



14 Days

Vietnam

Halong to Angkor Explorer

Join us on this diverse adventure into the wonderful world of South East Asia as we explore the extraordinary beauty, tradition and adventure that this region conjures up so effortlessly. Be prepared for a packed itinerary as we explore northern Vietnam and the towering limestone scenery of Halong Bay, traditional farming techniques, the food, the history, the lush Mekong Delta region and the dark history of Cambodia before the grand finale of the incredible UNESCO site of Angkor Wat. If you're feeling adventurous in your food choices you'll also be able to try a "spider on stick"... We use a variety of transport - ranging from overnight trains, internal flights, high-speed boats, bicycles and small traditional sampans. Get ready to experience the vibrant colours and wonderful welcome of Vietnam and Cambodia.



Recommended tour itinerary

Day
1-2

Arrive Hanoi

Departing London you fly overnight and arrive in Vietnam the following day. Arrive Hanoi where our guide and driver welcome you at the airport and transfer the group to the hotel. This afternoon is relaxed to get over your jet lag and long journey. Depending on the time of arrival there may be the opportunity to take a short orientation walking tour of Hanoi. We will have dinner at local restaurant and overnight in hotel.

Day
3

Hanoi walking tour & transfer to near coast

This morning we have a walking tour around the Old Quarter, see the Hoan Kiem lake and Hanoi's fascinating Old Quarter. Later in the afternoon we travel by bus to Hai Phong, a city half way to the coast, in preparation for our cruise on Halong Bay tomorrow. Dinner is served at local restaurant. Overnight in hotel.

Day
4

Halong Bay

We leave our hotel this morning and after a quick highlights tour of Hai Phong City we transfer to the harbour in Halong Bay, where our junk crews welcome us on board. Our cruise starts and we have lunch of fresh local seafood while cruising to Bai Tu Long bay and admires the fascinating formations. Activities including swimming. Dinner and overnight on junk.

Day
5

Back to Hanoi, overnight train to Danang

Today is a day for relaxing amongst the UNESCO World Heritage scenery of Halong Bay. Activities include a visit one of the most beautiful caves and discovering geological values of Bai Tu Long Bay with the thousands of islands and islets. We have lunch on board as we cruise back to the harbour. We disembark and head by road to Hanoi railway station where, after dinner, we board the Reunification Express night train to Danang. You will be share 4 AC soft sleeper cabins. Overnight on the train

Day
6

Arrive Danang, transfer to Hoi An

We arrive into Danang at around noon. Our local guide and driver pick up and transfer down town to a restaurant for lunch. In the afternoon, on our way to Hoi An, we visit the Cham museum and Marble Mountain. After checking into our hotel in Hoi An we enjoy a walking tour around this ancient town. Dinner will be at a local restaurant in the old town. Overnight in Hoi An.

Day
7

Hoi An – Huong Tra Que vegetable village visit and cooking school

You are met and transferred to the boat pier to start your boat trip to the countryside around Hoi An Town. Leaving this beautiful land with heroic traditions, you continue your trip to visit Tra Que Vegetable Village. On arrival, you are welcomed with the friendly smiles and a special drink: "E" water or local tea.

You dress in farm clothing before taking a short walk around to visit the garden where local farmers work. Traditional methods are still very much in evidence here. Next, you are under the instruction of the local householder; he will show you how to prepare the land, you fertilize green manure before helping the locals plant their vegetables. Watering the vegetables, which you have just planted, is the last activity in the procedure. After all the effort in the fields, it's time to enjoy a cooking class with the family and have lunch with local foods cooked by yourself. After lunch, you ride by bike to back Hoi An town. You'll be cycling on roads with green bamboo hedges, vegetable gardens and large rice fields. It's a beautiful way to travel and discover the hidden charms of the countryside around Hoi An. It's not a long journey and we can stop on the way to take photos and learn what makes the local villages tick. Late in the afternoon we arrive back in Hoi An town for dinner and overnight.





Day
8

Fly to Ho Chi Minh city & Cu Chi tunnels

On arrival in Ho Chi Minh, we head straight to the Cu Chi countryside. Here we see what life was like for the guerrilla warriors who lived and fought underground during the Vietnam War. There is the opportunity to crawl through 50 m of the 200 km tunnel system below ground. Later in the afternoon, we transfer to Ho Chi Minh City where we witness visit the bustling streets and historical significance of this famous city. We have dinner in town and are then dropped back at our hotel.

Day
9

Mekong Delta boat trip & cycling

We head to My Tho village for our first experience of the Mekong Delta. Here we board our boat and drift down the bustling branches of the Delta and into her tranquil canals. The first stop is on one of the area's many islands. We visit a traditional Mekong Delta house & kitchen; indulge in some seasonal fruit along with some local tea and fresh honey; visit a local rice wine distillery and then paddle one of the small sampans along the smaller waterways. After a lunch break we have an afternoon bicycle ride on small dirt roads and walking bridges. After a local ferry crossing we continue onto to Cai Be where we board a touring boat to the floating market and a cruise on the mighty Mekong River itself. Our day ends at Binh Hoa Phuoc & An Binh Island where you can take in a great sunset view from the shores of the Mekong. We are then transferred to Chau Doc ready for our speedboat adventure to Cambodia tomorrow.

Day
10

Chau Doc – Phnom Penh by speedboat. Visit Killing Fields

We walk to the dock to catch our speedboat to Phnom Penh. This is a thrilling way to enter Cambodia. Boats depart at 7:30 am and arrive Phnom Penh at 12:30 pm. On arrival we are met and transferred to a local restaurant for lunch before going to check in at our hotel. This afternoon we visit the Killing Fields Museum – a sombre reminder of the atrocities that afflicted this part of the world not that long ago. The museum aims to honour and remember the victims and survivors of the Khmer Rouge holocaust.

Day
11

Phnom Penh city – Siem Reap

This morning we visit Phnom Penh city – taking in the National museum, Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda and Wat Phnom before having lunch. Phnom Penh, Cambodia's busy capital, sits at the junction of the Mekong and Tonlé Sap rivers. On its walkable riverfront, lined with parks, restaurants and bars, is the ornate Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda and the National Museum, displaying artefacts from around the country. At the city's heart is a massive, art deco Central Market. This afternoon, we fly to Siem Reap, ready for our exploration of the amazing UNESCO site of Angkor Wat. We arrive Siem Reap at the end of the day, have dinner and transfer to hotel.

Day
12-14

Siem Reap, Angkor Thom, Bayon, Angkor Wat & Tonle Sap

This morning we drive to the UNESCO World Heritage areas and explore some of Angkor's most beautiful temples. Depending on how early the group want to get up, we can visit a variety of sites including Ta Prohm and the West Gate of Angkor Thom – undiscovered by mass tourism then Angkor Wat itself, the longest continuous bas-relief in the world. After a full day sight-seeing we return to our hotel for dinner.

Day 13 we visit Tonle Sap floating village which includes a school, crocodile farm and fish farm. Time allowing we may have time to visit Artisan d'angkor & the local silk farm. During your visit, guides provide details on the mulberry trees, silkworm farming, cocoon unwinding, preparation of the silk threads, ikat technique (tie-dyeing of the threads) and silk weaving. Later, we transfer to airport for our flight back to the UK arriving day 14.

Further information

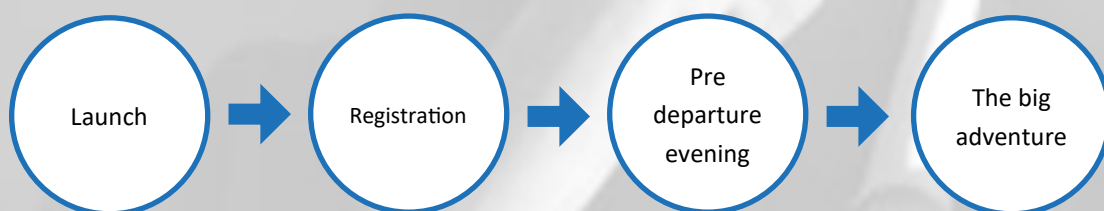
Look what's included!

- International flights
- All accommodation
- All food
- All transportation and activities
- Bi-lingual, first-aid qualified local tour leader
- Parent and student trip launch evening
- Pre-departure preparation evening
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Medical Emergency / Repatriation Travel Insurance
- Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Carbon offsetting of all flights
- Free t-shirt for every participant and teacher

What's excluded?

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Cancellation and personal effects insurance

Your educational journey timeline



Physical journey rating:



Moderate physical activities are included in Grade 3 trips. Good health and reasonable fitness are important to get the most out of the trip. Trips of this grading are likely to include some walking at moderate altitude (up to 2,500m) and occasional longer/harder days may be involved, with between five and seven hours of walking on certain days. The trip may contain other activities such as cycling or rafting which also require physical effort and a reasonable level of fitness. Some steady preparation and an increase if your underlying fitness levels would help you get the most from this grade trip.

Culture shock rating:



Students should expect some culture shock. You'll be exposed to signs of poverty. The food will be quite different to home and English, whilst still spoken, will be less prevalent. Respecting the local culture will make it easier to fit in and get the most out of your trip. We're likely to visit remoter locations on this tour where access to western style services may be sporadic. Often on trips of this grading there are parts of the itinerary which are more remote, interspersed with sections which are more 'comfortable'.

A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your educational journey.

1 Get your tailor-made proposal and further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your educational travel itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an itinerary just for you. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk assessments and destination threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your pre-booking information pack too.

3 Arrange a trip launch evening at your school

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the planned adventure with a comprehensive information evening and an opportunity for questions.



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