

## **Sensational Southeast Asia With Chiang Mai & Phuket**

**Day 1** ARRIVE HANOI, VIETNAM. Welcome to Vietnam! Hotel rooms are available for mid-afternoon check-in.

**Day 2** HANOI. This morning, enjoy a PRIVATE GUIDED TOUR of the city. First, explore the ancient streets of the fascinating OLD QUARTER by electric car. Here, peddlers trade as they have for centuries. Then, visit the MAUSOLEUM and the humble cottage from which “Uncle Ho” ruled Vietnam until his death in 1969. Next on the agenda: ONE PILLAR PAGODA and the PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. Also, visit the ancient TEMPLE OF LITERATURE, more than 900 years old and Hanoi’s first university. (B,L)

**Day 3** HANOI–HA LONG BAY CRUISE. Your private transfer takes you from Hanoi through the fertile countryside to Hon Gai, gateway to Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Located in the Gulf of Tonkin, the bay is dotted with more than 3,000 limestone islands carved into fanciful shapes by the action of the water. Upon arrival, board an OVERNIGHT CRUISE that takes you to explore the tunnels, caves, pristine beaches, and floating villages that are sprinkled across the bay. While on board, enjoy a TRADITIONAL VIETNAMESE COOKING DEMONSTRATION with the ship’s chef. You may also choose to relax with a spa treatment. (B,L,D)

**Day 4** HA LONG BAY CRUISE–HANOI–HO CHI MINH CITY. Early birds can participate in a TAI CHI DEMONSTRATION on the Sun Deck at the break of dawn. Disembark later this morning for a private transfer to Hanoi to catch a flight to Ho Chi Minh City, still known as Saigon to many. (B)

**Day 5** HO CHI MINH CITY. Start your PRIVATE GUIDED SIGHTSEEING with a WALKING TOUR of the city’s famous and historic landmarks as you stroll through the heart of the city along Dong Khoi Street (formerly Rue Catinat) past the Rex Hotel, Ho Chi Minh Square, the Municipal Theatre, Central Post Office, and Notre Dame Cathedral. Next, visit the moving WAR REMNANTS MUSEUM, followed by bustling BEN THANH MARKET, the largest and oldest in the city. The afternoon is at your leisure to explore this lively city. (B)

**Day 6** HO CHI MINH CITY. Today, enjoy a half-day PRIVATE GUIDED EXCURSION to the CU CHI TUNNELS, an extraordinary network of tunnels more than 120 miles in length that was used by the Viet Cong as a hideout during the war. Return to Ho Chi Minh City for time at leisure this afternoon. (B)

**Day 7** HO CHI MINH CITY–SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA. A short flight brings you to Siem Reap, your base for exploring the temples of Angkor. Constructed between the 9th and 13th centuries, the temples are unmatched among the world’s ancient ruins. (B)

**Day 8** SIEM REAP. Your PRIVATE GUIDED SIGHTSEEING starts at the best preserved of all the temples—ANGKOR WAT, which honors the Hindu god Vishnu. Next stop is ANGKOR THOM to see BAYON TEMPLE. One of the few Buddhist temples in Angkor, it features some 200 striking faces carved in 54 towers. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure. (B,L)

**Day 9** SIEM REAP. This morning, explore more of the Angkor temple complex on a PRIVATE GUIDED TOUR. Visit BANTEAY SREI, a unique, small temple built from red sandstone and dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva. Then, on to TA PROHM, which has been left relatively untouched, unlike many other temples. Here, the jungle surrounds you, and tree roots grow over and

through the ruins. The afternoon is at your leisure. (B)

**Day 10 SIEM REAP–BANGKOK, THAILAND.** Today, fly to Bangkok, Thailand’s capital city. (B)

**Day 11 BANGKOK.** Today’s PRIVATE GUIDED TOUR starts with a BOAT RIDE through the klongs, Bangkok’s canals, to see family homes, temples, and the way of life that gives this city the nickname “Venice of the East.” Stop at Wat Arun, the TEMPLE OF THE DAWN, whose 260-foot-tall spire has become identified with Bangkok. Continue on to the GRAND PALACE, comprised of the Funeral Palace, the Reception Palace, the Throne Hall, the Coronation Hall, the Royal Guest House, and the TEMPLE OF THE EMERALD BUDDHA. Also visit the TEMPLE OF THE RECLINING BUDDHA, the oldest and largest Buddhist temple in Bangkok. It houses more than 1,000 Buddha images, including the 49-foot-high and 151-foot-long massive Reclining Buddha. (B,L)

**Day 12 BANGKOK.** Enjoy a full day at leisure to explore on your own. (B)

**Day 13 BANGKOK–CHIANG MAI.** Today, fly to Chiang Mai, Thailand’s second-largest city. (B)

**Day 14 CHIANG MAI.** Today, your PRIVATE GUIDED TOUR begins with a visit to WAT PHRA SINGH with its famous Buddha image, and WAT DOI SUTHEP, a temple tucked away in the mountains. For the final ascent to the temple, you can take a tram car or walk up the Naga (dragon-headed serpent) staircase, with more than 300 steps. On a clear day, you will enjoy spectacular views of Chiang Mai. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. (B)

**Day 15 CHIANG MAI.** Today, take a PRIVATE GUIDED EXCURSION outside the city to visit the LISU HILL TRIBE. Take a short WALKING TOUR through the village and garden, and view the Ton Lung Temple. Then, visit the house of a Lisu shaman to learn about the way of life and traditions of the local people. Return to Chiang Mai where the remainder of the day is at your leisure. (B,L)

**Day 16 CHIANG MAI–PHUKET.** Today, fly to Phuket. The remainder of the day is at your leisure. (B)

**Day 17 PHUKET.** Two full days at leisure to enjoy beach and water activities. Consider a trip to the Phi Phi Islands, explore Phuket Town, or simply relax on the beach. (B daily)

**Day 18 PHUKET.** Two full days at leisure to enjoy beach and water activities. Consider a trip to the Phi Phi Islands, explore Phuket Town, or simply relax on the beach. (B daily)

**Day 19 PHUKET.** Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning. (B)