

SEA07 / 18 DAYS



VIETNAM + CAMBODIA

The Private Mekong & Angkor

An intimate sampan, a private bay boat and the wonder of Angkor.

18 DAYS / 17 NIGHTS / PRIVATE

Travel in December-February • Tailored to your party

THE JOURNEY

Some places stay with you.



Water is the thread, privacy the pleasure. Begin with northern Vietnam's heritage and a two-night bay charter, then fly south for a more intimate river experience: a sampan reserved for your party, an overnight on the Mekong and a comfortable riverside hotel in Can Tho. Markets, gardens and working households give the Delta a human scale before a flight carries you to Cambodia. Angkor receives several generous days, with its famous temples balanced by fine carving, creative work, a conservation story and a specialist lake excursion. This is not a shared cross-border cruise disguised as private travel. Your land programme and planned boat charters are private, while the places visited remain open to others. The small sampan's simpler facilities are part of its character and are discussed before booking.

SEVEN MOMENTS TO LOOK FORWARD TO

- Two nights aboard your private Bai Tu Long boat
- A private overnight Mekong sampan experience
- A riverside hotel night and early Cai Rang exploration
- Northern Vietnamese heritage and conservation visits
- Angkor, Banteay Srei and atmospheric Beng Mealea
- APOPO's conservation-related education and local artisans
- A specialist private Tonle Sap birding day

DESIGNED TO CONNECT BEAUTIFULLY

The shape of your journey

Hanoi • Ninh Binh • Bai Tu Long Bay • Ho Chi Minh City • Cai Be • Can Tho • Siem Reap • Angkor • Tonle Sap

YOUR NIGHTS, IN ORDER

DAYS 01–02	Hanoi
DAYS 03–04	Ninh Binh
DAYS 05–06	Private bay cruise
DAY 07	Hanoi
DAYS 08–09	Ho Chi Minh City
DAY 10	Private Mekong sampan
DAY 11	Can Tho
DAY 12	Ho Chi Minh City
DAYS 13–17	Siem Reap
DAY 18	Departure

BEST TRAVEL MONTHS

December–February

This window favours Cambodia and the southern Delta. Northern Vietnam can be cool and overcast, especially in January. Tonle Sap birding is strongest in the specialist’s December–February core season.

MADE FOR

Couples, a few close friends, families & solo travelers seeking privacy

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 Hanoi; depart Siem Reap.
- Flights: Hanoi–Ho Chi Minh City and Ho Chi Minh City–Siem Reap.
- Cruising: two private bay nights plus one private sampan night; Can Tho adds a riverside hotel night.
- A city overnight after the Delta protects the international flight. Sampan size and facilities are matched to your party.



Tran Quoc Pagoda, Hanoi, Vietnam

DAY 01

Your private welcome to Hanoi

Arrive at Noi Bai 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 Hanoi. 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: Hanoi | Meals: Welcome dinner, arrival time permitting

DAY 02

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



Trang An, Ninh Binh, Vietnam

DAY 03

Ninh Binh: temples, waterways and limestone towers

Leave Hanoi after breakfast in your private vehicle, reaching the countryside in time to explore the temples of Hoa Lu, Vietnam's early capital. Your guide connects the stone gateways and surviving shrines with the rise of an independent Vietnamese kingdom, then introduces the surrounding village landscape on a gentle walk.

After a local lunch, board a rowboat at Trang An for a scenic route through limestone scenery, low caves and quiet stretches of water. The boat route is chosen according to water levels and visitor access. Life jackets are provided, and the boat is reserved for your party where the local operating rules permit.

Settle into a countryside retreat. Before dinner, a short village-lane walk offers a closer look at gardens, rice cultivation and daily routines. Enjoy regional dishes and views of the surrounding karst landscape; the steeper viewpoints are optional, not required to enjoy the day.

Overnight: Ninh Binh | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

DAY 04

Cuc Phuong: a living forest and a conservation story

Drive to Cuc Phuong National Park for a prearranged conservation visit. At the Endangered Primate Rescue Center, a centre guide explains the care of rescued langurs and other primates and the pressures facing them in the wild. Viewing follows the centre's welfare rules; this is a rescue setting, not a promise of wild-animal sightings.

After lunch, explore a suitable forest trail with a nature guide. Look for butterflies, birdlife and the changing textures of the forest, keeping to a moderate route selected for the season and your fitness. A visit to the turtle conservation area can be added when staff and access are available.

Return to Ninh Binh for dinner. Families can shorten the forest section and spend more time on the interpretation activities. The guide carries the day's timings so there is room to ask questions, take photographs and enjoy the forest without racing from one stop to another.

Overnight: Ninh Binh | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



Ha Long Bay region, Vietnam

DAY 05

Your private voyage into Bai Tu Long Bay

Depart Ninh Binh 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 06

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 Chi Minh City, Vietnam

DAY 07

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 08

Fly south to the energy of Saigon

After breakfast, transfer privately to Hanoi airport for your scheduled flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Meet your southern Vietnamese guide on arrival and settle into your hotel. Lunch and the first afternoon stop are planned around the actual flight time, with no critical timed activity immediately after landing.

Explore the central city on a gentle orientation: the Central Post Office, the Opera House exterior and the broad streets around the historic civic buildings. Your guide explains the city's changing identities and its role in trade, migration and modern Vietnamese life.

After time to refresh, enjoy dinner at a well-chosen restaurant. For keen food travelers, the evening can become a private tasting circuit using a vehicle between neighbourhoods. Walking distances and the number of stops are adjusted to your group; the main history programme follows tomorrow.

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



Mekong Delta, Vietnam

DAY 09

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

DAY 10

Your own sampan, your own Mekong chapter

Depart Ho Chi Minh City after breakfast for Cai Be, where your private Song Xanh-style sampan and crew await. Settle aboard after the safety briefing and begin an intimate river journey. The exact boat is confirmed in your proposal, with cabin arrangements matched to your party.

Explore channels lined by orchards, homes and small businesses. Depending on the confirmed sailing plan, step ashore for a craft workshop, a historic house or an orchard encounter. Lunch and dinner are coordinated with the boat programme, with food preferences passed to the crew before boarding.

As the light softens, the sampan continues towards its approved overnight stopping place. Enjoy dinner and a night on the river, with your party as the only guests aboard. This is a characterful small-boat experience with simpler space and facilities than a large luxury hotel, made special by privacy and close attention.

Overnight: Private Mekong sampan | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

**DAY 11**

Cai Rang at first light, a riverside retreat by afternoon

Wake aboard your private sampan and continue towards Can Tho. Visit Cai Rang while trading is most likely to be visible, watching the river's morning routines from the boat. Your guide explains how market activity has changed; lively trading is welcome but cannot be guaranteed.

Disembark and transfer to your riverside hotel, with time to shower and have lunch. Later, visit a local garden or a small family-run food workshop and enjoy a moderate neighbourhood walk. The afternoon is planned flexibly because river levels and the sailing route can affect arrival time.

Dinner is served in a comfortable setting by or near the river. Tonight's hotel provides a generous contrast to the intimate sampan cabin, while keeping you close to the Delta. An optional short riverfront stroll completes the day without another early start.

Overnight: Can Tho | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

DAY 12

Delta craft and a final evening in Saigon

After breakfast, make a focused local visit around Can Tho, such as a traditional house, a rice-paper workshop or a garden where your guide has arranged a willing host. The morning favours one worthwhile encounter over a succession of quick shopping stops.

Enjoy lunch before travelling back to Ho Chi Minh City in your private vehicle. Check into your hotel and allow time to refresh. This city overnight separates the river programme from tomorrow's international flight, giving the journey a practical margin for road and water delays.

Dinner celebrates the range of southern Vietnamese flavours. Your guide helps prepare for the Cambodian chapter, including the flight and local team handover. An evening café or short neighbourhood walk can be added for those who still have energy, without turning the transfer day into a late night.

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

**DAY 13**

A new kingdom: welcome to Cambodia

After breakfast, transfer privately to the airport in Ho Chi Minh City. Take a scheduled flight to Siem Reap, using a suitable direct service where available for your date. Flight days are planned around published operation, and the final proposal confirms the actual service and baggage arrangements before payment. The journey does not rely on an unverified daily direct flight.

Meet your Cambodian guide at Siem Reap Angkor airport after immigration and baggage collection. Continue privately to your hotel, with lunch or refreshments coordinated around arrival. A gentle orientation introduces the city and gives time to discuss the Angkor visits, walking comfort and food preferences.

Enjoy dinner and, when arrival time permits, a relaxed browse of local design shops or a café stop. Temple visits begin the following morning. The emphasis today is a smooth country-to-country handover, leaving you ready to enjoy Cambodia rather than arriving straight into a demanding sightseeing circuit.

Overnight: Siem Reap | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

DAY 14

Angkor: a day worthy of the journey

Leave before dawn if you would like to see Angkor Wat as the light changes, then explore the galleries and courtyards with your private guide. The visit goes beyond a photograph: read the bas-reliefs, understand the temple's symbolism and follow its changing religious life. A later start is possible for families.

After breakfast or a substantial refreshment stop, continue to the great faces of Bayon and selected terraces of Angkor Thom. Lunch and a proper hotel break divide the day. Your guide works around permitted access, heat and conservation restrictions rather than promising empty monuments or closed areas.

Visit Ta Prohm in the later afternoon, when roots and stone create a different atmosphere, then return for dinner. This is a full temple day with uneven paths and steps, but the private vehicle and guide allow shorter walking circuits without losing the essential story.

Overnight: Siem Reap | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



Ta Prohm, Angkor, Cambodia

DAY 15

Fine stone, living craft and a Cambodian evening

Travel to Banteay Srei in the cooler morning, taking time to appreciate its intricate carvings and intimate scale. Your guide helps identify the stories in the stone. A countryside stop introduces local produce or palm-based livelihoods when a host is available and the activity is genuinely taking place.

After lunch, return towards Siem Reap for a prebooked APOPO visitor experience, where the team explains its mine-detection work and the role of trained rats. Continue to a reputable artisan studio for a hands-on or hosted craft encounter. Animal demonstrations follow the centre's welfare procedures and available programme.

Enjoy dinner, then attend a Phare performance when the scheduled show fits your date. Its contemporary storytelling adds another dimension to Cambodia after the ancient temples. If no suitable performance runs, replace it with a longer private dinner or a different locally produced cultural evening.

Overnight: Siem Reap | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

DAY 16

Tonle Sap: birdlife and life on the water

Leave early with a specialist birding guide for a prearranged Tonle Sap excursion. Travel to the appropriate pier and continue by private local motorboat towards the Prek Toal area when reserve access and water levels permit. Watch for waterbirds while learning about the lake's seasonal transformation.

Explore permitted channels and viewing locations with local conservation support, then enjoy lunch in a suitable community setting. A respectful floating-village encounter focuses on homes, livelihoods and changing water levels; no school or orphanage stop is included. Species and nesting activity vary, and the day is never sold as a guaranteed wildlife spectacle.

Return to Siem Reap for dinner after a full day on the water. December to February is the preferred core season. If reserve access is unsuitable, your specialist selects an alternative wetland-and-community programme, with the revised route confirmed before departure.

Overnight: Siem Reap | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner



DAY 17

Beng Mealea, village kitchens and Khmer flavours

Depart after breakfast for Beng Mealea, exploring its atmospheric stonework and forest setting along the permitted visitor route. Your guide explains the temple's relationship with the wider Angkor landscape. The walk includes uneven surfaces and wooden walkways where in use, with a shorter circuit for travelers who prefer it.

After a countryside lunch, meet a willing local host for a cooking or food-production encounter. Learn how ingredients such as lemongrass, galangal and palm sugar are used in everyday dishes. A gentle village walk adds context to the kitchen experience, with time for conversation rather than a succession of photo stops.

Return to Siem Reap to refresh before dinner. This day deepens the Cambodian chapter beyond the three best-known temples. The craft or food activity is chosen around the hosts available on your date, and any community visit is arranged with consent and fair payment.

Overnight: Siem Reap | Meals: Breakfast, lunch & dinner

DAY 18

A thoughtful farewell

Enjoy breakfast and a final quiet moment in Siem Reap. 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 Siem Reap Angkor 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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