

Indo-China Empires

Vietnam north to south, Cambodia • Touring • 24 Days

Experience Vietnam north to south and Cambodia on this insightful programme as we sample the rich heritage of these two ancient empires. We begin in Ha-Noi amongst the exotic lanes of the Old Quarter then head inland to the hill tribe region of Mai Chau to explore villages and countryside. A exclusive overnight junk cruise on stunningly scenic Ha Long bay concludes our northern Vietnam experience then we head south to the imperial city of Hue and the World Heritage listed city of Hoi An on the central coast. From Ho Chi Minh City we embark on a Mekong cruise upstream to Phnom Penh. Rural Cambodia, Tonle Sap and the majestic temples of Ankor are highlights of our Cambodia tour before we conclude in Siem Reap



Indo-China Empires TRIP DETAILS

2010 Departures

Escorted Small group

- 31st Oct– 23rd Nov

Trip Price : NZD 8990 pp

Private Departures

- January
- February
- March
- April
- December

Trip Price : Price on application

Trip Length: 24 Days

Activity Type: Touring

WHATS INVOLVED IN THIS ITINERARY

• ROUTE

Includes Ha-Noi, Ha Long Bay, Mai Chau, Hur, Da Nang, Hoi An, Ho Chi Minh City, Mekong cruise, Phnom Penh, Ankor Wat, Siem Reap

This is a select tour that samples the key heritage sites of Vietnam and Cambodia in comfort. There are opportunities to experience city and rural lifestyles, meet people, sample distinctive cuisine and indulge in a little hedonism on our exclusive Ha Long and Mekong cruises. In Cambodia there are some off the beaten track opportunities and the chance to wander the incomparable ruins of Ankor.

• GROUP SIZE and ESCORTS

The maximum group size is 12 people. SRA leaders accompany groups of 6 or more otherwise our groups are accompanied by local English speaking professional guides.

Private departures may either be fully or partially escorted by our local guides depending on your preference.

• ACCOMMODATION

Comfortable tourist standard hotels and guesthouses (en suite) twin share
Single room supplement To be confirmed

• INCLUSIONS

Our group departure prices are fully inclusive. Meals, local flights, road and rail transportation, entries and transfers are included. There are no hidden costs, no supplementary extras and no add-ons apply to any of the services associated with the advertised programme once it commences.

Meal plans for Private departures are flexible.

Itinerary at a Glance :

- 31-Oct-10** **Arrival Hanoi**
On arrival meet and transfer to the hotel.
- 01-Nov-10** **Hanoi – City Tour**
We have a full day to visit Hanoi. We spend the morning to visit Ho Chi Minh Complex and the Ethnology Museum. In the afternoon, we visit the Old Quarter, Hoan Kiem Lake and Temple of Literature. Tonight, we watch the famous water puppet performance at Thang Long Theatre.
- 02-Nov-10** **Hanoi – Mai Chau**
We leave Hanoi at 8am for the scenic drive to Mai Chau. On arrival, a welcome briefing on the activity options and Lodge facilities is followed by lunch. After lunch take a village walk.
- 03-Nov-10** **Mai Chau**
Today we have a full today easy walk 14km to Hang Kia village, home of the H'Mong people. On the way you will meet the local hill tribes going about their daily routines such as planting rice, herding buffalos or building traditional houses. Enjoy a picnic lunch along the way. Return to the Lodge in the late afternoon and have dinner at the Lodge..
- 04-Nov-10** **Mai Chau - Hanoi**
This morning there are cycle tour options, visiting the nearby caves, or visiting the nearby White Thai Village. Lunch is served after check out. Depart for Hanoi after lunch arriving around 5pm.
- 05-Nov-10** **Hanoi – Halong Bay**
Depart this morning to Halong Bay for a cruise in the UNESCO heritage site – Halong Bay. to the famous islands of Ha Long Bay and onto Bai Tu Long Bay, aside from the cave visit and swimming, there is a chance to explore this stunning area by sea kayak. Dinner on board.
- 06-Nov-10** **Halong Bay – Hanoi – Overnight Train**
Today we conclude the Ha Long cruise and return to Ha Noi to take the soft sleeper overnight train to Hue.
- 07-Nov-10** **Arrive Hue – City Tour**
After arrival, transfer to hotel for breakfast then we will start the city tour with the Imperial city and Forbidden Purple city. In the afternoon we will visit the magnificent Emperor Tu Duc and Khai Dinh's tombs, then visit Perfume pagoda.
- 08-Nov-10** **Hue – Hoi An**
This morning, we drive over the spectacular Hai Van Pass, a scenic coastal road passing the famous China Beach (or Hai Van tunnel weather dependant). We continue to the UNESCO World Heritage Listed town of Hoi An. In the afternoon have a walking tour to see the highlights of this charming town.
- 09-Nov-10** **Hoi An – Morning Cooking Class**
Today we will have a cooking class. Visit Hoi An's colourful market, and experience the amazing sights, sounds and aromas of this busy market. We board a small boat for a leisurely cruise (25 minutes) along the Hoi An River to the Red Bridge Cooking School. Remainder of the afternoon at leisure.
- 10-Nov-10** **Hoi An – Ho Chi Minh City**
This morning transfer to Danang Airport for the short flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel and in the afternoon take in the city highlights including Ben Thanh Market, Notre Dame Cathedral, Reunification Palace, Dong Khoi Street and the War Remnants Museum.
This evening we have a dinner cruise along the Saigon River on board the Bonsai Dragon boat.
- 11-Nov-10** **Cu Chi Tunnels**
This morning drive through the countryside to the remarkable Cu Chi Tunnels, home to 5,000 VC troops during the Vietnam/U.S. War.
- 12-Nov-10** **Ho Chi Minh City – Mekong Cruise**
Today start the Mekong River cruise to Cambodia. Board the 3 star Toum Tiou early this morning and cruise downstream towards My Tho and Cai Be where the boat is anchored overnight. At about 5pm we arrive at My Tho and the Toum Tiou drops anchor on river in the proximity of Thoi Son Island.. Welcome dinner, traditional music and relax. Overnight onboard
- 13-Nov-10** **Cruise – Mekong – Chau Doc**
This AM transfer to the mainland to Vinh Trang Pagoda by car for a short tour of My Tho town. Continuing on to Dong Tam Snake Farm and My Tho Market then take an excursion to Thoi Son Island . PM board Toum Tiou and leave for Cai Be. Mid afternoon arrive at Sa Dec and enjoy a tour of the city. Visit the market then tour the city by bus. On the way visit a primary school and the Kien Year Cung Pagoda.
- 14-Nov-10** **Cruise – Chau Doc – Koh Dek Chau (Cambodia)**
The boat departs early this morning and cruises towards the town of Chau Doc near the Vietnam/Cambodian border. On arrival at the pier in Chau Doc disembark and enjoy breakfast at the Victoria Resort Chau Doc and after take a tour of the district. This afternoon, continue cruising and cross the border completing border formalities before anchoring near the island of Koh Dek Chau.
- 15-Nov-10** **Cruise – Koh Dek Chau – Phnom Penh**
Continue cruising this morning towards Phnom Penh the capital of Cambodia arriving late morning.
On arrival in Phnom Penh proceed through formalities for disembarkation. Upon arrival at the dock, transfer to the hotel. Balance of the day at leisure.
- 16-Nov-10** **Phnom Penh**
Today we have a full day sightseeing to include the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda and the National Museum. In the afternoon, visit Toul Sleng Museum and continue to the Killing fields.
- 17-Nov-10** **Phnom Penh –Kompong Cham**
Morning at leisure, before transferring by road to Kompong Cham. Arriving mid afternoon visit some of the temples here including the unique Angkorian temple of Wat Nokor. Kompong Cham is a peaceful provincial capital spread along the banks of the Mekong and was an important trading post during the French period.
- 18-Nov-10** **Kompong Cham - Kratie**
Today on the drive to Kratie we get to grips with rural Cambodian countryside. Check into the hotel on arrival and take the rest of the day at leisure. This is the place to see the rare Irrawaddy dolphins, which live in the Mekong River . Kratie was one of the first towns to be 'liberated' by the Khmer Rouge.
- 19-Nov-10** **Kratie – River Dolphins**
Set out for a countryside tour and then board a boat in the afternoon to try and catch a glimpse of the endangered, Irrawaddy dolphins.
- 20-Nov-10** **Kratie – Kompong Thom**
Drive to Kampong Thom; on the way, visit rubber plantations and the historical hills of Phnom Srey and Phnom Pros. Phnom Srey is a pre Angkorian site dating from the 7th century which presents among the most ancient surviving examples of Khmer architecture. Free time in Kampong Thom
- 21-Nov-10** **Kompong Thom – Siem Reap**
In the morning, visit Sambor Prei Kuk then transfer to Siem Reap. Sunset at Phnom Bakheng or Pre Rup in the evening (147 km – about 2.5 hours drive from Kampong Thom to Siem Reap). Evening dinner and traditional dance performance at the Apsara theatre.
- 22-Nov-10** **Siem Reap – Angkor Complex Exploration**
We commence at the South Gate of Angkor Thom City to explore the centerpiece of the ancient city, The Bayon contains 54 towers decorated with more than 200 enigmatic smiling faces. Also included in the mornings tour is the Royal Enclosure, Phimeanakas, the Terrace of Elephants and Terrace of Leper Kings, as well as the Ta Prohm Temple.
- 23-Nov-10** **Siem Reap - Depart**
Have an early start and enjoy sunrise at the Angkor Wat Temple. After breakfast, we will head to the exquisite Banteay Srey ("Citadel of the Women"). The temple displays some of the finest examples of classical Khmer art. The visit will be combined with the discovery of Banteay Samre. The afternoon is free at leisure until your transfer to the airport..

