



Southeast Asia Odyssey

On an engaging journey through four unique Southeast Asian nations, we gain an appreciation for the diversity of this most intriguing region. Exploring Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand, our small group experiences sublime natural beauty, encounters spectacular ruins, and mingles with gracious local people.

Itinerary

Created on May 22, 2025

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Day-by-Day Itinerary

DAY 1: Depart U.S. for Hanoi, Vietnam

DAY 2: Arrive Hanoi

We arrive in the Vietnamese capital and transfer to our hotel.

DAY 3: Hanoi

Our tour of this French-accented city begins at the serene Temple of Literature (c. 1070); and Hoa Lo Prison, the infamous “Hanoi Hilton” of the Vietnam War. Then we explore Hanoi’s Ancient Quarter, a dense warren of street vendors, where tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4: Hanoi/Ha Long Bay

We depart this morning on a full-day excursion to Ha Long Bay, a breathtaking waterway in the Gulf of Tonkin dotted with 2,000 islands and islets and surrounded by jagged limestone cliffs and hidden caves. Here we board a traditional “junk” for lunch and an afternoon cruise through this fairytale seascape of an UNESCO site.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5: Hanoi/Ninh Binh

This morning we tour Ba Dinh Square, the national landmark complex of cultural and historic sites. We visit the revered Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, the French colonial Presidential Palace, and thousand-year-old One Pillar Pagoda, a Buddhist retreat. This afternoon we travel by coach to Ninh Binh, capital of Vietnam’s Red River Delta and UNESCO site known for its majestic landscapes. After settling in at our resort, we take a sunset walking tour through the peaceful countryside.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 6: Ninh Binh

Our day begins with a traditional sampan ride through Tam Coc, marveling at the stunning limestone mountains and vivid green rice paddies as we pass through secret grottos. We then coach to the citadel of Hoa Lu, Vietnam’s ancient capital, where we visit the two temples here.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 7: Ninh Binh/Hanoi/Da Nang/Hoi An

A travel day today as we return to Hanoi for this afternoon's flight to Da Nang. Then we coach to the ancient trading port of Hoi An. Tonight, we enjoy dinner in the colorful Old Town.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 8: Hoi An

A leisurely boat ride on the Thu Bon River brings us to Hoi An's lively and cacophonous central market, selling everything from produce to clothing to souvenirs. We tour the market then stroll through the shop- and gallery-lined back streets and alleyways of the pedestrian Old Town. Tonight we enjoy a small group highlight: an interactive Vietnamese cooking class, followed by dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 9: Hoi An/Da Nang/Siem Reap, Cambodia

We see local life up close as we take a walking tour of a nearby farming settlement. Later we visit the acclaimed Cham Museum, then transfer to the airport for the flight to Siem Reap.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 10: Siem Reap

We make our first visit to the temples at the Angkor Wat complex, a small-scale city built between the 9th and 13th centuries and now a UNESCO site. This morning, we explore stunning 12th-century Angkor Wat itself, considered the world's largest religious structure. After lunch, we travel via *tuk-tuks* (auto rickshaws) to Ta Prohm, the mystical, decaying Buddhist shrine where the giant roots and limbs of banyan trees have overtaken the labyrinth of ruins here; and Angkor Thom, site of Bayon Temple, an imposing stone edifice of 54 towers each carved with four enigmatic faces.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 11: Siem Reap

Today's highlights include the restored 12th-century temple complex at Preah Khan; and 10th-century Banteay Srei, the "citadel of women" dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva and known for its delicately carved pink sandstone.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 12: Siem Reap/Luang Prabang, Laos

After a morning at leisure, we visit Satcha Handicrafts, a development project for young adults to learn traditional Cambodian crafts. From here we head to the airport for our late afternoon flight to Luang Prabang.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 13: Luang Prabang

Our day begins early with a time-honored tradition: the “tak-bat,” where hundreds of saffron-robed monks collect alms from their fellow Buddhists. Then we embark on a half-day cruise along the Mekong, lifeblood of Southeast Asia. We visit the Pak Ou Buddha Caves, housing hundreds of Buddhist icons, then enjoy lunch on board before stopping at the Ban Sang Khong “Paper Village.” Laos is famous for its “Saa paper” made from the bark of the mulberry tree, and we have the chance to observe the traditional manufacturing process here.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 14: Luang Prabang

This morning we visit an elephant sanctuary in the scenic Nam Khan River valley. Then we learn about the lives of local farmers as we travel to a communal rice farm, where we enjoy lunch before joining in farm-based activities.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 15: Luang Prabang/Vang Vieng

We set out on a walking tour of this ancient royal city this morning, beginning with the Old City, a UNESCO site, where we tour the beautiful 16th-century Wat Xient Thong temple complex, and the National Museum, set in the former royal palace. Later, we board the new Boten-Vientiane highspeed railway from Luang Prabang to Vang Vieng, an eco-tourism center and home to a wide range of ethnic tribal villages.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 16: Vang Vieng/Vientiane/Bangkok

We encounter two of Laos’ 160 ethnic groups on today’s visit to a Hmong village, where we learn about traditional basket weaving; and to a Khmu village, where we’re introduced to rice wine brewing. Then we help to prepare our lunch at a Lao cooking class at a farm-to-table restaurant. This afternoon we travel to the Lao capital of Vientiane for the flight to Bangkok.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 17: Bangkok

We begin our discovery of the Thai capital today as we explore Wat Pho Temple, home of the gold-leafed Reclining Buddha, and the colorful Flower Market.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 18: Bangkok

Today's tour features the Grand Palace complex with the revered Emerald Buddha, and a visit to the Jim Thompson House revealing the Southeast Asian art collection of the American who revived the Thai silk industry. Tonight we celebrate our Southeast Asia odyssey at a farewell dinner.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 19: Depart for U.S.

Today we transfer to the airport for our return flights to the U.S.

Meals: Breakfast

This tour itinerary was generated for Southeast Asia Odyssey on May 22, 2025. Please visit the Southeast Asia Odyssey page at <https://www.odysseys-unlimited.com/tours/asia-the-far-east/southeast-asia-odyssey/> for the latest and most accurate information.