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# Vietnam & Cambodia: A Journey of Culture and Culinary Delights

**DURATION |** 11 Days

TRIP LEVEL | Active

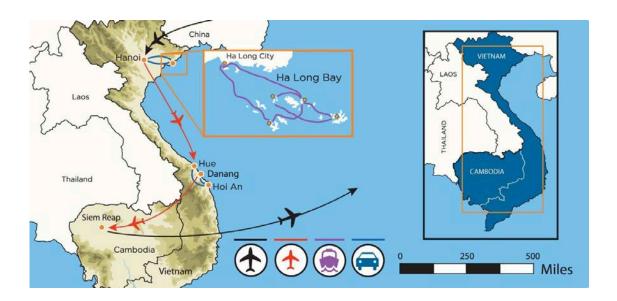
## Trip Overview

Join an unforgettable adventure with Adventure Women on an 11-day trip in the vibrant tapestry of Vietnam and Cambodia! Begin in bustling Hanoi, where you'll wander the lively French Quarter, visit Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum, and pedal through local neighborhoods by bike. Enjoy a traditional Vietnamese meal and a captivating water puppet show. Set sail on a private boat in Ha Long Bay, exploring stunning rock formations, kayaking serene waters, and practicing Tai Chi at sunrise. In Hue, delve into the Imperial City's rich history and dine with a local family. Cook a delicious Vietnamese meal in Hoi An, then journey to Siem Reap to marvel at Angkor Wat at sunrise and savor Khmer cuisine. This trip promises a blend of cultural insights, culinary delights, and breathtaking landscapes.

## Trip Highlights

- Explore Hanoi's historic sites in a convertible army jeep and cycle through the medieval citadel of Hoa Lo.
- Cruise and kayak in the environmentally protected pristine waters of Ha Long Bay and Bai Tu Long Bay and explore remote ruins in the jungle.
- Participate in a Vietnamese cooking class in Hoi An, witness the sunrise at Angkor Wat, and receive a traditional water blessing from local monks.

## Map View





Day 1

#### Dive into Vibrant Hanoi

Arrive in Hanoi and join a group transfer to your hotel, where you'll meet your expert guide and fellow AdventureWomen. Begin your exploration with a walking tour of Hanoi, passing Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum and wandering through the historic French Quarter. Then, embark on an open-air Jeep ride through the city's vibrant streets and bustling markets, immersing yourself in the sensory delights of Hanoi. Cap off the day with a warm welcome dinner hosted by a local resident and experience the unique Flag Lowering Ceremony in Ba Dinh Square.

Meals: dinner | Overnight: Hotel de L'Opera Hanoi



#### Hotel de L'Opera Hanoi

Located in the center of Hanoi, Hotel de L'Opera is near Hanoi's Opera House and the Old Quarter. A balance of French and Vietnamese architecture and design, each of the 107 rooms is equipped with complimentary Wi-Fi, TV, air conditioning, and stylish furnishings.

Amenities: Soap, shampoo, conditioner, hair dryer; electricity; Wifi



Day 2

## Bike Through Hanoi's Hidden Corners

Discover Hanoi's, known as the "City of the Soaring Dragon", rich heritage and vibrant culture with a morning bike ride through the medieval citadel and picturesque outskirts, covering 17 leisurely miles in about three hours. After a flavorful lunch at a local restaurant, spend the afternoon exploring on your own—whether it's delving into local galleries or savoring a coffee in a bustling café. In the late afternoon, enjoy a traditional Vietnamese water puppet show at Thang Long Theater, showcasing the art of rural life. Conclude the day with a delightful group dinner, sharing your experiences from a day full of Hanoi's hidden treasures.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Hotel de L'Opera Hanoi



Day 3

#### Cruise and Kayak in Ha Long Bay's Majestic Waters

Depart from Hanoi in the morning for a scenic drive to Ha Long Bay, known for its breathtaking sea views and mythical rock formations. Upon arrival, board your private chartered boat and settle in for a leisurely lunch while soaking in the stunning bay vistas. Spend your afternoon kayaking around the serene Vung Vieng fishing village, a community steeped in tradition. Enjoy a cooking demonstration on board, learning to prepare classic Vietnamese dishes. As the sun sets, relax on the deck and savor a delicious dinner, wrapping up a day of exploration and culinary delight.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Private Chartered Boat



#### **Private Chartered Boat**

The boat chartered exclusively for AdventureWomen features comfortable cabins and both indoor and outdoor dining areas. Each cabin is equipped with modern amenities to make your stay comfortable. Enjoy sunset with your group from the sun deck on the top of the boat.

Amenities: Soap, shampoo, conditioner, hair dryer; electricity; limited Wifi



Day 4

#### Sunrise Tai Chi and Kayaking in Ha Long Bay's Hidden Gem

Awaken early for a serene Tai Chi session on the deck, greeting the day as you drift through Ha Long Bay's stunning landscapes. After breakfast, cruise to Cong Dam, an outdoor geological museum preserved for 340 million years, a regional park with mountains formed from limestone. Kayak, swim or walk through its hidden coves and pristine beaches, exploring underwater caves and lush coral reefs. Enjoy a leisurely lunch aboard and take one final kayaking adventure before winding down your day. Relax with fellow travelers on the boat, savoring dinner and reflecting on a day of natural beauty and tranquil exploration.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Private Chartered Boat



Day 5

#### From Halong Bay Caves to Imperial Hue

Begin your day with a light breakfast before exploring the stunning Thien Canh Son Caves, where a glittering "gem carpet" and dramatic stalactites await. After brunch aboard your boat, cruise back to the harbor and head to Hanoi for your flight to Hue. Upon arrival, take a scenic drive to your hotel in Hue, the former imperial capital renowned for its rich history and UNESCO-listed monuments. Enjoy a relaxing evening with a group dinner, immersing yourself in the city's historical charm.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Pilgrimage Hotel



#### **Pilgrimage Hotel**

Pilgrimage Village is ideally located in the quiet countryside in a rustic village setting. Surrounded by lush tranquil gardens, you will have the feeling of being out in the country while being close to the famous sites of Hue. Your room combines modern comfort with traditional architectural features with views over the garden or the lily lake.

Amenities: Soap, shampoo, conditioner, hair dryer; electricity; Wifi



Day 6

#### Imperial Exploration and Local Insights in Hue

Immerse yourself in the grandeur of Hue with a visit to the Imperial Citadel and the majestic Khai Dinh Tomb, the last emperor of Vietnam who loved blending French and Vietnamese art. Discover women's influence in imperial life at the tranquil Tu Hieu Pagoda, the largest and oldest set in a serene pine forest. After a group lunch, enjoy a leisurely afternoon at your hotel's spa or explore at your own pace. In the evening, savor a traditional dinner hosted by a local woman whose father rebuilt their home in the style of Hue's upper-class families after the Vietnam War. She'll share stories about growing up during Vietnam's rebuilding era while you enjoy traditional dishes once served to the emperor.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Pilgrimage Hotel



Day 7

## Journey from Hue to Hoi An: Discover Timeless Traditions and Charming Streets

Depart Hue in the morning for a scenic drive to Hoi An, a more rural area of Vietnam where the ancient heart and surrounding countryside is a timeless collage of rice fields, and a lattice of waterways fanned by leafy botanicals. Stop for lunch and a quick dip in Danang. Arrive in Hoi An and embark on a walking tour of this 5 00-year-old port town, known for its rich blend of architecture and vibrant traditions. The evening is yours to enjoy exploring the town's tailor shops, savor local cuisine, or dine at one of the city's diverse restaurants.

Meals: breakfast, lunch | Overnight: Allegro Hotel



#### **Allegro Hotel**

Allegro is a boutique hotel conveniently located in the heart of Hoi An's ancient town. Enjoy the pool, book a massage, or walk into town and explore.

Amenities: Soap, shampoo, conditioner, hair dryer; electricity; Wifi



Day 8

## Culinary Delights and Sunset Serenity

Immerse yourself in Hoi An's vibrant food scene with a Vietnamese cooking class. Start with a market tour, sampling local delicacies, before creating a fresh three-course meal from seasonal ingredients. After an afternoon at your leisure—whether exploring the charming city, lounging by the pool, or indulging in a relaxing massage. Conclude your day with a group dinner, savoring the culinary treasures and tranquil evening views of this enchanting town.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Allegro Hotel



Day 9

### From Hoi An to Siem Reap – A Journey Begins

Bid farewell to Hoi An as you fly to Siem Reap, Cambodia, with a brief stop in Danang for your flight. Upon arrival, enjoy VIP visa assistance and meet your local Khmer guide. After checking into your hotel, unwind before heading to a historic Cambodian restaurant, featured in "The Killing Fields" and renowned for its storied past and exceptional cuisine. Relax and savor your first taste of Cambodian culture in this charming gateway to the Angkor Wat temple complex.

Meals: breakfast, dinner | Overnight: Shinta Mani Angkor



#### Shinta Mani Angkor

Shinta Mani Angkor is an upscale boutique hotel created by acclaimed architect Bill Bensley. This exceptional hotel enjoys a tranquil and leafy setting within the French Quarter of Siem Reap – just 15 minutes by tuk tuk from the UNESCO World Heritage Temples of Angkor Wat. AW guests will enjoy the Bayon Room.

Amenities: soap, shampoo, conditioner, flat-screen cable TV, safety deposit box, tea/coffee, toiletries, bathrobes, and slippers.



**Day 10** 

#### Siem Reap Unveiled – Tuk-Tuk Temples and Traditional Blessings

Discover Siem Reap's ancient splendor with a tuk-tuk tour of the Angkor Archaeological Park, exploring iconic ruins like the South Gate, Bayon Temple, and Ta Prohm, featured in Tomb Raider. These ruins are not only historically and culturally significant but also provide a fascinating insight into the grandeur of the Khmer Empire. Siem Reap's ancient temples are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After, immerse yourself in local culture with a traditional water blessing at a local watt and enjoy a lunch with a Cambodian family for an authentic taste of daily life. After a relaxing afternoon by the pool, celebrate your journey with a farewell dinner featuring the unique flavors of Khmer cuisine, reflecting on the memories made with your fellow AdventureWomen.

Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner | Overnight: Shinta Mani Angkor



Day 11
Sunrise Splendor at Angkor Wat and Farewell

Enjoy one last morning in Siem Reap before heading to the airport for your flight home. Wake up early to witness the breathtaking sunrise at Angkor Wat, the world's largest religious monument. Explore its majestic architecture and rich history, from its Hindu origins to its current Buddhist role. This temple stands as a pinnacle of classical Khmer architecture, proudly symbolizing Cambodia and even gracing its national flag. After returning to your hotel for a relaxing breakfast and pool time, check out by noon. Enjoy a group transfer to Siem Reap International Airport for your afternoon flight, marking the end of your unforgettable Cambodian adventure.

## What's Included

#### What's Included

- Accommodations as per itinerary based on double occupancy
- · All meals as listed in the itinerary
- · All ground transportation
- Domestic airfare (priced separately from the main trip)
- English-speaking guide(s) throughout the trip
- · One group transfer on arrival and departure
- · Drinking water available in large jugs to refill personal bottles
- · Entrance fees
- · Fee for visa in Cambodia
- · Gratuities for drivers, hotel staff, boat staff, and waitstaff

#### Not Included

- · International airfare to and from Vietnam
- · Optional activities
- Meals not specified in the itinerary
- · Alcoholic beverages (unless otherwise specified)
- Fees for passport, visa in Vietnam, immunizations, or travel insurance
- · Cost of hospitalization or evacuation
- · Items of a personal nature
- · Gratuities for the main guide

Please note: AdventureWomen will attempt to adhere to the itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, and cultural) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. AdventureWomen reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participants.

