

## **PANORAMA VIETNAM - CAMBODIA & LAOS**

### **(15 days / 14 nights)**

#### **Take an unforgettable adventure through Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos**

Experience Indochina on a unique adventure that adapts our activity to best fit each location. Walk the colorful streets of Hanoi, and Ho Chi Minh, board a traditional-style Chinese junk for a cruise on Vietnam's magnificent Ha Long Bay. Walk through the traditional streets of Hoi An, the garden districts of Hùe' and among the spectacular temples of Angkor. Go and explore the surrounding Laos' beautiful Vientiane and Luang Prabang.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Cyclo tour in Old Quarter in Hanoi**
- **Full day excursion and cruise in Halong Bay**
- Excursion to **Hoa Lu** and to **Thung Nang valley**
- **Hanoi city tour**
- Visit to the **Cham Museum, Golden Bridge, Fantasy park and Bana Hills in Danang (cable car)**
- **Walking tour in Hoi An**
- Visit the **Imperial Citadel, the Forbidden city, the Mausoleum of Emperor Minh Mang** and **cruise on the romantic Perfume River in Hue.**
- Excursion to **Cu Chi Tunnels** and afternoon **city tour in Ho Chi Ming**
- Cruise to **Mekong Delta (Cai Be – Vinh Long in Ho Chi Ming)**
- **Angkor Wat tour in Siem Reap**
- **Boat ride to Tonle Sap lake**
- **City tour in Phnom Penh**
- **City tour in Vientiane**
- **Boat ride to Mekong river in Luang Prabang**
- **City tour in Luang Prabang**

#### **ITINERARY**

##### **DAY 01: HANOI ARRIVAL**

Arrival at the new international state-of-the-art airport of the city and immediately after the completion of the entry procedures in the country, we are transferred to our hotel. Hanoi is a unique capital. It may sound like a cliché, but nowhere in the world is there anyone like her. Built around the legendary Lake Hoan Kiem - where shortly after dawn the Vietnamese play badminton, practice tai chi or just enjoy a walk in the

neighboring park - and with impressive architecture, with prominent French, Russian and Chinese influences , Hanoi successfully balances between tradition and modernism. Our first contact with the bustling city center will take place in the most traditional way. Bicycle-taxi ride in the old commercial area with thirty-six streets - each dedicated to a different business union - operating since the 11th century. Today hundreds of outdoor restaurants, atmospheric cafes, wandering bands and colorful night markets characterize the area, while the walk that will follow along the shore of the lake will help in our better orientation.

Meals included: None

#### **DAY 02: HANOI FULL DAY EXCURSION TO HA LONG HANOI**

Ha Long Bay, the "Jewel of Vietnam", has been on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1992 and on the Vietnam National Heritage List since 1962. Today's excursion will reveal the rare beauty of mountain grooves of the northeastern Vietnam. Having an area of 1553 sq.km. Scattered over 1,600 limestone islets with dense vegetation, Ha Long Bay creates unique images and captivates visitors, causing awe at its spectacle. The geological formations are about 500 million years old and similar geological, morphological, climatic and cultural phenomena appear in the wider zone of the bay. The cruise with a traditional boat, among the massive formations, is a unique experience. Hundreds of green rocks, the result of millions of years of soil erosion, compose a dreamy landscape that gave birth to myths and legends, was almost deified by the local tribes and fully satisfies all the senses of the visitor. The tour of one of the enchanting caves with stalactites and stalagmites and the delicious meal with seafood and other Vietnamese traditional dishes, complete the experience of the day. Late afternoon return to Hanoi. Complete the experience of the day.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### **DAY 03: HANOI HOA LU THUNG NANG VALLEY HANOI**

After breakfast we will be transported to the ancient capital of Vietnam, Hoa Lu, which is also called "Ha Long Bay Land". We will visit the two temples dedicated to Dinh and Le, which are located in an idyllic setting. Soon we will be transferred to Thung Nang, which is a pristine and untouched area. Thung Nang Valley is in the middle of the mountain cliffs, which are covered with trees with many hidden charms to be discovered. On the cruise that will follow we will admire the impressive rock formations, the picturesque mountains, the unique rivers - caves and we will see the local villagers fishing in this wild area. The serenity of the landscape with the rice fields, the high - imposing rocks and the sacred caves will simply seduce us. In the afternoon we will return to Hanoi.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

**DAY 04: HANOI CITY TOUR**

Hanoi was the capital of French Indochina and the administrative center. During World War II it was occupied by the ruthless Japanese, liberated in 1945 and became the headquarters of the Vietnam War fighting battalions. When the French left in 1954 they left behind a series of temples, government buildings, hotels and villas with European style and western architecture. It is a city with more than 1,000 years of history and is rightly considered the spiritual and cultural center of Vietnam. The tour is simply shocking. The magnificent white French colonial buildings charm with their elegance, the house of Ho Chi Minh, leader of the new Vietnam, impresses with its austerity while its majestic mausoleum, is a great example of the respect that the Vietnamese nurture in the face of the politician who changed the course of history. The Chinese-style Temple of Ngok Son and the Huc Bridge on the lake are the ultimate symbols of Hanoi, while the beautifully decorated 11th-century Temple of Literature and the elegant iconostasis of the One Pillar are the culmination of its strict Buddhist tradition. city. Our tour concludes at the very interesting Ethnological Museum, with rich exhibits that will introduce us to the daily life and rich tradition of the various minority tribes of North Vietnam. In the afternoon we will watch, in a specially designed theater, the only spectacle in the world of "Water Puppets", which for about 10 centuries was the main way of entertainment for the rice workers.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

**DAY 05: HANOI DA NANG HOI AN**

Today we will meet the different face of central Vietnam. Transfer to the airport and flight to the modern city of Da Nang, the largest port in central Vietnam, on the shores of the China Sea, at the foot of the "Marble Mountains" and the country's fourth largest urban core. Visit to the magnificent museum, with the famous findings of the Cham theocratic civilization, a late Hindu civilization that flourished in the area in the 7th century and then a stop at the famous "China Beach", where the first American Marines landed during the bloody Vietnam War. At noon he will find us in the famous and picturesque Hoi An, one of the most beautiful images the country has to present. Afternoon tour of the intact old Portuguese harbor with arched bridges.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

**DAY 06: HOI AN HUE**

Today, through a beautiful route to the heights of the mountains of central Vietnam and crossing some of Indochina's longest tunnels, we continue on to the imperial city of Hue. It is located in the province of Thừa Thiên - Huế, is built along the Sông Hương River and under the Nguyen government was the official capital of the country. Despite all the devastation it suffered during the war, it is full of memories of that

golden age of the dominance of the powerful dynasties of central Vietnam. During the turbulent period of the Dirty War, Hue belonged to South Vietnam. The city was hit hard when, in the so-called Battle of Hue in 1968, many of its buildings were destroyed by US forces. While Vietcong forces carried out mass killings of a large part of the population. Afternoon tour of the imposing "Acropolis", in which the ruins of the mysterious Forbidden City have a prominent place, which, like the whole city, also suffered severe damage from the American bombers but today has been restored and of course retains its nobility.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

#### **DAY 07: HUE SAI GON**

The tour of the historic Hue continues this morning, with a visit to the decoratively austere tombs of the emperors of the Nguyen Dynasty, just beyond the city limits, which impress with their size and unpretentious beauty, while the experience awaits us. a boat trip on the "River of Aromas" that ends with a disembarkation at the famous practicing Tien Moon Pagoda, the ultimate religious Buddhist symbol of Hue. In the afternoon we are transported to the airport for the flight to Sai Gon Martyrdom, now officially called Ho Chi Minh City, which has been transformed into a state-of-the-art metropolis of Western standards, drawing the chariot of Vietnam's rapid economic growth.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

#### **DAY 08: SAI GON CU CHI TUNNELS SAI GON**

The rich morning tour of the proud and tragic city evokes sad memories from the gloomy days of the war, however it is accompanied by images of unprecedented development and progress that impress the traveler. The old presidential palace of South Vietnam and today the Museum of Reunification, the Museum of War but also the magnificent French historic center with main landmarks the City Hall, the Cathedral of Our Lady and of course the famous Post Office building, work of Eiffel, is in our tour. Finally, after passing through Cholon, the bustling Chinese Quarter of the city, we head to the tunnels of Cu Chi, known for the Vietnam War and a strong proof of ingenuity.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

#### **DAY 9: SAI GON CAI BE SIEM REAP**

Today we will get to know the Mekong Delta region. It is the southernmost part of Vietnam, includes 12 provinces, covers 40,000 sq.km. with a population of 17 million inhabitants. The great "River of the Nine Dragons" offers in its vast delta incredible images to the traveler, with the women boatmen with the triangular hats, the floating

markets and the narrow canals. We will start from the dock of Cai Bei, we will board our private boat and we will be transported to the homonymous floating market, thus having the opportunity to experience the uniqueness of the area, as the purchases and exchanges of products take place from boat to boat. Later we will visit a traditional village and see the way of life of the inhabitants, We will taste traditional sweets while we will close our acquaintance with the life-giving river by sailing with special boats the narrow canals that it forms just before its exit to the waters of the South Sea. In the afternoon we are transferred to the airport for the flight to Siem Reap, Cambodia, while in the evening we will enjoy traditional flavors accompanied by music and religious dances Apsara of the legendary Khmer.

Meals included: Breakfast, Apsara Dance Dinner

#### **DAY 10: SIEM REAP ANGKOR WAT TOUR**

The complex of temples of the Angkor Kingdom, which is the largest religious structure in the world, causes admiration and awe. It is located in the inhospitable jungle, a stone's throw from the lively and noisy city of Siem Reap and began to be built during the reign of Suryawarman II in the 12th century, and finally took shape during the reign of Jayawan. 7. The famous buildings were originally built as Hindu religious monuments by the Khmer Empire, then turned into Buddhist temples, until they declined and were abandoned. Our day begins with a visit to the archeological site of Angkor Tom. It is a unique experience, since the wonderful monuments left as a legacy for the next generations by the versatile Khmer, are the most majestic of the Asian Continent. The South Gate, the magnificent Bayonne, the ruins of the former palace and of course the famous platforms of the Elephants and the Leper King, give us a very satisfying taste of the grandeur of the Khmer architectural view. Then we visit the famous Tam Prom Temple, with huge tree trunks springing menacingly through the walls of the buildings of the former convent-palace, which became famous from the Hollywood movies. We continue to the imposing temple complex of Angkor Wat, which was the main place of worship and at the same time the capital of the legendary kingdom of Angkor. It was a sacred place of many religions, both Hinduism and Buddhism. The temple is the symbol of Cambodia.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

#### **DAY 11: SIEM REAP TONLE SAP LAKE PHNOM PENH**

In the morning we leave the historic Siem Reap and after a dusty journey of about an hour and passing colorful villages with wooden houses, on stilts, we approach the beautiful Lake Tonle Sap, which is considered the largest inland lake in Asia. The speedboat that will follow will give us the opportunity to observe floating straw settlements and to understand the difficult daily life of the rural people, who live in

makeshift huts on the water. We will make a stop at the local school and then, returning to Siem Reap, we will be informed about the famous School of Sculpture, which is flourishing in Cambodia. In the afternoon transfer to the airport and flight to the martyrdom capital of the country, Phnom Penh.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

#### **DAY 12: PHNOM PENH VIENTIANE**

The acquaintance with the Cambodian capital is a pleasant surprise. An open-air city, right on the banks of the imposing Mekong, is characterized by well-designed roads, many green lungs and a variety of attractions. We start from Mrs. Penh Hill, from where the city got its name. There is the complex of Buddhist temples Penh, while the view of the city is literally breathtaking. The following is a visit to the majestic Royal Palace with its visibly Thai influence and the famous Silver Pagoda, the tragic Genocide Museum housed in the famous former Tuol Sleng prison, where the horrific crimes committed by the criminals and of course a walk on the newly formed meadow of the Mekong River. We will stop for a while at the monument of Independence and we will end with the very interesting National Museum. In the afternoon we are transported to the airport and fly to the mysterious capital of Laos, the unknown to the general public, Vientiane.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

#### **DAY 13: VIENTIANE CITY TOUR LUANG PRABANG**

Laos, the ancient kingdom of Lan Xang, the land of "1,000,000 elephants" is a People's Republic since 1975 and opened its borders just a few years ago, allowing visitors to enjoy the incredible natural beauty of the so-called Jewelry of Asia ". It is the poorest country in the region, it does not rain at all from the sea and in essence it is the "backyard of Indochina". Time had stopped for several decades in Laos but growth indicators are now running at a very fast pace. True to our principle of complete and well-structured programs, could not miss the capital of Laos, the extremely interesting Vientiane, for cost reasons. In today's tour we will be photographed in the famous Arc de Triomphe, we will enjoy the holy temples of Wat Si Saket and Wat Pra Keo, we will be introduced to the sanctity of the golden variety Tat Luang, which is the symbol of the city, and finally, after enjoying the view of the Mekong River once again, we will be transferred to the airport from where we will take our short flight to Luang Prabang, the old imperial capital. Dinner in a local restaurant with innovative Laotian flavors.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

#### DAY 14: LUANG PRABANG

Indochina, the poorest and most isolated country in the world, continues to move slowly and lazily. After breakfast we board a special boat and crossing the life-giving Mekong we reach the famous Pak U caves, with thousands of Buddhist statuettes, vows of the faithful over the centuries. Our return to the city is interspersed with a visit to a typical traditional village, where we will be introduced to the Lao customs and traditions of the countryside as well as the special way of producing local raki. The afternoon tour of Luang Prabang will reveal the glorious Buddhist past of the city. The Old Palace, with its peculiar architecture, a mixture of Lao and French architectural style and the magnificent Buddhist Temples, Xiang Tong, Wat Mai, Wat Sen and Wat Visun make it clear that the entire historic center of the city is protected by UNESCO. Our day ends with a climb to Pu Xi hill, where the natural fatigue is rewarded by watching a wonderful romantic sunset.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

#### DAY 15: LUANG PRABANG DEPARTURE

We close our acquaintance with the peculiar first capital of the country with an excursion to Guangxi National Park. About 29 km south of Luang Prabang is a cool shelter, a huge recreation area with the waterfalls of the same name being an oasis of coolness during the hot summer days. It is a landscape of special natural beauty with stepped natural pools formed by the waters of the waterfalls, a park with rare species of butterflies and the center of rescue and reintegration of the endangered black bear. An ideal place to escape from the harsh reality of the big city. Later we are transferred to the airport for the flight back home.

Meals included: Breakfast

#### RATES

##### Prices p/p in Euros

Travel Period (Daily)	Dbl share p/p	Sgl suppl	Hotels	Type of travel
01/01/21 – 30/04/21	3.430	700	4*	Private services
01/05/21 – 30/09/21	3.300	610		
01/10/21 – 30/12/21	3.490	760		

- **Special conditions may apply during Easter Week (from March 26 to April 3 2021). Please ask us.**

## Notes

Travel Period: Range of time price are valid. Should your desired trip dates cover 2 different travel periods, rates should be recalculated and proposed to you by mail.

Type of Travel: vforvacation offers two types of travel

- a) **Shared services** which means “seat in coach” basis tours with multinational fellow travelers’ groups
- b) **Private services** which means that all arrangements and land services are on individual basis

Single supplement: Cost of Single supplement is only valid on a basis of minimum 3 paying passengers travelling together

For Solo travelers on private service tours, rates should be recalculated and proposed to you by mail.

## INCLUSIONS

- **Accommodation**
  - Hanoi:** MK Premier hotel
  - Halong bay:** Pelican Cruise
  - Hue:** Idora hotel
  - Hoi An:** Belle Maison Hadana Hoi An resort & spa
  - Ho Chi Minh:** Eden Star Sai Gon hotel
  - Siem Reap:** Somadevi Angkor hotel
  - Phnom Penh:** Kravan hotel
  - Vientiane :** Green Park Boutique hotel –
  - Luang Prabang :** Villa Maly Boutique hotel
- Hotel accommodation based on twin rooms sharing with daily breakfast at hotel
- Private transportation with A/C vehicle on tour
- Entrance fees on tour
- Private boat trip visiting on Halong Bay (04 hours), on Perfume river in Hue and on Mekong river visit floating market
- Air tickets: **Hanoi - Da Nang, Hue - Ho Chi Minh - Siem Reap - Phnom Penh - Vientiane - Luang Prabang** on economy class
- Meals included as indicated at local restaurant



**NOT INCLUDED**

- Visa entry Vietnam - Laos & Cambodia
- International air ticket from your country to **Hanoi** and from **Luang Prabang** back to your country
- Drinks & other meals
- Personal expenses & travel insurance
- Early check-in and late check-out
- Tipping for tour guides and drivers
- Other services not mentioned in the itinerary

**REMARKS**

- In case of more travelers or groups pls request ad hoc and we'll send you our proposal by mail.
- For special groups and ad hoc programs pls request and we'll send you our proposal by mail.