



LUXURY ADVENTURE VACATION B.C.

A FINE TRAVEL COMPANY INC. VENTURE

Trip Details:

- 10 nights
- From US\$ 5998
- Internal air US\$990
- 2009/2010

The Fine Travel Co. Inc.

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Indochina Insider: Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos



Indochina's beauty exists not only in the stunning Khmer carvings at Angkor Wat, but also in the smiles of monks at a Lao village, in the sight of Vietnamese fishermen paddling on the South China Sea, and in an encounter with giggling school kids at a centuries-old pagoda. Slow your pace to match the richness and diversity of your surroundings. With our team of extraordinary local experts (from a Buddhist monk to an art historian), we bring to life the intertwined cultures of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos, as well as the traditions, landscapes, political histories, languages and lifestyle that make each country unique. You'll delve into Indochina's fascinating cultural roots, as well as its wildly dynamic - and equally intriguing - modern culture.

New in 2008: Backroads Insider Trips

- Experience the essence of a place
- Adventures and events you couldn't orchestrate on your own
- Less on physical activity and even more on explorations of culture and natural history

Indochina Insider: Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos

Price per person:

2009 DATES CLASSIC TRIPS

- * 1/25-2/4 Price: \$6198 pp dbl. occ., (+ \$1400 for sgl. occ.), Internal Air: \$900
- * 3/23-4/2 Price: \$5998 pp dbl. occ., (+ \$1400 for sgl. occ.), Internal Air: \$900
- * 9/19-29 Price: \$5998 pp dbl. occ., (+ \$1400 for sgl. occ.), Internal Air: \$900
- * 12/3-13 Price: \$5998 pp dbl. occ., (+ \$1400 for sgl. occ.), Internal Air: \$900

2010 DATES CLASSIC TRIPS

- * 1/24-2/3 Price: \$6298 pp dbl. occ., (+ \$1400 for sgl. occ.), Internal Air: \$990
- * 3/3-13 Price: \$6298 pp dbl. occ., (+ \$1400 for sgl. occ.), Internal Air: \$990
- * 9/18-28 Price: \$6298 pp dbl. occ., (+ \$1400 for sgl. occ.), Internal Air: \$990
- * 12/2-12 Price: \$6298 pp dbl. occ., (+ \$1400 for sgl. occ.), Internal Air: \$990

Reserve early for the best available price. Prices may change during the course of the year--if they do change, the best prices are available earlier. Once you book your trip, your price is guaranteed.

All meals included except 2 dinners.

Meet/Depart: Siem Reap (Cambodia) and Bangkok (Thailand). Please make your own flight arrangements. We also highly recommend to buy a travel insurance!

Package itinerary

Awe-Inspiring Angkor

Cambodia's ancient capital will leave you speechless with its lofty spires, giant carved images and beautiful bas-reliefs. Exploring beyond Angkor's iconic sites, we venture into the Cambodian countryside to view quieter, less-visited ruins. Our engaging expert guide brings the stones to life, revealing the intricacies of temple design and Buddhist mythology, along with the life of Cambodians since the demise of the Khmer Rouge.

Central Vietnam

Striking karst formations rising from the green landscape. A forested mountain peninsula jutting into the East China Sea. Rice paddies and palm-lined beaches. An Imperial City with its ancient citadel and battle-scarred temples. And a picturesque village, once a Viet Cong stronghold, that remains well off the tourist maps. Our Insider Trip immerses you in exotic Central Vietnam, illuminating contemporary life alongside ageless traditions.

Authentic Encounters

Ferry across Vietnam's Thu Bon River the local way: among baskets of fish and motor scooters, joined by women in conical *non la* hats and bearded old men smoking their clay pipes. Meet our friend Chuong, headman

of Tho Ha village, who leads us through the maze of narrow alleyways to grant us exclusive access to the local temple (he's the only one with the keys!). Here you truly discover someone else's world, far from the guide-book landmarks.

Timeless Luang Prabang

Leave the 21st century behind as you enter the ancient Laotian kingdom of Luang Prabang. There's something magical about this small city filled with Theravada Buddhist temples - home to some 1,000 saffron-robed monks and novices, who wander through the mist on their early-morning alms rounds. You'll meet one of the monks and receive a traditional blessing before exploring his *wat*, or temple.

A Flavourful Journey

Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos share a common heritage of fishing and the cultivation of rice, vegetables and fruit. And while they have distinctive cuisines, each draws inspiration from its neighbors. Rice and fish sauce figure prominently, as do delicious herbs and spices famed for their therapeutic powers. Garlic, chili peppers, lemon grass, mint, ginger and curries are blended in exceptionally fresh, healthy and balanced foods - you'll want to taste every dish on the menu!

EXOTIC ELEGANCE : Premiere Inns

Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor (2 nights): This exquisite hotel is just minutes from the main temple complex of Angkor Wat, and remains the classic choice in Siem Reap, featuring elegant furnishings and artwork, a full-service spa, expansive gardens and outstanding cuisine.

The Nam Hai (2 nights): Set on a tranquil stretch of China Beach, this new luxury resort is praised by *Travel+Leisure* for having "three swimming pools, spacious grounds, and a stunning spa with sublime overwater relaxation rooms - plus great extras, such as the luscious wool-and-cotton-blend bathrobes and outdoor showers."



La Residence Hotel & Spa (2 nights): Nestled on the banks of the Perfume River, this boutique hotel features stylishly decorated guest rooms, a saltwater pool, a tennis court and a spa.

Hotel Sofitel Metropole (2 nights): It's easy to see why this restored landmark - with its resplendent façade and elegant French-colonial ambience - is a favorite of *Travel+Leisure*, *Condé Nast Traveler* and *National Geographic Traveler*, which calls it "the most storied and beloved of Hanoi institutions."

La Residence Phou Vao (2 nights): This beautiful hotel - long considered the region's top resort - welcomes you with large open-plan guest rooms, private verandas, an exotic spa and an infinity pool with stunning panoramas of this World Heritage city and the misty valley below.

