

# Splendours Of Vietnam



## TRIP OVERVIEW

Marvel in the delights of this in-depth 16 day, 15 night journey spanning the entire length of Vietnam. Experience this country of contrasts encompassing traditional floating markets, the colonial hilltop town of Dalat, beautiful beaches of Hoi An, and the ancient imperial city of Hue. Discovering rich history whilst exploring more remote areas, this tour combines the famous landmarks and hidden gems of Vietnam.

## ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Vietnam. Please take the time to read this dossier and to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of your tour. It includes important information such as visa requirements and travel insurance.

### Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

### DAY 1: UK to Saigon

Depart London on your scheduled, overnight flight to Saigon International Airport.

### DAY 2: Saigon B/D

Also known as Ho Chi Minh, the dynamic city of Saigon is the start point of the tour. Spend half a day visiting the Notre Dame Cathedral, the former Presidential Palace and the War Remnants Museum before enjoying a local Vietnamese welcome dinner.

### DAY 3: Saigon to Can Tho B/L/D

After breakfast experience the fascinating network of rivers in the Mekong Delta. Journey, by motor boat, to the atmospheric Cai Be floating market to watch the locals trading. Visit a small family business and immerse yourself in the nature of Binh Hoa Phuoc Village. Fresh river food, traditional folk music and a bonsai garden await you before continuing to Vinh Long and then on to Can Tho, the largest town in the Mekong Delta.

### DAY 4: Can Tho to Saigon B/L/D

Your morning in Can Tho will begin with a gentle trip through the picturesque canals and waterways in a small boat, taking in the sultry scenery and daily activities of the small boat vendors of the floating markets who live along these Mekong canals, as well as stopping at the spectacular Cai Rang floating market – the largest in the entire Mekong Delta. Before cruising back to land enjoy tasting tropical fruits at the Ba Cong Garden House. After enjoying lunch at a local restaurant you will visit the Cao Dai temple before being transferred back to your hotel in Saigon.

### DAY 5: Saigon to Dalat B/L/D

This morning travel to the underground village of Cu Chi and discover the incredible 200km network of tunnels where the Viet Cong lived and fought during the war. Transfer to Saigon for a local lunch before catching your flight to Dalat.

### DAY 6: Dalat B/L/D

During this full day tour you will visit the French colonial town of Dalat, located in the South Central highlands. Explore the unique Railway Station

and marvel at the Linh Phuoc Pagoda. The cultural north gives you the chance to understand the daily life of the Lach minority, the indigenous people of Dalat. A cable car ride allows you to take in the panoramic views of Dalat before heading down to the beautiful Tuyen Lam Lake, surrounded by pine forests and the serene Truc Lam Zen Monastery. Finishing in the west, visit the Bao Dai Summer Palace to learn more about Vietnam's history.

### DAY 7: Dalat to Hoi An B/D

After enjoying a morning at leisure. Depart Dalat on your flight to Danang and then transfer to Hoi An.

### DAY 8: Hoi An B/L/D

From your hotel, you will be taken to a port where you will embark on a boat trip to Thanh Ha pottery village to learn about the daily life of the local people that live there. See various pottery items being made before returning to the boat to visit Kim Bong carpentry village where you will learn about the history of the village and see their local handicrafts. In afternoon tour Hoi An. You will visit the Japanese Covered Bridge Pagoda, constructed in 1593 by the Japanese community. Next see the Sa Huynh Museum which contains exhibitions from the earliest period of Hoi An's history. You will also see the Phuoc Kien Assembly Hall, a Chinese pagoda dedicated to the Goddess of the Sea. Finally, finish the tour with a visit to a lantern making workshop and visit one of the many local tailors who can make up bespoke clothing at incredible prices.

### DAY 9: Hoi An B

Enjoy a free day to relax or further explore the town at your leisure.

### DAY 10: Hoi An to Hue B/L/D

The scenic drive from Hoi An hugs the coastline to Hue, the former capital of Vietnam. With a stop at the Marble Mountain to see the five marble and limestone hills, you will then reach Hue to visit the ancient Forbidden City. You will have some free time at Dong Ba Market before enjoying dinner at a local restaurant.

### DAY 11: Hue to Hanoi B/L

Begin your day by boarding a traditional Dragon boat for a tranquil trip along the Perfume River. Stop at Thien Mu Pagoda, then travel by coach to Royal Mausoleums of Emperor Tu Duc, who ruled Hue over 100 years ago, before visiting the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Royal Tomb of Khai Dinh. Later, fly to Hanoi.

### DAY 12: Hanoi B/L/D

A full day tour of this historic city begins with the Ho Chi Minh Complex where the father of modern day Vietnam declared the nation's

independence in 1945. Visit sites including the Presidential Palace and One Pillar Pagoda, then drive to the Temple of Literature. After lunch, visit the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology before the evening highlight – a Water Puppet Performance, a unique form of Vietnamese art derived from the wet rice civilisation of South East Asia.

**DAY 13: Hanoi- Ninh Binh B/L/D**

Depart for Ninh Binh and take a boat trip to visit Tam Loc floating past idyllic rice field and mountain scenery. Stop off at some of the most beautiful caves in Vietnam. Explore Hoa Lu in the afternoon stopping at the temples to the Dinh & Le Dynasties

**DAY 14: Ninh Binh to Halong Bay\* B/L/D**

This memorable day takes you to the awe-inspiring Halong Bay where you will explore these tranquil islands on a luxury cruise boat, passing local towns and intricate limestone formations on the way. Anchoring in the Cong Do area, a Vietnamese cooking demonstration will take place on the sundeck, followed by a sumptuous seafood dinner on board before you retire to your cabin for the evening.

**DAY 15: Halong Bay\* to Hanoi BR/D**

Start your day with a calming Tai Chi session before a rowing boat takes you to Vung Vieng fishing village, a settlement completely floating on water and dating back hundreds of years. In the afternoon you will travel back to Hanoi for a farewell dinner.

**DAY 16/17: Hanoi to the UK or extension B**

After breakfast you will be free to explore Hanoi at your own pace before transferring to the airport for your flight back to the UK, or continue on to your chosen extension.

\*Please note: the Halong Bay cruise itinerary may change depending on the boat used



**ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP**

**Accommodation**

Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character, and can range from business hotels to guesthouses. Hotel accommodation is generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note there is no international classification system for hotels, and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Vietnam. All group tours hotels have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed.

Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

If you have booked a triple share please note that your room will be a twin room with a rollaway bed or sofa bed added. This may limit the floor space in the room.

**Please note: final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.**

**Meals**

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Dinner (when included) will be taken in local restaurants. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.



**ON YOUR ARRIVAL**

On your arrival in Saigon you will be met by a representative from our local agent, **LV Travel**, holding a sign displaying: “Mercury Holidays”. The Mercury Holidays/LV Travel representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your guide will be able to answer any queries. However, if you need to contact LV Travel during your stay the details are:

**LV Travel Head Office, Hanoi**

Floor 18, VTC Online Building,  
 No 18, Tam Trinh Str,  
 Hai Ba Trung District,  
 Hanoi, Vietnam  
 Telephone: 0084 243 9413 748

**Emergency contact information**

Please find below the emergency contact details for LV Travel head office, Hanoi

Contact	Telephone number
Anna Hanh	Office: 0084 983 096 032
Mr Len	Office: 0084 989 200 116
E-mail: operation@lvtravel.vn	

**WHAT TO PACK**

- Sunscreen and hat in summer
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc
- An electric plug converter - the electricity in Vietnam/Cambodia is 220-240 V. You will need a 2 round pin plug or 2 flat pin plug adapter
- Loo paper for public WCs
- Binoculars
- A small overnight bag to take on your cruise of Halong Bay

## WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

### Visas

For UK citizens a visa for Vietnam is only required for stays longer than 15 days or for multi entry visits. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you check your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding visas and passport validity. This visa information is a guide line only and is subject to change; up-to-date information regarding the process and fees will be advised at the time of calling the Travel Visa Company.

**Cambodia:** If you have booked the Temples of Cambodia extension following your tour, you will need to purchase a visa for Cambodia which can be purchased on arrival. The cost of this is approximately USD \$30 per person and you will be required to bring a passport photo with you as well. Please note that you will need to have at least one completely blank page in your passport for the Cambodian visa to be issued.

**Cambodia and Hanoi extensions:** If you have booked the Cambodia or Hanoi extensions following your tour, you will need to purchase a single entry visa for Vietnam. You can apply for an e-visa online at <https://evisa.xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn>. Alternatively, we work closely with The Travel Visa Company who will be able to arrange your visa for you on your behalf. Please call them on 01270 250 590 and quote "Mercury Holidays".

### Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call 0800 781 4237 and quote 'WK830' for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

### Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health & vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk), [www.travelhealthpro.org.uk](http://www.travelhealthpro.org.uk), [www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk), your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

### Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves climbing of steep stairs and getting on and off coaches. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties. All our tours feature a "Tour Pace" to help find the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights, climb stairs and get on and off coaches and boats. The tour pace of Splendours of Vietnam is rated Intermediate. A good level of fitness is required as you may be on your feet for approximately four hours in a day, though this will be interspersed with regular breaks and will vary from day to day. You will be walking around the sights, and may be getting on and off coaches, trains and boats and climbing steps which may be irregular. You will stay in variety of hotels throughout the tour. Our guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

### Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 10, and the maximum will be 40. If in the unlikely event there are less than 40 people

booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date, then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

### Tour Guides

This is a fully escorted tour meaning that you will be met by a local guide in each of the cities that you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

### Private Tour

If you have booked a private tour then you will be accompanied by a Driver Guide or a Driver and Local Guides. These will be available to you during all scheduled sightseeing. Private Tours can depart on any day of the week depending on flight and train schedules and the opening days of the attractions. They will follow the itinerary as described in the brochure unless you have been advised otherwise and you will still have all of the same meals, sightseeing and local excursions included.

### Tipping

It is at your customary to tip both your driver and guide. We would recommend to tip approximately USD\$ 6-7 per person per day. This is a total of USD\$105 per person to budget for tips on your trip. Tips will be collected at the end of your tour. Tips are accepted in the local currency.

### Currency Exchange

The currency in Vietnam is the Vietnamese Dong, known as VND. You can exchange your currency in Vietnam, however US Dollars are widely accepted in Vietnam should you wish to keep an alternative currency on you.

### Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, any meals not included in the itinerary as well as drinks and any additional snacks. Approximately £300- £400 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for tipping or small purchases.

### Public Holidays – Vietnam

If you are travelling within the below Vietnamese Public Holidays please note that celebrations can last a couple of days and during these times some businesses will be closed and coach, air and train travel may be affected. Tourist attractions will be open but may be crowded. Tet Holiday is between 12th- 16th Feb 2021, International Labour Day is on 1st May every year, Reunification Day is on 30th April every year and National Independence Day is on 2nd September every year.

### Itinerary changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in country are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction and/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

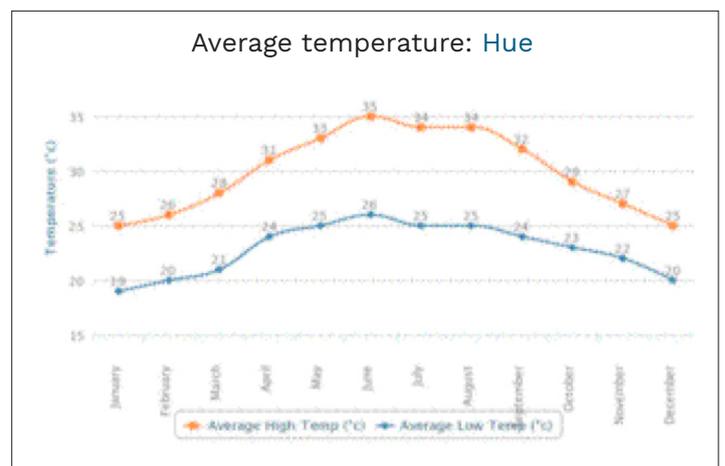
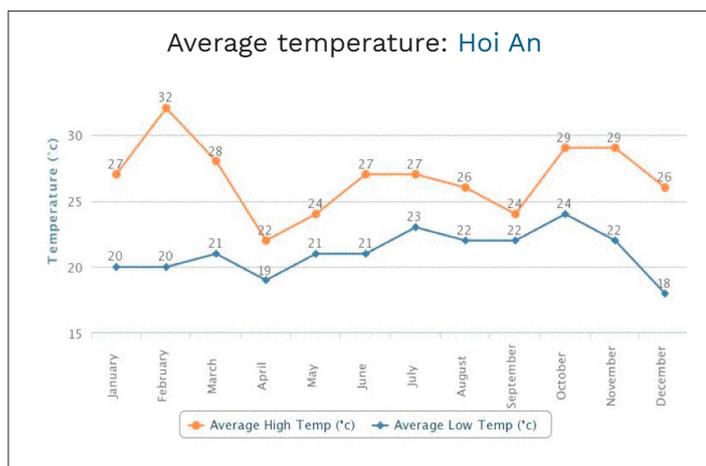
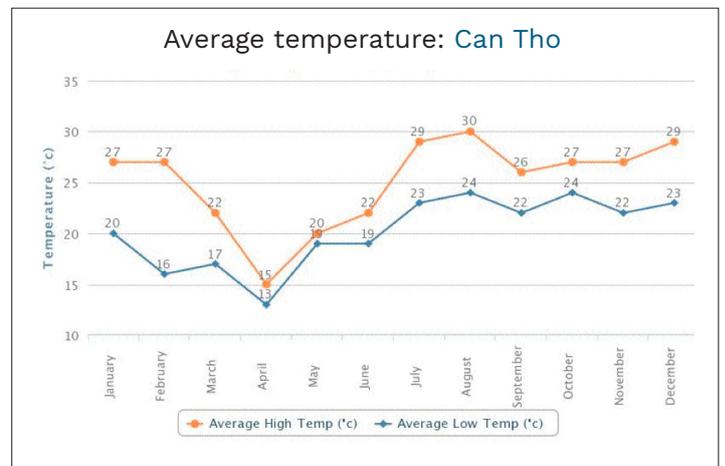
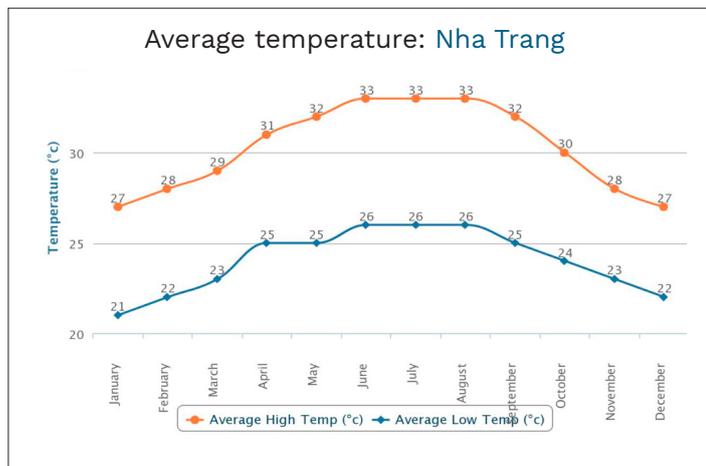
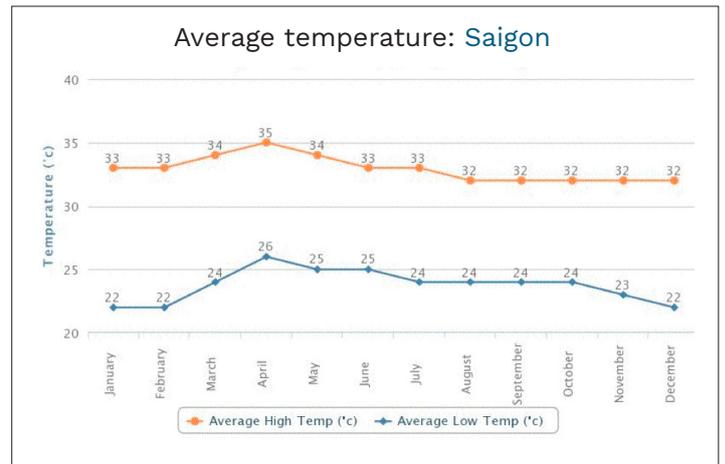
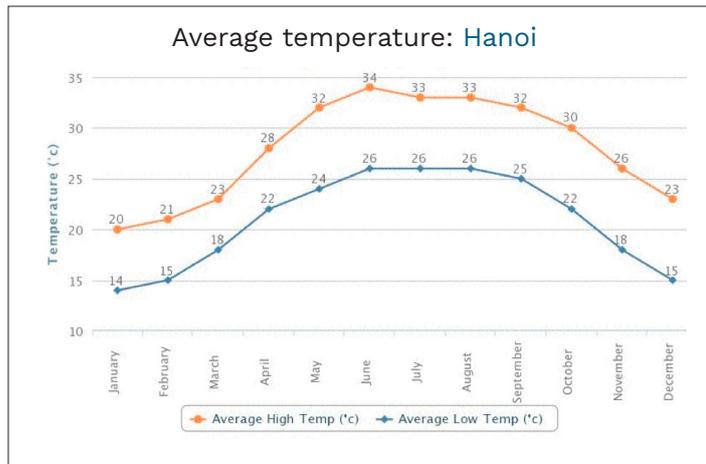
**IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details, including terminal, airline and baggage allowance, will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure. A printed E-ticket is no longer required at check-in, all you need to do is present your passport to the staff at the desk and your boarding pass will be given to you.**

### Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras on 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

**WEATHER AND CLIMATE**

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



# Temples Of Cambodia

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



Tara Angkor Hotel

## TRIP OVERVIEW

Your add-on in Cambodia will explore the country's incredible and varied temples. A boat trip through the villages floating on Tonlé Sap Lake reveals stunning forest lakes, distinct communities and river houses.

## ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require during your add-on to Cambodia.

### Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

### DAY 16: Hanoi to Siem Reap B

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to Siem Reap in Cambodia.

### DAY 17: Siem Reap B/L/D

Today proceed to watch the sunrise over the famous Angkor Wat temple, then discover the fortified city of Angkor Thom. After lunch you will explore the jungle covered Ta Prohm, undoubtedly the most atmospheric of all the ruins in Angkor.

### DAY 18: Siem Reap B/L/D

Today visit the stunning Banteay Srei, a 10th century Hindu temple dedicated to their god Shiva. In the afternoon take a boat trip to a charming local village on the biggest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia, Tonle Sap. The rest of the day is at leisure before your evening meal.

### DAY 19: Siem Reap to the UK B

Your last day is free to do as you wish before your return flight home via Hanoi.

### Hotels

**Siem Reap (3 nights):** 4★ Tara Angkor Hotel - Vithei Charles de Gaulle, Siem Reap. Contact number: 0085 563 966 661

If the hotels listed are unavailable, alternatives will be used of a similar standard.

### Visas

You will need to purchase a visa for Cambodia costing USD \$30 on arrival at the airport in Siem Reap. Please note that you will be required to bring a passport photo with you as well as USD \$30 cash in order to apply for your visa on arrival in Cambodia. Please note that you will need to have at least one completely blank page in your passport for the Cambodian visa to be issued.

### Tour Guides

This extension to Cambodia is semi-escorted. Your guide will meet you at your Hanoi hotel and take to the airport. Day 17 and 18 will be fully accompanied. You will be met by your guide on day 19 to take you to the airport for your return flight to the UK.

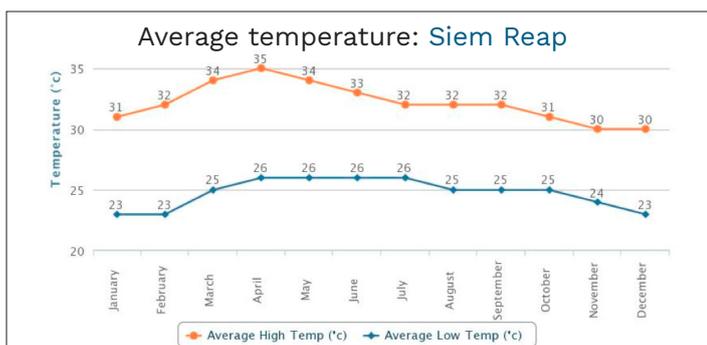
### Tipping

Tipping is common practice and seen as a way of life in Cambodia. It is customary to tip both your driver and guide \$5 (approximately £3.50) per person per day. For your convenience your guide will collect the full amount from you on your first day in Cambodia.

### Currency Exchange

The currency in Cambodia is the Cambodian Riel, known as AHR. You can exchange your currency in Cambodia, however US Dollars are widely accepted in Cambodia should you wish to keep an alternative currency on you.

## WEATHER AND CLIMATE



## FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.