

Myanmar, Cambodia & Vietnam

DAY 1 ARRIVE YANGON (D)

Arrive Yangon where you will be greeted by your private guide.

Yangon, formerly known as Rangoon, is still a relatively quiet and charming city. Its impressive colonial and spiritual heritage makes Yangon one of the most fascinating and authentic capitals of South East Asia.

On arrival, visit the National Museum, filled with artifacts and Myanmar cultural exhibits and Chaukhtatgyi reclining Buddha with 70m long.

Then transfer to your hotel for check in

Afternoon explore down town Yangon and at the end of the day, visit Myanmar's holiest monument, the incredible **Shwedagon Pagoda**, a place of great spiritual importance to the Buddhist people. As the sun sets, enjoy the changing colours reflected on the main stupa, which is covered with 60 tons of gold leaf.

Dinner at Monsoon Restaurant where you can enjoy fresh, traditional Myanmar Cuisines

Overnight in Yangon

DAY 2 YANGON - HEHO - INLE LAKE (B,L)

This morning we transfer to Yangon Airport for our flight to Heho (ETD/ETA : 1030h/1210h)

From Heho airport a scenic drive leads to Nyaung Shwe, the gateway village to Inle Lake.

En route, we take a brief side trip to **Aythayar** wine estate near Taungyi where we stop to have a look at the Myanmar's first vineyard. A coffee, tea and wine tasting break is in order before we precede Nyaung Shw stopping at the wooden Shwe Yan Pyay Monastery enroute.

Lunch at View Point restaurant near Nyaung Shwe jetty

We board our private motorboat to head out onto Inle Lake, one of Myanmar's most spectacular sights.

We pass villages built on stilts over the lake, which are mostly inhabited by Intha people, the leg-rowing fishermen of the lake. See the floating gardens built up from strips of water hyacinth and mud and anchored to the bottom with bamboo poles.

Overnight on Inle Lake

DAY 3 INLE LAKE - excursion INDEIN (B)

After breakfast we re embark on our private motorboat and head out to the morning market on the lake. Rotating around villages on and near the lake in a 5 day rhythm, a colorful market visited by lake inhabitants and surrounding hill tribes is held daily (except on new and full moon days).

From the middle of the lake we continue down a small canal leading to the Paoh village of In Dein. After a walk around the village, passing a local school, we take the covered stairway to the beautiful Alaung Sitthou area where ancient stupas are partly covered by vegetation. From here there is a magnificent view over the lake.

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In the late morning, transfer back to the main land

In the afternoon visit the weaving village of Inpawkhone, a cheroot factory where the typical Burmese cigars are made by hand.

Overnight on Inle Lake

DAY 4 INLE LAKE - HEHO- BAGAN (B)

Relaxed breakfast at the hotel

This morning, we will visit the Nga Hpe Chaung (“Jumping Cats”) Monastery with its Shan Buddhas, and **Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda**, the lake’s main sanctuary.

Afternoon transfer to Heho airport for your flight to Bagan (ETD/ETA : 1625h/1740h via NYU)

On arrival transfer to your hotel for check in

Overnight in Bagan

DAY 5 BAGAN (B,D)

Thousands of ancient stupas and temples in this area make Bagan one of the most remarkable archaeological sites in of Asia, if not the world. Between the 11th and 13th centuries, when Bagan was the capital of Myanmar, rulers constructed huge stupas and temples many of which are still standing today on the banks of the Irrawaddy River.

This morning we head to Tayokye Pyay for a first overview over the plain of Bagan. We continue with the **Shwezigon Pagoda** and its magnificent golden stupa, followed by **Wetkyi-In Gubyaukgyi**, a cave temple with exquisite *jatakas* mural paintings. Our morning tour concludes at elegant **Htilominlo Temple** noted for its fine plaster carvings and glazed sandstone decorations.

This afternoon visit Ananda, an architectural masterpiece of the early-style temple. Nearby Ananda Okkyang is one of the few surviving brick monasteries from the early Bagan period.

End your day with a horse carriage tour among the temples starting at **Ananda** and passing Thatbyinnyu, the highest temple in Bagan. Continue past the massive Dhammayangyi Temple, noted for its remarkable brickwork, and the towering Sulamani.

Enjoy sunset over the plains of Bagan from one of the open upper terraced temples.

Enjoy *Daung-Lann* dinner (traditional circular tray) at Nanda restaurant with its Puppet Show.

Overnight in Bagan

DAY 6 BAGAN - Embark RV PAUKAN 2007 (B,L,D)

Breakfast at the hotel and car and guide at your disposal until transfer to the jetty.

The embarkation is 11.00 hrs (RV Paukan 11.30 hrs) at Bagan Aye Yar jetty.

The Cast off time is at 11.30 hrs (RV Paukan 12 noon).

Welcome Cocktail in the Saloon.

Lunch will be served at 13.00.

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In the late afternoon stop in a typical river village.

Dinner onboard

Overnight on board

DAY 7 RV PAUKAN 2007 (B,L,D)

Cruise all day with stop enroute in the morning to visit Yandabo, a typical river village specialize in Pot-Making, where the peace treaty of the First Anglo-Burmese war was signed on Feb. 24, 1826.

Moor overnight nearby a village (Ywar Thit Gyi or Pauk Myaing Pauk Taw) few miles away from Ava Bridge.

Overnight onboard

DAY 8 Disembark RV PAUKAN 2007 - arrive MANDALAY - YANGON (B)

Enjoy the sunrise. After an early breakfast, the passengers will disembark Gawein jetty at around 09.30/10.00 hrs.

On arrival, you will be welcome back by your guide and we begin our visit of Mandalay with the **Mahamuni Pagoda**, famous for its venerable statue of Buddha covered with gold leaf.

If time permit, visit optionally a tour of **traditional workshops** includes crafts such as woodcarving, marble masonry, *Kalaga* tapestry and gold leaf production.

Afternoon proceed for the visit to the pagoda houses over 729 marble stone slabs of Buddhist scriptures, known as the world's biggest book, within its grounds. Continue exploring Mandalay by visiting two other impressive landmarks: **Shwenandaw Monastery** noted for its exquisite woodcarving.

Then transfer to Mandalay airport for flight back to Yangon (ETD/ETA : 1710h/1915h via NYU)

On arrival transfer to your hotel by locally decorated colonial bus "Elephant coach" to the hotel (depends on availability)

Overnight in Yangon

DAY 9 YANGON - departure - Arrive Siem Reap (B)

Breakfast at the hotel then transfer to Mingaladon Airport for your departure flight

Possible Flight

Yangon-Bangkok (PG 702 - 1440h/1625h)

Bangkok-Siem Reap (PG 909 - 1845h/1945h)

Arrive in Siem Reap by PG 909 @ 19h45, Cambodia and after clearing formalities you are welcomed by your private English speaking guide and transferred to your hotel for check-in.

Siem Reap is the capital city of Siem Reap Province. This small town is the gateway to the Angkor Archeological Park, which is over 40 km² and is home to more than 100 temples dating from the 9th to the 13th centuries.

Overnight in Siem Reap

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DAY 10

SIEM REAP

(B,L)

Start to visit the Great City of Angkor Thom, which was the last capital of the Great Khmer Empire under the reign of Jayavarman VII. This city is surrounded by a 8 m high wall, each side of the city is 4 km long. It draws a perfect square you access this town through 5 gates; 4 of them represent the cardinal points and the 5th one the Victory Gate was the one leading directly to the Royal Palace Area.

You will arrive via the South Gate, an impressive stone gate carved with Elephants and 4 giant faces. On each side is a row of 54 gods or demons holding the sacred Naga snake. From here you enter the city by elephant and arrive at the Bayon Temple.

This monumental temple lies exactly in the center of the city with its 54 towers representing the 54 provinces of the then Great Khmer Empire. Each tower has 4 faces. Continue on to visit the terrace of the Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King.

Lunch L'escale des arts restaurant

This afternoon continue your visit to the largest religious temple in the world; the magnificent Angkor Wat Temple. Built by Suryavarman II, in early 12th century Angkor Wat is constructed following the model of the temple mountain symbolizing the Mount Merou, home of the gods. Considered the masterpiece of Khmer architecture, this Vishnu temple is the King's funerary temple. These are the main reasons to explain the West exposure of the temple. Inside the temple walls are covered by carvings and bas-reliefs depicting the Hindu mythology and the wars Suryavarman II made during his reign. Angkor Wat is also well known for its 2000 Apsaras dancers decorating the temple.

A round 17h00 takes hot-air Balloon Ride to watch a sunset over the temples and the surroundings jungle. The tethered balloon takes you 150-200 meters high for panoramic views of the Angkor Archeological Park.

Overnight in Siem Reap

DAY 11

SIEM REAP

(B,L)

This morning visit the Banteay Srey and Banteay Samre. Banteay Srei is made of pink sandstone and is one of the smallest temple you can visit but one of the most beautiful as well. Built in 967 AD by a guru to Jayavarman V, it showcases the most exquisite, deep and complex carvings in all Khmer architecture. As well the carvings and bas relief are in a perfect condition although being here for more than millenary. On the way back to Siem Reap you will visit the Banteay Samre. Situated on the eastern edge of the Angkor complex, this temple is very similar to Angkor Wat. This structure, with its typical lotus flower shaped tower, has compact proportions. The temple was built during the finest period of the Khmer architecture and it is nearly perfect condition.

Lunch Viroth's restaurant

In the afternoon drive to Lake Tonle Sap where you will have the opportunity to learn about life on the lake. Tonle Sap is Southeast Asia's largest freshwater lake with its size varying greatly depending on the season. During the dry season it is roughly 2,500 km², swelling to about 4 times its size in during the wet season: 10,000 km²! You will board a boat and visit Kampong Phluk, about 40km southeast of Siem Reap, where you will see floating villages, farms and even a floating hospital. Kampong Phluk also offers a close look at the submerged forest and lakeside village life. You will see flooded mangroves forests surrounding the area which is home to a variety of wildlife including crab-eating macaques. You will journey on your own boat while

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watching a spectacular sunset with a bottle of champagne, canapé and soft drink, as your boat cruise slowly along the lake, passing the floating villages, floating markets, clinics and schools.

Overnight in Siem Reap

DAY 12 SIEM REAP departure - ARRIVE HO CHI MINH CITY (B,L,D)

This morning start to explore Ta Prohm. The most famous among these is Ta Prohm Temple. This is the jungle overgrown temple which has been featured in several Hollywood movies such as Tomb Raider, Indiana Jones and Two Brothers. The large fig trees have merged with the ancient stones and have been left untouched by conservationists. It is truly an awe inspiring site to see how the vegetation is keeps the temple walls “glued” together. If the time allow continue to visit the Artisans d’Angkor, established in 1992 in order to support Cambodian arts and crafts and to help young people find work in their local villages by continuing the practice of traditional arts. Among the workshops available for visit are wood and stone carving, wood and stone lacquering, gilding, and silk processing.

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight to [Saigon by VN 826 @ 13h40](#)

Lunch Café Gourmet restaurant (at Siem Reap international airport)

Arrive in Ho Chi Minh City by VN 826 @ 14h40, referred to locally as ‘Saigon’. Upon arrival your guide will greet you and transfer by private car through the city to your hotel for check-in. Note: normal check in time for hotels is 1400 and schedule of this day will be adapted to your international flight arrival time.

In the afternoon visit Saigon’s landmarks - the War Remnants or the History Museum (choose which one you would most like to see) and the former Presidential Palace. From there stroll to the major sights of colonial Ho Chi Minh City: the Notre Dame Cathedral, Old Saigon Post Office, Dong Khoi Street (formerly Rue Catinat), Continental Hotel, Opera House and City Hall.

Your welcome dinner will be had at the ornate Mandarin Restaurant.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

DAY 13 HO CHI MINH CITY - CU CHI - HO CHI MINH CITY (B, L, D)

Breakfast at the hotel.

After breakfast, early departure for the drive to the Cu Chi Tunnels, originally built by the Viet Minh in the 1940’s. This incredible network of tunnels once stretched for 210 miles and contained extensive Viet Cong infrastructure including tactical quarters, storage rooms, kitchens, a school and even an underground hospital. Most entrances were so well disguised that only a small portion of the system was ever discovered during the American war, despite the fact that some 125 mi/200 km ran under a U.S. military base.

Return to Saigon to enjoy lunch in Bun Ta, a specialty restaurant serving a huge variety of noodle dishes.

Step off the beaten track and go for a stroll through the oldest quarter of the city to explore Saigon’s Antiques Street (Le Cong Kieu), where genuine antiques are mixed in with genuine fakes: Aladdin oil lamps, carved wooden chests, Marelli copper fans, opium pipes, abacuses, etc. You can also find military cast-offs from the Vietnam War, and if you look hard enough, relics from the French Indochina era.

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Follow a typical street to reach the Beaux-Arts Museum, a superb neo-colonial building home to various modern arts. If you are interested explore the art galleries surrounding the museum, where local artists gladly display their talent.

Dinner at a gorgeous local style restaurant serving specialty dishes from Vietnam's central region.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

DAY 14 HO CHI MINH CITY - CAN THO

(B, L)

After breakfast, leave Ho Chi Minh City for the 3.5 hour drive to the Mekong Delta town of Cai Be.

On arrival, board the Cai Be Princess boat. These boats are modeled after traditional sampans and are the perfect way to see the Delta. The tour starts with the visit of Cai Be's colorful floating market before proceeding to visit some local cottage industries where you can see local delicacies being made such as rice pop corn and coco candies. Continue the excursion to Dong Phu, Binh Hoa Phuong and Anh Binh islands. These evergreen areas among the Mekong River bring about large networks of meandering tributaries, crossed with countless arroyos. Lunch will await you at a superb colonial style villa situated in a local village.

After lunch continue your cruise further to discover beautiful landscapes along the river. At the end of the afternoon cross the Co Chien River (a branch of the Mekong) and continue by road to Can Tho City.

Check-in at the lovely and superbly situated Victoria Can Tho Hotel on the banks of the Mekong.

Overnight in Can Tho.

DAY 15 CAN THO - CAI RANG, SAIGON & HOI AN

(B, L)

Make an early start for Cai Rang floating market aboard the Lady Hau, a traditional rice barge which has been converted into a cruising boat. The main items sold at the market are fruit and vegetables and every boat has a long upright pole at its bow from which samples of the goods for sale are hung. The waterway becomes a maze of hundreds of boats packed with mangos, bananas, papaya, pineapples, and even floating *pho* (noodle soup) vendors.

After lunch at the hotel, drive back to Saigon and transfer to the airport for your flight to the central city of Danang.

On arrival, transfer to your hotel in Hoi An (30-mins).

Remainder of the day is free at leisure.

Overnight in Hoi An.

DAY 16 HOI AN

(B, L)

After breakfast depart to a charming herb village on Hoi An's outskirts for a half day cooking class. This small village is located on the banks of a lagoon and for generations the locals have been raising vegetables that end up in chefs' kitchens all over the country. Spend the morning working among the villagers in Tra Que, learning how they raise and prepare vegetables. You will cook together and then have a lunch of Vietnamese dishes with the family.

In the afternoon discover the cute little city of Hoi an, one of the highlights of your Vietnam trip. The city is best explored on foot through the little alleys amidst century-old houses. Many of them are today converted to shops and little quaint restaurants.

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Dinner is on your own tonight; however, we highly recommend The Mango Rooms restaurant in town.

Overnight in Hoi An.

DAY 17 HOI AN - HUE

(B, L, D)

Leave Hoi An for Hue by road for the 3-hour drive. The route passes through Danang where you will make a stop to visit the Cham Museum that has collected and exhibited the finest collection of Cham statues and works of art, recovered from the Cham site of My Son, just 1 hr away.

After your brief stop, continue over the Pass of Ocean Clouds (or the tunnel if you want to avoid mountain roads) and passing the photogenic fishing village of Lang Co before reaching Hue, the former imperial capital of Vietnam.

Check-in at your hotel and have lunch.

In the afternoon visit the Citadel - the ancient Forbidden City from where the Nguyen Dynasty ruled between 1802 and 1945.

In the evening, have a typical Hue dinner at a beautiful garden houses known locally as 'nha vuon'. These houses are traditional, privately owned, and set in large and attractive formal gardens. Some have connections with the old Royal Imperial Court and the house's traditional architecture has long been associated with the natural environment and the ancient belief of 'feng-shui'.

Overnight in Hue.

DAY 18 HUE

(B, L, D)

This morning take a tour of Hue and as an option use a vintage car.

Start with a visit to the city's vibrant Dong Ba Market to see its abundance of fresh produce. It was in Hue that royal chefs developed the more elaborate dishes of Vietnamese cuisine.

Continue your exploration of Hue by visiting the Mausoleums of Tu Duc and Minh Mang, built decades before its occupant's death the tomb was used as a palace retreat before the Emperor's final resting place.

Enjoy lunch along the way at the boutique Pilgrimage Village Resort.

Before returning to your hotel drive to Ho Quyen which was the arena where duels between elephants and tigers were arranged for the entertainment of the Emperor.

The remainder of the afternoon is free at leisure.

A private sunset dinner cruise on the Perfume River will be arranged in the evening and you'll find it the perfect opportunity to view some of the country's most iconic sites while enjoying a delicious three-course meal.

Overnight in Hue.

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DAY 19 HUE - HANOI

(B, L, D)

Free at leisure before a transfer to the airport for your flight to Hanoi, the country's capital. Lunch will be had at your hotel.

Take the afternoon to discover Hanoi's landmarks - your first stop will be Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum from outside (closed on Monday & Friday and Oct-Nov for annual maintenance), as well as his private residence nearby from 1954 until 1969. The wooden ethnic minority style house, which was built on stilts, is surrounded by lovely peaceful gardens.

In the same complex you will see the One Pillar Pagoda, founded by King Ly Thai To in 1049. This structure has become an important symbol for the people of Hanoi. Your tour will also include the Buddhist Tran Quoc Pagoda on West Lake (one of the oldest in Vietnam) and Quan Thanh Temple (Taoist, dating from the Ly Dynasty).

In the evening dinner will be a Vietnamese meal with a French touch in one of Hanoi's most charming restaurants housed in a beautiful villa.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 20 HANOI

(B, L)

We depart early to Duong Lam, situated northwest of Hanoi it is one of the few remaining ancient villages in the country. It has been recognised as a national relic boasting a twelve-hundred year history with many houses dating back 400 years. A tour to this area will give you a great chance to explore the ancient houses while wandering the narrow alleyways, also visit temples dedicated to the two kings born there, and most interesting of all, chat with locals living in the ancient houses. Enjoy a picnic lunch along the way.

In the afternoon take a tour of the city's Ethnology Museum, where you observe Vietnam's diverse culture through the Museum's unique presentation of articles and dress used in daily life. End your day with a leisurely stroll around the city's Old Quarter.

In the evening experience a traditional form of entertainment in northern Vietnam at a water puppet show. *Mua Roi Nuoc* literally means "puppets that dance on water." The tradition dates back as far as the tenth century when it originated in the Red River Delta area of northern Vietnam. When the rice fields would flood the villages, villagers would entertain each other using this puppet form.

Dinner free at leisure

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 21 HANOI - HALONG BAY - EMERAUDE CRUISE

(B, L, D)

Depart Hanoi for Halong by road. The journey through the rich farmlands of the Red River Delta and the scenery of rice fields, water buffalo and everyday Vietnamese village life. Arrive in Halong and check in at the Emeraude Café. Feel as if you are stepping back in to French Indochina as you board this wonderful replica of one of the classic steamships of the era. A welcome drink will be served as the boat leaves the harbour. Have lunch as you cruise among hundreds of islets to discover unspoilt pockets of Halong Bay and visit 'Sung Sot', one of the most imposing grottos of the Bay. With luxurious air-conditioned cabins, a divine restaurant, two bars and a sundeck this is the ultimate Halong Bay experience.

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As the boat cruises through the limestone karsts and clear waters in the afternoon, several options are available. On-board kayaks are available for those wishing to go out for a paddle (guest's account) or have a swim off the boat's platform. For those seeking more culinary experience, take part in a Vietnamese spring roll cooking demonstration on the sundeck.

After the sun sets, enjoy a scrumptious international / Vietnamese buffet dinner. Starting at 2030, the Award Winning *Indochine* will be screened on the sundeck should you desire to watch a movie before retiring to your cabin for a good nights sleep.

Overnight on Halong Bay.

DAY 22 EMERAUDE CRUISE - HALONG BAY - HANOI

(B, D)

For early risers complimentary tea and coffee are served on the sundeck followed by a Tai Chi class. As you return to Halong City, enjoy a wholesome brunch as your boat weaves through strange-shaped limestone rock formations. Upon disembarkation, your driver will meet you for the transfer back to Hanoi.

As an option stop at one of the oldest pagodas in Vietnam 'But Thap' or Bat Trang Pottery Village on the return journey.

Remainder of day is free at leisure

Your farewell dinner will be at one of Hanoi's best tables, Bobby Chinn's. The eponymous chef has designed a menu of seasonal-driven, modern take on Vietnamese food which consistently receives rave reviews from the international press.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 23 DEPART HANOI

(B)

Full day at leisure until you transfer to the airport for your next destination.

END OF SERVICES