



## The Majestic Mekong

Exclusive Tour | 22 Days | Comfortable

Siem Reap – Mekong River Cruise – Chau Doc – Can Tho – Saigon – Hoi An –  
Hue - Hanoi – Halong Bay

Discover the many wonders of Vietnam, including two nights on Halong Bay, before experiencing the sights and sounds of the majestic Mekong in utmost comfort on a deluxe cruise. You'll sail across the border into Cambodia, where the incredible Temples of Angkor await your discovery.

- Two nights in luxury on Halong Bay
- Explore Hue's Imperial Citadel
- Be charmed by Hoian
- Take a deluxe cruise on the Mekong River
- Explore Angkor with an expert
- Sip champagne as the sun sets over Angkor



### The Majestic Mekong inclusions:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- 5\* accommodation throughout
- Meals as stated in the itinerary
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escort (if your group is 10 or more passengers) or Local Guides
- Visa fees for UK and EU passport holders
- Sumptuous dinners with drinks
- Spa treatment
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides
- Safe and secure with ABTA, ATOL and IATA

*The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary.*

### Exclusive Tours:

These tours have been meticulously designed with the more discerning traveller in mind. Our deluxe journeys through Asia feature distinctive and exclusive experiences which bring the region to life. Our exclusive collection tours include:

- Champagne moments
- Spa Treatments
- 2 Soft drinks during lunch; Soft drinks/local wine during dinner
- Unique experiences
- Small group sizes
- UK chauffeur transfers
- Porter service to and from your hotel rooms
- A mid tour Laundry service
- Drinks provided during lunch/dinner service

### Comfortable Tours:

'The Majestic Mekong' is a **comfortable** tour. Although this is the easiest grading of tour Wendy Wu Tours offers it still requires a reasonable level of fitness.

- On several days there will be sightseeing on foot for extended periods of time often on an incline or on uneven surfaces.
- You will be required to get on and off varying sizes of boats often without assistance.

Of course, our National Escort and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

## Itinerary – The Majestic Mekong

### Days 1-2: Hanoi

You will be met at Hanoi Airport in the arrivals hall by your Local Guide and/or National Escort from Wendy Wu Tours. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time travel to your hotel for check in.



#### Destination Information

**Hanoi** - With a population of approximately four million, Hanoi is a charming and richly historic city of lakes, shaded boulevards and leafy open parks. The centre is an architectural museum piece housing groups of ochre coloured buildings holding the air of provincial French towns of the 1930s, a “Paris of the Orient” as people have called it.

### Day 3: Hanoi

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning visit Ho Chi Minh’s Mausoleum, then drive to the serene Temple of Literature, Hanoi’s first university dating back to 1070 and a historical centre of learning, now dedicated to Confucian worship. This afternoon takes a walking tour of Hanoi’s old quarter, this area of crowded market alleys is still laid out as it was 300 years ago and is also known as the ‘36 Streets’. Traditionally in Vietnam, all the shops on a single street were devoted to selling one product so you will spot Tin and Bamboo Street. Later visit the home of a water puppet artist, the descendant of a family of water puppet performers.



This Vietnamese traditional performance art has roots dating back to the 10th century. You will have a chance to talk with the artist, watch the process of making the puppets and enjoy a private water puppet show.

*Please note: Ho Chi Minh’s Mausoleum is closed for entry on Mondays and Fridays every week and from September to December each year. During these times we are unable to enter the Mausoleum; however, we can view it from the outside.*

Soft drinks during lunch and soft and alcoholic drinks during dinner will be provided throughout the tour.

#### Destination Information

**Ho Chi Minh Quarter** - Dedicated to the father of modern Vietnam and where Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum stands in Ba Dinh Square. Ho Chi Minh first declared independence from French rule in 1945.

**Water Puppets** - Vietnamese Water Puppets were invented thousands of years ago by farmers in the Red River Delta region near Hanoi, as a means to entertain themselves when the rains flooded their paddy fields. Today puppeteers stand in waist deep water and control the puppets via pole and strings.

#### Day 4: Hanoi – Halong Bay

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning drive to the coastal town of Halong, about 4 hours from Hanoi. On arrival in Halong, we will take a two night cruise to the far-most corners of the bay. Enjoy lunch onboard as you cruise out into the bay, stopping to anchor for an afternoon of activities. End the day on deck watching the sunset over the bay followed by a freshly prepared dinner.



*Please note: Weather conditions such as mist, fog, wind, rain and storms may delay the departure time of your cruise, or in some cases your cruise may be cancelled. Notifications of any delays or cancellations may not be known until your group's arrival in Halong Bay. If your cruise is cancelled after your arrival in Halong Bay, you will have lunch in Halong City and return to Hanoi. If notification of the cruise cancellation is given prior to your departure for Halong Bay an alternative day trip will be arranged to Hoa Lu and Tam Coc or 'Halong Bay on Land', an area located approximately 2 hours from Hanoi. Our guides will make every effort to inform the group at the earliest possible moment should there be any itinerary changes.*

*You will need to pack a smaller overnight bag for your trip to Halong Bay. Main luggage will be left in safe storage at the hotel in Hanoi and picked up your return.*

#### Destination Information

**Halong Bay** - Compared to the landscape of the limestone islets of Guilin in China and Krabi in southern Thailand, Halong Bay shares a common border with China in the north and harbours some of the most stunning scenery in Vietnam. Unique rock sculptures jut out dramatically from the clear emerald waters of the Gulf of Tonkin and numerous grottoes have created an enchanting, timeless world, looking out onto the horizon with the sails of the junks and sampans completing the picture.

### Day 5: Halong Bay

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Wake up to the beauty of the bay and enjoy breakfast on board the cruise. Today you will enjoy a range of activities on the bay, then as the sun begins to set, relax on deck with a drink followed by another al fresco dinner.



### Day 6: Halong Bay – Hue

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Spend the morning soaking up the scenery, visit Surprise Cave, enjoy a hearty mid-morning breakfast before returning to Hanoi this afternoon. Transfer to the airport for your flight to Hue. Hue was the imperial capital of Vietnam from 1802-1945, when the last emperor abdicated the throne, yet is still regarded as the seat of Vietnam's culture and religion today.

#### Destination Information

**Hue** - Having been the imperial capital from 1802 until 1945 after the last emperor abdicated; Hue is still regarded as the centre of Vietnam's culture and religion. The city is dominated by the Imperial Citadel that is modelled on the Forbidden City in China. There are many wonderful pagodas and temples of high significance and it contains the Grand Tombs of the Nguyen Emperors.

### Day 7: Hue

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before exploring Hue's Imperial Citadel. Created in the 19th century, the Imperial City was modelled on the Forbidden City in Beijing and holds many palaces and temples inside its giant walls. Many of the buildings have been damaged by war over the years and are now being restored to their former glory. Transfer to Minh Mang Tomb to explore the opulent and exotic resting place laid out in formal Chinese style. For lunch, feast on a vegetarian meal prepared by nuns at Lien Hoa Pagoda, a temple located on the top of a hill with a fantastic view. Visit



the kitchen to see how your meal is prepared in a wood burning stove, then dig into your food in the company of the nuns who made it. Take the opportunity to learn about the religion Buddhism or just get to know your friendly hosts. Next, make your way to Thanh Tien Village, well-known for over 300 years of crafting paper flowers. Meet one of the local villagers and learn how to make your own ornate paper flower.

### Destination Information

**Imperial Citadel** - A walled fortress accompanied by cannons, artilleries and surrounded by a moat for protection. Inside the Citadel are numerous gates, courtyards and the Forbidden Purple City.

**Royal Tomb of Minh Mang** - Emperor Minh Mang reigned in the Nguyen Dynasty, the last of the Vietnamese dynasties, from 1820-1840. The construction of his tomb was completed after his death and is said to have taken approximately 10,000 workers to complete. The complex comprises of almost 40 monuments and is surrounded by gardens and pools, making it one of the more beautiful tombs in Vietnam.

### Day 8: Hue – Hoi An

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Today transfer to the charming town of Hoi An, located 30km south of Danang, via the Hai Vin Pass. Perhaps more than any other place in Vietnam, Hoi An retains the feel of centuries past. Take a walking tour through the streets of Hoi An, arriving first at Chua Ong Pagoda. Next pass by the 200-year old Tan Ky House and take a short break at the Japanese Covered Bridge - one of Hoi An's most iconic structures. Visit the Reaching Out Tea House, an establishment that aids locals with disabilities, for a rejuvenating cup of tea before having lunch at a restaurant specializing in traditional Hoi An delicacies.



### Destination Information

**Hoi An** - Perhaps more than any other place in Vietnam, Hoi An retains the feel of centuries past. Once known as Faifo, Hoi An was an influential port along the Silk Road. For over 500 years merchants from China, Japan, France and Portugal settled in the prosperous town resulting in a distinctive blend of culture, cuisine, religion and architecture.

### Day 9: Hoi An

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

This morning visit a local community farming project just outside of Hoi An - Tra Que village where the community has come together to create a large vegetable farm. Learn the traditional methods the farmers use to plant, fertilise and harvest the crop, then try your hand at raking the ground and sowing seeds. Learn to cook traditional cuisine with a local family. Take an afternoon at leisure to explore independently, visit the beach or relax at your hotel.



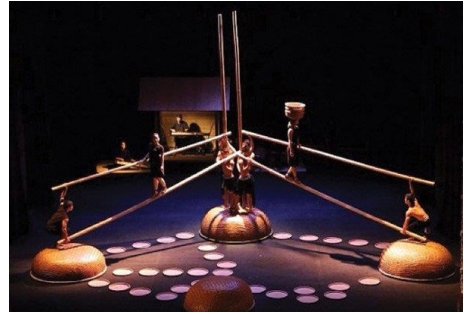
### Destination Information

**Tra Que Village** - Located a few kilometres from Hoi An, this picturesque village is renowned for its agriculture. Witness local farming techniques and learn about different exotic Vietnamese produce.

### Day 10: Hoi An – Saigon

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

This morning you will fly to Saigon. Tonight, enjoy the A O Show, the show is a spectacular showcase of Vietnamese culture and performance art, and combines in beautiful precision elements of both old and new.



#### Destination Information

**Saigon** - The exuberant city of Saigon is driving Vietnam forward into the modern world, but is also a treasure trove of fascinating heritage. During the 1960s and early 1970s, Saigon was the Pearl of the Orient, which flourished under the American occupation. In more recent times, it was the seat of the South Vietnam government until the events that led to the country's reunification. Today, the old mixes seamlessly with the new and you can wander through timeless alleys to incense-infused temples before catching up with the present in designer malls beneath sleek skyscrapers.

**A O Show** - Featuring Vietnam's most talented performance artists, traditional musicians and circus-like choreography, A O Show explores the lives of the Vietnamese people through its ensemble creations.

### Day 11: Saigon

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Confront the reality of guerrilla warfare at the Cu Chi Tunnels. The cramped tunnels were central to a few of the war's strategic operations, including the famous 1968 Tet Offensive, and they did not escape damage. American B52 bombers dropped hundreds of missiles leaving huge tell-tale craters behind. The Cu Chi experience can be emotional for some visitors, but it offers a fascinating window into the hardship and traumas of war. Return to Saigon, en route visiting a cricket farm. This afternoon, explore Saigon city with its heady mix of local culture and colonial influences. Start at the central Post Office and the Opera house then continue to the Reunification Palace, the chilling War Remnants Museum and the bustling Ben Thanh Market.



### Destination Information

**Cu Chi** - the tunnels of Cu Chi are an immense network of connecting underground tunnels located in the Cu Chi district of Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Vietnam, and are part of a much larger network of tunnels that underlie much of the country. The Cu Chi tunnels were the location of several military campaigns during the Vietnam War, and were the Viet Cong's base of operations for the Tet Offensive in 1968.

**Central Post Office** - Located next to the Notre-Dame Cathedral. The Central Post Office building was constructed in the late 19th century. It counts Gothic, Renaissance and French influences and was designed by Auguste Henri Vildieu and Alfred Foulhoux, but is often erroneously credited as being the work of Gustave Eiffel.

**Reunification Palace** - Built on the site of the former Norodom Palace, is a landmark in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. It was designed by architect Ngô Viết Thụ and was the home and workplace of the President of South Vietnam during the Vietnam War. It was the site of the end of the Vietnam War during the Fall of Saigon on 30th April 1975, when a North Vietnamese Army tank crashed through its gates.

**War Remnants Museum** - Comprised of numerous buildings displaying military equipment, photographs and artefacts relating to the Vietnam War from 1961-1975. This museum illustrates a harrowing period in this nation's history.

### Day 12: Saigon – Mekong River Cruise

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Join your luxury Mekong River Cruise today, you will be greeted with a welcome drink and buffet lunch on board. Spend a relaxing afternoon on deck as the ship glides along the river.



### Destination Information

**Mekong Delta** - Although primarily rural, the Mekong Delta is a densely populated area where life progresses around its fertile banks. The Mekong Delta is the 13th longest, and the 10<sup>th</sup> largest, by volume alone and people live, trade, travel and even go to school on the riverbanks. The rice which is cultivated in the many farming lands is said to be enough to supply the entire country with a little extra.

### Day 13: Mekong River Cruise

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

In the morning, visit Cai Be floating market along canals and backwaters and then continue to Sa Dec via Vinh Long Province. Sa Dec has an interesting local market and the ancient house of Mr Huynh Thuy Le, the 'lover' of Marguerite Duras, a famous French novelist whose book was immortalised in the film L'Indochine.



**Day 14: Mekong River Cruise**

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Visit a Moslem Cham tribal village and a cat fish farm in Chau Doc with our guide or do your own thing and take one of our mountain bikes and explore the local market or the Catholic Church. Return to the ship by boat for lunch and cast off for the Cambodian border for the usual formalities.

**Day 15: Mekong River Cruise**

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Whilst in Phnom Penh you will be provided with your own private cyclo. The Cyclo Centre Phnom Penh which provides the cyclos is a charity that provides basic welfare and medical services to cyclo drivers. You will visit the Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda and National Museum. In the afternoon, optional excursion (by coach) to the Killing Fields and the Khmer Rouge's grim Tuol Sleng or S21 detention centre.

**Day 16: Mekong River Cruise**

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Explorations up Tonle River to a silver making village, Kampong Trolach, and Chong Koh either by ship or by coach depending on water levels. This river is very pretty and there is a vibrant local life to be viewed along the river banks and in lesser craft.

**Day 17: Mekong River Cruise**

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Enjoy a morning walk at Angkor Ban and after an all-day sail through delightful Cambodian countryside you reach the charming French colonial town of Kratie in the evening. No other river ships get this high but thanks to the Mekong Pandaw's shallow draft you can attempt it.

**Day 18: Mekong River Cruise**

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

From Kratie, go further upstream using a local bus to view the dolphin grounds in a national park protected area. In the afternoon, on your return downstream, stop at a curious shrine known as the Monkey Temple on the way to moor overnight near Kampong Cham.

**Day 19: Mekong River Cruise – Siem Reap**

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Early this morning, have a coach transfer to Siem Reap. Refreshments will be provided and you will stop at Kampong Thom along the way. Arrive at Siem Reap mid-afternoon. Disembark your cruise and transfer to your hotel. The rest of your afternoon is at leisure.

*Whilst in Siem Reap you have a complimentary spa treatment at the hotel's spa. You will be given a voucher so you can book your chosen treatment with the hotel directly. You have the option of foot reflexology, Chakra head and shoulder massage, aromatherapy massage or a traditional Khmer massage.*



### Destination Information

**Siem Reap** - Siem Reap is a bustling tourist destination due to its proximity to both the ancient Khmer national capital city of Angkor as well as Tonle Sap Lake. Angkor Wat is one of the main attractions and is the world's largest religious monument, in addition to being the spiritual and cultural heart of Cambodia. This huge complex of palaces and temples were built on the sprawling alluvial plain to the north of Tonle Sap.

### Day 20: Siem Reap

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Go behind-the-scenes in Angkor with one of its lead stone conservation experts working in Angkor for over 25 years. During an exclusive 2.5-hour master class, learn the little-known secrets to how ancient people carved, moved and designed these spectacular religious structures. After a historical primer, get a hands-on crash course in the conservation methods employed by experts like your guide, and continue on your full-day temple tour to explore the complex's best temple relics. Spanning from the 9th to 15th century, the Angkor complex with over 1,000 temples was the seat of the thriving Khmer Empire. UNESCO manages the complex and to enter, your group will drive approximately 6km out of town to the main entrance gate to get your entrance passes, which you must carry with you. If you choose to climb at any site, you must be able to climb and descend without assistance. Rise early and begin touring the temples of Angkor, visiting the incredible fortified city of Angkor Thom. Start at the South Gate, flanked by a row of 54 stone figures on each side and then continue on to the 12th-century Bayon. From here visit the Elephant Terrace, which was used as a giant viewing platform for public ceremonies and served as a base for the King's grand audience hall, and the Terrace of the Leper King. Continue to the fabulous Ta Prohm, undoubtedly the most atmospheric ruin at Angkor. Unlike the other monuments of Angkor, it has been left to be swallowed by the jungle. After lunch visit the magnificent 12th-century Angkor Wat. This evening, enjoy a glass of champagne and watch the sunset at Phnom Krom temple.



*Please note: The Central Tower of the Angkor Wat complex is closed on Buddhist holidays and on all other days has a limited number of visitors allowed at any given time, under regulations from UNESCO. 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' schedule.*

### Destination Information

**Ta Prohm** - Swallowed by the jungle where Strangler Figs and Kapok Trees have entwined themselves around the ruins. Undoubtedly, the most atmospheric ruin at Angkor with several towers, closed courtyards and narrow corridors to explore.

**Angkor Thom** - This fortified city is flanked by a row of 54 stone figures on each side, which leads you through a 23-meter imposing stone entrance gate to the various temples inside.

**Bayon** - Beautifully crafted central towers, decorated with four opposing faces representing King Jayavarman VII. Bayon's stone galleries display extraordinary bas-reliefs incorporating over 11,000 figures.

**Angkor Wat** - Surrounded by a 190-meter moat and taking 30 years to build, Angkor Wat represents the Khmer civilisation at its grandest. With its fascinating decorative flourishes, extensive bas-relief and multiple tiers, it is the best-preserved temple within the complex.

### Day 21: Siem Reap

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Embrace your inner explorer as you discover the ancient ruins of Beng Melea, a forgotten and lost jungle temple on the outskirts of the Angkor Complex. It's about a 2 hour drive to reach the Beng Melea which some say may have been a prototype for the centrepiece of the empire - Angkor Wat. The actual history of the temple remains a mystery, although it is thought to have been built in the 12th century. Completely overgrown by jungle, the temple has an eerie, abandoned feel. There are fantastic photo opportunities of trees sprouting out of the towers, walls covered in thick green moss and tree roots entwined in the crumbling structure.



No restoration work has been carried out and some parts of the temple are inaccessible, however, a large boardwalk with viewing platforms wraps around the temple.

### Day 22: Depart Siem Reap

Meals included: Breakfast

Any time before your flight is free is at your leisure today. You will be transferred 1 hour from the hotel to the airport, according to the departure time of your international flight.

## The Majestic Mekong Travel Information

### Visas

**Cambodia:** A visa is required for entry into Cambodia. 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 Embassy. If this is the case we will notify you as soon as possible.

**Vietnam:** For UK citizens entry visas for Vietnam are required for stays longer than 15 days or for multiple entries into Vietnam within a 30 day period; therefore UK citizens will not need a visa to enter Vietnam for a single entry stay of up to 15 days. Currently this visa exemption rule applies until 30th June 2018. Should the visa requirements for UK citizens travelling to Vietnam change after 30th June 2018 you will be contacted by Wendy Wu Tours regarding your visa requirements. To allow for unforeseen circumstances if your tour includes a stay of 15 days or more in Vietnam the standard visa processing service is included in your tour cost.

If you do require a visa Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining one. We will supply you with all paperwork and submit the visa application on your behalf. Visas for Vietnam are issued with specific start and expiry dates which are based on the dates stated on the visa application form. Travel must be completed within those dates. Please be advised that your passport must have at least 6-months validity left on it when you arrive back into UK. Visa application forms and all relevant documentation are due in our office 60 days prior to departure; if received after this, urgent visa processing fees will apply. Please note we do not accept passports and visa applications within 30 days prior to departure. Passports will be returned with your Final Documentation 2-3 weeks prior to your group tour's scheduled departure.

### 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. These details will be available to your national escort should they be required. 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.

### Eating in South East Asia

Southeast Asia is home to an incredibly rich food history. The local cuisine is known for its intense flavours, spices and some of the freshest ingredients you can find. In general, meals include either rice or noodles and are packed full of flavour. Lemongrass, ginger, lime leaves, coriander, fish sauce and soy sauce are used in most local dishes. Whilst Southeast Asian food has a reputation for being hot and spicy, each region actually has its own distinct characteristics. Vietnam, for example, is perhaps best known for its fresh and aromatic dishes – relying heavily on flavours from fresh herbs such as mint, basil and dill.

Your itinerary has been carefully crafted to introduce you to a range of local dishes and we hope that you enjoy the culinary adventure ahead. When dining in Southeast Asia, although some restaurants have adopted a western approach to dining, expect some restaurants to follow the traditional communal style of

eating. Typically, this will mean each diner has their own small bowl and may serve themselves from a variety of shared dishes.

### Evenings at Leisure

To give you more flexibility and choice when travelling on selected Exclusive tours; we have carefully balanced special highlight meals with evenings at leisure so that you can explore the many culinary delights that South East Asia has to offer. Alternatively, you can use this time to enjoy the facilities of your luxurious accommodation.

Your National Escort will be happy to provide you with advice about good places to eat, and assist in the booking of transportation to get you there (at your own expense).

### Accommodation

As 'Majestic Mekong' tour is part of our Exclusive Collection, you will be staying in 5\* accommodation throughout your tour. We have provided time in your itinerary to have the opportunity to experience the facilities of your accommodation, or relax, allowing you to get the most out of the hotel experience. On this tour you will spend 3 nights aboard a river cruise boat on the Mekong, all cabins feature private bathrooms and balcony access.

### Transport

**Coaches:** Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Roads in South East Asia have generally 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 itinerary are approximations only.

**Planes:** Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines.

### Development in South East Asia

Although South East Asia is developing quickly, it still lacks the international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. Concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in the UK. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in the UK; for example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade. 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, refer to notices and follow advice from your National Escort or Local Guides.

### Cambodia & Vietnam public holidays

If you are travelling within the below Vietnamese Public Holidays please note that celebrations can last a couple of days and during these times some businesses will be closed and coach, air and train travel may be affected. Tourist attractions will be open, but may be crowded. In Cambodia Khmer New Year is celebrated between 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> April every year, the King's birthday is celebrated between 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and the Water festival is between 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017. In Vietnam Tet Holiday is between 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017 and 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018, International Labour Day is on 1<sup>st</sup> May every year, Reunification Day is on 30<sup>th</sup> April every year and National Independence Day is on 2<sup>nd</sup> September every year.

## Optional activities

A list of optional activities and approximate costs will be provided with your final documents. These can be arranged by your guide and are paid for locally.

## Group Size

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by a national escort. If there are less than 10 travellers in the group, they will be accompanied by local guide in each city. There will usually be no more than 18 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling. The minimum age of customers on this tour is 18 years old.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so. For groups with fewer than 10 travellers, departures will operate with local guides only.

## Tipping Policy

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and South East Asia is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. In order to avoid any inconvenience Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your national escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed to local guides and drivers throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the national escort.

If you are travelling in a smaller group with local guides only, then tipping is paid in each destination. To be fair to the guides we ask for slightly higher amounts per traveller with small groups.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

## Climate

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

## 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 (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks prior to departure.

## Itinerary changes



It is our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate; in these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

**Last updated: June 2017**