

THAILAND, LAOS, CAMBODIA + VIETNAM

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Our Service

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A note from your Destination Expert, Auriole Potter

All our itineraries are tailor-made around a client's wants and needs. Auriole has traveled extensively throughout Asia and here she has put together a sample itinerary highlighting just one extraordinary way of exploring South East Asia.



**Thailand, Laos, Cambodia + Vietnam
20 Nights
From \$27,250 per person
Based on 2 traveling**

Getting There

I have only included the inter-regional flights in the cost at this stage. These are in economy class. However, if you would like me to handle your international flights, please do let me know.

Ground Arrangements

When you land and throughout your time in South East Asia we will have someone on hand to help you; we feel this service is incredibly valuable as it not only makes your stay all the more enjoyable, but also ensures that you have assistance available to you 24/7 if needs be.

Keeping you busy

As you will note, I have included the best specialist experiences with private guides to help you get the most out your time in this region.

Local climate

December and January are both great months to visit these regions of Asia. The dry season will be beginning and the humidity and rainfall of previous months will almost be a thing of the past. Temperatures will be in the mid 20's and there should be plenty of sunshine. The water levels will still be quite high, so it is an excellent time to visit Tonle Sap.

Sustenance

Cambodian, Thai, Vietnamese and Laotian cuisines are renowned for the freshness of their ingredients and throughout your trip you will discover that each region has its own distinctive specialities. In Cambodia the cuisine often includes peppercorns whereas in Thailand and Laos, lemongrass, fish sauce and chillies are popular. In all of the destinations there are great restaurants on offer and I would be happy to provide our recommendations or reserve these in advance.



Thailand

Stunning beaches, lush jungle, verdant rice paddies, a world famous cuisine, excellent infrastructure and some of the world's most hospitable people make Thailand one of the most visited countries in Asia. That said, it is very easy to get away from the crowds and enjoy this intoxicating country.

Bangkok is truly a buzzing Asian metropolis; skyscrapers, shopping malls and boutique shops jostle for space with Buddhist temples and traditional markets. Meanwhile the sleepy north of the country is home to hill tribes and great trekking routes.

Day 1

On arrival in Bangkok, you will be escorted to your private car and driven to your hotel, approximately 40 minutes away.

**Spend three nights at the Mandarin Oriental
(Breakfast included, Deluxe River View Room)**

Situated on the banks of the Chao Phraya river near the Royal Palace, The Oriental is the 'Grande Dame' of Bangkok. The property is divided into three wings: the original Author's wing, which was built over 130 years ago and has some lovely 'old world' style suites, and the more modern River and Garden wings. As one would expect, The Oriental has an impressive array of bars, restaurants and facilities and the service is faultless.

Your time in Bangkok

Straddling the Chao Phraya river, Thailand's capital is a fascinating tropical city where traditional meets modern and East meets West. Bangkok is definitely worth a few days of exploration and offers something for everyone whether you are into seeing temples and culture, bustling street markets, world class hotels and restaurants or sampling some of the best shopping. Excellent infrastructure and welcoming locals make it easier and more familiar than most Asian cities for the foreign traveler.





Day 2

An introduction to Bangkok

This morning, your guide will meet you at your hotel and you will head out to explore Thailand's capital city. Visit Wat Po in time to experience the monks' morning chanting ritual. One of the oldest temples in Bangkok, Wat Po is home to the famous 150ft reclining Buddha; it is also the original school of traditional Thai massage.

Drive to Pak Khlong Talad Flower Market which is the biggest fresh flower market in the city. This is where flower traders from all over the country convene at the early hours of each day to unload their freshly cut blossoms in bulk.

It's then a few steps to a local pier to board an exclusive long tailed boat to have a firsthand experience of Bangkokian's local life style along the small canals of Thonburi. What you will see of this waterborne way life is fascinating and you'll be surprised at how different the city looks from the canals and how quickly you seem to be in the countryside. You will pass through Wat Arun one of the city's earliest temples, now often used as a symbol of the city & the country. It is beautifully decorated with china and porcelain.

A short but exciting ride on a Tuk Tuk through Rattanakosin Island to Royal Grand Palace - the most important and impressive royal palace in Thailand. Do not miss the mysterious Emerald Buddha, the most revered Buddha image in Thailand.

Evening Thai Boxing Match

Tonight you will be taken to see a Muay Thai (Thai Boxing) match at a local stadium, where you will have ringside seats. Your guide will explain in detail the history and rules behind this ancient form of martial art.

Day 3

Bangkok's Backstreets by Bicycle

Riding through the back streets, our cycling tour gives an insight into everyday life in Bangkok, away from the concrete skyscrapers and shopping malls. You will explore local neighborhoods and some of Bangkok's most traditional areas. You will look in at local Buddhist temples, stop at an open-air kickboxing school and a primary school and take a ride through Bangkrachao, the greenest area of Bangkok.

Thai Culinary Adventure

Discover the secrets of Thai cuisine, with its subtle flavors and unique presentation. Your host for today is Aoy, a passionate food and yoga lover who lives on a lush, beautiful property on the banks of the Tha Chin River and uses fresh herbs and produce grown in the local community in her cooking. Aoy will drive you to Don Wai Market, which is known for its wide variety of Thai snacks. As you shop together, Aoy will show you regional fruit and vegetables at her preferred vendors in the market.

After learning about the local produce and farming community you will board a boat and enjoy the river breeze and passing views of local homes and lush river vegetation during your 30 min boat ride to Aoy's tropical riverside home. During your cooking class, you will learn to prepare from scratch two of Aoy's favorite Thai dishes. Aoy will share her deep knowledge of Thai herbs and spices. Be prepared to chop vegetables, pound spices, and laugh! Later, enjoy a lunch of your creations and a selection of other dishes, accompanied by local beer.





Day 4

This morning you will be collected from your hotel and driven to the airport, approximately 40 minutes away. Here, you will board your 1 hour 10 minute flight to Chiang Rai. On arrival in Chiang Rai you will be met by our representative. You will be escorted to your private car and driven to your hotel, approximately 50 minutes away.

Spend two nights at The Four Seasons Tented Camp Golden Triangle (Full Board, Deluxe Tent)

In the heart of the Golden Triangle, amid a spectacular backdrop where Thailand, Laos and Burma meet, the Four Seasons' camp provides luxurious tented accommodation.

Your time in Chiang Rai

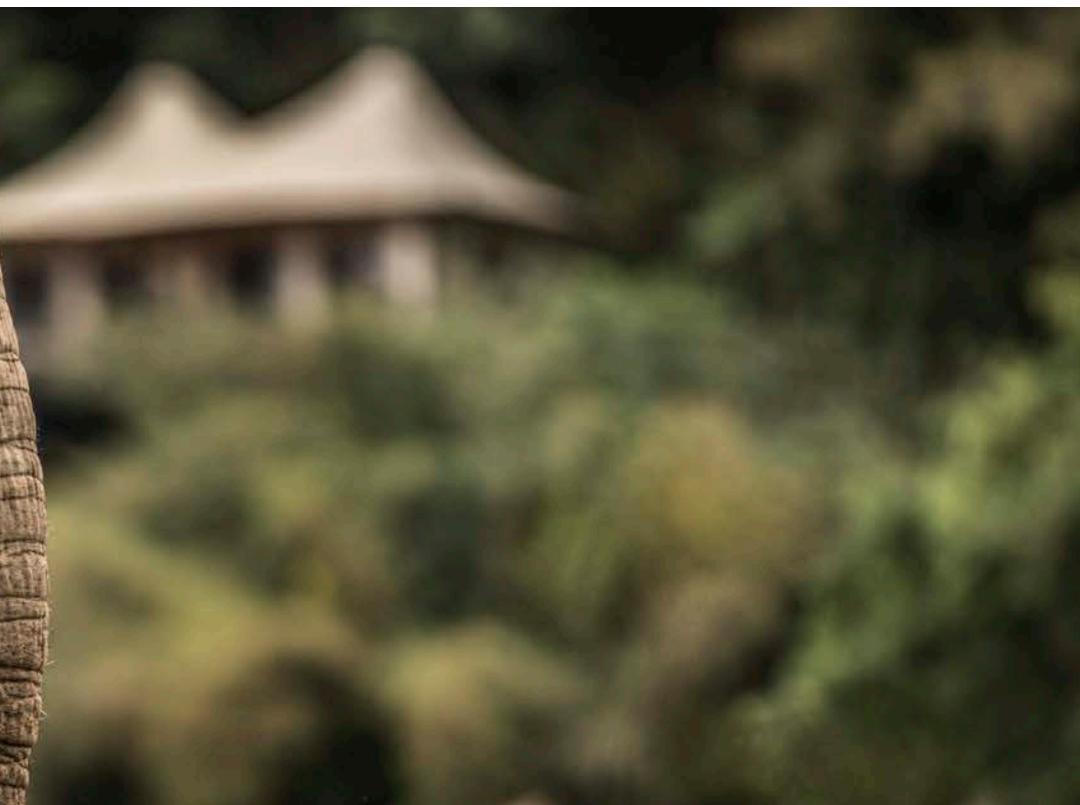
A medium sized town in Northern Thailand, Chiang Rai has increasingly become the centre and base for those wishing to trek in the mountains of the Golden Triangle. The town itself has a few interesting temples but it is the surrounding region which is the real draw. Although there are trekking routes and villages which have become crowded, it is still fairly easy to get off the beaten track and have an insight into the way of life of the Thai hill tribes.

Day 5 + 6

Day at leisure to take advantage of the experiences on offer at The Four Seasons Tented Camp. Become a mahout for the day, enjoy some local hiking, cooking classes and a visit to the Opium museum, where you can learn about the area's fascinating past.

DAY 6

This morning you will be collected from your hotel at 7.30am and driven to the Laos border. Then you will board the Nagas Mekong boat for a private cruise down the Mekong River to Pakbeng. En route, stop off to observe the local life of the tribes who live along the banks of the river. Enjoy lunch on board and before sunset, you will arrive at Pakbeng.



Laos

Laos is one of South East Asia's most culturally diverse and fascinating countries: From the rural highlands of northern Laos to the fertile Champasak region in the south, there are over 100 tribal and ethnic groups, all with their own traditions and customs. Laos is relatively unspoiled by contact with the modern world and visitors are enchanted not only by its beautiful landscapes but also by the warm and relaxed attitude of the locals; there is apparently a word for "hurry" in Lao, but no one ever feels the need to use it.





Day 6 + 7

Journey along the Mekong River

On boarding the boat, you will make your way downstream through stunning landscapes towards Luang Prabang. En route you will stop at a local village to learn more about the tribes that live along the river and lunch will be cooked and eaten on board. You will arrive at Pakbeng in the evening, where you will stay at Pakbeng Lodge.

**Spend one night at Pakbeng Lodge
(Breakfast and dinner included, Deluxe Room)**

Overlooking the Mekong River on the edge of the small village of Pakbeng is Pakbeng Lodge. Accommodation here is simple but all rooms have ensuite bathrooms and a small veranda for enjoying the river views. The lodge has a large open dining room where dinner and breakfast are served. There are no phones or TV's in the rooms and wifi is only possible in the public areas.

Day 7

Second Day on the Mekong River

This morning, before your departure, you might wish to walk to Pakbeng Market, where people from the surrounding villages exchange their goods. At 8.30am, board the boat for the second leg of the cruise. If you are lucky, you may spot water buffalo grazing nearby and the odd waterfall. Visit a hill tribe village and watch the traditional process of Lao whiskey production before lunch on a sandbank. Continue to Pak Ou village at the mouth of the Nam Ou River, where you will visit the Tam Ting Caves of a Thousand Buddhas. you will arrive in Luang Prabang before sunset and your guide will accompany you to your hotel.

Day 7 continued

Luang Prabang

A true gem on the banks of the Mekong, Luang Prabang is one of the best preserved historic towns in all of South East Asia. French colonial architecture combines with traditional timber galleries to give this town a unique flavor. As the ancient capital of the Lanna kingdom, Luang Prabang has many Buddhist temples, some dating as far back as the 16th century, and it remains a centre for Buddhist learning today. Early in the morning mist, hundreds of monks emerge into the streets to collect alms from the people in a time honored tradition, which makes for a truly amazing sight. Luang Prabang was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995.

Private Soukhouane Ceremony

In the early evening, attend a private Baci ceremony which will take place at a traditional Laos ceremonial house on the Mekong river. This Soukhouane or blessing ceremony, is one of the most charming traditions in Laos and takes place at special events, such as a marriages, homecomings, the birth of a child or one of the annual festivals. It is a brahmin-influenced ritual that has been practiced in Luang Prabang for hundreds of years. Locals believe that 32 spirits or Khouan inhabit our bodies and protect us from illness, sadness and general malice in everyday life.

The house will be lit with candles throughout and the blessing is a community affair, overseen by a master of ceremonies or 'Mo Phon' who repeats the rhythmic ritual words and chants to the spirits. Baci strings are then tied around your wrists symbolizing the bonding together of all the 32 khouan.



Spend two nights at Amantaka

(Staying in a Pool Suite, breakfast included)

Set in a large garden, Amantaka is a restored former hospital in Luang Prabang's historic centre. Airy and elegant throughout, the décor and furnishings reflect the town's French colonial history. Located just south of Phousi Mountain and within walking distance of the boutiques, bakeries and restaurants as well as the famous night market you are in a perfect position to explore. The picturesque banks of the Mekong River and the former Royal Palace are also nearby. The Restaurant at Amantaka offers delicious cuisine throughout the day.

We suggest you sample some Lao flavors with mok pa (steamed fish in banana leaf) or play closer to home with a duck ragout.





Day 8

Early Morning Alms Giving

For a fantastic early morning photo opportunity, wake up early to see the monks in their saffron-colored robes walking around the town in their hundreds collecting Alms. This early morning ritual dates back generations in Laos. Presenting the monks with hot sticky rice is something you can also get involved in if you would like to - please tell your guide if you wish to make an offering so he/she can prepare some food for you. Watch the town come to life and then return to the hotel for breakfast.

Explore Luang Prabang

Luang Prabang is a fascinating city and today you will be taken to visit the main sights. This morning, I would highly recommend a visit to The Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre - a nonprofit museum and resource centre dedicated to the ethnic cultures of Laos. Its goal is to promote understanding, appreciation, and preservation of Laos' ethnic cultures.

In the afternoon, explore the many sacred temples, of which nearly fifty still remain in the town and surrounding areas. Visit the National Museum, the former Royal Palace, which houses a collection of valuables including the famous Prabang Buddha statue and gifts from foreign dignitaries. You may also wish to stop off at Wat Visoun, Wat Aham or Wat Xiengthong, the 16th century temple which epitomizes the elegance and grace of Luang Prabang architecture.

Day 9

This morning you will be collected from your hotel and driven to the airport, approximately 30 minutes away. Here, you will board your 2 hours 15 minute flight to Siem Reap. On arrival you will be met by our representative. You will be escorted to your private car and driven to your hotel, approximately 50 minutes away.

Cambodia

Cambodia's magnificent past and turbulent recent history make it a fascinating country to visit. This former French colony is dominated by the Mekong river and the Tonle Sap (Great Lake) and is justifiably famous for the awe-inspiring temples at Angkor. Cambodia also offers undiscovered beaches, lush jungle and ancient rice paddies, as well as a wealth of colonial architecture in bustling Phnom Penh - one of Asia's most interesting capitals. The people here are friendly and welcoming and share a rich and vibrant culture, making Cambodia one of the most enigmatic and beautiful countries in Asia.





Day 9 continued

Siem Reap

Siem Reap is located near the Tonle Sap Lake and is best known for its proximity to the magnificent temples at Angkor. Built between the 9th and 11th century, these vast and extraordinary monuments comprise one of the most impressive complexes of religious and palatial buildings in the world. The town has a large choice of restaurants, bars and cafes as well as an Old French Quarter, busy local market and the Angkor National Museum that are worth a visit between highlights such as Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom.

For most visitors to Cambodia, Angkor is the cultural focus and the sight of the temples at sunset or sunrise is one of the great experiences in South East Asia.

Spend four nights at Amansara (Room only)

Siem Reap's best hotel, Amansara is small and perfectly located just 10 minutes from the main gate of Angkor. Formerly the guest villa of King Norodom Sihanouk, the hotel offers incredible service, sublime cuisine and world class accommodation within a secluded and private garden setting.

Sunset Cocktails

This evening enjoy sunset cocktails with a leisurely private boat ride on the moat of Angkor Thom and view hidden elements of the ancient Khmer water systems. Please let me know if you have any specific drink requests.

Day 10

Explore Angkor with a Cambodian Scholar

Your exploration of the Angkor complex will be led by Mr. Bunat, an archaeologist from APSARA Authority who will be able to explain about the Khmer Civilization's history and architecture. Start at sunrise to see the Angkor Wat temple at its most impressive before returning to the hotel for a late breakfast.

Following this, with your private guide, you will visit the mysterious Royal city Angkor Thom, the last and most enduring capital of the Khmer empire, known for the stone faces adorning its towers.

At sunset, head to one of the less visited temples or Pre Rup temple for stunning panoramic views of the entire complex.





Day 11

Explore Life on Tonle Sap

Approximately 12 miles to the east of Siem Reap is the stilted village of Kompong Phluk or Kompong Khleang. Here you will meet some fishermen and families to understand a little more of their lifestyle on this richest of all fishing grounds. While you explore life on the water we will have prepared a picnic lunch for you to enjoy on-board, whilst absorbing the atmosphere of the area.

Day 12

Fly by Helicopter

Take one of the most scenic flights possible drifting above Angkor Wat and seeing the temples and pagodas like you have never seen them before. Flying above the site gives you a much clearer idea of just how vast the area was, and in parts still is, including the old roads and waterways which helped to move the materials required for the great temples.

Rural Cambodia

Leaving Siem Reap having seen only the ancient temples is a missed opportunity to get to know contemporary Khmer culture. Just a short distance from the archaeological park there is living history: Lifestyles little changed since the temples were built a thousand years ago but threatened to be lost forever as new roads and technology open up the countryside.

Explore rice paddies, woodland and back gardens by walking, using boats and ox-carts to reach villages where tourists can not follow. Along the way, buy seasonal fruits straight from the tree, try sticky rice baked in bamboo and get hands-on experience of the essential rural skills of the rice harvest, thatching, fishing, or even making a simple meal over an open fire.

This will be a journey of discovery. Visit a colorful contemporary pagoda to learn more about the importance of Buddhism in rural communities and seek a blessing from the monks. A short ox-cart ride through typical villages followed by a 20 minute easy walk will bring you to the vast Western Baray. An impressive engineering feat, this man-made reservoir was once integral to the complex Angkorian rice irrigation system. You will travel by boat to a traditional Cambodian country villa, surrounded by rice paddies, across a stream to the north of a village. This is a wonderful spot to relax in the quiet of the countryside and enjoy sunset cocktails.

While our chef prepares your dinner you can take a wander across the levees of the rice paddies, look for fish traps, or walk a short distance to a viewpoint over the ancient reservoir.





Day 13

Sunrise Meditation at Phnom Krom

Ascend to the pagoda atop Phnom Krom before sunrise to join the monks for a purification ceremony with chanting and prayers before receiving a water blessing. As the sun rises, you are greeted with fantastic views over the Angkor plain and the Tonle Sap, followed by a light breakfast.

Drive to the airport

This morning you will be collected from your hotel and driven to the airport, approximately 20 minutes away. Board your 1 hour and 45 minute flight to Hanoi. On arrival you will be met by our representative and driven to your hotel, The Metropole, approximately 20 minutes away by car.

Spend two nights at The Metropole (Staying in a Grand Luxury Room, breakfast included)

This French colonial-style hotel first opened its doors in 1901 and is our favorite hotel in Hanoi. There is a colonial wing and a modern wing, both of which are decorated to a very high standard, a beautiful interior garden and a lovely pool. Sample the excellent French-Vietnamese cuisine at Le Beaulieu and Spice Garden restaurants.

Vietnam

Vietnam is one of South-East Asia's most interesting countries to visit, not only on account of its fascinating history but also because of the distinct cultural divide between the north and south. There is much to experience here, with ancient ports and palaces, wonderful beaches and thrilling mountain hikes all easily accessible.

Vietnam is also home to some of the world's finest food - Hanoi's charming old quarter has many traditional restaurants and modern Saigon is fast establishing itself as a true gastronomic centre - so make sure to sample the different regions' delectable delicacies.

Hanoi

Hanoi is Vietnam's vibrant capital, where socialist ideologies and colonial influences are evident everywhere. It is a great place to get a feel for northern Vietnam as its people, cuisine and customs are all very distinct from the rest of the country.



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Day 14

Discovering Hanoi

Early this morning you will be collected from your hotel and with your guide you will take a walk around Lake of the Restored Sword where you will see local people doing exercise and Tai Chi. You will then visit Dong Xuan or Thanh Cong market before stopping for breakfast. After breakfast, you will be met by Mr. Vu Long who is head of Hanoi Gastronomy Club, an editor of Culinary Art magazine and a lecturer at Hanoi University. He will accompany you around the bustling Thanh Cong market.

You will then wander about the old quarter streets and enjoy aromas from local street food stalls. Stop at Ly Quoc Su Street to taste the pan fried “Banh Goi” which is made of rice mashed, pork, and vermicelli which is served with vegetables and bean sprouts. Continue to Hang Manh Street where you can have a chance to taste fantastic “Bun Cha”, which served with fried “Nem” filled with pork or mashed sea crab and explore other street food. End the trip at legendary rustic restaurant Cha Ca La Vong. There is only one dish - fantastically fresh grilled fish smothered in greens and saffron-infused oil.

This afternoon, enjoy a city tour of Hanoi city including One Pillar Pagoda. You will then visit the Temple of Literature, with its ancient Vietnamese architecture and finish your exploration of Hanoi by a walking tour through the Old Quarter of “36 streets and 36 wares” where you will witness the vibrant life along the streets.

Day 15

Explore Duong Lam Ancient Village by Foot

This morning you will be collected by your guide and taken to Duong Lam Ancient Village in Son Tay Province and about 40 miles west of Hanoi. This village has been known as a museum of laterite with ancient houses aged up to 400 years old. During your walk you will trace back the origin of Vietnam's culture and traditions as well as explore the architecture through its surviving ancient houses.

You will continue to Mong Phu Communal House, Phung Hung Temple, Ngo Quyen Temple and Mia Pagoda. Mong Phu is the biggest and the most famous Communal House of Duong Lam village. Here, you will experience everyday life of the locals. Mia Pagoda was built during the Tran Dynasty before 1632 and still preserves many ancient artifacts. Duong Lam Village is well known for the birthplace of the two Kings of Phung Hung and Ngo Quyen, the two heroes led resistance wars against China's Sung and Southern Han troops to recover national independence. After their death, the local people built temples to worship the Kings. You will enjoy a picnic lunch before returning to Hanoi in the late afternoon.

Drive to the airport

Late this afternoon you will be collected from your hotel and driven to the airport in time for your 1 hour 10 minute flight to Hue. On arrival in Hue you will be met by our representative. You will be escorted to your private car and driven to your hotel, approximately 30 minutes away.

Spend two nights at La Residence Hue (Staying in a Deluxe River View Room, breakfast included)

Formerly the residence of the French governor in Hue, La Residence Hue is a colonial mansion which has been fully restored into a modern boutique hotel, with a distinctive art deco feel. The hotel is in an excellent location on the banks of the Perfume River, overlooking the Imperial Citadel, and has a very good spa and restaurant serving local and French cuisine.





Day 16

A Day in Hue

Begin your day with a boat trip on the Perfume River and visit the Thien Mu Pagoda, Hue's best preserved religious monument. Afterwards, drive to the Imperial Citadel. Hue was the administrative centre of the Nguyen Dynasty in the 19th century and although parts of the Citadel were destroyed during the war, it remains an important historical centre. Your guide will be happy to explain the stories and events behind the ornate buildings. Spend the afternoon visiting the Royal Tombs which are dotted around the hills surrounding the south bank of the Perfume River.

Enjoy Dinner at the Home of a Local Architect

This evening you will be taken for a hosted dinner at the home of local architect Vinh Tu. He and his wife are seventh generation descendants of Hue's royal family and have lovingly restored an old royal home. You will be invited to share traditional Hue cuisine and learn more about the city's royal past.

Day 17

Drive to Hoi An

This morning you will be collected from your hotel and driven to Hoi An, approximately 3 hours away.

Hoi An

Hoi An is one of Vietnam's best preserved historic port towns. From the 17th to 19th century it was one of South East Asia's major trading ports and evidence of its interaction with the Portuguese, Chinese, French and Japanese can easily be seen when walking through its charming cobbled streets. Completely spared during the Vietnam war, Hoi An is now a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Discover Hoi An

Spend this afternoon in Hoi An with your knowledgeable private guide. Its peaceful and pedestrianized streets and narrow lanes are a delight to walk around and your guide will be able to give you plenty of information on the history of this fascinating and bustling town.

Visit the old merchant's house with its Chinese, Japanese and Vietnamese architecture; the 400-year-old Japanese Covered Bridge; the Assembly Hall of the Chaozhou Chinese Congregation with outstanding wood carvings, and the vibrant market with stalls brimming with tropical specialties including silk, which can be turned into clothing within a day.

There are also lots of interesting and vibrant restaurants and shops to visit in Hoi An. You might like to have a cooking class at Morning Glory cooking school which is great fun for all ages. The owner and founder Ms Trinh Diem Vy is a third generation chef and native of Hoi An. Her class begins by visiting a market to source the ingredients and then the remainder of the morning creating Hoi An's street food favorites.





Day 18-19

**Spend two nights at Four Seasons Resort The Nam Hai
(Staying in a Beachfront Villa, breakfast included)**

Located on the beachfront a short distance from Hoi An, the Nam Hai is beautifully designed in a contemporary style and is one of the most luxurious hotels in Vietnam. The Four Seasons recently took over the hotel and have just completed a huge refurbishment, so the facilities are looking their very best. The resort's modern Asian-style villas are arranged around tropical gardens and have beautiful views overlooking the sea. The restaurants at the hotel are superb, as is the service. The hotel also has an excellent spa and is ideal for those who want to combine relaxation with the more cultural attractions offered by Hoi An.

DAY 18

Spend today at leisure, relaxing on the beach and enjoying all the hotel has to offer. Alternatively, you could venture out to explore the surrounding countryside. Further afield are the fascinating ruins at My Son.

DAY 19

This morning you will be collected from your hotel and driven to the airport in time for your flight to Saigon.

Saigon

Saigon, or Ho Chi Minh City as it is known, is a vibrant, modern city and the hub of Vietnam's economic and cultural activity. It is also fast emerging as a gastronomic centre, with world-class restaurants popping up with great frequency.

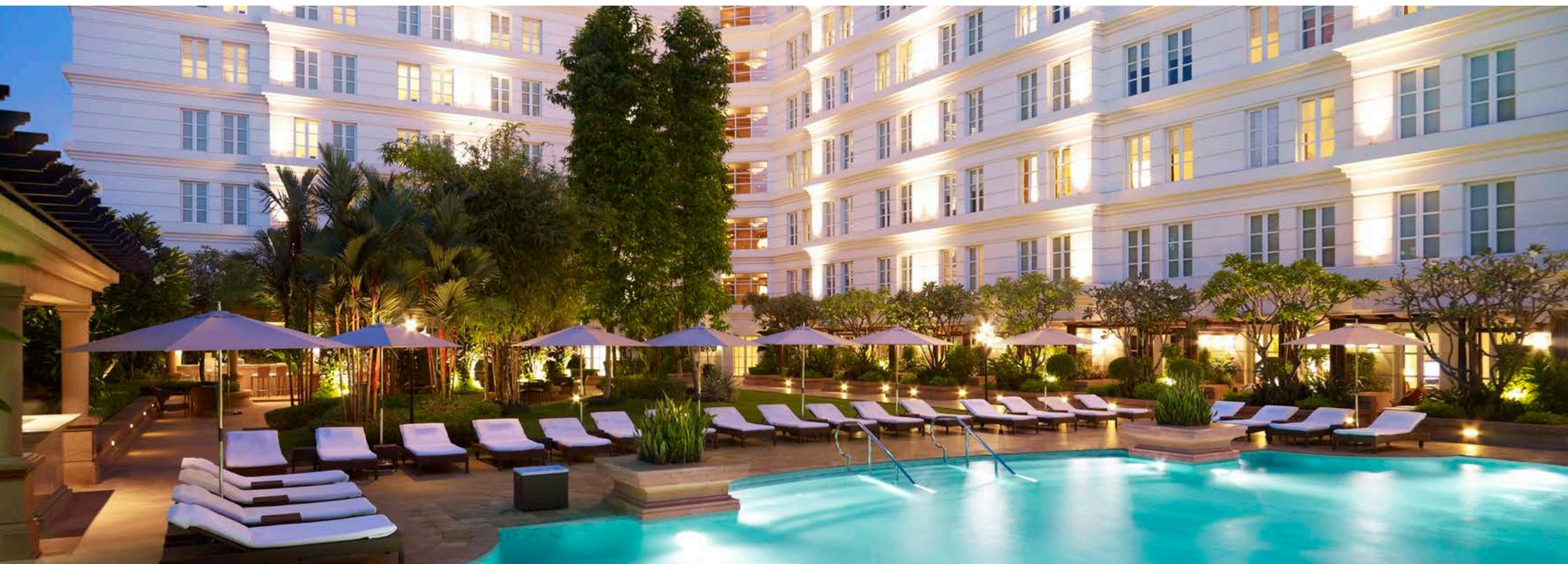
Experience Saigon's Nightlife by Vespa

In the early evening hop on a Vespa to explore the city. Part night-time adventure, part street/local food adventure, you will experience the nightlife of Saigon the way locals do. Stops include drinks at Zoom cafe to watch "the world go by", food and drinks at local restaurants (one stop for seafood and one stop for Southern food), samplings of Saigon's best authentic street/local food and a Vietnamese-style coffee shop (with live music). Finish the evening at one of the many local nightclubs, where the new generation of Vietnamese unwind and flaunt their unique style.

Spend two nights at the Park Hyatt Saigon (Staying in a King Deluxe Room, breakfast included)

The Park Hyatt Hotel is centrally located in Lam Son Square, near the Opera House in downtown Saigon. It is the most stylish and luxurious hotel in the city and the restaurants serve truly delicious food. Shops, entertainment, restaurants and the city's main tourist attractions are all within walking distance, but if you wish to just relax head to the pool area or the Xuan Spa - an oasis of tranquillity in this fast paced metropolis.





Day 20-21

Exploring Saigon

Saigon is a bustling and fast-changing city with plenty to discover. Send a postcard from the famous Saigon Post Office and explore the city's role in the war at the Palace of Reunification before visiting the famous Jade Emperor Pagoda. Let our guide take you off track to try some of Saigon's famous iced coffee whilst exploring the busy streets of Chinatown. Pop in to some of the traditional herbal medicine shops and visit the best example of a working temple, Thien Hau. The temple can be visited at times of prayer, when the monks' chanting creates a particularly atmospheric mood.

Visit the famous Cu Chi Tunnels

Today you will drive about an hour and a half from Saigon, out to the fascinating Cu Chi Tunnels. Here you will be met by Mr. Nam, a Viet Cong veteran who will give you a personal introduction to the tunnels and answer any questions about his time living underground.

DAY 21

This morning, you will be collected from your hotel and driven back to the airport in time for your flight home.

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