

Impressions of Southeast Asia 23 days

Highlights:

- ★ Explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site at Ayutthaya, the Ancient Capital of Thailand
- ★ Discover the UNESCO world heritage Site by the Mekong River – Luang Prabang, Laos
- ★ Experience the UNESCO City of Gastronomy – Phuket Town, the South of Thailand
- ★ Visit the UNESCO World Heritage site at Angkor Wat, Cambodia
- ★ Cruise the Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Vietnam
- ★ Stroll around the UNESCO World Heritage Site - Ancient town of Hoi An, Vietnam
- ★ Relax & free yourself at Phuket, a World-Famous Island
- ★ Stay at Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh City - two of the largest cities in Southeast Asia

Included:

1. Round-trip international flight
2. Hand-picked 5-star hotel accommodations
3. Sightseeing admission fees as listed on the agenda
4. Food as specified on the itinerary
5. Special cultural programs as specified in the schedule
6. Professional English speaking local tour expert
7. All tax and fuel surcharge

Excluded:

1. Travel insurance
2. Any personal expenses
3. Tour extensions and optional programs
4. Gratuity for tour guides and drivers
5. Single supplement fee: US\$2100





most of the Government offices and the King's Palace are located. Then, experience the Gems Gallery, learning about Thailand's most prized gemstones. The rest of the day is at leisure before tonight's orientation meeting with your Tour Manager at approximately 5:30 PM, followed by a welcome dinner.

Day 1: USA / Bangkok, Thailand

Breakfast: N/A | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Your voyage begins with an international flight from the US to Bangkok, the capital of Thailand.

Day 2: Arrive in Bangkok, Thailand

Breakfast: N/A | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Welcome to Thailand! Known as the City of Angels, Bangkok is the capital city and the focal point for Thailand. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel and enjoy the remainder of the evening to rest and relax.


Day 3: Bangkok City Tours

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: Yes

- This morning, your sightseeing in Bangkok begins with a visit to the Bangkok Chinatown District, and the **Temple of Golden Buddha (Wat Traimit)**, home to the world's biggest solid-gold Buddha statue. It's measured at 10 feet high, weighed for over 5 tons, and valued at \$14m. Afterwards, visit serene **Wat Po (Temple of the Reclining Buddha)**, the oldest and largest temple in the city, with its astonishing giant Reclining Buddha, over 150 feet long and almost 40 feet high. Drive via Royal Avenue where


Day 4: Bangkok - Ayutthaya - Bangkok

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- This morning, enjoy the journey to Ayutthaya, home to the UNESCO  listed ruins of the medieval capital of Siam. Seeing the restored chedi of the crumbled **Wat Phra Mahathat** which was built in 1374 at the start of the Ayutthaya era, it is an impressive temple ruin originally constructed to house Buddha relics that mysteriously appeared to an early Ayutthaya king. The temple is famed for Buddha images that have tree roots grown around them to an amazing effect. Afterwards, visit the **Wat Yai Chai Mongkhon** located off the city island in the southeastern area of Ayutthaya in present Phai Ling Sub-district. It's one of the landmarks of Ayutthaya.

Day 5: Bangkok / Luang Prabang, Laos

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Spend the morning at leisure before transferring to the airport for the flight to Luang Prabang, a UNESCO  World Heritage Site for its unique mix of Laotian and European architecture. According to legend, Buddha smiled when he rested here during his travels and prophesied that it would one day be the site of a rich and powerful capital city. Upon arrival, participate in a special Baci Ceremony, practiced for hundreds of years, with





prayers to bestow good fortunes upon you! Enjoy the beautiful sights in this city - an outstanding example of the fusion of traditional architecture and Lao urban structures with those built by the Europeans.

Day 6: Luang Prabang

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: Yes | Dinner: Yes

- Luang Prabang seems totally untouched by the modern world. In the morning, take part in the Alms Giving Ceremony to orange-robed monks which is one of the most sacred ancient Lao traditions. This daily ceremony is both peaceful and spiritual and gives you a wonderful opportunity to experience an ancient Lao tradition. Then, embark on a lovely **boat trip to the Pak Ou Caves**, unveiling hundreds of Buddha sculptures that have spanned many centuries. Continue to a local village that makes its own rice wine before lunch at a local restaurant. Go on your discovery of this city on the revered hillside of Phou Si where Buddhist shrines on wooded slopes command your attention, along with sweeping views of the Mekong River. Later, visit the **Royal Palace Museum** to learn about the monarchy that once ruled the country, and Wat Xieng Thong, the former royal temple.

Day 7: Luang Prabang / Siem Reap, Cambodia

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: Yes | Dinner: N/A

- Transfer to the airport for your flight to Siem Reap, Cambodia. Upon arrival, meet your Tour Manager and enjoy lunch before checking into your hotel. Remainder of the afternoon is at leisure.

Day 8: Siem Reap

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: Yes | Dinner: Yes

- Today, you'll understand why the architectural masterpieces of Angkor Thom and Angkor Wat are designated as one of the "Seven Wonders of the World". This sprawling city, built by Khmer kings, was once home to more than one million people at the height of the empire. On the tour to the fortified city of **Angkor Thom**, you will visit the Elephants Terrace and Terrace of the Leper King, all adorned with dramatic bas-reliefs. Continue to the mysterious Bayon Temple, highlight of Angkor Thom, replete with beautifully preserved bas-reliefs and more than 172 giant smiling stone faces. On to the monuments of Ta Keo, Prasat Kravan and Srah Srang before arriving at **Ta Prohm**, where the jungle was left untouched, as it appeared to European explorers. The high point of the day is the visit to stunning **Angkor Wat**, a temple dedicated to the Hindu god Vishnu. World-famous for its beauty and splendor, Angkor Wat has the longest continuous bas-relief in the world, which runs along the entire outer gallery walls, narrating stories from Hindu mythology. Stay to experience the unforgettable sunset - a view that cannot be compared to anything you have ever seen! This evening, savor a typical Cambodian dinner accompanied with an Apsara dance show. A traditional Khmer performance, Apsara performances portray a story or message through the dance.

Day 9: Siem Reap / Bangkok - Pattaya

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- After check-out, transfer to the airport for the return flight to Bangkok. Continue to Pattaya, a seaside resort on the East Coast of the Gulf of Thailand, with its beautiful beaches and sparkling azure waters. Arrive at the hotel and spend the remainder of the day at leisure.





Day 10: Pattaya

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: Yes

- Today, visit the **Khao Phra Tamnak** - Located on a small hill on the south of Pattaya Beach, which is the best spot to see the panoramic view of Pattaya City and Pattaya Bay from above. Then, visit **The Sanctuary of Truth** - a gigantic wooden construction which covers an internal space of 2,115 m², and one of most interesting attractions in Pattaya! Constructed to preserve the building techniques of the past, the building exemplifies hand-hewn woodworking skills in Thailand. Built based on the religious philosophy of impermanence, the complex features four wings dedicated to Thai, Khmer, Chinese, and Indian religious iconography respectively. Check out the intricate wooden carvings as you walk around the building.

Day 11: Pattaya / Phuket

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- This morning, transfer to the airport for your flight to Phuket, the largest island in Thailand. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure to begin your exploration of this "paradise on earth" with its world-class beaches and chic jet-set atmosphere.

Day 12: Phuket

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: Yes

- Start today with a morning sightseeing tour of Phuket. Admire the island's porcelain-white beaches and take a drive to **the Old Town** to view its historic Sino-Portuguese architecture. It was built by riches reaped from Phuket's tin boom of the last century, when the metal was an extremely valuable commodity. Afterwards, transfer to the

Laem Hin Pier, and **ride on a Long-tailed boat to Pearl Farm**, to gain a little knowledge of south-sea pearls, and follow the Souvenir shop. Special dinner in local flavor is included today.

Day 13: Phuket

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Today you are at leisure to relax, rejuvenate and enjoy the beautiful surroundings. Or, travel by speedboat on the optional full day excursion to the magnificent Phi Phi Islands & Bamboo Island.



Optional Tour: Full Day Phi Phi & Bamboo Islands by Speedboat: U\$159/person

- Full day excursion to the beautiful Phi Phi Islands with lunch. Departing from the pier by speedboat, travel first to Bamboo Island to relax on the private beach with its sparkling white sand. Lunch is at a local restaurant before continuing to the magnificent Phi Phi Islands, rising from the sea, featuring sheer cliffs and vivid blue waters. Visit Monkey Beach and meet the friendly monkeys that live here. After, view Viking Cave, a limestone cave well-known as a nesting site for swifts. Discover the beautiful scenery of Loh Samah Bay and Pileh Cove with its calm turquoise water, both great spots for swimming and snorkeling. Continue to Maya Bay, the site where the movie "The Beach" was partially filmed. Spend the rest of the day swimming, sunbathing, or just relaxing at the beach before transferring back to the hotel.

Day 14: Phuket

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Today you are at leisure to relax, rejuvenate and enjoy the beautiful surroundings.





Day 15: Phuket / Hanoi, Vietnam

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Today you will fly to Hanoi, Vietnam's vibrant capital. Arrive in Hanoi and meet your expert guide and transfer to the hotel. The remainder of the day is yours to relax or start exploring this compelling city, which blends the mystique of yesteryear with modern-day architecture.


Day 16: Hanoi

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: Yes | Dinner: Yes

- Vietnam's second largest city, Hanoi has been occupied by the French, Chinese and Japanese through its 1,000-year history and boasts tree-lined boulevards, busy markets and colonial buildings that all demand exploration. Today, visit the **Ho Chi Minh Memorial** to see Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, and peer into the Stilt House where the revered Vietnamese spiritual leader lived from 1958 to 1969. Other must-sees include the Temple of **Literature** and **Museum of Ethnology**. After lunch, visit **Hoan Kiem Lake** and **Ngoc Son Temple** and pass colonial landmarks such as the Opera House and St Joseph's Cathedral. Finish your day with a colorful water puppet performance.

Day 17: Hanoi – Halong Bay – Cruise

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: Yes | Dinner: Yes

- Today, gaze out over rural Vietnam as we drive to UNESCO  listed Halong Bay, a spectacular bay dotted with over 1,000 limestone islands. On arrival, transfer to a junk boat, your comfortable floating home for an overnight cruise. Enjoy a welcome drink and lunch on board as you sail past islands, fishing villages and craggy caves. Explore Sung Sot Cave, hiking up and down 600 steps to the magnificent limestone formations of the biggest cave in Halong Bay. Snap photos of the sublime scenery and

return to the vessel to join the cooking demonstration with the cruise's chef. Savor the meal on board tonight before retiring to your deluxe cabin.

Day 18: Cruise – Halong Bay – Hanoi / Da Nang

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Rise early for a Tai Chi session on deck: the perfect opportunity to prepare for the day and admire a breathtaking sunrise over Halong's waters. Before breakfast, relax on board or go visit Titov Island. Back on board to enjoy the breakfast as we cruise back to dock. Disembark and bid farewell to Halong as we travel back to Hanoi and fly to Danang, one of Vietnam's fastest growing cities.


Day 19: Da Nang – Hue – Da Nang

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: Yes | Dinner: N/A

- This morning, journey over the towering mountains to Hue, Vietnam's former capital. Visit the **Imperial Citadel**, a vast complex reminiscent of Beijing's Forbidden City. Enter the Ngo Mon Gate, the principal entrance to the Imperial Enclosure and the central passageway reserved for use by the emperor. Continue to the **Thai Hoa Palace** with its spacious hallways and ornamental roof, the Halls of the Mandarins, the Nine Dynastic Urns, and the ruins of the Forbidden Purple City, once home to the royal family. Return to Da Nang in the afternoon.

Day 20: Da Nang – Hoi An / Ho Chi Minh City

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: Yes | Dinner: N/A

- Travel south to the picturesque ancient town of Hoi An, where people still wear the "ao dai", Vietnam's traditional dress. **The Ancient town of Hoi An**, a UNESCO  World Heritage Site, was the most important trading port in Southeast Asia in the 15th century. Its ancient past is superbly preserved in an enchanting collection of temples,





pagodas, shop houses and magnificent private homes in the town's Old Quarter. Later, transfer to Da Nang Airport for a short flight to Ho Chi Minh City, better known as Saigon, for three nights. Conquered by the French in the 19th century, this intoxicating city still sports boulevards and grand European buildings — colonial vestiges that contrast starkly with its now predominantly Buddhist culture and booming capitalist-driven economy.

Day 21: Ho Chi Minh City

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: Yes

- Today, our guided tour of the historic center showcases **Dong Khoi Street**, formerly the Rue Catinat and the ornate City Hall, Opera House, Notre Dame Cathedral and the Central Post Office. Afterward, visit the **Reunification Palace** and haunting **War Remnants Museum** before a visit to the sparkling **Emperor of Jade Pagoda**. The rest of the day is for you at leisure to explore this bustling metropolis.

Optional Tour: Full Day Mekong Delta River Tour: U\$159/person

- The Mekong River is the lifeblood of Southeast Asia. It starts from Tibet, running through 5 countries before entering Vietnam with a great basin consisting of 9 tributaries. Today's journey into the Mekong Delta region will take us along the newly built highway, picturesque countryside and seemingly endless paddy fields. Upon arrival at My Tho, you will board a private motor boat for a fascinating cruise along the river, observing the daily life of local people on the waterways. The tour includes a sampan ride through the winding canals, a visit to a coconut factory, handicraft workshop, honey bee farm. You will be introduced to the daily life of the local people, learning

about local fruit and plants as well as an opportunity to sample some local tropical fruit in an orchard. The tour ends with a great lunch at a local restaurant by the river bank. Return to Ho Chi Minh City by bus.

Day 22: Ho Chi Minh City

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Today you are at leisure to further explore the city on your own, or just relax in your hotel.




Day 23: Depart Ho Chi Minh City

Breakfast: Yes | Lunch: N/A | Dinner: N/A

- Free at leisure until transfer from the hotel to the airport. Tour ends.



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