

Kiwi Vietnam Tours - **Highlights Tour**

Vietnam and Cambodia Itinerary

DAY 1: NZ / SINGAPORE

Depart Chch, Wgtn, Auck to our Singapore or Bangkok Hotel.

DAY 2: ARRIVE HANOI

We depart early for our flight to Hanoi, with its enchanting tree-lined boulevards, French colonial architecture, lakes and gilded temples. We check into our hotel, exchange currency, and take an orientation walk around Hoan Kiem Lake, the heart of this city.

DAY 3: HANOI CITY TOUR

A half-day tour of Hanoi including the outside of Ho Chi Minhs Mausoleum and the 11th century **Temple of Literature**, Vietnam's oldest university. We also visit the Ngoc Son Temple at Hoan Kiem Lake. Option of a walking tour in the Old Quarter: 36 commercial streets, divided street-by-street among the various traditional guilds. This evening we enjoy a performance of the world-famous **Water Puppets**.

DAY 4: HANOI – HALONG BAY

Drive to Halong Bay, for our 2-day tour. We take a cruise through this World Heritage site of over 2000 spectacular islands rising dramatically out of the **South China Sea**. A fresh seafood lunch is served on board.



DAY 5: HALONG BAY – HANOI

After breakfast we drive back to Hanoi and prepare for our flight or train to Hue.

DAY 6: HUE

A morning cruise on the **Perfumed River**, visiting the **Thien Mu Pagoda** with its famous seven-storey tower and the **Mausoleum of Minh Mang**. After lunch we visit the outside of the **Old Citadel**, the ancient

Imperial Palace.

DAY 7: HUE - HOI AN

Today we travel by road to Hoi An over the Hai Van Pass with a visit to Marble Mountain and its fabulous marble art carving market.

We then continue 15km to Hoi An.

DAY 8: HOI AN

A free day to shop and explore. Hoi An is famous for its clothing, art and silk markets and its Chinese and Japanese architecture. An option is to take a walking tour of the **Old Town** to visit former merchants' houses and the 400-year-old Japanese bridge or take in a cooking course.



DAY 9: HOI AN

Today we continue shopping and exploring Hoi An or swim at the beach or relax at the hotel.

DAY 10: HOI AN - SAIGON

This morning we fly to Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) and check into our hotel. After arrival in Saigon we enjoy a tour of this dynamic city: visiting the colonial-style **Old Post Office**, **Notre Dame Cathedral**, and **Cho Lon Market**.



DAY 11: SAIGON - MY THO

A visit to **Mekong Delta** is one of the best ways to experience Vietnamese rural life, with a full-day tour to the region: passing canals, fishing villages and handicraft markets. Visit a bonsai garden located on an island and enjoy tropical fruit with the local villagers.

DAY 12: SGN – CUCHI TUNNEL

Excursion to the **Cu Chi Tunnels**: the amazing tunnel system where the Viet Cong lived and operated underground during the Vietnam War.

DAY 13: DEPART SAIGON

Free until transfer to the airport to depart Saigon via Singapore to New Zealand. Your exploration of Vietnam comes to an end.

DAY 14: ARRIVE IN NZ

Arrive back to Auckland Airport late morning.

Cambodia Tour Itinerary

DAY 13: SAIGON - CAMBODIA

Take the afternoon flight or travel overland from Saigon to Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Obtain Cambodian Visa (Passport photo required) at the border before checking into our hotel. We then visit the Independence Monument and Wat Phnom, Phnom Penh's oldest shrine after which the city is named.

DAY 14: PHNOM PENH (B/L/D)

Breakfast at the hotel, and then visit the National Museum, Silver Pagoda and the fabulous Royal Palace. After lunch visit Tuol Sleng Museum and the Killing Fields, where Pol Pots Khmer Rouge committed genocide on the Cambodian people. (This tour is quite graphic.)



DAY 15: PHNOM PENH – SIEM REAP (B//D)

Depart 7.30am to Siem Reap. Siem Reap is the base for exploring the fabled temples of Angkor, the ancient capital of the Khmer empire.

DAY 16: SIEM REAP (B/L/D)

Start touring with a visit to Angkor Thom city; the South Gate of Angkor Thom, Bayon, Baphoun, the Royal enclosure, the Elephant and Leper King Terraces, and the fabulous Ta Prohm, embraced by the roots of the enormous fig trees. In the afternoon, visit Angkor Wat temple, the most renowned Khmer temple. Buffet dinner with APSARA show at a local restaurant.



DAY 17: SIEM REAP (B/L/D)

Continue to explore Siem Reap visiting the local handicrafts & clothing market and take a boat ride on Tonle Sap Lake, the largest fresh water lake in South East Asia.

DAY 18: SIEM REAP - SINGAPORE (B)

Today we fly from Siem Reap to Singapore to New Zealand.

DAY 19: AUCKLAND - NZ

Arrive back to Auckland Airport late morning.

This Tour Itinerary is correct at time of printing but may be subject to change given weather or road conditions in Vietnam and Cambodia

Options

Stay extra nights in Singapore/Bangkok on the return or travel to other destinations after leaving Vietnam.