



Vietnam & Cambodia Discovery Tour Dossier

Discovery Tour | 20 Days | Active

Hanoi – Hoang Su Phi - Halong Bay – Hue - Hoi An – Saigon – Mekong Delta –
Siem Reap

Discover two countries shaped by a fascinating past. Hike the rice terraces of Hoang Su Phi, sample street food in Hanoi. End by exploring the Angkor Wat complex by Tuk Tuk.

Tour Highlights:

Hanoi - exploration of this charming, historical centre with its French provincial influences

Hoang Su Phi - Enjoy hiking through the ethnic villages of Northern Vietnam

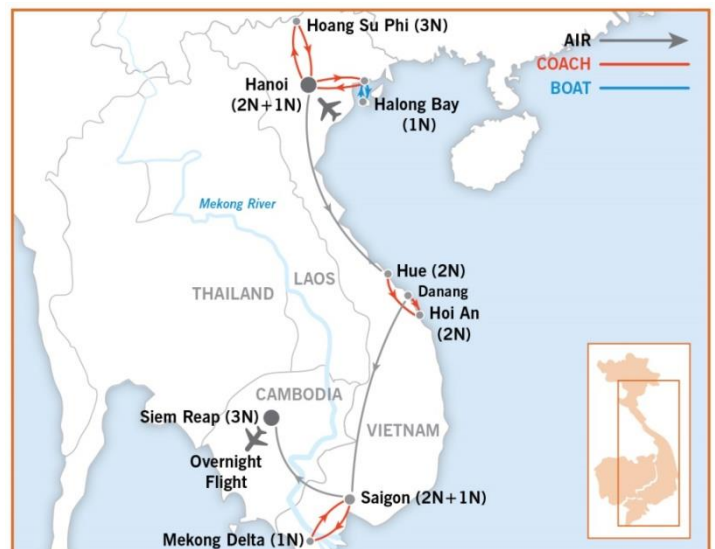
Halong Bay - Vietnam's 'jewel in the crown'; the stunning beauty of the 3,000 islets of the Gulf of Tonkin

Hue - The country's former imperial capital

Hoi An - Discover this charming UNESCO World Heritage listed site

Saigon - Vietnam's most cosmopolitan and vibrant city

Siem Reap - Gateway to the Angkor Wat temple complex



Reflections of Vietnam tour inclusions

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- Most meals as stated in the itinerary
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking National Escort (if your group is 10 or more passengers)
- Visa fees for Australian passport holders

Personal expenditures e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping, early check in or late checkout and other items not specified on the itinerary are at your own expense.

Discovery Tours

Designed for those who wish to be further immersed in the authentic charm of Asia; our Discovery Tours include more cultural and active experiences. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional a National Escorts/Local Guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience. Our Discovery tours include:

- Cycling and walking through classic sites
- Unique cultural experiences and encounters
- Off the beaten track destinations
- More evenings at leisure for independent exploration

Active

'Vietnam & Cambodia Discovery' is an **active** tour. This is one of the most demanding trips Wendy Wu Tours offers. As a whole, this itinerary requires a high level of fitness.

- There will be both short and long periods of walking whilst sightseeing
- In Hoang Su Phi you will be hiking up to 5 hours each day
- In Hue and the Mekong there will be bicycle tours of the local areas which can involve cycling over uneven ground
- On some days there will be long periods of driving, particularly between Hanoi and Hoang Su Phi
- Throughout the itinerary you will be required to get on and off varying sizes of boats often without assistance

Of course, our National Escort and Local 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.

Country Profile: Vietnam and Cambodia

Vietnam is a country of breath-taking natural beauty with an incredible modern day history that quickly becomes addictive. It has experienced war and a bloody revolution in the past 100 years, but the revolution now underway is peaceful and prosperous. The speed of the modern day changes is making Vietnam the absorbing and gripping place that it is today.

Vietnam has something to offer everyone, so whether you are a culture vulture, thrill seeker or just looking to relax and take in the beaches, Vietnam will not disappoint.

Cambodia is blessed with unspoilt beaches and beautiful colonial cities like Phnom Penh, Battambang and Kep. In Siem Reap, the breathtaking temples of Angkor are regarded as the heart and soul of Cambodia. Many visitors may never intend to go beyond these magnificent temples; however, they will soon become captivated by other parts of this friendly country.

Itinerary Changes

1. It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements maintaining the integrity of your trip.
2. Vietnam Airlines' domestic flights are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated morning, afternoon or evening flights only. Your Local Guide or National Escort will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them.
3. The Central Tower of the Angkor Wat complex is closed on Buddhist holidays and on all other days has a limited number of visitors allowed at any given time, under regulations from UNESCO. If you wish to visit this tower, you will be required to wait in the queue alongside all other visitors. The ability to do this will be determined upon the groups' schedule.
4. The Halong Bay Authorities are taking extra precautions to ensure the safety of all passengers cruising around Halong Bay. Weather conditions such as mist, fog, wind, rain and storms may delay the departure time of your cruise, or in some cases your cruise may be cancelled. Notifications of any delays or cancellations may not be known until your group's arrival in Halong Bay. If your cruise is cancelled after your arrival in Halong Bay, you will have lunch in Halong City and return to Hanoi where you will spend the evening in a hotel. If notification of the cruise cancellation is given prior to your departure for Halong Bay an alternative day trip will be arranged to Hoa Lu and Tam Coc or 'Halong Bay on Land', an area located approximately 2 hours from Hanoi. Our guides will make every effort to inform the group at the earliest possible moment should there be any itinerary changes.
5. The following itinerary changes have been made to the 2017 itinerary to improve the flow and pace of sightseeing:
 - An additional night has been added in Hoi An making this itinerary 20 days in duration.
 - On Day 4, accommodation has been changed to an Eco Lodge from a homestay. The change was made to make sure passengers have a much more comfortable stay for the 3 nights in Hoang Su Phi.

Joining Your Tour

The tour is 20 days in duration including international flights. Travellers booked on 'Land Only' arrangements should make their own way to the starting point. Join the tour on Day 1 in Hanoi and end the tour on Day 19 in Siem Reap. Please refer to your final itinerary for more specific meeting instructions pertaining to your departure.

Important Information Regarding Flight Delays

Due to unforeseen circumstances, flights can be delayed, and therefore connecting flights may be missed. If you find yourself in this situation, please contact our Vietnam office on **+84 989 559 488 (24 hours)** to urgently advise your arrival details have changed. Please ensure you have your trip number, tour name (both included in your final documentation) and new arrival details (flight number and arrival time) handy to pass on to our local office in Vietnam. This will ensure your National Escort/Local Guide can be informed of your most up to date information and ensure someone is at the airport to meet you on arrival.

If we are not advised of late changes and missed connections, Wendy Wu Tours cannot guarantee someone will be able to meet you upon arrival in Vietnam as our local office will have no way of knowing which flight you will be arriving on. Wendy Wu Tours will not be responsible for providing reimbursement of transportation costs from the airport to your hotel in the event that our local office was not advised of changes to arrival time.

Vietnam & Cambodia Discovery Itinerary

DAY 1: AUSTRALIA TO HANOI

Fly with Vietnam Airlines to Hanoi where you will be met at the airport in the arrival hall by your Local Guide and/or National Escort. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer 45 minutes to your hotel and check into your room or store any luggage if your room is not ready yet. There is no sightseeing today.

Meals included: Dinner

Destination Information

Hanoi - With a population of approximately four million, Hanoi is a charming and richly historic city of lakes, shaded boulevards and leafy open parks. The centre is an architectural museum piece housing groups of ochre coloured buildings holding the air of provincial French towns of the 1930s, a "Paris of the Orient" as people have called it.

DAY 2: DISCOVER LOCAL HANOI

Start your day with a visit to the Ho Chi Minh complex and the Ethnology Museum to learn about the country's ethnic groups. Next stop at the Confucian Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first university, before taking a walking tour of the Old Quarter where you will witness Hanoi's rich cultural and artistic history. Take a relaxed stroll at Hoan Kiem Lake, a great spot for people-watching. This evening, take a walking tour of the city's unique street-side night life and food vendors.

The Ethnology Museum is closed on Mondays and on Vietnamese New Year, if your visit falls on these days you will go to the Vietnamese Women's Museum as an alternative.

Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum is closed for entry on Mondays and Fridays every week and from September to December each year. During these times, we are unable to enter the Mausoleum; however, we can view it from the outside.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Destination Information

Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum - A large memorial, located in Ba Dinh Square. It is the final resting place of Ho Chi Minh, who announced Vietnam's independence in the same location in 1945.

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Ethnology Museum - At the Ethnology Museum you will learn about the minority groups of Hanoi, including the black and red H'mong hill people. The museum is made up of an inside and outside area. The outside area displays traditional Vietnamese houses.

Temple of Literature - Dating back to 11th century, the Temple of Literature has long played an important centre for Confucianism and scholarly learning.

DAY 3: HOANG SU PHI

After breakfast travel approximately 9 hours to Hoang Su Phi, one of northern Vietnam's emerald green rice terrace areas, stopping en route for lunch. The rest of the day is at leisure to begin exploring.

In Hoang Su Phi you will be staying in a local Eco Lodge. Please be aware that accommodation here is basic and the hot water for showers is solar powered so may not always be reliable.

Please note: over the next few days, you will have the opportunity to visit some of the small villages to see different ethnic hill tribes. Your National Escort/Local Guide will adjust your itinerary and length of the hikes according to your group's fitness, interest and physical abilities. The sightseeing involves hiking in occasionally muddy, slippery and steep terrain and driving over rough, unsealed and winding roads.

You will need to pack a smaller overnight bag for your 3-night stay in Hoang Su Phi. Main luggage will be left in safe storage at the hotel in Hanoi and picked up your return.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Destination Information

Hoang Su Phi – Home to spectacular rice terraces, lush valleys and rugged mountains, Hoang Su Phi is an explorer's dream and Sapa's lesser known, but equally spectacular counterpart.

DAY 4: HIKE THROUGH THE RICE TERRACES

After breakfast, hike for approximately 4 to 5 hours today, between Nam Khoa and Khoa Ha in Hoang Su Phi, through the spectacular countryside, you will walk over some uneven surfaces and at times at an incline. You will pass through rice paddies, mountain scenery and tea hills. Next, visit the ethnic Red Yao Village where you can discover more local culture. Enjoy lunch at the one of the houses of

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the Red Yao people before continuing your walk to the Long Tunic Yao people.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 5: HOANG SU PHI

Today you will hike through the cassava fields, forests and tea plantations. After around 3 hours stop for lunch at Nam Nghi, a Red Dao Village before continuing the walk to Lang Giang valley and Pan Hou Village. Today you will be walking on uneven surfaces and at times at an incline.

Meals included: Breakfast Lunch and Dinner

DAY 6: HOANG SU PHI

Travel back to Hanoi and enjoy the rest of your day at leisure.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

Destination Information

Old Quarter - Hanoi's Old Quarter is one of its most exciting and colourful sections. The Old Quarter is home to many stalls, selling Vietnamese curios, small eats and souvenirs.

DAY 7: CRUISE HALONG BAY

Drive 4 hours to Halong Bay, where you will take an overnight cruise to the far-most corners of the bay on a traditional Vietnamese boat. There is usually a crowd of boats at the docks; however, the cruise itself will be scenic and relaxing. Boarding your boat could involve navigating your way over and through other boats, moored between it and the dock, sometimes without handrails, ladders or assistance from staff.

The boats usually hold about 40 passengers; have an enclosed dining area and an open area on the upper deck. Enjoy lunch onboard as you cruise out into the bay, stopping to anchor for an afternoon of activities (which are subject to change due to cruise selection and weather conditions). Sightseeing includes visiting underground caves on the islands, which require climbing up and down steps inside and outside of the caves. End the day on deck with a drink in hand to watch the sunset over the bay followed by a freshly prepared dinner, before retiring to your cabin for the night.

You will need to pack a smaller overnight bag for your trip to Halong Bay. Main luggage will be left in safe storage at the hotel in Hanoi and picked up your return.

Please note: Weather conditions such as mist, fog, wind, rain and storms may delay the departure time of your cruise, or in some cases your cruise may be cancelled. Notifications of any delays or cancellations may not be known until your group's arrival in Halong Bay. If your cruise is cancelled after your arrival in Halong Bay, you will have lunch in Halong City and return to Hanoi. If notification of the cruise cancellation is given prior to your departure for Halong Bay an alternative day trip will be arranged to Hoa Lu and Tam Coc or 'Halong Bay on Land', an area located approximately 2 hours from Hanoi. Our guides will make every effort to inform the group at the earliest possible moment should there be any itinerary changes.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Destination Information

Halong Bay - Compared to the landscape of the limestone islets of Guilin in China and Krabi in southern Thailand, Halong Bay shares a common border with China in the north and harbours some of the most stunning scenery in Vietnam. Unique rock sculptures jut out dramatically from the clear emerald waters of the Gulf of Tonkin and numerous grottoes have created an enchanting, timeless world, looking out onto the horizon with the sails of the junks and sampans completing the picture.

DAY 8: HALONG BAY TO HUE

Start your day on deck with a relaxing Tai Chi session whilst you admire an amazing sunrise over the karst scenery. Spend the morning sailing through Halong Bay. After brunch, return to Hanoi for your 1 hour flight to Hue.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Destination Information

Hue – was the former imperial capital of Vietnam and the imperial palace is based on the Forbidden City in Beijing.

DAY 9: IMPERIAL HUE BY BICYCLE

Cycle through Hue for a tour of the imperial sights. The tour starts around 8:30am and will finish around 4.00pm stopping for lunch and at the sites, the roads are mostly flat. Start at the Imperial Citadel, then continue to Phu Mong Garden House, part of Hue's legacy from the Nguyen Dynasty. Return to your bike and stop at Thien Mu Pagoda which overlooks the Perfume River. Drive to Tu Duc Tomb, a sprawling compound with lakes, waterways and walkways connecting different memorials.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

Destination Information

Imperial Citadel - A walled fortress accompanied by cannons, artilleries and surrounded by a moat for protection. Inside the Citadel are numerous gates, courtyards and the Forbidden Purple City.

Thien Mu Pagoda - This seven-storey octagonal tower built on a hillock, overlooking the Perfume River is Hue's oldest and most beautiful pagoda. Wander the grounds where bonsai, ponds and the smell of incense set a peaceful backdrop.

DAY 10: CHARMING HOI AN

Drive to 3 to 4 hours to Hoi An, stopping en route at the Museum of Cham Sculpture, this journey will take you over the scenic Hai Van Pass. On arrival into Hoi An, enjoy a leisurely afternoon walk past Chinese traders' houses, local artists and the 16th century Japanese Covered Bridge.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

Destination Information

Museum of Cham Sculpture - Located on the Han River, the Museum of Cham Sculpture is the world's largest collection of Cham architecture. The Cham people are an ethnic group of South East Asia, living in Cambodia and Vietnam.

Hoi An - Perhaps more than any other place in Vietnam, Hoi An retains the feel of centuries past. Once known as Faifo, Hoi An was an influential port along the Silk Road. For over 500 years merchants from China, Japan, France and Portugal settled in the prosperous town resulting in a distinctive blend of culture, cuisine, religion and architecture. In 1999, the town was declared a UNESCO World Heritage listed site for having the most unique architecture in Southeast Asia.

Japanese Covered Bridge - First constructed in the 1590s to link the Japanese and Chinese quarters of the town. This iconic pink hued bridge has been restored to its former splendour.

DAY 11: RURAL HOI AN BY BICYCLE

Pay a visit to local farmers where you can try your hand at traditional farming techniques. Enjoy a calming boat ride to a fishing village where you can try and make fishing nets and paddle bamboo basket boats. Return to Hoi An and take a cruise along the river where you will meet a fisherman who will teach you the secrets to Vietnamese fishing techniques. Next hop into a basket boat and have the opportunity to paddle it yourself.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

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DAY 12: HOI AN TO SAIGON

This morning will be at leisure before transferring to Danang for your 1 hour flight to Saigon.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Destination Information

Saigon - Saigon is one of the world's truly cosmopolitan cities with a history, culture and style obtained from colonial France, ancient China and the art deco era. Once the main port of Cambodia's Mekong territory, Saigon became the capital of France's Cochinchina and later the capital of the Republic of Vietnam. It remained the capital of South Vietnam until reunification at the end of the American War in Vietnam in 1975, when the capital was moved to Hanoi.

DAY 13: SAIGON OLD AND NEW

This morning drive 2 hours to discover the amazing network of the Cu Chi Tunnels. Sightseeing here involves 2 hours on foot on uneven mud paths through the bush and, if you choose, crawling through some of the tunnels. On the way back to Saigon there is an opportunity to visit a Wildlife Rescue Station, aiming to stop the endangered wildlife trade in Vietnam. Continue to Reunification Palace, the Central Post Office, Notre Dame Cathedral and the War Remnants Museum. Sightseeing in central Saigon will be approximately 3 hours. This evening take an exhilarating ride on the back of a vintage Vespa. Stop for a cocktail before tasting mouth-watering dishes in Chinatown, District 4 and the backstreets of Saigon.

Please note for safety reasons you will not be permitted to drive your own Vespa, you will ride on the back of a Vespa with an experienced driver.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Destination Information

Reunification Palace - Built on the site of the former Norodom Palace, is a landmark in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. It was designed by architect Ngo Viet Thụ and was the home and workplace of the President of South Vietnam during the Vietnam War. It was the site of the end of the Vietnam War during the Fall of Saigon on 30th April 1975, when a North Vietnamese Army tank crashed through its gates.

Central Post Office - Located next to the Notre-Dame Cathedral. The Central Post Office building was constructed in the late 19th century. It counts Gothic, Renaissance and

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French influences and was designed by Auguste Henri Vildieu and Alfred Foulhoux, but is often erroneously credited as being the work of Gustave Eiffel.

Notre Dame Cathedral - Influenced by French design and built between 1863 and 1880, the red brick exterior and 60-meter bell towers overlook downtown Saigon.

War Remnants Museum - Comprised of numerous buildings displaying military equipment, photographs and artefacts relating to the Vietnam War from 1961-1975. This museum illustrates a harrowing period in this nation's history.

DAY 14: BEN TRE BY BICYCLE

Head south for 2 hours to Ben Tre, gateway to the Mekong Delta. Here you will set out on a boat trip on channels winding through coconut forest. You will enjoy lunch at a local riverbank restaurant, and cycle rural tracks through rice fields and coconut groves. Visit a tapioca cake workshop and a local Cao Dai Temple, then wander through a local market, catch some photos in a flower & bonsai village, and enjoy some of the many local fruits before heading to your homestay for the night.

You will need to pack a smaller overnight bag for your trip to the Mekong Delta. Main luggage will be left in safe storage at the hotel in Saigon and picked up your return.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Destination Information

Mekong Delta - Although primarily rural, the Mekong Delta is a densely populated area where life progresses around its fertile banks. The Mekong Delta is the 13th longest, and the 10th largest, by volume alone and people live, trade, travel and even go to school on the riverbanks. The rice which is cultivated in the many farming lands is said to be enough to supply the entire country with a little extra.

DAY 15: RETURN TO SAIGON

Take a relaxed morning cycle around the village, stopping to visit a garden nursery and an orchard where you can enjoy fresh fruit. Pay a visit to the Cai Nhum Cathedral before returning 2 to 3 hours' drive to Saigon.

Meals included: Breakfast and Lunch

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DAY 16: CAMBODIAN CIRCUS

This morning transfer to the airport for your 1 hour and 20 minute flight to Siem Reap, the gateway to the Angkor complex. This evening watch a performance by the PHARE Cambodian Circus, an NGO which teaches street children to become internationally renowned circus artists.

Destination Information

Siem Reap - Known as the gateway to Angkor, the architecture in Siem Reap is heavily influenced by Chinese, French and Khmer styles. Siem Reap literally translates as 'Defeat of Siam', a reference to a historical battle between the Khmer people and the Thai Siam people.

DAY 17: ANGKOR WAT BY TUK TUK

What better way to see the world famous Angkor Wat Complex than from the back of a traditional tuk tuk. You will explore Angkor Wat, the centrepiece of the Complex, before visiting Angkor Thom and the Bayon. Lastily, visit Ta Prohm, atmospherically buried deep in the jungle. Two people plus one guide can travel in each tuk tuk. The complex can get very hot so always bring water with you and wear comfortable, light clothing. You will tour the Angkor Complex for approximately 5 hours.

Please note: The Central Tower of the Angkor Wat complex is closed on Buddhist holidays and on all other days has a limited number of visitors allowed at any given time, under regulations from UNESCO. If you wish to visit this tower, you will be required to wait in the queue alongside all other visitors. The ability to do this will be determined upon the groups' schedule.

Meals included: Breakfast

Destination Information

Angkor Wat - Surrounded by a 190-meter moat and taking 30 years to build, Angkor Wat represents the Khmer civilisation at its grandest. With its fascinating decorative flourishes, extensive bas-relief and multiple tiers, it is the best-preserved temple within the complex.

Angkor Thom - This fortified city is flanked by a row of 54 stone figures on each side, which leads you through a 23-meter imposing stone entrance gate to the various temples inside.

Bayon - Beautifully crafted central towers, decorated with four opposing faces representing King Jayavarman VII. Bayon's stone galleries display extraordinary bas-reliefs incorporating over 11,000 figures.

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Ta Prohm - Swallowed by the jungle where Strangler Figs and Kapok Trees have entwined themselves around the ruins. Undoubtedly, the most atmospheric ruin at Angkor with several towers, closed courtyards and narrow corridors to explore.

DAY 18: KOMPONG KLEANG FLOATING VILLAGE

After breakfast this morning head to the floating villages of Siem Reap. The Tonle Sap is the largest fresh water lake in Indochina and is home to a very different lifestyle, which can be observed from your boat. In the high water season, you will travel to Kompong Kleang a unique village on stilts. In the lower water season, you will visit a local library project which promotes education and take a traditional ox-cart ride through the fields. Continue to the less visited Beng Mealea, a temple over run by the jungle.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Destination Information

Bang Mealea - Dating from the 11th century, this sprawling temple covers over one square kilometre. Largely overrun

by vegetation and constructed in a distinctly Angkor Wat-style, Beng Mealea precedes and may even have served as a 'prototype' for Angkor Wat.

DAY 19: DEPART SIEM REAP

Transfer to the airport for your flight. Any time before your flight is at leisure

Meals included: Breakfast

DAY 20: ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

Arrive home today.

VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA DISCOVERY TRAVEL INFORMATION

Visas

Entry visas are required by all visitors to Vietnam and Cambodia and Wendy Wu Tours Visa Department can assist you with the process of obtaining a visa. We will supply you with all paperwork and submit the visa application on your behalf. Visas for Vietnam are issued with specific start and expiry dates which are based on the dates stated on the visa application form. Travel must be completed within those dates. Please be advised that your passport must have at least 6 months validity left on it when you arrive back into Australia.

Visa application forms and all relevant documentation are due in our office 75 days prior to departure; if received after this, urgent visa processing fees will apply. Also, please note we do not accept passports and visa applications within 30 days prior to departure. Passports will be returned with your Final Documentation 2-3 weeks prior to your group tour's scheduled departure. If you require your passport to be returned earlier, a \$15 courier fee will apply.

Insurance

We strongly encourage all customers to take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with them while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. These documents should be stored separately from the originals.

Eating in Indochina

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Indochina is home to an incredibly rich food history. The local cuisine is known for its intense flavours, spices and some of the freshest ingredients you can find. In general, meals include either rice or noodles and are packed full of flavour. Lemongrass, ginger, lime leaves, coriander, fish sauce and soy sauce are used in most local dishes. The food has a reputation for being hot and spicy, each region actually has its own distinct characteristics. Vietnam, for example, is perhaps best known for its fresh and aromatic dishes – relying heavily on flavours from fresh herbs such as mint, basil and dill.

Your itinerary has been carefully crafted to introduce you to a range of local dishes and we hope that you enjoy the culinary adventure ahead. Most meals (excluding drinks) are included in our Discovery group tours. When dining in Vietnam, although some restaurants have adopted a western approach to dining, expect some restaurants to follow the traditional communal style of eating. Typically, this will mean each diner has their own small bowl and may serve themselves from a variety of shared dishes. At some local restaurants, appetisers and main courses might be served when they are ready instead of following a particular order.

Determining when it's appropriate to use chopsticks, forks or spoons can be challenging for some travellers, even other Asians, as each country has different customs. In Vietnam, dishes are normally placed in the centre and people serve food for themselves with their own chopsticks and bowl. In Thailand and some other countries in Indochina, forks and spoons are used for most dishes and chopsticks are typically provided to eat noodles. Usually chopsticks or other utensils are provided to scoop the food into your bowl to prevent your own chopsticks from touching the food that remains on the table. Dining in Vietnam is fairly casual with not too many rules. Leaving food on the plate is not considered rude.

Please refer to your travel guide for more information on Vietnamese cuisine, including information for travellers with restricted diets.

Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between Australia and Indochina. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide.

Rests assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

Please note double bed requests can be made at time of booking but cannot be guaranteed.

Transport

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Roads in Indochina have generally improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road - not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the itinerary are approximations only.

Seatbelts: Please note that seatbelts are not compulsory by law in Indochina and therefore the local people largely choose not to wear them. For this reason, some vehicles may not be fitted with seatbelts or they may be hidden underneath protective seat

covers. It is recommended that where seatbelts are available customers must use them and remain seated at all times while the vehicle is moving. If you have any concerns, please notify your National Escort/Local Guides.

Planes: Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines.

Development in Vietnam and Cambodia

Although Cambodia and Vietnam are developing quickly, it still lacks the international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. Concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in Australia. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in Australia; for example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade. All of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from your National Escort or Local Guides.

Vietnam and Cambodia public holidays

If you are travelling within the below Cambodian and 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.

In Vietnam Tet Holiday is between 27th – 31st January 2017 and 17th – 20th January 2018, 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.

In Cambodia Khmer New Year is celebrated between 13th – 17th April every year, the King's birthday is celebrated between 14th - 16th May 2017 and the Water festival is between 4th – 7th November 2017.

Souvenirs

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions, which demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone so we aim to take you to places, which hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

Group Size

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by a National Escort/Local Guide. There will usually be no more than 18 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so. For groups with fewer than 10 travellers, departures will operate with local guides only.

Tipping Policy

Tipping is a firm and expected element in the tourism industry. A nominated tipping amount is included in all group tour pricing, however is not collected in your final payment received by Wendy Wu Tours. This is so that it can be paid directly to your National Escort who will then distribute the tips among your main service providers – guides and drivers– on your behalf. Any other tipping, such as tips for bathroom attendants, hotel porters taking luggage to your room or river guides is at your discretion based on satisfaction of services received, as are gratuities for additional requested special services. The final tipping amount will be outlined in your final documentation.

If you are travelling in a smaller group with local guides only, then tipping is paid in each destination. To be fair to the guides we ask for slightly higher amounts per traveller with small groups.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

Packing List and Climate

You will find a complete packing list and a helpful climate chart in the 'Suggested Packing List', which will be included in the pre-departure information link sent within your deposit documentation. Seasonal weather patterns can be quite unpredictable. Up to the minute information on worldwide weather can be found on www.weather.com.

Luggage

All clients are limited to two items of luggage each; a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of 7kg. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

Exchanging Cash

It is highly recommended that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money when travelling outside major cities in Vietnam and Cambodia. US Dollars are easily exchanged throughout Vietnam and Cambodia, however other currencies such as Australian Dollars can generally be exchanged in hotels and airports provided notes are new and undamaged. US Dollars should be from the new series from the year 2003 onwards. Old series notes can be difficult to exchange, apart from in some national banks in Vietnam, such as Vietcombank. We suggest for your convenience that you ensure your US Dollars are from the new series to avoid any difficulties exchanging money during your trip. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to remote areas and smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be limited. Your National Escort will remind you to do this before departure.

Personal Expenses & Optional Tours

You will need to take some extra money to cover some meals, drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of AUD\$350 should be sufficient; however for those that cannot resist a bargain, consider allocating a higher amount.

Optional tours may be offered in each city you visit during your tour at an additional cost. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits. Each option will be arranged locally by your National Escort/Local Guide.

Climbing Steps

Some sightseeing involves climbing quite a number of steps. This means you sometimes need to walk from the bus park to the entrance, and/or need to climb some steps inside. People with knee or hip injuries, who have poor balance or are otherwise unable to complete these activities independently should consider the suitability of this itinerary carefully.

Cultural Differences

Vietnam and Cambodia have many religions, cultures and histories. Please be considerate of the local beliefs and customs and dress with consideration.

Vaccinations and Your Health

Visit wendywutours.com.au

Call 1300 727 998 to speak to a Reservations Consultant

We recommend that you contact either your GP or Travelvax (1300 360 164) for advice on vaccinations and travel health. Travelvax has a comprehensive website that you may also find useful www.travelvax.com.au.

Before You Leave

We strongly recommend registering your travel plans with www.smartraveller.gov.au as in the event of an emergency, Australian Consular assistance will be more readily available. You can also access the Australian Government's travel advisory service for up to date information about your destination on the same website.

After your booking

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice with deposit documentation via email. This includes important information and links to access the visa application form and instructions sheet online (if applicable). Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks prior to departure.

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