



CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM HIGHLIGHT 12 days/11 nights

Itinerary Code: INS-PA01
Tour Operator / Agent: Inspire Travel
Quotation date: March 20, 2013
Validity: March 13, to Dec 31, 2013

OVERVIEW

From the ancient temples of Siem Reap to the buzzing metropolis of Ho Chi Minh City, from exploring the twisting alleys of Hanoi's Old Quarter to uncovering the dark past of Phnom Penh, this journey captures the highlights of Cambodia and Vietnam. Learn about these neighboring countries, their cultural differences and their shared history as you travel through cities and natural wonders alike.

ITINERARY

Day 1 | Arrive Phnom Penh (D)

Arrival at the airport and transfer to your hotel. Take a rest before you are welcomed by dinner at local restaurant.

Phnom Penh is not just another metropolis -it's the ancient Asia you dream of. This fascinating city with a dark history of war and turmoil is now filled with vibrancy and warmth.

Accommodation: In Phnom Penh
Meals: Dinner

Day 2 | Phnom Penh city tour (B/L)

Today we take you to the National Museum, the stunning Royal Palace, the Silver Pagoda, which is covered with over 5000 silver tiles and the Apsara Arts Foundation whose aim is to preserve Cambodian arts and culture whilst teaching disadvantaged children traditional dancing. In the afternoon you'll visit Choeng Ek, the location of the infamous Killing Fields, and Toul Sleng prison, the notorious prison where thousands of people perished in the darkest hours of Cambodian history.

Accommodation: In Phnom Penh
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 3 | Phnom Penh – Siem Reap (B/L)

Today, you will take a morning flight to Siem Reap. On arrival, transfer to the hotel for a free morning until the afternoon when you will take in the famous Angkor Wat – the grandest and largest of the Khmer monuments. Finish your day with a stunning sunset on the top of Bakheng Hill, where you can see the panoramic views of the temple of Angkor Wat and the whole Angkor Heritage site..

Angkor is visually breathtaking and is one of the most important archaeological sites in South-East Asia, if not the world. Stretching over some 400 km, including forested areas, Angkor Archaeological Park contains the magnificent remains of the various capitals of the Khmer Empire, from the 9th to the 15th century.

Accommodation: In Siem Reap
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 4 | Siem Reap (B/L)

This morning, you will visit the South Gate of Angkor Thom and the temples of Bayon - known for their serene faces, Baphoun, Phimean Akas, The Royal Enclosure, Terrace of Elephants and Leper King. After lunch, leave Siem Reap to visit the Merchrey floating village. The drive will take around 40 minutes. Once you have arrived at the port you will board a boat that will take you down the river through the local village communities. The whole village is floating - there are houses, schools and even a police station all floating on the river. You can also observe locals fishing in the waters. At around 05:30 - 6 pm you will arrive on the Tonle Sap meaning "Great Lake". Here you will stop and view an amazing sunset over the water. The lake is so large that it gives the illusion of being on the ocean. Afterwards you will be transferred back, expecting to return to Siem Reap around 7pm.

Accommodation: In Siem Reap
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5 | Siem Reap - Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) (D)

Arrive in Ho Chi Minh City. Meet your guide and driver then transfer to your hotel. Free time at your leisure after check-in.
Welcome dinner at local restaurant.

Ho Chi Minh City formerly named Saigon, is the largest city in Vietnam and much more crowded and exciting than Hanoi. It overcame the war history to become a modern and dynamic city now. The boast of Saigon is it's French Colonial architecture and Wide Boulevards.

Accommodation: In Ho Chi Minh City
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 6 | Ho Chi Minh City tour - Cu Chi tunnel (B/L)

Today you will visit Ho Chi Minh formerly Saigon to see the sprawling city. The War Remnants Museum shows the Vietnam War through Vietnamese eyes, Reunification Palace one of the most fascinating sights in Ho Chi Minh. After lunch, continue by car to the Cu Chi tunnels which were built by Viet Cong over a period of 20 years from the late 1940s to the Vietnam war. Take a walking tour around the site to understand more about the greatest tunnel system of a guerrilla war. Drive back to your hotel, free time to explore the city in the evening.

Accommodation: In Ho Chi Minh City
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 7 | Mekong Delta Exploration (B/L)

Depart to Cai Be, a small town deep in the Mekong Delta. Here board a private boat and visit the colourful Cai Be floating market, where you'll cruise among local barges full of fruits and vegetables. Later a special visit will be made to an ancient Mandarin's house, dating from the 19th century, where the family will host you with a delicious lunch. You will also visit some local home factories that produce rice paste, rice popcorn and coconut candies. After lunch, your boat trip will cruise deeper into the countryside on smaller canals and creeks passing under small



traditional bridges made from wood and bamboo. You will discover beautiful landscapes and observe typical Mekong Delta rural life. At the end of your cruise, return by road to Ho Chi Minh City.

Accommodation: In Ho Chi Minh City
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 8 | Ho Chi Minh City – Hanoi (B/D)

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Hanoi, the capital city of Vietnam. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to the hotel. Today is mostly for your own leisure. In the evening, you will enjoy a traditional unique Water Puppet show, followed by a Vietnamese dinner - Hanoi style.

Hanoi, The capital of Vietnam welcomes you with very special oriental beauty which lies in the lovely and friendly smiles from the locals you meet. During the first 2 days, you would stay at one of the well located hotels in the city centre. It is near or within the old quarter, so you'll find it easy to explore the vibrant life of a true Hanoian, go shopping and wander around many cultural spots within an easy walking distance.

Accommodation: In Hanoi
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 9 | Hanoi City Tour (B/L)

Today you will visit some beautiful spots which are regarded as the heart and the soul of Hanoi such as Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum and Stilt House, then continue our visit to the Temple of Literature, the first national university of Vietnam, where you may take part in music exchanges with local people. Lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, learn about the 54 traditions of Vietnam through an excursion to the Museum of Ethnology, then end the day with photo opportunities around Ngoc Son temple on the beautiful Jade Island of Hoan Kiem Lake.

Accommodation: In Hanoi
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 10 | Hanoi - Ha Long Bay (B/L/D)

About a three and half hour drive from Hanoi (4hrs for the big bus with a half way rest stop), you will reach Halong Bay then board on a traditional junk for a fantastic cruise to explore the magnificent rock formations and grottos that this area is famous for. After lunch, take a rowing boat to visit one of the fishing villages on the bay. In the late afternoon, an optional Kayaking trip is available to discover more parts of the area on your own, or just relax and enjoy watching the sun go down. Dinner will be served on board with local seafood specialities.

Halong is a UNESCO World Natural Heritage site which should never be missed on a visit to Vietnam. It has a lot of beautiful caves and grottoes around with characteristic limestone cliffs. It doesn't matter whether you are a nature lover or not, this bay is truly majestic..

Accommodation: On Ha Long Bay Junk
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner



Day 11 | Ha Long Bay - Hanoi (B)

Early in the morning enjoy a cup of tea or Vietnamese coffee then join the Vietnamese Tai Chi class on the sundeck and catch the first rays of sunrise for another beautiful day on the bay. Continue our cruise among the breathtaking scenery, visit one of the most beautiful limestone cave, and open your eyes, your mind and your ears to nature. At 9.30am we will check-out and then have a delicious brunch before disembarking. Around 11:00 meet the driver at the pier then enjoy the drive back to Hanoi.

Accommodation: *In Hanoi*
Meals: *Brunch*

Day 12 | Hanoi Departure

Breakfast at your hotel, then free time until departure for any final shopping before you head home. Hotel check-out time is 12:00pm.

Accommodation: *On your flight*
Meals: *Breakfast*

INCLUSIONS:

- Accommodation in a double or twin share room with daily breakfast
- Overnight cruise on board a wooden junk boat in Halong Bay (non-private boat)
- Sightseeing tours, transfers and all services as mentioned in the itinerary
- Private air-conditioned vehicle during all tours and transfers.
- Local Experienced English speaking guide where mentioned in the itinerary
- Entrance fees for all visits as mentioned in the itinerary
- Meals as specified in the itinerary
- Water puppet show
- Boat trip on Tonle Lake
- 1 bottle of Water and tissues/day/person

EXCLUSIONS:

- Flights in and out of Cambodia and Vietnam
- Flight ticket Siem Reap – Saigon and Saigon – Hanoi
- Single supplement
- Vietnamese and Cambodian visas (a visa is compulsory and must be arranged in advance)
- Meals, if not specified in the itinerary
- Travel insurance (we highly recommend that you purchase adequate insurance)
- Gratuities for guides and drivers
- Personal expenses, such as laundry, telephone, drinks, etc.
- All other services not specified in the itinerary



