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A REAL PRIVATE JOURNEY

# 34 Days Across Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos & Thailand

Based on Suresh and Krithika Raman's journey, 20 January - 22 February 2026

Hanoi - Ninh Binh - Sapa - Halong Bay - Hue - Da Nang - Hoi An - Ho Chi Minh City - Siem Reap - Kratie - Phnom Penh - Vientiane - Vang Vieng - Luang Prabang - Chiang Mai - Chiang Rai - Bangkok

Suresh and Krithika wanted a month of history, local crafts and time outdoors. Working from a 30-day route, they asked Elena to add the places they had researched and make room for experiences that mattered to them. The result was a busy 34-day journey across four countries.

## Trip at a Glance

34 days | 4 countries | 2 travelers | Active pace

Mainly private touring with four-star hotels, two overnight train journeys and an overnight bay cruise. Shared experiences include the bay cruise, Living Land Farm, two northern Thailand excursions and the Bangkok dinner cruise.

Vegetarian preferences were discussed during planning. Most lunches and dinners were left flexible; included meals and suitable menus need to be checked when planning a similar trip.

How we support a route like this: individual trip planning, local guides, transport and flight coordination, train and cruise bookings, activity reservations and help with changes along the way.

# The Route in Stages

### Days 1-7 | Northern Vietnam

Hanoi, Ninh Binh, Sapa and an overnight bay cruise.

### Days 8-13 | Central and Southern Vietnam

Hue, Da Nang, Hoi An, Ho Chi Minh City and the Mekong Delta.

### Days 14-20 | Cambodia

Angkor, Phnom Kulen, Kratie, Silk Island and Phnom Penh.

### Days 21-25 | Laos

Vientiane, Vang Vieng and Luang Prabang.

### Days 26-29 | Northern Thailand

Chiang Mai temples, a shared elephant visit and a Chiang Rai day trip.

### Days 30-34 | Bangkok and Beyond

River cruising, Kanchanaburi and Ayutthaya before departure.

# Detailed Day-by-Day Journey

The following pages follow the newly supplied Word itinerary. They describe the planned route as a reference for future travelers. Hotels, transport schedules, walking distances and activity availability are reviewed for each new booking.

This is an active itinerary with frequent moves. Sapa includes a long trek, and the Cambodia section includes lengthy drives. A similar trip can be shortened or given more rest days.

# Days 1-6

## DAY 1 | Hanoi Arrival

Arrive in Hanoi and transfer to the hotel. Keep the rest of the day free to rest or explore nearby at your own pace.

Indochina Tour support: Airport welcome and private hotel transfer.

## DAY 2 | Incense Village and Ninh Binh

Stop at Quang Phu Cau Incense Village before continuing to Ninh Binh. Take a Tam Coc boat ride and visit Bich Dong Pagoda, Hoa Lu and Thung Nham Bird Park before returning to Hanoi.

Indochina Tour support: Private guide and vehicle for a full day with several stops.

## DAY 3 | Hanoi and the Overnight Train

Visit Hanoi's temples and historic sights, then explore Hoan Kiem Lake and the Old Quarter by cyclo. Watch a water puppet performance before the overnight train to Lao Cai. Train Street is a possible stop only when access permits.

Indochina Tour support: City guiding, performance arrangements and a two-berth train cabin.

## DAY 4 | Sapa Village Trek

Transfer from Lao Cai to Sapa and begin a long walking day through villages and the Muong Hoa Valley. The planned route includes Cat Cat, Y Linh Ho, Lao Chai and Ta Van. Stay overnight in Sapa.

Indochina Tour support: Local trekking guide and transfers; walking distance can be reviewed for a future trip.

## DAY 5 | Fansipan and the Return Train

Ride the cable car toward Fansipan and explore the mountain area. Later, transfer to Lao Cai for the overnight train back to Hanoi.

Indochina Tour support: Mountain visit arrangements and return travel in a two-berth cabin.

## DAY 6 | Bai Tu Long Bay Cruise

Travel from Hanoi to the cruise port and board Signature Royal Cruise. The winter program includes Vung Vieng Floating Village, limestone scenery and an onboard cooking activity. Stay overnight aboard.

Indochina Tour support: Cruise booking and connections from the train station to the shared cruise transfer.

# Days 7-12

## DAY 7 | Bay Morning and Flight to Hue

Continue the cruise with time for the morning program and a cave visit. Return to shore and connect with the flight from Hanoi to Hue.

Indochina Tour support: Cruise-to-airport transfer coordination and hotel transfer on arrival.

## DAY 8 | Hue's Imperial History

Explore the Imperial Citadel, Tu Duc and Minh Mang tombs, Dong Ba Market and Thien Mu Pagoda. Take a dragon boat ride on the Perfume River.

Indochina Tour support: Private guide and vehicle connecting the city sights and river visit.

## DAY 9 | Hue - Ba Na Hills - Da Nang

Leave Hue and visit Ba Na Hills, including the cable car and Golden Bridge. Continue to Da Nang for the night.

Indochina Tour support: Private road transfers and arrangements for the mountain attraction.

## DAY 10 | My Son and Hoi An

Visit My Son Sanctuary before exploring Hoi An Ancient Town. The plan includes Tan Ky House, the Museum of Trade Ceramics, Chua Ong and the market, with time for tailor shops. Lantern release is an optional activity at the travelers' expense.

Indochina Tour support: Private guide and driver, with time for the couple's own interests.

## DAY 11 | Basket Boats and Lantern Making

Visit Cam Thanh for a bamboo basket boat ride and an introduction to local fishing techniques. Join a lantern-making workshop before the flight to Ho Chi Minh City.

Indochina Tour support: Workshop and boat arrangements, plus flight and airport-transfer coordination.

## DAY 12 | Cu Chi and Ho Chi Minh City

Explore Cu Chi Tunnels, then return for city sights including the Central Post Office, Cholon and Jade Emperor Pagoda, with a stop by Notre Dame Cathedral.

Indochina Tour support: Private guide and vehicle for the tunnel visit and city touring.

# Days 13-18

## DAY 13 | Mekong Delta Waterways

Travel to Cai Be for a sampan excursion. See riverside life, visit an old house and stop at workshops making coconut candy and puffed rice before returning to Ho Chi Minh City.

Indochina Tour support: Road transfers and the planned boat excursion.

## DAY 14 | Fly to Siem Reap and Tonle Sap

Fly to Siem Reap, then visit Kampong Phluk and take a boat trip on Tonle Sap Lake. Return to town with time around the night market and Pub Street.

Indochina Tour support: Flight coordination, airport welcome and local guide arrangements.

## DAY 15 | Angkor's Temples

Explore Angkor Thom, Bayon and Ta Prohm before visiting Angkor Wat. Sunset is planned if conditions allow, followed by a one-hour spa treatment in Siem Reap.

Indochina Tour support: Private guide and vehicle for the temple day, plus the spa reservation.

## DAY 16 | Phnom Kulen and Apsara Dance

Visit Phnom Kulen for Preah Ang Thom, riverbed carvings and the waterfall. Return to Siem Reap for an Apsara dinner show.

Indochina Tour support: Guided excursion and evening performance arrangements.

## DAY 17 | Siem Reap - Kratie

Travel overland toward Kratie. This is a long transfer day, with approximately seven to eight hours on the road. Check in and leave the evening free.

Indochina Tour support: Private driver and accommodation coordination.

## DAY 18 | Dolphin Watching and Koh Trong

Take a local boat near Kampi for a chance to see Irrawaddy dolphins. Later, explore Koh Trong Island and its community activities. Wildlife sightings depend on conditions.

Indochina Tour support: Local boat and island-visit arrangements.

# Days 19-24

## DAY 19 | Kratie - Phnom Penh

Drive to Phnom Penh, allowing around five to six hours. Visit the Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda and Wat Phnom, then browse the Russian Market.

Indochina Tour support: Private transfer and guided city visits.

## DAY 20 | Silk Island and Flight to Laos

Start early for Koh Dach Silk Island and its weaving workshops. The day also includes Choeung Ek and Tuol Sleng before the flight to Vientiane.

Indochina Tour support: Early departure planning, sightseeing and airport connections across two countries.

## DAY 21 | Vientiane's Temples and Monuments

Visit Buddha Park, Patuxay and Pha That Luang. Continue to Wat Si Saket and Wat Phra Keo before returning to the hotel.

Indochina Tour support: Private guide and vehicle for the city day.

## DAY 22 | Vientiane - Vang Vieng

Travel north with planned stops at KM 52 Hmong Village, Vang Xang and Ban Houy Mo. In Vang Vieng, kayak on the river and visit Tham None cave.

Indochina Tour support: Road transfer and local activity coordination.

## DAY 23 | Balloon Flight and Train to Luang Prabang

A balloon flight is planned over Vang Vieng, followed by the train to Luang Prabang. Balloon operations depend on weather and the local operator's schedule.

Indochina Tour support: Balloon reservation, second-class train tickets and station transfers.

## DAY 24 | Rice Farming and Kuang Si

Join the shared Living Land Farm experience to learn how rice is grown and worked by hand. Continue to the bear rescue sanctuary and Kuang Si Waterfall.

Indochina Tour support: Shared farm booking and onward excursion arrangements.

# Days 25-30

## DAY 25 | Luang Prabang and the Mekong

Begin with the early alms ritual, then travel by boat to Ban Xanghai and Pak Ou Caves. Explore the Royal Palace Museum and temples, with a visit to Ban Xang Khong for Saa paper making.

Indochina Tour support: Local guiding, boat travel and coordination of a full cultural day.

## DAY 26 | Luang Prabang - Chiang Mai

Keep the morning free until the airport transfer. Fly to Chiang Mai and settle into the hotel.

Indochina Tour support: Regional flight coordination and airport transfers.

## DAY 27 | Chiang Mai's Temples

Visit Kad Ton Payom Market and explore Chiang Mai's temples, including Wat Phra Singh, Wat Phan Tao and Wat Chedi Luang. Continue to Wat Umong, Wat Suan Dok and Doi Suthep.

Indochina Tour support: Guide and vehicle for the city and mountain temple visits.

## DAY 28 | Shared Elephant Excursion

Join the scheduled group visit to Elephant Jungle Sanctuary outside Chiang Mai. The itinerary includes an introduction to the elephants and activities with the local operator.

Indochina Tour support: Third-party group excursion reservation, including its guide and transfers.

## DAY 29 | Chiang Rai and the Golden Triangle

Join a long group day trip from Chiang Mai. The planned route includes the hot springs, White Temple, Golden Triangle, a Mekong boat ride and village stops before returning in the evening.

Indochina Tour support: Third-party group excursion with the operator's guide and vehicle.

## DAY 30 | Chiang Mai - Bangkok

Fly to Bangkok and transfer to the hotel. Leave the remaining time free to settle in or explore nearby.

Indochina Tour support: Regional flight booking and airport-transfer coordination.

# Days 31-34

## DAY 31 | Bangkok Temples and Sunset Cruise

Visit the Grand Palace and Wat Phra Kaew, then continue to Wat Pho, Wat Arun and the Royal Barge Museum. Finish with a shared sunset dinner cruise on the Chao Phraya River.

Indochina Tour support: Guided city touring and a reserved place on the river cruise.

## DAY 32 | Floating Market and Kanchanaburi

Visit Damnoen Saduak Floating Market before continuing to Kanchanaburi. See the River Kwai bridge, the Thailand-Burma Railway Centre and Prasat Muang Sing, then return to Bangkok.

Indochina Tour support: Private guide and vehicle for a long day outside the city.

## DAY 33 | Ayutthaya Day Trip

Explore Ayutthaya's temple ruins, including Wat Mahathat, a reclining Buddha and Wat Yai Chai Mongkhon. Visit Bang Pa-In Palace before returning to Bangkok.

Indochina Tour support: Private guide and vehicle for the historical excursion.

## DAY 34 | Bangkok Departure

Transfer to Bangkok airport for the international flight home.

Indochina Tour support: Departure transfer timed to the confirmed flight.

# Could This Route Work for You?

This journey suits couples who enjoy full sightseeing days and want to help shape the details. It gives considerable time to Vietnam while also exploring Cambodia beyond Angkor, three different parts of Laos and northern and central Thailand.

You will need to be comfortable with overnight trains, several flights, long drives and repeated hotel changes. If that feels too busy, we can remove a stop or add quieter days between the longer journeys.

## What Would We Tailor for Your Trip?

Tell us which places matter most and how much walking you enjoy. We can adjust the hotel level, meal arrangements, rest days and mix of private and shared experiences. Vegetarian meals can be planned more fully in advance if you prefer.

## A Planning Reference

This download follows a journey arranged by Indochina Tour. It is a starting point for discussion, with the final details rebuilt around your dates and needs. It does not include a current price or booking terms.

Plan your journey: inquiry@indochinatour.com

www.indochinatour.com