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## **LUXURY TRANS-ASIA DISCOVERY TOUR AND CRUISE: FROM TAJ MAHAL, GREAT WALL OF CHINA AND ANGKOR WAT WITH MEKONG RIVER CRUISE**

**Trip Code:** TC6531T

**Duration:** 24

**Destination:** India, China, Vietnam, Cambodia

**Travel Dates:** 2022

### **DAY 1 DEHLI ARRIVAL(D)**

Arrive at Delhi International Airport by evening flight. Meet & greet on arrival and transfer to hotel.

Delhi, The capital of Republic of India, Delhi is a bustling metropolis and a city of almost 17 million inhabitants. Delhi is a near perfect blend of the ancient and the modern and is seamlessly divided into two parts - Old & New Delhi. Old Delhi is part of the city that was designed by the Mughals and New Delhi was designed majorly during English rule and also known as “Lyutens” Delhi.

Arrive and check in at the hotel.

The rest of the day is at leisure and free for independent activities.

### **DAY 2 OLD AND NEW DELHI TOUR(B,L)**

After breakfast proceed for the visit of Old Delhi – visit the resplendent “mosque of Friday” - Jama Masjid. Jama Masjid is the largest mosque in India and is one of the last architectural works of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan - whose best work is the Taj Mahal. The spacious courtyard of the Jama Masjid holds thousands of faithful devotees. After visit of Jama Masjid Walk through the colorful shopping bazaar known as Chandni Chowk ("Moonlit Street"). Drive past the Red Fort - a majestic Fort and an erstwhile seat of power - which encapsulates a long period of Indian history and its arts. Also visit Raj Ghat, the cremation site of Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.

Lunch at a restaurant during sightseeing.

In the afternoon visit Humayun tomb, Qutub Minar - the pride of Delhi. The Construction of this tall minaret was commenced by Muslim ruler, Qutb-ud-din Aibak in 1192 and completed by Iltutmish. The soaring conical tower is an exquisite example of Indo-Islamic Afghan architecture. After visit proceed for tour of “Lyutens” Delhi - named after the leading British architect Sir Edwin Landseer Lyutens. Drive past some of magnificent monuments designed by him such as India Gate and Viceroy's House - now known as the Rashtrapati Bhavan (President Palace).

### **DAY 3 DELHI - AGRA - AGRA (B,L)**

This morning leave by private vehicle to travel to Agra.

Agra is home to one of the Seven Wonders of the World the Taj Mahal. Tourists from all over the world visit Agra not only to see the ruins of the red sandstone fortress built by the Mughal emperors other tourist attractions in Agra worth visiting are the Agra Fort and Akbar's Mausoleum. The golden age of the city began with the Mughals between 16th and 17th Century.

Agra is known for its superb inlay work on marble and soapstone by craftsmen who worked under the Mughals. The city is also famous for its carpet, gold thread embroidery and leather shoes. On arrival at check in at hotel.

In the afternoon visit Agra Fort, where the ageing Emperor Shah Jahan, imprisoned by his son, watched from a distance the fulfilment of his life's dream - the building of the Taj Mahal in memory of his beloved wife. The fort is really a city within a city, which embraces the Moti Masjid, the Diwan-i-Am or the Hall of Public Audiences, the Diwan-i-Khas or the Hall of Private Audiences, the Octagonal Tower, Jehangir's Palace and many more monuments.

The rest of the day is at your leisure.

#### **DAY 4 TAJ MAHAL(B,L)**

This morning you will have free time before you visit the beautiful Taj Mahal (Closed on Friday) at sunset.

The Taj Mahal was built by the Moghul Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died in 1631. During the 22 years it took to complete the structure in 1653, 20 000 workers, tons of marble coming from Rajasthan and carried by camels or elephants, and all of the emperor's fortune were used to build this fabulous pyramid-shaped palace; 73 metres high and flanked by four big minarets looking like birthday candles....!

#### **DAY 5 AGRA - DELHI - FLY TO BEIJING(B, In-flight Meals)**

After a morning drive to Delhi, you will be transferred to the airport to board your flight to Beijing, China. Upon your arrival at the Beijing airport, your local guide will meet you and escort you to your hotel.

#### **DAY 6 BEIJING FREE DAY (B)**

Today, enjoy your free day at leisure.

#### **DAY 7 BEIJING CITY TOUR(B,L)**

Today you will first visit Tiananmen Square followed by the magnificent Forbidden City. Afterwards you will visit the Temple of Heaven.

Tiananmen Square is the largest city square in the world and the spiritual heart of China, where the national flag is raised exactly at sunrise every day.

The Forbidden City is located in the center of Beijing and used to be the imperial palace of the Ming and Qing dynasties with a history of around 600 years. It is the grandest integral palace complex still remaining in China.

Note: It is closed on Monday.

The Temple of Heaven is the place which was visited yearly by the emperors who performed intricate rituals to ensure a good harvest for the whole nation in ancient times.

## **DAY 8 GREAT WALL OF CHINA(B,L)**

Today you will visit to the magnificent Great Wall (Mutianyu section, round trip cable car included) and then visit the Sacred Road.

The Great Wall (Mutianyu Section) is the most famous symbol of China and one of the world's most remarkable architectural wonders. It was built over 2,000 years ago and stretches for about 6,700km.

Mutianyu Cable Car (round way) at the Great Wall is included. The chair-lift and toboggan are also available.

NOTE: If you want to change any of them, please inform the local guide before he or she purchases the tickets for the round-trip cable car for you. Please pay the extra charge in cash to the local guide.

The Sacred Road path is lined with stone statues of animals, mystical beasts and officials who serve the emperor in his afterlife. The sitting emperors visit here to perform memorial rituals for the ancestors once a year.

## **DAY 9 BEIJING - FLIGHT TO HANOI (B, In-flight meals, D)**

This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Hanoi.

Upon your arrival in Noi Bai Airport, our driver will pick you up for your tour of Hanoi's Old Quarter where you will experience traditional street life.

You will also have the opportunity to watch a traditional Water Puppet show.

## **DAY 10 HANOI - HALONG BAY (B,L,D)**

Your air-conditioned transfer vehicle will collect you from your hotel in Hanoi and convey you to Hai Phong.

You will be taken aboard our support vessel and travel from the wharf via the bay to board our luxurious craft, Era Cruise. You will be welcomed aboard and greeted with a complimentary drink. Our friendly and professional crew will conduct a compulsory safety procedure session and then you are free to check into your cabin and freshen up. We encourage you to explore our luxuriously-appointed ship then watch the magical landscape cruise past.

A special lunch of fresh seafood and an assortment of appetizing delicacies will be served. Enjoy dining on our luxury junk; our lavish interpretation of a traditional Vietnamese boat.

We then set sail for Lan Ha Bay, passing Da Chong islet where you can see an ancient lighthouse built by the French over a century ago.

The final part of the cruise takes us through the Cua Van area to Lan Ha Bay (part of Halong Bay). The 300 or so karst islands and limestone outcrops of Lan Ha are stunning with their pristine, snow-white beaches. You can explore Ba Trai Dao beach or Tra Bau area via kayaks or immerse yourself in the crystal clear waters.

Back on board we cruise to your evening accommodation. Happy Hour is between 5.30pm and 6.30pm offered with an extensive drinks list including special offers such as two for one drinks.

After our Vietnamese cooking demonstration, which is a great way to learn how to prepare delicious appetizers, you can spoil yourself with a unique Signature Dinner in our distinctive restaurant.

After dinner it is time to relax with an exotic cocktail and drink in the evening landscape. Our bar offers a wide range of wine, beer and liqueurs and is always a welcome sight for guests after a day sailing on the bay. You can order an indulgent spa service, watch movies, go squid fishing or simply relax on our roof top deck under the cover of a brightly illuminated sky.

## **DAY 11                      HALONG BAY - HANOI (B,L)**

Early morning is the best time of the day on Lan Ha Bay. You might like to head to the upper deck to participate in our daily Tai Chi sessions or relax with an early morning cup of tea, coffee or juice to watch the stunning scenery unfold before you.

A light breakfast of pastries, tea and coffee will be served in our restaurant before the final stage of your trip which is to be taken through the mysterious caves and amongst the remote islets via local rowing boats. The breath-taking beauty of this World Heritage region will certainly impress you. Following this, you will journey back to the main ship.

It's now time to check out of your cabin as we draw closer to the mainland. After a final early brunch you will board our transfer boat and head back to the wharf where you will be met by your return trip luxury van and return to Hanoi hotel.

## **DAY 12                      HANOI - HO CHI MINH CITY - BOARD RV INDOCHINE II (B,L,D)**

This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Ho Chi Minh City.

You will be met at the airport and transferred to the port to join the cruise group, then have a buffet lunch at a nearby restaurant.

In the afternoon we will take a tour of Ho Chi Minh City highlights.

We then board our ship and enjoy a welcome cocktail and dinner.

Overnight onboard in Ho Chi Minh City.

### **DAY 13                      HO CHI MINH CITY - CU CHI TUNNELS - CHO GAO (B,L,D)**

Today you will be collected from the wharf to travel to the Cu Chi Tunnels, an underground tunnels network constructed by Vietnamese fighters during the struggle for independence. home to around 10,000 people for several years It took about 25 years to build the underground city. The tunnel system was an excellent way for the Vietcong to move around the countryside undetected by the Americans. enjoying a scenic drive through the picturesque villages.

On arrival we will watch a short introductory video before exploring the Cu Chi Tunnels, the most famous battlegrounds in the world. We will explore the complex tunnel system and view may craters left from B52 bombing raids.

After that exploring the tunnels you can try firing real bullets at the shooting range or go souvenir shopping before your return transfer back to your hotel in Ho Chi Minh.

Lunch is on board then we start cruising through the Mekong Delta area.

Overnight we moor at Nha Be.

### **DAY 14                      CHO GAO - MY THO - VINH LONG - CAI BE - SA DEC(B,L,D)**

Today we pass through the Mekong Delta and visit the town of My Tho and the My Tho Islands to see local craftsman at work.

After lunch we cruise to Vinh Long, Cai Be and Sac Dec.

Overnight stop at our mooring point.

### **DAY 15                      SA DEC (B,L,D)**

Early this morning we visit Sa Dec and tour the small town where some colonial mansions are still in existence and afterwards we can discover the local market. Back on board for lunch and continue cruising to Chau Doc.

Overnight stop at our mooring point.

### **DAY 16                      CHAU DOC - PHNOM PENH (B,L,D)**

We spend the day cruising and cross the Cambodian Border as we continue our journey to Phnom Penh.

After dinner we will enjoy a fun introduction to Phnom Penh via a "TUK TUK" trip around the city and then moor for the night in the port of Phnom Penh.

### **DAY 17                      PHNOM PENH CITY TOUR (B,L,D)**

This morning on our city tour we visit the Silver Pagoda, the Royal Palace and the National museum.

We have lunch in a local restaurant and then will have the option to visit a former detention centre used by the Khmer Rouge during the civil war.

Afterwards we have time in the "Central Market".

Back on board we will enjoy dinner and a traditional Apsara dance performance.

Overnight in the port of Phnom Penh.

## **DAY 18 KOH CHEN - KAMPONG TRALACH - KAMPONG CHHANANG (B,L,D)**

Today we visit Koh Chen, a small village where the inhabitants are experts in silverwork and copper work and visit a school.

After lunch we arrive in Kampong Tralach and visit the beautiful Vihara of the Wat Kampong Tarlach LeuPagoda. We cross through the village by oxcart to reach the pagoda.

We return and continue our cruise to Kampong Chhnang which is our overnight stop.

## **DAY 19 KAMPONG CHHNANG - LAKE TONLE (B,L,D)**

Today we visit Kampong Chhnang, one of the largest fishing ports on the Tonle Sap.

We visit a traditional grove of palm trees and taste some palm sugar before a visit to a traditional pottery.

We then visit a floating village on small local boats.

In the afternoon we cruise to lake Tonle Sap.

Enjoy a Cocktail and Gala Dinner onboard tonight.

## **DAY 20 DISEMBARK RV INDOCHINE II - SIEM REAP (B,L)**

We spend the morning cruising then disembark the RV Indochine II at noon at the port of Siem Reap.

You will be transferred to your hotel and the rest of the day is at leisure.

## **DAY 21 ANGKOR SUNRISE TOUR(B,L)**

Today you will have an early pick up from your hotel and be driven to the Angkor Wat complex to view the

sunrise over the magnificent temples.

You will have plenty of time to take photos before going back to your hotel for breakfast.

In the afternoon we will set off to explore Siem Reap with a tour of the city.

## **DAY 22 ANGKOR THOM & ANGKOR WAT (B,L,D)**

After breakfast, you will visit The Southern Gate of Angkor Thom, the famous Bayon, Baphuon, and Phimeanakas temples, plus Terraces of the Elephant and Leper King.

Lunch will be at a famous local restaurant.

In the afternoon visit Ta Prohm then explore the Angkor Wat temple, the 7th Wonder of the Ancient World. You will climb up to Bakheng Hill to watch the sunset over Angkor Wat and the surrounding area.

## **DAY 23 SIEM REAP DEPARTURE (B)**

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel today before we transfer you to the airport for your flight home.

## **DAY**

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