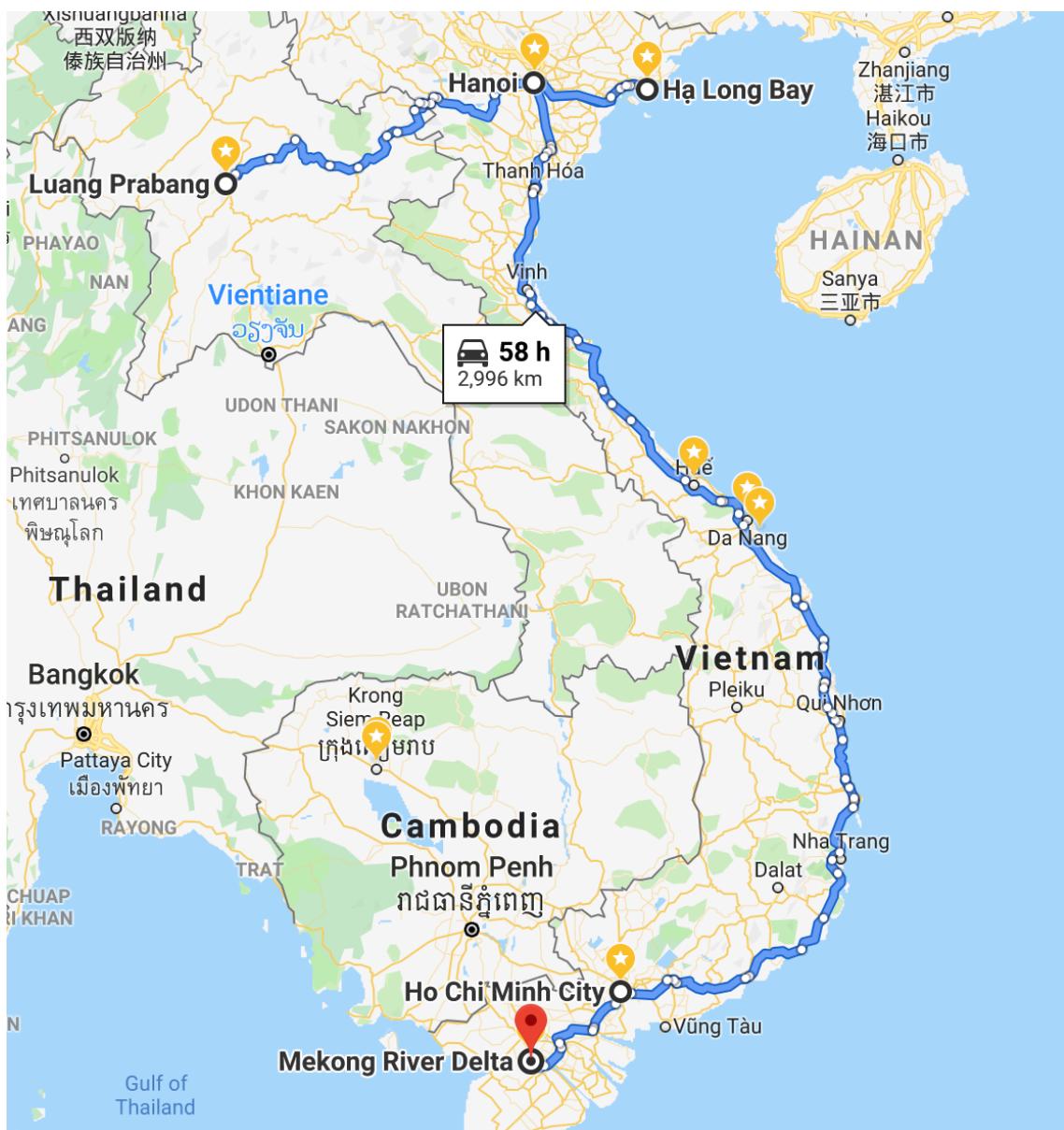




VIETNAM & LAOS



Overnight	Highlights	Hotels	Meals
Luang Brabang	Arrive in Hanoi, Vietnam. Continue to Luang Brabang, Laos	3 Naga	
Luang Brabang	Explore the city, Pak Ou cave by boat, Baci ceremony	3 Naga	B,L,D
Luang Brabang	Kmu Village, hiking, Kuang Sy Waterfall	3 Naga	B, L
Hanoi	Tak Bath ceremony. Fly to Hanoi	Hanoi Silk Path	B
Hanoi	Old quarter, Railway Street, Hoa Lo Prison, Temple of Literature	Hanoi Silk Path	B, L
Hanoi	Bac Bien and Co Loa villages, biking, local interaction	Hanoi Silk Path	B
Ha Long Bay	Travel to Ha Long Bay, check in to your boat	Indochina Sails Premium	B, L, D
Ha Long Bay	Explore Ha Long Bay	Indochina Sails Premium	B, L, D
Hoi An	Ha Long Bay to Hanoi Airport for our flight to Hoi An (Danang)	Hoi An Central Boutique Hotel and Spa	B
Hoi An	Local market visit with a chef. Tra Que village, cooking class. Hoi An old quarter visit	Hoi An Central Boutique Hotel and Spa	B, L
Hoi An	Cam Thanh countryside rice fields, fishing with local fisherman, lunch with local family	Hoi An Central Boutique Hotel and Spa	B, L
Ho Chi Minh City	Fly from Danang (Hoi An) to Ho Chi Minh City	Grand Hotel Saigon	B
Ho Chi Minh City	Cu Chi Tunnels, City tour	Grand Hotel Saigon	B, L
Can Tho	Ben Tre Mekong Delta, Cruise, Coconut factory, Biking in the countryside	Victoria Can Tho Resort	B, L

Overnight	Highlights	Hotels	Meals
Ho Chi Minh City	Cai Rang floating market	Grand Hotel Saigon	B
	Morning visit to FITO (traditional Vietnamese Medicine Museum) and then District 5 for markets. Transfer to Ho Chi Minh City airport and fly home		B

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival at Luang Prabang

Upon arrival at Luang Prabang airport, you will have a private transfer to your hotel. Check in and spend the balance of day at leisure.

Meals included: N/A

Hotel: Luang Prabang: 3 Nagas, * * * *

Check in: 22 Nov. Check out: 25 Nov

Address: Vat Nong Village, Luang Prabang 00600, Laos

Phone: +856 71 253 888

Day 2: Luang Prabang

The city of Luang Prabang is one of the most beautiful cities in Southeast Asia, with its perfect location at the meeting point of the Mekong and Nam Khan River at the foot of an age-old mountain range. Your discovery of Luang Prabang will take you into its most emblematic and culturally-rich sites. In order to fully appreciate your visit of this

picturesque city, a guide will share all his knowledge of the city's history, architecture, and culture with you.

- The Royal Palace, which nowadays houses the National Museum, has a huge collection of precious items which formerly belonged to the royal family, and a large array of statuettes discovered in the temples of the region. Here, you can lay eyes on the Phrabang Buddha, considered as the most sacred artifacts of Laos, and which has given its name to the city.

- Vat Visoun, the oldest temple in the city, stands apart from the others thanks to That Makmo, a stone stupa representing a Lotus flower.

- The Vat Xieng Thong, the temple of the Royal City, is a complex of sacred shrines and temples displaying some of the finest Lao traditional art and without any doubt, the most beautiful site of Luang Prabang.



Later on, step aboard a local motorboat to travel to the Pak Ou caves, the most famous Buddhist site around Luang Prabang. This beautiful excursion on the Mekong River, lined with steep karst cliffs and small villages, is the opportunity for you to observe the life lived on its banks.

When you reach the caves after the boat ride and after you've climbed the stairs to the entrance, you will be amazed to find thousands of Buddha statues inside. (Duration of the boat ride: 2 hours)

Late in the afternoon, you will be invited to attend a Baci (Sou Khouan) ceremony, one of the most popular traditions in Laos and which accompanies any important life event: weddings, funerals, births, illnesses, trips, etc. The ceremony usually takes place amongst a handful of people, with one or two ‘recipients’, the ‘officiate’ and a few ‘assistants’. But for larger occasions, such as weddings, they can gather dozens of people. During the ceremony you attend, the officiating person will recall your souls (according to Lao belief, each human being has 32 souls) to attract beneficial influences towards you, and will then tie a cotton string around your wrist symbolizing the wishes he will have formulated in your favor. Afterwards you can enjoy dinner with a presentation of famous Lao dances and traditional music.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel in Luang Prabang.



Day 3: Luang Prabang

After a drive from Luang Prabang to Ban Nong Heo, you will have some time to discover the charming Khmu village, with its traditional houses, water buffaloes and ducks wandering freely around, as well as farmers and blacksmiths going about their daily tasks. Then your local guide will take you for quite an easy hike in the countryside, passing through hill forests and plantations, with nice viewing-points on the way. You can even ask your guide to pick some fresh sugar cane directly from the field to taste the refreshing juice! After a walk in the beautiful natural environment, you will arrive at Ban Thapene, the village that lies at the entrance to the Kuang Sy Waterfall. Spend your time at Kuang Sy before returning to the town.

Duration of the hike: 1h 30min

Level: 0

Transportation: From Luang Prabang to Ban Nong Heo: 50 minutes

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Luang Prabang

Day 4: Luang Prabang - Hanoi

In the early morning (from around 05:30 to 06:30), you will travel with your guide to the temple to see the Tak Bath ceremony. During the ceremony, devoted residents of Luang Prabang kneel on the sidewalk, bearing food in their hands, which they offer to the monks as they walk by clad in their saffron-orange robes. Be drawn into this culturally significant moment, as it takes place in a peaceful and respectful manner, with no words exchanged between the monks and the inhabitants making the offerings. After this humbling experience, your

guide will take you to a local market, a very animated place to be in the morning, to say the least. After the market tour, you'll be taken to a welcoming local restaurant beside the Mekong river to try a soup designed to quell your hunger and give you energy for the day. If you're not up to soup in the morning, you can also just enjoy a coffee while watching the daily routine of the residents. After this, you can return to your hotel for your full breakfast.

Later, you will be rewarded with a panoramic view over the city of Luang Prabang and its surroundings, after climbing the 328 steps leading to the top of the Mount Phousi. Visit the Vat Mai, built at the end of the XVIII century. This is a much respected shrine topped by an amazing roof. This afternoon, take a flight to Hanoi. On arrival, meet our local guide and driver for a transfer to your hotel. Spend the balance of day at leisure.

Meals included: Breakfast

Check-out at hotel in Luang Prabang by 12:00PM

Flight: QV313 05:10PM - 06:30PM

Remarks for Tak Bath Ceremony:

- Duration: Around 2h 30min
- As a guest attending this tradition, you are recommended not to wear revealing clothing
- Please do not cross the monk's path and take photos from a distance to show your respect; and maintain a quiet atmosphere
- The Khao Soi is only a tasting - guests can return to their hotel afterwards for breakfast should they wish.

Hotel in Hanoi: Silk Path Hotel

Address: 195 – 199 Hang Bong str, Hoan Kiem dist, Hanoi

Phone: +84 24 3266 5555

Check in: Nov 25, Check out: Nov 28

Day 5: Hanoi

This morning, pay a visit to Hoa Lo Prison. This was a prison used by the French colonists in French Indochina for political prisoners, and later by North Vietnam for U.S. prisoners of war during the Vietnam War. During this later period it was known to American POWs as the Hanoi Hilton. The prison was demolished during the 1990s, although the gatehouse remains as a museum.

After a lunch break at a local restaurant, you will explore the thousand-year-old Temple of Literature, also known as the first university of Vietnam. Built in 1070 by emperor Ly Thanh Tong and opened from 1076 as a university exclusively for the princes, children of the nobility and the mandarins. In 1802, Emperor Gia Long transferred the National University to Hue, which had by then become the capital city of Vietnam. You will have time to stroll through the shaded paths of Van Mieu Park to appreciate the architecture of this historical site as well as admire 82 of the 116 original steles which were used to engrave the names of the graduates.

Afterward, take a stroll in the Old Quarter. Throughout the tour, your senses will be bombarded with a cascade of different sights, sounds, smells and characters that harmonize to the music of life in Hanoi. You will have time to enjoy a cup of coffee from one of some shops in the railway area and watch the local train passing by. (Distance and duration of the walk: 4 kilometers or 2.5 miles - 2 hours). Finish the trip with a visit to Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum (closed on Monday and Friday) and see his

traditional stilt house - now the Ho Chi Minh Museum and the revered One-Pillar Pagoda.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

Day 6 : Hanoi

Today, you will be picked up at your hotel in the morning in order to reach Bac Bien village in Hanoi's beautiful countryside. Your cycling guide will welcome you at the meeting point and gives you some information about your cycling trip. From here, start cycling down little paths into the village, until the border of the Red River where a local boat will wait for you to ferry you over the river. Then, continue your cycling journey through some small, typical Vietnamese village streets. You will surely enjoy taking in the daily life of Vietnamese people upon a visit to a local house. Your host will also welcome you with a cup of tea, before talking to you about his history, his family and his house. Then, continue your journey between small villages and rice paddies while taking in the peaceful atmosphere of the lush countryside. After crossing a few little villages, you will finally reach Co Loa village, which is the end of your cycling journey. From there, you will have a break and your guide will lead you to visit some temples and an exhibition about the history of Co Loa, which was the ancient capital of Vietnam. After your visit, your driver will take you back to your hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast



Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

Cycling tour remark:

- Level: 0
- Distance & duration of cycling: 11 kilometers (7 miles) – 1h 30min
- Terrain: most are paved roads, flat
- Difference in elevation: none
- Transportation: 14 kilometers (9 miles) return transport– 30 minutes



Day 7: Hanoi - Halong Bay

In the morning, you will travel to Halong and arrive around noon. There, you will embark on a cruise in the must-see Halong Bay. This world-famous bay is one of the most beautiful landscapes in Vietnam, with its giant rock islets covered in luxuriant vegetation overlooking the waters. Halong Bay includes some 1,900 islands and islets of rocky peaks, often uninhabited and unvisited. This scene creates a spectacular marine

landscape, which earned it UNESCO World Heritage status in 1994. You will be served lunch and dinner aboard with excellent and freshly caught seafood from the bay. At the end of the day, you will have the chance to enjoy a night fishing session on the boat.



Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, dinner

Ha Long Bay

Indochina Sails Premium, (non-private cruise),
private cabin

Check in: Nov 28- Check out: Nov 30

Accommodation: Overnight on the boat

Distance : 170 kilometers (105 miles) – 2h 30min to 2h45min

Day 8: Halong Bay

Early in the morning, you will welcome the sunrise from the deck of the boat and then spend the day exploring the famous Halong Bay. The bay offers endless possibilities for pictures with its hundreds of astonishing, karst peaks. You will enjoy a special moment during the sunset on the Halong bay before having dinner on the boat.

Meal included: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Accommodation: Overnight on the boat

Day 9: Hanoi - Danang - Hoi An

Early in the morning and depending on the season, you will wake up to enjoy sunrise over the aquamarine waters of the bay. Then, the cruise will tour around the bay until you disembark at the end of the morning. After that, head to Hanoi Airport for flight to Danang. On arrival, have a private transfer to Hoi An. Check in and spend the balance of day at leisure.

Meal included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Hoi An

Distance: 180 kilometers (112 miles) – 2h 30min to 2h45

Flight: VN 181 HAN DAD 4:30 PM - 5:50 PM

Hoi An Central Boutique Hotel & Spa * * * *

Grand Deluxe

Check in: Nov 30 - Check out: Dec 3

Address: 91 Hung Vuong Street, Cam Pho Ward, Hoi An City

Phone: +84.235 395 9999 / Fax : +84.235 395 9998

Day 10: Hoi An

Today, you will visit Hoi An, recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage site for its well-preserved ancient streets and houses. The town features a harmony of Vietnamese, Japanese, Chinese and French architecture elements, which can be seen from the famous Japanese Bridge, the Chinese Temple and Tan Ky trading house (which used to belong to a rich Vietnamese merchant 200 years ago and has been kept original

ever since). During your visit of Hoian, have a stop at the Reaching Out Teahouse. The Teahouse employs hearing impaired staff, and proceeds are put back into the business to train and employ people with disabilities all over Vietnam.

Meal included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Hoi An

Notes for cooking class at Tra Que Village

- Duration: 4h 30 min
- Private Class

Day 11: Hoi An

Setting off in the early morning, you will ride your bicycles into the Cam Thanh countryside, you will ride across plains of flooded rice fields and have the opportunity to observe picturesque scenes of the local's daily life with a background of verdant countryside. After arriving at the local boat pier, you will board a boat that will transport you to the seaport of Cua Dai, at the mouth of the Thu Bon River, which runs through Hoi An. At this point, two very different activities will be awaiting you to enjoy. First of all, you will be initiated to a form of fishing using huge nets raised by special pulleys, the catch, accessed only by paddling out in "basket boats". After this first fun activity, a bamboo basket boat will take you into the mangrove forest. This amazing round basket boat will carry you along the forest and, from there, you will be able to watch and take part in scenes of crab fishing. At this point, you'll no doubt be invited to try and maneuver your boat yourself, but it's not an easy task making circular paddle movements while trying to make sure you keep your balance! Be that as it may, it's certainly a lot of fun. As a reward for your morning's efforts, you will be accompanied to a local family's house to

enjoy a lunch consisting of local dishes carefully prepared by the fishermen. The friendly and hospitable family will welcome you to give a hand in preparing the lunch or to make toys fashioned from coconut leaves, a very fun and enjoyable activity.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Hoi An

Duration: 5 hours included lunch

Boat transportation 45-30 minutes to the seaport of Cua Dai

Duration cycling tour : 1 hour

Level: 0

Day 12: Hoi An - Danang - Ho Chi Minh City

After checking out you will meet your tour guide and travel to Danang Airport for your flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Upon arrival at Saigon Airport, welcomed by a local guide and travel to your hotel for check-in. Spend the balance of time at leisure.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City

Ho Chi Minh City: Grand Hotel Saigon,

Premium Deluxe

Check in: Dec 3 - Check out: Dec 5

Address: 8 Dong Khoi Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City,

Phone: (84-28) 3915.5555

Flight: VN 125 02:00 PM - 03:25 PM

Day 13: Ho Chi Minh City

You will be taken to the pier in the early morning and will head towards the Cu Chi Tunnels by speedboat. Originally dug by hand by the Viet Minh (Resistance Force) during the French-Indochina War, this network of underground tunnels was expanded during the Vietnam War. At its peak, it was 200 kilometers long, 3-to-4-meters deep, and was very well-equipped with meeting rooms, medical, and sanitary posts.

Today, it is one of the most important historical sites of the Vietnam War. You will begin the visit by watching a documentary on the tunnels and the war in the 60s-70s, and then you can pass through various narrow underground ducts in order to discover the many rooms: offices, kitchens, bunk rooms, weapons stores, and even hospitals. At the end of the tour, you will have the chance to taste a culinary specialty of Cu Chi, khoai my luoc (boiled cassava), a Vietnamese dish eaten daily during the war. After your visit, you will return to Ho Chi Minh City. Lunch at a local restaurant.

As you embark on the city tour this afternoon, very soon you will notice that the architecture in the centre of Ho Chi Minh City is still representative of the colonial era and Chinese influence. Your discovery of the capital of the South would not be complete without a visit to the city's main historical sites: the central post office, whose metal structure was designed by Gustave Eiffel; Notre-Dame Cathedral, constructed from red bricks and resembling Notre-Dame in Paris; the Reunification Palace and Dong Khoi Street.

Note: Notre-Dame Cathedral is closed for renovations until early 2020- Exterior only

Remark for Speedboat tour:

- Join-in tour
- Starting point: Tan Cang Pier
- Duration: 1 hr 30 min
- Note: Not recommended for people with claustrophobia

Meals included: Breakfast; Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City



Day 14: Ho Chi Minh City - Ben Tre - Can Tho

In the morning, you will depart from Ho Chi Minh City to explore Ben Tre in the Mekong Delta. Upon arriving at Ben Tre, you will embark on a boat and start cruising on one of the arms of the Mekong river. You will make a quick stop in a local coconut candy factory before walking through a brick factory and a local coconut factory, where the coconuts are opened by hand. You will continue to cruise on the river and on a smaller canal surrounded by the coconut trees. Then, you will make a stop to visit the coconut gardens of a local house, where you will be able to taste some tropical fruits. You will continue on a smaller boat through the canal rowed by a local oarsman. After disembarking, you will hop on a bicycle to discover the countryside, before stopping for lunch in a beautiful local restaurant to taste some traditional dishes of the Mekong region. In the afternoon, you will walk on a small path to a small jetty where your boat is waiting, and then cruise back to Ben Tre. At the end of the tour, you

will head to Can Tho for your overnight stay.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Can Tho

Level: 0

Distance & duration: 6 kilometers (4 miles) - 30 minutes

Terrain: good road, easy to ride

Distance:

- HCMC - Ben Tre: 90 kilometers (56 miles) – 2 hours driving

- Ben Tre - Can Tho: 80 kilometers (50 miles) - 2 hours driving

Can Tho: Victoria Can Tho Resort, * * * *

Superior

Check in: Dec 5 - Check out: Dec 6

Cai Khe Ward, Ninh Kieu District, Can Tho City

Phone: 0084 292 381 0111

Day 15: Can Tho - Ho Chi Minh City

Early in the morning, you will depart for a day of discovery and wonder along the Mekong River. At the Cai Rang floating market, you will catch a glimpse of the lively atmosphere, where people sell and buy all sorts of fruits and fish fresh from the river delta. On each market boat, a long pole with a piece of fruit or vegetable attached to the end serves as an emblem indicating the type of goods sold on the boat, goods like pineapples, oranges, salad vegetables, and turnips. After visiting the floating market, you will return to Ho Chi Minh City.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City

Distance: 170 kilometers (105 miles) - 4 hours driving

Ho Chi Minh: Grand Hotel Saigon,

* * * *Premium Deluxe

* Check in: Dec 6 - Check out: Dec 7

Day 16: Ho Chi Minh City - Departure

After checking out this afternoon, you will meet your guide and driver and visit FITO Museum. FITO is the first private museum in Vietnam where you can discover many artifacts and information about traditional Vietnamese medicine: ancient documents, herbs slicers, cutting tools, pestles, mortars, bottles and paraphernalia of herbal medicine... The museum itself is an ancient house made of wood in a traditional Vietnamese style. Later on, head to the District 5 area of Saigon. Cholon ("The Great Market"), founded in the 18th century by the Chinese and located 7 kilometers from the city center, is and has always been a Chinese enclave set on Vietnamese soil. After many years of tumultuous cohabitation, the Chinese community (the Hoa people) has been revitalized and now lives without fear. As a result, Cholon has slowly become an essential part of the city's economic scene. Your discovery of Cholon will definitely take you to one of the traditional pharmacies, Thien Hau pagoda - sitting majestically in the city and Binh Tay market. This market is located in a vast ochre-coloured building, designed by a

French architect and financed by a Chinese merchant. It is famous for the thousands of stalls and a great variety of goods, making it a true temple of commerce in Ho Chi Minh City! After the visits, head to Ho Chi Minh City Airport for your outbound flight.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation: N/A - room will be at your disposal until noon time only

Departure flight: TBA

Inclusions	Exclusions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accommodation in the category chosen or similar (subject to availability)• Meals as mentioned in the program.• All internal/ regional flight tickets in economy class• All local boat rental and cycling as mentioned in the program. Cruise 01 night on Non-private junk in Ha Long Bay.• Transfer from and to the airports by private vehicle with A/C. Transportation by private vehicle with A/C.• All entrance fees and sightseeing as mentioned in the program.• Local English speaking guide(s) as mentioned	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meals and drinks which are not mentioned in the program• International flight tickets and airport taxes.• Visa fees upon arrival in Vietnam, Laos.• Tips & personal expenses. Personal insurance. Any services not clearly mentioned in the program.

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