Vietnam + Cambodia Intro 21 Day



HA LONG BAY

NINH BINH

Experience the absolute best of both Vietnam and Cambodia on this amazing 21-day adventure! You'll discover crazy Hanoi, experience the stunning Ha Long Bay, stay on your own private island, go sea kayaking, crab fishing with traditional fisherman, soak up fascinating local culture and history, learn to cook delicious local food, relax on beautiful beaches, snorkel around stunning tropical islands, explore the famous Angkor Wat temple, party on the beach and much more. Plus, you'll have an awesome Group Leader with you from the moment you step off the plane, an instant group of friends to share your adventure with and help with all your onward travel. Get ready for the trip of a lifetime!

Duration: 21 days / 20 nights

Starts: Hanoi

Finishes: Siem Reap

Transport: Minivan, Bus, Boat, Overnight Train, Overnight Bus, Plane

Meals: 19B, 7L, 4D

Group size: 8 - 18

Age Range: 18 - 39

Local Fees: None



Accom: 2 nights mixed dorm hostel in Hanoi (Cocoon Inn)

1 night twin or triple share overnight boat

1 night mixed dorm on private island

1 night twin or triple share local homestay

1 night in 4 share cabin overnight train

2 nights twin or triple share hotel in Hoi An (Thanh Binh Hotel 2)

2 nights twin or triple share hotel in Ho Chi Minh City (Ailen Garden Hotel)

1 night twin or triple share hotel in Mekong Delta

2 nights twin share hotel in Phnom Penh (Monsoon Bassac)

2 nights twin share guesthouse in Kampot

2 nights twin or triple share bungalows in Koh Rong (Tree House Bungalows)

1 night single bed on overnight bus (Giant Ibis)

2 nights twin share hotel in Siem Reap (Lub D)

Included:

Airport pickup, 20 nights accommodation, Walking & Rickshaw Tour of Hanoi, Local Markets, Night out in Hanoi, 3 Day / 2 Night Ha Long Bay Boat trip with overnight stay on Private Island, Kayaking, Local Homestay in Ninh Binh, Bicycle Tour, River Boat Trip, Dragon Mountain Viewpoint, Cooking Class, Traditional Crab Fishing Basket Boat Tour, Night out in Ho Chi Minh City, Overnight Mekong Delta Experience, Local village visit, Cu Chi Tunnels tour, War Remnants Museum, Tuk Tuk tour of Phnom Penh, S21 Prison Tour, Killing Fields Tour, Phnom Penh Night Markets, Khmer cooking class, Pepper plantation, Koh Rong private island boat trip with snorkeling, Sunset cruise, Traditional Khmer massage, Local Cambodian performance, Tuk Tuk tour of Siem Reap, Floating villages, Angkor Wat sunrise temple tour, all transport, some meals, experienced western Group Leader and local guides, onward travel help & planning, 24/7 support after the trip finishes.

Not Included: Travel In

Travel Insurance, Visas, some meals, return transfer to Siem Reap Airport.

Trip Highlights

- Cruise on a rickshaw through the crazy capital of Hanoi, meet the friendly locals, sample the delicious street food and immerse yourself in the fascinating daily life of this awesome city.
- Experience the world heritage listed and stunning natural wonder of Ha Long Bay, cruise on beautiful emerald green waters through towering limestone islands topped with rainforest, go kayaking through caves and stay overnight on your own private island!
- Experience a Local Homestay in the beautiful countryside of Ninh Binh with a Riverboat trip through the rice paddies and a 450 step climb to the amazing Dragon Mountain viewpoint.
- Wander through Hoi An, Vietnam's most relaxed and beautiful town, learn to cook delicious Vietnamese food before being guided through coconut groves by traditional fisherman and fishing for crabs!
- See how the locals live, as you explore the incredibly lush green beauty of the Mekong Delta by traditional canoe. Before discovering the fascinating and eye-opening Cu Chi Tunnels, a network of underground tunnels used by the Viet Cong during the War.
- Cruise on a Tuk Tuk through the crazy capital of Phnom Penh, meet the friendly locals, sample the delicious street food and immerse yourself in the fascinating daily life of this awesome city.
- Learn about Cambodia's dark and somber history during a locally guided tour of S21 Prison and the Killing Fields.
- Get off the beaten path and unwind in the peaceful and serene countryside town of Kampot. A unique mix of dilapidated french colonial buildings, emerald green rice paddy fields and palm tree lined rivers.
- Get a taste of island life as you discover the crystal clear waters and white sands of Koh Rong, home to some of the most beautiful and pristine beaches in all of Asia.
- Discover the wonders of the largest and one of the most amazing temples in the world. The fascinating and mind-blowing Angkor Wat.

Itinerary

- **Day 1: Arrive and meet the Group -** We'll pick you up from the airport and take you to the Hostel in Hanoi. You'll then have plenty of time to recover from your flight, chill out and meet everyone in your group.
- Day 2: Hanoi City Tour Discover what makes the chaotic capital of Vietnam so special with a Walking and Rickshaw Tour of the city. Experience the bustling streets, fascinating culture and delicious street food. We'll then head out for dinner and experience some of Hanoi's best nightlife! (B)
- Day 3: Ha Long Bay Overnight Boat We'll depart early for our amazing 3 Day / 2 Night Boat trip to the stunning natural wonder of Ha Long Bay. We'll cruise on beautiful emerald green waters on our traditional Vietnamese 'junk' boat through towering limestone islands topped with rainforest. We'll go explore Ha Long Bay by kayak then spend the night on the boat under the stars. (B, L, D)
- Day 4: Ha Long Bay Private Island Stay Continue soaking up the natural beauty of Ha Long Bay throughout the day before arriving at our own private island! Chill out in a hammock, play some beach volleyball or just relax on the beach and work on your tan. (B, L, D)
- Day 5: Ha Long Bay & Ninh Binh Homestay We'll arrive back from Ha Long Bay mid-morning and then head south to the beautiful countryside of Ninh Binh, a landscape of endless rice paddies and epic limestone mountains. Check in to our unique and amazing local homestay and watch the sunset whilst relaxing in our private riverside bungalows for the evening. (B, L)
- Day 6: Ninh Binh & Overnight Train Today we explore the best of the amazing Ninh Binh. We'll take a bike ride through the countryside before boarding a local row boat and cruising a network of rivers and caves. After some lunch we'll tackle the iconic 450 steps of the Dragon Mountain Viewpoint for sunset. We'll then freshen up before boarding the overnight train south to Hoi An. (B)
- Day 7: Arrive in Hoi An We'll arrive early morning in Da Nang before taking a short bus ride to Hoi An, one of the most beautiful and fascinating towns in Vietnam. You'll have time in the afternoon to chill out, do some shopping or even get some clothes made. We then head out and experience some of Hoi An's amazing nightlife!
- Day 8: Hoi An, Basket Boat Tour with Crab Fishing and Cooking Class Be guided through coconut groves by traditional fishermen while you try your hand at some crab fishing. We'll then learn the secrets of preparing delicious Vietnamese food with a traditional cooking class. (B, L)
- Day 9: Fly to Ho Chi Minh City After a quick transfer back to Da Nang we catch a short flight to the southern city of Ho Chi Minh City and arrive early afternoon. You'll have the rest of the day to relax and explore the city. (B)
- Day 10: Mekong Delta We'll explore the incredibly lush green beauty of the Mekong Delta by traditional canoe, see how the locals live, visit local villages and experience daily life on the Mekong. We then stay overnight in the Delta. (B)
- Day 11: Cu Chi Tunnels Today we'll explore more of the Mekong before making our way to the Cu Chi Tunnels. A fascinating network of underground tunnels used as supply routes, hideouts and living quarters by guerilla fighters during the Vietnam War. We'll arrive back to Ho Chi Minh City in the afternoon before heading out for dinner and drinks back in Ho Chi Minh City. (B, D)

Day 12: Head to Cambodia!

We'll visit the fascinating the American war museum in the morning before jumping on our bus to Cambodia! After our border crossing we'll arrive in Cambodia's capital city, Phnom Penh in the afternoon. After a quick freshen up, we will head out for dinner and drinks in some of Phnom Penh's quirky back alleyway bars. **(B)**

Day 13: S21 Prison & Killing Fields

After a tuk tuk tour through the crazy streets of Phnom Penh, we'll make two important stops at the S21 Prison and the original Killing Fields to learn about the dark history of this fascinating country. A difficult day, but a must to properly understand the journey of the Cambodian people in recent decades. That evening we'll head for dinner and drinks at a local street bar, followed by some of Phnom Penh's best nightlife. **(B)**

Day 14: Kampot, Kayaking & Sunset Boat Trip

Today we get off the beaten path and head to the peaceful countryside province of Kampot, a unique mix of dilapidated french colonial buildings, emerald green rice paddy fields and palm tree lined rivers. The next two nights are spent by the beautiful riverside with plenty of time for swimming and relaxing. That afternoon we'll kayak down the river, soak up the laid back daily life of the locals before heading out on a stunning sunset boat ride. **(B)**

Day 15: Local Markets, Pepper Plantation & Cooking Class

Kampot is known to have some of the best pepper in the world! So this morning we'll explore the local markets and visit a unique pepper plantation to source ingredients for our traditional Khmer cooking class. Later that day we'll learn first hand how to make some of Cambodia's most authentic and delicious meals. (B, L)

Day 16: Arrive in Koh Rong

It's now time to experience the most beautiful beaches in Cambodia! We'll take a bus and a fast ferry to the stunning tropical island of Koh Rong and check into our traditional Khmer style beach bungalows. The afternoon can be spent lazing on the beach or exploring the island, before we head out for dinner and a party on the beach!

(B, L)

Day 17: Island Boat Trip & Snorkelling

All aboard our private long tail boat to some of the best snorkel spots around the islands, including the famous and secluded 'long beach'. We'll chill out on the whitest sands on the island, swim in turqoiuse blue water and top up our tans, before soaking up a beautiful sunset as we cruise back home to our beach bungalows. (B)

Day 18: Beach time, Khmer Massage & Overnight Bus

Enjoy the morning relaxing with a traditional Khmer massage on the beach, take in the serene beauty of Koh Rong one last time before we catch the fast ferry back to the mainland. We'll have dinner in Sihanoukville and prepare for our overnight bus journey where you'll have your own bed on the bus. **(B)**

Day 19: Siem Reap & Floating Village

Arrive early in Siem Reap with the morning to relax by the hotel pool. From there we'll venture out to the rural areas and discover some traditional floating villages surrounded by lush rice fields, lotus flowers and flooded forests. That evening we'll experience a unique and authentic Cambodian performance, which supports the education and improvement of the lives of the local children and families. (B, L)

Day 20: Siem Reap & Angkor Wat

We'll wake for sunrise and travel by tuk tuk to the absolutely mind-blowing and world famous Angkor Wat; the largest temple in the world! A local guide will join us to explain the fascinating history and surrounding temples, including Ta Prohm where Tomb Raider was filmed. A true once in a lifetime experience! (B, D)

Day 21: Check out & Onward Travel

Your amazing 21-day adventure of Vietnam and Cambodia finishes in Siem Reap. We'll help plan and organise your onward travel. (B)

Arrival Information

It's best to arrive on the actual start date. There are no activities on the first day, so you can arrive at any time. If you do arrive early we'll still pick you up from the airport and will book you into our Hanoi Hostel – 'Cocoon Inn' from the day you arrive. Extra nights will be approx. £8 / \$15 per night for a multi-share room and can be pre-paid with your agent or paid on arrival.

After your trip

The Vietnam + Cambodia 21-day trip will finish in Siem Reap. If you're staying on longer in SE Asia, your Group Leader will help organise your onward travel including extra nights in Siem Reap and airport transfers. It will take around 40 minutes to get to Siem Reap airport and will cost around \$6 USD.

Travel Insurance

Travel Insurance for Vietnam and Cambodia is compulsory to join Vietnam + Cambodia 21-day trip. Your Group Leader will ask to see proof of your cover before your trip begins. You can organise a quote and policy for yourself here: www.introtravel.com/travel-insurance

Visas

It's important to check your visa requirements before entering Vietnam.

Some nationalities including the UK, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Norway can enter Vietnam without a visa for a maximum of 15 days.

Other nationalities or those wishing to stay longer than 15 days need a visa for Vietnam and have two options:

- Option 1: Apply for a one month visa at a Vietnamese Consulate nearest to you before you arrive. This requires submitting an application form along with your passport, passport photos and paying a fee, which starts at \$60USD for a single entry one month visa. Please allow at least 2 weeks processing time for this visa.
- Option 2: Apply for a Visa Invitation Letter that is emailed to you, which you then print and bring with you to Vietnam. This letter allows you to fly into Vietnam and pick up your Visa on Arrival (VOA) at the airport. This VOA is for one month and is at a cost of \$25USD for a single entry and \$50USD for a multiple entry and needs to be paid in USD cash on arrival in Vietnam. There are a variety of websites that will provide you this Visa Invitation letter such as www.myvietnamvisa.com They will require you to submit an online application form and pay a fee of approx. \$20USD. Please allow at least 4-5 working days processing time for the Visa Invitation Letter.

A VOA is not available to those arriving into Vietnam overland. If you plan on arriving overland you'll need to go with Option 1.

Please note that while the above information is currently accurate, visa rules can often change so it's always best to double-check before departing. If you're unsure of your visa requirements or need any help just contact us.

Cambodia

It is important you check your visa requirements for Cambodia before arriving on the trip.

Most nationalities are able to get a visa on arrival at the Moc Bai land border pass that we pass through on the trip which will be a visa for a maximum of 30 days.

Some nationalities including Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka and Sudan need to make advance arrangements.

When passing over the border from Vietnam into Cambodia, visas costs are not included in the price of your trip. The visa on arrival for a maximum of 30 days costs approx. \$35 USD and will be payable in cash on day 12 of your trip.

Please note that while the above information is currently accurate, visa rules can often change so it's always best to double-check before departing. If you're unsure of your visa requirements or need any help just contact us.

FAQ's

Do many people travel alone?

Yes. Most of our group members are solo travellers, so it's a great way to meet people and make friends!

When is the best time to visit Vietnam & Cambodia?

There's never a particularly bad time to travel in Vietnam or Cambodia. Most months of the year you will experience both sunshine and possibly some rain. It's usually quite hot and humid most of the time, but it can occasionally get cold, especially in the north of Vietnam between November and February, so it's always best to bring a couple of warm layers with your summer clothing.

How much spending money will I need?

All your activities, accommodation, transport and some meals are included, so you'll just need money for some meals, drinks, shopping and any onward travel. We recommend you bring at least £500 / \$800 spending money.

How will I access money while I'm away?

It's best to take a Visa or Master Card debit, credit or travel money card. There are ATM's available throughout Vietnam & Cambodia so it's easy to get access to cash. Some places accept credit card but not all.

Is there Wi-Fi throughout the trip?

All accommodations we stay at have free Wi-Fi available. The network quality is often lower than you're used to but you can generally connect and do basic stuff.

That's about it for now.

Once you've booked you'll get access to our online Check In Area and the Intro Travel App, which will give you all the information you'll need on Vietnam & Cambodia and your trip, so you can just relax and enjoy the experience.

Of course if you have any more questions just contact us. We're happy to help!

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