



ENDOWMENT

# Indochina Odyssey Cambodia and Vietnam with Alasdair Clayre

March 25 – April 6, 2023



**Join the ETV Endowment on an exciting, inspirational and luxurious adventure through almost 2,000 years of history in Cambodia and Vietnam.**

Our journey starts in the Siem Reap Province of Cambodia with a tour of Angkor Wat, the largest religious complex in the world. Founded in the 12th century, this UNESCO World Heritage site is strewn with temples and pagodas.

We continue on to Vietnam to experience the delights of this fascinating and friendly country. From north to south, we will explore its history, culture and landscape, including the Cham dynasty, the Vietnam War and its current economic boom.

We will travel by plane, boat and buffalo cart, cruise spectacular Halong Bay, drive the “Pass of the Clouds”, visit ancient monuments and sample local delicacies.

We will stay in sumptuous colonial hotels, meet local villagers and try our hand at traditional handicrafts. Pamper yourself in a spa or take off down narrow alleyways into the heart of Indochina—this will be an unforgettable journey!

## **Saturday, March 25: ARRIVAL IN SIEM REAP**

Welcome to Cambodia and Siem Reap! We transfer from the airport and settle into our luxurious hotel for the next couple of days. The Raffles Grand, built in French Colonial style, opened in 1932 and boasts 15 acres of gardens. We meet for our Welcome Dinner in the private Culinary Garden.

**Meals: Dinner**

**Hotel: Raffles Grand Hotel D'Angkor**



## **Sunday, March 26: SIEM REAP - ANGKOR THOM, BAYON, TA PROHM & ANGKOR WAT**

We start with a visit to the South Gate of Angkor Thom where statues of the gods of good and evil line the entrance. Our next stop is the Bayon, known for the hundreds of smiling faces that grace the towers. The bas reliefs are quite impressive and tell stories of daily life and the great battles that were fought between the Khmers and ancient Thais. We move on to pyramid-like Phimeanakas, with its two ponds. Once used for religious rituals, today they are used as swimming pools for Khmer kids. We will walk to the top of the temple for impressive views of the Angkor complex.

We will see the rows of trunks that form the wall of the Terrace of the Elephants, a platform from which King Jayavarman surveyed his army. Close by is the Terrace of Leper Kings, which includes a statue depicting Yana, the Hindu god of death. Then it's a short drive to one of the most loved temples of all - Ta Prohm. This small crumbling temple is magically held together by giant tree roots.

We return to Siem Reap for lunch and to escape the hot sun. Later in the afternoon, we explore magnificent Angkor Wat, the world's largest religious monument. This visually spectacular temple is a massive three-tiered pyramid, rising 65 meters from the ground and crowned by five lotus towers. It's the national symbol of Cambodia and is proudly displayed on the country's flag. We end our day with sunset views over the jungle from the top of Pre Rup Temple before returning to Siem Reap.

**Meals: Breakfast / Lunch**

**Hotel: Raffles Grand Hotel D'Angkor**





## **Monday, March 27: SIEM REAP - COMMUNITY VILLAGE**

We set off to a small village in the peaceful landscape of rural Cambodia. On arrival, we meet our community guide who will introduce us to the village and our hosts. With the help of Buffalo Tours, our local partner, the Knapor community is practicing a sustainable approach to tourism for the benefit of the whole community.

Then hop aboard an ox-cart, and ride through pastures and over streams to reach a hidden jungle temple, far from the bustling crowds of Angkor Wat.

Continue on to the home of a family who earns its income making brooms. Try your hand at a variety of crafts as we take a guided walk around the village to meet its farmers and fishermen.

Back at the community center, we enjoy a Khmer family-style lunch of local produce.

On the way back to our hotel, we pause at a Buddhist temple to receive a traditional Khmer blessing from the monks.

**Meals: Breakfast / Lunch**

**Hotel: Raffles Grand Hotel D'Angkor**



## **Tuesday, March 28: SIEM REAP TO HANOI, VIETNAM**

Enjoy a relaxing morning at the Raffles. Pamper yourself at the spa, relax poolside or explore the National Museum. Have lunch before we transfer to the airport and our flight to Vietnam.

### **Flight from Siem Reap to Hanoi**

Upon arrival in Hanoi, we transfer to our award-winning hotel. The Sofitel Legend Metropole has been a colonial and neoclassical landmark since 1901. Enjoy a stroll and dinner in our new surroundings.

**Meals: Breakfast**

**Hotel: Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi**





## Wednesday, March 29: HANOI - STORY OF HANOI

We begin our Story of Hanoi with a visit to the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum. Here, you will hear about the man who led Vietnam's campaign for independence from French colonial rule. Next, visit the imperial citadel, the apex of regional political power for more than a millennium. After lunch, we head to the 11th century Temple of Literature, which was built to honor Chinese scholar Confucius. We will then see the iconic Long Bien Bridge, constructed across Red River between 1899 and 1902 when Vietnam was still ruled by the French.

We continue with a rickshaw tour through Hanoi's bustling Old Quarter, a place where Hanoians buy everything from noodles to light fixtures to Buddha statues. The quarter's 36 streets were named for the products that were sold from their shops. Today, vendors on Tin and Bamboo Streets still sell the same wares. After exploring the Old Quarter's alleyways, sip a strong Vietnamese coffee in a café overlooking Hoan Kiem Lake, an important symbol in Vietnamese folklore.

**Meals: Breakfast / Lunch**

**Hotel: Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi Hotel**



## **Thursday, March 30: HANOI - HALONG - 1 NIGHT CRUISE**

We rise early for a scenic drive to the coast and Tuan Chau pier. We board our boat for lunch and cruise out into Halong Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Centre in the Gulf of Tonkin, famed for its emerald waters and spectacular limestone pillar islands. We can visit a pearl farm, go kayaking, hike or relax on the beach.

This evening we don traditional Bao Dai dress for a lavish dinner as the sun sets over Halong Bay.

**Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner**

**Hotel: Paradise Sails Cruise**



## **Friday, March 31: HALONG - HANOI - HUE**

Wake up to the majestic beauty of Halong and enjoy some morning exercise by practicing the ancient art of Tai Chi on the sundeck.

Restore your energy and prepare for the day ahead with a fresh and healthy breakfast in the restaurant as we cruise back to Tuan Chau Island for our transfer to the airport and flight to Hue.

**Flight from Hanoi to Hue.**

In Hue, we transfer to the center of town and check into La Residence Hue, one of Vietnam's finest hotels. It was once the villa of the French Resident Superieure, Azerai La Residence. Take a stroll and enjoy the surroundings downtown.

**Meals: Breakfast**

**Hotel: Azerai La Residence Hue**





## **Saturday, April 1: HIGHLIGHTS OF HUE - HUE'S HISTORY, ROYAL TOMB & ARTISANS**

After breakfast we head to the Ancient Walled Citadel and explore the former Imperial Palace. Learn about the Citadel's intriguing architecture, inspired by Beijing's Forbidden City. Next, head to Minh Mang Tomb and admire the elaborate Chinese style, personally designed by the Emperor before his death.

The residents of Hue, the former royal capital of Vietnam, have always maintained a flair for cooking. Taste this talent for yourself with a delicious meal prepared by a skilled local woman. She is supported by Backstreet Academy, a social enterprise that endeavors to provide additional income and well-deserved recognition to struggling artists, craftsmen and home-based workers.



After lunch, we move on to a beautiful old maison, which is now an art space. Try your hand at the delicate art form of 'Truc Chi', paper made from bamboo pulp, under the guidance of these talented local artisans. Make a fan, a passport cover or a candle box.

**Meals: Breakfast / Lunch**

**Hotel: Azerai La Residence Hue**

## **Sunday, April 2: HUE - HOI AN**

Leaving Hue, we continue south to the riverside town of Hoi An. The five-hour trip hugs the coastline along the North Pacific Ocean with breathtaking views particularly as the road winds its way up Hai Van Pass ("Pass of the Clouds").



In the afternoon, we explore Hoi An, a former trading port that welcomed Chinese, Dutch, French, Japanese, Portuguese and Arab merchants between the 16th and 18th centuries. Today Hoi An is famous for its restored architecture, homemade silk, expert tailors, delicious noodles and seafood, its relaxed vibe and pedestrian streets.

We will stop at the Chua Ong Pagoda, dating back to 1653 and built in honor of the Chinese general Quan Cong, who is worshipped by many as a symbol of loyalty and justice. Next, we pop into Phuc Kien Assembly Hall to see the Jinshang Temple, which is dedicated to the goddess of the sea and the protector of sailors. From there it's a short walk to Tan Ky House, a 200-year-old ancestral home. Finally, stroll across the iconic 17th century covered Japanese bridge. We end our afternoon with a boat trip along Thu Bon River.

**Meals: Breakfast / Lunch**

**Hotel: Intercontinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort**

## Monday, April 3: HOI AN - MY SON

Today we visit the romantic ruins of My Son, the former capital of the ancient Cham civilization. The Cham people ruled central Vietnam from the 2nd to 13th centuries, and their kingdom once stretched into what are now Laos and parts of Cambodia. Then we head back to Hoi An for lunch at a local restaurant. The rest of our day is at leisure to explore or relax on the beach!

Some of us will doubtless want to dine at La Maison 1888, the InterContinental's Michelin-starred restaurant.

**Meals: Breakfast / Lunch**

**Hotel: Intercontinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort**



## Tuesday, April 4: DANANG - HO CHI MINH CITY

Today we leave the tranquility of Danang for the bustle of Ho Chi Minh City, also known as Saigon.

### Flight from Danang to Ho Chi Minh City.

In Saigon, we visit Vinh Nghiem Pagoda after lunch. Built in traditional Vietnamese architectural style, this building boasts intricate woodcarvings. The main hall houses a large Buddha while the rear hall is dedicated to Mother Goddesses, venerable monks and spirits.

Then we visit the War Remnants Museum, where Vietnam's government has assembled presentations—some of them graphic—of wartime hardships and atrocities. We continue with a stop at the Reunification Palace, where a North Vietnamese tank crashed through the gates in 1975 to end the war. We will see the Central Post Office, designed by the renowned French architect Gustav Eiffel.

Then, take a stroll toward the Saigon River along Dong Khoi Street, which figured prominently in Graham Greene's famous Vietnam novel, The Quiet American, to the Saigon Opera House, a commanding building completed in 1901. Shelled during World War II, it was used to shelter French citizens fleeing North Vietnam in 1954, the year Vietnam earned its independence from France.

We end atop the Bitexco Tower for panoramic views of Saigon.

**Meals: Breakfast / Lunch**

**Hotel: Park Hyatt Saigon**





## **Wednesday, April 5: HO CHI MINH CITY - CU CHI BY SAIGON RIVER**

Today we escape the congestion of Ho Chi Minh City and head out into the countryside. As we cruise down the Saigon River, enjoy scenes of rural Vietnamese life and sample a selection of traditional Vietnamese fruits.

We reach the Cu Chi tunnels, the infamous underground city for Viet Cong soldiers during the Vietnam War. Central to the Viet Cong's strategic war operations, including the famous 1968 Tet Offensive, they are still complete with a hospital, kitchen and schools. Remember to look out for "mantraps" – large, camouflaged holes dug deep into the ground that ensnared enemy soldiers with bamboo spikes.

We enjoy a traditional Vietnamese lunch in a riverside setting before heading back to town.

Tonight we gather to share memories and bid farewell to Vietnam and to each other, until our next trip.

**Meals: Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner**

**Hotel: Park Hyatt Saigon**





## Thursday, April 6: HO CHI MINH CITY - DEPARTURE DAY

We transfer to the airport for our flights home.

**Meals: Breakfast**

### Tour Price:

Per person, double occupancy: \$7,499

Single Supplement: \$2,125



### TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

\$1,000 tax-deductible contribution to the ETV Endowment of SC

Flights mentioned in itinerary on Vietnam Airlines (Economy Class)

Accommodations at selected 4 and 5-star hotels

Boat cruise as described in the itinerary

Meals as described in the itinerary

English-speaking local guides

Tours and transfers, by air-conditioned vehicle, as mentioned in the itinerary

Sightseeing fees and permits during guided time

Airport transfers

Service charge and current government VAT tax

Taxes, gratuities and luggage handling for one piece of luggage per person

### TOUR PRICE EXCLUDES:

Airfare to Ho Chi Minh City and Siem Reap and from Ho Chi Minh City

Visa and Passport Requirements – please see below

Early/late check in/out service at hotels

Services, meals and drinks not mentioned in the itinerary

Laundry, telephone calls and expenditures of a personal nature

Travel insurance

### PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS:

Please make sure your passport is valid through at least October 6, 2023.

Cambodia and Vietnam visas must be purchased for non-Asian citizens. Approximate cost of both visas is \$60. We will provide guidance on purchasing these visas upon registration.

**ITINERARY SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**

**DO NOT BOOK FLIGHTS UNTIL THE ETV ENDOWMENT NOTIFIES  
YOU TO DO SO.**

## Siem Reap

March 25-28 - 3 Nights



## Raffles Grand Hotel D'Angkor

State Room

5 Star

The Grand Hotel d'Angkor has been welcoming world travellers since 1932. As the cultural heart of Siem Reap, a series of immersive, mindful and exclusive experiences that embody the Raffles spirit of adventure have been crafted for the ultimate exploration of Angkor and beyond.

## Hanoi

March 28-30 - 2 Nights



## Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi

Premium Room

5 Star

Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi located within the cultural area, just five minutes walking to Hoan Kiem Lake, has a long tradition of hosting playwrights, ambassadors, heads of state and an ever growing list of corporate travelers to the city. European luxury and warm Vietnamese hospitality commingle in the public areas, 364 guestrooms and suites, restaurants and Le Spa du Metropole.

## Halong

March 30-31 - 1 Night



## Paradise Sails Cruise (former Paradise Luxury Cruise)

Deluxe Balcony Cabin

5 Star

A traditional wooden junk designed for a personalised experience, the Paradise Sails is the perfect blend of chic, modern styling and traditional Vietnamese detailing. The warm, wooden interior exudes classic charm without skimping on comfort. The sophisticated dining room, perfect for intimate dining, offers tailored menu options, Vietnamese à la carte menu and a selection of drinks.



**Hue**

March 31-April 2 –  
2 Nights

**Azerai La Residence Hue**

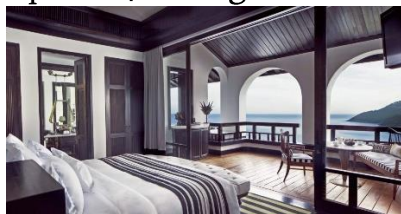
Superior Standard Room

5 Star

La Residence is an enchanting boutique hotel on the banks of the fabled Perfume River overlooking the former Imperial Citadel – once home to Emperors and now preserved as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Endowed with opulence, excellence and warmth, this former residence of the French Colonial Governor was painstakingly restored in 2005 and redeveloped as an exceptional design hotel.

**Da Nang**

April 2-4 - 2 Nights

**InterContinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort**

Classic Room

5 Star

Celebrate sunshine and seclusion at one of Vietnam's most spectacular beach resorts. Retreat into a world of unspoiled nature, set on our private bay, where you'll be enlivened by bold, creative architecture that marries local heritage with world-class design. From top-tier destination dining to barefoot days of beachside bliss, savour every moment as our team crafts the perfect experience, grounded in Vietnamese hospitality.

**Ho Chi Minh City**

April 4-6 - 2 Nights

**Park Hyatt Saigon**

Park Room - City View

5 Star

Discover urban luxury with a combination of sophisticated design, handcrafted details and modern-day comforts at Park Hyatt Saigon. Enjoy the world-class restaurants in Ho Chi Minh City and our tranquil spa. Park Hyatt Saigon looks forward to welcoming you with warm and dignified service for the ultimate personalised luxury experience.