

January 30, 2024

Dear Penny & Michael,

Congratulations and thank you for choosing Explorient! We are delighted to have the opportunity to serve you on your special trip to Southeast Asia. Please find your final itinerary for the trip. We're excited to have you on board with us!

TOUR SUMMARY

14 Day / 12 Night Air & Land Custom Vietnam & Cambodia Deluxe Package from NYC

- Roundtrip Business Class Air via Singapore Airlines (JFK/Hanoi – HCM City / EWR)
- Economy Class Hanoi / Danang / Siem Reap / HCM City Airfares per itinerary
- 2 nights at Hotel de L'Opera by MGallery in Hanoi (Grand Deluxe Room)
- 1 night at Tam Coc Garden Resort (Premium Tonkoin Garden Bungalow) in Ninh Binh
- 1 night on board the Orchid Premium Cruise (Premium Terrace Suite) in Halong Bay
- 3 nights at Hoi An Boutique Resort (Boutique Deluxe Room) in Hoi An
- 3 nights at Lotus Blanc Resort (Premium Landmark Room, Privilege Floor with club amenities)
- 2 nights at The Caravelle Saigon Hotel (Opera Room) in HCM City
- Hotel Breakfasts Daily
- Lunches & Dinners per itinerary (food only)
- Private tour throughout: all transfers and excursions (except Halong Cruise) on private basis

Additional Information

- Price is based on double occupancy (except Halong Cruise), 2 passengers traveling
- Price includes all entrance fees, hotel taxes & service charges, domestic air taxes
- Price excludes transpacific airfares, personal expenses, meals not specified, beverages during included lunches/dinners, gratuities to guides, drivers, cruise crew, and bell persons
- Visas are required for Vietnam (2) and Cambodia (1): E-visas may be applied online as follows:
 - Vietnam: <https://evisa.xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn/trang-chu-tdtd>: (Multiple Entry Visa Required)
 - Cambodia: <https://www.evisa.gov.kh/> (\$37 per person)

TOUR ITINERARY

Day	Activity Summary
Feb. 27/28	Depart USA: Late evening departure from JFK via Singapore Airlines for Hanoi, connecting in Singapore.
Feb. 29	<p>Arrive Hanoi: Upon late morning arrival in Hanoi, be met and transferred to HOTEL DE L'OPERA HANOI for your next 2 nights' accommodations. Afternoon at leisure to take a rest, relax and freshen up.</p> <p>This evening, enjoy a night foodies tour for which Hanoi is known. Hanoi and its environs are the birthplace of many quintessential Vietnamese dishes and the city is considered one of the world's great food capitals. Led by a top 5 Master Chef, explore the capital's rich flavors expressed in every bite through a slow-pace street food tour. Stroll through narrow streets sitting on tiny plastic chairs and enjoying a cup of Vietnamese cappuccino like the way locals start their day. Step in a traditional bustling market, and through your chef, learn which ingredients create the unique taste of these dishes and how they fit into the local culture. It's time to try a dozen or so seasonal street foods along your walking trip. The tour ends with a full authentic gastronomy experience over a glass of cold beer. V(D)</p> <p>Note: Fast Track Service is included in your program. Upon arrival at Hanoi Airport, please look for an airport representative in the Immigrations area holding a sign with your name on it. He/she will escort you to the priority line followed by baggage claim.</p> <p>Meals: N/A Accommodations: Hotel de L'Opera by MGallery (Grand Deluxe Room)</p>
Mar. 01	<p>Hanoi: Today's tour hits the highlights of the Vietnamese capital. A city of lakes, parks and colonial mansions, Hanoi retains much of its historical charm and, with an eclectic mix of Asian tempo and French refinement, tantalizing foods and a great place to observe typical Vietnamese life.</p> <p>Our visits today include the 11th century Temple of Literature Vietnam's first university; One Pillar Pagoda, an iconic Buddhist temple known for its unique architectural design featuring a single pillar rising from a lotus pond; Visit Hoa Lo Prison (a.k.a. 'Hanoi Hilton'), where the late John McCain spent 5 years in captivity during the Vietnam War, followed by a cyclo (rickshaw) ride through the city's Old Quarter that boasts a labyrinth of quaint streets and alleyways lined with shops of all trades. Afterwards, enjoy lunch at Bun Cha Huong Lien, a local hole-in-the-wall joint made famous by President Obama and celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain's dinner outing in 2016. We'll enjoy some delicious Bun Cha before continuing touring the city. This afternoon, your guide and vehicle are at your disposal to further explore the city or enjoy time with friends. Overnight in Hanoi. (B,L)</p> <p>Meals: Breakfast, Lunch Accommodations: Hotel de L'Opera by MGallery (Grand Deluxe Room)</p>
Mar. 02	<p>Hanoi / Ninh Binh: Today, get off the beaten path to the much lesser-known area of Ninh Binh, home an UNESCO World Heritage Site that encompasses Tam Coc-Trang An scenic landscape. Considered as the Halong Bay on land, Ninh Binh is surrounded by limestone karsts landscape reflected in the river. Upon arrival at the peaceful outskirts of Tho Ha village, soak up the region's rice fields and agriculture life, engage in a casual talk with the local farmer to get an insight into his family and lifestyle. Then, it's time for lunch at a rustic yet traditional restaurant that includes a simple cooking demo with the chef before having lunch featuring Ninh Binh specialties.</p> <p>Later this afternoon, get on a rowing boat trip to the Galaxy Cave recently discovered in 2007 due to its small size gateway & its hidden location in the rained forest on Tuong mountain. The cave is beautifully untouched with natural formations of stalagmites & stalactites in shimmering colors – giving you the feeling of being lost in a real paradise on earth. There is a diverse range and amazing shapes of stalactites and stalagmites situated in both dry and wet caves. Return to your hotel in Tam Coc through the most stunning sceneries along the riverbanks while watching tranquil sunset reflecting in the idyllic river. (B,L)</p>

	<p>Meals: Breakfast, Lunch Accommodations: Tam Coc Garden Resort (Premium Tonkin Garden Cottage)</p>
Mar. 03	<p>Ninh Binh / Halong Bay: Early morning transfer by road to Halong Bay (approx. 4 hours) and board the ORCHID PREMIUM CRUISE for an unforgettable cruise around Halong and Lan Ha Bay. Visit Dark and Bright Caves, the ideal place for you to get up and close to Ha Long Bay by bamboo boat or kayak, before continuing to Lan Ha Bay where you can jump into the bay for a refreshing dip. Lunch and dinner are served on board. (B,L,D)</p> <p>Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Accommodations: Orchid Premium Cruise (Premium Terrace Suite)</p>
Mar. 04	<p>Halong Bay / Hoi An: This morning, join a Tai Chi session on the sundeck while tea, coffee and assorted pastries are served. Enjoy kayaking activities followed by brunch on board before disembarking your cruise at around 11:30am. Transfer to Hanoi Airport for your afternoon flight to Danang. Continue by road to Hoi An and check-in at HOI AN BOUTIQUE RESORT for your next 3 nights' accommodations. (B)</p> <p>Meals: Brunch Accommodations: Hoi An Boutique Resort (Boutique Deluxe Room)</p>
Mar. 05	<p>Hoi An: This morning, enjoy a walking tour of Old Town. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is a picturesque riverside town and one of Southeast Asia's major international ports during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Now, this beautifully preserved historic city is best seen on foot. Discover beautifully preserved old merchant houses, local temples and lively markets as you stroll through the back streets of this enchanting destination. You will visit the iconic 400-year-old Japanese Bridge and the busy waterfront. There will also be time to browse through the numerous boutique shops, galleries and cafes that line the cobbled streets of Old Town. End the day with a short boat ride along the Thu Bon River to relax and enjoy views of beautiful Hoi An from the river. Afternoon at leisure to relax, enjoy the beach and explore Hoi An on your own. (B)</p> <p>Meals: Breakfast Accommodations: Hoi An Boutique Resort (Boutique Deluxe Room)</p>
Mar. 06	<p>Hoi An: Full day free at leisure to relax, enjoy the beach and explore beautiful Hoi An on your own. Optional tours (cooking lesson, countryside tour with local village visits, etc.) are available upon request. (B)</p> <p>Tip: Rent a motorbike at a local shop to explore the town and coastal area around your resort.</p> <p>Meals: Breakfast Accommodations: Hoi An Boutique Resort (Boutique Deluxe Room)</p>
Mar. 07	<p>Hoi An / Siem Reap: Morning at leisure. Afternoon transfer for your flight to Siem Reap. Upon arrival, be met and transferred to LOTUS BLANC RESORT for your next 3 nights' accommodations. (B)</p> <p>Meals: Breakfast Accommodations: Lotus Blanc Resort (Premium Landmark Room, Privileged Floor)</p>
Mar. 08	<p>Siem Reap: If you're up for an early start (4:45am pick-up), experience the beauty and tranquility of Angkor Wat at Sunrise. Angkor Wat, the crown jewel of Khmer architecture and the national symbol of Cambodia. Angkor Wat is the largest, best preserved, and most religiously significant of the Angkor temples. Angkor impresses visitors both by its sheer scale and beautifully proportioned layout, as well as the delicate artistry of its carvings. Angkor Wat is stunning at any time of the day, but sunrise and sunset are especially beautiful times to watch the play of light on the stones.</p>

	<p>We will return to your hotel in time for Breakfast. Next, a visit to Angkor Thom, the ancient royal city of the Khmer Empire with its centerpiece; the Bayon temple. Continue to the Terrace of the Elephants, which served as a platform from where the King could welcome back his victorious army and the Terrace of the Leper King, which holds perfect carvings winding along a narrow passageway that leads to the Baphuon complex. After lunch at a local restaurant, head to Ta Prohm. This temple is considered to be Angkor's most beautiful structure and is overgrown with fig trees, giving a haunting yet exotic atmosphere. The magnificent roots of the trees have merged over the centuries with the temple's huge stone blocks, emphasizing a 'Tomb Raider' feeling.</p> <p>After lunch at a local restaurant, return to the magnificent Angkor Wat, the crown jewel of Khmer architecture and the national symbol of Cambodia, for an in-depth tour of this amazing complex. Built in the 12th century, Angkor Wat is the world's largest religious monument and a UNESCO World Heritage site, as well as being the best preserved and most religiously significant of the Angkor temples. The temple complex covers 81 hectares and is comparable in size to the Imperial Palace in Beijing. Its distinctive five towers are emblazoned on the Cambodian flag and the 12th century masterpiece is considered by art historians to be the prime example of classical Khmer art and architecture. Overnight in Siem Reap. (B,L)</p> <p>Meals: Breakfast, Lunch Accommodations: Lotus Blanc Resort (Premium Landmark Room, Privileged Floor)</p>
Mar. 09	<p>Siem Reap (Kulen Elephant Forest & Tonle Sap Lake): This morning, enjoy an elephant experience at Kulen Elephant Forest. In the foothills of Kulen Mountain lie 1100 acres of protected forest inhabited by the 14 elephants of Angkor. For 26 years, these elephants have given rides to visitors in the temples of the world heritage site. The Kulen Elephant Forest is a haven where these retired elephants can interact freely, and are treated with the greatest care and attention. At the reserve, there are no tricks, no riding, and the elephants are free to roam and socialize as they please.</p> <p>Your excursion begins with a scenic one-hour drive to Kulen Mountain. After an introductory briefing, head out to meet and greet the elephants with a 2km observation trek through the forest where the elephants are free to roam. After a hot trek the elephants will want to cool off, so you will have the opportunity to watch them play in the cool pond and provide them with some enrichment treats. Enjoy lunch at the lodge or at a local restaurant before continuing on to yet another unforgettable experience.</p> <p>We'll embark on a culturally inspiring boat trip to Tonle Sap Lake at Kampong Kleang. Tonle Sap, or the Great Lake swells up to seven times its original size during the monsoon season with an ecosystem that is one of the richest and most diverse in the region. This boat trip explores the primitive floating fishing villages that dwell atop the Great Lake, passing submerged forests and fishing farm and observing local children at play or fishermen at work. Return to your resort in Siem Reap. (B,L)</p> <p>Meals: Breakfast, Lunch Accommodations: Lotus Blanc Resort (Premium Landmark Room, Privileged Floor)</p>
Mar. 10	<p>Siem Reap / HCM City: Transfer for your morning flight for HCM City. Upon arrival, commence a tour of the city starting with a visit to the historic former Presidential Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral (outside viewing only due to current renovation) and the colonial-era Post Office, featuring classic Gothic, Renaissance, and French colonial designs. Visit the Fine Arts Museum that boasts an impressive collection of ancient and modern art and sculptures followed by the vibrant Ben Thanh market for some street food and souvenir shopping. Check-in at THE CARAVELLE SAIGON for your next 2 nights' accommodations. (B)</p> <p>Meals: Breakfast Accommodations: Caravelle Saigon Hotel (Opera Room)</p>
Mar. 11	<p>HCM City: This morning, travel out of the city to the Cu Chi Tunnels. This underground network was dug in 1948 for the guerrillas to hide from French air and ground sweeps. It also served as communication routes and food and</p>

	<p>weapon caches as well as hospitals and living quarters for guerrilla fighters throughout the Vietnam war. The tunnel system was improved and expanded to create an underground city of meeting areas, storerooms, living quarters and much more. The tunnels allowed the Viet Cong to control a vital area of South Vietnam and at their height, extended for more than 200KM in length and stretched from what was then Saigon to the Cambodian border.</p> <p>Preserved as a memorial park, two sections of this remarkable network are open to the public. You'll have the option to go below the surface and visit sections of the tunnels first hand. The more adventurous may go deeper and your guide will be on hand to give guidance on the degree of expected difficulty. There is plenty of interest above ground as well and it is recommended to bring good footwear, sunscreen and a hat. Please note you may get a little dusty if you decide to go underground. Return to the city and enjoy the balance of the afternoon at leisure.</p> <p>This evening, enjoy the spectacular A O Show (pronounced Ahhh! Ohhh!) at the Saigon Opera House, a 60-minute production that depicts the transformation of modern Vietnamese society, taking the audience from the serenity and peacefulness of rural village life to the mayhem and frenzy of city dwelling through the medium of dance and music. Using acrobats, contemporary dancers, jugglers and martial arts experts, the performance is accompanied by an ensemble of harmonious instruments. After the show, enjoy time at leisure to relax and explore the vibrant surroundings of your hotel. (B,L)</p> <p>Note: Show time is 6pm at Saigon Opera House located just across the street from your hotel.</p> <p>Meals: Breakfast Accommodations: Caravelle Saigon Hotel (Opera Room)</p>
Mar. 12	<p>Return Home: Full day free at leisure until your afternoon transfer for your early evening flight home, connecting in Singapore. Arrive EWR the next day. (B)</p> <p>Meals: Breakfast Accommodations: N/A</p>
Mar. 13	<p>Arrive Home: Early morning arrival at Newark International Airport EWR).</p> <p>Meals: In Flight Accommodations: N/A</p> <p>***END OF PROGRAM***</p>

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