

## Cambodia & Vietnam Itinerary – November 1 to 14, 2010

Tentative Itinerary as of August 25, 2010 – hotels & trains to be confirmed.



### 01 November 2010 Arrive Siem Reap (Flight information to be advised / Own tickets)

Upon leaving the airport terminal look for a tour guide displaying a welcome signboard with the Trails of Indochina logo and your name. Please refer to the Trip Preparation document which will be sent upon confirmation for specific details. Transfer to your hotel. The remainder of the day is free at leisure.

The regular check-in time for all hotels is 2.00 PM. Early check-in is subject to availability.

Meals: No meals. Accommodation: Victoria Angkor – Superior room [www.victoriahotels-asia.com](http://www.victoriahotels-asia.com)

### 02 November 2010 Siem Reap (40km biking tour)

After breakfast at the hotel, shuttle to **Banteay Srei**, the sandstone deep carving. It is almost everyone's favorite. After visiting this temple, enjoy biking past the local villages busy with their daily activities such as sugar palm producing activities, markets, etc and bike the way to Eastern Mebon. After visiting this temple, continue biking to **Preah Khan**, the sword on the isolated temple in the jungle, after which we'll have a boxed lunch or lunch in the restaurant and continue biking to **Ta Prohm**, the jungle temple, then we'll bike all the way back to the hotel. *Lunch at local restaurant.* In the evening we'll have a **welcome dinner** with Khmer traditional performance at Angkor Mondial restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner. Accommodation: Victoria Angkor – Superior room

### 03 November 2010 Siem Reap (NO biking)

In the morning, drive about 45-minutes to the countryside, stopping en route to visit a local village. Arrive at the quay and board a local boat for a 1.5-hour ride on the **Tonle Sap Lake** (the best times are from July to February), also known as the Great Lake of Cambodia. Find out how communities live and work on the lake. We return to town and have lunch on our own. In the afternoon, we drive to visit the intricately carved Khmer ruins at **Angkor Wat**, one of the world's most impressive temple ruins constructed between 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. The temple still owns hundreds of fine carvings of Apsara and Hindu mythology. Stroll around the massive hallways to discover small shrines still in use today by the local people. *Dinner on own.*

Meals: Breakfast. Accommodation: Victoria Angkor – Superior room

### 04 November 2010 Siem Reap – Saigon (Flight to be advised / coach class / TOI to ticket); connect Saigon – Danang (Flight to be advised / Economy class / TOI to ticket)

After breakfast, transfer to Siem Reap airport for flight to Saigon. From Saigon, connect to a flight onward to Danang. Transfer to Hoi An on a bike along the magnificent coast of the South China Sea. En route, visit the **Cham Museum**, housing an exquisite display of Champa sculpture (2nd to the 15th centuries), view the **Marble Mountains**, five hills representing the five elements of the universe (water, wood, fire, metal, and earth), and historic **China Beach**, where America soldiers spent periods during the Vietnam War. *Lunch & dinner on own.*

Meals: Breakfast. Accommodation: Palm Garden Resort – Superior Garden view [www.palmgardenresort.com.vn](http://www.palmgardenresort.com.vn)

### 05 November 2010 Hoi An – My Son biking tour

Bike a route along the quiet back country roads to **My Son**, Vietnam’s most evocative Cham archaeological site, a 4th century ruined capital set in a bowl of lush wooded hills. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site with a majestic setting. Cycle back to Hoi An in the early afternoon. *Lunch at Full Moon restaurant.* Afternoon, free time to enjoy the resort or to explore the shops and visit the artists around Hoi An. *Dinner on own.*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch. Accommodation: Palm Garden Resort – Superior Garden view

### 06 November 2010 Hoi An – Hue (road and biking tour)

A beautiful coastal drive this morning brings us to ancient Hue. The route takes us over Hai Van ("Sea Cloud") Pass with spectacular views of the central coastline. Hue is a small, peaceful city full of canals. It became the capital in the early 19th century and was later influenced by French culture. The 19th century walled citadel contains the old Imperial City, with its prolific gardens. The old European section of Hue stands between the meandering Perfume River and the Phu Cam Canal. Then bike with our guide alongside the fresh-water **Tam Giang Lagoon** between Hue and the South China Sea. Stop to take some photos of the lagoon before shuttling back to Hue for the night. *Lunch & Dinner on our own.*

Meals: Breakfast. Accommodation: Pilgrimage Village – Villa Deluxe [www.pilgrimagevillage.com](http://www.pilgrimagevillage.com)

### 07 November 2010 Hue biking tour (40 km)

*(Note: THE ROUTE SLIP PROBABLY IS INCLUDED BECAUSE I WAS ASKING ABOUT THE TYPE OF ROADS WE'D BE RIDING ON IN THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY. Pam)*

#### Riding 24 kilometers in the morning

	0.0		begin cycling from The Ve Nguon Restaurant.
<b>0.2</b>	0.2	<b>R</b>	at the 3-way intersection, up hill
<b>0.6</b>	0.8	<b>L</b>	at the T-intersection. The Perfume River is ahead.
<b>0.7</b>	1.5	<b>CS</b>	through Huong Ho Garden Village.
<b>2.1</b>	3.6	<b>CS</b>	past the local market and rice field.
<b>1.6</b>	5.2	<b>CS</b>	across Xuoc Du Bridge.
<b>0.1</b>	5.3	<b>L</b>	at the 3-way intersection after the bridge, next to the Huyen Khong Pagoda sign.
<b>0.5</b>	5.8	<b>CS</b>	across the Bach Yen Bridge and after the bridge Turn RIGHT, the BARE LEFT
<b>0.3</b>	6.1	<b>L</b>	at the T-intersection.

0.4	6.5	CS	past An Van Church on your left.
1.7	8.2	CS	at the 4-way intersection.
2.4	10.6	L	at the 3-way intersection with La Chu Market and La Chu Temple on your right.
0.5	11.1	R	at the 4-way intersection with a rice field and duck farm.
1.7	12.8		<b>CAUTION!</b> Railroad crossing, then immediately...
		R	at the T-intersection onto Quoc Lo 1A. <b>CAUTION!</b> Traffic.
0.3	13.1	CS	to cross Quan Ro Bridge. Road name changes to Ly Thai To St.
0.4	13.5	CS	to cross Trieu Tay Bridge.
2.4	15.9	R	just before Cau An Hoa Bridge. <b>CAUTION!</b> Railroad crossing.
0.1	16.0	R	at the T-intersection onto Ly Nam De Street.
0.8	16.8	CS	Bach Yen River on your left.
1.1	17.9	L	at the 3-way intersection to cross An Ninh Ha Bridge.
0.5	18.4	L	at the 3-way intersection onto Pham Thi Lien Street.
0.6	19.0	R	at the 3-way intersection.
0.1	19.1	L	at the T-intersection with Old Kim Long Church on the right.
0.6	19.7	R	at the 4-way intersection onto Van Xuan Street.
0.5	20.2	R	at the T-intersection. The Perfume River is on the left of the main road ahead.
3.9	24.1	CS	to Thien Mu Pagoda. After visiting the pagoda, board a Dragon boat to the Imperial Citadel.

***Lunch at Ancient Hue restaurant.***

**Riding 16 kilometers in the afternoon**

	0.0		start cycling.
0.8	0.8	CS	to cross Phat Lat Bridge.
0.4	1.2	L	at the 4-way intersection with An Dong Primary School on your left.
0.9	2.1	CS	past Thanh Toan Village, a rice field and duck farm.
2.2	4.3	CS	across Cau Chua Bridge and past family temples.
1.0	5.3	L	at the 3-way intersection.
0.2	5.5	CS	Thanh Toan Covered Bridge.
0.1	5.6	CS	with the Nhy Y River on your right.
0.5	6.1	CS	past Thahn Toan Primary School. There is a war memorial on your left.
2.1	8.2	CS	at the 3-way intersection.
0.7	8.9	CS	past the Van The Kindergarten on your left.
0.4	9.3	CS	across the Cau Kenh Bridge.
1.5	10.8	CS	past Da Le Market on your left.

0.5	11.3	CS	at the 3-way intersection.
1.3	12.6	CS	past Thuy Van Secondary School on your left.
0.5	13.1	CS	at the 3-way intersection.
0.6	13.7	CS	at the 3-way intersection with the Nhy Y River on your right.
1.1	14.8	R	at the T-intersection.
0.1	14.9	CS	to cross Van Duong Bridge.
0.4	15.3	R	at the T-intersection onto Nguyen Lo Trach Street.
0.2	15.5	CS	to cross the bridge.
0.2	15.7	L	at the 3-way intersection onto Duong Van An Street.
0.3	16.0	CS	at the 3-way intersection.
0.2	16.2	CS	at the 4-way intersection.
0.2	16.4	L	at the 3-way intersection onto Ha Huy Tap Street. Stop and shop at the Hue Sport Center before shuttling back to the resort.

***Dinner on own.***

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch. Accommodation: Pilgrimage Village – Villa Deluxe

**08 November 2010 Hue – Hanoi (Flight to be advised / coach class / TOI to ticket);  
Hanoi – Lao Cai by local train ETD 21:30 PM**

Leisure time until we transfer to the airport for our flight to Hanoi, a city full of charm with ochre-colored colonial buildings, tree-lined boulevards and scenic lakes. Upon arrival at Noi Bai airport, meet with our guide and transfer directly to Hanoi's train station for an overnight train to Lao Cai. The train leaves Hanoi late in the evening and so tonight we sleep in a berth on the train. The private cabins are for four people, each person has his/her own berth.  
*Lunch and dinner on own.*

Meals: Breakfast. Accommodation: King Express Train – 4 people share one private 4 berth cabin.  
[www.kingexpresstrain.com](http://www.kingexpresstrain.com)

**09 November 2010 Lao Cai – Sapa (road)**

Arrive early at Lao Cai station, near the Chinese border. Take a scenic one-hour drive up to the hill station of Sapa. **Refresh and have breakfast at the hotel. (The regular check-in time for all hotels is 2.00 PM. Early check-in is subject to availability.)** Then start a 30-min short journey south toward Muong Hoa valley, a stunning place boasting the largest terraced rice fields in Sapa. The walk takes us from **Lao Chai** village of the Black H'mong minority to **Ta Van** village of the Giay minority with a stop at the local Catholic Church, taking in the different traditions, cultures and costumes of the two minority groups. Sapa is the only part of Vietnam where we can see members of ancient hill tribes still wearing their traditional costumes. Return to Sapa and spend the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. *Lunch & dinner on own.*

Meals: Breakfast. Accommodation: Victoria Sapa Hotel – Superior room  
[www.victoriahotels-asia.com](http://www.victoriahotels-asia.com)

**10 November 2010 Sapa – Lao Cai (road); Lao Cai – Hanoi by local train ETD 20:30 PM**

Check out of the hotel after breakfast. Travel by car toward Tram Ton Pass. Along the way, we can take a short walk to **Silver Waterfall** and then head to **Heaven's Gate**, from where we can see Fansipan Mountain, the highest peak in Indochina. A 1.5-hour downhill ride to **Binh Lu** includes a stop at Chu Va village of Flower H'mong. Enjoy a *packed lunch* on the way. Trek to Pa Pen village of Lu minority where we can chat with the local people and visit the local school (close on weekends) where we can interact with the kids. Transfer to Lao Cai station, freshening up at **Thien Hai hotel** until we board the train back to Hanoi. *Dinner on own.*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch. Accommodation: King Express Train – 4 people will share one private 4 berth cabin.

**11 November 2010 Arrive Hanoi early in the morning - Hanoi – portrait of the countryside: Duong Lam village (BIKING TOUR)**

Upon arrival early in the morning we'll transfer to the hotel for an early check in, freshen up and eat breakfast, then embark on a 1.5-hour drive to the ancient village of Duong Lam, an agricultural village in the north of the Red River delta. *Boasting around 300 houses built* three or four centuries ago with lateritic bricks, wandering along Duong Lam's narrow alleyways offering the opportunity to explore rural life and Vietnam's ancient architecture. The cultural and historical vestiges of Duong Lam include Mong Phu Communal House, Princess Mia Pagoda (built in 15<sup>th</sup> century), and the old church. The village well – the traditional feature of communal life – is also worth a look. End the trip about noon with a stop at the ancient house owned by The Tien couple where we have an opportunity to interact with the friendly owners and share their life experiences. *Lunch at a local restaurant.* Drive back to Hanoi and rest of the day is free for our own at leisure. *Dinner on own.*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch. Accommodation: Movenpick Hanoi – Premium Deluxe [www.moevenpick-hanoi.com](http://www.moevenpick-hanoi.com)

**12 November 2010 Hanoi City tour**

With ochre-colored colonial buildings, tree-lined boulevards and scenic lakes, Hanoi is full of charm. Start the tour at the historic **Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum** (*unfortunately the mausoleum is closed from September 10 until December 10 for annual maintenance*), an imposing monument lavishly built using marble and granite, and where the preserved body of "Uncle Ho" resides. A short walk from the mausoleum is the lotus-like shaped **One Pillar Pagoda** – resting on a single stone pillar emerging from the water. Inside is a statue of the Goddess of Mercy with its legendary "thousand arms and thousand eyes". Wind our way afterwards to the **Temple of Literature**, the first University for the sons of mandarins, for an overview about Hanoi culture and ancient Vietnamese architecture. *Lunch on own.* In the afternoon, visit the serene **Museum of Ethnology**, a 30-min drive out of town and offers a chance to get to know Vietnam's 54 ethnic groups better. From simple daily objects such as fishing instruments to prized items such as jewelry, as well as an outdoor area with ethnic houses, the Museum's rich displays showcase the cultural heritages of diverse communities. Drive back to get on a walking tour through the **Old Quarter** to enjoy the bustling local life. Then cap a fun day with a show at the water puppet theatre - a uniquely northern Vietnamese art form depicting scenes of rural life and episodes of national history. Evening, enjoy *farewell dinner* at Wild Lotus restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner. Accommodation: Movenpick Hanoi – Premium Deluxe

**13 November 2010 Depart Hanoi on flight home OR to Halong Bay for the optional cruise.**

Free time until we transfer to the airport for our departure flight or shuttle to Halong Bay if taking the optional cruise.

**The regular check-out time for all hotels is 12.00 PM. Late checkout is subject to availability.**

Meals: **Breakfast**

**Cost of the above itinerary based on 4 passengers, double occupancy is \$3294 per person. Single supplement is \$1080. If the number of passengers drops to 3, the price per person increases \$300.**

Tour cost includes:

- Daily accommodations as noted with breakfast
- Private transfers and transportation on tour
- Support minivan for biking portion in Vietnam & in Siem Reap
  - Sightseeing with Local English speaking guides (one guide in each city)
- Entrance fees and private boat rides
- Meals as specified (meals only, no drinks/water)
- Airtfares: REP-SGN (Economy class not included airport tax)
- Airtfares: SGN-DAD / HUI-HAN (Economy class included airport tax)
- Cannondale T800 bike and helmets
- Cold towels and water on sightseeing days
- Snack for biking days
- Roundtrip train ticket HAN-LCA-HAN, 4 berth cabin shared (not private cabin)

Tour cost does not include:

- Cambodia visa
- Vietnam visa
- Travel insurance
- Other meals where not mentioned in the program
- Drinks/water at included lunches and dinners
- International and other flights
- All airport taxes in Cambodia
- Hotel early check in / Late check out
- Overweight luggage
- Personal expenses
- Tips & gratuities
- Other services not listed in inclusive column

#### **OPTIONAL TOUR : HALONG CRUISE 2D/1N**

*\* Sunbathing or swimming is subject to weather condition as from Nov to Feb is the cold season*

#### **13 November 2010 Hanoi – Halong**

Embark on a 3.5-hour drive to Halong with a quick rest stop en route at a **local house**. Board our deluxe junk where a welcome drinks awaits. After a relaxing break, enjoy a delicious seafood lunch while cruising through the magical bay, where thousands of sculpted limestone islands rise from the waters like dragons' teeth. After lunch, take a short trek to a nearby summit for a panoramic view of the bay, swim on a quite beach or sunbath on the deck. Later in the afternoon, visit a fishing village living in the bay for generations. At sunset, join a bamboo rowing sampan to discover a water tunnel with coral reefs in a scenic lagoon. Back on board for sunset and later unwind at the restaurant for dinner.

Meals: **Lunch, Dinner**. Accommodation: **Halong Jasmine (join-in junk) – Private Deluxe cabin**

[www.cruisehalong.com](http://www.cruisehalong.com)

#### **14 November 2010 Halong – Hanoi**

Wake up early to catch the dramatic sunrise on the bay and enjoy a Tai Chi demonstration on the sun deck. Relax with a cup of hot coffee before departing to the splendid Sung Sot grotto where stalactites hanging from the high ceiling take on numerous shapes and forms. Enjoy late buffet brunch on board while cruising back to the boat docking station. Arrive at the boat docking station around 11:00AM. Return to Hanoi with snack provided en route. Make a stop at **Dong Trieu village**, one of the last survivors of an old pottery village amidst the modern pressure to industrialize. The pottery here is

defined by the brown color and unique patterns. Wander around the village and chat with the artisans at Nhung's workshop with a multitude of terracotta items. Artist Nhung's designs have traditional roots but contemporary touches.

Depending on flight schedules, we spend free time in Hanoi until time to transfer to the airport for the international flight home. Or we check into a Hanoi hotel and take the flight out on the 15<sup>th</sup> of November.

Meals: **Brunch.**

<b>Cost of Halong Bay option Price in USD – per person</b>	2 guests \$430	3-4 guests \$384	5-6 guests \$353	7-10 guests \$336	Single Supplement \$120
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**The above costs include:**

2 days and 1 night on the Halong Jasmine (join-in cruise)  
Private land transportation  
English speaking guide for transfers Hanoi – Halong – Hanoi  
Entrance fees  
Meals as specified (meal only, no drinks/water)  
Mineral water and cold tissues

Balance of payment due not later than September 15, 2010. At that time the cancellation penalties begin and travel insurance is strongly recommended. Travel Select brochure is attached for your review. See complete Terms and Conditions for cancellation policy. Visas required for Vietnam and Cambodia.

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