

Highlights of Indochina (12 Nights)

- Saigon X 2 Nights
- Hue X 2 Nights
- Hoi An X 2 Nights
- Ha Noi X 2 Nights
- Jasmine Cruise X 1 night
- Siem Reap X 3 Nights

Laos Extension

- Luang Prabang X 2 Nights
- Vientiane X 2 Nights



Introduction

People often wonder exactly what is meant by the term "Indochina" and in ways its a bit of misnomer. The term encapsulates the 3 neighboring countries of **Vietnam, Cambodia** and **Laos** and covers a total area of over 740,000 square kilometers stretching south from the Chinese border and as far west as the Thai and Burmese borders. The countries have incredibly varied landscapes and climate from the relative cold of Hanoi in the north to the tropical climate of Saigon and Phnom Penh in the southern reaches of the peninsula. Each country has its own highlights from the amazing temple complex of Angkor Wat in Cambodia to the UNESCO heritage sites of Hoi An in Vietnam and Luang Prabang in Laos. The great link between them

all is the huge snaking Mekong river which provides some awe inspiring river cruising options, particularly between My Tho in Vietnam and Tonle Sap lake a few hours drive from Angkor Wat (Siem Reap).

Aside to the majestic river systems supporting all kinds of human and wildlife, there are mountains to the north (Laos and Vietnam) and a particularly interesting diversion to Sapa, north Vietnam.

Starting with a magical overnight train journey from Hanoi. Up here, on the border with China, you will meet completely different ethnic groups and experience a hill tribe village life not found elsewhere in the region.

The ancient cities of Vientiane and Luang Prabang in Laos show case some great colonial

architecture, like Phnom Penh and Battambang in Cambodia, and some temples to rival the best of Cambodia's. Laos is very laid back and many say the most authentic asia experience around right now, with perhaps the exception of Burma.

Once you've absorbed the culture and sights of each country a stunning array of beach escapes awaits you from the amazing new Song Saa private island off the south coast of Cambodia, to the rustically luxurious but altruistic Six Senses Con Dao on it's own paradise island.

If you require any further information about any of the destinations or hotels please do not hesitate to contact us.



Day 01: Depart Ho Chi Minh Fly to Saigon international airport.

Day 02: Ho Chi Minh (Saigon) Officially renamed Ho Chi Minh City after reunification in 1975, most people here still prefer to use the old name, Saigon. On arrival in Ho Chi Minh you will be transferred to your hotel, after which you can explore the city at your own pace. Overnight at the Rex Hotel, Ho Chi Minh. Or similar

Day 03: Ho Chi Minh (Saigon). Today we take a tour of Saigon when we will visit the Reunification Palace (formerly South Vietnam's Presidential Palace), War Remnants Museum, the French built Notre Dame Cathedral and the Gustav Eiffel designed Central Post Office. The rest of the day is free to explore Saigon. Overnight at the Rex Hotel, Ho Chi Minh. Or similar. **B**

Day 04: Ho Chi Minh- Hue This morning you will board your flight to the city of Hue, which served as Vietnam's capital from 1801 to 1945, during the reign of the Nguyen dynasty emperors. The city has a serene and classical character that sets it apart from all other provincial Vietnamese cities. On arrival you will be transferred to your hotel. Overnight at the Gerbera Hotel, Hue. Or similar **B**

Day 05: Full day Hue Begin the day with a leisurely "Dragon Boat" cruise along the timeless Perfume River. Our first visit is the Thien Mu Pagoda - and the tomb of the former emperor Minh Mang. We'll also visit the Tomb of Emperor Tu Duc (1847-1883). This evening visit the Citadel where we spend a couple of hours exploring Hue's ancient royal walled city and the Forbidden Purple Palace enclosed within. Finishing your exploration of Hue by a cycle ride through the leafy side streets to the vibrant Dong Ba market. Overnight at the Gerbera Hotel, Hue. Or similar **B, L**

Day 06: Hue - Hoi An Today take a scenic drive to Hoi An, through a region of Vietnam blessed with magnificent rural and coastal scenery. Hoi An is Vietnam's number one tourist destination. This is largely due to the fact that UNESCO has listed the Old Town as a World Heritage Site with its quaint narrow streets packed with ancient Chinese, Portuguese and Japanese styles of architecture. These have changed little from their heyday, as a major port of trade. After lunch, take a walking tour of the Old Town where you can visit an Ancient House, a Chinese Assembly Hall, the Japanese Covered Bridge and a Museum. Overnight at the Hoi An Boutique Hotel. Or similar. **B, L**

Day 07: Full day Hoi An Today is free at leisure. In your free time you can rent bicycles and set off to explore the surrounding countryside, take a boat trip on the Tu Bon River, relax on the nearby beach, or enjoy the wonderful cuisine on offer at some of the town's numerous cheap cafes. Overnight at the Hoi An Boutique Hotel. Or similar **B**

Day 08: Hoi An - Da Nang - Ha Noi This morning we fly to Ha Noi. It's about 45 minutes drive to Da Nang airport from Hoi An - passing the former US airbase that supported the South Vietnam war. Stop en-route to visit the Cham Museum that houses the finest collection of Hindu-Cham sculptures in the world. On arrival you will be transferred to your hotel. Overnight at the Prestige Hotel, Ha Noi. Or similar. **B**

Day 09: Full day Ha Noi This morning we enjoy a city tour, showcasing some of Hanoi's most interesting attractions. We begin by visiting the One Pillar Pagoda, which is near to the Soviet-inspired Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum. Afterwards, we'll visit the Temple of Literature. Founded in 1070, it was Vietnam's first institute of learning. Finally we'll visit the Hoa Lo Prison, better known to many as the 'Hanoi Hilton'. The afternoon is free to wander around and one of the



best places to do this is the city's Old Quarter, situated to the north of Hoan Kiem Lake - a great (and easy) place to get lost in for a couple of hours. Overnight at the Prestige Hotel, Ha Noi. Or similar **B**

Day 10: Ha Noi - Ha Long The images of red sailed junks navigating through the 3000+ limestone karsts (islands) jutting out of the bay are nothing short of spectacular. It's approximately a three-hour drive from Hanoi to Halong port where we board our boat and head out into the bay enjoying a seafood lunch on the way. During the cruise, we'll stop to visit a cave and enjoy a swim and maybe do some kayaking. After we have moored up in the bay for the night, the crew will prepare a superb dinner whilst, weather permitting, we watch an incredible sunset. Overnight on board the Jasmine Cruise. **B, L, D**

Day 11: Ha Long - Ha Noi - Siem Reap In the morning, we cruise back to Halong port, where we disembark and drive back to Hanoi. The afternoon is free to do your own thing. Finish your journey in Vietnam and transfer to the airport for your flight to Siem Reap. On arrival in Siem Reap, transfer to your hotel. Overnight at the Prince D'Angkor Hotel, Siem Reap. Or similar. **B**

Day 12: Siem Reap - Angkor Wat - Siem Reap Start the day with a healthy breakfast before sightseeing in Angkor. The crowning jewel of Khmer architecture, ANGKOR WAT is a must see. Continue the visit with a look at TA PROHM, and TA SOM followed by NEAK PEAN TEMPLE. Afterwards discover PRAEH KHAN, a temple with towered enclosures and shoulder hugging corridors in a jungle setting. Overnight at the Prince D'Angkor Hotel, Siem Reap. Or similar. **B**

Day 13: Siem Reap Another exciting day of sightseeing with the ROLUOS GROUP of TEMPLES. Continue to LOLEI and later discover PRAEH KO. Afterwards visit the BANTEAY SREI TEMPLE considered to be the jewel of classical Khmer art, because of its small size. You will also see PRE RUP TEMPLE. Overnight at the Prince D'Angkor Hotel, Siem Reap. Or similar. **B**

Day 14: Siem Reap - Airport Breakfast at hotel,

Itinerary:

Highlights Of Indochina

Duration:

14 or 18 Days & 12 or 16 Nights

2014 Departures:

TBA

Highlights:

The Reunification Palace, "Dragon Boat" cruise along the timeless Perfume River, the old town of Hoi An, Angkor Wat Temples and more.

Prices starting from around:

Main Tour £ 2,100.00 PP incl flights

Laos Extension £ 840.00 PP

Transfer to the airport for onward flight.

Optional extension to Laos

Day 14 Arrive Luang Prabang Upon arrival, meet our local guide and transfer to your hotel for check in. The rest of the day at leisure to explore the city. O/n at the Maison Hotel, Luang Prabang or similar. **D**

Day 15 Luang Prabang After breakfast at hotel we visit the Royal Palace (national museum) and the beautiful temple Wat Xiengthong. Then we embark on a boat trip up the mighty Mekong to visit the Buddha cave of Pak Ou. Lunch at a local restaurant in Pak Ou village opposite the cave. After lunch we return by boat back to Luang Prabang with a stop at Ban Sanghai to observe how Lao rice whisky is distilled. Late afternoon we arrive to Luang Prabang and then we climb up to the top of Phousi mountain to catch the finest panoramic view of the city and to watch sunset. Later we stroll along the night market, and back to the hotel. O/n at the Maison Hotel, Luang Prabang, or similar **B, L**

Day 16 Luang Prabang - Vientiane Early morning visit to the fresh market before returning to your hotel for breakfast. Later transfer to the airport for a short flight to Vientiane. Upon arrival to the airport you will be met by your guide and transferred to your hotel. Late afternoon explore the town by the river bank and watch the sunset. O/n at the Green Park Hotel, or similar. **B**

Day 17 Full day guided Vientiane Today we visit historical temple Wat Sisaket, Hor Prakeo the x-home of emerald buddha and visit Lao national symbol Thatluang stupa and following to visit Victory gate Pratuai. We end our day after visiting the centre market (Morning market) and transfer back to your hotel. Rest of the day free at leisure. O/n at the Green Park Hotel, Vientiane. **B**

Day 18 Vientiane - Airport Breakfast at your hotel, Free until transfer to the airport for your onward flight. **B**

End of service

