

# Far East

Featuring: Japan • China • Vietnam • Cambodia • Laos • Borneo

Escorted Touring Holidays **2025 – 2026**



distantjourneys  
*Your Time to Explore*



Vietnamese welcome

## “A Warm Welcome Awaits”



It gives me great pleasure to introduce our new Far East 2025-26 brochure, showcasing insightful tours that have been carefully crafted to allow you to truly explore Japan, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and, for the first time, Borneo, with Distant Journeys.

Home to one of the oldest rainforests in the world, Borneo is a haven for rare wildlife like orangutans, pygmy elephants and sun bears, and our brand-new tour allows plenty of opportunity to see these incredible animals up close, along with everything else there is to love about this magical island.

Japan's popularity is unwavering, and we are delighted to introduce two brand-new itineraries for the new touring season. Culturally unique and scenically beautiful, Japan's soaring skyscrapers and neon lights sit alongside treasured ancient traditions like the graceful geisha and the art of the tea ceremony.

Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos are the very essence of South East Asia, with rich cultures, diverse and friendly people and spectacular landscapes. Further north, China remains one of the world's favourite travel destinations. With thousands of years of intriguing history and archaeological discoveries, to modern cities and the rare Giant Pandas, it's easy to see why.

As always, our aim at Distant Journeys is to make every moment of your holiday as memorable as it should be. Great care and consideration go into every aspect of our itineraries, built upon a wealth of experience and the support of an immensely passionate and knowledgeable team, both here in the UK and overseas.

We have created unforgettable holidays for thousands of happy travellers, and the exceptional quality of our touring holidays means that Distant Journeys has been a winner on 18 occasions at the prestigious British Travel Awards, and was also awarded a 'Platinum Trusted' rating by independent reviews provider Feefo, for consistently delivering an excellent level of customer service.

Nothing makes me happier than to know that our customers cherish their time with us, and I would like to thank each of you for the loyalty and trust shown over the years. It has been our absolute honour to create these holidays of a lifetime for you, and we look forward to helping you plan your next adventure soon.

For those of you who haven't travelled with Distant Journeys yet, a very warm welcome. Our friendly travel professionals are experts in the destinations we visit, and we would love the opportunity to share our passion with you at any time.

With best wishes,

**Simon Whittle**  
Managing Director

### OUR DISTANT JOURNEYS...

Standing before Mount Fuji was like stepping into a dream – the stillness and serenity giving pause for deep reflection. In contrast, Tokyo pulsed with vibrant energy, every corner brimming with life. From the hustle of street markets to hidden, intimate bars, the city never stopped surprising me. One of the most powerful moments from my journey to Japan was attending a talk by a Hiroshima atomic bomb survivor. Listening to their story of survival and resilience was profoundly moving.



**Ellie McVann**  
Reservations

### OUR DISTANT JOURNEYS...

My recent travels in Borneo just blew me away with its wildlife experiences. As our boat glided along the Kinabatangan River, I was so excited to spot my first wild orangutan, swinging from branch to branch. The sight of pygmy elephants, carefully walking down a muddy riverbank; or huge Rhinoceros hornbill birds swooping above the trees; and with the setting sun, spectacular firefly displays, are moments I'll treasure forever.



**Sara Harris**  
Product Manager

# Contents

<b>The Distant Journeys Difference</b>	
Why Choose Distant Journeys?	4 – 5
Holiday Styles To Suit You	6 – 7
Exceptional Value	8 – 9
Award-winning Customer Service	10 – 11
Hand-Picked Hotels	12 – 13
Freedom & Flexibility	14 – 15
Once in a Lifetime Experiences	16 – 17
<b>Japan</b>	
<b>NEW</b> Wonders of Japan (15 days)	20 – 25
<b>NEW</b> Treasures of Japan <b>SOLO</b> (16 days)	26 – 33
The Very Best of Japan (20 days)	34 – 43
<b>China</b>	
<b>NEW</b> Discover China <b>SOLO</b> (17 days)	46 – 53
The Very Best of China (23 days)	54 – 65
<b>Borneo</b>	
<b>NEW</b> The Very Best of Borneo (17 days)	68 – 77
<b>Vietnam, Cambodia &amp; Laos</b>	
Classic Vietnam & Cambodia (15 days)	80 – 87
Discover Vietnam & Cambodia <b>SOLO</b> (18 days)	88 – 95
<b>NEW</b> Mekong River Explorer (19 days)	96 – 105
<b>NEW</b> The Very Best of Vietnam (21 days)	106 – 115
The Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia (22 days)	116 – 125
<b>Holiday Extensions</b>	
<b>NEW</b> Khao Lak, Thailand	104
<b>NEW</b> Kota Kinabalu, Borneo	126
<b>NEW</b> Gaya Island, Borneo	127
Luang Prabang, Laos	128 – 129
<b>Incredible Cruises</b>	
La Regina Legend, Lan Ha Bay	130 – 131
Au Co, Ha Long Bay	132 – 133
Pandaw River Cruise, Mekong River	134 – 135
Century River Cruise, Yangtze River	136 – 137
<b>Helpful Information</b>	
Japan Hotel Directory	138 – 141
Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos Hotel Directory	142 – 144
Thailand Hotel Directory	145
Borneo Hotel Directory	146 – 147
China Hotel Directory	148 – 149
Our Airline Partners	150 – 153
Important Information	154 – 155
Booking Conditions	156 – 159



# Why Choose Distant Journeys?



## Award-winning holidays

Our aim is to offer exceptional value for money without compromising on the quality of your holiday. Our success is evident, with Distant Journeys winning at the prestigious British Travel Awards 18 times.



## Meticulously designed tours

Many years of planning go into every detail of our holidays, and each element is carefully chosen with our customers' enjoyment in mind.



## Personal knowledge and expert advice

Distant Journeys has a team of professional travel specialists with personal knowledge of the countries we visit, our selected hotels and the experiences offered.



## Freedom to explore

Our holidays operate at a relaxed pace to give you plenty of time to fully explore and savour each area, as well as giving you some time to unwind. Many of our tours also have Freedom Days, to spend as you wish.



## Hand-picked hotels

We only select accommodation which meets the high standards of quality, service and location our guests have come to expect.



## Once in a lifetime experiences

From exciting rail journeys and cruises to exploring lesser-known gems, our holidays feature many incredible experiences which provide memories to cherish forever.



## Expert Tour Managers and local guides

Our Tour Managers and local guides are all greatly experienced in their field, and have the right balance of organisational skills and local knowledge, coupled with warm, friendly personalities.



## Personalise your travel arrangements

Flying from regional UK airports, typically at no extra cost, upgrading your flight and extending your holiday are just a few of the ways in which you can personalise your tour so it's perfect for you.



## Book with confidence

Distant Journeys are fully bonded by the Civil Aviation Authority and the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited, meaning you can book in confidence, knowing your money is 100% safe.



Clockwise from top: Hoi An, Vietnam; Kota Kinabalu food market; Mount Fuji, Japan; Traditional Chinese dress

## Price Promise ✓

### Early booking offers

Our philosophy is simple – the earlier you book the better the offer you will receive.

### No last minute discounts

Distant Journeys never discount our holidays at the last minute, so you can be confident you will never see your holiday at a lower price than you paid.

### No additional charges

Irrespective of any additional costs incurred by Distant Journeys as a result of currency fluctuations, air fare increases or other costs associated with your holiday, surcharges will never be added once you have confirmed a booking.

### Price match

We want you to have the peace of mind when booking a Distant Journeys holiday that you are receiving the best possible price. So, if you see the same holiday cheaper, not only will we match that price, we will also give you £200 off the price of a future holiday with Distant Journeys.

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 156-159.

### YOUR LOCAL GUIDE SAYS...

Vietnam is home to friendly locals, delicious food and beautiful scenery. The city tours are brilliant for first-time visitors, covering history, culture and local life, and for a more in-depth and immersive experience, I recommend a bike tour of the many local villages too.



Nguyen Ngov Qui  
Vietnam

### YOUR TOUR MANAGER SAYS...

The Very Best of Japan tour includes so many interesting local experiences, but with a good degree of freedom and flexibility to allow a true appreciation of the country. Japan is safe and clean, its people are kind and the food is very good!



Sachiko Takigawa  
Japan



# Holiday Styles To Suit You

Although our love of travel unites us, we all have our own individual requirements when it comes to how we travel. It's your holiday, and with Distant Journeys you can choose the style of holiday that suits you.

## Classic Tours

Our Classic escorted tours are a great way to travel and experience a country's scenery, culture and sights with a group of like-minded people, guided by a friendly and knowledgeable Tour Manager, and occasionally local guides who will also bring the destination to life. Your carefully-crafted touring itinerary includes a variety of wonderful activities and sightseeing excursions, many meals, and accommodation in top-quality hotels throughout. With our Classic tour groups, good company and camaraderie is guaranteed.

## Solo Tours

Join a small group of like-minded travellers as you explore Japan, China or Vietnam & Cambodia. You will be accompanied by a Tour Manager, dedicated to taking away any worries and ensuring you get the best from every moment of your well-deserved holiday. And at the end of a busy day, retreat to the privacy of your own hotel room, safe in the knowledge that there's no single occupancy supplement to pay. Our range of included activities and sightseeing will create friendships forged through shared experiences, and memories to last a lifetime.

## Cruise tours

Cruise tours offer a serene and intimate way to explore picturesque landscapes, historic cities, and charming villages as you meander along scenic waterways. On many of our tours across the Far East, you can enjoy a leisurely travel experience, with the opportunity to savour local cuisines, cultural excursions, and spectacular views right from the comfort of our handpicked ships and riverboats. From cruises on Vietnam's Ha Long and Lan Ha Bays to voyages along China's Yangtze River, and journeys along the Mekong River meandering through the waterways of Vietnam, Cambodia or Laos. Find out more on pages 96-105.

## Private Tours

If you would like to travel to Borneo, China or Vietnam & Cambodia with a group of friends, as a family, or if you are celebrating a special occasion, our private touring holidays provide affordable exclusivity for groups of any size. Enjoy the same expertly-crafted itinerary and hand-picked hotels, but with the exclusivity and convenience of your own friendly and knowledgeable guides, your own private vehicle and your own choice of departure date. Private Tours give you the flexibility to shape the holiday to suit you.

Colourful lanterns along streets of Hoi An

# Exceptional Value

We are passionate about what we do, passionate about the countries we visit, the experiences we include, the service we offer and the value for money we deliver to our guests, without compromising on the quality of your holiday experience.

With Distant Journeys, value for money means we will provide you with the opportunity to discover Japan, China, Borneo, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos in comfort and style, with so much flexibility and so many experiences included in the itinerary, without it costing the earth.

## So much included



Return international flights from the UK on award-winning scheduled airlines, with all on-board meals and drinks included



Choice of regional UK airports on selected tours



Carefully selected hotels offering quality and comfort. Daily breakfast is included in addition to a selection of other meals



Overseas transfers and transport in modern air-conditioned coaches



Porter service for your luggage



All pre-payable airport and resort taxes. All the entrance fees to the many incredible places and monuments you will visit



An experienced Tour Manager on all escorted tours



Once in a lifetime experiences



Visits to lesser-known hidden gems



Travelling on a Private Tour? You'll enjoy all the same inclusions, travel in your own vehicle and have the convenience of our knowledgeable local guides



Rice farmer, Cambodia

CUSTOMER TESTIMONIAL...

An amazing trip looking back we just saw and did so much. Incredibly well organised, itinerary details on the app with additional day by day updates from our Tour Manager. Accommodation was all of high quality as was the food. Met some great people and I have some wonderful memories.

Mrs Goodeve – Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia

CUSTOMER TESTIMONIAL...

A wonderful relaxed tour of Japan that made sure we saw all the highlights of every place we visited, experienced the culture and traditions of the Japanese and got to know this wonderful country and it's people... communication with the company was excellent from start to finish. I really love the Distant Journeys app which has everything you need for the entire holiday in one place, from your full itinerary, hotel and weather information, flight details, maps and helpful information to etiquette, what to pack, currency info etc.

Mrs Hughes – The Very Best of Japan

CUSTOMER TESTIMONIAL...

The meticulous organisation, scope of places and sights visited, the expertise of the local guides, and particularly the superb management and assistance provided by our tour guide, made The Very Best of China tour a wonderful experience.

Mr Wood – The Very Best of China



Japanese hospitality

# Award-winning Customer Service

Great customer service is at the heart of everything we do, and we never lose sight of what matters most – you, our valued customers. We are with you every step of the way; before, during and after your tour. We recognise our guests are individuals, with different requirements, tastes and needs, and we tailor our support accordingly.

Our commitment to excellence has won us many awards, which recognise the superb customer service and high standards throughout the entire experience of booking and travelling with Distant Journeys. We are determined to continue to exceed expectations when it comes to our guests and their well-deserved holiday.

### A team of dedicated travel experts

Our travel experts are friendly, well-travelled individuals with a passion for the destinations we visit, and love to share their experience and knowledge with you. We have travelled on our tours and visited the places you will visit, so we can offer advice from personal experience and give you practical recommendations.

### Experienced Tour Managers

Distant Journeys' personally-selected Tour Managers work tirelessly to ensure your tour runs smoothly. They use their experience, local knowledge and organisational skills to make sure our guests can relax, knowing they are accompanied by a friendly and resourceful presence who is always on hand to help.

Local guides play an invaluable role when touring too; sharing their knowledge of the culture, traditions and language of their country to provide helpful insights into the places we visit and first-hand recommendations to help guests feel truly immersed in the destination.



# Hand-Picked Hotels

Distant Journeys appreciate the hotels in which you stay are an integral part of your holiday, which is why we take great care in hand-picking all the accommodation featured in our itineraries. Location and quality are always paramount considerations, and we always strive to provide the best of both.

## Hotel ratings

You can be confident the hotels featured in this brochure have been carefully selected for their location, quality, facilities and level of service. We understand from many years of experience that accommodation ratings may vary from country to country. We therefore provide our own ratings, which are based on the expectations of guests from the United Kingdom, alongside the official hotel rating.

## Location, location, location

Relax in the knowledge that every hotel has been chosen to make the most of each destination you visit. In Japan, guests stay at the Fuji Marriott Hotel Lake Yamanaka. Set close to the largest of the Fuji Five Lakes, it is surrounded by the unforgettable landscapes of Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, and is perfectly placed to take in the incredible views of Mount Fuji. In the heart of Borneo's Sabah region, we stay at Sukau Rainforest Lodge, nestled along the banks of the Kinabatangan River, offering comfort amidst the pristine Borneo rainforest and the island's incredible biodiversity and wildlife.

## Character and charm

Some hotels are more than a place to rest and, in many destinations, we select hotels for their history, character and charm. When visiting Phnom Penh in Cambodia, you will enjoy a stay at Palace Gate Hotel & Resort. On arrival, the first thing you will notice is their lovingly-restored French colonial villa. This incredible centerpiece is complete with ornate columns and intricate examples of Cambodian tile-making. In China, we stay in the ancient city of Pingyao, at the fascinating Yun Jin Cheng Mansion. Some 300 years old, the building was originally two houses with courtyards which were beautifully converted into an exceptional boutique hotel. Almost as if you were stepping into a museum, every area of the hotel – the courtyards, the lobby and the guestrooms – tells a story of its rich history.

### OUR HEAD OF PRODUCT SAYS...

Across our tours to Japan, guests have opportunities to indulge in authentic Japanese hospitality, be it a choice of two brilliant onsen hotels or the chance to stay in a traditional Ryokan. In Yudanaka's Ryokan Biyunoyado, you can unwind in natural hot spring baths, and at Laforet Ito Onsen Yunoniwa the hotel is nestled in the scenic Izu Peninsula with private onsen baths in your room.



Liz Reddy  
Head of Product



Palace Gate Hotel & Resort, Phnom Penh, Cambodia



# Freedom & Flexibility

Imagine being able to enjoy all the benefits of travelling with a group of like-minded people: the fun, the camaraderie, the friendships, the hassle-free organisation – and at the same time being able to personalise your holiday so that it's perfect for you.

When it comes to having the freedom to tailor your holiday to suit your tastes and wishes, the flexibility provided by Distant Journeys cannot be beaten.

### **Fly from your local airport**

To get your journey off to the best possible start, on the majority of our tours, Distant Journeys offer flights from London Heathrow or Manchester at no extra cost. Dependent on your choice of airline, other regional airports may also be available for a supplement.

### **Flight upgrades**

If you would like to treat yourself to a little more comfort on your international flights, Premium Economy and Business Class upgrades are available on selected routes. See pages 150-153 for more details.

### **Freedom Days**

For an escorted tour to be truly memorable, we believe you should have the freedom to customise your touring experiences to match your interests. That is why the vast majority of Distant Journeys tours have a number of Freedom Days for you to spend as you please, with many activities and excursions to choose from.

### **Extend your holiday**

Distant Journeys offer a series of spectacular holiday extensions to finish off your holiday adventure. Holiday extensions are dependent on your choice of destination and itinerary, and include a Borneo beach stay, a Thailand beach stay, a magical trip to Luang Prabang in Laos, or a homebound stopover in Dubai, Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong, Singapore or Sentosa Island.

Buddhist monks, Luang Prabang, Laos



# Once in a Lifetime Experiences

When you travel with Distant Journeys, you can be confident that all the must-see sights will be included, along with several extra special experiences to make your holiday as memorable as it should be.

## Wildlife wonders

The Japanese macaques, known as snow monkeys, are famous for their unique winter behaviour. Join us for the chance to watch these incredible animals take a dip in Yudanaka's hot springs to warm up from the cold – learned behaviour from observing local people! In Borneo, guests will have opportunities to spot the island's most famous inhabitant, the orangutan, and we also go in search of other fascinating residents, such as pygmy elephants and proboscis monkeys. The beloved panda is the national symbol of China. Join us as we visit the Giant Panda Breeding Research Institute, home to around 120 giant and 76 red pandas.

## Unforgettable cruises

From sailing on Vietnam's picturesque Ha Long and Lan Ha Bays, to meandering the vast and verdant Mekong Delta or discovering China's Yangtze River, we offer a range of unforgettable cruises across many of our destinations. Enjoy exploring these tranquil waterways at a leisurely pace, with ever-changing vistas and backdrops straight from a picture-perfect postcard. New for 2025/26, we are delighted to introduce a 10-night cruise along the mighty Mekong River, which journeys through the lesser-known yet hugely impressive country of Laos, before winding up in Thailand's renowned Golden Triangle.

## The geishas of Japan

Instantly recognisable and incredibly gracious, nothing is more synonymous with Japan than the geisha. Take a peek into this secretive world – enjoy a traditional Japanese meal, a kaisei, whilst being entertained by a maiko (apprentice geisha), who will perform their traditional art of singing and dancing.

## Explore the temples of Angkor Wat

A visit to the immense Angkor complex of temples is a journey to one of the great wonders of the world. From the 9th to the 15th century, Cambodian 'god-kings' attempted to surpass the religious monuments of their ancestors. This culminated in the world's largest religious building, and Cambodia's most recognisable landmark, the famous five spires of Angkor Wat.

## China's ancient city of Pingyao

Stay in the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Pingyao, a tiny ancient city, often overlooked by travellers. Pingyao's superbly-preserved architecture and city walls, elegant courtyards and ancient temples, along with the vibrancy created by the 30,000 people residing within its walls, plus, the absence of cars within the city walls, transports you to a bygone era.



Clockwise from top: Baby orangutan in the wild, Borneo; Ninh Binh, Vietnam; Maiko, Japan; Angkor Wat, Siem Reap, Cambodia

# *Japan*

Timeless, Innovative, Elegant

Amidst the history and sacred shrines, you'll find modern cities pulsing with life, charming and humble locals who welcome you graciously, and delicious local delicacies.





**NEW**

# Wonders of Japan

📅 15 days    💷 from £5,195pp    🌐 November 2025 – April 2026

Get ready to embark on the journey of a lifetime through Japan, where ancient traditions meet cutting-edge modernity in perfect harmony. Our expertly crafted Wonders of Japan tour invites you to discover the country's most unforgettable destinations during an immersive 15-day adventure.

From the electric energy of Tokyo's vibrant streets to the serene beauty of Kyoto's ancient temples, you'll experience Japan's fascinating blend of rich history, dynamic culture, and breathtaking landscapes. Dive into the country's spiritual heart with visits to ornate temples, marvel at the Hakone Shrine nestled among snow-capped mountains, and during the winter months we may have the chance to witness the magical sight of snow monkeys soaking in the steaming hot springs of Yudanaka.

Stay in handpicked accommodations that showcase Japan's renowned hospitality, indulge in mouthwatering regional dishes, and let our expert Tour Manager guide you every step of the way. With an array of exclusive experiences included – like a drumming workshop, lunch with a captivating maiko performance, and a tasting at a traditional sake brewery – our Wonders of Japan tour promises exceptional value and memories you'll cherish for a lifetime.

Clockwise from above: Snow monkey soaking in a hot spring, Hakodate; Japanese sake; Geisha



## Your holiday includes

-  Return economy flights with Emirates from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. Alternatively, fly direct to Tokyo with Japan Airlines from London Heathrow – a supplement, from £250 per person, will apply
-  Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portage and applicable taxes
-  Meals worth £432 per person, with daily breakfast, four lunches, a traditional kaiseki meal and one dinner
-  Unforgettable experiences including:
  - ★ Sightseeing tours in Tokyo, Hakone, Nagano, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Nara and Osaka
  - ★ Participate in a taiko (drumming) lesson
  - ★ Travel on Japan's high-speed bullet train
  - ★ Spend the night in a traditional Ryokan
  - ★ View the macaques (snow monkeys) at Jigokudani Monkey Park
  - ★ Tasting and lunch at a sake brewery and whisky distillery
  - ★ Discover the Japanese garden of Kenroku-en
  - ★ Visit historic Takayama
  - ★ Explore the UNESCO World Heritage site of Shirakawa-go
  - ★ Enjoy lunch with a maiko performance
-  Services of an experienced Tour Manager
-  All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
-  Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 156-159.



Sensoji Temple, Tokyo



Onsen bath



Mount Fuji, Lake Ashi, Hakone

# Wonders of Japan

Days 1 to 10: UK - Tokyo - Hakone - Yudanaka - Kanazawa - Takayama - Shirakawa-go - Kyoto

## Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Emirates from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow, via Dubai. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

### Alternative airline – Japan Airlines

Should you prefer, fly direct to Tokyo from London Heathrow with Japan Airlines for a supplement, from £250 per person return.

## Day 2: Tokyo, 4 nights

On arrival into Japan's metropolitan capital, we transfer to our centrally-located hotel, the Hilton Tokyo, our base for the next four nights. The rest of the day is free to relax or explore Tokyo at your own pace. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 3: Tokyo

After breakfast, we visit the serene Meiji Jingu Shrine, a sacred Shinto site surrounded by a peaceful forest, planted in memory of the Emperor Meiji and his consort Empress Shoken. We then head to the Imperial Palace Plaza for a photo stop before continuing to Tokyo Tower, where the panoramic city views offer a breathtaking perspective. Afterwards, experience the excitement of Shibuya Crossing, one of the world's busiest pedestrian intersections - a spot not to be missed on a trip to Tokyo! There is time to relax this afternoon, before joining our Tour Manager for a welcome drink and a chance to get to know our fellow travellers. **Breakfast included**

## Day 4: Hakone

Today, we head out of the city on a day trip to Hakone, a region renowned for its natural beauty, geothermal activity and of course, Mount Fuji. Our day begins with a scenic ride on the Hakone Ropeway, offering stunning views of Owakudani's geothermal hot springs from our gondola high up above the valley. Next, we enjoy a leisurely cruise on Lake Ashi and absorb the picturesque landscapes, before visiting Hakone Shrine. Mt. Fuji can be a little shy, but fingers crossed a clear sky will reward us with some impressive views of this iconic peak, the famous red torii gate of the shrine providing the perfect frame for this stunning sight. **Breakfast included**

## Day 5: Tokyo

We continue to explore Tokyo's cultural and historic heart today. Starting in the district of Asakusa, we visit the city's oldest temple, Sensoji, which was built in AD645, where we take in the detailed design and bustling atmosphere. Take time to wander through Nakamise shopping street, lined with stalls that have been selling traditional snacks, souvenirs and handicrafts to temple-goers for centuries. We finish our morning with an immersive drumming experience, learning the art of traditional Japanese percussion, at the Taiko Drum Museum. Having worked up an appetite, we head to Ameyoko Street, a bustling market area filled with food stalls, where we have a chance to taste some local specialities. We return to our hotel, where the remainder of the day is at leisure. **Breakfast included**

## Day 6: Yudanaka, Overnight

This morning, we board the bullet train to Nagano, a city known for its rich history and natural beauty. Our first stop is the historic Zenkoji Temple, a revered pilgrimage site that dates back over 1,400 years and one of Japan's most important and popular temples. Zenkoji boasts stunning traditional architecture, with its massive wooden gate and the main hall housing a hidden Buddha statue said to have been the first Buddhist image brought into Japan. Later, stroll through the charming streets of Obuse, before continuing to Yudanaka onsen town. On arrival, we check into our traditional accommodation, Ryokan Biyunoyado, with tatami-matted rooms, soothing onsen baths and views over the surrounding mountains. In the evening, we come together to enjoy a kaiseki dinner, a multi-course meal made using local seasonal ingredients. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

## Day 7: Kanazawa, 3 nights

### Tour Highlight

Our adventure today begins with a visit to the Jigokudani Monkey Park, where wild Japanese macaques, also known as snow monkeys, are known to take a dip in the park's natural hot springs. Enjoy watching these playful creatures and if we are lucky, see them soaking in the steaming waters – an unforgettable and unique experience. Later, we board the bullet train to Kanazawa with its well-preserved samurai districts, serene gardens, and rich cultural heritage. Upon arrival, we check in at the Kanazawa New Grand Hotel or the Hotel Nikko Kanazawa, our home for the next three nights. The remainder of the day is at leisure. **Breakfast included**

## Day 8: Kanazawa

Today, we delve into the cultural richness of Kanazawa, beginning with a visit to Wakatsuru Shozo, a rare combination of both sake brewery and whisky distillery. Here, we learn about the intricate processes involved in crafting these traditional Japanese beverages before enjoying a delicious lunch at the brewery's restaurant, featuring local specialties paired perfectly with the drinks they produce. Our next stop is the stunning Kenroku-en Garden, one of Japan's most beautiful landscaped gardens, known for its plentiful flowers, trees, stone bridges and tranquil ponds. Finally, we explore the Nomura Samurai House, a restored samurai residence with a small but beautiful garden. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 9: Takayama & Shirakawa-go

This morning, we set off for picturesque Takayama, famed for its vibrant cultural heritage. Our first stop is Miyagawa morning market, a bustling open-air market sitting along the riverbanks and offering a variety of local produce, handmade crafts and traditional snacks. We head to the Takayama Float Museum to marvel at the exquisite craftsmanship of the ornate floats used in the region's famous festivals. There's time to explore Kamisano Machi, the old town district of Takayama, with its beautifully preserved wooden merchant houses and atmospheric streets. This afternoon, we discover Shirakawa-go, a UNESCO World Heritage site preserved for its unique Gassho-Zukuri thatched-roof houses, set against a stunning backdrop of snow-capped mountains. **Breakfast included**

## Day 10: Kyoto, 2 nights

### Tour Highlight

Boarding our train to Kyoto, we head for the city that epitomises the cultural and historic heart of Japan. On arrival, we participate in a unique experience - a traditional Japanese lunch accompanied by a maiko performance. Here, we get a rare glimpse into the world of these apprentice geishas, learning about their training, customs, and the ancient art of dance and entertainment. After lunch, we take a walking tour through the enchanting Gion District, known for its historic wooden machiya houses and narrow alleyways. We stroll down Hanami Koji, lined with traditional teahouses, explore the vibrant Pontocho area, and visit the iconic Yasaka Shrine. Later, we check into our hotel, the Kyoto Tokyu Hotel or The Hotel Higashiyama, where we stay for two nights. Tonight, there is an opportunity to experience a Japanese barbecue at a local restaurant. **Breakfast and lunch included**



A warm Japanese welcome



Japanese bento box



Deer in Nara

## Wonders of Japan

Days 11 to 15: Kyoto - Nara - Osaka - UK

### Day 11: Kyoto

#### Tour Highlight

Today we explore two of the most iconic landmarks in Kyoto, beginning with Kinkakuji, or the Golden Pavilion, a stunning Zen temple covered in glistening gold leaf. Set against a backdrop of tranquil gardens and a reflective pond, the Golden Pavilion is one of Japan's most photographed sights, offering a serene beauty that captivates visitors year-round. We then visit Ryoanji Temple, famous for its minimalist rock garden, a masterpiece of Zen design. Composed of 15 carefully-arranged rocks set in a bed of white gravel, the garden invites contemplation and has inspired countless interpretations over the centuries. Our afternoon is free to further explore Kyoto. Should you wish, you can join an optional tour of Sanju-Sangendo, with an opportunity to paint and take away your own paper fan. Tonight, there is the option to try Japanese shabu-shabu at a local restaurant. **Breakfast included**

### Day 12: Nara & Osaka, 2 nights

Our first stop this morning is Fushimi Inari Shrine, famous for its thousands of torii gates that weave an enchanting pathway up the mountainside. We continue to Nara, Japan's first permanent capital from AD710 to 794, to visit Todai-ji Temple, home of one of the largest bronze Buddha statues in the world, which sits proudly in its Great Hall. We take a stroll through Nara Park, famous for its friendly free-roaming deer who are revered as messengers of the gods. Travelling on to Osaka, we enjoy time to explore vibrant Dotonbori Street, renowned for its lively atmosphere, with a chance to try its delicious street food for lunch. Later, we check into our hotel, the RIHGA Royal Hotel Osaka, for our two-night stay and enjoy dinner together this evening. **Breakfast and dinner included**

### Day 13: Osaka

We begin our final day with a visit to the majestic Osaka Castle, a symbol of the city's rich history and resilience. Surrounded by beautiful gardens and a wide moat, the castle provides panoramic views of the city from its top floor, along with an informative museum showcasing the castle's dramatic past and role in Japan's unification. Next, we travel to the Hakushika Memorial Museum of Sake in nearby Nishinomiya, where we delve into the art of sake brewing, learning about the traditional methods that have been perfected over centuries. Here, we enjoy a lunch and taste the delicate flavours of different sake varieties. Returning to Osaka, our afternoon has been left free to relax or possibly purchase some last-minute souvenirs. **Breakfast and lunch included**

### Day 14: Depart Osaka

Our day is at leisure until we travel to Osaka Airport for our flight to the UK. All flights with Emirates will travel via Dubai. Alternatively, if choosing Japan Airlines, you will fly to the UK via Tokyo. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

### Day 15: Arrive UK

After an incredible 15 days exploring the Wonders of Japan, we arrive back in the UK, bringing our memorable journey to an end. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

### Sumo wrestling

Japan's most popular sport, sumo has a rich history and tradition spanning many centuries. This highly ritualised sport is a fascinating experience to watch. On selected dates, we have rearranged our sightseeing to include an afternoon of sumo wrestling in either Tokyo or Osaka.



## Departure Dates & Prices

### 2025 Departures

14 November 2025 **£5,195** per person

### 2026 Departures

16 January 2026\* **£5,195** per person

27 February 2026\* **£5,495** per person

26 March 2026 **£5,895** per person

01 April 2026 **£5,895** per person

\* These departures will replace some sightseeing activities in Tokyo or Osaka with a sumo tournament. Please see our website for details.

This itinerary is correct at the time of printing. For the latest information, dates and prices and details of any Special Offers we may have available, please visit [distantjourneys.co.uk/WOJ](https://distantjourneys.co.uk/WOJ)

### Prices

Prices are per person based on two people sharing a twin or double room.

**Single occupancy supplement**  
£1,395

### Deposit

£1,000 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,950 per person if travelling in Premium Economy, and £3,750 per person for Business Class.

### Flight upgrades

Emirates upgrade to Premium Economy\* from £1,195 per person or Business Class from £4,145 per person return.

Japan Airlines upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,295 per person return, or Business Class from £3,495 per person return.

\*Only available on certain flights.

### Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 156-159.

## Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

**Call FREE on 0800 141 3702**

**Monday - Friday** 9.00am - 5.30pm **Saturday** 9.00am - 5.00pm  
**Sunday** Open in peak season. See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.  
**Email:** [enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk)





**NEW** EXCLUSIVELY FOR SOLO TRAVELLERS

Clockwise from above:  
Maiko geisha, Kyoto; Japanese prayer tablets

# Treasures of Japan – Exclusively Solos

📅 16 days    💷 from £7,595pp    🌐 March - November 2026

From the neon-lit streets of Tokyo to the serene gardens of Kyoto, Japan is a land of captivating contrasts. It's a country where centuries-old traditions coexist with cutting-edge technology, where ancient culture meets modern innovation. Over 16 days, our Treasures of Japan tour takes us through some of Japan's most iconic destinations, with each stop providing a deeper appreciation of the country's rich history, distinctive culture and stunning natural beauty.

On this small group tour, exclusively for solo travellers and with no single supplement, we dive into Japan and all it has to offer. The itinerary is thoughtfully designed to showcase fascinating experiences and places, from the haunting sites of Hiroshima to the scenic beauty of Hakone and the cultural heart of Kyoto. Enjoy immersive experiences including sake tasting, a hands-on bonsai workshop, and a maiko performance, each offering a unique glimpse into Japanese culture.

Escorted by our Tour Manager, stay in carefully-selected hotels and savour delicious regional cuisine. We make exploring Japan easy with our superb Treasures of Japan tour, creating memories that will last a lifetime.



## Your holiday includes

- Small group touring - maximum only 19 passengers
- Return economy flights with Emirates from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. Alternatively, fly direct to Tokyo with Japan Airlines from London Heathrow – a supplement, from £250 per person, will apply
- Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portering and applicable taxes
- Meals worth £624 per person, with daily breakfast, seven lunches, a traditional kaiseki meal and five dinners
- Unforgettable experiences including:
  - ★ Sightseeing tours in Tokyo, Hakone, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Miyajima Island, Okayama and Nara
  - ★ Learn how to shape a bonsai tree
  - ★ Spend the night in an Onsen hotel
  - ★ Travel on Japan's high-speed bullet train
  - ★ Watch a maiko performance
  - ★ Try your hand at calligraphy
  - ★ Explore the UNESCO Byodoin Temple
  - ★ Tea and matcha tasting
  - ★ Visit the historical and well-preserved areas of Takehara, Okayama and Bikan Chiku, Kurashiki
  - ★ Enjoy a tasting at a sake factory and museum
- Services of experienced Tour Manager
- All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
- Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 156-159.



Sensoji Temple, Tokyo



Japanese hospitality



Mount Fuji

# Treasures of Japan – Exclusively Solos

Days 1 to 7: UK - Tokyo - Hakone - Ito - Kyoto

## Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Emirates from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow, via Dubai. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

### Alternative airline – Japan Airlines

Should you prefer, fly direct to Tokyo from London Heathrow with Japan Airlines for a supplement, from £250 per person return.

## Day 2: Tokyo, 3 nights

On arrival into Japan's metropolitan capital, we transfer to the Hilton Tokyo Hotel in the heart of Shinjuku, our base for the next three nights. The remainder of the day is left free to relax and settle in. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 3: Tokyo

Our first full day in Tokyo begins with a visit to the tranquil Meiji Jingu Shrine. Set in a beautiful forested area, this Shinto shrine was built in 1920 in memory of the Emperor Meiji and his consort, Empress Shoken, and offers a great spot to start the day immersed in nature and spirituality. After a brief photo stop at the impressive Imperial Palace, we continue to Tokyo Tower. Inspired by the design of the Eiffel Tower, Tokyo Tower remains an iconic symbol with panoramic views across the bustling city, despite now being dwarfed by the Tokyo Skytree. We return to our hotel this afternoon and later, meet our Tour Manager and fellow travellers for a welcome dinner, providing a great way to get to know one another and learn about our upcoming adventure. **Breakfast and dinner included**

## Day 4: Tokyo

Today, we delve deeper into Tokyo's cultural and historic heart. We visit the district of Asakusa, home to Tokyo's oldest temple, Sensoji. Built in AD645, we take in the intricate architecture and atmosphere before exploring the vibrant Nakamise Shopping Street, a great place to pick up souvenirs or try a traditional snack. Next, we try our hand at shaping a bonsai tree – a delicate process requiring plenty of patience. We learn about the history, philosophy and techniques of this unique Japanese tradition during this hands-on workshop. Following lunch, we head to the Edo Tokyo Museum to see displays on the city's fascinating history. Returning to our hotel, the evening is free to relax or explore the city at your own pace. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 5: Ito, Overnight

### Tour Highlight

Today we head to Hakone, a picturesque region renowned for its natural hot springs and stunning views of Mount Fuji. We make a stop at the historic Kotokuin Temple in Kamakura, home to the Great Buddha or 'Daibutsu'. This monumental bronze statue stands at over 13 metres tall and dates back to the 13th century. We then visit nearby Hase Temple, a beautiful hillside temple known for its impressive wooden statue of Kannon, the Goddess of Mercy. Continuing our journey, we explore the geothermal wonders of the Owakudani Valley, with its bubbling hot springs, and visit the serene Hakone Shrine, nestled in a lush forest beside Lake Ashi. Weather permitting, the shrine's iconic red torii gate provides a stunning backdrop with Mount Fuji towering in the distance. Later, we check into our hotel for the night, Laforet Ito Onsen Yunoniwa. Tonight, we enjoy a traditional kaiseki dinner in the hotel restaurant. **Breakfast and dinner included**

## Day 6: Kyoto, 3 nights

### Tour Highlight

After a leisurely breakfast, we journey to Kyoto aboard the famous Shinkansen, or bullet train. On arrival, we enjoy a special lunch featuring a captivating performance by a maiko, an apprentice geisha. This performance offers a glimpse into the elegant world of traditional Japanese dance and music. Afterwards, we take a stroll through the historic Gion district, known for its beautifully-preserved wooden machiya houses and narrow streets. Our hotel for the next three nights is the centrally-located Kyoto Tokyu Hotel or The Higashiyama Hotel. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 7: Kyoto

### Tour Highlight

As Japan's capital for over a thousand years, from AD794 to 1868, Kyoto is often considered the heart of traditional Japanese culture, and today we explore some of the city's most renowned landmarks. We begin with a visit to the impressive UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kinkaku-Ji Temple, also known as the Golden Pavilion. The top two floors of this stunning Zen temple are completely covered in gold leaf, reflected beautifully in the surrounding pond. Then to another UNESCO site – the Ryoanji Temple, considered one of the finest examples of Zen landscaping in the whole of Japan. The 15 carefully-placed rocks create a serene atmosphere ideal for contemplation – with one always hidden out of sight. This afternoon, it's time to get creative with a calligraphy workshop, where we try the art of Japanese brush writing as we practice kanji characters. We enjoy a Sukiyaki dinner tonight – a type of hot pot – at a local restaurant. **Breakfast and dinner included**



Uji River



Green matcha

## Treasures of Japan – Exclusively Solos

Days 8 to 10: Uji - Hiroshima - Miyajima Island

### Day 8: Uji

#### Tour Highlight

Today is focused on cultural immersion and we begin with a visit to Byodoin Temple in nearby Uji, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with the striking Phoenix Hall at its heart. Dating back to 1053 during the Heian period, this structure is so important that it features on the back of the Japanese ten yen coin. Next, we explore Mampukuji Temple, offering a rare insight into monastic practices and a chance to learn about Zen meditation. We enjoy a Fucha Ryori lunch, a vegetarian Zen cuisine. Uji is also famous for its green tea cultivation and we participate in a tasting session this afternoon, sampling Uji's renowned matcha too. Our evening is free to explore Kyoto's vibrant nightlife, wander through the lantern-lit streets, or relax at the hotel. **Breakfast and lunch included**

### Day 9: Hiroshima, 2 nights

Saying goodbye to Kyoto this morning, we board the bullet train to Hiroshima on one of the fastest trains in the country, with top speeds of over 200 miles per hour. This modern city, known for its poignant history and resilient spirit, is a great spot for reflection. On arrival, we embark on a guided tour of the Memorial Peace Park, museum and infamous Atomic Bomb Dome, a moving tribute to the victims of the atomic bombing during the Second World War. After a thought-provoking day, we check into our hotel for the next two nights, the RIHGA Royal Hotel Hiroshima, ideally located for exploring the city. This evening, we head to a local restaurant to savour Hiroshima-style Okonomiyaki – a delicious savoury pancake typically filled with cabbage, meat or seafood, served with various sauces on top. **Breakfast and dinner included**

### Day 10: Miyajima Island

After breakfast we travel to the scenic island of Miyajima, famous for its giant torii gate at the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Itsukushima Shinto Shrine. We begin by visiting a local oyster farm to find out about their cultivation and the chance to enjoy some freshly-harvested oysters. Next, we explore Itsukushima Shrine and view the torii gate that appears to magically float on the water at high tide. There is time to wander through the pretty streets and enjoy lunch on the island before we return to our hotel. You may wish to further explore the city – Hiroshima Castle or Shukkeien Garden are within easy walking distance of our hotel – before we enjoy dinner at our hotel this evening. **Breakfast and dinner included**



Toyokuni Shrine, Miyajima





The deer of Nara



Sushi and sashimi



Geisha, Kyoto

## Treasures of Japan – Exclusively Solos

Days 11 to 16: Okayama - Osaka - Nara - UK

### Day 11: Okayama, 2 nights

#### Tour Highlight

We travel to Okayama today, with several fascinating stops along the way. First, we take a stroll through Takehara's Old Preserved Area, a charming town that feels like a step back in time to Japan's Edo period. Takehara is renowned for its well-preserved streets lined with traditional merchant houses. Following lunch, we continue to Onomichi, a coastal town celebrated for its breathtaking views of the Seto Inland Sea, connecting the Pacific Ocean to the Sea of Japan. Next, we head to the Kurashiki Bikan Historical Quarter, a beautifully-preserved area with scenic canals lined with weeping willows and traditional whitewashed warehouses. These buildings, once used for storing rice and other goods, have now been converted into attractive cafes, shops and museums. After a day of exploration, we arrive at our hotel in Okayama, the Granvia Okayama, our home for the next two nights. **Breakfast and lunch included**

### Day 12: Okayama

Our sightseeing in Okayama starts with Okayama Castle, nicknamed 'Crow Castle' due to its dark clapboard facade. The castle has a rare pentagonal shape with intricate designs on its many towers, and offers stunning views of the surrounding area. We explore the landscaped Koraku-en Garden, one of Japan's top three gardens, described as a 'strolling garden' due to the variety of views from the pathways which wind through its pond, stream, lawns and teahouse. We enjoy lunch with an opportunity to sample locally-produced sake, beer or gin. Returning to our hotel, the remainder of our day is at leisure. **Breakfast and lunch included**

### Day 13: Osaka, 2 nights

This morning, we travel to the city of Osaka. On the way we stop at the Hakushika Memorial Museum of Sake for a fascinating insight into traditional sake production and experience a tasting paired with a delicious lunch. On arrival in Osaka we visit the Umeda Sky Building, offering panoramic views of the city skyline from its floating garden observatory. We then check into the RIHGA Royal Hotel Osaka for our final two nights in Japan. Osaka is renowned for its vibrant nightlife and is often referred to as the 'Kitchen of Japan' due to its wide array of delicious local dishes. This evening has been left free for you to explore. **Breakfast and lunch included**

### Day 14: Nara

Today's excursion takes us to Nara, Japan's first permanent capital from AD710 to 794, and the site of Todai-ji Temple. The temple was constructed in AD752, as the head of all provincial Buddhist temples in Japan, and is home to one of the largest bronze statues of Buddha in the world. After our visit, stroll through lovely Nara Park where friendly deer roam freely. We return to Osaka and head to the lively Dotonbori area, famous for its bustling street food scene. Here we can try Takoyaki, a popular local dish of octopus-filled dough balls, and Kushikatsu, a dish of deep-fried skewered meat and vegetables. Later we discover the bustling Tsutenkaku area before enjoying a farewell dinner at our hotel, celebrating our memorable journey through Japan together. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

### Day 15: Depart Osaka

Our final day in Japan is at leisure until we travel to Osaka Airport for our evening flight to the UK. You may like to relax before your flight, or possibly purchase some last-minute souvenirs. All flights with Emirates will travel via Dubai. Alternatively, if choosing Japan Airlines, you will fly to the UK via Tokyo. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

### Day 16: Arrive UK

After 16 wonderful days exploring the Treasures of Japan, we arrive back into the UK, bringing our adventure to an end. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

## Departure Dates & Prices

### 2026 Departures

26 March 2026	£8,095 per person
02 April 2026	£8,095 per person
16 May 2026	£7,595 per person
26 September 2026	£7,595 per person
17 October 2026	£7,595 per person
07 November 2026	£7,595 per person

This itinerary is correct at the time of printing. For the latest information, dates and prices and details of any Special Offers we may have available, please visit [distantjourneys.co.uk/TOJ](https://distantjourneys.co.uk/TOJ)

### Prices

Prices are per person based on one person in a twin or double room. No single occupancy supplements apply.

### Deposit

£1,000 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,950 per person if travelling in Premium Economy, and £3,750 per person for Business Class.

### Flight upgrades

Emirates upgrade to Premium Economy\* from £1,195 per person or Business Class from £4,145 per person return.

Japan Airlines upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,295 per person return, or Business Class from £3,495 per person return.

\*Only available on certain flights.

### Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 156-159.

## Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

**Call FREE on 0800 141 3702**

**Monday - Friday** 9.00am - 5.30pm **Saturday** 9.00am - 5.00pm  
**Sunday** Open in peak season. See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.  
**Email:** [enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk)





Clockwise from above: Fushimi Inari Shrine, Kyoto; Miyajima Island, Hiroshima; Traditional Japanese food

# The Very Best of Japan

📅 20 days    💷 from £6,395pp    🌐 March 2025 – November 2026

From the kimono-clad geisha who grace Kyoto's streets, to Tokyo's modern neon-lit metropolis, what makes Japan so unique is its ability to hold on to age-old customs and timeless traditions, yet entwine them seamlessly into modern-day living. With stunning landscapes and delicious regional cuisines, a plethora of historic shrines and temples, it's no wonder Japan is considered one of the world's great touring destinations.

Our leisurely 20-day tour has been carefully crafted to blend this fascinating mix of ancient and modern along with all of the country's major attractions. Add to this the magnificent beauty of the Japanese Alps, picturesque gardens, ancient castles and unique Japanese experiences, this incredible tour combines the very best this country has to offer.

With quality accommodation, all breakfasts and many other meals included, The Very Best of Japan tour really does offer exceptional value for money.



## Your holiday includes

- ✈️ Return economy flights with Emirates from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. Alternatively, fly direct to Tokyo with Japan Airlines from London Heathrow – a supplement, from £250 per person, will apply
- 🏠 Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portage and applicable taxes
- 🍴 Meals worth £584 per person, with daily breakfast, three lunches and four dinners
- 🌍 Unforgettable experiences including:
  - ★ Sightseeing tours in Tokyo, Takayama, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Miyajima Island and Nara
  - ★ Learn how to make sushi
  - ★ Spend two nights near Lake Yamanaka
  - ★ Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Himeji Castle
  - ★ Visits to a miso and a sake factory
  - ★ Explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Shirakawa-go
  - ★ Discover the Japanese gardens of Kenroku-en and Koraku-en
  - ★ Watch a maiko performance
  - ★ Ride the Bullet Train
  - ★ Visit historical Bikan Chiku, Kurashiki
- 📖 Services of experienced Tour Manager
- 🚌 All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
- 🔒 Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 156-159.



Tokyo Tower, Tokyo



Sushi

# The Very Best of Japan

Days 1 to 5: UK - Tokyo - Lake Yamanaka

### Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Emirates, from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow, via Dubai. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

#### Alternative airline – Japan Airlines

Should you prefer, fly direct to Tokyo from London Heathrow with Japan Airlines for a supplement, from £250 per person return.

### Day 2: Tokyo, 3 nights

On arrival into Japan's metropolitan capital, we transfer to the centrally-located Keio Plaza Hotel or the Sheraton Miyako Hotel Tokyo. The remainder of the day is left free to relax. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

### Day 3: Tokyo

We start our Japanese adventure in the district of Asakusa, home to Tokyo's oldest temple, Sensoji, founded in AD645. The approach to the temple is through the Kaminarimon Gate, which leads to the Nakamise, a shopping street that has been providing temple visitors with a variety of traditional local snacks and tourist souvenirs for centuries. We make our way to a local restaurant where we will learn the art of Japanese sushi-making, before enjoying our own culinary creation for lunch. We finish our day with a visit to the Tokyo National Museum. This evening, enjoy a welcome drink with your Tour Manager and fellow travellers. **Breakfast and lunch included**

### Day 4: Tokyo

After breakfast, we make our way to Tokyo Tower. Standing at 333m, it's 13m taller than the Eiffel Tower, which was the inspiration for its design. Although surpassed in height by Tokyo Skytree in 2012, Tokyo Tower remains a beloved symbol of the city. After a brief photo stop at the impressive Imperial Palace, we make our way to Japan's most famous Shinto Shrine, Meiji Jingu. Dedicated to Emperor Meiji, the shrine sits in a large forest area that contains more than 100,000 trees, gifted by the people to their beloved emperor. We return to our hotel, where the remainder of the day is at leisure. **Breakfast included**

### Day 5: Lake Yamanaka, 2 nights

This morning we head to Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park, famous for its hot springs and views of what is easily Japan's most iconic image, Mount Fuji. Our first stop is Lake Ashi, a crater lake formed over 200,000 years ago. We board our boat for a short cruise on this beautiful lake before taking a cable car into the Owakudani Valley. The result of a volcanic eruption over 3,000 years ago, the area is still active with many sulphur vents and bubbling hot springs. We continue our journey through picturesque landscapes to the area known as Fuji Five Lakes, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Our home for the next two nights is the Fuji Marriott Hotel Lake Yamanaka. After settling into our accommodation, there is free time to relax before we dine together in the hotel's restaurant. **Breakfast and dinner included**



Mount Fuji and Lake Kawaguchi



Gassho-zukuri houses, Shirakawa-go,



Geisha, Kyoto



Kenroku-en Garden, Kanazawa

# The Very Best of Japan

Days 6 to 12: Mount Fuji - Takayama - Shirakawa-go - Kanazawa - Kyoto

## Day 6: Mount Fuji and Fuji Five Lakes

### Tour Highlight

Mt. Fuji, or Fuji-san as it is more affectionately known, can be a little shy, but fingers crossed a clear sky will reward us with some impressive views. Our first stop is the small, but delightful, Kubota Icchiku Art Museum. Kubota revived the lost art of Tsujigahana silk dyeing and the museum exhibits several of the artist's stunning kimono creations, which depict themes of nature, the cosmos and the seasons. Our next stop is a visit to the Oishi Tsumugi for a handkerchief dyeing experience. Following a lunch of Hoto noodles, we continue to the Fuji-san World Heritage Centre which showcases traditional artwork and videos of this sacred mountain. Our final stop is the shores of Lake Kawaguchi where there is time for a stroll along this picturesque lake. This evening we dine together in our hotel. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

## Day 7: Takayama, 2 nights

This morning, we begin our journey towards the majestic Japanese Alps. We stop at Matsumoto castle, the oldest existing castle in Japan, for a fabulous photo opportunity and continue to a miso factory, to discover how this staple Japanese food is made. Afterwards, enjoy a spectacular journey through the mountains to Takayama. Our hotel for the next two nights is the centrally-located Takayama Green Hotel, or the Hotel Associa Takayama Resort. Alternatively, you may wish to experience a stay in a traditional Japanese inn (a Ryokan) for the evening. **Breakfast and dinner included**

### Stay in a traditional Ryokan

Overnight from £175 per person



During our time in Takayama, for those who want to experience traditional hospitality, there is an opportunity to spend a night in a Ryokan, a traditional Japanese inn. Enjoy delicious local cuisine, relax in your yukata (casual kimono) and maybe even try the onsen, a hot spring bath. Please call for details.

## Day 8: Takayama

### Tour Highlight

Takayama is best explored on foot and we begin our day with a visit to the morning market. Afterwards, we make our way to the Takayama-Jinya, which served as government headquarters under the Tokugawa shogunate of 1692 to 1871. We end our morning in the heart of Takayama's picturesque old town, lined with traditional houses, shops, restaurants, sake breweries and cafes. Our afternoon is at leisure to enjoy this delightful area. Perhaps sample some of the many delicious delicacies, try some locally-brewed sake, or visit one of the many museums, such as the Festival Floats Exhibition Hall. Tonight, there is the opportunity to dine on Japan's famous Hida beef, a variety of wagyu beef local to this area. **Breakfast included**

## Day 9: Shirakawa-go & Kanazawa, 2 nights

Today we head to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Shirakawa-go. The villages, mostly cut off until as recently as the 1960s, are today famous for their traditional style of housing, the Gassho-Zukuri, which means 'like praying hands'. We continue to Kanazawa and the Omicho Market, a lively food market famous for its abundance of fresh seafood, which has been in operation since 1721. Later, we visit Nomura Samurai House, a restored samurai residence. Finally, arrive at either the Kanazawa Tokyu Hotel, or the Hyatt Centric Kanazawa, where we will stay for the next two nights. **Breakfast included**

## Day 10: Kanazawa

Following breakfast, we visit the delightful Kenroku-en garden, considered by the Japanese as one of the top three gardens in the country. The name Kenroku-en means the 'garden combining six', referring to the six attributes all gardens should include: seclusion, antiquity, spaciousness, human ingenuity, water and scenic views. The city is also famed for gold leaf and it is used in abundance. We visit a local establishment to learn about gold leaf production, and decorate our own chopsticks in gold leaf – we even have the opportunity to purchase a gold leaf ice-cream. We head to the Higashi Chaya area of the city with its lovely neighbourhood of beautifully-preserved geisha houses. Many have now been converted into restaurants or teahouses, although some are still open to the public. The afternoon is free to continue exploring Kanazawa at your own pace. There is a plethora of museums and local arts and crafts to explore. Alternatively, you have the option to join an afternoon tour which visits the Kutani Pottery and Kagayuzen Kimono Centre. **Breakfast included**

## Day 11: Kyoto, 3 nights

This morning, we make our way to Kanazawa Station for our train journey to Kyoto. The capital of Imperial Japan for over 1,000 years, Kyoto is Japan's cultural capital. This afternoon, we head to Arashiyama and its famous Bamboo Grove, where there will be plenty of time to wander through the impressive towering alley of bamboo. Our hotel for the next three nights is either the Kyoto Tokyu Hotel, or the RIHGA Royal Hotel Kyoto.

### Tour Highlight

The distinctive white face, red lips and elaborately decorated hairstyle of the geisha is an enduring image portrayed throughout the globe. Yet the world in which they live remains a mystery. Tonight, we have arranged a traditional Japanese meal, a kaisei, where we will be joined by a maiko, an apprentice geisha, who will perform traditional song and dance. **Breakfast and dinner included**

## Day 12: Kyoto

### Tour Highlight

We begin our day of sightseeing at the impressive UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kinkaku-Ji Temple. Fondly referred to as the Golden Pavilion, this richly decorated golden temple is a truly beautiful sight to behold. Our next stop is another UNESCO World Heritage Site, the rock garden of Ryoanji Temple. The garden's fifteen stones are cleverly arranged so that there is always one rock that is hidden from view. We head to Gion, Kyoto's famous geisha district, where we have free time to explore, before taking part in a traditional tea ceremony. Tonight, there is an opportunity to experience a Japanese barbecue at a local restaurant. **Breakfast included**



Kurashiki



Fushimi Inari Shrine, Kyoto

## The Very Best of Japan

Days 13 to 16: Kyoto - Hiroshima - Miyajima Island - Kurashiki

### Day 13: Fushimi Inari Shrine

Today, we head out of the city to the Fushimi Inari Shrine, famous for its tunnels of more than 10,000 closely-spaced torii gates, each of which has been individually donated. We finish our morning with a visit to a sake brewery to learn about the brewing and production process of this famous Japanese rice wine. Later, we return to the city for an afternoon at leisure. If you prefer, you can join an optional tour of Sanju-Sangendo, with an opportunity to paint and take away your own paper fan. Tonight, there is the option to try Japanese shabu-shabu at a local restaurant. **Breakfast included**

### Day 14: Bullet Train, Hiroshima, 2 nights

After a leisurely breakfast, we transfer to the station for our ride on Japan's iconic Bullet Train. Running at speeds of up to 200 miles per hour, the train smoothly whisks us across the country to our next port of call, Hiroshima. Hiroshima is perhaps best known for being the place where an atomic bomb was dropped during the Second World War. This afternoon, we talk to a local about their recollection of the attack, visit the Memorial Peace Park and its moving museum, as well as the Atomic Bomb Dome. After a thought-provoking day, we transfer to the RIHGA Royal Hotel Hiroshima for the next two nights, ideally located for exploring the city. Tonight, we have the opportunity to visit a local Okonomiyaki pancake restaurant. **Breakfast included**

### We Recommend

#### Okonomiyaki Pancakes

With some 2,000 Okonomiyaki restaurants in Hiroshima alone, this dish is adored by locals.



### Day 15: Miyajima Island

A morning visit takes us to the peaceful and pretty island of Miyajima, famous for its giant torii gate, part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Itsukushima Shinto Shrine. After viewing the shrine, there is plenty of time to wander around the city's pretty streets. Our afternoon has been left at leisure, but we highly recommend a stroll to Hiroshima Castle, Shukkeien garden and Orizuru Tower, which are all within easy walking distance of our hotel. **Breakfast included**

### Day 16: Kurashiki, overnight

Travel to the old merchant settlement of Kurashiki, whose main draw is its beautiful willow-lined canal. Many former storehouses have been converted into museums, boutiques and cafes, providing the perfect backdrop for a leisurely stroll. This afternoon we visit Koraku-en Garden, another of Japan's top three gardens. It is most aptly described as a "strolling garden", due to its variety of views from the pathways which wind through the pond, stream, lawns and teahouse. We return to Kurashiki for an overnight stay at the Kurashiki Royal Art Hotel. Tonight, there is an opportunity to dine at a local restaurant. **Breakfast included**



Torii Gate, Miyajima Island



Himeji Castle



Japanese tempura



Todaiji Temple, Nara

# The Very Best of Japan

Days 17 to 20: Himeji Castle - Nara - Osaka - UK

## Day 17: Himeji Castle, Osaka, 2 nights

### Tour Highlight

Today we journey to our final destination, Osaka, via the city of Himeji, famous for Japan's finest surviving feudal castle, Himeji Castle. The first fortifications of this UNESCO World Heritage Site were completed in the 1400s. Gradually enlarged over the centuries, the castle complex, as it survives today, is over 400 years old and is an imposing and majestic site. After exploring the castle and grounds, we make our way to Osaka. Our home for our final two nights is the delightful Hotel Nikko Osaka. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 18: Nara

Our sightseeing today takes us to Nara, Japan's first permanent capital. One of the first sights we will experience is the thousands of sacred deer that roam freely through the city, and have learned to bow for treats! We visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Todaiji Temple. Founded in AD745, the vast temple took over 15 years to complete. The main hall houses a colossal bronze Buddha statue and remains the world's largest wooden building. After a morning of sightseeing, we return to Osaka, where our afternoon has been left free to relax or possibly purchase some last-minute souvenirs. **Breakfast included**

## Day 19: Depart Osaka

Our day is at leisure until we travel to Osaka Airport for our evening flight to the UK. All flights with Emirates will travel via Dubai. Alternatively, if choosing Japan Airlines, you will fly to the UK via Tokyo. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 20: Arrive UK

After 20 spectacular days, we arrive into the UK, bringing our incredible Very Best of Japan tour to an end. **In-flight meals and drinks included**



Nara Park

# Departure Dates & Prices

## 2025 Departures

23 March 2025*	£6,595 per person
12 November 2025	£6,395 per person

## 2026 Departures

24 March 2026	£7,195 per person
25 March 2026^	£7,195 per person
01 April 2026	£7,195 per person
02 April 2026*	£7,195 per person
09 May 2026	£6,795 per person
17 May 2026	£6,795 per person
19 September 2026	£6,995 per person
10 October 2026	£6,995 per person
05 November 2026	£6,995 per person

\* These departures operate from Osaka to Tokyo. Please see our website for details.

^ This departure operates on a different itinerary to the one shown. Please see our website for details

This itinerary is correct at the time of printing. For the latest information, dates and prices and details of any Special Offers we may have available, please visit [distantjourneys.co.uk/VBOJ](https://distantjourneys.co.uk/VBOJ)

## Prices

Prices are per person based on two people sharing a twin or double room.

**Single occupancy supplement**  
£1,595

## Deposit

£1,000 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,950 per person if travelling in Premium Economy, and £3,750 per person for Business Class.

## Flight upgrades

Emirates upgrade to Premium Economy\* from £1,195 per person or Business Class from £4,145 per person return.

Japan Airlines upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,295 per person return, or Business Class from £3,495 per person return.

\*Only available on certain flights.

## Important information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 156-159.

## Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

**Call FREE on 0800 141 3702**

**Monday - Friday** 9.00am - 5.30pm **Saturday** 9.00am - 5.00pm  
**Sunday** Open in peak season. See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.  
**Email:** [enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk)



# China

Ancient, Intriguing, Dynamic

China seamlessly blends centuries-old traditions with modern innovation. Join us as we explore iconic landmarks, indulge in local cuisine and discover its rich cultural tapestry and incredible landscapes.





**NEW** EXCLUSIVELY FOR SOLO TRAVELLERS

Clockwise from above: The Great Wall; Chinese Dim Sum; Giant panda

# Discover China – Exclusively Solos

📅 17 days 💷 from £4,495pp 🌍 September 2025 – October 2026

China is a fascinating blend of modern cities, historic towns, dramatic landscapes, and ancient palaces and traditions, making it a truly exciting touring destination. From the cosmopolitan capital of Beijing to historic Xi'an and rural Yangshuo, we explore China's different faces and see first-hand what makes it so special.

Travelling by high-speed bullet trains, air and roads, those with a love of history, culture and food will be in their element. Our varied 17-day itinerary takes in the major highlights of the Forbidden City, Great Wall and the Terracotta Warriors, visits the giant pandas of Chengdu, explores the renowned gardens of Suzhou, ventures to the stunning Longsheng Rice Terraces, and cruises through beautiful karst scenery on the Li River.

Immersing ourselves in the local culture, we take part in a Tai Chi session, try the art of calligraphy, learn how to cook authentic dishes and discover silk embroidery. Enjoy tea houses, local noodles, dumplings and Peking Duck as our taste buds are tantalised as well.

Travelling with our Tour Manager throughout and designed with the solo traveller in mind, join Distant Journeys on an adventure of a lifetime to discover the enchanting magic that China offers.



## Your holiday includes

- Small group touring - maximum only 19 passengers
- Return economy flights with Cathay Pacific from London Heathrow or Manchester, and any domestic flights within China, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. Alternatively, fly with Emirates from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow – a supplement, from £295 per person, will apply
- Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
- Meals worth £420 per person, with daily breakfast, twelve lunches and seven dinners
- Unforgettable experiences including:
  - ★ Sightseeing tours in Beijing, Xi'an, Chengdu, Shanghai and Suzhou
  - ★ The Great Wall
  - ★ Explore the Forbidden City and Summer Palace
  - ★ View the Terracotta Warriors
  - ★ Visit the Giant Panda Breeding Research Institute
  - ★ Discover Longsheng Rice Terraces
  - ★ Cruise on the Li River
  - ★ Cooking experience in Yangshuo
- Services of an experienced Tour Manager
- All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
- Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 156-159.





Temple of Heaven, Beijing



Walking along The Great Wall



The Terracotta Warriors, Xi'an

# Discover China – Exclusively Solos

Days 1 to 7: UK - Beijing - Xi'an - Chengdu

## Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Cathay Pacific from London Heathrow or Manchester via Hong Kong. No matter which airport you choose, there will be no additional cost. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

### Alternative Airline - Emirates

Should you prefer, fly with Emirates via Dubai from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow for a supplement, from £295 per person.

## Day 2: Beijing, 3 nights

Arrive into the wonderful city of Beijing and transfer to the Park Plaza Wangfujing Hotel, conveniently located in central Beijing. Previously known as Peking, China's capital city is a historical treasure trove, boasting over 3,000 years of tumultuous history. However, it's not only this city's ancient monuments that attracts visitors. Its imposing socialist monuments of the 1950s along with the explosive growth of modern buildings and infrastructure, make Beijing an unmissable showcase of China old and new. This evening, enjoy a welcome dinner with our Tour Manager and fellow travellers, to become acquainted and learn more about our adventure ahead. **In-flight meals and drinks, welcome dinner included**

## Day 3: Beijing

Today, our sightseeing tour of Beijing begins in Tiananmen Square. Measuring around 440,000m<sup>2</sup>, it was here that Chairman Mao declared the founding of the People's Republic of China. We continue to the nearby Forbidden City, the world's largest palace complex and home to China's best-preserved collection of ancient and ornate buildings. We have plenty of time to visit the Forbidden City, prior to lunch in a nearby restaurant. In the afternoon, we explore the Temple of Heaven Park, the site where emperors prayed for a good harvest during the Ming and Qing dynasties, and participate in a Tai Chi class, a Chinese exercise using slow, smooth movements to achieve relaxation of body and soul. This evening, we enjoy a classic imperial dish from Beijing: Peking Duck, served with plum or garlic sauce, scallions and pancakes. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

## Day 4: The Great Wall

### Tour Highlight

China's most iconic sight and greatest engineering triumph, the Great Wall weaves its way through 4,000 miles of northern China's landscapes. This morning, we travel northeast from the city to the Mutianyu section of the Great Wall, famous for its Ming-era guard towers and the fantastic views of the surrounding mountains. We take a short cable car ride to the wall, and have ample time to stroll along part of it, taking in the spectacular landscapes. Following our memorable visit and lunch, we return to Beijing to spend the afternoon exploring the halls, pavilions, temples, gardens, corridors and bridges of the Summer Palace, the former playground of the royal family as they escaped the suffocating heat of summer. We marvel at this masterpiece of traditional Chinese landscaping, designed according to the principles of feng shui. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 5: Xi'an, 2 nights

We say farewell to Beijing and board our 'bullet train' to Xi'an, one of China's most famous cities with a long and fascinating history. A considerable amount of its ancient city has managed to survive alongside its modern developments. We make a stop to explore the magnificent city walls, which date back to the Ming dynasty around 1370, and enjoy incredible views of Xi'an old and new from our vantage point on top of the 12m-high wall. We reach the Grand Noble Hotel later in the afternoon, our home for the next two nights. One of the delicacies in Xi'an is its fantastic dumplings, which are similar to dim sum. This evening, enjoy sampling a selection of dumplings – each are handmade into a variety of shapes and with a selection of delicious fillings. **Breakfast, boxed lunch and dinner included**

## Day 6: The Terracotta Warriors

### Tour Highlight

Discovered in 1974 by a group of farmers drilling a well, the Terracotta Army is one of the most famous and spectacular archaeological discoveries in the world. Today, we explore the pits containing the terracotta soldiers, which have stood guard since 246BC when Emperor Qin Shi Huang commissioned the work for his mausoleum. Each life-sized warrior has been crafted with individual facial features and clothing, and are arranged in battle formations alongside their horses and chariots. We also discover the equally fascinating Qin Shi Huang Emperor Tomb Artefact Exhibition Hall, which contains many artefacts including a pair of bronze chariots and horses, which are displayed with some of the original weaponry. After lunch, we visit the Small Wild Goose Pagoda before joining a calligraphy class, where we learn about the basic tools used, along with writing skills to create our own works of art to take home as a cherished souvenir. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 7: Chengdu, 2 nights

After breakfast, we make our way to the train station to board our high-speed train to Chengdu, in the Sichuan Province. Chengdu is renowned for its teahouse culture and its most famous inhabitants – the Giant Pandas. On arrival early afternoon, we transfer to our hotel, the charming Xizang Hotel, where we stay for the next two nights. Later, we take a gentle stroll through Wangjianglou Park, which is often filled with dancing, song and Tai Chi. The park is also home to some of the city's favourite teahouses, where we stop to sample the local brews and perhaps mix with the locals over a game of Mahjong. **Breakfast and boxed lunch included**



Giant Panda



Li River, Guilin

# Discover China – Exclusively Solos

Days 8 to 11: Chengdu - Guilin

## Day 8: Chengdu and Giant Pandas

### Tour Highlight

With over 80% of the world's Giant Panda population found in Sichuan Province, it's little surprise to find the area taking the lead in conservation projects to save these endangered species. The panda is the national symbol of China, and today we visit the Giant Panda Breeding Research Institute, which is home to around 120 giant and 76 red pandas. The project allows us to see these loveable and rare creatures, at close quarters in a near-natural habitat setting. Following lunch at the Breeding Centre, we return to our hotel to relax and freshen up. Later in the afternoon, we explore the bustling stalls and shops of the Wide and Narrow Alleys, two ancient streets restored in Ming and Qing architectural styles. We enjoy dinner in one of the local restaurants serving traditional dishes, cooked with distinctive Sichuan flavours. Later, we recommend venturing to the Sichuan Opera for a one of a kind cultural performance, including acrobats, dancers, puppets and the amazing 'face-changing' mask spectacle. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

## Day 9: Guilin, 2 nights

Following breakfast, we travel to Guilin by train. Upon arrival, our waiting coach will take us to the Bravo Hotel, ideally situated in central Guilin, where we spend the next two nights. This evening, we venture out to enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. Later, there is an opportunity to take an optional Lakes and Rivers cruise to discover Guilin's stunning landscapes by night. **Breakfast, boxed lunch and dinner included**

### We Recommend

#### Evening Lakes and Rivers Cruise

Discover the beautiful city of Guilin and its stunning landscapes by night with the Guilin night cruise.



## Day 10: Longsheng Rice Terraces

### Tour Highlight

We visit the Longsheng Rice Terraces today, a chance to admire the ingenuity of past generations and take in the spectacular scenery. The terraces are known as the 'Dragon's Backbone', due to the similarity in appearance to dragon scales. Construction of the rice terraces started back in the 13th century, during the Yuan Dynasty, and they rise to 1000m, offering beautiful views over local villages, where Zhuang and Yao minorities have lived for hundreds of years. We have lunch in a local restaurant before travelling back to Guilin this afternoon, stopping to see the Sun and Moon Twin Pagodas on the edge of Shan Lake. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 11: Li River and Yangshuo, 2 nights

The countryside through which the Li River flows is a photographer's dream. During our morning cruise, we glide serenely between verdant hills, enjoying iconic scenes of wallowing water buffalo and farmers tending their crops against a backdrop of limestone peaks. Our cruise terminates in Yangshuo, and we head to the Green Lotus Hotel. Our home for the next two nights sits beside the Li River and is just a short walk from the bustling town centre. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**



Longsheng Rice Terraces



Shanghai



Chinese noodles



Chinese man in traditional dress

# Discover China – Exclusively Solos

Days 12 to 17: Yangshuo - Shanghai - Suzhou - UK

### Day 12: Yangshuo

This morning, we enjoy a cookery class where we learn how to make a selection of delicious local dishes. We begin with a visit to the local market to select our fresh ingredients, before joining our skilled host in the kitchen. Once preparation and cooking are complete, we have the chance to taste the dishes we have created for lunch. This afternoon we take to the skies over Yangshuo as we ascend to Ruyi Peak by cable car, offering stunning views of the surrounding landscape of limestone karst and winding rivers. **Breakfast and lunch included**

### Day 13: Shanghai, 3 nights

After breakfast, we catch our flight to Shanghai and transfer to our hotel, Jin Jiang Tower Hotel, for our final three nights in China. We head out on a walking tour this afternoon to explore the enchanting former French Concession area, which to this day is still a beautiful residential and shopping district, renowned for its European architecture, buzzy cafes and tree-lined streets. **Breakfast included**

### Day 14: Shanghai

Shanghai is China's most glamorous and prosperous city, where Chinese and Western cultures sit side by side. This morning our sightseeing tour begins with a walk along the Bund, on the banks of the Huangpu River. The Bund perfectly encapsulates the diversity of Shanghai, with the grandiose Art Deco architecture of the city's former banks and trading houses on one side of the river, and the futuristic skyline of Pudong on the other. We continue to the charming Old Town, which is the original centre of the city and retains many of its original temples, alleyways and buildings. Our morning ends in Yuyuan Gardens. Built during the Ming dynasty and taking 18 years to complete, the gardens survived wars and rebellions, and today are a fine example of classically-styled Chinese Gardens. Following lunch, we explore the impressive collection of Chinese artefacts housed in the Shanghai Museum. **Breakfast and lunch included**

### Day 15: Suzhou

#### Tour Highlight

We embark on a full-day tour to Suzhou, a city famed for its culture and elegance, and home to many artists and scholars, drawn to the city by its UNESCO-listed classical gardens. Our first stop is to explore one of China's most famous gardens – the Humble Administrator's Garden, with its bamboo islands, many ponds, humpback bridges and beautiful pavilions. Enjoy a relaxing cruise along the ancient canals of the old city before lunch. In the afternoon, visit the Master of the Nets Garden, which is relatively small, but gives the impression of being much larger thanks to its ingenious use of space. Suzhou embroidery is considered to be one of the four major regional styles of Chinese embroidery, and our final stop of the day is a visit to a silk factory to see how incredible images are brought to life with fine, highly-detailed stitching. Returning to Shanghai this evening, we indulge in a delicious farewell meal to mark the end of our incredible journey together. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

### Day 16: Depart Shanghai

Enjoy a leisurely morning until it's time to depart for the airport. Our flights to the UK operate via Hong Kong. **Breakfast, and in-flight meals and drinks included**

### Day 17: Arrive UK

Today we arrive into our chosen airport bringing an end to our amazing adventure in China. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

# Departure Dates & Prices

### 2025 Departures

11 September 2025	£4,495 per person
09 October 2025	£4,495 per person

### 2026 Departures

09 April 2026	£4,695 per person
21 May 2026	£4,695 per person
10 September 2026	£4,795 per person
08 October 2026	£4,795 per person

This itinerary is correct at the time of printing. For the latest information, dates and prices and details of any Special Offers we may have available, please visit [distantjourneys.co.uk/DC](https://distantjourneys.co.uk/DC)

### Prices

Prices are per person based on one person in a twin or double room. No single occupancy supplements apply.

### Deposit

£1,000 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,950 per person if travelling in Premium Economy, and £3,750 per person for Business Class.

### Flight upgrades

Cathay Pacific upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,195 per person return, or Business Class from £3,895 per person return.

Emirates upgrade to Premium Economy\* from £1,195 per person or Business Class from £4,145 per person return.

\*Only available on certain flights.

### Visa information

A valid tourist visa is required to travel to China. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 154-155.

### Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 156-159.

## Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

# Call FREE on 0800 141 3702

**Monday - Friday** 9.00am - 5.30pm **Saturday** 9.00am - 5.00pm  
**Sunday** Open in peak season. See website for details.





Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.  
**Email:** [enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk)





## Your holiday includes

-  Return economy flights with Emirates from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow, and any domestic flights within China. Inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty
-  Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable hotel taxes
-  Meals worth £584 per person, with daily breakfast, fifteen lunches and nine dinners
-  Unforgettable experiences including:
  - ★ Sightseeing tours in Beijing, Pingyao, Xi'an, Chengdu, Shanghai and Suzhou
  - ★ The Great Wall
  - ★ Visit the Forbidden City and Summer Palace
  - ★ Stay in the UNESCO World Heritage site of Pingyao
  - ★ View the Terracotta Warriors
  - ★ Visit the Giant Panda Breeding Research Institute
  - ★ Cruise on the Li River
  - ★ Three-night cruise on the Yangtze River

-  Services of an experienced Tour Manager and local guides
-  All domestic rail travel in Standard Class carriages
-  All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
-  Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 156-159.

Clockwise from above: Chinese fisherman; Colourful rice straw hats; Giant Panda, Chengdu

# The Very Best of China

 23 days  from £4,695pp  May 2025 – October 2026

It's not surprising China is considered one of the world's most fascinating and exciting touring destinations. Ancient palaces and modern skyscrapers sit side by side, and peaceful river cruises are combined with high-speed journeys on bullet trains.

Those with a love of history and food will be in their element, and when we visit the giant pandas of Chengdu, scale the Great Wall or explore the renowned gardens of Suzhou, we will see first-hand what makes China so special.

Our leisurely 23-day itinerary explores China's fascinating landscapes by rail, road and sail and captures all that makes it so special. We cover all the country's major attractions with a perfect blend of included sightseeing tours and Freedom Days to spend as you please. What's more, you will discover less-visited cultural gems such as Pingyao, with its superbly preserved architecture and town walls. A true highlight is our unforgettable three-night cruise along the spectacular Yangtze River, with plenty of time to sit back and view ever-changing vistas or to explore a selection of the river's ancient waterside towns and the remarkable engineering feat of the Three Gorges Dam.

With quality accommodation, all breakfasts and many other meals included, The Very Best of China tour really does offer exceptional value for money.

The Very Best of China tour may be taken as either a group tour or a private tour.





Forbidden City, Beijing



Bronze Lion, Beijing

# The Very Best of China

Days 1 to 4: UK - Beijing

## Day 1: Depart UK

Depart from the UK airport most convenient for you with Emirates at no extra cost. Choose from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow, all via Dubai. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 2: Beijing, 4 nights

Arrive into the wonderful city of Beijing and transfer to the Park Plaza Wangfujing Hotel, conveniently located in central Beijing. Previously known as Peking, China's capital city is a historical treasure trove, boasting over 3,000 years of tumultuous history. However, it's not only this city's ancient monuments that attract visitors. Its imposing socialist monuments of the 1950s along with the explosive growth of modern buildings and infrastructure, make Beijing an unmissable showcase of China old and new. This evening, enjoy a welcome drink with your Tour Manager and fellow travellers, to become acquainted and learn more about our adventure ahead. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 3: Beijing

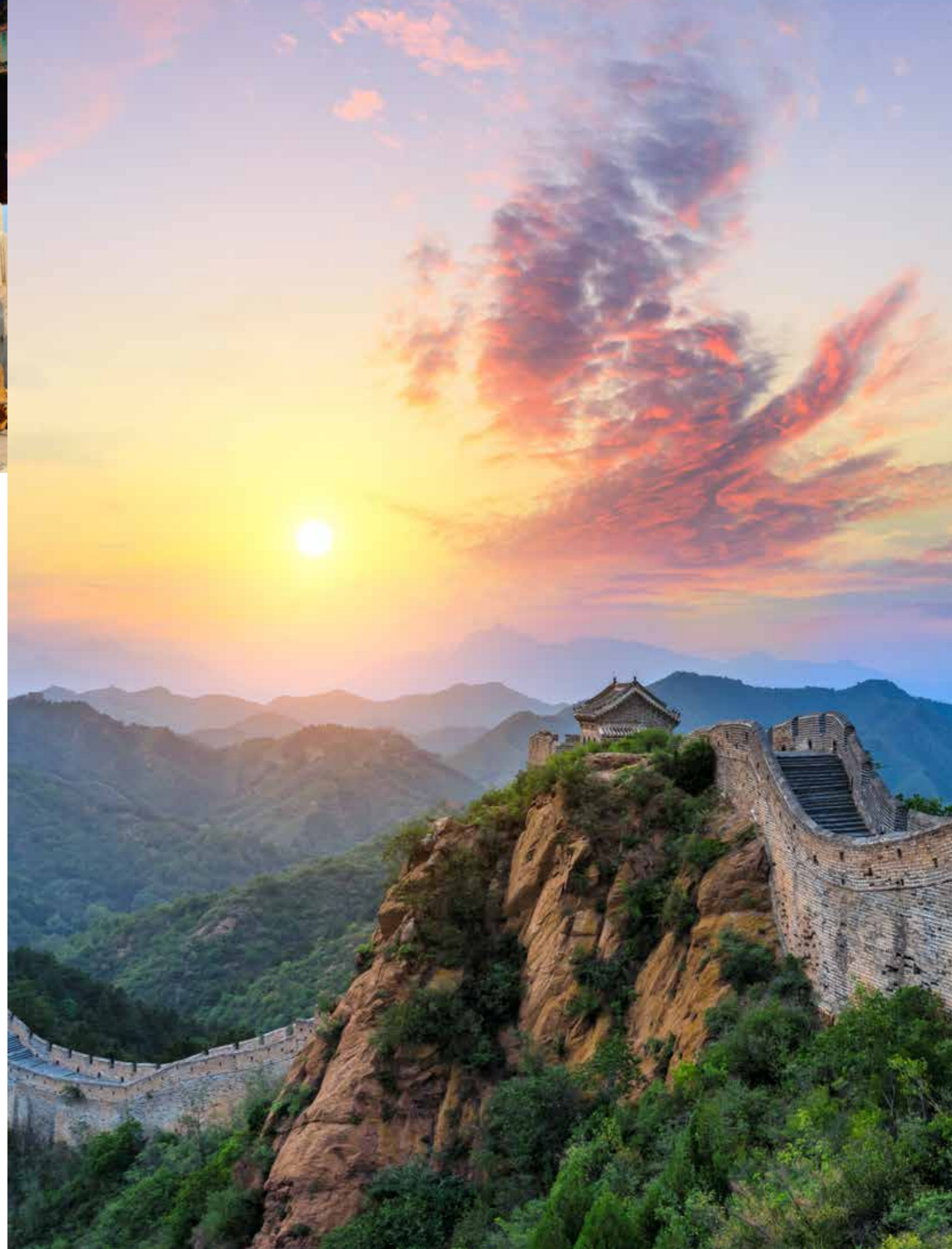
Today, our sightseeing tour of Beijing begins in Tiananmen Square. Measuring around 440,000m<sup>2</sup>, it was here that Chairman Mao declared the founding of the People's Republic of China. We continue to the nearby Forbidden City, the world's largest palace complex and home to China's best-preserved collection of ancient and ornate buildings. We have plenty of time to explore the Forbidden City, prior to lunch in a nearby restaurant. In the afternoon, we explore the Temple of Heaven Park, which is the site where, during the Ming and Qing dynasties emperors prayed for a good harvest.

**Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 4: The Great Wall

### Tour Highlight

China's most iconic sight and greatest engineering triumph, the Great Wall weaves its way through 4,000 miles of northern China's landscapes. This morning, we travel northeast from the city to the Mutianyu section of the Great Wall, famous for its Ming-era guard towers and the fantastic views of the surrounding mountains. We take a short cable car ride to the wall, and have ample time to stroll along part of it, and take in the spectacular landscapes. Following our memorable visit and lunch, we return to our hotel in the afternoon to relax. This evening, we will enjoy a classic imperial dish from Beijing: Peking Duck, served with plum or garlic sauce, scallions and pancakes. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**



The Great Wall, Beijing



Pingyao



Cormorant fishing, Guilin



Terracotta Army, Xi'an

# The Very Best of China

Days 5 to 10: Beijing - Pingyao - Xi'an - Chengdu

## Day 5: Beijing

Following breakfast, we spend the morning exploring the halls, pavilions, temples, gardens, corridors and bridges of the Summer Palace. The Palace was the playground for the royal family as they escaped the suffocating heat of the summer. We marvel at this masterpiece of traditional Chinese landscaping, which has been designed according to the principles of feng shui. We return to our hotel around midday where the remainder of our day is free to spend as we please. In the evening, there is a chance to experience an exciting Acrobatic show. **Breakfast included**

## Day 6: Pingyao, 2 nights

This morning we experience the benefits of China's huge investment in its infrastructure, as we board our bullet train to Taiyuan. On arrival, we enjoy lunch at a local restaurant which specialises in Jin cuisine and a multitude of noodle dishes. En route to Pingyao, we stop to visit the Chang family mansion, the former home of one of the richest merchants in the Shanxi Province. Covering a total area of more than 600,000m2, the compound has over 4,000 rooms, 50 buildings and 13 gardens. Its courtyards feature some of the country's most elaborate examples of Qing Dynasty decorative architectural features. Later in the afternoon, we make our way to Yun Jin Cheng Mansion, a charming boutique hotel in the centre of Pingyao, whose courtyards and rooms have been lovingly decorated to reflect the history of its surroundings. This evening enjoy an authentic dinner in a local restaurant. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

## Day 7: Pingyao

### Tour Highlight

Not many UK visitors can lay claim to having visited Pingyao, which is surprising because this UNESCO World Heritage Site is China's best preserved ancient walled town and is a true highlight. The city was at its peak during the Ming dynasty (1368 – 1644) and, incredibly, Pingyao has managed to keep its imposing town walls and watchtowers, elegant courtyards and ancient temples largely intact. What's more, 30,000 locals still reside in the old town, which creates the vibrancy of this living and breathing community. This morning we explore the streets of Pingyao, including visits to its fine temples, government buildings and the Rishengchang Financial House Museum, which began life as a humble dye shop before transforming into China's first bank and pioneering the use of paper cheques as a form of payment. With a visitor pass allowing free entry to many more of Pingyao's delights, your afternoon could be easily spent further exploring the town. Alternatively, you may wish to make the short journey to the Shuanglin Temple for an optional tour of this astonishing Buddhist temple, with its impressive complex of ancient halls and intricately carved statues. **Breakfast included**

## Day 8: Xi'an, 2 nights

We say farewell to Pingyao and board our 'bullet train' to Xi'an, one of China's most famous cities with a long and fascinating history. A considerable amount of its ancient city has managed to survive alongside its modern developments. We make a stop to explore the magnificent city walls, which date back to the Ming dynasty around 1370, to enjoy incredible views of Xi'an old and new from our vantage point on top of the 12m-high wall. We reach the Holiday Inn Big Goose Pagoda Hotel later in the afternoon, where we stay for the next two nights. One of the delicacies in Xi'an is its fantastic dumplings, which are similar to dim sum. This evening, enjoy sampling a selection of dumplings – each are handmade into a variety of shapes and with a selection of delicious fillings. **Breakfast, boxed lunch and dinner included**

## Day 9: The Terracotta Warriors

### Tour Highlight

Discovered in 1974 by a group of farmers drilling a well, the Terracotta Army is one of the most famous and spectacular archaeological discoveries in the world. Today we explore the pits containing the terracotta soldiers, which have stood guard since 246 BC when Emperor Qin Shi Huang commissioned the work for his mausoleum. Each life-sized warrior has been crafted with individual facial features and clothing and are arranged in battle formations alongside their horses and chariots.

We also visit the equally fascinating Qin Shi Huang Emperor Tomb Artefact Exhibition Hall, which contains many artefacts including a pair of bronze chariots and horses, which are displayed with some of the original weaponry. After lunch, we visit the Small Wild Goose Pagoda before returning to our hotel. Later, perhaps enjoy an evening of traditional music and dance at the Tang Dynasty show including dinner. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 10: Chengdu, 2 nights

After breakfast, we make our way to the train station before boarding our high-speed train to Chengdu, in the Sichuan Province, renowned for its teahouse culture and its most famous inhabitants – the Giant Pandas. On arrival early afternoon, we transfer to our hotel, the charming Xizang Hotel and our home for the next two nights. Later, we take a gentle stroll through Wangjianglou Park which is often filled with dancing, song and tai chi. The park is also home to some of the city's favourite local teahouses, where we stop to sample the local brews and perhaps mix with the locals over a game of Mahjong. **Breakfast and boxed lunch included**



Li River, Guilin



Farmer and buffalo, Yangshuo

# The Very Best of China

Days 11 to 14: Chengdu - Guilin - Yangshuo

## Day 11: Chengdu and Giant Pandas

### Tour Highlight

With over 80% of the world's Giant Panda population found in Sichuan Province, it's little surprise to find the area taking the lead in conservation projects to save these endangered species. The panda is the national symbol of China, and today we visit the Giant Panda Breeding Research Institute, which is home to around 120 giant and 76 red pandas. The project allows us to see these loveable and rare creatures, at close quarters in a near-natural habitat setting. Following lunch at the Breeding Centre we return to our hotel to relax and freshen up. Later in the afternoon, we explore the bustling stalls and shops of the Wide and Narrow Alleys, two ancient streets restored in Ming and Qing architectural styles. We enjoy dinner in one of the local restaurants, serving traditional dishes, cooked with distinctive Sichuan flavours. Later, we recommend venturing to the Sichuan Opera for a one of a kind cultural performance, including acrobats, dancers, puppets and the amazing 'face-changing' mask spectacle. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

## Day 12: Guilin, Overnight

Following breakfast, we travel to Guilin by train. Upon arrival our waiting coach will take us to the Sheraton Guilin Hotel, ideally situated in central Guilin and overlooking the Li River. In the evening, there is an opportunity to take an optional Lakes and Rivers cruise to discover Guilin's stunning landscapes by night. **Breakfast and boxed lunch included**

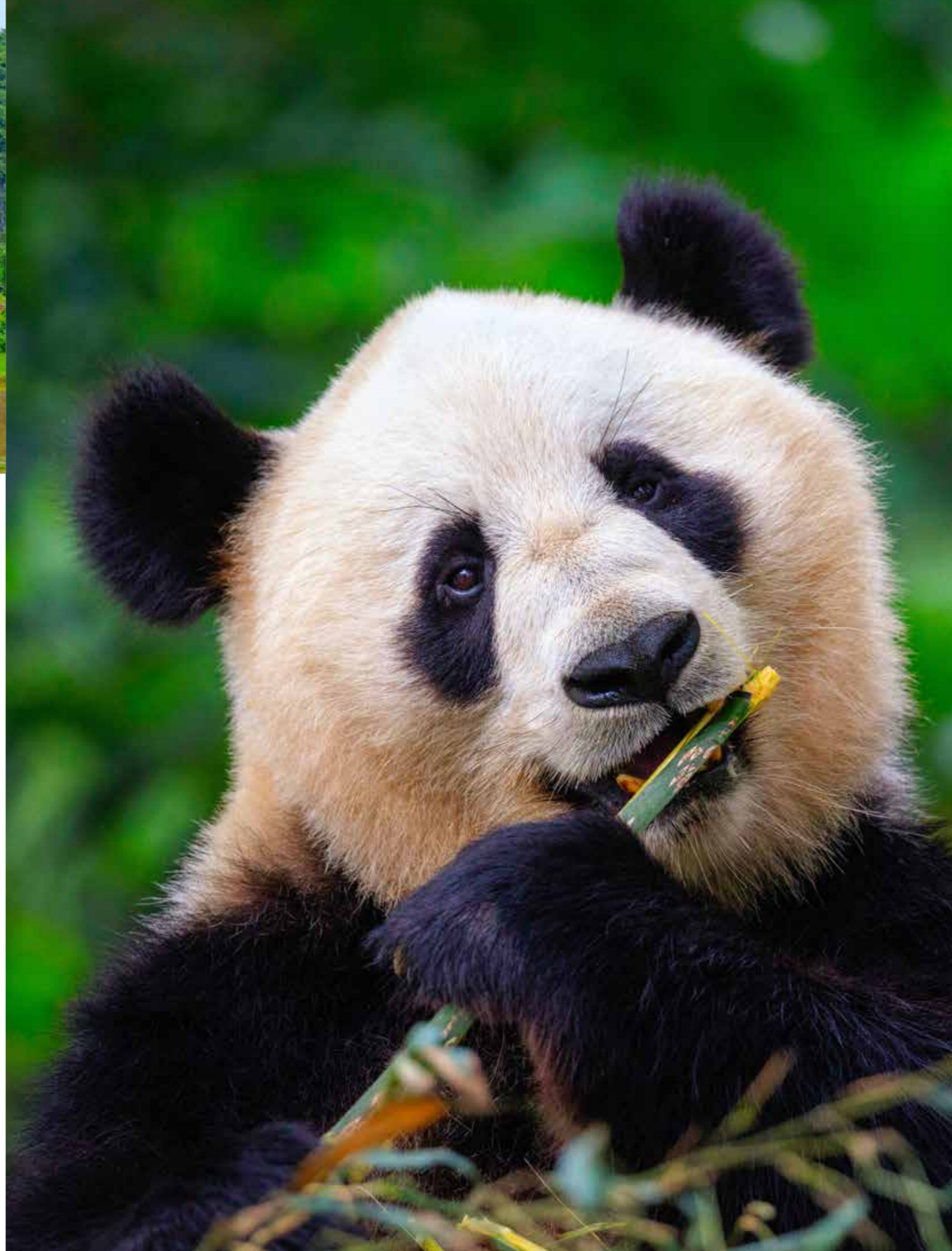
## Day 13: Li River & Yangshuo, 2 nights

### Tour Highlight

The countryside through which the Li River flows is a photographer's dream. During our morning cruise including lunch onboard, we glide serenely between verdant hills, enjoying iconic scenes of wallowing water buffalo and farmers tending their crops against a backdrop of limestone peaks. Our cruise terminates in Yangshuo, where we meet our waiting coach and head to Yangshuo Resort. Our home for the next two nights enjoys an idyllic and peaceful location on the banks of the Yulong River and is a perfect place to relax and unwind. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

## Day 14: Yangshuo Freedom Day

Although our day has been left at leisure to soak up the wonderful surroundings, we have the opportunity to enjoy a selection of fantastic optional activities. Why not take a gentle bike ride along the banks of the Yulong River? Alternatively, you may prefer to float downstream on a bamboo raft or join a small cookery class, where you will visit a local market to choose ingredients, before creating a selection of local dishes. In the evening, there's also a chance to experience the enchanting Impression Liu Sanjie show, where six hundred performers take to the Li River to deliver a spectacular light show with illuminated karst peaks as a backdrop. Whatever you choose to do – enjoy! **Breakfast included**



Giant Panda, Chengdu



Yangtze River cruise



Shibaozhai Pagoda, Yangtze River

# The Very Best of China

Days 15 to 18: Yangtze River Cruise - Shanghai

### Day 15: Yangtze River Cruise, 3 nights

Following a leisurely breakfast, we transfer to the train station to embark on the next stage of our exciting adventure around this fascinating country. Our bullet train whisks us to Chongqing later in the afternoon where we board either the MV Century Victory, MV Century Oasis or MV Century Glory to begin our fabulous three-night cruise along the Yangtze River. Our accommodation is in well-proportioned Deluxe Cabins, all with private en-suite facilities and balcony. Whilst on board, all our meals are included along with a modest selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks during lunch and dinner. Following dinner and our safety briefing, enjoy a drink at the Captain's welcome party, as the cruise sets sail. **Breakfast, boxed lunch and dinner included**

### Yangtze River Cruise Cabin Upgrades

Prices from £295 per person



Distant Journey guests are accommodated in Deluxe Cabins, with an option to upgrade to Superior Cabins, or for something really special an Executive or Presidential Suite. Please call for details

### Day 16: Yangtze River Cruise

For early risers you may have the opportunity to practise the art of Tai Chi with a professional trainer on the sunshine deck. Alternatively, enjoy a leisurely breakfast before our visit to the 'ghost city' of Fengdu. It is known for its diverse Chinese traditions, ghost culture and integration of Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism. In the afternoon you are free to enjoy the various onboard activities and lectures available, or simply relax on the sundeck and watch the world glide by! **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

### Day 17: Yangtze River Cruise

The Three Gorges comprise arguably the most spectacular landscapes of the magnificent Yangtze River. In the morning, we sail through the first of these gorges – Qutang Gorge, considered the most majestic, before continuing through Wu Gorge to admire its breathtaking natural beauty. Following lunch, we join smaller boats and visit Shennv Stream to experience the natural charm and serenity of the area up close. Later we return to the ship in time to freshen up prior to our Captain's Farewell dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

### Day 18: Shanghai, 4 nights

All good things must come to an end and after breakfast we disembark the ship in Maoping and board our coach for a morning excursion to the remarkable Three Gorges Dam – the largest hydroelectric dam in the world. During our visit, we will truly appreciate the immense scale of this hydroelectric project which cost an estimated \$37 billion to complete. We continue to Yichang for lunch and afterwards enjoy a stroll through the riverside gardens and visit the city's museum, prior to our flight to Shanghai later in the evening. Upon arrival, we transfer to the Jin Jiang Tower Hotel, where we spend our final four nights in China. **Breakfast and lunch included**



Pudong, Shanghai





Jing'an Temple, Shanghai



Traditional street food



Li River, Guilin

# The Very Best of China

Days 19 to 23: Shanghai - Suzhou - UK

## Day 19: Shanghai

Shanghai is China's most glamorous and prosperous city, where Chinese and Western cultures run side by side. This morning our sightseeing tour begins with a walk along the Bund, on the banks of the Huangpu River. The Bund perfectly encapsulates the diversity of Shanghai, with the grandiose Art Deco architecture of the city's former banks and trading houses on one side of the river, and the futuristic skyline of Pudong on the other. We continue to the charming Old Town, which is the original centre of the city and retains many of its original temples, alleyways and buildings. Our morning ends in Yuyuan Gardens. Taking 18 years to build during the Ming dynasty, the gardens survived wars and rebellions, and today are a fine example of classically styled Chinese Gardens. Following lunch in one of the city's amazing restaurants, we explore the impressive collection of Chinese artefacts housed in the Shanghai Museum. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 20: Suzhou

### Tour Highlight

We embark on a full-day tour to Suzhou, a city famed for its culture and elegance, and home to many artists and scholars, drawn to the city by its UNESCO-listed classical gardens. Our first stop is to explore one of China's most famous gardens – the Humble Administrator's Garden, with its bamboo islands, many ponds, humpback bridges and beautiful pavilions. Enjoy a relaxing cruise along the ancient canals of the old city before lunch. In the afternoon, visit the Master of the Nets Garden, which is relatively small, but gives the impression of being much larger thanks to its ingenious use of space. Suzhou embroidery is considered to be one of the four major regional styles of Chinese embroidery, and our final stop of the day is a visit to a silk factory to see how incredible images are brought to life with fine, highly detailed stitching. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 21: Shanghai Freedom Day

A Freedom Day in Shanghai to spend as you please. Take an optional cruise on the Huangpu River, or explore the former French Concession area on a walking tour. Whatever you wish to do, our Tour Manager will be very happy to help. This evening, we bid farewell to China and our new-found friends in style, with a dinner of authentic Shanghaiese cuisine at the opulent Qijia Garden Restaurant. **Breakfast and dinner included**

## Day 22: Depart Shanghai

The day is ours until it's time to depart for the airport in the late evening. For convenience, all our rooms have been reserved until 6pm. Our flights to our chosen UK airport operate via Dubai. **Breakfast, and in-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 23: Arrive UK

Today we arrive into our chosen airport bringing an end to our incredible adventure. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

# Departure Dates & Prices

## 2025 Departures

14 May 2025	£4,695 per person
06 September 2025	£4,695 per person
11 October 2025	£4,695 per person

## 2026 Departures

08 April 2026	£4,895 per person
06, 20 May 2026	£4,895 per person
02 September 2026	£4,895 per person
07, 28 October 2026	£4,895 per person

## Private Touring

The same expertly crafted itinerary and hand-picked hotels, combined with the exclusivity and convenience of your own friendly and knowledgeable guides, your own private vehicle and your own choice of departure date.

## Private Touring Supplements

2 guests	from £1,495 per person
3-5 guests	from £995 per person
6 guests	from £495 per person

If you are interested in a Private Tour for more than six people, please call us to discuss.

This itinerary is correct at the time of printing. For the latest information, dates and prices and details of any Special Offers we may have available, please visit [distantjourneys.co.uk/VBOC](https://distantjourneys.co.uk/VBOC)

## Prices

Prices are per person based on two people sharing a twin or double room.

## Single occupancy supplement

May – October 2025: £1,195  
April – October 2026: £1,295

## Deposit

£1,000 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,950 per person for Premium Economy and £3,750 per person for Business Class.

## Flight upgrades

Emirates upgrade to Premium Economy\* from £1,195 per person or Business Class from £4,145 per person return.

\*Only available on certain flights.

## Yangtze River Cruise Cabin Upgrades

Superior Cabin £295 per person. Executive Suite £695 per person. Victory, Oasis, Glory or Presidential Suite £1,725 per person. Single supplements will apply.

## Visa information

A valid China Tourist visa is required to travel to China. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 154-155.

## Important information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 156-159.

## Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

**Call FREE on 0800 141 3702**

**Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm Sunday** Open in peak season. See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.  
**Email:** [enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk)



# Borneo

Unique, Exotic, Diverse

Borneo, the world's third-largest island, is shared by Malaysia, Indonesia, and Brunei, and is a popular destination for those seeking adventure, wildlife, and nature. Borneo is renowned for its ancient rainforests, vibrant rivers, towering mountains, and rich indigenous cultures.





**NEW**

# The Very Best of Borneo

17 days from £4,195pp September 2025 – October 2026

Borneo is an unparalleled destination that feels both adventurous and exotic, with verdant rainforests, vibrant cities, idyllic beaches and unique wildlife. The island's rich cultural heritage is home to over 30 indigenous groups in the Malaysian states of Sarawak and Sabah, each with its own dialects, beliefs and traditions.

On our 17-day Very Best of Borneo tour, we explore both natural wonders and cultural highlights. Starting in Kuala Lumpur, we delve into Malaysia's capital before heading to Borneo. In Kuching and Kota Kinabalu, we visit bustling markets, temples, and heritage sites. We interact with a rural community in Mount Kinabalu National Park and enjoy wildlife-spotting walks in protected rainforests.

Borneo is home to orangutans, proboscis monkeys, pygmy elephants, sun bears and colourful birds. Highlights include visits to wildlife rehabilitation centres and the Bidayuh tribe's traditional longhouse. A special three-night stay at a riverside lodge on the Kinabatangan River is also included.

With exceptional experiences, quality accommodation, daily breakfast, and many other meals included, The Very Best of Borneo tour offers the trip of a lifetime with outstanding value, and can be taken as either a group tour or a private tour.

Clockwise from above: Wild Proboscis monkey; Traditional Asian confectionery



## Your holiday includes

- Small group touring - maximum only 24 passengers
- Return economy flights with Malaysian Airlines from London Heathrow, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. All domestic flights within Malaysia included too
- Carefully selected accommodation in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
- Meals worth £365 per person, with daily breakfast, six lunches and four dinners
- Unforgettable experiences including:
  - ★ Sightseeing tours in Kuala Lumpur, Kuching, Kota Kinabalu and Sandakan
  - ★ Explore a tribal longhouse and learn about local beliefs and traditions
  - ★ Visit the Orangutan Rehabilitation Centres at Semenggoh and Sepilok
  - ★ Discover rural life in Kiau Village, overlooked by Mount Kinabalu
  - ★ Canopy walk at the Rainforest Discovery Centre, Sepilok
  - ★ See the inhabitants of the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre and Labuk Bay Proboscis Monkey Sanctuary
  - ★ Experience a three-night stay on the Kinabatangan River
  - ★ Several wildlife-spotting river excursions
- Services of an experienced local Tour Manager
- All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
- Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 156-159.



Kuching



Bowl of Laksa

# The Very Best of Borneo

Days 1 to 4: UK - Kuala Lumpur - Kuching

### Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Malaysian Airlines from London Heathrow direct to Kuala Lumpur. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

### Day 2: Kuala Lumpur, 2 nights

On arrival into the Malaysian capital, we transfer to the Dorsett Kuala Lumpur, located in Bukit Bintang, the city's lively entertainment and shopping quarter. This evening, enjoy a welcome drink with our Tour Manager and fellow travellers to become better acquainted and learn more about our adventure ahead. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

### Day 3: Kuala Lumpur

Today, we enjoy a morning tour of Kuala Lumpur, exploring its vibrant history and multicultural heritage. We begin at Medan Pasar, once the centre of the old Chinatown district and home to the last of the city's ornate colonial shophouses. We continue to the British-built Central Market to browse for keepsakes among the hubbub of stalls. We step inside the ornate red and gold interior of Sze Ya Temple, the oldest Taoist temple in Kuala Lumpur and of great spiritual significance, and admire the colourful, elaborately-decorated exterior of the South-Indian-style Sri Maha Mariamman Temple. Later, enjoy great views over the city from the monorail as we head towards the Brickfields district, better known as Little India, to explore this vibrant neighbourhood. The remainder of our day is free to continue exploring at our own pace. **Breakfast included**

### Day 4: Kuching, 3 nights

We take a morning flight to Kuching and check into our hotel for the next three nights, the Hilton Kuching, overlooking the Sarawak River in the very heart of this fascinating city. In the afternoon, we set out to discover the multicultural sights, sounds and spirit of Sarawak's riverside state capital. We stroll under colourful hanging lanterns in Chinatown's busy streets, as mouthwatering aromas waft from the eateries, and take a closer look at the ethereal Tua Pek Kong Temple. We enjoy 360-degree panoramas of the city from the viewing platform of the futuristic Civic Centre, and admire the pink walls and gleaming, golden domes of the state mosque. We end our day meandering through the narrow streets of Old Kuching, and along the bustling waterfront, to admire the grand beauty of the Pavilion and Old Post Office. **Breakfast included**



Petronas Towers, Kuala Lumpur



Rainforest canopy, Sepilok



Bamboo basket weaving



Rhinoceros Hornbill. Credit: Sara Harris, Product Manager

# The Very Best of Borneo

Days 5 to 11: Kuching - Kota Kinabalu - Kiau Village - Sandakan - Sepilok

## Day 5: Anah Rais Longhouse & Semenggoh Tour Highlight

After breakfast, we set out for Anah Rais, a vast village of the Bidayuh tribe, nestled in the Borneo highlands, where we explore their longhouse and gain a deeper insight into tribal culture and traditions. We discover more about the area's ancient farming practices and engage with local families, before enjoying lunch together in the longhouse. Next, we head to Semenggoh Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre to encounter their resident, rescued orangutans. We learn about the centre's inspiring conservation programme, rehabilitating and relocating these amazing creatures, and hopefully, savour the rare opportunity to watch semi-wild orangutans feeding and interacting in their natural habitat. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 6: Kuching Freedom Day

Enjoy a free day to explore Kuching at your own pace. With the full support of our Tour Manager, perhaps indulge your culinary curiosity at a market-to-table cookery class, or simply enjoy eating delicious dishes on a walking tour around the city's best foodie spots. Alternatively, leave the city behind for a wildlife-spotting experience in Bako National Park, explore the living museum at Sarawak Cultural Village, or enjoy a sunset cruise on Santubong River, with a chance to spot rare Irrawaddy dolphins and fireflies after dark. **Breakfast included**

## We Recommend

### Market to Table Cooking Class

Enjoy an immersive half-day cooking experience learning how to craft a tasty five-course meal using diverse local produce and spices.



## Day 7: Kota Kinabalu, 3 nights

After a leisurely breakfast, we say farewell to Sarawak and board our flight to Kota Kinabalu in Sabah. From the airport, we take a scenic drive into the city, passing its most significant landmarks. We admire the beautiful City Mosque and its reflection in the still waters that surround it, as well as the historic Atkinson Clock Tower, the city's last colonial-era structure. Look out for the Filipino Market, famous for its handicrafts and seafood stalls along the waterfront, and Gaya Street, also known as Chinatown, with its weekend night market. We check in to the centrally-located Hyatt Regency Kinabalu with amazing views over the South China Sea, our base for the next three nights. **Breakfast included**

## Day 8: Kiau Village

### Tour Highlight

We have an early start today as we head for Kiau Village, home to the Kadazan-Dusun tribe, who revere the mighty Mount Kinabalu that looms on its horizon. We take a guided walk through the village, listening to the locals tell stories of their traditions and lifestyle, and immerse ourselves in the peace and quiet of this rural setting. We learn about local agriculture and a fabulous women's enterprise at a pineapple farm, visit a honeybee venture, and those that wish can climb to a viewpoint offering far-reaching vistas of the village and rural landscape. We also discover the process of coffee-making using locally-grown beans and enjoy a tasting before returning to the city. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 9: Kota Kinabalu Freedom Day

There's plenty to keep us busy on our Freedom Day in Kota Kinabalu. We have an opportunity to get to know more about local customs and traditions with an entertaining tour of the Mari Mari Cultural Village, home to the reconstructed houses of five different local tribes. Alternatively, explore Kota Kinabalu's artistic side with a visit to Sabah Art Gallery followed by a batik scarf workshop, or perhaps enjoy a guided tour of Gaya Street Market and its tempting food stalls. **Breakfast included**

## We Recommend

### Mari Mari Cultural Village Tour

Discover the diverse tribes of Sabah and their unique culture and practices as we explore the traditional homes of five different ethnic peoples.



## Day 10: Sepilok, 2 nights

This morning, we fly to Sandakan and explore this former colonial town and its rich history. We visit the floating fishing village, built on stilts along the shore, and discover how the original inhabitants continue to live and work. Next, we head uphill to the peaceful Puh Jih Syh Buddhist Temple and enjoy sweeping views over the coast. We visit the Central Market to experience local life among the bountiful stalls, and step back in time at the Agnes Keith House, a restored colonial home turned museum, providing an insight into the period when this was British North Borneo. Lastly, we pause for reflection at Sandakan Memorial Park, a place of remembrance for Australian POWs held here during the Second World War. After a day of discovery, we transfer to nearby Sepilok for our two-night stay at the Borneo Sepilok Rainforest Resort, ready to explore Borneo's rainforest wilderness. **Breakfast included**

## Day 11: Sepilok

### Tour Highlight

We spend our day experiencing some of Sabah's finest wildlife projects and encountering more of Borneo's iconic species. Our first stop is the Rainforest Discovery Centre, to wander along its walkways and through the canopy, looking out for colourful birds and wildlife amongst the trees. Next, we head to the Borneo Sun Bear Conservation Centre to learn about the sanctuary's work rescuing these endangered animals - the smallest bear species in the world - and see them in their protected habitat. After lunch, we drive to Labuk Bay where we visit a sanctuary for proboscis monkeys that covers 400 acres of mangrove forest. Here, we have a chance to watch the monkeys from a respectful yet remarkably close distance, without disturbing them. **Breakfast and lunch included**



Pygmy elephant



Kinabatangan River

## The Very Best of Borneo

Days 12 to 15: Sukau - Kinabatangan River - Kota Kinabalu

### Day 12: Sukau, 3 nights

This morning, we have the opportunity to visit Sepilok Orangutan Sanctuary for another chance to observe rescued orangutans in primary lowland forest. Visit the feeding platform and the nursery area, where orphaned orangutans are taught how to climb. After lunch, we transfer by speedboat along the scenic coast and enter the mighty Kinabatangan River as we travel to Sukau Rainforest Lodge, a stylish resort hidden within the jungle on the riverbank. Late afternoon, we set out on our first wildlife cruise, gliding along the river at a gentle pace as we watch the banks for a glimpse of pygmy elephants, proboscis monkeys, crocodiles, hornbills and even, perhaps, orangutans. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

### Day 13: Kinabatangan River

#### Tour Highlight

Our extraordinary wildlife watching continues with an early start, but we are rewarded with a two-hour cruise along the river as the sun rises. Our destination is an oxbow lake, where we pause to take in the beauty of the surrounding jungle as the wildlife awakens. Look out for the endemic rhinoceros hornbill, colourful kingfishers and macaques climbing through the tree branches in troops. Returning to our accommodation, there is time to relax and enjoy lunch before we join an expert naturalist to learn more about our close relative, the orangutan, and how to identify individuals from their features. Later, we head to the river once more, watching out for endemic birds and mammals as the heat of the day recedes. Perhaps pygmy elephants will emerge from the undergrowth, or we spot an alpha-male proboscis monkey with his harem. After dinner at our lodge, we enjoy our final river trip of the day: a night safari to discover the jungle's nocturnal wildlife. This is a great time to spot sleeping birds and crocodiles on the muddy riverbanks, as well as owls high in the trees. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

### Day 14: Kinabatangan River Freedom Day

Today, we can spend our time as we wish, with a selection of included activities to choose from. Those keen to indulge in more wildlife-spotting can join a further sunrise river cruise. This afternoon you may wish to explore Gomantong Caves, located in a protected area and home to several endangered species, including orangutans. As sunset arrives, we have the chance to witness the bat exodus from these caves as millions of bats head out on their nightly hunt. Alternatively, wake at leisure to the sound of gibbon song and spend the day relaxing at our lodge. Take a cooling dip in the pool, enjoy views of the river from the comfort of the terrace, or stroll along the boardwalks observing flora and fauna in the surrounding rainforest. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

### Day 15: Kota Kinabalu, Overnight

As our time in Sukau's extraordinary rainforest comes to an end, we transfer overland to Sandakan for our flight to Kota Kinabalu. On arrival in Sabah's lively state capital, we check in once again to the Hyatt Regency Kinabalu for our final night. The remainder of the afternoon has been left free to relax or possibly purchase some last-minute souvenirs. This evening, we come together to enjoy dinner and a chance to bid farewell to Borneo and our new-found friends as we share memories of our adventures. **Breakfast and dinner included**



Orangutans



Sun bear



Gomantong Caves



Kota Kinabalu

# The Very Best of Borneo

Days 16 to 17: Kota Kinabalu - UK

### Day 16: Depart Kota Kinabalu

The day is ours until it's time to depart for the airport this afternoon. Our flights to the UK operate via Kuala Lumpur. **Breakfast, and in-flight meals and drinks included**

### Day 17: Arrive UK

After 17 incredible days, we arrive into the UK this morning, bringing our Very Best of Borneo tour to an end. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

## Homebound Stopover 2 nights from £345 per person



Extend your holiday with a homebound stopover in Kuala Lumpur:

Staying at the centrally-located Dorsett Kuala Lumpur, enjoy free time to browse the market stalls for souvenirs. You may opt to try an evening Urban Foodie Experience, venturing to some of the city's characterful food courts and restaurants to taste Malay, Chinese and Indian specialities, or ascend to the 276-metre-high observation deck of Kuala Lumpur Tower to watch the city lights come on. Spend a day exploring Batu Caves and their mystical temple, or take a trip to historic Malacca, influenced by its Dutch, Portuguese and British colonial past.

### Your Kuala Lumpur stopover includes:

Two nights accommodation with daily breakfast, domestic flight from Kota Kinabalu to Kuala Lumpur, and all transfers.

**Single occupancy supplement from £275**

## Holiday Extension

Why not extend your holiday with a Bornean beach stay?



**4 days from £745 per person**

Complete your Very Best of Borneo adventure with a relaxing three-night stay at one of Borneo's stunning beaches. Choose from Dalit Beach, just an hour north of Kota Kinabalu, or whisk yourself off to Gaya Island, situated within the protected area of Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park.

**Please see pages 126-127 for more details.**

# Departure Dates & Prices

## 2025 Departures

20 September 2025 **£4,195** per person

18 October 2025 **£4,195** per person

## 2026 Departures

14 March 2026 **£4,395** per person

11 April 2026 **£4,445** per person

09 May 2026 **£4,445** per person

06 June 2026 **£4,445** per person

19 September 2026 **£4,495** per person

17 October 2026 **£4,495** per person

## Private Touring Supplements

2-3 guests from **£595** per person

4-5 guests from **£395** per person

6 guests from **£295** per person

If you are interested in a Private Tour for more than six people, please call us to discuss.

This itinerary is correct at the time of printing. For the latest information, dates and prices and details of any Special Offers we may have available, please visit [distantjourneys.co.uk/VBOB](http://distantjourneys.co.uk/VBOB)

### Prices

Prices are per person based on two people sharing a twin or double room.

**Single occupancy supplement** £995

### Deposit

£1,000 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,950 per person if travelling in Premium Economy, and £3,750 per person for Business Class.

### Private Touring

The same expertly crafted itinerary and hand-picked hotels, combined with the exclusivity and convenience of your own friendly and knowledgeable guides, your own private vehicle and a choice of departure dates.

### Flight upgrades

Malaysian Airlines upgrade Business Class from £3,395 per person return.

### Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 156-159.

## Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

**Call FREE on 0800 141 3702**

**Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm Sunday** Open in peak season. See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry. **Email:** [enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk)



# *Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos*

Neighbouring countries Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos each have their own unique charm, yet all offer rich history, vibrant culture and unforgettable experiences in abundance. Immerse yourself in the captivating beauty of Indochina.



Clockwise from above: Hanoi, Vietnam; Buddhist monk, Cambodia; Ninh Binh, Vietnam; Golden Buddha statue, Luang Prabang, Laos





## Your holiday includes

- ✈️ Return economy flights with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow or Manchester (selected dates), inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. Alternatively, fly with Emirates from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow – a supplement, from £200 per person, will apply. All domestic flights within Vietnam & Cambodia
- 🏠 Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portage and applicable taxes
- 🍴 Meals worth £351 per person, with daily breakfast, four lunches, one dinner and all meals on board the La Regina Legend
- 🌍 Unforgettable experiences including:
  - ★ City sightseeing tours in Hanoi, Hoi An and Ho Chi Minh City
  - ★ Explore the intriguing Cu Chi Tunnels
  - ★ Visit the Mekong Delta to meet local farmers and the communities of the Delta
  - ★ Magnificent temples of Angkor Wat
  - ★ Apsara dance show
- 🚢 All-inclusive cruise on La Regina Legend, Lan Ha Bay:
  - ✓ Overnight cruise on Lan Ha Bay
  - ✓ All land excursions and selected on-board experiences
  - ✓ All meals
  - ✓ Welcome drink
- 📖 Services of experienced Tour Manager
- 🚌 All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
- 🛡️ Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

Clockwise from above:  
Rice paddy, Vietnam; Community village, Cambodia

# Classic Vietnam & Cambodia

📅 15 days    💷 from £3,895pp    🌐 January 2025 – November 2026

Vietnam and Cambodia are two countries offering a magical combination of culture, history and tradition, and bustling with life and adventure. Spectacular landscapes give way to verdant rice paddies, stretching as far as the eye can see. From vibrant cities to tranquil villages, your experiences will be varied and memorable.

Join Distant Journeys on our 15-day Classic Vietnam & Cambodia tour and you'll see all the highlights of these two incredible touring destinations.

Our journey starts in Hanoi, before an overnight cruise on Vietnam's famed Lan Ha Bay, a true tour highlight. Explore the old merchant streets of Hoi An, view the tunnels of Cu Chi, delight in the Mekong Delta and be awed by Cambodia's Angkor Wat temple complex. Throughout our journey there will be many opportunities to interact with local communities, try delicious Vietnamese and Cambodian cuisine and learn traditional crafts handed down through generations.

With a choice of UK departure airports, all international flights, quality hotels, full daily breakfast and many memorable experiences included, our Classic Vietnam & Cambodia tour provides you with an amazing itinerary, at an unbeatable price.

Our Classic Vietnam & Cambodia tour may be taken as either a group tour or a private tour.





Vietnamese girls, Hanoi, Vietnam



Vietnamese egg coffee



Lan Ha Bay, Vietnam

# Classic Vietnam & Cambodia

Days 1 to 9: UK - Hanoi - Lan Ha Bay - Hoi An - Ho Chi Minh City

## Day 1: Depart UK

Depart from London with Singapore Airlines. Manchester flights may be available on selected dates, at no extra cost. Please call for details. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

### Alternative airline – Emirates

If you prefer, you may fly with Emirates via Dubai from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow, for a supplement, from £200 per person return.

## Day 2: Hanoi, 2 nights

Our Singapore Airlines flight travels via Singapore. On arrival in Hanoi and after clearing customs, we head to the Silk Path Hotel. Later, enjoy a welcome drink with our Tour Manager and fellow travellers. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 3: Hanoi

Our exploration of Hanoi begins with a visit to a local coffee shop to try the iconic Vietnamese egg coffee. Our next stop is the Temple of Literature, the oldest university in Hanoi, designed to honour the Chinese scholar, Confucius. We then venture to the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long, which dates back to the 7th century. We enjoy a flavoursome lunch with a cookery demonstration of local dishes, like B n Cha (pork with spring rolls and noodles) before exploring the Old Quarter, on a cyclo (rickshaw) ride. Our day draws to a close at the Vietnamese Women’s Museum, before returning to our hotel. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 4: Lan Ha Bay, Overnight

### Tour Highlight

This morning, we make our way to Lan Ha Bay, which forms part of the greater Ha Long geography. Known for the dramatic karsts (limestone rocks) that rise out of the emerald green waters, the bay is one of Vietnam’s most popular natural attractions. Our vessel is La Regina Legend. Once on board, enjoy a tasty Vietnamese lunch while taking in the impressive scenery as we cruise into the bay. This afternoon, we visit the Light and Dark Cave, known for its pristine beauty. We explore the bay by local boat or kayak and there is also an opportunity for swimming. We return to La Regina for sunset and dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

## Day 5: Hoi An, 3 nights

An early wake-up call for a rejuvenating sunrise Tai Chi lesson sets the tone for the day. Enjoy a light breakfast, as we sail to Trung Trang, one of the most impressive caves on Cat Ba Island. As we return to the mainland a buffet brunch is served. Once back on dry land, our waiting transfer will take us to Hanoi Airport for our flight to Da Nang. On arrival, we transfer to Hoi An and the Little Residence Boutique Hotel & Spa, where we will spend the next three nights. **Light breakfast and brunch included**

## Day 6: Hoi An

### Tour Highlight

After breakfast, it’s time to explore Hoi An, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We embark on a half-day walking tour of this historic town, exploring the residences of olden-day merchants and labyrinthine alleys, and view the iconic Japanese Covered Bridge. Our morning finishes with the opportunity to visit one of the unique two-storey communal halls and learn about its purpose and restoration. Our afternoon is at leisure. Perhaps, continue to stroll the streets of the old town, or maybe take an optional excursion to the ancient Cham capital of My Son. **Breakfast included**

## Day 7: Hoi An Freedom Day

On our Freedom Day, we have a number of activities for you to choose from. First is a lantern-making class, where you discover how to craft the exquisite silk lanterns seen on every street corner in Hoi An. Or you may prefer to visit a local organic farm where you enjoy local tea and explore over fifty medicinal herbs, fruits, and flowers, before enjoying a delicious lunch with local dishes. **Breakfast included**

### We Recommend

#### Lantern making

Found on just about every street corner, learn how to make one of Hoi An’s iconic silk lanterns.



## Day 8: Ho Chi Minh City, 3 nights

After breakfast, we head to the airport for our flight to Ho Chi Minh City, followed by a transfer to the Liberty Central Saigon Riverside Hotel, where we will stay for the next three nights. Often referred to by its former name, Saigon, the city is a cosmopolitan metropolis where the past is entwined with modern skyscrapers. The remainder of the day is ours to enjoy at leisure. Our hotel is ideally located in front of the Saigon River and only a short stroll from Nguyen Hue walking street, perfect for an afternoon stroll. **Breakfast included**

## Day 9: Ho Chi Minh City & Cu Chi Tunnels

We leave the city behind us this morning as we head for the Cu Chi Tunnels. We watch a brief film about the life of the Viet Cong soldiers during the war and then explore the narrow tunnels that were so integral to the conflict, being living quarters, supply routes and hospitals. Following lunch, we return to the city for our afternoon of sightseeing. We start with the Reunification Palace, a former stronghold of the South Vietnamese Government then make our way to the city’s Central Post Office. Our day finishes with a visit to the War Remnants Museum, which provides thought-provoking insight about the war and its impact on human life. **Breakfast and lunch included**



Vietnamese woman, Mekong Delta, Vietnam



Traditional Vietnamese pho

## Classic Vietnam & Cambodia

Days 10 to 13: Mekong Delta - Siem Reap - Angkor Wat

### Day 10: Mekong Delta

Leaving the city behind us, we drive towards the Mekong Delta, home to a maze of floating markets and villages surrounded by rice paddies. Boarding a motorised sampan (a traditional wooden boat) we take our time to view life in the Delta. As well as fishing, the Delta is home to many cottage industries. Visit a local Coconut Candy factory, observe traditional mat-making and explore tranquil villages. We have lunch in a local restaurant, before boarding our rowing boats for a journey along a small canal, witnessing daily life as we pass by. We return to Ho Chi Minh City for our final night. **Breakfast and lunch included**

### Day 11: Siem Reap, 3 nights

Enjoy time at leisure until we transfer to the airport for our flight to Siem Reap. Upon arrival, we make our way to the Borei Angkor Resort & Spa, where we stay for the next three nights. The rest of the day is ours to relax and enjoy as we please. **Breakfast included**

### Day 12: Angkor Wat

#### Tour Highlight

A tour highlight today as we explore the famed temple complex of Angkor. We begin with a visit to striking Angkor Thom, the last capital of the Khmer Empire. We meander the beautiful Elephant Terrace followed by seeing the iconic Bayon temple up close. A 12th-century vestige, the stone towers are adorned with over 200 serenely smiling faces. We then visit Ta Prohm, an almost untouched temple, dating back to 1186. The sprawling stone halls are overrun with the roots of gargantuan banyan trees. Following lunch, we make our way to the iconic Angkor Wat. The temple complex is considered the largest religious building in the world. Dating back to the 12th century, Angkor Wat took an estimated three decades to build. We explore the well-preserved complex, admiring the bas-reliefs that surround the temple, telling tales of battles and celebrations, including the famed Churning of the Sea of Milk. Our expert guide will unpack all the hidden secrets of the temple, giving us a deeper insight into this mystical place. **Breakfast and lunch included**

### Day 13: Siem Reap Freedom Day

Today is ours to do as we please. Explore the city or perhaps take an optional excursion. Our first recommendation is Tonle Sap Lake, home to a tiny community who live in houses built on wooden stilts. Or perhaps visit Trei Nhoar Community Village. This trip provides an insight into local Siem Reap country life, allowing visitors to get a taste of local culture, including a home-cooked meal. On our final option, we learn the art of morning almsgiving before walking to a nearby pagoda to give offerings to the monks and receive a blessing in return. We then visit a local home to learn more about Khmer life and enjoy an authentic Khmer lunch. No matter which option you choose, the proceeds of these tours go directly to the community visited. As our final evening approaches, we visit a nearby restaurant together for dinner accompanied by a Khmer classical dance performance. **Breakfast and dinner included**



South Gate, Angkor Wat, Cambodia



Hanoi, Vietnam



Street vendor, Vietnam



Hoi An, Vietnam

# Classic Vietnam & Cambodia

Days 14 to 15: Siem Reap - UK

## Day 14: Depart Siem Reap

Enjoy the chance to relax before our homeward journey, or perhaps make your way to the shops and markets for some souvenirs. We head for the airport to embark on our return flights with Singapore Airlines via Singapore or Emirates via Bangkok and Dubai. **Breakfast and in-flight meals included**

## Day 15: Arrive UK

After two weeks of incredible memories, our journey draws to a close as we arrive back in our chosen UK airport, ready to regale friends and family with tales of our Classic Vietnam and Cambodia adventure. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

## Holiday Extension

Why not extend your holiday with a visit to Luang Prabang in Laos?



4 Days From £895

The UNESCO World Heritage town of Luang Prabang is a gem of the tiny land-locked country of Laos. Step back in time and discover its unique magical charm for yourself.

**Please see pages 128-129 for more details.**

## Homebound Stopovers from only £345 per person

If you would like to explore somewhere new on your way home, a stopover is a perfect way to make your journey more relaxing and to experience a wonderful new place.

### Singapore – M Hotel

**Two nights from £345 per person**  
Occupying a great location in Singapore city centre, M Hotel is a modern, stylish hotel offering a warm welcome and a range of services alongside comfortable, contemporary accommodation.



### Sentosa Island – Rasa Sentosa Resort

**Two nights from £495 per person**  
Stop over in style at Shangri-La's Rasa Sentosa Resort, a beautiful beachfront resort on Singapore's Sentosa Island, only 20 minutes from downtown Singapore.



### Dubai – Marriott Hotel Al Jaddaf

**Two nights from £345 per person**  
Located within easy reach of Dubai Mall, the Marriott Al Jaddaf is the perfect alternative to a beachside hotel and a great location from which to explore downtown Dubai.



Your stopover includes return airport transfers, two nights accommodation and daily breakfast.

# Departure Dates & Prices

## 2025 Departures

17 January 2025	<b>£3,895</b> per person
07 March 2025	<b>£3,895</b> per person
11 October 2025	<b>£3,895</b> per person

## 2026 Departures

24 January 2026	<b>£3,995</b> per person
21 February 2026	<b>£3,995</b> per person
07 March 2026	<b>£3,995</b> per person
10 October 2026	<b>£3,995</b> per person
07 November 2026	<b>£3,995</b> per person

## Private Touring Supplements

2 guests	from <b>£495</b> per person
3 guests	from <b>£395</b> per person
4 guests	from <b>£295</b> per person
5-6 guests	from <b>£195</b> per person

If you are interested in a Private Tour for more than six people, please call us to discuss.

This itinerary is correct at the time of printing. For the latest information, dates and prices and details of any Special Offers we may have available, please visit [distantjourneys.co.uk/CVC](http://distantjourneys.co.uk/CVC)

## Prices

Prices are per person based on two people sharing a twin or double room.

## Single occupancy supplement

£695

## Deposit

£1,000 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,950 per person if travelling in Premium Economy, and £3,750 per person for Business Class.

## Flight upgrades

Singapore Airlines upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,395 per person return, or Business Class from £3,595 per person return.

Emirates upgrade to Premium Economy\* from £1,195 per person return, or Business Class from £4,145 per person return.

\*Only available on certain flights.

## Private Touring

The same expertly crafted itinerary and hand-picked hotels, combined with the exclusivity and convenience of your own friendly and knowledgeable guides, your own private vehicle and your own choice of departure date.

## Visa information

A visa is required for travel to Cambodia. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 154-155.

## Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 156-159.

## Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

**Call FREE on 0800 141 3702**

**Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm**  
**Sunday** Open in peak season. See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.  
**Email:** [enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk)





EXCLUSIVELY FOR SOLO TRAVELLERS

Clockwise from above: Traditional Aspara dancers, Cambodia; Mekong Delta, Vietnam



## Your holiday includes

-  Return economy flights with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow or Manchester (selected dates), inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. Alternatively, fly with Emirates from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow – a supplement, from £200 per person, will apply. All domestic flights within Vietnam & Cambodia
-  Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portage and applicable taxes
-  Meals worth £504 per person, with daily breakfasts, ten lunches, six dinners and one brunch
-  Unforgettable experiences including:
  - ★ City sightseeing tours in Hanoi, Hoi An and Ho Chi Minh City
  - ★ Interact with local communities in Mai Chau
  - ★ Lantern making in Hoi An
  - ★ Visit Tra Que Community Village to learn traditional farming methods
  - ★ Explore the Cham sculpture museum
  - ★ Discover the intriguing Cu Chi Tunnels
  - ★ Visit the Mekong Delta
  - ★ Magnificent temples of Angkor Wat
  - ★ Cambodia cookery class at local chef's home
  - ★ Enjoy a performance at Cambodia's Phare Circus
-  All-inclusive cruise on La Regina Legend, Lan Ha Bay:
  - ✓ Overnight cruise in Lan Ha Bay
  - ✓ All land excursions and selected on-board experiences
  - ✓ All meals
  - ✓ Welcome drink
-  Services of experienced Tour Manager
-  All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
-  Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 156-159.

# Discover Vietnam & Cambodia – Exclusively Solos

 18 days  from £4,695pp  February 2025 – November 2026

Vietnam and Cambodia are a delight at every turn. Cities alive and pulsating with pockets of history from its colonial past. Tranquil villages where traditions have been handed down generation after generation and rice paddies stretching out as far as the eye can see.

Ancient temples and religious sites, towering karsts dotting the landscape and delicious local cuisine combine to create a heady mix to delight in and discover.

We explore the cities of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, walk the quaint streets of Hoi An's old merchant quarter and marvel at the temples of Angkor Wat. We meet local fishermen in the mighty Mekong Delta, explore wondrous Mai Chau and learn the fascinating history of the Cu Chi Tunnels. Along the way we interact with local villagers, communities and farmers. Learn the traditions of batik, go out into the rice fields, practice Tai Chi to the backdrop of Lan Ha Bay on our overnight cruise and visit the home of a local Cambodian chef.

Travelling with our Tour Manager throughout and designed with the solo traveller in mind, join Distant Journeys on an adventure of a lifetime to discover the enchanting magic that these two countries offer in abundance. Plus, no single supplement means our Discover Vietnam & Cambodia tour provides incredible value too.





Flower seller, Hanoi, Vietnam



Lan Ha Bay, Vietnam



Mai Chau, Vietnam

# Discover Vietnam & Cambodia – Exclusively Solos

Days 1 to 9: UK - Hanoi - Mai Chau - Ha Long Bay - Hoi An

## Day 1: Depart UK

Begin your journey with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow. For flights from Manchester on selected dates, and at no extra cost, please call us. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

### Alternative airline – Emirates

If you prefer, you may fly with Emirates via Dubai from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow, for a supplement, from £200 per person return.

## Day 2: Hanoi, 2 nights

Your Singapore Airlines flight to Hanoi operates via Singapore. Upon arrival in Hanoi, we transfer to the centrally located Silk Path Hotel, where we spend the next two nights. The afternoon is free for us to relax or to take a stroll around Hoan Kiem Lake. In the evening, we meet our Tour Manager and fellow travellers for a welcome dinner. A great opportunity to get to know each other and learn about the upcoming adventures. **In-flight meals and drinks, and dinner included**

## Day 3: Hanoi

Today begins with an orientation tour of Hanoi, passing landmarks like Ba Dinh Square, the Presidential Palace, Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, and the National Assembly building. Next, we visit the revered One Pillar Pagoda, a Buddhist temple from the 11th century, before heading to the Temple of Literature, Vietnam's oldest university, dedicated to Confucius. Lunch offers an introduction to bun cha, a famous Vietnamese dish. In the afternoon, observe the preparation of a Vietnamese egg coffee, an iconic local beverage, and enjoy a cyclo (rickshaw) ride through the bustling Old Quarter. We also visit the Ngoc Son Temple, known as the 'Place Touched by Morning Sunbeams'. Our day comes to an end with a traditional water puppet show at Hanoi's Thang Long Theatre, before we return to our hotel for the evening. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 4: Mai Chau, 2 nights

Today, we journey to Mai Chau, with winding mountain roads revealing breathtaking panoramas. The Mai Chau valley presents an idyllic location; expansive rice paddies and grand limestone mountains dotted throughout with tiny villages and bustling communities. An afternoon walking excursion through the valley introduces us to local hill tribe communities, verdant rice fields and serene rural terrain. Our hotel for the next two nights is the Mai Chau Mountain View Resort. **Breakfast and dinner included**

## Day 5: Mai Chau

### Tour Highlight

Following breakfast, we head for Bao La commune – a village developing sustainable tourism in the local community. We are guided through the village, learning about the project's goals and engaging in some farming activities. Later, stop at a local family's home for a cookery class featuring traditional dishes from the White Thai community. Lunch will be served at the family's home. In the afternoon, we experience farming life and join local residents in planting rice in the fields. Enjoy a drink of tea with the family before returning to our hotel. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

## Day 6: Hanoi, Overnight

This morning, we travel to Pa Co village, home to the H'mong people. We take a walk around the village and witness daily life in the community. There's an opportunity to visit a family home to learn the traditional methods of making batik and indigo dyeing. We return to Hanoi and the Silk Path Hotel for our overnight stay in the city. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 7: Lan Ha Bay, Overnight

### Tour Highlight

Bid farewell to the city's hustle and bustle as we travel to Ha Long. Here we board La Regina Legend for a voyage through UNESCO World Heritage Site, Lan Ha Bay, part of the Ha Long Bay geography. Enjoy a buffet lunch, while cruising through the bay's towering limestone cliffs and emerald waters. We also visit an impressive cave to discover its intriguing stalagmite and stalactite formations. Moored for the evening in the most spectacular of locations, relax on the deck with a cocktail before dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

## Day 8: Hoi An, 3 nights

Our day begins with Tai Chi on the sun deck as the sun rises. We visit the impressive caves of Trung Trang on Cat Ba Island, before our return to the mainland. We travel to Hanoi Airport for our flight to Da Nang. Upon arrival, we are transferred to our hotel in Hoi An, the Little Residence Boutique Hotel & Spa. Perfectly located for exploring Hoi An's ancient Old Town, this is our home for the next three nights. **Light breakfast and brunch included**

## Day 9: Hoi An

### Tour Highlight

Today we explore Hoi An, a charming former trading port. Our walking tour includes visits to iconic landmarks – Chua Ong Pagoda, built in 1653; Phuc Kien Assembly Hall; Tan Ky House, a 200-year-old ancestral home; and the famous 17th-century Japanese bridge. One of Hoi An's most famous symbols is the silk lantern. Brought by Chinese and Japanese merchants in the late 14th century, they have been made in Hoi An for over 400 years. This afternoon, we learn about how these beautiful pieces of art are made. This evening there is the opportunity to join an optional walking food tour and enjoy iconic dishes at the town's most famous eateries. **Breakfast and lunch included**

### We Recommend

#### Street Food Tour

Discover the delights of Vietnamese cuisine including 'Bánh bao bánh vac' – a white rose dumpling, only found in Hoi An.





Tra Que Village, Hoi An, Vietnam



Angkor Wat, Siem Reap, Cambodia



Ta Prohm, Siem Reap, Cambodia

## Discover Vietnam & Cambodia – Exclusively Solos

Days 10 to 16: Tra Que - Ho Chi Minh City - Mekong Delta - Siem Reap - Angkor Wat

### Day 10: Tra Que Village

This morning, we visit Tra Que village, known for its expansive organic vegetable farm. Explore the farm and observe the traditional farming techniques used to cultivate crops and engage in hands-on activities. After our gardening experience, relax with a herbal foot bath and massage, followed by lunch. On our return to Hoi An we visit a community development where they craft soap from recycled cooking oil. The afternoon is ours to spend at our leisure. Perhaps join our excursion to My Son, the former capital of the ancient Cham civilisation. **Breakfast and lunch included**

### We Recommend

#### My Son

Visit the UNESCO World Heritage listed complex of My Son, the former Champa Kingdom dating from the 4th to 13th centuries.



### Day 11: Ho Chi Minh City, 3 nights

It's time to say goodbye to the delights of Hoi An and, following breakfast, we head to Da Nang for our flight to Ho Chi Minh City. En route, we visit the Cham Sculpture Museum, which houses an extensive collection of Champa sculptures dating from the 7th to 15th centuries. Upon arrival in Ho Chi Minh City, transfer to either the Liberty Central Saigon Riverside Hotel, or the Liberty Central Saigon Citypoint Hotel, for a three night stay. After settling in we enjoy our first evening in the city together with dinner at a local restaurant. **Breakfast and dinner included**

### Day 12: Cu Chi Tunnels & HCMC

We head out of the city this morning and towards the famous Cu Chi Tunnels, a former Viet Cong stronghold. Watch a short video before viewing the tunnels and learning more about how the tunnels served various roles, from living quarters to supply routes and makeshift hospitals. Next, we visit an organic farm to learn about farm-to-table practices and savour an organic lunch with fresh ingredients. Back in the city, we visit the War Remnants Museum with graphic yet important exhibits depicting wartime hardships. We also explore the Reunification Palace, and the Central Post Office, a remarkable work by French architect Gustave Eiffel. **Breakfast and lunch included**

### Day 13: Mekong Delta

This morning we travel to My Tho, gateway to the Mekong Delta. Here, we board a wooden sampan and journey along the Mekong to Tan My and Thoi Son Islands. These islands are home to numerous floating fish farms, some of which have been anchored for decades. Next, we board a traditional rowing boat for a serene ride through narrow canals shaded by water coconut trees. Exploring by bicycle, we pass verdant gardens growing grapefruits, coconuts, bananas, durian, jackfruits and longans, and stop to taste some of the fresh seasonal fruits. Lunch will be a spread of Mekong delicacies in a local family's garden, where we watch the host prepare banh khot, a popular and delicious local dish. Afterwards, another gentle bike ride through the tranquil island's backstreets awaits before returning to the mainland. Today's adventure over, we return to the city and our hotel. **Breakfast and lunch included**

### Day 14: Siem Reap, 3 nights

Our time in Vietnam comes to a close this morning, but new adventures are waiting for us in Cambodia. Travelling to the airport, we board our flight to Siem Reap, Cambodia. On arrival, we are met by our Cambodia guide and driver and transferred to the delightful Borei Angkor Resort & Spa, our home for the next three nights. This evening, we venture to Phare, also known as the Cambodian circus. An entertaining evening featuring a group of talented young artists, who showcase incredibly artistic forms of storytelling to offer a unique insight into Cambodian culture and everyday life. **Breakfast included**

### Day 15: Angkor Wat

#### Tour Highlight

Today, we embark on a journey through time as we explore the remarkable remains of an ancient civilisation. Our day begins by visiting Angkor Thom, the last capital of the Khmer Empire. In this monumental site, we encounter the sprawling Elephant Terrace, the Terrace of the Leper King, and the mystical Bayon. Next, we visit Ta Prohm – one of Angkor's largest temples. Surrounded by jungle, its maze of stone passageways is overgrown with roots and branches of massive banyan trees. Following lunch, we visit Angkor Wat, arguably the world's largest religious structure, constructed with a volume of stone matching the Cheops pyramid in Egypt. It boasts symmetrical towers, inspiring the modern Cambodian flag, and is certainly a highlight of the trip. **Breakfast and lunch included**

### Day 16: Siem Reap

A culinary voyage awaits today, as we are introduced to Khmer cuisine. Upon arrival at a local chef's residence, expect a warm welcome from today's cooking instructor. We visit the nearby market, where vibrant stalls reveal the unique ingredients central to Khmer gastronomy. Guided by our expert, we learn to prepare and cook some of Cambodia's most cherished dishes, before enjoying a lunch of our creations. The afternoon is ours to enjoy at our leisure. As our final evening approaches, we dine together one last time and share the memories of our adventures as we are entertained by an Apsara dance performance. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**



Mekong Delta, Vietnam



Bayon Temple, Angkor Wat



Fish seller, Cambodia

# Discover Vietnam & Cambodia – Exclusively Solos

Days 17 to 18: Siem Reap - UK

## Day 17: Depart Siem Reap

As our Indochina adventure comes to a close, maybe indulge in some final souvenir hunting in Siem Reap. Later today we return to Siem Reap Airport for our Singapore Airlines flight, via Singapore, to the UK. For those travelling with Emirates, your return flight will operate via Bangkok and Dubai.

**Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 18: Arrive UK

After 18 incredible days filled with unforgettable memories, our Vietnam and Cambodia adventure comes to a close as we arrive into our chosen UK airport. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

## Homebound Stopovers from only £495 per person

If you would like to explore somewhere new on your way home, a stopover is a perfect way to make your journey more relaxing and to experience a wonderful new place.

### Singapore – M Hotel

**Two nights from £495 per person**

Occupying a great location in Singapore city centre, M Hotel is a modern, stylish hotel offering a warm welcome and a range of services alongside comfortable, contemporary accommodation.



### Sentosa Island – Rasa Sentosa Resort

**Two nights from £795 per person**

Stop over in style at Shangri-La's Rasa Sentosa Resort, a beautiful beachfront resort on Singapore's Sentosa Island, only 20 minutes from downtown Singapore.



### Dubai – Marriott Hotel Al Jaddaf

**Two nights from £545 per person**

Located within easy reach of Dubai Mall, the Marriott Al Jaddaf is the perfect alternative to a beachside hotel and a great location from which to explore downtown Dubai.



Your stopover includes return airport transfers, two nights accommodation and daily breakfast.

# Departure Dates & Prices

## 2025 Departures

19 February 2025	<b>£4,695</b> per person
05 March 2025	<b>£4,695</b> per person
04 November 2025*	<b>£4,695</b> per person

## 2026 Departures

29 January 2026	<b>£4,795</b> per person
19 February 2026	<b>£4,795</b> per person
05 March 2026	<b>£4,795</b> per person
02 April 2026	<b>£4,795</b> per person
15 October 2026	<b>£4,795</b> per person
05 November 2026	<b>£4,795</b> per person

\* This departure uses Athena, for our overnight cruise on Ha Long Bay.

This itinerary is correct at the time of printing. For the latest information, dates and prices and details of any Special Offers we may have available, please visit [distantjourneys.co.uk/DVC](https://distantjourneys.co.uk/DVC)

## Prices

Prices are per person based on one person in a twin or double room. No single occupancy supplements apply.

## Deposit

£1,000 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,950 per person if travelling in Premium Economy, and £3,750 per person for Business Class.

## Flight upgrades

Singapore Airlines upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,395 per person return, or Business Class from £3,595 per person return.

Emirates upgrade to Premium Economy\* from £1,195 per person return, or Business Class from £4,145 per person return.

\*Only available on certain flights.

## Visa information

A visa is required for travel to Cambodia. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 154-155.

## Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 156-159.

## Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

# Call FREE on 0800 141 3702

**Monday - Friday** 9.00am - 5.30pm **Saturday** 9.00am - 5.00pm  
**Sunday** Open in peak season. See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.  
**Email:** [enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk)







**NEW**

# Mekong River Explorer

📅 19 days    💷 from £7,995pp    🌍 October 2025 – March 2026

The Mekong is one of the world's mightiest rivers and there is no better way to experience the rich and diverse culture of the region than to take a slow-paced cruise along its waterways.

Our 19-day Mekong River Explorer follows the Upper Mekong through the little-known, but fascinating country of Laos, before finishing in Thailand's famed Golden Triangle. The Upper Mekong is less visited, offering a real sense of adventure and exploration, and is home to jungle-clad landscapes, mountainous scenery and remote villages dotted along the riverbanks.

Travelling from the Lao capital, Vientiane, to Chiang Khong on the Thai border, over ten days of cruising in comfort and style aboard the RV Laos Pandaw, we meet friendly locals, discover waterfalls and sacred caves, and visit the stunning UNESCO World Heritage town of Luang Prabang. Crossing into Thailand at the end of our cruise, we round off our journey uncovering the fascinating Golden Triangle region, with stays in Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai.


With an abundance of excursions and all meals included during the cruise, this is an amazing way to experience this incredible part of the world. Join Distant Journeys on an adventure of a lifetime along the Mekong River and discover the spectacular landscapes, rich culture and warm hospitality that Laos and Thailand have to offer.


Clockwise from above: Viewing deck of RV Laos Pandaw, Mekong River; Buddhist monks, Luang Prabang, Laos




## Your holiday includes

-  Return economy flights with Emirates from London Heathrow, London Gatwick or Manchester inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty
-  Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portage and applicable taxes
-  Meals worth £747 per person, with daily breakfast, four lunches, a Khantoke dinner and all meals on board the RV Laos Pandaw, including a riverside barbecue dinner
-  Unforgettable experiences including:
  - ★ Sightseeing tours in Vientiane, Luang Prabang, Chiang Rai and Chiang Mai
  - ★ Encounter local communities at riverside villages
  - ★ View Kuang Si Waterfalls
  - ★ Visit the Laos Buffalo Farm
  - ★ Learn about Luang Prabang's Crafts and Culture
  - ★ Experience the 'giving of alms' in Luang Prabang
  - ★ Explore Pak Ou Caves
  - ★ Visit The Mekong Elephant Park sanctuary in Pak Beng
  - ★ See the infamous Golden Triangle
  - ★ Explore Wat Rong Kun, the White Temple
  - ★ Meet a local hill tribe in Northern Thailand
  - ★ Guided tour of a tea plantation

-  All-inclusive cruise on the RV Laos Pandaw:
  - ✓ 10-night cruise on the Mekong River between Vientiane, Laos and Chiang Khong on the Thailand / Laos border
  - ✓ All land excursions and selected on-board experiences
  - ✓ All meals and selected alcoholic and soft drinks

 Services of experienced local guides

 All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout

 Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 156-159.





Women wearing traditional Lao dress



Vientiane, Laos



Mekong River, Laos

# Mekong River Explorer

Days 1 to 7: UK - Vientiane - Mekong River - Xayaboury Dam - Kuang Si Waterfall - Luang Prabang

## Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Emirates from London Heathrow, London Gatwick or Manchester for our overnight flight, via Dubai to Bangkok, Thailand. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 2: Vientiane, 2 nights

We take our connecting flight with Thai Airways to Vientiane, the bustling Lao capital. After clearing customs, we meet our local guide and transfer to the Salana Boutique Hotel, our home for two nights. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 3: Vientiane

Modern Vientiane is a relatively young city, rebuilt by French colonists at the end of the nineteenth century, and this morning we discover the sights of Vientiane with our guide. Our first stop is the busy morning market of Talaat Sao. We continue to Wat Sisaket, the oldest original temple in Vientiane and home to remarkable frescoes and over 6,000 Buddha images. Close by, Haw Phra Kaew contains some of the finest Buddhist sculptures and artifacts in Laos. We also visit Putousay - the huge victory gate, inspired by the Arc de Triumph, and one of the city's most photographed images. After lunch, we pass the impressive Friendship Bridge, spanning the Mekong River, as we head out of town to one of Laos' slightly stranger attractions - Xieng Khuan Buddha Park. Built in 1958 and located on the banks of the Mekong River, the park is home to a large collection of Buddhist and Hindu sculptures. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 4: Upper Mekong river cruise, 10 nights

### Tour Highlight

Following breakfast at our hotel, we take a long-tail boat ride on the Mekong River to reach our vessel, the RV Laos Pandaw, which is moored a little upstream. Hand-built by traditional craftsmen, the Pandaw fleet are traditionally-styled in brass and teak and customised to navigate the flowing waters of the Mekong River. We are welcomed aboard with a briefing and drinks, before settling into our comfortable cabin. Designed to make our stay relaxing and enjoyable, our cabins offer splendid colonial-era character and are equipped with kimonos and slippers and spa-branded amenities. Each cabin offers panoramic windows and sliding doors to absorb the ever-changing scenery. As our Mekong adventure begins, perhaps enjoy a cocktail as the sun sets, before joining fellow guests for a delicious dinner. We moor this evening at Pak Lay, a small town in the Sainyabuli Province. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected onboard drinks included**

## Day 5: Cruising the Mekong

Less visited than the Lower Mekong, the Upper Mekong is a beautiful area, home to spectacular scenery, local communities and slow river life. Lao people are known for their quiet and gentle nature and we stop at Pha Laeb, where we take a gentle stroll through the village and observe daily life. Returning to our vessel, take the opportunity to join a fascinating talk about the Lao language. If time permits, we take an afternoon walk at Ban Khok Fark. As evening descends, sip on an aperitif in the lounge and bar, before enjoying a delicious dinner al fresco. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected onboard drinks included**

## Day 6: Xayaboury Dam

Take in the surrounding mountain scenery as we enjoy breakfast this morning, before we visit the remote village of Ban Pak Bor Khummu. Set amidst lush jungle on the banks of the Mekong, we meet the local tribe and learn more about their way of life. Back on board, we pass through the Xayaboury Hydroelectric Dam, before visiting the Hmong minority village of Ban Na San. Wander through the village and observe the unique styles of the homes, taking the opportunity to interact with the locals and learn more of their culture and traditions. Back onboard, we hope to be rewarded with another spectacular Mekong sunset, prior to joining our fellow passengers and crew for dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected onboard drinks included**

## Day 7: Kuang Si Waterfall and Luang Prabang

Awake to the tranquillity of the river as we cruise to our mooring at the village of Ban Mouang Khai. Our destination is the dramatic Kuang Si Waterfall, a breathtaking tiered waterfall of beautiful turquoise waters and incredible surroundings. We visit the Laos Buffalo Farm, where we learn more about this fascinating social enterprise, which utilises the abundant buffalo in Laos to produce delicious mozzarella, ice cream and other dairy produce. Later, we moor in central Luang Prabang, a stunning UNESCO World Heritage town. As evening falls, we enjoy a traditional Bacci ceremony followed by a time-honoured dance performance on the upper deck of our ship. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected onboard drinks included**



Wat Xieng Thong Temple, Luang Prabang, Laos



Cocktails on board RV Laos Pandaw

# Mekong River Explorer

Days 8 to 11: Luang Prabang - Pak Ou Caves - Ban Ton

## Day 8: Luang Prabang

Today, we discover the traditional handicrafts of Laos, as our morning starts in Ock Pop Tok, at the Living Crafts Centre. Supporting women from local villages, we learn about Lao textiles and handicrafts, and continue to the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre to learn about Lao musical instruments. Returning to our vessel, we sail towards Ban Chan where we have the chance to take part in a pottery demonstration at a local workshop. We finish our day enjoying stunning views of Luang Prabang from the river on a sunset cruise. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected onboard drinks included**

## Day 9: Luang Prabang

### Tour Highlight

Awake early and join a morning walking tour to observe alms being offered to the hundreds of monks who, at sunrise, walk the streets of this atmospheric town each day. A truly memorable experience. Later, we continue to the morning market for a chance to see locals going about their daily lives, and take a rickshaw ride through this well-preserved heritage town. We view its many Buddhist temples, libraries and the former Royal Palace. Our afternoon is free to explore the beauty and unique atmosphere of Luang Prabang further. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected onboard drinks included**

## Day 10: Pak Ou Caves

Enjoy a final morning in Luang Prabang before we set sail upstream. Transferring to a smaller local boat, we visit the unique Pak Ou Caves, a sacred Buddhist sanctuary nestled within a limestone cliff. The Tham Ting (lower caves) and Tham Theung (upper caves) host over 4,000 miniature sculptures and statues of Buddha. Sculpted from various materials and ranging in size, these statues have been donated over hundreds of years by local fishermen and residents as offerings for protection. We complete today's exploration with a visit to Ban Xang Hai, where we learn about the production of local Lao whisky. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected onboard drinks included**

## Day 11: Ban Ton

Our journey continues at a leisurely pace, allowing us to take in the gentle breezes and stunning scenery. We stop at Ban Ton village where we take a gentle stroll, before continuing our journey upstream. Enjoy the onboard facilities; find a quiet spot with a good book, or simply relax and continue to enjoy the passing scenery. As the evening descends, we join our fellow passengers and crew for a special riverside barbecue and cocktail party. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected onboard drinks included**



Pak Ou Caves, Laos. Credit: Liz Reddy, Head of Product



Local tribe in Chiang Mai, Thailand



Elephant



Mae Fah Luang Gardens, Chiang Rai, Thailand

# Mekong River Explorer

Days 12 to 19: Pak Beng - Chiang Khong - Chiang Rai - Chiang Mai - UK

## Day 12: Pak Beng

Laos is known as 'the land of a million elephants, and today will be a true highlight as we visit the Mekong Elephant Park, a rescue sanctuary, which protects the elephants of Laos. The centre also provides a sustainable type of employment for Mahouts - an elephant rider, trainer or keeper, who would have once trained these majestic creatures. Later, we visit Ban Pak Sith Khummu, where we learn of rural life in the village. As the day draws to a close, settle back on board with a cocktail in hand. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected onboard drinks included**

## Day 13: Chiang Khong

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast as we slowly cruise past the ever-changing scenery. At Huayxay we bid a fond farewell to Laos and make the border crossing into Thailand, via the Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge, rejoining our ship in Chiang Khong. This evening, we indulge in farewell cocktails and delight in a traditional Thai dance performance as we enjoy our final night on board. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected onboard drinks included**

## Day 14: Chiang Rai, 2 nights

Following ten days of cruising the Upper Mekong, we bid a fond farewell to our crew. Disembarking, we board our waiting coach and transfer to the Katiliya Mountain Resort and Spa, where we stay for the next two nights. Set in the verdant countryside of the hills of northern Thailand, with a free afternoon to indulge in the hotel's facilities, we settle into our accommodation and take in the spellbinding landscape. **Breakfast included**

## Day 15: Chiang Rai

### Tour Highlight

Once the royal capital of Thailand, Chiang Rai acts as a gateway to the scenic countryside of the Golden Triangle, where the borders of Thailand, Laos and Myanmar meet. We begin our day with a visit to the Doi Tung Royal Project and Mae Fah Luang Garden. Founded by Her Royal Highness Princess Srinagarindra, the Princess Mother, in 1972, the project aims to support local communities, with an emphasis on 'helping people to help themselves.' We learn about the vision of the project and the work that continues today. The landscaped gardens of Mae Fah Luang, which are grown and nurtured by local villagers, reward visitors with a stunning display of plants and flowers. We continue to Chiang Saen, where the ruins of the Chiang Saen Kingdom, dating back to 1325, are scattered across the city, and continue to the viewpoint known as the Golden Triangle. On a clear day, the vantage point provides you with a view of the mighty Mekong River as it joins with the Ruak River and forms a 'triangle' with Laos, Myanmar and Thailand. We take a trip on the Mekong by longtail boat, and finish our day with a visit to the Halls of Opium Museum. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 16: Chiang Mai, 2 nights

Following breakfast, we travel south towards Chiang Mai. Our first stop today is Wat Rong Kun, also known as the White Temple, a contemporary Buddhist temple, designed by one of Thailand's most famous artists, Chalermchai Kositpipat. We take time to admire its stunning design before lunch at a community enterprise restaurant. Later, we visit Wat Pha Lat, a hidden gem of a temple nestled in the lush mountains of Chiang Mai, and the renowned Doi Suthep temple, a must-see attraction in Chiang Mai. Located at the top of Doi Suthep mountain, enjoy the breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding area and receive a monk's blessing. We continue to our hotel, the Tamarind Village Chiang Mai, where we stay for our final two nights. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 17: Chiang Mai

Today, we travel to Mae Tang, where we visit the village of a local Lisu hill tribe community. On arrival, we are welcomed with a traditional drink, and our Lisu guide will take us on a walk through the village to uncover their beliefs and culture. We explore the herbal garden of Ton Lung temple and stroll through alleyways, observing village life. We continue to Araksa Tea Garden, where we are met by a resident plucker, who shows us the art of plucking tea leaves and how to make tea by hand. This evening, we enjoy a 'Khantoke' dinner, the traditional northern Thai form of dining, at the Old Cultural Centre. As we dine, we are entertained by traditional dance and music performances from the ethnic hill tribes - a spectacular way to end our amazing adventure through Laos and Northern Thailand. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

## Day 18: Depart Chiang Mai

We have a final day at leisure to enjoy the city of Chiang Mai. Perhaps relax by the hotel pool or go hunting for last minute souvenirs. A late check out has been arranged for our convenience. Later in the afternoon, it is time to say goodbye to this magical part of Asia and we travel to the airport for our Emirates flights, via Bangkok and Dubai, to the UK. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 19 Arrive UK

Arriving into our chosen airport this morning, with a host of memories, our amazing Southeast Asian journey comes to a close. **In-flight meals and drinks included**



Khao Lak Beach, Thailand



Tacos on the beach, Khao Lak, Thailand



Dining on the RV Laos Pandaw

## Mekong River Explorer – Khao Lak Beach Extension

4 days from  
£595  
per person

When it comes to idyllic tropical beaches, Thailand really does offer some of the best in the world. Khao Lak is a stunning area located on Thailand's southwest coast, lined with powdery white sands, shady palm trees and lapped by turquoise waters – the perfect place for a relaxing beach escape. For those seeking further exploration, Khao Lak is also surrounded by no fewer than three national parks, filled with verdant jungle, stunning waterfalls, towering sea cliffs and forested hills.

### Day 1: Khao Lak, 3 nights

We say farewell to Northern Thailand today and head to Chiang Mai Airport for our flight to Phuket. On arrival, we transfer to the stunning beach resort of Khao Lak for our relaxing three-night stay. Our chosen hotel is the Ramada Resort by Wyndham Khao Lak, a true haven nestled amongst the natural beauty of Bang Niang Beach. Our accommodation is in contemporary rooms with natural décor and our own private balcony overlooking the lush gardens and large freeform pool. **Breakfast included**

### Days 2 & 3: Freedom Days

The next two days are Freedom Days to choose how you spend your time. Relax by the pool or indulge and unwind with a treatment in the tranquil spa. Enjoy the expansive beach and clear azure waters of the Andaman Sea, or borrow a bicycle to discover the surrounding area. There are also day trips on offer to the nearby Similan, Surin or Phi Phi Islands, with opportunities to marvel at marine life on a snorkelling excursion. However, you choose to spend your days, enjoy! **Breakfast included**

### Day 4: Depart Khao Lak

Our time in Khao Lak has come to an end and today we make the short journey to Phuket Airport to begin our journey home to the UK. **Breakfast included**



Ramada Resort by Wyndham, Khao Lak  
Above: Swimming pool; Below: Deluxe Oasis room

### Your Khao Lak beach holiday extension includes:

Three nights accommodation with daily breakfast, domestic flight from Chiang Mai to Phuket, and all transfers.

Deluxe Oasis room: from **£595** per person  
Oceanfront Villa: from **£795** per person

**Single occupancy supplement from £275**

## Departure Dates & Prices

### 2025 Departures

10 October 2025	<b>£7,995</b> per person
23 November 2025	<b>£7,995</b> per person
26 December 2025	<b>£7,995</b> per person

### 2026 Departures

17 January 2026	<b>£7,995</b> per person
08 February 2026	<b>£7,995</b> per person
02 March 2026	<b>£7,995</b> per person

This itinerary is correct at the time of printing. For the latest information, dates and prices and details of any Special Offers we may have available, please visit [distantjourneys.co.uk/MRE](https://distantjourneys.co.uk/MRE)

### Prices

Prices are per person based on two people sharing a twin or double room.

**Single occupancy supplement**  
£1,295

### Deposit

£2,295 per person if travelling Economy Class, £3,145 per person if travelling in Premium Economy, and £4,945 per person for Business Class.

### Flight upgrades

Emirates upgrade to Business Class from £3,895 per person return.

### Visa information

A visa is required for travel to Laos. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 154-155.

### Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 156-159.

## Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

**Call FREE on 0800 141 3702**

**Monday - Friday** 9.00am - 5.30pm **Saturday** 9.00am - 5.00pm  
**Sunday** Open in peak season. See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.  
**Email:** [enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk)





**NEW**

# The Very Best of Vietnam

📅 21 days   💷 from £4,095pp   🌍 October 2025 – November 2026

Vietnam is a wondrous kaleidoscope of natural landscapes and diverse cultural experiences, and on our 21-day tour you will truly experience The Very Best of Vietnam. As you would expect from Distant Journeys, as we travel from north to south, we experience all the must-see attractions, and explore off the beaten path to find those hidden gems that make this such a compelling country to visit.

We immerse ourselves in the bustling, Vietnamese coffee-fuelled cities, taste its sumptuous cuisine and explore its ancient history through its museums, temples and pagodas. Once-in-a-lifetime experiences await around every corner, from Hue's Imperial City to the magnificent scenery in Ninh Binh and the waterways of the Mekong Delta. We also include a wonderful two-night cruise in Ha Long Bay. Expect emerald waters punctured by towering karsts, with a magical sunset as the backdrop – a true highlight of our tour.









Our train journey to Hue is one of Vietnam's most scenic rail routes and is sure to be another highlight. Some say the journey is just as important as the destination itself and as we travel through this Southeast Asian gem, the scenes that unfurl before us are truly phenomenal.

Our Very Best of Vietnam tour may be taken as either a group tour or a private tour.

Clockwise from above:  
Ha Long Bay, Vietnam; Floating market in Vietnam



## Your holiday includes

-  Return economy flights with Emirates from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow and any domestic flights within Vietnam. Inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. Alternatively, fly with Singapore Airlines via Singapore from London Heathrow or Manchester – a supplement, from £125 per person, will apply
-  Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portage and applicable taxes
-  Meals worth £405 per person, with daily breakfast, nine lunches and one dinner, and all meals on board the Au Co cruise
-  Unforgettable experiences including:
  - ★ City sightseeing tours in Hanoi, Hoi An, Hue and Ho Chi Minh City
  - ★ Enjoy a calligraphy lesson
  - ★ Learn about the traditional arts of paper-making and silk-weaving
  - ★ Experience a water puppet show
  - ★ Cruise through the breathtaking panoramas in Ninh Binh
  - ★ Visit Hoi An, the ancient capital of Vietnam
  - ★ Try your hand at cooking Vietnamese dishes
  - ★ Ride on a heritage train traversing spectacular Hai Van Pass
  - ★ Explore the intriguing Cu Chi Tunnels
  - ★ Learn about local life in the Mekong Delta
-  All-inclusive cruise on board the Au Co:
  - ✓ Two-night cruise around Ha Long Bay and Lan Ha Bay
  - ✓ All land excursions and selected on-board experiences
  - ✓ All meals
  - ✓ Welcome drink
-  Services of an experienced Tour Manager
-  All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
-  Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 156-159.



Temple of Literature, Hanoi



Street vendors

# The Very Best of Vietnam

Days 1 to 5: UK - Hanoi - Ninh Binh

## Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Emirates via Dubai from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow. No matter which airport you choose, there will be no additional cost. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

### Alternative airline – Singapore Airlines

If you prefer, you may fly with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow or Manchester, via Singapore, for a supplement, from £125 per person.

## Day 2: Hanoi, 3 nights

Those flying with Emirates to Hanoi will travel via Dubai. After clearing customs, we transfer to our hotel, the delightful Pan Pacific Hanoi, which is our home for the next three nights. This evening, our Tour Manager hosts a welcome drink so we can get to know our fellow travellers and learn more about the adventures which lie ahead. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 3: Hanoi

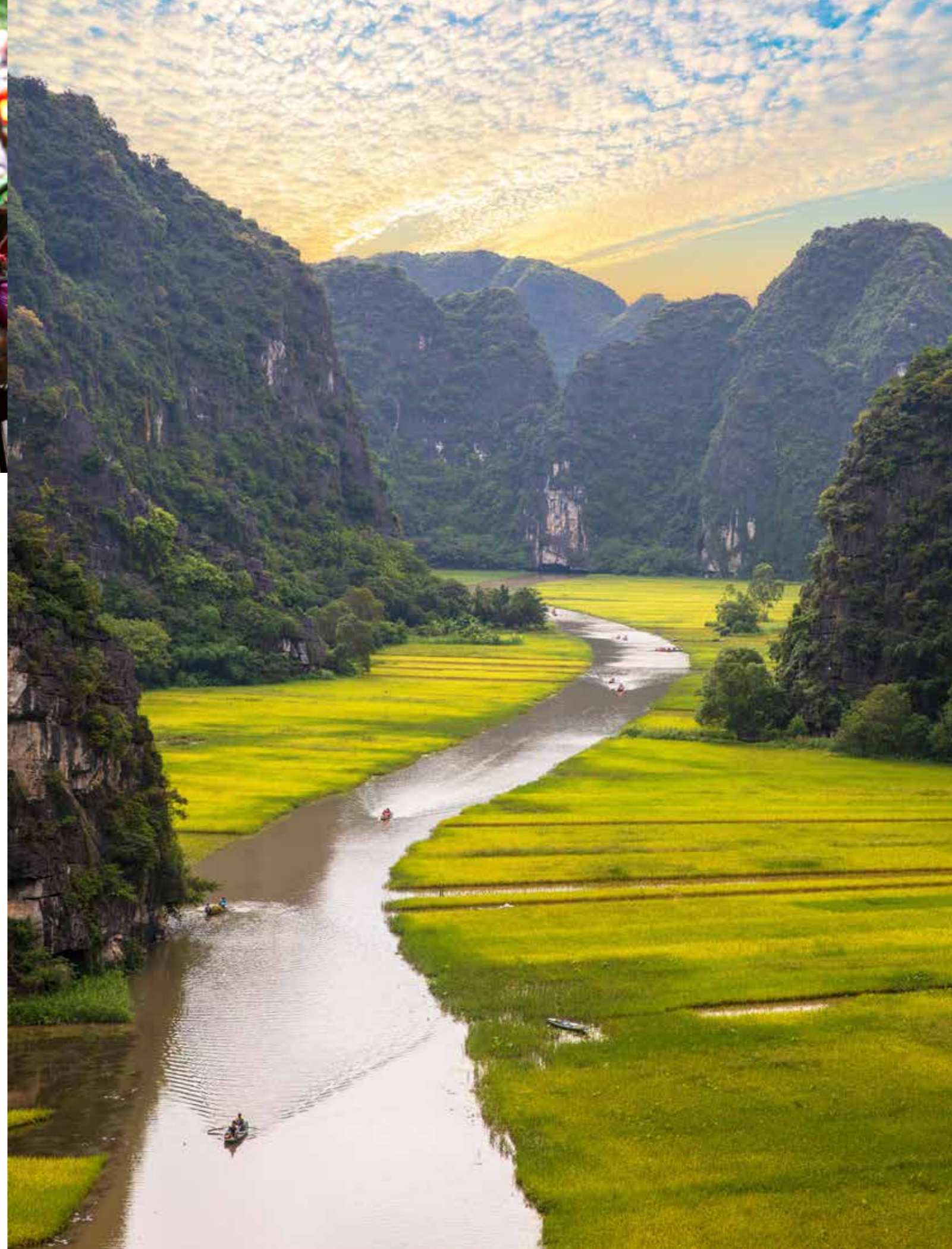
After breakfast, we embark on an enriching journey through Hanoi's cultural heritage. We start at the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology, where we gain an understanding of the diversity across the country. Wander through the meticulously arranged exhibits showcasing the ingenuity and artistry of Vietnam's indigenous peoples. Next, we head to the Old Quarter for a unique calligraphy lesson, taking guidance from our master calligrapher. Lunch is served in this charming old French building before a short cyclo (similar to a rickshaw) ride to explore the backstreets and colonial architecture of the area. We finish our day of sightseeing at the Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first national university, dating back to the 11th century. We have the chance to stroll through its serene courtyards and ancient pavilions before returning to our hotel. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 4: Hanoi

Today, we visit Dai Yen Village, which is now a living museum, where time-honoured traditions and craftsmanship are still thriving. Here, we delve into the ancient art of paper-making, learning how to apply the traditional techniques in the modern world. Our afternoon has been left free so you can continue to enjoy the delights of the city at your own pace. You may wish to join a specialist cookery class to explore the five fundamental tastes of Vietnamese cuisine. **Breakfast included**

## Day 5: Ninh Binh, 3 nights

This morning, we embark on a picturesque journey from Hanoi to the enchanting rural provinces of Nam Dinh and Ninh Binh. We stop in Co Chat Village, renowned for the ancient art of silk weaving, where we admire the skilled artisans at work. Following lunch, we travel to Hong Quang Village, where we are mesmerised by the traditional art of water puppetry. Unique to Vietnam, this classic art form comes to life in one of the most authentic settings, where the artform has been preserved by the villagers for generations. We travel onwards to Ninh Binh and our hotel for the next three nights, Jiva Hoa Lu Retreat. **Breakfast and lunch included**



Ninh Binh



Ha Long Bay



Cookery Class



Heritage train, Hai Van pass

# The Very Best of Vietnam

Days 6 to 14: Ninh Binh - Hoa Lu - Ha Long Bay - Hoi An - Hue

## Day 6: Ninh Binh

### Tour Highlight

We begin our day with a visit to the Four Paws Sanctuary, offering conservation and protection for rescued bears. Learn about the stories and behaviours of these majestic animals, as well as the ongoing efforts to ensure their well-being. After lunch, we embark on a scenic boat ride through the caves and countryside of Tam Coc. As we glide along the still waterways, surrounded by dramatic limestone karsts and lush rice paddies, we experience the peaceful coexistence of nature and local life. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 7: Hoa Lu

We journey to Hoa Lu this morning, once the ancient capital of Vietnam. We explore its historic temples of the Dinh and Le dynasties, surrounded by towering limestone karsts. We continue to Bich Dong Pagoda, a serene temple complex nestled in the mountainside. For those that wish, a climb to the top will reward with stunning views. Following lunch, we travel back to our hotel for an afternoon to relax and soak up our surroundings. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 8: Ha Long Bay, 2 nights

### Tour Highlight

After breakfast, we say farewell to Ninh Binh and head to Ha Long. Ha Long Bay is one of Vietnam's must-see destinations, famed for its emerald waters, staggering limestone islands and untouched rainforests. Once in Ha Long, we travel in style on our first-class vessel, the Au Co, for a stunning two-night cruise around this UNESCO World Heritage Site. We enjoy lunch whilst cruising into the bay. We arrive at the fascinating floating village of Cua Van, with a population of just over 700, to see how these remarkably independent people live. Our day ends with dinner on deck, watching the sun set over this dazzling paradise. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

## Day 9: Lan Ha and Ha Long Bays

Start your day, if you wish, with a Tai Chi lesson on the sun deck, before we cruise through the spectacularly serene Lan Ha Bay. Arriving at Cat Ba Island, we venture on a short cycle ride to Viet Hai Village, where we learn about community life in the heart of Cat Ba National Park. Trinh Nu Cave, with its stunning array of stalactites and stalagmites, is our next destination, at the heart of picturesque Ha Long Bay. Our evening is reserved for a delicious on-board barbecue with fellow passengers. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

## Day 10: Hoi An, 3 nights

After breakfast we head to Ha Long's famous Sung Sot Cave, before returning to the mainland whilst soaking up the beautiful panoramas. Disembarking, we return to Hanoi Airport for our flight to Da Nang. On arrival, we journey to Hoi An and check in to our hotel for the next three nights, the Allegro Hoi An. **Breakfast included**

## Day 11: Walking tour of Hoi An

### Tour Highlight

Today is our chance to explore the quaint city of Hoi An on foot. We discover former merchant houses, colourful communal halls, narrow streets lined with lanterns, and the iconic Japanese Bridge. A visit to the Hoi An Folklore Museum helps us understand the life of the people who call this ancient city their home. Late afternoon, we board a traditional boat for a journey along the scenic Thu Bon River. Enjoy watching local life along the riverside and take in a stunning sunset as we arrive at a secret venue for dinner. This garden is our peaceful haven, where we can unwind after our busy day and indulge in the delicious cuisine of central Vietnam. **Breakfast and dinner included**

## Day 12: Hoi An Freedom Day

Today has been left free, so you may choose how to spend your time. Perhaps visit the local community of Tra Que Village and learn about the techniques used by its farmers, then enjoy a delicious lunch made from locally-grown ingredients. Alternatively, you may prefer to visit the enchanting temples of My Son, shop for souvenirs or simply relax and enjoy our hotel's facilities. **Breakfast included**

## We Recommend

### Tra Que Village

Experience the Vietnamese countryside and meet the farmers of Tra Que Village, where organic vegetables are produced using traditional methods.



## Day 13: Hue, 2 nights

### Tour Highlight

After breakfast, we venture to an organic farm set up by a team of passionate locals, to learn about Vietnamese cuisine and the brilliant balance of aromatics, heat, sweetness, sourness and umami that make up the dishes they are so proud of. We hear inspiring stories and pick up fresh ingredients ourselves and learn how to create some traditional dishes. Once complete, we sit down to dine on our home-cooked creations. In the afternoon, we board a heritage train as we travel to Hue. This journey is one of Vietnam's most scenic rail routes, offering beautiful vistas as it traverses the famous Hai Van Pass. We wind through lush mountains and picturesque bays before arriving into Hue and checking in to the Eldora Hotel for the next two nights. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 14: Hue's Imperial Citadel

Today is all about Hue's imperial history. We start at the UNESCO-listed Imperial Citadel, faced with ancient walls and regal palaces, giving us a glimpse into the grandeur of a bygone era. We wander through the site enjoying the An Dinh Palace, a unique garden house with French influences, and engage with the former head of the Conservation Centre Hue to gain exclusive insights into the royal abodes. After lunch at the home of our guide, we explore Minh Mang Tomb, a serene site for the famous king. The tomb is a masterpiece of intricate carvings, pavilions, and courtyards, surrounded by picturesque gardens. As late afternoon arrives, we relax on a scenic boat cruise along the Perfume River and indulge in afternoon tea. A wonderful way to end a fascinating day. **Breakfast and lunch included**





Notre Dame Cathedral, Ho Chi Minh City



Vietnamese banh khot pancakes



Harvesting water lilies, Mekong Delta

## The Very Best of Vietnam

Days 15 to 19: Ho Chi Minh City - Cu Chi Tunnels - Cai Be - Mekong Delta

### Day 15: Ho Chi Minh City, 2 nights

Following a leisurely morning, we head to the airport for our flight to Ho Chi Minh City, and transfer to the Liberty Central Saigon Riverside Hotel, where we stay for the next two nights. Often referred to by its former name, Saigon, Ho Chi Minh City is a cosmopolitan metropolis where the past is entwined with modern skyscrapers. The remainder of the day is ours to enjoy at leisure. Our hotel is ideally located in front of the Saigon River and only a short stroll from Nguyen Hue walking street, perfect for an afternoon stroll. **Breakfast included**

### Day 16: Cu Chi Tunnels & Ho Chi Minh City

We leave the city behind us this morning as we head for the Cu Chi Tunnels, once the stronghold of the Viet Cong. We explore the narrow tunnels that were so integral to the conflict, being living quarters, supply routes and hospitals. Following lunch, we return to the city and take a drive along Dong Khoi Street, featured so prominently in Graham Greene's famous novel, *The Quiet American*, passing Saigon Opera House, the Central Post Office and Notre Dame Cathedral. We discover the Reunification Palace, a former bastion of the South Vietnamese Government frozen in time. Our day finishes with a visit to the War Remnants Museum, providing thought-provoking insight into the war and its devastating impact on human life. **Breakfast and lunch included**

### Day 17: Cai Be, 2 nights

#### Tour Highlight

Today, we travel to My Tho, gateway to the Mekong Delta. We board our wooden sampan boat and sail down the river, floating past fish farms and houseboats. Transferring to smaller rowing boats, we take a slow ride along canals shaded by water coconut trees. Stopping at a lush island, we meet Mr Hai Phuong who shows us around his farm, before we enjoy a lunch of local delicacies like 'banh khot' (savory mini pancakes). Exploring this tranquil island further, we stop at a moonshine maker, visit a bee farm, and meet a professional basket weaver. We then return to the mainland and Cai Be for our two-night stay at the charming Mekong Riverside Boutique Resort. **Breakfast and lunch included**

### Day 18: Mekong Delta

After breakfast, we travel by tuk-tuk to delve deeper into local life in Tra Vinh. Our first stop is at a local family home where we watch rice cake making, and enjoy tea and lively conversation with our welcoming hosts. We then visit a Khmer artist who crafts statues and masks for temples and take part in a private blessing at the 900-year-old Ang Pagoda, ensuring us the best of luck for our onward travels. We enjoy a delicious Khmer lunch prior to visiting a Wax Coconut farm, a hidden gem only found in Tra Vinh. **Breakfast and lunch included**

### Day 19: Ho Chi Minh City, Overnight

After a leisurely breakfast, we return to Ho Chi Minh City and the Liberty Central Saigon Riverside Hotel. Our afternoon is free to relax, or for those who want to squeeze a little more into their holiday, you may decide to partake in a brewery tour and tasting, or a dinner cruise on the Saigon River. **Breakfast included**



Ho Chi Minh City



Making traditional Vietnamese hats



Vietnamese savory dumplings

# The Very Best of Vietnam

Days 20 to 21: Ho Chi Minh City - UK

## Day 20: Depart Ho Chi Minh City

As our flight departs in the early evening, there is further time to explore Ho Chi Minh City or to purchase any last-minute souvenirs. We head for the airport to embark on our return flights with Emirates via Dubai or Singapore Airlines via Singapore. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 21: Arrive UK

We arrive into our chosen airport this morning. With the fantastic memories created on our journey, our Vietnamese adventure has come to an end. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

### Holiday Extension

Why not extend your holiday with a visit to Luang Prabang in Laos?

**4 Days From £895**

The UNESCO World Heritage town of Luang Prabang is a gem of the tiny land-locked country of Laos. Step back in time and discover its unique magical charm for yourself.

**Please see pages 128-129 for more details.**

## Homebound Stopovers from only £345 per person

If you would like to explore somewhere new on your way home, a stopover is a perfect way to make your journey more relaxing and to experience a wonderful new place.

### Singapore – M Hotel

**Two nights from £345 per person**  
Occupying a great location in Singapore city centre, M Hotel is a modern, stylish hotel offering a warm welcome and a range of services alongside comfortable, contemporary accommodation.



### Sentosa Island – Rasa Sentosa Resort

**Two nights from £495 per person**  
Stop over in style at Shangri-La's Rasa Sentosa Resort, a beautiful beachfront resort on Singapore's Sentosa Island, only 20 minutes from downtown Singapore.



### Dubai – Marriott Hotel Al Jaddaf

**Two nights from £345 per person**  
Located within easy reach of Dubai Mall, the Marriott Al Jaddaf is the perfect alternative to a beachside hotel and a great location from which to explore downtown Dubai.



Your stopover includes return airport transfers, two nights accommodation and daily breakfast.

# Departure Dates & Prices

## 2025 Departures

29 October 2025\* **£4,095** per person

## 2026 Departures

23 January 2026 **£4,095** per person

20 February 2026 **£4,095** per person

07 March 2026 **£4,095** per person

07 November 2026 **£4,095** per person

\* This departure uses Indochine, on our Ha Long Bay cruise.

## Private Touring Supplements

2 guests from **£1,195** per person

3 guests from **£995** per person

4 guests from **£795** per person

5 guests from **£695** per person

6 guests from **£595** per person

If you are interested in a Private Tour for more than six people, please call us to discuss.

This itinerary is correct at the time of printing. For the latest information, dates and prices and details of any Special Offers we may have available, please visit [distantjourneys.co.uk/VBOV](http://distantjourneys.co.uk/VBOV)

## Prices

Prices are per person based on two people sharing a twin or double room.

**Single occupancy supplement**  
£1,095

## Deposit

£1,000 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,950 per person if travelling in Premium Economy, and £3,750 per person for Business Class.

## Flight upgrades

Emirates upgrade to Business Class from £3,595 per person return.

Singapore Airlines upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,395 per person return, or Business Class from £3,595 per person return.

## Private Touring

The same expertly crafted itinerary and hand-picked hotels, combined with the exclusivity and convenience of your own friendly and knowledgeable guides, your own private vehicle and your own choice of departure date.

## Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 156-159.

## Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

**Call FREE on 0800 141 3702**

**Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm Sunday** Open in peak season. See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.  
**Email:** [enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk)





## Your holiday includes

-  Return economy flights with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow, or Manchester (selected dates), inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. Alternatively, fly with Emirates from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow – a supplement, from £200 per person, will apply. All domestic flights within Vietnam & Cambodia
-  Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portage and applicable taxes
-  Meals worth £669 per person, with daily breakfasts, five lunches, one dinner, and all meals on board the Au Co and Pandaw Mekong River cruise
-  Unforgettable experiences including:
  - ★ City sightseeing tours in Hanoi, Hoi An, Hue, Ho Chi Minh City and Phnom Penh
  - ★ Learn to cook Vietnamese dishes
  - ★ Explore the intriguing Cu Chi Tunnels
  - ★ Magnificent temples of Angkor Wat

Clockwise from above:  
Repairing fishing nets, Vietnam; Boy on Water Buffalo, Cambodia

# The Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia

 22 days  from £5,595pp  February 2025 – March 2026



Vietnam and Cambodia are the very essence of Indochina, and are a magical part of the world to explore. Ancient and modern worlds collide to create a truly thrilling adventure; the hustle and bustle of local markets, phenomenal landscapes, archaeological treasures and tranquil villages.

With gastronomic delights, friendly people and so much of their unique character and traditions still in evidence, Vietnam and Cambodia are a joy to discover on Distant Journeys' Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia escorted tour.


As you would expect from Distant Journeys, you'll find a number of once-in-a-lifetime experiences within our itinerary. There is a very special two-night cruise on Vietnam's breathtaking Ha Long Bay, and we explore one of Asia's most awe-inspiring landmarks, Angkor Wat in Cambodia. What's more, a wonderful three-night cruise on the mighty Mekong is also included – a relaxing and delightful way to experience and explore this region as we travel between Vietnam and Cambodia.


You can, if you prefer, travel on our Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia tour as a Private Tour. Providing exclusivity and convenience, our Private Tours allow you a wider choice of departure dates, the privacy of your own vehicle and driver, and knowledgeable local guides.



-  All-inclusive cruise on the Au Co, Ha Long Bay:
  - ✓ Two-night cruise around Ha Long Bay and Lan Ha Bay
  - ✓ All land excursions and selected on-board experiences
  - ✓ All meals and welcome drink
-  All-inclusive cruise on the RV Bassac Pandaw, Mekong River:
  - ✓ Three-night cruise on the Mekong River between Vietnam and Cambodia
  - ✓ All land excursions and selected on-board experiences
  - ✓ All meals and selected alcoholic and soft drinks

 Services of experienced Tour Manager

 All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout

 Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 156-159.



Temple of Literature, Hanoi, Vietnam



Hoi An, Vietnam



Ha Long Bay, Vietnam

# The Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia

Days 1 to 10: UK - Hanoi - Ha Long Bay - Hoi An - Hue

## Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Singapore Airlines from London Heathrow. Flights with Singapore Airlines from Manchester are available on selected dates, please speak with one of our travel experts for more details. No matter which airport you choose, there will be no additional cost. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

### Alternative airline – Emirates

If you prefer, you may fly with Emirates via Dubai from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, London Stansted, Manchester, Birmingham, Newcastle, Edinburgh or Glasgow. Supplements for Emirates start at £200 per person.

## Day 2: Hanoi, 3 nights

All flights with Singapore Airlines to Hanoi travel via Singapore. After clearing customs, we transfer to our hotel and our home for our first three nights in Vietnam, the Pan Pacific Hanoi. Early evening, enjoy a welcome drink with your Tour Manager and fellow travellers, so we may become better acquainted and learn more about our adventure ahead. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 3: Hanoi

Hanoi is an immediate assault on the senses. We begin our morning tour at the Ethnology Museum for a unique insight into the 54 ethnic groups that make up the Vietnamese people, before viewing the 11th century Temple of Literature. Following lunch, we visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, the final resting place of 'Uncle Ho', and see the one pillar pagoda before embarking on a cyclo (similar to a rickshaw) ride through the Old Quarter. Packed with charming colonial architecture, Buddhist temples and pagodas, the ancient commercial streets are named after the original businesses that were housed here. We end our day experiencing a traditional water puppet show. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 4: Hanoi Freedom Day

Today offers us the freedom that this wonderfully old-fashioned city deserves. With the full support of our Tour Manager, perhaps enjoy the delights of Hanoi at your own pace, or indulge in a specialist cookery class to explore the five fundamental tastes of Vietnamese cuisine. We can also help arrange a full day excursion to 'Ha Long Bay on Land', Ninh Binh. **Breakfast included**

## Day 5: Ha Long Bay, 2 nights

### Tour Highlight

Ha Long Bay is one of Vietnam's must-see destinations, famed for its emerald waters, staggering limestone islands, and untouched rainforests. Once in Ha Long, we travel in style on our first-class vessel, the Au Co, for a stunning two-night cruise around this UNESCO World Heritage Site. After enjoying lunch whilst cruising into the bay, we head to the fascinating floating village of Cua Van, with a population of just over 700, to see how these remarkably independent people live. The day ends with dinner on deck, watching the sun set over this dazzling paradise. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

## Day 6: Lan Ha and Ha Long Bays

Why not start your day with a Tai Chi lesson on the sun deck, before we cruise through the spectacularly serene Lan Ha Bay? Once arriving at Cat Ba Island, we venture on a short cycle ride to Viet Hai Village, where we learn about community life in the heart of Cat Ba National Park. Trinh Nu Cave, with its stunning array of stalactites and stalagmites, is our next destination at the heart of the picturesque Ha Long Bay. The evening is reserved for a delicious on-board barbecue with fellow passengers. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

## Day 7: Hoi An, 3 nights

After breakfast we head to Ha Long's famous Sung Sot Cave, before returning to the mainland whilst soaking up the beautiful panoramas. Once there, we take the awaiting coach back to Hanoi, before flying to Da Nang. After landing, we journey to archaic Hoi An, settling into either the first-class Bel Marina Hoi An Resort, or the Allegro Hoi An, where we stay for the next three nights. **Breakfast included**

## Day 8: Walking tour of Hoi An

### Tour Highlight

A famed UNESCO World Heritage Site of grand architecture, the once major trading port of Hoi An is a fascinating time-warp of Japanese temples, Chinese warehouses, and Dutch and French colonial houses. We embark on a tour of Hoi An by foot, encompassing the beautiful Chua Ong Pagoda, symbolic Phuc Kien Assembly Hall, pristinely preserved Tan Ky House, and the 17th century Japanese Bridge, before taking a scenic boat trip along the Thu Bon River. This afternoon we head to an organic farm boasting over fifty varieties of medicinal herbs, fruits, and edible flowers to engage in a unique cooking experience. Our knowledgeable chef will help us choose fresh ingredients and guide us through their preparation, with a focus on traditional local dishes. After mastering the recipes, we indulge in a delicious dinner of our culinary creations. **Breakfast and dinner included**

## Day 9: Hoi An Freedom Day

Today offers an opportunity to relax by the pool and enjoy the hotel's facilities, or alternatively head out for some further exploration of the area. It may appeal to you to join an optional lantern making class, or visit the captivating Hindu temple ruins of My Son, constructed as early as the 4th century. Alternatively, visit Tra Que Village and learn about community farming techniques, before enjoying a fresh and tasty lunch made from locally farmed produce. **Breakfast included**

### We Recommend

#### Tra Que Village

Experience the Vietnamese countryside and meet the farmers of Tra Que Village, where organic vegetables are produced using traditional methods.



## Day 10: Hue, 2 nights

This morning we are treated to a spectacular drive over the Hai Van Pass along the Vietnamese coastline, a 19km stretch of road climbing to 3,000ft (914m) above sea level. This afternoon we visit the majestic Minh Mang Tomb, before continuing to the iconic seven-storey Thien Mu Pagoda, where resident monks continue to practice. We cruise back into Hue city along the Perfume River, before arriving at our hotel, the centrally situated Eldora Hotel, where we spend two nights. **Breakfast and lunch included**



Imperial Citadel, Hue, Vietnam



Vietnamese cuisine

## The Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia

Days 11 to 14: Hue - Ho Chi Minh City - Cu Chi Tunnels - Mekong River

### Day 11: Hue's Imperial Citadel

Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and originally the settlement of the Cham people, the Imperial city of Hue was capital of Vietnam during the Nguyen Dynasty. After breakfast at the hotel we visit the Imperial Citadel, modelled on the Forbidden City in Beijing. The Citadel was sadly destroyed in the war, but, along with many surrounding buildings, is being slowly restored. Soon after we visit the dazzling former residence of Princess Ngoc Son, before taking time in the afternoon to do as we please. You may want to travel to the local village of Thanh Tien to learn the 300-year old craft of paper flower making. **Breakfast and lunch included**

### We Recommend

#### Thanh Tien

Learn the craft of paper flower making in the local village of Thanh Tien, where residents have been practicing this local tradition for over 300 years.



### Day 12: Ho Chi Minh City, 2 nights

After a leisurely breakfast today, we transfer to the airport for our flight to Ho Chi Minh City. On arrival, we visit the city's perfectly preserved French colonial Central Post Office, designed by the renowned French architect Gustav Eiffel, and take a stroll along Dong Khoi Street to the delicately featured Saigon Opera House. Later, we check in at either the upmarket Liberty Central Saigon Riverside Hotel, or the Liberty Central Saigon Citypoint Hotel, our accommodation for the next two nights. **Breakfast included**

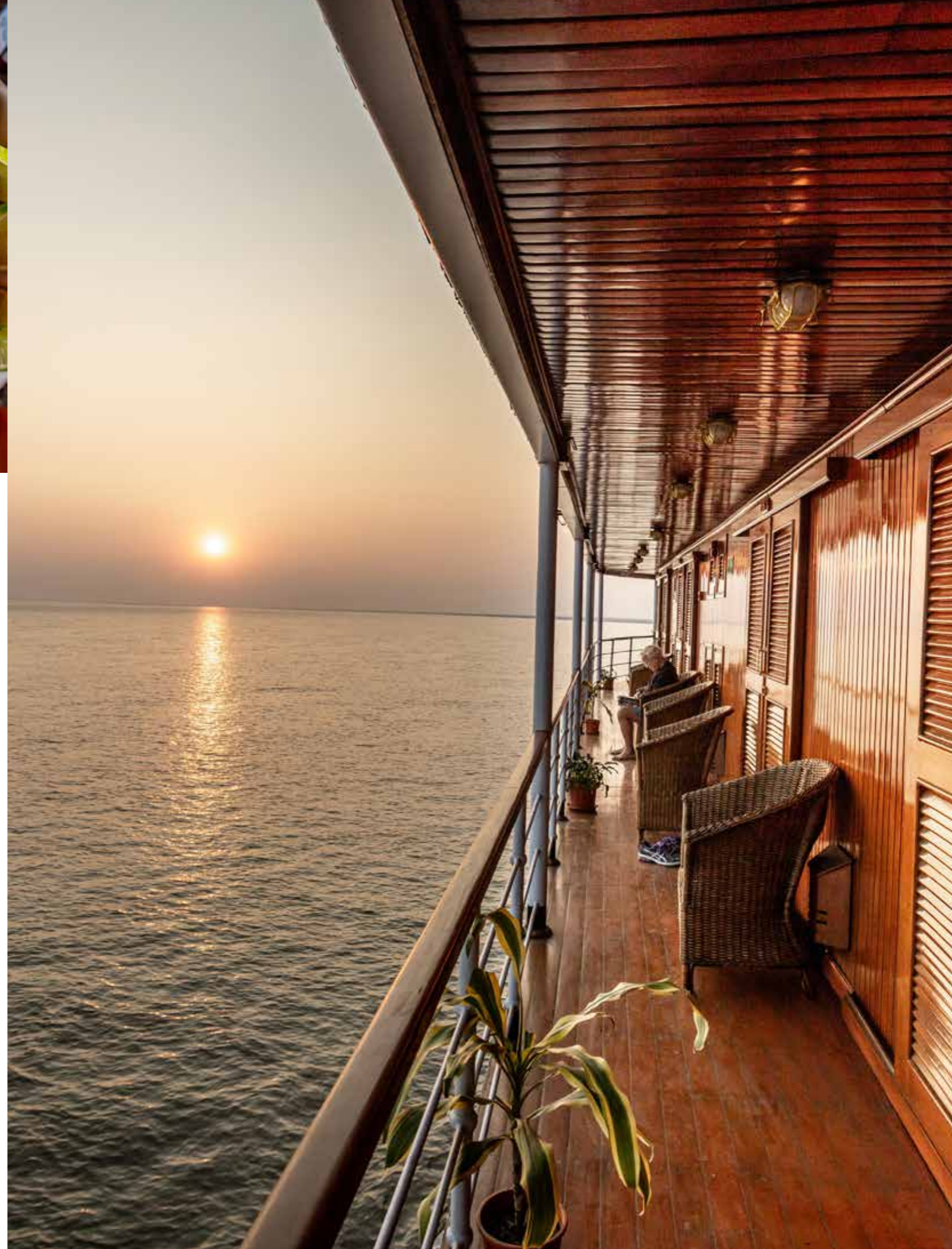
### Day 13: Cu Chi Tunnels & Ho Chi Minh City

After breakfast we journey into the stunning countryside – once the stronghold of the Viet Cong, who fought against the US and South Vietnamese governments in the Vietnam War. We visit the Cu Chi Tunnels – a vast, 250km underground network used by the Viet Cong as hiding spots, for communication, and as supply routes during the war. Our visit provides a captivating insight into how the Viet Cong lived and fought. Following lunch, we return to the city for an afternoon of sightseeing. We start with the War Remnants Museum, which provides thought-provoking insight into the war in Vietnam and its impact on human life. Our day finishes with a visit to the Reunification Palace, a former stronghold of the South Vietnamese Government. **Breakfast and lunch included**

### Day 14: Mekong River Cruise, 3 nights

#### Tour Highlight

Our fabulous three-night cruise between Vietnam and Cambodia begins this morning when we embark our vessel, the RV Bassac Pandaw. Pandaw's elegant, hand-built cruise ships are traditionally styled in brass and teak and customised to navigate the flowing waters of the Mekong Delta and river. As we set sail from the city towards the Mekong Delta, relax on the spacious sundeck and watch the towering skyscrapers of Ho Chi Minh City's bustling metropolis pass by. After a delicious lunch, we meet the crew and enjoy on-board entertainment from a Vietnamese cultural group. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected onboard drinks included**



Pandaw Mekong River Cruise



Mekong Delta, Vietnam



Rice paddy, Chau Doc, Vietnam



Royal Palace, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

# The Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia

Days 15 to 20: Mekong River - Phnom Penh - Siem Reap

## Day 15: Ben Tre, Mekong Delta

Enjoy a relaxing morning as we cruise along the historic Cho Gao Canal, gaining insights into life along the waterway as we go. Built by the French in 1876, the canal is still a vital link today in the transportation of goods to and from the city. As we reach Ben Tre, we disembark to travel by sampan (traditional wooden boat) through mangroves and bamboo forests to its abundant fruit orchards. This area is rich in birdlife, which we can savour as we journey slowly through the tranquil waterways before arriving at a village which specialises in making local products. We learn how these specialities are made and of course try them for ourselves! Back on board, enjoy the changing scenery as we sail deeper into the Mekong Delta towards Chau Doc. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected onboard drinks included**

## Day 16: Chau Doc - Sam Mountain - Vietnam/Cambodia Border

This morning we board minivans for a short drive to beautiful Sam Mountain, location of Phuoc Dien Tu, otherwise known as Hang Pagoda. We climb the 400 steps to the top of the pagoda, proclaimed an 'official historic monument' in 1980, and enjoy stunning views across the Mekong. Those not keen to undertake the climb can visit the local market instead. Afterwards, we travel by sampan to see the floating fish farms before witnessing the colourful spectacle of a traditional Lion dance, performed for us in a local village. Later, we return to our vessel and cruise the local canals before dropping anchor on the Vietnam / Cambodia border to go through immigration formalities. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner PLUS selected onboard drinks included**

## Day 17: Phnom Penh, overnight

After a wonderful three days cruising the Mekong River, our time on board the RV Bassac Pandaw has sadly come to an end, and we disembark in Phnom Penh, where we visit the striking Royal Palace – the official residence of Cambodia's King Norodom Sihamoni – built in 1866. We also have the privilege of viewing the Silver Pagoda, whose floor is covered with 5,000 silver tiles, and the magnificent, near life-size Buddha, made from solid gold and encrusted with almost 10,000 diamonds.

Despite the splendour and the optimism that you will no doubt observe in Cambodia, there is no escaping its dark recent history, in which Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge regime (1975-79) cost thousands of innocent people their lives. To learn more about these troubled times, we first visit Tuol Sleng (also known as S-21), the former high school turned prison where captives of the Khmer Rouge were held, before their fate at the Killing Fields awaited them. Today it is a museum, where the haunting faces of some 17,000 people who passed through its gates are displayed. Only seven survivors lived to tell the tale. From here we journey on to the Killing Fields of Choeung Ek, where a memorial provides an emotive yet chilling tribute to the fallen. This afternoon's visit is a sobering and powerful cultural experience, providing us with an important insight into the resilience and spirit of the Cambodian people. Later in the afternoon we arrive at the Palace Gate Hotel, for our overnight stay. **Breakfast and lunch included**

## Day 18: Siem Reap, 3 nights

### Tour Highlight

Our journey to Siem Reap begins with a transfer to the airport for our short flight. It is here that we explore Asia's most famous and highly anticipated landmark, the temples of Angkor. This amazing monument was originally constructed as a Hindu temple dedicated to the God, Vishnu. This afternoon we visit the South Gate of Angkor where the statues of good and evil line the entrance, and the richly decorated Bayon, adorning the face of the Buddhist King Jayavarman VII. The afternoon sees us visit 10th century Hindu Temple, Phimeankas, the Terrace of Elephants and the Terrace of Leper Kings, located inside the walled enclosure of the Royal Palace of Angkor Thom. After an epic day, we finish with a sunset cruise along the moat of Angkor Thom. Our final three nights in Cambodia will be spent at the Borei Angkor Resort & Spa. **Breakfast included**

## Day 19: Angkor Wat and Ta Prohm

### Tour Highlight

Angkor Wat is synonymous with Cambodia, and the temple's famous five spires are featured on the country's national flag. For early risers amongst us, there is the opportunity to experience sunrise over this epic temple, at an additional cost. Following breakfast, we return to Angkor Wat, the world's largest religious monument, to fully discover this enchanting temple, which features high classical style Khmer architecture. Spread across a massive site, we weave throughout the bewitching temple grounds, experiencing the alchemy of such incomprehensible designs. We close the morning's adventure with a visit to the temple of Ta Prohm, where tree roots hold this spectacular shrine together. The afternoon is reserved for your own leisure, though the evening offers the option to visit the Phare Circus, which supports the development of Khmer youth through a programme of arts and performance. **Breakfast included**

## Day 20: Siem Reap Freedom Day

Our Tour Manager will be on hand to help us make the most of this Freedom Day in Siem Reap. Having spent time exploring the city's most iconic attraction, Angkor Wat, you may wish to indulge in other experiences in and around the city, particularly those linked to social enterprises formed to support the local people. How about learning to cook traditional Khmer cuisine, or visiting one of the city's thriving local markets? You may choose to explore a neighbouring village, where you can interact with locals and discover more about their rural daily lives. Or perhaps it is time for you to simply relax and unwind? The choice is yours. **Breakfast included**

### We Recommend

#### Visit a local village

Learn about life in a local village. Spend time with the community and try your hand at a few traditional skills.





Angkor Wat, Siem Reap, Cambodia



Apsara dancers, Cambodia



Ta Phrom, Angkor Wat, Cambodia

# The Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia

Days 21 to 22: Siem Reap - UK

## Day 21: Depart Siem Reap

Take the opportunity to relax before the homeward journey, or squeeze some last-minute souvenir shopping around Siem Reap before we depart for the airport. Our flights operate via Singapore with Singapore Airlines, or Bangkok and Dubai with Emirates. **Breakfast, and in-flight meals and drinks included**

## Day 22: Arrive UK

After 22 amazing days full of unforgettable memories, our incredible adventure comes to a close as we arrive into our chosen UK airport this morning. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

## Holiday Extension

Why not extend your holiday with a visit to Luang Prabang in Laos?



4 Days From £895

The UNESCO World Heritage town of Luang Prabang is a gem of the tiny land-locked country of Laos. Step back in time and discover its unique magical charm for yourself.

**Please see pages 128-129 for more details.**

## Homebound Stopovers from only £345 per person

If you would like to explore somewhere new on your way home, a stopover is a perfect way to make your journey more relaxing and to experience a wonderful new place.

### Singapore – M Hotel

**Two nights from £345 per person**  
Occupying a great location in Singapore city centre, M Hotel is a modern, stylish hotel offering a warm welcome and a range of services alongside comfortable, contemporary accommodation.



### Sentosa Island – Rasa Sentosa Resort

**Two nights from £495 per person**  
Stop over in style at Shangri-La's Rasa Sentosa Resort, a beautiful beachfront resort on Singapore's Sentosa Island, only 20 minutes from downtown Singapore.



### Dubai – Marriott Hotel Al Jaddaf

**Two nights from £345 per person**  
Located within easy reach of Dubai Mall, the Marriott Al Jaddaf is the perfect alternative to a beachside hotel and a great location from which to explore downtown Dubai.



Your stopover includes return airport transfers, two nights accommodation and daily breakfast.

# Departure Dates & Prices

## 2025 Departures

23 February 2025	£5,595 per person
12 October 2025	£5,795 per person
09 November 2025	£5,795 per person

## 2026 Departures

04 January 2026	£5,995 per person
18 January 2026	£5,995 per person
20 January 2026*	£6,195 per person
15 February 2026	£5,995 per person
17 February 2026*	£6,195 per person
01 March 2026	£5,995 per person

\* These departures operate as a 23-day itinerary, with a four-night Pandaw cruise between Phnom Penh and Siem Reap. Please see our website for details.

## Private Touring Supplements

2 guests	from £1,595 per person
3 guests	from £1,395 per person
4 guests	from £1,295 per person
5 guests	from £1,195 per person
6 guests	from £1,095 per person

If you are interested in a Private Tour for more than six people, please call us to discuss.

This itinerary is correct at the time of printing. For the latest information, dates and prices and details of any Special Offers we may have available, please visit [distantjourneys.co.uk/VBOVC](http://distantjourneys.co.uk/VBOVC)

## Prices

Prices are per person based on two people sharing a twin or double room.

## Single occupancy supplement

February 2025: £1,395  
October 2025 – March 2026: £1,495\*  
\*20 January & 17 February 2026: £1,595

## Deposit

£1,000 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,950 per person if travelling in Premium Economy, and £3,750 per person for Business Class.

## Flight upgrades

Singapore Airlines upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,395 per person return, or Business Class from £3,595 per person return.

Emirates upgrade to Premium Economy^ from £1,195 per person return, or Business Class from £4,145 per person return.

^Only available on certain flights.

## Private Touring

The same expertly crafted itinerary and hand-picked hotels, combined with the exclusivity and convenience of your own friendly and knowledgeable guides, your own private vehicle and a choice of departure dates.

## Visa information

A visa is required for travel to Cambodia. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 154-155.

## Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 156-159.

## Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

**Call FREE on 0800 141 3702**

**Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm**  
**Sunday** Open in peak season. See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.  
**Email:** [enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk)



# Borneo Holiday Extensions



## Kota Kinabalu Beach from only £745 per person

Clockwise from above: Shangri-La Rasa Ria; swimming pool; aerial view; sunset at the beach

Just an hour north of Kota Kinabalu city lies the beautiful private beach of Pantai Dalit. Belonging to the Shangri-La Rasa Ria, Kota Kinabalu, this 3km stretch of golden sandy beach is fringed by a 64-acre forest reserve and makes a perfect ending to our Very Best of Borneo holiday.

**Day 1: Pantai Dalit, Kota Kinabalu, 3 nights**  
Saying farewell to some of our travelling companions as they head to the airport and their flight home, we head north towards the coast and the Shangri-La Rasa Ria. Sitting on the golden shores of the South China Sea, this beautiful beachfront resort is perfect for a relaxing beach stay. Following check-in, the remainder of the day is at leisure to enjoy the hotel's facilities and stunning location. **Breakfast included**

**Day 2: Freedom Day**  
Today is at leisure to spend as you please. Our secluded location, nestled between rainforest and a golden sandy beach, is ideal for relaxation. Perhaps enjoy a day by the resort swimming pool, or head to the beach and enjoy one of the many water sports on offer. However you choose to spend your day, enjoy! **Breakfast included**

**Day 3: Freedom Day**  
A further day of leisure to relax and unwind. Perhaps treat yourself to a soothing massage or treatment in the hotel's spa? Or maybe enjoy a round of golf on the 18-hole golf course? With over sixty activities available at the resort, there is plenty of choice. For those wanting to experience more of Borneo's wildlife, flora and fauna, the hotel offers a range of activities, including six walking trails in its nature reserve. **Breakfast included**

**Day 4 Depart Borneo**  
All good things must come to an end and today we return to Kota Kinabalu Airport to begin our journey home to the UK. **Breakfast included**

**Our Holiday Extension to Kota Kinabalu Beach is available with the following tours:**

**The Very Best of Borneo**  
See pages 68-77

**Your Kota Kinabalu holiday extension includes:**

Three nights accommodation with daily breakfast, and all transfers.

Deluxe Room: From **£745** per person  
Seaview Room: From **£825** per person

**Single occupancy supplement from £285**

## Gaya Island from only £995 per person

Clockwise from above: Gaya Island Resort; lobby; resort beach

Situated off the coast of Kota Kinabalu, Pulau Gaya is the largest of five islands that make up the Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park. The island became a forest reserve in 1923 and Sabah's second National Park in 1974. Today it is a tropical paradise and the ideal place for a relaxing escape.

**Day 1: Gaya Island, 3 nights**  
We bid a fond farewell to friends we have made over the last few weeks on our Borneo adventure and head to the coast for our short speedboat transfer to beautiful Pulau Gaya. Our chosen hotel is the Gaya Island Resort, nestled in the tranquil bay of Malohom and surrounded by lush rainforest, mangroves and pristine coral reefs. Our accommodation is in elegantly-designed hillside villas, offering breathtaking views of the mangrove forests, tropical rainforest or South China Sea. Settle in and enjoy the tranquillity of your environment. **Breakfast included**

**Day 2 Freedom Day**  
A Freedom Day to choose how you spend your day. Gaya Island Resort is dedicated to marine conservation through its on-site Marine Centre, which focusses on turtle rescue, coral reef restoration and educational programmes. Explore the resort's protected coral reefs, relax on the pristine beaches, or embark on nature treks through the rainforest. **Breakfast included**

**Day 3 Freedom Day**  
Another day in paradise. Our resort offers a number of optional activities and excursions for those who wish to explore further afield, or learn more about the hotel's conservation projects. Or maybe it's just a day of relaxation? Enjoy a dip in the ocean-view swimming pool, treat yourself to a treatment at the hotel's spa, or venture to the pristine sandy beaches. Enjoy your day. **Breakfast included**

**Day 4 Depart Borneo**  
Our time on Pulau Gaya has come to an end and today we make the short journey back to the mainland and Kota Kinabalu Airport to begin our journey home to the UK. **Breakfast included**

**Our Holiday Extension to Gaya Island is available with the following tours:**

**The Very Best of Borneo**  
See pages 68-77

**Your Gaya Island holiday extension includes:**

Three nights accommodation with daily breakfast, and all transfers.

Villa: From **£995** per person  
Kinabalu Villa: From **£1,095** per person

**Single occupancy supplement from £395**



# Laos Holiday Extension



## Luang Prabang from only £895 per person

Old Town, Luang Prabang

Situated in northern Laos, surrounded by jungle clad mountains, and on the confluence of two rivers, the Mekong and the Khan, the UNESCO World Heritage town of Luang Prabang offers an abundance of magical charm. Discover the gentle nature of the Laotian people, view the ornate beauty of ancient temples and enjoy the serenity of watching Buddhist monks in their saffron coloured robes walk the streets for ‘alms’, in this former royal capital.

### Day 1: Luang Prabang, 3 nights

Today, we travel to Siem Reap Airport for our flight to Luang Prabang in northern Laos. On arrival we will be met and transferred to our hotel, Le Palais Juliana, where we will spend the next three nights. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Our hotel is located just 10 minutes from the main town. This evening, perhaps take a walk around the night markets or enjoy one of the many restaurants serving delicious Laotian cuisine. **Breakfast included**

### Day 2: Luang Prabang

#### Tour Highlight

It's an early start this morning to witness one of Luang Prabang's most special daily rituals, the 'giving of alms'. An important religious act, linked to monks begging for their daily food as a way to demonstrate humility, each morning a daily procession of around 300 young Buddhist monks walk silently through the streets whilst local residents present them with food. Whilst this is part of daily life in Luang Prabang, for those that wish, your guide will be more than happy to show you the best way to interact with the monks should you wish to partake.

Pak Ou Caves, Luang Prabang

We return to our hotel for breakfast before embarking on our morning of sightseeing. We begin with a visit to Wat Xieng Thong, one of the country's oldest temples, before a visit to the former Royal Palace, which today houses the National Museum. We finish our morning with a climb to the top of Phousi Hill (328 steps). Meaning 'sacred mountain', we wander slowly, taking advantage of several resting places and enjoy the magnificent panoramic views across the city and surrounding landscape. The remainder of the day is at leisure. Relax and enjoy the hotel pool or, maybe take an optional tour to nearby Kuang Si waterfall, followed by the Tat Kuang Si Bear Rescue Centre. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Buddhist monks during their daily rituals

### Day 3: Luang Prabang

Unknown to many, Laos was bombed on average every eight minutes for nine years, from 1964 to 1973. More bombs fell on Laos than used by all countries involved in World War II. Our morning begins with a visit to the small but moving UXO centre (Unexploded Ordnance Programme). The centre provides an insight into the problems faced by several provinces due to unexploded bombs from this period and the work being done to improve safety. We finish our morning with a visit to the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre, which celebrates the diverse ethnic cultures and people of Laos.

With an afternoon at leisure, maybe take an optional excursion. Take a cruise to Pak Ou Cave to view the hundreds of tiny Buddha statues or visit Living Land Farm; where you can experience the life of a rice farmer. Alternatively, you may prefer to learn about bamboo weaving, or visit Heuan Chan Heritage House, where you can learn about family culture, tradition and Laos cuisine. **Breakfast included**

### Day 4: Luang Prabang – UK

With our adventures drawing to a close we depart for the airport this morning for our flight to Bangkok, Thailand. Here we will connect with our return flight to the UK. Operating via Dubai, we will arrive at our chosen airport the following morning. **Breakfast included**

Above: Imperial Palace, Luang Prabang  
Below: Traditional Laotian food



Royal Palace Museum, Luang Prabang

### Our Holiday Extension to Laos is available with the following tours:

**Classic Vietnam & Cambodia**  
See pages 80-87

**The Very Best of Vietnam**  
See pages 106-115

**The Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia**  
See pages 116-125

### Your Luang Prabang holiday extension includes

Flight from Siem Reap to Luang Prabang\*, and Luang Prabang to Bangkok\* (for our flight to the UK), three nights accommodation in Luang Prabang, daily breakfast, one lunch, all sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary, services of a local guide and all transfers.

Classic Vietnam & Cambodia: From **£895** per person  
The Very Best of Vietnam: From **£895** per person  
The Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia: From **£895** per person

### Single occupancy supplement from £245

\* Please note, if joining our Luang Prabang Holiday Extension as part of our Very Best of Vietnam tour, your extension is pre-tour. Your exact itinerary and flight details will be confirmed at the time of booking.



# La Regina Legend Lan Ha Bay, Vietnam



La Regina Legend exterior



Above: Princess Suite; Below: Jacuzzi



View from deck



La Corona restaurant

A designated UNESCO World Heritage Site, both Ha Long Bay and Lan Ha Bay have been shaped by nature for centuries.

A must for any tour of Vietnam, one of the best ways to experience this wondrous phenomena is on an overnight cruise. There is something quite magical about watching the sun set in the bay, or waking up to the quiet tranquillity, surrounded by the impressive karsts strutting out of the emerald green waters.

When travelling with Distant Journeys on both the 'Classic Vietnam & Cambodia' and 'Discover Vietnam & Cambodia' tours, we cruise overnight on La Regina Legend, also known as Queen of the Bays. The vessel itself is a glamorous ship that effortlessly blends history with modern comfort. Expect wood detailing and brass fixtures throughout, tempered with ornately decorated paintings.

## The Journey

A cruise on La Regina Legend is a combination of the bay's most magnificent scenery, local attractions and onboard amenities. This unforgettable journey begins in La Regina's private lounge, where we are welcomed with a refreshing drink before joining our ship. As La Regina sets sail, prepare to embark on an adventure. We discover magnificent caves, take to the water in local boats or kayaks and enjoy a refreshing dip in the emerald-hued waters.

## Cabins

The decor found throughout extends to your cabin, offering spacious accommodation and everything you need for a comfortable evening on board.

## Cabin Facilities

- Twin or queen-size beds
- Private en-suite bathroom
- Tea and coffee facilities
- Air-conditioning and heating
- Complimentary mineral water

## Life on board

Life on board La Regina Legend invites you to relish the outdoors. Breathe in the refreshing bay air from your private balcony or any of the open-air viewing spots. Inside the ship, discover plush seating and dining areas that offer both comfort and splendid bay views through expansive glass windows.

When not off on excursions, your ship provides a haven of tranquility. Relax on deck, pamper yourself with spa treatments, engage in a peaceful sun deck Tai Chi session or a taste of adventure. Don't miss the chance to try your hand at squid fishing!



Tai Chi on the sun deck

## Dining

Enjoy breakfast, lunch and dinner aboard as you marvel at the picturesque bay views. There is an extensive wine and drinks list to enjoy throughout your stay, and Happy Hour awaits at sunset on the first day.

## Inclusions

- All-inclusive dining, with complimentary breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Welcome drink
- Selection of excursions and activities



Au Co exterior



Above: Bedroom; Below: View from Au Co deck



Sun deck



Drinks on board

An undoubted highlight of both Distant Journeys' Very Best of Vietnam and Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia tours is our wonderful two-night cruise on the emerald waters of Ha Long Bay, on board the Au Co.

Situated in the Gulf of Tonkin, in Vietnam's north east, Ha Long Bay is a natural wonder known locally as the 'dragon descending to the sea', and is one of Vietnam's must-see destinations. Towering limestone peaks topped by untouched rainforest rise from the water and hundreds of tiny islands and grottos are studded throughout the bay. This extraordinary area was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1994, and it is truly spectacular.

Offering a small and friendly cruise experience and a personal service by the dedicated crew, our cruise takes place over three leisurely days, allowing plenty of time for both exploration ashore and relaxation on board the Au Co, an impressive vessel, whilst taking in the majesty of Ha Long Bay.

### The Journey

There is ample time to discover Ha Long Bay's beautiful islets, beaches, villages and grottos, and enjoy many activities including swimming, snorkelling, kayaking, and trekking. We will take in the natural beauty of both Ha Long and Lan Ha Bays, with the opportunity to cycle to a remote village on Cat Ba Island, and experience the floating village of Cua Van in the quiet early morning hours. Sunbathe on the pristine white sands of Three Peach Beach and swim in its secluded, jade-coloured waters.

### Deluxe Cabins

The Au Co has just 32 cabins. Our accommodation on board is a deluxe cabin featuring natural hardwood flooring and handcrafted furnishings. A private balcony is perfect for soaking up the breathtaking views of Ha Long Bay.

### Cabin Facilities

- Twin or queen-size beds
- Private en-suite bathroom with toilet, washbasin and shower
- Tea and coffee-making facilities
- Individually controlled air-conditioning
- Complimentary drinking water throughout the cruise
- Bathrobes and deluxe toiletries

### Life on board the Au Co

When cruising, the spacious sun deck is at the heart of life on board, where guests can dine, sunbathe and enjoy the range of onboard activities. The covered outdoor Lan Ha Bar is a particularly inviting space to relax with a drink surrounded by the natural beauty of Ha Long Bay.

You may begin your day with an early morning Tai Chi session on the sun deck. Learn the gentle movements of this ancient martial art whilst enjoying the morning sun and fresh breezes of Ha Long Bay. Take part in a fun Vietnamese cookery lesson; relax in the spa and open-air jacuzzi or lose yourself in a book from the well-stocked library. In the evening, an authentic song and dance performance by the ship's entertainers offers an insight into the different ethnic groups within Vietnam.



Chef preparing meal

### Dine in one of the world's most scenic locations

Superb food is a highlight of any cruise, and on board the Au Co you will enjoy restaurant-quality dining in one of the most scenic places on earth. The talented team of chefs skilfully combine the best of Vietnamese and western flavours to produce an array of locally-caught seafood and seasonal fresh produce.

The Terrace Deck Restaurant has striking Art Deco-style furnishings, which enhance its elegant ambience. Enjoy a beautiful breakfast buffet spread, a casual lunch and a multi-course dinner, with a delicious evening barbecue on the sun deck being the highlight of your second night on board Au Co.

### Au Co Inclusions

- All-inclusive dining, with complimentary breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Welcome drink
- Selection of excursions and activities



# Pandaw River Cruise Mekong River



RV Bassac Pandaw exterior



Above: Double Cabin RV Laos Pandaw;  
Below: Enjoying the sunset on deck



View from deck



On board hospitality

There are few rivers as fascinating and varied as the Mekong River. Travelling through six different Asian countries before it reaches the vast delta of Vietnam and the South China Sea, its waters offer a kaleidoscope of colour, scenery and life. There is no better way to experience the mighty Mekong River and discover the richness of the people who call the Mekong home than to take to the water on a slow-paced cruise.

We partner with Pandaw Cruises, whose ships are intimate and beautifully crafted, with an informal and friendly onboard atmosphere. Each ship is hand-finished in brass and teak by traditional craftsmen with a colonial era charm and large, open decks allow guests to absorb the ever-changing scenery.

Whether you join us on our Very Best of Vietnam and Cambodia tour, which cruises on the Lower Mekong, or on our new Mekong River Explorer tour, which spends a little longer cruising the Upper Mekong, you will leave with memories to last a lifetime.

## The Journey

The Lower Mekong River journeys between the Mekong Delta in Vietnam to the bustling city of Phnom Penh in Cambodia. View ancient temples, pagodas and Buddhist monasteries, visit local villages and experience the hustle and bustle of the colourful floating markets.

The Upper Mekong River in Laos is one of the most scenic routes of the river. Cruising between Vientiane, the Lao capital and Chiang Khong, which sits on the Thai-Lao border, visit charming villages of different cultures, wonder at Buddhist caves, delight in the UNESCO town of Luang Prabang and enjoy the ever-changing scenery of lush jungles and rainforest-clad mountains.

On all cruises, the shore excursions have an emphasis on experiencing local life, with plenty of opportunities to interact with villagers to learn about their fascinating culture.

## Your Stateroom

The brass and teak finishes run through to your stateroom, which provide a comfortable space for your journey. All staterooms are outside cabins, with direct access to the promenade deck, and all are equipped with panoramic windows and sliding doors, allowing you to soak up the fresh air and scenery.

### Stateroom Facilities

- Twin or queen-size beds
- Private en-suite bathroom
- Unlimited mineral water
- Kimonos, slippers and spa-branded amenities

## Life on board

Life on board is mostly enjoyed al fresco. The Promenade and Observation decks have comfortable lounging chairs, where guests can sit and watch from a great vantage point as life goes by on one of Asia's great rivers.

Throughout, the emphasis is on peace and tranquillity. A number of on-board activities reflect the traditions and cultures of the area, such as a themed dinner and a performance by a local dance group.



Chef preparing meals

## Dining

Dining is a relaxed, casual affair with a great choice of local cuisine and international favourites, all cooked with locally-sourced supplies where possible.

Breakfast is served buffet-style, while lunch features a buffet, along with soup, salads and a dessert table. Dinner is by waiter service, and the team of talented chefs are always happy to cater to any dietary requirements. There is an extensive wine list, and whether you would like a refreshing cocktail or a chilled local beer, there's something to suit all tastes.

### Inclusions

- All-inclusive dining, with complimentary breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Selected wines, beers, spirits and non-alcoholic beverages during meals
- Selection of excursions and activities



# Century River Cruise Yangtze River



MV Century Victory



Above: MV Century Oasis, Deluxe Cabin  
Below: MV Century Victory, Pavillion Café



Yangtze River



MV Century Victory lobby

The Yangtze River is the third longest river in the world. Beginning its journey high on the Tibetan plateau it flows some 3,900 miles through China to Shanghai and the East China and Yellow seas. It is known by the Chinese as the Chang Jiang, meaning long river and is one of the many included highlights on our Very Best of China tour.

Cruising between Chongqing and Yichang our cruise covers the popular Three Gorges region – Qutang Gorge, arguably the most majestic. Over three days, we'll navigate the Yangtze's jade-green waters as we witness picturesque landscapes, lush hillsides and ancient temples. The Yangtze's charming banks steeped in fascinating history and breathtaking natural beauty just waiting to be explored.

Our vessels, MV Century Victory, MV Century Glory and MV Century Oasis, offer an elegant sailing experience, coupled with attentive onboard service. Onboard, you will find large and spacious communal areas, two dining rooms and a balcony in every cabin, ensuring your Yangtze River cruise offers a comfortable and relaxing journey, filled with unforgettable moments and stunning scenery.

## The Journey

Journeying east along the river from Chongqing, prepare to witness a tapestry of cultural landmarks and breathtaking landscapes, through a selection of included and optional shore excursions. As we wind our way along the Yangtze, be amazed by the river's impressive gorges, Qutang whilst learning about the diversity of ancient Chinese traditions and the country's fascinating history.

## Your Stateroom

The staterooms aboard all vessels have been meticulously crafted to ensure a comfortable stay. Each balcony cabin offering panoramic sliding doors allowing guests to take in the passing scenery.

Distant Journeys' guests will be accommodated in spacious Deluxe Cabins. Cabin upgrades are also available.

## Stateroom Facilities

- Twin or double-bed
- Private en-suite bathroom
- Private balcony
- Unlimited mineral water
- Bathrobes, slippers and bathroom amenities

## Yangtze River Cruise Cabin Upgrades

Prices from £295 per person



Distant Journeys guests are accommodated in Deluxe Cabins, with an option to upgrade to Superior Cabins, or for something really special an Executive or Presidential Suite. Please call for details

## Life on board

Immerse yourself in life on board from the comfort of your private balcony or venture out to one of the expansive observation decks where panoramic views await. An abundance of activities can be enjoyed on board, from presentations on traditional Chinese medicine to authentic Tai Chi lessons. For a touch of tranquillity, retreat to the Reading Room where you can lose yourself in the pages of a captivating book while we cruise the shores of the Yangtze.



MV Century Oasis, Top observation deck

## Dining

On all vessels, meals are served in the main dining room. Served buffet style, breakfast, lunch and dinner offer a wide variety of western and Chinese cuisine for guests to sample. Whilst dining, a selection of house wine, local beer and soft drinks will be available at no extra charge.

For guests upgrading to a Superior Cabin, or an Executive or Presidential Suite, dining will be in the Pavilion Restaurant.

The final night of the cruise brings all guests together to enjoy the Captain's Farewell Banquet.

## Inclusions

- All-inclusive dining, with buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Tea and coffee served throughout the day
- Selected house wines, local beers and non-alcoholic beverages during meals
- Selection of excursions and activities
- Bottled water in cabins

# Japan Hotel Directory



Friendly welcome



## Hiroshima – ANA Crowne Plaza Hiroshima

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

ANA Crowne Plaza Hiroshima is in Hiroshima's commercial district, just across the Motoyasugawa River from Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. The guest rooms have flat-screen TV and minibar, and hotel facilities include a fitness centre, and an Aesthetic Salon offering facials and massage treatments. Fruitier Restaurant is a casual, all-day dining space serving an expansive breakfast buffet with something to suit all palates.



## Hiroshima – RIHGA Royal Hotel Hiroshima

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

RIHGA Royal Hotel Hiroshima is set in the heart of the city, close to many poignant monuments dedicated to those lost in the 1945 bombing. Guest rooms are elegant and welcoming, with spectacular views of Hiroshima city and in the south, views out to Seto Inland Sea in the distance, and Hiroshima Castle in the north. There's a heated indoor pool and jacuzzi, perfect for unwinding, and the hotel boasts six fantastic restaurants and two bars, ideal for a pre-dinner sake.



## Ito – Laforet Ito Onsen Yunoniwa

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

This charming retreat is set amongst the scenic beauty of Izu Peninsula. Sitting in the seaside town of Ito, Laforet Ito Onsen Yunoniwa offers a tranquil escape with modern comforts and traditional charm. The Japanese-Western rooms are each equipped with private hot spring baths for a relaxing stay. Explore local flavours at Shikisai Restaurant, where an open kitchen serves dishes made fresh with ingredients from Izu Mountain and the surrounding ocean. Guests can also enjoy the public onsen or unwind on the footbath terrace.



## Kanazawa – Hotel Nikko Kanazawa

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

With its central location, close to Kanazawa train station, Hotel Nikko Kanazawa is perfectly located for exploring the city. Guest rooms which start at the 17th floor provide views of the city allowing guests to take in the classic architecture of this historic Japanese town. The hotel provides an array of on-site dining offerings. These include La PLAGÉ for fresh local seafood, a Cantonese restaurant with a dim sum master chef, a French marché-inspired restaurant featuring live cooking, and a British-style bar, bakery and lounge complete with views of Kanazawa's charming cityscape.



## Kanazawa – Hyatt Centric Kanazawa

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Hyatt Centric Kanazawa offers guests the chance to discover Kanazawa's unique cuisine and heritage, including the city's authentic art, shops, restaurants and hidden gems. Its guest rooms feature sleek designs which make use of natural light, local artwork and distinctive touches, while the 24-hour fitness centre is set up with all the latest equipment. Guests can also enjoy local cuisine and innovative cocktails at FIVE – Grill & Lounge while admiring sweeping city views from the open-air rooftop bar.



## Kanazawa – Kanazawa New Grand Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Kanazawa New Grand Hotel is nestled in the heart of Kanazawa, a city best known for its lush greenery and historic charm. It is located just across from Oyama Shrine and a short walk from Kanazawa Castle Park. The rooms are equipped with modern amenities. The hotel has six dining options, including Chinese and French restaurants, sushi and buffet eateries to enjoy. Unwind at the cosy bar with panoramic city views, or indulge in some pampering at the hotel's beauty salon.



## Kanazawa – Kanazawa Tokyu Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Kanazawa Tokyu Hotel is a modern hotel in a great location, with a chic yet relaxed atmosphere. Guest rooms are stylish and well-equipped, with added extras such as complimentary Japanese tea set, slippers, nightwear and many toiletries, and in-room massages can be booked at Reception. The Marais D'or restaurant is a western style all-day restaurant which uses the best local ingredients including seafood, fresh vegetables, and wagyu beef, while Kincharyo restaurant serves a Japanese-style breakfast. Drinks are available in the cosy lounge bar.



## Kurashiki – Kurashiki Royal Art Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Royal Art Hotel is situated close to the attractions of the cultural city of Kurashiki, and within walking distance of Kurashiki Bikan historical quarter, known for its traditional, white-walled 'kominka' houses. Kurashiki is the hotel's Japanese restaurant, offering a truly authentic dining experience, where you'll sit and dine in a kotatsu: a traditional covered table on the floor with a heater underneath. Hachikengura offers French-style cuisine and a handful of other European dishes. Comfortable guest rooms have all been carefully decorated.



## Kyoto – Kyoto Tokyu Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Contemporary yet influenced by traditional Japanese design, the Kyoto Tokyu Hotel enjoys a great location amongst the narrow streets of downtown Kyoto. Throughout the hotel, there are some wonderful spaces to relax, including the tranquil Zen garden. Tankume Kitamise is the hotel's top-billed restaurant featuring Kyoto-style dishes that reflect the seasons, and all-day dining can be enjoyed at Kazahana, serving a buffet breakfast and a wide variety of international dishes, and the hotel also has a Chinese restaurant and three bars on site.



## Kyoto – RIHGA Royal Hotel Kyoto

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The RIHGA Royal Hotel Kyoto is conveniently located just a short walk from Kyoto's ancient temples and shrines. Featuring contemporary decor with Japanese touches, all guest rooms come with a satellite TV, minibar and kettle. The hotel has a heated indoor pool, jacuzzi and warm room plus a fitness gym, and dining options include Kyoto's only revolving restaurant – Top of Kyoto. Featuring wonderful 360-degree panoramic vistas, the restaurant offers an original menu of French dishes with a Japanese twist.

# Japan Hotel Directory



## Kyoto – The Hotel Higashiyama

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Set in its own spacious grounds, The Hotel Higashiyama has easy transport links to the centre of the historic city of Kyoto. The interior design is inspired by the rippling waters of Kyoto's Shirakawa River. Guest rooms are designed with Japanese and Western influences to be a serene yet cosy retreat and guests can find their Zen at the hotel's Private Spa. A breakfast buffet of Western and Japanese dishes is available at Nananoichi Restaurant, which by night has a menu of Japanese-French fusion dishes and an extensive selection of cocktails, wine and sake.



## Lake Yamanaka – Fuji Marriott Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

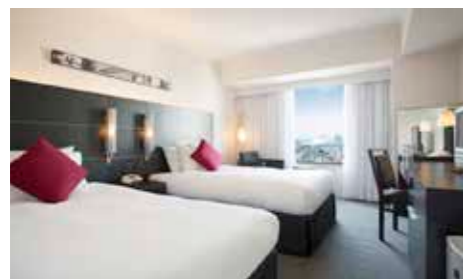
Situated just a short drive from Lake Yamanaka, the largest of the five Fuji lakes, the Fuji Marriott Hotel enjoys magnificent views of Mount Fuji and is surrounded by the beauty of Fuji-Hakone-Izu National Park. Guest rooms are comfortable and well equipped and amenities include a spa, tennis courts and its own 'onsen' – a Japanese hot spring bath. At the Grill & Dining G restaurant, chefs prepare a variety of local specialities and Western favourites in the open kitchen, whilst you enjoy spectacular views from the restaurant's large windows.



## Okayama – Hotel Granvia Okayama

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Hotel Granvia Okayama is a modern and comfortable hotel in the heart of Okayama. The hotel is attached to Okayama Railway Station and is just a short walk from the renowned Koraku-en Garden and Okayama Castle. It's an ideal base for exploring the history and culture of Okayama. Enjoy a variety of dining options, including Chinese and French cuisine, and unwind at one of three cocktail bars, including a 19th-floor lounge with panoramic views. The hotel also features an indoor pool, hot tub and salon for those who would like to be pampered.



## Osaka – Hotel Nikko Osaka

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Hotel Nikko Osaka is a stylish and modern hotel facing the tree-lined Midosuji Avenue, the city's main shopping boulevard, and is directly connected to Subway Shinsaibashi Station. During your stay there are many restaurants to choose from, offering a wide range of cuisine such as Japanese, Chinese and French. The lounge on the 31st floor features beautiful views of Osaka city, whilst a traditional Japanese-style breakfast buffet is served at Benkay restaurant. Well-designed guest rooms are comfortable and spacious.



## Osaka – RIHGA Royal Hotel Osaka

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

RIHGA Royal Hotel Osaka, one of Osaka's most historic hotels, is located in Nakanoshima at the heart of the City of Water. Known for its impressive design, including a carpet resembling a curved water garden surrounded by gold pillars, the hotel embodies the spirit of Osaka. Each room is designed for comfort and tranquillity with modern amenities. The hotel offers a variety of dining options, including Japanese, Western and Chinese cuisines, along with a bakery and deli, chocolate boutique and wine shop.



## Takayama – Hotel Associa Takayama Resort

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Located in the hills just a short distance from Takayama's old town, the surrounding forest backdrop of Japan's Northern Alps provide a fabulous setting for Hotel Associa Takayama Resort. Guest rooms are tastefully decorated and the resort also boasts both indoor and outdoor onsen bathing, with the outdoor onsen looking out over the surrounding mountain range. Local Japanese cuisine is served at Ka-un and Rosiere restaurants, while grilled Hida beef and fresh seafood can be savoured at Mine Teppanyaki.



## Takayama – Takayama Green Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Takayama Green Hotel is situated in the heart of Hida Takayama, and preserves traditional culture and the spirit of 'Omotenashi' hospitality, providing characterful and cosy rooms along with two different rejuvenating natural onsen (hot springs). Dining choices encompass Japanese cuisine at Ryokutei or Shirakawago restaurants, buffet-style and French dishes at the Green Court, Chinese specialties at Tenkyoro Restaurant, tasty treats at Patisserie Bal Ange, or opt to relax at Kinoka Lounge and Bar.



## Tokyo – Hilton Tokyo

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

This hotel is ideally located in the heart of Shinjuku, Tokyo's bustling entertainment and shopping district. The Hilton Tokyo is just a short stroll from Shinjuku train station, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building and Yoyogi Park. The hotel features a variety of dining options to savour, including sushi and teppanyaki at Junisoh, or steak at Metropolitan Grill. Guests can also enjoy rooftop tennis courts and an indoor pool. Or, if you prefer, put your feet up at the hotel's spa.



## Tokyo – Keio Plaza Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Keio Plaza Hotel, opened in 1971 as Japan's first skyscraper hotel, set in the district of Shinjuku, enjoys a prime position and has 47 floors in the main tower and 35 floors in the south tower. Guest rooms are well equipped and comfortable, and there are eleven restaurants ranging from Japanese teppanyaki and sushi to French and Italian cuisine. For a quintessentially Japanese experience, the hotel even has its own 'sho-fu-an' – a room dedicated to the Japanese tea ceremony.



## Tokyo – Sheraton Miyako Hotel Tokyo

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Sheraton Miyako Hotel Tokyo is located in the Shirokanedai area, offering a peaceful retreat within the bustling city. The hotel blends Japanese tradition with modern comforts, featuring a 6,000 sqm garden with stunning ginkgo and maple trees. Just a short stroll from the hotel, you will find the iconic Fuji TV building, The National Art Centre and Odaiba Kaihin Park. Back at the hotel, guests can unwind in the health club, which includes a pool, gym and sauna. Dining options range from a Chinese restaurant to a cosy cafe and a stylish bar.



## Tonami – Mercure Toyama Tonami Resort & Spa

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Mercure Toyama Tonami Resort & Spa is perched on a hilltop with views of the Sho River, just an hour from Kanazawa and the historic Gokayama village. This modern hot spring hotel blends relaxation with cultural immersion in Hokuriku, boasting relaxing indoor and outdoor onsen baths. Guests can unwind in contemporary rooms with modern amenities. The resort includes a buffet restaurant, a bar, a sauna and a lounge with traditional tea service.



## Yudanaka – Ryokan Biyunoyado

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Ryokan Biyunoyado is a traditional Japanese guesthouse renowned for its indulgent onsen. The hotel offers a range of indoor, outdoor and rooftop hot spring baths, all supplied by natural thermal water. The rooms feature tatami mats, futons and modern amenities for a comfortable stay. Guests can expect beautiful mountain and river views, along with freshly prepared Japanese cuisine. There is also a lobby lounge offering beer, wine and sake.

# Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos Hotel Directory



## Cai Be, Vietnam – Mekong Riverside Boutique Resort & Spa

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Located along the serene Mekong Delta, Mekong Riverside Boutique Resort & Spa offers an eco-friendly stay in one of 25 bungalow rooms. Despite being just a short ride from the floating market of Cai Rang, the resort is surrounded by natural beauty and provides a peaceful escape. Unwind at the Oasis Spa, nestled beside a lotus pond, or get to know the local wildlife from the birdwatching tower. There is also a range of traditional Mekong Delta and Western dishes at the on-site restaurant, plus two bars to enjoy.



## Can Tho, Vietnam – Can Tho Ecolodge

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Can Tho Ecolodge stands on the tranquil banks of the Ba Lang River, surrounding a freeform swimming pool. The thoughtfully-designed guest accommodation takes the form of thatched bungalows, each made with sustainable building materials and boasting first-class amenities such as a panoramic balcony overlooking its tropical expanse and a natural wooden bathtub. The Restaurant at Can Tho Ecolodge offers up a diverse menu of local delicacies made from the freshest ingredients. Every dish is sourced from local surroundings, including produce from the hotel's own organic garden.



## Hanoi, Vietnam – Pan Pacific Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Offering views of the West Lake, Truc Bach Lake and Red River, the Pan Pacific Hanoi offers an oasis of calm in a busy city and features contemporary rooms with modern furnishings and Vietnamese designs. Ming Restaurant serves authentic dim sum, Pacifica offers a buffet of international cuisines, The Pastry Corner offers delicious homemade cakes and pastries for breakfast on-the-go; or simply kick back with a drink at The Summit Bar, located on the roof top, enjoying panoramic city views.



## Hanoi, Vietnam – REY Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

REY Hotel is a boutique property featuring contemporary amenities and touches of Vietnamese culture throughout, located at the heart of Hanoi's Old Quarter. Guest rooms are elegant and cosy. Step into REY Hotel's tranquil garden, a hidden oasis of lush greenery at the heart of the hotel. Breakfast is served in Mojo Café and Bistro, a lavish buffet spread of continental and Asian breakfast dishes, fresh juices and hot coffee. By night, it transforms into a chic bar restaurant, ideal for unwinding with friends over a cold drink in the courtyard garden.



## Hanoi, Vietnam – Silk Path Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The hotel's location within Hanoi's Old Quarter provides guests with an excellent base from which to explore this fascinating area of the city, alongside the charm of the French Quarter. The hotel guest rooms are tastefully decorated with everything you need for a comfortable stay. A choice of several restaurants gives guests a choice of Vietnamese, Mediterranean and international cuisines to dine on. There is also a piano bar, fitness centre and jacuzzi.



## Hoi An, Vietnam – Allegro Hoi An

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Allegro Hoi An - Little Luxury Hotel & Spa is a boutique hotel with a charming and inviting atmosphere and a superb location in the heart of the ancient town of Hoi An. Guest suites are designed in traditional Hoi An style with a private balcony and authentic wooden furnishings. Leisure facilities include Ozone Spa & Fitness Centre and an outdoor swimming pool surrounded by shaded gardens. Melody Fine Dining Restaurant offers a fusion menu of locally-inspired specialities and traditional favourites.



## Hoi An, Vietnam – Little Residence Boutique Hotel & Spa

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Little Residence Boutique Hotel & Spa is in close proximity to iconic landmarks and the lively Ancient Town of Hoi An, where traditional design elements combine with Portuguese architecture. Guestrooms have a private balcony to enjoy views over the town and are thoughtfully designed for a comfortable and relaxing stay. Dishes Restaurant serves a choice of local and Western cuisine, and the Lobby Lounge offers an inviting space to relax.



## Hoi An, Vietnam – Bel Marina Hoi An Resort

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Located in Cam Pho district, the Bel Marina Hoi An Resort is in the heart of Hoi An and located on the banks of Thu Bon River, just a short stroll from Ha My Beach and the city centre. The hotel is a perfect blend of European and Asian style. Guest rooms are modern and well-equipped, with balconies or patios, parquet flooring and air-conditioning. The large swimming pool comes complete with a swim-up bar, whilst dining choices range from Vietnamese to international favourites.



## Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam – Liberty Central Saigon Citypoint Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Liberty Central Saigon Citypoint sits in a prime location in the metropolis of Ho Chi Minh City. Deluxe guest rooms have city views with an emphasis on comfort to provide a tranquil retreat. The rooftop infinity swimming pool and pool deck is the place for guests to soak up the sun and enjoy the city's spectacular sunsets. Breakfast is served in Central Restaurant, with an extensive buffet of healthy and hearty favourites. The rooftop Above Sky Bar serves a carefully curated menu of drinks and snacks to be enjoyed overlooking the illuminated skyline and vibrant atmosphere of Ho Chi Minh City.



## Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam – Liberty Central Saigon Riverside Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

As the name suggests, Liberty Central Saigon Riverside Hotel is centrally-located with spectacular views of Saigon River. An infinity swimming pool right next to the rooftop Vertical Sky Bar, a great spot for signature cocktails, makes the most of its surroundings. The modern, comfortable guest rooms have all the expected amenities, and there's a rejuvenating Spa and fitness centre. Dining options include Central Restaurant, overlooking the waterfront and offering local dishes and signature seafood, and The Bistro, which is perfect for local craft beers and light bites.



## Hue, Vietnam – Eldora Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Eldora is a boutique hotel in the heart of Hue, just a short walk from the Citadel, Trang Tien Bridge and Dong Ba market. With a distinctive French atmosphere it blends the elegance of Vietnam's colonial past with many modern amenities, and well-appointed bedrooms feature distinctive Renaissance elements, bright decor and wooden flooring. The hotel offers an indoor swimming pool with sun terrace, and the elegant Eldora Restaurant serves a selection of western, Asian and local cuisine. Head to the Skyline Bar for a nightcap overlooking the Hue skyline.



## Luang Prabang, Laos – Le Palais Juliana

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Le Palais Juliana Hotel in Luang Prabang, Laos offers a peaceful escape and a memorable stay. Just 10 minutes from the city centre, the hotel is hidden away in its own leafy sanctuary. Guests can expect comfortable, well-equipped rooms with a wide range of amenities as well as shuttle services to popular attractions such as the night market, Mount Phousi and the Royal Palace Museum. There's also a delicious collection of Laotian, Thai, and international cuisine available at the hotel's Chaonang Restaurant.



# Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos Hotel Directory



## Mai Chau, Vietnam – Mai Chau Mountain View Resort

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Mai Chau Mountain View Resort is nestled in the peaceful and picturesque valley of Mai Chau. Patchwork rice paddies, magnificent mountains and untouched forests create a stunning backdrop for the spacious accommodation. All rooms have a terrace with mountain views and are fully-equipped with modern facilities. Guests can take a dip in the swimming pool and savour authentic Vietnamese and cuisine at the hotel's restaurant.



## Ninh Binh, Vietnam – Jiva Hoa Lu Retreat

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Jiva Hoa Lu Retreat is where village culture meets comfort. This resort is located amongst the majestic limestone hills of Ninh Binh, surrounded by breathtaking views and tranquil waterways. Each room is thoughtfully designed to honour northern Vietnamese architecture while providing modern amenities. Guests can indulge in traditional Vietnamese cuisine and even enjoy a drink in the wine and whisky cellar.



## Phnom Penh, Cambodia – Palace Gate Hotel & Resort

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Palace Gate Hotel & Resort is situated in the heart of Phnom Penh, adjacent to the Royal Palace in Daun Penh, with views of the Tonle Sap River. The resort is built around a lovingly-restored French colonial villa, showcasing intricate Cambodian design, and the space is now home to the hotel's fine dining restaurant, Mealea, serving up both French and Khmer cuisine. Guest rooms are decorated in traditional Angkorian style and the spectacular swimming pool is a great place to relax.



## Siem Reap, Cambodia – Borei Angkor Resort & Spa

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Borei Angkor Resort & Spa is nestled within manicured gardens in the heart of Siem Reap, just a few minutes from the city's many attractions. Deluxe guest rooms are spacious, each with a private balcony, and classic Cambodian architecture blends with contemporary décor, delicately finished with wood, silks and Khmer crafts. There is an outdoor swimming pool and dining options include Ox Club, offering contemporary European cuisine, and all day dining, indoors and al fresco at Bakan Restaurant, with a huge selection of freshly prepared Khmer and western cuisines.



## Vientiane, Laos – Salana Boutique Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Salana Boutique Hotel is located in Vientiane, the capital of Laos, and offers a comfortable stay in the heart of the city. Guest rooms are classically styled and elegant, and Sarila Spa offers rejuvenating treatments to soothe mind and body. Kitchen Vibe Bistro offers an extensive breakfast buffet and The Living Room bar is the go-to venue for fine wines and cocktails accompanied by dazzling views of the Mekong River and Laos' skyline.

# Thailand Hotel Directory



Ramada Resort by Wyndham, Khao Lak



## Chiang Mai – Tamarind Village

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Tamarind Village is a charming boutique hotel set in the heart of the historic town of Chiang Mai, close to its ancient temples and quaint streets. Guest rooms are set around a series of flower-filled courtyards and stylishly decorated with simple yet elegant touches. Leisure facilities include a shaded outdoor swimming pool and a spa. Ruen Tamarind, the hotel's restaurant, serves mouthwatering Northern Thai local specialities and international cuisines.



## Chiang Rai – Katiliya Mountain Resort & Spa

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Katiliya Mountain Resort & Spa is an all-suite resort nestled amid the mountains of Northern Thailand. Guest suites are designed to blend with their surroundings, using local materials and equipped with modern amenities. Spa on the Lake provides treatments to relax body and soul, and there is a large outdoor pool amid beautiful gardens. Enjoy breakfast al fresco with views of the forest-clad mountains at The Terrace Restaurant and enjoy a nightcap in the cosy Fireplace Bar.



## Khao Lak – Ramada Resort by Wyndham

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Occupying a prime position on Khao Lak's beachfront, the Ramada Resort by Wyndham is a cool and contemporary hotel with spacious guest rooms with balcony overlooking the lush tropical gardens. The large freeform swimming pool is just steps from Bang Niang Beach. The Kitchen serves a generous breakfast buffet, the Pool Bar offers cold beers, fruit juices and exotic cocktails, and Sassi's Beach Club serves Thai and international cuisine with a backdrop of the glorious sunset.

# Borneo Hotel Directory



Hyatt Regency, Kota Kinabalu



## Gaya Island – Gaya Island Resort

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Set in the tranquil Malohom Bay within Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park, Gaya Island Resort is surrounded by lush mangroves and pristine coral reefs. This island resort offers sweeping views of Mount Kinabalu and the surrounding rainforest. Each villa blends modern elegance with eco-friendly design. There is a swimming pool with floating cabanas, a fitness centre and a library to enjoy. The resort also features a range of dining options so guests can savour regional cuisine and fresh seafood.



## Kinabatangan River – Sukau Rainforest Lodge

Local rating: ★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★

The award-winning Sukau Rainforest Lodge is set along the Kinabatangan River, a key waterway bursting with wildlife. Embrace the natural beauty of the rainforest and its vibrant inhabitants from this eco-friendly resort, designed to protect the sensitive surrounding areas. The lodge and its rooms combine natural charm with modern comfort, so guests can enjoy a comfortable stay. You can even choose to engage with local staff to learn about their heritage and way of life.



## Kota Kinabalu – Hyatt Regency Kinabalu

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Hyatt Regency offers a beautiful stay in the heart of Kota Kinabalu, with stunning views of the South China Sea and Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park. This hotel is perfectly situated for exploring the city's popular tourist attractions and beyond. The elegantly designed rooms are among the largest in the area, providing a comfortable retreat with impressive views. Enjoy a variety of Asian and international cuisines at the hotel's six restaurants and bars, including live kitchen experiences and authentic Japanese dining.



## Kota Kinabalu – Shangri-La Rasa Ria

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Shangri-La Rasa Ria is a beautiful resort located just outside of Kota Kinabalu, where the rainforest meets the sea. This 400-acre beach resort offers a 3 km private beach, a 64-acre forest reserve, and an 18-hole golf course. Relax and unwind in well-equipped rooms that blend Sabah's heritage with its surrounding natural landscape. Guests can also sample diverse dining options across 10 restaurants and bars, featuring everything from traditional Malay and oriental delicacies to international cuisines.



## Kuala Lumpur – Dorsett Hotel

Local rating: ★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★

Dorsett Hotel is situated in the heart of Kuala Lumpur's Golden Triangle. It offers easy access to the city's main attractions and local eateries. Just a short walk from the hotel, you will find the Pavilion, Starhill Gallery, and Berjaya Times Square. The hotel and guest rooms are stylish, well-furnished and equipped with modern amenities. Relax and unwind at the hotel's outdoor pool, or stay active in the well-equipped gym. Dining options include two newly-renovated restaurants and bars – Checkers Cafe and Windows Lounge.



## Kuching – Hilton

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

In the heart of the city, Hilton Kuching offers stunning views of the Sarawak River from its prime riverside location. Just a gentle stroll from the Kuching Waterfront and Main Bazaar, the hotel provides easy access to the city's historical attractions and vibrant shopping streets. The nicely designed rooms provide a relaxing retreat overlooking the river, while the hotel's dining options include local specialities and Western cuisine at its restaurants. Guests can also enjoy the outdoor pool, gym, and a selection of bars and cafés.



## Sepilok – Sepilok Rainforest Resort

Local rating: ★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★

Nestled in the lush Sepilok rainforest on Borneo Island, Sepilok Rainforest Resort offers an escape into nature. Surrounded by rich biodiversity, this stay provides an ideal setting for relaxation and adventure. It is just a short stroll from the must-see Sepilok Rainforest Discovery Centre. The eco-resort offers traditional, chalet-style rooms that blend comfort with natural beauty. Guests can also enjoy modern amenities and stunning views of the surrounding landscape.

# China Hotel Directory



Yun Jin Cheng Mansion, Pingyao



## Beijing – Park Plaza Wangfujing

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Park Plaza Wangfujing Hotel is a modern oasis, ideal for making the most of your time in China's capital. Centrally located in the heart of Beijing's bustling and developing cultural, commercial, business and entertainment district, the hotel is within walking distance of Tiananmen Square and Wangfujing shopping street. Bloo Dining offers Asian and international cuisines. Light refreshments and drinks can be enjoyed at First Lounge Bar.



## Chengdu – Xizang Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Close to the Old Town, the Xizang Hotel resembles Lhasa's Potala Palace, with ceilings decorated with gold frames, inlaid with lotus and turquoise. Throughout the hotel the Tibetan theme is abundantly apparent, from the pictures adorning the walls to the delicious cuisine on offer. You can also take advantage of the hotel's special holy spa, offering massage treatments.



## Guilin – Bravo Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Bravo Hotel is located in the scenic area of Guilin's Two Rivers and Four Lakes, offering a peaceful retreat surrounded by ancient trees, stone inscriptions and serene waters. It overlooks Ronghu Lake and Rongshanhu Scenic Area is just a short stroll away. Gunanmen Gate and Guilin Central Square are also located nearby. Enjoy diverse culinary experiences at the hotel's restaurants, or unwind at the courtyard-style outdoor pool and well-equipped gym. Rooms are spacious and offer a comfortable stay in Guilin.



## Guilin – Sheraton Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Situated on the banks of the Li River, this hotel offers views of its gardens and the river. The hotel benefits from a central location with Elephant Trunk Hill and Zhengyang Pedestrian Street on its doorstep. Within the hotel, the swimming pool and sauna are the perfect place to relax. The hotel has a choice of restaurants specialising in Chinese and Western cuisines.



## Pingyao – Yun Jin Cheng Mansion

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

With traditional Chinese architecture and surrounded by lovely courtyards, be transported back to the Ming and Qing period with a stay at the Yunjincheng Hotel. Located in the heart of this ancient town, this boutique property is full of character and charm. The hotel's restaurant serves regional Chinese cuisine, whilst the local coffee shop is located opposite the hotel and provides an ideal spot to relax with a drink and observe local life.



## Shanghai – Jin Jiang Tower Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Ideally situated on Huaihai Road, the Jin Jiang Tower boasts spectacular views over the city. Guest rooms are spacious and offer fine furnishings. The hotel provides a choice of dining options serving a wide variety of cuisines including western dishes. Guests can also enjoy the hotels indoor swimming pool, spa and sauna.



## Xi'an – Grand Noble Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Situated in the bustling heart of Xi'an's ancient city wall district, the Grand Noble Hotel offers a welcoming retreat amidst the vibrant energy of the city's central business area. The hotel is conveniently located to explore local attractions, with the iconic Bell Tower and the historic Forest of Steles just a short walk away. The spacious guest rooms are well-equipped, and hotel facilities include a fitness centre and spa. There is also a lobby bar, cafe and restaurant to enjoy.



## Xi'an – Holiday Inn Big Goose Pagoda

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

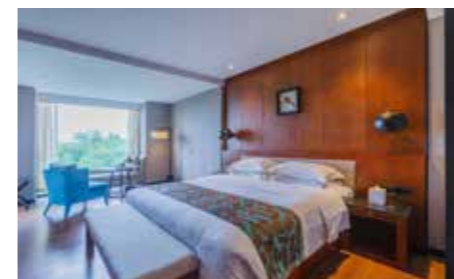
The hotel offers modern rooms, and its facilities include a fitness centre and swimming pool. Green Café Restaurant provides an international buffet whilst the Chinese Food Hall offers Cantonese and authentic Shaanxi cuisine.



## Yangshuo – Green Lotus Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Set along the tranquil banks of the Li River, the Green Lotus Hotel is a garden-style hotel that offers a relaxed stay with impressive views. It is a short walk from the bustling Xijie Pedestrian Street and the old town. Green Lotus Hotel provides a convenient base for exploring the area. Guests can enjoy comfortable rooms, perfect for unwinding after a day of sightseeing. The hotel features an airy lobby with a domed ceiling, adorned with Chinese landscape paintings, two restaurants, a terrace, and a bar.



## Yangshuo – Yangshuo Resort Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Situated by the Yulong River with beautiful views of the nearby mountains, the Yangshuo Resort Hotel provides complimentary bicycles, an outdoor pool, garden and sun terrace. Riverside Restaurant serves western food, while the Chinese Restaurant offers local and Cantonese food. Enjoy tea at the Ancient Ferry Restaurant or a drink in the Dragonfly Bar.

# Our Airline Partners

Fly with award-winning scheduled airlines

Distant Journeys appreciate how important it is to make sure your holiday starts and ends in the best possible way. Our award-winning airline partners offer great quality and comfort in their Economy Class cabins, which are all the more important when travelling to long haul destinations.

Why not make your holiday even more memorable with a flight upgrade? With priority check-in, lounge access and spacious comfortable seats, it will take your flying experience to a new level of comfort and service.



## Economy Class

Experience the warmth of Malaysian hospitality when you step on board Malaysian Airlines. Take advantage of your comfortable seat, delicious in-flight meals, and a wide selection of movies, music, and TV shows, to keep you entertained.



## Upgrade to Business Class from £3,395 return

Capturing the rich traditions, cultures and cuisines of Malaysia with warm hospitality on board, step into Malaysian Airlines Business Class cabin and enjoy world-class service, delicious meals and thoughtful amenities as you are whisked in total comfort toward your destination.

- Priority check-in and boarding
- Generous leg room with a 78-inch lie-flat bed
- 'Chef-on-Call' service available on selected routes
- Personal 16-inch entertainment touchscreen
- In-seat power supply and USB port



## Economy Class

Sit back and relax in Emirates' spacious Economy Class, with a typical seat pitch of 32 inches\*. Enjoy your own personal in-seat widescreen TV with a wide selection of world movies and music. Enjoy regionally inspired multi-course meals served with a selection of complimentary beverages.



## Upgrade to Premium Economy\* from £1,195 return

Enjoy added comfort and relaxation in Emirates new Premium Economy Cabin, with enhanced dining and beverages.

- Dedicated check-in at certain airports
- Spacious and comfortable cream leather seats offering up to 40 inches of leg room
- Adjustable cushioned leg rest and a greater recline
- Spacious woodgrain tables that fold neatly into the arm of your seat
- Complimentary amenity kits on selected flights
- Large pillows designed for all Premium Economy seats
- Enjoy a choice of delicious multi-course meals with a wide range of beverages



## Upgrade to Business Class from £4,145 return

Taste your way around the world with fine dining complimented with exclusive wines and spirits. Stretch out and relax in lie-flat Business Class seats.

- Fully flat bed seat with a seat pitch of up to 79 inches\*
- Large in-seat entertainment screen
- Fine dining meals served on Royal Doulton China
- Complimentary champagne, wines and spirits
- Priority check-in and priority boarding
- Lounge access

**Important information:** Prices shown are for return flights and are supplements to the individual tour price. Prices are subject to the availability of flights and may change. The correct price will be confirmed before you book. Images shown are representative of the product and may vary dependant of the aircraft type. \*Seat pitch is dependent on the aircraft type. \*Premium Economy is only available on selected flights.

# Our Airline Partners

Fly with award-winning scheduled airlines



## Economy Class

Singapore Airlines' Economy seats are designed to give you more personal space with a typical seat pitch of 32 inches\*. Enjoy KrisWorld in-flight entertainment with over 1,800 options of film, television, music and games and enjoy generous, complimentary meals and refreshments.



## Upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,395 return

From check-in to boarding and baggage handling, to reserving your main meal before you fly, you will enjoy priority treatment throughout your journey. In an exclusive, spacious cabin, Premium Economy Class seats are designed for your enhanced comfort, including a calf and foot rest built into your seat.

- Priority check-in and boarding
- Typical seat pitch of 38 inches\*
- Personal 13.3 inch widescreen LCD
- Option to pre-book meals with 'Book the Cook'
- Integrated calf and foot rest
- Noise-cancelling headsets and slippers



## Upgrade to Business Class from £3,595 return

A seat that seamlessly reclines into a bed. An 18 inch touchscreen monitor in high definition paired with noise-cancelling headphones. Personalise dinner time with 'Book the Cook' meal options, served on the finest porcelain and paired with champagne and wines from the finest vineyards around the world.

- Dedicated check-in and boarding
- Typical 50 inch seat pitch which converts into 78 inch long bed\*
- 18 inch widescreen LCD
- Option to pre-book exquisite meals with 'Book the Cook'
- Lounge access
- Premium champagne, wines and spirits

## Economy Class

Enjoy your journey through the skies with Cathay Pacific's award-winning Best Economy Class offering exceptional comfort and service, with ergonomic seats, ample legroom, delicious meal options and an award-winning inflight entertainment system. Passengers enjoy thoughtfully crafted meals featuring international flavours, while attentive cabin crew ensure a welcoming and seamless journey.



## Upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,195 return

Designed to give more comfort, space and personal attention throughout the entire journey, with dedicated check-in counters and priority boarding. Settle into your spacious seat, be greeted with a welcome drink and dine on premium meals served with a selection of wines and beverages.

- Priority check-in and boarding
- Pre-flight drink
- Dedicated cabin
- Snacks and soft drinks throughout the flight
- Amenity kit



## Upgrade to Business Class from £3,895 return

Enjoy a more comfortable travel experience, with priority check-in and boarding, premium lounge access, and an exclusive cabin featuring fine dining and award-winning seats, which convert into a fully flat bed. Cathay Pacific's Business Class goes that extra mile to make customers feel special.

- Priority check-in and boarding
- Seat that converts into a fully flat bed
- Lounge access
- Award-winning selection of wines and beverages
- Fluffy pillows and a soft-fabric duvet
- Luxury amenity kit

## Economy Class

Enjoy true Japanese hospitality when flying Japan Airlines (JAL) in their award-winning Economy Class. Relax in your fully adjustable seat which features a typical seat pitch of up to 33 inches. Be entertained by MAGIC, JAL's in flight entertainment system, including the latest movies, a wide variety of audio content ranging from the latest pop music to rakugo (comic storytelling) performances all on your personal 10.6 inch touch-panel monitor. Enjoy delicious meals by up and coming Japanese chefs from the JAL Kitchen Gallery.



## Upgrade to Premium Economy Class from £1,295 return

Enjoy an even more relaxing flight in the comfort of Premium Economy.

- Enjoy a quick, hassle-free check-in at the dedicated check-in counters
- Relax in the lounge ahead of your flight
- Enjoy premium seats with a typical seat pitch of 37 inches that emphasize functionality and privacy.
- Seats in front of you do not recline backwards into your space
- Sip on champagne or Japanese Shochu and enjoy scrumptious refreshments like "de sky" series udon wheat noodles
- Amenity kit including toothbrush set, moisture mask, earplugs, eye mask and slippers



## Upgrade to Business Class from £3,495 return

Ensuring a refined and unforgettable experience for every passenger, fly JAL Business Class.

- Enjoy a dedicated check-in, lounge access and priority baggage
- Separate on-board cabin, with priority boarding
- Relax in your adjustable seat that converts to a fully flat bed
- JAL BEDD – your exclusive restaurant in the sky offers special menus carefully arranged by select chefs
- Enjoy specially-selected wines from around the world
- Original amenity kit designed with Paris brand "Maison Kitsuné". The kit includes toothbrush set, earplugs, eye mask, moisture mask and slippers

**Important information:** Prices shown are for return flights and are supplements to the individual tour price. Prices are subject to the availability of flights and may change. The correct price will be confirmed before you book. Images shown are representative of the product and may vary dependant of the aircraft type. \*Premium Economy is only available on selected flights.









# distantjourneys

Your Time to Explore

## Other Destinations

India  
Sri Lanka  
Australia  
New Zealand  
South Africa  
Kenya  
Canada & Alaska



To book, call our travel experts FREE on

**0800 141 3702**

**Monday - Friday** 9.00am - 5.30pm **Saturday** 9.00am - 5.00pm **Sunday** Open in peak season

**Email** [enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk) **Visit** [distantjourneys.co.uk](http://distantjourneys.co.uk)

**Address** 8 Hattersley Court, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2AY

*Opening hours may vary, please see website for details.*

This brochure has been printed using Carbon Balanced Paper, in conjunction with the Woodland Carbon Code.

