



Vietnam & Cambodia Explorer

Vietnam & Cambodia Explorer Private 14 Days Inclusive from the UK

Explore the historic cities of Hanoi, Hoi An and Saigon with the stunning temples of Angkor Wat in this Private Tour through Vietnam and Cambodia.

Inclusive price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Touring with Guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK passport holders



Your Tour Dossier

This document is designed to be read in conjunction with the other pre-departure information provided by Wendy Wu Tours including the tour itinerary as described in our brochure and/or website. It aims to provide a straightforward description of the physical activities involved in sightseeing or travelling during the tour.

If there are any particular challenges, from the length of time spent on your feet, the length of drives and flights, to the standard of remote accommodation; they will be explained here.

All passengers must read this document to ensure the itinerary is suitable for their interests and physical capabilities. This is not your final itinerary and therefore does

Welcome to Wendy Wu Tours

Indochina continues to amaze, fascinate and thrill our passengers, many of whom have travelled to one country in Asia with us, then another, year after year. We urge you to keep in mind all the rewards, as well as challenges of travelling in countries with a history, culture and attitude so unlike your own.

A typical day's sightseeing may include the bustle and noise of a city street, sights and smells of a local market and interacting with the locals. Travelling in Indochina requires patience and potential delays are to be expected due to standards of service. There is a low level of English spoken throughout Indochina, so your Local Guide will be indispensable during your trip.

Almost everything will be different to what you may be used to. We have found that our passengers who embark with a sense of humour and adventure, who accept that things do not always go to plan, are those who find their experience most rewarding. It is essential that all passengers recognize the demands of factors such as basic facilities and cultural differences they may encounter in some areas.

Vietnam & Cambodia Explorer Private Tour – Comfortable Paced Tour

Our private tours are accessible to everyone. This tour will involve sightseeing on foot, some climbing of stairs and getting on and off boats throughout the tour.

This tour is not strenuous, and can be taken at the pace, and according to the abilities of passengers travelling in your party. If any member of your party has mobility difficulties, please advise Wendy Wu Tours, so that our operators can be made aware, and may rearrange the itinerary to suit your needs. If at any point during the tour you feel you are being rushed, or not moving fast enough, please let your Local Guide know, so that they may adjust the touring accordingly and provide you with the best experience possible. Similarly, as you are travelling on a private basis, if you would like to change the touring, dates, timings, please speak to your reservations consultant, prior to travelling, or speak to your Local Guide whilst on tour.

NB: Please note that times and distances listed in the tour dossier are approximate.

Days 1-2: UK/Hanoi

Fly overnight from the UK. On day 2, you will be met at Hanoi Airport in the arrivals hall by your Local Guide from Wendy Wu Tours. Transfer to your hotel and check-in.

No Meals Included

Day 3: Hanoi

Sightseeing today includes visits to Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum (close Sep-Dec), Stilt House, One Pillar Pagoda, Temple of Literature. Also enjoy a walking tour of the Old Quarter and a drive around Hoan Kiem Lake. In the evening, enjoy a performance of the famous Vietnamese Water Puppets.

When visiting the Mausoleum you must be quiet, show respect and will not be allowed to carry cameras, mobile phones, etc (usually your Local Guide will offer to hold these for you).

Breakfast and Lunch

N.B: Your Local Guide will confirm the menu for tomorrow's seafood lunch on board the junk boat tonight, so please mention any food allergies or dislikes to them again before the end of today.

Day 4: Halong Bay Junk Cruise

We have an early rise this morning to drive approx. 3.5 hours (170km) to Halong City and port, including a 20 minute rest stop. As it is so popular, there are usually a crowd of boats at the docks – please be reassured that the cruise itself will be

scenic and relaxing. Boarding your junk boat could involve climbing over and through other boats, moored between it and the dock – sometimes without handrails, ladders or assistance from staff. The junk boats have been recently built and modelled on the traditional 'junk' which was both home and working vessel for fishermen of the Orient for centuries.

They usually hold about 20 dining (or 18 maximum for overnight) passengers, have an enclosed dining area and open deck on the upper deck. We take a 4 hour cruise including lunch on board, before returning to the dock and driving back to Hanoi.

Breakfast and Lunch

N.B: Your Halong Bay cruise may be affected by local weather conditions.

Day 5: Hanoi – Hoi An

Transfer to the airport for your morning flight to Danang (flight duration 1 hour); the closest airport to Hoi An. Along the way, you will stop at Marble Mountains, where there are some uneven stone steps up and it can get hot. If you are unable to complete this activity, or choose not to go with the group – you may have to remain with the driver/coach because the group could descend on the other side of Marble Mountain depending on the route taken. There are marble workshops at the bottom of the stairs. Watch your step inside as the caves are dark and damp – a small torch would be handy. Also stop at Cham Museum and China Beach en route. Then transfer approx. 45 minutes' to your

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hotel in Hoi An and check-in. Enjoy a walking tour of Hoi An and visit one of the oldest homes, which is still occupied by the descendants of the merchants that built it over 200 years ago. Also visit the Japanese Bridge, Hoi An Market and a local Chinese Pagoda.

Breakfast and Dinner

Day 6: Hoi An

This morning take part in a cooking class focusing on select local dishes designed for the Royal Courts. The afternoon is at leisure to visit the renowned tailors, stroll through the local markets or relax in a riverside café.

Breakfast

Day 7: Hoi An - Saigon

This morning transfer to the airport for your flight to Saigon. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel. Sightseeing today includes a visit to the former Presidential Palace, the War Remnants Museum, the imposing Notre Dame Cathedral and the French-style Post Office. Also visit Cholon (Chinatown), Thien Hau Pagoda and Ben Thanh Market for some shopping.

Breakfast and Lunch

Day 8: Cu Chi Tunnels & Tay Ninh Day Tour

Today you will attend the noon service at the Cao Dai Temple and then explore the amazing network of Cu Chi Tunnels. Remember to take insect repellent today as mosquitoes are more common in the Cu Chi district. Transfer approx. 3 hours (100km) to Tay Ninh to the 'Holy See' and watch most of the Cao Dai service (1 hour). Then transfer (10 minute drive) to have lunch - the meal is simple but this is the only suitable restaurant in the area. Transfer approx. 2.5 hours (55km) to Cu Chi. Sightseeing here involves approx. 1.5 hours on foot on uneven mud paths through the bush and, if you choose, crawling through some of the tunnels. Transfer approx. 1.5 hours (35km) back to Saigon.

Breakfast and Lunch

N.B: At the Cu Chi Tunnels you will be given the opportunity to shoot a range of guns (example AK47, M16). If you decide to do this, please be aware that the level of noise is extremely high and although ear protectors are available, they may not provide the level of protection required. It is recommended you bring ear plugs from home if you would like to participate.

Day 9: Mekong Delta Day Trip

Travel to My Tho and enjoy a cruise on the Mekong River to explore the delta, also known as the 'Rice Basket' of Vietnam. Visit floating markets, villages, home industries and plantations as well as Thoi Son Island and Vinh Trang Pagoda. Enjoy a cruise on the Mekong River before returning to Saigon. Later, return to Saigon airport for your flight to Siem Reap.

Breakfast and Lunch

Day 10: Siem Reap

Travel to the fortified city of Angkor Thom. Start at the Southern Gate and continue to The Bayon, which is beautifully carved with numerous striking faces followed by a visit to the Elephant Terrace, and the Terrace of the Leper King. Then you will commence your touring of the magnificent Angkor Wat Temple, with the whole afternoon and sunset spent there.

It can get very hot and humid here so you must carry sun protection and drinking water with you. If you choose to climb at any site, you must be able to climb and descend independently – most of the ancient stairs are steep and without handrails. The most walking is involved at Ta Keo.

Breakfast and Lunch

N.B: The Central Tower of the Angkor Wat complex has a limited number of visitors allowed at any given time, under new regulations from UNESCO. If you wish to visit this tower you will be required to wait in the queue alongside all other visitors.

Day 11: Siem Reap

Today you will visit Banteay Srei, a Hindu temple which is dedicated to Shiva. Also visit Srah Srang, Banteay Kdei, Kravan, Ta Keo and the fabulous Ta Prohm Temple, undoubtedly the most atmospheric ruin at Angkor, which has been swallowed by the jungle. The temple is cloaked in dappled light, its crumbling towers and walls locked in the embrace of a vast root system of enormous fig trees and giant creepers.

Breakfast and Lunch

Day 12: Siem-Reap – Phnom Penh

Today fly to Phnom Penh and then later visit the Killing Fields site. Sightseeing here involves approx. 1 hour sightseeing on foot. Then drive another 30 minutes back into the centre to Tuol Sleng Museum, where sightseeing involves approx. 45 minutes walking. Both commemorate the atrocities that occurred during the regime of Pol Pot. Most people find them quite confronting and emotional so you will be given time to explore on your own. Transfer back to the hotel.

Breakfast and Lunch

Days 13-14: Phnom Penh/UK

Sightseeing today includes visits to the Silver Pagoda, the striking Emerald Buddha and the National Museum. Later, fly overnight to the UK, arriving home the following day.

Breakfast

Land Only

If you are travelling on a land only basis, then you will need to make your own way to the starting hotel in Hanoi on Day 2. On Day 13, you will checkout from your Phnom Penh hotel, and continue as per your own arrangements.

Please refer to the Wendy Wu Tours brochure and/or website for details on departure dates, prices, itineraries, inclusions and tour extensions available as well as full booking conditions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Before You Leave

Itinerary Changes - The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in Indochina are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your Local Guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Our intention is to adhere to the day to day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

- The schedules of the domestic airlines in this region are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated morning, afternoon or evening flights below. Your Local Guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them.
- The Central Tower of the Angkor Wat complex has a limited number of visitors allowed at any given time, under new regulations from UNESCO since its recent restoration. If you wish to visit this tower you will be required to wait in the queue alongside all other visitors. The ability to do this will be determined upon the groups' program on the day of visiting.

Visas - A visa is required for entry into Cambodia and another visa is required for entry into Vietnam. Standard visa processing service is included in your tour cost. We will require your passport, completed visa application forms, and 2 passport photos, taken within the last 6 months, to process your visas. We will require all this information 8 weeks prior to departure. As per our standard visa processing service, we will have your passport for at least 4 weeks. In rare cases you may be required to provide further information or documentation to the Cambodian/Vietnamese Embassy and/or be required to attend an interview at the Embassy in London. If this is the case we will notify you as soon as possible.

Vaccinations and Your Health - We recommend that you contact either your local GP or a travel doctor for advice on vaccinations and travel health. www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk is a comprehensive website that you may also find useful.

Climate - Please refer to our website or brochure for detailed temperature charts.

Insurance - It is a condition of booking with us that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

What to Expect on Tour

Development - Although Indochina is developing, it still lacks international standards of civil infrastructure and therefore tourist facilities. For example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade; concepts of personal responsibility are different to those in the UK. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in the UK. However, all of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense as well as refer to notices and follow advice from your Local Guide.

Traffic in Indochina - Roads in Vietnam and Cambodia have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road – not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections above are approximations only.

Accommodation - Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between

the UK and Indochina. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

Four and five star hotels are also available on private tours. If you would like to upgrade, please speak to one of our reservation consultants.

Tipping – As with most countries, tipping is a way of life in Indochina. For private tours we recommend an amount of US \$7-10 per person per day for tipping to be distributed amongst drivers, restaurants, guides etc. This amount is at your own discretion.

Meals - Some meals are included in our private tours, please see inclusions above. If you would like to travel on a fully inclusive meal basis please speak to Wendy Wu Tours, to arrange this prior to travel. Included meals are designed so that you can experience the local dishes, their individual flavours as well as the different ways they are prepared and cooked throughout Vietnam and Cambodia. For meals not included, Local Guides will be happy to assist with recommendations on where and what to eat in order to fully appreciate this vastly different cuisine.

Personal Expenses- You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of £150 per week should be sufficient; however for those that can't resist a bargain, consider allocating a higher amount.

Optional Extras - Prior to departure you may wish to add on some extra touring or evening shows to your itinerary, as you are travelling on a private basis, which means you have flexibility and choice. Please speak to one of our reservation consultants to discuss the optional extras available. Whilst on tour, your local guide may offer you some extra touring or unique experiences. The cost can range in price, so please allow extra money if you feel you may participate in any extra activities.

After Your Booking

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application form for both Vietnam & Cambodia, help sheet, a suggested packing list. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approx. 2 weeks prior to departure, and will include a travel wallet, suggested packing list and a Travel Guide phrase book, along with your final itinerary and international etickets if applicable.

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