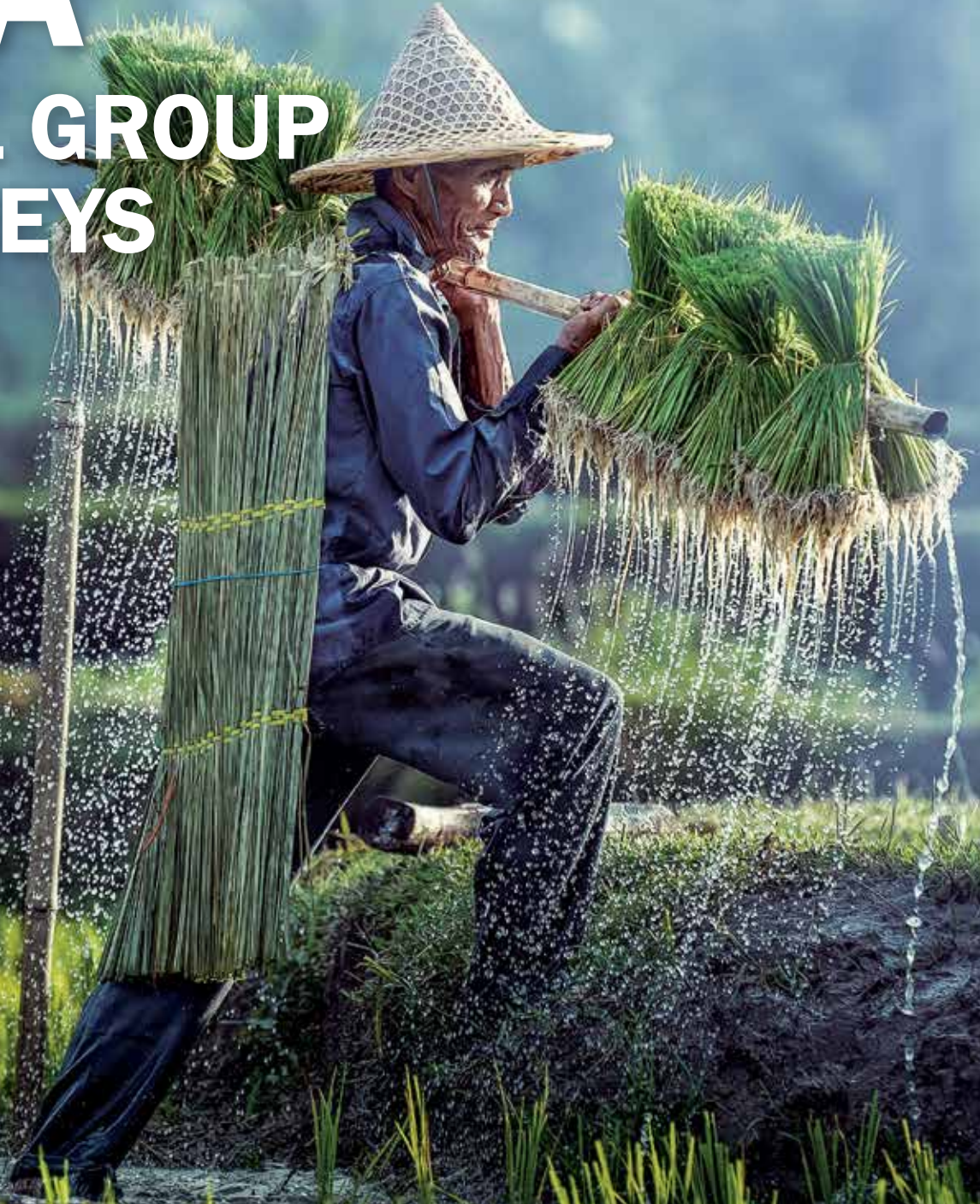


**INSIDER  
JOURNEYS**  
*Imagine the stories*

2019-2020

# ASIA

## SMALL GROUP JOURNEYS



VIETNAM • CAMBODIA • LAOS • CHINA • JAPAN • INDIA • SRI LANKA



Travelling – it leaves you speechless,  
then turns you into a storyteller.

Ibn Battuta







## INSIDER JOURNEYS

**For over 25 years we've been helping travellers like you create unique experiences and stories that will last a lifetime.**

As a passionate traveller, you want to experience the real Asia, from its majestic monuments to the hidden charms of its backstreets. You want to taste authentic cuisine, reach remote villages and enjoy impromptu and meaningful interactions with local people.

When you travel on one of our Small Group Journeys, you'll discover all the must-see attractions, while you weave your way through Asia as an insider. We'll help you uncover genuine experiences and real insights into the places we travel.

Our small groups mean you won't lose spontaneity, flexibility or your sense of independence. Our expert guides take care of everything so you can simply relax and enjoy your holiday. It's this combination that will help you discover the real Asia.

*Imagine the stories...*



See the world. Meet new people. Find yourself.  
Have a story worth telling.

Anonymous







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# The Insider Journeys Experience

We travel small, so you experience more...

Since 1993 we have been developing unique experiences and stories that will create memories to last a lifetime. We take great pride in helping you discover the authenticity of Asia through our range of Small Group Journeys.

## Small Group Size

Our maximum group size of 16 people on all tours, except Japan which is a maximum of 12, means you can be assured of a more personalised holiday experience.

Smaller guest numbers allow you to get to know your fellow travellers and provide more time with your knowledgeable guides. You'll spend less time waiting and never feel rushed.

We don't do 'bus tours', we do Small Group Journeys.

RIGHT: Great Wall of China, China



## Off The Tourist Trail

We want you to have an unforgettable experience and connect you with the heart of Asia. Our tours take you off the tourist trail while ensuring you don't miss any of the must-see places. You will have experiences that a guidebook alone simply cannot offer.

With Insider Journeys, you'll eat like a local, shop like a local and experience the destination like a local.

LEFT: Ranthambore National Park, India



## Independence & Flexibility

We know sometimes you want to explore on your own.

Our small groups offer the perfect balance of organised experiences and flexibility so you won't lose spontaneity. It's for this reason we don't include meals every day so you have the freedom to choose for yourself.

RIGHT: Shanghai, China







## Expert Knowledge

While travelling with us you will experience the expert knowledge of our Tour Leaders.

From cultural and historical insights to the best places to eat and shop, our Tour Leaders are destination insiders.

We've taken the hassle out of tipping by including all tips for our Tour Leaders in the price of your tour.

LEFT: Royal Palace, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

## Bespoke Accommodation

Each quality hotel included in our Small Group Journeys is handpicked for comfort, location and to provide insight into the region.

Where possible we have selected properties with great local colour, charm and culture.

RIGHT: Topas Ecolodge, Vietnam



## A word from our travellers...

*“ It is impossible to choose one highlight as we enjoyed everything so much. This was our fourth tour with Insider Journeys and we will have no hesitation in recommending the company to all our family and friends.*

**ANNE & BRUCE, NEW ZEALAND**

*“ We thought the tour was absolutely amazing. All three of our guides were fabulous. Best of all – apart from the amazing places we went, the things we learnt and the sensational places that we stayed, we absolutely loved our driver!*

**AMANDA, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA**

*“ Our guides in Vietnam were so informative and always willing to help. I noticed that all the guides have worked with the company for over seven years, so they obviously love working for Insider Journeys and this comes across.*

**MARY, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AUSTRALIA**

*“ Sri Lanka was just wonderful and what an awesome time we had. The people were so friendly and helpful plus we stayed in super accommodation. Thank you for your assistance in giving us a wonderful holiday filled with beautiful memories.*

**SUE & IAN, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA**



# The Places We'll Take You

From its sheer beauty to the genuine warmth of its people, Asia has a wonderful way of getting under your skin. With our expert knowledge and experience in Asia, we have created a range of Small Group Journeys to introduce you to seven of our favourite countries. Join us on a journey of discovery, to one of the most captivating places on the planet and find the heart of Asia.

## Vietnam

Home to friendly local people, stunning natural beauty and a thriving food scene, Vietnam is a land of incredible diversity.

The country's colourful past is filled with imperial dynasties and French colonists while its future embraces the boundless energy of modern metropolises and a thriving culture.

RIGHT: Halong Bay



## Cambodia

From the colonial-era architecture of Phnom Penh to the white sand beaches of the south coast, Cambodia is so much more than the magnificent temples of Angkor.

Discover the floating villages of Tonle Sap Lake and venture further afield to the rarely-visited outlying temples.

LEFT: Angkor Wat



## Laos

Spectacular landscapes, sparkling temples and hidden charms, Laos is a slow-paced country where the warmth of its people is felt at every turn.

Follow the Mekong to see life blossoming along the fertile banks, see monks collecting alms at sunrise and sample coffee on the Bolaven Plateau.

RIGHT: Luang Prabang







## China

Ancient history and diverse culture, breathtaking landscapes and vibrant cities – China is as varied as it is vast.

Explore hidden 'hutongs', cruise along the Yangtze, visit the Great Wall of China and count the Army of Terracotta Warriors as the wonders of this extraordinary country are revealed.

LEFT: Temple of Heaven

## Japan

The bright lights of Tokyo, high-speed trains and pop culture sit side by side with tranquil Zen gardens, ancient shrines, delicate cherry blossoms, Geisha and tea ceremonies.

Japan's stark contrasts exist in harmony as the local people remember the past and embrace the future.

RIGHT: Kyoto



## India

The vivid colour of saris, the aromas of spices and the sounds of haggling locals – India will awaken your senses.

The Taj Mahal is sure to amaze yet its hidden treasures will be a surprise. Spot tigers in a national park, see an aarthi ceremony in Varanasi and cruise through the Kerala backwaters.

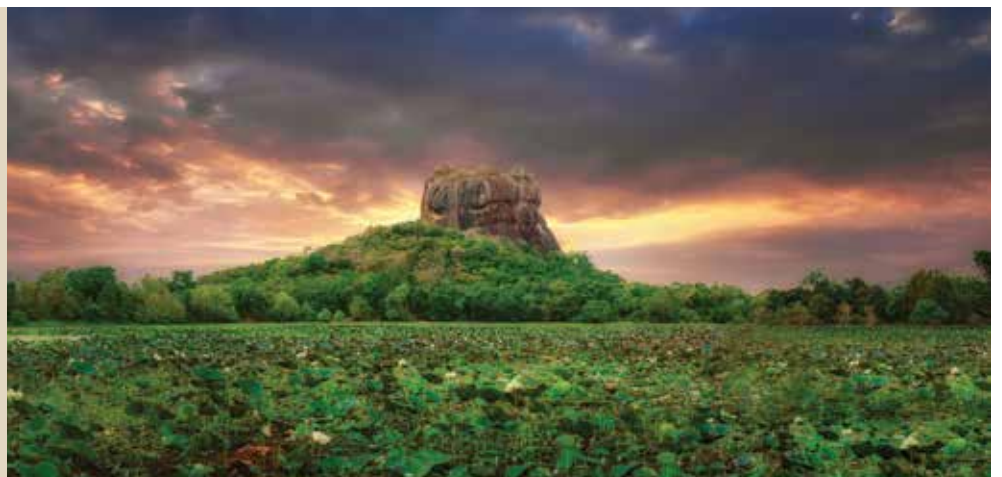
LEFT: Rajasthan

## Sri Lanka

Sublime Sri Lanka is bursting with a rich array of attractions and welcoming people.

Venture beyond its beautiful coast and endless palm-fringed beaches to ancient Buddhist cities, verdant tea-covered hills, colourful temples, wildlife experiences and beautiful tropical scenes.

RIGHT: Sigiriya Rock





# The Places You'll Stay

Where your day begins is just as important as where it ends. With our expert knowledge of each destination, we select accommodation that best suits each itinerary. While comfortable rooms are important, we also ensure the places we stay are in a great location to give you a real insight into the area.

From a beautiful ecolodge nestled in the hills of Sapa in Vietnam to a former Maharaja's place overlooking the rugged Ranthambore National Park in India, the hotels we have chosen in each destination offer great local colour.







Fort Nahargarh, India



Topas Ecolodge, Vietnam



Hakone Pax Yoshino, Japan



La Folie Lodge, Laos



# Explore Your Way

Whether it's understanding how to get from A to B on a bullet train, how to choose the right tour for you or what it means to be a solo traveller, we're here to answer all of your questions. Even if you want to take your own group away or create your own tailor-made itinerary, we're here to help you explore Asia your way.



## Getting Around

Whether it's a tuk-tuk, jeep safari or bullet train, you'll get a local experience when it provides the best sightseeing or transport opportunity. Otherwise, road journeys are in our comfortable air-conditioned vehicles. We keep it small and never use large coaches.

LEFT: Bullet train, Japan

## Trip Grading

We have graded each of our Small Group Journeys so you can select the tour which best suits you. Choose from Easy, Moderate and Active tours.

For a full description of each trip grading refer to page 87.

RIGHT: Sensoji Temple, Tokyo, Japan  
FAR RIGHT: Rajasthan, India



## Solo Travellers

Solo travellers never travel alone on a Small Group Journey. Joining a small group as a single traveller means you get the best of both worlds - time with your group throughout the day before retreating to your own room for the evening, simply by paying the single traveller price.

LEFT: Mekong Delta, Vietnam

## Private Groups

Asia is an ideal destination for private groups of 10 or more.

Choose a Small Group Journey or let us design the perfect itinerary for your group's needs. We offer advice at all times so you have peace of mind that we are here to support your group.

RIGHT: Hoi An, Vietnam



## Tailor-made

Use our Small Group Journey itineraries as inspiration to create your ideal holiday.

Ask us about a tailor-made itinerary where you take control of your experience and create a holiday to match your needs.

The choice is yours!



# Your Loyalty Rewards

## Past Traveller Discount

We value your loyalty, so if you've travelled on one of our Small Group Journeys since 2006 we will provide you with a 5% discount on the price of your next tour.

## Earlybird Discount

Let us reward you for booking early. Simply book a Small Group Journey and pay in full more than six months before departure and receive a 5% discount off the price of your tour.

## Group Discount

If you have a group of friends or family wanting to visit Asia, we offer a 5% discount when five or more passengers book together on any Small Group Journey departure.

See page 86 for Loyalty Reward terms and conditions.



Taj Mahal, India



# Vietnam

---

Take an unforgettable journey through Vietnam as you traverse a land of wonderful diversity. From the bright lights of Saigon and the lush Mekong Delta, through the charming riverside towns of Hue and Hoi An to the bustling streets of Hanoi and the beautiful waters of Halong Bay, Vietnam is a land of beauty, authentic culture and delicious cuisine.



Halong Bay



## Our Insider Experiences

We're passionate about connecting you with an authentic experience in Vietnam. As destination insiders, our Tour Leaders will introduce you to unforgettable moments so you come home with amazing stories to tell.



### Taste

From a backstreet food tour of Hanoi to feasting on fresh seafood as you cruise throughout Halong Bay, eating your way through Vietnam is a delicious way to experience the country.



### Local

Gain a fascinating insight into the Vietnamese culture as you share a meal with a local family in Hue or visit colourful minority communities in the beautiful mountains surrounding Sapa.



### Unique

Unique experiences are at every turn. Create a souvenir from recycled materials at the Spiral Foundation, take a picturesque coastal train journey or travel by speedboat to the Mekong Delta.

## When To Go

Vietnam can be comfortably visited throughout the year. With a tropical climate, Vietnam experiences two seasons – 'dry' and 'green'. From November to April temperatures in the north, particularly in Sapa, can drop below zero while the south is warm and sunny. Between May and October days are warm and humid with afternoon showers creating lush landscapes with fewer travellers.

Average min/max temperature (°C)

	MAR-MAY	JUN-AUG	SEP-NOV	DEC-FEB
HANOI	22°/28°	26°/33°	22°/29°	14°/22°
HOI AN	24°/30°	26°/34°	24°/29°	20°/25°
SAIGON	25°/33°	25°/32°	24°/32°	23°/32°





# Highlights of Vietnam

10 DAYS FROM **\$2,349** PER PERSON\*



Halong Bay

## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- Explore Hanoi's bustling streets and markets while sampling delicious snacks. Try 'che' a sweet tea, a traditional Vietnamese pancake, shrimp cake and local beer alongside the locals for a wonderful insight into life in Hanoi.
- Meet inspiring young adults with disabilities at the Spiral Foundation in Hue, where they will help you create a souvenir from recycled materials.
- Enjoy a cocktail at Saigon Saigon Bar and watch the sun set from the rooftop of an historic Saigon landmark, the Caravelle Hotel.
- Cruise the waters of Halong Bay on a traditional junk boat. Take in the stunning scenery and feast on fresh local seafood.







Mekong Delta

### DAY 1 Saigon

On arrival in Saigon, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your tour briefing. Stay the next three nights at Grand Hotel Saigon (or similar).

### DAY 2 Saigon – Cu Chi Tunnels

Drive from Saigon to Cu Chi and discover the incredible network of underground tunnels. On returning to Saigon, enjoy a bowl of Pho noodle soup at a traditional Vietnamese restaurant then visit the city's most impressive sites on a walking tour. Lined with French-colonial buildings, wander along Dong Khoi Street, see the Notre Dame Cathedral and Ho Chi Minh Square before visiting the War Remnants Museum. As the sun sets over Saigon, relax with a drink at the iconic rooftop bar, Saigon Saigon, the perfect end to the day. **(BL)**

### DAY 3 Saigon – Mekong Delta

From Saigon, drive south to the Mekong Delta and spend the day exploring the palm-fringed canals and tributaries of the Mekong in a private boat. Gain an insight into the main local industries of the area as you visit a traditional brick factory and meet a family of weavers. Enjoy a delicious lunch featuring fresh local ingredients. On the return drive to Saigon, stop at Cao Dai temple. **(BL)**

### DAY 4 Saigon to Hue

Fly from Saigon to the former imperial capital of Hue. See the city's most famous sites including Emperor Tu Duc's tomb, the Imperial Palace and the Citadel. Visit Spiral Foundation, a unique enterprise which was established in 2001 to employ people with disabilities. With the help of the local people, enjoy making a souvenir from recycled materials as you learn about their lives. Overnight at Hotel Saigon Morin (or similar). **(B)**

### DAY 5 Hue to Hoi An

Drive along Hai Van Pass from Hue to Hoi An and soak in some of Vietnam's most stunning scenery and views. On arrival in the charming riverside town of Hoi An, embark on a walking tour to discover the mix of Chinese, Japanese and French influenced architecture. Visit a traditional ancient house, a Chinese Assembly Hall and the Japanese Covered Bridge. Stay the next two nights at Hoi An Historic Hotel (or similar). **(B)**

### DAY 6 Hoi An

Enjoy a free day to do as much or as little as you like in Hoi An. Choose to explore the old town, have a tailor create a new wardrobe or cycle to An Bang Beach. From street carts to French-style cafés and riverfront seafood restaurants, enjoy dining at a range of eateries. **(B)**

### DAY 7 Hoi An to Halong Bay

Drive a short distance to Danang before flying to Haiphong and driving on to Halong Bay. Dotted with 3,000 limestone karsts, Halong Bay is one of Vietnam's stunning natural wonders. Board a beautifully appointed junk boat and begin to cruise the waters of impressive Halong Bay. Feast on fresh seafood before stopping to explore an enormous grotto. In the evening, retreat to your private cabin, or relax on the deck or at the bar. Overnight onboard Indochina Sails (or similar). **(BLD)**

### DAY 8 Halong Bay to Hanoi

Greet the day with a sunrise Tai Chi lesson on the sundeck. Spend time exploring one of the islands and climb to the peak for 360 degree views of Halong Bay. After brunch on board, disembark and drive to Hanoi, the nation's capital. In the afternoon, discover the narrow backstreets of Hanoi's Old Quarter to sample delicious local snacks including a Vietnamese pancake, shrimp cake, the sweet tea drink known as 'che' and drink beer local-style at a 'Bia Hoi' establishment. Venturing into the Old Quarter offers a fascinating insight into the local way of life. Stay the next two nights at Silk Path Hotel (or similar). **(R)**

### DAY 9 Hanoi

Discover Hanoi's sites on a city tour. Visit the infamous Hanoi Hilton prison, walk through the Old Quarter and see the tranquil Temple of Literature. In the Ho Chi Minh Quarter, visit the Presidential Palace, One Pillar Pagoda and House on Stilts. This evening, enjoy a farewell group dinner to celebrate your time in Vietnam. **(BD)**

### DAY 10 Hanoi

Enjoy breakfast before transferring to the airport for your onward journey. **(B)**

## TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- 8 nights hotel accommodation
- 1 night cruise accommodation onboard Indochina Sails
- All flights as specified in the itinerary
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles
- Mekong Delta cruise
- Entrance fees
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- Return group transfers from airport to accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, R = brunch, L = lunch, D = dinner)

PRICE PER PERSON*				
2019		TWIN	SINGLE	
JAN	12	G	\$2369	\$3199
	19		\$2369	\$3199
	26	G	\$2369	\$3199
FEB	09	G	\$2369	\$3199
	16		\$2369	\$3199
	23	G	\$2369	\$3199
MAR	02		\$2369	\$3199
	09	G	\$2369	\$3199
	16	G	\$2369	\$3199
	23	G	\$2369	\$3199
APR	06		\$2349	\$3159
	13	G	\$2349	\$3159
	27	G	\$2349	\$3159
MAY	11	G	\$2349	\$3159
	25	G	\$2349	\$3159
JUN	08		\$2349	\$3159
	22	G	\$2349	\$3159
JUL	13		\$2349	\$3159
	27	G	\$2349	\$3159
AUG	10	G	\$2349	\$3159
	24	G	\$2349	\$3159
SEP	14	G	\$2349	\$3159
	21		\$2349	\$3159
	28	G	\$2349	\$3159
OCT	12	G	\$2369	\$3199
	19	G	\$2369	\$3199
	26		\$2369	\$3199
NOV	09	G	\$2369	\$3199
	16	G	\$2369	\$3199
	23		\$2369	\$3199
DEC	07	G	\$2369	\$3199
	21		\$2369	\$3199
	28	G	\$2369	\$3199
2020		TWIN	SINGLE	
JAN	11		\$2599	\$3529
	18		\$2599	\$3529
	25		\$2599	\$3529
FEB	08		\$2599	\$3529
	15		\$2599	\$3529
	22		\$2599	\$3529
	29		\$2599	\$3529
MAR	07		\$2599	\$3529
	14		\$2599	\$3529
	21		\$2599	\$3529
	28		\$2599	\$3529

**G** = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: HOVC

**TRIP GRADING: EASY**  
(See page 87 for details)

**EXPERIENCE MORE**

This tour can be combined with  
Sapa Explorer on page 22.



# Vietnam Insight

11 DAYS FROM **\$2,499** PER PERSON\*



## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- Gain a fascinating insight into local life as you explore Hanoi's bustling streets. Sample local beer at a 'Bia Hoi' establishment, taste the sweet tea drink 'che' and try a traditional Vietnamese pancake.
- Enjoy a picturesque coastal train ride between Hue and Danang – a spectacular journey which winds across the rugged cliffs overlooking the ocean.
- Join the disadvantaged youth receiving training at Streets Café for a memorable market visit.
- Explore the fascinating tributaries of the Mekong Delta on a speedboat tour, something few travellers get to experience.
- Enjoy sundowner drinks while watching the sunset from the rooftop of the Caravelle Hotel at the Saigon Saigon Bar – one of Saigon's historic landmarks.







City Hall, Saigon

### DAY 1 Hanoi

On arrival in Hanoi, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your tour briefing. Overnight at Tirant Hotel (or similar).

### DAY 2 Hanoi to Halong Bay

Drive past scenes of traditional rural life as you travel from Hanoi to Halong City, the gateway to Halong Bay. On arrival, board a well-appointed junk boat and begin cruising among some of the 3,000 islands which rise from the sea. Enjoy a delicious seafood lunch before stopping to explore an enormous grotto. In the evening, retreat to your private cabin, or relax on the main deck or at the bar. Overnight onboard Indochina Sails (or similar). **(BLD)**

### DAY 3 Halong Bay to Hanoi

Take part in a sunrise Tai Chi lesson on the sundeck then climb to the summit of an island for 360 degree views of Halong Bay. After brunch on board, disembark and drive to Hanoi. In the afternoon, wander through the backstreets of Hanoi's bustling Old Quarter and sample delicious local snacks including a Vietnamese pancake, sweet tea 'che', shrimp cake and drink beer local-style at a 'Bia Hoi' establishment. Stay the next two nights at Tirant Hotel (or similar). **(R)**

### DAY 4 Hanoi

On a city tour, discover Hanoi's must-visit sites including the infamous Hanoi Hilton prison. Walk through the crowded streets of the Old Quarter and visit the Temple of Literature. In the afternoon, explore the Presidential Palace, One Pillar Pagoda and House on Stilts in the Ho Chi Minh Quarter. **(B)**

### DAY 5 Hanoi to Hue

Fly to the former imperial capital of Hue, situated on the banks of the Perfume River. Visit the city's sites including Emperor Tu Duc's elaborate tomb, Imperial Palace, Citadel and Thien Mu Pagoda – Hue's oldest and most revered religious monument. Overnight at Moonlight Hotel (or similar). **(B)**

### DAY 6 Hue to Hoi An

Travel by train like the locals do from Hue to Danang on the Reunification Express and take in some of Vietnam's most stunning coast

and mountain scenery. From Danang, drive a short distance to Hoi An. Meet the students from Streets Café, an organisation which was established to help disadvantaged youth gain skills in the hospitality industry. Join the students on a special food-focussed walking tour while helping them practise their English-speaking skills. In the afternoon, visit some of Hoi An's main sites including the Japanese Covered Bridge on a walking tour. Stay the next two nights at Hoi An Garden Palace (or similar). **(B)**

### DAY 7 Hoi An

Spend a free day exploring Hoi An independently. Wander through the old town, have a tailor create a new wardrobe or cycle to An Bang Beach. **(B)**

### DAY 8 Hoi An to Saigon

Enjoy more free time in Hoi An before driving to Danang and flying to Saigon, Vietnam's commercial capital. Relax with a drink at the iconic rooftop bar, Saigon Saigon, the perfect end to the day as the sun sets over the city. Stay the next three nights at Grand Hotel Saigon (or similar). **(B)**

### DAY 9 Saigon – Cu Chi Tunnels

From Saigon, drive to the Cu Chi tunnels and discover the network of underground tunnels while learning about their role in the Vietnam War. On returning to Saigon, enjoy a bowl of traditional Pho at a local restaurant for lunch then explore the city centre on a walking tour. Wander along Dong Khoi Street which is lined with French-colonial buildings, see the Notre Dame Cathedral and Ho Chi Minh Square before visiting the War Remnants Museum. **(BL)**

### DAY 10 Saigon – Mekong Delta

Board a speedboat for a scenic trip from Saigon to the Mekong Delta. Travelling this way allows you to explore areas of the Mekong that few travellers get to experience. Spend time exploring the palm-fringed canals and tributaries, and visit some local temples and markets. Enjoy a delicious traditional lunch made using fresh local ingredients. Return to Saigon and join your group for a farewell dinner. **(BLD)**

### DAY 11 Saigon

Enjoy breakfast before transferring to the airport for your onward journey. **(B)**

## TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- 9 nights hotel accommodation
- 1 night cruise accommodation onboard Indochina Sails
- All flights as specified in the itinerary
- Train from Hue to Danang
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles
- Mekong Delta cruise
- Entrance fees
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- Return group transfers from airport to accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, R = brunch, L = lunch, D = dinner)

## PRICE PER PERSON\*

2019			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	05	G	\$2499	\$3289
	19		\$2499	\$3289
	26	G	\$2499	\$3289
FEB	16	G	\$2499	\$3289
	23		\$2499	\$3289
MAR	09	G	\$2499	\$3289
	16	G	\$2499	\$3289
	23		\$2499	\$3289
APR	30	G	\$2499	\$3289
	13	G	\$2499	\$3289
	27	G	\$2499	\$3289
MAY	25	G	\$2499	\$3289
JUN	29		\$2499	\$3289
JUL	13	G	\$2499	\$3289
	10	G	\$2499	\$3289
AUG	31		\$2499	\$3289
	14	G	\$2499	\$3289
SEP	28	G	\$2499	\$3289
	05	G	\$2499	\$3289
OCT	26	G	\$2499	\$3289
	02		\$2499	\$3289
NOV	23	G	\$2499	\$3289
	07		\$2499	\$3289
DEC	21	G	\$2499	\$3289
	2020			TWIN
JAN	11		\$2759	\$3619
	25		\$2759	\$3619
FEB	15		\$2759	\$3619
	22		\$2759	\$3619
	29		\$2759	\$3619
MAR	14		\$2759	\$3619
	21		\$2759	\$3619

G = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: VINC

**TRIP GRADING: EASY**  
(See page 87 for details)



Hanoi

**EXPERIENCE MORE**  
This tour can be combined with  
Sapa Explorer on page 22.



# Vietnam Discovery

17 DAYS FROM **\$3,599** PER PERSON\*



Hue

## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- Take an unforgettable boat journey through Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park to see some of the country's most stunning cave formations.
- Experience life as a local in a small village near Hue. Spend time with a local family as their dinner guest and sample a range of regional specialties.
- Meet the inspiring young adults with disabilities at the Spiral Foundation in Hue and spend time with them as they help you create a souvenir from recycled materials.
- Travel by train from Dalat to Trai Mai Hamlet and take in the beautiful highland scenery.
- Enjoy an overnight cruise on the Mekong Delta and experience the vibrant scenes and rural villages of Vietnam's 'rice bowl'.







Paradise Cave, Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park

### DAY 1 Saigon

On arrival in Saigon, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your tour briefing. Stay the next two nights at Grand Hotel Saigon (or similar).

### DAY 2 Saigon – Cu Chi Tunnels

Drive to Cu Chi to discover the underground tunnels. Return to Saigon and enjoy a bowl of Pho noodle soup at a traditional restaurant. In the afternoon, take a walking tour along Dong Khoi Street, see the Notre Dame Cathedral and visit the War Remnants Museum. As the sun sets, relax with sundowner drinks at the iconic rooftop bar, Saigon Saigon. **(BL)**

### DAY 3 Saigon to Mekong Delta

From Saigon, travel south to the Mekong Delta and board your overnight cruise boat, Mekong Eyes. On a walking tour through a rural village, gain a glimpse into local life before returning to the boat for sunset and dinner. Overnight onboard Mekong Eyes (or similar). **(BLD)**

### DAY 4 Mekong Delta to Saigon

Continue exploring the tributaries of the Mekong Delta. Marvel at the vibrant scenes of an authentic floating market before returning to Saigon. Overnight at Grand Hotel Saigon (or similar). **(B)**

### DAY 5 Saigon to Dalat

An early flight takes you to Dalat, a former French hill station. Enjoy beautiful mountain scenery on the drive to a Zen monastery which features a delightful garden. Take a train ride on a restored French train before ending the day exploring the central market. Overnight at Saigon Dalat Hotel (or similar). **(B)**

### DAY 6 Dalat to Hoi An

Fly from Dalat to Danang, then drive to Hoi An. The evening is free for you to explore Hoi An or you may wish to take part in an optional cooking class (extra charge). Stay the next three nights at Hoi An Historic Hotel (or similar). **(B)**

### DAYS 7-8 Hoi An

Explore the old town on a morning walking tour. Visit a traditional ancient house, a Chinese Assembly Hall and the Japanese Covered Bridge. Spend the remainder of the day at leisure. The next day, enjoy a full free day to do as much or as little as you like in Hoi An. **(2B)**

### DAY 9 Hoi An to Hue

Enjoy more free time in Hoi An before travelling along Hai Van Pass to Hue. Drive to a nearby village and spend the evening sampling regional dishes within a family home. Stay the next two nights at Hotel Saigon Morin (or similar). **(BD)**

### DAY 10 Hue

Embark on a tour of some of Hue's most famous sites. Visit Spiral Foundation which employs people with disabilities and enjoy making a souvenir. **(B)**

### DAY 11 Hue to Phong Nha

Drive to Hue across the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) at River Hai. Continue to Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park and cruise through some of Asia's oldest limestone karst mountains. Stay the next two nights at Chay Lap Farmstay (or similar). **(B)**

### DAY 12 Phong Nha

Enjoy a free day exploring the national park at your leisure. Kayak among the limestone karsts or explore the cave system of Paradise Cave. **(B)**

### DAY 13 Phong Nha to Hanoi

Travel from Phong Nha to Dong Hai before flying to Hanoi. In the afternoon, visit a market and sample delicious local snacks in the Old Quarter. Stay the next two nights at Tirant Hotel (or similar). **(B)**

### DAY 14 Hanoi

On a city tour, visit the Hanoi Hilton prison, walk through the Old Quarter and stop at the Temple of Literature. Visit the Presidential Palace, One Pillar Pagoda and House on Stilts. **(B)**

### DAY 15 Hanoi to Halong Bay

Drive to Halong Bay and board your junk boat. Feast on fresh seafood before exploring an enormous grotto. Overnight onboard Indochina Sails (or similar). **(BLD)**

### DAY 16 Halong Bay to Hanoi

Rise early to make the most of Halong Bay. Enjoy brunch before returning to Hanoi. This evening, relax with a farewell group dinner. Overnight at Tirant Hotel (or similar). **(RD)**

### DAY 17 Hanoi

Enjoy breakfast before transferring to the airport for your onward journey. **(B)**

### TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- 14 nights hotel accommodation
- 1 night cruise accommodation onboard Mekong Eyes
- 1 night cruise accommodation onboard Indochina Sails
- All flights as specified in the itinerary
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles
- Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park cruise
- Entrance fees
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- Return group transfers from airport to accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, R = brunch, L = lunch, D = dinner)

### PRICE PER PERSON\*

2019		G	TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	20	G	\$3659	\$4939
FEB	17	G	\$3659	\$4939
MAR	10	G	\$3659	\$4939
	24	G	\$3659	\$4939
APR	07	G	\$3599	\$4869
MAY	05	G	\$3599	\$4869
JUN	23	G	\$3599	\$4869
JUL	14	G	\$3599	\$4869
AUG	04	G	\$3599	\$4869
SEP	08	G	\$3599	\$4869
OCT	06	G	\$3659	\$4939
NOV	03	G	\$3659	\$4939
DEC	01		\$3659	\$4939
2020			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	12		\$4019	\$5439
FEB	02		\$4019	\$5439
MAR	08		\$4019	\$5439
	22		\$4019	\$5439

**G** = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: VDIC

**TRIP GRADING: MODERATE**  
(See page 87 for details)



Saigon

**EXPERIENCE MORE**  
This tour can be combined with  
Sapa Explorer on page 22.



# Sapa Explorer

5 DAYS FROM **\$1,019** PER PERSON\*



Sapa region

## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- 📍 Perched on a mountain's edge, stay at the charming Topas Ecolodge, recently acknowledged by National Geographic as a 'unique lodge', and help support Sapa's hilltribe communities and the environment.
- 📍 Delve deeper into the lives of the Red Dzaio people, one of Vietnam's most fascinating minority groups.
- 📍 Take a memorable walk through the Black H'mong villages of Hau Thao and Saseng to gain insights into this mountain-dwelling community.
- 📍 Enjoy sundowner drinks overlooking the Muong Hoa Valley and the beautiful Sapa highlands with your fellow travellers.







Topas Ecolodge

### DAY 1 Hanoi

On arrival in Hanoi, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your tour briefing. Overnight at Tirant Hotel (or similar).

### DAY 2 Hanoi to Sapa

Learn about Vietnam's 53 ethnic minority groups at the interactive Ethnology Museum before beginning the five hour drive to Sapa. Along the way, take in the spectacular mountain scenery. Located in the far northwest of Vietnam in the mountains bordering China, Sapa is home to deep mountain valleys and traditional villages. On arrival, enjoy sundowner drinks with your fellow travellers overlooking the spectacular Sapa valley. Stay the next two nights at Sapa Highland Resort (or similar). **(B)**

### DAY 3 Sapa

On a guided tour of Sapa town, visit the local market to gain your first glimpses of the colourfully dressed minority groups. Embark on a trek to Ta Van Hoa Valley, admiring the beautifully terraced rice paddy fields and stunning vistas. Arriving from China about 300 years ago, the Black H'mong community is famous for making hemp fabric with intricate batiks. Spend time meeting the Black H'mong people of the Hau Thao and Saseng villages as you observe daily life. **(B)**



Red Dzao

### DAY 4 Sapa

Situated in a picturesque area of the Sapa region, visit one of the area's most colourful minority communities, the Red Dzao at Lech Village. The Red Dzao women wear bright red turbans, shave their heads and eyebrows, and are known for their knowledge of local medicines and embroidery skills. Continue to the unique Topas Ecolodge, perched over the surrounding valley and built using sustainable principles, in collaboration with the Red Dzao. Its environmentally-friendly features include solar power, waste water treatment and a natural water source from the nearby mountains. The property has been recognised by National Geographic as a 'unique lodge'. Enjoy an afternoon walking tour as you take in the magnificent views of the surrounding mountains. In the evening, relax with a farewell group dinner to celebrate your time in Sapa. Overnight at Topas Ecolodge (or similar). **(BD)**

### DAY 5 Sapa to Hanoi

After breakfast, enjoy free time until the return drive back to Hanoi. On arrival in Hanoi, either transfer to Hanoi Airport for your onward flight or to your city hotel. **(B)**



Sapa

## TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- 4 nights hotel accommodation
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles
- Entrance fees
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- Return group transfers from airport to accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, D = dinner)

### PRICE PER PERSON\*

2019			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	01	G	\$1019	\$1429
	08		\$1019	\$1429
FEB	05	G	\$1019	\$1429
	19		\$1019	\$1429
MAR	05	G	\$1019	\$1429
	19		\$1019	\$1429
MAY	07		\$1019	\$1429
	21	G	\$1019	\$1429
JUL	30	G	\$1019	\$1429
AUG	20	G	\$1019	\$1429
OCT	01		\$1019	\$1429
	22	G	\$1019	\$1429
NOV	19	G	\$1019	\$1429
DEC	17	G	\$1019	\$1429
2020			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	28		\$1119	\$1579
FEB	18		\$1119	\$1579
MAR	24		\$1119	\$1579

**G** = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: SEPC

**TRIP GRADING: MODERATE TO ACTIVE**  
(See page 87 for details)



### EXPERIENCE MORE

This tour can be combined with [Highlights of Vietnam](#) on page 16, [Vietnam Insight](#) on page 18 and [Vietnam Discovery](#) on page 20.



# Cambodia

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Best known for the awe-inspiring temples of Angkor, Cambodia is also home to the fishing communities of Tonle Sap Lake, bustling streets of Phnom Penh and the laidback ambience of the beautiful south coast. Be welcomed by smiling locals and enjoy fragrant culinary delights as you explore this fascinating country.



Ta Prohm



## Our Insider Experiences

We're passionate about connecting you with an authentic experience in Cambodia. As destination insiders, our Tour Leaders will introduce you to unforgettable moments so you come home with amazing stories to tell.



### Taste

Enjoy the delicious flavours of Cambodian cuisine. Kampot pepper crab combines the best of the south – pepper and seafood – while a traditional Khmer breakfast offers a taste of local life.



### Local

Experience Cambodia like a local as you take a cyclo ride around the streets of Phnom Penh, stay with a local family in Takeo or learn about life in rural Cambodia at a palm sugar village.



### Unique

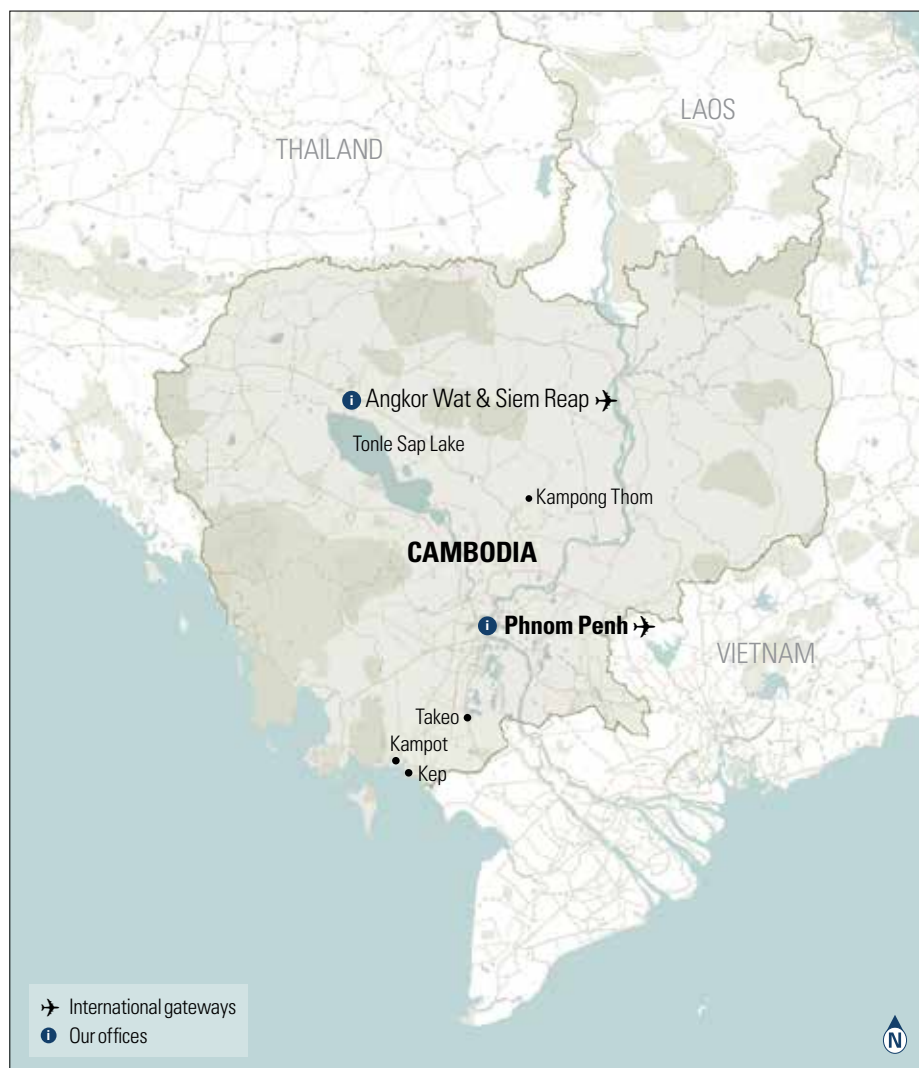
Gain a unique view of Cambodia. Escape the crowds and explore the grounds of Angkor Wat by torchlight or venture to Cambodia's south coast on a historical train route from Phnom Penh.

## When To Go

Influenced by two seasons – 'dry' and 'green', Cambodia offers different experiences throughout the year. November to February brings cooler temperatures with little rain. From May to early October, it generally rains for a short time in the late afternoon and early morning, temple moats are full, the scenery is lush and green, and there are fewer visitors.

Average min/max temperature (°C)

	MAR-MAY	JUN-AUG	SEP-NOV	DEC-FEB
PHNOM PENH	25°/34°	25°/33°	23°/25°	23°/31°
SIEM REAP	25°/33°	26°/32°	25°/31°	22°/31°
KAMPOT	26°/31°	26°/29°	26°/30°	24°/30°





# Temples of Angkor

5 DAYS FROM **\$1,059** PER PERSON\*



Angkor Wat

## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- 📍 Before dawn, travel by tuk-tuk to Angkor Wat's seldom-used East Gate and escape the crowds. Explore the grounds by torchlight before watching the sun rise over Angkor Wat's famous spires.
- 📍 Journey through the Cambodian countryside before entering the Angkor Thom complex via the rarely used West Gate and gain your first view of the many faces of Bayon temple.
- 📍 Enjoy a drink at the iconic Foreign Correspondent Club in Phnom Penh as the sun sets.
- 📍 Glide through the fascinating streets of Phnom Penh on a traditional cyclo.







Temples of Angkor

**DAY 1 Phnom Penh**

On arrival in Phnom Penh, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your tour briefing. Stay the next two nights at Sunway Hotel (or similar).

**DAY 2 Phnom Penh**

Discover Phnom Penh's main attractions during a city tour. Begin your day with a fun cyclo ride through the backstreets of the city, an exciting experience. Located within an Art Deco style building, spend time exploring the Central Market which has everything from clothing and household items to food and jewellery for sale. Learn about Cambodia's chilling history at Tuol Sleng Museum and the Killing Fields memorial at Choeng Ek before returning to town. In the afternoon, see the beautiful architecture of the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda. Known to be a meeting place for travellers across the world, enjoy sunset drinks at the iconic Foreign Correspondent Club as you get to know your group. **(B)**

**DAY 3 Phnom Penh to Siem Reap**

Fly from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap. Drive to Tonle Sap Lake, the largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia and main provider of fish for the country. Explore the lake by boat and gain a fascinating insight into the lives of the fishing



communities that call the lake home. Cruise past floating villages with schools, restaurants and even a hospital. Return to Siem Reap for the afternoon and spend time exploring independently. Stay the next two nights at Somadevi Angkor Hotel & Spa (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 4 Siem Reap – Temples of Angkor**

Rise early and travel by tuk-tuk to Angkor Wat's seldom-used East Gate entrance. Marvel at the silhouetted central spires and explore the temple grounds away from the crowds. After a memorable sunrise over Angkor Wat, enjoy a local Khmer breakfast before travelling to the little-visited West Gate of the Angkor Thom complex. Spend time at Bayon temple, famous for its stone head sculptures and see the Terraces of the Elephant and Leper King. Return to town for free time before exploring Banteay Srei temple and its intricate pink sandstone carvings in the afternoon. Visit a palm sugar village and continue to jungle-covered Ta Prohm temple, with encroaching tree roots which are reclaiming many parts of this ancient monastery. This evening, enjoy a farewell group dinner. **(BD)**

**DAY 5 Siem Reap**

Enjoy breakfast before transferring to the airport for your onward journey. **(B)**



Tonle Sap Lake

**EXPERIENCE MORE**  
This tour can be combined with **Highlights of Vietnam on page 16** or **Vietnam Insight on page 18**.

**TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:**

- 4 nights hotel accommodation
- All flights as specified in the itinerary
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles (except cyclo and tuk-tuk touring)
- Tonle Sap Lake cruise
- Entrance fees
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- Return group transfers from airport to accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, D = dinner)

**PRICE PER PERSON\***

2019			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	08	G	\$1099	\$1399
	15	G	\$1099	\$1399
	22	G	\$1099	\$1399
	29		\$1099	\$1399
FEB	05	G	\$1099	\$1399
	12		\$1099	\$1399
	19	G	\$1099	\$1399
	26	G	\$1099	\$1399
MAR	05	G	\$1099	\$1399
	12	G	\$1099	\$1399
	19	G	\$1099	\$1399
	26	G	\$1099	\$1399
APR	02		\$1059	\$1299
	09	G	\$1059	\$1299
	23	G	\$1059	\$1299
MAY	07	G	\$1059	\$1299
	21	G	\$1059	\$1299
JUN	04	G	\$1059	\$1299
	18	G	\$1059	\$1299
JUL	09		\$1059	\$1299
	23	G	\$1059	\$1299
AUG	06	G	\$1059	\$1299
	20	G	\$1059	\$1299
SEP	10	G	\$1059	\$1299
	17		\$1059	\$1299
	24	G	\$1059	\$1299
OCT	08	G	\$1099	\$1399
	15	G	\$1099	\$1399
	22		\$1099	\$1399
NOV	05	G	\$1099	\$1399
	12	G	\$1099	\$1399
	19		\$1099	\$1399
DEC	03	G	\$1099	\$1399
	17		\$1099	\$1399
	24	G	\$1099	\$1399
2020			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	07		\$1209	\$1539
	14		\$1209	\$1539
	21		\$1209	\$1539
	28		\$1209	\$1539
FEB	04		\$1209	\$1539
	11		\$1209	\$1539
	18		\$1209	\$1539
	25		\$1209	\$1539
MAR	03		\$1209	\$1539
	10		\$1209	\$1539
	17		\$1209	\$1539
	24		\$1209	\$1539

**G** = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: TOAC

**TRIP GRADING: EASY**  
(See page 87 for details)

\*Prices are per person twin share based on low season and will vary depending on date of travel, unless otherwise stated. Pricing does not include the airfare from New Zealand. Please contact us for an air-inclusive quote. Refer to our booking conditions for full pricing and payment information. For more information visit [insiderjourneys.co.nz](http://insiderjourneys.co.nz) or see your travel agent.



# Cambodia Experience

11 DAYS FROM **\$2,289** PER PERSON\*



Kep

## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- 📍 Venture along an historical train route which connects Phnom Penh to the old French port town of Kampot on Cambodia's south coast.
- 📍 Take a short boat ride from Kep to Rabbit Island and relax on the laidback shores of the island.
- 📍 Get to know a local family with a unique home-stay experience in Takeo. Share a home-cooked meal and learn about the English-speaking classes they run for the local children.
- 📍 Travel through the Cambodian countryside to the lesser known temple of Boeng Mealea which has been overgrown by the encroaching jungle.
- 📍 Enjoy a local Khmer breakfast after seeing the sun rise over the iconic spires of Angkor Wat.







Bayon

### DAY 1 Phnom Penh

On arrival in Phnom Penh, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your tour briefing. Stay the next two nights at Frangipani Royal Palace Hotel (or similar).

### DAY 2 Phnom Penh

Spend the day exploring Phnom Penh's main attractions. Take a fun cyclo ride through the backstreets of the city before wandering through the Central Market which has everything from household items to jewellery for sale. Learn about Cambodia's turbulent history with a visit to Tuol Sleng Museum and the Killing Fields memorial at Choeng Ek. In the afternoon, explore the beautiful grounds of the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda. Get to know your group over a sunset drink at Phnom Penh's iconic Foreign Correspondent Club, known to be a meeting place for travellers across the world. (B)

### DAY 3 Phnom Penh to Kampot

Travel by train along an historical train route from Phnom Penh to the old French port town of Kampot on Cambodia's south coast. In Kampot, cruise on Preaek Tuek Chhu River and visit local fishing villages inhabited by the local Cham Muslim population. Overnight at Columns Hotel (or similar). (B)

### DAY 4 Kampot to Kep

Drive from Kampot to the seaside town of Kep and visit an ancient temple hidden within the caves at Phnom Chhnork. Renowned for its salt and Kampot pepper, stop to learn about the production of one of Cambodia's most valuable exports before continuing to Kep. Stay the next two nights at The Beach House (or similar). (B)

### DAY 5 Kep

Popular with the French elite in the early 1900s, Kep is home to many abandoned French villas which were later destroyed by the Khmer Rouge. Drive past the ruined villas and uncover the busy crab market which specialises in the region's most popular dish, Kampot pepper crab. Spend the rest of the day relaxing on Rabbit Island, a rustic, rural island just a short boat trip from Kep. Return to the mainland for the evening. (B)

### DAY 6 Kep to Takeo

Travel north to Takeo and enjoy an exhilarating speedboat ride along a narrow canal. Visit Phnom Da, a striking hilltop temple dating back to the 8th century. Stay at a home-stay in Takeo which helps support the local community through education initiatives. Share a home-cooked meal and learn about the English-speaking classes they run for the local children. Overnight at a home-stay (or similar). (BD)

### DAY 7 Takeo to Kampong Thom

Drive through picturesque rural Cambodia to Santuk Silk Farm. Learn about the traditional techniques of silk production, from collecting the silk from the worms to the dyeing and weaving process. Enjoy a delicious home-cooked lunch before continuing the drive to Kampong Thom. Spend the rest of the day at leisure. Overnight at Sambor Village Hotel (or similar). (BL)

### DAY 8 Kampong Thom to Siem Reap

Continue your journey from Kampong Thom to Siem Reap, stop at Kampong Kdei to walk across a Naga Bridge. Take a boat trip on Tonle Sap Lake and visit a floating village to see daily life before arriving in Siem Reap. Stay the next three nights at Somadevi Angkor Hotel & Spa (or similar). (B)

### DAY 9 Siem Reap – Temples of Angkor

Venture to Angkor Wat's seldom-used East gate by tuk-tuk. Marvel at the silhouetted central spires and explore the temple grounds away from the crowds. After a local Khmer breakfast, travel on to the nearby Angkor Thom complex for a monk blessing and wander through Bayon temple. Visit jungle-covered Ta Prohm before returning to town for an afternoon at leisure. (B)

### DAY 10 Siem Reap – Outlying Temples

Travel through the countryside to two of the most interesting temples outside Angkor Thom – Banteay Srei and Boeng Mealea. After lunch, stop at a small roadside village which makes palm sugar and visit the fascinating Aki Ra Landmine Museum. In the evening, enjoy a farewell group dinner. (BLD)

### DAY 11 Siem Reap

Enjoy breakfast before transferring to the airport for your onward journey. (B)

## TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- 9 nights hotel accommodation
- 1 night home-stay accommodation
- Train from Phnom Penh to Kampot
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles (except cyclo and tuk-tuk touring)
- Tonle Sap Lake cruise
- Entrance fees
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- Return group transfers from airport to accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)

## PRICE PER PERSON\*

2019			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	24	G	\$2339	\$2979
FEB	21		\$2339	\$2979
MAR	21	G	\$2339	\$2979
APR	18	G	\$2289	\$2879
MAY	23	G	\$2289	\$2879
JUN	20		\$2289	\$2879
JUL	18	G	\$2289	\$2879
AUG	22		\$2289	\$2879
SEP	19	G	\$2289	\$2879
OCT	17	G	\$2339	\$2979
NOV	21	G	\$2339	\$2979
DEC	19		\$2339	\$2979
2020			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	23		\$2579	\$3279
FEB	20		\$2579	\$3279
MAR	19		\$2579	\$3279

**G** = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: CEXC

**TRIP GRADING: MODERATE**  
(See page 87 for details)



Tonle Sap Lake



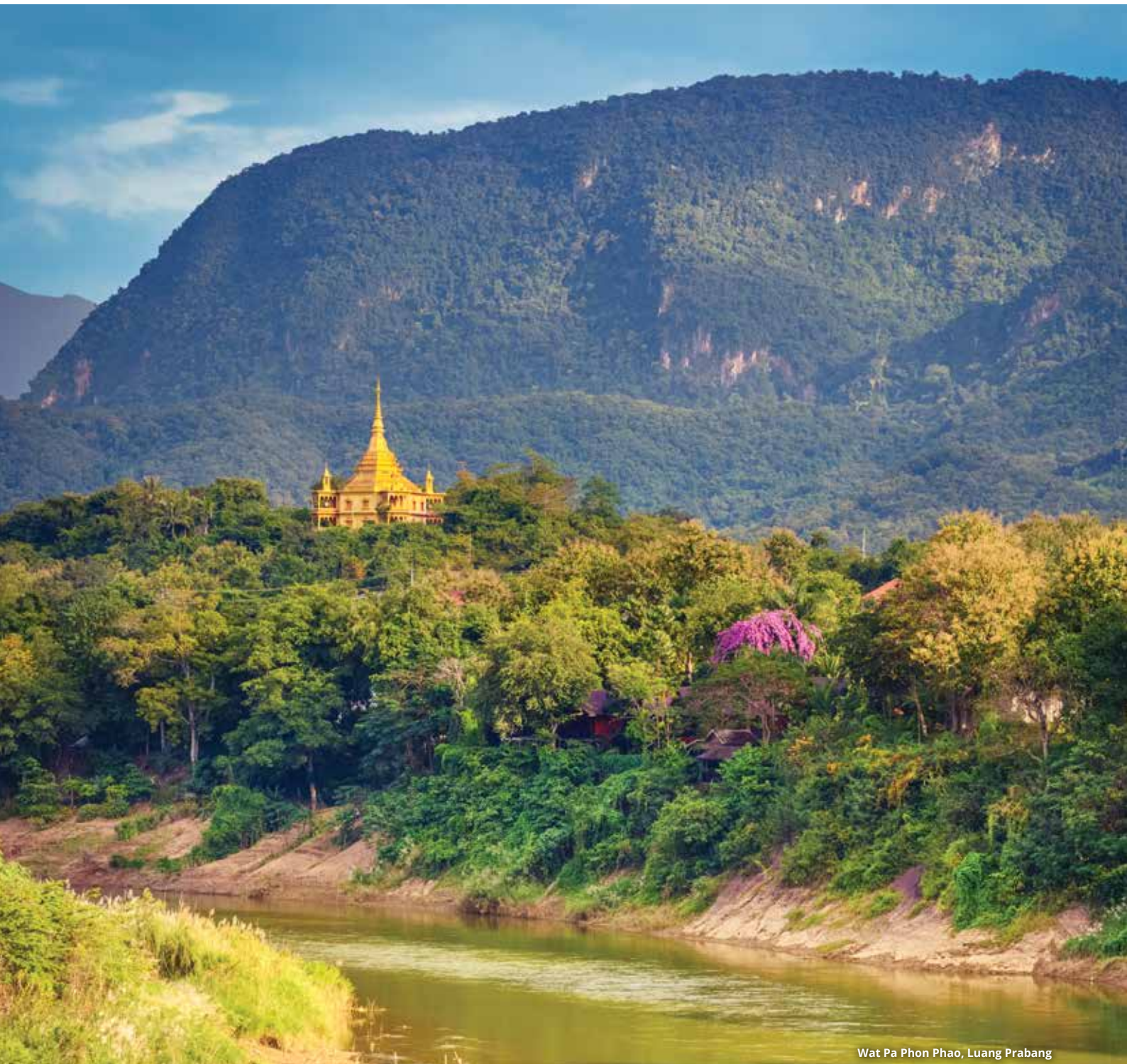
Banteay Srei



# Laos

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Beautiful land-locked Laos is home to mesmerising landscapes, compelling history and enchanting people. Experience the gentle pace of life in a place reminiscent of old-world Asia where traditions have been retained for generations. Explore Buddhist temples, lively markets and the languid Mekong River on an unforgettable journey.



Wat Pa Phon Phao, Luang Prabang



## Our Insider Experiences

We're passionate about connecting you with an authentic experience in Laos. As destination insiders, our Tour Leaders will introduce you to unforgettable moments so you come home with amazing stories to tell.



### Taste

From a bamboo-themed cooking class and freshly made noodles to sampling traditional Lao coffee and visiting a coffee plantation, Laos offers a diverse range of culinary experiences.



### Local

Join the locals for a game of petanque, the Lao national pastime or receive a traditional Lao blessing at a 'baci' ceremony in a local home to gain an insight into the local way of life.



### Unique

Venture to the 4,000 Islands region to go in search of the illusive Irrawaddy freshwater dolphin, cycle to quaint local villages and stay in a riverside lodge overlooking the Mekong.

### When To Go

As with most of Southeast Asia, Laos experiences both 'dry' and 'green' seasons. From May to October the tropical lowlands have very warm days with short, heavy showers of rain, green landscapes and fewer travellers. Pleasant temperatures are experienced throughout most of Laos from November to March, although it can become cold in the mountain regions.

Average min/max temperature (°C)

	MAR-MAY	JUN-AUG	SEP-NOV	DEC-FEB
VIENTIANE	24°/34°	25°/32°	23°/32°	19°/29°
LUANG PRABANG	18°/31°	22°/31°	19°/29°	13°/25°
PAKSE	24°/35°	25°/33°	23°/33°	19°/32°





# Highlights of Laos

6 DAYS FROM **\$1,379** PER PERSON\*



Luang Prabang

## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- 📍 Start the day like a local as you savour a traditional Lao coffee at a local coffee stall in Vientiane.
- 📍 Join the locals for a game of petanque, the Lao national pastime, before taking a short walk to sample local drinks and snacks overlooking the Mekong River as the sun sets.
- 📍 Enjoy French coffee and a steaming bowl of freshly made noodles for breakfast in Luang Prabang.
- 📍 Visit a traditional house nestled among the rice fields, and learn about some traditional Lao handicrafts, and Lao cookery as you prepare a delicious dinner at a cooking school.







Pha That Luang, Vientiane

**DAY 1 Vientiane**

On arrival in Vientiane, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your tour briefing. Stay the next two nights at Lao Orchid Hotel (or similar).

**DAY 2 Vientiane**

Begin your day like a local with an authentic Lao coffee at a local café, tucked away down a hidden alley. On a full day city tour, visit Vientiane’s oldest temple, Wat Sisaket, see the golden-spired stupa of Pha That Luang and stop at Patuxai Monument which is reminiscent of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. In the afternoon, visit Carol Cassidy House & Weaving Centre to learn about the importance of textile weaving to the Lao culture. Continue to the COPE Centre which provides prosthetic limbs for victims of exploded ordinance. Take part in a special Lao welcome at a traditional ‘baci’ blessing to wish you safe travels on your journey. (B)

**DAY 3 Vientiane to Luang Prabang**

Fly to Luang Prabang, Laos’ most enchanting town and a World Heritage Listed site. Surrounded by mountainous forests, Luang Prabang has a tranquil, old-world charm. On arrival, take a tuk-tuk to your hotel. Walk to the National Museum which was previously the former royal palace, and is now filled with fine examples of Lao art and furniture. Visit serene Wat Mai temple before enjoying free time to explore independently. In the evening, take part in a cooking demonstration at the Bamboo



Patuxai Monument, Vientiane

Experience cooking school and learn about traditional Lao cooking before enjoying your feast. Stay the next three nights at Sala Prabang (or similar). (BD)

**DAY 4 Luang Prabang – Pak Ou Caves**

At a local noodle house, enjoy a bowl of steaming-hot noodle soup for breakfast. Walk to the tip of the Luang Prabang peninsula and visit Wat Xieng Thong temple, one of the most beautiful in Laos. Take a boat trip to Pak Ou Caves, a sacred shrine where local people add to a repository of thousands of Buddha statues and enjoy a picnic lunch. Return to Luang Prabang and enjoy free time to explore independently. Choose to hire a bicycle or climb the stairs to the top of Mount Phou Si for wonderful views. In the evening, participate in a game of petanque followed by sunset drinks. (BL)

**DAY 5 Luang Prabang – Kuang Si Falls**

Rise early to see brightly-robed Buddhist monks collecting alms along the streets of Luang Prabang. Explore a lively morning market before travelling to Kuang Si Falls, where you can swim in the turquoise pools and visit a nearby bear sanctuary. Return to town and enjoy free time to explore independently. In the evening, enjoy a farewell group dinner. (BD)

**DAY 6 Luang Prabang**

Enjoy breakfast before transferring to the airport for your onward journey. (B)



Kuang Si Falls

**TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:**

- 5 nights hotel accommodation
- All flights as specified in the itinerary
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles (except tuk-tuk touring)
- Pak Ou Caves cruise
- Entrance fees
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- Return group transfers from airport to accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)

**PRICE PER PERSON\***

2019			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	21	G	\$1419	\$1749
FEB	18	G	\$1419	\$1749
MAR	18	G	\$1419	\$1749
APR	08	G	\$1419	\$1749
MAY	06	G	\$1379	\$1669
JUN	03	G	\$1379	\$1669
JUL	01	G	\$1379	\$1669
AUG	05	G	\$1379	\$1669
SEP	02	G	\$1379	\$1669
OCT	07	G	\$1419	\$1749
NOV	18	G	\$1419	\$1749
DEC	16	G	\$1419	\$1749
2020			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	20		\$1559	\$1919
FEB	17		\$1559	\$1919
MAR	16		\$1559	\$1919

G = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: HOLC

**TRIP GRADING: EASY**  
(See page 87 for details)



Pak Ou Caves

**EXPERIENCE MORE**  
Add Vietnam and join the Vietnam & Laos Explorer tour on page 44.

\*Prices are per person twin share based on low season and will vary depending on date of travel, unless otherwise stated. Pricing does not include the airfare from New Zealand. Please contact us for an air-inclusive quote. Refer to our booking conditions for full pricing and payment information. For more information visit insiderjourneys.co.nz or see your travel agent.



# Secrets of Southern Laos

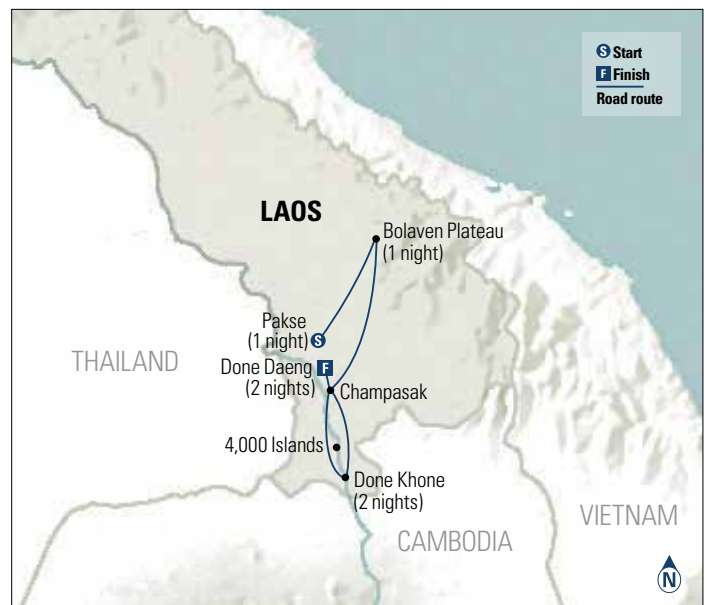
7 DAYS FROM **\$1,079** PER PERSON\*



Tad Fane Falls

## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- 📍 Sample freshly-brewed Robusta and Arabica coffee at an organic, Fair Trade coffee plantation on the Bolaven Plateau.
- 📍 Search for elusive Irrawaddy freshwater dolphins as you cruise the Mekong River near the Cambodian border.
- 📍 Cycle around tranquil Done Daeng Island, nestled in the middle of the 4,000 Islands region. Stop at local villages along the way and experience island life.
- 📍 Discover the stunning waterfalls of southern Laos including Tad Fane Falls which has a drop of over 100 metres.







Wat Phou

**DAY 1 Pakse**

On arrival in Pakse, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your tour briefing. Overnight at Pakse Hotel (or similar).

**DAY 2 Pakse to Bolaven Plateau**

From Pakse, travel to the Bolaven Plateau and stop at Tad Fane Falls which plunges over 100 metres. During colonial times the Bolaven Plateau was populated by French settlers who were attracted to the cooler climate and fertile soils which created ideal coffee-growing conditions. Today, Lao coffee beans fetch some of the highest prices in the world, and are a source of income for the hilltribes living on the plateau. Visit a small-scale Fair Trade organic coffee farm to sample freshly brewed Arabica and Robusta coffee before stopping at Tad Yuang Falls. Continue to Tad Lo Lodge, where you may get a glimpse of a small herd of elephants bathing. Spend the afternoon relaxing at the lodge. Overnight at Tad Lo Lodge (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 3 Bolaven Plateau to Khone Island**

Drive to Ban Nakasang before taking a relaxing boat ride to Khone Island. As water levels of the Mekong recede in the dry season, thousands of sandbanks and islands are revealed, giving the region the name '4,000 Islands'. On arrival at Khone Island, enjoy exploring independently. Stay the next two nights at Sala Done Khone (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 4 Khone Island**

Following a leisurely breakfast, drive to Ban Hang Done village and embark on a boat trip in search of the famous Irrawaddy freshwater dolphin.



Bolaven Plateau

While the chances of viewing the dolphins are excellent, sightings cannot be guaranteed. See Li Phi Falls before walking through the forest and local villages to your hotel. Visit the remains of the sole railway built by the French, and the bridge which connects Done Khone with Done Det Island. Enjoy free time in the afternoon and explore the islands at your own pace. **(B)**

**DAY 5 Khone Island to Done Daeng Island**

Travel to Khonephapheng Falls, the largest waterfalls in Southeast Asia in terms of water volume. Cross the Mekong River to La Folie Lodge and enjoy free time. In the late afternoon, travel by boat to Champasak and take a tuk-tuk to explore Wat Phou temple, a World Heritage Listed site and one of the finest examples of pre-Angkorian Khmer temple architecture outside of Cambodia. Stay the next two nights at La Folie Lodge (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 6 Done Daeng Island**

Set out on a bike ride around Done Daeng Island which is dotted with shoreline villages, rice fields and swaying coconut palms. The morning cycle allows you to explore a quiet and beautiful part of one of Asia's least developed regions. The rest of the day is free for you to further explore the island by bicycle or on foot. Alternatively, sip a cocktail by the hotel's infinity pool overlooking the Mekong. This evening, enjoy a farewell group dinner at the hotel's restaurant. **(BD)**

**DAY 7 Done Daeng Island**

Enjoy breakfast before transferring to the airport for your onward journey. **(B)**



Irrawaddy freshwater dolphin

**TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:**

- 5 nights hotel accommodation
- 1 night lodge accommodation
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles (except tuk-tuk touring)
- Irrawaddy freshwater dolphin cruise
- Entrance fees
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- Return group transfers from airport to accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, D = dinner)

**PRICE PER PERSON\***

2019			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	24	G	\$1259	\$1789
FEB	21		\$1259	\$1789
MAR	21	G	\$1259	\$1789
APR	18	G	\$1139	\$1679
MAY	23	G	\$1079	\$1429
JUN	20		\$1079	\$1429
JUL	18	G	\$1079	\$1429
AUG	22		\$1079	\$1429
SEP	19	G	\$1079	\$1429
OCT	17	G	\$1149	\$1569
NOV	21	G	\$1149	\$1569
DEC	19		\$1149	\$1569
2020			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	23		\$1389	\$1969
FEB	20		\$1389	\$1969
MAR	19		\$1389	\$1969

**G** = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: SSLC

**TRIP GRADING: MODERATE**  
(See page 87 for details)



Mekong River



4,000 Islands

**EXPERIENCE MORE**  
This tour can be combined with the Laos Experience on page 36.

\*Prices are per person twin share based on low season and will vary depending on date of travel, unless otherwise stated. Pricing does not include the airfare from New Zealand. Please contact us for an air-inclusive quote. Refer to our booking conditions for full pricing and payment information. For more information visit insiderjourneys.co.nz or see your travel agent.



# Laos Experience

10 DAYS FROM **\$2,359** PER PERSON\*



## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- 📍 Cruise by slow boat along the Mekong River to Luang Prabang and take in the beautiful scenery and traditional river life.
- 📍 Enjoy a French coffee and a steaming bowl of freshly made noodles for breakfast at a local noodle house in Luang Prabang.
- 📍 Take part in a fun bamboo-themed Lao cooking class and help prepare a range of dishes before feasting on your creations.
- 📍 Receive a Lao blessing at a 'baci' ceremony in a local family's house and enjoy a Lao 'jaew' feast of dips and dishes to the tune of a traditional musical performance.







Mekong River

**DAY 1 Chiang Rai (Thailand)**

On arrival in Chiang Rai, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your tour briefing. Overnight at Laluna Hotel & Resort (or similar).

**DAY 2 Chiang Rai to Pakbeng (Laos)**

Drive to the Lao border and board a private boat to cruise along the Mekong River. Take in life along the river and the picturesque scenery as you enjoy lunch and cruise to the riverside village of Pakbeng, home to the H'mong and Thai Lu people. On arrival in Pakbeng, walk through the local market for a glimpse into everyday life. Overnight at Phetsokxai (or similar). **(BL)**

**DAY 3 Pakbeng to Luang Prabang**

Once again board your boat and cruise to Luang Prabang. Enjoy lunch and stop along the way at sacred Pak Ou Caves where local people add to a repository of Buddha statues. On arrival in Luang Prabang, take a tuk-tuk to your hotel and spend the evening at leisure. Stay the next three nights at Sala Prabang (or similar). **(BL)**

**DAY 4 Luang Prabang**

Nestled on the banks of the Mekong River, Luang Prabang is a charming laidback town surrounded by rugged mountains. Enjoy a walking tour of Luang Prabang. Explore the National Museum which was previously the former royal palace and now houses fine examples of Lao art and furniture. Visit serene Wat Mai temple before continuing onto Wat Xieng Thong temple. After a free afternoon exploring independently, participate in a game of petanque, and enjoy sunset drinks and traditional local snacks overlooking the Mekong. **(B)**

**DAY 5 Luang Prabang**

Rise early to see Buddhist monks collecting alms, following an ancient ritual known as Takbat. Explore a lively morning market and enjoy a local noodle breakfast and French coffee. Drive to Kuang Si Falls to swim in the turquoise pools and visit a nearby bear sanctuary. On your return to town, spend the afternoon relaxing or continue to explore Luang Prabang at your own pace. This evening, take part in the Bamboo Experience cooking class set among beautiful rice paddy fields. **(BD)**

**DAY 6 Luang Prabang to Vang Vieng**

Enjoy a leisurely start to the day before driving through stunning scenery to Vang Vieng, a quaint riverside town. Climb to the entrance of Tham Chang cave for views of town. The cave is one of the deepest in Vang Vieng and has a natural spring which is a popular swimming hole for the local people. Stay the next two nights at Villa Nam Song (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 7 Vang Vieng**

After breakfast, kayak along the Nam Song River as you soak in the beautiful natural scenery. Return to town and spend the rest of the day at leisure. Choose to hire a bike and ride through the spectacular countryside or simply relax. **(B)**

**DAY 8 Vang Vieng to Vientiane**

Continue your overland journey to the capital city of Vientiane. Along the way stop at 'Kilometre 52', a village with a large ethnic H'mong population and an excellent market. Vientiane is home to a charming mix of French-colonial architecture, glittering temples and lovely restaurants. On arrival, discover the city's most revered temples, Pha That Luang and Wat Sisaket before seeing the Patuxai Monument which is reminiscent of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. Stay the next two nights at Lao Orchid Hotel (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 9 Vientiane**

Travel towards the Thai/Lao Friendship Bridge to intriguing 'Buddha Park' filled with statues inspired by Buddhist and Hindu epics. Visit the Lao Disabled Women's Development Centre and COPE Centre to learn about the inspiring work done by both organisations to help local people living with disabilities. Spend the afternoon at leisure. In the evening, receive a traditional Lao blessing at a 'baci' ceremony to wish you safe onward travels. Enjoy a Lao 'jaew' feast as you listen to a performance of traditional music – the perfect end to your time in Laos. **(BD)**

**DAY 10 Vientiane**

Enjoy breakfast before transferring to the airport for your onward journey. **(B)**

**TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:**

- 9 nights hotel accommodation
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles (except tuk-tuk touring)
- Mekong River cruise
- Entrance fees
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- Return group transfers from airport to accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)

**PRICE PER PERSON\***

2019			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	15	G	\$2459	\$3009
FEB	12		\$2459	\$3009
MAR	12	G	\$2459	\$3009
APR	09	G	\$2439	\$2979
MAY	14	G	\$2359	\$2809
JUN	11		\$2359	\$2809
JUL	09	G	\$2359	\$2809
AUG	13		\$2359	\$2809
SEP	10	G	\$2359	\$2809
OCT	08	G	\$2449	\$2989
NOV	12	G	\$2459	\$3019
DEC	10		\$2459	\$3019
2020			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	14		\$2709	\$3309
FEB	11		\$2709	\$3309
MAR	10		\$2709	\$3309

**G** = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: LEXC

**TRIP GRADING: MODERATE**  
(See page 87 for details)



Baci Ceremony, Vientiane



Kuang Si Falls

**EXPERIENCE MORE**

This tour can be combined with **Secrets of Southern Laos** on page 34.

\*Prices are per person twin share based on low season and will vary depending on date of travel, unless otherwise stated. Pricing does not include the airfare from New Zealand. Please contact us for an air-inclusive quote. Refer to our booking conditions for full pricing and payment information. For more information visit insiderjourneys.co.nz or see your travel agent.



# Southeast Asia

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Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos are united by landscapes and lifestyles while being dictated by the ebb and flow of the mighty Mekong. Although each country is unique, the people of this region are known for their resilience, humility and friendliness. Take a journey through Southeast Asia to discover lost civilisations, incredible food and stunning natural landscapes.



Saigon, Vietnam



## Our Insider Experiences

We're passionate about connecting you with an authentic experience in Southeast Asia. As destination insiders, our Tour Leaders will introduce you to unforgettable moments so you come home with amazing stories to tell.



### Taste

Experience Southeast Asia's incredible flavours on a backstreet food tour in Hanoi, learn about traditional Lao cooking in Luang Prabang and enjoy breakfast like the locals in Siem Reap.



### Local

One of the best ways to immerse yourself in a culture is to meet the local people. Share a meal with a family in Vietnam, visit villages in Cambodia and play a game of petanque in Laos.



### Unique

Unique experiences are often the most memorable. Take a Mekong cruise from Vietnam to Cambodia, explore Angkor Wat by torchlight in Cambodia and experience a 'baci' ceremony in Laos.

## When To Go

Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos are mainly influenced by two seasons – 'dry' and 'green'. Vietnam has a tropical climate and can be visited throughout the year. Cambodia experiences little rain from November to February, while May to early October it rains for a short time in the late afternoon creating a lush landscape. From November to March, Laos has pleasant temperatures yet from May to October the tropical lowlands can have very warm days with short, heavy showers of rain.



Pha That Luang, Vientiane, Laos





# Cambodia & Vietnam Explorer

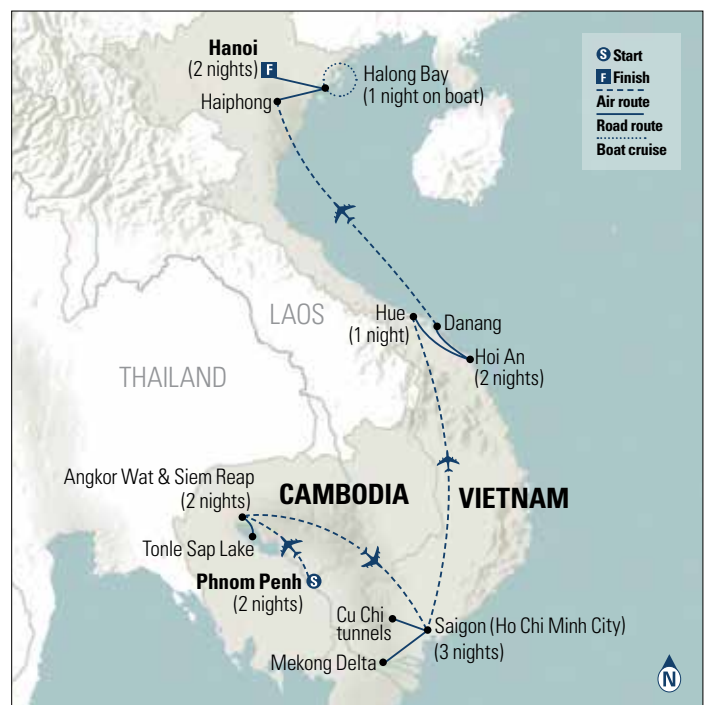
14 DAYS FROM **\$3,699** PER PERSON\*



Halong Bay, Vietnam

## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- 📍 Venture by tuk-tuk to Angkor Wat's seldom-used East Gate. Spend time discovering the grounds by torchlight before seeing the sun rise over Angkor Wat's majestic spires.
- 📍 Enjoy drinks and swap stories with your fellow travellers at the iconic Foreign Correspondent Club in Phnom Penh.
- 📍 At the Spiral Foundation in Hue meet the inspiring young adults with disabilities and spend time with them as they help you create a souvenir from recycled materials.
- 📍 At Saigon Saigon Bar, located on the rooftop of one of Saigon's historic landmarks, enjoy sunset drinks.
- 📍 Wander through Hanoi's bustling street markets. Alongside the locals, sample delicious snacks including a traditional Vietnamese pancake, shrimp cake, a sweet drink known as 'che' and local beer.







Tonle Sap Lake, Cambodia

### DAY 1 Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

On arrival in Phnom Penh, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your Cambodia tour briefing. Stay the next two nights at Sunway Hotel (or similar).

### DAY 2 Phnom Penh

Begin your Phnom Penh city tour with a fun cyclo ride to the Central Market. Travel to Tuol Sleng Museum and the Killing Fields memorial at Choeng Ek to learn about the country's chilling history. In the afternoon, see the beautiful architecture of the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda. Enjoy sunset drinks with your group at the iconic Foreign Correspondent Club. (B)

### DAY 3 Phnom Penh to Siem Reap

Fly from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap. Drive to Tonle Sap Lake and explore the lake by boat. Return to Siem Reap and spend time exploring independently. Stay the next two nights at Somadevi Angkor Hotel & Spa (or similar). (B)

### DAY 4 Siem Reap – Temples of Angkor

Rise early and travel by tuk-tuk to Angkor Wat's East Gate entrance for sunrise. Explore the temple before entering the little-visited West Gate of the Angkor Thom complex. Spend time at Bayon temple, and see the Terraces of the Elephant and Leper King. Enjoy free time at the hotel before exploring Banteay Srei temple. Visit a palm sugar village and discover jungle-covered Ta Prohm temple. This evening, enjoy dinner with your fellow travellers. (BD)

### DAY 5 Siem Reap to Saigon (Vietnam)

Fly from Siem Reap to Saigon in Vietnam. On arrival in Saigon, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your Vietnam tour briefing. Stay the next three nights at Grand Hotel Saigon (or similar). (B)

### DAY 6 Saigon – Cu Chi Tunnels

Drive to Cu Chi and discover the network of underground tunnels. On your return to Saigon, enjoy a traditional Pho lunch. Wander along Dong Khoi Street, see the Notre Dame Cathedral and Ho Chi Minh Square before visiting the War Remnants Museum on a walking tour. As the sun sets over the city, relax with a drink at the iconic rooftop bar, Saigon Saigon. (BL)

### DAY 7 Saigon – Mekong Delta

Spend the day exploring the Mekong Delta. Visit a traditional brick factory, meet a family of weavers and enjoy a delicious local lunch. On the return drive to Saigon, stop at Cao Dai temple. (BL)

### DAY 8 Saigon to Hue

Fly from Saigon to Hue and discover Emperor Tu Duc's tomb, Imperial Palace and Citadel. Visit Spiral Foundation which employs people with disabilities and enjoy making a souvenir from recycled materials. Overnight at Hotel Saigon Morin (or similar). (B)

### DAY 9 Hue to Hoi An

Drive along scenic Hai Van Pass from Hue to Hoi An. On arrival in Hoi An, embark on a walking tour and visit a traditional ancient house, a Chinese Assembly Hall and the Japanese Covered Bridge. Stay the next two nights at Hoi An Historic Hotel (or similar). (B)

### DAY 10 Hoi An

Enjoy a free day to do as much or as little as you like in Hoi An. (B)

### DAY 11 Hoi An to Halong Bay

Drive a short distance to Danang before flying to Haiphong and driving on to Halong Bay. Board a junk boat and feast on fresh seafood before exploring an enormous grotto. Overnight onboard Indochina Sails (or similar). (BLD)

### DAY 12 Halong Bay to Hanoi

Rise early to see more of the bay. After brunch, disembark and drive to Hanoi. In the afternoon, wander the backstreets of Hanoi's Old Quarter and sample some local snacks. Stay the next two nights at Silk Path Hotel (or similar). (R)

### DAY 13 Hanoi

Discover Hanoi on a city tour with a visit to the infamous Hanoi Hilton prison, bustling Old Quarter and tranquil Temple of Literature. In the Ho Chi Minh Quarter, see the Presidential Palace, One Pillar Pagoda and House on Stilts. This evening, enjoy a farewell group dinner. (BD)

### DAY 14 Hanoi

Enjoy breakfast before transferring to the airport for your onward journey. (B)

## TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- 12 nights hotel accommodation
- 1 night cruise accommodation onboard Indochina Sails
- All flights as specified in the itinerary
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles (except cyclo and tuk-tuk touring)
- Tonle Sap Lake cruise
- Mekong Delta cruise
- Entrance fees
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- Return group transfers from airport to accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, R = brunch, L = lunch, D = dinner)

PRICE PER PERSON*				
2019			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	08	G	\$3779	\$4919
	15		\$3779	\$4919
	22	G	\$3779	\$4919
FEB	05	G	\$3779	\$4919
	12		\$3779	\$4919
	19	G	\$3779	\$4919
	26		\$3779	\$4919
MAR	05	G	\$3779	\$4919
	12	G	\$3779	\$4919
	19	G	\$3779	\$4919
	26	G	\$3779	\$4919
APR	02		\$3699	\$4769
	09	G	\$3699	\$4769
	23	G	\$3699	\$4769
MAY	07	G	\$3699	\$4769
	21	G	\$3699	\$4769
JUN	04		\$3699	\$4769
	18	G	\$3699	\$4769
JUL	09		\$3699	\$4769
	23	G	\$3699	\$4769
AUG	06	G	\$3699	\$4769
	20	G	\$3699	\$4769
SEP	10	G	\$3699	\$4769
	17		\$3699	\$4769
	24	G	\$3699	\$4769
OCT	08	G	\$3779	\$4919
	15	G	\$3779	\$4919
	22		\$3779	\$4919
NOV	05	G	\$3779	\$4919
	12	G	\$3779	\$4919
	19		\$3779	\$4919
DEC	03	G	\$3779	\$4919
	17		\$3779	\$4919
	24	G	\$3779	\$4919
2020			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	07		\$4149	\$5409
	14		\$4149	\$5409
	21		\$4149	\$5409
FEB	04		\$4149	\$5409
	11		\$4149	\$5409
	18		\$4149	\$5409
	25		\$4149	\$5409
MAR	03		\$4149	\$5409
	10		\$4149	\$5409
	17		\$4149	\$5409
	24		\$4149	\$5409

**G** = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: CVEC

**TRIP GRADING: EASY**  
(See page 87 for details)

**EXPERIENCE MORE**

This tour can be combined with  
Highlights of Laos on page 32.



# Essence of Vietnam & Cambodia

14 DAYS FROM **\$4,219** PER PERSON\*



Mekong Delta, Vietnam

## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- Take a tuk-tuk to Angkor Wat's seldom-used East Gate for sunrise and explore the grounds by torchlight, something few travellers get to experience.
- Journey along the meandering canals and meet the local people as you discover the beauty of the Mekong Delta on a three night river cruise before a speedboat journey to bustling Phnom Penh.
- Travel like a local as you glide through Phnom Penh's fascinating streets on a traditional cyclo.
- Enjoy a sundowner drink on the rooftop of the Caravelle Hotel at the Saigon Saigon Bar.
- Share a snack with the locals along the narrow backstreets of Hanoi's Old Quarter. Try 'che' a sweet tea, a traditional Vietnamese pancake and shrimp cake.







Bayon, Cambodia

**DAY 1 Hanoi (Vietnam)**

On arrival in Hanoi, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your Vietnam tour briefing. Overnight at Silk Path Hotel (or similar).

**DAY 2 Hanoi to Halong Bay**

Drive past scenes of traditional rural life as you travel from Hanoi to Halong City, the gateway to Halong Bay. On arrival, board a junk boat and begin cruising among some of the 3,000 islands. Enjoy a delicious seafood lunch before stopping to explore an enormous grotto. Overnight onboard Indochina Sails (or similar). **(BLD)**

**DAY 3 Halong Bay to Hanoi**

Continue your exploration of Halong Bay and visit a remote island. After brunch on board, disembark and drive to Hanoi. In the afternoon, wander through Hanoi's bustling Old Quarter. Visit a market, try some delicious local snacks and drink beer local-style at a 'Bia Hoi' establishment, a fantastic way to gain an insight into local life. Overnight at Tirant Hotel (or similar). **(R)**

**DAY 4 Hanoi to Hoi An**

Discover some of Hanoi's highlights including the Ho Chi Minh Quarter and Temple of Literature. In the afternoon, fly to Danang and drive to charming Hoi An. Stay the next two nights at Hoi An Historic Hotel (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 5 Hoi An**

Explore the riverside town of Hoi An on a walking tour and visit a traditional ancient house, a Chinese Assembly Hall and the Japanese Covered Bridge. The afternoon is free for you to do as much or as little as you like. Continue to explore the old town, have a tailor create a new wardrobe or cycle to An Bang Beach. **(B)**

**DAY 6 Hoi An to Saigon**

Enjoy more free time in Hoi An before flying to Saigon. At the iconic rooftop bar, Saigon Saigon, relax with a drink as the sun sets. Stay the next two nights at Grand Hotel Saigon (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 7 Saigon - Cu Chi Tunnels**

From Saigon, drive to Cu Chi and discover the network of underground tunnels before enjoying a delicious Pho noodle soup for lunch. Join a walking tour of Saigon's most impressive sites including Notre Dame Cathedral. **(B)**

**DAY 8 Saigon to Mekong Delta**

Board your boat, Mekong Eyes to begin an exploration of the Mekong Delta. After a delicious lunch on board, take a guided walk through a rural village and gain an authentic insight into the lives of the local people. Stay the next three nights onboard Mekong Eyes (or similar). **(BLD)**

**DAY 9 Mekong Delta**

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before experiencing the unique rowing techniques of a sampan boat. Visit a coconut candy enterprise and cycle through the laneways of a local village. Return to the boat for sunset drinks on the deck. **(BLD)**

**DAY 10 Mekong Delta**

Visit Tan Thuan Dong islet where you can either walk or cycle through this beautiful area. Enjoy lunch on board and free time to simply relax as you continue to enjoy panoramic views. **(BLD)**

**DAY 11 Mekong Delta to Phnom Penh (Cambodia)**

Cross the border from Vietnam into Cambodia and travel by speedboat to Phnom Penh. Visit Tuol Sleng Museum and the Killing Fields memorial at Choeng Ek. Enjoy sunset drinks at the iconic Foreign Correspondent Club. Overnight at Frangipani Royal Palace Hotel (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 12 Phnom Penh to Siem Reap**

Enjoy a morning cyclo ride through the backstreets of Phnom Penh. Discover the Royal Palace and its famous landmark, the Silver Pagoda. Fly to Siem Reap. Stay the next two nights at Somadevi Angkor Hotel & Spa (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 13 Siem Reap - Temples of Angkor**

Ride a tuk-tuk to Angkor Wat and marvel at the silhouetted central spires at sunrise. Travel to the Angkor Thom complex and see Bayon temple. Return to town for lunch before exploring Banteay Srei temple, Ta Prohm temple and stop at a small village which makes palm sugar. In the evening, enjoy a farewell group dinner. **(BD)**

**DAY 14 Siem Reap**

Enjoy breakfast before transferring to the airport for your onward journey. **(B)**

**TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:**

- 9 nights hotel accommodation
- 3 nights cruise accommodation onboard Mekong Eyes
- 1 night cruise accommodation onboard Indochina Sails
- All flights as specified in the itinerary
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles (except cyclo and tuk-tuk touring)
- Entrance fees
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- Return group transfers from airport to accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, R = brunch, L = lunch, D = dinner)

PRICE PER PERSON*				TWIN	SINGLE
2019					
JAN	03	G	\$4389	\$5819	
MAR	07	G	\$4389	\$5819	
MAY	02	G	\$4219	\$5549	
JUN	06	G	\$4219	\$5549	
JUL	04	G	\$4219	\$5549	
AUG	08	G	\$4219	\$5549	
SEP	05	G	\$4219	\$5549	
OCT	03	G	\$4389	\$5819	
NOV	14	G	\$4389	\$5819	
DEC	12		\$4389	\$5819	
2020					
JAN	09		\$4829	\$6409	
MAR	05		\$4829	\$6409	

**G** = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: EVCC

**TRIP GRADING: EASY**  
(See page 87 for details)



Royal Palace, Phnom Penh, Cambodia



Cu Chi tunnels, Vietnam

\*Prices are per person twin share based on low season and will vary depending on date of travel, unless otherwise stated. Pricing does not include the airfare from New Zealand. Please contact us for an air-inclusive quote. Refer to our booking conditions for full pricing and payment information. For more information visit insiderjourneys.co.nz or see your travel agent.



# Vietnam & Laos Explorer

15 DAYS FROM **\$4,019** PER PERSON\*



Wat Xieng Thong, Luang Prabang, Laos

## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- Explore Hanoi's bustling streets and markets while sampling delicious snacks. Eating alongside the locals offers a wonderful insight into life in Hanoi.
- Meet the inspiring young adults with disabilities at the Spiral Foundation in Hue and spend time with them as they help you create a souvenir from recycled materials.
- Receive a traditional Lao blessing at a 'baci' ceremony in a local family's house.
- Enjoy a fun, Lao-style cooking demonstration at the Bamboo Experience cooking school. Learn about the ingredients used in Lao cookery and prepare a feast for dinner.
- At a local noodle house in Luang Prabang, enjoy a steaming bowl of freshly made noodles and a French coffee with the locals for breakfast.







Hoi An, Vietnam

**DAY 1 Saigon (Vietnam)**

On arrival in Saigon, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your Vietnam tour briefing. Stay the next three nights at Grand Hotel Saigon (or similar).

**DAY 2 Saigon – Cu Chi Tunnels**

Drive to Cu Chi and discover the network of underground tunnels. Enjoy a bowl of Pho at a local restaurant before taking a walking tour of the city. Relax with a drink at the iconic rooftop bar, Saigon Saigon, the perfect end to the day. **(BL)**

**DAY 3 Saigon – Mekong Delta**

Explore the Mekong Delta in a private boat. Visit a traditional brick factory, meet a family of weavers and enjoy a local lunch. On the return drive to Saigon, stop at Cao Dai temple. **(BL)**

**DAY 4 Saigon to Hue**

Fly from Saigon to Hue and see Emperor Tu Duc’s tomb, the Imperial Palace and the Citadel. Visit the Spiral Foundation which employs people with disabilities and make a souvenir from recycled materials. Overnight at Hotel Saigon Morin (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 5 Hue to Hoi An**

From Hue, drive along scenic Hai Van Pass to Hoi An. On arrival in Hoi An, embark on a walking tour. Stay the next two nights at Hoi An Historic Hotel (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 6 Hoi An**

Enjoy a free day in Hoi An. Choose to explore the old town or cycle to An Bang Beach. **(B)**

**DAY 7 Hoi An to Halong Bay**

Drive to Danang before flying to Haiphong and transferring to Halong Bay. Cruise the bay on a beautifully appointed junk boat. In the evening, retreat to your private cabin. Overnight onboard Indochina Sails (or similar). **(BLD)**

**DAY 8 Halong Bay to Hanoi**

Rise early for a Tai Chi lesson before climbing to the peak of an island for great views. After brunch on board, disembark and drive to Hanoi. In the afternoon, sample delicious local snacks and drink beer local-style at a ‘Bia Hoi’ establishment in Hanoi’s Old Quarter. Stay the next two nights at Silk Path Hotel (or similar). **(R)**

**DAY 9 Hanoi**

Enjoy a tour of the city, visit the infamous Hanoi Hilton prison, and take a walking tour of the Old Quarter and Temple of Literature. In the Ho Chi Minh Quarter, visit the Presidential Palace, One Pillar Pagoda and House on Stilts. This evening, enjoy a group dinner. **(BD)**

**DAY 10 Hanoi to Vientiane (Laos)**

Fly from Hanoi to Laos’ capital, Vientiane. On arrival, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your Laos tour briefing. Stay the next two nights at Lao Orchid Hotel (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 11 Vientiane**

Begin your day with an authentic Lao coffee at a local café. Discover Vientiane’s oldest temple, Wat Sisaket, see Pha That Luang and stop at Patuxai Monument. In the afternoon, visit Carol Cassidy House & Weaving Centre to learn about textile weaving. Continue to the COPE Centre. Take part in a special Lao ‘baci’ blessing to wish you safe travels on your journey. **(B)**

**DAY 12 Vientiane to Luang Prabang**

Fly to Luang Prabang and transfer by tuk-tuk to your hotel. Explore the National Museum and visit Wat Mai temple before enjoying some free time. In the evening, enjoy a cooking demonstration at the Bamboo Experience cooking school. Stay the next three nights at Sala Prabang (or similar). **(BD)**

**DAY 13 Luang Prabang – Pak Ou Caves**

For breakfast, enjoy a bowl of noodle soup at a local noodle house and walk to Wat Xieng Thong temple. Take a boat trip to Pak Ou Caves, a sacred shrine of Buddha statues, enjoy a picnic lunch and spend the afternoon at leisure. In the evening, participate in a game of petanque followed by sunset drinks. **(BL)**

**DAY 14 Luang Prabang – Kuang Si Falls**

As the sun rises, see Buddhist monks collecting alms before relaxing at Kuang Si Falls and visiting a bear sanctuary. Spend the afternoon at leisure and enjoy a farewell group dinner. **(BD)**

**DAY 15 Luang Prabang**

Enjoy breakfast before transferring to the airport for your onward journey. **(B)**

**TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:**

- 13 nights hotel accommodation
- 1 night cruise accommodation onboard Indochina Sails
- All flights as specified in the itinerary
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles (except tuk-tuk touring)
- Mekong Delta cruise
- Entrance fees
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- Return group transfers from airport to accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, R = brunch, L = lunch, D = dinner)

**PRICE PER PERSON\***

2019		G	TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	12	G	\$4069	\$5229
FEB	09	G	\$4069	\$5229
MAR	09	G	\$4069	\$5229
	30	G	\$4069	\$5229
APR	27	G	\$4049	\$5189
MAY	25	G	\$4019	\$5189
JUN	22	G	\$4019	\$5189
JUL	27	G	\$4019	\$5189
AUG	24	G	\$4019	\$5189
SEP	28	G	\$4019	\$5189
NOV	09	G	\$4069	\$5229
DEC	07	G	\$4069	\$5229
2020			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	11		\$4469	\$5749
FEB	08		\$4469	\$5749
MAR	07		\$4469	\$5749

**G** = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: VLEC

**TRIP GRADING: EASY**  
(See page 87 for details)



Hanoi, Vietnam



Patuxai Monument, Vientiane, Laos

\*Prices are per person twin share based on low season and will vary depending on date of travel, unless otherwise stated. Pricing does not include the airfare from New Zealand. Please contact us for an air-inclusive quote. Refer to our booking conditions for full pricing and payment information. For more information visit insiderjourneys.co.nz or see your travel agent.



# Vietnam & Temples of Angkor

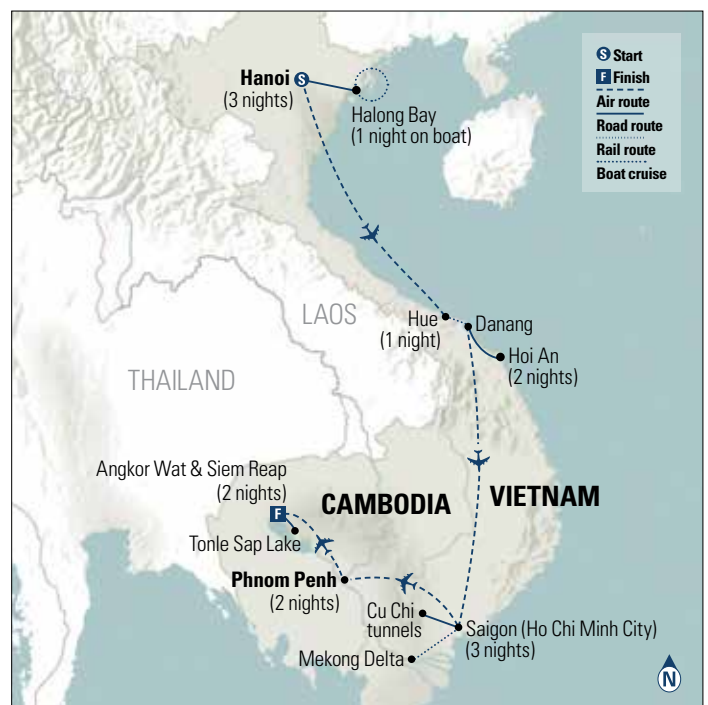
15 DAYS FROM **\$3,869** PER PERSON\*



Ta Prohm, Cambodia

## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- Join the disadvantaged youth receiving training at Streets Café on a market walk, and learn about local produce and this excellent initiative.
- On a speedboat tour, reach fascinating tributaries of the Mekong Delta that few travellers get to experience.
- Venture into the narrow backstreets of Hanoi's Old Quarter and sample 'che' a sweet tea, a traditional Vietnamese pancake, shrimp cake and local beer alongside the locals.
- Enjoy a sunset drink with your fellow travellers at the iconic Foreign Correspondent Club in Phnom Penh.
- Travel by tuk-tuk to Angkor Wat's seldom-used East Gate and escape the crowds. See the sun rise over the towering spires of the temple.







Hanoi, Vietnam

**DAY 1 Hanoi (Vietnam)**

On arrival in Hanoi, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your Vietnam tour briefing. Overnight at Tirant Hotel (or similar).

**DAY 2 Hanoi to Halong Bay**

Drive from Hanoi to Halong Bay and cruise the bay. Enjoy a delicious seafood lunch before stopping to explore an enormous grotto. Overnight onboard Indochina Sails (or similar). **(BLD)**

**DAY 3 Halong Bay to Hanoi**

After brunch on board, disembark and drive to Hanoi. In the afternoon, visit a market, try some delicious local snacks and drink beer local-style at a 'Bia Hoi' establishment. Stay the next two nights at Tirant Hotel (or similar). **(R)**

**DAY 4 Hanoi**

On a city tour, discover the Hanoi Hilton prison, walk through the Old Quarter and visit the Temple of Literature. In the afternoon, explore the Presidential Palace, One Pillar Pagoda and House on Stilts. **(B)**

**DAY 5 Hanoi to Hue**

Fly from Hanoi to Hue. Visit the city's must-see sites including Emperor Tu Duc's elaborate tomb, Imperial Palace, Citadel and Thien Mu Pagoda. Overnight at Moonlight Hotel (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 6 Hue to Hoi An**

Travel like the locals on the Reunification Express from Hue to Danang and take in some of Vietnam's most beautiful coastal scenery before driving to Hoi An. Join the students of Streets Café on a food-focussed walking tour. In the afternoon, visit some of Hoi An's main sites on a walking tour. Stay the next two nights at Hoi An Garden Palace (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 7 Hoi An**

Spend a free day in Hoi An. **(B)**

**DAY 8 Hoi An to Saigon**

Enjoy free time in Hoi An before driving to Danang and flying to Saigon. Relax with a drink at the iconic rooftop bar, Saigon Saigon, the perfect end to the day. Stay the next three nights at Grand Hotel Saigon (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 9 Saigon – Cu Chi Tunnels**

Drive to Cu Chi and discover the network of underground tunnels before enjoying a bowl of Pho at a local restaurant. Take a walking tour of Saigon's city centre. **(BL)**

**DAY 10 Saigon – Mekong Delta**

Board a speedboat from Saigon to the Mekong Delta. Travelling this way allows you to explore areas of the Mekong that few travellers get to experience. Spend time exploring the palm-fringed canals, visit local temples and markets, and enjoy a traditional lunch. Return to Saigon and join your group for dinner. **(BLD)**

**DAY 11 Saigon to Phnom Penh (Cambodia)**

Fly from Saigon to Phnom Penh. On arrival, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your Cambodia tour briefing. Stay the next two nights at Sunway Hotel (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 12 Phnom Penh**

Begin your day with a fun cyclo ride to the Central Market. Learn about Cambodia's chilling history at Tuol Sleng Museum and the Killing Fields memorial at Choeng Ek. In the afternoon, see the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda before relaxing with sunset drinks. **(B)**

**DAY 13 Phnom Penh to Siem Reap**

Fly from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap and drive to Tonle Sap Lake. Explore the lake by boat and see the floating villages. Return to Siem Reap for a free afternoon. Stay the next two nights at Somadevi Angkor Hotel & Spa (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 14 Siem Reap – Temples of Angkor**

Take a tuk-tuk to Angkor Wat's seldom-used East Gate entrance and explore the temple. After sunrise, enter the Angkor Thom complex by the little-visited West Gate. Spend time at Bayon temple and see the Terraces of the Elephant and Leper King. Return to the hotel before travelling to Banteay Srei temple and Ta Prohm temple. This evening, enjoy a farewell group dinner. **(BD)**

**DAY 15 Siem Reap**

Enjoy breakfast before transferring to the airport for your onward journey. **(B)**

**TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:**

- 13 nights hotel accommodation
- 1 night cruise accommodation onboard Indochina Sails
- All flights as specified in the itinerary
- Train from Hue to Danang
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles (except cyclo and tuk-tuk touring)
- Mekong Delta cruise
- Tonle Sap Lake cruise
- Entrance fees
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- Return group transfers from airport to accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, R = brunch, L = lunch, D = dinner)

**PRICE PER PERSON\***

2019			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	05	G	\$3919	\$4999
	19		\$3919	\$4999
	26	G	\$3919	\$4999
FEB	16	G	\$3919	\$4999
	23		\$3919	\$4999
MAR	09	G	\$3919	\$4999
	16	G	\$3919	\$4999
	23		\$3919	\$4999
APR	30	G	\$3919	\$4999
	13	G	\$3869	\$4899
	27	G	\$3869	\$4899
MAY	25	G	\$3869	\$4899
JUN	29		\$3869	\$4899
JUL	13	G	\$3869	\$4899
	31	G	\$3869	\$4899
AUG	10	G	\$3869	\$4899
	31		\$3869	\$4899
SEP	14		\$3869	\$4899
	28	G	\$3869	\$4899
OCT	05	G	\$3919	\$4999
	26	G	\$3919	\$4999
NOV	02		\$3919	\$4999
	23	G	\$3919	\$4999
DEC	07		\$3919	\$4999
2020			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	11		\$4309	\$5509
	25		\$4309	\$5509
FEB	15		\$4309	\$5509
	22		\$4309	\$5509
	29		\$4309	\$5509
MAR	14		\$4309	\$5509

**G** = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: VTAC

**TRIP GRADING: EASY**  
(See page 87 for details)



Halong Bay, Vietnam

**EXPERIENCE MORE**  
This tour can be combined with Sapa Explorer on page 22.

\*Prices are per person twin share based on low season and will vary depending on date of travel, unless otherwise stated. Pricing does not include the airfare from New Zealand. Please contact us for an air-inclusive quote. Refer to our booking conditions for full pricing and payment information. For more information visit insiderjourneys.co.nz or see your travel agent.



# Indochina Explorer

19 DAYS FROM **\$5,379** PER PERSON\*



Kuang Si Falls, Laos

## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- 📍 Glide through Phnom Penh's fascinating streets on a traditional cyclo ride.
- 📍 Escape the crowds and travel by tuk-tuk to Angkor Wat's seldom-used East Gate for sunrise over Angkor Wat's famous spires.
- 📍 Explore Hanoi's bustling streets and markets while sampling delicious snacks. Try 'che' a sweet tea, a traditional Vietnamese pancake and local beer alongside the locals.
- 📍 Start the day like a local as you savour a traditional Lao coffee at a local coffee stall in Vientiane.
- 📍 Enjoy a fun, traditional Lao-style cooking demonstration at the Bamboo Experience cooking school. Learn about the typical ingredients used in Lao cookery and prepare a feast for dinner.







Angkor Wat, Cambodia

**DAY 1 Phnom Penh (Cambodia)**

On arrival in Phnom Penh, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your Cambodia tour briefing. Stay the next two nights at Sunway Hotel (or similar).

**DAY 2 Phnom Penh**

Discover Phnom Penh during a city tour, and visit Tuol Sleng Museum and the Killing Fields memorial at Choeng Ek. In the afternoon, see the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda before drinks at the Foreign Correspondent Club. (B)

**DAY 3 Phnom Penh to Siem Reap**

Fly from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap. Drive to Tonle Sap Lake and explore the lake by boat. Stay the next two nights at Somadevi Angkor Hotel & Spa (or similar). (B)

**DAY 4 Siem Reap – Temples of Angkor**

Travel by tuk-tuk to Angkor Wat for sunrise. Enter the Angkor Thom complex via the West Gate and spend time at Bayon temple. In the afternoon, explore Banteay Srei temple and Ta Prohm temple. This evening, enjoy a group dinner. (BD)

**DAY 5 Siem Reap to Saigon (Vietnam)**

Fly from Siem Reap to Saigon. On arrival, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your Vietnam tour briefing. Stay the next three nights at Grand Hotel Saigon (or similar). (B)

**DAY 6 Saigon – Cu Chi Tunnels**

Drive from Saigon to the Cu Chi tunnels. For lunch, enjoy a bowl of Pho at a local restaurant then visit the city's most impressive sites on a walking tour. This evening, relax with a drink at the iconic rooftop bar, Saigon Saigon. (BL)

**DAY 7 Saigon – Mekong Delta**

Travel to the Mekong Delta and gain an insight into the area's main local industries. Enjoy a delicious local lunch before returning to Saigon. (BL)

**DAY 8 Saigon to Hue**

Fly to Hue and see the city's most famous sites. Visit Spiral Foundation, a unique enterprise which employs people with disabilities. Overnight at Hotel Saigon Morin (or similar). (B)

**DAYS 9-10 Hue to Hoi An**

Take a scenic drive along Hai Van Pass from Hue to Hoi An and embark on a walking tour. The next day, enjoy a day at leisure. Stay two nights at Hoi An Historic Hotel (or similar). (2B)

**DAY 11 Hoi An to Halong Bay**

Drive to Danang then fly to Haiphong before driving to Halong Bay. Board a junk boat, feast on fresh seafood and explore a grotto. Overnight onboard Indochina Sails (or similar). (BLD)

**DAY 12 Halong Bay to Hanoi**

After brunch onboard, drive to Hanoi and sample delicious local snacks in the Old Quarter. Stay the next two nights at Silk Path Hotel (or similar). (R)

**DAYS 13-14 Hanoi to Vientiane (Laos)**

Discover Hanoi's sites and enjoy a group dinner. The next day, fly from Hanoi to Vientiane. On arrival, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your Laos tour briefing. Stay two nights at Lao Orchid (or similar). (2B1D)

**DAY 15 Vientiane**

Start your day with a Lao coffee. Discover Vientiane on a full day tour and take part in a Lao 'baci' blessing to wish you safe travels. (B)

**DAY 16 Vientiane to Luang Prabang**

Fly to Luang Prabang. Explore the National Museum and visit Wat Mai temple before enjoying free time. In the evening, take part in a bamboo cooking demonstration. Stay the next three nights at Sala Prabang (or similar). (BD)

**DAY 17 Luang Prabang**

Sample a bowl of noodle soup for breakfast. Visit Wat Xieng Thong temple and take a boat to Pak Ou Caves. Enjoy a picnic lunch and return to Luang Prabang. In the evening, participate in a game of petanque followed by sunset drinks. (BL)

**DAYS 18-19 Luang Prabang**

Rise early to see Buddhist monks collecting alms. Walk through a market before travelling to Kuang Si Falls. Spend the afternoon at leisure before a farewell group dinner. On your last day, enjoy breakfast before transferring to the airport for your onward journey. (2B1D)

**TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:**

- 17 nights hotel accommodation
- 1 night cruise accommodation onboard Indochina Sails
- All flights as specified in the itinerary
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles (except cyclo and tuk-tuk touring)
- Tonle Sap Lake cruise
- Mekong Delta cruise
- Entrance fees
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- Return group transfers from airport to accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, R = brunch, L = lunch, D = dinner)

**PRICE PER PERSON\***

2019			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	08	G	\$5479	\$6939
FEB	05	G	\$5479	\$6939
MAR	05	G	\$5479	\$6939
	26	G	\$5479	\$6939
APR	23	G	\$5409	\$6799
MAY	21	G	\$5379	\$6729
JUN	18	G	\$5379	\$6729
JUL	23	G	\$5379	\$6729
AUG	20	G	\$5379	\$6729
SEP	24	G	\$5379	\$6729
NOV	05	G	\$5479	\$6939
DEC	03	G	\$5479	\$6939
2020			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	07		\$6019	\$7629
FEB	04		\$6019	\$7629
MAR	03		\$6019	\$7629

**G** = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: IEXC

**TRIP GRADING: EASY**  
(See page 87 for details)



Mekong Delta, Vietnam



Hoi An, Vietnam



# Laos & Cambodia Experience

20 DAYS FROM **\$4,999** PER PERSON\*



Vang Vieng, Laos

## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

-  Cruise by slow boat along the Mekong River to Luang Prabang, and take in the beautiful scenery and traditional river life.
-  Receive a Lao blessing at a 'baci' ceremony in a local family's house, and enjoy a Lao 'jaew' feast of dips and dishes.
-  Venture along an historical train route which connects Phnom Penh to the old French port town of Kampot on Cambodia's south coast.
-  Get to know a local family with a home-stay experience in Takeo. Learn about the English-speaking classes they run for the local children.
-  At the Foreign Correspondent Club, enjoy an afternoon drink with your fellow travellers.







Kep, Cambodia

### DAY 1 Chiang Rai (Thailand)

On arrival in Chiang Rai, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your tour briefing. Overnight at Laluna Hotel & Resort (or similar).

### DAY 2 Chiang Rai to Pakbeng (Laos)

Board a private boat and cruise the Mekong to Pakbeng. Overnight at Phetsokxai (or similar). **(BL)**

### DAYS 3-5 Pakbeng to Luang Prabang

Cruise to Pak Ou Caves before arriving in Luang Prabang. The next day, enjoy a walking tour before playing a game of petanque as you enjoy sunset drinks. On your last day in Luang Prabang, rise early to see Buddhist monks collecting alms and enjoy a local noodle breakfast. Drive to Kuang Si Falls before a free afternoon. In the evening, join the Bamboo Experience cooking school. Stay three nights at Sala Prabang (or similar). **(3B1L1D)**

### DAYS 6-7 Luang Prabang to Vang Vieng

From Luang Prabang, drive to Vang Vieng and climb to the entrance of Tham Chang cave for great views. The next day, kayak along the Nam Song River and enjoy a free afternoon. Stay two nights at Villa Nam Song (or similar). **(2B)**

### DAY 8 Vang Vieng to Vientiane

Drive to Vientiane and stop en route at 'Kilometre 52', a village with a large ethnic population. On arrival in Vientiane, discover some of the city's key sites. Stay the next two nights at Lao Orchid Hotel (or similar). **(B)**

### DAY 9 Vientiane

On a city tour, see 'Buddha Park' filled with statues inspired by Buddhist and Hindu epics. Visit the Lao Disabled Women's Development Centre and COPE Centre before a free afternoon. In the evening, receive a traditional Lao blessing at a 'baci' ceremony and enjoy a Lao 'jaew' feast. **(BD)**

### DAY 10 Vientiane to Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

Fly from Vientiane to Phnom Penh. On arrival, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your Cambodia tour briefing. Stay the next two nights at Frangipani Royal Palace Hotel (or similar). **(B)**

### DAY 11 Phnom Penh

Spend the day exploring Phnom Penh and take a cyclo to the Central Market. Visit Tuol Sleng Museum and the Killing Fields memorial at Choeng Ek. In the afternoon, explore the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda followed by drinks at the Foreign Correspondent Club. **(B)**

### DAY 12 Phnom Penh to Kampot

Travel by train from Phnom Penh to Kampot then cruise on Preaek Tuek Chhu River. Overnight at Columns Hotel (or similar). **(B)**

### DAYS 13-14 Kampot to Kep

On the way to Kep, visit Phnom Chhnork temple and learn about the production of the region's renowned salt and Kampot pepper. The next day, explore Kep's ruined French villas, the busy crab market and relax on Rabbit Island. Stay two nights at The Beach House (or similar). **(2B)**

### DAY 15 Kep to Takeo

Travel north to Takeo and enjoy a speedboat ride before visiting Phnom Da, a striking hilltop temple. This evening, share a home-cooked meal with your home-stay family. Overnight at a home-stay (or similar). **(BD)**

### DAY 16 Takeo to Kampong Thom

Drive through rural Cambodia to Santuk Silk Farm and learn about silk production techniques. After a delicious home-cooked lunch, continue the drive to Kampong Thom. Spend the rest of the day at leisure. Overnight at Sambor Village Hotel (or similar). **(BL)**

### DAY 17 Kampong Thom to Siem Reap

Drive from Kampong Thom to Siem Reap. En route, walk across a Naga Bridge and take a boat trip on Tonle Sap Lake. Stay the next three nights at Somadevi Angkor Hotel & Spa (or similar). **(B)**

### DAYS 18-20 Siem Reap

Venture to Angkor Wat by tuk-tuk for sunrise. Travel to the Angkor Thom complex for a monk blessing, explore Bayon and Ta Prohm. The next day, see Banteay Srei and Boeng Mealea, and visit the Aki Ra Landmine Museum. In the evening, enjoy a farewell group dinner. On your last day, enjoy breakfast before transferring to the airport for your onward journey. **(3B1L1D)**

### TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- 18 nights hotel accommodation
- 1 night home-stay accommodation
- All flights as specified in the itinerary
- Train from Phnom Penh to Kampot
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles (except cyclo and tuk-tuk touring)
- Mekong River cruise
- Tonle Sap Lake cruise
- Entrance fees
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- Return group transfers from airport to accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)

### PRICE PER PERSON\*

2019			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	15	G	\$5159	\$6339
FEB	12		\$5159	\$6339
MAR	12	G	\$5159	\$6339
APR	09	G	\$5089	\$6209
MAY	14	G	\$4999	\$6039
JUN	11		\$4999	\$6039
JUL	09	G	\$4999	\$6039
AUG	13		\$4999	\$6039
SEP	10	G	\$4999	\$6039
OCT	08	G	\$5149	\$6329
NOV	12	G	\$5159	\$6349
DEC	10		\$5159	\$6349
2020			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	14		\$5669	\$6979
FEB	11		\$5669	\$6979
MAR	10		\$5669	\$6979

**G** = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: LCEC

**TRIP GRADING: MODERATE**  
(See page 87 for details)



Bayon, Cambodia



# China

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China is a land of beauty, ancient history, diverse cultures and boundless energy. With its buzzing modern cities, rural villages, breathtaking mountains and river scenery, China has something for everyone. Uncover its sheer size and enormous diversity on an unforgettable journey through this captivating country.



Great Wall of China



## Our Insider Experiences

We're passionate about connecting you with an authentic experience in China. As destination insiders, our Tour Leaders will introduce you to unforgettable moments so you come home with amazing stories to tell.



### Taste

China's incredible cuisine is as diverse as the country itself. Enjoy the crispy skin of Peking duck, sample a traditional noodle dish, zha jiang mian and taste a spicy Sichuan hotpot.



### Local

Peek into China's ancient history as you wander through hidden backstreets, visit traditional 'hutongs' far from the tourist trail and venture to a mountain village to meet the local tea pickers.



### Unique

Stay in a lodge overlooking the rice terraces of Longsheng, admire the skills of the peasant painters in Fengjing and wander through the stalls of Panjiayuan Antique Market in Beijing.

### When To Go

Due to its sheer size, China's climate varies greatly throughout the year. Overall, May and October generally have warm days and cool nights making it a pleasant time to travel. The warmest time of the year is from June through to August in central and northern China with increased temperatures and humidity. From December to March, winter brings fewer travellers and possible snowfall in the north. In the south, hot days, cold nights and increased rain occur from April to September while spring and autumn are warm and pleasant yet can be wet.

Average min/max temperature (°C)

	MAR-MAY	JUN-AUG	SEP-NOV	DEC-FEB
BEIJING	9°/22°	21°/31°	8°/18°	-4°/5°
SHANGHAI	11°/20°	25°/32°	16°/22°	2°/10°
XIAN	10°/22°	22°/34°	10°/19°	-2°/9°
GUILIN	16°/23°	24°/31°	19°/26°	9°/15°
CHENGDU	13°/22°	23°/31°	16°/21°	4°/12°





# Highlights of China

10 DAYS FROM **\$3,369** PER PERSON\*



## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- 📍 Explore fascinating backstreets on a walking tour in the older parts of Shanghai and get a glimpse into local life.
- 📍 Wind through the waterways of picturesque Fengjing old town and admire the skills of the peasant painters who create unique pieces of art inspired by ancient traditions.
- 📍 Enjoy a delicious zha jiang mian lunch of noodles served with pork or beef and soybean paste.
- 📍 Venture into the seldom-visited ancient 'hutongs' of Beijing where its people have lived for centuries.
- 📍 Wander through the endless array of stalls at Beijing's largest market, Panjiayuan Antique Market and find a fascinating range of traditional arts and crafts for sale.







Great Wall of China

**DAY 1 Shanghai**

On arrival in Shanghai, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your tour briefing. Stay the next three nights at SSAW Boutique Hotel Shanghai North Bund (or similar).

**DAY 2 Shanghai**

Shanghai has emerged as one of Asia’s most important cities and is a buzzing contemporary metropolis. Visit the China Art Palace and discover the modern buildings of the Pudong area. Enjoy lunch before exploring the French Concession area and take a backstreets walking tour to find Shanghai’s hidden gems. Discover the historical riverfront area known as the Bund, home to an impressive collection of 1920s neoclassical buildings. Wander through Yu Yuan, an extensive garden nestled in the centre of Shanghai’s old city. In the evening, enjoy an acrobatic performance. **(BL)**

**DAY 3 Shanghai – Fengjing**

Drive from Shanghai to Fengjing, a traditional water canal town. Enjoy a short cruise along the narrow canals to see the daily life of the people living along the river. Known for peasant painting, meet local artists who take inspiration from folk art including indigo prints, embroidery and murals to create unique art depicting traditional life. Return to Shanghai for an evening at leisure. **(B)**

**DAY 4 Shanghai to Xian**

Fly from Shanghai to Xian, the start of the world’s most famous trade route – the Silk Road. Visit the 14th century city walls and continue to the Great Mosque, an interesting fusion of Middle Eastern and traditional architectural styles. Walk through the Muslim Quarter to Yongxingfang as you take in the lively street markets and exotic local foods which range from Muslim cuisine to traditional Shaanxi dishes. Stay the next two nights at Grand Noble Hotel (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 5 Xian**

Drive to the Army of Terracotta Warriors. Each figure is unique both in facial features and expression. Enjoy lunch and return to Xian for a free afternoon. In the evening, join an optional dumpling cooking class (extra charge). **(BL)**

**DAY 6 Xian to Beijing**

Travel by high-speed train from Xian to Beijing, have a simple lunch on the train and transfer to your hotel on arrival. In the afternoon, visit the Summer Palace and discover the temples, pavilions and decorated corridors. Stay the next four nights at 5L Hotel Beijing (or similar). **(BL)**

**DAY 7 Beijing**

Spend a full day exploring Beijing’s impressive sites. Walk through vast Tiananmen Square which is said to hold over a million people. Continue to the Forbidden City and discover the massive collection of imperial buildings which make up one of the largest palace complexes in the world. At a local restaurant, try zha jiang mian, a noodle dish with pork or beef topped with soybean paste. Venture off the tourist path into traditional residential alleyways known as ‘hutongs’ which have not changed significantly for centuries and gain a glimpse into the lives of the locals. Continue to rarely-visited Miaoying Temple and tranquil Beihai Park before returning to your hotel. **(BL)**

**DAY 8 Beijing**

Visit the iconic Temple of Heaven, a perfect example of Ming architecture and a symbol of Beijing. With neither nails nor concrete used in its construction, the temple stands 38 metres high, 30 metres in diameter and is completely balanced by wooden pillars. Continue to Beijing’s largest market, Panjiayuan Antique Market which is known for its arts, crafts and antiques. Spend time wandering through the market before returning to your hotel for an afternoon at leisure. **(B)**

**DAY 9 Beijing – Great Wall of China**

Considered one of the world’s most famous man-made sites, the Great Wall of China is not to be missed. Travel to Mutianyu, a less crowded section of the wall with numerous guard towers. Take the cable car up to the wall and spend time exploring this incredible creation. This evening, enjoy a farewell Peking duck group dinner. **(BD)**

**DAY 10 Beijing**

Enjoy breakfast before transferring to the airport for your onward journey. **(B)**

**TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:**

- 9 nights hotel accommodation
- All flights as specified in the itinerary
- All high-speed train travel as specified in the itinerary
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles
- Entrance fees
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- Return group transfers from airport to accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)

2019			TWIN	SINGLE
MAR	25		\$3439	\$4399
APR	08	G	\$3439	\$4399
	22		\$3439	\$4399
MAY	13	G	\$3439	\$4399
	27		\$3439	\$4399
JUN	17	G	\$3369	\$4269
JUL	15		\$3369	\$4269
AUG	12	G	\$3369	\$4269
SEP	02		\$3439	\$4399
	16	G	\$3439	\$4399
OCT	14		\$3439	\$4399
	21		\$3439	\$4399
2020			TWIN	SINGLE
MAR	23		\$3779	\$4839

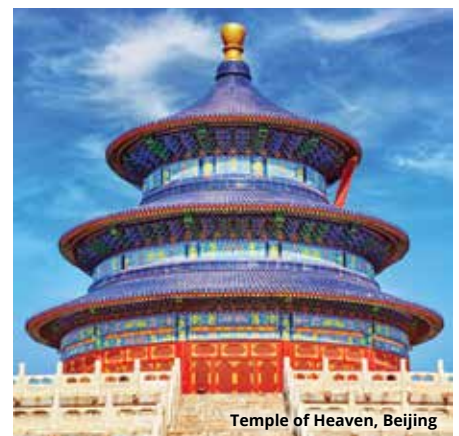
**G** = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: HCIC

**TRIP GRADING: EASY TO MODERATE**  
(See page 87 for details)



Fengjing



Temple of Heaven, Beijing

\*Prices are per person twin share based on low season and will vary depending on date of travel, unless otherwise stated. Pricing does not include the airfare from New Zealand. Please contact us for an air-inclusive quote. Refer to our booking conditions for full pricing and payment information. For more information visit insiderjourneys.co.nz or see your travel agent.



# Three Gorges Discovery

14 DAYS FROM **\$4,949** PER PERSON\*



Chengdu

## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- Wander through the narrow laneways of Beijing's ancient 'hutongs' where its people have lived and traditions have evolved for centuries.
- Visit the Giant Panda Research & Breeding Base to learn about these endangered animals, and the conservation and breeding initiatives that have been implemented.
- Gain a glimpse into local life as you explore the fascinating backstreets on a walking tour in the older parts of Shanghai.
- Travel by high-speed train to marvel at the splendour of the World Heritage Listed Classical Chinese Gardens of Suzhou. The Humble Administrator's Garden is the largest in Suzhou and the Master of Nets Garden is one of the finest in China.







Wu Gorge, Yangtze River

### DAY 1 Beijing

On arrival in Beijing, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your tour briefing. Stay the next three nights at 5L Hotel Beijing (or similar).

### DAY 2 Beijing

Spend a full day exploring Beijing's impressive sites. Walk through Tiananmen Square before continuing to the Forbidden City and Jingshan Park. At a local restaurant, try zha jiang mian, a noodle dish of pork or beef topped with soybean paste. Gain a glimpse into the lives of the local people as you go off the beaten path and wander through the traditional residential alleyways known as 'hutongs', where you will get to see some of the lesser known yet spectacular sights. (BL)

### DAY 3 Beijing – Great Wall of China

Travel to Mutianyu, a less crowded section of the Great Wall of China. Take the cable car up to the wall and enjoy exploring independently. This evening, savour Beijing's world famous Peking duck with your fellow travellers. (BD)

### DAY 4 Beijing to Xian

Visit the Summer Palace to discover the temples and pavilions. As you wander through the grounds, see local people exercising and practising Tai Chi. In the afternoon, take the high-speed train to Xian and enjoy a simple lunch on board. Visit the city walls which stand 12 metres above the city. Stay the next two nights at Grand Noble Hotel (or similar). (BL)

### DAY 5 Xian

Discover Xian's highlights on a full day tour. Drive to the Army of Terracotta Warriors and see the life-sized warriors. Enjoy lunch, return to Xian and see the Small Wild Goose Pagoda before visiting the Xian Museum. Gain insights at the Great Mosque before wandering through the Muslim Quarter to enjoy its lively street markets. (BL)

### DAY 6 Xian to Chengdu

Travel by high-speed train from Xian to Chengdu. On arrival, visit People's Park to observe the relaxed local Chengdu teahouse lifestyle before spending the evening at leisure. Stay the next two nights at Chengdu Tianfu Sunshine Hotel (or similar). (B)

### DAY 7 Chengdu

Visit the Giant Panda Research & Breeding Base. For lunch, sample a Wenshuyuan Buddhist meal before visiting Wenshu Temple and enjoy free time. In the evening, you have the option to see a Sichuan opera face-changing performance. (BL)

### DAY 8 Chengdu to Yangtze River

Enjoy a leisurely morning before taking the high-speed train to Chongqing, the embarkation point for your cruise. Stay the next three nights onboard Victoria Jenna (or similar). (B)

### DAY 9 Yangtze River Cruise

Cruise past small towns whose existence is tied to the waters of the Yangtze. Stop at Shibaozhai, a structure built against a steep hill. (BLD)

### DAY 10 Yangtze River Cruise

This morning, the ship passes through the first and second gorges, Qutang and Wu Gorge. Later in the day, enter the third of the main gorges called Xiling Gorge. This evening, the ship makes its way through the five level shiplock and moors downstream of the Three Gorges Dam. (BLD)

### DAY 11 Yangtze River to Shanghai

Visit the site of the Three Gorges Dam Project and continue cruising to Yichang, where the cruise ends. Fly to Shanghai and check-in to your hotel. Stay the next three nights at SSW Boutique Hotel Shanghai North Bund (or similar). (B)

### DAY 12 Shanghai

On a full day tour, discover the secrets of Shanghai. Experience the backstreets before meandering through Yu Yuan in the Old Town area. In the evening, enjoy a performance by world famous Chinese acrobats. (BL)

### DAY 13 Shanghai – Suzhou

Take the high-speed train to Suzhou where you will visit two outstanding gardens. Enjoy lunch and stop at the Suzhou Museum before returning to Shanghai to enjoy a farewell group dinner. (BLD)

### DAY 14 Shanghai

Enjoy breakfast before transferring to the airport for your onward journey. (B)

## TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- 10 nights hotel accommodation
- 3 nights cruise accommodation onboard Victoria Jenna
- All flights as specified in the itinerary
- All high-speed train travel as specified in the itinerary
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles
- Entrance fees
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- Return group transfers from airport to accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)

## PRICE PER PERSON\*

2019		TWIN	SINGLE
MAR	25	\$4949	\$6469
APR	08	\$5039	\$6649
MAY	13	G \$5039	\$6649
JUN	03	\$4949	\$6469
JUL	01	G \$4949	\$6469
AUG	12	\$4949	\$6469
SEP	02	G \$5039	\$6649
	09	\$5039	\$6649
OCT	14	G \$5039	\$6649
	28	\$4949	\$6469
2020		TWIN	SINGLE
MAR	23	G \$5439	\$7119

G = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: TGDC

**TRIP GRADING: EASY TO MODERATE**  
(See page 87 for details)



Suzhou



Terracotta Warriors, Xian



# China Panorama

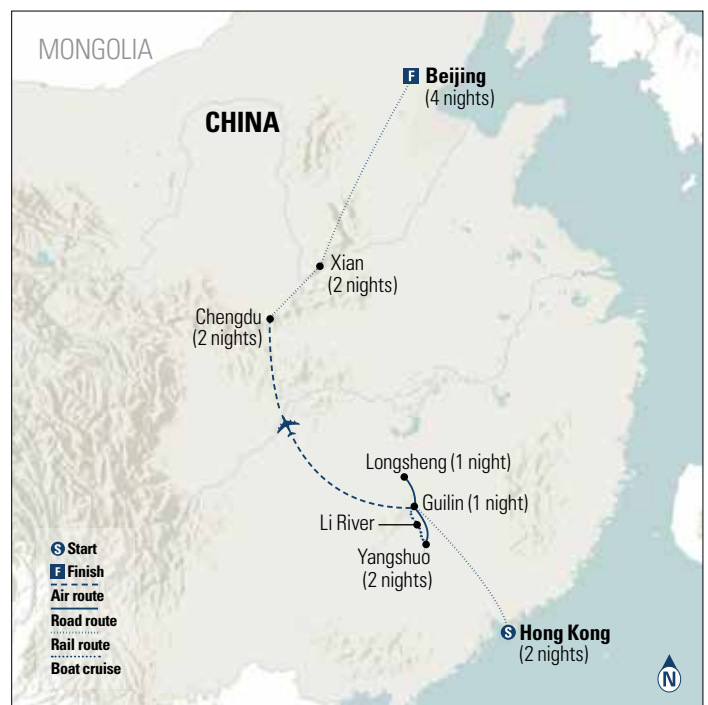
15 DAYS FROM **\$5,199** PER PERSON\*



Li River, Guilin

## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- 📍 During an overnight stay at a beautiful lodge, take in the spectacular rice terrace scenery of Longsheng, known as the Dragon's Backbone.
- 📍 Visit a village in the southern countryside for an interactive experience to learn about rural life in China. Help pick vegetables and enjoy lunch with the locals.
- 📍 Venture high into the mountains to visit an ancient village and see locals picking tea in the plantation.
- 📍 Gain a glimpse into the local way of life as you enjoy a cup of tea at a Chengdu teahouse while watching a game of mahjong.
- 📍 Taste the flavours of an iconic Sichuan hotpot as you cook fresh vegetables and meat in a spicy, simmering soup.







Giant Buddha, Leshan

### DAY 1 Hong Kong

On arrival in Hong Kong, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your tour briefing. Stay the next two nights at Harbour Plaza Metropolis (or similar).

### DAY 2 Hong Kong

Enjoy a half day tour exploring Hong Kong Island. Visit famous Victoria Peak for views of Victoria Harbour before continuing to Repulse Bay to take in the relaxed atmosphere of Kwun Yam Temple. Discover the floating villages of Aberdeen during a sampan ride. This afternoon, enjoy free time. (B)

### DAY 3 Hong Kong to Longsheng

Travel by high-speed train from Hong Kong to Guilin and drive to Ping An in Longsheng. Stay in a lodge overlooking the famous Dragon's Backbone rice terraces. Overnight at Longji Ping An Hotel (or similar). (B)

### DAY 4 Longsheng to Guilin

In Longsheng, admire some of China's most stunning scenery with row upon row of rice terraces. Enjoy a simple lunch at a local farmer's restaurant before driving to Guilin. Overnight at Guilin Bravo Hotel (or similar). (BL)

### DAY 5 Guilin to Yangshuo

Cruise along the Li River with limestone karsts towering above the river. Have a simple lunch on board, arrive in Yangshuo and spend the afternoon at leisure. Stay the next two nights at Days Inn Frontier Yangshuo (or similar). (BL)

### DAY 6 Yangshuo

Venture to the farmlands surrounding Yangshuo for a fascinating village experience and help the farmers pick fresh vegetables to be used in your lunch. In the afternoon, ride a bamboo raft along the tranquil Yulong River. This evening, choose to join a cooking class (extra charge). (BL)

### DAY 7 Yangshuo to Chengdu

Fly to Chengdu. Immerse yourself in the local life of bustling People's Park. Join the locals for a cup of tea at a teahouse as you watch a game of mahjong. Experience the atmospheric night market before enjoying a traditional Sichuan hotpot. Stay the next two nights at Chengdu Tianfu Sunshine Hotel (or similar). (BD)

### DAY 8 Chengdu

Drive south to Leshan to see the World Heritage Listed Giant Buddha. Cruise past this amazing structure for some great views and enjoy lunch. Drive to an ancient village before visiting a tea plantation. Return to Chengdu for an evening at leisure. (BL)

### DAY 9 Chengdu to Xian

Visit the Giant Panda Research & Breeding Base before taking the high-speed train to Xian. This evening, join an optional dumpling banquet (extra charge). Stay the next two nights at Grand Noble Hotel (or similar). (B)

### DAY 10 Xian

On a full day tour of Xian, discover the city's highlights and drive to the Army of Terracotta Warriors. Have lunch, return to Xian and visit the city walls before continuing to the Great Mosque. Wander through the Muslim Quarter to Yongxingfang as you take in the lively streets. (BL)

### DAY 11 Xian to Beijing

Travel by high-speed train to Beijing and enjoy a simple lunch on the way. On arrival, visit the ornate Summer Palace. Stay the next four nights at 5L Hotel Beijing (or similar). (BL)

### DAY 12 Beijing

Traverse Tiananmen Square and walk to the Forbidden City on a full day city tour. Enjoy lunch, visit the gardens of Jinshan Park and venture deep into the alleyways of Beijing known as 'hutongs' to observe the traditional way of life. (BL)

### DAY 13 Beijing

Visit the iconic Temple of Heaven which stands 38 metres high. Continue to Panjiayuan Antique Market, Beijing's largest market. This afternoon, enjoy free time to explore independently. (B)

### DAY 14 Beijing - Great Wall of China

Visit the Great Wall of China. At Mutianyu, a less crowded section of the wall, travel by cable car up to the wall and enjoy exploring independently. This evening, enjoy a farewell group dinner of world famous Peking duck. (BD)

### DAY 15 Beijing

Enjoy breakfast before transferring to the airport for your onward journey. (B)

## TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- 13 nights hotel accommodation
- 1 night lodge accommodation
- All flights as specified in the itinerary
- All high-speed train travel as specified in the itinerary
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles
- Li River cruise
- Leshan cruise
- Entrance fees
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- Return group transfers from airport to accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)

## PRICE PER PERSON\*

2019		TWIN	SINGLE
MAR	31	\$5199	\$6559
APR	14	G \$5569	\$7289
MAY	05	\$5569	\$7289
	19	G \$5569	\$7289
JUN	09	\$5199	\$6559
JUL	07	\$5199	\$6559
AUG	11	\$5199	\$6559
SEP	01	G \$5569	\$7289
	15	G \$5569	\$7289
OCT	06	\$5569	\$7289
	20	G \$5569	\$7289
2020		TWIN	SINGLE
MAR	29	\$5719	\$7219

G = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: CHPC

**TRIP GRADING: MODERATE**  
(See page 87 for details)



Longsheng



Hong Kong



# Japan

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From towering sky-scraper cities and cutting edge technologies to rustic, rural villages and timeless traditions, Japan is a diverse country rich in beautiful landscapes and an enchanting culture. Be welcomed by the polite hospitality of the gracious locals and immerse yourself in this fascinating destination as you embark on a memorable journey.



Mt Fuji



## Our Insider Experiences

We're passionate about connecting you with an authentic experience in Japan. As destination insiders, our Tour Leaders will introduce you to unforgettable moments so you come home with amazing stories to tell.



### Taste

Japan's cuisine is so much more than sushi. Sample matcha (green tea) in a tranquil garden, enjoy a traditional kaiseki meal, learn how to create bento or try okonomiyaki in Osaka's Dotombori Area.



### Local

Tradition and modernity combine to create a wonderful local culture. Gain a glimpse into the secret world of an apprentice Geisha known as a Maiko or travel like a local on the bullet train.



### Unique

From lunch with a sumo to strolling the streets of a bonsai village, Japan offers an endless array of unique experiences which sets the country apart from any other in the world.

## When To Go

Japan's climate varies from north to south making it comfortable to visit all year round. During spring (March to May) and autumn (September to November), skies are clear and temperatures are mild. From December to February, winter brings snowfall and fewer travellers making it a beautiful time of year to travel. Summer days from June to August are generally humid and wet. Cherry blossom season lasts a short time during spring, while autumn sees inland Japan ablaze with colour.

Average min/max temperature (°C)

	MAR-MAY	JUN-AUG	SEP-NOV	DEC-FEB
TOKYO	10°/19°	22°/29°	14°/21°	2°/11°
KYOTO	10°/17°	22°/31°	14°/22°	2°/9°
TAKAYAMA	8°/16°	21°/27°	12°/20°	1°/8°





# Highlights of Japan

10 DAYS FROM **\$5,699** PER PERSON\*



Arashiyama Bamboo Forest, Kyoto

## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- 📍 Enjoy a 'chanko' lunch with sumo wrestlers and learn about their unique world. Try on a sumo suit and put your skills to the test against a professional.
- 📍 Follow the meandering paths through the soaring stalks of bamboo which make up the bamboo groves of Arashiyama just outside of Kyoto.
- 📍 Stay the night in a traditional Japanese guesthouse known as a ryokan. Soak in the onsen and sleep on a futon mattress in a tatami-floored room.
- 📍 Be entertained by a Maiko and enjoy a traditional kaiseki meal in Kyoto. Take the opportunity to gain inside knowledge about the fascinating life of an apprentice Geisha.







Golden Pavilion (Kinkaku-ji), Kyoto

**DAY 1 Tokyo**

On arrival in Tokyo, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your tour briefing. Stay the next two nights at Akasaka Excel Hotel Tokyo (or similar).

**DAY 2 Tokyo**

Today, explore Tokyo on foot and on the underground rail network. Visit serene Meiji Jingu, Tokyo's most famous Shinto shrine with a 12 metre high torii gate at the entrance. Continue to the Imperial Palace to see Nijubashi, a metal bridge built in 1888. Travel by train to Asakusa, one of Tokyo's liveliest districts, and home to some of the city's best street food, and old izakaya and yakitori restaurants. Learn about the world of sumo as you enjoy a 'chanko' lunch with sumo wrestlers. After lunch, try on a sumo suit and test your skills against a professional. Spend time exploring Asakusa before returning to your hotel. **(BL)**

**DAY 3 Tokyo to Hakone**

Take the train to Hakone. Ride the ropeway (cable car) for views of Lake Ashi and, if the day is clear, catch a glimpse of Mt Fuji. Sail across the waters of Lake Ashi on a pirate ship before transferring to your accommodation, a traditional Japanese ryokan. Soak in the onsen, enjoy a delicious dinner and sleep on a futon mattress in a tatami-floored room. Overnight at Hakone Pax Yoshino (or similar). **(BD)**

**DAY 4 Hakone to Takayama**

From Hakone, travel by train to ancient Takayama, famous for its well-preserved old town district and traditional atmosphere. On the way, enjoy a bento box for lunch. Visit Takayama Jinya, a former government building which offers insights into Japan's history. Stroll along Kami Sannomachi Street to see the immaculately-preserved traditional wooden houses. View the elaborate festival floats at the Takayama Matsuri Yatai Kaikan and enjoy free time before walking back to the hotel. Stay the next two nights at Best Western Hotel Takayama (or similar). **(BL)**

**DAY 5 Takayama**

Spend the day at leisure exploring Takayama and its surrounds at your own pace. You may

choose to visit Shirakawago, a World Heritage Listed protected village famous for its stunning natural beauty and steeply pitched thatched roofs designed to withstand the heavy winter snowfall. Discover the shrines and temples of the Teramachi district or travel a short distance to Hida-Furukawa to admire the preserved buildings. **(B)**

**DAY 6 Takayama to Kyoto**

This morning, travel by train to Kyoto, Japan's cultural capital. Enjoy free time before taking a late afternoon walking tour along Ponto-cho and Hanami-koji Lane in the Gion district where you may see a Geisha. Stay the next four nights at Mitsui Garden Hotel Kyoto Shijo (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 7 Kyoto**

Today, travel on public transport and explore Kyoto's highlights on foot with your guide. Take the train to Arashiyama Bamboo Forest and marvel at the towering stalks of bamboo before continuing to Tenryuji Temple. See Katsura River from Togetsukyo Bridge and take the iconic purple Randen Train to Ryoanji Temple, the site of the most famous rock garden in Japan. Visit the Golden Pavilion (Kinkaku-ji), an elegant, gilded 14th century building which is one of Japan's most cherished sites. **(B)**

**DAY 8 Kyoto**

Today is yours to further explore Kyoto. Perhaps take the train to the historic city of Hiroshima, venture to Osaka to see Osaka Castle, meet Nara's deer population or visit Himeji Castle (extra charge). **(B)**

**DAY 9 Kyoto**

Spend a free day exploring Kyoto at your own pace. Perhaps explore Teramachi which is the perfect place to find traditional Japanese souvenirs including a kimono. This evening, enjoy a special kaiseki farewell dinner while being entertained by a Maiko. **(BD)**

**DAY 10 Kyoto**

Enjoy breakfast before transferring by private taxi to Kyoto Station for your onward journey. **(B)**

**TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:**

- 8 nights hotel accommodation
- 1 night ryokan accommodation
- 7 day rail pass
- All high-speed train travel as specified in the itinerary
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles
- Entrance fees
- Luggage transport
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- One way group transfer from Tokyo Airport to Tokyo accommodation
- One way group transfer from Kyoto accommodation to Kyoto Train Station
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)

**PRICE PER PERSON\***

2019			TWIN	SINGLE
FEB	17		\$5699	\$6289
MAR	17	G	\$6789	\$8159
MAY	12		\$5949	\$6859
JUN	02	G	\$5829	\$6729
AUG	25		\$5829	\$6729
SEP	29	G	\$6229	\$6809
OCT	20		\$6229	\$6809
NOV	17	G	\$6579	\$7869
2020			TWIN	SINGLE
FEB	09		\$5829	\$6729
MAR	22	G	\$6789	\$8159
	29		\$6859	\$8119
APR	05	G	\$6729	\$7989
	12		\$6629	\$7609

G = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: HOJC

**TRIP GRADING: MODERATE**  
(See page 87 for details)



Kaiseki



Mt Fuji

\*Prices are per person twin share based on low season and will vary depending on date of travel, unless otherwise stated. Pricing does not include the airfare from New Zealand. Please contact us for an air-inclusive quote. Refer to our booking conditions for full pricing and payment information. For more information visit insiderjourneys.co.nz or see your travel agent.



# Splendours of Japan

13 DAYS FROM **\$6,939** PER PERSON\*



Osaka Castle, Osaka

## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- 📍 Sample matcha (green tea) and a Japanese sweet as you relax in Hamarikyū Garden.
- 📍 Wander through the Omiya Bonsai Village which was relocated from Tokyo in 1923 following an earthquake. See the art of bonsai at multiple nurseries and private gardens.
- 📍 Visit Daitokuji Temple complex to experience the Zen culture and architecture.
- 📍 Explore Kurashiki to see the storehouses which once stored rice and have now been converted into museums and cafés.
- 📍 Visit Kenrokuen in Kanazawa and Korakuen in Okayama, two of the three gardens ranked as the best landscaped gardens in Japan.







Chureito Pagoda, Mt Fuji

**DAY 1 Tokyo**

On arrival in Tokyo, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your tour briefing. Stay the next three nights at Villa Fontaine Shiosome (or similar).

**DAY 2 Tokyo**

Using Tokyo's public transport network, spend the day discovering the city's highlights. Visit Meiji Jingu before wandering along the tree-lined avenue of Omotesando. Take the train to Asakusa and discover Sensoji Temple. Board a boat and cruise Tokyo's Sumida River. Stroll through Hamarikyu Garden and sample matcha (green tea) accompanied by a Japanese sweet. **(B)**

**DAY 3 Tokyo – Omiya Bonsai Village**

Dating back to 1925, Omiya Bonsai Village is a short train ride from Tokyo. Spend time exploring the village which is home to multiple bonsai nurseries and gardens. Learn about the art of bonsai and view 1,000 year old bonsai trees at the Bonsai Art Museum. Visit Hikawa Shrine before returning to Tokyo for an afternoon at leisure. **(B)**

**DAY 4 Tokyo to Kanazawa**

Travel by train from Tokyo to Kanazawa. On the way, enjoy a bento box lunch. In the afternoon, see Tersahima Kurando House which was the home of a middle-rank samurai. Stroll through Kenrokuen Garden, the most famous landscaped garden in the city and visit DT Suzuki Museum. Return to your hotel for an evening at leisure. Stay the next two nights at Kanazawa Manten Hotel (or similar). **(BL)**

**DAY 5 Kanazawa**

Enjoy a day at leisure to further explore Kanazawa. Alternatively, choose to join a day tour to Shirakawago with its unique 'gassho' style buildings, and Takayama's quiet streets and old-world ambience. **(B)**

**DAY 6 Kanazawa to Kyoto**

Board the train to Kyoto, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time. In the afternoon, visit the mountain complex of Fushimi Inari Shrine and walk through the thousands of vermillion coloured torii. Stay the next three nights at Hotel Gracery Kyoto Sanjo (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 7 Kyoto**

Discover Kyoto's highlights on a walking tour. Begin at Kyoto's oldest Zen temple, Kenninji Temple then continue on to Yasaka Shrine. Enjoy a traditional tea ceremony, and learn about the philosophy and art of serving tea. Wander along Ninenzaka to see the traditionally restored shophouses before visiting Kodaiji Temple. **(B)**

**DAY 8 Kyoto**

Spend the morning visiting Daitokuji Temple complex. Visit atmospheric Koto-in known for its maple trees, Ryogen-in with the world's smallest Zen garden and Zuiho-in's dry landscapes. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure. **(B)**

**DAY 9 Kyoto to Okayama**

Take the train from Kyoto to Okayama. Visit Okayama's main attraction, Korakuen – ranked as one of Japan's three best landscaped gardens. The garden features typical Japanese elements including a large pond, streams, paths and a hill as well as spacious lawns which are a unique feature. Continue to the six storey Okayama Castle or 'Crow Castle' for its black exterior. Spend the remainder of the day at leisure. Stay the next two nights at Mitsui Garden Hotel Okayama (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 10 Kurashiki**

Visit Kurashiki, a preserved canal town. Stroll along the tree-lined streets or spend some time in the many art museums. Choose to take an optional boat ride along the canals (extra charge). Return to Okayama for an evening at leisure. **(B)**

**DAY 11 Okayama to Osaka**

From Okayama, travel by train to Osaka and enjoy free time on arrival. In the afternoon, visit Osaka Castle. Board the Aqualiner and cruise along Okawa River. Enjoy an evening at leisure. Stay the next two nights at Osaka Daiichi Hotel (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 12 Osaka**

With a free day in Osaka, choose what you would like to do. This evening, enjoy a farewell group dinner. **(BD)**

**DAY 13 Osaka**

Enjoy breakfast before transferring to Osaka Station for your onward journey. **(B)**

**TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:**

- 12 nights hotel accommodation
- 7 day rail pass
- All high-speed train travel as specified in the itinerary
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles
- Entrance fees
- Luggage transport
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- One way group transfer from Tokyo Airport to Tokyo accommodation
- One way group transfer from Osaka accommodation to Osaka Train Station
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)

PRICE PER PERSON*			
2019		TWIN	SINGLE
MAR	24	\$7889	\$9269
APR	14 <b>G</b>	\$7299	\$8139
MAY	26 <b>G</b>	\$6939	\$7609
JUN	09	\$7189	\$8009
JUL	21	\$6939	\$7609
SEP	22 <b>G</b>	\$7439	\$8309
NOV	03 <b>G</b>	\$7189	\$8009
2020		TWIN	SINGLE
FEB	23	\$7189	\$8009
MAR	29 <b>G</b>	\$7719	\$8809

**G** = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: POJC

**TRIP GRADING: MODERATE**  
(See page 87 for details)



Kenrokuen, Kanazawa



Fushimi Inari Shrine, Kyoto

\*Prices are per person twin share based on low season and will vary depending on date of travel, unless otherwise stated. Pricing does not include the airfare from New Zealand. Please contact us for an air-inclusive quote. Refer to our booking conditions for full pricing and payment information. For more information visit insiderjourneys.co.nz or see your travel agent.



# Secrets of Japan

14 DAYS FROM **\$9,109** PER PERSON\*



Miyajima Island

## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- Discover Kappabashi Dori with its endless supply of stores selling everything from pots and pans to cooking utensils and chairs.
- Visit Nippori Fabric Town in Tokyo where you'll find an amazing array of traditional silk and modern print fabrics.
- Wander through Yanaka Old Town and take in the 'shitamachi' or 'downtown' character of the area, a stark difference to the modernity of Tokyo.
- Learn how to create bento, a common Japanese meal featuring single portions of rice or noodles, meat and cooked or pickled vegetables.







Sensoji Temple, Tokyo

**DAY 1 Tokyo**

On arrival in Tokyo, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your tour briefing. Stay the next three nights at Akasaka Excel Hotel Tokyo (or similar).

**DAY 2 Tokyo**

Spend the morning discovering Tokyo on a walking tour. Visit the city's most famous Shinto shrine – MeijiJingu. Walk to nearby Harajuku which showcases the Cosplay (costume play) subculture. Take the train to Shibuya and see the iconic pedestrian crossing. Sample some delicious food as you wander through the Tokyu Food Hall. Return to your hotel and enjoy free time. **(B)**

**DAY 3 Tokyo**

In the morning, visit the oldest and most revered temple in the city, Sensoji Temple. Stroll along Kappabashi Dori to see the endless array of specialised stores selling everything from cooking utensils to tables and uncover an abundance of fabrics as you walk through Nippori Fabric Town. Visit Yanaka Cemetery which feels more like a park than a cemetery. Step back in time as you wander through Yanaka Old Town. Enjoy a free afternoon. **(B)**

**DAY 4 Tokyo to Hakone**

Take the train to Hakone. Enjoy a short boat cruise on Lake Ashi and ride the ropeway (cable car) for majestic views of Mt Fuji. This evening, enjoy a delicious meal at your traditional Japanese hotel. Over night at Hakone Pax Yoshino (or similar). **(BD)**

**DAY 5 Hakone to Takayama**

Travel from Hakone to Takayama by train. See the magnificent wooden floats which are paraded through the streets each year during the two Takayama Festivals. Visit a former government building, Takayama Jinya. Discover the beautifully preserved wooden houses as you stroll along Kami Sannomachi Street. Stay the next two nights at Takayama Ouan (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 6 Takayama**

Enjoy a full day exploring Takayama and its surrounds at your own pace. You may choose to visit Shirakawago, a village famous for its buildings with steeply pitched thatched roofs. **(B)**

**DAY 7 Takayama to Kyoto**

From Takayama, travel by train to Kyoto. During the afternoon, join a walking tour in the Gion district where you may see a Geisha. Stay the next three nights at Mitsui Garden Hotel Kyoto Sanjo (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 8 Kyoto**

Discover Kyoto's highlights on a full day walking tour. Begin at Kiyomizudera Temple and wander along Ninenzaka Street before visiting Kyoto's oldest Zen temple, Kenninji Temple. Learn the art of serving tea at a traditional tea ceremony. Discover the 1,001 statues of Kannon, the goddess of mercy at Sanjusangendo. **(B)**

**DAY 9 Kyoto**

Learn how to create bento during an interactive cooking class. Spend the afternoon at leisure. This evening, be entertained by a Maiko while enjoying a kaiseki dinner. **(BLD)**

**DAY 10 Kyoto to Hiroshima**

Visit Fushimi Inari Shrine before travelling by train from Kyoto to Hiroshima and enjoy a bento box for lunch. Stay the next two nights at Mitsui Garden Hotel Hiroshima (or similar). **(BL)**

**DAY 11 Hiroshima**

Visit the Peace Memorial Museum and Peace Memorial Park. Venture by ferry to Miyajima Island, home to Itsukushima Shrine. Take the opportunity to either hike or travel by ropeway (cable car) to the summit of Mt Misen. For lunch, you may choose to try an okonomiyaki pancake. Return by ferry and spend the afternoon at leisure. **(B)**

**DAY 12 Hiroshima to Osaka**

From Hiroshima, travel by train to Osaka. Visit Osaka Castle, board the Aqualiner to cruise along Okawa River and see the city from the top of Umeda Sky Building. Stay the next two nights at Cross Hotel Osaka (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 13 Osaka**

Choose what you'd like to do with a full free day in vibrant Osaka. This evening, enjoy a farewell group dinner in the Dotombori Area. **(BD)**

**DAY 14 Osaka**

Enjoy breakfast before transferring to Osaka Station for your onward journey. **(B)**

**TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:**

- 12 nights hotel accommodation
- 1 night ryokan accommodation
- 14 day rail pass
- All high-speed train travel as specified in the itinerary
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles
- Entrance fees
- Luggage transport
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- One way group transfer from Tokyo Airport to Tokyo accommodation
- One way group transfer from Osaka accommodation to Osaka Train Station
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)

**PRICE PER PERSON\***

2019			TWIN	SINGLE
FEB	24		\$9219	\$10589
MAY	19	G	\$9219	\$10589
JUN	23		\$9109	\$10289
SEP	08	G	\$9579	\$11089
OCT	06		\$9579	\$11089
NOV	10	G	\$9909	\$11179
2020			TWIN	SINGLE
MAR	01		\$9579	\$11089
	29	G	\$9699	\$11199
APR	05		\$9699	\$11199
	12	G	\$9579	\$11089

**G** = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: SOJC

**TRIP GRADING: MODERATE**  
(See page 87 for details)



Bento Box



Kyoto

\*Prices are per person twin share based on low season and will vary depending on date of travel, unless otherwise stated. Pricing does not include the airfare from New Zealand. Please contact us for an air-inclusive quote. Refer to our booking conditions for full pricing and payment information. For more information visit insiderjourneys.co.nz or see your travel agent.



# India

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A kaleidoscope of colour and activity, India is home to dramatic forts, endless deserts, spice hills, tranquil backwaters and thriving cities. Welcoming people, tantalising cuisine, ancient traditions and diverse landscapes make India one of Asia's most rewarding destinations. Experience a land of vibrant colours, rich history and local cultures as you venture through this captivating country.



Taj Mahal



## Our Insider Experiences

We're passionate about connecting you with an authentic experience in India. As destination insiders, our Tour Leaders will introduce you to unforgettable moments so you come home with amazing stories to tell.



### Taste

From sweet chai and fresh naan to delicious curries and fried samosas, the authentic flavours of Indian cuisine can be tasted everywhere from restaurants to vibrant markets and local homes.



### Local

Experience India through the eyes of a local. Venture off the tourist trail into a world of culture-rich villages and beautiful saris, talk with a Sadhu, discover an ashram and visit a traditional milk market.



### Unique

Rugged national parks and towering forts meet Thar Desert sunsets and aarthi ceremonies in a country filled with a diverse array of unique experiences which will enliven your senses.

## When To Go

India's weather varies greatly throughout the country. In the north, from October to April warm, rain free days make it a pleasant time to travel. Overnight temperatures are very cold during December and January while days remain beautifully mild. South of Mumbai the tropical climate brings hot, humid days except in the highlands where temperatures are cooler. From June to September, the country experiences the 'green' season with the majority of rainfall occurring during this time.

Average min/max temperature (°C)

	MAR-MAY	JUN-AUG	SEP-NOV	DEC-FEB
DELHI	22°/37°	27°/36°	19°/32°	10°/23°
JAIPUR	23°/38°	25°/35°	20°/33°	11°/25°
COCHIN	26°/33°	24°/31°	24°/31°	23°/32°
CHENNAI	26°/37°	26°/36°	24°/32°	21°/30°



Kerala Backwaters





# Taste of India

8 DAYS FROM **\$2,529** PER PERSON\*



Amber Fort, Jaipur

## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- Take in the sights, sounds and aromas of Old Delhi's vibrant food markets as you wander through the narrow laneways sampling the authentic flavours of India, from sweet chai to fresh naan.
- See the unique and stunning symmetry of the Taj Mahal as dawn's first light brings this iconic monument to life.
- Go in search of tigers through the ruggedly beautiful landscapes of Ranthambore National Park during two exciting safaris.
- From stunning forts to heritage hotels, stay in atmospheric old-world style properties which offer a glimpse into India's regal history.







Chandni Chowk, Delhi

### DAY 1 Delhi

On arrival in Delhi, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your tour briefing. Stay the next two nights at Maidens Hotel (or similar).

### DAY 2 Delhi

Spend the day discovering Delhi's highlights. Drive to the Red Fort, a magnificent monument in the heart of Delhi. Take a bicycle rickshaw through Old Delhi's historical trading streets of Chandni Chowk before visiting the city's famous spice market, Khari Baoli. Wander through Parathey wali gali to see masala chai being made while sampling some of the local food. Walk to Jama Masjid – the largest mosque in India and view it from the outside before visiting a communal kitchen at a Sikh temple to see volunteers prepare free meals for thousands of devotees. Visit Humayun's Tomb – the precursor to the Taj Mahal, followed by Rajpath which is home to India's government buildings, President's residence and India Gate. End the day in the colourful Lodhi Art District which is home to beautiful murals painted on buildings by local and international artists. (B)

### DAY 3 Delhi to Agra

Drive to Agra and explore magnificent Agra Fort which was built by Emperor Akbar in 1565. Catch your first glimpse of the Taj Mahal from the fort's ramparts. This afternoon, visit a marble inlay workshop to see the intricate craftsmanship and skill required to make each finely-detailed piece. Overnight at DoubleTree by Hilton Agra (or similar). (B)

### DAY 4 Agra to Ranthambore National Park

Rise early to see one of the world's most iconic landmarks, the Taj Mahal. Enter through the West Gate with its archway framing and revealing the beauty of the Taj. Explore the main tomb, pavilions and gardens before returning to your hotel for a late breakfast. Drive through the Rajasthani countryside to Abaneri village. Enjoy a lovely high tea before visiting the 1,300 year old Chand Baori Stepwell. Walk through the colourful local market then continue onto Sawai Madhopur, home to Ranthambore National Park. Enjoy dinner at the hotel. Stay the next two nights at Fort Nahargarh (or similar). (BD)

### DAY 5 Ranthambore National Park

Begin the day with a dawn game drive through Ranthambore National Park. Covering more than 1,300 square kilometres, it is home to a host of wildlife including deer, jackal, hyena, leopard and tigers. After a late breakfast, visit a women's cooperative which makes handicrafts. Return to your hotel for free time before embarking on another game drive in the late afternoon. Return to your hotel and enjoy a relaxing dinner. (BD)

### DAY 6 Ranthambore National Park to Jaipur

Drive from Ranthambore National Park to Jaipur, Rajasthan's capital and affectionately called the 'Pink City'. Arrive in Jaipur and enjoy a walking tour of the royal observatory. Take a pink rickshaw ride to your hotel with the Pink City Rickshaw Company, a not-for-profit organisation which supports the employment of women from low income households. Jaipur offers excellent shopping opportunities and this afternoon, there's free time for you to explore the town's popular bazaar. This evening, you have the option of joining your group to watch a Bollywood movie, have a palm reading or receive a Henna tattoo (extra charge). Stay the next two nights at Shahpura House (or similar). (B)

### DAY 7 Jaipur

This morning, see a traditional milk market come to life before admiring the façade of the Hawa Mahal. Continue to a local tea shop and sample possibly the best chai in Jaipur. Venture by jeep to impressive Amber Fort and spend a few hours discovering the beautiful architecture. Return to town for a guided walking tour of Jaipur bazaar where you can shop for handicrafts, jewellery and fabrics. This evening, enjoy a farewell dinner with a local family in their historic haveli home and see how some typical Rajasthani dishes are prepared. (BD)

### DAY 8 Jaipur

Enjoy breakfast before transferring to the airport for your onward journey. (B)

### TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- 7 nights hotel accommodation
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles (except jeep safaris and rickshaw touring)
- Ranthambore National Park jeep safaris
- Entrance fees (except camera fees)
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- Return group transfers from airport to accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, D = dinner)

### PRICE PER PERSON\*

		TWIN		SINGLE	
2019	JAN	13	G	\$2739	\$3739
		27		\$2739	\$3739
	FEB	17	G	\$2739	\$3739
	MAR	10	G	\$2739	\$3739
	SEP	15	G	\$2529	\$3259
	OCT	06		\$2879	\$3929
		27	G	\$2879	\$3929
	NOV	17	G	\$2879	\$3929
	DEC	15		\$2879	\$3929
2020				TWIN	SINGLE
	JAN	12		\$3009	\$4119
	FEB	02	G	\$3009	\$4119
		16		\$3009	\$4119
	MAR	15	G	\$3009	\$4119

**G** = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: TOIC

### TRIP GRADING: EASY TO MODERATE (See page 87 for details)



Ranthambore National Park



Hawa Mahal, Jaipur



# Highlights of Rajasthan

14 DAYS FROM **\$4,339** PER PERSON\*



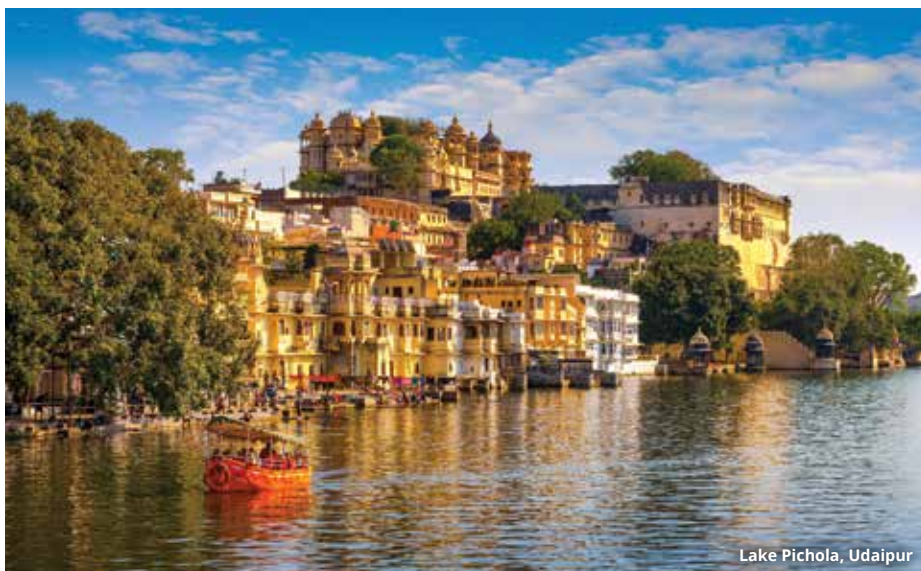
Meherangarh Fort, Jodhpur

## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- 📍 Marvel at the unique symmetry of the Taj Mahal as the pink hues of dawn bring this iconic monument to life.
- 📍 Gain a glimpse into India's regal history as you stay in atmospheric old-world style properties.
- 📍 Experience a sunset camel ride across the dunes of the Thar Desert to enjoy drinks amid stunning scenery. Spend the night in a comfortable tented camp in the desert.
- 📍 Step off the tourist trail to visit colourful, culture-filled villages where life has remained relatively unchanged for centuries. Wander through local markets, meet friendly locals and see craftsmen at work.







Lake Pichola, Udaipur

**DAY 1 Delhi**

On arrival in Delhi, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your tour briefing. Stay the next two nights at Maidens Hotel (or similar).

**DAY 2 Delhi**

Discover Delhi's must-see sites, beginning at the Red Fort. Take a bicycle rickshaw through Chandni Chowk before visiting Khari Baoli, the city's famous spice market. Wander through Parathay wali gali to see local snack food being made. Walk to India's largest mosque – Jama Masjid to view it from the outside before visiting a communal kitchen at a Sikh temple. Visit Humayun's Tomb followed by Rajpath which is home to India's government buildings. See beautiful murals in the colourful Lodhi Art District. **(B)**

**DAY 3 Delhi to Agra**

Drive from Delhi to Agra and explore magnificent Agra Fort. In the afternoon, visit a marble inlay workshop. Overnight at DoubleTree by Hilton Agra (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 4 Agra to Ranthambore National Park**

See the Taj Mahal and explore the grounds before a late breakfast. Drive to Abaneri village to visit the 1,300 year old Chand Baori Stepwell and walk through a colourful local market after enjoying high tea. Continue onto Sawaii Madhopur, home to Ranthambore National Park. Enjoy dinner at the hotel. Stay the next two nights at Fort Nahargarh (or similar). **(BD)**

**DAY 5 Ranthambore National Park**

Begin your day at dawn with a game drive through Ranthambore National Park, home to a host of wildlife including tigers. After a late breakfast, visit a women's cooperative that makes handicrafts. Relax at the hotel and embark on a late afternoon game drive. Relax over dinner at the hotel. **(BD)**

**DAY 6 Ranthambore National Park to Jaipur**

Drive to Jaipur and enjoy a walking tour of the royal observatory. Take a pink rickshaw to your hotel and spend the afternoon at leisure. This evening, see an optional Bollywood movie (extra charge). Stay the next two nights at Shahpura House (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 7 Jaipur**

This morning, visit a traditional milk market, admire the façade of the Hawa Mahal and sample possibly the best chai in Jaipur. Take a jeep ride to the hilltop Amber Fort before a guided walking tour of the bazaar. This evening, enjoy dinner with a local family in their haveli home. **(BD)**

**DAY 8 Jaipur to Khejarla**

Journey to Khejarla and gain a glimpse into the local villages on a jeep safari. Continue to Durga Mata Temple which was partly destroyed during the Moghul-era and receive a Henna tattoo. In the evening, enjoy a cooking demonstration and listen to traditional musicians during dinner. Overnight at Khejarla Fort (or similar). **(BD)**

**DAY 9 Khejarla to Manvar Desert Camp**

Drive towards the Thar Desert and enjoy lunch before relaxing at your atmospheric tented accommodation. Venture into the sand dunes on a camel for sunset drinks before returning for a sumptuous dinner. Overnight at Manvar Desert Camp (or similar). **(BLD)**

**DAY 10 Manvar Desert Camp to Jodhpur**

In an open-top jeep, explore nearby tribal Bishnoi villages and see local artisans. Enjoy lunch before continuing your journey to Jodhpur. Stay the next two nights at Ranbanka Palace (or similar). **(BL)**

**DAY 11 Jodhpur**

Visit imposing Meherangarh Fort. Enjoy magnificent views before walking down to the bazaar. Spend the afternoon at leisure. **(B)**

**DAY 12 Jodhpur to Udaipur**

Depart Jodhpur and drive to Udaipur. En route, stop at the temples of Ranakpur. Stay the next two nights at Fateh Niwas Palace (or similar). **(B)**

**DAY 13 Udaipur**

Explore the City Palace and take a guided market walk. Depending on water levels, cruise on Lake Pichola followed by a farewell dinner. **(BD)**

**DAY 14 Udaipur**

Enjoy breakfast before transferring to the airport for your onward journey. **(B)**

**TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:**

- 12 nights hotel accommodation
- 1 night comfortable tented camp accommodation
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles (excluding jeep safaris and rickshaw touring)
- Ranthambore National Park jeep safaris
- Entrance fees (except camera fees)
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- Return group transfers from airport to accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)

**PRICE PER PERSON\***

		2019		2020	
		TWIN	SINGLE	TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	13	G	\$4599	\$6349	
	27		\$4599	\$6349	
FEB	17	G	\$4599	\$6349	
MAR	10	G	\$4599	\$6349	
SEP	15	G	\$4339	\$5789	
OCT	06		\$4849	\$6609	
	27	G	\$4849	\$6609	
NOV	17	G	\$4849	\$6609	
DEC	15		\$5069	\$6959	
		2020		2020	
				TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	12		\$5059	\$6989	
FEB	02	G	\$5059	\$6989	
	16		\$5059	\$6989	
MAR	15	G	\$5059	\$6989	

**G** = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: HORC

**TRIP GRADING: EASY TO MODERATE**  
(See page 87 for details)

Jodhpur



Thar Desert



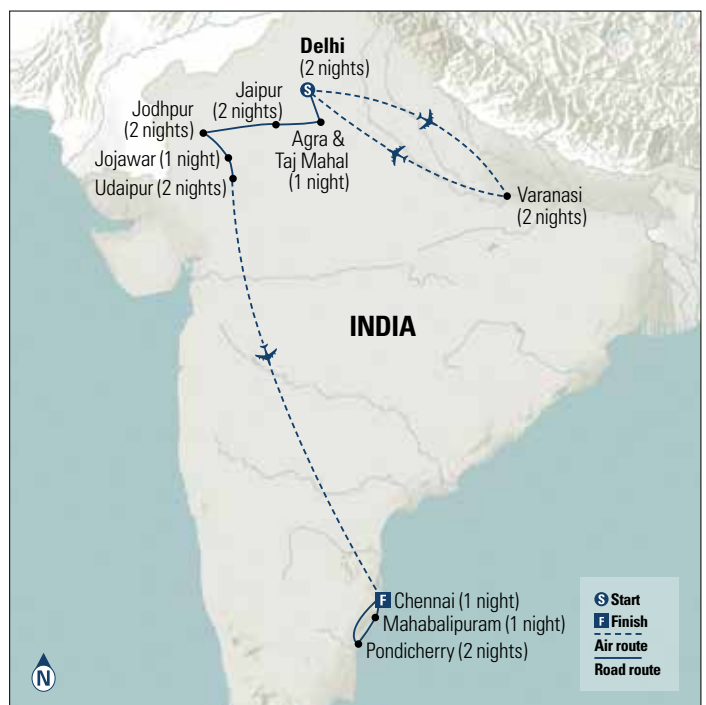
# Iconic India

17 DAYS FROM **\$5,999** PER PERSON\*

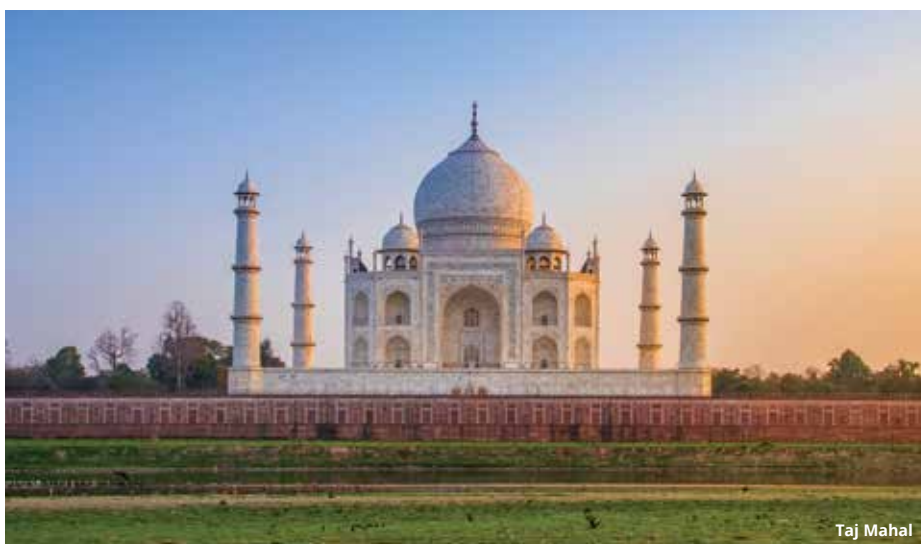


## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- Roam the lively, ancient laneways of the thriving pilgrimage city of Varanasi and see an unforgettable sunrise on the Ganges as a musician plays traditional music.
- Visit an ashram in Varanasi and speak with a Sadhu about their beliefs, customs and daily life.
- Take a spectacular train safari into the picturesque Aravali Hills of Rajasthan, encountering monkeys and absorbing India's natural beauty.
- Walk through cobbled laneways to Jodhpur's colourful bazaar filled with aromatic spices, mouth-watering local sweets and bright textiles.
- Visit Auroville in south India, an experimental village where people of all creeds, cultures and nationalities live in peace and unity.







Taj Mahal

**DAY 1 Delhi**

On arrival in Delhi, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your tour briefing. Stay the next two nights at The Suryaa New Delhi (or similar).

**DAY 2 Delhi**

Explore Delhi on a full day city tour. Drive to Red Fort and take a bicycle rickshaw through Chandni Chowk. Visit Khari Baoli spice market and wander through Parathey wali gali. Walk to Jama Masjid and view it from the outside before visiting a communal kitchen at a Sikh temple. Visit Humayun's Tomb followed by Rajpath. See the murals of the Lodhi Art District. (B)

**DAY 3 Delhi to Varanasi**

Fly to Varanasi, then drive to Sarnath where Buddha gave his first sermon and have a picnic lunch. Venture to the ghats located along the Ganges and see the priests stage a spectacular aarthi ceremony. Stay the next two nights at Radisson Hotel Varanasi (or similar). (BL)

**DAY 4 Varanasi**

Rise early for a misty dawn boat ride on the Ganges with a traditional musician onboard. Wander along the ghats, and enjoy chai and a samosa at a riverside teahouse. Take an afternoon ashram tour then talk with a Sadhu. (B)

**DAY 5 Varanasi to Agra**

Fly from Varanasi to Delhi before driving to Agra. Spend the evening at leisure. Overnight at DoubleTree by Hilton Agra (or similar). (B)

**DAY 6 Agra to Jaipur**

At dawn, see the Taj Mahal as you enter through the West Gate. Following a late breakfast, visit Agra Fort and drive to Jaipur. Stay the next two nights at Alsissar Haveli (or similar). (B)

**DAY 7 Jaipur**

Embark on a city tour and visit a traditional milk market, admire the façade of the Hawa Mahal and explore Amber Fort. Take a pink rickshaw back to your hotel with the Pink City Rickshaw Company. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure. (B)

**DAY 8 Jaipur to Jodhpur**

Take in the countryside while driving from Jaipur to Jodhpur. Stay the next two nights at Radisson Jodhpur (or similar). (B)

**DAY 9 Jodhpur**

Visit Meherangarh Fort, one of India's most impressive forts and walk down to the bazaar. (B)

**DAY 10 Jodhpur to Jojawa**

Drive to Jojawa. On a spectacular train ride through the Aravali hills pass local villages and stunning scenery. Overnight at Rawla Jojawa (or similar). (B)

**DAY 11 Jojawa to Udaipur**

Visit a Rebari camel herder camp and learn more about their nomadic lifestyle. Continue the journey to Udaipur stopping en route at Ranakpur, a major pilgrimage site. Stay the next two nights at Fateh Niwas (or similar). (B)

**DAY 12 Udaipur**

Spend time exploring the City Palace before taking a guided market walk. Depending on water levels, cruise on Lake Pichola. (B)

**DAY 13 Udaipur to Mahabalipuram**

Enjoy a leisurely morning in Udaipur. Fly south to Chennai and drive to Mahabalipuram. Overnight at Radisson Blu Resort Temple Bay (or similar). (B)

**DAY 14 Mahabalipuram to Pondicherry**

Visit Arjuna's Penance, a rock face covered in carved animals and deities. See the exquisite seaside creations of the Five Rathas and Shore Temple. Drive to Pondicherry and walk through Tamil Town and White Town before gaining an insight into life at Aurobindo Ashram, one of India's best known spiritual centres. Stay the next two nights at Maison Perumal (or similar). (B)

**DAY 15 Pondicherry**

Walk through Pondicherry's French Quarter. In the afternoon, visit Auroville, a fascinating town where everyone lives in peace and unity regardless of their religion or nationality. (B)

**DAY 16 Pondicherry to Chennai**

Drive to Chennai and see some of the city's highlights. Join your group for a farewell dinner. Overnight at Residency Towers (or similar). (BD)

**DAY 17 Chennai**

Enjoy breakfast before transferring to the airport for your onward journey. (B)

**TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:**

- 16 nights hotel accommodation
- All flights as specified in the itinerary
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles (excluding rickshaw touring)
- Entrance fees (except camera fees)
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- Return group transfers from airport to accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)

**PRICE PER PERSON\***

2019			TWIN	SINGLE
FEB	02	G	\$6109	\$8149
	23		\$5999	\$8049
MAR	09	G	\$5999	\$8049
OCT	05	G	\$6199	\$8239
	19		\$6199	\$8239
NOV	09	G	\$6199	\$8239
2020			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	04		\$6609	\$8849
FEB	01	G	\$6729	\$8969
	22		\$6609	\$8849
MAR	07	G	\$6609	\$8849

**G** = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: IINC

**TRIP GRADING: MODERATE**  
(See page 87 for details)



Aarthi Ceremony, Varanasi



Shore Temple, Mahabalipuram



# Spice of the South

14 DAYS FROM **\$4,999** PER PERSON\*



Kerala Backwaters

## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- Take a fascinating walk through Mysore's famous Devaraja Market with an array of colourful flowers, aromatic essential oils and vibrant dye powders.
- Search for the largest elephant herds in India in the jungles of Nagarhole National Park.
- Soak up the colonial-era ambience of Coonoor and Ooty, and take a ride on the historic 'toy train'.
- Learn about the tea-making process at the Kannan Devan Tea Cooperative.
- Traverse the tropical Kerala backwaters on a peaceful houseboat cruise as you weave through the region's scenic waterways.







Mysore Palace, Mysore

### DAY 1 Bangalore

On arrival in Bangalore, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your tour briefing. Overnight at The Chancery (or similar).

### DAY 2 Bangalore to Mysore

Visit the Lalbagh Botanical Gardens and drive to Mysore. En route, sample a south Indian vegetarian thali lunch. Drive to Srirangapatnam and visit the Ranganathaswamy Fort before arriving in Mysore. Overnight at Royal Orchid Metropole Mysore (or similar). **(BL)**

### DAY 3 Mysore to Nagarhole National Park

Walk around the Devaraja market, one of India's liveliest with a fantastic range of products. Stop at a sweet shop to try some delicious local treats. Visit the City Palace before driving onto Nagarhole National Park. Stay the next two nights at The Serai Kabini (or similar). **(B)**

### DAY 4 Nagarhole National Park

Nagarhole National Park is one of India's lesser-known national parks. Explore the jungle on a dawn jeep safari where you may see a tiger or leopard. Return to your hotel before taking an afternoon boat cruise on the Kabini Reservoir to see herds of Indian elephants. **(BLD)**

### DAY 5 Nagarhole National Park to Coonoor

On the way to Coonoor, drive through two national parks – Mudumalai and Bandipur. Climb the Nilgiri Hills before arriving in Coonoor. Stay the next two nights at The Gateway Hotel Church Road (or similar). **(B)**

### DAY 6 Coonoor

From central Coonoor, ride on the Nilgiris Queen 'toy train' to Ooty, a former British hill station. Visit St Stephen's Church, Bee Museum and a family-run chocolate shop. Head out to Dodabetta Peak, offering views of the Nilgiris countryside then drive back to Coonoor. **(B)**

### DAY 7 Coonoor to Pollachi

After a leisurely breakfast, drive to scenic Pollachi. In the afternoon, experience 'The Cotton Trail', a unique tour of an organic cotton farm. Spend the evening at leisure. Overnight at Coco Lagoon (or similar). **(B)**

### DAY 8 Pollachi to Munnar

Depart Pollachi for Munnar on a road journey through the mountains. Stay the next two nights at Spice Tree Munnar (or similar). **(B)**

### DAY 9 Munnar

Visit the Kannan Devan Tea Cooperative to learn about the tea-making process. Stop at the Shristi Foundation, a local charity which helps the local tea community. Spend the afternoon at leisure in your beautiful mountain retreat accommodation. **(B)**

### DAY 10 Munnar to Kumarakom

Continue to Kerala, stopping en route at a family-run pineapple and rubber plantation. Tour the grounds, enjoy a home-cooked Kerala lunch and continue to the Kerala backwaters. Stay the next two nights at Coconut Lagoon (or similar). **(BL)**

### DAY 11 Kumarakom

Enjoy a day at leisure to savour the beautiful setting of the Kerala backwaters. In the evening, see a cooking demonstration and enjoy sundowner drinks by the lakeside. **(B)**

### DAY 12 Kumarakom to Cochin

From Kumarakom, drive to Allepey to cruise through Kerala's backwaters aboard a 'kettuvallam', a converted rice barge. Enjoy lunch on board and observe life along the waterways. After disembarking in the afternoon, drive a short distance to Cochin. Witness a cultural dance demonstration before spending the evening at leisure. Stay the next two nights at Fragrant Nature Kochi (or similar). **(BL)**

### DAY 13 Cochin

Discover Cochin on a heritage walking tour and see some of the wonderful historic architecture from the Portuguese colonisation including Fort Cochin, St Francis Church and Dutch Palace Museum. Explore fascinating Jew Town and visit the 16th century Parsi Synagogue. Enjoy free time to discover the shops and boutiques of the surrounding area. In the afternoon, take a sunset cruise on Cochin Harbour before enjoying a farewell group dinner. **(BD)**

### DAY 14 Cochin

Enjoy breakfast before transferring to the airport for your onward journey. **(B)**

## TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- 13 nights hotel accommodation
- Train from Coonoor to Ooty
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles (excluding jeep safari)
- Nagarhole National Park jeep safari and cruise
- Kerala backwaters cruise
- Entrance fees (except camera fees)
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- Return group transfers from airport to accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)

## PRICE PER PERSON\*

2019			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	22	G	\$5219	\$7699
FEB	05		\$5269	\$7749
	19	G	\$5269	\$7749
MAR	26		\$4999	\$7299
OCT	08		\$5459	\$8109
	22	G	\$5459	\$8109
NOV	26		\$5459	\$8109
2020			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	21	G	\$5749	\$8469
FEB	04		\$5799	\$8519
	18	G	\$5799	\$8519
MAR	24		\$5499	\$8029

**G** = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: SOSC

**TRIP GRADING: MODERATE**  
(See page 87 for details)



Nagarhole National Park



Mysore Markets



# Sri Lanka

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Sri Lanka is an island of diversity where ancient Buddhist cities and colourful temples meet tropical beaches and abundant wildlife. Meet the local tea plantation workers and fishermen that call this island nation home. Small in size, yet big in historical, cultural and natural delights, Sri Lanka is an ideal destination just waiting to be uncovered.



Sigiriya Rock



## Our Insider Experiences

We're passionate about connecting you with an authentic experience in Sri Lanka. As destination insiders, our Tour Leaders will introduce you to unforgettable moments so you come home with amazing stories to tell.



### Taste

A melting pot of flavours, Sri Lanka's cuisine is based on fresh fruit, vegetables and spices. Enjoy a cooking demonstration, a simple local lunch or a refreshing cup of local tea.



### Local

Experiencing life like a local offers wonderful insights. Shop at Colombo's local Pettah market, gain a glimpse into farming life at a rural village or travel by train through the highlands.



### Unique

Absorb the atmosphere of pilgrims worshipping at a Buddhist temple, spot elephants in Yala National Park or take in stunning views from Sigiriya Rock – all unique experiences to Sri Lanka.

### When To Go

While mostly tropical, Sri Lanka's climate varies little between regions. The best time for a round island visit is January to early April when rainfall is minimal. Warm to hot days in the lowlands occur throughout the year while nights may be colder in the highlands.

Average min/max temperature (°C)

	MAR-MAY	JUN-AUG	SEP-NOV	DEC-FEB
COLOMBO	26°/33°	26°/32°	25°/31°	23°/31°
NUWARA ELIYA	25°/31°	26°/31°	25°/30°	23°/30°
SIGIRIYA	25°/32°	26°/31°	24°/30°	22°/31°



Galle





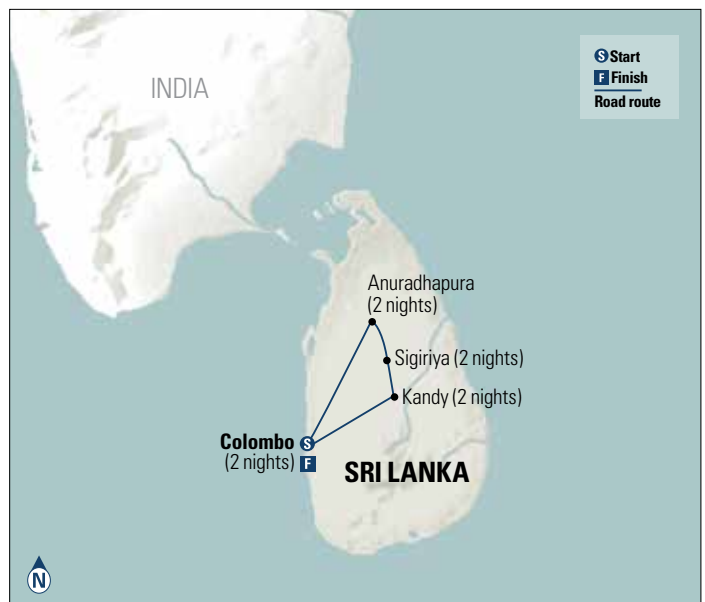
# Taste of Sri Lanka

9 DAYS FROM **\$2,629** PER PERSON\*



## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- 📍 Visit one of Anuradhapura's most revered Buddhist temple sites, Ruvanvelisaya Dagoba, where a fantastic atmosphere is created by the many visiting pilgrims.
- 📍 Enjoy a fascinating walking tour of Colombo's Pettah market where everything from electrical goods to fresh produce is sold.
- 📍 Climb the thousands of steps to the top of Sigiriya Rock and be rewarded with spectacular views of the surrounding countryside.
- 📍 Stop at a village near Habarana for an insight into rural Sri Lankan life. Take a bullock cart to see traditional farming life and enjoy a simple local lunch.







Sigiriya Rock

### DAY 1 Colombo

On arrival in Colombo, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your tour briefing. Stay the next two nights at Ramada Colombo (or similar).

### DAY 2 Colombo

Explore the Grand Oriental Hotel, Fort district, kovils (Tamil Hindu temples) and the Gangaramaya Temple. Wander through the Pettah, a vibrant and crowded street market area where everything from televisions to chillies are sold. This afternoon, enjoy free time to explore independently. **(B)**

### DAY 3 Colombo to Anuradhapura

Drive to Anuradhapura and stop en route at Negombo to visit the famous fish market. Along the way, you may see locals performing seasonal 'toddy tapping', a process which produces a popular local alcoholic beverage made from palm trees. Continue to Anuradhapura, the centre of Sri Lanka's cultural heritage. This ancient Buddhist capital also features spectacular ruined stupas set among park-like scenery. Enjoy an evening at leisure. Stay the next two nights at Palm Garden Village (or similar). **(B)**

### DAY 4 Anuradhapura

Spend the morning at the birthplace of Sri Lankan Buddhism, Mihintale. Climb up to the hill temples for spectacular views. While there are some steep steps the view is well worth the climb. Enjoy free time at your hotel before visiting some of Anuradhapura's main sites including the Thuparama Dagoba, perhaps the oldest Buddhist structure in the world. In the evening, experience one of Anuradhapura's most revered Buddhist temple sites where a fantastic atmosphere is created by the many visiting pilgrims coming to pray under the huge dome of Ruwanwelisaya Dagoba. **(B)**

### DAY 5 Anuradhapura to Sigiriya

Depart Anuradhapura and stop at a rural village near Habarana for an insight into Sri Lankan rural life. Take a bullock cart ride to see farming life before enjoying a simple lunch using fresh local ingredients including eggplant, yam, green banana or okra. Continue to the ancient capital of Polonnaruwa and visit the remains of the Royal Palace and impressive neighbouring

Quadrangle which retains some palace structures. Drive on to Sigiriya and relax over dinner at your hotel. Stay the next two nights at Hotel Sigiriya (or similar). **(BLD)**

### DAY 6 Sigiriya

Steeped in myth and legend, explore Sigiriya Rock which is an ancient monastery or palace believed to date back two millennia. Depending on your fitness levels, climb to the rock summit and be rewarded with magnificent views of the surrounding jungles and countryside. During the climb, see superb apsara frescoes before seeing two enormous rock lion paws as you begin the ascent to the summit. Return to the hotel and spend the remainder of the morning at leisure. Take an afternoon tour of the deserted forest monastery of Ritigala followed by dinner. **(BD)**

### DAY 7 Sigiriya to Kandy

Travel from Sigiriya to Dambulla, home to five hilltop cave temples filled with one of Sri Lanka's most celebrated collections of Buddhist art. The temples hold dozens of Buddha images and vast colourful frescoes. Afterwards, visit a tropical spice garden and learn about the plants which are used medicinally and in cooking. Enjoy a local lunch before driving into the central hills to Kandy, Sri Lanka's second largest city set amid forested peaks. Stay the next two nights at Hotel Suisse (or similar). **(BL)**

### DAY 8 Kandy

Rise early to visit the Temple of the Tooth which houses Sri Lanka's most revered relic, a tooth of Buddha and see one of the daily 'pujas' or prayer ceremonies. Pilgrims from all over the Buddhist world flock to the temple which is regarded as one of the holiest in the religion. Sample a simple local breakfast or a refreshing cup of tea before visiting a colourful central market area and the beautiful Peradeniya Botanical Gardens. Once favoured by Sinhalese kings and British colonial rulers, the gardens feature a spectacular and colourful collection of exotic tropical plants as well as a huge colony of fruit bats. This evening, enjoy a cooking demonstration and farewell group dinner. **(BD)**

### DAY 9 Kandy to Colombo

Enjoy breakfast before visiting a tea plantation on the way to Colombo for your onward journey. **(B)**

### TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- 8 nights hotel accommodation
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles
- Entrance fees
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- Return group transfers from airport to accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)

### PRICE PER PERSON\*

2019			TWIN	SINGLE
FEB	17	G	\$2749	\$3819
MAR	17	G	\$2749	\$3819
APR	14		\$2749	\$3819
JUN	23	G	\$2629	\$3559
SEP	15	G	\$2629	\$3559
OCT	13	G	\$2629	\$3559
NOV	10		\$2849	\$3939
DEC	08		\$2849	\$3939
2020			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	26	G	\$3019	\$4199
FEB	16	G	\$3019	\$4199
MAR	15		\$3019	\$4199

**G** = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: TSLC

**TRIP GRADING: MODERATE TO ACTIVE**  
(See page 87 for details)



Kovil, Colombo



Mihintale



# Sri Lanka Discovery

15 DAYS FROM **\$4,429** PER PERSON\*



## OUR INSIDER EXPERIENCES:

- 📍 Observe leopards on safari in Yala National Park.
- 📍 On Sri Lanka's famous train system pass spectacular tea plantations and hill scenery to Nuwara Eliya.
- 📍 Search for the world's largest creature, the Blue whale on a morning cruise off the coast of Sri Lanka (September to April).
- 📍 Visit one of Anuradhapura's most revered Buddhist temple sites, Ruvanvelisaya Dagoba.
- 📍 On a walking tour, wander through the old streets and ramparts of Galle Fort which has been influenced by Dutch, Portuguese and British rule.







Kandy to Nuwara Eliya train

### DAY 1 Colombo

On arrival in Colombo, transfer to your hotel and enjoy free time until your tour briefing. Stay the next two nights at Ramada Colombo (or similar).

### DAY 2 Colombo

Discover Colombo's main sites including the Fort district, kovils (Tamil Hindu temples) and the Gangaramaya Temple. Walk through the Pettah street market area before a free evening. **(B)**

### DAY 3 Colombo to Anuradhapura

Drive to Anuradhapura stopping en route at Negombo's famous fish market. On the journey, you may see locals 'toddy tapping', a process which produces a popular local alcoholic beverage. On arrival in Anuradhapura, enjoy free time to relax. Stay the next two nights at Palm Garden Village (or similar). **(B)**

### DAY 4 Anuradhapura

Explore the ancient complex of Mihintale and climb to the hill temples for spectacular views. Enjoy free time before an afternoon tour of Anuradhapura's main sites. In the evening, see pilgrims praying under the huge dome of Ruwanwelisaya Dagoba. **(B)**

### DAY 5 Anuradhapura to Sigiriya

Depart Anuradhapura and visit a rural village near Habarana and have a simple lunch. Journey on to the ancient capital of Polonnaruwa to explore the remains of the Royal Palace complex and neighbouring Quadrangle with superb Buddha images. Continue to Sigiriya and enjoy dinner at the hotel. Stay the next two nights at Hotel Sigiriya (or similar). **(BLD)**

### DAY 6 Sigiriya

Sigiriya Rock is one of Sri Lanka's iconic attractions. Spend time exploring Sigiriya and depending on your level of fitness, climb to the summit. Return to the hotel and enjoy a morning at leisure. Take an afternoon tour of Ritigala, a deserted forest monastery followed by dinner. **(BD)**

### DAY 7 Sigiriya to Kandy

Drive from Sigiriya to Dambulla, where you'll visit the hilltop caves. Before a local lunch, visit a tropical spice garden then continue to Kandy. Stay the next two nights at Hotel Suisse (or similar). **(BL)**

### DAY 8 Kandy

Rise early to visit the Temple of the Tooth. Enjoy a local breakfast before embarking on a city tour and stroll through the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens. Enjoy a Sri Lankan cooking demonstration with dinner. **(BD)**

### DAY 9 Kandy to Nuwara Eliya

Take an old-fashioned train from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya. On arrival in Nuwara Eliya, visit a tea plantation and enjoy a short town tour. Overnight at Grand Hotel (or similar). **(B)**

### DAY 10 Nuwara Eliya to Yala National Park

Descend to the lowlands via the town of Ella. Take an easy walk to Little Adam's Peak and pass the Ravana Waterfalls. In the afternoon, arrive at Tissa, your base for Yala National Park. Stay the next two nights at Kithala Resort (or similar). **(B)**

### DAY 11 Yala National Park

Enjoy an early morning and late afternoon safari at Yala National Park, famous for its leopards. Spend time relaxing at the resort during the day. **(B)**

### DAY 12 Yala National Park to Mirissa

Drive from Tissa to Mirissa. Stop en route at Mulkirigala to visit an unusual temple which features Buddhist art. On arrival, enjoy lunch before spending the afternoon at leisure. Relax with dinner at your hotel. Overnight at Mandara Mirissa (or similar). **(BLD)**

### DAY 13 Mirissa to Hikkaduwa

This morning, board a boat to search for the Blue whale (September to April only – an alternative local activity will be arranged from May to October). After lunch, drive to Galle. Discover Galle Fort, a great place to explore the quaint streets. Stay the next two nights at Hikka Tranz By Cinnamon (or similar). **(BL)**

### DAY 14 Hikkaduwa

Enjoy free time to further explore. This afternoon, visit a turtle hatchery focussing on conservation before enjoying a farewell group dinner in Galle Fort. **(BD)**

### DAY 15 Hikkaduwa to Colombo

Enjoy breakfast before transferring to Colombo for your onward journey. **(B)**

### TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- 14 nights hotel accommodation
- Train from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya
- Transport in air-conditioned vehicles (excluding jeep safaris)
- Yala National Park jeep safaris
- Entrance fees
- English-speaking Tour Leader
- All tips on tour
- Return group transfers from airport to accommodation
- Meals as indicated (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner)

### PRICE PER PERSON\*

2019			TWIN	SINGLE
FEB	17	G	\$4919	\$7239
MAR	17	G	\$4919	\$7239
APR	14		\$4919	\$7239
JUN	23	G	\$4429	\$6199
SEP	15	G	\$4429	\$6199
OCT	13	G	\$4429	\$6199
NOV	10		\$5159	\$7569
DEC	08		\$5159	\$7569
2020			TWIN	SINGLE
JAN	26	G	\$5409	\$7959
FEB	16	G	\$5409	\$7959
MAR	15		\$5409	\$7959

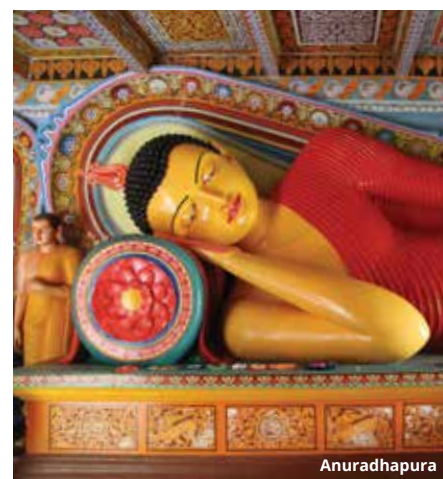
**G** = Guaranteed departure with minimum 2 guests.

Code: SLDC

**TRIP GRADING: MODERATE TO ACTIVE**  
(See page 87 for details)



Mirissa



Anuradhapura



# Stopovers

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Break up your journey or see more of Asia's most dynamic cities with a stopover in Singapore, Bangkok or Hong Kong. Whether you need one night at an airport hotel for flight connections or two nights in the city complete with airport transfers and sightseeing, we have an incredible range of accommodation and touring options available. We've included some suggestions on the following page or ask your travel agent to tailor make a stopover that best suits your needs.



Gardens By The Bay, Singapore





Singapore

## Singapore

From diverse cultures and culinary delights to excellent shopping and modern architecture, Singapore is one of Asia's most dynamic cities. Stay overnight before continuing to your destination or extend your stay and explore the stunning Gardens by the Bay.

### Singapore Stopover

Stay in Singapore for the night at Village Hotel Changi, a 15 minute drive from Changi Airport.

#### INCLUDES

- 1 night 4 star accommodation at Village Hotel Changi in a Superior Room
- Late check-out until 3pm
- FREE return shared airport transfers

1 night from **\$95** per person\*

Valid Fri to Sun, 1 Apr – 11 Sep, 23 Sep 19 – 31 Mar 20.

### Singapore City Explorer

Stay a little longer in Singapore on the way to your destination.

#### INCLUDES

- 2 nights 4 star accommodation at Rendezvous Hotel Singapore in a Superior Room
- Gardens by the Bay Bundle Package
- Late check-out until 6pm
- Return shared airport transfers
- **BONUS** Free night offer: Stay 3 nights, pay for 2, valid 1 Jul – 11 Sep, 23 – 30 Sep, 1 – 23 Dec 19, 2 Jan – 10 Feb, 17 – 29 Feb 20.

2 nights from **\$435** per person\*

Valid Fri to Sun, 1 Apr – 11 Sep, 23 Sep 19 – 31 Mar 20.



Grand Palace, Bangkok

## Bangkok

Uncover the thriving energy of Bangkok, an intriguing mix of history, world-class nightlife, outstanding shopping and renowned cuisine. Break up your journey and stretch your legs with a stopover in Bangkok – stay for a night or for two nights to experience the city.

### Bangkok Stopover

Novotel Suvarnabhumi Airport Hotel is located next to the international airport.

#### INCLUDES

- 1 night 4 star accommodation at Novotel Suvarnabhumi Airport Hotel in a Superior Room
- Breakfast daily

1 night from **\$165** per person\*

Valid 1 Apr 19 – 30 Mar 20.

### Bangkok City Explorer

Extend your stay and experience Bangkok's highlights. Discover the city and its temples.

#### INCLUDES

- 2 nights 4.5 star accommodation at Pathumwan Princess Hotel in a Superior Room
- Breakfast daily
- City & Temples half day tour
- Return shared airport transfers
- **BONUS** Free night offer: Stay 3 nights, pay for 2, valid 1 Apr – 31 Oct 19.

2 nights from **\$299** per person\*

Valid 1 Apr – 31 Oct 19.



Hong Kong

## Hong Kong

Experience the best of Hong Kong with its stunning harbour vistas, lofty mountain peaks and bustling markets. On the way to your destination, spend the night in Hong Kong or choose to stay a little longer and discover the highlights of Hong Kong Island.

### Hong Kong Stopover

Regal Airport Hotel, Hong Kong is directly connected to the international airport making it a convenient stopover hotel.

#### INCLUDES

- 1 night 4.5 star accommodation at Regal Airport Hotel, Hong Kong in a Superior Room

1 night from **\$169** per person\*

Valid 4 – 30 May, 1 Jun – 31 Aug 19, 18 Jan – 29 Feb 20.

### Hong Kong City Explorer

Enjoy a taste of Hong Kong as you make your way to your destination. Explore Hong Kong Island and join a walking tour.

#### INCLUDES

- 2 nights 4 star accommodation at Eaton HK in a Deluxe Room
- Hong Kong Island half day tour
- FREE Temple Street & Jade Market walking tours
- Return shared airport transfers

2 nights from **\$435** per person\*

Valid Sun to Thu, 1 May – 10 Sep 19, 30 Jan – 29 Feb 20.



## Booking Conditions

Please read these conditions carefully as they set out the basis upon which we accept all bookings. We reserve the right to amend our booking conditions from time to time. Please check with your travel consultant for our current booking conditions, which are also available on [insiderjourneys.co.nz](http://insiderjourneys.co.nz) before making a booking.

**Brochure validity:** This brochure was printed on 17 September 2018 and is valid until 31 December 2019 and should be used only as a guide in relation to other dates. Exchange rates used when pricing this brochure are as at 10 September 2018. Please note that the content in this brochure is based on information supplied by Third Party Travel Providers and is subject to alteration with or without notice. Please check with your travel consultant about up to date prices, availability and information before making a booking.

## Responsibility

1. Insider Journeys acts as an agent for the Suppliers (transport, tour, event or accommodation providers) who provide the various goods and/or services (Products). All bookings are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by each Supplier. It is therefore important for you to obtain and read the applicable Supplier's terms and conditions as they may limit or exclude their liability to you.

In producing this brochure, we have used information provided by Suppliers. Irrespective of any measures taken by us to ensure the information contained in this brochure is accurate at the time of printing, Insider Journeys disclaims and will be exempt from liability in respect of anything misleading, false, incomplete or inaccurate and any errors, inaccurate description and all associated disappointment, loss, expense, damage, inconvenience, delay, death, shock, illness or injury, however caused.

Insider Journeys does not control the manner in which Products featured within this brochure are provided. Insider Journeys disclaims and will be exempt from liability for anything to do with the supply of such Products. This includes liability (whether as a matter of contract, tort, statute, restitution, or otherwise) for any direct, indirect or consequential loss, liability, claim, cost, expense, proceeding, demand, penalty, disappointment, death, injury, illness, shock, inconvenience or delay. This limitation of liability also applies irrespective of the cause, including negligence of us or a Supplier, withdrawal, cancellation or failure to provide a Product, delay, any variation in the Product, the provision of substitute Products or a change in the Supplier. Without limitation, Insider Journeys will not be responsible if the Product is not available due to inclement weather conditions or other acts of God, civil disturbances, fire, floods, acts of Government or any other authorities, accident to or failure of machinery or equipment or industrial action.

## Prices for Travel Products

2. All pricing is reflected in New Zealand Dollars and is valid at time of publication but is subject to change. 'From' prices represent land only and low season twin share prices (unless otherwise clearly stated). Unless otherwise stated, prices include all government levies and airport taxes as at the date of publication. Dates, itineraries and prices are indicative only. Prices are valid for travel for the dates ranges shown subject to the 'brochure validity' clause. We will use our reasonable efforts to notify you of changes in prices. The Third Party Travel Provider may be required to impose surcharges depending on currency fluctuations, surcharges or other variables outside of its control. You acknowledge and agree that you shall be responsible for the prompt payment of all surcharges and price increases. A fee will apply for payments made by debit and credit cards. Please check this fee with us or your travel consultant when booking.

## Loyalty Rewards

3. All discounts must be presented at the time of booking and will apply to the basic tour price. Past traveller discounts will be applied once we receive confirmation (previous booking number) that you have previously travelled on an Insider Journeys Small Group Journey. Discounts are not combinable.

## Pre-tour registration form

4. You are required to complete a pre-tour registration form before your booking is complete. Third Party Travel Providers may refuse supply if a completed pre-tour registration form is not received. You will receive the pre-tour registration form from either us, the Supplier or your Travel Agent. This form requires you to provide your travel insurance information and no booking can be finalised without this preregistration form being completed.

## Deposit & full payment

5. A non-refundable deposit of NZ\$250 per person and passenger names as per passport are required 5 days after issuance of an invoice. Additional deposits may be required depending on the policies of the Third Party Travel Provider. Any additional deposits will be advised at the time of booking or on the invoice. Full payment is due and payable to us 65 days prior to the scheduled date of departure from New Zealand and will be notified to you in your confirmation of booking.
6. We are not responsible for any changes made by a Third Party Travel Provider to the balance due date and prices are not guaranteed until payment has been made in full and documents have been processed and issued to you. Failure to pay a deposit within 5 days from the date of confirmation or in full by the due date may result in the automatic cancellation of your booking without refund of monies paid, unless you have been unable to complete the booking and pay the balance by the due date, due to our fault.
7. Bookings made within 35 days of scheduled departure require full payment on request.
8. Payment for domestic flights and regional flights in Asia must be received within 3 days of booking to avoid automatic cancellation by the airline. All bookings are subject to availability at time of booking.
9. Groups - a non-refundable deposit of NZ\$600 is due within 5 days of confirmation. Final payment is due 65 days prior to departure.

## Cancellation by the traveller

10. All cancellations must be received by us in writing. No refunds will be made for unused services. Cancellations will be subject to the following cancellation fees applied per person, per confirmed booking:
  - cancellations made more than 65 days before the scheduled date for departure from New Zealand - the deposit;
  - cancellations made between 50-65 days before the scheduled date for departure from New Zealand - a cancellation fee of 25%
  - cancellations made between 35-49 days before the scheduled date for departure from New Zealand - a cancellation fee of 50%
  - cancellations made within 35 days of the scheduled date of departure from New Zealand - a cancellation fee of 100%.

## Changes made by us

11. Each year we review and further develop the Travel Products offered. On occasions, we may be required to make changes to certain Travel Products, where deemed necessary by us and the 'Departure Status Guaranteed' may not apply to the original itinerary or departure date in those circumstances. If we make a significant change, which is not due to an event beyond our control, you will be notified as soon as reasonably possible before your departure of any significant change and you will be offered the following options:
  - accept a substitute Travel Product (if available). In the event that the substitute Travel Product is of a lower price then you will receive a refund for the price difference between the original Travel Product and substitute Travel Product; or
  - accept a refund for all monies paid to us.

"Significant changes" are normally regarded as:

  - a change affecting the start date of your journey; or
  - a change in the arrival or departure city; or
  - a change in the duration of the itinerary
  - If the significant change is due to force majeure or an event beyond our reasonable control, we will not be liable to offer you any compensation.

## Hotel confirmation

12. Due to hotel availability in some destinations the accommodation stated in the tour itinerary may change to that of a similar standard. You will be notified in writing 30 days prior to departure.

## Amendments by the traveller

13. Once itineraries are confirmed with deposit on file and provided at the time of amendment the number of passengers on the booked tour is not full, one free amendment is allowed if made 65 days prior to scheduled date of departure.

In all other cases, the following amendment fees shall apply:

- 50-65 days prior to scheduled date of departure - NZ\$350 per person;
- 50 days or less prior to scheduled date of departure - standard cancellation fees (refer to section 10) will apply and full price will apply to new travel arrangements;

- If the traveller has utilised their free amendment and they wish to make an amendment more than 65 days prior to the scheduled date of departure and the number of passengers on the booked tour is full - NZ\$250 per booking;
14. We will not charge any amendment fees if:
    - you amend your booking due to a breach by us of any of our obligations to you or due to our fault; or
    - the Third Party Travel Provider amends your booking for no fault on your part.
  15. Notwithstanding clause 13, additional amendment fees may be charged by Third Party Travel Providers such as airlines, hotels or other tour operators in accordance with the terms you agree with the Third Party Travel Providers (which are separate to our amendment fees). Many Third Party Travel Providers deem a name change to constitute a cancellation, rather than an amendment and cancellation fees may apply in this instance in accordance with the terms you agree with the Third Party Travel Provider.

## Cancellation & amendments by Third Party Travel Provider

16. If the Third Party Travel Provider changes any part of your booking for reasons beyond its control, for example, if a Third Party Travel Provider changes its schedules, overbooks, or if there are any changes in applicable surcharges, fees or taxes, we will use our reasonable endeavours to notify you. If any such changes result in your Travel Product costing more or otherwise being materially different, then you may cancel the Travel Product and we will refund any monies already paid less any fees charged by us under these terms and conditions and by the Third Party Travel Providers under the terms and conditions you agreed with them. Please check with your consultant before cancelling or amending a Travel Product in these circumstances as some Third Party Travel Providers may charge cancellation fees up to 100% of the Travel Product's price as per their terms and conditions.

## Tour Leaders

17. A Tour Leader will accompany Small Group Journey tours in all destinations when 4 or more travellers are booked on the departure.

## Maximum numbers

18. Escorted Small Group Journeys have a maximum group size of 16 people in all destinations (except Japan which has a maximum group size of 12 people). Guaranteed departures will operate once they have two fully paid travellers booked. Non-guaranteed departures will operate once the required minimum number of travellers have booked. You are welcome to contact us for up-to-date passenger numbers prior to departure.

## Single travellers

19. Individuals travelling alone will be required to purchase the single person price for the tour as displayed in the brochure and confirmed by the Insider Journeys Operations team to you or your travel agent.

## Shared rooms & facilities

20. On all overnight train trips and homestays all travellers will be in shared compartments, even if a single supplement has been paid due to cabin/room design. On overnight cruises the boats may have other passengers on board and shore excursions and other activities may include other passengers.

## Small groups & combinability

21. Many of our trips are designed to fit with other departures to create a longer "combination" trip; this means that some of your group may have already been travelling together for some days when you commence your trip. If you would like to know how many people are booked on your trip or any combination trip it is part of please ask prior to making your booking.

## Families & children

22. Bookings are open to people 12 years of age and over. Travellers under 18 will need to either share a room with a parent or another family member, or pay the single supplement. Children aged 12-17 (inclusive) must pay the adult price. Triple sharing is usually possible, but must be requested at the time of booking. In cases where separate rooms are booked, we will request, but cannot guarantee, interconnecting or adjacent rooms.

## Triple share

23. It is not possible to guarantee triple share rooms. This is because many hotels either do not have triple-bed rooms, or have fold-away beds only. Travellers can request a triple room at the time of booking, however, the booking will be confirmed as double/twin plus a fold away bed. During the journey, a triple share may be provided wherever possible, however there are no reductions in price for triple shares.



### Minimum fitness levels

24. We may require a doctor's certificate prior to confirmation for any traveller with a pre-existing medical condition or traveller entering their 3rd trimester of pregnancy. Please carefully consider the Trip Grading for your tour of interest and choose a Small Group Journey appropriate for your level of health and fitness. You must be able to perform the activities outlined in the 'Statement of fitness' section of the 'Insider Journeys Health Form and Condition of Travel' and disclose any pre-existing conditions that may affect the normal conduct of the tour and/or enjoyment of other tour members. Final confirmation of a booking is subject to receipt of complete and accurate information about your fitness. If you are concerned about your ability to undertake a Small Group Journey, we can arrange a tailor-made itinerary for independent travel as an alternative.

### Tour Leader/Local Guide authority

25. When on the journey, travellers must abide by and comply with the authority and reasonable directions of the Tour Leader, or where applicable the local guide. At all times, the decision of the Tour Leader will be final on matters regarding group dynamics, and individual and group safety and well-being. If a Tour Leader takes the view that you are unable to meet 'Minimum fitness levels' the Tour Leader may, at his/her sole reasonable discretion, prevent you from further participation in the journey. Additionally, should you fail to comply with a reasonable decision or direction of the Tour Leader, interfere with the well-being of the group, fail to respect the rights or beliefs of your fellow travellers, or commit an illegal, obscene or otherwise inappropriate act while on journey, the Tour Leader may in his/her reasonable discretion prevent your further participation in the journey. In such instances, we will use our reasonable efforts to assist with onward travel arrangements for the relevant traveller. No refund will be given for any unused portion of the journey in these circumstances.

### Travel insurance

26. It is a condition of travel that all travellers are adequately covered by travel insurance prior to departure. Insurance should cover personal accident and medical expenses, evacuation and repatriation, baggage loss, and cancellation or curtailment of holiday. Your insurance details must be supplied to us at the time of booking. If you fail to provide the requested insurance information prior to travel as well as on arrival in Asia during registration, we reserve the right, acting in our sole discretion, to cancel bookings and apply charges as per our cancellation policy. In some cases, a pre-existing medical condition may not be covered by your travel insurance company.

### Travel documents

27. Travel documents will be issued after final payment has been received. Travel documents may include special conditions including restrictions such as baggage size and weight limits. Travel documents are not transferable. All airline tickets must be issued in the name of the passport holder and some carriers will deny carriage if the name varies and the booking may be cancelled. We have no responsibility for any loss or damage arising from the incorrect entry of a passenger's name or as a result of the Third Party Travel Provider's policies. It is your responsibility to collect all travel documents prior to travel.

### Airfares – cancellations & amendments

28. Prices displayed in this brochure or provided by us, do not include airfares from or to your departing destination, unless specified. All flight bookings are subject to the carrier's conditions of carriage. Cancellation and refund policies associated with airfares vary according to airfare terms and conditions and the relevant airline. It is your responsibility to understand the terms and conditions that relate to your airfare and contact the relevant airline if you require further information. It is your responsibility to contact the airline prior to departure to ensure there is no change to the scheduled departure time. Please ensure all flight details are correct prior to ticketing as we cannot assume responsibility for incorrectly issued flights. We do not offer advice on Frequent Flyer eligibility on flights nor able to assist with flight check-in or seat allocations.

### River Cruises – shore excursions & water levels

29. The nature of some shore excursions in Asia means that for some excursions there are no formal jetties. While staff are always on hand to assist, those with limited mobility may find these areas difficult to access. Due to the unpredictable nature of weather and its effect on river conditions and water levels, it may on occasions be necessary to complete some elements of the itinerary by land, rather than by boat, or to alter the route of the vessel including substituting some planned stops for others. Such changes can occur at any time without prior notice or warning and no refunds will be given in this instance.

### Other cancellation & amendments

30. A Third Party Travel Provider may cancel, reschedule or amend any itinerary in accordance with operating requirements or circumstances beyond its control. This includes alterations to cruise itineraries and schedules including change of embarkation and disembarkation points. We are not responsible for any other travel arrangement affected due to the Third Party Travel Provider's cancellations or amendments. Amendments beyond the Third Party Travel Provider's control may involve a surcharge for the additional or amended services.

### Star ratings

31. Star ratings are our views and not official ratings.

### Publicity

32. You agree that we may use images of you taken during the trip and any comments made in writing by you regarding the trip, without recourse to you and without compensation to you, for publicity and promotion purposes only through whatever medium we choose.

### Errors & omissions

33. We reserve the right to correct any errors in rates or content quoted or calculated for any package, with immediate effect. We will use our reasonable endeavours to notify you of such corrections.

### Privacy

34. You acknowledge and agree that we may disclose some or all of your personal information as outlined in our Privacy Policy. The terms of our Privacy Policy are incorporated into these terms. A copy of our Privacy Policy is available on [www.insiderjourneys.co.nz](http://www.insiderjourneys.co.nz).

### Jurisdiction & Law

35. This brochure and all matters arising out of or in connection with it and all terms are governed by the laws applicable in New Zealand. By acquiring the Booking and Advisory Services from us, you consent and submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of New Zealand.

### Complaint Handling

In the unlikely event that you are unsatisfied with any aspect of your Travel Product, you must immediately notify the Third Party Travel Provider of your Travel Product or travel consultant (please refer to your pre-departure guide) to ensure we are given the opportunity to address and attempt to resolve any issue that you may raise at the time they occur. If a problem cannot be resolved to your satisfaction and you wish to pursue this matter further you must write to us within 28 days upon your return to the following address:

**Attention: Insider Journeys**  
**GO Holidays, Level 5, Chorus House**  
**66 Wyndham Street, Auckland**  
**NZ@insiderjourneys.co.nz**

You must provide your booking reference number and full details of your complaint to allow us the opportunity to respond.

### Definitions

**"We"** and **"us"** means GO Holidays, a division of helloworld New Zealand.

**"You"** means any person who acquires the Travel Product and Booking & Advisory Services directly from us or indirectly through an independent travel agent and includes any person who acquires a Travel Product (whether or not the Booking & Advisory Services were acquired by another person).

**"Booking & Advisory Services"** means services provided by us to you in assisting you to acquire a Travel Product from a Third Party Travel Provider and includes advisory and consulting services, and providing a facility to enter into transactions with us and Third Party Travel Providers (whose details and Travel Products appear in this Brochure). **"Third Party Travel Provider"** and **"Suppliers"** means the company or person who provides you with the Travel Product on terms and conditions agreed with you.

"Travel Product" means the service or product provided by a Third Party Travel Provider, for example, an airline or a hotel.

### ANNEXURE TRAVEL TIPS FOR TRAVEL PRODUCTS

These tips are not legally binding terms and conditions. You should obtain and read the Third Party Travel Provider's terms and conditions which are legally binding on you

### Passports, Visas & Health Requirements

Visas, including transit visas, are the passenger's own responsibility. For more information please log on to: [www.mfat.govt.nz](http://www.mfat.govt.nz) or [www.safetravel.govt.nz](http://www.safetravel.govt.nz). Please check with the respective Embassy or Consulate of each country that you are travelling to, as many destinations require visas for both New Zealand and non-New Zealand passport holders. You need to ensure that you have at least 6 months validity on your passport from the date of your departure return. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are aware of any health requirements for your travel destinations. Vaccinations are strongly recommended for certain destinations. You need to contact your local doctor who will advise you of these requirements. Please note that vaccinations may be recommended some period in advance of travelling.

### Ticketing

For international and domestic departure, e-tickets will be issued upon payment and completion of the booking process. In some instances, an e-ticket on the flights or fares selected may not be able to be issued. Bookings that cannot be issued as an e-ticket will have to be changed to comply with e-ticket regulations. All other travel documentation, such as hotel, car hire, transfer and tour vouchers will be emailed to you as an e-document. Should the Third Party Travel Provider issue paper vouchers, these will be posted to you.

### Special needs

Travellers with a physical or mental disability that may require special assistance during their trip must advise us of their needs upon booking and declare all pre-existing medical conditions. This enables us to ensure the suitability of each booking to the individual traveller.

### Bedding configuration

Requests for specific bedding types must be made at the time of booking, however, cannot be guaranteed. Note that double rooms can be fitted with either double or twin beds, and note also that single rooms are often smaller than other rooms. Triple rooms usually comprise a twin bed room with an additional sofa bed, roll-away bed or a fold-away bed for a third person.

### Travelling with children

Where a child stays for free in a room sharing with two paying adults, generally the hotel will expect the child to share the parent's bed and will not provide an extra bed. Additional charges may be levied for child meals. Where a child rate is provided in this brochure, an extra roll or fold-away bed is usually provided. Children are charged an adult rate if staying in a room without adults.

### Trip grading

Each of our tours has been given a grading to help you choose the trip that best suits your needs. All our tours require independent mobility and we recommend you choose a tour which suits your physical ability. Our expert travel advisors can answer any questions you may have regarding the trip grading of your desired tour.

- **Easy** – Suitable for travellers with an average level of fitness. You may be required to take part in easy walking tours and board boats. Travel between major destinations on the tour will mainly be by air. Porters will be available at most hotels, although you may need to carry your own luggage at times.
- **Moderate** – Suitable for travellers with a good level of fitness. You will need to take part in easy extended walking tours and board boats. Travel between major destinations may include long road or train journeys as well as flights. You may need to carry your own luggage through train stations or between the hotel and transfer vehicle.
- **Active** – Suitable for travellers with a high level of fitness. These tours could include periods of extended walking, climbing stairs, negotiating uneven surfaces, boarding boats and visits to less developed areas with limited facilities. Travel between major destinations will include long road journeys as well as flights. You will be required to carry your own luggage.

### Photographers

Images used in this brochure are supplied by Eric Finley, Nadia Homes, Morgan Metters, Ian Richards, Adam Searle, Devaka Seneviratne, Alexis Terrey, Jenna Thompson and Justin Weiler.





Fushimi Inari Shrine, Kyoto



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