

## EXOTIC VIETNAM WITH CAMBODIA'S WONDER

### Detailed Itinerary

#### DAY 1 Thursday, January 2, 2025

Depart the USA.

#### DAY 2 Friday, January 3, 2025

Cross the International Dateline and lose one day.

#### DAY 3 Saturday, January 4, 2025: HO CHI MINH CITY (SAIGON)



Arrive in the early morning at the Tan Son Nhat International Airport in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Vietnam. After your warm welcome, you will be transferred to your hotel where you will store your luggage until check in time. Then you will embark on a half day city tour of Ho Chi Minh City's top attractions including Notre Dame Cathedral, Saigon Central Post Office, War Remnants Museum, and the Reunification Palace, formerly known as the Presidential Palace of South Vietnam. Then you will have some free time to shop at Ben Thanh Market and have lunch at a local restaurant. After checking into the hotel, the remainder of the day is at leisure.

**Meals:** Lunch

**Overnight:** Eden Star Saigon Hotel or similar

#### DAY 4 Sunday, January 5, 2025: HO CHI MINH CITY - MEKONG DELTA



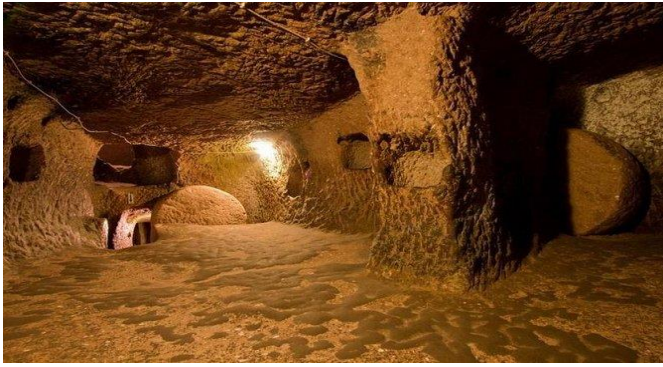
After breakfast at the hotel, you will depart for the "rice basket" of Vietnam - the Mekong Delta. Pass by green rice fields along the way. Then stop at the beautiful village of My Tho where you'll visit a local fruit market and enjoy the tropical fruit while listening to Southern Vietnamese folk music performed by islanders. Here you also can join some daily activities of the local people and take in the atmosphere of the natural countryside. Lunch will be served right in the heart of a gorgeous orchard garden. Next, enjoy a boat trip on the canal, fully covered by the shadow of the water's coconut trees. Then drive back to Ho Chi Minh City drive where you will enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Overnight:** Eden Star Saigon Hotel or similar



#### DAY 5 Monday, January 6, 2025: CU CHI TUNNELS - FLY TO SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA



Depart in the morning to visit to Cu Chi Tunnels. These tunnels were used by the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War and are a testament to the resilience and resourcefulness of the Vietnamese people. Explore the tunnels and learn about the history of the war and the role of the tunnels in the conflict. Then enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before departing for the airport to take our direct flight to Siem Reap. On arrival, receive a warm welcome and then transfer to the hotel for check in and leisure time.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Overnight:** Angkor Paradise Hotel or similar

#### DAY 6 Tuesday, January 7, 2025: SIEM REAP - ANGKOR TEMPLES



Breakfast at hotel, begin your tour with a visit to Angkor Thom, the South Gate of Angkor Thom, Bayon Temple with its 54 towers, the Royal Enclosure, the Phimeanakas, the Elephants Terrace and Preah Khan temple. After an included lunch, visit the jungle covered temple of Ta Prohm. 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. Next we visit Banteay Kdei and Preah Rup Temple. We will end our afternoon tour viewing the amazing sunset on top of Phnom Bakeng. The evening is yours to explore Siem Reap on your own. Perhaps visit the night market and Pub Street.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Overnight:** Angkor Paradise Hotel or similar

#### DAY 7 Wednesday, January 8, 2025: SIEM REAP - ANGKOR WAT - FLY TO HANOI





After breakfast at the hotel we head out of town to the intricately carved and well preserved temple of Banteay Srei. Along the way we make a stopover at the Preah Dark village. After an included lunch, visit Angkor Wat, the largest temple in the world and one of its 7 Wonders. Then transfer to the airport to take the early evening flight to Hanoi. On arrival, you'll be greeted with a warm welcome and transferred to hotel for check in. Overnight in Hanoi.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Overnight:** Anatole Hanoi Hotel or similar

#### DAY 8 Thursday, January 9, 2025: HANOI



After breakfast at the hotel, enjoy a full day tour of the capital city of Vietnam featuring the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, One Pillar Pagoda, and the Temple of Literature. After an included lunch, the tour continues with a visit to the Museum of Ethnology. Then proceed to Hoan Kiem Lake and enjoy a short walk around Hanoi Old Quarter before visiting the outside of St. Joseph Cathedral. End of your Hanoi day tour day by attending an entertaining Water Puppet show before going back to the hotel for an evening of leisure.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Overnight:** Anatole Hanoi Hotel or similar

#### DAY 9 Friday, January 10, 2025: HANOI - HALONG BAY



After breakfast at the hotel, you will embark on a magical adventure Halong Bay, one of the New 7 Natural Wonders of the World. Explore the breathtaking scenery of this UNESCO-listed natural heritage site as you cruise on a luxurious yacht. You will marvel at the sight of hundreds of limestone towers emerging from the pristine blue waters of the bay. You will have the chance to participate in various exciting activities, such as kayaking, swimming, visiting limestone caves, and even squid fishing. Your meals will be served on the boat, and your comfortable cabin will provide the perfect setting for your night out on the bay with its stunning sunset.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Overnight:** Peony Halong Bay Cruise

#### DAY 10 Saturday, January 11, 2025: HALONG BAY - HANOI - FLY TO DANANG - HOI AN





You'll want to wake up early enough to catch the morning sunrise from the cruise boat deck. After breakfast and a relaxing morning on the bay, you'll disembark the ship at 11 am and you'll then be transferred to the Noi Bai Airport for your direct and short flight to Danang City. Upon arrival, you'll be greeted with a warm welcome and transferred to your hotel in Hoi An for check in and leisure time..

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Overnight:** Silkotel Hoi An Hotel or similar

#### DAY 11 Sunday, January 12, 2025: HOI AN



After breakfast we head to Hoi An's colorful food market. Explore the market and interact with local vendors to purchase some fresh ingredients for today's traditional Vietnamese cooking class. From there we will board the Red Bridge boat for a leisurely 25-minute cruise along the Thu Bon River to the Red Bridge Cooking School. Upon arrival, explore the school's herb and vegetable garden. Learn to cook and help prepare five traditional dishes for lunch. You'll also be entertained and taught some special culinary techniques at the fruit and vegetable carving demonstrations. In the afternoon, embark on a guided walking tour through the narrow, winding streets of the ancient quarter, visiting Chua Ong Pagoda, the Chinese Assembly Hall, the 200-year-old Tan Ky ancestral house and the famous Japanese Covered Bridge. Transfer to the hotel in Hoi An for leisure time and your overnight stay.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Overnight:** Silkotel Hoi An Hotel or similar

#### DAY 12 Monday, January 13, 2025: HOI AN - HUE



After breakfast, check out of the hotel and then transfer to Hue. On the way, you will stop to enjoy stunning views of the coastline from the Hai Van Pass. Upon arrival in Hue, check into the hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.



**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Overnight:** Hue Romance Hotel or similar

#### DAY 13 Tuesday, January 14, 2025: HUE



After breakfast at the hotel, we take a walking tour of the walled citadel, where the former Imperial Palace and the Forbidden Purple City are located. You will learn about the history of the Nguyen Dynasty, which ruled Vietnam for over a century. You will also visit the Hue Royal Antiquities Museum, which houses a collection of antiques that once belonged to the royal family. Next, you will travel to the site of the ancient colosseum, which was used for elephant and tiger fighting. Here, you will learn about the fierce battles that took place in the arena. Then you'll visit the Tomb of King Minh Mang and the Tomb of King Khai Dinh, two of the most impressive structures of the Nguyen Dynasty that reflect a blend of Asian and European architectural styles. Next, take a relaxing cruise on a dragon boat down the Perfume River before visiting Thien Mu Pagoda, the most famous religious site in Hue and explore its landscaped gardens with its 7-story octagonal tower. You will have free time to explore the Dong Ba Market before transferring back to the hotel.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Overnight:** Hue Romance Hotel or similar

#### DAY 14 Wednesday, January 15, 2025: HUE - FLY TO HO CHI MINH CITY - FLIGHT TO USA



After breakfast at the hotel, check out and transfer to the Thuy Xuan Incense Village for a fascinating tour of the history of incense and how it is made. At this popular village, you'll have time for shopping for last-minute souvenirs. Then head to the airport to take the direct flight back to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) where you will connect to your international flight back home.

#### DAY 15 Thursday, January 16, 2025: RETURN TO USA

Arrive back in the USA in the morning with special memories of our trip to Vietnam and Cambodia.

#### TRIP EXCLUDES:

International flights – Group air required to participate on this trip

Meals not included on the itinerary

Travel Insurance

Pre-Paid gratuities

Personal expenses