



# Vietnam & Angkor Wat

15 days | 17 days with Bangkok extension

Commemorate the war in Vietnam, peruse its markets, and soak up the country's contemporary culture on this small group adventure tour. Then, cruise amidst the staggering seascapes of Ha Long Bay before heading to Cambodia to wander among Angkor's astonishing and enduring temples and terraces.



## Your tour package includes

- 12 nights in handpicked hotels
- 1 night aboard a cruise ship
- 13 breakfasts
- 5 lunches
- 6 dinners with beer or wine
- 2 cooking lessons
- 1 tasting
- 17 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 4 on-tour flights

## Included highlights

- Temple of Literature
- Hoa Lo Prison
- Hạ Long Bay cruise
- Vietnamese cooking classes
- Hội An's Japanese covered bridge
- Rice farm visit
- Huế Imperial City
- War Remnants Museum
- Cù Chi tunnels
- Angkor Wat complex

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 3.5 hours daily across uneven terrain, including paved roads, dirt paths, and stairs.

## Group size

12-22

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your flight to Hanoi today.

## Hanoi → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Hanoi

Welcome to Vietnam! Transfer to your hotel to settle in.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Hanoi

*Included meals: breakfast, welcome lunch*

A guided tour introduces you to the local highlights.

- Pass Ba Dinh Square, where Hồ Chí Minh read the Proclamation of Independence of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam
- Wander through the Temple of Literature, a walled complex dedicated to Confucius
- Visit the Hoa Lo Prison, also known as the Hanoi Hilton, where John McCain was held as a POW during the Vietnam War
- Tour the prison museum to learn about the POW experience
- Board a bicycle rickshaw and ride through the Old Quarter
- Pass Dong Xuan Market, the Hanoi Opera House, and Hoàn Kiếm Lake

Get to know your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome lunch. Then, enjoy free time for the rest of the day in Hanoi or add an excursion.

+ Vietnamese Home-Hosted Dinner

## Hạ Long Bay → 1 night

### Day 4: Hạ Long Bay cruise

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

Transfer to Hạ Long Bay and embark on a luxurious overnight cruise. You'll pass by 3,000 limestone towers, cliffs, and arches, as well as local fishing villages.

- Enjoy an included lunch aboard the ship
- Pass Fighting Cock Islet, Thiên Cung Cave, and Dau Go Cave

- Board a small boat and visit Sung Sot Cave with a local guide to admire panoramic views across Hạ Long Bay
- Learn how pearls are grown using traditional Vietnamese methods and new Japanese technology during a visit to Tung Sau Pearl Farm
- Opt to kayak along Hạ Long Bay
- Watch a cooking demonstration aboard the ship before sitting down for an included dinner

## Hội An → 2 nights

### Day 5: Ti Top Island & flight to Hoi An

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner, lunch*

Opt to watch the sunrise during a Tai Chi lesson on the ship this morning. Then, hop into a small boat to visit Ti Top Island. You can go swimming or hike to the top for another stunning view of Hạ Long Bay.

After enjoying an included lunch, disembark your cruise ship later this morning and board a flight to Đà Nẵng and transfer to your hotel in Hội An. Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

### Day 6: Vietnamese cooking class & Sightseeing tour of Hội An

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch*

Explore Hội An on a guided tour to shop its local markets and sample its cuisine.

- Select ingredients from a local market, which you'll use during a cooking class
- Cruise the Thu Bồn River, a highlight of central Vietnam, with a local guide
- Arrive at a cooking school and try your hand at making authentic Vietnamese cuisine in a cooking class, before sitting down to eat the food you made for lunch
- Discover Hội An's landmarks, including the Japanese covered bridge and Old Town
- Pass by the quaint Nguyễn Thị Minh Khai pedestrian shopping street
- Walk along the cobblestone streets to see the Quan Thang Ancient House and a silk lantern shop

## Huê → 1 night

### Day 7: Transfer to Huê & sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting, dinner*

Travel through the Hải Vân Pass, stopping in Cam Thanh village.

- Visit a farm to learn how Vietnamese farmers grow rice
- Interact with a rice farmer and watch water buffalo plough the fields while enjoying a tea tasting

Then, continue on to Huê and take a guided tour of this former capital.

- Explore the Thiên Mu Pagoda, Vietnam's tallest religious building
- Visit the walled fortress and palace known as the Imperial City

Enjoy an included dinner this evening with your group.

## Hồ Chí Minh City → 3 nights

### Day 8: Free day in Hue & evening flight to Hồ Chí Minh City

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day in Hue or add an excursion.

Later, board your flight to Hồ Chí Minh City.

+ Tu Dúc & Khải Định Tombs

### Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Hồ Chí Minh City, War Remnants Museum & Củ Chi tunnels

*Included meals: breakfast*

Take in the sights of the largest city in Vietnam on a guided tour this afternoon.

- Witness Vietnam's progression from French colony to unified, independent nation as you enter the Reunification Palace
- See the General Post Office, City Hall, and Saigon Notre-Dame Basilica
- Visit Ben Thành Market and stroll along Lê Công Kiều, a street known for its treasure trove of antiques

Spend the afternoon learning more about the history and impact of the Vietnam War.

- Take a self-guided tour of the War Remnants Museum to get the local perspective on the Vietnam War
- Visit the vast underground network of tunnels at Củ Chi, which were built as a defense against the French and expanded during the Vietnam War

- Learn how the North Vietnamese waged guerrilla warfare against the South
- See secret trapdoors, underground kitchens, living areas, and meeting rooms

*Please note: Your guide will advise you of the length and level of difficulty of each tunnel before entering. Those preferring to remain above ground will have ample opportunity to view excavated areas. Good walking shoes and sun protection are recommended, as are clothes that can get slightly dirty.*

#### Day 10: Free day in Hồ Chí Minh City

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a free day in Hồ Chí Minh City or add an excursion.

+ Mekong Delta Cruise

### Siem Reap → 3 nights

#### Day 11: Flight to Siem Reap

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Fly to Siem Reap, Cambodia and get settled into your hotel.

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

#### Day 12: Sightseeing tour of Angkor Wat & Angkor Thom

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch*

Today, you'll experience some of Southeast Asia's most iconic sites.

- Begin the day by watching the sun rise over the sprawling Angkor Wat, one of the largest religious monuments in the world
- Enjoy an included lunch
- Step inside Angkor Thom, the ruined capital of the Khmer Empire
- View the Terrace of the Elephants and Terrace of the Leper King
- Visit Ta Prohm at sunset to see the temple that has largely reclaimed by the jungle, now well-known as the setting of the "Tomb Raider" movie

*Please note: The sunrise tour of Angkor Wat may take place on the morning of day 13.*

#### Day 13: Tonlé Sap Lake cruise & Cambodian Landmine Museum

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Continue your exploration of Siem Reap with your Tour Director as your guide.

- Take a cruise on Tonlé Sap Lake to visit the floating village of Kompong Khleang

- Enter the Cambodian Landmine Museum, an organization dedicated to the removal of landmines and unexploded ordnance, or UXO, from Cambodia.
- Watch a short film about Aki Ra, a former Khmer Rouge child soldier who founded the museum
- Take a guided audio tour of the museum to learn about the organization's de-mining projects and community development initiatives
- Learn how the revenue from your visit supports relief projects for those harmed by landmines and UXO

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

### Bangkok → 1 night

#### Day 14: Sightseeing tour of Bangkok

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Board your flight to Bangkok, Thailand this morning. Upon arrival, join your Tour Director for a sightseeing tour of the city.

- Explore the sprawling Grand Palace complex, built in 1782 for the king of Siam
- Pass by the Temple of the Emerald Buddha (Wat Phra Kaew)
- Step inside the Temple of the Reclining Buddha (Wat Pho) to see the famous 150-foot long statue of Buddha
- Visit the nearby flower market before talking a walking tour of the Chinatown neighborhood

Later, celebrate your adventures with your group at a farewell dinner.

### Flight Home

#### Day 15: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport to board your early morning flight home or continue your tour in Bangkok.

### + Bangkok extension

In Bangkok, it's best to do as the locals do—alongside our local experts, no less! That means sitting down in a Thai family's home, drifting through the Damnoen Saduak Floating Market on a long-tail boat, and eating

mouthwatering street food that has no competition.

### Bangkok → 2 nights

#### Day 15: Bangkok canal tour

*Included meals: breakfast*

Enjoy a free morning exploring Bangkok or add an excursion.

Then, tour the city's canals, called *klongs*, on a speedboat that takes you to the outer reaches of the city. You'll see and learn about life along the river and canals that run through Bangkok.

+ Bangkok Market Visit & Cooking Class

#### Day 16: Damnoen Saduak Floating Market, Maeklong Railway Market & organic farm

*Included meals: breakfast*

Explore the region on a series of stops at local cultural sites.

- Sample some food at the Damnoen Saduak Floating Market, where locals sell produce from their small boats
- Explore the Maeklong Railway Market, which is built along an active train line
- Walk through an organic farm to learn about the eco-friendly practices
- Sample fruit and a refreshing coconut drink, before taking part in a hands-on planting workshop

### Flight Home

#### Day 17: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport to board your early morning flight home.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: [goaheadtours.com/VTC](https://goaheadtours.com/VTC) | 1-800-597-0350

## Day 3: Vietnamese Home-Hosted Dinner

\$75/\$85\* (3.5 hours, departs in the evening with dinner)

Get a taste of authentic local flavors with a home-hosted dinner at Ms. Nga's house in Hanoi. Listen to her stories of everyday life and enjoy the opportunity to tour her home. Then, dine on regional specialties, like Vietnamese vegetable soup, spring rolls, fried fish or chicken, sautéed vegetables, and papaya salad. Finish the meal with tea and peanut candy before saying your goodbyes.

## Day 8: Tu Dúc & Khải Dinh Tombs

\$55/\$65\* (3.5 hours, departs in the morning)

The hills surrounding Huế are dotted with the tombs of the Nguyễn dynasty emperors. You'll visit the two most impressive tombs, designed in contrasting styles. First, behold the tomb of Emperor Tu Dúc, resplendent in traditional architecture, paved walkways, resting pavilions overlooking tranquil lotus ponds and a small forest for hunting. The tomb of Emperor Khải Dinh, who is remembered as the "Puppet Emperor" because of his affiliation with the French, exemplifies colonial flair. A glass mosaic frieze dominates this tomb's interior.

## Day 10: Mekong Delta Cruise

\$69/\$79\* (8 hours, departs in the morning with lunch)

Journey south to the Mekong Delta town of Cái Bè to board a motorized sampan for a winding introduction to life on the river. Cái Bè is known for its large floating market, where locally grown produce hangs from bamboo poles over the market's boats. From here, your sampan will traverse the upper tributaries of the river. You'll pass by numerous fruit plantations and stop for an included lunch, with a sample of tropical fruit, in the shade of a local farmer's home. Then, rejoin your craft for a leisurely cruise back to Cái Bè. You'll return to Ho Chi Minh City in the late afternoon. Please note: Travel time by road to the Mekong Delta is approximately 3 hours each way.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 15: Bangkok Market Visit & Cooking Class

\$115/\$125\* (5.5 hours, departs in the morning with lunch)

Pay a visit to a bustling market where your guide will introduce you to a wide variety of fresh produce. Then, step off Bangkok's busy streets and head over to a charming homestyle culinary school where you'll try your hand at preparing traditional Thai recipes. In a relaxed and cozy environment, seasoned local chefs will show you the tricks of the trade as you craft authentic cuisine. Then, enjoy your freshly prepared lunch.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.com/terms](https://goaheadtours.com/terms)