

# Celebraion

· ESCAPES ·

— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

## 7 -16 Day Southeast Asia Intrigue Thailand – Vietnam – Cambodia



- PHNOM PENH
- 2. SIEM REAP
- 3. SAIGON
- 4. HOI AN
- 5. HUE

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## Day 1: ARRIVE PHNOM PENH



Arrive in the vibrant and dynamic city of Phnom Penh and transfer to your desired hotel.

Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Dinner is on your own (payment at time of service) - See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for ideas for dining.

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## Day 2: PHNOM PENH



Breakfast in your hotel.

After breakfast meet your English-speaking professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your city walking tour.

Set out on a city tour to visit the National Museum, which houses Khmer art and sculptures from different periods of Cambodian history, visit the Royal Palace which contains the Silver Pagoda.

In the afternoon learn more about Cambodia's past tragedy with a visit Tuol Sleng Museum.

Return to the hotel for a rest or enjoy the sunset at one of the riverside cafes.

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## Day 3: PHNOM PENH - SIEM REAP



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Breakfast in your hotel.

After breakfast meet your English-speaking driver in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to the airport and your flight to Siem Reap.

Fly to the city of Siem Reap, the gateway to the Temples of Angkor.

On arrival, enjoy lunch in town and get ready to explore the legendary temples.

Start with Angkor Wat, one of the modern wonders of the world and be amazed by the sheer size of the temple.

Continue your visit with other amazing temples in the area and get back to your hotel in the late afternoon.

Dinner is on your own (payment at time of service) - See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for ideas for dining.

## Day 4: SIEM REAP

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Breakfast in your hotel.

After breakfast meet your English-speaking driver & Professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your tours.

Start the day with a transfer to the impressive Preah Kahn Temple located on the Grand Circuit.

Make your way to Neak Pean, an artificial island which contains a Buddhist temple.

Enjoy lunch in Siem Reap and visit the beautiful Ta Prohm, one of Angkor's jewels overgrown with fig trees.

You will end the day with a visit to Sras Srang, the former Royal bathing pool of the Khmer Kings.

Enjoy the sunset from the west terrace and return to Siem Reap for a free evening.

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## Day 5: SIEM REAP



Breakfast in your hotel.

After breakfast meet your English-speaking driver in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to the pier to meet your boat.

Leave Siem Reap for Chhong Kneas on Trails of Indochina's boat, the boat to learn about Tonle Sap Lake, its biodiversity and the Khmer rural culture.

Enjoy a rare opportunity to meet with a local family at their private home followed by a visit around the village and a meeting with local monks who have prepared a blessing for you.

In the afternoon, enjoy some free time to explore the surrounding town of Siem Reap.

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## Day 6: SIEM REAP – SAIGON

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Breakfast in your hotel.

After breakfast meet your English-speaking driver in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to the airport and your flight to Saigon.

Fly onward to Saigon, Vietnam's largest and dynamic city.

Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure to explore the city.

Lunch & Dinner are on your own (payment at time of service) - See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for ideas for dining.

## Day 7: SAIGON CITY TOUR



Breakfast in your hotel.

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After breakfast meet your English-speaking professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your Saigon City Walking Tour.

Saigon is the country's commercial centre and, with over eight million inhabitants and four million motorbikes, a city that never sleeps. Despite the well-documented hustle and bustle, Saigon retains its connections with the past.

Embark on a city tour to admire Saigon's historic landmarks including the Notre Dame Cathedral, a red brick edifice with twin spires based on the original construction from Paris (It is only possible to visit inside when no service is being performed).

Then head across the square to the Central Post Office, designed by the French architect, Gustav Eiffel. Continue to visit the former Presidential Palace, the headquarters of the Saigon Government during the American war, revealing the history of Saigon during its turbulent recent past.

Further, drive to visit the War Remnants Museum for a vivid insight of the American war through the local's eyes (Please note that some of the photos are very graphic)

You will be returned to your hotel where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day.

Dinner is on your own (payment at time of service) - See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for ideas for dining.

## Day 8: MEKONG DELTA



Breakfast in your hotel.

After breakfast meet your English-speaking driver & Professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your tours.



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Drive from Saigon to Ben Tre, one of the country's southern provinces, located in the Delta of the Mekong River.

Arrive at the waterfront pier and embark on an enjoyable motor boat excursion. At Turtle Island, visit a local house and be introduced to the owner, chat with your host and stroll through the garden to get an insight into daily farming life.

Continue your journey by sampan, taste some local delicacies during lunch at My Tho.

After lunch you will be returned to the city and your hotel by mid afternoon. The remainder of the day is at leisure to relax in your hotel or explore on your own.

Dinner is on your own (payment at time of service) - See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for ideas for dining.

## Day 9: SAIGON – DA NANG - HOI AN



Breakfast in your hotel.

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After breakfast meet your English-speaking driver in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to the airport.

The ancient town of Hoi An awaits you after short flight from Saigon and transfer from Danang airport.

From here, be introduced to the charming town on a walking tour to see some of the historic buildings and homes dating back to the 16th century.

You will be returned to your hotel where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day.

Dinner is on your own (payment at time of service) - See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for ideas for dining.

## Day 10: HOI AN

Breakfast in your hotel.

Enjoy the day at leisure to discover everything that Hoi An has to offer.

Lunch & Dinner is on your own (payment at time of service) - See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for ideas for dining.

## Day 11: HUE



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Breakfast in your hotel.

After breakfast meet your English-speaking driver & Professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your

Drive about 3 hours north to the ancient capital Hue. Along the way, drive over the Hai Van Mountain and enjoy the spectacular views it offers. Enjoy a private tour of Hue.

You will be returned to your hotel where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day.

Dinner is on your own (payment at time of service) - See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for ideas for dining.

## Day 12: HUE – HANOI

Breakfast in your hotel.

After breakfast meet your English-speaking driver in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to the airport. Fly to the charming city of Hanoi, Vietnam's capital characterized by its ochre-colored colonial buildings, tree-lined boulevards and scenic lakes.

On arrival, you will meet your private English-speaking driver and professional local guide for a morning tour. Complete your visit to Hue by visiting the tombs of the former kings.

Transfer to your desired hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Lunch & Dinner is on your own (payment at time of service) - See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for ideas for dining.

## Day 13: HANOI





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Breakfast in your hotel.

After breakfast meet your English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your tours.

Take the day to visit historical and important sites in Hanoi starting with the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, where the preserved body of "Uncle Ho" resides; the One Pillar Pagoda, the Temple of Literature, the first University for the sons of mandarins, the serene Museum of Ethnology that offers a fascinating insight into Vietnam's 54 ethnic minorities.

In the afternoon, enjoy a walking tour through the Old Quarter; followed by a show at the water puppet theatre in the evening.

Return to your hotel where the remainder of the day is at leisure.

Dinner is on your own (payment at time of service) - See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for ideas for dining.

## Day 14: HANOI - HALONG BAY



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Breakfast in your hotel.

After breakfast meet your English-speaking driver & professional local guide in the lobby of your hotel for your transfer to the pier to meet your boat.

Depart for a journey to Halong Bay and board your desired junk boat and settle into your cabin.

After lunch, enjoy visits to a cave and also a fishing village before returning for a cooking class with the chef or enjoy sunset on the top deck before dinner.

Dinner is included in your day.

## Day 15 **HANOI**

Rise early and greet the day with a refreshing Tai Chi class on the upper deck.

Transfer from the main boat to a small beach on Ti Top Island.

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Later, board the main boat and enjoy a delicious buffet brunch while cruising back to the shore.

Return to Hanoi.

Dinner is on your own (payment at time of service) - See Celebration Escapes Restaurant Collection for ideas for dining.

## Day 16 DEPARTURE

Breakfast in your hotel.

After breakfast Enjoy the day at leisure until your transfer to the airport.

At the appropriate time, transfer by private driver to the airport for your flight home.

End of Services.

\*This is sample itinerary with no selected accommodation suggested unless otherwise stated. International airfares are not included unless otherwise specified within the detailed proposal – please contact our team to tailor this itinerary to your personal specifications. Trails of Indochina general booking conditions apply [click here](#).

### End of services.

**\*\* It is recommended that you consider adding additional days to your custom itinerary, in order to have a more comprehensive visit in each of the destinations contained within the itinerary. This short 7-day trip is a highlights trip and will only give you a brief overview of each destination.**

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## CITY HIGHLIGHTS



### PHNOM PENH

Before civil war broke out, Phnom Penh was nicknamed 'The Pearl of Asia' as it was considered one of the finest cities in the region. Located at the junction of the Mekong, Bassac and Tonle Sap rivers, Phnom Penh has been Cambodia's capital for most of the last six centuries. Having recovered from the dark legacy of the Pol Pot era in the 1970's, Phnom Penh today is a vibrant economic center with a population of two million. Cafes, restaurants and hotels line the riverfront while boutique shops and art galleries sprout along smaller side streets. Even as it undergoes urban development, Phnom Penh has retained much of its old world charm as evident in the French colonial architecture and traditional ornate temples. Rich in history, the city offers a number of cultural and historical sites including the National Museum, Royal Palace, and Silver Pagoda.

To truly understand the country's recent history and the people's mindset, a visit to the Tuol Sleng Prison is a must. Also known as S-21, this former school became a torture center and has now been preserved as a museum. On the outskirts of Phnom Penh are the Killing Fields, an area where some 17,000 men, women and children were murdered and dumped in mass graves. Not for the faint-of-heart, these sites are sobering reminders of the Khmer Rouge's brutality—and of the rest of the world's failure to intervene.



### SIEM REAP

Siem Reap is a charming provincial town defined by a cluster of villages, Chinese-style shop houses, and French-colonial architecture. As a gateway to the ancient temple ruins of Angkor, Siem Reap has experienced exponential growth in recent years with hotel and resort developments turning this once sleepy village into a tourism mecca. Activities to experience in the town of Siem Reap include watching a traditional Cambodian "apsara" dance performance and participating in a Khmer cuisine cooking class. The rural outskirts offer plenty of interesting activities such as visiting craft shops and silk farms, taking a bike ride through the scenic countryside, or participating in a humanitarian assistance program by making a pump well donation or helping children at an orphanage.

Getting here: Most visitors arrive in Siem Reap by air. There are direct flights from most major capital cities in Southeast Asia. It is a 40 minutes flight or a 6 hour journey by road from Phnom Penh.

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### TEMPLES OF ANGKOR

Designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1992, the Angkor Archaeological Park encompasses dozens of temple ruins whose artistic and archaeological significance and visual impact place it alongside other wonders of the world like the Pyramids, Machu Pichu and the Taj



Mahal. Built between seven and eleven centuries ago the temples—about 100 of which are still standing—were devoted to Buddha and Hindu deities. Within the fortified city of Angkor Thom lies the Bayon temple, the third tier of which is lined by more than 200 huge, carved faces that stare down from 54 towers. Other highlights include the Buddhist temple of Ta Prohm, which was not been restored and looks just as it did when French explorers stumbled upon it in the 1860s, and Angkor Wat, a vast temple

complex dedicated to Vishnu in the early 12th century. Many of the temples are covered with fantastic carvings depicting religious stories and scenes from daily life.

You will be issued an “Angkor Pass” which is similar to an entrance ticket but has your photo on it. The pass allows you access all the temples in the complex. Make sure you keep the pass just in case you would like to explore the temples in your leisure time, as long as the date is still valid.



### BATTAMBANG

Sitting on the Sangker River just south west of the Tonle Sap Lake, Battambang town is at the heart of Cambodia's 'rice bowl'. Although being the country's second biggest town, Battambang still has a very local provincial atmosphere. Much of the architecture is traditional Cambodian and French colonial, evident in the town's many French-style villas and storefronts. The nearby countryside

also harbors old pagodas, Angkorian-era ruins, caves, waterfalls, and Khmer Rouge period killing fields.

Getting here: There is a daily ferry that departs Siem Reap at 7:30am. It's a picturesque, 6-8 hour journey across the Tonle Sap and up the Sangker River in the wet season, but can be considerably longer in the dry season due to low water levels. Overland from Siem Reap via Sisophon takes 3-4 hours. Much of the stretch between Siem Reap and Sisophon is in poor condition. The road from Sisophon to Battambang is in good condition. Overland from Phnom Penh to Battambang is 291km (4 hours) on a paved road in good condition.

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### **RATANANKIRI**

Banlung City is the provincial capital of Ratanakiri Province in the mountainous northeastern corner. It is one of the poorest regions in the country with a sparse population of 150,000. Ratanakiri is known for its lush forests and rich biodiversity, though recent development is threatening the province's ecological health. Some of the most biologically diverse lowland tropical rainforest and mountain forest ecosystems of mainland Southeast Asia are located in

Ratanakiri. Activities include excursions/treks to remote Khmer Loeu villages and jungle areas, waterfalls, gem mines, and Ratanakiri's famous Yeak Laom volcanic lake.

Getting here: Check with the local operator about mode of transport since this is a difficult place to access.



### **MONDOLKIRI**

Mondolkiri is the largest province of Cambodia but is sparsely populated with about 40,000 people. Located on the eastern highlands, Mondolkiri has scenery and a climate quite unlike anywhere else in the country. There are rolling grassy hills, serene rivers, powerful waterfalls, and forested mountains. At an average elevation of 800m, it can get quite chilly at night. Mondulkiri has numerous tourist attractions such as waterfalls, indigenous hilltribe culture, national parks and elephant trekking. Sen Monorom, the provincial capital, is a quiet town with a frontier feel, although it has potential to develop into an eco-tourism center.

Getting here: It is 370 km (6-8 hours) by road from Phnom Penh to Sen Monorom. Most of the road is in good condition with exception of some potholes from Phnom Penh to Kompong Cham. The worse part of the road is from Snoul to Kev Seima which has bumpy dirt tracks.



### **SIHANOUKVILLE**

Located on the southwest peninsula facing the Gulf of Thailand, Sihanoukville was originally founded as a port town half a century ago. Today this provincial town is Cambodia's premier beach destination with miles of powdered white sand beaches, picturesque islands and warm tropical waters which can be visited year round. The nearby islands teeming with coral and colorful range of tropical fish offer excellent opportunities for snorkeling and

diving. If you are a seafood lover, you will especially enjoy the local specialties of fresh caught crab and shrimp.



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Getting here: Sihanoukville is 230 kilometers or about a 3 ½ hours drive from Phnom Penh. It is accessible via one of the best inter-provincial roads in the country.



### KEP

In contrast to the popular and bustling beachfronts in Sihanoukville, Kep is a small and low-key beach town. From the early 20th century through the 1960s, Kep was Cambodia's premier beach town, drawing weekend holiday-makers to its picturesque shores lined with ritzy ocean side villas of the privileged class. Nowadays, the old villas are in ruins, and the town is known more for its oceanfront seafood stalls than for its beaches, which are narrow and

stony, offering just a few slivers of sand. Nearby attractions include Bokor Hill Station, a mountaintop collection of colonial buildings (hotel, casino, church, and royal residence) constructed by French authorities in the early 1920s as a retreat for French officials and foreign visitors to old Indochina.

Getting here: From Kampot, it is a 25km (30-45 mins) trip on paved, smooth road through scenic Cambodian countryside.



## VIETNAM

From the misty mountains of the north to the lush rice fields of the Mekong Delta, Vietnam is a beguiling destination which rarely fails to charm.

Timeless images of Indochina abound – conical-hatted farmers toil in bright green rice fields; junks drift through the mist on Halong Bay; cyclo drivers ride through the narrow streets of Hanoi's Old Quarter. But there is a new Vietnam emerging, in the upscale hotels, shopping arcades and fine dining restaurants of vibrant Ho Chi Minh City, and in the luxury designer beach resorts of Hoi An and Mui Ne.

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Our Vietnam is an exploration of the country's arts, its culture and its communities. We share tea and conversation with experts in the gastronomic and visual arts, hop on a bicycle and explore ancient villages or share our good fortune by donating a simple rowing boat to assist a local family to get ahead. We immerse our guests in the experiences of this dynamic and fascinating destination.

A country of contrasts where pleasant surprises await at almost every turn. But in Vietnam, one thing remains constant – the warmth, inquisitiveness and positivity of its people, which remain the abiding memory of those who spend time in this alluring country.



## CAMBODIA

Most people know of Cambodia as home to the crowning glory of Southeast Asia – the magnificent temples at Angkor Wat, but visitors are often surprised at how much more this small country has to offer.

Angkor Wat is simply unmissable, but take a little more time to explore Phnom Penh, the exciting, bustling gateway to the country; Tonle Sap lake, the largest in Southeast Asia; Sihanoukville, an increasingly chic beach destination; and Mekong River town Kratie, where lucky visitors may spot endangered Mekong river dolphins. For those wishing to learn more about the country's recent history, Tuol Sleng prison and the 'Killing Fields' of Choeung Ek provide a chilling insight into Cambodia's darkest hours.

As Cambodia shakes off its past and attempts to embrace the future, there has never been a better time to check out our Cambodia travel packages and visit a country that combines typical Asian bustle and energy with timeless spirituality.

**End of services.**

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