From the ancient waterways of the Mekong Delta to the bustling cities of Hanoi & Saigon, this captivating 9 day tour is a great introduction to this unique and vibrant country. Steeped in its own rich traditions and history, yet irrevocably shaped by the major ideas and events of the 20th century, all taking place against the backdrop of stunning landscapes and architecture, Vietnam really is a traveller’s dream.

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Vietnam. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as flight details, visa requirements and travel insurance.

Your included meal guide:
B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

**DAY 1: UK to Saigon**
Depart London on your scheduled, overnight flight to Saigon International Airport.

**DAY 2: Saigon (B)**
On arrival in Saigon, also known as Ho Chi Minh, you will be met by your local guide and transferred to your hotel. Relax in the afternoon before enjoying a welcome dinner at a local Vietnamese restaurant.

**DAY 3: Saigon (B/L/D)**
After breakfast travel to the Cu Chi Tunnels, an impressive network of underground tunnels used by the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War. En route your tour will pass through a traditional rice paper making village before your lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, start your city tour with a visit to the Reunification Palace, the former home of the president of South Vietnam during the war. Continue to the nearby Notre Dame Cathedral which was built between 1877-1883 and is the major seat of the Catholic religion in Vietnam. You will then travel to the French-style Saigon Post Office followed by the Thien Hau Pagoda and a local lacquer ware workshop.

**DAY 4: Saigon to Can Tho (B/L/D)**
In the morning you will drive to My Tho where you will dock at Unicorn Island, giving you the chance to visit farms selling exotic fruits and a coconut sweet workshop where you can sample these local delights. A horse drawn cart ride will follow, arriving at a bee farm to enjoy their traditional honey tea, then a tour down the Vam Chua Canal on a rowing boat. Continue to Can Tho where you will spend the night.

**DAY 5: Can Tho to Hanoi (B/L/D)**
Your morning in Can Tho will begin with a gentle trip through the picturesque canals and waterways in a small boat, taking in the sultry scenery and daily activities of the small boat vendors of the floating markets who live along these Mekong canals, as well as stopping at the spectacular Cai Rang floating market – the largest in the entire Mekong Delta. Before cruising back to land enjoy tasting tropical fruits at the Ba Cong Garden House. After enjoying lunch at a local restaurant you will be transferred to the airport in Can Tho for your flight to Hanoi where you will then have the right to settle in.

**DAY 6: Hanoi (B/L/D)**
Your full day tour of Hanoi begins with the ancient Temple of Literature, then the Presidential Palace and the famous One Pillar Pagoda. A short drive out of the city centre follows where you can take part in a local Vietnamese cooking demonstration and enjoy your delicious creation for lunch. The afternoon continues with a visit to the Vietnam History museum, and a photo opportunity at the Hanoi Opera House, a beautiful colonial building, then a walking tour of the Old Quarter. In the evening sit back and enjoy a thousand year old Water Puppet Show.

**DAY 7: Hanoi to Halong Bay (B/L/D)**
This memorable day takes you to the awe-inspiring Halong Bay where you will explore these tranquil islands on a luxury cruise boat, passing local towns and intricate limestone formations on the way. Take a tour of Thien Carih Son Cave, an ethereal wonderland of ancient carvings and suspended stalactites that hang beneath a canopy of glistening gems. Anchoring in the Cong Do area, a Vietnamese cooking demonstration will take place on the sundeck, followed by a sumptuous seafood dinner on board before you retire to your cabin for the evening.

**DAY 8: Halong Bay to Hanoi (Brunch/D)**
Start your day with a calming Tai Chi session before a rowing boat takes you to Vung Vieng fishing village, a settlement completely floating on water and dating back hundreds of years. In the afternoon, pass sprawling rice paddies and rolling hillside landscapes, as you travel back to Hanoi for a local dinner and your overnight stay.

**DAY 9: Hanoi to the UK London or Extension (B)**
Following breakfast the day is left at leisure before transferring to the airport for your evening flight back to London, or continue on to your chosen extension.
Visa on arrival in Cambodia. You will need to bring a passport photo with you as you can visit the Embassy of Vietnam in London: 19 Pham Dinh Ho Street, Hai Ba Trung District, Hanoi, Vietnam. Contact number: 0084 439 713 888. In addition, it is recommended that you bring $30 USD in cash for the visa application.

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. Mercury Holidays has visited and inspected all of the hotels to ensure that they meet the high standards of service which we require for our clients. If the hotels detailed are not available alternatives will be used of a similar standard.

Please note: the hotels listed are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Meals
Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Lunch and dinner will be taken in local Vietnamese restaurants. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.

Health and Vaccinations
It is your responsibility to check any health & vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; www.fco.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Physical Accessibility
This tour is accessible to most people with an average level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves full days of sightseeing, often on foot, and includes some climbing of stairs and getting on and off coaches and boats. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.

Group Size
The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 10, and the maximum will be 40. If in the unlikely event there are less than 10 people booked on your tour date then you may be asked to change to a different date. A full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Tour Guides
This is a fully escorted tour, meaning that you will be met by a local guide in each of the cities which you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Tipping
It is customary to tip both your driver and guide approximately £2.00 ($3.00) per person per day in total. This will be collected at the end of each destination visited for your convenience. Tipping for the porters at your hotels and the crew during the Halong Bay Cruise will be at your discretion. Tips are accepted in the local currency, US dollars and British pounds.

Currency Exchange
The currency in Vietnam is the Vietnamese Dong, known as VND. You can exchange your currency in Vietnam, however US Dollars are widely accepted in Vietnam should you wish to keep an alternative currency on you.

Personal Expenses
You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry and extra drinks and snacks. Approximately £200 - £300 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour.

Credit card information
As normal practice you will be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

Itinerary Changes
The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in country are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction and/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however order of events & sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

What to Pack
- Sunscreen and hat in summer
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger
- An electric plug converter - the electricity in Vietnam/Cambodia is 220-240 V. You will need a 2 round pin plug or 2 flat pin plug adapter
- Loo paper for public WCs • Binoculars
- A small overnight bag to take on your cruise of Halong Bay
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on 0843 224 0723.
Flight Information:
Your flight is to Saigon International Airport with Vietnam Airlines (VN), departing from London Heathrow Terminal 4. Final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

Baggage Allowance
Baggage allowance (per person): Each passenger is entitled to 30kg of hold luggage. Hand luggage: One piece not exceeding 7Kg and with maximum total dimensions not exceeding 115 cm (56 cm x 36cm x 23 cm). Should you wish to take additional luggage you will need to pay extra at check-in.

Airport Extras
If you wish to arrange Airport car parking or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras on 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.
Weather and Climate

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate chart below.

Five days, 4 nights in Hoi An is the perfect way to complete your tour. Relax and unwind by the turquoise ocean waters, sample local cuisine and explore the historic Old Town.

Your included meal guide:
- B = Breakfast
- L = Lunch
- D = Dinner

A former port town, Hoi An is a historic town with narrow streets, riverside cafes and a stunning nearby beach. The traditional Old Town is now a UNESCO World Heritage site with numerous pedestrianised streets. The Hoi An beach sits close to the town, enjoying palm fringed shores and powder white sands.

Tour Guides
Your stay in Hoi An is not escorted by a tour guide.

Hotels
Hoi An (4 nights)
Depending on your preference your Hoi An stay will take place at the 4★ Le Belhamy Hotel on Bed & Breakfast or the 5★ Sunrise Premium Resort Hoi An on Half Board. This will have been confirmed at booking.

Hotel Information
4★ Le Belhamy Hotel - Hamlet 1, Dien Duong Village, Dien Ban District, Hoi An. Tel: 0084 510 3941 888
5★ Sunrise Premium Resort Hoi An - Cua Dai Beach, Hoi An. Tel: 0084 510 3937 777

Day 9 Hanoi to Dan Nang (B)
Depart Hanoi on your scheduled flight to Da Nang for your transfer to Hoi An and your first night.

Days 10 to 12 in Hoi An (B)
At leisure at your choice of hotel.

Day 13 Hoi An to London (B)
After your transfer to Da Nang depart on your scheduled flight to London.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on 0843 224 0723
Your add-on of 5 days, 4 nights in Cambodia will explore the country’s incredible and varied temples. A boat trip through the villages floating on the Tonlé Sap reveals stunning forest lakes, distinct communities and traditional river houses.

This document aims to give you all the information that you require during your add-on to Cambodia.

Your included meal guide:
B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Day 9 Hanoi to Siem Reap (B/D)
Following breakfast at your hotel in Hanoi your morning will be spent at leisure before your transfer journey to the airport for your afternoon flight to Siem Reap, Cambodia. You will be met on arrival and transferred to your hotel, followed by an evening meal at a local restaurant.

Day 10 Siem Reap (B)
Breakfast will be taken at your hotel, followed by a day at your leisure to enjoy the city in your own time, or simply relax by the hotel’s stunning swimming pool.

Day 11 Siem Reap (B/L/D)
After an early breakfast you will proceed to watch the sunrise over Angkor Wat – the 12th century temple which took over 30 years to build. It once served as the King Khmer’s state temple and later as his mausoleum. It is one of Cambodia’s best preserved temples and possibly Asia’s most impressive archaeological site. The intricate towers and walls are set in green forest land, surrounded by a vast moat. You will then explore the fortified city of Angkor Thom, whose entrance is flanked by a row of 54 dramatic stone figures on each side. You will also get the chance to see some of the King’s lesser known temples, including Bayon, the Terrace of the Elephants and Baphoun.

After lunch you will take in the jungle covered Ta Prohm, undoubtedly the most atmospheric of all the ruins in Angkor. The temple sits among fig and banyan trees, with many passage ways and hidden chambers to discover. Finish the day by unwinding and watching the sun set over this incredible World Heritage Site before returning to Siem Reap for the night.

Day 12 Siem Reap (B/L/D)
Today visit the stunning Banteay Srei, a 10th century Hindu temple dedicated to their god Shiva. Considered by many to be the “Jewel in the Crown” of Angkorian Art, this temple is carved from a pinkish stone and includes some of the finest stone carvings in the world. In the afternoon continue to the biggest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia, Tonlé Sap, where you will take a local boat and visit the charming village of Kampong Phluck. The boat will pass by traditional floating villages and houses built on stilts over the river, as well as meandering through forest lakes. The rest of the day is to spend at your leisure before your evening meal and the night in Siem Reap.

Day 13 Siem Reap to London (B)
After breakfast, savour your last moments in Cambodia with some time at your leisure before being transferred to the airport in the afternoon for your return flight to London.

Hotel Information
Siem Reap (4 nights) 4★ Tara Angkor Hotel – Vithei Charles de Gaulle, Siem Reap. Contact number 0085 563 966 661

Visas
If you have booked the Temples of Cambodia extension before the Hoi An beach stay extension you should request a multi entry visa for Vietnam. You will also need to purchase a visa for Cambodia costing USD $30 on arrival at the airport in Siem Reap. Please note that you will be required to bring a passport photo with you as well as USD $30 cash in order to apply for your visa on arrival in Cambodia.

Tour Guides
This extension tour to Cambodia is semi-escorted. Your guide will meet you at your Hanoi hotel and take to the airport. Day 10 will be at your leisure, whilst day 11 and 12 will be fully accompanied. You will be met by your guide on day 13 to take you to the airport for your return flight to London Gatwick.

Tipping
Tipping is common practice and seen as a way of life in Cambodia. It is customary to tip both your driver and guide $5 (approximately £3.50) per person per day. For your convenience your guide will collect the full amount from you on your first day in Cambodia.

Currency Exchange
The currency in Cambodia is the Cambodian Riel, known as AHR. You can exchange your currency in Cambodia, however US Dollars are widely accepted in Cambodia should you wish to keep an alternative currency on you.

Weather and Climate

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on 0843 224 0723
Five days, 4 nights in Hoi An is the perfect way to complete your tour. Relax and unwind by the turquoise ocean waters, sample local cuisine and explore the historic Old Town.

Your included meal guide:
B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

A former port town, Hoi An is a historic town with narrow streets, riverside cafes and a stunning nearby beach. The traditional Old Town is now a UNESCO World Heritage site with numerous pedestrianised streets. The Hoi An beach sits close to the town, enjoying palm fringed shores and powder white sands.

Tour Guides
Your stay in Hoi An is not escorted by a tour guide.

Hotels
Hoi An (4 nights)
Depending on your preference your Hoi An stay will take place at the 4★ Le Belhamy Hotel on Bed & Breakfast or the 5★ Sunrise Premium Resort Hoi An on Half Board. This will have been confirmed at booking.

Hotel Information
4★ Le Belhamy Hotel - Hamlet 1, Dien Duong Village, Dien Ban District, Hoi An. Tel: 0084 510 3941 888
5★ Sunrise Premium Resort Hoi An - Cua Dai Beach, Hoi An. Tel: 0084 510 3937 777

Day 13 Hanoi to Dan Nang (B)
Depart Siem Reap on your scheduled flight to Da Nang for your transfer to Hoi An and your first night.

Days 14 to 16 in Hoi An (B)
At leisure at your choice of hotel.

Day 17 Hoi An to London (B)
After your transfer to Da Nang to depart on your scheduled flight to London.

Weather and Climate
Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate chart below.
Your included meal guide:
B = Breakfast,  L = Lunch,  D = Dinner

Day 9: Hanoi to Lao Cai (B)
Following a day at your leisure, depart Hanoi in the evening for your overnight train journey to Lao Cai.

Day 10: Lao Cai to Sapa (B/L)
Upon arrival at Lao Cai station you will be met by your local guide and transferred to your hotel. After breakfast travel to the Cat Cat Village, an age-old village of the H'mong ethnic minority. Located just two kilometres from Sapa and at the foot of the Muong Hoa Valley, this area affords a unique landscape of green mountains and layered rice terraces. From here you can enjoy views of Fansipan, the highest peak in Indochina. You will have the chance to observe the H'mong people's traditional weavings, flowers and crafts before returning to Sapa for lunch. The afternoon is at your leisure to explore the town, famous for both its rugged scenery and rich cultural diversity.

Day 11: Sapa (B/L)
After breakfast at your hotel embark on a scenic trek along ancient buffalo paths and trails, where the local buffalos have the right of way due to their importance to agriculture. You will journey through several hill tribe villages to Lao Chai. Here you can watch the H'mong people going about their daily life as children play and adults work on the rice terraces. Stopping to enjoy the panoramic views, the tour will continue to Ta Van village- home to the friendly Giay minority people. Once on the valley floor you can truly appreciate the wonderful scenery of vast fields and many scattered villages. Following an unforgettable morning, transfer back to Sapa where you are free to spend the afternoon as you wish.

Day 12: Sapa to Hanoi (B/L)
Today your tour visits the region’s largest market in Bac Ha, a relaxed mountain town. With charming houses and beautiful scenery, this quiet town comes to life with its colourful market selling authentic goods, handicrafts, clothes and food. Many of the area’s ten minority groups gather here to buy and sell handmade produce, wearing their traditional dresses. Next, enjoy a leisurely walking tour through the mountainous countryside surrounding the village. That afternoon depart for Lao Cai railway station for your overnight train back to Hanoi.

Day 13: Hanoi to the UK (B)
Arriving early at Hanoi station, your guide will transfer you to your hotel for breakfast. The morning is at leisure, until your afternoon coach to the airport for your return journey to the UK.

Hotel Information
Fanxipan Express Train (2 nights)

Tour Guides
This extension tour to Sapa is semi-escorted. Your guide will meet you at your Hanoi hotel and take you to the train station. Day 10 to 12 will be fully accompanied. You will be met by your guide on day 13 to take you to the hotel for breakfast then you have the morning at leisure before your coach transfer to the airport for your return flight to the UK.

Tipping
Tipping is common practice and seen as a way of life in Vietnam. It is customary to tip both your driver and guide approximately £3 per person per day. For your convenience your guide will collect the full amount from you on your first day in Vietnam.

Currency Exchange
The currency in Vietnam is the Vietnamese Dong, known as VND. You can exchange your currency in Vietnam, however US Dollars are widely accepted in Vietnam should you wish to keep an alternative currency on you.

Weather and Climate

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on 0843 224 0723
Your add-on of 5 days, 4 nights in Cambodia will explore the country’s incredible and varied temples. A boat trip through the villages floating on the Tonlé Sap reveals stunning forest lakes, distinct communities and traditional river houses.

This document aims to give you all the information that you require during your add-on to Cambodia.

Your included meal guide:
B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Day 9 Hanoi to Siem Reap (B/D)
Following breakfast at your hotel in Hanoi your morning will be spent at leisure before your transfer journey to the airport for your afternoon flight to Siem Reap, Cambodia. You will be met on arrival and transferred to your hotel, followed by an evening meal at a local restaurant.

Day 10 Siem Reap (B)
Breakfast will be taken at your hotel, followed by a day at your leisure to enjoy the city in your own time, or simply relax by the hotel’s stunning swimming pool.

Day 11 Siem Reap (B/L/D)
After an early breakfast you will proceed to watch the sunrise over Angkor Wat – the 12th century temple which took over 30 years to build. It once served as the King Khmer’s state temple and later as his mausoleum. It is one of Cambodia’s best preserved temples and possibly Asia’s most impressive archaeological site. The intricate towers and walls are set in green forest land, surrounded by a vast moat. You will then explore the fortified city of Angkor Thom, whose entrance is flanked by a row of 54 dramatic stone figures on each side. You will also get the chance to see some of the King’s lesser known temples, including Bayon, the Terrace of the Elephants and Baphoun. After lunch you will take in the jungle covered Ta Prohm, undoubtedly the most atmospheric of all the ruins in Angkor. The temple sits among fig and banyan trees, with many passage ways and hidden chambers to discover. Finish the day by unwinding and watching the sun set over this incredible World Heritage Site before returning to Siem Reap for the night.

Day 12 Siem Reap (B/L/D)
Today visit the stunning Banteay Srei, a 10th century Hindu temple dedicated to their god Shiva. Considered by many to be the “Jewel in the Crown” of Angkorian Art, this temple is carved from a pinkish stone and includes some of the finest stone carvings in the world. In the afternoon continue to the biggest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia, Tonlé Sap, where you will take a local boat and visit the charming village of Kampong Phluck. The boat will pass by traditional floating villages and houses built on stilts over the river, as well as meandering through forest lakes. The rest of the day is to spend at your leisure before your evening meal and the night in Siem Reap.

Day 13 Siem Reap to London (B)
After breakfast, savour your last moments in Cambodia with some time at your leisure before being transferred to the airport in the afternoon for your return flight to London.

Hotel Information
Siem Reap (4 nights) 4★ Tara Angkor Hotel - Vithei Charles de Gaulle, Siem Reap. Contact number 0085 563 966 661

Visas
You will need to purchase a visa for Cambodia costing USD $30 on arrival at the airport in Siem Reap. Please note that you will be required to bring a passport photo with you as well as USD $30 cash in order to apply for your visa on arrival in Cambodia.

Tour Guides
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Tipping
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Weather and Climate
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