# Far East

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

Escorted Touring Holidays **2025** – **2026** 





### "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

letnamese welcome

#### 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.

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

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# 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

#### 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



# 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.

# 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



8 | Visit distantjourneys.co.uk



# 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







### 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





# 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.

# 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







# Wonders of Japan





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.







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 porterage 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.





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 Koii, 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





### 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

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 12: Nara & Osaka, 2 nights

#### 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.

#### 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

### Departure Dates & Prices

#### 2025 Departures

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

#### 2026 Departures

16 January 2026*	<b>£5,195</b> per person
27 February 2026*	£5,495 per person
26 March 2026	£5,895 per person
01 April 2026	£5,895 per person

<sup>\*</sup> 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

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





# $Treasures\ of\ Japan-\hbox{\scriptsize Exclusively Solos}$

Ü 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.



 $\bigcirc$  = Number of nights



### 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 porterage 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

### $Treasures\ of\ Japan-\hbox{\it Exclusively Solos}$

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





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







e deer of Nara Sushi and sashim

### 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

£8,095 per person
£8,095 per person
<b>£7,595</b> per person
<b>£7,595</b> per person
<b>£7,595</b> per person
£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** 

#### Price

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.

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### Call to book

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### 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









32 Visit distantjourneys.co.uk





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 porterage 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
- ★ 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

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







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

#### Day 6: Mount Fuji and Fuji Five Lakes Tour Highlight

Mt. Fuii. or Fuii-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 Fuii-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 centrallylocated 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

Kenroku-en Garden, 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





ırashiki Fushimi Inari Shrine, Kyo

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 thoughtprovoking 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







eji Castle Japanese tempura

### 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	<b>£7,195</b> per person
25 March 2026^	<b>£7,195</b> per person
01 April 2026	<b>£7,195</b> per person
02 April 2026*	<b>£7,195</b> per person
09 May 2026	£6,795 per person
17 May 2026	£6,795 per persor
19 September 2026	£6,995 per persor
10 October 2026	£6,995 per persor
05 November 2026	<b>£6,995</b> per persor

<sup>\*</sup> These departures operate from Osaka to Tokyo. 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** 

#### Price

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

### **Single occupancy supplement** £1,595

#### Deposi

£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











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

# 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.





# Discover China - Exclusively Solos

□ 17 days Ø 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.



(3) = Number of nights

# 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 porterage 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.





### 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

### $Discover\ China - {\sf Exclusively\ Solos}$

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







Shanghai

### 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 glamourous 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 classicallystyled 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

<b>£4,695</b> per perso
£4,695 per perso
£4,795 per person
£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** 

#### Price

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



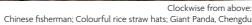












# The Very Best of China

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

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



(3) = Number of nights



### 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 porterage 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.





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 440,000m2, 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 bestpreserved 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







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





Farmer and buffalo, Yangshou

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 Shenny 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











### The Very Best of China

Days 19 to 23: Shanghai - Suzhou - UK

#### Day 19: Shanghai

Shanghai is China's most glamourous 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 Shanghainese 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	<b>£4,895</b> 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 <b>£1,495</b> per persor
3-5 guests	from <b>£995</b> per persor
6 guests	from <b>£495</b> per persor

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

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.

#### 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











<sup>\*</sup>Only available on certain flights.





Clockwise from above: Wild Proboscis monkey; Traditional Asian confectionery

# 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.



(3) = Number of nights



### 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



Carefully selected accommodation in great locations, with all hotel porterage 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,
- ★ 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.





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



70 Visit distantjourneys.co.uk





Rainforest canopy, Sepilok

# 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**

lunch included

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

### 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





# 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



Oranguta





n bear Gomantone Caves Kota Kina

# 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

## 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.

## 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

# Departure Dates & Prices

### 2025 Departures

20 September 2025	£4,195 per person
18 October 2025	<b>£4,195</b> per person

### 2026 Departures

£4,395 per person
£4,445 per person
£4,445 per person
£4,445 per person
£4,495 per person
£4,495 per person

### **Private Touring Supplements**

2-3 guests	from <b>£595</b> per person
4-5 guests	from <b>£395</b> per person
6 guests	from <b>£295</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/VBOB

### Price

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

## Single occupancy supplement £995

### Deposi

£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

















Ninh Binh, Vietnam; Golden Buddha statue, Luang Prabang, Laos



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.

# X Hanoi Lan Ha Bay Da Nang 3 Hoi An Siem Reap 3 CAMBODIA Ho Chi Minh City $\bigcirc$ = Number of nights



# 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 porterage 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

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





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 Bén 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 instituted.

## 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





aditional 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

## 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.



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	£3,895 per person
07 March 2025	£3,895 per person
11 October 2025	£3,895 per person

### 2026 Departures

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

### **Private Touring Supplements**

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

### **Prices**

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

## Single occupancy supplement £695

### Deposi

£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











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

# Discover Vietnam & Cambodia - Exclusively Solos

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.





## 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 porterage 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.





Flower seller, Hanoi, Vietnam Lan Ha Bay, 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

Mai Chau, Vietnam

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.







Angkor Wat, 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









## 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.



### 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*	f4.695 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

<sup>\*</sup> 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

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

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













Viewing deck of RV Laos Pandaw, Mekong River; Buddhist monks, Luang Prabang, Laos

# 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.

# Chiang Mai 10) Mekong Cruise Vientiane $\bigcirc$ = Number of nights





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 porterage 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 /
- 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 Explorer

Days 1 to 7: UK - Vientiane - Mekong River - Xayabouri 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 Sainvabuli 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: Xayabouri 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 Xayabouri 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





# 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

### 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



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



Cocktails on board RV Laos Pandaw







Local tribe in Chiang Mai, Thailand

# Mekong River Explorer Days 13 to 10: Bals Rong, Chiang Khong, Chiang Bais, Chiang

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

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

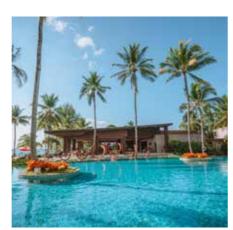
Our time in Khao Lak has come to an end and today we make the short journey to Phuket Airport to begin our journey home to the UK. Breakfast included

### 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	£7.995 per person

### 2026 Departures

17 January 2026	£7,995 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

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

### Single occupancy supplement £1,295

£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











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

# The Very Best of Vietnam

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.





# 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 porterage 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 Hau Lu, 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



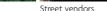
All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout



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.





# 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







a 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

# 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' (savoury 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

# 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?



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

<sup>\*</sup> This departure uses Indochine, on our Ha Long Bay cruise.

### **Private Touring Supplements**

2 guests	from <b>£1,195</b> per person
3 guests	from <b>£995</b> per person
4 guests	from <b>£795</b> per person
5 guests	from <b>£695</b> per person
6 guests	from <b>£595</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/VBOV** 

### Price

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

## Single occupancy supplement £1,095

### Deposi

£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















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.







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 porterage 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



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

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

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





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

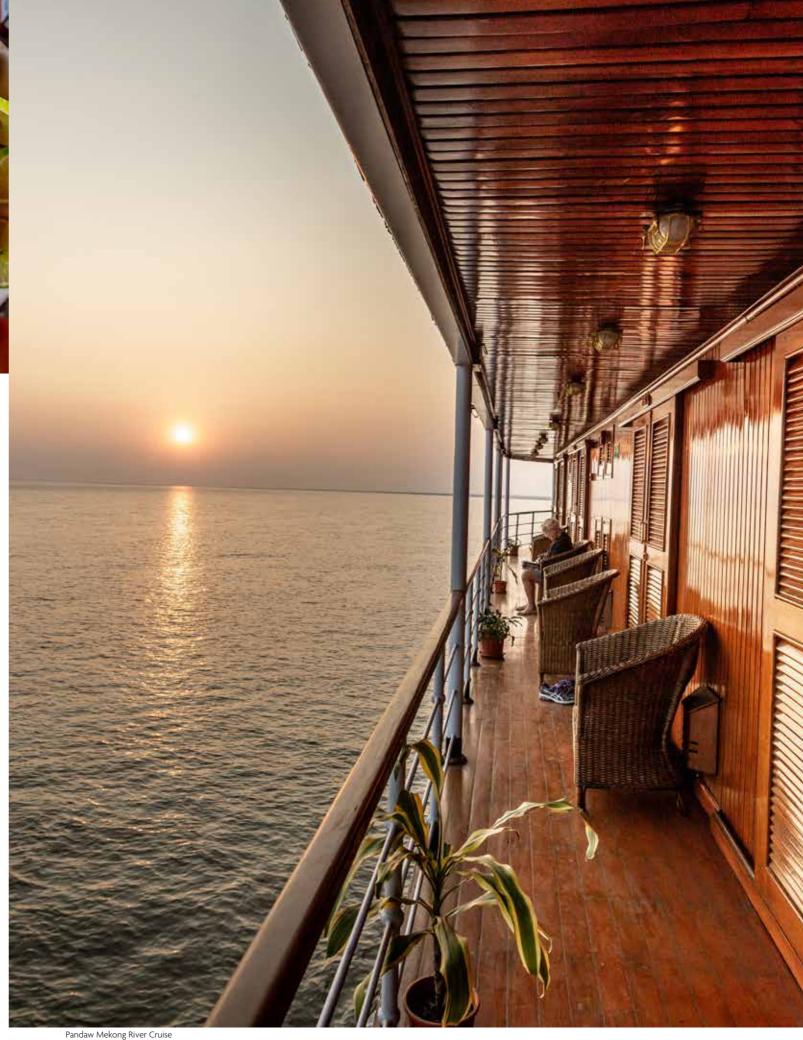
### Day 13: Cu Chi Tunnels & Ho Chi Minh City

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**

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









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, gleaning 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.











Days 21 to 22: Siem Reap - UK

### Day 21: Depart Siem Reap

Take the opportunity to relax before the homeward journey, or squeeze some lastminute 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



### 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

<sup>\*</sup> 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

### **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

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<sup>^</sup> 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









# 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.

**Our Holiday Extension** 

The Very Best of Borneo

to Kota Kinabalu Beach is

available with the following

### 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

## Your Kota Kinabalu holiday extension includes:

Three nights accommodation with daily breakfast, and all transfers.

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

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 Palau Gava. 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

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

See pages 68-77

# 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

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.

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

### 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!

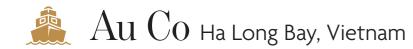


Tai Chi on the sun deck

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

Dining

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









Au Co exterior

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

Sun deck

### 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 mea

### 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

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.

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.



Chef preparing mea

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



# Century River Cruise Yangtze River







MV Century Victory

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.

Above: MV Century Oasis, Deluxe Cabin

Below: MV Century Victory, Pavillion Café

### 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



MV Century Oasis, Top observation deck

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

Dining

- 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 PLAGE 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



## **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 in 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 rage. 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: ★★★★

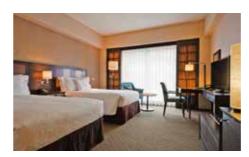
This hotel is ideally located in the heart of Shinjuku, Tokyo's bustling entertainment and shopping district. The Hilton Tokyo is just a short stroll from Shinjuku train station, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building and Yoyogi Park. The hotel features a variety of dining options to savour, including 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: ★★★★

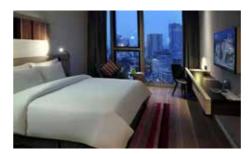
Little Residence Boutique Hotel & Spa is in close proximity to iconic landmarks and the lively Ancient Town of Hoi An, where traditional design elements combine with Portuguese architecture. Guestrooms have a private balcony to enjoy views over the town and are thoughtfully designed for a comfortable 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



**Hue. Vietnam** – Eldora Hotel

perfect for local craft beers and light bites.

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

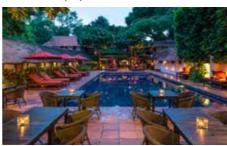
Local rating: ★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★

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 La



### **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.

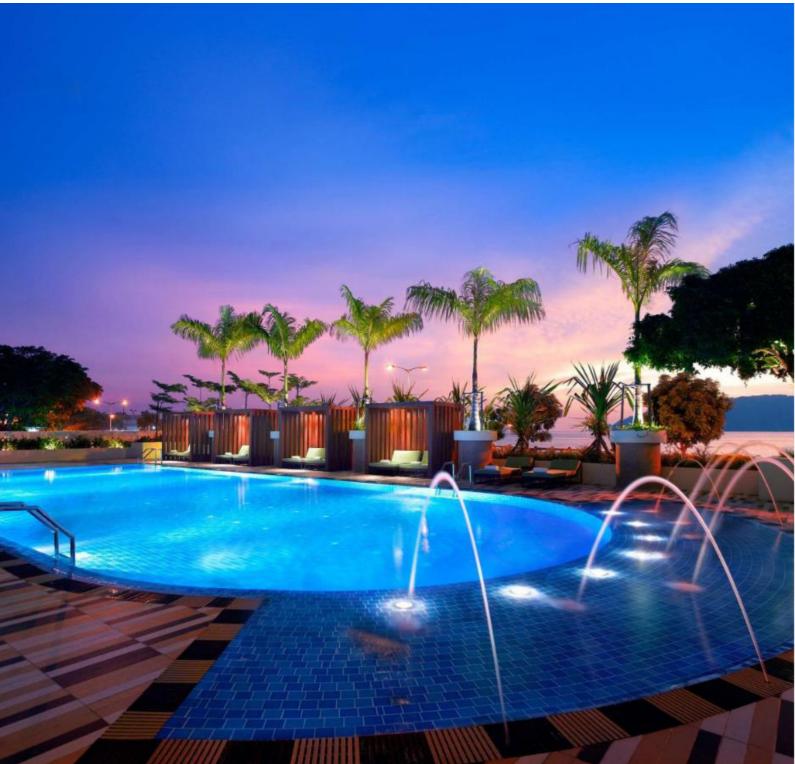


### **Khao Lak** – Ramada Resort by Wyndham

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<sup>^</sup>. 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 eval
- 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 cabi
- · Snacks and soft drinks throughout the flight
- Amenity ki



### 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. ^Seat pitch is dependent on the aircraft type. \*Premium Economy is only available on selected flights.

# Important Information

We recommend that you read our Important Information, together with our Booking Conditions before booking your holiday.

The following information on entry requirements, passports and visas is for British Citizens only. Any visa information covers visa requirements for the duration our tour stays in any given country If you intend to stay longer you should seek additional information before booking.

Holders of a British Subject passport, non-British citizens and holders of a passport endorsed in any way should check immigration requirements with the relevant embassy or consulate of the country to be visited, as should clients with dual nationality or renounced citizenship.

It is important to recognise that whilst the information below is correct at the time we go to print, all requirements may change and all clients must check the up to date position in good time before departure with the Embassy or consulate of the country(ies) you are travelling through and to.

We also suggest referring to the UK government's Foreign Travel Advice website, gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice for advice about travelling abroad, including the latest information on safety and security, entry requirements and travel warnings.

A valid ten-year British passport is required for all our holidays, valid for a minimum of six months after your return date to the UK. If you are not currently in possession of a valid passport please make sure you leave plenty of time before your holiday to apply for this document.

A full British passport presently takes approximately up to 10 weeks to obtain. If you are 16 or over and have not yet arranged a passport, you should apply for one at least 10 weeks before your departure from the UK. The UK Passport Service has to confirm an applicant's identity before issuing their first passport and will ask them to attend an interview in order to do this. Please note, if you need to apply for visas after you receive your new passport, you will need to factor in

For more information on passport and entry requirements please visit the Government Passport Office website, or see our website for more details.

This table provides a quick guide, for British Citizens, to which countries require a visa. If visas are required it is highly recommended you allow for a minimum of two blank pages per visa required. If a visa is being purchased locally, we recommend you have the correct amount, in the relevant currency, as change is not always available.

Country	Visa required	Cost
Borneo (Malaysia)	No	
Cambodia	Yes	USD \$35
China	Yes	£130 - £182  The above amount includes an Application Service Fee. Fees vary dependant on the service booked and Chinese Visa Application Centre used
Japan	No	
Laos	Yes	USD \$35 - \$50
Thailand	No	
Vietnam	No	

ow information provides guidance on how to apply for your visa. Alternatively, if you would prefer to have assistance with your visa and have the application process managed by a visa company, we recommend The Travel Visa Company.

For more detailed information along with useful links to the Foreign Office, online applications and The Travel Visa Company please refer to the FAQ section of our website.

When travelling on our Very Best of Vietnam & Cambodia tour, your border crossing between Vietnam and Cambodia is at the river border, whilst on the RV Pandaw cruise. Your Cambodian visa will be processed here, so you do not need to apply before you leave the UK. You will also be required to provide one passport photo. Please note that e-visas are not accepted at the

When travelling on our other tours including Cambodia you will need to either apply for an-evisa or, you can get a visa on arrival at Siem Reap airport. You need to provide a passport photo

You are required to make your visa application in person at a Chinese Visa Application Centre (CVASC) and as part of the process biometric data (scanned fingerprints) have to be provided. It is recommended that you apply for your visa within 120 days of travel, and no less than one month before your intended travel date. You will also need to show proof of an air-ticket booking and provide accommodation details.

For China, we do highly recommend using the services of either The Visa Travel Company, o another reputable visa service company to help you with the process. The fee for this would be in the region of £80.00 for a standard service.

If joining our Mekong River Explorer holiday or taking our Luang Prabang extension, you will need a visa to enter Laos. Most people do this on arrival at the airport in Laos. The cost is approx. \$36-\$40USD per person. You will also need 2 passport photographs. Alternatively, you can apply for an e-visa on the Laos government e-visa website. You must apply at least 3 days prior to your arrival and the fee is \$50USD per person. Both tourist visas are valid for 30 days.

British Nationals may enter Vietnam for up to 45 days without needing to apply for a visa.

**NOTE** Entry requirements may change and it is your responsibility to ensure you are in possession of all necessary travel, passport, visa and other entry requirements before departure. All costs incurred in obtaining such documentation must be paid by you. We regret we cannot accept any liability if you are refused entry onto any transport or into any country due to failure on your part to obtain and carry all required documentation.

Health facilities, hygiene and disease risks vary worldwide and may change at any time. You should take health advice from your GP or local travel clinic about your specific needs as early as possible and ensure that vaccinations or preventative measures are taken early enough (which may be a month or more prior to departure) to be fully effective by the date of travel.

In addition to the UK government's own travel advice website, we also recommend visiting the NHS Travel Vaccinations website,  $\underline{\text{nhs.uk/conditions/travel-vaccinations}} \text{ for more information any}$ 

## Staysure<sup>\*</sup>

sistant Journeys customers will benefit from a 15% saving on the base premium of for a no obligation quotation, call Staysure on Freephone 0800 652 1125, and quote reference DJIS to be eligible for the 15% saving. Alternatively, visit our website

### Travel insurance

We highly recommend that you take out sufficient and appropriate travel insurance. We recommend you do this at the time of booking so that in the event of cancellation, providing it is covered by your policy, your deposit (less any applicable excess) is protected. Distant Journeys work alongside Staysure to offer you a range of comprehensive single trip and annual multi-trip

**Medication and pre-existing conditions**If you have any pre-existing medical conditions or walking difficulties, you should inform us at the time of booking. It is your responsibility to ensure that any medication you are carrying is permitted to be taken into the countries you are visiting. We recommend you consult with your GP and relevant embassy before booking or travelling. Always carry medicines in their original, labelled packaging and in your hand-luggage along with a copy of your prescription. Whilst we recommend only carrying enough for the duration of your time away, a small spare supply can be useful. Check that the expiry dates of your medicines will be valid for the duration of your visit

Many of our itineraries include sightseeing tours which involve walking for medium to long periods of time and over uneven surfaces. Steps may also feature, either as part of a tour or within your accommodation. For your enjoyment we recommend a reasonable level of fitness and mobility is

Due to the limited accessibility to many of the sights and restrictions on included activities, our tours are generally not suitable for wheelchair bound customers or customers with restricted

If you are in any doubt of the suitability of any of our tours, or have reduced mobility in any way, it is essential you discuss this with us before making a booking.

On payment of a deposit, your holiday is confirmed and we will send you your confirmation email. It is important you check this email as soon as you receive it. Check the tour name and departure date is correct, check names exactly match your passport and familiarise yourself with the times of your flights. If anything is incorrect, please call us immediately.

Your full travel documents which include electronic tickets, a final itinerary, luggage labels and holiday information booklet will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to your departure.

Generally, all our tours travel when it is considered the best time to travel however it is important to note that some countries, such as Vietnam, India and Sri Lanka cover different climate zones, so climates may vary throughout your tour. As weather patterns around the world are becoming less predictable the information we provide should be used as a guide only and is no guarantee of the eather at the time you travel. We also recommend checking up-to-date weather forecasts before you travel

Borneo is hot and humid year round, remaining fairly consistently between 30 and 35 degrees. Our tours travel between March and June, and September and October, when there is least rainfall, although there is always a chance of a short downpour.

Like most of Southeast Asia. Cambodia is warm to hot year-round and the climate is dominated by the annual monsoon cycle with its alternating wet and dry seasons. Broadly November to April is considered the dry season and May to October the wet season, although the wet season, does not necessarily mean it rains every day for long periods

China covers many different provinces so the weather can be changeable, however as a general guide, during Spring and Autumn the weather tends to be warm and dry and a little cooler in

Japan's climate still enjoys four distinct seasons; spring, summer, autumn and winter. Our tours travel late spring (March to May) and late autumn (September to November) when there is little rainfall, skies are clear, and temperatures are mild. What's more, the delicate cherry blossom of spring and vivid hues of autumn leaves are visually stunning.

Laos is best visited between October and April, during the 'dry' season. Generally expect temperatures between high 20's and early 30's with little rainfall.

Vietnam's long, narrow shape means that its climate is split into three different microclimates: North (Hanoi and Ha Long Bay). Central (Hue and Hoi An) and South (Ho Chi Minh City and Mekong Delta). This combined with opposing monsoon seasons in the north and south does mean that the climate is quite different from one region to the next. Broadly speaking you can expect warm to hot and humid temperatures and some rainfall.

Our tours visit Thailand in what is classed as the cool and dry season, although the temperatures and humidity can vary between north and south. Generally, you can expect temperatures between 29°C to 34°C, with higher humidity in the south.

Dress for our tours is generally relaxed and informal during the day, dressing to suit the weather conditions and the activity you are undertaking. Evening dinners are also informal, with smart casual dress being the norm.

It's likely there will be occasions when exploring you'll be walking on uneven surfaces, so we recommend sturdy and comfortable walking shoes. Wearing layers of clothing means it's much easier to deal with potentially varied weather conditions – remember it will be cooler at higher altitudes - and it's always advisable to carry a waterproof, good insect repellent, a high factor sunBear in mind some countries you will visit adopt a more conservative standard of dress than we are used to in the UK. When visiting sacred places, it is recommended that arms and legs are covered. Women may also wish to take a shawl to cover their shoulders and all visitors should wear long trousers, or skirts or shorts that reach below the knee. Taking off your shoes is also a prerequisit before entering many sacred places – and commonplace when entering many buildings, including

### Currency, credit cards and currency cards

Country	Currency	Additional information
Borneo (Malaysia)	Malaysian Ringgit	
Cambodia	Riel	US Dollars are widely accepted, although small change may be in local currency
China	Renminbi	China is fast becoming a cashless society and we highly recommend, setting up Alipay and WeChat Pay before you depart the UK
Japan	Yen	Many establishments including restaurants still prefer cash to credit cards even in cities
Laos	Kip	Local currency can be purchased on arrival however, US Dollars are also widely accepted. Expect change in local currency.
Vietnam	Dong	Be prepared to pay cash for any purchased items on your cruise on Ha Long Bay, as limited Wi-Fi means card machines rarely work
Thailand	Thai Baht	

No matter which country you are travelling to please take note of the following general advice;

- ATMs are generally available in major cities, less so in rural areas
- Credit cards are generally widely accepted in the majority of hotels, cruises, larger international restaurants and shops, although be aware credit card payments may incur an additional fee.
- If purchasing small items or purchasing from local shops, restaurants and markets, local currency is always recommended.
- Outside of major cities, with the exception of hotels, local currency is always recommended. If you are planning to use your debit or credit card whilst travelling, advise your bank of your travel plans in advance so you do not encounter potential problems when trying to withdraw.
- cash or make a payment When you change money, ask for some small bills and keep these, along with coins separate from the larger ones, so that they're readily accessible. Carrying small notes and coins separately
- . It is always worth carrying a small amount of UK Sterling or US Dollars as these can always be readily exchanged.
- Keep your exchange receipts as these may be needed if you want to exchange any remaining currency you have at the end of your trip.

In addition to using Travel Credit cards and Debit cards, a currency card is also a popular way of buying currency for your holiday. You can preload these before leaving the UK and many also offer advantageous exchange rates. If travelling to multiple countries, different currencies can be loaded and used for card payments or ATM cash withdrawals.

We recommend the Revolut card, which offers 150 currencies and enjoys favourable exchange rates, making it a perfect card to use for any card payments, such as hotels and restaurants. You can withdraw cash from ATMs whilst abroad, but there is a limit of £200 per month, before paying

For further benefits on using currency cards, more information on Revolut please visit distantjourneys.co.uk/revolut-currency-card

Tipping in most Asian countries is generally highly appreciated and to some extent often expected. Yet in Japan, tipping is not common practice and in most instances such as in restaurants and bars, or taxis, should be avoided as it is more likely to cause confusion, or even offence.

Tipping is always discretionary, however if you are happy with the service provided by your Tour Manager, local guides and coach drivers, we would suggest showing your appreciation for the services offered. For a full guide on tipping, including appropriate amounts in Borneo, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, China, Japan and Thailand, please refer to the FAQ's on our website.

### Baggage allowance

you are entitled to carry one suitcase per person. Total dimensions for each piece must not exceed 158cm (62in) and weight must not exceed 20kg (44lbs). Dimensions for luggage are calculated by adding together the length, height and depth of the piece of baggage. In most instances this will be less than the airlines permitted allowance and is restricted to accommodate for coach and, or train capacity, domestic flights and where applicable local health and safety laws. We are unable to accommodate more than one suitcase per person, or any oversized pieces of luggage.

Personal and valuable items such as cameras, medication, money/credit cards etc. should be carried in a travel bag or on your person.

Please Note. If travelling to China we advise that you do not take any aerosols in your luggage (checked, or hand) as these are likely to be taken off you and may cause delays in boarding transport such as trains and cruises.

The majority of included meals, unless otherwise specified, will be a buffet. Speciality dinners and lunches will generally be a buffet or set menu. Hotels may offer dining in a la carte restaurants at

With many airlines you can pre-book your seats prior to check in to give you a wider choice of seat selection. Please note, many airlines now charge for this service. Preselected seating is not guaranteed and can be charged at the airlines discretion.

## Domestic flights All domestic flights within our tours are booked on a group basis. Your tour manager will fully assist

with the check-in process for these flights.

During your tour, you can book a range of additional optional excursions and activities. These are at an additional cost, subject to availability and seasonal operations, and may be subject to minimum/maximum numbers. Where possible we allow for these to be booked locally with your Tour Manager or local guide, however, in some instances prebooking will be required. When booking locally, in some countries these excursions can only be paid for in cash. Details on the Freedom Day experiences available for your tour, along with costs and information on how to book, may be found on our website alongside the itineraries of each individual tour.

On occasions some of our tours may be travelling during National or Public Holidays, some of which are religious. In some instances, this can mean a limitation of services, or reduced opening hours for shops and restaurants. Alternatively, it may mean that some attractions are much busier

Seat rotation on coaches
On group tours we offer a fair system of seat rotation to allow all passengers to experience a variety of views. Exceptions cannot be made to this policy.

Smoking, including electronic cigarettes, is not allowed at any time onboard our coaches or any flight. Within hotels, smoking and the use of electronic cigarettes may be restricted to designated areas. We'll endeavour to ensure there are frequent stops on any coach trip, however we can't guarantee smoking facilities will always be available. It is also worth noting some countries are beginning to ban the use of electronic cigarettes. We recommend you check for up-to-date information before you travel.

An experienced English-speaking Tour Manager^ accompanies every tour. They are there to ensure your comfort, answer your questions and make your holiday relaxed and memorable. ^On Private Tours, you will receive the services of a driver(s) and local guides, or a driver guide, as appropriate.

Distant Journeys offer you a range of travel extras – from airport transfers, or airport parking and hotels, to security fast track and airport lounges. For more information and prices on the range of extras available to book, please visit the Distant Journeys website.

When travelling in China you will find access to certain social media sites, such as Facebook is not allowed. You will also be unable to use sites like Google and their associated services such as Gmail. WhatsApp is also not available.

The information provided here is as a general guide only. For more detailed information please refer to our FAQ section on our website distantjourneys.co.uk

### Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements 2018

subject to additional costs.

Part I: General
The combination of travel services offered to you is a package within the meaning of the
Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018. Therefore you will benefit
from all EU rights applying to the packages. We, Distant Journeys Limited, a company
registered in England with company number 08994196 and registered office at 8 Hattersley
Court, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2AY, will be fully responsible for the proper performance of the package as a whole. Additionally, as required by law, we have protection in place to refund your payments and, where transport is included in the package, to ensure your repatriation in the event that we become insolvent.

### Part 2: Key rights under the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations

- Travellers will receive all essential information about the package before concluding the package travel contract.
- There is always at least one trader who is liable for the proper performance of all the travel services included in the contract.
- Travellers are given an emergency telephone number or details of a contact point where they can get in touch with the organiser or the travel agent.
   Travellers may transfer the package to another person, on reasonable notice and possibly
- subject to additional costs.

  The price of the package may only be increased if specific costs rise (for instance fuel prices), and if expressly provided for in the contract, and in any event not later than 20 days before the start of the package. If the price increase exceeds 8% of the price of the package, the traveller may terminate the contract. If the organiser reserves the right to a price increase, the traveller has a right to a price reduction if there is a decrease in the
- Travellers may terminate the contract without paying any termination fee and get a full Travellers may terminate the contract without paying any termination fee and get a full refund of any payments if any of the essential elements of the package, other than the price, has changed significantly. If before the start of the package the trader responsible for the package cancels the package, travellers are entitled to a refund and compensation where appropriate.

  Travellers may terminate the contract without paying any termination fee before the
- start of the package in the event of exceptional circumstances, for instance if there are serious security problems at the destination which are likely to affect the package. Additionally, travellers may at any time before the start of the package terminate the
- Additionally, taveties may at any time before the start of the package terminate the contract in return for an appropriate and justifiable termination fee.
   If, after the start of the package, significant elements of the package cannot be provided as agreed, suitable alternative arrangements will have to be offered to the traveller at no extra cost. Travellers may terminate the contract without paying any termination fee, where services are not performed in accordance with the contract and this substantially affects the performance of the package and the organiser fails to remedy the problem.
- Travellers are also entitled to a price reduction or compensation for damages or both where the travel services are not performed or are improperly performed.
   The organiser has to provide assistance if the traveller is in difficulty.
- The organiser has to provide assistance if the traveller is in difficulty.
   If the organiser becomes insolvent, payments will be refunded. If the organiser becomes insolvent after the start of the package and if transport is included in the package, repatriation of the travellers is secured. Distant Journeys Limited has taken out insolvency protection for flight-only booking and flight inclusive packages by way of our Air Travel Organiser's Licence number 10913, issued by the Civil Aviation Authority, Gatwick Airport South, West Sussex, RH6 0YR, UK, telephone 0333 103 6350, email: claims@caa.co.uk. For package holidays which don't include flights, Distant Journeys provides full financial protection by way of a bond held by The Ascription of Randed Travel Organiser's Tust. protection by way of a bond held by The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) (ABTOT membership number 5427) and in the event of their insolvency. You may contact ABTOT'S 24/7 helpline on 01702 81 of an ABTOT protected travel company. Travellers may contact this entity if services are denied because of Distant Journeys Limited's insolvency. Please see our Booking Conditions for further information.

Part 3: The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 can be found

legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/634/contents

# **Booking Conditions**

Distant Journeys Booking Conditions. Published November 2024

The following booking conditions together with our Privacy Policy, the general information contained in our tour brochure and any other written information we brought to your attention befor confirmed your booking form the basis of your contract with Distant Journeys Limited, a company registered in England with company number 08994196 and registered office at 8 Hattersley Court, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2AY ("we", "us", "our"). Please read them carefully as they set out our respective rights and obligations. By asking us to confirm your booking, we are entitled to assume that you have had the opportunity to read and have read these booking conditions and

In these booking conditions references to "you" and "your" include the first named person on the booking and all persons on whose behalf a booking is made or any other person added to a booking or to whom a booking is transferred.

Except where otherwise stated, these booking conditions only apply to the tour arrangements shown in our brochure (including accommodation required both before and after your main holida and activities and other services) which you book with us and pay for before departure from the UK and which we agree to make, provide or perform (as applicable) as part of our contract with you.

All references in these booking conditions to "holiday", "booking", "tour" or "arrangements" mean such tour arrangements unless otherwise stated. All bookings are made pursuant to these booking conditions. Please be aware that your deposit is non-refundable where you choose to cancel your holiday.

By making a booking, the first named person on the booking (the "lead name") agrees on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking that:

- a. he/she has read these booking conditions and has the authority to and does agree to be bound by them;
- b. he/she consents to our use of information and personal data in accordance with our Privacy Policy and is authorised on behalf of all persons named on the booking to disclose their personal details to us, including where applicable special categories of data (such as information on health conditions or disabilities and dietary
- c. he/she is over 18 years of age and resident in the United Kingdom and where placing an order for services with age restrict declares that he/she and all members of the party are of the appropriate age to purchase those services:
- d. he/she accepts financial responsibility for payment of the booking on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking.

The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 will apply to your contract. For more information on your rights under these regulations please see the link www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/634/contents

### 2. In these booking conditions

- a. Any reference to an EU regulation in these booking conditions should be taken to mean the UK legislation which replaces (or has replaced) that EU regulation and/or any EU regulation which continues to have effect in the UK as a result of being incorporated into UK law (in all cases referred to as 'retained EU law ). Changes to retained EU law are likely to be made over time. Reference to any FU regulation in these booking conditions is intended to refer to the relevant retained EU law at the applicable time.
- b. Unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances means a situation have been avoided even if all reasonable measures had been taken Such situations are likely to include (whether actual or threatened) war, riot, civil strife, terrorist activity, industrial dispute, natural disaster, fire, flood, an outbreak of a serious illness at your holiday destination, adverse weather conditions, closure, restriction or congestion of airports, other transport hubs or airspace, flight restrictions imposed by any regulatory authority or third party and any volcanic activity. Unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances also include the coronavirus pandemic and any other epidemic or pandemic and any resultant impact on travel.

### 3. Special requests / fitness to travel medical conditions / disabilities / reduced mobility / allergies / special dietary requirements

If you have any special request, you should advise us in writing at the time of booking. Although we will endeavour to pass any reasonable requests on to the relevant supplier, we regret we cannot guarantee any request will be met. Failure to meet any special request will not be a breach of contract on our part. Confirmation that a special request has been noted or passed on to the supplier or the inclusion of the special request on your confirmation invoice or any other documentation is not confirmation that the request will be met. All special requests are subject to availability and we cannot guarantee that your special request will be met.

Many of our itineraries include sightseeing tours which may involve walking for medium to long periods of time and over uneven surfaces. Steps may also feature, either as part of a tour or within your accommodation. Different modes of transport, such as safari vehicles houseboats, sampans and rickshaws may also be used.

This is not an exhaustive list and it is therefore a condition of booking that you are fit and able to take care of yourself for the duration of the tour. You must have a level of fitness suitable for your chosen tour and must recognise that if you do have any disabilities or walking difficulties you may find access to certain attractions and/or parts of your tour restricted

Our tours may not be suitable for people with certain disabilities, medical conditions or significantly reduced mobility. Before you make your booking, we will advise you as to whether the proposed holiday arrangements are generally suitable for someone with reduced mobility. However, reduced mobility of course means different things to different individuals as we fully appreciate that individual capabilities, restrictions and requirements are likely to vary considerably. When we refer to reduced mobility, this means any material reduction in mobility whether this is permanent or temporary and whether caused by age or by physical or mental disability or mpairment or other cause of disability

Before you make your booking, please do let us know in writing if you suffer from any medical condition, disability, significant reduction obility or significant allergy which may affect your tour (including any which affect the booking process) or have any special requirement as a result. We will assist you in considering the suitability of the arrangements and/or making the booking. We will need to notify our suppliers to ensure that they can meet your needs. You must inform us in writing if there is a material change in your condition, disability, mobility or allergy or if one develops after your booking has been confirmed. If we or our suppliers are unable to properly accommodate the needs of the person(s) concerned, we will unfortunately not be able to confirm your booking or if we did not know at the time and we cannot assist you, we must reserve the right to cancel your booking and apply cancellation charges.

We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance to a customer for walking, dining, pushing their wheelchair, getting on and off motor coaches or other transportation vehicles or other personal needs. Therefore, customers who need such assistance, or customers with disabilities or special needs must be accompanied by a companion capable of providing all assistance required.

We may require a doctor's note to confirm that you are fit to travel if we have concerns about your ability to participate in a tour.

You must have travel insurance to cover any medical condition, disability, significant reduction in mobility or significant allergy.

Acting reasonably, if we or our suppliers are unable to properly accommodate the needs of the person(s) concerned, we will not confirm your booking or if you did not give us full details at the time of booking, we will cancel it and impose applicable cancellation charges when we become aware of these details. On occasion . the decision to cancel can only be made at the time the person concern joins the tour as it may only be apparent at this stage that we cannot properly accommodate the needs of the person concerned. We will not be liable for any expenses arising from your being precluded from joining or completing the tour for any such reason and no refunds or compensation will be paid.

We will advise our suppliers of any allergy information you provide us with. However, you must take appropriate precautions to protect yourself whilst on holiday. Without limitation, it is your responsibility to ensure that any food you are intending to consume does not include anything to which you are allergic at the time you order or

Please see further information relating to mobility aids and destination specific term by visiting the FAQ section of our website <u>www.distantjourneys.co.uk/faqs</u>

### 4. Minimum number of bookings

The operation of all tours is conditional on us securing the minimum number of bookings required to operate the tour. Unless notified otherwise, the minimum number which we aim for in respect of each tour is 15 travellers, or if travelling to Japan, the minimum number is 20 travellers. For Private Tours, Holiday Extensions and our African multi-day railtours, the minimum number is 2 travellers. For Solo Tours, the minimum number is 10 travellers. Where sufficient numbers cannot be achieved, we reserve the right to cancel or change a scheduled tour. Please also see clause 13. We will endeavour to make any decision to cancel or significantly change a tour no less than 60 days prior to the scheduled departure date of the tour but in any event will notify you no less than 20 days prior to the departure date of the tour.

If you are offered a new travel date as a result of this clause 4, it is your responsibility to advise your travel insurance company of your new travel dates. We are not liable for any loss in failed insurance claims if you fail to do this.

### 5. Booking and making payment for your arrangements

To secure any booking, you must pay the applicable deposit as notified to you at the time we provide our quotation or full payment if booking 90 days or less (130 days or less if booking an African multi-day railtour) before the start of the tour. We reserve the right to return your deposit and decline to issue a booking confirmation at our absolute discretion. The deposit or full payment, as applicable, must be received by us within 7 days of booking to ensure your place on the tour is held. Bookings will be automatically cancelled if the applicable deposit or full payment, as applicable, is not received by us and we will have no further liability to you. Deposits are non transferable and non refundable except as expressly set out in these booking conditions. We therefore recommend that you have adequate insurance to cover this.

The balance of the tour price (after deduction of the applicable deposit) must be received by us no less than 90 days (130 day on an African multi-day railtour) prior to the start of your tour. If we do not receive all payments due (including any surcharge where applicable) in full and on time, we are entitled to assume that you wish to cancel your booking. In this case, we will be entitled to keep all deposits paid or due at that date. If we do not cancel straight away because you shown in clause 14 depending on the date we reasonably treat your

Please Note: If you are a single customer, unless travelling on one of our Solo Tours, the applicable single supplement will be added to your invoice at the time of your booking. We will aim to accommodate single customers in twin or double rooms, with single occupancy.

Subject to availability we will confirm your booking by issuing our nfirmation invoice. This invoice will be sent to the lead nam your confirmed arrangements include a flight, we will also issue you with an ATOL Certificate

Please check this invoice and the ATOL certificate carefully as soon as you receive them. Contact us immediately if any information which appears on any document appears to be incorrect or incomplete as it may not be possible to make changes later. We regret we cannot accept any liability if we are not notified of any inaccuracies (for which we are responsible) in any document within 10 days of our sending it these time limits but you must meet any costs involved in doing so.

If you wish to, you may contact us by e-mail for any of the reasons mentioned in these booking conditions (for example, to request an amendment) providing you do so to enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk A binding contract between you and us comes into existence when we dispatch our confirmation invoice for all bookings.

We both agree that English law (and no other) will apply to your contract and to any dispute, claim or other matter of any descriptior which arises between us ("claim") (except as set out below). We both also agree that any claim (and whether or not involving any personal injury) must be dealt with by the Courts of England and Wales only unless, in the case of court proceedings, you live in Scotland or Northern Ireland. In this case, proceedings must either be brought in the courts of your home country or those of England and Wales If proceedings are brought in Scotland or Northern Ireland, you may choose to have your contract and any claim governed by the law of Scotland/Northern Ireland as applicable (but if you do not so choose English law will apply). You may also use the AITO dispute resolution

### 8. Your obligations whilst on tour

- a) You must follow the Tour Manager's or, where applicable, Coach Captain's instructions at all times to ensure on tour safety. You acknowledge that failure to do so may result in restricted access to places of interest on tour or, if necessary for your own safety and/or that of other customers, withdrawal from the tour, On our multi-day railtours and Private Tours, your obligation is to the appropriate Distant Journeys representative, be that a local guide, Train Manager, or driver guide.
- b) All our customers are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly and acceptable manner and not to disrupt the enjoyment of others. If in our reasonable opinion, or in the reasonable opinion of any person in authority, you behave in such a way to cause danger, distress or upset or distress to any third party or damage to any property or the environment, we are entitled, without prior notice, to terminate the holiday of the person(s) concerned. In this situation, the person(s) concerned will be required to cease all use of the holiday services including leaving the tour and any accommodation. We will have no further responsibility toward such person(s) including any return travel arrangements. No refunds will be made and we will not pay any expenses, costs or loss incurred as a result of the termination
- c) When you book with us, you accept responsibility for any damage or loss you cause. You and/or your party may also be required to pay for loss and/or damage caused by your actions and we will hold you and each member of your party jointly and individually liable for any damage or losses caused by you or any member of your party. Full payment for any such damage or losses must be paid directly to the hotel manager or other supplier prior to the end of your stay or relevant service(s), as applicable. If you fail to make payment, you will be responsible for meeting any claims (including legal costs) subsequently made against us as a result of your actions together with all costs we incur in pursuing any claim
- d) You must make your own enquiries regarding your tour, including being aware of any relevant government travel or safety warnings

Prices shown in our brochures and on the website are believed correct at the time of publication. We reserve the right to alter our advertised (brochure or website) tour prices, introduce supplements or correct pricing errors at any time before your booking is confirmed. We also reserve the right to correct any errors in any tour price and not be legally bound in the case of incorrect pricing and acknowledgement of such an error does not mean acceptance of it. We will advise you of any error of which we are aware and of the revised applicable price at the time of booking. Once the tour price has been confirmed at the time of booking, clause 10 below will apply.

Farly booking offers: Whilst we may offer promotional discounts and/ closer to the departure date meaning the earlier you book the better

Last minute discounts: It is our policy never to sell any holiday cheape than originally advertised. In the unlikely event we reduce the price of your holiday to below what you have already paid (after any discounts have been applied), we will contact you to refund the difference.

the basic price of your holiday once your booking has been confirmed rrespective of any fluctuation in currency exchange rates, increases in international included economy air fares, or increases in other costs associated with your holiday other than the circumstances set out in the paragraph below which are expressly excluded from the price promise. In return for this guarantee and its risk to us, we shall not be able to make any refunds in the event of favourable exchange rate variations or other decreases in costs which would otherwise result n the reduction of the selling price except for the circumstances identified in the paragraph below.

Price match: Price match applies to an identical holiday operated by another tour operator (excluding travel agents and arrangements made independently) at the same or a lower price within 7 days of booking with us. By 'identical holiday', we mean one which: (i) departs on the same day from the same airport, with the same flight number and carrier, (ii) visits the same destination(s) for the same duration and offers the same number of included excursions/meals. (iii) features the same accommodation and board basis, and (iv) utilises the same services of a Tour Manager/Coach Captain. If this happens we will refund the difference between the cost of the holiday you have booked with us and the price of the identical holiday offered by the competitor. Plus, we will give you £200 per person towards a future booking. Our Price Promise applies once a booking is confirmed and a contract exists between us. It applies to tour prices only and does not include ad hoc or optional services such as airline upgrades, holiday additions, extended stays or regional connecting flights. Additionally this price promise does not apply to optional services including, but not limited to: visa charges, excursions and amendment fees.

<u>\*Exclusion</u>: The price promise excludes surcharges which are a direct consequence of changes in the level of taxes, fuel surcharges or fees chargeable for services applicable to the holiday imposed by third parties not directly involved in the performance of the holiday, including, but not limited to, tourist taxes, landing taxes, embarkation or disembarkation fees at ports and airports or airline fuel surcharges. Where such circumstances apply, you will be charged for the amount of any increase in accordance with this clause. However, if this means that you have to pay an increase of more than 8% of the price of your confirmed holiday (excluding any insurance premiums, amendr charges and/or additional services or travel arrangements), you will have the option of accepting a change to another holiday if we are able to offer one (if this is of lower quality you will be refunded the difference in price), or cancelling and receiving a full refund of all monies paid to us, except for any insurance premiums and any amendment charges and/or additional services or travel arrangements Should you decide to cancel for this reason, you must exercise your right to do so within 7 days from the issue date printed on your final invoice. We will consider an appropriate refund of insurance premium: paid if you can show that you are unable to transfer or reuse your policy. Should the price of your holiday go down due to the changes mentioned above, then any refund due will be paid to you less an administrative fee of £25. There will be no change made to the price of your confirmed holiday within 20 days of your departure nor will refunds be paid during this period.

### 11. Tour features

The features of the tour are set out in the tour brochure. We make no representations about the features of any tour other than those expressly set out in the tour brochure and these booking conditions.

### 12. Brochure validity

The tour brochure and these booking conditions are valid for the departure dates as stated in the tour brochure, or additional departure dates we may introduce, unless otherwise expressly advised by us.

### 13. Variation or cancellation by us

As we plan your holiday arrangements many months in advance we may occasionally have to make changes or cancel your booking and we reserve the right to do so at any time. We reserve the right to alter or change the accommodation, carriers, vehicles, vessels or any other service(s) which form part of any tour at any time for any reason and cancel or alter the itinerary and/or tour at any time without notice as we consider necessary for any reason whatsoever including road, weather or traffic conditions, non-performance of suppliers, industria action, operational conditions and requirements, water level problems, excessive winds or unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances.

Errors in the details of advertised and/or confirmed tours and/or other details occasionally occur and we reserve the right to correct these whenever they occur.

- (i) In the event of industrial action affecting air, rail, cruise or other tour related transportation we will make every effort to contact the lead name and advise of alternative arrangements (if any).
- (2) Most changes made to a confirmed tour will be insignificant and we have the right to make these. If we make an insignificant change to your holiday, we will make reasonable efforts to inform you as soon as reasonably possible if there is time before your departure. No compensation is payable for insignificant changes. Examples of insignificant changes include alteration of your outward/ return flights and/or coach journeys by less than 12 hours, change to aircraft type (if advised) or carrier, destination or departure airport to one in a similar geographical location, change of accommodation to another of the same or higher standard, mino changes to the itinerary.
- (3) Occasionally, we have to make a significant change to a confirmed tour and we reserve the right to do so. A significant change is a change made before departure which, taking account of the information you give us at the time of booking or which we can reasonably be expected to know as a tour operator, we can reasonably expect to have a significant effect on your tour Examples of "significant changes" include the following, when
- a) A change of accommodation area for the whole or a significant
- b) A change of accommodation to that of a lower standard or classification for the whole or a significant part of your time

c) A change of outward departure time or overall length of your arrangements by more than 12 hours

d) A change of UK departure airport except between

- The London airports: Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton Stansted, London City and Southend
- The South Coast airports: Southampton, Bournemouth
- The South Western airports: Cardiff and Bristol
- The Midlands airports: Birmingham, East Midlands and Doncaster Sheffield
- The Northern airports: Liverpool, Manchester and
- The North Eastern airports: Newcastle and Teesside The Scottish airports: Edinburgh, Glasgow, Prestwick
- e) A significant change to your itinerary, for example missing out a
- (4) In the event we have to significantly alter any of the main characteristics of your confirmed arrangements or accepted special requirements, we will provide you with the following information n writing as soon as possible: (i) the proposed alteration and any impact this has on the price: (ii) in the event that you do not wish to accept the alteration, details of any alternative holiday arrangements we are able to offer (including the applicable price); (iii) your entitlement to cancel your booking and receive a full refund if you do not want to accept the alteration or any alternative holiday arrangements offered; and (iv) the period within which you must inform us of your decision and what will happen if vou don't do so.
- (5) If you choose to cancel your booking in accordance with clause 13(4), we will refund all payments you have made to us within 14 days of the date the cancellation takes effect and terminates your contract (which is usually the date we send you a cancellation invoice following receipt of your written cancellation notification). If we don't hear from you with your decision within 7 days (having provided you with the above mentioned information for a second time), we will assume that you have chosen to accept the change or alternative booking arrangements. No compensation will be payable or other liability accepted where a change results from unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances.
- (6) Occasionally, it may be necessary to cancel a confirmed booking. We have the right to terminate your contract in the event (i) we are prevented from performing your contracted holiday arrangements as a result of unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances and we notify you of this as soon as reasonably possible or (ii) (where applicable) we have to cancel because the minimum number of bookings necessary for us to operate your group holiday has not been achieved and we notify you of cancellation for this reason as referred to in clause 4. Where we have to cancel your booking in these circumstances, we will refund all monies you have paid to us for your booking within 14 days of the effective date of cancellation (see clause 13/5)) but will have no further or other liability to you including in respect of compensation or any costs or expenses you incur or have incurred as a result, including without limitation any payments in relation to travel insurance premiums. We will of course endeavour to offer you alternative holiday arrangements where possible which you may choose to book (at the applicable price) in place of those cancelled. We also have the right to cancel if you fail to make payment in accordance with the terms of your contract in which case clause 14 will apply.
- (7) Please note, a full refund entitlement only arises where we are prevented from performing your contracted holiday arrangements as a result of unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances in accordance with clause 13(6) and we exercise our right to cancel as a result. Without limitation, you will not be entifull refund and cancellation charges are likely to apply where such circumstances affect your ability to travel on your holiday rather than our ability to perform or provide the contracted arrangements. This may be the case, for example, where measure applied by the UK or any other government or public authorities mean you are unable to leave your home/local area and/or travel to or gain entry into the country(ies) where your holiday is due to take place. The issue of advice or recommendations against trave by public authorities (such as the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office) does not automatically mean we are prevented from performing your holiday arrangements but may instead affect your ability to travel. Any obligation to quarantine or self-isolate on your return to your country of residence does not affect our ability to provide your holiday and will not entitle you to cancel without paying our usual cancellation charges.
- (8) In the event that unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances occur in the place of destination of your holiday or its immediate vicinity and significantly affect the performance of the contracted arrangements or the carriage of passengers to that destination, you will be entitled to cancel prior to departure without paymen of cancellation charges and receive a full refund of all monies you have paid to us for your booking (except for any previously incurred cancellation or amendment charges and travel insurance premiums). Where applicable, you must notify us of your wish to cancel for this reason in writing. Providing we are in agreement that you are entitled to do so in accordance with this clause, we will send you a cancellation invoice to confirm the cancellation. Any refund then due will be paid in accordance with clause 13(5) above We will notify you as soon as practicable should this situation occur. You will not be entitled to any compensation.
- (9) If we have to make a significant change to or cancel a confirmed tour, we will pay you reasonable compensation in the following
- a) If, where we make a significant change, you do not accept the changed arrangements and cancel your booking; or
- b) If we cancel your booking and no alternative arrangements are available and/or we do not offer one.

The compensation that we offer does not exclude you from claiming more if you are entitled to do so.

Period before departure within which notice of Cancellation or major change is notified to you	Compensation payabl per person booking
91 days or more	Nil
75 – 90 days prior to departure	£10
60 – 74 days prior to departure	£20
30 – 59 days prior to departure	£30
Less than 30 days prior to departure	f40

IMPORTANT NOTE: We will not pay you compensation in the

- a) where we make an insignificant change:
- b) where we make a significant change or cancel your arrangements more than 90 days before departure
- c) where we make a significant change and you accept those changed arrangements or you accept an offer of alternative travel
- d) where we have to cancel your arrangements as a result of your  $\,$ failure to make full payment on time
- where the change or cancellation by us arises out of alterations to the confirmed booking requested by you;
- f) where we cancel due to insufficient bookings;
- g) where we are forced to cancel or change your arrangements due to unavoidable and extraordinary circumstance

Very rarely, we may become unable to provide a significant proportion of the arrangements that you have booked with us after you have departed. If that occurs we will, if possible, make alternative arrangements for you at no extra charge and where those alternative arrangements are of a lower standard, provide you with an appropriate price reduction.

### 14. Amendment or cancellation by you

If you wish to make any amendments to your confirmed booking you must notify us in writing as soon as possible. Whilst we will do our best to assist, it may not always be possible to make such amendments. Where we can, an amendment fee of £75 per person will be payable together with any costs incurred by ourselves and any costs or charges incurred or imposed by any of our suppliers in making this change. ou should be aware that these costs could increase the closer to the departure date that changes are made and you should contact us as soon as possible. A change of tour dates will normally be treated as a cancellation of the original booking and rebooking in which case cancellation fees will apply. Changes may result in the recalculation of the tour price where, for example, the basis on which the price of the original tour was calculated has changed. Where we are unable to assist you and you do not wish to proceed with the original booking we will treat this as a cancellation by you. A cancellation fee may be payable in accordance with these booking conditions

### Transfer of booking:

If you or any member of your party is prevented from travelling, that person(s) may transfer their place to someone else, subject to the following conditions:

- a) that person is introduced by you and satisfies all the conditions applicable to the holiday:
- b) we are notified not less than 7 days before departure
- c) you pay any outstanding balance payment, an amendment fee of E75 per person transferring, as well as any additional fees, charges or other costs arising from the transfer: and
- d) the transferee agrees to these booking conditions and all other terms of the contract between us.

You and the transferee remain jointly and severally liable for payment of all sums. If you are unable to find a replacement, cancellation fees as set out below will apply in order to cover our estimated costs Otherwise, no refunds will be given for customers not travelling or for

Important Note: Certain arrangements may not be amended or transferred after they have been confirmed and any alteration could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements. Air Passenger Duty will always be non-refundable.

You may cancel your booking by notice to us in writing, this may be by letter or email, and payment of the applicable cancellation fee as shown below. Cancellation notifications are not effective until received by us in writing (if received by us on a weekend day or public holiday the notification will be treated as having been received by us on the next working day). Should one or more member of a party cancel, it may increase the per person holiday price of those still travelling and you will be liable to pay this increase

In calculating our cancellation charges, we have taken account of possible cost savings and the generation of income from other bookings which may be able to utilise cancelled services to the extent this is likely to be achievable. The following cancellation fees apply to each individual person who cancels and where shown as a percentage are based on the total cost of the arrangements which are being cancelled excluding any insurance premiums, amendment fee or previously incurred cancellation fees which are all non-refundable in the event of your cancellation:

### Cancellation fees

Period before your tour commences within which written notification

Tour cancellation period	Fee per person
More than 90 days prior to departure	Loss of Deposit
90 days to 75 days prior to departure	50% of holiday price
74 days to 60 days prior to departure	60% of holiday price
59 days to 30 days prior to departure	75% of holiday price
30 days prior to departure or less	100% of holiday price

### Note: If travelling on The Brahmaputra River & Darjeeling tour, India, the following tour cancellation fees will apply

Tour cancellation period	Fee per person
90 days prior to departure or less	100% of holiday pri

### Note: In travelling on African Rail Adventure, Namibian Rail Safari. or South African Rail Discovery tours, the following cancellation fees will apply

Tour cancellation period	Fee per person	
130 days to 30 days prior to departure	75% of holiday price	
30 days prior to departure	100% of holiday price	

 $\ensuremath{\text{NB}}$  Transferring to another departure date is highly likely to be treated as a cancellation by our suppliers and the cancellation fees above will apply. Depending on the reason for cancellation, you may be able to reclaim these cancellation charges (less any applicable excess) under the terms of your insurance policy. Claims must be made directly to the insurance company concerned.

Important Note: Certain arrangements may not be amended or transferred after they have been confirmed and any alteration could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements. Air Passenger Duty will always be non-refundable

### 15. Our liability

- (1) We promise to make sure that the holiday arrangements we have agreed to make, perform or provide as applicable as part of our contract with you are made, performed or provided with reasonable skill and care. This means that, subject to these booking conditions, we will accept responsibility if, for example, you suffer death or personal injury, or your contracted holiday arrangements are not provided as promised or prove deficient as a direct result of the failure of ourselves, our employees, agents or suppliers to use reasonable skill and care in making, performing or providing, as applicable, your contracted holiday arrangements. Please note it is your responsibility to show that reasonable skill and care has not been used if you wish to make a claim against us. In addition we will only be responsible for what our employees, agents and suppliers do or do not do if they were at the time acting within he course of their employment (for employees) or carrying out work we had asked them to do (for agents and suppliers).
- (2) We will not be responsible or pay you compensation for any injury, illness, death, loss (for example, loss of enjoyment or loss of possessions), damage, expense, cost or other claim of any description if it results from:
- a) the acts and/or omissions of the person affected: or
- b) the acts and/or omissions of a third party unconnected with the provision of the services contracted for and which were unforeseeable or unavoidable; or
- c) unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances.
- (3) We cannot accept responsibility for any services which do not form part of our contract. This includes, for example, any additional services or facilities which your hotel or any other supplier agrees to provide for you where the services or facilities are not advertised by us in our brochure or on our website and we have not agreed to arrange them as part of our contract and any excursion or activities you purchase during your tour. In addition, regardless of any wording used by us on our website, in any advertising material or elsewhere, we only promise to use reasonable skill and care as set out above and we do not have any greater or different liability to you.
- (4) The promises we make to you about the services we have agreed to provide or arrange as part of our contract, and the laws and / or applicable local standards of the country in which your claim occurred, will be used as the basis for deciding whether the services in question had been properly provided. If the particular ervices which give rise to the claim were provided in compliance with the applicable local laws and / or local standards, the services will be treated as having been properly provided. This will be the case even if the services did not comply with the laws and / or standards of the UK which would have applied had those services been provided in the UK. The exception to this is where the claim concerns the absence of a safety feature which might lead a reasonable holidaymaker to refuse to take the holiday in question Please note, however, our obligation is to exercise reasonable skill and care as referred to in clause 15(1). We do not make any representation or commitment that all services will comply with applicable local laws and local standards and failure to comply doe not automatically mean we have not exercised reasonable skill and
- (5) Except as set out in clause 15(6) or as otherwise permitted by English law, we do not limit the amount of damages you are entitled to claim in respect of personal injury or death which we or our employees have caused intentionally or negligently. For all other claims, if we are found liable to you on any basis, the maximum amount we will have to pay you is three times the total holiday cost (excluding any insurance premiums and amendmen charges) paid by or on behalf of the person(s) affected in total, unless a lower limitation applies to your claim under clause 15(6). This maximum amount will only be payable where everything has gone wrong and you have not received any benefit at all from your

- (6) Where any claim concerns or is based on any travel arrangement: (including without limitation, the process of getting on and/or off the transport concerned) provided by any air, sea or rail carrier to which any international convention or EU regulation applies where we have arranged that travel as part of our contract, our liability (including the maximum amount of compensation we will have to pay you, the types of claim and the circumstances in which damages / compensation will be payable) will be limited as if we were the carrier in question as referred to in this clause 15(6). The most we will have to pay you for that claim if we are found liable to you on any basis is the most the carrier concerned would have o pay you under the applicable international convention(s) or EU regulation(s). Such conventions and regulations include the Warsaw Convention as amended or unamended, the Montreal Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air 1999 and for airlines with an operating license granted by an EU country, the Regulation (EC) No 889/2002 on air carrier liability in the event of accidents, the Athens Convention relating to the carriage of passengers and their luggage by sea 1974 (as amended by the 2002 protocol), and Regulation (FC) No. 392/2009. on the liability of carriers of passengers by sea in the event of accidents, the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims as amended by the 1996 protocol and the Convention of 1980 concerning International Travel by Rail (COTIF) as amended and Regulation (EC) No 1371/2007 on rail passengers' rights and obligations. You may also have rights under regulation (EU) no 1177/2010 concerning the rights of passengers when travelling b sea and inland waterway. Where a carrier would not be obliged to make any payment to you under the applicable international ntion or ÉU regulation (including where any claim is not notified and issued in accordance with the stipulated time limits), we, similarly, are not obliged to make a payment to you for that claim. When making any payment, we will deduct any money which you have received or are entitled to receive from the carrier for the claim in question. Copies of the applicable international conventions and FU regulations are available from us on request. Please note that strict time limits apply for notifying loss, damage or delay of luggage to the airline or ferry / cruise operator. Any proceedings in respect of any claim (including one for personal injury or death) must be brought within 2 years of the date stipulated in the applicable convention or EU regulation.
- (7) We cannot accept any liability for any damage, loss, expense or other sum(s) of any nature or description which (a) on the basis of the information given to us by you concerning your booking prior to our accepting it, we could not have foreseen you would suffer or incur if we breached our contract with you or (b) did not result from any breach of contract or other fault by ourselves or our employées or, where we are responsible for them, our suppliers o (c) relates to any business (including without limitation, loss of self employed earnings).

### 16. Conditions of carriers or other suppliers

Many of the services which make up your holiday are provided by independent suppliers such as airlines or cruise lines. Those suppliers provide these services in accordance with their own terms and conditions usually referred to by airlines or cruise lines as condition of carriage. Some of these terms and conditions may limit or exclude the supplier's liability to you, usually in accordance with applicable international conventions or EU regulations (see clause 15(6)). Copies of the relevant parts of these terms and conditions and of the international conventions / EU regulations are available on request from ourselves or the supplier concerned.

### 17. Risk and travel insurance

You acknowledge and accept that there are inherent risks associated with our tours, for example unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances, hazards of travelling in undeveloped areas, travel by boat, train, automobile, aircraft or other means of transportation particularly in underdeveloped countries or more remote locations, forces of nature, political unrest and accident, illness, epidemics or pandemics in regions without means of rapid evacuation or medical facilities. We cannot accept any liability regarding the provision of medical care or the adequacy of any care that may be rendered where it is provided by third parties.

It is a condition of your booking and your responsibility to ensure that you have sufficient and valid travel insurance to cover your booking with us. We reserve the right to decline your booking if adequate proof of such current and valid travel insurance is not provided to us if requested. Please note that we do not check individual policies for suitability. We insist you take out appropriate travel insurance to cover as a minimum; pre-existing medical conditions, medical expenses. repatriation in the event of accident or illness, cancellation by you for anv reason, cancellation charges, loss of luggage, early return following death of a relative as defined in the respective proposal forms or emergency repatriation, for example in the event of accident or illness. It is your responsibility to ensure that the insurance fully covers all your personal requirements and the specific risks outlined above. Please read your policy details carefully and take them with you on your tour. It is your responsibility to ensure that the insurance cover you purchase is suitable and adequate for your particular needs. If you choose to travel without adequate insurance cover, we will not be liable for any losses no matter how arising, in respect of which nsurance cover would otherwise have been available. If you have any questions, these should be raised with your travel insurance provider

### 18. Itinerary changes and travel advice

During local or national holidays, certain facilities such as museums and restaurants, sightseeing tours and shopping may be limited or not available. Alternatives will be offered if possible.

Your safety is our first consideration and if the Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) advises against travel to a certain country, we act on this advice. The FCDO issues regular advice and updates on its website www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice which you are recommended to consult before booking and in good time before departure. Up to date UK border control measures a available at www.gov.uk/uk-border-control. You are responsible for making yourself aware of FCDO advice in regard to the safety of the countries and areas in which you will be travelling and to make your decisions accordingly.

### 19. Baggage allowance

You are entitled to carry one suitcase per person. Total dimensions for h piece must not exceed 158cm (62in) and weight must not exceed 20kg (44lbs). Hand luggage must not exceed total dimensions of 115cm (45in) and weight 5kg (11lbs). Personal and valuable items such as make up, cameras, medication, passport, money/credit cards etc should be carried in a travel bag or on your person. You must ensure that luggage meets the weight requirements as overweight or oversize items will not be carried. Some carriers may impose a small surcharge per day for a second suitcase per person. Excess baggage is always at your cost.

Knight Inlet: If travelling to Knight Inlet, on our Canada tours, as access is by floatplane, you will be restricted to one piece of luggage weighing no more than 14kg. We suggest taking a small bag for this trip and arranging storage for your main luggage.

### 20. Young travellers

Travellers who are less than 16 years old on the departure date must be accompanied by and share a room with an adult aged 16 or over. Children under 8 years cannot be accepted on our tours, unless

### 21. Complaints and Arbitration

If a problem occurs during your tour, you must advise our representative (South Africa only – or appropriate manager, senior personal, when travelling on Rovos Rail) immediately so that steps can be taken to resolve the matter and you can continue to enjoy the remainder of your tour. You must also advise the supplier concerned. If your complaint is not resolved locally, please contact us by email at info@distantjourneys.co.uk or call 01695 577 961.

If you remain dissatisfied, any complaint must be made in writing to us giving full details within 30 days of the end of the tour. If you fail to follow this procedure, your right to claim compensation you may otherwise have been entitled to may be affected or even lost as a

In the unlikely event of our being unable to reach an amicable resolution of any complaint, you may use the AITO dispute resolution service which provides a simple and inexpensive method of arbitration on documents alone. Full details are available on request

### 22. Tour price and duration

All prices in our brochure(s) are quoted in English pounds (Sterling). The tion contained on our website and in our other advertising material is believed to be correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of printing or publication. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the website, quotations and prices at the time of publication/printing or when they are given to you, regrettably errors may occasionally occur and information may subsequently change. You must therefore ensure you check all details of your chosen tour (including the price) with us at the time of booking. The number of days duration stated in each itinerary includes day of departure and day of return. Tour durations may vary should you choose to have a stopover, and airline flight schedules and the itineraries in our brochure(s) should be used as a guide only.

### 23. Included in your fare

All airfares from the LIK in economy class (unless specified at the time of booking), coach travel and overseas transfers\* whilst travelling as part of the group or on one of our organised stopover programmes, service of a Tour Manager^, Train Manager^, or Coach Captain (if applicable), porterage whilst on tour, airport transfers, meals as specified, accommodation as specified (please note, the third bed in a triple room may be a rollaway bed), sightseeing and admissions and other services as expressly indicated in the itinerary. \* Should you be travelling outside of the main group travel dates from or to the UK transfers are not included on any outbound or return stopovers. These are available to purchase at an additional cost. ^On Private Tours, you will receive the services of a driver(s) and local guides, or a driver guide as appropriate.

### NOT included in your fare

Meals not specified in the itinerary, drinks unless specified in the itinerary, laundry, passport and visa fees, Dubai Tourism tax (if stopping over), expenses of a personal nature and any other items which are not expressly included in the cost of your tour. Changes to flight schedules may require additional overnight accommodation at either commencement or completion of tour which is at your own expense

### 24. Airfare conditions

Your Distant Journeys travel expert will book the most appropriate the control of fare for your tour based on the information you provide to us. Full details and conditions may be obtained from your travel expert. Changes to original tickets will incur amendment or cancellation fees are subject to availability and surcharges may apply. Please see clause 14 above. Please note: all airfares are subject to routing restrictions. Airfares and applicable taxes are subject to increase without notice due to fare and tax changes, surcharges dependent on class available at time of booking and other factors outside our control, subject to the provisions of clause 10(Price Promise) above. Please contact your travel consultant for the applicable rules and regulations.

At the time of booking please ensure you supply your first name and surname as they appear in your passport, as these must be stated on your flight ticket. In some instances, the airline will also request your middle name. You may not be able to travel if the name on your passport and documents do not match. Any costs for ticket changes due to an incorrect name on paperwork which has been sent to you, will result in a cost which we will pass on to you.

For flight inclusive tours, the flight timings given on booking are for general guidance only and are subject to change. The latest timings will be shown on your confirmation documents. As flights only become available to book around 11 months in advance, we are only able to confirm upgrade prices at time of booking your flights. However, the actual flight times will be those shown on your tickets which will be dispatched to you approximately two weeks before departure

You must accordingly check your tickets very carefully immediately on receipt to ensure you have the correct flight times. It is possible that Night times may be changed even after tickets have been dispatched - we will contact you as soon as possible if this occurs. We have no control over the allocation of seats by the airline, and even if you have requested or made payment directly with the airline to pre-book seats, no guarantees can be made. The provision of such seats does not constitute a term of your contract with us.

Specific instructions relating to departure and travel arrangements vill be sent electronically with your air or other travel tickets approximately 2 weeks before departure. You must check your ocuments very carefully immediately on receipt to ensure you have the correct flight times and other up to date travel information. It is possible that flight times may be changed even after documents have been sent. We will contact you as soon as possible if this occurs.

In accordance with FLI regulation (FC) No 2111/2005 as incorporated into UK law and amended, we are required to bring to your attention the existence of a UK Air Safety List which contains details of air carriers who are subject to an operating ban in the UK. The UK Air Safety List (which is updated from time to time) can be found on the UK CAA's website www.caa.co.uk.

We will advise you of the actual carrier(s) (or, if the actual carrier(s) is not known, the likely carrier(s)) who will operate your flight(s) at the time of booking. Where we are only able to inform you of the likely carrier(s) at the time of booking, we will advise you of the identity of the actual carrier(s) as soon as we become aware of this. Any change to the operating carrier(s) after your booking has been confirmed will pe notified to you as soon as possible.

If the carrier with whom you have a confirmed reservation becon subject to a UK operating ban and we / the carrier are unable to offer you a suitable alternative the provisions of clause 13 will apply.

Any change in the identity of the carrier, flight timings, and/or aircraft type (if advised) will not entitle you to cancel or change to other arrangements without paying our normal charges except where specified in these conditions.

### 26. Delay and Denied Boarding Regulations

If you suffer a delay in your outbound travel arrangements, we will do our best to ensure you make the start of your tour or, if this cannot be achieved, join it as soon as possible. Any costs we incur in making any alternative arrangements in this situation where the delay was due to your own actions will be your responsibility.

In the event of any flight delay or cancellation at your UK or overseas point of departure, the airline is responsible for providing such assistance as is legally required by the Denied Boarding Regulations (see below). Except where otherwise stated in our brochure or on our website, we regret we cannot provide any assistance in such circumstances other than information and advice to the extent we are in a position to do so.

We cannot accept liability for any delay which is due to any of the reasons set out in clause 15(2) of these booking conditions (which includes the behaviour of any passenger(s) on the flight who, for example, fails to check in or board on time). In addition, we will not be liable for any delay unless it has a significant effect on your holiday

If your flight is cancelled or delayed, your flight ticket is downgraded or boarding is denied by your airline, depending on the circumstance (including the airport of departure and/or return of the flight and whether you are flying with a UK or EU airline), the airline may be required to pay you compensation, refund the cost of your flight and/or provide you with accommodation and/or refreshments unde Regulation FC 261/2004 (as amended by The Air Passenger Rights and Air Travel Organisers' Licensing (Amendment)(EU Exit) Regulations 2019 ('UK Denied Boarding Regulations'). You must pursue the airline for the compensation or other payment due to you. All sums you receive or are entitled to receive from the airline concerned by virtue of these Regulations represent the full amount of your entitlement to compensation and/or any other payment due to you where applicable This includes any disappointment, distress, inconvenience or effect on any other arrangements. The fact a delay may entitle you to cancel your flight does not automatically entitle you to cancel any other arrangements even where those arrangements have been made in conjunction with your flight. We have no liability to make any payment to you in relation to the UK Denied Boarding Regulations or in respect of any flight cancellation or delay, downgrading of any flight ticket or denial of any boarding as the full amount of your entitlement to any compensation or other payment (as dealt with above) is covered by the airline's obligations under the UK Denied Boarding Regulations If, for any reason, we make any payment to you or a third party which the airline is responsible for in accordance with the UK Denied Boarding Regulations, you must, when requested, assign to us the rights you have or had to claim the payment in question from the ne. If your airline does not comply with its obligations under the UK Denied Boarding Regulations, where applicable, you may use the CAA Passenger Advice and Complaints Service. See www.caa.co.uk/ passengers/resolving-travel-problems for further details.

A number of governments are introducing new requirements for air carriers to provide personal information about all travellers on their aircraft to the relevant authorities before the aircraft leaves the UK. The data will be collected either at the airport when you check in or in some circumstances when, or after you make your booking. Accordingly, you are advised to allow extra time to check in for your flight. Where we collect this data, we will treat it in accordance with our Privacy Policy.

### 27. Passports, visas and health requirements

It is your responsibility to meet all applicable entry and other requirements of your destination country(ies) as well as those applicable on your return home. You must ensure that all your travel documents (physical and electronic), including your passport, visas / visa waivers, evidence of any other health related requirement and currency are in order, meet all applicable requirements and are valid for ravel. All costs incurred in meeting all requirements applicable to your holiday must be paid by you. If you attempt to travel without fully complying with all requirements, you are likely to be refused boarding on your flight or other transport or entry into your destination intry. We cannot accept any liability and cancellation charges will apply (as set out in clause 14) if you are refused entry onto any transport or into any country, or decide not to travel, due to failure (or inability) on your part to obtain and carry all required documentation or to otherwise comply with all applicable requirements.

The passport and visa requirements applicable to the holidays we offer are shown on the FCDO website

www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice. You must check entry and other official requirements for all countries to or through which you are avelling as well as any requirements applicable on your return to you home country, at the time of booking, and in good time before, and close to departure. Requirements may change and travel restrictions may be imposed (which could be at no or very short notice prior to departure). You must also keep up to date with this information while you are away.

A British passport usually takes approximately 3 weeks to obtain and nay take longer. If any member of your party (who is a British citizen) is 16 or over and hasn't got or previously held a British passport, more time needs to be allowed as the UK Passport Service has to confirm your identity before issuing your first passport. If any person on the booking is not a British citizen or holds a non British passport, you must check the applicable passport and visa requirements with the embassy or consulate of the country(ies) to or through which you are intending to travel. Please ensure that you check the latest position on applying for or renewing a passport at the earliest opportunity.

Details of any compulsory health requirements applicable to your holiday appear on the weblink below for the National Travel Health Network and Centre. It is your responsibility to ensure you obtain details of and comply with all recommended and required vaccinations, health precautions and other health related in good time before departure. You must also keep up to date with the latest information. Details are available from your GP surgery, local travel clinic and the National Travel Health Network and Centre www.travelhealthpro.org.uk. Vaccination and other health requirements/recommendations are subject to change at any time for any destination, including at short or no notice. Please therefore check with a doctor or clinic or other reliable source of information not less than 6 weeks prior to departure and also closer to departure to ensure that you are aware of and can meet the necessary requirements and

In the event that you have not received any compulsory vaccination, you may be unable to enter your destination country(ies) or to access certain services and may encounter other difficulties. You will not be entitled to cancel (without payment of cancellation charges) or receive any refund and we will not have any responsibility for any costs or expenses you suffer as a result in any such situation

It is the responsibility of the person who makes the booking to ensure that all persons travelling are in possession of all necessary travel and health documents before departure. If failure to have any necessary travel or other documents results in fines, surcharges, other financial penalty, costs or expenses being incurred by us, you will be responsible for reimbursing us accordingly.

### 28. Financial security, ATOL and AITO membership

have the latest information.

We hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence issued by the Civil Aviation Authority (ATOL number 10913). All flights and flight inclusive holidays we offer are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive package from us, you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong.

We, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate, will provide you with the services listed on the ATOL Certificate (or a suitable alternative). In some cases, where neither we nor the supplier are able to do so for reasons of insolvency, an alternative ATOL holder may provide you with services you have bought or a suitable alternative (at no extra cost to you). You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative ATOL holder, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim under the ATOL scheme (or your credit card issuer where applicable). If we, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL certificate, are unable to provide the services listed (or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder or otherwise) for reasons of insolvency, the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust may make a payment to (or confer a benefit on) you under the ATOL scheme. You agree that in return for such a payment or penefit, you assign absolutely to those Trustees any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent or your credit card issuer where applicable. You also agree that any such claims may be re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you have claimed under the ATOL scheme.

The Civil Aviation Authority can be contacted at Aviation House Beehive Ringroad, Crawley, West Sussex, RH6 0YR, UK tel +44 (0)333 103 6350, www.caa.co.uk

In the event of our insolvency we, or any appointed insolvency practitioner, may disclose your personal information to the CAA, and/ or any insurers so that they can assess the status of your booking and advise you on the appropriate course of action under any scheme of financial protection. The CAA's General Privacy Notice is at www.caa.co.uk/Our-work/About-us/General-privacy-notice

We provide full financial protection for our package holidays which don't include flights, by way of a bond held by The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited.

The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection under The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 for Distant Journeys (ABTOT membership number 5427) and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for:

### Non-flight packages

ABTOT cover provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled or repatriation if transportation was included in your package. Please note that bookings made outside the UK are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with Distant Journeys.

In the unlikely event that you require assistance whilst abroad due to our financial failure, please call our 24/7 helpline on 01702 811397 and advise you are a customer of an ABTOT protected travel company.

You can access The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 here:

www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/634/contents

We are a member of AITO, The Specialist Travel Association. All AITO members are required to provide the highest level of customer satisfaction by concentrating on three main pillars: Choice, Quality and Service - as enshrined in their Quality Charter, Every company admitted to AITO is financially assessed and bound by AITO's own code of business practice. AITO requires that we arrange financial protection for all holidays, including accommodation-only options and tours, as well as any other arrangements. This financial protection applies to customers who are resident in the UK at the time of booking and to most overseas customers who have booked directly with us

### 29. Coaches

On our group tours, to ensure all customers have the opportunity to enjoy front and window seats, a daily seat rotation system is employed on all of our coaches and you must follow the seat rotation system.

If you suffer from travel sickness, you should arrange medication or other alternatives to treat symptoms as we cannot make allowances in the seat rotation policy for this, in fairness to other guests.

### 30. Optional activities and dining

Optional activities and dining are subject to availability, seasonal / operational factors and minimum / maximum numbers. More details on optional tours may be found on our website. On occasion, it may not be possible to arrange an included activity. Suitable alternatives will be arranged. Inclusions may also be subject to change

### 31. Medication

It is your responsibility to ensure that any medication you need to carry is permitted to be taken into the countries you are visiting. We recommend you consult with your GP and relevant embassy before booking and review in good time before your departure as advice may change. Any medical services and costs required on tour are at your expense. We strongly recommend suitable and adequate travel

### 32. Images, photographs, maps and information

The photographs in the brochure and information provided represent typical scenes and descriptive detail for each tour, but it is possible that the subject matter may not be seen or experienced whilst on the tour itself. Some pictures may have been digitally enhanced.

Maps or tour depictions contained in this brochure or any other brochures issued by Distant Journeys, are intended as an indication only and should not be relied upon as the actual route taken during the tour. Distant Journeys are not liable to you for any variation to the tour.

If, whilst you are on holiday, you find yourself in difficulty for any reason, we will offer you such prompt assistance as is appropriate in the circumstances. In particular, we will provide you with appropriate information on health services, local authorities and consular assistance, and assistance with distance communications and finding alternative travel arrangements. Where you require assistance which is t owing to any failure by us, our employees or sub-contractors we will not be liable for the costs of any alternative travel arrangements or other such assistance you require. Any supplier, airline or other transport supplier may however pay for or provide refreshments and/ or appropriate accommodation and you should make a claim directly to them. Subject to the other terms of these booking conditions, we will not be liable for any costs, fees or charges you incur in the above circumstances, if you fail to obtain our prior authorisation before making your own travel arrangements. Furthermore, we reserve the right to charge you a fee for our assistance in the event that the difficulty is caused intentionally by you or a member of your party, or otherwise through your or your party's negligence.

### 34. Amendments to these booking conditions

These booking conditions may be subject to amendment from time to time. Amendments will be posted on the Distant Journeys website www.distantiournevs.co.uk

Published November 2024



## Other Destinations

India

Sri Lanka

Australia

New 7ealand

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

Address 8 Hattersley Court, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2AY

Opening hours may vary, please see website for details.

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