

Amazing Indochina 27 days



Destinations: Bangkok - Ayuthaya - Siem Reap - Ho Chi Minh City - Mekong Delta - Hue - Hoi An - Hanoi - Halong Bay - Luang Prabang - Chiang Mai - Phuket

Summary of the Itinerary

Day 1: Bangkok Arrival N/A
Day 2: Bangkok City Tour (B)
Day 3: Bangkok – Ayutthaya (B)
Day 4: Bangkok – Siem Reap (B)
Day 5: Siem Reap (B)
Day 6: Siem Reap (B)
Day 7: Siem Reap – Ho Chi Minh City - Vespa Tour (B)
Day 8: Ho Chi Minh City Tour (B)
Day 9: Ho Chi Minh City – Mekong Delta (B/L)
Day 10: Mekong Delta – Ho Chi Minh City – Hue (B)
Day 11: Hue City Tour (B)
Day 12: Hue – Danang – Hoi An (B)
Day 13: Hoi An City Tour (B)
Day 14: Hoi An - Hanoi - Street Food Tour (B/D)
Day 15: Hanoi City Tour (B)
Day 16: Hanoi – Halong Bay (B/L/D)
Day 17: Halong Bay – Hanoi – Luang Prabang (B/L)
Day 18: Luang Prabang – Pak Ou Cave (B)
Day 19: Luang Prabang – Khouangsi Waterfall (B)
Day 20: Luang Prabang – Chiang Mai (B)
Day 21: Chiang Mai - Elephant Ride - Bamboo rafting (B)
Day 22: Chiang Mai Cooking Class (B)
Day 23: Chiang Mai – Phuket (B)
Day 24: Phuket Free Day (B)
Day 25: Phuket Free Day (B)
Day 26: Phuket – Bangkok (B)
Day 27: Bangkok Departure (B)

Highlights

- The magnificent scenery of Halong Bay
- Royal Capital in Hue and Heritage City of Hoi An
- Wonder of the World - Angkor Temples
- The rich cultural heritage of Luang Prabang
- Elephant ride in Chiang Mai

Inclusions

- Private English – speaking guide.
- Accommodation at selected hotels.
- Private transportations with A/C
- Meals as mentioned: (B) for breakfast, (L) for lunch, (D) for dinner.
- All entrance fees, performances, boat trips, excursions mentioned in itinerary
- 2 mineral water bottles daily
- Domestic flights: Bangkok - Siem Reap; Siem Reap - Ho Chi Minh City; Ho Chi Minh City - Hue; Danang - Hanoi; Hanoi - Luang Prabang; Luang Prabang - Chiang Mai; Chiang Mai - Phuket; Phuket - Bangkok.

Exclusions

- Flights are not mentioned in itinerary
- Travel insurance, Visas
- Drinks, laundry or other personal expenses
- Gala Dinner on 24th and 31st December



Details

Day 1: Bangkok Arrival N/A

On arrival at Suvarnabhumi Airport, you'll be driven to your hotel. Rest of the day, you'll be free to stroll around the city as you wish. You'll spend the night in Bangkok.

Day 2: Bangkok City Tour (B)

After breakfast, you'll begin your tour of Bangkok with a long tail boat ride along the Chao Phraya River to see many lively inner canals which provide some fantastic views of the local life. Along the way you will stop over at Wat Arun, the temple of dawn, before continuing to the Grand Palace which dedicated to the Thai Royal Family's ceremonies. Nearby is the magnificent Wat Phra Kaew, which is famous for the Emerald Buddha Image. After seeing this complex, you will drive through the many vibrant streets of China Town to some of the most significant temples in Bangkok. The landmark of Wat Traimit is well known as the Golden Buddha Temple while Wat Po houses a gigantic Reclining Buddha. You will spend the night in Bangkok.



Day 3: Bangkok – Ayutthaya (B)

Breakfast at hotel. Drive to Ayutthaya for the former capital of Thailand (1350-1767) situated 90 kms north of Bangkok. On arrival visit to Wat Chai Wattanaram the temple build in Khmere (Cambodian Style). After the tour proceed to visit to the magnificent city ruins you can see Wat Phra Sri Sanphet with three spared pagodas, the large Buddha image of Phra Mongkol Bophit. After visiting this site, you'll return to Bangkok by car. Your overnight stay will be in Bangkok.

Day 4: Bangkok – Siem Reap (B)

After breakfast, you will be free until the driver gets to go to Bangkok Airport for a flight to Siem Reap, Thailand. Upon arrival, you'll greet by your guide who will accompany and transfer you to your hotel. The same afternoon, if time permits, drive to Choueng Kneas village, where you will take the boat to visit the way of life Cambodian poor people along with schools, restaurants, hospitals and much more floating on the great lake of Tonle Sap.

Day 5: Siem Reap (B)

Breakfast at hotel, Heading out of town we make our way by traveling on a newly paved road to the intricately carved and well preserved temple of Banteay Srei. Along the way we make stopover at the Preah Dark village and we follow these with a visit the Banteay Samre Temple adorned with impressive relief's depicting scenes of Vishunu as well as Krishna legends. Afternoon, we

explore the jungle covered temple of Ta Prohm is an incredible sight. There are enormous fig trees and gigantic creepers which embrace themselves in the stone foundations of the structure giving the impression of man's creation being reclaimed by the powerful forces of nature. We also explore the grand circuit with Preah Khan, Kravan, Neak Pean, Krol Ko, Ta Som, East Mebon and Pre Rup Temples where we will view the sunset for the end of the day. the jungle covered temple of Ta Prohm is an incredible sight.



Day 6: Siem Reap (B)

An early bird special: Transfer to Angkor for sunrise earlier in the morning. Return for breakfast at the hotel. Continue your visit to the wondrous ancient ruins with the South Gate of Angkor Thom, which is famous for its series of colossal human faces carved in stone, the impressive Bayon Temple, the Royal Enclosure, Phimeanakas, the Elephant Terrace, the Terrace of the Leper King and the largest as well as the most complete temple of Angkor Wat. This architectural masterpiece was constructed in the 12th century and covers an area of about 210 hectares. We stroll around this massive edifice, seeing the many galleries with Columns, libraries, pavilions, courtyards and ponds full of water reflecting the towering temple. Early evening, you will be taken by Tuk Tuk, a small open-sided taxi common in Cambodia, to cruise around the suburb of Siem Reap town and for a blessing ceremony by Buddhist monks for happiness, prosperity and safety for your journey.



Day 7: Siem Reap – Ho Chi Minh City - Vespa Tour (B)

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for flight to Ho Chi Minh City.

Upon arrival, enjoy the special Ho Chi Minh City Vespa Tour: Experience as local people with a Vespa and escorted by a driver, visiting the city landmarks that give you a view of the city unlike anything on your Vietnam tour. Take a peek at the history, the streets and the sights that most visitors never even hear about or see. You will pass through the Chinese district of Saigon, stop to see a sweet smelling flower market and visit a breathtaking yet hidden Buddhist pagoda, Saigon Opera House & Post Office which were designed by Gustave Eiffel.

**Day 8: Ho Chi Minh City Tour (B)**

In the morning, drive outside of Ho Chi Minh City to visit the incredible Cu Chi Tunnels. The Cu Chi Tunnels are an underground labyrinth of passageways, used by the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War (or “American War” as it’s referred to here) as protection against American air raids. Those inclined are invited to crawl through selections of the tunnels to better understand what life was like for the Vietnamese soldiers during wartime.

In the afternoon, back to Sai Gon for a visit to the 19th century ‘Notre-Dame’ Cathedral, the beautiful Central Post Office which are fine examples of classical French colonial architecture. Continue with a tour of the former Presidential Palace (Reunification Palace), now preserved as a museum. After that, we finish the day by visiting the War Remnants Museum and the bustling Ben Thanh Market.

**Day 9: Ho Chi Minh City – Mekong Delta (B/L)**

Today we will start our exploration of the Mekong Delta, a major rice producing area. This must be one of the most fascinating riverine deltas in the world. After breakfast, drive to Cai Be in the heart of the Mekong Delta. On arrival, we will make a boat trip to the Cai Be floating Market, visit villages and meet the people of the Mekong Delta. Along the way, stop at a candy factory and orchard garden, where you have an opportunity to listen to traditional music. Enjoy a relaxing lunch at a riverside restaurant, then cross the river by motorized boat to visit some fluvial islands and explore the countryside by bicycle. Then, get on pier at Vinh Long and drive to Can Tho for the night.

Day 10: Mekong Delta – Ho Chi Minh City – Hue (B)

In the morning, we make the boat cruise to see the Cai Rang floating market (the nicest one with heaps of rowing boats), truly highlights of any Vietnam Tours where you will enjoy the beautiful scenery and see the daily activities of the locals who live along the Mekong canals. Then venture deeper into the country-side, passing traditional houses made of wood and palm leaves as you observe the activities of the local people. Return to Can Tho then drive back to Saigon airport for your flight to Hue, arriving in the late afternoon.

Day 11: Hue City Tour (B)

After breakfast, spend an entire day touring the Vietnam’s former ancient capital. Start the day with a visit to the Imperial Citadel, home to the Imperial City and Forbidden Purple City – once the Emperor’s private residence. The Imperial Citadel gives you a better understanding of the beauty of Vietnamese Royal architecture and culture. Then we will take a beautiful dragon boat trip along Perfume River and visit to Thien Mu Pagoda – one of the most popular attractions in Hue. In the afternoon, continue on your tour with the visit to King Ming Mang and King Khai Dinh tombs which are the most beautiful works of royal architecture of the Nguyen dynasty.

**Day 12: Hue – Danang – Hoi An (B)**

After breakfast, drive to Hoi An - highlight of any tour to Vietnam - is an exceptionally well-preserved example of a South-East Asian trading port dating from the 15th to the 19th century. Its buildings and its street plan reflect the influences, both indigenous and foreign, that have combined to produce this unique heritage site. This scenic drive passes through the fishing

village of Lang Co before climbing over the Hai Van Pass (Pass of Ocean Clouds). On the way, stop in Danang to visit the Cham Museum, which contains the finest collection of Cham sculptures in the world and Marble Mountain - a well-known pilgrimage site with peaks, caves, tunnels and temples.

Upon arrival in Hoi An, free to take walking tour of the Hoi An ancient town centre.

Day 13: Hoi An City Tour (B)

After breakfast, visit to My Son Holy land in the morning, once the spiritual capital of Champa Kingdom that dominated South East Asia for nearly a thousand years and occupied most of the central parts of Vietnam from 2nd century to 16th century with very rich in history and culture. In the afternoon, drive back to Hoi An with visit the former merchants' homes, the 400 year-old Japanese Covered Bridge, Phuc Kien Pagoda and the colourful riverside market. Then enjoy some leisure time in the ancient town.



Day 14: Hoi An - Hanoi - Street Food Tour (B/D)

Free time to go around Hoi An ancient town before drive to Danang airport for onward flight to Hanoi. Upon arrival, our guide will meet you and escort you to hotel check-in. After a short rest, enjoy the food tour experience with a first visit to one of the local markets in the city to see all different kinds of food that used for a Vietnamese breakfast, lunch, dinner and understand more about life of Vietnamese.

Secondly, we walk to explore everyday life of Hanoian, try some more different dishes which are very special, popular and preferred such as: Banh Ran - Sticky rice pancake; Bun Cha - Hanoi Style Vermicelli with Grilled Pork; Hanoi grilled pork in stick; Banh My Pate - Stuffed French Baguette; Bia Hoi - Draught beer; Trung Vit Lon - Fertilized duck eggs; Egg coffee...

Finally, we will try Cha Ca - Fried Fish which is considered as one of the best dishes to try while you are traveling in Hanoi. This unforgettable Hanoi food tour will take about 4 hours and you will end the trip at your hotel

at around 20:00.

Day 15: Hanoi City Tour (B)

After breakfast, you have a full day today to explore Vietnam's charming capital. With its wide tree-lined boulevards, French colonial architecture, peaceful lakes and ancient oriental pagodas, Hanoi is an eclectic mix that offers something for everyone. Visit Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum and his personal residence, the One Pillar Pagoda and the Tran Quoc Pagoda. End the morning with a visit to the Museum of Ethnology (or Women Museum, History Museum, Hoa Lo Prison or Army Museum)

In the afternoon, visit the Temple of Literature, the first University for the sons of mandarins. Followed by a visit to Ngoc Son Temple nearby Hoan Kiem Lake. Enjoy a one-hour rickshaw sight-seeing tour around Hanoi Old Quarter for great fun. Then, watch a traditional water puppet show in the late afternoon. Back to your hotel, free at leisure and overnight in the hotel of Hanoi.

Note: please note Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum is closed on Monday and Friday and most of museums are closed on Monday.



Day 16: Hanoi - Halong Bay (B/L/D)

We start at 8.00 A.M for the 3.5 hour drive (170 km) through the Red River Delta, which offers plenty of chances for taking photos of Vietnamese farmers tilling the vast green paddy fields. Stop at half way for taking a short break. Arrive at Halong City, check in and board your junk, enjoy approximately 24 hours journey in the amazing bay: a natural wonderland composed of jutting limestone islands and sparkling turquoise waters. Savor a gourmet lunch of fresh seafood onboard as we sail out into the mystical bay. In the afternoon, enjoy some activities in the bay, or just spend some time relaxing on board (Possibility to swim in the bay if weather permits). Dinner is served on board.

Note: Visits or activities will be slightly different depending on each junk's itinerary. Your tour guide will be replaced by a local guide on board during your cruise.

Day 17: Halong Bay - Hanoi - Luang Prabang (B/L)

Awake early and participate in Tai Chi on the top deck or simply relax and enjoy the sunrise over the bay's towering islands. Enjoy a morning cup of coffee or tea, and a light breakfast before setting out to explore nearby islands by rowboat.

Return to the junk then take advantage of the sundeck and admire the amazing rock formations of Bai Tu Long Bay as we navigate back to Halong City. Have brunch on board the boat before returning to Halong pier. Our guide and driver will meet you at the pier then drive back to Hanoi airport for your flight to Luang Prabang, Laos. The rest of day is for your relax.

Day 18: Luang Prabang – Pak Ou Cave (B)

Today, we enjoy a short-guided tour seeing the city's oldest temple of Wat Sene and the magnificent Wat Xiengthong with its roofs sweeping low to the ground, which represents classical Laotian architecture. We then embark on a cruise upstream on the Mekong River, which also gives us a breathtaking view of the tranquil countryside as well as explore the mysterious Pak Ou Caves, two linked caves crammed with thousands of gold lacquered Buddha statues of various shapes and sizes left by pilgrims. Along the way, we stop at the village of Ban Xanghai, where they make the local rice wine. On return, we take a short drive to Ban Xangkhong, a village well known for its silk weavings and for its Saa (jute) Papermaking and Ban Phanom, a small village known for its hand weaving.



Day 19: Luang Prabang – Khouangsi Waterfall (B)

An optional early start gives you the fantastic opportunity to participate in the daily morning rituals of saffron-clad monks collecting offerings of Alms (ubiquitous sticky rice) from the faithful residents. This tradition is very unique in Laos, being the only Buddhist nation still preserving the procession.

From there you will visit the morning Phosi Market, where you will see such diverse offerings as dried buffalo skin, local tea and saltpeter among the chickens, vegetables and hill-tribe weavings. Laos is also known for its traditional crafts, and today you will visit local villages of Lao ethnic minority groups at Ban Ouay, Hmong Village, Ban Ou, Laouloum Village and Ban Thapene, Khmu Village, then drive to the beautiful Khouangsi Waterfall where you can cool off with a refreshing swim in the turquoise pools or walk along the forest trails. We return to the city by late afternoon to observe the sunset at Wat Phabath.

Day 20: Luang Prabang – Chiang Mai (B)

After breakfast, take flight to Chiang Mai. Upon arrival, check in to hotel and take a short rest.

Later in the afternoon, you will enjoy a city tour to visit Wat Chedi Luang, Wat Phra Singh. In the evening, if you want, enjoy an optional night show: Traditional Khantoke Dinner Show to taste the authentic flavor and culture of Northern Thailand.

Day 21: Chiang Mai - Elephant Ride - Bamboo rafting (B)

Breakfast at the hotel, you'll travel north of Chiang Mai route to Mae Taman Elephant Camp, which is 56 km northwards of Chiang Mai. Enjoy the spectacular scenery along the way. The idea of this trip is to see the demonstration of how trained elephants are used as working animals in teak for-ests includes elephant bathing in the river, working in the jungle, dragging and pushing logs, and responding commands. Then take a special time to riding on elephant for 1 hour through the jun-gle, made a stop at Lisu Hill tribe Village. For the truly adventurous! Continue an ox-cart riding back to the camp. Lunch served at the Camp. Take Bamboo Rafting along Mae Taeng River for 45 minutes. Then, visit Orchid Nursery to see a large collection of more than 50 different types of color-ful exotic year-round-bloom orchids. After taking great pleasure at the Orchid Nursery, continue to visit the handicraft center at San Kampaeng district. The highlight is to see the local people making the handicraft including Silverware, Hand-woven Textiles by silk and hand-painted cotton and Umbrellas or paper parasols which are hand-painted in a variety designs. Return to your hotel at Chiang Mai for overnight stay.

Day 22: Chiang Mai Cooking Class (B, L)

Breakfast at hotel. Pick up from hotel and transfer to Cooking School and visit local market for shopping food ingredient etc. Arrive and start learning cooking Thai menu subjected on day by day program. Lunch at the school, after lunch learn how to cook more. Late afternoon return to hotel and free at own leisure. Overnight stay in Chiang Mai.



Day 23: Chiang Mai – Phuket (B)

After breakfast, you will be free until the driver gets to go to Chiang Mai airport for a flight to Phuket. Arrive Phuket Airport, transfer to check into hotel and free at own leisure.

Day 24: Phuket Free Day (B)

Breakfast at hotel. Whole day free at own leisure on beaches.

Day 25: Phuket Free Day (B)

Breakfast at hotel. Whole day free at own leisure on beaches.



Day 26: Phuket – Bangkok (B)

Enjoy your leisure time before flying back to Bangkok. Upon your arrival in Bangkok, our guide will meet you and escort you to your hotel in Bangkok. The rest of the day is on your own to go around.



Day 27: Bangkok Departure (B)

Free time at leisure for you to wrap up your memorable Indochina Holiday until our tour guide escorts you to the airport for your departure flight. Goodbye and see you again.

