

# Vietnam & Cambodia Grand Discovery: Cities, Bays & Temples – 24 Days

**24D / 23N**

Duration

**Moderate**

Difficulty

**Private**

Tour Type

**USD 2,859 / pax**

Starting From

Explore the diverse cultures and breathtaking landscapes of Vietnam and Cambodia over 24 days. This extensive journey combines vibrant city explorations in Hanoi and Phnom Penh with tranquil village visits in Mai Chau and Battambang. Discover ancient temples, pristine natural wonders like Halong Bay and Phong Nha, and experience the local way of life in the Mekong Delta. Ideal for couples and young adults, offering both private and flexible group tour options.

## DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Hanoi → Mai Chau → Ha Long → Hue → Da Nang → Hoi An → Ho Chi Minh City → Can Tho → Chau Doc → Phnom Penh → Battambang → Siem Reap

## TOUR OVERVIEW

### Overview of Your 24-Day Vietnam & Cambodia Journey

Embark on an extensive 24-day exploration of Vietnam and Cambodia, designed to reveal the rich cultural tapestry and stunning natural beauty of Southeast Asia. This grand tour takes you from the historic streets of Hanoi to the ancient wonders of Angkor Wat, blending vibrant urban experiences with serene rural escapes. You will navigate bustling markets, cruise through iconic bays, and delve into the profound histories of two captivating nations, offering a comprehensive insight into their unique heritage and local lifestyles.

### Tour Highlights

Wander through the historic streets and vibrant markets of Hanoi's Old Quarter.

Experience a serene overnight cruise amidst the limestone karsts of Halong Bay.

Explore the majestic Phong Nha and Paradise Caves within a UNESCO-listed national park.

Journey through the ancient Hue Imperial Citadel and its royal tombs.

Discover the UNESCO World Heritage site of My Son Sanctuary, an ancient Champa temple complex.

Learn about local life and agriculture during a hands-on farming experience in Hoi An.

Navigate the bustling Cai Rang Floating Market by boat in the Mekong Delta.

Uncover Cambodia's rich history at Phnom Penh's Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda.

Ride the unique Bamboo Train through rural landscapes near Battambang.

Witness the grandeur of Angkor Wat and the mystical Bayon Temple in Siem Reap.

### Route Summary

Your adventure commences in Vietnam's capital, Hanoi, before heading to the tranquil Mai Chau valley and the iconic Halong Bay. The journey then takes you south to Hue, Da Nang, and the charming town of Hoi An. From there, fly to the bustling Ho Chi Minh City, then explore the serene Mekong Delta region, including Can Tho and Chau Doc. A speedboat transfers you to Cambodia, beginning with Phnom Penh, followed by Battambang, and finally concluding in Siem Reap, the gateway to the magnificent Angkor temples.

### Who This Tour Suits

This comprehensive 24-day tour is particularly well-suited for couples and young adults who are eager for both adventure and deep cultural immersion. Travelers seeking a blend of historical exploration, natural beauty, and authentic local interactions will

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find this itinerary rewarding. With options for private or flexible group tours, it caters to different travel preferences while ensuring a rich and engaging experience across Vietnam and Cambodia.

## Practical Information

This tour offers flexibility as a private or flexible group tour, with departures arranged at the customer's request. Key transportation includes domestic flights, comfortable car transfers, an overnight train, a scenic cruise, speedboat journeys, and shuttle bus connections between cities. The package covers 23 breakfasts, 14 lunches, 1 brunch, and 4 dinners, along with accommodation in hotels, a Mai Chau bungalow, an overnight cruise, and an overnight train. All entrance fees and the services of local English-speaking guides are included, ensuring a smooth and informative journey.

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- \* Wander through the historic streets and vibrant markets of Hanoi's Old Quarter.
- \* Experience a serene overnight cruise amidst the limestone karsts of Halong Bay.
- \* Explore the majestic Phong Nha and Paradise Caves within a UNESCO-listed national park.
- \* Journey through the ancient Hue Imperial Citadel and its royal tombs.
- \* Discover the UNESCO World Heritage site of My Son Sanctuary, an ancient Champa temple complex.
- \* Learn about local life and agriculture during a hands-on farming experience in Hoi An.
- \* Navigate the bustling Cai Rang Floating Market by boat in the Mekong Delta.
- \* Uncover Cambodia's rich history at Phnom Penh's Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda.
- \* Ride the unique Bamboo Train through rural landscapes near Battambang.
- \* Witness the grandeur of Angkor Wat and the mystical Bayon Temple in Siem Reap.

## DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

### Day 1

### Hanoi Arrival & Old Quarter Street Food Exploration

*Meals: Dinner | Stay: Hanoi Pearl Hotel (4\*), Deluxe Room City View, Hanoi*

Upon landing at Noi Bai International Airport, a tour representative will greet you and provide transportation to your hotel in Hanoi's historic Old Quarter. After completing check-in procedures and settling into your room, prepare for an evening journey into Vietnamese culinary traditions. At 17:30, meet your local guide near Hoan Kiem Lake, in front of Shinhan Bank on Le Thai To Street. From this central point, embark on a captivating walking tour through the lively alleys and hidden pathways of the Old Quarter, where each turn reveals a new aspect of local heritage and flavor.

The excursion includes sampling a curated selection of authentic Northern Vietnamese dishes. Depending on the day's fresh offerings, you might enjoy soup-based favorites such as Pho Bo (Beef Noodle Soup) or Bun Thang (Chicken & Egg Noodles), or perhaps the central Vietnamese-inspired Bun Bo Hue. Other savory street foods like Banh Cuon (Steamed Rice Rolls) and

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the popular Banh Mi sandwich are often featured. The culinary adventure concludes with a taste of Hanoi's unique Ca Phe Trung (Egg Coffee), a rich and creamy specialty.

- Activities:** Airport pickup and transfer to hotel  
Check into hotel in Hanoi Old Quarter  
Join a guided Hanoi Street Food Tour  
Sample various authentic Northern Vietnamese dishes  
Taste traditional Egg Coffee

Day 2

Hanoi Historical Landmarks & Cultural Insights

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Stay: Hanoi Pearl Hotel (4\*), Deluxe Room City View, Hanoi

Your full-day exploration of Hanoi begins at 8:00 AM. The morning itinerary includes a visit to the Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first national university, established a millennium ago to honor Confucius and scholars. Next, discover the One Pillar Pagoda, an architectural marvel said to resemble a lotus blossom emerging from water, linked to a legend of the Ly King. You'll also pass by the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum for an exterior view, a significant site housing the remains of the late President. Conclude the morning with a visit to Tran Quoc Pagoda, Hanoi's oldest Buddhist temple, situated on the scenic West Lake. A traditional Vietnamese lunch featuring various local delicacies will be served at a restaurant.

In the afternoon, the tour continues with a hotel pickup in the Old Quarter. After a brief introduction, gather for a taste of Ca Phe Trung (Egg Coffee) and a safety briefing. The journey then proceeds to the Long Bien Bridge, an over-100-year-old French colonial structure designed by Gustave Eiffel, symbolizing Hanoi's enduring spirit. Enjoy a leisurely walk around Hoan Kiem Lake, a peaceful urban oasis, passing the neoclassical Hanoi Opera House and St. Joseph's Cathedral, known as the "Notre Dame of Hanoi." The afternoon also includes visits to the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum (exterior view on specific days) and the Hoa Lo Prison, a powerful historical site reflecting Vietnam's struggle for independence. The day concludes with dinner at a local eatery before returning to your hotel.

- Activities:** Visit the Temple of Literature  
Explore the One Pillar Pagoda  
View the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum (exterior)  
Discover Tran Quoc Pagoda on West Lake  
Enjoy a traditional Vietnamese lunch  
Taste local Egg Coffee  
Walk across Long Bien Bridge  
Stroll around Hoan Kiem Lake  
See Hanoi Opera House and St. Joseph's Cathedral  
Tour Hoa Lo Prison  
Have dinner at a local restaurant

Day 3

Mai Chau Valley Trekking & Thai Culture Experience

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Sol Bungalows (4\*), Deluxe Bungalow, Mai Chau OR Mai Chau Moment Spa & Resort (3\*), Deluxe, Mai Chau

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Start your day with breakfast at the hotel in Hanoi. Afterwards, a transfer will take you to the picturesque Mai Chau valley. Upon arrival in the village, a delightful lunch awaits, with vegetarian options available upon request. The afternoon offers opportunities for optional activities at your own discretion. You might choose to cycle through the serene countryside, admiring the terraced rice fields and gaining deeper insights into the traditional customs of the local communities. Alternatively, enjoy free time for walking, further cycling, or exploring local shops.

As evening approaches, a delicious dinner featuring authentic Thai ethnic dishes will be served. For groups of five or more, the experience is enhanced with a traditional Thai dance performance and a tasting of "ruou can," a local rice wine shared communally.

**Activities:** Travel from Hanoi to Mai Chau  
Enjoy lunch in a Mai Chau village  
Optional cycling through rice fields  
Explore local culture and customs  
Savor a traditional Thai dinner  
Watch a Thai dance performance (for groups of 5+)  
Taste "ruou can" local rice wine (for groups of 5+)

## Day 4

### Mai Chau Village Exploration & Return to Hanoi

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hanoi Pearl Hotel (4\*), Deluxe Room City View, Hanoi*

Enjoy breakfast at your Mai Chau accommodation. At 8:00 AM, delve deeper into the unique culture and traditions of remote Mai Chau villages, specifically Na Meo and Na Mo. This immersive experience allows you to understand the local way of life and the distinct practices of these communities. Embark on a scenic hike through the lush countryside surrounding the villages, traversing rolling hills, verdant rice paddies, and forests. Lunch will be provided at your homestay, offering another taste of local hospitality.

After lunch, take some time to relax before completing check-out procedures. Between 3:00 PM and 3:30 PM, you will be picked up for the return journey to Hanoi.

**Activities:** Visit Na Meo Village and Na Mo Village  
Hike through Mai Chau countryside  
Have lunch at a local homestay  
Return transfer to Hanoi

## Day 5

### Halong Bay Cruise & Sunset Party

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Stay: Swan Cruises (3\*), Deluxe Cabin, Halong Bay OR Peony Cruise (4\*), Deluxe Balcony, Halong Bay*

After breakfast at your Hanoi hotel, you will be transferred to Halong Bay via a comfortable limousine shuttle bus. Upon arrival, complete the check-in process for your chosen cruise and settle into your cabin, ready for the Halong Bay adventure. A sumptuous lunch will be served on board, followed by a short break to relax before the afternoon activities commence. The cruise offers a variety of engaging activities designed to showcase the stunning beauty of Halong Bay, with specific options depending on the chosen vessel's itinerary.

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As evening approaches, join a lively sunset party on deck, where you can admire the picturesque colors of the sky over the bay. The day concludes with a delectable deluxe dinner served on board the cruise.

**Activities:** Transfer from Hanoi to Halong Bay  
Check-in and board your cruise  
Enjoy a sumptuous lunch on board  
Participate in various cruise activities  
Attend a sunset party on deck  
Savor a deluxe dinner on the cruise

**Day 6****Halong Bay Tai Chi & Overnight Train Journey**

*Meals: Breakfast, Brunch | Stay: Overnight on train*

Start your day with a peaceful Tai Chi session on the cruise deck, followed by a delicious breakfast. Continue your exploration of Halong Bay's natural wonders as the cruise navigates through its waters. Enjoy a final brunch on board while the boat makes its way back to the port. Upon disembarkation, you will be transferred back to Hanoi.

In the afternoon, take some time to relax and refresh before being transported to Hanoi railway station. From there, you will board an overnight train bound for Dong Hoi, preparing for the next leg of your journey.

**Activities:** Participate in a Tai Chi class on the cruise  
Continue exploring Halong Bay  
Enjoy brunch on board  
Transfer back to Hanoi  
Board an overnight train to Dong Hoi

**Day 7****Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park Cave Exploration**

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Dong Hoi*

Upon arrival at Dong Hoi train station, you will be met and transferred to a local restaurant for a satisfying breakfast before heading to Phong Nha National Park. Once at the park, embark on a 25-minute boat ride to Phong Nha Cave, where you will explore its stunning and distinctive cave systems. After your adventure inside Phong Nha Cave, enjoy a tasty lunch at a local restaurant.

In the afternoon, around 2:00 PM, visit the impressive Paradise Cave, often referred to as the "Underground Royal Palace." Marvel at the breathtaking natural formations and unique features within this remarkable cavern. Following your visit to Paradise Cave, you will be driven back to your hotel in Dong Hoi.

**Activities:** Arrive at Dong Hoi train station and have breakfast  
Travel to Phong Nha National Park  
Take a boat ride to Phong Nha Cave and explore its interior  
Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant  
Visit Paradise Cave and admire its formations  
Return to Dong Hoi hotel

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**Day 8****Vinh Moc Tunnels & Demilitarized Zone History**

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Eldora Hotel (4\*), Deluxe City View, Hue OR Rosaleen Boutique Hotel (3\*), Deluxe Double or Twin Room, Hue*

Your day begins with a transfer from your hotel in Dong Hoi to the historic Vinh Moc Tunnels. Here, you will undertake an insightful tour of the extensive tunnel system, gaining a deeper understanding of its critical role and significance during the Vietnam War. This underground village provided shelter and living space for villagers during intense bombing. After exploring the tunnels and learning about this remarkable feat of human resilience, you will be picked up and driven in a comfortable car to Hue, the former imperial capital. The journey will take you through areas of the former Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), offering a glimpse into Vietnam's wartime history. Upon arrival in Hue, check into your hotel for the evening.

**Activities:** Transfer from Dong Hoi to Vinh Moc Tunnels  
Tour the Vinh Moc Tunnels  
Drive through the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)  
Transfer to Hue

**Day 9****Hue Imperial City & Perfume River Cultural Journey**

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Eldora Hotel (4\*), Deluxe City View, Hue OR Rosaleen Boutique Hotel (3\*), Deluxe Double or Twin Room, Hue*

At 8:00 AM, your exploration of Hue begins with a pickup from Hue City Center. The day starts with a visit to An Hien Garden House, a serene traditional residence located by the Perfume River, offering a glimpse into aristocratic Vietnamese life. Next, explore the ancient Thien Mu Pagoda, a seven-story pagoda rich in history and local legends, accessible by a scenic cruise on the Perfume River. During the cruise, participate in a meaningful fish-releasing ceremony, a local tradition to support aquatic life. Arrive at Thuy Bieu Village, where you will cycle through lush grapefruit gardens, visit the village temple, and see a century-old garden house. A stop at a local artist's home offers an optional opportunity to try silk painting or conical hat decoration. A healthy macrobiotic lunch, prepared with local garden ingredients, will be served.

The afternoon includes learning to make grapefruit jam, enjoying afternoon tea in the garden, and unwinding with a 20-minute herbal foot soak. The journey then continues to Tam Giang Lagoon. Explore Ngu My Thanh Mural Village, known for its vibrant murals, followed by a boat trip on the lagoon. Engage in SUP rowing, visit local vegetable gardens, and enjoy a mini-BBQ seafood tasting with locals. Conclude the day with an environmental tree-planting activity before returning to your hotel.

**Activities:** Visit An Hien Garden House  
Cruise on the Perfume River to Thien Mu Pagoda  
Participate in a fish-releasing ceremony  
Cycle through Thuy Bieu Village grapefruit gardens  
Visit a village temple and ancient garden house  
Optional silk painting or conical hat decoration  
Enjoy a macrobiotic lunch  
Learn grapefruit jam making  
Experience an herbal foot soak  
Explore Ngu My Thanh Mural Village  
Take a boat trip on Tam Giang Lagoon

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Try SUP rowing and visit vegetable gardens  
Enjoy a mini-BBQ seafood tasting  
Participate in a tree-planting activity

**Day 10****Scenic Transfer to Hoi An via Hai Van Pass**

*Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Hoi An Central Hotel (3\*), Superior, Hoi An OR Silkotel Hoi An (4\*), Deluxe Double/Twin, Hoi An*

Begin your morning with a delicious breakfast at your hotel in Hue. At 8:00 AM, you will be transferred to Hoi An by either a shuttle bus or a private car, depending on your preference. The journey offers scenic views along the way, including the opportunity to admire the breathtaking scenery of Hai Van Pass, also known as the Cloudy Pass. This coastal mountain pass is famous for its winding roads and panoramic vistas of the coastline and mountains. Upon your arrival in the charming town of Hoi An, you will have the remainder of the day free to unwind and relax at your hotel, or begin a gentle exploration of the ancient town at your own pace.

**Activities:** Enjoy breakfast in Hue  
Transfer to Hoi An via scenic route  
Admire views from Hai Van Pass  
Check into hotel in Hoi An  
Free time to relax or explore Hoi An

**Day 11****My Son Sanctuary Discovery & Thu Bon River Cruise**

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hoi An Central Hotel (3\*), Superior, Hoi An OR Silkotel Hoi An (4\*), Deluxe Double/Twin, Hoi An*

Your day trip commences in Hoi An, heading towards the remarkable My Son Sanctuary, a UNESCO World Heritage Site nestled amidst verdant countryside. Explore the ancient temple complex at a leisurely pace, as your guide recounts tales of the Champa kingdom. The experience is enhanced by a traditional performance that brings the history to life. The journey continues with a visit to a local family, where you will observe the traditional process of making rice paper. Enjoy tasting your handmade creation before moving to another local home for a simple, home-style meal in a peaceful rural setting, complete with fresh dishes and herbal tea. For those opting for the sunset tour, this part is replaced with a light local snack such as bánh mì and fresh coconut.

Afterwards, board a boat for a scenic return along the Thu Bon River, where gentle breezes and picturesque riverside views accompany your journey back to Hoi An. The tour concludes with a drop-off at your hotel.

**Activities:** Travel from Hoi An to My Son Sanctuary  
Explore the ancient Champa temple complex with a guide  
Watch a traditional performance  
Visit a local family to learn rice paper making and taste it  
Enjoy a home-style meal (or light snack for sunset tour)  
Take a scenic boat trip along the Thu Bon River  
Return transfer to Hoi An hotel



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**Day 12****Leisure Day in Hoi An Ancient Town***Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Hoi An Central Hotel (3\*), Superior, Hoi An OR Silkotel Hoi An (4\*), Deluxe Double/Twin, Hoi An*

Today is dedicated to independent exploration of Hoi An, allowing you to discover its charm at your own pace. The ancient town offers a wealth of interesting places to visit and activities to engage in. You might choose to wander through the lantern-lit streets, visit historic merchant houses, or relax by the Thu Bon River. Optional tours are available for those seeking more structured activities, such as experiencing "Life as a Farmer in Cam Thanh village" or an exciting "Hoi An Vespa Tour Half Day." Whether you prefer to shop for bespoke tailoring, enjoy local cuisine, or simply soak in the atmosphere of this UNESCO-listed town, the day is yours to customize.

**Activities:** Free time to explore Hoi An independently  
Optional tours available (e.g., Cam Thanh village farming, Vespa tour)

**Day 13****Flight to Ho Chi Minh City & Southern Vietnam Arrival***Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Eden Star Saigon Hotel (4\*), Deluxe Room, Ho Chi Minh City OR Queen Ann Hotel (3\*), Deluxe, Ho Chi Minh City*

Greet your new day with a delicious breakfast at your hotel in Hoi An. Following breakfast, you will be transported to Da Nang Airport to catch your flight to Ho Chi Minh City, the bustling metropolis of Southern Vietnam. Upon arrival at Tan Son Nhat International Airport in Ho Chi Minh City, a representative will meet you and provide a comfortable transfer to your hotel. The remainder of the day is yours to relax after your journey, or you may choose to begin exploring the vibrant city at your leisure. Take this opportunity to settle in and prepare for your adventures in this dynamic urban center.

**Activities:** Enjoy breakfast in Hoi An  
Transfer to Da Nang Airport  
Flight to Ho Chi Minh City  
Airport pickup and transfer to hotel in Ho Chi Minh City  
Free time to relax or explore

**Day 14****Ho Chi Minh City Historical & Colonial Highlights***Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Eden Star Saigon Hotel (4\*), Deluxe Room, Ho Chi Minh City OR Queen Ann Hotel (3\*), Deluxe, Ho Chi Minh City*

Today offers a half-day city tour of Ho Chi Minh City, with options to start at 8:00 AM or 1:30 PM. The tour begins with a visit to the Reunification Palace, a landmark of historical significance that once served as the home and workplace of the South Vietnamese president, Nguyen Van Thieu. Explore its impressive architecture and learn about its role in Vietnam's modern history. Next, you will sightsee the Saigon Notre Dame Cathedral and the Old Post Office, two charming colonial-era constructions that are essential stops in the city. The Notre Dame Cathedral is currently closed for renovations, so viewing will be from the exterior. Conclude the tour with a stop at a local market, where you can browse for unique souvenirs and immerse yourself in the vibrant local culture and daily life.

**Activities:** Visit Reunification Palace  
Sightsee Saigon Notre Dame Cathedral (exterior only)  
Explore the Old Post Office



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Shop for souvenirs at a local market

## Day 15

### Mekong Delta Tranquility & Can Tho Overnight

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Muong Thanh Luxury Can Tho (5\*), Deluxe, Can Tho OR Iris Hotel (3\*), Superior Executive, Can Tho

At 8:00 AM, prepare to embark on a serene journey to the Mekong Delta, a region renowned for its peaceful local life and lush landscapes. A small boat will take you to explore various fish farms and fruit orchards, providing a close-up view of the local agricultural practices. Witness the expansive paddy fields and intricate swamplands that characterize the Mekong Delta area, offering a tranquil escape from city life. After a day of exploration, you will have the afternoon and evening free to participate in activities of your choice. You may opt to relax at your accommodation, explore the immediate surroundings independently, or consider additional tours or activities that pique your interest in Can Tho.

**Activities:** Travel from Ho Chi Minh City to Mekong Delta  
Explore fish farms and fruit orchards by small boat  
Observe paddy fields and swamplands  
Free time in Can Tho for relaxation or optional activities

## Day 16

### Cai Rang Floating Market & Chau Doc Riverside Stay

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Chau Pho Hotel (3\*), Superior Double/ Twin, Chau Doc OR Victoria Nui Sam Lodge (4\*), Superior Double/ Twin Room, Chau Doc

After a delicious breakfast at your Can Tho hotel, you will be transferred to the dock to begin your morning adventure. At 8:00 AM, board a motorboat and sampan to experience the bustling local life at Cai Rang floating market. This vibrant marketplace on the water offers a fascinating spectacle of various goods and produce being traded directly from boats. Observe the unique commerce and daily routines of the Mekong Delta residents. Following your market visit and exploration, you will move to Chau Doc, a riverside town near the Cambodian border. Upon arrival, take some time to rest and relax at your hotel, preparing for the next leg of your journey.

**Activities:** Transfer to Can Tho dock  
Take a motorboat and sampan to Cai Rang floating market  
Observe local trade and life on the river  
Travel to Chau Doc  
Check into hotel in Chau Doc

## Day 17

### Mekong River Speedboat to Phnom Penh

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Hotel Sor (3\*), Superior Double Room, Phnom Penh OR Duong Chan Hotel (4\*), Superior City View, Phnom Penh

Rise and shine to a delectable breakfast at your hotel in Chau Doc before embarking on an exciting journey to Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia. Board a comfortable speedboat from the port, and as you travel, marvel at the stunning scenery of the Mekong River and its surroundings. Upon arrival at the port in Phnom Penh, a friendly local guide will extend a warm welcome. From there, enjoy a comfortable transfer directly to your hotel for check-in. The remainder of the day is yours to relax and settle

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in, or you may choose to begin exploring the city at your own pace, taking a gentle first look at Cambodia's vibrant capital.

**Activities:** Enjoy breakfast in Chau Doc  
Board a speedboat to Phnom Penh  
Admire Mekong River scenery  
Arrive in Phnom Penh and meet local guide  
Transfer to hotel and check-in  
Free time to relax or explore Phnom Penh

**Day 18****Phnom Penh Royal Palace, Pagoda & Historical Sites**

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel Sor (3\*), Superior Double Room, Phnom Penh OR Duong Chan Hotel (4\*), Superior City View, Phnom Penh*

After breakfast, your guide will meet you at the hotel to commence a captivating exploration of Phnom Penh. The tour begins with a visit to the magnificent Royal Palace, constructed in 1866 by King Norodom, which continues to serve as the royal residence. Within its expansive grounds, you will find the iconic Silver Pagoda, notable for its floor composed of over 5,000 silver tiles. Inside, admire invaluable treasures, including a 90-kg solid gold Buddha adorned with thousands of diamonds and a delicate emerald Buddha dating back to the 17th century. Continue to the National Museum of Cambodia, also known as the Musée des Beaux-Arts. Designed in 1917 by French archaeologist and painter Georges Groslier, the museum houses an exceptional collection of Khmer art and sculptures spanning many centuries.

In the afternoon, delve into Cambodia's poignant history with a visit to the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum (S-21), a former school tragically transformed into a prison during the Khmer Rouge era. The tour then proceeds to the Choeung Ek Killing Fields, located approximately 15 km from the city center—a significant memorial site offering profound insight into the country's tragic past. Your day concludes with a stop at the bustling Russian Market (Psah Tuol Tom Pong), where you can browse a vibrant array of local handicrafts, antiques, jewelry, silk products, and souvenirs. You will return to your hotel in the late afternoon.

**Activities:** Visit the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda  
Explore the National Museum of Cambodia  
Tour the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum (S-21)  
Visit the Choeung Ek Killing Fields  
Browse the Russian Market (Psah Tuol Tom Pong)

**Day 19****Scenic Journey to Battambang via Udong & Pottery Villages**

*Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Classy Hotel & Spa (3\*), Superior Double Room, Battambang OR Battambang Resort (4\*), Garden Room, Battambang*

At approximately 8:00 AM, meet your guide and driver for a scenic private overland journey from Phnom Penh to Battambang, a drive of about 291 km, taking around five hours. En route, stop to explore Udong, the historic royal capital dating back to the early 17th century. Ascend the hilltop for panoramic views of the surrounding countryside and gain insight into Cambodia's former royal heritage. Continue your journey with a visit to Kampong Chhnang, a region celebrated for its traditional pottery

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villages. Here, observe skilled artisans crafting ceramics using age-old techniques and discover the local process of making traditional rice wine. Arrive in Battambang, a charming riverside town known for its colonial architecture and relaxed atmosphere. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel and check in.

In the late afternoon, visit Phnom Sampov, a limestone hill featuring temples, caves, and historical sites, including the somber “Killing Caves.” As dusk falls, typically between 5:30 PM and 5:50 PM, witness a remarkable natural spectacle as thousands of bats emerge from the caves in a continuous, flowing stream across the sky. Return to your hotel for a restful evening in Battambang.

**Activities:** Private overland transfer from Phnom Penh to Battambang  
Stop to explore Udong, the former royal capital  
Visit Kampong Chhnang pottery villages and observe rice wine making  
Check into hotel in Battambang  
Visit Phnom Sampov and its caves  
Witness the bat exodus at dusk

**Day 20****Battambang Cooking Class & Bamboo Train Adventure**

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Classy Hotel & Spa (3\*), Superior Double Room, Battambang OR Battambang Resort (4\*), Garden Room, Battambang*

After breakfast at your hotel, begin your day with an immersive culinary experience at Nary’s Cambodian Food Cooking Class, running from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The class starts with a guided visit to a lively local market, where you will learn about fresh ingredients and traditional Khmer flavors. Return to the kitchen for a hands-on cooking session led by Mrs. Nary, where you will prepare a delicious four-course Cambodian meal. At the conclusion of the class, savor the dishes you have created and receive recipes to replicate them at home. Afterward, transfer back to your hotel for some relaxation.

In the afternoon, visit the impressive Phnom Banon, an 11th-century Angkorian temple perched atop a hill. Often likened to a miniature Angkor Wat, the temple features five distinctive towers. Climb the steep staircase of over 350 steps, flanked by naga railings, to reach the summit and enjoy a peaceful atmosphere along with panoramic countryside views. Continue your adventure with a ride on the iconic Bamboo Train, a unique and fun local transport experience. Glide through the rural landscape, taking in scenic views of rice fields and traditional villages—an unforgettable highlight.

**Activities:** Participate in Nary’s Cambodian Food Cooking Class  
Visit a local market for ingredients  
Prepare and enjoy a 4-course Cambodian meal  
Visit Phnom Banon temple  
Ride the Bamboo Train

**Day 21****Battambang Heritage & Transfer to Siem Reap**

*Meals: Breakfast, Dinner | Stay: Tara Angkor Hotel (4\*), Superior room, Siem Reap OR Angkor Holiday Hotel (3\*), Superior Double/ Twin, Siem Reap*

After breakfast, begin your day with a visit to the Battambang Provincial Museum, which houses a fascinating collection of

# Vietnam & Cambodia Grand Discovery: Cities, Bays & Temples – 24 Days

**24D / 23N**

Duration

**Moderate**

Difficulty

**Private**

Tour Type

**USD 2,859 / pax**

Starting From

Khmer artifacts and sculptures reflecting the region's rich history. Continue your journey along the scenic riverbanks to Wat Sangker Slaket Pagoda, formerly the residence of the provincial Buddhist patriarch. Next, explore local villages along the Sangke River, where you will stop to observe traditional rice paper production and gain insight into rural Cambodian life. The tour then proceeds to the ancient Ek Phnom Temple, an 11th-century Angkorian ruin built during the reign of King Suryavarman I. This temple features well-preserved carvings and a serene setting, complemented by the nearby modern pagoda, Wat Ek Phnom.

In the afternoon, depart for Siem Reap, a journey of approximately 170 km, taking three to four hours. Enjoy the changing landscapes as you travel towards Cambodia's most iconic destination. Upon arrival in Siem Reap, you will be transferred directly to your hotel for check-in. The evening is yours to relax or explore at leisure, perhaps enjoying an Apsara dance show with dinner as per the source.

**Activities:** Visit Battambang Provincial Museum  
Explore Wat Sangker Slaket Pagoda  
Visit local villages along Sangke River and observe rice paper production  
Discover Ek Phnom Temple and Wat Ek Phnom  
Transfer from Battambang to Siem Reap  
Check into hotel in Siem Reap  
Enjoy an Apsara Dance Show during dinner

**Day 22****Grand Angkor Thom & Majestic Angkor Wat Discovery**

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Tara Angkor Hotel (4\*), Superior room, Siem Reap OR Angkor Holiday Hotel (3\*), Superior Double/ Twin, Siem Reap*

After breakfast, set out for an unforgettable full-day journey into the heart of the Angkor complex. Begin at the ancient walled city of Angkor Thom, the grand capital of the Khmer Empire from the 12th century. Enter through the impressive South Gate, flanked by monumental statues depicting the legendary "Churning of the Ocean of Milk." Continue to the iconic Bayon Temple, celebrated for its 54 towers adorned with over 200 serene smiling faces of Avalokiteshvara. Explore other significant highlights within the complex, including Phimeanakas, the Royal Enclosure, the Terrace of the Elephants, and the Terrace of the Leper King, each offering profound insight into the grandeur of the Khmer Empire.

Next, visit the atmospheric Ta Prohm, one of the most enchanting temples in Angkor. Left largely in its natural state, this temple is famously intertwined with giant tree roots and jungle vegetation, creating a mysterious and highly photogenic setting. In the afternoon, continue to the world-famous Angkor Wat, the largest religious monument globally. Spanning over 81 hectares, this 12th-century masterpiece is revered for its harmonious design, intricate bas-reliefs, and iconic five towers, which symbolize Mount Meru and are proudly featured on the Cambodian flag. Widely regarded as the pinnacle of classical Khmer architecture, Angkor Wat offers a truly awe-inspiring experience. Return to your hotel in the late afternoon after a full day of discovery.

**Activities:** Explore Angkor Thom city, including South Gate  
Visit Bayon Temple with its smiling faces  
Discover Phimeanakas, Royal Enclosure, Terrace of the Elephants, and Terrace of the Leper King  
Explore Ta Prohm temple, intertwined with jungle trees  
Visit the magnificent Angkor Wat temple complex

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**Day 23****Tonle Sap Floating Village & Khmer Craftsmanship**

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Tara Angkor Hotel (4\*), Superior room, Siem Reap OR Angkor Holiday Hotel (3\*), Superior Double/ Twin, Siem Reap*

After breakfast, embark on a scenic boat excursion to Tonle Sap Lake, the largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia and a vital lifeline for the region. Cruise to a floating village, where entire communities live directly on the water. As you glide through the village, observe a unique way of life, with floating houses, schools, markets, and even a floating police station. This immersive experience provides a fascinating glimpse into the daily rhythms of local fishermen and their families.

In the afternoon, return to Siem Reap for further cultural exploration. Visit Artisans Angkor, where you will gain insight into the preservation of traditional Khmer craftsmanship. Watch skilled artisans at work as they practice stone carving, wood sculpture, lacquerware, and silk painting, reviving ancient techniques passed down through generations. Before heading back to your hotel, make a stop at the vibrant Old Market, a lively hub where you can browse a wide range of local products, including handicrafts, jewelry, textiles, and souvenirs.

**Activities:** Take a boat excursion to Tonle Sap Lake  
Visit a floating village and observe local life  
Explore Artisans Angkor and witness traditional Khmer craftsmanship  
Browse for local products at the Old Market

**Day 24****Siem Reap Departure**

*Meals: Breakfast | Stay: NA*

After enjoying breakfast at your hotel, you will have some free time at leisure. Relax, explore nearby areas, or indulge in some last-minute souvenir shopping in Siem Reap until your scheduled check-out time. At the appropriate moment, your driver will meet you to provide a comfortable transfer to Siem Reap – Angkor International Airport for your onward departure flight. We hope you had a pleasant journey and look forward to welcoming you on another adventure in the future.

**Activities:** Free time for leisure or last-minute shopping  
Transfer to Siem Reap – Angkor International Airport for departure

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

**INCLUDED**

- ✓ 23 breakfasts, 14 lunches, 1 brunch, and 4 dinners as per itinerary
- ✓ Accommodation for 20 nights in hotels, 1 night in a Mai Chau bungalow, 1 night on a Halong Bay cruise, and 1 night on an overnight train
- ✓ All specified transportation by air-conditioned vehicle,

**NOT INCLUDED**

- ✗ International air travel
- ✗ Costs for early hotel check-in or late check-out
- ✗ Any peak season surcharges or mandatory gala dinners
- ✗ Visa fees for Vietnam and Cambodia
- ✗ Personal expenditures such as tips, laundry, and

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Starting From

including airport transfers

- ✓ Domestic flight from Da Nang to Ho Chi Minh City
- ✓ Speedboat transfer from Chau Doc to Phnom Penh
- ✓ Shuttle bus transfers between Phnom Penh, Battambang, and Siem Reap
- ✓ Sharing soft-sleeper A/C 4-berth cabin for overnight train journey
- ✓ All entrance fees for sites mentioned in the itinerary
- ✓ Services of a local English-speaking guide during tours

souvenirs

- ✗ Meals and beverages beyond those specified in the itinerary

## PRICE INCLUDES

- ✓ 23 breakfasts, 14 lunches, 1 brunch, and 4 dinners as per itinerary
- ✓ Accommodation for 20 nights in hotels, 1 night in a Mai Chau bungalow, 1 night on a Halong Bay cruise, and 1 night on an overnight train
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## CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-F9C54FDB6D71