

A Taste of Vietnamese Cuisine



Approximately 7 Hours



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Enjoyed it?



4.3 out of 5

Value



3.7 out of 5

2 out of 3(67%)reviewers would recommend this product to a friend.

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Vietnamese cuisine is varied and wonderful. This tour is highly specialized for guests interested in regional cuisine, and gives a **practical introduction to Vietnamese cooking**. Upon arrival in **Ho Chi Minh City**, you'll begin your experience with a visit to the **local market**, where you will participate in the purchase of fresh produce. Accompanied by a qualified executive sous chef, you will be introduced to a range of exotic fruits and vegetables particular to the region. The atmosphere of the market is unmatched, as customers haggle with vendors over an endless display of the freshest spices, fruits, vegetables, grains, meat and seafood. From there, continue to the **Vietnam Culinary Cooking Center** (or similar venue) for a practical demonstration of Vietnamese cooking. Alongside professional chefs, you will discover the Vietnamese art of gastronomy. You will learn about typical Vietnamese dishes, dining etiquette, how to use chopsticks, and savor your own culinary creation in a relaxing ambiance. A handbook with **recipes** from the day will be dedicated to you so you can indulge in this delicious cuisine at home. Enjoy **lunch**, including the dishes you have prepared. The chef is available during lunch to comment on Vietnamese cuisine and food preparation. Return to Phu My by motor coach, passing through scenic countryside and along the main highway.

Notes:

Travel time to Ho Chi Minh City is approximately two hours each way.

Angkor Wat & Saigon Overland Adventure (Double)



3 days/2 nights



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Day 1 (L/D)

Drive from the pier to the bustling **Ho Chi Minh City**, still commonly referred to as **Saigon**. **Lunch** will be served at a local restaurant in Vietnam's former capital; then, you will set out to explore Saigon. Watch for the Notre Dame Cathedral, a neo-Classical structure dating back to the 19th century. The imposing twin spires have long heralded arrival in Saigon to passenger liners that travel the winding Saigon River. You'll have a chance to snap some photos here. Continue to the former Presidential Palace, now known as **Independence Palace**. This historic building was made famous when a North Vietnamese tank crashed through its front gates in 1975, signaling the end of the Vietnam War. It has changed little since that time and is now retained as a museum. Your tour will take in the reception and dining rooms of the President's quarters, and the basement with its ancient American-made telecommunications equipment still in place, and strategic military maps lining the walls. Visit the **History Museum**. Built in 1929, this facility houses an excellent collection of artifacts illustrating the evolution of the cultures of Vietnam, from the Bronze Age Dong Son civilization to Cham, Khmer and modern-day Vietnam. Returning to the airport you will continue your onward air journey to **Siem Reap** in Cambodia. **Dinner** at Viroth's restaurant (or similar). Overnight at your hotel in Siem Reap.

Day 2 (B/L/D)

This morning an optional tour for sunrise at Angkor Wat is available (at your own expense), returning in time for breakfast at hotel. After **breakfast** at the hotel, hop aboard a **tuk tuk** for a fun ride to **Angkor Wat**—the largest temple in the world, whose volume of stone equals that of the Cheops pyramid in Egypt. It is unlike all other Khmer temples in that it faces west, and is inspired by 12th-century Hinduism. Its symmetrical towers are stylized on the modern Cambodian flag. Conceived by Suryavarman II, Angkor Wat took an estimated 30 years to build. It is generally believed to have been a funeral temple for the king. It has been occupied continuously by Buddhist monks and is well preserved. Intricate bas reliefs surround Angkor

Wat on four sides. Each tells a story. The most celebrated of these is the Churning of the Ocean of Milk, which is located on the east wing. In it, the Naga serpent is twisted by demons and gods to spurt out the elixir of life. Return to your hotel for **lunch**. Afternoon, visit the monumental **Angkor Thom**—the last capital of the Khmers. With its Elephant Terrace, the Terrace of the Leper King, the stunning **Bayon Temple**, a 12th-century masterpiece, lies at the center of Angkor Thom and is a wonder of symmetry and grandeur. The exterior gallery walls have extensive bas reliefs but the highlight is the ‘faces’—more than 200 of them, with the famous half-smile playing on their lips. PJ de Beerski wrote of them, ‘godliness in the majesty and the size, mystery in the expression.’ Continue your exploration of the Angkor temples at **Ta Prohm**. This temple has been left largely in its natural state since its ‘re-discovery’ by French explorers. Surrounded by jungle, its labyrinth of stone hallways is overgrown with the roots and limbs of massive banyan trees that envelop it like tentacles. It is one of the largest temples at Angkor, dedicated in 1186. Historians have noted its mystical charm. Entering the courtyards is like stepping into a new kind of vegetable world—not of branches and leaves, but of roots. Ta Prohm is an exhibition of the mysterious subterranean life of plants, offering an infinite variety of cross sections. ‘Huge trees have seeded themselves on the roofs of the squat towers and their soaring trunks are obscured from sight, but here one can study in comfort the drama of those secret and conspiratorial activities that labor to support their titanic growth,’ said Norman Lewis in *A Dragon Apparent*. Enjoy **dinner** and a show at the hotel.

Day 3 (B)

Early this morning, transfer to Siem Reap airport for a flight to **Phnom Penh**. **Breakfast** at a hotel in Phnom Penh; then, visit the **Royal Palace**, built in 1866 by King Norodom. The palace is made up of a number of structures within a pagoda-style compound—one of which is the Silver Pagoda. The **Silver Pagoda** takes its name from the 5,000+ silver tiles and the building itself holds a number of National Treasures—perhaps most notably a life-sized gold Maitreya Buddha decorated with 9584 diamonds, weighing in at 90 kg, and a small 17th-century Emerald Buddha made from baccarat crystal. Then, take an overland drive to your ship in Sihanoukville. It will take approximately 4½ hours and will cover approximately 150 miles, with a 15-minute stop en route. A **boxed lunch** is provided.

Notes:

Modest attire is required for visiting temples; no fitted or collarless tops are allowed; shirts/blouses must cover shoulders; trousers must cover ankles; shorts and skirts are not permitted. A wrap is not sufficient. Wear closed-toe shoes; no sandals or backless shoes. Men must wear socks. The Apsara Authority will not allow children under 12 years old to climb up to the top level of Angkor Wat. Travel time from Sihanoukville to Phnom Penh is approximately four hours. Travel from Phu My port to Saigon is approximately two hours. Due to this tour’s popularity, exclusivity, and strict booking conditions, tour bookings must be confirmed 60 days prior to the actual call to Sihanoukville with no cancellations allowed thereafter. **Important:** It is each guest’s sole responsibility to obtain (before traveling) any visas, vaccinations and/or tourist cards that are required for participating in overland adventures or overnight tours, unless noted otherwise in the description. Please be aware that you may need a visa for any and/or all countries that you will depart from and travel through as part of your overland adventure or overnight tour, and for the country in which you will re-join the ship.

Angkor Wat & Saigon Overland Adventure (Single)



3 days/2 nights



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Ba Ria: A Local Life Experience



Approximately 3½ Hours



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Located a short distance inland from Phu My Port is the untouched rural area of **Ba Ria Province**. Here, a small township, located around a village square, is filled with fading colonial architecture—neglected, but nonetheless bringing a touch of French elegance to the typically rural surroundings. As yet, this area has seen little in the way of urban development and many inhabitants continue to lead their lives the way they have for generations. You will visit a local **Buddhist temple** and drive past the local market place for a glimpse of everyday local life. Next you'll have the rare opportunity to enter the confines of a **traditional Vietnamese home**. Partitioned into three separate areas, this 100-year-old house, complete with clay floor, has been passed on through six generations from the colonial times of the French to the present day. As in nearly all Vietnamese homes, a series of altars stands proudly in memory of deceased family members. The owners welcome a visit from outsiders and are pleased to talk about their simple but traditionally rich lifestyle. For all Vietnamese, rice is the staple diet, but it can also be made into many different forms. Your next stop allows you to see the **process of rice paper making** and a **distillery** producing the local 'moonshine'—a potent form of rice wine. Finally, step inside a colorful **Cao Dai temple**. This religion was officially founded in 1926 and within a year the group had 26,000 followers. By the mid-1950s eight percent of South Vietnamese were Cao Daist. Founded in an attempt to create the ideal religion through fusion of secular and religious philosophies of east and west, Cao Daism is fascinating combination of Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Hinduism, native Vietnamese spirits, Christianity and Islam. Look out for the official Cao Dai symbol—the 'divine' eye—inset into the front of the temple above the altar.

Cu Chi Tunnels



Approximately 8½ Hours



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Enjoyed it?



4.3 out of 5

Value



3.8 out of 5

5 out of 5(100%)reviewers would recommend this product to a friend.

[Read all 5 reviews](#)

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A comfortable motor coach will transport you out of the port of Phu My and into the surrounding countryside. As you approach **Cu Chi**, it is hard to believe you are entering what was a war zone of incredible strategic importance. This tour focuses on the ingenuity and resilience of the Vietnamese fighters who both lived and fought from underground tunnels. Originally constructed as a means to fight against the French by the Viet Minh, the tunnels were later expanded up to 36 feet below ground in hard soil using only rudimentary tools. Most tunnels were only 2 – 2½ feet wide and 4½ feet tall, with thick roofs capable of withstanding the weight of tanks or the impact of bombs. Watch a **short video** that traces the history of the tunnels, their origins, construction and design. Then, a military guide will explain, with the use of dioramas, the underground network. On display are some of the tools and weapons used by the guerrilla fighters. Much of the tunnel complex has been opened and ventilated so that you can more easily experience the underground meeting rooms, kitchens, hospital and sleeping areas. More adventurous and agile tunnel explorers can experience an **unlit passage**, which has not been enlarged for the comfort of visitors. See if you can find the hidden tunnel entrances and learn about the ingenious methods Vietnamese soldiers employed to remain undetected and frustrate their enemies. Refreshments (at your own expense) and souvenirs are available in the nearby parking area, which also displays some military paraphernalia. **Lunch** is served during the tour.

Notes:

The information is presented from a Vietnamese perspective. While the portrayal of their story may be at odds with American sentiment, it is nonetheless an interesting visit. It is important to note that, after the fall of Saigon, the guerrilla fighters were considered heroes, and still are by many older Vietnamese people. Wear sturdy shoes, sunscreen and insect repellent. Guests visiting lower levels of the tunnels may get dirty. Travel time to Cu Chi Tunnels is approximately three hours each way.

Phu My Private Touring - Full Day (Car)



Approximately 8 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person. See additional NOTES below.



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Enjoyed it?



5 out of 5

Value



5 out of 5

1 out of 1(100%)reviewers would recommend this product to a friend.

[Read 1 review](#)

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[Write a review](#)

Explore at your own pace with a private vehicle, driver and English-speaking guide at your service. This exclusive tour is designed to allow you the chance to customize your time ashore and discover the most interesting sights in the comfort and privacy of your own vehicle. With

your private vehicle, and the personalized attention of your driver and English-speaking guide, you will have the flexibility and independence to design your itinerary ashore according to your own interests, and take in the sights at your own pace. See the famous sights, or go beyond to create your own intimate connections and unique cultural encounters. The Signature Collection is recommended for the single/solo traveler, couples, family, friends, and special interest groups traveling together. It can also be an excellent choice for guests with mobility limitations. Capacity: 2 guests. Your private party may be of any size up to the maximum capacity.

Notes:

Private cars are ordered per vehicle (not per person), so only one person in the party needs to order the vehicle. The price shown is the total cost for the vehicle, driver, and English-speaking guide. Entrance fees for attractions are not included. In many destinations, the number of vehicles available is extremely limited, so guests are encouraged to secure their private vehicle reservation as early as possible.

Phu My Private Touring - Full Day (Minivan)



Approximately 8 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person. See additional NOTES below.



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Enjoyed it?



5 out of 5

Value



4 out of 5

1 out of 1(100%)reviewers would recommend this product to a friend.

[Read 1 review](#)

|

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Explore at your own pace with a private vehicle, driver and English-speaking guide at your service. This exclusive tour is designed to allow you the chance to customize your time ashore and discover the most interesting sights in the comfort and privacy of your own vehicle. With your private vehicle, and the personalized attention of your driver and English-speaking guide, you will have the flexibility and independence to design your itinerary ashore according to your own interests, and take in the sights at your own pace. See the famous sights, or go beyond to create your own intimate connections and unique cultural encounters. The Signature Collection is recommended for the single/solo traveler, couples, family, friends, and special interest groups traveling together. It can also be an excellent choice for guests with mobility limitations. Capacity: 4 guests. Your private party may be of any size up to the maximum capacity.

Notes:

Private minivans are ordered per vehicle (not per person), so only one person in the party needs to order the vehicle. The price shown is the total cost for the vehicle, driver, and English-speaking guide. Entrance fees for attractions are not included. In many destinations, the number of vehicles available is extremely limited, so guests are encouraged to secure their private vehicle reservation as early as possible.

Phu My Private Touring - Half Day (Car)



Approximately 4 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person. See additional NOTES below.



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Phu My Private Touring - Half Day (Minivan)



Approximately 4 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person. See additional NOTES below.



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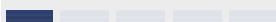


Enjoyed it?



4 out of 5

Value



1 out of 5

0 out of 1(0%) reviewers would recommend this product to a friend.

[Read 1 review](#)

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Sensational Saigon



Approximately 8½ Hours



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Enjoyed it?



3.8 out of 5

Value



4.3 out of 5

4 out of 4(100%)reviewers would recommend this product to a friend.

[Read all 4 reviews](#)

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Transfer by motor coach to the center of bustling **Ho Chi Minh City**. Your first stop is at the recently renovated **City Museum**—a wonderful example of French heritage that has survived the surge of development currently enveloping old Saigon. Among the most attractive buildings in the city, the museum belonged to the Emperor Gia Long at the beginning of French rule in the mid-1800s. Since 1975, it has housed artifacts unique to Vietnam’s culture and history, including a wide selection of rarely seen black and white images of the communist struggle for power in Vietnam. From there you will drive down the wide **Boulevard of Le Duan** to the city park. Founded by the French in 1864, this sprawling green area remains the vital lung of this incredibly populous city. It offers a quiet serenity for busy city folk—a respite from the teeming streets. Enjoy a short walk through the grounds before continuing to the **Notre Dame Cathedral**. Although it is not quite as impressive as its Parisian namesake, French colonists proudly paid homage to the motherland with the construction of this Roman-Gothic-style church whose construction materials hailed entirely from France. Enjoy a sumptuous buffet **lunch** of Asian and Western dishes at a local hotel. You’ll also visit the former Presidential Palace, now **Reunification Hall**, made famous when a North Vietnamese tank crashed through the front gates on 30th April, 1975, signaling the end of the Vietnam War. It has changed little since that time. Your tour will include the reception and dining rooms of the President’s quarters and the basement—still full of ancient American-made telecommunications equipment and strategic military maps lining the walls. Enjoy a short visit to a **lacquer ware workshop** before returning to Phu My port.

Notes:

Travel time to Ho Chi Minh City is approximately two hours each way.

The Best of Ho Chi Minh City



Approximately 8½ Hours



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Enjoyed it?



2.7 out of 5

Value



2.3 out of 5

1 out of 3(33%)reviewers would recommend this product to a friend.

[Read all 3 reviews](#)

|

[Write a review](#)

Drive from Phu My through pretty countryside dotted with rice fields and rubber plantations. The main 'highway' is packed with bicycles, heavily laden buses and people making their way to market. This tour introduces the major highlights of bustling **Ho Chi Minh City**, still commonly referred to as **Saigon**. Among the grand old buildings, you will see colorful markets selling everything from chilies to French baguettes. The former **Presidential Palace** is now known as Independence Palace. This historic building was made famous when a North Vietnamese tank crashed through its front gates in 1975, signaling the end of the Vietnam War. It has changed little since that time and is now retained as a museum. Your tour will include the reception and dining rooms of the President's quarters, and the basement with its ancient American-made telecommunications equipment still in place, and strategic military maps lining the walls. Drive by the Notre Dame Cathedral—a neo-Classical structure dating back to the 19th century. The imposing twin spires have long heralded arrival in Saigon to passenger liners that travel the winding Saigon River. Enjoy a sumptuous buffet **lunch** of Asian and Western dishes at one of Ho Chi Minh City's most luxurious hotels. After lunch, visit the **History Museum**. Built in 1929, this facility houses an excellent collection of artifacts illustrating the evolution of the cultures of Vietnam, from the Bronze Age Dong Son civilization to Cham, Khmer and modern-day Vietnam. Visit a **lacquer ware workshop** before returning to Phu My port.

Notes:

Travel time to Ho Chi Minh City is approximately two hours each way.

Transfer to Saigon



Approximately 8½ Hours



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Enjoyed it?



4 out of 5

Value



4 out of 5

1 out of 1(100%)reviewers would recommend this product to a friend.

[Read 1 review](#)

|

[Write a review](#)

This **transfer** may suit you if you would like to **explore on your own**. It consists of a motor coach ride from the ship to **Ho Chi Minh City**. You will be dropped off at a central location, and the coach escort will advise you of the pick-up time for the return journey. You will have time to shop and explore on your own.

Notes:

Guide service, taxi transfers, entrance fees and lunch are not included in the transfer price. It will be your responsibility to be at the pick-up point at the given return time. An English-speaking escort will be aboard the transfer motor coach to answer questions en route. Travel time to Ho Chi Minh City is approximately two hours each way.

Vung Tau Highlights



Approximately 4 Hours



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Enjoyed it?



4 out of 5

Value



4 out of 5

1 out of 1(100%)reviewers would recommend this product to a friend.

[Read 1 review](#)

|

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Vung Tau was known as Cap St Jacques during the days of the French occupation, and has always been a popular beach resort for residents of Saigon. Attractive villas that dot the hillsides have now been converted into guesthouses. The resort is on a peninsula lined with miles of sandy beach. Drive along the coast past a 100-foot-tall statue of Jesus, and visit a hillside Buddhist temple with attractive views. Further around the peninsula, you will see the so-called Bay of Boats, where numerous colorful wooden fishing boats are anchored. A visit to the former Royal Residence of Bach Dinh, the **White Villa**, is included. Enjoy spectacular views over the bay from the frangipani-scented gardens of the villa as you return to the ship.

Notes:

Maximum age is 75 years.