

Vietnam and Cambodia Discovery: Sapa and Angkor - 21 Days

21 days · Tailor-made itinerary



Tour photograph · Sapa

Your journey. Your pace. Your experiences.

Hanoi - Sapa - Ta Van - Ninh Binh - day trip - Halong Bay - Hoi An - Ho Chi Minh City - Can Tho - Phnom Penh - Siem Reap

From USD 2,612 per person

Indicative price · international arrival and departure flights excluded

A tour idea we can personalise together.

Your journey at a glance

Destinations: Vietnam · Cambodia



— Itinerary - - - Arrival & departure

Connections are schematic. Flights depend on your travel arrangements.
Map data: Natural Earth.

What makes this journey special

- Sapa trekking and a Ta Van homestay
- Hoa Lu and a boat trip through Tam Coc
- Halong Bay cruise and overnight train to central Vietnam
- Free days in Hoi An with optional activities
- Ho Chi Minh City, Cu Chi and the Mekong Delta
- Phnom Penh and the temples of Angkor

DAY 1**Welcome to Vietnam: arrival in Hanoi**

Tour photograph · Hanoi

Your journey begins on arrival in Hanoi. Your private driver will meet you at the airport with a sign bearing your name and take you to your accommodation in the city centre, close to the Old Quarter. Explore at your own pace or relax at your hotel after the flight.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 2**Hanoi city sightseeing: group tour (B/L)**

Tour photograph · Hanoi

Your guide and driver will collect you from the hotel. Begin at Tran Quoc Pagoda on Golden Fish Island in West Lake, a historic Buddhist site with origins in the sixth century.

Continue to the Ho Chi Minh Complex, the final resting place of the Vietnamese leader. Visit the mausoleum when open and stroll through peaceful gardens to the houses where he lived and worked between 1954 and 1969. Afterwards, visit the One Pillar Pagoda, dedicated to the Goddess of Mercy.

Please cover your shoulders and knees when visiting the mausoleum, temples and pagodas. Mausoleum access is subject to opening days and maintenance closures, and will be confirmed for your travel dates. When the mausoleum is closed, you can still visit and photograph the surrounding grounds.

At the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology, learn about the country's 54 ethnic groups. On Mondays, the programme visits the Vietnamese Women's Museum instead, exploring the important role of women in the country's history.

Enjoy a Vietnamese lunch at a restaurant, with vegetarian dishes available. Then visit the Temple of Literature, founded in 1070 and associated with Vietnam's first university. Continue to Hoa Lo Prison Museum, established by the French colonial administration as Maison Centrale. Its exhibits document the harsh conditions of imprisonment and the Vietnamese struggle against colonial rule.

Return to your hotel by bus.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 3**Hanoi to Sapa by limousine bus (B)**

Tour photograph · Sapa

After an early breakfast, check out and travel to Sapa by limousine bus, a journey of around six hours. On arrival, transfer to your accommodation. The rest of the day is free to explore this mountain town.

Overnight in Sapa.

DAY 4**Sapa, Y Linh Ho, Lao Chai and Ta Van (B/L/D)**

Tour photograph · Sapa

After breakfast, meet your guide around 09:30 for a walk of approximately 12 km to the Hmong villages of Y Linh Ho and Lao Chai. Enjoy views of rice terraces and mountain peaks along the way.

Pause for lunch with a local family in Lao Chai or at a riverside café. Continue walking to Ta Van, a Dzay village, where you stay with a local family and learn about their daily life, traditions and customs.

Overnight in a homestay.

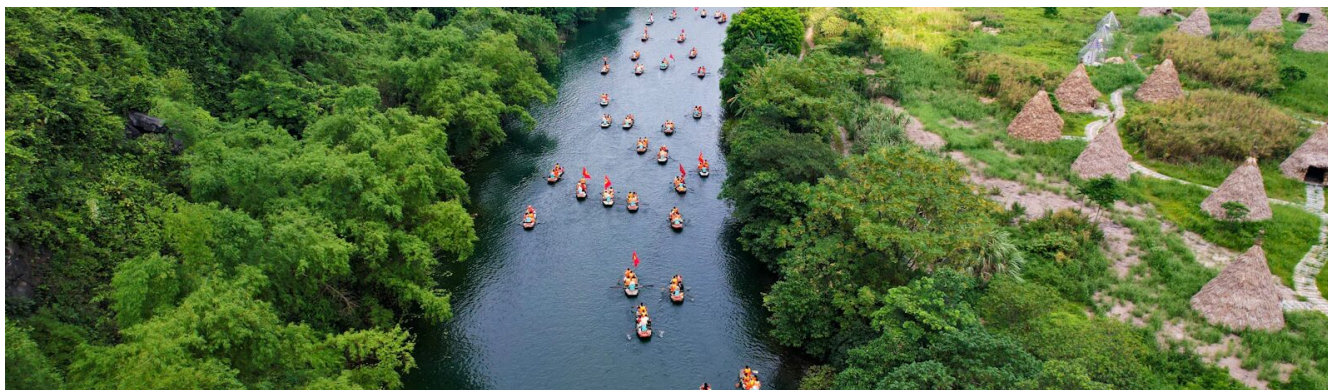
DAY 5**Ta Van, Giang Ta Chai and Su Pan; return to Hanoi (B/L)**

Tour photograph · Sapa

After a local breakfast at your homestay, set off around 09:30 for a walk of approximately 8 km. Visit Giang Ta Chai and Su Pan, villages home to Red Dao and Hmong communities.

Along the way, see a waterfall and a rattan bridge, take in the valley views and walk through a bamboo forest to the main road. A bus will collect you for the return to Sapa. Enjoy a little more time in town before the limousine-bus departure for Hanoi at around 15:00.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 6**Hoa Lu and Tam Coc: group excursion (B/L)**

Tour photograph · Ninh Binh

Your guide will collect you from the hotel at 07:30 for the journey to Ninh Binh province, around 120 km away. A 20-minute break is included along the way.

Begin at Hoa Lu, Vietnam's former capital. Learn about its historical importance and the later move of the capital to Hanoi. The temples honouring Kings Dinh and Le, built in the 17th century, offer an evocative setting.

After a buffet lunch featuring regional dishes such as goat and fried rice, with vegetarian choices available, take a bamboo-boat ride of around 1.5 hours through Tam Coc. Rice fields, rivers, caves and open skies create the landscape often called 'Halong Bay on land'.

A bicycle ride of around 45 minutes through the village introduces you to daily local life. Return by shuttle bus to Hanoi, with arrival at your hotel expected around 18:30.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 7**Hanoi to Halong Bay: shared cruise and bus transfer (B/L/D)**

Tour photograph · Halong Bay

Discover UNESCO-listed Halong Bay, with limestone scenery, time to relax on board and the activities included in your cruise programme.

After breakfast, check out and meet the cruise team in your hotel lobby between 8:00 and 9:00 am; the exact time is confirmed the day before. Arrive at the pier around midday and take a transfer boat to your cruise ship. After a welcome and check-in, lunch is served as you sail between the islands.

Depending on the cruise route, afternoon activities include swimming, kayaking or a cave visit. You can also relax on board. Towards evening, the boat anchors in a scenic spot, with time to enjoy the sunset before dinner.

Overnight on board.

Meals: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Please note: poor weather may lead to changes or cancellation if boats cannot leave port. Your travel consultant will arrange an alternative.

DAY 8**Halong Bay to Hanoi; overnight train to central Vietnam (B/L)**

Tour photograph · Hue

Enjoy breakfast as the boat returns towards the harbour, stopping at a limestone cave to see its stalactites and stalagmites. Transfer to Hanoi for a short break, then continue to Hanoi Railway Station for the overnight train to central Vietnam. An onward road transfer will take you from the arrival station to Hoi An.

DAY 9**Arrival and free time in Hoi An**

Tour photograph · Hoi An

Arrival after the overnight train journey is expected between 12:30 and 13:30. A representative will meet you and take you to your hotel in Hoi An. Check in and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Hoi An in central Vietnam is known for its UNESCO-listed Ancient Town, well-preserved architecture, nearby beaches and lively local culture. Wander through the lanes, browse the markets or simply settle in and enjoy the atmosphere.

Overnight in Hoi An.

DAY 10**Hoi An at leisure; optional Cham Islands excursion (B)**

Tour photograph · Hoi An

Spend the day at leisure in Hoi An, or join the optional Cham Islands sightseeing and snorkelling excursion.

Optional programme: after hotel pick-up, transfer to Cua Dai harbour and take a speedboat to the Cham Islands, enjoying the sea breeze and coastal views. At Bai Lang, visit the marine conservation area, boat shelter, Hai Tang Pagoda and a traditional fishing village.

Swim and snorkel to discover the coral and marine life. Relax on the sand at Bai Ong or Bai Chong, swim and enjoy a freshly prepared seafood lunch. Prepare for the return to Hoi An at around 14:00.

Please note: if bad weather affects this optional excursion, alternative arrangements or a refund will be considered according to the circumstances.

Overnight in Hoi An.

DAY 11**Hoi An at leisure; optional Tra Que and lantern workshop (B)**

Tour photograph · Hoi An

Enjoy free time in Hoi An, or book the optional Tra Que vegetable-village visit and lantern-making experience.

Optional programme: meet your guide at the hotel or office and collect your bicycle. Cycle past rice fields and shrimp farms to Tra Que, then walk through the vegetable gardens. Use traditional tools to try digging, sowing, planting or harvesting with the farmers. Taste 'E Water', a local herbal drink described in the village programme.

Continue cycling at a leisurely pace past fields and villages to a lantern workshop. Experienced craftspeople will guide you in making your own colourful lantern to take home. Your guide will then accompany you back to your hotel.

Overnight in Hoi An.

DAY 12**Transfer from Hoi An to Da Nang and fly to Ho Chi Minh City (B)**

Tour photograph · Ho Chi Minh City

After breakfast, enjoy free time until your transfer to Da Nang Airport for your flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Your driver will meet you on arrival and take you to your hotel to check in. Spend the rest of the day relaxing or exploring the lively city.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

DAY 13**Ho Chi Minh City and Cu Chi: full-day group tour (B/L)**

Tour photograph · Cu Chi

This morning, visit the Independence Palace, also known as Reunification Palace. Designed by architect Ngo Viet Thu on the site of the former Norodom Palace, the building holds an important place in Vietnam's modern history.

Admire French colonial architecture at Notre Dame Cathedral and the Central Post Office, then visit the War Remnants Museum, whose extensive collection explores the Indochina wars.

After lunch at a local restaurant, travel by bus to Cu Chi, around 1.5 hours away. A short introductory film explains how the tunnels were built and the harsh conditions of wartime life. Explore the underground network, including living spaces, kitchens, storerooms, weapons workshops, field hospitals and command centres, and see concealed entrances and defensive systems.

Afterwards, try tea and cassava, a staple food for guerrilla fighters. Take a break or choose an optional shooting-range activity under the operator's conditions and charges before returning to Ho Chi Minh City.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

DAY 14**Ho Chi Minh City to Cai Be and Can Tho: group excursion (B/L)**

Tour photograph · Can Tho

You are collected at 7:30 am for the drive to Cai Be. Take a boat to the part of the Tien River once known for its wholesale floating market. Learn how modern road transport and farming techniques have changed trading patterns. The surrounding orchards reveal the abundance of this fruit-growing area of the lower Mekong.

Walk through small villages, visit an old house and learn about local traditions. At a family workshop, see coconut sweets and crispy puffed rice being made. Sample fresh fruit and listen to southern Vietnamese folk music, an important part of the delta's culture.

Paddle along small canals and enjoy the peaceful surroundings. Explore the natural scenery of Tan Phong Island, then prepare Vietnamese dishes with local residents and share the meal in a garden.

Cycle along village lanes through orchards, meet island residents and learn about their daily lives. Visit Ba Kiet's old house, then return by boat to Cai Be, where your bus is waiting for the onward journey to Can Tho.

Overnight in Can Tho.

DAY 15**Can Tho, Cai Rang and Ho Chi Minh City (B/L)**

Tour photograph · Can Tho

After breakfast, take a boat through the scenic waterways of the lower Mekong and Bassac area to visit Cai Rang Floating Market.

Visit a noodle workshop on foot and admire the distinctive Khmer architecture of Munir Ansay Pagoda. Continue by boat to Con Son, where you visit an orchard and taste seasonal fruit.

Return to Ho Chi Minh City after lunch.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

DAY 16**Fly to Phnom Penh (B)**

Tour photograph · Phnom Penh

After breakfast, enjoy free time until your airport transfer for the flight to Phnom Penh. Your driver will meet you on arrival and take you to your hotel to check in.

Overnight in Phnom Penh.

DAY 17**Phnom Penh's culture and history (B)**

Tour photograph · Phnom Penh

After breakfast, visit the Royal Palace, the residence of Cambodia's king and royal family. Explore the complex, laid out like a small royal city, then visit the Silver Pagoda and its cultural treasures, including a gold Buddha weighing around 90 kilograms and decorated with 2,086 diamonds.

Visit Wat Phnom, one of the city's best-known pagodas. Local tradition attributes its founding in 1373 to the wealthy widow Daun Chi Penh, who built it on an artificial hill.

In the afternoon, visit the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, formerly the S-21 prison. This former school was used by Pol Pot's security forces to imprison thousands of people, many of whom were later taken to Choeung Ek and killed.

Finish at the Russian Market, also called Toul Tom Pong, known for clothing, Buddha figures, woodcarvings, betel-nut boxes, silk, silver jewellery and traditional musical instruments.

Overnight in Phnom Penh.

DAY 18**Phnom Penh to Siem Reap by shuttle bus (B)**

Tour photograph · Siem Reap

After breakfast, transfer to the bus station for the journey of around five hours to Siem Reap. On arrival, transfer to your hotel and check in.

This afternoon, visit Artisans d'Angkor to see traditional woodcarving and stone sculpture. Continue to Wat Thmey, a memorial site where a glass-sided stupa holds the remains of victims of the Khmer Rouge.

Overnight in Siem Reap.

DAY 19**Banteay Srei and Angkor Wat (B)**

Tour photograph · Siem Reap

After breakfast, travel out of town to Banteay Srei, known for its intricate, well-preserved carvings. Stop at Preah Dark village along the way, then visit Banteay Samre to see reliefs depicting stories of Vishnu and Krishna.

This afternoon, explore Angkor Wat, one of the world's great temple complexes. Its vast grounds, moat and enclosing walls reveal the scale of this extraordinary Khmer monument.

Overnight in Siem Reap.

DAY 20**Angkor Thom, Preah Khan and Ta Prohm (B)**

Tour photograph · Siem Reap

After breakfast, explore Angkor Thom, including the South Gate, Bayon Temple with its stone towers and faces, the former Royal Palace enclosure, Phimeanakas, the Terrace of the Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King. Continue to Preah Khan, the large Buddhist monastic and teaching complex that King Jayavarman VII dedicated to his father.

This afternoon, explore Ta Prohm, where enormous fig trees and vines entwine with the temple's stonework. Finish the day with sunset at Phnom Bakheng.

Overnight in Siem Reap.

DAY 21**Tonle Sap Lake and departure from Siem Reap (B)**

Tour photograph · Tonle Sap Lake

After breakfast, visit Tonle Sap Lake for a private guided boat trip. Southeast Asia's largest freshwater lake is linked to the Tonle Sap River, which joins the Mekong in Phnom Penh.

Visit a floating fishing village with schools, a police station and other community facilities. The village's position changes with water levels and currents.

Afterwards, transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

Your journey comes to an end.

Included services

- Flight from Da Nang to Ho Chi Minh City with at least 20 kg of baggage per person.
- Flight from Ho Chi Minh City to Phnom Penh with 20 kg of baggage per person.
- Child airfares follow the airline's conditions at booking. Please contact us for a quote if travelling with more than one child.
- Experienced English-speaking guide. German-, French-, Spanish- or Dutch-speaking guides are available on request for a supplement.
- Meals as listed in the itinerary: B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner.
- Private door-to-door collection and drop-off.
- Return air-conditioned bus transfers between Hanoi and Halong Bay.
- Overnight sleeper-train journey from Hanoi towards Hoi An.
- Shuttle bus from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap.
- Air-conditioned buses or private vehicles for excursions.
- All sightseeing and admission tickets listed in the itinerary.
- Tissues and drinking water in the vehicle.
- Service charges and government taxes.
- 24/7 assistance through our hotline.

Your personal proposal will set out the included services. Any changes and availability will be confirmed before you book.

Additional costs

- All other flights, international arrival and departure flights, and departure taxes.
- Travel insurance.
- Drinks, personal expenses and tips.
- Early check-in and late check-out unless listed.
- Compulsory gala dinners on 24 and 31 December and during Tet, where applicable. The programme mentions 21 January for Tet; dates must be confirmed when booking.
- Holiday surcharges at Christmas, New Year, Tet in Vietnam and local New Year celebrations in Cambodia, Laos and Thailand, where applicable.
- Airport-transfer surcharges between midnight and 5 am.
- Entry visa fees: the programme lists Vietnam at USD 25 per person. Please confirm current requirements and fees before travelling.
- Optional tours, other activities and services not expressly included.

Your personal proposal will set out the included services. Any changes and availability will be confirmed before you book.

Carefully selected accommodation

Suggested hotels by destination and category. Your personal proposal will confirm room types and availability.

Hanoi

3 stars**Chalcedony Hotel or similar****4 stars****Le Jardin Haute Couture or similar**

Sapa

3 stars**Panorama Hotel or similar****4 stars****Amazing Sapa Hotel or similar**

Ta Van - Region Sapa

3 stars**Homestay with a local family****4 stars****Homestay with a local family**

Halong Bay

3 stars**Le Journey Premium Cruise or similar****4 stars****Milalux Cruise or similar**

Hoi An

3 stars**Hoi An Riverside Villas & Apartments or similar****4 stars****The Saga Hoi An or similar**

Ho Chi Minh City

3 stars**Acnos Hotel or similar****4 stars****Paragon Saigon Hotel or similar**

Can Tho

3 stars**Ninh Kieu Riverside Hotel or similar****4 stars****TTC Can Tho or similar**

Phnom Penh

3 stars**LCS Hotel or similar****4 stars****Anik Palace or similar**

Siem Reap

3 stars**Royal Crown Hotel & Spa or similar****4 stars****Saem Siem Reap or similar**

This programme offers three-star and four-star trip categories. Both include a stay with a local family in Ta Van, plus an overnight sleeper-train journey from Hanoi towards Hoi An. Check-in is from 2 pm and check-out is by noon, unless your itinerary specifies otherwise. Final accommodation is confirmed when you book.

These hotels are suggestions, not reservations. If unavailable, a comparable alternative will be offered. Columns show the trip categories; some lodges, homestays and cruises may be the same across categories.

Turn your idea into your journey.

Discuss your route, pace, accommodation and activities with our local travel team. We will help you shape a trip around your interests, with personal advice in English.



Tell us what you have in mind.

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This document is a flexible tour idea, not a booking confirmation. Your personal proposal confirms the agreed services and accommodation. Photographs illustrate the journey and may not show your exact booked arrangements.

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