



## VIETNAM, CAMBODIA & LAOS: AN INSPIRING JOURNEY

8 nights



### Summary

On this epic journey we will visit three dynamic countries. We begin in Vietnam, a country still healing from its past. Here we'll see cultural wonders, awe-inspiring landscapes, and learn about the "American War" as we visit Saigon. In Cambodia we'll explore Phnom Penh. We'll end in Laos at the ancient city of Luang Prabang, filled with Buddhist temples and pagodas.

### Wild Discovery Advantages

- A proven expertise in organizing successful holidays
- Experienced and knowledgeable staff
- High quality service & strong commitment to customer satisfaction
- Permanent assistance from Wild Discovery Head Office at any moment
- Attention to details that make the difference

### Overview

**Interest:** couples — family — group

**Level of Comfort:** 3/5

**Minimum # of passengers:** 2

**Maximum # of passengers:** None

### Information about the destination

- **Language:** Vietnamese, Khmer & Lao
- **Dialing Code:** +84 , +855, +856
- **Transportation:** private car, train or bus
- **Recommended vaccine :** None
- **Banks & currency exchange:** It is better to exchange currencies before you go

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**Day 1: HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM**

Arrive in Ho Chi Minh City, where you are met and transferred to your hotel

**Day 2: HO CHI MINH CITY**

Venture into the countryside to explore the expansive Cu Chi Tunnel network, a key Vietcong resource during the Vietnam War. You have the opportunity to squeeze into and crawl through the small tunnels once traversed by Vietcong guerrillas. Discover Ho Chi Minh City's dynamic past, visiting Independence Palace (Reunification Hall), the home and workplace of South Vietnam's president during the Vietnam War. Also explore the Museum of Vietnamese History to view Khmer artifacts, Buddha statues, relics from Angkor Wat and an impressive porcelain collection; or opt for the War Remnants Museum, to peruse exhibits relating to the Vietnam War and the first Indochina War. Next, get in touch with southern Vietnam's spiritual side at a colorful Cao Dai temple.

**Day 3: HO CHI MINH CITY & SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA**

Explore Ho Chi Minh City by cyclo (three-wheeled bicycle taxi), a leisurely peddle that takes you past by Notre Dame Cathedral and the Central Post Office — examples of the city's colonial legacy — en route to leafy Tao Dan Park, where locals gather for morning exercise. Pause for a refreshment, and then see the Venerable Thich Quang Duc Monument, a memorial to the monk who set himself on fire in protest of Buddhist persecution in Vietnam. A Vespa driver then picks you up and whisks you to a local street market, where you explore a secret, underground weapons bunker. Next, admire the colorful floral displays at the flower market and sit down to a traditional breakfast of pho (Vietnamese noodle soup) at one of the city's best noodle houses. Return to your hotel for time at leisure. Then, transfer to the airport for your flight to Siem Reap.

**Day 4: SIEM REAP**

Rise early this morning to experience the incomparable serenity of mystical Angkor Wat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Travelling by rickshaw (motorized rickshaw), explore the magnificent 12th-century temple, built during the reign of King Suryavarman II, as the sun's first morning rays light up its façade. Delve deeper, seeing carved bas-reliefs that depict the king in battle as well as Apsara dancers. Continue to a scenic spot on the banks of Srah Srang for an indulgent private Khmer-style picnic breakfast at a scenic swimming spot beloved by locals. Then, discover the jungle-entangled ruins of Ta Prohm Temple, followed by a leisurely bicycle ride to Bayon temple, its 172 large-scale faces bearing beguiling smiles and representing gods, goddesses and other beings from classical poems and mythology. Return to your hotel, stopping en route at the rarely visited Gate of the Dead. After time some time to unwind, set out on an exhilarating, hour-long ATV adventure, zigzagging your way through the captivating landscape as the sun dips behind picturesque fields and palm trees.

**Day 5: SIEM REAP**

Embark on a morning cruise on Tonle Sap (Great Lake), watching fishermen at work and spotting water birds. Pause at a floating village for an authentic glimpse into daily life. Built on floating bamboo platforms, the village is moored at a small hilltop pagoda during the high-water season and moves as the water recedes in dry season. Next, hop on a kayak and paddle out into the open lake, eating lunch aboard. In the afternoon, visit lesser-known, exquisitely preserved Banteay Srei temple — the pink sandstone "Citadel of Women." Built in the 10th century by a Brahmin priest, it contains excellent examples of classical Khmer art. Continue to a local family's home, where you learn about the Cambodia Clean Water Project.

**Day 6: SIEM REAP & LUANG PRABANG, LAOS**

Free time at leisure before transferring to the airport for your flight to Luang Prabang.

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**Day 7: LUANG PRABANG**

Today, begin at the Royal Palace Museum, its quaint appearance belying its stormy past. Explore exhibits tracing the story of seven turbulent centuries of the Lane Xang Kingdom, as well as the colonial era through the present. After gaining insight into local history, continue to evocative Wat Visoun, Luang Prabang's oldest operating temple; Wat Xieng Thong, with its impressive Tree of Life mosaic and richly decorated wooden columns; and the Traditional Arts & Ethnology Center, devoted to Laos' ethnic diversity. Break for lunch at a local restaurant before venturing into the remote jungle of northern Laos, where you visit an elephant sanctuary. After feeding elephants these healthy treats, watch the majestic creatures bathe in the river.

**Day 8: LUANG PRABANG, LAOS**

Rise early to participate in the daily ceremonial offering of food to local monks. As a procession of robed monks passes, place a small amount of rice into their alms bowls. Continue to a local fresh market before returning to your hotel for breakfast. Next, meet a local farmer, who shows you around his family farm and shares how crops are grown, harvested and used. Help tend to the produce in his organic vegetable garden, followed by a hands-on cooking experience in his home. After transforming grains of glutinous rice from the field into long strands of Lao noodles (kaopun), sample the dish you helped to prepare. Continue to Laos Buffalo Dairy, which helps local farmers produce buffalo milk. After learning how families make artisanal cheese and yogurt, explore the farm, meeting friendly buffalos and helping feed the calves. Then, sample tasty cheeses and exotically flavored ice creams right from the source. Return to your hotel for an afternoon at leisure. Later, embark on a sunset cruise on the scenic Mekong River.

**Day 9: DEPART LUANG PRABANG**

Set off for the cascading waters of Kuang Si Falls Park, pausing to visit Khmu, Hmong and Lao Loum villages en route. Upon arrival at the waterfall, cool off with a refreshing swim in the turquoise pool or set out on a hike along forest trails. Next, visit the nearby Tat Kuang Si Bear Rescue Center, which works to protect and rehabilitate rare Asiatic black bears. Return to Luang Prabang. Alternately, enjoy your morning relaxing. Later, transfer to the airport for your homebound flight.

This is a product sheet elaborated in order to give you a quick overview of our package with details pertaining to hotels, flights and proposed tours. This is not a tailor made quotation and should you wish to have specific details reviewed to better suits your need please do not hesitate to contact one of our travel consultants or visit one of our branches.

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