

Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand Tour follow-up

Fifteen travelers left for Vietnam on January 5, 2026. We arrived on the morning of January 7th and were greeted by Sam, who was our CEO for the next 16 days.

We toured Hanoi and explored the Old Quarter, Hoan Kiem Lake, St. Joseph's Cathedral and Ho Ci Minh Park. We spent the next evening on a cruise ship in Ha Long Bay. We explored a limestone cave, and some went kayaking. After we visited an oyster farm and were enlightened about the pearl industry.

We took an overnight train to Hue and visited a Buddhist Pagoda, Royal Tomb, Imperial Citadel, and learned about rice-growing, conical hat-making, and making Egg coffee. In Hoi An, some of us enjoyed massages while others had clothes made at a tailor shop. We experienced making Tofu pudding and rice noodles. Later we attended a water puppet show.

From Hoi An, we travelled to Ho Chi Minh City and visited the Chu Chu Tunnels; the villages, islands and markets in the Mekong Delta; and a candy-making factory.

From Ho Chi Minh City, we flew to Phnom Penh in Cambodia. There we had a guided tour of Tuoi Sleng Museum (S-21 Prison) and Choeung Ed (killing fields). We also spend time at the Royal Palace.

Our second stop in Cambodia was in Siem Reap where we explored the incredible Angkor Wat. Some of us attended a video presentation and a demonstration of how rats are used to

determine landmines. These rats were large Tasmanian trained rats.

We flew from Cambodia to Thailand. We arrived at our hotel and then went to eat dinner in China town in Bangkok.

The food was very good in these countries. The markets in Cambodia sold edible insects such as deep-fried crickets, (often called Cambodian popcorn) tarantulas, silkworms, grasshoppers, giant water bugs, scorpions and red ants. Also, there were sparrows available on a stick. Some of us brave souls tried these protein-rich snacks. We used 21 different modes of transportation-from planes, trains, cruise ships, basket boats to Tuk-tuks, rickshaws, and GRAB to name a few.

We wished we could have experienced more of Bangkok but that didn't happen. I guess another adventure in the planning phase.

Linda Galenzoski