Vent Nouveau s.a.l.
TRAVEL & TOURISM
Since 1970

VIETNAM

Special Trip to Vietnam & Cambodia

13 - Day Itinerary

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Day 1 – Siem Reap

Arrival at Siem Reap and then transfer to your hotel. Siem Reap, the life-support system and gateway for the temples of Angkor, Siem Reap was always destined for great things. Visitors come here to see the temples, of course, but there is plenty to do in and around the city when you're tempted out. Siem Reap has reinvented itself as the epicentre of chic Cambodia, with everything from backpacker party pads to hip hotels, world class wining and dining across a range of cuisines, sumptuous spas, great shopping, local tours to suit both foodies and adventurers, and a creative cultural scene that includes Cambodia's leading circus. Angkor is a place to be savoured, not rushed, and this is the base from which to plan your adventures.

Stay for 3 nights.

Day 2 – Blessing Ceremony - Angkor Thom, Angkor Wat & Ta Prohm

After breakfast, we drive to Wat Damnak for a blessing ceremony. Located in the heart of Siem Reap town, Wat Damnak is one of the most beautiful pagodas in town with French colonial architecture reflecting its history and a large garden filled with statues. Bring candles and incense sticks to the pagoda and participate in a private good luck blessing ceremony, performed by local monks that reside at the temple. Sit on the mat while the monks chant blessings and sprinkle holy water on you – a traditional way which is believed to pass on the good luck of the gods.

Afterwards, a sacred thread will be tied around your wrist. This will protect you from any evil spirits or accidents. Before you continue on your journey, you will receive a small keepsake from the monks to remind you of this special moment. Then, we will explore the Kingdom of Angkor by visiting the last capital of the Angkorian Empire, Angkor Thom via the South Gate. Visit the giant stone-faced city temples of Bayon, Baphoun, Phimeanakas, the Royal Palace, the Elephant Terrace and the Leper King Terrace. Go back in town for lunch at the deluxe Mahob Restaurant. Relax before going back to visit the world known masterpieces that are Ta Prohm and Angkor Wat. Enter Ta Prohm by the west gate, and be amazed by its detailed and refined bas-reliefs along with the presence of those giant trees and roots taking over the stones. End up your exploration by Angkor Wat visit and a busy but still mystic sunset over the emblem of the Kingdom of Wonders. You will enjoy a GALA dinner tonight at your hotel.

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Day 3 – Visit to Banteay Srei, Preah Khan & Neak Pean

Breakfast is at your hotel. In the morning, we explore the most dedicated beauty of the Khmer temple carvings of Banteay Srei in the 11th century. Continue to visit Banteay Samre, the three-tiered templehill of Pre Rup and Lake of Srah Srang. Lunch today is at the Square 24 Restaurant for a fine dining experience. In the afternoon, visit the beautiful temples in the complex: Preah Khan and Neak Pean.

Enjoy nightlife in Siem Reap on your own way.

Day 4 – Siem Reap - Ho Chi Minh City / Ho Chi Minh Half Day City Tour

This morning, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Upon arrival, meet up with your guide, then transfer to Nam Phan restaurant for lunch. After lunch, you will enjoy a half day city tour. Ho Chi Minh City is the country's commercial center and, with over eight million inhabitants and four million motorbikes, a city that never sleeps. Despite the well-documented hustle and bustle, Ho Chi Minh City retains its connections with the past. Enjoy a city tour to admire Ho Chi Minh historic landmarks including the Notre Dame Cathedral, a red brick edifice with twin spires based on the original construction from Paris (it is only possible to visit inside when no service is being performed). Then head across the square to the Central Post Office, designed by the French architect, Gustave Eiffel. Continue your visit with the former Presidential Palace, the headquarters of the Ho Chi Minh City Government during the American war, revealing the history of Saigon during its turbulent recent past.

Last stop, we will drive to visit the War Remnants Museum for a vivid insight of the American war through the local's eyes. Dinner is on your own.

Day 5 – Day Trip Mekong Delta

Breakfast at your hotel This morning departs for a 2.5-hour drive to Cai Be located in Tien Giang Province. Upon arrival, board a luxury wooden boat to visit the colorful Cai Be Floating Market, where you can witness all of the trading activities of local traders with several kinds of agricultural products from one boat to another.

Then, continue the cruise to a local factory to visit and learn how pop rice, pop corn, rice paper and coconut candies are made. You also have an opportunity to taste these products served with hot green tea. Returning to the boat to take a 50-minute excursion to Dong Hoa Hiep Island and discover the beautiful and peaceful sceneries together with the typical life of the region along the Mekong River. Stops and visits can be made during the excursion.

A 10 minute walk through a local village and fruit gardens, you will be able to stop to visit the local family scaled Longan process factory, where you have another opportunity to take photo of and interact with several friendly and hardworking local people before coming to an old Mandarin house, built hundred years ago and it is where at least four generations of this family have been living.

Lunch is at a local restaurant with the famous dish in Mekong Delta – Elephant Ear Fish. After lunch, board the wooden boat back to the wharf and transfer back to Ho Chi Minh City. Dinner tonight will be on your own.

Day 6 – Cu Chi Tunnels / Ho Chi Minh City - Danang

After breakfast, enjoy a 2-hour drive northwest of Saigon to the famous Cu Chi Tunnels. The tunnel complex was initially started in 1948 to protect the Viet Cong guerrillas from the French air and ground sweeps. The tunnels also served as communication routes, storage facilities for food and weapon caches as well as hospitals and living quarters for guerrilla fighters throughout the American war. A visit to the underground villages will provide a better understanding of the tunnels' history, the hardship of life in the tunnels and the Vietnamese resilience during combat.

You will get inside an underground house to explore the underground world of the tunnels. You also have a chance to shoot with a real gun and bullet (on your own). Return to Saigon and enjoy lunch at Vietnam House Restaurant for your experience with Vietnamese dishes. After lunch, we transfer to the airport for a flight to Danang. Upon arrival, meet our guide and transfer to The Nam Hai hotel for check-in.

Day 7 – Visit to My Son Temples

My Son is one of the foremost Hindu temple sites in South East Asia. For the Cham civilization that ruled Central Vietnam from the 2nd to the 13th century, My Son was an important religious site and place of worship. A 1.5-hour drive from Hoi An will bring you to My Son where there are 20 monuments still standing today. The temples are set in a verdant valley surrounded by hills and overlooked by the impressive Cat Tooth Mountain. Stroll around this UNESCO listed temple complex to learn about the Cham culture, architecture and civilization before returning to Hoi An. This tour will take around 5 hours.

Return to your hotel and enjoy the day at leisure.

Day 8 – Morning Join-in Red Bridge Cooking Class / Afternoon Walking Tour at Hoi An Ancient Town

We start the day (08:00) with a welcome drink at Hai Café, our meeting point. Visit Hoi An's colourful market, and experience the amazing sights, sounds and aromas of this busy market. We will have the opportunity to interact with the local sellers and learn about all the ingredients to be used in the cooking lesson later.

We board the Red Bridge boat for a leisurely cruise (25 minutes) along the Hoi An River to the Red Bridge Cooking School. This is a chance to view local river life, so make sure your camera is handy. On arrival, we explore the cooking school's herb garden, before learning about some of Hoi An's and Vietnam's well-known dishes. The cooking lesson runs for about 2 hours. The Red Bridge chefs first demonstrate each dish before we prepare the same dish ourselves. Included in the class is a brief introduction to Vietnamese food carving (plate decoration). After the lesson, we sit down and eat what we have cooked.

Bring your swimsuit and after the cooking tour has finished, relax and enjoy free use of our 20- metre swimming pool - towels and showers provided.

After lunch, we will enjoy a half day walking tour.

Between the 17th and 19th centuries, Hoi An was a prosperous trading port. Today, this World Heritage-listed ancient town boasts well-preserved buildings, pedestrianised streets and unique cuisine, allowing visitors a glimpse of its illustrious past. The narrow lanes are ideal for a guided walking tour. There is plenty to visit including the old merchant's houses with influences from Chinese, Japanese and Vietnamese architecture; the 400-year-old Japanese Covered Bridge; the Assembly Hall of the Chaozhou Chinese Congregation with outstanding wood carvings; and the colourful market with stalls brimming with local specialties including silk, which can be turned into fashionable garments within a day or two.

Day 9 – Hoi An

Free at leisure to enjoy the beach and facilities at your hotel.

Day 10 – Transfer to Danang / Danang - Hanoi

After check-out, you will be transferred to the Danang airport for your flight to Hanoi.

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Day 11 – Hanoi Full Day City Tour

With ochre-colored colonial buildings, tree-lined boulevards and scenic lakes, Hanoi is full of charm.

Start the tour at the historic Ho Chi Minh mausoleum, an imposing monument lavishly built using marble and granite, and where the preserved body of "Uncle Ho" resides. After that, you can visit One Pillar Pagoda which is a historic Buddhist temple in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam. It is regarded alongside the Perfume Temple, as one of Vietnam's two most iconic temples. Behind the Mausoleum, you can see Ho Chi Minh's House. The simple house where Ho Chi Minh lived and worked is made of wood and enjoys a tranquil setting, with a view of a lotus pond. Ho Chi Minh's belongings are on display and you can walk up the steps of his house to see his bedroom.

Have lunch at Mam restaurant.

After lunch, wind your way afterwards to the Temple of Literature, the first University for the sons of mandarins, for an overview about Hanoian culture and appreciation for ancient Vietnamese architecture. In the afternoon, visit the serene Museum of Ethnology, a 20-minute drive out of town that offers a fascinating insight into Vietnam's 54 ethnic minority groups. Drive back to central Hanoi for an hour cyclo tour through the Old Quarter to enjoy the bustling local life, then return to your hotel.

Day 12 – Hanoi - Halong Bay

Our guide will pick you up at 08:00 - 08:30 and transfer to Halong.

12:00 Arrive at Tuan Chau Island.
12:15 Transfer to cruise ship.
12:30 Welcome Drink - cruise briefing, safety instructions, check-in cabins. Cruise and program commence.
13:00 - 14:30 Serve Special Paradise Lunch on board while cruising past the island, islets: Hoa Cuong fishing village, Soi Sim beach, Ti Top Island, Tung Sau Pearl Farm, Me Cung Cave and to reach Luon Cave.
15.30 - 16:00 Visit Luon Cave and experience one of the beautiful places in HaLong bay where you can enjoy kayaking or just sit on the traditional bamboo boat with local people.
16:30 - 17:45 Enjoy swimming and kayaking in Tung Sau Pearl Farm Village.
18:00 - 18:30 Enjoy cooking demonstration with Chef to discover the Vietnamese cuisine of traditional spring rolls. Learn how to toast in Vietnamese through the evening's toast of the local rice wine.
19:30 - 21:00 Serve elegant Paradise dinner. Start dinner in Traditional Bao Dai dress and photo shoot with captain and manager on board.

21:00 - 23:00 Evening Activities - relax at leisure; enjoy Movie Night, Board Games, and Fishing or Beauty Spa services.

Day 13 – Hanoi - Halong Bay / Departure

6:30 Tai Chi session on Sundeck.
7:00 - 7:30 Coffee & tea with assorted homemade pastries.
7:30 - 8:30 Discover Sung Sot Cave - Hiking up and down 700 steps to the magnificent limestone formations of the most beautiful and biggest cave in Halong bay. OR Exploring Titop Island -- Hiking up 400 steps up to the peak of the island for a spectacular panoramic. View or kayak and swim in one of the most beautiful beaches in Halong bay.
8:30 International Breakfast Menu.
9:30 Check-out cabins and settle bills.
10:30 Arrive at Tuan Chau Island.
11:00 Transfer back to Hanoi and visit Thanh Chuong Palace on the way. Arrive Hanoi and have dinner at a local restaurant. After dinner, we transfer to the airport for your flight home.

END OF SERVICE