

Far East

Japan | Vietnam | Cambodia

Escorted Touring Holidays 2024 – 2025



distantjourneys
Your Time to Explore



Japanese girl in traditional kimono, Japan

“A Warm Welcome Awaits”



I am delighted to introduce our new Far East 2024/25 brochure, showcasing meticulously designed and insightful tours that allow you to truly explore Japan, Vietnam and Cambodia with Distant Journeys.

Culturally unique and scenically beautiful, there is nothing quite like a holiday to Japan. Alongside soaring skyscrapers and neon lights, treasured ancient traditions, like the graceful geisha and the art of the tea ceremony, still hold their place in daily Japanese life.

The countries of Vietnam and Cambodia are the very essence of South East Asia, with rich cultures, diverse and friendly people and spectacular landscapes.

As Distant Journeys celebrates its 10th birthday in 2024, I am reminded of what Andrew, Richard and I set out to do from the very beginning. Our aim is simple – to make every moment of your holiday as memorable as it should be.

With over 80 years of experience between us, and the support of an immensely passionate and knowledgeable team, both here in the UK and overseas, we have created an exciting style of flexible touring holidays that meet exceptional standards and unbelievable value.

Operated at a leisurely pace and providing you with unrivalled flexibility and value for money, we tailor our itineraries to the tastes of UK travellers.

The exceptional quality of our touring holidays means that Distant Journeys has been a winner on 13 occasions at the prestigious British Travel Awards, and was also awarded a ‘Platinum Trusted’ rating by independent reviews provider Feefo, for consistently delivering an excellent level of customer service.

We are so proud our customers love what we do, and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank every single one of you for the loyalty and trust shown over the years. It has been our absolute honour to create these holidays of a lifetime for you, and we look forward to helping you plan your next adventure soon.

And, for those of you who haven’t travelled with Distant Journeys yet, a very warm welcome. Our friendly travel professionals are experts in the destinations we visit and would love the opportunity to share their passion with you at any time.

With best wishes for the season ahead,

Simon Whittle
Managing Director

OUR DISTANT JOURNEYS...

Some of my favourite memories from my time in Japan are from those little pockets of unexpected experiences that tend to stick with you. I remember stumbling across a little sushi restaurant on a side street in Kanazawa, totally unplanned, and despite the language barrier, having the most wonderful time (and sushi!) with a husband and wife chef team. The Japanese people are some of the most polite and humble you will ever meet. Of course, seeing sights such as Mount Fuji up close are truly unforgettable too.



Liz Reddy
Head of Product

OUR DISTANT JOURNEYS...

I have been fortunate enough to visit many countries, but Vietnam and Cambodia stand out for many reasons. From beautiful landscapes to vibrant, bustling cities, you can really immerse yourself in their culture and fascinating history. I love Asian food, so cooking authentic local cuisine was a highlight and an absolute must! Watching the sunrise over Angkor Wat is a truly unforgettable experience that will stay with me forever.



Calum Hughes
Reservations Team

Contents

The Distant Journeys Difference

Why Choose Distant Journeys?	4 – 5
Holiday Styles To Suit You	6 – 7
Exceptional Value	8 – 9
Award-winning Customer Service	10 – 11
Hand-Picked Hotels	12 – 13
Freedom & Flexibility	14 – 15
Once in a Lifetime Experiences	16 – 17

Japan

The Very Best of Japan (20 days)	18 – 27
----------------------------------	---------

Vietnam

Highlights of Vietnam (15 days)	28 – 35
---------------------------------	---------

Vietnam & Cambodia

NEW Classic Vietnam & Cambodia (15 days)	36 – 43
NEW Discover Vietnam & Cambodia SOLO (18 days)	44 – 51
The Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia (22 days)	52 – 61

Holiday Extensions

Mekong Delta, Vietnam	62 – 63
Luang Prabang, Laos	64 – 65

Incredible Cruises

La Regina Legend, Lan Ha Bay	66 – 67
Au Co, Ha Long Bay	68 – 69
Pandaw River Cruise, Mekong River	70 – 71

Helpful Information

Japan Hotel Directory	72 – 73
Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos Hotel Directory	74 – 75
Our Airline Partners	76 – 77
Important Information	78 – 79
Booking Conditions	80 – 83



Why Choose Distant Journeys?



Award-winning holidays

Our aim is to offer exceptional value for money without compromising on the quality of your holiday. Our success is evident, with Distant Journeys winning at the prestigious British Travel Awards 13 times.



Meticulously designed tours

Many years of planning go into every detail of our holidays, and each element is carefully chosen with our customers' enjoyment in mind.



Personal knowledge and expert advice

Distant Journeys has a team of professional travel specialists with personal knowledge of the countries we visit, our selected hotels and the experiences offered.



Freedom to explore

Our holidays operate at a relaxed pace to give you plenty of time to fully explore and savour each area, as well as giving you some time to unwind. Many of our tours also have Freedom Days, to spend as you wish.



Hand-picked hotels

We only select accommodation which meets the high standards of quality, service and location our guests have come to expect.



Once in a lifetime experiences

From exciting rail journeys and cruises to exploring lesser-known gems, our holidays feature many incredible experiences which provide memories to cherish forever.



Expert Tour Managers and local guides

Our Tour Managers and local guides are all greatly experienced in their field, and have the right balance of organisational skills and local knowledge, coupled with warm, friendly personalities.



Personalise your travel arrangements

Flying from regional UK airports, typically at no extra cost, upgrading your flight and extending your holiday are just a few of the ways in which you can personalise your tour so it's perfect for you.



Book with confidence

Distant Journeys are fully bonded by the Civil Aviation Authority and The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited, meaning you can book in confidence, knowing your money is 100% safe.



Clockwise from top: Mount Fuji, Japan; Angkor Wat, Siem Reap, Cambodia; Authentic Japanese cuisine; Ninh Binh, Vietnam

Price Promise ✓

Early booking offers

Our philosophy is simple – the earlier you book the better the offer you will receive.

No last minute discounts

Distant Journeys never discount our holidays at the last minute, so you can be confident you will never see your holiday at a lower price than you paid.

No additional charges

Irrespective of any additional costs incurred by Distant Journeys as a result of currency fluctuations, air fare increases or other costs associated with your holiday, surcharges will never be added once you have confirmed a booking.

Price match

We want you to have the peace of mind when booking a Distant Journeys holiday that you are receiving the best possible price. So, if you see the same holiday cheaper, not only will we match that price, we will also give you £200 off the price of a future holiday with Distant Journeys.

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 80-83.

YOUR LOCAL GUIDE SAYS...

Vietnam is home to friendly locals, delicious food and beautiful scenery. The city tours are brilliant for first-time visitors, covering history, culture and local life, and for a more in-depth and immersive experience, I recommend a bike tour of the many local villages too.



Nguyen Ngov Qui
Vietnam

YOUR TOUR MANAGER SAYS...

The Very Best of Japan tour includes so many interesting local experiences, but with a good degree of freedom and flexibility to allow a true appreciation of the country. Japan is safe and clean, its people are kind and the food is very good!



Sachiko Takigawa
Japan



Ha Long Bay, Vietnam

Holiday Styles To Suit You

Although our love of travel unites us, we all have our own individual requirements when it comes to how we travel. It's your holiday, and with Distant Journeys you can choose the style of holiday that suits you.

Classic Tours

Our Classic escorted tours are a great way to travel and experience a country's scenery, culture and sights with a group of like-minded people, guided by a friendly and knowledgeable Tour Manager and local guides who will bring the destination to life. Your carefully crafted touring itinerary includes a variety of wonderful activities and sightseeing excursions, many meals, and accommodation in top-quality hotels throughout. With our Classic tour groups, good company and camaraderie is guaranteed.

Solo Tours

Join a small group of like-minded travellers as you explore Vietnam & Cambodia. You will be accompanied by a Tour Manager, dedicated to taking away any worries and ensuring you get the best from every moment of your well-deserved holiday. And at the end of a busy day, retreat to the privacy of your own hotel room, safe in the knowledge that there's no single occupancy supplement to pay. Our range of included activities and sightseeing will create friendships forged through shared experiences, and memories to last a lifetime.

Private Tours











If you would like to travel to Vietnam & Cambodia with a group of friends, as a family, or if you are celebrating a special occasion as a couple, our private touring holidays provide affordable exclusivity for groups of any size. Enjoy the same expertly-crafted itinerary and hand-picked hotels, but with the exclusivity and convenience of your own friendly and knowledgeable guides, your own private vehicle and your own choice of departure date. Private Tours give you the flexibility to shape the holiday to suit you.

Exceptional Value

We are passionate about what we do, passionate about the countries we visit, the experiences we include, the service we offer and the value for money we deliver to our guests, without compromising on the quality of your holiday experience.

With Distant Journeys, value for money means we will provide you with the opportunity to discover Japan, Vietnam and Cambodia in comfort and style, with so much flexibility and so many experiences included in the itinerary, without it costing the earth.

So much included

-  Return international flights from the UK on award-winning scheduled airlines, with all on-board meals and drinks included
-  Choice of regional UK airports on selected tours
-  Carefully selected hotels offering quality and comfort. Daily breakfast is included in addition to a selection of other meals
-  Overseas transfers and transport in modern air-conditioned coaches
-  Porter service for your luggage
-  All pre-payable airport and resort taxes. All the entrance fees to the many incredible places and monuments you will visit
-  Experienced Tour Managers or local guides on all escorted tours
-  Once in a lifetime experiences
-  Visits to lesser-known hidden gems
-  Travelling on a Private Tour? You'll enjoy all the same inclusions, travel in your own vehicle and have the convenience of our knowledgeable local guides



Phnom Penh, Cambodia

CUSTOMER TESTIMONIAL...

Our tour of Vietnam and Cambodia was superb. Not only was the itinerary excellent, but, being a fairly new tour, any small glitches or requests for change were handled immediately and very efficiently by our Tour Manager, Angie Carpenter. She is so good as well as being very knowledgeable and becomes your great friend through the tour. The hotels were also superb and were clearly well chosen, with very comfortable accommodation and delicious food! The local tour guides were very knowledgeable and made each and every one of our daily trips so enjoyable and fun. I can without any hesitation thoroughly recommend not only this tour, but also Distant Journeys who are magnificently efficient, handle all issues or requests without any problem, and are a lovely team to interact with.

Mr Mumford – The Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia

CUSTOMER TESTIMONIAL...

Amazing tour with excellent tour guide and local guides who checked the weather and tweaked our Mount Fuji day so we actually saw the mountain in good weather. Japanese people are very friendly, helpful and the local cuisine is delicious. Well worth a visit to this amazing historical country.

Mrs Milburn – The Very Best of Japan



Japanese hospitality

Award-winning Customer Service

Great customer service is at the heart of everything we do, and we never lose sight of what matters most – you, our valued customers. We are with you every step of the way; before, during and after your tour. We recognise our guests are individuals, with different requirements, tastes and needs, and we tailor our support accordingly.

Our commitment to excellence has won us many awards, which recognise the superb customer service and high standards throughout the entire experience of booking and travelling with Distant Journeys. We are determined to continue to exceed expectations when it comes to our guests and their well-deserved holiday.

A team of dedicated travel experts

Our Travel Experts are friendly, well-travelled individuals with a passion for the destinations we visit, and love to share their experience and knowledge with you. We have travelled on our tours and visited the places you will visit, so we can offer advice from personal experience and give you practical recommendations.

Experienced Tour Managers and knowledgeable local guides

Distant Journeys' personally-selected Tour Managers work tirelessly to ensure your tour runs smoothly. They use their experience, local knowledge and organisational skills to make sure our guests can relax, knowing they are accompanied by a friendly and resourceful presence who is always on hand to help.

Local guides play an invaluable role when touring Vietnam, Cambodia and Japan too; sharing their knowledge of the culture, traditions and language of their country to provide helpful insights into the places we visit and first-hand recommendations to help guests feel truly immersed in their tour.



Hand-Picked Hotels

Distant Journeys appreciate the hotels in which you stay are an integral part of your holiday, which is why we take great care in hand-picking all the accommodation featured in our itineraries.

Location and quality are always paramount considerations, and we always strive to provide the best of both.

Hotel ratings

Each property has been personally inspected whilst planning our holidays, and you can be confident the hotels featured in this brochure have been carefully selected for their location, quality, facilities and level of service.

We understand from many years of experience that accommodation ratings may vary from country to country. We therefore provide our own ratings, which are based on the expectations of guests from the United Kingdom, alongside the official hotel rating. Please review our hotel directory on pages 72-75 for more information regarding the hotels included.

Location, location, location

Relax in the knowledge that every hotel has been carefully chosen to allow you to make the most of each destination you visit. In Japan, guests stay at the Fuji Marriott Hotel Lake Yamanaka. Set close to beautiful Yamanaka Lake, the largest of the Fuji Five Lakes, it is surrounded by the unforgettable landscapes of Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, and is perfectly placed to take in the incredible views of Mount Fuji.

Character and charm

Some hotels are more than a place to rest and, in many destinations, we select hotels for their history, character and charm. When staying in Phnom Penh, Cambodia you will enjoy a stay at Palace Gate Hotel & Resort. When you arrive, the first thing you will notice is their lovingly-restored French colonial villa. This incredible centerpiece, around which the resort is built, is complete with ornate columns and intricate examples of Cambodian tile making. The space now serves as the home to the hotel's fine dining restaurant, Mealea.

OUR HEAD OF PRODUCT SAYS...

If guests opt to extend their holiday with our trip to Laos, they will stay at Le Palais Juliana Hotel, which is one of my favourites. It feels like a real retreat, a hidden gem despite being just a short distance from the city of Luang Prabang. Upon arrival, you step into a sanctuary flanked by a leafy forest, which levels you with a sense of peace and tranquility. Welcome drink in hand, you'll stroll out to its relaxing pool area and take a deep breath of fresh air, it's just a great place to enjoy after a tour of Vietnam & Cambodia.



Liz Reddy
Head of Product



Palace Gate Hotel & Resort, Phnom Pehn, Cambodia



Buddhist monks, Luang Prabang, Laos

Freedom & Flexibility

Imagine being able to enjoy all the benefits of travelling with a group of like-minded people: the fun, the camaraderie, the friendships, the hassle-free organisation – and at the same time being able to personalise your holiday so that it's perfect for you.

When it comes to having the freedom to tailor your holiday to suit your tastes and wishes, the flexibility provided by Distant Journeys cannot be beaten.

Fly from your local airport

To get your journey off to the best possible start, on the majority of our tours, Distant Journeys offer flights from London Heathrow or Manchester at no extra cost. Dependent on your choice of airline, other regional airports may also be available for a supplement.

Flight upgrades

If you would like to treat yourself to a little more comfort on your international flights, Premium Economy and Business Class upgrades are available on selected routes. See pages 76-77 for more details.

Freedom Days

For an escorted tour to be truly memorable, we believe you should have the freedom to customise your touring experiences to match your interests. That is why the vast majority of Distant Journeys tours have a number of Freedom Days for you to spend as you please, with many activities and excursions to choose from.

Extend your holiday

Distant Journeys offer a series of spectacular holiday extensions to finish off your holiday adventure. Holiday extensions are dependent on your choice of destination and itinerary, and include a four-day tour of the Mekong Delta, a magical trip to Luang Prabang in Laos, or a homebound city stopover in Dubai or Singapore – or a relaxing stay on Sentosa Island.

Once in a Lifetime Experiences

When you travel with Distant Journeys, you can be confident that all the must-see sights will be included, along with several extra special experiences to make your holiday as memorable as it should be.

Maiko performance and kaisei meal

Instantly recognisable and incredibly gracious, nothing is more synonymous with Japan than the geisha. Take a peek into this secretive world – enjoy a traditional Japanese meal, a kaisei, whilst being entertained by a maiko (apprentice geisha), who will perform their traditional art of singing and dancing.

Cruise Vietnam's UNESCO recognised Ha Long and Lan Ha Bays

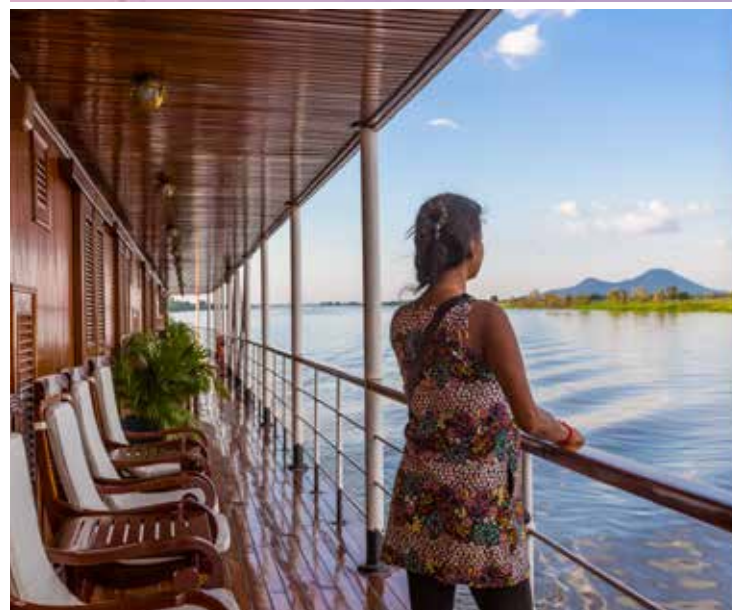
When visiting Vietnam, we include a leisurely cruise on all our tours, that enables you to discover this spectacular region. Dependent on your choice of tour, our overnight option is aboard the charming La Regina Legend, and our two-night cruise, on the impressive Au Co.

Explore the temples of Angkor Wat

A visit to the immense Angkor complex of temples is a journey to one of the great wonders of the world. From the 9th to the 15th century Cambodian 'god-kings' attempted to surpass the religious monuments of their ancestors. This culminated in the world's largest religious building, and Cambodia's most recognisable landmark, the famous five spires of Angkor Wat.

Cruise the Mekong Delta and River

When travelling on our Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia tour, explore the vast and verdant Mekong Delta and cruise the mighty Mekong River between Vietnam and Cambodia on board an elegant, hand-built ship. Over four leisurely days, we cruise through tranquil waterways, discover local villages and enjoy the ship's traditional charm and comfort.



Clockwise from top: Angkor Wat, Siem Reap, Cambodia;
Au Co cruise, Ha Long Bay, Vietnam; Maiko, Japan;
RV Indochina Pandaw cruise, Mekong River, Vietnam



Clockwise from above:
Fushimi Inari Shrine, Kyoto; Miyajima Island, Hiroshima; Traditional Japanese food



The Very Best of Japan

📅 20 days 💷 from £5,895pp 🌐 September 2024 – May 2025

From the kimono-clad geisha who grace Kyoto's streets, to Tokyo's modern neon-lit metropolis, what makes Japan so unique is its ability to hold on to age-old customs and timeless traditions, yet entwine them seamlessly into modern-day living.

With stunning landscapes and delicious regional cuisines, a plethora of historic shrines and temples, it's no wonder Japan is considered one of the world's great touring destinations.

Our leisurely 20-day tour has been carefully crafted to blend this fascinating mix of ancient and modern along with all of the country's major attractions. Add to this the magnificent beauty of the Japanese Alps, picturesque gardens, ancient castles and unique Japanese experiences, this popular tour combines the very best this country has to offer.

With quality accommodation, all breakfasts and many other meals included, our Very Best of Japan tour really does offer exceptional value for money.



Your holiday includes

- ✈️ Return economy flights with Singapore Airlines via Singapore from London Heathrow or Manchester (selected dates), inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. Alternatively, fly direct to Tokyo with Japan Airlines from London Heathrow – a supplement, from £250 per person, will apply
- 🏠 Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
- 🍴 Meals worth £584 per person, with daily breakfast, three lunches and four dinners
- 🌐 Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ Sightseeing tours in Tokyo, Takayama, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Miyajima Island and Nara
 - ★ Learn how to make sushi
 - ★ Spend two nights near Lake Yamanaka
 - ★ View Matsumoto Castle and visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Himeji Castle
 - ★ Visits to a miso and a sake factory
 - ★ Explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Shirakawa-go
 - ★ Discover the Japanese gardens of Kenroku-en and Koraku-en
 - ★ Watch a Maiko performance
 - ★ Ride the Bullet Train
 - ★ Visit historical Bikan Chiku, Kurashiki
- 📖 Services of experienced Tour Manager and local guides
- 🚌 All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
- 🔒 Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 80-83.



Tokyo Tower, Tokyo



Sushi

The Very Best of Japan

Days 1 to 5: UK - Tokyo - Lake Yamanaka

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow. Flights from Manchester are available on selected dates, please speak with one of our travel experts for more details. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Alternative airline – Japan Airlines

Should you prefer, fly direct to Tokyo from London Heathrow with Japan Airlines for a supplement, from £250 per person return.

Day 2: Tokyo, 3 nights

All flights with Singapore Airlines to Tokyo travel via Singapore. On arrival into Japan's metropolitan capital, we transfer to the centrally-located Keio Plaza hotel. The remainder of the day is left free to relax. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 3: Tokyo

We start our Japanese adventure in the district of Asakusa, home to Tokyo's oldest temple, Sensoji, founded in AD645. The approach to the temple is through the Kaminarimon Gate, which leads to the Nakamise, a shopping street that has been providing temple visitors with a variety of traditional local snacks and tourist souvenirs for centuries. We make our way to a local restaurant where we will learn the art of Japanese sushi-making, before enjoying our own culinary creation for lunch. We finish our day with a visit to the Tokyo National Museum. This evening, enjoy a welcome drink with your Tour Manager and fellow travellers. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 4: Tokyo

After breakfast, we make our way to Tokyo Tower. Standing at 333m, it's 13m taller than the Eiffel Tower, which was the inspiration for its design. Although surpassed in height by Tokyo Skytree in 2012, Tokyo Tower remains a beloved symbol of the city. After a brief photo stop at the impressive Imperial Plaza, we make our way to Japan's most famous Shinto Shrine, Meiji Jingu. Dedicated to Emperor Meiji, the shrine sits in a large forest area that contains more than 100,000 trees, gifted by the people to their beloved emperor. We return to our hotel, where the remainder of the day is at leisure. This evening there is the opportunity to see Tokyo from a different perspective with an optional dinner cruise along the Sumida River. **Breakfast included**

Day 5: Lake Yamanaka, 2 nights

This morning we head to Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, famous for its hot springs and views of what is easily Japan's most iconic image, Mount Fuji. Our first stop is Lake Ashi, a crater lake formed over 200,000 years ago. We board our boat for a short cruise on this beautiful lake before taking a cable car into the Owakudani Valley. The result of a volcanic eruption over 3,000 years ago, the area is still active with many sulphur vents and bubbling hot springs. We continue our journey through picturesque landscapes to the area known as Fuji Five Lakes, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Our home for the next two nights is the Fuji Marriott Hotel Lake Yamanaka. After settling into our accommodation, there is free time to relax before we dine together in the hotel's restaurant. **Breakfast and dinner included**



Mount Fuji and Lake Kawaguchi



Kiyomizu-dera Temple, Kyoto



Geisha, Kyoto



Kenroku-en Garden, Kanazawa

The Very Best of Japan

Days 6 to 12: Mount Fuji - Takayama - Shirakawa-go - Kanazawa - Kyoto

Day 6: Mount Fuji and Fuji Five Lakes

Tour Highlight

Mt. Fuji, or Fuji-san as it is more affectionately known, can be a little shy, but fingers crossed a clear sky will reward us with some impressive views. Our first stop is the small, but delightful, Kubota Icchiku Art Museum. Kubota revived the lost art of Tsujigahana silk dyeing and the museum exhibits several of the artist's stunning kimono creations, which depict themes of nature, the cosmos and the seasons. Our next stop a visit to the Oishi Tsumugi craft museum which demonstrates a 300 year old method of weaving, unique to this region. Following a lunch of Hoto noodles, we continue to the Fuji-san World Heritage Centre which showcases traditional artwork and videos of this sacred mountain. Our final stop is the shores of Lake Kawaguchi where there is time for a stroll along this picturesque lake. This evening we dine together in our hotel. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 7: Takayama, 2 nights

This morning, we begin our journey towards the majestic Japanese Alps. We stop at Matsumoto castle, the oldest existing castle in Japan, for a fabulous photo opportunity and continue to a miso factory, to discover how this staple Japanese food is made. Afterwards, enjoy a spectacular journey through the mountains to Takayama. Our hotel for the next two nights is the centrally-located Takayama Green Hotel. Alternatively, you may wish to experience a stay in a traditional Japanese inn (a Ryokan) for the evening. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Stay in a traditional Ryokan

Overnight from £115 per person



During our time in Takayama, for those who want to experience traditional hospitality, there is an opportunity to spend a night in a Ryokan, a traditional Japanese inn. Enjoy delicious local cuisine, relax in your yukata (casual kimono) and maybe even try the onsen, a hot spring bath. Please call for details.

Day 8: Takayama

Tour Highlight

Takayama is best explored on foot and we begin our day with a visit to the morning market. Afterwards, we make our way to the Takayama-Jinya, which served as government headquarters under the Tokugawa shogunate of 1692 to 1871. We end our morning in the heart of Takayama's picturesque old town, lined with traditional houses, shops, restaurants, sake breweries and cafes. Our afternoon is at leisure to enjoy this delightful area. Perhaps sample some of the many delicious delicacies, try some locally-brewed sake, or visit one of the many museums, such as the Festival Floats Exhibition Hall. Tonight, there is the opportunity to dine on Japan's famous Hida beef, a variety of wagyu beef local to this area. **Breakfast included**

Day 9: Shirakawa-go & Kanazawa, 2 nights

Today we head to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Shirakawa-go. The villages, mostly cut off until as recently as the 1960s, are today famous for their traditional style of housing, the Gassho-Zukuri, which means 'like praying hands'. We continue to Kanazawa and the Omicho Market, a lively food market famous for its abundance of fresh seafood, which has been in operation since 1721. Later, we visit Nomura Samurai House, a restored samurai residence. Finally, arrive at the Kanazawa Tokyu Hotel where we will stay for the next two nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 10: Kanazawa

Following breakfast, we visit the delightful Kenroku-en garden, considered by the Japanese as one of the top three gardens in the country. The name Kenrokuen means the 'garden combining six', referring to the six attributes all gardens should include: seclusion, antiquity, spaciousness, human ingenuity, water and scenic views. The city is also famed for gold leaf and it is used in abundance. We visit a local establishment to learn about gold leaf production, and decorate our own chopsticks in gold leaf – we even have the opportunity to purchase a gold leaf ice-cream. We head to the Higashi Chaya area of the city with its lovely neighbourhood of beautifully-preserved geisha houses. Many have now been converted into restaurants or teahouses, although some are still open to the public. The afternoon is free to continue exploring Kanazawa at your own pace. There is a plethora of museums and local arts and crafts to explore. Alternatively, you have the option to join an afternoon tour which visits the Kutani Pottery and Kagayuzen Kimono Centre. **Breakfast included**

Day 11: Kyoto, 3 nights

This morning, we make our way to Kanazawa Station for our train journey to Kyoto. The capital of Imperial Japan for over 1,000 years, Kyoto is Japan's cultural capital. This afternoon, we head to Arashiyama and its famous Bamboo Grove, where there will be plenty of time to wander through the impressive towering alley of Bamboo. Our hotel for the next three nights is the Kyoto Tokyu Hotel.

Tour Highlight

The distinctive white face, red lips and elaborately decorated hairstyle of the geisha is an enduring image portrayed throughout the globe. Yet the world in which they live remains a mystery. Tonight, we have arranged a traditional Japanese meal, a kaisei, where we will be joined by a maiko, our apprentice geisha, who will perform traditional song and dance. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 12: Kyoto

Tour Highlight

We begin our day of sightseeing at the impressive UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kinkaku-Ji Temple. Fondly referred to as the Golden Pavilion, this richly decorated golden temple is a truly beautiful sight to behold. Our next stop is another UNESCO World Heritage Site, the rock garden of Ryoanji Temple. The garden's fifteen stones are cleverly arranged so that there is always one rock that is hidden from view. Our final and third UNESCO World Heritage Site of the morning is Kiyomizu-Dera Temple. Founded in AD778, the most famous feature of the temple is its wooden veranda, standing some 13 metres above the ground. Later, we head to Gion, Kyoto's famous geisha district, before taking part in a traditional tea ceremony. Tonight, there is an opportunity to experience a Japanese barbecue at a local restaurant. **Breakfast included**



Kurashiki



Fushimi Inari Shrine, Kyoto

The Very Best of Japan

Days 13 to 16: Kyoto - Hiroshima - Miyajima Island - Kurashiki

Day 13: Fushimi Inari Shrine

Today, we head out of the city to the Fushimi Inari Shrine, famous for its tunnels of more than 10,000 closely-spaced torii gates, each of which has been individually donated. We finish our morning with a visit to a sake brewery to learn about the brewing and production process of this famous Japanese rice wine. Later, we return to the city for an afternoon at leisure. If you prefer, you can join an optional tour of Sanju-Sangendo, with an opportunity to paint and take away your own paper fan. Tonight, there is the option to try Japanese shabushabu at a local restaurant. **Breakfast included**

Day 14: Bullet Train, Hiroshima, 2 nights

After a leisurely breakfast, we transfer to the station for our ride on Japan's iconic Bullet Train. Running at speeds of up to 200 miles per hour, the train smoothly whisks us across the country to our next port of call, Hiroshima. Hiroshima is perhaps best known for being the place where an atomic bomb was dropped during the Second World War. This afternoon, we talk to a local about their recollection of the attack, visit the Memorial Peace Park and its moving museum, as well as the Atomic Bomb Dome. After a thought-provoking day, we transfer to the Rihga Royal Hotel, ideally located for exploring the city. We stay here for the next two nights. Tonight, we have the opportunity to visit a local Okonomiyaki pancake restaurant. **Breakfast included**

We Recommend

Okonomiyaki Pancakes

With some 2,000 Okonomiyaki restaurants in Hiroshima alone, this dish is adored by locals.



Day 15: Miyajima Island

A morning visit takes us to the peaceful and pretty island of Miyajima, famous for its giant torii gate, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Itsukushima Shinto Shrine. After viewing the shrine, there is plenty of time to wander around the city's pretty streets. Our afternoon has been left at leisure, but we highly recommend a stroll to Hiroshima Castle, Shukkeien garden and Orizuru Tower, which are all within easy walking distance of our hotel. **Breakfast included**

Day 16: Kurashiki, Overnight

Travel to the old merchant settlement of Kurashiki, whose main draw is its beautiful willow-lined canal. Many former storehouses have been converted into museums, boutiques and cafes, providing the perfect backdrop for a leisurely stroll. This afternoon we visit Korakuen Garden, another of Japan's top three gardens. It is most aptly described as a "strolling garden", due to its variety of views from the pathways which wind through the pond, stream, lawns and teahouse. We return to Kurashiki for an overnight stay at the Kurashiki Royal Art Hotel. Tonight, there is an opportunity to dine at a local restaurant. **Breakfast included**



Tori Gate, Miyajima Island



Himeji Castle



Japanese tempura



Todaiji Temple, Nara

The Very Best of Japan

Days 17 to 20: Himeji Castle - Osaka - UK

Day 17: Himeji Castle, Osaka, 2 nights

Tour Highlight

Today we journey to our final destination, Osaka, via the city of Himeji, famous for Japan's finest surviving feudal castle, Himeji Castle. The first fortifications of this UNESCO World Heritage Site were completed in the 1400s. Gradually enlarged over the centuries, the castle complex, as it survives today, is over 400 years old and is an imposing and majestic site. After exploring the castle and grounds, we make our way to Osaka. Our home for our final two nights is the delightful Nikko Osaka Hotel. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 18: Nara

Our sightseeing today takes us to Nara, Japan's first permanent capital. One of the first sights we will experience is the thousands of sacred deer that roam freely through the city, and have learned to bow for treats! We visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Todaiji Temple. Founded in AD745, the vast temple took over 15 years to complete. The main hall houses a colossal bronze Buddha statue and remains the world's largest wooden building. After a morning of sightseeing, we return to Osaka, where our afternoon has been left free to relax or possibly purchase some last-minute souvenirs. **Breakfast included**

Day 19: Depart Osaka

Following a morning at leisure, we travel to Osaka Airport for our early evening flight to the UK. All flights with Singapore Airlines will travel via Singapore. Alternatively, if choosing Japan Airlines, you will fly to the UK via Tokyo. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 20: Arrive UK

After 20 spectacular days, we arrive into the UK, bringing our incredible Very Best of Japan tour to an end. **In-flight meals and drinks included**



Nara Park

Departure Dates & Prices

2024 Departures

28 September 2024	£5,995 per person
19 October 2024	£5,995 per person
02 November 2024	£5,895 per person

2025 Departures

24 March 2025	£6,595 per person
27 March 2025	£6,595 per person
01 April 2025	£6,595 per person
09 May 2025	£6,195 per person

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement
£1,595

Deposit

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

Flight upgrades

Singapore Airlines upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,395 per person return, or Business Class from £3,495 per person return.

Japan Airlines upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,295 per person return, or Business Class from £3,495 per person return.

Important information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 80-83.

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 FREE on 0800 141 3743

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





Highlights of Vietnam

15 days from £3,595pp September 2024 – March 2025

A land of staggering natural landscapes and vast cultural diversity – a journey through Vietnam is compelling. With so many varied experiences across the length and breadth of the country, Vietnam has fast become one of South Asia's gems.

You will experience all the must-see attractions of north, central and southern Vietnam; discover the ancient history of the country through its temples and pagodas; enjoy bustling moped-filled cities with streets full of vendors; tantalise your taste buds with the renowned flavours of Vietnamese cuisine and have time to relax whilst enjoying some of Asia's finest scenery.

Highlights include the Imperial Citadel in Hue and the Cu Chi Tunnels, and we have also included a very special two-night cruise on Vietnam's most famous natural beauty, Ha Long Bay. Watching the sun set over the towering limestone formations is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

You can take the opportunity to explore more of this fascinating country by extending your holiday with a fascinating three-night guided tour of the Mekong Delta.

If you like the idea of travelling as a couple, or even with a small group of friends, then why not consider Highlights of Vietnam as a Private Tour? You'll have the same expertly crafted itinerary and stay in the same hand-picked hotels, yet have the exclusivity of your own vehicle and guide.

Clockwise from above:
Ha Long Bay; Vietnamese cookery class; Forbidden City, Hue



Your holiday includes

Return economy flights with Singapore Airlines via Singapore from London Heathrow or Manchester (selected dates), inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. Alternatively, fly with Emirates via Dubai from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow – a supplement, from £100 per person, will apply. All domestic flights within Vietnam are also included

Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes

Meals worth £386 per person, with daily breakfast, five lunches and all meals on board the Au Co cruise

Unforgettable experiences including:
★ City sightseeing tours in Hanoi, Hoi An, Hue and Ho Chi Minh City
★ Learn to cook Vietnamese dishes
★ Explore the intriguing Cu Chi Tunnels

All-inclusive cruise on board the Au Co:
✓ Two-night cruise around Ha Long Bay and Lan Ha Bay
✓ All land excursions and selected on-board experiences
✓ All meals
✓ Welcome drink

Services of experienced Tour Manager and local guides

All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout

Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 80-83.



Hanoi



Traditional Vietnamese market



Hoi An Old Town

Highlights of Vietnam

Days 1 to 9: UK - Hanoi - Ha Long Bay - Hoi An

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow. Flights with Singapore Airlines from Manchester are available on selected dates, please speak with one of our travel experts for more details. No matter which airport 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, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow for a supplement, from £100 per person.

Day 2: Hanoi, 3 nights

Those flying with Singapore Airlines to Hanoi will travel via Singapore. After clearing customs, we transfer to our hotel, the delightful Pan Pacific Hanoi, which will be our home for the next three nights. This evening, our Tour Manager will host a welcome drink so we can get to know our fellow travellers and learn more about the adventures which lie ahead. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 3: Hanoi

Our day in Hanoi begins with a morning cyclo tour through the Old Quarter. Cyclos are a traditional form of transport in Vietnam, similar to a rickshaw, and our journey will take us through streets full of charming colonial architecture, past Buddhist temples and pagodas, and along the ancient commercial streets named after the original businesses that were once housed here. We visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, the final resting place of Bac Ho, or Uncle Ho, before viewing the 11th century Temple of Literature and The One Pillar Pagoda, a historic Buddhist temple. Our day concludes with a visit to the fascinating Ethnology Museum, 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 and learn the secrets of Vietnam's delicious cuisine. Alternatively, take a full-day excursion to 'Ha Long Bay on Land', Ninh Binh. **Breakfast included**

We Recommend

Ninh Binh

A mesmerising region known as 'Ha Long 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.



Day 5: Ha Long Bay, 2 nights

Tour Highlight

Known for its emerald waters and thousands of towering limestone islands topped by rainforest, Ha Long Bay has become one of Vietnam's must-see destinations. We travel to Ha Long, 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 the waterways, 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: Lan Ha and Ha Long Bays

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, Lan Ha 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, we visit Sung Sot Cave, Ha Long's largest and most famous cave. Back on board, spend time soaking up the scenery, or join a traditional Vietnamese Tea Ceremony, as we cruise back to the mainland. We board our waiting coach and travel back to Hanoi for our flight to Da Nang. Upon arrival, we continue to the town of Hoi An and the fabulous Bel Marina Hoi An Resort, 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, so you may choose how to spend your day. Perhaps visit the local community of Tra Que Village and learn about the techniques used by its farmers, then enjoy a delicious 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**

We Recommend

Tra Que Village

Experience the Vietnamese countryside and meet the farmers of Tra Que Village, where organic vegetables are produced using traditional methods.





Cu Chi Tunnels



Cookery class

Highlights of Vietnam

Days 10 to 13: Hue - Ho Chi Minh City - Cu Chi Tunnels

Day 10: Hue, 2 nights

This morning we begin our spectacular drive over the Hai Van Pass. This 19km stretch of road climbs 3,000ft (914m), following the Vietnamese coastline. Arriving in Hue 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**

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 then visit Ngoc Son, the former residence of Princess Ngoc Son. Our afternoon is free to spend as we please. Perhaps travel to the local village of Thanh 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**

We Recommend

Thanh Tien

Learn the craft of paper flower making in the local village of Thanh Tien, where residents have been practicing this local tradition for over 300 years.



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 finish the 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 cookery 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. **Breakfast and lunch included**



Imperial Citadel, Hue



Vietnamese street seller



Vietnamese water puppets



Fishermen, Mekong Delta

Highlights of Vietnam

Days 14 to 15: Ho Chi Minh City - UK

Day 14: Depart Vietnam

As our flight departs in the evening, there is further time to explore Ho Chi Minh City or to purchase any last-minute souvenirs. We head for the airport to embark on our return flights with Singapore Airlines via Singapore or Emirates via Dubai. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 15: Arrive UK

This morning we arrive into our chosen airport. Filled with amazing memories to cherish, our Vietnamese adventure comes to an end. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Holiday Extension

Why not extend your holiday with a tour of the Mekong Delta?



4 Days From £725

In a region known as the 'rice bowl' of Vietnam, discover floating markets, cone-hatted farmers working the fields and small villages surrounded by rice paddies alongside one of Asia's greatest rivers.

Please see pages 62-63 for more details.

Homebound Stopovers from only £295 per person

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 place.

Singapore – M Hotel

Two nights from £295 per person

Occupying a great location in Singapore city centre, M Hotel is a modern, stylish hotel offering a warm welcome and a range of services alongside comfortable, contemporary accommodation.



Sentosa Island – Rasa Sentosa Resort

Two nights from £495 per person

Stop over in style at Shangri-La's Rasa Sentosa Resort, a beautiful beachfront resort on Singapore's Sentosa Island, only 20 minutes from downtown Singapore.



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 and a great location from which to explore downtown Dubai.



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

Departure Dates & Prices

2024 Departures

30 September 2024 **£3,595** per person

11 November 2024 **£3,595** per person

2025 Departures

12 January 2025 **£3,795** per person

03 February 2025 **£3,795** per person

03 March 2025 **£3,795** per person

Private Touring Supplements

2-3 guests **£495** per person

4 guests **£395** per person

5 guests **£295** per person

6-8 guests **£195** per person

9-16 guests **£95** per person

17+ guests No extra charge

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

2024 departures £795

2025 departures £895

Deposit

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

Private Touring

The same expertly crafted itinerary and hand-picked hotels, combined with the exclusivity and convenience of your own friendly and knowledgeable guides, your own private vehicle and your own choice of departure date.

Flight upgrades

Singapore Airlines upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,395 per person return, or Business Class from £3,595 per person return.

Emirates upgrade to Business Class from £3,595 per person return.

Important information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 80-83.

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 FREE on 0800 141 3743

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





NEW

Classic Vietnam & Cambodia

15 days from £3,795pp October 2024 – March 2025

Vietnam and Cambodia are two countries offering a magical combination of culture, history and tradition, and bustling with life and adventure. Spectacular landscapes give way to verdant rice paddies, stretching as far as the eye can see. From vibrant cities to tranquil villages, your experiences will be varied and memorable.

Join Distant Journeys on our 15-day Classic Vietnam & Cambodia tour and you'll see all the highlights of these two incredible touring destinations.

Your journey starts in Hanoi, before an overnight cruise on Vietnam's famed Lan Ha Bay, a true tour highlight. Explore the old merchant streets of Hoi An, view the tunnels of Cu Chi, delight in the Mekong Delta and be awed by Cambodia's Angkor Wat temple complex. Throughout your journey there will be many opportunities to interact with local communities, try delicious Vietnamese and Cambodian cuisine and learn traditional crafts handed down through generations.

With a choice of UK departure airports, all international flights, quality hotels, full daily breakfast and many memorable experiences included, our Classic Vietnam & Cambodia tour provides you with an amazing itinerary, at an unbeatable price.

Our Classic Vietnam & Cambodia tour may be taken as either a group tour or a private tour.

Clockwise from above:
Rice paddy farmland, Vietnam; Community village, Cambodia



Your holiday includes

- Return economy flights with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow or Manchester (selected dates), inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. Alternatively, fly with Emirates via Dubai from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow – a supplement, from £200 per person, will apply. All domestic flights within Vietnam & Cambodia
- Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
- Meals worth £351 per person, with daily breakfast, four lunches, one dinner and all meals on board the La Regina Legend
- Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ City sightseeing tours in Hanoi, Hoi An and Ho Chi Minh City
 - ★ Explore the intriguing Cu Chi Tunnels
 - ★ Visit the Mekong Delta to meet local farmers and the communities of the Delta
 - ★ Magnificent temples of Angkor Wat
 - ★ Aspara dance show
- All-inclusive cruise on La Regina Legend, Lan Ha Bay:
 - ✓ Overnight cruise on Lan Ha Bay
 - ✓ All land excursions and selected on-board experiences
 - ✓ All meals
 - ✓ Welcome drink
- Services of experienced Tour Manager and local guides
- All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
- Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 80-83.



Flower seller, Hanoi, Vietnam



Vietnamese egg coffee



Lan Ha Bay, Vietnam

Classic Vietnam & Cambodia

Days 1 to 9: UK - Hanoi - Lan Ha Bay - Hoi An - Ho Chi Minh City

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart from London with Singapore Airlines. Manchester flights may be available on selected dates, at no extra cost. Please call for details. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Alternative airline – Emirates

If you prefer, you may fly with Emirates via Dubai from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow, for a supplement, from £200 per person return.

Day 2: Hanoi, 2 nights

Our Singapore Airlines flight travels via Singapore. On arrival in Hanoi and after clearing customs, we head to the Silk Path Hotel. Later, enjoy a welcome drink with our Tour Manager and fellow travellers. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 3: Hanoi

Our exploration of Hanoi begins with a visit to a local coffee shop to try the iconic Vietnamese egg coffee. Our next stop is the Temple of Literature, the oldest university in Hanoi, designed to honour the Chinese scholar, Confucius. We then venture to the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long, which dates back to the 7th century. We enjoy a flavoursome lunch with a cookery demonstration of local dishes, like Bún Cha (pork with spring rolls and noodles) before exploring the Old Quarter, on a cyclo (rickshaw) ride. Our day draws to a close at the Vietnamese Women's Museum, before returning to our hotel. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 4: Lan Ha Bay, Overnight

Tour Highlight

This morning, we make our way to Lan Ha Bay, which forms part of the greater Ha Long geography. Known for the dramatic karsts (limestone rocks) that rise out of the emerald green waters, the bay is one of Vietnam's most popular natural attractions. Our vessel is La Regina Legend. Once on board, enjoy a tasty Vietnamese lunch while taking in the impressive scenery as we cruise into the bay. This afternoon, we visit the Light and Dark Cave, known for its pristine beauty. We explore the bay by local boat or kayak and there is also an opportunity for swimming. We return to La Regina for sunset and dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 5: Hoi An, 3 nights

An early wake-up call for a rejuvenating sunrise Tai Chi lesson sets the tone for the day. Enjoy a light breakfast, as we sail to Trung Trang, one of the most impressive caves on Cat Ba Island. As we return to the mainland a buffet brunch is served. Once back on dry land, our waiting transfer will take us to Hanoi Airport for our flight to Da Nang. On arrival, we transfer to Hoi An and the Silkotel Hotel, where we will spend the next three nights. **Light breakfast and brunch included**

Day 6: Hoi An

After breakfast, it's time to explore Hoi An, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We embark on a half-day walking tour of this historic town, exploring the residences of olden-day merchants, bustling community halls and labyrinthine alleys. Our morning finishes with the opportunity to learn the fundamental techniques of Qigong, Tai Chi and traditional Vietnamese martial arts. Our afternoon is at leisure. Perhaps, continue to stroll the streets of the old town, or maybe take an optional excursion to the ancient Cham capital of My Son. **Breakfast included**

Day 7: Hoi An Freedom Day

On our Freedom Day, we have a number of activities for you to choose from. First is a lantern-making class, where you discover how to craft the exquisite silk lanterns seen on every street corner in Hoi An. Alternatively, head for My Son, the former capital of the Cham civilisation. Or you may prefer to visit a local organic farm where you enjoy local tea and explore over fifty medicinal herbs, fruits, and flowers, before enjoying a delicious lunch with local dishes. **Breakfast included**

We Recommend

Lantern Making

Found on just about every street corner, learn how to make one of Hoi An's iconic silk lanterns.



Day 8: Ho Chi Minh City, 3 nights

After breakfast, we head to the airport for our flight to Ho Chi Minh City, followed by a transfer to the Liberty Central Riverside Hotel, where we will stay for the next three nights. Often referred to by its former name, Saigon, the city is a cosmopolitan metropolis where the past is entwined with modern skyscrapers. The remainder of the day is ours to enjoy at leisure. Our hotel is ideally located in front of the Saigon River and only a short stroll from Nguyen Hue walking street, perfect for an afternoon stroll. **Breakfast included**

Day 9: Ho Chi Minh City & Cu Chi Tunnels

We leave the city behind us this morning as we head for the Cu Chi Tunnels. We watch a brief film about the life of the Viet Cong soldiers during the war and then explore the narrow tunnels that were so integral to the conflict, being living quarters, supply routes and hospitals. Following lunch, we return to the city for our afternoon of sightseeing. We start with the Reunification Palace, a former stronghold of the South Vietnamese Government then make our way to the city's Central Post Office. Our day finishes with a visit to the War Remnants Museum, which provides thought-provoking insight about the war and its impact on human life. **Breakfast and lunch included**



Vietnamese woman, Mekong Delta



Local rice farmer, Cambodia

Classic Vietnam & Cambodia

Days 10 to 13: Mekong Delta - Siem Reap - Angkor Wat

Day 10: Mekong Delta

Leaving the city behind us, we drive towards the Mekong Delta, home to a maze of floating markets and villages surrounded by rice paddies. Boarding a motorised sampan (a traditional wooden boat) we take our time to view life in the Delta. As well as fishing, the Delta is home to many cottage industries. Visit a local Coconut Candy factory, observe traditional mat-making and explore tranquil villages. We have lunch in a local restaurant, before boarding our rowing boats for a journey along a small canal, witnessing daily life as we pass by. We return to Ho Chi Minh City for our final night.

Breakfast and lunch included

Day 11: Siem Reap, 3 nights

Enjoy time at leisure until we transfer to the airport for our flight to Siem Reap. Upon arrival, we make our way to the Borei Angkor Hotel, where we stay for the next three nights. The rest of the day is ours to relax and enjoy as we please. **Breakfast included**

Day 12: Angkor Wat

Tour Highlight

A tour highlight today as we explore the famed temple complex of Angkor. We begin with a visit to striking Angkor Thom, the last capital of the Khmer Empire. We meander the beautiful Elephant Terrace followed by seeing the iconic Bayon temple up close. A 12th-century vestige, the stone towers are adorned with over 200 serenely smiling faces. We then visit Ta Prohm, an almost untouched temple, dating back to 1186. The sprawling stone halls are overrun with the roots of gargantuan banyan trees. Following lunch, we make our way to the iconic Angkor Wat. The temple complex is considered the largest religious building in the world. Dating back to the 12th century, Angkor Wat took an estimated three decades to build. We explore the well-preserved complex, admiring the bas-reliefs that surround the temple, telling tales of battles and celebrations, including the famed Churning of the Sea of Milk. Our expert guide will unpack all the hidden secrets of the temple, giving us a deeper insight into this mystical place. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 13: Siem Reap Freedom Day

Today is ours to do as we please. Explore the city or perhaps take an optional excursion. Our first recommendation is Tonle Sap Lake, home to a tiny community who live in houses built on wooden stilts. Or perhaps visit Trei Nhoar Community Village. This trip provides an insight into local Siem Reap country life, allowing visitors to get a taste of local culture, including a home-cooked meal. On our final option, we learn the art of morning almsgiving before walking to a nearby pagoda to give offerings to the monks and receive a blessing in return. We then visit a local home to learn more about Khmer life and enjoy an authentic Khmer lunch. No matter which option you choose, the proceeds of these tours go directly to the community visited. As our final evening approaches, we visit a nearby restaurant together for dinner accompanied by a Khmer classical dance performance. **Breakfast and dinner included**



South Gate, Angkor Wat, Cambodia



Hanoi, Vietnam



Street vendor, Vietnam



Hoi An, Vietnam

Classic Vietnam & Cambodia

Day 15: Siem Reap - UK

Day 14: Depart Siem Reap

Enjoy the chance to relax before our homeward journey or perhaps make your way to the shops and markets for some souvenirs. We head for the airport to embark on our return flights with Singapore Airlines via Singapore or Emirates via Bangkok and Dubai. **Breakfast and in-flight meals included**

Day 15: Arrive UK

After two weeks of incredible memories, our journey draws to a close as we arrive back in our chosen UK airport, ready to regale friends and family with tales of our Classic Vietnam and Cambodia adventure. **In-flight meals included**

Holiday Extension

Why not extend your holiday with a visit to Luang Prabang in Laos?



4 Days From £895

The UNESCO World Heritage town of Luang Prabang is a gem of the tiny land-locked country of Laos. Step back in time and discover its unique magical charm for yourself.

Please see pages 64-65 for more details.

Homebound Stopovers from only £295 per person

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 place.

Singapore – M Hotel

Two nights from £295 per person

Occupying a great location in Singapore city centre, M Hotel is a modern, stylish hotel offering a warm welcome and a range of services alongside comfortable, contemporary accommodation.



Sentosa Island – Rasa Sentosa Resort

Two nights from £495 per person

Stop over in style at Shangri-La's Rasa Sentosa Resort, a beautiful beachfront resort on Singapore's Sentosa Island, only 20 minutes from downtown Singapore.



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 and a great location from which to explore downtown Dubai.



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

Departure Dates & Prices

2024 Departures

25 October 2024 **£3,795** per person

2025 Departures

17 January 2025 **£3,895** per person

14 February 2025 **£3,895** per person

07 March 2025* **£3,895** per person

* This departure stays at the Cozy Savvy Boutique Hotel, Hoi An

Private Touring Supplements

2 guests **£495** per person

3 guests **£395** per person

4 guests **£295** per person

5-14 guests **£195** per person

15-19 guests **£95** per person

20+ guests No extra charge

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement
£695

Deposit

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

Flight upgrades

Singapore Airlines upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,395 per person return, or Business Class from £3,595 per person return.

Emirates upgrade to Business Class from £3,595 per person return.

Private Touring

The same expertly crafted itinerary and hand-picked hotels, combined with the exclusivity and convenience of your own friendly and knowledgeable guides, your own private vehicle and your own choice of departure date.

Visa information

A visa is required for travel to Cambodia. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 78-79.

Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book. Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 80-83.

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 FREE on 0800 141 3743

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





NEW EXCLUSIVELY FOR SOLO TRAVELLERS

Discover Vietnam & Cambodia

18 days from £4,495pp November 2024 – March 2025

Vietnam and Cambodia are a delight at every turn. Cities alive and pulsating with pockets of history from its colonial past. Tranquil villages where traditions have been handed down generation after generation and rice paddies stretching out as far as the eye can see.

Ancient temples and religious sites, towering karsts dotting the landscape and delicious local cuisine combine to create a heady mix to delight in and discover.

We explore the cities of Hanoi & Ho Chi Minh City, walk the quaint streets of Hoi An's old merchant quarter and marvel at the temples of Angkor Wat. We meet local fishermen in the mighty Mekong Delta, explore wondrous Mai Chau and learn the fascinating history of the Cu Chi Tunnels. Along the way we interact with local villagers, communities and farmers. Learn the traditions of batik, go out into the rice fields, practice Tai Chi to the backdrop of Ha Long Bay on our overnight cruise and visit the home of a local Cambodian chef.

Travelling with a Tour Manager throughout and designed with the solo traveller in mind, join Distant Journeys on an adventure of a lifetime to discover the enchanting magic that these two countries offer in abundance. Plus, no single supplement means our Discover Vietnam & Cambodia tour provides incredible value too.



Your holiday includes

- Return economy flights with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow or Manchester (selected dates), inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. Alternatively, fly with Emirates via Dubai from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow – a supplement, from £200 per person, will apply. All domestic flights within Vietnam & Cambodia
- Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
- Meals worth £504 per person, with daily breakfasts, nine lunches, six dinners and one brunch
- Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ City sightseeing tours in Hanoi, Hoi An and Ho Chi Minh City
 - ★ Interact with local communities in Mai Chau
 - ★ Lantern making in Hoi An
 - ★ Visit Tra Que Community Village to learn traditional farming methods
 - ★ Explore the Cham sculpture museum
 - ★ Discover the intriguing Cu Chi Tunnels
 - ★ Visit the Mekong Delta
 - ★ Magnificent temples of Angkor Wat
 - ★ Cambodia cookery class at local chef's home
 - ★ Enjoy a performance at Cambodia's Phare Circus
- All-inclusive cruise on La Regina Legend, Lan Ha Bay:
 - ✓ Overnight cruise to Lan Ha Bay
 - ✓ All land excursions and selected on-board experiences
 - ✓ All meals
 - ✓ Welcome drink
- Services of experienced Tour Manager and local guides
- All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
- Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 80-83.



Temple of Literature, Hanoi, Vietnam



Lan Ha Bay, Vietnam



Mai Chau, Vietnam

Discover Vietnam & Cambodia

Days 1 to 9: UK - Hanoi - Mai Chau - Ha Long Bay - Hoi An

Day 1: Depart UK

Begin your journey with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow. For flights from Manchester on selected dates, and at no extra cost, please call us. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Alternative airline – Emirates

If you prefer, you may fly with Emirates via Dubai from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow for a supplement, from £200 per person return.

Day 2: Hanoi, 2 nights

Your Singapore Airlines flight to Hanoi operates via Singapore. Upon arrival in Hanoi, we transfer to the centrally-located Silk Path Hotel, where we spend the next two nights. The afternoon is free for us to relax or to take a stroll around Hoan Kiem. In the evening, we meet our Tour Manager and fellow travellers for a welcome dinner. A great opportunity to get to know each other and learn about the upcoming adventures. **In-flight meals and drinks and dinner included**

Day 3: Hanoi

Today begins with an orientation tour of Hanoi, passing landmarks like Ba Dinh Square, the Presidential Palace, Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, and the National Assembly building. Next, we visit the revered One Pillar Pagoda, a Buddhist temple from the 11th century, before heading to the Temple of Literature, Vietnam's oldest university, dedicated to Confucius. Lunch offers an introduction to bun cha, a famous Vietnamese dish. In the afternoon, observe the preparation of a Vietnamese egg coffee, an iconic local beverage, and enjoy a cyclo (rickshaw) ride through the bustling Old Quarter. We also visit the Ngoc Son Temple, known as the 'Place Touched by Morning Sunbeams'. Our day comes to an end with a traditional water puppet show at Hanoi's Thang Long Theatre, before we return to our hotel for the evening. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 4: Mai Chau, 2 nights

Today, we journey to Mai Chau, with winding mountain roads revealing breathtaking panoramas. The Mai Chau valley presents an idyllic location; expansive rice paddies, and grand limestone mountains dotted throughout with tiny villages and bustling communities. An afternoon walking excursion through the valley introduces us to local hill tribe communities, verdant rice fields and serene rural terrain. Our hotel for the next two nights is the Mai Chau Mountain View Resort. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 5: Mai Chau

Tour Highlight

Following breakfast, we head for Bao La commune – a village developing sustainable tourism in the local community. We are guided through the village, learning about the project's goals and engaging in some farming activities. Later, stop at a local family's home for a cookery class featuring traditional dishes from the White Thai community. Lunch will be served at the family's home. In the afternoon, we experience farming life and join local residents in planting rice in the fields. Enjoy a drink of tea with the family before returning to our hotel. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 6: Hanoi, Overnight

This morning, we travel to Pa Co village, home to the H'mong people. We take a walk around the village and witness daily life in the community. There's an opportunity to visit a family home to learn the traditional methods of making batik and indigo dyeing. We return to Hanoi and the Silk Path Hotel for our overnight stay in the city. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 7: Lan Ha Bay, Overnight

Tour Highlight

Bid farewell to the city's hustle and bustle as we travel to Ha Long. Here we board La Regina Legend for a voyage through UNESCO World Heritage Site, Lan Ha Bay, part of the Ha Long Bay geography. Enjoy a buffet lunch, while cruising through the bay's towering limestone cliffs and emerald waters. We also visit an impressive cave to discover its intriguing stalagmite and stalactite formations. Moored for the evening in the most spectacular of locations, relax on the deck with a cocktail before dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 8: Hoi An, 3 nights

Our day begins with Tai Chi on the sun deck as the sun rises. We visit the impressive caves of Trung Trang on Cat Ba Island, before our return to the mainland. We travel to Hanoi Airport for our flight to Da Nang. Upon arrival, we are transferred to our hotel in Hoi An, the Silkotel Hotel. Perfectly located for exploring Hoi An's ancient Old Town, this is our home for the next three nights. **Light breakfast and brunch included**

Day 9: Hoi An

Tour Highlight

Today we explore Hoi An, a charming former trading port. Our walking tour includes visits to iconic landmarks – Chua Ong Pagoda, built in 1653; Phuc Kien Assembly Hall; Tan Ky House, a 200-year-old ancestral home; and the famous 17th-century Japanese bridge. One of Hoi An's most famous symbols is the silk lantern. Brought by Chinese and Japanese merchants in the late 14th century, they have been made in Hoi An for over 400 years. This afternoon, we learn about how these beautiful pieces of art are made. This evening there is the opportunity to join an optional walking food tour and enjoy iconic dishes at the town's most famous eateries. **Breakfast and lunch included**

We Recommend

Street Food Tour

Discover the delights of Vietnamese cuisine including 'Bánh bao bánh vac' – a white rose dumpling, only found in Hoi An.





Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam



Mekong Delta, Vietnam



Angkor Wat, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Discover Vietnam & Cambodia

Days 10 to 16: Tra Que - Ho Chi Minh City - Mekong Delta - Siem Reap - Angkor Wat

Day 10: Tra Que

This morning, we visit Tra Que village, known for its expansive organic vegetable farm. Explore the farm and observe the traditional farming techniques used to cultivate crops and engage in hands-on activities. After our gardening experience, relax with a herbal foot bath and massage, followed by lunch. On our return to Hoi An we visit a community development where they craft soap from recycled cooking oil. The afternoon is ours to spend at our leisure. Perhaps join our excursion to My Son, the former capital of the ancient Cham civilisation. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 11: Ho Chi Minh City, 3 nights

It's time to say goodbye to the delights of Hoi An and, following breakfast, we head to Da Nang for our departure flight to Ho Chi Minh City. En route, we visit the Cham Sculpture Museum, which houses an extensive collection of Champa sculptures dating from the 7th to 15th centuries. Upon arrival in Ho Chi Minh City, transfer to the Liberty Riverside Hotel for a three night stay. After settling in we enjoy our first evening in the city together with dinner at a local restaurant. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 12: Cu Chi Tunnels & Ho Chi Minh City

Tour Highlight

We head out of the city this morning and towards the famous Cu Chi Tunnels, a former Viet Cong stronghold. Watch a short video before viewing the tunnels and learning more about how the tunnels served various roles, from living quarters to supply routes and makeshift hospitals. Next, we visit an organic farm to learn about farm-to-table practices and savour an organic lunch with fresh ingredients. Back in the city, we visit the War Remnants Museum with graphic yet important exhibits depicting wartime hardships. We also explore the Reunification Palace, and the Central Post Office, a remarkable work by French architect Gustave Eiffel. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 13: Mekong Delta

This morning, we travel to My Tho, gateway to the Mekong Delta. Here, we board a wooden sampan and travel the Mekong to Tan My and Thoi Son Islands. These islands are home to numerous floating fish farms, some of which have been anchored for decades. Next, we board a traditional rowing boat for a serene journey through narrow canals shaded by water coconut trees. Exploring by bicycle, we visit a local garden, verdant with fresh seasonal fruits. Here, we will enjoy grapefruits, coconuts, bananas, durian, jackfruits and longans. Lunch will be a spread of Mekong delicacies in a local family's garden, where we watch the host prepare banh khot, a popular and delicious local dish. Afterwards, another gentle bike ride through the tranquil island's backstreets awaits before returning to the mainland. Today's adventure over, we return to the city and our hotel. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 14: Siem Reap, 3 nights

Our time in Vietnam comes to a close this morning, but new adventures are waiting for us in Cambodia. Transferring to the airport, we board our flight to Siem Reap, Cambodia. On arrival, we are met by our Cambodia guide and driver and transferred to the delightful Borei Angkor Hotel, our home for the next three nights. This evening, we venture to Phare, also known as the Cambodian circus. An entertaining evening featuring a group of talented young artists, who showcase incredibly artistic forms of storytelling to offer a unique insight into Cambodian culture and everyday life. **Breakfast included**

Day 15: Angkor Wat

Tour Highlight

Today, we embark on a journey through time as we explore the remarkable remains of an ancient civilisation. Our day begins by visiting Angkor Thom, the last capital of the Khmer Empire. In this monumental site, we encounter the sprawling Elephant Terrace, the Terrace of the Leper King, and the mystical Bayon. Next, we visit Ta Prohm – one of Angkor's largest temples. Surrounded by jungle, its maze of stone passageways is overgrown with roots and branches of massive banyan trees. Following lunch, we visit Angkor Wat, arguably the world's largest religious structure, constructed with a volume of stone matching the Cheops pyramid in Egypt. It boasts symmetrical towers inspiring the modern Cambodian flag and is certainly a highlight of the trip. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 16: Siem Reap

A culinary voyage awaits today, as we are introduced to Khmer cuisine. Upon arrival at a local chef's residence, expect a warm welcome from today's cooking instructor. We journey to the nearby market, where vibrant stalls reveal the unique ingredients central to Khmer gastronomy. Guided by our expert, we learn to prepare and cook some of Cambodia's most cherished dishes, before enjoying a lunch of our creations. The afternoon is ours to enjoy at our leisure. Spend the afternoon hunting for souvenirs, or perhaps join an optional excursion to explore some of the many non-profit organisations and social enterprises in Siem Reap, including HeroRats, Theam's House Gallery and the Royal Independence Garden. As our final evening approaches, we dine together one last time and share the memories of our adventures. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

We Recommend

Siem Reap social enterprises

Meet the hero rats, discover local Cambodian artist's paintings & sculptures and visit the Royal Independence Garden.





Mekong Delta, Vietnam



Bayon Temple, Angkor Wat



Fish seller, Cambodia

Discover Vietnam & Cambodia

Days 17 to 18: Siem Reap - UK

Day 17: Depart Siem Reap

As our Indochina adventure comes to a close, maybe indulge in some final souvenir hunting in Siem Reap. Later today we return to Siem Reap Airport for our Singapore Airlines flight, via Singapore, to the UK. For those travelling with Emirates, your return flight will operate via Bangkok and Dubai.

Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included

Day 18: Arrive UK

After 18 incredible days filled with unforgettable memories, our Vietnam and Cambodia adventure comes to a close as we arrive into our chosen UK airport. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Homebound Stopovers from only £295 per person

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 place.

Singapore – M Hotel

Two nights from £295 per person

Occupying a great location in Singapore city centre, M Hotel is a modern, stylish hotel offering a warm welcome and a range of services alongside comfortable, contemporary accommodation.



Sentosa Island – Rasa Sentosa Resort

Two nights from £495 per person

Stop over in style at Shangri-La's Rasa Sentosa Resort, a beautiful beachfront resort on Singapore's Sentosa Island, only 20 minutes from downtown Singapore.



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 and a great location from which to explore downtown Dubai.



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

Departure Dates & Prices

2024 Departures

06 November 2024 **£4,495** per person

2025 Departures

05 February 2025 **£4,695** per person

05 March 2025 **£4,695** per person

Prices

Prices are per person based on one person in a twin or double room.

No single occupancy supplements apply.

Deposit

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

Flight upgrades

Singapore Airlines upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,395 per person return, or Business Class from £3,595 per person return.

Emirates upgrade to Business Class from £3,595 per person return.

Visa information

A visa is required for travel to Cambodia. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 78-79.

Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book. Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 80-83.

Call to book

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Call FREE on 0800 141 3743

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





Clockwise from above:
Repairing fishing nets, Vietnam; Boy on Water Buffalo, Cambodia

The Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia

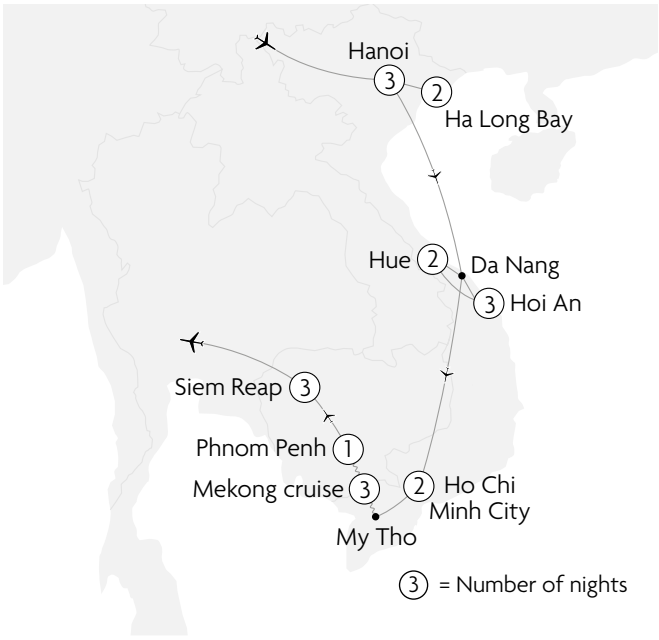
22 days from £5,345pp September 2024 – March 2025

Vietnam and Cambodia are the very essence of Indochina, and are a magical part of the world to explore. Ancient and modern worlds collide to create a truly thrilling adventure; the hustle and bustle of local markets, phenomenal landscapes, archaeological treasures and tranquil villages.

With gastronomic delights, friendly people and so much of their unique character and traditions still in evidence, Vietnam and Cambodia are a joy to discover on Distant Journeys' Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia escorted tour.

As you would expect from Distant Journeys, you'll find a number of once-in-a-lifetime experiences within our itinerary. There is a very special two-night cruise on Vietnam's breath-taking Ha Long Bay, and you'll explore one of Asia's most awe-inspiring landmarks, Angkor Wat in Cambodia. What's more, a wonderful three-night cruise on the mighty Mekong is also included – a relaxing and delightful way to experience and explore this region as we travel between Vietnam and Cambodia.

You can, if you prefer, travel on our Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia tour as a Private Tour. Providing exclusivity and convenience, our Private Tours allow you a wider choice of departure dates, the privacy of your own vehicle and driver, and knowledgeable local guides.



Your holiday includes

- Return economy flights with Singapore Airlines, via Singapore from London Heathrow, or Manchester (selected dates), inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. Alternatively, fly with Emirates via Dubai from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow – a supplement, from £200 per person, will apply. All domestic flights within Vietnam & Cambodia
- Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
- Meals worth £669 per person, with daily breakfasts, six lunches and all meals on board the Au Co and Pandaw Mekong River cruise
- Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ City sightseeing tours in Hanoi, Hoi An, Hue, Ho Chi Minh City and Phnom Penh
 - ★ Learn to cook Vietnamese dishes
 - ★ Explore the intriguing Cu Chi Tunnels
 - ★ Magnificent temples of Angkor Wat

- All-inclusive cruise on the Au Co, Ha Long Bay:
 - ✓ Two-night cruise around Ha Long Bay and Lan Ha Bay
 - ✓ All land excursions and selected on-board experiences
 - ✓ All meals and welcome drink
- All-inclusive cruise on the RV Indochina Pandaw, or the RV Indochina Bassac, Mekong River:
 - ✓ Three-night cruise on the Mekong River between Vietnam and Cambodia
 - ✓ All land excursions and selected on-board experiences
 - ✓ All meals and selected alcoholic and soft drinks

Services of experienced Tour Manager and local guides

All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout

Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 80-83.



Temple of Literature, Hanoi, Vietnam



Hoi An, Vietnam



Ha Long Bay

The Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia

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

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow. Flights with Singapore Airlines from Manchester are available on selected dates, please speak with one of our travel experts for more details. No matter which airport 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, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle or Glasgow. Supplements for Emirates start at £200 per person.

Day 2: Hanoi, 3 nights

All flights with Singapore Airlines to Hanoi travel via Singapore. After clearing customs, we transfer to our hotel and our home for our first three nights in Vietnam, the Pan Pacific Hanoi. Early evening, enjoy a welcome drink with your Tour Manager and fellow travellers, so we may become better acquainted and learn more about our adventure ahead. **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', before viewing 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 offers us the freedom that this wonderfully old-fashioned city deserves. With the full support of our Tour Manager, perhaps enjoy the delights of Hanoi at your own pace, joining one of many local photographic tours, or indulging in a specialist cookery class to explore the five fundamental tastes of Vietnamese cuisine. We can also help arrange a full day excursion to 'Ha Long Bay on Land', Ninh Binh. **Breakfast included**

Day 5: Ha Long Bay, 2 nights

Tour Highlight

Ha Long Bay is one of Vietnam's must-see destinations, famed for its emerald waters, staggering limestone islands, and untouched rainforests. Once in Ha Long, we travel in style on our first-class vessel, the Au Co, for a stunning two-night cruise around this UNESCO World Heritage Site. After enjoying lunch whilst cruising into the bay, we head to the fascinating floating village of Cua Van, with a population of just over 700, to see how these remarkably independent people live. The day ends with dinner on deck, watching the sun set over this dazzling paradise. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 6: Lan Ha and Ha Long Bays

Why not start your day with a Tai Chi lesson on the sun deck, before we cruise through the spectacularly serene Lan Ha Bay? Once arriving at Cat Ba Island, we venture on a short cycle ride to Viet Hai Village, where we learn about community life in the heart of Cat Ba National Park. Trinh Nu Cave, with its stunning array of stalactites and stalagmites, is our next destination at the heart of the picturesque Ha Long Bay. The evening is reserved for a delicious on-board barbecue with fellow passengers. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 7: Hoi An, 3 nights

After breakfast we head to Ha Long's famous Sung Sot Cave, before returning to the mainland whilst soaking up the beautiful panoramas. Once there, we take the awaiting coach back to Hanoi, before flying to Da Nang. After landing, we journey to archaic Hoi An, settling into the first-class Bel Marina Hoi An Resort, where we stay for the next three nights. **Breakfast included**

Day 8: Walking tour of Hoi An

Tour Highlight

A famed UNESCO World Heritage Site of grand architecture, the once major trading port of Hoi An is a fascinating time-warp of Japanese temples, Chinese warehouses, and Dutch and French colonial houses. We embark on a tour of Hoi An by foot, encompassing the beautiful Chua Ong Pagoda, symbolic Phuc Kien Assembly Hall, pristinely preserved Tan Ky House, and the 17th century Japanese Bridge. We also take a scenic boat trip along the Thu Bon River, before offering some afternoon downtime to unwind by the hotel pool, or join an optional lantern making class, for creative types amongst us! **Breakfast included**

Day 9: Hoi An Freedom Day

Today offers an opportunity to relax and enjoy the hotel's facilities, or alternatively head out for some further exploration of the area. It may appeal to you to take a cookery class, or visit the captivating Hindu temple ruins of My Son, constructed as early as the 4th century. Alternatively, visit Tra Que Village and learn about community farming techniques, before enjoying a fresh and tasty lunch made from locally-farmed produce. **Breakfast included**

We Recommend

Tra Que Village

Experience the Vietnamese countryside and meet the farmers of Tra Que Village, where organic vegetables are produced using traditional methods.



Day 10: Hue, 2 nights

This morning we are treated to a spectacular drive over the Hai Van Pass along the Vietnamese coastline, a 19km stretch of road climbing to 3,000ft (914m) above sea level. This afternoon we visit the majestic Minh Mang Tomb, before continuing to the iconic seven-storey Thien Mu Pagoda, where resident monks continue to practice. We cruise back into Hue city along the Perfume River, before arriving at our hotel, the centrally situated Eldora Hotel, where we spend two nights. **Breakfast and lunch included**



Imperial Citadel, Hue, Vietnam



Vietnamese cuisine

The Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia

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

Day 11: Hue's Imperial Citadel

Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and originally the settlement of the Cham people, the Imperial city of Hue was capital of Vietnam during the Nguyen Dynasty. After breakfast at the hotel we visit the Imperial Citadel, modelled on the Forbidden City in Beijing. The Citadel was sadly destroyed in the war, but, along with many surrounding buildings, is being slowly restored. Soon after we visit the dazzling former residence of Princess Ngoc Son, before taking time in the afternoon to do as we please. You may want to travel to the local village of Thanh Tien to learn the 300-year old craft of paper flower making. **Breakfast and lunch included**

We Recommend

Thanh Tien

Learn the craft of paper flower making in the local village of Thanh Tien, where residents have been practicing this local tradition for over 300 years.



Day 12: Ho Chi Minh City, 2 nights

We rise early today to catch our transfer to the airport, where we fly to Ho Chi Minh City. After checking in at the upmarket Liberty Central Riverside Hotel, our accommodation for the next two nights. We visit the one remaining stronghold of Catholicism in the city, Notre Dame Cathedral, and explore the War Remnants Museum – a graphic depiction of war in Vietnam. We also visit the city's perfectly preserved French colonial Central Post Office, and take a stroll along Dong Khoi Street to the delicately featured Saigon Opera House. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 13: Cu Chi Tunnels

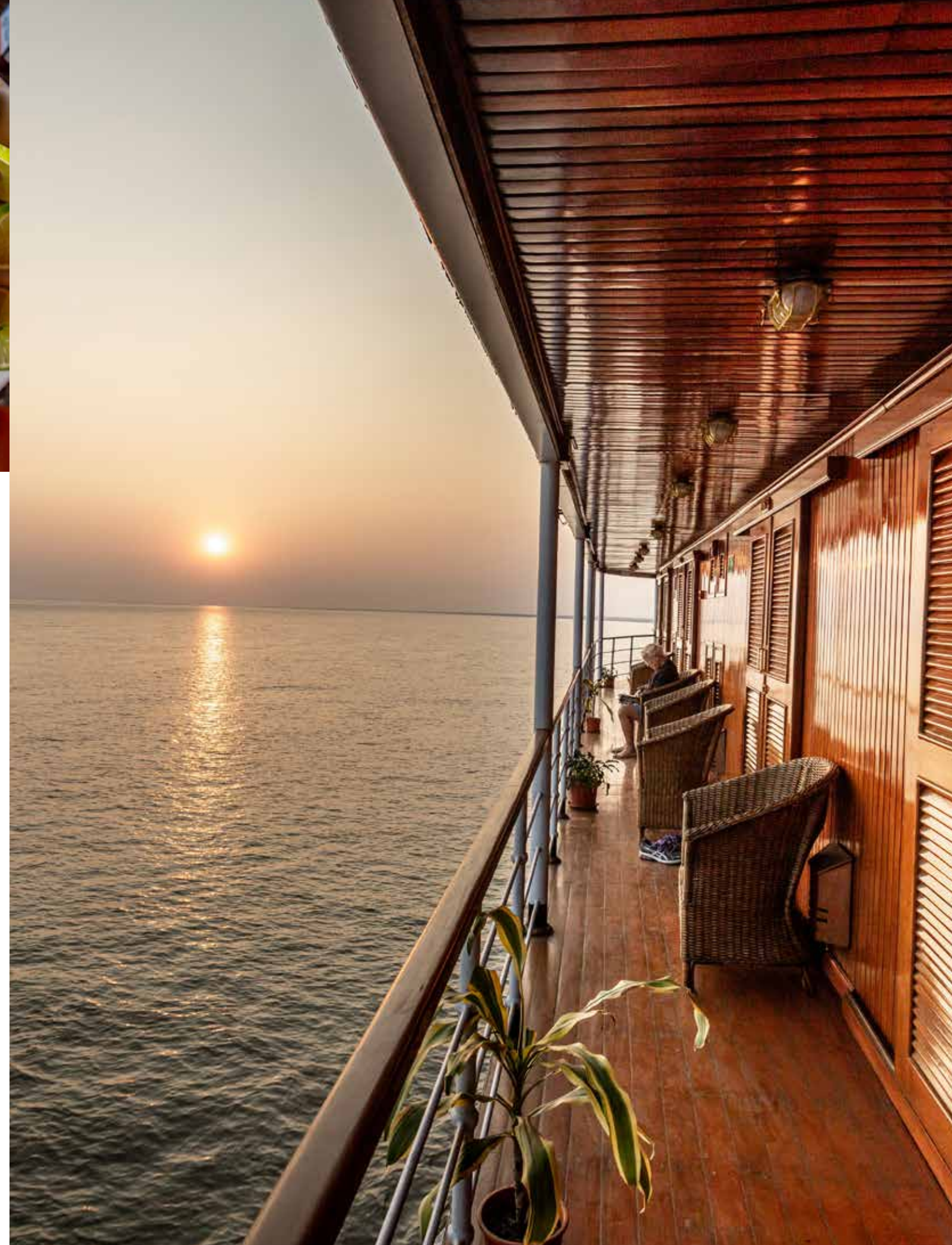
Tour Highlight

After breakfast we journey into the stunning countryside – once the stronghold of the Viet Cong, who fought against the US and South Vietnamese governments in the Vietnam War. We visit the Ho Chi Minh Agricultural Village, where we join a Vietnamese cooking class, and continue to the Cu Chi Tunnels – a vast, 250km underground network used by the Viet Cong as hiding spots, for communication, and as supply routes during the war. Our visit provides a captivating insight into how the Viet Cong lived and fought. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 14: Mekong River Cruise, 3 nights

Tour Highlight

Our fabulous three-night cruise between Vietnam and Cambodia begins when we head to My Tho, gateway to the Mekong Delta, to embark our vessel, the RV Indochina Pandaw, or RV Bassac Pandaw. These elegant, hand-built cruise ships are traditionally-styled in brass and teak and customised to navigate the flowing waters of the Mekong Delta and river. After a delicious lunch, we disembark to travel by sampan (traditional wooden boat) through mangroves and bamboo forests to Ben Tre, known for its fruit orchards. This area is rich in birdlife, which we can savour as we journey slowly through the tranquil waterways before arriving at a local village which specialises in making local products. We learn how these specialities are made and of course try them for ourselves! Back on board, this evening we will be entertained by a Vietnamese Cultural Group whose performance highlights life on the Mekong Delta. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected onboard drinks included**



Pandaw Mekong River Cruise



Mekong Delta, Vietnam



Rice paddy, Chau Doc, Vietnam



Royal Palace, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

The Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia

Days 15 to 20: Mekong River - Phnom Penh - Siem Reap

Day 15: Con Phuoc, Mekong Delta

Enjoy a relaxing morning sailing through the Mekong Delta, gleaning insights into life along this mighty waterway as we go. After lunch, we head ashore to Con Phuoc Island. Here we spend time with the local crafts-people who weave bamboo baskets in the traditional way. After showing off their skills, we try to master the art ourselves before taking a tuk-tuk ride through the peaceful village, meeting more of the local community along the way. Once back on board the RV Indochina Pandaw, or RV Bassac Pandaw, there's time to freshen up before a delicious dinner is served in the light, airy restaurant. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected onboard drinks included**

Day 16: Chau Doc – Sam Mountain – Vietnam / Cambodia Border

This morning we dock alongside the picturesque border town of Chau Doc and travel by sampan to its famous floating markets. Although Vietnam's main religions are Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism, there is a community of Vietnamese Muslims in Chau Doc, and we visit a local village to meet members of this community and observe their lifestyle. Next, we board minivans for a short drive to beautiful Sam Mountain, location of Phuoc Dien Tu, otherwise known as Hang Pagoda. We climb the 400 steps to the top of the pagoda, proclaimed an 'official historic monument' in 1980. Later, we return to our vessel and cruise the local canals before we drop anchor on the Vietnam / Cambodia border to go through immigration formalities. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected onboard drinks included**

Day 17: Phnom Penh, Overnight

After a wonderful three days cruising the Mekong River, our time on board the RV Indochina Pandaw, or RV Bassac Pandaw has sadly come to an end, and we disembark in Phnom Penh, where we visit the striking Royal Palace – the official residence of Cambodia's King Norodom Sihamoni – built in 1866. We also have the privilege of viewing the Silver Pagoda, whose floor is covered with 5,000 silver tiles, and the magnificent, near life-size Buddha, made from solid gold and encrusted with almost 10,000 diamonds.

Despite the splendour and the optimism that you will no doubt observe in Cambodia, there is no escaping its dark recent history, in which Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge regime (1975-79) cost thousands of innocent people their lives. To learn more about these troubled times, we first visit Tuol Sleng (also known as S-21), the former high school turned prison where captives of the Khmer Rouge were held, before their fate at the Killing Fields awaited them. Today it is a museum, where the haunting faces of some 17,000 people who passed through its gates are displayed. Only seven survivors lived to tell the tale. From here we journey on to the Killing Fields of Choeung Ek, where a memorial provides an emotive yet chilling tribute to the fallen. This afternoon's visit is a sobering and powerful cultural experience, providing us with an important insight into the resilience and spirit of the Cambodian people. Later in the afternoon we arrive at the Palace Gate Hotel, for our overnight stay. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 18: Siem Reap, 3 nights

Tour Highlight

Our journey to Siem Reap begins with transfers to the airport. It is here, that we explore Asia's most famous and highly anticipated landmark, the temples of Angkor. This amazing monument 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, and the richly decorated Bayon, adorning the face of the Buddhist King Jayavarman VII. The afternoon sees us visit 10th century Hindu Temple, Phimeankas, the Terrace of Elephants and the Terrace of Leper Kings, located inside the walled enclosure of the Royal Palace of Angkor Thom. After an epic day, we finish with a sunset cruise along the moat of Angkor Thom. Our final three nights in Cambodia will be spent at the Borei Angkor Resort & Spa. **Breakfast included**

Day 19: 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 early risers amongst us, there is the opportunity to experience sunrise over this epic temple, at an additional cost. Following breakfast, we return to Angkor Wat, the world's largest religious monument, to fully discover this enchanting temple, which features high classical style Khmer architecture. Spread across a massive site, we weave throughout the bewitching temple grounds, experiencing the alchemy of such incomprehensible designs. We close the morning's adventure with a visit to the temple of Ta Prohm, where tree roots hold this spectacular shrine together. The afternoon is reserved for your own leisure, though the evening offers the option to visit the Phare Circus, which supports the development of Khmer youth through a programme of arts and performance. **Breakfast included**

Day 20: Siem Reap Freedom Day

Our Tour Manager will be on hand to help us make the most of this Freedom Day in Siem Reap. Having spent time exploring the city's most iconic attraction, Angkor Wat, you may wish to indulge in other experiences in and around the city, particularly those linked to social enterprises formed to support the local people. How about learning to cook traditional Khmer cuisine, or visiting one of the city's thriving local markets? You may choose to explore a neighbouring village, where you can interact with locals and discover more about their rural daily lives. Or perhaps it is time for you to simply relax and unwind? The choice is yours. **Breakfast included**

We Recommend

Visit a local village

Learn about life in a local village. Spend time with the community and try your hand at a few traditional skills.





Angkor Wat, Siem Reap, Cambodia



Aspara dancers, Cambodia



Ta Phrom, Angkor Wat, Cambodia

The Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia

Days 21 to 22: Siem Reap - UK

Day 21: Depart Siem Reap

Take the opportunity to relax before the homeward journey, or squeeze some last-minute souvenir shopping around Siem Reap before we depart for the airport. Our flights operate via Singapore with Singapore Airlines or Bangkok and Dubai with Emirates. **Breakfast, and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 22: Arrive UK

After 22 amazing days full of unforgettable memories, our incredible adventure comes to a close as we arrive into our chosen UK airport this morning. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Holiday Extension

Why not extend your holiday with a visit to Luang Prabang in Laos?



4 Days From £895

The UNESCO World Heritage town of Luang Prabang is a gem of the tiny land-locked country of Laos. Step back in time and discover its unique magical charm for yourself.

Please see pages 64-65 for more details.

Homebound Stopovers from only £295 per person

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 place.

Singapore – M Hotel

Two nights from £295 per person

Occupying a great location in Singapore city centre, M Hotel is a modern, stylish hotel offering a warm welcome and a range of services alongside comfortable, contemporary accommodation.



Sentosa Island – Rasa Sentosa Resort

Two nights from £495 per person

Stop over in style at Shangri-La's Rasa Sentosa Resort, a beautiful beachfront resort on Singapore's Sentosa Island, only 20 minutes from downtown Singapore.



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 and a great location from which to explore downtown Dubai.



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

Departure Dates & Prices

2024 Departures

30 September 2024 **£5,345** per person

11 November 2024 **£5,345** per person

2025 Departures

12 January 2025 **£5,595** per person

03 February 2025 **£5,595** per person

03 March 2025 **£5,595** per person

Private Touring Supplements

2 guests **£1,495** per person

3 guests **£1,295** per person

4 guests **£1,195** per person

5-8 guests **£995** per person

9-16 guests **£895** per person

17-19 guests **£395** per person

20+ guests No extra charge

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

2024 departures £1,295

2025 departures £1,395

Deposit

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

Flight upgrades

Singapore Airlines upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,395 per person return, or Business Class from £3,595 per person return.

Emirates upgrade to Business Class from £3,595 per person return.

Private Touring

The same expertly crafted itinerary and hand-picked hotels, combined with the exclusivity and convenience of your own friendly and knowledgeable guides, your own private vehicle and a choice of departure dates.

Visa information

A visa is required for travel to Cambodia. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 78-79.

Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book. Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 80-83.

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 FREE on 0800 141 3743

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm **Saturday** 9.00am - 5.00pm

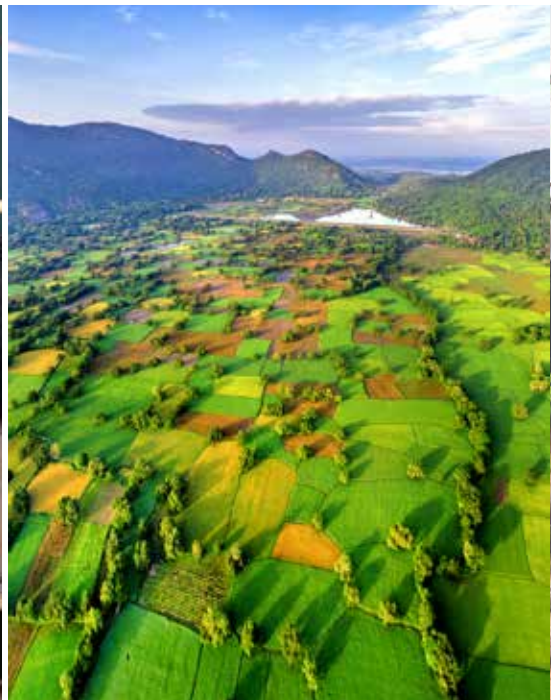
Sunday Open in peak season. See website for details.

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

Email: enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk



Vietnam Holiday Extension



Mekong Delta from only £725 per person

Floating market, Vietnam

To the south of Ho Chi Minh City, the Mekong River unravels, spreading into innumerable tributaries, alive with floating markets and small villages surrounded by rice paddies. View Buddhist temples and mangrove forests teeming with bird life as you immerse yourself in Vietnamese life alongside one of Asia’s greatest rivers.

Available with our Highlights of Vietnam tour



See pages 28-35

Rice fields, Mekong Delta, Vietnam

Day 15: Chau Doc
After breakfast, we drive to Chau Doc, on the border with Cambodia. Home to verdant forests, bustling riverbanks and striking Khmer temples, Chau Doc is a melting pot of many cultures. We cruise on the Bassac River, past floating fish farms, to a local village, where we hear about the lives of the local minority ethnic Cham people. Sam Mountain is the highest mountain in the Mekong Delta, and we visit one of its many impressive temples. After lunch we travel by sampan through waterways flanked by mangroves to Tra Su Forest, an eco-reserve and ecological haven, with more than 100 species of water birds and colonies of bats. Our busy day ends with a climb to a vantage point with breath-taking views over the forests below, before returning to Can Tho. **Breakfast and lunch included**

French colonial-style house in Binh Thuy village, Can Tho

Day 16: Ho Chi Minh City, Overnight
An early start today as we visit Cai Rang floating market. Boats teeming with fruit, vegetables and household goods ply the waters which bustle with activity. We then cruise to a lush orchard, where we disembark to stroll through the tropical fruit gardens and enjoy the natural beauty. Vietnam’s French colonial past is reflected in its striking architecture; a notable example of which is Binh Thuy. Built in 19th century, this grand house’s classical French style is blended with design guided by the principles of Eastern feng-shui. Binh Thuy was used as the filming location for ‘The Lover’, a film based on the novel of the same name by French novelist Marguerite Duras. Later, we arrive at Ho Chi Minh City for an overnight stay at the Liberty Central Saigon Riverside Hotel. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 17: Depart Ho Chi Minh City
As our flight departs in the evening, there is further time to explore Ho Chi Minh City or to purchase any last-minute souvenirs. Our flights operate via Singapore with Singapore Airlines. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 18: Arrive UK
This morning we arrive into our chosen UK airport. Filled with amazing memories to cherish, our Vietnamese adventure comes to an end. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Above: Traditional ‘sampan’, wooden boat
Below: Cham Village, Chau Doc, Vietnam



Mekong Delta, Vietnam

2024 Departures

All dates **£725** per person

2025 Departures

All dates **£745** per person

Your Mekong Delta holiday extension includes

Coach travel to and from Can Tho, two nights accommodation in Can Tho and one night accommodation in Ho Chi Minh City, daily breakfast, three lunches, all sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary, services of a local guide and all transfers.

Single occupancy supplement from £225

Laos Holiday Extension



Luang Prabang from only £895 per person

Old Town, Luang Prabang

Situated in northern Laos, surrounded by jungle clad mountains, and on the confluence of two rivers, the Mekong and the Khan, the UNESCO World Heritage town of Luang Prabang offers an abundance of magical charm. Discover the gentle nature of the Laotian people, view the ornate beauty of ancient temples and enjoy the serenity of watching Buddhist monks in their saffron coloured robes walk the streets for ‘alms’, in this former royal capital.

Available with our **Classic Vietnam & Cambodia** (pages 36-43) **Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia** (pages 52-61) tours.



This itinerary follows on from our Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia and Classic Vietnam & Cambodia tours.

Day 1: Luang Prabang, 3 nights

Today, we travel to Siem Reap Airport for our flight to Luang Prabang in northern Laos. On arrival we will be met and transferred to our hotel, Le Palais Juliana, where we will spend the next three nights. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Our hotel is located just 10 minutes from the main town. This evening, perhaps take a walk around the night markets or enjoy one of the many restaurants serving delicious Laotian cuisine.

Breakfast included

Day 2: Luang Prabang

Tour Highlight

It's an early start this morning to witness one of Luang Prabang's most special daily rituals, the 'giving of alms'. An important religious act, linked to monks begging for their daily food as a way to demonstrate humility, each morning a daily procession of around 300 young Buddhist monks walk silently through the streets whilst local residents present them with food. Whilst this is part of daily life in Luang Prabang, for those that wish, your guide will be more than happy to show you the best way to interact with the monks should you wish to partake.

Pak Ou Caves, Luang Prabang

We return to our hotel for breakfast before embarking on our morning of sightseeing. We begin with a visit to Wat Xieng Thong, one of the country's oldest temples, before a visit to the former Royal Palace, which today houses the National Museum. We finish our morning with a climb to the top of Phousi Hill (328 steps). Meaning 'sacred mountain', we wander slowly, taking advantage of several resting places and enjoy the magnificent panoramic views across the city and surrounding landscape. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Relax and enjoy the hotel pool or, maybe take an optional tour to nearby Kuangsy waterfall, followed by the Tat Kuang Si Bear Rescue Centre. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Buddhist monks during their daily rituals

Day 3: Luang Prabang

Unknown to many, Laos was bombed on average every eight minutes for nine years, from 1964 to 1973. More bombs fell on Laos than used by all countries involved in World War II. Our morning begins with a visit to the small but moving UXO centre (Unexploded Ordnance Programme). The centre provides an insight into the problems faced by several provinces due to unexploded bombs from this period and the work being done to improve safety. We finish our morning with a visit to the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre, which celebrates the diverse ethnic cultures and people of Laos.

With an afternoon at leisure, maybe take an optional excursion. Take a cruise to Pak Ou Cave to view the hundreds of tiny buddha statues or visit Living Land Farm; where you can experience the life of a rice farmer. Alternatively, you may prefer to learn about bamboo weaving, or visit Heuan Chan Heritage House, where you can learn about family culture, tradition and Laos cuisine.

Breakfast included

Day 4: Luang Prabang – UK

With our adventures drawing to a close we depart for the airport this morning for our flight to Bangkok, Thailand. Here we will connect with our return flight to the UK. Operating via Dubai, we will arrive at our chosen airport the following morning. **Breakfast included**

Above: Imperial Palace, Luang Prabang
Below: Traditional Laotian food



Royal Palace Museum, Luang Prabang

2024 & 2025 Departures

All dates **£895 per person**

Your Luang Prabang holiday extension includes

Flight from Siem Reap to Luang Prabang, and Luang Prabang to Bangkok (for our flight to the UK), three nights accommodation in Luang Prabang, daily breakfast, one lunch, all sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary, services of a local guide and all transfers.

Single occupancy supplement from £275



La Regina Legend exterior



Above: Princess Suite; Below: Jacuzzi



View from deck



La Corona restaurant

A designated UNESCO World Heritage Site, both Ha Long Bay and Lan Ha Bay have been shaped by nature for centuries.

A must for any tour of Vietnam, one of the best ways to experience this wondrous phenomena is on an overnight cruise. There is something quite magical about watching the sun set in the bay, or waking up to the quiet tranquillity, surrounded by the impressive karsts strutting out of the emerald green waters.

When travelling with Distant Journeys on both the 'Classic Vietnam & Cambodia' and 'Discover Vietnam & Cambodia' tours, we cruise overnight on La Regina Legend, also known as Queen of the Bays. The vessel itself is a glamorous ship that effortlessly blends history with modern comfort. Expect wood detailing and brass fixtures throughout, tempered with ornately decorated paintings.

The Journey

A cruise on La Regina Legend is a combination of the bay's most magnificent scenery, local attractions and onboard amenities. This unforgettable journey begins in La Regina's private lounge, where we are welcomed with a refreshing drink before joining our ship. As La Regina sets sail, prepare to embark on an adventure. We discover magnificent caves, take to the water in local boats or kayaks and enjoy a refreshing dip in the emerald-hued waters.

Cabins

The decor found throughout extends to your cabin, offering spacious accommodation and everything you need for a comfortable evening on board.

Cabin Facilities

- Twin or queen-size beds
- Private en-suite bathroom
- Tea and coffee facilities
- Air-conditioning and heating
- Complimentary mineral water

Life on board

Life on board La Regina Legend invites you to relish the outdoors. Breathe in the refreshing bay air from your private balcony or any of the open-air viewing spots. Inside the ship, discover plush seating and dining areas that offer both comfort and splendid bay views through expansive glass windows.

When not off on excursions, your ship provides a haven of tranquility. Relax on deck, pamper yourself with spa treatments, engage in a peaceful sun deck Tai Chi session or a taste of adventure. Don't miss the chance to try your hand at squid fishing!



Tai Chi on the sun deck

Dining

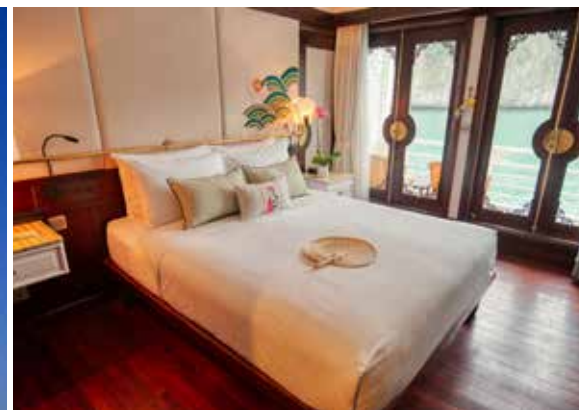
Enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner aboard as you marvel at the picturesque bay views. There is an extensive wine and drinks list to enjoy throughout your stay, and Happy Hour awaits at sunset on the first day.

Inclusions

- All-inclusive dining, with complimentary breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Welcome drink
- Selection of excursions and activities



Au Co exterior



Above: Bedroom; Below: View from Au Co deck



Sun deck



Drinks on board

An undoubted highlight of both Distant Journeys' Highlights of Vietnam and Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia tours is our wonderful two-night cruise along on the emerald waters of Ha Long Bay, on board the Au Co.

Situated in the Gulf of Tonkin, in Vietnam's north east, Ha Long Bay is a natural wonder known locally as the 'dragon descending to the sea', and is one of Vietnam's must-see destinations. Towering limestone peaks topped by untouched rainforest rise from the water and hundreds of tiny islands and grottos are studded throughout the bay. This extraordinary area was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1994, and it is truly spectacular.

Offering a small and friendly cruise experience and a personal service by the dedicated crew, our cruise takes place over three leisurely days, allowing plenty of time for both exploration ashore and relaxation on board the Au Co, an impressive vessel, whilst taking in the majesty of Ha Long Bay.

The Journey

There is ample time to discover Ha Long Bay's beautiful islets, beaches, villages and grottos, and enjoy many activities including swimming, snorkelling, kayaking, and trekking. We will take in the natural beauty of both Ha Long and Lan Ha Bays, with the opportunity to cycle to a remote village on Cat Ba Island, and experience the floating village of Cua Van in the quiet early morning hours. Sunbathe on the pristine white sands of Three Peach Beach and swim in its secluded, jade-coloured waters.

Deluxe Cabins

The Au Co has just 32 cabins. Our accommodation on board is a deluxe cabin featuring natural hardwood flooring and handcrafted furnishings. A private balcony is perfect for soaking up the breath-taking views of Ha Long Bay.

Cabin Facilities

- Twin or queen-size beds
- Private en-suite bathroom with toilet, washbasin and shower
- Tea and coffee-making facilities
- Individually controlled air-conditioning
- Complimentary drinking water throughout the cruise
- Bathrobes and deluxe toiletries

Life on board the Au Co

When cruising, the spacious sun deck is at the heart of life on board, where guests can dine, sunbathe and enjoy the range of onboard activities. The covered outdoor Lan Ha Bar is a particularly inviting space to relax with a drink surrounded by the natural beauty of Ha Long Bay.

You may begin your day with an early morning Tai Chi session on the sun deck. Learn the gentle movements of this ancient martial art whilst enjoying the morning sun and fresh breezes of Ha Long Bay. Take part in a fun Vietnamese cookery lesson; relax in the spa and open-air jacuzzi or lose yourself in a book from the well-stocked library. In the evening, an authentic song and dance performance by the ship's entertainers offers an insight into the different ethnic groups within Vietnam.



Chef preparing meal

Dine in one of the world's most scenic locations

Superb food is a highlight of any cruise, and on board the Au Co you will enjoy restaurant-quality dining in one of the most scenic places on earth. The talented team of chefs skilfully combine the best of Vietnamese and western flavours to produce an array of locally-caught seafood and seasonal fresh produce.

The Terrace Deck Restaurant has striking Art Deco-style furnishings, which enhance its elegant ambience. Enjoy a beautiful breakfast buffet spread, a casual lunch and a multi-course dinner, with a delicious evening barbecue on the sun deck being the highlight of your second night on board Au Co.

Au Co Inclusions

- All-inclusive dining, with complimentary breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Welcome drink
- Selection of excursions and activities



Pandaw River Cruise Mekong River



RV Indochina Pandaw exterior



Above: Double Cabin; Below: Enjoying the sunset on deck



View from deck



On board hospitality

Not only is our Mekong River cruise one of the stand-out highlights of our Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia tour, it is the perfect way to experience the mighty Mekong River and the rich culture of the Mekong Delta.

The Mekong River remains, as it has for thousands of years, a thriving and busy trade route, lined with small towns, local villages and colourful river markets. The brown waters of the river contrast with the vivid greenery of the countryside and the bustle of life. Travelling through six different Asian countries before it reaches the vast delta of Vietnam and the South China Sea, its waters attract river vessels of all sizes, from rowing boats and simple sampans to traditional long-tail boats and commercial barges.

There is no better way to discover the richness of the people who call the Mekong home than to take to the water. Our vessels, RV Indochina Pandaw and RV Bassac Pandaw, are hand-finished in brass and teak by craftsmen, traditionally-styled with a colonial era charm that reflects the original 1930's design. Cruising between Vietnam's Mekong Delta and Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, over three nights and four days, discover the wonders of one of Asia's mightiest rivers for yourself.

The Journey

Journeying on the lower Mekong River and Delta all the way to the bustling city of Phnom Penh in Cambodia, the shore excursions have an emphasis on experiencing local life, with plenty of opportunities to interact with local people and their fascinating culture.

View ancient temples, pagodas and Buddhist monasteries, visit a local village and learn about life on the Mekong. Experience the hustle and bustle of the colourful floating markets and learn about the crafts of local industries. You will also discover an area rich in biodiversity and birdlife, mangroves, bamboo forests and fruit orchards.

Your Stateroom

Staterooms on board both vessels exude colonial-era character combined with contemporary comforts. All staterooms are outside cabins, with direct access to the promenade deck.

Stateroom Facilities

- Twin or queen-size beds
- Private en-suite bathroom
- Unlimited mineral water
- Kimonos, slippers and spa-branded amenities

Life on board

Life on board is mostly enjoyed al fresco. The Promenade and Observation decks have comfortable lounging chairs, where guests can sit and watch from a great vantage point as life goes by on one of Asia's great rivers.

Throughout the Mekong River cruise, the emphasis is mainly on peace and tranquility. A number of on-board activities reflect the traditions and cultures of the area, such as a themed dinner and a performance by a local dance group.



Chef preparing meals

Dining

Dining is a relaxed, casual affair with a great choice of local cuisine and international favourites, all cooked with locally-sourced supplies where possible.

Breakfast is served buffet-style, while lunch features a buffet, plus soup, salads and a dessert table. Dinner is by waiter service and the team of talented chefs are always happy to cater to any dietary requirements. There is an extensive wine list, and whether you would like a refreshing cocktail or a chilled local beer, there's something to suit all tastes.

Inclusions

- All-inclusive dining, with complimentary breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Selected wines, beers, spirits and non-alcoholic beverages during meals
- Selection of excursions and activities

Japan Hotel Directory



Hiroshima – Rihga Royal Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Rihga Royal Hotel is set in the heart of Hiroshima, close to many poignant monuments dedicated to those lost in the 1945 bombing. Guest rooms are elegant and welcoming, with spectacular views of Hiroshima city and in the south, views out to Seto Inland Sea in the distance, and Hiroshima Castle in the north. There's a heated indoor pool and jacuzzi, perfect for unwinding, and the hotel boasts six fantastic restaurants and two bars, ideal for a pre-dinner sake.



Kanazawa – Hotel Nikko Kanazawa

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

With its central location, close to Kanazawa train station, Hotel Nikko Kanazawa is perfectly located for exploring the city. Guest rooms which start at the 17th floor provide views of the city allowing guests to take in the classic architecture of this historic Japanese town. The hotel provides an array of on-site dining offerings. These include La PLAGE for fresh local seafood, a Cantonese restaurant with a dim sum master chef, a French marché-inspired restaurant featuring live cooking, and a British-style bar, bakery and lounge complete with views of Kanazawa's charming cityscape.



Kanazawa – Hyatt Centric Kanazawa

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Hyatt Centric Kanazawa offers guests the chance to discover Kanazawa's unique cuisine and heritage, including the city's authentic art, shops, restaurants and hidden gems. Its guest rooms feature sleek designs which make use of natural light, local artwork and distinctive touches, while the 24-hour fitness centre is set up with all the latest equipment. Guests can also enjoy local cuisine and innovative cocktails at FIVE – Grill & Lounge while admiring sweeping city views from the open-air rooftop bar.



Kanazawa – Kanazawa Tokyu Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Kanazawa Tokyu Hotel is a modern hotel in a great location, with a chic yet relaxed atmosphere. Guest rooms are stylish and well-equipped, with added extras such as complimentary Japanese tea set, slippers, nightwear and many toiletries, and in-room massages can be booked at Reception. The Marais D'or restaurant is a western style all-day restaurant which uses the best local ingredients including seafood, fresh vegetables, and wagyu beef, while Kincharyo restaurant serves a Japanese-style breakfast. Drinks are available in the cosy lounge bar.



Kurashiki – Kurashiki Royal Art Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Royal Art Hotel is situated close to the attractions of the cultural city of Kurashiki, and within walking distance of Kurashiki Bikan historical quarter, known for its traditional, white-walled 'kominka' houses. Kurashiki is the hotel's Japanese restaurant, offering a truly authentic dining experience, where you'll sit and dine in a kotatsu: a traditional covered table on the floor with a heater underneath. Hachikengura offers French-style cuisine and a handful of other European dishes. Comfortable guest rooms have all been carefully decorated.



Kyoto – Kyoto Tokyu Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Contemporary yet influenced by traditional Japanese design, the Kyoto Tokyu Hotel enjoys a great location amongst the narrow streets of downtown Kyoto. Throughout the hotel, there are some wonderful spaces to relax, including the tranquil Zen garden. Tankume Kitamise is the hotel's top-billed restaurant featuring Kyoto-style dishes that reflect the seasons, and all-day dining can be enjoyed at Kazahana, serving a buffet breakfast and a wide variety of international dishes, and the hotel also has a Chinese restaurant and three bars on site.



Lake Yamanaka – Fuji Marriott Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Situated just a short drive from Lake Yamanaka, the largest of the five Fuji lakes, the Fuji Marriott Hotel enjoys magnificent views of Mount Fuji and is surrounded by the beauty of Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park. Guest rooms are comfortable and well equipped and amenities include a spa, tennis courts and its own 'onsen' – a Japanese hot spring bath. At the Grill & Dining G restaurant, chefs prepare a variety of local specialities and Western favourites in the open kitchen, whilst you enjoy spectacular views from the restaurant's large windows.



Osaka – Hotel Nikko Osaka

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Hotel Nikko Osaka is a stylish and modern hotel facing the tree-lined Midosuji Avenue, the city's main shopping boulevard, and is directly connected to Subway Shinsaibashi Station. During your stay there are many restaurants to choose from, offering a wide range of cuisine such as Japanese, Chinese and French. The lounge on the 31st floor features beautiful views of Osaka city, whilst a traditional Japanese-style breakfast buffet is served at Benkay restaurant. Well-designed guest rooms are comfortable and spacious.



Takayama – Hotel Associa Takayama Resort

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Located in the hills just a short distance from Takayama's old town, the surrounding forest backdrop of Japan's Northern Alps provide a fabulous setting for Hotel Associa Takayama Resort. Guest rooms are tastefully decorated and the resort also boasts both indoor and outdoor onsen bathing, with the outdoor onsen looking out over the surrounding mountain range. Local Japanese cuisine is served at Ka-un and Rosiere restaurants, while grilled Hida beef and fresh seafood can be savoured at Mine Teppanyaki.



Takayama – Takayama Green Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Takayama Green Hotel is situated in the heart of Hida Takayama, and preserves traditional culture and the spirit of 'Omotenashi' hospitality, providing characterful and cosy rooms along with two different rejuvenating natural onsen (hot springs). Dining choices encompass Japanese cuisine at Ryokutei or Shirakawago restaurants, buffet-style and French dishes at the Green Court, Chinese specialties at Tenkyoro Restaurant, tasty treats at Patisserie Bal Ange, or opt to relax at Kinoka Lounge and Bar.



Tokyo – Keio Plaza Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Keio Plaza Hotel, opened in 1971 as Japan's first skyscraper hotel, set in the district of Shinjuku, enjoys a prime position and has 47 floors in the main tower and 35 floors in the south tower. Guest rooms are well equipped and comfortable, and there are eleven restaurants ranging from Japanese teppanyaki and sushi to French and Italian cuisine. For a quintessentially Japanese experience, the hotel even has its own 'sho-fu-an' – a room dedicated to the Japanese tea ceremony.

Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos Hotel Directory



Can Tho, Vietnam – Can Tho Eco Lodge

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Can Tho Ecolodge stands on the tranquil banks of the Ba Lang River, surrounding a freeform swimming pool. The thoughtfully-designed guest accommodation takes the form of thatched bungalows, each made with sustainable building materials and boasting first-class amenities such as a panoramic balcony overlooking its tropical expanse and a natural wooden bathtub. The Restaurant at Can Tho Eco Lodge offers up a diverse menu of local delicacies made from the freshest ingredients. Every dish is sourced from local surroundings, including produce from the hotel's own organic garden.



Hanoi, Vietnam – Pan Pacific Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Offering views of the West Lake, Truc Bach Lake and Red River, the Pan Pacific Hanoi offers an oasis of calm in a busy city and features contemporary rooms with modern furnishings and Vietnamese designs. Ming Restaurant serves authentic dim sum, Pacifica offers a buffet of international cuisines, The Pastry Corner offers delicious homemade cakes and pastries for breakfast on-the-go; or simply kick back with a drink at The Summit Bar, located on the roof top, enjoying panoramic city views.



Hanoi, Vietnam – Silk Path Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The hotel's location within Hanoi's Old Quarter provides guests with an excellent base from which to explore this fascinating area of the city, alongside the charm of the French Quarter. The hotel guest rooms are tastefully decorated with everything you need for a comfortable stay. A choice of several restaurants gives guests a choice of Vietnamese, Mediterranean and international cuisines to dine on. There is also a piano bar, fitness centre and jacuzzi.



Hoi An, Vietnam – Emm Hotel Hoi An

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Built around a spacious courtyard garden and with its French-colonial and Vietnamese-inspired architecture the Emm Hotel Hoi An offers a comfortable base from which to explore. Hoi An's Old Quarter is just a short stroll away. En-suite rooms are modern and bright. Guests can dine in the hotel restaurant which serves local, Asian and western cuisines, take a dip in the swimming pool and enjoy pool bar, which also serves lights snacks.



Hoi An, Vietnam – Silkotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Hoi An has a rich history dating back to the 15th century and the Silkotel is within walking distance of its renowned and well-preserved Old Town, an ideal location from which to explore. With elegantly-designed rooms, equipped with modern essentials, guests will enjoy a comfortable stay. Chiffon Restaurant features Vietnamese and international dishes, while the Pool Bar and Lobby Bar are the perfect places to unwind. The hotel also offers a swimming pool, spa and fitness centre.



Hoi An, Vietnam – Bel Marina Hoi An Resort

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Located in Cam Pho district, the Bel Marina Hoi An Resort is in the heart of Hoi An and located on the banks of Thu Bon River, just a short stroll from Ha My Beach and the city centre. The hotel is a perfect blend of European and Asian style. Guest rooms are modern and well-equipped, with balconies or patios, parquet flooring and air-conditioning. The large swimming pool comes complete with a swim-up bar, whilst dining choices range from Vietnamese to international favourites.



Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam – Liberty Central Saigon Riverside Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

As the name suggests, Liberty Central Riverside Hotel is centrally-located with spectacular views of Saigon River. An infinity swimming pool right next to the rooftop Vertical Sky Bar, a great spot for signature cocktails, makes the most of its surroundings. The modern, comfortable guest rooms have all the expected amenities, and there's a rejuvenating Spa and fitness centre. Dining options include Central Restaurant, overlooking the waterfront and offering local dishes and signature seafood, and The Bistro, which is perfect for local craft beers and light bites.



Hue, Vietnam – Eldora Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Eldora is a boutique hotel in the heart of Hue, just a short walk from the Citadel, Trang Tien Bridge and Dong Ba market. With a distinctive French atmosphere it blends the elegance of Vietnam's colonial past with many modern amenities, and well-appointed bedrooms feature distinctive Renaissance elements, bright decor and wooden flooring. The hotel offers an indoor swimming pool with sun terrace, and the elegant Eldora Restaurant serves a selection of western, Asian and local cuisine. Head to the Skyline Bar for a nightcap overlooking the Hue skyline.



Luang Prabang, Laos – Le Palais Juliana

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Le Palais Juliana Hotel in Luang Prabang, Laos offers a peaceful escape and a memorable stay. Just 10 minutes from the city centre, the hotel is hidden away in its own leafy sanctuary. Guests can expect comfortable, well-equipped rooms with a wide range of amenities as well as shuttle services to popular attractions such as the night market, Mount Phousi and the Royal Palace Museum. There's also a delicious collection of Laotian, Thai, and international cuisine available at the hotel's Chaonang Restaurant.



Mai Chau, Vietnam – Mai Chau Mountain View Resort

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Mai Chau Mountain View Resort is nestled in the peaceful and picturesque valley of Mai Chau. Patchwork rice paddies, magnificent mountains and untouched forests create a stunning backdrop for the spacious accommodation. All rooms have a terrace with mountain views and are fully-equipped with modern facilities. Guests can take a dip in the swimming pool and savour authentic Vietnamese and cuisine at the hotel's restaurant.



Phnom Penh, Cambodia – Palace Gate Hotel & Resort

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Palace Gate Hotel & Resort is situated in the heart of Phnom Penh, adjacent to the Royal Palace in Daun Penh, with views of the Tonle Sap River. The resort is built around a lovingly-restored French colonial villa, showcasing intricate Cambodian design, and the space is now home to the hotel's fine dining restaurant, Mealea, serving up both French and Khmer cuisine. Guest rooms are decorated in traditional Angkorian style and the spectacular swimming pool is a great place to relax.



Siem Reap, Cambodia – Borei Angkor Resort & Spa

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Borei Angkor Resort & Spa is nestled within manicured gardens in the heart of Siem Reap, just a few minutes from the city's many attractions. Deluxe guest rooms are spacious, each with a private balcony, and classic Cambodian architecture blends with contemporary décor, delicately finished with wood, silks and Khmer crafts. There is an outdoor swimming pool and dining options include Ox Club, offering contemporary European cuisine, and all day dining, indoors and al fresco at Bakan Restaurant, with a huge selection of freshly prepared Khmer and western cuisines.

Our Airline Partners

Fly with award-winning scheduled airlines



Economy Class

Singapore Airlines' Economy seats are designed to give you more personal space with a typical seat pitch of 32 inches[^]. Enjoy KrisWorld in-flight entertainment with over 1,800 options of film, television, music and games and enjoy generous, complimentary meals and refreshments.



Upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,395 return

From check-in to boarding and baggage handling, to reserving your main meal before you fly, you will enjoy priority treatment throughout your journey. In an exclusive, spacious cabin, Premium Economy Class seats are designed for your enhanced comfort, including a calf and foot rest built into your seat.

- Priority check-in and boarding
- Typical seat pitch of 38 inches[^]
- Personal 13.3 inch widescreen LCD
- Option to pre-book meals with 'Book the Cook'
- Integrated calf and foot rest
- Noise-cancelling headsets and slippers



Upgrade to Business Class from £3,495 return

A seat that seamlessly reclines into a bed. An 18 inch touchscreen monitor in high definition paired with noise-cancelling headphones. Personalise dinner time with 'Book the Cook' meal options, served on the finest porcelain and paired with champagne and wines from the finest vineyards around the world.

- Dedicated check-in and boarding
- Typical 50 inch seat pitch which converts into 78 inch long bed[^]
- 18 inch widescreen LCD
- Option to pre-book exquisite meals with 'Book the Cook'
- Lounge access
- Premium champagne, wines and spirits

Economy Class

Sit back and relax in Emirates' spacious Economy Class, with a typical seat pitch of 32 inches[^]. Enjoy your own personal in-seat widescreen TV with a wide selection of world movies and music. Enjoy regionally inspired multi-course meals served with a selection of complimentary beverages.



Upgrade to Business Class from £3,595 return

Taste your way around the world with fine dining complimented with exclusive wines and spirits. Stretch out and relax in lie-flat Business Class seats.

- Fully flat bed seat with a seat pitch of up to 79 inches[^]
- Large in-seat entertainment screen
- Fine dining meals served on Royal Doulton China
- Complimentary champagne, wines and spirits
- Priority check-in and priority boarding
- Lounge access

Economy Class

Enjoy true Japanese hospitality when flying Japan Airlines (JAL) in their award-winning Economy Class. Relax in your fully adjustable seat which features a typical seat pitch of up to 33 inches. Be entertained by MAGIC, JAL's in flight entertainment system, including the latest movies, a wide variety of audio content ranging from the latest pop music to rakugo (comic storytelling) performances all on your personal 10.6 inch touch-panel monitor. Enjoy delicious meals by up and coming Japanese chefs from the JAL Kitchen Gallery.



Upgrade to Premium Economy Class from £1,295 return

Enjoy an even more relaxing flight in the comfort of Premium Economy.

- Enjoy a quick, hassle-free check-in at the dedicated check-in counters
- Relax in the lounge ahead of your flight
- Enjoy premium seats with a typical seat pitch of 37 inches that emphasize functionality and privacy.
- Seats in front of you do not recline backwards into your space
- Sip on champagne or Japanese Shochu and enjoy scrumptious refreshments like "de sky" series udon wheat noodles
- Amenity kit including toothbrush set, moisture mask, earplugs, eye mask and slippers



Upgrade to Business Class from £3,495 return

Ensuring a refined and unforgettable experience for every passenger, fly JAL Business Class.

- Enjoy a dedicated check-in, lounge access and priority baggage
- Separate on-board cabin, with priority boarding
- Relax in your adjustable seat that converts to a fully flat bed
- JAL BEDD – your exclusive restaurant in the sky offers special menus carefully arranged by select chefs
- Enjoy specially-selected wines from around the world
- Original amenity kit designed with Paris brand "Maison Kitsuné". The kit includes toothbrush set, earplugs, eye mask, moisture mask and slippers

Important information: Prices shown are for return flights and are supplements to the individual tour price. Prices are subject to the availability of flights and may change. The correct price will be confirmed before you book. Images shown are representative of the product and may vary dependant of the aircraft type. [^]Seat pitch is dependent on the aircraft type. *Premium Economy is only available on selected flights.

Important Information

We recommend that you read our Important Information, together with our Booking Conditions before booking your holiday.

Entry requirements

The following information on entry requirements, passports and visas is for British Citizens only. Any visa information covers visa requirements for the duration our tour stays in any given country. If you intend to stay longer you should seek additional information before booking.

Holders of a British Subject passport, non-British citizens and holders of a passport endorsed in any way should check immigration requirements with the relevant embassy or consulate of the country to be visited, as should clients with dual nationality or renounced citizenship.

It is important to recognise that whilst the information below is correct at the time we go to print, all requirements may change and all clients must check the up to date position in good time before departure with the Embassy or consulate of the country(ies) you are travelling through and to.

We also suggest referring to the UK government's Foreign Travel Advice website, gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice for advice about travelling abroad, including the latest information on safety and security, entry requirements and travel warnings.

Passports

A valid ten-year British passport is required for all our holidays, valid for a minimum of six months after your return date to the UK. If you are not currently in possession of a valid passport please make sure you leave plenty of time before your holiday to apply for this document.

A full British passport presently takes approximately up to 10 weeks to obtain. If you are 16 or over and have not yet arranged a passport, you should apply for one at least 10 weeks before your departure from the UK. The UK Passport Service has to confirm an applicant's identity before issuing their first passport and will ask them to attend an interview in order to do this. Please note, if you need to apply for visas after you receive your new passport, you will need to factor in additional time for this.

For more information on passport and entry requirements please visit the Government Passport Office website, or see our website for more details.

Visas

This table provides a quick guide, for British Citizens, to which countries require a visa. If visas are required it is highly recommended you allow for a minimum of two blank pages per visa required. If a visa is being purchased locally, we recommend you have the correct amount, in the relevant currency, as change is not always available.

Country	Visa required	Cost
Cambodia	Yes	USD \$35
Japan	No	
Laos	Yes	USD \$35 - \$50
Vietnam	No	

Applying for your visa

The below information provides guidance on how to apply for your visa. Alternatively, if you would prefer to have assistance with your visa and have the application process managed by a visa company, we recommend The Travel Visa Company.

For more detailed information along with useful links to the Foreign Office, online applications and The Travel Visa Company please refer to the FAQ section of our website.

Cambodia

When travelling on our Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia tour, your border crossing between Vietnam and Cambodia is at the river border, whilst on the RV Indochina Pandaw cruise. Your Cambodian visa will be processed here, so you do not need to apply before you leave the UK. You will also be required to provide one passport photo. Please note that e-visas are not accepted at the river border.

When travelling on our other tours including Cambodia you will need to either apply for an e-visa or, you can get a visa on arrival at Siem Reap airport. You need to provide a passport photo and pay in US dollars.

Laos

If taking our Luang Prabang extension, you will need a visa to enter Laos. Most people do this on arrival at Luang Prabang Airport. The cost is approx. \$36-\$40USD per person. You will also need 2 passport photographs. Alternatively, you can apply for an e-visa on the Laos government e-visa website. You must apply at least 3 days prior to your arrival and the fee is \$50USD per person. Both tourist visas are valid for 30 days.

Vietnam

British Nationals may enter Vietnam for up to 45 days without needing to apply for a visa.

NOTE Entry requirements may change and it is your responsibility to ensure you are in possession of all necessary travel, passport, visa and other entry requirements before departure. All costs incurred in obtaining such documentation must be paid by you. We regret we cannot accept any liability if you are refused entry onto any transport or into any country due to failure on your part to obtain and carry all required documentation.

Health & vaccinations

Health facilities, hygiene and disease risks vary worldwide and may change at any time. You should take health advice from your GP or local travel clinic about your specific needs as early as possible and ensure that vaccinations or preventative measures are taken early enough (which may be a month or more prior to departure) to be fully effective by the date of travel.

In addition to the UK government's own travel advice website, we also recommend visiting the NHS Travel Vaccinations website, nhs.uk/conditions/travel-vaccinations for more information any required vaccinations.

Staysure™

Distant Journeys customers will benefit from a 15% saving on the base premium of Annual-Multi Trip or Single Trip policies booked through our insurance partner Staysure. For a no obligation quotation, call Staysure on Freephone 0800 652 1125, and quote reference DJ15 to be eligible for the 15% saving. Alternatively, visit our website distantjourneys.co.uk/insurance

Travel insurance

We highly recommend that you take out sufficient and appropriate travel insurance. We recommend you do this at the time of booking so that in the event of cancellation, providing it is covered by your policy, your deposit (less any applicable excess) is protected. Distant Journeys work alongside Staysure to offer you a range of comprehensive single trip and annual multi-trip insurance policies.

Medication and pre-existing conditions

If you have any pre-existing medical conditions or walking difficulties, you should inform us at the time of booking. It is your responsibility to ensure that any medication you are carrying is permitted to be taken into the countries you are visiting. We recommend you consult with your GP and relevant embassy before booking or travelling. Always carry medicines in their original, labelled packaging and in your hand-luggage along with a copy of your prescription. Whilst we recommend only carrying enough for the duration of your time away, a small spare supply can be useful. Check that the expiry dates of your medicines will be valid for the duration of your visit abroad.

Mobility on tour

Many of our itineraries include sightseeing tours which involve walking for medium to long periods of time and over uneven surfaces. Steps may also feature, either as part of a tour or within your accommodation. For your enjoyment we recommend a reasonable level of fitness and mobility is required for all tours.

Due to the limited accessibility to many of the sights and restrictions on included activities, our tours are generally not suitable for wheelchair bound customers or customers with restricted walking abilities.

If you are in any doubt of the suitability of any of our tours, or have reduced mobility in any way, it is essential you discuss this with us before making a booking.

Travel documents

On payment of a deposit, your holiday is confirmed and we will send you your confirmation email. It is important you check this email as soon as you receive it. Check the tour name and departure date is correct, check names exactly match your passport and familiarise yourself with the times of your flights. If anything is incorrect, please call us immediately.

Your full travel documents which include electronic tickets, a final itinerary, luggage labels and holiday information booklet will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to your departure.

Weather

Generally, all our tours travel when it is considered the best time to travel however it is important to note that some countries, such as Vietnam, India and Sri Lanka cover different climate zones, so climates may vary throughout your tour. As weather patterns around the world are becoming less predictable the information we provide should be used as a guide only and is no guarantee of the weather at the time you travel. We also recommend checking up-to-date weather forecasts before you travel.

Cambodia

Like most of Southeast Asia, Cambodia is warm to hot year-round and the climate is dominated by the annual monsoon cycle with its alternating wet and dry seasons. Broadly November to April is considered the dry season and May to October the wet season, although the wet season, does not necessarily mean it rains every day for long periods.

Japan

Japan's climate still enjoys four distinct seasons; spring, summer, autumn and winter. Our tours travel late spring (March to May) and late autumn (September to November) when there is little rainfall, skies are clear, and temperatures are mild. What's more, the delicate cherry blossom of spring and vivid hues of autumn leaves are visually stunning.

Laos

Laos is best visited between October and April, during the 'dry' season. Generally expect temperatures between high 20's and early 30's with little rainfall.

Vietnam

Vietnam's long, narrow shape means that its climate is split into three different microclimates; North (Hanoi and Ha Long Bay), Central (Hue and Hoi An) and South (Ho Chi Minh City and Mekong Delta). This combined with opposing monsoon seasons in the north and south does mean that the climate is quite different from one region to the next. Broadly speaking you can expect warm to hot and humid temperatures and some rainfall.

Clothing

Dress for our tours is generally relaxed and informal during the day, dressing to suit the weather conditions and the activity you are undertaking. Evening dinners are also informal, with smart casual dress being the norm.

It's likely there will be occasions when exploring you'll be walking on uneven surfaces, so we recommend sturdy and comfortable walking shoes. Wearing layers of clothing means it's much easier to deal with potentially varied weather conditions – remember it will be cooler at higher altitudes - and it's always advisable to carry a waterproof, good insect repellent, a high factor sun-screen lotion and a hat for protection from the sun.

Bear in mind some countries you will visit adopt a more conservative standard of dress than we are used to in the UK. When visiting sacred places, it is recommended that arms and legs are covered. Women may also wish to take a shawl to cover their shoulders and all visitors should wear long trousers, or skirts or shorts that reach below the knee. Taking off your shoes is also a prerequisite before entering many sacred places – and commonplace when entering many buildings, including restaurants in Japan.

Currency, credit cards and currency cards

Country	Currency	Additional information
Cambodia	Riel	US Dollars are widely accepted, although small change may be in local currency
Japan	Yen	Many establishments including restaurants still prefer cash to credit cards even in cities
Laos	Kip	Local currency can be purchased on arrival however, US Dollars are also widely accepted. Expect change in local currency.
Vietnam	Dong	Be prepared to pay cash for any purchased items on your cruise on Ha Long Bay, as limited Wi-Fi means card machines rarely work

No matter which country you are travelling to please take note of the following general advice;

- ATMs are generally available in major cities, less so in rural areas.
- Credit cards are generally widely accepted in the majority of hotels, cruises, larger international restaurants and shops, although be aware credit card payments may incur an additional fee.
- If purchasing small items or purchasing from local shops, restaurants and markets, local currency is always recommended.
- Outside of major cities, with the exception of hotels, local currency is always recommended.
- If you are planning to use your debit or credit card whilst travelling, advise your bank of your travel plans in advance so you do not encounter potential problems when trying to withdraw cash or make a payment.
- When you change money, ask for some small bills and keep these, along with coins separate from the larger ones, so that they're readily accessible. Carrying small notes and coins separately is also handy for tipping.
- It is always worth carrying a small amount of UK Sterling or US Dollars as these can always be readily exchanged.
- Keep your exchange receipts as these may be needed if you want to exchange any remaining currency you have at the end of your trip.

Currency Cards

In addition to using Travel Credit cards and Debit cards, a currency card is also a popular way of buying currency for your holiday. You can preload these before leaving the UK and many also offer advantageous exchange rates. If travelling to multiple countries, different currencies can be loaded and used for card payments or ATM cash withdrawals.

We recommend the Revolut card, which offers 150 currencies and enjoys favourable exchange rates, making it a perfect card to use for any card payments, such as hotels and restaurants. You can withdraw cash from ATMs whilst abroad, but there is a limit of £200 per month, before paying a 2% fee.

For further benefits on using currency cards, more information on Revolut please visit distantjourneys.co.uk/revolut-currency-card

Tipping

Tipping in most South East Asian countries is generally highly appreciated and to some extent often expected. Yet in Japan, tipping is not common practice and in most instances such as in restaurants and bars, or taxis, should be avoided as it is more likely to cause confusion, or even offence.

Tipping is always discretionary, however if you are happy with the service provided by your Tour Manager, local guides and coach drivers, we would suggest showing your appreciation for the services offered. For a full guide on tipping, including appropriate amounts in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Japan, please refer to the FAQ's on our website.

Baggage allowance

You're entitled to carry one suitcase per person with the total sum of its length, width and height not exceeding 160cm (63 inches) and weight 20kg (44lbs). Please be aware that in most instances, this will be less than the airlines' permitted allowance. Luggage is restricted to accommodate for coach capacity, domestic flights and where applicable local health and safety laws. You must ensure that luggage meets the weight requirements as overweight or oversize items will not be carried.

Personal and valuable items such as cameras, medication, money / credit cards etc. should be carried in a travel bag or on your person.

Meals

The majority of included meals, unless otherwise specified, will be a buffet. Speciality dinners and lunches will generally be a buffet or set menu. Hotels may offer dining in a la carte restaurants at an additional cost.

Airline seats

With many airlines you can pre-book your seats prior to check in to give you a wider choice of seat selection. Please note, many airlines now charge for this service. Preselected seating is not guaranteed and can be charged at the airlines discretion.

Domestic flights

All domestic flights within our tours are booked on a group basis. Your tour manager will fully assist with the check-in process for these flights.

Freedom Days

During your tour, you can book a range of additional optional excursions and activities. These are at an additional cost, subject to availability and seasonal operations, and may be subject to minimum/maximum numbers. Where possible we allow for these to be booked locally with your Tour Manager or local guide, however, in some instances prebooking will be required. When booking locally, in some countries these excursions can only be paid for in cash.

Details on the Freedom Day experiences available for your tour, along with costs and information on how to book, may be found on our website alongside the itineraries of each individual tour.

Public holidays

On occasions some of our tours may be travelling during National or Public Holidays, some of which are religious. In some instances, this can mean a limitation of services, or reduced opening hours for shops and restaurants. Alternatively, it may mean that some attractions are much busier than normal.

Seat rotation on coaches

On group tours we offer a fair system of seat rotation to allow all passengers to experience a variety of views. Exceptions cannot be made to this policy.

Smoking

Smoking, including electronic cigarettes, is not allowed at any time onboard our coaches or any flight. Within hotels, smoking and the use of electronic cigarettes may be restricted to designated areas. We'll endeavour to ensure there are frequent stops on any coach trip, however we can't guarantee smoking facilities will always be available. It is also worth noting some countries are beginning to ban the use of electronic cigarettes. We recommend you check for up-to-date information before you travel.

Tour Manager

An experienced English-speaking Tour Manager ^ accompanies every tour. They are there to ensure your comfort, answer your questions and make your holiday relaxed and memorable. ^On Private Tours, you will receive the services of a driver(s) and local guides, or a driver guide, as appropriate.

Travel extras

Distant Journeys offer you a range of travel extras – from airport transfers, or airport parking and hotels, to security fast track and airport lounges. For more information and prices on the range of extras available to book, please visit the Distant Journeys website.

Further information

The information provided here is as a general guide only. For more detailed information please refer to our FAQ section on our website distantjourneys.co.uk

Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements 2018

Part 1: General

The combination of travel services offered to you is a package within the meaning of the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018. Therefore you will benefit from all EU rights applying to the packages. We, Distant Journeys Limited, a company registered in England with company number 08994196 and registered office at 8 Hattersley Court, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2AY, will be fully responsible for the proper performance of the package as a whole. Additionally, as required by law, we have protection in place to refund your payments and, where transport is included in the package, to ensure your repatriation in the event that we become insolvent.

Part 2: Key rights under the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018

- Travellers will receive all essential information about the package before concluding the package travel contract.
- There is always at least one trader who is liable for the proper performance of all the travel services included in the contract.
- Travellers are given an emergency telephone number or details of a contact point where they can get in touch with the organiser or the travel agent.
- Travellers may transfer the package to another person, on reasonable notice and possibly subject to additional costs.
- The price of the package may only be increased if specific costs rise (for instance fuel prices), and if expressly provided for in the contract, and in any event not later than 20 days before the start of the package. If the price increase exceeds 8% of the price of the package, the traveller may terminate the contract. If the organiser reserves the right to a price increase, the traveller has a right to a price reduction if there is a decrease in the relevant costs.
- Travellers may terminate the contract without paying any termination fee and get a full refund of any payments if any of the essential elements of the package, other than the price, has changed significantly. If before the start of the package the trader responsible for the package cancels the package, travellers are entitled to a refund and compensation where appropriate.
- Travellers may terminate the contract without paying any termination fee before the start of the package in the event of exceptional circumstances, for instance if there are serious security problems at the destination which are likely to affect the package.
- Additionally, travellers may at any time before the start of the package terminate the contract in return for an appropriate and justifiable termination fee.
- If, after the start of the package, significant elements of the package cannot be provided as agreed, suitable alternative arrangements will have to be offered to the traveller at no extra cost. Travellers may terminate the contract without paying any termination fee, where services are not performed in accordance with the contract and this substantially affects the performance of the package and the organiser fails to remedy the problem.
- Travellers are also entitled to a price reduction or compensation for damages or both where the travel services are not performed or are improperly performed.
- The organiser has to provide assistance if the traveller is in difficulty.
- If the organiser becomes insolvent, payments will be refunded. If the organiser becomes insolvent after the start of the package and if transport is included in the package, repatriation of the travellers is secured. Distant Journeys Limited has taken out insolvency protection for flight-only booking and flight inclusive packages by way of our Air Travel Organiser's Licence number 10913, issued by the Civil Aviation Authority, Gatwick Airport South, West Sussex, RH6 0YR, UK, telephone 0333 103 6350, email: claims@caa.co.uk. For package holidays which don't include flights, Distant Journeys provides full financial protection by way of a bond held by The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) (ABTOT membership number 5427) and in the event of their insolvency. You may contact ABTOT's 24/7 helpline on 01702 811397 and advise you are a customer of an ABTOT protected travel company. Travellers may contact this entity if services are denied because of Distant Journeys Limited's insolvency. Please see our Booking Conditions for further information.

Part 3: The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 can be found here: legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/634/contents

Booking Conditions

Distant Journeys Booking Conditions. Published November 2023

1. Important

The following booking conditions together with our **Privacy Policy**, the general information contained in our tour brochure and any other written information we brought to your attention before we confirmed your booking form the basis of your contract with Distant Journeys Limited, a company registered in England with company number 08994196 and registered office at 8 Hattersley Court, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2AY ("we", "us", "our"). Please read them carefully as they set out our respective rights and obligations. By asking us to confirm your booking, we are entitled to assume that you have had the opportunity to read and have read these booking conditions and agree to them.

In these booking conditions references to "you" and "your" include the first named person on the booking and all persons on whose behalf a booking is made or any other person added to a booking or to whom a booking is transferred.

Except where otherwise stated, these booking conditions only apply to the tour arrangements shown in our brochure (including accommodation required both before and after your main holiday and activities and other services) which you book with us and pay for before departure from the UK and which we agree to make, provide or perform (as applicable) as part of our contract with you.

All references in these booking conditions to "holiday", "booking", "tour" or "arrangements" mean such tour arrangements unless otherwise stated. All bookings are made pursuant to these booking conditions. Please be aware that your deposit is non-refundable where you choose to cancel your holiday.

By making a booking, the first named person on the booking (the "lead name") agrees on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking that:

- he/she has read these booking conditions and has the authority to and does agree to be bound by them;
- he/she consents to our use of information and personal data in accordance with our Privacy Policy and is authorised on behalf of all persons named on the booking to disclose their personal details to us, including where applicable special categories of data (such as information on health conditions or disabilities and dietary requirements);
- he/she is over 18 years of age and resident in the United Kingdom and where placing an order for services with age restrictions declares that he/she and all members of the party are of the appropriate age to purchase those services;
- he/she accepts financial responsibility for payment of the booking on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking.

The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 will apply to your contract. For more information on your rights under these regulations please see the link www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/634/contents

2. In these booking conditions

- Any reference to an EU regulation in these booking conditions should be taken to mean the UK legislation which replaces (or has replaced) that EU regulation and/or any EU regulation which continues to have effect in the UK as a result of being incorporated into UK law (in all cases referred to as 'retained EU law'). Changes to retained EU law are likely to be made over time. Reference to any EU regulation in these booking conditions is intended to refer to the relevant retained EU law at the applicable time.
- Unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances means a situation which is beyond our control, the consequences of which could not have been avoided even if all reasonable measures had been taken. Such situations are likely to include (whether actual or threatened) war, riot, civil strife, terrorist activity, industrial dispute, natural disaster, fire, flood, an outbreak of a serious illness at your holiday destination, severe adverse weather conditions, closure, restriction or congestion of airports, other transport hubs or airspace, flight restrictions imposed by any regulatory authority or third party and any volcanic activity. Unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances also include the covid-19 pandemic and its impact on travel. When we refer to the covid-19 pandemic in these booking conditions, we mean the pandemic resulting from the illness or disease caused by the novel coronavirus which is now called severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and any mutations or variants of the same and/or any other coronavirus (and its mutations and variants) which is treated as part of the same pandemic and/or another pandemic however described.

3. Special requests / fitness to travel medical conditions / disabilities / reduced mobility / allergies / special dietary requirements

If you have any special request, you should advise us in writing at the time of booking. Although we will endeavour to pass any reasonable requests on to the relevant supplier, we regret we cannot guarantee any request will be met. Failure to meet any special request will not be a breach of contract on our part. Confirmation that a special request has been noted or passed on to the supplier or the inclusion of the special request on your confirmation invoice or any other documentation is not confirmation that the request will be met. All special requests are subject to availability and we cannot guarantee that your special request will be met.

Many of our itineraries include sightseeing tours which may involve walking for medium to long periods of time and over uneven surfaces. Steps may also feature, either as part of a tour or within your accommodation. Different modes of transport, such as safari vehicles, houseboats, sampans and rickshaws may also be used.

This is not an exhaustive list and it is therefore a condition of booking that you are fit and able to take care of yourself for the duration of the tour. You must have a level of fitness suitable for your chosen tour and must recognise that if you do have any disabilities or walking difficulties you may find access to certain attractions and/or parts of your tour restricted.

Our tours may not be suitable for people with certain disabilities, medical conditions or significantly reduced mobility. Before you make your booking, we will advise you as to whether the proposed holiday arrangements are generally suitable for someone with reduced mobility. However, reduced mobility of course means different things to different individuals as we fully appreciate that individual capabilities, restrictions and requirements are likely to vary considerably. When we refer to reduced mobility, this means any material reduction in mobility whether this is permanent or temporary and whether caused by age or by physical or mental disability or impairment or other cause of disability.

If you have any doubts about the suitability of a tour or should you suffer from any medical condition, disability, significant reduction in mobility or significant allergy which may affect your tour (including any which affect the booking process) or have any special requirements as a result, please tell us before you confirm your booking so that we can assist you in considering the suitability of the arrangements and/or making the booking. We will need to notify our suppliers to ensure that they can meet your needs. In any event, you must give us full details in writing at the time of booking and whenever any material change in your condition, disability or mobility occurs. You must also promptly advise us if any medical condition, disability, reduced mobility or significant allergy which may affect your holiday develops after your booking has been confirmed.

We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance to a customer for walking, dining, pushing their wheelchair, getting on and off motor coaches or other transportation vehicles or other personal needs. Therefore, customers who need such assistance, or customers with disabilities or special needs must be accompanied by a companion capable of providing all assistance required.

We may require a doctor's note to confirm that you are fit to travel if we have concerns about your ability to participate in a tour.

You must have travel insurance to cover any medical condition, disability, significant reduction in mobility or significant allergy.

Acting reasonably, if we or our suppliers are unable to properly accommodate the needs of the person(s) concerned, we will not confirm your booking or if you did not give us full details at the time of booking, we will cancel it and impose applicable cancellation charges when we become aware of these details. On occasion, the decision to cancel can only be made at the time the person concerned joins the tour as it may only be apparent at this stage that we cannot properly accommodate the needs of the person concerned. We will not be liable for any expenses arising from your being precluded from joining or completing the tour for any such reason and no refunds or compensation will be paid.

We will advise our suppliers of any allergy information you provide us with. However, you must take appropriate precautions to protect yourself whilst on holiday. Without limitation, it is your responsibility to ensure that any food you are intending to consume does not include anything to which you are allergic at the time you order or purchase this.

Please see further information relating to mobility aids and destination specific term by visiting the FAQ section of our website www.distantjourneys.co.uk/faqs

4. Minimum number of bookings

The operation of all tours is conditional on us securing the minimum number of bookings required to operate the tour. Unless notified otherwise, the minimum number which we aim for in respect of each tour is 15* travellers, or if travelling to Japan, the minimum number is 20 travellers. For Private Tours, Holiday Extensions and our African Rail Adventure, the minimum number is 2 travellers. For Solo Tours, the minimum number is 10 travellers. *For Enchanting Australia, the minimum number in 9 travellers. Where sufficient numbers cannot be achieved, we reserve the right to cancel or change a scheduled tour. Please also see clause 13. We will endeavour to make any decision to cancel or significantly change a tour no less than 60 days prior to the scheduled departure date of the tour but in any event will notify you no less than 20 days prior to the departure date of the tour.

If you are offered a new travel date as a result of this clause 4, it is your responsibility to advise your travel insurance company of your new travel dates. We are not liable for any loss in failed insurance claims if you fail to do this.

5. Booking and making payment for your arrangements

To secure any booking, you must pay the applicable deposit as notified to you at the time we provide our quotation or full payment if booking 90 days or less before the start of the tour. We reserve the right to return your deposit and decline to issue a booking confirmation at our absolute discretion. The deposit or full payment, as applicable, must be received by us within 7 days of booking to ensure your place on the tour is held. Bookings will be automatically cancelled if the applicable deposit or full payment, as applicable, is not received by us and we will have no further liability to you. Deposits are non transferable and non refundable except as expressly set out in these booking conditions. We therefore recommend that you have adequate insurance to cover this.

The balance of the tour price (after deduction of the applicable deposit) must be received by us no less than 90 days prior to the start of your tour. If we do not receive all payments due (including any surcharge where applicable) in full and on time, we are entitled to assume that you wish to cancel your booking. In this case, we will be entitled to keep all deposits paid or due at that date. If we do not cancel straight away because you have promised to make payment, you must pay the cancellation fees shown in clause 14 depending on the date we reasonably treat your booking as cancelled.

Please Note: If you are a single customer, unless travelling on one of our Solo Tours, the applicable single supplement will be added to your invoice at the time of your booking. We will aim to accommodate single customers in twin or double rooms, with single occupancy.

6. Your contract

Subject to availability we will confirm your booking by issuing our confirmation invoice. This invoice will be sent to the lead name. If your confirmed arrangements include a flight, we will also issue you with an ATOL Certificate.

Please check this invoice and the ATOL certificate carefully as soon as you receive them. Contact us immediately if any information which appears on any document appears to be incorrect or incomplete as it may not be possible to make changes later. We regret we cannot accept any liability if we are not notified of any inaccuracies (for which we are responsible) in any document within 10 days of our sending it out. We will do our best to rectify any mistake notified to us outside these time limits but you must meet any costs involved in doing so.

If you wish to, you may contact us by e-mail for any of the reasons mentioned in these booking conditions (for example, to request an amendment) providing you do so to enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk

A binding contract between you and us comes into existence when we dispatch our confirmation invoice for all bookings.

7. Law and jurisdiction

We both agree that English law (and no other) will apply to your contract and to any dispute, claim or other matter of any description which arises between us ("claim") (except as set out below). We both also agree that any claim (and whether or not involving any personal injury) must be dealt with by the Courts of England and Wales only unless, in the case of court proceedings, you live in Scotland or Northern Ireland. In this case, proceedings must either be brought in the courts of your home country or those of England and Wales. If proceedings are brought in Scotland or Northern Ireland, you may choose to have your contract and any claim governed by the law of Scotland/Northern Ireland as applicable (but if you do not so choose, English law will apply). You may also use the AITO dispute resolution service, see clause 21.

8. Your obligations whilst on tour

- You must follow the Tour Manager's or, where applicable, Coach Captain's instructions at all times to ensure on tour safety. You acknowledge that failure to do so may result in restricted access to places of interest on tour or, if necessary for your own safety and/or that of other customers, withdrawal from the tour. On Private Tours, your obligation is to the appropriate Distant Journeys representative, be that a local guide, or driver guide.
- All our customers are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly and acceptable manner and not to disrupt the enjoyment of others. If in our reasonable opinion, or in the reasonable opinion of any person in authority, you behave in such a way to cause danger, distress or upset or distress to any third party or damage to any property or the environment, we are entitled, without prior notice, to terminate the holiday of the person(s) concerned. In this situation, the person(s) concerned will be required to cease all use of the holiday services including leaving the tour and any accommodation. We will have no further responsibility toward such person(s) including any return travel arrangements. No refunds will be made and we will not pay any expenses, costs or loss incurred as a result of the termination.
- When you book with us, you accept responsibility for any damage or loss you cause. You and/or your party may also be required to pay for loss and/or damage caused by your actions and we will hold you and each member of your party jointly and individually liable for any damage or losses caused by you or any member of your party. Full payment for any such damage or losses must be paid directly to the hotel manager or other supplier prior to departure. If you fail to make payment, you will be responsible for meeting any claims (including legal costs) subsequently made against us as a result of your actions together with all costs we incur in pursuing any claim against you.
- You must make your own enquiries regarding your tour, including being aware of any relevant government travel or safety warnings.

9. Tour price

Prices shown in our brochures and on the website are believed correct at the time of publication. We reserve the right to alter our advertised (brochure or website) tour prices, introduce supplements or correct pricing errors at any time before your booking is confirmed. We also reserve the right to correct any errors in any tour price and not be legally bound in the case of incorrect pricing and acknowledgement of such an error does not mean acceptance of it. We will advise you of any error of which we are aware and of the revised applicable price at the time of booking. Once the tour price has been confirmed at the time of booking, clause 10 below will apply.

10. Price Promise

Early booking offers: Whilst we may offer promotional discounts and/or additional inclusions on some tours, these offers reduce in value closer to the departure date meaning the earlier you book the better offer you will receive.

Last minute discounts: It is our policy never to sell any holiday cheaper than originally advertised. In the unlikely event we reduce the price of your holiday to below what you have already paid (after any discounts have been applied), we will contact you to refund the difference.

Additional charges*: We guarantee that no surcharge will be added to the basic price of your holiday once your booking has been confirmed, irrespective of any fluctuation in currency exchange rates, increases in international included economy air fares, or increases in other costs associated with your holiday other than the circumstances set out in the paragraph below which are expressly excluded from the price promise. In return for this guarantee and its risk to us, we shall not be able to make any refunds in the event of favourable exchange rate variations or other decreases in costs which would otherwise result in the reduction of the selling price except for the circumstances identified in the paragraph below.

Price match: Price match applies to an identical holiday operated by another tour operator (excluding travel agents and arrangements made independently) at the same or a lower price within 7 days of booking with us. By 'identical holiday', we mean one which: (i) departs on the same day from the same airport, with the same flight number and carrier, (ii) visits the same destination(s) for the same duration and offers the same number of included excursions/meals, (iii) features the same accommodation and board basis, and (iv) utilises the same services of a Tour Manager/Coach Captain. If this happens we will refund the difference between the cost of the holiday you have booked with us and the price of the identical holiday offered by the competitor. Plus, we will give you £200 per person towards a future booking. Our Price Promise applies once a booking is confirmed and a contract exists between us. It applies to tour prices only and does not include ad hoc or optional services such as airline upgrades, holiday additions, extended stays or regional connecting flights. Additionally, this price promise does not apply to optional services including, but not limited to: visa charges, excursions and amendment fees.

***Exclusion:** The price promise excludes surcharges which are a direct consequence of changes in the level of taxes, fuel surcharges or fees chargeable for services applicable to the holiday imposed by third parties not directly involved in the performance of the holiday, including, but not limited to, tourist taxes, landing taxes, embarkation or disembarkation fees at ports and airports or airline fuel surcharges. Where such circumstances apply, you will be charged for the amount of any increase in accordance with this clause. However, if this means that you have to pay an increase of more than 8% of the price of your confirmed holiday (excluding any insurance premiums, amendment charges and/or additional services or travel arrangements), you will have the option of accepting a change to another holiday if we are able to offer one (if this is of lower quality you will be refunded the difference in price), or cancelling and receiving a full refund of all monies paid to us, except for any insurance premiums and any amendment charges and/or additional services or travel arrangements. Should you decide to cancel for this reason, you must exercise your right to do so within 7 days from the issue date printed on your final invoice. We will consider an appropriate refund of insurance premiums paid if you can show that you are unable to transfer or reuse your policy. Should the price of your holiday go down due to the changes mentioned above, then any refund due will be paid to you less an administrative fee of £25. There will be no change made to the price of your confirmed holiday within 20 days of your departure nor will refunds be paid during this period.

11. Tour features

The features of the tour are set out in the tour brochure. We make no representations about the features of any tour other than those expressly set out in the tour brochure and these booking conditions.

12. Brochure validity

The tour brochure and these booking conditions are valid for the departure dates as stated in the tour brochure, or additional departure dates we may introduce, unless otherwise expressly advised by us.

13. Variation or cancellation by us

As we plan your holiday arrangements many months in advance we may occasionally have to make changes or cancel your booking and we reserve the right to do so at any time. We reserve the right to alter or change the accommodation, carriers, vehicles, vessels or any other service(s) which form part of any tour at any time for any reason and cancel or alter the itinerary and/or tour at any time without notice as we consider necessary for any reason whatsoever including road, weather or traffic conditions, non-performance of suppliers, industrial action, operational conditions and requirements, water level problems, excessive winds or unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances. Errors in the details of advertised and/or confirmed tours and/or other details occasionally occur and we reserve the right to correct these whenever they occur.

- In the event of industrial action affecting air, rail, cruise or other tour related transportation we will make every effort to contact the lead name and advise of alternative arrangements (if any).
- Most changes made to a confirmed tour will be insignificant and we have the right to make these. If we make an insignificant change to your holiday, we will make reasonable efforts to inform you as soon as reasonably possible if there is time before your departure. No compensation is payable for insignificant changes. Examples of insignificant changes include alteration of your outward/return flights and/or coach journeys by less than 12 hours, changes to aircraft type (if advised) or carrier, destination or departure airport to one in a similar geographical location, change of accommodation to another of the same or higher standard, minor changes to the itinerary.

- Occasionally, we have to make a significant change to a confirmed tour and we reserve the right to do so. A significant change is a change made before departure which, taking account of the information you give us at the time of booking or which we can reasonably be expected to know as a tour operator, we can reasonably expect to have a significant effect on your tour. Examples of "significant changes" include the following, when made before departure:

- A change of accommodation area for the whole or a significant part of your time away.
- A change of accommodation to that of a lower standard or classification for the whole or a significant part of your time away.
- A change of outward departure time or overall length of your arrangements by more than 12 hours.
- A change of UK departure airport except between:
 - The London airports: Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton, Stansted, London City and Southend
 - The South Coast airports: Southampton, Bournemouth and Exeter
 - The South Western airports: Cardiff and Bristol
 - The Midlands airports: Birmingham, East Midlands and Doncaster Sheffield
 - The Northern airports: Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds Bradford
 - The North Eastern airports: Newcastle and Teesside
 - The Scottish airports: Edinburgh, Glasgow, Prestwick and Aberdeen
- A significant change to your itinerary, for example missing out a significant destination entirely.

- In the event we have to significantly alter any of the main characteristics of your confirmed arrangements or accepted special requirements, we will provide you with the following information in writing as soon as possible: (i) the proposed alteration and any impact this has on the price; (ii) in the event that you do not wish to accept the alteration, details of any alternative holiday arrangements we are able to offer (including the applicable price); (iii) your entitlement to cancel your booking and receive a full refund if you do not want to accept the alteration or any alternative holiday arrangements offered; and (iv) the period within which you must inform us of your decision and what will happen if you don't do so.

- If you choose to cancel your booking in accordance with clause 13(4), we will refund all payments you have made to us within 14 days of the date the cancellation takes effect and terminates your contract (which is usually the date we send you a cancellation invoice following receipt of your written cancellation notification). If we don't hear from you with your decision within 7 days (having provided you with the above mentioned information for a second time), we will assume that you have chosen to accept the change or alternative booking arrangements. No compensation will be payable or other liability accepted where a change results from unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances.

- Occasionally, it may be necessary to cancel a confirmed booking. We have the right to terminate your contract in the event (i) we are prevented from performing your contracted holiday arrangements as a result of unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances and we notify you of this as soon as reasonably possible or (ii) (where applicable) we have to cancel because the minimum number of bookings necessary for us to operate your group holiday has not been achieved and we notify you of cancellation for this reason as referred to in clause 4. Where we have to cancel your booking in these circumstances, we will refund all monies you have paid to us for your booking within 14 days of the effective date of cancellation (see clause 13(5)) but will have no further or other liability to you including in respect of compensation or any costs or expenses you incur or have incurred as a result, including without limitation any payments in relation to travel insurance premiums. We will of course endeavour to offer you alternative holiday arrangements where possible which you may choose to book (at the applicable price) in place of those cancelled. We also have the right to cancel if you fail to make payment in accordance with the terms of your contract in which case clause 14 will apply.

- Please note, a full refund entitlement only arises where we are prevented from performing your contracted holiday arrangements as a result of unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances in accordance with clause 13(6) and we exercise our right to cancel as a result. Without limitation, you will not be entitled to a full refund and cancellation charges are likely to apply where such circumstances affect your ability to travel on your holiday rather than our ability to perform or provide the contracted arrangements. This may be the case, for example, where measures applied by the UK or any other government or public authorities mean you are unable to leave your home/local area and/or travel to or gain entry into the country(ies) where your holiday is due to take place. The issue of advice or recommendations against travel by public authorities (such as the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office) does not automatically mean we are prevented from performing your holiday arrangements but may instead affect your ability to travel. Any obligation to quarantine or self-isolate on your return to your country of residence does not affect our ability to provide your holiday and will not entitle you to cancel without paying our usual cancellation charges.

- In the event that unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances occur in the place of destination of your holiday or its immediate vicinity and significantly affect the performance of the contracted arrangements or the carriage of passengers to that destination, you will be entitled to cancel prior to departure without payment of cancellation charges and receive a full refund of all monies you have paid to us for your booking (except for any previously incurred cancellation or amendment charges and travel insurance premiums).

Where applicable, you must notify us of your wish to cancel for this reason in writing. Providing we are in agreement that you are entitled to do so in accordance with this clause, we will send you a cancellation invoice to confirm the cancellation. Any refund then due will be paid in accordance with clause 13(5) above. We will notify you as soon as practicable should this situation occur. You will not be entitled to any compensation. Please note, certain situations arising from or in connection with the covid-19 pandemic may constitute unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances. However, this does not mean they will entitle you to cancel and receive a full refund as set out in this clause or in regulation 12(7) of the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018.

- If we have to make a significant change to or cancel a confirmed tour, we will pay you reasonable compensation in the following circumstances*:
 - If, where we make a significant change, you do not accept the changed arrangements and cancel your booking; or
 - If we cancel your booking and no alternative arrangements are available and/or we do not offer one.

The compensation that we offer does not exclude you from claiming more if you are entitled to do so.

Period before departure within which notice of Cancellation or major change is notified to you	Compensation payable per person booking
91 days or more	Nil
75 – 90 days prior to departure	£10
60 – 74 days prior to departure	£20
30 – 59 days prior to departure	£30
Less than 30 days prior to departure	£40

IMPORTANT NOTE: We will not pay you compensation in the following circumstances:

- where we make an insignificant change;
- where we make a significant change or cancel your arrangements more than 90 days before departure;
- where we make a significant change and you accept those changed arrangements or you accept an offer of alternative travel arrangements;
- where we have to cancel your arrangements as a result of your failure to make full payment on time;
- where the change or cancellation by us arises out of alterations to the confirmed booking requested by you;
- where we cancel due to insufficient bookings;
- where we are forced to cancel or change your arrangements due to unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances.

Very rarely, we may become unable to provide a significant proportion of the arrangements that you have booked with us after you have departed. If that occurs we will, if possible, make alternative arrangements for you at no extra charge and where those alternative arrangements are of a lower standard, provide you with an appropriate price reduction.

14. Amendment or cancellation by you

If you wish to make any amendments to your confirmed booking you must notify us in writing as soon as possible. Whilst we will do our best to assist, it may not always be possible to make such amendments. Where we can, an amendment fee of £75 per person will be payable together with any costs incurred by ourselves and any costs or charges incurred or imposed by any of our suppliers in making this change. You should be aware that these costs could increase the closer to the departure date that changes are made and you should contact us as soon as possible. A change of tour dates will normally be treated as a cancellation of the original booking and rebooking in which case cancellation fees will apply. Changes may result in the recalculation of the tour price where, for example, the basis on which the price of the original tour was calculated has changed. Where we are unable to assist you and you do not wish to proceed with the original booking we will treat this as a cancellation by you. A cancellation fee may be payable in accordance with these booking conditions.

Transfer of booking:

If you or any member of your party is prevented from travelling, that person(s) may transfer their place to someone else, subject to the following conditions:

- that person is introduced by you and satisfies all the conditions applicable to the holiday;
- we are notified not less than 7 days before departure;
- you pay any outstanding balance payment, an amendment fee of £75 per person transferring, as well as any additional fees, charges or other costs arising from the transfer; and
- d) the transferee agrees to these booking conditions and all other terms of the contract between us.

You and the transferee remain jointly and severally liable for payment of all sums. If you are unable to find a replacement, cancellation fees as set out below will apply in order to cover our estimated costs. Otherwise, no refunds will be given for customers not travelling or for unused services.

Important Note: Certain arrangements may not be amended or transferred after they have been confirmed and any alteration could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements. Air Passenger Duty will always be non-refundable.

You may cancel your booking by notice to us in writing, this may be by letter or email, and payment of the applicable cancellation fee as shown below. Cancellation notifications are not effective until received by us in writing (if received by us on a weekend day or public holiday the notification will be treated as having been received by us on the next working day). Should one or more member of a party cancel, it may increase the per person holiday price of those still travelling and you will be liable to pay this increase.

In calculating our cancellation charges, we have taken account of possible cost savings and the generation of income from other bookings which may be able to utilise cancelled services to the extent this is likely to be achievable. The following cancellation fees apply to each individual person who cancels and where shown as a percentage are based on the total cost of the arrangements which are being cancelled excluding any insurance premiums, amendment fee or previously incurred cancellation fees which are all non-refundable in the event of your cancellation:

Cancellation fees

Period before your tour commences within which written notification of cancellation is received by us:

Tour cancellation period	Fee per person
More than 90 days prior to departure	Loss of Deposit
90 days to 75 days prior to departure	50% of holiday price
74 days to 60 days prior to departure	60% of holiday price
59 days to 30 days prior to departure	75% of holiday price
30 days prior to departure or less	100% of holiday price

Note: If travelling on The Brahmaputra River & Darjeeling tour, the following tour cancellation fees will apply

Tour cancellation period	Fee per person
90 days prior to departure or less	100% of holiday price

NB Transferring to another departure date is highly likely to be treated as a cancellation by our suppliers and the cancellation fees above will apply. Depending on the reason for cancellation, you may be able to reclaim these cancellation charges (less any applicable excess) under the terms of your insurance policy. Claims must be made directly to the insurance company concerned.

Important Note: Certain arrangements may not be amended or transferred after they have been confirmed and any alteration could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements. Air Passenger Duty will always be non-refundable.

15. Our liability

- (1) We promise to make sure that the holiday arrangements we have agreed to make, perform or provide as applicable as part of our contract with you are made, performed or provided with reasonable skill and care. This means that, subject to these booking conditions, we will accept responsibility if, for example, you suffer death or personal injury, or your contracted holiday arrangements are not provided as promised or prove deficient as a direct result of the failure of ourselves, our employees, agents or suppliers to use reasonable skill and care in making, performing or providing, as applicable, your contracted holiday arrangements. Please note, it is your responsibility to show that reasonable skill and care has not been used if you wish to make a claim against us. In addition, we will only be responsible for what our employees, agents and suppliers do or do not do if they were at the time acting within the course of their employment (for employees) or carrying out work we had asked them to do (for agents and suppliers).
- (2) We will not be responsible or pay you compensation for anyinjury, illness, death, loss (for example, loss of enjoyment or loss of possessions), damage, expense, cost or other claim of any description if it results from:
 - a) the acts and/or omissions of the person affected; or
 - b) the acts and/or omissions of a third party unconnectedwith the provision of the services contracted for and which were unforeseeable or unavoidable; or
 - c) unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances.
- (3) We cannot accept responsibility for any services which do not form part of our contract. This includes, for example, any additional services or facilities which your hotel or any other supplier agrees to provide for you where the services or facilities are not advertised by us in our brochure or on our website and we have not agreed to arrange them as part of our contract and any excursion or activities you purchase during your tour. In addition, regardless of any wording used by us on our website, in any advertising material or elsewhere, we only promise to use reasonable skill and care as set out above and we do not have any greater or different liability to you.
- (4) The promises we make to you about the services we have agreed to provide or arrange as part of our contract, and the laws and applicable standards of the country in which your claim occurred, will be used as the basis for deciding whether the services in question had been properly provided. If the particular services which give rise to the claim were provided in compliance with the applicable local laws and standards, the services will be treated as having been properly provided. This will be the case even if the services did not comply with the laws and standards of the UK which would have applied had those services been provided in the UK. The exception to this is where the claim concerns the absence of a safety feature which might lead a reasonable holidaymaker to refuse to take the holiday in question. Please note, however, our obligation is to exercise reasonable skill and care as referred to in clause 15(1). We do not make any representation or commitment that all services will comply with applicable local laws and standards and failure to comply does not automatically mean we have not exercised reasonable skill and care.
- (5) Except as set out in clause 15(6) or as otherwise permitted by English law, we do not limit the amount of damages you are entitled to claim in respect of personal injury or death which we or our employees have caused intentionally or negligently. For all other claims, if we are found liable to you on any basis, the maximum amount we will have to pay you is three times the total holiday cost (excluding any insurance premiums and amendment charges) paid by or on behalf of the person(s) affected in total, unless a lower limitation applies to your claim under clause 15(6). This maximum amount will only be payable where everything has gone wrong and you have not received any benefit at all from your holiday.

- (6) Where any claim concerns or is based on any travel arrangements (including without limitation, the process of getting on and/or off the transport concerned) provided by any air, sea or rail carrier to which any international convention or EU regulation applies where we have arranged that travel as part of our contract, our liability (including the maximum amount of compensation we will have to pay you, the types of claim and the circumstances in which damages / compensation will be payable) will be limited as if we were the carrier in question as referred to in this clause 15(6). The most we will have to pay you for that claim if we are found liable to you on any basis is the most the carrier concerned would have to pay you under the applicable international convention(s) or EU regulation(s). Such conventions and regulations include the Warsaw Convention as amended or unamended, the Montreal Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air 1999 and for airlines with an operating licence granted by an EU country, the Regulation (EC) No 889/2002 on air carrier liability in the event of accidents, the Athens Convention relating to the carriage of passengers and their luggage by sea 1974 (as amended by the 2002 protocol), and Regulation (EC) No 392/2009 on the liability of carriers of passengers by sea in the event of accidents, the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims as amended by the 1996 protocol and the Convention of 1980 concerning International Travel by Rail (COTIF) as amended and Regulation (EC) No 1371/2007 on rail passengers' rights and obligations. You may also have rights under regulation (EU) no 1177/2010 concerning the rights of passengers when travelling by sea and inland waterway or regulation (EC) no 1371/2007 on rail passengers' rights and obligations. Where a carrier would not be obliged to make any payment to you under the applicable international convention or EU regulation (including where any claim is not notified and issued in accordance with the stipulated time limits), we, similarly, are not obliged to make a payment to you for that claim. When making any payment, we will deduct any money which you have received or are entitled to receive from the carrier for the claim in question. Copies of the applicable international conventions and EU regulations are available from us on request. Please note that strict time limits apply for notifying loss, damage or delay of luggage to the airline or ferry / cruise operator. Any proceedings in respect of any claim (including one for personal injury or death) must be brought within 2 years of the date stipulated in the applicable convention or EU regulation.
- (7) We cannot accept any liability for any damage, loss, expense or other sum(s) of any nature or description which (a) on the basis of the information given to us by you concerning your booking prior to our accepting it, we could not have foreseen you would suffer or incur if we breached our contract with you or (b) did not result from any breach of contract or other fault by ourselves or our employees or, where we are responsible for them, our suppliers or (c) relates to any business (including without limitation, loss of self employed earnings).

16. Conditions of carriers or other suppliers

Many of the services which make up your holiday are provided by independent suppliers such as airlines or cruise lines. Those suppliers provide these services in accordance with their own terms and conditions usually referred to by airlines or cruise lines as conditions of carriage. Some of these terms and conditions may limit or exclude the supplier's liability to you, usually in accordance with applicable international conventions or EU regulations (see clause 15(6)). Copies of the relevant parts of these terms and conditions and of the international conventions / EU regulations are available on request from ourselves or the supplier concerned.

17. Risk and travel insurance

You acknowledge and accept that there are inherent risks associated with our tours, for example unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances, hazards of travelling in undeveloped areas, travel by boat, train, automobile, aircraft or other means of transportation particularly in underdeveloped countries or more remote locations, forces of nature, political unrest and accident, illness, epidemics or pandemics in regions without means of rapid evacuation or medical facilities. We cannot accept any liability regarding the provision of medical care or the adequacy of any care that may be rendered where it is provided by third parties.

It is a condition of your booking and your responsibility to ensure that you have sufficient and valid travel insurance to cover your booking with us. We reserve the right to decline your booking if adequate proof of such current and valid travel insurance is not provided to us if requested. Please note that we do not check individual policies for suitability. We insist you take out appropriate travel insurance to cover as a minimum: pre-existing medical conditions, medical expenses, repatriation in the event of accident or illness, cancellation by you for any reason, cancellation charges, loss of luggage, early return following death of a relative as defined in the respective proposal forms or emergency repatriation, for example in the event of accident or illness. It is your responsibility to ensure that the insurance fully covers all your personal requirements and the specific risks outlined above. Please read your policy details carefully and take them with you on your tour. It is your responsibility to ensure that the insurance cover you purchase is suitable and adequate for your particular needs. If you choose to travel without adequate insurance cover, we will not be liable for any losses no matter how arising, in respect of which insurance cover would otherwise have been available. If you have any questions, these should be raised with your travel insurance provider.

18. Itinerary changes and travel advice

During local or national holidays, certain facilities such as museums and restaurants, sightseeing tours and shopping may be limited or not available. Alternatives will be offered if possible.

Your safety is our first consideration and if the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) advises against travel to a certain country, we act on this advice. The FCDO issues regular advice and updates on its website www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice which you are recommended to consult before booking and in good time before departure. Up to date UK border control measures are available at www.gov.uk/uk-border-control. You are responsible for making yourself aware of FCDO advice in regard to the safety of the countries and areas in which you will be travelling and to make your decisions accordingly.

19. Baggage allowance

You are entitled to carry one suitcase per person with the total sum of its length, width and height not exceeding 160cm (63 inches) and weight 20kg (44 lbs). Hand luggage must have a total sum of its length, width and height not exceeding 115cm (45 inches) and weight 5kg (11lbs). Personal and valuable items such as make-up, cameras, medication, passport, money/credit cards etc should be carried in a travel bag or on your person. You must ensure that luggage meets the weight requirements as overweight or oversize items will not be carried. Some carriers may impose a small surcharge per day for a second suitcase per person. Excess baggage is always at your cost.

Knight Inlet: If travelling to Knight Inlet, on our Canada tours, as access is by floatplane, you will be restricted to one piece of luggage weighing no more than 14kg. We suggest taking a small bag for this trip and arranging storage for your main luggage.

20. Young travellers

Travellers who are less than 16 years old on the departure date must be accompanied by and share a room with an adult aged 16 or over. Children under 8 years cannot be accepted on our tours, unless travelling on a private tour.

21. Complaints and Arbitration

If a problem occurs during your tour, you must advise our representative (South Africa only – or appropriate manager, senior personal, when travelling on Rovos Rail) immediately so that steps can be taken to resolve the matter and you can continue to enjoy the remainder of your tour. You must also advise the supplier concerned. If your complaint is not resolved locally, please contact us by email at info@distantjourneys.co.uk or call 01695 577 961.

If you remain dissatisfied, any complaint must ideally be made in writing to us giving full details within 30 days of the end of the tour. If you fail to follow this procedure, your right to claim compensation you may otherwise have been entitled to may be affected or even lost as a result.

In the unlikely event of our being unable to reach an amicable resolution of any complaint, you may use the AITO dispute resolution service which provides a simple and inexpensive method of arbitration on documents alone. Full details are available on request.

22. Tour price and duration

All prices in our brochure(s) are quoted in English pounds (Sterling). The information contained on our website and in our other advertising material is believed to be correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of printing or publication. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the website, quotations and prices at the time of publication/printing or when they are given to you, regrettably errors may occasionally occur and information may subsequently change. You must therefore ensure you check all details of your chosen tour (including the price) with us at the time of booking. The number of days duration stated in each itinerary includes day of departure and day of return. Tour durations may vary should you choose to have a stopover, and airline flight schedules and the itineraries in our brochure(s) should be used as a guide only.

23. Included in your fare

All airfares from the UK in economy class (unless specified at the time of booking), coach travel and overseas transfers* whilst travelling as part of the group or on one of our organised stopoverprogrammes, service of a Tour Manager* or Coach Captain* (if applicable), portage whilst on tour, airport transfers, meals as specified, accommodation as specified (please note, the third bed in a triple room may be a rollaway bed), sightseeing and admissions and other services as expressly indicated in the itinerary. * Should you be travelling outside of the main group travel dates from or to the UK transfers are not included on any outbound or return stopovers. These are available to purchase at an additional cost. *On Private Tours, you will receive the services of a driver(s) and local guides, or a driver guide, as appropriate.

NOT included in your fare

Meals not specified in the itinerary, drinks unless specified in the itinerary, laundry, passport and visa fees, Dubai Tourism tax (if stopping over), expenses of a personal nature and any other items which are not expressly included in the cost of your tour. Changes to flight schedules may require additional overnight accommodation at either commencement or completion of tour which is at your own expense.

24. Airfare conditions

Your Distant Journeys travel expert will book the most appropriate fare for your tour based on the information you provide to us. Full details and conditions may be obtained from your travel expert. Changes to original tickets will incur amendment or cancellation fees, are subject to availability and surcharges may apply. Please see clause 14 above. Please note: all airfares are subject to routing restrictions. Airfares and applicable taxes are subject to increase without notice due to fare and tax changes, surcharges dependent on class available at time of booking and other factors outside our control, subject to the provisions of clause 10(Promise Price) above. Please contact your travel consultant for the applicable rules and regulations.

At the time of booking please ensure you supply your first name and surname as they appear in your passport, as these must be stated on your flight ticket. In some instances, the airline will also request your middle name. You may not be able to travel if the name on your passport and documents do not match. Any costs for ticket changes due to an incorrect name on paperwork which has been sent to you, will result in a cost which we will pass on to you.

25. Flights

For flight inclusive tours, the flight timings given on booking are for general guidance only and are subject to change. The latest timings will be shown on your confirmation documents. As flights only become available to book around 11 months in advance, we are only able to confirm upgrade prices at time of booking your flights. However, the actual flight times will be those shown on your tickets which will be dispatched to you approximately two weeks before departure.

You must accordingly check your tickets very carefully immediately on receipt to ensure you have the correct flight times. It is possible that flight times may be changed even after tickets have been dispatched – we will contact you as soon as possible if this occurs. We have no control over the allocation of seats by the airline, and even if you have requested or made payment directly with the airline to pre-book seats, no guarantees can be made. The provision of such seats does not constitute a term of your contract with us.

Specific instructions relating to departure and travel arrangements will be sent electronically with your air or other travel tickets approximately 2 weeks before departure. You must check your documents very carefully immediately on receipt to ensure you have the correct flight times and other up to date travel information. It is possible that flight times may be changed even after documents have been sent. We will contact you as soon as possible if this occurs.

In accordance with EU regulation (EC) No 211/2005 as incorporated into UK law and amended, we are required to bring to your attention the existence of a UK Air Safety List which contains details of air carriers who are subject to an operating ban in the UK. The UK Air Safety List (which is updated from time to time) can be found on the UK CAA's website www.caa.co.uk.

We will advise you of the actual carrier(s) (or, if the actual carrier(s) is not known, the likely carrier(s)) who will operate your flight(s) at the time of booking. Where we are only able to inform you of the likely carrier(s) at the time of booking, we will advise you of the identity of the actual carrier(s) as soon as we become aware of this. Any change to the operating carrier(s) after your booking has been confirmed will be notified to you as soon as possible.

If the carrier with whom you have a confirmed reservation becomes subject to a UK operating ban and we/ the carrier are unable to offer you a suitable alternative the provisions of clause 11 will apply.

Any change in the identity of the carrier, flight timings, and/or aircraft type (if advised) will not entitle you to cancel or change to other arrangements without paying our normal charges except where specified in these conditions.

26. Delay and Denied Boarding Regulations

If you suffer a delay in your outbound travel arrangements, we will do our best to ensure you make the start of your tour or, if this cannot be achieved, join it as soon as possible. Any costs we incur in making any alternative arrangements in this situation where the delay was due to your own actions will be your responsibility.

In the event of any flight delay or cancellation at your UK or overseas point of departure, the airline is responsible for providing such assistance as is legally required by the Denied Boarding Regulations (see below). Except where otherwise stated in our brochure or on our website, we regret we cannot provide any assistance in such circumstances other than information and advice to the extent we are in a position to do so.

We cannot accept liability for any delay which is due to any of the reasons set out in clause 15 (2) of these Booking Conditions (which includes the behaviour of any passenger(s) on the flight who, for example, fails to check in or board on time). In addition, we will not be liable for any delay unless it has a significant effect on your holiday arrangements.

If your flight is cancelled or delayed, your flight ticket is downgraded or boarding is denied by your airline, depending on the circumstances (including the airport of departure and/or return of the flight and whether you are flying with a UK or EU airline), the airline may be required to pay you compensation, refund the cost of your flight and/or provide you with accommodation and/or refreshments under Regulation EC 261/2004 (as amended by The Air Passenger Rights and Air Travel Organisers' Licensing (Amendment)(EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (UK Denied Boarding Regulations)). You must pursue the airline for the compensation or other payment due to you. All sums you receive or are entitled to receive from the airline concerned by virtue of these Regulations represent the full amount of your entitlement to compensation and/or any other payment due to you where applicable. This includes any disappointment, distress, inconvenience or effect on any other arrangements. The fact a delay may entitle you to cancel your flight does not automatically entitle you to cancel any other arrangements even where those arrangements have been made in conjunction with your flight. We have no liability to make any payment to you in relation to the UK Denied Boarding Regulations or in respect of any flight cancellation or delay, downgrading of any flight ticket or denial of any boarding as the full amount of your entitlement to any compensation or other payment (as dealt with above) is covered by the airline's obligations under the UK Denied Boarding Regulations. If, for any reason, we make any payment to you or a third party which the airline is responsible for in accordance with the UK Denied Boarding Regulations, you must, when requested, assign to us the rights you have or had to claim the payment in question from the airline. If your airline does not comply with its obligations under the UK Denied Boarding Regulations, where applicable, you may use the CAA Passenger Advice and Complaints Service. See www.caa.co.uk/passengers/resolving-travel-problems for further details.

A number of Governments are introducing new requirements for air carriers to provide personal information about all travellers on their aircraft to the Authorities before the aircraft leaves the UK. The data will be collected either at the airport when you check in or in some circumstances when, or after you make your booking. Accordingly, you are advised to allow extra time to check in for your flight. Where we collect this data, we will treat it in accordance with our Privacy Policy.

27. Passports, visas and health requirements

It is your responsibility to meet all applicable entry and other requirements of your destination country (ies) as well as those applicable on your return home. You must ensure that all your travel documents (physical and electronic), including your passport, visas / visa waivers, evidence of any other health related requirement and currency are in order, meet all applicable requirements and are valid for travel. All costs incurred in meeting all requirements applicable to your holiday must be paid by you. If you attempt to travel without fully complying with all requirements, you are likely to be refused boarding on your flight or other transport or entry into your destination country.

We cannot accept any liability and cancellation charges will apply (as set out in clause 12) if you are refused entry onto any transport or into any country, or decide not to travel, due to failure (or inability) on your part to obtain and carry all required documentation or to otherwise comply with all applicable requirements.

The passport and visa requirements applicable to the holidays we offer are shown on the FCDO website www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice. You must check entry and other official requirements for all countries to or through which you are travelling as well as any requirements applicable on your return to your home country, at the time of booking, and in good time before, and close to departure. Requirements may change and travel restrictions may be imposed (which could be at no or very short notice prior to departure). You must also keep up to date with this information while you are away.

A British passport would can take up to 10 weeks to obtain and may take longer. If any member of your party (who is a British citizen) is 16 or over and hasn't got or previously held a British passport, even more time needs to be allowed as the UK Passport Service has to confirm your identity before issuing your first passport. If any person on the booking is not a British citizen or holds a non British passport, you must check the applicable passport and visa requirements with the embassy or consulate of the country (ies) to or through which you are intending to travel. Please ensure that you check the latest position on applying for or renewing a passport at the earliest opportunity.

Details of any compulsory health requirements applicable to your holiday appear on the weblink below for the National Travel Health Network and Centre. It is your responsibility to ensure you obtain details of and comply with all recommended and required vaccinations, health precautions and other health related in good time before departure. You must also keep up to date with the latest information. Details are available from your GP surgery, local travel clinic and the National Travel Health Network and Centre www.travelhealthpro.org.uk. Vaccination and other health requirements/recommendations are subject to change at any time for any destination, including at short or no notice. Please therefore check with a doctor or clinic or other reliable source of information not less than 6 weeks prior to departure and also closer to departure to ensure that you are aware of and can meet the necessary requirements and have the latest information.

In the event that you have not received any compulsory vaccination, you may be unable to enter your destination country(ies) or to access certain services and may encounter other difficulties. You will not be entitled to cancel (without payment of cancellation charges) or receive any refund and we will not have any responsibility for any costs or expenses you suffer as a result in any such situation.

It is the responsibility of the person who makes the booking to ensure that all persons travelling are in possession of all necessary travel and health documents before departure. If failure to have any necessary travel or other documents results in fines, surcharges, other financial penalty, costs or expenses being incurred by us, you will be responsible for reimbursing us accordingly.

28. Financial security, ATOL and AITO membership

We hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence issued by the Civil Aviation Authority (ATOL number 10913). All flights and flight inclusive holidays we offer are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive package from us, you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong.

We, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate, will provide you with the services listed on the ATOL Certificate (or a suitable alternative). In some cases, where neither we nor the supplier are able to do so for reasons of insolvency, an alternative ATOL holder may provide you with services you have bought or a suitable alternative (at no extra cost to you). You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative ATOL holder, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim under the ATOL scheme (or your credit card issuer where applicable). If we, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL certificate, are unable to provide the services listed (or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder or otherwise) for reasons of insolvency, the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust may make a payment to (or confer a benefit on) you under the ATOL scheme. You agree that in return for such a payment or benefit, you assign absolutely to those Trustees any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent or your credit card issuer where applicable. You also agree that any such claims may be re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you have claimed under the ATOL scheme.

The Civil Aviation Authority can be contacted at Aviation House, Beehive Ringroad, Crawley, West Sussex, RH6 0YR, UK tel +44 (0)333 103 6350, www.caa.co.uk

In the event of our insolvency we, or any appointed insolvency practitioner, may disclose your personal information to the CAA, and/or any insurers so that they can assess the status of your booking and advise you on the appropriate course of action under any scheme of financial protection. The CAA's General Privacy Notice is at www.caa.co.uk/Our-work/About-us/General-privacy-notice

We provide full financial protection for our package holidays which don't include flights, by way of a bond held by The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited.

The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection under The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 for Distant Journeys (ABTOT membership number 5427) and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for:

1. Non-flight packages

ABTOT cover provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled or repatriation if transportation was included in your package. Please note that bookings made outside the UK are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with Distant Journeys.

In the unlikely event that you require assistance whilst abroad due to our financial failure, please call our 24/7 helpline on 01702 811397 and advise you are a customer of an ABTOT protected travel company.

You can access The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 here: www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/634/contents

We are a member of AITO, The Specialist Travel Association. All AITO members are required to provide the highest level of customer satisfaction by concentrating on three main pillars: Choice, Quality and Service – as enshrined in their Quality Charter. Every company admitted to AITO is financially assessed and bound by AITO's own code of business practice. AITO requires that we arrange financial protection for all holidays, including accommodation-only options and tours, as well as any other arrangements. This financial protection applies to customers who are resident in the UK at the time of booking and to most overseas customers who have booked directly with us.

29. Coaches

On our group tours, to ensure all customers have the opportunityto enjoy front and window seats, a daily seat rotation system is employed on all of our coaches and you must follow the seat rotation system.

If you suffer from travel sickness, you should arrange medication or other alternatives to treat symptoms as we cannot make allowances in the seat rotation policy for this, in fairness to other guests.

30. Optional activities and dining

Optional activities and dining are subject to availability, seasonal / operational factors and minimum / maximum numbers. More details on optional tours may be found on our website. On occasion, it may not be possible to arrange an included activity. Suitable alternatives will be arranged. Inclusions may also be subject to change.

31. Medication

It is your responsibility to ensure that any medication you need tocarry is permitted to be taken into the countries you are visiting. We recommend you consult with your GP and relevant embassy before booking and review in good time before your departure as advice may change. Any medical services and costs required on tour are at your expense. We strongly recommend suitable and adequate travel insurance.

32. Images, photographs, maps and information

The photographs in the brochure and information provided represent typical scenes and descriptive detail for each tour, but it is possible that the subject matter may not be seen or experienced whilst on the tour itself. Some pictures may have been digitally enhanced.

Maps or tour depictions contained in this brochure or any other brochures issued by Distant Journeys, are intended as an indication only and should not be relied upon as the actual route taken during the tour. Distant Journeys are not liable to you for any variation to the tour.

33. Prompt assistance

If, whilst you are on holiday, you find yourself in difficulty for any reason, we will offer you such prompt assistance as is appropriate in the circumstances. In particular, we will provide you with appropriate information on health services, local authorities and consular assistance, and assistance with distance communications and finding alternative travel arrangements. Where you require assistance which is not owing to any failure by us, our employees or sub-contractors we will not be liable for the costs of any alternative travel arrangements or other such assistance you require. Any supplier, airline or other transport supplier may however pay for or provide refreshments and/ or appropriate accommodation and you should make a claim directly to them. Subject to the other terms of these booking conditions, we will not be liable for any costs, fees or charges you incur in the above circumstances, if you fail to obtain our prior authorisation before making your own travel arrangements. Furthermore, we reserve the right to charge you a fee for our assistance in the event that the difficulty is caused intentionally by you or a member of your party, or otherwise through your or your party's negligence.

35. Amendments to these booking conditions

These booking conditions may be subject to amendment from time to time. Amendments will be posted on the Distant Journeys website www.distantjourneys.co.uk



Other Destinations

India

Sri Lanka

Australia

New Zealand

South Africa

Canada & Alaska



To book, call our travel experts FREE on

0800 141 3743

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm **Saturday** 9.00am - 5.00pm **Sunday** Open in peak season. See website for details.

Email enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk **Visit** [distantjourneys.co.uk](https://www.distantjourneys.co.uk)

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