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## Unique Indochina Tour

18 days / 17 nights

### Highlights

- See the best of Northern Vietnam including: charming Hanoi capital, colorful ethnic market in Sapa and spectacular Halong Bay
- Enjoy a traditional water puppet show outside instead of in a theater
- Explore My Son Holy Land, the old spiritual capital of Champa Kingdom
- Visit Ben Tre, the capital of coconut and observe the daily activities of people in the Mekong Delta
- Take a boat trip to the most bustling floating market of Cai Rang
- Discover the magnificent beauty of Angkor Temple Complex
- End your trip at peaceful capital of Luang Prabang, one of the World Heritage Sites

### Detailed itinerary

#### Day 1: Hanoi Arrival

Upon arrival, pick up and transfer to the hotel for check in. Hanoi, a city where the exotic chic of old Asia blends with the dynamic face of new Asia, a must-see destination in any tours to Vietnam and Cambodia. You are free to discover the bustling city or relax at hotel. Overnight in Hanoi

*Overnight: Hanoi*

#### Day 2: Hanoi – Sapa (B, L)

Today, we enjoy a full day city tour of this charming capital city including the mausoleum of the nation's founder Ho Chi Minh (close on Monday & Friday), the Presidential Palace, the Ho Chi Minh's house on stilts, the One Pillar Pagoda, the Temple of Literature. Lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, you will visit the impressive Ethnology Museum and take a cyclo tour for a short excursion through the bustling old quarter streets named after the specific goods once offered for sale such as: Hang Dau, Hang Gai, Hang Thiec, Hang Ma, etc. You will back to hotel for relaxing before we transfer you to the train station to catch the train to Sapa. Overnight on a sleeper train (Vietnam's standard, 4 persons/4 berth/one cabin)

*Overnight: Sapa train*

### Day 3: Sapa Tour (B)

Arrive in Lao Cai station at the early morning. We will take a 45 minute trip by bus to reach to Sapa. You will check in hotel and have breakfast. Free to discover the busy market of Sapa where ethnic people such as Res Dzao, Black and Flower Hmong, Giay from surrounding villages gather to sell their hand-made silverware and handicrafts. In the afternoon, you will depart to visit Lao Chai and Ta Van village of the Black H'mong and the Giay people. You may not mind walking to enjoy fresh air, amazing scenery of the imposing mountain range, trekking down world's most beautiful terraced rice fields, visiting some local family on the way and learning unique culture and life of these ethnic groups. Back to Sapa by private car, free at leisure for the rest of the day. Overnight in Sapa

*Overnight: Sapa*

### Day 4: Sapa - Market Tour - Train to Hanoi (B,L)

Breakfast at your hotel. Today we will have a chance to discover one of the colorful markets of hill tribal groups in the Northern Vietnam. The market is not only the meeting place where minority people buy and sell their products but also an important cultural exchange destination. Hereafter is market's calendar: Can Cau - Saturdays Bac Ha or Muong Hum or Muong Khuong - Sundays Cao Son - Wednesdays Lung Khau Nhin - Thursdays Coc Ly - Tuesdays In the late afternoon transfer back to Lao Cai to catch the night train back to Hanoi. Overnight on the train

*Overnight: Sapa train*

### Day 5: Hanoi - Halong Bay (B,L,D)

Return to Hanoi in the early morning. You will have 2 hours to relax, bath and have breakfast before the shuttle bus pick you up to transfer to Halong. You will have 30 minute break en route. Arrive in Halong at 12:00 pm, check in Halong cruise. You'll be welcomed on board our luxury junk and treated with fruit juice and cold towel when our manager takes a briefing of the cruise itinerary. You will enjoy seafood lunch while the junk glides further into the centre of Halong Bay. The cruise will stop for tourists to visit Sung Sot Cave and discover Titop Island. Don't forget to bring swimsuit with you. Overnight on board

*Overnight: Halong Junk Boat*

### Day 6: Halong Bay - Yen Duc Village - Hoi An (B, L)

After breakfast, we'll take a little sampan to visit a secret lagoon of Ha Long Bay while the surrounding mountains are just waking up. After that our cruise takes us further into the Bay of Bai Tu Long traveling past the Human Head Island, the Turtle Island, and the Duck Islet... to the studio site where the famous Indochine film was shot. You can do kayaking or swimming here with the guide of one cruise staff. Around noon, our junk travels back to the harbor, pick up and drive back to Hanoi. On the way, we will visit Yen Duc Village, one of peaceful and rustic agricultural villages in the Red River Delta. You will see a water puppet show outside instead of inside a theater. Fruits and snack will be served when you are watching the show. Transfer back to the airport for your afternoon flight with Vietnam airlines to Da Nang. Pick up and transfer to your hotel in Hoi An, evening free at leisure in Hoi An. Overnight in a Hoi An hotel

*Overnight: Hoi An*

### Day 7: Hoi An discovery (B)

Breakfast at hotel. You will have a full day tour to discover highlights Hoi An old quarter: the Chinese Temple, Phung Hung old house, the the 400 year-old Japanese Covered Bridge, colorful riverside market. Then, we'll visit a lantern factory in Hoi An, where you will have the opportunity to learn how to make

lanterns. Overnight in Hoi An

*Overnight: Hoi An*

### Day 8: Hoi An - My Son - Hoi An (B)

This morning you will depart to My Son Holy land, once the spiritual capital of Champa Kingdom that dominated South East Asia for nearly a thousand years and occupied most of the central parts of Vietnam from 2nd century to 16th century. The remarkable red brick towers and sanctuaries dating from between the 7th and 13th centuries remains as a special proof concerning the architecture and building of Champa Kingdom. Back to Hoi An and free at your leisure. Overnight in Hoi An

*Overnight: Hoi An*

### Day 9: Hoi An – Saigon (B)

This morning, we pick you and transfer to Danang for the flight to Saigon. Arrive at the airport, transfer to your hotel for check in. Saigon, the most exciting city of Vietnam, a mecca of commerce, also a city with a chequered history and a rich culture, its pagodas, museums, public buildings, parks and boulevards make it one of the most delightful places to visit in Vietnam and Cambodia Tour. In the afternoon, we'll embark on a tour of Vietnam starting with the most popular sites: the Central Post Office, the Cathedral, and the War Museum. The tour ends with a visit of Ben Thanh Market. Overnight in Saigon

*Overnight: Saigon*

### Day 10: Saigon - Cu Chi (B)

Morning pick up from the hotel for Cu Chi tour, en route to visit the bustling market at Thu Dau Mot. Upon arrival in Cu Chi, you will be surprised by the incredible underground tunnel network of approximately 200 kilometres hand-constructed by Vietnam guerillas during the America- Vietnam war. Back to Saigon and overnight in a hotel

*Overnight: Saigon*

### Day 11: Saigon - Ben Tre - Can Tho (B, L)

After breakfast, we will depart for Ben Tre - the "coconut capital" in Vietnam. Arriving at the pier of Hung Vuong. A short transfer by boat takes us into the small canals covered by coconut forests. During the tour we will have the opportunity to admire the vibrant local activities from, fishing along the river to experiencing life on channels. We will visit a local coconut candy factory, the brickyard of Mr. Tu Lo and learn the procession to create a brick in the traditional way. Have lunch at a small local restaurant. After lunch, we will have a bit of time to relax and then take a bike ride through lush gardens, channels to drop by the ancient house of Mr. Sau Khanh to admire his splendid collection of antiques. Drive to Can Tho and spend overnight in Can Tho.

*Overnight: Can Tho*

### Day 12: Can Tho – Cai Rang floating market – Chau Doc (B)

Early in the morning, we will depart from from Ninh Kieu boat quay, we cruise along the small and picturesque tributaries to visit Cai Rang floating market. Take in the beautiful scenery and the daily activities of the locals who lives along the Mekong canals. Later, we'll get to visit the Binh Thuy ancient house where the Academy Award-winning 1992 movie "The Lover" was filmed, and then a stop at the Khmer pagoda. Once finished, we will depart for Can Tho and head back to Chau Doc. Check in hotel and take a boat trip to explore the floating fish farms. Overnight in Chau Doc

*Overnight: Chau Doc*

### Day 13: Chau Doc – Boat to Phnom Penh (B)

After breakfast, get on speed boat to Phnom Penh. Late afternoon, we will arrive in Phnom Penh (12:30pm). In the afternoon, we'll begin the city tours with the Royal Palace (including the Silver Pagoda which was built in 1866 during the French protectorate of King Norodom), the National Museum, (built by King Sisowath in 1920), as well as the pagoda of Wat Phnom, which is, located on a hill offering a panoramic view of the city and top off our adventure at Russian Market. Overnight at a hotel

*Overnight: Phnom Penh*

### Day 14: Phnom Penh– Flight to Siem Reap (B)

In the morning, we depart for airport to catch the flight to Siem Reap. Check in hotel and we will visit Roulous Temple Complex, the archaeological site of Hariharalaya that was built in the 9th century including Preah Ko temple and Lolei towers, the mammoth Bakong – a mountain temple which is similar to a pyramid with five level stands and a wide canal that surrounds the center. In the afternoon, we'll begin to the visit of Angkor Wat, the most famous and largest religious complex of Khmer Empire in the world. Overnight in a hotel

*Overnight: Siem Reap*

### Day 15: Angkor Discovery (B)

Today we have a full day tour to explore Angkor Complex. We begin the trip with a visit on tuk tuk to the city of Angkor Thom, the South Gate, the spectacular temple of Bayon, with more than two hundred enigmatic faces, the temple of the Leper King and the snake, and; Pimeanakas, the area where it was located within the Royal Palace. Continueing to visit Small Circuit: Ta Prohm temple, which is very popular with scenes in the movie "Tomb Raider". And finally, we explore the famous and largest religious site of Angkor Wat. Have dinner at a local restaurant with a Apsara dance show. Overnight in Siem Reap

*Overnight: Siem Reap*

### Day 16: Siem Reap – Tonle Sap Lake – Luang Prabang (B)

This morning, we will take Cruise on Tonle Sap Lake for 1hour, visit the floating village of Kompong Phluk and explore the daily life of fishermen, then back to visit Chantie Ecole-Artisan D'Angkor. Then, we'll go shopping at Phsar Chas market where you can find the high quality souvenir such as silk, jewelry for your friends and family. In the afternoon, we transfer to the airport for our flight to Luang Prabang. Check in hotel and free at your leisure

*Overnight: Luang Prabang*

### Day 17: Luang Prabang City Tour (B)

If you wish, get an early start (6:00am or so) and go watch or participate in Tak Bat, the traditional Lao rite of Almsgiving to the monks. This is an important ancient Buddhist ritual that still happens in this city. Return to your hotel for breakfast. After breakfast, begin a Mekong Riverboat trip to visit the famous & sacred Pak Ou Buddha Caves, home to many thousands of Buddha images that were placed here by local people since 16th century, when King Setthathirat found the caves and declared them a holy spot. Walk through the caves before returning to your boat and to Luang Prabang town. Enjoy lunch en route. In the afternoon, you will visit Royal Palace Museum where and you can see a large number of interesting craft items. Afterwards we will visit the magnificent Wat Xieng Thong, the beautiful Wat Mai and stupa of Wat Visoun, and the Arts and Ethnology Centre to better understand the tradition and customs of the ethnic minorities live in Laos. Overnight in Luang Prabang.

## *Overnight: Luang Prabang*

### Day 18: Luang Prabang Departure (B)

Free at leisure until we transfer you to the airport for your departure flight. With the sincere thanks for booking your Vietnam & Cambodia Tours with us, we hope that you have enjoyed your Indochina trip and look forward to welcoming you back for your next Indochina Tours, goodbye and see you again!!!

End of the journey!

## *Included*

### Included

- All private transportation
- Accommodation based on double/twin sharing room
- Meals as mentioned in the program
- Entrance fee and sightseeing ticket
- Vietnam visa approval letter
- Sleeper train from Hanoi to Sapa and vice versa
- Overnight boat in Halong Bay
- Local English speaking guide

### Not Included

- International & domestic flights
- Personal travel expenses: laundry, tips, telephone
- Vietnam & Cambodia visa fee
- Travel Insurance
- Drinks and beverage in meals
- Single room supplement in hotel
- Others not mentioned in the program