

HIGHLIGHTS OF INDOCHINA

15 DAYS / 14 NIGHTS



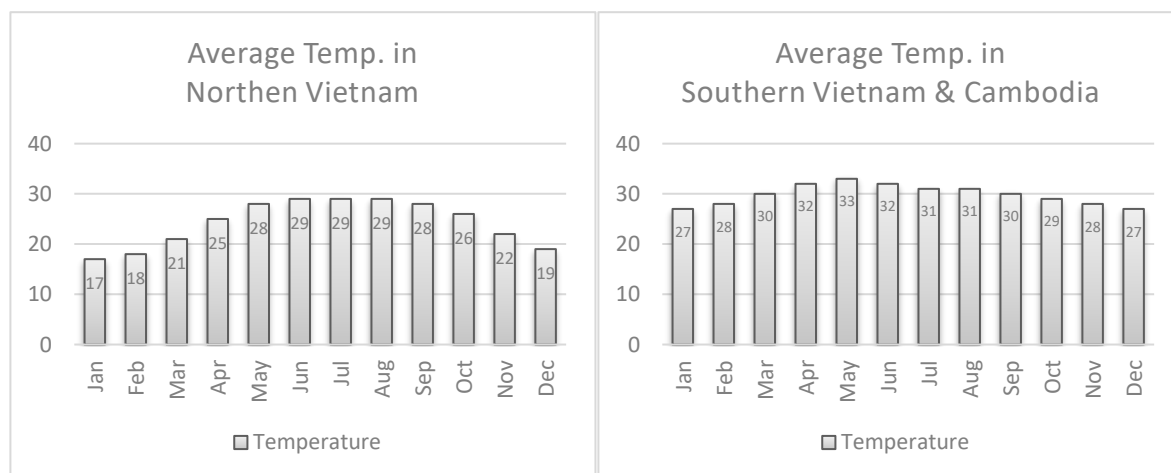
Destinations overview:

Vietnam is a kaleidoscope of cultures, with influences from China, France, and its indigenous people. Explore the bustling streets of Hanoi, the ancient imperial capital of Hue, and the charming riverside town of Hoi An, each with its own unique character. Delve into Vietnam's rich history at the Cu Chi Tunnels, a network of underground passages used by the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War. Savor the country's delicious cuisine and many more...

Cambodia is a land of ancient temples, mystical rivers, and vibrant culture. Visit the awe-inspiring Angkor Wat. Explore the ancient city of Angkor Thom, home to the Bayon Temple with its enigmatic smiling faces. And take a boat trip along the Mekong River, passing through floating villages and lush rice paddies. Discover Cambodia's rich culture and savor the country's delicious cuisine.

Tropical climate countries:

Vietnam and Cambodia have tropical climates, with warm temperatures year-round. However, there are some seasonal variations, with the hottest months being April and May, and the coolest months being November and December. In general, the average temperature in Vietnam ranges from 21°C (70°F) to 28°C (82°F), while the average temperature in Cambodia ranges from 24°C (75°F) to 33°C (91°F). While Cambodia and Southern Vietnam are generally warm temperature all year round, northern Vietnam on the other hand has 4 distinct seasons: Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter.



Itinerary Summary

Day 1: Hanoi Arrival
Day 2: Hanoi city tour
Day 3: Hanoi – Halong Bay
Day 4: Halong Bay – Hanoi
Day 5: Hanoi – Fly to Hue
Day 6: Hue – Hoi An
Day 7: Hoi An
Day 8: Hoi An – Ho Chi Minh City

Day 9: HCM City Cu Chi Tunnels – HCM City
Day 10: Mekong Delta – Cai Be – Can Tho
Day 11: Can Tho – Chau Doc
Day 12: Chau Doc – Phnom Penh
Day 13: Phnom Penh – Siem Reap
Day 14: Temples of Angkor
Day 15: Depart Siem Reap



ITINERARY

DAY 1: HANOI ARRIVAL

Upon arrival at Hanoi's international airport, you will be greeted by a friendly representative and transferred to your hotel in the heart of the city. Check in and leave your luggage before heading out to explore the vibrant streets of Hanoi.

DAY 2: HANOI CITY TOUR

After a hearty breakfast, immerse yourself in Hanoi's rich history and culture on a captivating discovery tour. Explore must-see sites like the Presidential Palace, a grand symbol of the country's past, and the One Pillar Pagoda, an architectural marvel with a fascinating backstory. Pay your respects to Vietnam's founding father, Ho Chi Minh, at his mausoleum, a solemn and revered site. Then, journey to the Temple of Literature, a UNESCO World Heritage Site dedicated to Confucius and his teachings.

In the afternoon, leisurely stroll across Long Bien Bridge, a historic landmark that offers stunning views of the city skyline. As you stroll, reflect on its storied past, from its construction in the late 19th century to its partial destruction during the Vietnam War. Hop aboard a traditional cyclo for a leisurely ride through the labyrinthine streets of the Old Quarter. Take in the vibrant atmosphere and bustling energy as you weave past ancient temples, bustling markets, and charming cafes.

As the sun sets, indulge in a unique water puppet performance on Hoan Kiem Lake. Marvel at the graceful movements of the puppets as they dance and tell traditional Vietnamese stories.



DAY 3: HANOI – HALONG BAY

Embark on a four-hour journey through the heart of the Red River Delta, a verdant tapestry of lush rice paddies and bustling villages. Your destination: Halong Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its breathtaking natural beauty. Board your traditional junk and set sail on a two-day cruise through the emerald waters of this mesmerizing bay. Glide past towering limestone karsts shrouded in lush jungle and discover hidden coves and secluded beaches. Visit traditional fishing villages where locals still ply their trade in age-old ways. Float among traditional floating fish farms, and learn about the unique aquaculture practices of the region. As the sun sets, marvel at the kaleidoscope of colors that paint the sky, and immerse yourself in the serenity of this enchanting landscape. Overnight on board your junk, lulled to sleep by the gentle rhythm of the waves.



DAY 4: HALONG BAY – HANOI

Awaken to the gentle glow of dawn and witness the mesmerizing beauty of Halong Bay at its most pristine. As the sun rises above the horizon, casting its golden rays on the emerald waters and towering karsts, savor this truly magical moment.

Embark on a hike to Surprise Cave or Sung Sot Cave, the largest and most impressive cave in Halong Bay. Be prepared to be awestruck by the cave's breathtaking formations, meticulously illuminated to showcase their natural splendor. After your cave exploration, cruise back to the port, taking one last look



at the enchanting landscapes of Halong Bay. Board your transfer vehicle and return to Hanoi, arriving in the late afternoon.

Overnight in Hanoi, where the cultural tapestry of Vietnam awaits your further exploration.

DAY 5: HANOI – FLY TO HUE

Take a short flight to Hue, the former imperial capital of Vietnam. Once there, explore the elaborate royal tombs of the past emperors, situated on the banks of the Perfume River. Hue has undergone a fascinating history in the last century, both glorious and tragic. Visit the mausoleum of Emperor Tu Duc, nestled in a tranquil setting of gardens and lakes. Then, stroll around the Imperial Citadel, the center of power for the Nguyen dynasty. Overnight in Hue and soak up the city's idyllic atmosphere.



DAY 6: HUE – HOI AN

Embark on a journey to the ancient city of Hue, where the Perfume River gently flows and the Thien Mu Pagoda stands tall. Take a boat cruise upstream, admiring the city's rich history and culture reflected in the tranquil waters. Disembark and visit the Thien Mu Pagoda, one of Hue's most iconic landmarks. This Buddhist pagoda is renowned for its seven-story octagonal tower, which offers stunning views of the surrounding area. After your visit to the Thien Mu Pagoda, embark on a scenic drive along the Hai Van Pass, one of the most beautiful coastal roads in Vietnam. Wind your way through lush mountains and valleys, stopping to admire the breathtaking views of the coastline below. As you descend the pass, you'll arrive in the vibrant city of Danang. Continue your journey to the UNESCO World Heritage Town of Hoi An, where you'll check into your hotel and enjoy a leisurely evening. Overnight in Hoi An, and immerse yourself in the town's unique charm.



DAY 7: HOI AN

Step back in time as you stroll through the ancient streets of Hoi An, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Your expert guide will lead you on a leisurely exploration of this charming town, showcasing its stunning blend of architectural styles that tell a rich history. Once a thriving international trading port, Hoi An is now renowned for its silk tailors, art galleries, and delicious local cuisine. Admire the town's well-preserved merchant houses, ancient temples, and ornate pagodas, each reflecting the diverse cultural influences that have shaped Hoi An over the centuries. As the sun begins to set, end your day with a sip of well-deserved coffee at a waterfront colonial restaurant, savoring the town's unique atmosphere. Overnight in Hoi An and let the town's magic transport you to another era.



DAY 8: HOI AN – HO CHI MINH CITY

Fly from Danang to Ho Chi Minh City, the bustling metropolis of South Vietnam. This city has a rich and complex history, from its early days as Saigon to its role in the Vietnam War and beyond. Start your exploration with a visit to the Reunification Palace, a symbol of Vietnamese independence. Then, head to the Saigon Central Post Office, a beautiful example of French colonial architecture. Next, visit Notre Dame Cathedral, a neo-Gothic masterpiece. In the evening, board a speedboat and cruise down the Saigon River. This is a great way to see the city from a different perspective and to experience the vibrant nightlife.



DAY 9: HCM CITY CU CHI TUNNELS – HCM CITY

Hop aboard a high-speed boat and embark on a thrilling adventure to the Cu Chi Tunnels, a vast underground network of tunnels used by Viet Cong soldiers during the Vietnam War. As you cruise down the breezy Saigon River, soak up the scenery and pass by locals going about their daily lives. Once you arrive at the tunnels, watch a short documentary film to learn about the fascinating history of this underground city. Then, it's time to explore! Crawl through the narrow tunnels, see how thousands of Viet Cong soldiers could live and fight underground, and learn about the ingenious traps they set to defend themselves. After a full day of exploring, return to Ho Chi Minh City on the high-speed boat. You'll be tired but exhilarated, and with a deeper understanding of Vietnam's rich history.



DAY 10: MEKONG DELTA – CAI BE – CAN THO

In the morning, depart from your hotel in Ho Chi Minh City for a scenic drive to Cai Be, a charming town in the Mekong Delta. Upon arrival, board your Cai Be Princess sampan and embark on a leisurely cruise through the busy waterways. As you float along the river, observe the vibrant life unfolding on the riverbanks. See locals fishing, trading goods, and going about their daily lives. Admire the lush green landscapes and the colorful boats that dot the water.

Your attentive crew will serve you tea and seasonal fruits as you soak up the tranquil atmosphere. Along the way, you'll visit an ancient house built in the 19th century and workshops where locals make coconut candy, rice paper, and other traditional products. For lunch, savor a delicious local meal at a riverside restaurant. After lunch, take a walk along a small canal to Ba Bon Bridge, where you'll board a vehicle for the short drive to Can Tho.



DAY 11: CAN THO – CHAU DOC

Rise early as the sun peeks over the horizon and embark on a boat trip to the bustling Cai Rang Floating Market. As you glide through the tranquil waters, witness the hustle and bustle of this unique trading hub, where locals sell their produce en masse. Capture the vibrant colors and lively atmosphere of the market, where boats are piled high with fresh fruits, vegetables, and other goods. See vendors haggling with customers, buyers inspecting the produce, and boats bustling back and forth. After soaking up the sights and sounds of the market, continue your journey to the riverside town of Chau Doc, a peaceful and sleepy

town near the Vietnam-Cambodia border. After lunch, check into your hotel and then board a cruise on Vinh Te Canal, which defines the border between Vietnam and Cambodia. As you cruise down the canal, take in the serene scenery of the Mekong Delta. See lush green landscapes, traditional villages, and fisherman casting their nets. Enjoy the tranquility of the river life and the opportunity to immerse yourself in the local culture.



DAY 12: CHAU DOC – PHNOM PENH

Embark on a thrilling speedboat ride up the Mekong River to Phnom Penh, the vibrant capital of Cambodia. After four and a half hours of cruising past lush riverbanks and traditional villages, arrive in the heart of the city. Your first stop is the Silver Pagoda, a stunning Buddhist temple renowned for its silver floor tiles and Buddha statues encrusted with diamonds.

Marvel at the intricate craftsmanship and religious significance of these treasures. Next, learn about the tragic history of Cambodia at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, a former school that was converted into a prison camp during the Khmer Rouge regime. Hear the stories of the prisoners who suffered and died here, and gain a deeper understanding of this dark chapter in Cambodian history.

To end your day, explore the bustling Central Market, where you can find stalls selling everything from souvenirs and handicrafts to fresh produce and street food. Soak up the lively atmosphere and bargain for unique trinkets to take home with you.



DAY 13: PHNOM PENH – SIEM REAP

Take a short flight from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap, the gateway to the magnificent temples of Angkor. Upon arrival, check into your hotel and then embark on an afternoon exploration of the Roluos Group, a complex of ancient temples that predate Angkor Wat. Under the guidance of your expert guide, learn about the fascinating history and architecture of these temples, which were once the heart of the Angkorian Empire. Admire the intricate carvings and well-preserved structures of Lolei, Preah Ko, and Bakong temples, and gain a deeper understanding of the Angkorian people's culture and beliefs. In the evening, head to the Old Market area of Siem Reap, a labyrinth of lanes filled with Khmer sculptures, galleries, cafes, and bars. This vibrant neighborhood comes alive at night, offering visitors a chance to experience the local culture and cuisine. Wander through the bustling market, admire the colorful stalls selling souvenirs and handicrafts, and sample some of the delicious street food on offer. Then, relax in one of the many cafes or bars and soak up the lively atmosphere.



DAY 14: TEMPLES OF ANGKOR

Welcome to the world wonder of Angkor Wat, the largest religious monument in the world and a testament to the ingenuity and artistry of the Khmer Empire.

Start your day with a sunrise visit to Angkor Wat, the iconic temple that graces countless travel brochures. Witness the sun peek over the horizon and illuminate the temple's ancient towers, creating a truly magical sight. Next, head to the Bayon Temple, renowned for its enigmatic smiling faces carved into its towers. Wander through the temple complex and marvel at the intricate carvings, which depict scenes from everyday life and Hindu and Buddhist mythology. Continue your journey to Ta Prohm, a temple that has been largely left untouched since its abandonment. Here, you'll see ancient trees growing through the ruins, creating a unique and atmospheric setting. In the afternoon, visit the Terrace of the Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King, two impressive structures that once served as viewing platforms for royal processions and ceremonies. To end your day, climb to the top of Pre Rup Temple for breathtaking sunset views over the Angkor Archaeological Park. Watch as the sky is ablaze with color and the temples are silhouetted against the horizon.



DAY 15: DEPART SIEM REAP

This morning will be the last chance for you to do some last-minute shopping at the market before you transfer to the airport for your flight.

TOUR COST

This itinerary is provided for sample purposes only. Please contact us at inquiry.bjapaninternational@gmail.com for complete details, including pricing.