

# TAILOR-MADE AND ESCORTED TOURS IN ASIA



- VIETNAM
- LAOS
- CAMBODIA
- THAILAND
- INDONESIA
- MALAYSIA
- CHINA





# A unique and unforgettable travel experience to Asia

Enjoy your holiday with a difference: **Travelling is not just about “sight seeing”**.

At Xplore-Asia our goal is to give you a unique travel experience. That is why we are based across Asia, our 6 local offices with our dedicated team enables us to offer the latest and best destinations.

Our team continues to develop and scout new destinations and with our vast knowledge we are certain we can offer a tailor-made trip which surpasses your expectations. Whether you want to stay in a hilltribe village or at a luxury boutique hotel we guarantee our range of products to be of the highest standard inspiring your next trip to Asia.



### Tailormade versus Escorted

The tours in this brochure are to act as a guide and a starting point for planning your tailormade trip however we also run some of these tours as escorted tours and we generally have one escorted trip departing each month so get in touch for more information on our scheduled departures.

### Pricing

Our pricing is based on standard accommodation for 4 or more people travelling, and should be seen as a guide, once we finalise each detail of your holiday we will be able to complete the pricing details which may be less than quoted in this brochure!

### What's included, What's not

Our pricing includes all accommodation, transport during the trip, all activities and entrance fees, guides and most breakfast and lunches, there will also be some dinners included but normally we give you this time to spend on your own and relax. The guide however will always be on hand to give you suggestions. International Flights, departure taxes and Visa fees are not included in the programs.



**experience**

With years of knowledge in the region we offer an easy way to plan and book your holiday making sure that from the moment you leave to the moment you arrive back you have only great and unforgettable memories.



**unique**

Xplore-Asia tries to do things a little different and our local knowledge allows us to keep up with this ever changing region. We like to think that we are ahead of the game, scouting new routes and new experiences to keep ahead of the tourist trail and provide your holiday with a little something special



**assistance**

With our local offices and vast network on the ground in Asia we are at hand to help in real time in any situation. Our local guides are professional and supportive and their knowledge and passion for the region adds to your experience.

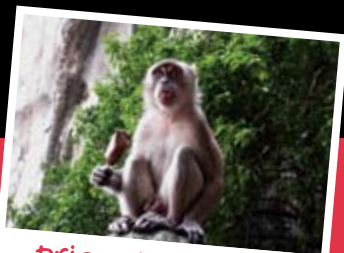
# WHY?

## XPLORE-ASIA



*your financial protection*

All monies paid by you for the air holiday package shown is ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 9236. This ensures that when you buy a package holiday from us, you are protected in the highly unlikely event of our insolvency the CAA will ensure that you



*price guarantee*

are returned to the UK and will arrange to refund any money you have paid to us for an advance booking for flights and land arrangements.

For more information see our booking terms and conditions.



*local knowledge*

With our network in Asia using our locally trained guides and services, we can guarantee our goal package holidays are offered at an unbeatable price, so much so that if you receive a cheaper quote not only will we match it but we will offer a £50 complimentary discount!





AN



# CONTENTS

Preparing for the trip.....8  
 Making a difference.....9

## VIETNAM

Vietnam Highlights 12 Days.....11  
 Passion of Vietnam 19 Days.....12  
 Northern Loop 6 Days.....14  
 Southern Vietnam 8 Days.....15  
 Passion of the Mekong Delta 5 Days.....16  
 Vietnam our Hotels.....17

## CAMBODIA

Kingdoms & Palaces 6 Days.....19  
 Cycling Cambodia 9 Days.....20  
 Temples of Angkor 5 Days.....21  
 Unspoiled Coast 5 Days.....22  
 Cultures & Capitals 5 Days.....23  
 Cambodia our Hotels.....25

## LAOS

Laos Discovery 16 Days.....27  
 Caves & Hideaways 9 Days.....29  
 Architectural Laos 5 Days.....31  
 Unseen Northern Laos 8 Days.....32  
 Southern Laos 6 Days.....33  
 Laos our Hotels.....35

## THAILAND

Northern Thailand Discovery 6 Days.....37  
 The Coastal Road 11 Days.....38  
 Beach Experience 15 Days.....40  
 Around Bangkok 4 Days.....42  
 A Bangkok city Experience.....43  
 Thailand our Hotels.....44

## CHINA

Yunnan Explorer 11 Days.....47  
 China Explorer 16 Days.....48  
 China Discovery 18 Days.....50  
 China our Hotels.....53

## MALAYSIA

Classic Malaysia 10 Days.....55  
 Discover Borneo 9 Days.....56  
 Malaysia our Hotels.....59

## INDONESIA

Classic Indonesia 15 Days.....61  
 Indonesia our Hotels.....62

## INDOCHINA

Journey through Indochina 21 Days.....63  
 A taste of Indochina 15 Days.....64  
 Trails of Indochina 16 Days.....66  
 Gateway to Indochina 19 Days.....68  
 Cambodia New Frontiers 14 Days.....69

BOOKING CONDITIONS.....70



# Preparing for your trip

A well planned and prepared trip can make all the difference, here are some points to consider when planning and preparing your holiday.

## Health

Some parts of Asia are still developing and malaria may be present in some of the areas you visit. You should seek medical advice before travelling on any inoculations and anti-malaria drugs that you will need during your trip. You should also keep a prescription for any drugs that you will be carrying for your trip and ensure you have enough dosage for your trip as it may prove difficult to obtain repeat prescriptions whilst abroad. Further information on travelling abroad can be obtained from the foreign and commonwealth office website [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk).

## Visas

Make sure your passport is valid for at least 6 months beyond the date of your return from your destination. Visas may also be necessary to arrange before you arrive, so be sure to arrange this with your local embassy in advance, please contact us if you need any help or advice in obtaining your Visa.

## Insurance

All clients must ensure they have adequate travel insurance cover before their tour. A suitable insurance policy should provide cover for medical expenses or loss of holiday monies through cancellation or curtailment of the holiday. For this reason you should make sure you are insured from the moment you book your holiday so your deposit is also covered.

## Packing

Although you may be taking anti-malarial drugs, the safest preventative against mosquito spread diseases is to avoid being bitten. Easy ways to avoid bites are to use an insect repellent and to wear long sleeve tops and trousers at night. All this being said the most common health problem whilst on holiday is sun-burn from mild to severe and can be avoided by packing a good sun block and a hat.

## Money

Asia is continually developing and ATMs are now commonplace across the region. It is recommended that you take traveller cheques and a small amount of \$US dollars. Taking traveller cheques will avoid unnecessary bank charges when withdrawing from an ATM and will also get a better rate than cash when exchanging money at the bank. The US dollar is also widely accepted in most of the Southeast Asian countries and can be used at shops, restaurants and hotels.

## Climate

Southeast Asia is a tropical climate the climate hovers at around 30°C throughout the year. During the relatively cool dry season from October to March is the best time to visit. April and May can be quite hot, while the weather cools during the rainy season. Do not be put off by the "wet" season though as often some of the best bargains can be found around this time and the weather is often sunny with the rain being in short but heavy bursts mainly in the afternoons. This also gives the hills and rice terraces of the countryside a lush green look, a highlight in itself.

## Electricity

The electric voltage throughout the region is 220 volts. Most British electrical appliances work well throughout Asia but you will find a universal adaptor is essential.



# "Making difference"

## How you can make a difference

### **Back to nature**

When travelling abroad there are several ways you can be a responsible traveller, try spending a couple of days at an eco-lodge or community lodge going back to nature.

### **Local cultures;**

Try to respect local cultures and traditions and be polite when speaking with local people. When visiting temples and religious building remember to take of your shoes and socks and shoulders and knees should be covered. Do not attempt to touch people on the head and in this predominantly Buddhist Region the head is the most scared part of the body and the feet the most unholy. Do not look at someone and point at your feet, or point your feet at anything. If in a temple you should tuck your feet underneath you and women should never touch a monk or pass anything to him directly.

Try to learn a few words of the local language on the internet or buy a phrasebook or when you arrive ask your guide to help with a few basic phrases and pronunciation.

### **Local products:**

Try to buy locally produced products rather than imported one these make for authentic souvenirs and presents help the local communities and minimize the impact on the environment.

### **Feedback:**

After you return home let us know if you have any comments or suggestions, we are continually looking for ways to improve our tours and decrease the impact we have on the local communities. If you have promised to send a picture or gift to a local peerson please remember to do so. If you are not sure how to do this we are at hand to help.

## How we make a difference

**At Xplore-Asia** we use our regional offices for reservations and use locally trained guides for the majority of our tours. This not only gives us a lower cost base which directly benefits our customers, but also ensures more of the tour price remains in the local economy.

**Xplore-Asia** is also dedicated to supporting local projects and charities, we encourage tours to visit local restaurants and support community based tourism, which use local guides from the community providing sustainable tourism. We also promote village home stays for the more adventurous tours.

With our devotion to developing new products in provincial areas and working with NGOs, local communities directly benefit from this community based tourism. As a result more and more local people are trained, educated and employed and you benefit by gaining an insight into the unique traditions and cultures giving you a truly local experience.

By increasing employment by tourism the local communities can begin to support themselves, this will give them the economic incentive to preserve their local culture and natural heritage.

# Vietnam



Mention the name Vietnam and most people assume you mean the war, thirty years since the end of the war; it is a country at peace, with spectacular geography, a vibrant culture, and genuinely friendly people. It is in reality a country filled with captivating natural beauty and tranquil village life. Its highlands and rainforests regions, far from being devastated, continue to yield new species and team with exotic wildlife. Its Islands and beaches are among the finest in all of Southeast Asia, and its cuisine is very possibly the most delicious you will ever find.

Unlike most countries of a similar size, Vietnam extends across two climate zones, with a moderate climate in the North, and a tropical climate in the South. The country measures more than 1,650km from North to South with a coastline 2,000km long.

A truly diverse country with different climates and landscapes travelling from the mountain peaks to the bays and stunning beaches all within a few hundred kilometres. Vietnam is a growing young vibrant country, its cities have superb services and facilities, coupled by the remoteness of its rural areas with dirt tracks and trails makes the journey an experience and the destination a great memory.

Journey across landscapes, and cultures, travel North through Vietnam from the bustling and financial capital of Ho Chi Minh to the more laid back capital of Hanoi. Learn about the history and struggle of the Vietnamese at the Chu Chi tunnels, their heritage at the Imperial city of Hue before strolling through the captivating world heritage colonial town of Hoi An. Visit the French colonial city of Hanoi with its French quarter and Halong Bay where you can enjoy a cruise through this bay dotted with over 3000 Limestone Islets, a spectacular site.



# Vietnam

## Highlights 12 days

### ■ DAY 1 - 2 HO CHI MINH CITY

Explore the financial Capital of Vietnam formerly known as Saigon. Visit the Reunification Palace, the War Museum, the Jade Emperor Pagoda and Notre Dame Cathedral. Take an excursion to the Chu Chi tunnels. This tunnel system covers close to 200km and went right under the US air base. The tunnels used to span from Close to the Cambodian border right to the edge of Ho Chi Minh City a show of the Vietnamese will and determination, the tunnels even included schools and field hospitals.

### ■ DAY 3 - 4 MEKONG DELTA EXCURSION

Drive to Cai Be in the heart of the Mekong Delta and take a cruise on a Sapan through the maze of canals and tributaries to Vinh Long. Visit Floating markets and local shops before driving to Can Tho the main town of the Mekong Delta. In the morning take another Sampan through Cai Rang floating market and stop by a noodle factory. Experience the real rural life and lush vegetation along the riverbanks, before returning to Ho Chi Minh.

### ■ DAY 5 HO CHI MINH – HOI AN

Take the morning flight to Danang and drive south to nearby Hoi An. Enjoy the architecture and local delicacies, strolling around this peaceful city.

### ■ DAY 6 HOI AN

A free day shopping or at the beach.

### ■ DAY 7 HOI AN TO HUE

Drive north along the dramatic costal road at Hai Van Pass to Vietnam's former imperial capital.

### ■ DAY 8 HUE

Visit Tu Duc's tomb the Citadel and the Imperial City. After Lunch take a dragon boat along the Perfume River out to the tomb of Minh Mang.

### ■ DAY 9 HUE - HANOI

Fly to Hanoi; visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, One Pillar Pagoda, the Stilt house, the infamous Hanoi Hilton and the peaceful temple of literature.

### ■ DAY 10 - 11 HANOI – HALONG BAY

A two day cruise through the world heritage site of Halong bay; sail through the many islets and bays, visit "amazing cave" and take a swim in the emerald water. Retire to your cabin or relax under the stars amidst the magic of Halong on the top deck. The following day enjoy sunrise and the breath of fresh ocean air. Continue cruising visiting a floating village before returning to Halong City and transferring back to Hanoi.

### ■ DAY 12 HANOI

Transfer to Hanoi Airport for your onward flight.

From £1,350

# Passion of Vietnam

north to south 19 days



## ■ DAY 1~ 2 HANOI

Take in the sights of Hanoi, including Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, the One-Pillar Pagoda, Tran Quoc Pagoda, the infamous Hanoi Hilton, and the Temple of Literature, board the overnight sleeper train to Sapa.

## ■ DAY 3 ~ 4 SAPA

From Lao Cai Station at around 6am pass the Vietnam / Chinese border before having breakfast at a local restaurant. The transfer to Sapa is just 40km on a mountains road. Various hilltribes live around this area, visit Cat Cat stream and waterfall, take a short walk passing some French ruins to catch a glimpse of the Peak of Fansipan the highest peak of Indochina. The following morning visit Taphin, hike through the paddy fields to reach H'mong and Red Zao communities, skilled in silk embroidery. Visit the Taven Village with various ethnic communities before arriving at Lao Cai for your train back to Hanoi.

## ■ DAY 5 HANOI

A free Day to relax and enjoy Hanoi, in the evening enjoy a traditional puppet show and for dinner why not try some of the local dishes on offer or even the snake wine.

## ■ DAY 6 ~ 7 HANOI ~ HALONG BAY

A two day cruise through the world heritage site of Halong bay; sail through the many islets and bays, visit "amazing cave" and take a swim in the bays emerald water. Retire to your cabin or relax under the stars amidst the magic of Halong Bay on the top deck. The following day enjoy sunrise and the breath of fresh ocean air. Continue cruising through the bay before returning to Halong City and transferring back to Hanoi and board the reunification express to Hue.

## ■ DAY 8 ~ 9 HUE

On arrival in Hue check into your hotel and have the morning free to relax. In the afternoon visit the Royal Citadel virtually destroyed by the Americans on retaking the city after the Tet Offensive the city has now been largely rebuilt although the Imperial city suffered virtual destruction. Take a dragon boat ride along the Perfume River to see Thien Mu Pagoda the tomb of Minh Mang.

## ■ DAY 10 ~ HUE ~ DANANG ~ HOI AN

Enjoy a scenic drive across Hai Van Pass to Lang Co Beach, visit Marble Mountain, China Beach and Cham Museum before arriving in Danang. After lunch drive to Hoi An, enjoy the rest of the day free in Hoi An.

Starting in Hanoi the former French colonial city, trek around Sapa, Cruise around the world Heritage site of Halong Bay amongst the limestone islets and crystal blue waters. Take the Reunification Express to Hue, the former capital of Vietnam. Stop at the old colonial town of Hoi An where you can enjoy its tranquillity. Relax at a beach resort in Nha Trang before moving onto the financial capital Ho Chi Minh City and the Cu Chi Tunnels, board a Sampan for a cruise along the Mekong Delta.



#### ■ DAY 11 ~ HOI AN

A free day shopping or at the beach.

#### ■ DAYS 12 ~ HOI AN - NHA TRANG

Transfer to Danang for the early morning train to Nha Trang arrive early evening at your beach resort the rest of the day spend at your own leisure.

#### ■ DAY 13 – 14 ~ NHA TRANG – WHALE ISLAND

Transfer to the secluded Whale Island Resort. Relax, catch the sun and laze away on the beach. There are also coral reefs that you can snorkel at, the following day return to Nha Trang for the overnight train to Ho Chi Minh.

#### ■ DAY 15 ~ HO CHI MINH CITY

Transfer to your hotel and enjoy a free day for your own activities.

#### ■ DAY 16 ~ HO CHI MINH CITY

Explore the financial Capital of Vietnam formerly known as Saigon. Visit the Reunification Palace, the War Museum, the Jade Emperor Pagoda and Notre Dame Cathedral. Take an excursion to the Chu Chi tunnels. This tunnel system covers close to 200km and went right under the US air base. This tunnels used to span from close to the Cambodian border right to the edge of Ho Chi Minh City a show of the Vietnamese will and determination, the tunnels even included schools and field hospitals.

#### ■ DAY 17 – 18 ~ MEKONG DELTA

Drive to Cai Be in the heart of the Mekong Delta and take a cruise on a Sampan through the maze of canals and tributaries to Vinh Long. Visit Floating markets and local shops before driving to Can Tho the main town of the Mekong Delta. In the morning take another Sampan through Cai Rang floating market and stop by a noodle factory. Experience the real rural life and lush vegetation along the riverbanks, before returning to Ho Chi Minh.

#### ■ DAY 19 ~ HO CHI MINH

Depart for Ho Chi Minh International airport for you departing flight or on your own to make arrangements.

From £1,820

# Northern Loop

## 6 days

This tour is perfect for the adventure traveller wanting to get off the tourist trail and experience something a little different. Stunning landscapes and mountains, terraced rice fields and valleys. The friendly ethnic minorities including the Hmong and Red Dzao and of course the remote fort of Dien Bien Phu which was the last stand of the French in Indochina.

### ■ DAY 1 HANOI ~ MAI CHAU (160 KM)

Travelling from Hanoi quickly find yourself in the countryside passing through dramatic limestone mountains, descend to the Mai Chau valley of the Thai People. Walk around the village and learn about the hilltribes here, dinner and a traditional dance with local rice wine will be on the menu. Spend the night at one of the villages stilt homes.

### ■ DAY 2 MAI CHAU ~ MOC CHAU ~ SON LA

Drive through orchids, tea plantations and towering mountains, meet various ethnic groups and visit the former colonial prison at Son La.

### ■ DAY 3 SON LA ~ DIEN BIEN PHU

Pass by small villages on the journey to Dien Bien Phu, the last base of the French in Indochina, which was overrun by the Vietnamese in 1954.

### ■ DAY 4 DIEN BIEN PHU ~ MUONG LAY ~ LAI CHAU

The road through the Lai Chau valley is breathtaking, hugging rice terraced mountainsides and fording turbulent rivers. See many ethnic groups along the way, spend the night in the colourful town of Tam Duong.



### ■ DAY 5 LAI CHAU ~ SAPA

Continue uphill winding through the Tram Ton Pass the highest mountain pass in Vietnam. The views of the Northern mountain ranges are spectacular, the highest in Southeast Asia. Sapa is an old French hill station and a busy market town for the regional minority groups. A town in the clouds, with cool refreshing air.

### ■ DAY 6 SAPA ~ TA PHIN ~ HANOI

The following morning visit Taphin, hike through the paddy fields to reach H'mong and Red Zao communities, skilled in silk embroidery. Visit the Taven Village with various ethnic communities before arriving at Lao Cai for your soft sleeper train back to Hanoi.

From £400

A journey through Vietnam; the maze of the Mekong Delta and the city of Ho Chi Minh formerly named Saigon. Dalat offers a romantic spot of French styled architecture. Pass through spectacular Mountain and pine wood scenery on the way to the tropical beaches at Nha Trang. The beach resort of Nha Trang is a great place to relax or why not try fishing or local style canoeing. Continue through local rural villages to the vast sand dunes of Cap Mui Ne which are truly remarkable, all in all a magical tour.

# Southern Vietnam

## 8 days

### ■ DAY 1 HO CHI MINH

Explore the financial Capital of Vietnam formerly known as Saigon. Visit the Reunification Palace, the War Museum, the Jade Emperor Pagoda and Notre Dame Cathedral. After lunch visit the Chu Chi tunnels. This underground tunnel system covers close to 200km and went right under the US air base. The tunnels used to span from Close to the Cambodian border right to the edge of Ho Chi Minh City a show of the Vietnamese will and determination, the tunnels even included schools and field hospitals.

### ■ DAY 2 MEKONG DELTA

A day to enjoy the Mekong delta with a boat trip on a Sapan through the maze of canals and tributaries. Visit Floating markets and local shops before returning to Ho Chi Minh.

### ■ DAY 3 DALAT

Drive along scenic roads to Dalat; pass through tea, coffee and mulberry plantations on the way to Dalat which is often referred to as the "city of eternal spring" due to its moderate climate. Once in Dalat visit the Bao Dai's Summer Palace, the Hang Nga guest house, and Truc Lam Thien Vien pagoda beautifully located on the mountain top.

### ■ DAY 4 DALAT ~ BUON ME THUOT

Drive to Buon Me Thuot, famous for its coffee plantations. The 160 km drive takes about 4 hours and passes through Spectacular Mountain and pine wood scenery. Enjoy lunch at the Lak Lake. Take a scenic boat ride on dugout canoe to

the ethnic village of the M'ning people. In the afternoon continue to Buon Me Thuot. Enjoy an evening performance of ethnic dances, songs in a nearby village and join the villagers in drinking local "can" wine.

### ■ DAY 5 BUON ME THUOT ~ NHA TRANG.

Drive to York Don National Forest and explore the surrounding area during a 1 hour elephant ride. Return to Buon Me Thuot for a short visit of the Ethnographic museum. After lunch take the scenic road towards the coastal plains to Nha Trang with a short stopover at Po Nagar Cham Towers.

### ■ DAY 6 NHA TRANG

A free day in Nha Trang to soak up the sun or try one of the many activities on offer

### ■ DAY 7 NHA TRANG ~ PHAN THIET

Travel past lush rice fields, salt ponds and dragon fruit plantations through to the fishing harbour of Phan Thiet, stop at the vast sand dunes at Cap Mui Ne and spend the night at a beach resort.

### ■ DAY 8 PHAN THIET ~ HO CHI MINH CITY

Morning free at leisure on the beach, after lunch at local restaurant travel by road to Ho Chi Minh City where the tour ends.

From £490

# Passion of the Mekong Delta 5 days



Explore the Mekong Delta with its vast canals and tributaries, start in Ho Chi Minh and travel along the river to Cai Be, CanTho. Travel along bustling waterways, shop at floating markets and get a feel for local life. Eat tropical fruits in lush orchards, look into the art of Bonsai and have tea in a typical boathouse. From Chau Doc the (Cambodian / Vietnamese border), from here you can return to Ho Chi Minh or continue by boat to Phnom Penh.

## ■ DAY 1 HO CHI MINH

Transfer from Ho Chi Minh International Airport to your hotel, after lunch explore the financial Capital of Vietnam formerly known as Saigon. Visit the Reunification Palace, the War Museum, the Jade Emperor Pagoda and Notre Dame Cathedral.

## ■ DAY 2 HO CHI MINH

Drive through the countryside to Tay Ninh, 100 km from Ho Chi Minh. The head quarters of the Cao Dai religious group, have a chance to witness this daily ceremony at Cao Dai, and meet the followers wearing their coloured robes, a symbol of the Caodaism Religion a mixture of Confucianism, Taoism, Christianity and Buddhism. After lunch visit the Chu Chi tunnels. This underground tunnel system covers close to 200km and went right under the US air base. The tunnels used to span from close to the Cambodian border right to the edge of Ho Chi Minh City a show of the Vietnamese will and determination, the tunnels even included schools and field hospitals.

## ■ DAY 3 HO CHI MINH ~ CAN THO

Take a Sapan along the Mekong Delta, cruise through the maze of canals and tributaries. Visit Floating markets and local shops before driving to Can Tho the main town of the Mekong Delta.

## ■ DAY 4 CAN THO ~ CHAU DOC

Take a rowing boat through the Cai Rang – Phong Dien floating markets, enjoy the stunning scenery and surreal daily life in this remote area. In the afternoon visit a rice husking mill and a rice noodle factory. Enjoy the view from the top of Sam Mountain.

## ■ DAY 5 CHAU DOC ~ PHNOM PENH

If you are continuing to Phnom Penh complete border formalities and take a boat for 4 hours up the Mekong to Phnom Penh arriving in Phnom Penh at noon. Otherwise return to Ho Chi Minh.

From £390

## SAMPLE SHORT EXCURSIONS

### CLASSIC CRUISE OF HALONG BAY

A two day excursion from Halong bay for an overnight cruise on a deluxe junk boat, leaving and ending in Hanoi the cruise travels through Halong Bay where you can enjoy the limestone karsts and caves and sleep under the stars. Optional activities include kayaking and fishing. A trip not to be missed on any travellers Vietnam trip.

### HILLTOPS AND TRIBES OF SAPA

A luxury travel experience to Sapa exploring the hilltribes of this old French Hill Station. Leaving from Hanoi on the overnight train to Lao Cai spend the day travelling along the mountain roads to Sapa. Visit Ethnic villages and stunning waterfalls. Spend the night in the 5\* Victoria Hotel in the town above the clouds. The following day in the evening return to Hanoi on the overnight luxury sleeper train.



# Vietnam

## our hotels

### ACCOMMODATION IN VIETNAM

Your home away from home; whether staying at a hotel, resort, or eco lodge our hand picked hotels will add something special to your trip. The hotels listed here are just a few recommendations of what we have to offer, but we are always at hand with helpful advice to find that magical place that you can call home.



CHAU LONG HOTEL, SAPA

Set in the high green mountains of Northern Vietnam, this luxury hotel offers comfort and delight. The rooms also feature private balconies offering breathtaking views over the Muong Hoa valley & Mount Fansipan.



SAIGON RESORT, PHU QUOC

Located on the Island of Phu Quoc surrounded by white sandy beaches, overlooking the sea the resort is ideal for relaxing, fishing, trekking cycling, snorkeling or scuba diving. The resort provides a perfect balance between relaxation and excitement.



GRAN HOTEL, HO CHI MINH

Perfectly located in the heart of Ho Chi Minh, an ideal choice for prime location, classic architecture and local flavour.



GREEN HUE HOTEL, HUE

A deluxe hotel in the Imperial City of Hue, offering genuine Vietnames hospitality with excellent service.



RIVER-BEACH RESORT, HOI AN

This luxurious hotel is beautifully situated in the UNESCO World Heritage site of Hoi An, with tranquillity and stunning views of the surrounding paddy fields, river and sea.



FLOWER GARDEN HOTEL, HANOI

A modern hotel located in the heart of Hanoi, friendly staff and clear 360 degree views of Hanoi from the restaurant at the top floor.

# Cambodia



Cambodia is known as the land of Mystery, a unique destination rich in diversity and cultural heritage. Since the fall of the Khmer Rouge there is a new era of peace and stability in Cambodia. The main attraction for a visit to Cambodia is the architectural wonder of the temples of Angkor, with each temple showing the distinctive style of the ruling Khmer King, the temples are each unique and a masterpiece of art and engineering. The capital of Cambodia Phnom Penh is a vibrant city with many restaurants. Phnom Penh also gives a reminder of the dark history of the Khmer Rouge seen vividly at Tuol Sleng “S-21 Prison” and Choeung Ek “The Killing Fields”. Outside from the main sights of Angkor and Phnom Penh and with the help of governments and aid organisations, tourism is being developed throughout the country, providing the local people the opportunity to keep their ancient traditions and cultures alive and show their natural talent as weavers and craftsmen among other skills.

The temples of Angkor are a feat of Khmer engineering and art, defining each different Khmer Kingdom. The architecture and irrigation systems are a masterpiece that would struggle to be replicated even with today's modern technology. The French influence in Cambodia can be seen at Battambang with colonial villas and relaxed pace. The hustle and bustle of Phnom Penh can be seen from the moment you arrive in this vibrant city and contrasts of its history can be seen at the Royal Palace and the "Killing Fields".



# Kingdoms and Palaces 6 days

## ■ DAY 1 ~ 2 SIEM REAP

Enjoy a spectacular sunset over Siem Reap from the top of Bakheng Hill. Visit the Banteay Srei temple with its classical Khmer art, the ancient capital of Angkor Thom, the Jungle temple Ta Phrom and the most famous of all temples Angkor Wat.

## ■ DAY 3 ~ 4 SIEM REAP ~ BATTAMBANG

Travel to Battambang passing along the way at Banteay Chhmar one of the pre Angkor Capitals which is enclosed by a 9km wall. In the afternoon visit to Phnom Banon mountain top, giving some great views of the area. The following day enjoy a ride on one of Cambodia's unique forms of transport, a bamboo train. After the ride take the short flight to Phnom Penh.

## ■ DAY 5 PHNOM PENH

Start the morning of with a visit to the Royal Palace and the famous silver pagoda, lined with a tiled floor of over 5,000 silver tiles. After lunch visit the Russian market where you can shop for many bargains and souvenirs.

## ■ DAY 6 PHNOM PENH

Today step back into the dark history of Cambodia under the regime of the Khmer Rouge, spend the morning at the Killing Fields of Choeung Ek before visiting the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum formerly used as a prison during the Khmer Rouge reign and known as S-21. After lunch take a trip to Wat Phnom.

From £410

# Cycling Cambodia 9 days

A cycling holiday is a great alternative to see the country and our Cambodian itinerary is a sample of a sensational ride. Cycle on mainly flat terrain and quite back roads. Stop at the nations capital before following the coastline. Explore Takeo, the French colonial Beach retreat at Kep before continuing past Kampot and to Sihanoukville. The trip is fully supported by an air-conditioned support vehicle.



## ■ DAY 1 SIEM REAP ~ KOMPONG THOM ~ KOMPONG CHAM (CYCLE 76KM)

Departing from your hotel in Siem Reap drive past the town of Kompong Thom, where your cycling adventure begins through some of Cambodia's peaceful back roads.

## ■ DAY 2 - 3 KOMPONG CHAM ~ PHNOM PENH (CYCLE 63KM)

A picturesque cycling day riding along dirt roads following the Mekong River to the nation's capital Phnom Penh. Visit the S21 prison and have time to cruise around this charming city.

## ■ DAY 4 PHNOM PENH ~ TAKEO (CYCLE 83KM)

Turn south, past the Killing Field of Choeung Ek and continue to the small lake side town of Takeo.

## ■ DAY 5 TAKEO ~ KEP (CYCLE 100KM)

Taking great back roads all day cycle to Kep, the former beach side resort town of the French era.

## ■ DAY 6 KEP ~ KAMPOT (CYCLE 25KM)

A free morning to relax before taking an afternoon ride to Kampot which sits between rivers and mountains and is the perfect place to relax and enjoy an old colonial town.

## ■ DAY 7 - 9 KAMPOT ~ SIHANOUKVILLE ~ PHNOM PENH (CYCLE 108KM)

Ride along the coastline for our last day on the bikes, cycling under the gaze of the Elephant Mountains.

Stay at the coastal resort town of Sihanoukville for a well earned beach-side rest. Spend the final days relaxing before transferring to Phnom Penh.

From £750

# Temples of Angkor 5 days

Indulge in the temples of Angkor, visit magnificent Temples and stone carvings depicting the ancient Khmer civilization. Visit the wonder and mystery of one of the most famous temples in the world Angkor Wat.

## ■ DAY 1 SIEM REAP

Transfer from Siem Reap international Airport to your hotel, late afternoon take in the sunset views of Angkor from the top of Backheng Hill.

## ■ DAY 2 SIEM REAP

A day's visit to the temples of Angkor, the ancient capital of Angkor Thom, the jungle temple of Ta Prohm and in the afternoon the most famous temple of all Angkor Wat.

## ■ DAY 3 SIEM REAP

Visit to Banteay Srei temple (10th c), regarded as the jewel in the crown of Classical Khmer Art. Pre Rup is another 10th century temple dedicated to Hindu gods, boasting beautifully carved false doors on the upper level as well as excellent views of the surrounding countryside. Afternoon visit to Chong Kneas fishing village, take a boat ride through the local floating villages on the Tonle Sap lake.

## ■ DAY 4 SIEM REAP

In the morning visit a Butterfly farm, enjoy the local market and local jewellers, before visiting Les Artisan d'Angkor-Chantiers Ecoles which trains locals in the art of traditional craft skills. Products produced here include traditional techniques such as stone carving, wood carving, lacquering, gilding and silk processing.

## ■ DAY 5 SIEM REAP

After breakfast transfer to Siem Reap International Airport for your onward departure.

From £290

# Unspoiled Coast southern beach retreat 5 days



## ■ DAY 1 PHNOM PENH ~ KEP

Travel towards the coast stopping at Tonle Bati Lake, visit Ta Prohm and Yeay Peau temples showing some interesting basereliefs. Take a boat ride from Takeo to Phnom Da before continuing by road to Kep.

## ■ DAY 2 KEP ~ SIHANOUKVILLE

Enjoy a boat trip to Rabbit Island (Koh Tunsay) and discover its beautiful and pristine scenery. In the afternoon drive to Kampot and enjoy a tour of this quiet town with stunning architecture, before continuing along the coast and the Damrei (Elephant) Mountains to Kompong Som (Sihanoukville), spend the rest of the day free at your own leisure.

## ■ DAY 3 ~ 4 SIHANOUKVILLE

Free Day at your own leisure.

## ■ DAY 5 SIHANOUKVILLE ~ PHNOM PENH

After lunch transfer back to Phnom Penh.

Why not combine a tour to Cambodia with a few days along its Southern Coastline. Enjoy the beaches of the Southern coast of Cambodia travelling along the coast and staying at the beach resorts of Kep and Sihanoukville.



From £230

The capital of Phnom Penh, visit the Royal Palace and its various markets. Learn about its dark history at the Tuol Sleng museum and the infamous Killing Fields. Fly to Siem Reap and indulge in the Temples of Angkor.

# Culture & Capitals 5 days

CAMBODIA

## ■ DAY 1 PHNOM PENH

A day in Phnom Penh visit the Royal Palace and the Silver Pagoda, Visit Tuol Sleng-museum a former high school that was converted into a prison and a torture center by the Khmer Rouge in 1975. Stop at Wat Phnom before heading out to the Russian Market which is a great place to buy souvenir before returning to your hotel.

## ■ DAY 2 PHNOM PENH ~ SIEM REAP

Visit the killing Fields of Choeung Ek a memorial and a burial site to those that were killed here during the brutal Khmer Rouge reign. After lunch fly to Siem Reap and enjoy sunset at the top of Backheng Hill.

## ■ DAY 3 SIEM REAP

A day's visit to the temples of Angkor, the ancient capital of Angkor Thom, the jungle temple of Ta Prohm and the afternoon at the most famous temple of all Angkor Wat.



## ■ DAY 4 SIEM REAP

After breakfast at the hotel, morning transfer to visit Banteay Srei Built from intricately carved sandstone, Banteay Srei lies 32 km from Angkor and is enveloped by jungle. Proceed to Preh Khan. The last visit before noon is Mebon Oriental, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before visiting Les Artisan d'Angkor-Chantiers Ecoles which trains locals in the art of traditional craft skills. Products produced here include traditional techniques such as stone carving, wood carving, lacquering, gilding and silk processing. Then onto the local market (Psaa Chas Market) for souvenir shopping before returning to your hotel.

## ■ DAY 5 SIEM REAP

Departure to you onward destination.

From £360



### ANGKOR FROM THE AIR 1 DAY

Spend the morning at Angkor Wat the world's largest sacred building an architectural masterpiece, visit the ancient capital of Angkor Thom and the jungle temple of Ta Phrom. Early afternoon take a helicopter or balloon ride over Angkor. Enjoy spectacular aerial views of temples earlier seen on the ground before returning to your hotel.

### MEKONG ADVENTURE

A three day tour exploring the northern provinces of Kratie and Stung Treng. Departing from Phnom Penh head north towards Kratie, stop at Koh Trong for a cycle ride around the island, enjoy the peaceful ride by the trees. Take a boat ride to see the Kampi Dolphin Pool before continuing to Stung Treng. The following day kayak through the flooded forest of the Ramsar wetlands. On the final day visit the Mekong Blue and Rock ah Kandal workshop before returning to Phnom Penh. This trip can also be done coming from the Laos/Cambodia border.

### KIRIROM HILLSIDE ADVENTURE

A two day excursion to the Kirirom Hillside resort about 2 hours from Phnom Penh, check into your lodge before continuing into the park and seeing the remains of King Shinaouk's Villa, enjoy a swim at the waterfall before returning to the lodge and spend the rest of the afternoon taking in the views from the balcony of your lodge, alternatively try some of the optional activities available at the lodge. The following day visit Chambok an ecotourism site managed by local villagers, take a bullock drawn cart for a local-style journey along a narrow dirt track. Trek to some dramatic falls and views of the forest, before returning to Phnom Penh.

### YEAK LAOM DISCOVERY

Travel north to Kratie stopping at Skun village for a photograph or a snack of the local delicacy of deep fried spider. Continue past rubber plantations to the Kampi Dolphin pool home of the rare Irrawaddy Dolphin before checking into your hotel in Kratie. The next two days are spent in the province of Ratanakiri see the volcanic rocks of Vealrum Plang, a lava field in a forest. Pass Taveng & Kroeung Villages before stopping at Yeak Lom Lake, a basin in the middle of an extinct volcano surrounded by lush forest growth. Visit the local waterfalls and villages around Ban Lung. On the final day return to Kratie for lunch before continuing to Phnom Penh or travelling to Laos.



# Cambodia

## our hotels

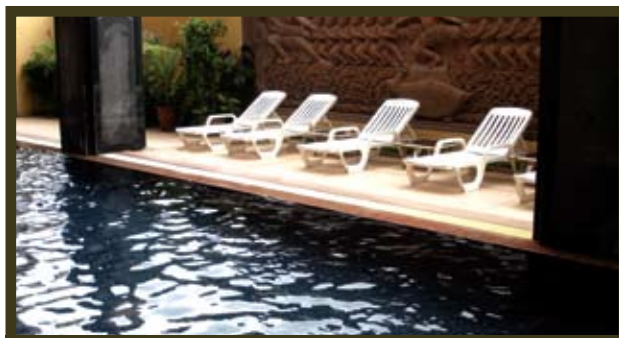
### ACCOMMODATION IN CAMBODIA

Your home away from home; whether staying at a hotel, resort, or eco lodge our hand picked hotels will add something special to your trip. The hotels listed here are just a few recommendations of what we have to offer, but we are always at hand with helpful advice to find that magical place that you can call home.



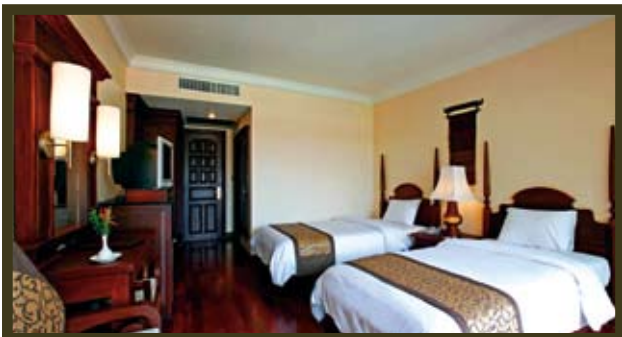
AMANJAYA PANCAM HOTEL, PHNOM PENH

Situated in the lively Riverside area and furnished in local style, with luxurious touches reflecting the harmony and heritage of Cambodian architecture.



HOTEL CASTLE, PHNOM PENH

Located along the Mekong River this standard hotel offers comfort, Riverside location and facilities including a swimming pool and jacuzzi.



PRINCE D'ANGKOR HOTEL, SIEM REAP

A luxury stay of elegance with Khmer traditional style furnishings makes it the perfect place to explore the legendary Angkor temples.



SOMADEVI RESORT, SIEM REAP

An ideal retreat to experience comfort and luxury in one, as you take a journey into history and relive the magical grace of Angkor.



SOKHA BEACH RESORT, SIHANOUKVILLE

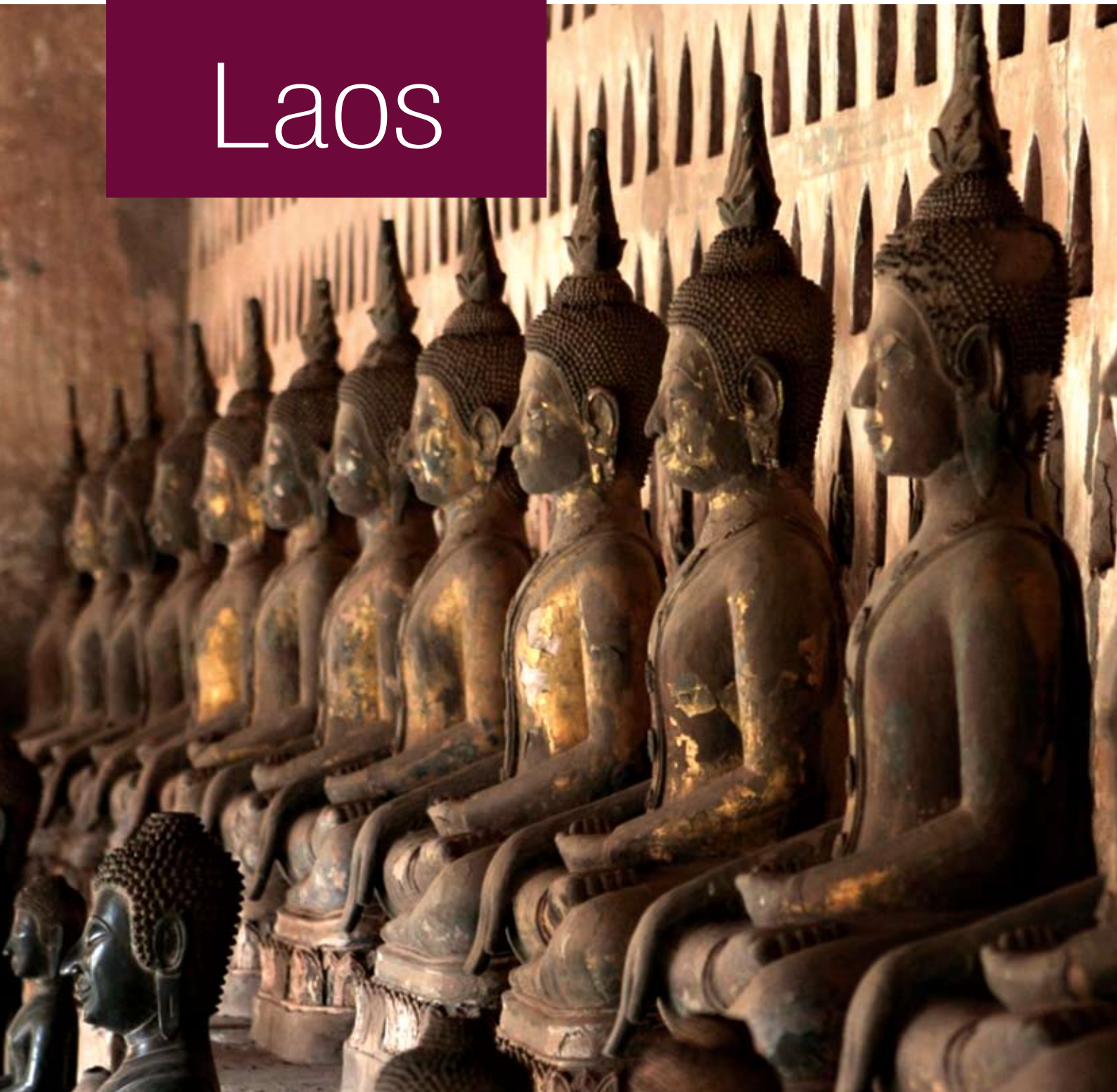
Over 23 hectares of beautifully landscaped beachfront and gardens with its own private beach a great place to unwind and relax.



THE BEACH HOUSE, KEP

Set in the old colonial town of Kep on the Southern Coast, take in the calmness of the ocean and great sunsets at this Beach House Retreat.

# Laos



The history of Laos is one of colonisation and occupation. Some of the earliest conquerors were the mighty Khmer's and the first temple of the Khmer Kingdom was Wat Phu actually built in Southern Laos and not Cambodia. The nation emerged as the land of the Million Elephants with Luang Prabang as its capital, before moving to Vientiane. Laos became the most heavily bombed country in the world during the Vietnam War, and has now emerged as an ideal ecotourism destination. Visiting Laos is like stepping back in time, with its century old traditions and slow pace of life, make this an unforgettable journey. Laos is covered with rivers and pristine forests, the Mighty Mekong runs from its borders with China and Myanmar along Thailand to Cambodia and on its eastern border it is landlocked by the Annamite Mountains with Vietnam. There are no beaches in Laos but the forests and rivers offer something different a natural eco adventure.

Crossing the border from Thailand to Laos is an experience in itself, a feeling like you have gone back 100 years. Take a moment to take in the clean fresh air. Your adventure will take you to grand ancient Temples and historic colonial Cities, deep remote jungles and amazing limestone caves. Southern Laos offers a peak into Agricultural Laos with its Bolaven Plateau of Volcanic rock producing fantastic tea, coffee and cool waterfalls. The area known as Si Pan Don is a natural wetlands where the Mekong reaches its widest giving rise to its name the 4000 river Islands.



# Laos

## Discovery

### 16 days

LAOS

#### ■ DAY 1 - 2 BANGKOK ~ CHIANG RAI

Arriving at Bangkok International Airport transfer to Chiang Rai, the next day pass through the golden triangle where Laos, Myanmar and Thailand meet visiting the Opium museum and seeing the hill tribes before continuing onto Chang Khong opposite the Laos border.

#### ■ DAY 3 - 4 CHIANG KHONG ~ LUANG NAMTHA

After immigration procedures, travel by car to Luang Namtha, En route visit the hill-tribe villages of Ban Laten, Kh'mu and Hmong and Muong Sing. Spend the night in a local guesthouse in Luang Nam Tha.

#### ■ DAY 5 LUANG NAM THA ~ NONG KHIAW

Drive through some dramatic landscape to Nong Khiaw, visiting local H'mong and Khmu minority tribes along the way. Enjoy the afternoon to relax or take a stroll along the river bank or just relax and watch the sunset, overnight at a local guesthouse.

#### ■ DAY 6 NONG KHIAW

A day's activities in Nong Khiaw take a boat ride to Muong Noi, cycle or just relax taking in the stunning views.

#### ■ DAY 7 NONG KHIAW ~ LUANG PRABANG

After breakfast, take a long tail boat which takes about 5 hours along the Nam-Ou & Mekong Rivers to Luang Prabang, passing the local villages and touching the real life of the villagers going about their everyday affairs of fishing, trading & washing along the rivers. Stop to visit the Pak Ou caves and observe the traditional production of rice wine distillation in Ban Sanghai. Arrive in Luang Prabang early afternoon.

#### ■ DAY 8 LUANG PRABANG

A days excursion to see this World Heritage City and the former capital of Laos with its famous temples and their gleaming roofs, Wat Visoun the royal palace, colonial architecture and its stunning mountain backdrop enjoy sunset and take in the views from the top of Phousi.

#### ■ DAY 9 LUANG PRABANG

Free Day in Luang Prabang or take a visit to Kuang Si Waterfall.

#### ■ DAY 10 LUANG PRABANG ~ VIENTIANE

Fly to Vientiane afternoon tour of Vientiane, Wat Phra Kaew and Patuxai before visiting Tat Luang Stuppa, the national symbol of Laos. Late check into your hotel and spend the evening to relax.

#### ■ DAY 11 VIENTIANE ~ HIN BOUN

Leaving from Vientiane we drive to Khamoune Province, which has many dramatic Karst Limestone formations, and over to the Nam Teun bridge area stop at the edge of the NBCA at Teun Hin Boun Town.

#### ■ DAY 12 HIN BOUN

Take a memorable 3 hour boat cruise up the meandering river before travelling through Kong Lor Cave, a 7.5km cave and the longest is Laos PDR. Travel by longtail boats using lamps for sight. Once we arrive at the other side we take a short trek to a nearby village and eat our lunch on the river bank and enjoy a swim, before returning to Hin Boun.

#### ■ DAY 13 HIN BOUN ~ PAKSE

Depart from Sala Hin Boun after breakfast returning back to Ban Na Hin and onto Pakse, rest of the day to relax in Pakse.

#### ■ DAY 14 PAKSE ~ BOLAVEN PLATEAU ~ PAKSE

Drive east by road to a local tea and coffee plantation where we can watch how the tea leaves and coffee beans are processed and taste test the finished product. Next travel to the famous Tad Fane waterfall, where you will see two stunning cascades framed against the Bolaven Plateau dropping nearly 120m, making this one of the most spectacular sights in Laos. After leaving Tad Fane we drive to another waterfall, Tad Yuang, which has a beautiful swimming spot, where you can have a picnic lunch and relax by the waterfall, before visiting Tad Paxuam a distinctive and circular shaped waterfall flowing into a deep pool that is featured on many postcards of Laos.

#### ■ DAY 15 PAKSE ~ SI PAN DON

Take a boat along the Mekong to Champasak and visit the ancient temple of Wat Phu, before continuing to Don Khong the largest of the 4000 Islands.

#### ■ DAY 16 SI PAN DON ~ PAKSE

Take a boat ride through the 4000 Islands past Don Det to the old French Railway Bridge at Don Khone take a short walk to Liphithan before taking a boat ride to see the rare Irrawaddy Dolphins finishing up at the Laos / Cambodian border. Return to Pakse stopping on the way at Khon Pha Peng Waterfall the 'Niagra of the East'.

From £1,350



# Caves & Hideaways

## 9 days

Starting at the world heritage city of Luang Prabang travel through remote mountain scenery to Sam Neua and the caves of Vieng Xai where the Lao Government held out during the bombing campaign of the second Indochina War, continue to Xieng Khouang with its mysterious plain of Jars to Vang Vieng and finally Vientiane the capital of Laos.

### ■ DAY 1 LUANG PRABANG

A days excursion to see this World Heritage City and the former capital of Laos with its famous temples and their gleaming roofs, visit Wat Visoun and the Royal Palace. Take in Luang Pra bang's colonial architecture and its stunning mountain backdrop, before taking in sunset from the top of Phousi.

### ■ DAY 2 LUANG PRABANG ~ SAM NEUA

Travel north east from Luang Prabang to the town of Sam Neua, a day of mainly driving and taking in the breath taking views as the road twists around the mountains.

### ■ DAY 3 SAM NEUA ~ VIENG XAI

The caves of Viengxai are set amid visually stunning but forbiddingly rugged limestone karsts. The Lao Government began here in these caves. No amount of bombing stopped military activity or even discouraged visitors like Fidel Castro. Visit several of the most important historic caves used once as military headquarters, hospitals, administration areas, and bomb shelters by the Lao People's Revolutionary Party.



### ■ DAY 4 VIENGXAI ~ SAM NEUA

Today after breakfast, travel to the nearby Hospital Cave. This extensive cave was used as a hospital during the war. Inside you can see intact medicine bottles still strewn about the rubble. After the bombing raids ended, a new hospital building was built in front of the cave. Return to Sam Neua mid afternoon.

■ **DAY 5 SAM NEUA ~ XIENG KHOUANG**

Morning drive to Xieng Khouang stopping along the way for lunch in Nam Neun. Continue on to Thampiu Cave, the scene of a tragic loss of a large number of lives during the Indochina War. Xieng Khouang boasts mysterious menhirs (standing stones) at Hintang. No one is quite sure who built them or why, perhaps they are burial sites or markers of some sort. The stones were first inconclusively studied by the archaeologist Madame Colani and her expedition in the 1930s.

■ **DAY 6 XIENG KHOUANG ~ VANG VIENG**

This morning after breakfast, travel to the Plain of Jars, an impressive archaeological site where hundreds of large stone jars are littered all over the plateau. Have lunch at a local restaurant, and then continue to visit the old capital of Muang Khoun Province, whose temple suffered near total destruction by bombing campaign over 30 years ago. After lunch travel to Vang Vieng.

■ **DAY 7 VANG VIENG**

Free Day along the Nam Song River in Vang Vieng, or try one of the optional activities available such as Kayaking, Cycling, Trekking or Tubing.

■ **DAY 8 VANG VIENG - VIENTIANE**

Early morning drive to Vientiane visit Wat Phra Kaew and Patuxai before visiting Tat Luang Stuppa, the national symbol of Laos. Late check into your hotel and spend the evening to relax.

■ **DAY 9 VIENTIANE**

Transfer for your onward destinations.

From £750



A classic tour to the capital of Vientiane with its ancient Wat's and Temples the Former Capital of Luang Prabang boasting with old French colonial charm and the morning alms with hundreds of Monks lining the streets at dawn. Take a boat ride to the Pak Ou caves where you can see over 1000 Buddha statues in this cave, return to Luang Prabang and immerse yourself in this cultural capital and stroll around the night market.

# Architectural Laos 5 days

LAOS

## ■ DAY 1 VIENTIANE

After arriving in Vientiane spend the afternoon on a city tour of the temples Wat Sisaket, Ho Prakeo, Patuxai and the National symbol of Laos That Luang Stupa. Have dinner while watching a traditional show in town.

## ■ DAY 2 VIENTIANE ~ LUANG PRABANG

After your morning flight to Luang Prabang visit Wat Vixoun, Wat Xiengthong and Wat Mai, enjoy sunset from the top of Phou Si Hill

## ■ DAY 3 LUANG PRABANG (PAK OU)

A leisurely boat ride to see the Pak Ou caves with over 1000 buddha statues inside, gain an insight into local life with a visit to Ban Sanghai where local Lao (Rice) Whisky is made visit Wat Long Khoun and Chomplet and the weaving village of Ban Phanom.

## ■ DAY 4 LUANG PRABANG ~ VIENTIANE

Take a tour to the local market and the Royal Palace, before your flight to Vientiane.

## ■ DAY 5 VIENTIANE ~ DEPARTURE

After a visit to the morning market depart by flight to Thailand via the Friendship bridge.

From £550

# Unseen Northern Laos 8 days



Travel across some of the remotest landscapes; step back in time to rural Laos enjoying the local village life, gaining an insight into the different ethnic groups in the area.

## ■ DAY 1 HOUEISAY ~ LUANG NAMTHA

Transfer from Houeisay to Luang Namtha, passing through the local ethnic villages along the way, or transfer from Luang Namtha airport to your hotel.

## ■ DAY 2 LUANG NAMTHA

Spend the Day Trekking in Luang Nam Tha.

## ■ DAY 3 LUANG NAMTHA

Visit some of the villages around including Muong Sing stop at the Laos / Chinese border before returning to Luang Namtha.

## ■ DAY 4 ~ 5 LUANG NAMTHA ~ NONG KHIAW

Drive through some dramatic landscapes to Nong Khiaw, visiting local H'mong and Khmu minority tribes along the way. Enjoy the afternoon to relax or take a stroll along the river bank or just relax and watch the sunset.

## ■ DAY 6 NONG KHIAW

A day's activities in Nong Khiaw take a boat ride to Muong Noi, cycle or just relax taking in the stunning views.



## ■ DAY 7 NONG KHIAW ~ LUANG PRABANG

After breakfast, take a long tail boat along the Nam-Ou and Mekong River to Luang Prabang, passing the local villages and touching the real life of the villagers going about their everyday lives of fishing, trading & washing by the river. Stop to visit the Pak Ou caves and observe the traditional production of rice wine distillation in Ban Sanghai. Arrive in Luang Prabang early afternoon.

## ■ DAY 8 LUANG PRABANG

Visit the King's Palace, Wat Vixoun, Wat Xiengthong and Wat Mai enjoy sunset from the top of Phou Si Hill.

From £720



Combine the sights of Southern Laos with the Bolaven Plateau the world heritage site of Wat Phu and the natural wetlands of Si Pan Don the 4000 Islands.

# Southern Laos

## 6 days

### ■ DAY 1 PAKSE ~ TAD LO

Departing Pakse from your hotel at 8:00am, drive east climbing in elevation to a local tea and coffee plantation where you can gain an insight into the industry which thrives on the fertile volcanic soil on the Bolaven Plateau. Enjoy a Lao style coffee before continuing to the famous Tad Fane waterfall with its two stunning cascades framed against the Bolaven Plateau, it drops nearly 120m, making it one of the most spectacular sights in Laos. After leaving Tad Fane we drive to another waterfall, Tad Yuang, which has a beautiful swimming spot. Have lunch at a local restaurant in Tateng village.

Visit the ethnic village of Kok Pun Thai where we can see how people have been living for hundreds of years in small communities in this region. Next it's onwards to the magnificent Tad Lo waterfall where you will spend the night.

### ■ DAY 2 TAD LO ~ CHAMPASAK

After a leisurely breakfast take an optional one hour elephant ride through the forest or enjoy a gentle walk, through the beautiful surrounding before having lunch.

Travel west across the plateau to the Katu ethnic village of Lao Ngam, the Katu minority have a strong tradition of silk weaving using foot looms which you will see the local women weaving. The many beautiful cloths on show are for sale and make great souvenirs. Continue to the town of Champasak.

### ■ DAY 3 WAT PHU CHAMPASAK ~ XE PIAN NBCA

Morning visit to the world heritage site of Wat Phu before returning to Champasak and crossing over the Mekong River and head south to Ban Kiat Ngong.



### ■ DAY 4 BAN KIAT NGONG ~ DON KHONG

Enjoy an elephant ride to the archaeological site of Phu Asa., these temple ruins are situated at the top of the hill and is an enjoyable ride through the jungle.

Return to Ban Kiat Ngong where transport will be waiting to take you to Si Pan Don. Stay overnight at Don Khong, the largest of the 4000 Islands.

### ■ DAY 5 DON KHONG

Take a boat ride through the 4000 Islands past Don Det to the old French Railway Bridge at Don Khone take a short walk to Liphie before taking a boat ride to see the rare Irrawaddy dolphins finishing up at the Laos / Cambodian border. Returning to Don Khong stopping along the way at Khon Pha Peng Waterfall the 'Niagara of the East'.

### ■ DAY 6 DON KHONG - PAKSE

After breakfast transfer to Ubon Ratchatani for the flight to Bangkok or onward to the Cambodia via the Laos / Cambodian Border.

From £450

### BOLAVEN PLATEAU 2 DAYS

Departing Pakse drive east to a local tea and coffee plantation where you gain an insight into the coffee industry, visit waterfalls and ethnic villages arriving Tad Lo mid afternoon. The following day watch the elephants bathe before taking a walk around the local area. After lunch head back to Pakse stopping at a Katu silk weaving village en route.

### ELEPHANT SCHOOL LUANG PRABANG

Spend the day with the elephants just 15km from Luang Prabang. Take a 1 hour elephant ride through small forests to the Nam Khan River. Take a boat trip to Tad Sae waterfalls, take a swim at the waterfalls before taking an easy 3-4 hour trek to a Khmu village, one of the hilltribe villages in this area. Return to your pick up point and transfer back to Luang Prabang.

### LOST IN LAOS 4 DAYS

A 4 day tour taking in the sites of Southern Laos, including the World Heritage site of Wat Phu, elephant riding to Phu Asa temple in the heart of the Xe Pian Protected area, and the wetlands of Si Pan Don where you can try kayaking, rafting or take a scenic boat ride through the area.

### LUANG SAY CRUISE

A two day cruise through remote mountainous stretches of the Mekong River between the northern Thai border at Houeisay and the royal old city of Luang Prabang, staying at a stunning lodge at Pak Beng. Stop along the way at minority villages processing Lao whiskey and the famous Pak Ou caves with over 1000 Buddha Statues inside.



# Laos

## our hotels

### ACCOMMODATION IN LAOS

Your home away from home; whether staying at a hotel, resort, or eco lodge our hand picked hotels will add something special to your trip. The hotels listed here are just a few recommendations of what we have to offer, but we are always at hand with helpful advice to find that magical place that you can call home.



MAISON SOUVANNAPHOUM, LUANG PRABANG

Set in World Heritage town of Luang Prabang and the historic residence of Prince Souvannaphouma, step back in history; be treated like royalty with a stay at this exquisite mansion.



LA FOLIE LODGE, DON DAENG

On a remote island on the banks of the Mekong with sandy beaches; La Folie Lodge radiates charm and elegance in this most idyllic location.



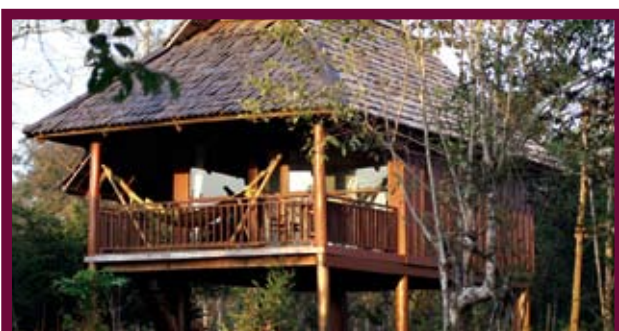
RAMAYANA HOTEL, VIENTIANE

A boutique hotel set in the centre of Vientiane and decorated in contemporary Laotian decor, all with modern facilities.



VILLA SANTI RESORT, LUANG PRABANG

A boutique resort elegantly decorated in charming Royal Laotian style, with panoramic mountain views.



KINGFISHER LODGE, XE PIAN

A superb ecolodge set in the Xe Pian National Protected Area, creating a balance between the resorts architecture and the tranquility of the natural surroundings.



SETTHA PALACE, VIENTIANE

In the heart of Vientiane, this remarkable hotel has been painstakingly restored to its former imperial glory. A luxury hotel with classical elegance and French colonial charm.

# Thailand



Thailand is a country of scenic diversity and ancient traditions, of tranquil temples and modern urban excitement. With an independent history going back more than seven centuries, it has managed to absorb a variety of cultural influences and blend them into something uniquely and memorably Thai.

Thailand has a truly diverse range of attractions and experiences for you to discover. Across the country there are hundreds of exquisite temples, for the more adventurous there are plenty of outdoor activities to choose from try kayaking or bamboo rafting. A trek to the hilltribe communities of Northern Thailand will teach you the traditional values of the ethnic tribes living in the area. Alternatively for those who would like to relax Thailand offers some of the world's best beaches, white sands and its clear turquoise waters are the perfect way to enjoy some "down time".

Shopping at one of Bangkok's upmarket malls or local markets is a must and here you can find a great bargain, whether designer cloths or just a small gift or souvenir. For a real experience why not take a Thai cooking class and try to make your favourite Thai dish when you return home.

Travelling throughout the country is easy and safe; Xplore-Asia offers a range of options for your holiday if you have a little more time why not travel by road or river, how about a luxury cruise or tour travel through the stunning landscapes taking in the local cultures and wildlife.

A journey through the cool and mountainous northern provinces of Thailand, passing ancient temples, rivers and forests, to the Golden Triangle where the countries of Laos, Myanmar and Thailand meet, before heading to Chiang Mai and returning to Bangkok.

# Northern Thailand discovery 6 days



THAILAND

## ■ DAY 1 BANGKOK ~ AYUTTHAYA ~ LOPBURI PHITSANULOK

Pass through the former capital of Thailand Ayuthayya heading to Phitsanoulak, stopping on the way at the Sacred Spirit Pagoda and the money temple.

## ■ DAY 2 PHITSANOULOK ~ SUKHOThai SRI SATCHANALAI ~ LAMPANG

North to Sukhothai the first capital of Thailand and Sri Satchanalai the northern outpost of the Sukhothai Kingdom with its many Wats standing on the Khmer fort "Chalieng" before arriving in Lampang.

## ■ DAY 3 LAMPANG ~ PHAYAO ~ CHIANG RAI

The highlight of today is the Chiang Saen & the Golden Triangle, enjoy a boat trip to where Thailand, Laos and Myanmar meet. Visit Mae Sai the Northern most town in Thailand on the border with Myanmar before returning to Chiang Rai.

## ■ DAY 4 CHIANG RAI – CHIANG MAI

Visit the handicraft village at Ban Lorcha a Phami Akha hilltribe community centre, part of an ecotourism project to promote sustainable tourism. Continue to Chiang Mai stopping at a handicraft village which use the traditional methods of spinning and weaving silk. In the evening enjoy a typical Thai dinner with ancient dances from Northern Thailand.

## ■ DAY 5 CHIANG MAI

Wat Doi Suthep, tucked away in the mountain at an elevation of 1056 metres, built as a monastery in the 14th Century. Visit an elephant camp and watch the elephants moving timber. In the forest, Their strength and strategic teamwork will amaze you. Visit an orchid farm a famous Thai wood carving factory.

## ■ DAY 6 CHIANG MAI

Transfer for your flight or train journey to Bangkok or another destination.

From £380

# The Coastal Road

## 11 days



A tour of cultural experiences; visit a local organic farm, cook your own Thai Traditional lunch. Take a glimpse of the everyday life in Thailand at Damnern Saduak Floating Market. Head south to the beach resort of Hua Hin and take a day to relax at the sandy beaches of Cha-am. Trek through Khao Luang National Park to one of the countries most spectacular waterfalls. Explore the Tham Le caverns, a network of tunnels underneath the limestone bays. The tour ends in Krabi where you can extend your trip in either Krabi Phuket, Trang or Samui, or to return to Bangkok.

### ■ DAY 1 BANGKOK ~ ROSE GARDEN

Drive out of Bangkok to an organic farm, pick your fresh food for Thai Cooking course, smell the aromas of spices used in your Traditional Thai lunch. In the afternoon relax with a Thai Cultural show. Spend the evening relaxing at the Rose Garden Resort or visit the local town of Nakhon Pathom.



### ■ DAY 2 DAMNERN SADUAK FLOATING MARKET

A glimpse of everyday life in Thailand can be seen at the Damnern Sadual floating market. An exhilarating narrow long-tailed speedboat ride through the marshes and stilt houses prepares you for this unique market. Thai style canoes laden with colourful fruits, vegetables, snacks and sweets gently ply their way through the canal. Continue your journey south to Cha-am / Hua Hin the sea resort of the Royal Family on route stop at the summer retreat of King Rama IV, enjoy the views of the palace and the gardens.

### ■ DAY 3 HUA HIN

Take in the views from the viewpoints over looking the bay, have a seafood lunch in Hua Hin. The afternoon is free for you to soak up the sun before a short walking tour visiting the night market in Hua Hin and dinner.

### ■ DAY 4 HUA HIN

Take an excursion to Pa-La-U waterfall, set in the forest and also visit Kaeng Krachan national park, take a boat trip around the local reservoir and have lunch overlooking the lake. Spend the afternoon at the Palace of Love made of teakwood pavilions, before returning to your hotel.



#### ■ DAY 5 HUA HIN ~ CHUMPORN

Drive through the pineapple and coconut plantations to Sam Roi Yot National Park (or Mountain of 300 Peaks), one of Thailand's best preserved natural areas with its limestone mountain backdrop and vast array of wildlife, visit an unspoiled typical Thai fishing village and then travel by boat to Laem Sala beach. Explore Phraya Nakorn Cave. Visit Khao Daeng where you have a choice of either kayaking or taking in the views. Arrive Chumporn late afternoon in time for a swim.

#### ■ DAY 6 CHUMPORN - NAKORN SRI THAMMARAT

Continue south to Pradeom Temple to fruit orchards, stop at Khao Kraip Cave where you can see Stalactites and Stalagmites. Enjoy the hot springs at Tham Khao Plu before stepping back in history and culture at the Royal City of Nakorn Sri Thammarat. Spend the night in the Sichon area.

#### ■ DAY 7 NAKORN SRI THAMMARAT CITY

Today is all about southern life and culture, first we will stop at Wat Mahathat, the Chedi itself dates back to the 12th century and the relics were bought here from Sri Lanka by an Indian prince over 2000 years ago. Visit a Shadow Puppet workshop and the final stop Phra Buddha Sihing, with its mischievous story of how exactly it got here over the Indian Ocean from Sri Lanka. Return to Khanom / Sichon for some much deserved relaxation by the beach and maybe a beach barbecue.

#### ■ DAY 8 KHAO LUANG NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, head to Khao Luang National Park for a trek to one of the countries most spectacular waterfalls Krung Ching. This is a nine tiered waterfall trekking through beautiful surrounding on a nature trail this will take around 4 hours.

Following on, we then spend an hour kayaking on a nearby river and visit a cave in the vicinity before returning to your hotel.

#### ■ DAY 9 NAKRON ~ TRANG (VIA KHIRIWONG / THAM LE)

Head out to Baan Khiriwong, a local Eco Tourism Village here you can choose to do a short trek around the area or learn about making local handicrafts and traditions. After lunch, travel to Trang, with beautiful beaches and remote islands off shore. En route, make a stop at Tham Le caverns, a network of tunnels inside the rock only accessible by boat, stay at Pakmeng beach.

#### ■ DAY 10 TRANG

After breakfast we will spend a full day exploring the islands off of the coast of Trang, with beautiful beaches and opportunities to swim and snorkel through the trip to the 4 islands of Koh Mook, Koh Kradan, Koh Chuak and Koh Ma. Return to your hotel to reflect on discovering the undiscovered wonders of Southern Thailand.

#### ■ DAY 11 TRANG

You can choose to extend your holiday here in Trang or alternatively choose from a variety of beach extensions in either, nearby Krabi, Phuket or simply take a transfer to return to Bangkok either by air or rail, having experienced the best of what the South has to offer!

**From £1,100**

Discover the sights of Thailand's South a great mix of nature and stunning beaches. This tour starts in Bangkok, with a day tour to see the famous Grand Palace, the Reclining Buddha and a river trip on the Chao Phraya River where the ancient temples lie against the bright lights of the new city. Take an overnight sleeper train south to Khao Sok National Park, trek, canoe through the evergreen forest before heading to the island beaches of Koh Samui and Koh Tao on the eastern coast.

# Beach experience 15 days



## ■ DAY 1 BANGKOK

Met on arrival at Bangkok international Airport, you will be transferred to your hotel where you can settle in and relax. Take an evening cruise on the Chao Phraya River with a Thai Style Buffet and a Cultural show.

## ■ DAY 2 BANGKOK ~ SURAT THANI

The following day we visit the Royal Palace, the Wats, enjoy the many markets and visit Jim Thompson's house, who revived the Thai silk industry in Thailand. His Thai-Style house is also architecturally stunning, displaying traditional teak structures, extensive art of Asian origin including a host of sculptures, paintings and porcelain. Head back to your hotel for a late check out and try something different with an overnight 1st Class sleeper train to Surat Thani.

## ■ DAYS 3 SURAT THANI KHAO SOK NATIONAL PARK

Southern Thailand is covered by the oldest evergreen rainforest in the world, there are huge limestone mountains, deep valleys, breathtaking lakes, caves and a variety of wild animals. Travel to Khao Sok National park and transfer to Takuapa where you will explore the mangroves by speedboat to see local fishermen, birds and even walking fish. Board our classical Burmese junk for lunch and cruise slowly along the coast. Arrive to a deserted island, swim, kayak or relax on the empty beach, spend the night in the national park.

## ■ DAY 4 KHAO SOK NATIONAL PARK ~ KO SAMUI

Take an easy trek around some of the Jungle to spot the local wildlife, have lunch before heading to Ko Samui where you will spend some well deserved Beach Time.

## ■ DAYS 5 ~ 8 KOH SAMUI

There is something for everyone in Koh Samui laze away on a quiet beach or enjoy the many bars, restaurants and activities on offer.





■ **DAYS 9 ~ 13 KOH TAO**

Enjoy the crystal waters off the remote island of Koh Tao try the world class snorkeling or diving, an opportunity not to be missed. Other options include renting a kayak and exploring the many hidden bays, hike up to Two View for stunning views or grab a hammock and laze around. There is plenty of time to try it all!

■ **DAY 14 KOH TAO ~ BANGKOK**

Return to Bangkok spending the rest of the day shopping or relaxing in this vibrant city.

■ **DAY 15 BANGKOK**

Extend your stay in Bangkok or continue to your next destination, if you are heading home say goodbye to this amazing country but you will probably be back.

**From £995**

**KAO SAMUI**

Koh Samui is a stunning island 80km of the South East coast of Thailand, as Thailand's third largest island and one of the most beautiful. It is also the largest in a chain of 3 islands in The Gulf of Thailand, the other two are Koh Tao and Koh Phangan The Island is covered by swinging palm and coconut trees with a laid back and friendly feel to it. Kao Samui has had a surge in Tourism giving it a range of beaches, hotels and nightlife with something for everyone. The most famous beaches are Chaweng and Lamai. Chaweng being the busier of the two with many more activities, restaurants and a much busier nightlife. Lamai on the other hand is more laid back and a quieter beach.

**KAO TAO**

Kao Tao literally translates as 'Turtle Island' and for good reason. Sea turtles are abundant around its shores and each year Turtles are released into the wild by the local marine life agency. Kao Tao island is only separated by an hour and a half high speed ferry ride from Kao Samui and is easily accessible throughout the year. Kao Tao offers a rare taste of paradise with colourful coral reefs in crystal clear warm water, serene palm fringed beaches and laid back exotic resorts of all budgets. It also has an incredible 300 days of sun a year, making it a perfect spot to relax on the beach.

Kao Tao is famous for its Scuba Diving and its whale shark adventures, excellent training and at great value for money. We recommend that you spend a few days on this island mixing it up with your trip to Kao Samui. We are happy to arrange accommodation and diving if requested for Kao Tao.

**KOH PHANGAN**

Koh Phangan is directly north of Koh Samui, the island is known for its full moon parties great nightlife there are also some quieter beaches on other parts of the island.

**PHUKET**

Phuket is an idyllic tropical island in the Andaman Sea off Thailand's southwest coast. The island caters well to tourists and boasts many excellent resorts along its endless, sandy beaches. Although Phuket is best known for its busiest beach resort, Patong Beach, others areas of the island offer a more peaceful, secluded environment - on the quieter beach resorts of Kata or Karon, or tucked away up on the lush hillsides. If you prefer a livelier scene, then Patong is it, with its commercial strip lined with shops, bars, restaurants and nightclubs.

Aside from relaxing on Phuket's beautiful beaches, popular pastimes include visiting one of the local protected Marine Parks for sea canoeing, snorkelling, or diving, indulging in a traditional Thai massage in one of the islands fantastic Spa's, enjoying a round of Golf, or going on a jungle safari around the island to see the beautiful natural habitats that most visitors forget about.

**PATTAYA**

Pattaya being just an hour drive from Bangkok International Airport is an excellent place for those who are short on travelling time. There is a wide range of accommodation from basic to luxurious. There are many shops, restaurants and galleries to keep you occupied and various activities from golf to tennis horse-back riding, go kart racing, archery etc, etc, etc. South Pattaya is sometimes referred to as "The Strip", and shows no sign of slowing down at night it is packed with all kinds of restaurants, bars, discos and shops, however this may be slightly overwhelming for those seeking just a beach holiday!

**KRABI**

Krabi lies 800kms south of Bangkok along the beautiful Andaman coastline. The area around Krabi is a truly humbling landscape – the pastel shades of the sea and sky melt together, the coral reefs teem with amazing marine life and the magnificent limestone karsts emerging from the sea are just waiting to be explored. Although originally a small fishing town, Krabi has long been recognized as a tourist destination and as such, now boasts a good number of attractions and a massive variety of accommodation from luxury hotels and resorts to simple bungalows. There is sure to be something here to suit all budgets. Krabi also offers activities to suit all personalities, whether it is soaking up the rays on a beach and being pampered in a Spa, or island hopping and trekking in the nearby National Parks. Krabi's stunning natural scenery provides adventure in the form of kayaking, diving, cruising, rock climbing and much more. For a contrast there are also plenty of cultural attractions including a number of temples, agricultural and village tours, and local handicraft centres. In addition to all this, Krabi offers exceptional dining options and plenty of shopping for shopaholics.

**HUA HIN**

Hua Hin is the oldest and most traditional beach resort. It is still an active fishing port and Hua Hin caters for Thai's as well as International tourist. Hua Hin has 5 miles of long beach and has a large number of world class golf courses coupled with the fact that Green-fees and other costs are among the lowest in the world but quality is among the highest, There are also many family activities available from water sports to visiting parks, peaks, caves and waterfalls. There are a great variety of shops and restaurants on the seafront and seafood is some of the best in Thailand.



# Around Bangkok 4 days

A few days spare in Bangkok why not try a mix of history, temples and rivers, this 4 Day tour takes you out of the metropolis of Bangkok and into rural landscapes. Kanchanaburi and the River Kwai gives an insight into the history and suffering of the Thai and Allies during the Second World War at the hands of the Japanese. Visit stunning waterfalls and the ancient capital of Ayuthaya before cruising back to Bangkok along the Chao Phraya River.

## ■ DAY 1 BANGKOK ~ KANCHANABURI

Leaving from your hotel in Bangkok travel to Kanchanaburi, the War Museum, take a boat ride over the River Kwai which was a supply route for the Japanese during the second world war. Spend the night in Jungle Rafts set along the river.

## ■ DAY 2 SAIYOKE YAI NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy the surrounding Saiyoke Yai National Park with its forests and waterfalls. Spend the afternoon Canoeing or Mountain biking before returning to your eco Jungle Rafts.

## ■ DAY 3 MON VILLAGE ~ DEATH RAILWAY TRAIN

Local Ethnic villages, elephant ride through bamboo forest before checking out of your eco-lodge. Spend the afternoon on a historic ride on the Death Railway Train where so many allied soldiers died from sheer exhaustion and terrible conditions. Return to Bangkok late afternoon.

## ■ DAY 4 ANCIENT AYUTHAYA TOUR AND CRUISE TO BANGKOK

Spend the day in the realms of Royalty, Bang-Pa-In the summer Palace of the Royals, the Grand Palace and Wats before taking a cruise along the Chao Phraya River where the skyline of old meets the lights of the new skyscrapers, before returning to Bangkok.



From £280



# A Bangkok City experience



## RICE BARGE ON THE CHAO PHRAYA RIVER

A relaxed afternoon tour allows you to experience the timeless world of "The Venice of the East". In Bangkok people still depend on the waterways to transport their merchandise, in particular rice, as the canals are linked to the rice fields. Cruise by motor boat through exotic flora and picturesque canal houses. Midway join the converted rice barge. All you need to do here is sit back, relax and take in the scenery. Soft drinks and local fruits will be served on board the cruise lasts about 2 ½ hours before you arrive back at 'Downtown Bangkok'.

## BANGKOK GRAND PALACE AND CITY AND TEMPLES TOUR

A "must see" for all visitors to Bangkok; The Grand Palace complex, which includes the Temple of the Emerald Buddha (Wat Phra Keow), carved from one piece of Jade, the Buddha is the holiest and most revered of religious objects in Thailand today. The Grand Palace, once the official home for the Kings of Siam – built in traditional Thai architecture mixed with European designs. Lunch will be taken at a local Thai Restaurant, before embarking on the second part of this magnificent city discovery.

Spend the afternoon at three of the most distinguished temples in Bangkok. Wat Trimitr, the temple of the Golden Buddha. The statue is made from solid Gold weighing 5.5 tons. Passing through Chinatown your next stop is Wat Po, the temple of the reclining Buddha which is the largest and oldest in Bangkok. Your last stop is at Wat Benchamabopit or the marble temple, built with white Italian marble from Carrara.

## CULTURE OF BANGKOK

Explore the cultural side of Bangkok with a visit to the old capital of the city 'Thonburi'. Experience the wonders of the Klongs (Bangkok's waterway system) and get up close to the real Thai way of life as you travel along by long tail boat. Stops will be made at the Temple of Dawn (Wat Arun) and the Royal Thai Barge Museum, home to the 'Royal Barges' used for processions along the Chao Phraya river.

Spend the afternoon on your own why not take the skytrain into the city for shopping and sightseeing, catch a couple of hours relaxation at your hotel before returning to the river for this evening extravaganza!

The Evening dinner Cruise ("Along the 'River of Kings") A memorable evening on board one of Bangkok's most luxurious restaurant boats, enjoy the variety of Thai dishes whilst the band keep you entertained.

## SHOPPING IN BANGKOK

**Siam Square:** A wealth of small shops and unique boutiques to wet the appetite. (Skytrain station – SIAM)

**MBK:** A very large shopping mall nearby to Siam Square with a vast variety of outlets, offering everything from clothes to mobile phones (Skytrain Station – NATIONAL STADIUM or walk from SIAM).

### Centrel World Department Store at 'World Trade Centre'

Located in the heart of the city, this department store rivals big names from the US and UK such as Macy's and Debenhams for its style and availability of quality products from around the world. (Skytrain Station –RAJADAMRI) followed by a 5 – 10 minute walk, past the 'Erawan shrine.

Nearby to the Centrel World Department store is the Pratunam market area, for bargain hunters looking for fake designer goods and if your interests are more in the direction of I.T, then head to Pantip Plaza, along New Petchaburi Road.

### KHAO YAI 2 DAYS

A two day tour to Khao Yai National Park, just a couple of hours drive from Bangkok, watch out for the abundance of wildlife, take an elephant ride in the Park. Take a walk from the visitor's centre along the Kong Kaew Nature Trail. After lunch visit Haew Suwat Waterfall, before relaxing for a few hours at Kai Yai Grandview Resort, the day ends but the night begins with a Night Safari in Khao Yai when the park really comes to life. The following day visit Haew Narok waterfall and see the views from Pha Daew Dai Cliff before returning to Bangkok.

### TREKKING CHIANG MAI

Over the years the area around Chiang Mai has been made famous for its jungles, treks, waterfalls, elephant rides and Bamboo Rafts. A two day trek captivates all this and more. Starting out from Chiang Mai along the mountain roads to Chiang Dao Elephant Camp. See the elephants having their morning bath before embarking on an hour elephant trek through the forest. Have lunch before trying your balancing skills on a 1 hour bamboo rafting trip, trek to a Lisu village. Have dinner and spend the night at the hosts house. The following morning have breakfast trek for about 3 hours through the surrounding hills to a Karen village have lunch, before starting the two hour return drive back to Chang Mai.

### MEKHALA CRUISE

A two-day cruise capitivating the life that exists on Thailand's "River of Kings", departing from Bangkok cruise up the Chao Phraya River with spectacular views of the Grand Palace and the Temple of Dawn. Just after the sunset, the MEKHALA docks at Wat Kai Tia, a Thai temple set in a tranquil rural village. An exquisite candlelit dinner of mouth-watering Thai cuisine is served on deck. Overnight on board in your air-conditioned cabin.

In the morning there is an option for an alms offering to the local monks prior to a delicious breakfast served on board. Then depart for Bang-Pa-In Summer Palace, the Royal summer retreat. Disembark nearby at around 10am and return to your hotel in Bangkok.

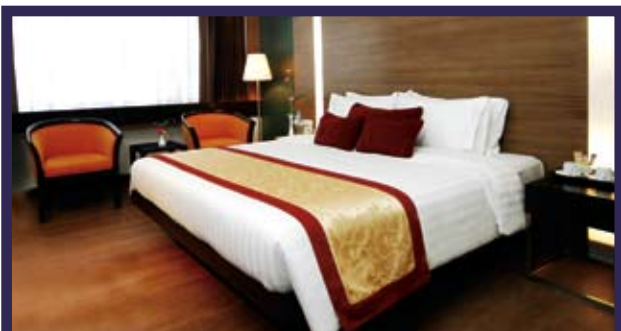


# Thailand

## our hotels

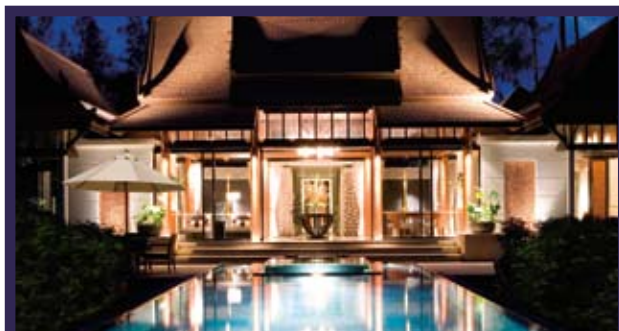
### ACCOMMODATION IN THAILAND

Your home away from home; whether staying at a hotel, resort, or eco lodge our hand picked hotels will add something special to your trip. The hotels listed here are just a few recommendations of what we have to offer, but we are always at hand with helpful advice to find that magical place that you can home.



AMBASSADOR, BANGKOK

Conveniently located on a prime spot in the heart of Sukhumvit Road, Bangkok's commercial and shopping district.



BANYAN TREE, PHUKHET

The place to go for seclusion, peace and serenity keeping its earthly authentic Thai Charm.



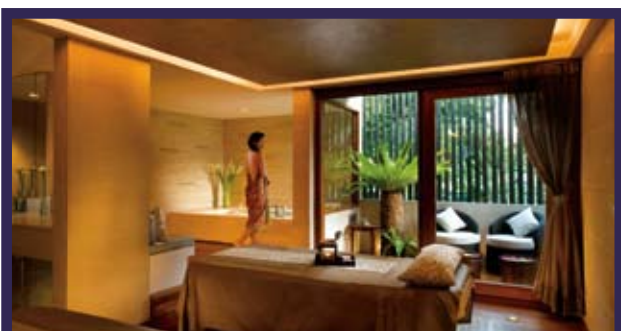
KANTARY HILLS, CHIANG MAI

A stunning property offering sensational services and facilities in Chiang Mai's chicest area.



SALA TALAY RESORT, KRABI

A contemporary resort in Ao Nang, its boutique rooms are all elegantly furnished with a simple and attractive decor.



SUKHOTHAI, BANGKOK

A magical hotel which delivers Thai Charm, style and service to perfection. Timeless decor and an attention to detail makes this hotel special.



TREETOPS, KHAO SOK

Indulge yourself in jungle living luxury-style!, luxury treetop bungalows in the heart of Khao Sok National Park

# China



“The Middle Kingdom”, China is one of the world's oldest and most complex civilisations covering a history of more than 5,000 years. Each area in China gives rise to its own set of unique cultures and traditions. A trip to China is hard to imagine as the experience is so different to any other holiday. The culture, country and landscapes are vast, and quickly change, in the space of a few days you could find yourself in the Southern tropical provinces of Yunnan, crossing the provincial border to Sichuan you will find yourself on the border of Tibet with snow capped peaks and Tibetan monasteries.

Travelling east from the bright lights and fast pace of Shanghai, time almost stands still along the Yangtze River. Beijing the Forbidden City and the Great Wall of China are all a cultural delight and a good starting point for a journey of experience and adventure in China.

The vast landscape gives rise to various climates; Northern China is hot and humid during the summer from June to August. Winter temperatures in Western China can fall below zero and travel may not be possible in many Areas. Southern China is hot and humid in Summer with temperatures around 25 degrees in Spring and Autumn.

Yunnan Province rises from its Southern tropical borders with Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam to Himalayan mountains and its border with Tibet. This journey takes you through lush terraced rice paddies, the natural rock formations of the Stone forest. Indulge in Naxi architecture and culture in Lijiang, Stop at Tiger Leaping Gorge and take in stunning landscape. Stroll across the cobbled streets of Dali before returning to Kunming.

# Yunnan

## Explorer 11 days



### ■ DAY 1 KUNMING

Arrive at Kunming and transfer to your hotel spend the rest of the day at leisure or take a stroll along the wide Boulevards.

### ■ DAY 2 KUNMING ~ JIANSHUI

Drive through the countryside to terraced rice paddies, sugar cane and tea plantations. Stop at villages to discover the countryside life of the Chinese peasant farmers.

### ■ DAY 3 JIANSHUI ~ STONE FOREST

A morning of sightseeing around Jianshui with its stunning architecture, the Temple of Confucius, the Garden of Family Zhu, the Twin Dragon Bridge which was built during the Qing Dynasty. After Lunch head to the Stone Forest.

### ■ DAY 4 STONE FOREST ~ KUNMING

Visit one of China's most remarkable phenomena. The Stone Forest a strange, wonderful, weird and ancient limestone formation of cliffs and peaks created by wind and water erosion over many millions of years. After lunch continue to Kunming on route visit the Golden Temple and a Jade factory.

### ■ DAY 5 KUNMING ~ LIJIANG

After breakfast start your journey climbing up the mountain range to Lijiang. Once in Lijiang enjoy the afternoon to relax.

### ■ DAY 6 LIJIANG

Visit the Square Street of Lijiang Old Town, the Baisha Village and a local Naxi family. Enjoy a Naxi Ancient Music and Dance Performance at Dongba Palace.

### ■ DAY 7 LIJIANG ~ DALI

A three - four hour drive to Dali stopping at Tiger Leaping Gorge along the way to admire one of the deepest canyons in the world at this point the Yangtze River is confined to just a 20-meter width. On arrival in Dali spend the rest of the day you free at your own lesiure.

### ■ DAY 8 DALI

A day trip in Dali visit the Three Pagodas, take a cable car ride up the Cangshan Mountain with stunning views over the beautiful Erhai Lake. Stroll along the Bai Fishing Village and take part in the traditional "Three-Course-Tea".

### ■ DAY 9 DALI

Free day to meander through the cobblestone streets of the old town, you may want to hire a donkey cart to further explore the minority villages nearby.

### ■ DAY 10 DALI - KUNMING

Travel back to Kunming, conclude the day with a farewell dinner in one of the traditional restaurants in town.

### ■ DAY 11 KUNMING

Transfer to Kunming international airport for your onward flight.

From £1,120



# China Explorer

## 16 days

A journey through the “Middle Kingdom”, starts at the heart of an ancient culture Beijing, visit the Great Wall and the Forbidden City before travelling west to see the famous Terracotta Warriors in Xian. Visit Yunnan Province in southern China with its unique climate, stunning landscapes and picturesque towns, before taking in the Tibetan way of life in Lhasa.

### ■ DAY 1 BEIJING

On arrival at the airport transfer to your hotel, the day begins with a short visit to Summer Palace, take a stroll enjoying the classical Chinese garden architecture, the relaxation point of the royal family, and enjoy dinner at a Chinese restaurant.

### ■ DAY 2 BEIJING

A day tour to see the famous city of Beijing, the first stop is Tiananmen Square, the largest public square in the world. Walk through the north side of the square through the red Tiananmen Gate into the Forbidden City, the ancient city home of the royal family and their court during China’s Ming and Qing Dynasties. After lunch visit the imposing Temple of Heaven where the Emperor’s came yearly to ask for a good harvest. Enjoy dinner and the a performance by the Peking Opera.

### ■ DAY 3 BEIJING

Visit the Great Wall, take a walk along and see one of the most impressive man made structures on earth. After lunch travel some 50 km northwest of Beijing to the Sacred Way with its fabulous stone animals. The way leads to the Ming Tombs in the shadow of Longevity Mountain. Take a trip to the Underground Palace of Dingling and see the imperial coffins, burial artefacts and treasures before returning to Beijing.

### ■ DAY 4 BEIJING ~ XI'AN

Morning free at leisure, in the afternoon take your flight to the ancient former capital city of Xi’an, and visit the City Wall built in the 14th century, one of the most important city walls in China. For dinner try the local speciality of dumplings.

### ■ DAY 5 XI'AN

Visit the Terracotta Warriors Museum, thousands of life size soldiers and horses were created to guard the tomb of Qin Shi Huangdi, the first Emperor to unite China under his firm rule. The royal tomb itself has yet to be opened but the rows of Warriors is a sight that is unrivalled anywhere in the world.

After lunch, we will visit the Provincial History Museum which has the richest collection of artefacts in China. For the last visit of the afternoon see Big Wild Goose Pagoda. The square, seven-storey pagoda was built in 652 AD and is a fine example of Tang Dynasty Buddhist architecture.

### ■ DAY 6 XI'AN ~ KUNMING

Transfer to the airport for the flight to Kunming, after checking into your hotel and a short rest, see the surrounding sights, including the Gold Horse & Green Cock Archways, the Bamboo Temple with its hundreds of Buddhist saint statues & the Golden Temple, set in beautiful gardens, the Jinri Tower & Guandu Ancient Town.

### ■ DAY 7 KUNMING ~ SHILIN ~ KUNMING

This morning we drive to Shilin, to visit the famous Stone Forest, a 200 million year old formation of 'Karst' limestone peaks, streams and ponds. Lunch is at a local restaurant before returning to Kunming and enjoying the rest of the day strolling the city or shopping.





#### ■ DAY 8 KUNMING ~ SHANGRI-LA

Transfer to the airport for the flight to Shangri-la. After lunch visit the famous 300 year old Songzanlin Monastery where the Yellow Hat School of Tibetan Buddhism is practised. Return to town & wander around the old town of Zhongdian. After dinner at a local restaurant, visit the central square of the old town, where the local people gather every evening for music & dancing.

#### ■ DAY 9 SHANGRILA

Drive about 2 hours through the mountain scenery and the upper reaches of the Yangtze River to the mountainside Dong Zhu Lin Monastery, lunch at a local restaurant before driving back to Shangrila, calling on the way to visit a local Tibetan family home.

#### ■ DAY 10 SHANGRILA ~ LIJIANG

Drive to Lijiang on the way visit Tiger Leaping Gorge, believed to be the deepest gorge in the world. Check into your hotel before having a enjoying a tour of the ancient town.

#### ■ DAY 11 LIJIANG ~ DALI

On the way to Dali visit Black Dragon Pool Park and a Baisha village which dates back to the Qing dynasty with old Chinese houses that have hardly changed throughout the years. Once in Dali check into your hotel and then start a tour of the old walled city.

#### ■ DAY 12 DALI ~ KUNMING

In the morning visit the famous Three Pagodas at Dali. These are among the oldest standing structures in south west China - the tallest pagoda, 16 floors high, was originally erected in the ninth century. After lunch drive to Kunming.

#### ■ DAY 13 KUNMING ~ LHASA

After breakfast drive to the airport for the morning flight to Lhasa situated 3,650 metres above sea level. Have lunch on the plane and upon landing visit the Nietang Buddha prior to being invited into the home of a typical Tibetan family enjoy Tibetan tea with the family before heading to your hotel for dinner.

#### ■ DAY 14 LHASA

Potala Palace, the Tibet Museum and Jokhang Temple are the first sights you will see as you emerge in Tibetan history and culture. Visit the colourful bazaars on Barkhor Street known as the Pilgrims's Way and a local carpet factory. Stop at a Traditional Medicine Hospital (Mentsikhang) offering herbal remedies before returning to your hotel.

#### ■ DAY 15 LHASA

Lhasa is famous for its monasteries visit the Drepung Monastery and Sera Monastery. Drepung was once the largest and wealthiest and a Yellow Hat monastery where the Dalai Lamas were trained. Sera was a strong rival for importance and had three Tantric Colleges. Visit Norbulingka Park (Jewel Park), the old summer palace of the Dalai Lamas with its fine palaces, pavilions, gardens and ponds.

#### ■ DAY 16 LHASA

Transfer to airport for your onward flight.

From £2,350

This tour takes in a sample of some of the main highlights of China. Starting out in Beijing visit the Forbidden City and the Great Wall of China, head south west to the walled city of Xian and the Teracotta Warriors before visiting the Wolong Panda Reserve in Chengdu. Time stands still on the Yangtze River, take luxury cruise and relax on this full board cruise taking in the river and the amazing engineering feat of the Three Gorges Dam. Visit Lhasa with its Tibetan Monasteries and Traditions before the bright lights of Shanghai.



# China

## Discovery 18 days

### ■ DAY 1 BEIJING

Pick up and transfer from Beijing international airport to your hotel, the day begins with a short visit to Summer Palace, take a stroll enjoying the classical Chinese garden architecture, the relaxation point of the royal family, enjoy dinner at a Chinese restaurant.

### ■ DAY 2 BEIJING

A day tour to see the famous city of Beijing, the first stop is Tiananmen Square, the largest public square in the world. Walk through the north side of the square through the red Tiananmen Gate into the Forbidden City, the ancient city home of the royal family and their court during China's Ming and Qing Dynasties. After lunch visit the imposing Temple of Heaven where the Emperor's came yearly to ask for a good harvest. Enjoy dinner and the a performance by the Peking Opera.

### ■ DAY 3 BEIJING

Visit the Great Wall, take a walk along and see one of the most impressive mad made structures on earth. After lunch travel some 50 km northwest of Beijing to the Sacred Way with its fabulous stone animals. The way leads to the Ming Tombs in the shadow of Longevity Mountain. Take a trip to the Underground Palace of Dingling and see the imperial coffins, burial artefacts and treasures before returning to Beijing.

### DAY 4 BEIJING-XI'AN

Enjoy your morning free at leisure, before taking the afternoon flight to the ancient former capital city of Xi'an, and visit the City Wall built in the 14th century and one of the most important city walls in China. For dinner enjoy the local speciality of dumplings at a local restaurant.

### DAY 5 XI'AN

Visit the Terracotta Warriors Museum, thousands of life size soldiers and horses were created to guard the tomb of Qin Shi Huangdi, the first Emperor to unite China under his firm rule.

The royal tomb itself has yet to be opened but the rank upon rank of Warriors is a sight that is unrivalled anywhere in the world.

After lunch, we will visit the Provincial History Museum which has the richest collection of artefacts in China. For the last visit of the afternoon see Big Wild Goose Pagoda. The square, seven-storey pagoda was built in 652 AD and is a fine example of Tang Dynasty Buddhist architecture.

### DAY 6 XI'AN ~ CHENGDU

Before breakfast, experience the mysterious and ancient art of Tai Chi Chuan, a 300-year old traditional Chinese martial art also known as shadow boxing. After breakfast, visit the Forest of Stone Steles Museum. The museum, which is housed in the Temple of Confucius, has the largest collection of its kind in China with over 3,000 inscribed stones steles. Next the Great Mosque built in 742 during the Tang Dynasty (618-907). The traditional Chinese-style architecture makes this mosque quite distinct from its Arabic counterparts. Visit a local Chinese family, then take an afternoon flight to Chengdu.

### DAY 7 CHENGDU

A day trip to the Wolong Panda Reserve Centre and then drive back to Chengdu.

### DAY 8 CHENGDU ~ CHONGQIN

See the sites of Chengdu before taking the afternoon flight to Chongqin. Dinner at a local restaurant before boarding a luxury river cruise where you will spend the night before departing on the river the next day.

### DAY 9 CHONGQIN ~ YANTZE CRUISE

Set out along the Yangtze River, stop for a visit to the Ghost City of Fengdu, famous for its temple dedicated to the King of the Underworld, an association dating back to the Han Dynasty.



#### DAY 10 BADONG

Travel along the river, when arriving at Badong take a small junk boat to explore the Shennong Stream. The trip features a fantastic natural backdrop and a wonderful boat ride along the crystal stream. The most impressive scene is a team of trackers who push and haul their wooden sampans over the willow rapids. Sometimes, the pea boats allow you to take a closer look at mossy rocks, verdant plants, ancient plank roads, hanging coffins and rare flying monkeys. Return to the luxury of the cruise and have dinner on board.

#### DAY 11 SANDOUPING

Today we will arrive at Sandouping and see the Three Gorges Dam. This is the largest project of its kind ever undertaken anywhere in the world. Not only does the dam fulfill the function of controlling the floodwaters of the Yangtze but will also provide eco-friendly hydroelectric power. Once again you have the benefit of dining aboard your luxury cruise ship.

#### DAY 12 WUHAN ~ CHENGDU

Around noon arrive at Wuhan. Depending on time visit Hubei Provincial Museum and Chairman Mao Zedong's Villa, after lunch take the afternoon flight to Chengdu & transfer to your hotel.

#### DAY 13 CHENGDU ~ LHASA

After breakfast drive to the airport for the morning flight to Lhasa situated 3,650 metres above sea level. Have lunch on the plane and upon landing visit the Nietang Buddha prior to being invited into the home of a typical Tibetan family enjoy Tibetan tea with the family before heading to your hotel for dinner.

#### DAY 14 LHASA

Potala Palace, the Tibet Museum and Jokhang Temple are the first sights you will see as you emerge in Tibetan history and culture. Enjoy colourful bazaars on Barkhor Street known as the Pilgrims's Way before visiting a carpet factory. Before returning to your hotel visit a Traditional Medicine Hospital (Mentsikhang) offering herbal remedies.

#### DAY 15 LHASA

Lhasa is famous for its monasteries visit the Drepung Monastery and Sera Monastery. Drepung was once the largest and wealthiest and a Yellow Hat monastery where the Dalai Lamas were trained. Sera was a strong rival for importance and had three Tantric Colleges. Visit Norbulingka Park (Jewel Park), the old summer palace of the Dalai Lamas with its fine palaces, pavilions, gardens and ponds.

#### DAY 16 LHASA ~ SHANGHAI

Transfer to airport for your flight to Shanghai via Chengdu. On arrival in Shanghai, pick up & transfer to your hotel.

#### DAY 17 SHANGHAI

A day tour of Shanghai, some of its history can be seen at the Shanghai Museum on People's Square with its fine collection of cultural relics. A trip to the Yuyuan Garden, laid out in the 16th century by a Ming official, this small (2 hectares) garden is a delight of pools, pavilions and rockeries. Strolling through the bazaar surrounding the garden, you will find lines of stores selling traditional Chinese arts and crafts.

Visit The Bund, one of the most famous thoroughfares in China the commercial hub of Shanghai, to the thriving Pudong area. Enjoy your last tour dinner with excellent food and great views of the city.

#### DAY 18 SHANGHAI

Transfer to the airport for your return flight or to your next destination.

From £2,750



山嵐銀色界煙霄草木香

乙酉年某月某日 題

偉矣其蒼洱大觀到此邦方知此地



# China

## our hotels

### ACCOMMODATION IN CHINA

Your home away from home; whether staying at a hotel, resort, or eco lodge our hand picked hotels will add something special to your trip. The hotels listed here are just a few recommendations of what we have to offer, but we are always at hand with helpful advice to find that magical place that you can home.



CENTRAL HOTEL, SHANGHAI

Conveniently located in the shopping district of Shanghai, with top end facilities making your stay in Shanghai a luxury one.



CROWN PLAZA, CHENGDU

Located in the central shopping area of Zong Fu Street, offering a luxury and comfortable stay.



HORIZON INTERNATIONAL HOTEL, KUNMING

Experience pure luxury at this top end hotel with first rate services, the hotel offers Cantonese and local Yunan food and is equipped with a luxury spa and swimming pool.



HYATT REGENCY, XIAN

Ideally located within the ancient walls of historic Xian, close to Xian's nightlife and entertainment centres which are all within walking distance.



CROWN PLAZA ANCIENT HOTEL, LIJIANG

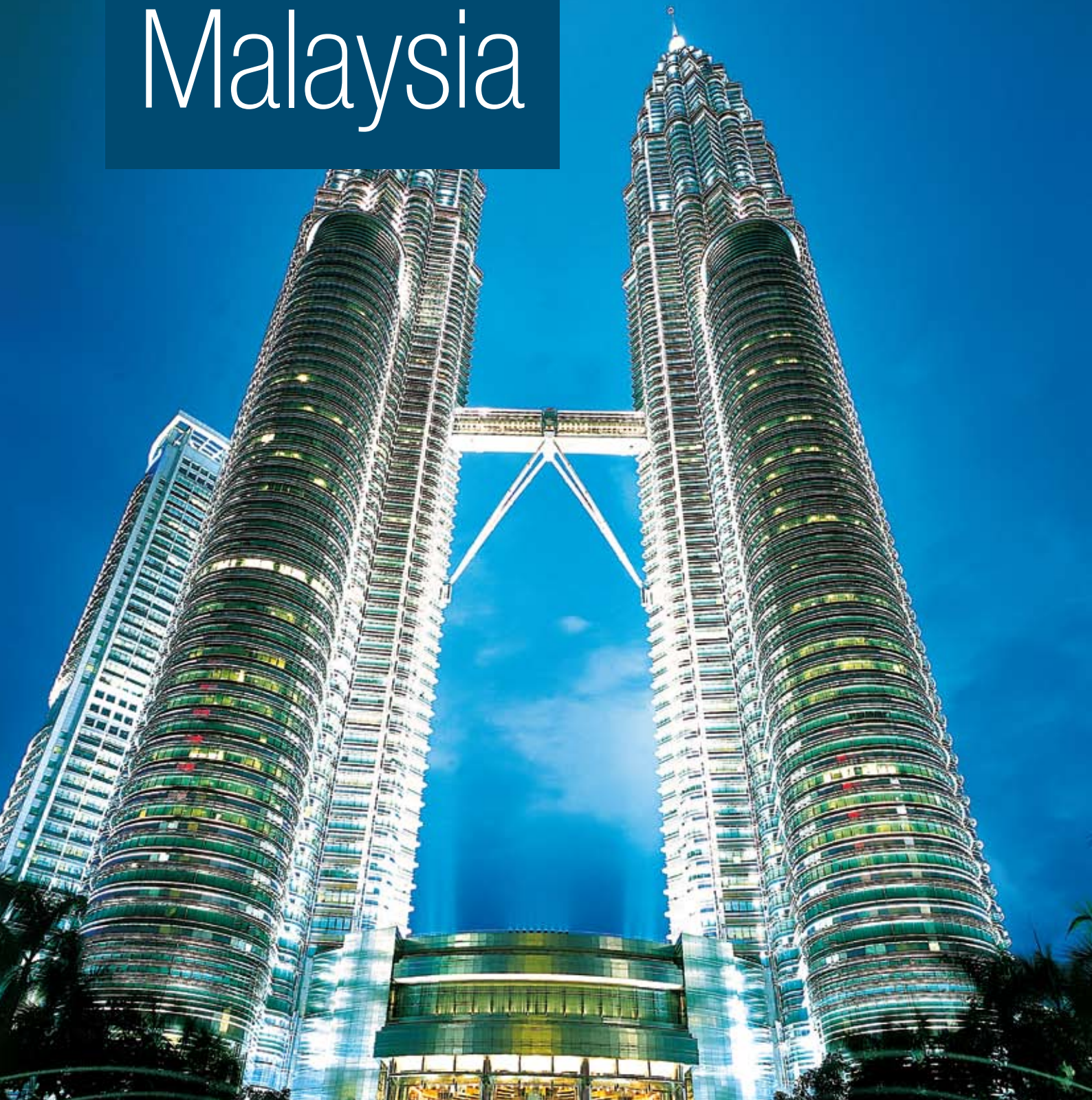
Set amidst a sprawling landscape, the hotel's architecture and interiors reflect the unique Naxi / Dongba culture, along with first-class recreational facilities.



PRIME HOTEL, BEIJING

The hotel location is excellent only a 10 minute walk from the Forbidden City and close to Tiananmen Square. The rooms are elegantly decorated with a Chinese touch.

# Malaysia



Malaysia has opened its doors and what lies beyond are perfect beaches, captivating scenery and friendly people. Colonial history is alive in many of the towns and cities and Malaysia has countless temples and churches reflecting Malaysia's rich cultural heritage, quiet tea plantations blanket the cool highlands and stunning national parks with abundant birds and wildlife. The ever-evolving capital in Kuala Lumpur offers great shopping and dining yet retains the charm of another era evident in its domes, mosques and Moorish architecture. The coast is a major attraction to Malaysia with superb beaches on the mainland as well as a scattering of tranquil islands, poised between virgin jungle and clear coral-filled waters. In addition to the well-known resorts of Penang and Langkawi, try visiting the East Coast with little gems such as the island of Redang or further down Tioman. Malaysian Borneo is also a must see with both Sabah and Sarawak offering a wide range of nature, birds and wildlife.

# classic Malaysia 10 days



## ■ DAY 1 KUALA LUMPUR

Arrive at Kuala Lumpur International Airport and transfer to your hotel in the heart of the bustling city. Time permitting take a half day city tour. Visit the King's Palace, the twin towers and have dinner overlooking the city at KL Towers.

## ■ DAY 2 KUALA LUMPUR ~ CAMERON HIGHLANDS

Start the day at the National Mosque, Thien Hau Temple, The House of Parliament and Independence Square. Travel to the Cameron Highlands, take in the views and the cool mountain climate from this mountain resort.

## ■ DAY 4 CAMERON HIGHLANDS

Spend the day enjoying the old world colonial charm of British Malaya. Visit the Boh Tea plantation and mountain roads, Take a short trek through the jungle in search of the Rafflesia, the worlds largest flower.

## ■ DAY 5 CAMERON HIGHLANDS ~ PENANG ISLAND

Descend along the mountain road crossing the famous Penang Bridge to Penang Island. Spend the rest of the day relaxing on the beach or at your hotel resort.

## ■ DAY 6 PENANG ISLAND ~ LANGKAWI ISLAND

A morning short visit to the Botanical Gardens before taking the ferry to Langkawi Island.

## ■ DAY 7 LANGKAWI ISLAND

Island Hopping the archipelago of a hundred islands makes for a packed half day boat tour of scenic cliffs, bays, secret coves and hidden inlets. Peaceful swimming and snorkelling is the big opportunity around these small uninhabited islets. Visit the Isle of the Pregnant Maiden or make the most of our brief stopover at the animal sanctuary of Singa Besar.

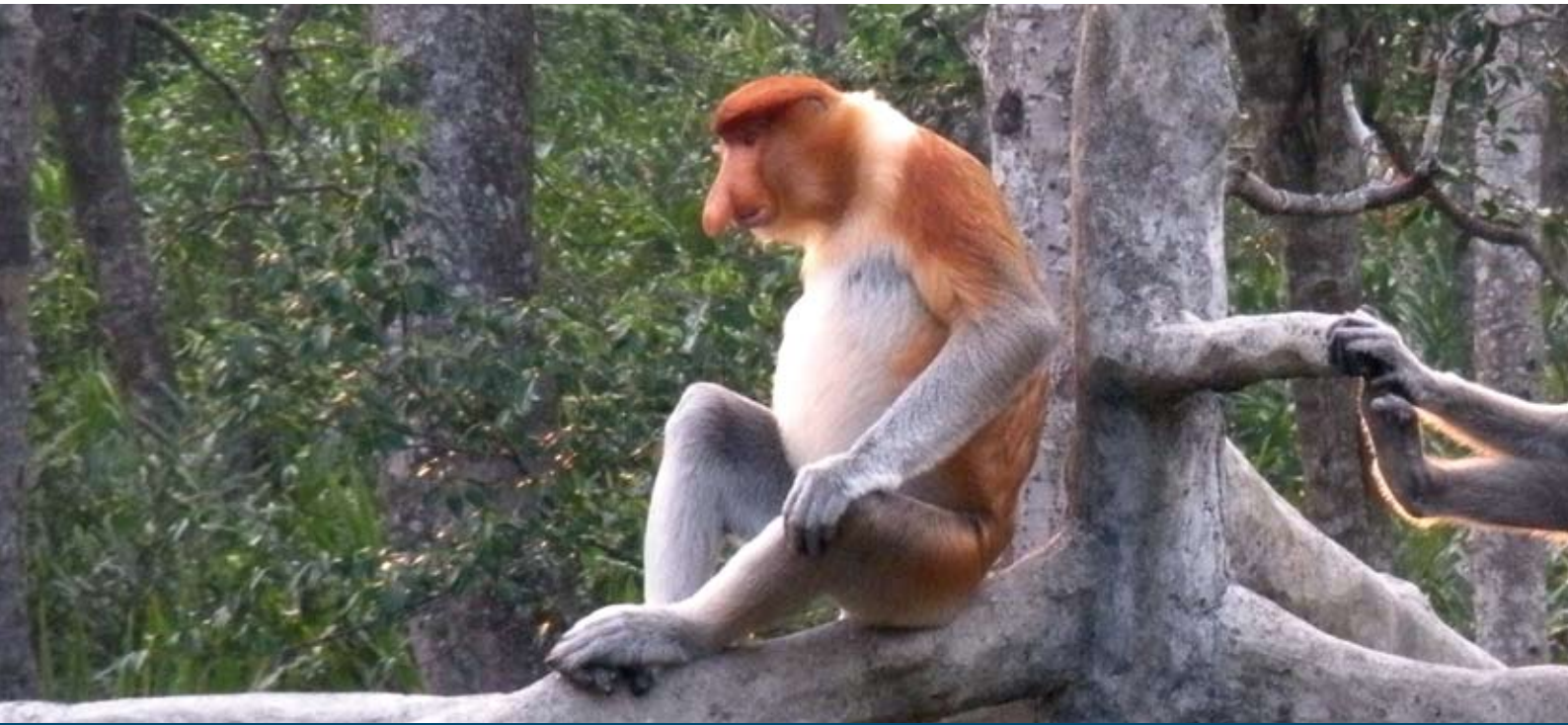
## ■ DAY 8 ~ 9 LANGKAWI ISLAND

Enjoy the stunning beach at Langkawi with lots of activities to choose from including snorkeling, underwater world, diving or enjoying the shops and excellent cuisine.

## ■ DAY 10 LANGKAWI ~ KUALA LUMPUR

Free at leisure until your transfer to the airport for your flight back to Kuala Lumpur.

From £1,150



The Malaysian part of Borneo hosts Sabah and Sarawak, Sabah literally means the land below the wind and the people here have a very different culture and heritage than that of the Malaysian mainland. Your adventure will take you to the heart of the forests of Sabah, walk through the forests and take a boat ride along the Kinabatangan River. Visit Selingan Island where the Green and Hawksbill turtles lay their eggs, visit the Orang-Utan sanctuary before flying to Langkawi to spend a few days relaxing on this stunning beach.

#### ■ DAY 1 KUALA LUMPUR ~ KOTA KINABALU

Arrive at Kuala Lumpur International Airport and transfer for the Malaysian Airlines flight to Kota Kinabalu, spend the night at the fantastic Tanjung Aru resort where you can enjoy the beach or relax.

#### DAY 2 KOTA KINABALU ~ KINABALU PARK

Leaving Kota Kinabalu behind, drive up the mountain pass keeping Mount Kinabalu in sight, the drive takes about one and a half to reach the view point of Mount Kinabalu standing at 4095m it is the highest peak in the region and famous for its annual world climbathon challenge. Enjoy a tour of Kinabalu Park before driving to the nearby Hot Springs at Poring, take a short Canopy walk. In the afternoon drive back along the mountain road to your lodge overlooking Mount Kinabalu.

#### DAY 4 KINABALU PARK ~ SUKAU

Continue driving across Sabah and start the descent down the mountain, passing the town of Ranau it is about a three hour drive to our first stop, Gomantong Cave. This cave is home to millions of Bats and walking through is quite a unique experience. The cave is also home to Swiftlets. These Swiftlets make their nests with Saliva, which are collected by the locals and sold to make the well known Chinese Birdnest soup. Travel to Sukau where lunch will be provided.

In the afternoon take a boat ride on the Kinabatangan River in search of primates including the Proboscis Monkeys, Wild Elephants, and a host of birdlife including hornbills. Return to the lodge where you will be staying for the night

#### DAY 5 SUKAU ~ SEPILOK

Wake up to the calls of nature and take an early morning boat ride on Ox Bow Lake to observe the wildlife and experience the early morning river ambience of the longest river of Sabah. Return to your lodge for breakfast and then check out for the short drive to Sepilok. After lunch, visit the Orangutan Sanctuary just a two minute walk from the lodge.

The Orangutan Sanctuary covers 4,000 hectares and is one of only 4 in the world. Orphaned Orang-utans are taken here to be rehabilitated, before being returned to the wild. Visit the sanctuary for the official afternoon feeding time.

There is an optional night walk through the Orangutan Sanctuary, with the ranger trying to spot the Orangutans and the other wildlife that come out at night including the Slow Loris, long-tail macaques, ground squirrels, butterflies and tree lizards.



# Discover Borneo 9 days



## DAY 6 SEPILOK ~ SELINGAN ISLAND

After breakfast, drive the short 30 minute ride to the Jetty at Sandakan for the 2 ½ hour boat ride to Selingan Island, have lunch at the Island and spend the afternoon swimming or snorkelling. After dinner the adventure begins when the rangers take you to see the Green and Horksbill turtles. Watch quietly as the turtles come on shore to lay their eggs and the newly-hatched creatures make their way to the sea for the first time.

## DAY 7 SELINGAN ISLAND ~ SANDAKAN ~ LABUK BAY

Return by boat to Sandakan where you will have lunch in town. Travel to Labuk bay stopping on the way at the Jih Syh Chinese Buddhist Temple which offers a panoramic view of Sandakan Bay. Spend the afternoon at the lodge relaxing set in the heart of the Mangrove forest and the Labuk Bay Sanctuary just a short walk from the ocean.

Take an optional Night walk to see the fire flies around the bay normally at about 7pm

## DAY 8 LABUK BAY

Today is a true highlight visit the nearby Labuk Bay Sanctuary home to the Proboscis Monkeys. This sanctuary has a few hundred of these Monkey's, and many of them can be seen here. You can spend a good few hours here enjoying and watching

their interactions with the Male Dominant Monkeys whose big belly and long nose can attract up to 30 females! Return to the lodge in the afternoon where you can enjoy some free time.

## DAY 9 LABUK BAY ~ KUALA LUMPUR

Transfer from the resort to Sandakan Airport where you will take the flight back to Kuala Lumpur.

## OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

Extend your trip with a few day relaxing at one of the beach resorts at Langkawi or Penang Island.

From £1,220



# Malaysia

## our hotels

### ACCOMMODATION IN MALAYSIA

Your home away from home; whether staying at a hotel, resort, or eco lodge our hand picked hotels will add something special to your trip. The hotels listed here are just a few recommendations of what we have to offer, but we are always at hand with helpful advice to find that magical place that you can home.



CELYN RESORT, KINABULU

Set in the mountains of Sabah, this mountain resort offers the best of service allowing you to take in the stunning views of Mount Kinabalu.



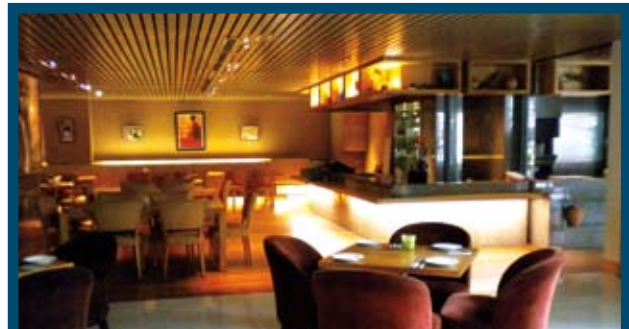
NATURE RESORT, SEPILOK

Set in harmony with the surroundings, Sepilok Nature resort offers a nature setting just a two minute walk away from the Orang-Utan Sanctuary.



NIPPON RESORT, LABUK BAY

Set in the grounds of the Labuk Bay Proboscis Monkey Sanctuary, it is a perfect place to unwind and be at one with the nature of the surrounding Mangrove Forest.



PICCOLO HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR

A hip boutique hotel in the heart of Kuala Lumpur with excellent services and facilities



TANJUNG ARU RESORT, KOTAL KINABALU

A private beach, views of the sparkling coral islands, and a legendary attentive service awaits you at the serenity of this secluded tropical luxury resort just minutes away from the centre of Kota Kinabalu.



TANJUNG RHU RESORT, LANGKAWI

A 5 Star luxury resort, located on the northern tip of Langkawi. A private and exclusive resort that will exceed your expectations.

# Indonesia



The Islands of Indonesia are truly special, strewn across the coral-rich waters of Southeast Asia, Indonesia is made up of over 17,000 Islands. The Indonesian people are a mixture of many different cultures and religions whose costumes and customs vary between islands and even between valleys.

Bali with its famous beaches also has magnificent sloping terraced rice-fields along its central volcano. Lombok and Sumba are the least visited with natural untouched beauty and beaches creating perfect tropical hideaways. Java's regional cities are bright and vibrant. Sumatra's jungles offer refuge to the endangered orang-utan, while remote Sulawesi is almost a country in itself, with ancient tribal cultures and great diving.

The best time of year to visit most of Indonesia is April to October. There tends to be more rain in the other months, although there is never a bad time to travel as these are usually short, tropical downpours and the rains bring benefits as the countryside comes to life with lush vegetation. Indonesia is generally warm throughout the year, although nights can be cold in the highlands.

# classic Indonesia 15 days



A tour across the islands of Indonesia, starting at the capital of Jakarta fly to Jogjakarta to see the World famous Buddhist temple of Borobudur, fly to Sulawesi the Land of Hanging graves "Toraja Land" and finally end in the island of Gods.... Bali.

#### DAY 1 JAKARTA

On arrival at Soekarno Hatta Airport of Jakarta, you will be met by your guide and transferred to your hotel.

#### DAY 2 JAKARTA ~ JOGJAKARTA

Take a tour of Jakarta visiting the National Museum. Drive through Merdeka Square to see the National Monument, the Istiqlal Mosque (the biggest mosque in Southeast Asia), Catholic Cathedral and President's Palace. See the remnants of the dutch era at old Batavia. After lunch transfer to the airport to catch your flight to Jogjakarta.

#### DAY 3 JOGJAKARTA

Today's highlight is Borobudur, a ninth century Buddhist Monument. Continue with a village tour where you will see the making of tofu, pottery and noodles all in traditional style.

#### DAY 4 JOGJAKARTA

A day's city tour starting at Sonobudoyo Museum, Kraton the official residence of the Sultan of Yogya, see traditional Indonesian Batik textiles, Silverwork and Visit Prambanan Hindu temple, before returning to your hotel.

#### DAY 5 JOGJAKARTA ~ TORAJA (SULAWESI ISLAND)

Take the short flight to Ujung Pandang, and start your 7 hours drive up the mountain to Tana Toraja enjoying the panoramic views and natural beauty of the stunning landscape.

#### DAY 6 TORAJA

Visit Lemo where the cliffs rise from the rice fields. Housed high up in the cliffs are the remnants of the Toraja nobility represented by wooden statues known as tau-tau. Visit Londa and Kete Kesu a traditional Torajan village famous for its wood carving.

#### DAY 7 TORAJA

Spend the day visiting the Torajan villages around Toraja, including Pallawa and Sa'dan known for its weaving.

#### DAY 8 TORAJA ~ UJUNG PANDANG ~ BALI (BALI ISLAND)

Drive back to Ujung Pandang Airport for the flight to Bali.

#### DAY 9 BALI

Spend the day at your own leisure.

#### DAY 10 BALI

Attend a Barong and Keris dance performance at Batubulan village. Visit the art and handicraft villages of Celuk, Batuan, Mas and Ubud and witness gold and silver work, hand weaving, woodcarving and painting. Tampak Siring boasts the holy spring water temple Tirta Empul. Take in the views of the still active Mt. Batur volcano and Lake Batur. Return to your hotel stopping on the way to see the Bangli town home to a 13th century Kehen.

#### DAY 11 ~ 14 BALI

Spend your days at leisure on the beach or at the pool of your resort. There are also many optional day trips that can be arranged

#### DAY 15 BALI

Transfer to the airport for your return flight.

From £1,530

# Indonesia

## our hotels

### ACCOMMODATION IN INDONESIA

Your home away from home; whether staying at a hotel, resort, or eco lodge our hand picked hotels will add something special to your trip. The hotels listed here are just a few recommendations of what we have to offer, but we are always at hand with helpful advice to find that magical place that you can home.



BOROBUDUR HOTEL, JAKARTA

Ideally located in the heart of Jakarta and spanning 23 acres of tropical landscaped gardens, this hotel offers top end facilities and service.



PLAZA HOTEL, JOGJAKARTA

A unique resort-styled hotel with distinctive low rise Javanese architecture and warm Indonesian hospitality, combining the best of old traditions and modern services.



MELIA BENOA HOTEL, BALI

An intimate and elegant seaside retreat, with its architecture reflecting its graceful nature and hospitality of Bali.



SANTIKA PREMIERE HOTEL, JAKARTA

Conveniently located, an elegant hotel with distinctive yet unimposing Indonesian ambience, the hotel offers unsurpassed facilities.



AYODYA RESORT, BALI

A place of quintessential Balinese architectural style and elegance, designed to resemble a Balinese water palace with art stone statues, fountains and lagoon pools it is an ideal resort for tranquility



TORAJA HERITAGE HOTEL, TORAJA

At an altitude of 700m the hotel boasts stunning views across the mountain range and follows the architectural style of traditional Torajan clan houses. Furnished to the highest standards to provide a blend of comfort and tradition.

# Journey through Indochina 21 days



Indochina has come through years of war and emerged as an ideal travel destination. Stunning landscapes will surround you from the moment you land, charming people at every corner you turn. A region full of rich culture and unique architecture engulfs you. Experience captivating natural beauty and see the tranquillity of the village life. Highland plateaus with views not to be missed and tantalising French local style Cuisine.

## ■ DAY 1 ~ 3 BANGKOK ~ LUANG PRABANG (LAOS)

On arrival in Bangkok connect with the flight to Luang Prabang your first stop on your journey a jewel on the Mekong. A former royal city with its Royal Palace. A ride on the Mekong takes you to the Pak Ou Caves, a natural cave filled with over 1000 Buddha statues. Enjoy a day at Kuang Si Waterfall with its emerald turquoise cool water.

## ■ DAY 4 ~ 5 LUANG PRABANG ~ HANOI (VIETNAM)

Fly to unique Hanoi an Asian city with tree lined boulevards, French colonial architecture, Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum and enjoy a traditional Vietnamese water puppet show.

## ■ DAY 6 ~ 7 HALONG BAY

Escape the hustle and the bustle and jump on a Luxury Cruise in Halong Bay, a quaint little paradise, ideal for outdoor adventure and fun filled for everyone in one of the most stunning bays dotted with Limestone Karsts.

## ■ DAY 8 ~ 10 HUE AND HOI AN

Visit Hue, this imperial city made famous when the North Vietnamese launched their Tet Offensive and briefly took control of this city, enjoy a boat trip on the romantically named Perfume River, and enjoy the tranquillity of Hoi An believed to have been settled no less than 2,200 years ago a place where you can stroll around and truly relax.

From £2,050

## ■ DAY 10 ~ 12 DANANG ~ HO CHI MINH

Ho Chi Minh formerly known as Saigon and renamed after Ho Chi Minh who led the reunification of Northern and Southern Vietnam. Take a city tour and take an excursion to the Chu Chi tunnels which give an insight to the conditions during the Vietnam War and the resilience of the Vietnam people living underground in large tunnel complexes which comprised of schools and hospitals as well as army barracks. This tunnel system covers close to 200km and even went right under the US air base.

## ■ DAY 13 ~ 14 MEKONG DELTA ~ PHNOM PENH (CAMBODIA)

A trip through the Mekong Delta, where life happens on the river. Floating markets, restaurants and homes are all dotted along this labyrinth canal system along the Vietnam / Cambodian border. End up in Phnom Penh the Capital of Cambodia.

## ■ DAY 15 ~ 16 PHNOM PENH - SIEM REAP

The Kingdom of wonder, Cambodia is leaving behind the horrors of its past which can be seen at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum a former high school used as a prison and torture centre during the Khmer Rouge reign now known as S-21, followed by the Killing Fields of Choeung Ek.

## ■ DAY 17 ~ 19 SIEM REAP

The city of Angkor: A complex of temples each belonging to different Khmer Rulers. The most famous temple being Angkor Wat being built over 800 years ago and a truly remarkable feat of engineering and an archaeological wonder.

## ■ DAY 20 ~ 21 BANGKOK

Enjoy a short tour of this vibrant city and free time to shop and explore before your return flight.



# A taste of Indochina 15 days

A spectacular journey across landscapes and cultures, start your journey at the bustling financial capital of Ho Chi Minh moving north to the more laid back capital of Hanoi. Learn about the history and struggle of the Vietnamese at the Chu Chi tunnels, heritage at the Imperial city of Hue before strolling through the captivating world heritage colonial town of Hoi An. The colonial city of Hanoi with its French quarter and Halong Bay where you can enjoy a cruise through this bay dotted with over 3000 Limestone Islets, a spectacular site. Fly to the delightful town of Luang Prabang stroll through the night market while admiring the colonial feel before seeing the capital of Laos, Vientiane.

## ■ DAY 1 ~ 2 HO CHI MINH CITY

Explore the financial Capital of Vietnam formerly known as Saigon. Visit the Reunification Palace, the War Museum, the Jade Emperor Pagoda and Notre Dame Cathedral. Take an excursion to the Chu Chi tunnels. The tunnel system covers close to 200km and went right under the US air base. The tunnels used to span from close to the Cambodian border right to the edge of Ho Chi Minh City a show of the Vietnamese will and determination, the tunnels even included schools and field hospitals.

## ■ DAY 3 HO CHI MINH ~ HOI AN

Take the morning flight to Danang and drive south to nearby Hoi An. Enjoy the architecture and local delicacies, strolling around this peaceful city.

## ■ DAY 4 HOI AN

Spend the day free at leisure enjoying the beach or shopping at the local stores.

## ■ DAY 5 HOI AN TO HUE

Drive north along the dramatic coastal road at Hai Van Pass to Vietnam's former imperial capital.

## ■ DAY 6 HUE

Visit Tu Duc's tomb the Citadel and the Imperial City. After Lunch take a dragon boat along the Perfume River out to the tomb of Minh Mang.

## ■ DAY 7 HUE ~ HANOI

Fly to Hanoi, visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, One Pillar Pagoda, the Stilt house, the infamous Hanoi Hilton and the peaceful temple of literature.

## ■ DAY 8 ~ 9 HANOI ~ HALONG BAY

A two day cruise through the world heritage site of Halong bay; sail through the many islets and bays, visit "amazing cave" and take a swim in the emerald water. Retire to your cabin or relax under the stars amidst the magic of Halong on the top deck. The following day enjoy sunrise and the breath of fresh ocean air. Continue cruising visiting a floating village before returning to Halong City and transferring back to Hanoi.





#### ■ DAY 10 HANOI ~ LUANG PRABANG

Transfer for the flight to Luang Prabang, rest of the day free in Luang Prabang.

#### ■ DAY 11 LUANG PRABANG

Take a boat ride along the Mekong to see the Pak Ou caves set inside the rocky walls of the Sandstone Mountains at the confluence of the Nam Ou and the Mekong, some 25km upstream from Luang Prabang. The caves are inhabited by thousands of Buddha statues, some allegedly more than 300 years old. Monks used to live in the caves, too and when Laos was still a monarchy, the caves were visited every year by the King. On your return visit the Whisky village and weaving village.

#### ■ DAY 12 LUANG PRABANG

Spend the day with the elephants just 15km from Luang Prabang. Take a 1hr elephant ride through small forests to the Nam Khan River. Take a boat trip to Tad Sae waterfalls. Enjoy a swim at the waterfalls before taking an easy 3-4 hour trek to a Khmu village one of the hilltribe villages in this area, before returning to Luang Prabang.

#### ■ DAY 13 LUANG PRABANG

Enjoy the morning to see the Royal Palace before heading to Kuang Si waterfall. Set in jungle about an hour outside of Luang Prabang, Kuang Si waterfall is a spectacular series of cascades and clear turquoise pools. Quite a climb to the top but you can cool off with a swim in the pools have lunch at the waterfall before returning to Luang Prabang mid afternoon.



#### ■ DAY 14 LUANG PRABANG ~ VIENTIANE

Fly to Vientiane before an afternoon city tour of Vientiane, Wat Phra Kaew and Patuxai before visiting Tat Luang Stuppa, the national symbol of Laos. Late check into your hotel and spend the evening to relax.

#### ■ DAY 15 VIENTIANE

Depart from Vientiane for your onward journey.

From £1,450



# Trails of Indochina 16 days

An adventure across Thailand, Laos and Vietnam; the journey begins in Bangkok with a cruise along the “River of Kings”, next travel to the cool climate of the mountains and the town of Chiang Mai. Fly to the colonial town of Luang Prabang in Laos before seeing the highlights of Vietnam. Experience the French colonial city of Hanoi and Halong Bay where you take a boat ride amongst the limestone islets and crystal blue waters. Head south to the imperial city of Hue and marvel at the delight of Hoi An before flying to Ho Chi Minh and the Mekong Delta where the tour ends.

## ■ DAY 1 BANGKOK

You are met on arrival at Bangkok international Airport, we will then escort you to your hotel where you can settle in and relax. The Evening dinner Cruise (“Along the ‘River of Kings’”), is a memorable evening on board one of Bangkok’s most luxurious restaurant boats, enjoy the variety of Thai dishes whilst the band keep you entertained.

## ■ DAY 2 BANGKOK ~ CHIANG MAI

Visit the Royal Palace, the Wats and enjoy the many markets, savour Thai Cuisine before taking the 1st Class sleeper train to Chang Mai.

## ■ DAY 3 CHIANG MAI

On arrival into Chang Mai we check you into your hotel. It’s an early arrival so you get the chance to catch some more sleep or go for a stroll around Chang Mai before the afternoon’s event. After lunch we visit the stunning Doi Suthep temple through the windy mountain road up on the mountain top. Here you can take in the stunning views of Chang Mai below. Returning to the hotel in time for dark we can give you directions on local markets and entertainment areas for you to visit to make the most of your Chang Mai experience. Well known for its night market that is open every night and if the timing is right see the every other Sunday street market where some of the best bargains in Thailand can be found, especially northern Thai Silk.

## ■ DAY 4 CHIANG MAI ~ LUANG PRABANG

Transfer to the airport for the flight to Luang Prabang transfer to your hotel to either relax or spend the evening walking around this majestically colonial French town with its splendid architecture and temples.

## ■ DAY 5 - 6 LUANG PRABANG

Spend two days exploring the colonial town of Luang Prabang and its surrounding sights including Kuang Si waterfall and the Pak Ou Caves.

## ■ DAY 7 LUANG PRABANG ~ HANOI

Fly to Hanoi the capital of Vietnam, on arrival in Hanoi spend the rest of the day sightseeing you will see the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, One Pillar Pagoda, the Temple of Literature, the Restored Sword lake before having dinner by the lake.

## ■ DAY 8 HANOI

Enjoy a free day in Hanoi.

## ■ DAY 9 HANOI ~ HALONG BAY

Depart at 8am from your hotel in Hanoi to Halong Bay. Halong bay was the first place in Vietnam to gain world heritage status in 1994. There are nearly 3,000 limestone and dolomite islets and rock sculptures covering 1,500 km<sup>2</sup>.

Board your boat an authentic Chinese Junk and start your amazing cruise through this World Heritage Site. Visit “the amazing cave”, followed by a swim in the tranquillity of Halong Bay and its emerald water.

Cruise further into a quiet area where we will anchor and stay overnight. Dinner and relax as the sun sets. Retire to your cabin, or fall asleep under the stars amidst the magic of Halong on the top deck.



#### ■ DAY 10 HALONG BAY ~ HANOI

Wake up early in the morning for a great sunrise and a breath of fresh ocean air. Breakfast is served on board then we do a leisurely cruise through thousands of seemingly never ending islands, great opportunities to capture some amazing photographs. Stop to visit a floating fishing village and listen to some legendary stories of the fishermen's daily life. Take one last swim in the middle of the bay to refresh before cruising back to the Halong city pier, before returning to Hanoi.

#### ■ DAY 11 HANOI ~ DANANG ~ HOI AN

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Danang and drive by car to the world heritage city of Hoi An.

#### ■ DAY 12 HOI AN ~ HUE

Transfer to Hue via the Hai Van pass, on arrival visit Tu Duc's tomb the Citadel and the Imperial City. After Lunch take a cruise along the Perfume River and visit Thien Mu Pagoda evening dinner by the river.

#### ■ DAY 13 HUE ~ HO CHI MINH

Take the morning flight to Ho Chi Minh, on arrival transfer to your hotel spend the rest of the day to relax or strolling around the city.

#### ■ DAY 14 HO CHI MINH

Explore the financial Capital of Vietnam formerly known as Saigon. Visit the Reunification Palace, the War Museum, the Jade Emperor Pagoda and Notre Dame Cathedral.

After lunch visit the Chu Chi Tunnels. The tunnel system covers close to 200km and went right under the US air base. The tunnels used to span from close to the Cambodian border right to the edge of Ho Chi Minh City a show of the Vietnamese will and determination the tunnels even included schools and field hospitals.

#### ■ DAY 15 HO CHI MINH CITY ~ CAN THO

Early morning start to Cai Be / the heart of Mekong Delta. On arrival, board a Sampan for a cruise on the Mekong River and its many canals and tributaries to Vinh Long. Visit Cai Be floating market, see old colonial buildings and try a local lunch. An afternoon cycling around this village to explore the local handicraft shops and a visit to Vinh Long market. Early afternoon head to Can Tho, the main town of the Mekong Delta where you will spend the night.

#### ■ DAY 16 CAN THO ~ HO CHI MINH CITY

After breakfast, board a Sampan to visit Cai Rang floating market, a family run noodle / making factory and witness the rural life and the beautiful vegetation along the riverbanks. Discover Can Tho's market and have lunch at a local restaurant before returning to Ho Chi Minh City.

From £1,800

# Gateway to Indochina

## 19 days

Southeast Asia the lands of smiles, Thailand, boasts pristine beaches and culture with a modern way of life. Cross the Mekong into Laos and step back into time where you will enjoy the relaxed and slow way of life around you. Cross into Cambodia and gain an insight into this ancient Khmer Kingdom.

### ■ DAY 1 ~ 2 BANGKOK (THAILAND)

Bangkok is our first stop a bustling city, where new meets old. Visit Grand Palaces, Wats and ancient monuments, take a scenic boat ride along the Chao Phraya River and shop at various markets and shopping centres.

### ■ DAY 3 ~ 4 CHIANG MAI

Fly to Chiang Mai and enjoy this colourful and vibrant town, enjoy great views from Doi Suthep Temple and visit rare butterfly and orchid farms. Enjoy a trip to the night market.

### ■ DAY 5 ~ 7 CHIANG MAI ~ LUANG PRABANG (LAOS)

Travel across Eastern Thailand to the Golden Triangle where Myanmar, Laos and Thailand meet along the mighty Mekong. Cross the border into Laos and embark on a two day cruise down the Mekong to Luang Prabang.

### ■ DAY 8 ~ 9 LUANG PRABANG

The world heritage site of Luang Prabang is a truly a magnificent place to relax, the jewel of the Mekong and the former capital of Laos. Take in the stunning views from the top of Phou Si. Get away from it all at Kuang Si waterfall. A stunning tiered waterfall with cool turquoise pools where you can swim in natural forest surroundings.

### ■ DAY 10 VIENTIANE

Fly to Vientiane on a brief stopover and see Tat Luang Stupa the National symbol of Laos, with the afternoon free to relax.

### ■ DAY 11 ~ 12 VIENTIANE ~ BOLAVEN PLATEAU DON KHONG

The Bolaven Plateau at a higher elevation and comprised of volcanic rock makes the perfect place for growing tea and coffee, after lunch travel down to Don Khong Island the main Island in this natural wetlands.

### ■ DAY 13 ~ 14 DON KHONG ~ KRATIE (CAMBODIA) ~ PHNOM PENH

A scenic boat ride down river to see the old French Railway and Lphi Waterfall, visit the 'Niagara' of Southeast Asia, Khon Phapeng. Cross the border to Cambodia and spend the night in Kratie. The following day take a boat ride to see the rare Irrawaddy dolphins before traveling to Phnom Penh

### ■ DAY 15 PHNOM PENH

The Kingdom of wonder, Cambodia is leaving behind the horrors of its past which can be seen at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum a former high school used as a prison and torture centre during the Khmer Rouge reign now known as S-21, followed by the Killing Fields of Choeung Ek.

### ■ DAY 16 ~ 18 SIEM REAP

The city of Angkor: A complex of temples each belonging to different Khmer Rulers. The most famous temple being Angkor Wat being built over 800 years ago and a truly remarkable feat of engineering and an archeological wonder.

### ■ DAY 19 BANGKOK

Return to Bangkok where you can extend your stay or connect for your flight back to the UK.

From £2,260

# Cambodia & Laos

## new frontiers

### 14 days

A new route has opened up linking the Mekong of Southern Laos with Northern Cambodia. Start your adventure, on the Bolaven Plateau. Travel to the first Khmer temple Wat Phu before following the Mekong South to the natural wetlands of Si Pan Don. Journey through flooded forests; look out for the rare Irrawaddy Dolphins before arriving at the capital of Phnom Penh. The last stop on your journey is the amazing temples of Angkor in Siem Reap.

#### ■ DAY 1 BANGKOK ~ PAKSE

Connect with the flight from Bangkok to Ubon Ratchatani or Pakse the Provincial capital of Champasak.

#### ■ DAY 2 ~ 3 BOLAVEN PLATEAU ~ CHAMPASAK

Drive east to a local tea and coffee plantation, visit Tad Fane waterfall which boasts two stunning cascades framed against the Bolaven Plateau dropping nearly 120m, continue around the Plateau visiting ethnic villages before arriving at Tad Lo. The following day enjoy the morning at Tad Lo before continuing to the Pre-Angkor temple of Wat Phu.

#### ■ DAY 4 CHAMPASAK ~ DON KHONG

The Xe Pian National Protected Area is teeming with birds and wildlife spend the morning at Ban Kiat Ngong Village look out for wildlife at the viewpoint before transferring to Don Khong.

#### ■ DAY 5 DON KHONG

Don Khong is the main island in these natural wetlands where the Mekong is at it widest, take a boat trip through the 4000 Islands to Don Khone and see the old railway bridge and Lphi Waterfall, continue by boat to see the rare Irrawaddy Dolphins before returning to Don Khong.

#### ■ DAY 6 ~ 7 DON KHONG ~ BAN LUNG

Cross the border and kayak through the flooded forest in the Ramsar Wetlands. Continue by car to the province of Ratanakiri. Visit Vealrum Plang a lava field of volcanic rock in a forest. Pass Taveng and Kroeung Villages before stopping at Yeak Lom Lake, a clear blue basin in the middle of an extinct volcano.

#### ■ DAY 8 BAN LUNG ~ KRATIE

Make your way back to the Mekong trail briefly stopping in Stung Treng to see Mekong Blue, before continuing to Kratie

#### ■ DAY 9 ~ 10 KRATIE ~ PHNOM PENH

The Kingdom of wonder, Cambodia is leaving behind the horrors of its past which can be seen at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum a former high school used as a prison and torture centre during the Khmer Rouge reign now known as S-21, followed by the Killing Fields of Choeng Ek.

#### ■ DAY 11 ~ 13 SIEM REAP

Fly from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap and visit the Temples of Angkor: These temples each being built by different Khmer Rulers. The most famous temple being Angkor Wat being built over 800 years ago. a truly remarkable feat of engineering and an archeological wonder. Spend 3 days exploring the temples of Angkor and visit the Tonle Sap Lake.

#### ■ DAY 14 SIEM REAP

Transfer to Siem Reap International Airport for your departure.

From £1,260

# Xplore-Asia Booking Conditions

## 1 The Contract

All persons wishing to make a booking have carefully read and understand the Terms and Conditions that follow. By making a booking with the Company or its Agents, you accept and are bound by these terms and conditions and booking are made with Xplore-Asia Ltd (ATOL Number 9236) a company registered in England and Wales with the company number 5651257.

## 2 Payment Requirements

At the time of booking or 60 days or more prior to departure, whichever is later a nonrefundable deposit of £250 per person per tour is due. The nonrefundable deposit should be sent to the Company or its Agent. 30 – 59 Days before departure 50 % of the tour price is required and full payment is required 30 days before departure.

## 3 Cancellation by the Client

Any cancellation by a Client must be made in writing and acknowledged by the Company. The date on which the letter is received by the Company or its Agents will determine the cancellation charge applicable. Cancellation for Xplore Asia – excl. The cancellation charges are expressed hereafter as a percentage of the total tour price, excluding insurance. Note: airlines may impose 100% cancellation charges.

- A. *Cancellation more than 60 days before departure: Loss of deposit.*
- B. *Cancellation 59 - 30days before departure: 50% of tour price.*
- C. *Cancellation less than 30 days before departure: 100% of tour price.*

## 4 Cancellation of a Tour by the Company

The Company reserves the right to cancel a tour for any reason, but will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure except for force majeure, unusual or unforeseen circumstances outside the Company's control. When a tour is cancelled by the Company, the Client may choose between a full refund of all monies paid or any alternative tour offered by the Company. The Company is not responsible for any incidental expenses that you may have incurred as a result of your booking such as visas, vaccinations, nonrefundable connecting flights or loss of enjoyment, etc. If the alternative tour chosen by the Client is of a lower value than that originally booked then the Client is entitled to a refund of the price difference. If the alternative tour chosen by the Client is of a higher price than that originally chosen then the Client must pay the difference.

## 5 Unused Services

There will be no discounts or monies refunded for missed or unused services, this includes voluntary or involuntary termination, i.e. sickness, death of a family member, etc.

## 6 Flexibility

The Client appreciates and acknowledges that the nature of this type of travel requires considerable flexibility and should allow for alternatives. The itinerary provided for each tour is merely representative of the types of activities contemplated, and the Company is under no contractual obligation to strictly follow it. It is understood that the route, schedules, itineraries, amenities and mode of transport may be subject to alteration without prior notice due to local circumstances or events, which may include sickness or mechanical breakdown, flight cancellations, strikes, events emanating from political disputes, entry or border difficulties, climate and other unpredictable or unforeseeable circumstances.

## 7 Changes

**7a.** Changes made by the Company The Company reserves the right to change any of the facilities, services or prices described in the brochure before a booking is made. If such a change is made the Client will be told at the time of booking or when the change occurs. While the Company will endeavour to operate all tours as advertised, reasonable changes in the itinerary may be made where deemed necessary or advisable by the Company. If the Company makes a major change the Company will inform the Client as soon as reasonably possible if there is time before departure. The definition of a major change is deemed to be a change affecting at least one day in five of the itinerary. If the major change is due to force majeure or unforeseen circumstances no compensation is payable. When a major change is made the Client may choose between accepting the change, obtaining a full refund of all monies paid or accepting an alternative tour offered by the Company.

**7b.** Transfer to another departure (by the Client) A transfer from one tour to another can only be made more than 60 days before departure date and if approved by the Company. If such a request is accepted by the Company, the Company reserves the right to charge an administration fee of £30 / \$50 US per person per change. Any request to transfer received less than 60 days before departure will not normally be accepted. In this case the Client must cancel the booking and then rebook on another tour. A Client may only transfer a booking to a departure date in the current season and may not transfer a booking to future seasons. Any such transfers will be regarded as cancellations and cancellation fees will apply.

**7c.** Transfer of name If you are prevented from travelling on the tour you booked by circumstances such as those which would permit you to make a claim on a standard cancellation insurance policy, you may transfer your booking to another person, provided they meet all the requirements relating to that tour. More than 60 days before departure, administrative fee of £30 / \$50 US will apply. Note: airlines may impose 100% cancellation charges. Within 60 days, name transfers are not permitted. Note: airlines may impose 100% cancellation charges.

## 8 Acceptance of Risk / Insurance

The Client acknowledges that the nature of the tour is adventurous and may involve a certain amount of personal risk. The Client hereby assumes all such risk and does hereby release the Company from all claims and causes of action arising from any damages or injuries or death resulting from these inherent risks. The Company's obligations, and those of any suppliers providing any service or facility involved in any travel arrangements the Client books with us, are to provide services and facilities with reasonable care and skill. It is recommended that clients obtain travel insurance with a minimum cover of \$80,000 US while travelling with the Company and this insurance should cover personal injury, medical expenses, repatriation expenses, and evacuation expenses. It is also recommended that the insurance is extended to include cancellation, curtailment, loss of belongings and all other expenses which might arise as a result of loss, damage, injury, delay or inconvenience occurring to the Client. If obtaining travel insurance through the Company, the Client acknowledges that he or she is satisfied with the levels of insurance arranged by the Company

**9 Authority on Tour**

At all times the on a tour the decision of the Company's tour leader or representative will be final on all matters likely to endanger the safety and well being of the tour. The Client must at all times strictly comply with the laws, customs, foreign exchange and drug regulations of all countries visited. If the Client is affected by any condition, medical or otherwise, that might affect other people's enjoyment of the tour, the Client must advise Xplore Asia at the time of booking. Should the Client fail to comply with the above or commit any illegal act when on the tour or, if in the opinion of the tour leader, the Client's behaviour is causing or is likely to cause danger, distress or annoyance to others we may terminate that Client's travel arrangements without any liability on the Company's part and the Client will not be entitled to any refund.

**10 Travel Documents**

The Client must be in possession of a valid passport required for entry, departure and travel through each destination point along the itinerary of the tour, (your passport must be valid 6 months past your return date), all visas, permits and certificates including vaccination certificates, insurance policies, required for the whole of the journey. The Client accepts full responsibility for obtaining all such documents and permits, and is solely responsible for any adverse consequences resulting from missing or defective documentation. Any information or advice given by the Company regarding visas, vaccinations, climate, clothing, baggage, special equipment, etc. is purely advisory, provided as a courtesy to the Client, and the Company is not responsible for any errors or omissions as to the information provided.

**11 Factors outside the Company's control**

Company shall not be liable in any way to the Client for death, bodily injury, illness, damage, delay or other loss or detriment to person or property or for the Company's failure to commence, perform and/ or complete any duty owed to the Client if such death, delay, bodily injury (including emotional distress or injury), illness, damage or other loss or detriment to person or property is caused by Act of God, war or war like operations, terrorist activities, civil commotions, labour difficulties, whether or not Company is a party thereto, interference by authorities, political disturbance, howsoever and where so ever any of the same may arise or be caused, riot, insurrection and government restraint, fire, or any other cause whatsoever beyond the reasonable control of Company.

**12 Claims & Complaints**

If a Client has a complaint against the Company the Client must first inform the tour leader or company representative whilst on the tour in order that the leader/ representative can attempt to rectify the matter. If satisfaction is still not reached through these means then any further complaint must be put in writing to the Company within 30 days of the end of the tour. The Company will not accept any liability for claims received after this period.

**13 Suppliers Conditions**

Airlines, railways, coach and shipping companies and other suppliers have their own booking conditions or conditions of carriage, and you will be bound by these as far as the relevant transport provider or supplier is concerned. Some of these conditions may limit or exclude liability on the part of the relevant transport provider or other supplier, and they are often also subject to various international conventions. Where relevant, copies of such conditions may be available for inspection at our offices, or at the offices of the relevant supplier.

**14 Local Conditions**

Client acknowledges that she/he will be visiting places where the political, cultural and geographical attributes present certain risks, dangers and physical challenges greater than those present in our daily lives. By booking travel with the Company, Client acknowledges that she/he has considered the potential risks, dangers and challenges, and expressly assumes the risks attendant to such travel conditions. Client is solely responsible for acquainting her/himself with the customs, weather conditions, physical challenges and laws in effect at each stop along the itinerary and is encouraged to locate or make contact prior to embarkation with his/her local embassy or consulate in each destination.

**15 Severability**

In the event that any term or condition contained herein is unenforceable or void by operation of law or as being against public policy or for any other reason then such term or condition shall be deemed to be severed from this Agreement or amended accordingly only to such extent necessary to allow all remaining Terms and Conditions to survive and continue as binding.

**16 Your Financial Protection**

When you buy an ATOL protected air holiday package or flights – from Xplore-Asia Ltd you will receive a Confirmation Invoice from us (or via our authorised agent through which you booked) confirming your arrangements and your protection under our Air Travel Organiser's Licence number 9236. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid to us for an advance booking. For further information visit the ATOL website at [www.atol.org.uk](http://www.atol.org.uk).

**Contact Details**

**Xplore-Asia Limited**  
**643 Watford Way**  
**Apex Corner Mill Hill**  
**London NW7 3JR**

[info@xplore-asia.com](mailto:info@xplore-asia.com) | [www.xplore-asia.com](http://www.xplore-asia.com)  
 Tel: 0870 334 6671

