

# PHILANTHROPY, VIETNAM & CAMBODIA

(Vietnam & Cambodia)

## 11 Days / 10 Nights



★ Anglo Indiago Travels (P) Limited ★

**ROUTE: Hanoi – Hue – Ho Chi Minh City – Siem Reap – Departure**

### **Day 01: Hanoi | City Overview**

Arrive in the charming capital city of Hanoi, known for its tree-lined streets and French colonial villas. Get acquainted with the history of the city visiting significant sites including the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, One Pillar Pagoda, Ho Chi Minh's house and the Temple of Literature. Hop aboard a cycle and explore the maze of the Old Quarter's '36 streets of 36 wares', named after the original 36 artisan guilds, that date back to the 13th century. Night in Hanoi.

### **Day 02: Hanoi | A Helping Hand for a Farming Family**

Day dedicate to visit Hanoi. At a dinner in Hanoi, we meet with a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) representative for an insightful overview on Vietnam's poverty and current humanitarian projects. We head southwest of Hanoi to a small rural village, where farmers mainly cultivate flowers to supply the city's wholesale markets. Standing in vast flower fields, we roll-up our sleeves and lend a hand to the flower farmers. Our daily farming tasks run from clearing grass and watering flowers to loading-up motorbikes. While the farmers appreciate our help, this is also fun educational trip for all the family!

### **Day 03: Hanoi | The Future Looks Bright and Hopeful**

Located on Hanoi's outskirts, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) 'Hold the Future' has been successful in creating livelihoods for young disabled people in Hanoi and other provinces. Because of their disadvantaged position in society, it is difficult for these youngsters with disabilities to find work. This NGO's main mission is to offer them vocational activities and necessary life skills and support, enabling the disabled youth to lead more independent lives. Specialized training programmes cover health care and rehabilitation, vocational training and placement, through to paid employment. A half-day spent here lends a remarkable opportunity to learn how these disabled children achieve their goals. We also engage with them while they produce traditional handicrafts, the proceeds of which, help fund the center.

### **Day 04: Hanoi – Hue | Visit a Pagoda Orphanage**

In Central Vietnam, the Imperial City of Hue was Vietnam's former capital and home to 13 Nguyen Emperors; it is now a protected UNESCO World Heritage Site. Remnants of this majestic royal past are still evident today with the walled Imperial Citadel, Emperor's mausoleums and royal court culinary heritage. Hue is also Vietnam's center of Buddhism and home to numerous Buddhist Pagodas. One of these, Um Dam Pagoda, is home to an orphanage and around 50 orphans. During our visit here, we meet the orphanage's main representative and learn more about their efforts to take care of the orphans, logistical aspects and Buddhist philosophy. There is also plenty of opportunity to chat with the orphans, learn more about their dreams and engage with them in their daily activities.

### **Day 05: Hue | Make a Difference with a Cow Donation**

We drive to Hue's outskirts and the surrounding scenic countryside to the small farming villages. We make here a small benevolent gesture, helping the local communities. A gift of just one cow can make a huge difference to the poor farmers in this region. Together with the local authorities and villagers as witnesses, we participate in a special ceremony during which we donate a cow to a local farmer. After this memorable experience, there is time to chat with the family and recipient of the cow. Meeting the village farmers gives us a better understanding of the challenges they face, besides their dreams for the future.

### **Day 06: Hue – Ho Chi Minh City: A Blind Experience**

The former Saigon, Ho Chi Minh City, is Vietnam's largest city and a dynamic, rapidly developing metropolis, divided-up into a series of distinct districts. We head to District 5, also known as Chinatown (Cholon). Here we find Bung Sang, a private residence and school for around 50 blind children, founded by a benevolent blind musician. Now run by Sister nuns, Bung Sang focuses on helping blind children born into impoverished families from Vietnam's remote provinces. We meet the school manager for a better understanding of the blind children's lives, meet the children themselves and listen to them singing and performing music. Afterwards, a visit to Noir Restaurant, with their 'Dining in the Dark' culinary concept, replicates what it is like to dine for a blind person.

### **Day 07: Mekong Delta | Make a Difference with a Sampan Donation**

The Mekong Delta is a sprawling region of intensively cultivated land totally dominated – and dependents on – the Mekong River, an integral part of local daily life. The nation's largest rice farming region, Vietnam's 'Rice Bowl,' produces nearly half of Vietnam's annual food crop. The picturesque landscape is dominated by luscious rice paddies and fruit orchards. Due to the Mekong's myriad of tributaries and canals, this is the only region in Vietnam where boats are the main form of transport. Sampan boats are a crucial factor to making a livelihood here, yet some families can't afford to buy one. In a specially arranged ceremony witnessed by local authorities, we donate a sampan to one family in need. This ensures a brighter future for the local recipient. We also have time to chat with the villagers about their livelihoods.

### **Day 08: Ho Chi Minh City – Siem Reap | Artistic Side of Siem Reap**

In northwest Cambodia, Siem Reap is the gateway for Angkor Archaeological Park, Cambodia's main drawcard. This UNESCO World Heritage site contains the stupendous remains of the ancient Khmer Civilization. Siem Reap however offers a lot more than this. We spend the afternoon exploring some of the more fascinating establishments in downtown Siem Reap, such as Artisans d'Angkor. This company is well-known for its success in reviving and showcasing traditional Khmer craftsmanship, covering exquisite silk production, silver plating and stone carvings. They also help provide long-term employment for rural artisans. The day's highlight is at Wat Damnak, one of Siem Reap's most important and largest pagodas. Here, we receive a personal blessing from one of the resident Buddhist monks.

### **Day 09: Siem Reap | Exploring Angkor's Ancient Treasures**

Today is spent exploring some of the astounding temples within Angkor Archaeological Park. One of the largest, 12th century Ta Prohm, is iconic for a mass of overgrown fig tree roots bursting through the temple's massive stone blocks. We continue to Angkor Thom, an entire inner walled city, which served as the Khmer Empire's ancient royal capital from 1181. The centerpiece, Bayon Temple, is distinctive for its 216 giant, serene faces carved into stone towers. The early 12th century Angkor Wat, however, is the Park's crown jewel. It ranks as one the world's greatest ancient wonders and largest religious monument. Surrounded by a 190m (624ft)-wide moat, amongst its five stunning towers, the central tower symbolizes Mt. Meru which, Hindus believe, is central to the Universe.

### **Day 10: Siem Reap | Water Filter Donation & Cooking Class**

Running water in Siem Reap is a scarce commodity. Locals in the surrounding communities invariably must trek miles to neighboring villages to find potable water. Together with local workers, we build a water filter, which allows rain or lake water to be treated to a level that is safe to drink. We then take the water filter to a village and with assistance, install this at the home of a needy family. Later, a chef guides us around a private farm and then a traditional Khmer village. At the latter, we engage with the villagers and select key ingredients for our cooking class. As a goodwill gesture for their hospitality, we donate goods to the villagers in a special ceremony. Back at the farm, chef helps us create a three-course lunch, showcasing iconic Cambodian dishes and our just-picked village ingredients.

### **Day 11: Departure**

Transfer to Siem Reap-Angkor International Airport for your onward journey ...

End of the services...

**NOTE.** This tour can be modified as per your requirements.