

Highlights Of Cambodia



TRIP OVERVIEW

Bursting with UNESCO World Heritage recognised temples, off the beaten track beaches and a fascinating heritage, Cambodia has reinvented itself as an enticing destination for the discerning traveller. With a host of memorable landscapes from the mighty Mekong River and the tranquil Tonlé Sap lake to the sleepy towns with faded colonial architecture and old-fashioned charm, this country is truly worth your attention.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Cambodia. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as airline and hotel details and visa requirements.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner,

DAY 1: UK to Phnom Penh

Depart London on your scheduled overnight flight to Phnom Penh in Cambodia.

DAY 2: Phnom Penh D

You will be met by your guide on arrival and transferred to your hotel with some time to relax before joining the group again for dinner.

DAY 3: Phnom Penh B/L/D

Following breakfast, the day begins with a visit to the Royal Palace. Built by King Norodom in 1866, it is a spectacular sight to behold boasting ornately gilded Khmer roofs, a beguiling throne hall, a solid gold-encrusted Buddha and the Silver Pagoda made up of 5,000 silver tiles. This afternoon includes a guided tour of Toul Sleng Prison Museum and the Killing Fields of Choeung Ek, both grim reminders of Cambodia's bloody past that took 1.7 million victims under Pol Pot's gruesome regime. These excursions may prove distressing for some but are important pieces of Cambodia's historical and cultural puzzle. Round off the day with sunset views over the tree-lined avenues from Wat Phnom Temple then return to your hotel for your evening meal.

DAY 4: Phnom Penh to Kep B/L/D

Depart the capital in the morning for the beachside town of Kep, with some fascinating stops along the way. First visit Phnom Chhnork, a remarkable 7th century shrine dedicated to Shiva found within a low cave formation that is reached by a 203-step staircase that leads up the hillside and down into the cavern below. Once in the cave you'll be greeted by a stalactite elephant at the entrance before reaching the shrine itself which still bears the carvings found in unusually good condition thanks to the protection of the cave overhead. Later continue to Kampot Pepper Farm to learn about the renowned Kampot pepper that grows exceptionally well here owing to the excellent seaside climate and quality of soil. The arrival of Chinese pepper planters dates back to the 13th century, however it wasn't until the end of the 19th century that production really expanded on an intense scale as the French began to export 8,000 tonnes annually. Arrive in Kep in the late afternoon and take a wander around this tranquil coastal area that was once the favourite holiday spot for Cambodia's French-influenced elite but still welcomes tourists today thanks to its delicious seafood and tropical islands.

DAY 5: Kep to Sihanoukville B

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel before enjoying a visit to Kep's crab market where bustling stalls line the road with live crabs and sizzling barbecues and guests can try their hand at bargaining for these delicious crustaceans, but be sure to remember the Khmer phrase "t'lay na!" meaning "so expensive!" to ensure the best price. Continue in the

afternoon to Sihanoukville, Cambodia's premier beach resort. The rest of the day will be at leisure to explore the surrounding area, we suggest a walk up to the summit of Victory Hill which affords excellent views down over the town and the Gulf of Thailand.

DAY 6: Sihanoukville B

Today it's time to sit back and relax on white sandy beaches or take a dip in the inviting blue ocean with a full day at leisure.

DAY 7: Sihanoukville to Siem Reap B/L/D

Breakfast will be served at your hotel then there will be some free time before your flight to Siem Reap. Dinner will be served in a local restaurant.

DAY 8: Siem Reap B/L/D

Begin your day with an early breakfast before setting off for Banteay Srei, a Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva and considered by many to be the 'Jewel in the Crown' of Angkorian art as it is cut from stone of a pinkish hue and includes some of the finest carvings in the world. This afternoon you'll continue to the biggest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia, Tonlé Sap, where you'll have the opportunity to learn about life on the river during a tour on a traditional wooden boat to the charming village of Chong Khnea. Tonight experience a wonderful Aspara dance performance, an ancient dance that you'll see depicted on the walls of Angkor Wat.

DAY 9: Siem Reap B/L/D

Take an early breakfast to watch the sunrise over the 12th century Angkor Wat temple complex, the best-preserved temple boasting fascinating decorative flourishes that took 30 years to build and represents Khmer civilisation at its grandest. Next visit Angkor Thom, a group of buildings that somehow surpass Angkor Watt in splendour and grandiosity, not surprising given that it was the last great capital of the Khmer empire. Start at the Southern Gate, flanked by a row of 54 stone figures on each side, followed by the Bayon and its beautifully crafted central towers. From here you visit Baphoun, Phimeanakas and the Elephant Terrace, once used as a giant viewing stand for public ceremonies and the Terrace of the Leper King. Lastly see Ta Prohm, undoubtedly the most atmospheric ruin at Angkor. Unlike the other monuments of Angkor, it has been left to be swallowed by the jungle and is the perfect place to watch the sun set over Angkor Wat.

DAY 10/11: Siem Reap to UK B

Depart Siem Reap for your return flight back to the UK via Hanoi, or continue on to your chosen extension.



ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character, and can range from business hotels to guesthouses. Hotel accommodation is generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note there is no international classification system for hotels, and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Cambodia. All group tours hotels have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed.

Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

If you have booked a triple share please note that your room will be a twin room with a rollaway bed or sofa bed added. This may limit the floor space in the room.

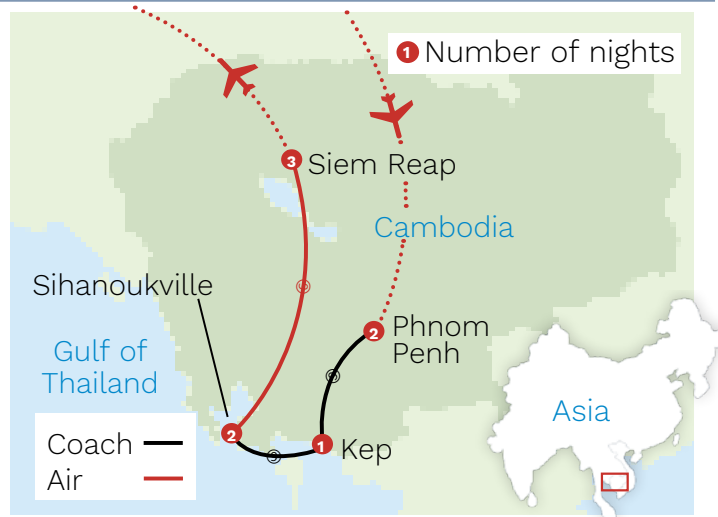
Please note: final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning.

Lunch and dinner (when included) will be taken in local restaurants.

A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.



FLIGHT INFORMATION

Your initial flight is to Phnom Penh International Airport with Vietnam Airlines (VN), departing from London Heathrow Terminal 4.

IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking, lounges or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extra. Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

Baggage Allowance

Each passenger is entitled to 30kg of hold luggage.

Hand luggage: One piece not exceeding 7Kg and with maximum total dimensions not exceeding 115 cm (56 cm x 36cm x 23 cm). Should you wish to take additional luggage you will need to pay extra at check-in.

ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Phnom Penh you will be met by a representative from our local agent, LV Travel, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury holidays".

The Mercury holidays/LV Travel representative will show you to your transfer vehicle.

Your guide will be able to answer any queries. However, if you need to contact LV Travel during your stay the details are:

LV Travel Head Office, Hanoi - Floor 18, VTC Online Building, No 18, Tam Trinh Str, Hai Ba Trung District, Hanoi, Vietnam

Telephone Number 0084 24 3941 3748

E-mail operation@lvtravel.vn

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for **Lac Viet Travel**

Mrs Anna: 0084 983 096 032

Mr Len: 0084 989 200 116

24 hour e-mail: len@lvtravel.vn

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

A visa is required when travelling to **Cambodia** and can be purchased on arrival. The cost of this is approximately USD \$30 per person and you will be required to bring a passport photo with you as well. Please note that it is important that is plenty of space left in the passport, as a Cambodian visa alone takes up one page. **Vietnam:** For UK citizens a visa for Vietnam is only required for stays longer than 15 days or for multi entry visits.

Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you check your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding visas and passport validity. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries.

Visa requirements are subject to change and obtaining a visa is the responsibility of the traveller and not Mercury Holidays. We recommend you check with your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy prior to departure for the most up to date guidelines regarding visas and passport validity.

Accommodation/Hotel Voucher

We do not produce a separate Accommodation/Hotel voucher; simply ensure that you take your Confirmation Invoice with you because it doubles as your voucher. If you have not yet received an Invoice please call our Administration Department on 0843 224 0723 or email us using the "Contact us" option on our website: www.mercuryholidays.co.uk. Please note that it is not necessary for you to have an Invoice showing your balance paid; your original invoice will suffice for the hotel.

Tour Guides

This is a fully escorted tour meaning that you will be met by a local guide in each of the cities that you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Private Tour

If you have booked a private tour then you will be accompanied by a Driver Guide or a Driver and Local Guides. These will be available to you during all scheduled sightseeing. Private Tours can depart on any day of the week depending on flight and train schedules and the opening days of the attractions. They will follow the itinerary as described in the brochure unless you have been advised otherwise and you will still have all of the same meals, sightseeing and local excursions included.

Tipping

It is at your customary to tip both your driver and guide. We would recommend to tip approximately 7 usd per person per day. This is a total of 70 usd per person to budget for tips on your trip. Tips are accepted in the local currency.

Currency Exchange

The currency in Cambodia is the Cambodian Riel (KHM). We recommend that you take some US Dollars (USD) with you and exchange this currency whilst you are travelling.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, any meals not included in the itinerary as well as drinks and any additional snacks. Approximately £300- £400 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for

tipping or small purchases.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 10, and the maximum will be 40. If in the unlikely event there are less than 10 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date, then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Itinerary Changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the regional flights within and between South-East Asian countries are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction and/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call **0800 781 4237** and quote **'WK830'** for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; www.fco.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Credit Card Information

As normal practice you may be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card, you may be asked for a cash deposit. MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

Passport Information

Your Passport Information is required for this tour. This information is required at least 90 days prior to your departure. Failure to provide this information on time may result in your booking being cancelled with loss of deposit.

Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves climbing of steep stairs and getting on and off coaches. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties. All our tours feature a "Tour Pace" to help find the right holiday for you.

To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights, climb stairs and get on and off coaches and boats. Our tour paces are marked with dots out of 3, with the differences being as follows:

- 1 Dot the tour is Easy-Going
- 2 Dots the tour is Intermediate
- 3 Dots the tour is Advanced

Highlights of Cambodia is rated as 2 Dots meaning that the tour pace is Intermediate. A good level of fitness is required as you may be on your feet for approximately four hours in a day, though this will be interspersed with regular breaks and will vary from day to day. You will be walking around the sights, and may be getting on and off coaches, trains and boats and climbing steps which may be irregular. You will stay in variety of hotels throughout the tour.

Our guides will always endeavor to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

Public Holidays – Vietnam

If you are travelling within the below Vietnamese Public Holidays please note that celebrations can last a couple of days and during these times some businesses will be closed and coach, air and train travel may be affected. Tourist attractions will be open but may be crowded. Tet Holiday is between 12th- 16th Feb 2021, International Labour Day is on 1st May every year, Reunification Day is on 30th April every year and National Independence Day is on 2nd September every year.

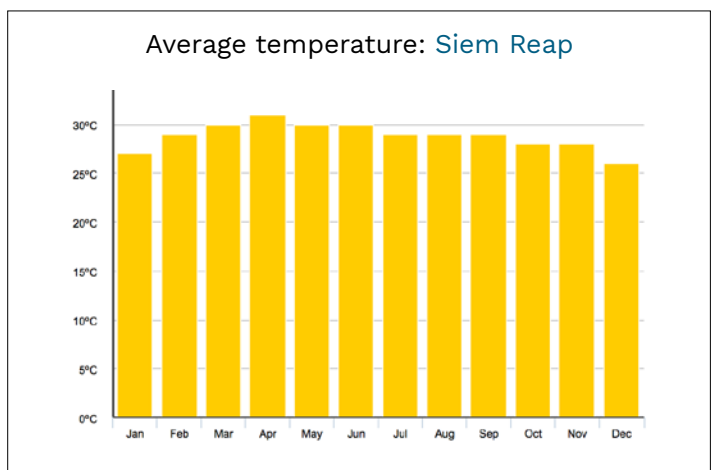
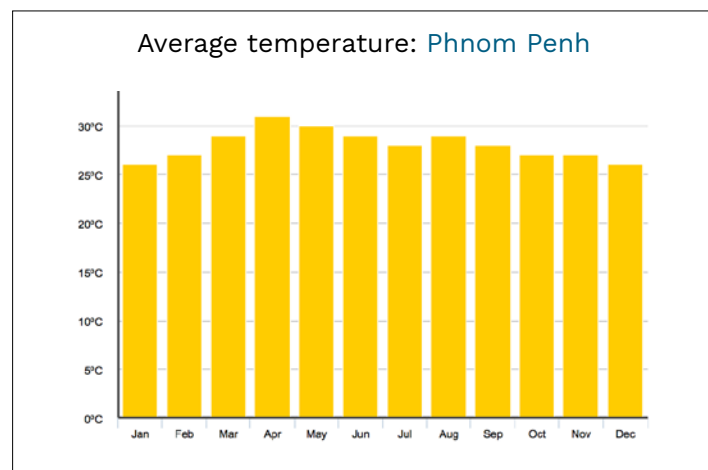
WHAT TO PACK

- Insect repellent
- Suncream and a hat with a big brim for sunny days.
IMPORTANT - suncream and a hat must be worn when on the boat as no shade is provided.
- Comfortable walking shoes such as trainers
- Sunglasses

- Ruck sack or light bag per person
- Personal toiletries
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc
- Travel plug adapter – the electricity supply is 220V. You will need a 2 pin round plug adapter

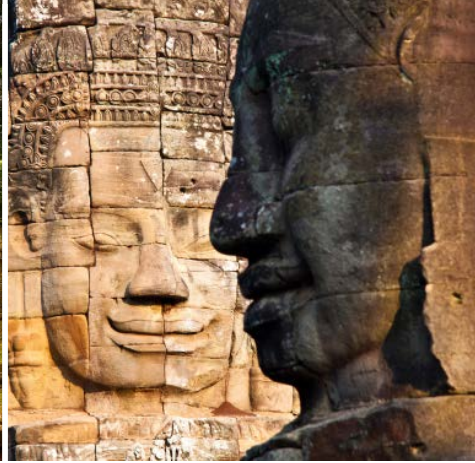
WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



Siem Reap City Stay Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0843 224 0723



TRIP OVERVIEW

Spend 3 extra nights in Cambodia to further explore Siem Reap or Angkor Wat at your own pace.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension to Siem Reap.

Hotel information

Your stay will take place at the 4★ Shinta Mani Resort on Bed & Breakfast. The Shinta Mani Resort is a newly renovated 4★ boutique property centrally located in the leafy French Quarter between The Royal Gardens and the Old Market Area and just 15 minutes from Angkor Wat. Relax by the pool or enjoy a wonderful spa treatment or simply spend the day wandering around Siem Reap which is just a 10 minute walk away.

Poolview rooms are located on the first floor of the courtyard style resort and all have balcony views over the swimming pool and tropical gardens. Rooms are available in King or Twin beds and include an LCD TV/ soundbar, bluetooth and complimentary wireless internet access.

Hotel address: Oum Khun St/Shinta Mani Rd, Krong Siem Reap 00000, Cambodia. Contact number: 00855 63 967 885

Any alternative hotels or board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.



Please note: the hotels listed are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover personal purchases such as lunches, dinners and drinks, laundry service and souvenirs plus money for any attractions you wish to visit during your stay.

Tour Guides

Your stay in Siem Reap is not escorted by a tour guide. All internal transfers are included.

Please note

This extension takes place after your main tour.



FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0843 224 0723**

Hanoi And Halong Bay Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0843 224 0723



TRIP OVERVIEW

Combine the famous sites of Hanoi such as the Ho Chi Minh Complex and One Pillar Pagoda with an overnight luxury cruise on the awe-inspiring Halong Bay, passing local towns, fascinating intricate limestone formations and visiting the impressive Thien Cahn Son Cave.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for your extension to Hanoi and Halong Bay.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, BR = Brunch L = Lunch, D = Dinner,

DAY 10: Siem Reap to Hanoi D

On arrival in Hanoi, you will be met by your local guide and transferred to your hotel. Relax in the afternoon before enjoying dinner at a local Vietnamese restaurant.

DAY 11: Hanoi B/L/D

Following breakfast your full day tour will commence at the Ho Chi Minh Complex, where the father of modern day Vietnam, affectionately referred to as 'Uncle Ho' declared the nations independence in 1945. Visit such sites as the ancient Temple of Literature, the Presidential Palace and the famous One Pillar Pagoda. Following lunch continue with a visit to the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology which offers an insight into the 54 different ethnic groups of Vietnam. In the evening sit back and enjoy a thousand-year-old Water Puppet Show and enjoy a local dinner.

DAY 12: Hanoi to Halong Bay B/L/D

This memorable day takes you to the awe-inspiring Halong Bay where you will explore these tranquil islands on a luxury cruise boat, passing local towns and intricate limestone formations on the way. Take a tour of Thien Canh Son Cave, an ethereal wonderland of ancient carvings and suspended stalactites that hang beneath a canopy of glistening gems. Anchoring in the Cong Do area, a Vietnamese cooking demonstration will take place on the sundeck, followed by a sumptuous seafood dinner on board before you retire to your cabin for the evening.

DAY 13: Halong Bay to Hanoi BR/D

Start your day with a calming Tai Chi session before a rowing boat takes you to Vung Vieng fishing village, a settlement completely floating on water and dating back hundreds of years. In the afternoon, pass sprawling rice paddies and rolling hillside landscapes, as you travel back to Hanoi. Check in to your hotel and enjoy a farewell dinner.

DAY 14: Hanoi to the UK B

Enjoy a morning at leisure before transferring to the airport for your return flight to the UK.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

Hotel information

Hanoi (3 nights): **4★ Sunway Hotel** - 19 Pham Dinh Ho Street, Hai Ba Trung District, Hanoi, Vietnam. Contact number: 0084 2439 713 888

Halong Bay (1 night): **Victory Cruise Boat**

Any alternative hotels or boats will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

Please note: the hotels and boats listed are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Personal Expenses

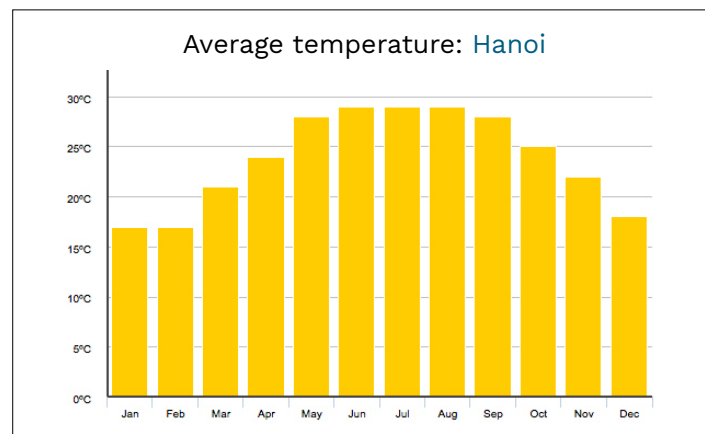
You will need to take money with you to cover personal purchases such as laundry service and souvenirs plus money for any drinks and meals that are not included during your stay.

Tour Guides

This is a fully escorted tour extension, meaning that you will be met on arrival by your guide who will remain with you for the duration of your trip ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Please note

This extension takes place after your main tour.



Saigon & The Mekong Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0843 224 0723



TRIP OVERVIEW

Experiencing the fascinating city of Saigon, discover the Cu Chi tunnels used by the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War, take a cruise on the famous Mekong, marvel at the spectacular Cai Rang floating market and journey through the picturesque canals of Can Tho.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for your extension to Saigon and the Mekong.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner,

DAY 10: Siem Reap to Saigon D

On arrival in Saigon, you will be met by your local guide and transferred to your hotel.

DAY 11: Saigon B/L/D

Following breakfast travel to the Cu Chi Tunnels, an impressive network of underground tunnels used by the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War. En route your tour will pass through a traditional rice paper making village before your lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, start your city tour with a visit to the Reunification Palace, the former home and workplace of the president of South Vietnam during the war. Continue to the nearby Notre Dame Cathedral which was built between 1877-1883 and is the major seat of the Catholic religion in Vietnam. You will then travel to the French-style Saigon Post Office followed by the Thien Hau Pagoda and a local lacquer ware workshop. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

DAY 12: Saigon to Can Tho B/L/D

In the morning, drive to My Tho where you will board a boat for a cruise down the Mekong River, passing floating markets, local villages and the four islands known as Dragon, Unicorn, Phoenix and Turtle. Your boat will dock at Unicorn Island, giving you the chance to visit farms selling exotic fruits and a coconut sweet workshop where you can sample these local delights. Later visit a bee farm and enjoy their traditional honey tea, then a tour down the Vam Chua Canal on a rowing boat. Continue to Can Tho where you will spend the night.

DAY 13: Can Tho B/L/D

Your morning in Can Tho will begin with a gentle trip through the picturesque canals and waterways in a small boat, taking in the sultry scenery and daily activities of the small boat vendors of the floating markets who live along these Mekong canals, as well as stopping at the spectacular Cai Rang floating market - the largest in the entire Mekong Delta. Before cruising back to land enjoy tasting tropical fruits at the Ba Cong Garden House. After enjoying lunch at a local restaurant enjoy a Can Tho city tour visiting Binh thuy Ancient House, Ninh Kieu Quay, Ong Pagoda and Can tho market.

DAY 14: Can Tho to Saigon B

Following breakfast transfer to Saigon where the day is at leisure to explore the city at your own pace.

DAY 15: Saigon to the UK B

Spend this morning at leisure before transferring to the airport for your return flight to the UK.

Hotel information

Saigon (3 nights): **4★ Golden Central** - 140 Ly Tu Trong Street, Ben Thanh Ward, District 1, Bến Thành, Quận 1, Hồ Chí Minh, Vietnam. Contact number: 0084 28 3827 0666

Can Tho (2 nights): **4★ Ninh Kieu 2** - 03 Hoa Binh road, Ninh Kieu, Can Tho, Vietnam. Contact number: 0084 292 3789 9999

Any alternative hotels will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

Please note: the hotels listed are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Personal Expenses

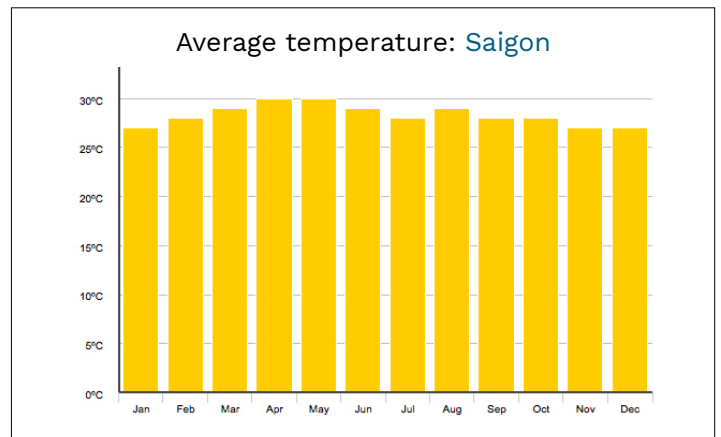
You will need to take money with you to cover personal purchases such as laundry service and souvenirs plus money for any drinks and meals that are not included during your stay.

Tour Guides

This is a fully escorted tour extension, meaning that you will be met on arrival by your guide who will remain with you for the duration of your trip ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Please note

This extension takes place after your main tour.



FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.