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Vietnam Highlights Tour

11 Day Conducted Tour

only **\$2,895** per person twin share

This is great value for a tour to Vietnam during the peak school holiday period as the price includes all of the following:

- ❖ Return air fares from Sydney, Brisbane & Melbourne into Saigon and out of Hanoi with Singapore Airlines plus 2 flights within Vietnam.
- ❖ A ten day coach and air tour of Vietnam, visiting most of the outstanding places in this beautiful country.
- ❖ Service of an experienced Vietnamese tour guide and if there are 14 or more tour participants there will also be an Australian tour escort.
- ❖ Entrance fees to many attractions.
- ❖ All transport and transfers.



- ❖ Very good accommodation, mainly 3 - 4 star.
- ❖ Many meals as stated in the itinerary.

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 but this is not guaranteed. If you require a single room, there will be an additional charge of \$550.

There is an optional 3 day extension to Angkor Wat for \$995 per person twin share or \$1155 for a single room.

Tour departs Australia 16th January and returns 26th January 2017

We try harder to find you the best travel deal

Itinerary for Vietnam Highlights Tour - January 2017

Note: Meals are included in the itinerary as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

16.01.17 Australia - Vietnam

Depart Sydney at 9.05am on SQ 212, arriving in Singapore at 2.15pm.
Depart Brisbane at 9.10am on SQ 256, arriving in Singapore at 3.10pm.
Depart Melbourne at 11.30am on SQ 238, arriving in Singapore at 4.10pm.
All passengers depart Singapore at 5.40pm on SQ 186, arriving in Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) at 6.45pm. Upon arrival we will be met and transferred to our hotel.
Accommodation: Huong Sen Hotel

17.01.17 Saigon

(B/L/D) In the morning there is a half day Saigon tour including a short walking tour downtown passing the Opera House, City Hall, Notre Dame Cathedral and the Central Post Office. Visit the former Presidential Palace (Reunification Palace), War Remnants Museum and a drive through Chinatown, known as Cho Lon. Pho (traditional Vietnamese noodle soup) and spring rolls are for lunch. In the afternoon we have an interesting 65km drive through rubber and tapioca plantations to visit the Cu Chi Tunnels, which are a fascinating network of tunnels built by the Viet Cong in the Vietnam War (called the American War in Vietnam). This evening we have an excellent dinner cruise on the Saigon River.
Accommodation: Huong Sen Hotel

18.01.17 Saigon - My Tho (Mekong Delta)

(B/L/D) Morning departure from the hotel for a two hour coach trip to My Tho. My Tho is a prosperous town of 250,000 inhabitants in the Mekong Delta. It is famous for its extensive orchards and immense rice fields. Enjoy a boat ride on the Mekong River and visit an orchard on an island, a coconut candy workshop and have a horse carriage ride, which is the traditional transportation of the area. We also visit a bee keeping farm before having lunch at a farmer's house. We return to Saigon in the late afternoon. Dinner tonight is at a local restaurant
Accommodation: Huong Sen Hotel

19.01.17 Saigon - Danang - Hoi An

(B/L) Today we transfer to the airport for our flight to Danang. Upon arrival we have a 40 minute drive to Hoi An. On the way we stop over at the 5 Marble Mountains and China Beach, where the Americans came for rest and relaxation during the Vietnam War. Lunch is at 'Ly' restaurant in Hoi An, before checking into the hotel. In the afternoon we have a short walking tour to orient yourself with the town. The rest of the day is at leisure to discover the historical town of Hoi An, which was a prosperous seaport city during the 16th to 18th centuries. Its community of foreign merchants resulted in a unique architectural style with Vietnamese, Chinese, Japanese and French influences. It is a good place for shopping and is known as the tailor capital of Vietnam. It is a very laid back town and only 4km from the beach.
Accommodation: Hoi An Hotel

- 20.01.17 Hoi An**
(B/D) Today is at leisure. In the late afternoon there is a one hour cruise on Thu Bon River before a beautiful dinner with a cooking demonstration/class at 'Market Place' restaurant.
Accommodation: Hoi An Hotel
- 21.01.17 Hoi An - Hue**
(B/L/D) Depart Hoi An for Hue, the homeland of Nguyen dynasty, the last dynasty of Vietnam which ruled the country from 1802 to 1945. We drive across the Hai Van Pass (Pass of the Oceans Clouds), passing through many pretty red tiled villages with fruit orchards. Enjoy spectacular views of sky and sea.
We arrive in Hue in the early afternoon and have lunch at 'Cafe Mandarin' in town. After check in at the hotel, there is a visit to the Citadel, which was built from 1804 - 1833. Then to Thien Mu Pagoda, which is famous throughout Vietnam. Afterwards there is a boat trip back to the hotel on the Perfume River. Dinner is at a local restaurant.
Accommodation: Imperial Hotel Hue
- 22.01.17 Hue – Hanoi – Halong Bay**
(B/L/D) In the morning there is a tour visiting the tomb of Khai Dinh, the 12th Emperor of the Nguyen Dynasty which ruled the country from 1916 to 1925. It is a beautiful mosaic building. Afterwards we are transferred to the airport for our flight to Hanoi. Upon arrival in Hanoi we have a 4 hour drive to Halong Bay, with lunch en route. During the drive we 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 numerous beaches and grottoes created by the wind and waves. We arrive in Halong in the late afternoon. This evening enjoy an included dinner at the hotel.
Accommodation: Saigon Halong Hotel (ocean view)
- 23.01.17 Hanoi - Halong Bay**
(B/L/D) This morning we board the Bai Tho Junk for a five hour cruise on magnificent Halong Bay including a seafood lunch on board. Halong Bay, with its 1969 islands rising from the clear emerald waters of the Gulf of Tonkin, is one of the natural marvels of Vietnam. 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 before returning to port. We then head back to Hanoi, arriving in the late afternoon. We enjoy a one hour cyclo (pedicab) ride around the Old and the French Quarters of Hanoi, which was named by the French 'Paris of the East'. Dinner tonight is at a local restaurant.
Accommodation: Tirant Hotel
- 24.01.17 Hanoi**
(B/L/D) Enjoy a half day city tour of Hanoi with visits to Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum complex and the Temple of Literature which was built in the 11th century and is known as Vietnam's first university. Lunch is at KOTO restaurant, whose owner employs and trains disadvantaged Vietnamese in the hospitality industry. The afternoon is at

leisure. This evening we enjoy a water puppet show, which is the unique art of the Vietnamese from the 11th Century. This is followed by an excellent farewell dinner at 'Jackson House' restaurant.
Accommodation: Tirant Hotel

25.01.17 Vietnam - Australia

(B) This morning we transfer to Hanoi Airport, departing at 12.35pm on SQ 175, arriving in Singapore at 5.15pm.

Sydney passengers depart Singapore at 8.40pm on SQ 221, arriving in Sydney at 7.40am (26.01.17).

Brisbane passengers depart Singapore at 9.15pm on SQ 235, arriving in Brisbane at 7.15am (26.01.17).

Melbourne passengers depart Singapore at 9.20pm on SQ 227, arriving in Melbourne at 7.45am (26.01.17).



Itinerary for Angkor Wat Extension

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

25.01.17 Hanoi - Siem Reap

(B/D) Today we transfer to Hanoi Airport, departing at 3.30pm on Vietnam Airlines flight VN837, arriving in Siem Reap at 5.10pm. We will be met and transferred to the hotel for check in. Dinner is at the hotel.
Accommodation: The Aviary Hotel

26.01.17 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 you explore this 12th century temple. Afterwards we return to the town of Siem Reap and enjoy an asian fusion set lunch at Mahob. 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. We then return to the hotel, with the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. 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: The Aviary Hotel

27.01.17 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 our morning tour and avoid the crowds.
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 return to the town for lunch at Haven, a training restaurant for vulnerable young adults from orphanages and safe shelters, as well as underprivileged young adults from very poor, rural areas. Lunch will be a set western

menu. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to relax at the hotel or explore the town. 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: The Aviary Hotel

28.01.17 Siem Reap - Singapore

(B/L)

This morning we travel to Tonle Sap Lake, the largest freshwater lake in South East Asia. The lake and its waters are the lifeblood of the country and millions of people depend on it. Officially a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, observing life on the lake makes for an interesting half day visit. We board a traditional wooden boat to visit Kompong Khleang, one of the lesser visited villages on the lake. Afterwards we return to Siem Reap for lunch at Champey, ideally located in front of the Old Market in an historic building in the French Quarter of Siem Reap. The restaurant offers both indoor and outdoor dining. The Khmer specialities offered by Champey are inspired by Royal Khmer recipes. Discover the tastes of Cambodian cuisine with a Khmer set menu. Later we transfer to Siem Reap Airport for our flights home.

Depart Siem Reap at 4.35pm on Silk Air flight MI 633, arriving in Singapore at 10.15pm (this flight goes via Danang).

Sydney passengers depart Singapore at 11.05pm on SQ 251, arriving in Sydney at 10.05am the next morning (29.01.17).

Melbourne passengers depart Singapore at 11.55pm on SQ 237, arriving in Melbourne at 10.20am the next morning (29.01.17).

29.01.17 Singapore – Brisbane

Brisbane passengers depart Singapore at 12.45am on SQ 231, arriving in Sydney at 10.45am.

COST:

The cost for the Angkor Wat extension is \$995 per person twin share and \$1155 for a single room.

Conditions for Macleay Valley Travel's Vietnam Highlights Tour

Deposits and Payments - A non-refundable deposit of \$200 per person is payable within 7 days of booking. If you are doing the Angkor Wat extension an additional deposit of \$200 per person 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. Macleay Valley Travel offers Suresave Travel Insurance. Please note that we can only process your travel insurance when we have received full payment for the insurance and the signed Suresave Travel Insurance application form, located on the last page of the Suresave Travel Insurance information booklet. Until this time the travel insurance cannot be processed and will not be valid. Macleay Valley Travel will bear no responsibility for any consequences that may occur as a result of an incomplete insurance application.

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 \$85 and we charge \$30 for processing. If you are doing the Cambodia 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 \$55 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.

Twin Share Bookings - If you do not have a travel partner, but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try and assign you with another traveller but this is not guaranteed. We assign passengers by their gender, on a first come, first served basis and do not assign twin share passengers according to their age, profession, interests etc. There are risks with sharing a room with a person you do not know, and Macleay Valley Travel accepts no responsibility if you are incompatible with your assigned room mate. Additionally, if you are assigned a travelling companion to share with and they cancel off the tour prior to making the final payment, then you will either be required to pay the single room supplement or we will try our best to assign you with another twin share passenger, if one is available

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 decline bookings made for any group tour. Any tour booking confirmation is conditional, contingent on our view of the ability of a person to be able to participate in a tour without the likelihood of conflict between members of a tour whether perceived or actual.

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 / BRISBANE

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: _____

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.