



WORLD DISCOVERY
— HISTORY CULTURE WILDLIFE —

Vietnam and Cambodia



The unmistakable silhouette of Angkor Wat, Cambodia

DAY 1 – Depart UK.

DAY 2 – Arrival in Hanoi.

On arrival in Hanoi you will be met outside customs by a representative of World Discovery and taken by private car direct to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure.

DAY 3 – Hanoi sightseeing.

This morning your guide will collect you from your hotel for a tour of the city. Visit the 11th century **Temple of Literature**, Vietnam's most important Confucian sanctuary consisting of 5 walled courtyards. Continue to the picturesque **Hoan Kiem Lake** in the centre of Hanoi and also visit the **Mausoleum of Ho Chi Minh** (the mausoleum is closed on Mondays and Friday and usually for maintenance in October and November) and the tiny **One-pillared Pagoda**. The afternoon is free for you to explore Vietnam's pleasant capital on your own.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 4 - Excursion to Halong Bay.

Full day excursion to **Halong Bay**, with its surreal landscape of craggy limestone outcrops emerging from the waters of the Gulf of Tonkin. Take a cruise amidst the spectacular scenery and enjoy lunch on board. During the cruise you will stop off to visit some of the amazing caves on the islands, the most famous of which, **Hang Thien Cung Cave**, holds a textbook display of sparkling stalactites and stalagmites. Return to Hanoi in the evening.

Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch.

DAY 5 - Fly to Hue.

Morning flight to Hue, where you will be met and taken to your hotel. In the afternoon explore the early 19th century **Imperial City**, modelled on Beijing's Forbidden City and surrounded by a wide moat. Much of the original construction has disappeared but what survives is impressive.
Meals included: Full breakfast .

DAY 6 – Hue.

After breakfast take a cruise on the Perfume River to visit the early 17th century **Thien Mu Pagoda**, whose seven tiers each represent one of Buddha's incarnations on earth. During the day you will also visit some of the magnificent **Royal Tombs** of the all-powerful Nguyen dynasty who ruled over Vietnam in the 19th century and who switched the capital from Hanoi to Hue. The most memorable are the Mausoleum of the Emperor **Tu Doc**, with elegant pavilions reflected in serene lakes, and the Mausoleum of **Khai Dinh** with its life size statues and dragon-ornamented stairways.
Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 7 – By road via Danang to Hoi An.

Travel along the scenic coastal road south to Danang to visit the small but interesting Cham Museum. The Cham dynasties ruled over southern Vietnam for more than a thousand years (4th to 15th centuries). Continue to the picturesque port of Hoi An and transfer to your hotel.
Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 8 - Hoi An.

At leisure in Hoi An. An optional excursion could be arranged to the evocative Cham city of My Son, recently recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage site.
Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 9 - Fly to Saigon.

Return to Danang and fly to Ho Chi Minh City, better known as **Saigon**. Transfer on arrival to your hotel. In the afternoon take a brief tour of this vibrant modern city, including the History Museum and Notre Dame Cathedral.
Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 10 - Fly to Phnom Penh (Cambodia).

Morning flight to Phnom Penh, capital of Cambodia. On arrival you will be met by a representative of World Discovery and taken to your hotel. In the afternoon enjoy a tour of this pleasant city including the National Museum, with its important collection of ancient Cambodian culture, and the Royal Palace, featuring the superb Silver Pagoda.
Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 11 - Fly to Siem Reap. Angkor Wat.

A short flight brings you to the town of Siem Reap, gateway to the temples of Angkor. Transfer on arrival to your hotel. In the late afternoon drive to **Angkor Wat**, the best known of the Angkor sites, to view the temple as sunset approaches - a memorable experience.
Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 12 - The Rolous group of temples.

During the next three days you will enjoy the most comprehensive exploration of this exceptional area, visiting all the major temple groups, as well as seeing something of the way of life in the surrounding countryside. Today you will be shown some of the earliest temples in the Rolous area, starting with **Preah Ko** (879 AD), **Bakong** (881 AD) devoted to Shiva, and **Lolei** (893 AD) built on an island in a reservoir; there are beautiful sandstone carvings in the temple's niches. The afternoon is at leisure.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 13 - Angkor Thom, Ta Prohm.

Today you will visit the extensive Royal City of **Angkor Thom**, at whose centre stands the awesome temple-pyramid of the **Bayon**, with its 50 towers of intricately-carved stone, one of the great masterpieces of Asian architecture. In the afternoon you will also explore the tangled 12th century ruins of **Ta Prohm**, whose ancient stones have been engulfed by roots and tree trunks, revealing the power of nature yet providing an atmospheric and unforgettable spectacle.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 14 - Preah Khan, Neak Prean. Depart for home.

After breakfast visit **Preah Khan**, a vast temple around whose outer walls, 40 metres apart, are giant carvings of the Hindu deity Garuda. Also visit the **Neak Prean** temple, which consists of a central pool and four peripheral pools once used for purification rites. An island in the central pool contains a tower encircled by two 'nagas' (divine river serpents). In the afternoon transfer to the airport for your flight by Bangkok Airways to Bangkok.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 15 - Arrive London.

Connect with the early morning flight from Bangkok to London.