



Indochina Experience 2010

CAMBODIA – LAOS - VIETNAM

Phnom Penh – Siem Reap – Angkor Thom & Angkor Wat – Luang Prabang
 Hanoi – Perfume Pagoda – Ninh Binh – Tam Coc Bich Dong – Sapa
 Bac Ha Lao Chai – Ta Van – La Vang – Phong Nha Caves – Hue – Saigon

Tour 01: from 05 Nov 2010 to 18 Nov 2010

Tour 02: from 04 Mar 2011 to 17 Mar 2011

** Tour costs change based on available flight prices. To learn about the latest tour costs, please contact AV Travel. Note: Book early to get the lowest possible quotes.*



Schedule

Day 01: Arrive Phnom Penh in the evening

Day 02: **Phnom Penh.** At the confluence of the three rivers, Phnom Penh was once considered the loveliest city of Indochina. Despite the recent turbulent history, it still maintains considerable charm. Visit the Victory Monument and the National Museum, also called Musee des Beaux-Arts. The museum contains a collection of Khmer art - notably sculptures - throughout the ages. Visit the Royal Palace, built by the French in 1866 on the site of the old town, and the Silver Pagoda. Located within the Royal Palace, the Silver Pagoda is so named because of its floor, which is made up of 5000 silver tiles floor. See both structures of the National Museum for an appreciation of the splendor of Khmer history. Drive to Siem Riep.

Day 03: **Siem Riep.** This town is our base for exploring the world famous temples of the ancient city Angkor, which was the capital of the powerful Khmer Empire from 802 AD to 1350 AD. Visit the South Gate of **Angkor Thom**, which is famous for its series of colossal human faces carved in stone, the impressive Bayon Temple, the Royal Enclosure, Phimeanakas, the Elephant Terrace and the Terrace of Leper King. The largest as well as most complete structure of **Angkor Wat** is not to be missed. We stroll around this massive monument, exploring the many galleries with columns, libraries, pavilions, courtyards and ponds full of water reflecting the towering temple

Day 04: Continue to visit the jungle-covered temple of Ta Prohm is an incredible sight. There are enormous fig trees and gigantic creepers intertwined in the stone foundations of the structure giving the impression of man's creation being reclaimed by the powerful forces of nature. Take a cruise on Tonle Sap Lake, Cambodia's biggest lake. Fly to Luang Prabang.

Day 05: **Luang Prabang.** The royal capital of the former Lane Xang Kingdom, Luang Prabang with its gleaming temple roofs, fading colonial architecture and stunning mountain backdrop retains an unique charm rarely found in all of Asia. There is plenty to see in this delightful town, some of which are the impressive stupa of Wat Visoun, the shrine of Wat Aham and Wat Mai with five tiered roofs. From the Phousi Hill, enjoy the beautiful sunset view of the town and the Mekong River.

Day 06: Continue seeing this town with the magnificent Wat Xieng Thong, which nestles at the meeting of the Mekong and the Nam Khan River. The temple structures are decorated in various ways with gilded stucco and doorways while the main sim has a marvelous 'tree life' mosaic pattern on an outer wall.

Day 07: Boat cruise on the Mekong River, enjoy the mountainous landscape. Fly to Hanoi. Free time to shop at Hanoi's Old Quarter where you can buy a multitude of beautiful goods.

Day 08: **Perfume Pagoda.** Boat trip on the Yen River, visit Den Trinh, the registration shrine. Among the other sights you'll see: Thien Tru temple, built in the 18th century and famous for its granite monolith and the many towers erected by various kings during their reigns; and Huong Tich grotto, renowned as "the most beautiful grotto under the southern sky," filled with colorful stalagmites and stalactites. Night train to Sapa.



- Day 09:** **Sapa.** Embark on a lovely walk that will take you along small paths and trails and through hill tribe villages of Lao Chai and Tavan, home to H'mong, and Dzay people. This is an absolutely spectacular walk with stunning scenery inhabited by some of the friendliest people you'll ever meet.
- Day 10:** Visit Ham Rong mountain, rocky forest, and orchid gardens. Up the mountain to discover the Heaven Gates, take the panoramic view of Sapa town from the top of Dragon Mount. Enjoy some local traditional shows performed by H'mong, Dzao tribe girls in their colorful dresses. Night train back to Hanoi
- Day 11:** **Ninh Binh. Tam Coc Bich Dong** is a grotto located in the Ngu Hanh Son mountain. In the 18th century, King Tu Duc visited Bich Dong. Charmed by the marvelous scenery offered by the mountains, rivers and pagodas, the king conferred on Bich Dong the title "The second most beautiful grotto in Vietnam".
- Day 12:** Visit West Lake, Tran Quoc Pagoda - the oldest pagoda in Hanoi, on the islet on West Lake. Temple of Literature, the first University of Vietnam (1070) Visit One Pillar pagoda - the fantastic architectural style in the lotus shape. Tour Hoan Kiem Lake, the evergreen water lake right in the heart of city. Visit Ngoc Son Temple and learn the lake's rich history and legends.
- Day 13:** Depart to **Halong** early in the morning. On the way, stop for refreshment and photos. Board on Bien Ngoc Cruise. visit the Thien Cung caves. Roam around the labyrinth of the Bay through the Fighting Cock, Canh Buom, Kayak to Luon cave, Dau Nguoi Mountain.
- Day 14:** Fly to Saigon.

Sightseeing includes:

Siem Reap: Magnificent Angkor Wat & Angkor Thom: Unesco world heritage site.
Bayon temple. Terrace of Leper King. Prasat Kravan & Ta Prohm.

Luang Prabang: Unesco world heritage both natural and historical sites. Royal Palace.
Wat Xiengthong. Ban Xanghai. Thousand Bhuda images. Mekong river.

Vietnam:

Perfume Pagoda: An oasis of beauty and serenity in an area of North Vietnam featuring limestone mountains, lush forests, is in fact a vast complex of Buddhist temples and shrines built into the limestone Huong Tich mountains. It is the site of a religious festival which draws large numbers of pilgrims from across Vietnam.

Ninh Binh: Area with various landscapes because of its proximity to the mountains and famous Tam Coc (Three Caves), is known among travelers as "Ha Long Bay on the rice paddies".

Sapa: An old French hill station. Because of its situation near the tallest mountain range in Vietnam, it is possibly the most scenic mountain location in Vietnam. The members of the Black Hmong ethnic minority are very present in town, and other ethnic minorities come for the weekly market.

Halong: A World Heritage site and a place that has become famous worldwide for magnificent caves and grottos filled with fantastic stalagmites and stalactites.

Tour includes:

- Hotel 4- or 5-stars, double occupancy rooms. For single room, add an extra \$425.00.
- Vietnam visa.
- Deluxe coaches between cities.
- All meals daily.
- International travel insurance.
- Daily sightseeing tours with professional English-Vietnamese speaking local guides.

Please contact avtravelonline@yahoo.com for any question regarding this tour.