

Treasures of Vietnam and Cambodia 2017 day-by-day itinerary

Days 1 : (Thurs. Oct 5th)

Arrive Vietnam

We arrive in the Vietnam capital late this evening and transfer directly to our hotel.

Overnight Hanoi: Ann Hanoi Hotel

Days 2 :

Hanoi – Ha Long Bay (B-D)

This morning we take a walking tour of **Ba Dinh Square**, a popular complex of cultural and historic sites, including the marble and granite **mausoleum of Ho Chi Minh**, the **Presidential palace**, the thousand year old **One Pillar Pagoda**, and the temple of Literature (C.1070). After Hanoi city tour we depart for Ha Long Bay (approximately 3.5 hours). We will go to a local restaurant for a welcome dinner.

Overnight Ha Long Bay: Royal Lotus Ha Long Bay Hotel



Days 3 :

Ha Long Bay – Hanoi (BL-)



This morning we depart on a half-day excursion on **Ha Long Bay**, a breath taking waterway Sprinkled with 3,000 islands and islets, and surrounded by a fairytale landscape of limestone cliffs, secret grottoes, and hidden coves. This bay is one of the seven wonders of nature. Our tour includes a boat ride and a seafood lunch. Transfer back to Hanoi and visit **Ngoc Son Temple, Sword Lake** and see a water puppet show. Check into hotel.

Overnight Hanoi: Ann Hanoi hotel



Days 4 :

Hanoi - Hue (B-D)

Transfer to airport and fly to the ancient imperial capital of Hue. This is the best-preserved remnant of a vast citadel and royal quarters that once existed on the site.

In the early 19th century the Emperor Gia Long consulted geomancers to find the best place to build a new palace and citadel. The geomancers chose the present site at Hue. The Emperor wished to recreate, in abbreviated form, a replica of the Forbidden City in Beijing. At his command, tens of thousands of laborers were conscripted to dig a ten kilometer moat and earthen walls to form the outer perimeter of the citidel. Later, the earthen walls were replaced by two-meter-thick stone walls built in the style of the French military architect Vauban. Due to the topography, the citadel faces east toward the Perfume river.

By the time the last Emperor of Vietnam stepped down in the mid 20th century, the City had grown to dozens of pavilions and hundreds of rooms. It was an imposing spectacle. All of that changed in 1968, when American military forces in Vietnam, reacting to the communist takeover of Hue, ordered the city retaken. American bombs blasted the majority of the city into rubble, sparing only a handful of buildings.

Today the city has been declared a UNESCO site and the remaining buildings have been lovingly restored. But, much of the site was so badly damaged that it has been turned into rice fields that cover most of the City. Even so, the remaining buildings are sufficient to give the visitor a sense of how the Vietnamese interpreted Chinese imperial architecture and adapted it into their culture. There will be time for shopping at **Dong Ba Market**.

Overnight Hue: Moug Thanh Hue Hotel



Days 5 :

Perfume River

(BL-)

This morning enjoy a boat excursion on the **Perfume River**, which explores the life along the banks of the ancient royal capital city. The river, with the shimmering blue color is dotted with a poetic landscape of boats, gardens, pagodas, towers and temples. The tour continues to the legendary **Thien Mu Pagoda**, on the north bank of the Perfume River, built is seven successive tiers. Then, a drive to the **Tomb of Emperor Tu Duc**, final resting place of Vietnam's longest reigning emperor and to **Khai Dinh**, the last monument of the Nguyen dynasty. Here a Vegetarian Lunch will be Prepared by Buddhist nuns of the Dong Thien Pagoda. Return to Hue. Time at Leisure, to explore Hue on your own.

Overnight Hue: Moug Thanh Hue hotel



Days 6 :

Hue – HoiAn

(BL-)

Transfer to Hoi An. On the way we will stop for Lunch at Lang Co Beach. We will enjoy a tour of Hoi An.

Overnight Hoi An: Hoi An Silk Marina Resort



Days 7 :

HoiAn - Siem Reap (B-D)

Free time to explore Hoi An on your own this morning. Visit Cham Museum on our way to the airport. Fly to Siem Reap, Cambodia

Overnight Siem Reap: Prince D' Angkor Hotel & Spa



Days 8 :

Siem Reap

(BLD)



We are starting our day off with a visit to the amazing archeological site of **Angkor Thom**, including the Royal Enclosure, Elephant Terrace and Leper King Terrace.

After lunch we will visit the magnificent temple of **Angkor Wat**, which was built by King Suryavarman II (1113 - 1150), dedicated to God 'Vishnu'. Angkor Wat, the largest monument of the Angkor complex and the best preserved, is an architectural masterpiece. Its perfection in composition, balance, proportions, relief and sculptures make it one of the finest monuments in the world. You are going to experience something truly spectacular as we watch the sun set on **Angkor Wat**.



We will then enjoy dinner with a traditional **Apsara show**

Overnight Siem Reap: Prince D' Angkor Hotel & Spa



Days 9 :

Siem Reap – Ho Chi Minh

(BLD)

Boat Trip to visit the great lake "**Tonle Sap**": real Interior Ocean where there are a lot of fish which exported by the multiple villages of fishermen.



Visit **Banteay Srei** – which has been constructed with wonderfully sculpted, pink sandstone. Then we will visit **Ta Prohm** (nicknamed the Indian Jones Temple), which remain in the same condition as they were found by early explorers.



Then we will transfer to the airport to fly to Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam.

Overnight Ho Chi Minh: Palace Saigon Hotel

Days 10 :

Ho Chi Minh

(B-D)

This morning we will tour Ho Chi Minh city. We will visit **Notre Dame cathedral**, the **Central Post Office**, **City Hall** & **Ho Chi Minh Monument**.



Afternoon free to explore Ho Chi Minh on your own or join the optional **Cu Chi tunnels** tour.

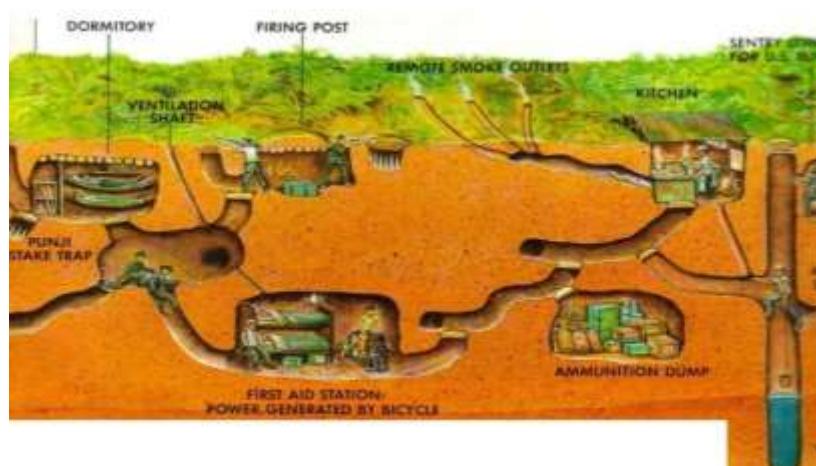


During the war in Vietnam, thousands of people in the Vietnamese province of Cu Chi lived in an elaborate network of underground tunnels. The tunnels were used by Viet Cong guerrillas as hiding spots during combat, as well as serving as communication and supply routes, hospitals, food and weapon caches and living quarters for numerous guerrilla fighters. The tunnel systems were of great importance to the Viet Cong in their resistance to American forces, and played a major role in North Vietnam winning the war.

The Cu Chi tunnels were built over a period of 25 years that began sometime in the late 1940s during the war against the French. The excavations were used mostly for communication between villages and to evade French army sweeps of the area. When the National Liberation Front (NLF) insurgency began around 1960, the old tunnels were repaired and new extensions were excavated. Within a few years the tunnel system assumed enormous strategic importance, and most of Cu Chi district and the nearby area came under firm Viet Cong control.

Tonight we will enjoy a Farewell dinner, where we can recount an amazing trip and say goodbye to the new friends we made.

Overnight Ho Chi Minh: Palace Saigon Hotel



Days 11 : (Sunday Oct 15th)

Departure

(B)

Transfer to airport and begin your journey home.