



Thai Unika — Unique experiences

ITINERARY

Explore Cultural Mosaic in Thailand and Indochina (18D17N)

DAY	ITINERARY IN BRIEF
Day 1	Day 1: Bangkok arrival
Day 2	Day 2: Bangkok city – Street Food Tour by Tuk Tuk (B, D)
Day 3	Day 3: Bangkok – MaeKlong Railway - Damnoen Saduak Floating Market – Bangkok (B)
Day 4	Day 4: Bangkok – Ayutthaya – Night train to Chiang Mai (B) no guide on train
Day 5	Day 5: Chiang Mai Full Day City Tour – Doi Suthep (B)
Day 6	Day 6: Chiang Mai – Elephant Jungle Sanctuary (Join -in) (B, L) Join in tour shared guide and transfer
Day 7	Day 7: Chiang Mai – Flight to Luang Prabang (B)
Day 8	Day 8: Luang Prabang city tour (B)
Day 9	Day 9: Luang Prabang- Cruise on Mekong- Pak Ou Cave (B)

DAY	ITINERARY IN BRIEF
Day 10	Day 10: Luang Prabang- Flight to Hanoi (B)
Day 11	Day 11: Hanoi city tour (B)
Day 12	Day 12: Hanoi – HaLong Bay (B, L, D) Sharing English-speaking guide on board
Day 13	Day 13: HaLong Bay – Hanoi – Flight to Saigon (B, L) Sharing English-speaking guide on board - No guide for airport drop off
Day 14	Day 14 : Saigon City Tour- Cu Chi Tunnels (B)
Day 15	Day 15: Saigon - Vinh Long – An Binh Island – Vinh Long – Saigon (B/L)
Day 16	Day 16: Saigon – Flight to Siem Reap (B) No guide in Saigon
Day 17	Day 17: Siem Reap- Angkor Highlight tour (B)
Day 18	Day 18: Siem Reap - Banteay Srei temple (B)
Day 19	Day : Siem Reap - Tonle Sap Lake - Departure (B)

ITINERARY DETAIL

Day 1 — Day 1: Bangkok arrival

Arrival at Bangkok International Airport. Meet your English-speaking guide and transfer to your hotel (check-in time at 14.00, the “early check-in” is not included in the price). The glorious history of the capital of Thailand, Bangkok is closely linked to the Chakri Dynasty which still reigns but does reign in Thailand. Free time after a long flight.

Night in Bangkok

Accommodation: Hotel in Bangkok

Meals: None

Day 2 — Day 2: Bangkok city - Street Food Tour by Tuk Tuk (B, D)

Today, we will take the whole day to explore Bangkok - the city of golden temples.

The first destination is the **Grand Palace**. *This huge architecture complex is over 2 sq. kilometers, including 3 main sites: Royal Palace, Royal Office and pagodas (Wat) built in the 1770s. Nowadays, the Grand Palace is no longer home of Thailand Royal, most of the national significant events take place there. Wat Phra Kaew is the most out-standing architecture in the complex, built in 1785 when King Rama I moved the capital to Bangkok. The pagoda is famous not only for its beauty of unique Thailand Buddhism architecture but also for the sacred jade Buddha statue.*

Nearby the Grand Palace is Wat Pho - *the oldest and biggest pagoda in Bangkok with more than 1000 Buddha statues and the huge one sit-back Buddha in gold. This pagoda is also famous for being a birthplace of traditional Thai massage, since there is a traditional medicine school established in 1982, educating the arts of Thai massage.*

After having lunch, we visited the last destination of the day: **Wat Traimit**. *This pagoda is famous for its unique and historic beauty, and also for the huge golden Buddha statue. Thai people believe that the statue represents prosperity and purity, as well as strength and power.*

Return to the hotel and you are free to explore Bangkok by night.

At evening we start a night food tour. A short ride brings you to the first stop, a Northeastern Thai restaurant. We will share famous dishes from the region like spicy raw papaya salad, deep-fried crispy catfish meat with spicy sauce, spicy pork salad, and spicy pork meat balls. Our next stop is chicken crispy noodle, with a choice of runny or well-cooked eggs.

Then we will take a digestion break by visiting the flower market where you might have small snacks. The bar follows. Our last stop is Bangkok's best Pad Thai. The tour finishes by or close to the Cinderella's time

with the Tuk Tuk dropping you off at your hotel.

*The itinerary can be changed due to unexpected circumstances. We will do our best to notify you if any changes occur.

Accommodation: At the hotel in Bangkok

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 3 — Day 3: Bangkok - MaeKlong Railway - Damnoen Saduak Floating Market - Bangkok (B)

Early in the morning, after having breakfast, we pay a visit to **Maeklong Railway Market** - a local market that has grown up along the rail tracks. When a train pulls in or out of the station, the sellers quickly clear their stalls, and set them up again when the train has passed. We continue our way to the Damnoen **Saduak Floating market**. Arriving at the market, you can see the vendors who wear traditional farmer dresses and hats bring local Thai foods, fruits and products to sell on rowing boats. You should not miss the opportunity to experience sitting and giving them a try on one of these boats on the canal. You are free to explore around the market, take photos/videos or even hire a paddling boat to breathe the once-in-a-lifetime atmosphere here.

We then take a boat ride out of the floating market and journey along the winding canals to see remote villages, gardens and plantations.

Arrive at a jetty pier where you board the vehicle and return to Bangkok.

Accommodation: At the hotel in Bangkok

Meals: Breakfast

Day 4 — Day 4: Bangkok - Ayutthaya - Night train to Chiang Mai (B) no guide on train

In the morning, we will depart to Ayutthaya; it takes about more than an hour to reach the former Thai capital. Witness the glory of the ancient capital through its temple and palace ruins. First you will visit **Wat Phu Khao Thong**, or the "Monastery of the Golden Mount", which is located just outside Ayutthaya. Then you will proceed to the ancient palace and **Wat Phra Si Sanphet**. You will also visit **Viharn Phra Mongkol Bopit**, one of the largest bronze Buddha in Thailand. Have lunch by your own account. Afterwards you will visit **Wat Lokaya Sutha**. This temple enshrines a large reclining Buddha image. Our last visit will be the **Bang Pa-In Summer Palace**, built during the Ayutthaya era. The palace showcases an eclectic collection of buildings that blend European, Khmer, Thai and Chinese architectural styles. It's the favorite summer palace of the King.

Transfer you to the train station for the night train to Chiang Mai. Overnight on the train.

Accommodation: Overnight train to Chiang Mai (Second Class)

Meals: Breakfast

Day 5 — Day 5: Chiang Mai Full Day City Tour - Doi Suthep (B)

Arrival at Chiang Mai station around 7h AM, pick-up by our local guide and transfer to a local restaurant or hotel for breakfast.

The morning will be mainly devoted to visiting the old city with a stop at the ancient wall, the moat and a door of the old city. You will see more beautiful temples in Chiang Mai: **Wat Phra Singh Temple, Wat Phan Tao temple and the temple Wat Chedi Luang**. Then you will stroll along streets lined with traditional houses, where you take **a rickshaw ride**. From there, you'll be at the large **Central Market Warorot**.

Lunch at a local restaurant (on your own).

Afternoon, visit **Wat Phra That Doi Suthep**, the most famous pagoda Chiang Mai. It is reached after climbing a staircase of 290 steps with ramps representing two giant nagas. From the square, you can admire the panorama of the whole Chiang Mai Valley.

Then visit **craft villages**: lacquer factories, silk weaving, manufacture of umbrellas, wood carvings and goldsmith work.

Then transfer back to the hotel.

You are free to explore the night market in the evening.

Overnight in Chiang Mai.

Accommodation : At the hotel in Chiang Mai

Meals: Breakfast

Day 6 — Day 6: Chiang Mai - Elephant Jungle Sanctuary (Join -in) (B, L) Join in tour shared guide and transfer

Morning after breakfast, we drive to **Elephant Jungle Sanctuary** to visit as the program below:

Itinerary:

08:00 – 08:30 : Pick up from your hotel or accommodation.

08:30 : Drive approximately 1.5 hours South of Chiang Mai through rolling hills, forest, and local farming areas.

10:30 : Arrive at the Sanctuary. Meet your guide and walk for 10-15 minutes through the Jungle to the Elephant Jungle Sanctuary. Change into traditional Karen clothing. Enjoy an introductory lesson about elephant anatomy, history, and behavior.

11:00 : Meet the elephants. Feed, interact, and play with the elephants in a natural environment as you learn about their behavior and history. Take photos with the elephants.

12:00 : Enjoy a lunch of traditional Thai food and fresh fruit.

13:00 : Learn how to make herbal medicine balls, feed the Elephants and then walk with the elephants to the river. Bathe and brush the elephants.

14:00 : Join the elephants for a therapeutic mud spa. Swim in the river and take photos with the elephants.

15:00 : Change clothes and say goodbye to the elephants.

15:30 : Leave the Elephant Jungle Sanctuary and drive approximately 1.5 hours to Chiang Mai.

17:00-17:30 : Drop off at your hotel or accommodation.

Overnight in Chiang Mai.

Accommodation : At the hotel in Chiang Mai

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 7 — Day 7: Chiang Mai - Flight to Luang Prabang (B)

You have free time until we transfer you to the airport for your flight to Luang Prabang. Upon arrival pick up and transfer you to your hotel in Luang Prabang.

Accommodation : At the hotel in Chiang Mai

Meals: Breakfast

Day 8 — Day 8: Luang Prabang city tour (B)

An optional early start gives you the fantastic opportunity to participate in the daily morning alms giving ritual to saffron clad monks. This tradition is unique to Laos, being the only Buddhist nation still preserving this procession. Stop and visit fresh local markets and back to the hotel for breakfast.

This morning, I departed to visit **Wat Visoun**, the site of the impressive Thad Makmo stupa. The rounded dome is stylistically more Sinhalese than Lao. Continue to visit **Wat Aham**. Then, visit to the most

photographed temple, **Vat Xiengthong**. Located at the end of the peninsula close to the confluence of the Mekong and Khan River.

This afternoon, continue to former **Royal Palace**, now the National Museum. Visit **Wat Mai**, a temple renowned for its golden bas-relief. During Pimai, the Lao New Year, the Prabang normally housed in the Royal Palace Museum is brought and put on public display in this temple.

Meals on your own. Overnight in a hotel.

Accommodation: At the hotel in Luang Prabang

Meals: Breakfast

Day 9 — Day 9: Luang Prabang- Cruise on Mekong- Pak Ou Cave (B)

This morning, I took a ferry to otherside of Mekong to visit **Ban Xiemie village**. Take a walk to discover **Wat Long Khoun temple**, located in the jungle. This monastery historically had important ties with the royal family of Luang Prabang. From its beginnings Wat Long Khoun served as a retreat center for spiritual revitalization. It was traditional practice that the new king-designate spend three days there in ceremonial bathing and meditative retreat.

Then, embark on a traditional long trail boat, for a relaxing cruise upstream on the mighty **Mekong River**. Enjoy stunning mountain scenery and witness the simple rural lifestyles. You will reach **Pak Ou** caves at the confluence of the Mekong and Nam Ou Rivers. In these 2 caves are displayed hundreds of sacred centuries-old Buddha images which are the object of pilgrimages during the Lao New Year festivities around mid-April. Cruise back to Luang Prabang. Stop and visit **Ban Xang Khong**, a weaving village, where you can jump into wooden looms with local experts for practical and experience.

Meals on your own. Overnight in a hotel.

Accommodation: At the hotel in Luang Prabang

Meals: Breakfast

Day 10 — Day 10: Luang Prabang- Flight to Hanoi (B)

You have free time until we transfer you to the airport for your flight to Hanoi. Upon arrival pick up and transfer to your hotel overnight.

Accommodation: At the hotel in Hanoi

Meals: Breakfast

Day 11 — Day 11: Hanoi city tour (B)

After having breakfast, meet your guide and continue exploring Hanoi. Start with **the mausoleum of the nation's founder Ho Chi Minh** and **the Presidential Palace**, followed by the serene **One Pillar Pagoda** and **the Temple of Literature** known as the site of Vietnam's first university and a shrine for Confucian worship, founded in the year 1066. Next, visit **the Hoa Lo Prison Museum**, ironically nicknamed "the Hanoi Hilton." Built by the French colonists and used as a house for Vietnamese political prisoners, it was later used to keep captured American POWs during the war. Then continue to the Huu Tiep neighborhood to see an **American B-52** that was shot down during the Christmas bombing of Hanoi in 1968. Afternoon, have a little leisure time to back your hotel, then tour around the city's **Old Quarter** by a bicycle rickshaw, called a **cyclo**. In this part of town, each colorful street is devoted to a particular craft or ware. You will be pedaled amongst the quaint French buildings along Shoe Street, Silk Street and Banner Street (to name just a few), ending at the historic **Hoan Kiem Lake** - the social center of Hanoi. In the late afternoon, you will enjoy the **Water Puppet Performance**. Traditional content of these shows relates to daily life of Vietnamese farmers, communal entertainment or historical legends. The artists - men and women - stand waist-deep in the water to manipulate the puppets, making them move around, talk and laugh and even dance on the surface of the water. The show will be accompanied by beautiful, traditional Vietnamese music. **Overnight at a hotel in Hanoi.**

Accommodation : At the hotel in Hanoi

Meals: Breakfast

Day 12 — Day 12: Hanoi - HaLong Bay (B, L, D) Sharing English-speaking guide on board

Breakfast at the hotel and then start a 3-hour drive through the **Red River Delta** to **Ha Long City**. Comfort stopped en route for photos and coffee before arriving at Ha Long City. We then transfer to a refurbished **wooden sailing junk** for a cruise through the limestone cliffs and emerald waters of HaLong Bay to enjoy a fantastic view of the picturesque scenery blending with the sky and some 3,000 limestone this World Heritage Site. While being on board, we will be served a sumptuous fresh, local seafood lunch followed by swimming and exploring some of the limestone caves in this area. The feeling of witnessing the sunset on a boat is really great. Dinner on board. The captain then will anchor for the night near a remote island. In the evening, there is the option for night fishing or just sit out on the deck and relax under the stars. **Overnight on Junk.**

Accommodation : On HaLong Bay boat

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 13 — Day 13: HaLong Bay - Hanoi - Flight to Saigon (B, L) Sharing English-speaking guide on board - No guide for airport drop off

Waking up surrounded by the tranquil beauty of the bay, we have time for an early morning dip with joys and emotions for watching sunrise on sea followed by breakfast. The cruise continues to move around the bay for us to discover more secluded areas, we then take kayaking and swimming in the stunning bay. The junk will be near us at all times serving as a backup vessel for those that require it. At around midday we will return to the main harbor before transferring to our awaiting vehicle for a 3-hour journey to to **Noi Bai airport** for flight to **Saigon**. Upon arrival in Saigon, being picked up & transferred to the hotel in Saigon.

Overnight at the hotel in Saigon

Accommodation : At the hotel in Saigon

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 14 — Day 14 : Saigon City Tour- Cu Chi Tunnels (B)

Morning after having breakfast, depart for 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 accommodation and schools, and were used as a military base for the Vietcong in the American war. Afternoon, we took a half day of city tour to visit all the famous sites of this bustling city. The first destination is the **Reunification Palace**, which was the former residence of the President of South Vietnam until end of April 1975, followed by some French colonial structures including the **Notre Dame Cathedral**. Apart from the religious meaning, the even more special captivating point of this Cathedral is its special neo-Romanesque style of architecture. Next, it is on to the **Old Saigon Post Office**. After visiting the **Jade Emperor Pagoda**, we continue our trip to the bustling **Ben Thanh Market**, which is firstly well-known as the place for real Vietnamese food. There are a number of vendors and food stalls in the market food section that offer guests many freshly delicious dishes. You also can find any goods for daily use as well as a variety of eye-catching local handicrafts, souvenirs here. **Overnight at the hotel in HCM city.**

Accommodation : At the hotel in Saigon

Meals: Breakfast

Day 15 — Day 15: Saigon - Vinh Long - An Binh Island - Vinh Long - Saigon (B/L)

In the morning, meet our guide then depart for Vinh Long.

Our boat will take you at the new boat station, downstream on Mekong River seeing many floating cages for farming fish. Stop to visit Vinh Long market in the town. This is the best choice for you to take pictures of fish, shrimps, prawns, crabs, snakes, rice-field rats, tropical fruits, vegetables...

Then, stop to visit the brick kilns where you can see how the local people create beautiful potteries from clay.

Next visit the local workshop to see how to make rice paper, coconut candy, pop-rice... Enjoy some sweets with a cup of hot tea.

Day 16 — Day 16: Saigon - Flight to Siem Reap (B) No guide in Saigon

You have free time until we pick up and transfer you to the airport for your flight to Siem Reap. Arrival at Siem Reap International Airport, collect your luggage process through custom. Your private tour guide and driver will be waiting for you outside the baggage claim/ custom area to transfer you in a private vehicle to the hotel for check-in.

Free time and overnight at the hotel.

Accommodation : At the hotel in Siem Reap

Meals: Breakfast

Day 17 — Day 17: Siem Reap- Angkor Highlight tour (B)

In the morning, visit the most famous of all the temples on the plain of Angkor: **Angkor Wat**. 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. Angkor Wat's five towers symbolize Meru's five peaks - the enclosed wall represents the mountains at the edge of the world and the surrounding moat, the ocean beyond. Lunch in the local restaurant. Visit the **South Gate**, the ancient capital of Angkor Thom (12th century), **Bayon Temple** (unique for its 54 towers decorated with over 200 smiling faces of Avolokitesvara), **the Royal Enclosure, Phimeanakas, the Elephants Terrace** and the **Terrace of the Leper King**. Sunset at Angkor Wat. Overnight in Siem Reap.

Accommodation : At the hotel in Siem Reap

Meals: Breakfast

Day 18 — Day 18: Siem Reap - Banteay Srei temple (B)

Morning, transfer to **Banteay Srei temple** (10th c), regarded as the jewel in the crown of Classical Khmer Art. Continue to **Ta Prohm**, one of the area's most beautiful temples. Ta Prohm has been relatively untouched since it was discovered and retains much of its mystery. Lunch at a local restaurant. Afternoon visit **the Roluos Group**. The monuments of Roluos, which served as the capital of Indravarman I (reigned 877-89), are among the earliest large, permanent temples built by the Khmers and mark the beginning of Khmer classical art. **Preah Ko** erected by Indravarman I in the late 9th century dedicated by the King to his ancestors in 880. **Bakong**, the largest and most interesting of the Roluos group temples, with his active

Buddhist monastery just to the north of the east entrance. **Lolei** ,built on an islet in the center of a large reservoir (now rice fields) by Yasovarman I, the founder to the first city at Angkor. Overnight in Siem Reap.

Accommodation : At the hotel in Siem Reap

Meals: Breakfast

Day 19 — Day : Siem Reap - Tonle Sap Lake - Departure (B)

After breakfast, start your day with a short drive to visit **Kampong Phluk** floating village, a permanent settlement on the Tonle Sap Lake with a small land-based village attached to it. Its remarkable mangrove forest is unique in the Siem Reap area. You will board a local boat and cruise the waterways observing the authentic and diverse lifestyle of the local floating community. Once you arrive at the open lake, jump onto the floating restaurant where you will watch the sunset over the great lake.

Transfer to the airport for your international flight home

Accommodation : NA

Meals: Breakfast

ACCOMMODATION

DESTINATION	HOTEL	ROOM
Bangkok	W22 BY BURASARI 3*	Superior
Chiang Mai	M Hotel Chiang Mai	Superior
Luang Prabang	Villa Maydou	Deluxe
Hanoi	Chalcedony Hotel	Deluxe city view
Halong Bay	RENEA CRUISE	Deluxe
Sai Gon	Sanouva Hotel Saigon	Premium Deluxe
Siem Reap	Amber Angkor Hotel	Deluxe
Bangkok	ARTE HOTEL	Deluxe
Chiang Mai	Bodhi Serene	Deluxe
Luang Prabang	Souphatra Hotel	Deluxe Pool View
Hanoi	Hanoi Pearl Hotel	Deluxe city view
Halong Bay	Mila Cruise	Junior with balcony
Sai Gon	Eden Star Saigon	Premiun Deluxe
Siem Reap	Somadevi Angkor Hotel	Superior
Bangkok	Eastin Grand Sathorn Bangkok	Superior
—	—	Deluxe
Luang Prabang	Satri House	Deluxe
Hanoi	GM PREMIUM HOTEL HANOI	Executive City view
Halong Bay	Ambassador Cruise	Deluxe
Sai Gon	LA SIESTA PREMIUM SAIGON	Deluxe
Siem Reap	Borei Angkor Hotel	Deluxe

Trip notes

INCLUDED	EXCLUDED
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accommodation in twin/double room with daily breakfast at the below indicated room types (see hotel category list below) (check-in and check-out around noontime)• 2Days/1Night cruise on board a cruise in Ha Long Bay (double/twin cabin on shared boat).• Services of a driver and private air-conditioned vehicle during all tours and transfers• Experienced English-speaking guide during all tours and transfers• Entrance fees for all visits as mentioned in the itinerary• Meals (B/L/D) (Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner) as indicated in the program• Bottles of mineral water per person per day on bus - on days of transfer and sightseeing only	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early check-in or late check-out• International & Domestic flight tickets• Meals (other than mentioned in the program)• Additional transfer required due to any emergency situation• Visa - as per country requirements• Tips• All entrance fees - as per program• Travel insurance (we highly recommend that you purchase adequate insurance)• Airport transfer surcharge for guide between 10:00 pm to 6:30 am is 15 USD/way.