



**REALISTIC ASIA**  
Your extraordinary journey begins

# INDOCHINA EXPERIENCES COLLECTION

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REALISTIC ASIA

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## VIETNAM

Hanoi

Hoi An

Ninh Binh

Ho Chi Minh

Halong Bay

Mekong Delta

Hue



## CAMBODIA

Siem Reap

Phnom Penh



## LAOS

Vientiane

Luang Prabang



## THAILAND

Bangkok

Phuket

Chiang Mai

Khaosan



# GREETINGS FROM REALISTIC ASIA

*My name is Hien Do, and I am the founder and CEO of Realistic Asia. I was born and raised in Vietnam, and I've always been fascinated by the South East Asia's rich culture and history. When I was younger, I would often dream of opening the doors of Southeast Asia to the world and sharing its charming beauty with others.*

*Realistic Asia was born out of that dream. I wanted to create a company that would offer authentic and immersive travel experiences so that people could truly explore the region for themselves. We believe that the best way to truly grasp a culture is to dive right in, and I want to help my guests do just that.*

*The name "Realistic Asia" reflects our company's commitment to providing authentic and meaningful travel experiences. We don't want to just show you the tourist traps; we want to take you to the hidden gems of Southeast Asia, the places that only locals know about. We want you to experience the real Southeast Asia, the one that's full of life, culture, and history.*

*As a family-owned and operated business, we take pride in providing our guests with a personalized and caring experience. We want our travelers to feel like a part of our family. We are always available to answer any questions and help to plan the perfect trip. Whether you are looking for a relaxing beach vacation, an adventurous jungle trek, or a cultural immersion experience, we can craft an unforgettable holiday. We offer a wide range of tours and activities to fit any taste and interests.*

*We hope this experience catalog reflects our passion for, and thorough knowledge of, this fascinating part of the world. We'd be honored to help you plan your Southeast Asian journey.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hien Do".

Hien Do, founder of Realistic Asia

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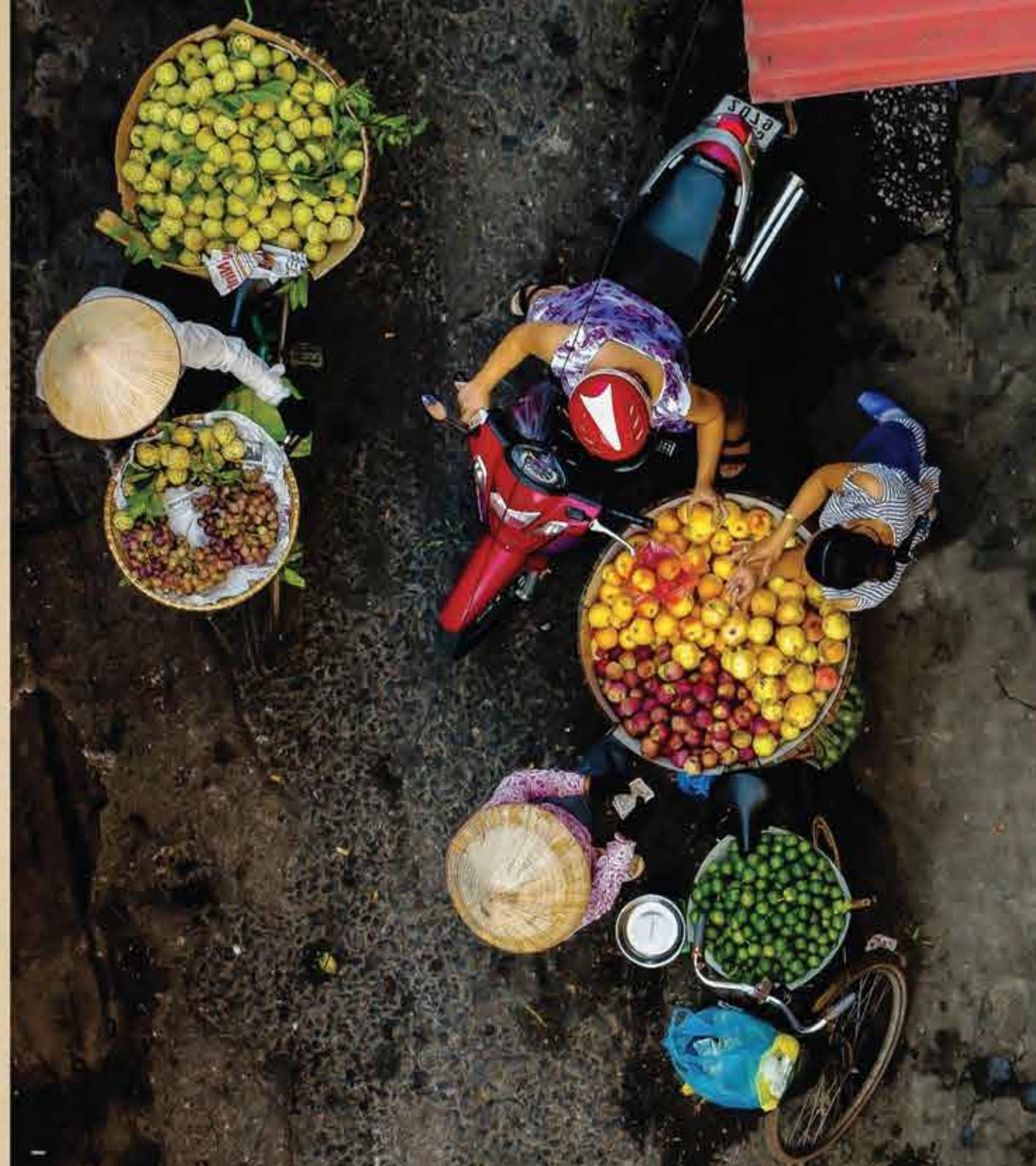
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# Viet Nam

## *A Land of Beauty, Culture, and History*

Vietnam is a country of contrasts, with a rich history, stunning natural beauty, and a diverse culture. From the bustling streets of Hanoi, where cyclos weave through a maze of historic alleyways, to the vibrant lantern-lit evenings of Hoi An's ancient town, Vietnam offers a kaleidoscope of experiences for travelers.

The country's beauty is evident in its lush rice fields, dramatic limestone mountains, and pristine beaches. Its culture is a melting pot of Chinese, French, and Vietnamese influences, and its history is long and fascinating.

You'll be drawn to Vietnam's natural beauty and ancient history, but it's the friendly local people, whom you meet on the way, that leave the biggest impression. It could be the smiling street vendor who hands you a bowl of steaming Pho while you perch on a pavement-side stool in Hanoi or the boatman who takes you on a sampan ride through the Mekong River's maze of canals.

No matter if you are a seeker of historical whispers, a nature devotee enchanted by scenic beauty, or a culture admirer drawn to the threads of local life – Vietnam extends a warm invitation to discover experiences as unique as you are. Let's take a serene stroll through a handful of the captivating moments that await.





REALISTIC ASIA

❖ VIETNAM ❖ CAMBODIA ❖ LAOS ❖ THAILAND

## HOME-HOSTED MEAL WITH LOCAL FAMILY OF MUSICIANS

Location: **Hanoi**  
Suggested departure time: **11:30/18:30**  
Tour duration: **2.5 hours**  
Capacity: **Max. 4 people**



The best way to get a cultural experience is to spend time with local people, especially if it is a good company. Feel the hospitality of Hanoians and get a deep insight into the local way of living by having a meal with a local family.

Today, you will visit the family of local musicians in their house in a charming alley in the Old Quarter. The husband is a traditional musical artist whose passion has lasted for over 30 years and has been passed on to his daughter. Enjoy a home-cooked meal with the family in their house and get a true insight into the importance of meals at home in Vietnamese culture. While tasting delicious meals, the hosts are more than happy to share their life stories and enthusiasm for music. Wrap up your lunch or dinner with a private performance of the traditional Vietnamese music instrument 'Dan Bau' will be held at home after the meal. If you wish, you also could learn how to play a few notes on this instrument.

Ms Ai is a passionate and well-known chef in Hanoi, who was in the top 5 in Master Chef 2014. She is an expert in culinary and actively promotes healthy food among Vietnamese. Today, you will have a chance to learn the secrets of cooking delicious Vietnamese meals and try your hands at cooking under the guidance of an experienced chef.

Once you meet Chef Ai, she will take you to the local wet market, where you will witness the authentic and busy life of the neighborhood. Ms. Ai will show you how to select the freshest and most important ingredients for local dishes and will guide you through the sights, sounds, and flavors of the bustling market.

After the market, walk with Chef Ai to her house, where she will teach you to prepare delicious local meals in her cozy kitchen. Listen to her inspiring stories about the food, her love and passion for cooking, and the culinary traditions of Vietnam while she guides you through the process of cooking. You will create your own culinary masterpieces, which you will savor for lunch. This private cooking class is a unique opportunity to learn from a skilled chef and immerse yourself in the local food culture.

## HOME COOKING EXPERIENCE WITH CHEF AI

Location: **Hanoi**  
Suggested departure time: **9:00 or 15:00**  
Tour duration: **approx. 4.5 hours**  
Venue location: **20-minute drive from downtown**



## THE ART OF WATER PUPPETRY WITH A LOCAL ARTISAN

Location: **Hanoi**

Suggested departure time: **10:00 or 15:00 to avoid traffic jam**

Availability: **Morning, Afternoon**

Capacity: **Max. 12 pax**



Experience the art of water puppetry, a unique form of folk art that originated in Vietnam, with a local artisan. Mr. Liem Phan is a passionate performer who inherited his talent and tradition from his father. He has performed in several countries outside Vietnam and has a profound love for playing with puppets, making them, and creating mini-stages for water puppetry.

Today you will take a 30-minute drive from your hotel to a small alley in Hanoi where Mr. Liem lives and works. During your visit, you will sit down for a cup of tea and listen to Mr. Liem Phan's stories about the origin of water puppetry and his memorable experiences traveling around the world to share with others Vietnamese culture and folklore. Afterward, you will enjoy a 30-minute private show featuring lion dances, buffalo fighting, rice farming, and boat racing, among others, on Mr. Liem Phan's private mini water puppet stage on the top floor of his house. After the show, you can choose between learning to handle the puppets in the water or taking part in making and painting the puppets in the workshop.

With its 300-year history, Dao Thuc village is cherished as a place that preserves the essence of traditional water puppetry. Where else can you witness this unique art form in such a special setting? This ancient village was once in danger of losing its cherished tradition, but thanks to the dedication of one artisan, the art of water puppetry has experienced a remarkable revival in recent years.

Just a short drive from Hanoi lies the peaceful village of Dao Thuc. Your journey begins with a visit to a local workshop, where you'll learn the inspiring story of how a family revived water puppetry, ensuring its future for generations to come.

## WATER PUPPETS PERFORMANCE AT DAO THUC

Location: **Hanoi**  
Suggested departure time: **09:00**  
Tour duration: **3,5 hours**





Prepare to be entranced by a private 30-minute water puppet show performed on the village pond. Watch in awe as the skilled puppeteers bring the puppets to life, their movements accompanied by the enchanting melodies of a live traditional orchestra. Don't miss the chance to witness the unique technique of the puppeteers standing in the water, a charming element of this captivating art form.

Dao Anh Khanh, a celebrated surrealist artist, paints his dreams onto canvases and wood, breathing life into works that grace galleries across the globe. A member of the Vietnamese Fine Arts Association, he pushes artistic boundaries with his passion, defying the limitations of tradition, style, and even politics. His talents extend far beyond the canvas, encompassing the worlds of environmentalism, sculpture, performance art, music, and even painting.

Visit his amazing world through a 20-minute journey from Hanoi's heart to Mr. Khanh's unique studio. Immerse yourself in the world of this modern artist by spending a night at his homestay, a haven designed by his vision. You will get a chance to unwind amidst the distinct charm of underground houses, treehouses, and stilt houses, each reflecting a unique personality you won't find anywhere else. Mr. Khanh will personally welcome you and share his life experiences, making your stay truly unforgettable.

## HOMESTAY AT DAO ANH KHANH'S STUDIO

Location:

Hanoi

Tour duration:

overnight stay



## COCKTAIL RECEPTION WITH PERFORMANCE ARTIST DAO ANH KHANH

Location: **Hanoi**

Suggested departure time: **10:00/16:00**

Tour duration: **1 hour**



Hanoi is a treasure trove of rich culture and art, a beautiful blend of Eastern and Western influences throughout its captivating history. Let's explore the artistic side of Hanoi together with a visit to the studio home of Anh Khanh, a celebrated Vietnamese painter, sculptor, and performance artist.

Warmly welcome you to Anh Khanh's studio home. Begin your journey with a delightful cocktail reception as you peacefully admire his exhibition on the ground floor of his wooden stilt house and its charming courtyard.

Wandering through the lush garden, dotted with sculptures, you'll have the chance to discover Anh Khanh's fascinating life story. A former policeman, his bold artistic explorations have made him a captivating figure, sometimes creating gentle ripples in Vietnam's more traditional art scene.

Take a street food tour to explore the best culinary spots of the city with a food blogger – Mr. Van Cong Tu. He started his blog in 2005 and has been sharing his enormous passion for food and culture for all these years.

Meet Mr Tu at your hotel lobby and take a walk through the Old Quarter. You will visit two bustling markets: Thanh Ha and Dong Xuan, which are alive with the sights and sounds of Hanoi. Explore the dried goods and aromatics spices that are essential for Vietnamese cuisine, and taste the local delicacies and remarkable dishes such as pho tiu (rice noodles with scrummy slices of roasted pork, with bean sprouts, herbs, crushed nuts, and dried shallots) and bun dau (a rustic dish of Northern Vietnam with rice vermicelli, tofu, and shrimp paste). Along the way, Mr. Tu will introduce to you the Vietnamese food culture.

Then, walk down to Hang Than Street to view ceremonial cake stalls and taste a special French-influenced dessert while learning about traditions and food gifts for celebrations.

Continue back to the Old Quarter via Hang Cot Street to check out specially treated seasonal fruits, the common snacks in Vietnam. Walk along Phung Hung Street through temporary market stalls, where you can see the changing market scene of Hanoi, and how modernization is shaping tradition. At the end of the tour, stop at one of the Old Quarter's busiest coffee shops for a well-earned sit-down and coffee before transferring back to your hotel.

## STREET FOOD TASTING WITH FOOD BLOGGER

Location: **Hanoi**

Suggested departure time: **08:30**

Tour duration: **3 hours**



## CYCLING, FARMING AND COOKING IN HANOI'S COUNTRYSIDE

Location: **Hanoi**  
Suggested departure time: **08:00**  
Tour duration: **9 hours**



This exclusive experience holds a special place in our hearts as our first sustainable project, forging meaningful connections between our travelers and the local community. Here, you'll gain an authentic insight into local life and hands-on experience in the daily activities of this non-touristic yet beautiful part of Vietnam. We have a deep connection with the local community and are heavily involved in their affairs, supporting them for different events, and want to share with you the beauty of the place and people's hearts here. We invite you to be our valued guest and join our community for a day to become an integral part of our shared experience. Meet your guide at the hotel lobby around 8:00 a.m. and depart to Ba Vi, the scenic countryside area on the outskirts of Hanoi.

Your first stop is at Ri Village, where you meet your host Mr. Duoc, who is a Vietnam War veteran and tea-farm owner. Have a chat with Mr. Duoc and listen to the stories of his life during the war while enjoying the welcome drink and snacks. Later, visit the tea plantation, where you will learn how to pick the best tea leaves to make the most wonderful beverage in Vietnam. Carry on with the tea production at Mr. Duoc's small workshop, where most of the work is manual.

Then, take a short drive to Moc village, where you will meet your next host, Mrs. Chin, who will teach you how to cook local Vietnamese dishes. Enjoy the meals you cooked for lunch in a beautiful tropical garden.

Have a short break after lunch, and join Mrs. Chin for a walk around the village. You will visit some local families to understand the rural lifestyle and see how they make tofu, conical hats, and other local products. Then, enjoy a cycling trip through beautiful rice paddy fields.

Wrap up your countryside tour with traditional feet soak in warm water with herbs, following the traditional recipes of the Muong ethnic minority. It will relax you (and your feet) after cycling around the village before heading back to your hotel in Hanoi.



## ONE DAY OF LIFE LIKE A HANOIAN

Location: **Hanoi**

Suggested departure time: **08:30**

Tour duration: **5 hours**

Available time: **Morning only**

Special Note: **Not available during Tet holidays**



Today, you will get a real insight into the local lifestyle. Instead of visiting the famous landmarks, we will take you through off-the-beaten-path routes for tourists, but very common for locals. You will see life from the local perspective and have lunch with a family of 3 generations to learn more about living in Hanoi.

Start your morning by visiting the "standing newspaper" and learn about the poor period for the Hanoians when buying a newspaper was a luxury. Then, stop at a local coffee shop to watch and listen to the sounds of daily life in the Old Quarter before transferring to Gioi Market – the corner where thousands of trade goods are sold, from nails and batteries to motors, electronic goods, and refrigeration equipment. You will be surprised at how many little stores are in the middle of the street, and the difficulty for motorbikes to wind through the tiny streets.

Continue your exploration by the trail ride passing the iconic Long Bien Bridge and follow your guide along the tracks to the "cuisine street", where you can find many tasty dishes and snacks before visiting the local family to have lunch together. Feel the warm hospitality of Hanoians and have a cup of tea while enjoying the chat with the family member. You will taste Vietnamese traditional homemade meals for lunch, which will be a great memory of your time here. Later, we will take you back to your hotel.

Hanoi has more than 1000 years of history that passed many ups & downs and brings the capital charms & attractions. Today, you will explore & discover the traces of wartime, guided by the veteran who used to be a soldier during the American war from 1970 to 1975 - to get a glimpse of the history and his authentic experience.

Start your tour by the Hanoi Hilton, where American POWs were kept. Then, head to Truc Bach & Huu Tiep Lakes in Ngoc Ha village, where many B52 planes were shot down, and you could see the remains of one of them right in the lake.

Afterward, drive to Thang Long Royal Citadel (closed on Mondays), where we will visit the underground war bunker. This bunker played an important role in the American War, especially during the 12 days and nights of the Ha Noi - Dien Bien Phu air battle in 1972. Finish the trip with a visit to the extensive Army Museum (closed on Mondays and Fridays), where you will see the repository of Vietnam's military history, which includes rooms full of war propaganda, photographs, and documents from China, France, and the US wars.

**Special note:** Thang Long Royal Citadel is closed on Mondays and the Amy Museum is closed on Mondays and Fridays

## INSIGHT TO VETERAN'S EXPERIENCE

Location: **Hanoi**  
Suggested departure time: **08:00/13:00**  
Tour duration: **5 hours**



## MORNING WALK THROUGH THE HIDDEN HANOI

Location: **Hanoi**  
Suggested departure time: **08:30**  
Tour duration: **4.5 hours**  
Walking distance: **3km**



Today you will explore the different sides of Hanoi and enjoy the bustling atmosphere of the city in the morning. Walk through the hidden narrow alleys, meet with the locals for a cup of tea, and indulge in the delicious meals in the vintage restaurant.

Start your morning by exploring the little alleys and seeing the daily lives of locals. Take a seat on Hanoi's iconic very small chairs in the vintage coffee shop and taste a cup of Vietnamese coffee. This is also a perfect opportunity for people-watching, to get a better idea of the daily activities of the locals.

After that, we make our way through a small alley, which is just big enough to fit through, to the Hanoi Church, which is a highlight of the regal architecture of Hanoi. From here, we will move to the busy Nha Chung Alley with vendors selling food or vegetables in the mornings.

Then visit the old French house, where you will meet a local who has a strong attachment to this place. Engage with him to discover more about the change of people, life, and thoughts on the future of this remarkably old city. Finish this tour by having lunch at a vintage Vietnamese restaurant decked out in 70's décor that will take you back in time to a post-liberated Hanoi.

Today, you will discover the hidden side of Hanoi, where locals live and work alongside the railway. Your guide will take you to explore the markets and introduce you to the people who share their space with the railway.

At 8 a.m., you will be picked up from your hotel and taken to the food market on Kham Thien Street to see the daily shopping activities of the locals. Then, you will venture down narrow streets to Alley Le Duan for a view of one of the city's 'railway streets,' where people enjoy coffee on the tracks and make way for oncoming trains. You will also explore the Hanoi station, known for its unique blend of colonial and socialist architecture.

After a stop at Cua Dong Street for a refreshment, you will be driven to Gia Lam Station to catch a train to Long Bien Station. Upon arrival, you can visit the bustling market shadowed by the Long Bien Bridge, a French relic that played a crucial role in the Vietnam War.

## LIFE ALONG THE RAILWAY

Location:

**Hanoi**

Suggested departure time:

**08:30**

Tour duration:

**4 hours**



## HANOI OLD & NEW ARCHITECTURE PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR

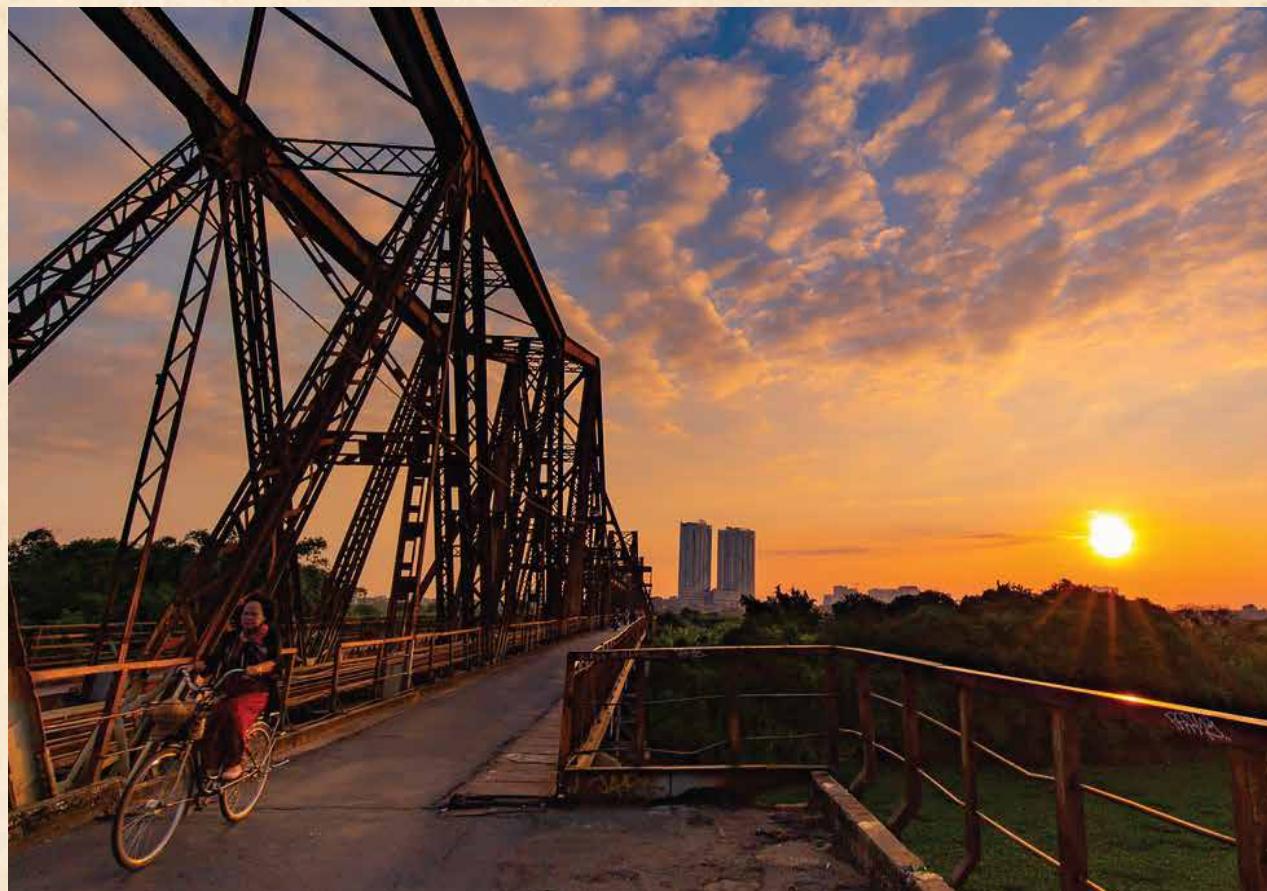
Location: **Hanoi**

Availability **Morning or Afternoon**

Suggested departure time: **08:00 or 13:00**

Tour duration: **4 hours**

Capacity: **Max 5 people**



On this unique half-day photo tour, we will explore the iconic locations and hidden corners of Hanoi and learn how to take great photos. Following the classic structure of the 3 picture story, we discover the fundamentals of travel photography and gain a unique insight into the real Hanoi, leaving with a collection of fantastic pictures to share with friends and family.

On this tour, you will visit the most atmospheric parts of the city, which apart from beautiful views, have an interesting story behind them. Start the photo shoot at the historic Long Bien Bridge, which is one of the symbols of the city. Feature authentic gatherings of local people in your photos while visiting the bustling Long Bien and Dan Xuan markets, which also have an interesting historical background.

Our next series of photos is dedicated to street photography and portraits, and the maze of the Old Quarter streets is a perfect place for it. Here, we will learn how to approach and interact with people for quality portraits. We will also visit the railway tracks to witness and take atmospheric photos of how people live right alongside the railway.

Then practice storytelling in the photos at the old apartment zones built in 1975. Here we will see different architectures before and after the Vietnam-American War that feature the story of local people, still living in these apartments. Finish the tour with a cocktail at a local artist's studio, where you can take part in the final photography workshop for expert feedback.

Travel to the photogenic Red River Delta village of Tho Ha via a 45min drive from Hanoi and a short ferry across the Cau River.

The Red River Delta is an agriculturally rich area producing 20% of Vietnam's rice crop. Despite the increasing industrialization of the area, the village of Tho Ha has remained mostly unaffected by modern development. Walk through the village's narrow terracotta-tiled alleyways, a reminder of its history as one of Vietnam's three oldest ceramic centres.

Notice the many bamboo racks filled with drying rice paper, speaking to the current occupation of many of its inhabitants after the pottery industry faded. A visit here presents an authentic portrait of a typical Vietnamese village with some of the homes dating back more than a century.

Visit the 17th century Tho Ha Pagoda with its triple gate, belfry, and forecourt carved with dragons, clouds, and flowers. Enjoy a conversation with one of the local residents to gain insights into life in the village before returning to Hanoi.

## PORTRAIT OF CENTURY OLD VILLAGE OF THO HA, BAC GIANG

Location:

Bac Giang

Availability:

Morning, Afternoon

Suggested departure time:

09:00, 14:00

Tour duration:

4 hours



## SCENIC FLIGHT FROM HANOI TO HALONG BAY BY SEAPLANE

Location: **Halong Bay**

Suggested departure time: **8:00 or 9:00**

Flight time: **45 minutes + 15 minutes of sightseeing over the bay**



For those who are seeking something special and want to explore the magnificent views of Halong Bay in a different way, we are happy to offer the luxury transfer from Hanoi to Halong Bay by seaplane, which is not only the fastest way to get there but also an experience that you will never forget.

Depart from your hotel with a 40-minute drive to Noi Abi International Airport, where you will embark on a join-in seaplane at 09:00 a.m. (10:00 a.m. in winter). Take a 60-minute flight to Ha Long Bay, enjoying the scenic views of lush green rice fields and the Red River delta. Upon arrival at Halong Bay, you will enjoy the flight above the limestone formations and breathtaking views of the bay from the bird's eye view.

Madam Nhu Huy is a Vietnam's gastronomy artisan and an expert in traditional Hue cuisine. She is a professor, author of cookbooks, a participant in various TV cooking shows in Vietnam and Europe, and the recipient of several prestigious Talent awards in Vietnam. Who could know more about Vietnamese cuisine than her?

This evening, you have a unique opportunity to learn the remarkable cuisine of Hue, which is known as the culinary capital of Vietnam. We will take you to Madam Nhu Huy's house, where you will try a mouth-watering dinner, created by one of the best master chefs in Vietnam. She is an expert in making the right balance of flavors as well as food presentation, where even a simple dish is a masterpiece. During the dinner, you will also listen to inspiring stories about her passion for culinary art, life, and career.

## HOME-HOSTED MEAL WITH THE GASTRONOMY ARTISAN MADAM NHU HUY

Location:

Hue

Suggested departure time:

19:00

Tour duration:

2 hours



## HUE FOOD TOUR WITH GASTRONOMY

### ARTISAN MADAM NHU HUY

Location: **Hue**  
Suggested departure time: **8:00**  
Tour duration: **4 hours**  
Capacity: **Max. 5 people**



Explore the delicious world of Hue food with the celebrated gastronomy artisan - Madam Nhu Huy. She is a professor, author of cookbooks, a food television presenter in Vietnam and Europe, and the recipient of several prestigious Talent awards in Vietnam.

Start your tour with a visit to the local market to see the sights and sounds of daily life. Madam Nhu Huy will share some advice on how to select the freshest produce and ingredients necessary for Hue food. Later, visit several villages which each specialize in a different popular dish. During the day, sample many wonderful foods including com hen (mussel rice), banh beo, banh nam banh loc (varieties of soft rice cakes), and Hue sweet soups. These dishes are not merely considered local food, but an indispensable culinary trait of Hue.

Continue to the local restaurant Huyen Anh which serves Hue's specialty of banh uot and grilled pork. End the trip at Nhu Huy's house to taste more local food then return to your hotel.

Tam Giang Lagoon is the largest freshwater lagoon in Southeast Asia and a home to over 100,000 inhabitants. For hundreds of years, this has played a crucial role in the life of the local fishermen community. It is also known for its stunning views during the sunset sunset.

Start your exploration with a visit to An Dinh Palace, a stunning European-style palace and UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. The next stop on our way to the lagoon is the Ru Cha mangrove forest, which acts as a natural barrier against the Thuan An Sea.

When the sun starts getting down, we will reach Chuon Lagoon (Tam Giang Lagoon), where you will take a boat trip to explore the lagoon. Pass by floating houses and take stunning sunset photos, enjoying the kaleidoscope of bright colors in the sky and authentic views of local fishermen at work. You can take part in various activities such as joining fishermen in catching fish, kayaking, or just swimming in the crystal blue water.

After the boat trip, we will stop at a local's house or restaurant to enjoy local specialty dishes or seafood and chat with the locals before getting back to the hotel.

## SUNSET TOUR ON TAM GIANG LAGOON

Location: **Hue**  
Suggested departure time: **14:00**  
Tour duration: **5 hours**



## HUE PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR

Location:	Hue
Suggested departure time:	14:00
Tour duration:	4 hours
Venue location:	10-minute drive from downtown
Capacity:	Max. 20 pax



Hue is known for its rich cultural heritage, royal charm, and authentic countryside. Today you will meet a professional photographer, who will take you through the hidden gems of Hue to take the most stunning and interesting photos and deep insight into the local life.

Meet Mrs. Ha Ton, who is a celebrated photographer of Hue. You will discuss the photographic art, and special techniques and learn about her interesting life experiences. Then, she will take you to Thanh Toan Village, where you will capture on camera the local daily life. Take a rest by a small Japanese-style covered bridge - Thanh Toan, dating back more than two centuries and which is a favorite spot for locals to rest in the shade. Visit the local market to view and photograph fresh produce and everyday local market sales. Continue to the peaceful Vong Canh Hill, a beautiful spot that reflects itself in the Perfume River and offers a panoramic view of the city during sunset.

**Special Note:** This tour is not recommended during October - February due to the weather conditions.

Explore the lesser-known destinations of graceful Hue exploring the rich cultural traditions, authentic local life, and scenic countryside views. You will not only visit meaningful places for Hue residents but also explore them on the back of the Vespa bike like all locals do.

Start your exploration with a visit to a local family temple, where you'll discover the rich traditions and obligations associated with Vietnamese family culture. Take a leisurely walk down the street and learn about the French colonial influence on the architecture of the beautiful riverside homes, and visit the bustling market, where you can witness the daily bustle of Vietnamese women and the sale of ancient worship materials.

Then, take a ferry to cross the Perfume River, where your Vespas will be waiting on the other side. Hop on the back of the bike and ride through the peaceful countryside streets, distancing yourself from the urban hustle and bustle. Stop at a workshop producing worship materials and try your hand at creating your own small folk art print while sipping on some green tea. Continue your journey through the picturesque rice paddies on your Vespa and make a stop at an ancient bridge, where locals of all ages gather to relax and enjoy the refreshing river breeze.

## HUE COUNTRYSIDE ON VESPA BIKE

Location:

Hue

Suggested departure time:

08:00/13:00

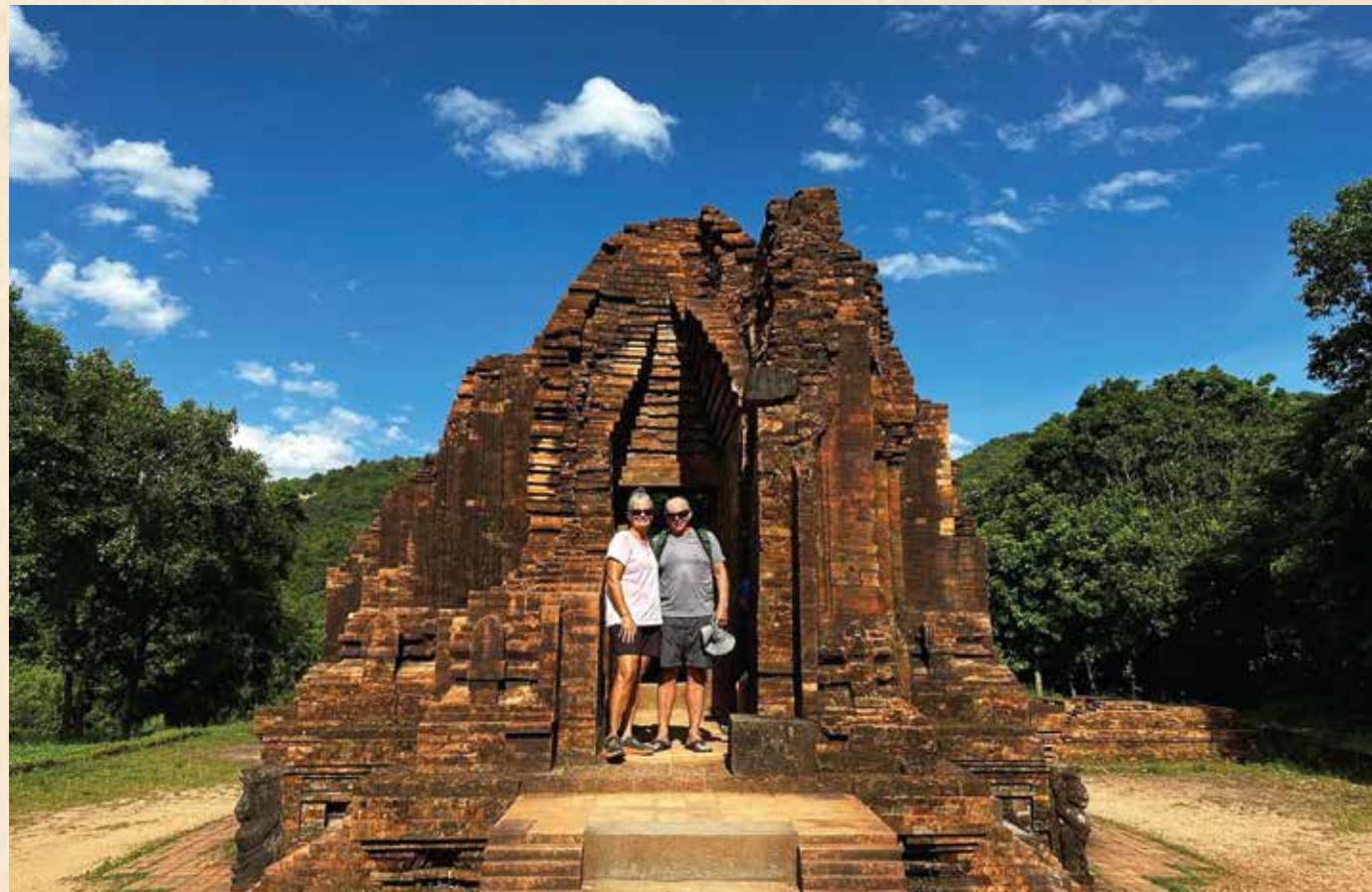
Tour duration:

4 - 4.5 hours



## MEETING WITH ANTIQUE ARCHITECT IN MY SON

Location: **Hoi An**  
Suggested departure time: **09:00**  
Tour duration: **5 hours**



My Son is one of the original Hindu temple sites in Southeast Asia, constructed during the Cham civilization time. Between the 2nd and 13th centuries, My Son was an important religious site and place of worship. Today, you have a unique opportunity to meet the specialist, who is dedicated to preserving this remarkable historic and cultural site and exploring it on a deeper level.

A one-and-a-half-hour drive from Hoi An will bring you to My Son, where there are 20 ancient monuments still standing today. The temples are set in a verdant valley surrounded by hills and overlooked by the impressive Cat Tooth Mountain. Stroll around this UNESCO-listed temple complex to learn about the Cham culture, architecture, and civilization with Mr. Nguyen Thuong Hy, who has dedicated 35 years to the restoration and preservation of Southeast Asia's most significant architecture and relics. Before returning to Hoi An, enjoy a traditional lunch at Mr. Hy's nearby home.

Hoi An has been a world heritage site since 1999, and its charming old town has provided some of Vietnam's most iconic images. If you want to capture some of your own special photos, why not join a professional photographer? With years of residence in Hoi An, Etienne has explored each narrow street and ancient shophouse to know the best locations available. He will escort you through the most photogenic places in the town and give you the advice on best techniques for Hoi An photography.

Meet your professional photographer Etienne at 4:45 a.m. and head to the pier to take a small boat to visit the fishing village. It is a perfect time to capture the sun as it peeks over the horizon and offers you a reflection on the river, along with all the hues in the morning sky. The village itself offers excellent opportunities for photography, including fishermen unloading fish after a night at sea, old women laying fish out in the sun to dry, and the bustling local fish market with the village behind it. Stop for a morning coffee break to discuss the experience. Then, continue to the small fish sauce factory before heading back to the pier. Enjoy a quiet and scenic cycling trip along the river's edge back to the old town. Take a few moments to review this morning's work before you farewell the photographer and transfer to your hotel.

## HOI AN SUNRISE PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR

Location: **Hoi An**  
Suggested departure time: **04:45**  
Tour duration: **3 hours**  
Capacity: **Max. 25 people**



## HOI AN SUNSET PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR

Location:	Hoi An
Suggested departure time:	15:00
Tour duration:	3 hours
Availability:	Afternoon
Capacity:	Max. 25 pax



Hoi An has been a world heritage site since 1999, and its charming old town has provided some of Vietnam's most iconic images. If you want to capture some of your own special photos, why not join a professional photographer? With years of residence in Hoi An, Etienne has explored each narrow street and ancient shophouse to know the best locations available. He will escort you through the most photogenic places in the town and give you the advice on best techniques for Hoi An photography.

Meet your professional photographer Etienne at 3:00 a.m. and head to the Old Town, where you will enjoy a drink and chat about photography. Then, take a boat trip to a remote farming village along the river. Surrounded by rice fields and the river, it offers many opportunities to capture the daily life of workers, highlighted by the setting sun. Take photos of the buffalos grazing in the background and small boats, where people cast net fishing. This scene is particularly impressive during the rice planting or harvesting time. Within the village, you will be more than welcome to capture portraits of old people and children playing. Stop to share a cup of tea or a glass of cold beer with a local family. The boat ride back to Hoi An falls at a time when the sun offers its best colors. Return to town, where your driver will meet you and transfer you back to your hotel.

**Special Note:** This trip is not advised between October - February due to the rough weather conditions.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the ancient town of Hoi An is well-preserved and keeps a rich cultural and historic heritage.

Today you have the opportunity to chat with Kieu Maily - A Champa Cultural Researcher. Kiều Maily made life in Ho Chi Minh as a broadcaster and writer, but ancient Hoi An City became a favorite destination for her to promote the traditional culture of the Cham people. She was born and raised in a Cham ethnic community in the hot and sandy Phuoc Nhon Village, Phan Rang City, Ninh Thuan Province. Today, You will meet with her and enjoy exploring the Champa Amaravati House Hoi An - a Cham experience center. The Champa Amaravati House will offer you live performances and Cham cuisine. You will enjoy the true art of Champa culture while sharing the historical stories of exhibits and art performances told by Cham artists.

## MEET WITH CHAMPA CULTURAL RESEARCHER KIEU MAILY

Location:

Hoi An

Suggested departure time:

09:00 or 15:00

Tour duration:

2 hours

Availability:

Morning or Afternoon



## LEARNING CRAFTS IN DRIFTWOOD VILLAGE

Location: **Hoi An**  
Suggested departure time: **08:00**  
Tour duration: **3.5 hours**



Today, you will spend time in the beautiful village surrounded by rice paddies and learn about fascinating carpentry art. Take a morning drive to visit the Driftwood Village. It is a community of local artisans who create beautiful art from driftwood collected from the nearby beaches.

Learn about the local carpentry traditions and listen to the story of the village while admiring the vast collection of works in the art studio. Many local artisans use sustainable materials and practices, which makes these crafts even more special. Listen to inspiring stories of the artisans about how they put meaning and messages in each intricate detail of their art and learn the basic techniques to use the chisel. Then, try your hands at making your craft under the guidance of our skillful artisans. Finish your work by painting your creations, and the masterpiece is done!

Later, you could visit the shop to buy sustainable handmade souvenirs for your loved ones before heading back to the hotel.

Hoi An at night is always busy with hundreds of food stalls and local restaurants. This evening, take a walk around the town and discover many vendors offering Hoi An specialties. This tour takes you off the beaten path to get a unique glimpse into the nightlife of this lovely ancient town and unforgettable street food.

Meet your tour guide and start zigzagging through the alleys to sample the most delicious local meals such as "white rose" (shrimp and pork dumpling cake with the shape of the rose), Vietnamese sandwich Banh Mi, which bustles with flavors and crispy fried wontons.

Then, we will visit a hidden family restaurant serving barbecued pork, which you can combine with fresh greens and herbs to create your own fresh spring roll. Walk further into the center of the village for a look at the ancient Ba Le Well, built in the 10th century by the Cham people. What is very special about it is that only water from this well can be used for preparing the Hoi An specialty Cao Lau noodles, which is our next culinary delight to try. Cao Lau comprises signature Hoi An noodles, slices of barbecue pork, pork crackling, bean sprouts, lettuce, and herbs. Finally, enjoy a dessert of sweet soup "Che" before capping off the journey at the riverside to release floating lanterns for good luck.

## HOI AN WALKING NIGHT FOOD SAFARI

Location:	<b>Hoi An</b>
Suggested departure time:	<b>17:00</b>
Tour duration:	<b>4 hours</b>
Distance:	<b>5 km</b>
Capacity:	<b>Max. 12 pax</b>



## SECLUDED RICE FIELD DINNER

Location: **Hoi An**

Suggested departure time: **16:30**

Tour duration: **3 hours**

Capacity: **Min. 2 pax, Max. 8 pax**



Experience a Secluded Rice Field Dinner in Cam Thanh Village, a hidden gem of Hoi An. This village is renowned for its dense water coconut jungles and vast rice fields, which supply the area with fresh seafood, vegetables, and rice. Meet your guide in the late afternoon and head to the picturesque Co Co River. Enjoy a bamboo basket ride along the river to witness the stunning sunset scenery.

Upon arrival at the bamboo watch tower, situated on a rice field by the riverbank, you'll find a cozy tent with a beautifully set table for your dinner. Indulge in a BBQ feast with locally sourced fresh foods and vegetables, while basking in the tranquil ambiance of the rice fields and river. After dinner, transfer back to your hotel.

Escape the hustle and bustle of downtown Hoi An and venture to a peaceful, little-known village adorned with lush bamboo foliage. This traditional Vietnamese village is steeped in ancient customs, from mooring and ferry boats to old houses and temple traditions, still preserved by the locals.

Embark on a leisurely boat cruise before wandering through the winding alleys to engage in conversations with the villagers. Visit local families to witness the making of traditional crafts like mat-weaving, cement statues, and noodles, and gain insight into their livelihoods. Explore the community garden to discover the diversity of local plants and herbs and chat with the farmers. Continue on to an ancient house built in the 19th century, showcasing Vietnamese and French architectural influences. End your excursion with a relaxing bamboo raft ride before indulging in lunch at a local eatery.

## BIKING IN THE HIDDEN VILLAGE OF TRIEM TAY

Location: **Hoi An**  
Suggested departure time: **08:30/13:30**  
Tour duration: **5 hours**  
Availability: **Morning/Afternoon**



## A O SHOW AND DINNER AT THE DINING ROOM

Location:

Ho Chi Minh

Suggested departure time:

Pulic Show: 18:00/20:00

Tour duration:

3 hours

Availability:

Evening only, upon request (check the show schedule)



This evening, you will depart from your hotel to witness the incredible A O Show. This unique performance combines various forms of art, showcasing the serene countryside and picturesque landscapes of Vietnam. The show is remarkable for its depiction of traditional Vietnamese folk games, dances, and circus acts, set against the backdrop of a blend of traditional and modern music, illuminated by artistic lighting. Bamboo pipes and baskets are incorporated into the performance as set decorations, and the performers and musicians dress in farmers' clothing, demonstrating the traditional daily activities of villagers and festive celebrations.

After the show, you will enjoy a dinner of beautifully decorated dishes of innovative Vietnamese cuisine at the Dining Room restaurant, which offers a different approach to traditional Vietnamese dining. Finally, you will be transferred back to your hotel.

The Cu Chi tunnel complex was dug in 1948 for the guerrillas to hide from French air and ground sweeps. It also served as communication routes, food and weapon caches, field hospitals, and living quarters for guerrilla fighters throughout the American war.

Today you will visit the underground villages with a Vietnam War veteran, who used to live there. His life experience will give you a better understanding of the tunnels' history, life in the tunnels, and the Vietnamese's resilience during the combats. Discuss with the veteran and find out about his experience living in the subterranean hamlets where lack of air, food, and water can make life unbearable. Your guide will be there to translate the veteran's story.

## CU CHI TUNNELS TOUR WITH VIET CONG VETERAN

Location: Ho Chi Minh  
Suggested departure time: 08:00/13:30  
Tour duration: 5 hours  
Capacity: Max. 15 Pax



## MORNING WALK TO THE MARKET AND STREET FOOD TASTING

Location: Ho Chi Minh  
Suggested departure time: 8:00  
Tour duration: 4 hours  
Availability: Morning



Two of the greatest pleasures of visiting Saigon are exploring its markets and sampling its legendary street food. Combine both in this culinary morning tour.

Meet your guide and drive to one of Saigon's most historic markets where you will learn about its history as you enjoy Banh Hoi Nem Nuong (grilled pork with rice vermicelli). Walk around the market to learn about fresh vegetables, seafood, and spices used in Vietnamese cooking with a stop at a small tofu factory to see how tofu and soya beans are made. Back at the market, enjoy a Vietnamese sweet like fresh yogurt, crème caramel (flan), or flavored gelatin. Wander around some of the market stalls, possibly including a shoe stall that makes wooden clogs to order. Cross the street for a taste of Banh Cuon Hanoi (steamed rice flour crepe stuffed with pork), washed down with a sinh to (Vietnamese smoothie) or Nuoc Mia (sugar cane juice). Taste savory rice flour cakes like Banh Xeo and Banh Khot or fresh spring rolls before ending with a Vietnamese sweet pudding before heading back to your hotel.

Wake up early this morning and start your day like a real Saigonese does! Your guide will show you things that make Saigon so different, compared to other parts of Vietnam, from the morning crowded street coffee places to the lively local outdoor markets, where people shop for their daily needs.

Your first stop is a Vietnamese bread stall, which is believed to be the first bread stall in Saigon. Sit down together with the local people inside a small alley to enjoy this simple, yet delicious breakfast. After breakfast, zig-zag through the alleys and stop at a market for a cup of tea or coffee in Saigon's oldest café. This coffee shop is now in its 78th year of operation. Meet the owner for a talk to learn how she makes coffee with such a special yet traditional method called "stocking coffee". Continue to wind your way through nearby street markets to see how people bargain for fresh vegetables, seafood, and other local food. Carry on to the "flower alleys" - the biggest flower market in Saigon. Take the opportunity to see the colorful blossoms, and interact with the sellers. Stop at some vendors to try some favorite Saigonese snacks and desserts such as sponge cakes and sweet soups before heading back to your hotel.

**Special note:** Not available during Tet holidays. The tour could be arranged on a vintage Vespa upon request.

## THE MORNING OF A LOCAL SAIGONESE

Location: **Ho Chi Minh**  
Suggested departure time: **07:00**  
Tour duration: **3 hours**  
Available time: **Morning**



## HIDDEN SECRETS OF SAIGON

Location: **Ho Chi Minh**  
Suggested departure time: **08:00**  
Tour duration: **5 hours**  
Availability: **Morning/ Afternoon**



Ho Chi Minh City, the most youthful and dynamic metropolis in Vietnam, boasts newly erected skyscrapers and a modern lifestyle. Yet, beneath this splendid facade lies a tapestry of untold stories about the authentic local life that thrives beyond the bustling districts of the city.

With your private guide leading the way, you'll embark on a journey to uncover these hidden gems. First, you'll visit a secret weapon chamber, once a covert storage space for weapons during the Vietnam War. This visit will provide you with valuable insights into the historical significance of the war.

Next, you'll meander through a quaint slum area, where you'll have the opportunity to engage with the locals. These families have inhabited the same cozy houses for generations, offering you a genuine glimpse into the heart of local life.

Afterward, unwind at a charming coffee shop tucked away within a vintage French colonial apartment block. Finally, visit a hidden restaurant located on the top of another old apartment, completing your immersive journey into the hidden treasures of Ho Chi Minh City.

This evening, discover Ho Chi Minh City in the most exciting and delicious way possible: with a food tour on a motorbike. Meet your guide at the hotel and hop on a vintage Vespa. Then hit the road on a mouthwatering exploration of Saigon after dark. The first stop is at a bakery to try a fresh and delicious bread roll before heading to a vintage coffee shop tucked in a back alley. And that's just to start.

Continue zipping along the city's bustling streets to an old apartment complex that comes alive at night with hundreds of food and drink stalls. After sampling a few savory tidbits you'll visit a 50-year-old dessert shop to try homemade sweet soups. Your guide will then lead you to an off-the-beaten-path restaurant for multiple courses starring the freshest seafood in the city. End the night at a cozy bar tucked away in a quiet alley as you sample local beers and craft cocktails while chatting with friendly locals. Feel free to cut loose, as a taxi will be waiting to take you back to your hotel.

## EVENING FOOD TOUR WITH VESPA WANDERERS

Location: **Ho Chi Minh**

Suggested departure time: **18:30**

Tour duration: **3 hours**



## SAIGON VESPA TOUR

Location: **Ho Chi Minh**  
Suggested departure time: **14:00 - for vespa tour**  
Tour duration: **4 hours**



In the afternoon, you will explore the hidden gems of Saigon and get an insight into the local art scene. Hop on our 1960s Vespa bike to weave through the busy streets of Saigon like a local and see how Saigon has changed over the years. Meet Ms. Mai, a young lady who graduated from the University of Sydney. With her boundless passion for preserving Vietnam's traditional arts while still enhancing sustainable development, Mai runs educational projects to introduce her ideas to the young generation. You can choose between learning to draw with the traditional Dong Ho Woodblock printing technique or making paper paper using suitable plant waste.

After the workshop, continue to a hidden art studio where you can talk to another young artist – Ms. Uyen Vo. Different from Mai, Uyen aims to develop new products based on authentic crafts. She blows brilliant twists on traditional art techniques to create easier drawing methods. Uyen is also a master of Vietnamese musical instruments. Enjoy the live folk tunes performed by her, sip a cup of Vietnamese tea, and admire the artworks presented in the studio.

The best way to learn about vegan food is to go to an organic farm, where you will learn more about plants and their nutrition. Today you will pick up all your vegetables, mushrooms, and fruits to create nice and fancy vegan dishes following the master chef's instructions.

After breakfast at the hotel, meet your guide at 07:30 a.m., and you will drive to Ho Chi Minh Agricultural Villages. Spend time exploring the villages and visiting Cow and buffalo areas. Then you will visit rice fields, and prawn, chicken, and duck areas.

Then head to the garden to pick up fresh herbs, spices, vegetables, and mushrooms. Challenge yourself with hands-on experience in cooking healthy vegan food under the instructions of the master chef. You will create 9 dishes and 1 dessert. After cooking you will enjoy tasting your creations and receive the certificate, recipes, and nice souvenirs.

## SAIGON VEGAN COOKING LESSON

Location:

Ho Chi Minh

Suggested departure time:

7:30

Tour duration:

6 hours



## DAY TRIP TO THE MEKONG DELTA AND AUTHENTIC FLOATING VILLAGE

Location: Ho Chi Minh, Can Tho  
Suggested departure time: 08:00  
Tour duration: 8.5 hours



Mekong Delta also known as the rice bowl of Vietnam has always played an important role for Vietnamese. The maze of small canals, lush gardens, and tranquil countryside make it a perfect place to explore. On this tour, we will take you away from the crowds of tourists and show you the authentic part of this beautiful place. Depart from Saigon for the 1.5-hour drive to My Tho, which is situated in the Mekong River Delta. Enjoy how the city sceneries get changed by the lush rice paddies and fruit farms.

Upon arrival at the pier, embark on a fascinating motorboat excursion to start with a quick visit to Tan My floating village. Then, the rowing boat will take you deeper into the countryside on smaller canals to enjoy a peaceful time. Visit a fishing village by Sampan, cycle around the local village to visit a mushroom farm, and enjoy tropical fruit at the grapefruit orchard. You will also meet with the weaving artisans to see how they produce beautiful home products. Then, enjoy some sweets with a cup of hot tea and home-hosted lunch at a local family, before visiting a rice wine workshop. Return to the mainland and get transferred back to Saigon.

Leave Ho Chi Mih early in the morning for a 1.5-hour drive to Ben Tre, the gateway to the Mekong Delta with sprawling rice paddies and colorful fruit farms. Arrive at the quaint An Khanh hamlet, where you will visit a small home factory that makes traditional sticky rice covered by coconut leaves. Meet with the owner and her hard-working team who will teach you about how they use century-old traditional methods to make this special and tasty cake.

Continue this rural journey to meet a local family in Quoi Son village to learn more about the local way of living. After wandering through the lush gardens of this village, hop on the motorboat for a thirty-minute excursion passing by peaceful scenes of countryside living. Disembark at a local ship-building workshop and meet the owner, who has perfected his craft, learning it from three generations of river boat-makers before him. Change the boat for a bicycle and enjoy a relaxing ride through the narrow village with fruit orchards and cozy cottages. At the end of the cycling trip, sample exotic fresh fruits right from the garden. Then choose between riding a horse-drawn cart or tri-motorcycle through the lush surroundings of the fruit farms before boarding a sampan for a pleasure trip along the narrow canals of the Mekong. End your excursion at a local farmer's house, where lunch of Mekong Delta specialties will be served before driving back to Saigon.

**Special Note:** The cycling distance can be 3, 5, or 7 km, depending on your physical ability and the length you prefer.

## THE HEART OF THE MEKONG DELTA'S RURAL LIFE

Location:

Ho Chi Minh, Ben Tre

Suggested departure time:

08:00

Tour duration:

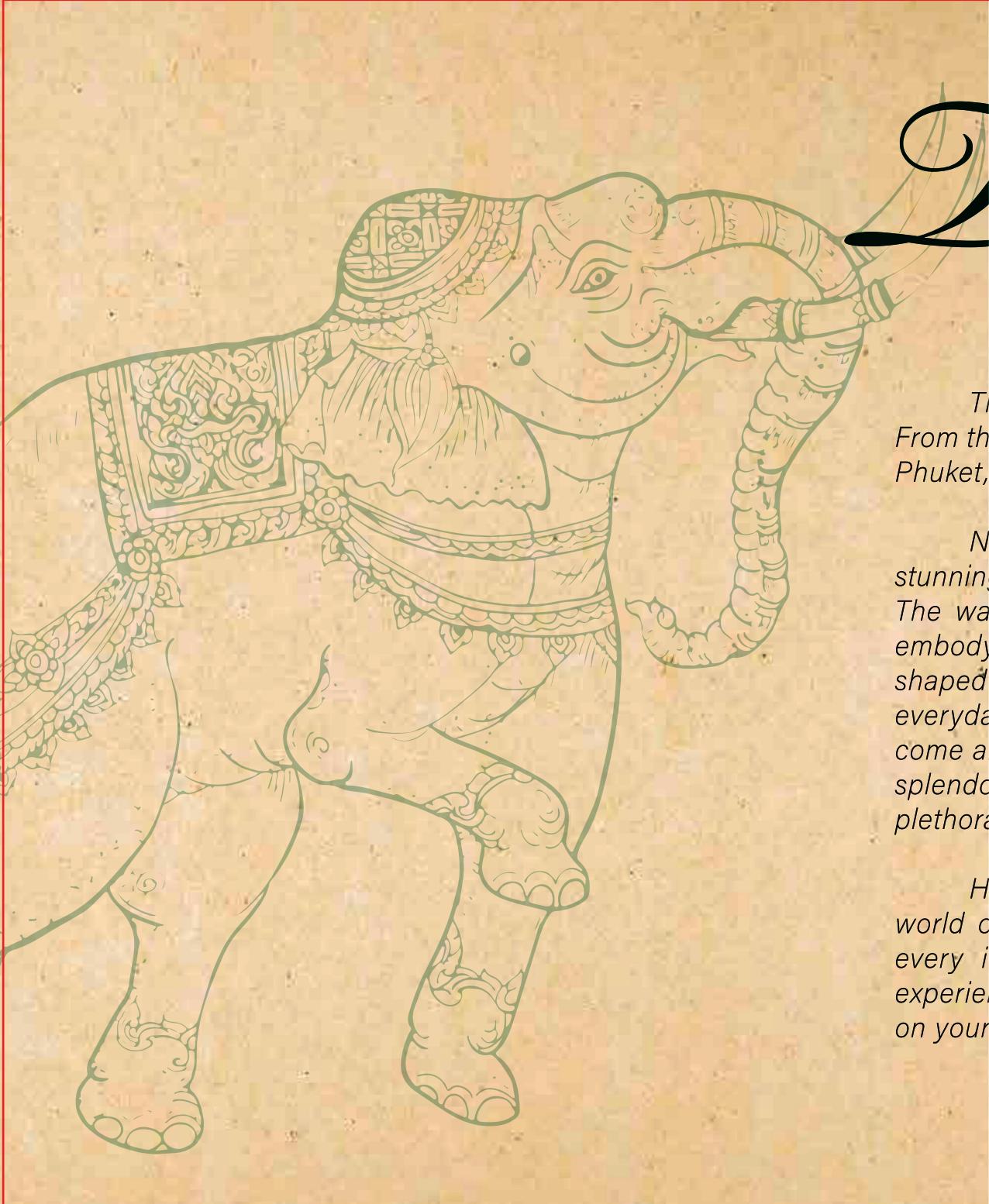
7-8 hours

Maximum:

8-10 pax per group per boat







# Thailand

## *A Land of Smiles*

Thailand is the place where smiles bloom like flowers. From the bustling streets of Bangkok to the idyllic beaches of Phuket, there is always something to smile about in Thailand.

Nature's beauty shines in the lush rice fields, along the stunning coastline, and in the towering limestone formations. The warmth of the Thai people is a constant companion, embodying the essence of hospitality. A tapestry of culture, shaped by Thai, Chinese, and Indian influences, colors everyday life. As you explore, the stories of Thailand's history come alive, weaving tales of bygone eras. Beyond its scenic splendor, Thailand's travel industry flourishes, offering a plethora of experiences that cater to every curiosity.

Here, amid the gentle embrace of Thai hospitality, a world of wonders is ready to reveal itself, tailored to your every interest. Allow us to present all the extraordinary experiences that await, promising to leave an indelible mark on your heart and soul.

## JIM THOMPSON HOUSE AND SUAN PAKKAD PALACE MUSEUM

Location: **Bangkok**  
Suggested departure time: **8:00**  
Tour duration: **6 hours**



Get ready to step back in the past and explore the most interesting museums in Bangkok. Start your exploration by visiting Jim Thompson House, which is located in the heart of Bangkok. It was the residence of American Jim Thompson before being converted into a museum. The property comprises six teak wooden buildings, that showcase traditional Thai architectural style and are surrounded by a beautifully maintained tropical garden. The museum features a vast collection of Southeast Asian art pieces brought together by Jim Thompson. The James H.W. Thompson Foundation currently manages the house, intending to preserve its art collection and history.

Jim Thompson is credited with revitalizing the Thai silk industry, and the museum features various items used in silk production, along with informative boards on the process of silkworm harvesting, spinning, and weaving.

Another notable museum that you will visit today is the Suan Pakkad Palace, which was once the home of Prince Paripatra. It is located on Sri Ayutthaya Road, south of the Victory Monument. The museum showcases a range of Thai antiques, including Ban Chiang pottery that dates back over 4,000 years.

In the evening, your private driver will take you to the Metropolitan Hotel, where Nahm Restaurant is located.

Enjoy the fine dining experience at the restaurant, that is one of the "World's 50 Best Restaurants" and has a Michelin star.

The Nahm is known for a mixture of robustly flavored ingredients and for creating a sophisticated flavor balance in each dish. The menu included traditional Thai cuisine from all regions of Thailand.

## FINE DINING AT MICHELIN STAR RESTAURANT - NAHM

Location: **Bangkok**

Suggested departure time: **18:00**

Tour duration: **2 hours**



## PROFESSIONAL MUAY THAI TRAINING LESSON

Location: **Bangkok**

Suggested departure time: **14:00**

Training session: **1 hour**



In the afternoon, meet your guide at the hotel lobby and depart to the Thai Boxing School, where you will get a professional Muay Thai training lesson. Muay Thai also known as Thai Boxing is the national sport and cultural martial art of Thailand. It was developed several hundreds of years ago as a form of close combat that utilizes the entire body as a weapon. Now it gained more popularity as its techniques are actively used in kickboxing and MMA.

Wake up your muscles with an hour of training and learn the techniques of Muay Thai with a professional trainer. After the boxing session, you will be transferred back to your hotel.

Today we will hop on the city safari exploring Bangkok as the locals do and feel the true heart and soul of this bustling city. Leave the hotel in the morning and walk to the BTS station where we will take a train to the Taksin Station. Then we will walk to the Taksin Pier, where hop on the Chao Phraya Express Boat, we will cross the river by ferry towards the Kalyanamitra Temple. Here we will visit the "three religions community", and see the Bang Luang Mosque (Kudi Khao) built in Thai Temple Style more than 200 years ago. Then we will walk around the historic neighborhood of Kudi Chin near the bank of the Chao Phraya River. This place was established by King Taksin the Great during moving the capital of the country to Thonburi. Taste the Portuguese desert which has been produced in this area for 200 years before taking the ferry to Pak Klong Talad Market Pier.

On the market, we will admire the bustling atmosphere of the local life and taste local snacks. Then we will walk around the Talad Noi community, where predominantly Chinese people have lived for the last 200 years. End your walk by having a drink at the River Vibe Restaurant before taking a tuk-tuk to the Hua Lum Pong Station. We will take a train to the Jim Thompson House, where we will have lunch at the local restaurant.

After lunch, we will explore the home of the charismatic American Silk Millionaire Jim Thompson before his disappearance in mysterious circumstances in 1967. The property comprises six teak wooden buildings that showcase traditional Thai architectural style and are surrounded by a beautifully maintained tropical garden. The museum features a vast collection of priceless antiques collected by Jim Thompson along with various items used in silk production and informative boards about the process of silkworm harvesting, spinning, and weaving. After visiting the museum, spend some time in the famous Jim Thompson's shop, where you can purchase fine silk products.

## BANGKOK LIKE THE LOCAL: BOAT TRIP – TALAD NOI MARKET – BANGKRAN – JIM THOMPSON HOUSE

Location:

**Bangkok**

Suggested departure time:

**8:00 a.m.**

Tour duration:

**6-8 hours, depending**

**on the preferred pace of the traveler**



## KLONG TOUR BY SUPATRA LIMOUSINE BOAT

Location: **Bangkok**  
Suggested departure time: **8:00 a.m.**  
Tour duration: **3,5 hours**  
Capacity:



Enjoy a relaxing cruise with the tailor-made program and charter your own "water limousine" to explore Bangkok's waterways and see the city from a different angle. Depart from the pier near the Grand Palace to embark on a captivating journey along the Chao Phraya River, commonly known as the "River of the Kings". During the cruise, we will pass by iconic landmarks including Wat Arun, Grand Palace, Rama VIII Bridge, Chinatown, ICONSIAM, and Asiatique. Take some time to feed the fish in the canal or simply enjoy the passing scenery. This is a journey through time, celebrating the timeless spirit of Bangkok, where history and modernity coexist in harmony.

An unforgettable tour along the city's coastline, also known as the Venice of the East, will take you past the Bangkok Noi and Yai canals - which reveal the essence of local life. Go ashore to visit the National Museum of Royal Barges and Wat Arun, also known as the Temple of Dawn. What truly sets this majestic temple apart is its distinctive architectural style and exquisite decor with tiny pieces of colored glass and Chinese porcelain placed delicately into intricate patterns. It is also an important religious and cultural site. Here you will admire the intricate architecture, learn about Thai Buddhism, and enjoy the scenic beauty of the Chao Phraya River.

Today we will explore an off-the-beaten-path of Bangkok and visit Bang Kra Jao Island, also known as the "green lungs of Bangkok". Leave the hotel at 8:00 am and head to the Klong Toei Pier, where we will take the long tail boat along the Chao Phraya River to the island.

Upon arrival, we will visit the local workshops to learn better the local produce and gain hands-on experience. We will cook a traditional Thai dessert, make the herb incense learn how to dye fabric in a local way, and make the hand-made souvenir to take back home. After the workshops, we will enjoy lunch and visit the local folk museum. Then, hop on the bicycle and cycle around the island enjoying the beauty of nature. Along the way, we will visit the Si Nakhon Khuean Khan Park and Botanical Garden. Have a stop for a cup of coffee at the Bangkok Tree House on the Chao Phraya River. Sit and relax enjoying the panoramic view of Bangkok before heading back to town.

## CYCLING AT BANG KRA JAO (WEEKEND)

Full day at Bang Kra Jao Island (L) (Saturday, Sunday)

Lunch is included

Available: **Saturday and Sunday only**

Departure time: **8:00 am**

Tour Duration: **6-8 hours, depending on the preferred pace of the traveler**



## CYCLING AT BANG KRA JAO (WEEKDAY)

Full day at Bang Kra Jao Island (L) (Weekday)

Lunch is included

Available: **Weekdays only**

Departure time: **8:00 am**

Tour Duration: **6-8 hours, depending on the preferred pace of the traveler**



Today we will explore an off-the-beaten path of Bangkok and visit Bang Kra Jao Island, also known as the "green lungs of Bangkok". Leave the hotel at 8:00 am to Phra Pradaeng, where we hop on the trishaw which will take you to the local gym to experience the Thai Boxing Class. From here we will visit the temple for the gift offering ceremony to Buddhist Monk.

Later we will head to Bang Kra Jao Island and enjoy a cycling trip around the island. Along the way, we will visit the Si Nakhon Khuean Khan Park and Botanical Garden. Have a stop for a cup of coffee at the Bangkok Tree House on the Chao Phraya River. Sit and relax enjoying the drink and panoramic view of the city. Then, we continue cycling to visit the tropical fruit garden, the integrated farming system in the forest to see how locals grow the fruits. Enjoy lunch at the local restaurant or at the local Thai family house. In the afternoon, we will visit the folk museum and take a boat trip through the mangrove forest in a Thai-style boat. We will get back to the mainland by the long tail boat and transfer you to your hotel.

Today you will explore the charm of Bangkok's neighborhood and build a deeper connection with the local religious culture. Start your day by taking a long-tail boat along the Chao Phraya to explore Thonburi, a riverside settlement once known as "Money Town." You will visit beautiful temples along the riverbank, witnessing the Buddhist ceremony of almsgiving at Wat Kanlayanamit Temple. You will also explore the local Kudi Jeen neighborhood and visit Santa Cruz Church, one of the oldest Catholic churches in Bangkok.

Then your reserved vehicle will take you past the Royal Navy Hall to Wat Arun, the 'Temple of Dawn', one of Bangkok's most striking attractions. You will pass through the back streets of the pagoda and learn about its history.

Next, you will be transferred by air-conditioned vehicle to Wat Rakhang, the "Temple of the Bell" to explore the former residence of the Supreme Patriarch and make merit by feeding catfish, a feature of Buddhism. Your guide will introduce you to Wang Lang Market, a unique square with countless nutritious foods and mouth-watering dishes.

The highlight of the trip will be participation in the SangkaTan ritual. It is a tradition of offering food and necessary things for Buddhist monks or making some donations for the Buddhist community. We can offer SangkaTan to monks during the temple visit, we recommend you to do it in the morning, when monks are gathering to bless people. Take part in libation (Gruad Nam), when the monk pours water and chants the libation mantra for your blessing. Then this water will be poured into the tree to share the merit with your ancestors to protect you.

## BANGKOK SPIRITUAL TOUR AND GIFT OFFERING TO A BUDDHIST MONK

Location:

Bangkok

Suggested departure time:

8:00 a.m.

Tour duration:

4 hours



## SUPATRA SUNSET RIVER CRUISE

Location: **Bangkok**  
Suggested departure time: **5:00 p.m.**  
Tour duration: **2 hours**



As the golden sun dips below the horizon, painting the sky in fiery hues, you'll embark on a captivating romantic escapade aboard the Supatra Sunset River Cruise.

We will take you to the vibrant Tha Maharaj pier, where you will board your private boat. Feel the wind whisper through your hair and the gentle caress of the water as you sail along the majestic Chao Phraya. Witness iconic landmarks unfold: the piercing sky Rama VIII bridge, the timeless and grandiose Grand Palace, the intricate Temple of Dawn, and charming oriental revival buildings lining the shores. Indulge in a symphony of flavors with delectable Thai canapés and refreshing drinks, creating an enchanting ambiance that sets your hearts ablaze. This is more than a cruise, it's an unforgettable memory waiting to be crafted, shimmering like the golden reflection of the setting sun on the water.

Embark on a captivating journey with us to immerse into the local experience of Kanchanaburi life, taking less touristy routes and getting first-hand experience.

Start your day by exploring the lively atmosphere of a local morning market, where you'll savor the flavors of fresh cuisine, invigorating Thai desserts, and Thai-style coffee or tea. Then, continue with an insightful tour through the historical remnants of an old town street, once a bustling trading hub. Discover the stories of local WWII heroes and prisoners of war, tales largely undiscovered by most tourists.

Next, we'll whisk you away to a family skilled in the art of crafting fresh rice noodles, where you will gain firsthand insight into the meticulous noodle-making process and savor the results.

As we journey on, enjoy a scenic drive across the picturesque River Kwai, venturing into a rural farming village with serene rice paddy fields and swaying palm trees. Our destination is the Journey House, where we will embark on a home-based Thai cooking class led by a local chef. Learn the secrets behind crafting beloved Thai dishes and relish a delightful lunch tasting the meals you've prepared, all while surrounded by the serenity of the natural surroundings.

## KANCHANABURI CULINARY AND CULTURE TOUR

Location: Kanchanaburi  
Suggested departure time: 08:00  
Tour duration: 6 hours



## CHIANG MAI CITY SAFARI AND WAT PHRA THAT DOI SUTHEP

Location: **Chiang Mai**

Suggested departure time: **8:00**

Tour duration: **8 hours**



Hop on the city safari to explore both the famous sights and the lesser-known attractions. On this tour, you will use a variety of local transportation methods, including a songthaew, long-tail boat, and tuk-tuk. This unique combination allows you to discover the hidden gems of the city that most visitors miss.

Begin your exploration with a leisurely stroll through the winding alleyways of Wat Gatekaram, an old trading community, before moving on to the Warorot market. This bustling market and a food lover's paradise.

Head to Wat Chedi Luang, one of the most impressive ruins in the old city, and take part in an offering to the monks and receive their blessings.

Next, indulge in a delicious bowl of Khao Soy, a famous northern Thai dish with crispy noodles, coconut cream, and a spicy kick for lunch.

The highlight of the day is a visit to Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, the sacred temple atop the mountain. Admire the 306-step Naga staircase and the copper-plated chedi inside the cloister, which contains relics of Lord Buddha. On a clear day, the temple grounds offer stunning views of Chiangmai.

**Special note:** Please wear modest clothes covering knees and shoulders to enter the temples.

Today, you will escape from the bustling city and go to the relaxing countryside and enjoy a cooking class with a local family in a local village. A typical 'Lanna' family, the Raunkaew- Yanons have proudly continued the traditions passed down through the generations and built their home from teak wood while maintaining its natural surroundings. Experience the Lanna lifestyle with a warm welcome upon arrival at their teak home and learn about their traditional way of living. Take a walk through the family's orchard with fruits such as bananas, mangos, and coconuts, whilst the garden is filled with typical Thai herbs and organic vegetables for cooking. Then, you'll learn to cook the first three courses you choose and have lunch with what you have prepared on the terrace. After lunch, you are free to relax after going back to the hotel and free at leisure.

## HOME HOST COOKING WITH LANNA FAMILY

Location:

**Chiang Mai**

Suggested departure time:

**9:00/14:00**

Tour duration:

**6 hours in the morning and 7,5 hours in the afternoon**



## CHIANG MAI HOT AIR BALLOON ADVENTURE

Location: **Chiang Mai**  
Suggested departure time: **5:30**  
Tour duration: **3 hours**



Today, you will explore the most scenic views of the mountain ranges and temples of Chiang Mai. See the city from a bird's eye view and get an unforgettable experience floating in the sky on a hot air balloon.

Get up early in the morning and depart to Balloon Club House of Flying Media, at Horizon Village & Resort. Upon arrival, enjoy the welcome drink while watching the fascinating pre-flight setup and inflation process of hot air balloons. Then hop in the basket and enjoy a 45-minute ride with a maximum reach of 2,000 feet, depending on the weather. At the end of the trip, savor the traditional Balloon Celebration with a glass of champagne.

Today, you will spend time having a monk chat in Wat Umong, Chiang Mai, Thailand. You can have a conversation with a Buddhist monk about their beliefs, practices, and way of life. The experience provides a unique opportunity for cultural exchange and learning.

**Special note:** Please wear modest clothes covering knees and shoulders to enter the temples.

## MONK CHAT IN WAT UMONG TEMPLE

Location:

Chiang Mai



## CHIANG DAO CAVE AND KAYAKING AT MAE NGAT DAM

Location: Chiang Mai  
Suggested departure time: 8:00  
Tour duration: 8 hours



Chiang Dao Cave is one of the most sacred places for local people. For hundreds of years, people have been using it as shelter and a place of worship at least since the 17th century. The cave is part of an extensive temple complex with pavilions with statues of monks and hermits, Buddha images, and several buildings.

This morning, we will visit the Chiang Dao Cave, where you will have an amazing time with the lantern lighting your way while you are walking, crawling through small openings, and clambering into large caverns. Admire the beautiful views of natural formations of limestone as well as the stalactites and stalagmites.

Then continue to Mae Ngat Dam & Reservoir, where we take a long-tail boat to the floating house for lunch. In the afternoon, enjoy Kayaking around the beautiful Dam. Later, we will continue to Wat Ban Den, one of the most extraordinary temples in the province. The complex has many structures, including ordination and meditation halls.

Today you have a special opportunity to see the fascinating islands of the Andaman Sea from a bird's eye view.

Starting at Phuket heliport, your adventure takes you over Phang Nga's stunning limestone rock formations and floating Muslim village, Koh Panyi. Then, it's on to James Bond Island and a secret lagoon hidden in a limestone island. Afterward, you'll fly over the stunning beaches of Phuket as well as over the impressive Big Buddha and the ornate Chalong temple. Lastly, your captain will take you over the tropical rainforest and Thalang district before returning to the Phuket heliport.

## PHUKET AND PHANG NGA BAY HELICOPTER TOUR

Location:

Phuket

Tour duration:

1 hour



## PHUKET OFF THE BEATEN PATH TOUR

Location: **Phuket**  
Suggested departure time: **8:00**  
Tour duration: **4 hours**



See a different side of Phuket today. In the morning, you'll visit a rubber plantation to learn about one of the island's primary industries; your guide will explain how the rubber is harvested from trees and processed. Next, head inland to Khao Phra Thaeo Wildlife Sanctuary, a lush jungle teeming with wildlife. Meet with a volunteer from the Gibbon Rehabilitation Project (GRP) to learn about the center's vital work and meet some of the resident gibbons being nursed back to health.

Before continuing the tour, take a break to refuel with a cup of strong Phuket coffee and snacks. Your next stop is the Kathu Mining Museum, where you'll learn about Phuket's former mining industry. Continue to a cashew nut factory to witness another of the island's key sectors, learning how the nuts are extracted and processed – you'll understand why these are some of the most expensive nuts on earth.

The tour finishes with a trip to Wat Prathong, one of the oldest temples in Phuket. Watch the locals prey and get an insight into Thailand's rich Buddhist culture. You'll have a free afternoon to hit the beach.

Embark on an immersive adventure with a private yacht tour to the mesmerizing Phi Phi Islands in southern Thailand. Engage in a tailor-made travel itinerary where you can explore the stunning Phi Phi Don and Phi Phi Ley Islands, as well as Bamboo Island, Khai Island, and Naka Island. Indulge in a range of fun activities such as swimming, snorkeling, lagoon kayaking, and monkey watching at various water sports. Immerse yourself in the amazing nature, crystal-clear waters, beautiful lagoons, and incredible scenery, all while enjoying the luxurious comfort of your chosen yacht. With various luxury yacht options, from the Catamaran, Party Catamaran, Leopard, and more, you can expect an unparalleled adventure, uncovering the hidden gems of southern Thailand in style and comfort.

## PRIVATE YACHT TO PHI PHI ISLANDS

Location: **Phuket**

Suggested time: **8:00 am**

Tour duration: **8-9 hours**



## KHAO LAK OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Location: **Khao Lak**  
Suggested departure time: **9:00**  
Tour duration: **8 hours**



Embark on a range of fun adventure excursions amidst the breathtaking beauty of nature. This adventure is tailor-made for water enthusiasts and anyone seeking invigorating activities. Glide along on a bamboo raft to witness the awe-inspiring natural surroundings. Get your adrenaline pumping with an ATV ride through challenging terrain. For those seeking thrills, catch some waves in the high surf amidst the romantic and stunning sunset backdrop of Pakarang Beach in Khao Lak.

In the morning, we will meet you at your hotel and depart for the ATV Camp in Khao Lak. Then, hop on the ATV and embark on an adventure through the captivating nature trails. Following this thrilling ride, we will take you to Wang Kieng Koo River for a bamboo rafting experience, offering a glimpse of one of Phang Nga's most stunning rivers. Have lunch at Komol's Corner restaurant.

In the afternoon, we will visit Memories Beach, known as a top surf spot in Phang Nga. Here, you could choose between surfing or just relaxing and enjoying the evening before dinner at Memories Beach Restaurant. After dinner, we will transfer you back to the hotel.

Embark on a journey through time as we venture into the historic remnants of the former Takua Pa old town, a once-thriving hub of commerce. We'll set out on a canoeing adventure to immerse ourselves in the natural beauty and witness the enchanting hundred-year-old Banyan tree forest. After this serene encounter with nature, we'll delve into the architectural wonders of the old town of Takua Pa, transporting you to the illustrious past of the mining era, where you'll feel as though you've stepped back in time to this glorious period in history.

Our journey begins in the morning as we pick you up from your hotel, embarking on an expedition to the enchanting forest within the Little Amazon. Here, you'll have the unique opportunity to glide through the venerable Banyan tree forest in a canoe. Don't forget to capture memorable moments at the "Boon Sung Iron Bridge," a natural vantage point that offers a glimpse into Takua Pa's rich history as a thriving tin mining place.

Stop to taste the local dessert and savor the flavors of the region. Next, we'll stroll through the "Cultural streets of the old town of Takua Pa," where the enduring charm of Sino-Portuguese Architecture, spanning over a century, still captivates visitors. End your tour by tasting Stir-fried Sato curry with Prawns in Bib Gourmand Restaurant, which is featured in the Michelin Guide.

## CANOEING AT LITTLE AMAZON AND TAKUA PA OLD TOWN EXPLORATION

Location:

**Khao Lak**

Suggested departure time:

**8:00**

Tour duration:

**5 hours**







# Cambodia

## *A Land of Ancient Wonders*

Step into the enchanting kingdom of Cambodia, where a tapestry of history awaits exploration. From the grandeur of the Khmer Empire to the influences of the French and Chinese, Cambodia's story is etched in its essence.

Cambodia welcomes with open arms, offering breathtaking landscapes and architectural marvels from its past. From the magnificence of Angkor Wat to the quiet charm of Phnom Penh's Royal Palace, the country's beauty is a gentle melody played out in lush green fields, inviting beaches, and the majesty of limestone formations. Venture beyond urban borders and discover Cambodia's rural heart, where colonial echoes linger in Battambang and the Koh Rong Islands offer serene refuge. Amidst this rustic backdrop, tranquility finds its home, mirrored by the kindness of locals.

Here in Cambodia, passions find their place, and treasures await discovery. Join us on an uncovering journey through all the unique and authentic experiences that lie in this country.

## CYCLING IN ANGKOR WAT

Location: **Siem Reap**  
Suggested departure time: **8:00**  
Tour duration: **7 hours**



Siem Reap is a charming city with a rich cultural heritage. The famous Angkor Complex is located inside a beautiful area with forest and nice roads for cycling. Explore the famous sites sustainably at a slower pace to enjoy each moment of this unforgettable adventure.

In the morning, we will cycle to the main temple attraction for an extensive exploration of the magnificent 12th-century Angkor Wat. You will realize why this great temple is simply unsurpassed by any other monument.

Continue spinning through a little unnoticed village to visit Ta Prohm, see how the jungles are covering the temple, and admire the power of nature. Upon entering via the North Gate, we proceed further to a little sandstone temple in the jungle called: Ta Nei, which is called a smaller version of Ta prohm. Other sights en route are - Victory Gate and Ghost Gate before we return to Siem Reap.

**Special note:** Please wear modest clothes covering knees and shoulders to enter the temples.

Once travelling in the dry season, you could be immersed in the unique hot air balloon experience, one of the special things to do in Siem Reap. Welcome to the combination of hot air balloons with splendid landmarks!

If you experience flying a hot air balloon in Siem Reap for the first time, it will be fascinating to witness two balloons of the maximum size. Each sphere has two chambers, one for the pilot and one for the visitor. The visitor's stand is more extensive and can accommodate 3 - 4 people. The pilot's cabin has one person, but it comes with 2-3 large gas cylinders.

The flight in a hot air balloon will be a magical adventure that gives you a panoramic view of the whole Angkor Wat complex. From the height of 200m, you will immerse yourself in the morning breeze with fresh air and beautiful sunrise views.

## SUNRISE OVER SIEM REAP IN HOT AIR BALLOON

Location:

Siem Reap

Flight duration:

20 minutes

Capacity:

Max. 15 pax



## QUADE BIKE ADVENTURE

Location: **Siem Reap**

Tour duration: **4 hours**

Suggested departure time: **07:00 am - 12:00 pm**



Siem Reap's mysterious temples and lush countryside are just asking for the adventures! So let's hop on the quad bikes and spend a morning like a true explorer. We will start the tour with instructions on safe driving techniques, and how to drive off-road, as well as a quick orientation on quad bikes for first-timers.

Then ride through less-traveled rural villages and communities, stopping to see the rice paddies, water buffalos, and a Cambodian Buddhist monastery. We will also see a non-tourist temple that was constructed before Angkor Wat in the ninth century. Then visit the bustling local market, before heading to see the temples of the Rolous Group, such as Bakong Temple and Preah Koh Temple, where you can witness the leather carving process carried out by the locals, and stop for a refreshing drink or fresh coconut along the way. After an unforgettable break, we will return to town by car.

Step into a realm of unparalleled enchantment as you indulge in a sublime private dinner set against the backdrop of an ancient and storied temple within the sacred Angkor Archeological Park. Begin your evening with a sacred touch, as benevolent monks bestow their blessings upon the gathering, infusing the atmosphere with an aura of serenity and spiritual significance.

The pathway to your dining haven is adorned with candle lights creating a special atmosphere. As you savor every exquisite bite of the delicious meals, the convergence of these elements – the monks' blessings, the intricate candle lights, the majestic table under the stars – intertwines to orchestrate a truly unforgettable and magical evening.

**Note:** the dinner is subject to availability and permission from the temple.

## DINNER AT KARAVAN TEMPLE

Location:

Kravan Temple



## SIEM REAP ADVENTURE ON A JEEP

Location: Siem Reap  
Tour duration: 6-7 hours



Today we will take you on a wonderful adventure where you will fly, cycle, and travel in a stylish vintage 1960s jeep. Start the morning by driving to the Angkor Zipline, the final stretch to where will take you on the orange dirt roads through the beautiful Angkor forest. Experience ziplining from tree to tree in the lush jungles of Angkor Archaeological Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Then hike through the rainforest and have a chance to see the local wildlife and beautiful flowers under the towering trees.

Continue on the road with a new challenge of cycling through Angkor forest. Cycle along beautiful small paths through the forest, suspension bridge, and large water reservoir, and visit some hidden small temples.

Stop for lunch at the small riverside restaurant to enjoy delicious traditional meals and relax in a hammock. In the afternoon, we will continue the cycling trip to another hidden and scenic temple restored by the community. Then change your bicycle back to the Jeep car and head back to your hotel.



## OXCART ADVENTURE, WAT BO AND LES ARTISANS D'ANGKOR

Location:

Tour duration:

Siem Reap

8 hours



Today you will gain a better understanding of rural Cambodian life, along with an insight into traditional Khmer culture. Start the day by exploring relatively untouched villages and learning about the daily lives of the locals. This is a world away from Siem Reap and gives you the perfect opportunity to get 'off the beaten track'. The first stop is one of the small villages with rice plantations and farmers busy working in their fields. If you want, you can join them for some hands-on experience with farming. October and November are harvest seasons so you'll spend time in the rice fields learning how to harvest!

The trip uses a mode of travel more typical for this area. The (almost) pollution-free cart is still widely used throughout Cambodia and allows you to travel at a gentle, almost hypnotic pace along the narrow, village roads. We then visit the home of a local family and participate in cooking homemade local meals that you will have for lunch. You will have plenty of time to relax and chat with the family to learn better about local life and Khmer cuisine.

In the afternoon, we will visit Wat Bo, a highly respected temple founded in the 18th century, which has very unique murals of Reamker (Ramayana). Continue the tour by visiting "Les Artisans d'Angkor - Chantiers Ecole", the most authentic Khmer Arts and Crafts. This project greatly supports the local community by providing training and employment opportunities for people from poor families and preserving traditional Cambodian arts. End our visit at one of the city's vibrant open markets, Psar Chars also known as the "Old Market", where anything and everything is for sale.



## DAY TRIP TO MONIVONG BOKOR NATIONAL PARK

Location: **Phnom Penh**  
Suggested departure time: **7:00**  
Tour duration: **9 hours**



Meet your guide in the morning and depart for Kampot town with a countryside scenic 2-hours drive, where you will enjoy the views of palm trees, and rice fields. On the way, we will stop at the Ropang Ropov Fishing Village.

Upon arrival, we will visit the Kampot Market to observe the local way of life through lively commercial scenes. Then, we will drive up to the Bokor National Park. The 140 thousand hectares of this park are untouched mountain jungles and are home to the biggest herd of wild elephants in Southeast Asia. Most of the park's area is covered by mountains with the highest peak Kamtjaj Mountain, which is 1077 metres above sea level. After exploring the park, we will drive around Kampot Town to admire the Classic French Colonial architecture and the riverside walkways, where you will see more French Colonial Buildings. Afterward, we will enjoy the delicious lunch and make our way back to Phnom Penh.

Today your guide will meet you at the hotel and take you to the Silk Island on the Mekong River. You will visit the old village, which maintains the art of silk weaving. See the entire process of silk production from growing the worm, extracting the string, coloring, designing the pattern, and weaving. All the work is handmade in the traditional way. It takes up to one week to produce one meter of fabric, but the result is a masterpiece. Many Cambodians buy fabric from this village to make the traditional dress for the wedding ceremony.

On-site, you can visit the shop, where you can purchase organic and hand-made silk items. Later, we will have a cycling trip around the island and have lunch tasting the local meal in the rustic floating restaurant overviewing the Mekong River.

## CYCLING ON THE SILK ISLAND

Location: **Phnom Penh**  
Suggested departure time: **8:00**  
Tour duration: **4 hours**



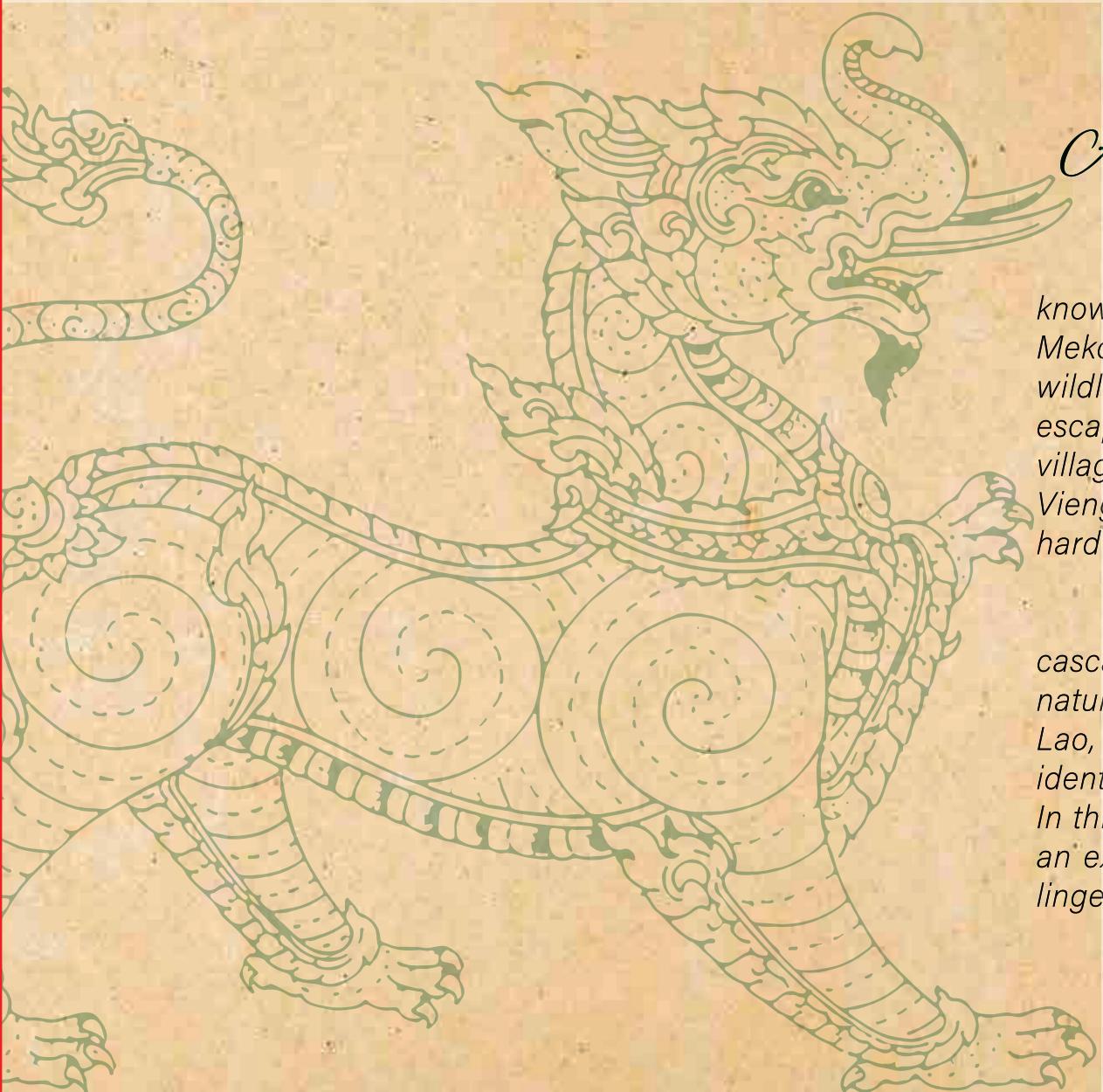


# Laos

## *A Land of Peace and Tranquility*

Welcome to Laos, a slice of Southeast Asian paradise known for its timeless charm and the flowing embrace of the Mekong River. Here, amidst stunning landscapes, rare wildlife, and colonial architecture, you'll find a serene escape from the hustle of modern life. From the sleepy villages of Luang Prabang to the stunning waterfalls of Vang Vieng, there is a sense of calm and serenity in Laos that is hard to find elsewhere.

The country's beauty is a symphony of lush hills, cascading waterfalls, and pristine rivers that compose a natural masterpiece. Rooted in its soil is a cultural blend of Lao, Thai, and French influences, forming a captivating identity that resonates through its history. In this "Land of a Million Elephants," let us be your guide to an extraordinary adventure, filled with encounters that will linger as cherished memories.



## COUNTRYSIDE ADVENTURE ON TUK TUK

Location: **Vientiane**

Suggested departure time: **8:30**

Tour duration: **6.5 hours**

Availability: **Monday to Saturday only**

Capacity: **Min. 2 pax and max. 8 pax**



Have you ever looked out at the lush green rice paddies of Asia and yearned to immerse yourself in the fields? If so, today's Tuk Tuk adventure is tailor-made for you! Today's journey will lead you to an organic rice, fish, and vegetable farm on the outskirts of Vientiane. Operated by a Lao non-government organization committed to traditional Lao farming methods, this idyllic setting offers the perfect opportunity to try your hand at rice farming.

Welcoming local farmers will guide you through the process, from planting rice seedlings and treading through the fields during harvest season to cutting and threshing your own rice for a delightful lunch. Engage in some fishing, gather fresh duck eggs, discover the secrets of organic fertilizer production, and harvest seasonal organic vegetables and bamboo (if in season).

After your time in the field, you'll transform your day's bounty into a traditional Lao lunch. Learn the art of cooking sticky rice, craft a delicious papaya salad, and sit down for a picnic-style meal, savouring the fruits of your labor in a tranquil setting.

On your journey back to the city, we'll take you to a vibrant local fresh food market, where you can explore the incredible variety of Lao cuisine. While at the market, pause for a taste of traditional Lao coffee or indulge in some delectable Lao sweets. As the early afternoon approaches, your guide will accompany you back to your hotel via Tuk Tuk, concluding a day filled with memorable experiences.

Experience this artistry firsthand with a visit to Carol Cassidy's weaving home studio. As an American textiles expert, Carol arrived in Vientiane in 1989 on a United Nations project promoting traditional weaving. Deeply impressed by the exceptional quality and diversity of weaving she found in Laos, she established the Lao Textiles studio in Vientiane. Today, the studio employs over 40 skilled local weavers who create naturally dyed and woven silk pieces inspired by traditional Lao designs.

Carol will personally escort you on a tour of her studio, located in a beautiful old French house. Explore the fascinating process of silk production and hear Carol's captivating stories of her life and experiences in Laos. This unique, one-hour visit culminates with a delightful cocktail in her beautiful garden.

## A VISIT TO CAROL CASSIDY'S LAO TEXTILES STUDIO

Location:

Suggested time:

Tour duration:

Vientiane

afternoon before 3:30 pm

1-hour



## MEKONG RIVER SUNSET CRUISE ON TRADITIONAL PRIVATE BOAT

Location: Luang Prabang

Suggested departure time: About 45 minutes before sunset (exact time depending on season)

Tour duration: 2 hours

Venue location: Minimum 2 people and maximum 6 people



Depart from Luang Prabang town in the late afternoon on the luxurious Belmond Boat for a cruise up and downstream for 2 hours. The Mekong River plays an intrinsic role in everyday life for those living along its shores, which you can witness from today's journey.

From the boat, observe the local village and rural life along the tree-lined banks of the river. Enjoy the cool breeze off the water with a glass of Champagne and try to get the best photos of the sunset over the Mekong River.

In the morning, our journey begins with a drive to the ethnic Khmu village of Ban Long Lao. Here, you'll have the opportunity to observe the distinct lifestyles of these culturally diverse minority groups. It's fascinating to witness how, despite their differences, these communities coexist harmoniously in their day-to-day lives, even sharing the same school.

As we continue along the trail, it meanders through picturesque rice paddies and lush vegetable fields before leading into the rugged embrace of the mountains. Your trekking adventure will eventually lead you to one of the numerous springs that feed the magnificent Kuang Si waterfalls. From this vantage point, you can gaze upon a beautiful pool teeming with sacred fish, adding to the enchantment of the scene.

If you wish, you can also pay a visit to the bear conservation center located nearby. This center is a haven for many bears that have been rescued from illegal farms, providing them with a safe and caring environment.

**Special note:** The bear conservation center closes at 3:00 pm.

## BAN LONG LAO VILLAGE AND HIKING TO KUANG SI FALLS

Location: Luang Prabang

Suggested departure time: 8:00

Tour duration: 8 hours



## COOKING CLASS AT TAD KEO WATERFALLS

Location: **Luang Prabang**  
Suggested departure time: **8 a.m**  
Tour duration: **5 hours**



In the morning, we'll pick you up from your hotel and embark on a fascinating culinary adventure in Luang Prabang. Led by a local chef, renowned as a published author of Laos cookbooks, we'll begin with a stroll through the vibrant morning market. It is an excellent opportunity to gain insights into the local food culture.

Following our market exploration, we'll make our way to the scenic Tad Keo waterfalls area, where your immersive cooking class awaits. Amidst this breathtaking natural setting, you'll have the chance to master the art of preparing authentic Lao cuisine, all under the expert guidance of our chef. Once your culinary creations are complete, you'll savor the delightful dishes you've prepared for a satisfying lunch.

Unveiling the ancient secrets of the Plain of Jars, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, awaits on this enthralling journey. After breakfast, transfer to the airport and embark on a scenic journey to Xieng Khouang, the gateway to this fascinating location. Then enjoy the breathtaking helicopter flight, offering a bird's-eye view of the surrounding landscapes.

Dating back to the Iron Age, the Plain of Jars comprises thousands of massive stone jars, scattered across the plateau. Their purpose remains shrouded in mystery, with theories ranging from funerary practices to storage vessels. Explore Sites 1 and 2, marveling at these enigmatic relics and pondering their enigmatic purpose. Unravel their secrets with the guidance of your expert companion, who will bring the history and theories surrounding the Plain of Jars to life.

## HELICOPTER JOURNEY TO PLAIN OF JARS

Location:

Luang Prabang

Tour duration:

7 hours



## VISIT STUDIO AND LEARN GOLD THREAD EMBROIDERY BY MASTER TIAO NITHAKHONG

Location:

Luang Prabang

Tour duration:

2 hour



Imagine stepping into the private studio of a renowned artist, a descendant of Laotian royalty. Tiao Nithakhon Somsanith, known as Tiao Nith, isn't just any creator; his hands weave stories of Luang Prabang's rich history into breathtaking canvases of gold. Shimmering embroidery dances with delicate gold leaf, each intricate detail whispering tales of tradition and personal expression.

Prepare to be entranced by the artist's passion as he reveals the secrets of his unique technique. You'll witness the delicate touch of the needle, the mesmerizing gleam of gold, and the intricate patterns that speak volumes without a single word. You'll also have the unique opportunity to participate in the cultural practice yourself. This hands-on encounter will leave you with an indelible mark, a deeper appreciation for Tiao Nith's artistry, and a piece of Luang Prabang's magic to carry with you forever.

Experiencing the heart of a unique spiritual practice - the Baci ceremony - and delve into its symbolism and purpose. More than just a ritual, it's a soulful immersion into Laotian culture, celebrating life's precious moments from new beginnings like weddings and births to joyous reunions and treasured farewells.

Within the tranquil embrace of a historic ancient house, you'll be welcomed into an intimate Baci ceremony. This ritual carries deep significance, calling back any "escaped souls" to the body, restoring harmony and balance. It's also a beautiful way to shower guests with good fortune and blessings.

## PRIVATE BACI CEREMONY

Location: **Luang Prabang**  
Suggested departure time: **20:00**  
Tour duration: **1 hour**





Witness the gentle tying of white, knotted threads around your wrists. Each thread embodies luck, friendship, and good health, a symbolic reminder of the ceremony's blessings. For three days, or until nature releases them, let the threads adorn your wrists. They whisper of blessings received and the deep bond you've formed with this ancient tradition.

Immerse yourself in local tradition at a charming heritage house. Master the art of creating a "Van-Cornet" a sacred floral offering made with local flowers from the surrounding jungles and intricate banana leaf weaving techniques. Learn from a skilled artisan as you weave marigolds, jasmine, and other local flowers into a beautiful bouquet. Then, with your fragrant creation in hand, embark on a peaceful visit to a nearby temple. Witness the serene rituals and respectfully offer your "Van-Cornet" to the monks, sharing in a meaningful cultural exchange. This hands-on experience will leave you with a deeper appreciation for local traditions and a unique souvenir of your journey.

## PRIVATE FLORAL OFFERING CLASS

Location:

Luang Prabang

Suggested time:

8:30/15:30

Tour duration:

1 hour



## PRIVATE MONK BLESSING CEREMONY

Location: **Luang Prabang**  
Suggested departure time: **8:30/15:30**  
Tour duration: **1 hour**



Go beyond sightseeing as you step inside the tranquil serenity of a beautiful Laotian temple, steeped in centuries of history. Our guide will personally take you through the rich history and significance of the blessing ceremony you're about to receive.

Under the guidance of a knowledgeable tour guide, you'll present offerings to the main hall, where you'll be met by respected monks. Feel the warmth and peace settle around you as the monk chants sacred verses, bestowing a personalized blessing for good health, happiness, and prosperity. Let this unique encounter stay with you long after, a cherished reminder of Luang Prabang's spiritual beauty, warmth, and transformative power.

**Special notes:** Respect monks by avoiding all physical contact, talking over them, standing in their way, or blocking their path.

# Contact Information

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