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7 DAYS & 6 NIGHTS

LEGENDARY ANGKOR WAT & DA NANG



Incredible Voyages Pte Ltd

TA 02947 | REG NO: 201618486Z

10 Raeburn Park, #02-08,
Singapore 088702

+65 6993 3691 | +65 8298 6545
info@incrediblevoyages.com
www.incrediblevoyages.com

HINDUISM IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Indian civilization has had a significant influence on both Cambodia and Vietnam, particularly through the spread of Hinduism and Buddhism, as well as cultural and architectural elements.

Cambodia

Early Influence: Indian traders and pilgrims began arriving in Cambodia around the 1st century CE. The earliest documented civilization in Cambodia, known as Funan, was heavily influenced by Indian culture.

Hinduism and Buddhism: By the 5th and 6th centuries, several Hindu kingdoms emerged in southern Cambodia. The Khmer Empire, established in the early 9th century, saw the construction of magnificent Hindu temples, including Angkor Wat and Ta Prohm, the famous Brahma temple built by King Jayavarman VII. The thousands of shivlings on the riverbed of the River Kbal Spean inside the will amaze you. This is a well-kept secret inside the Phnom Kulen National Park.

In the 13th century, Cambodians converted en masse to Theravada Buddhism, which remains the dominant religion today. The Indian influence is still evident in Cambodia's art, architecture, and religious practices. The use of Sanskrit in inscriptions and the construction of temples dedicated to Hindu gods and the Buddha are notable examples.

Vietnam

Early Indian Influence: Similar to Cambodia, Indian traders and missionaries brought Hinduism and Buddhism to Vietnam. The kingdom of Champa, located in present-day central and southern Vietnam, was heavily influenced by Indian culture.

Champa Kingdom: From the 2nd to the 17th century, the Cham people built numerous Hindu temples to Shiva and adopted Indian art and architecture styles. The My Son temple complex is a notable example of Cham architecture influenced by Indian design.

Buddhism: Buddhism, introduced from India, also played a significant role in Vietnamese culture, particularly in the north. Over time, Mahayana Buddhism became more prevalent, blending with local traditions.

These influences have left a lasting legacy on the cultural and religious landscape of both Cambodia and Vietnam, showcasing the profound impact of Indian civilization in Southeast Asia.

02 OCT | WED: SINGAPORE - SIAM REAP - PHNOM KULEN WATERFALL - BANTEAY SREI (L/D)

Depart from Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 2 to Siem Reap by Singapore Airlines flight SQ 164 at 0835 Hrs, arrive at New Siem Reap International Airport at 0940 Hrs, on arrival clear immigration and collect your bags and clear customs, meet our chauffeur at arrival hall, drive 50 km drive northeast of Siem Reap will take us to **Phnom Kulen Mountains** where you will be passing a landscape of tropical forest and rural communities in your air-conditioned vehicle. The first stop of the day is a hilltop temple, where you'll find a massive reclining Buddha carved directly into a sandstone boulder. Next, head to the Thousand Lingas River and exploring a riverbank adorned with ancient carvings of Hindu gods. Cool off at another sacred site, **Phnom Kulen Waterfalls**, which tumble into a wide basin that's ideal for a midday swim. Then visit to Banteay Srei is considered to be the jewel of classical Khmer art. This temple is often a favorite with visitors, back to the Hotel and **overnight stay in Siem Reap.**

Cambodia's history is marked with periods of peace and of great calamity. From its early cities to the introduction of Hinduism, the great kingdom of Angkor, colonialism, and the Khmer Rouge, this essay tries to put its current rebuilding of civil society in context of its incredible history and the challenges it faces today.

When Communist insurgents known as the Khmer Rouge seized control of Cambodia in 1975, a spokesman claimed that in the process "2,000 years of history" had come to an end. What he meant was that the Khmer Rouge intended to break with the past and to overthrow Cambodia's social relationships. The spokesman was also boasting that Cambodia's recorded history stretched back for two millennia.

Phnom Kulen Mountains, One of the most popular attractions in Cambodia is the majestic Phnom Kulen mountain, located about 1.5-2 hours away from Siem Reap. The mountain was given its name due to the abundance of lychee trees it once hosted, and nowadays offers visitors a beautiful view, as well as fun activities such as picnicking and waterfall swimming. Located about 50 kilometers from the city of Siem Reap, Phnom Kulen is one of Cambodia's most revered sites. According to legend, it was here that King Jayavarman II declared independence from Java in 802 CE and thus began the Khmer Empire - as an independent nation.

Additionally, it's a very sacred site with multiple temples easily accessible. Two sites most noted are the Thousand Lingas at Kbal Spean, within the Kulen National Park site and Preah Ang Thom pagoda with its giant reclining Buddha. The area is a magnet to "kru khmer" (natural medicine doctors), and attracts people seeking blessings from its holy waters, particularly the potent life-giving waters at Kbal Spean, that are said to help couples conceive.

Phnom Kulen Waterfall, Considered by Khmers to be the most sacred mountain in Cambodia, Phnom Kulen is a popular place of pilgrimage on weekends and during festivals. It played a significant role in the history of the Khmer empire, as it was from here in 802 CE that Jayavarman II proclaimed himself a devaraja (god-king), giving birth to the Cambodian kingdom. Attractions include a giant reclining Buddha, hundreds of lingas carved in the riverbed, an impressive waterfall and some remote temples.

Banteay Srei, Considered by many to be the jewel in the crown of Angkorian art, Banteay Srei is cut from stone of a pinkish hue and includes some of the finest stone carving anywhere on earth. Begun in 967 CE, it is one of the smallest sites at Angkor, but what it lacks in size it makes up for in stature. The art gallery of Angkor, this Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva is wonderfully well preserved, and many of its carvings are three-dimensional.

03 OCT | THU: SUNRISE TOUR - ANGKOR THOM - BAYON - TA PROM - ANGKOR WAT (B/L/D)

Early morning leave for sunrise and back to hotel. Finish breakfast at the Hotel; Today we drive to Angkor Complex: Angkor Wat Temple The UNESCO Listed, **Angkor Thom**, the fortified city of Angkor Thom covers an area of 10 square km. Enter by the monumental South Gate over a causeway lined on either side by statues of demons and gods, each carrying a giant naga. We will stop at the famous **Bayon temple** and continue to the Terrace of the Elephants and the terrace of the Leper Kings, then to Ta Phrom - It has been controversially left to the destructive power of the jungle by French archaeologists to demonstrate the awesome power of nature, Later visit Satcha Cambodia Handicrafts Incubation Center. To create the first Cambodian handicraft center that incubates local artisans, mixing traditional knowledge with contemporary design to showcase Cambodian talents to local and international visitors and to transmit this know-how over time while having a sustainable social, economic, and environmental impact. Then enjoy Dinner with Cambodian traditional Apsara dance show (International Vegetarian Buffet), **overnight stay in Siem Reap.**

Angkorwat Temples, Angkor Wat in Siem Reap, Cambodia is the largest religious monument in the world. Angkor Wat, translated from Khmer (the official language of Cambodia) literally means “City Temple.” As far as names go this is as generic as it gets. Angkor Wat was not the original name given to the temple when it was built in the 12th century. We have little knowledge of how this temple was referred to during the time of its use, as there are no extant texts or inscriptions that mention the temple by name—this is quite incredible if we consider the fact that Angkor Wat is the greatest religious construction project in Southeast Asia. A possible reason why the temple’s original name may have never been documented is that it was such an important and famous monument that there was no need to refer to it by its name. We have several references to the king who built the temple, King Suryavarman II (1113-1145/50 C.E.), and events that took place at the temple, but no mention of its name. Angkor Wat is dedicated to Vishnu who is one of the three principal gods in the Hindu pantheon (Shiva and Brahma are the others). Among them he is known as the “Protector.” The major patron of Angkor Wat was King Suryavarman II, whose name translates as the “protector of the sun”.

Bayon Temple, At the heart of Angkor Thom is the 12th-century Bayon, the mesmerising, if slightly mind-bending, state temple of Jayavarman VII. It epitomises the creative genius and inflated ego of Cambodia’s most celebrated king. Its 54 Gothic towers are decorated with 216 gargantuan smiling faces of Avalokiteshvara, and it is adorned with 1.2km of extraordinary bas-reliefs incorporating more than 11,000 figures.

Ta Prohm, is up there with Angkor Wat and Bayon temple as one of the most visited temples in the Angkor Park. There are many reasons for its popularity, but the biggest reason is probably that it was used as the backdrop for the filming of the Lara Croft Movie - Tomb Raider. The jungle is literally growing through the middle of the temple which also adds intrigue and wonder to this amazing site. It is one of the most beautiful Brahma temples in the world.

Satcha Cambodian Handicraft Incubation Centre - Satcha is located near Build Bright University or about 5 minutes drive from Pub Street. This handicraft incubation center welcomes national and international tourists for free every day from 8am to 7pm. There are 6 workshops built exclusively with Cambodian bamboo from traditional know-how with contemporary design inspired by Khmer ornaments host around 50 artisans and 15 different know-how: carving (stone, wood, bamboo, leather) weaving (rattan, seagrass, water hyacinth, silk, cotton) painting and lacquer, jewelry, and silver plating. You can also visit the concept store and try refreshing drinks at the coffee shop.

Apsara Dance Show with Dinner, Feast on a buffet dinner of International vegetarian cuisine and take in an Apsara dance performance featuring the traditional culture of Cambodia. Watch several dances including classical and folk

styles on stage. Enjoy a variety of dishes while you are served by an attentive staff and entertained with a breathtaking evening.

04 OCT | FRI: SIEM REAP - PREAH VIHEAR TEMPLE - KOH KER (B/L/D)

Breakfast at the Hotel; Also add Proceed for full day tour to visit **Prasat Preah Vihear** is a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. Superb temple-mountain dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva. It stretches for 800 m and is composed of a series of sanctuaries, linked by long galleries. Perched at 625 m, on the edge of the Thai border, it offers a spectacular view of the Cambodian plain. Get down for this mountain temple and then drive to Koh Ker temple, the former capital of the Khmer Empire between 928 and 944 A.D. The style of the **Koh Ker temple** is different from any other temple in Cambodia and has more of a resemblance to the ancient pyramids of Egypt. Partially overgrown by the forest and inhabited only by birds, this temple and its surroundings are an exceptional experience.

Preah Vihear Temple, *Situated on the edge of a plateau that dominates the plain of Cambodia, the Temple of Preah Vihear is dedicated to Shiva. The Temple is composed of a series of sanctuaries linked by a system of pavements and staircases over an 800 metre long axis and dates back to the first half of the 11th century AD. Nevertheless, its complex history can be traced to the 9th century, when the hermitage was founded. This site is particularly well preserved, mainly due to its remote location. The site is exceptional for the quality of its architecture, which is adapted to the natural environment and the religious function of the temple, as well as for the exceptional quality of its carved stone ornamentation.*

Koh Ker temple, *was the capital of the Khmer Empire from 928 AD to 944 AD. This was the only interruption in the almost 500-year history of the Khmer Capital being at Angkor. About 20 years after the establishment of the capital at Angkor, there was a breakdown in the line succession, and in 928 AD King Jayavarman IV, probably a usurper of the throne, created a new capital at Koh Ker.*

The king created a large royal capital of Brahmanic temples and prasats (towers) that surrounded a huge baray (reservoir). He ruled here for 20 years until his death, and King Hashavarman II, his son, would remain at Koh Ker for some 3 years before returning the capital to Angkor.

05 OCT | SAT: SIEM REAP - DA NANG (B/D)

Morning breakfast at hotel; Morning check-out from the Hotel and your driver will pick up and transfer to Airport for departure. **Board Cambodia Angkor Air flight K6 840 for Da Nang at 1535 Hrs. Arrive Da Nang International Airport at 1730 Hrs**, clear immigration and collect baggage. Meet your Guide and transfer to hotel and check in, Dinner at local restaurant. **Overnight stay in Da Nang.**

*The presence of Hinduism in Vietnam can be traced back to the early centuries of the Common Era when traders and travellers from India ventured into Southeast Asia. These interactions led to the assimilation of Hindu religious beliefs and practices into the local cultures. **Hinduism**, came to Indochina much earlier than Buddhism, and its legacy survives in Vietnam most vibrantly in the beautiful UNESCO World Heritage Site of My Son. In the Duy Xuyen District of Quang Nam Province, central Vietnam, The religious centre and sometime capital of the Champa Kingdom, which ruled modern-day south Vietnam from AD 192 until the kingdom's decline and obsolescence by the 15th century. The monuments themselves consist chiefly of religious sanctuaries, tombs and temples dedicated to Hindu deities such as Shiva, Krishna and Vishnu, Built between the 4th & 13th centuries AD. The ruins of My Son represent over ten centuries of development carried out by successive generations of the Champa Kingdom. According to UNESCO, My Son*

consists of eight groups of monuments comprising a total of 71 individual structures. In total, the site occupies an area of just 1.42 square kilometres (0.55 sq mi). My Son is easily accessible from Hoi An or Danang.

06 OCT | SUN: DA NANG - MY SON - DA NANG (B/L/D)

Breakfast at hotel, This morning we depart to **My Son Sanctuary (approx. 1hr drive)**, a cluster of abandoned and partially ruined Shiva Temples in Vietnam, constructed between the 4th and the 14th century by the kings of Champa. It was noted in 1999 as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Back to Danang. Visit Pink Church, it was the only church built in Danang city in the French colonial period in 1923. Photo stop at Dragon Bridge, the longest iconic bridge in Vietnam; Love Bridge. Shopping at Han Market to pursue independent activities and shopping opportunities. Overnight stay in Da Nang.

My Son sanctuary. *Between the 4th and 13th centuries a unique culture which owed its spiritual origins to Indian Hinduism developed on the coast of contemporary Viet Nam. This is graphically illustrated by the remains of a series of impressive tower-temples located in a dramatic site that was the religious and political capital of the Champa Kingdom for most of its existence. Most of the architectural styles of the Cham are present at My Son, and the tower-temples at My Son themselves create the basic criteria for identifying the Cham architectural style.*

The My Son sanctuary is considered significantly unique and rare among Cham towers' architectural forms. Visitors will be amazed by the towers at My Son. There are walls, yards and roads linking the towers together in groups with the main temple in the centre.

Parts of a complex of the Cham towers can be seen in Nha Trang. To see sculptures and other relics from this era, you can also head to the Museum of Cham Sculpture in Danang which has an amazing local collection of Hindu sculptures.

07 OCT | MON: DA NANG - MARBLE MOUNTAIN - HOI AN - DA NANG (B/L/D)

Morning breakfast at Hotel; transfer to visit Marble Mountain (One-way elevator), where you will be rewarded by great city views and amazed by the main cave which houses a beautiful Cham Buddha sitting under a natural shaft of light. They are 5 stone hillocks rising sharply from the surrounding rice fields and said to each represent one of the five elements of the universe. Then visit Son Tra Peninsula and Linh Ung Pagoda, where the highest Goddess of Mercy Statue of Vietnam is located. The pagoda offers stunning views of Danang beach and Cham Islands in the distance. Then proceed to Hoi An ancient town: walking to visit a traditional Chinese Communal House, Hoi Kien Temple, ancient Tan Ky Merchants' Houses, the 400-year-old Japanese Covered Bridge & spending time in Colorful Hoi An Local Market. Then back to Da Nang, Overnight stay in Da Nang.

Marble Mountain. *Discover the tunnels and grottoes within Thuy Son, the only one of the five Marble Mountains that's open to travelers. Marvel at the Buddhist temples carved into the rock, then head to the hilltop overlook for awe-inspiring views of the city. Join a guided tour to learn more about the history of the mountains.*

Son Tra Peninsula and Linh Ung Pagoda, *Going to the beach and enjoying the bright sunshine, the lovely sandbank as well as the extremely clean and refreshing sea water has always been a must when you visit Da Nang city. However, if you plan to stay here for a bit long and have got bored of the beach, then you may want to visit other parts of the city. If you are a person of religion, or simply someone who's looking for a quiet and tranquil place, then Linh Ung Pagoda (Bai But).*



Hoi An, One of the oldest cities in Asia, Hoi An is a town in central Vietnam which was declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1999. Located south of Danang, Hoi An translates to 'a peaceful meeting place'. It is culturally and historically one of Vietnam's most important towns and also one of the richest. It is important to note that Hoi An does not have an airport or train station and can only be reached by road.

Stepping into Hoi An feels like entering a living museum where ancient architecture, centuries-old traditions, and a tranquil riverside setting coalesce harmoniously. The city's well-preserved Old Town, adorned with charming yellow-walled buildings, lantern-lit streets, and historic merchant houses, narrates a story of its illustrious past as a bustling trading port.

Beyond its architectural splendors, Hoi An enchants visitors with its vibrant markets, where artisans showcase their crafts. The food of Hoi An is delightfully interesting and multi-cultural. The regional cuisine is served traditionally but also can be found to be served under the influence of Eastern Asia and other parts of South-Eastern Asia. As dusk descends, the city transforms into a mesmerizing spectacle as thousands of colorful lanterns illuminate the streets and waterways, creating a captivating ambiance during the enchanting lantern festival.

Owing to being a former riverside port town, the Japanese and Chinese influence over the town's architecture stands tall today. From its cultural heritage to its tranquil charm, Hoi An invites travelers to immerse themselves in its timeless beauty and experience the allure of a bygone era while embracing the warmth and hospitality of its people.

08 OCT | TUE: DA NANG - SINGAPORE (B/MOB)

Breakfast at Hotel, After breakfast check out and then transfer to the airport for flight to Singapore, Board Singapore Airlines flight SQ 171 for Singapore at 1155 Hrs. Arrive Singapore Changi International Airport at 1555 Hrs. Return home with memories to cherish forever.

~~HAPPY TOUR ENDS*~*~

TOUR COST (PER PERSON IN SGD) & HOTEL ENVISAGED or SIMILAR:

CITY	DATE	NO OF NIGHTS	DELUXE CATEGORY	PREMIUM CATEGORY
Siam Reap	02 Oct - 05 Oct	03	SOMADEVI ANGKOR RESORT & SPA	SOMADEVI ANGKOR BOUTIQUE
Da Nang	05 Oct - 08 Oct	03	DONG DUONG HOTEL	GRAND TOURANE HOTEL
COST PER PERSON ON DOUBLE/TWIN/TRIPLE SHARING BASIS			SGD 1675 PER ADULT	SGD 1835 PER ADULT
COST PER PERSON ON SINGLE OCCUPANCY BASIS			SGD 2140 PER ADULT	SGD 2390 PER ADULT

TRAVEL INSURANCE

NTUC Travel Insurance (NORMAL):

Classic: SGD 35 per person

Deluxe: SGD 42 per person

Preferred: SGD 55 per person

Coverage Details: <https://www.income.com.sg/travel-insurance/standard-plan-coverage-table>

Note: The standard plans, Classic, Deluxe and Preferred plans do not cover pre-existing medical conditions.

NTUC Travel Insurance (ENHANCED PREX PLANS)

Enhanced PreX Basic: SGD 95 per person

Enhanced PreX Superior: SGD 115 per person

Enhanced PreX Prestige: SGD 135 per person

Coverage Details: <https://www.income.com.sg/travel-insurance/enhanced-prex-plan-coverage-table#enhanced-prex-plans>



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COST INCLUDES:

- Return Economy class Airfare (Singapore - Siem Reap//Da Nang - Singapore) by Singapore Airlines
- One way Economy class Airfare (Siem Reap - Da Nang) by Cambodia Angkor Air
- Baggage allowance: Check-in: 20 Kilos per person & Hand carry: 7 Kilos per person
- Accommodation at above mentioned hotels on Double/twin share basis at all places
- Daily breakfast at Hotel

• **SIEM REAP:**

- Pick up from and drop off from airport with guide
- Angkor pass 2 days & Kulen Pass
- Vegetarian meal as per per the itinerary with the mix of Indian and local restaurant
- Private minibus from during tour
- All sightseeing and fees as per program
- Tipping tour guide and driver
- Cold drinking water during tours

• **DANANG:**

- Private transfer during the trip
- English Speaking Guide
- Sightseeing as mentioned into the itinerary
- Mineral water: 1 bottle of 350ml/ tour day/pax
- Round trip Cable car to visit Bana Hills
- **Mandatory tips to Driver and Guide**

COST EXCLUDES:

- **Travel Insurance (highly recommended)**
- Early Check in or check out
- Visa cost if required
- Any services other than mentioned in the itinerary & "Cost Includes".
- Any expenses of personal nature like beverages, tips, laundry, telephone calls etc

REMARKS:

- Rates are subject to change.
- **Please check COVID protocols prior to 14 days of departure.**
- **Airfare, Room & Tours is subject to availability**
- Validity of passport should be min of 6 Months from the date of travel.
- Terms & conditions apply.
- Check in time AT HOTEL at 15.00 and check out time at 11.00 in local time.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Unforeseen escalation in fuel prices, COVID rules & regulations, new taxes/levies on hotels and transportation services or any hikes in entrance fees. Any large tax hikes and new levies shall be payable extra and shall be billed accordingly with reasonable prior notice

ATTIRE:

Visitors of both genders have to wear decent clothing to cover the body appropriately when visiting religious places and shorts and sleeveless tops are not acceptable. This rule is strictly adhered to at all religious sites

For more information about this dream holiday is just phone call or click away;

+65 8298 6545 | info@incrediblevoyages.com

LIABILITIES:

Incredible Voyages Pte Ltd and/or any of its agents will not claim any responsibility for injury, damage, loss, additional expenses, accidental delay or other irregularities which may be caused either through willful or negligent acts or omissions on the part of companies or individuals providing or engaged in transportation, accommodations or other services related to the execution of the tour, or through natural calamities and other factors beyond its control. Prices are subject to adjustment in the event of any change, without notice. Incredible Voyages Pte Ltd reserves the right to change any tour if considered necessary in order to render better service to its clients.

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10 Raeburn Park, #02-08,
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