

# 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

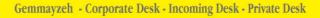
• Language: Vietnamese, Khmer & Lao

• **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





# 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 Tunnelnetwork, 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, Buddhas 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 Daitemple.

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

Explore Ho Chi Minh City by cyclo (three-wheeledbicycle taxi), a leisurely peddle that takes you past by Notre Dame Cathedraland the Central Post Office — examples of the city's colonial legacy — en routeto leafy Tao Dan Park, where locals gather for morning exercise. Pause for arefreshment, and then see the Venerable Thich Quang Duc Monument, a memorial tothe 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, whereyou explore a secret, underground weapons bunker. Next, admire the colorfulfloral displays at the flower market and sit down to a traditional breakfastof pho (Vietnamese noodle soup) at one of the city's bestnoodle houses. Return to your hotel for time at leisure. Then, transfer to theairport for your flight to Siem Reap.

### Day 4: SIEM REAP

Rise early this morning to experience the incomparable serenity ofmystical Angkor Wat, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Travelling by remork (motorizedrickshaw), explore the magnificent 12th-century temple, built during the reignof 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 wellas Apsara dancers. Continue to a scenic spot on the banks of Srah Srang for anindulgent private Khmer-style picnic breakfast at a scenic swimming spotbeloved by locals. Then, discover the jungle-entangled ruins of Ta ProhmTemple, 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, stoppingen route at the rarely visited Gate of the Dead. After time some time tounwind, set out on an exhilarating, hour-long ATV adventure, zigzagging yourway through the captivating landscape as the sun dips behind picturesque fieldsand palm trees.

## Day 5: SIEM REAP

Embark on a morning cruise on Tonle Sap (Great Lake), watching fishermenat work and spotting water birds. Pause at a floating village for an authenticglimpse into daily life. Built on floating bamboo platforms, the village ismoored at a small hilltop pagoda during the high-water season and moves as thewater recedes in dry season. Next, hop on a kayak and paddle out into the openlake, eating lunch aboard. In the afternoon, visit lesser-known, exquisitelypreserved Banteay Srei temple — the pink sandstone "Citadel of Women." Built inthe 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.



# Day 7: LUANG PRABANG

Today, begin at the Royal Palace Museum, its quaint appearance belyingits stormy past. Explore exhibits tracing the story of seven turbulentcenturies of the Lane Xang Kingdom, as well as the colonial era through thepresent. After gaining insight into local history, continue to evocative WatVisoun, Luang Prabang's oldest operating temple; Wat Xieng Thong, with itsimpressive 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 jungleof northern Laos, where you visit an elephant sanctuar. 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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