



TOUR SUMMARY

Essence of Indochina Vietnam – Cambodia – Laos | 15 Nights / 16 Days: A curated cultural journey through three Southeast Asian gems – Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos – filled with ancient wonders, natural beauty, and authentic local experiences.

Tour Highlights: 8 UNESCO World Heritage Sites including Angkor Wat, Halong Bay, and Luang Prabang, Cultural immersion: Water puppetry, Apsara dance, Baci blessing ceremony, Scenic icons: Halong Bay, Kuang Si Waterfalls, Mekong River, Tonlé Sap, Handcrafted experiences: Cooking classes, lantern making, artisan workshops

Vietnam Days 1–7 & 14–15

- **Hanoi:** Temple of Literature, Imperial Citadel of Thăng Long, Old Quarter walk, and traditional **Water Puppet Show**.
- **Ninh Binh (Day Trip):** Boat ride at **Trang An Landscape Complex**, visit **Hoa Lu Ancient Capital**.
- **Halong Bay:** Overnight cruise amidst limestone karsts with kayaking, cave visit, and onboard cooking demo.
- **Hue:** Visit the **Imperial City**, royal tombs, and enjoy a **Royal Court Music (Nhã nhạc)** or Ao Dai show.
- **Hoi An:** Walking tour of the charming **Ancient Town**, Japanese Bridge, lantern-lit streets, and optional visit to **My Son Sanctuary**.

Cambodia Days 8–10

- **Siem Reap:** Sunrise at **Angkor Wat**, visit **Bayon** and **Ta Prohm**. Evening **Apsara dance dinner show**.
- Explore **Banteay Srei's** exquisite pink sandstone carvings, Tonlé Sap's **floating villages**, and **Artisan Angkor** workshop.

Laos Days 11–13

- **Luang Prabang:** Discover **Royal Palace**, **Wat Xieng Thong**, and **Kuang Si Waterfalls**.
- Join a sacred **Baci Ceremony**, boat to **Pak Ou Caves**, and visit a traditional **whiskey village**.

Back to Vietnam Day 14: Fly to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)

- Arrive in bustling southern Vietnam. Evening at leisure or optional street food tour / rooftop dinner.



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



Day 15: Explore Ho Chi Minh City & Departure

- Visit:
 - **Notre-Dame Cathedral** and **Central Post Office**
 - **War Remnants Museum**
 - **Ben Thanh Market** for last-minute souvenirs
- Optional: Half-day excursion to **Cu Chi Tunnels** (*time permitting*)
- **End of tour** with transfer to the airport for your onward journey

Flight Segments

- Hanoi → Hue
- Da Nang → Siem Reap
- Siem Reap → Luang Prabang
- Luang Prabang → Ho Chi Minh City

UNESCO Sites Visited

1. Imperial Citadel of Thăng Long – Hanoi
2. Trang An Landscape Complex – Ninh Binh
3. Halong Bay
4. Complex of Huế Monuments
5. Hoi An Ancient Town
6. My Son Sanctuary (*optional*)
7. Angkor Archaeological Park
8. Luang Prabang Town

Best time: October - March

Note: While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, this itinerary is intended as a guide and may include unintentional errors or be subject to adjustments due to unforeseen circumstances.



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



Detailed Itinerary

DAY 1: Arrive in Hanoi – Timeless charm of Vietnam begins

Arrive in **Hanoi**, the captivating capital of Vietnam where centuries-old traditions meet modern Vietnamese life in a city brimming with history and soul. Known for its tree-lined boulevards, tranquil lakes, and a rich blend of French colonial and Asian architecture, Hanoi offers a graceful introduction to the spirit of Vietnam. From the buzz of motorbikes in the **Old Quarter** to the serene courtyards of ancient temples, this city is a living museum of culture and resilience.

Upon arrival at **Noi Bai International Airport**, you'll be warmly welcomed by our local tour manager who will provide a friendly orientation session about your journey through Vietnam and beyond. You'll then be transferred to your comfortable, pre-booked hotel in Hanoi for check-in. Take time to unwind and refresh after your travels. In the evening, gather for a delightful **welcome dinner**, where you'll sample some of Hanoi's signature dishes and flavors. Overnight stay in Hanoi, with the city's timeless beauty waiting to be explored the next day.



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



DAY 2: Arrival in Hanoi, Vietnam – Discover the Historic Heart of the Capital

Begin your journey in Hanoi, Vietnam's vibrant capital city, where centuries of rich history and culture await. Upon arrival, immerse yourself in the storied past of the **Central Sector of the Imperial Citadel of Thăng Long**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This ancient complex offers a glimpse into Vietnam's royal legacy and political heritage, dating back over a thousand years.

Continue your cultural exploration with a visit to the **Temple of Literature**, Vietnam's first national university and a striking example of traditional Vietnamese architecture. Stroll through peaceful courtyards and beautifully landscaped gardens that pay tribute to Confucian scholars.

Next, make your way to the scenic **Hoan Kiem Lake**, a serene oasis in the heart of the city. Cross the iconic red bridge to reach the **Ngoc Son Temple**, where legends of the ancient Turtle God and the mystical sword of Emperor Le Loi come to life.

As the evening sets in, enjoy a captivating **Water Puppet Show**, a unique form of traditional Vietnamese art that originated in the Red River Delta. These performances, set to live folk music, bring centuries-old folktales and legends to life on water.

Conclude your first day in Vietnam by wandering through Hanoi's bustling **Old Quarter**, renowned for its narrow streets, historic architecture, and vibrant atmosphere. This cultural hotspot is perfect for discovering local handicrafts, sampling authentic Vietnamese street food, and soaking in the rhythm of daily life in the capital.



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



DAY 3: Ninh Binh Day Trip from Hanoi – Explore Vietnam’s Inland Halong Bay

Embark on a scenic day trip from Hanoi to **Ninh Binh**, often referred to as “Halong Bay on land” for its dramatic limestone landscapes and serene waterways. This region is home to the breathtaking **Trang An Landscape Complex**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that seamlessly blends natural beauty with cultural significance.

Begin your journey with a visit to the **Hoa Lu Ancient Capital**, the political and economic center of Vietnam in the 10th and 11th centuries. Explore the remaining temples dedicated to the Dinh and Le dynasties, nestled amid towering karst formations and lush greenery.

Next, enjoy a tranquil **boat ride through Trang An’s majestic karst landscapes**, where limestone cliffs rise dramatically from emerald waters. Glide through a network of caves, sacred temples, and quiet valleys that offer an unforgettable experience of Vietnam’s natural splendor and spiritual depth.

For those looking to delve deeper into the region’s charm, consider an optional visit to **Bich Dong Pagoda**, a picturesque three-tiered temple built into a mountainside, offering panoramic views and peaceful surroundings. You may also explore nearby **traditional embroidery villages**, where local artisans continue centuries-old crafts passed down through generations.

Return to Hanoi in the evening, enriched by a day of history, culture, and breathtaking scenery in the heart of northern Vietnam.



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



DAY 4: Hanoi – Ha Long Bay (Day Trip with En Route Stops)

- **UNESCO Site:** Ha Long Bay
- **Morning:**
 - After breakfast, depart from Hanoi to Ha Long Bay (start early around 7:30 AM)
 - **En route stop 1: Dong Trieu Ceramic Village** – Visit a local workshop and see traditional ceramic-making techniques
 - **En route stop 2: Green Bean Cake tasting in Hai Duong** – This regional specialty makes a light and sweet morning snack
- **Late Morning to Afternoon – Ha Long Bay Cruise:**
 - Arrive at Ha Long Bay by late morning and board a **day cruise boat**
 - Cruise through the iconic limestone karsts and turquoise waters
 - Visit the spectacular **Sung Sot Cave (Surprise Cave)**
 - Go **kayaking** or enjoy a **bamboo boat ride** around floating villages or hidden lagoons
 - Join a **cooking demonstration** (typically Vietnamese spring rolls or seafood dishes)
 - Enjoy a **fresh seafood lunch** on board
- **Late Afternoon:**
 - Cruise ends; disembark and begin the drive back to Hanoi
 - Optional quick stop at a **local pearl farm or handicraft center** if time permits
- **Evening:**
 - Return to Hanoi by early evening (~7:30 PM)
 - Relax or explore the Old Quarter for dinner



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



DAY 5: Hanoi – Fly to Huế

- **Morning:**
 - After breakfast, check out and begin the drive to Hanoi airport
- **Afternoon:**
 - Arrive in Hanoi and transfer to the airport
 - Fly to **Huế**, the former imperial capital of Vietnam
- **Evening:**
 - Arrival in Huế and hotel check-in
 - **Rest / Free evening** – Relax or enjoy a quiet stroll along the Perfume River

DAY 6: Huế – Imperial Grandeur & Cultural Heritage

- **UNESCO Site: Complex of Huế Monuments**
- **Morning:**
 - Explore the majestic **Imperial City (Đại Nội)** – including the Noon Gate, Thai Hoa Palace, and Forbidden Purple City
 - Visit the iconic **Thiên Mụ Pagoda**, perched above the Perfume River with panoramic views
- **Afternoon:**
 - Tour the **Royal Tomb of Emperor Khai Định** – a fusion of Vietnamese and European design, richly decorated
 - Or choose to visit the **Royal Tomb of Emperor Minh Mạng**, set in a tranquil garden landscape reflecting Confucian ideals
- **Cultural Highlight (Evening):**
 - Attend an **Ao Dai fashion show** or enjoy a **Royal Court Music (Nhã nhạc) performance**, a UNESCO-listed Intangible Cultural Heritage
 - Optional royal-style dinner with traditional Huế dishes



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



DAY 7: Hue to Hoi An – A Scenic Journey Along the Hai Van Pass

Today, embark on one of Vietnam's most stunning coastal drives as you travel from Hue to Hoi An via the legendary **Hai Van Pass**. This scenic route winds between lush mountains and the sparkling South China Sea, offering breathtaking views and photo opportunities at every turn.

Along the way, pass through **Da Nang**, a modern coastal city known for its beaches and cultural landmarks. For those interested, an optional stop at the **Marble Mountains** provides a chance to explore a cluster of limestone and marble hills dotted with Buddhist sanctuaries, caves, and panoramic viewpoints.

By afternoon, arrive in **Hoi An**, a beautifully preserved **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Known for its fusion of indigenous and foreign influences, Hoi An's historic charm is evident in its architecture, ancient temples, and vibrant marketplaces.

In the evening, enjoy a **walking tour of Hoi An's lantern-lit Old Town**. Stroll along narrow, atmospheric lanes lined with traditional shophouses, colorful lanterns, and riverside cafés. Visit historic landmarks such as the Japanese Covered Bridge and local temples, and soak in the magical ambiance that makes Hoi An one of Vietnam's most beloved cultural gems.



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



DAY 8: Discovering Hoi An – A Journey Through Time and Tradition

Spend the day immersing yourself in the rich heritage of **Hoi An Ancient Town**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its timeless beauty, multicultural architecture, and living traditions. Once a bustling international port, Hoi An is now a peaceful riverside town that feels like a walk through a living museum.

Begin your exploration at the iconic **Covered Japanese Bridge**, a symbol of Hoi An's cultural harmony. This 17th-century structure, with its intricate carvings and unique design, connects the Japanese and Chinese quarters of the old town.

Next, visit the **Chinese Assembly Halls**, elaborate community buildings established by Chinese merchant groups. Admire their ornate altars, dragon-adorned roofs, and vivid artwork that reflect Hoi An's diverse mercantile past.

For a hands-on **cultural experience**, take part in a **Vietnamese cooking class** where you'll learn to prepare traditional dishes using local herbs and fresh market ingredients. Alternatively, join a **lantern-making workshop**, and craft your own colorful souvenir using traditional techniques that Hoi An is famous for.

Those with extra time and a passion for history may opt for a side trip to the **My Son Sanctuary**, a **UNESCO-listed Hindu temple complex** nestled in a lush valley about an hour from Hoi An. This ancient Cham site, with its red-brick towers and spiritual aura, offers a fascinating glimpse into Vietnam's pre-Buddhist past.

Whether you're savouring local flavours, delving into ancient architecture, or crafting your own lantern, Hoi An promises a day filled with unforgettable moments and cultural richness.



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



DAY 9: Hoi An to Siem Reap – Gateway to the Temples of Angkor

Today, bid farewell to Vietnam and begin the next leg of your Southeast Asian journey with a short flight from **Da Nang to Siem Reap**, the cultural heart of Cambodia and the gateway to the magnificent Angkor temple complex.

Upon arrival in **Siem Reap**, check in and unwind after your travel. Spend the **evening at leisure**, soaking in the laid-back charm of this vibrant town. If you're in the mood to explore, head to the lively **Angkor Night Market**, where local artisans showcase handmade crafts, traditional textiles, and unique souvenirs. It's the perfect spot to experience Cambodian street culture, sample local snacks, and pick up handcrafted mementos.

Whether you choose to relax or wander through the colourful stalls, tonight offers a gentle introduction to the spirit of Siem Reap before your deep dive into its ancient wonders.



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



DAY 10: Siem Reap – Sunrise at Angkor Wat and the Mystical Temples of Angkor

Rise early for a magical start to your day with **sunrise at Angkor Wat**, the crown jewel of the **Angkor Archaeological Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. As the first light of dawn silhouettes the temple's iconic towers against the sky, you'll witness one of the most awe-inspiring sights in Southeast Asia. This 12th-century masterpiece, built by King Suryavarman II, is not only the largest religious monument in the world but also a profound symbol of Cambodian identity.

Continue your temple exploration with a visit to the **Bayon Temple**, located at the center of Angkor Thom. Famous for its towering stone faces of **Avalokiteshvara**, this enigmatic structure offers a striking contrast to the classical symmetry of Angkor Wat, with its maze of corridors and crumbling towers evoking a sense of mystery and grandeur.

Next, step into a scene from the past at **Ta Prohm**, the jungle-covered temple made famous by the Tomb Raider movie. Here, massive tree roots entwine with ancient stone walls, creating a hauntingly beautiful fusion of nature and architecture.

In the evening, immerse yourself in Khmer culture with a **traditional Apsara dance performance** accompanied by a sumptuous Cambodian dinner. The elegant hand gestures and elaborate costumes of the dancers bring to life stories from ancient mythology, offering a perfect cultural finale to a day steeped in history, spirituality, and timeless beauty.



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



DAY 11: Siem Reap – Intricate Temples and Life on Tonlé Sap Lake

Begin your day with a visit to **Banteay Srei**, often called the “Citadel of Women,” renowned for its exquisite pink sandstone carvings. This 10th-century temple is celebrated for its intricate bas-reliefs and delicate artistry, showcasing some of the finest Khmer craftsmanship in the Angkor region.

Next, immerse yourself in Cambodia’s rich artisan traditions at the **Artisan Angkor Workshop**. Here, skilled craftsmen and women preserve age-old techniques in wood carving, silk weaving, stone carving, and painting. Witnessing their dedication offers a deeper appreciation for Khmer culture and a chance to support sustainable local crafts.

In the afternoon, explore the unique ecosystem and vibrant communities of **Tonlé Sap Lake** with a visit to one of its famous floating villages, such as **Kompong Phluk** or **Chong Kneas**. Experience daily life on the water as you glide past stilted homes, floating markets, and lush mangroves. This eye-opening journey offers a fascinating glimpse into a way of life shaped by Cambodia’s largest freshwater lake.

Return to Siem Reap enriched by the blend of ancient artistry and living tradition that defines this remarkable region.



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



DAY 12: Siem Reap to Luang Prabang – A Journey into Laos' Cultural Heart

Today, take a flight from **Siem Reap to Luang Prabang**, Laos' UNESCO World Heritage-listed town known for its serene temples, French colonial architecture, and rich spiritual traditions.

Upon arrival, settle into your accommodation and prepare for a leisurely evening. Explore the bustling **Luang Prabang Night Market**, a vibrant hub where local artisans display beautifully woven textiles, hand-carved wooden crafts, and traditional souvenirs. The market is also a fantastic place to sample authentic Laotian street food while soaking up the town's laid-back atmosphere.

Wandering through the colourful stalls, you'll gain insight into Laos' unique cultural heritage and craftsmanship, making this evening the perfect introduction to your time in Luang Prabang.



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



DAY 13: Exploring Luang Prabang – History, Spirituality, and Natural Beauty

Spend the day discovering the captivating charm of **Luang Prabang**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site famed for its harmonious blend of traditional Lao architecture and French colonial influences.

Begin your visit at the **Royal Palace Museum**, once the residence of the Lao monarchy. Explore its beautifully preserved rooms filled with artefacts, royal treasures, and historical exhibits that offer a window into the country's royal past.

Next, step into the spiritual heart of the city at **Wat Xieng Thong**, one of Laos' most ornate and revered Buddhist temples. Admire its intricate mosaics, sweeping rooflines, and stunning craftsmanship that reflect centuries of religious devotion.

Later, venture beyond the town to the breathtaking **Kuang Si Waterfalls**, a series of turquoise cascades surrounded by lush jungle. Take a refreshing swim in the natural pools or simply enjoy the tranquil setting amid pristine nature.

As a special cultural experience, participate in a traditional **Baci Ceremony**, a Lao ritual invoking blessings, good fortune, and harmony. This heartfelt ceremony, often accompanied by music and white thread tying, offers a meaningful connection to local customs and spiritual life.



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



DAY 14: Luang Prabang – Mekong River Journey to the Sacred Pak Ou Caves

Embark on a scenic **boat trip along the Mekong River** to the famous **Pak Ou Caves**, a spiritual landmark perched at the confluence of the Mekong and Nam Ou rivers. These caves house thousands of Buddha statues in various sizes and styles, accumulated over centuries by pilgrims seeking blessings and protection.

On the way, stop at **Ban Xang Hai**, a traditional village renowned for its distinctive Lao whiskey production. Learn about the local distilling process and sample the aromatic rice spirit that's an integral part of Lao culture and celebrations.

For a deeper hands-on cultural experience, consider joining an optional **bamboo weaving or natural dyeing workshop**. These traditional crafts, passed down through generations, highlight the creativity and sustainability embedded in Lao artisan heritage.

This day combines scenic beauty, spiritual exploration, and authentic cultural encounters along the majestic Mekong River.



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



DAY 15: Luang Prabang → Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)

Take a leisurely morning before your **flight from Luang Prabang to Ho Chi Minh City**, Vietnam's vibrant southern capital. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel and unwind after your travel. The rest of the day is free for rest, a casual stroll around your hotel area, or a relaxed Vietnamese dinner. Prepare for a full day of exploration tomorrow in this dynamic city of contrasts.

TRAVEL OPTION PLUS



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me



DAY 16: Discover Ho Chi Minh City – Colonial Charm, War History & Local Life

Spend your final day exploring the cultural and historical highlights of **Ho Chi Minh City**:

- **War Remnants Museum** – A sobering but essential look at the realities of the Vietnam War, told through powerful photography and exhibits.
- **Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica of Saigon** – A striking French-colonial cathedral built in the late 19th century, now a beloved city icon.
- **Saigon Central Post Office** – Step inside this beautifully preserved architectural gem designed by Gustave Eiffel.
- **Ben Thanh Market** – Dive into the city's bustling marketplace for local handicrafts, souvenirs, and street food.
- **Nguyen Hue Walking Street** – Enjoy the energetic atmosphere, colonial architecture, cafés, and evening street performances.

If time allows, consider a stop at the **Reunification Palace** or enjoy a rooftop coffee at one of Saigon's chic cafés with skyline views. In the evening, transfer to the airport for your international departure, bringing your Southeast Asia adventure to a meaningful close.

TOUR ENDS



OR



+91 6304795901 <https://wanderwise.me> Email: contact@wanderwise.me