

2012

# Vietnam & Cambodia: Treasures of Southeast Asia



Your tour begins with an exploration of the enormous Angkor Wat.

## DAY 1: FLIGHT TO THAILAND

Your trip begins with a regularly scheduled overnight flight to Bangkok aboard an internationally recognized airline.

## DAY 2: ARRIVAL IN BANGKOK

Welcome to Thailand! A Go Ahead representative greets you at the airport after you clear customs and then accompanies you to your Bangkok hotel to assist with hotel check-in.

Included meals: breakfast (in flight)

## DAY 3: ANGKOR WAT

This morning, board a flight for Siem Reap, the gateway to Angkor Wat. After landing, you'll transfer overland to this remarkable royal complex. Angkor Wat is arguably the largest religious building in the world and an outstanding example of Khmer architecture. Unique among nearby temples, Angkor Wat is oriented toward the west, and you'll take full advantage of this as you watch the sun set over the Cambodian jungle. Then, return to Siem Reap where you'll get to know your fellow travelers over an included Welcome Dinner.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

## DAY 4: ANGKOR THOM

Start your day with visits to Banteay Srei and Banteay Samre, two temples that share sculptural and

structural elements. After an included lunch, you'll pay a visit to Angkor Thom, the ruined capital of the Khmer Empire. Pay special attention to the Terrace of the Elephants, the Terrace of the Leper King and the enormous carved stone faces of the Bayon temple. This evening, you'll return to Siem Reap in time for an included dinner.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

## DAY 5: TA PROHM & TONLÉ SAP LAKE CRUISE

Today, you'll explore Ta Prohm, a 12th-century temple that has been largely reclaimed by the jungle; the combination of stone ruins and trees becoming one with manmade structures makes this one of Cambodia's most popular destinations. You'll also explore the ruins of the nearby Preah Khan temple. This afternoon, embark upon a cruise on Tonlé Sap lake to visit floating villages. Tonight, enjoy dinner and a show in Siem Reap.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

## DAY 6: HỒ CHI MINH CITY

Board a flight to Hồ Chí Minh City, arriving late this morning. Then take in the sights of the largest city in Vietnam on a guided tour. Witness Vietnam's progression from French colony to unified, independent nation as you view the city's major landmarks. The Reunification Palace, the General Post Office, City Hall, Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica and

## 15-DAY TOUR INCLUDES

- Round-trip air transportation with a major airline, airport transfers
- The services of a bilingual Go Ahead Tour Director
- 11 nights accommodations in comfortable, well-located hotels with twin beds and private bath or shower
- 1 night aboard the Halong Paradise, a small ship with comfortable cabins with twin beds and private shower
- All hotel service charges and tips, baggage handling and local taxes
- Buffet breakfast daily, 3 lunches, and 7 three-course dinners
- Private deluxe motorcoach
- Sightseeing tours and entrance fees to select sights as described
- Go Ahead travel gift and membership in our World Traveler Club, which includes credit toward your next tour

## SIGHTSEEING HIGHLIGHTS:

**DAY 3:** Angkor Wat

**DAY 4:** Angkor Thom

**DAY 5:** Ta Prohm & Tonlé Sap Lake

**DAY 6:** Hồ Chí Minh City

**DAY 9:** Thu Bồn River Cruise & Hôi An

**DAY 10:** Huế & Imperial Citadel

**DAY 12:** Hanoi City

**DAY 13:** Ha Long Bay Cruise

## Tour Highlight

After a night on board a boat in Ha Long Bay, you'll awaken to a scene of surreal beauty. As daylight filters through the mist, the Bay's towering limestone rock formations emerge dramatically from the water, looming over myriad floating fishing villages. As you cruise, you'll marvel at nature's majesty.



*Experience nature's majesty in Ha Long Bay, Vietnam.*



*Traditionally, rice paddies here are "wide enough for a flock of storks to spread their wings."*

the Museum of Vietnamese History each have a unique story to be told. You'll also stroll along Lê Công Kiều, a street known for its treasure trove of antiques. Dinner is included tonight.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

#### **DAY 7: FREE DAY IN HỒ CHI MINH CITY**

Today is free to explore Hồ Chí Minh City on your own. Alternatively, consider joining our optional Mekong River Cruise. On board a motorized sampan, you'll be introduced to the floating market at Cái Bè and then continue on to the labyrinthine canals and streams of the upper river.

Included meals: breakfast

#### **DAY 8: FLIGHT TO HỒI AN**

This morning is free to enjoy at leisure. You might join our optional excursion to the Củ Chi Tunnels. Centered in the northern suburbs of Hồ Chí Minh City, these tunnels were the staging ground for the Tet Offensive's attacks on what was then Saigon. Later, transfer to the airport and board your flight for Đà Nẵng. Upon arrival, you'll continue on to Hôi An in time for an included dinner.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

#### **DAY 9: HÔI AN & THU BÔN RIVER CRUISE**

Visit a local market on the Thu Bôn River this morning, where you'll select ingredients with your guide and learn about market shopping. Then, try your hand at Vietnamese cuisine at a cooking class, followed by a lunch of the delicacies you helped prepare. This afternoon, return to Hôi An

for a guided tour featuring the Japanese covered bridge and the Old Town.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

#### **DAY 10: HUÊ**

Journey to Huê this morning via the Hải Vân Pass, known for its sweeping views of the East Sea (known outside Vietnam as the South China Sea). Upon arrival in Huê, you'll set out on a guided tour of this former national capital beginning with a cruise down the Perfume River and continuing on to the Thiên Mu Pagoda and the Imperial City.

Included meals: breakfast

#### **DAY 11: FLIGHT TO HANOI**

This morning is free to discover Huê at your leisure. You might join an optional excursion to the tombs of two emperors, Tu Dúc and Khải Định. Early this afternoon, you'll board a flight to the northern city of Hanoi, arriving in time for dinner.

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

#### **DAY 12: HANOI**

Today's guided tour acquaints you with the famous sights of Hanoi, including Ba Dinh Square, where Hồ Chí Minh read the Proclamation of Independence of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. You'll also visit the Hồ Chí Minh Museum, the Governor's Residence and the Opera House. You'll see the One Pillar Pagoda, designed to resemble a lotus blossom, and wander through the Temple of Literature, a walled complex dedicated to Confucius. Hoàn Kiếm Lake is a focal point for Hanoi

public life, with an enchanting red wooden bridge.

Included meals: breakfast

#### **DAY 13: HA LONG BAY CRUISE**

Transfer overland to Ha Long Bay, where you'll embark on a luxurious cruise for an overnight stay. Ha Long Bay is home to more than 3,000 limestone towers, cliffs and arches, along with many fishing villages. Relax among some of the most stunning scenery in all of Vietnam, and enjoy a leisurely Farewell Dinner onboard.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

#### **DAY 14: DEPARTURE**

Disembark from your cruise ship today and return to Hanoi, where a day room is available for you to rest or store luggage. A Go Ahead representative escorts you to the airport for your flight home.

Included meals: breakfast

#### **DAY 15: ARRIVE HOME**



Discover the masterpieces of ancient sculptors at Banteay Srei.

#### PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

## Bangkok

2 nights

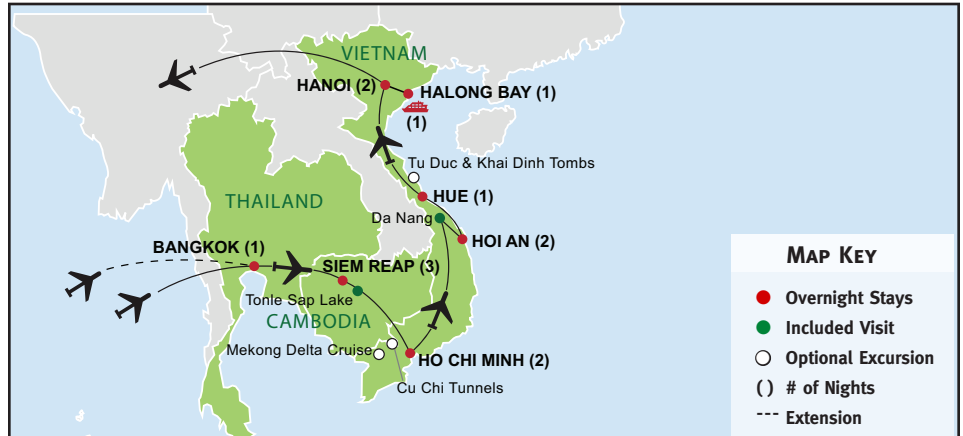
**DAY 1:** Fly overnight to Bangkok.

**DAY 2:** Arrive in Bangkok, where a Go Ahead representative helps you check into your hotel.  
Included meals: breakfast (in flight)

**DAY 3:** This morning is free to relax before you explore Bangkok. In the afternoon, a guided tour introduces you to the city, including the Grand Palace, the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, the Temple of the Reclining Buddha and the Temple of the Golden Buddha.  
Included meals: breakfast

**DAY 4:** This morning, enjoy a tour of Bangkok's *khlong*, or canals, on a speedboat and converted rice barge. The afternoon is free for you to explore at your leisure. You may have the chance to meet the rest of your group as they arrive this evening.  
Included meals: breakfast

Extension is only available on select departures and space is limited. Please call early to reserve your spot. Extension also requires a minimum of 10 travelers.



### Travel Pace: 4

Travel pace levels are based on criteria such as length of tour, number of cities visited, number of included activities, as well as length of flights and land transfers.

- |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 - leisurely   | 3 - active      |
| 2 - comfortable | 4 - challenging |

### Walking on Tour

Your tour does involve some moderate walking around historic sites. However, be aware of some climbing of steps and winding, narrow passageways.

### Visit [goaheadtours.com](http://goaheadtours.com) for:

- Enhanced destination information
- Fun traveler scrapbooks
- Featured Tour Directors
- Personalized “My Account” Page
- Tour planning
- Meeting fellow travelers and sharing travel tips in Trip Forums
- Suggested reading lists

### Climate

The following guide provides the average temperatures for a sampling of the regions on your itinerary.

#### SIEM REAP

Jan	66°–88°F / 19°–31°C
Feb	70°–93°F / 21°–34°C
Mar	73°–97°F / 23°–36°C
Apr	75°–97°F / 24°–36°C
May	77°–93°F / 25°–34°C
June	77°–91°F / 25°–33°C
July-Aug	75°–90°F / 24°–32°C
Sep-Oct	75°–88°F / 24°–31°C
Nov	72°–88°F / 22°–31°C
Dec	68°–86°F / 20°–30°C

#### HO CHI MINH

Jan–Feb	72°–90°F / 22°–32°C
Mar	76°–92°F / 24°–33°C
Apr	79°–93°F / 26°–34°C
May	79°–92°F / 26°–33°C
June–Aug	77°–89°F / 25°–32°C
Sep	76°–88°F / 24°–31°C
Oct–Dec	72°–87°F / 22°–31°C

#### HANOI

Jan–Feb	60°–66°F / 14°–19°C
Mar	65°–72°F / 18°–22°C
Apr	71°–80°F / 22°–27°C
May	77°–87°F / 25°–31°C
June–Aug	80°–90°F / 27°–32°C
Sep	78°–88°F / 26°–31°C
Oct	73°–82°F / 23°–28°C
Nov	66°–76°F / 19°–24°C
Dec	60°–71°F / 16°–22°C

# Pre-departure information for your tour

## PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS

In order to enter Vietnam and Cambodia, U.S. and Canadian citizens need a valid passport and a visa. The passport's expiration date must extend at least six months beyond the date of your return home. If you are not a U.S. or Canadian citizen, you must contact each country's consulate for your specific entry requirements. Visas for Vietnam and Cambodia can be purchased prior to your tour or upon arrival. All Vietnam visas are single entry unless you have specifically requested multiple entry and this is stamped into your passport. To purchase a visa upon arrival in Cambodia, you will need \$20USD cash and one passport-sized photo.

## AIRPORT AND DEPARTURE TAXES

All airport and departure taxes are included in the total trip cost printed on your invoice.

## BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

Airlines have varying weight restrictions on luggage. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies. Bear in mind that your luggage will probably weigh more on your return trip due to souvenir shopping. We allow only one suitcase per person. One carry-on bag is also permitted, provided that it does not exceed 45 inches (length + width + height). There may be times when you will have to handle your own bags, and you'll find that lightweight luggage provides a distinct advantage. Make sure you label your baggage and carry valuables, medication and documents in your carry-on luggage.

Some major hotels provide in-room Internet connections for computers, while others provide access at the guest's request.

## CLOTHING AND PACKING TIPS

Light, loose-fitting clothing that provides comfort when exploring the sights is essential for your tour. A sun hat, sunglasses and a sturdy pair of walking shoes or sneakers are recommended for sightseeing. It's always a good idea to be prepared for any eventuality—a lightweight sports jacket and emergency rainwear are advised. Remember that it is preferable not to visit temples or other religious sites with bare legs and shoulders (and entrance may be denied on this basis).

## HEALTH

There are no major health risks when traveling to Vietnam and Cambodia. However, some of the diseases known to exist in Vietnam and Cambodia include hepatitis A and B, typhoid, tuberculosis, Japanese encephalitis, diphtheria, dengue, malaria, tetanus, polio, rabies and HIV/AIDS. It is always advisable to check with your doctor or health-care provider for the latest updates and overseas travel requirements.

## CUISINE

One of the most enjoyable aspects of traveling is the delightful variety of local cuisine. A wide range of international cuisines is available in both Vietnam and Cambodia, but the indigenous cooking styles are among the best in Southeast Asia. The subtle mixing of herbs, spices and market-fresh ingredients makes dining a special culinary experience. The staples in both countries are rice and noodles, accompanied by a variety of dishes that can be eaten in almost any order and seasoned to individual taste. Fresh seafood is abundant, and there are many options for vegetarians.

## TRANSPORTATION

Round-trip flights arrive in Bangkok and depart from Hanoi. Included transportation on this tour is by private motorcoach and internal flights.

## ELECTRICITY

The electrical current for both Vietnam and Cambodia is 220 volt, 50 cycles. Many sockets will take both two-prong round pins and U.S.-style flat pins; however, it is recommended to bring a universal adaptor. It is a good idea to use a power surge device if using a laptop computer. Adapters may be available in Vietnam and Cambodia; however, it is advisable to bring one from home.

## TIME ZONES

Vietnam and Cambodia are seven hours ahead of Greenwich meantime, and 12 hours ahead of Eastern Standard time. When it's 9 a.m. in New York, it's 9 p.m. the same day in Vietnam and Cambodia.

## CURRENCY

The official unit of currency in Vietnam is the dong (VND). It is recommended to use VND for most transactions. ATMs are widely available in airports, major cities and towns and issue VND only. United States dollars (USD) can be used in some hotels and restaurants, or for larger purchases; however,

other currencies (AUD, GBP, CAN, NZD) will need to be exchanged into the local currency. It is useful to bring a combination of debit and credit cards, as well as some USD cash. If you bring traveler's checks, it is best to use USD, but these are now becoming harder to cash. It is not possible to exchange dong outside Vietnam.

The official unit of currency in Cambodia is the riel (KHR). In Cambodia, USD cash is accepted everywhere, though change may be given in riel. ATMs dispense U.S. dollars and can be found in most major tourist centers. Most hotels and restaurants, shops, taxis, buses and airlines set their prices in U.S. dollars, but small transactions (less than a dollar) are usually done in riel. Change of less than \$1 is given in riel. Always carry some small riel for motorcycle taxis, snacks and other small purchases. There is no coinage in Cambodia, only currency notes. Cambodian riel notes come in 50, 100, 500, 1000, 2000, 5000, 10,000, 50,000 and 100,000 denominations, but the distinctive red 500 riel note and the 1000 riel note are the most useful and common. Riel cannot be exchanged outside Cambodia.

Cash advances via Mastercard or Visa can be obtained at exchange booths and banks and Siem Reap. Credit cards (Visa and Mastercard) are accepted in most mid-range to upmarket hotels, as well as some boutiques and restaurants. If you bring traveler's checks, it is best to use USD, but these are now becoming harder to cash.

## TIPPING

At the conclusion of your tour, it is customary to offer your Go Ahead Tour Director and driver a gratuity. We recommend tipping in your tour country's currency, the equivalent of \$3USD/CAD per person per day for your driver and \$6USD/CAD to \$9USD/CAD per person per day for your Tour Director. If applicable, we also recommend the equivalent of \$2USD/CAD per local guide. Tips can only be paid in cash. Please keep current local currency exchange rates in mind when tipping.