

Vietnam & Cambodia: From Hanoi to Angkor

14 days / 13 nights · Private-group sample itinerary

Arrival in Hanoi

Arrive at Noi Bai International Airport, where a local representative will welcome the group and assist with the transfer into central Hanoi.

After checking in, the remainder of the day is intentionally left open for rest and recovery after the international journey.

Depending on the arrival time, guests may take a short independent walk near the hotel or enjoy a relaxed dinner.

Overnight: Hanoi

Hanoi: Political Memory, Education and the Old Quarter

Begin the morning in Ba Dinh, the political heart of modern Vietnam.

Visit the Ho Chi Minh historical complex, including the exterior or interior of the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum subject to opening conditions, the Presidential Palace grounds, Ho Chi Minh's stilt house and the One Pillar Pagoda.

Rather than presenting the area only through dates and official history, the visit considers the role Ho Chi Minh continues to occupy in Vietnam's national memory and public life.

Continue to the Temple of Literature, founded in the 11th century and closely associated with Vietnam's Confucian educational tradition. The visit provides an accessible introduction to the historic importance of scholarship, examinations and social advancement in Vietnamese society.

Lunch is served at KOTO, a social enterprise that provides hospitality training and employment pathways for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

After lunch, return to the hotel for a short rest.

In the mid-afternoon, explore the Old Quarter on foot. The walk focuses on a selected number of streets, trading traditions, communal spaces and the continuing tension between historic architecture, local commerce and tourism.

Conclude the day with a traditional water puppet performance.

The evening is free for dinner.

Overnight: Hanoi

Hanoi to Ha Long Bay

Depart Hanoi in the morning for the coast.

Board an overnight cruise and settle into the cabin as the vessel begins its journey through Ha Long Bay or a quieter neighbouring section of the wider bay system.

Lunch is served on board while the cruise passes limestone islands and sheltered waterways.

Afternoon activities vary according to the selected vessel and sailing route. These may include kayaking, a small-boat excursion, a cave visit or time on deck.

Return to the vessel for sunset, dinner and an evening on the bay.

The cruise is designed as a slower interlude after the walking and cycling experiences in Hanoi and Ninh Binh.

Overnight: Ha Long Bay cruise

Ha Long Bay to Central Vietnam and Hue

Begin the day with the quiet morning atmosphere of the bay. Guests may join an optional early activity before breakfast.

The cruise continues through the limestone landscape before returning to port in the late morning.

After disembarkation, transfer to the appropriate regional airport for the flight to Central Vietnam. Depending on the operating flight schedule, the arrival airport may be Hue or Da Nang.

Continue by private vehicle to Hue and check in.

No formal evening programme is scheduled. Guests may have a light dinner and rest in preparation for the following day's cycling and cultural programme.

Overnight: Hue

Kim Long: Garden Houses and the Living Culture of Hue

Spend the day exploring Kim Long, a historic residential area situated along the Perfume River.

Once closely associated with mandarins, royal relatives and influential families of the Nguyen period, Kim Long remains known for its garden houses, traditional architecture and long-established households.

Travel primarily by bicycle along flat roads and quiet lanes, with frequent stops throughout the day. Alternative transport can be arranged for guests who prefer not to cycle.

Visit several garden houses and meet members of local families whose histories are connected to the former imperial capital. Learn how architecture, family ancestry, food, landscape and traditional ideas of health are integrated into daily life.

The experience may include demonstrations of household crafts, garden produce, tea and traditional snacks.

Join a local cooking session and share a home-style Hue lunch in a garden-house setting.

The afternoon continues at a relaxed pace and may include herbal foot soaking, tea or seasonal local specialities before cycling back.

This is a full cultural day, but it is deliberately personal and residential in character. The formal monuments of imperial Hue are reserved for the following morning.

Overnight: Hue

The Imperial City and the Journey to Hoi An

Visit Hue's Imperial City, the political and ceremonial centre of the Nguyen dynasty.

Walk through the former royal complex while learning about court life, state rituals, architecture and the decline of imperial rule during the colonial and wartime periods.

The visit complements the previous day in Kim Long: one day examines how families connected to the court lived outside the Citadel, while the other explores the formal centre from which the dynasty governed.

After lunch, leave Hue for Hoi An.

Travel south through the coastal landscape, crossing the Hai Van area en route. Short photographic or comfort stops may be included, but the journey is not overloaded with additional attractions.

Arrive in Hoi An and check in.

The evening is free for an initial independent walk through the old town.

Overnight: Hoi An

Hoi An: Lanterns, Herbs, Cooking and River Life

Begin in or near the historic centre with a lantern-making workshop.

Under the guidance of a local craft instructor, guests learn about the basic structure and assembly of the colourful fabric lanterns now closely associated with Hoi An. The workshop is practical and informal, with each guest completing

a small lantern.

Continue by vehicle to Tra Que, a village known for its herb and vegetable gardens.

Walk through the cultivated fields and learn how local herbs and fresh ingredients are used in Central Vietnamese cooking. The farming visit is kept grounded and does not attempt to stage an artificial “farmer for a day” experience.

Join a cooking class using regional ingredients, followed by lunch featuring the dishes prepared during the session.

After lunch, travel to Cam Thanh and the Bay Mau coconut-palm area.

Board traditional round basket boats for a short journey through the waterways. The experience offers a change of pace after the cooking programme and introduces the coastal wetland environment surrounding Hoi An.

Return to the hotel or old town by mid-afternoon.

Allow several hours for rest, swimming, shopping or independent exploration.

In the evening, return to the illuminated old town. Walk along the river and release a small flower lantern on the water as a simple conclusion to the day.

Dinner is at leisure.

Overnight: Hoi An

Free Morning in Hoi An and Flight to Saigon

The morning is free.

Guests may return to the old town, visit local shops, relax at the hotel, arrange a spa treatment or spend time at the beach depending on the location of the property.

After check-out, transfer to Da Nang International Airport for the afternoon flight to Ho Chi Minh City.

Upon arrival, meet the local team and transfer to the hotel in central Saigon.

The evening is free for dinner and independent exploration.

Overnight: Ho Chi Minh City

From Market to Market: Understanding Saigon Through Food and Trade

Begin the morning with From Market to Market, a signature walking experience through central Saigon.

Rather than following a conventional landmark checklist, the walk examines how the city trades, eats and adapts.

Starting around one of central Saigon’s longstanding food and commercial areas, walk through older market streets, narrow trading lanes, food counters and neighbourhood spaces before continuing toward Ben Thanh Market.

Along the way, use selected food tastings, market routines and street-level observations to understand the different communities and economic layers that have shaped the city.

The experience considers both formal and informal commerce, the relationship between traditional markets and modern development, and the influence of Vietnamese, Chinese, Indian and European communities within central Saigon.

The total walking distance is modest, but the route is rich in street-level detail. Larger groups should be divided into smaller guided sections to preserve access and interaction within the markets and lanes.

The tour concludes around lunchtime.

The afternoon is free.

Guests may independently visit the Reunification Palace, walk along Nguyen Hue Boulevard, shop, enjoy a rooftop drink or return to the hotel.

Overnight: Ho Chi Minh City

Wartime Saigon and Cu Chi

Depart the city in the morning for Cu Chi.

Visit the tunnel area to understand how underground systems, rural communities and guerrilla forces operated during the war. The visit includes selected sections of the tunnel complex, but guests are not required to crawl through confined spaces.

The programme avoids the shooting range and focuses instead on the landscape, engineering, living conditions and military realities of the site.

Return to Saigon around midday.

Stop for lunch at Ph $\blacksquare$ Binh, a modest noodle restaurant that served as a clandestine meeting and coordination point during the Tet Offensive.

The restaurant allows the wartime story to shift from the rural tunnels of Cu Chi to the hidden networks operating within the city itself.

Continue to a preserved urban weapons bunker, where arms were once concealed beneath an ordinary residential building.

The final visit is the War Remnants Museum.

The museum presents the conflict primarily through the Vietnamese experience and contains graphic material relating to combat, civilian casualties and the long-term consequences of war. Guests are briefed before entering and may explore the exhibitions at their own pace.

Together, the day follows three connected levels of wartime history:

Return to the hotel in the late afternoon.

The evening is free.

Overnight: Ho Chi Minh City

Ho Chi Minh City to Siem Reap

Fly from Ho Chi Minh City to Siem Reap and transfer to the hotel.

After lunch and time to settle in, begin with a gentle introduction to Cambodia and the civilisation of Angkor. Depending on the confirmed flight schedule, visit the Angkor National Museum or join a guided orientation through central Siem Reap, providing context for the temples to be explored the following day.

This evening, enjoy dinner in Siem Reap. An optional performance by Phare, The Cambodian Circus, offers a lively introduction to contemporary Cambodian creativity.

Overnight: Siem Reap

The Temples of Angkor

Begin at Angkor Wat, the monumental temple complex created in the early twelfth century and later transformed into an enduring centre of Buddhist worship. Explore its galleries, bas-reliefs and architectural symbolism with time to understand Angkor as more than an archaeological monument.

Continue to Angkor Thom, the last great capital of the Khmer Empire. Enter through its monumental gateway and visit Bayon, known for its enigmatic stone faces and vivid depictions of both royal history and everyday life.

Return to the hotel for lunch and a rest during the hottest part of the day.

In the late afternoon, visit Ta Prohm, where immense tree roots envelop the remains of a monastic complex, creating one of Angkor's most evocative encounters between architecture and nature.

Overnight: Siem Reap

Banteay Srei and Cambodia Beyond Angkor

Travel through the countryside to Banteay Srei, a smaller temple celebrated for the exceptional detail of its pink sandstone carvings.

On the return journey, gain a glimpse of rural life and the contemporary communities surrounding Angkor. Depending on group interests and seasonal conditions, continue with either an exploration of Tonlé Sap and its water-based livelihoods or a visit focused on Cambodian crafts, social enterprise and the continuing legacy of war and recovery.

Return to Siem Reap for a farewell dinner.

Overnight: Siem Reap

Departure from Siem Reap

Transfer to Siem Reap–Angkor International Airport for onward departure.

End of journey