



MAGICAL EXPLORER

22 day Ultimate Indochina

Day 1_Hanoi

Meeting & greeting at the airport upon your arrival and transfer to your hotel. If time permits, we will take a short orientation tour around central Hanoi.

Day 2_Hanoi - Night train to Lao Cai

(Includes Breakfast)

Today we have a full day tour to visit the various memorials and complexes of Ho Chi Minh, the famous revolutionary leader. We will also visit Single Pillar Pagoda and the Temple of Literature.

Afternoon we visit the Museum of Ethnology which exhibits a large collection of artefacts and full size unique wooden buildings of the 54 ethnic groups in Vietnam.

Next, we enjoy a rickshaw ride through the lively Old Quarter and end up at an old house on Ma May Street, which is a great example of dwellings in the 19th century.

Later we walk through the busy traffic to the water puppet theatre and enjoy a performance of the famed traditional art form created by village farmers around the Red River Delta region.

Transfer to Hanoi Railway Station and board a **night train to Lao Cai** on the border with China, the gateway to Sapa.

Day 3_Lao Cai -Sapa

(Includes Breakfast, Lunch)

Early morning arrival at Lao Cai Railway Station, we'll be greeted and transferred 40 km upland to Sapa.

Enjoy breakfast then descend by car to Muong Hoa Valley where we'll trek a meandering path through the villages of Lao Chai and Ta Van of the Black Hmong and Day people. Home visits are included to discover local life.

Enjoy a picnic lunch in a village on our trek return to town. Take a moderate climb up Ham Rong Mount for a great view of Vietnam's highest mountain range, Fanxipan, filled with terraced rice paddies and deep valleys.

There's also a chance to enjoy a show by ethnic minority artists.

Day 4_Sapa - Lao Cai - Train to Hanoi

(Includes Breakfast, Lunch)



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Free in the morning to relax or explore the town independently.

In the afternoon we travel by car to the ethnic villages of Ma Tra and Ta Phin and take a light trek to experience the local life of the ethnic minority people of H'Mong and Red Dzaio, the 2 largest ethnic groups in the area.

Later we transfer to Lao Cai and visit the border gate to China before taking the night train back to Hanoi.

NOTE: Alternatively, a hill tribe market tour can be arranged (Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday)

Day 5_Hanoi - Halong Bay

(Includes Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Back in Hanoi early this morning, we'll be met and transferred to a mini hotel for refreshment and breakfast.

We Leave Hanoi by road to Halong Bay and enjoy the rural scenery as our vehicle travels through the picturesque countryside. Along the way we can stop for close-up views and photographs of water buffalos ploughing, and chat with the rural women wearing their traditional conical hats as they work in the paddy fields.

On arrival at Halong we board a nostalgic traditional junk boat and enjoy a full day and night cruising among the inspirational islets of Halong Bay. Kayaking and swimming are optional, and you can also try your luck at fishing in the bay, or just relax after your dinner. Overnight in Halong Bay on a luxury Junk watching the sun set.

Day 6_Halong - Danang - Hoian

(Includes Breakfast, Lunch)

Wake up to fresh coffee then further cruising and more sightseeing. En-route the junk weaves through impressive rock formations as we return to port.

Disembark and transfer to airport for a flight to Danang in Middle Vietnam. Meet up with our local guide upon arrival and drive 35 km along the scenic coast to the quaint town of Hoian for the night.

Day 7_Hoian

(Includes Breakfast)

This morning we'll be on foot exploring the ancient UNESCO registered quarter of Hoian, with its well-preserved ancient streets.

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Tour includes the Japanese Bridge, a Sino-Vietnamese merchant house, Chinese Temple, Central Market, and the Culture Museum.

There'll be free time for shopping opportunities, as Hoian is a very good place to find interesting gifts or have a shirt, suit or dress tailor-made (usually ready in 24 hours).

Day 8_Hoian

(Includes Breakfast)

Free day to relax in Hoian and enjoy the hotels amenities, relax on the sandy local beaches or go shopping.

Day 9_Hoian - Danang - Hue

(Includes Breakfast, Dinner)

We leave Hoian and travel overland to Hue, the former capital of Vietnam, We break our journey to the Cham sculpture museum, seeing Non Nuoc Beach and the Marble Mountains in Danang,

In Hue we'll explore the former Imperial Citadel, a complex of palaces and temples built in the early 19th century and a recognized UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site.

We also take a leisure boat trip on the scenic Perfume River and visit Thien Mu pagoda.

Round off the evening with Hue cuisine and folk music.

Day 10_Hue - Ho Chi Minh City

(Includes Breakfast)

This morning we visit the tomb of Emperor Minh Mang and also a fascinating royal garden house before taking the flight to Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon).

Upon arrival, meet your guide and driver and explore some of Saigon's famous landmarks including the Former Presidential Palace, War Remnant Museum, Notre Dame Cathedral, Colonial Central Post Office, Opera House and Ben Thanh Market.

Day 11_Ho Chi Minh - Tay Ninh/Caodai Temple - Cu Chi tunnels - Saigon

(Includes Breakfast, Lunch)

Our tour today includes a visit to the opulent Holy See Temple of Caodai Sect in Tay Ninh. Caodai is a fascinating Vietnamese religion combining aspects of Christian, Buddhism, Muslim, Taoism and Confucius into a single religion. There's a chance to observe the impressive noon service of adherents.

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Early afternoon we travel to Cu Chi to explore the legendary network of underground combat tunnels where our guide will explain how the Vietcong survived and fought during the Vietnam War.

Day 12_Ho Chi Minh City - My Tho - Can Tho in Mekong Delta

(Includes Breakfast, Lunch)

We leave the hustle and bustle of Ho Chi Minh City behind and journey to Mekong Delta, a world that lives and works on the waters.

Arriving in My Tho, a prosperous town just 80 km from Ho Chi Minh City. We take a boat to visit family workshops producing handicrafts and candy from coconut.

Enjoy tasting seasonal tropical fruits in an exuberant orchard, we then ride a horse cart to a typical Delta house and enjoy folk music.

Proceed by local sampan through the small canals and side arms of the river to further experience river life. For lunch we'll sample regional specialties such as Elephant Ear Fish, Rice Ball, etc...

After a pleasant break we travel to Can Tho where we take walk around Ninh Kieu Quay - bustling and exciting with river life on Hau River

Day 13_Can Tho - Chau Doc in Mekong Delta

(Includes Breakfast, Lunch)

Early morning, we take a boat to the extraordinary market of Cai Rang. Famous as one of the largest floating markets on the complex of waterways that comprise the Mekong Delta,

It is a great view of how commerce actually happens in the Mekong. The boat tour is capped off with an orchard visit and we drive to Chau Doc on the border with Cambodia.

In Chau Doc, visit a village that garnishes living from fish farming. Continue to a Cham village marked by stilt houses to learn about this Vietnamese Islam ethnic group. Home and mosque visits are included.

Day 14_Chau Doc - Phnom Penh, Cambodia

(Includes Breakfast)

This morning we take a speed boat upstream along the Mekong River. The 4 hour cruise provides an excellent opportunity to enjoy the Mekong Delta. (Boat subject to tide and can be changed to flight)

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In the afternoon we tour the capital city of Cambodia, taking in the opulent Royal Palace with the dazzling Silver Pagoda, National Museum, hilltop temple of Wat Phnom, the Independence Monument.

In the evening stroll along Sisowath Quay to see stalls selling fried cockroaches, spiders, crickets or grasshoppers & other culinary delights!

Day 15_Phnom Penh - Siem Reap

(Includes Breakfast, Dinner)

After breakfast we'll immerse in the exotic sights and sounds of the Central Market located in a distinctive domed Art Deco building, a labyrinth of stalls selling everything from CDs and DVDs to silks, crafts, jewellery and more.

Visit the notorious Toul Sleng Genocide Museum and the infamous Cheoung Ek Killing Fields - proof of the crimes against mankind committed by the Khmer Rouge.

Fly to Siem Reap and enjoy dinner with entertainment from Apsara dancers. Later, visit the lively Pub Street as well the lucky Night Market.

Day 16_Siem Reap

(Includes Breakfast)

We enter the great city of Angkor Thom through the South Gate and visit the temples of Baphoun and Phimeanakas, the Terraces of Elephant and Leper King, and the mysterious smiling Bayon.

Take a break then continue exploring the fascinating temples of Ta Prohm, Banteay Kdei, Takeo, Thommanon, Chau Say Thevoda, and the Royal Bath of Sras Srang.

Hike up Phnom Bakheng to behold the magnificent sunset into the land of temples.

Day 17_Siem Reap

(Includes Breakfast)

This morning, explore the epic Angkor Wat complex. Built in the 12th century as the capital of King Suryavarman II's kingdom, this is the largest and best-preserved of the Angkor temples.

In the afternoon we drive out of town to the rural village of Pour Krom and walk through this lovely village to see local life.

We enjoy an ox cart ride before transfer to Chong Knies village to enjoy a boat trip on the Great Lake of Tonle Sap to see the fascinating floating village communities and get a taste of life ruled by monsoonal rains and water-based agriculture.

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Day 18_Siem Reap - Fly to Luang Prabang

(Includes Breakfast)

Free time until transfer to the airport for your flight to Luang Prabang, Laos. Meet up with our local guide upon arrival and transfer to the hotel.

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Day 19_Luang Prabang

(Includes Breakfast)

Early rise to watch or participate in the unique daily morning ritual, where hundreds of saffron-clad monks walk in procession collecting offerings of sticky rice from devout residents along the roadsides.

After breakfast embark on a cruise upstream on the Mekong River to the mysterious Pak Ou caves, crammed with thousands of gold lacquered Buddha statues left by devoted pilgrims.

We also visit Ban Xangkhong and Ban Xienglek where local people produce traditional textiles and jute paper.

Return to town and tour the most outstanding temples: Wat Visoun with the watermelon-shaped roof, Wat Xiengthong with the sweeping roofs, Wat Sene boasting the most dazzling facade of all Luang Prabang temples, Wat Aham - the "Monastery of the blossomed Heart", and Wat Mai, the largest and most richly decorated of all the temples in town.

We then walk up the steps of Mount Phousi to see the beautiful sunset across Luang Prabang.

Take a leisurely walk through the Night Market at the foot of Mount Phosi to see a lovely array of handicrafts.

Day 20_Luang Prabang

(Includes Breakfast)

This morning we visit the rural around Luang Prabang and get acquainted with the Hmong, Lowland Laotian, and Khmu ethnic minority people.

Visit the beautiful Khouangsi Waterfall that offers a chance to cool off in the turquoise pools.

En-route back to town we call at Ban Phanom village to visit skilled hand-weaving women.

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Soak in the history of Luang Prabang at the Palace Museum which houses statues within the buildings mosaic covered walls.

Day 21_Luang Prabang - Vientiane

(Includes Breakfast)

This morning we fly to Vientiane, the sleepy capitol of Laos.

Meet up with our guide upon arrival and tour the city's major attraction spots.

We'll visit the impressive temples of Wat Sisaket and Wat Phra Keo, the Arc de Triumph of Patuxay, the Great Sacred Stupa of That Luang, and the Buddha Park.

In the evening, free time to walk around the colonial area and riverside.

Day 22_Vientiane - Departure

(Includes Breakfast)

Free time before until transferring to the airport for your departure flight.

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4 star Hotels

HANOI - Golden Silk Hotel

HALONG BAY LUXURY CRUISE - Ba Tho Junk

HOIAN - Hoian Beach Resort

HUE - Huong Giang Hotel

HO CHI MINH CITY - Rex Hotel

PHNOM PENH - Sunway Hotel

SIEM REAP - Empress Hotel

LUANG PRABANG - Villa Santi Hotel

VIENTIANE - Donchan Palace Hotel

All hotels selected are based on strict requirement on cleanness, comfort, location and a high international standard that we expect from our hotel suppliers to deliver to our valued guests. If any of the above hotels are not available, a similar hotel in the same standard will be provided.

Price Includes:

- All flights within Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.
- All airport/hotel transfers where specified (private transfer).
- Selections of superior/deluxe (4 star) hotels
- Sightseeing tours including entrance fee by professional English-speaking tour guide.
- Meals as specified in the itinerary.
- Air-conditioned transportation and bottle water on coach.
- Guaranteed Departure

Hotel upgrade to 5-Star is available and private tailor-made tours can also be arranged.

Price Excludes:

- International Flights. Air fare is between £500 and £800 per person return. We can book for you with ATOL Protection.
- Visa letter of arrivals fee (please contact us for details)
- Visa stamping fees at Airports
- Travel Insurance.
- Tip for driver and Guide.

The itinerary is designed according to the most updated information available. On rare occasions, changes can occur due to local conditions which are out of our control, such as flight, train, hotel changes etc. We will always act in your best interest to handle any amendments if this did occur. We reserve the right to change, amend or alter the itinerary if required.

Please refer to our website for all current tour details, Terms and Conditions and FAQ pages for up-to-date tour information and further essential information about this tour.

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