Vietnam & Cambodia J-Term 2018-19
December 26th- January 20th

26th December 2018 : Travel Day
Korean Airlines 094
Departing (IAD) Washington, DC Wed Dec 26 at 11:50 AM
Arriving (ICN) Seoul, South Korea Thu Dec 27 at 04:30 PM

Korean Airlines 679
Departing (ICN) Seoul, South Korea Thu Dec 27 at 06:40 PM
Arriving (HAN) Hanoi, Vietnam Thu Dec 27 at 09:40 PM

Korean Airlines 690
Departing (PNH) Phnom-Penh, Cambodia

Korean Airlines 093
Departing (ICN) Seoul, South Korea Sun Jan 20 at 10:15 AM
Arriving (IAD) Washington, DC Sun Jan 20 at 09:50 AM

DAY 01 (27th DECEMBER 2018): HANOI ARRIVAL
Upon your arrival at Noi Bai international airport, you are warmly welcome by Asiana Travel local guide and transfer to the hotel for check-in. You are free at your leisure for relaxing after the long time flight. Overnight at hotel in Hanoi.

Distance: Noi Bai airport - hotel in Hanoi central is 30km and take 45 minute drive

Meals included: None

DAY 02 (28th DECEMBER 2018): HANOI FULL DAY CITY TOUR
Today's tour begins at 08:00. Set off on a full-day guided tour of Hanoi. Begin with a visit to West Lake to admire the sixth-century Tran Quoc Buddhist Pagoda. Next up is a short drive to visit to the famed Temple of Literature. Wander around this incredible compound which was constructed in 1076. Become fascinated with the stories of the building and get a glimpse of the past when it served as a university and temple. Afterward, head over to the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology (closed on Monday). Here, browse informative exhibitions displaying artefacts and infographics that portray the remarkable diversity of Vietnam’s ethnic communities. Meanwhile, take a look at view traditional costumes on display which represent each of the ethnic groups. As an alternative to the Ethnology Museum, visit the highly-acclaimed Vietnamese Women’s Museum. The museum is located near Hoan Kiem Lake and offers wonderful insight into the lives and heritage of Vietnamese women. Learn historic and modern-day traditions centered around births, weddings, motherhood, spirituality and more. After lunch, visit Ho Chi Minh complex and see the famous Mausoleum from a viewing point.
(Note: it is closed Monday to Friday all afternoons from Jun 15th to Aug 15th). Then, take a short walk to Ho Chi Minh’s former house. Built on stilts, this was where Ho Chi Minh lived from 1958 to 1969 as he orchestrated the movement that eventually lead to Vietnam’s independence. Walk around the serene grounds while learning about Ho Chi Minh’s life and legacy. Then you will take a tour of the nearby One Pillar Pagoda. Built in 1049, it’s one of Vietnam’s most iconic temples. At the end of the afternoon, embark on a walking tour through Hanoi’s bustling Old Quarter.
This area of 36 narrow streets is a lively place to walk around while seeing and learning about Vietnam's traditional ways of life. Continue through the busy Hang Be Market and around Hoan Kiem Lake. Snap photos and chat with the locals on the way. Overnight at hotel in Hanoi.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**DAY 03 (29th DECEMBER 2018): HANOI 🚁 HAI PHONG 🚁 CAT BA ISLAND**

At 08h00am: Pick up at your hotel in Hanoi for the transfer to the pier Pha Got in Hai Phong & take the ferry Hai Phong - Cat Ba island. Arrive in Cat Ba, transfer to your hotel by the bus of the hotel. Overnight in Cat Ba.

*Distance: Hotel in Hanoi central - Hai Phong is 140km and take 02 hour drive*

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**DAY 04 (30th DECEMBER 2018): CAT BA 🚁 NATIONAL PARK TREKKING**

Today the bus of the hotel will pick you up to the Cat Ba National park for the trekking around 2hrs. Viet Hai is a small village in the midst of jungles, covered by high mountains range of the Cat Ba National Park, which belongs to Cat Hai district of Hai Phong city. You will have lunch at the village at a local homestay. For the people who don’t do the trekking, they can take a walk on their own around the city or take the electric car on their own around the city. Overnight at hotel in Cat Ba.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch

**DAY 05 (31st DECEMBER 2018): CAT BA 🚁 TUAN CHAU ISLAND 🚁 HALONG BAY**

Today check out hotel and transfer to pier for ferry to Tuan Chau island depart at 09h00. You will arrive at 10h00 and picked up by local bus to go to Halong city for shopping then transfer back to Tuan Chau island at 12h00 to take break and welcome drink at Glory Legend Cruise Lounge.

13h00 - 19h30: Welcome drink - receive cruise briefing, safety instructions and check in. Start cruising and explore Halong Bay - one of the New Seven Wonders of Nature. Enjoy a lunch with Vietnamese and International dishes served while cruising through the bay, passing the most beautiful and quiet areas, such as Incense Burner, Dog Stone Islet, Fighting Cock, Soi Sim beach, Coconut Three Island. Visiting Tung Sau area, is covered by the leaping rocks, cultured pearl fishery. You can wit yourself the process of the jewel, from culturing to harvesting and sculpting, Moreover, you have a chance to do kayaking based on your preference. Enjoy busy space with pearl maker, you can experience the completion of pearl. Visiting the beautiful Ti Top beach for swimming (if the weather permits), Ti Top Beach is especially famous for its fresh atmosphere, clean water, and smooth white sand that create a great ambiance for tourists to relax or passengers can take steps to reach on the top of Ti Top beach to have a whole panorama view of Halong Bay. Back to the boat and free time while sailing to Luon Bo area, and anchor overnight. Attend the Cooking class on sundeck - How to make Vietnamese spring rolls - traditional Vietnamese food. Then enjoy Happy Hour (Buy one drink-get one free). It is time for chit chat and relaxing. Watch the magnificent sunset over Halong Bay.

19h30 - 23h00: Dinner - Deluxe Vietnamese and International BBQ Set Menu Dinner. Evening activities include: Leisure time to enjoy a chat around the bar, watching movies and many sort of Vietnam cultural films, relaxing and spending a romantic night on Glory Legend Cruise's music, playing cards, chess are available, reading magazines in room and dining room. You may also try your luck at squid fishing & fishing from the boat.

23h00: End of Program for Day One

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
DAY 06 (01st JANUARY 2019): HALONG BAY

06h00 - 08h30: Taking part in Tai Chi class on the sundeck (duration about 30 minutes). Coffee, tea and pastries for breakfast are served in the dining room with morning view of bay’s landscape.

08h30 - 19h30: Transfer to day boat for visiting Cua Van village, a small community with around 700 residents living in the root of Ngoc Mountain. Visit Cua Van village by a rustic - row boat, meet the local people who will help you row the boat for sightseeing. Enjoy quiet space and fresh air, you will feel truly relaxing. Visiting Me Cung Cave, which is also known as Maze Cave. Lying in the absolute protection of the World Natural Heritage - Halong Bay, Me Cung has the complex structure, including many compartments and a corridor of around 100m. According to archaeologists, Me Cung Cave belongs to preliminary Halong culture, about 7,000 - 10,000 years ago. The cave entrance looks like a house roof carving deep into the slopes of the island. Walking into the inside, visitors may get the feelings as if they are entering in a great palace of a Persian King. In combination with the light shining from the outer, sparkling stalactites in diverse shapes and sizes drooping like multi-colored curtains make Me Cung Cave shimmering and fanciful like in paradise. In addition, the blue waters of Me Cung Lake inside the cave create picturesque beauty of nature.

Set menu lunch served on day boat. Back to Glory Legend Cruise. Free time on boat for relaxing. Attend the Cooking class on sundeck. Enjoy Happy Hour (Buy one drink-get one free). Watch the magnificent sunset over Halong Bay.

19h30 - 23h00: Deluxe Vietnamese Dinner will be served. Evening activities include: Leisure time for chatting around the bar, watching many sorts of Vietnam cultural films. Relaxing and spending a romantic night on Glory Legend Cruise’s music. Reading magazines in room and dining room. You may also try your luck with squid fishing on the boat.

23h00: End of Day Two program.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 07 (02nd JANUARY 2019): HALONG BAY - HANOI - HUE

06h00 - 08h00: The day starts early onboard with Tai Chi session on the sundeck. Tai chi, also called Tai chi chuan, combines deep breathing and relaxation with slow and gentle movements. Coffee, tea and pastries for breakfast are served in the dining room with morning view of bay’s landscape.

08h00 - 11h30: Transfer by tender to Sung Sot Cave. Walk up about 100 steps to the cave entrance. It takes approximately 45 minutes for cave visiting. Visit Sung Sot Cave, one of the most biggest cave in Halong bay with beautiful stalactites and stalagmites. Return to the boat by tender. Proper shoes are highly recommended. Back to Glory Legend Cruise. Check out and settle your bill at reception. Have a lunch while cruising back to the Tuan Chau Wharf. Relaxing on the sundeck or in the dining room enjoying the bay scenery while approaching the wharf. Disembark to Tuan Chau Wharf. Say goodbye to the crew.

You are picked up by Asiana Travel local tour guide and transfer back to Hanoi and drive straight to airport for your onwards flight VN1545 (18h00 - 19h10) to Hue. You are picked up on arrival and transfer to hotel for check-in. Overnight at hotel.

Distance: Halong bay - Noi Bai airport is 150km and take 03 hour drive
Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 08 (03rd JANUARY 2019): HUE CITY TOUR

Today’s tour will begin at 08h30. Kick off the Hue city day tour at the UNESCO-Heritage Imperial Citadel. Roam the expansive grounds, hearing stories of the majestic buildings and the intriguing former emperors. Take a look at areas damaged by conflicts, both ancient and modern, and learn of Hue’s role in Vietnam’s military history.
Continue by cyclo to discover the tranquil gardens and traditional buildings of the region, before arriving at the lotus-filled Tinh Tam Lake. Meaning ‘Peace of Mind’, this former emperors’ relaxation spot is still a popular place for Hue residents to wind down at the end of the day. The next stop is **Thien Mu Pagoda**, one of Hue’s iconic landmarks. Discover the many unique spiritual and architectural elements of Thien Mu while touring the compound with the guide. Listen to fascinating stories about the pagoda’s 400-year history and enjoy views over the nearby **Perfume River** before heading to a local restaurant for lunch. This afternoon, leave the city centre and travel through Hue’s beautiful countryside. Visit the **tomb of Emperor Minh Mang**, a Nguyen Dynasty ruler well known for his opposition to any French involvement in Vietnam. Explore his remarkable tomb, admiring the imposing architecture and gorgeous forest setting while learning more about this historic leader. Continue to **Khai Dinh’s tomb** for a tour of this equally remarkable complex. Admire the blend of traditional Vietnamese design with European touches, which makes it unique from the other tombs in Hue. Carry on to nearby Ho Quyen, a crumbling arena in the middle of the woods. Hear how emperors used the arena to stage fights between elephants and tigers as a form of entertainment for the Royal Court. Before heading back to the hotel, take time to browse the stalls at **Dong Ba Market**. The market is teeming with colour and a great place to catch a glimpse of everyday life in modern Hue. Royal diner at the Queen Mother House restaurant.

**Meals included:** Breakfast, Dinner

**DAY 09 (04th JANUARY 2019): HUE ➔ DA NANG ➔ HOI AN**

Today check out hotel and transfer to Hoi An for hotel check-in. Rest of the day you are free for exploring the ancient town by your own. Overnight at hotel.

*Distance: Hotel in Hue central - Hoi An is 130km and take 02 hour and 40 minute drive*

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**DAY 10 (05th JANUARY 2019): HOI AN ➔ DA NANG ➔ NHA TRANG**

Today check out hotel and transfer to Da Nang airport for the flight Da Nang - Nha Trang **VN1945 (12h05 - 13h20)**. Arrive in Nha Trang, picked up & transfer to your hotel. Free time to relax and swimming at the nice beach. Overnight in Nha Trang.

*Distance: Hotel in Hoi An central - Da Nang airport is 30km and take 45 minute drive*

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**DAY 11 > 13 (06th > 08th JANUARY 2019): NHA TRANG FREE & EASY**

These days you will have free time to relax at beach. Overnight in Nha Trang.

**Meals included:** Breakfasts

**DAY 14 (09th JANUARY 2019): NHA TRANG ➔ SAI GON ➔ CU CHI TUNNELS**

Transfer to the Nha Trang airport for the flight Nha Trang - Sai Gon **VN1345 (10h55 - 11h55)**. Arrive in Sai Gon, transfer to the **Cu Chi tunnels** for the visits. Drive away from Ho Chi Minh City, watching the city skyline fade into the distance as the road winds through rice paddies, villages and other scenes typical to southern Vietnam. Spend a couple of hours walking around Cu Chi’s rugged grounds with a local guide. Hear how the residents constructed an intricate, underground network of tunnels during the French and American Wars. Crawl underground and have a look at the tiny chambers, imagining what life was like for those who lived there. Hear incredible tales of perseverance from the unusual foods the residents ate to survive to the story of a baby being born in the tunnels. Once above ground, see other ingenious items used by the residents to defend themselves such as bamboo traps and camouflaged pits. Throughout the tour, the guide will explain the impact of war on the local community and the country as a whole.
Following this insightful visit, journey back to your hotel.

Distance: Hotel in Nha Trang central - Cam Ranh airport is 36km and take 50 minute drive

Meals included: Breakfast

DAY 15 (10th JANUARY 2019): SAI GON  HALF DAY CITY TOUR  COOKING CLASS

Today’s tour will begin at 08h30. Discover the most delectable facet of Vietnamese culture in this hands-on cooking class. Located in a former opium refinery, this is perhaps one of the world’s most unique settings for a culinary adventure. Start the day with a visit to a fresh market. Browse the stalls, learning from the chef about the ingredients on sale and how they are used in traditional Vietnamese cuisine. This is the perfect introduction to the upcoming cooking class. Next, continue to the Hoa Tuc Cooking School in the heart of downtown. The chef will then explain a bit more about Vietnam’s rich culinary culture. Watch as he prepares fresh dishes, using traditional methods to whip up mouth-watering treats. Then roll up the sleeves and start cooking! Make a tasty three-course meal which is easy to recreate at home. Whip up tangy sauces, fresh salads, Asian-style rolls and a hot main course for a truly authentic lunch. To end the culinary adventure with a sweet touch, enjoy a delicious seasonal dessert then take a half day city tour in Sai Gon city. Start with a visit to the city’s most iconic building: Reunification Hall (outside visit only) formerly called the Presidential Palace, images of the building were seen around the world on 30 April 1975 when tanks stormed the gates as Sai Gon fell to the North Vietnamese. Hear the echoes of time while walking through this historic downtown site. Then take a stroll to Ho Chi Minh City’s colonial quarter, walking past scenes of everyday life on the way. Admire the beautiful architecture of the Opera House, City Hall, the old Sai Gon Post Office, Hear about the glory days of French Indochina and how that era continues to influence aspects of modern Vietnamese culture. Step inside the War Remnants Museum for an insightful, yet sombre, look into Vietnam’s military history. See exhibitions displaying imagery from the French and American wars, learning more about the country’s struggle for independence and hearing tales of the resilience of the Vietnamese people. Then continue to the 100 year-old Jade Emperor Pagoda is one of Saigon’s most famous religious buildings. Put this atmospheric Cantonese pagoda, built in 1909, at the top of your HCMC attractions visiting list. The Jade Emperor, heaven’s gatekeeper, watches over an incense-filled room while hidden chambers harbour woodcarvings and altars depicting scenes from Taoist and Buddhist myths. One hall houses the go-to deity if you’re seeking fertility and the upstairs section represents heaven and features the goddess, Kwan Ying. And free for shopping at Ben Thanh market until step off the tourist trail for one last visit on this Ho Chi Minh City tour at a Vietnamese coffee shop, sit down and taste the coffee like locals. After this insightful visit, return to the hotel. Overnight at hotel in Sai Gon.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch at cooking class

DAY 16 (11th JANUARY 2019): SAI GON  BEN TRE HOMESTAY

Begin today’s tour at 08h00 with a pickup at the hotel. The drive to Ben Tre takes about two hours and offers scenic views of Southern Vietnam. Situated in the Mekong Delta, Ben Tre is famous for its fruit orchards and traditional craftsmen working with coconut leaves and fibres.

10h00: On arrival in Hàm Luông Pier (Bến Tre town) opposited the same name’s hotel. Take a boat on Bến Tre river one of tributaries of Mekong river, sight-seeing lively activities along river as fishing, water transfering. . Stop at brickwork to see how to make bricks in handy traditional style by printing and baking. Visite one of plenty of coconut processing worshops located along canal. Turn on natural scissors creeks where they look smaller and smaller to go to village. Take a walk to family workshop making sleepmats and enjoying some fruits and tea. Take a motor cart (xe lôi) or cycle riding under tree shades, pass by green rice fields and vegetable plains to be able to touch on realy life and find out about tropical culture from Peasants. Lunch at Hai Hô family.
14h00: In the afternoon riding to Mr. Sau khanh s' house seeing ancient porcelains collect set.

16h00: Transfer by boat to Mrs Mai’house. Check in for homestay. Relaxing with interesting activities such as rowing boat, catching shrimps in a creek,...

18h00: Take a rest. Join cooking together with family.

19h00: Have a dinner and family talking. Overnight in farmer house.

Distance: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh central - Ben Tre is 110km and take 02 hour and 30 minute drive

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 17 (12th JANUARY 2019): BEN TRE → CAN THO

07h30: Have breakfast. Take cycling see local market, brums making wrokshop, soya sauce making. Visit local school.

10h00: Goodbye local host and conclude this trip by getting ready for the drive to Can Tho. Check-in on arrival and overnight at hotel.

Distance: Ben Tre - Can Tho is 150km and take 03 hour and 20 minute drive

Meals included: Breakfast

DAY 18 (13th JANUARY 2019): CAN THO → FLOATING MARKET → CHAU DOC

Wake up early for a cruise to Cai Rang floating market in most places in the delta the floating market have become smaller and much quieter in recent years due to improvements in infrastructure and living standards, however Cai Rang is one of the handful that remains where during the early morning market hours, larger sized boats wholesale anchor and create lanes that smaller boats weave in and out of. The main items sold here are fruit and vegetables and every boat has a long upright pole at its bow from which samples of the goods for sale are hung. Depending on the season the boats may carry produce such as mango, bananas, papaya, pineapple, and even floating coffee shop and pho vendors can be seen. Following your visit to Cai Rang and Can Tho depart for the approximate 3-hour drive to Chau Doc. Arrive in Chau Doc, visit Chau Doc’s local market which overlooks the confluence of three rivers, and later take a boat to Chau Giang District where a tiny mosque serves the local Cham community. The Cham minority who dominated coastal Vietnam from the 2nd to the 9th centuries were originally Hindu, but became Muslim as a result of contact with Arab seafarers and merchants in the Middle Ages. In Southeast Asia Islam was disseminated primarily by merchants who, following the monsoon winds, lived in various coastal towns for months at a time. The Chams also practice silk weaving and you may have the opportunity to see them at work. The architecture here is rather distinctive. If time permits, visit a beautiful Khmer temple, and later visit the floating houses that double as catfish farms, now a huge industry for the country. Overnight in Chau Doc.

Distance: Can Tho - Chau Doc is 120km and take 03 hour drive

Meals included: Breakfast

DAY 19 (14th JANUARY 2019): CHAU DOC → PHNOM PENH → HALF DAY CITY TOUR

It’s an early departure for the 4-5 hour morning speed boat ride to Phnom Penh. It’s an hour to the border where you will clear visa formalilies (visas must be obtained in advance) before continuing into Cambdida and your final destination. Upon arrival Phnom Penh by boat from Chao Doc - meet with tour guide for tranfer to check in at hotel. This afternoon, you will have a tour of Tuol Sleng Prison (S-21) and the Killing Fields at Choeung Ek is a sobering reminder of the evils of the Khmer Rouge regime. Although not a joyful tour, visiting these monuments unlocks keys to understanding the development of this still developing country. Make a short visit to the ‘Russian Market’. Test out your bargaining skills as you wander through the stalls filled with souvenirs, local handicrafts, and electronic goods. Overnight in Phnom Penh.

Meals included: Breakfast
DAY 20 (15th JANUARY 2019): PHNOM PENH  HALF DAY CITY TOUR  SIEM REAP

Phnom Penh was once considered as one of the most beautiful cities in the Orient, and despite its recent turbulent history, it still retains a colonial charm. Cambodia’s capital is a bustling city, majestically located at the confluence of the mighty rivers of the Mekong and Tonlé Sap. Wide tree-lined boulevards and many colonial-era buildings reflect the glorious days and add to the allure of the city, where Asian and Western traditions meet in a fascinating way. Visit the Royal Palace, dating back to 1866 and the last palace built during the French colonial period. The same complex houses the Silver Pagoda, named for the over 5000 heavy silver tiles that cover its floors. Its original name is Wat Prakeo, meaning Temple of the Emerald Buddha. In this temple you will view a collection of Buddhas in gold, silver, crystal, and bronze. Continue to the nearby National Museum, which was built in traditional Khmer style. It houses the world’s foremost collection of ancient Khmer artistic, archaeological, and religious artefacts from the 4th to the 13th centuries. Over 5,000 pieces are on display, constituting the repository of the Kingdom’s cultural wealth. End your tour at Wat Phnom, a contemporary hilltop pagoda that stands at the founding place of the city. In the afternoon, transfer to airport for flight K6 111 (16h00 - 16h40) departure to Siem Reap- upon arrival Siem Reap meet with tour guide for transfer to check in at hotel. Overnight in Siem Reap.

Distance: Hotel in Phnom Penh central - Phnom Penh airport is 20km and take 50 minute drive

Meals included: Breakfast

DAY 21 (16th JANUARY 2019): SIEM REAP TOUR

After breakfast, head out to the early-Angkor era temples of the Roluos Group, about 15km outside of Siem Reap. Roluos is the site of the first town built by the Angkorian kings in the 8th and 9th century and consists of three main temples: Bakong, Lolei and Preah Ko. The beautiful surrounding countryside with its paddy fields and sugar palm trees is very typical for Cambodia - enjoy the beauty on an ox cart ride to Roluos Pagoda, a great and fun way to get in touch with rural Cambodia and its friendly people. Here, in a small contemporary pagoda, Buddhist monks will celebrate a private blessing ceremony for you, wishing your health and a safe journey - a very special experience! Return to the hotel for a break during the midday heat. Return to Siem Reap where you have some time at leisure for lunch (own expense) before this afternoon, explore the highlights of the Small Circuit. Start your tour with a visit to Ta Prohm temple, built in the mid-12th to early 13th centuries. Ta Prohm is unique in that it has been left largely as it was found: overgrown by jungle trees and vines, with many parts of the temple crumbling to the ground. This makes Ta Prohm one of the most picturesque and memorable of the Angkor temples. Your visit will also include Banteay Kdei, a Buddhist monastery from the late 12th Century, and Srah Srang, also known as the “pool of ablutions”. Continue to the ancient city of Angkor Thom. Angkor Thom was the last capital of the Great Khmer Empire under the reign of Jayavarman VII. This city is surrounded by an 8 m high wall, drawing a perfect square. Enter the city through the ancient South Gate, an impressive stone gate carved with Elephants and four giant faces. From here, continue to Bayon Temple in the exact center of the city. This 12th century masterpiece is a study in grandeur and is well-known for its 54 towers with enigmatic faces representing the 54 provinces of the Great Khmer Empire. The Terrace of the Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King are also must-visits as they are both known for their intricate bas-reliefs. Overnight in Siem Reap.

Note: Optional Elephant Ride - please advise us where you would like to do this.

Meals included: Breakfast
DAY 22 (17th JANUARY 2019): SIEM REAP ANGKOR WAT TOUR

Early today, travel to the “gem” of the Angkor area, the pretty temple of Banteay Srei, which is best viewed in the warm morning light. The so-called “Citadel of the Women” remains the best preserved temple in Cambodia. It displays some of the finest examples of classical Khmer art as this small temple is noted for its truly remarkable fine bas-reliefs. Banteay Srei is unique in that it is constructed of pink sandstone, which is seen nowhere else in Angkor. On the way back, you will have the possibility to stop at local communities along the way and your guide will help you to interact with the local community to learn about the way of life here. Seize the opportunity to taste Palm Wine and Palm Sugar (seasonal) and other popular local produce. In the afternoon, you will visit the famous Angkor Wat by Tuk-Tuk. Built during the reign of King Suryavarman II in the early 12th century, it is constructed following the model of the temple mountain symbolizing the Mount Meru, home of the gods. Inside the temple, the walls are covered with stone carvings and bas-reliefs depicting Hindu mythology and the wars Suryavarman II fought during his reign. Moreover, Angkor Wat is well known for the more than 2,000 Apsara dancers decorating the temple. Construction is thought to have taken around thirty years of intensive labor. Today, Angkor Wat is figured on Cambodia’s national flag as the temple symbolizes the soul of the Khmer people. During sunset time, Angkor Wat is less visited, and the Apsaras will shine in the most beautiful light. Return to your hotel, where you can enjoy the evening at leisure. Tonight, you will have farewell dinner with Apsara dance show at local restaurant. Overnight in Siem Reap.

Distance: Hotel in Siem Reap central - Angkor Wat is 8km and take 20 minute drive
Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 23 (18th JANUARY 2019): SIEM REAP TOUR

An early start this morning at 07h00am to depart your hotel in Siem Reap for the drive to Phnom Kulen, considered the most sacred mountain in Cambodia. It was here that Jayavarman II declared himself a ‘god-king’ and gave birth to the Khmer Empire in AD 802. Arrive at the Kulen Mountain near the Preah Ang Thom pagoda. Meet your motodup (motorbike) driver who will take you for the next few hours around the mountain. You will ride as a passenger along bumpy or slippery country roads and tracks, over volcanic rocks and occasionally through shallow streams. The first stop is at Poeng Tbal where a river bed reveals a well preserved stone with details of Shiva and Vishnu and the rocks carvings of Ganesh and wise men. A short ride on leads to one of the most important sites in all of Cambodia: a small pedestal that is set on top of three tiered pyramid temple called Prasat Rong Chen. Whilst there is little to see today the significance is huge: it is at this point that Jayavarman II declared himself the absolute monarch of the Cambodian Kingdom and announced independence from Java. The linga has been stolen from the pedestal but as you stand here take a few moments to contemplate that the Khmer Empire began at this very spot. Whilst the sites on the mountain have been known for many years to the Khmer people and those living on the mountain, it has only recently confirmed that Phnom Kulen was the location of Mahendraparvata. It was only discovered in mid-2012 as a result of Australian archaeologists using laser mapping equipment flying overhead. Mahendraparvata served as a huge service city for Angkor, a completely unrivalled urban landscape in the pre-industrial world. Head across more paths to a modern temple with colorful statues and a scenic view. Enjoy a simple, packed lunch at the temple dining room. Continue after a short break to a Bat Cave which with the help of torches you can enter for a few hundred meters and see a modern shrine. Both the cave and the temple attract many pilgrims to the area. A short distance on is Srah Damrei (or Elephant Pond). The life size stone elephant served as a guardian for the mountain. The smaller statues of lions, a cow and a frog will also impress. Head on to back to the starting point with some more stone carvings to be seen at Damrei Krhap (Kneeling Elephant).
The motodup adventure then finishes at Preah Ang Thom. Two more stops are made before your return - the first one is a short visit to see the River of a Thousand Lingas - hundreds of the linga carvings can be seen on a stretch of the river. After visit Kulen Waterfall where you can take a refreshing bath. It is then time to drive back to Siem Reap and to your hotel. 

**Note:** There are still some landmines in the area so it is necessary to have a local expert to keep onto the main paths and not stray into any potentially dangerous area. For the motorbike experience it is necessary to sign a waiver form. We recommend wearing long trousers and using insect repellent for this pioneering but rewarding experience.

**Meals included:** Breakfast

**DAY 24 (19th JANUARY 2019): SIEM REAP  TONLE SAP LAKE   DEPARTURE**

This morning, head to embark on an interesting boat trip on Tonlé Sap Lake, where you will have the opportunity to learn about life on the lake. Tonlé Sap is South East Asia’s largest freshwater lake with its size varying greatly depending on the season, as it is swelling to about 4 times its size in during the wet season. Board a local boat and visit Kampong Phluck, a village where you will see houses on stilts that are submerged when Tonlé Sap Lake extends. On the way, you will pass floating houses and impressive flooded forests, portraying life on the water. (Note: Due to low water levels during the dry season, the boat trip is only possible from June to March. However an alternative floating village at Chong Kneas can be arranged instead). Depending on your departure flight you may have time to explore Siem Reap’s colorful markets. Visit Artisans d’Angkor, established in 1992 in order to support Cambodian arts and crafts, and to help young people find work in their local villages by continuing the practice of traditional arts. Discover how wood and stone carvings, lacquering, gilding, and silk paintings are created. Transfer to the airport for your departure flight back to your home.

*Distance: Hotel in Siem Reap central - airport is 9km and take 20 minute drive*

**Meals included:** Breakfast

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<tr>
<th>Included Services</th>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Hotel accommodation based on twin rooms sharing with daily breakfast at hotel</td>
<td>✓ Visa entry Vietnam &amp; Cambodia</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Two nights on deluxe junk on Halong bay</td>
<td>✓ Drinks &amp; other meals</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Private transportation with A/C vehicle on tour</td>
<td>✓ Personal expenses &amp; travel insurance</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Entrance fees on tour</td>
<td>✓ Early check-in and late check-out</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Private boat trip visit floating market in Mekong delta and on Tonle Sap lake in Siem Reap</td>
<td>✓ Other services not mentioned in the itinerary</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Ferry tickets <strong>Hai Phong - Cat Ba - Tuan Chau island</strong></td>
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<td>✓ Speed boat ticket <strong>Chau Doc - Phnom Penh</strong></td>
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<td>✓ Meals included as indicated at local restaurant</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Join cooking class in Ho Chi Minh city</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ English speaking tour guide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ 02 mineral water per person per day tour</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ International Airfare</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ In-country transportation/airfare</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Tips for tour guides, drivers, and group meals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
* List of hotels used & room typed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranges</th>
<th>Cities</th>
<th>Hotel Names &amp; Websites</th>
<th>Room Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 stars</td>
<td>Hanoi</td>
<td>Authentic hotel - <a href="http://www.authentichanoi.vn">www.authentichanoi.vn</a></td>
<td>Deluxe</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cat Ba</td>
<td>Cat Ba Sunrise resort - <a href="http://www.catbasunriseresort.com">www.catbasunriseresort.com</a></td>
<td>Superior</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Halong bay</td>
<td>Glory Legend Cruise - <a href="http://www.glorylegendcruises.net">www.glorylegendcruises.net</a></td>
<td>Deluxe</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hue</td>
<td>Cherish hotel - <a href="http://www.cherishhotel.com">www.cherishhotel.com</a></td>
<td>Deluxe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hoi An</td>
<td>Belle Maison Hadana Hoi An resort &amp; spa - <a href="http://www.bellemaisonhadana.com">www.bellemaisonhadana.com</a></td>
<td>Deluxe</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ben Tre</td>
<td>Mrs. Mai homestay</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Can Tho</td>
<td>West hotel - <a href="http://www.canthowesthotel.com">www.canthowesthotel.com</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chau Doc</td>
<td>Chau Pho hotel - <a href="http://www.chauphohotel.com">www.chauphohotel.com</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Phnom Penh</td>
<td>Samnang Laor hotel - <a href="http://www.samnanglaorhotel.com">www.samnanglaorhotel.com</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Siem Reap</td>
<td>Angkor Holiday hotel - <a href="http://www.angkorholidayhotel.com">www.angkorholidayhotel.com</a></td>
<td>Superior</td>
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