



# DESTINATION JOURNEYS

## Journey Dossier - Mekong, Temples & Halong Bay 2018

**Thursday 06 September July 2018**

**Day 1: Sydney to Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City)**

Check in for your flight to Saigon at the Vietnam Airways counter at least 2 hours prior to departure.

<b>Depart</b>	<b>Sydney</b>	<b>10.15</b>	<b>Vietnam Airways flight VN 772</b>
<b>Arrive</b>	<b>Saigon</b>	<b>15.35</b>	

Xin Chao, welcome to Saigon – the most dynamic city of Vietnam where modern high-rise buildings sit next to ancient temples. You will be greeted by your guide and driver for the transfer to hotel.

**Intercontinental Hotel**

**Saigon**

**Check in 06 September Check out 08 September**

**2 nights Deluxe Room**

Overnight in Saigon.

**Friday 07 September 2018**

**Day 2: Saigon – Cu Chi Tunnels by speed boat (Seat in Coach) – Saigon (B/L/-)**

At 7.00am we pick you up at your hotel lobby and drive to the city's pier. We board a nice boat and venture on the Saigon River. We let the bustling city behind and the riverside quickly offers wilder nature made of lush green and mangrove. We disembark a little before 9.00am and transfer to the Cu Chi site. Take the time to explore this incredible maze of underground tunnels and learn more about how life was pursued during war time. Lunch is presented on the riverside before returning to your Saigon hotel.

We have an alternate tour choice for Saigon for you if you wish. See enclosed choices.

Afternoon at leisure in Saigon.

Overnight in Saigon.

**Saturday 8 September 2018**

**Day 3: Saigon – My Tho – Cai Be (B/L/D) – The lost civilization – The Jahan cruise**

*Remarks for the cruise itinerary: subject to change depending on water and weather condition.*

**Jahan Mekong Cruise  
Superior Cabin**

You will be transferred from the Intercontinental to the departure hotel for your cruise on THE JAHAN. We gather before noontime at our welcome lounge in Saigon. Lean back with a drink as our staff welcomes you and collects your details for boarding. We bid farewell to the hustle and bustle of Saigon and travel 70 kilometers south overland to My Tho to em-bark on your luxury floating home for the upcoming journey along the Mighty Mekong.

After our crew warmly welcomes you, you check in to your well prepared staterooms. The ship sets sail and a fascinating voyage along the Mekong begins. Lunch buffet is served in the restaurant while the vessel steadily glides upstream to reach the overnight spot. Make yourself familiar with all the ship facilities. Now it is time to become one with one of the largest streams in Asia.

The afternoon allows you to leisurely pass time on your private balcony or join our tea time at the open air bar as the twilight bathes the Mekong Delta in a golden haze. During the time you savor your dinner, the ship reaches Cai Be. It is a charming town, famous for its Catholic French church and the manufacturing of traditional crafts and food products. The floating market of Cai Be is getting smaller every year, since trading on the water is shifting more and more to the modern central markets.

We anchor mid-stream near Cai Be for dinner and moor there overnight. After dinner our lounge cinema features selected classic movies (every night).

**Sunday 9 September 2018**

**Day 4: Cai Be – Sadec – Tan Chau (B/L/D)**

Each morning, we offer our guests an invigorating Tai Chi class on the sun deck. Start your day, just as many local people do in Asia, as the sun begins its gentle glow. A sumptuous buffet breakfast is served for the perfect first exploration day in the Mekong Delta.

Our morning tour takes you to Cai Be. We can still see some boat to boat trading of local goods such as fruits and agricultural products. Our guide will explain the particularities of this long lasting trading culture. Each boat has a special marker that lets buyers know what goods it is selling.

Cai Be is a rustic town crisscrossed by many water canals. We go on-shore to visit a workshop and learn how rice paste, rice paper, rice cookies and rice wine is manufactured. Cai Be and its surrounding areas are covered with palm trees and hence the region is also famous for the production of coconut candies. With our local boat we continue to explore the lush and green canal network and observe the farmers working in the fields.

Back on board lunch is served. You can enjoy time for yourself then to either enjoy a true Vietnamese coffee at the bar or simply watch the life on the riverbanks floating by. In the afternoon, we reach the area of Sa Dec. We embark on a traditional local boat and head towards Binh Thanh Island. This island is one of the larger ones in the vast stream of the Mekong. Some communities have settled here and make their living by growing water hyacinths. We exclusively visit one of those untouched areas. By wandering through the village, we get a deep understanding of the native life. Moreover, we see the whole process of mat making. You can try weaving yourself, which is still done manually. We will meet also an elderly local couple who shares their story on this island. They are happy to engage in a conversation with you.

Back on board you may like to pamper yourself with a spa treatment or take a dip into the pool on the sun deck. Our expert guide offers a presentation on the "Life on the Mekong Delta" as the ship continues sailing to Tan Chau - the border town to Cambodia. We moor mid-stream near Tan Chau.

Dinner is served and afterwards you can join our evening cinema session (offered every night) featuring selected classic movies.

### **Monday 10 September 2018**

#### **Day 5: Tan Chau – Border Crossing – Phnom Penh (B/L/D)**

Welcome to the fish sanctuary of Vietnam. Begin your day with a hearty breakfast at the dining hall or in the quiet privacy of your balcony.

Brace yourself for a tour around Tan Chau, a pleasant, slow-paced town with a sizeable Chinese, Kinh and Khmer community. Once on-shore we hop on "xeloi" to explore Tan Chau. A "xeloi" is a local vehicle which is still used as a taxi in this region. We slowly move around the streets to see all the workshops, houses and domiciles. Get to feel the laid-back vibes of this place. We stop at the colourful local market near one of the ancient temples. This is the best time to interact with the vendors of this friendly town to practice your bargaining skills. We board our local boat and cruise past floating houses and finally reach a floating fish farm. This region is the source of a fish production that is sold all over the world. Here we get a deep insight on how fish farming works.

Back on board our "home" we sail towards the Vietnamese-Cambodian border. Get ready for a fascinating and leisurely cruise through the deep Cambodian countryside towards Phnom Penh.

The whole afternoon is at your own arrangements. Now is the time when even the last passenger will switch into cruise mode and experience the therapeutic influence that this mighty river radiates. It is time for massages, for relaxation on the sun beds, for private balcony kick-backs - it's the time to merge with the river.

A culinary class is offered in the afternoon to sharpen your knowledge and skills on the local cuisine. Some may like to visit the bridge - the captain always has a little story to share about "his" river. Float into a state of mild bliss and join our afternoon High Tea for sweet treats before you totally drift away in relaxation.

Dinner is served before we arrive at the capital of Cambodia. Around seven o'clock the boat docks at the pier of Phnom Penh. You are free to go for your first exploration by yourself. Stroll along the river promenade and watch the locals chit-chatting, selling odds and ends or have a drink in one of the numerous bars (kindly inform our crew once you are leaving the ship on your own).

## **Tuesday 11 September 2018**

### **Day 6: Phnom Penh (B/L/D)**

Welcome to Phnom Penh - once called the Paris of the East. Despite its rapid development, it has retained a lot of its rustic charm and elegance. It is an amazing town with centuries of incredible history and culture which can still be felt at many street corners.

We start with a full sight-seeing tour right after breakfast. By bus we visit the Killing Fields at outside of the city and after, the centrally located prison "S21". Both historic sites display the sad and cruel chapter of Khmer history when the Khmer Rouge ruled the country with terror and suppression. Those places have not changed much since this horrific time back in the early seventies and it can be heartbreaking. Alternatively, explore the city in the morning on your own before re-joining the group.

We will have lunch at a fine restaurant in town. Our exploration of Phnom Penh continues on the fascinating cultural heritage of Phnom Penh. The golden edifice of the Royal Palace with its Silver Pagoda and the exceptional Khmer crafts at the National Museum are the afternoon highlights. The day trip ends with a "cyclo" ride back to the ship through the bustling streets of downtown Phnom Penh.

Take some rest in your spacious cabin or join other fellow passengers at the bar for some refreshing drinks before our captivating evening activities start:

We move to the lounge which is set up for a lecture about Cambodian modern history, held by a professor of the Royal University of Phnom Penh. Definitely among the highlights of this cruise receiving knowledge first hand as our lecturer has studied the subject extensively and personally.

After the lecture a barbecue dinner feast on the sun deck commences. The dinner is accompanied with an Apsara dance performance. You have to witness the brilliance and richness of this dance along with the soothing sounds of traditional music.

As the evening unwinds, enjoy your supper with a glass of wine and marvel at the skyline of Phnom Penh, and the calming flow of the Tonle River.

**Wednesday 12 September 2018**

**Day 7: Phnom Penh – Kampong Cham (Kompong Chnang) (B/L/D)**

**High water cruise: Phnom Penh – Komong Cham**

We depart before the break of dawn from Phnom Penh towards the Angkor Ban village on the Mekong River. Wake up to the gentle cruise motion and get ready for breakfast in the dining hall.

The Angkor Ban village is famous for its unspoiled community and beautiful, traditional houses. It feels like being transported back a hundred years ago into an era unaffected by modernity.

Back on board our staff is keen on showing you a variety of traditional Khmer fashion. Lunch is served afterwards.

We cruise further up the Mekong to visit a local school and understand more about the education of the young Cambodian generation (NGO project). The children here are always excited to show their skills in music and art and will bathe you in smiles upon your applause.

We continue by road to the enchanting pre-Angkorian temple of Wat Hanchey (7th century). This small complex sits on a hill top right on the shore with breath-taking views over the Mekong. Another temple on the way is the tiny, colorful monastery of Wat Nokor. Here, we might get the chance to engage in light banter with some of the monks living in the area. Back on board you are free to relax until dinner is served. The boat moors mid-river near Kampong Cham.

**Low water cruise: Phnom Penh – Kompong Chnang**

Before the sun peeks over the horizon, the cruiser sets sail towards Kampong Tralach on the Tonle River – an amazingly narrow river. Gently gliding through leafy swaths of this jungle-like landscape we reach Kampong Tralach. Breakfast is served before we anchor and get ready for our first Tonle discovery.

We reach the shore by local boat and cacophonous children wave enthusiastically while bringing their livestock for a bath in the meandering river. We will stop at the “Green School” which is partly supported by Heritage Line. See all the river life, which is so different than ours - by a local ox cart ride. Back on board our staff is keen on showing you a variety of traditional Khmer fashion. Lunch is served afterwards.

The ship cruises along the narrow Tonle River towards Kampong Chhnang, Cambodia’s “water world”, where everything is on sticks and balanced on water-rich soil. Perhaps it’s the most fascinating cruising spot in Cambodia.

Back on land in Kampong Chhnang, we take mini buses to a rural village nearby for a walking tour. Our guides introduce you to the village specialties – Khmer style pottery

and the making of palm sugar. Before returning to the boat we explore the floating villages and wetlands of the region.

Relax back on board until dinner is served. The boat moors mid-river in the Tonle area.

### **Thursday 13 September 2018**

#### **Day 8: Kampong Cham – Kampong Chhnang (B/L/D)**

##### **High water cruise: Kampong Cham (Mekong) - Kampong Chhnang (Tonle)**

We sail downstream on the Mekong and stop at the Island of Koh Oknha Tey. This spot in the middle of the Mekong owns its fame for the manufacturing of high class silk products. By tuk tuk we explore the island with its workshops and learn how silk is processed from its source, provided by little silkworms, to a final top quality product made of original Cambodian silk.

Before lunch our expert guides offer a presentation about "Geography of the Mekong and Tonle Sap". Afterwards a Monks' blessing ceremony on board delivers spirits and wishes for our health and prosperity for all.

The ship continues its journey, passing by the confluence of the Mekong and Tonle Rivers towards Kampong Tralach. Gliding through leafy swaths of this jungle-like landscape we reach Kampong Tralach. Cacophonous children waive enthusiastically while bringing their livestock for a bath in the meandering river. We will stop at the "Green School" which is partly supported by Heritage Line. See all this life, which is so different than ours - by a local ox cart ride.

The boat finds its anchor spot in the Tonle River near Kam-pong Chhnang allowing you to observe the close-by river life until dinner is served in the dining hall.

##### **Low water cruise: Tonle River - Kampong Cham (Mekong)**

In the early morning during breakfast we sail from the lower Tonle River towards the Mekong passing their confluence at Phnom Penh. We arrive at the island of Koh Oknha Tey. This spot in the middle of the Mekong owns its fame for the manufacturing of high class silk products.

By tuk tuk we explore the island with its workshops and learn how silk is processed from its source, provided by little silkworms, to a final top quality product made of original Cambodian silk.

Before lunch our expert guides offer a presentation about "Geography of the Mekong and Tonle Sap". Afterwards a Monks' blessing ceremony on board delivers spirits and wishes for our health and prosperity for all.

The ship sails towards the small Angkor Ban village up in the Mekong River. The Angkor Ban village is famous for its unspoiled community and beautiful, traditional houses. It feels like being transported back a hundred years ago into an era unaffected by modernity. Villagers are characterized by their unbridled warmth.

Afterwards it's time for some fun at a cocktail party on the riverbank. We continue cruising for a while until dinner is served. The boat finds its overnight spot at the riverbank of Kampong Cham.

**Friday 14 September 2018**

**Day 9: Kampong Chhnang – Tonle Lake (B/L/D)**

**High water cruise: Kampong Chhnang - Tonle Lake**

Wake up early to witness the spectacular surroundings at the break of dawn. Our morning Tai Chi class has the perfect scenery today. Breakfast is served in the dining hall.

We are now at Kampong Chhnang, Cambodia's "water world", where everything is on sticks balanced on water-rich soil. This is perhaps the most fascinating cruising spot in Cambodia.

We take a local boat to the shore. With mini buses we head to a rural village nearby for a walking tour. Our guides intro-duce you to the village specialities – Khmer style pottery and the making of palm sugar. Definitely you should bring some home. Before returning to the boat we explore the local floating villages and wetlands of the region.

Back on board lunch is served as your floating sanctuary cruises gently along the narrow Tonle River, towards the Great Tonle Sap Lake. The river opens up to a vast "sea", the biggest fresh water lake in Asia. This lake can only be crossed during high water season (approx. from end-July to mid-November). Let your soul float and your eyes wander while the boat makes its way towards Siem Reap.

In the afternoon we serve a High Tea at the bar and as the sun sets, our crew invites you to their farewell event. Enjoy some dancing and music together with the crew before dinner is served.

The boat moors mid-lake near Siem Reap.

**Low water cruise: Kampong Cham (Mekong)**

After breakfast by bus we visit the enchanting pre-Angkorian temple of Wat Hanchey, built in the 7th century. This small complex sits on a hill top right on the shore with breath-taking views over the Mekong.

We return to the ship for lunch and some relaxation.

In the afternoon we head to the tiny, colorful monastery of Wat Nokor. Here we might get the chance to engage in light banter with some of the monks living in the area. As it is low water season we are able to see a bamboo bridge which connects the mainland with the island. Local communities re-build the bridge every year when the water levels drop.

We continue our journey and visit a local school to understand more about the education of the young Cambodian generation (NGO project). The children here are always excited to show their skills in music and art and will bathe you in smiles upon your applause.

As the sun sets, our crew invites for a farewell event. Enjoy some dancing and music together with the crew before dinner is served.

The boat moors at the riverbank of Kampong Cham.

**Saturday 15 September 2018**  
**Day 10: Siem Reap arrival (B/-/-)**

**High water cruise: Tonle Lake - Siem Reap**

The Tonle Sap (The Great Lake) is the flowing heart of Cambodia, giving love and life to millions of people. It has more fish than any other lake in the world and is home to an incredible variety of birds, including rare and endangered feathered life.

Our Heritage Line cruise comes to an end. We prepare to disembark the ship and take a local boat to the shore, passing a vast floating community.

Around nine o'clock, we arrive at the Siem Reap pier and bring you to the drop off point in the city center.

We hope that you enjoyed this fascinating river just as our crew does every single time. Moreover, take plenty of memories and friendships along with you that will linger on with your stories of this amazing river - the Mighty Mekong.

**Low water cruise: Kampong Cham (Mekong) - Siem Reap**

Enjoy your last breakfast on board our floating sanctuary. We disembark the ship for a transfer by bus to the drop off point in Siem Reap.

The transfer takes about 4.5 hours. Snacks are provided during the trip. You will arrive in Siem Reap in the early afternoon.

We hope that you enjoyed this fascinating river just as our crew does every single time. Moreover, take plenty of memories and friendships along with you that will linger on with your stories of this amazing river - the Mighty Mekong.

Overnight in Siem Reap.

You will be transferred from the Jahan Arrival point to Sala Lodges.

**Sala Lodges**

**1 x Suite Lodge**

**Siem Reap**

**Check in 15 September Check out 18 September**

**Sunday 16 September 2018**

**Day 11: Siem Reap – A Half Day Sightseeing (B/-/-)**

Today, start to explore Angkor Wat by local 'remork' (similar to the Thai tuk tuk), easily the most famous and best-preserved of all temples within the Angkor complex. It is a massive three-tiered structure crowned by five lotus-like towers rising 65 meters from ground level. The centrepiece of any visit to the temples around Siem Reap, Angkor offers many iconic sights for amazing pictures.

Visit the ancient city of Angkor Thom, surrounded by an 8m high wall. Angkor Thom was the last capital of the Great Khmer Empire under the reign of Jayavarman VII. Continue to the fabulous Bayon Temple, and Ta Prohm Temple, unlike most other Angkor temples, has been left just it was when rediscovered: a photogenic and atmospheric maze of trees growing out of temple ruins amidst jungle surroundings, making it one of Angkor's most popular temples with visitors.

The remainder of the day is free at leisure to relax or explore Siem Reap independently. Overnight in Siem Reap.

### **Monday 17 September 2018**

#### **Day 12: Siem Reap – Tree planting – cooking class (B/L/-)**

Depart Siem Reap for joining hands with an effort to support reforestation progress in Cambodia by planting a tree in Preah Dak Village. It may be a jackfruit or mango tree, which will later help both carbon offsetting and directly benefiting the local community.

Later begin to learn about Cambodian vegetables, herbs, spices and other ingredients and their uses in Khmer cuisine. Next, you will be shown how to prepare these delicious dishes. The hands-on experience is a great way to learn about the cuisine, similar to Thai cuisine but less spicy. At the end of our course, indulge in a dinner of your own preparations

The remainder of the day is free at leisure to relax or explore Siem Reap independently. Overnight in Siem Reap.

### **Tuesday 18 September 2018**

#### **Day 13: Siem Reap – Hanoi (B/-/-)**

Free until transferred to the airport for the flight to Hanoi, one of Asia's most enchanting cities, full of culture, history and the engaging contradictions of a rapidly developing and deeply traditional society. An opportunity today to relax at the hotel or there is a list of optional tours available for you as well.

<b>Depart</b>	<b>Siem Reap</b>	<b>18.05</b>	<b>Vietnam Airways flight VN 836</b>
<b>Arrive</b>	<b>Hanoi</b>	<b>19.50</b>	

You are met at Noi Bai airport by our local guide and learn a bit about this fascinating country on the way to our hotel

#### **Apricot Hotel Hanoi**

**Hanoi**

**1 x Sketch Room**

**Check in 18 September Check out 20 September 2018**

Overnight in Hanoi.

## Wednesday 19 September 2018

### Day 14: Hanoi City tour (B/-/-)

Hop on a private electric cart and journey on a small road around the biggest lake of Hanoi. Stop by the oldest wooden pagoda of the city and then take a cyclo ride across the former district of the colonial administration with its tree-bordered avenue and beautiful architecture.

Visit the home of a water puppet artist, the descendant of a family of water puppet performers. This Vietnamese traditional performance art has roots dating back to the 10th century. You will have a chance to talk with the artist, participate in the process of making the puppets, and enjoy a private water puppet show.

Next is Old Quarter Walking tour. This provides you an authentic Hanoi where you could witness Hanoi's rich cultural and artistic history. Drop by a local coffee shop to observe how Hanoi locals enjoy sipping every drop of Vietnam bitter sweet coffee at Café Giang. The oldest cafe brand in Hanoi, since 1946, it is well known for Cafe Trúng, or Egg Cafe, which is something like a Hanoi Capuccino. You get yourself a drink and enjoy it.

The rest of the day is at leisure.

Overnight in Hanoi.

## Thursday 20 September 2018

### Day 15: Hanoi – Halong Bay – Lan Ha Bay (B/L/D)

#### **Auco Halong Bay cruise Deluxe Cabin**

Breakfast at hotel before heading out to Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In Ha Long you will board your luxury The Au Co for 2 overnights cruise amongst the more than 3,000 limestone islands rising majestically out of the turquoise bay. After a delicious lunch, cruise leisurely toward South East Ha Long Bay, passing by Chicken Crock, Finger Islet, Toad Islet.

Stop at Dark & Bright Lagoon for your kayaking or bamboo boating. Then back to boat and choose from several interesting activities: a cooking demonstration with chef on board, an optional traditional massage, or a drink at bar counter.

After a delightful 5 Elements dinner, you can try your luck at squid fishing or simply get to know the friendly crew.

Overnight on board.

**Remarks : the cruise itinerary is subject to change depending on weather condition.**

## Friday 21 September 2018

### Day 16: Lan Ha Bay (B/L/D)

DJ Mekong, Temples and Halong Bay - 2018

Start the day with calming Tai Chi, often accompanied by an amazing sunrise or simply enjoy the breathtaking views. After breakfast on board, you'll arrive at Cat Ba Island. Enjoy a relaxing bicycle ride and explore the national park on this island.

Lunch is served back on board while the cruise towards to Ho Ba Ham and explore this area by kayak. Opt to join a special tour to the Bridge and Engine Room with the captain and chief engineer. Back to the board for relaxation on board.

Enjoy a barbeque buffet in the restaurant.

Overnight on board.

### **Saturday 22 September 2018**

#### **Day 17: Lan Ha Bay – Ha Long Bay – Hanoi (B/Brunch/-)**

Enjoy the sunrise, the lapping waves, the fresh sea air, the gentle breeze or get up at your leisure. Start the day with a Tai Chi lesson on the sundeck or enjoy the breath-taking views of the bay while The Au Co cruises leisurely in Lan Ha Bay.

Then back to Ha Long Bay, explore the biggest cave in Ha Long – Surprise Cave. Prepare for check out and join a Vietnamese traditional tea ceremony. You then return to the dock and transfer back to your Hanoi hotel.

On the way back to Hanoi, visit Yen Duc which is one of the villages in the Red River Delta that still retains its authentic lifestyle. The local people's lives revolve around rice cultivation and farming activities. Passing through the village, you still find the charming rice fields, traditional houses and gardens, and friendly locals working their farms.

#### **Apricot Hotel Hanoi**

**Hanoi**

**1 x Sketch Room**

**Check in 22 September Check out 23 September 2018**

Overnight in Hanoi.

### **Sunday 23 September 2018**

#### **Day 18: Hanoi Departure (B/-/-)**

Free at leisure until transferred to the airport for your departure flight back home.

**Depart Hanoi 23.55 Vietnam Airways flight VN 787**

### **Monday 24 September 2018**

**Arrive Sydney 12.15**

# DESTINATION JOURNEYS IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## **MEKONG, TEMPLES AND HALONG BAY 2018 JOURNEY INCLUSIONS**

Flights ex Sydney with Vietnam Airways Airways including all taxes and fuel surcharges

8 night Hotel accommodation

7 nights Jahan Mekong river cruise

2 nights Auco Halong Bay cruise

Meals as specified in the itinerary

All touring and entry fees as detailed

All transfers

English speaking local Journey guides

*Note: Tipping, visas and personal expenditures eg. drinks, travel insurance, early check in or late check out, personal items, clothing, shoes and other items not specified on the itinerary are at your own expense.*

## **ITINERARY ALTERATIONS**

Our guides may decide to alter the schedule of our day to day itinerary to make our journey run smoother due to unforeseen circumstances like, local festivals or weather conditions . Our Journey itinerary is also subject to change due to schedule changes of airlines and operators or inclement weather. We reserve the right to alter our journey because of unexpected events.

## **CLOTHING**

Smart casual is our attire for our meals on board The Jahan and the AuCo We recommend either covered shoes or sandals be worn during our excursions or walking tours due to the unpredictable terrain and uneven surfaces. It is advisable to where shoes that can be easily taken off and put back on for when we visit temples and shrines.

## **LEVEL OF FITNESS**

There will be times on our journey when we will be getting on and off Boats, Vans at times unassisted. We will have some walking tours where we may be walking for some time. Also you will need to be able to easily negotiate stairs. You will require a reasonable level of fitness to participate in our journey.

## **ONCE PAID OUR TRIP IS FULLY NON-REFUNDABLE AS PAYMENTS WILL HAVE BEEN FORWARDED ONTO OUR JOURNEY HOTELS OPERATORS AND AIRLINE**

## **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

Travel insurance is compulsory to participate on one of our Destination Journeys Escorted trips. You will need to ensure that you have cancellation coverage to cover for full cancellation of your journey. You are also advised to ensure your level of coverage is of a high standard particularly in the case of medical treatment. Some insurance companies only cover medical treatment up to the standard of medical treatment available in the country you are travelling. We recommend taking out a policy that provides medical

treatment to the same level you would received in either Australia or New Zealand and that would cover repatriation to a country that provides that level of coverage as part of the insurance policy. We also recommend that you have adequate coverage for accidents that would cover you for all modes of transport

If you are not taking out one of the insurance policies that we recommend please sure you advise us of your intended policy so we can help you check the fine print as we will not allow you to join one our Journeys with sub standard insurance coverage.

We also will require the policy number and emergency assistance number for the insurance company in case of emergencies when we are on our journey.

### **PASSPORTS AND VISAS**

A valid passport with at last 6 months validity after the date of your return home is required for travel to japan.

You require a visa for Vietnam and Cambodia for this journey.

WE ALSO REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT AT THE TIME OF BOOKING as the airlines, hotels and boat operators require your names and passport details to be 100 % correct. (If your passport is due to expire and you will be obtaining a new passport before you travel we will take a copy of the old passport and update your details with your new passport number when you receive your new passport.)

### **MEALS AND DIETARY REQUESTS**

Please advise us at the time of booking of any dietary restrictions you may have or if there is a particular food that you really do not like eating. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT SO WE CAN ADVISE THE AIRLINES, HOTELS, RESTAURANTS AND TOUR GUIDES WELL IN ADVANCE OF THE BEGINNING OF OUR JOURNEY.

### **FOOD AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES**

Food in Vietnam and Cambodais sometimes has intense flavours and may have ingredients that we may not be used to. Please ensure you have medication with you for such circumstances. Please be aware, mindful and considerate of the local Vietnamese and Cambodian beliefs and customs when travelling in both companies and dress with appropriate consideration of those beliefs.

### **MEDICAL ADVICE**

By law, Australian Travel agents are not permitted to give medical advice regarding destinations you are travelling to, we recommend that you take advice from your medical doctor or a specialist travel medical company, for example Travelvax.

### **LUGGAGE**

Our airfare with Vietnam Airways includes a checked luggage limit of 30 Kg for all of our flights. If you have connecting flights you will need to check with the airline concerned.

Hand luggage is usually 7 kg with most airlines.

### **EMERGENCY CONTACT**

We require details of emergency contact details or a family member who is not travelling with you in the event of an emergency. Name / Relationship to you / home and mobile telephone number / email.

### **MONEY**

Vietnam uses Dong and Cambodia Riel as their currency, it is recommend you travel with Dong for Vietnam and US dollars during the journey and advise you change your dollars either before you leave or in the first few days of our arrival to Vietnam. Most hotels will be able to exchange Australian dollars into Dong. Credit cards are accepted at hotels restaurants and shops. In the major cities you should have no problem with using a credit card or finding an ATM. However in the smaller rural areas we travel to, credit cards or ATM's will not be available. Remember when you leave from Cambodia to cash in all of your Riel as you cannot exchange it once you have left the country.

### **QUESTIONS**

Should you have any questions please contact Glenn at The Travellers Hut

TELEPHONE: The Travellers Hut 02 43 631699

E-MAIL: [glenn@destinationjourneys.com.au](mailto:glenn@destinationjourneys.com.au) / [mail@thetravellershut.com.au](mailto:mail@thetravellershut.com.au)

