



**SECRET INDOCHINA**







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## I ABOUT SECRET INDOCHINA

Secret Indochina is conceived in 2011, ensuing the vision of two professionals passionate about authentic travel and exploration: Tran Quang Hieu & Nicolas Vidal. Secret Indochina, Destination Management Company branch of Amica JSC, strives to lead travellers to outstanding sites, enchanted regions and little-known ethnic communities.

A common passion drives the project: genuine human encounters and cultural exchanges. The creation of Secret Indochina is the result of twenty-five years of research, explorations, personal investment and dedication. In addition, the agency cooperates with a group of partners and prestigious establishments sharing the same vision.

From luxury to adventure journeys, Secret Indochina offers customized itineraries showcasing exclusive Secret Experiences in Vietnam, Laos & Cambodia. The company has offices in Hanoi, Saigon, Siem Reap & Vientiane.



# II COMMITMENTS

Secret Indochina is an innovative partner for travel agents, the company focuses on customized voyages through exclusive Secret Experiences and various inventing programs. Creativity, high-quality, responsiveness and ability to answer to the most sophisticated and demanding requests are commitments commonly shared with partners.

## INNOVATION

Secret Indochina has settled an international and local team exclusively dedicated to research & development, to production matters. The group is focused on delivering authentic and high quality travel experiences as well as the most creative and up-to-date products. With an experience of more than twenty-five years, R&D department has an extensive knowledge of the regions and an excellent understanding of today travel agent requirements.

## QUALITY

Secret Indochina has set a strict quality policy. The quality team is committed to exceed clients' expectations in all operational steps. The direct involvement of professional indigenous guides assures exceptionally informative, well-executed, and authentic travel experiences. The highest priorities remain the training of Secret Indochina passionate team in addition to improving internal system of logistic organization.

## PARTNERSHIP

Secret Indochina guarantees to deliver the best and assist partners-agency in growing their business, exclusively BtoB. An extensive range of Professional Resources has been developed to gives a complete information and training about the destinations as well as products offered. An exclusive Image Library is also shared to add a unique

element to any marketing materials.

## SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

The link between tourism, genuine local immersions and sustainable development enhances the travel experience by creating more meaningful and authentic cultural encounters through learning, sharing and giving back. From the Thong Nong Project to the Communities Project, Secret Indochina has developed four sustainable programs across Indochinese Peninsula.





# III SECRET EXPERIENCES

From cultural journeys to adventure itineraries, Secret Indochina focuses on delivering life-enriching experiences, combining unique and exclusive activities, thus producing a wide range of customized itineraries. Secret Experiences lead travellers to outstanding sites surrounded by awe-inspiring landscapes while offering the opportunity to delve into the local life of unknown ethnic communities frequently nestled in human and natural sanctuaries.





# 01 SECRET INSIGHTS

## *Historical & cultural programs*

Historical & cultural activities through encounters with local or international specialists

### SIEM REAP

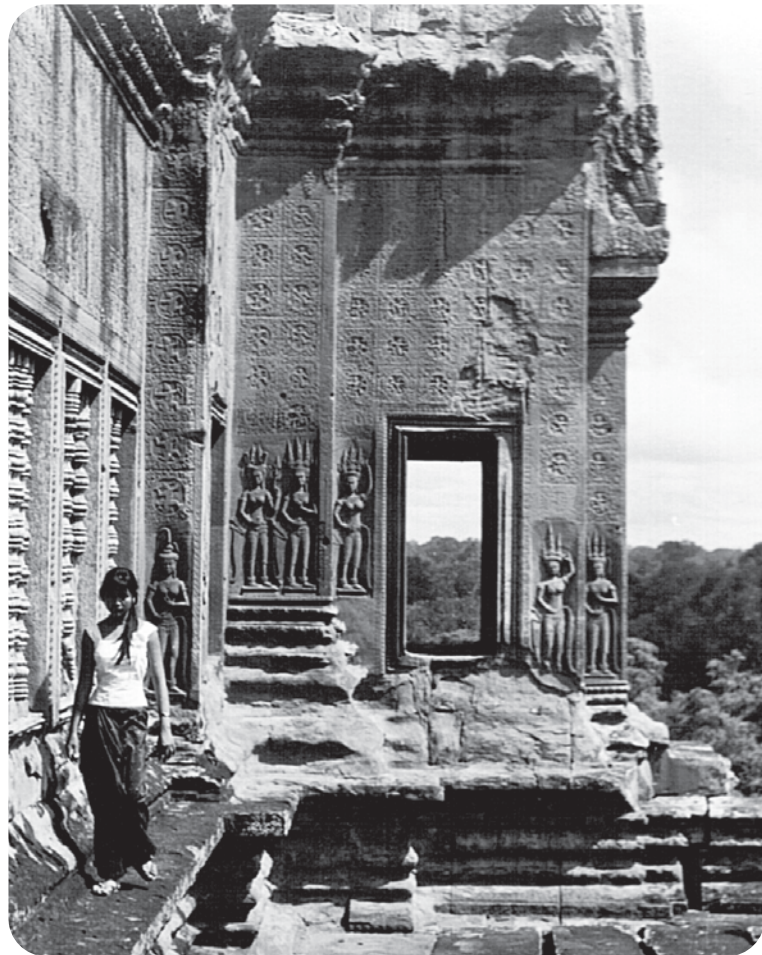
#### Hands-on Apsara Dance immersion

Discover Apsara, traditional Cambodian dance whom originates from the sacred dances of the ancient Cambodia mythological seductresses, spirit of clouds and water in Buddhist and Hinduism mythologies. The dance also became a religious tradition as it was designed to bring divine blessings to the royal court.

Meet the dancers and have an introduction about the Celestial Music and its various instruments. Then, experience a dance workshop. For an hour, initiation to various moves, unique chance to interact with the holy dancers. Optional dinner and private show at the school's yard.

#### Others

- ▶ Mr. Filippi - linguist & historian
- ▶ Cham specialists - heritage & culture
- ▶ Zen Buddhism - monastery & mysticism
- ▶ Mr. Nguyen - Vietnam War remembrances





## 02 SECRET COMMUNITIES

### *Immersion programs*

Immersion programs inside various communities, from northern Vietnam to Cambodian rural world

#### YEN MAC

##### Rural immersion in Red River Delta

Located near Tam Coc, also called “terrestrial Halong Bay”, Yen Mac is a Red River Delta rural district. The river and its tributaries have created a fertile land filled with endless rice fields, historic and picturesque century-old villages.

Delve into the life of the town by joining locals in perusing the marketplace stalls, cooking a Vietnamese meal, watching anglers hauling their catch, working in the paddy fields, making handcrafted goods, or simply strolling along the beautiful country lanes past the rice fields. The village experience gives travelers a glimpse into Vietnam rich history and vibrant culture.

#### Others

- ▶ Phat Sanday - Khmer lacustrian immersion
- ▶ Ben Tre - Mekong Delta coco immersion
- ▶ Kirimanon - Angkor immersion
- ▶ Tam Giang - Annam lagoon immersion



## 03 **SECRET TRIBES**

### *Ethnographic adventures*

Educational & ethnic immersion programs focused on emblematic minority groups

#### **KHUOI KHON** Black Lolo encounter

Originating from southern China, the Lolo belong to the Tibeto-Burmese family, also known as Yi. After being displaced from China by imperial court in the 18th century, many Lolo clans chose to immigrate south to Vietnam. One of today Vietnam's smallest ethnic groups, numbering about 1,800 souls, the Lolo mainly resides around the massifs overlooking Bao Lac, in the northwest part of Cao Bang Province.

Participate in the daily chores: light the fire, collect water and gather wood. Then, join a Lolo villager on a walk into the upper valleys: meet Lolo shepherds and discover some Hmông forsaken hamlets. Depending on the season, help the Lolo with various agrarian activities, learn about traditional handicrafts by engaging in weaving, spinning and textile dying techniques with local artisans.

#### **Others**

- ▶ Cham encounter
- ▶ Katu encounter
- ▶ O'Pa encounter
- ▶ White Hmông encounter





## 04 SECRET PARADISES

### *Indochina last paradises*

Selection of unknown, forgotten & unspoiled lands, Indochina last paradises

#### UPPER XEKONG

##### Laotian small Amazonia

Upper Xekong is located in southern Laos, in an Annamese Cordillera occidental meander constituted of rugged landscape, long southward oriented mountain ridges, profound valleys, impetuous rivers, uninhabitable forests and mythical groves: a rough land forming a natural obstacle to the world uncertain influences, an unseen Laotian small Amazonia, lost paradise of the southern Proto-Indochinese Katu clans.

Discover Paleng, a village of ten families, seventy-five people, 100% Katu, settle on a small hill dominated by a set of high ridges and century old trees. Dive into local life by learning about Katu weaving techniques, making traditional baskets, participating in the maintenance of the village, fetching wood for the fire, or preparing feed for the village's livestock.

#### Others

- ▶ Nui Chua Peninsula - Panduranga forgotten coast
- ▶ Koh Kong Island - Siam Gulf lost Eden
- ▶ Lan Ha Bay - Halong hidden diamond
- ▶ Phu Ta Ca Mountain - unseen last frontier



## 05 SECRET FORESTS

### *Indochina national parks & forests*

Across National Parks, natural reserves & Indochinese Peninsula most preserved forests

#### NAM ET

##### Northern Laos secret forest

Nam Et - Phu Loei NBCA national park is covering an area of 950 square kilometers. In its heart, a dense forest recovered limestone formations; the entity is recovered of primary woods, inhabited by tigers, leopards, bears, elephants and other rare species. Nam Et is northwards bordered by the Vietnamese border and by the Phu Pha Ty, a Hmông sacred mountain, also known as Lima Site 85, place subject to many stories during the Vietnam War, in this troubled times one of the most secret site on earth.

Safari program in the southern part of Nam Et forest: two hours up the Nam Nern River by motorized pirogue towards a camp of bamboo huts follow with hiking through the thick vegetation of the jungle. Learn about wildlife conservation, medicinal plants, traditional agriculture and the history of the Secret War from the local Khmu guide.

#### Others

- ▶ Ba Be - Tonkinese woodland
- ▶ Tonle Sap - Khmer aquatic forest
- ▶ Phong Nha - forsaken central forest
- ▶ Nam Cat Tien - Cochinchinese jungle





## 06 SECRET TRAILS

### *Soft-adventure*

Soft-adventure programs through classical & revisited regions

#### PANDURANGA

Adventures between earth & sea

Journey into an undiscovered part of Vietnam, along the South-Central coast, between Cam Ranh and Mui Ne. Travel along a series of granite promontories interspersed among semi-arid, almost Sahara-like valleys, ancient region of Panduranga, last Champa kingdom.

From a Cam Ranh beach resort, explore Hon Ba, Dr. A. Yersin alpine retreat, hike with forest rangers and uncover an incredible flora. Based in Vinh Hy, explore the Nui Chua National Park and its endless soft-adventure potentials: walk between earth and sea along rocky coasts, cross a splendid erg bordering the shore, overnight in a safari-style camp on Padaran Cape. Finally, encounter with Panduranga descendants.

#### Others

- ▶ Nam Ou - Laos mystic river
- ▶ Sapa - along Fansipan reversed trails
- ▶ Angkor - on royal paths
- ▶ Kampot - southern Cambodia realms



## 07 SECRET EXPEDITIONS

### *Trekking & expeditions*

Adventure programs through remote mountainous ranges, from northern Vietnam & Laos to southern Cambodia

#### THONG NONG

Trek across Cao Bang karst peaks

Located northwestern of Cao Bang province, bordering China, Thong Nong range is a unique succession of limestone peaks and remote valleys scattered in a wild manner. Made of majestic heights, the area havens Hmông, Tay, Nung and Dao, ethnic groups living in autarky in the heart of glistening valleys or on mountaintops.

Huge and surprising, the massif offers unique trekking possibilities across exceptional limestone landscape covered by bush and forests, several opportunities to meet local inhabitants, thus to experience a fabulous immersion inside local enigmatic customs. From Nam Ngu, a seven family hamlet surrounded by rice-fields and limestone ridges, depart for an adventure across Thong Nong and connect with the Thong Nong Philanthropy Project.

#### Others

- ▶ Elephant Mount - Phongsaly trekking
- ▶ Phnom Samkor - Cardamom mountains expedition
- ▶ Nui Chua - maritime range trekking
- ▶ Upper Xekong - Katu land expedition





## 08 SECRET REMEMBRANCES

### *Historical programs*

Historical programs around various sites characterizing Southeast Asia last ten decades

#### VIETNAM WAR

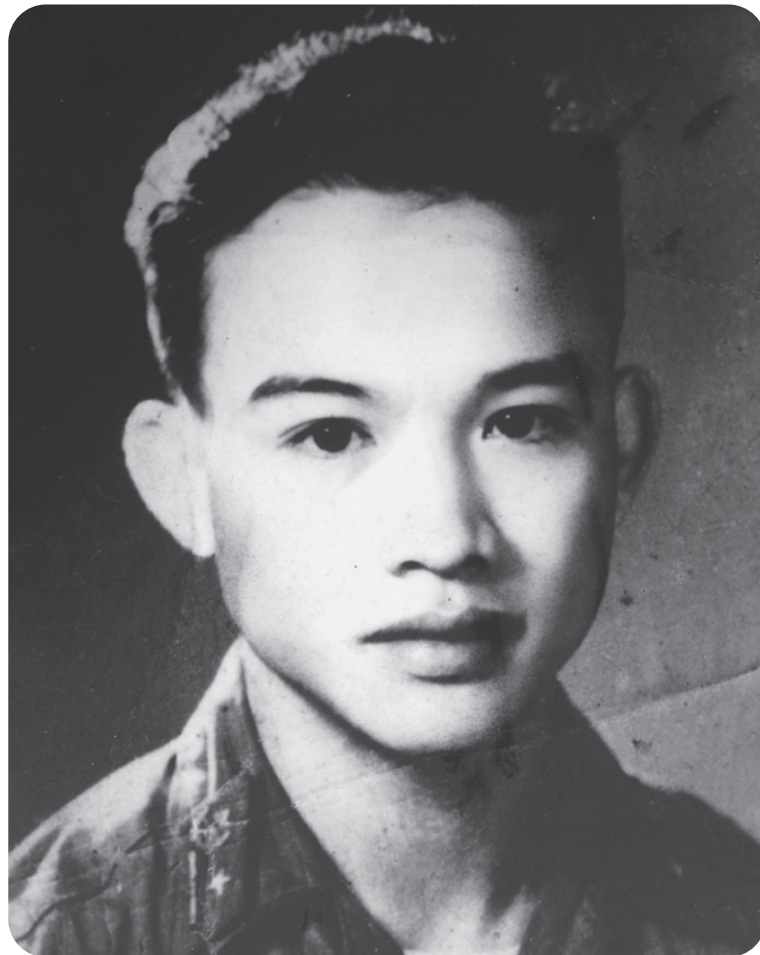
##### Another perspective

The Vietnam War will be forever engraved in the collective memories of the world: images of B-52s, jungles dripped with napalm, American troops fighting in seemingly endless jungles, obscures and feared tunneled-cities, North Vietnamese braving the hazards of the Annamese cordillera. Secret Indochina has created various War Tours concept to immerse travellers with the local population or inside jungles, a new angle to understand the Vietnam War.

Itineraries are designed for American Veterans and also for any travellers willing to understand the conflicts and its resulting traumas. Discover Vietnam beauty, its mountains and coastlines, land of many people and paradoxes, witness the ambiguity and the complexity of these wars.

#### Others

- ▶ Laos Secret War
- ▶ First Indochina War
- ▶ Women Story
- ▶ Khmer Rouge



## 09 SECRET CRUISES

### *Aquatic hideaways*

Selection of exotic cruises along seas, lakes, rivers & coasts

#### SECRET HALONG

##### The Descending Dragon

Embark on a junk harmoniously designed to embrace Halong Bay wonders, surrounded by scenic landscapes composed of steep cliff and semi-immersed limestone peaks. In this enigmatic atmosphere, the charming junk including elegant character and sophistication is cruising for two days one night.

Explore hidden lagoon, get an insight into lacustrian local life, visit little known caves, head for a kayaking experience at the foot of the verdant giant stones before dropping anchor in an isolated area for the night. Indulge an ideal moveable voyage coupled with perfect services, sail on the jade chess through floating villages, fishing farms, lagoons and white sand beaches.

#### Others

- ▶ Aqua Mekong - esthetic & sophistication
- ▶ Song Xanh - timeless Mekong
- ▶ Vat Phu - Laotian Mekong wild islands
- ▶ Parfum d'Automne - parallel Halong Bay



# 10 SECRET EVENTS

## *Indochina festivals & markets*

Colorful celebrations

### KATÊ

#### Cham New Year

Katê celebration or Cham New Year, one of Brahmin Cham's people major events, occurs during the seventh's month of the Cham Ahier calendar, usually in October. The largest Katê ceremonies are held at Po Klong Garai Towers, Ninh Thuan Province. Cham delegations from eight provinces join the celebration. A Cham Balamon master leads various rituals. The aim is to honor last Cham Kings and their forgotten kingdoms but also an expression of wishes for fertility, prosperity and a fruitful harvest.

Rare occasion to attend the preparations of ritual ceremonies where thousands of pilgrims prepare traditional dishes, cakes, offerings for their gods, ancestors, national heroes, and kings. In parallel of the hustle and bustle, insight into Cham heritage with unique folk singing, songs praising, dancing and music performed with Ginang, Paranung drums and Saranai trumpets.

#### Others

- Nyob Zoo Xyoo - Laotian Hmông New Year
- Phong Dien - Mekong Delta floating market
- Sayaboury - elephant rendezvous
- Gong - Highlands celebration





# 11 SECRET NIGHTS

## *Special overnights*

Selection of hotels, resorts, secret retreats & community households located on exotics sites

### TAM COC GARDEN

#### Red River Delta Eden

Tam Coc Garden is nestled amidst rice fields, a jewel of hospitality, gastronomy and romanticism, harmoniously intertwined with local farm life. The benefits of eco-tourism, cultural tourism and combined tourism are conveyed through the architecture and the foundational operative of Tam Coc Garden.

Situated in the heart of a serene limestone valley, Tam Coc Garden is an ideal place to comprehend local culture by learning from local inhabitants' traditional handicrafts, beliefs and manners of the Red River Delta area. The resort is also an excellent base to explore the surroundings: local immersion in Yen Mac village, sampan tours on scenic rivers, visit of historical and cultural sites such as Hoa Lu Ancient Royal City and the improbable Phat Diem Cathedral.

#### Others

- ▶ Padaran Cape - sea-erg camp
- ▶ Nam Et - jungle safari
- ▶ Koh Ker - Angkorian camp
- ▶ Island Lodge - coconut wonderland



# 12 SECRET HIDEAWAYS

## *Indochina Hideaways*

Selection of amazing hotels & resorts located on astounding natural locations coupled with top level luxury services

### AMANOI

#### Contemporary retreat

Situated on a dramatic coastline overlooking spectacular Vinh Hy Bay, Amanoi offers a magnificent location combined with luxury services. Named for the Sanskrit-derived word for 'peace' and noi meaning 'place' and backed by a national park covered with a marine forest reserve, Amanoi embraces nature and luxury.

Ideal base to discover unspoiled parts of southern Vietnam coast, between Cam Ranh and Mui Ne: a series of granite promontories scattered among semi-arid and Saharan coastline plains, land of ancient Panduranga, legendary kingdom of indigenous Cham, Coho, Churu, Cau Maa' and Raglai peoples.

#### Others

- ▶ Fusion Cam Ranh
- ▶ Phum Baitang
- ▶ Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi
- ▶ The Reverie Saigon



*Secret Experiences Map*





# IV

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Collection of selected  
Hideaways, Boutique  
Hotels, Lodges &  
Indigenous Nights.



# 01 HIDEAWAYS

Selection of the most amazing Southeast Asia resorts, associating magnificent locations with top levels of service and luxury, from secluded tropical islands to urban hotels. Discover the history, culture, and beauty of the regions while experiencing the refinement and the luxury of colonial-influenced or modern architectures.

## COLLECTION

- Amano
- Fusion Cam Ranh
- Phum Baitang
- Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi
- La Reverie Saigon
- La Residence Hue
- Song Saa Private Island
- The Nam Hai



## 02 BOUTIQUE HOTELS

Collection of Boutique Hotels selected for their atmosphere, comfort and character. Experience exceptional properties including sophistication and high standing services coupled with heady ambiance, in the heart of Southeast Asia legendary city. Relish delightful moment and comfortable facilities within elegant hotels adapted to local heritage.

### COLLECTION

- La Siesta Boutique Hotel
- Pilgrimage Village
- Vinh Hung Heritage
- Villa Song
- Nam Bo Boutique Hotel
- Knai Bang Chatt
- Shinta Mani Club
- Burasari Heritage





## 03 LODGES

Collection of comfortable lodges surrounded by magnificent landscapes, in the heart of serene and preserved environments. A discovery of unique structures nestled inside Southeast Asia last human or natural sanctuaries, a perfect approach to connect with nature, local heritages and the surrounding indigenous people.

### COLLECTION

- Tam Coc Garden
- Four River Lodge
- Muang La Resort
- The River Resort
- The Island Lodge
- Topas Eco Lodge
- Bai Tram Hideaway
- Mango Bay Phu Quoc



## 04 INDIGENOUS NIGHTS

Selection of authentic and immersive Indigenous Nights among exclusive communities. From northern Vietnam to Cambodian rural world: immersion into local life and culture, in respect of the indigenous people.

### COLLECTION

- Ba Be - Chez Tap
- Boping - Chez Phalla
- Ha Thanh - Chez Kinh
- Khuoi Khon - Chez Hai
- Mai Hich - Chez Thuyet
- Nam Ngu - Chez Tung
- Phat Sanday - Chez So Son
- Yen Mac - Chez Ich



## Accommodations Map





Exclusive selection of innovative itineraries across Vietnam, Laos & Cambodia, from cultural to soft-adventure journeys, showcasing the region cultures, landscapes, enduring traditions, human encounters and the ensuing cultural exchanges, all crafted with Secret Experiences.



# 01 VIETNAMESE INSPIRATIONS



## SPIRIT

Discover Vietnam's most famous sites across all four of the country, from Hanoi to Saigon, former "Orient Pearl". Journey from the majestic Halong Bay to Hoi An, a medieval city that continues to fascinate, pass-through Hue, the romantic royal city. Delve into Vietnam heritages within its most remarkable natural and cultural sites, but also throughout corners immersive experiences with local communities of Red River and Mekong deltas.



## HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Experience Hanoi bustling streets
- ▶ Indulge in Tam Coc Garden
- ▶ Cruise Bai Tu Long Bay
- ▶ Discover Ben Tre coconut paradise

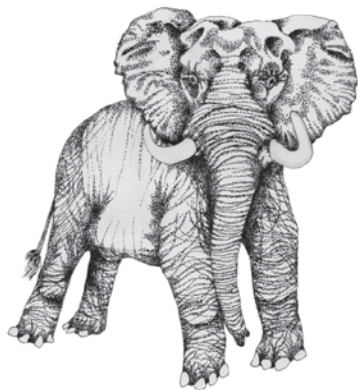
## EXTENSION

Exclusive journey inside southern Vietnam forgotten Panduranga region, from Cam Ranh to Saigon, along a rocky coast, marine part of the Annamese range, superb land scattered with various promontories and sand dunes.





## 02 KHMER VOYAGE



### SPIRIT

Itinerary across Cambodia, on new paths, from Siem Reap to Phnom Penh. Discover the amazing surroundings characterizing these regions and various national emblems: magnificent Angkor, Great Tonle Sap, Apsara dance, sugar palm and Kampot pepper. Cultural immersion in a Tonle Sap floating village, exploration of waterways filled with history and legends. The voyage ends on the southern coastline: exotic beaches and uninhabited islands, Bokor Mountain & Kampot, a pleasant riverside town dotted with French colonial architecture.



## HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Explore Angkor Wat temples
- ▶ Descent Stung Sen River
- ▶ Uncover Tonle Sap lake
- ▶ Phat Sanday lacustrine immersion

## EXTENSION

- ▶ Explore Cambodian Four Thousand Islands and experiment a community immersion in Preah Rumkel
- ▶ Pre-extension in southern Vietnam: Saigon & Mekong Delta
- ▶ Head to Mondulkiri Province and volunteer at the Elephant Valley Project

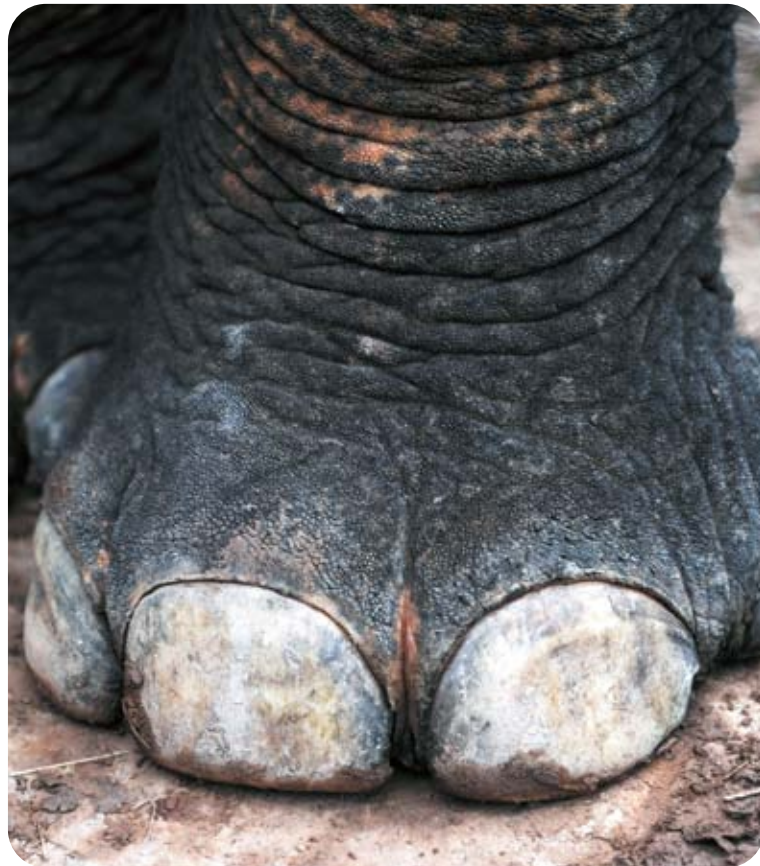


## 03 LAO SPLENDORS



### SPIRIT

Experience Laos' rich culture, from north to south, visit major tourist attractions and isolated regions. During the voyage, uncover cultural and historical heritages, the enigmatic Plain of Jars, Luang Prabang, southerly discover the Bolovens plateau & the Four Thousand Islands. In-depth journey throughout the old kingdom, travel across the "Land of a Million Elephants" and meet its incredibly friendly inhabitants.





## HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Explore Laos temples
- ▶ Unveil Plain of Jars mysteries
- ▶ Discover Bolovens Plateau
- ▶ Navigate the Four Thousand Islands

## EXTENSION

- ▶ Descent Nam Ou River to Nong Khiaw and explore tribal villages
- ▶ Elephant immersion at Sayaboury Elephant Conversation Centre
- ▶ Safari inside Nam Et National Park



## 04 INDOCHINA WONDERS



### SPIRIT

Cultural journey across northern and southern Indochina, through Vietnam, Laos & Cambodia. Discover Red River Delta environment, then cruise on Bai Tu Long Bay. Venture in North Laos, descent mystic Nam Ou River, cross the Old Kingdoms, from Luang Prabang, the former Royal City to Angkor Wat, the enigmatic city. A Voyage through ancient and recent history, with local community's encounters and exotics nights.

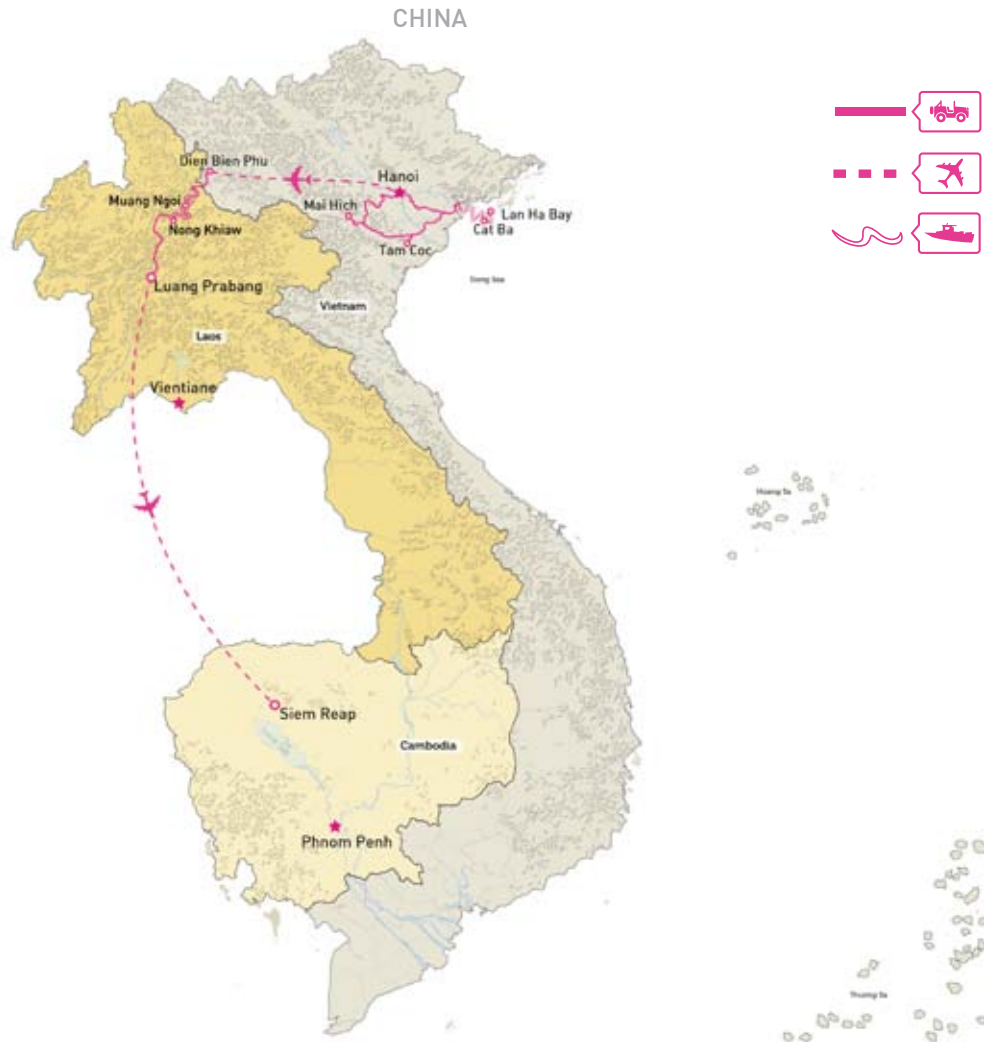


## HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Cruise Lan Ha Bay
- ▶ Descent Nam Ou River
- ▶ Discover Luang Prabang
- ▶ Explore Angkor temples

## EXTENSION

- ▶ Venture around Ba Be Lake
- ▶ Discover Preah Vihear Mountain temple & Kulen area
- ▶ Explore Koh Sdach Archipelago's semi-deserted islands





## 05 WATERLAND I



### SPIRIT

From Khmer Kingdom, along mighty Mekong, to former Champa kingdom, indulge in an exclusive journey; discover mystical lands of waterways shaped by nature, history and legends. From Angkor temples, continuation by a Mekong cruise, concluded in southern Vietnam, on Panduranga kingdom coastline.



## HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Discover Angkor temples
- ▶ Cruise mighty Mekong
- ▶ Venture along Panduranga coastline
- ▶ Encounter with Cham people

## EXTENSION

- ▶ Explore Hanoi city, discover Hanoian French and Sino-Vietnamese architecture's, cruise on Halong Bay
- ▶ Fly to Con Dao Island and indulge at Six Senses Con Dao











**SECRET INDOCHINA**

Journeys across Vietnam, Laos & Cambodia

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