



COLORADO SPRINGS
WORLD AFFAIRS
COUNCIL

Vietnam & Cambodia
A Journey of Sites, Sound, and Spirit
March 16 – 27, 2025



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival - Sunday, March 16

Arrive in Hanoi and transfer to your accommodation to recover after a long flight. Introductions and dinner offered in the early evening.

Overnight: [Solaria Hotel](#), Hanoi [D]

Day 2: Hanoi Introductions - Monday, March 17



Appreciate the artistic and culinary wonders of Hanoi while navigating the colors and bustle that characterizes a modern Vietnamese city. Begin by visiting the mausoleum dedicated to the founder of modern Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh, followed by the Temple of Literature (Temple of Confucius), the oldest university in Vietnam dating to the 11th century. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant sponsored by an NGO for youth-at-risk. Make your way to Hoa Lo Prison, known as the “Hanoi Hilton” by former American POWs, and end the day walking through the eclectic Old Quarters in Hoan Kiem District while sampling a variety of street food wonders that have earned Hanoi the title of street food capital of the world! Overnight: [Solaria Hotel](#), Hanoi (B, L, D)

Day 3: Halong Bay – Tuesday, March 18



Today will be a long day, but worth it. We'll travel by private bus to World Heritage-listed Halong Bay, which is dotted with sandy coves, grottoes, and 1600 limestone islands formed over millennia by wind and water erosion. There's a reason Halong Bay is one of the most photographed places in Vietnam — it's ridiculously beautiful. Along the way, we might pass fields of busy workers farming their rice using traditional methods of cultivation. Once in Halong Bay, we'll hop a traditional junk and glide through azure waters while enjoying a seafood lunch on board. After lunch, we'll sail past some of the bay's most iconic locations and then disembark for a guided walk to Surprise Cave. There will be a short time for a swim or to climb to the top of one of the islands. After enjoying the sunset in this beautiful bay, we'll head back to Hanoi, stopping en route to buy a snack dinner on your own, before arriving at the hotel in time for bed. Overnight: [Solaria Hotel](#) (B, L)

Day 4: Hoi An – Wednesday, March 19



Today fly to Da Nang, from which you continue by private bus to Hoi An, an ancient city noted for its well-preserved architectural mix of Chinese, French, Japanese, and Vietnamese styles. An aesthetic mainstay of Hoi An is the innumerable traditional lanterns that dot city streets. Meet a master crafter who demonstrates how to fashion your own lantern and join a culinary workshop in the evening with a cook at a recently launched neighborhood eatery.

Overnight: [Little Hoi An Boutique Hotel](#) (B, D)

Day 5: Hoi An – Thursday, March 20

Set off on a walking tour of Hoi An's Old Town and discover a blend of traditional treasures and cultural influences from historical traders. Your leader will discuss the city's history as you wander the pagoda-lined streets, visit a Chinese assembly hall, cross the Japanese Covered Bridge, enter the ornately decorated historic house of a former trader, and check out a local museum. Hoi An was once a great trading port for pottery, and centuries-old pottery villages still exist to this day.

No trip to Vietnam is complete without trying its famed coffee – your leader will take you to a local coffee shop, where you can savor a delicious brew as you watch the hustle and bustle of Hoi An. Your afternoon is free for your own explorations. *Overnight: Little Hoi An Boutique Hotel (B)*

Day 6: Cam Kim – Friday, March 21

Explore the rural island of Cam Kim on the other side of the Thu Bon River, one of the few areas around Hoi An that has preserved the authentic lifestyle of the Vietnam countryside. Meet local residents at their home and taste home-cooked specialties such as rice wines and noodles.

Overnight: Little Hoi An Boutique Hotel (B, L)

Day 7: Ho Chi Minh – Saturday, March 22

Fly to Ho Chi Minh and head into the city for a tour guided by a war veteran through the infamous network of Cu Chi tunnels, used by the Viet Cong as their main base of operations for the Tet Offensive in 1968. The over 200km of underground tunnels offer perspective on the struggle that the Vietnamese would have experienced on the frontline. This city is, however, much more than its past conflicts. Explore the urban landscape and key sites, for a fascinating exploration of history, culture, and the daily life of local residents.

Overnight: [Sotetsu Grand Fresa Saigon](#), Ho Chi Minh City (B)

Day 8: Ho Chi Minh – Sunday, March 23

Visit the War Remnants Museum in the morning for a meaningful retrospective on the legacy of armed struggle. Conclude your visit to Vietnam by exploring the Mekong Delta, learning how the distinctive island communities known for producing the iconic Pho rice paper or exotic fruits have infused a national culture. Enjoy a home-cooked meal and farewell before heading to the airport for an evening flight to Cambodia. Arrive in Phnom Penh, where a light dinner is waiting at your accommodation.

Overnight: [Pavilion Hotel](#), Phnom Penh (B, L, D)

Day 9: Phnom Penh – Monday, March 24



Head to the Royal Palace, including the Silver Pagoda, to admire its impressive architecture and the Emerald Buddha. In the afternoon, dive into the heavier subjects portrayed at the Tuol Sleng Museum and the fields of Choeung Ek for insights into the tragic history and legacy of the Khmer Rouge regime. In the evening, stroll the bustling Sisowath Quay to enjoy the riverside atmosphere and dinner with views of the Tonle Sap and Mekong Rivers.

Overnight: Pavilion Hotel, Phnom Penh (B, D)

Day 10: Siem Reap – Tuesday, March 25

Fly or drive in the morning from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap, arriving by midday to begin your exploration of the Angkor Archaeological Park, including wandering through the intricate corridors of the Angkor Wat Temple, the largest religious monument in the world. Enjoy the vibrant evening scene in Siem Reap, and find dinner on your own.

Overnight: [Viroth's Hotel](#), Siem Reap (B)

Day 11: Angkor Temples & Culture – Wednesday, March 26



Behind the day early with a visit to Angkor Thom, the ancient capital city. See the Bayon Temple, famous for its smiling stone faces and the Terrace of the Elephants. Continue to the unique atmosphere around Ta Prohm (“Tomb Raider Temple”), where massive tree roots are intertwined with man-made site ruins. Enjoy a traditional dance performance in the evening at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Viroth’s Hotel, Siem Reap (B, D)

Day 12: Departure – Thursday, March 27

Head to the airport for your departing flights.

Rates:

Based on a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 15 travelers: \$5,775

Single supplement: \$840

Includes:

- 11 nights’ accommodations
- Most meals
- Entrance fees to all sites in the itinerary
- Local tour guide throughout

Exclusions:

- International airfare
- Travel insurance
- Tips for guides and hotel staff
- Transfers not on group arrival/departure flight
- Anything not explicitly mentioned in the included section