

FIRST CLASS  
HOLIDAYS

# SOUTHEAST ASIA



# SOUTHEAST ASIA





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The image on the front cover has been created by Joe Galindo for First Class Holidays.

Well known for quirky, unique and colourful wildlife paintings. Mixing unusual techniques with an experimental approach, Galindo's work has become a favourite amongst fine art galleries across the United Kingdom. Cover image copyright: First Class Holidays

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# THE FIRST CLASS DIFFERENCE

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Making your holiday dreams a reality starts with understanding what really matters to you. Whether you're a beach lover or adventurer, a lover of history and culture or the great outdoors, at one with nature or the big city; prefer luxury or authentic, being independent or part of a group. Our travel specialists will get to know what you desire and then create a holiday to match. You will experience superb service all along the way and we will use our wealth of experience to create your holiday as if we were creating our own. And you can be sure that before you go, whilst you are away and even when you come home, we will be with you every step of the way.

## **AWARD WINNING SERVICE**

We were founded in 1996 with a desire to provide outstanding levels of service and customer satisfaction and this is still the case today. With thousands of satisfied customers and a raft of awards for exceptional service, your holiday is in the best possible hands. We are very proud that our personal, friendly service and attention to detail has led to us becoming an industry leader in providing personalised holidays. We have been recognised through the years by winning a number of prestigious awards from within and outside of the travel industry. Some of our awards include Best Long-Haul Operator, Outstanding Service Award and Best Specialist Destination Operator.

## **EXPERT ADVICE**

With a team of over 50 people all sharing a great passion for travelling we have a wealth of knowledge and experience. Many of us have taken the holidays showcased throughout this brochure, and we know that there is nothing more important than firsthand knowledge when planning your dream adventure. We understand that no two people are the same, and that everyone's dream holiday is different, that's why we curate individual holidays to individual requirements with the emphasis on what you want to see and do. We can create itineraries for all budgets, applying the same first-class level of service to all.

## **TRULY PERSONAL**

Our itineraries are meant to inspire you and we have crafted a fantastic range of holidays but if you find that none include everything you want to do, then our personalised travel service is just for you. We have been involved in the planning and preparation of detailed holidays for many years and would be delighted to share our knowledge to help you plan your perfect holiday. Simply visit your local travel agent, call us on **0161 888 5620** or email **enquiries@fcholidays.com** and one of our expert and friendly team will plan your ideal holiday from start to finish.

## **OUR PRICES**

Hotel and transport prices change frequently, and we are in constant contact with our suppliers to ensure that we offer the very best prices that are available. We do not show prices in this brochure as rates do vary and fluctuate quite considerably both due to demand but also due to seasonal special offers that are frequently introduced. When creating your ideal holiday, our team will choose the best rate for the services you have selected and apply any seasonal offers that may be available.

## **PRICE MATCH PROMISE**

We work very hard in sourcing competitive prices and have great relationships with our airlines and suppliers to ensure you get the best value for money. We regularly check prices against our competitors, however if you find a better price elsewhere sold with the same service conditions, we will happily lower our price to match. Please see terms and conditions on our website [www.fcholidays.com](http://www.fcholidays.com) for more details on our policy.

## **PEACE OF MIND**

We are here whenever you need us, before you go, whilst you're away and when you come home. We are fully bonded with the Civil Aviation Authority ATOL scheme (Licence Number 5421) and with the Association of British Travel Agents (Licence Number W3550). You can book your travel arrangements with the peace of mind that your money is safe.



## OUR FRIENDLY TEAM

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Our team of Southeast Asia experts are passionate about Southeast Asia and there is nothing more important than speaking to someone who has been there, and we have! We are able to provide first-hand knowledge on everything, from flights and hotels to sightseeing and excursions. We are also happy to share those smaller elements that help create your perfect holiday from finding the best coffee spots to that hidden gem in your favourite city; we want to share our experiences with you.

## HOLIDAYS YOU CAN TRUST

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We are committed to making your holiday as incredible as possible, but don't take our word for it. We have thousands upon thousands of satisfied customers who would highly recommend our services to make your dream holiday become a reality. Why not have a look at the customer reviews on our website [www.fcholidays.com](http://www.fcholidays.com) and check out our FEEFO rating.

# Sustainable Travel

We believe that the pursuit of extraordinary holidays should not compromise the well-being of our planet. Our sustainable program is a testament to our dedication to creating unforgettable experiences while respecting and preserving the environment. We meticulously choose eco-friendly hotels and services that share the same goals, offer carbon offset options, and promote ethical tourism, ensuring every adventure leaves a positive impact.

## KEY PILLARS OF FIRST CLASS HOLIDAYS' SUSTAINABLE PROGRAM

Our commitment to sustainability extends beyond a tangible and impactful program that transforms the way we travel. Experience the epitome of sustainable travel with First Class Holidays.

### **CARBON OFFSET OFFERING**

Our clients can neutralise their carbon footprint by contributing to verified carbon reduction projects. We offer the chance to plant new trees across the globe through reforestation and to simultaneously invest into clean renewable energy projects. That means a traveller's climate contribution will remove CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions now and invest in the planet for the future. Trees are one of the most powerful absorbers of carbon emissions - by growing trees in developing countries as our clients travel, we can help to restore eco-systems, biodiversity, and support local communities.

### **PARTNERSHIPS WITH ECO-FRIENDLY SUPPLIERS**

We are dedicated to forging relationships with hotels and services that share our unwavering commitment to sustainability. Our selection process involves stringent criteria, assessing factors such as energy efficiency, waste management practices, and sustainable sourcing. By aligning with like-minded partners, we ensure that every aspect of our travellers' experience reflects our shared ethos of environmental responsibility. Through these partnerships, we aim to create a network of destinations that serve as exemplars of eco-conscious hospitality.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS**

Our commitment to sustainability extends beyond travel experiences—it encompasses a dedication to educating and empowering our staff and travellers. Through our Educational Initiatives, we aim to foster a deeper understanding of sustainable practices and the environmental impact of their choices; to inspire a sense of responsibility amongst them. These initiatives are seamlessly integrated into our travel packages, offering information on local ecosystems, wildlife conservation, and responsible behaviour while traveling.

### **SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIES**

Our dedication to sustainability extends beyond environmental conservation to embrace a holistic approach that actively supports local communities and economies. Recognising that responsible travel involves more than minimising environmental impact, we place a strong emphasis on fostering positive social and economic contributions to Southeast Asia:

- We recognise the intrinsic value of preserving cultural heritage. We actively engage with communities to understand their traditions, ensuring that our activities are respectful and promote cultural exchange without compromising the integrity of local practices, allowing us to create authentic travel experiences.

- We prioritise collaborations with local businesses. By sourcing goods and services locally, we minimise transportation-related emissions and support regional economies. This approach not only strengthens community ties but also promotes the use of sustainable and locally produced materials.







# SOUTHEAST ASIA



Map of Southeast Asia designed by Holly Francesca for First Class Holidays.

Holly Francesca is a British artist living in Portugal. For over 10 years she has created a collection of colourful maps and travel prints inspired by the best architecture, gardens and hidden gems from the most fascinating places within the UK and beyond.

See the full collection of prints: [www.hollyfrancesca.co.uk](http://www.hollyfrancesca.co.uk)  
Follow the journey on Instagram @HollyFrancescaUK



# Ways to Explore

Southeast Asia is a web of cultural diversity, history, spectacular scenery, unique wildlife experiences and endless beaches to discover. Overnight stays can be far from a traditional hotel stay, options include treetop rooms, tented lakeside camps, overwater bungalows, boutique hotels to iconic accommodation that have played host to guests for over one hundred years. We understand that each holiday should be unique to you which is why we offer a variety of ways to explore.

Escorted tours enable you to experience the sights and sounds of a country, to absorb its culture and learn about its history and people, with guidance of an experienced tour guide. Part guided, independent touring offers a more bespoke and individual private experience with a choice of pre-planned itineraries where hotels and sightseeing are in place but allowing the freedom to explore in your own time and pace. Consider a tailor-made journey, we will be happy to create your perfect 'Southeast Asia' journey interspersed with cruising options. In Ha Long Bay or the Mekong River, maybe add a touch of romance and finery with a journey on board the Eastern Oriental Express. However you choose to travel, our experts will be delighted to help create your perfect itinerary.





## Escorted Tours

Our carefully selected collection of Escorted Tours showcases the highlights and 'must do' points of interest throughout Southeast Asia. We recognise guests prefer the reassurance of an experienced guide where everything is taken care of, so you can sit back, relax and take in the view. Tour size numbers are to suit you, smaller groups may delve further into your destination and be suited to our active travellers, whereas larger groups make for diversity in terms of newfound friends from around the world to share and make new memories with.



## Private – Independent Tour

Our selection of Private - Independent tours are designed for couples, families or small groups travelling together. We have considered how much or as little guidance you will need as your journey unfolds, local English-speaking guides and drivers in each destination will share their passion for their region through a resident's eyes. Accommodation, transportation and sightseeing are bespoke and unique to you with the extra hand hold for reassurance. Each itinerary will offer sightseeing which can be either private to your group or join in with a slightly larger group and share memories side by side on a Vespa, trishaw or Jeep for example. They are all customisable so can easily be tailored to suit your exact needs. Explore a specific region or combine tours to create the ultimate journey, all with the complete assurance that each journey and each hotel, transfer and tour is personalised to you.



## Cruise & Rail

Your journey through Southeast Asia can be enriched with a wide variety of cruise and rail options. The Mekong River which flows between four of our key destinations, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam is a gentle way to watch daily life on the riverbank and visit villagers with your knowledgeable crew and guides. Romantics may wish to board the Eastern & Oriental Express in Singapore, celebrate a birthday or anniversary in style as you gaze outside at the Malay vista and fall asleep as the rail soothes you to sleep. Shorter cruise options can be found on the River Kwai in Thailand and spectacular Ha Long Bay in Vietnam. Visiting Vietnam, we recommend you include a journey on board the luxury Vietage train for a day.



## Tailor-Made – Your Holiday, Your Way

This is what we love to do, create your holiday, your way. We have included a selection of our preferred hotels and sightseeing tours providing you with inspirational ideas to enhance your journey. Whether your plans are for a few days or a few weeks, we will design the perfect itinerary. We can book a wide range of accommodation from boutique traditional B&Bs to 5\* Spa & Wellness retreats to suit your budget along with a range of transportation options throughout Southeast Asia. We would be delighted to work with you to plan your perfect itinerary.

# Thailand

From top to toe, Thailand is a country of extravagant contrasts. Golden Buddhas and thousands of gleaming temples jostle for attention, their competition comes in the form of the sublime beaches, and jungle-clad islands dotted across a bright blue sea, which lie in the southernmost reaches of the country. To the ruggedly beautiful north, the evocative charms of Thailand's Golden Triangle await. Tranquil rivers and peaceful hilltribe villages, misty mountains and terraced tea and rice plantations, not forgetting the ancient cities of Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai. For those looking to explore further, from Northern Thailand it's just a short journey into the peaceful neighbouring country of Laos.

One size does not fit all here and Thailand offers the perfect mix of excitement, adventure, culture, food and relaxation.







## Bangkok

Criss-crossed with klongs (canals), teeming with temples, palaces, markets, shopping malls and sublime food, Bangkok is big and bold, and a whirlwind of sights, sounds and flavours. Bookend visits to the Grand Palace, Wat Pho and Wat Arun with night market visits, cooking classes and Chao Phraya River trips on long-tail boats.

## Kanchanaburi

This is a region of stunning natural beauty but is also home to the museums and memorials that remember the horrors of the WWII Death Railway, it is a moving and exceptional place to visit. Spend time at the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, the Thailand-Burma Railway Museum and cross the 300m bridge, spanning the River Kwai.



## Northern Thailand

Filled with many of Thailand's draw-card attractions, Northern Thailand appeals to those looking to explore the ancient walled city of Chiang Mai, once the capital of the Lanna Kingdom, and Chiang Rai, home to Wat Rong Khun, known as the white temple and an abundance of cultural sites.

## Golden Triangle

This hilly, deeply forested area in the north of Thailand is where it meets neighbouring Laos and Myanmar. Its turbulent, opium-fuelled past is long gone and it's now a region of traditional villages, meandering rivers and hill tribes. This is also where you can spend time at one of the best elephant sanctuaries in Thailand.



## National Parks

With more than 100 national parks, this is where you can explore Thailand's wild side, whether you're a jungle lover or want to get your feet wet. Discover Khao Sok, home to rainforest, lakes, mountains and caves, and where you'll find Elephant Hills Jungle & Lake Camps. For marine based adventures Ang Thong National Marine Park lies in the Gulf of Thailand.

## Beaches

Thailand is the ultimate beach destination. There are hundreds of beautiful islands ranging from the ever-popular Phuket and Koh Samui to the diver's paradise of Khao Lak. Plus, hidden gems including Koh Yai Noi, tiny Koh Lanta and Koh Chang, Koh Mak and Koh Kood, in the Mu Ko Chang Marine Park.

# Thailand Highlights

## 12 days

A 2-week journey from south to north, this perfect first-timer tour of Thailand encompasses all the top sights as well as venturing into less-explored areas to explore pristine nature and local culture with a stay at a beautiful eco-lodge.

### Highlights

Bangkok – Kanchanaburi – Ayutthaya  
The Golden Triangle – Mae Salong Mountain – Hmong Hilltribe Lodge  
Chiang Mai – Elephant Sanctuary

### Tour Includes

- All accommodation
- All meals – 11 breakfasts, 10 lunches & 11 dinners
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking local guide
- Small group size – maximum 28 guests

*Tour is operated by Wendy Wu Tours. Please see Page 121 for additional and important information.*

### Departure Dates

Selected Dates:  
January to February, October to November

### Day 1: Arrive Bangkok

On arrival into Bangkok, you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

### Day 2: Bangkok

Today's sightseeing includes Wat Pho, the dazzling Grand Palace and a stroll through Chinatown. Later, take to the Chao Phraya River.

### Day 3: Bridge Over the River Kwai

Enjoy the Damnoen Saduak Floating Market and the bizarre Railway Track Market before heading to Kanchanaburi. Stop at the bridge on the River Kwai and visit the Thai-Burmese Railway Museum.

### Day 4: Kanchanaburi

Drive to Hellfire Pass and visit the fascinating museum before a short walk. Step aboard an old locomotive to travel along a section of the Death Railway, passing through the Kwai Gorge. Return to Bangkok in the afternoon.

### Day 5: Ayutthaya

A sacred city and former royal capital, Ayutthaya today is a crumbled kingdom that has retained its bygone splendour. Return to Bangkok and fly to Chiang Rai.

### Day 6: Golden Triangle

Transfer to the area known as the Golden Triangle. Take a return boat ride on the Mekong over the border into Laos and visit Don Sao Island. Return to Chiang Rai and explore the market this evening.

### Day 7: Mae Salong Mountain

Travel to Mae Salong Mountain, known for its tea plantations. Enjoy a Yunnanese lunch before visiting Doi Tung Palace and Mae Fah Luang Garden.

### Day 8: Hmong Hilltribe Lodge

Explore the striking White Temple before continuing to the Chiang Mai province. Spend tonight at Hmong Hilltribe Lodge, operated by Hmong villagers. Enjoy dinner and a Hmong folklore performance.

### Day 9: Chiang Mai

Depart for Mae Daeng and a leisurely bamboo rafting trip on the Mae Daeng River. Visit Wiang Kum Kam and enjoy a walking tour of Chiang Mai.

### Day 10: Elephant Sanctuary

Spend the day at an ethical elephant sanctuary and retirement centre, where you can meet, feed and care for these rescued and elderly residents.

### Day 11: Wat Doi Suthep

Learn to cook traditional Thai cuisine and enjoy your lunch. Drive 1 hour to Wat Doi Suthep where you will have the option of climbing the Naga staircase, or catch the cable car to visit the exquisite golden pagoda. Enjoy dinner while watching a performance of traditional song and dance.

### Day 12: Depart Chiang Mai

Following breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return or onward flight.



Kanchanaburi River



Chiang Mai



Bangkok

# Thailand & Laos Adventure

14 days

Thailand and Laos are the perfect combination for an unforgettable experience. Venture off the beaten track to discover the hill tribe cultures of Thailand's northern highlands and explore the tranquil treasures and rich culture of beautiful Laos. A reasonable level of fitness is required. It is more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances, as you explore the sights.

## Highlights

Bangkok – Chiang Mai – Hmong Hilltribe Lodge – Chiang Rai – Mekong Cruise  
Luang Prabang – Kuang Si Waterfalls  
Vientiane

## Tour Includes

- All accommodation
- All meals – 13 breakfasts, 12 lunches & 13 dinners
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking local guide
- Small group size – maximum 28 guests

*Tour is operated by Wendy Wu Tours.  
Please see Page 121 for additional and important information.*

## Departure Dates

Selected Dates:  
January to February, October to November

### Day 1: Arrive Bangkok

Arrive in Bangkok where you will be met by an English-speaking representative and transferred to your hotel.

### Day 2: Bangkok

Bangkok is an exotic city of many faces, go from tranquil golden temples to forests of gleaming skyscrapers before experiencing authentic Asia on bustling streets. Today's sightseeing includes Wat Pho, the dazzling Grand Palace and Chinatown. Take to the Chao Phraya River on a long-tail boat, getting an alternative view of the city as you travel to the Pak Klong Talaat Flower Market. This evening enjoy a traditional Thai dinner.

### Day 3: Bangkok

Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Damnoen Saduak Floating Market and experience the MaeKlong railway market. Fly to Chiang Mai this evening.

### Day 4: Chiang Mai

Chiang Mai is a relaxed, nonchalant city in the foothills of Thailand's northern highlands. Take a cyclo tour of the city, visit Flok Life Museum, admire Wat Chedi Luang and ascend to Wat Doi Suthep perched on top of Doi Suthep Mountain.

This evening enjoy a traditional Kantoke dinner and a performance of the ancient songs and dances of northern Thailand and wander through the bustling night bazaar.

### Day 5: Elephant Care Centre & Hmong Hilltribe Lodge

Visit the Elephant Care Centre in Mae Rim, which offers a peaceful retirement for elephants rescued from logging camps and elephant shows. After lunch continue to the Hmong Hilltribe Lodge amidst the striking natural beauty of the region. This evening enjoy a barbecue dinner and a cultural show.

### Day 6: Chiang Rai

Depart Hilltribe Lodge and continue 90 minutes to Tha Ton, a small town by the Mae Kok River, and board your long-tail boat for the cruise to Baan Pha Tai. Upon arrival, drive a further 2 hours to Chiang Rai where you may wish to take a walk around the night market before enjoying dinner at a local restaurant.

### Day 7: Chiang Rai

Explore the laidback, small-town charm of Chiang Rai, visiting the eccentric White Temple and Doi Mae Salong, a hill village once at the heart of the area's notorious opium trade.



Chiang Rai



**Day 8: Cruise the Mekong**

Transfer to the Thai-Laos border and climb aboard a boat to cruise along the Mekong, taking in the scenery as you go. Stop at Pakbeng with time to visit the village of Ban Houei Lumpene before settling in for the night.

**Day 9: Cruise to Luang Prabang**

Back on the river, continue your leisurely cruise down to the beautiful city of Luang Prabang. Stop at the fascinating Pak Ou Caves, a riverside cavern that is full of statues of Buddha that can no longer be used for worship.

**Day 10: Luang Prabang**

An enchanting city, Luang Prabang is the quintessential image of Laos – a place of vivid colours with an extremely rich heritage and enduring French legacy. Visit Ban Xang Khong craft village where you can see saa paper and local handcraft production. Take a city tour, seeing sights including Wat Visoun and Wat Xieng Thong. Later, spend some time at a local wat, chatting with the friendly monks who love to practice their English.

**Day 11: Kuang Si Waterfalls**

Rise early this morning to witness the Buddhist ceremony of Takbat. These lines of silent saffron robe-clad monks will be an enduring image of your trip. After breakfast, ascend Phousi Hill for panoramic views over the town and see the treasures at the National Museum. Head out of the town to enjoy the cascading turquoise waters of the enchanting Kuang Si Waterfalls before returning to Luang Prabang via Ock Pop Tok Weaving Centre.

**Day 12: Vientiane**

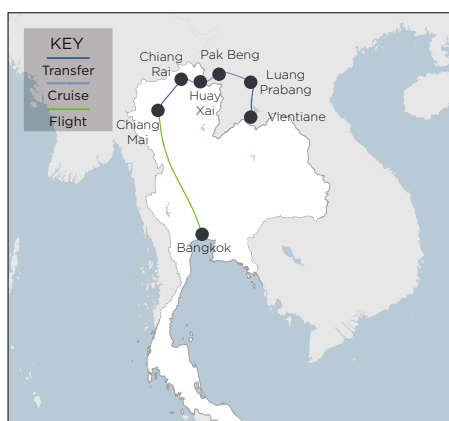
Enjoy a day at leisure until your short flight to the capital of Laos, Vientiane.

**Day 13: Vientiane**

Nestled in a sleepy bend of the Mekong, Vientiane is a delightfully quaint city. Spend the day exploring with a visit to Talaat Sao market, Wat Si Saket, Wat Phra Keo, That Luang Stupa, and the Patuxai Victory Monument, known as the Arc de Triomphe of Vientiane. Finally, explore the magical Buddha Park. Later, enjoy a farewell dinner with traditional Laos music.

**Day 14: Depart Vientiane**

This morning is free at leisure before you transfer to the airport for your return or onward journey.



# Thailand at a Glance

8 days

Simply touch the surface of Thailand as you explore with this shorter stay tour. See where vibrant street life meets the tuk-tuks and river boats filled with locals and tourists shoulder to shoulder through narrow canals. See majestic temples, each with their own unique story, ornate shrines and statues of Buddha, that will plunge visitors into the history and spirituality of Thailand. Renowned for beautiful beaches, idyllic islands and azure waters, Thailand is the land of contrasts, and this itinerary also includes a stay on Ko Samet, one of the smallest islands easily accessible from Bangkok.

## Highlights

Bangkok - Ayutthaya - Ko Samet

## Tour Includes

- All accommodation
- 6 meals – 5 breakfasts & 1 lunch
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking local guide
- Private air-conditioned vehicle

## Departure Dates

Daily, November to March

*(Due to the monsoon season, we will suggest Koh Samui as an alternative if travelling outside of these dates)*

## Day 1: Bangkok

On arrival at Bangkok airport, you will be met and greeted by an English-speaking guide. Your private driver and vehicle will transfer you to your hotel, the rest of the day is at leisure. Shoppers will be spoilt for choice with the vast array of shopping malls where you can grab yourself a bargain. Market stalls are vibrant and lively, especially in the evening with cooler temperatures. Art, craft, handbags and jewellery make for perfect gifts, remember to negotiate a price as haggling is part of the 'shopping game' in Thailand. When you have shopped till you drop why not head to one of the breathtaking rooftops bars for a pre-dinner drink.

## Day 2: Bangkok

Today you will be met by your English-speaking guide for a fun packed tour of the city. In the morning you will visit the iconic sites of Wat Pho or Grand Palace where you will learn about Thai history and spirituality. Also included is a tour of the family-run Monks Alms Bowls workshop where you'll observe the artists and learn about the monks' daily lives. Finally, visit Jim Thompson House where you will tour the gardens and buildings.

Highlights will prove to be the transport options as you ride in a tuk-tuk through the quieter streets of Soi Ban Batra, ride the Skytrain with the locals on Bangkok's elevated train and boat rides through the canals, where you will gain a better understanding of living like a local in this city of contrasts. Following the Skytrain you will return to your hotel for the evening at leisure. You may wish to join a food tour this evening with your guide or head to Chinatown where you will find food stalls aplenty to suit every palette or ask your hotel concierge for recommendations.

## Day 3: Ayutthaya - Bangkok

Your private guide and driver will meet you at your hotel and transfer you approx. 1.5 hours to the royal city of Ayutthaya, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You will have the choice of touring the site by an easy bicycle ride, alternatively you may wish to continue by car and walk. With a knowledgeable guide you can be sure you will visit the most significant sites, such as Wat Phra Si Sanphet and Wat Yai Chai Mongkoi, famous for its reclining Buddha statue. This afternoon board The Pearl Grand River boat, and gently cruise back to Bangkok down the Chao Phraya River. The cruise is around 2.5 hours and a buffet lunch is served on board. Arrive back at approx. 4pm where you will be met and transferred back to your hotel.



**Day 4: Ko Samet**

Check out of your hotel where your guide and driver will transfer you to Ban Phe pier approx. 3 hours drive away before embarking on a 40 minutes shared speedboat ride to the island of Ko Samet. Situated on the eastern side of the Gulf of Thailand, welcome to some of the most beautiful beaches in Thailand. Feel the soft white sand between your toes, sip on a cocktail at sunset before dining at one of the beachside eateries where traditional local dishes, BBQ's and seafood platters are served.

**Day 5: Ko Samet**

Today is your first day of exploring this tiny island, just under 5km in length and 1km wide you can easily take a walk around the island and find your perfect beach stop. Kayaking is a great way to explore the coastline and remote beaches, grab a snorkel and mask and dive into the warm turquoise waters.

**Day 6: Ko Samet**

Another day, a new book or a different beach view is your simple choice today. This evening you may wish to head to Hat Sai Kaew, also known as Diamond Beach, one of the most beautiful beaches on Ko Samet where there is a daily fire show and home to the largest beach bar on the island.

**Day 7: Ko Samet**

Today is at your pace, feeling energetic, follow one of the nature trails in Ko Samet National Park (local entrance fee applies), or maybe grab a snorkel and mask, discover the marine life beneath the sparking turquoise waters. For something more relaxing treat yourself to a massage or spa treatment on the beach under the shade of a palm tree.

**Day 8: Depart Bangkok**

It is time to leave your island paradise and make the return journey by shared speedboat and private vehicle back to Bangkok and onwards to the airport for your return flight. Alternatively, you may wish to extend your stay in the north of Thailand or further afield to Laos, Cambodia or Vietnam.



*Ko Samet*



*Bangkok*



*Ayutthaya*

# Thailand Nature Explorer

14 days

On this itinerary, nature lovers will be immersed into wildlife. You will visit Thailand's most ethical elephant sanctuary, where you can view these magnificent animals from the jungle canopy or with both feet firmly on the floor. Photographers will be wowed with spectacular tropical forests and soft white powder beaches. A highlight stay will be on the floating raft houses of Khao Sok Lake.

## Highlights

Phuket – Khao Sok National Park  
Khao Lak – Bangkok

## Tour Includes

- All accommodation
- 20 meals – 13 breakfasts, 3 lunches & 4 dinners
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking local guide
- Private air-conditioned vehicle

## Departure Dates

Selected Dates, March – November  
(Due to monsoon season, travel between November to March will be transferred to Krabi and neighbouring islands).

## Day 1: Phuket

On arrival into Phuket airport, you will be met by an English-speaking guide and driver and transferred to your hotel. This evening, we have included dinner at a local restaurant, perfectly located for a pre-dinner drink (*own expense*) as the sun sets.

## Day 2: Phuket

This morning your guide will meet you at your hotel and take you on a half day orientation tour of Phuket. You will visit Big Buddha, the old town of Phuket and Khao Rang Viewpoint which is surrounded by lush tropical forests. This afternoon and evening are at leisure.

## Day 3: Phuket

Today your driver and guide will escort you to Phuket's first and most ethical elephant sanctuary. Endorsed by National Geographic, this is a final home where rescued elephants have the freedom to roam, bathe and forage freely, socialising in the jungle. For those visitors with a head for heights there is a 6-metre-tall canopy walkway where these majestic creatures can be observed. With your feet firmly on the floor there is also an option to join a guided walking tour through the 30-acre sanctuary. Upon return to your hotel the rest of the day is at leisure.

## Day 4: Phuket

Today is a free day to soak up beach life or browse the local markets for keepsakes to take home.

## Day 5: Khao Sok National Park

Time to check out of your hotel and meet your guide and driver as you are transferred by private vehicle to Khao Sok National Park. Known for its dramatic limestone cliffs, rivers, and diverse wildlife, including gibbons and hornbills. You will stay in simple yet comfortable treehouse lodges. This afternoon, enjoy leisurely bamboo rafting or a river canoe trip through the lush rainforest, an incredible, and easy adventurous way to explore the park's natural beauty.

## Day 6: Khao Sok National Park

Wake up to the calls of gibbons! Start your day with a soothing jungle massage or a half-day hike (*easy*) through Khao Sok's rich forests, perfect for wildlife lovers. After lunch at the resort, you will face another exciting choice: relax in a hot spring and enjoy stunning viewpoints, or immerse yourself in traditional jungle cooking, preparing your dinner in the wild. Both options offer a unique and immersive way to experience the beauty and culture of the jungle.



**Day 7: Floating Raft Houses**

Experience an unforgettable stay in one of the world's most breathtaking locations, floating raft houses on the emerald waters of Khao Sok Lake. This serene man-made dam, surrounded by towering limestone cliffs and lush rainforest, offers unmatched tranquillity and a deep connection to nature. Opt for a private stay to enjoy enhanced comfort and exclusive accommodations. Perfect for those seeking an extraordinary, once-in-a-lifetime adventure, this is a must-do for any traveller looking to indulge in natural beauty.

**Day 8: Khao Lak**

Dive from your floating raft house straight into the emerald waters all before breakfast. Canoes are available to explore the misty lake in the quiet hours of the morning. Swim and unwind lakeside before making your way by long-tail boat back to the mainland and onto your 'nature lovers paradise' in Khao Lak. Sunset drinks anyone?

**Day 9: Khao Lak**

Wake to the sound of the sea. Situated on the Andaman Coast is where you will find lush tropical landscapes, mountains and wild sandy beaches. Take the rest of the day at your pace.

**Day 10: Khao Lak**

Join an exciting small group day tour to the beautiful islands of Surin, where white sandy beaches and stunning, green rainforests await you. Discover the vibrant and colourful underwater ecosystem that surrounds the Surin Islands, one of the best snorkelling areas in Thailand. With a total of 3 stops for snorkelling, you can enjoy the crystal-clear view underwater away from the crowds.

**Day 11: Khao Lak**

Free day to explore.

**Day 12: Bangkok**

Time to check out of your hotel. You will be met and driven to Phuket airport for your onward flight to Bangkok. An English-speaking guide will meet you with a private car and drive you to your city hotel stay. En-route your guide will be happy to pinpoint a selection of rooftop bars for a pre-dinner drink and bird's eye view of the city as the sun sets this evening.

**Day 13: Bangkok**

This morning your guide will meet you and take you on a city hopper tour. Inclusions will be a visit to Wat Pho Grand Palace, Mons' Alms Bowls Workshop, Jim Thompson House, where you will learn about the silk merchant's history. Experience Bangkok's Skytrain ride and climb aboard a tuk-tuk for an exciting trip through the quieter parts of the city. For a different aspect of the city skyline and stilt houses, a boat ride on the Chao Phraya River will surely be a highlight. This evening is at leisure.

**Day 14: Depart Bangkok**

Your guide and driver will transfer you to the airport for your return flight or onward journey. Perhaps you may wish to extend your stay to include Northern Thailand.



# Northern Culture & Island Life

14 days

Thailand entices visitors with its forever contrasting experiences showcasing fine architecture, sacred Buddhist temples, tropical lush rainforests and white sandy beaches. Blend this with warm hospitality offered by locals during a homestay, cooking up your very own Thai feast. Visiting the nation's animal, the Thai elephants that are being rehabilitated and finally travelling like James Bond on a speedboat to a tropical island. This tour will really offer a diverse and unforgettable adventure.

## Highlights

Bangkok – Chiang Rai – Mae Kampong Village – Chiang Mai – Ko Samet

## Tour Includes

- All accommodation
- 18 meals – 13 breakfasts, 2 lunches & 3 dinners
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking local guide
- Private air-conditioned vehicle

## Departure Dates

Daily

## Day 1: Bangkok

Welcome to the vibrant city of Bangkok. You will be met by a local English-speaking guide and private driver at the airport who will transfer you to your hotel. This evening settle in and relax in style with a rooftop pre-dinner drink as you soak up the atmosphere of the city below.

## Day 2: Bangkok

Discover Bangkok's famous landmarks and hidden gems in a unique way. Start your day at Wat Pho, experiencing the serene morning chanting, then enjoy a private blessing at a temple known to locals but off the tourist radar. After lunch (not included), explore a restored 'gingerbread house,' learning its history while savouring local Thai snacks and tea or coffee. Travel around the city in a traditional tuk-tuk for an authentic Thai experience, making this a perfect blend of well-known sights and lesser-seen treasures.

## Day 3: Bangkok

This morning you will explore the old Portuguese area of Bangkok and learn about its historically significant and unique architecture with your private guide and driver. This evening your driver will collect you from your hotel and transfer you to an evening aboard the Manohra Dinner Cruise.

Enjoy a gourmet Thai set dinner while cruising past Bangkok's iconic landmarks, including Wat Arun and the Grand Palace, with stunning views of the city's skyline illuminated at night.

## Day 4: Chiang Rai

Check out of your hotel, your driver and guide will meet you and transfer you to the airport for your 1.5 hour flight to Chiang Rai. Your local guide and private driver will meet you at the airport and drive you to your hotel in Chiang Rai. Freshen up before you embark on a fast boat along the Mekong River where two rivers converge in a valley, known as the Golden Triangle. Be prepared for stunning views of where Thailand, Laos and Myanmar meet.

## Day 5: Chiang Rai

Your guide will take you on a full day tour to the scenic Mae Salong valley visiting a tea plantation. This area is known for its local oolong tea, the tea bushes were originally imported from Taiwan and thrive on the mountainous landscape. Your tour will also include a visit to the Chinese Martyr's Memorial Museum, Phra Boromathat Chedi and Wat Santikhiri.



Chiang Mai

**Day 6: Mae Kampong Village Home Stay**

Leave Chiang Rai with your guide for the charming mountainside village of Mae Kampong, known for its cosy wooden houses. Enjoy a leisurely walk along a nature trail by the stream, passing waterfalls and tea and coffee plantations. For lunch, help prepare a simple meal with a local host family at their home stay. In the afternoon, choose between learning how to make fermented tea or relaxing with a herbal steam bath. End your day with a delightful home-cooked dinner and warm hospitality. Stay in simple but comfortable home stay accommodation with a Thai family host and feast on home cooked meals.

**Day 7: Chiang Mai**

Your early bird morning begins by offering alms to monks at the village temple with your host, followed by a homemade breakfast. Visit a local artist's house, explore his collection, and create your own artwork. Next, head to the Chiang Mai Art Museum for a deeper dive into the local art scene, surrounded by beautiful mountain and lake views. After lunch (not included), journey to Chiang Mai city, the 'rose of the north.' Late afternoon, enjoy a 3-hour private tuk-tuk food tour, tasting dishes at an infamous night market and beyond, while quiet temples glow under the sunset.

**Day 8: Chiang Mai**

Your guide will meet you in the lobby to embark on an iconic half-day journey ascending 3,500 feet to the sacred Wat Prathat Doi Suthep, Chiang Mai's holiest temple. Climb 306 steps to admire the golden pagoda and enjoy stunning city views. Afterwards, travel by local truck to the White Hmong hill tribe village. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

**Day 9: Chiang Mai**

Today your driver and guide will take you to view the national animal of Thailand, the Thai elephant at Elephant National Park, the first ethical sanctuary in Thailand. Many of the residents have been rescued from circus shows, elephant riding or may have sustained injury. Here you will sense their now peaceful lifestyle where they are respected and cared for, your visit will contribute to their well-being and rehabilitation. This afternoon is at leisure to further explore at your own pace.

**Day 10: Chiang Mai**

Something a bit different today as you take part in a half day cooking class. Your 'chef' will take you on a tour of the market then to an organic farm. You'll make a curry paste from scratch using your own mortar, adjusting the spice level to your preference.

You'll prepare a curry, soup, noodle dish, dessert, and receive a recipe book, tea, and water. The best part is eating the results for lunch! The afternoon is free to relax.

**Day 11: Ko Samet**

Your driver and guide will meet you in the hotel reception and transfer you to the airport for your flight to Bangkok. You will then be driven in a private vehicle, approx. 2.5 hours to Rayong and Ban Phe pier where you will join a shared speedboat transfer to Ko Samet. Relax with a cool cocktail on this paradise island.

**Day 12 & 13: Ko Samet**

If it's unspoilt beaches and lazy afternoons at a beach bar you are looking for then this is the perfect spot. Unwind with a massage or spa treatment, in the cooler mornings you may wish to start your day with a walk in Ko Samet National Park (local entrance fee applies). Water sports enthusiasts will be spoilt for choice with snorkelling equipment, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards readily available. You will find restaurants dotted along the beach, from BBQs to street food and sumptuous seafood restaurants.

**Day 14: Transfer to Bangkok**

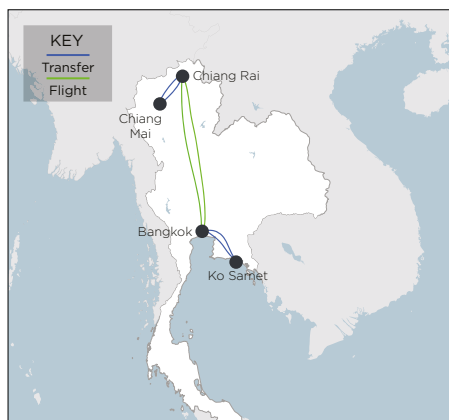
Time to leave or you may prefer to extend your stay, retrace your steps on a speedboat transfer back to the mainland. At the pier your private guide and driver will transfer you to Bangkok airport for your return flight.



Ko Samet



Bangkok



Chiang Rai

# Southern Island Hopping

14 days

Sun worshippers, divers and snorkellers will not be disappointed as you are taken on a journey where beaches and islands offer unique stays and experiences. Feel the sand between your toes on sunset beach strolls, sunbathe with pigs and smile with delight as you ride on board a 4WD vehicle and explore Koh Samui. For those who prefer to keep dry then stay on top of the turquoise sea on a kayak, sit back as your captain of a speedboat skilfully navigates through 42 islands or venture out on nature trails through the lush tropical jungle. We have included a stay in Bangkok.

## Highlights

Bangkok - Koh Samui – Koh Phangan Koh Tao

## Tour Includes

- All accommodation
- 16 meals – 13 breakfasts, 2 lunches & 1 dinner
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking local guide
- Private air-conditioned vehicle

## Departure Dates

Selected Dates, April - October  
(Due to monsoon season, travel between November to March will be transferred to Krabi and neighbouring islands).

## Day 1: Arrive Bangkok

Your private guide and driver will meet and greet you before transferring you to your hotel. Your guide will point out places of interest, restaurants and rooftop bars to explore this evening at your leisure.

## Day 2: Bangkok

Discover Bangkok's famous landmarks and hidden gems in a unique way. Start your day at Wat Pho, experiencing the serene morning chanting, then enjoy a private blessing at a temple known to locals but off the tourist radar. After lunch (not included), explore a restored 'gingerbread house,' learning its history while savouring local Thai snacks and tea or coffee. Travel around the city in a traditional tuk-tuk for an authentic Thai experience, making this a perfect blend of well-known sights and lesser-seen treasures. In the evening, join a stunning dinner cruise, floating down the Chao Phraya river aboard the Grand Pearl. Indulge in a delicious Thai international buffet while drifting past some of Thailand's most iconic landmarks as they shimmer at night.

## Day 3: Koh Samui

Check out of your hotel. Your guide will return you to the airport for a short flight to the second largest island in Thailand, Koh Samui. You will be greeted and driven to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure.

## Day 4: Koh Samui

Start your tropical island adventure with a full day private tour onboard a 4WD vehicle. Your driver will take you deep into the hills of Samui. Visit temples and get off-road to find hidden gems, small villages where locals go about daily life and visit the Secret Buddha Garden. Be sure to have a camera ready as the views are breathtaking. You will be returned to your hotel at the end of the tour.

## Day 5: Koh Samui

Time to explore the surrounding islands even further, be sure to pack your swimwear as you join this shared tour. The first stop just south of Koh Samui is Koh Tan, or locally known as 'Coral Island'. This simple and almost uninhabited island leaves urban lifestyles behind as it is free of cars. Immerse yourself in island life, with stunning white sandy beaches and azure tropical waters, dip your toe or dive below and seek out coral reefs and a kaleidoscope of colourful fish.



Koh Samui



Land based activities include nature trails through the lush jungle in search of local birdlife. The next island stop is Mudsum or more commonly referred to as 'Pig Island'. The pigs were introduced to the island several years ago and are now a natural part of the island's eco system. They have become a favourite for visitor's to photograph as they frolic in the sand, and you can even sunbathe with them!

**Day 6: Koh Samui**

Free day to enjoy the beach and local markets.

**Day 7: Koh Phangan**

Your guide and driver will meet you and transfer you to the ferry to take a 30-minute speedboat ride to Koh Phangan. You will be met and taken to your hotel, settle in and enjoy a sunset cocktail.

**Day 8: Koh Phangan**

Embark on your group tour, spend today travelling by speedboat through Ang Thong National Marine Park, where 42 islands are waiting to be discovered. Your captain will skilfully navigate around the islands to find secluded beaches away from the crowds. You may prefer to keep your hair dry and paddle in a kayak along the coastal shores or hike to a viewpoint overlooking Emerald Lagoon.

**Day 9-10: Koh Phangan**

We have included 2 free days for you to explore at your own pace, find the best Pad Thai or book a soothing massage. But then again, what's the rush? Perhaps the day calls for relaxing in a hammock with a fresh coconut shake instead.

**Day 11: Koh Tao**

Just when you thought your island-hopping adventure couldn't get any better, we have chosen the stunning 'Turtle Island' as your last stop. Once you arrive, check in and let the cool refreshing breeze ease you into island living. Koh Tao is a renowned diver's paradise, offering some of the best underwater adventures in the world, so grab your flippers, snorkels, or tanks and dive in!

**Day 12: Koh Tao**

Free day to explore the shallow coral reefs or hiking trails and work up an appetite. The island features stunning beaches, lush jungles, and picturesque viewpoints, making it a favourite for nature lovers. Koh Tao boasts a wide variety of international cuisines and creative fusion blends, you will be taken on a global food extravaganza.

**Day 13: Koh Tao**

End your island adventure with a small-group tour on a vintage wooden boat. Featuring a sun deck and charming character, the boat takes you to snorkel, kayak, and paddleboard at 6 stunning spots around Koh Tao, including the paradise of Koh Nang Yuan. Enjoy a freshly prepared buffet lunch and a BBQ dinner onboard, while soaking in breathtaking sunset views.

**Day 14: Depart Thailand**

Your island-hopping adventure is complete, you will be met and transferred back to Koh Samui for your return flight. Alternatively, you may wish to extend your stay and immerse in northern Thailand's culture.



Koh Tao



Koh Phangan



Bangkok

# The River Kwai Cruise

4 days

Join this unique way to visit this famous region where historical events prevail. Local guides share their knowledge educating visitors through a resident's eye. On and offboard activities will absorb guests into the very essence of Thailand's exquisite scenery, including temples, historic sites, Khmer ruins, waterfalls, war cemeteries, hot springs, the bridge on the River Kwai, and local villages which can only be accessed by boat. Your small crew and a maximum number of 20 guests onboard will provide a personal authentic experience.

## Highlights

Bangkok - Kanchanaburi - Khao Noi and Tiger Cave Temple - Hell Fire Pass  
Hin Dad Hot Spring - Pha Tad Waterfall  
Tha Kilen Train Station - Prasat Muang Singh Historical Park

## Tour Includes

- 3 nights' accommodation on board in a stateroom cabin with private facilities
- 10 meals - 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 3 dinners
- Tea, coffee & drinking water (additional beverages are available to purchase)
- Transfers and sightseeing tours with English-speaking local guide
- Entrance fees

## Departure Dates

Mon - upstream | Thurs - downstream

## Day 1: Bangkok-Kanchanaburi-Thong Pha Phum-Ban Hin Dad

Join fellow guests before departing from Bangkok to Kanchanaburi via Nakorn Pathom. En-route there will be points of interest stops, including the Chedi in Thailand called 'Phra Pathom Chedi', Khao Noi Cave Temple (Wat Tham Khao Noi) and a stop at Tiger Cave Temple (Wat Tham Sua) nearby. Continue your journey to Kanchanaburi for lunch. This afternoon glimpse into part of the Death Railway at Hell Fire Pass. Trails lead to Hin Tok Bridge and Konyu Cutting where a plaque commemorates the ordeal of Australian and British POW. Finally, you will embark on your overnight colonial style river cruiser RV River Kwai. Become acquainted with your stateroom cabin before dinner is served.

## Day 2: Ban Hin Dat-Sai Yok Yai-Sai Yok

Cruise downriver as breakfast is served. Excursions today start at Hin Dad Hot Spring, formerly called Kui Mang. Your next visit is Pha Tad Waterfall located in the western zone of Si Nakharin Dam National Park. Back on board for lunch continue your journey along the Kwai Noi River. You have the option this afternoon to be active with river rafting or canoeing downstream or keep your feet dry and take photos instead! Enjoy dinner onboard with your new travel companions.

## Day 3: Sai Yok-Ban Kao

Following breakfast there will be a short visit at Sai Yok village located directly on the riverbank. Once all back on board the mountainous scenery takes centre stage. This afternoon visit Krasae Cave. Take a local train to Tha Kilen Train Station passing over the long wooden Wang Pho viaduct. Arrive at Tha Kilen and continue by coach to 'Prasat Muang Singh', a historical park with Khmer architecture from the late Lopburi period, some 700-800 years ago. The ancient border town of Muang Singh, 'City of the Lions', is believed to be established as a trading post. Return to the RV River Kwai and continue your cruise. This afternoon at leisure onboard the boat. Enjoy a 'Farewell Dinner' this evening.

## Day 4: Ban Kao-Kanchanaburi-Bangkok

A unique start to your final day offering foods to monks at Chukkadon Market. Return for breakfast served on board en-route to Nong Ya. After disembarking visit Wat Tham Khaopoon before moving on to visit the Thailand-Burma Railway Centre Museum. Visit the Don Rak war cemetery and the world-famous bridge over the River Kwai. The sturdy iron bridge spanning the River Kwai Yai, which was a crucial part of the Death Railway. After this humbling visit, time for lunch near the confluence of the two rivers Kwai Yai and Kwai Noi. Head back to Bangkok and transfer to your hotel.



# Golden Triangle Mekong River Cruising

## 6 days

Embark on this river cruise from Chiang Rai. Set sail aboard a boutique style river ship and enjoy the unspoiled nature along the mighty upper Mekong, considered one of the world's most spectacular rivers navigable by a cruise vessel. This part of the river combines striking shore scenery of lush green mountains, impressive rock formations, and secluded villages. Even the most discerning of travellers will feel relaxed with superior air-conditioned cabins and premium service.

### Highlights

Chiang Rai (Golden Triangle) – Huay Xai  
Pak Ou Caves – Luang Prabang

### Tour Includes

- All accommodation
- Cabin with en-suite shower/WC and air conditioning
- 13 meals – 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 4 dinners
- All sightseeing, offshore excursions and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking local guide

### Departure Dates

On request  
Cruise itinerary is based on downstream  
(Upstream is also available)

### Day 1: Chiang Rai Embarkation

You will be met from your hotel and join fellow guests on a tour of the city, visit the Golden Buddha of Sop Ruak and the Hall of Opium. Time to board the Mekong Sun, a unique boutique river vessel. Settle into your cabin, we highly recommend a superior cabin which features a panoramic window. In the evening enjoy the spacious decks, onboard lounge and attend a welcome reception.

### Day 2: Huay Xay

This morning your grand voyage on the mighty Mekong River really gets underway, with your departure from the Golden Triangle region, where Myanmar (Burma), Laos and Thailand meet. Today's destination is the nearby Laotian town of Huay Xay on the Laotian-Thai border. Continue into northern Laos amid stunning scenery and on to the village of Pak Tha. Here, take a long-tail boat excursion on the Namtha River to visit a local village of the ethnic minority Khmu.

### Day 3: Pak Tha

After breakfast, set off on a journey to visit one of the local hill tribe villages in the Pak Tha area. Return to your vessel and enjoy the peaceful river atmosphere before lunch. Cruise through remote and untouched regions of Laos, accessible only by water. Here, the Mekong unveils some of its most stunning landscapes: lush hills draped in tropical vegetation and dramatic rock formations.

### Day 4: Pak Ou Caves – Ban Muang Keo

Enjoy a peaceful morning before arriving at a charming riverside village. Explore the legendary Pak Ou Caves, home to thousands of small Buddha statues. Embark on a jungle trek leading to the local village of Ban Muang Keo, or for a more relaxed pace, a short boat ride will also take you to the village. As the day draws to a close, your ship remains anchored, surrounded by majestic limestone mountains.

### Day 5: Luang Prabang

Arrive in Luang Prabang, the former royal capital of Laos. Begin with a guided walk through the city, taking you to the famous Wat Xieng Thong Temple. As evening approaches, you'll ascend Mount Phou Si, where you'll be rewarded with breathtaking panoramic views. Take a stroll along the Mekong promenade or immerse yourself in the vibrant atmosphere of the colourful Hmong Night Market. Back on board, a special farewell dinner awaits, celebrating the final night of your cruise.

### Day 6: Disembark Luang Prabang

In the early morning, visit the traditional giving of alms in the streets of Luang Prabang and explore the traditional morning market. After breakfast you will say goodbye to your Laotian crew. Check-out and disembark. Your memorable river journey ends with your transfer to your city centre hotel.



Outdoor Restaurant



Captain



BBQ on a sandbank



Mekong Sun

# Bangkok



## River Life

Feeding a network of 'klongs' (canals) the Chao Phraya River is the lifeblood of Bangkok. Take long-tailed boat rides, sunset river cruises and explore this teaming waterway. In Kanchanaburi, the iconic bridge and most famous section of the Burma-Thailand Railway, that spans the River Kwai is a poignant reminder of WWII.

## Temples, Buddhas & Palaces

The choices are endless. In Bangkok the big hitters for most visitors include the Grand Palace, the former royal residence, Wat Arun, otherwise known as the Temple of Dawn and Wat Pho, home to the impressive Reclining Buddha. Wat Phra Kaew is the spiritual core of Thai Buddhism and one of the biggest attractions in the city.

## Glorious Food

Bangkok is a feast for the senses, the sublime street food offers a mouthwatering array of noodles, dumplings and sizzling skewers and tastebud-tingling curries, the stalls and carts are endless. But there are also fabulous night markets, fine dining and some of the finest restaurants to be found anywhere in the world.



## History & Culture

The Kanchanaburi Province is home to many museums and landmarks including the beautifully maintained WWII cemetery, Hellfire Pass Museum and JEATH Museum.

## Shopping Heaven

For shopping enthusiasts, Bangkok boasts over 500 shopping malls, offering a cool escape from the heat and serving as social hubs for eating, shopping and mingling. Add to that its vibrant street vendors and markets full of silks and handicrafts, and you'll find a city that truly values shopping.

## Getting Around

Travelling around Bangkok is easy and efficient. Visitors stand side by side locals on the Skytrain, observe the red lights and traffic jams below as you glide along the rails. Taxis are plentiful and inexpensive, for something more adventurous tuk-tuks are legendary in this bustling city.

# Our Favourite Sightseeing Tours

## Evening Dinner Cruise

Set sail on a magical evening aboard the luxurious Pearl Cruise for an evening to remember. Step onto the open-air deck, sip your welcome drink, and soak in stunning views of the Chao Phraya River. Glide past Bangkok's iconic landmarks such as the Temple of Dawn and the Grand Palace, all beautifully illuminated at night. Enjoy live music as you feast on a buffet of mouthwatering Thai and international dishes. Whether with loved ones or new friends, this cruise promises an unforgettable dining experience. By 9:30 pm, return to River City before being transferred back to your hotel.

Departs: Daily  
Duration: 2 hours

## Bangkok's Hidden Gems

Uncover Bangkok's rich culture through a mix of famous landmarks and secret spots. Get a taste of local life as you hop into a traditional tuk-tuk, cruising through the city streets. Start your morning at the peaceful Wat Pho, where you'll witness the mesmerizing daily chanting of monks. From there, enjoy a private blessing at a little-known temple beloved by locals, offering a spiritual moment away from the crowds. After a lunch break (own expense), dive into history at a beautifully restored 'gingerbread house,' where you'll learn its story while indulging in delicious Thai snacks with tea or coffee. This unique tour is the perfect blend of Bangkok's renowned highlights and charming hidden treasures.

Departs: Daily  
Duration: 6 1/2 hours

## A Culinary Journey Through Bangkok

This historic Bangkok food tasting and cultural walking tour is designed to offer a unique and immersive experience. The tour combines the best of Thai cuisine from different regions with an intimate exploration of the local culture and lifestyle. Your tour will dive straight into Bangkok's flavours with a legendary roasted duck rice, served in Bang Rak for over 50 years. Refresh with Chinese herbal drinks, taste sweet local desserts, and stroll vibrant streets. Next up, homemade fish ball noodles in a unique pink soup. Savour Thai-style grilled pork as you explore Charoenkrung Road and the bustling Bang Rak market. Indulge in Thai pandan custard bread at a 70-year-old family bakery, then explore Assumption Cathedral. Cross the river for spicy Isaan dishes and wrap it all up with dessert at ICONSIAM.

Departs: Daily  
Duration: 3 hours

## Temple Tour

Embark on a captivating journey through Bangkok's historical wonders. Meet your guide and prepare for an authentic local experience. Navigate the city using Bangkok's sky train, famous tuk-tuks and long-tail boats, immersing in the vibrant atmosphere. Your adventure begins in bustling Chinatown, where hidden shops and stalls await in narrow alleyways. Explore the lively market scene before continuing to Pak Klong Talat, a 24/7 flower market offering a delightful array of blooms, alongside a diverse selection of food and crafts. Next, visit the renowned Wat Pho, home to the revered Temple of the Reclining Buddha and Thailand's first university. Admire the temple's magnificent architecture and delve into its rich cultural heritage. Following a short lunch break (own expense), you will board a private long-tail boat to cruise the Chao Praya River and nearby canals. As you glide along the waterways, soak in the picturesque surroundings and witness the vibrant river life. Your final stop is the captivating Wat Arun, often photographed and celebrated for its beauty.

Departs: Daily  
Duration: 6 1/2 hours



## Bangkok Accommodation

### Pathumwan Princess Hotel

Soaring above the MBK shopping mall and just a short skywalk to Siam, the largest shopping complex in Bangkok, this stylish hotel offers modern, contemporary rooms and stunning views of the city skyline. It's also only moments from the Skytrain, offering easy, air-conditioned access to many of Bangkok's major attractions. The rooms and suites sit between the 9th and 29th floors and are restful spaces above the bustle of the city. There is an excellent choice of restaurants including Thai, Korean, Chinese, Japanese and Italian and facilities include an entire floor dedicated to health and wellness with classes, state of the art fitness centre, indoor cycling room and an open-air swimming pool overlooking the city.

**Location:** Bangkok

Our rating: ★★★★★



### Centara Watergate Pavilion

In the heart of the Pratunam downtown area, the Centara is connected to the Watergate Shopping Pavilion offering excellent shopping opportunities. The rooms and suites are sleek and stylish with views over the city, there are also family friendly suites with bunk beds. There are 3 dining options, including WALK, a sophisticated rooftop lounge with wonderful views and Café 9, a modern, all-day dining restaurant offering Thai and international dishes. Other facilities include a fitness centre and excellent day spa.

**Location:** Bangkok

Our rating: ★★★★★



### Lancaster Hotel

This modern hotel offers spacious rooms and suites in a central location, close to the Sukhumvit district, and is ideal for exploring the city. The closest Skytrain station is a 5-minute walk. The rooms and suites are spacious and modern, with floor to ceiling windows and beautiful bathrooms featuring walk in showers and large bathtubs. The family rooms are perfect for 2 adults and up to 2 children under 12 with 2 bedrooms and a mini lounge. Club floor guests enjoy access to the Club Lancaster Lounge, private check in, breakfast, and evening cocktails. Dining options include Thai, Japanese and European, there are also 2 bars. Relax with a treatment in the excellent spa, or with a swim in the rooftop pool. Alternatively, head to the fitness centre.

**Location:** Bangkok

Our rating: ★★★★★



### AVANI+ Riverside Bangkok

The AVANI+ is one of the newest hotels in the city with views of the Chao Phraya River and is a modern and sleek hotel rising 26 floors above the city. The rooms and suites are well appointed with huge windows framing the expansive river views. The décor is contemporary and minimalist with a neutral colour palette. There is an excellent choice of restaurants including the rooftop bar and restaurant SEEN, and Skyline offers all day dining with wonderful views. Facilities include an Instagram-worthy rooftop infinity pool, state of the art fitness centre and an excellent spa. The hotel is a few miles south of the main attractions, a long-tail boat to the Royal Palace takes around 25 minutes, there is also a regular hotel river shuttle to the nearest Skytrain station, which takes 20 minutes.

**Location:** Bangkok

Our rating: ★★★★★





## Shangri La Bangkok

Set on the banks of the Chao Phraya River, the Shangri La sits in riverside gardens and offers direct access to the Skytrain and public ferry terminal, bringing the attractions of Bangkok within easy reach. This beautiful hotel prides itself on its gracious hospitality and genuine Thai style. The rooms and suites are located in 2 adjacent towers and offer city or river views. Choose from the Shangri La Wing, or for a more bespoke, boutique-style stay the beautiful Krungthep Wing, club floor rooms and suites are also available. The Shangri La offers up a choice of dining options with international, Thai, Chinese and Italian and a river cruise buffet. In addition to the riverside swimming pool there are tennis courts, a fitness centre and a world-class spa for guests to enjoy.

**Location:** Bangkok

Our rating: ★★★★★



## Kimpton Maa Lai

Sitting just around the corner from the palm-leafed enclave of Lumpini Park, this is a peaceful spot amidst all the bustle. The nearest Skytrain station is a 10-minute walk or hop on the hotel shuttle. This lovely hotel offers a choice of stylish guest rooms with floor to ceiling windows, and a colour scheme of cool greys, and blues, all have separate rain showers and large bathtubs. Guests are spoiled for choice with no less than 7 different dining venues, from excellent coffee in the lobby café to the Stock Room offering diverse street food with a farm to plate ethos. Enjoy afternoon tea in the Library, a French-Asian fusion restaurant, an Italian and the 40th floor rooftop bar. Other facilities include an infinity pool, gym and a beautiful day spa.

**Location:** Bangkok

Our rating: ★★★★★



## Oriental Kwai Resort

On the banks of the River Kwai, the Oriental Resort is a small, family-run hotel offering excellent service and is a peaceful retreat away from the city. For visitors wanting to experience a taste of life in rural Thailand, this is an ideal spot. There are just 12 comfortable rooms and cottages dotted throughout the gardens, they are traditional in style with Thai art, deep red walls and dark wood furnishings, all have a private veranda and 2 have river views. There's a lovely swimming pool to cool off in, a small gym and Thai massages can be arranged, plus a riverside restaurant serving Thai and western dishes. The city of Kanchanaburi and the Bridge on the River Kwai is 15-minutes by taxi, or by long-tail boat.

**Location:** Kanchanaburi

Our rating: ★★★★★



## The Floathouse River Kwai

The unique Floathouse is surrounded by jungle and sits directly on the waters of the River Kwai and is only accessible by boat. 20 floating villas are beautifully finished in a Thai folk style with handmade teak furnishings, canopy beds and a private balcony and pier, where you can sit and soak up the sights and sounds of the river. Dining comes courtesy of the Pontoon Floating Restaurant and Bar, which serves an a la carte and buffet menu of Thai and western dishes. This is a great base from which to explore the Kanchanaburi area activities include bird watching, stand up paddle boards, mountain biking, long-tailed boat trips, canoeing and bamboo rafting.

**Location:** River Kwai

Our rating: ★★★★★

# Northern Thailand



## Chiang Mai Temple and City Tour by Tuk-Tuk

Explore the rich history of Chiang Mai on this temple tour. Get ready for an exciting journey on board a local three wheeled 'tuk-tuk'. Your guide will take you to Wat Phra Singh, a revered temple at the heart of the city. Next visit Wat Chedi Luang and nearby 'Sao Intakin' shrine. Continue to Wat Chiang Man, the oldest temple within the ancient walls, built by King Mengrai. Drive around the old city, taking in the moat and historic gates. Finally, immerse yourself in the lively Warorot Market, bustling with exotic fruits, flowers, street food, clothing, and local treasures.

Departs: Daily  
Duration: 3½ hours

## Chiang Mai's Elephant Nature Park & Walk

Elephant Nature Park is a sanctuary for more than a hundred rescued elephants enabling them to live out their lives in their own social groups, roaming the pasture freely. Your morning tour offers a unique opportunity to spend quality time observing and being with the magnificent elephant herd. Embark on a guided walk with knowledgeable staff and the elephants, emphasising a no-riding policy. Wander the river that skirts the park, where you can observe and learn about the elephants habitat and history. Lunch and soft beverages are included.

Departs: Daily  
Duration: 5 hours



## Doi Inthanon National Park Full Day Tour

Doi Inthanon, Thailand's highest peak at 2,565 meters, is a must-see, showcasing a stunning mix of forest types, countless bird species, and waterfalls. Your adventure begins from Chiang Mai with a scenic drive to the summit where you'll explore two magnificent chedis, built to celebrate the 60th birthdays of the King and Queen. Soak in the breathtaking views before heading to the lively Hmong market. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before an easy 2 hours downhill hike on a beautiful nature trail guided by Karen people. This scenic trail leads through lush rice terraces, waterfalls, and local villages, offering a blend of nature and cultural insights.

Departs: Daily  
Duration: 11 hours

## Chiang Rai Golden Triangle Tour

This morning, dive into the fascinating Hilltribe Museum before heading to the stunning Wat Rong Khun, known as the White Temple. Next stop, journey to the ancient Kingdom of Chiang Saen, nestled along the banks of the mighty Mekong River with views of Laos just across the water. Explore the area's impressive ancient ruins and temples before enjoying a delicious lunch at a local restaurant. Hop aboard a long-tail boat to cruise along the Mekong, soaking in the riverside scenery. Wrap up your adventure with a visit to the bustling border market at Mae Sai before returning to your hotel.

Departs: Daily  
Duration: 7 hours





## U Chiang Mai

The U Chiang Mai is a delightful boutique hotel in the heart of the old city, meaning that many of the main attractions are within walking distance and there is complimentary bicycle hire if you prefer to explore on two wheels. 41 comfortable rooms showcase both Thai style and modern design, the deluxe rooms enjoy more space. Although a modern hotel, its heritage shines through in many areas, including the guest lounge, which was once the residence of the governor of Chiang Mai. EAT is the hotel restaurant showcasing Chiang Mai cuisine in a bistro setting, whilst DRINK, is the rooftop bar. There are 2 small swimming pools and a small but perfectly formed spa. Other experiences at the hotel include morning yoga classes, Thai arts and crafts, cooking classes and guided walks.

**Location:** Chiang Mai

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★



## Tamarind Village Chiang Mai

This charming, Lanna-style hotel is surrounded by the ancient temples and characterful shopping streets in the centre of historic Chiang Mai and takes its name from the 200-year old Tamarind tree that stands shelter over the hotel. It's the perfect base from which to explore. The rooms and suites are set around tranquil courtyards and are simply but elegantly furnished and have a real sense of place. The Lanna deluxe rooms and Lanna suites have small balconies. Facilities include the Village Spa, a boutique filled with treasures from the region and the Ruen Tamarind, a poolside restaurant serving classic and northern Thai dishes as well as international options.

**Location:** Chiang Mai

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★



## Anantara Chiang Mai Resort & Spa

The Anantara is a contemporary resort on the banks of the Ping River, a 5-minute walk from the night market and a 10-minute walk from the ancient Lanna ruins and temples of the old city. Choose from rooms with garden or river views, all are sleek, spacious and modern in style, for additional space the suites are double the size and offer extended balconies. The hotel has an excellent choice of dining with a beautiful Thai restaurant, steak house and grill, tailored private dining options, afternoon tea, Jao Ping River cruise plus 2 bars, one of which is on the rooftop. Facilities include a riverside pool, fitness centre, yoga classes, arts and craft workshops, Muay Thai kick boxing and Thai massage lessons. There is also an award-winning day spa.

**Location:** Chiang Mai

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



## The Legend Boutique Resort & Spa

This lovely hotel has a peaceful location on the banks of the Mae Kok River, in the northern Thai countryside, surrounded by the sights and sounds of the jungle, but only a short distance from Chiang Rai. After a day exploring the myriad charms of this stunning region there is a river-edge infinity pool, exercise room, reading room and spa to aid relaxation. Dining options on site include an Italian and Thai restaurant, both of which are excellent, the hotel also operates an evening shuttle into Chiang Rai so you can enjoy the local night markets and restaurants. During the day sightseeing tricycle tours are available for a small fee. There is a choice of rooms and villas, all decorated in the traditional Lanna style, beautifully furnished offering plenty of space and open sala-living areas.

**Location:** Chiang Rai

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★



## Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp Resort

Located in Northern Thailand, just a 1-hour transfer from Chiang Rai is where you will find this mountain sanctuary. Surrounded by bamboo forest, perched high overlooking the border with Laos and Myanmar, the resort welcomes nature lovers, adventurers and guests looking to get up close with gentle giants at the elephant camp. Highlights will prove to be walking with the elephants and watching them play and interact with their mahouts down at the river. A stay overnight in a 'Jungle Bubble' is a truly unforgettable experience, drift to sleep whilst star gazing and wake to the sounds of the jungle.

### The Resort

This low-rise building is home to just 61 rooms, all boast stunning views which spread across the valley, river and grazing elephants below. Lose yourself to the most stunning of natural settings with a choice of 3 rooms to suit couples and families alike. Dark wood flooring and local artwork are paired with cool crisp furnishings easing guests into a relaxing stay. Start the morning with a coffee on your private balcony and watch the mist disperse over the jungle below.

### Jungle Bubble

By far a talking point is a stay where you are placed in the heart of the elephant action. Observe these special residents in their natural habitat from the comfort of your air-conditioned, fully furnished, transparent 'Jungle Bubble'. Drift off gazing at the night sky and wake up naturally to the sounds of the jungle. You will be invited to observe the elephants from an elevated deck of your Jungle Bubble as you savour an al fresco meal.

*(Jungle Bubble available to add on as part of a package stay)*

### Dining

Dining isn't just about the fusion of flavours from both Thailand and internationally inspired menus on offer, it is also about the location. Dine amongst the rice paddies or high amongst the jungle canopy in a treetop dining experience (10 years +), whether a special occasion for couples celebrating or families dining amongst the branches.

### More than Elephants

When you are not seeking out elephants you may choose to start your day with a yoga session in the pavilion or spa treatment. You may prefer an exhilarating guided tour on board a Royal Enfield Classic 500 sidecar through the lush northern jungle, past elephant pasture and remote border regions. More traditional transport touring options come in the form of a tuk-tuk and long-tail boat as your guide navigates you through the ancient region of Chiang Saen. Guests short on time within the region may wish to cruise early morning along the Mekong River or simply lay by the infinity pool and cool off with a leisurely lap.

### Getting to and from the Camp

The camp is accessible by vehicle, just 45 minutes from Chiang Rai airport. You may prefer to arrive like a VIP on the 'Explorer Arrival' option. Arrive by long-tail boat with your host from the hotel, take a stop where the Golden Triangle meets before arriving at the camp pier. Here you are greeted by staff and elephants and escorted to the camp reception.

### Package Inclusions:

- Accommodation
- Daily Breakfast Buffet in Hotel's main restaurant
- Lunch and Dinner each night at Sala Mae Nam Restaurant, Elephant Bar and Opium Terrace as well as room service
- Non-alcoholic beverages
- In-room minibar, refreshed daily, with a selection of soft drinks and snacks
- Internet access throughout resort
- Ticket to Opium Museum
- A choice of one activity per person per night
- Elephant Camp Experience
- Local Golden Triangle Excursions
- Spice Spoons Cooking Class
- 60 minutes Spa Treatment
- 60 minutes Private Yoga
- 60 minutes Private Pilates



## The Bush Camp Chiang Mai

Leave the hustle and bustle of Chiang Mai and you will arrive at The Bush Camp set alongside the spectacular Ping River. Instantly fall into 'camp life' as you stand out on your balcony where the views are simply breathtaking. The area surrounding the camp is a natural, unique and prime habitat for myriad birds including green peafowl. This combined with the view of Chedis, temples and stunning mountain scenery will take you back to the times of ancient Chiang Mai. The on-site Elephant Park will educate guests on how the mahouts relate to these magnificent pachyderms as they roam free in pure harmony within their natural habitat. During your stay you will have a hands-on experience in preparing food for the elephants and make paper from their dung!

### The Camp

All guests will stay in African style safari glamping tents complete with modern amenities such as hot and cold showers, en-suite facilities, electricity, Wi-Fi and a spacious balcony.

To relax from all your adventures during the daytime, take a dip in the infinity pool and enjoy a refreshing drink. From the pool you can admire the views over the magnificent Ping River and the Chedis nestled in the lush green mountains, glistening in the sunset. In the evening enjoy a delicious dinner in the open-air restaurant with fellow guests and share stories from today's activities.

### Getting to and from the Camp

The Bush Camp Chiang Mai is located approximately 2 hours from Chiang Mai airport and Old Town. Transfers are operated by The Bush Camp as part of your stay. A fully air-conditioned minivan will collect you from your hotel or airport with friendly drivers looking after you during your drive pointing out areas of interest.

### Package Inclusions:

The Bush Camp Safari packages include the very best activities to ensure you are fully immersed into camp and elephant life in the most spectacular of surroundings. 2- & 3-day package options are available year-round. Both safaris include the following:

- Tented accommodation
- Return shared road transfers from Chiang Rai
- All meals
- Thai English -speaking tour leader
- Visit to the Elephant Park
- Mahouts will share their knowledge and passion for the majestic elephants
- Learn about the way of life as a mahout by interacting with their families
- Visit the free roaming elephant forest and make paper from elephant dung!
- Learn of veterinary care and husbandry techniques which benefit the elephants

*(For a more detailed itinerary please request details).*

# Islands & National Parks

## HIDDEN BEACHES ON REMOTE ISLANDS, CRYSTAL CLEAR OCEANS AND RAINFOREST-CLAD MOUNTAINS

Scattered around the Thai coastline, where azure waters lap soft white sands and swaying palms provide anchor for a hammock or two, there are hundreds of beautiful islands. Seek out ever-popular Phuket and Koh Samui or head for the diver's paradise of Khao Lak or hidden gems of Koh Yai Noi, tiny Koh Lanta and Koh Chang.

Thailand's national parks are equally impressive. Discover jungly Khao Sok filled with rainforests, lakes and mountains or the Ang Thong Marine Park, if your adventurous side prefers the underwater world.





## Phuket

Super-popular and offering an array of places to stay, Phuket is the country's largest island and easily accessible. It's also a great introduction to Thailand for first timers. The beaches are beautiful, washed by the waters of the Andaman Sea and it's a pleasing fusion of Thai, Indian, Malaysian and Chinese influences.



## Khao Lak

Whilst not strictly an island Khao Lak is a beautiful spot on Thailand's west coast. It's home to glorious beaches and offers the best of both worlds with easy access to both jungle and marine adventures including the Similan Islands. These lie around an hour and half offshore and offer some of the best diving in Thailand.



## Koh Samui

Lying in the Gulf of Thailand, Koh Samui is lined with beautiful beaches, enveloping its jungle-clad interior. Hidden coves and swathes of long sand dotted with fishing villages make this a 'beach-lovers paradise'. Koh Samui was Thailand's original island drawcard so has a myriad of places to stay to suit all budgets.



## Koh Yai Noi

Taking centre stage in the middle of Phang Nga Bay, Koh Yai Noi commands a front row view of Phang Nga Bay's impressive limestone karsts. This is a quieter side of Thailand, where life moves at a slower pace. Snorkel in gin-clear water, dine on the freshest seafood in a family run restaurant and watch the spectacular sunsets from your deserted beach.



## Koh Lanta

Just an hour's boat ride from Krabi, Koh Lanta is peaceful and quiet with an irresistible lure all of its own. Silky, soft white beaches are washed by the clearest of waters, the marine life is exceptional and the welcome authentically Thai. Explore the mangrove forests by kayak or simply relax and soak up the sunset from your chilled beach bar.



## Khao Sok

Khao Sok is a place of ethereal natural beauty, limestone karsts draped by the jungle, early morning mist and rainforest that dates back 160 million years. The best way to explore is with a 2 or 3-night stay in one of the floating lodges such as Elephant Hills and take guided hikes, and canoe and long-tail boat tours on the lake.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Phuket	°C	27	28	29	29	29	29	28	28	27	28	27	27
		40	30	40	150	200	240	300	260	400	280	200	60
Koh Samui	°C	26	27	29	29	30	29	29	29	28	27	27	27
		90	30	30	80	160	100	120	100	130	290	430	150
Koh Lanta	°C	29	29	30	30	29	29	28	29	28	28	28	28
		10	10	30	110	190	180	270	250	380	310	160	40
Khao Lak	°C	28	29	29	29	29	29	29	29	28	28	28	28
		30	33	79	115	253	238	256	314	347	352	189	67
Koh Yai Noi	°C	31	31	31	31	31	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
		56	37	98	154	263	263	253	272	371	313	202	96
Khao Sok	°C	31	32	33	33	31	30	30	30	30	30	29	29
		42	21	40	112	334	364	358	377	409	328	247	88

°C Average daily maximum temperature

Average monthly rainfall (mm)

## Phuket Accommodation

### Centara Villas Phuket

Offering panoramic views of Karon Bay and just a short stroll along the coastal pathway to the beach, the Centara Villas is a pretty oasis of private Thai style villas set within their own gardens. The choice of deluxe villas includes garden view, ocean view, spa villas, which have a Jacuzzi on the balcony and private pool villas, with their own private plunge pool. Alongside in-villa dining there are 2 restaurants, the Bayview and the Cliff as well as the Cliff Bar, an atmospheric spot for drinks as the sun sets over the Andaman Sea. A multi-tiered swimming pool overlooks the bay, and the signature spa offers an extensive menu of therapies to relax and rejuvenate, in treatment rooms overlooking the ocean.

**Location:** Phuket

Our rating: ★★★★★



### Cape Panwa

This popular hotel sits on a hillside, above a swathe of blonde sand overlooking the Andaman Sea and is only a 20 minute drive from Phuket Town. Rooms here are simple but comfortable, some offering a partial or full sea view. All have private outside balconies, and for those who like more space the junior suites are a great choice. For privacy, look at the pool villas, which are located close to the beach and benefit from their own private swimming pool. Facilities include 2 swimming pools, kayaks and paddle boards, a fitness centre and activity classes including batik printing, Thai boxing and cooking classes, yacht charters and an excellent day spa. There is also a choice of dining options offering Thai, seafood and international dishes plus 3 friendly bars.

**Location:** Phuket

Our rating: ★★★★★



### Katathani Phuket Beach Resort

Sitting on the beautiful white sands of Kat Noi Bay, this expansive resort offers a peaceful location yet is just a short walk from the shops, bars and restaurants of Kata. There is a wide choice of rooms and suites, split between the Thani and Buri wings. Thani wing rooms are closer to the beach, whilst the Buri wing offers rooms with direct pool access. Guests staying at this lovely resort enjoy a wealth of facilities with 6 swimming pools, 4 children's pools, 3 Jacuzzis and a mini waterslide, there is also a daily children's club, fitness centre and day spa. When it comes to dining there are 6 restaurants covering a range of cuisines including Thai, western, seafood and Italian. There are also 4 bars, including one on the beach.

**Location:** Phuket

Our rating: ★★★★★



### Dusit Thani Laguna

The Dusit Thani Laguna is one of the best loved hotels in Phuket and lies on the pristine sands of Bang Tao Beach, overlooking the turquoise waters of the Andaman Ocean. The rooms and suites are elegant, well-appointed and many offer lagoon or ocean views. The premier ocean front rooms are closest to the beach. There is an excellent range of restaurants including Thai, Italian and international as well as a more casual café, whilst the array of facilities includes the Angsana Spa, bike rental, an outdoor swimming pool and Jacuzzi, fitness centre and the 18-hole Laguna Golf Course. Guests can also enjoy many daily activities including batik painting, cooking classes and marine tours.

**Location:** Phuket

Our rating: ★★★★★





## The Sands by Katathani

The Sands by Katathani is a tropical resort on Nang Thong Beach, with the shops, restaurants and bars of Khao Lak on the doorstep. Designed around 3 distinct wings, there is a space to suit all needs here. Rooms in the Lagoon Wing sit around a peaceful lagoon and offer a quiet space, rooms in the Aqua Wing are for those who like plenty going on and are ideal for families, as this is where you'll find a mini water park with slides and a lazy river. The Seaside Wing is closest to the beach and gives access to natural open spaces, tropical plants and has beautiful views. There are also plenty of places to eat and drink with 3 restaurants and 4 bars as well as an outstanding array of facilities including an adults only pool, children's club, fitness centre, yoga studio, tennis court and day spa.

**Location:** Khao Lak

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★



## La Flora

Overlooking the soft sands of Bang Niang Beach, La Flora is a sustainable retreat designed thoughtfully to sit within its tropical surroundings both physically and culturally. Step inside and the interior is a pleasing reflection of southern Thai heritage. The rooms sit within 3 wings, the Flora Wing, Poolside Wing and Seaside Wing, all are similar in style with private balconies or terraces, and each wing has pool access rooms. The Sire is the all-day restaurant located on the beach offering wonderful views, especially at sunset. Breeze Bar is an indoor/outdoor beach bar open throughout the day into the evening. Facilities include 5 swimming pools, a wonderful spa, children's club, fitness centre and library.

**Location:** Khao Lak

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★



## Devasom Khao Lak Beach Resort & Villas

Enveloped by a natural lagoon and a glorious near-deserted beach, the Devasom Khao Lak Beach Resort & Villas is pure escapism at its very best. Designed to evoke the intricate art and opulence of the 6th and 7th centuries, this stunning resort features just 69 rooms, suites and villas, all with beautiful sea views. Set within tropical gardens all rooms are spacious and gorgeously appointed, with private balconies replete with day beds for lazy afternoons. For something truly special upgrade to one of the beach pool villas. There are 2 award-winning restaurants, as well as in-room dining, a multi-level saltwater swimming pool, gym, yoga studio, and superb wellness experiences. Guests can also enjoy kayaks and paddle boards and a complimentary shuttle into Khao Lak.

**Location:** Khao Lak

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



## The Sarojin

On a peaceful swathe of beach that stretches for miles in each direction, this boutique resort lies around 6 miles north from Khao Lak. 56 private residences sit within 10 acres of tropical gardens. Garden residences are on the ground floor and boast shady Thai sala pavilions. The pool residences are also ground floor and have private swimming pools, whilst the Jacuzzi pool suites are on the upper floors with stunning outdoor whirlpool pavilions. There are 2 restaurants, Edge a sand-in-your-toes beachside space serving Thai and southeast Asian dishes, and Ficus, set under an ancient Ficus tree offering Mediterranean fare. There's also a very chilled beach bar. Facilities include a beautiful pool, paddle boards, sea kayaks, windsurfers and mountain bikes, plus a fitness centre and Pathways Spa.

**Location:** Khao Lak

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## Thailand Beach Accommodation

### Centara Grand Beach Resort & Villas

Tucked into a private bay, surrounded by limestone karsts, this friendly resort offers clear turquoise waters, silky soft beaches in a peaceful setting that also has easy access to the bars and restaurants of Ao Nang just around the headland. The rooms and villas are set within tropical gardens boasting views through the soaring palms or out over the Andaman Sea. The décor is modern Thai with plenty of neutral colours, and colourful textiles, high ceilings add to the sense of space. An extensive array of dining includes Thai, international, BBQ and Japanese, the beachfront grill is a popular spot for sunset meals. Facilities include a 2-tier swimming pool, children's pool, fitness centre and classes, watersports, kids club and a range of daily activities.

**Location:** Krabi

Our rating: ★★★★★



### The Tubkaak Krabi Resort

This small, but perfectly formed resort lies between the jungle-clad slopes of Hang Nak mountain and one of the prettiest beaches in Thailand. This is a beautifully peaceful spot most suited to couples and the resort has a warm and intimate feel. The rooms are a pleasing blend of modern contemporary and Thai, creating relaxing retreats with outdoor, sunken bathtubs, private terraces and floor to ceiling windows. Pool villas are also available. When it comes to dining there are 2 lovely beachfront options. The Arundina, which offers superb Thai dishes, and Di Mare, a wonderful Italian. There's a heavenly day spa, relaxing library, swimming pool, watersports including paddle boarding and kayaking, plus yoga and Thai cooking classes.

**Location:** Krabi

Our rating: ★★★★★



### Rayavadee

Rayavadee is a much-loved, Krabi institution which sits in 26 acres of lush, tropical grounds surrounded by towering limestone and 3 beautiful beaches. 94 2-storey pavilions and 7 villas are dotted throughout the grounds, all just a few moments' stroll from Railay and Phranang beaches. The design of the pavilions blend seamlessly with their very natural surroundings. Whichever pavilion you choose you can expect rich fabrics, tropical Thai décor, hand crafted furnishings, private outdoor space and deep soaking bathtubs. The pool pavilions are particularly lovely. When it comes to dining there are 4 venues, including the oh-so romantic Grotto, there is also a full-service spa, a lagoon-style swimming pool and an activities centre with guides and its own fleet of speedboats.

**Location:** Krabi

Our rating: ★★★★★



### Saii Phi Phi Island Village

On the northeastern coast of Koh Phi Phi Don, this tropical resort sits on an 800m stretch of soft white sand washed by the gin-clear waters of the Andaman Sea. Beneath swaying palm trees, the collection of thatched-roof bungalows and villas blend well with their surroundings and offer views of tropical gardens or the sparkling ocean. Facilities include 5 restaurants, 3 bars, 2 swimming pools including a beachfront infinity pool, watersports and dive centre, fitness centre, day spa, Thai cooking classes, kids clubs and regular boat trips around the Phi Phi Islands. There is also a Marine Discovery Centre, where guests can learn more about the sustainability marine efforts undertaken by the resort.

**Location:** Koh Phi Phi

Our rating: ★★★★★





## Centara Reserve Samui

Located on beautiful Chaweng Beach, this is the Centara group's first Reserve Hotel and is a sleek and modern resort boasting a spectacular setting. This stylish resort appeals to all with a tranquil location, yet within an easy walk of the lively shopping and entertainment areas. In-house there is a superb clutch of dining options including a beach bar and kitchen, steakhouse, and a Thai restaurant. The Gin Run is a popular spot for a pre-dinner tittle. The range of accommodation covers rooms, pool suites and beachfront pool villas all with a private balcony or terrace. The décor is elegant and refined and if you choose a suite or villa, you will enjoy a dedicated Reserve Host. There are 2 swimming pools, a wet play area in the children's zone, a fitness centre, yoga pavilion, and an excellent spa.

**Location:** Koh Samui

Our rating: ★★★★★



## Zazen Boutique Resort

This lovely, low-rise resort sits at the quieter end of Bo Phut Beach, but it's just a short walk from the lively, local restaurants of the Fisherman's Village. The rooms and villas are scattered throughout the tropical gardens and have been designed with modern lines and gentle curves, which sit in harmony with gorgeous Thai accents of natural wood and stylish prints. Choose from garden villas, tropical suites, pool villas and beachfront suites, all offering beautiful places to relax and unwind after a day in the sun. The Club by Zazen is the elegant beach club and where you'll find the beachfront restaurant, Thai cooking classes, and a gorgeous pool flanked by super-soft loungers and the circular bar. There is also a blissful day spa.

**Location:** Koh Samui

Our rating: ★★★★★



## Melati Beach Resort & Spa

The Melati Beach Resort offers just 77 rooms, suites and pool villas that enjoy exclusive access to Thongsong Bay, just minutes from the nightlife of Chaweng Beach. There is a great choice of accommodation all of which are beautifully styled, elegant places to stay, including suites and villas with private pools. There are 2 excellent restaurants, The View which offers all-day dining overlooking the beach, and Kan Sak Thong, a superb Thai restaurant. Romantic candle-lit beach dinners and in-suite barbecues are also available. This peaceful resort places great emphasis on relaxation. There are 2 swimming pools, a fitness centre and day spa, library and quiet reading area but there is also a great range of activities to enjoy including cooking classes, yoga plus a kids club.

**Location:** Koh Samui

Our rating: ★★★★★



## Santiburi Koh Samui Resort

Tucked into 23 acres of tropical gardens, swaying palm trees and peaceful lotus ponds, the Santiburi features a collection of suites and villas overlooking one of the loveliest beaches on Koh Samui. There is a wealth of activities including an 18-hole golf course, complimentary watersports, sports centre, tennis court, children's camp club, cooking classes and one of the largest swimming pools on the island. The accommodation includes duplex suites and spacious villas, many with private swimming pools and all with views of the garden, pool or beach. When it comes to dining there is a clutch of excellent restaurants, including Thai and seafood as well as elegant in-room dining. The Thai-style lounge is a peaceful spot to enjoy pre dinner drinks or relax with a book from the library.

**Location:** Koh Samui

Our rating: ★★★★★



## Thailand Beach Accommodation

### Paradise Koh Ya Noi

Accessible only by boat, this lovely resort truly is paradise by name, paradise by nature. Lying on the northern end of Koh Ya Noi Island in Phang Nga Bay surrounded by limestone cliffs and tropical rainforest and sitting on a stretch of private beach, it is beautifully peaceful and secluded. The rooms and suites are gorgeously rustic with natural woods, whitewashed walls, and a subtle colour palette. Choose from studios, some with a private Jacuzzi or swimming pool, or the pool villas with direct access to the beach. Dine under the stars with your feet in the sand at the Seafood Terrace or in the excellent Italian and watch the sunset with something chilled at Sundowner.

**Location:** Koh Ya Noi

Our rating: ★★★★★



### Treehouse Villas

The island of Koh Ya Noi translates as Little Long Island, and this lovely, adult only resort can be found in the northern tip of the island. As the name suggests this island escape is a collection of treehouses and villas, where you can choose to be suspended amidst the tree canopy, or with your feet firmly on the ground at beach level. Each one features natural woods and fabrics to blend seamlessly with their surroundings. The treehouses boast thatched roofs and private plunge pools, whilst the beach villas have private infinity edge swimming pools. Roots is the excellent in-house restaurant offering delicious Thai and western dishes and guests are also welcome to dine at sister property Paradise Yoh Ya Noi. There is also day spa and a range of activities including experiences that support the local community.

**Location:** Koh Ya Noi

Our rating: ★★★★★



### Avani+ Koh Lanta

Offering the perfect blend of relaxation and activities, the Avani+ sits on a secluded peninsula on the paradise island of Koh Lanta. The collection of 91 rooms, suites and villas range from spacious hotel rooms with plenty of indoor and outdoor space, to sea view suites with gorgeous ocean views and sea view villas with private swimming pools. The Cliff is the resort's all day dining option with fabulous views, there are also 2 bars including the O-Zone pool bar, perfect for a splash, sip and snack. Spend your days on the private stretch of beach, in the spa or head out and explore with diving and snorkelling trips, or visits to the Thung Yee Peng Mangroves and Emerald Cave. There is also a children's club if you're travelling with youngsters in tow.

**Location:** Koh Lanta

Our rating: ★★★★★



### Layana Resort & Spa

Lying on a glorious stretch of white sand and surrounded by tropical gardens the adult only Layana Resort & Spa offers just 57 guest rooms, suites and villas, each creating an elegant and relaxing retreat. All have expansive private balconies or terraces, beautiful bathrooms with soaking bathtubs, the villas are particularly spacious. SeaSky is the delightful beachside restaurant, open to the balmy sea breezes and offering contemporary Thai and Mediterranean dishes. The Sundowner Bar is open throughout the day but a beautiful spot to take in the tropical sunsets as night falls. Facilities include a beachfront, infinity edge saltwater pool, fitness centre, wellness pool, yoga platform, paddle boarding, kayaks and an award-winning day spa.

**Location:** Koh Lanta

Our rating: ★★★★★



## Centara Life Cha-Am Beach Resort & Spa

The Centara Life is a comfortable and friendly beachfront resort on the Gulf of Thailand offering a choice of rooms and suites, which are minimalist and modern in style. For families travelling there are suites with bunk beds. The great dining options include local Thai cuisine as well as international favourites, and the rooftop bar is a popular spot to watch the sunset. Facilities include 2 swimming pools, a children's club, fitness room and day spa. The central location of the resort means attractions such as the Hua Hin Night Market, and a wealth of shopping, dining and laid-back nightlife is within an easy walk.

**Location:** Hua Hin

Our rating: ★★★★★

## Loligo Resort

Bringing a new twist to Hua Hin, Loligo is a little different to your usual resort hotel. Set in a fashionable quarter of Hua Hin, just a short walk from the beach, Loligo has been inspired by the unique creativity of local Thai artists and it's a hotel that is designed to awaken the senses. There are just 47 rooms and mini suites evoking a boutique style of stay, all have outside space, and views over Hua Hin Bay, or the hotel and pool. Hua Hin has an extensive array of dining options, but should you wish to stay closer to home then The Captain Restaurant is open for breakfast and lunch, and next door you'll find Let's Sea Hua Hin's Beach Restaurant, serving wonderful Thai food. There's a beachfront bar, fitness centre, massage spa and swimming pool.

**Location:** Hua Hin

Our rating: ★★★★★

## Hilton Hua Hin Resort & Spa

Located in the centre of Hua Hin, directly on the beach the Hilton offers the best of beach and city living, there is an abundance of dining options and nightlife within an easy stroll and the Hua Hin Night Market is a 10 minute walk. The rooms and suites here are finished in a modern Thai style and all boast private balconies and ocean views. Facilities include a beachfront swimming pool with a waterslide as well as a children's pool, a relaxing day spa, fitness centre and 2 restaurants. Chay Had is an oceanfront Thai restaurant, whilst White Lotus is an excellent Chinese option on the 17th floor, with panoramic views and indoor and outdoor dining.

**Location:** Hua Hin

Our rating: ★★★★★

## Dusit Thani Hua Hin

Set along a peaceful stretch of Hua Hin beach, between Hua Hin and Cha-Am, the Dusit Thani offers a stylish and relaxing stay on the Gulf of Thailand. The spacious grounds are filled with tropical foliage, there are 2 swimming pools, both with direct access to the beach, an excellent day spa offering a range of holistic experiences, fitness centre plus tennis, squash and badminton courts, and a fabulous array of restaurants. Options include a beach club grill specialising in dishes inspired by South American indigenous cuisine and local produce, a memorable Thai restaurant, an Italian and a bakery/café. There's also a poolside terrace and swim up bar. For those who want to venture into Hua Hin, a local, daily shuttle runs between the hotel and downtown regularly.

**Location:** Hua Hin

Our rating: ★★★★★





## 500Rai Floating Resort

Reconnect with nature, switch off and embrace the tranquillity and Thai hospitality from the moment you step off a traditional long-tail boat onto this floating resort. Enroute you will notice the lush backdrop of Chiew Larn. Experiences include early morning lake sightseeing, hiking with a guide to Pad Zian Waterfall or trekking and exploring mysterious caves.

### The Resort

Pure luxury is not only found from your room or villa with a lake view, hop in a kayak and glide amongst towering limestone cliffs whilst listening to the sounds of the wildlife.

### Getting to and from the Floating Resort

500Rai Floating Resort is in Chiew Larn Lake, a part of Khao Sok National Park. To access the resort, you will need to combine different modes of transportation. The first part will be by road to Chiew Larn Lake Pier (aka Ratchaprapha Pier at Ratchaprapha Dam) and the second on a long-tail boat to which takes approximately 1½ hours.

### Dining

Dining takes place in a relaxed and privileged location with panoramic lake views. Open-air style dishes are served from around the world.

### Package Inclusions:

#### Romantic Paradise

- 2 nights stay in a Villa
- Full board meals
- 1 romantic dinner with special local Thai menu
- 1 romantic sunset cruise
- 1 morning lake sightseeing
- 180 minutes Thai massage per couple
- Unlimited experience with nature & wildlife and resort activities
- Private round-trip long-tail boat transfers
- Private one-way van pick up from Surat Thani airport

#### Family

- 2 nights stay in a Family Villa
- Kids menu
- Daily breakfast, lunch and dinner set
- Shared return scheduled long-tail boat transfer
- All resort activities
- One morning lake sightseeing

*(alternative packages are available on request)*



## Elephant Hills

Welcome to one of the most sought-after experiential stays within Thailand, located in the spectacular Koh Sok National Park. Two African style camps welcome visitors to the thrilling experience of both Jungle and Lake Camp stays. Tie those shoelaces and join a guide on a morning trek with Asian elephants, kayak through lush mangrove swamps and take part in the camps unique ethical elephant experiences. A stay at Elephant Hills will prove to be a highlight and long lasting memory of your Thailand adventure.

### Elephant Camp

Elephant Camp is home to 66 luxurious tents, ideally suited for couples and families sharing, minimum age 4 years.

### The Lake Camp

You will be staying in one of 20 floating luxury tents at the Lake Camp. We highly recommend for guests looking to step further into this once in a lifetime experience that you combine a stay at both Camps. Guests must be a minimum of 7 years. You will be off grid, so it really is time for you to inhale pure Thailand.

### Getting to and from the Camp

Scheduled transfers are included to and from main locations in southern Thailand, to include Koh Samui, Surat Thani, Phuket, Krabi, Donsak Pier, Khanom and Khao Lak.

### Dining

Elephant Hills offers a wide variety of fine Thai dishes at buffet lunches and dinners. Breakfast is western style, with a choice of cereals, fruit, yoghurt, freshly baked bread, cheese, and eggs prepared to your liking at the popular omelette station.

### Package Inclusions:

#### 3 Day Jungle Safari

- 2 nights' accommodation at Elephant Camp
- Day trip to Lake Camp
- Full board
- Return shared transfers
- English-speaking Thai tour guide
- Elephant Experiences
- Canoe Safari
- Long-tail boat safari
- Jungle trek

#### 4 Day Jungle & Lake Safari

- 2 nights' accommodation at Elephant Camp
- 1 night at Lake Camp
- Full board
- Return shared transfers
- English-speaking Thai tour guide
- Elephant Experiences
- Mangrove tour by speedboat and canoe
- Long-tail boat safari
- Jungle trek
- Guided canoe safari and wildlife spotting

*(alternative packages are available on request, please note due to the remote location all purchases locally are paid in cash, Thai Baht).*

# *Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos*

## EMOTIVE HISTORY, FRENCH INFLUENCES AND SOME OF THE OLDEST TEMPLES ON EARTH

Bordered by Cambodia, Laos and with the South China Sea creating its eastern border, Vietnam is a country of vivid contrasts. Ho Chi Minh City, known to the locals as Saigon, sits in the south and fuses Asian culture with European elegance, whilst the beautiful capital city of Hanoi proudly displays its French influence amongst tree-lined boulevards, graceful parks and coffee shops. The lanterns and night markets of atmospheric Hoi An and limestone karst filled waters of ethereal Ha Long Bay add even more charm. Fuse these with beach stays and Mekong River cruises.

Cambodia has a magic of its own, where ancient and modern worlds collide. The bustling and increasingly forward-thinking cities of Phnom Penh and Siem Reap stand shoulder to shoulder with the spectacular temples of Angkor. Head south and there's a swathe of palm-fringed beaches for relaxing on.

Whilst quieter and less famous than its Thai and Vietnamese neighbours, Laos is often overlooked but if you have the time and the inclination to explore you will find a country rich in culture and charm.







## Vietnam

Whilst now a unified country, the north and south of Vietnam remain decidedly different. Bustling Hanoi, UNESCO-protected Ha Long Bay and the iconic rice terraces of Sapa can be found in the north. Head south through the central region where pretty Hoi An, glorious temples of Hue and the beaches of Danang take centre stage. Southern Vietnam is home to Ho Chi Minh City and impressive waterways of the Mekong Delta.



## Cambodia

For culture lovers and history seekers, Cambodia is a true delight. Verdant landscapes, incredible temples, including the impressive Angkor complex. The city of Phnom Penh is where visitors can learn more of Cambodia's harrowing past and the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and nearby Killing Fields are a poignant and moving reminder of the Khmer Rouge rule.



## Laos

Landlocked Laos is an unspoilt, picturesque hidden gem, often overlooked in favour of Thailand and Vietnam. Travel at a slower pace and discover a country of stunning natural beauty with an abundance of attractions. The ancient Lanna capital of Luang Prabang is home to some of the most important temples in the region, whilst Vientiane is a multicultural mix of Asian and French influences.



## Cities

When it comes to urban treasures Vietnam boasts fabulous French-influenced Hanoi and the bold and bustling, tree-lined boulevards of Ho Chi Minh City. In Cambodia, Siem Reap is best known as the gateway to Angkor Wat, but worthy of a visit in its own right, whilst Phnom Penh is a vision of glimmering spires on the shores of the Mekong River.

## Beaches

After time wandering temples, palaces and museums, there is no better place to relax than on a beautiful beach and there are an abundance to choose from in Vietnam including Hoi An and Hue, whilst Phu Quoc, in the Gulf of Thailand works perfectly if your trip takes you from north to south. Cambodia's best beach destinations include Koh Rong and the traditional seaside town of Kep.

## Culture

The countries of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos are steeped in culture, it's woven into the very fabric and what makes them so unique. From the utterly sublime food to ancient religions, gleaming temples and relics dating from bygone eras, however you choose to experience the culture of these 3 very different countries, you will not be disappointed.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ho Chi Minh City	°C	27	28	29	30	30	29	28	29	28	28	27	27
		10	10	10	40	140	180	190	170	190	160	120	40
Phnom Penh	°C	26	27	29	31	30	29	28	29	28	27	27	26
		10	20	10	10	2	20	40	40	60	50	40	140
Vientiane	°C	22	25	27	28	29	29	29	27	27	27	25	22
		10	10	10	40	70	90	120	120	100	50	30	10

°C Average daily maximum temperature

Average monthly rainfall (mm)



# Essential Vietnam & Cambodia

## 12 days

Take a journey of discovery as you explore the fascinating history of these very diverse countries. Your tour will include 7 nights cruising on the Mekong River where you will be spoilt with spectacular scenery and visit villages that hug the banks.

### Highlights

Ho Chi Minh City – Cu Chi Tunnels  
Mekong River Cruise – Phnom Penh  
Siem Reap

### Tour Includes

- All accommodation
- 7-night Mekong River Cruise
- 27 meals – 11 breakfasts, 7 lunches & 9 dinners
- All sightseeing as described
- Travelmarvel representative
- English-speaking local guide

*Tour is operated by Travelmarvel. Please see Page 121 for additional and important information.*

### Departure Dates

Selected Dates  
January to March, September to November

### Day 1: Ho Chi Minh City

Arrive in Ho Chi Minh City, a bustling metropolis formerly known as Saigon. Meet your guide and transfer to your hotel. Tonight, feast on a welcome dinner.

### Day 2: Cu Chi Tunnels

Travel to the Cu Chi Tunnels, built by Vietnamese resistance fighters. Listen to stories of the history of the Vietnam-American war.

### Day 3: Cruise Mekong River

Join an early morning guided walk to watch the busy streets come to life before driving to My Tho to board the RV Apsara, your boutique river ship and home for the next 7 nights.

### Day 4: Cai Be, Sa Dec, Tan Chau

Board a small tender boat on the banks of the Mekong. See the colonial port filled with crumbling colonial buildings.

### Day 5: Tan Chau, Phnom Penh

Cruise along the tiny tributaries that snake around Tan Chau and step ashore for a rickshaw tour and weave through rambling laneways. Relax and watch the scenery of the Mekong River pass as you cross into Cambodia.

### Day 6: Phnom Penh

Start the day with a sobering excursion to the Killing Fields. Visit the Royal Palace and the Silver Pagoda. The remainder of the afternoon is at your leisure.

### Day 7: Phnom Penh, Oudong, Koh Chen

Begin your morning with an excursion to Oudong, Cambodia's former royal capital. Enjoy a free afternoon or choose an optional select experience.

### Day 8: Oknha Tey, Angkor Ban

Rise early as you cruise towards Oknha Tey, or Silk Island, renowned for its silk manufacturing tradition. Travel by tuk-tuk, pass rice fields and get a glimpse into rural life.

### Day 9: Koh Pen, Kampong Cham

Start your day with a tour of Angkor Ban. This afternoon, your cruise docks at its final location, Kampong Cham.

### Day 10: Elephant Sanctuary

Travel to Siem Reap, the gateway to Angkor Wat. Head to the jungle temple of Ta Prohm before embarking on unique local experiences.

### Day 11: Siem Reap

Today explore the World Heritage-listed Angkor Archaeological Park. Visit the Terrace of Elephants, and the Terrace of the Leper King.

### Day 12: Depart Siem Reap

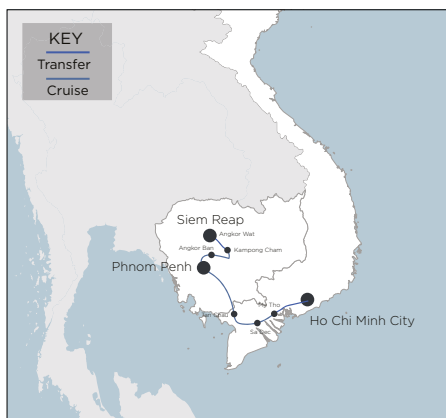
Your Vietnam and Cambodia journey comes to an end after breakfast with a transfer to the airport for your return flight or onward journey.



Cambodia Dancers



Mekong River Cruise



Harvesting Waterlilies

# Vietnam & Cambodia Highlights

13 days

Combine two countries steeped in history, architecture and rural living. Cruise along the Mekong River where villagers welcome visitors and share their stories and way of life. Included Signature Experiences offer once in a lifetime moments allowing you to experience an unforgettable world of exclusive tours and incredible cultures.

## Highlights

Siem Reap – Mekong River Cruise  
Phnom Penh – Ho Chi Minh City

## Tour Includes

- All accommodation
- 7-night luxury Mekong River Cruise
- 32 meals – 12 breakfasts, 8 lunches & 12 dinners
- All sightseeing as described
- English-speaking local guide

*Tour is operated by APT. Please see Page 121 for additional and important information.*

## Departure Dates

Selected Dates  
January to March, September to November

## Day 1: Siem Reap

Welcome to Siem Reap. Be met on arrival and transfer to your hotel for a 3 night stay in the heart of the city. Once you've settled in, enjoy the day at your leisure. Tonight, choose from a selection of local restaurants for your dining experience.

## Day 2: Siem Reap

Begin your exploration of the World Heritage-listed Angkor Archaeological Park with a visit to Angkor Thom, the last and most enduring capital of the Khmer Empire. Head to the intriguing Bayon Temple, with its carved stone smiling faces of gods and goddesses, the Terrace of Elephants, which used to be the base for the king's grand audience hall and the Terrace of the Leper King, which housed the royal crematory. Journey to Ta Prohm, known for the thick jungle giving it a lost world feel. Ta Prohm is a captivating glimpse into the past and testament to a bygone era. En route to the hotel, you will be welcomed backstage at Pahre Circus to meet some of the performers and witness a mesmerising performance from your VIP seats.

## Day 3: Siem Reap

Rise early this morning and visit Angkor Archaeological Park to witness a spectacular sunrise at the magnificent Angkor Wat.

See the iconic temple complex shimmer in the reflective ponds in front of this World Heritage-listed monument, while brilliant shades of orange and pink light up the sky. Afterwards, join a guided exploration of this well-preserved temple, then return to your hotel for breakfast. This afternoon is your choice, perhaps enjoy an exciting tuk-tuk ride, for something more leisurely join a bicycle tour through the countryside or take part in a traditional cooking class. This evening you will be taken on a private visit to Theam's Gallery, a talented Cambodian artist before dining on a 5-course Khmer dinner while enjoying a local dance performance.

## Day 4: Embark Mekong River Cruise

Bid farewell to Siem Reap and journey through remote Cambodian villages to Kampong Cham. Here, set sail on Mekong Serenity, your home for the next 7 nights. Following lunch on board, discover the island of Koh Pen with a tuk-tuk tour around the riverside village with its stilted houses and local farming. Tonight, as you sail towards Angkor Ban a welcome dinner awaits, showcasing the diverse flavours from the region.



Phnom Penh

**Day 5: Angkor Ban, Koh Oknha Tey**

Take a walking discovery tour of Angkor Ban, one of the few villages in Cambodia not destroyed under the Khmer Rouge regime in the 1970s. Later, your ship glides along the lush banks of the Mekong to Koh Oknha Tey, renowned for its silk weaving traditions. Stroll among the stilt houses and gain an insight into the traditional silk weaving process. In the afternoon continue along the Mekong and enjoy some time at leisure.

**Day 6: Phnom Penh**

Today is your choice. Experience some of Cambodia's sobering history with a moving excursion to the infamous Killing Fields and Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum. Otherwise, discover Phnom Penh on a cyclo ride. History buffs can admire the exhibits at the National Museum, or perhaps explore the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda. After lunch back on board, you may wish to explore Phnom Penh independently or simply relax.

**Day 7: Phnom Penh**

Disembark in Phnom Penh and discover Oudong, a place of pilgrimage for Cambodians. While here, be treated to a Buddhist Blessing by monks at a local monastery.

**Day 8: Cruise into Vietnam**

Spend the day cruising towards the Vietnamese border. Enjoy the onboard activities, which could include a fruit-carving demonstration, or even a cooking workshop where you will learn the art of creating Vietnamese spring rolls. Alternatively, relax with a rejuvenating treatment from the Spa and Wellness Centre. Cross into Vietnam and cruise to the riverside town of Tan Chau.

**Day 9: Tan Chau, Sa Dec**

Transfer to a small boat for a journey along the tiny tributaries that snake around the riverside town of Tan Chau. Step ashore for a rickshaw tour, on board you'll glide past small shops, and meet locals. Stop to pay a visit to a local silk and rattan weaving workshop. Later, step back in time during a visit to Evergreen Island, where you'll experience authentic rural Mekong life.

**Day 10: Sa Dec, Cai Be, My Tho**

Journey by small tender to Sa Dec, where French writer Marguerite Duras met her Vietnamese-Chinese lover, Huynh Thuy Le. Tour his former home and visit a traditional Cao Dai temple. Lunch is served back onboard before a visit to a French Gothic cathedral and colourful port area.

**Day 11: Ho Chi Minh City**

Disembark in My Tho and continue to Ho Chi Minh City for a 2 night stay, once the bustling French colonial city known as Saigon. Today you can choose to enjoy a leisurely walking discovery of Ho Chi Minh City, or you might like to jump on the back of a motorbike for an exciting city ride. Alternatively, you may want to try out your culinary skills with a fun cooking class or embark on a shopping spree before dinner is served this evening.

**Day 12: Ho Chi Minh City**

Journey by speedboat to the Cu Chi Tunnels, which were built by Vietnamese resistance fighters during the war. Later you will meet a Master Distiller at Lady Trieu Gin Distillery and be a guest at a private tasting. Dine this evening at a highly acclaimed restaurant served with your fellow travellers.

**Day 13: Depart Ho Chi Minh City**

Enjoy breakfast before transferring to the airport for your return flight home or extend your stay on an extended tour to include Hanoi and Ha Long Bay.

*Mekong River Cruise**Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum**Angkor Wat*

# Angkor to the Bay

16 days

Take a voyage of discovery from the breathtaking majesty of the temples of Angkor to spine chilling stories from the Cu Chi Tunnels. Join a cyclo tour through Hanoi's Old Quarter and marvel at the spectacular natural grandeur of Ha Long Bay where unique rock sculptures jut out dramatically from the clear emerald waters. This is truly a journey of diversity, encompassing must visit sites with lesser-known local surprises on the way.

## Highlights

Siem Reap – Angkor – Phnom Penh  
Ho Chi Minh City – Mekong Delta Cruise  
Hoi An – Hue – Hanoi – Ha Long Bay Cruise

## Tour Includes

- All accommodation
- All meals – 15 breakfasts, 14 lunches & 15 dinners
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking local guide
- Small group size – maximum 28 guests

*Tour is operated by Wendy Wu Tours. Please see Page 121 for additional and important information.*

## Departure Dates

Selected Dates  
January to May, August to November  
(Dedicated Solo Traveller Departures also available)

### Day 1: Siem Reap

On arrival in Siem Reap you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Enjoy the rest of your day at leisure soaking up the local culture.

### Day 2: Tonle Sap Lake

Depending on your travel date will determine the final itinerary on today's Tonle Sap Lake Cruise. Examples include a visit to Beng Mealea, a mysterious temple overrun by the jungle or visiting the floating villages of Kampong Kleng or Chong Kneas. This evening sit down to dinner and the Apsara dance show.

### Day 3: Explore Angkor

The seat of the Khmer Empire between the 9th and 15th centuries, the Angkor complex includes over 1,000 temples. Enter the walled city of Angkor Thom and head to its heart to see the enigmatic Bayon, followed by the atmospheric Ta Prohm. This afternoon is dedicated to the indescribable Angkor Wat. Later, take a leisurely boat ride on the moat of Angkor Thom and enjoy a refreshing beer as the sun sets.

### Day 4: Phnom Penh

Following breakfast, fly to Phnom Penh, a city of airy boulevards and colonial villas. Visit the magnificent Royal Palace, the official residence of the King, and Silver Pagoda in its grounds. Sightseeing today will involve approximately 3 hours on foot.

### Day 5: Ho Chi Minh City

Visit the emotive Tuol Sleng Museum, where you will learn about the struggles of the Cambodian civilians under the brutal Khmer Rouge regime. Stop at the city's namesake temple, Wat Phnom, before a short 1-hour flight to Ho Chi Minh in South Vietnam.

### Day 6: Ho Chi Minh City & Cu Chi Tunnels

The Cu Chi Tunnels can be emotional for some visitors, but it offers a fascinating window into the hardship and trauma of war. Sightseeing includes, if you choose, crawling through some of the tunnels. Return to the city and gain further insights into this period at the Reunification Palace and the poignant War Remnants Museum, before finishing at Ben Thanh Market.

### Day 7: Mekong Delta Cruise

Travel to the picturesque province of Ben Tre to take a cruise on the mighty Mekong. Paddle through this 'Rice Basket of Vietnam', a rich and fertile land known for its production of rice, coconuts, vegetables and tropical fruits. Spend the day exploring, travelling by motorboat between the islands and changing to smaller paddleboats in the canals.



Ha Long Bay

**Day 8: Ho Chi Minh City & Hoi An**

The exuberant city of Ho Chi Minh is driving Vietnam forward into the modern world, but it is also a treasure trove of fascinating heritage. Discover its architectural gems, including the Notre Dame Cathedral, Central Post Office and Thien Hau Pagoda. Later, fly to Hoi An, a UNESCO listed town renowned for its historic atmosphere and high-quality tailors.

**Day 9: Hoi An**

Drive out into the countryside to the small farming community of Tra Que. Here you can enjoy the lush green countryside and try your hand at age-old farming techniques before taking part in a cooking demonstration, learning the art of a local dish. After lunch take a walking tour of Hoi An, to see the elaborate Japanese Bridge, a Chinese temple and the bustling market. With its swaying lanterns, bobbing gondolas and cheery yellow houses, the Old Town is a delight to wander.

**Day 10 & 11: Hue**

Drive to Hue, travelling over the scenic Hai Van Pass. Once the stronghold of the Nguyen Emperors, Hue exudes imperial grandeur at every turn. Visit the Picturesque Thien Mu Pagoda and cruise along the Perfume River.

The next day, visit the UNESCO World Heritage Sites including the Imperial Citadel and Forbidden City, along with the Royal Tomb of Minh Mang. Stop at a beautiful old 'maison' that has been transformed into a Truc Chi bamboo paper workshop and learn all about this art.

**Day 12: Hanoi**

After breakfast take a short flight to the charming capital city of Hanoi. This afternoon take a thrilling cyclo ride through the Old Quarter and enjoy a flavourful Vietnamese coffee at a café overlooking Hoan Kiem Lake.

**Day 13 & 14: Ha Long Bay Cruise**

Spend two days aboard a comfortable cruise ship sailing amongst magnificent karst peaks on the tranquil green waters of Ha Long Bay. Spend the night on the boat before returning to Hanoi. Attend the Quintessence of Tonkin show, a spectacular open-air performance celebrating the rich history of northern Vietnam.

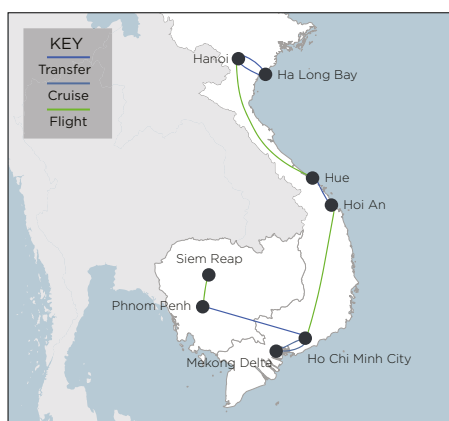
**Day 15: Hanoi**

Discover Hanoi's history and the story of President Ho Chi Minh on a walking tour. See his Mausoleum in Ba Dinh Square and admire the Presidential Palace. Explore its peaceful grounds and visit the Humble House on Stilts, where he lived during his rule.

Finally, visit the beautiful Temple of Literature before this evening's farewell dinner.

**Day 16: Depart Hanoi**

Enjoy a relaxed breakfast and day at leisure before your transfer to the airport for your return flight or onward journey.



# Classic Mekong

17 days

Embark on a glorious adventure, starting amongst the magnificence of the temples of Angkor before boarding the wonderfully intimate Victoria Mekong ship for a 4-night cruise down the Mekong River. With shore excursions designed to give you an authentic glimpse of local life, cross into Vietnam to discover its many treasures. Explore vibrant Ho Chi Minh City, charming Hoi An and historic Hanoi, and sail the waters of Ha Long Bay.

## Highlights

Siem Reap – Angkor Thom – Phnom Penh  
Victoria Mekong Cruise – Ho Chi Minh City  
Hoi An – Hanoi – Ha Long Bay

## Tour Includes

- All accommodation
- All meals – 16 breakfasts, 15 lunches & 16 dinners
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking local guides
- Small group size – maximum 24 guests

*Tour is operated by Wendy Wu Tours. Please see Page 121 for additional and important information.*

## Departure Dates

Selected Dates  
September to May

### Day 1: Siem Reap

On arrival in Siem Reap you will be met and transferred to your hotel. This evening join your fellow travellers for dinner and welcome briefing with your local guide.

### Day 2: Temples of Angkor – Siem Reap

Journey into the Old City of Angkor Thom. At its heart is the enigmatic Bayon, an iconic temple of innumerable sculptural decorations. Admire the Elephant Terrace and Terrace of the Leper King before continuing to the atmospheric Ta Prohm. Spend the afternoon soaking up the magnificent treasures of Angkor Wat. This evening, return to Angkor Thom to take a boat ride on its moat at sunset.

### Day 3: Siem Reap

Travel to the shores of Tonle Sap. Visit the floating village of Kampong Phluk (Oct to Feb) or Chong Kneas (Mar to Sep). Stop at a local village for a glimpse of rural life before visiting the home of a Khmer family.

### Day 4: Phnom Penh

You will take a short flight to Cambodia's charming capital, Phnom Penh. Board a cyclo and head into the heart of the city to see the magnificent Royal Palace – official residence of the King – along with the Silver Pagoda in its grounds. Check into your hotel.

### Day 5: Victoria Mekong Cruise

Reflect on the history of Phnom Penh with a visit to the Tuol Sleng Museum and Killing Fields, locations that provide chilling reminders of the Khmer Rouge regime. Afterwards, you will say goodbye to your tour specialist and be picked up by a local guide from the Victoria Mekong. Board the Victoria Mekong for a welcome briefing and cast off into the waters of the Delta. Dine on delicious local cuisine at the welcome dinner and enjoy a traditional music show as you cruise downstream.

### Day 6: Cruise into Vietnam

Victoria Mekong departs this morning, with plenty of onboard activities available. Alternatively, spend the morning relaxing in the pool. Sail into Vietnam around lunchtime, anchoring near Tan Chau. Tender ashore to visit a Taoist temple and see the intriguing stilt houses. Return to the ship in time for an exciting lion dance performance on the Sky Deck as the sun sets.

### Day 7: Phu Tan & Tiger Island

After breakfast, tender ashore in Phu Tan to visit a craft village famed for its handmade clay stoves. After lunch, anchor at Tiger Island and head ashore to explore, learning about local industries such as ceramics and incense making. Return to the ship for dinner and the evening's entertainment.



Ha Long Bay

**Day 8: Long Xuyen & Dinh Yen**

Arrive in Long Xuyen and hop on a tender to visit the bustling floating market. Stop in town to visit a museum with exhibits on ancient cultures of the region before returning to the Victoria Mekong. Enjoy lunch as the ship continues downstream to Dinh Yen, where you'll see the villagers weaving colourful straw mats and meet a family who specialise in making sheets of beancurd. This evening, the ship continues to Can Tho.

**Day 9: Ho Chi Minh City**

Transfer from Can Tho to Ho Chi Minh City stopping en route for a delicious local lunch. This evening, your Vietnamese local guide will whisk you away to enjoy 'dining in the dark' at NOIR, a social enterprise restaurant employing blind waiters. Immersed in total darkness, with your senses heightened, tastes and textures are amplified to create a truly mindful dining experience.

**Day 10: Cu Chi Tunnels**

Confront the reality of guerrilla warfare at the astonishing Cu Chi Tunnels, used by the Viet Cong during the war. Should you choose, you will have the opportunity to spend a few minutes underground on a short, crouched walk through an example section of a tunnel network. Return to Ho Chi Minh City to explore the iconic sights, such as the Notre Dame Cathedral, Reunification Palace and Central Post Office.

**Day 11: Hoi An**

Time to say goodbye to Ho Chi Minh City and fly to Danang where you will join a picturesque transfer to the enchanting town of Hoi An. Head out on a walking tour, with visits including Chua Ong Pagoda, a historic merchant house and the spectacular Japanese Covered Bridge. With its charming yellow buildings, shimmering river, and vivid silk lanterns, a stroll through this traditional town feels like stepping back in time.

**Day 12: Hoi An**

Head out into Hoi An's peaceful countryside to visit an organic farming community. Here you can enjoy the lush green landscapes and stroll through the gardens to see the farmers at work. You'll even have an opportunity to try the techniques for yourself! The afternoon is at leisure to head to the beach or explore the Old Town's charming shops and boutiques.

**Day 13: Hanoi**

After breakfast, transfer to Danang and fly to the charming city of Hanoi. This afternoon, visit the serene Temple of Literature, Hanoi's first university, before taking a cyclo tour of Hanoi's Old Quarter. Each cyclo (rickshaw) takes one passenger and is operated by a cycle driver behind the carriage. Wrap up your ride with an opportunity to taste some 'egg coffee' – a local speciality!

**Day 14: Hanoi**

Discover the rest of Hanoi's sights today, with the Ho Chi Minh City Quarter and Mausoleum, Humble House on Stilts, One Pillar Pagoda and Ethnology Museum. Tonight, attend one of Hanoi's famous theatre performances.

**Day 15: Ha Long Bay**

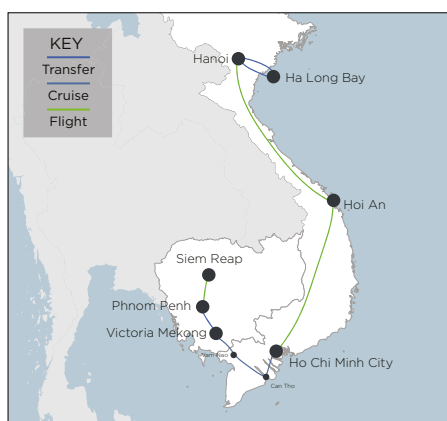
A 2 ½ hour drive from Hanoi will bring you to Ha Long Bay for an overnight cruise to the far-most corners of this famously beautiful bay by boat. Enjoy lunch onboard as you cruise out into the bay, stopping to anchor for an afternoon of activities. Sightseeing may include visiting underground caves on the islands, which require climbing up and down steps inside and outside of the caves. End the day on deck with a drink in hand to watch the sunset, followed by dinner, before retiring to your cabin for the night.

**Day 16: Ha Long Bay – Hanoi**

After a night anchored out on the bay, rise early to enjoy a Tai Chi lesson on deck as the sun rises. Cruise back to port, stopping en route to visit one of the bay's impressive caves. Return to Hanoi, where your afternoon is at leisure ahead of this evening's farewell dinner.

**Day 17: Depart Hanoi**

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before departing for your return flight or onward journey.



# Grand Tour of Indochina

26 days

For those with more time to explore, this tour not only covers the highlights of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, but helps you delve further into the region's magnificent beauty, fascinating culture and local communities. Spend 2 unforgettable weeks travelling through Vietnam, followed by a week in untouched Laos and a further week in Cambodia, where you'll discover historic Phnom Penh and the incomparable Angkor Wat.

## Highlights

Ho Chi Minh City – Cu Chi – Mekong Delta  
Hoi An – Hue – Hanoi – Mai Chau  
Ha Long Bay Cruise – Luang Prabang  
Vang Vieng – Vientiane – Phnom Penh  
Siem Reap – Angkor – Tonle Sap

## Tour Includes

- All accommodation
- All meals – 25 breakfasts, 24 lunches & 25 dinners
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking local guides
- Small group size – maximum 28 guests

*Tour is operated by Wendy Wu Tours. Please see Page 121 for additional and important information.*

## Departure Dates

Selected Dates  
February to March, October to November

### Day 1: Ho Chi Minh City

Arrive in Ho Chi Minh City where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure.

### Day 2: Cu Chi Tunnels – Ho Chi Minh City

This morning, contemplate the horrors of guerrilla warfare at the Cu Chi Tunnels before returning to Ho Chi Minh City. The exuberant city is driving Vietnam forward into the modern world, but it is also a treasure trove of fascinating heritage. Visit the Central Post Office, the Reunification Palace and the chilling War Remnants Museum.

### Day 3: Mekong Delta

Drive to the picturesque province of Ben Tre situated along the mighty Mekong. This area is known as the 'Rice Basket of Vietnam', because of its rich fertile lands. Spend the day cruising and exploring these waterways by traditional Sampan boat.

### Day 4: Hoi An

Fly to Danang and transfer to Hoi An. This afternoon, take a walking tour of Hoi An's beautifully traditional Old Town, with its network of lantern-lit streets, small bridges, and cheerful yellow houses. See Tan Ky, visit Quan Cong Chinese Temple and stop to admire the pink-hued Japanese Covered Bridge, constructed in the 1590s.

### Day 5: Hoi An

This morning, visit Tra Que, a local community farming project. Learn the traditional methods the farmers use to plant, fertilise, and harvest the crop. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to shop, head to the beach, or perhaps visit one of Hoi An's famous express tailors or sandal-makers – known for their ability to whip up high-quality tailored clothing and deliver it to your hotel in as little as 24 hours.

### Day 6: Hoi An

Today is at leisure for you to explore.

### Day 7 & 8: Hue

Travel to Hue via the famously scenic Hai Van Pass. This scholarly town was once the seat of the Nguyen Emperors, and the area still retains an atmosphere of historic grandeur. Begin at the Tomb of Emperor Minh Mang and explore its many monuments and gardens. The next day explore the imposing Imperial Citadel. Later, visit Thien Mu Pagoda and take a cruise on the Perfume River.

### Day 9: Hanoi

Fly to Hanoi. Vietnam's capital brings all the charms of the past with a modern buzz in one fast-paced yet refined city. Enjoy a tour of the Old Quarter.



Tran Quoc Pagoda, Hanoi



**Day 10: Mai Chau**

Today will take you on the picturesque mountain road to the valley of Mai Chau, set among scenic rice terraces. This afternoon, explore the rice fields and visit the White Thai community villages of Pom Coong and Lac with their traditional stilt houses.

**Day 11: Mai Chau**

Drive higher into the mountains to visit the H'mong hill tribe village of Sa Linh, and hike to Pa Co.

**Day 12: Hanoi**

Transfer back to Hanoi and enjoy time at leisure.

**Day 13 & 14: Cruise Ha Long Bay**

Head east to Ha Long Bay, where you'll spend 2 days aboard your comfortable cruise boat sailing amongst magnificent karst peaks on the tranquil green waters of Ha Long Bay. Stay overnight on the boat before returning to Hanoi.

**Day 15: Hanoi to Luang Prabang**

Visit the Ho Chi Minh City Quarter, Stilt House and One Pillar Pagoda before flying to Luang Prabang.

**Day 16: Luang Prabang**

Rise early this morning to witness Takbat, a Buddhist ceremony before climbing Phousi Hill for panoramic views of the city. Visit Wat Xieng Thong before boarding a boat to cruise the mighty Mekong up to the sacred caves of Pak Ou.

**Day 17: Luang Prabang**

This morning, visit the National Museum. Marvel at the cascading turquoise waters of the enchanting Kuang Si Waterfalls.

**Day 18: Vang Vieng**

Fly to Vientiane and travel to Vang Vieng, a town beautifully set in a spectacular karst landscape of limestone mountains, lush fields and snaking rivers.

**Day 19: Vang Vieng**

Venture into the Tham Chang cave before wandering through the dramatic limestone karst countryside beside the Nam Song River.

**Day 20: Vientiane**

Travel back to Vientiane to visit Wat Si Saket, Wat Phra Keo, That Luang Stupa, and the Patuxai Victory Monument. Enjoy dinner with a traditional Laos music and dance performance.

**Day 21: Phnom Penh**

Fly to Phnom Penh, a city of airy boulevards and colonial villas. Today's visits include the magnificent Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda. Later, admire the artefacts of the lovely National Museum.

**Day 22: Phnom Penh**

Visit Tuol Sleng Museum, the former Khmer Rouge prison known as S21. Continue to the Killing Fields, the execution site for thousands of civilians under the Khmer Rouge regime. Return to Phnom Penh for lunch.

**Day 23: Siem Reap**

Your onward flight will take you to Siem Reap. Visit the captivating Banteay Srei, before taking a leisurely boat ride on the moat of Angkor Thom and view hidden elements of the ancient Khmer water systems. This evening, enjoy an acrobatic performance by graduates of the Phare Circus.

**Day 24: Siem Reap**

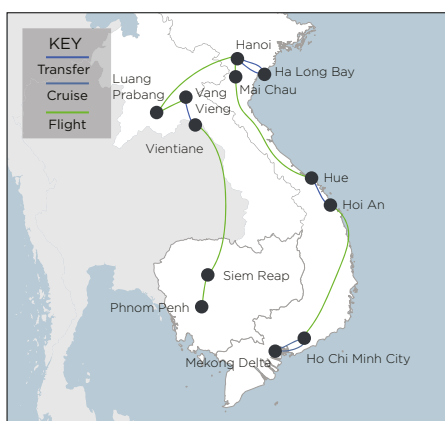
A day discovering the incredible Angkor complex. Begin at Ta Prohm then continue to Angkor Thom and enigmatic Bayon. Return to Angkor Thom at sunset for a boat cruise.

**Day 25: Siem Reap**

Enjoy a morning cruise on Tonle Sap Lake, visiting a local village. In the high-water season (August to February), you will also visit Kampong Khleang, a unique village on stilts. In the low water season (March to July), you will visit Chong Kneas, a floating village. On your way back to Siem Reap, stop by the SATCHA social enterprise, before enjoying this evening's farewell dinner with an Aspara Dance Show.

**Day 26: Depart Siem Reap**

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your return flight or onward journey.



# Window to the Mekong River

10 days

If you are short on time this is the perfect itinerary, exploring key sites in Ho Chi Minh City, Phnom Penh and Siem Reap. One day you might be sat in a café watching overloaded motorbikes weaving through locals going about their everyday market trading, the next, visiting historical sites which no doubt will be spine tingling. For a more contrasting peaceful experience, sail onboard a boutique style river boat along the Mekong where villagers will wave from riverbanks and be eager to share stories of their family crafts and way of life.

## Highlights

Ho Chi Minh City – Mekong Cruise  
Phnom Penh – Siem Reap

## Tour Includes

- All accommodation
- 16 meals – 9 breakfasts, 3 lunches & 4 dinners
- All sightseeing and entrance fees mentioned
- All transportation and transfers by private air-conditioned vehicles
- Flight Phnom Penh to Siem Reap in economy
- Private driver
- English-speaking local guides

## Departure Dates

Daily

## Day 1: Ho Chi Minh City

Your driver and local guide will be waiting at the airport. A 1-hour private transfer will be an entertaining experience full of chaotic traffic and overloaded motorbikes, this is people watching at its best. After check in, the rest of the day is at leisure. Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, is a city of bright neon lights, endless shopping and trendy cafés. Its wide tree-lined boulevards reflect its French heritage, and towering skyscrapers announce it has landed squarely in the 21st Century.

## Day 2: Ho Chi Minh City

This morning your guide will meet you and begin a private city tour, which includes a visit to the absorbing War Remnants Museum, the Reunification Palace, the Notre-Dame Cathedral and the historic Post Office built by the French. Your guide will offer local advice and share their knowledge depending on your interests for you to explore independently this afternoon.

## Day 3: Embark Mekong Cruise

Your driver will transfer you to the cruise meeting point before you bid farewell to the hustle and bustle of the city.

A group transfer will take you overland towards My Tho where you will embark on a 4 day/3 night cruise sailing from Ho Chi Minh City to Phnom Penh on board a Heritage Line riverboat. Here is where you will find Art Deco of 1930s France combined with the romance of Indochina. Passenger numbers are a maximum of 54, therefore the crew offer a very personal service sharing their knowledge as you set sail. A buffet lunch is served as the vessel steadily glides upstream. As twilight bathes the Mekong Delta in a golden haze, take the opportunity to get to know your fellow travellers at the official welcome with canapés and prosecco. During dinner, the ship will likely reach Tan Phong Island area near Cai Be. This is your first glimpse of the bustling area where your Mekong adventure will begin on land tomorrow.

## Day 4: Mekong Cruise

Wake early to embrace the stunning dawn scenery, energise yourself with a morning Tai Chi class before indulging in a lavish breakfast buffet. Excursion options include a transfer by local boat to the secluded island Tan Phong Island, a smaller island in the middle of the vast Mekong. Visit a local family and their fruit garden. You may wish to join a 15-minute buggy ride through the island and take a glimpse of the local day to day life as it unfolds.



Heritage Line Mekong Cruise  
Ship: Jayavarman

Another stops at a family house where they specialise in weaving water hyacinth plants. Or engage in an interactive cooking experience with a local family. This afternoon enjoy time on your private balcony as your voyage continues before arriving in the Sa Dec region. Stroll through the village and gain profound insights into local life and craft making.

**Day 5: Mekong Cruise**

Breakfast is served before you disembark and immerse yourself in the vibrant town life of Tan Chau, by boarding 'xelois' (the Vietnamese word for rickshaws). Your personal xeloi driver leisurely navigates through a network of streets, allowing you to observe workshops, street vendors, shops, and the intriguing day-to-day activities of the locals. Your journey includes a tour of the local markets. Visit a Cao Dai temple and meet with one of the priests. Optional morning excursions also include a cyclos ride through the town and temple kitchen for a hands-on cooking class. Back on board, sail towards the Vietnamese-Cambodian border. Get ready for a fascinating and leisurely cruise through the deep Cambodian countryside towards Phnom Penh. The afternoon is at leisure.

**Day 6: Phnom Penh**

Disembark after breakfast taking with you enchanting memories of the mighty Mekong along with new friendships made. Your driver and private guide will meet you and take you on a half day tour to Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum. Discover the brutality of the Khmer Rouge as documented in the photos and memorabilia and meet one of the few survivors of the regime. Continue to Choeng Ek Killing Fields, the destination for prisoners from Tuol Sleng. Have lunch (at own expense) before you check in at your hotel. The afternoon is free for you to explore the city further.

**Day 7: Siem Reap**

A leisurely breakfast is served before your hotel check out. Your driver will transfer you to the airport for your flight to Siem Reap. Once again, you will be met by a private driver at the airport and swiftly transferred to your hotel for a 3-night stay. The rest of the day is free.

**Day 8: Siem Reap**

Today your driver and private guide will begin your temple exploration of the UNESCO world heritage complex inside the stunning walled city of Angkor Thom. Take in the enigmatic Bayon, Baphoun Temple, Phimeaanakas, and the Royal Palace enclosure. Next stop is Ta Prohn easily the most atmospheric and a highlight for anyone visiting Angkor.

As you enter the main causeway of Angkor Wat, feast your eyes on the sight of this imposing structure. Discover its many galleries, libraries, pavilions, courtyards and ponds full of water, carved bas-reliefs that tell the ancient Hindu legends of Ramayana and victorious Khmer battles. Climb to the holiest sanctuary at the summit of the temple, where you are rewarded with fantastic views across the entire complex and beyond.

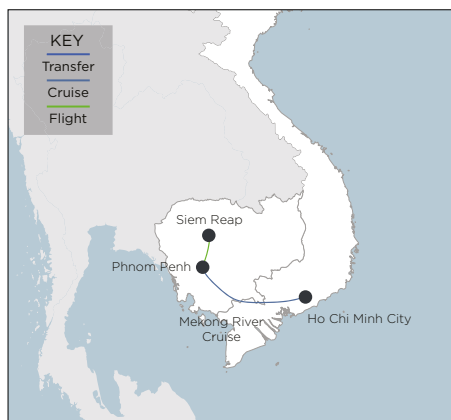
*(The temple tour itinerary is flexible and may be adjusted by your local guide after consultation with you. Please bring your Angkor Entry Pass.)*

**Day 9: Siem Reap**

Today is at leisure. For a unique experience this evening your driver will pick you up and take you to the Big Top in Siem Reap to see a performance of the Phare Cambodian Circus from the best seat in the house. Theatre, story, dance, high-energy music and circus acts tell uniquely Cambodian stories. These circus artists will astonish you with their energy, emotion, enthusiasm and talent. *(Please note there are no animals in the performance).*

**Day 10: Depart Siem Reap**

Your driver will transfer you to the airport for your onward journey.



# Vietnam and Cambodia Uncovered

17 days

Uncover the depths of Vietnam and Cambodia as local guides take you behind the scenes and show you the authenticity of the cities and way of life. Not one but two cruises are included with contrasting scenery of limestone of Ha Long Bay to the banks of Mekong River, home to villagers and crafts that have been passed through family generations. With 7 nights on board Mekong Princess set sail, sit back and watch the world pass by. Differing modes of transport will play a big part in your journey from bicycles to sampans and an exciting Jeep tour.

## Highlights

Hanoi – Ha Long Bay Cruise  
Ho Chi Minh City – 7 night Mekong Cruise  
Phnom Penh – Siem Reap

## Tour Includes

- All accommodation
- 34 meals – 15 breakfasts, 11 lunches & 8 dinners
- All sightseeing and entrance fees mentioned
- All transportation and transfers as mentioned
- Flight Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City in economy
- Private driver and guide as stated
- English-speaking local guides

## Departure Dates

Daily

### Day 1: Hanoi

Arrive at Hanoi airport where your private driver will be waiting to transfer you to your hotel. Hanoi is a window to a world from long ago that has been dragged into the present. Prepare to be amazed by this frantic, yet incredibly charming slice of real Asia.

### Day 2: Hanoi

This morning is at leisure before you join a guided city tour by Jeep. Travel with your senses heightened as aromas from spices fill the air and the noise of locals heckling from motorbike traders bring this city to life. This tour is about visiting hidden gems and taking you off the beaten track which pass some visitors by. Savour authentic Vietnamese dishes and Hanoi delicacies before returning to your hotel.

### Day 3: Cruise Ha Long Bay

Take time today to perhaps revisit some of the sites passed yesterday before your late afternoon cyclo tour begins. Following this you'll join a street food tour that can be tailored to your own tastes. Visit the best spots for authentic dishes and see how they are prepared.

### Day 4: Cruise Ha Long Bay

This morning pastries and hot drinks awaken you before you are taken by speedboat to visit Viet Hai Village. Choose whether to take a bicycle or electric car through a rainforest tunnel to rice fields and visit a traditional house. Rejoin the cruise and explore the Cat Ba Archipelago.

### Day 5: Ho Chi Minh City

Enjoy a light breakfast on board before heading off on a bamboo boat to explore the Dark and Bright Cave to see sparkling stalactites. Enjoy brunch whilst cruising back to the mainland. Your shared transfer will take you to Hanoi before your private driver takes you to the airport for your flight to Ho Chi Minh City. You will be met and taken to your hotel.

### Day 6: Ho Chi Minh City

Your guide will meet you to escort you to see the amazing network of the communist guerrilla tunnels at Cu Chi. Observe the ingenious traps, watch a demonstration on how their weapons and bombs were made, underground kitchens and a brief propaganda video produced in 1969.

### Day 7: Mekong Cruise

This morning you will be transferred to the Mekong Princess embarkation point.



Hanoi

Lunch will be served soon as you cruise along the Saigon River. Late in the day, in the heart of the Mekong Delta, enjoy crafted cocktails and watch the sun set.

**Day 8: Mekong Cruise**

This morning, sampans, a traditional wooden boat will take you through a channel lined with mangroves. Ride a 'xe lam' (three-wheeler) to visit a local coconut candy maker. This afternoon, the ship sails through an area of the Mekong Delta barely touched by tourism to Au Island. On arrival, you will be taken by sampan to Can Tho City a short city tour where teenagers perform and dance.

**Day 9: Mekong Cruise**

Early this morning, the sampan takes guests for a cruise through the fascinating Cai Rang floating market. You will then return to the ship for a well-deserved breakfast. Continue by sampan to untouched Hoa An village, well-known for flower growing and handmade crafts.

**Day 10: Mekong Cruise**

After breakfast, board sampans to Gieng Island. Visit a local sampan village and explore the mango gardens along the riverbanks. Try a popular local mode of transport 'xe loi' (motor trishaw), driving as you visit a Phanxico Monastery. Visit the local island village of Hong Ngu which produces many traditional Khmer scarves exported to Cambodia.

**Day 11: Mekong Cruise**

This morning, local cyclo drivers meet you for an exciting city tour of Phnom Penh. Explore the Royal Palace, famous silver Pagoda and the National Museum.

**Day 12: Mekong Cruise**

Today is a memorable and moving visit to the Choeung Ek, the Killing Fields. Visit the small museum and Memorial Stupa and Tuol Sleng (infamously known as S-21), converted by the Khmer Rouge from a large school to a prison and torture headquarters. The ship docks in Phnom Penh overnight.

**Day 13: Mekong Cruise**

Sail to Angkor Ban. Visit the charming and authentic town of Angkor Ban, witness daily life of the local people and visit the pagoda with a special blessing ceremony by local monks. Visit a local family home and local school where you will join the children in their classroom.

**Day 14: Siem Reap**

After breakfast, disembark the Mekong Princess in Kampong Cham and transfer by coach to your hotel in Siem Reap. Afternoon is free at your leisure.

**Day 15: Siem Reap**

Start your private tour to the UNESCO world heritage complex inside the stunning walled city of Angkor Thom with Gates. Take in the enigmatic Bayon the mighty Baphoun Temple, Phimeanakas, and the Royal Palace Enclosure. Next stop is Ta Prohm, a highlight for anyone visiting Angkor. As you enter the main causeway of Angkor Wat and start the long walk to the main temple, feast your eyes on the sight of this imposing structure.

*(The temple tour itinerary is flexible and may be adjusted by your local guide after consultation with you. Please bring your Angkor Entry Pass.)*

**Day 16: Siem Reap**

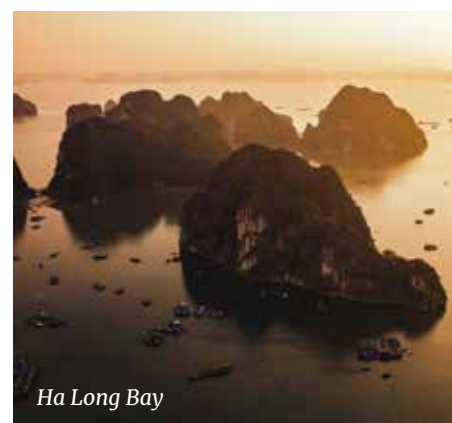
Today is a free day. Tonight, your driver will take you to the Big Top in Siem Reap to see a performance of the Phare Cambodian Circus. *(Please note there are no animals in the performance).*

**Day 17: Depart Siem Reap**

Your driver will transfer you to the airport for your onward journey.



Angkor Wat



Ha Long Bay



Mekong Princess

# Discover Vietnam

14 days

Vietnam is a contrast of bustling cities, unique methods of transport, stunning landscapes of limestone in Ha Long Bay and marble hills overlooking the Eastern Sea. The air is filled with subtle aroma of spices from street vendors, more traditional farmers work the land as their families wish to share their stories and culture with visitors. No visit should be without a tour of the Chu Chi Tunnels and the Mekong Delta.

## Highlights

Hanoi – Ha Long Bay Cruise – Hue – Hoi An  
Ho Chi Minh City

## Tour Includes

- All accommodation
- 23 meals – 13 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 4 dinners
- All sightseeing and entrance fees mentioned
- All transportation and transfers as mentioned
- Flight Hanoi to Hue in economy
- Flight Hue to Ho Chi Minh City in economy
- Private driver and guide as stated
- English-speaking local guides

## Departure Dates

Daily

### Day 1: Hanoi

Upon arrival at the airport your private driver and guide will be waiting to transfer you to your hotel. Transfer time is approximately half an hour and is an entertaining experience full of chaotic traffic, hectic architecture, and overloaded motorbikes.

### Day 2: Hanoi

Meet your driver/guide for your ½ day Jeep adventure. Immerse yourself in real Hanoi as you observe daily life in the tangle of backstreets, tiny alleyways, local home, schools and markets. Discover the must-see highlights including Ho Chi Minh City Mausoleum, the 1000-year-old temples of Tran Quoc and the French and Old Quarters. You'll also skirt the peaceful villages around West Lake. Stop at authentic restaurants and food stalls to savour local dishes and specialities.

### Day 3: Hanoi

Time is your own to explore and visit some of the beautiful sites you passed by yesterday before a late afternoon tour commences. Your guide will meet you before your tour begins with a fun 40 minutes cyclo tour. Following your cyclo tour you will join a street food tour, you will be taken to the best spots for authentic dishes and learn how the food is prepared, you may even ask for a recipe to try at home.

As this is a personal tour, your guide will ensure it is bespoke to your dietary tastes.

### Day 4: Ha Long Bay

Pack a small bag and leave your main luggage at the concierge. Your group transfer will take you from your hotel to embark on a tender boat before boarding V'Spirit Cruise. Enjoy a welcome drink, and settle in before lunch is served as you cruise from Ha Long Bay to Lan Ha Bay. Explore rocky islands by kayak, take a dip or simply admire the stunning scenery. A cooking demonstration will take place before sunset, and then relax and watch the sun set over the limestone islands. A fine dining experience this evening will close a memorable day.

### Day 5: Ha Long Bay

Early risers may wish to join a Tai Chi session before a light breakfast. You will go ashore today where you will visit the ancient village on Cat Ba Island, and enjoy a fun tour on either a bicycle or electric car to Viet Hai Village. Explore fish farms by kayak or relax before transferring to Ba Trai Dao, take time for a swim or read a book on a pristine beach. Return to the ship for sundowners and a degustation dining experience.



V'Spirit Cruise

**Day 6: Hue**

Fresh air and a Tai Chi session will rejuvenate guests ready for a brand-new day of exploring the Tra Bay area, weather permitting kayak past a hidden temple. Enjoy water activities, swim or simply soak up the stunning landscapes this morning before brunch is served as you cruise back to the mainland. You will be taken back to your hotel to collect your luggage and transfer to the airport for your flight to Hue. On arrival a private transfer will take you to your hotel.

**Day 7: Hue**

Your guide will meet you and introduce you to highly skilled and qualified motorbike drivers who are sensitive to tentative pillion passengers, you will travel at a gentle pace of 40km and less. During the tour ride through little laneways, beside canals and through local markets, visit a king's tomb, pagoda and see local handicrafts. Lunch is a traditional Buddhist banquet served at a pagoda. This is a truly action-packed day of scenery, history, culture and cuisine. *(You have the option of joining this tour by private air-conditioned vehicle).*

**Day 8: Hoi An**

Breakfast and check out before your private driver transfers you to Hoi An travelling through coastal rice paddies to the fishing village of Lang Co, before taking the scenic mountainous route over the spectacular Hai Van Pass. On the way, stop to visit Marble Mountain, which is a cluster of 5 limestone and marble hills overlooking the Eastern Sea. After climbing the 150 steps you can enjoy a commanding view down the length of the coast. Arrive and check in to your hotel, the rest of the day is at leisure.

**Day 9: Hoi An**

Day at leisure.

**Day 10: Hoi An**

Meet your tour to begin a countryside tour by Vespa. Visit a local farm, learn about rice, vegetable, and cereal crop cultivation, and experience the daily life of local farmers. Discover traditional occupations in the countryside, such as weaving, rice-wine making, and woodcarving. Head to a local family's home for a delicious home-cooked meal. The afternoon is at leisure.

**Day 11: Ho Chi Minh City**

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Ho Chi Minh City, where you will be taken to your hotel.

This afternoon, hop on the back of a motorbike with a highly qualified driver and taste your way through some of Vietnam's most specialised dishes including pizza. No matter what your tastebuds, there really is a delicacy for every palette.

**Day 12: Ho Chi Minh City**

Today, leave the city behind as you travel to Ben Tre to join a cruise on one of the tributaries of the Mekong River. See how bricks are made and visit a coconut processing workshop. There is an optional bicycle tour alongside the rice fields before lunch at a local restaurant. Enjoy a rowing boat tour along the tiny creeks before returning to your hotel.

**Day 13: Ho Chi Minh City**

Your guide will meet you at the hotel to escort you to the amazing network of the communist guerrilla tunnels at Cu Chi. There are many sights to see during this excursion, including the ingenious traps, demonstrations on how their weapons and bombs were made, underground kitchens and a brief propaganda video produced in 1969.

**Day 14: Depart Ho Chi Minh City**

Transfer to the airport for your onward journey.



Hue



Ho Chi Minh City



Hanoi

# Vietnam in Style

13 days

A journey full of twists and turns as you wind your way from north to south through this diverse country. We have included a Ha Long Bay Cruise, The Vietage by Anantara train which epitomises timeless elegance and romance, a luxury stay in a beach front villa set on one of Vietnam's finest beaches and a unique eco-resort in the Mekong Delta. Interspersed with culture, paddy fields, locals sharing their farming skills of old, fun modes of transport and spine-chilling history, this tour truly embraces Vietnam at its core.

## Highlights

Hanoi – Ha Long Bay Luxury Cruise  
Hoi An – Vietage Train – Ho Chi Minh City  
Mekong Delta

## Tour Includes

- 4-5\* accommodation
- 19 meals - 12 breakfasts, 5 lunches & 2 dinners
- All sightseeing, entrance fees, transportation and transfers as mentioned
- Vietage train Da Nang- Quy Nhon
- Flight Da Nang – Quy Nhon
- Private driver and guide as stated
- English-speaking local guides

## Departure Dates

Daily

### Day 1: Hanoi

Your private driver will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel through the hustle and bustle of the city.

### Day 2: Hanoi

Your first adventure will be a half day Vespa tour starting at your hotel. You will be greeted by qualified and safety conscious guides. Go behind the scenes of this fascinating city where locals live, work and play, there will be a few surprises on the way which most visitors will miss. The next part of the tour will take you pass must-see icons, such as Ho Chi Minh City mausoleum, the 1000-year-old Buddhist and Taoist temples of Tran Quoc, the enchanting French Quarter and the romantic lake of Hoan Kiem, Hanoi Opera House and famous Long Bien bridge. Finally, out of the city you will find serene villages and floating communities where you will stop and enjoy authentic local specialities.

### Day 3: Ha Long Bay

Your driver will collect you and your luggage for a transfer to Ha Long Bay. Here you will meet the crew of Peony Cruises and embark on a luxurious cruise through breathtaking Ha Long and Lan Ha Bays, a member of the 'Worlds' Most Beautiful Bays'.

Lunch is served onboard, you will be enchanted by such decadent dining. Mid-afternoon you will arrive at Tra Bau, the perfect time for kayaking or enjoy the view from the sundeck. Capture the sunset whilst sipping on a cool cocktail as chefs prepare a gourmet extravaganza for dinner.

### Day 4: Hoi An

Start your day full of energy with a Tai Chi class and enjoy the sun rise over the horizon. This morning you will join a tour of Cat Ba Island to view one of the most impressive caves in Vietnam showcasing thousands of stalactites. Back on board for lunch and set sail back to Tuan Chau Marina where your driver will transfer you to Hanoi airport for your onward flight to Da Nang. A private driver will greet, meet and transfer you to your hotel in Hoi An.

### Day 5: Hoi An

Today is free for you to explore at leisure or relax by the pool.

### Day 6: Hoi An

You will be met in the hotel lobby for the start of your cycle tour. Cycle along the Thu Bon River to a local fishing village. Ride along countryside lanes at a peaceful pace while viewing local life and pause to see farmers toiling in their rice fields.



Peony Cruises



Peddle your way through palm forests, across bridges and fields of water buffalo. Take a short break with a local family before enjoying an hour boat trip through a water coconut forest. Continue your journey to Tra Que vegetable village which is well-known for its organic herbs and vegetables. After a visit to a local family and their garden, you will have a fun cooking class and enjoy lunch before transferring to your hotel. *(We can arrange a private car/driver instead of bikes if you prefer).*

#### **Day 7: Quy Nhon by Vietage Train**

An early start today as your driver transfers you to the train station. Today will prove to be a highlight of your Vietnam journey. Embark on this romantic, timeless railway journey through the lush landscapes and spectacular scenery of Central Vietnam. Leave behind the heritage charm of Hoi An and arrive at the sparkling shores of Quy Nhon in style. Onboard you will receive a welcome drink, 3-course gourmet lunch, selected complimentary wines, beers, soft and hot drinks, plus a 15-minute back, neck and shoulder treatment. Arrive mid-afternoon where your driver will transfer you to your villa.

#### **Day 8: Quy Nhon**

Enjoy a leisurely day at your own pace, your 5\* villa overlooks a private beach surrounded by mountains on three sides. Lay by the pool, grab a book and slip into blissful relaxation.

#### **Day 9: Ho Chi Minh City**

Check out of your villa today. Your private driver will transfer you effortlessly to the airport for your flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Once you arrive your driver will take you to your hotel.

#### **Day 10: Ho Chi Minh City**

Your guide will meet you at the hotel to escort you on a journey to see the amazing network of the communist guerrilla tunnels at Cu Chi. There are many sights to see during this excursion, including the ingenious traps, demonstrations on how their weapons and bombs were made, underground kitchens and a brief propaganda video produced in 1969. Plus, you can even explore a short section of the tunnels and fire an AK47 if you are feeling brave!

#### **Day 11: Mekong Delta**

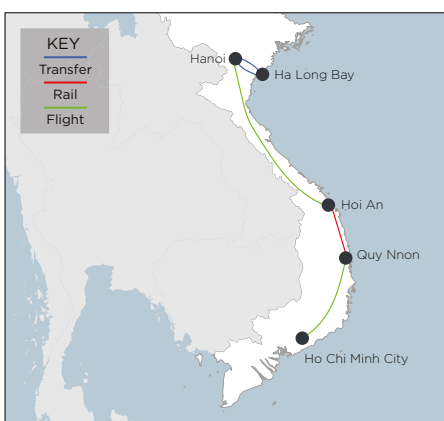
Today is another highlight as you depart for Cai Be. From the harbour a boat transfer will take you to Mekong Lodge for an overnight stay. Check in to your room right in the heart of the Mekong Delta. Daily lunch is served before a guided bike trip to Tan Phong Island. Here you will find an abundance of local handicrafts and listen to Vietnamese folk music. You will also take a small canal boat ride to explore even further. Tonight, you will be entertained by a cooking demonstration at the lodge before dinner.

#### **Day 12: Ho Chi Minh City**

Breakfast is served in the restaurant before you join a guided tour to Cai Be market, maybe try handmade coconut candy or Vietnamese pop-rice before returning to the lodge. This afternoon you will be transferred back to Cai Be harbour where your driver will take you back to your hotel in Ho Chi Minh City.

#### **Day 13: Depart Ho Chi Minh City**

Time to depart with a private transfer to the airport for your return flight or onward journey.



# Cambodia in Depth

14 days

Embark on an adventure where guests will be immersed in this wonderful country. A journey full of discovery, offering a diverse range of must-see historical sites, lush jungles, endless paddy fields and wildlife. Transport inclusions will prove to be a highlight, ride onboard the bamboo train, a tuk-tuk tour through the countryside and join an early morning guided kayak tour in the Cardamom Mountains. Visitors will be captivated by the very essence of the rich culture and history as well as incredible ancient temples, not forgetting the sense of soft adventure as we have included a safari style tented camp, where peace and tranquillity prevails.

## Highlights

Phnom Penh – Koh Kong – Jungle Tented Safari – Battambang – Siem Reap

## Tour Includes

- All accommodation
- 15 meals, 13 breakfasts, 1 lunch & 1 dinner
- All sightseeing and entrance fees mentioned
- All transportation and transfers by private air-conditioned vehicles
- Private driver
- English-speaking local guides

## Departure Dates

Daily

## Day 1: Phnom Penh

On arrival to the 'Pearl of Asia' your driver and guide will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel. Phnom Penh was influenced by the French in the 1920s which becomes apparent with the architecture. Located at the joining of the Mekong, Bassac and Tonle Sap rivers this bustling city is home to riverside walks, restaurants and shopping.

## Day 2: Phnom Penh

Following breakfast your driver and guide will take you on a guided tour around the Royal Palace, home to the Silver Pagoda and then on to Wat Phnom, the legend of how the city got its name. There is time for lunch (own expense) before a moving and sobering visit to the infamous Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and Choeung Ek Killing Fields. You will be returned to your hotel this evening to reflect and relax.

## Day 3: Phnom Penh

The day is free at your leisure, relax by the pool or visit the bustling central market.

## Day 4: Cardamom Tented Camp

After breakfast, your adventure begins with a private transfer to Koh Kong, with its vast coastline and rugged interior encompassing part of the Cardamom Mountain's rainforest.

Embark on a 30-minute boat ride and travel down the Preaek Tachan River to Cardamom Tented Camp. On arrival you will receive a brief introduction before settling into your safari-style tent. Relax this afternoon by the river or take a kayak out for a paddle. Dinner is served at the riverside restaurant where the sun sets over Botum Sakor.

## Day 5: Cardamom Tented Camp

An early breakfast this morning before embarking on a kayak trip to the old ranger station. Your guide will lead you on trails pointing out conservation projects within the area before walking back to camp for lunch. The rest of the day is at leisure. If you have a head for heights take a ride on the zipwire, alternatively relax with a book by the river.

## Day 6: Battambang

Why not start your early morning with a coffee on a misty morning paddle before breakfast. Time to depart by boat back to Trapeang Rung. Here your driver and guide will drive you to Battambang where the contemporary art scene, picturesque streets and the Art Deco central market are a world away from this morning's jungle experience.



Angkor Wat

**Day 7: Battambang**

A tuk-tuk tour is a fun way for your guide to take you into the countryside and discover how traditional products are made, from rice paper for spring rolls to rice wine. You will also visit a local family home for refreshments. Continue to Wat Samrong Knong and Phnom Sampeau and visit memorials of those killed by the Khmer Rouge. Then board the bamboo train before returning to your hotel.

**Day 8: Battambang**

Today is at leisure.

**Day 9: Siem Reap**

Your private driver will transfer you approx. 3.5 hours to Siem Reap, a bustling little town, full of restaurants and markets. Rest of the day is at leisure.

**Day 10: Angkor Wat**

Depart pre-dawn to Angkor Wat, as the sun rises providing a silhouette of the temple's uniquely shaped towers against dramatic colours of the sky. Return to your hotel for breakfast and freshen up before your day of touring continues. Start with the UNESCO world heritage complex inside the walled city of Angkor Thom, Baphoun Temple, Terrace of the Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King. Next stop is Ta Prohm a highlight for all Angkor visitors.

Take a break for lunch (own expense) before entering the main causeway of Angkor Wat and the long walk to the main temple. This imposing structure is truly a journey of discovery and ancient Hindu legends.

**Day 11: Beng Mealea & Kamping Phluk Tour**

This morning explore the mysterious ruins of Beng Mealea, this temple of crumbling stone blocks, subterranean chambers and courtyard conjures up a true Indiana Jones moment. In the afternoon head to the northern edge of Tonle Sap Lake where locals live in stilted houses. Embark on a traditional boat through this authentic village and observe daily life up close before returning to your hotel.

**Day 12: Kulen Mountain National Park**

Kulen Mountain is one of the holiest places in Cambodia. The waters of the Siem Reap River were so important for the Angkor Empire, this is where the 500 year long 'Age of Angkor' began. Visitors can swim in the clean cool waters, examine the carvings and view the Reclining Buddha monument, a massive statue carved whole out of the mountain top.

**Day 13: Siem Reap**

Today is at leisure to explore the town or simply relax.

**Day 14: Depart Siem Reap**

Your driver will transfer you to the airport for your onward journey.



Cardamom Tented Camp



Beng Mealea



Battambang

# Highlights of Cambodia & Beach

14 days

This tour showcases the highlights of Cambodia. From Angkor Wat, the world's largest religious monument to enchanting landscapes, rich history and culture and the warm, gentle nature of the Khmer people, who are renowned for their hospitality. Your private driver and guide will ensure the experience is tailored to your interests and a beach stay at the end gives time to relax after your adventure.

## Highlights

Siem Reap – Battambang – Phnom Penh  
Koh Rong Sanloem – Kampot

## Tour Includes

- All accommodation
- 13 breakfasts
- All sightseeing and entrance fees mentioned
- All transportation and transfers by private air-conditioned vehicles
- Private driver
- English-speaking local guides

## Departure Dates

Daily

## Day 1: Siem Reap

Your driver and local guide will be waiting at the airport ready to transfer you to the comfort of your hotel. After check in your guide will discuss excursion options with you for visiting the Angkor complex over the next few days. Siem Reap is a bustling little town, bursting with a vast range of delicious restaurants to suit every taste, boutique shops and night markets.

## Day 2: Sunrise Angkor Temple Tour

Depart early to Angkor Wat and watch the sunrise providing a silhouette of the temple's uniquely shaped towers. Return to your hotel for breakfast before beginning your temple exploration of the UNESCO world heritage complex inside the sunning walled city of Angkor Thom. Take in the enigmatic Bayon, the mighty Baphoun Temple, Phimeanakas and the Terrace of the Elephants.

There is time for lunch (own expense) before you enter the main causeway for the walk to the main temple. Discover galleries, pavilions and carved bas-relief that tell ancient legends. Climb to the holiest sanctuary at the summit of the temple, where you will be rewarded with fantastic views. *(Please bring your Angkor Entry Pass which will be provided locally.)*

## Day 3: Beng Mealea & Kampong Phluk Tour

This morning, explore the mysterious ruins of Beng Mealea, thought to be a blueprint for Angkor Wat. From crumbling stone blocks acting as stairs to the temple's many subterranean chambers, it is deemed as the most fun temple to explore. In the afternoon head east of Siem Reap on the northern edge of Tonle Sap Lake to the village of Kampong Phluk, where locals live on stilted houses rising from the ground. Travel by traditional boat and observe daily life, head out to Tonle Sap where you will appreciate the immensity of this fascinating waterway. *(Please bring your Angkor Entry Pass which will be provided locally.)*

## Day 4: Siem Reap

Today is yours to explore the township or simply relax by a pool.

## Day 5: Battambang

Your private driver will transfer you to the rural area of Battambang, sit back and enjoy views of the stunning scenery and Cambodian villagers working in the fields. Battambang City offers an eclectic mix of colonial and postcolonial architecture as well as ancient pagodas. Spend the rest of the day exploring the art deco market and strolling through the picturesque streets.



Sunrise at Angkor Wat

**Day 6: Battambang**

This morning will prove to be a highlight as you take a tuk-tuk through winding streets in the countryside. Your guide will introduce you to local products such as rice wine and bamboo sticky rice, sample the flavours that make this cuisine so delectable. Be welcomed to a family home where you will savour fresh fruits and coconut. Continue to the quiet town of Wat Samrong Knong before your final stop of the day to explore Phnom Sampeau. A hill with limestone caves and panoramic views awaits. Another fun transport ride onboard the fabulous bamboo train is a great way to explore this riverside town.

**Day 7: Phnom Penh**

Your private driver will pick you up for a morning drive to Phnom Penh. En-route visit the pottery-making village of Kompong Chhang and Phnom Outdon with stupas containing the ashes of Buddha and ancient Khmer Kings. Phnom Penh, located at the meeting of the Mekong, Bassac and Tonle Sap rivers charms visitors with its French architecture, wide boulevard and riverside promenade.

**Day 8: Phnom Penh**

This morning you will visit the infamous Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum where you will have the opportunity to meet one of the few survivors. Continue to Choeung Ek Killing Fields, the destination for prisoners from Tuol Sleng where a harrowing memorial reminds visitors of the atrocities. Following lunch (own expense) something more light-hearted as you tour around the Royal Palace where over 5,000 heavy silver tiles cover the floors. Your final visit is Wat Phnom where you will hear the legend of how the city got its name.

**Day 9: Koh Rong Samloem Island**

Your driver will meet you at the hotel for a transfer, approx. 3-4 hours by road before joining a fast boat for a 40 minutes ride to Koh Rong Samloem Island. Koh Rong Samloem Island is off the coast of Sihanoukville. Whilst here you may wish to explore local smaller islands by boat, dip your toe in the water or join a guided snorkelling tour. This unique environment is the perfect place to unwind in a tropical paradise.

**Day 10 & 11: Koh Rong Samloem Island**

Enjoy carefree days exploring the island by taking a short walk or relaxing with a book on golden sands.

**Day 12: Kampot**

Time to leave by boat where your driver will meet you at the arrival pier and drive you approx. 2-3 hours to Kampot city, set on the Preaek Tuek Chhu River in southern Cambodia. Visit the former Governor's mansion which tells the history of Kampot. Your final visit will take you to the Preah Monivong Boko National Park, home to gibbons and big cats. This evening is at leisure.

**Day 13: Kampot**

A free day to explore or simply relax by the pool. For something more energetic maybe choose a cycling tour in the countryside, the choice is yours.

**Day 14: Depart Kampot**

Your driver will transfer you from your hotel for your return flight or onward journey.



Koh Rong Samloem Island



Kampot



Phnom Penh

# Vietnam



## Cultural Heritage

Stand atop an ancient citadel in the Imperial City of Hue, lose yourself in the tangle of alleyways in Hanoi's Old Quarter and step into the fairytale riverside town of Hoi An. Ho Chi Minh City is where old and new collide.



## Dramatic Scenery

Vietnam is a country of staggering natural beauty. From the limestone karst-strewn waters of Ha Long Bay, to the endless green of Sapa's rice terraces and mist-clad mountains and hill tribe villages of Mai Chau.



## Food Heaven

Food lovers will be spoiled for choice in Vietnam. From banh mi, a staple sold from street carts across the country to steaming bowls of bun cha and Pho, the options are endless. Take cooking classes, and foodie tours to discover more.



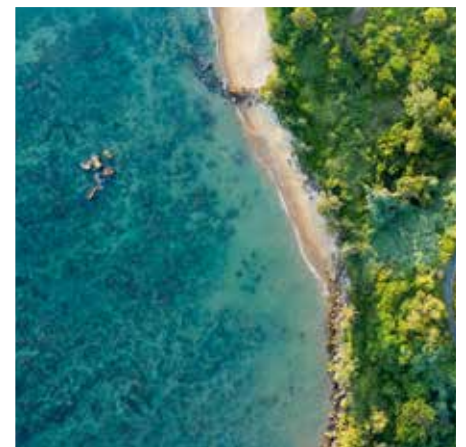
## History Through the Ages

Learn more about Vietnam's vast and chequered history with visits to the War Remnants Museum and the Cu Chi Tunnels, the vast network of tunnels dug by the Viet Cong. Spend time in Hanoi, shaped by French and Chinese occupation and beautiful Hoi An, once one of the most important trading ports in Asia.



## Vibrant Cities

The historic capital of Hanoi is home to some of the best street food in the country, the streets team with weaving motor scooters, and its history dates back more than 1,000 years. Ho Chi Minh City, by contrast is vibrant, fast-paced and fun, where remnants of the war years sit side by side with modern hotels and peaceful temples.



## Beautiful Beaches

The beguiling island of Phu Quoc, floats in the turquoise waters of the Gulf of Thailand and is closer to Cambodia coastline than Vietnam's. The beaches of Nha Trang and Danang can be busy and bustling, so head further south to Mui Ne or Phan Thiet.

# Our Favourite Sightseeing Tours

## Hanoi Jeep Tour

Hanoi is chaotic, vibrant and fun. One of the best ways to feel fully immersed in its energetic vibe is from within a piece of its history, a vintage army Jeep. On the first part of your Jeep tour, you will be exposed to a day-in-the-life of the locals and behind the scenes for an unusual glimpse into the city. Venture into maze-like backstreets, tiny alleyways, local homes, schools, random markets, and black marketplaces. Next it is on to the must-see sightseeing attractions of Hanoi, including the Ho Chi Minh mausoleum, the Tran Quoc Buddhist temples, the enchanting French Quarter, hustle and bustle of the Old Quarter, and the romantic lakes of Hoan Kiem and West Lake. See the Hanoi Opera House and finally the famous Long Bien Bridge.

Departs: Daily  
Duration: 4 hours

## Hue City Tour

Your guide will meet you at your hotel and introduce you to highly skilled and qualified drivers if you chose to travel on the back of a motorbike for a thrilling and safe journey, alternatively a private car is also available. During the tour you will ride through little laneways, beside canals and through local markets, visit a king's tomb, pagoda and browse local handicrafts. You will visit Hue's Citadel and forbidden Purple City and learn about Vietnam's emperors and their intriguing histories. Lunch is a delicious traditional Buddhist banquet served at a pagoda. This is a truly action-packed day of scenery, history, culture and cuisine.

Departs: Daily  
Duration: 5 hours

## Ho Chi Minh Street Food Tour

Your guide will demonstrate how to get onto the motorbike and discuss safety tips for this foodie fun tour, a private car is also available. First stop you will have a delicious and fresh rice paper wrap called, Banh Uot. Learn how to steam one of these wraps yourself. Continue for an indoor BBQ in a hidden popular restaurant. Your next stop features Banh Canh Ghe, this special and unique dish is made with Blue Swimmer Crabs, a soup light and filled with flavour. Finally, the perfect photo opportunity with a traditional dish, Banh Xeo, try your hand at making this crispy delicious cake. Lastly, desserts are served, such as tropical fruits, ice cream with sticky rice, mango and frozen yogurt with hibiscus flowers.

Departs: Daily  
Duration: 4 hours

## Cu Chi Tunnels

A 1 1/2 hour journey northwest of Ho Chi Minh will take you to the tunnels of Cu Chi, an impressive network of connecting tunnels built during the French occupation of Vietnam and extended during the American War. You will have the opportunity to navigate through these legendary, tight spaces, and immerse yourself in this integral part of Vietnam's history. If you're brave, you can even try your hand at the shooting range and shoot an AK47.

Departs: Daily  
Duration: 4 1/2 hours



Ha Long Bay



## City & Culture

Discover the rich and varied history of Vietnam through a range of city stays and immersive experiences. Explore the French and centuries old architecture, ancient temples and bustling markets and learn more through museum visits and guided tours.

### Hanoi Tirant

Pronounced as Tai-rang this characterful hotel sits in the Old Quarter, the historic centre of Hanoi and offers charm in abundance. There are 90 beautiful rooms and suites with polished floors, the deluxe rooms are located towards the rear of the hotel so whilst there is no view, they are very peaceful. The executive balcony rooms and junior suites all offer views of the street below and Old Quarter. In-house dining comes courtesy of the Tirant Restaurant and the Skyline Lounge, which offers panoramic views over Hanoi and the Old Quarter. Facilities include a compact but perfectly formed open air swimming pool on the 13th floor, fitness centre and day spa.

**Location:** Hanoi

Our rating: ★★★★★



### La Siesta Premium Hang Be

Set on one of the Old Quarter's most vibrant streets, the colonial white façade of the hotel overlooks the cafés, restaurants and tailoring shops that throng with people. Authentic detail and period furnishings create a welcoming and warm atmosphere. There is a choice of rooms and suites with traditional features, many have pretty French balconies overlooking Hang Be Street or Gai Ngu Street. Cloud Nine is the 9th floor restaurant with floor to ceiling windows framing a view over the rooftops to Hoan Kiem Lake and Red River. The menu showcases authentic Vietnamese dishes as well as international cuisine. Head to the Lighthouse Skybar for pre-dinner drinks or a nightcap under the stars.

**Location:** Hanoi

Our rating: ★★★★★







## Sofitel Legend Metropol

This Hanoi legend sits in the heart of the city and is a beautiful and elegant place to stay. Offering the perfect blend of French and Vietnamese design there is style and sophistication in abundance. There is a choice of rooms and suites across the hotel set within the Heritage Wing and the Opera Wing, all featuring lofty ceilings, timber floors and distinctive architecture. The clutch of restaurants and bars includes the finest French dining, modern Vietnamese and a Parisian-inspired sidewalk café and there are 3 bars including the poolside Bamboo Bar. Facilities include a beautiful pool area, courtyard garden, SOFIT by Sofitel gym and a blissful day spa. The location ensures attractions such as Hoan Kiem Lake, the Old Quarter and the Opera House are within a short stroll.

**Location:** Hanoi

Our rating: ★★★★★



## Silverland Jolie Spa

Tucked away on a quiet street in downtown Ho Chi Minh City close to Bach Dang Wharf and the Saigon River, this is a comfortable base for your time in the city. There is a choice of rooms and suites featuring wooden floors and hints of Art Deco design. The premier rooms offer more space, whilst the executive rooms are larger again and offer cityscape views. On the rooftop you'll find a Jacuzzi pool and the Rooftop Garden Bar along with a fitness centre. There is an on-site restaurant open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as afternoon tea. Other facilities include the KL Spa, where you can enjoy a relaxing treatment after a day exploring.

**Location:** Ho Chi Minh City

Our rating: ★★★★★



## Liberty Central Riverside

The Liberty Central Riverside is a comfortable hotel in Ho Chi Minh City's central district overlooking the Saigon River and is perfectly located for exploring city attractions including the Ben Thanh Market, Ho Chi Minh City Museum and Saigon Skydeck. The hotel features a range of modern rooms and suites, which offer views over the city or river. Leisure facilities include a fitness centre and rooftop outdoor swimming pool, and if you are an early riser, the sunrise views are wonderful. There is also a full-service day spa. For guests who like to dine in-house the Central Restaurant offers a buffet for breakfast, lunch and dinner, whilst the Bistro offers a menu of light meals and cocktails. The Vertical Sky Bar on the 25th floor is a popular spot for a drink with panoramic city and river views.

**Location:** Ho Chi Minh City

Our rating: ★★★★★



## Hotel des Arts

As much art museum as boutique hotel, the Hotel des Arts is a beautiful place to stay in the heart of Ho Chi Minh City. The timeless charm of French Indochina combines with 21st century luxury making this hotel a little different to a usual city stay. The collection of stylish rooms and suites offer a classically elegant style with hints of Art Deco design, featuring custom made Vietnamese furnishings and period art. The suites offer more space. There are 2 restaurants including the Saigon Kitchen, inspired by the fabulous Asian street food markets, and an elegant art café. The Social Club Rooftop Bar is the highest in the city and offers stunning view across Ho Chi Minh City. Relaxation comes in the form of a rooftop infinity pool and the gorgeous day spa, Le Spa des Artistes by L'Apothiqaire.

**Location:** Ho Chi Minh City

Our rating: ★★★★★



# Coastal & Beach Stays

Intersperse adventures through Vietnam with blissful beach stays and coastal visits as tranquil pauses in itineraries of busy cities and ancient temples. Hue and Hoi An are charming coastal towns with easy access to a beach, whilst further south you'll find the velvety white sands and clear turquoise waters of Phu Quoc, the ultimate beach destination.

## The Pilgrimage

This popular, village-style hotel offers a wonderful blend of local culture and the natural environment and is only a 5-minute drive from the centre of Hue. 173 rooms and villas lie along lantern-lit pathways in low-rise buildings, adding to the charm and character of the resort. There is a choice of restaurants and bars and 3 swimming pools, along with a meditation and yoga pavilion. The resort began life as a handicraft village and there are a range of shops showcasing the arts and crafts available. The Verdana Spa is a sanctuary of peace and well-being offering a range of treatments based around Buddhist philosophies, with 100% natural products.

**Location:** Hue

Our rating: ★★★★★



## Vedana Lagoon Resort & Spa

Spread across a jungle-clad hillside, this lovely resort offers a collection of rooms, hillside pool villas and the first overwater bungalows in Vietnam. All face the expansive lagoon boasting beautiful views from private sun decks and balconies and many have private pools. The word Vedana translates from Sanskrit as a feeling or sensation and the wellness and spa offering here is reflective of this. Alongside the exceptional spa, there is a daily complimentary wellness programme with yoga and tai chi. There are a choice of restaurants offering Vietnamese and western dishes, and a number of private dining spaces for a romantic dinner. Resort facilities include 3 swimming pools, one of which is indoor, a fitness centre, plus complimentary bicycles and kayaks.

**Location:** Hue

Our rating: ★★★★★





## Victoria Beach Resort & Spa

Lying on a pretty stretch of beach just a short distance from the historic town of Hoi An, this lovely resort offers the best of both worlds. The design is a reflection of the Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese and Vietnamese influences found throughout the town and it offers a charming place to stay. The choice of rooms and suites offer high ceilings, polished wooden floors, private balconies and views of the gardens, river or the ocean. The suites are particularly spacious with outdoor showers and sunken bathtubs. The resort has a lovely swimming pool, a handful of restaurants and bars, a day spa and shuttle service into Hoi An. Bicycles are also available for those who want to explore under their own steam.

**Location:** Hoi An

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★



## The CHIEM Hotel

Set just steps back from stunning An Bang Beach is where you will find The CHIEM, a delightful boutique hotel. Rooms are comfortable and well-appointed with dark, natural timbers, wooden artefacts and local pottery. The choice of accommodation includes rooms, suites and villas with garden, pool and ocean views. Relax by the pool, or on the beach, enjoy a treatment in the spa and explore the narrow laneways filled with restaurants and cafés on your doorstep. The old town is only a 10-minute cab ride away.

**Location:** Hoi An

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★



## Mango Bay Resort

This environmentally conscious, rustic resort aims to minimise its impact on the tropical landscape in which it sits. Hidden away, off the beaten track and surrounded by rainforest this quietly charming beach resort is a delight. There are no TVs, hot water is provided through solar power and an environmentally friendly system that uses as little energy as possible, cools the bed space area. Timber framed beds, swathed in mosquito nets, tiled floors and shady verandas add to the character. Dine at On the Rock or On the Sands restaurants, both offering eastern and western dishes. Unwind with a treatment in the beautiful spa and enjoy the variety of activities available including yoga, cooking classes, paddle boards, kayaks and snorkelling.

**Location:** Phu Quoc

Our rating: ★ ★ ★



## Cassia Cottage

Cassia Cottage is a small, family-owned hotel offering just 18 rooms in a wonderful location on Long Beach. The rooms are simple but comfortably furnished and feature canopy beds, breezy terraces and some have outdoor showers, there is a choice of options to suit all needs. The in-house restaurant is The Spice House which showcases local ingredients through eastern and western dishes. Malabar is the beachfront bar, where you can enjoy a cold drink and a light bar menu watching the sun set over the Gulf of Thailand. There are 3 swimming pools, including an adults only pool and a children's pool, an airy library in the Monsoon Pavilion, a dive centre, and complimentary yoga sessions. For the ultimate in relaxation enjoy a massage in the beach front spa.

**Location:** Phu Quoc

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★

# Cambodia



## Phnom Penh

Sitting on the junction of the Tonle Sap and Mekong rivers, this vibrant and bustling city is a place of glimmering temples, ornate pagodas and French colonial buildings that wouldn't look out of place in Paris. Along with modern buildings, which are a statement to Phnom Penh's forward-thinking vision. Explore the Royal Palace, and Silver Pagoda and the National Museum of Cambodia. A few miles south of the city lies Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, also known as S-21, turned into a prison for interrogation, torture and death by Pol Pot's security forces, it now serves as a testament to those who died. Combine this with a tour of the Killing Fields of Choeung Ek, the death camp, which is now a harrowing but moving memorial.



## Siem Reap & Angkor Wat

As the gateway to the temples of Angkor, Siem Reap has evolved from a quiet market town into a bustling, thriving place. The Angkor complex is quite simply staggering and is the world's largest religious building. The temples are strewn across a large area and a guided tour is the best way to explore. Sunrise and sunset are popular times to visit, the golden hour lighting up the magnificent temples and ruins is truly memorable. Beyond the temples, Siem Reap offers excellent dining and is a great introduction to Cambodian cuisine. Around an hour from the town lies Tonle Sap Lake, a vast lake that shrinks and expands with the seasons and is the only river in the world to flow both ways, reversing direction twice a year.



## Koh Kong

The Koh Kong province in southwest Cambodia is where you'll find some of the country's most stunningly natural landscapes. This is a coastline of deserted beaches, and an interior that includes the jungle-clad Cardamom Mountains, cascading waterfalls and mangrove-lined rivers. The remoteness of the Cardamoms ensures habitat for a number of globally threatened species. Spending a few days here is an incredible way to understand and immerse yourself in Cambodia's exceptional natural environment.

## Kep & Kampot

If you're looking for a peaceful beach stay, then Kep is a good choice. Founded by the French in the early 1900s this beachside spot was once the height of sophistication and glamour, now it has a sleepy, laid-back appeal and a charming atmosphere. It's particularly known for its superb seafood, pretty sunsets and Koh Tonsay (Rabbit Island). Nearby coastal Kampot is a collection of colourful French Colonial shopfronts lining the river, tidy boulevards and quaint cafés. It's also where most of Cambodia's pepper is produced, once regarded as the finest in the world.

# Our Favourite Sightseeing Tours

## Explore Phnom Penh

Today experience the captivating contrasts of Phnom Penh with a royal visit and a moving tour. Begin your morning with the opulence of Phnom Penh's Royal Palace, a stunning architectural marvel built in 1866, adorned with gold and steeped in historical significance. Explore the Throne Hall, Silver Pagoda, and National Museum, immersing yourself in the rich tapestry of Khmer art and history. In the afternoon, delve into Cambodia's dark past with a solemn visit to the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, a haunting reminder of the Khmer Rouge era. Continue to the Khmer Rouge Killing Fields, where the stark reality of the regime's atrocities unfolds. This tour offers a unique blend of cultural exploration and historical reflection, ensuring a day of profound experiences in the heart of Phnom Penh.

Departs: Daily  
Duration: 9 hours

## Two Faces of Life

Join this walking tour and discover the two faces of life in Phnom Penh's heart, visiting two very distinctly different economic landscapes. Traverse quiet backstreets to witness life in a remote slum community, where locals hustle with street food and handmade crafts. Explore an association crafting espadrilles with Khmer heritage and visit a modest yet impactful English Language Learning Centre uplifting underprivileged children. As your tour continues you will transition from the realm of poverty to a landscape of skyscrapers and affluent lifestyles of luxury, symbolizing the city's disparities. Conclude with a rejuvenating foot or Khmer massage to rejuvenate your body and mind. Reflect on the profound encounters and insights gained before returning to your hotel, enriched by an unforgettable experience of Phnom Penh's hidden gems.

Departs: Daily  
Duration: 4 hours

## Visit Roluos & Angkor Thom Temple

Embark on a mesmerising adventure through Cambodia's rich history on this tour, beginning at the captivating Roluos Group, home to Lolei, Preah Ko, and Bakong temples. Explore the remnants of Hariharalaya, the first major capital of the Angkorian-era Khmer Empire, where the synthesis of Hindu gods Shiva and Vishnu shaped a city that stood as the Khmer capital for over 700 years. In the afternoon, delve into the grandeur of Angkor Thom, the 12th-century marvel, as your English-speaking guide will lead you through the South Gate, Bayon temple with its iconic smiling faces, the awe-inspiring Baphuon, and the historical Terrace of the Elephants and Terrace of the Leper King. Join this enriching journey through Cambodia's storied past, where each site comes alive with its own fascinating tale, creating unforgettable memories.

Departs: Daily  
Duration: 9 hours

## History & Jungle Trekking

A tour with a difference, as you partake in this enriching half-day adventure departing from Siem Reap to the historically significant Phnom Kulen. This sacred mountain holds immense importance, marking the beginning of the Age of Angkor, a pivotal era lasting 500 years. Tie your shoelaces at the base of the majestic Kulen Mountain, where you'll set foot on an invigorating jungle hike leading to a stunning waterfall (approximately 4 miles/3 hours and 30 minutes). Along the path, there will be fascinating stops, including a visit to the 16th-century Wat Preah Ang Chub, featuring a remarkable standing Buddha statue. Learn how daily life unfolds within the local villages, immersing you in the region's culture and traditions. Upon reaching the waterfall, you will be captivated by the lush surroundings and an active pagoda, creating a truly mesmerising atmosphere.

Departs: Daily  
Duration: 4 hours



Phnom Penh



## Culture & Unique Stays

Immerse yourself in the fabulous culture and heritage of Cambodia where the ancient and modern worlds collide. From spectacular temples rising from the tangle of dense jungle to cosmopolitan urban centres and beautiful beaches on the Gulf of Thailand.

### Baitong Hotel

This stylish hotel sits in the heart of one of Phnom Penh's most vibrant districts. The bold design and unique architecture uses rough stone, natural wood and leather to create a natural feel. The 106 rooms and suites offer spacious, comfortable places to sleep with 10 different categories to choose from and many have a balcony or terrace. On the 6th floor is the beautiful Lantern Bar, a stunning rooftop lounge with views over the city, plus Kuang Seafood restaurant, which serves excellent Thai food. There's also a coffee bar on the ground floor. Relaxation comes in the form of the glass bottom deck pool, forest pool and Jacuzzi, and day spa. There is also a small gym. Attractions including the Silver Pagoda, Royal Palace and Wat Phnom are within a 10-minute tuk-tuk drive.

**Location:** Phnom Penh

Our rating: ★★★★★



### Raffles Le Royal

Overflowing with history and Cambodian charm, this elegant hotel is one of the finest in the city. It sits on a tree-lined street and has a location that ensures everything Phnom Penh has to offer is within easy reach. Dating from the 1920s this beautiful hotel features sumptuous rooms and suites with high ceilings, polished wooden floors and timeless architecture, complimented with every creature comfort. A number of the suites are named after former famous guests including Charlie Chaplin and Somerset Maugham. There are 2 restaurants offering French and Cambodian cuisine, whilst the atmospheric Elephant Bar is the perfect spot for a pre-dinner cocktail. Facilities include a lovely swimming pool and terrace, day spa with 5 treatment rooms and a fitness centre.

**Location:** Phnom Penh

Our rating: ★★★★★





## Pavillon d'Orient Boutique Hotel

French colonial architecture and elegant Khmer design combine to create a charming boutique hotel, just a short tuk-tuk ride from the Angkor Wat Temple complex, making it a perfect base from which to explore. With just 20 rooms, all overlooking the gardens and pool, there is a very serene sense of peace here. Each room has a private balcony or terrace, polished wooden floors, ceiling fans and air-conditioning. The pool area, surrounded by tropical gardens is a welcoming place to relax after a day exploring the ancient temples, and the vegetarian-friendly restaurant offers both western and Khmer cuisine. Other facilities include a tranquil day spa.

**Location:** Siem Reap

Our rating: ★ ★ ★



## Angkor Village Hotel

Lotus ponds and authentic Khmer architecture give this serene resort a real sense of place. Surrounded by tropical gardens, yet only a short tuk-tuk ride from the bustle of central Siem Reap, and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Angkor Wat, makes the Angkor Village Hotel a wonderful base. The rooms and suites are elegant in their simplicity with highly polished wooden floors, local art, textiles and views over the gardens and lotus ponds. The suites are particularly impressive with large living rooms, separate bedrooms and an abundance of space. The restaurant showcases traditional Khmer dishes in a modern style, and the bar is a charming spot for after dinner drinks. There's a shady swimming pool, fitness room and spa, and the Aspara Theatre is just across the road.

**Location:** Siem Reap

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★



## Anaya Hotel

This lovely resort lies tucked amongst swaying coconut palms on a beautiful, white sandy beach and offers just 20 rooms, making for a very peaceful beach escape. Choose from spacious standard rooms, deluxe rooms with views to the swimming pool and sea and open-air showers, or the private pool rooms, which boast private plunge pools and direct access to the beach. There's a delicious restaurant offering an array of fresh seafood, local and international dishes and private dining options are also available. Days are spent relaxing on the soft white sands, exploring on guided boat tours, fishing trips, or discovering the interior of the island with treks into the tropical forest. For water lovers, scuba diving, snorkelling and paddle boards are available.

**Location:** Koh Rong

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★



## Verandah Natural Resort

Sitting on a peaceful hillside within the Kep National Park, the Verandah Natural Resort is perfectly named. The collection of bungalows, villas and suites are linked by wooden walkways and offer rustic but comfortable accommodation with forest or ocean views and many have a balcony or terrace. There is an in-house restaurant and bar, along with a bakery and an ice cream shop. Facilities include 2 swimming pools, perfect for a cooling swim during sultry afternoons plus a small but perfectly formed day spa, which in keeping with its surrounds, uses eco-friendly products. Explore the surrounding national park with wildlife walks and nature trails or enjoy a beach or boat trip. The bars and restaurants of Kep Town are within easy reach if you want a change of scene.

**Location:** Kep

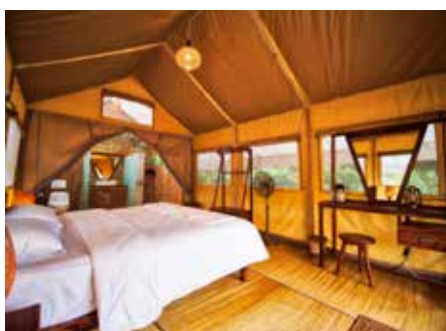
Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★



### Package Includes

- 3 nights' accommodation in a floating tent villa
- 6 meals – 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners
- Waterfall Day tour & Mangrove Day tour (Alternative cultural and romantic packages also available. Transfers are available from Phnom Penh, Koh Rong and Kep/Kampot, please request details).

Departs: Daily



### Package Includes

- 3 nights' accommodation
- 8 meals – 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches, & 3 dinners
- All touring as per the itinerary
- English-speaking guides on hikes
- Return boat transfers from Trapeang Rung (transfers to Trapeang Rung can be arranged)

(Alternative trekker or birdwatcher packages also available, please request details)

Departs: Daily

## Canvas & Orchids Retreat

4 days

Experience a stay like no other here on the Tatai River in this eco-lodge located in the Koh Kong province. From the moment you arrive by boat you will notice the natural beauty of the river weaving its way through the Cardamom Mountains. Waterfalls, mangroves and untouched jungle wait to be explored by kayak or hiking with local guides. At the close of the day simply take a cool dip from your luxury floating tent or sip a refreshing drink as the sun sets from your private balcony overlooking the river.

Leave daily life behind and reconnect with nature. Let the peaceful surroundings of the Cardamom Mountains rejuvenate your spirit, unclutter your mind, and calm your senses. Whether it's a family stay, a romantic getaway or time to reflect on your Cambodia adventure so far, Canvas & Orchids Retreat is the ideal location for an extraordinary and memorable stay. Here, you'll receive a personalised service from local staff while you make yourself at home surrounded by nature's wonders. Early risers are invited to take a morning trek into the rainforest and listen to the jungle as it awakens.

Nature lovers may wish to tie their walking shoes and join a local guide for a jungle trek or immerse in the local culture with a walk and meet the Khmer people on Koh Andet Island. Tatai Waterfall is the region's 'must-see' visit, hop on a local boat with fellow guests during the day or visit as part of a sunset cruise. Another highlight is to take a kayak trip, boat also available, with a guide and paddle deep into the mangroves to experience the calmness of this natural water paradise. Food and drinks are provided enroute as well as a cultural visit to a small school the resort actively supports.

You have a choice of accommodation, all offer private facilities, with handcrafted furnishings made from the region keeping in harmony with the retreat's emphasis on sustainability and maintaining the region's natural sources with a unique water system. Island Tents are located amongst the coconut-tree plantation, set back just a few steps from the riverbank with stunning views, ideally suited for families as they all have 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom. Floating Tented Villas offer a romantic setting with a terrace where you can slip into the water to cool off, at the close of the day drift to sleep as your pontoon villa gently bobs up and down.

## Cardamom Tented Camp

4 days

Explorers, hikers, wildlife enthusiasts and ornithologists are enticed to stay at this ecolodge, located on 18,000-hectares within Botum Sakor National Park. The conservation, wildlife and the education offered to guests enhances your stay as you are welcomed as part of the team, participate in related activities that provide the protection of the flora, fauna and inhabitants that reside here. Daily activities include guided treks, wildlife monitoring, and kayaking through river systems. With only 9 safari-style tents, the lodge offers a personal welcome, and guests can share stories during dinner at the open-air riverbank restaurant overlooking the Preak Tachan River.

### Day 1: Arrive Cardamom Tented Camp

Disembark from Trapeang Rung Resort Pier early afternoon following a 30-minute boat ride down the Preak Tachan River to Cardamom Tented Camp. On arrival you will hear a brief introduction before settling into your comfortable safari-style tent, set on a platform offering private space from your neighbours with full ensuite facilities and sun protected/seating area. This afternoon you may wish to join an exploratory hike in the jungle around the camp, kayak or swim in the pristine river. Dinner is served as the sun sets over Botum Sakor.

### Day 2: Cardamom Tented Camp

After an early breakfast embark on a kayak to the old ranger station, where you will explore trails before walking back to the camp in time for lunch. Your afternoon is at leisure, explore trails close to the camp, swim in the beautiful river, or take a kayak along shady tributaries of the river in search of wildlife, such as Pileated Gibbons and Smooth-Coated Otters.

### Day 3: Cardamom Tented Camp

Enjoy breakfast before embarking on a kayak and trek to an even more remote part of the forest, before returning to the camp for lunch. Due to guests having different requirements, your hosts will be very flexible as to what activities you choose today and will depend on the tide. Afternoon is at your leisure, join newfound friends on a local trail or read a book on your private decking and listen for the calls of the birdlife around you.

### Day 4: Depart Cardamom Tented Camp

Enjoy breakfast at your leisure. If you are an early riser, go on a self-guided hike on the trails around the camp or take a coffee and enjoy a misty morning kayak. Mid-morning you will board the boat back to Trapeang Rung with fond memories.





Laos often flies under the radar of its big hitting Thai and Vietnamese neighbours but after a challenging history, this peaceful, rich in culture and naturally beautiful country is ripe for exploration.

## Our Favourite Sightseeing Tours

### Vientiane Buddha Park Discovery

Your half day private tour begins with your guide meeting you at your hotel, just a short drive south out of the city is where you will visit the intriguing Buddha Park (known locally as Xieng Khuan). The park contains over 200 religious sculptures of deities from both Buddhism and Hinduism. You will then move on to the impressive Friendship Bridge that crosses the Mekong linking Laos to Thailand. Next, visit the weaving village of Ban Nong Bouathong and discover more about the traditional handicraft and way of life in the village. Finally, end the tour taking a relaxing stroll along the Mekong River.

Departs: Daily  
Duration: 4 hours

### Luang Prabang Lunch Cruise to Pak Ou Caves

This morning your driver will meet you at your hotel and transfer you to the boat pier. From here you will embark on a small group cruise on the Mekong River. Cruise upstream to the Pak Ou caves, which houses thousands of statues representing Lord Buddha. In addition, you will visit Ban Xang Hai Village, the village is famous for the distillation of traditional rice alcohol. It used to be more famous for the large jars the alcohol is stored in, which they've been making there for over 2000 years. Lunch is served onboard in front of Pha Enn Cliff, translated as Silver Cliff. You will return to Luang Prabang and your hotel mid afternoon.

Departs: Daily  
Duration: 5½ hours



### Settha Palace Hotel

Built in 1932, this charming hotel has been restored to its former glory and is a classically elegant and gracious place to stay. It's only a 15-minute drive from the airport and within a short walk of Vientiane's shops, restaurants and attractions. The rooms and suites offer views of the garden or pool and are beautifully finished with period pieces, four poster beds, high ceilings and wooden floors. Belle Epoque offers both Lao and French dishes, whilst the colonial style bar is an atmospheric spot for pre-dinner drinks. For a more casual option take a seat at the Sidewalk Café or enjoy breakfast by the shady swimming pool, other facilities include massage rooms and a well-equipped gym.

Location: Vientiane

Our rating: ★★★★★



### La Sen Boutique Resort

La Sen is a welcoming and friendly, boutique hotel offering just 19 simply furnished but comfortable rooms with private balconies and peaceful views over the pool. Attractions including the Ock Pop Tok Living Crafts Centre, Vat Phra Bat Tai and Wat That Luang are within a 5-minute stroll of the hotel, and the vibrant night market is a 15-minute walk. Facilities include a swimming pool and fitness centre, there is also a restaurant which opens for breakfast and dinner, serving both Lao and western dishes. Local restaurants are nearby.

Location: Luang Prabang

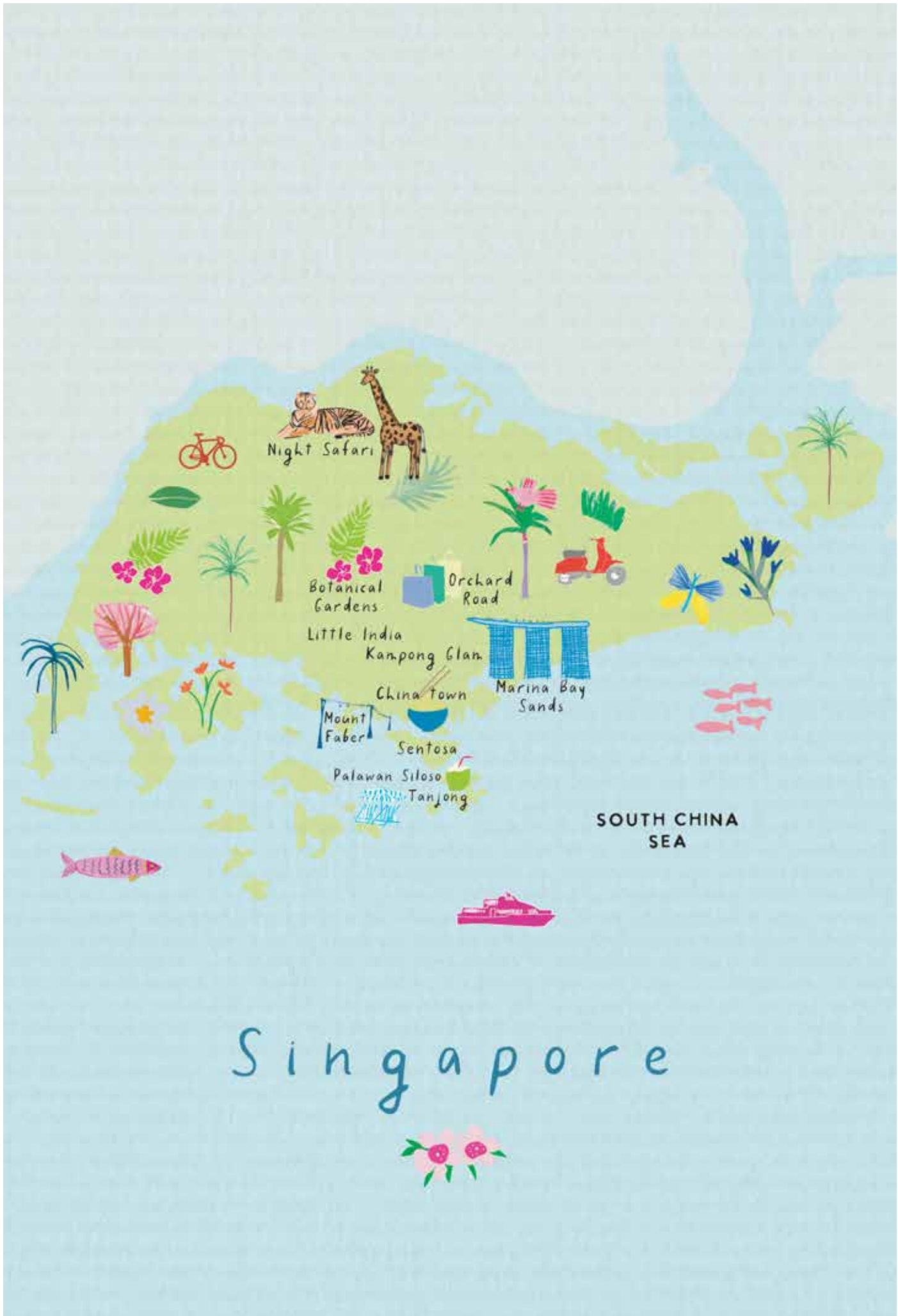
Our rating: ★★★★★

# *Singapore*

## GLEAMING SKYSCRAPERS, AN ICONIC SKYLINE AND CHARACTERFUL NEIGHBOURHOODS FULL OF CHARM

This tiny island nation is a veritable melting pot of cultures with Dutch, Malay, Indian and Chinese influences in abundance. The Singapore of old is hard to spot, for this is one of the cleanest, manicured and pristine cities in Asia, but that doesn't lessen the appeal. Alongside the now-iconic attractions of Gardens by the Bay and the Marina Bay Sands and glistening skyscrapers, you'll find sensational street food on Boat Quay and pockets of authenticity in Little India, Chinatown and the Malay Quarter of Kampong Glam. With world-class shopping, hotels and dining, Singapore is the perfect start or end point for a journey through Southeast Asia.





## Afternoon Tea at Raffles

Step back in time to the days of Colonial Singapore. This afternoon, your journey starts where it all began at Raffles Landing Site, where Sir Stamford Raffles is believed to have first stepped ashore in 1819. Hear about who and what he found on his arrival and about the treaty that was signed to establish a trading post in Singapore. Discover the fascinating history of the 50 years following Raffles establishment of his free-trade port. Admire the neo-Palladian buildings along the banks of the Singapore River before arriving at the iconic Raffles Hotel. Listen to stories of how 1800s high-society adopted Raffles Hotel to hold its lively activities and parties and continue the conversation over a delectable afternoon tea in the restored Grand Lobby of this stunning heritage setting. End the afternoon with a nod to Sir Stamford Raffles, and board a traditional vessel for a cruise along the Singapore River.

Departs: Daily

Duration: 4 hours



## Night Safari Experience

Singapore is home to the world's first Night Safari and today it still offers a unique experience bringing the jungle to life after dusk. Board an open-air tram and explore the park over different terrains that range from the rocky Himalayan foothills to the grassy plains of Equatorial Africa. During the journey, watch out for a myriad of nocturnal animals, from fierce predators to timid forest dwellers, in their natural habitat under subtle moon glow lighting. One of the highlights is the opportunity to venture along one of four safari trails to view some of the animals at closer quarters.

Departs: Daily

Duration: 4 hours



© Mandai Wildlife Group

## Furama Riverfront

Situated in a sought-after location between Chinatown and Clarke Quay, the Furama Riverfront offers a haven for travellers away from the city. Just 5 minutes' walk from Havelock MRT station and two stops from the famed Orchard Road, you are well placed to explore from this hub. Spacious, contemporary guest rooms feature views of the Singapore skyline, tropical gardens or swimming pool, and some rooms also offer separate living areas and family suites with options to suit a range of travellers. On-site facilities include several food and beverage outlets, with options from worldwide cuisines, and various recreational activities on offer at the swimming pool, gym or tennis court. This award-winning hotel serves as a great base on any travellers' itinerary.

Location: Singapore

Our rating: ★★★★★



## Grand Copthorne Waterfront

Set in a serene location tucked away by the historic Singapore River, The Grand Copthorne Waterfront is well suited for guests wanting to be in the middle of the action, whilst still retaining a sense of calm. Within easy reach of the bustling Clarke Quay, guest rooms are well equipped and designed in a style blending modern and Asian tradition, featuring floor to ceiling windows with city or river views. A range of cuisines are on offer from Italian to Chinese with a mix of both local and western specialities. After a day of exploring the city, choose to unwind in the outdoor swimming pool and Jacuzzi or spend some time at the on-site fitness suite.

Location: Singapore

Our rating: ★★★★★



## Paradox Singapore Merchant Court

A stay at the Paradox Singapore will transport you to an urban resort at the heart of the city. Located in the vibrant Clarke Quay area, the hotel is a perfect base from which to explore and also a tranquil retreat with its serene palm-lined resort pool. Choose from a range of thoughtfully designed rooms with amenities to suit the discerning traveller, decorated in calming tones with modern accents. There is also an Executive Floor and dedicated lounge with a range of refreshments offered throughout the day. Choose to explore the hotel's contemporary dining scene during your stay, with western and local Peranakan classics on offer, and plenty of space for alfresco dining to sample the delicacies in the fresh riverside air.

**Location:** Singapore

Our rating: ★★★★★

## The Fullerton Hotel

Originally a post office and now a place for a luxurious stay, The Fullerton Hotel Singapore will transport you back to Singapore's rich heritage. Built in 1928, the building has played a part in the history of this city state also being home to the Chamber of Commerce and the prestigious Singapore Club. Guest rooms are elegantly furnished with many offering views of the Singapore River or Marina Bay, and guests are well-placed to discover the iconic city landmarks such as the Gardens by the Bay. The hotel is also full of epicurean delights with numerous restaurants – savour local and international flavours at the all-day Town Restaurant, a cocktail on the riverside terrace, or an afternoon tea in a timeless setting at The Courtyard. The Fullerton Hotel is also home to an award-winning spa committed to luxury.

**Location:** Singapore

Our rating: ★★★★★

## Marina Bay Sands

Sitting along Singapore's stunning waterfront, the three towers of the Marina Bay Sands are an iconic emblem of the city. The hotel is a destination in itself and is part of a vast entertainment complex, not to mention the famous SkyPark observation deck 56 storeys up, with the world's largest rooftop infinity pool and sweeping city views. With over 2,500 rooms, there is something to suit every visitor wanting to stay at this prestigious hotel, and the wealth of choice continues with more than 80 dining options available catering to all tastes from Chinese, pan-Asian, Italian and international. Guests will have access to attractions such as The Shoppes, theatres, lounges and a nightclub, as well as being a 10 minute walk from the Gardens by the Bay.

**Location:** Singapore

Our rating: ★★★★★

## Shangri-La Rasa Sentosa

The Shangri-La Rasa Sentosa is a tropical playground and the only beachfront resort in Singapore. Sophisticated guest rooms are decorated in neutral colours, overlooking either the South China Sea, landscaped gardens or pools, and it's easy to forget the bustling city a short journey away as you relax on the private beach or at the outdoor Jacuzzi. Indulge in the island lifestyle at Chi, The Spa, or at one of the seaside dining experiences offering international and local cuisines. The resort also caters well for families, with a kids club spanning two floors, and complimentary sea sports including paddleboarding, kayaking and pedal boating.

**Location:** Sentosa Island

Our rating: ★★★★★

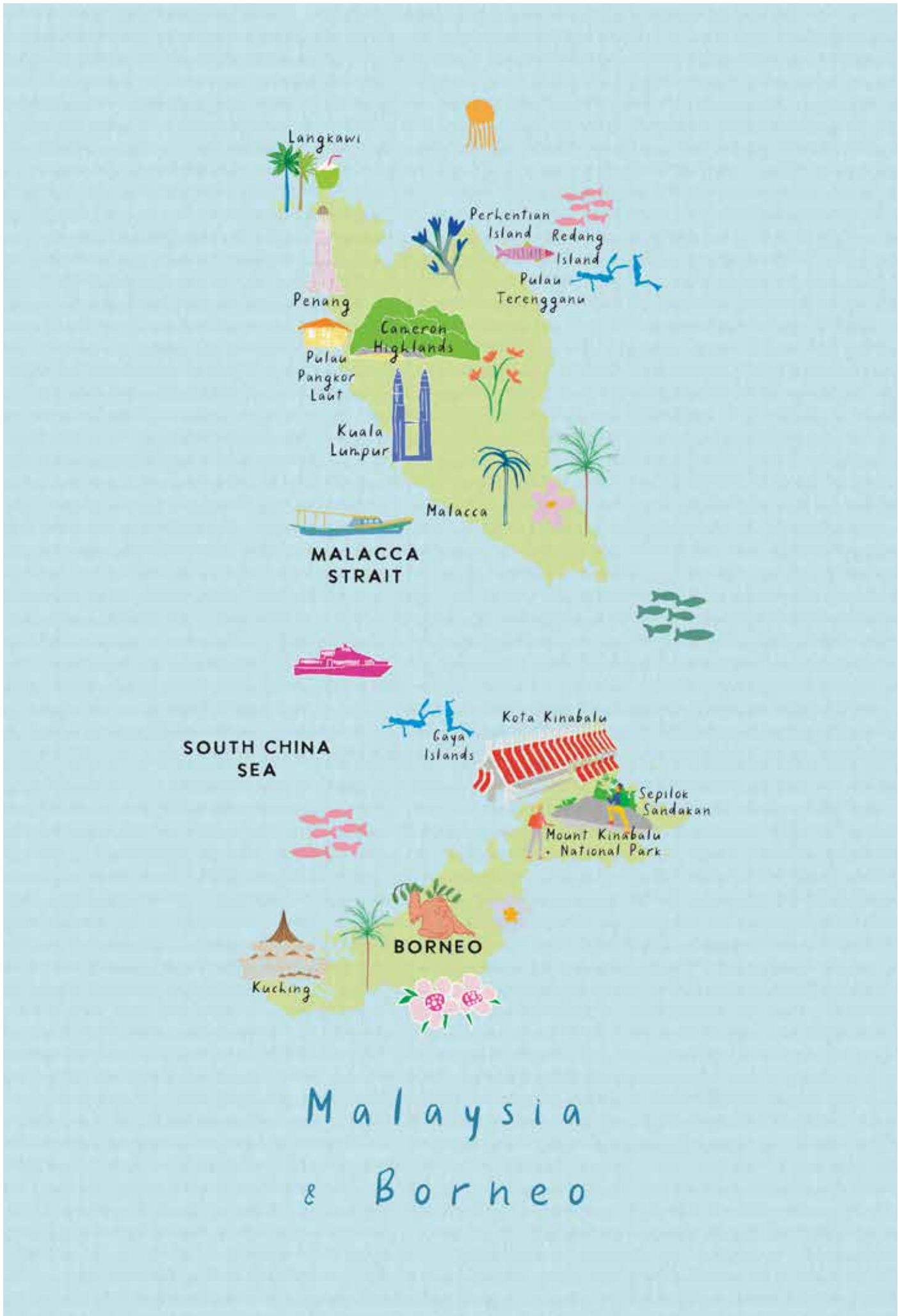


# *Malaysia & Borneo*

CULTURAL DIVERSITY, TROPICAL BEACHES, VIBRANT  
UNDERWATER MARINE LIFE AND WILDLIFE ENCOUNTERS

Wildlife-rich rainforests, glorious beaches and the cool air of the misty highlands combine with vibrant cities and a culture steeped in tradition and history. From the urban charms of cosmopolitan Kuala Lumpur, where traditional coffee houses and temples stand in the shadow of soaring skyscrapers and super-stylish shopping malls, to the Asia of old in multi-cultural Penang, the emerald green tea plantations of the Cameron Highlands and sugar-soft white sands of Langkawi. Across the South China Sea lies the untamed island of Borneo, a nature-lover's dream where orange-hued orangutans, monkeys and pigmy elephants live in a true life Jungle Book.





# *Eastern & Oriental Express*

## THE ROMANCE OF THE GOLDEN AGE OF RAIL TRAVEL REIMAGINED FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

All aboard the Eastern & Oriental Express, a luxury train in Malaysia and a travelling memoir of a beguiling age. The signature cream and green exterior gives way to polished wood-panelled corridors and silken furnishings with a hint of multiple Asian designs. Once inside, take your seat at the Bar Car where a jazz-club ambience reigns with music lingering in the air, while stewards serve champagne and signature cocktails. Exquisite cabins and interiors full of intriguing details and romance will ease you into your cosy sleeping quarters. Take a front-row seat in your private lounge to watch the astonishing landscapes of Malaysia. Indulge in a sumptuous fine dining experience on board from the comfort in one of two dining carriages. Let the sister of the celebrated Venice Simplon-Orient Express, A Belmond Train, take you on a grand journey in Southeast Asia to capture the heart of Malaysia.







## Pullman Cabin

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A paradise of vintage charm, the twin bed setting of the Pullman Cabins dazzles and delights. Relax onto plush seating by day as your cabin is flooded with light, courtesy of the two large windows. After the stars emerge, enjoy upper and lower berths cosy with crisp linens.



## State Cabin

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The light, airy State Cabins of the Eastern & Oriental Express connect you to the passing landscapes outside. Recline in spacious elegance by day; toast the day's adventures with a nightcap before settling into two single beds at floor level at night. Marvel at the unique designs of the State Cabins, as Malaysia rushes by.



## Presidential Suite

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The Presidential Suite offers supreme space with extra luxury touches and a large bathroom with enhanced amenities. Use the Wi-Fi onboard and set the ambience with your own music as you recline in the plush seating area.

- Free-flowing Champagne
- Caviar, fruit basket and flowers upon boarding
- A complimentary 45-min treatment at the Dior Spa per person
- Luxury toiletries
- 24-hour onboard service
- Private arrival and departure transfers
- Direct access to the General Manager to discuss your journey and excursions

# Wild Malaysia

4 days

Step aboard the Eastern & Oriental Express for an overnight journey through Malaysia. Travel north from Singapore through the lush Malay jungle and immerse yourself in a wealth of experiences. From a wildlife mission safe guarding the Malayan tiger to cultural adventures in Penang and moments of relaxation onboard, this is a very special rail journey.

### Highlights

Singapore – Taman Negara – Kuala Lumpur  
Penang Island – Johor

### Tour Includes

- 3 nights aboard the Eastern & Oriental Express luxury train
- Dedicated 24-hour steward service
- All meals, wines and beer with lunch and dinner (*premium drinks and all drinks ordered to your cabin will be charged locally*)
- A guided tour of Taman Negara National Park
- Excursion to Penang Island
- Return Singapore transfers

### Departure Dates

Monday, March – November

### Day 1: Singapore

You will be transferred from your Singapore hotel to Woodlands Station this afternoon. Board the striking green and cream carriages of the Eastern & Oriental Express. Settle into your modern cabin and watch as the train travels through lush, green landscapes. Savour afternoon tea as you soak up the vistas from your cabin. This evening dinner and onboard entertainment await in the Dining Car.

### Day 2: Kuala Lumpur

This morning, enjoy your breakfast and admire the views of the Jungle Railway as the train courses through some of the wildest parts of Malaysia. After lunch, you arrive at Merapoh station and alight for some extraordinary experiences in Taman Negara National Park, it's one of the oldest tropical rainforests in the world. The dense jungle, rivers and mountains give habitat to a diverse array of wildlife including water buffalo, macaques, tapirs and the Malayan tiger. Choose from a variety of activities before returning to the train. This evening enjoy lively local entertainment in the Piano Bar Car, preceded by a delicious dinner.

### Day 3: Penang

Enjoy breakfast and lunch on board, before alighting for the crossing to Penang Island. Here, you will be given a choice of immersions that make the most of Malaysia's cultural melting pot. Art lovers can explore Georgetown Old Quarter with a guide, delving into temples, a contemporary studio and an opera and puppet house. Food aficionados can embark on a discovery of Peranakan cooking, purchasing specialities from spice and grocery stores before mastering delicious local dishes in a cookery class. Or, for those who prefer to explore independently, we present you with a trishaw, a driver and a map, so that you can wind through Georgetown's enchanting streets and visit its attractions on a whim.

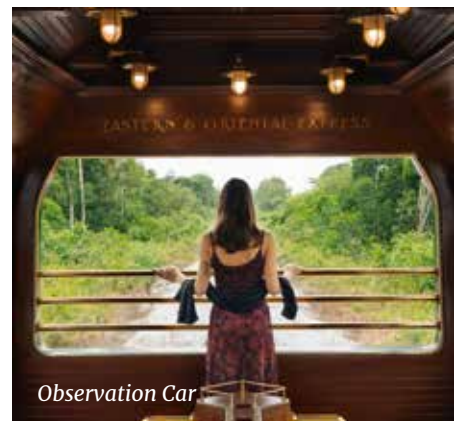
Rejoin the train at Butterworth for a convivial final evening on board with sublime cuisine and fabulous entertainment.

### Day 4: Johor - Singapore

Linger over breakfast in your cabin or the Dining Car as you travel through the southernmost state of Johor. Soon, the train crosses the strait to Singapore, where your Wild Malaysia itinerary comes to an end, your head filled with new, magical memories. Arrive into Singapore Woodlands train station.



View from the train



Observation Car



Train Exterior

# Essence of Malaysia

4 days

From Singapore through Kuala Lumpur, Langkawi and Penang, this journey offers the perfect blend of relaxation and inspiring exploration. Embark on snorkelling tours, island discoveries and fascinating cultural adventures. Meet the locals of a traditional village and taste dishes that are the soul of the region and connect with hosts who will create everlasting memories for you throughout your journey in Malaysia.

### Highlights

Singapore – Langkawi – Penang Island

### Tour Includes

- 3 nights aboard the Eastern & Oriental Express luxury train
- Dedicated 24-hour steward service
- All meals, wines and beer with lunch and dinner (*premium drinks and all drinks ordered to your cabin will be charged locally*)
- Selection of excursions in Langkawi’s Pulau Payar Marine Park, Georgetown and Penang
- Return Singapore transfers

### Departure Dates

Monday, January – February and November – December

### Day 1: Singapore

You will be collected from your Singapore hotel and transferred to Woodlands train station. Board the striking green and cream carriages of the Eastern & Oriental Express. Settle into your cabin and watch as the train travels through lush, green landscapes, setting the scene for your immersion into wild Malaysia.

### Day 2: Langkawi

Enjoy breakfast as the train makes its way through the rice paddies and timeless rural villages of western Malaysia.

After lunch, alight at Alor Setar station for a boat trip to Langkawi’s Pulau Payar Marine Park, renowned for its vibrant underwater life. Here, you will be provided with a luxury picnic and have an array of options to choose from. Unwind with wellness experiences such as a massage, meditation and tai chi, try paddle boarding and snorkelling or stride off on an island walk. Returning to the train, an evening of lively celebrations with local entertainers awaits.

### Day 3: Penang

For the third day of your Essence of Malaysia journey, you’ll arrive in Penang Island. Discover Peranakan cooking, with visits to a spice shop and traditional grocery stores to purchase herbs and vegetables, before trying your hand at making some enticing local dishes. Or maybe you have a passion for culture and art and want to explore the Georgetown Old Quarter to see stunning temples, a contemporary studio and an opera and puppet house. For the independent explorers navigate Georgetown’s picturesque streets at your own pace, with a map, a trishaw and personal driver.

Rejoin the train at Butterworth for lunch and a leisurely afternoon on board. A final celebratory evening beckons and if you’re still up shortly after midnight, head to the Observation Car to glimpse Kuala Lumpur as the train passes through.

### Day 4: Singapore

Linger over breakfast as you travel through the southernmost state of Johor. Soon, the train crosses the strait to Singapore, where your Essence of Malaysia itinerary comes to an end. On arrival into Woodlands train station a driver will meet and transfer you to your Singapore hotel.



Observation Car



View from the train



Train Exterior



# Spotlight on Malaysia

10 days

Welcome to Malaysia, where diverse cultures blend together to create a unique heritage, and vibrant cities wait to be explored. Stroll through colourful markets, where the delicious aromas from the food stalls entice you to sample the local delicacies. Away from the hustle and bustle of Kuala Lumpur, soak up the peaceful atmosphere of the Cameron Highlands, where large tea plantations lie across the undulating hills. From here move onto Penang and then the stunning island of Langkawi for a few days of relaxation where the days are free to spend as you please.

## Highlights

Kuala Lumpur – Cameron Highlands  
Penang – Langkawi

## Tour Includes

- All 4-5\* accommodation
- 11 meals – 9 breakfasts, 1 lunch & 1 dinner
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- Local guide
- Private air-conditioned vehicle

## Departure Dates

Daily

## Day 1: Kuala Lumpur

On arrival at Kuala Lumpur Airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

## Day 2: Kuala Lumpur

Your guide will meet you for a half day city tour and take you to the Petronas Twin Towers for a bird's eye view of the surrounding area (note the Skybridge is closed on Mondays). From here you will walk to a typical Malay village 'Kampung Baru', and stroll down the streets where Malaysian-style food stalls will welcome you to sample local savouries 'kuih' and desserts, as well as the famous Malaysian breakfast 'Nasi Lemak', 'roti canai' and 'Teh Tarik'.

Your private driver will then drive you to the oldest mosque in Kuala Lumpur named Masjid Jamek. Venture into Little India as you walk past the jewellery and saree shops and stroll along the riverbank aka 'River of Life'. Next stop is the historic sites Sultan Abdul Samad Building and Royal Selangor Club before your transfer to Central Market where you can browse local handicrafts. Return to hotel and the rest of the day is free for leisure. This evening you may wish to join a hosted tour of Chinatown (not included).

## Day 3: Kuala Lumpur

Today, you will depart on a private tour to learn of the history of Malaysia in Malacca, the 'Historical City' - with a legacy dating back 600 years from the Malay Sultanates to Portuguese, Dutch and English influences. Visit Porta de Santiago cir.1512, Ruins of St. Paul's Church cir.1571, Dutch Square – with guided sightseeing to the Stadhuis, Christ Church, Clock Tower, the Queen Victoria Fountain, and the Cheng Hoon Teng Temple.

Drive past St. Peter's Church, along rows of quaint pre-war shop houses, and over the historic Malacca River and Bukit Cina or 'Chinese Hill', where huge ornate graves date back to the Ming Dynasty. Take a stroll on Jonker Street, famous for its amazing variety of antique stores. Enjoy an authentic Peranakan lunch, a typical local cuisine with Malay and Chinese influences. Return to your hotel early evening.



Batu Caves

**Day 4: Cameron Highlands**

Check-out of your hotel and your private guide and driver will meet you for your onward journey to the Cameron Highlands. En route, visit the famous Batu Caves where the shrine of the Hindu Deity Lord Subramaniam is set within an outcrop of limestone caves.

After this, continue north to the hill resort of the Cameron Highlands, 1,542 metres above sea level. The Cameron Highlands is famous for its world-renowned tea. Upon arrival in the Cameron Highlands, check in to your hotel. The rest of the day is free.

**Day 5: Penang**

Leave the Cameron Highlands behind as you and your driver/private guide travel into Perak State, famous for its tin mines, cave temples, and royal palaces and learn about the Buddhist, Taoist, and Confucianism beliefs. You will then make a stop at a century-old palace in the Royal Town of Kuala Kangsar, view the enchanting Ubudiah Mosque, with its fairy tale architecture that seems to have emerged from the fables of Arabian nights! It's then time to cross the impressive 8-mile-long bridge to the island of Penang, the 'Pearl of the Orient' for a 2-night stay.

**Day 6: Penang**

This morning join a half day heritage walking tour with your private guide and savour the unique wonders of the old Georgetown, a UNESCO Heritage Site. First visit is the Khoo Kongsi, a building featuring a magnificent hall embellished with intricate carvings and woodwork. Continue to the Goddess of Mercy Temple then on to Little India Spice Market and experience the hustle and bustle of Georgetown's spice trade.

Board your transfer and visit Chew Jetty, the fishing village where houses are built on stilts. Continue to see the ruins of Fort Cornwallis, the Temple of the Reclining Buddha and the Burmese temple. The rest of the afternoon is yours to explore independently. This evening join an evening tour to savour local food. Take a slow trishaw ride through downtown Georgetown for a leisurely view of its heritage. Stroll along the city's waterfront at Gurney Drive. Experience outdoor dining Penang style and savour on local foods at a famous Hawker's Centre.

**Day 7: Langkawi**

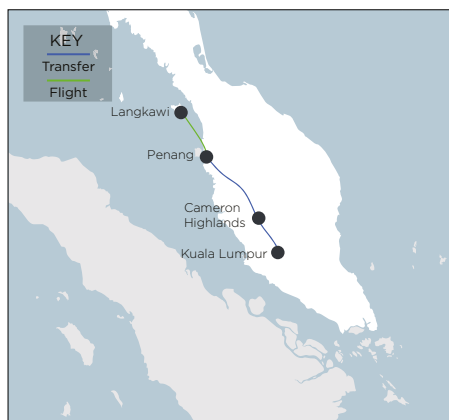
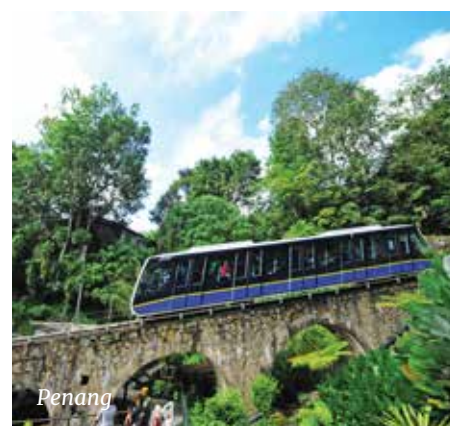
Today your driver will transfer you to the airport for your flight to Langkawi, the Jewel of Kedah. On arrival you'll be transferred to your hotel.

**Day 8 & 9: Langkawi**

We have included 2 days where you can choose to do as little or as much as you wish. Snorkel or dive amongst vibrant coloured coral reef and fish, or ride high on the steepest sky ride in the world taking you to the summit of Mount Mat Cincang where you will be blessed with spectacular views. Nature lovers may embark on a tranquil Kilim River Cruise through a mangrove forest.

**Day 10: Depart Langkawi**

Time to leave the beautiful island for your onward journey to Penang and beyond. You may wish to extend your stay in Borneo.



# Luxurious Malaysia

9 days

Exquisite historical elegance and modern-day creature comforts will welcome the most discerning of guests during your private tour of Malaysia. The attention to detail in hand-selected hotels and touring has been considered by our local English-speaking guides. Each one will discuss your interests and tastes ensuring you gain a relaxing and educational insight into this part of the world, where diverse cultures melt together in pure harmony. Your final stay is on the beautiful island of Pangkor Laut Island, where tropical waters meet jungle forests teeming with wildlife. Explore by land or sea as you ease gently into island life.

## Highlights

Malacca – Kuala Lumpur  
Penang – Pangkor Laut Island

## Tour Includes

- 5\* accommodation
- 12 meals – 8 breakfasts, 3 lunches & 1 dinner
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- Local guides
- Private air-conditioned vehicle

## Departure Dates

Daily

## Day 1: Malacca

On arrival at Kuala Lumpur airport, you will be transferred to the city of Malacca. On arrival, check in to the hotel. Rest of the day is at leisure. *(Alternatively, start the tour from Singapore. Your guide and driver will transfer you across the border to Johor Bahru and continue the journey to Malacca).*

The Majestic Malacca hotel is an integral part of Malacca's colourful history. The original serene mansion, dating back to the 1920s, remains at the heart of the hotel, an extension was added, mirroring the original architecture, to house spacious rooms and suites. The design integrates old with new, ensuring that the total experience remains authentic, honoring the past while bringing every modern convenience to the forefront.

## Day 2: Malacca

Your private guide and driver will take you on a full day tour of Malacca, awarded UNESCO World Heritage status in July 2008. Journey through more than 600 years of history, formerly ruled by the Portuguese, Dutch and lastly the British. Begin this heritage discovery at St. Peter's Church (1710), the oldest Christian church still in use in Malaysia today. Next, drive past the largest 17th century Chinese cemetery outside of China, located at Bukit China.

En route, you will stop to admire two iconic destinations, the landmark gateway 'Porta de Santiago' and the ruins of St. Paul's Church. Your next part of the tour is a 40-minute boat ride on the Malacca River. This journey back through time, passes heritage buildings situated along the river, traditional fishing villages, the Kampung Sentosa living museum house and the Melaka Sultanate Watermill. After the cruise, continue on a walking tour to the Cheng Hoon Teng ancient Chinese Temple and visit The Baba Nyonya Heritage Museum (closed on Mondays). There is time for lunch at a local restaurant before taking a stroll along Malacca's antique row known as Jonker Street. At the end of the tour return to the hotel.

## Day 3: Kuala Lumpur

After breakfast, checkout of your hotel and join your guide and driver for a transfer to Kuala Lumpur. Along the way, stop to take pictures of typical Malay houses and the scenic countryside. There will be a lunch stop en route. On arrival in Kuala Lumpur a city tour will commence with a ride up to the visitor platform of the 421-metre-high KL Tower. From here enjoy views of the city and across the Klang Valley. Stop for photo opportunities at the King's Palace, Petronas Twin Towers and the Parliament Building.



Kuala Lumpur

Next, is the fascinating Thien Hou Chinese Temple. Admire the temple shrine, with dragon-inspired columns and pagoda rooftops. The tour continues to the city centre, to explore Independence Square and the Sultan Abdul Samad Building, the old Federal Court Houses, Heritage Railway station and the National Mosque. End the tour with a stop at the Central Market famous for its handicrafts and batik, before returning to your hotel.

Tonight's stay is at The Majestic Kuala Lumpur hotel. This colonial structure was built in 1932 and became one of the great hotels of its time.

#### **Day 4: Kuala Lumpur**

Enjoy a day at leisure. This evening your guide will meet you and take you to the bustling night markets in Chinatown. Wander through the open-air market and test your bargaining skills for a wide variety of merchandise. Visit the Sri Maha Mariamman Temple, located in the heart of Chinatown. The smell of burning jasmine, the continuous chanting of the Hindu priest, intricately carved deities and a mystical aura combines to create a lasting impression of this religion. End the day with a delicious traditional Chinese dinner served in the famous Old China Café.

#### **Day 5: Penang**

Time to check out of your hotel and join your guide and driver on a transfer to the Cameron Highlands. En route, visit the famous Batu Caves where the shrine of the Hindu Deity Lord Subramaniam is set within an outcrop of limestone caves. Continue north. Along the way, stop at the spectacular Lata Iskandar Waterfall. Upon arrival at the Cameron Highlands, visit the tea plantation (closed on Mondays) and vegetable markets, before checking in to the Cameron Highlands Resort.

Your hotel is set amidst tea plantations and rolling hills. This tranquil boutique hideaway delivers all the splendour, romance and nostalgia of Cameron Highlands grand colonial heritage.

#### **Day 6: Pangkor Laut Island**

Your guide will meet you on check out as you head further north towards Ipoh. En route stop at the cave temples in Gunung Rapat. The temple houses an impressive work of art and various statues of Buddha, set among the natural stalactites and stalagmites. Enjoy a local lunch along the way before a stop at Kuala Kangsar, an attractive royal town, the route passes the Ubudiah Mosque and the Iskandariah Palace. You will embark on a ferry transfer from Lumut jetty to your accommodation on the stunning island of Pangkor Laut.

Pangkor Laut Resort is set in 12 acres of verdant jungle and backing onto 200 acres of forest reserve, and is a perfect island retreat. Villas mingle with the surrounding jungle and verdant gardens on slopes overlooking the sea and mainland. The houses are exquisitely designed around the style of a wooden Malay house and a colonial hill station. Creature comforts abound alongside an explosion of unexpected colour and inspiration. Enjoy the rainforest while lying by the gorgeous pool that overlooks bamboo forests and jungle.

#### **Day 7 & 8: Pangkor Laut Island**

We have set aside the next 2 days for you to enjoy this stunning resort at your own pace. Start your day with a yoga class amidst the fresh open breeze and soothing sound of the waves. Take a guided jungle trek or skim the waves on a paddleboard as you explore the island. Whatever you choose it is going to be hard to leave.

#### **Day 9: Depart Kuala Lumpur**

After checking out you will depart the resort by ferry to Lumut Jetty where you will be met by a private driver and taken by overland transfer back to Kuala Lumpur, arriving in the evening. You may decide to continue your journey to Borneo, we would be happy to make recommendations.



*Batu Caves*



*Kuala Lumpur*



*Pangkor Laut Island*

# Wildlife Adventures in Borneo

12 days

Borneo inspires travellers to reconnect with nature and wildlife. Orangutans take centre stage; pass away the time as these fun-loving mammals, especially the juniors, show off their cheeky personalities and acrobat skills. Natural beauty surrounds you during each step of your journey, sightings differ on each tour as local guides go in search of Borneo's array of the flora, fauna and birdlife on morning drives or river cruises. Early mornings and evening treks will capture the very essence of the diverse wildlife. Share these experiences with fellow guests in some of the more remote overnight stays. We have included a stay on Gaya Island at the end, pure escapism.

## Highlights

Kuala Lumpur – Kota Kinabalu – Sepilok  
Abi Kinabatangan Danum Valley  
Gaya Island

## Tour Includes

- All accommodation
- 20 meals – 11 breakfasts, 5 lunch & 4 dinners
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- Local guides
- Private air-conditioned vehicle

## Departure Dates

Daily

## Day 1: Kuala Lumpur

Upon arrival, you will be greeted and driven to your hotel. The rest of the day is free to explore.

## Day 2: Kota Kinabalu

This morning you will check out early for your flight to Kota Kinabalu. You will be met and transferred to your hotel for a 2-night stay. The rest of the day is at your pace, take a stroll around the craft markets or simply unwind before your adventure begins.

## Day 3: Kota Kinabalu

This morning you will join a group tour in Kinabalu National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, home to a staggering 5000 species of plants, 326 types of resident and migratory birds as well as 100 species of mammals, amphibians and reptiles. Depart the city stopping en-route at Pekan Nabal, where you will have the opportunity to take panoramic photos of Mount Kinabalu. At the Kinabalu Park, follow your local nature guide on one of the many trail walks as you learn more about the different vegetation zones and plants. The biggest highlights here are the 1200 orchid species as well as pitcher plants, many of which are endemic to Kinabalu.

At the botanical garden, often referred to as the 'mountain garden' there is the chance to take a closer look at various, often medicinal plants along a 700-metre-long path. Lunch is included at the national park restaurant, a cosy venue where a variety of Malaysian and Western classics are served.

## Day 4: Sepilok

Transfer to the airport for an onward flight to Sepilok. You will be greeted on arrival for check in at Sepilok Nature Lodge. This hidden resort is located amongst tropical trees and spectacular orchids, and you are within walking distance of the Orangutan Conservation Centre. This evening join your guide on a walk to the Rainforest Discovery Centre, home to the famous 620m long Rainforest Skywalk and the most educational nature park in Malaysia. The Rainforest Skywalk lets you discover life in the treetops. You will find many informative panels to read along the main trails and see rarely seen flying squirrels, tarsiers, slow lorises and much more.



Orangutan



**Day 5: Abi Kinabatangan**

For most guests, this morning will prove to be a highlight as you visit Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre. At this centre, observe man’s closest relative being rehabilitated to survive in their natural habitat.

Next is a visit to the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre, a centre that manages to improve the living condition of the rescued Sun Bears. Lunch is enjoyed at a local restaurant.

After lunch, board a boat to Kinabatangan Wetlands Resort in Abai Kinabatangan for a 2 night stay. The boat ride takes you across Sandakan Bay, passing the historical Berhala island. Enjoy refreshments whilst being briefed about the lodge and the activities, there is time to freshen up before your tour later this afternoon. You will be guided on a small boat cruise along the Kinabatangan River in search of wildlife, soak up the stunning river landscape as the sun sets. Dinner will be served with fellow guests before you are handed a headlamp or torchlight to take a nocturnal stroll with your host along the boardwalk.

**Day 6: Kinabatangan Wetland Resort**

Join an early morning cruise to observe the wildlife and birdlife. Learn about the local Orang Sungei (River People) way of life as you pass the local fishing village, Kampung Abai. You may opt to purchase their catch of the day which will contribute in a small way to their economy. Your chef will be more than happy to cook and serve it during dinner.

There is another river adventure this afternoon as you cruise in search of village landscapes and wildlife and a final night cruise after dinner, in search of nocturnal wildlife.

**Day 7: Danum Valley**

Depart for the Danum Valley Conservation Area. This is one of the oldest rainforests in the world and the sheer magnificence of it will keep you in awe as you trek along its trails, swim in its rock pools and get a bird’s eye view of the forest from the canopied suspension bridge. This evening, after dinner (weather permitting), there is a nocturnal tour.

**Day 8: Danum Valley**

Wake up to the calls of the Bornean gibbons. Breakfast is served before you start your day with a trek to the ancient burial site, Coffin Cliff. This afternoon your choice of optional activities include a guided jungle trekking or if weather permits, a water tubing session down Danum River.

**Day 9: Gaya Island**

This morning starts with a leisurely breakfast. Your driver will return you on a shared transfer to Lahad Datu for a flight to Kota Kinabalu. On arrival you will be met and transferred on a shared boat ride to Bunga Raya Island.

**Day 10 & 11: Gaya Island**

We have included 2 free days for you to take it at your own pace. Take a dip in the warm azure waters, or glide across the ocean on a paddleboard or kayak or simply relax, poolside.

**Day 12: Depart Kota Kinabalu**

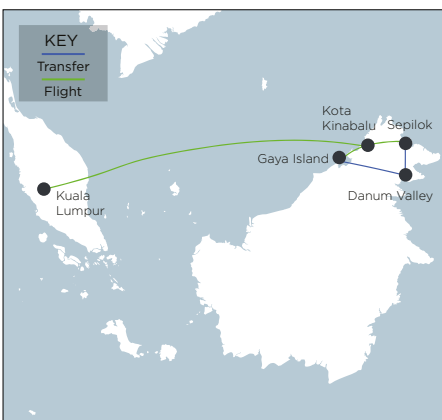
You may wish to extend your stay, or if it’s time to leave a boat transfer will take you back to the mainland and transfer you to Kota Kinabalu airport.



*Proboscis Monkey*



*Rafflesia, the biggest flower in the world*



*Gaya Island Resort*

# Kuala Lumpur & Cameron Highlands



## Flavours to Savour

Kuala Lumpur's melting pot of cultures has created a truly fabulous food scene. Malay, Chinese and Indian cuisines offers an endless array of choice. Steaming food stalls can be found throughout the city including on Petaling Street, home to some of the city's most famous eateries. To really explore, a guided food tour is the perfect option.



## Time for Tea

The cool climate of the Cameron Highlands has been long revered as a place to escape the heat and humidity of the city. Tea plantations stretch as far as the eye can see, and this hill station region is quintessentially old England. Take a plantation tour and sample the local tea. To avoid the crowds, plan your visit away from the weekend.



## Colonial Past

There are glimpses of Malaysia's colonial-era past wherever you turn. In the tea plantations of hill country and in Kuala Lumpur with the buildings around Merdeka Square, the Old Kuala Lumpur Railway Station, Royal Selangor Club and St Mary's Cathedral. A walking or cycling tour is an excellent way to discover the full history of the city.



## Temples and Skyscrapers

The shining silver rocket-like Petronas Twin Towers were once the tallest buildings in the world. These 88-storey skyscrapers are connected by a skybridge on the 41st floor, making for sensational views. Below, mosques and temples and churches are dotted around the city, a reflection of the many ethnic groups.



## Natural Wonders

In the centre of KL, the Perdana Botanical Gardens offer an oasis of calm, with orchid gardens, birds, butterflies and a deer park. The Batu Caves, just a short drive from the city are a complex of limestone caves that hold Hindu temples, reached by a flight of colourful steps. In the Cameron Highlands explore walking trails to hidden waterfalls and soak up the beautiful scenery.



## Cultural Charms

In Kampung Baru you can still find the original wooden stilted Malay houses built in the 19th century, whilst in Little India exotic flower shops and intricate handicrafts take centre stage. Visit the impressive Islamic Art Museum Malaysia for the largest collection of Islamic art in Asia and Merdeka Square, the original city centre in the heart of Kuala Lumpur.

# Our Favourite Sightseeing Tours

## Best of Kuala Lumpur Classic Cycle Ride

If you want to discover the city and stay active, then this tour is perfect. Learn about the history and culture of the city from the saddle of your bicycle. Meet your guide who will offer a safety briefing, provide you with a bicycle, helmet, orange visibility jacket and raincoat. Time to get the pedals turning passing by some of the striking icons of the city including the Petronas Tower, the fruit and vegetable market in Chow Kit and the Sin Sze Ya temple. Take in the sights and sounds of the city with your enthusiastic guide who will share the history and culture of Kuala Lumpur with you. Stop en route for a delightful brunch.

Departs: Daily  
Duration: 4½ hours

## Heritage on a Plate

Join this fun street food walking tour in Kuala Lumpur, where your guide will take you to some of the city's most popular food destinations. Start at Jalan Imbi, a street known for its delicious Chinese cuisine. Next, visit a famous Indian Muslim restaurant or 'Mamak Shops' as they are affectionally known as in Malaysia. Head to a local venue where you'll learn how to make popular Malaysian snacks such as popiah, onde-onde or roti jala. Throughout the tour, your guide will share fascinating insights into the history and culture of Kuala Lumpur's street food scene. Get ready to taste some of the most delicious food in the city!

Departs: Daily  
Duration: 4 hours

## Batu Caves and Royal Selangor Pewter Tour

Explore the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur. First, visit the well-known Royal Selangor Pewter factory, the largest in the world. Learn about its history and watch a demonstration of some of the many processes involved in creating a pewter product. Afterwards, enjoy a brief stop at the Batik Centre and discover how this popular Malaysian fabric is designed and printed. The last part of the tour is to the Batu Caves, this world-famous limestone outcrop houses a Hindu temple and is visited by thousands of pilgrims every year. At the entrance, admire the impressive golden structure of the 140-foot tall statue of Hindu God Lord Murugan, and then climb up 272 stairs to reach the main cave temple. At the top, look out for the cheeky monkeys and take in the magnificent view of the skyline of Kuala Lumpur.

Departs: Daily  
Duration: 3½ hours

## Malacca Day Tour with River Cruise

This day tour is a perfect and an active opportunity to learn more about the history of one of the most popular cities in Malaysia. Your heritage trail includes stops enroute that depict the history and religion still found here in Malaysia. Slow down and relax as you enjoy a boat ride on the Malacca River. This journey passes several historical heritage buildings and bridges situated along the river, colourful murals and the oldest traditional Malay village. After the cruise, stroll to Cheng Hoon Teng, before stopping for lunch at a local restaurant. This afternoon, wander along Malacca's antique row known as Jonker Street before returning to Kuala Lumpur.

Departs: Daily  
Duration: 8 hours



Kuala Lumpur Skyline

## Kuala Lumpur Accommodation

### Traders Hotel Kuala Lumpur

Base yourself in the heart of Kuala Lumpur at the Traders Hotel to be immersed in the city's vibrant culture. Set amongst unique local attractions and shopping opportunities, you'll also have one of the best views of the famed Petronas Twin Towers. All rooms are modern and offer skyline or city views, and there are 2 stylish restaurants on-site featuring contemporary western and Asian cuisine. One of the most popular features at this hotel is the sleek open-air rooftop SkyBar – the perfect place to unwind with a cocktail after exploring the city.

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur

Our rating: ★★★★★



### Hotel Stripes Kuala Lumpur

Experience the energy and rich culture of the city at Hotel Stripes. A member of Autograph Collection Hotels, this property has a distinct independence and character, and is located in the thriving Jalan Kamunting neighbourhood with roots dating back to the colonial era. Rooms are chic, functional and sophisticated with a bespoke design in cream, charcoal and gold. The rooftop pool overlooks the Kuala Lumpur skyline and is also home to a cocktail bar which is an ideal urban escape, and there is also a fully equipped gym. Dining options at Hotel Stripes include Brasserie 25 – a favourite with locals and guests alike, which serves an afternoon tea with an Asian twist at weekends.

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur

Our rating: ★★★★★



### Villa Samadhi

Stepping into Villa Samadhi, you'll instantly leave the hustle and bustle of Kuala Lumpur behind. Located a 30-minute walk or a short taxi ride away from the Petronas Towers in a residential area, the 21 rooms all have a bespoke, individual style utilising bamboo and locally crafted furniture in a 'rustic-luxe' concept. Rooms on the ground floor have direct access to the main free-form swimming pool, and the deluxe rooms have both an indoor and outdoor Jacuzzi. The circular dining room overlooks the villa, on the edge of the lagoon-like pool surrounded by tropical plants and cabanas. Malaysian and western cuisines are offered here made from local, seasonal produce, with some ingredients picked from the villa's own garden.

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur

Our rating: ★★★★★



### Shangri-La

Experience laid back luxury in the city at the Shangri-La Kuala Lumpur, whilst being a 5-minute walk from the central business and shopping districts. The outdoor pool is surrounded by skyscrapers, and the spa is the perfect place to escape and enjoy a signature massage or holistic treatment. Elegance and attention to detail come hand-in-hand with any Shangri-La hotel, and Kuala Lumpur is no exception. Stay in one of the contemporary guest rooms with city or garden views, or opt for one of the Horizon Club rooms with access to a lounge serving a daily buffet breakfast, cocktails and canapés in the evenings. Choose from numerous dining options such as the Lemon Tree international buffet, the flavours of Asia at Shang Palace or Arthur's Bar & Grill for a New York-style diner

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur

Our rating: ★★★★★





## Mandarin Oriental

Offering impressive views located between the Petronas Towers and the flowering gardens of the KLCC Park, the multi-award-winning Mandarin Oriental is in one of the best locations to experience the city. Soak in the skyline views from the famed infinity pool or one of the nearby cabanas and daybeds or delight your senses at one of several food and beverage outlets offering carefully mixed cocktails to afternoon tea. Luxurious guest rooms and apartments are designed with a stylish oriental flair with sumptuous beds and extravagant bathrooms. There is also a beautifully designed spa to retreat to after you have returned from many shopping or culinary opportunities that Kuala Lumpur has to offer.

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur

Our rating: ★★★★★



## The RuMa Hotel and Residences

Set in the heart of Kuala Lumpur's Golden Triangle, the RuMa blends the city's past and present with chic design and a nod to its industrious past. The word 'rumah' is Malay for house, but the luxury modern rooms featuring gold, copper and steel are far from traditional whilst still maintaining the intimacy of a home. Bedrooms have elegant furnishings with a Malay charm including screen doors and oval soaking bathtubs. All your dining needs will be catered for at ATAS, a speciality European bistro or the Lobby Bar where you can order a specially curated cocktail. The LIBRARI is the all-day venue for afternoon tea and lighter fare or choose to relax at SANTAI Pool Bar on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor with views of the Petronas Towers.

**Location:** Kuala Lumpur

Our rating: ★★★★★



## The Lakehouse Cameron Highlands

Located just a few kilometres from the township of Ringlet, this Tudor-style boutique resort is surrounded by rolling hills whilst still being well located close to important cultural and historical attractions. The property overlooks the Sultan Abu Bakar Lake, and also backs onto a forest reserve with an array of birdlife. Constructed by a British Army Officer in 1966, the hotel is an ideal getaway with old-world charm, guest rooms are tastefully furnished with antique furniture and en-suite facilities. For active guests, consider a free jungle trekking tour, or take part in strawberry jam-making or a mojito-making workshop under the watchful eye of the chefs and bartenders.

**Location:** Cameron Highlands

Our rating: ★★★★★



## Cameron Highlands Resort

This resort is set against the tea plantations and hills of Pahang, the highest point of mainland Malaysia. The design of the hotel featuring plantation shutters, polished wood floors and rich, bespoke furnishings are hallmarks of the colonial era and give the property a nostalgic charm. With just 56 well appointed rooms, Cameron Highlands Resort prides itself on caring for its guests in a boutique, luxury setting, with a backdrop of the Highlands, affectionately known as 'a little piece of England in Asia'. Enjoy a round of golf at Cameron Highlands 18-hole course adjacent to the hotel, ramble along jungle trails and strawberry farms, or relax in a tea bath at the Spa Village.

**Location:** Cameron Highlands

Our rating: ★★★★★



# Penang & Langkawi

With its long history and sublime food scene Penang is a delight to explore. The island of Langkawi entices with gleaming white beaches and ancient rainforest teeming with wildlife.

## Seven Terraces

In the heart of historic Georgetown, a row of 19th century Anglo-Chinese houses behind the Goddess of Mercy Temple has been reimagined into 18 suites designed in a carefully curated style. This luxury boutique property offers exclusive accommodation and fine dining, with the Kebaya Restaurant serving fusion dishes. You will be situated just footsteps from the main attractions of Georgetown, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Suites are decorated in the ornate Peranakan Chinese style featuring mother of pearl furniture, antiques and four poster beds. The courtyard pool is complemented by the exquisitely furnished public areas and is the perfect haven within this colourful city.

**Location:** Penang

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★



## Shangri-La Golden Sands

Located on one of Penang's most popular beaches, Batu Feringgi, Shangri-La Golden Sands is the ideal base to explore this gem of Southeast Asia, with Georgetown 20 minutes' drive away by complimentary shuttle. A stay here will offer a wealth of activities in this tropical paradise, if you can tear yourself from one of 2 pools or the golden sands including tennis, and a golf course. For families, there is also an Adventure Zone with children's pool. This resort offers a blend of traditional and modern comforts with warm Asian hospitality and Malay-inspired design, with rooms ranging from family suites to those with private balconies and sea views. Enjoy casual dining at Sigi's Bar & Grill on the beach, whilst the sun sets.

**Location:** Penang

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★





## Eastern & Oriental Hotel

Known simply as the E&O, this hotel exudes charm and history from bygone years of intrepid travellers seeking to experience the exotic East. For well over a century, the E&O has welcomed the world in timeless style, being the 'Grand Dame' of Georgetown. The hotel is split into two wings: the Heritage Wing with a chic waterfront pool, and the more modern Victory Annexe that still retains the old-world ambience. Each suite offers the chance to step back in time to colonial grandeur – choose a corner suite to have views of both the water and the city. Highlights from the hotel's food and beverage offering include the time-honoured tradition of afternoon tea at the Palm Court, and the vintage Farquhar's Bar where you can relax with your favourite drink overlooking Penang's waterfront.

**Location:** Penang

Our rating: ★★★★★



## Rebak Island Resort & Marina

Experience the luxury in island living at Rebak Island Resort & Marina, Langkawi. This secluded retreat is located on Rebak Island in the heart of the Langkawi archipelago, surrounded by fine sand and clear waters just a short boat journey from the mainland. Consider this a private island experience, with 390 acres of discovery at your disposal. Rooms here really are a sanctuary, set amongst lush gardens and rainforest, just steps from the beach. Malaysian heritage is the focus of the interiors, with indigenous materials reflecting the splendour of the island. When you aren't exploring, dine on an array of Malay delights and fresh seafood at the Senari Sea View Restaurant and Beach Bar overlooking the strait of Malacca.

**Location:** Langkawi

Our rating: ★★★★★



## Casa Del Mar

Arrive at your home by the sea at Casa Del Mar, a Mediterranean-style boutique resort on Pantai Cenang Beach. With just 34 rooms, the attentive staff will ensure you feel at home quickly. All rooms feature sliding floor-to-ceiling windows opening onto a private terrace and have views stretching across the Andaman Sea. Dining options are all relaxed, with the alfresco restaurant La Luna offering a tasting menu under the stars, and the all-day La Sal Restaurant with Asian and western cuisine complete with beach dining area and pool bar. You may wish to spend your days island hopping on a charter boat or taking part in a cooking class to discover Malay cuisine. There is also a blissful day spa.

**Location:** Langkawi

Our rating: ★★★★★



## The Ritz-Carlton Langkawi

Set in a private bay, home to an ancient rainforest and tranquil beaches, nature and luxury come together to create a truly special experience. This resort is sophisticated with a welcoming ambience, and just 10 minutes away from the local town with its colourful night markets. With private outdoor spaces, glass walls and neutral materials, bedrooms and suites invite the outdoors in, and guests will feel connected to the entrancing natural landscape just beyond their windows. Choose from 3 inviting pools or visit the only overwater spa on the island with its cocoon-shaped pavilions. The on-site private cove has access to diving sites or try outdoor yoga with views of the rainforest. As you would expect from any Ritz-Carlton, service is exemplary and will leave you wanting to stay longer.

**Location:** Langkawi

Our rating: ★★★★★



# Beach Stays

Relax and unwind on Malaysia's incredible beaches, perfect for an indulgent beach holiday in their own right or as the wonderful conclusion to a Malay adventure.

## Pangkor Laut Resort

Pangkor Laut Resort is a private island resort made up of beautifully appointed villas scattered amongst hills and lush gardens or resting on stilts above the island's emerald waters. Immerse yourself within the rainforest that is 2 million years in the making along the straits of Malacca, as this is the only resort on this island paradise. Each villa is elegantly designed with the natural environment in mind, with plush beds and magnificent views. Take a culinary tour from the resort's 5 restaurants and 2 bars including specialties such as seafood, Chinese-style home cooking, or a romantic private dining experience. For those seeking ultimate relaxation, visit the Spa Village – a unique retreat focusing on the healing culture of the region for complete rejuvenation at this secluded retreat.

**Location:** Pangkor Laut

Our rating: ★★★★★

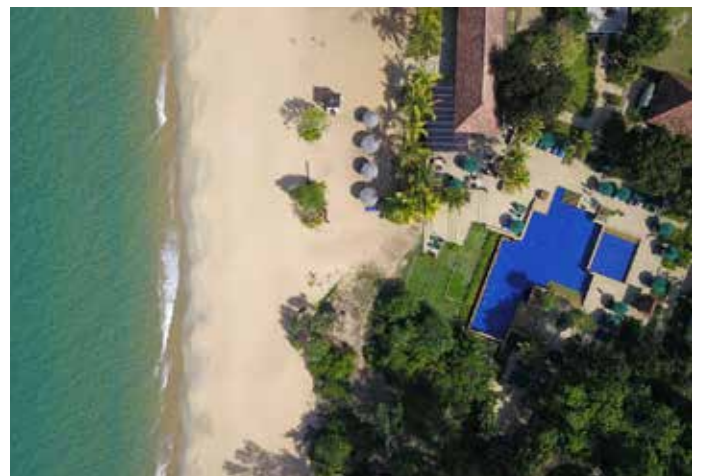


## Tanjong Jara Resort

Facing the South China Sea, the Tanjong Jara Resort reflects a 17th century Malay palace, with a serene, regal feel. Surrounded by the tropical jungle and home to golden beaches, it truly is a luxurious sanctuary. The resort is designed in an authentic manner, with service to match – accommodation is furnished in local timber and rich fabrics some with views of the sea or landscaped gardens, some with open bathrooms and outdoor verandas. A selection of restaurants celebrate fresh, local flavours, in an informal setting. Dine in the beautiful setting of Di Atas Sungei meaning 'above the river' it has no menu so that the 'Menu Masters' can guide you through Malaysian cuisine. The hotel also offers a unique turtle hatching experience dependent on season at their on-site hatchery.

**Location:** Terengganu

Our rating: ★★★★★







## The Taaras Beach & Spa Resort

Taaras Beach Resort is a true barefoot luxury experience, located on the stunning island of Redang. Surrounded by powder white sand and the tropical rainforest, the resort has 125 stylish suites and rooms that instantly make you feel at home. Oversized beds and specially commissioned furniture and photography of the island decorate the guest rooms, with hand-picked linens and fabrics for ultimate comfort. Most rooms have outdoor space, with views of the beach and ocean. There is a large swimming pool, and sea sports are also available including snorkelling, windsurfing and fishing trips. Other facilities include a day spa, fitness centre and 2 restaurants and bars.

**Location:** Redang Island

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★



## BuBu Resort & BuBu Villa

Experience 2 tropical island getaways just metres from Long Beach. At the northern end of Long Beach, BuBu Resort is located on the beachfront, offering just 36 rooms designed in a simple style with modern touches and amenities. The property offers both a buffet style and a la carte restaurant with a casual beach bar. Guests will also be able to enjoy the in-house dive centre. Just 500 metres from BuBu Resort is BuBu villa, with a collection of traditional villas situated right on the beach. Whilst at this island paradise, choose to take part in jungle trekking, snorkelling or a beach candlelit dinner.

**Location:** Perhentian Islands

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★



## Gaya Island Resort

Gaya Island Resort sits within the protected Tunku Abdul Marine Park – a sanctuary within the rainforest and home to sheltered coral reefs and mangroves. Committed to sustainable practices, this is a walking resort with minimal motorised vehicles so you can stay in harmony with the natural world. Rooms are spread across a hillside, blending in with the local environment making use of local, natural materials. Experience the 7 wonders of flora and fauna of Gaya within the resort from Proboscis monkeys to twilight fireflies. Choose to dine in one of the restaurants featuring seafood or Asian-Pacific fusion or opt for a sunset private dining experience. Gaya Island Resort also has a spa village centred on age-old healing methods.

**Location:** Gaya Island

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



## Shangri-La Tanjung Aru

Just 10 minutes from Kota Kinablu Airport, the Shangri-La Tanjung Aru is a serene retreat in a tranquil corner overlooking the South China Sea. This sophisticated resort has a wealth of facilities, including one of Borneo's finest spas located on an island connected to the hotel by private causeway. Guest rooms are in one of two wings, with either sea or mountain views, and are inspired by the rich colours and textures of Borneo. As far as dining goes, you can watch dishes being created at live cooking stations at Café TATU, or enjoy a sundowner at the Sunset Bar amongst other options to suit various tastes. There are facilities for all of the family here, with 25 acres of landscaped gardens, swimming pools and the chance for standup paddleboarding or traditional fishing demonstrations.

**Location:** Kota Kinabalu

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

# Bali & Beyond

SWATHES OF RICE TERRACES, COLOURFUL FESTIVALS,  
AND THE WARMEST OF BALINESE WELCOMES

Bali conjures up thoughts of paradise. A coastline strewn with beaches, linear terraces of rice paddies and lush jungle cascading from the island's volcanic highlands. The southern-most coast is home to the fashionable beach resorts of Seminyak and Sanur, where cool beach clubs and gorgeous hotels line the sand. If you're in search of quieter, volcanic beaches then head to the east coast, the snorkelling and diving is superb. Ubud remains Bali's artistic heartland and is a colourful, vibrant village strung along the jungle-clad Ayung River Gorge. Bali is an island where its natural beauty sits hand in hand with ancient traditions that are found everywhere from the peaceful Hindu temples to vibrant festivals and ceremonies.

Venture beyond Bali to neighbouring Lombok and you'll be rewarded with glorious beaches and stunning scenery without the crowds. Explore the tiny archipelago of the Gili Islands or the Komodo Islands, home to the prehistoric Komodo dragons.



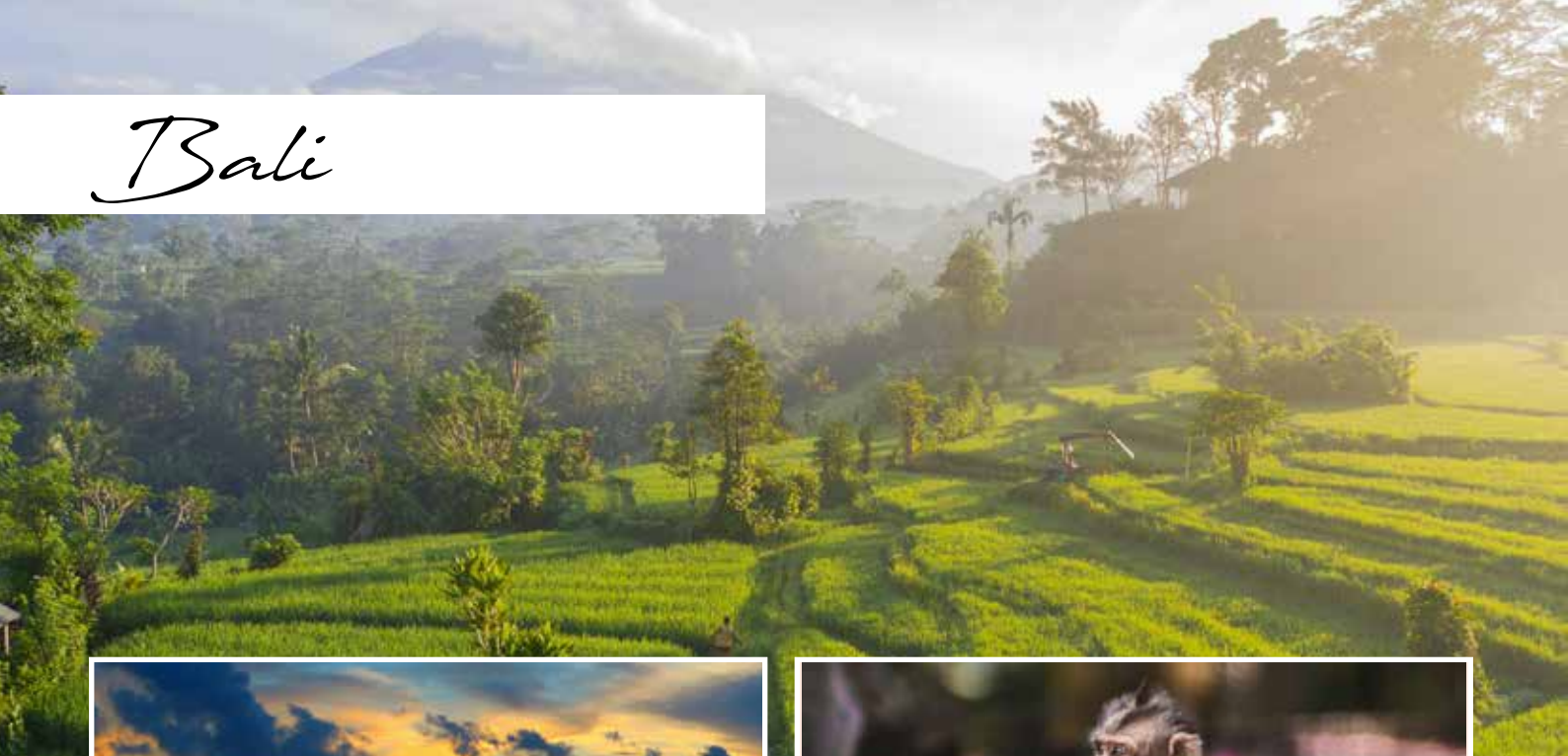
BALI SEA

Labuan Bajo  
+  
Komodo Island



# Bali and Beyond

# Bali



## Sanur

Charming Sanur has a pleasing mix of hotels and restaurants, palm-fringed beaches that are perfect for swimming from and a quieter, traditional Balinese feel. The beachfront walkway winds past beachfront cafés and wooden fishing boats and is the perfect way to start the day, especially for those drawn to spectacular sunrises.

## Ubud

Regarded as the spiritual and artistic hub of Bali, Ubud is a lively village filled with local art, beautiful textiles, Balinese antiques and ancient temples. The adjacent Ayung River Valley is a great spot for hiking and cycling, whilst the Ubud Monkey Forest is home to hundreds of wild monkeys.



## Lombok

Known for its beautiful white beaches and excellent diving, Lombok has often been overlooked in favour of its more well-known Balinese neighbour. That is starting to change but it remains a peaceful island paradise that works perfectly as a twin, or multi centre island hopping adventure through Indonesia.

## Gili Islands

Whilst a tiny archipelago, the Gili Islands offer an abundance of stunning marine life, castaway beaches and gin-clear waters, perfect for snorkelling and diving. Pick your spot carefully, the east coast of Gili Trawangan (of Gili T as its known) is busy and bustling, Gili Meno is its restful and serene neighbour, whilst Gili Air is a pleasing mix of both.

# Classic Bali

## 6 days

Welcome to Bali, where endless soft sandy beaches, sparkling azure waters of the Indian Ocean, rice terraces, ancient sites and traditional dance are here to enhance your visit. We have combined 2 very contrasting locations. Ubud is a town set amongst rice paddies and steep ravines, seek out street markets where you can practice your haggling skills. Once you have explored this area your next stay is where you can feel the white soft sands between your toes.

### Highlights

Ubud - Nusa Dua

### Tour Includes

- 4-5\* accommodation
- 5 breakfasts
- All sightseeing and entrance fees mentioned
- Private driver in an air-conditioned vehicle
- English-speaking local guides

### Departure Dates

Daily

*(Please note mid-end March annually there is a one-day public holiday, Nyepi Day whereby no activities are allowed on the island, we will advise at time of enquiry)*

### Day 1: Ubud

Upon arrival at the airport, you will be met by a guide and transferred to your hotel in Ubud. Check in and get acquainted with your room or take a refreshing dip in the swimming pool.

### Day 2: Ubud

Join your driver and guide for a full day tour which will start with a visit to the sacred monkey forest, where you will find around 700 Balinese long-tailed macaques in the wild. Walk through the 12.5 hectares of forest, you will find three temples guarded by monkeys that live in harmony.

Next stop is Ubud Palace and Ubud Art market where you will find unique silk scarves, woven bags and more to take home as local gifts. Finally, you will visit the Holy Spring Water Temple Tirta Empul before returning to your hotel for the evening.

### Day 3: Ubud

A new day and another full day exploring. First stop is a visit to Tegalalang rice terrace and then Kintamani, from where you can see the volcano and Lake Batur. Onto the Temple Besakih, known as 'Mother Temple' the largest and most important of the island, located on the slopes of Mount Agung, where there is a shrine complex built in 189 AD. Return to your hotel in time for a sundowner.

### Day 4: Nusa Dua

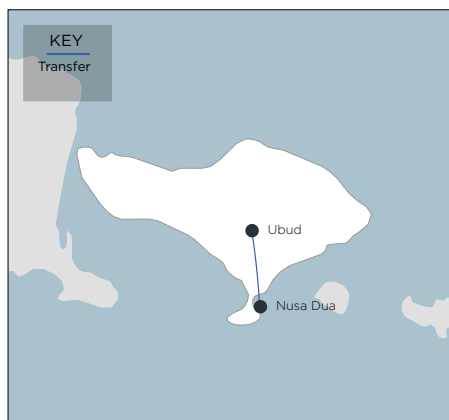
This morning your guide will collect you to explore the impressive royal temple of Taman Ayun in Mengwi. Drive to Bedugul and visit the famous Ulun Danu temple on the lakeside. Continue to Jatiluwih rice-field terraces, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Next stop is the most famous temple in Bali, Tanah Lot Temple. One of Bali's most important landmarks, famed for its unique offshore setting and sunset backdrops. An ancient Hindu shrine perched on top of an outcrop amidst constantly crashing waves; Tanah Lot Temple is simply among Bali's not-to-be-missed icons. You will be dropped at your Nusa Dua hotel on the shores of the Indian Ocean.

### Day 5: Nusa Dua

Wake up at leisure and take a beach stroll after a lazy breakfast. This afternoon your guide will take you to the sacred Hindu site, Uluwatu temple, hanging on a cliff 100 meters above the ocean, this is a truly unique sight. You will be entertained with a Kecak Dance, performed by up to 50 singers. This dance is the only one based on vocals rather than instruments, dating far back into Balinese history.

### Day 6: Depart Nusa Dua

Your driver will transfer you to the airport for your onward journey.



# Beautiful Bali

## 8 days

Temples, wildlife, culture, beach style living and traditional dances welcome you to Bali at a slower pace. Each day is planned for you to ensure you see the sites that make Bali such a magnet to visitors from across the globe. Equally it is just as easy to unplan and add a night or two and unwind, catch your breath on a sunbed by the pool or book an exclusive massage.

### Highlights

Ubud – Candidasa – Nusa Dua

### Tour Includes

- 4-5\* accommodation
- 5 breakfasts
- All sightseeing and entrance fees mentioned
- Private driver in an air-conditioned vehicle
- English-speaking local guides

### Departure Dates

Daily

*(Please note mid-end March annually there is a one-day public holiday, Nyepi Day whereby no activities are allowed on the island, we will advise at time of enquiry)*

### Day 1: Ubud

Upon arrival at the airport, you will be met by a local guide and driven to your hotel to relax into the Balinese lifestyle.

### Day 2: Ubud

Your guide will meet you this morning. Enjoy a full day tour which will include a visit to the famous sacred monkey forest, where you will find around 700 Balinese long-tailed macaques in the wild. Walk along the 12.5 hectares of forest and find three temples guarded by monkeys that live in harmony. Your next visit is Ubud Palace and Ubud Art market, where you can find an array of local crafts, perfect to take home as gifts and keepsakes. Finally, visit the Holy Spring Water Temple Tirta Empul. Time to return to your hotel where you may wish to enjoy a pre-dinner cocktail.

### Day 3: Ubud

Today is another full day of exploring as your guide takes you to the impressive royal temple of Taman Ayun in Mengwi. Built in 1634, this spacious temple is encircled by a wide moat. Drive to Bedugul and visit the famous Ulun Danu temple on the lakeside. Continue to Jatiluwih rice-field terraces, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Return to your hotel for a cool dip in the pool at the close of the day.

### Day 4: Candidasa

Leave your Ubud hotel with your guide this morning. First visit today is to the Tegalalang rice terrace before driving to Kintamani, from where you can see the volcano and Lake Batur. Continue to the Temple Besakih, known as 'Mother Temple' the largest most important of the island, on the slopes of Mount Agung, where there is a shrine complex built in 189 AD. Later arrive at your new hotel in Candidasa, an eastern coastal town in Bali, that sits on the edge of a freshwater lagoon.

### Day 5: Candidasa

Today's full day tour is a photographer's delight as you will see some of Bali's most beautiful scenery. Glimpse the Gates of Heaven, Lempuyang Temple, a heavenly place where you can feel a peaceful vibe. On the top, you will see the scenic view of the gate overlooking Mount Agung. Next, stop by the lavish royal water garden in Karangasem. Tirta Gangga water garden features a beautiful pond, lake, fountain, and guardian statues and is surrounded by a tropical garden. Move on to Tenganan the ancient village Bali Aga and also famous for its Balinese double ikat weaving called gringsing. Later this afternoon you will return to your hotel with a camera full of images.



Tanah Lot Temple

**Day 6: Nusa Dua**

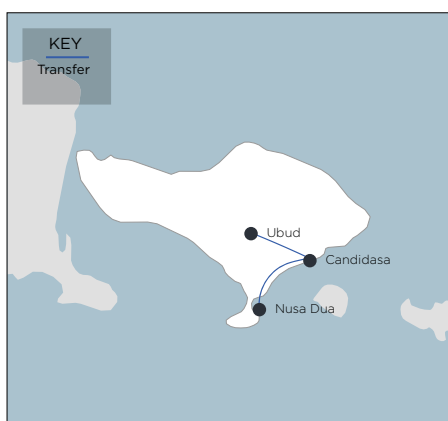
Moving on today, so check out and meet your guide who will take you to visit the holy cave of Goa Lawah with thousands of bats hanging from the walls. It is thought that the cave leads all the way to Mount Agung, home to a giant snake called Naga Basuki. Drive down to Klungkung, and visit Kertagosa, ancient court of justice. Continue the tour to visit the most famous Bali Icon Temple - Tanah Lot Temple. Tanah Lot Temple is one of Bali's most important landmarks. This ancient Hindu shrine is perched on top of a rocky outcrop, surrounded by the constant crashing of waves. This remarkable temple is simply unmissable. From here you will be taken to your Nusa Dua hotel for a 2 night stay.

**Day 7: Nusa Dua**

This morning is free to unwind. Sit by the pool or read a book and slip into blissful relaxation. You will be amazed this afternoon as your guide takes you to a temple on a cliff 100 meters above the ocean, Uluwatu temple is a unique sight. Even more impressive is the Kecak Dance, performed by up to 50 singers. This dance is the only one based on vocals rather than instruments, dating far back into Balinese history. You will be returned to your hotel for the remainder of the evening at your own pace.

**Day 8: Depart Nusa Dua**

Time to check out, or maybe you wish to extend your stay. When you are ready to leave you will be met and transferred to the airport for your return flight or onward journey.

*Ubud**Candidasa**Sacred Monkey Forest*

# Wildlife & Wonders of Indonesia

13 days

Unique wildlife, sense of adventure and a mix of culture is what you can expect from this discovery of Bali and islands. Take time to immerse in the local wildlife, from Balinese long-tailed macaques to trekking in search of the largest lizard in the world, the Komodo Dragon. A highlight will be an overnight stay on board a traditional wooden boat. Share stories with your newfound friends before retiring to your private cabin and drift off to the sound of gentle waves.

## Highlights

Ubud – Candidasa – Gili Trawangan  
Nusa Dua - Rinca – Labuan Bajo

## Tour Includes

- 4-5\* accommodation
- 14 meals - 12 breakfasts, 1 lunch & 1 dinner
- All sightseeing and entrance fees mentioned
- 2 x Boat tours and snorkelling equipment
- Private air-conditioned vehicle with driver and guide as stated
- English-speaking local guides

## Departure Dates

Daily

*(Please note mid-end March annually there is a one-day public holiday, Nyepi Day whereby no activities are allowed on the island, we will advise at time of enquiry)*

## Day 1: Ubud

Upon arrival at the airport, you will be met by your guide and transferred by private vehicle to your hotel.

## Day 2: Ubud

Today your guide will take you to the famous sacred monkey forest, where you will find around 700 Balinese long-tailed macaques in the wild and three temples guarded by monkeys that live in harmony. Next stop, you will visit Ubud Palace and Ubud Art market then onto visit the Holy Spring Water Temple Tirta Empul before returning to your hotel.

## Day 3: Ubud

Depart your hotel with your guide and driver as you head to explore the impressive royal temple of Taman Ayun in Mengwi. Built-in 1634, this spacious temple is encircled by a wide moat. Drive to Bedugul and visit the famous Ulun Danu temple on the lakeside. Your final drive today will take you to Jatiluwih rice-field terraces, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, before returning to your hotel.

## Day 4: Candidasa

Check out of your Ubud hotel this morning before your first visit to Tegallalang rice terrace and then drive to Kintamani, from where you can view the volcano and lake Batur. Continue to Temple Besakih, known as 'Temple Mother' the largest most important of the island, on the slopes of Mount Agung, where there is a shrine complex built in 189 AD. Check-in at your new hotel in Candidasa.

## Day 5: Candidasa

Today is all about the islands' stunning scenery so be sure to have your camera to hand. Your guide will take you to the Gates of Heaven, Lempuyang Temple. A heavenly place where you can feel a peaceful vibe. On the top, you will see the scenic view of the gate overlooking Mount Agung. Next stop, the lavish royal water garden in Karangasem. Tirta Gangga water garden features a beautiful pond, lake, fountain, and guardian statues, surrounded by a tropical garden. Move on to Tenganan the ancient village Bali Aga which is also famous for its Balinese double ikat weaving called gringsing before returning to your hotel.



Ubud



**Day 6: Gili Trawangan**

Check out of your hotel where you will be transferred to Padang Bai harbour for a speedboat transfer to Gili Trawangan. On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel where crystal-clear waters meet pristine sandy shores on this idyllic island.

**Day 7: Gili Trawangan**

Today is a day of leisure to relax on the beach and enjoy a fresh coconut or dive into the ocean on a snorkeling tour.

**Day 8: Nusa Dua**

Following breakfast, transfer back to Bali by speedboat. On arrival at the harbour your private driver will be waiting to take you to your Nusa Dua hotel.

**Day 9: Rinca**

Today will surely be a highlight of your wildlife adventure. You will be met and transferred to the airport for a flight to Labuan Bajo. On arrival you will take a direct transfer to the harbour to board a local boat to Rinca Island. This afternoon a local ranger will take you trekking in search of the unique Komodo dragons and other wildlife residing here. Tonight, you will dine onboard an overnight liveaboard, your wooden ship has four private en-suite cabins with capacity for just 10 guests.

**Day 10: Labuan Bajo**

This morning you may wish to join a snorkeling tour where you can explore the underwater world of the Flores' before returning to the boat for lunch. You will then sail on to Labuan Bajo, a fishing town and where you will stay tonight.

**Day 11: Bali**

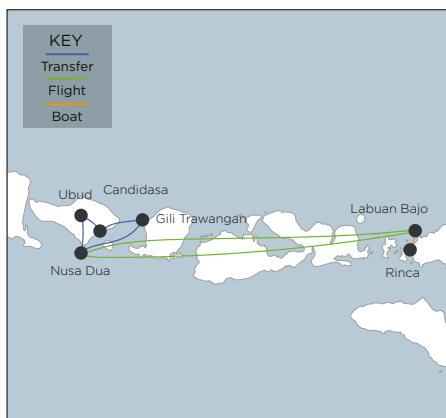
After breakfast your guide will take you to visit the local market and Batu Cermin cave before your flight back to Bali.

**Day 12: Nusa Dua**

This morning is free for you to reflect on your adventures by the pool. You will be collected this afternoon and taken to Uluwatu temple which is a completely unique sight. Watch the Kecak Dance, performed by 50 singers. After the performance, you will be returned to your hotel in Nusa Dua.

**Day 13: Depart Bali**

Today you will be transferred back to the airport for your onward journey.



## Ubud Accommodation

### Maya Ubud Resort & Spa

Maya Ubud Resort & Spa is spread over 18 hectares of lush tropical landscape, at the heart of Bali's cultural centre in a serene valley setting. This resort is perfect for those seeking quiet moments of reflection amid a luxury environment with the rainforest as a backdrop. Guests will feel at ease in any of the resort's contemporary Balinese-designed suites and villas, ranging from their impressive Forest Suite overlooking misty valleys or rice terraces, to a heavenly Jacuzzi Villa complete with butler service. Signature massage therapies and herbal treatments have made the onsite spa award winning, and the property also offers numerous yoga sessions. Dining ranges from picnic lunches, villa-hosted grills and candle-lit dinners.

**Location:** Ubud

Our rating: ★★★★★



### COMO Uma

An intimate resort set amongst the Tjampuhan Valley and River Oos, surrounded by coconut palms and emerald forests, the COMO Uma Ubud is the perfect place to indulge in Bali's arts and culture hub. The resort provides excellent access to the local area, with activities including mountain biking, rafting and guided walks all within close reach. Suites and villas are set along leafy pathways, designed to feel like hillside homes with large windows and carved panels that open up to spectacular views. Kemiri restaurant offers a contemporary Indonesian menu, or try the street-side setting at Uma Cucina serving Italian inspired food. COMO Shambhala Retreat is their award-winning wellness centre, designed for those who enjoy yoga and Asian-inspired therapies.

**Location:** Ubud

Our rating: ★★★★★



### Plataran Ubud

Surrounded by tranquil, beautifully preserved gardens in the vibrant cultural centre of Ubud, Plataran Ubud offers a retreat-style experience with stunning views of nearby paddy fields and sacred temples. A true inside out haven, experience Indonesia's hospitality at its finest with a stay in one of the stylish rooms and suites, with floor to ceiling windows offering panoramic views of the opulent green surroundings. 2 infinity pools, a Balinese pavilion-style gym and a luxurious spa feature in this property, with 2 restaurants serving Indonesian and Western cuisine. This hidden gem is the perfect way to immerse yourself in Bali's cultural heart, whether you are seeking a solo adventure, romantic getaway or a family holiday.

**Location:** Ubud

Our rating: ★★★★★



### Wapa di Ume Ubud

A true hideaway, Wapa di Ume is a boutique resort located a 5-minute walk from Ubud centre where guests can feel at one with nature. The 18 light, airy rooms are set within the working paddy fields, with modern interiors and an exterior in-keeping with their surroundings with some featuring thatched roofs. The Ume Spa is home to open air treatment pavilions, where guests will be soothed with traditional treatments. There are also 2 swimming pools in both the east and west wings surrounded by day beds and treetops, and a yoga studio with a daily scheduled programme for all abilities. Wapa's restaurant is focused on Balinese specialities and western dishes or choose to have dinner in the middle of the rice paddies as the fireflies provide evening entertainment.

**Location:** Ubud

Our rating: ★★★★★





## Bali Mandira Beach Resort & Spa

This classically Balinese resort is surrounded by lush, tropical gardens on a beautiful, white sand beach in Legian. With an impressive array of facilities including a beachfront swimming pool, adult only infinity pool and a children's pool, beach club, day spa, fitness centre and a kids club, this welcoming resort is a popular choice. Rooms come in various styles with a range of hotel rooms, suites, cottages and villas to choose from. All feature a warm, elegant Balinese design with rich, warm wooden furnishings. The resort restaurant serves authentic Indonesian dishes, with live music in the evenings, whilst the open-air restaurant at the Azul Beach Club offers a wide range of international cuisine. There are plenty of local places to dine within an easy stroll of the resort too.

**Location:** Seminyak

Our rating: ★★★★★



## Samaya Seminyak

The Samaya Seminyak is a stunning beachfront resort on a quiet stretch of Legian Beach, yet within an easy stroll of Seminyak's fabulous shopping, dining and cool nightspots. When it comes to the accommodation the resort offers beautifully stylish and elegant private villas, all with their own lap pool. They sit in enclosed gardens, so no views but supreme levels of peace and privacy. The outdoor terraces are heaven sent for lazy afternoon siestas. Breeze at the Samaya is the resort's excellent beachside restaurant, open to the ocean breezes and the open bar beneath the swaying coconut palms is a popular spot for sunset drinks. If you can tear yourself away from your villa there's a blissful beachfront infinity pool, day spa and yoga classes.

**Location:** Seminyak

Our rating: ★★★★★



## COMO Uma Canggu

Just steps from the surf on Bali's south coast, and close to the vibrant beach culture of Canggu, this beautiful hotel has an elegantly, laid back feel and a strong focus on wellness and wellbeing. Rooms and suites are modern with a light, airy and minimalistic design. The suites and residences offer more space and outside areas with garden, pool or ocean views. Dining here lends itself to local produce with plenty of fresh and delicious healthy meals to choose from. The COMO Beach Club has stunning ocean views, arrive early for a front row seat of the sunset. Wellness is important here and the Canggu COMO Shambhala Retreat offers Asian-inspired therapies and a wide range of treatments as well as a fitness centre along with yoga and Pilates. There are also 2 swimming pools and a surf school.

**Location:** Canggu

Our rating: ★★★★★



## Tanjung Sari

Originally a family home, this delightful boutique hotel is still owned and managed by the same family and it sits within beautiful gardens filled with shady trees on Sanur Beach. The rooms here comprise a collection of free-standing bungalows, which are dotted throughout the resort, all Balinese in style, offering warm and welcoming places to stay with a real sense of place. The breezy, beachfront restaurant offer international and Indonesian cuisine, and the restaurants of Sanur are just a short walk away, the bar on the beach is a wonderful spot for a cooling drink, beneath the lantern lit trees as dusk falls. Spend your days on Sanur Beach, or by the saltwater swimming pool, there's also a peaceful library and a fitness centre. Whilst there is no children's club, families are more than welcome.

**Location:** Sanur

Our rating: ★★★★★

## Bali Accommodation

### Puri Santrian

The Puri Santrian is a stylish, modern Balinese resort sitting amongst beautiful tropical gardens on the pale golden sands of Sanur Beach. Designed around 3 distinct wings there is something to suit all guests, including the Santrian Club, an exclusive adults only area. There are 2 swimming pools, plus a separate pool in the Santrian Club, tennis courts, spa, yoga classes by the beach, along with complimentary kayaks and paddleboards. When it comes to dining the Beach Club Restaurant lies between the 2 pools, a swim up pool bar and private dining is also available. Hop on one of the resort bicycles for a gentle ride along the beach pathway into the village.

**Location:** Sanur

Our rating: ★★★★★



### The Pavilions Bali

This lovely resort is secluded and tranquil, but it also has a plethora of restaurants and bars within a few minutes' walk, as are the soft sands of Sanur Beach. Step through the gates into lush, tropical gardens and an enclave of private Balinese villas, where every creature comfort is considered. All villas, with the exception of the standard garden villa boast private pools, each lying behind high walls and pretty gardens. The décor is elegant and stylish with highly polished floors and Indonesian works of art. Enjoy private dining, indulge in one of the signature dining experiences or follow the pathways to the secret garden restaurant for a superb farm-to-table meal. Facilities include a blissful spa, a small gym and yoga classes. There's a resort swimming pool too.

**Location:** Sanur

Our rating: ★★★★★



### Nusa Dua Beach Resort & Spa

The Nusa Dua is an expansive resort offering a wide range of facilities including 3 swimming pools, a children's club, games room, sports and fitness centre and a relaxing day spa. The resort sits on 200m of beautiful beach along with the water sports centre. Guest rooms here offer a warm and traditional Balinese style with carved wood, local artwork and beautiful fabrics, and all have a private balcony or terrace with garden or ocean views. Dining options include a wonderful Mediterranean restaurant, traditional Balinese, international, and Asian as well as 4 bars, with one overlooking the beach. For those who like to be more active there are Balinese dance classes, an introduction to scuba diving, coconut leaf weaving and fruit carving classes to enjoy.

**Location:** Nusa Dua

Our rating: ★★★★★



### SOL by Melia Benoa

Offering an all-inclusive stay in Bali, this welcoming resort sits on a golden sandy beach, surrounded by tropical gardens. A pleasing blend of Balinese culture and contemporary, modern design, Sol by Melia Benoa is an ideal choice for those looking for a wide range of dining options and activities to enjoy. With all meals and drinks included, including a beach-side juice station, and all meals and entertainment, all you need to do is sit back and relax. Find your inner Zen with outdoor yoga sessions or learn how to prepare popular Balinese dishes with a cooking class. Spend your days on the beach or by the pool, indulge in the great choice of water sports and beach activities or head for the fitness centre. For total relaxation then head to the tranquil day spa.

**Location:** Nusa Dua

Our rating: ★★★★★





## Merusaka Bali

Sitting on Mengiat Beach in Nusa Dua, the Merusaka is an elegant resort in a beautiful setting. The choice of rooms, suites and villas are modern in design but also reflect a distinctly Balinese influence. Choose from pretty garden or ocean views, or for more space and privacy, there is a collection of 1 and 2 bedroom villas which boast their own private swimming pool. Dining is a joy here with no less than 7 restaurants and bars to indulge in. Whether you want a gourmet extravaganza or a casual beachside feast, there is cuisine from around the world to enjoy. Spend your days on the white sandy beach, or lazing by the large swimming pool, there's also a daily programme of activities including yoga, beach volleyball, and water aerobics, plus an exceptional spa.

**Location:** Nusa Dua

Our rating: ★★★★★



## Alila Manggis

Surrounded by swaying coconut palms, this secluded resort can be found on Bali's rugged east coast, close to the village of Candidasa in an area known for its superb marine life. The rooms and suites are simply but elegantly appointed and all angled to catch the perfect ocean views. For more privacy choose one of the deluxe rooms on the first floor. This is a place where relaxation comes naturally, spend time by the pool, or on the soft sandy beach. Indulge in a soothing spa treatment or enjoy a hands-on cooking class. After a pre-dinner drink at the Ocean Bar, head for Seasalt to dine on the delicious Indonesian and western flavours served here. The Manggis is just one of a clutch of Alilia resorts in Bali, including Ubud, Seminyak and Uluwatu.

**Location:** Candidasa

Our rating: ★★★★★



## Sudamala Resort Senggigi

With stunning views out over the Lombok Strait, the Sudamala is a place of peace, golden beaches and incredible sunsets. Tropical gardens with towering palms lead to the beach, which is just steps away, as is the sea-facing infinity swimming pool. The collection of suites and villas boast high ceilings, thatched roofs and cool, polished floors. First floor rooms have private balconies, whilst those on the lower level have terraces, which lead into the gardens. The 1 bedroom villas offer courtyard gardens with private pools. Olah Olah is the open-air restaurant with dining by the pool or scenic deck offering a delicious blend of Indonesian and Western cuisine. If you're inspired, then cooking classes are also available. Enjoy sunrise yoga sessions or treatments in the Mango Tree Spa.

**Location:** Lombok

Our rating: ★★★★★



## The Royal Avila

On Lombok's northern coast, the Royal Avila is a delightful resort that combines Indonesian traditions with modern style to create an elegant retreat. All rooms and suites face the ocean and offer stylish and contemporary accommodation with private balconies, where you can sit and soak in the stunning panoramas. The Olive Bar & Restaurant offers a fusion of Mediterranean and Indonesian inspired dishes, all within sight of the sea. Amavi's Beach Club is a place to relax, perhaps take a swim in the pool and take in the beautiful sunsets. For those in search of a little pampering, the Althea Spa is a peaceful sanctuary where the treatments will revive and relax and leave you with a renewed sense of calm.

**Location:** Lombok

Our rating: ★★★★★

# *Discover Southeast Asia & Beyond*

Explorers, beach lovers, foodies, wildlife fanatics, photographers, shoppers and culture vultures are spoilt for choice in Southeast Asia and beyond with a desire to travel further and for longer. Question is, where to visit. With a sense of wanderlust and visions of bartering at street market stalls in Bangkok, riding on a Vespa through the hustle and bustle of Hanoi, driving along the Great Ocean Road in Australia or snorkelling amongst vibrant marine life from the beaches of Malaysia or Bali, here are a few of our travel advisors' personal favourites. You choose how long you stay in each destination, and we will make recommendations for hotels, tours and travel connections, which may include flights, ferries, trains, river cruise and speedboats, these are all part of your personalised Southeast Asia & Beyond adventure.





## Singapore – Bali

This popular twin centre combines a city stay where the main attractions can be reached within an easy 1 hour walk in Singapore. Then move on to beautiful Bali, less than 3 hours nonstop flight away and you could be gazing over paddy fields and lush green terraces from your balcony in Ubud or laying on a white sandy beach, just footsteps from the waves of the turquoise waters in Seminyak.

**Singapore** from page 82-85

**Bali** from page 106-117



## Bangkok – Sydney – Singapore

The hustle and bustle of Bangkok thrills visitors from the moment you step into the city. Next stop, head Down Under and visit one of the world's most famous cities, Sydney, home to Sydney Harbour Bridge and Sydney Opera House. Your final destination is Singapore. If you still have luggage space then head to the shops on Orchard Road before heading to the historic Long Bar for a 'Singapore Sling'.

**Bangkok** from page 28-31

**Sydney**, please refer to our website [www.fcholidays.com/australia](http://www.fcholidays.com/australia)

**Singapore** from page 82-85



## Kuala Lumpur – Penang – Perth

Let Malaysia welcome you to its capital, Kuala Lumpur, a metropolis of cultural diversity, rich history and enticing culinary scene. Further north your next stop is Penang, embracing three key elements of city life, tropical rainforests and golden sandy beaches. Finally and closer than you may think, we invite you to the most Western City in Australia, Perth. Nature seekers and wine connoisseurs will not want to leave, and when you do make sure you haven't packed a cheeky Quokka.

**Kuala Lumpur** from page 89-101

**Penang** from page 102-103

**Perth**, please refer to our website [www.fcholidays.com/australia](http://www.fcholidays.com/australia)



## Phuket – Vietnam

Looking for something a little different then this maybe the Southeast Asia discovery tour you were looking for. First stop is the island of Phuket, the largest in Thailand, home to stunning beaches and said to feature the most beautiful sunsets in Thailand. Then it is time to visit Vietnam, steeped in history from the Cu Chi Tunnels in the far south, coastal towns and beaches on the east coast and Ha Long Bay in the north for an overnight cruise, each day will provide you with a new sense of adventure.

**Phuket** from page 12-45

**Vietnam** from page 46-75



## Singapore Airlines

Voted the 'World's Best Airline' in 2023. Departures are available from London and Manchester.

- **Economy Class** - Ergonomically designed seats with built in lumbar. Spacious cabins with just 10 seats across the A380 and 9 across the B777. From 25kg baggage allowance.
- **Premium Economy** - 38-inch seat pitch and 8 inch recline. 35kg baggage allowance and priority check in and boarding.
- **Business Class** - Seats convert into 6ft 5inch flat bed. Lounge Access.
- **First Class and Suites** - Private cabin with closing door (Suites). Unlimited complimentary Wi-Fi.



## Malaysia Airlines

Malaysia Airlines offer double daily direct flights from Heathrow to Kuala Lumpur with connections across Southeast Asia, Australia and New Zealand.

- **Economy Class** - Each seat has a pitch of up to 32 inches and width of 18 inches – including a four-way headrest.
- **Economy Class Extra Legroom** - Seats have a pitch of 36 inches and width of 18 inches – inclusive of a four-way leather headrest with a recline of 6 inches.
- **Business Class** - Seat formation allows passengers direct access to aisles for comfortable mobility. Built for your comfort, a seat pitch of 44 inches and width of 22 inches. All seats are retractable into full-flat beds with a length of 78 inches.
- **Business Suites** - Each seat is crafted for your privacy with retractable door. Wide seats built are at a pitch of 83 inches and width of 23 inches. All seats are retractable into full-flat beds.



## Etihad Airways

Flying from London Heathrow and Manchester to Abu Dhabi and 79 destinations beyond, Etihad Airways is an award-winning airline providing you with a tailored experience from the start of your journey.

- **Economy Class** - Seats have a minimum of 17.1-inch width, 6-inch recline and 32-inch legroom depending on aircraft. An option to extra legroom seats is available on selected routes.
- **Business Class** - Minimum seat pitch 20 inches and flatbed 6 ft 2 inches depending on aircraft.
- **First Class** - Private Suite, minimum seat pitch 22 inches and flatbed 6 ft depending on aircraft.
- **The Residence** - Available on A380, 3-room suite for up to 2 guests traveling together, 60.6-inch sofa, fully enclosed bedroom suite with 6ft 10 inches double bed.



## Qatar

A multiple award-winning airline, including winner of 'World's Best Business Class' on several occasions, Qatar offer flights from 5 UK airports with connections through Southeast Asia.

Prepare for an unparalleled experience on board, with spacious cabins, destination-inspired cuisine and excellent hospitality. Stay connected on board with Wi-Fi available on selected aircraft and keep yourself entertained with Oryx One entertainment system which has over 8,000 options to choose from including movies, TV shows, games and music.

- **Economy Class** - Some of the widest economy seats with adjustable head rest and cushioning.
- **Business Class** - Type of cabin and seat depends on aircraft and routes but expect to enjoy a spacious cabin with ambient lighting, and the award-winning Q Suites with their enhanced privacy, closing doors and lie flat beds.



The following pages give information relevant to certain products and services in this brochure, the details shown here form part of your contract with us.

**ESCORTED TOURS**

**International Flights:** All our tours exclude international flights to allow us to source the best airline and fare to suit your needs.

**Airport Transfers:** Arrival and departure airport transfers are included if you arrive and depart on the days shown in the itineraries. If you should add pre or post tour accommodation or packages, transfers are excluded, we can arrange these however additional costs will apply.

**WENDY WU TOURS**

Tours operated by Wendy Wu Tours, below is some important information relevant to these tours.

**Tour Style - Classic Tours:** The tours we feature are classified as 'Classic Tours' by Wendy Wu Tours. These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of Southeast Asia on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully-inclusive basis so you will travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by dedicated and professional National Escorts or local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

**Physical Fitness Ratings:** Wendy Wu Tours all have a physical rating to guide you in selecting a holiday that suits your comfort level. Joining any of the tours involves independent mobility and the ability to stay active throughout the day, which is essential for fully enjoying the unique charm of each destination.

The tours we feature are all classified as Physical Level 1 category. This indicates a level of fitness that allows you to comfortably remain on your feet with occasional rest. Expect to effortlessly navigate boarding and disembarking from various modes of transport, including coaches, trains, and boats. You will be walking around remarkable sites and ascending steps to capture those awe-inspiring views.

Please consider:

- Sightseeing may often involve walking for a reasonable duration, sometimes over multiple steps, or uneven surfaces. Fortresses and some temples involve climbing quite a number of steps, which can be large, not level and sometimes without handrails.
- Boarding and alighting from various boat sizes independently is part of the experience.

The National Escort is dedicated to providing a high level of service and support throughout your journey however, their primary role is to manage the daily aspects of the tour. They are unable to offer extensive personal physical assistance. We kindly ask our travellers to be prepared for the physical aspects of the tour to ensure a comfortable and enjoyable experience for everyone.

**Tour Accommodation:** Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in a city to a family-run guesthouse in a smaller town. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all Western amenities. Please note that double bed requests can be made at the time of booking but cannot be guaranteed. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality will exist between your home country and Southeast Asia. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and a telephone. Hotels in Southeast Asia often do not have porters and you will be required to carry your luggage. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by their staff and partners to ensure that standards meet needs.

**Luggage & Porterage:** Luggage restrictions apply and will be provided with your documentation. Porterage whilst on tour is not included, you must be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

**TRANSPORT**

**Coaches:** Coaches with air conditioning are used on for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Coaches and mini buses do not have on board toilet facilities; however, frequent bathroom stops are made for passengers comfort.

**Group Size:** Most of Wendy Wu tours consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by a national escort. There will usually be no more than 28 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond control). A national escort will accompany each group of 10 or more. However, at their discretion, they may operate departures with a smaller group size.

**Solo Travellers:** On certain tours, selected dates are exclusively for customers who prefer to travel with a group of like-minded solo travellers.

You will have a room of your own with no single supplement to pay, while the expert guides take care of you throughout the tour. Ask for details of which tours and dates have Solo Departures.

**Itinerary Changes:** It is the intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances, the best possible arrangements will be made to maintain the integrity of your trip.

**APT/TRAVELMARVEL**

Tours featured by APT/Travelmarvel.

**Accommodation:** Accommodation is handpicked by APT/Travelmarvel, you will stay in some of the most charismatic and evocative properties that capture the essence of Southeast Asia.

**Tour Itinerary:** Inclusions and itinerary shown was correct at the time of printing but is subject to change. Your tour includes English-speaking experienced local guides.

**FLIGHT INFORMATION**

**Flight tickets:** All airlines now issue e-tickets for your flights, which are electronic paperless tickets. An itinerary will be issued with your documents showing all your flight arrangements that you can present at check in.

**Checking in:** You must check in for your international flights approximately 3 hours prior to departure time on your ticket or e-ticket. Please note that due to increased security measures, some airlines may request personal information on check in such as home address or address for your initial stay.

**Special Requests:** Unfortunately, we have no control over the allocation of seats on a flight and cannot guarantee that you will be sitting with your travelling companion. If you require special seating for medical reasons, please let us know. Some airlines allow you to pre-book your seats for a fee, please ask us for more information.

**Airlines/Aircraft:** Airlines reserve the right to substitute carriers, aircraft types, seat configuration and cabin classes on their flights. Some airlines may still consider an intermediary touchdown on a flight as a 'direct' flight.

**Alcohol Policy:** All airlines operate a zero-tolerance policy for excess consumption of alcohol on board their flights. Some airlines may or may not serve alcohol on their flights, and some will charge for alcoholic and soft drinks.

**Delays:** Liability for flight delays are as per the airline's own conditions of carriage. Please see our terms and conditions or call for more information.

**Schedule Changes:** Flight schedules are arranged many months in advance, and although rare, some flight rescheduling does occur. A schedule change may range from five minutes to a day or more. If a schedule change does occur, and we are told about it before departure, we may offer a revised itinerary and holiday cost to reflect that change. Please note that the holiday price could be higher or lower depending on the flight affected. Notwithstanding the above, the provisions of paragraph 10 of our Booking Terms & Conditions apply. Please note that schedule changes are made by the airline, not by First Class Holidays. We cannot accept liability for any extra charges incurred as a result of a rescheduled flight.

**Additional Deposits & Cancellation Terms:** Some suppliers, such as but not limited to, rail journeys, cruise lines, lodges and viewing tours, escorted tour companies, specialist activities may require an additional deposit in order to confirm a booking. Where this is the case, we will advise at the time of booking. Some of these suppliers may also have different cancellation conditions to ours and we will advise these to you at the time of booking.

**Meal Requests:** Most international flights include a meal service however flights within Southeast Asia may not include meals. Your Airline may provide any special meals that you may require; please request your special meal with your consultant at the time of booking.

**Child Discounts:** These will vary dependent upon your airline but as a general rule Children 2-11 years pay 75% of the adult fare. Infants under 2 and not occupying a seat pay 10% of the adult fare if the return date is prior to their 2nd birthday.

**Passports and Visas:** It is the traveller's responsibility to ensure that they have a valid passport and visa if necessary. First Class Holidays cannot be held responsible if you are not in possession of the correct documentation.

**Baggage Allowance:**

**Flights:** Each airline imposes its own baggage allowance, so please check the information for your flights. Airline allowances are strictly adhered to, and charges will be imposed for excess baggage. For the carriage of special items, like golf clubs, skis, wheelchairs etc, there may be an additional charge as this is extra to your normal baggage allowance. Some airlines will require to be told if you intend to take such items, so please check at the time of booking.

**Coach & Rail Tours:** Due to space limitation on coaches and trains, only one piece of baggage is permitted on all coach and rail tours.

**HOTELS & ACCOMMODATION**

Southeast Asia offers a wide range of accommodations, both Western-style and Southeast Asia-style. Rooms sizes can vary and may be smaller than you have experienced in other parts of the world.

**Western-style hotels:** These can be found in all of major cities. These hotels should have the same amenities as other Western establishments, including TVs, air conditioning, heating and internet.

**Business hotels:** Business hotels are an economical and no-frills accommodation option for all travellers. They can be found across Southeast Asia, usually located close to train stations, and offer clean and comfortable lodgings. Rooms are smaller and they offer fewer amenities compared to standard hotels.

**Hotel Ratings:** Please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality will exist between the UK and Southeast Asia. We have added gradings to our hotel selection, these gradings are based on location and are purely for guidance purposes, they are not official ratings.

**CULTURAL AWARENESS**

Southeast Asia is warm and welcoming steeped in tradition and etiquette and it is recommended that you research these before your visit.

Visitors to Angkor Wat and temples will be required to wear long trousers, dresses or skirts below the knees with shoulders covered.

**Cash & Credit Cards:** Southeast Asia is a cash-based society and we recommend always carrying some cash with you.

Although most stores and restaurants will accept Visa, MasterCard and American Express cards, please consider that some may not.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Passports & Visas:** Please ensure that you are in possession of the correct documentation for both entry into Southeast Asia and for any other country or airport you visit, or transit through, on your journey.

Please check for the most up to date rules at [www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice)

**Health & Vaccinations:** Please check these sites for the latest health and vaccination requirements

[www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice)  
[www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/destinations)

**Foreign Office Advice:** The safety of our customers is our priority and as such we work in line with the advice provided by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. We recommend that you keep up to date with this advice, which can be accessed via the Foreign & Commonwealth office website at [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk).

**Building Works:** Where we are advised of building work taking place at your hotel, we will notify you of the work being undertaken, however we cannot take liability for building works outside your accommodation or elsewhere in your destination.

**Hotel Check in & out times:** Check in time is generally after 3pm on the day of arrival; check out time varies between 10am and 12 noon. If you require a late check out, you should speak to the hotel directly, they may be able to arrange a day room for which you should pay the hotel directly (subject to availability).

**Data Protection Statement:** Please be assured that we have measures in place to protect the personal booking information held by us. This information will be passed on to the principal and to the relevant suppliers of your travel arrangements. The information may also be provided to public authorities such as customs or immigration if required by them, or as required by law. Certain information may also be passed on to security or credit checking companies. If you travel outside the European Economic Area, controls on data protection may not be as strong as the legal requirements in this country. We will only pass your information on to persons responsible for your travel arrangements. This applies to any sensitive information that you give to us such as details of any disabilities, or dietary/religious requirements. (If we cannot pass this information to the relevant suppliers, whether in the EEA or not, we will be unable to provide your booking. In making this booking, you consent to this information being passed on to the relevant persons.) Full details of our data protection policy are available upon request.

**Documentation:** Once your booking is confirmed, you will receive a confirmation invoice which will detail all the arrangements made on your behalf. On receipt, please check all details thoroughly, including the spelling of all names and advise your travel agent immediately if you have any concerns. Your final travel documents will be sent to your travel agent 2 to 3 weeks before departure and may include airline e-tickets, hotel and travel vouchers, maps, tourist information and a day by day personalised itinerary. For some packages, a more detailed documentation kit will be sent to your first hotel.

**Excursions:** Any excursions or tours that you book independently and pay for whilst on holiday are not part of your package holiday provided by us. For anything that you do book in this way, your contract will be with the operator of the excursion or tour and not with us. We are not responsible for the provision of these excursions or tours or for anything that occurs during them.

**Hotels Additional charges:** Hotels may charge for items such as telephone, safe, parking, newspapers, movies, internet and other items. Please check with your hotel for a list of charges which are payable locally.

**Hotel Guests:** As First Class Holidays do not own the properties featured in our brochure, we have no control over other guests or individual hotel policies. We are unable to accept liability for conferences or conventions being held at your hotel, or for any facilities or amenities, which may be restricted as a result.

**Meal arrangements:** Most hotels featured in our brochure are booked on a room only basis. This means that no meals are included. If you are taking an escorted tour, independent tour or any other package that includes meals our descriptions will show the number of meals included, if none are stated, none are included. Alcoholic and soft drinks are not included.

**Non-Brochure Hotels:** Please note that if your chosen hotel is not featured in our brochure, we may be able to contact the hotel to obtain rates and make a reservation on your behalf. Please note however that our suppliers and handlers may not have inspected some non-featured hotels and therefore we cannot accept liability for any lapse in standard or facilities.

**Our Prices:** Hotel prices fluctuate based on demand and we constantly in contact with our suppliers to ensure that we offer the very best prices available: for that reason prices are not shown so that we can search for and confirm the best available price at the time of booking.

**Room Types:** It should be noted that a twin or double room is based on two people sharing either one or two beds (i.e. a double room may have one or two beds). Please note we cannot guarantee a double bed for honeymoon couples or twin beds for single sex occupants. When booking two or more rooms, we can request, but cannot guarantee, adjacent rooms. Please advise our staff at the time of booking if you would like to make this request.

**Security deposit:** A credit card imprint may be requested on checking in at your accommodation, as a security deposit to cover any incidentals.

**Travel Insurance:** A valid insurance policy is a condition of your booking. We do not sell insurance and advise that you research to find the most appropriate insurance policy to suit your health requirements and needs.

**Smoking:** Smoking is not permitted on any sightseeing tour coach or rail journeys. Most hotels are smoke-free and charges will be incurred if smoking takes place in rooms. All flights are non-smoking.

**Travelling in Vehicles:** When travelling in any motor vehicle, seatbelts (if provided) must be worn at all times.

**Unused Services:** No refunds are allowed for unused services provided in your package. Should you cancel, amend or miss any part of your tour for any reason, we are not able to provide any refund.

**National Parks:** Local charges may apply.

**Wildlife Viewing:** When booking a wildlife adventure, it should be noted that as viewing the animals in their own natural environment, sightings cannot be guaranteed. The tour guides will do their utmost to ensure that sightings are made, however in the event that this is not possible, refunds will not be made.

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**Brochure Validity:**

This brochure was printed in November 2024 and is valid until replaced by a newer edition.





FIRST CLASS  
HOLIDAYS



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**ENQUIRIES & RESERVATIONS**

[www.fcholidays.com](http://www.fcholidays.com)

<b>Southeast Asia</b>	0161 888 5620
<b>Canada</b>	0161 888 5606
<b>America</b>	0161 888 5607
<b>Australia</b>	0161 888 5608
<b>New Zealand</b>	0161 888 5609
<b>South Africa</b>	0161 888 5610
<b>Islands</b>	0161 888 5611
<b>Japan</b>	0161 888 5619
<b>Administration</b>	0161 888 5605
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:asia@fcholidays.com">asia@fcholidays.com</a>

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ALL CALLS MAY BE RECORDED FOR QUALITY & TRAINING PURPOSES

TRAVEL AGENT STAMP