

Trip Details

Best of Vietnam & Cambodia

Experience the best of Vietnam and Cambodia on this 15-day trip packed with cultural discovery, picturesque scenery, ancient history and mouth-watering cuisines. Sail the serene waters of UNESCO World Heritage-listed Halong Bay. Explore the imperial cities, ancient wonders, and rich war history of Vietnam. Kick back and relax with two domestic flights through Vietnam to save on transit time. Cruise amongst the lush greenery and buzzy floating markets of the mighty Mekong River. Embrace the organised chaos in Cambodia's capital and learn of treasured Cambodian traditions including making silk and Khmer pottery. Marvel at the world's largest and most impressive religious complex – The Temples of Angkor Wat! This fast-paced adventure through Vietnam and Cambodia is filled with authentic, unique and unforgettable

Duration	15 Days	Group Size	13-35 People
Destination	Vietnam / Cambodia	Age Req.	18+
Start/Ends in	Hanoi / Siem Reap	Trip Theme	Classic, Discovery
Hotels	4 Star	Departs	All Year Round

Why You Will Love This Tour

- * Hit all the unmissable highlights of Vietnam and Cambodia throughout this 15 day adventure through lively cities, floating villages, lush countryside towns and ancient wonders of the world.
 - * Stay in carefully selected hotels with all breakfasts, 4 lunches and 1 dinner included. Plus, enjoy two included domestic flights to save on travel time in Vietnam.
 - * Get ready to pinch yourself as you stand amongst the world's largest temple complex – Angkor Wat. This UNESCO World Heritage-listed site is the prized heart and soul of Cambodia!
 - * Spend a day cruising along the lush green wetlands and floating villages of the Mekong Delta! Keep an eye out for some tasty local dishes sold by the smiley locals.
 - * Follow your local guide on an included city tour to the highlights of Hanoi, Hue, Ho Chi Minh, Phnom Penh and more.
 - * Learn of war history, historic dynasties, and captivating cultures as you explore small villages and ancient cities throughout northern Vietnam and central Cambodia.
- Shape your South East Asian adventure with unforgettable optional extras including Kayaking in Halong Bay, guided Hoi An tours on vintage Vespas, Vietnamese cooking classes, Cu Chi Tunnel tour, or visit the Gold Hand Bridge for epic panoramic views and photo opportunities!

Arrival Details

The group welcome meeting with you guide and other travellers is held around 18:30 at the hotel lobby on Day 1 of your tour, unless otherwise notified.

Meeting Point

Bonne Nuit Hotel– Hanoi

Address : 30A Cua Dong Street, Hoan Kiem Dist., Hanoi, Vietnam

Phone : +84-2437476420/22 **Emergency Number:** +44 (0) 208 099 75 36

Making Your Own Way to the Starting Point

The quickest way to get from Noi Bai International Airport (HAN) to Bonne Nuit Hotel is to taxi which costs 19\$ - 23 \$ and takes 25 min.

Finishing Point

The finishing point for this tour is:

Siem Reap Somadevi Angkor Hotel – Siem Reap

Address : Sivatha Blvd, Mondol II Village, Sangkat Svay Dangcum, Siem Reap Town, Kingdom of Cambodia

Phone :+855 081 967 666 **Emergency Number:** +44 (0) 208 099 75 36

Highlights

- * **Cham Museum:** Dedicated to this period and the Champa existence which began predominantly in the coastal area. Housing the largest exhibition of Cham sculpture in the world.
- * **Cu Chi Tunnel:** The Chu Chi Tunnels are part of a massive war museum in Ho Chi Minh. They offer a sneak-peek at the underground life of Vietnamese soldiers back in 1948.
- * **Dog Island:** Dog Island is close to the west of Dau Go Grotto and is one of 1969 islands in island complex, it is the symbol of peaceful sea and safety for sailing junks in the bay.
- * **Dong Ba Bustling Market:** The Dong Ba Market traces its provenance way back in Hue history. Historically, the market stood outside the Hue Citadel and was the largest commercial center.
- * **Flag Tower:** Flag tower is one of Hue monument complex. After being constructed under Emperor Gia Long's reign. The flag tower consists of two parts including tower and the flag pole.
- * **Ga Choi Island:** Ga Choi Island (Fighting Cock Island), which is no doubt one of the most unique and popular features that has appeared as symbol of Halong Bay.
- * **Golden Hand:** Known as the Golden Bridge, it stands 1,400 m above sea level above the Ba Na hills, offering majestic panoramic views of the surrounding countryside.
- * **Hanoi:** Known for its centuries-old architecture and a rich culture. At its heart is the chaotic Old Quarter, where the narrow streets are roughly arranged by trade.
- * **Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum:** Discover the life and legacy of Ho Chi Minh in a vast complex that constitutes the famous One Pillar Pagoda, the Vietnam leader's gardens and residence.
- * **Hoi An:** Ho An Ancient Town is an exceptionally well-preserved example of a South- East Asian trading port dating from the 15th to 19th century.
- * **Imperial City of Hue:** The ancient Hue was recognized by UNESCO as one of the World Heritage Sites. This city is the cradle of Vietnamese culture and used to be the national capital.
- * **Marble mountain:** The Marble Mountains are a cluster of five hills made from limestone and marble in Da Nang. It's also a well-known pilgrimage site with peaks, caves, tunnels and temples.
- * **Ngoc Son Temple:** The temple is dedicated to General Tran Hung Dao (who defeated the Mongols in the 13th century), La To (patron saint of physicians) and the scholar Van Xuong.
- * **One Pillar Pagoda:** Built of wood on a single stone pillar, the pagoda is designed to resemble a lotus blossom, the symbol of purity, rising out of a sea of sorrow.
- * **Royal Tombs of Khai Dinh:** The monument is a synthesis of Vietnamese and European elements. Most of the tomb's grandiose exterior is covered in darkened weathered concrete.

- * **Temple of Literature (Van Mieu):** Having gone through several destruction and restorations, the Temple of Literature still retains its original features. Signifying a hallmark of education in ancient Vietnam and its great value to the Vietnamese people.
- * **Thien Mu Pagoda:** Thien Mu Pagoda (namely Heaven Fairy Lady Pagoda), also known as Linh Mu Pagoda, is one of the most fascinating and ancient pagoda in Hue city.
- * **War Remnants Museum:** This interesting and well-curated museum is a must-do for ant visitor to Saigon given the impact of the American War, as it is known in Vietnam.
- * **Angkor Wat:** Angkor Wat is an enormous Buddhist temple complex located in northern Cambodia. It was originally built in the first half of the 12th century as a Hindu temple.
- * **Mekong Delta:** Network of distributaries in south Vietnam, between Ho Chi Minh City and Cambodia. The river itself starts in the Himalayas and reach to Cambodia.
- * **Phnom Banan:** The 11th century Angkorian ruin is the best preserved of the Khmer temples around Battambang. As you will see the distinctive five towers pointing skyward.
- * **Phnom Udong:** Located in Psar Dek and Phnom Bat communes, Ponhea Leu district, about 41km north of Phnom Penh. The city drops behind while fishing villages and rice paddies.
- * **Siem Reap:** Siem Reap province is located in northwest Cambodia. It is the major tourist hub in Cambodia, as it is the closest city to the world famous temples of Angkor.
- * **Silver Pagoda:** Located on the South side of the architectural Royal Palace complex, the Silver Pagoda as well as Wat Preah Keo Morakat is the most beautiful and popular pagoda.
- * **South Gate of Angkor Thom:** The most famous city gate and a kind of emblem. Every visitor of Angkor will see it, as the only road from the Angkor Wat to the second- most popular destination.
- * **Terrace of the Elephants:** The Terrace of the Elephants is one of the most visited sites in the Angkor Park. It is a 2.5m tall, 300m long platform and used by King Jayavarman VII.

Itinerary

Please note that the itinerary may be subject to small changes depending on the conditions during the tour. Alternative accommodation of similar standards may be used depending on the group size and hotel availability.

Day 1: Hanoi

Welcome to Vietnam! Meet your guide and new tour mates in the hotel lobby at 6.00pm for an informal welcome meeting. Afterwards, get amongst the hustle of Hanoi for an optional tour group dinner or explore the night markets and busy streets as they come to life after dark!

- **Accommodation**

Bonne Nuit Hotel – 4 Star

- **Included Activities**

Welcome Meeting

- **Optional Activities**

Group Dinner

Day 2: Hanoi City Tour

Enjoy a full day in Hanoi to explore the streets swarmed with buzzing motorbikes, delicate scents, and delicious street food.

Be sure to try a traditional Vietnamese coffee and wander the Old Quarter for an epic fusion of French, Chinese, and Vietnamese architecture. Then, meet up with the tour group at 1.00pm for a half-day guided city tour! You'll visit President Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum, residence, and One Pillar Pagoda. Then, visit the breath-taking Temple of Literature and surrounding gardens, built as a university in 1080, and dedicated to Confucious. Finish the guided city tour with a walk around the famous Hoan Kiem Lake to take in the peace and quiet of Ngoc Son Temple, a pagoda sitting on a small island in the center of the lake! Wrap up your last night in Hanoi exploring the streets or join an optional Hanoi street food by night walking tour.

- **Accommodation**

Bonne Nuit Hotel – 4 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

- **Included Activities**

Hanoi City Tour

- **Optional Activities**

Hanoi street food by night (walking tour) – 25 USD

- **Entrance Fees**

President Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum and residence – 4 USD

Temple of Literature – 1.50 USD - Ngoc Son Temple – 1.50 USD

Day 3: Hanoi, Halong Bay Cruise

Today you'll farewell the capital and head towards the dreamy, UNESCO World Heritage-listed region of Halong Bay! On the way, you'll pass lush paddy fields by the Red River Delta before arriving at Tuan Chau wharf by midday. Then it's all aboard a traditional Junk Boat for the true Halong Bay experience. Kick back and soak in the serenity on board as you drift past the abundance of limestone islands with lunch served at 1.00pm. In the afternoon, stop to visit some of the islands, explore the intricate cave systems on foot, or join the optional Kayaking activity. Then it's back on board to savor sunset moments over the picturesque backdrop before dinner is served at 7.00 pm. Spend the evening relaxing on board, chatting at the bar, or trying your luck at squid fishing off the Junk Boat.

- **Accommodation**

Traditional Junk Boat

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

- **Included Activities**

Halong Bay Cruise

- **Optional Activities**

Kayaking – 10 USD

Day 4: Halong Bay, Flight to Danang, Hoi An

Morning views don't get much better than this! Coffee and tea will be served from 7.00am, but take it slow as you enjoy the leisurely vibes from the Junk Boat deck. Snap some final pics of the dreamy islands of Halong Bay, including Dinh Huong Island, Ga Choi Island and Sail Island. Check out is at 9.00am and Brunch will be served by 9.30am as you cruise back to the pier and say farewell to Halong Bay and your incredible Junk Boat Crew! This afternoon we'll make our way to Danang via domestic flight, then transfer to our hotel in Hoi An – one of Vietnam's most beautiful cities!

- **Accommodation**

Vinh Hung Riverside Resort – 4 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast, Lunch

- **Included Activities**

Halong Bay Cruise

Day 5: Hoi An

Good morning from Hoi An! In centuries gone by, Hoi An was once a bustling port for a myriad of various traders. Today, it is a delightful riverside town with tranquillity and charm that attracts visitors far and wide. Get your bearings with a guided tour through the Old Quarter and fall in love with the Japanese Covered Bridge, visit a historic trader's home, check out the French Colonial architecture and Chinese Assembly Hall. In the afternoon enjoy free time to visit one of Vietnam's famous tailors for custom-made clothing or hire a bicycle and head to An Bang beach for seaside vibes and fresh seafood. If you're feeling a bit more adventurous, join an optional city and street food tour on Vespa, take a guided countryside bike tour or put your cooking skills to the test with a Vietnamese cooking class!

- **Accommodation**

Vinh Hung Riverside Resort – 4 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

- **Included Activities**

Hoi An Walking Tour

Day 6: Hoi An, Marble Mountain, Golden Hand Bridge, Hue

Free time in the morning to catch some final sights in Hoi An, pick up your tailor-made clothing or wander the boutique stores. In the afternoon, travel from Hoi An to visit the Marble Mountains and Cham Museum. Don't miss out on the optional visit to the Golden Hand Bridge. Standing 1,400m above sea level the gold-coloured footbridge held aloft by two giant stone hands offers majestic panoramic views over the surrounding countryside. Then, hit the road and take in the scenic views of Hai Van Pass en route to Hue. There'll be free time in the afternoon to explore the beautifully decorated pavilions and lotus flower ponds at your own pace. We recommend hopping on a Cyclo ride to see the city from a new and exciting angle in

- **Accommodation**

Muong Thanh Luxury Hotel – 4 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

- **Included Activities**

Golden Hand Bridge tour – 60 USD

Roundtrip cable car & private transfer – 35 USD

- **Entrance Fees**

Marble Mountain – 2 USD

Cham Museum – 2 USD

Day 7: Hue City Tour, Flight to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)

Although many of the finest buildings of Hue (pronounced 'hway') were devastatingly destroyed during the American War, the historic UNESCO World Heritage-listed city still resonates with the glories of imperial Vietnam. Today we'll spend a full day exploring Hue on a guided city tour from 8.00am.

You'll visit the Old Imperial City, Flag Tower, Thien Mu Pagoda, Dong Ba market and Royal Tombs of Khai Dinh. Have your camera ready for some of the most beautiful architecture you'll see in all of Vietnam! In the afternoon, take a domestic flight to Ho Chi Minh and rest up for a big day to come.

- **Accommodation**

Alagon Saigon Hotel – 4 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast, Lunch

- **Included Activities**

Hue City Tour

- **Entrance Fees**

Imperial Citadel – 9 USD

Royal Tombs of Khai Dinh – 7 USD

Day 8: Ho Chi Minh City Tour

Kick-start your time in Ho Chi Minh city with a guided city pickup at the hotel for half day city tour through the highlights of the exhilarating city. Visit the historic Reunification Palace and War Remnants Museum, followed by the architectural treats of French colonial Notre Dame Cathedral and the iconic Post Office. Take an optional tour to the world-famous Cu Chi Tunnels and learn stories of the Vietnamese who dug these tunnels and started a new life underground, to escape the war. Then, end your day at the Ben Thanh Market and try some traditional Bánh mì, Pho and Bia hơi.

- **Accommodation**

Alagon Saigon Hotel – 4 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

- **Included Activities**

Ho Chi Minh City Tour

- **Optional Activities**

Cu Chi Tunnel tour – 25 USD

Saigon Vespa and street food tour at night – 60 USD

- **Entrance Fees**

Reunification palace entry – 2 USD

War Remnants Museum – 2 USD

Day 9: Ho Chi Minh City, Mekong Delta, Can Tho

Rise and Shine, it's time to farewell Ho Chi Minh city and head towards the mighty Mekong River! Snag a window seat and soak in the views on a 2-hour drive to Cai Be. On the way, you'll stop in at South-Vietnam's first-ever chocolate factory and learn how to make the local sweet (and taste test, of course!). On arrival at Cai Be, hop on board the wooden boat and kick back as you cruise past lush green islands of the mighty Mekong. Enjoy lunch on board. Cruise past small river-side towns like Vinh Long and learn of the typical rural life on the Mekong. Your day cruising will end in Can Tho with free time to explore the buzzing town, lively waterfront, and quaint backstreets!

- **Accommodation**

West Hotel – 4 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast, Lunch

- **Included Activities**

Chocolate Factory Visit
Mekong River Boat Ride

Day 10: Can Tho, Chau Doc

No place gives a better insight into life on the river than the floating markets in Cai Rang. After filling up on breakfast at your hotel, take a boat ride 6km from Can Tho to visit the fascinating markets, where hundreds of wooden rowboats trade everything from rice and clothing to exotic fruits on the river. Wander around the markets by foot and visit the nearby Orchard Garden. Then, continue on to Chau Doc for a boat tour of the Tra Su Sanctuary – home to an array of tropical birds and splendid canals deep in the forest of the Mekong. Finish up your day in Chau Doc town and rest up before we cross the border for Cambodia bright and early tomorrow morning!

- **Accommodation**

Chau Doc Victoria Nui Sam Lodge

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

- **Included Activities**

Cai Rang Floating Market
Tra Su Sanctuary Boat Ride

- **Entrance Fees**

Tra Su Sanctuary – 10 USD

Day 11: Chau Doc, Phnom Penh

Goodbye Vietnam, Hello Cambodia! Set an early alarm for your 7.00am transfer via public speed boat to Cambodia's capital city, Phnom Penh. Rest up on the way and arrive in Phnom Penh by 1.00pm with plenty of time to explore the fascinating city on a guided city tour in the afternoon. First up, one of the most popular attractions in the city – the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda complex! Built in 1866 by the Predecessors of King Norodom, the palace is amongst the most impressive Khmer-style designs in Cambodia. Then, visit the National Museum, the Independence Monument, and Wat Phnom Temple – where you'll score some epic views over the city!

- **Accommodation**

Phnom Penh Frangipani Royal Palace Hotel – 4 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

- **Included Activities**

Phnom Penh City Tour

- **Entrance Fees**

Royal Palace Entry – 10 USD
National Museum – 10 USD
Wat Phnom – 1 USD

Day 12: Phnom Penh, Battambang

Today we're off to Battambang, but first visit the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum in Phnom Penh to learn about a tragic period. Delve further into history as we continue to the ancient Cambodian Capital of the Khmer Empire – Phnom Udong! Here you'll find two large hills with incredible views across the countryside. Atop the twin humps stands several impressive stupas that survived bombing from both the Americans and

during Cambodia's recent wars. After soaking in the views, continue on to Kompong Chhnang for a stop at a local pottery village. This village is famous for producing traditional Khmer pottery, a craft passed down through generations for over 1,500 years! As night falls over South-East Asia, we'll head towards the Phnom Sampeau Mountains to witness thousands of nocturnal bats take flight through the caves. It's something quite spectacular to sit at the foot of Battambang's Phnom Sampeou caves as the sun sinks into the horizon and a stream of thousands of bats parade through the caves and zoom across the night sky. Be sure to bring your camera!

- **Accommodation**

Battambang Classy Hotel – 4 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

- **Entrance Fees**

Tuol Sleng Museum – 5 USD

Phnom Udong – 3 USD

Phnom Sampeu Mountain – 5 USD

Day 13: Battambang, Siem Reap

Ever ridden on a Bamboo Train before? All aboard as we take an 8km journey through the scenic countryside and rice fields of Battambang. This Bamboo Train was set up by villagers to facilitate the transportation of goods and people. It's basic but effective with a single bamboo platform, 4 wheels, and a small motor. Then, get your hiking shoes on and camera ready for a visit to the 11th-century Angkorian temple of Phnom Banan. The 350+ step climb is well worth it, with peaceful views across the countryside waiting at the top! Soak up these picture-perfect scenes. In the afternoon, we'll leave Battambang and drive towards Siem Reap. Stopping at Puok District to visit the National Silk Centre, a fascinating way to learn about Cambodian silk. Here we will spend some time learning about the process of creating silk, harvesting mulberry, and the life cycle of the silkworm. Tonight we recommend a full night's rest, before the long-awaited visit to the world-famous Angkor Wat temples tomorrow!

- **Accommodation**

Siem Reap Somadevi Angkor Hotel – 5 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

- **Entrance Fees**

Bamboo Train – 5 USD

Phnom Penh Banon Temple – 3 USD

Day 14 : Siem Reap, Angkor Wat

Prepare for one awe-inspiring day at the world's largest temple complex – Angkor Wat! First up you'll visit Angkor Thom's South Gate to see the intricate Bayon Temple. This temple is famous for its Elephant Terraces and 54 towers decorated with over 200 enormous smiling faces of Avalokiteshvara. Then, we'll return to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed temple of Angkor Wat to marvel at the prized heart and soul of Cambodia. Snap some beautiful pictures of the temple as it reflects across its impressive moat. Then, wander through the outer gallery walls as your local guide narrates stories from Hindu mythology. Tonight we'll head out in Siem Reap to witness some of Cambodia's most talented performers at the Phare Circus! This uniquely modern circus provides young students and graduate performers the opportunity to hone their skills and earn a decent wage doing what they love!

- **Accommodation**

Siem Reap Somadevi Angkor Hotel – 5 Star

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

- **Included Activities**

Angkor Thom & Angkor Wat Visit

- **Entrance Fees**

Angkor Wat – 37 USD for 1 day visit / 65 USD for 3 day visit

Phnom Penh Banon Temple – 3 USD

Day 15 : Siem Reap

Just like that, it's over! Our trip will end in Siem Reap after we say our goodbyes to strangers who quickly became friends. Enjoy a final breakfast together before hotel check-out at 11.00am.

- **Meals Included**

Breakfast

Inclusions & Exclusions

Accommodation: 5 and 4 Star hotels, Lodge, Traditional Junk

Airport Transfer: Airport transfers for the included domestic flights on the tour.

Meals: 14 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 1 Dinner

Transportation: A/C coach or mini-bus, domestic flights, speedy boat from Chau Doc to Phnom Penh

Guide: Services of experienced Travel Talk local guides licenced by the Ministry of Tourism

Sightseeing: Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, Temple of Literature, Ngoc Son Temple, Halong Bay
Hoia An ancient town, Marble Mountain, Cham Museum, Imperial Citadel, Flag Tower, Royal Tombs of Khai Dinh, Reunification Palace, War Remnants Museum, Mekong River
Cai Rang Floating Market, Tra Su Sanctuary, Royal Palace, National Museum, Wat Phnom, Tuol Sleng Museum, Phnom Udong, Phnom Sampeu Mountain, Phnom Penh Banon Temple, Angkor Thom & Angkor Wat

What is NOT included in the tour price?

- Any flights not mentioned above
- Travel insurance
- Meals not stated above
- Items of a personal nature
- Tips & gestures
- Entrance fees to the sights and museums
- Optional activities
- Other services not stated in the itinerary

Hotels & Accommodation

Solo travellers will be roomed with another solo traveller of the same gender in a twin or triple room, or can upgrade to a solo room by paying the single supplement. You may choose the solo room option when booking online or contact us to arrange a private room. Your tour leader will allocate rooms upon arrival at the starting hotel in accordance with the rooming lists, last minute changes may not be guaranteed.

BONNE NUIT HOTEL-HANOI-4 STAR

Bonne Nuit Hotel offers luxurious and modern accommodation in Hanoi's Old Town and a short 15- minute walk from Hanoi Old City Gate and Hoan Kiem Lake.

TRADITIONAL JUNK-HALONG BAY-SUPERIOR JUNK

Sleep on board a traditional-style boat and set sail through hundreds of limestone islands that rise dramatically from the emerald waters of the bay.

VINH HUNG RIVERSIDE-HOIAN-4 STAR

Located on the bank of the romantic Thu Bon River, Vinh Hung Riverside Resort is a short walk from Hoi An's ancient town and offers elegant rooms with river view.

MUONG THANH HOTEL- HUE- 4 STAR

Muong Thanh Hotels features a panoramic picture of Hue City, Perfume River, Trang Tien bridge and Hue citadel. This hotel has a Spa center.

ALAGON HOTEL- SAIGON- 4 STAR

Enjoying a prime location in the heart of the vibrant Ho Chi Minh City's District 1, Alagon Hotel&Spa features modern rooms and rooftop pool.

VICTORIA NUI SAM LODGE-CHAU DOC-SUPERIOR LODGE

Located in Sam Mountain near Ba Chua Su Temple, Victoria Nui Sam Lodge is a perfect starting point from which to explore Chau Doc. The mountain lodge has an outdoor swimming pool.

WEST HOTEL-CAN THO-4 STAR

Located in Can Tho, West Hotel offers elegant and stylish accommodations with spectacular pool views. The hotel is just 100 yards from Ninh Kieu Pier and 350 yards from Can Tho Museum.

CLASSY HOTEL- BATTAMBURG-4 STAR

Set across the river from Downtown, this relaxed hotel features an outdoor swimming pool, an in-house restaurant, and sensational views over the Sangker River.

FRANGIPANI ROYAL PALACE-PHNOM PENH-4 STAR

The Frangipani Royal Hotel is situated in the heart of Phnom Penh, features a rooftop saltwater pool, along the edge of the city's art district and just a short walk from the lively riverfront.

SOMADEVI ANGKOR HOTEL- SIEM REAP- 5 STAR

With the abundance of tropical plants lining its centre and its location in the heart of Siem Reap, Somadevi Angkor Hotel reflects an oasis-like feel. The hotel offers an excellent on-site café.

Budgeting

Please note that entrance fees to sights and optional activities are not included in the tour price. Optional activities are not operated by Travel Talk and may require a certain number of attendees to run.

Optional Activities

Hanoi street food by night (walking tour)	25 USD
Kayaking	10 USD
City tour and street food by Vintage Vespa	60 USD
Countryside tour by bike	20 USD
Cooking class	30 USD
Golden Hand Bridge tour	60 USD
Roundtrip cable car & private transfer	35 USD
Cu Chi Tunnel tour	25 USD
Saigon Vespa and street food tour at night	60 USD

Entrance Fees

Hanoi

President Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum	4 USD
Temple of Literature	1,5 USD
Ngoc Son Temple	1,5 USD

Hoi An

Hoi An ancient town	8 USD
Marble Mountain	2 USD
Cham Museum	2 USD

Hue City (Saigon)

Imperial Citadel	9 USD
Royal Tombs of Khai Dinh	7 USD

Ho Chi Minh City

Reunification Palace	2 USD
War Remnants Museum	2 USD

Chau Doc

Tra Su Sanctuary	10 USD
Royal Palace Entry	10 USD
National Museum	10 USD
Wat Phnom	1 USD

Battambang

Tuol Sleng Museum	5 USD
Phnom Udong	3 USD
Phnom Sampeu Mountain	5 USD
Bamboo Train	5 USD
Phnom Penh Banon Temple	3 USD

Siem Reap

Angkor Wat	37 USD
Phare Circus (Section B)	25 USD

Essential Information: Vietnam & Cambodia

Passport & Visas

Visas to enter **Vietnam** are compulsory for most tourists including travellers from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States. An eVisa is available to many nationalities. Processing times and fees vary per application location, nationality and travelling dates. eVisas are typically issued for a maximum of 30 days, single entry, and cost 25 USD.

Further to this, 24 nationalities are not required a visa for touristic visits up to 15 days, which include United Kingdom and EU passport holders.

Travel Talk strongly recommends travellers obtain a tourist visa, where applicable, before arriving in Vietnam. For more information on Vietnam eVisas, please visit <https://evisa.xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn/>.

Passport validity entry requirements: Travellers entering Vietnam must also carry a passport or travel document with a minimum of 6 months validity remaining.

Visas to enter **Cambodia** are compulsory for most tourists including travellers from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom. An eVisa is available to most nationalities which is valid for three months from the date of issue and allows tourists to visit for a total of 30 consecutive days. Travel Talk strongly recommends travellers obtain a tourist visa, where applicable, before arriving in Cambodia. For information on how to obtain a Cambodian tourist visa please visit <https://www.evisa.gov.kh/>.

This information is provided as a guidance, we strongly advise that you check with the consulate or embassy as this information can change at any time and with little notice. It is your responsibility to make sure that all the required travel documents are ready when travelling.

Travel Advice

We are closely monitoring the latest travel updates to Vietnam & Cambodia and follow the advice of the UK Foreign Office. For the latest travel advice from the UK Foreign Office, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/vietnam> <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/cambodia>

We recommend all travellers to check their Government National Travel Advisory prior to their departure:

- Australia - <https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/>
- Canada - <https://travel.gc.ca/>
- New Zealand - <https://www.safetravel.govt.nz/>
- USA - <https://travel.state.gov/>

Travel Insurance

All passengers travelling with Travel Talk are required to have personal travel insurance before participating in any of our tours. Your guide will collect your travel insurance details on the first day of your trip. It is your responsibility to make sure you have an adequate and suitable travel insurance for you in place, you may read more at <https://www.traveltalktours.com/travel-insurance>

Health & Safety

The health and safety of our passengers, staff and communities visited is of utmost priority. As we monitor and comply with the official advice from the UK Foreign Office, as well as World Health Organization and government authorities regularly, we have implemented several policies and precautions on our tours for your wellbeing. You may find our Safe Travels Protocols at <https://www.traveltalktours.com/safe-travels>



Travel Talk Adventures has received the Safe Travels stamp by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), which allows travellers to recognise companies around the world that have adopted health and hygiene global standardised protocols – so consumers can experience ‘Safe Travels’.

Please make sure to regularly check your Government’s travel advice before travelling and be well-informed of any requirements. Your tour guide will also notify you of the regulations and protocols to follow throughout your trip with us. Please note that if any traveller is unable to complete the itinerary or possess a potential risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group, we reserve the right to remove them from all or part of a trip.

Please consult with your doctor for the latest medical travel information and any vaccinations you may need. We recommend that you bring any personal medical requirements and medications with you as these may be difficult to obtain while on tour.

Weather

The weather across **Vietnam** varies significantly from North to South, making it a year-round destination for avid travellers. In Northern Vietnam, the typically hot and humid summer months fall between May and August. Meanwhile, central Vietnam experiences extended summers from January until August and South Vietnam is known for its year-round pleasant temperatures. March to May (Spring) and September to November (Autumn) are considered the best months to visit Vietnam in its entirety due to minimal rainfall and moderate temperatures. If visiting Halong Bay and Sapa in Vietnam's north - consider travelling between Spring and Autumn to ensure the most picturesque weather conditions with minimal rainfall and

Cambodia is known for its tropical monsoon climate with two distinct seasons: the rainy season from May to early November and the dry season from late November to April. During the rainy season, Cambodia experiences 75% of its annual rainfall with warm temperatures and lush, green countryside waiting to be explored! The dry season from November to April appears more popular amongst visiting travellers, with clearer skies and sunshine. Temperatures in Cambodia remain warm and consistent across the year making it a perfect place to travel any month. However, if travelling throughout the North during the winter months (December to March), be sure to pack extra layers as temperatures can become cold during the evenings.

Months	Hanoi		Sapa		Ho Chi Minh		Phnom Penh		Siem Reap	
	C°	F	C°	F	C°	F	C°	F	C°	F
January	17	63	10	50	27	81	26	79	26	79
February	17	63	11	52	28	82	27	81	27	81
March	21	69	15	59	29	84	29	83	29	83
April	24	74	17	63	30	86	31	87	31	87
May	28	82	20	68	30	86	30	86	30	86
June	29	83	21	70	29	83	29	83	29	83
July	29	84	21	70	28	82	28	82	28	82
August	29	84	21	70	29	83	29	84	29	84
September	28	82	20	68	28	82	28	82	28	82
October	25	77	17	63	28	82	27	81	27	81
November	22	71	14	57	27	81	27	80	27	80
December	18	64	12	54	27	80	26	79	26	79

Distances

Driving

Hanoi to Sapa: 315km, 5 hr

Hanoi to Halong Bay: 170km, 2 hr 5 min

Danang to Hoi An: 42km, 1 hr 5 min

Hoi An to Hue: 125km, 2 hr 45 min

Hue to Danang: 93 km, 2 hr

Ho Chi Minh to Can Tho: 170km, 3 hr 30 min

Can Tho to Phnom Penh: 220 km, 5 hr 20 min

Phnom Penh to Battambang: 280 km, 6 hr 10 min

Battambang to Siem Reap: 160 km, 3 hr 15 min

Siem Reap to Angkor Wat: 6 km, 15 min

Flights

Hanoi to Danang: 1 hr 20 min

Danang to Ho Chi Minh: 1 hr 25 min

Money Matters

The official currency of **Vietnam** is the Vietnamese Dong (VND). The numerous denominations of VND can be confusing for foreigners, so it is worth noting that 25,000 VND converts to approximately 1 USD. Credit and debit cards are accepted at major hotels and tourist attractions across Vietnam but are not accepted for small payments such as snacks. Travel Talk recommends carrying VND cash to cover daily expenses. ATMs are quite common across Vietnam and US dollars can also be used to pay for hotels, restaurants, and some other services in major cities.

The official currency of **Cambodia** is the Khmer Riel (KHR) and 1 USD converts to approximately 4,000KHR. Credit and debit cards are accepted at ATMs across Cambodia. There is no need to dispense large quantities of KHR prior to arrival in Cambodia. Most travellers never require more than 20USD worth of Cambodian riel on them at any one time. USD cash is also widely accepted across Cambodia; however change is often given in KHR. Many businesses will not accept notes larger than 20USD, so we recommend carrying small denominations of both KHR and USD. Credit and Debit cards can also be used to pay for accommodation or more expensive services in Cambodia's major cities, however cash remains king. We recommend you do not exchange bulk sums of money at the airport, as the exchange rates are usually more favourable in the major cities. Your tour leader will be happy to help if you need any assistance.

Please remember that everyone has different spending habits, some prefer to spend more on souvenirs, some on experiences and others on a night out! Make sure to budget your trip to your spending habits for shopping, drinking, and tipping.

Tipping is not customary in Vietnam and Cambodia but is very much appreciated, a small tip can equate to a large portion of daily wage for service staff. Rounding your bill to the nearest 1 USD or VND equivalent is a small gesture that is greatly appreciated across the nation for good service. You may also consider tipping your leader and driver for outstanding service at the end of your trip. The amount is entirely a personal

Eating & Drinking

Vietnamese cuisine is distinct and unforgettable, made famous for its use of tangy herbs and zesty flavours. Traditionally, Vietnamese cuisine is boiled and steamed, rather than stir-fried like Thai and Chinese. Inexpensive food markets, street vendors and casual restaurants line almost every corner of Vietnam's major cities and small towns - making it extremely easy to find these popular meals and more.

Goi Cuon: Translucent spring rolls packed with greens, coriander and minced pork or shrimp. These traditional spring rolls are served as a starter in most Vietnamese restaurants.

Banh Mi: Known as Vietnam's most popular street food, Banh Mi is a unique French-Vietnamese sandwich that consists of a toasted baguette with pickled vegetables, pate, butter, soy sauce, cilantro and chillies.

Pho: Considered Vietnam's signature dish, Pho is comprised of rice noodles in a flavourful soup with meat and various greens, plus a side of nuoc cham, or chilli sauce. A basic bowl is often topped with bean sprouts, lime wedges, fresh herbs, mint, cilantro and onions. The dish is commonly eaten at breakfast by the locals.

Banh Xeo: Like a crepe or pancake, Banh Xeo is made of rice flour, coconut milk and turmeric. The pancake batter is then filled with vermicelli noodles, chicken, pork or beef slices, shrimps, sliced onions, beansprouts, and mushrooms. The sizzling pancake is sold at local food markets and is dipped in peanut sauce.

Bun Cha: Traditional to Hanoi, Bun Cha consists of grilled pork belly, vermicelli noodles, salad and herbs with a side of chilli fish sauce.

Egg Coffee: Unique to Hanoi, Egg coffee is a sweet and delicious beverage made from a coffee base with frothy egg yolk and condensed milk.

Com Tam: Commonly referred to as Broken Rice, Com Tam is a simple but tasty dish of grilled meat, fried egg, salad and pickles. The broken rice element is actually broken grains of rice left over from traditional drying and milling processes. It's eaten by locals at any time of the day and is a very inexpensive meal costing approximately 1USD.

Vietnam's national drink of choice is green tea, which is the accompaniment to every social gathering. Vietnamese coffee is also extremely popular amongst travellers, made from condensed milk and drip coffee. At the harder end of the spectrum, you will find rice wine! In Northern Vietnam amongst the farming regions, most rice wines are made in small home distilleries using sticky rice.

Cambodian cuisine is modest and comforting with a unique twist. Rice and freshwater fish are staples and a traditional Cambodian meal almost always includes a samlor (traditional soup).

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Fish Amok: Known as Cambodia's esteemed signature dish, Fish Amok is a curry featuring diced fillets of freshwater fish baked in a creamy coconut, ginger, lemon grass and turmeric sauce. The dish is traditionally cooked by steaming it in a banana leaf shaped bowl, within which it is then served.

Kuy Teav: This popular street food dish is a noodle soup made from pork or beef bones and rice vermicelli. The flavoursome broth is topped with fried shallots, garlic, bean sprouts, and aromatic herbs.

Beef Loc Lac: Another signature dish in Cambodia, beef loc lac is stir-fried strips of beef served atop a bed of lettuce, sliced tomatoes, cucumber, and rings of raw onions. The dish is often topped with a fried egg with a dipping sauce of lime juice and pepper.

Green Mango Salad: Cambodian salads are renowned for being crunchy and zesty. The Green Mango salad features fresh chilli, fish sauce, sliced green mango, sliced tomatoes and shallots, pickled cucumber, onion, peppers and fresh basil or mint.

Tarantula: Believe it or not, snacking on a spide is another Cambodian delicacy that locals relish! Deep-fried and then salted, the tarantula is served at local markets after being caught by hand in the jungle. If you are feeling game, you can purchase a tarantula at the local markets from Siem Reap to Phnom Penh.

Lap Khmer: Thin slices of beef marinated in lime juice with lots of shallots, garlic, fish sauce, basil, mint and bell peppers. Travellers be warned, this dish has plenty of kick!

Kampot Pepper Crabs: Along the coastline of Cambodia, delicious pepper crabs caught fresh from the sea and cooked in roadside restaurants are extremely popular. The dish is hot, delicious and very savoury.

Khmer Red Curry: Often made from chicken, beef, or fish this curry dish is made with potatoes, coconut milk, lemongrass and a special Cambodian ingredient known as Kroeung.

Sweetened with condensed milk, the beloved ice coffee is a must-try drink in Cambodia costing only 1USD a cup. With tap water not being safe to consume in Cambodia, beer is the choice of beverage among locals! While we only recommend drinking alcohol in moderation, there is no denying that the local drop is extremely cheap! Angkor Beer is the most well-known beer in Cambodia with prices varying from 1-2 USD per glass. Palm wine is also quite popular in more rural regions and travellers should be warned that it can be extraordinarily strong.

Internet Access

Most cafes, hotels and restaurants in cities of Vietnam provide free Wi-Fi, but the connection may be spotty or slow. If you wish to use your own 3G/4G Data, be sure to enable data roaming on your mobile. Purchasing a Vietnamese SIM card for the duration of your tour may be a cost-effective alternative.

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Essentials to Bring

- * Face mask/cover and hand sanitiser enough for your personal use throughout the trip – See more at <https://www.traveltalktours.com/safe-travels>
- * Travel Documents: Passport, Visa (if required), flight or transport ticket (and photocopies)
- * Travel Talk Tour Voucher (printed or digital)
- * Travel Insurance Policy (and photocopy)
- * Personal medical kit and medicine
- * Money (cash, credit card, travellers' cheques)
- * Power Adapter
- * Reusable water bottle
- * Ear plugs and eye mask
- * Sun protection – hat, sunglasses, sunscreen
- * Comfortable, closed walking shoes
- * Wind/water proof jacket
- * Warm clothes, hat, and gloves for cold weather
- * Sandals, swimwear, shorts for warm weather

Culture, Religion, Traditions

Vietnamese culture has been profoundly influenced by the Chinese, who occupied the country for 1,000 years and left a heavy influence in modern day. Vietnam is home to 53 ethnic minority groups (around 14 million people) with most living in the North and carving their existence from the lush mountainside landscapes along the Chinese and Lao borders. The nation hosts a large variety of beliefs and religions as reflected in its abundance of temples, pagodas, Buddhas and other religiously sacred sites. However, over the centuries, Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism have fused with popular Chinese beliefs and ancient Vietnamese animism to form the Tam Giao (Triple Religion) that many Vietnamese identify with today. In many Vietnamese homes it is common to find a shrine dedicated to past ancestors, complete with offerings of flowers and incense. It's also common to worship rulers of yesteryear, such as the likes of Ho Chi Minh.

More than 90% of the people who live in **Cambodia** are ethnic Khmers, making the country the most ethnically homogeneous in South-East Asia. The Khmer culture is based on tradition, honouring ancestors, respecting elders and living a life of humility, honesty and kindness. The local people are recognised globally for being gentle, humble, and hospitable. Cambodians have developed a unique Khmer belief from the syncretism of indigenous beliefs and the Indian religions of Buddhism and Hinduism. Buddhism is the most popular religion for the nation, with 95% of the population following Theravada Buddhism. Monks are highly regarded and respected in society and religious festivals and ceremonies are considered of utmost importance. Superstition almost runs parallel to religion, with the belief of spirits and superpowers

Etiquette and How to Dress

Going to hot and humid places often call for light, natural fabrics like cotton and silk. However, it is important to remember that Vietnamese people dress conservatively. Both women and men wear long

that cover their shoulders. For the most part, visitors are expected to do the same, while it is common to roam in swimwear on the islands and around the beaches. When visiting a religious complex, it is essential to wear clothing that covers your chest, shoulders and knees or you will not be permitted entry. If invited to visit a local's home, it is important to remember to take your shoes off at the entrance. It is also worth noting that small villages can find it intrusive to film or take photographs of them and their homes. Before

If planning to visit religious or UNESCO World Heritage Listed sites in Cambodia, it is essential to remember shorts and skirts above the knee as well as shirts that show bare shoulders are not allowed. Visitors must dress modestly with long shorts or a long skirt and cover their shoulders and chest. Monks are highly respected in Cambodia and if you wish to take a photograph of a Monk, it is respectful to ask their permission first. Women should not stand or sit too close to Monks, as Monks are forbidden from touching a woman, even for a handshake. Khmer people in more rural regions also may not appreciate hand holding or public displays of affection. While Cambodian people are warm, friendly, and patient – following these simple rules on etiquette will ensure your experience in Cambodia is met with authentic and pleasant

Solo Travellers

We have many solo travellers joining our tours. Solo travellers will be roomed with another traveller of the same gender. If you would like a private solo room, please contact us.

Rules to Follow

We are committed to ensuring a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone. We do not tolerate any form of violence (physical or verbal), bullying or harassment involving customers, partners, Travel Talk staff or locals. Sexual relationships between a tour leader and a passenger are forbidden.

We will not tolerate any illegal activity, including but not limited to: use and possession of illegal drugs, trespassing, and disrupting public order. If you consume alcohol, please ensure that you drink responsibly and follow the local laws and regulations.

You must follow the advice of your tour leader and local officials regarding health and safety measures. We operate all tours under Safe Travels protocols for the wellbeing of our passengers, staff and communities visited. Please ensure that you have read the <https://www.traveltalktours.com/safe-travels/> and are fully prepared for your trip.

If someone is acting inappropriately regarding these matters, please notify your tour leader immediately or contact us on the emergency contact number provided below.

Your tour leader has the right to remove from the group anyone not abiding by these rules, with no right of compensation or refund. See more at <https://www.traveltalktours.com/booking-terms/>

Please remember that our travellers come from different parts of the world and will have various needs and preferences. Be understanding and patient with your fellow travellers, and always strive to be on time.

Responsible Travel

We believe that travel is a force for good and show our support through various initiatives and charity organizations, as well as keeping the principals of responsible and sustainable travel at the core of our ethos. These values are engrained in our business culture and the design of our trips just the same. Together with you, we strive to make a positive impact on local people and economies, respecting the local culture, environment, social fabric and customs; encouraging respectful and meaningful cross-cultural exchange.

Read more at <https://www.traveltalktours.com/responsible-travel/>