

Hanoi to Bangkok

19 days | Hanoi to Bangkok



Journey through Vietnam and Cambodia, kicking off in vibrant Hanoi and visiting the lesser-known spots of Halong Bay, charming Hoi An and the spectacular Angkor Wat. Then end your adventure in the bustling Thai capital of Bangkok.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Hanoi - Independently explore the capital
- Cat Ba Island - Spend a night on Ha Long Bay's largest island and cruise idyllic Lan Ha bay, with its beautiful limestone peaks and islets (please note: from May to August Cat Ba Island and Lan Ha Bay will be replaced with an overnight junk boat cruise on Halong Bay)
- Hue - Tour the ancient Imperial Citadel and visit the enchanting village of the Mandarins
- Hoi An - Wander around this enchanting UNESCO Listed ancient town, famed for its beautifully preserved old city, tailors, handicrafts markets and nearby beaches
- Mui Ne - Relax on the beautiful stretch of sandy beach and swim in the emerald green waters

- Ho Chi Minh City - Free time to explore the 'Pearl of the Orient' or join an optional city tour
- Phnom Penh - Independently explore Cambodia's capital or take in the highlights on optional tours
- Battambang - Enjoy a ride on the famous bamboo train, visit Phnom Sambov Mountain, Battambang Market and a local village
- Siem Reap - Free time to shop at the central market and take in the nightlife of Siem Reap's famous 'Pub Street'
- The Angkor Complex - Gaze in wonder at incredible Angkor Wat, visit the iconic Ta Prohm Temple and explore the ancient city of Angkor Thom
- Kampong Phluk - Visit the floating villages of Kampong Phluk, built within the floodplain of the Tonle Sap Lake
- Bangkok - Independently explore Thailand's vibrant capital

What's Included

- 16 breakfasts and 2 lunches
- 16 nights 3 star hotels
- Guided sightseeing - Hue, Hoi An, Battambang, the Temples of Angkor and Tonle Sap Lake
- Lan Ha Bay cruise (or overnight Halong Bay junk boat cruise from May to August)
- Escorted by an English speaking Vietnamese tour guide

- 2 overnight sleeper trains: Hanoi to Hue and Danang to Mui Ne (basic 4 berth cabins)
- Private transportation in air-conditioned vehicles. Public tourist bus: Hue to Hoi An, Mui Ne to Ho Chi Minh City and Ho Chi Minh City to Phnom Penh

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$30-40pp, paid in USD or VND
- Entrance Fees: USD\$65-75pp, paid in USD or VND
- International flights and visa
- Airport arrival and departure transfers
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow USD\$3-6 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Hanoi

Sunday. Welcome to Vietnam! Meet your guide and fellow travellers at 4pm for a welcome meeting and drinks in the hotel lobby. The rest of the day is free for you to relax after your flight.

Overnight - Hanoi

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Day 2 : Cat Ba Island & Lan Ha Bay

Hanoi - Cat Ba Island. This morning we take a ferry to Cat Ba Island, a lush national park home to a rare species of Langurs. We enjoy a cruise to the Beo Floating Village and untouched Lan Ha Bay, which boasts incredible limestone rock formations and emerald waters. Lunch is served onboard, before optional kayaking and cycling excursions to explore more of this incredible landscape.

In the afternoon we return to our hotel and the remainder of the day is free for you to spend at leisure. Perhaps relax on the beach or visit Canon Fort, where you can enjoy stunning sunset views over the archipelago.

Please note: from May-August our visit to Cat Ba Island will be replaced with an overnight Halong Bay cruise. Please read the trip notes for further information. **Overnight - Cat Ba Island (B, L)**

Day 3 : Cat Ba Island to Hue

Cat Ba – Hue. Spend this morning either at leisure or join our optional excursion to Cat Ba fish market and for an invigorating hike. Climbing one of the island's peaks, the summit boasts breathtaking views over the national park. After returning to our hotel to freshen up, we continue to Hanoi train station to catch our overnight train (simple 4 berth cabins) to the imperial city of Hue.

Please note: from May-August our visit to Cat Ba Island will be replaced with an overnight Halong Bay cruise. Please read the trip notes for further information. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B)**

Day 4 : Hue

Today we enjoy a tour of the Imperial Citadel, once the centre of the Nguyen Empire and now by far Hue's biggest attraction. Our next stop is the village of the Mandarins, a hidden gem set on the banks of the Perfume River. Here we meet the locals and enjoy a delicious lunch hosted in one of their homes.

This afternoon we check-in to our hotel and enjoy some free time, perhaps visiting the Thien Mu Pagoda and the imperial tombs or simply spending some time on the beach. Alternatively, take one of our optional excursions, either to Chuon lagoon to watch the sunset over the water or a cycling trip through Hue's lesser-visited rice fields and canals. **Overnight - Hue (L)**

Day 5 : Hoi An

Hue – Hoi An. Today we journey to Hoi An by public bus (modern coach with air conditioning). Here we enjoy an orientation walking tour of this charming port town, with sights including the iconic Japanese Bridge and colonial buildings of its UNESCO-listed centre. The rest of the day is free for you to explore. **Overnight - Hoi An (B)**

Day 6 : Hoi An to Mui Ne

Hoi An – Mui Ne. Today offers further free time to enjoy Hoi An's attractions, maybe spending some time shopping in the markets or enjoying the town's delicious street food. You may also wish to take one of our optional excursions, either visiting a local farm to cook a traditional Vietnamese lunch or a cycling and paddling adventure through the surrounding countryside and coco palm forest.

This evening we drive to Da Nang railway station to catch our overnight train (simple 4 berth cabins) to Mui Ne, a popular beach resort on Vietnam's southeast coast. **Overnight - Sleeper Train (B)**

Days 7-8 : Mui Ne

Disembarking from our train at Binh Thuan station, we transfer to our hotel in Mui Ne. The rest of the day is free for you to enjoy some time on the beach.

Day 8 offers further free time in Mui Ne, which is also famous for its kite surfing and draws kiteboarders from around the world.

Overnight - Mui Ne (B:1)

Days 9-10 : Mui Ne to Ho Chi Minh City

Mui Ne – Ho Chi Minh City. This morning we travel by public bus to Ho Chi Minh City, a vibrant metropolis boasting classic French architecture and gleaming skyscrapers alongside ornate temples and bustling markets. After hotel check-in, either enjoy some free time to explore independently or join our optional city tour in the afternoon.

Day 10 offers further free time to explore Ho Chi Minh City's many sights and attractions.

Overnight - Ho Chi Minh City (B:1)

Day 11 : Ho Chi Minh City to Phnom Penh

Ho Chi Minh City – Phnom Penh. Today we cross the border into Cambodia, travelling by public bus to the capital city of Phnom Penh. Following hotel check-in, we take a tuk tuk to the Mekong River and enjoy a scenic walk along its banks before a drink at the Foreign Correspondents Club.

Overnight - Phnom Penh (B)

Day 12 : Phnom Penh

Today offers free time to either explore Phnom Penh independently or take one of our optional excursions. Perhaps spend the morning on our optional sightseeing tour and explore the city's famous Silver Pagoda, the Central Market and the National Museum. In the afternoon, we have an optional excursion to the Killing Fields and notorious Toul Sleng Prison, where you will learn about Cambodia's darker history. Or, alternatively, you may wish to take our optional cycling trip to explore scenic Koh Dach island.

Overnight - Phnom Penh (B)

Day 13 : Phnom Penh to Battambang

Phnom Penh – Battambang. This morning we travel to Battambang, an agricultural province considered to be the 'rice bowl of Cambodia'. We visit a local pottery en-route and, on arrival in Battambang, continue to Phnom Sambov Mountain. Steeped in legend, this mountaintop boasts the golden pagodas of

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Wat Sampeou at its summit. We also visit a group of caves known as the 'killing caves' by the Khmer Rouge. **Overnight - Battambang (B)**

Day 14 : Battambang to Siem Reap

Battambang – Siem Reap. After breakfast, our first stop today is the lively Battambang Market, before continuing to a local village known for its Khmer architecture. Here we meet the locals and gain a fantastic insight into their lives and culture, with a visit to a local weaving and handicraft centre.

Next we enjoy a ride on the famous bamboo train, a raft-like device used by locals to transport their goods and a unique experience in Battambang. We then visit Wat Banan, an ancient temple set on a mountaintop offering fantastic views over the surrounds.

Later this afternoon we continue to Siem Reap, gateway to the famous Angkor Temple Complex, where this evening is free to spend at leisure. **Overnight - Siem Reap (B)**

Day 15 : Angkor Temple Complex

This morning is dedicated to exploring the most famous and best-preserved of all the temples within the Angkor Complex, the magnificent Angkor Wat. Rising 65-metres high, this temple's iconic lotus-like towers make for some excellent photography.

In the afternoon, we continue to the ancient city of Angkor Thom, where we discover the smiling faces of the Bayon temple at its centre. Our last stop is Ta Prohm temple, known for appearing in the Tomb Raider movie starring Angelina Jolie. Slowly being overtaken by the jungle, this temple has been left just as it was discovered, with large tree roots growing amongst its crumbling ruins. We then return to our hotel, where the rest of the day offers free time to relax.

Overnight - Siem Reap (B)

Day 16 : Tonle Sap Lake

Siem Reap – Tonle Sap Lake. This morning we drive to Tonle Sap Lake to visit the villages of Kampong Phluk, with houses built on stilts above the water. We then return to Siem Reap, where this afternoon is free for you to enjoy the town's attractions. Perhaps spend some time shopping at the central market before checking out the buzzing nightlife of Pub Street. Alternatively, join our optional dinner and Apsara dance show in the evening to get a taste for Cambodia's rich culture and history. **Overnight - Siem Reap (B)**

Day 17 : Siem Reap - Bangkok

Siem Reap - Bangkok. Travelling by car, we journey to the Poipet border and cross over into Thailand. Arriving in the buzzing capital of Bangkok, we check-in to our hotel and enjoy free time for the rest of the day.

Overnight - Bangkok

Days 18-19 : Bangkok

Day 18 offers further free time to explore all that Bangkok has to offer. You may decide to check out its colourful markets or visit top sights such as the ornate Grand Palace. The city is also well-known for its thriving nightlife, with plenty of bars and clubs to choose from.

Our tour comes to an end on Day 19 (Thursday). Depart at any time or, if you would like to extend your stay in Thailand, we can arrange post-tour accommodation by request.

Overnight - Bangkok (1) (B:2)

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

La Dolce Vita Hotel

Offering an excellent location in the heart of Hanoi, La Dolce Vita Hotel is within walking distance of a variety of restaurants, shops and bars. Its spacious guestrooms feature wooden furniture and modern artwork, with

complimentary WiFi available throughout the hotel. Enjoy drinks or a light bite to eat with your travel companions in the Lobby Bar and Café or, if you're looking for a sit-down dinner, you can choose between delicious Vietnamese and Western dishes in the La Dolce Vita Restaurant.



Sleeper train - 4 berth cabin

Cabins on board are comfortable though not comparable to European standards. Aboard each wagon are 9 compartments that comprise of 4 bunks per compartment shared by mixed sexes. A western-style toilet (with a varying degree of cleanliness) is located at either end of the wagon. Air-conditioning (not always operational in the summer) and lighting are controlled from inside the cabin, which is also lockable. Luggage can be stored in a compartment under the bottom bunk. Linen and a pillow are provided.



Sea Pearl Cat Ba Hotel

The Sea Pearl Cat Ba Hotel is conveniently located on Cat Ba's main road, overlooking the emerald waters of Cat Ba Bay and just a five minute walk from Cat Co Beach and the Cat Ba Market. The comfortable guestrooms offer modern amenities such as air conditioning, WiFi, minibar and cable TV and hotel has a great range of facilities. Head to the rooftop swimming pool and bar where you can take in the wonderful panoramic views of the bay, relax and pamper yourself at the Feeling Spa and sing your heart out in the Karaoke room! When hunger strikes enjoy a variety of local

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dishes and European cuisine at the hotel's restaurant and cafe.



Duy Tan Hotel

Just footsteps away from the Perfume River and Trang Tien Bridge, the Duy Tan Hotel offers a fantastic location in Hue's city centre. Its modern and spacious guestrooms are fitted with wooden furnishings and private balconies, with free WiFi also available. Guests can enjoy relaxing massage treatments or those keen to stay active can hit the gym. This hotel's real highlight is its restaurant, where you can enjoy famous Vietnamese and European dishes alongside traditional music and dance performances.



Hoi An Rose Garden Hotel

Well-located in Hoi An, this modern hotel is within walking distance of the old town and Historic Museum. Each room is soundproofed and offers modern amenities such as air conditioning and WiFi access. Guests can take a refreshing dip in the outdoor pool or enjoy tasty Vietnamese cuisine in the bar and restaurant. There's also a spa offering a range of traditional therapies and complimentary bicycle hire, so you can easily explore all this enchanting city has to offer.



Sunshine Hotel

Located on a peaceful street midway between An Bang Beach and Hoi An ancient town, this modern hotel provides free bikes for travellers to explore this charming port city. Its guestrooms are comfortable and roomy, with either garden or pool views and complimentary WiFi available. Guests can relax with a dip in the outdoor pool or enjoy the facilities of the hotel's spa and wellness centre. An onsite restaurant serves a selection of Western and Asian dishes, with plenty more eateries to choose from in the surrounding area.



Sandune Mui Ne Beach Resort & Spa

Located on a stretch of untouched sand, this beautifully landscaped hotel features a range of rooms, suites and bungalows set around a central pool and lush palm trees. Each guestroom offers a sea view, with modern amenities including air conditioning and free WiFi. However, this hotel's list of attractions doesn't stop there, with treatments available at the Ocean Spa, two stylish restaurants serving Vietnamese and Western cuisine, and the Swim Up Bar offering refreshing drinks without even needing to leave the pool.



Nam Chau Resort

Set in a three-hectare garden, this boutique resort features rustic accommodation in the form of villas with thatched roofs. Each villa is complete with an ensuite, TV and minibar, and you can enjoy a complimentary breakfast with Vietnamese style bread and your choice of coffee. Thanks to its position on a white sand beach on the cape of Mui

Ne, this resort offers a vast range of water sports. Depending on the season, you can choose between paddle boarding, kite and wind surfing, kayaking and jet skiing, alongside beach volleyball and football. And that's not all, with the resort organizing pool and beach parties on Saturday evenings.



Sonnet Saigon Hotel

Just a short walk from the War Remnants Museum and the Reunification Palace, the Sonnet Saigon is a charming 3 star hotel which offers a convenient base for exploring the sights of Ho Chi Minh City. The comfortable guest rooms offer modern amenities, including LCD TVs with cable channels, WiFi, minibar, bathrobes and complimentary bottled water. The en suite bathrooms boast rainshowers and rooms feature floor-to-ceiling windows, with balconies to enjoy views of the city. Hotel facilities include a coffee shop with a terrace to soak up the sunshine and a restaurant serving a tasty buffet breakfast.



Ambassador Hotel

The Ambassador Saigon Hotel is ideally located in the heart of downtown Ho Chi Minh City, just a 10 minute stroll from the famous Ben Thanh Market and a 15 minute drive from Tan Son Nhat International Airport. The comfortable guest rooms offer modern amenities such as complimentary WiFi, air conditioning and satellite tv, and guests can enjoy panoramic views of the city from the Camellia Restaurant on the 12th floor which serves a range of international and Asian cuisine. Facilities also include a bar and a fitness centre.

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Cardamom Hotel & Apartments

Offering views of the Tonle Sap River, this modern hotel has a pagoda-inspired facade and a great location, just minutes' walk from Phnom Penh's central market and Royal Palace. Its bright guestrooms feature free WiFi and tea and coffee making facilities, with room service available from 10:30am to 11pm. Enjoy all day dining at the Mimosa Restaurant, which serves both Asian and Western cuisine. Or, if you're looking to relax, head to the laid-back Poulowai Lobby Bar for a range of drinks and cocktails.



Classy Hotel & Spa

The centrally located Classy Hotel offers a convenient base for exploring Battambang, just a short walk from the town's historic Colonial buildings and the Riverside Night Market. The comfortable en suite guest rooms feature WiFi, flat-screen cable TV, A/C and a minibar and a tasty buffet breakfast is served each day. You can enjoy a refreshing swim in the large outdoor pool and unwind at the Spa which features a sauna, jacuzzi and offers relaxing massages. In the evening dine on Khmer or Western cuisine at the hotel's rooftop restaurant and take in the wonderful panoramic views from its terrace.



New Riverside Hotel

The New Riverside Hotel is the perfect place to get away from the noise of the city and relax for a while. The spacious and beautifully decorated rooms line the outdoor pool that stretches through the middle of the property. The hotel is surrounded by a range of lush, exotic plants that fill the air with their fragrances, blending perfectly with the scent of fresh Khmer and international dishes coming from the dining hall. The hotel is also well-located close to Pub Street and the famous Angkor Wat.



W22 Hotel

Located in one of Bangkok's most culturally dynamic districts, the W22 Hotel is surrounded by exotic markets, old-world shops and an array of street food. Its main feature is an airy seven-storey atrium, where you can relax on comfortable lounge seating with a coffee or cocktail. Guests can also head to the common room to play a game or two on the pool table or explore the Art Space, which contains regular exhibitions by local artists. Spacious, well-appointed guestrooms feature minimalist décor and high-speed WiFi, with the Fork & Cork Restaurant and Bar serving creative Thai cuisine.



PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 2 persons. Prices shown are per person when there are 2 persons (or 3 persons if you wish to book a triple)

sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the per person price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same gender, this can be arranged, thus avoiding the single person supplement.

PRICES / DATES 2020

| Date | Twin Share | Single |
|--------|------------|-----------|
| 13 Sep | CAD 2,345 | CAD 3,005 |
| 04 Oct | CAD 2,345 | CAD 3,005 |
| 20 Dec | CAD 2,945 | CAD 3,795 |