



The Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia

23 days from only £4,495 per person

Vietnam and Cambodia are the very essence of Indochina. Ancient and modern worlds collide, creating a truly thrilling adventure.

With truly incredible scenery, gastronomic delights, friendly people and so much of their unique character and traditions still in evidence, Vietnam and Cambodia are a delight to discover, experience and enjoy.

Our 23 day Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia tour includes everything you would expect from a holiday in Asia; the hustle and bustle of local markets, phenomenal landscapes, archaeological treasures, and tranquil villages. Also included is a wonderful four-night cruise on the mighty Mekong, a relaxing and delightful way to experience and explore this region as we travel between Vietnam and Cambodia.

With first class hotels throughout, all breakfasts and many other meals included, this tour truly reveals The Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia.



Your holiday includes

Flights with leading scheduled airlines

- Return economy class flights
- Fly with Cathay Pacific via Hong Kong from London Heathrow, London Gatwick or Manchester, or fly with Vietnam Airlines from London Heathrow
- Alternatively, fly with Emirates via Dubai from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow. A supplement from £395 per person will apply
- All domestic flights within Vietnam & Cambodia
- All airport charges, security charges and any applicable fuel surcharges
- UK Air Passenger Duty

Carefully selected hotels

- First class hotels in great locations
- All hotel portage
- Applicable hotel taxes

Many meals

- Daily breakfast, worth £285 per person
- Nine lunches
- Two dinners

All-inclusive Mekong River Cruise

- All meals
- Selected alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks

Unforgettable experiences

- Sightseeing tours in Hanoi, Hoi An, Hue, Ho Chi Minh City and Phnom Penh
- Two night cruise around Halong Bay and Lan Ha Bay
- Vietnamese cookery class
- Cu Chi Tunnels
- Temple complex of Angkor

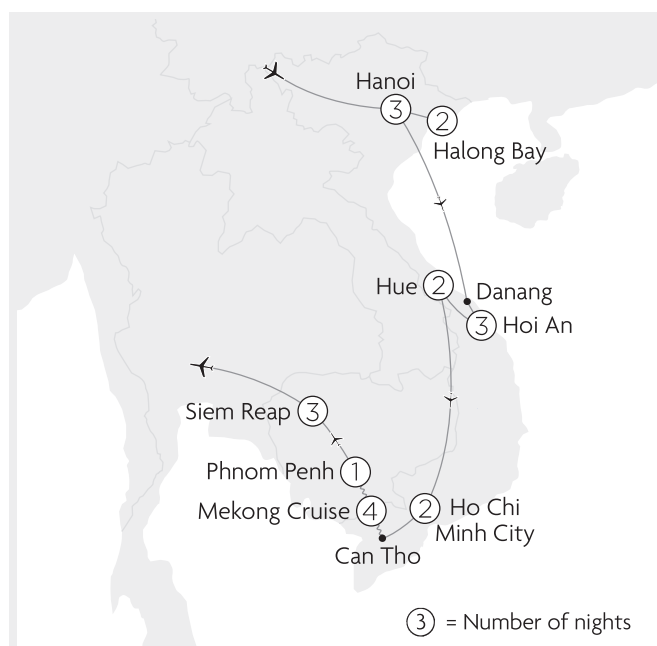
On the ground

- Services of an experienced Tour Manager and local guides
- All overseas transfers
- Modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout

100% confidence

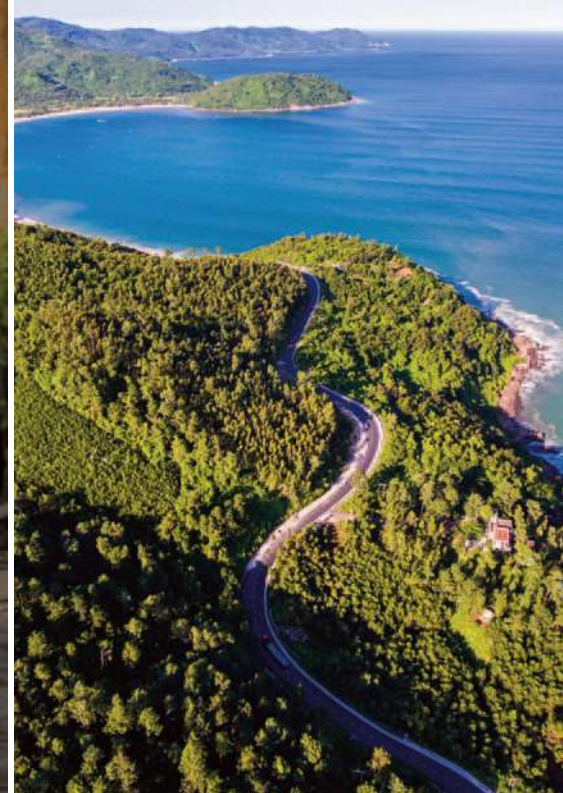
- Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise*
- Your holiday is covered by our Covid Guarantee*
- Your holiday is fully ATOL protected

* For more information on our Price Promise and Covid Guarantee, please see our booking conditions on pages 192-195.





Hoi An



Hai Van Pass

The Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia

Days 1 to 10: UK - Hanoi - Halong Bay - Hoi An - Hue

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Cathay Pacific from the UK airport most convenient for you. Choose from London Heathrow, London Gatwick or Manchester. Alternatively, you can choose to fly direct to Hanoi from London Heathrow with Vietnam Airlines. No matter which airline you choose, there will be no additional cost. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Alternative airline – Emirates

If you prefer, you may fly with Emirates via Dubai from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow, for a supplement of £395 per person return.

Day 2: Hanoi, 3 nights

All flights with Cathay Pacific to Hanoi travel via Hong Kong. After clearing customs, we transfer to our hotel and our home for our first three nights in Vietnam, the delightful Pan Pacific Hanoi. If flying Vietnam Airlines, your flight arrives early morning, so you may wish to arrange a guaranteed early check-in. Vietnam's capital, Hanoi offers a rich Asian culture, mixed with Chinese and French influences. The remainder of our day is at leisure. This evening, enjoy a welcome drink with our Tour Manager and fellow travellers, so we may become better acquainted and learn more of our forthcoming travels. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 3: Hanoi

Hanoi is an immediate assault on the senses, and we begin our morning tour with a cyclo (similar to a rickshaw) ride through the Old Quarter. Packed with charming colonial architecture, Buddhist temples and pagodas, the ancient commercial streets are named after the original businesses that were housed here. We visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, the final resting place of 'Uncle Ho', and view the one pillar pagoda and the 11th century Temple of Literature. Later we visit the Ethnology Museum for a unique insight into the 54 ethnic groups that make up the Vietnamese people, together with a traditional water puppet show. **Breakfast and lunch included.**

Day 4: Hanoi Freedom Day

Today has been left free so you can continue to enjoy the delights of the city at your own pace. Budding photographers may wish to join a tour to capture the city's many incredible photographic opportunities. Or maybe take a cookery class to learn the secrets of Vietnam's delicious cuisine. Alternatively, take a full day excursion to 'Halong Bay on Land', Ninh Binh. **Breakfast included**

We Recommend

Ninh Binh

A mesmerizing region known as 'Halong Bay on Land'. The best way to get a sense of this UNESCO-protected area is by taking a paddleboat tour along its shimmering rivers.





Halong Bay

Day 5: Halong Bay, 2 nights

Tour Highlight

Known for its emerald waters and thousands of towering limestone islands topped by rainforest, Halong Bay has become one of Vietnam's must see destinations. We travel to Halong, where we board our first class vessel, the Au Co, for a spectacular two night cruise around this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy lunch as we cruise into the bay, and visit the floating village of Cua Van, situated in the heart of the bay. Back on board, end the day on deck watching the sun set, followed by dinner.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Day 6: Halong Bay

Start your day, if you wish, with a Tai Chi lesson on the sun deck before cruising through the lesser-known, but no less dramatic, La Han Bay. We arrive at Cat Ba Island and cycle a short distance to Viet Hai Village, nestled in the heart of Cat Ba National Park, where we learn about community life. Later, we visit Trinh Nu Cave to view its stunning array of stalactites and stalagmites. This evening, we enjoy a buffet barbecue on deck with our fellow passengers.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Day 7: Hoi An, 3 nights

Following breakfast this morning, we visit Sung Sot Cave, Halong's largest and most famous cave. Back on board, soak up the scenery as we cruise back to the mainland. We board our waiting coach and travel back to Hanoi for our flight to Danang. Upon arrival, we continue to the town of Hoi An and the fabulous Hoi An Silk Marina Resort & Spa, home for our next three nights.

Breakfast included

Day 8: Walking tour of Hoi An

Tour Highlight

Once a major trading port, historic Hoi An is a delightful UNESCO World Heritage Site of grand architecture, Chinese warehouses, Dutch and French colonial houses and Japanese temples. The best way to explore Hoi An is by foot. During our walking tour we visit the Chua Ong Pagoda, Phuc Kien Assembly Hall, Tan Ky House and the 17th century Japanese Bridge. We finish with a boat trip on the Thu Bon River. The remainder of our day is at leisure. Relax by the hotel pool, or maybe join an optional lantern making class.

Breakfast included

Day 9: Hoi An Freedom Day

Today has been left free, to spend as we please. Perhaps visit the local community of Tra Que Village and discover the techniques used by its farmers, followed by lunch made from locally farmed ingredients. Alternatively, you may prefer to take a cookery class at a local organic farm, visit the enchanting temples of My Son, or simply relax and enjoy your hotel's facilities.

Breakfast included

Day 10: Hue, 2 nights

This morning we begin our spectacular drive over the Hai Van Pass. This 19km stretch of road climbs 914m (3,000ft), following the Vietnamese coastline. This afternoon we visit the elaborate Minh Mang Tomb and continue to Thien Mu Pagoda, before cruising back to the city along the Perfume River. Our hotel for the next two nights is the Eldora Hotel, centrally located for exploring the city.

Breakfast and lunch included



Mekong River



Imperial City, Hue

The Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia

Days 11 to 14: Hue - Ho Chi Minh City - Mekong

Day 11: Hue's Imperial Citadel

Originally the settlement of the Cham people, the Imperial city of Hue was capital of Vietnam during the Nguyen Dynasty and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After breakfast we visit the Imperial Citadel modelled on the Forbidden City in Beijing. Many of the buildings, as well as the citadel, were destroyed by war, but these are slowly being rebuilt and restored. We also visit Ngoc Son, the former residence of Princess Ngoc Son. Our afternoon is free to spend as we please. Try your hand at the delicate art of truc chi, paper made from bamboo pulp, or alternatively travel to the local village of Than Tien to learn the craft of paper flower making, a tradition the local residents have been practicing for over 300 years. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 12: Ho Chi Minh City, 2 nights

It's an early start this morning as we journey to the airport for our flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Visit the city's Central Post Office and the Notre Dame Cathedral, and explore the War Remnants Museum. A stark, and often graphic representation of the impact of the Vietnam War, the museum provides a fascinating insight into this country's history. We complete our day with a stroll along Dong Khoi Street to the Saigon Opera House. Our home for the next two nights is the perfectly located Liberty Central Riverside Hotel. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 13: Cu Chi Tunnels

Tour Highlight

This morning we head out of the city and travel to the countryside which was once the stronghold of the Viet Cong. We visit the Ho Chi Minh Agricultural Village, where we join a Vietnamese cooking class, and continue afterwards to the Cu Chi Tunnels. This vast underground network of tunnels was used by the Viet Cong, and at its peak, the tunnel system in the district of Cu Chi covered more than 250km. Our visit provides a fascinating insight into how the Viet Cong lived and fought the war. This evening there is an optional dinner at 'Dining in the Dark at Noir' - a dining experience like no other!

Breakfast and lunch included

We Recommend

Dining in the Dark

Does food taste the same when you can't see it? Take a unique culinary journey where you dine in 100% darkness.



Day 14: Mekong Cruise, 4 nights

Tour Highlight

This morning, we head for the centre of the Mekong Delta, Can Tho. Arriving mid-afternoon, we board our deluxe river cruise ship the Victoria Mekong for a fabulous four night cruise along the mighty Mekong, travelling between Vietnam and Cambodia. Our en-suite cabins are stylishly decorated and feature floor-to-ceiling windows which open up to a private balcony. Facilities on board include a restaurant, lounge bar, swimming pool and pool bar, spa, library and movie room, along with numerous shaded sun loungers and plush seating areas to relax and socialise. As we cruise towards Tiger Island, watch the sun set over Hau River. In the evening, enjoy a gala dinner, accompanied by a traditional Southern Vietnamese folk music performance, known as don ca tai tu. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**



Minh Mang Tomb, Hue



Royal Palace, Phnom Penh



Ta Prohm

The Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia

Days 15 to 21: Tiger Island - Vam Nao - Tan Chau - Phnom Penh - Siem Reap

Day 15: Tiger Island - Vam Nao

After breakfast, we head ashore to explore Tiger Island by electric bicycle or by sampan. We visit cottage industries such as net weaving, and at a pagoda, locally known as 'Mr. Tiger's Temple', we learn the art of making two Mekong Delta specialties - incense and banh in, a local rice cake. We return to the ship in time for lunch and cruise towards the provincial capital of Long Xuyen in the Mekong Delta. This afternoon we take our tender to the shore to visit the colourful Long Xuyen Floating Market and the An Giang Traditions Museum, with fascinating exhibits on Vietnamese, Chinese, Khmer and Cham cultures. We return in time for dinner and this evening's entertainment as we cruise to Vam Nao, where we moor overnight. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 16: Vam Nao – Tan Chau

Enjoy breakfast as the Victoria Mekong makes its way to the border town of Tan Chau. Here we visit a temple dedicated to the uniquely Vietnamese religion of Caodaism. Travel by local rickshaw to a silk village to witness the labour-intensive steps taken to produce this fine textile. This afternoon there is an option to travel by speedboat to Chau Doc to see the submerged forest of Tra Su, known for its abundant birdlife and picturesque mangroves. Tonight, enjoy a traditional Vietnamese lion dance, followed by dinner on board.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

Day 17: Tan Chau – Phnom Penh

Today is a day to sit back, relax and enjoy the ship's facilities, as we cruise towards the Vietnam-Cambodia border. On board activities include a ship-tour, a cocktail making competition and cultural lectures. Or you could just relax by the pool and enjoy the passing scenery. We arrive late afternoon into the charming Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, once known as the 'Pearl of the Orient'. Enjoy Khmer Apsara dancing, performed by a troupe of disadvantaged local children, followed by a farewell gala dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 18: Phnom Penh, Overnight

After four great days and nights, it's time to disembark for our tour of Phnom Penh. Visit the Royal Palace, built in 1866, and still the official royal residence of Cambodia. We view the Silver Pagoda, whose floor is covered with 5,000 silver tiles, whilst the near life-size Buddha is made from solid gold and encrusted with almost 10,000 diamonds.

There is no escaping Cambodia's more recent darker history, and the horror of the Pol Pot regime between 1975-1979. To learn more about these troubled times, we first visit Tuol Sleng, also known as S-21. This former high school, turned prison, is today a museum. More than 17,000 people passed through its gates, with only seven survivors living to tell the tale. Many walls show photographic evidence of those imprisoned and tortured here. From here we visit the Killing Fields of Choeung Ek. Once an orchard, and now a memorial, the camp witnessed the killing of thousands of prisoners from S-21. This afternoon's visit is a sobering experience providing us with an insight into the resilience of the Cambodian people. Later in the afternoon we arrive at the superb Palace Gate Hotel, for our overnight stay. **Breakfast and lunch included**



Day 19: Siem Reap, 3 nights

Tour Highlight

We transfer to the airport for our flight to Siem Reap, home to what is arguably Southeast Asia's most famous landmark, the temples of Angkor. One of the largest religious monuments in the world, Angkor was originally constructed as a Hindu temple dedicated to the god Vishnu. This afternoon we visit the South Gate of Angkor where the statues of good and evil line the entrance.

We visit Bayon, with its temple spires adorned with the face of the Buddhist King Jayavarman VII. We also explore Phimeankas, the Terrace of Elephants and the Terrace of Leper Kings. We end our day with a sunset cruise along the moat of Angkor Thom.

Breakfast and lunch included

Day 20: Angkor Wat and Ta Prohm

Tour Highlight

Angkor Wat is synonymous with Cambodia, and the temple's famous five spires are featured on the country's national flag. For those that so wish, there is the opportunity to rise early this morning to view the sunrise over Angkor Wat, at an additional cost. Following breakfast, we return to Angkor Wat to fully explore this spectacular temple.

Rising 65 metres from the ground, this massive three tiered pyramid complex, crowned by five lotus towers, is stunning for both its grand scale and its incredible detail. We complete our morning with a visit to the temple of Ta Prohm, where we shall witness how tree roots hold this small temple together. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Tonight, there is the option to visit the Phare Circus, which supports the development of Khmer youth through a programme of arts and performance.

Breakfast included

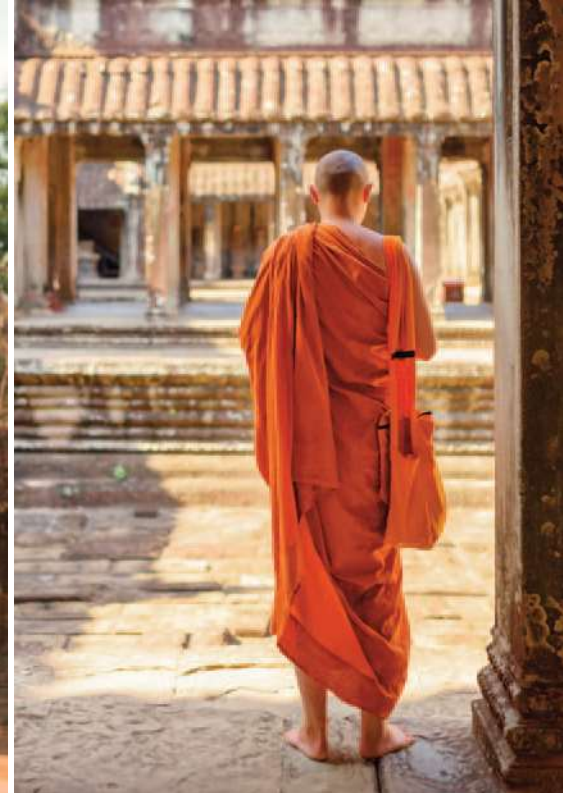
Day 21: Siem Reap Freedom Day

Today has been left free for you to spend as you please. Whilst Angkor Wat is the main attraction to Siem Reap, the area offers a wealth of additional experiences, many of which are linked to social enterprises formed to support the local people. Travel to a local village and spend time with the community to discover more about their rural life. Alternatively, experience the hustle and bustle of a local market and learn how to create Khmer cuisine, or learn a new skill during a bamboo weaving workshop.

Breakfast included



Bayon Temple in Angkor Wat



Angkor Wat

The Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia

Days 22 to 23: Siem Reap - UK

Day 22: Depart Siem Reap

The day is free until it's time to depart for the airport. Our flights to our chosen UK airport operate via either Hong Kong with Cathay Pacific, Hanoi with Vietnam Airlines, or Bangkok and Dubai with Emirates. **Breakfast, and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 23: Arrive UK

After 23 amazing days full of unforgettable memories, our incredible adventure comes to a close as we arrive into our chosen UK airport. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Homebound Stopovers

If you would like to explore somewhere new on your way home, a stopover is a perfect way to make your journey more relaxing and to experience a wonderful new city.



Hong Kong - Regal Kowloon

Two nights from £345 per person

The Regal Kowloon Hotel is conveniently located in Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong Kong's renowned shopping and entertainment district. The hotel offers three restaurants, serving a range of Chinese, American, Italian and international dishes.



Dubai - Marriott Hotel Al Jaddaf

Two nights from £345 per person

Located within easy reach of Dubai Mall, the Marriott Al Jaddaf is the perfect alternative to a beachside hotel. With an outdoor swimming pool, deluxe spa and a choice of seven restaurants it's a great location from which to explore downtown Dubai.

Your stopover includes return airport transfers, two nights accommodation and daily breakfast.

Please see pages 178-181 for more details on homebound stopovers.



Dubai

Departure Dates & Prices

2021 Departures

11 November 2021 **£4,495** per person

Prices

Prices are per person based on two people sharing a twin or double room.

Supplements

Single occupancy supplement £1,445.

Deposit

£1,000 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,950 per person if travelling Premium Economy, and £3,750 per person for Business Class.

Stopovers

Stopovers are possible in Hong Kong or Dubai on your homebound journey (dependant on choice of airline). Please call for details.

Flight upgrades

Cathay Pacific or Vietnam Airlines upgrade to Premium Economy from £995 per person return, or Business Class from £2,395 per person return.

Emirates upgrade to Business Class flights from £3,495 per person return.

2022 Departures

13 January 2022 **£4,495** per person

10 February 2022 **£4,495** per person

03 March 2022 **£4,495** per person

Visa information

An e-Tourist visa is required for travel to Vietnam and a Cambodian visa is also required. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 188-191.

Important information

Prices are subject to the availability of flights in the lowest available booking class and may change, however the correct price will always be confirmed before you book. A USD \$65 port tax is payable locally on the Mekong river cruise.

Full booking conditions are available on pages 192-195.

Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

Call us on
01695 577 961

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm

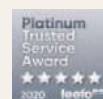
Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Sunday Open in peak season.

See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.

Email: enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk



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