

SEA05 / 18 DAYS



VIETNAM + LAOS

Lanterns, Rice Fields & River Life

A joyful private journey for the people you love travelling with.

18 DAYS / 17 NIGHTS / PRIVATE

Travel in February • early March • Tailored to your party

THE JOURNEY

Some places stay with you.



Follow the pleasure of discovery from Saigon's lively streets to the quiet rituals of Luang Prabang. Along the way, your party cooks with fresh herbs, makes a lantern, explores ancient towers, meets conservation teams and sleeps aboard a boat reserved for you. The route travels through Vietnam in a practical south-to-north sequence before continuing to Laos, where farming, Baci blessings and a carefully managed elephant experience add human depth. Vang Vieng offers a planned balloon ascent and a scenic railway connection to the capital. This is a full private journey for families and friends who want variety and meaningful encounters, with room for different energy levels. We shape the rooming, menus, walks and activity choices around the people travelling.

SEVEN MOMENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

- Private Ben Tre waterways and southern Vietnamese food
- Hoi An farming, cooking, pottery and lantern-making
- My Son, Hanoi and a two-night private bay cruise
- Luang Prabang heritage and a personal Baci welcome
- Rice farming, Kuang Si and rescued bears
- An ethical, no-riding elephant encounter
- A planned balloon flight above Vang Vieng

DESIGNED TO CONNECT BEAUTIFULLY

The shape of your journey

Ho Chi Minh City • Ben Tre • Hoi An • Hanoi • Bai Tu Long Bay • Luang Prabang • Vang Vieng • Vientiane

YOUR NIGHTS, IN ORDER

DAYS 01–03	Ho Chi Minh City
DAYS 04–06	Hoi An
DAYS 07–08	Hanoi
DAYS 09–10	Private bay cruise
DAY 11	Hanoi
DAYS 12–15	Luang Prabang
DAY 16	Vang Vieng
DAY 17	Vientiane
DAY 18	Departure

BEST TRAVEL MONTHS

February • early March

February is the best overall compromise for central Vietnam and Laos. Early March is warmer, and seasonal haze can affect northern Laos. Tet dates and local opening hours are checked when the programme is dated.

MADE FOR

Families, multigenerational parties, close friends & curious couples

*Your own travel dates. Your own companions.
Private guides and vehicles, with walks, rooming
and dining adapted to you.*

CONNECTIONS THAT RESPECT YOUR TIME

- Arrive Ho Chi Minh City; depart Vientiane.
- Flights: Ho Chi Minh City–Da Nang, Da Nang–Hanoi and Hanoi–Luang Prabang.
- Rail links Luang Prabang–Vang Vieng–Vientiane.
- The Vang Vieng balloon precedes a suitably later train; a ground alternative is used if flying is cancelled.



Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

DAY 01

Your private welcome to Ho Chi Minh City

Arrive at Tan Son Nhat International Airport, where your Midasia Routes representative meets you in the arrivals area after immigration and baggage collection. A private vehicle, chilled drinking water and assistance with your luggage make the transition to your hotel easy. Airport fast-track assistance can be requested where the airport permits it.

After settling in, meet your local guide for a personal introduction to Ho Chi Minh City. Depending on your landing time and energy, enjoy a short neighbourhood walk, a riverside pause or a first taste of the city in a relaxed café. Your guide confirms food preferences, walking comfort and the experiences that matter most to you.

A thoughtfully chosen welcome dinner introduces regional flavours. The evening remains gentle after your international journey; a late arrival means dinner and orientation are adjusted to your flight. Your first night is a comfortable beginning, with the details of tomorrow already taken care of.

Overnight: Ho Chi Minh City | Meals: Welcome dinner, arrival time permitting

DAY 02

Cu Chi and the stories of Saigon

Leave early for the Cu Chi tunnel area, where a specialist guide explains the ingenuity and hardship of wartime life. The surface displays provide a meaningful visit without requiring anyone to enter a tunnel. Tunnel sections are optional and unsuitable for some travelers with limited mobility or claustrophobia.

After lunch, return to the city for the Independence Palace, exploring the formal rooms and the events associated with the building. Add the Central Post Office if it was not visited earlier. A short café stop gives time to discuss what you have seen without moving straight into another intense museum.

Dinner offers a lighter conclusion to the day. Adults particularly interested in modern history can request the War Remnants Museum in place of a city stop; its graphic material is discussed in advance, and families are offered an age-appropriate alternative.

Overnight: Ho Chi Minh City | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



Mekong Delta, Vietnam

DAY 03

The Mekong Delta: coconut gardens and family kitchens

Travel from the city to Ben Tre after breakfast and board a private local boat. Follow broad river channels and smaller waterways, observing the changing uses of the banks. Stop at a family-run coconut workshop or other working craft business, where hosts explain their trade.

Enjoy lunch in a garden setting and explore quiet village lanes on foot, by a short optional bicycle ride or with a local vehicle. A small rowing boat can take you through a palm-fringed creek when water conditions allow. Your guide keeps the focus on everyday livelihoods and genuine conversations.

Return to Ho Chi Minh City for dinner. This is a substantial day excursion, so the evening stays close to your hotel. The private arrangement allows you to spend longer with a welcoming host and shorten a stop that feels less interesting to your family or friends.

Overnight: Ho Chi Minh City | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

DAY 04

A flight to Da Nang, an evening in Hoi An

Transfer from your hotel in Ho Chi Minh City to the airport for a scheduled flight to Da Nang. Your Midasia team meets you on arrival and continues privately to Hoi An. Flight times are selected to protect a worthwhile afternoon wherever practical, with lunch fitted around the journey.

After checking in, walk through Hoi An's historic trading quarter with your guide. Visit a merchant house and an assembly hall, then explore the Japanese Covered Bridge area and riverside streets. Exact interiors depend on opening hours; the town's story is brought alive through people, architecture and trade.

Enjoy a lantern-making session when the flight schedule allows, or move it to the next Hoi An day. Dinner introduces regional specialities such as cao lau and white-rose dumplings. A relaxed riverfront walk rounds off the evening without a late return to the hotel.

Overnight: Hoi An | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



Cam Thanh, Hoi An, Vietnam

DAY 05

From the herb garden to your own Vietnamese table

Visit Tra Que with a local host, walking between aromatic herb beds and learning how the gardens supply Hoi An's kitchens. Join light seasonal tasks such as watering, preparing a bed or harvesting herbs; the experience is adapted for children and for travelers who prefer to observe.

Use the morning's ingredients in a private cooking session followed by lunch. In the afternoon, explore Hoi An's old town more deeply, with time for a merchant house, an assembly hall and artisan workshops that match your interests. Your guide introduces the trading history behind the familiar yellow facades.

As dusk approaches, make a lantern with a craft teacher or enjoy a short private river outing where local rules allow. Dinner is arranged after time to refresh. The day combines gardening, food, heritage and creativity, with a vehicle available whenever you want to shorten the walking.

Overnight: Hoi An | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

DAY 06

My Son, riverside craft and the art of making

Leave early for My Son, allowing time to explore the Cham sanctuary before the heat builds. Walk the main paths between the surviving brick towers with your private guide and learn how religious practice, architecture and modern conservation meet in this forested valley.

Return towards Hoi An for lunch, then visit Thanh Ha pottery village for a hands-on session with a willing artisan. If you would like more time on the water, include a gentle basket-boat outing in the Cam Thanh coconut-waterway area, choosing a calm experience rather than noisy spinning demonstrations.

After a pause at your hotel, enjoy dinner and a final lantern-lit walk. This is a full day with several different settings, so the pottery or boat section can be shortened for families. The cultural encounters are prearranged, while temple and village areas remain shared public places.

Overnight: Hoi An | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



Tran Quoc Pagoda, Hanoi, Vietnam

DAY 07

From the central coast to the capital

Enjoy breakfast and a short local stop around Hoi An if your flight permits. Transfer privately to Da Nang airport for a scheduled flight to Hanoi, with the local team handling the onward vehicle and hotel arrangements. The airline schedule determines the precise order of the day.

After settling in, take a gentle guided walk around Hoan Kiem Lake and nearby streets. A café stop offers an introduction to northern flavours and the city's street life. Detailed museum and monument visits are reserved for the following day, avoiding pressure after a flight delay.

Dinner features a selection of Hanoi specialities in a setting chosen for your comfort. Your guide reviews the bay-cruise arrangements and any food preferences that the boat crew should know. This evening brings a different mood after the coastal light and trading-town atmosphere of Hoi An.

Overnight: Hanoi | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

DAY 08

Hanoi: a city revealed in layers

Begin beside Hoan Kiem Lake as the city wakes, then explore the Old Quarter with a guide who can explain the street trades, communal houses and everyday etiquette. Pause for Vietnamese coffee before entering the Temple of Literature, where courtyards, stone stelae and shaded gardens introduce the country's scholarly traditions.

After lunch, visit the Thang Long Imperial Citadel and follow the story of Vietnam's successive capitals. Continue through the French Quarter, stopping for architectural details and street scenes rather than a hurried checklist. Museum and monument visits are reordered around their weekly closures.

An early evening water-puppet performance brings rural legends to life. Finish with a guided tasting of carefully selected Hanoi dishes, with seated alternatives for travelers who prefer a restaurant to street-side dining. Your private vehicle is available between the walking sections.

Overnight: Hanoi | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



Ha Long Bay region, Vietnam

DAY 09

Your private voyage into Bai Tu Long Bay

Depart Hanoi after breakfast for the coast, travelling by private vehicle with a comfort stop before boarding. Meet the crew of your exclusively chartered small boat and settle into your cabin. A safety briefing covers the tender, kayaking and the day's permitted anchorage before lunch is served.

Cruise into Bai Tu Long's limestone seascape. The planned charter follows an authorised three-day route, with an afternoon excursion around the Cong Do area or an equivalent approved location. Depending on conditions, take a guided kayak outing or use a tender to enjoy the scenery without paddling.

Return for a Vietnamese cooking demonstration and sunset on deck, then enjoy dinner prepared aboard. Your boat is private to your party, while the protected bay and visitor sites remain public. The captain may change the precise stop sequence for weather, permissions and harbour instructions.

Overnight: Private bay cruise | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

DAY 10

A full day among islands, caves and floating homes

Enjoy breakfast with the limestone islands close to your boat, then set out with the crew for a cave visit such as Thien Canh Son when included in the authorised sailing plan. Your guide explains the rock formations and the changing relationship between fishing communities, tourism and the protected bay.

Lunch is followed by a guided visit around Vung Vieng or the charter's approved floating-village area. A tender or local rowing boat brings you closer to the water. There is also time for a sheltered kayak excursion; less active travelers can remain aboard or join the scenic tender alternative.

As the boat reaches its overnight anchorage, enjoy the changing light from the deck. Dinner is served at a pace that suits your party. Two nights aboard allow a richer exploration than a single-night visit, without turning every hour into an organised activity. Swimming, if offered, depends on authorised locations and conditions.

Overnight: Private bay cruise | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



Ho Pha Bang, Luang Prabang, Laos

DAY 11

Back to Hanoi, with time to look closer

Wake to the bay and enjoy breakfast as your boat returns towards its authorised harbour. A final short excursion may be offered by the captain before brunch and disembarkation. Your driver meets you for the private transfer to Hanoi; lunch timing is coordinated with the cruise service.

Check into your hotel and refresh before a gentle late-afternoon encounter with contemporary Vietnamese craft. Depending on opening hours, meet a lacquer specialist or a small independent gallery team, learning how traditional materials are used in modern work. This is also valuable breathing space between the water and tomorrow's flight.

Dinner is arranged in Hanoi, with time to discuss the next stage with your guide. The city overnight intentionally protects the onward connection: no international flight is booked immediately after a weather-dependent bay cruise.

Overnight: Hanoi | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

DAY 12

Hanoi to Luang Prabang: a graceful change of pace

Enjoy breakfast and a final Hanoi experience fitted around your flight: a small craft studio, a quiet café or an unhurried neighbourhood walk. Transfer privately to the airport for the published Hanoi–Luang Prabang route. Your start date is chosen around a suitable service, with any alternative connection agreed before booking.

Arrive in Laos and meet your local team after immigration and baggage collection. Continue privately to a heritage-style hotel or a more secluded riverside retreat selected for your preferences. The afternoon programme stays flexible because the most practical direct flight may arrive later in the day.

Enjoy your first Lao dinner when arrival time allows. Your guide introduces local customs and the coming days of temples, farming and river life. If you arrive early, a gentle peninsula walk is a pleasant first encounter; the substantive heritage visits are reserved for tomorrow.

Overnight: Luang Prabang | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



DAY 13

Luang Prabang: living traditions and a Baci welcome

Begin with the morning market and the town's everyday food traditions, then visit the former Royal Palace museum and Wat Xieng Thong. Your guide explains the architecture, royal history and living Buddhist traditions. Any observation of morning alms is quiet and respectful, without interrupting participants or using flash.

After lunch, meet a textile or craft specialist for an introduction to the distinct communities of northern Laos. Visit the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre when open, or use a prearranged artisan session as the alternative. Allow time to browse contemporary work and ask questions.

Join a Baci ceremony arranged with willing local hosts and an experienced ceremony leader. White threads, spoken blessings and shared goodwill create a personal welcome; participation follows the hosts' customs. Enjoy dinner afterwards. A Phousi viewpoint visit can be added if the steps and timing suit you.

Overnight: Luang Prabang | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

DAY 14

Rice farming, turquoise falls and rescued bears

Visit the Living Land community farm for a prebooked rice experience. Learn how seedlings, irrigation, harvesting and processing connect to the Lao table, joining light tasks suited to the season and your comfort. Participants can try the muddy stages or observe from the field edge; children receive age-appropriate involvement.

After lunch, continue to Kuang Si. Walk the lower forest paths and visit the public viewing area of the Tat Kuang Si Bear Rescue Centre, where rescued bears illustrate a conservation story. Follow the path to the waterfalls and enjoy the turquoise pools, with swimming only in permitted areas when conditions allow.

Return to Luang Prabang for dinner and an optional short browse of the evening craft market. This is a full day, so the walk remains moderate and the upper, steeper waterfall trail is optional. Bear viewing follows sanctuary rules and is distinct from a specially booked care tour.

Overnight: Luang Prabang | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



Vang Vieng, Laos

DAY 15

Walking alongside an elephant conservation story

Join a prearranged private visit with an ethical elephant operator such as MandaLao, subject to its private-tour availability. Meet the specialist team and learn the individual stories of the elephants before walking through a suitable forest setting under their guidance. There is no riding, and interactions follow the operator's welfare approach.

Enjoy lunch as arranged with the experience, then return to town. Spend the later afternoon with a textile specialist or at a small weaving studio, seeing how fibres, colour and technique become a finished cloth. A shorter elephant walk can be selected for suitable families.

Dinner is arranged in Luang Prabang. Trails can be muddy, and the provider assesses age, mobility and conditions before confirming participation. The experience is a thoughtful wildlife encounter in a managed care setting, with the elephants' needs determining the rhythm of the visit.

Overnight: Luang Prabang | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

DAY 16

By rail to Vang Vieng's limestone country

After breakfast, transfer to Luang Prabang's railway station for a reserved-seat journey on the Laos-China Railway. Your team handles station transfers and prepares the passenger details required for ticketing. The final train and seat category are confirmed when the booking window opens.

Meet your driver at Vang Vieng and check into your hotel. After lunch, take a gentle introduction to the Nam Song landscape, with a private local boat ride when river conditions allow and a short village-lane walk. Limestone cliffs, fields and river life offer a striking contrast to the royal town.

Enjoy dinner with mountain views where available. Your guide confirms the weather assessment and pickup arrangements for tomorrow's planned balloon flight. A quieter evening is useful before the early start, while the day still includes rail scenery, time on the river and an introduction to the countryside.

Overnight: Vang Vieng | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



Vang Vieng, Laos

DAY 17

A sunrise ascent and the capital by evening

Begin with your planned private balloon flight, subject to the pilot's weather decision and the operator's participation requirements. Return to the hotel for breakfast and time to refresh. If flying is cancelled, enjoy a guided riverside walk or a short countryside outing instead.

Transfer to the station for a suitable afternoon train to Vientiane. Your private driver meets you on arrival, then continues to your hotel. If the timetable permits, visit Wat Si Saket before closing; otherwise enjoy a relaxed orientation and move the temple visit to a custom extension.

Gather for a farewell Lao dinner and a gentle Mekong riverfront stroll. The train is booked with enough time after the balloon activity, not as a tight connection from the landing field. This is a full travel day, so additional sightseeing is kept modest and adjusted to the actual arrival.

Overnight: Vientiane | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

DAY 18

A thoughtful farewell

Enjoy breakfast and a final quiet moment in Vientiane. If your flight allows, your guide can arrange a short market visit or a stop for last-minute locally made gifts; this is fitted around check-out and airport formalities, never around an optimistic connection.

Your private driver transfers you to Wattay International Airport. The team assists with luggage and check-in orientation within the areas open to local representatives. Your international flight, onward baggage arrangements and any airport assistance are reconfirmed before departure.

Leave with the memories of people met, food shared and landscapes explored. A beach extension, a different onward destination or extra nights can be arranged when we customise the journey. International flights are quoted separately unless your personal proposal expressly includes them.

Overnight: Departure | Meals: Breakfast, flight time permitting

PRIVATE TRAVEL, PERSONAL CARE

Make this journey yours.

Travel as a couple, with family or friends, or on your own with a private guide. We begin with the experiences you care about, then shape the room choices, dining, walking and daily pace around you. A birthday, a photography interest, a quieter village stay or a few extra beach nights can become part of your personal proposal.

Your welcome & support · Personal arrivals-area meet and greet; private airport transfers; luggage assistance; coordinated local handovers and a named planning contact. Fast-track services are requested only where permitted and available.

Your comfort & experiences · Well-chosen luxury or boutique accommodation, private vehicles and local guides, meals shown in the programme, site entries and the described private boat and activity arrangements are included in the bespoke quotation.

Your flights & thoughtful extras · The quotation itemises scheduled domestic and regional flights, baggage, rail travel and private charters. International flights to and from the journey, visas, insurance, personal purchases, gratuities and unlisted extras are separate unless expressly included.

Your confirmed proposal · Route planning was reviewed in September 2026. Your final dated proposal confirms the hotels, flights, boats, rail seats, host visits, activity suitability and any seasonal substitutions before you commit.

[Enquire about this journey](#)[Speak with our Asia expert](#)

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