



## **Essence of Vietnam and Cambodia**

### **13 Nights / 14 Days**

**Hanoi – Halong Bay – Hoi An – Saigon – Mekong Delta – Can Tho – Chau Doc – Phnom Penh – Siem Reap**

Journey along the meandering canals and meet the local people as you discover the beauty of the Mekong Delta on an one night river cruise before a speedboat journey to bustling Phnom Penh. Take a Tuk Tuk to Angkor Wat and explore the grounds by torchlight, something few travellers get to explore. Travel like a local as you glide through Saigon's fascinating streets on a traditional tuk tuk.

#### **Day1 Arrival to Hanoi**

On arrival in Hanoi, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your tour briefing and welcome drinks with your fellow travellers.

#### **Day 2 Hanoi**

Spend the day discovering Hanoi's must-visit sites. Stroll around Hoan Kiem Lake in the heart of Hanoi City and Dong Xuan market. Continue to Ho Chi Minh complex comprising of Ba Dinh Square, Presidential Palace (outside photostop) & private residence from 1954 to 1969 as well as the One Pillar Pagoda founded in 1049. After lunch at a local restaurant continue to the Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first university. Visit Hoa Lo Prison – also known as "Hanoi Hilton", St Joseph's Cathedral and the Opera House ending the tour with afternoon tea. (B)

#### **Day 3 Hanoi to Halong Bay**

Drive past scenes of traditional rural life as you journey from Hanoi to Halong City, the gateway to Halong Bay. On arrival, board a junk boat and begin cruising among some of the 3,000 limestone karsts. Enjoy a delicious lunch as you cruise through the pristine, turquoise waters of this stunning natural wonder. (B, L, D)

#### **Day 4 Halong Bay to Hoi An**

Continue your exploration of Halong Bay before enjoying brunch on board. Cruise back to port for disembarkation, before you drive to Hanoi for your onwards flight to Danang. On arrival, transfer to your hotel in the charming town of Hoi An. Enjoy an evening of free time. (B)

#### **Day 5 Hoi An**

Explore the riverside town of Hoi An on a walking tour. Visit the many sites and discover the mix of Chinese, Japanese and French influenced architecture. Visit a traditional ancient house, a Chinese Assembly Hall and the Japanese Covered Bridge. The afternoon is free for you to do as much or as little as you like. Choose to explore the old town, have a tailor custom make a new wardrobe or cycle to An Bang Beach. (B)

#### **Day 6 Hoi An to Saigon**

Enjoy more free time in Hoi An before flying to Saigon. On arrival, transfer to your hotel for check in and enjoy an afternoon at leisure. (B)

### **Day 7 Saigon – Cu Chi Tunnels**

From Saigon, drive to Cu Chi and discover the network of underground tunnels and their significance during the war before returning to Saigon. After lunch join a guided walking tour and discover the rich history of this spirited city as you visit some of its main attractions including the former Presidential Palace, Catholic cathedral of Notre Dame, Post Office, Opera House & Ben Thanh market. (B)

### **Day 8 Saigon to Mekong Delta**

Transfer to Can Tho and board your boat to begin your exploration of the Mekong Delta. Cruise past the many fields of rice or sugar cane on palm or fruit fringed canals and waterways. Mid afternoon enjoy a shore visit and discover the peaceful life in the countryside with an optional cycling tour. Enjoy a complimentary drink on returning to the boat before enjoying the sunset over the countryside. (B, L, D)

### **Day 9 Mekong Delta to Can Tho**

After an early breakfast while cruising, visit the Cai Rang floating market by local boat before returning to Can Tho. Drive to visit Binh Thuy ancient house, a harmonious combination of the two cultures of the East and West following Feng Shui principles. Experience the luxury French style in a local ancient house. (B)

### **Day 10 Can Tho to Chau Doc**

After breakfast drive to Chau Doc. On arrival visit a beautiful Khmer Temple before continuing to experience life in the floating house that doubles as a catfish farm then checking in at your hotel. (B)

### **Day 11 Chau Doc to Phnom Penh**

After breakfast travel by speedboat to the Cambodian Border. After clearing border requirements cruise along the Mekong River to Phnom Penh. After checking in to your hotel visit the Tuol Sleng Museum and the Killing Fields memorial at Choeng Ek. Enjoy sunset drinks at the iconic Foreign Correspondent Club/Le Moon Bar overlooking the beautiful Mekong River. (B)

### **Day 12 Phnom Penh to Siem Reap**

Enjoy a morning cyclo ride through the backstreets of Phnom Penh. Discover Wat Phnom, the birthplace of the capital, the Royal Palace and its famous landmark, the Silver Pagoda, and the National Museum with its unique collection of Khmer art. Continue the day with an overland drive to Siem Reap, with multiple stops along the way such as the Spider and Insect Market in Skun and the stone mason village near Phnom Santuk. Arrival in Siem Reap during the early evening. (B)

### **Day 13 Siem Reap**

Travel to Angkor Thom complex and see Bayon temple. Return to town for lunch before exploring Baphuon temple and Ta Prohm temple. Explore Angkor Wat before returning to your hotel. In the evening, join your group for a farewell cultural experience dinner. (B, D)

### **Day 14 Departure from Siem Reap**

It's time to say goodbye, but just think of all the wonderful stories you will take home. A transfer will take you to the airport for your onward travels.

### **Includes:**

- 11 nights in described Hotel or similar

- 2 nights on a boat
- Daily Breakfast for 2 Persons
- 2 Lunches
- 3 Dinner
- All flights as specified in the itinerary
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles (except Tuk Tuk touring)
- Small group touring
- All Entrance fees
- English speaking tour leader
- All Tipping
- Arrival and departure transfers



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