

## **Asia Discovery Tours**

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### 23 Day Vietnam, Cambodia & Thailand Tour (Tour Code: VCT)



This special designed itinerary not only includes the highlights of Vietnam, but also the highlights of Cambodia and Thailand. Travel to Vietnam, a hardly untouched soil, abounding with beautiful scenery, historical cultural heritage and its friendly atmosphere together with its neighbouring country, Cambodia for its legendary and mystical lost city of Angkor, and also a beautiful tour in Bangkok, Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai and Kanchanaburi of Thailand. You've got a recipe for one of the most memorable times you'll ever have. Toss in the ease of travel with us and there's no way you'll feel like you're missing out on anything in this dynamic region.

Day 01, 08/10: SYDNEY/MELBOURNE – HANOI *VN 786, SYDNEY – HANOI 15:15/21:10* 

VN 778, MELBOUNRE - HANOI 00:30/07:10

Depart Sydney or Melbourn on Vietnam Airlines in the

early morning or in the afternoon and arrive in Hanoi in the morning or in the evening. Upon arrival, you are welcome at the airport and transferred to the hotel. You are free at leisure to explore Hanoi on your own. Stay overnight at Skylark Hotel\*\*\*\* or similar.

#### Day 02, 09/10: HANOI – HA LONG BAY (BR. D.)

After breakfast, we depart from Hanoi and travel by air-conditioned bus through the Red River Delta to beautiful Ha Long Bay. The scenic drive will pass through some of the rural landscape before arriving in the afternoon to the World Heritage site of Ha Long Bay. Ha Long Bay consists of more than 3000 islands, which time, wind and waves have sculptured into fantastic shapes. Upon arrival, check in the junk at noon. You will experience a fantastic cruise in Ha Long bay to visit Thien Cung cave, Dau Go cave, and round over Tuan Chau Island, Dinh Huong Island, Ga Choi Island, Dog Island, Sail Island and a swim at Titov beach. Enjoy dinner on board while watching sunset and enjoy fishing and spending a night on a Junk Boat. Stay overnight on Le Journey Cruise\*\*\*\* or similar.

#### Day 03, 10/10: HA LONG BAY – HANOI (B. L. D.)

Tortoise Island, Luon cave, Bai Tu Long bay, Toad Island, Bai Tho mountain. Afterwards, return to Halong city and have lunch on board. We will drive back to Hanoi for the night. In the evening enjoy a traditional Vietnamese water puppet show. Stay overnight at Skylark Hotel\*\*\*\* or similar.

# **Day 04, 11/10: HANOI – TRANG AN – HANOI (B. L. D.)**

Depart for Trang An Landscape Complex There is beautiful roadside scenery on the way. After arriving in

In the morning, you will have breakfast and from there, go for a morning cruise to visit Man's head island,





Ninh Binh Province, the guide takes you to visit Hoa Lu, the Ancient Royal Capital of Vietnam. Board a small boat to visit Tam Coc, the village of Tam Coc flooded cave karst system, Bich Dong series of mountain pagodas and the famous Bai Dinh Temple. Back to Hanoi. Stay overnight at Skylark Hotel\*\*\*\* or similar.

### Day 05, 12/10: HANOI – HUE (B. L. D.) VN1545, HANOI – HUE 16:30/17:45

Today city tour includes such sights as Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, the One Pillar Pagoda, and the Fine Art Museum. Then move on to the Temple of Literature,

Lake of Restored Sword and the Old Quarter for shopping until transferred to the airport for a flight to Hue. On arrival, you will be met and transferred to the hotel. Stay overnight at Mondial Hotel\*\*\*\* or similar.

#### Day 06, 13/10: HUE (B. L. D.)

This morning, take a boat cruise on the Perfume River to Thien Mu Pagoda; one of the most beautiful Pagodas in Vietnam built at the end of 16th century and King Minh Mang's Tomb. In the afternoon, visit Imperial Palace; a citadel surrounded by large moats. Then continue visiting King Tu Duc's Tomb. Stay overnight at Mondial Hotel\*\*\*\* or similar.

### Day 07, 14/10: HUE – HOI AN (B. L. D.)

Drive over the mighty Hai Van Pass. On the way there, we will visit Cham Museum where the remaining evidence of the Champa civilization can be viewed. Then visit the Marble Mountains, which are fascinating maze of cave and temples, hidden with five sacred marble rocks. Visit Hoi An Town with Japanese Bridge, Old House, Chinese Temple and Hoi An Cultural Museum. Stay overnight at Eco Lux Riverside Hotel\*\*\*\* or similar.

### Day 08, 15/10: HOI AN – MY SON – HOI AN (B. L.)

Visit to My Son, Vietnam's most important Cham ruins site and Bang An, one of Vietnam's best preserved Cham towers. Free afternoon. Stay overnight at Eco Lux Riverside Hotel\*\*\*\* or similar.

# Day 09, 16/10: HOI AN – DANANG – SAIGON (B. D.) *VN119, DANANG – SAIGON 11:00/12:30*

Free until transfer to the airport for the flight to Saigon. On arrival, you will be picked up and transferred to the hotel. In the afternoon, you will visit the former Presidential Palace, the History Museum, the Notre Dame Cathedral, Old Saigon Post Office and Ben Thanh Market. Stay overnight at Ramana Hotel \*\*\*\* or similar.

### Day 10, 17/10: SAIGON – CAODAIST TEMPLE – CU CHI TUNNELS – SAIGON (B. L. D.)

Drive to Tay Ninh Province, the headquarter of a typical Vietnamese religion called Caodaiism. Visit the Holy

See with the noon ceremony of Caodaiism. Then drive to amazing Cu Chi Tunnels to visit and experience a huge system of underground tunnels dug by Vietnamese guerrilas during the French and American Wars in Vietnam. Drive back to Saigon. Stay overnight at Ramana Hotel \*\*\*\*or similar.

# Day 11, 18/10: SAIGON – MEKONG DELTA – SAIGON (B. L. D.)





Enjoy the scenic journey along the National Highway bordered by green rice fields. On arrival at My Tho oldest city of Mekong River Delta, take a leisurely boat ride along the river, view the stilt houses, fruit plantations and fishing villages along the river bank. Proceed to Tortoise Islet. Then take a boat ride to An Khanh, a less touristy attraction in Ben Tre Province. Check in cruising on a hand-rowed sampan under the shadow of the water coconut trees along natural canals, then enjoy seasonal fruit & honey tea while listening to Southern Amateur Music, the only world cultural heritage in the region, performed by locals. Visit a family business which epitomizes the idyllic rural lifestyle, taste the delicious coconut candy and observe the pastoral life as you roam through the fruit plantation

and village. Then drive back to Saigon. Stay overnight at Ramana Hotel \*\*\*\* or similar.

# Day 12, 19/10: SAIGON – PHNOM PENH (B. D.) *VN920, SAIGON – PHNOM PENH 16:00/16:55*

Breakfast at the hotel. You are free at own leisure until transfer to airport. In the afternoon, you will take a flight to Phnom Penh. Upon arrival, visit National Museum, Toul Sleng Museum and the Independent Monument. Stay overnight at Sim Boutique Hotel\*\*\*\* or similar in Phnom Penh.

### Day 13, 20/10: PHNOM PENH – SIEM REAP (BY FLIGHT) (B. D.) K6 107, PHNOM PENH – SIEM REAP 13:30/14:25

After breakfast, you will continue to visit Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda and Wat Phnom. In the afternoon, you are transferred to airport for a short flight to Siem Reap. Upon arrival, you are met and transferred to your hotel to check in. You are free at leisure or you might want to spend your evening visiting local market of Psachas and Pubstreet at your own exploration after dinner. Stay overnight at Monoreach Angkor Hotel\*\*\*\* in Siem Reap.

#### Day 14, 21/10: ANGKOR WAT (B. L. D.)

Visit Banteay Srey Temple and South Gate Angkor Thom, Bayon. Lunch at local restaurant. Continue your tour to Ta Promh Temple and Angkor Wat Temple. Stay overnight at Monoreach Angkor Hotel\*\*\*\* in Siem Reap.

# Day 15, 22/10: SIEM REAP – TONLE SAP LAKE – BANGKOK (B. L.D) FD615, SIEM REAP – BANGKOK 15:15/16:25

After breakfast - Drive 18km toward Tonle sap where you will enjoy a boat ride (private boat and guide) on the Tonle Sap Lake. This is the largest permanent fresh-water lake in South-east Asia and flows into Tonle Sap

River, joining the Mekong in Phnom Penh. We will see a fishermen's "floating village" with floating schools, floating police station, etc. It is same as a big village floating on the Lake, and the "village" move from place to place following water levels and current. Afterward, you are transferred to Siem Reap airport for the flight to Bangkok, Thailand. Upon arrival, you are met and transferred to hotel for the night. Stay overnight at Ambassador Hotel\*\*\*\* or similar

# **Day 16, 23/10: BANGKOK – CHIANG RAI (B.D)**





#### FD3209, BANGKOK - CHIANG RAI 11:20/12:40

Take a flight to Chiang Rai. Upon arrival in Chiang Rai, we enjoy a short sightseeing tour taking us in the impressive Ethnologic Museum which is dedicated to the region's ethnic minorities, some of which we will see on our forthcoming excursion. Afterwards we embark on a longtail boat for a thrilling trip upstream on the Mae Kok River, passing through many breathtaking mountain landscapes to a Karen hilltribe village. This ethnic group originated from Burma, but had settled there long time ago, forming the largest tribal population in this northern land. Stay overnight at Wiang Inn Hotel\*\*\*\* or similar in Chiang Rai.

#### Day 17, 24/10: CHIANG RAI – GOLDEN TRIANGLE – CHIANG MAI (B.D)

The royal capital of the ancient Lanna Kingdom, Chiang Saen is nestled on the Mekong riverbank, which is now the border between Thailand and Laos. Today we travel by roads to Chiang Saen with a stopover at the large Akha and Yao hill tribe settlements near Mae Chan. Arriving in Chiang Saen we visit the town's major sights, including Wat Phrathat Jom Kitti, Wat Chedi Luang and a nearby museum. Heading out of the town we drive through some verdant and rugged mountain scenery to the famous Golden Triangle in which powerful warlords have fought for control the opium trade. After exploring the border town of Mae Sai we continue our overland trip to Chiang Mai. The drive is long, but views are fantastic. Stay overnight at Furama Hotel\*\*\*\* or similar in Chiang Mai.

#### Day 18, 25/10: CHIANG MAI – CHIANG DAO – CHIANG MAI (B.L.D)

Upon leaving the town we set off on an hour and half drive to the northern hill region around Chiang Dao, which is home to a wide array of hill tribe groups. The roads conditions are very poor; however the breathtaking mountain scenery makes for an interesting journey. Along the way we stop at an elephant camp to see these huge animals handling timber before we enjoy an exciting elephant ride past the forest to the hill tribe villages. We get well off the beaten track as we walk around the area, visiting the Red Lahu, Lisu, Karen and Akha people. These ethnic minorities still retain their age-old cultural traditions and are recognisably distinct from each other by their dress. Stay overnight at Furama Hotel\*\*\*\* or similar in Chiang Mai.

# Day 19, 26/10: CHIANG MAI – BANGKOK (B.L.D) *FD3432, CHIANG MAI – BANGKOK 17:30/18:45*

Today we explore this charming town with a walk to the famous Doi Suthep Mountain, leading us to Wat Prathat Temple near the summit. At an elevation of over 1,000 meters, this temple grounds afford a panoramic view over the surrounding countryside. We follow this with a visit to the old and new parts of the town featuring the great diversity. The "Rose of the North", Chiang Mai, which has been always noted for exquisite

handicrafts with combination of the traditional wares of the hill tribe people, always offers us the fantastic shopping opportunities. Afterwards fly from Chiang Mai to Bangkok. Upon arrival, you are met and transferred to hotel. Stay overnight at Ambassador Hotel\*\*\*\* or similar

### Day 20, 27/10: BANGKOK – KANCHANABURI (B.L.D)

After breakfast, you are transferred to Kanchanaburi, where you will have Kanchanaburi Skywalk and Dead Railway. Take a train to Tham Krasae Bridge. Have your lunch at local





restaurant. After lunch, transfer to Kanchanaburi Safari Park (including Elephant Show & Crocodile Show). After dinner, you are checking into your hotel in Kanchanaburi. Stay overnight in Kanchanaburi City Hotel\*\*\*\* or similar.

## Day 21, 28/10: KANCHANABURI – BANGKOK (B.L.D)

After breakfast at hotel, travel back to Bangkok, where you will visit Wat Arun (Temple of Dawn), Chaophraya River sightseeing with Tourist Boat to Icon Siam Mall and Sook Siam Floating Market. And then visit Wat Pak Nam (Bangkok Big Buddha). Stay overnight at Ambassador Hotel\*\*\*\* or similar

Day 22, 29/10: BANGKOK – SAIGON – SYDNEY *VN604, BANGKOK – SAIGON 14:25/16:15* 

VN773, SAIGON – SYDNEY 21:15/09:50 (30 Oct.)

### VN781, SAIGON – MELBOURNE 19:30/08:35 (30 Oct.)

You are at leisure exploring Bangkok on your own. In the afternoon, you are transferred to the airport for your flight back to Sydney or Melbourne via Saigon with Vietnam Airlines.

#### Day 23, 30/10: SYDNEY ARRIVAL

You arrive in Sydney or Melbourne in the morning. Your unforgettable Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand tour ends.

Tour price: \$6,780 per person, twin or double share.

Single supplement: \$1,380

#### **Inclusions:**

- 1. Vietnam Airlines international and domestic economy class airfare Sydney or Melbourne Hanoi Hue//Danang Saigon//Bangkok Saigon Sydney or Melbourne with airport tax and fuel surcharge;
- 2. One way ticket from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap with taxes by Cambodia Angkor Air;
- 3. One way ticket from Siem Reap to Bangkok with taxes by Thai Air Asia;
- 4. One way ticket from Bangkok to Chiang Rai with taxes by by Thai Air Asia;
- 5. One way ticket from Chiang Mai to Bangkok with taxes by Thai Air Asia;
- 6. 20-night accommodation at four-star hotels as indicated or similar on twin-shared basis in Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand;
- 7. One-night accommodation on a four-star Junk Boat in Ha Long Bay, Vietnam;
- 8. Transfers and transport by air-conditioned vehicle all through;
- 9. Cruises as stated in the itinerary;
- 10. Meals and sightseeing with entrance fees as mentioned in the itinerary;
- 11. Tip for drivers and guides;
- 12. English-speaking guide.

#### **Exclusions:**

- 1. Travel insurance;
- 2. Vietnam visa fee (currently \$100, subject to change);
- 3. Cambodia visa fee (currently US\$30 upon arrival, subject to change);
- 4. Personal expenses;
- 5. Any meals and any other services not mentioned in the itinerary.

