|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Journeys Within Custom Classic Vietnam and Cambodia Tour****For Jill Higson** |

**24 Dec 14 Saigon: Hotel Booked for Arrival After Midnight on the 25th**

Meals Included: None

Overnight at Lavender Hotel – 1 Single Premier Superior Room

**25 Dec 14 Saigon: Arrival and Truc Mai House Music An Inspirational Journey**

Arrive on your flight – United Airlines UA 179 arriving at 01:30am in Saigon - where you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel.

Enjoy your day at leisure.

In the evening, your guide and driver will transfer you to the home of Mr. and Mrs Mai. The stories of Vietnamese history and culture can be heard and understood through its traditional music. Mr. Truc and Mrs Ngo (husband and wife) are experts at playing the melodious traditional Vietnamese musical instruments (monochord zither, bamboo xylophone, stone lithophone...) and have been granted special permission to share their knowledge with guests in Vietnam. For an hour you will be taken on a journey back in time. Hear the instruments played and learn about the stories they tell, then you will have a chance to have a go at playing some of the instruments yourself. At the end of your time with these wonderful people you will have had a unique personal insight in to Vietnam. You will then be taken to a restaurant for your dinner and later returned to your hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight at Lavender Hotel – 1 Single Premier Superior Room

**26 Dec 14 Saigon: Culture and Culinary Experience by Motorbike**

Saigon is a vibrant and bustling city. Relax as you sit behind your trusted driver on a motorbike for a journey where you can combine some of the classic historical highlights the city has to offer (Reunification Palace, museums, pagodas, Cho Lon...), getting a real insight into local life behind the main streets. Meet and chat to local people, try special local cuisine at the different locations you stop by and learn about daily life. Get to know Saigon with a refreshing twist to suit your culinary and cultural tastes. Our guides are the experts, and they will discuss the plan for the time with you in advance so that you get the very best experience designed just for you. Please note helmets will be provided.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Overnight at Lavender Hotel – 1 Single Premier Superior Room

**27 Dec 14 Saigon: Cai Be Explorer**

This morning you will be driven to Cai Be Village in the Mekong Delta approximately 2 ½ hours away. To begin with, you will board a private boat to explore Cai Be Floating Market where you will cruise the narrow shady waterways to see local families making popped rice (a favorite of the team!), coconut candies, rice paper… and various local homemade Vietnamese products from the Mekong area. Sample as you go, but remember to leave some room for lunch. Continue on your boat journey before stepping ashore for lunch in a beautiful traditional garden house and be presented with local dishes, such as Elephant Ear Fish rolled and wrapped with rice paper, as well as different Vietnamese vegetables and fruits served with tamarind dipping sauce. When ready you will be taken for a short walk through the fruit gardens and rowed along the narrow shady canals in a traditional sampan boat. Transfer by boat back to your private transport waiting for you in Cai Be. Relax on your way back to Saigon for your evening at leisure.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Overnight at Lavender Hotel – 1 Single Premier Superior Room

**28 Dec 14 Hoi An: Arrival and Wander the Ancient Town**

You will be picked up at your hotel and taken to the airport for your flight - Vietnam Airlines VN112 departing Saigon at 10:25 & arriving at 11:40 in Danang.

Your guide will meet you at Danang airport for your private transfer to your hotel in Hoi An for check-in.

Your guide will meet you at your hotel and take you on a walking tour of Hoi An. Visit the Ancient Town, which is home to the beautiful Chua Cau, or roofed bridge, as well as Hoi Quan, the ancient meeting places, some ancestral family homes and some of the lovely hidden pagodas. You will end your time in the Ancient Town with a meal at a local restaurant.

*Please note: You have the option of eating lunch before taking the walking tour or eating dinner afterwards.*

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner

Overnight at Ancient House Resort– 1 Single Superior Room

**29 Dec 14 Hoi An: An Island Bike Ride**

Your guide and driver will transfer you to your rendezvous point for your half day bike ride. Starting in town you will take a short cycle ride to the river front where your boat will be waiting for your cross over to the island. On arrival it is time to hop on your bicycle again and begin your island tour. Along the way you will meet the families that produce traditional crafts such as ornate furniture, coracles and mats. With your guide, follow the winding paths in and out of the country hamlets and cross the floating bridge until eventually you will meet up again with your boat and head back to the mainland. Finish your morning back at a local restaurant where you can relax over lunch.

Spend the afternoon at your leisure.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Overnight at Ancient House Resort– 1 Single Superior Room

**30 Dec 14 Hanoi: Arrival and Half Day City Tour**

Your guide will meet you at your hotel for your private transfer to Danang (an hour’s drive away), where you will arrive at the airport in time for your onward flight - Vietnam Airlines VN160 departing Danang at 08:30 & arriving at 09:45 in Hanoi. Arrive at Noi Bai airport where you will be met by your guide and driven the 1 hour journey to Hanoi.

Begin your half day by discussing with your guide what you would like to do and see. There are so many options that we like to leave it up to you and your guide to decide what suits you best. Some interesting highlights that you may want to consider are the Temple of Literature, the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and his House on stilts, One Pillar Pagoda, Quan Thanh Temple, and Tran Quoc Pagoda, the Ethnology Museum, and the Art museum.

Meals included: Breakfast

Overnight at Hanoi Essence D' Orient Hotel – 1 Single Deluxe City View Room

**31 Dec 14 Halong Bay: Dragon Legend Cruise Day 1**

Your guide will meet you at your hotel at 8am. Today, you leave bustling Hanoi behind on your private transfer to wonderful Ha Long Bay. Your journey will take around 3 ½ hours through the historical countryside of the Red River Delta peppered with hundred year old villages. Your guide will advise you of the best places to stop where you can experience the interesting history and daily life of the local people. In addition, there will be many chances for photo stops along the way of the local farming activities, rice fields, water buffalos and so on…

This morning leave bustling Hanoi behind on your private transfer to the stunning Ha Long Bay. Heading out at 12:00 from the Hon Gai International Harbor, you will set sail into the unique beauty of this World Heritage Site. Enjoy your set menu lunch while cruising through the fascinating limestone formations of the less visited Bai Tu Long Bay. After lunch, take a traditional bamboo boat into Vung Vieng fishing village where you will get a glimpse into the daily life of local fisherman.

Once you are back aboard, you will take part in an on-board cooking class as you continue sailing through the arches and cliffs of the majestic bay. Refresh yourself in the mineral seawater pool, the fitness room, or visit the boat’s spa and massage services before enjoying a delicious a la carte dinner in the open air.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Overnight at Dragon's Legend Junk Cruises – 1 Single Join Trip Cabin

**01 Jan 15 Halong Bay: Dragon Legend Cruise Day 2 and Flight to Siem Reap**

Greet the day with morning Tai Chi exercises and an opportunity to view the sunrise over the bay. At 7am morning coffee and breakfast will be served. Cruise the turquoise waters to Con Do where you will explore the well-hidden Thien Can Son Cave. A short cruise further, you will reach Hon Co Island where you can spend your time swimming, kayaking or simply relaxing on the white sandy beach. Just after 10am you will head back to the junk to enjoy a buffet while the crew navigates back to harbor.

Your guide will meet you as you disembark and will transfer you back to Hanoi. Along the way you will have the opportunity to take a comfort break and stretch your legs. You will arrive at Noi Bai airport in time to connect with your flight - Vietnam Airlines VN6839 departing Hanoi at 17:40 & arriving at 19:20 in Siem Reap.

Arrive in Siem Reap where you will be met by a Journeys Within representative and will be transferred to your hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Overnight at Lynnaya Urban River Resort – 1 Single Deluxe Bungalow

**02 Jan 15 Siem Reap: Angkor Wat Sunrise with Brunch and ATV Sunset Tour**

Wake up early and head to Angkor Wat for sunrise and a morning tour of the temple before the crowds arrive. Mid-morning head back to your hotel for a delicious brunch before relaxing in the garden, by the pool, the sitting room, or your own room through the heat of the day.

You will be met at your hotel and taken to Quad Adventures. Here you will be given a short safety course before heading out through the back roads of Siem Reap. Enjoy strikingly beautiful views of the rice fields and villages as you explore the countryside. After your adventure you will be returned to your hotel by tuk-tuk.

Meals Included: Brunch

Overnight at Lynnaya Urban River Resort – 1 Single Deluxe Bungalow

**03 Jan 15 Siem Reap: Tour to the Lingas, Banteay Srei, Other Temples and Angkor Thom with Sunset**

After breakfast you will head out of town towards Kbal Spean, driving along a dirt track before stopping to hike the remainder of the route. You will hike for about two hours until you reach the “River of a Thousand Lingas.” In ancient times if water ran over the lingas it was said to be holy water. The ancient Khmers therefore made thousands of lingas along this riverbed so the water that flowed to their rice fields was blessed. The lingas and other stone carvings remain today. Have fun exploring the surrounding jungle, followed by lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, continue on to visit the beautiful Banteay Srei, an intricately carved temple known as the Lady Temple. Finish the afternoon by visiting two of the prettiest temples in the complex - Banteay Kdei and Ta Prohm.

In the afternoon head to Angkor Thom, the famous walled city, and see the many temples within its borders, including the fascinating Bayon temple with its many magnificent faces smiling out. There are several beautiful spots from which to watch the sunset. Discuss with your guide where you would like to be and then relax and enjoy a memorable end to your day at the temples.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Overnight at Lynnaya Urban River Resort – 1 Single Deluxe Bungalow

**04 Jan 15 Siem Reap: Clean Water Program Visit and JWOC Art Class**

By joining JWOC’s Clean Water Program you will get the opportunity to see rural Cambodia in a totally different light. The program provides rural villages with a holistic clean water solution by installing and repairing wells, providing hygiene training and distributing water filters and hygiene kits. Accompanied by our eager scholarship students, and Seng our dedicated Clean Water Program Manager, you will be taken into rural villages, well away from the tourist path, and see the difference that JWOC is making within the local communities. Seng and our students will be on hand to answer all your questions and you can see how the program operates on the ground, meeting the villagers that we help along the way. It is also a fantastic opportunity to meet our scholarship students and find out what it means to them to give back to their community.

Sunday afternoons are special at Journeys Within Our Community. We hold our art class for local students at 2:30pm - a no-pressure class where anyone is invited to come, play games, sing songs and do a simple and rewarding art project. Volunteers are great for this class; we break the students into groups and as a volunteer you can join a group and help the little ones with scissors and other tricky tasks and give the older students encouragement and attention. It is fun for all the family, a great way to get involved and see our project in action. You will have a chance to meet with our scholarship students and gain a greater understanding about the work we do within our community.
*Please arrive at 2:20pm before the lesson starts so the teacher can explain the project and you can get oriented. The class runs until 4pm.*

Meals included: Breakfast

Overnight at Lynnaya Urban River Resort – 1 Single Deluxe Bungalow

**05 Jan 15 Siem Reap to Phnom Penh: Royal Palace, Museum Tour and drive to Kep**

Your driver will meet you at your hotel for your private transfer to the airport, where you will arrive in time for your onward flight - Cambodia Angkor Air K6 100 departing Siem Reap at 07:20 & arriving at 08:00 in Phnom Penh.

Arrive in Phnom Penh where you will be met by an air conditioned van and driver. This morning take a tour of the Royal Palace, which to this day is still the royal residence. See the amazing royal collection and the beautiful architecture before heading to the National Museum, where you will be taken around by a trained museum guide who will show you some wonderful pre-Angkorean pieces as well as a number of special pieces from the temples. After your cultural morning, enjoy lunch at Friends, a restaurant benefiting at-risk street children.

After touring Phnom Penh, your driver will drive you to Kep.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Overnight at Kep Lodge – 1 Single Deluxe Double Room

**06 - 07 Jan 15 Kep: Days at Leisure**

You have two days free to explore on your own.

Meals included: Breakfast

Overnight at Kep Lodge – 1 Single Deluxe Double Room

**08 Jan 15 Kep to Phnom Penh: Departure**

Your driver will meet you at your hotel and drive you back to Phnom Penh. You will be taken to the airport in time to catch your onward flight – EVA Air 266 departing Phnom Penh at 12:45pm.

Meals included: Breakfast