

Indochina connection Thailand - Vietnam - Cambodia -Laos 18 days Destinations: Bangkok - Chiang Rai - Chiang Mai - Hanoi - Halong Bay - Hoi An -

Hue - Ho Chi Minh City - Mekong Delta - Siem Reap - Luang Prabang

Summary of the Itinerary

Day 1: Bangkok Arrival N/A Day 2: Bangkok City Tour (B)

Day 3: Bangkok/Chiang Rai by flight (B) Day 4: Chiang Rai – Chiang Mai (B) Day 5: Chiang Mai - Bangkok - Hanoi (B)

Day 6: Hanoi City Tour (B)

Day 7: Hanoi - Halong Bay (B/L/D) Day 8: Halong Bay – Hoi An (B/L)

Day 9: Hoi An City Tour (B)

Day10: Hoi An – Danang – Hue (B) Day 11: Hue City Tour – Ho Chi Minh City (B) Day 12: Ho Chi Minh City - Mekong Delta (B/L)

Day 13: Cu Chi Tunnels - Siem Reap (B)

Day 14: Siem Reap (B) Day 15: Siem Reap (B)

Day 16: Siem Reap - Luang Prabang (B) Day 17: Luang Prabang – Pak Ou Cave (B)

Day 18: Luang Prabang - Khoang Si Waterfall - Depar-

ture (B)

Exclusions

- Flights are not mentioned in itinerary
- Travel insurance, Visas
- Drinks, laundry or other personal expenses
- Gala Dinner on 24th and 31st December

Highlights

- Colourful markets in Mekong Delta
- The magnificent scenery of Halong Bay
- Wonder of the World Angkor Temples
- The rich cultural heritage of Luang Prabang
- The world famous Golden Triangle

Inclusions

- Private English speaking guide.
- Accommodation at selected hotels.
- Private transportations with A/C
- Meals as mentioned: (B) for breakfast, (L) for lunch, (D) for dinner.
- All entrance fees, performances, boat trips, excursions mentioned in itinerary
- Mineral water bottles daily
- Flights ticket: Bangkok Siem Reap; Siem Reap Ho Chi Minh City; Ho Chi Minh City - Hue; Danang - Hanoi; Hanoi - Luang Prabang; Luang Prabang - Chiang Mai; Chiang Mai - Phuket; Phuket - Bangkok.



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Day 1: Bangkok Arrival N/A

On arrival at Suvarnabhumi Airport, you'll be driven to your hotel. Rest of the day, you'll be free to stroll around the city as you wish. You'll spend the night in Bangkok.

Day 2: Bangkok City Tour (B)

After breakfast, you'll begin your tour of Bangkok with a long tail boat ride along the Chao Phraya River to see many lively inner canals which provide some fantastic views of the local life. Along the way you will stop over at Wat Arun, the temple of dawn, before continuing to the Grand Palace which dedicated to the Thai Royal Family's ceremonies. Nearby is the magnificent Wat Phra Kaew, which is famous for the Emerald Buddha Image. After seeing this complex, you will drive through the many vibrant streets of China Town to some of the most significant temples in Bangkok. The landmark of Wat Traimit is well known as the Golden Buddha Temple while Wat Po houses a gigantic Reclining Buddha. You will spend the night in Bangkok.



Day 3: Bangkok/Chiang Rai by flight (B)

Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to Bangkok airport for a morning g flight to Chiang Rai. On arrival transfer to visit the world famous Golden Triangle where the borders of three countries (Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar) are met. Enjoy the panoramic view of Mekong River and Hall of Opium and Boat Trip along the Mae Khong River, made a stop at Don Sao Village, Laos. Then continue to Mae Sai town, the Thailand-Myanmar border and the northernmost point of Thailand. Enjoy shopping the Myanmar products at the local market. After the tour proceed to Chiang Rai to check into hotel and free at own leisure. You will spend the night in Chiang Rai

Day 4: Chiang Rai - Chieng Mai (B)

Breakfast at hotel, checkout from hotel then drive to Chiang Mai. On the way visit to Wat Rongkun known for its famous White Temple. After the tour proceed to Chiang Mai with a visit on arrival to Wat Phrathat Doi Suthep, This temple was built in 1383. It is located 15 kms from the city and 3,500 feet above sea level. See the marvelous golden pagoda, which is containing the holy relics of Lord Buddha. We also visit Long Neck Village. You can enjoy the panoramic view of Chiang Mai City and Ping valley from the summit of Doi Suthep. Lunch at local restaurant, check into hotel for accommodation. You will spend the night in Chiang Mai.

Day 5: Chieng Mai - Bangkok - Hanoi (B)

After breakfast, visit in the morning to Wat Phr Singh and

Wat Jet Yod. Lunch at local restaurant. After lunch transfer to Chiang Mai airport for flight to Bangkok and then to Hanoi. Upon your arrival at Hanoi airport, your tour guide and driver will greet you and escort you to your hotel, help with your check-in. The rest of day is for your relax.



Day 6: Hanoi city tours (B)

After breakfast, you have a full day today to explore Vietnam's charming capital. With its wide tree-lined boulevards, French colonial architecture, peaceful lakes and ancient oriental pagodas, Hanoi is an eclectic mix that offers something for everyone. Visit Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum and his personal residence, the One Pillar Pagoda and the Tran Quoc Pagoda. End the morning with a visit to the Museum of Ethnology (or Women Museum, History Museum, Hoa Lo Prison or Army Museum)

In the afternoon, visit the Temple of Literature, the first University for the sons of mandarins. Followed by a visit to Ngoc Son Temple nearby Hoan Kiem Lake. Enjoy a one-hour rickshaw sight-seeing tour around Hanoi Old Quarter for great fun. Then, watch a traditional water puppet show in the late afternoon. Back to your hotel, free at leisure and overnight in the hotel of Hanoi.

Note: please note Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum is closed on Monday and Friday and most of museums are closed on Monday.



Day 7: Hanoi - Halong Bay (B/L/D)

We start at 8.00 A.M for the 3.5 hour drive (170 km) through the Red River Delta, which offers plenty of chances for taking photos of Vietnamese farmers tilling the vast green paddy fields. Stop at half way for taking a short break.

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Arrive at Halong City, check in and board your junk, enjoy approximately 24 hours journey in the amazing bay: a natural wonderland composed of jutting limestone islands and sparkling turquoise waters. Savor a gourmet lunch of fresh seafood onboard as we sail out into the mystical bay. In the afternoon, enjoy some activities in the bay, or just spend some time relaxing on board (Possibility to swim in the bay if weather permits). Dinner is served on board.

<u>Note:</u> Visits or activities will be slightly different depending on each junk's itinerary. Your tour guide will be replaced by a local guide on board during your cruise.



Day 8: Halong Bay - Hoian (B/L)

Awake early and participate in Tai Chi on the top deck or simply relax and enjoy the sunrise over the bay's towering islands. Enjoy a morning cup of coffee or tea, and a light breakfast before setting out to explore nearby islands by rowboat. Return to the junk then take advantage of the sundeck and admire the amazing rock formations of Bai Tu Long Bay as we navigate back to Halong City. Have brunch on board the boat before returning to Halong pier. Our guide and driver will meet you at the pier then drive back to Hanoi Airport for your flight to Danang. Upon your arrival at Da Nang airport, your tour guide and driver will greet you and escort you to Hoi An (about half an hour drive), help with your check-in in hotel. The rest of day is for your relax.

Day 9: Hoian city tour (B)

After breakfast, Visit to My Son Holy land in the morning, once the spiritual capital of Champa Kingdom that dominated South East Asia for nearly a thousand years



and occupied most of the central parts of Vietnam from 2nd century to 16th century with very rich in history and culture. In the afternoon, drive back to Hoi An with visit the former merchants' homes, the 400 year-old Japanese Covered Bridge, Phuc Kien Pagoda and the colourful riverside market. Then enjoy some leisure time in the ancient town.

Day 10: Hoian - Hue (B)

After breakfast, leave Hoi An for Hue, the last imperial capital of Vietnam, well-known for magnificent architecture, pagodas and royal tombs laid in small villages and surrounding hills and one of the most popular cities for all the Vietnam Tours. En route have a look at the famous Danang Beach and visit Cham Museum which contains the finest collection of Cham sculpture in the world.

Upon arrival, after check in hotel you will enjoy a visit to the Imperial Citadel, home to the Imperial City and Forbidden Purple City – once the Emperor's private residence. The Imperial Enclosure houses many palaces and temples within its walls. Later on, absorb the energy, sounds and odors of the bustling Dong Ba Market.

Day 11: Hue city tours - Ho Chi Minh (B)

After breakfast, spend an entire day touring the Vietnam's former ancient capital. Start the day with a visit to the Imperial Citadel, home to the Imperial City and Forbidden Purple City – once the Emperor's private residence. The Imperial Citadel gives you a better understanding of the beauty of Vietnamese Royal architecture and culture.



Then we will take a beautiful dragon boat trip along Perfume River and visit to Thien Mu Pagoda – one of the most popular attractions in Hue. In the afternoon, continue on your tour with the visit to King Ming Mang and King Khai Dinh tombs which are the most beautiful works of royal architecture of the Nguyen dynasty.

After the tour, transferring to the airport for your internal flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Upon your arrival at Tan Son Nhat airport, your tour guide and driver will greet you and escort you to the city, help with your check-in in hotel. The rest of day is for your relax.

Day 12: Ho Chi Minh - Mekong Delta (B/L)

Today we will start our exploration of the Mekong Delta, a major rice producing area. This must be one of the most fascinating riverine deltas in the world.

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On arrival, enjoy a boat cruise on the Mekong river through the Long, Lan, Qui and Phung Islands. Stop on the way to visit a fish farm, My Tho's Floating Market and then continue the cruise on through the Xep Canal. Disembark and see a traditional local house made of coconut wood and leaves. Enjoy delicious, fresh, local fruit and traditional live music. Then visit the local coconut candy workshop where you can see the local people produce coconut candy – one of special local products. After lunch, drive back to Ho Chi Minh City. On the way, visit Vinh Trang pagoda, a unique pagoda in Vietnam mixture of Vietnamese, Chinese and Cambodian architecture.



Day 13: Cu Chi túnel - Siemriep (B)

In the morning, drive outside of Ho Chi Minh City to visit the incredible Cu Chi Tunnels. The Cu Chi Tunnels are an underground labyrinth of passageways, used by the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War (or "American War" as it's referred to here) as protection against American air raids. Those inclined are invited to crawl through selections of the tunnels to better understand what life was like for the Vietnamese soldiers during wartime.

Day 14: Siemriep (B)

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we continue to the enchanting temple of the Banteay Srei, the jewel in the crown of Angkorian art. Banteay Srei means 'Citadel of the Women' and it is said that it must have been built by a women, as the elaborate carvings are too fine for the hand of a man.

In the afternoon, we visit the Banteay Samre, which dates from the same period as Angkor Wat. The temple is in a fairly healthy state of preservation due to some extensive renovation work. After here we continue to visit the monuments of Rolous, which served as Indravarman I's capital. The temples were built by the Khmer and mark the beginning of the age of Khmer classical art. Back to the hotel for overnight.

Day 15: Siemriep (B)

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we continue to discover Angkor Wat. In the morning we visit the fabulous Ta Prohm embraced by the roots of enormous fig trees and gigantic creepers. Visit to Pre Rup temple, East Mebon temple, and Neak Poan temple. In the afternoon we visit to Krovan temple, Royal Bath of Srah Srang and Banteay

Kdei temples. Back to the hotel for overnight.



Day 16: Siemriep - Luang Prabang (B)

Breakfast at the hotel. We take a short bus ride to Tonle Sap Lake. Board a motored boat and enjoy a cruise past a floating village. Visit to local schools in the floating village.

Back to the town and enjoy free time to shop in local market. Then, transfer to the airport for the flight to Luang Prabang. Arrival in LuangPrabang and transfer to our hotel for check-in.

Day 17: Luang Prabang - Pak Ou Cave (B)

An optional early start gives you the fantastic opportunity to participate in the daily morning rituals of saffron-clad monks collecting offerings of Alms (ubiquitous sticky rice) from the faithful residents. This tradition is very unique in Laos, being the only Buddhist nation still preserving the procession.

After breakfast, we enjoy a short-guided tour seeing the city's oldest temple of Wat Sene and the magnificent Wat Xiengthong with its roofs sweeping low to the ground, which represents classical Laotian architecture. We then board a cruise upstream on the Mekong River, which also gives us a panoramic view of the tranquil countryside as well as an interesting visit to the mysterious of Pak Ou Caves, two linked caves crammed with thousands of gold lacquered Buddha statues of various shapes and sizes left by pilgrims. Along the way, we stop at the small village of Ban Xanghai, where the local rice wine is distilled.

Day 18: Luang Prabang – Khoang Si Waterfall – Departure (B)

After breakfast you will visit the morning Phosi Market, where you will see such diverse offerings as dried buffalo skin, local tea and saltpeter among the chickens, vegetables and hill-tribe weavings. Laos is also known for its traditional crafts, and today you will visit local villages of Lao ethnic minority groups at Ban Ouay, Hmong Village, Ban Ou, Laoloum Village and Ban Thapene, Khmu Village, then drive to the beautiful Khouangsi Waterfall where you can cool off with a refreshing swim in the turquoise pools or walk along the forest trails. We return to the city by late afternoon. Enjoy your free time in the rest of the day before it's time to go to the airport for your flight home. **Good bye and see you again.**

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