



Anglican Tours Australia

Vietnam and Cambodia

1st March 2012

www.anglicantours.com.au - - - PO Box 1406 Werribee Vic 3030
Ph: 03 - 99741994 - - - 0409 441 246 - - - info@anglicantours.com.au

Day 1 - Thursday 1st March - Hanoi (D)

Our English speaking guide will meet us as we exit the arrivals area at Hanoi airport for the transfer to our hotel. The **afternoon is ours at leisure** to explore or to rest after our flight.

Day 2 - Friday 2nd March - Hanoi (B, L, D)

An early start this morning to bring you a unique and magical insight into Vietnam's people on a Good Morning Hanoi tour. Hanoi'ites begin their day early with many taking part in exercise around the picturesque Hoan Kiem Lake. Your walking tour visits the lake where you will see residents enjoying Tai Chi, exercise and meditation. You'll get to see the inner city 'old quarter' as its narrow streets begin to fill up with the bikes and people of Hanoi as their day starts – a fascinating look at two sides of the city and daily life

We then return to the hotel for breakfast and to freshen up. Then it's on to visit the cities main historical sites including the **Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum(1)** and Ho Chi Minh's house, where he preferred to live simply, which are splendid reminders of the great man who once led this



country. **One Pillar Pagoda(2)** is a small but significant pagoda with a Buddhist representation of the world and the Temple of Literature which was originally built in 1070. Our last stop is at the **Ho Chi Minh Museum** for a brief insight into the history of the man who has is recognised as the modern father of this country.



We stop for lunch at KOTO – an opportunity for us to support a fantastic organization, KOTO is a not-for-profit restaurant and vocational training program that is changing the lives of street and disadvantaged youth in Vietnam. Late afternoon and evening is at leisure to enjoy Hanoi's narrow streets and the fascinating old quarter. We then go to see the **Water Puppet Theatre** – a colorful form of traditional entertainment.

Day 3 - Saturday 3rd March - Halong Bay (B, L, D)

Departing Hanoi this morning, we travel through rice fields and small towns to Halong Bay. Here we **board a traditional junk boat (3)** (Bhaya cruise) for a boat trip through the magical seascape of Halong Bay which includes stops at various islands and caves. For those who wish, time is spent anchored for a swim or optional kayaking is available (payable to your guide).

Overnight is spent on board in air-conditioned cabins with dinner on board.



DAY 4 - Sunday 4th March - Halong Bay – Hanoi (Brunch, Dinner)

Rising to the tranquil beauty of the bay we have time for an early morning dip with joys and emotions for watching sunrise on sea followed by breakfast. This morning we continue to move around the bay to find more secluded areas. The junk will be near us at all times serving as a backup vessel for those that require it. At around midday we will return to the main harbor before transferring to our awaiting vehicle for a 3-hour journey back to Hanoi. Arrive Ha Noi and check in hotel for relax After dinner transfer to train station for 7pm **overnight train to Hue**



Day 5: - Monday 5th March - Hanoi – Hue [658k]
(B,L,D)

Arrive Hue station around 8 am. After breakfast at hotel, we explore the historic city of Hue – the former Imperial City. We start the day with a boat trip along the **Perfume River to Thien Mu Pagoda (4)**, which was built in 1601. Then continuing by road to the



Ancient Citadel, the capital of Vietnam from 1802-1945, which was recognized as a World Heritage Site, where the last King of Vietnam – Bao Dai King – abdicated on 30 August, 1945. After lunch at a rustic but delicious and popular local restaurant – visit **Khai Dinh Tomb (5)** with its mix of Asian and Western architecture. Then we will go to visit **Tu Duc Tomb** before coming back to **hotel for relax**. Imperial Dinner at An Dinh Vien restaurant. Overnight in Hue



Day 6. - Tuesday 6th March - Hue - Hai Van Pass - Hoi An [130k]
(B, L, D)

This morning we travel over the spectacular Hai Van Pass, once rated by National Geographic as one of the 50 ‘must-do’ journeys in the world. Stunning views await of Lang Co Beach and out to the South China Sea as we take the winding mountain road.

Just after leaving Hue we make a special stop at **Duc Son Pagoda**. Run by Buddhist Nun Thich Nu Minh Tu. The Temple

not only gives shelter to disadvantaged children, including Orphans and the homeless, the nuns have also created favourable conditions for the children to attend classes and go on to higher education. A brief visit allows you to see the wonderful work and the temple.

Continuing on we traverse the spectacular Hai Van Pass with a photo stop at the top, before stopping at China Beach, famous from the TV series and home to the American R&R post during the war. After that, visiting **Marble mountain Stonecutters** before arriving in Hoi An. During the 17th and 18th centuries Hoi An was a major Asian trading centre and is now one of the most popular places to visit in Vietnam with its charming cobblestone streets and old shop houses. **A wonderful town for getting clothes tailor made** (We will arrive early enough to get a fitting for the clothes you require) or for buying art and souvenirs, Hoi An also boasts an excellent beach 5km from town, which can be reached by hiring a bicycle or grabbing a taxi.

Day 7 - Wednesday 7th March - Hoi An / My Son (B, L, D)

Today begins with a tour to the **ancient ruins of My Son** – the home to the Cham people centuries ago. The Kingdom at My Son dates back to the 4th century and remained fully occupied through until the 13th century which makes it the longest occupied of all the major monuments of SE Asia. Today the ruins show testament to the Cham with its sculptures and buildings. **Check out the clothes you ordered - Maybe a refitting**, before a short walking tour introduces you to this ancient town's



old shop houses and the **Japanese covered bridge (6)**.

Late afternoon we will walk to visit **Hoi An's Famous Lanterns (7)**, Colourful **Riverside Market**. Evening is at leisure to enjoy this popular and magnificent town. Your guide is available to assist.



Day 8 - Thursday 8th March - Hoi An (B, L, D) - Free Day



Day 9: - Friday 9th March - Hoi An – Quy Nhon [311k] (B, L, D)

After breakfast, you will check out the hotel and transfer to Quy Nhon. Stop en route at Sa Huynh Beach and at Tam Quan for some refreshing coconut juice and having lunch, then visit the Thap Doi Cham Tower. **(8)**

Day 10: - Saturday 10th March - Quy Nhon – Nha Trang [460k] (B, L, D)

After breakfast, a visit to the **tomb of Han Mac Tu** - a famous Vietnamese poet - and the rocky outcrops at Hoang Hau is optional. On the route from Quy Nhon to Nha Trang, you will pass through perhaps the most beautiful stretches of coastline in all of Vietnam. The range of colors and vistas seen along this coastal and mountainous drive are unparalleled in South East Asia. Stop en route at **Dai Lanh Beach** to enjoy the transparent, turquoise waters, and at a **Cham ruin near Tuy Hoa**.



Day 11: - Sunday 11th March - Nha Trang – Boat Trip (B, L, D)

After breakfast at hotel, we will go to enjoy Nha Trang's turquoise waters and white sandy beaches. We take a morning **boat cruise** to offshore islands in Nha Trang Bay. Afternoon we visit the **Ponagar Cham Towers, the Long Son Pagoda (9)**, and the **Cathedral of Nha Trang**.



Day 12: - Monday 12th March - Nha Trang – Dalat [138k] (B, L, D)

The drive from Nha Trang to Dalat with a stop near the seaside town of Phan Rang to visit **Po Klong Garai**, a well-preserved 14th century Cham Tower. Continue to Dalat and you will take a half day tour to visit the **summer residence of Vietnam's last emperor, Bao Dai**. Drop by the colorful **Da Lat Market (10)** to see a variety of flowers, vegetables, and fruits available in Da Lat's temperate climate.

Day 13: - Tuesday 13th March - Dalat – Ho Chi Minh City (Siagon) [300k] (B, L, D)

After early breakfast transfer to airport for early flight leaving at 7.50am. This will give us the rest of the day in Siagon as free time.

Day 14: - Wednesday 14th March - Ho Chi Minh City – Mekong delta (B, L, D)

Drive to My Tho City [72k]. Take a **boat trip,(11)** get over Tien river to the other side (Ben Tre land). Sigh-seeing **fish farms, floating fish market** on the way. Stop at Mr Ba Chi Orchard to enjoy seasonal fruits and listen to traditional music in the garden. Boat to Tan Thach Stop to visit a local **coconut candy workshop; taste candy** (local special product). Then boat to An Khanh village to visit **fish farm** and walk under coconut shade stop at some local houses to see how they pack banana and coconut-leaves cakes, make rice paper cake and rice wine. Walk crossing the monkey bridge to Vuon Dau for lunch. In the afternoon, you will take rowing-boat on narrow water palm creek. Back to My Tho City and transfer to Cai Be. Overnight in Cai Be at Ba Duc homestay.

Day 15: - Friday 15th March - Cai Be Floating Market – Ho Chi Minh City (B, L, D)



Take a **boat trip** (and a sampan experience) **(13)** **along the 1mighty Mekong River** and its tributaries to view the daily lives of people who work and play on the waterways of the Mekong Delta. The trip includes a visit to the unique "**floating**" **market at Cai Be (12)** and to a family-run business producing rice paper - a key ingredient in Vietnamese cuisine. Visit a **fruit wholesale market**, a local school and a French-influenced Catholic Church. Return to Ho Chi Minh City and have a dinner at local restaurant. Overnight in HCM city.

Day 16: - Saturday 16th March - Ho Chi Minh City – Cu Chi Tunnels – Sightseeing (B, L, D)

After breakfast, drive to the extraordinary **Cu Chi tunnels,(13)** just outside Ho Chi Minh City. During the war for independence, "Viet Cong" guerillas built the labyrinth of narrow tunnels virtually underneath U.S. bases, using them to hide during bombing raids and to



stage surprise attacks.



En route to Cu Chi **visits to see how rural people live and work.** View occupations such as cashew nut farming, duck breeding, rice farming and production of rice paper, a key ingredient in Vietnamese cuisine.



On the way back to Ho Chi Minh city, stop by **Tay Ninh head temple** to take part in Midday service. **(14)** After that, continuing coming back to Ho Chi Minh City in the afternoon for a half-day city tour. Visit the **Reunification Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral, Saigon Post Office, Chinatown, Binh Tay Market and Thien Hau Temple.**

Day 17 : - Sunday 17th March - Ho Chi Minh City to Siem Reap (B,L,D) Today visit the major and better known of the **Angkor Temples** - the South Gate of **Angkor Thom, Bayon temple complex and Ta Prohm**. Afterwards visit **Angkor Wat temple complex (15)** and enjoy watching Sunset from atop **Phnom Bakheng**. Tonight enjoy dinner with a **traditional Apsara Show**.



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Day 18 -- Monday 18th March - Siem Reap (B,L,D)



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Sightseeing tour

of the town. Visit Rolous group - **Bakong, Prah ko, and Lolei temples**. Followed by the **Terrace of Elephant Leper King (16), Former Royal Palace, Baphun, Prah Pithu, and the North & South Khleang Temples**. Lunch at local restaurant Visit the **Great Lake - Tonle Sap** for a boat trip to see the **floating village**.

Day 19 -- Tuesday 19th March - Siem Reap (B, L, D)

Depart for an excursion to **Kbal Spean**, about 40 Km. from Siem Reap. Also known

as The **River of the Thousand Lingas (17)** (Hindu images) this sacred site is situated in the Kulen Mountains and was "discovered" in 1968 by Jean Boulebet, a French researcher from the Ecole Francaise d'Extreme-Orient. Take a walk through the jungle (recommend to take good non slip walking shoes during the rainy season) before you reach the river that contributes to the irrigation of Angkor. The bed of the river is lavishly sculpted. Numerous lingas lay there, caressed by the crystal – clear waters. Basreliefs depict scenes from the Brahman pantheon such as Vishnu lying.



17



18

According to inscriptions found there, the site was decorated from 1054 onwards. Return to Siem Reap in the afternoon with a stop to visit the magnificent **Banteay Srey temple.(18)**

Day 20: - Wednesday 20th March - Siem Reap - Phnom Penh (B,L,D)

Transfer to Siem Reap airport for departure to Phnom Penh. Phnom Penh: the name can't help but conjure up an image of the exotic. The glimmering spires of the royal palace, the fluttering saffron of the monks' robes, and the luscious location on the banks of the mighty Mekong; this is one of Asia's undiscovered gems. Phnom Penh can be an assault on the senses. Motorbikes whiz through the backstreets without a thought for pedestrians; pungent scents float up from stalls and markets; and all the while the sound of life, of commerce, of survival, reverberates all around. But this is all part of the attraction. It's not just another metropolis, the identikit image of a modern capital; it is an older Asia that many dreamed of when first planning their adventures overseas. Once the 'Pearl of Asia', Phnom Penh's shine was tarnished by the impact of war and revolution. Delve into the ancient past at the National Museum or struggle to make sense of the Khmer Rouge "Killing Fields" and museum.(19)



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Day 21 - Thursday 21st March - (B) Free time (best part of a day) prior to transfer to Phnom Penh International Airport for departure flight to Australia.

Day 22 - Friday 22nd March - On route to Australia

Day 23 - Saturday 23rd March - Arrive back in Australia.

Vietnam & Cambodia Details

PRICE: On application.

DATES: Leave Australia Thursday 1st March 2012, returning 23 Days later - Saturday 23rd March 2012.

PRICE INCLUDE:

- Return economy air fares (International and domestic) • Boat trips where listed.
- 4 star accommodation
- Daily breakfasts, lunch and dinners (Unless indicated)
- All sightseeing, transfers and entrance fees as per the itinerary with English speaking guide
- Bus and guide as per program
- Airport meet and assistance and round trip transfers
- Entrance fees as listed
- All tips, portorage and gratuities

PRICE EXCLUDES:

- Airport & departure taxes
- Entrance/sightseeing/meals other than those in the itinerary • Beverages with meals
- Visas • Travel insurance • Single supplement
- Incidental expenses of a personal nature such as phone calls • Laundry, room service etc.
- Any services not listed in 'Price Includes' above