

Vietnam and Cambodia Explorer: Sapa to Angkor - 23 Days

23 days · Tailor-made itinerary



Tour photograph · Hue

Your journey. Your pace. Your experiences.

Hanoi - Sapa - Halong Bay - Hue - Hoi An - Ho Chi Minh City - Cai Be - Can Tho
- Chau Doc - Phnom Penh - Siem Reap

From USD 2,790 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



- 1 Hanoi
- 2 Sapa
- 3 Halong Bay
- 4 Hue
- 5 Hoi An
- 6 Ho Chi Minh City
- 7 Cai Be
- 8 Can Tho
- 9 Chau Doc
- 10 Phnom Penh

11 Siem Reap

— Itinerary

- - - Arrival & departure

Connections are schematic. Flights depend on your travel arrangements.

Map data: Natural Earth.

What makes this journey special

- Hanoi and Sapa's rice terraces
- Overnight Halong Bay cruise
- Imperial Hue and Hoi An Ancient Town
- Lantern making, cooking and herbal massage
- Ho Chi Minh City and Cu Chi Tunnels
- Cai Be, Cai Rang and a Mekong speedboat journey
- Phnom Penh, Angkor and Tonle Sap Lake

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 vehicle (B)**

Tour photograph · Sapa

After breakfast at your hotel, enjoy free time until your limousine-vehicle transfer to Sapa.

Overnight in Sapa.

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

Tour photograph · Sapa

Walk around 6 km southeast of Sapa along the Muong Hoa Valley to Y Linh Ho, a Black Hmong village. Continue approximately 2 km to Lao Chai, then follow the rice terraces towards Ta Van, home to the Dzay community.

Have lunch with a local family and learn about traditional home design, daily life and local customs. Enjoy the valley scenery along the way.

A final walk of around 2 km takes you to the pick-up point in Ta Van, where a jeep or minivan will return you to Sapa.

Overnight in Sapa.

DAY 5**Cat Cat and Sin Chai; return to Hanoi with the group (B/L)**

Tour photograph · Sapa

Walk around 4 km southwest of Sapa to Cat Cat, a Black Hmong village. Pause beside the waterfall and the remains of a hydroelectric station built during the French colonial period.

After a riverside picnic, walk another 3 km to Sin Chai at the foot of Fansipan, often called the roof of Indochina. Enjoy the broad views before walking uphill to meet your jeep for the return to Sapa.

A limousine vehicle will then take you back to Hanoi.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 6**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 7**Halong Bay to Hanoi (B/Brunch)**

Tour photograph · Halong Bay

Watch the sunrise over Halong Bay. Breakfast is served as the boat makes its way towards the harbour, followed by an early lunch or brunch before disembarkation. Transfer to Hanoi afterwards.

The rest of the day is yours to explore independently.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 8**Fly from Hanoi to Hue (B)**

Tour photograph · Hue

After breakfast, enjoy time to relax before your driver takes you to the airport. Fly to Hue and transfer to your hotel on arrival.

Overnight in Hue.

DAY 9

Discover Hue: group excursion (B/L)

Tour photograph · Hue

Your guide and vehicle collect you from your central hotel at around 8 am. Take a dragon boat along the Perfume River for about 30 minutes to Thien Mu Pagoda, enjoying the fresh morning air.

Visit the Imperial Citadel, the former seat of the Nguyen dynasty, Vietnam's last royal dynasty. Continue to bustling Dong Ba Market to watch the trading and browse for souvenirs.

After a lunch of Hue specialities and a short break, visit the royal tombs. Khai Dinh's tomb combines Eastern and Western architectural influences, while Minh Mang's is known for its grand layout and natural setting.

On the way back, stop at conical-hat and incense-making villages to learn about traditional crafts. Return to your hotel at around 4 pm.

Overnight in Hue.

DAY 10**Hue to Hoi An by private transfer (B)**

Tour photograph · Hoi An

After breakfast at your hotel, enjoy free time until your private transfer to Hoi An.

Overnight in Hoi An.

DAY 11**Hoi An walking tour and lantern making: private experience (B)**

Tour photograph · Hoi An

Your guide will collect you from the hotel. Begin at the Japanese Covered Bridge, built by Japanese merchants. Hear the legend linking the bridge to Namazu, the mythical creature said to cause earthquakes in Japan, as your guide explains the structure's stories and architecture.

At historic Tan Ky House, discover Vietnamese, Japanese and Chinese influences. Learn how its design and feng shui express ideas of harmony and prosperity.

Visit the Fujian Assembly Hall, also known as Phuc Kien. This former Chinese merchants' meeting place honours Mazu, the sea goddess believed to protect sailors and travellers.

At a craft workshop, learn how Hoi An's traditional lanterns are made. Local craftspeople will guide you in making your own lantern to take home as a souvenir.

Finish at Hoi An's main market, where your guide explains the lively routines of trading, shopping and bargaining. Afterwards, continue exploring the town independently if you wish.

Overnight in Hoi An.

DAY 12**Hoi An cooking class and herbal massage: group experience (B/L)**

Tour photograph · Hoi An

Cycle through rice fields and enjoy a welcome drink. Visit an organic herb garden to learn about traditional growing methods and try some gardening yourself.

After another welcome drink, join a cooking class to prepare traditional village dishes, then enjoy the lunch you have made.

Relax afterwards with an herbal foot massage in a peaceful riverside setting before saying goodbye to the team.

Overnight in Hoi An.

DAY 13**Transfer from Hoi An to Da Nang and fly to Ho Chi Minh City (B)**

Tour photograph · Ho Chi Minh City

After breakfast at your hotel, enjoy free time until your private transfer to Da Nang Airport for your flight to Ho Chi Minh City.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

DAY 14**Ho Chi Minh City sightseeing: group tour (B)**

Tour photograph · Ho Chi Minh City

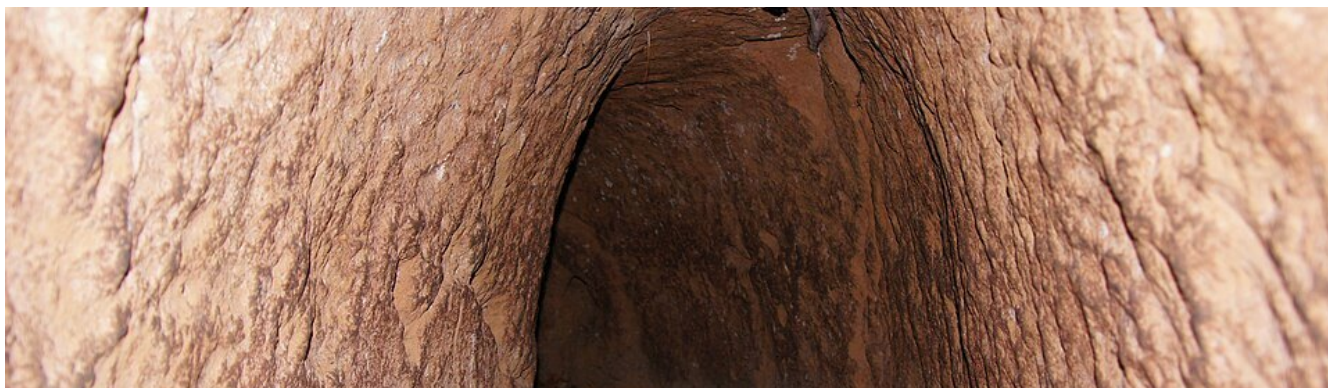
This morning, visit the Independence Palace, also known as Reunification Palace. Designed by architect Ngo Viet Thu on the site of the former Norodom Palace, it holds an important place in Vietnam's modern history.

Explore the city's French colonial heritage at Notre Dame Cathedral and the Central Post Office. Continue to the War Remnants Museum, whose extensive collection documents the Indochina wars.

Return to your hotel or the agreed meeting point at around midday.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

Please note: the programme includes an exterior visit to the cathedral because of restoration work. Traffic and weather may affect your return time.

DAY 15**Cu Chi Tunnels: half-day group excursion (B)**

Tour photograph · Cu Chi

Travel from the meeting point to the Cu Chi Tunnels, around 60 km from Ho Chi Minh City, a drive of approximately 1.5 hours. The extensive underground network played an important role in the Vietnam War and offers an insight into the ingenuity required for life underground.

Your guide will explain the history, and a documentary introduces the construction of the tunnels and the fighting in the area. Explore weapons workshops, field hospitals, kitchens and living quarters. If you wish, crawl through an accessible tunnel section to experience something of the confined conditions.

Try cassava, a staple food for the fighters. The itinerary also lists an optional activity at a nearby shooting range, with AK-47, MK16 or machine-gun options subject to the operator's conditions and separate charges. Return to Ho Chi Minh City afterwards.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

DAY 16

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

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 17**Can Tho and Cai Rang Floating Market; continue to Chau Doc (B/L)**

Tour photograph · Chau Doc

After breakfast, take a boat trip through the lower Mekong's scenic waterways around the Bassac River and visit Cai Rang Floating Market.

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

After lunch, travel by car to Chau Doc.

Overnight in Chau Doc.

Please note: traffic and weather may affect your arrival time.

DAY 18**Speedboat from Chau Doc to Phnom Penh (B)**

Tour photograph · Phnom Penh

After breakfast, enjoy free time until pick-up for your transfer to the pier. The journey by modern speedboat to Phnom Penh takes approximately 5.5 hours.

Travel along the Mekong and watch daily life unfold on its banks: small villages, stilt houses, riverside trading, farmers at work and children greeting passing boats.

Overnight in Phnom Penh.

DAY 19**Phnom Penh: private city tour (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 20**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.

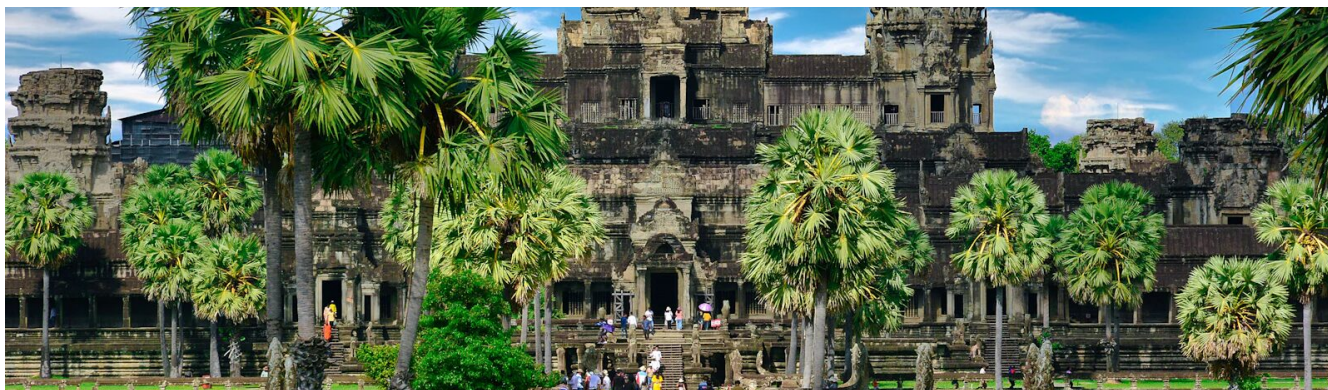
DAY 21**Banteay Srei and Angkor Wat: private excursion (B)**

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 22**Angkor Thom and Ta Prohm: private excursion (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 23**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 Hanoi to Hue with 20 kg of baggage per person.
- Flight from Da Nang, serving Hoi An, to Ho Chi Minh City 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.
- Private air-conditioned vehicles for excursions as listed in the service description. Excursions marked as group activities are shared with other travellers.
- 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

- International arrival and departure flights.
- Travel insurance.
- Drinks, personal expenses and tips.
- Early check-in and late check-out unless expressly included.
- Compulsory gala dinners on 24 and 31 December, where applicable.
- Holiday surcharges at Christmas, New Year and Tet in Vietnam, where applicable.
- Airport-transfer surcharges between midnight and 5 am.
- An e-visa or visa for Vietnam and Cambodia, where required.
- Services not expressly listed.

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****5 stars****Apricot Hotel or similar**

Sapa

3 stars**The View Sapa Hotel or similar****4 stars****Aliana Boutique Sapa or similar****5 stars****Silk Path Grand Sapa or similar**

Halong Bay

3 stars**Le Journey Premium Cruise or similar****4 stars****Milalux Cruise or similar****5 stars****Amanda Luxury Cruise or similar**

Hue

3 stars**Cherish Hue Hotel or similar****4 stars****Eldora Hotel or similar****5 stars****Silk Path Grand Hue Hotel & Spa or similar**

Hoi An

3 stars**Hoi An Riverside Villas & Apartments or similar****4 stars****The Saga Hoi An or similar****5 stars****Palm Garden Hoi An or similar**

Ho Chi Minh City

3 stars

Acnos Hotel or similar

4 stars

Paragon Saigon Hotel or similar

5 stars

The Myst Dong Khoi or similar

Can Tho

3 stars

Ninh Kieu Riverside Hotel or similar

4 stars

TTC Can Tho or similar

5 stars

Sheraton Can Tho or similar

Chau Doc

3 stars

Chau Pho Hotel or similar

4 stars

Victoria Chau Doc Hotel or similar

Deluxe

5 stars

Victoria Chau Doc Hotel or similar

Suite

Phnom Penh

3 stars

LCS Hotel or similar

4 stars

Anik Palace or similar

5 stars

Palace Gate Hotel & Resort or similar

Siem Reap

3 stars

Royal Crown Hotel & Spa or similar

4 stars

Saem Siem Reap or similar

5 stars

Borei Angkor or similar

The hotels and cruise vessels listed apply to each trip category, with comparable alternatives possible. Victoria Chau Doc offers Deluxe rooms or suites according to the category. 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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Local experts in Vietnam · Tailor-made Southeast Asia tours

Plan this trip

Chat on WhatsApp

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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