



## Tours

### GRAND INDOCHINA EXPLORATION

15 Days / 14 Nights



#### DAY 1: Arrival in Ho Chi Minh City

Arrive in Ho Chi Minh City, transfer to hotel. Have a welcome dinner. Escape the bustle of the city, cruising along Saigon River to experience Saigon by night and enjoy a buffet dinner onboard the biggest dragon boat in Vietnam with the "East meets West" entertainment spectacle and music program. Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City (D)

#### DAY 2: Ho Chi Minh City-City tour

After breakfast, take a city tour of Ho Chi Minh City, still known as Saigon. Visit the former Presidential Palace, the Notre Dame Cathedral, Old Saigon Post Office, a lacquer ware factory and Thien Hau Pagoda in Chinatown. In the afternoon visit the famous Cu Chi Tunnels, an incredible underground tunnel

network constructed by Vietnamese resistance fighters during the struggle for independence. Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City. (B)

#### DAY 3: Ho Chi Minh City-Danang-Hoi An

Transfer to the airport to take a morning flight to Danang. Welcome and transfer to the ancient town of Hoi An. Upon arrival at Hoi An, embark on a walking tour of this charming town, visiting ancient merchants' houses, a Hokkien temple, the 400-year-old Japanese Covered Bridge, and the colorful riverside market. Visit a workshop where artisans make Hoi An's famous lanterns and learn how they are made before having the chance to create your own. Finish the day with a sunset boat trip on the Thu Bon River.

Overnight in Hoi An (B)

#### DAY 4: Hoi An -Danang-Hue

After breakfast, drive to Danang. Visit Marble Mountain, stone carving village, interesting Cham museum and China beach. Proceed to Hue via the Hai Van pass (Pass of Ocean Clouds) with spectacular views of mountain, the sea, and village and down to Lang Co fishing village. Arrive in Hue late afternoon, check into hotel. Overnight in Hue. (B)

#### DAY 5: Hue

In the morning, take a boat trip on the Perfume River visiting Hue's best-known religious site, Thien Mu Pagoda, and the mausoleum of former emperor Minh Mang. In the afternoon visit the elaborate mausoleums of emperors Tu Duc and the Imperial Citadel from where the Nguyen Dynasty ruled between 1802 and 1945. We recommend partaking in a Royal Dinner on this evening. Overnight in Hue.(B)

#### DAY 6: Hue - Hanoi

Transfer to the airport for a morning flight to Vietnam's capital city, Hanoi. In the afternoon, begin to explore Hanoi. Visit the One Pillar Pagoda, the Fine Arts Museum, the Temple of Literature and Old Quarter. In the evening enjoy a traditional Vietnamese water puppet show. Overnight in Hanoi. (B)

#### DAY 8: Ha Noi - Halong Bay

After breakfast, proceed to Halong. Board a sailing junk for a cruise through the limestone cliffs and emerald waters of Halong Bay. Drop anchor for the night near a remote, deserted island.





**DAY 9: Halong Bay - Ha Noi**

Spend a half-day cruising through more caves and picturesque lagoons and swim off deserted beaches. Return to Hanoi in the afternoon. At leisure. Overnight in Hanoi (B,L)

**DAY 10: Ha Noi - Vientiane**

Transfer to the airport for a flight to Vientiane. We'll begin to explore Vientiane after a short rest. We'll show you the major sights of this sleepy capital city; including the oldest Wat Sisaket, the temple with thousands of miniature Buddha statues and the former royal temple of Wat Prakeo. On the way to Lao's most famous national icon, the sacred structure of That Luang Stupa, we'll stop to take some pictures of the imposing Patuxay Monument, which is well known as Vientiane's own Arc de Triumph. The Mekong

river side is the perfect place to end the day and admire the sunset. Overnight in Vientiane (B)

**DAY 11: Vientiane-Luang Prabang**

Transfer to the airport for a short flight to Luang Prabang, which is perhaps the best-preserved traditional city in Southeast Asia. After checking into your hotel, we visit the impressive stupa of Wat Visoun and the shrines of Wat Aham and Wat Mai, we then climb up to the top of Mount Phousi to explore the sacred, gilded stupa as well as have a beautiful view of the city and the Mekong River at sunset. We continue exploring the Night Market, where you can browse a lovely selection of handmade textiles made by the local people and hill tribes surrounding Luang Prabang.

Overnight in Luang Prabang (B)



**DAY 12: Luang Prabang-Pak Ou caves**

After breakfast we enjoy a short-guided tour seeing the city's oldest temples 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 exploring the mysterious Pak Ou Caves, two linked caves crammed with thousands of gold lacquered Buddha statues of various shapes and sizes left by devoted pilgrims. Along the way, we will stop at the village of Ban Xanghai, where the local rice wine is produced. On return, we take a short drive to another small village Ban Phanom, which is famous for its hand weaving.

Overnight in Luang Prabang (B)

**DAY 13: Luang Prabang-Phnom Penh**

After breakfast, we visit the National Museum (closed Tuesdays) at the former Royal Palace. It displays a collection of artefacts reflecting the richness of Lao culture dating from the days of the early kings right through to the last sovereign. There will also be time for us to look around the Central Market. You will then be transferred to the airport for your flight to Phnom Penh. Upon arrival in Phnom Penh, you will be guided on a city tour of the National Museum, the Silver Pagoda, the Royal Palace and the oldest shrine in the city, Wat Phnom. Overnight in Phnom Penh (B)

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**DAY 14: Phnom Penh-Siem Reap-Angkor Complex**

After an early breakfast, transfer to the airport for the flight to Siem Reap. Upon arrival, check into hotel. Begin exploration of the ancient city of Angkor by entering Angkor Thom via the South Gate. Continue by viewing the ruins at Bayon, Baphoun, Phimeanakas, the Royal Palace, the Elephant Terraces and the Leper King Terrace. In the afternoon, visit magnificent Angkor Wat with its extraordinary architecture and bas-reliefs. End the day with a spectacular sunset viewed from the mountain temple of Phnom Bakheng. Overnight in Siem Reap (B)

**DAY 15: Siem Reap-Departure**

At leisure. Transfer to airport for departure flight. End of tour. (B)