LUXURY VIETNAM & THAILAND 08 nights / 09 days



Enjoy the beautiful sites of Vietnam and Thailand. Both countries have rich culture and ancient traditions especially in Hanoi which also known as Paris of the East. A journey of contrasts where pleasant surprise awaits at almost every turn. In Vietnam, still feel the huge impact of Chinese civilization because the Chines ruled Northern Vietnam for more than 1,000 years. Enjoy your stay at the most luxurious floating home. Have fun riding a TukTuk in Thailand. Both countries are extremely tourist friendly country. The locals are kind and helpful. Shopping is a fun...

We are happy to assist you and plan your trip.....





ITINERARY: -

Day 01: Arrive Ha Noi

Welcome. As soon as you arrive at Ha Noi airport, our **Airport Assistance Staff** will meet you just before the entrance to Immigration (or at the entrance of the terminal if there is no jet bridge), holding a signboard with your name(s) on it. The officer will assist and take you to the priority line for immigration procedures and provide support at the visa counter. For those who already have their Vietnam visa, the estimated time to clear immigration is approximately 15-20mins per person. For those applying for a visa on arrival, the estimated wait time for the visa is usually 30 mins, depending on the number of guests in the queue. (FYI, there is only one visa-on-arrival counter at Noi Bai Airport).

After clearing immigration, our Immigration Officer will escort you to baggage reclaim to collect your luggage and introduce you to your guide, who will be waiting outside the terminal.

NOTE:

- The above mentioned service does not include any required visa or associated visa fees.
- Porter or luggage assistance is at an extra cost. (Not Included)

If you cannot locate your representative, please call the emergency numbers (facilitated before arrival) for assistance.

Your guide will come to meet you up and transfer you to hotel. The rest of day stays at your leisure to explore the old quarter by your own.



The regular check-in time is at 1400. Please note, early check-in is NOT included and subject to availability.

Accommodation: Sofitel Legend Metropole Hotel 5* <u>www.sofitel-legend-metropole-hanoi.com</u>

A Hotel Path of History Tour including the Metropole bomb shelter visit (only available to in-house hotel guests) - 45 minutes with hotel historian. There are 2 tours daily at 5 and 6pm (subject to seasonal change). Advance reservations are recommended - maximum 10 guests per tour.



Day 02: Hanoi

HANOI FULL-DAY CITY TOUR WITH OLD QUARTER CYCLO RIDE:

Explore the charming city of Hanoi, often referred to as the 'Paris of the East', with its yellow ochre colonial buildings, tree-lined boulevards, and scenic lakes. Visit the historic **Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum**, an imposing monument of marble and granite built to house the preserved body of beloved Vietminh leader Ho Chi Minh, affectionately known to the Vietnamese as "Uncle Ho". Visit the **One Pillar Pagoda**, a Buddhist temple built in 1049 of wood in the shape of a lotus blossom and set on a single stone pillar. Continue on to **Ho Chi Minh's House** nearby, a simple wooden house in a tranquil setting where Ho Chi Minh lived and worked. Some of his belongings are on display and visitors can walk up the steps to see his bedroom. Next, visit the **Temple of Literature**, Vietnam is first national university built in the late 11th century. The picturesque temple is an example of well-preserved traditional

Vietnamese architecture and is featured on the back of the 100,000 Vietnamese doing banknote. In the afternoon, visit fascinating the Museum of **Ethnology** (closed on Mondays) which houses an extensive collection of traditional costumes and artefacts from Vietnam's 54 ethnic minority groups.

Drive back to central Hanoi for a 1hr **cycle tour** through the famed **Old Quarter** known for its '36 streets of 36 wares' named after



the original 36 artisan guilds that date as far back as the 13th century. Explore the fascinating maze of back streets, fronted by narrow houses known as "tunnel" or "tube houses", built to avoid taxes based on the width of their frontage onto the street, a wonderfully eclectic glimpse into Hanoi street life. Conclude the day by watching an entertaining **water puppet performance**, a uniquely northern Vietnamese art form said to have originated in the flooded rice fields of the Red River Delta. The show uses colorful wooden puppets to depict scenes of rural life and episodes of national history set to music.

NOTES:

- Suggested Departure time: 08:00
- Tour duration: 08 Hours
- The Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum is closed every Monday & Friday, all afternoons and from September until December.

Accommodation: Sofitel Legend Metropole Hotel 5*



Day 03: Fly to Ha Long by seaplane

Our driver and guide will pick you up from hotel in Hanoi downtown and transfer to Noi Bai Airport. Upon arrival, our guide and driver will drop you off at the airport. You will check-in at counter 109, Domestic Hall E, Terminal 1, Noi Bai Airport. (Guide and driver will keep driving to Ha Long bay)

Flight with seaplane HAI601 HAN-HLG

Depart from Noi Bai Airport. Enjoy one-hour flight and see Halong Bay from the sky before landing (45-minutes flight + 15-minutes scenic tour). Viewing Halong Bay from a seaplane is a great way to get a panoramic view of the mystical seascape, one of natural world heritage site recognized by UNESCO. After 15' scenic flight over Halong Bay, land on water.

Arrive in Tuan Chau Island at **Villa T7, Tuan Chau Marina, Halong City**. Seaplane's buggy will pick you up and drop off at **Heritage Line's welcome lounge at the Tuan Chau Marina**.



After meeting at Heritage Line's welcome lounge at the Tuan Chau Marina, you take a quick speedboat transfer to your luxurious floating home before starting our unique journey of exploring one of the wonders of nature – Lan Ha Bay and its main island of Cat Ba. The first highlight of the cruise is lunch, which we serve in Ginger's nearly 360-degree light-flooded restaurant. Our live cooking in the open kitchen is a one of a kind experience - enjoy the culinary display along with fantastic panoramic views of the passing scenery. Relax on the terrace deck or on your private balcony and soak in the enchanting aura which emanates from the surreal seascape. While we cruise along in the early afternoon, there is time to enjoy our unique facilities on board. Take a plunge in the pool with infinity-like vistas or let us pamper you with a selection of fine treatments and massages in the beautiful Ginger Spa. As we reach the shore of a small lagoon on Cat Ba Island, we hop on bicycles (electric cart transfers are also available) for a tour along small, paved roads towards Viet Hai village. Little has changed in Viet Hai since the ancestors of the 80 households settled here centuries ago. Situated in a valley within Cat Ba **National Park** and surrounded on all sides by forest and mountains, the locals are isolated from the island's other villages and towns. The community is self-sufficient, as the residents provide for themselves by working the farms, fishing, or collecting rainwater for drinking. Here you have the unique and authentic opportunity to meet the local inhabitants, learn about the fruits and vegetables



grown in the valley, have a glimpse of local households and try some homemade liquors. Back on board, our chef is prepared for an interactive cooking class in the restaurant's open kitchen. Learn about local ingredients as well as the preparation of classic Vietnamese dishes. As the sun sets, we arrive at a tranquil anchor spot for the night. In this hidden spot, you can revel in the memories of the day's adventures with a cocktail under the stars. After a delicious dinner, you may like to unwind at our bar with a digestif or watch a movie in the evening cinema which is set up in the dining area later on. Or join our team and have some fun fishing for squid before retiring to your room.

NOTES:

- For 2D1N trip to Ha Long bay, when flying with seaplane, you can bring a carry-on luggage within 7kg with important items such as money, passport, valuable things, items such as sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, or anything else you think is necessary. Your big luggage will be brought along to Ha Long bay by our guide and driver by car and put into your cabin on cruise.
- Pax overweight charge: Due to the seat loading and for the comfort of all our passengers to fully enjoy the seaplane flight, seaplane requires that passengers of size OVER 110 kg to purchase a second seat.
- Please bring your original passport for seaplane check-in. Show up at the check-in counter at least 45 minutes before departure time.
- All mentioned times are approximate. Although it is our intention to operate the proposed itinerary as outlined above, we cannot be held responsible for any changes of the program and activities that might be necessary due to operational factors.

Accommodation: Heritage Line Ginger https://heritage-line.com/ship/ginger/

Day 04: From Ha Long Bay transfer to Hai Phong – Flight to DA Nang – Transfer to Hoi An

Wake up early and join our Tai Chi session on the terrace deck to ease your mind and muscles with the first rays of the sun touching the water. Coffee, tea, and breakfast pastries await you in the dining room to start the new day. It is time for Ginger to lift her anchors and cruise to Frog Lake, a secluded spot which is perfect for our morning excursion. Go for a refreshing "bay swim" or explore this captivating marine landscape **via kayak**. The cliffs stretch vertically out of the water and you feel a sense of freedom while meandering through this green medley of water and tree-topped islets. Back on board, we serve a hearty breakfast while cruising back to our mid-bay anchoring spot, from where we will transfer you back to the welcome lounge at the pier. Savour the last moments of this unique journey while relaxing on comfy sun beds on the terrace deck.

You will be transfer to the airport in Hai Phong for flight to Da Nang.

Suggested flight: VN1673 HPH-DAD 15:05 16:25 (by Vietnam Airlines)

Upon arrival at Danang Airport, please proceed to exit gate and look for your guide who will be waiting at the lobby, holding the signboard with your name on it, if you cannot locate your guide, please go to the nearest Information counter and have them call the emergency number (+84) 9 1349 3398 for assistance. Your guide will come to meet you up and transfer you to hotel in Hoi An.

Accommodation: Four Seasons Resort The Nam Hai Hoi An 5* <u>http://www.fourseasons.com/hoian/</u>



Day 05: Hoi An

Walking & boat trip in Hoi an ancient town & making lantern with local handicraftsman:

Between the 15th and 19th centuries, Hoi An known then as 'Faifo', was a prosperous trading port, attracting Chinese, Japanese, Dutch, Portuguese and Spanish ships amongst others. Today, this World Heritage ancient town is recognized for its well-preserved architecture, pedestrian-only streets, and distinctive local cuisine, allowing visitors a glimpse of its illustrious past. Hoi An's narrow lanes are ideal for a guided walking tour of its many atmospheric sights including: **old merchant houses** with influences from Chinese, Japanese and Vietnamese architecture; the 400-year-old **Japanese Covered Bridge**, first built in the 1590s by the Japanese community to link them with the Chinese quarters across the stream; the **Assembly Hall of the Chaozhou Chinese Congregation** with its intricate woodcarvings; and **the colorful market** with stalls brimming with local specialties including silk, which can be turned into fashionable garments within a day or two.

Silk lanterns, the simple yet colorful handicraft is now an essential part of Hoi An culture. The lantern



is inspired and handmade by local artisans and is meant to bring good fortune. It has made really а comeback thanks to experienced men who were born in lantern traditional making families. Chat with а local handicraftsman for a brief introduction to history, shape, the and colour of the

lanterns as well as the stages of production. **Try creating your own lantern and take it home as a souvenir.** Enjoy **an hour-long boat trip** on the Thu Bon River for up close views of fishing boats and country villages before returning to your hotel.

NOTES:

- Availability: Morning, Afternoon
- Suggested Departure time: 09:00, 14:00
- Duration to make lantern: 1 hour
- Tour duration: 4.5 Hours

The rest of day stays at your leisure to enjoy the beach or at the Spa.

Accommodation: Four Seasons Resort The Nam Hai Hoi An 5*



Day 06: Hoi An – Transfer to DA Nang – Flight to Chiang Mai with transit in Bangkok

The regular check out is 12:00. At the right time, you will be picked up and transferred from your Hoi An hotel to Danang airport (with guide).

Suggested flight: PG948 DAD-BKK 13:35 15:30 (by Bangkok Airways)

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARRIVAL & IMMIGRATION FASTTRACK WITH TRANSIT SERVICE (NO CHECK THROUGH BAGGAGE)

As soon as you disembark the plane, the airport representative will meet you at the end of the jet bridge, holding a signboard with your name(s) on it. A representative will accompany you to the exclusive fast lane immigration counter to assist you with all immigration and customs documentation. After clearing immigration, the airport representative will escort you to the baggage claim to collect your luggage and lead you to your next flight check-in counter. You will be personally assisted with check-in at the airline counter (luggage must be checked in by the individual client holding airline ticket), immigration formalities, and VAT refund (if needed) before being escorted to the airline departure lounge and gate where you will board your flight.



Suggested flight: PG219 BKK-CNX 17:25 18:45 (by Bangkok Airways)

NOTES:

- Available at Suvarnabhumi Airport (without golf cart)
- This service does not include visa processing or associated visa fees.

Upon arrival in the airport in Chiang Mai, you will be picked up by the presentative of Four Seasons Resort Chiang Mai and transferred to your hotel. (Private transfer will be arranged by Four Seasons Resort Chiang Mai).

Accommodation: Four Seasons Resort Chiang Mai 5* www.fourseasons.com/thailand



Day 07: Chiang Mai

HALF DAY VISIT KANTA ELEPHANT SANCTUARY (No Training Hook/ No Ankle Chain/ No Riding) A half-day package to **Kanta Elephant Sanctuary** offers visitors an enjoyable opportunity to spend quality time with elephants in their natural home, as well as gain an insight into their history and behavior, and create cherished lifelong memories of their time spent with these amazing animals with friendly, happy elephants in a safe and sustainable environment.

07.00: Drive approximately 50-Mins North of Chiang Mai through a beautiful countryside, forest, and local farming areas.

08.00: Arrive at **Kanta Elephant Sanctuary**. Walk through and learn about the elephants, change into traditional clothing, and prepare fruits for our elephants.

09.00: Meet the elephants. Feed, interact, and play with the elephants in a natural environment and learn about their behavior and history. Take photos with the elephants.

10.00: Walk with the elephants to a clean water pond where they will cool off themselves and you will have chance to observe them as well.

11.00: Get some tea, coffee and season fruit then say goodbye to the elephants. Leave Baan Chang Elephant Park and drive approximately 50 Mins back to Chiang Mai.



PLEASE NOTE:

- At the Park, we will allow you to spend as much time as possible with the elephants. Therefore, there is no formal schedule and aside from pick-up times, the times shown here are approximations.
- WHAT TO BRING: Hat/ Towel/ Bathing Suit/ Walking Shoes/ Sunscreen/ Change of Clothes and Under wear/ Insect Repellent.

CITY LIFESTYLE, DOI SUTHEP & RICKSHAW RIDE

In the afternoon, you will visit to a vibrant food and flower market where local Thais do their shopping. Continue to Wat Suan Dok, final resting place for the ashes of former kings of Chiang Mai and the Royal Family. Drive 30min to Doi Suthep Mountain, enjoying the spectacular views of Northern Thailand as you head past mountains and forests, towards Wat Phra That, one of Northern Thailand's most sacred temples. Founded in 1383 AD, the temple is reached by climbing 309 steps (or for the less fitness-minded, a tram is available for a small surcharge). The climb up is rewarded with a superb panoramic view over the city. Return to Chiang Mai and enjoy a 20min rickshaw ride through the quiet streets of the old town before returning to your hotel.

NOTES:

- Availability: in the afternoon and Suggested Departure time: 13:00.
- Approximate duration: 4.5 Hours.
- Out of respect for the local culture, ladies should cover their shoulders with a long- or shortsleeved top and full-length trousers or a knee-length skirt. Gentlemen should wear trousers and a long- or short-sleeved shirt.

Accommodation: Four Seasons Resort Chiang Mai 5*



Day 08: Chiang Mai – Flight to Bangkok

At the right time, you will be picked up by the presentative of Four Seasons Resort Chiang Mai and transferred from your hotel to the airport for flight to Bangkok. (Private transfer will be arranged by Four Seasons Resort Chiang Mai).

Suggested flight: PG228 CNX-BKK 14:35 16:00 (by Bangkok Airways)

TRANSFER FROM BANGKOK AIRPORT TO HOTEL (WITH GUIDE)

Upon arrival at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport (after you collected your luggage), please proceed to the Arrival Hall on second floor. Please look for your guide holding a signboard with your name at **Gate B** (Door No. 6). If you cannot find your guide, first please contact the ATTA counter right next to door no. 6, or please call to our emergency number.

Transfer from the Airport to your hotel. Rest for the day free.



Accommodation: The Peninsula Bangkok Hotel 5* <u>www.peninsula.com</u>



Day 09: Bangkok

Morning drive to **Wat Pho** - one of the oldest temples in Bangkok, Wat Pho houses the famous 45m (148ft) reclining Buddha as well as the original school of traditional Thai massage. From here, **take a tuk-tuk ride** via **Pak Klong Taland Flower Market** towards the spectacular Grand Palace, home to the most revered Buddha image in Thailand, the Emerald Buddha (which is actually made of jade or jasper, rather than emerald). Continue with a walk to the pier for a long-tailed boat ride along **the** "**klongs"** (canals) of Thonburi to get a flavor of local life. Stop at **Wat Arun**, once the grand royal temple to King Rama II. In the afternoon, cross the river and drive to **Chinatown** for a first-hand look at Old Bangkok. Walk along **Yaowarat Road** with shops selling everything from gold and garments to antiques and musical instruments. Explore **the bustling Talad Kao Market** where a variety of food, fresh and dry fruits, and Chinese herbs are on offer before returning to your hotel.

NOTES:

- Suggested Departure time: 08:30
- Approximate duration: 8.5 Hours
- For temple visits, it is recommended women wear short/long-sleeved tops with full-length trousers or knee-length skirts and men wear trousers and short/long-sleeved shirts. <u>No</u> <u>sandals or flip-flops allowed</u>
- The monk's chanting ritual only in the morning and subject to change without prior notice. (please contact with Travel consultant if guests wish to attend this activity in the morning)
- Grand Palace will be closed on festive dates.
- Please bring a copy of your passport for security check before entering the palace.
- These following clothes are strictly not allowed in Grand Palace: Shorts, mini-skirts, short skirts, legging, tight fitting trousers, Seethrough shirts and blouses, as well as culottes



or quarter length trousers; Sleeveless shirts or vests; Sandals (without ankle or heel straps); Rolled-up-sleeved shirts; Sweatshirts and sweatpants, windcheaters, pajamas, and fisherman trousers.

• In the event of extreme traffic conditions, our driver may take you to the pier (located directly across from the Peninsula hotel) to transfer you by their shuttle boat in order to save time; or vice versa. Our guide will accompany you to and/or from the Peninsula.

Accommodation: The Peninsula Bangkok Hotel 5*

Day 10: Departure

The regular check out is 12:00. At the right time, you will be picked up and transferred from your hotel to the airport.

----XXXXX-----