



Thai Unika — Unique experiences

ITINERARY

Thailand And Vietnam 10 Days

DAY	ITINERARY IN BRIEF
Day 1	Day 1: Bangkok Arrival
Day 2	Day 2: Bangkok Full Day City Tour (B)
Day 3	Day 3: Bangkok - Railway market - Damnoen Saduak Floating Market - Bangkok (B)
Day 4	Day 4: Ayutthaya Historical Park - Bang Pa In Palace - Bangkok - Flight to Chiang Mai (B)
Day 5	Day 5: Bangkok - Flight to Hanoi - Cyclo through Old Quarter (B) No guide in Bangkok
Day 6	Day 6: Hanoi Full Day City Tour (B)
Day 7	Day 7: Hanoi - Ha Long Bay Cruise (B, L, D) English speaking guide onboard
Day 8	Day 8: Ha Long Bay Cruise - Ninh Binh (B, L) English speaking guide onboard
Day 9	Day 9: Ninh Binh - Hoa Lu - Trang An - Hanoi (B)
Day 10	Day 10: Hanoi Departure (B)

ITINERARY DETAIL

Day 1 — Day 1: Bangkok Arrival

Warmly welcome you on arrival at Bangkok Suvarnabhumi International Airport. We will pick you up with a comfortable vehicle to the center of Bangkok to check-in your hotel, then take your time to have a rest after a long flight.

Day 2 — Day 2: Bangkok Full Day City Tour (B)

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 1770s. Nowadays, the Grand Palace is no longer home of Thailand Royal, most of national significant events takes place there. Wat Phra Kaew is the most out-standing architecture in complex, built in 1785 when King Rama I moved the capital to Bangkok.*

Wat Pra Kwae is famous not only for its beauty of unique Thailand Buddhism architecture but also for the sacred jade Buddha statue. *Thai people believe that the statue will bring back fortune and prosperity for the nation.*

Nearby 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.*

The Wat Pho wall-surrounded complex was divided into 2 by Soi Chetuphon running along East - West. The Northern complex is the one including the in gold Buddha statue and massage school mentioned above. The Southern complex, Tukgawee, is a monastery and a school.

Then, we visit 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 for prosperity and purity, as well as strength and power. The Golden Statue was defined to be built in Sukhothai period, the 13-15th century - one of the most famous periods of Thai Buddhism architecture.

Lunch on your own at local restaurant.

In the afternoon, we will board on a boat to pay a visit along the Chao Phraya River, watching the life of local people close by.

On route, we stop at **Wat Arun**, known as the most beautiful pagoda in Bangkok not only for its location on the Chao Phraya's riverbank but also for the different architecture from other pagodas. "Arun" means sunrise, but it is most beautiful in the sunset. The pagoda was decorated with glass pieces and Chinese ceramic, in a complicated style. You can climb up to the top of Wat Arun to see Chao Phraya, Grand Palace and Wat Pho at the opposite side.

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

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

Early in the morning, after having breakfast, we pay a visit to **Meaklong Railway Market** – a local market 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 **Damnoen Saduak Floating market**, which is specialized in trading fruits, vegetables, etc... by small boat. In the old days, floating markets were formed because roads and means of road traffic have not developed.

Due to the demand for buying and selling goods, people gather in the river by means such as boats. Nowadays, despite the fact that the road network has developed everywhere, floating market still exists and develops more and more.

We transfer back to Bangkok, you are free to relax.

Overnight in Bangkok.

Day 4 — Day 4: Ayutthaya Historical Park - Bang Pa In Palace - Bangkok - Flight to Chiang Mai (B)

Having a breakfast and today we will pay a visit to some sites of **Ayutthaya Historical Park**, *situated in the old city of Ayutthaya.*

The city was constructed by Ramathibodi I in 1350 and was the capital of Thailand until it was destroyed by Burmese – Myanmar army in 1767. Being a ruin with many temples which characterize this type of architecture built with red bricks, the park was recognized as World's Heritage Site by UNESCO.

The park included of a visit to below sites:

- **Wat Phu Khao Thong** *is a massive pagoda towering in the middle of paddy fields and can be seen from afar. Built by King Ramesuan in 1395, the pagoda is unique with the combination of 2 architectural styles: Thai – style and Mon – style. There is a high golden plated chedi on the top, which makes the pagoda*

outstanding.

- **Wat Phra Sri Sanphet** was the most important temple of Ayutthaya and situated within the Ayutthaya Grand Palace grounds. It served as a model for the Temple of the Emerald Buddha in Bangkok. The highlight of Wat Phra Sri Sanphet is 3 towers standing high together in Ceylonese style, has the same architecture with Wat Phra Kaew in Bangkok.

- **Vihara Phra Mongkhon Bophit** is the pagoda in which the bronze Buddha statue in the attitude of subduing Mara is situated. This is one of the biggest Buddha statue in Thailand. It was considered to be built during the Ayuttaya period of King Srongta, who transferred the location from the east side to the west and has been the location since then. After that he ordered to build a dome on top.

- **Wat Lokaya Sutha** is considered as the sacred place for pilgrims since it's famous for the reclining Buddha statue, which is the statue of the Blessed Buddha intact compared to other monuments in the entire Ayutthaya ruins. It is also the most important relics in most of those in Wat Lokaya Sutha. Thai people believe that if they paste the golden leaf onto Buddha statues, they will be protected by Buddha.

Lunch on your own at local restaurant.

Heading back to Bangkok. En route, we visit the **Royal Summer Palace** in Bang Pa-in district.

Situated about 60 km northern away from Bangkok, this palace is called Royal Summer Palace since it is a favorite resort of royal. The first palace had been built in mid-early of the 17th century, then was the ruins and be forgotten when Burman occupied Ayutthaya. It was not until the rule of King Rama IV - did the palace rebuild. King Rama IV was the first Siamese king came to Europe and was sharply impressed by the architecture there. Therefore, the whole architecture of the palace is in the way of 19th century European style.

Overnight in Bangkok.

Day 5 — Day 5: Bangkok - Flight to Hanoi - Cyclo through Old Quarter (B) No guide in Bangkok

Today you are free to relax until we transfer (without guide) to the airport for a flight to Hanoi.

Upon arrival, you will have a chance to **discover Old Quarter of Hanoi by cyclo**. It must be an interesting experience when you come to Hanoi.

Day 6 — Day 6: Hanoi Full Day City Tour (B)

Today, we enjoy a full day city tour starting with the **Ho Chi Minh Complex**. This famous site contains **the mausoleum** of the nation's founder Ho Chi Minh

Our first stop is to visit **the mausoleum of the nation's founder Ho Chi Minh**. *Located in the center of Ba Dinh Square, this is the most important monument of Vietnam in which Ho Chi Minh's body is preserved. This site only opens on Tuesday to Thursday and weekends from 08:00 - 11:00.*

The next destination is the **Presidential Palace** and the **Ho Chi Minh's house on stilts**. *The Ho Chi Minh's stilt house was completed on May 19th, 1958 as a birthday present for uncle Ho and becomes a symbol of his simple life.*

Close to this complex is the **One Pillar Pagoda**. *The pagoda looks like a lotus blossoming from the square pond. It was constructed in 1049 by King Ly Thai Tong based on his dream of Goddess of Mercy seating on a lotus flower and giving him a boy. In 1954, it was destroyed by the French and then restored in 1955.*

We follow this with the **Temple of Literature**, which is well known as the first university of Vietnam. *This temple provides an opportunity to learn more about education in Vietnam since 1000 years ago until recent history.*

In the afternoon, visit the impressive **Ethnologic Museum** that is dedicated to Vietnam's 54 ethnic groups. *This museum has both indoor and outdoor exhibition area with the most popular architectural styles of house's ethnic people. The museum closes on every Monday.*

To round off the day, the evening takes us to the old theatre for a **1-hour water puppet show**, a unique Vietnam traditional art.

Day 7 — Day 7: Hanoi - Ha Long Bay Cruise (B, L, D) English speaking guide onboard

Breakfast served at hotel and then starts a 3-hour drive through the rich farmlands of the **Red River Delta** to **Ha Long City**.

Declared as a World Heritage site by the UNESCO in 1994, Ha Long Bay is one of Vietnam's most spectacular natural attractions. Nearly 200 km far from Hanoi, the bay is dotted with 1600 limestone islands, capturing visitors' attention.

Arrive in Halong and board a luxury wooden sailing junk for a cruise through the limestone cliffs and emerald waters of Ha Long Bay, giving us the chance to take in the stunning scenery of this World Heritage Site.

While on board we will be served a sumptuous fresh, local seafood lunch followed by a swim and exploring some of the limestone caves in this area. When the sun comes down we drop anchor for the night nearby a remote island.

Dinner served on board. **Overnight on cruise.**

Day 8 — Day 8: Ha Long Bay Cruise - Ninh Binh (B, L) English speaking guide onboard

Rising to 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. This morning we continue to move around the bay to find more secluded areas.

The junk will be near us at all times serving as a back-up vessel for those that require it. At around midday we will return to the main harbor where our private vehicle waiting for you for a 3-hour journey to **Ninh Binh** via Thai Binh and Nam Dinh.

Situated in the south of the Northern Delta region, Ninh Binh is well known as the first imperial capital of Vietnam under Dinh, Le & Ly Dynasties. Come here, you will admire a gorgeous countryside with water buffalos, majestic limestone and grottos.

Upon arrival, the rest of the day would be spent at your own pleasure.

Day 9 — Day 9: Ninh Binh - Hoa Lu - Trang An - Hanoi (B)

After breakfast, we explore the beautiful countryside in Vietnam by an excursion to **Hoa Lu**.

The former capital of Vietnam in the 10th century covers an area of 300 ha. Today, the ancient citadel no longer exists, and few vestiges still remain. In Hoa Lu there are now 2 temples dedicated to King Dinh Tien Hoang and King Le Dai Hanh.

We then take an amazing boat trip to visit the **Trang An Complex**.

Trang An has an area of 1500 hectares and is a gathering of 31 valleys, 50 cross-water caves, and home to 600 kinds of flora and over 200 kinds of fauna surrounded by magnificent forested mountains, which makes it become a fascinating destination.

Back to Hanoi for overnight.

Day 10 — Day 10: Hanoi Departure (B)

The time is on your own until we transfer to the airport for your international flight back to your hometown.

ACCOMMODATION

DESTINATION	HOTEL	ROOM
Bangkok	W22 BY BURASARI 3*	Superior
Hanoi	Chalcedony Hotel	Deluxe city view
Halong Bay	RENEA CRUISE	Deluxe
Ninh Binh	Nam Hoa Hotel	Deluxe
Bangkok	ARTE HOTEL	Deluxe
Hanoi	Hanoi Pearl Hotel	Deluxe city view
Halong Bay	Mila Cruise	Junior with balcony
Ninh Binh	LALITA BOUTIQUE HOTEL & SPA NINH BINH	Deluxe
Bangkok	Eastin Grand Sathorn Bangkok	Superior
Hanoi	GM PREMIUM HOTEL HANOI	Executive City view
Halong Bay	Ambassador Cruise	Deluxe
Ninh Binh	NINH BINH HIDDEN CHARM HOTEL & RESORT	Superior

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• 02 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.