

Essential Cambodia & Vietnam

Trip code: MTCC01

OVERVIEW

Start off with Cambodia's stunning Angkor temples and immaculate natural surroundings before heading off to Vietnam's distinctive cultural heritage with opportunities to partake in the country's many interesting towns, cities, and waterways.

Highlights

- Cyclo tour in Phnom Penh
- Royal palace & Silver pagoda
- Amazing Angkor, its temples & relics
- Sightseeing Ho Chi Minh City
- Mekong delta boat cruise & floating market
- Beauty of Hoi An ancient town
- Eco tour Hoi An countryside
- Hue Royal Citadel & relics
- Hanoi's Old Quarter
- Halong Bay cruise & overnight aboard in great comfort.

Brief Itinerary

Day 1: Phnom Penh

Arrive Phnom Penh. Cyclo tour to explore the city's featured sights. Enjoy the nightlife atmosphere by the bank of Mekong River.

Days 2-3: Siem Reap

Discover the magnificent Angkor, its temples & relics. Wander through laid back beauty of Siam Reap.

Days 4-5: Ho Chi Minh City

Sightseeing featured sights including War Remnant Museum, Notre Dame Cathedral, walking China town & shopping in local market...

Day 6: Mekong Delta

Cruise mighty Mekong River, visit Cai Be floating market, local cottage industries & taste the freshness of the Delta.

Days 7-8: Hoi An

Walking tour of the ancient town centre, indulge yourself with fantastic shopping, cycle through stunning countryside & interact with locals.

Days 9-10: Hue

Wander through the history of the country. Explore the Imperial Citadel, Royal relics and iconic pagoda. Flight to Hanoi.

Day 11: Hanoi Sightseeing

Hanoi's interesting sites, walk around the Old Quarter & capture interesting moment of local daily life. Enjoy water puppet show.

Days 12-13: Halong Bay

Cruise stunning landscape of Halong Bay. Visit lime stone cave, explore lagoon by kayak, swim in turquoise water & overnight aboard under stars live sky.

Day 14: Departure

At leisure for last minute sightseeing & shopping until your transfer airport for onward flight.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Day 1: Arrive in Phnom Penh



Welcome to Phnom Penh!

Upon arrival the airport, met and greeted by our tour guide & driver and transfer to hotel for check in.

Afternoon: We will take a tour for the city's featured sights including: the **Royal Palace** - built by King Norodom in 1866, the **Silver Pagoda** with its floor made up of 5000 silver tiles and where you can see the solid golden Buddha statue. We will also visit **Wat Phnom Temple**, Phnom Penh's namesake, from where you can enjoy views over the tree-lined avenues of Phnom Penh during sunset.

Summary:

Transportation: *Private AC modern Car / Van*

Activities: *Phnom Penh tour of highlights*

Meal inclusions: *Welcome Dinner*

Accommodation: *Hotel in Phnom Penh center*

Day 2: Phnom Penh historical sites - Fly to Siem Reap



Breakfast is at hotel.

8.00AM: We head out of to visit the **Tuol Sleng Prison Museum** and the notorious '**Killing Fields**' of Choeung Ek, which will give us a deep insight into the painful bloody rule of the Khmer Rouge.

Also, we spend some time to explore **Psar Toul Tom Pong**, a local market with huge variety of local products.

Transfer to the airport for a short flight to Siem Reap.

Check in hotel and rest of the day is at leisure.

Summary:

Transportation: *Private AC modern Car / Van, Flight*

Activities: *Phnom Penh historical sites discovery*

Meal inclusions: *Breakfast, Lunch*

Accommodation: *Hotel in Siem Reap center*

Day 3: Angkor discovery

Breakfast is at the hotel

8.00AM: Start our full day tour to explore the wondrous Angkor with visit to the **South Gate of Angkor Thom**, which is famous for its series of colossal human faces carved in stone, the



impressive **Bayon Temple**, the **Royal Enclosure**, **Phimeanakas**, the **Elephant Terrace**, the **Terrace of the Leper King** and of course, the amazing **Angkor Wat** - the largest work and masterpiece of the area.

Also, we will have chance to discover the jungle covered temple of **Ta Prohm** that is known in scenes of the Hollywood movie 'Tomb Raider' with the play of Angelina Jolie.

Early this evening, we will take Tuk Tuk to cruise around the Siem Reap town and have a blessing ceremony by Buddhist monks for happiness, prosperity and safety.

Summary:

Transportation: *Private AC modern Car / Van, Tuk Tuk*

Activities: *Angkor complex exploring, Buddhist blessing ceremony*

Meal inclusions: *Breakfast, Lunch*

Accommodation: *Hotel in Siem Reap center*

Day 4: Siem Reap - Fly to Ho Chi Minh City



Morning: After breakfast we head out for the **Tonle Sap Lake**. We take traditional wooden boat cruise on the "Great Lake" of Cambodia, one of the largest in Asia. Visit the **floating village of Chong Khneas** and learn about the lake as well as local life.

Also, we will have a visit to the "Chantiers Ecoles - Les Artisans d'Angkor" which provides training to young Cambodians in an effort to revive the ancient Khmer traditions of stone carving and wood sculpting.

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Saigon - Ho Chi Minh City. Airport transfer then check in hotel upon arrival and the remainder of the day is at leisure.

Summary:

Transportation: *Private AC modern Car / Van, Boat, Flight*

Activities: *Tonle Sap Lake & floating village*

Meal inclusions: *Breakfast, Lunch*

Accommodation: *Hotel in Ho City Minh City center*

Day 5: Ho Chi Minh City sightseeing



Morning: After breakfast we head to **Cholon**, the city's Chinatown district, where we discover the busy and colorful scenes of the area and visit to **Thien Hau Pagoda**. Continue with a visit to the FITO Museum, Vietnam's first traditional medicine museum where you can learn all facts about traditional medicine in Vietnam.

Afternoon: We visit other highlights including: the **War Remnants Museum** (or History Museum), **Reunification Palace** - Presidential Palace of South Vietnam, the **Notre Dame Cathedral**, the colonial style **Central Post Office**, formerly **Rue Catinat** in the book

'The quiet American', Continental Hotel, Opera House and City Hall. Later, spend time to wander around the city central market of Ben Thanh.

Summary:

Transportation: *Private AC modern Car / Van*

Activities: *Ho Chi Minh City explore*

Meal inclusions: *Breakfast, Lunch*

Accommodation: *Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City center*

Day 6: Mekong Delta & Floating Market



8.00AM: Leave the bustling Saigon for the 2 hour drive to **Cai Be town** in the **Mekong Delta**. Upon arrival board our long tail boat for a **cruise on Mekong River** to visit the fascinating **Cai Be floating market**. Following with a **visit to local cottage industries** where 'pop-rice', rice paper and coconut candies are made. Also, we take **sampan rowing** on meandering creeks to visit to **typical local house in Mekong area and orchards** and learn more about local life. Get back to Saigon - Ho Chi Minh City in the late afternoon.

Summary:

Transportation: *Private AC modern Car / Van, Boats*

Activities: *Visit Cai Be floating market, Local villages, orchards and cottage industries*

Meal inclusions: *Breakfast, Lunch*

Accommodation: *Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City center*

Day 7: Hoi An ancient town



Morning: Transfer to Tan Son Nhat Airport for the short flight to Danang. Private transfer to Hoi An and check in hotel.

Afternoon: Take a **walking tour of the Hoi An town** to visit **ancient merchants' houses**, the **400 year-old Japanese Covered Bridge**, **communal halls** and the **colorful Hoi An market**. Along the walk we also have chance to **sample some Hoi An specialties** such as Wonton, 'White roses', Cao lau and some other stree delicacies that

Hoi An famous for.

Summary:

Transportation: *Private AC modern Car / Van*

Activities: *Hoi An walking and food tour*

Meal inclusions: *Breakfast, Dinner*

Accommodation: *Hotel in Hoi An*

Day 8: Hoi An country experience



Morning: free at your leisure for relaxing or swimming on Hoi An beach.

Afternoon: We will take a bicycle ride through stunning villages and green farm lands. Visit to Tra Que - a vegetable growing village - and join with locals at farm work, visit local homes to learn about their life. Later, we enjoy a round bamboo boat rowing and playing in the water coconut forest before boarding a sunset cruise on the Thu Bon River back to Hoi An town.

Summary:

Transportation: *Bicycle, Boat*

Activities: *Hoi An country experience*

Meal inclusions: *Breakfast*

Accommodation: *Hotel in Hoi An*

Day 9: Hue Royal city discovery



8.00AM: Leave Hoi An for Hue, former imperial capital of Vietnam. Along the way we have stops to visit **Cham Museum in Da Nang** which contains the finest collection of Cham sculptures, the **Hai Van Pass** and wonderfully photogenic **fishing village of Lang Co**.

Check in hotel upon arrival in Hue and this afternoon we take a guided tour to visit the **Imperial Citadel and Royal Forbidden City** that reflects pomps and ceremonies of dynastic rulers of the Nguyen Dynasty from 1802 to 1945.

Continue with a visit to **Dong Ba market** before getting back to hotel.

Summary of inclusions:

Transportation: *Private AC modern Car / Van*

Activities: *Sightseeing en route, Hue Citadel and Forbidden City*

Meal inclusions: *Breakfast*

Accommodation: *Hotel in Hue center*

Day 10: Hue - Hanoi



Breakfast is at the hotel.

8.00AM: Start our sightseeing tour with a visit to **Thien Mu Pagoda**, one of Hue's most iconic landmarks that was constructed in 1601. Continue to the **Mausoleum of Emperor Tu Duc** that is like a romantic park within stunning natural settings and following strict Fengshui principles. The place was used as summer retreat for the emperor decade before his death. Continue to **Khai Dinh Emperor Tomb** which is traditional Vietnamese in design

with a European touch making it unique from the other emperor tombs in Hue.

Afternoon: Transfer to the air port for the short flight to Hanoi. Transfer to hotel for check in and the remainder of the day is at leisure. .

Summary of inclusions:

Transportation: *Private AC modern Car / Van, Flight*

Activities: *Tour of Royal monuments*

Meal inclusions: *Breakfast, Lunch*

Accommodation: *Hotel in Hanoi center*

Day 11: Hanoi city tour



8.00AM: Start our full day tour to explore the capital city and its featured sights include **Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, Ho's house-on-stilts, One Pillar Pagoda, Temple of Literature** - Vietnam's first university that built from 1076, one of the following museums (the **Ethnology Museum, Army Museum, National Fine Arts Museum, Hanoi Hilton prison or Vietnam Women Museum**). Later, we take a short walk around the **Old Quarter** for observing busy local life and finish the day with a **Water Puppet**

show. (Today is open for you, activities are also flexible so you could follow our suggestions or just talk with the tour guide and customize the day).

Summary:

Transportation: *Private AC modern Car / Van*

Activities: *Hanoi full day sightseeing*

Meal inclusions: *Breakfast, Lunch*

Accommodation: *Hotel in Hanoi center*

Day 12: Halong Bay cruise - Night on board



8.15AM: Leave bustling Hanoi for a 3.5-hour drive through the rich farmlands of the Red River Delta to **Halong Bay** with a stop at the midway to visit at a humanity center.

Arrive in Halong at noon. Board your overnight boat for a **cruise among the spectacular limestone islands**. Lunch is served as you wind your way through the bay of **dramatic rock formations and floating villages**.

Afternoon: we spend time to **explore a natural karst cave, swim in emerald water and relax on little pristine beach**. Rest of the afternoon is to relax on the sundeck, enjoy a **cooking demonstration** and watch the sun setting down over the bay. **Dinner and overnight on board.**

Summary:

Transportation: *Bus, Boat*

Activities: *Halong Bay cruise*

Meal inclusions: *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Accommodation: *Private en suit room on board*

Day 13: Halong Bay more cruise - Hanoi

Enjoy a morning Taichi class on the top deck with view of the bay at sunrise. After breakfast, cruise further for visit to another part of Halong bay and take a rowing boat to visit a floating village and a pearl oyster farm. Lunch is served aboard before you reach quay around at noon. Drive back to Hanoi. Check in hotel and remainder of the day is at leisure.



Summary:

Transportation: *Boat, Bus*

Activities: *Halong Bay cruise*

Meal inclusions: *Breakfast, Lunch*

Accommodation: *Hotel in Hanoi center*

Day 14: Hanoi - Departure

Today is departure day so no activity planned. Free at your leisure for relax or last minute sightseeing and shopping until your transfer to Noi Bai Airport for onward flight.

Summary of inclusions:

Transportation: *Private AC modern Car / Van*

Activities: *N/A*

Meal inclusions: *Breakfast*

Accommodation: *N/A*

*******END OF SERVICES*******