**TRIP OVERVIEW**

Journey into 3 unique landscapes to explore a kaleidoscope of cultural treasures within Southeast Asia’s peninsula. Voyage into Vietnam’s principal cities to experience distinctive urban gems steeped in a rich historical tapestry. Travel west to the enchanting Laos for a cruise along the magnificent Mekong River and discover Cambodia’s ancient realm of the gods, at the awe-inspiring Angkor Wat.

**ITINERARY & DETAILS**

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Indochina. Please take the time to read this dossier and to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of your tour. It includes important information such as flight details, visa requirements and travel insurance.

Your included meal guide:
- B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

**DAY 1: UK to Saigon**

Depart London on your scheduled, overnight flight to Ho Chi Minh City Airport.

**DAY 2: Saigon D**

Today, begin your journey by exploring Vietnam’s biggest city at leisure. A flurry of sights and sounds, the striking contrast of ancient pagodas and imposing skyscrapers form Saigon’s dizzying backdrop. At street level, parades of motorbikes flow passed mammoth malls, tucked away temples and wooden spice shacks that fill the air with an aromatic balance of sweet and spicy aromas.

**DAY 3: Saigon B/L/D**

This morning explore the extraordinary Cu Chi Tunnels, a hand-dug underground network used by Viet Cong soldiers during the ‘American War’. The afternoon city tour of Saigon includes a visit to the Reunification Palace where the Vietnam War’s infamous 200kg turtle named Cu Rua. Later in the day experience a charming traditional dish. After dinner retire to your cabin for the evening.

**DAY 4: Saigon to Hoi An B/L/D**

After breakfast, travel through the Red River Delta’s expansive rural landscape to the awe-inspiring UNESCO Site of Halong Bay, undoubtedly one of your tour highlights. Over two thousand limestone karsts protrude through the azure waters of the Gulf of Tonkin; begin your overnight cruise by joining smaller ‘junk’ boats within this mystical seascape, disembarking at Thien Canh Son Cave to explore an ethereal wonderland of Buddhist carvings and drooping stalactites which hang beneath a canopy of sparkling gems. Following a relaxing wander along Hon Co Island’s idyllic sandy beach, enjoy an authentic cooking demonstration before sampling mouth-watering traditional dishes. After dinner retire to your cabin for the evening.

**DAY 6: Hoi An to Hue B/L/D**

Leave Hoi An this morning for a scenic coastline drive to the northern capital of Hue, a cultural and spiritual highlight of Vietnam. Tour the imposing UNESCO Imperial Citadel complex, an impressive 19th century royal residence whose grandeur and beauty mask the scars of war. Later that afternoon meander through the bustling Dong Ba Market, alive with the rich scent of freshly prepared seafood and a flurry of colourful handicrafts including traditional pointed conical hats. This evening sample Vietnamese cuisine at a local restaurant. 

**DAY 7: Hue to Hanoi B/L/D**

This morning, embark on a traditional dragon longboat for a tranquil cruise along Hue’s Perfume River. Stop at Ha Khe Hill, home to the striking tower of Thien Mu Pagoda and once a focal point for anti-government protests during the 1960s. Continue to the majestic Tomb of emperor Minh Mang, a serene resting place that blends harmoniously into its jungle surrounding. Later in the afternoon, fly north to Vietnam’s elegant capital – Hanoi.

**DAY 8: Hanoi B/L/D**

Awake in the enchanting metropolis of Hanoi, a city accentuated by traditional Vietnamese architecture coupled with a graceful transition into modernisation. Your full day tour starts with a visit to the triumphalist monument, Ho Chin Minh Mausoleum. Later you’ll visit the Temple of Literature and the Museum of Ethnology that displays diverse artistic pieces from the country’s northern hill tribes. Visit the intricate Ngoc Son Temple that resides on Hoan Kiem Lake, alleged home of an infamous 200kg turtle named Cu Rua. Later in the day experience a charming water puppet show; originally developed by rice farmers, wooden puppets are manipulated to the tune of traditional Vietnamese instruments.

**DAY 9: Hanoi to Halong Bay B/L/D**

After breakfast, travel through the Red River Delta’s expansive rural landscape to the awe-inspiring UNESCO Site of Halong Bay, undoubtedly one of your tour highlights. Over two thousand limestone karsts protrude through the azure waters of the Gulf of Tonkin; begin your overnight cruise by joining smaller ‘junk’ boats within this mystical seascape, disembarking at Thien Canh Son Cave to explore an ethereal wonderland of Buddhist carvings and drooping stalactites which hang beneath a canopy of sparkling gems. Following a relaxing wander along Hon Co Island’s idyllic sandy beach, enjoy an authentic cooking demonstration before sampling mouth-watering traditional dishes. After dinner retire to your cabin for the evening.

**DAY 10: Halong Bay to Hanoi B/D**

Enjoy the rising sun’s incandescent shimmer over Halong Bay as you unwind during your morning Tai Chi session. Following breakfast, transfer on to a rowing boat for the opportunity to witness the charming fishing community of Vung Vieng village. Upon returning to your ship, sail back to the harbour for a scenic drive past far-reaching rice paddies to Hanoi for your final night in Vietnam.
ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

**Siem Reap** (3 nights): 4★ Tara Angkor Hotel
Address: Charles De Gaulle, Kro ng Siem Reap, Cambodia
Telephone: 0084 63 966 681

**Hanoi** (2 nights): 4★ Golden Central Hotel
Address: 140 Lý Tu Trong, Ben Thanh Ward, District 1, Saigon
Contact number: 0084 383 270 666

For departures on 9/1/19, 30/1/19 & 17/4/19 you’ll stay at:
4★ Ho Chi Minh City Bay Hotel
Address: 7 Ngô Văn Thành, Bình Nhưỡng, Quận 1, Hồ Chí Minh 70000, Vietnam
Contact number: 0084 28 3829 6666

For departures on 9/1/19, 30/1/19 & 17/4/19 you’ll stay at:
4★ The Beach Little Boutique Hotel & Spa
Address: 19 Lạc Long Quân, Cửa Bắc, Hố An, Quang Nam, Vietnam
Telephone: 0084 235 3861 999

For departures on 9/1/19 & 17/4/19 you’ll stay at:
4★ Muong Thanh Hanoi Centre Hotel
Address: No 78 Tho Nhü, Hoan Kiem, Hanoi
Telephone: 0084 486 560 560

For departures on 9/1/19 & 17/4/19 you’ll stay at:
4★ La Casa Hanoi Hotel
Address: 19 Pham Ngoc Tho, Hai Ba Trung Dist., Hanoi, Vietnam
Telephone: 0084 234 3969 988

For departures on 9/1/19 you’ll stay at:
4★ Romance Hotel
Address: 16 Nguyễn Thị Hới, Cầu Giấy, Hà Nội, Vietnam
Telephone: 0084 234 3969 988

For departures on 9/1/19 you’ll stay at:
4★ Sunway Hotel Hanoi
Address: 19 Phạm Đình Hò, Hai Bà Trưng, Hồ Nội 100000, Vietnam
Telephone: 0084 24 3971 3883

For departures on 9/1/19 you’ll stay at:
4★ Victory Cruise - Halong Bay

For departures on 9/1/19 you’ll stay at:
4★ Paloma Cruise - Halong Bay

For departures on 9/1/19 you’ll stay at:
4★ Villa Santor Resort
Address: Suntory Resort, Hòn Châu, Phú Quốc, Kiên Giang, Vietnam
Telephone: 0084 96 252 157

For departures on 9/1/19 you’ll stay at:
4★ Sada Hotel
Address: Pohuac Road, Ban Mano, Luang Prabang, LAOS PDR
Telephone: 0071 213 314 312

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ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Saigon you will be met by a representative from our local agent, *Lac Viet (LV) Travel*, holding a sign displaying: “Sunspot Tours”. The Sunspot Tours/Vietnam Travel Service representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your guide will be able to answer any queries. However, if you need to contact LV Travel during your stay the details are:

**Lac Viet Travel (LV) Head Office, Hanoi**
Floor 18, VTC Online Building,
No 18, Tam Trinh Str,
Hai Ba Trung District,
Hanoi, Vietnam
Telephone: 0804 439 413 748

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**Emergency contact information**
Please find below the emergency contact details for LV Travel head office, Hanoi

**Contact**
Anna Hahn
Office: 0084(0) 983 096 032
Ms Ly
Office: 0084 439 413 750
Mobile: 0084 989 200 119

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**Day 12: Luang Prabang** B/L/D
The full day tour begins with a cruise along one of the world’s great rivers; the Mekong carves its way through six countries, passing imposing temples, lushous jungles and forming spectacular waterfalls, particularly in Laos. Further upstream, disembark to explore the Pak Ou Caves and their haunting collection of rejected Buddha statues. Continue to Ban Xang Hai - the ‘whisky village’ - to sample the robust flavours of Laos famous rice whisky. Return to dry land and ascend Phou Si Hill to marvel at the sun setting behind Luang Prabang city, transforming the Mekong’s hue to a brilliant orange.

**Day 13: Luang Prabang to Siem Reap (Cambodia)** B/D
Following breakfast, fly to one of South East Asia’s most beloved towns, Siem Reap. The town has a contemporary outlook with a rich supply of boutique guesthouses, luxurious spas and an array of eateries, whilst retaining a small-town charm through its shaded boulevards, vivid markets and remarkable temples. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant with an evening at leisure.

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**Day 14: Siem Reap** B/L/D
This morning tour the runis of the Angkor region, South-East Asia’s most important archaeological location and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Discover an assortment of ancient treasures including the awe-inspiring Angkor Wat, a temple complex constructed to represent the earthly abode of Hindu Gods, which is reflected in both its enormity and grandeur. This afternoon experience the tranquil floating village of Tonle Sap lake, a fascinating network of stilted houses overlooking fragile fishing boats, followed by the nearby old market for your final taste of this enchanting land.

**Day 15: Siem Reap** B/L/D
Leave the town of Siem Reap and visit the remarkable 1st century Banteay Srei temple which, boasts some of the world’s finest sandstone carvings depicting Hindu tales. Stop at Preah Dak, a rural Cambodian village with a bustling market brimming with local trinkets. In the afternoon visit Roluos, a former ancient capital that hosts remarkably preserved temples serving as a fantastic introduction to distinct Angkorian architecture.

**Day 16: Siem Reap to UK or Extension** B
After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your scheduled flight back to the UK or continue on to your chosen extension.
WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas
Vietnam: For clients who are only taking the main tour, a visa for Vietnam is not required. However, if you are taking the Mui Ne beach extension, a visa is required for entry into Vietnam. You can apply for an e-visa online at https://visa.mfa.gov.vn. The cost of the visa is approximately USD $25 and will take roughly 3 working days. Alternatively, we will arrange travel insurance who will be able to arrange your visa for you on your behalf. Please call them on 01275 250 590 and quote “Sunspot Tours”. The cost of the visa is £105. The visas take around 10 working days to issue and are only valid for 3 months from the date of issue. We therefore recommend that you apply for your visa 8 weeks before travel, however please be aware that your passport will be required for the application so make sure that you will not need it during this time. You can also visit the Embassy of Vietnam in London: 12-14 Victoria Road, London, W15 5RD. This visa information is a guide line only and is subject to change. Up-to-date information regarding the process and fees will be advised at the time of calling the Travel Visa Company.

Laos: A visa is required for entry into Laos and this can be purchased on arrival at the airport in Luang Prabang. The cost of this is approximately USD $35 per person and you will need to bring the money in cash in order to apply for your visa on arrival into Laos.

Cambodia: A visa is required for entry into Cambodia and this can be purchased on arrival at the airport in Siem Reap. The cost of this is approximately USD $30 per person. Please note that you will be required to bring a passport photo with you as well as USD $30 cash in order to apply for your visa on arrival into Cambodia. Further advice should be sought from the applicable tourist authority for other nationalities and for general queries. We strongly advise you check your destinations’ Tourist Board or Embassy for the most up-to-date guidelines regarding visas and passport validity.

Insurance
We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call 0800 781 4237 and quote ‘WK830’ for preferential rates. If you have an existing policy with another company, please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Sunspot Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Health and Vaccinations
It is your responsibility to check any health & vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about it. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; www.tcc.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Physical Accessibility
This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves climbing of steep stairs and getting on and off coaches and boats. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.

Group Size
The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 11, and the maximum will be 45. If in the unlikely event there are less than 11 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Tour Guides
This is a fully escorted tour meaning that you will be met by a local guide in each of the cities that you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Tipping
It is customary to tip your guide and driver; please allow approximately £2-£4 (US $3-6) per person per day for the guide and £3.50 (US $5) per person per day for the driver.

Currency Exchange
The currency in Vietnam is the Vietnamese Dong (VND), the currency in Laos is the Laosian Kit (LAO) and the currency in Cambodia is the Cambodian Riel (KHM). We recommend that you take some US Dollars (USD) with you and exchange this currency whilst you are travelling.

Personal Expenses
You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any dinners where these are not mentioned on your itinerary and personal purchases, such as souvenirs, extra drinks and snacks. Approximately £300-£400 per person should be sufficient for the duration of your tour.

Itinerary changes
The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the regional flights within and between Southeast Asian countries are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction and/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

WHAT TO PACK

- Insect repellant
- Suncream and a hat with a big brim for sunny days
- Comfortable walking shoes such as trainers
- Sunglasses
- Rucksack or light bag per person and a small overnight bag to take on your Halong Bay Cruise
- Personal toiletries
- Travel plug adapter – the electricity supply on board the boat is 220V. You will need a 2 pin round plug adapter
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Your flight is to Saigon Tan Son Nhat International Airport with Vietnam Airlines (VN), departing from London Heathrow Terminal 4.

IMPORTANT: Final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

Baggage Allowance
Baggage allowance (per person): Each passenger is entitled to 30kg of hold luggage. Hand luggage: One piece not exceeding 7kg and with maximum total dimensions not exceeding 115 cm (56 cm x 36cm x 23 cm). Should you wish to take additional luggage you will need to pay extra at check-in.

Airport Extras
If you wish to arrange Airport car parking or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras on 0871 860 2000, quoting HX313.
Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.

**Average temperature: Hanoi**

**Average temperature: Saigon**

**Average temperature: Hoi An**

**Average temperature: Hue**

**Average temperature: Siem Reap**

**Average temperature: Luang Prabang**
TRIP OVERVIEW

Your trip will be complete with a 3 night stay to the laidback Vietnamese coastal town of Mui Ne whose golden shores, are enjoyed by both locals and those seeking a tropical retreat. Stroll into the harbour and along the seafront to sample the town’s many restaurants.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require during your add-on to Mui Ne.

Mui Ne (4 days/3 nights)
Having journeyed through three countries during your comprehensive 16 day itinerary, this extension is ideal for those looking to unwind while absorbing the warm Vietnamese climate. We have selected two popular hotels, the 3★ Coco Beach resort brimming with character and the luxurious 4★ Bamboo Village Resort, to ensure you have luxurious surroundings to relax in.

Hotel Information - (3 nights)
Your stay will take place at either of these hotels:

4★ Bamboo Village on Bed and Breakfast
Providing guests with a serene getaway, the Bamboo Village Resort is located on the beach front and is surrounded by luscious gardens. This charming hotel boasts two swimming pools, a Strawy restaurant that serves delicious Asian cuisine and a luxurious pampering spa. Each spacious room is beautifully designed and equipped with a flat-screened TV, a minibar and balcony.

Hotel Information:
58 Nguyen Dinh Chieu Street, Ward Ham Tien, Phan Thiet, Vietnam
Telephone: 0084 62 3847 111

3★ Coco Beach on Bed and Breakfast
Nestled within a ‘little corner of paradise’, tropical gardens surround the resort which overlooks its own private beach. Each of the 31 beach bungalows are decorated in a contemporary Vietnamese style and come with FREE Wi-Fi, air-conditioning and a spacious en suite with a rain shower.

Hotel Information:
58 Nguyen Dinh Chieu Street, Ward Ham Tien, Phan Thiet, Vietnam
Telephone: 0084 62 3847 007

Any alternative hotels or board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure. Final confirmation of your hotel will be sent in a document approximately two weeks before you travel.

Personal Expenses
You will need to take money with you to cover any meals that are not included in your board depending on whether you have booked B&B, Half Board or Full Board, as well as personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry and drinks.

Tour Guides
This extension to Mui Ne is not escorted by a tour guide. Your time will be free to explore the area at your own pace. Transfers are included.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Average temperature: Mui Ne

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.