

# BEST OF VIETNAM & CAMBODIA

12 DAYS / 11 NIGHTS | DEPARTURE: 06 - FEB - 2020

CANADA | HANOI | HALONG | HANOI | DANANG | HOI AN  
DANANG | SAIGON | SIEM REAP | CANADA

### TOUR SUMMARY:

This tour begins in the country's capital Hanoi, before heading to Halong Bay to sail on board a Junk and marvel at breathtaking views of the Bay. The tour then travels to the center of the country to visit the UNESCO heritage town of Hoi An. Guests can wander through the cobbled streets of Hoi An and enjoy its ancient buildings before flying to the bustling southern city of Saigon. In Saigon guests will have a fully guided city tour and visit the nearby villages dotted along the Mekong River. The tour continues with a flight to Siem Reap, Cambodia, where guests will visit the breathtaking Temples of Angkor Watt in one of the most important archaeological sites of Southeast Asia.

### TOUR PRICES:

Member

C\$3499

Non-Member

C\$3599

Single Supp.

C\$699

**ROBERT** Travel &  
Cruise Centre

**the Chamber**  
woodstock district chamber of commerce

For Reservation and Booking Contact:

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## TOUR LODGING INFO:

9 Nights' Accommodation + 02 Nights onboard flight

Accommodation will be provided on twin sharing basis in the hotels listed below or similar

CITIES	NIGHTS	SUPERIOR HOTELS
Hanoi	02 Nights	Mercure Hanoi La Gare Hotel
Halong Bay	01 Night	Phoenix Cruise
Hoi An	02 Nights	Belle Maison Hadana Resort & Spa
Saigon	02 Nights	Harmony Saigon Hotel & Spa
Siem Reap	02 Nights	Tara Angkor Hotel

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Admire the colonial splendour and experience the lively atmosphere of dynamic Hanoi
- Admire the scenery and dramatic rock formations as you sail on a traditional boat in Halong Bay
- Spend time in the beautifully preserved UNESCO heritage town of Hoi An
- Visit Temples of Angkor in Siem Reap
- Tour the historic city of Saigon and the nearby villages

## TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 8 Nights' accommodation at listed hotels or similar
- 1 Night accommodation at listed cruise or similar
- Daily breakfast
- 01 lunch and dinner on board cruise
- 01 farewell dinner in Siem Reap
- Full day city tour in Hanoi
- Walking tour in Hoi An
- Services of an English-speaking tour guide
- Sightseeing & entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Transportation in an AC deluxe vehicle
- International airfare from Toronto
- Domestic Flight: Hanoi- Danang-Saigon for all passengers incl.
- Regional Flight: Saigon - Siem Reap for all passengers incl.
- All Air taxes and fuel Surcharges
- All local applicable taxes

## TOUR ITINERARY:

### DAY 01: FEB 06 DEPART CANADA

Make your way to your gateway airport to board your flight to Vietnam. Enjoy in-flight meals and services. Overnight onboard the flight.

### DAY 02: FEB 07 INFLIGHT

Continue your flight to Hanoi. Relax, recline enjoy inflight meals and services on board.

Overnight onboard the flight

### DAY 03: FEB 08 HANOI ARRIVAL

On arrival at Hanoi international airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel for check in. Although it is the modern-day capital of Vietnam, Hanoi still retains the mystery and charm of past centuries. Narrow lanes and traditional shop houses invite exploration, while its many beautiful public spaces; lakes, parks, tree-lined boulevards and monuments give the city an air of elegance and harmony with nature unique among Asian capitals.

Overnight in Hanoi

### DAY 04: FEB 09 HANOI (B/-/-)

Begin your day by a one-hour CYCLO RIDE to explore the capital city. The city is a blend of long-established traditions and modern imprints of Western colonization. Tree-lined boulevards and colonial buildings give the city a touch of Western elegance, while crowded blocks of tiny old houses and narrow lanes bear the charm of past centuries. Afterwards visit the vast Ho Chi Minh Memorial Complex, a lovely park setting home to Ho Chi Minh's final resting place, as well as a museum and other memorials. Visit the HO CHI MINH MAUSOLEUM (closed on Mondays & Fridays) where one can pay respects to the embalmed body of Ho Chi Minh. Continue through the park to Ho Chi Minh's Stilt House, the simple two-room dwelling where Ho Chi Minh lived from 1958 until his final days in 1969. Preserved in the same condition as during his life, it may be viewed through windows only. Visit the miniature One Pillar Pagoda dating from the 11th century but rebuilt after being destroyed by the French in 1954. Today it stands near the vast Ho Chi Minh Memorial Complex, a lovely park setting which is home to Ho Chi Minh's final resting place, as well as a museum and other memorials. Then visit the TEMPLE OF LITERATURE, a peaceful series of walled courtyards and graceful gateways, and one of the best examples of traditional Vietnamese architecture. Founded in 1070 and dedicated to Confucius, this was also the site of Vietnam's first university.

Afternoon visit HOAN KIEM LAKE which means "Lake of the Returned", which is a lake in the historical centre of the capital of Hanoi. The lake serves as a focal point for locals. Legend has it that King Le Loi handed a magic sword called Heaven's Will which brought him victory in his revolt against the Chinese Ming dynasty back to the Golden Turtle God in the lake. The Tortoise Tower (Thap Rua) standing on a small island near the center of lake is linked to the legend. Then visit NGOC SON Temple and the Rising Sun Bridge. The temple was erected in the 18th century. It honors the 13th century military leader Tran Hung Dao who distinguished himself in the fight against the Yuan (Mongol invaders), Van Xuong, a scholar and Nguyen Van Sieu, a Confucian master and famous writer in charge of repairs made to the temple in 1864. Jade Island is connected to the shore by the wooden red-painted Huc Bridge (The Huc, means Morning Sunlight Bridge). Visit THE NEO-GOTHIC ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL inaugurated in 1886. Visiting this cathedral is like being instantly transported to medieval Europe. The cathedral is noteworthy for its square towers, elaborate altar and stained-glass

windows. The first Catholic mission in Hanoi was founded in 1679. Visit to TRAN QUOC PAGODA, one of the oldest pagodas in Vietnam, located on West Lake. The pagoda is quite beautiful and done in a traditional Vietnamese style. An 11 floor Buddhist tower makes this pagoda a sacred spot for pilgrims from all over the country. Afterwards visit HOA LO PRISON MUSEUM more famously known by American prisoner of war as the Hanoi Hilton.

Overnight in Hanoi

**Optional: Water Puppet Show: C\$ 33 Per person [Minimum of 2 pax]**

Take in the engaging and colorful spectacle of a traditional water puppet show on this tour. You will be able to experience authentic Vietnamese tradition with a water puppet show. Get a humorous insight into local culture, customs and folklore as you watch the puppets. The show is performed in a pool using the water surface as the stage. It is a unique look into rural Vietnamese life, folklore and an important part of the Vietnamese culture.

**OR**

**Optional: My village show: C\$ 72 per person (Minimum of 2 passenger)**

You will be picked from your hotel and driven to Hanoi Opera House (in Hanoi) to enjoy one of the unique shows in Vietnam – My Village or Làng Tôi (in Vietnamese) is a delicate merge of tradition and innovation, where poetic beauty of Northern villagers are recreated by ancestral bamboo props, breath-taking cirque and rhythmic dance, juggling, and acrobatic movements to distinct folk music played from more than 20 musical instruments. My Village toured around the world from 2009 to 2012, with over 300 shows in France, Holland, Spain, Germany, Belgium, Greece, Switzerland, Hong Kong.

After the show transfer back to your hotel, the rest of day is your leisure.

**DAY 05: FEB 10 HANOI - HALONG (EMBARKATION) (B/L/D)**

If you wish to see how the locals rise and shine in the morning, wake up early and join an exciting scene of hundreds of locals, passionately attentive in their morning exercises of Tai Chi Quan, jogging, martial arts, classical dance and so on. After breakfast, depart for Halong Bay, a Natural World Heritage as designated by UNESCO since 1994. En-route you will pass by the Red River Delta with many rural villages, fascinating towns, and paddy fields. On arrival at Halong Bay Tuan Chau International Marina, a tender boat will take you Halong Cruise. A refreshing welcome drink is served followed by check-in into your cabin. Enjoy lunch. A delicious set menu lunch is served in the restaurant while you can enjoy the amazing scenery. Cruise amongst the hundreds of islands. Our cruise heads to Bai Tu Long Bay passing the towns of Hon Gai and Cam Pha, Oan Lagoon, Mat Quy (Monster Head) and Am Tich (Teapot) Islets and Vung Vieng fishing village. Visit a fishing village by local row boat (01 hour) then return to the vessel for free time or join one of the following optional activities (price not included): Kayak into the village or swim near the boat. Then take a trip by tender to an isolated pristine beach for swimming. In the early evening enjoy a Vietnamese cooking demonstration. Dinner will be served with local seafood. After dinner you may choose to spend time on the top deck or experience squid fishing before retiring to your cabin.

Overnight on-board cruise

**DAY 06: FEB 11 HALONG (DISEMBARKATION) - HANOI (BY FLIGHT) - DANANG – HOI AN (B/-/-)**

Enjoy the morning view of the beautiful landscape with a cup of coffee

or tea. You will visit the impressive Cave of Halong Bay – Surprising Cave (Sung Sot) with your tour guide, a truly awesome and amazing cave to experience. As the boat begins cruising back to the harbor, experience more views of Halong Bay such as Fighting Cocks Island (Symbol of Halong Bay), Incense Burner and Stone Dogs Islands. After disembarkation, you will then be transferred back to Hanoi to catch a flight to Danang where you will be met and transferred to Hoi An. The exquisitely preserved merchant town of Hoi An was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999. Its colorful shop houses and temples reflect a diverse heritage, dating back to the 16th and 17th century, when it was a major port for Western, Chinese and Japanese traders. Today it is a thriving center of traditional crafts and a shopper's paradise, best explored on foot.

Overnight in Hoi An

**DAY 07: FEB 12 HOI AN (B/-/-)**

Wander through the cobbled streets, past low tile-roofed buildings, the bustling central market and the small harbor where colorfully painted boats are moored. The walking tour will include visits to a private house, where members of the same family have lived continuously for centuries in a traditional setting; to one of the family chapels built by prominent merchant or official families as centers for ancestor worship; and to a typical Chinese-style pagoda. Continue to Sa Huynh museum located near the Japanese covered bridge with exhibitions from the earliest period of Hoi An's history. Visit handicraft workshops in Hoi An where local products are being made. Finally, continue to the famous Japanese covered bridge pagoda, first constructed in 1593 by the Japanese community of Hoi An to link the town with the Chinese quarters across the stream.

Overnight in Hoi An

**Optional: Boat Trip on the Thu Bon River & Organic Village with Lunch: C\$ 98 per person**

Board a boat that will take you on the Thu Bon River to visit the Kim Bong wood carving village and afterwards enjoy an excursion to Tra Que vegetable village, located on a quiet and peaceful stream. Tra Que village is famed throughout Vietnam for the quality and variety of its vegetables and herbs, grown using a special method of organic farming. Tour the gardens with a local farmer, with explanations of the different plants. Join the farmers in preparing the land and fertilizing it with algae from the local lake. Continue getting to know the local way of life by helping with activities such as raking the ground, sowing seeds, watering greens, picking vegetables and many more gardening activities. Return the farmer's house and learn how to prepare special dishes with the local family. After lunch, return to Hoi An by bus.

**OR**

**Optional: Hoi An memorial show: C\$ 72 per person**

Pick up from your hotel then transfer to the Hoi An Impressions Theme Park to enjoy the Hoi An Memories Show. With the message: "A day in Hoi An - A hundred years of reminiscence", Hoi An Memories is a really huge boat that will bring the audience to the ancient city port on the legendary Silk Road over the course of 400 years. The classic references of love and the history of present will be related by the performance of almost 500 actors. Here, more 100 girls who wear the Vietnamese dress on the stage are the main language to relate all the history and an image symbolic for the historic course of time.

After the show return to your hotel, the rest of day is your leisure.

**DAY 08: FEB 13      HOI AN - DANANG - SAIGON  
(Flight) (B/-/-)**

This morning travel back to Danang to the domestic airport for a flight to Saigon. On arrival, you will be met and enjoy a tour of the vibrant metropolis. SAIGON teems with energy, activity and motion. Everywhere you look, you see the meeting of traditional and modern life. The emerging modern skyline stands cheek by jowl with colonial buildings and traditional temples. Outside on the streets, young professionals zip by on motorcycles, chatting on cell phones; inside the quiet temple courtyards, worshippers pray amidst clouds of incense. Begin your tour of this exciting city with a tour of the historic centre, strolling along Dong Khoi Street, formerly known as the Rue Catinat, the main shopping thoroughfare and heart of old colonial Saigon. Pass by classic European-style landmarks such as the ornate City Hall (HOTEL DE VILLE), the old Opera House (both may only be viewed from the outside) and pay a quick visit to the neo-Romanesque Notre Dame Cathedral and the Central Post Office. Afterwards, dive into modern history with a tour of the Reunification Palace. Formerly the Independence Palace of the South Vietnamese president, this 60s style building was famously stormed by tanks on April 30, 1975, signifying the fall of South Vietnam. It has been preserved in its original state, and the original tanks remain on display near the entrance gates. End the tour at the central Ben Thanh Market, where vendors display a vast array of goods and handicrafts.

Overnight in Saigon

**DAY 09: FEB 14      SAIGON (B/-/-)**

Enjoy your day at leisure, or perhaps book our optional tours.

Overnight in Saigon

**Optional: Full Day Tour to Cu Chi Tunnels and Tay Ninh:  
C\$ 111 per person**

From Saigon, drive to the Cu Chi Tunnels. Never discovered by American forces, these tunnels were an important Vietcong base during the American War. Stretching over 200 km, this incredible underground network, dug by hand out of hard laterite, connected command posts, hospitals, shelter and weapon factories. Today, walk through the area and learn about the day-to-day life of the VC, see the cleverly disguised entrances and elaborate booby-traps, and even venture inside the tunnels, some of which have been modified to accommodate tourists. Afterward, go to Tay Ninh, the birthplace of the unique Cao Dai religion, a fusion of Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Christianity, Islam and native Vietnamese spiritual beliefs. Every day at noon, worshipers garbed in colourful robes flock to the Cao Dai Great Temple to participate in the daily prayer sessions, which visitors may respectfully observe from the upper balconies (Note: shortly before and during the annual TET festival (Vietnamese New Year) the daily ceremony of the priests in Tay Ninh may be cancelled without prior notice). Return to Saigon.

**OR**

**Optional: Full Day Tour to Cai Be Floating Market and Vinh Long: C\$ 130 per person**

From Saigon, drive into the heart of the Mekong Delta to Cai Be, and embark on one of the local boats to explore Cai Be Floating Market, a lively market of fruit and vegetable barges with a picturesque Catholic cathedral on the riverside. Continue along smaller waterways and canals, stopping at the Mekong River Islands to visit orchards and local cottage industries. Enjoy watching how the delta residents make traditional treats such as dried longyans, rice pancakes and puffed rice candies, with the chance to sample the local delicacies. Disembark at Vinh Long and return to Saigon.

**Optional: Bonsai Dinner Cruise: C\$ 104 Per person**

Escape the bustle of the city and cruise the waters of the Saigon river on a traditional wooden barge. During dining on an extensive selection of Asian and Western cuisine, enjoy a mix of live western jazz, classical and traditional Vietnamese music as well as a dance performance.

**DAY 10: FEB 15      SAIGON - SIEM REAP  
(Flight) (B/-/-)**

This morning you will be transferred to Ho Chi Minh International Airport for a flight to Siem Reap, Cambodia. On arrival at Siem Reap international airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Overnight in Siem Reap.

**DAY 11: FEB 16      SIEM REAP (B/-/D)**

The crowning jewel of Khmer architecture, ANGKOR WAT is the national symbol and the highlight of any visit to Cambodia. The largest, best preserved, and most religiously significant of the Angkor temples, Angkor impresses visitors both by its sheer scale and beautifully proportioned layout, as well as the delicate artistry of its carvings. To approach the temple, first cross the vast moat, continuing along a broad causeway lined with naga balustrades. As you enter the main building, ascend through a series of galleries and courtyard before reaching the central sanctuary, which offers beautiful views back over the causeway and across the surrounding countryside. On the way stop to enjoy the intricate stone carvings that adorn nearly every surface, with some 1,700 Apsaras, or celestial dancers, sculpted into the walls. Along the outer gallery walls run the longest continuous bas-relief in the world, which narrates stories from Hindu mythology, including the famous Churning of the Ocean of Milk. Then visit the fortified city of Angkor Thom covering an area of 10 square km. Enclosed by a wall and wide moats the city includes many of Angkor's most popular sights. Enter by the monumental South Gate over a causeway lined on either side by statues of demons and gods, each carrying a giant naga. Continue to the Terrace of The Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper Kings, former spaces for public ceremonies, both adorned with dramatic bas reliefs. Visit the ruined BAPHUON, Royal Enclosure and Phimeanakas before continuing to the mysterious Bayon Temple. In this temple, one of the most popular and compelling in Angkor, explore the galleries of beautifully preserved bas reliefs and ascend narrow stairs to reach the central sanctuary, where you will find giant stone faces smiling enigmatically down at you from every angle. This evening enjoy a farewell group dinner.

Overnight in Siem Reap

**DAY 12: FEB 17      SIEM REAP - CANADA (B/-/-)**

Today you will be transferred back to the airport for your flight back home.

**END OF OUR SERVICES**

**EXTRA SERVICES:**

**Extra night in Siem Reap including breakfast  
& a one-way airport transfer:**

Per person on a Twin Sharing basis: **C\$ 163** Per person

Single Supplement: **C\$ 130**

\* Please note any deviation to the group dates will involve an additional fee of USD 150 per person