of the past including US armored vehicles, artillery pieces, bombs, and infantry weapons. (Please note that some of the displays are very graphic and sensitive).

Wind your way to one of the most significant historical sites of the city, the **Reunification Palace** which is former Residence of the Indochina Governor-General and later of the President of the Republic of Southern Vietnam until the down fall on April 30, 1975. Take a stroll around the Palace and admire the amazing work of its architecture while learning from your guide the untold stories connected to great changes in Ho Chi Minh City's history.

A short drive or walk away is one of Saigon's most historic landmarks, the **Notre Dame Cathedral**, a red brick edifice with twin spires, based on the original construction from Paris. Then head across the square to the **Central Post Office**, designed by the French architect, Gustav Eiffel, before he had risen to fame for the Eiffel Tower.

Opt to wander along with the many tantalizing shops of **Dong Khoi Street**, once known as Rue Catinat, the boulevard where the high society flocked and shopped in colonial times. Conclude your visit to the bustling Ben Thanh Market to enjoy shopping and discover your bargaining power and come away with unusual items that will always remind you of this exciting day.

Note:

- *Tour duration: full day (07.30-17.30)*
- *The Cu Chi Tunnels have been widened in places for western visitors, however they can still be dark, hot and claustrophobic inside so please bear this in mind if you do not like enclosed spaces. For those who choose to stay above the ground there are plenty of easily accessible rooms and excavated areas to visit*

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh city.

DAY 20 - 10 Apr 2024: Ho Chi Minh city at leisure (B)

(Optional tour) Insight to the rural life of Mekong Delta to Ben Tre

The Mekong Delta, “the rice bowl of Vietnam”, is a highly fertile plain with its myriad waterways, lush and green paddy fields, tropical fruit orchards, and fish farms. Rural life here remains in many ways similar to how it was lived far back in the past. Geographically featured as the gateway to the Delta, Ben Tre is an ideal gem for travelers who are seeking a glimpse of agrarian river life. This morning, **depart for a 2-hour drive from downtown Ho Chi Minh City to Ben Tre province.** Take in the lush surroundings of rice paddies and fruit farms alongside the highway as you leave behind the high-energy city. Arriving at the waterfront pier, **set off for a slow journey along the Mekong River on the charming Apricot boat**, a newly tradition-inspired river barge that features the combination of modernity and tastefully traditional riverboat style. Gain a glimpse at countryside scenery and river life while enjoying seasonal tropical fruits and local specialties. Shore excursions include the home of a tropical fruit farmer. Have a walk around his orchard and observe how the local farmers harvest the fruits using the traditional method.

Enjoy the opportunity to taste fresh coconuts and grapefruits while engaging in with local farmers for an overview of their daily farming tasks. Stop for a visit at the family-run business where you learn how the coconuts are processed and then enjoy country hospitality as you sip a cup of honey tea and taste the sweet flavor of coconut candy in a rustic yet cozy atmosphere.

Tour a hidden island by traditional tuk-tuk or bicycle, passing through sleeping village, local cottage industries, canals, and fruitful orchards. Locals will often friendly greet you with a hello or “xin chao” as you pass by. Relax while discovering more of the Delta from a small rowing sampan as you are paddled slowly through the maze of small canals covered by water coconut trees. **Cap off your memorable trip by a tasty lunch** with Mekong Delta specialties at the peaceful Apricot Riverside restaurant. After lunch, opt to relax in a hammock, enjoying the cool breeze from Mekong Delta before heading back to Ho Chi Minh City.

Notes:

- *Tour duration: Full day (08.00-17.00)*
- *You have the option of visiting the local library, which is housed in the elementary school and is freely accessible to children aged 6 to 11. Your contribution of English textbooks and other school supplies is greatly appreciated.*

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh city

DAY 21 - 11 Apr 2024: Ho Chi Minh city departure (B)

Transfer from your hotel to the airport (with guide)

--- END OF OUR SERVICES ---

OUR QUOTATION

22 MAR *PNH to SAI cambodia angkor air line 14:30

25 MAR SAI to HAN cambodia angkor air line 14:30

4 APR HAN to DAD vietjet air 17:25 → including 20kg baggage

8 April DAD to SGN flex flight airline 10:30 Vietnam Airlines

Optional tour

Service Name
(OT) Phnom Penh highlights
(OT) Visit Kampong Chhnang and Udong
(OT) The Angkor Essential (Ta Prohm-Angkor Thom-Angkor Wat)
(OT) Visit Phnom Kulen Waterfall
(OT) Ha Noi city highlights
(OT) Discover Ba Na Hill And Golden Bridge
(OT) Hoi An walking tour and boat trip
(OT) Visit Hoi An craft villages by boat
(OT) Cu Chi tunnels & Ho Chi Minh City Highlights Tour
(OT) Insight to the rural life of Mekong Delta to Ben Tre

Our selected hotel 5*

City	Hotel Information	Nights
Phnom Penh	PALACE GATE HOTEL & RESORT Room Category: Apsara Deluxe (King)	3
Siem Reap	BOREI ANGKOR RESORT & SPA Room Category: Deluxe	3
Ha noi	PERIDOT GRAND LUXURY BOUTIQUE HOTEL Room Category: Premier Deluxe	1
Sapa	PISTACHIO HOTEL SAPA 4* Room Category: Superior Valley View Room	2+ 1n train
Ha noi	PERIDOT GRAND LUXURY BOUTIQUE HOTEL Room Category: Premier Deluxe	1

Ha Long	AMBASSADOR CRUISE (46 CABINS) Room Category: Ambassador Deluxe	2
Da Nang	SANDY BEACH NON NUOC RESORT 4* Room Category: Premium Deluxe Ocean View	4
Ho Chi Minh city	FUSION ORIGINAL SAIGON CENTRE Room Category: Original Room	3

PACKAGE INCLUSION/EXCLUSION

Land Services

Inclusions

- Accommodation with daily breakfast
- Transfer services in a private AC vehicle
- Entrance fees; administration fee where applicable
- E-VISA /VOA to Vietnam single entry
- Sharing boat trip in Halong Bay
- Private trekking tour in Sapa
- Meals as listed in the program are pre-arranged at local restaurants based on Vietnamese set menu
- English speaking local guide in each city
- Bottled water on coach during transfer
- Government tax

Exclusions

- Airfares
- Vietnam visa stamp fee.
- Cambodia visa stamping fee
- Optional services/excursions
- Meals not clearly mentioned
- Drinks at meals and minibar in hotel room
- Insurance, tips for guides and drivers
- Surcharge for public holidays, compulsory gala dinner on Christmas or New Year Eves (if any)
- Personal expenses such as Bar, telephone & Laundry bills

Air fare note

- For individual booking, seats only be hold with the full name of passengers
- Airfares include of taxes, and are subject to change until final purchase
- Eco-standard class:
 - 01 piece of checked baggage + 01 piece of hand baggage
 - Ticket changes permitted with fee
 - Refundable with fee

Tips Suggestion

The following gratuity guideline is introduced solely for the convenience of our travelers. All tips below are quoted in U.S. dollars; tips can be converted and paid in local currency or in other popular currency.

Nevertheless, if you are not satisfied with the services you received, do not tip. Furthermore, please report any services and behaviors that you think not live up to standard to our office at your earliest convenience so we can make corrections promptly. It is crucial for us to maintain a high level of quality services.

- **USD 03-04/guest/day** for local (city) guide
- Normally, drivers expect to receive half of the guides

