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# SOUTHEAST ASIA GUIDE

Southeast Asia, a region of diverse landscapes and rich cultures, beckons travellers with its array of enticing experiences. Here's why this vibrant area deserves a place on your travel bucket list...

Explore the Essence of Southeast Asia, a journey through a region rich in diverse experiences, from culinary delights to stunning beaches. This short guide delves into affordable luxury, seamless exploration, and a climate ideal for adventure. Uncover the history and culture of this fascinating region, and experience the warm hospitality that makes every trip memorable.

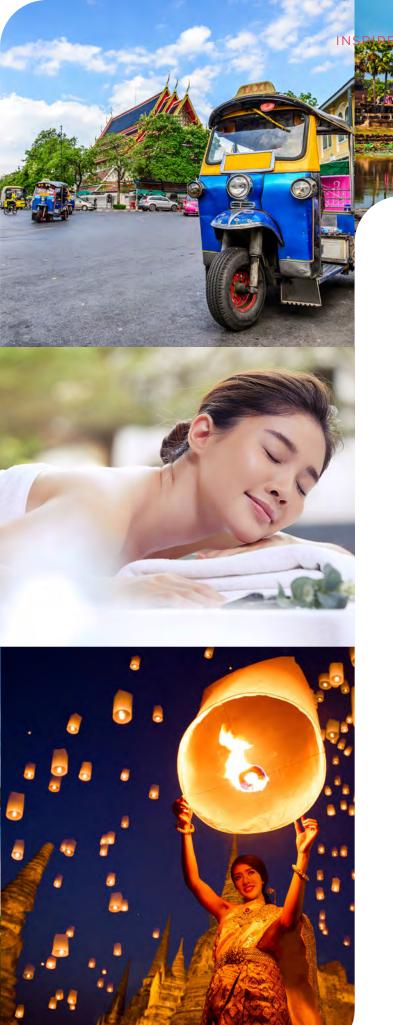
Culinary Wonders - The region's food is world-renowned, with so much more to explore than typical Thai dishes. From Vietnam's savoury spring rolls to Indonesia's flavourful nasi goreng, the region's food scene is a paradise for gourmands to savour authentic, mouthwatering dishes.

Beach Bliss - With over 20,000 islands, the region is a dream for beach lovers. Discover renowned shores such as Thailand's Phuket and Bali's idyllic beaches. Whether you're looking for luxurious resorts or diving adventures, there's a coastal experience for every preference.

**Affordable Indulgence** - The region's affordability extends from budget-friendly accommodations to exquisite dining, allowing for lavish experiences without a hefty price tag.

Accessibility and History - International flights make Southeast Asia easily accessible. Delve into its historical roots, from Myanmar's Bagan to Vietnam's ancient relics.





Seamless Exploration - Travelling across Southeast Asia is a breeze, with a variety of transport options connecting its countries. From Thailand to Vietnam, each country presents a unique charm and ease of navigation.

Cultural Riches - Home to 41 UNESCO World Heritage sites, the region is steeped in history. Iconic sites like Cambodia's Angkor Wat and Vietnam's Ha Long Bay offer glimpses into the past's architectural splendours.

Varied Climate: The climate is as diverse as the landscapes, ranging from tropical in the coastal and lowland areas to cooler in the highlands. The dry season is characterized by sunny days and milder temperatures, ideal for beach visits and outdoor exploration. The wet season brings rains that can be heavy but are often short-lived, offering lush, vibrant scenery and quieter tourist spots. Plan your visit according to the activities you prefer, as each season offers its unique charm.

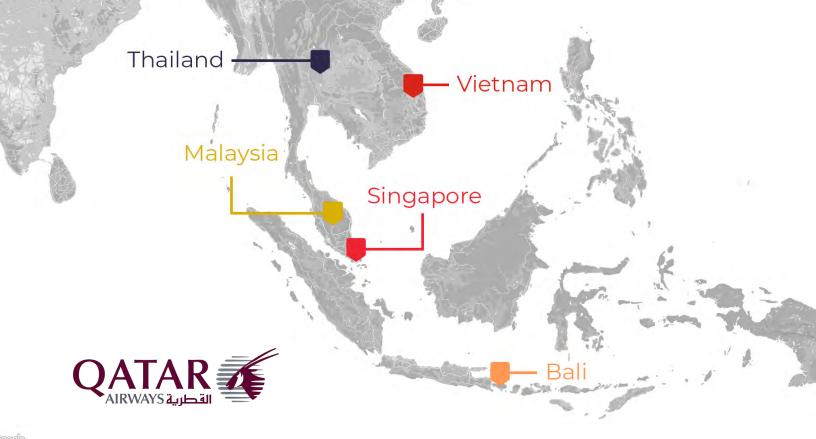
Rejuvenation and Wildlife - The region's spa culture provides affordable relaxation, while its wildlife sanctuaries showcase diverse species, from elephants to orangutans.

Festivals and Hospitality - Vibrant festivals reflect the region's cultural diversity, and the locals' warm hospitality enhances the travel experience.

In Southeast Asia, every journey is a blend of sensory delights and cultural discoveries, making it a destination you won't soon forget.

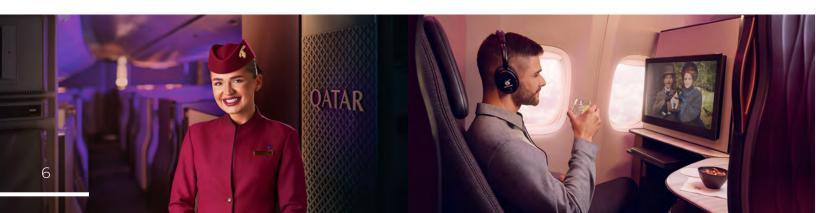
# SOUTHEAST ASIA **DESTINATIONS**

Embarking on a Southeast Asian adventure is more accessible than ever from the UK. A myriad of flight options, including direct and connecting routes, makes this region of unparalleled beauty and diversity readily reachable. From the tranquil beaches of Thailand to the vibrant streets of Vietnam, every corner of Southeast Asia is teeming with discoveries.



#### **Everyday great fares to Southeast Asia**

Journey with Qatar Airways and explore this spectacular region, from the food scene of Singapore to the idyllic beaches of Phuket. Explore the markets of Phnom Penh and Hanoi, the temples of Bangkok and Chiang Mai, and beyond, with incredible everyday fares to amazing destinations. Whether you're exploring this part of the world for the first time or visiting family and friends, prepare for an unparalleled travel experience with world-class service. Passengers can also enjoy seamless connections through Doha, Qatar's vibrant capital city.



# **SIGHTS** OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

Ready to explore Southeast Asia? With so many incredible sights to see, we've selected a few gems you really shouldn't miss. From Thailand's grand temples to Bali's serene forests, these are our top picks for the must-visit spots in your Southeast Asian adventure.

#### **Thailand - The Grand Palace, Bangkok**

A dazzling architectural masterpiece, The Grand Palace is Thailand's most famous landmark. Its intricate design and historical significance make it a quintessential symbol of Thai culture and an essential visit in Bangkok.

#### **Vietnam** - Ha Long Bay

Known for its emerald waters and thousands of towering limestone islands topped with rainforests, Ha Long Bay offers an ethereal landscape. Cruise through this UNESCO World Heritage site to experience its natural beauty and serene atmosphere.

#### **Malaysia** - Petronas Twin Towers

Dominating the Kuala Lumpur skyline, the Petronas Twin Towers are an iconic symbol of Malaysia's rapid modernisation. These twin skyscrapers, connected by a sky bridge, offer a breathtaking view of the city from their observation deck.

#### Singapore - Gardens by the Bay

A futuristic nature park, Gardens by the Bay is famous for its Supertree structures and the world's largest glass greenhouse. This urban oasis epitomises Singapore's city-in-a-garden concept, offering a surreal escape amidst towering vertical gardens.

#### **Bali - Ubud Monkey Forest**

Nestled in the village of Ubud, this natural sanctuary is home to hundreds of playful long-tailed macaques. It is not only a wildlife reserve but also an important cultural and spiritual site, featuring ancient temples set in a lush jungle.



# THAILAND OVERVIEW

Thailand beckons with a mosaic of experiences, from the serene beaches of Krabi to the bustling streets of Bangkok. This land of contrasts offers a journey through both time-honored traditions and modern luxuries.

In **Krabi**, turquoise waters meet dramatic limestone cliffs, creating a paradise for both adventurers and peace-seekers. With spectacular beaches and world-class diving spots, an ideal gateway to islands like Phi Phi and Railay Beach.

**Khao Lak** captivates with its unspoiled natural beauty. Here, lush rainforests and serene beaches offer a tranquil retreat. It's an ideal base for exploring the Similan Islands, known for their vibrant marine life and crystal-clear waters.

The **Phi Phi Islands**, a postcard-perfect archipelago, are synonymous with tropical bliss. Their stunning bays, including the famous Maya Bay, offer snorkeling and diving in crystal-clear waters, surrounded by steep limestone cliffs.

**Chiang Mai**, the cultural capital of the north, presents a different facet of Thailand. Explore ancient temples, vibrant markets, and artisan communities. The surrounding mountains offer great treks and encounters with hill tribes.

**Pattaya** is a lively resort town known for its vibrant nightlife, water sports, and entertainment. Beyond its buzzing streets, discover serene temples, botanical gardens, and the Sanctuary of Truth, a stunning wooden structure.

The royal retreat of **Hua Hin** combines beachside relaxation with culture. Its calm beaches, night markets, and proximity to national parks make it a perfect family destination.

In Thailand, every destination tells its own story, inviting you to partake in a journey filled with diverse landscapes, rich history, and warm hospitality. Whether seeking solitude by the sea or cultural immersion in bustling cities, Thailand offers a world of unforgettable experiences.



# **BANGKOK**

Bangkok, a city where tradition intertwines with modernity, offers an exhilarating blend of cultural richness and cosmopolitan vibrancy. This dynamic metropolis is home to historic temples like Wat Arun and Wat Pho, standing in stark contrast to its towering skyscrapers. Explore the city's grand palaces and vibrant street markets, a testament to its rich cultural heritage and bustling daily life. Bangkok's streets buzz with energy, from the colorful chaos of markets like Chatuchak to the serene canals of Thonburi.

The city's culinary scene is a paradise for food lovers, offering an array of flavors from spicy street food to refined international cuisine. Experience the bustling energy of Silom and Sukhumvit, or the artistic vibe in the streets of Khaosan. Bangkok's nightlife is legendary, with rooftop bars, lively nightclubs, and cultural shows providing endless entertainment options. The city offers a blend of experiences that captivate every visitor, making it a must-visit destination in Thailand.

# Our favourite hotel pick... Banyan Tree Bangkok

#### An urban resort in the heart of Bangkok

Amidst the city's lively atmosphere, Banyan Tree Bangkok stands as a sanctuary of peace and luxury. This urban resort, soaring into the sky, offers a tranquil retreat with its spacious, elegantly designed rooms and suites, each offering a panoramic view of the city's skyline. Guests can indulge in a range of experiences, from relaxing at the award-winning spa to dining at the rooftop Vertigo restaurant, renowned for its stunning city views and exquisite cuisine. The hotel's exceptional service and attention to detail ensure a stay that epitomizes the warmth and richness of Thai hospitality.



# **PHUKET**

Phuket, Thailand's largest island, is a mesmerizing blend of breathtaking natural beauty, vibrant culture, and luxurious escapades. The island is celebrated for its idyllic beaches, including the lively Patong and serene Kata, offering visitors a paradise of crystal-clear waters and powdery sands. Inland, the verdant rainforests and rolling hills beckon adventurers and nature lovers alike, with opportunities for hiking and wildlife encounters. Phuket's coastal roads offer hidden coves and quaint seaside villages, lined with lush greenery and glimpses of the Andaman Sea to perfectly encapsulate the island's diverse charm.

The cultural heart of Phuket beats strong in Old Phuket Town, where the intricate Sino-Portuguese architecture paints a vibrant historical picture. Wander through bustling markets, savour the local street food, and immerse yourself in the island's unique heritage. As night falls, Phuket transforms, with Bangla Road at the epicentre of its pulsating nightlife, offering a lively array of bars, clubs, and shows.

#### Our favourite hotel pick...

## **Banyan Tree Phuket**



#### Luxurious comfort in the pearl of Andaman

Nestled in the serene setting of Bang Tao Bay, Banyan Tree Phuket stands as a testament to luxury and relaxation. Each villa, with its private pool and Thai-inspired decor, offers a secluded haven.

Here, you can unwind with spa treatments that blend ancient and contemporary techniques, dine in exquisite restaurants overlooking the water, and enjoy the renowned hospitality of Banyan Tree. The resort epitomises the tranquillity and beauty of Phuket, making every stay an unforgettable experience.





# **KOH SAMUI**

Koh Samui, a gem in the Gulf of Thailand, offers a serene alternative to its bustling island counterparts. Renowned for its palm-fringed beaches, like the tranquil Maenam and the lively Chaweng, Koh Samui provides a perfect balance of relaxation and excitement. The island's interior is a lush canvas of coconut groves and mountainous rainforests, inviting exploration and offering panoramic views from vantage points like the famous Na Muang Waterfalls. Koh Samui's coastal beauty extends to its tranquil bays and hidden beaches, providing a soothing soundtrack to a picturesque island escape, perfect for those seeking a quiet retreat away from the more frequented areas.

The island's cultural landscape is dotted with traditional Thai temples and quaint fishing villages, preserving the essence of Samui's heritage. Delight in the local cuisine at beachfront restaurants or explore the vibrant night markets for a taste of island life. Samui's nightlife, while more laid-back than Phuket's, still offers a variety of experiences, from beachside bars to chic lounges.

# Our favourite hotel pick... Banyan Tree Samui



#### A tropical sanctuary awaits...

Perched on a hillside overlooking Lamai Bay, Banyan Tree Samui is an embodiment of secluded luxury. Each villa, nestled amidst lush gardens, offers stunning sea views and private pools. Indulge in a unique spa experience, dine at the edge of the cliff at their signature restaurant, and soak in the tranquillity that is Koh Samui at this exquisite resort.

At Banyan Tree Samui, every moment is infused with the spirit of the island, offering a blend of seclusion, elegance, and natural beauty that is quintessentially Samui.



# **BALI**

Bali, Indonesia's prized island, is a haven of cultural diversity, natural wonder, and spiritual richness. In Ubud, the artistic soul of Bali, traditional arts flourish amidst the backdrop of dense forests and rice paddies. This cultural centre is a magnet for artists, yogis, and those seeking spiritual growth, with art studios, yoga studios, and serene temples.

The coastline of Bali offers a stark contrast with its array of beaches. Seminyak is the epitome of modern Balinese luxury with its upmarket resorts and vibrant nightlife, while Sanur's calm waters offer a peaceful family-friendly atmosphere. For those seeking adventure, Uluwatu's towering cliffs and challenging surf breaks present an exhilarating experience. Each of its beaches has a distinct personality and charm.

In the less-travelled northern region, the tranquil ambience of Lovina Beach, famous for dolphin watching, and the scenic beauty of Gitgit Waterfalls provide a serene escape from the lively part of the island. The east coast, with its laid-back vibe and cultural gems like the water palace of Tirta Gangga, offers a glimpse into Bali's royal heritage.

Bali's culinary scene is alluring, with traditional Balinese dishes offering a burst of flavours. From beachside seafood grills to high-end restaurants, Bali caters to all palates. The island's rich agricultural lands also nurture a thriving coffee culture, with local plantations offering tours and tastings.

Throughout the island, traditional ceremonies and festivals showcase Bali's rich culture. The island's numerous temples, set against dramatic landscapes, are not just tourist attractions but active places of worship, adding to the spiritual aura that envelops the island.

In Bali, every experience, from the spiritual to the sensual, is infused with an intrinsic beauty and tranquillity. This island is not just a destination but a journey into a world of aweinspiring beauty and deep cultural reverence.





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## Our favourite Bali hotel picks...

#### The Westin Resort Nusa Dua ☆☆☆☆☆

Discover the allure of The Westin Resort Nusa Dua, Bali - a beachside haven blending luxury and local charm. Indulge in diverse dining, unwind in the spa, or dive into water sports on the private beach. With family-friendly facilities, lavish pools, and lush gardens, it's an idyllic retreat for relaxation and adventure in the heart of Bali. A perfect choice for families or couples seeking an upscale beachfront experience.

#### Sheraton Bali Kuta Resort



## W Bali - Seminyak

Immerse yourself in the electrifying vibe of a luxurious beachfront retreat. This trendy resort offers chic, modern accommodations with stunning ocean or garden views. Indulge in eclectic dining at world-class restaurants, unwind with innovative cocktails at the Woobar, or rejuvenate at the 24-hour AWAY Spa. With a picturesque tropical pool, state-of-the-art fitness center, and lively atmosphere, W Bali - Seminyak is the perfect fusion of style, entertainment, and comfort.



# **MALAYSIA**

Malaysia, a country where ancient rainforests meet modern cityscapes, offers an array of enchanting experiences, from the cultural and culinary richness of Kuala Lumpur and Penang to the natural splendours of Langkawi and the Tioman Islands.

Penang, the 'Pearl of the Orient,' is a tapestry of cultural heritage and gastronomic delights. George Town, its heart, is a UNESCO World Heritage site, celebrated for its historic architecture and famous street art. The island is a culinary hotspot, where flavours from various ethnicities merge to create unique dishes.

Kuala Lumpur, the vibrant capital, is a cosmopolitan blend of towering skyscrapers and colonial architecture, with the iconic Petronas Towers symbolizing its modernity. The city's cultural diversity shines in its culinary scene, ranging from street food to upscale dining.

Langkawi, an archipelago of 99 islands, is a natural paradise. Its pristine beaches, azure waters, and lush rainforests make it a haven for nature lovers and beachgoers alike. The Langkawi Sky Bridge and the scenic cable car ride offer breathtaking views of its geological wonders.

The Tioman Islands, located off the east coast, are a serene escape into nature. These islands, with their clear waters and vibrant marine life, are ideal for snorkelling and diving. The lush forests offer trekking opportunities, unveiling the islands' unspoiled beauty.

Malaysia's charm extends beyond these popular destinations. The Cameron Highlands offer a cool escape with tea plantations and colonial history, while the historic city of Malacca enchants with its rich past and vibrant night markets. Each destination offers a unique glimpse into Malaysia's diverse heritage, landscapes, and lifestyles, making it a mosaic of unforgettable journeys.



## Our favourite Malaysia hotel picks...

## The Datai Langkawi



The Datai stands as a beacon of luxury amidst an ancient rainforest, overlooking the tranquil Datai Bay. This resort is celebrated for its unique blend of nature and opulence. It offers a variety of accommodations, each providing stunning views of the rainforest or the Andaman Sea.

The hotel is a haven for nature enthusiasts and those seeking relaxation, with facilities like a nature centre, rainforest treks, and a world-class spa. It also features a diverse dining experience, from traditional Malaysian cuisine to international dishes, ensuring an unforgettable stay in one of Asia's most luxurious retreats.

### Mandarin Oriental, Kuala Lumpur



The Mandarin Oriental Kuala Lumpur, set in the city's central 'Golden Triangle,' combines stately elegance with a prime location. Overlooking the Petronas Twin Towers and adjacent to the KLCC park and shopping mall, it offers convenient access to the city's attractions.

Known for its exemplary service and luxurious amenities, the hotel features a variety of dining options, a city spa, fitness centre, and an infinity pool with skyline views. Rooms are comfortably appointed, with some offering stunning views of the Petronas Towers, making for an unforgettable stay in the heart of Kuala Lumpur.





## Our favourite Malaysia hotel picks...

#### **Shangri-La Rasa Sayang**



Shangri-La's Rasa Sayang Resort and Spa in Penang offers a luxurious and serene experience. Nestled along the famous Batu Feringgi Beach, this resort combines modern amenities with traditional Malaysian design elements. It boasts lush tropical gardens, an expansive pool, and a range of dining options, offering both local and international cuisine.

The resort's Chi Spa provides a tranquil setting for relaxation and rejuvenation. With its blend of natural beauty and elegant comfort, Rasa Sayang presents an ideal retreat for travellers seeking a blend of relaxation, cultural exploration, and beachside activities in Penang.

### More Malaysian Marvels...

**Batu Caves** - A Hindu temple set in limestone caves, renowned for its large Murugan statue.

**Mount Kinabalu, Sabah** - Southeast Asia's highest peak, popular for climbing and biodiversity.

**Langkawi Sky Bridge** -A curved pedestrian bridge with stunning vistas.

**Taman Negara National Park** - One of the world's oldest rainforests, ideal for jungle trekking and wildlife spotting.



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# **SINGAPORE**

Singapore is a harmonious blend of cultural diversity and urban sophistication that stands out as a unique destination in Southeast Asia. Its skyline of landmark destinations reflects a commitment to futuristic urban development, while areas like Little India and Chinatown preserve rich cultural traditions. It's a fantastic place to uncover an array of experiences, from luxury shopping on Orchard Road to the natural beauty of Gardens by the Bay, and so much more.

Singapore's culinary scene provides a taste of its diverse cultural influences from street food to upscale restaurants, whilst attractions like Sentosa Island showcase a lighter side of Singapore, with theme parks and leisure activities, contrasting the city's more structured reputation. This dynamic city-state seamlessly blends history, culture, and modernity, making it an ideal gateway to Southeast Asia.

## Our favourite Singapore hotel pick...

# **Shangri-La Singapore**

Shangri-La Singapore, set within 15 acres of tropical gardens, offers a unique sanctuary in the city. It features a blend of luxurious comfort, exceptional culinary choices, and family-oriented facilities.

With three distinctive wings catering to varied preferences and 11 diverse dining options, it's a versatile retreat. Conveniently located, the hotel is a short walk from key Mass Rapid Transit stations, providing easy access to the city. This hotel combines lush surroundings, family amenities, and indulgent experiences, making it a standout choice in Singapore.





# **VIETNAM**

Vietnam offers an intoxicating mix of bustling cities, serene landscapes, and superb street food. This budget-friendly destination is perfect for immersing yourself in a land of heritage sites, pagodas (tiered towers), and museums.

Vietnam's cities are a whirlwind of history and modernity. Hanoi, the capital, offers a more intimate feel with its parks, lakes, and historical Old Quarter. In contrast, Ho Chi Minh City dazzles with its skyscrapers and luxury hotels, yet retains its past in landmarks like the Reunification Palace and the War Remnants Museum. The country's natural wonders are equally compelling. Ha Long Bay, is known for its stunning limestone formations and offers activities like kayaking and cave explorations. For a more adventurous experience, the northern town of Sa Pa provides exhilarating treks through Lao Cai Province's hills.

Whether you're savouring its street food, exploring ancient sites, or soaking in its natural beauty, Vietnam is an unmissable destination where history, nature, and culture converge to create a uniquely captivating experience.

### Our favourite Vietnam hotel picks...

## Hyatt Regency Danang Resort and Spa



Situated on a tranquil stretch of white sandy Non Nuoc beach, at the gateway to the vibrant city of Danang, Hyatt Regency Danang Resort and Spa is an ideal base to explore the exotic charms of Central Vietnam. It is just a few steps from Marble Mountain, within the proximity of three UNESCO World Heritage Sites, namely, the Imperial City of Hue, the old town of Hoi An, and the ruins of My Son.



### Our favourite Vietnam hotel picks...

# Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi



In the bustling heart of Hanoi, the Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi stands as an iconic, award-winning luxury hotel, merging colonial elegance with modern sophistication. Just a minute's walk from the Opera House and Hoan Kiem Lake, this historic landmark, established in 1901, is perfectly positioned for all kinds of travellers. Experience the hotel's romantic ambience and proximity to the culturally rich French Quarter. Indulge in a diverse culinary journey at any of the six upscale restaurants and bars, where traditional and contemporary culinary artistry creates memorable dining experiences. Immerse yourself in the luxury and historical grandeur of Hanoi's most celebrated hotel.

## Hôtel des Arts Saigon



Begin a timeless journey at the Hôtel des Arts Saigon - MGallery, where the romance of 1930s Vietnam meets the luxury of the 21st century. This 5-star boutique hotel, a fusion of French Indochina elegance and contemporary chic, doubles as an art museum, offering a unique lifestyle experience. Its design and ambience transport quests to a bygone era; the Social Club Restaurant echoes the charm of speakeasy gatherings, while the Saigon Kitchen captures the essence of Asian street food markets. Located in the heart of Ho Chi Minh City, this hotel is not just a lavish escape but a memorable destination, delivering unparalleled customer service and a glamorous, specialised experience. Hôtel des Arts Saigon stands as a pinnacle of luxury in the city's bustling tourist areas.



## SPECIAL OFFERS

# **Vietnam - Cruise**Saigon to Siem River Cruise

#### SAVE up to £400pp

Saigon - Victoria Mekong cruise - Siem Reap

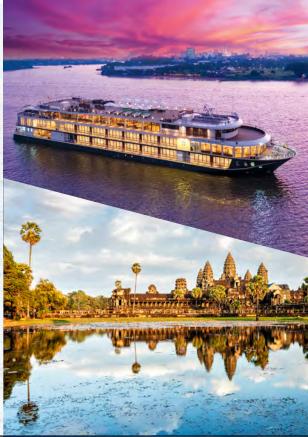
From the ancient jungle clad ruins of Angkor to the pulsating cityscape of Saigon, present and future of this enchanting region.

#### Includes:

International Flights | Accommodation | All transportation | 7 night cruise | Excursions | Entertainment | All meals (with beer and wine) | Touring with guides | 3 nights each in Siem Reap and Saigon (with breakfast and touring)

#### 14 days from ONLY £2,999pp!

Price based on September 2024 departure from London Heathrow, more options available.



## **Vietnam Tour**

Essential Vietnam & Cambodia

#### 10% tour discount

Hanoi - Halong Bay - Hue - Hoi An - Ho Chi Minh City - Phnom Penh - Siem Reap - Angkor Wat - Bangkok

#### Includes:

- I night pre-tour at the Chalcedony Hotel, Hanoi
- 16 nights tour accommodation
- 2 nights post-tour at the Hotel Royal Bangkok
- 15 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 2 dinners
- Services of a Chief Experience Officer
- Return flights from your chosen UK airport

### 19 nights from ONLY £2,229pp!

Price based on September 2024 departure from London Gatwick, more options available.



## **Multi Centre Asia**

Thailand - Malaysia - Singapore

#### SAVE up to £1000pp!

Bangkok > Phuket > Kuala Lumpur > Singapore

#### Includes:

- Return flights from UK
- 2 Nights in Bangkok (Hotel Royal Chinatown)
- 7 Nights in Phuket (The Thames Pool Access resort)
- 2 Nights in Kuala Lumpur (Ramada Suites City Centre)
- 2 Nights stay in Singapore (Furama Riverfront)

#### 14 days from ONLY £1,209pp!

Price based on June 2024 departure from London Heathrow, more options available.

# Multi Centre Thailand Bangkok & Phuket

#### SAVE up to £300pp!

Bangkok > Phuket

#### Includes:

- Return flights from UK
- 3 Nights in Bangkok (Rembrandt Sukhumvit)
- 7 Nights in Phuket (Centara Kata Resort Phuket)

#### 10 Nights from ONLY £1,499pp!

Price based on April 2024 departure from Manchester, more options available.



