

Trip code: VEMRC29

Trip name: Best of Vietnam, Cambodia and China

Journey: Hanoi to Shanghai

Summary: as per last season

Trip notes:

March departures are based on cruising aboard Paradise Elegance in Ha Long Bay. See website for full itinerary details. Prices are based on Cat. C Deluxe Twin Balcony, Cat. Sadee Twin Balcony and Cat. Owner's Suite aboard the RV AmaLotus, and Cat. E Private Balcony Suite aboard the Sanctuary Yangzi Explorer. Upgrade is based on Cat. B Deluxe Balcony Suite aboard the Sanctuary Yangzi Explorer. Prices include port charges, gratuities and sundries. Prices are based on a Deluxe Cabin aboard The Au Co on Ha Long Bay. Disruptions to itinerary may occur.

Included Experiences:

All-inclusive sightseeing in up to 17 destinations

APT's Freedom of Choice Inclusions in seven locations

Seven-night Mekong River cruise aboard the RV AmaLotus

Four-night Yangtze River cruise aboard the Sanctuary Yangzi Explorer

Everything as detailed, including gratuities and onboard entertainment

Finest dining - a total of 73 meals

Day 1. Arrive Hanoi

Be met and transferred to your hotel. Tonight, meet your APT Tour Director as you attend a Welcome Briefing and Dinner.

Two Nights, Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi

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Day 2. Hanoi

A morning tour of Hanoi will take you to the city's most famous sites, including Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, Ba Dinh Square and The Temple of Literature. You'll also take a cyclo ride through the Old Quarter. In the afternoon, set out on your chosen activity. This evening, the choice is yours again at dinner.

BD

Freedom of Choice Sightseeing

Perhaps tour the 500-year-old village of Bat Trang, famous for its fine pottery; enjoy a foot massage; take a walking tour; watch a water puppet show; or take a bicycle tour.

Freedom of Choice Dining

Tonight, choose from a range of hand-picked restaurants for dinner.

Day 3. Hanoi, Ha Long Bay

From Hanoi, travel by coach to Ha Long for your Signature Experience cruise. Enjoy lunch on board and later tour the World Heritage-listed Sung Sot Cave with its thousands of beautiful stalactites.

Two Nights, Ha Long Bay, The Au Co

BLD

Signature Experience

Embark on your luxurious three-day cruise on the World Heritage-listed Ha Long Bay.

Day 4. Ha Long Bay

Perhaps enjoy tai chi on the sun deck this morning. After breakfast, your ship will sail towards Bai Tu Long Bay, cruising past the floating villages of Cua Van and Vung Vieng before visiting Cong Dam fishing village by bamboo boat or kayak. After lunch on board, you will arrive at Cat Ba island to visit the Cat Ba National Park and Viet Hai Village.

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Day 5. Ha Long Bay, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)

Spend this morning cruising beside Surprise Grotto and Titov Island. Disembark and transfer to the airport in Hanoi for your flight to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). On arrival, you'll have the rest of the day to explore at your leisure.

Two Nights, Ho Chi Minh City, Park Hyatt Saigon

BLD

Day 6. Ho Chi Minh City, Long Tan OR Cu Chi Tunnels

Today choose from two Signature Experiences before a delicious Signature Experience dinner at Luke Nguyen's exclusive restaurant, Vietnam House.

BLD

Signature Experience

You may journey to Ba Ria and learn about the Battle of Long Tan. Afterwards, attend a memorial service at Long Tan Cross - a memorial erected by the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment which is set in a rubber plantation and marks the site of the Battle of Long Tan. On the second alternative, visit the impressive Cu Chi Tunnels, an incredible tunnel network constructed by Vietnamese resistance fighters during the war. These tunnels served as Viet Cong hiding spots, supply and communication routes, hospitals and weapon caches, and make for a fascinating visit.

Signature Experience

This evening, head to Vietnam House for a tantalising and exclusive dinner - a menu created personally by APT Ambassador Luke Nguyen.

Day 7. Ho Chi Minh City, My Tho, Embark Cruise

After your Freedom of Choice Sightseeing experience, embark your ship for your river cruise. This evening, enjoy an exclusive Luke Nguyen signature dinner.

Seven Nights, Mekong River, APT's RV AmaLotus

BLD

Freedom of Choice Sightseeing

This morning, perhaps take a walking tour, visit an artist's home, participate in a cooking class, take a motorbike tour, or join a shopping trip.

Day 8. Cai Be, Sa Dec

Visit a rice paper manufacturer in Cai Be and learn how rice paper is made. Later, cruise to Sa Dec and visit a Cao Dai temple.

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Day 9. Tan Chau, Evergreen Island, Border Crossing

Transfer to a small boat for a journey along the tiny tributaries that snake around the riverside town of Tan Chau. Cruise right past a floating fish farm, then step ashore for a rickshaw tour of Tan Chau. Ride past shops, rice wine rooms and friendly locals eager to say hello. Later, step back in time during a visit to an evergreen island where you'll experience authentic rural Mekong life. The remainder of today is then spent on board your luxurious river ship. This afternoon, perhaps take in a fruit-carving demonstration by one of the ship's chefs while

border formalities are carried out and you cross into Cambodia. Alternatively, watch daily life on the Mekong unfold, before enjoying a delicious dinner later this evening. After entering Cambodia, your ship will continue to cruise towards the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh. BLD

Day 10. Phnom Penh

Disembark in Phnom Penh and choose your activity. BLD

Freedom of Choice Sightseeing

Perhaps enjoy a guided tour of the dazzling white and gold Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda, which is located on the south side of the palace complex and houses many national treasures. Alternatively, you may wish to discover some of Cambodia's sobering history with a moving excursion to the infamous Killing Fields, before visiting the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum which is located on the site of the Khmer Rouge's notorious Security Prison 21 (S-21). Here, you'll learn of the atrocities inflicted upon Cambodians during Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge regime in the mid-to-late 1970s. Your other options are a visit to the National Museum of Cambodia or a city tour in a tuk tuk.

Day 11. Phnom Penh, Koh Chen

With a free morning, why not rise a little later and enjoy the facilities on board your ship. Or, head out to explore the city independently. Later, cruise to Koh Chen, a small village specialising in copperware. On a walk, visit the home workshops and pick up a souvenir. BLD

Day 12. Oudong, Kampong Tralach

In Oudong, visit the monastery for a Buddhist blessing experience. Continue to the Kampong Tralach region before an ox cart ride through rice fields to rejoin your ship. BLD

Day 13. Kampong Chhnang

Enjoy a relaxing excursion by boat into the beautiful wetlands near Kampong Chhnang. After some time cruising, reflect on the days that have just gone by as you indulge in a Farewell Dinner aboard your ship. BLD

Day 14. Prek K'dam, Disembark Cruise, Siem Reap

Disembark in Prek K'dam and transfer to Siem Reap. Head to the World Heritage-listed Angkor Archaeological Park to visit Angkor Thom, and admire the Bayon temple. Three Nights, Siem Reap, Hotel Sofitel Angkor BD

Freedom of Choice Dining

Tonight, enjoy a choice of restaurants for dinner.

Day 15. Siem Reap

After your Signature Experience at Angkor Wat, set out on a tour of the temple itself. Return to your hotel for time at leisure. This afternoon, explore the temple of Ta Prohm and visit 'Opportunities of Development thru Art' (ODA), a Siem Reap organisation that provides education opportunities for disadvantaged children. B

Signature Experience

Rise early and enjoy a special sunrise experience at Angkor Wat with drink in hand.

Day 16. Siem Reap

Embark on your chosen activity in Siem Reap this morning. Tonight, enjoy an Apsara dance performance before your dinner. BD

Freedom of Choice Sightseeing

Perhaps visit the temple of Wat Preah Prom Rath and participate in a Buddhist blessing; enjoy a tuk tuk ride to the Senteurs d'Angkor workshop, where you can shop for local handmade crafts; participate in a fun Apsara dance class; take off on a thrilling quad bike adventure; enjoy a leisurely bicycle tour across the Cambodian countryside; take a horse and cart ride; partake in a traditional Khmer cooking class; go on a shopping adventure; or perhaps indulge in a relaxing spa treatment.

Day 17. Siem Reap, Beijing

Board your flight to China's bustling capital, Beijing. This evening, get to know your fellow travellers over a Welcome Reception.

Three Nights, Beijing, Regent Hotel B

Day 18. Beijing

Your sightseeing begins today with a tour of Tiananmen Square and the World Heritage-listed Forbidden City, the largest surviving palace complex on Earth. Following an afternoon at leisure, indulge in an authentic Peking Duck banquet for dinner.

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Day 19. Beijing, Great Wall of China

Visit the Badaling section of the Great Wall of China for a Signature Experience. After dinner at leisure back in Beijing, you may choose a Freedom of Choice activity.

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Signature Experience

Be captivated by the magnitude of this 8th-century monument as you wander along an unrestored and rarely visited stretch of the Badaling section. Later, enjoy a buffet lunch and free-flowing beverages overlooking the wall, prepared just for APT guests.

Freedom of Choice Sightseeing

You may choose to attend a fascinating Peking Opera show at Qianmen Liyuan Theatre. Alternatively, choose to take in a night of Kung Fu, dance and acrobatics at the Kung Fu Show at the Red Theatre.

Day 20. Beijing, Yichang, Embark Cruise

Choose from a range of sightseeing experiences today. Afterwards, head to the airport for your flight to Yichang where you will transfer to your luxury river ship.

Four Nights, Yangtze River, Sanctuary Yangzi Explorer BLD

Freedom of Choice Sightseeing

Perhaps you may opt to visit the World Heritage-listed Temple of Heaven. This immense, conical structure was founded in the 15th century and is said to represent the relationship between heaven and earth, the human world and God's world. It is considered the most holy of Beijing's Imperial temples. Alternatively, art lovers may enjoy a tour of the modern 798 Art Zone, a contemporary Chinese art district of galleries, bookshops and cafes,

accompanied with sculptures, paintings and music to create a lively atmosphere. Or travel to the historic Houtong district to meet a calligraphy master.

Day 21. Three Gorges Dam, Xiling Gorge

Set off on your cruise along the Yangtze River through the Three Gorges region. Take a tour of the Three Gorges Project and pass through the longest of the Three Gorges, Xiling Gorge. This evening, indulge in the Captain's Welcome Dinner. BLD

Day 22. Shennong Stream, Wu Gorge, Qutang Gorge

In Badong, transfer to a traditional sampan (longboat) and cruise through stunning scenery. Arrive at a local riverside village for a glimpse of traditional, rural Chinese life. See Wu Gorge and pass between two majestic cliffs on entry to Qutang Gorge.

BLD

Day 23. Fuling

Disembark in Fuling, and enjoy the chance to visit the 816 Underground Project, an old nuclear site hidden in the mountains. This opportunity to explore the project affords a deeper insight into China's military and political history. Tonight, enjoy the Emperor's Farewell Dinner, a Chinese banquet feast. BLD

Day 24. Chongqing, Disembark Cruise, Xi'an

Disembark and head to the Chongqing Zoo to view the famous and critically endangered Giant Pandas. Later, visit a local restaurant for lunch before transferring to the airport for your flight to Xi'an.

Two Nights, Xi'an, Shangri-La Hotel.

BLD

Freedom of Choice Dining

This evening, choose from three restaurants for dinner.

Day 25. Xi'an, Terracotta Army

Explore the city of Xi'an on a tour and visit a clay factory. Then, spend the afternoon at the Museum of Qin Terracotta Warriors and Horses and the Qin Shi Huang Mausoleum. Tonight, choose your sightseeing. BLD

Freedom of Choice Sightseeing

This evening, enjoy a Tang Dynasty cultural performance and feast on dumplings for dinner. Or, tour the Muslim Quarter, followed by dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 26. Xi'an, Shanghai

Fly to Shanghai and on arrival, take the high-speed Maglev Train into the city. Choose where to dine this evening.

Three Nights, Shanghai, Fairmont Peace Hotel

BD

Freedom of Choice Dining

In the evening, enjoy a meal of Chinese cuisine at the Dragon Phoenix restaurant. Perhaps, head to Lost Heaven, which specialises in Yunnan Province cuisine, or choose to enjoy western seafood cuisine at Amanda Restaurant.

Day 27. Shanghai

Take a coach tour through the downtown area of Shanghai. Later this evening, you will enjoy premium seating at a stunning acrobatic show. Watch in awe as the performers twist and turn in an array of daring stunts that are sure to take your breath away. BL

Day 28. Shanghai

Choose your sightseeing today. This evening, attend a Farewell Dinner.
BLD

Freedom of Choice Sightseeing

Cruise the Huangpu River and explore Yu Garden, followed by lunch. Perhaps stroll through the French Concession district, or take an excursion to Jinxi.

Day 29. Depart Shanghai

This morning enjoy a delicious breakfast at your hotel before transferring to the airport for your onward flight. Take a moment to farewell your new-found friends and Tour Director before departing. B