

## 17 DAYS – THE HIGHLIGHTS OF INDOCHINA

- Duration: 17 Days/ 16 nights
- Highlights: Hanoi (2N)– Halong Bay (1N) –Danang – Hoian (2N) –Hue (1) – Saigon (3N) – Phnom Penh (1N) – Siem Reap (2N) – Luang Prabang (3N) – Vientiane (1N)

### **OVERVIEW:**

*Explore the diverse wonders of Indochina, on this journey, you'll have an authentic Asian experience through three unique countries, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Welcome to Vietnam's bustling capital, Hanoi and then blend in the heavenly sight of thousands of karst islets in Ha Long bay while cruising, swimming and relaxing on board of a junk boat. The former capital city of Hue, land of the Perfume River and imperial legacy and the peaceful ancient town of Hoi An with its exquisite architecture and inhabitants' colorful lifestyles will get you imagining how it became a convergence point of Asian cultures. You will be deeply touched in Ho Chi Minh. Enjoy the Mekong Delta with its vast landscape of flat islands, coconut-lined waterways and warm-hearted farmers. The next day, a short flight from Ho Chi Minh to Siem Reap, Cambodia, brings you to the ancient city in the world. You'll finally finish this epic journey in Laos. If you are short on time but don't want to miss a thing, Highlights of Indochina is for you.*



### **SUMMARY**

DAY 1: HANOI - ARRIVAL

DAY 2: HANOI

DAY 3: HANOI - HALONG

DAY 4: HALONG – HANOI – DANANG – HOIAN

DAY 5: HOIAN

DAY 6: HOIAN – HUE

DAY 7: HUE – HOCHIMINH CITY (SAIGON)

DAY 8: HOCHIMINH – CUCHI TUNNELS – CITY TOUR

DAY 9: HOCHIMINH – MYTHO

DAY 10: HOCHIMINH – PHNOM PENH

DAY 11: PHNOM PENH—SIEM REAP

DAY 12: SIEM REAP– ANGKOR WAT

DAY 13: SIEM REAP – LUANG PRABANG

DAY 14: LUANG PRABANG - BIG BROTHER MOUSE – BAN KHIA LUANG – PAK OU CAVES

DAY 15: LUANG PRABANG – KHUANG SI WATERFALL AND BAN CHAN

DAY 16: LUANG PRABANG – VIENTIANE

DAY 17: VIENTIANE – DEPARTURE

### **DAY 1: HANOI ARRIVAL**

Upon arrival at Noi Bai International Airport, you will meet our guide and transfer to hotel for check in.

Meals: No

**Accommodation: Maison D'Hanoi Hanova hotel (3\*)**

### **DAY 2: HANOI**

Morning, start a city tour beginning with **Ho Chi Minh Complex** which features the life of Ho Chi Minh, the nation's founder. At the complex, visit **Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum** where the nation's founder's body is preserved (closed on Monday, Friday and through October - November), **the colonial Presidential Palace**, originally the French Governor Office and a fine example of French architecture in Hanoi, and the rural style Ho Chi Minh's house on stilts where Ho Chi Minh lived and worked. Stop by one of Hanoi's icons, the **One Pillar Pagoda**, built in the 11th Century in dedication to Avalokiteshvara or Buddha of Compassion and reminiscent of a lotus blossom rising from a pond. Continue to the Temple of Literature, known as the first university of Vietnam built in 1070 by the Ly Dynasty to honor Confucius, sages and outstanding Vietnamese scholars. Lunch at a Vietnamese restaurant

Afternoon, visit **Hoan Kiem Lake** and **Ngoc Son Temple** located on an islet in the lake. Hoan Kiem Lake is the center point of Hanoi and home to a rare endangered giant turtle species. Its name "Returned Sword" comes from a legend of a sacred sword being lent to an ancient Vietnamese King by a holy turtle from the lake and later returned to the turtle. Discover **special Vietnamese traditional art of water puppetry** as well as Vietnamese folklore through a compelling puppet show at Thang Long Theatre. Shop or walk at leisure in the Old Quarter of 36 ancient streets.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation: Maison D'Hanoi Hanova hotel (3\*)**

### **DAY 3: HANOI – HALONG**

Morning pickup at 8:00 AM from your hotel for transfer to Ha Long Bay, which is about 160 km or 3.5-hour drive away. On the way, you will see some rural areas of the Red River Delta with plenty of chances to take photos of Vietnamese farmers working in paddy fields. Stop half way to visit a handicraft workshop of fine clothes and embroidered paintings. Arrive in Ha Long City at 11:30 AM and check in aboard the booked junk right after the welcome drink is served. Start cruising while having lunch on board and enjoy the mighty bay view.



Ha Long Bay meaning Descending Dragon Bay in Vietnamese as legend has it that it was where a holly dragon landed down from sky. The bay, famous as one of the world's wonders and heritage sites whose formation dates back 500 million years, consists of around 2,000 karst islands and islets scattered over an area of 1,553 km<sup>2</sup>. The bay cruise will continue with up close sighting of **Dinh Huong Island, Ga Choi Island, Dog Island, Sail Island**, a visit to **Sung Sot Cave** and swimming stop at **Titov Beach**. Relax to enjoy the bay view at sunset, have dinner after, go fishing at 09:00 PM and spend a night on board.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation: Vspirit Cruise in Halong Bay (3\*)**

#### **DAY 4: HALONG – HANOI – DANANG – HOIAN**

Wake up at 06:30 AM and refresh your body and mind with a **Tai Chi exercise** on the sundeck. Tai Chi is an ancient internal martial art often practiced in soft and gracefully slow moves to enhance internal harmony and vitality. Have tea and coffee onboard before proceeding to Titov Islet or Soi Sim Island to trek and swim. Check out at 09:30, have a buffet brunch while cruising back to shore. Disembark at 11:00 AM to transfer to Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi for flight to Da Nang (lunch en route on the way to airport). Arrive in Da Nang, welcome by our guide and transfer to Hoi An. Hotel check-in and time at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation: Lantern Hoi An hotel (3\*)**

#### **DAY 5: HOIAN**

Morning, start touring Hoi An to discover the ancient charm of a renowned World Heritage Site. Once a bustling maritime commercial port of Asia between 15th and 19th centuries, Hoi An is now a peaceful town of exceptionally well-preserved architecture, lifestyles and traditions. The town exemplifies a fascinating fusion of cultures between Vietnam and the outside world including China, Japan, Thailand and the Philippines. Highlights for sightseeing include the town's iconic 400-year-old Covered Bridge with a small temple attached to one side as a prominent example of Japanese architecture, the Museum of Trade Ceramics which is an elegant Vietnamese style wooden house built in 1858 showcasing antique ceramic artifacts, the 200-year-old Tan Ky House typifying an ancient Chinese merchant residence, the Ong Temple built in 1653 by Chinese settlers to worship Guan Yu, an ancient Chinese general whose character stands for loyalty, bravery and justice. Last but not least, stroll through some villages and the vibrant local market to observe the local daily life still carrying an old-fashioned touch from the past. Lunch at local restaurant



Afternoon, you are free for shopping in Hoian ancient town and relaxing at Cua Dai Beach.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation: Lantern Hoi An hotel (3\*)**

#### **DAY 6: HOIAN – HUE**

Morning, transfer to Hue via Hai Van Pass (Ocean Cloud Pass). Enjoy a stunning headland-and-bay panoramic view from the pass, which for miles hugs the mountainside along the shoreline and overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Stop by Da Dang City on the way to visit the once Buddhist sanctuary Marble Mountains and a Buddhist cave shrine on the mountain. Proceed to arrive in Hue and have lunch at a local restaurant. Hue, the former Imperial Capital of Vietnam for the 1802-1945 period marking the end of Vietnamese feudalism, is known as a city of poetic beauty. It exemplifies a unique blend of a scenic landscape characterized by the **Perfume River** and surrounding mountains and an extremely rich historical legacy typified by numerous relics such as citadel, tombs and pagodas. Lunch at local restaurant

Afternoon, visit **Hue Citadel**, a well-known UNESCO-recognized World Heritage Site, which is a 520 ha fortress-like grand complex built in the early 1800s and featuring three enclosures separated by heavy ramparts namely **Kinh Thanh Hue** (Civic City) as the outer, Hoang Thanh (Royal City) as the middle and **Tu Cam Thanh** (Forbidden City) as the inner. Move on to **Khai Dinh Tomb**, the burial site of Khai Dinh, Vietnam's second-to-last king, and the most elaborate compared to other kings' tombs. The tomb shows a vivid European influence in architecture despite its Asian style.

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

**Accommodation: Thanh Lich hotel (3\*)**

#### **DAY 7: HUE – HOCHIMINH CITY (SAIGON)**

Morning, transfer to airport for flight from Hue to Saigon by .... Arrival Saigon, enjoy a private transfer with guide to hotel for check in.

Afternoon, take a sightseeing tour of Ho Chi Minh City that includes the **War Remnants Museum**, which features a comprehensive collection of the machinery, weapons, photos, and documentation of Vietnam War with the both the French and



Americans, **Saigon Notre-Dame Basilica**, a neo-Roman cathedral as a French-built **neo-Roman cathedral**, **Saigon Central Post Office**, **former Presidential Palace**, **Thien Hau Pagoda** which was built in 1760 to worship a female Sea deity and Cho Lon, the city's China town.

**Meals: Breakfast**

**Accommodation: Sonnet hotel (3\*)**

#### **DAY 8: HOCHIMINH – CUCHI TUNNELS – CITY TOUR**

Morning, transfer to Tay Ninh province, 99 km Northwest of Ho Chi Minh City to visit the Great Temple also known as The Holy See Temple of a rare religion named Cao Dai native to the province. Cao Dai was established in 1926 as a monotheistic religion with its name meaning "Way of the Highest Lord" and its symbol of the left eye standing for Highest Lord's clairvoyant power and wisdom. However it incorporates some aspects of Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism and even Catholicism. The Great Temple, which was built in 1933, has a unique cross-architectural style akin to the religion's blended nature. Lunch at local restaurant

Afternoon, on the return to the city, stop to discover the **Cu Chi Tunnels** which was once a major underground hideout and resistance base of Viet Cong forces during the two wars against the French and later on Americans. The tunnels, entirely hand-dug, formed a highly intricate network of interlinked multilevel passageways at times stretched as far as the Cambodian border and totaling over 120 km in length. Its complexity was beyond imagination containing meeting rooms, kitchens, wells, clinics, schools, depots, trenches and emergency exits all aimed for guerrilla warfare. The tunnels were deep and strong enough to withstand destructive bombings and self-contained enough to outlast prolonged sieges. Back to Ho Chi Minh City

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

### Accommodation: Sonnet hotel (3\*)

#### DAY 9: HOCHIMINH – MYTHO

Morning, after breakfast, travel by road to the **Mekong Delta**, the world's largest delta and Vietnam's largest rice bowl. On arrival in My Tho City, capital of Tieng Giang Province, embark on a boat and navigate through intricate canals while observing the local daily life up close as well as the landscape of waterways and lush islands. Land on the Unicorn Island to enjoy wandering through verdant orchards, tasting fresh fruits and listening to some Southern style traditional music. Move on to the second delta province, Ben Tre, where you will watch local villagers make coconut candy in a rural workshop, walk around briefly and try riding a horse-pulled carriage. More cruising to some bee-keeping households to taste fresh homegrown honey and honey tea. Go back Ho Chi Minh City and spend time at leisure.



Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

### Accommodation: Sonnet hotel (3\*)

#### DAY 10: HOCHIMINH – PHNOM PENH

After your final breakfast in Vietnam, you are free to do some last minute shopping and exploring before transferring to the airport for your flight to Phnom Penh

Upon arrival, meet our guide and transfer to hotel for check in and refreshment. Afternoon start a half day city tour including the **Victory Monument**, and the **National Museum** (called as Musee des Beaux-Arts). Next, you'll visit a French archaeologist and painter, **Georges Groslier**, designed it in Khmer style in 1917. The museum contains a collection of Khmer art - notably sculptures - from throughout the ages. You'll also discover the **Royal Palace**, built by King Norodom in 1866 on the site of the old town, and the **Silver Pagoda**, located within the grounds of the Royal Palace, the Silver Pagoda is so named because of its floor, which is made up of 5000 silver tiles. The treasures found inside includes a solid gold Buddha encrusted and weighing 90 kilograms and a small 17th century emerald and baccarat crystal Buddha. End of day stop at the Central market and in right time to views over the tree-lined avenues of the city during sunset.



Meals: Breakfast

### Accommodation: Cadarmom hotel (3\*)

#### DAY 11: PHNOM PENH—SIEM REAP

Morning, transfer to Phnom Penh Airport and departure to Siem Reap  
Upon arrival, meet our guide and transfer to the hotel for check in.

In the afternoon you begin to visit Prasat Kravan with its unique brick sculptures and Ta Prohm. One of the area's most remarkable temples, Ta Prohm had been relatively untouched since it was discovered and retains much of its mystery. It reveals the fact that, unlike the other monuments of Angkor, it was abandoned and swallowed by the jungle, similar the ways most of the Angkor temples appeared when European explorers first stumbled upon them. Walk around to visit as well Takeo, Chau Say Tevoda and Thommanon. Continue to visit Preah Khan temple, built by the King Jayavarman VII, Preah Khan is, like Ta Prohm, a place of towered enclosures and shoulders-hanging corridors. Unlike Ta Prohm, Preah Khan is in a reasonable state of preservation and ongoing restoration efforts

should maintain and even improve this situation. If time permit, you visit Neak Pean, a fountain built in the middle of a pool and representing the paradisiacal Himalayan mountain-lake and visit the temple of Ta Som as well as Srah Srang ("The Royal Baths"), undoubtedly used in the past for ritual bathing before return to hotel.

Meals: Breakfast

**Accommodation: Angkor Holiday hotel (3\*)**

#### **DAY 12: SIEM REAP – ANGKOR WAT**

Today you'll visit the most famous of all the temples on the plain of **Angkor**: The temple complex covers 81 hectares and as wide as the size of the Imperial Palace in Beijing. You'll explore its distinctive five towers considered to be the prime example of classical Khmer art and architecture. Angkor Wat's five towers symbolize Meru's five peaks - the enclosed wall represents the mountains at the edge of the world and surrounding moat and the ocean beyond.



Afternoon you will visit the ancient capital of **Angkor Thom** (12th century masterpiece), you'll encounter the South Gate with its huge statues, the Royal Enclosure, Phimeanakas, the Elephants Terrace and the Terrace of the Leper King and Bayon Temple (unique for its 54 towers decorated with over 200 smiling faces of Avolokitesvara). Afterwards, drive back to Prasat Bey Temple located in the north of Phnom Bakheng south gate of Angkor Thom in TONLE OUM behind Prasat Bey temple, you'll depart from ports visits south gate of Angkor Thom and the wall along the Tonle Oum while listening romantic traditional music and histories of the Khmer. End of day take a relaxing stopover at Prasat Chrung visiting Tadev Hole and temple with the best Sunset.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation: Angkor Holiday hotel (3\*)**

#### **DAY 13: SIEM REAP – LUANG PRABANG**

Morning, transfer to airport for flight to Luang Prabang by....

Upon arrival, meet our guide and transfer to hotel for check in.

Afternoon, take a half day city tour begins with a visit to the **Royal Palace Museum**, which hosts a range of interesting artifacts. We then head to the magnificent **Wat Xiengthong** with its roofs sweeping low to the ground, which represents classical Laotian architecture. We also have time to visit the impressive stupa of **Wat Visoun** and the shrines of **Wat Aham and Wat Mai**.



Wat Ho Phabang Temple

Meals: Breakfast

**Accommodation: Villa Chitdara hotel (3\*)**

#### **DAY 14: LUANG PRABANG - BIG BROTHER MOUSE – BAN KHIA LUANG – PAK OU CAVES**

Morning, you'll visit the Big Brother Mouse shop to take some books for the village visit then head northward by car along route 13, go along a unpaved road to Ban Khia Luang village where you stop at a school, play with the kids and watch them enjoy their new books. You'll spend time to explore the rest of the village, see weaving and



visiting the local temple. Lunch at the village. You can chose a western picnic lunch or traditional laos food such as sticky rice, fresh vegetables prepared and cooked by the villagers. After lunch drive to Ban Khoklin while enjoying beautiful scenery of mountains and paddy fields until you arrive Ban Khoklin, a private boat is waiting to bring you down the Nam Ou river for 30 minutes to Pak Ou Caves where you find thousands of gold lacquered Buddha status of various shapes and sizes left here by pilgrims. End of day continue down the Mekong River back to Luang Prabang.

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

**Accommodation: Villa Chitdara hotel (3\*)**

#### **DAY 15: LUANG PRABANG – KHUANG SI WATERFALL AND BAN CHAN**

Today you coss the Mekong River by a boat to reach the picturesque village of Ban Chan - a pottery village. You'll visit the morning Phousi Market, where you will find many things sold as local tea, dried buffalo skin, saltpeter along the chickens, vegetables and hild-tribe weavings. Continue to visit local villages of Laos ethnic minority groups at Ban Ouay-a Hmong village, Ban Ou - a Laoloum village and Ban Thapene-a Khmu village Laos to watch they make their famous traditional crafts. End of day go to beautiful Khouangsi Waterfalls where you can swim in a refreshing pools or just walk along the forest trails.



Khouangsi Waterfalls

**Meals: Breakfast, Lunch**

**Accommodation: Villa Chitdara hotel (3\*)**

#### **DAY 16: LUANG PRABANG – VIENTIANE**

Morning, free at leisure until transfer to airport for flight to Vientiane

On arrival at the airport, transfer to hotel for check in.

Afternoon, start an exploration of Vientiane capital by a visit to its major sightseeings including the oldest Wat Sisaket with thousands of miniature Buddha statues and the ancient royal temple of Wat Prakeo - house of the famous Emerald Buddha Image before. You'll visit Lao's national precious heritage, the well-known and sacred structure of That Luang Stupa where you can take some nice pictures of Patuxay Monument. Continue to visit the rest of Vientiane on foot, including Wat Ong Tue; Wat inpeng and Wat Haisok then pass by the shopping area to the Vientiane Central Market of Talad Sao and Talad Kouadin where you can find various goods, fresh food, local souvenirs, textiles, gold, silver and antiques.



Vientiane - Wat Sisaket



Buddha Park

**Meals: Breakfast**

**Accommodation: Laos Orchid hotel (3\*)**

#### **DAY 17: VIENTIANE – DEPARTURE**

After your final breakfast in Vientiane, you are free to do some last minute shopping and exploring before transferring to the airport for your flight departure.

**Meals: Breakfast**

Valid from 01 Oct 2014 to 30 April 2015

10D-VL04	ALL RATES ARE NET IN US\$ PERSON			
	2 PAX	3-4 PAX	5-6 PAX	Single supplement
First class - 3*	1,815	1,491	1,285	427

**Surcharge:** Domestic airfare with taxes for flights by Vietnam Airlines (Subject to be changed)

- **Hanoi (HAN) – Danang (DAN):** US\$ 108/ pax/ way
- **Hue (HUI) – Ho Chi Minh (SGN):** US\$ 108/ pax/ way
- **Ho Chi Minh (SGN) – Phnom Penh (PHN):** US\$ 190/ pax/ way
- **Phnom Penh (PHN) – Siem Reap (REF):** US\$ 120/ pax/ way
- **Siem Reap (REF) – Luang Prabang (LPQ):** US\$ 250/ pax/ way
- **Luang Prabang (LPQ) – Vientiane(VTE):** US\$ 125/ pax/ way

Includes:	Excludes:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hotel Accommodation with breakfast and based on twin or triple sharing</li> <li>- Private English speaking guide</li> <li>- 2D1N program in Halong</li> <li>- Entrance fees &amp; Sightseeing as indicated</li> <li>- Meals at local restaurant as mentioned</li> <li>- Visa approval letter (free)</li> <li>- Mineral water for every day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Airfare (international and domestic) and airport tax</li> <li>- Visa handling fee, visa stamp fee.</li> <li>- Drinks and other meals not clearly mentioned</li> <li>- Surcharge for special request on food, and meals.</li> <li>- Insurance, gratuities and personal expenses</li> <li>- Tipping for guide and driver</li> <li>- Surcharge for public holidays (if any)</li> <li>- All other service not stated in the program</li> </ul>

### 5. HOTEL USED IN THIS TOUR:

Place	3star hotel	Website
<b>Hanoi</b>	Maison D' Hanoi Hanova Hotel	<a href="http://www.maisondhanoi.com">www.maisondhanoi.com</a>
	La Rosa Hotel	<a href="http://www.hanoilarosahotel.com">www.hanoilarosahotel.com</a>
<b>Halong Cruise</b>	V'Spirit Cruise	<a href="http://www.vspiritcruises.com">www.vspiritcruises.com</a>
	Glory Cruise	<a href="http://www.halongglorycruise.com">www.halongglorycruise.com</a>
<b>Hoian</b>	Lantern Hoian	<a href="http://www.hoianlanternhotel.com">www.hoianlanternhotel.com</a>
	Kim An Hotel	<a href="http://www.kimanhoianhotel.com">www.kimanhoianhotel.com</a>
<b>Hue</b>	Thanh Lich Hotel	<a href="http://www.thanhlichhotel.com.vn/en/">www.thanhlichhotel.com.vn/en/</a>
	Hue Serene Palace Hotel	<a href="http://www.serenepalacehotel.com">www.serenepalacehotel.com</a>
<b>Hochiminh</b>	Elios Hotel	<a href="http://www.elioshotel.vn">www.elioshotel.vn</a>
	Sonnet Hotel	<a href="http://www.sonnetsaigonhotel.com">www.sonnetsaigonhotel.com</a>
<b>Phnom Penh</b>	Cardamom hotel	<a href="http://www.cardamomhotel.com">www.cardamomhotel.com</a>
<b>Siem Reap</b>	Angkor Holiday Hotel	<a href="http://www.angkorholidayhotel.com">www.angkorholidayhotel.com</a>
<b>Luang Prabang</b>	Villa Chitdara	<a href="http://www.villachitdara2.com">www.villachitdara2.com</a>
<b>Vientiane</b>	Lao Orchid hotel	<a href="http://www.lao-orchid.com">www.lao-orchid.com</a>



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*All other alternative hotels will be used in case the above mentioned hotels are fully booked*

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## **6. SERVICE DETAILS DURING THE TRIP:**

### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

- All prices are quoted in USD/ per person, based on Double/Twin occupancy
- Supplement for standard menu meals: US\$ 12 for lunch & US\$ 18 for dinner
- Private services & daily departure
- Surcharge for Compulsory dinner for Xmas and New Year Eve
- Surcharge for domestic flight tickets with taxes:

### **SPECIAL OFFER**

- [Free] Mineral water is available during transfers
- [Free] Vietnam visa approval letter on arrival
- [Free] Traditional Gifts