



## Vietnam & Cambodia Discovery

Immerse Yourself | 21 Days | Active

Hanoi – Hoang Su Phi – Halong Bay – Hue – Hoi An – Saigon – Mekong Delta  
– Siem Reap

Discover these two fascinating countries from hiking in the rice terraces and tasting the street food in Vietnam, to the unforgettable exploration of the Angkor Wat complex by tuk tuk in Cambodia.

- Discover the delights of Hanoi
- Hike through the rice terraces of Hoang Su Phi
- Relax with a cruise on Halong Bay
- Soak up the scenery on the Hai Van Pass
- Explore the ancient town of Hoi An
- Meet the locals on the Mekong Delta
- Marvel at the magnificent temples of Angkor



### Vietnam and Cambodia Discovery tour inclusions:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- Meals as stated on your 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
- 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.*

### Immerse Yourself:

Designed for those who wish to be further immersed in the authentic charm of Asia; tours in our Immerse Yourself range include more cultural and active experiences. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts or local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience. These tours include:

- Cycling and walking through classic sites
- Unique cultural experiences and encounters
- Off the beaten track destinations
- More evenings at leisure for independent exploration

### Active Tours:

'Vietnam and Cambodia Discovery' is an **Active** tour. This is one of the most demanding trips Wendy Wu Tours offers. As a whole, this itinerary requires a high level of fitness.

- There will be both short and long periods of walking whilst sightseeing
- In Hoang Su Phi you will be hiking up to 5 hours each day
- In Hue and the Mekong there will be bicycle tours of the local areas which can involve cycling over uneven ground
- On some days, there will be long periods of driving, particularly between Hanoi and Hoang Su Phi
- Throughout the itinerary you will be required to get on and off varying sizes of boats often without assistance

Of course, our National Escorts 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. If you require any more information about the pace of our 'Immerse Yourself' Tours, please contact our reservations team who will be happy to answer your questions.

## Itinerary – Vietnam and Cambodia Discovery

### Days 1-2: Hanoi

Meals included: Dinner

Fly to Hanoi where you will be met at the airport in the arrival hall by your Local Guide or National Escort. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer 45 minutes to your hotel and check into your room or store any luggage if your room is not ready yet. There is no sightseeing today.



#### 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

Start your morning with a wander through Ba Dinh Square and visit the Ho Chi Minh complex, final resting place of Uncle Ho and the House on Stilts. Next, learn about Vietnam’s ethnic minorities at the Ethnology Museum before visiting the Confucian Temple of Literature. Take a walking tour of Hanoi’s exciting Old Quarter before taking a light stroll along Hoan Kiem Lake, a great place to people watch. Sightseeing in central Hanoi involves approximately 4 hours on foot. This evening, take a walking tour of the city’s unique street-side night life and food vendors. Taste the varied flavours of Vietnamese street food such as Pho Cuon and barbeque beef.



*The Ethnology Museum is closed on Mondays and on Vietnamese New Year, if your visit falls on these days you will go to the Vietnamese Women’s Museum as an alternative. 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.*

#### Destination Information

**Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum** – is a large memorial, located in Ba Dinh Square. It is the final resting place of Ho Chi Minh, who announced Vietnam’s independence in the same location in 1945.

**Ethnology Museum** –At the Ethnology Museum you will learn about the minority groups of Hanoi, including the black and red H’mong hill people. The museum is made up of an inside and outside area. The outside area displays traditional Vietnamese houses.

**Temple of Literature** – Dating back to 11th century, the Temple of Literature has long played an important centre for Confucianism and scholarly learning.

**Day 4: Hanoi - Hoang Su Phi**

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast travel approximately 9 hours to Hoang Su Phi, one of northern Vietnam's emerald green rice terrace areas, stopping en route for lunch. The rest of the day is at leisure to begin exploring.

In Hoang Su Phi you will be staying in a local eco lodge. Please be aware that accommodation here is basic and the hot water for showers is solar powered so may not always be reliable.

*You will need to pack a smaller bag for your 3 night trip to Hoang Su Phi. Main luggage will be left in safe storage at the hotel in Hanoi and picked up your return.*

**Destination Information**

**Hoang Su Phi** – Home to spectacular rice terraces, lush valleys and rugged mountains, Hoang Su Phi is an explorer's dream and Sapa's lesser known, but equally spectacular counterpart.

**Day 5: Panhou**

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast, hike for approximately 4 hours today to visit Tay village, through the spectacular countryside, you will walk over some uneven surfaces and at times at an incline. You will walk along the Chay river, pass through the dam, enjoy rice paddies and mountain scenery while walking to Tay Village where you can discover more local culture. Enjoy lunch at the one of the houses of the Tay people, before walking back to the lodge.

*Please ensure you have sturdy and comfortable walking shoes as mountain trails can become slippery in wet weather.*

**Day 6: Panhou**

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today leave Pan Hou with your guide to explore the nearby mountains through rice terraces. Walk through a local market before hiking along the trail and see a panorama view of terrace paddies fields. By necessity, the local people have sculpted the mountainside and use its water courses to grow rice. These laborious adjustments, which enable them to live in the heights, offer you some unique landscapes to contemplate. In crop season, their fields look like pieces of curved mirror. Later in rice season, they have various green and yellow colours with different tones which made them a vivid picture. After a few hours of trekking, take a break in a village of the Red Dao for lunch. Then we continue our discovery of the local vegetation while trekking back to Panhou.



*Today's walking time will total to a duration of approximately 4-5 hours.*

**Day 7: Hoang Su Phi – Hanoi**

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Travel 9 hours back to Hanoi and enjoy the rest of your day at leisure.

**Day 8: Hanoi – Halong Bay**

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Drive 4 hours today from Hanoi to Halong, where you will take an overnight cruise to the far-most corners of the bay. Boarding your boat could involve navigating your way over and through other boats, moored between it and the dock, sometimes without handrails, ladders or assistance from staff.



Enjoy lunch onboard as you cruise out into the bay, stopping to anchor for an afternoon of activities (which are subject to change due to cruise selection and weather conditions). Sightseeing includes visiting underground caves on the islands, which require climbing up and down steps inside and outside of the caves. End the day on deck with a drink in hand to watch the sunset over the bay followed by a freshly prepared dinner, before retiring to your cabin for the night.

*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 on your return.*

*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.*

**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 9: Halong Bay – Hue**

Meals included: Brunch, Dinner

Start your day on deck with a relaxing Tai Chi session whilst you admire an amazing sunrise over the karst scenery. Spend the morning sailing through Halong Bay. After brunch return to Hanoi for your 1 hour flight to Hue.



### Destination Information

**Hue** – was the former imperial capital of Vietnam and the imperial palace is based on the Forbidden City in Beijing.

### Day 10: Hue

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Cycle through Hue for a tour of the imperial sights. The tour lasts from around 8:30am and 4pm stopping for lunch and at the sites, the roads are mostly flat. Start at the imperial City, then continue to Phu Mong Garden House, part of Hue's legacy from the Nguyen Dynasty. Return to your bike and stop at Thien Mu Pagoda which overlooks the Perfume River. Drive to Tu Duc Tomb, a sprawling compound with lakes, waterways and walkways connecting different memorials.



### 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.

**Thien Mu Pagoda** - This seven-storey octagonal tower built on a hillock, overlooking the Perfume River is Hue's oldest and most beautiful pagoda.

### Day 11: Hue – Hoi An

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Drive for 3 to 4 hours to Hoi An, stopping en route at the Museum of Cham Sculpture, this journey will take you over the scenic Hai Van Pass. On arrival into Hoi An, enjoy a leisurely afternoon walk past Chinese traders' houses, local artists and the 16th century Japanese Bridge.



### Destination Information

**Museum of Cham Sculpture** – Located on the Han River, the Museum of Cham Sculpture is the world's largest collection of Cham architecture. The Cham people are an ethnic group of South East Asia, living in Cambodia and Vietnam.

**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. In 1999, the town was declared a UNESCO World Heritage listed site for having the most unique architecture in Southeast Asia.

**Japanese Covered Bridge** - First constructed in the 1590s to link the Japanese and Chinese quarters of the town. This iconic pink hued bridge has been restored to its former splendour.

### Day 12: Hoi An

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Pay a visit to a local farmer where you can try your hand at traditional farming techniques. Enjoy a calming boat ride to a fishing village where you can try and make fishing nets and paddle bamboo basket boats. Return to Hoi An and take a cruise along the river where you will meet a fisherman who will teach you the secret Vietnamese fishing techniques. Next hop into a basket boat and have the opportunity to paddle it yourself.



### Day 13: Hoi An - Saigon

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

This morning will be at leisure before transferring to Danang for your 1 hour flight to Saigon. This evening, you will be driven around Saigon on the back of a vintage Vespa with an experienced driver. Stop for a cocktail before tasting mouth-watering dishes in Chinatown, District 4 and the backstreets of Saigon.



#### Destination Information

**Saigon** - Saigon is one of the world's truly cosmopolitan cities with a history, culture and style obtained from colonial France, ancient China and the art deco era. Once the main port of Cambodia's Mekong territory, Saigon became the capital of France's Cochinchina and later the capital of the Republic of Vietnam. It remained the capital of South Vietnam until reunification at the end of the American War in Vietnam in 1975, when the capital was moved to Hanoi.

### Day 14: Saigon

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning drive 2 hours to discover the amazing network of the Cu Chi Tunnels. Sightseeing here involves 2 hours on foot on uneven mud paths through the bush and, if you choose, crawling through some of the tunnels. Continue to Reunification Palace, the Central Post Office, pass the Notre Dame Cathedral before visiting the War Remnants Museum. Sightseeing in central Saigon will be approximately 3 hours.



*Please note: The Notre Dame Cathedral will be under renovation for 2 years, starting in July 2017. During this time we are unable to enter the Cathedral; however we can view it from the outside.*

### Destination Information

**Cu Chi Tunnels** - 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. The tunnels were used by Viet Cong soldiers as hiding spots during combat, as well as serving as communication and supply routes, hospitals, food and weapon caches and living quarters for numerous North Vietnamese fighters.

**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.

**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.

**Notre Dame Cathedral** - Influenced by French design and built between 1863 and 1880, the red brick exterior and 60-meter bell towers overlook downtown Saigon.

**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 15: Saigon - Mekong Delta

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Head south for 2 hours to Ben Tre, gateway to the Mekong Delta. Here, you will take a boat ride on the river, observing daily life and the beautiful scenery, passing by the mangrove and palm trees along the river bank. Visit a handy brickkiln, a coconut processing workshop and a candy workshop. Continue boating through the winding natural canal whilst discovering the rural countryside. Visit a farmer's house making sleep mats. Take a bicycle on paths to a local house for lunch and continue on a rowing boat along the canal. Ride on coconut tree-shaded paths through the village, and stop at Mr. Sau Khanh's house – a local man who has collected a lot of ancient ceramics, potteries like bowls, vases and sculptures originally from Asia.



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

### 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 16: Mekong Delta - Saigon

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Travel to the Cho Lach district, stopping to visit a garden nursery and an orchard where you can enjoy fresh fruit and learn more about the process of tending to the plants from locals. Pay a visit to the Cai Nhum Cathedral before returning 2 to 3 hours' drive to Saigon.



### Day 17: Saigon – Siem Reap

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning transfer to the airport for your 1 hour and 20 minute flight to Siem Reap, gateway to the Angkor complex. This evening, watch a performance by the PHARE Cambodian Circus, an NGO which teaches street children to become internationally renowned circus artists.



#### Destination Information

**Siem Reap** – Known as the gateway to Angkor, the architecture in Siem Reap is heavily influenced by Chinese, French and Khmer styles. Siem Reap literally translates as 'Defeat of Siam', a reference to a historical battle between the Khmer people and the Thai Siam people.

### Day 18: Siem Reap

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

What better way to see the world famous Angkor Wat Complex than from the back of a traditional tuk tuk. You will explore Angkor Wat, the centrepiece of the Complex, before visiting Angkor Thom and the Bayon. Lastily, visit Ta Prohm, atmospherically buried deep in the jungle. Two people plus one guide can travel in each tuk tuk. The complex can get very hot so always bring water with you and wear comfortable, light clothing. You will tour the Angkor Complex for approximately 5 hours.



*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

**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.

**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.

**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.

#### Day 19: Siem Reap

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast this morning, head to the floating villages of Siem Reap. The Tonle Sap is the largest fresh water lake in southeast Asia and is home to a very different lifestyle, which can be observed from your boat. In the high water season, you will travel to Kompong Khleang a unique village on stilts. In the lower water season you will visit a local library project which promotes education and take a traditional ox cart ride through the fields. Continue to the less visited Beng Mealea, a temple over run by the jungle.



#### Destination Information

**Beng Mealea** - Dating from the 11th century, this sprawling temple covers over one square kilometre. Largely overrun by vegetation and constructed in a distinctly Angkor Wat-style, Beng Mealea precedes and may even have served as a 'prototype' for Angkor Wat.

#### Days 20-21: Depart Siem Reap – Arrive UK

Meals included: Breakfast

Transfer to the airport for your flight to the UK arriving home the following day; any time before your flight is at leisure.

## Vietnam & Cambodia Discovery Travel Information

### Visas

**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.

**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, passports will usually be returned within 4 weeks of your tour's scheduled departure. 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.

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.

### 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.

### Evenings at Leisure

To give you more flexibility and choice when travelling on selected Immerse Yourself range; we have carefully balanced special highlight meals with evenings at leisure so that you can explore the many culinary delights that Southeast Asia has to offer. Alternatively, you can use this time to enjoy the facilities of your hotel. 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).

## Eating in Southeast 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. At some local restaurants, appetizers and main courses might be served when they are ready instead of following a particular order.

Determining when it's appropriate to use chopsticks, forks or spoons can be challenging for some travellers, even other Asians, as each country has different customs. In Vietnam, dishes are normally placed in the centre and people serve food for themselves with their own chopsticks and bowl. In Thailand and some other countries in Southeast Asia, fork and spoon are used for most dishes and chopsticks are typically provided to eat noodles. Usually chopsticks or other utensils are provided to scoop the food into your bowl to prevent your own chopsticks from touching the food that remains on the table. Dining in Southeast Asia is fairly casual with not too many rules. Leaving food on the plate is not considered rude.

Please refer to your travel guide for more information on Southeast Asian cuisine, including information for travellers with restricted diets.

## 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 to four-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 Southeast



Asia. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide. 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.

Solo travellers: If you are a solo traveller and willing to share a room, you will not have to pay a single supplement for any hotel rooms. Willing to share single travellers booking within 75 days of the first day of a group tour will be subject to availability. If no suitable match is available at time of booking you will be required to pay all single supplements.

## 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 Southeast Asia

Although Southeast 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.

## Vietnamese and Cambodian public holidays

If you are travelling within the below Cambodian and 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 Vietnam Tet Holiday is between 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018 and 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019, 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. 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 2018.

## Group Size

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by a National Escort. 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.

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 instead of a National Escort.

## Tipping Policy

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and Southeast 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: August 2017**