Vietnam | CULTURAL EXPLORER

A FEAST FOR THE SENSES | 10 DAYS

February 25 - March 5, 2020
November 3 - 12, 2020

TRIP ITINERARY
A passion for travel. Simply put, we love to travel, and that infectious spirit is woven into every one of our journeys. Our staff travels the globe searching out hidden-gem inns and lodges, taste testing bistros, trattorias, and noodle stalls, and discovering the trails and plying the waterways of each remarkable destination. When we come home, we separate wheat from chaff, creating memorable adventures that will connect you with the very best qualities of each destination.

Unique, award-winning itineraries. Our flexible, hand-crafted journeys have received accolades from the world’s most revered travel publications. Beginning from our appreciation for the world’s most breathtaking and interesting destinations, we infuse our journeys with the elements of adventure and exploration that stimulate our souls and enliven our minds. Whether you are looking for a challenging physical expedition or a leisurely cultural exploration, Boundless Journeys has exceptional itineraries to match your sense of adventure.

Insider connections. There is simply no substitute for traveling with a knowledgeable insider, and our expert local guides will open doors for you that other travelers miss, like dinner with their extended family in Peru’s Sacred Valley, or meeting an art scholar in Florence. Relationships developed over many years allow you to experience our destinations through a well-connected friend.

Small groups. Although the camaraderie of a group of like-minded travelers often enhances the journey, there can be too much of a good thing! We tread softly, and our average group size is just 8–10 guests, allowing us access to opportunities that would be unthinkable with a larger group.

Flexibility to suit your travel style. We offer both scheduled, small-group departures and custom journeys so that you can choose which works best for you. Not finding exactly what you are looking for? Let us customize a journey to fulfill your travel dreams.

Customer service that goes the extra mile. Having trouble finding flights that work for you? Want to surprise your traveling companion with a bottle of champagne at a tented camp in the Serengeti to celebrate an important milestone? There is no request that is too big—or too small—for our staff to handle. From your first call, we guide you through choosing your trip, provide advice on preparing for your adventure, and hold your hand until you return home.

Multi-year recipient of Travel + Leisure magazine’s “World’s Best Tour Operator”; and recognized by the editors of National Geographic ADVENTURE magazine as one of the Best Adventure Travel Companies on Earth.
Thank you for your interest in this fantastic journey to explore Vietnam. We have hand-crafted this tour from our own experience and hope you fall in love with the area—as we have!

THE INSPIRATION FOR THIS JOURNEY
From the emerald green rice paddies of the countryside and the sounds of its cities’ bustling markets, to the intoxicating flavors of its renowned cuisine with its blend of French and Asian influences, Vietnam is a feast for the senses. It is one of Southeast Asia’s most captivating countries, and only recently emerged on the world’s travel radar, now eager to share its natural beauty, rich culture, and long and storied history.

Our journey begins in the southern capital of Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon. In the following days, we explore UNESCO the Forbidden Purple City of Hué, the 15th century trading port of Hoi An, and the spectacular seascape of Ha Long Bay, via a deluxe Asian junk boat. Discover sacred caves, relax aboard longboats on scenic rivers, and immerse yourself in Hanoi, the “Paris of the Orient.” On our journey, we escape the beaten path to explore hidden gems, walk the hills above the coast to caves filled with Buddhist shrines, dine on regional cuisine that mixes traditional and colonial influences, and relax in deluxe inns and hotels in ideal locations.

HIGHLIGHTS
• Participate in a Vietnamese cuisine cooking class led by expert local chefs.
• View a traditional water puppet show, a performance art that dates back several centuries and is unique to Vietnam.
• Learn from a local artist how to make an iconic Vietnamese silk lantern.
• Overnight cruise on Ha Long Bay aboard a luxury traditional “junk” boat
TOUR OVERVIEW

THE BASICS

Duration: 10-day trip
Tour start: Ho Chi Minh City
Tour end: Hanoi
Accommodations: 8 nights in first-class hotels; 1 night aboard traditional sailing vessel (all private baths)
Trip rating: 1+ Easy . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Strenuous
(See page 12 for more information)
Land cost: $4,995 per person,
Single Supplement: First two per departure: $695 (Must reserve at least 120 days ahead) Additional: $1,195
Internal Airfare: $295 per person (subject to change); Optional seaplane flight to Ha Long Bay: $425 per person

WHAT’S INCLUDED

Just pack your bags—we’ve got you covered! When you’re on a Boundless Journeys adventure, every detail is taken care of for you, so you can relax and truly experience each moment. Put your wallet away, leave your travel books behind, fold up your maps, and BE there. Your Boundless Journeys adventure includes:

- Expert leadership
- All accommodations, including an overnight on a deluxe traditional junk on Ha Long Bay
- All meals as mentioned
- Local wine and beer with included dinners
- All on-tour ground transportation
- All gratuities except those for your guide, driver, and cruise staff, which are at your discretion
- All activities as noted in the itinerary
- Explorers Club savings on your next scheduled, small-group trip (conditions apply)

International airfare is not included in the price of your trip. Please contact your local travel agency or the airlines directly to make any arrangements you may need. If you would like assistance with booking your flights or other travel plans, please contact Boundless Journeys directly at (800) 941-8010 for a referral to our partners who will best fulfill your needs.
ITINERARY AT-A-GLANCE

DAY 1
Transfer from the airport to our hotel. Meet our guide for lunch this afternoon, followed by a city walking tour.

DAY 2
Venture down the Saigon River by boat to explore the Cu Chi Tunnels, an elaborate network of tunnels used by the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War. Afterwards, visit a local cricket farm, and later fly to Hué.

DAY 3
After a visit to Hué’s Imperial City, try your hand at making traditional paper flowers at Thanh Tien Village before a boat ride down the Perfume River.

DAY 4
En route to Hoi An, we stop and enjoy a short hike up Marble Mountain. This afternoon, we have the opportunity to learn how to make our own traditional silk lantern.

DAY 5
In the morning explore the charming old town area of Hoi An before cycling to a village on the outskirts of the city. Learn about life in rural farming and fishing communities before enjoying a boat ride back into Hoi An along the Thu Bon River.

DAY 6
Gain insight into the ancient Cham civilization with an excursion to My Son Cham ruins. This afternoon, participate in a Vietnamese cuisine cooking class.

DAY 7
In the morning, fly to Hanoi. Enjoy a walking tour through the Old Quarter followed by a classic Vietnamese water puppet show in the evening.

DAY 8
Visit some of Hanoi’s highlights including the Presidential Palace, One Pillar Pagoda, Temple of Literature, and Hoan Kiem Lake. Enjoy evening entertainment by the Lang Toi troupe which combines acrobatics with traditional music depicting rural Vietnamese life.

DAY 9
Drive to Ha Long Bay and board a deluxe “junk” boat for an overnight cruise. (Optional scenic seaplane flight is an additional cost.) During the cruise take in the iconic scenery, visit Tien Ong cave, and participate in optional swimming and kayaking excursions.

DAY 10
Enjoy sunrise Tai Chi on board before an optional Ti Top Island excursion. Return to Hanoi midday and transfer to airport.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a typical itinerary, and actual activities may vary to take advantage of weather conditions, local events and to allow serendipity to play a hand in your experience. Accommodations are as outlined in the itinerary, although we reserve the right to change these should the need arise. See our booking terms and conditions for more information about our change policy.
## DAY 1: Ho Chi Minh City

**Activity Overview:** Walking  
**Activity Level:** Easy  
**Activity Length:** 1-2 hours on city streets

Upon arrival of your international flight to Ho Chi Minh City, you will be met at the airport and transferred to our hotel. Following a lunch together with our guide, we set out to explore the city.

First, we pay a visit to the Fine Art Museum in Saigon - the best place to see a varied collection of works by Vietnamese artists, both historical and contemporary. We then explore the winding alleyways of the Cholon district (Chinatown), starting at Cha Tam Church and Chua Ong Pagoda, a stunning example of Chinese-inspired architecture. By foot, we head down a traditional herbal medicine street for a closer look at how locals use herbal remedies for everything from headaches to energy boosts.

Our next stop is the Bitexco Building—a glittering example of modern architecture in the city. As the fifth-highest building in Asia, the views from the rooftop cafe are unrivalled. Here, we enjoy a leisurely cocktail as the sun dips below the horizon.

This evening, we’ll gather with our guide and fellow guests for a welcome dinner at an acclaimed restaurant featuring the best of traditional Vietnamese specialties.

**Accommodation:** Rex Hotel, Ho Chi Minh City  
**Meals:** L, D

## DAY 2: Cu Chi Tunnels; Transfer to Hué

**Activity Overview:** Walking on dirt paths and city streets  
**Activity Level:** Easy  
**Activity Length:** 2 hours walking; 1.5 hours speed boat; 1.5 hours driving

This morning we’ll depart early for our one and a half hour journey down the Saigon River by speedboat, gaining a unique perspective of our surroundings and avoiding the congestion of the roads. Watching the city fade into the background, we enter the countryside and eventually reach the Cu Chi tunnels.

During the Vietnam War, the Vietcong dug an extensive tunnel complex that served as a sanctuary in the fight against American forces. Part of the complex has been left in its original state. For those who are comfortable with very close quarters, we will have an opportunity to crawl through some of these tunnels, a unique experience indeed.

Following our visit to the tunnels, we travel through the countryside to a cricket farm. According to local lore, hungry soldiers ate them to supplement up their nutrient-poor diets, and today they are considered a delicacy. This afternoon we return to Ho Chi Minh City and the airport for our flight to Hué.

From 1802 to 1945, Hué was the country’s political capital under the Nguyen Dynasty’s thirteen emperors. Hué was caught in the crossfire during the years of the Vietnam War; the educated populace did not support the North nor the South, but still they suffered from their location between the two. Hué experienced great devastation when, during the 1968 Tet Offensive, the North Vietnamese held the city for...
nearly a month, using the ancient citadel as their base of operations. American soldiers fought to regain the city, but did so only after an estimated 10,000 people died (many of them Huế civilians) and the city’s many important historic cultural sites were destroyed. Restoration is steadily underway, and today you will find Huế to be a rather small and quiet town, especially in comparison to the northern and southern capitals of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Accommodation: Hotel Saigon Morin, Huế
Meals: B, L, D

DAY 3: Explore Hue

Activity Overview: Walking
Activity Level: Easy
Activity Length: 2 hours

Following breakfast this morning, we head to the ancient, walled Citadel and explore this former Imperial Palace. We learn about the Citadel’s intriguing architecture, inspired by Beijing’s Forbidden City. We then continue to Minh Mang Tomb to explore the opulent final resting place designed by the emperor himself.

For lunch, we go to Lien Hoa Pagoda, a temple located on the top of a hill with a fantastic view. We may visit the kitchen to see how food is prepared in a wood-burning stove, before joining the nuns for this special vegetarian meal. Over lunch we have the opportunity to learn about Buddhism and the nun’s daily lives.

Next, we make our way to Thanh Tien Village, well-known for its tradition of crafting paper flowers for more than three centuries. Those who would like to can learn from local villagers how to make an ornate paper flower. Our visit today supports the Backstreet Academy, a social enterprise providing struggling artists, craftsmen and home-based workers with additional income and recognition.

We return to Huế via boat, floating down the Perfume River. The evening is free to spend at your leisure. You may enjoy our accommodations and dine onsite, or perhaps explore Huế at night.

Accommodation: Hotel Saigon Morin, Huế
Meals: B, L

DAY 4: Transfer to Hoi An

Activity Overview: Walking
Activity Level: Easy
Activity Length: 1 hour walking; about 3 hours driving

This morning after breakfast, we transfer to Hoi An. En route, we ascend Hai Van Pass, with incredible views over the Lang Co Lagoon and the South China Sea. Just south of Danang, a major commercial center of Vietnam and sight of the largest American military base during the Vietnam War, we will stretch our legs at Marble Mountain and take a short climb up to see the shrines and limestone caves that blanket the hills.

We then continue to Hoi An, a picturesque town along the Thu Bon River. This exceptionally well-preserved example of a Southeast Asian trading port, dating from the 15th century, was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999. Upon our arrival, we enjoy some regional specialties for lunch.
This afternoon, we have the unique opportunity to learn a local craft. Under the instruction of Hoi An craftsmen, we practice the art of making lanterns from bamboo and silk. During the experience, we also have time to share tea and conversation with our hosts. These lanterns are visible at night along the Tu Bon River, and make a wonderful (and collapsible!) souvenir.

Accommodation: Allegro Hoi An Hotel, Hoi An
Meals: B, L, D

**DAY 5: Biking Exploration**

Activity Overview: Cycling and walking  
Activity Level: Easy  
Activity Length: 1 hour walking; 1 hour cycling

This morning following breakfast, we embark on a walking tour of Hoi An’s charming old town with its numerous historic houses, congregation halls, and pagodas. Both the buildings and street plan reflect varied influences—indigenous and foreign—that have combined to produce this unique city. Among our stops this afternoon will be the Museum of History and Culture, Tan Ky house, the Japanese Bridge, and the Fujian Assembly Hall. Hoi An is known for its extraordinary talent in tailoring, so we’ll also visit the local cloth market to witness this trade.

In the afternoon, a cycling tour in the nearby countryside gives us a sense of rural life. We head out toward Cam Thanh Village, a small community located in the outskirts of central Hoi An. At the village we have the opportunity to meet a local family, and visit their home. On the nearby river, we visit a water coconut forest by bamboo basket boat and then we return to Hoi An by river boat for lunch.

The evening will be yours to explore Hoi An, which is very festive at night, and you may enjoy dinner at one of the many wonderful restaurants in the Old Quarter.

Accommodations: Allegro Hoi An Hotel, Hoi An
Meals: B, L

**DAY 6: Excursion to My Son Cham Ruins**

Activity Overview: Walking and optional cooking class  
Activity Level: Easy  
Activity Length: 1-2 hours - walking

This morning we depart early by car to explore the ancient Cham ruins of My Son, about one hour outside of Hoi An. The Champa reigned over central Vietnam from the 2nd to 15th centuries and you can still see cultural influences of their kingdom today in pottery, fishing, and agricultural techniques, as well as in temple structures which embody influences from the Hindu traditions. Our bucolic drive will take us through the countryside outside of Hoi An. Although the temples of My Son are in relative disrepair, the partially overgrown vegetation encroaching on the temples actually adds to the mystique and intimate feel of the sight. We will have the chance to walk around for about an hour to take in the tranquil setting and learn about these ingenious and spiritual people.

We return to Hoi An in time for lunch, which you may enjoy on your own. This afternoon, we have some time for independent exploration to perhaps stroll the quaint markets, or take in the quaint ambience of Hoi An while enjoying drinks on one of the many balconies overlooking the Tu Bon River.

This evening we have the opportunity to participate in a cooking class. We begin at Hoi An’s colorful and bustling market, where we learn about the different uses of fresh noodles, how to recognize and buy fresh fish, herbs, spices, rice, and grains, while perhaps tasting some exotic fruits. After the chance to mingle with the vendors, we try our hand at preparing some Vietnamese dishes, and enjoy the final product for dinner.

Accommodations: Allegro Hoi An Hotel, Hoi An
Meals: B

**DAY 7: Fly to Hanoi; City Walking Tour**

Activity Overview: City walking tour  
Activity Level: Easy  
Activity Length: 3-4 hours

This morning we fly to Hanoi and embark on a walking tour of the city. We being at the presidential palace and
THE BOUNDLESS JOURNEYS DIFFERENCE

Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, calls for a relaxed exploration. Our overnight cruise on a small, luxury vessel allows for proper appreciation of this remarkable place.

stroll slowly down Phan Dinh Phung street, admiring the giant Sau trees and beautiful examples of French colonial architecture that line the boulevard. This is considered one of the most charming streets in the city.

Our first stop is Cua Bac Church. Built by the French, considered one of the more unusual churches in Vietnam, the architectural style combines Western architecture and oriental detailing. We then head to Hanoi’s Old Quarter, also known as the “36 Streets,” a bustling area of narrow alleys that is home to hundreds of small businesses and shopkeepers. Our guide brings us to visit the only family still producing traditional papier mache masks. Entirely handmade, this tradition dates back many centuries, however, it is now a dying art replaced with increasingly cheap and modern alternatives. From the lovely family who owns the workshop we hear stories of this unique art and their struggle to keep the tradition alive.

We continue our discovery of the hidden alleyways and head through the labyrinth of back alleys, peering into temples and traditional houses, passing through markets and by street sellers as our guide shares the stories and introduces us to the people who call this fascinating city home.

Following a stop at Bach Ma Temple, one of the oldest in Hanoi, we continue to Ta Hien and wrap up our walk with another drink at a café overlooking St Joseph’s Cathedral - a symbol of Vietnam’s French history.

Accommodations: Sofitel Legend Metropole, Hanoi
Meals: B, L

DAY 8: Sights of Hanoi

Activity Overview: Walking on city streets
Activity Level: Easy
Activity Length: 2 hours

This morning following breakfast, we explore the many historic and cultural sites of Hanoi. The Presidential Palace where Ho Chi Minh lived and worked from 1954 to 1969 will be our first stop. Originally the home of the Governor General of Indochina, the immaculate grounds became the center of revolutionary activity once North Vietnam achieved independence in 1954. Ho Chi Minh opted not to move into the palace at that time, believing it belonged to the North Vietnamese people, and instead lived in the neighboring “House on Stilts.” Here, the revered “Uncle Ho” worked amid the gardens, mango alley, and carp-filled pond. The whole structure has been preserved in perfect condition, a tribute to the well-loved leader.

Next, we visit the One Pillar Pagoda and the Temple of Literature. Built after King Lý Thái Tông’s vision of a bodhisattva seated on a lotus flower in 1049, the lotus-shaped One Pillar Pagoda sits atop a pillar jutting out of a lily pond. Soon after the temple was built, the King’s wife gave birth to a son, and today childless couples visit the pagoda to make prayer offerings. The Temple of Literature is perhaps Hanoi’s best-preserved ancient site. Also built in the 11th century, Van Mieu, as it is known in Vietnamese, served as the national university for 700 years.

This afternoon we have time to walk around Hoan Kiem Lake and enjoy some independent exploration or relaxation. For those who are interested, there will also be plenty of opportunities to purchase handicrafts to take home.
This evening we enjoy a traditional Vietnamese water puppet show at the Thang Long Opera House.

Accommodations: Sofitel Legend Metropole, Hanoi
Meals: B, L, D

DAY 9: Transfer to Ha Long Bay

Activity Overview: Cruising aboard a traditional junk; optional swimming and kayaking
Activity Level: Easy
Drive time: 3-4 hours or optional seaplane transfer

This morning after breakfast, we transfer to Ha Long Bay, either by road (approximately 3-4 hours) or seaplane (optional at an additional cost). Ha Long Bay, in the Gulf of Tonkin, includes some 1,600 islands and islets, forming a spectacular seascape of limestone pillars. In 1994, this unique landscape was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Upon arrival you will board a deluxe Asian “junk” boat for a two-day trip through the bay.

We enjoy a lunch of Asian-fusion specialties on board while sailing into the bay, soaking up the scenic views and unwinding for the last leg of our journey. Various excursions are available including a visit to Tien Ong Cave. The Cave is peppered with beautiful stalactites and stalagmites, formed out of ancient limestone karsts about 700,000 years ago. The voyage continues with an excursion to the floating fishing village of Cua Van, the largest and oldest fishing village in Ha Long Bay. Once we are back on board, there will also be a cooking demonstration by the ship’s chef to reveal some of the secrets of Vietnamese cuisine.

This evening, we enjoy the sunset from the deck before an elegant five-course dinner in the restaurant. Afterward, you can relax on the deck and socialize with other travelers before retiring to your cabin.

Accommodations: Jasmine Sailing Junk, Ha Long Bay
Meals: B, L, D

DAY 10: Ha Long Bay

Activity Overview: Optional Tai Chi lesson, optional hike
Activity Level: Easy
Activity Length: About 1 hour - Tai Chi; 30 minutes - hike

Early risers will be treated to ideal light for photographs, and perhaps join other guests on deck for a morning Tai Chi lesson. After breakfast, we continue our cruise through the unforgettable landscape, stopping at one of the most spectacular beaches – Ti Top – where you are free to disembark and hike up 400 steps for a panoramic view of the bay, or simply relax and enjoy the beach.

We disembark the cruise by midday, and return to Hanoi by road, where we will say farewell and depart for our onward journey.

Meals: B
ACCOMMODATIONS

**NIGHT 1**
**Rex Hotel**
141 Nguyen Hue Blvd
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Tel +84 8 38 292 185 | rexhotel@rex.com.vn
Rex Hotel offers a heritage of luxury dating back to the early 20th century. For over 80 years, the Rex has been a landmark of the city as well as a witness to the changing tides of history.

**NIGHTS 2, 3**
**Hotel Saigon Morin**
30 Le Loi Street
Huế, Vietnam
Tel +84 234 3846 410 | res@morinhotel.com.vn
Located in the heart of Hue, the Hotel Saigon Morin was originally built in 1901, and it is now one of the oldest hotels in Vietnam with views of the Perfume River.

**NIGHTS 4, 5, 6**
**Allegro Hoi An Hotel**
86 Tran Hung Dao
Hoi An, Vietnam
Tel +84 235 3529 999 | info@allegrohoian.com
This charming luxury hotel and spa is well situated, being a few minutes walk to the lively Thu Bon riverfront, as well as to Hoi An’s Ancient Town and Hoi An’s night market.

**NIGHTS 7, 8**
**Sofitel Legend Metropole**
15 Ngo Quyen Street
Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel +84 48 266 919 | sofitelhanoi@hn.vnn.vn
Recognized by Condé Nast Traveler and readers of Travel + Leisure as one of the best hotels in Asia, this French-colonial style building has stood proudly in the heart of Hanoi since 1901. The hotel has a rich history and lovely rooms, a recently built spa, and swimming pool.

**NIGHT 9**
**Jasmine Luxury Cruiser**
Ha Long Bay, Vietnam
Emergency Tel +84-98-5144-144
This traditionally rigged Asian sailing vessel offers the highest standard of service and amenities on Ha Long Bay. This junk has 24 cabins, stylishly decorated with an antique Asian motif. There is also a restaurant, lounge, and sundeck offering uninterrupted views of the bay.
### TRIP RATING

Boundless Journeys’ trips are designed for energetic and flexible individuals who like to be active and have a spirit of adventure and a positive attitude. *Vietnam: Cultural Explorer* is rated 1+, easy with some moderate options on a scale of 1-5 (with 5 being the most strenuous). The walks on this trip are day walks with some vehicle support. Much of the walking done on this tour will be on flat terrain, in and around villages, towns, and temples, 2-3 hours per day, broken up by rest and meals.

### PREPARING FOR THIS TRIP

It is important that you realistically assess your physical condition with regard to the demands of this trip. The more well-prepared you are for the activities on this trip, the more you will enjoy yourself! Please engage in moderate aerobic activities (walking, jogging, or cycling) for at least 30-45 minutes several times a week for 4-6 weeks before the trip. If you live in a flat area, try to incorporate some stairs into your workout, or use a treadmill with varying incline capability. Consult your doctor before undertaking any new fitness programs.

### WEATHER

During our trip, you will likely experience a range of weather conditions, as various locations fall within different climate zones. While Hanoi will be relatively cool, Ho Chi Minh City will be warmer. Rain is possible at any time, although most of the rain falls from May-September. You can obtain more detailed weather information at [www.weatherbase.com](http://www.weatherbase.com).

### AVERAGE TEMPERATURE °F (HIGH/LOW)

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<th>Location</th>
<th>FEB</th>
<th>MAR</th>
<th>NOV</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hanoi</td>
<td>67/60</td>
<td>73/64</td>
<td>76/66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ho Chi Minh City</td>
<td>90/73</td>
<td>92/76</td>
<td>87/74</td>
</tr>
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### WHEN TO GO

The cooler dry season lasts from October to March (although October can still see considerable rain). In November, arriving just after the rainy season, you’ll have the benefit of being there for the newly greened trees and rice paddies, as well as the much clearer air quality that can be expected at this time of year. December through March remain much drier and a bit cooler than during the summer months. However, it is possible to have some rain at any time of year.

### TRAVELER’S RESPONSIBILITY

Trip participants have certain responsibilities to both Boundless Journeys and your fellow travelers. This includes understanding the conditions described in the trip itinerary and making sure it is appropriate for your interests and abilities, based on a review of the trip ratings, a consultation with Boundless Journeys’ staff, and perhaps your doctor. In addition, trip participants are responsible for preparing for a trip by undertaking the proper fitness training. At the guide’s discretion, a participant may be asked to leave the trip if the guide feels that the person’s further participation may be detrimental to the individual or to other trip participants. If you have any questions about the difficulty level of the trip you have chosen, please contact Boundless Journeys to speak with one of our Destination Managers.
SMALL GROUP TRAVEL
Small group travel affords us the opportunity to seek out the most remote and exotic destinations on the planet. Often we are exploring these locales with just 6-12 guests. The nature of active group travel is such that not all participants have the same ability level or interests. Traveling at a pace that is comfortable for the entire group, with a spirit of flexibility and adventure, are all part of this shared experience.

DRINKS WITH MEALS
At Boundless Journeys we believe group dinners are a time to celebrate our day, while enjoying the best of local cuisine, and good company. In keeping with this spirit, we typically include local beer and wine with group dinners. If you prefer premium wine, or liquor, please feel free to order what you like, and you may settle your tab at the end of the meal.

DRINKING WATER
We provide purified or bottled water on all trips; however, in an effort to reduce waste, we strongly encourage you to bring a water bottle to refill where safe to do so. This will be the case in much of Europe, as well as a few other destinations, where tap water is safe to drink (please review Immunizations & Health Concerns for more information). In parts of the world where water must be purified, bottled water may be our only option. Here, we do our best to provide purified water from larger containers to refill your bottles, rather than using many small single-use bottles throughout your trip. This is just one small way we strive to travel more responsibly and we appreciate your efforts in helping us to protect the extraordinary places we visit.

Boundless Journeys has taken the Travelers Against Plastic company pledge to promote sustainable travel and encourage travelers to avoid buying bottled water when they travel. You can take the pledge, too, and learn more about TAP’s efforts at www.travelersagainstplastic.org.

CUISINE
The ingredients and flavors of cuisine in Vietnam are complex and vary, as everything else does, according to its region of northern, central, or southern Vietnam. In Hanoi you may notice a bit of Chinese influence in the food, along with the inevitable French offerings. A bowl of pho in the Old Quarter is a must; this hot soup is hearty, with noodles and bean sprouts, chicken, pork, or beef, and fresh herbs and spices for flavoring. In central Vietnam, on the coast, seafood is abundant and the food tends to have a bit more chili-derived heat. To a large extent, you have the opportunity to dictate the flavors of your food, as dipping sauces and condiments are yours for the taking. Please note that everywhere we travel, you are likely to find some Western dishes that are familiar should you need a bit of comfort food.

Please inform us of any specific dietary restrictions by completing your Smartwaiver form, and we will do our best to accommodate you. Please call our office with any questions or concerns about our ability to meet your needs.
With a Boundless Journeys guide, your experience is that of friend and local adventurer. We believe strongly in working with local guides, experts in the areas to which we travel, and they hold the keys to unlocking the hidden delights of your chosen destination. Although you will never know they are at work—the mark of a truly great leader—our guides make magical things happen and add a dimension to your trip that you could not experience on your own.

Over the years we have forged bonds with some of the best guides in the world, and we typically work with a small team of guides in each region. You will be informed of the guide for your trip one month prior to your departure. Here are some of the guides we work with in Vietnam.

**DOI VAN HOI**

Hoi’s love of sharing his homeland with others and his passion for travel led him to a career in guiding. He came to Hanoi initially to study sustainable tourism and has stayed for over 15 years building on his guiding experience and connecting with thousands of travelers.

Along with his deep knowledge of the various histories and cultures of all the regions of Vietnam, his light-hearted attitude and spontaneous spirit make him a joy to travel with. We love having him as a trusted partner in Vietnam!

**SON TO LAKI**

Laki was born in southern Vietnam’s Mekong Delta and pursued a career in guiding because he loves sharing and teaching about his homeland. Laki’s deep knowledge of the various histories of South, Central, and North Vietnam, a keen sense of humor, and a love of adventure, have made him one of the most sought-out and highly-respected guides in the region for nearly a decade. In addition to leading active tours, Laki enjoys cycling and a good book.

Guests love his friendly demeanor and ability to make each day of the tour unforgettable!
TRIP EXTENSIONS

There are several options for extending your trip in Asia and we would love to have you join us! The following trip extension serves as a great addition to a journey to Vietnam. Please contact our home office for more details, or if you wish to reserve:

CAMBODIA: TEMPLES OF ANGKOR

Highlights:
• UNESCO World Heritage Site of Angkor Wat
• Bustling street and market areas of Siem Reap
• Temple of Banteay Srei, a jewel of Khmer art

Duration: 4-day trip
Tour start: Siem Reap, Cambodia
Tour end: Siem Reap, Cambodia
Accommodations: 3 nights in a deluxe hotel
Trip rating:

1 2 3 4 5
Easy . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Strenuous

Land cost:
$1,295 per person (minimum of 2 guests)
$1,495 for 1 person
Single Supplement: $325

WHAT'S INCLUDED

• Expert leadership
• All accommodations
• All meals
• All on-tour transportation
• All activities noted in the itinerary
• All gratuities except for those for your guide and driver, which are at your discretion

International airfare is not included in the price of your trip. Please contact your local travel agency or the airlines directly to make any arrangements you may need to and from Bangkok. If you would like assistance with booking your flights or other travel plans, please contact Boundless Journeys directly at (800) 941-8010 for a referral to our partners who will best fulfill your needs.
TO MAKE A RESERVATION
You can call Boundless Journeys at 800-941-8010, request a reservation online, or contact your travel agent. We will confirm your spot with a deposit of $500 per person and the payment of internal airfare, payable by check or credit card. The balance for your trip is due 90 days prior to departure.

ONCE YOU RESERVE
As soon as you confirm your adventure, we will provide you with an extensive, detailed trip planner that includes arrival and departure instructions, a complete packing list, regional information, required documents, a reading list, and other details.

TRIP CANCELLATION INSURANCE
In addition to your detailed trip planner, we will email you a quote for Travel Guard trip insurance. Please let us know if you would like us to purchase a policy on your behalf. Boundless Journeys strongly recommends purchasing travel insurance.

CANCELATION & REFUND POLICY
If it becomes necessary to cancel your trip, the following schedule applies to your land cost and is determined by the day that we receive written notification:

• >90 days prior to the trip will be charged $100.
• 90-61 days prior to the start of the trip will be charged 25% of the trip price.
• 60-46 days prior to the start of the trip will be charged 50% of the trip price.
• <45 days prior to the start of the trip will be charged 100% of the trip price.

QUESTIONS? WHICH TRIP IS RIGHT FOR YOU?
Adventure travel may involve exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, and activities that may be new to you. If you have any questions about the level of comfort, difficulty, or activities included on your trip, please call Boundless Journeys at 800-941-8010, or email us at info@boundlessjourneys.com. Our travel experts look forward to helping you select the perfect adventure.

VISIT US ONLINE
www.boundlessjourneys.com for:
• additional departures
• special promotions
• detailed itineraries
• inspiring photography
• guide bios

EXTEND YOUR TRIP...
Check out . .
• BHUTAN: Hidden Kingdoms in the Himalayas
• JAPAN: Walking the Nakasendo Trail

PREFER A PRIVATE TRIP?
The perfect option for alumni and family reunions, birthdays and anniversaries, or just to catch up with friends in fabulous destinations. Mark your calendar and leave the planning to us! Call our travel experts today: 800-941-8010.
BOUNDLESS BEYOND

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL
At Boundless Journeys, our goal is to create meaningful experiences that protect the delicate ecosystems and attributes of every location we visit. We aim to educate our guests on the best responsible travel practices for each destination.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO
Making connections. Our local guides offer insider knowledge of their country, including tips on etiquette and customs. They facilitate meaningful interactions with the people and places we visit, such as dinner at the home of a local family. While you may arrive in a destination as a visitor, you leave with a deeper understanding and connection to each place.

Going local. Boundless Journeys’ small group size stems from a desire to provide a more intimate traveler experience, giving us the freedom to move through the tight alleys of old towns on foot, eat and sleep at traditional guesthouses, participate in immersive cultural exchanges, and leave a smaller footprint on all of the locales we visit. This mobility allows us to support local economies directly, forging strong relationships with our partners and friends abroad as we return year after year.

Respecting people and the environment. We support organizations working to protect ecosystems and improve the livelihoods of local communities. On many of our trips, we explore stunning natural landscapes where conservation is of the utmost importance. As visitors, we practice Leave No Trace ethics and actively contribute to the conservation of parks and protected areas.

HOW YOU CAN HELP
Give back. Instead of receiving a Boundless Journeys t-shirt or water bottle, you can opt to donate the value of your gift to our travel scholarship fund, which will be awarded to a local student for an educational or service-based travel opportunity.

Learn more. Visit boundlessjourneys.com/responsible-travel to read more about how our values are reflected in our trip offerings. We also offer a selection of Resources for the Responsible Traveler, which suggests ways to tread lightly and ensure your journey has a positive impact.

Join us. Boundless Journeys has taken the Travelers Against Plastic company pledge to promote sustainable travel and encourage travelers to avoid buying bottled water when they travel. You can take the pledge at travelersagainstplastic.org.

CONSERVATION IN ACTION
Boundless Journeys is a proud member of the Adventure Travel and Trade Association, a global network of adventure seekers who believe in the protection and promotion of local communities and wilderness areas.