



*The World  
Your Way*



**Midasia Routes**  
HAND CRAFTED JOURNEYS AND SEAMLESS LUXURY

Travel that's made for you stays with you



# *The specialist who creates your trip*

*'The great thing about working with a specialist at Midasia is how they take your complete jumble of ideas and turn them into something absolutely spectacular.'*

— Paul & Georgie, Audley clients

As you begin to share your ideas with your specialist, it will connect them immediately back to a time in their own travels. Conjuring a picture of the first time they made that same discovery, reminding them how it felt.

Your specialist understands that, when the journey is right, it has the power to excite your emotions in the most profound ways — after all, that was the effect on them. They carry a treasure box of moments, captured over many journeys, into every suggestion they'll share with you, as they ask you how you want to feel on your trip.

The biggest reward is seeing you return with your own collection of moments, fulfilled and yearning for more. It's why, whatever your ideas, your specialist will turn them into something spectacular.

*'It's magical, being able to get hold of a client's collection of ideas and show them just where they can take it, because you have the means to then go on and create that experience. And, when they get back and tell me they're impatient for more, it makes me giddy, totally giddy.'*

— Africa specialist Arista





## *Our travels shape yours*

*'Your inspiration for a trip might be a single word or a very evolved outline, but it's the conversations we have that help me understand the experience you're searching for. All the while, I'm recalling my own time spent in the destination. I lived in Japan for six years, and I've been creating trips as a specialist for more than a decade. I want people to challenge me and ask, 'What do you think we should do?' As specialists, it's our knowledge that gives you the scope to have an experience you can really say is unique.'*

## *The passion that drives us*

*'We love being specialists, quite simply, because we love to travel. I try to put across my own passion for safaris in every suggestion or idea I pose, and I want you to come back seeing why I'm so excited about the experiences I created for you. And, how do I know what the right experiences are? It's a culmination of the knowledge I've gathered during my travels and listening to the feedback from clients after their trip. When they tell me they want to go back, it makes me so happy.'*

## *Meticulously crafted trips*

*'I focus on what you want to take away from your trip right at the start and then explore that down to the finest detail — the guides I pair you with, the exact hotel rooms I select, the restaurants I suggest — and then I knit it all together as one seamless trip. The knowledge I've gained from my own travels allows me to make every step of your journey feel effortless. Behind the scenes, I plan each element so that from the moment you're met at the airport, you can simply relax and enjoy the experience.'*

# Meaningful experiences, real connections

*'Rather than just focus on the highlights,  
we make sure you get a true taste of your  
destination. We want to create experiences  
that give you a deeper perspective.'*



## *Experiences that call to you*


It's what you do in a destination that helps bring it to life. It's why we strive to choose experiences that help you connect to a place, absorbing a little of its complex character. Wherever your passions lie, we'll recommend experiences that speak to you, and we'll find the guide or local expert who's most qualified to help you explore. If you love food, you won't just be taking a generic cooking class, you'll be cooking signature regional dishes in a private home kitchen, under the tutelage of a local chef.

## *Stays with a difference*

We know that where you stay is a cherished part of your travels. So we go to great lengths to find places to stay that exceed expectations, or go above and beyond the ordinary, whether in their character, hospitality, or location. Over the years, we've discovered the very best properties, trying and testing them, so we can choose the right one for you. We've nourished long-standing relationships with these establishments and the people who founded them, and we've stayed there many times — often, we'll even know which rooms have the best views (and reserve them for you).

## *Throughout the brochure*

 **Stays** — hotels and lodges, but also former palaces, family homes, and floating villas

 **Experiences** — tasters for how you can explore more deeply, more meaningfully

*'I love sharing my passion for authentic, home-cooked Greek food with my guests. Offering dinners and cooking classes at my home is my way to say "welcome to my culture."*

*'I see myself as a facilitator of experiences, sharing my connections and relationships to celebrate the very best our community offers. This might include arranging for you to spend time with local ecologists, wine makers, beekeepers, or artists, often at their homes.'*

### *Local guides, true experts*

The guides we work with have been hand-picked for being at the top of their field, whether they're volcanologists, art historians, goat farmers, or wine makers. Most have grown up in the area and know it like the back of their hand, so they can help you experience whichever aspects most interest you. They're passionate about sharing their corner of the world with you, and as you explore together, they'll open your eyes to the intricate details, provide background to enhance your understanding of what you're seeing, and share stories that will bring everything to life.



# *With you at every step*

*'The whole trip was brilliantly arranged and executed by our specialist. It was always a pleasure speaking and planning with them throughout the whole experience.'*

From the early planning stages of your trip and the weeks of anticipation, through to while you're away, your specialist is the expert you can rely on to guide you at every step.



Italy specialist Shannon on the search for new discoveries



## *We take time to understand you*

First of all, we listen. From your starting conversation, the dedicated specialist who creates your trip will get to know you and what's inspiring you to travel.



## *We find experiences to match your passions*

If you have a particular passion, we'll find ways for you to explore it. Your specialist will bring all your ideas together and draw from their own deep knowledge to choose the experiences you're seeking.



## *We create your trip individually for you*

Everything you tell us becomes the inspiration behind the trip we create for you. And, once we know the motivation behind your trip, we set about creating it.



# Vietnam

'A rich culinary heritage, so many different cultures and traditions, sheer-walled valleys... Vietnam has so much to offer, but the highlight for me? The people. They're so unreserved, and you always feel so welcomed.'

Vietnam is a country that you return to with us again and again, each trip a catalyst for the next. It might be the complex modern history, imperial temples, or fragrant cuisine that draws you in initially, but we keep finding new discoveries in this ever-evolving destination, from remote hillside markets to Hue's art studios and galleries. Whether you're a first-time visitor or a returning devotee, we have a wealth of experiences and long-term connections to draw on — this was the first destination we helped you explore, over 25 years ago.

## *On the water*

The waterways of Vietnam hand you an array of experiences to pick from. You could sail on a traditional junk with billowing sails around Halong Bay, while, in the south, converted rice barges give you a vantage point on life along the Mekong. You could even cross the border into Cambodia in style on a speedboat, or head deep into northern Laos to villages only reachable by boat. River travel is a way of life across the country, as well as a convenient means to cut down on domestic flights. Our specialists can suggest how your trip could include time on the water, which may take longer, but often offers a more rewarding journey.



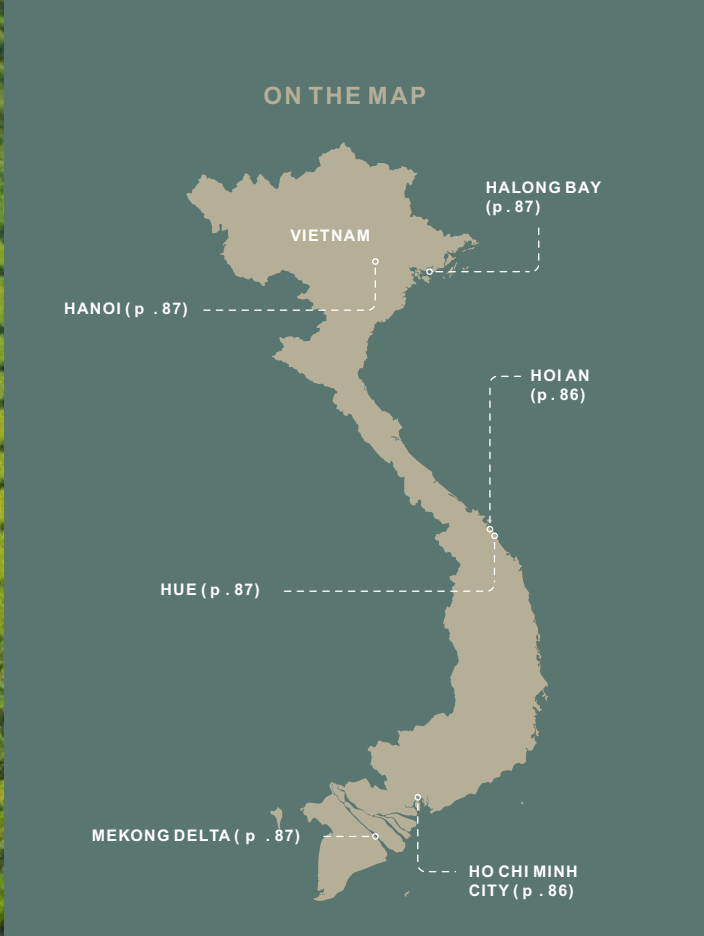
Imperial gate, Hue



Weaving fishing traps, Hung Yen province

## Personal histories

A country replete with museums, memorials, mausoleums, forts, and former garrison towns, Vietnam has enough to engage your passion for history for years. Our focus is around connecting you to the people and stories behind these sights, which could include coffee and conversation with a history academic, a private trip to the former Demilitarised Zone and the Vinh Moc tunnels, or a walking tour of Ho Chi Minh City with a resident who'll share their experiences of living through the Vietnam War. And, if you're tracing your family history, we can tailor your trip to include sites of personal importance that sit outside the guidebooks.



ASIA

## WHEN TO GO

The best time to visit Vietnam, as a rule, is from November to April, when it experiences the least amount of rain. However, north, central, and southern Vietnam each have their own distinct seasons and weather patterns. Central Vietnam has a slightly different dry season, from January to August, while in the mountainous north temperatures cool dramatically from December to January. The south tends to remain warm year-round, with rain from May to October.

## Landscapes

Every place has its photogenic landscapes, but Vietnam is particularly blessed. Great swathes of golden beach are scattered with jagged limestone formations, and a serrated spine of jungle-covered hills hides a caving wonderland. The cities also have their beauty. There are ample ways to get out and explore, including an overnight caving adventure in Phong Nha, trekking along the mountain passes of North Vietnam, or snorkeling in the South China Sea. We also work with local photographers who can help you capture sunsets over the rice paddies that lie a short boat ride from Hoi An, or the urban cityscapes and street scenes of Ho Chi Minh City.



# Hoi An

ARCHITECTURAL WONDERLAND

On the river, Hoi An



Dutch and French colonial houses squeezed in-between Chinese tea warehouses and Japanese temples — Hoi An’s architecture gives you an insight into the town’s mixed heritage. As you wander through the Old Quarter, you can sample fresh noodles and white rose dumplings in the local market, get an expertly tailored suit in record time, and explore the canal-side galleries and museums. We’ll help you make the most of your time here, as well as suggest ways to slip away from the busier areas, perhaps on a private cycling tour through the surrounding paddy fields and artisan villages. Or, take a trip to My Son, a UNESCO-listed series of Cham temple ruins slowly being reclaimed by the jungle.

## *La Siesta Resort & Spa*

You’ll experience the best of both worlds staying at this traditionally designed hotel. The resort’s peaceful location overlooks a series of paddy fields, but it’s only a short walk from Hoi An’s Old Quarter. There’s also a shuttle service to nearby An Bang Beach, a long stretch of blonde sand to the north of Hoi An.

# Ho Chi Minh City

PEARL OF THE ORIENT



Ho Chi Minh City at night



Take a photo of Ho Chi Minh City, and you’ll find it’s out of date within weeks. Once a city devastated by war, it’s now a modern metropolis, buzzing with chic hotels and cutting-edge restaurants. Our guides are eager to share their recollections of living through Vietnam’s recent history, and we can suggest historic tours that offer an in-depth perspective. This could include a visit to the Cu Chi tunnels, dug by the Viet Cong during the French Indochina wars, or a meeting with a local academic for coffee and a deeper understanding of the nation’s defining events. And, if it’s the food that appeals, you can learn how to make banh mi, Vietnamese sandwiches, at a hands-on private cooking class in a former ambassador’s French-colonial villa.

## *Hôtel des Arts Saigon*

Every inch of this French-colonial-inspired hotel has been carefully designed to feng shui principles and finished with a gallery-worthy collection of artwork and antiques. Within strolling distance of the Old Post Office and cathedral, it’s a well-located option and boasts the city’s highest rooftop pool.

# Hanoi

FRENETIC DAY-TO-DAY LIFE



Everyone in Hanoi seems to ride a scooter: elderly fishermen transport their catch in buckets while younger generations weave around them. This is a chaotic Asian city at its best, and we'll throw you into it with the people who live there. You can spend the day with a resident who'll open a window on typical life in Hanoi, showing you Gioi Market, their farm plot below Long Bien Bridge, hidden coffee shops, temple retreats, and hole-in-the-wall bars.

 **Stay at** Sofitel Legend Metropole

# Halong Bay

SCULPTED BY DRAGONS



Watching the limestone pillars jutting out of the early morning mist, it's easy to appreciate that this seascape has a mystical importance to the Vietnamese, whose legends tell of it being carved by the tails of dragons. You can take scenic flights or hike to viewpoints to admire it, but nothing beats a stay on a junk, a converted traditional fishing vessel, and cruising through the landscape. Stay a few nights and you can sail to the quieter but just as striking Lan Ha Bay.

 **Stay at** Halong Violet

# Hue

THE IMPERIAL CITY



While bullet holes from the Vietnam War still scar the floor of its royal palace, Hue remains a regal, creative, and religious city. We can focus your time here around the people who uphold this heritage, introducing you to local scholars, artists, and monks. Plus, Vietnamese cuisine blossomed here, fed by the fresh supply of prawns and a royal enthusiasm for great food. Spend the day in a traditional home, cooking lunch prepared from garden-fresh ingredients.

 **Stay at** Azerai La Residence

# Mekong Delta

WHERE THE RIVER RULES



At the point the Mekong River unravels into nine sprawling rivers, it becomes a fertile delta. Towns bustle with vendors trading fresh produce and a flow of river traffic cruises along daily. We'll steer you off into the tributaries, where orchards grow, and Buddhist temples and family homes cling to the banks. You could opt for an overnight trip on a converted rice barge, cruise through floating markets on a traditional boat, or stay in a riverside family home.

 **Stay at** Coco Riverside Lodge



Floating market, Mekong River



# Highlights of Vietnam

14 DAYS FROM \$7,345 pp

'A first-time visitor came to me with a brief to see the full spectrum of experiences that Vietnam has to offer. The result is a fast-paced tour that makes the most of your time at every turn, with a relaxing finish by the beach.'

DAYS 1-2

## Hanoi: cyclo city tour

After settling into your hotel, explore the city on a private tour by cyclo, a traditional three-wheel rickshaw.

'For a look into Hanoi's cuisine, I can build in a tour with a food blogger, where you'll sample pho, street-food snacks, and coffee.'

DAYS 3-4

## Halong Bay: by air & sea

See the karsts of Halong Bay by seaplane, before cruising between them on a traditional junk, eating dinner on deck.

'If you have time, you could extend your stay on board to two nights, heading farther along the coast to quieter Lan Ha Bay.'

DAYS 5-7

## Hoi An: walking the Old Quarter

Walk through the canal-lined Old Quarter on a private tour in this UNESCO-World-Heritage town. You've plenty of time to explore its cafes, artisanal boutiques, and museums.

'I've planned for you to travel from here to Hue via the Hai Van Pass, which has views across the Lang Co Peninsula.'

DAYS 8-9

## Hue: touring the historical citadel

A private guide will lead you on a tour of Hue's imperial mausoleums, temples, and gunfire-marked citadel.

DAY 10

## Ho Chi Minh City: experiencing South Vietnam

You'll fly south to this commercial capital, visiting the Cu Chi Tunnels en route, with time to wander the city's boulevards.

'The city's opera house often hosts cultural performances, and I can check the schedule and ask your guide to reserve you tickets.'

DAY 11

## Mekong Delta: on the waterways

Cruising through the backwaters, you'll visit the floating markets at Cai Rang and dine on fresh prawns in Can Tho.

'If you have the time, I suggest staying in a local riverside family home where you can relax in the gardens watching boats cruise by.'

DAYS 12-14

## Phu Quoc: island stay

Fly to Phu Quoc to end your trip on the island's quiet beaches.

'I've left your time here free to relax, but, if you're feeling active, I can add in a tour of the island's rainforest and pepper plantations.'

### Explore further

'A detour into the Tonkinese Alps at the start of your trip lets you visit some of the region's hill-tribe communities. In contrast, if it's more relaxation you're after, Vietnam has a wide variety of coastal escapes. You could add an extra beach stop mid-way through, visiting the secluded resorts around Nha Trang and Ninh Van Bay for some downtime.'



War veteran, image by Southeast Asia specialist Veronica

## Veteran's tour of Vietnam

13 DAYS FROM \$7,365 pp

*Hanoi • Hue • Dong Ha • Hoi An • Ho Chi Minh City*

This in-depth exploration of some of the Vietnam War's most important locations takes you to battle sites including the Khe Sanh military base and Hamburger Hill, the DMZ, Camp Eagle, and the Cu Chi Tunnels. You'll also have the opportunity to share experiences of the conflict with both US and Vietnamese war veterans, including an afternoon with the chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.



Ho Chi Minh City

## Luxury tour of Vietnam

14 DAYS FROM \$14,095 pp

*Hanoi • Halong Bay • Hoi An • Con Dao Island*

Explore Vietnam in style while resting your head in some of the country's most comfortable accommodations. You'll fly over Halong Bay in a seaplane before cruising its emerald waters on an elegant teak junk. Exclusive experiences include a private cooking lesson at a revered cooking school in Hoi An and an evening tour of Ho Chi Minh City on the back of a Vespa. For a relaxing finish, retreat to your own pool villa on Con Dao Island.



Buddhist temple, Luang Prabang

## Grand tour of Indochina

22 DAYS FROM \$22,310 pp

*Luang Prabang • Hanoi • Hoi An • Temples of Angkor*

If you're only planning to visit the region once, this trip combines the highlights of Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia. It covers the well-known attractions, from Halong Bay to the floating markets on the Mekong. But, we've also included experiences that dig deeper, such as a stay at a remote river lodge in Laos, a night tour of Ho Chi Minh City with a resident, and a private tour of Angkor's Kbal Spean, a hidden carved riverbed.

## Getting around

Within Vietnam, our team of guides and accompanying drivers will look after you. The surrounding jigsaw of nations also opens up the prospect of combining countries with ease. Our specialists have tried and tested these routes, and will arrange every logistical detail, which might involve joining up river travel, private car journeys, and multiple border crossings, so you can simply enjoy the ride.

*'I liked the attention to detail at all times, the excellent responsiveness, and the slickness of the arrangements in practice — couldn't fault it.'*

MORE TRIPS TO INSPIRE YOU



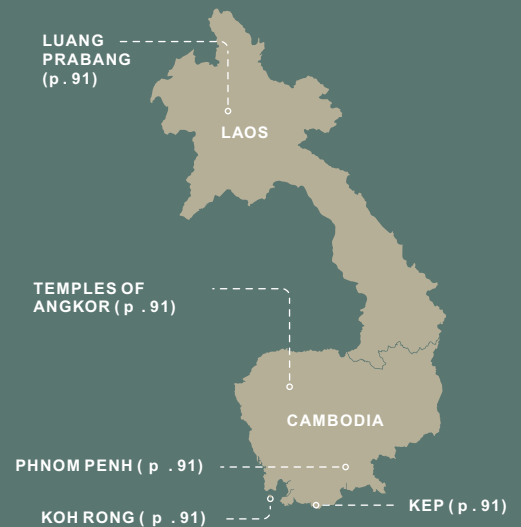
# Cambodia & Laos

Khmu lady, northern Laos, image by Southeast Asia specialist Mark

“Off the beaten track” is a phrase that gets bandied around, but I’ve found that in Cambodia and Laos it rings true. Thick jungle hides rarely visited temples, and serpentine waterways lead to remote riverside communities.’

**T**he temples of Angkor are justifiably Cambodia’s main draw — you’ll rarely see two temples the same, and exploring with a knowledgeable guide can keep you busy for as many days as you can spare. But we’re also passionate about taking you beyond the obvious to Cambodia’s minority villages, great swathes of wilderness, and modern cities. Follow the slow-flowing tributaries of the Mekong and you’ll emerge in Laos, a country of jungle-robed valleys inhabited by resilient communities who live at a refreshingly unhurried pace.

## ON THE MAP



## WHEN TO GO

The best time to visit Cambodia and Laos is between November and April, when the weather’s warm and dry. River travel is best before the water levels fall in February. Outside this period, humidity increases and the rains come, but don’t be deterred — the countryside is lush and Angkor’s temples are quiet.

## Temples of Angkor

HEART OF THE KHMER EMPIRE



Temple at Angkor

Hidden inside twisting jungle and standing proud amid rice paddies, Angkor is a staggering collection of temples. Angkor Wat is the most well-known, with such powerful cultural significance that it's celebrated on the national flag. We can help you discover the complex your way, which might be a photography tour in the early-morning golden hour, a private walk with a Khmer scholar, a movie-themed tour, or a guided cycle to the little-visited outlying temples.

 **Stay at** Montra Nivesha

## Phnom Penh

THE FACE OF MODERN CAMBODIA



Phnom Penh from an old mansion

With its 14th-century pagodas, French-colonial mansions, and gleaming skyscrapers, Phnom Penh is ever-evolving. We have a range of experiences exploring the juxtaposition of ancient and modern, led by guides with a passion for showing you their city. You can tour by Vespa, sampling Khmer cafes, bars, and microbreweries. Meanwhile, Cambodia's modern history is commemorated at the Killing Fields of Choeng Ek, which you can visit with a local guide.

 **Stay at** Rosewood Phnom Penh


## Kep & Koh Rong

CAMBODIA'S VERDANT COAST



Beach on Koh Rong

Cambodia might not be the first Southeast Asian country you'd think of for a coastal escape, but therein lies its beauty. Kep is a traditional Cambodian seaside town where you can meander around markets and try its signature dish of peppery crab. If it's a soft-sand beach you're after, we can suggest a Cambodian castaway island escape to suit you, including Koh Rong's aptly named 'Long' and 'Lonely' beaches, or Song Saa, a luxurious private island.

 **Stay at** Song Saa

## Luang Prabang

LAOS' CITY OF CULTURE



Wat Xieng Thong temple, Luang Prabang

Few towns can be said to encapsulate the essence of a country like Luang Prabang does Laos. The heart and soul of this landlocked nation, the UNESCO World Heritage town sits amid the jungle-clad hills of northern Laos, at the confluence of the Mekong and Nam Khan rivers. A highlight is hiking or cruising through this landscape with one of our guides from the surrounding hill-tribe villages, who can introduce you to the traditional communities living here.

 **Stay at** Maison Dalabua



Angkor Wat, Temples of Angkor



## Cambodia's cities & coast

12 DAYS FROM \$3,995 pp

'Designed for clients who wanted to explore Angkor in depth, this trip also incorporates some of Cambodia's other highlights. I've contrasted the temples with modern Phnom Penh and the laid-back coastal village of Kep.'

DAYS 1-4

### Temples of Angkor: explore with a private guide

Over a few days you'll see the highlights of the Angkor complex, including Angkor Wat and Ta Prohm, which is partly propped up by the serpentine roots of giant fig trees. Your private guide will help you see these popular sites at the quietest times, but also lead you to some of the little-visited temples deep in the jungle. This includes Banteay Srei, a temple of red sandstone with carvings so delicate, the local people believe it could only have been made by women.

'I can include a tour with a professional photographer to give you expert technical advice for capturing the best shots.'

DAY 5

### Siem Reap: Khmer cuisine & artisanal markets

Take the day to explore this busy riverside town, which acts as the gateway to Angkor's temples. You could take a Khmer cooking class, indulge in a spa treatment, visit the Angkor National Museum, or delve into the artisanal markets.

'I could book you tickets to the Phare Ponleu Selpak Circus, a social enterprise that performs high-flying acrobatics to live music.'

DAYS 6-7

### Phnom Penh: historical tour of the capital

Get an insight into Cambodia's sobering modern history with

a private tour of the Killing Fields of Choeung Ek and the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum. You'll also see the city's cultural highlights, including the Royal Palace, which is still the official residence of the Cambodian king, and the Silver Pagoda, whose Buddha statue sparkles with almost 10,000 diamonds.

'If you're interested in wildlife, I could add a behind-the-scenes visit to a nearby animal sanctuary, where you'll be a bear keeper for the day, helping to take care of rescued sun and Asiatic bears.'

DAYS 8-12

### Kep: relax on the coast

In the laid-back coastal village of Kep, you have plenty of time to stroll along the beach, swim, and dine on fresh seafood — crab is the specialty here. You'll also take a boat trip to Rabbit Island, an undeveloped jungle-topped patch of sand where you can relax by the beach. Nearby is the French-colonial town of Kampot, where you can take a cooking lesson at one of the region's pepper plantations.

'For something more active, I could arrange a paddleboarding or kayaking tour of the mangroves that surround Kampot.'

### Explore further

'An often overlooked aspect of Cambodia is its barely touched wilderness. You could add a stay in a floating lodge on the Tatai River, waking to the sounds of gibbons calling. Or you could head deep into the jungle to a tented camp, joining park rangers on guided jungle hikes and nature patrols.'



Cruising the Mekong, Laos

## Laos & Cambodia

20 DAYS FROM \$9,610 pp

*Luang Prabang • Temples of Angkor • Phnom Penh*

This trip is a real adventure, taking you on an in-depth journey through Cambodia and Laos. Making the most of river travel, you'll cruise along the Mekong to explore Laos's capital of culture, Luang Prabang, as well as visit remote riverside villages. You'll tick off Cambodia's highlights, including the Temples of Angkor and Phnom Penh, but also head off-piste to a floating ecolodge deep in the Cardamom Mountains.



Novice monks, Luang Prabang

## Laos past & present

8 DAYS FROM \$4,830 pp

*Vientiane • Pakse • Luang Prabang*

Combining cities, river travel, temples, and hill-tribe community visits, this trip focuses on the landlocked country of Laos. Starting in its unassuming capital, Vientiane, you'll explore French-colonial architecture and gleaming golden temples. Then fly south to cruise past pre-Angkorian temples along the Mekong, before circling north to Luang Prabang, gateway to Laos's Buddhist heritage and hill-tribe communities.



Cycling in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam

## The Mekong & Angkor Wat

12 DAYS FROM \$4,540 pp

*Ho Chi Minh City • Phnom Penh • Temples of Angkor*

The Mekong Delta is the heart of this trip, which begins in Ho Chi Minh City, then takes you through the floating markets of the delta's backwaters, before you cross the Vietnamese border into Cambodia by speedboat. Zip around Phnom Penh on a Vespa tour and finish with a few days exploring the Temples of Angkor. We designed this route as a way to leave a lighter footprint by switching domestic flights for road and river journeys.

### Getting around

Whether you choose a well-known or lesser-trodden path, Cambodia and Laos offer a rewarding mix of road and river travel, giving you time to try a cup of rice whisky or visit a remote Khmer temple along the way. We arrange every step of the journey, from a private car and driver in Phnom Penh to a longtail boat in Laos. The jigsaw of nations and multiple border crossings across Southeast Asia allow you to combine countries with ease.

*'What we really appreciated was an itinerary suited to our pace and differing interests. The personal service from guides and drivers was fantastic.'*

MORE TRIPS TO INSPIRE YOU

**North Africa**

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