

Epic Southeast Asia: River Cruises & Karst Mountains - ATIS

40 days: Bangkok to Ko Tao

What's Included

- Your G for Good Moment: Local Khmer Meal, Siem Reap
- Your G for Good Moment: Oodles of Noodles, Hoi An
- Your G for Good Moment: Mekong River Homestay & Baci Ceremony, Muang Pakbèng
- Your G for Good Moment: Kao Thép Pitak Community-Owned Farm & Meal, Ban Ta Khun
- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your First Night Out Moment: Connect With New Friends
- Your Big Night Out Moment: - Siem Reap, Siem Reap
- Your Discover Moment: Phnom Penh
- Your Local Living Moment: Home Meal, Chambok
- Your Discover Moment: Ho Chi Minh City
- Your Foodie Moment: Nha Trang Street Food Crawl, Nha Trang
- Your Big Night Out Moment: Reminisce Riverside, Hoi An
- Your Big Night Out Moment: Vang Vieng Nightlife, Vang Vieng
- Your Discover Moment: Luang Prabang
- Your Discover Moment: Chiang Mai
- Your Big Night Out Moment: Chiang Mai Celebration, Chiang Mai
- Your Discover Moment: Bangkok
- Your Big Night Out Moment: Beach Bar, Ko Tao
- Guided sunrise tour of Angkor Wat temple complex
- Orientation walks in Ho Chi Minh City, Hoi An, Hanoi, Phnom Penh, and Luang Prabang
- Halong Bay boat cruise with lunch
- Guided hike, sunset cruise and waterfall excursion in Laos
- Slow boat up the Mekong
- Five street food crawls in different cities
- Internal flight
- Visit to Chiang Mai night market
- Hilltribe trek
- Bamboo rafting
- Lake Cheow Lan Excursion
- Full-day snorkelling trip from Ko Tao
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing January 13th, 2023 and onwards

Itinerary

NOTE: Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1 Bangkok

Arrive at any time and welcome to Thailand's bustling capital - Bangkok!

Tonight, meet your CEO and get to know fellow travellers as you cheers to new adventures.

You must arrive on tour with your Vietnamese visa. See the Visa section of the Tour Details for more information and exceptions.

Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

Your First Night Out Moment: Connect With New Friends

Connect with new friends on your first night out in a new destination. Only available on 18-to-Thirtysomethings tours.

Accommodation

W22 by Burasari (or similar)

Hotel

Day 2 Bangkok/Siem Reap

Cross the border from Thailand into Cambodia, your home base for exploring Siem Reap and the incredible Angkor Wat. Opt to check out Phare Circus, a uniquely Cambodian experience.

Prefer to plan ahead? Pre-book the "Phare Circus" activity when booking your tour to include this exciting activity in your itinerary.

Private Vehicle

Bangkok – Aranyaprathet 4h-4h Morning

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Border Crossing (Thailand - Cambodia)

Aranyaprathet – Paôy Pêt 30m-1h

Get ready to cross into Cambodia. Aranyaprathet is known for being one of the most hectic border crossings but CEOs will help make the process go as smoothly as possible. The border crossing is done on foot and can take up to an hour so be patient and think of all the fun Cambodia has in store.

Private Vehicle

Paôy Pêt – Siem Reap 3h-3h Afternoon

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Free Time

Siem Reap Evening

Enjoy free time and see the Phare Circus.

Optional Activities - Day 2

Phare Circus

Siem Reap

Enjoy a stellar performance by Phare, a unique and socially conscious circus that injects Cambodian culture and history into its inspiring shows. See acrobatics, contortion, and aerial arts melded with theatre, modern dance, and more. Take in stories of war, relationships, and discrimination, inspired by the real-life experiences of Phare's creators and performers.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation

Garden Village Siem Reap (or similar)

Guesthouse

Day 3 Siem Reap

Watch the sun rise over the majestic and mystifying ruins of Angkor Wat. Then, taste all manners of salty, sweet, spicy, and sour with a delicious Khmer meal at a restaurant kickstarted by our non-profit partner, Planeterra, or with a local family. Later, head to the infamous Pub Street, where the party goes round the clock. Grab a bite to eat (deep-fried tarantula, anyone?) and let the beats move you through market stalls and bars.

Angkor Wat Guided Tour

Angkor Wat

Enjoy a tour of the impressive ancient ruins with a local guide. Explore magnificent Angkor Wat temple-- Visit the enigmatic faces of Bayon within the walled city of Angkor Thom, and tour Ta Prohm (aka the "Tomb Raider" temple), which is slowly being swallowed by the jungle.

Your G for Good Moment: Local Khmer Meal

Depending on the day of the week your tour visits Siem Reap, you will either enjoy a traditional meal at the G Adventures-supported New Hope project or in a local home in a nearby village. With so many travellers coming through this area, alternating experiences helps to allow multiple small businesses to flourish. Both experiences are truly unique and memorable.

The New Hope Vocational Training Restaurant, an initiative kickstarted by G Adventures, provides skill-building opportunities to marginalized community members. The project also funds the adjacent free community school and health centre. Meals at Phila's house support the education of underprivileged children in the area. Visit either project – both run by locals – and see how they have supported positive change in the community.

Your Big Night Out Moment: - Siem Reap

Head to YOLO Bar for a free drink and insect tasting, if you so desire. Cheers to all the life-changing adventures with newfound friends and dance the night away!

Optional Activities - Day 3

Tonle Sap Floating Village

Siem Reap

25-30USD per person

Tour the floating villages of Tonlé Sap. See what life is like living on a lake — rice planting, attending churches and school, are all done on top of water. (Please note: this activity runs seasonally.)

Angkor Museum Visit

Siem Reap

12USD per person

Learn about the story of Angkor and the Khmer empire at the interactive Angkor Museum. Explore the museum's inspiring galleries and interactive technology, which bring Angkor's past to life. Opt to rent an audioguide (5USD) for the full experience.

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch

Accommodation

Garden Village Siem Reap (or similar)

Guesthouse

Day 4 Siem Reap/Phnom Penh

Travel to Phnom Penh, Cambodia's busy capital nestled along the mighty Mekong River. Get your bearings on an orientation walk and spend the rest of the evening at leisure.

Local Bus

Siem Reap – Phnom Penh 6h-7h

Climb aboard, grab a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Orientation With CEO

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation

Angkor International Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

Day 5 Phnom Penh

Spend the day diving deep into Phnom Penh's culture and history. Opt to reflect on one of Cambodia's darkest periods with a visit to the Tuol Sleng Prison and the Killing Fields. Or venture to the Silver Pagoda or Royal Palace for a more peaceful experience. Later, discover the foodie side of this city on a street food crawl.

Phnom Penh can be confusing and we recommend to always keep a hotel card with you when you are exploring.

Street Food Crawl - Phnom Penh

Phnom Penh 1h

Bring your appetite and your wallet. The CEO will bring the group to the best spots to eat and teach everyone about the local street food. Yum!

Your Discover Moment

Phnom Penh Full Day

There's plenty to see and do in Phnom Penh, and we wanted to make sure that you had some time to take it all in. Feel free to relax or try optional activities like visiting the National Museum, going to the Silver Pagoda, and checking out the Royal Palace. Your CEO has more ideas if you need them. Just ask!

Optional Activities - Day 5

National Museum Visit

Phnom Penh

10USD per person

Wander the galleries of the National Museum to see amazing works of art from Cambodia's "golden age" of Angkor. Visit the museum's lovely courtyard before you leave.

Silver Pagoda Visit

Phnom Penh

10USD per person

Tour the Royal Palace complex to see the neighboring Silver Pagoda (aka the Temple of the Emerald Buddha). See the many magnificent treasures inside this beautiful vihara (Buddhist monastery), including its floor lined with more 5,000 tiles of silver.

Tuol Sleng Museum (S-21 Prison) & Choeung Ek (Killing Fields) Half-Day Guided Tour

Phnom Penh

22-26USD per person

Tour these sombre, yet serene, sites with a guide. Learn about the dark history and devastation that occurred at Security Prison 21 (S-21). Used by the Khmer Rouge regime, it is now Tuol Sleng Museum. Visit the killing fields of Choeung Ek, where the grounds now stand as a powerful memorial filled with victims' skulls and mass graves.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation

Angkor International Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

Day 6 Phnom Penh/Koh Rong

Ride in style to Sihanoukville and board a boat to your own private beach on Koh Rong island. Take the afternoon to taste local seafood, or sit back and relax with a drink before hitting the warm waves.

Please note that during monsoon season (between June to October), this itinerary may be subject to change based on weather conditions. If heavy rains and flooding prevent our boat from safely travelling to Koh Rong island, we will provide alternate activities and accommodations in a nearby town.

Private Vehicle

Phnom Penh – Sihanoukville 4h-5h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Ferry

Sihanoukville – Koh Rong 2h

Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation

Sok San Bay Resort Koh Rong (or similar)

Resort

Accommodations at this property are multi-share.

Day 7 Koh Rong

Enjoy your last full day on this pristine island. Do anything you might have missed the day before, like fishing, hiking, or kayaking. Wait 'til after sunset to swim in a sea of blue sparkles caused by phosphorescent plankton. Ooh la la!

Free Time

Koh Rong

Free time to enjoy paradise and hang around on the beach.

Accommodation

Sok San Bay Resort Koh Rong (or similar)

Resort

Accommodations at this property are multi-share.

Day 8 Chambok Homestay

Head back to the mainland and journey to Chambok Village where you'll spend the night and get to know the local people over a delicious Cambodian home cooked meal. Immerse yourself in the community and wander around this remote region.

Ferry

Koh Rong – Sihanoukville 2h

Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.

Private Vehicle

Sihanoukville – Chambok 1h30m-2h185km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Your Local Living Moment: Home Meal

Enjoy a delicious home-cooked meal served at a local residence – it's a great way to peek into day-to-day regional living.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation

Chambok Homestay (or similar)

Homestay

Accommodations at this property are multi-share.

Day 9 Chambok Homestay/Ho Chi Minh City

Cross another border into Vietnam, stopping in the famed Ho Chi Minh City where you'll spend the night at a popular backpackers hostel. Take this chance to visit the Ben Thanh Market for souvenirs and handicrafts before taking in the buzzing nightlife. Choose to venture to one of the many rooftop bars for a panoramic view and live music.

Private Vehicle

Chambok – Bavet

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Border Crossing (Cambodia - Vietnam)

Bavet – Mộc Bài

Ready for a little more ink in your passport? Get ready to cross another country off your bucket list.

Local Bus

Mộc Bài – Ho Chi Minh City

Climb aboard, grab a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation

Phan Anh Backpackers Hostel (or similar)

Hostel

Spend the night in Ho Chi Minh city's backpacker district. Walk to nearby Bui Vien Street where people come to eat, drink and experience the city's vibrant nightlife, or visit the Cho Thai Binh market right next to the hostel for tasty local specialties. Accommodations at this hostel are multi-share.

Day 10 Ho Chi Minh City/Nha Trang

Feel the pulse of Vietnam's biggest city on a CEO-led orientation walk, with free time after to double back to your favourite spots. Shop 'til your heart's content, immerse yourself in local culture, or just wander the streets to take in the city's unique vibe. Tonight, catch up on sleep on an overnight train to Nha Trang.

During January/February, Tết (the Vietnamese Lunar New Year) sees millions of Vietnamese commute to be with their families and celebrate. While this is a fascinating time to travel through Vietnam, availability of transport may mean that we will replace the overnight train with an overnight bus.

Orientation With CEO

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Basic Overnight Train (beds)

Ho Chi Minh City – Nha Trang 10h-11h

Experience overnight travel like a local. Sit back and get some well-earned (and likely much-needed) rest en route to your next stop.

Your Discover Moment

Ho Chi Minh City Full Day

There's plenty to see and do in Ho Chi Minh City, and we wanted to make sure that you had some time to take it all in. Feel free to relax or try optional activities like visiting the War Remnants Museum, checking out the Reunification Palace, and spending time at Thien Hau Pagoda. Your CEO has more ideas if you need them. Just ask!

Optional Activities - Day 10

War Remnants Museum Visit

Ho Chi Minh City – Hanoi

2USD per person

Visit the War Remnants Museum, a gut-wrenching but worthwhile experience that includes three storeys of exhibits and military hardware. Learn about the devastation that occurred in Saigon during the Vietnam War, a period that greatly contrasts the joy and liveliness of the Vietnamese people today.

Cu Chi Tunnels Guided Tour

Củ Chi

23-27USD per person

Take a guided tour of the Cu Chi Tunnels, a complex network of tunnels that the Viet Cong lived in to protect themselves from opposing forces during the Vietnam War. Try crawling through some of the tunnels (if you're not claustrophobic). These tunnels stored ammunition, had underground hospitals, and served as a hidden base for attacking allied forces.

Ben Thanh Market

Ho Chi Minh City

Wander this bustling market for more insight into Ho Chi Minh City. Pick up souvenirs, sample local cuisine, and experience local living. Learn a little history along the way; Ben Thanh started as a cluster of street vendors selling wares by the Saigon River, and was formalized into a true market in 1859.

Cholon Visit

Ho Chi Minh City

Take in the busy rhythm of daily life in Cholon, the Chinatown of Ho Chi Minh City. Tour the area full of teahouses, pagodas, and people, and learn a little more about the unique culture within the city.

Ho Chi Minh City Cyclo Tour

Ho Chi Minh City

10USD per person

Take a city tour on a cyclo (cycle rickshaw) – a great way to absorb the sights, sounds, and smells of Ho Chi Minh City while keeping your hands free for that camera action.

Dam Sen Water Park Visit

Ho Chi Minh City

4USD per person

Get away from the hustle and bustle of Ho Chi Minh City at this nearby water park. A lush setting and refreshing water make Dam Sen the perfect place for the whole family to cool off and have some fun—splash around or take a ride down one of the slides.

Reunification Palace Visit

Ho Chi Minh City

2USD per person

Wander the historic halls of the Reunification Palace (Independence Palace), a landmark in Ho Chi Minh City. This former home of the South Vietnamese president during the Vietnam War became the location of the end of the war when a North Vietnamese tank pushed through the palace gates on April 30, 1975.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 11 Nha Trang

You've arrived! Welcome to the eastern sea. Take this morning to explore local shops and markets, rejuvenate in a therapeutic mud bath, relax on the beach, or visit nearby historical sites before an evening street food crawl.

Free Time

Nha Trang Full Day

Spend your free time in this scenic resort town any way you want – go for a spa treatment, cycle around the city or just kick back and relax on a white sand beach.

Your Foodie Moment: Nha Trang Street Food Crawl

Bring your appetite and your wallet. The CEO will bring the group to the best spots to eat and teach everyone about the local street food. Yum!

Optional Activities - Day 11

Snorkelling

Nha Trang

Book a snorkelling day trip near one of the local tropical islands. Grab a snorkel and explore Nha Trang Bay's underwater world.

Nha Trang Boat Tour and Snorkelling

Nha Trang

29USD per person

Board a boat in the morning at Nha Trang's harbour for hours of fun. Begin with a visit to an island fishing village to take in daily life by foot, then take a ride in a basket boat. Afterwards, go for a swim or snorkel. Relax on the beach before heading back to Nha Trang.

Mud Bath Visit

Nha Trang

20USD per person

Take a relaxing dip in the therapeutic mud baths of Nha Trang. Thought to possess healing properties, the mud baths are the perfect place to unwind.

Accommodation

Bondi Backpackers Nha Trang (or similar)

Hostel

Take in the city views while floating in the rooftop pool or chill out by the rooftop bar. Get the best of both worlds here by being close to the beach with exclusive access to the hotel lounge. Accommodations at this hostel are multi-share.

Day 12 Nha Trang/Da Nang

It's not over yet. There's more free time to explore Nha Trang today, so soak it all in. Then, hop on an overnight train to continue to Hoi An, stopping first in Da Nang for a short transfer.

Free Time

Nha Trang

Spend your free time in this seaside resort town any way you want – go for a spa treatment, cycle around the city or just kick back on a white sand beach.

Basic Overnight Train (beds)

Nha Trang – Da Nang 9h-10h

Experience overnight travel like a local. Sit back and get some well-earned (and likely much-needed) rest en route to your next stop.

Optional Activities - Day 12

Snorkelling

Nha Trang

Book a snorkelling day trip near one of the local tropical islands. Grab a snorkel and explore Nha Trang Bay's underwater world.

Nha Trang Boat Tour and Snorkelling

Nha Trang

29USD per person

Board a boat in the morning at Nha Trang's harbour for hours of fun. Begin with a visit to an island fishing village to take in daily life by foot, then take a ride in a basket boat. Afterwards, go for a swim or snorkel. Relax on the beach before heading back to Nha Trang.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 13 Da Nang/Hoi An

Hoi An's excited to meet you. See why on an orientation walk of the city before spending free time in the afternoon. Dig even deeper and choose between a cooking class, cycling to the beach, visiting a tailor, or exploring old town. Tonight's the night for your big night out, grab a drink on our tab and reminisce about your favourite adventures so far. Then dance the night away!

From Danang, it is only a short drive to the picturesque port town of Hoi An. Once known as Faifo, it was an important trading town with strong south Chinese influence and connections.

Private Vehicle

Da Nang – Hoi An 45m-1h28km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Hoi An Orientation Walk

Hoi An

Join your CEO on a stroll through the winding streets of Hoi An's Old Town and spot Chinese assembly halls, historic homes, and well-preserved pagodas along the way. (Entrance fee to Hoi An's Old Town is not included)

Free Time

Hoi An Afternoon

Get out and explore this beautiful city.

Your Big Night Out Moment: Reminisce Riverside

Follow your CEO to the best riverside bar in Hoi An to celebrate new adventures with new friends. Grab a drink on our tab and reminisce about your favourite experiences thus far. Later, venture to the dance floor, take advantage of the drink specials, and make it a night to remember!

Optional Activities - Day 13

Tailor Shops

Hoi An

Go home with some new (handmade!) clothes from one of Hoi An's famous tailor shops. Walk the streets lined with hundreds of local shops that turn out gorgeous suits, dresses, winter coats, shoes, purses - almost anything - in a day's time to create next season's wardrobe.

Cua Dai Beach

Hoi An

Play in the surf at Cua Dai beach about 4km (2.5 mi) away from the Old Town. Make your own picnic of local food and rest under one of the palm trees lining the shore.

Accommodation

Hoi An Paradise Hostel (or similar)

Hostel

Close to the old town with vibes of a secluded resort, this is the perfect spot for hanging out poolside or exploring the city. Wander the tropic fruit garden when you're not out exploring the historic old town. Accommodations at this hostel are multi-share.

Day 14 Hoi An

Noodles might be fun to eat, but they're even more fun to make. Find out how during a visit to G Adventures-supported Oodles of Noodles. The rest of the day is yours, so see what you can discover. Choose to visit the ancient ruins of My Son, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, or cruise down the Thu Bon River.

Your G for Good Moment: Oodles of Noodles

Try some of the oodles of noodles (more than 26 types!) available in the city in this tasty cooking class. Run by our G for Good partners, STREETS International, this class was developed exclusively for G Adventures. Former street youth that are part of this hospitality training program, will help you prepare and cook a number of different types of noodles. This program helps these youth practice their English, increasing their skill-set and opportunities available to them in the tourism industry. Enjoy your yummy creations while learning more about the local cuisine and this initiative which empowers street youth through skills and employment training.

Free Time

Hoi An Afternoon

Enjoy some free time in Hoi An any way you want. Check out the beach, take in some local culture or purchase some custom-made clothing from one of the talented tailors in town.

Optional Activities - Day 14

Hoi An Walking Tour

Hoi An 2h-3h

Stroll through the narrow winding streets of Hoi An's old town to see the Chinese assembly halls, ancestral homes, and well-preserved pagodas. Opt to stop for lunch and sample delicious local delicacies and fusion food at one of the restaurants for which Hoi An is becoming famous.

Tailor Shops

Hoi An

Go home with some new (handmade!) clothes from one of Hoi An's famous tailor shops. Walk the streets lined with hundreds of local shops that turn out gorgeous suits, dresses, winter coats, shoes, purses - almost anything - in a day's time to create next season's wardrobe.

Hoi An Bike and Boat Tour

Hoi An

Enjoy a peaceful exploration of the villages around Hoi An, cycling through rice paddies and along narrow country lanes. Take advantage of this tour - it includes a boat trip through the water palm forest and a visit to the farming village of Tra Que.

Thu Bon River Boat Trip

Hoi An

12USD per person

The Thu Bon River plays an important part in Hoi An's history and culture. Take a trip down the Thu Bon by river boat for an alternative tour of the city.

Cua Dai Beach

Hoi An

Play in the surf at Cua Dai beach about 4km (2.5 mi) away from the Old Town. Make your own picnic of local food and rest under one of the palm trees lining the shore.

Hoi An Cooking Class

Hoi An

30USD per person

Take a cooking class to learn more about Vietnamese food and its distinct flavours. Tour the local market to buy fresh ingredients before preparing some popular regional dishes. Enjoy your creations when you're done!

Mỹ Sơn Excursion

Mỹ Sơn

30USD per person

Travel approximately one hour from Hoi An to arrive at Mỹ Sơn. Tour these Hindu temples built between the fourth and 14th centuries; the site is widely accepted as one of the most important Hindu temple complexes in Southeast Asia. Learn about the architectural style and history of a site that's often compared to Angkor Wat in Cambodia and Bagan in Burma. Please note this optional activity is a half-day and includes a guide, transportation, the entrance fee, and lunch.

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch

Accommodation

Hoi An Paradise Hostel (or similar)

Hostel

Close to the old town with vibes of a secluded resort, this is the perfect spot for hanging out poolside or exploring the city. Wander the tropic fruit garden when you're not out exploring the historic old town. Accommodations at this hostel are multi-share.

Day 15 Hoi An/Huế

Head north to the Imperial City of Huế. There's lots to do here, with options to visit the indestructible Royal Citadel and tombs, cruise along Perfume River, or jump on a motorbike and ride around like the local people.

Pre-book the "Hue Motorbike Tour" on the checkout page ahead of time to include this speedy activity on your tour.

Private Vehicle

Hoi An - Huế 4h137km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Free Time

Huế Afternoon

Enjoy your free time in Hue any way you want. Shop, eat, wander or relax - whatever suits your fancy.

Optional Activities - Day 15

Imperial Citadel Tour

Huế

7USD per person

Tour this one-time capital city and UNESCO World Heritage site. See the walled fortress and former palace, which has many palaces, gateways, courtyards, and gardens to explore. The Forbidden Purple City (modelled on China's Forbidden City) inside the citadel was once home to the imperial family and was significantly damaged during the Vietnam War.

Perfume River Cruise

Huế

10USD per person

Enjoy this scenic evening cruise down the Perfume River. Shoot some memorable photographs and, perhaps, enjoy a nice cool breeze off the water.

Tien Mu Pagoda Visit

Huế

Visit Tien Mu, one of the tallest and, perhaps, most elegant pagodas in Vietnam, at seven storeys high. Take a step back in time touring this historic temple - built more than 400 years ago along the north shore of the Perfume River, it has been the site of many political protests.

Royal Tombs Entry

Huế

5USD per person

Visit the Royal Tombs along the Perfume River in Hue. Embracing the concept of Feng Shui, these tombs are extremely ornate and provide fantastic insight into the lives of the former rulers.

Cycling

Huế

10USD per person

Take to two wheels to see a true highlight of Hue – the countryside. See rural Vietnam, its villages, and cottage industries too.

Hue Moto Tour

Huế

Grab a helmet, hop on a motorbike driven by your experienced local guide, and get ready for a crash course in authentic Viet culture. Spend the next four hours exploring the stalls of a local market, making a Vietnamese conical hat, sipping on fresh green tea with a local family, learning to plough and make rice, and seeing the most iconic local sights. Don't forget to bring your camera!

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation

DMZ Hostel (or similar)

Hostel

The spot in Hue where all travellers come to meet. Come for the vibes and stay for the pizza and beers. Super close to the river and situated between tons of shops, bars, and restaurants, this spot has something for everyone. Accommodations at this hostel are multi-share.

Day 16 Huế/Phong Nha

Your second day in Huế comes with more free time to enjoy the city. In the afternoon, travel through Vietnam's stunning countryside to the green rocky mountains of Phong Nha-Kẻ Bàng National Park.

Private Vehicle

Huế – Phong Nha 4h215km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Free Time

Huế Half Day

Enjoy your free time in Hue any way you want. Shop, eat, wander or rest - whatever suits your fancy.

Optional Activities - Day 16

Imperial Citadel Tour

Huế

7USD per person

Tour this one-time capital city and UNESCO World Heritage site. See the walled fortress and former palace, which has many palaces, gateways, courtyards, and gardens to explore. The Forbidden Purple City (modelled on China's Forbidden City) inside the citadel was once home to the imperial family and was significantly damaged during the Vietnam War.

Hue City Tour

Huế

Take a tour of this imperial city to see the Thiên Mụ Buddhist pagoda, the tallest religious building in the country, the Japanese bridge, and the tombs of the emperors. Visit the Dong Ba Markets for local specialties such as bánh khoai (savory pancakes) and bánh bít tết (thin rice paper filled with meat and shrimp).

Perfume River Cruise

Huế

10USD per person

Enjoy this scenic evening cruise down the Perfume River. Shoot some memorable photographs and, perhaps, enjoy a nice cool breeze off the water.

Tien Mu Pagoda Visit

Huế

Visit Tien Mu, one of the tallest and, perhaps, most elegant pagodas in Vietnam, at seven storeys high. Take a step back in time touring this historic temple - built more than 400 years ago along the north shore of the Perfume River, it has been the site of many political protests.

Cycling

Huế

10USD per person

Take to two wheels to see a true highlight of Hue – the countryside. See rural Vietnam, its villages, and cottage industries too.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation

Sai Gon Phong Nha Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

Day 17 Phong Nha/Hanoi

Today, opt to head underground to explore the awe-inspiring caves of Phong Nha-Kẻ Bàng National Park, where the oldest karst mountains and longest cave in Asia are found. Then it's an overnight train to Hanoi.

Pre-book the full-day Caving in Phong Nha adventure to explore the longest cave in Asia, Paradise Cave, with massive stalactites. Enjoy a sumptuous Vietnamese lunch, then boat to the turquoise beach of Phong Nha Cave.

Free Time

Phong Nha

Enjoy your free day. We recommend visiting the region's famous caves!

Basic Overnight Train (beds)

Phong Nha – Hanoi

Experience overnight travel like a local. Sit back and get some well-earned (and likely much-needed) rest en route to your next stop.

Optional Activities - Day 17

Caving in Phong Nha

Phong Nha 8h-9h 10-20km

Explore the longest cave in all of Asia - Paradise Cave - by walking the boardwalks and awe at the massive white crystal stalactites. After an authentic Vietnamese lunch, board a dragon boat which will take you to the turquoise waters in Phong Nha Cave where you'll disembark on the caves beach and wander freely throughout the natural wonder.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 18 Hanoi/Ha Long

After arriving in Hanoi, the bustling capital of Vietnam, take a private bus to the iconic Halong Bay for a seafood lunch cruise and cave exploring. Be sure to charge your camera so you can grab a shot truly worth sharing!

Private Vehicle

Hanoi – Ha Long 4h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Hạ Long Bay Junk Boat Trip

Hạ Long Bay

Come aboard a sailing junk to cruise past thousands of limestone islands and karsts that rise from the waters of Halong Bay. See the intricate caves and beauty of the islands up close. Enjoy a seafood lunch and a visit to one of the island's caves before transferring to the mainland for our overnight stay.

On rare occasion Halong Bay is closed to tourist vessels by the government authorities due to extreme weather conditions. Should this occur, an alternate activity will be provided.

Optional Activities - Day 18

Kayaking

Hạ Long Bay 1h-2h

10USD per person

Transfer from boat to kayak in this guided water tour, giving you the chance to get even closer to the stunning natural surroundings.

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch

Accommodation

Halong Centrica Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

Day 19 Hạ Long Bay/Hanoi

Feel like you've gone back in time with an orientation walk through Hanoi's Old Quarter. Then stop for a drink at Bia Hoi Corner, a spot that serves bia hoi, a local beer made of rice and wheat - and costs a mere \$0.25USD per glass!

Interested in local cuisine? Opt to pre-book the "Hanoi Foodie Culture Tour" activity on the checkout page ahead of time, to include this yum on your tour.

Shared Van

Hạ Long Bay – Hanoi 4h

Climb aboard and make friends with your seatmate en route to the next stop.

Old Quarter Orientation Walk

Hanoi

Take an orientation walk through Hanoi's Old Quarter, a maze of streets, each one traditionally devoted to a different product or industry. Each street is named after the trade practiced on that street for several generations; it's an interesting glimpse into the life of a Hanoian in one of the oldest parts of town. Need a rest? Stop at Bia Hoi corner and pull up a plastic stool. Drink the local brew with the locals and make new friends.

Free Time

Hanoi Full Day

Get out and explore Hanoi.

Optional Activities - Day 19

Tran Quoc Pagoda Visit

Hanoi

Visit one of the oldest pagodas in Vietnam located on the eastern shore of Tay Ho. Learn about Tran Quoc's history from the 17th-century stela found on site. View it later in the day, if you can – the tall structure is striking against the setting sun.

Temple of Literature (Văn Miếu) Visit

Hanoi

Visit this sprawling temple built to honour Confucius, sages, and scholars. Dedicated to learning, it housed the country's first university in 1076. Explore its five courtyards, containing various gates, altars, sanctuaries, shrines, the stelae of doctors, and the Well of Heavenly Clarity.

Hoan Kiem Lake Walk

Hanoi

Take a break from city strolling and wander down by Hoan Kiem Lake. Walk along the water's vibrant shoreline for some prime people watching. See if you can spot one of the famous 100-year-old turtles, which may still live in the popular lake.

Thăng Long Water Puppet Theatre Performance

Hanoi

200000VND per person

Watch a traditional Vietnamese water puppet show with beautiful live music and intricate puppets dancing in a water stage. The price listed above is for a VIP seat.

Hanoi Foodie Culture Tour

Hanoi 1-2km

Indulge your inner foodie with a street food tour through bustling Hanoi. Follow your guide through the back streets and markets of the city's old quarter, sampling local fare along the way. Mingle with city natives and experienced street food artists alike, as you taste a variety of Hanoi faves like "nem ran" and "banh goi." Stop at a streetside bar to savour a draught beer like Hanoians do. Cap off the tour at the Hanoi Food Culture restaurant, a G Values Fund Project, and try the city's signature specialty coffee.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation

Bonne Nuit Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

Day 20 Hanoi/Vientiane

Explore a bit of Hanoi in the morning before an afternoon flight to Vientiane, the capital of Laos. There is a wealth of cultural delights to discover - on foot, by bicycle or, for the less energetic, by tuk-tuk.

Visit Laos' most important national monument, Phat That Luang, or meander down the dusty riverside tracks to find villages full of friendly people, dogs, and chickens. A visit to Vientiane's vibrant, colourful morning market (which incidentally is open all day!) is worthwhile, to find plenty of local treasures. A great way to round off the day is to enjoy a spectacular sunset over the Mekong.

Free Time

Hanoi Morning

Explore Hanoi on foot, by bicycle or by tuk-tuk.

Plane

Noi Bai International Airport – Wattay International Airport 1h15m

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

Free Time

Vientiane Afternoon

Set out and explore the capital of Laos.

Optional Activities - Day 20**Wat Pha That Luang Visit**

Vientiane

1USD per person

See Laos' national symbol and most important sacred monument, Pha That Luang (Great Stupa), completely covered in gold leaf. Every November, devoted Buddhists come here to celebrate Vientiane's most important festival, Bun That Luang, with parades, music, and religious ceremonies.

National Museum Visit

Vientiane

4USD per person

Learn about the history, culture, and people of Laos at the National Museum, including the story of the Pathet Lao. See exhibits containing ancient items ranging from dinosaur bones to early Khmer sculptures.

Wat Sisaket Visit

Vientiane

1USD per person

Visit one of Vientiane's oldest and most fascinating temples featuring a cloister wall filled with thousands of Buddha images.

Buddha Park

Vientiane

1USD per person

Travel approximately half an hour from the city to visit Vientiane's famous Buddha Park, or Xieng Khuan as it is otherwise known. Marvel at the scale and detail of the hundreds of religious statues that inhabit the park, including a 40 metre high statue of Buddha. Please note that transportation to Buddha Park will cost an additional \$50.

Meals included: Breakfast**Accommodation****City Inn Vientiane (or similar)**

Hotel

Day 21 Vientiane/Vang Vieng

Travel to Vang Vieng, a small town nestled among striking limestone karsts and the Song River. Take a guided hike to a famous local view point for incredible views of the valley — no filter necessary. This evening, enjoy a drink on us to celebrate new adventures with new friends. Cheers to keeping life exciting!

Private Vehicle

Vientiane – Vang Vieng 3h-4h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Vang Vieng Guided Hike

Vang Vieng 1h-2h

Set off on a guided hike to Pha Ngeun, the highest viewpoint in Vang Vieng. Enjoy beautiful views of the valley below, surrounded by rice paddies.

Your Big Night Out Moment: Vang Vieng Nightlife

Follow your CEO to the best bar in town to celebrate new adventures with newfound friends. Enjoy a drink on our tab and immerse yourself in the Vang Vieng nightlife. Try your hand at some games, enjoy the music, and dance the night away.

Meals included: Breakfast**Accommodation****Sisombat Plaza Hotel (or similar)**

Hotel

Day 22 Vang Vieng

Get the most out of Vang Vieng with a day to freely explore. Check out the caves by bicycle or trek through the countryside. Choose to kayak through Tham None cave and venture to the Blue Lagoon by booking the adrenaline bundle.

Pre-book the "Vang Vieng Adrenaline Bundle" on the checkout page ahead of time to include this excitement on your tour.

Free Time

Vang Vieng Full Day

Set off and explore the beautiful Vang Vieng area, or relax to your heart's content.

Optional Activities - Day 22

Hiking

Vang Vieng

Set off along the banks of the river to explore nearby caves, countryside and meet local villagers to find out more about their way of life.

Caving

Vang Vieng

Explore some of the many caves in the area. Some have lagoons for tubing in the dark or smooth terrain perfect for walking through. Ask your CEO for recommendations on which cave to visit for the best time.

Bike Rental

Vang Vieng

2USD per person

Rent a bike and explore the countryside.

Vang Vieng Adrenaline Bundle

Vang Vieng

Head North of Vang Vieng where you'll grab a kayak and depart downstream on the NamSong river. Passing greenery, mountain karst, and small rapids, you'll arrive at the Tham None cave. Adventure through the cave to the other side of the mountain where you will enjoy lunch before continuing on towards Vang Vieng. The last stop will be at the infamous Blue Lagoon; swim or hang out along the banks after an afternoon of adventure before heading back to the town.

Kayaking

Vang Vieng

25USD per person

Explore the stunning landscape of Vang Vieng by kayak, a great way to see the caves and wildlife in the area.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation

Sisombat Plaza Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

Day 23 Vang Vieng/Luang Prabang

Continue to colourful Luang Prabang and make your first acquaintance with this ancient city during an afternoon orientation walk. Afterward, embark on a short trek up sacred Mount Phousi, climbing the stone stairs with scaly golden handrails, past the monks quarters and Buddha's footprint cave, to reach the temple at the top - Wat Phousi. Enjoy a 360-degree view of the sun setting upon Luang Prabang and the Mekong River before an evening street food crawl.

Private Vehicle

Vang Vieng - Luang Prabang 7h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Street Food Crawl

Luang Prabang 1h-2h

Bring your appetite and your wallet. The CEO will bring the group to the best spots to eat and teach everyone about the local street food. Yum!

Orientation With CEO

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Sunset at Wat Phousi

Luang Prabang

Watch the sunset from Luang Prabang's number one hilltop temple, Wat Phousi, with a 360-degree view of the city and Mekong River.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation

Treasure Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

Accommodations at this property are multi-share.

Day 24 Luang Prabang

Skip sleeping in to watch the monks walk through town before dawn. Dressed in saffron robes, they receive daily alms from local residents. Then, visit the Kuang Si waterfalls on a guided excursion before free time in the evening.

Traditional Laotian culture involves giving daily alms to monks. Monks are only allowed to eat food which has been donated to them before noon. Should you rise early, you'll get to watch one of the most important religious ceremonies in Laos.

Kuang Si Waterfalls Excursion

Kuang Si Falls - Luang Prabang

Journey to this magnificent tiered waterfall, where relaxing is highly recommended. Opt for a dip in the turquoise waters and explore multiple picture-perfect pools, framed by the jungle landscape.

Your Discover Moment

Luang Prabang Full Day

There's plenty to see and do in Luang Prabang, and we wanted to make sure that you had some time to take it all in. Feel free to relax or try optional activities like learning about Laotian cuisine with a cooking class, getting a massage, and cycling around town.

Optional Activities - Day 24

Wat Visoun Temples Visit

Luang Prabang

2.50USD per person

Originally built in 1513 and still operational, Wat Visoun is Luang Prabang's oldest temple. Over the years invaders stole many of its priceless Buddha images, but this temple still offers some unusual architecture like the domed lotus flower stupa, designed by a royal and affectionately called "The Watermelon Stupa."

Phousi Temple Visit

Luang Prabang

2.50USD per person

Climb more than 300 steps to the top of Mount Phou Si for a panoramic view of the sunset over Luang Prabang. Ornate Buddhist shrines dot the pathway up and the glistening seven-tiered golden pagoda of Wat Chom Si awaits at the summit.

Royal Palace Museum Visit

Luang Prabang

5USD per person

The ornate rooms of this royal palace-turned-museum house the country's crown jewels, many religious artifacts, and a 50kg (110 lb) Buddha, cast of gold, silver and bronze. Gifts from visiting heads of state are on display, as are the beautiful silk screens crafted by the Queen.

Wat Xien Thong Visit

Luang Prabang

2.50USD per person

Once a royal temple where Kings were crowned, the importance of this 16th-century Buddhist temple as a religious monastery is not lost on visitors. Wat Xieng Thong stands resplendent among shrines, pavilions, chapels, towers and gardens, and its gilded wooden doors, mosaics, and ceiling displays are representative of typical Laos art and craft.

Cooking Class

Luang Prabang

35USD per person

Enjoy the sights and smells of fresh produce, local spices and exotic ingredients and learn the secrets of Laotian cuisine.

Ock Pop Tok Living Crafts Centre Visit

Luang Prabang

8USD per person

Visit Ock Pop Tok "East Meets West" Living Crafts Centre on the banks of the Mekong River to learn from artisans about Laos handicrafts and the importance of woven textiles in Laos culture. Opt to enjoy a drink in the cafe.

Royal Ballet Theatre

Luang Prabang

15USD per person

Enjoy a traditional performance at the Royal Ballet Theatre and learn more about Laotian culture through the art of dance.

Sunrise Alms-giving

Luang Prabang

Rise early and watch the daily dawn ceremony of saffron-robed monks walking through town to receive alms from local residents. Residents prepare food for the monks to subsist on. Seeing this custom is a beautiful way to gain some insight into the local culture and Buddhist religion. Please be respectful and quietly observe.

Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre Entry

Luang Prabang

4USD per person

Take an independent tour of the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre (TAEC) to learn about the traditional arts and cultures of Laos's many diverse ethnic groups. Shop in the TAEC Boutique for authentic village-made handicrafts and relax with a drink at the museum café.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation

Treasure Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

Accommodations at this property are multi-share.

Day 25 Luang Prabang/Pak Beng

The Mekong never looked so welcoming. Board a long, cozy houseboat that will take you on a two-day journey up the Mekong River en route to Chiang Khong in Thailand. Today, cruise to a village homestay for the night, experience a Baci welcome ceremony, and enjoy dinner with your hosts.

Mekong River Slow Boat

Luang Prabang – Muang Pakbèng 8h-10h

Enjoy the ride down the Mekong River on our private boat (it's pretty comfortable and spacious, and there's a toilet on board). Have some fruit, tea, and coffee (free of charge); water and soft drinks are available for purchase.

Your G for Good Moment: Mekong River Homestay & Baci Ceremony

G Adventures and the Planeterra Foundation have worked with two communities in the Mekong River to help develop their homestay programs, providing a unique cultural experience for travellers and the local community.

Here you have the chance to stay overnight in a Mekong village to get a glimpse into rural daily life. Experience a traditional Baci Ceremony, typically held to celebrate weddings, the Lao New Year, a housewarming or the arrival of guests. A village elder (called "mor phon") will lead our group through the experience, calling on local deities and spirits through chanting, with foods such as sweets, eggs, and sticky rice presented during the ceremony. As the Baci Ceremony ends, a symbolic white thread will be tied around travellers' wrists - a tradition which bestows good luck upon those who visit the Mekong River.

Meals included: Breakfast | Dinner

Accommodation

Homestay Pakbeng (or similar)

Hotel

Accommodations at this property are multi-share.

Day 26 Pak Beng/Chiang Khong

New day, same magnificent Mekong. Today's your second travel day, where you'll cross into Thailand arriving in Chiang Khong by the later afternoon. Sit back, relax, keep your eyes peeled for wildlife, and enjoy the scenic ride.

Mekong River Slow Boat

Muang Pakbèng – Ban Houayxay 8h-10h

Enjoy the ride down the Mekong on our private boat (it's pretty comfortable and spacious, and there's a toilet on board). Have some fruit, tea, and coffee (free of charge); water and soft drinks are available for purchase.

Border Crossing (Laos - Thailand)

Ban Houayxay – Chiang Khong

Ready for a little more ink in your passport? Grab your bags and get ready to check another country off your bucket list.

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch

Accommodation

Namkhong Guesthouse (or similar)

Guesthouse

Day 27 Chiang Khong/Chiang Mai

Take in the rolling countryside views on the drive to Chiang Mai nestled alongside Thailand's northern mountains. Spend the afternoon getting to know this peaceful city known for traditional markets and glorious temples. Choose to visit Doi Suthep, cycle around, or grab a bargain at the famous night market.

Experience the flavours and scents of traditional northern Thai cuisine by pre-booking the Northern Thai Cooking Class.

Free Time

Chiang Mai Afternoon

Get out and explore this bustling city in northern Thailand.

Private Vehicle

Chiang Khong – Chiang Mai 6h-7h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Optional Activities - Day 27

Northern Thai Cooking Class

Chiang Mai

Channel your inner chef with a home-style Thai cooking class. Take a trip to the market with your teacher and learn about regional flavours as you pick out fresh ingredients. Head back to the cozy kitchen for a hands-on lesson in whipping up delicious local favourites like hot and sour soup, green curry, and sticky rice.

Street Food Walk at Chiang Mai Night Market

Chiang Mai

Pick up a souvenir at this shopper's paradise. Wander through the market to find music, food, and local artists selling handmade crafts.

Doi Suthep Temple Visit

Doi Suthep – Chiang Mai

2USD per person

Visit Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, a golden Buddhist temple outside of Chiang Mai on the Mt Doi Suthep. Climb 300 steps to reach the temple and be rewarded with an unforgettable view. Admire the many Buddhist relics at this sacred temple and visit the white elephant shrine. Legend has it that the location of the temple was chosen after a white elephant carried a relic to the mountain and trumpeted three times before dying on the spot. Also, with a little luck, you may witness the chanting of the monks.

Massage

Lay back and soothe aching muscles with a famous local massage. Affordable and amazing, don't miss out.

Accommodation

Chiang Mai Gate Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

Day 28 Chiang Mai

Continue to explore Chiang Mai at your own pace making the most of this unique city. Visit the magnificent temple of Doi Suthep as it stands watch over the city from the hills above, or take a bicycle ride in the countryside.

Your Discover Moment

Chiang Mai Full Day

There's plenty to see and do in Chiang Mai, and we wanted to make sure that you had some time to take it all in. Feel free to relax or try optional activities like ziplining, checking out the Mae Sa Waterfall, and learning about Thai cuisine with a cooking class. Your CEO has more ideas if you need them. Just ask!

Optional Activities - Day 28

Doi Suthep Temple Visit

Doi Suthep – Chiang Mai

2USD per person

Visit Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, a golden Buddhist temple outside of Chiang Mai on the Mt Doi Suthep. Climb 300 steps to reach the temple and be rewarded with an unforgettable view. Admire the many Buddhist relics at this sacred temple and visit the white elephant shrine. Legend has it that the location of the temple was chosen after a white elephant carried a relic to the mountain and trumpeted three times before dying on the spot. Also, with a little luck, you may witness the chanting of the monks.

Chiang Mai Cycling Tour

Chiang Mai

30USD per person

Meander through Chiang Mai by bike and get an alternative view of this bustling city.

Massage

Chiang Mai

Lie back and soothe aching travel muscles with a famous Thai massage. Affordable and amazing—don't miss out!

Northern Thai Cooking Class

Chiang Mai

Channel your inner chef with a home-style Thai cooking class. Take a trip to the market with your teacher and learn about regional flavours as you pick out fresh ingredients. Head back to the cozy kitchen for a hands-on lesson in whipping up delicious local favourites like hot and sour soup, green curry, and sticky rice.

Accommodation

Chiang Mai Gate Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

Day 29 Chiang Mai/Ban Mae Jok

It's time for a change of pace. Today, drive from Chiang Mai to Mae Malai village, where you'll set off on a trek through rugged forests to see how diverse this region of hilltribe communities really is. Every village you'll see has its own language, belief system, style of dress, and traditions. It's a few hours to the first village of hilltribe thatch bungalows, but every step is worth it as you get to know the lay of the land.

The exact itinerary of the walking on this trip may change from time to time, taking into account the weather and local conditions. Also, please note there may be times when the use of video and/or still cameras may be inappropriate -- your CEO and guides will be able to advise you. Be prepared for the accommodation to be basic; remember, it's all about an authentic and unique experience!

Pickup Truck

Chiang Mai – Ban Mae Malai 1h

Hop into the back and ride along to the next destination.

Hilltribe Trek Day 1

Mae Taeng – Ban Mae Jok 2h-3h

Hit the road in an open pickup truck for Mae Malai where there is time to visit a local market to purchase food and snacks. Start the trek through forests and rugged terrain to Baan Mae Jok, a Karen village.

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 30 Ban Mae Jok/Pa Khao Lam

Trek for 2–3 hours before stopping for lunch. Then head to a Karen village to see how traditional blankets and scarves are made. Keep trekking for a few more hours (you've got this!) before stopping in the next village for the night.

Along the way, you might get the chance to stop at Mae Tang River to learn to fish using local tools or build a raft using bamboo.

Hilltribe Trek Day 2

Ban Mae Jok – Pa Khao Lam 4h30m-6h

After breakfast, trek 3.5-4 hrs to reach the lunch stop. Take in the beautiful scenery along the way. Enjoy lunch before carrying on another hour or so to the Karen village of Ban Pa Khao Lam.

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 31 Pa Khao Lam/Chiang Mai

After breakfast, leave the village by bamboo raft and get a closer look at other villages along the way. Meet the van after lunch and head back to Chiang Mai, a foodie's paradise. Try the city's most famous dishes like khao soi (noodles in curry broth) and sai oua (northern Thai sausage) and get ready for your big night out. Venture to the best bar in town and grab a drink on our tab to cheers to a completed trek and life-changing adventures!

Bamboo Rafting to Lahu Village

Pa Khao Lam – Lahu Village 1h30m-2h

Board the traditional bamboo raft for a leisurely ride down the Mae Tang River. Reach the Lahu hill tribe village near Ban Pong Ngan. Enjoy a visit with the locals here and learn about the life and unique culture of the Lahu tribe.

Lahu Village Visit

Lahu Village

Take a bamboo raft down the Mae Tan River for one hour journey to a Lahu village to witness a lifestyle that dates hundreds of years.

Bamboo Rafting to Shan Village

Lahu Village – Ban Sop Gai 2h

Board a traditional bamboo raft and enjoy a ride through some small rapids on the Mae Tang River.

Pickup Truck

Ban Sop Gai – Chiang Mai 1h30m-2h

Hop into the back and ride along to the next destination.

Your Big Night Out Moment: Chiang Mai Celebration

Tonight's the night to celebrate all the wild and humbling adventures you've just shared with new friends. Head into the Anusarn Night Market, grab a drink on us, and reminisce the night away!

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch

Accommodation

Chiang Mai Gate Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

Day 32 Chiang Mai/Bangkok

Make the most of Chiang Mai with more free time, where you can go shopping in the market, get a Thai massage, or explore any of the many temples. Or, hey, you could always go back for another taste of khao soi curry. Tonight, catch up on sleep during an overnight train and wake up in Bangkok.

Due to disruptions of Thai trains in the north during the monsoon season, trips running July through October may use alternative transport.

Free Time

Chiang Mai Half Day

Enjoy a final day to check out Chiang Mai.

Basic Overnight Train (beds)

Chiang Mai – Bangkok 12h-13h

Experience overnight travel like a local. Sit back and get some well-earned (and likely much-needed) rest en route to your next stop.

Optional Activities - Day 32

Doi Suthep Temple Visit

Doi Suthep – Chiang Mai

2USD per person

Visit Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, a golden Buddhist temple outside of Chiang Mai on the Mt Doi Suthep. Climb 300 steps to reach the temple and be rewarded with an unforgettable view. Admire the many Buddhist relics at this sacred temple and visit the white elephant shrine. Legend has it that the location of the temple was chosen after a white elephant carried a relic to the mountain and trumpeted three times before dying on the spot. Also, with a little luck, you may witness the chanting of the monks.

Cooking Class

Chiang Mai

Pick out the best ingredients at a local market and learn how to make delicious Thai dishes.

Chiang Mai City Tour

Chiang Mai

Enjoy a tour of spectacular Chiang Mai, a delightful city surrounded by rolling hills and filled with impressive architecture. Explore the great cafes, shops and accommodations of the old city; an important Buddhist centre since the 14th century, it is home to more than 300 temples. Many visitors come here to attend meditation retreats, massage classes or yoga lessons.

Chiang Mai Cycling Tour

Chiang Mai

30USD per person

Meander through Chiang Mai by bike and get an alternative view of this bustling city.

Massage

Lay back and soothe aching muscles with a famous local massage. Affordable and amazing, don't miss out.

Meals included: Breakfast**Day 33 Bangkok**

Get out and explore this fantastic city where there is endless sightseeing to be done.

As this longer tour is comprised of two shorter tours, there is the possibility that you will need to change hotels on this day. Check in with your CEO about this while on tour. The two hotels we generally use are within walking distance.

Your Discover Moment

Bangkok Full Day

There's plenty to see and do in Bangkok, and we wanted to make sure that you had some time to take it all in. Feel free to relax or try optional activities like visiting the Grand Palace, hopping on a cycle tour of the city, and visiting the National Museum. Your CEO has more ideas if you need them. Just ask!

Optional Activities - Day 33**Massage**

Lay back and soothe aching muscles with a famous local massage. Affordable and amazing, don't miss out.

Grand Palace Visit

Bangkok

15USD per person

Visit the King's official residence (made up of many buildings, halls, lawns, gardens, and courtyards) on the banks of the Chao Phraya River and see the Temple of the Emerald Buddha. Please note the cost of this optional activity does not include the entrance fee.

Jim Thompson's House Visit

Bangkok

4USD per person

Tour the Jim Thompson House, a Bangkok museum that was once the home of American businessman Jim Thompson, the "Legendary American of Thailand." See his collection of Buddhist and secular art, amassed while building his silk company.

National Museum Visit

Bangkok

2USD per person

See Thai artifacts on display from the Dvaravati, Srivijaya, Sukhothai and Ayutthaya periods as well as other Southeast Asian collections. Please note the cost of this optional activity does not include the entrance fee.

Klong Riverboat Tour

Bangkok

30USD per person

Travel by longtail boat on the busy Chao Phraya River and through the small canals of western Bangkok's Thonburi district. Observe colourful scenes of everyday life along the river banks.

Wat Po Guided Tour

Bangkok

Immerse yourself in Thai Buddhist culture and visit the famous giant 46m (151ft) reclining Buddha, covered in gold leaf. Relax with a traditional Thai massage at the country's leading school of massage at Wat Po.

Accommodation

Sawasdee House Khaosan (or similar)

Hotel

Day 34 Bangkok/Surat Thani

Get on first-name basis with Thailand's capital city by bike with an optional bike tour. Today, you can check out Wat Pho and the Grand Palace, go for a street food crawl, relax with a Thai massage, or explore the klongs (canals) by boat before boarding the overnight train.

Street Food Crawl

Bring your appetite and your wallet. The CEO will bring the group to the best spots to eat and teach everyone about the local street food. Yum!

Basic Overnight Train (beds)

Bangkok – Surat Thani 12h-13h

Experience overnight travel like a local. Sit back and get some well-earned (and likely much-needed) rest en route to your next stop.

Your Discover Moment

Bangkok Full Day

There's plenty to see and do in Bangkok, and we wanted to make sure that you had some time to take it all in. Feel free to relax or try optional activities like visiting the Grand Palace, hopping on a cycle tour of the city, and visiting the National Museum. Your CEO has more ideas if you need them. Just ask!

Optional Activities - Day 34

Wat Po Visit

Bangkok

3.50USD per person

This temple is known for its reclining Buddha, its feet covered with mother-of-pearl engravings of Buddhist symbols. Explore the large grounds and other compounds to see other Buddha figures, murals and the chedis that contain the ashes of Buddha. This is also the birthplace of traditional Thai massage.

Klong Riverboat Tour

Bangkok

30USD per person

Travel by longtail boat on the busy Chao Phraya River and through the small canals of western Bangkok's Thonburi district. Observe colourful scenes of everyday life along the river banks.

Royal Barge Museum

Bangkok

3.50USD per person

Located along the Chao Phraya River, the museum is home to many ceremonial barges. The barges are only used for special occasions so this is a chance to catch a rare glimpse of their ornate decorations and symbolic features.

Thai Massage

Bangkok

15-30USD per person

Lie back and soothe aching muscles with a wonderful Thai massage. Affordable and amazing—don't miss out!

Grand Palace Visit

Bangkok

15USD per person

Visit the King's official residence (made up of many buildings, halls, lawns, gardens, and courtyards) on the banks of the Chao Phraya River and see the Temple of the Emerald Buddha. Please note the cost of this optional activity does not include the entrance fee.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 35 Surat Thani/Khao Sok

See southern Thai hospitality in action with breakfast at G Adventures-supported Khao Thep Pitak Community-Owned Farm & Restaurant, where you can also meet other international visitors. Later on, go to Lake Cheow Lan where you can take in the views while hiking or swimming in the national park. Spend tonight falling asleep to the sweet sounds of the jungle.

This area is known for its natural beauty. You know what that means: lots of chances for photos.

Private Vehicle

Surat Thani – Khao Sok 1h30m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Your G for Good Moment: Kao Thep Pitak Community-Owned Farm & Meal

Indulge in traditional Southern Thai cuisine prepared by members of Kao Thep Pitak village. Your meal will be made with ingredients picked from local organic farms and a fruit orchard on the property. Over 140 families benefit from the community-owned and managed eatery through the Kao Thep Pitak Community Ecotourism Enterprise, supported by Planeterra and G Adventures.

Lake Cheow Lan Excursion

Khao Sok 6h-8h15m

Board a longtail boat for a tour of Cheow Lan Lake, taking in views of the limestone cliffs and lush jungle along the way. Stop in at a floating raft house for a delicious local lunch and opt to go for a swim, go tubing, or paddle out in a kayak.

Private Vehicle

Khao Sok 1h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Free Time

Khao Sok Evening

Opt for a trek, a dip in the river, or kick back and chill by the pool.

Optional Activities - Day 35**Hiking**

Khao Sok

Discover one of the oldest rainforests in the world on foot. Join a tour or hire a private guide and choose from a variety of treks throughout the national park. Keep an eye out for the area's diverse flora and fauna.

Swimming

Khao Sok

Take a dip in Cheow Larn Lake and the Kao Sok River.

Khao Sok National Park Visit

Khao Sok

Explore the valleys, lakes, caves, and mountains of this national park, all nestled within the lush rainforest. Spot wildlife like monkeys, elephants and hornbills on a jungle trek or paddle through Lake Cheow Larn to marvel at limestone cliffs and see the floating bungalows.

Tubing

Khao Sok

10USD per person

Grab a tube and enjoy how the locals like to beat the heat - by floating down the river!

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch**Accommodation****Khao Sok Rainforest Resort (or similar)**

Resort

Day 36 Khao Sok/Koh Pha Ngan

Head across southern Thailand to find yourself in Ko Phangan. Take the free afternoon to relax on the beach or by the pool — which will be easy since tonight, you'll be staying beachside or poolside in cozy bungalows.

This area is known for its epic nightlife, whether or not there's a Full Moon Party. Make sure you don't miss the sunset. It'll be unforgettable.

Private Vehicle

Khao Sok – Don Sak 2h30m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Ferry

Don Sak – Koh Pha Ngan 2h30m

Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.

Songthaew

Koh Pha Ngan 15m

Grab a seat on the bench aboard this uniquely Southeast Asian commuter bus.

Free Time

Koh Pha Ngan Afternoon

Explore this island paradise and the surrounding sea.

Optional Activities - Day 36**Swimming**

Koh Pha Ngan

Jump in and enjoy the turquoise waters around Ko Pha-Ngan.

Meals included: Breakfast**Accommodation****Villa Cha Cha Salad Beach Koh Phangan (or similar)**

Hotel

Day 37 Koh Pha Ngan

There's no rush to leave Ko Phangan. Use your second day here to catch up on anything you missed yesterday, like exploring the island's waterfalls, swimming in lagoons, going for a hike, or, hey, taking another day to relax beachside.

Free Time

Koh Pha Ngan Full Day

Get out and explore— the day is yours.

Optional Activities - Day 37

Yoga and Meditation Courses

Koh Pha Ngan

Get your inner Om on and take part in some of the more relaxing activities offered on the island.

Hiking

Koh Pha Ngan

Head out on some trails to explore the island at your own pace.

Koh Pha-Ngan Waterfalls Exploration

Koh Pha Ngan

Hike to some local waterfalls and marvel at their beauty.

Swimming

Grab your bathing suit and go for a refreshing swim.

Accommodation

Villa Cha Cha Salad Beach Koh Phangan (or similar)

Hotel

Day 38 Koh Pha Ngan/Ko Tao

Take the ferry to Ko Tao, a laid-back island known for snorkelling. This afternoon, put on your flippers to see a whole other world underwater. Going beneath the surface not your thing? Go the other way and climb up to the scenic view at Kho Nang Yuan View Point.

Free Time

Koh Pha Ngan Morning

Relax with a free morning before transferring to the pier.

Ferry

Koh Pha Ngan – Ko Tao 1h30m

Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.

Private Vehicle

Ko Tao 30m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Ko Tao Snorkelling

Ko Tao

Get your fins on! There's an embarrassment of choices—but the better-known spots are: Hin Wong Bay, Mango Bay, Nang Yuan Island, South Mae Haad and Janson Bay.

Meals included: Lunch

Accommodation

Seashell Resort Koh Tao (or similar)

Resort

Day 39 Ko Tao

Make the most of your last full day in Ko Tao paradise. Spend the day soaking up the sun beachside and be sure to get your fresh seafood fix. For your big night out, venture into the bustling nightlife and grab a drink on our tab to cheers to life-changing adventures with newfound friends. If you want to keep the party going, participate in the massive Ko Tao Pub Crawl.

Want to discover the fascinating coral and marine life inhabiting the area? Pre-book the Open Water Half Day Dive Experience extra to take two dives, guided by the experts.

Your Big Night Out Moment: Beach Bar

Follow your CEO to the best beach bar in town and enjoy a drink on our tab to celebrate all the wild and humbling adventures you've just experienced with new friends.

Free Time

Ko Tao

Start exploring the island with a free day. There are endless activities to fill your time both on and off the water.

Meals included: Breakfast
Accommodation
Seashell Resort Koh Tao (or similar)
Resort

Day 40 Ko Tao

Today, it's time to say goodbye to your group of newfound friends as the tour ends. Be sure to sneak in some last-minute photos and cheers before you head on your way. If booking a flight out of Ko Samui airport, make sure not to book one earlier than 11:00am.

Want to take the hassle out of getting back to Bangkok? Book the Bangkok Express, a two-day post-tour Extra. Speak to your Global Connection Officer or travel agent to book.

Add the "Bangkok Express: Ko Tao to Bangkok" to your adventure and make your way back to bustling Bangkok with the guidance of a CEO. This nifty post-tour Extra includes a ferry to the mainland where you'll board an overnight train to Bangkok arriving in the city early the next morning. Speak to your Global Connection Officer or travel agent to book.

Departure Day

Not ready to leave? Your CEO can help with travel arrangements to extend your adventure.

Optional Activities - Day 40

Bangkok Express: Koh Tao to Bangkok

Koh Tao – Bangkok

Want to take the hassle out of getting back to Bangkok? Book the "Bangkok Express: Ko Tao to Bangkok" post-tour Extra and make your way back to bustling Bangkok with the guidance of a CEO. On the final day of the tour, hop on a ferry back to the mainland and board an overnight train to Bangkok, arriving the next morning.

Meals included: Breakfast

What's Included

Your G for Good Moment: Local Khmer Meal, Siem Reap
Your G for Good Moment: Oodles of Noodles, Hoi An
Your G for Good Moment: Mekong River Homestay & Baci Ceremony, Muang Pakbèng
Your G for Good Moment: Kao Thép Pitak Community-Owned Farm & Meal, Ban Ta Khun
Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group
Your First Night Out Moment: Connect With New Friends
Your Big Night Out Moment: - Siem Reap, Siem Reap
Your Discover Moment: Phnom Penh
Your Local Living Moment: Home Meal, Chambok
Your Discover Moment: Ho Chi Minh City
Your Foodie Moment: Nha Trang Street Food Crawl, Nha Trang
Your Big Night Out Moment: Reminisce Riverside, Hoi An
Your Big Night Out Moment: Vang Vieng Nightlife, Vang Vieng
Your Discover Moment: Luang Prabang
Your Discover Moment: Chiang Mai
Your Big Night Out Moment: Chiang Mai Celebration, Chiang Mai
Your Discover Moment: Bangkok
Your Big Night Out Moment: Beach Bar, Ko Tao. Guided sunrise tour of Angkor Wat temple complex.
Orientation walks in Ho Chi Minh City, Hoi An, Hanoi, Phnom Penh, and Luang Prabang. Halong Bay boat cruise with lunch. Guided hike, sunset cruise and waterfall excursion in Laos. Slow boat up the Mekong. Five street food crawls in different cities. Internal flight. Visit to Chiang Mai night market. Hilltribe trek. Bamboo rafting. Lake Cheow Lan Excursion. Full-day snorkelling trip from Ko Tao. All transport between destinations and to/from included activities.

Highlights

Witness sunrise over Angkor Wat, Eat your way through the street food of four different cities, Stay overnight in a local village, Trek through the rugged forests of northern Thailand, Swim in Ko Pha-Ngan's idyllic lagoons, explore the magnificent caves of Phong Nha

Dossier Disclaimer

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the

brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

Important Notes

1. COMBO TRIP

Please note that this trip is a combination of multiple G Adventures tours. As such, the staff and/or particular vehicles operating your tour may change between tour segments. You may also expect some group members to join or leave the tour, between tour segments. Also note that in some major cities in Vietnam, many hotel rooms do not have windows.

2. BORDER CROSSINGS

Aranyapathet, Thailand to Poipet, Cambodia - Thailand to Cambodia
Bavet, Cambodia to Mok Bai, Vietnam - Cambodia to Vietnam*
Ban Houayxay, Laos to Chiang Khong, Thailand - Laos to Thailand

3. TREKKING ROUTE

Please be advised that a 2-week period of traditional slash and burn farming occurs in this region between March and April (start date varies). During this time your trek may follow an alternate route to avoid uncomfortably smoky areas.

4. WEIGHT RESTRICTION

There may be a weight restriction for the internal flight on this tour. Each passenger is allowed to carry one checked bag with a maximum weight of 20kg (44lbs). Additional bags or excess weight charges may apply. These charges are the responsibility of the passengers.

Group Leader Description

All G Adventures group trips are accompanied by one of our Chief Experience Officers (CEO). The aim of the CEO is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting- we think it's the best of both worlds.

Please note that while the group will be accompanied to the train station by the CEO, the final overnight train to Bangkok on the evening of Day 29 may be unaccompanied by a CEO.

Group Size Notes

Max 18, avg 12.

Meals Included

30 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 4 dinners

Meals

Eating is a big part of traveling. Travelling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to

eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility, though generally food is cheap. Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. Your CEO will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip. Included breakfasts will usually be asian style consisting of noodles or congee (rice porridge) or bread and eggs. Vegetarians will be able to find a range of different foods, although in some areas the choice maybe limited. While trekking in remote regions food is included, plentiful and made of fresh local ingredients. For all trips please refer to the meals included and budget information for included meals and meal budgets.

Transport

Local bus, air-conditioned bus, train, walking, tuk-tuk, songthaew, local boat, junk boat, plane.

About our Transportation

THAILAND

As the popularity of train travel in Thailand continues to grow domestically, some of the routes used on this tour do not have sufficient space during local public holidays, including New Year's, Songkran, etc. During these times of the year, alternative transport may be arranged for one or more of the train journeys within Thailand on this tour.

VIETNAM

Train travel in Vietnam is very basic and train cleanliness is often not a priority for train staff. Sleeper trains normally have 4 seats per compartment, which convert into sleeping bunks (two upper and two lower). A sheet, pillow and blanket are provided, although many people prefer to bring their own sleeping sheet. At times, passengers of different genders may be required to share a sleeper train berth and/or share a compartment with people not travelling in your group.

Simple food is available on the train but many people like to stock up on freshly baked bread, cheese and fruit prior to departure. Water should also be bought before the journey.

Train journeys in Vietnam are an experience and allow you to get a real taste of Vietnam.

Local Flights

All local flights are included in the cost of your tour unless otherwise noted. It is important that we have your passport information at the time of booking in order to process these tickets. Internal flight tickets are issued locally and will be given to you prior to the flight departure.

Solo Travellers

We believe single travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and single travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

Accommodation

Simple hotels (twin-share) (21 nts), hostels (multi-share) (9 nts), basic hilltribe huts (2 nts, multi-share), homestay (2 nts), sleeper trains (5 nts).

About Accommodation

A variety of styles of hotels/guest houses are used on this trip. In many instances they might not be like what you are used to back home as service and efficiency can vary. In some areas we stay in simple local guest houses in stunning locations - rooms are small and simple and there may only be shared toilet facilities and showers.

Accommodation will be varied throughout your adventure. The majority of accommodation will have shared bathroom facilities.

Mekong River Homestay: Typically, the group is divided into two or more houses (depending on group size) in close proximity to each other. Sleeping arrangements are multi-share in the central living area of the homes - mattresses, blankets, pillows, and mosquito nets are provided. Bathroom facilities are shared.

Chambok Homestay: This location has basic facilities including a squat toilet and douse shower (showering with a bucket)

Where we use multi-share properties, rooming requests of any kind cannot be taken. For private accommodation please see our Classic Travel Style.

Joining Instructions

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

When arriving at Suvarnabhumi Airport (pronounced 'su wan na poom') in Bangkok proceed to the Arrivals Hall where you can change money into Thai Baht. (You may be approached by nicely dressed, official looking touts offering an expensive limousine service to your hotel; ignore these offers.)

You have two transport options; the Airport Train & MRT or public taxi. All transportation is located on the 'ground' floor.

Taxi

The airport is located 30km's away from downtown Bangkok. Approach the taxi counters, advise them where you are going and they will write this information down for you along with the taxis registration details. Taxis should always use the meter and you are required to pay a 50 Baht airport surcharge on top of the metered fee plus any tollway fees (approx 70 Baht depending on the route taken). Total journey will cost between 350 THB – 500 THB, depending on traffic and toll fees. The expressway is substantially faster, so tell the taxi driver to use the expressway, you can say either ""kuen ton-way"" (from 'tollway') or ""kuen taang duan"" in Thai (but most understand Tollway/express way in English).

Airport Train

If you are staying at the W22 by Burasari you can take the Airport Train. Board the City Line station is located on the basement level at Suvarnabhumi Airport (BKK) at a cost of 35-40 THB to the City Air Terminal; Makkasan. Here you will need to disembark A6 and change to interchange with MRT Blue Line (Phetchaburi), boarding at Phetchaburi Station. From Phetchaburi Station travel to MRT Wat Mangkon, is only a short walk away and follow the signs at the exit 1

Arrival Transfers

If you have paid in advance for an arrival transfer, a G Adventures representative will be at the airport to meet you (go to gate number 4). If for any reason you are not met at the airport, please call our local support line. If you are unable to make contact for whatever reason, please make your way to the joining point hotel via taxi.

Please note that day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned on this day.

Upon arrival to your Joining Hotel (note that check-in time will be in the afternoon), look for a note or bulletin board in the reception with a note from your CEO. This note will give the details of your Welcome Meeting on day 1 (usually between 5pm and 7pm), where you will get a chance to meet your CEO and other travellers, as well as learn more about how the tour will run. If you don't see a note, please ask reception for details!

If you are arriving later and will miss the Welcome Meeting, your CEO will leave a note at reception for you with any information you may need, and with morning instructions for the next day.

Arrival Complications

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, as soon as possible please contact your starting point hotel, requesting that you speak to or leave a message for your CEO (if you are not on a group tour please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier). If you are unable to get in touch with your leader, please refer to our emergency contact details.

If you have pre-booked an airport transfer please meet your driver near the information counter at Entrance Door number 4 of the airport, in the arrival hall. Look for a driver holding a G Adventures sign with your name

If you have still have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

Emergency Contact

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call either the G Adventures Local Representative (if one is listed below) or our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

AIRPORT TRANSFER

If you have purchased an arrival through G Adventures or if an arrival transfer is included in the cost of your tour, please note that:

Your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. If you are advised of a flight schedule change or flight cancellation within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, please call the emergency contact number to advise of your new arrival flight information. If you do not, we will not be able to rearrange your arrival transfer and you will need to make your own way to the starting hotel at your own expense. If your arrival transfer does not arrive within 30 minutes after you have exited the arrivals area please take a taxi to your start point hotel.

If your call is specifically concerning Bangkok Airport Transfer complications please call our local G Adventures Transfer provider directly at: +66 81 847 3034 (081 847 3034 from within Thailand) or +66 86 339 5881 (086 339 5881 from within Thailand)

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Emergency number

From outside Thailand +66 (0) 92 338 9222

From within Thailand (0) 92 338 9222

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found [here](#).

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

What to Take

We recommend using a backpack for your convenience, or a medium-sized suitcase if you prefer. A daypack is also essential for carrying everyday items. Space is limited on transportation, so there is a limit of one main piece of luggage per person. You will be responsible for carrying your own luggage. Be sure to check weather conditions online before you depart. We recommend you bring sun protection cream from home to ensure it meets your needs.

During the trek, you will only need to carry a daypack with your essentials. Your luggage will be stored at the hotel in Chiang Mai and your valuables in a group safety deposit box.

Your CEO will provide instructions on what you need to bring in your daypack on the trek. Usually, this includes a couple of changes of clothes, wet shoes (for river crossings), personal toiletries, flashlight/headlamp, tissues, any personal medications, and electronics you wish to bring along. A small drybag for electronics and a reusable water bottle may also be useful. During the trek, guides will have first aid kits.

Packing List

Conservative Dress:

- Modest clothing that covers knees and shoulders (Long pants, long skirts, shirts that cover shoulders)
- Shawl or scarf (for temple visits)

Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing

kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)

- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

Health & Safety:

- Hand sanitizer (required)
- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)
- Quick Covid Test/Antigen Test

Light Hiking:

- Hiking boots/sturdy walking shoes
- Hiking pants (Convertible/Zip-off and quick dry recommended)
- Sleeping bag liner/sleep sheet

Sleep Sheet and Pillow:

- Sleeping bag liner/sleep sheet
- Travel pillow

Warm Weather:

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear

Note: Please pack clothing for the season in which you will be travelling. From Nov-Feb weather can be cold, so please pack warm clothing. From May-Oct it is the wet season, so please bring waterproof clothing.

Laundry

Laundry facilities are offered by some of our hotels for a charge. There will be times when you may want to or have to do your own laundry so we suggest you bring non-polluting/biodegradable soap.

Visas and Entry Requirements

Please note that visas are the responsibility of the individual traveller. The visa requirements for your trip vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as much as possible, but rules do change. It is important that you check for yourself with the Embassy. Please, keep in mind that all countries require passports valid for at least 6 months from the moment of departure from the country.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

Thailand:

Most nationalities do not need a visa for Thailand for stays of 30 days or less but if you do they are available on arrival at Bangkok Airport. If staying in Thailand for more than 30 days, you will be required to obtain a tourist visa in advance. Only 15 day tourist visas are issued when entering Thailand overland.

Vietnam:

If you require a visa for Vietnam, they need to be arranged ahead of time (BEFORE your trip) as the processing time varies (minimum 2 weeks) and they are not available upon arrival.

Vietnamese E-Visa can be applied for [here](#)

Entry to Vietnam with an eVisa is supported at 13 airports, 16 land borders, and 13 seaports - details can be found [here](#)

Laos:

If you are eligible to apply for a Laos E-Visa, please follow the below links for further information and application:

E-Visa Details [here](#)

E-Visa Terms and Conditions [here](#)

Apply for E-Visa [here](#)

If applying for the Laos E-Visa, please enter the entry port name as per below.

If you travel by air: Wattay International Airport (Vientiane Capital)

If you travel by land from Thailand: Lao – Thai Friendship Bridge I (Vientiane Capital)

Cambodia:

Visas can be obtained in advance from your local embassy or on arrival in Bangkok (if your tour begins in Thailand). You will need at least one full working day to arrange this. You can also obtain your visa at the Cambodian border or Siem Reap Airport for approx. \$30 USD. Please have *at least* 2 passport photos with you as well.

Information is accurate as of April 1st, 2024.

Spending Money

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

Money Exchange

During this tour the local currencies you will use are the Thai Baht, US Dollar, Cambodian Riel, Vietnamese Dong and Laos Kip. As currency exchange rates in South East Asia do fluctuate, we ask that you refer to the following website for the most up to date daily exchange rates: www.xe.com for each of the above mentioned currencies. The best way to carry your money is in debit cards, withdrawing cash in local currencies from ATM machines. ATMs are found throughout South East Asia and will generally accept cards on the Visa and Mastercard networks. It is a great idea to travel with both a Visa and Mastercard if at all possible in case of loss or problems with one card, you will have a back up. Please note, your bank will charge a fee for overseas withdrawals. USD Cash is recommended for times when ATMs are not accessible. You should bring some cash with you for emergency situations (please refer to our trip dossier) but carrying only cash is a high safety risk. ATM card/s and some cash is the ideal mix. Travellers cheques can be tricky, timely and expensive to exchange. While we do not recommend that you bring them as your primary source of funds, it is great to have one or two cheques in case of emergency. Thomas Cook or American Express travellers' cheques in US currency are the easiest to exchange. Cash advances can also be made with some banks but are time consuming and tend to have high fees attached. Credit cards can be used at some upmarket restaurants, and at some larger stores if shopping for big items. If you are bringing US Dollars, please make sure that the notes are new and in good condition. Notes older than 2003, or with any tears or blemishes may not be accepted. Be fussy with your bank when buying cash!

Emergency Fund

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$500 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

Departure Tax

Departure Tax is included in all International and Domestic tickets in Thailand.

Tipping

It is customary in Asia to tip service providers such as waiters, at approximately 10%, depending on the service. Tipping is expected - though not compulsory - and shows an expression of satisfaction with the people who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides or drivers we use. You may do this individually, or your CEO will offer to collect the money and tip as a group. Recommendations for tipping drivers and local guides would range from \$1.5-\$3.5 USD per person per day depending on the quality and length of the service; ask your CEO for specific recommendations based on the circumstances and culture. Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures CEO did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline \$20-25 USD per person, per week can be used.

Optional Activities

Siem Reap

- Phare Circus
- Angkor Museum Visit (12USD per person)
- Tonle Sap Floating Village (25-30USD per person)

Phnom Penh

- National Museum Visit (10USD per person)
- Silver Pagoda Visit (10USD per person)
- Tuol Sleng Museum (S-21 Prison) & Choeung Ek (Killing Fields) Half-Day Guided Tour (22-26USD per person)

Ho Chi Minh City

- War Remnants Museum Visit (2USD per person)
- Ben Thanh Market
- Cholon Visit
- Ho Chi Minh City Cyclo Tour (10USD per person)
- Dam Sen Water Park Visit (4USD per person)
- Reunification Palace Visit (2USD per person)

Củ Chi

- Cu Chi Tunnels Guided Tour (23-27USD per person)

Nha Trang

- Snorkelling
- Nha Trang Boat Tour and Snorkelling (29USD per person)
- Mud Bath Visit (20USD per person)

Hoi An

- Tailor Shops
- Cua Dai Beach
- Hoi An Walking Tour
- Hoi An Bike and Boat Tour
- Thu Bon River Boat Trip (12USD per person)
- Hoi An Cooking Class (30USD per person)

Mỹ Sơn

- Mỹ Sơn Excursion (30USD per person)

Huế

- Imperial Citadel Tour (7USD per person)
- Perfume River Cruise (10USD per person)
- Tien Mu Pagoda Visit
- Royal Tombs Entry (5USD per person)
- Cycling (10USD per person)
- Hue Moto Tour
- Hue City Tour

Phong Nha

- Caving in Phong Nha

Hạ Long Bay

- Kayaking (10USD per person)

Hanoi

- Tran Quoc Pagoda Visit

- Hoan Kiem Lake Walk
- Hanoi Foodie Culture Tour
- Thăng Long Water Puppet Theatre Performance (200000VND per person)
- Temple of Literature (Văn Miếu) Visit

Vientiane

- Wat Pha That Luang Visit (1USD per person)
- Buddha Park (1USD per person)
- National Museum Visit (4USD per person)
- Wat Sisaket Visit (1USD per person)

Vang Vieng

- Hiking
- Caving
- Bike Rental (2USD per person)
- Vang Vieng Adrenaline Bundle
- Kayaking (25USD per person)

Luang Prabang

- Wat Visoun Temples Visit (2.50USD per person)
- Phousi Temple Visit (2.50USD per person)
- Royal Palace Museum Visit (5USD per person)
- Wat Xien Thong Visit (2.50USD per person)
- Cooking Class (35USD per person)
- Ock Pop Tok Living Crafts Centre Visit (8USD per person)
- Royal Ballet Theatre (15USD per person)
- Sunrise Alms-giving
- Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre Entry (4USD per person)

Doi Suthep

- Doi Suthep Temple Visit (2USD per person)

Chiang Khong

- Massage

Chiang Mai

- Northern Thai Cooking Class
- Street Food Walk at Chiang Mai Night Market
- Chiang Mai Cycling Tour (30USD per person)
- Massage
- Cooking Class
- Chiang Mai City Tour

Bangkok

- Jim Thompson's House Visit (4USD per person)
- Wat Po Guided Tour
- Klong Riverboat Tour (30USD per person)
- Grand Palace Visit (15USD per person)
- National Museum Visit (2USD per person)
- Wat Po Visit (3.50USD per person)
- Royal Barge Museum (3.50USD per person)
- Thai Massage (15-30USD per person)

Khao Sok

- Hiking
- Swimming
- Khao Sok National Park Visit
- Tubing (10USD per person)

Koh Pha Ngan

- Swimming
- Yoga and Meditation Courses
- Hiking
- Koh Pha-Phu Waterfalls Exploration
- Swimming

Koh Tao

- Bangkok Express: Koh Tao to Bangkok

Health

Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit and hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that sometimes we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities, and for legal reasons our leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. In Asia pharmacies tend to stock the same western drugs as you get at home but they are usually produced locally so please bring the full drug name with you when trying to purchase a prescription drug. When selecting your trip please carefully read the brochure and itinerary and assess your ability to cope with our style of travel. Please refer to the Physical and Culture Shock ratings for trip specific information. G Adventures reserves the right to exclude any traveller from all or part of a trip without refund if in the reasonable opinion of our CEO they are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group.

Safety and Security

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your CEO has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it is deemed necessary due to safety concerns. Your CEO will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy or explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgment when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Protests and Demonstrations- Protests and demonstrations, even those that are well intended, have the potential to turn violent with no warning. Counter protests can also turn violent. Action by security forces to disperse demonstrators and protesters may occur at any time. If you are in an area where demonstrators or protesters are gathering, avoid the temptation of staying for a good photo opportunity and leave the area immediately.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards) have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk.

We take all prudent measures in relation to your safety. For ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling, please visit:

www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/

Trip Specific Safety

We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage.

Be aware that petty theft can be an issue in some Vietnamese towns and cities especially late at night. A common tactic is opportunists on motorbikes that drive by and snatch bags. Please always leave valuables and passports etc in your hotel, in safety boxes if available, and only carry with you enough cash to spend for the day. Bags should always be carried over the neck and not left to sit on your shoulder.

We do not recommend passengers to jump or dive into Kuang Sii Waterfalls in Luang Prabang, this may result in injury.

A Couple of Rules

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter, and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of prostitutes is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they use prostitutes.

A Word of Warning

Please do not buy gems in Bangkok unless you know what you are doing. Even if genuine you should not expect to be able to sell them at home. If you fall victim to a gem scam, we are unable to assist you.

Travel Insurance

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your CEO, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy please bear in mind that all clients must have medical coverage and that we require a minimum coverage of USD 200,000 for repatriation and emergency rescue. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

Planeterra Foundation - the non-profit partner of G Adventures

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](#).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

Local Dress

In Asia the dress standard is more conservative than it is back home. When packing try to pick loose, lightweight, long clothing that will keep you cool in the usually hot and humid climate of Asian summers. In predominately Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim countries we ask that you dress respectfully and avoid very short shorts/skirts and singlets/tanktops when visiting temples or mosques or other holy sites. In Pakistan we recommend a head scarf for women while walking around.

Feedback

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that we'll give you 5% off the price of your next G Adventures trip if your feedback is completed on-line within 30 days of finishing your trip. Your tour evaluation will be e-mailed to you 24 hours after the conclusion of your trip. If you do not receive the tour evaluation link in the days after your tour has finished, please drop us a line at customersolutions@gadventures.com and we will send it on to you.

Newsletter

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at www.gadventures.com/newsletters/

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation - Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

Minimum Age

Minimum age of 18 years for this trip.

International Flights

Check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.