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Indochina Tour (Cambodia & Vietnam) 12-day itinerary

Cambodia and Vietnam are South East Asian neighbours in a region colloquially known as French Indochina. These two former French colonies are diversely different in history, culture and cuisine but have an intrinsic common link through the mighty Mekong River. In Cambodia we will explore the ancient Angkor Kingdom where the architectural, archaeological and artistic significance are sure to capture your imagination. We will explore both the historic and contemporary reliance on the waters of Tonle Sap, a great lake that is annually replenished by the flooding Mekong. Then we will travel by boat on a four day journey from Phnom Penh to Saigon as we discover the colourful and bustling Vietnamese towns and markets of the vibrant Mekong Delta region. You will discover **the essence of Indochina** through a unique insight into life in both countries and its reliance on the Mekong.

Included:

- 9 nights hotel accommodation (4 Star) as indicated in the itinerary
- 3 nights on a boutique luxury river cruise boat - Mekong Eyes Explorer
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- All transportation, daily tours and entrance fees
- Experienced Australian Tour Director
- Licensed Cambodian and Vietnamese tour guides

Not Included:

- Airfares to and from Cambodia and Vietnam
- Cambodian and Vietnamese entry Visas
- Arrival and departure transfers
- Evening meals (except where indicated in the itinerary)
- Personal expenditure such as drinks, laundry service and souvenirs
- Personal travel insurance

Please Note:

Our Tour Director may change the itinerary depending on local daily conditions

Exploranges Indochina - 12 day itinerary

Small Group Tour limited to 16 people.

Tour commences at 09:00 am in the lobby of xxxxx.

Your Exploranges Guides will be staying in this hotel on the night before the tour and can be contacted on mobile +61417873277.

Day One - An Introduction to Siem Reap

After a leisurely breakfast you will meet your Exploranges guides before orientating yourself with the local streets of Siem Reap. You will explore the traditional "Old Market" before finding lunch at one of the many restaurants in the Old French Quarter. Spend the afternoon in the world class Angkor National Museum where the Golden Era of the Khmer Kingdom is revealed. In the evening you will venture out to the local food markets to find out where Siem Reap locals buy their food and what "delicacies" they eat.

Meals included (B,L)

Siem Reap Hotel - [Tara Angkor Hotel](#) or equivalent.



Day Two - Discover Angkor Wat

Angkor Wat is the most famous monument in Angkor and the largest religious monument in the world. It was built by King Suryavarman II in the early 12th century as his state temple and eventual mausoleum. Angkor Wat is a miniature replica of the universe with its central tower symbolising the mythical mountain, Meru, situated at the centre of the universe, the outer wall corresponds to the mountains at the edge of the world, and the surrounding moat the oceans beyond. Here your local Cambodian guide will provide a narrative of the 12,000 square meters of bas-reliefs depicting scenes from the ancient Indian literary epic "The Mahabharata". In the afternoon you will visit Preah Khan and Ta Prohm which remain largely unrestored: the photogenic trees growing out of the ruins and the surrounding jungle surroundings make these some of Angkor's most popular sites.

Meals included (B,L)

Siem Reap Hotel - [Tara Angkor Hotel](#) or equivalent.



Day Three - Tonle Sap

Tonle Sap is the largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia. It is one of the world's top freshwater fisheries, shelters the most important waterbird colonies of the region and supports the world's largest snake harvest -- mostly to be given as snacks to farm crocodiles. In view of its exceptional ecological, economic, social and cultural value UNESCO has registered the Tonle Sap as a Biosphere Reserve. Today you will visit the floating lake village of Prek Toal. You will travel by boat across the great lake and its flooded forest. On the way, your guide will tell you about the unique ecosystem of the lake and its flora and fauna. You will see the village from a traditional Khmer paddle boat and will discover how the local community has adapted to their floating environment: crocodile farms, fish farms, floating school, floating gardens. After a traditional Cambodian lunch before you will get an opportunity to spend time with the women of Saray Tonle (the water hyacinth handicraft cooperative) learning how to weave your own souvenir. This unique Ecotour directly supports the Prek Toal

community by income-generating activities and funding community support projects.

Meals included (B,L)

Siem Reap Hotel - [Tara Angkor Hotel](#) or equivalent.



Day Four -Banteay Srei and Angkor Thom

Banteay Srei is a 10th century Cambodian temple dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva. It is built largely of red sandstone, a medium that lends itself to the elaborate decorative wall carvings. The temple's name - citadel of the women - is said to relate to the many sensual devatas carved into the temples walls. You will spend the morning exploring this unique site before exploring the 13th century city of Angkor Thom. You will then visit the last state temple to be built at Angkor - The Bayon. Built by King Jayavarman VII, the Bayon is adorned with 216 serene and massive stone faces. Angkor Thom also includes sites such as the restored temple of Baphuon, the Phimeanakas from where the king watched his concubine's bath, the Terrace of the Leper King and the Terrace of the Elephants.

Meals included (B,L)

Siem Reap Hotel - [Tara Angkor Hotel](#) or equivalent.



Day Five - Rest and Recharge

Today is an opportunity to rest and recharge. You will be free to make your arrangements. Perhaps take in the Cambodian sunrise or have a massage and relax by the pool. In the evening you will combine dinner with culture and be entertained by a performance of classic Khmer music and dance.

Meals included (B,D)

Siem Reap Hotel - [Tara Angkor Hotel](#) or equivalent.



Day Six -Siem Reap to Phnom Penh

Today we transfer from Siem Reap to Phnom Penh by bus. The journey will take all day at a leisurely pace. On the way we will pass through rural Cambodia seeing rice fields, local villages and Cambodian people going about their daily lives.

Meals included (B,L)

Phnom Penh Hotel - [The Pavilion Hotel](#) or equivalent.



Day Seven - Phnom Penh

The capital of Cambodia, Phnom Penh, is situated on the banks of the mighty Mekong River. We will spend the day visiting the city's main attractions including the Royal Palace, the Silver Pagoda and the National Museum.

Meals included (B,L)

Phnom Penh Hotel - [The Pavilion Hotel](#) or equivalent.



Day Eight -Crossing to Vietnam

In the morning we catch a speed boat down the Mekong River, from the Phnom Penh jetty to the Vietnamese border town of Tan Chau. Here we will board a luxury river cruise boat for three nights as we travel through Vietnam, heading into the Mekong Delta and ultimately Ho Chi Minh (Saigon).

Meals included (B,L,D)

River Cruise Boat - Mekong Eyes Explorer



Day Nine - Sa Dec

Wake up to the sound of the river and get ready for an exciting day of sightseeing in the Mekong Delta as we head towards the charming city of Sa Dec. Here we will see the busy and colourful local market and we will visit a nearby flower village with orchards. The charming town still has a lot of colonial architecture, in particular the old market, the church and many old villas and trader's houses.

Meals included (B,L,D)

River Cruise Boat - Mekong Eyes Explorer



Day Ten -Cai Be

After breakfast, we enjoy an excursion through the hidden small canals of Tan Phong Islet on a sampan. Later in the morning you can discover the nearby town by foot or explore the small side canals of the Mekong on a bicycle. In the afternoon you can disembark for a guided leisurely stroll through a village and the surrounding fruit orchards or rice fields.

Meals included (B,L,D)

River Cruise Boat - Mekong Eyes Explorer



Day Eleven -Mekong Floating Market

After an early breakfast, we will spend the morning visiting an iconic Mekong float in market at Cai Rang. In the afternoon we will transfer to our hotel in Saigon by bus.

Meals included (B,L)

Saigon Hotel - [Central Palace Hotel](#) or equivalent.



Day Twelve -Saigon

Ho Chi Minh City (commonly known as Saigon) is famous for the pivotal role it played in the Vietnam War. But it is also known for its French colonial landmarks, including Notre-Dame Cathedral, made entirely of materials imported from France, and the 19th-century Central Post Office. And let's not forget the food stalls that line the city's streets, especially around bustling Bến Thành Market. We will spend our last day exploring the many highlights of Vietnam's most populous city.

Meals included (B,L)

Saigon Hotel - [Central Palace Hotel](#) or equivalent.

