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Vietnam Explorer Tour

15-day Conducted Tour

only **\$2,625** per person twin share

This price includes airport taxes & levies



This price is incredible value as it covers all of the following:

- ❖ Return air fares from Sydney and Melbourne into Saigon and out of Hanoi with Cathay Pacific Airways, plus two flights within Vietnam.
- ❖ There will be four nights in bustling Saigon, four nights in historic Hoi An, three nights in beautiful Hanoi, the “Paris of the East” and two nights in Halong Bay.



- ❖ Good three to four star accommodation. The hotels rooms are all air conditioned and have their own bathroom and toilet.
- ❖ Breakfast daily plus five lunches and two dinners.
- ❖ All transfers between the airports and hotels.
- ❖ City tours in Saigon and Hanoi.
- ❖ Service of a Vietnamese tour guide and if there are 12 or more passengers there will be an Australian tour escort.
- ❖ A full day boat cruise of amazing Halong Bay, one of Vietnam’s spectacular World Heritage sites.

There will be a full program of optional half-day and full-day tours.

If you do not have a travel partner, but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try and match you up with someone else in the same position. If you require a single room, there will be an additional charge of \$695.

Note: There is an optional 3 day extension to Angkor Wat available for an additional \$895 per person twin share and \$995 single room.



Tour departs Australia on 13th May and returns 27th May 2016

We try harder to find you the best travel deal

Itinerary for Vietnam Explorer Tour - May 2016

Included meals are indicated as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

- 13.05.16** Depart Sydney at 7.30am on CX 110, arriving in Hong Kong at 3.15pm.
Depart Melbourne at 7.40am on CX 134, arriving in Hong Kong at 3.20pm
All passengers depart Hong Kong at 4.20pm on CX 765, arriving in Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) at 5.55pm. Upon arrival we will be met and transferred to our hotel in central Saigon for a four night stay.
Accommodation: Huong Sen Hotel
- 14.05.16** **Saigon**
(B/L) This morning there will be an included city tour of Saigon. We begin with a short walking tour around downtown Saigon passing the Opera House, City Hall, Notre Dame Cathedral and the Central Post Office. This is followed by a visit to the former Presidential Palace (Reunification Palace), the War Remnants Museum, Chinatown and Thien Hau Temple.
Lunch is at Pho 2000 where you will have Pho (traditional Vietnamese noodle soup) and spring rolls. The rest of the day is at leisure.
Accommodation: Huong Sen Hotel
- 15.05.16** **Saigon**
(B) Optional full day tour to the Cu Chi Tunnels and Tay Ninh with lunch.
We will visit Cu Chi Tunnels (70km north west of Saigon), an amazing complex of underground tunnels used during the Vietnam War. Continue to Tay Ninh Church, centre of the unusual Cao Dai religion which combines Buddhism, Christianity, Taoism and Confucianism. See this spectacular church with worshippers attending the noon service in their colourful tunics. The included lunch is at a good restaurant in Tay Ninh. **Price: \$52.00**
Accommodation: Huong Sen Hotel
- 16.05.16** **Saigon**
(B) Today there is an optional full day tour to the unforgettable Mekong Delta including lunch. We begin with a coach trip to My Tho. We then enjoy a boat trip on the Mekong River, stopping at an island to visit fruit orchards and taste some fruit. We continue on small sampans through the canals to see more local life. We have a horse carriage ride, which is the traditional transportation of the local people. We also visit a coconut workshop and a bee keeping farm with lunch at a farmer's house. Return to Ho Chi Minh City in the late afternoon.
Price: \$50.00
Accommodation: Huong Sen Hotel
- 17.05.16** **Saigon - Danang - Hoi An**
(B) Transfer to the airport for our flight to Danang. Upon arrival in Danang we have a 40 minute drive to Hoi An where we check into our hotel for a four night stay.
Tonight there is an optional cooking demonstration at a local restaurant in town.
Price: \$24.00 including dinner
Accommodation: Hoi An Hotel

18.05.16 Hoi An

(B) Today there is an optional full day sightseeing tour of Danang and Hoi An including lunch. We drive to Danang and stop at the Marble Mountains with their beautiful grottoes and temples, which can be reached by climbing steep steps (please wear appropriate shoes). We also stop at China Beach where the Americans came for R&R (rest and relaxation) during the Vietnam War. We then visit Cham Museum. Lunch is at "LY" restaurant in Hoi An.

After lunch there is a short boat trip across the river, which brings us to a boat builder's yard and woodcarvers. Here we can see the daily lives of the local people. After that discover the Hoi An ancient town, known to early western merchants. Hoi An was one of the major trading centres of Southeast Asia in the 16th century and has a distinctive Chinese atmosphere with low tiled roof houses and narrow streets. The original structure of some of these streets is still virtually intact. Many of the houses were constructed of rare timbers and decorated with lacquer panels engraved with Chinese characters and pillars carved with ornamental designs. During a leisurely discovery tour on foot we will visit some of the historic merchant and community houses, places of worship and the famous bridge. Afterwards we return to the hotel. **Price: \$48.00**

Accommodation: Hoi An Hotel

19.05.16 Hoi An

(B) Optional full day tour from Hoi An to Hue, departing Hoi An at 7.30am. Hue is the homeland of the Nguyen dynasty, the last dynasty of Vietnam which ruled the country from 1802 to 1945. We will drive over the Hai Van Pass (Pass of the Ocean Clouds), through many pretty red-tiled villages with fruit orchards, enjoying spectacular views of sky and sea. Upon arrival in Hue we visit the ancient Citadel which was built by Nguyen Emperors from 1804 to 1833 and then have lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon enjoy a boat trip on the Perfume River, then visit the Thien Mu Pagoda and the Tomb of Khai Dinh, the 12th Emperor of the Nguyen dynasty who ruled the country from 1916 to 1925, a beautiful mosaic building. On the way back we travel through the longest tunnel through a mountain in South East Asia. Arrive in Hoi An in the early evening. **Price: \$68.00**

Accommodation: Hoi An Hotel

20.05.16 Hoi An

(B) Today's optional tour is to My Son, the imperial city of the Champa Empire from the 4th to 12th centuries. My Son Sanctuary is a large complex of religious ruins comprising of more than 70 architectural remains. UNESCO recognised the Cham Architecture in My Son as a Cultural Heritage Site in 1999. **Price: \$40.00**

Accommodation: Hoi An Hotel

21.05.16 Hoi An - Danang - Halong Bay

(B/D) Transfer to Danang Airport for our flight to Hanoi. Upon arrival we will take a 3 hour journey east to Bai Chay, the gateway to Halong Bay. En-route pass fields of busy workers farming their rice using traditional methods of cultivation. Halong Bay has been compared with the magical landscape of limestone islets at Guilin in China and Krabi in southern Thailand. These tiny islands are dotted with innumerable beaches and grottoes created by the wind and waves. Arrive in Halong Bay late in the afternoon. Dinner tonight is at the hotel.

Accommodation: Saigon Halong (Ocean View Room)

22.05.16 Halong Bay - Hanoi

(B/L/D)

This morning we board the Bai Tho Junk for a 6 hour cruise on the magnificent Halong Bay with its 1,969 islands rising from the clear emerald waters of the Gulf of Tonkin, one of the natural marvels of Vietnam.

This province shares a common border with China in the north and has some of the most stunning scenery in Vietnam. Bizarre rock sculptures jut dramatically from the sea and numerous grottoes have created an enchanted timeless world. The sails of junks and sampans add further to the beauty of the scene. Halong Bay was made famous to westerners in the French film 'Indochine'. We will also have the opportunity to stop at one of the many grottoes and have a swim at the beach before returning to port. A seafood lunch is included onboard. The rest of the day is at leisure to enjoy the hotel facilities and the beautiful view of the bay from your room's balcony. Dinner this evening is at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Saigon Halong (Ocean View Room)

23.05.16 Hanoi

(B/L)

This morning we depart Halong Bay for Hanoi, the capital of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Lunch is at a local restaurant in Hanoi. In the afternoon there is an optional XICH LO (Pedicab) city tour around the Old & the French Quarters of Hanoi, then a visit to the excellent Ethnology Museum. **Price: \$25.00**

Accommodation: Muong Thanh Hanoi Centre

24.05.16 Hanoi

(B/L)

Today there is an included half day city tour of Hanoi, driving around Hoan Kien Lake, followed by visits to Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, Residence, One Pillar Pagoda, and the Temple of Literature, which is considered Vietnam's first university. The tour finishes with a good lunch at KOTO, who's owner employs and trains disadvantaged Vietnamese in the hospitality industry.

This evening there is an optional tour to see the Water Puppet Show, including dinner at a good local restaurant. **Price \$26.00**

Accommodation: Muong Thanh Hanoi Centre

25.05.16 Hanoi

(B)

Today there is an optional full day tour to Hoa Lu and Tam Coc (Dry Halong Bay) with lunch. Drive 110km south to visit Tam Coc Caves famous as the so called "Dry Halong Bay". During a two hour boat ride in a sampan enjoy the spectacular sight of the serene limestone rocks towering over the rice fields. After an included lunch at a local restaurant we continue to see the Temples of the Dinh and Lee dynasties.

Price: \$55.00

Accommodation: Muong Thanh Hanoi Centre

26.05.16 Hanoi – Hong Kong - Australia

(B/L)

This morning is at leisure with late checkout of the hotel till 1.00pm. We have a farewell lunch at a local restaurant and are then transferred to Hanoi airport for our flights home.

Depart Hanoi at 7.30pm on Dragon Air flight KA 294, arriving in Hong Kong at 10.20pm.

Sydney passengers depart Hong Kong at 11.55pm on CX 101, arriving in Sydney at 10.50am the next morning (27.05.16).

27.05.16 Hong Kong – Melbourne

Melbourne passengers depart Hong Kong at 00.10am on CX 105, arriving in Melbourne at 11.30am.



Itinerary for Angkor Wat Extension

Included meals are indicated as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

26.05.16 Hanoi - Siem Reap

(B/D)

This morning is at leisure with late checkout of the hotel till 1.00pm. We have lunch at a local restaurant and are then transferred to Hanoi airport for our flight to Cambodia. Depart Hanoi at 6.00pm on VN 835, arriving in Siem Reap at 7.40pm. We will be met and transferred to the hotel for check in. Dinner is at the hotel. Accommodation: Tara Angkor Hotel

27.05.16 Siem Reap

(B/L/D)

Breakfast at the hotel. Begin our exploration of the Angkorian temples this morning by visiting the ancient city of Angkor Thom. Surrounded by walls with a height of 8 metres and length of 12 kms, this city was the last capital of the Khmer Empire. Five huge gates with huge stone faces provide access. Angkor Thom holds many important monuments, which we will visit, including the Bayon Temple, located in the exact centre, the Baphoun, Terrace of the Elephants and Terrace of the Leper King. We continue to Ta Prohm, a unique temple that has been left to nature with trees and vines growing amongst the structures. This is one of the most photogenic temples in the Angkor area and gained fame as the 'Tomb Raider' temple, after featuring in the Angelina Jolie movie. Enjoy walking along the sandy paths and under huge banyan trees as we explore this 12th century temple. Afterwards we return to the town of Siem Reap and enjoy an asian fusion set lunch at Mahob, another new addition to the burgeoning food scene in Siem Reap. Combining the talents of the chef/owner with the freshest local ingredients, the restaurant offers a peaceful location to experiment with tantalising Khmer and fusion offerings. Mahob is set in a carefully restored Khmer wooden house. In the afternoon we travel into the Cambodian countryside and visit the Landmine Museum, located near Banteay Srei. The museum was founded by Mr Aki Ra, who was once a child soldier for the Khmer Rouge, before changing allegiance to work as a de-miner for first the Cambodian Army and later the United Nations. Aki Ra won an award from CNN as one of their top ten heroes in 2010. Along with his Cambodian Self Help De-mining Group, they have helped clear about 50,000 mines and weapons, many of which can be seen at the museum today. Our entry fee helps support this cause and village school projects.

We continue to Banteay Srei, dedicated to the Hindu God, Shiva. This is one of the most picturesque temples and provides a great opportunity to appreciate one of the most stunning achievements of Angkorian artisanship. Small in size, the carvings are exquisite in this temple, one of the best preserved in Cambodia. Afterwards we return to the hotel for a short break. This evening enjoy dinner whilst watching a show of Apsara dancing, first performed in the court of kings at Angkor. A set menu of Khmer cuisine will be served as we enjoy the show.

Accommodation: Tara Angkor Hotel

28.05.16 Siem Reap – Angkor Wat

(B/L)

This morning we take a remark (similar to the Thai tuk tuk) to continue our exploration of the Temples of Angkor, by visiting Angkor Wat, the largest religious building in the world. Angkor Wat is a temple complex built for King Suryavarman II in the early 12th century as his state temple and capital city. Angkor Wat is the

most significant and best preserved temple in the area. It is the only one to have remained a significant religious centre since its foundation, first Hindu and then Buddhist. A magnificent moat surrounds the temple on all sides with a long causeway providing access. An alternative eastern entrance is the best way to start a morning tour and avoid the crowds and take our time to look at more than 3,000 Apsara 'heavenly maiden' carvings, all of which are different. Afterwards we return to the town for lunch at a local restaurant that supports a good cause. 'Haven' is a training restaurant for vulnerable young adults from orphanages and safe shelters as well as underprivileged young adults from very poor, rural areas. By teaching them quality work skills and important life skills, these young people are supported in their transition from an institution to the real world, as well as giving them a chance to step out of the poverty cycle. Lunch will consist of a set western menu.

In modern Cambodia today, there are many projects helping to revive lost art, music and culture. One such example is Artisan d'Angkor. We visit the workshop and see stone carvings, wooden sculptures, lacquer work and paintings, all being produced and many of which can be purchased. Afterwards we are returned to the hotel for some free time.

This evening we enjoy some modern Khmer theatre at a performance of Phare, the Cambodian Circus, by professional artists from Phare Ponleu Selpak. Originally a project set up in refugee camps as a way to encourage young people to express themselves using art, the Phare Circus is slowly becoming a world wide name and a good example of responsible tourism that has been a success story. Enjoy an hour long show, which is a great example of modern Cambodia and mixes theatre, dance, music, juggling and contortion. Afterwards we return to the hotel.

Accommodation: Tara Angkor Hotel

29.05.16 Siem Reap – Hong Kong

(B)

This morning we are transferred to the airport for our flights home.

Depart Siem Reap at 10.30am on Dragon Air flight KA 243, arriving in Hong Kong at 2.25pm.

Sydney passengers then depart Hong Kong at 6.50pm on CX 111, arriving into Sydney at 6.10am the next morning (30.05.16).

COST: The cost for the Angkor Wat extension is \$895 per person twin share and \$995 for a single room.

Conditions for Macleay Valley Travel's Vietnam Explorer Tour

Deposits and Payments - A non-refundable deposit of \$200 per person is payable within 7 days of booking. If you are doing the Cambodian extension, an additional deposit of \$200 is required. These deposits are not refundable should you later cancel. The balance is payable in full 8 weeks prior to departure.

Refunds and Cancellations - Cancellations after final payment will result in a refund limited to whatever we can recoup from the airline.

Insurance - Adequate travel insurance is essential. We can arrange this for you if desired.

Passports - All travellers require a current passport with at least 6 months left on it at the end of the tour.

Non-Australian passport holders require a re-entry visa for Australia. Visas are required for all passport holders to Vietnam. Visa fee for an Australian passport holder is \$95 and we charge \$30 for processing. If you are doing the Cambodian extension, the Cambodian visa fee is \$50 and we charge \$30 for processing. Please note: Visa fees are subject to any increases imposed by the Vietnamese and Cambodian Consulates. We do not recommend that you apply for your Vietnamese visa online, as this can result in delays at the airport when you arrive. There are also certain risks associated with this process which we hold no responsibility for. Please note that if you intend to get a visa online/arrival, you do so at your own risk. The tour group will not wait for any time spent obtaining visas at the airport and you may need to arrange a separate transfer at your own expense.

Basic Tour Price and Taxes - Air taxes and Fuel Levies are included in the basic tour price if the tour is paid in full on or before the due date on the final invoice. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to charge for any increase in Air taxes and Fuel Levies if the tour is not paid in full by the due date.

Not Included in the Cost - Travel insurance, visas and all items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, drinks, excess baggage, tips, meals (except those specified in the itinerary), etc. are not included in the cost. Similarly, credit card payments can only be accepted if 2% is added to the price to help defray the heavy merchant fees charged to us by the credit card companies. There is a 3% surcharge for Diners Club.

Breakaway Fee - All fully inclusive prices are based on group travel and any deviation from the set itinerary will incur a breakaway fee. The breakaway fee for most deviations including a post-tour extension on this tour is \$150 per person. Please inquire with our office for prices on any pre-tour extensions.

Booking through other Agents - As we keep the cost of our tours as low as possible, there is insufficient margin for us to be able to pay commission to other travel agents, so some bookings can only be accepted if the client pays the other agent's commission.

Accreditation - Macleay Valley Travel is a fully accredited travel agency under the AFTA (Australian Federation of Travel Agents) ATAS - AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme. As such, you are assured of a consumer focused and quality assured business, ensuring professional conduct and ethical business practices. We are happy for any prospective traveller with us to check us out with your local Consumer Affairs (Fair Trading) department.

Health and Fitness - Macleay Valley Travel recommends that the passenger is reasonably healthy and/or fit to participate in this tour. Persons with a disability requiring special assistance must be accompanied by a companion. Macleay Valley Travel and their representatives cannot provide this service. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to accept/decline or terminate a passenger's participation in the tour under certain circumstances. Macleay Valley Travel is legally not permitted to provide medical advice as to vaccinations/injections which you may require for this tour and advise you to consult your local medical practitioner for specific medical advice. There are no compulsory injections required for this tour.

Limitation of Liability - As Macleay Valley Travel acts only as agent for the Airlines, Hotels, Coach Companies etc., providing accommodation, transportation and other services, Macleay Valley Travel shall not be liable or responsible for death or injury to any person or loss or damage to any property including baggage arising out of or connection with any transportation, accommodation or other services, or resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, fire, breakdown in machinery or equipment, acts of Government or other authorities, de jure or defacto wars, whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, delays or cancellations caused by changes in schedules or itinerary, or over bookings or defaults or for any causes beyond Macleay Valley Travel's control or any loss or damage resulting from improper or insufficient passports, visas or other documents and neither Macleay Valley Travel, and its servants or employees shall be or become liable or responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the tour member as a result of the foregoing causes. Additionally you must meet the entry requirements for each country you visit. Macleay Valley Travel will not be liable if you are denied entry to a country for any reason, including a past criminal history. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to modify the itinerary or the accommodation if circumstances make this necessary, provided that the amended itinerary is of equal value or greater value than that of the original program.

MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL - BOOKING FORM

PLEASE PRINT DETAILS CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS AND ALSO

A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR PASSPORT MUST BE SENT WITH BOOKING FORM

Name of Tour : _____ Departure Date: _____

Passenger 1 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Passenger 2 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Postal Address: _____

_____ **PostCode** _____ **Email** _____

Telephone / Fax Number: _____ **Mobile** _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Passport Nationality: _____

Passport Nationality _____

(Passport must have 6 months validity from the time of tour completion)

Single room / Twin beds / Double bed: (Room type is subject to availability)

Circle which airport you wish to depart from: SYDNEY / MELBOURNE

Do you have any existing medical conditions?: _____

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Optional Extensions: _____

Would you like to receive details of our travel insurance?: YES / NO (Please Circle)

In case of emergency, please notify :

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please return this sheet with your non-refundable deposit of \$200 per person.

DECLARATION. I have read and understand fully the booking conditions and I accept them.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

A copy of passport is required to verify spelling of name. If this is not provided and the information we have for the airline is incorrect and ticket is issued, then the airline will charge a reissue fee.