

# Vietnam Panorama with Bangkok

1 March 2012 – 20th March 2012  
(20 Days – 18 Nights)

Vietnam is a country of outstanding natural beauty. Its historic cities have retained much of the old colonial charm and, with soaring mountains, fertile delta plains, winding rivers and such friendly people, your journey is bound to leave long-lasting impressions. This excellent value Vietnam tour travels overland for much of its route to allow full enjoyment of the delightful countryside.

## Itinerary

### Day 1: 1 March 2012 (Thursday)

#### London – Mumbai

Fly from London Heathrow Airport to Mumbai flight No 9W 119 departing at 09.30HRS arriving at 23.05hrs (Local time)

### Day 2: 2 March 2012 (Friday)

#### Mumbai - Bangkok

Fly from Mumbai to Bangkok flight No 9W62 departing at 01.50HRS, arriving Bangkok at 06.55hrs.  
Transfer to your hotel **Rembrandt Hotel 4\*** for 2 nights.

**(Dinner)**

### Day 3: 3 March 2012 (Saturday)

#### Bangkok

In the morning, we visit **Royal Grand Palace:**

This is a - must- for every visitor to Bangkok, for the grand Palace Complex, which includes the Temple of The Emerald Buddha (Wat Phra Keow), is unquestionably one of the wonders of the world today. Within its enormous grounds is the most exotic Buddhist temple and at the heart of the temple itself is a fabulous Buddha image, carved from one-piece jade, which is the holiest and most revered of religious objects in Thailand today. This tour finishes at about 12.30pm,

Lunch (at your own expenses)



After Lunch transfer to jetty for **Bangkok Rice Barge Cruise** at 1.30pm.



This pleasant afternoon tour offers to give you a glimpse into Bangkok's early history, when life in the capital still revolved around the Chao Phraya River and its offshoot khlongs (canals). While modernisation has revolutionised the Chao Phraya rivers cape, adding gleaming high rises and imposing concrete structures to the picture, the khlongs retain much of its charming character.

You only get half of the complete picture with a cruise down the main artery; this tour completes the other half with a journey down the complex system of Khlongs of Bangkok Noi. Starting with a speedboat journey up the river, passing Chinatown, the flower market at Pak Khlong, the Memorial Bridge and The Grand Palace, the boat then crosses over to the Bangkok Noi side, where you will experience local life as it once was along the lengths of Khlong Mon, Khlong Bangkhunsri and Khlong Chak Pra, and ending the first part of the tour at the majestic Wat Arun (Temple of Dawn).



The second part is all festive and fun. Leaving the long-tail boat behind, you will then embark a converted rice barge and enjoy a Thai fruit buffet along with ice-cold cocktails and mocktails, before bidding farewell to the afternoon back at the River City Pier.



Enjoy a speedy and refreshing long-tailed speedboat ride down the river and the multitude of winding canals which earned Bangkok the title of -Venice of the East-. The excursion offers a view of authentic riverside lifestyles, such as houses on stilts and children playing in the water. The return journey is on a sedate converted rice barge. Guests will be served seasonal fruits and unlimited cold drinks as they enjoy a relaxed cruise along the -River of Kings. This half-day trip gives a view of Bangkok that most never gets to see.

**(Breakfast / Dinner)**

**Day 4: 4 March 2012 (Sunday)**

**Bangkok – Saigon**

Mid morning we fly to Ho Chi Minh (Saigon) City, flight no. TK 068 for Saigon departing at 15.10 Hrs and arriving at 16.40 Hrs. **Meet and transfer to Grand Hotel 4\* for 1 Nights (Dinner)**

Your hotel is right in the heart of the city. Very easy to reach the Ben Thanh market, shopping centres and restaurants

**Day 5: 5 March 2012 (Monday)**

**Ho Chi Minh (Saigon) City**



Ho Chi Minh City is the heart and soul of Vietnam. Not only the largest city of the country, it is the most bustling, dynamic and industrious centre of commerce, economy, science, technology and tourism, as well as a cultural trendsetter.

Pick up at your Hotel at 8:00 AM to make your way to board LE COCHINCHINE boat at 11.30hrs. For 1 night stay.

Enjoy welcome drink; thereafter transfer to a local boat for an extensive visit of Cai Be (the floating market), the mazes of waterway, local pop-rice and sweets

production. Visit of colonial buildings, old houses, delightful flower gardens and local coconut candy and rice paper manufacturers. Transfer back to Le Cochinchine, continues its cruise to Cochien. Lunch served on board After Lunch, Embark on a pleasant walk or cycle on the footpaths of the countryside to discover tropical fruit orchards and the local people's activities. Visit a cottage industry, a local farm and sample seasonal fruits.

Leisurely cruise on the Mekong River while taking in the beautiful scenery, enjoy an aperitif over the sunset.



**(Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner) Dinner and night on board**

**D Day 6: 6 March 2012 (Tuesday)**

**Mekong – Saigon**



The morning bobbling commotion of Mekong river life comes to life for another lovely day our boat set sails to Cantho through tributary and canals. Transfer to Cairang: one of the most bustling floating markets in Mekong. We go for a walk along the canals and the palm-shaded creek to see local houses and green orchards, Ship building yards, rural and water activities in full swing. Board LE COCHINCHINE with a welcome-back drink. Disembark in Cantho at 11.00hrs. The cruise concludes.

Lunch at Mekong,

Check in at **Grand Hotel 4\* for 2 nights (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

**Day 7: 7 March 2012 (Wednesday)**

**Cao Dai Temple and Cu Chi Tunnels**

In the morning, heading for Cao Dai Temple in Tay Ninh, Cao Dai is a local religion in Vietnam. You will see how they pray in the noon mass and be explained more about this region. In the afternoon, we drive to the famous Cu Chi Tunnels, which were an incredible underground network constructed by Vietnamese fighters during the long struggle for independence. The tunnels contained hospitals, plus accommodations and schools, and were used as a military base for the Vietcong in the American war.

Back to Saigon late afternoon at **Grand Hotel 4\***

**(Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**



**Day 8: 8 March 2012 (Thursday)**

**Saigon – Da Lat**

Saigon – Da Lat: 305 km. It takes around 7 and a half hour drive.



Da lat city is probably one of Vietnam's most well known vacation destination. Since the turn of the century, Da lat has been the location spot for well-to-do Vietnamese and foreigners. It is the unofficial honeymoon Mecca of Vietnam, Located on Lam Dong high lands, part of the greater Central high land of Vietnam, the city is 1500 m above the sea level and is 305km from Saigon. The name Da Lat originates from the hill tribe people in this region. It literally means Stream of the Lat people. Heading out of HCM City we drive to Bao Loc, enjoy the country side seeing along the way with rubber, coffee, tea trees plantations.

Overnight, at **Saigon Da Lat 4\* Hotel for 2 nights**

**(Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

**Day 9: 9 March 2012 (Thursday)**

**Da Lat City tour**



Full day sightseeing in Da Lat including the Domain Church, the Bao Dai Palace where the last Vietnamese King stayed with his family. Visit Truc Lam Pagoda by cable car then down the hill by coach for the Datanla Waterfall. In the afternoon, drive to Liang Biang mountain, you may have a chance to join a Lat (a minority tribal) traditional show in this evening. Dinner at Liang Biang with special foods of Lat people or at a local restaurant in Da Lat  
Overnight, at **Saigon Da Lat 4\* Hotel**  
**(Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

**Day 10: 10 March 2012 (Friday)**

**Da Lat – Nha Trang**

Today you will take a drive to Nha Trang (about 5hrs) via Bell devue Pass visiting Poklong Giarai Cham Tower. In the afternoon, a short city tour for Nha Trang including Ponagar Cham Tower. Check in at **Yasaka Hotel 4\* for 2 nights (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

**Day 11: 11 March 2012 (Saturday)**

**Nha Trang – Hon Tam Island**



Start from your hotel to Cau Da port. Tri Nguyen Aquarium on Mieu Island is the first place to visit; many sea species of Nha Trang/Khanh Hoa province make a small ocean world there. Mot Island is the best island for snorkelling where you can see lots of lives colourful corals and fish. You will also be able to see caves in which the sea swallows make their nest. Time for swimming & water sports or other activities at Mot Island, Tranh Beach Island or on a small island calling “Mini beach” Lunch at the island. On the way back you will visit a fishing village before going to the shore.  
**Night at Yasaka Hotel 4\***  
**(Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

**Day 12: 12 March 2012 (Sunday)**

**Nha Trang – Da Nang**

After breakfast, transfer to Cam Ranh Airport for the flight to Da Nang. Pick up at Da Nang Airport and transfer to Hoi An. Check in at **Boutique Hoi An 4\* for 3 nights**

In the afternoon, walking through Hoi An ancient town which is located 30 kilometres south of Danang city and lying on the bank of Thu Bon River. It used to be one of the most important trading ports of Southeast Asian in the 16th century, known among the western traders as "Faifo". Hoi An ancient town is very charming with the distinct Chinese and Japanese atmosphere as well as its traditional houses lining the narrow streets. Most of buildings are still in their original form, including ancient private houses, family chapels, community halls, communal houses, temples, pagodas, bridges, wells and tombs. There are many tailor shops that you can arrange for you nice clothes if interested.  
**(Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**



**Day 13: 13 March 2012 (Monday)**

**Hoi An – My Son Holy land**



After breakfast guided sightseeing tour of My Son (40 km south west of Hoi An). Nestled in a beautiful, lush valley, the Cham ruins date back to the 5th Century. Originally there were 70 buildings which fared well until the Vietcong based themselves here in the 1960s - the Americans pounded the area, so only 20 monuments remain. My Son is considered to be Champ’s equivalent to the grand cities of South-East Asia’s other Indian-influenced civilizations such as Angkor, Bagan in Burma and Ayutthaya in Thailand. On the way we visit local villagers who breed silkworms and weave silk. In the afternoon we take a boat trip on the graceful Thu Bon River and stop to visit the traditional ceramic and carpentry villages.

Stay overnight at **Boutique Hoi An 4\* (Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

**Day 14: 14 March 2012 (Tuesday)**

**Free Day**

Today enjoy the facilities provided by the Hotel or relax on Beach  
Overnight at **Boutique Hoi An 4\* (Breakfast / Dinner)**

**Day 15: 15 March 2012 (Wednesday)**

**Hoi An – Hue**

Drive to Hue in the morning via beautiful Hai Van Pass and Lang Co Beach visiting Cham Museum, the Marble Mountains and China Beach on the way. Lunch at Lang Co Beach Resort; Check in **Hotel La Residence 5\***  
Thereafter visit the Citadel via Trang Tien Bridge then Thien Mu Pagoda. Take a boat trip from Thien Mu Pagoda back to town for dinner. After dinner, enjoy Hue traditional music show on cruise.

Overnight at **Hotel La Residence 5\***  
**(Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**



**Day 16: 16 March 2012 (Thursday)**

**Hue – Hanoi Day 13: 13 March 2012 (Monday)**

After breakfast visit the Tu Duc and Khai Dinh Royal Tombs before flying to Hanoi on flight no VN1542 departing at 15.20hrs and arriving Noi Bai airport at 16.30hrs.

Transfer to your hotel **The Ha Noi Club 4\* for 3 Nights**

Enjoy a performance of the famous Water Puppets in the evening.

**(Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

**Day 17: 17 March 2012 (Friday)**

**Hanoi – Ha Long – Ha Noi**

Early breakfast transfer to Halong. It takes around three and half hours drive for 170 km far. You will enjoy the beautiful scene along the road, with many rice fields (in right season). After arriving at Ha Long, you will transfer directly to the pier for 4 hours cruise to see Halong Bay and visit some caves. Lunch will be served on board. Back to shore and drive back to Hanoi a bit late in the evening for late dinner.

Night at **the Ha Noi Club 4\***

**(Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**



**Day 18: 18 March 2012 (Saturday)**

**Hanoi – City tour**



Today, we will visit the Ho Chi Minh museum, the One Pillar Pagoda, the stilt house from which he conducted much of the American War, and Ba Dinh Square, where he delivered the Declaration of Independence in 1945, followed by the Temple of Literature, Tran Quoc Pagoda.

Lunch will be served at local restaurant.

Rest of the day is free.

Night at **the Ha Noi Club 4\***

**(Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner)**

**Day 19: 19 March 2012 (Sunday)**

**Ha Noi – Bangkok**

After breakfast, check out from Hotel, make our way to the airport for flight to Bangkok on flight no. **VN 611Y** departing at 09.00hrs and arriving Bangkok at 10.50hrs (Local Time). Transfer to hotel for 1 night

Hotel **Novotel Suvarnabhumi Airport Hotel 4 Star**

**(Breakfast / Dinner)**

**Day 20: 20 March 2012 (Monday)**

**Bangkok - Mumbai – London**

Early breakfast transfer to International Airport for flight 9W61 to Mumbai departing at 08.40hrs, arriving Mumbai at 1130hrs (Local Time) & transfer for flight to London on flight no. 9W118 departing at 12.55hrs, arriving London Heathrow at 17.55hrs, with sweet memories of your holiday.

**(Breakfast)**

**All Breakfast are in Hotels and Dinners as per Itinerary  
Itinerary excursions can change without notice, when it is out of our control**