

Vietnam & Cambodia Explorer



TRIP OVERVIEW

Steeped in history, discover an assortment of ancient treasures at the aweinspiring Angkor Wat complex and experience breath-taking panoramas in the heart of Halong Bay's azure waters.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Vietnam & 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, BR = Brunch, L = Lunch, D = Dinner,

DAY 1: London to Hanoi

Depart London on your scheduled overnight flight to Hanoi.

DAY 2: Hanoi B/D

Upon arrival, meet your local guide and transfer to your hotel to relax after your flight.

DAY 3: Hanoi B/L/D

Begin today's tour of Hanoi at the distinctive Presidential Palace. Wander through pristinely manicured botanical gardens to uncover Ho Chi Minh's modestly sized house on stilts, nestled amongst the tranquillity of this rural oasis. From here, journey to Hanoi's emblematic One Pillar Pagoda and the 10th Century Temple of Literature before embarking on a street food tour, where you can sample Dried Beef Mannequin, Hanoi bread and Kebab Rice Noodles, as well as the delightful flavours of Egg-milk coffee within the vibrant Dong Xuan Market. Continue to Hao Lo Prison known by American POWs as the Hanoi Hilton and then to the bustling Old Quarter Street to experience the daily life of the locals, before enjoying a traditional Water Puppet Performance this evening.

DAY 4: Hanoi to Halong Bay B/L/D

Glide across the emerald waters of Halong Bay and experience a vision of extraordinary beauty, snaking past a landscape of scattered islands, limestone karsts and enchanting grottoes. Anchoring at the mouth of a secluded cove, disembark for the unique opportunity to swim in the azure waters, before spending a relaxing night in the midst of Halong Bay.

DAY 5: Halong Bay to Hoi An BR/D

Awake to the serene sounds of lapping water and relish in a fresh morning breeze, as you slowly sail towards port whilst tucking into a delicious breakfast (brunch on some boats). Transfer to the airport and journey to Hoi An, where you can spend the rest of the day at leisure.

DAY 6: Hoi An B/D

Formerly one of Southeast Asia's chief ports, discover a labyrinth of riverside streets strewn with perfectly preserved Japanese merchant houses and Chinese tea warehouses. Explore this easily navigable town at leisure in the morning before joining a city tour in the afternoon, visiting the 17th century Japanese Pagoda Bridge. After the tour sample some of the street food in Hoi An Ancient Town including Cao Lau Noodles, White

Rose Cake, Fried Wonton Dumplings, Chicken Rice and Fried Banana Cake.

DAY 7: Hoi An B

Today, experience Hoi An's charming character during a day at leisure.

DAY 8: Hoi An to Saigon B

After a morning at leisure, journey to the bustling city of Saigon, where an afternoon tour begins at the War Remnants Museum; presenting a collection of retired artillery and weaponry artefacts, explore the harrowing exhibits which highlight the grim realities of the Vietnam War. Next, head towards the distinctive neo-Romanesque Notre Dame Cathedral and adjacent Saigon Post Office. Finally, experience a hive of activity amidst the vibrant market stalls of Ben Thanh Market.

DAY 9: Saigon B/L

After breakfast, discover the extraordinary underground Cu Chi tunnel network, spanning an astonishing 75 miles; famously housing hospitals, living quarters and weapon factories during the Vietnam War, these restricted passageways were used as the main base of operations by the Viet Cong. This afternoon, enjoy some time at leisure in the centre of cosmopolitan Saigon.

DAY 10: Saigon to Can Tho B/L/D

Travel south to the picturesque province of Ben Tre. Take a boat trip along the Hoa River, pausing en route to experience the unique regional trades of local residents, incorporating visits to a coconut sweets workshop, thriving bee garden and candy mill, relishing in a tasting along the way. Following a short walk towards a local farmer house, journey along village paths and through verdant vegetable plains on a tuk tuk, before continuing to Can Tho.

DAY 11: Can Tho to Chau Doc B/L/D

Experience a hive of activity upon Can Tho's crowded canals this morning, on a scenic journey towards Mekong Delta. The Cai Rang floating market is packed with an enormous array of vibrant fruit and vegetables to feast your eyes upon. Venture onwards, absorbing tranquil vistas along the enchanting Mekong, and head towards a local village for the chance to visit a rice husking mill and rice noodle shop, observing the process of producing these staple ingredients, before transferring to Chau Doc.

DAY 12: Chau Doc to Phnom Penh B/L/D

Following a speedboat journey into Cambodia's historic capital, immerse yourself in regal grandeur at the Cambodian King's residence; the ornately gilded Khmer roofs of the Royal Palace majestically rub shoulders with the neighbouring lavish Silver Pagoda. Later in the day, boasting one of Cambodia's largest collections of Khmer art dating from the prehistoric era through to the present day, wander through the National Museum's fascinating exhibition of Cambodian history, and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant this evening.

DAY 13: Phnom Penh to Siem Reap B

Following breakfast, a moving tour of the Tuol Sleng Prison Museum and the Killing Fields of Choeng Ek explores the reality of Cambodia's troubled past. Although inconceivable to comprehend the harrowing events which once unfolded here, these excursions illustrate imperative pieces of Cambodia's historical puzzle. Pay your respects to the victims of the Pol Pot regime at Choeng Ek's poignant Buddhist memorial before travelling to Siem Reap this evening.

DAY 14: Siem Reap B

Take some time to relax, shop and discover the street life in Cambodia's most pleasant tourist town.

DAY 15: Siem Reap B/L/D

Today, embark on a tour of the Angkor Wat complex; a stunning example of enduring devotion to the gods, this grandiose temple has been in constant use since its construction in 1112. Flanked by a commanding row of 54 stone figures, enter the South Gate of the Angkor Thom and visit the mesmerising gothic towers of Bayon and later the Baphuon, Phimeanakas and the Elephant Terrace. Following lunch, uncover the mystical Ta Prohm temple, partially engulfed by the jungle's burgeoning canopy, before enjoying a farewell dinner and traditional Apsara dance performance.

DAY 16/17: Siem Reap to the UK B

Enjoy a morning at leisure before departing for your flight home or chosen extension, via Hanoi.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP



Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character. 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 Vietnam. 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.

Please note the hotels listed on our website and brochure 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.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Lunch and dinner will be taken in local Vietnamese restaurants. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.

ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Hanoi 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. If you need to contact your representative during your stay the details are:

Lac Viet Travel (LV)

Telephone Number 0084 2439 413 748

e-mail operation@lvtravel.vn ; operate@lvtravel.vn

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for **LV Travel head office, Hanoi**

Mr Len - General Manager (Mobile); 0084989200116

Mrs Anna Hanh - Operation Manager (Mobile); 0084 983096032

Office number; 0084 24 3941 3748/ 49/ 50

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

Vietnam: A visa is not required. For UK citizens a visa for Vietnam is only required for stays longer than 15 days or for multi entry visits. For those taking a Bali extension (therefore staying longer than 15 days), a visa is required for entry into Vietnam. You can apply for an e-visa online at <https://evisa.xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn>. Alternatively, we work closely with The Travel Visa Company who will be able to arrange your visa for you on your behalf. 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.

Cambodia: You will need to purchase a visa for Cambodia which 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 you will need to have at least one completely blank page in your passport for the Cambodian visa to be issued.

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.

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 always have first-hand knowledge.

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 6/7 USD per person per day. This is a total of 112 USD per person to budget for tips on your trip. Tips are accepted in the local currency.

Currency Exchange

Vietnam: The currency in Vietnam is the Vietnamese Dong, known as VND. You can exchange your currency in Vietnam, however US Dollars are widely accepted in Vietnam should you wish to keep an alternative currency on you.

Cambodia: The currency in Cambodia is the Cambodian Riels, known as KHR. You can exchange your currency in Cambodia, however US Dollars are widely accepted in Cambodia should you wish to keep an alternative currency on you.

We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. It is important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency before you arrive in the country. Cash machines will also be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in your local currency.

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 £200- £300 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour.

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 domestic airlines in country 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 &/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.

WHAT TO PACK

- Sunglasses, Sunscreen and hat in summer
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger
- An electric plug converter - the electricity in Vietnam/Cambodia is 220-240 V. You will need a 2-round pin plug or 2 flat pin plug adapters
- Loo paper for public WC's
- Antibacterial hand gel
- Binoculars

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Your initial flight is to [Hanoi 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 or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras on 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

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.

Physical Accessibility

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

Vietnam & Cambodia Explorer 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 endeavour 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.

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.

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.

- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc
- A small overnight bag to take on your cruise of Halong Bay
- Waterproof, lightweight jacket
- Lightweight clothing
- Sweater and jacket for the cooler months

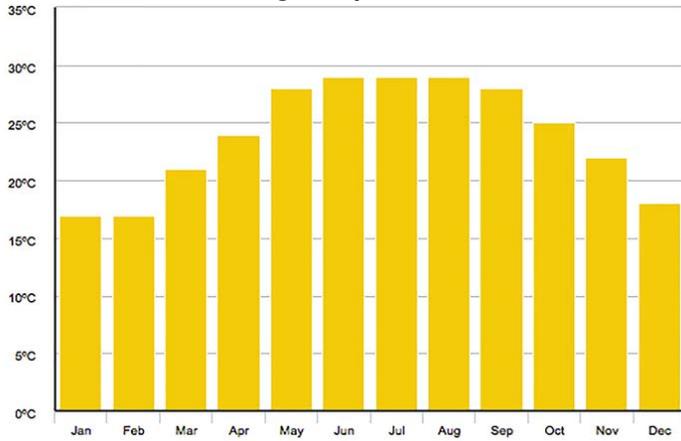
Baggage Allowance

Each passenger is entitled to 23KG of hold luggage plus 1 item of hand luggage not exceeding (Max 10kg - 56cm/36cm/23cm) in size and 1 personal item such as a handbag, briefcase or laptop case. Weight restrictions will be finalized on E-ticket receipt. Should you wish to take additional luggage you will need to pay extra at check-in. Check-In should be at least 3 hours before departure.

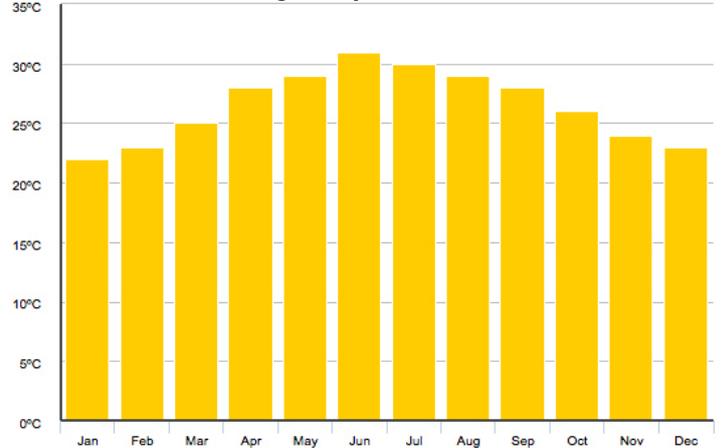
WEATHER AND CLIMATE

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

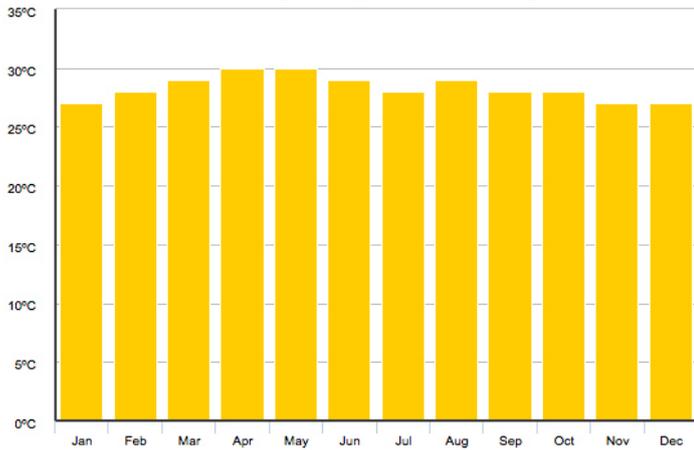
Average Temperature for Hanoi



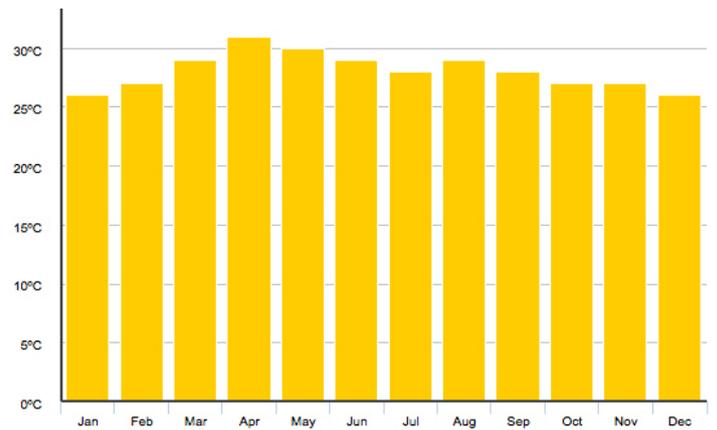
Average Temperature for Hoi An



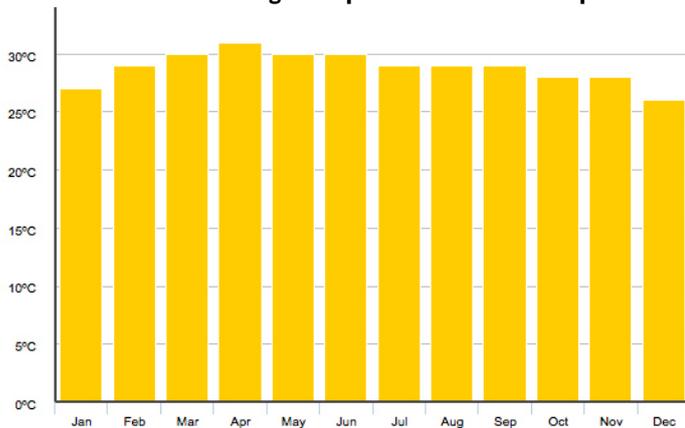
Average Temperature for Saigon



Average Temperature for Phnom Penh



Average Temperature for Siem Reap



Cambodia Beach Stay

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



TRIP OVERVIEW

Relax for 3 nights/4 days at the end of your tour in Sihanoukville, a popular coastal city located at the tip of an elevated peninsula in Cambodia's south-west at the Gulf of Thailand.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

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

Hotel

Your 3 night stay in Sihanoukville will take place at the **5★ Sokha Beach Resort** on Bed & Breakfast.

The 5★ Sokha Beach Resort enjoys an enviable position on a private white sandy beach which stretches along 1.5km of stunning coastline. Offering an excellent selection of guest facilities including 2 large outdoor swimming pools, a relaxing spa and a variety of restaurants and bars which serve a broad choice of worldwide cuisine, the Sokha Beach Resort epitomises tranquility.

Address: Street 2 Thnou, Sihanouk Ville, Cambodia Sihanouk Ville 18000, Cambodia

Telephone: 00855 34 935 999

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

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 some extra money with you to cover lunches, snacks, dinner, drinks and personal purchases such as souvenirs and laundry.

Tour Guides

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

Meals

Your stay in Cambodia is on a Bed and Breakfast basis

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.

Siem Reap 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 2 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

Your 2 night stay in Siem Reap will take place at the **5★ Sokha Siem Reap** on Bed & Breakfast.

Combining tranquility and relaxation, the 5★ Sokha Siem Reap is set amidst lush tropical gardens and enjoys a centralised location, just 10 minutes from the city centre, where guests can enjoy easy access to the Angkor Tourist complex and popular city locations such as Siem Reap's Old Market. This superb hotel provides a wealth of excellent guest facilities including a large outdoor swimming pool and spa, as well as a choice of restaurants and bars serving a delicious range of cuisine.

Address: Angkor Cultural & Tourism Complex Junction, Phum Trang, Sangkat Storkram Road 60 Krong, 17252, Cambodia
Telephone: 00855 63 961 999

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

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 some extra money with you to cover lunches, snacks, dinner, drinks and personal purchases such as souvenirs and laundry.

Tour Guides

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

Meals

Your stay in Cambodia is on a Bed and Breakfast basis

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.

Bali Beach Stay

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



TRIP OVERVIEW

Extend your trip with an extra 5 nights in one of Bali's most laid-back beach resorts. Offering stunning ocean views, inviting beach restaurants and a unique atmosphere, Bali is the perfect place to unwind.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

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

Hotel

Your 5 night stay in Bali will take place at one of the following hotels.

(5 nights) 4★ Puri Santrian Resort Sanur on a Bed and Breakfast basis
Address: Jl. Cemara No.35, Sanur, Kec. Denpasar Sel., Kota Denpasar, Bali 80228, Indonesia

Contact Number: 0062 361 288009

OR

(5 nights) 5★ Nusa Dua Beach Hotel and Spa on a Bed and Breakfast basis

Address: Kawasan BTDC Pariwisata Nusa Dua Lot. North 4, Benoa, Kec. Kuta Sel., Kabupaten Badung, Bali 80363, Indonesia

Contact Number: 0062 361 771210

Please note that due to flight schedules, the first night of this extension will be spent in Saigon, extending your tour by one night

(1 night) 4★ Golden Central Hotel Saigon on a Bed and Breakfast basis

Address: 140 Ly Tu Trong, Ben Thanh Ward, District 1, Ho Chi, Minh City, Vietnam, **Contact Number:** 0084 28 3827 0666

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

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 some extra money with you to cover lunches, snacks, dinner, drinks and personal purchases such as souvenirs and laundry.

Tour Guides

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

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.

Visa

As the first night of this extension is spent in Saigon a multi entry Vietnamese visa is required. You can apply for an e-visa online at <https://evisa.xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn>. Alternatively, we work closely with The Travel Visa Company who will be able to arrange your visa for you on your behalf. Please call them on 01270 250 590 and quote "Mercury Holidays". A visa is not required before you travel to Indonesia; you will be issued with a tourist visa valid for 30 days on arrival into the country. 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.

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for your stay in Bali
Address: Jalan Pulau Moyo No: 15 X, Denpasar 80222, Bali - Indonesia
Contact number: 00 62 361 237782
Out of office hours: 0062 8123814202

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

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

Average Temperature for Bali

