

30 DAY CULTURAL TOUR

# BEST OF INDOCHINA

**\$3999**

PER  
PERSON  
TWIN  
SHARE

TYPICALLY **\$7999**

THAILAND • VIETNAM • LAOS • CAMBODIA

## THE OFFER

Four mesmerising countries, one spectacular part of the world! Be awe struck by centuries old cultures colliding with modern luxuries on this 30 day small tour package.

Wind things back to a relaxing holiday pace in the serene Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai. Fall in love with Laos as you explore Luang Prabang; enjoy a swim in magical Kuang Si Falls and spend two days cruising along the Mekong. In Vietnam, the islands of Halong Bay, the street food mecca of Ho Chi Minh City, and the centuries-old streets of Hoi An and Hanoi are waiting to be explored. Discover Cambodia's grand temples of Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom; explore the exotic streets of Phnom Penh and Siem Reap before exploring the bustling streets of Thailand's colourful city of Bangkok.

This incredible deal includes return international flights, four internal/international flights, 28 nights accommodation, two cruises, 38 meals and so much more!

PER PERSON TWIN SHARE

**\$3999**

**Trip  
aDeal**  
Est. 2011

Offer available for a limited time or until sold out. TRIP A DEAL PTY LTD: 50149240433

## 30 DAY CULTURAL TOUR | BEST OF INDO CHINA



### THE ITINERARY

#### Day 1 Australia – Chiang Mai, Thailand

Today depart from either Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, \*Adelaide or \*Perth for Chiang Mai, Thailand. Fly with Singapore Airlines, Cathay Pacific or Emirates to name a few (subject to availability). Upon arrival in Chiang Mai International Airport you will be met and transferred to the hotel.

Please note: Due to flight scheduling and availability, some departures may occur on day 0. Flight times will be indicated on your final documentation which you will receive at least 4 - 6 weeks prior to departure.

**Overnight: The Park Hotel or similar, Chiang Mai**

**Meals included: In-Flight**

#### Day 2 Chiang Mai Day Tour

Today enjoy a city tour which is a great way to start off your stay in Chiang Mai by giving you an overview of the beautiful city with over 700 years of history. Take the winding road up the side of the hill overlooking the city to visit the most significant temple in Chiang Mai, the 600 year-old Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, which lies 3,500 feet above sea level. Inside you will find the symbol of the city, the copper-plated Chedi that is topped by a five-tier gold parasol, which contains relics of the Lord Buddha. From the terrace on a clear day, you will have a fine panoramic view of the entire city. Once you get there, that final climb (funicular also available) up the 306 steps of the Naga staircase (a Thai mythological Dragon-headed serpent) will seem worth it! Afterwards transfer back to the hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.

**Overnight: The Park Hotel or similar, Chiang Mai**

**Meals included: Breakfast**

#### Day 3 Chiang Mai Free Day

Today is free at leisure to explore Chiang Mai on your own.

**Overnight: The Park Hotel or similar, Chiang Mai**

**Meals included: Breakfast**

#### Day 4 Chiang Mai - Mae Khajan Hot Springs - Wat Rong Khun - Chiang Rai

Depart after breakfast to Chiang Rai with a stop Mae Kachan Hot Springs and Wat Rong Khun, nicknamed the 'White Temple', a dazzling temple built in the 1990s. Its ornate all-white exterior with embedded pieces of mirror gives it a resplendent appearance, which makes it one of the most beautiful temples in Thailand. Continue onto Chiang Rai, and check into the hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.

**Overnight: Wiang Inn or similar, Chiang Rai**

**Meals included: Breakfast**

#### Day 5 Chiang Rai - Golden Triangle Tour - Chiang Khong

Today after breakfast depart to the Golden Triangle a meeting point of Laos, Myanmar and Thailand. Locals know this site as "Sop Ruak", since it's where the Mekong River meets the Ruak River. Here you will hop on a local boat and enjoy a trip around the Golden Triangle stopping at Don Xao on the border with Laos for some local souvenir shopping. Afterwards transfer to the hotel in Chiang Khong.

**Overnight: Chiangkhong Teak Garden Riverfront or similar, Chiang Khong**

**Meals included: Breakfast**

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## THE ITINERARY

### Day 6 Chiang Khong, Thailand - Huay Xai, Laos - Pakbeng (Mekong River Cruise)

This morning wake early for a transfer to the Thailand/Laos border town of Huay Xai. After completing Thai immigration formalities, a representative will help you get a shuttle bus to cross the bridge to Laos immigration. A representative in Huay Xai will then welcome you to Laos. Next you will embark on a Mekong Cruise. The cruise leaves Huay Xai Pier at 9.30am and cruises down the river to Pakbeng.

After an hour journeying along the river, the boat will stop at a traditional village. This is a chance to observe rural life on the Mekong and also view the skilled craftsmanship of local ethnic minorities. Lunch is served onboard in a buffet style with a main course from Laos' main culinary delights, as well as a choice of fish and meat dishes. The river cruise arrives at Luang Say Lodge near Pakbeng before sunset, giving plenty of time to refresh and enjoy the scenery of the river. A Laotian dinner will be served on the open air terrace overlooking the Mekong River.

**Overnight: Luang Say Lodge, Pakbeng, Laos**

**Meals included: Breakfast;Lunch;Dinner**

### Day 7 Pakbeng - Baw Village - Pak Ou Cave - Luang Prabang

Mornings are a special time for breakfast at Luang Say Lodge, with stunning views of the peaceful neighbouring mountains, often shrouded in mist, best viewed from the expansive teak terrace. At approx. 8:00am the cruise will depart for another day of discovery along the legendary river, with two stops planned en route to Luang Prabang.

Enjoy the sights of granite cliffs and sparkling sandy shores as the river boat makes its way along the river, stopping to visit the hill tribe village of Baw. Here you can observe the traditional process of making Laos whiskey. Lunch is served onboard in a buffet style. Opposite the mouth of the Nam Ou River, near Pak Ou village, the cruise will stop to visit the Pak Ou Cave. Translated as Rock Cave, it's a site famous for housing over 2,500 Buddha statues of all sizes, as well as being a place of pilgrimage for locals. This afternoon the cruise will arrive at Luang Prabang, the former royal capital of Laos. On arrival you will be picked up from Boat Harbour and transferred to the hotel.

For those who are feeling energetic this evening, you can take the opportunity to join a tour to Mount Phousi and a night market. At 5.30pm you will be picked up by the tour guide to visit Mount Phousi. Rising 150m above the centre of town, Mount Phousi cuts a distinctive figure on the Luang Prabang skyline. The hill is a popular place to watch the sun set over the Mekong River. From the summit you can enjoy a spectacular 360 degree outlook across the city and its many temples, and out over the surrounding landscape to the mountains in the distance. Count on spending a couple of hours for the climb and descent, with several stops to see the temples, rest under shady trees and admire the magical views. After visiting Mount Phousi, the tour guide will take you to visit the night market, which regularly features a few hundred stalls.

For those who want to relax and just explore the markets, another guide will meet you at the hotel at 6:30pm for a short walking tour of the night market. Both tours will finish in the main street of Luang Prabang, where there are many dinner options (not included).

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**Overnight:** Villa Pumalin or similar, Luang Prabang

**Meals included:** Breakfast;Lunch

#### Day 8 Laos Buffalo Dairy and Kuang Si Falls

This morning you will visit Laos Buffalo Dairy and learn about the non-profit organisation. The tour will give you chance to taste Buffalo ice cream, coffee and a choice of one of three cakes, which are all made from produce on the farm. The story behind the farm and how it came to be, and what it is doing for the local community, is amazing. You will also have a chance to feed the pigs, chickens and, of course, buffalos. If you're game, you will even get a chance to milk a buffalo. After the tour you will have lunch in the farm's restaurant, which has views to the pool, the Buffalo Farm and the mountains.

In the afternoon continue to Kuang Si Falls. With three tiers leading to a 50m drop into spectacular azure pools before flowing downstream, it's the biggest in the Luang Prabang area. The pools also make great swimming holes and are very popular with both locals and tourists. After swimming in the refreshing blue water, the tour guide will escort you back to the hotel.

**Overnight:** Villa Pumalin or similar, Luang Prabang

**Meals included:** Breakfast;Lunch

#### Day 9 Elephant Village Sanctuary

Today you will enjoy an unforgettable experience at the Elephant Village Sanctuary. Upon arrival at the Elephant Village Sanctuary you will be greeted by your guide who will give you a short briefing about the elephants and their special relationship to the people of Laos. Afterwards you will have the opportunity to get up close and personal with

the elephants, as well as feed them. Next, visit the elephant museum and elephant hospital. Enjoy a buffet lunch at the Sanctuary restaurant served with coffee, tea and drinking water (vegetarian options are available). After lunch, you will see the elephants bathing in the river before walking with them to the forest. Afterwards transfer back to the hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Optional activity: Mekong River Sunset Cruise with Dinner and Traditional Dance Show - 235,000 Lao Kip per person (arranged on tour)

Sunset in Luang Prabang leaves a lasting impression on travellers, often becoming one of their most memorable experiences. It's not just the pretty skies but also the mood of 'golden hour' that leaves the biggest impression. It's a magical time of the day; golden light on the mountains, the calm that blankets the Mekong, the gathering of friends, temple bells and drums heralding evening prayers. For locals and tourists, it's a collective sigh, a pause in time. This evening you will be picked up from the hotel and transferred to the cruise.

**Overnight:** Villa Pumalin or similar, Luang Prabang

**Meals included:** Breakfast;Lunch

#### Day 10 Luang Prabang Free Day

Enjoy a full day at leisure in Luang Prabang or take the opportunity to join an optional early morning Alms Giving Ceremony tour or a Luang Prabang Bicycle Tour (not included).

Optional activity: Monks Alms Giving Ceremony - 120,000 Lao Kip per person (arranged on tour)

Rise early to the sound of the temple gong, then join your guide for a walk through quiet streets to watch the daily

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procession of three hundred young monks walking silently by, collecting sticky rice and other foods in their bronze bowls. The ritual is linked to a Buddhist tradition in which monks beg for their daily food as a way to demonstrate humility. Alms giving is an important religious act in Buddhism and it must be carried out respectfully by locals and tourists alike. If you would like to be involved in the offering of food, your guide will be more than happy to show you the best way to interact with monks. After this wonderful experience your guide shall walk you through the local morning markets where you can see the local way of life in Laos. Arrive back at the hotel in time for breakfast.

Optional Tour: Luang Prabang Bicycle Tour - 175,000 Lao Kip (moderate level of fitness required) (arranged on tour)

Meet the tour guide at approximately 8:00am who will take you to a nearby bike shop where you can choose your bike. The first stop is Wat Xieng Thong - called "Golden City Temple" and is one of the most beautiful in town. Next, bike to an amazing viewpoint, where two rivers; Nam Khan and Mekong intersect. Following this, ride along the Mekong River bank enjoying the fresh air and scenery before stopping at Saffron Coffee. Saffron Coffee is a social or 'profit for purpose' business where profits are reinvested for the benefit of the Laos people. After enjoying a cup of coffee (not included) and some stories about the business and locals, the tour heads to the 'Old Town' to see the peaceful life style. Return via the beautiful road by the Nam Khan river bank, arriving back at the hotel at approximately 9:45am.

**Overnight: Villa Pumalin or similar, Luang Prabang**

**Meals included: Breakfast**

#### Day 11 Luang Prabang, Laos - Hanoi, Vietnam

After breakfast travel to the airport for the short flight to Hanoi, Vietnam. You will be warmly welcomed and then transferred to hotel. Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.

Please note: Due to limited flight availability between Luang Prabang and Hanoi, your flight may not depart Luang Prabang until 7:00pm resulting in a late evening arrival into Hanoi. Check out in Luang Prabang will be around 11:00am - 12:00pm and luggage storage facilities will be available so you may enjoy Luang Prabang at leisure until the airport transfer.

**Overnight: H<sup>àng</sup> Ng<sup>ọc</sup> Cochinchine Hotel or similar, Hanoi**

**Meals included: Breakfast**

#### Day 12 Hanoi Free Day

Today is free at leisure to explore the capital of Vietnam, which is known for its centuries-old architecture and a rich culture with Southeast Asian, Chinese and French influences. Alternatively, you can take the opportunity to join an optional city tour (not included).

Optional Activity: Hanoi City Tour - \$70 USD per person (arranged on tour)

This morning you will be met at the hotel by the guide and driven to the historic complex of Ba Dinh where you will visit Ba Dinh Square. Afterwards continue onwards to Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum and the One Pillar Pagoda. A must-see monument in Hanoi, an ancient Buddhist pagoda supported by only one pillar. Built in the early 11th century during the reign of King Ly Thai Tong it resembles a lotus blossom. Afterwards visit Van Mieu - Quoc Tu Giam (the Temple of Literature), the first Imperial school in Vietnam built in 1070 during the dynasty of King Ly. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant then after lunch visit the complex at Hoan Kiem Lake. Here you will see



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Ngoc Son Temple (Jade Mountain Temple), But Tower (pen shaped tower), Dai Stand and The Huc Bridge (wooden bridge painted in red). Afterwards enjoy a water puppet show, which is an impressive cultural example of Vietnam's thriving arts scene. To conclude the tour enjoy a cyclo (pedicab) ride back to the hotel this evening. Inclusions: Transfers from hotel, English speaking guide, lunch, entrance fees, water puppet show and cyclo ride.

**Overnight:** H<sup>o</sup>ng Ng<sup>o</sup>c Cochinchine Hotel or similar, Hanoi

**Meals included:** Breakfast

### Day 13 Hanoi - Halong Bay Cruise

After breakfast this morning, drive through beautiful rice paddy fields on the way to the coast (approx. 4 hours) where you will board a Junk boat for an overnight cruise among the towering limestone islands and emerald waters of UNESCO Halong Bay. Enjoy a seafood lunch onboard before taking part in some afternoon activities such as swimming, relaxing on a remote beach, climbing to the top of a lookout for an amazing panoramic view or take a ride on a rowing boat into a secluded bay. Also cruise further into the bay to visit a Pearl Farm. Drop anchor in the late evening for an overnight stay among the dramatic limestone peaks.

**Overnight:** Traditional Junk Boat, Majestic Cruise Junk Boat or similar, Halong Bay

**Meals included:** Breakfast;Lunch;Dinner

### Day 14 Halong Bay Cruise - Hanoi

Early risers can take part in an optional Tai Chi class on deck this morning. After breakfast climb aboard the tender for a visit to Sung Sot (Surprise) Cave, a colourful grotto of giant stalactites and stalagmites. Return to the boat and enjoy

a short cooking class where you will learn to prepare local delicacies such as spring rolls. Enjoy lunch onboard, followed by a relaxing trip back into port, where you will disembark and return to Hanoi (approx. 4 hours). Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

**Overnight:** H<sup>o</sup>ng Ng<sup>o</sup>c Cochinchine Hotel or similar, Hanoi

**Meals included:** Breakfast;Lunch

### Day 15 Hanoi - Da Nang - Hoi An

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for the flight to Da Nang (approx. 1.5 hour flight). Upon arrival you will drive onwards to the ancient coastal city of Hoi An (approx. 1 hour), where you will check into the hotel. The rest of the afternoon is spent at leisure to explore this amazing city.

**Overnight:** Venus Hotel or similar, Hoi An

**Meals included:** Breakfast

### Day 16 Hoi An Free Day

Today is free at leisure to explore the graceful and historic Hoi An, which is Vietnam's most atmospheric and delightful city. Once a major port, it boasts the grand architecture and beguiling riverside setting that befits its heritage, and the 21st-century curses of traffic and pollution are almost entirely absent. Alternatively, you can take the opportunity to join an optional tour (not included).

Optional Activity: Ba Na Hills, Golden Bridge & Da Nang Full Day Tour - \$150 AUD per person

Early this morning you will be picked up from the hotel and travel to Ba Na Hill Station on the outskirts of Da Nang. Here you will take a cable car to Ba Na Hills where you will enjoy amazing views. Here you will visit an old French cellar (Debay

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Ancient Wine Cellar), a flower garden - Le Jardin D'amour, Linh Ung Pagoda, a wax statue museum and the iconic Golden Bridge. Afterwards enjoy free time to explore this resort park then travel onwards to Da Nang where lunch will be provided. In the afternoon, return to Hoi An where you may enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure. Inclusions: Transportation, English speaking guide, lunch, entrance fees, cable car ticket and drinking water.

**Overnight: Venus Hotel or similar, Hoi An**

**Meals included: Breakfast**

#### Day 17 Hoi An Free Day

Today enjoy another day free at leisure to explore this fascinating city. Alternatively, you can take the opportunity to join an optional tour (not included).

Optional Activity: My Son Holy Land Tour - \$50 USD per person (arranged on tour)

Depart early this morning and travel to My Son (approx. 1 hour), a UNESCO World Heritage site located 40km southwest of Hoi An. My Son was once the capital and religious centre of the Cham people and is believed to be the longest inhabited archaeological site in Indochina. The ruins of My Son were built between the 7th to 13th century BC and are located in a valley surrounded by mountains, the sides of which are covered in thick jungle. Hon Quap (Cat's Tooth Mountain) overlooks the site, its crooked peak mimicked by the architecture of some temples' roofs. These mountains are the source of the Thu Bon river, a holy river which flows through the site. Lunch will be included at a local restaurant and after the day's tour of this magnificent site be transferred back to the hotel in Hoi An. Inclusions: Transfers to and from the hotel to My Son Holy Land, English speaking tour guide.

**Overnight: Venus Hotel or similar, Hoi An**

**Meals included: Breakfast**

#### Day 18 Hoi An - Da Nang - Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)

After breakfast, you will be transfer back to Da Nang Airport for your onward flight to Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) (approx. 1.5 hour flight). Upon arrival you will be transferred to the hotel where you may enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.

**Overnight: Le Duy Grand Hotel or similar, Ho Chi Minh City**

**Meals included: Breakfast**

#### Day 19 Cu Chi Tunnels Half Day Tour

This morning be picked up from the hotel and head to the Cu Chi Tunnels (approx. 1 hour) for a half day tour. The Cu Chi Tunnels were constructed by Vietnamese fighters during the country's long fight for independence. The network of tunnels which make up this underground city include living rooms, kitchens, hospitals, weapons factories, storage facilities and a command centre. The tunnel system was an excellent way for the Vietcong to move around the countryside undetected by foreign troops and was at one stage home to around 10,000 people. After exploring these tunnels along with nearby remains of American tanks and numerous bomb craters drive back to Ho Chi Minh City arriving in the mid afternoon. The rest of the evening will be spent at leisure.

**Overnight: Le Duy Grand Hotel or similar, Ho Chi Minh City**

**Meals included: Breakfast**

#### Day 20 Ho Chi Minh Free Day

Today is free at leisure to explore Ho Chi Minh City at leisure.

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Alternatively, you can take the opportunity to join an optional tour (not included).

Optional Activity: Mekong Delta Day Tour - \$60 AUD per person

This morning after breakfast be picked up from the hotel and travel to the city of My Tho (approx. 1.5 hours) on the banks of the Mekong. Upon arrival board a motor boat and cruise along the Mekong River. The boat will take you to Xep Canal, a lovely place where you will transfer to smaller canoes so you may navigate the smaller canals. These canals are lovely places where you can escape the traffic of the main river. Here you will cruise under coconut trees before arriving at a small islet. Disembark and walk around a small local village. Stop at a local family's home to enjoy tropical fruit, honey tea and wine and listen to traditional Vietnamese music performed by the villagers. Afterwards continue onwards to another islet where a traditional Vietnamese lunch will be prepared by a local family (included). In the afternoon return to Ho Chi Minh City . Please note this tour includes travel in smaller traditional river boats, which may be difficult for less mobile, and/or elderly travellers to get in and out of. Inclusions: Transfers to and from the hotel, English speaking tour guide, Mekong River boat trip, lunch, honey tea and honey wine, seasonal fruits, traditional music performance.

**Overnight: Le Duy Grand Hotel or similar, Ho Chi Minh City**

**Meals included: Breakfast**

#### **Day 21 Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam - Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

Today you will be picked up from the hotel early in the morning to begin your journey to Phnom Penh, Cambodia by way of a

tourist bus (not a private group service). Stop at the Vietnam/ Cambodia Moc Bai Bavet border for visa processing (visa cost not included) and then continue onwards to Phnom Penh. This journey can take anywhere between 6 to 8 hours depending on the visa processing times on the border. On arrival, be welcomed by the tour guide and transfer to the hotel. The afternoon is free to at leisure.

Please note:

- For customers who would prefer to fly to Phnom Penh rather than take the tourist bus, a flight upgrade option is available for \$200 AUD per person which includes an afternoon flight from Ho Chi Minh City and airport transfers in Ho Chi Minh City and Phnom Penh.

- Due to limited flight availability between Ho Chi Minh City and Phnom Penh passengers who purchase this flight upgrade option will most likely depart Ho Chi Minh City in the afternoon and arrive into Phnom Penh in the evening. Flights are subject to schedule changes and/or delays and may not always arrive in Phnom Penh before the bus.

**Overnight: Le Grand Palais Hotel or similar, Phnom Penh**

**Meals included: Breakfast**

#### **Day 22 Phnom Penh Free Day**

Today is free at leisure to explore the capital city of Cambodia. Alternatively, you can take the opportunity to join an optional tour (not included).

Optional Activity: 'Choeung Ek' Killing Fields & Phnom Penh City Tour - \$120 AUD per person

After breakfast you will be picked up from the hotel to explore the capital city with the bustling Central Market, the



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Independence Monument, Wat Ounalom. After a set lunch at a local restaurant continue onto the Tuol Sleng Prison Museum and the notorious “Killing Fields” of Choeung Ek, gaining a deep insight into the painful rule of the Khmer Rouge. Afterwards you will visit the Royal Palace and the sacred Silver Pagoda, which is well known for its 5000 silver tiled floor. Upon completion of the tour you will be transferred back to the hotel. Inclusions: Transfers to and from the hotel, English speaking tour guide and a local lunch.

**Overnight: Le Grand Palais Hotel or similar, Phnom Penh**

**Meals included: Breakfast**

#### Day 23 Phnom Penh - Siem Reap

After an early breakfast at the hotel you will travel to Siem Reap by way of a tourist bus (not a private group service, approx. 6 hours) passing through three provinces, Kandal, Kampong Cham and KamPong Thom. On arrival be greeted by a tour guide in Siem Reap and transferred to the hotel for an afternoon at leisure.

**Overnight: Angkor Panoramic Hotel or similar, Siem Reap**

**Meals included: Breakfast**

#### Day 24 Full Day Temples of Angkor Wat Tour

After breakfast at the hotel you will begin your full day tour to Angkor Wat, the most balanced, the most harmonious and the most perfect Khmer temple. It shows Khmer art, which reached the height of its glory in the 12th century. See the south gate of Angkor Thom, then visit the Terrace of Elephants, which used to be a base for the king’s grand audience hall. The Terrace of the Leper king was a terrace which housed the royal crematory.

Continue onto visit an amazing view of Ta Prohm Temple which has been deliberately left as it was discovered. Enjoy a set lunch at a local restaurant before visiting Pre Rup Temple, a classic example of temple-mountain; Eastern Mebon, Ta Som, Neak Pean, a unique ancient hospital built in the reign of King Jayavarman VI (1181-1220); and Preah Khan, a large temple built on the site of a battle that ended in Angkor’s downfall at the land of the Cham. After the tour you will be transferred back to the hotel for an evening of leisure.

**Overnight: Angkor Panoramic Hotel or similar, Siem Reap**

**Meals included: Breakfast;Lunch**

#### Day 25 Siem Reap Free Day

Today is free at leisure to explore beautiful Siem Reap.

**Overnight: Angkor Panoramic Hotel or similar, Siem Reap**

**Meals included: Breakfast;Lunch**

#### Day 26 Siem Reap, Cambodia - Bangkok, Thailand

Today you will be picked up from the hotel and transferred to the airport for your onwards flight to Bangkok. Upon arrival you will be met and transferred to the hotel.

Please note:

- If your flight departs early, breakfast will be arranged for pick up from the hotel reception the night before.

- For late departures luggage storage facilities will be available at the hotel

**Overnight: Hotel Royal at Chinatown or similar, Bangkok**

**Meals included: Breakfast**

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### Day 27 Bangkok Half Day Tour

This morning enjoy a half day tour of Bangkok. Start the tour with a visit to the Royal Grand Palace, a great architectural masterpiece, which was used as a royal residence from the 18th to the mid 20th century. It's without a doubt a national reference and possibly the most visited royal monument of Thailand. Also see Wat Po; Bangkok's oldest temple, in which is located the famous gold leaf-covered reclining Buddha.

The tour also includes the temple Wat Traimit; with its 5.5-ton Golden Buddha. On the way back you will have a chance to see many magnificent temples and architectural buildings, for example the City Pillar Shrine, National Museum, Democracy Monument, Golden Mountain, Thai Boxing Stadium and the Parliament House along Ratchadamnoen Road (The Royal's Way). To round off the tour, you will call in at a local lapidary factory and showroom where you will be able to get locally made jewellery, handicrafts and silk. Return to the hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure.

**Overnight: Hotel Royal at Chinatown or similar, Bangkok**

**Meals included: Breakfast**

### Day 28 Bangkok Free Day

Today is free at leisure to explore bustling Bangkok.

**Overnight: Hotel Royal at Chinatown or similar, Bangkok**

**Meals included: Breakfast**

### Day 29 Bangkok, Thailand - Australia

Today you will be picked up from the hotel and transferred to the airport for your return flight back to Australia.

Please note:

- If your flight departs early, breakfast will be arranged for pick up from the hotel reception the night before.

- Some flights may not depart until late evening (day 29) or very early morning (day 30) and luggage storage facilities will be available at the hotel.

**Meals included: Breakfast; In-Flight**

### Day 30 Arrive in Australia

Please note some flights may arrive + 1 days

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## TOUR INCLUSIONS

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### Thailand:

Visit the historic Wat Phra That Doi Suthep in Chiang Mai

Enjoy a free day at leisure colourful Chiang Mai

Visit Mae Khajan Hot Springs and the White Temple

Stay the night in Chiang Rai and Chiang Kong

Travel to the Golden Triangle, where the borders of Thailand, Laos and Myanmar -meet

Enjoy a tour of bustling Bangkok

#### Laos:

Experience Laos 'the Land of a Million Elephants'

Visit traditional villages and Pak Ou Caves as you cruise down the Mekong

Witness numerous Buddha statues at Pak Ou Cave

Visit the inspiring Buffalo Dairy and even milk a buffalo

Enjoy a refreshing swim at the beautiful Kuang Si Falls

Spend a morning with the elephants of Elephant Village Sanctuary

Discover the beauty of UNESCO heritage listed Luang Prabang

#### Vietnam:

Experience the centuries-old culture of Vietnam

Enjoy a day free at leisure in the capital of Vietnam, Hanoi

Sail among the limestone islands of Halong Bay

Visit a grotto of stalactites and stalagmites

Witness the incredible Sung Sot (Surprise) Cave in Halong Bay

Enjoy a Vietnamese cooking class onboard cruise

Visit a floating pearl farm on Halong Bay

Discover the beautiful city of Hoi An at leisure

Learn about the Viet Cong at the historic Cú Chi Tunnels

Enjoy a free day at leisure in the street food mecca of Ho Chi Minh City

#### Cambodia:

Travel the beautiful countryside of Cambodia

Discover Phnom Penh on a day free at leisure

Visit the temples of Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom

Enjoy a day free at leisure in historic Siem Reap

### FLIGHTS

Return international flights (economy class) ex SYD/MEL/ BNE/\*ADL/\*PER

1-way international flight (economy class): Laos to Vietnam

1-way international flight (economy class): Cambodia to Thailand

2 x internal flights (economy class): Da Nang to Hoi An & Da Nang to Ho Chi Minh City

### ACCOMMODATION

26 nights quality hotel accommodation

1 night lodge accommodation on the Mekong River

### DINING

Enjoy 38 meals including daily breakfast

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# TOUR INCLUSIONS

## CRUISE

Enjoy a 2 day cruise down the mighty Mekong River

1 night cruising beautiful Halong Bay aboard a traditional Vietnamese junk boat

## TOUR ESSENTIALS

English-speaking tour guides

Airline taxes and surcharges

## TRANSPORT

Transportation by private A/C Vehicles

## TRANSFERS

All airport and cruise transfers

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

*\*Please note: all information provided in this brochure is subject to both change and availability. Prior to purchase please check the current deal for up-to-date information. If you have already purchased this deal, the terms and conditions on your Purchase Confirmation apply and take precedence over the information in this brochure.*

## BOOKING INFORMATION

After purchase, you will receive a receipt and a Purchase Confirmation, directing you to an online Passenger Information Form. The Passenger Information Form must be completed within 72 hours of purchase.

Any special requests, preferences and optional extras MUST be clearly stated in your Passenger Information Form. Any change requested after submitting your Passenger Information Form cannot be guaranteed, is strictly subject to availability and will incur surcharges as outlined in the Schedule of Fees below.

On purchasing this Travel Offer you are bound by the General Terms and Conditions, in addition to the specific terms and conditions outlined in this Important Information.

*Please note: all additional charges are payable direct to your Travel Consultant in AUD (unless otherwise stated).*

## OFFER ESSENTIALS

Travel offer is valid for travel on selected dates until the 13th September 2020.

This travel offer is priced for one person based on twin share.

### Single Traveller Supplement

For solo travellers a mandatory single supplement of \$1000 applies.

### Departure Dates (2020)

Please see TripADeal website for current departure dates.

### Departure Cities

Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, \*Adelaide or \*Perth

### Departure City Surcharges

\*Adelaide: \$200 per person

\*Perth: \$100 per person

## FLIGHTS

### Full Service Airline(s) Used

Thai Airways, Singapore Airlines, Malaysia Airlines, China Southern Airlines, Vietnam Airlines, Cathay Pacific, Qantas Airways, Emirates, Virgin Australia, Malindo Air, Korean Airlines, Japan Airlines, China Airlines, Bangkok Airways plus any codeshare partners (subject to availability).

### Domestic Airline(s) Used

Vietnam Airlines and Vietjet Air (subject to availability).

*Please note: One way flights can not be accommodated. Travellers must take all included flights within the package, and any flights intentionally forfeited will result in later flights being subject to cancellation.*

### Flight Upgrade

- Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam to Phnom Penh, Cambodia - \$200 per person

#### *Please note:*

- Airline used will be Vietnam Airlines or Cambodia Angkor Air (subject to availability)  
- Due to limited flight availability between Ho Chi Minh City and Phnom Penh passengers who purchase this flight upgrade option will most likely depart Ho Chi Minh City in the afternoon and arrive into Phnom Penh in the evening. Flights are subject to schedule changes and/or delays and may not always arrive in Phnom Penh before the bus.

### Arrive early in Chiang Mai, Thailand

\$200 per person, subject to availability

#### *Please note:*

- This fee does not include extra nights accommodation, meals or airport transfers.  
- No flight booking changes or cancellations permitted after air tickets have been issued.  
- Flight changes are subject to availability at the time of booking.  
- Blackout dates apply between the below date ranges:

\* 28th March – 27th April 2020

\* 20th June – 19th July 2020

\* 17th September – 11th October

\* 10th December 2020 – 20th January 2021

### Stay behind in Bangkok, Thailand

\$200 per person, subject to availability

#### *Please note:*

- This fee does not include extra nights accommodation, meals or airport transfers.  
- No flight booking changes or cancellations permitted after air tickets have been issued.  
- Flight changes are subject to availability at the time of booking.

- Blackout dates apply between the below date ranges:

\* 28th March – 27th April 2020

\* 20th June – 19th July 2020

\* 17th September – 11th October

\* 10th December 2020 – 20th January 2021

### Stopover Packages

Not available.

### Flight Class Upgrades

- Premium Economy: Not available.

- Business Class (Australia to Thailand and Thailand to Australia): Starting from \$2699 per person

#### *Please note:*

- \*Starting from quotes will be processed and returned for your consideration.  
- All Premium Economy and Business Class upgrades are subject to availability (if we are not able to fulfill your business class request the upgrade cost will be refunded).  
- On any upgrade purchase, short haul flights and domestic flight sectors are not guaranteed in a Premium or Business cabin; subject to aircraft configuration.

## ACCOMMODATION

### Accommodation Used

3 – 3.5 Star (self-rated)

- Chiang Mai, Thailand: The Park Hotel or similar

- Chiang Rai, Thailand: Wiang Inn or similar

- Chiang Khong, Thailand: Chiangkhong Teak Garden Riverfront or similar

- Pakbeng, Laos: Luang Say Lodge

- Luang Prabang, Laos: Villa Pumalin or similar

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Hanoi, Vietnam: H<sup>àng</sup> Ng<sup>uyễn</sup>c Cochinchine Hotel or similar
- Halong Bay, Vietnam: Majestic Cruise Junk Boat or similar
- Hoi An, Vietnam: Venus Hotel or similar
- Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam: Le Duy Grand Hotel or similar
- Phnom Penh, Cambodia: Le Grand Palais Hotel or similar
- Siem Reap, Cambodia: Panoramic Hotel or similar
- Bangkok, Thailand: Hotel Royal at Chinatown or similar

## No Star Rating

- Halong Bay: Majestic Cruises

*Please note: Accommodation/rooms offered are based on a lead-in room type, and are subject to availability based on seasonality. Properties will be confirmed, no later than two weeks prior to travel.*

## Extra Nights

Not available.

## Maximum Room Capacity

2 people.

## Child Policy

- No child discounts. Full price applies for all children travelling with their parents.
- Valid for Children/infants 12 years old and over.

*Please note: Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult 18 years old and over to travel. No unaccompanied minors allowed.*

## Triple Share

Not available.

## Bedding Configuration

2 x Single or 1 x King/Queen (subject to availability).

## Adjoining / Interconnecting Rooms

Subject to availability and at the hotels discretion. Please enquire on booking if you require this option.

## GENERAL TOUR INFORMATION

Minimum group size 16, maximum group size

20 per vehicle.

Please note: this excludes the tourist bus experiences on day 21 and day 23.

## Optional Tours / Activities – Available for purchase upon checkout

- Day 16: Ba Na Hills, Golden Bridge & Da Nang Full Day Tour: \$150 per person

- Day 20: Mekong Delta Day Tour: \$60 per person

- Day 21: Ho Chi Minh City to Phnom Penh Flight Upgrade - \$200 per person

- Day 22: 'Choeung Ek' Killing Fields & Phnom Penh City Tour: \$120 per person

### *Please note:*

- prices are based on per person, are subject to availability, time permitting and weather conditions.

- The optional tours listed above must be purchased on checkout or over the phone prior to submitting your passenger information form (subject to availability)

- Some tours require minimum numbers to operate.

- Due to limited flight availability between Ho Chi Minh City and Phnom Penh passengers who purchase this flight upgrade option will most likely depart Ho Chi Minh City in the afternoon and arrive into Phnom Penh in the evening. Flights are subject to schedule changes and/or delays and may not always arrive in Phnom Penh before the bus.

## Optional Tours / Activities – Available for purchase on tour

- Day 9: Mekong River Sunset Cruise with Dinner and Traditional Dance Show - 235,000 Lao Kip per person

- Day 10: Monks Alms Giving Ceremony - 120,000 Lao Kip per person

- Day 10: Luang Prabang Bicycle Tour - 175,000 Lao Kip (moderate level of fitness required) per person

- Day 12: Hanoi City Tour – \$70 USD per person

- Day 17: My Son Holy Land Tour: \$50 USD per person

### *Please note:*

- prices are based on per person are subject

to availability, time permitting and weather conditions, and are payable direct to the tour operator in the currency.

- Some tours require minimum numbers to operate.

## EXCLUSIONS

- Visa fees and requirements (A visa for Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos & Thailand are strict requirements if travelling on an Australian passport)

- Meals/beverages not stated in the itinerary

- Recommended gratuities/tipping: \$6 AUD per person per day, which will be collected whilst on tour.

- Optional activities/tours

- Personal expenses

- Travel insurance (Mandatory)

*Please note: A comprehensive travel Insurance policy must be organised BEFORE all details can be finalised.*

## OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### TOUR GUIDE VS. TOUR LEADER

#### Tour Guide:

Often locals with intimate knowledge of an area, its culture, and history. Their role entails providing commentary, routing the tour, and seeing that people have a good time. They are a licensed, qualified expert who supplies specific information on history, art, architecture and culture of the city/village/attraction in which he or she is guiding the tour. The guide meets the group at the required place and leaves the group at the end of the tour, they do not travel with the group.

#### Tour Leader:

An experienced person tasked with ensuring the smooth operation of tours, as well as providing practical support to passengers throughout the whole trip. Their role primarily includes assisting with accommodation, transportation between locations, and communication with tour guides in each stop. A tour leader may provide general guidance around a city or village, and offer information on the place visited on the bus, however they are not required to have specific knowledge on art, architecture, or history. They are

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not allowed to provide a guided tour or commentary of a city/village/attraction once there and if caught doing so, can be fined.

*Please note: Tour leaders/guides are not a standard inclusion in all travel offers. Tour leaders/guides will only be made available when particularly required to enhance the experience of the destination featured.*

## CLIMATE & AVERAGE TEMPERATURES

### Thailand:

Thailand's weather is characterised by high temperatures and humidity throughout the year. April and May receive the hottest temperatures while the weather in June sees the monsoon pattern bringing rain through to October. While many regions receive rain during this time, the days are generally sunny and the showers pass quickly.

### Laos:

Laos has a tropical monsoon climate, with an afternoon shower common between May and October. A cool dry season from November through February, and a hot dry season in March and April.

### Vietnam:

Vietnam's climate can be divided into a tropical and a temperate zone. It's characterized by strong monsoon influences, has a considerable amount of sun, a high rate of rainfall, and high humidity. July is the hottest month in Hanoi with an average temperature of 29°C and the coldest is January at 17°C with the most daily sunshine hours at 8 in July.

### Cambodia:

Cambodia is warm to hot year round and the climate is dominated by the annual monsoon cycle with its alternating wet and dry seasons. April is the hottest month in Phnom Penh with an average temperature of 31°C and the coldest is January at 26°C with the most daily sunshine hours at 8 in December.

## FLIGHTS

### Seat Selection & Frequent Flyer Points:

At TripADeal we do not arrange seat selection. It is important to highlight that some Airlines do not allow pre-selected seats.

We strongly suggest you contact the Airline directly with seating allocation requirements and or arrive at the airport earlier to arrange your seating. While we do not add frequent flyer member details to bookings, you can do this directly with the Airline once you have your flight information.

### Passport Validity:

Customers are required to provide valid passport details either at the time of purchase, or no later than 45 days prior to departure date. Failure to do so may result in cancellation of the booking. In this instance customers will be responsible for any costs and fees incurred.

## COACH TOUR

### Meals:

38 meals are included in the tour, for all other meals; lunches and dinners the tour leader (when available) will offer assistance with reservations, suggestions and directions to local restaurants. It is your responsibility to notify TripADeal of any dietary requests/requirements. Please note; we will do our best to meet your requests/requirements, however cannot guarantee that we will always be able to.

### Luggage:

You will be responsible for all your personal belongings whilst on the tour. With regards to luggage, you must carry your own luggage from the coach to the hotel room and back to the coach. The driver will assist with the uploading and off-loading of the luggage from the coach.

## OTHER

### Fitness Level Required / Mobility:

Our vehicles are not equipped with wheelchair access, so unfortunately our tours are currently not suitable for wheelchair users and those less mobile.

*Please note: a general level of fitness will be required. There will be some walking tours up to 1-2 hours long in some destinations. The boat tour in the Mekong Delta (optional tour) is on small traditional river boats. Getting on and off these boats can be a little difficult for less mobile and/or elderly passengers. If you have*

*any concerns please consult your healthcare provider prior to purchase/travel.*

### Yellow Fever:

A valid international certificate of vaccination against Yellow Fever is required in many countries. You may need to present this on arrival at the airport or border crossing. Some countries will refuse entry if you are unable to present your certificate. It's also quite common for your home country to request a Yellow Fever certificate on your arrival back home.

It is your responsibility to check with your doctor well in advance of leaving home about the Yellow Fever requirements for the countries you'll be visiting.

### Gratuities / Tipping:

#### Land

Gratuities (tips) are not included in the tour price for services of the tour leader (when available) and driver throughout the tour. The recommended tip is \$6 AUD per person per day this covers the guide/leader and the driver, which will be collected whilst on tour.

Tipping for all services provided on tour is always a matter of personal discretion, however please be aware that tipping is considered by many locals to be a part of their normal remuneration and they may approach you for payment and there is no need to be intimidated by the request.

### Sightseeing:

*Please note: In the event entrance to a site is affected by changes in operating hours or public holiday closures, your itinerary will be adjusted to ensure you do not miss out on the experience.*

### Shopping:

Shopping overseas can be a daunting and confusing experience, especially when there is a language barrier. Please be very cautious when foreign currencies and prices are involved. If paying by credit card, please pay close attention to the amount you are being charged and keep all of your receipts.

Do not make any purchases you are not comfortable with or feel pressured into. If you are uncertain or need assistance with the language barrier, please seek assistance from

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your Tour Guide/Leader.

Please refer to our Terms and Conditions in regards to shopping for further information.

## VISAS

### Thailand

A tourist visa will be granted upon arrival in Thailand for stays up to 30 days if travelling on an Australian passport.

### Laos

A tourist visa for Laos is granted upon arrival if travelling for up to 30 days on an Australian Passport. All information regarding this visa will be in your travel documentation that is sent out approximately 6 weeks prior to departure. There is a \$35 USD fee for entry into Laos and you will need to provide one passport sized photo on arrival as well.

### Vietnam

Australian passport holders are eligible to apply online for a single entry electronic visa (e-visa), valid for up to a maximum of 30 days. Lodge your application online (for a non-refundable fee) with the Vietnamese National Web Portal of Immigration - <https://www.xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn/>. You will be given a unique code to track your visa application status. Once your visa is granted, you must print it out and present it at check in. Keep this e-visa print out with you at all times during your travel in Vietnam.

Some private online visa services and travel agents have scammed travellers or been involved in the public disclosure of the personal information of applicants for visas and 'visa issued on arrival' approval letters. To avoid such scams, only use official Government of Vietnam services to arrange your visa. Visa and other entry and exit conditions (such as currency, customs and quarantine regulations) change regularly. Contact the nearest Embassy or Consulate of Vietnam for up-to-date information.

### Cambodia

A tourist visa for Cambodia is a strict requirement if travelling on an Australian passport:

Australian passport holders travelling for tourism can apply for an e-visa online through

the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. E-visas are only valid for entry through the Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Sihanoukville International Airports, and Cham Yeam (Koh Kong), Poipet (Banteay Meanchey), Bavet (Svay Rieng) and Tropaeng Kreal (Stung Treang).

Alternatively a tourist visa can be completely arranged on arrival at the border for \$35 USD per person.

- Visas must be arranged in USD currency at the border with 2 passport size photos.

Tourist visas are valid for thirty days. For longer stays, or if you're travelling to Cambodia for a purpose other than tourism, you must arrange a visa in advance through the nearest Embassy or Consulate of Cambodia. Visa and other entry and exit conditions (such as currency, customs and quarantine regulations) can change at short notice. Contact the nearest Embassy or Consulate of Cambodia for up-to-date information.

Important: Please start arranging your visa at least 3 weeks prior to departure to account for any delays due to consulate operating hours.

*Please note: Passengers who are not Australian citizens must check with the respective consulate or visa agency to determine what their visa requirements are and what personal identification is required. It is also important to note, some areas of employment such as journalism, government authorities and charity organisations may have additional restrictions in applying for Visas. This may in turn affect the type of application required.*

## INSURANCE

We are proud to offer a range of travel insurance products - please ask your Travel Consultant for more information.

## SCHEDULE OF FEES

### Voluntary Changes

This includes booking changes requested by you, including but not limited to those changes requiring an airline ticket or a Purchase Confirmation reissue.

- 1st Change - \$100.00 per person + any additional charges applied by the airline/cruise company/accommodation/other travel provider.

- 2nd Change - \$150.00 per person + any additional charges applied by the airline/cruise company/accommodation/other travel provider.

- Subsequent changes - \$250.00 per person + any additional charges applied by the airline/cruise company/accommodation/other travel provider.

- Changes within 30 days of departure \$350.00 per person + any additional charges applied by the airline/cruise company/accommodation/other travel provider.

- Changes within 14 days of departure \$500.00 per person + any additional charges applied by the airline/cruise company/accommodation/other travel provider.

### Name Changes Due To Passenger Error

- If the incorrect name has been advised to TripADeal, charges of \$150.00 per person + any additional charges applied by the airline/cruise company/accommodation/other travel provider.