



indo-china

Three decades of war and isolation have failed to extinguish the mystical beauty of Indo-China's untouched rural landscapes, and the natural hospitality of its people. Happily Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos once again welcome visitors with open arms and, with an increasing number of excellent hotels and an ever-improving infrastructure, there has never been a better time to visit this fascinating region.

Vietnam is hauntingly beautiful with a patchwork of brilliant green rice paddies dividing mist-shrouded mountains from a dramatic coastline of sweeping deserted beaches. Hanoi boasts a beautifully preserved Old Quarter and, together with Ho Chi Minh City, still retains hallmarks of a French colonial legacy, whilst secluded fishing villages and remote hill settlements define the traditions of the past.

Cambodia is a strangely beautiful country of high mountain plateaux, densely forested hills and endless rice paddies, irrigated by the persistent flow of the great Mekong River and the vast expanse of Tonle Sap Lake. The country's artistic and cultural heritage is defined by its French colonial legacy and, more importantly, the glorious Khmer temple complex of Angkor, one of the true ancient wonders of the world.

Laos, former French colony and unspoiled 'earthly paradise', is entrancing. From the incomparable architecture of Luang Prabang, to the charming capital, Vientiane, and the waters of the mighty Mekong River, it is little wonder that writers since Victorian times have been inspired by this magical country. Visitors will be captivated by the sheer beauty of the landscape and a way of life that has changed little over the centuries.

TRAVEL GUIDE

VISA REQUIREMENTS

UK Passport holders currently require a visa for Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Non British Passport holders should check requirements.

HEALTH ADVICE

No vaccinations are currently required for these countries, but the following are recommended: Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Polio and Tetanus. Anti-malarial prophylactics should also be taken.

FLYING TIME

Hanoi 13hrs 25mins
 Ho Chi Minh City 13hrs 05mins
 Phnom Penh 13hrs 35mins
 Siem Reap 12hrs 35mins
 Vientiane 12hr 45minss

LOCAL TIME

Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos GMT + 7hrs



WHEN TO VISIT

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Vietnam	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Cambodia	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓					✓	✓✓	✓✓
Laos	✓✓	✓✓	✓✓	✓	✓					✓	✓✓	✓✓

✓✓ indicates the optimum time to visit

celebrated hotels of indo-china

For almost a century fine hotels throughout the region catered to the intrepid travellers of yesteryear. Today, these have been restored to their former grandeur and exciting new hotels, often housed in former royal residences or graceful colonial mansions, continue Indo-China's long tradition of hospitality.



Sofitel Metropole, Hanoi

Housed in a graceful French colonial style building, the Metropole has been a landmark in Hanoi since 1901. This elegant hotel, with its rich history and long tradition of attentive service, is located within walking distance of the central lake and the Opera House, and ideally situated for exploring the city's many sights.

The hotel has 364 beautifully appointed rooms and suites, those in the Old Wing exuding much of the character of the colonial era. There is a choice of bars and the hotel's two restaurants are considered amongst the finest in the city. The hotel also offers a fitness centre, sauna and massage, and the swimming pool in the interior courtyard garden is the perfect place to relax after a day's sightseeing.



Six Senses Hideaway Ninh Van Bay, Nha Trang

Only accessible by boat, the luxurious Six Senses Hideaway is set in isolated splendour on a private island within the dramatic sweep of Ninh Van Bay. The beautiful surroundings - impressive rock formations, white sand beach, a dramatic mountain backdrop and classic Vietnamese buildings - make this a unique retreat.

The 58 spacious beachfront, hillside, water and rock villas are beautifully appointed and offer uncompromising luxury, each with private pool. Amenities include an impressive choice of dining and an excellent Six Senses Spa, whilst activities such as tennis, water sports and dive facilities, gymnasium and nature treks are available. Excursions can also be arranged.



La Résidence Phou Vao, Luang Prabang

La Résidence Phou Vao enjoys a unique location on Phou Vao Hill (Hill of Kites) with breathtaking views of the surrounding landscape. More importantly, this luxury spa hotel is just 2km from the heart of Luang Prabang with its exquisite well-preserved Laotian architecture and European colonial buildings.

The spacious, well-appointed guest rooms and suites are simply and elegantly furnished in local style with woods and natural fabrics. Each has a terrace or balcony with panoramic views. Amenities include a choice of indoor and outdoor dining and bars, an infinity pool and the Ytsara Spa offering a full range of treatments – the perfect restorative after a day spent exploring the city.



Amansara, Siem Reap

Nestled in lush, secluded grounds on the outskirts of the city, Amansara is housed in the former guest house of King Norodom Sihanouk. The original 1960's building has been beautifully restored and nurtured, and is now a stylish and tranquil retreat just a short distance from the magnificent Khmer temple complex of Angkor.

The 24 spacious suites are decorated in a contemporary Indo-Chinese style, each with attractive private courtyard and 12 having a private pool. There is a dramatic circular dining room serving delicious food, whilst other amenities include a shady roof garden, a beautiful swimming pool and an immaculate spa. For easy excursions to the temples, each suite has the use of its own *remork* and driver.



Amantaka, Luang Prabang

Housed in graceful and beautifully restored French colonial buildings in the heart of Luang Prabang, Amantaka is the latest addition to the Aman Resorts portfolio. It provides a luxurious base in beautiful surroundings from which to explore this remarkable city, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The 24 suites, some with private pool, surround a large courtyard and are very spacious, elegantly decorated and beautifully appointed. The resort offers a wide array of dining choices from authentic Lao cuisine to French-influenced and international. Other amenities include a swimming pool, tennis court, yoga studio and a wonderful spa offering therapies from throughout South East Asia.



Knai Bang Chatt, Kep

Situated on the south coast of Cambodia, close to the Vietnamese border, Knai Bang Chatt is an idyllic hideaway. Consisting of three villas, this luxurious private residence has a very intimate ambience – ideal as a holiday retreat for individuals or for the exclusive use of a family or group of friends.

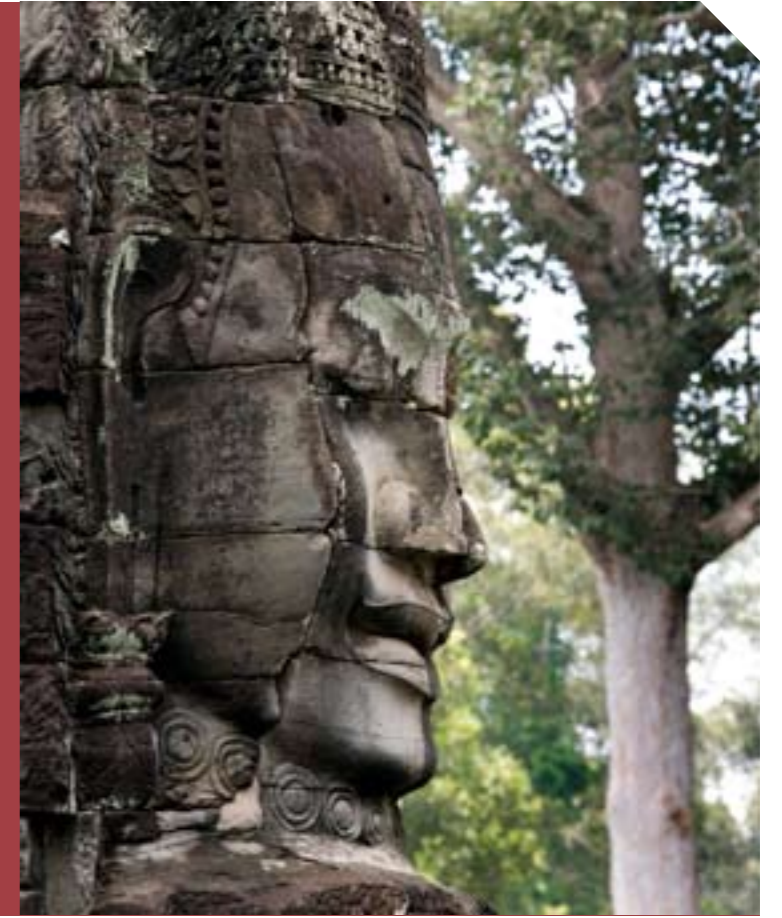
Each of the 11 spacious rooms is highly individual, with Cambodian artefacts and antiques complementing contemporary design, and open terraces giving breathtaking views over the Gulf of Thailand. Amenities include a beautiful wooden dining pavilion, a large pool and a fitness room. Activities and excursions, including visits to local villages and the Bokor National Park, are also offered.



cambodia a la carte

Despite its turbulent past this strangely beautiful country has emerged as one of Indo-China's most attractive destinations. Visitors will discover a hospitable country eager to share its beautiful landscape and fascinating cultural heritage.

There is much to see here, from forested hills and endless rice paddies, dissected by the mighty Mekong, to the vast Tonle Sap Lake, the French colonial charm of its capital, Phnom Penh and, of course the glorious Khmer temple complex of Angkor.



Ultimate Indo-China

The highlights of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam

This captivating journey provides a comprehensive introduction to the magnificent landscapes and fascinating cultural heritage of Indo-China.

The journey begins in Laos and the country's 'spiritual capital', Luang Prabang, with its incomparable architecture and renowned water culture on the Mekong River. Crossing into northern Vietnam, you explore the boulevards of French colonial Hanoi, and nearby Halong Bay, where limestone pinnacles soar from the waters of the South China Sea, before flying south to Hue and the colourful town of Hoi An on the Thu Bon River. You then cross the border into Cambodia, to the vast expanse of Tonle Lake and the world-famous 'lost city' of Angkor, the extraordinary 10th century legacy of the Khmer Empire - a spectacular climax to this enthralling journey.

Sample itinerary:

Day 1: Depart London. **2/4:** Arrive Luang Prabang. City sightseeing, waterfalls & Mekong River cruise. Overnights La Residence Phou Vao. **5:** Fly to Vientiane. Overnight Settha Palace Hotel. **6/7:** Fly to Hanoi. City sightseeing. Overnights Sofitel Metropole. **8:** Drive to Halong for overnight cruise on Halong Bay. Overnight Halong Jasmine. **9:** Return by road to Hanoi and fly to Hue. Overnight La Residence Hotel. **10/11:** Drive to Hoi An. City sightseeing. Overnights Life Heritage Resort Hoi An. **12/14:** Fly to Siem Reap. Excursions to Angkor & Tonle Sap Lake. Overnights FCC Hotel. **15/16:** Fly to London via Bangkok.

Dates: To suit individual requirements.

Price: From £3,065 per person (based on 2 people travelling).

Ultimate Vietnam

A journey from Hanoi to the Mekong Delta

This absorbing journey is the perfect introduction to Vietnam and its enduring cultural heritage and hauntingly beautiful scenery.

You begin in Hanoi with two days to enjoy the markets, ancient temples and elegant boulevards of this French colonial city. Following an overnight excursion to the spectacular Halong Bay, you fly south to Hue to explore the Imperial Citadel and the impressive tombs of Tu Duc on the banks of the Perfume River. You will then be driven across the 'Pass of Clouds' to the lively coastal port of Hoi An where spice, silk and tea have been traded for centuries. After a well-earned rest at an exclusive beach resort, the final leg of the journey takes you south to the pastoral landscapes of the Mekong Delta and the cosmopolitan Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon).

Sample itinerary:

Day 1: Depart London. **2/3:** Arrive Hanoi. City sightseeing. Overnights Sofitel Metropole. **4:** Drive to Halong. Overnight cruise on Halong Bay. Overnight Halong Jasmine. **5:** Return by road to Hanoi. Fly to Hue. Overnight La Residence. **6/7:** City sightseeing in Hue. Drive to Hoi An. City sightseeing. Overnights Life Heritage Hoi An. **8/10:** Fly to Nha Trang. Overnights Six Senses Hideaway Ninh Van Bay. **11:** Fly to Ho Chi Minh City. City sightseeing. Overnight Caravelle Hotel. **12:** Drive to Mekong Delta via Cao Dai Temple. Overnight Victoria Can Tho Hotel. **13:** Visit to Cai Rang floating market. Return by road to Ho Chi Minh City. Overnight Caravelle Hotel. **14/15:** Fly to London via Bangkok.

Dates: To suit individual requirements.

Price: From £2,525 per person (based on 2 people travelling).

laos a la carte

Despite isolation from the outside world for many years, Laos remains one of the region's most entrancing countries. The beauty of its landscape, the warmth of its people and a way of life that has changed little over the centuries will captivate visitors.

This unspoiled 'earthly paradise' has enormous appeal. From the incomparable architecture and ancient Buddhist traditions of Luang Prabang, to the charming capital, Vientiane, the mysterious Plain of Jars and the waters of the mighty Mekong River, it is little wonder that writers since Victorian times have been inspired by this magical country.

