

# Spirit of Indochina: From Ancient Angkor to Laotian Serenity



## Day 1: Arrive in Hanoi, Vietnam

Arrive in Hanoi, Vietnam's capital, and transfer to your colonial-style hotel.

*Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi*

## Day 2: Hanoi | Exploring the Historic Old Quarter

Hanoi is the country's cultural heart, bearing traces of centuries of changing dynasties. Visit Ho Chi Minh's house, a simple structure that served as home to the revolutionary guerrilla leader. After lunch, visit the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" prison, where American prisoners of war were once confined. Ride Like a Local by cyclo through the city's Old Quarter. This evening, gather with your fellow guests for a welcome dinner.

*Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi | Meals: B/L/D*

## Day 3: Ha Long Bay | Cruising Among the Karsts

Travel to Hai Phong, where you board 'Orchid' for a cruise of picturesque Ha Long Bay. Relax



on deck as 'Orchid' snakes her way past countless islets, their striking karsts (limestone formations) rising dramatically from the emerald waters. Disembark on Cat Ba Island and discover Trung Trang Cave's intricate features, formed over millennia. Back on board 'Orchid,' view the sunset framed against the Gulf of Tonkin shoreline, followed by dinner aboard.

*Orchid Cruise | Meals: B/L/D*

#### **Day 4: Ha Long Bay & Ho Chi Minh City | Sunrise Tai Chi**

Greet the day on deck with sunrise tai chi overlooking the bay. Set out for an early morning kayak excursion among the towering limestone pinnacles. Return for brunch on board as 'Orchid' sails home to port in Hai Phong. Back on terra firma, proceed to Hang Kenh temple and take in a local water puppet show. Later, fly to Ho Chi Minh City, the former Saigon, where you settle in at your hotel.

*The Reverie Saigon | Meals: B/L*

#### **Day 5: Ho Chi Minh City | Vibrant, Evocative Saigon**

Recently experiencing a resurgence of art and culture, Ho Chi Minh City is a lively, evocative hub of activity. Rise early for a carefully curated, A&K-exclusive experience that starts with a cyclo ride through the streets as the city slowly comes to life. Stroll through Tao Dan Park, a neighbourhood gathering place, and then enjoy specialty Vietnamese coffee at a local shop. Changing from cyclo to vehicle, continue along Nguyen Dinh Chieu Street to visit a little-known, hard-to-find weapons bunker. Round out your morning exploration of local life by sampling some of the city's most sensational pho at one of its best-kept-secret restaurants.

Return to your hotel to enjoy the rest of the morning at leisure. At lunch, participate in a Chef's Table experience where you try your hand at making banh koht, a savory Vietnamese pancake. This afternoon, view examples of the city's colonial legacy, including Reunification Palace and the Central Post Office, and then explore a Cao Dai temple to get in touch with southern Vietnam's spiritual side. Tonight, gather for dinner at a local culinary hot spot.

*The Reverie Saigon | Meals: B/L/D*

#### **Day 6: Ho Chi Minh City | Design Your Day**

Today, venture outside of the city to explore the Cu Chi Tunnels and speak with a former Vietcong soldier, learning how this vast subterranean network was used to conceal and support a stealthy underground fighting force.

This afternoon, enjoy one of these Design Your Day activities:

- Visit the War Remnants Museum to view photographs from Bunyo Ishikawa, a Vietnam War photojournalist.
- Explore the City's Bustling Culinary Scene, sampling traditional dishes prepared by local street-food vendors.
- Stroll Ben Thanh Market & Craft Boutiques to discover the latest in trendy shops and local



market life.

- Return to your hotel, where the rest of your afternoon and evening are at leisure.

*The Reverie Saigon | Meals: B*

### **Day 7: Siem Reap, Cambodia | Mysterious Ta Prohm**

Fly to Siem Reap, the town nearest to Angkor Thom and Angkor Wat. Begin your exploration of Ta Prohm, where the roots of great trees seem to have spilled over the roof of this iconic stone temple. Enjoy an evening at leisure.

*La Résidence d'Angkor, A Belmond Hotel, Siem Reap | Meals: B/L*

### **Day 8: Siem Reap | Sunrise over Angkor Wat**

Rise early this morning to experience the incomparable serenity and inspiration of watching the sun rise over mystical Angkor Wat, then explore the vast temple complex with your expert local guide. Return to your hotel for breakfast and time to relax.

This afternoon, visit Angkor Thom, the last capital of the Khmer kingdom, and Bayon Temple, its 172 large-scale faces — bearing beguiling smiles — representing gods, goddesses, and other beings from classical poems and mythology. This evening, take a tranquil gondola cruise on the Angkor Thom moat while sipping a cool drink on a Scenic Sundowner.

*La Résidence d'Angkor, A Belmond Hotel, Siem Reap | Meals: B/L*

### **Day 9: Siem Reap | Hidden Temples & Treasures**

Today, explore a less-visited temple: Banteay Srei, known as the “Citadel of Women.” Learn about the essential work of the Cambodia Clean Water Project, an A&K Philanthropy project that builds pumping wells in rural communities throughout the country. After lunch at a local restaurant, bid farewell to Cambodia as you fly to Luang Prabang.

*La Résidence Phou Vao, A Belmond Hotel, Luang Prabang | Meals: B/L*

### **Day 10: Luang Prabang, Laos | Living Temples**

Step back in time for a day as you explore charming Luang Prabang and its tranquil streets. Begin with a visit to the National Museum, once a royal palace. Then, follow quiet back lanes to the beautiful Heuan Chan Heritage House. After a refreshing tea in the gardens, proceed to the enchanting Wat Xieng Thong, a Buddhist Temple noted for its “Tree of Life” wall mosaic, and then visit Wat Khili. Later, join your fellow guests for a relaxing sunset cruise along the tranquil and iconic Mekong River before dinner.

*La Résidence Phou Vao, A Belmond Hotel, Luang Prabang | Meals: B/D*

### **Day 11: Luang Prabang | Giving & Receiving**

Rise very early to give alms to Buddhist monks, putting you in touch with the local culture and community. Return to your hotel, then relax and pack. After lunch, join locals in their home for a baci ceremony — a good-luck ritual for a safe journey that is part of the local culture — before flying to Bangkok.

*The Peninsula Bangkok | Meals: B/L*



### **Day 12: Bangkok, Thailand | Along the Chao Phraya River**

Visit the sprawling Grand Palace, a complex that served as the historic Siamese court and is home to Thailand's most important shrine, the Emerald Buddha, a green jade statue. Also visit the Queen Sirikit Museum of Textiles to view a dazzling array of finely detailed local fabrics. Your afternoon is at leisure. Tonight, gather for a farewell dinner of Thai specialties.

*The Peninsula Bangkok | Meals: B/D*

### **Day 13: Depart Bangkok**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport to begin your Myanmar post-tour extension or depart for home.

*Meals: B*

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**Date of operations:** This suggested itinerary can be personalized to your specific requirements. Depending on your preferred dates and arrangements, final pricing will vary from low season to peak season travel.

**Price per person:** from US\$13,850/person; maximum group size: 16-24

#### **What's included:**

- > Experienced, knowledgeable English-speaking tour director escort
- > Private transfer on a comfortable air-conditioned vehicle
- > All meals, excursions, and sightseeing as described
- > Premium hotels & on-tour flight tickets

#### **What's not included:**

- > Gratuities for your tour guide & driver & services
- > Personal expenses: shopping, telephone...
- > 3.5% extra for tour payment made via Credit card or Payment link

#### **Extra information that you need to know before you book this trip:**

- > Guest, to let our travel advisor know if there's a food allergy or special food request upon placing your booking
- > For a group request of more than 30 guests, please contact our travel experts at **(+84) 901-388-555** for assistance.