

THE BEST OF VIETNAM

History, Culture, Gardens and Birds

MARCH 11 - 26, 2024

AN EXCLUSIVE TOUR ESCORTED BY C. COLSTON BURRELL

and

LE QUY MINH





STUNNING SCENERY * MAGNIFICENT BIODIVERSITY
EXCEPTIONAL CUISINE * RICH CULTURE

Join **Garden and Nature Tours**, **Friendship Tours** and the **Minnesota State Horticultural Society** in cooperation with **Vietnam Birding** to explore the cultural and natural diversity of one of Asia's fastest growing tourist destinations. From the Mekong River Delta to the haunting peaks of Halong Bay, we traverse the length of Vietnam to walk among scenic ruins, view spectacular scenery, discover colorful birds, sample delicious local cuisine and explore centuries-old cultural riches.



Meet Your Escort And Local Guide



C. Colston Burrell is a lifelong naturalist, plantsman, and gardener. An avid birder with a special interest in parrots, he has made many trips to Central and South America in search of new additions to his life list. When Cole is not birding, he is designing gardens for his clients, or tending his own 10-acre property designed to display the plants he loves while letting natural succession serve as head gardener. He shares his garden with birds, butterflies, and a wealth of amphibians. Cole escorts garden and natural history tours throughout the United States and abroad. The New World tropics are a favorite destination. He has traveled in Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela, Ecuador, Brazil and Argentina, as well as Europe and Japan.

Le Quy Minh is a well-known figure in the conservation community in Vietnam and one of the most experienced birding guides in the region. Minh has been head guide at Vietnam Birding since 2007. He previously worked at Bach Ma National Park in central Vietnam for 12 years, heading the ecotourism and environmental education departments. Minh is the co-author with Richard Craik of the first comprehensive field guide to birds of Vietnam. Minh's extensive knowledge of Vietnam's birds, his charming manner and wicked sense of humor ensure that he is always in demand to guide Vietnam Birding clients.



Welcome To Vietnam

Vietnam is an incredibly rich travel destination – and there is so much to discover in this popular country. Join us for an immersive tour where we will delve into the cultural and natural history of this most populous country in Southeast Asia. From Ho Chi Minh City in the south to Hanoi in the north, we visit city markets, historic sites, temples, pagodas, national parks and scenic wonders.

On our tour we take a barge down the Mekong Delta, behold the sublime beauty of Halong Bay and explore the architecture of My Son and Hue. We will shop the colorful markets of Dalat and Hoi An and marvel at the colorful birds and lush forests of Cat Tien National Park.

One of the standout parts of visiting Vietnam is getting to taste the many fresh and delicious national dishes. We have ample opportunity to sample a variety of regional culinary specialties on this 16-day tour.

Vietnam's sublime landscapes, delicious cuisine, unique culture and stunning birdlife make for an amazing experience you're unlikely to forget.



By Tillea - Own work

Tour Itinerary Highlights

- Visit some of Ho Chi Minh City's famous landmarks including the Notre Dame Cathedral, Old Saigon Post Office, and Ben Thanh Market
- Sail down the Mekong Delta past villages and farms on a converted traditional wooden rice barge
- Discover the incredible natural diversity of Cat Tien National Park, the largest remaining area of lowland tropical forest in southern Vietnam
- Explore the home-to-market gardens, flower nurseries and endemic birds of Dalat, a former French hill station
- Shop the local markets for ingredients used in your morning cooking class to discover some of Hoi An's culinary delights
- Visit My Son, the capital and religious centre of the former Champa Kingdom
- Take a cultural tour of Hue through the manicured gardens of the Imperial Citadel
- Explore the beauty, culture and cuisine of Hanoi
- Cruise Halong Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to marvel at the stunning karst formations
- Relish a farewell dinner aboard the Bhaya, a luxurious cruise boat



Tour Details

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- 15 Nights hotel accommodations in deluxe hotel or lodge
- All meals daily at hotels and lodges
- Airport transfers and ground transportation by air conditioned coach
- Admission and permits to parks, nature reserves and gardens
- Bassac and Bhaya overnight cruise packages including lunch, dinner & breakfast & sightseeing tours with English-speaking guides
- Park jeep hire at Cat Tien National Park and Dalat
- Cooking class at Hoi An
- 2 charter flights - Dalat to Danang & Hue to Hanoi
- Domestic airport fees, taxes and baggage charges
- Drinks and snacks in the coach
- Local Insurance against accidents
- Escort throughout tour — C. Colston Burrell
- Expert local guide — Le Quy Minh
- Gratuities for your driver, guide and escort

NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR

- Round trip International airfare from home cities
- Vietnam visas. Please ensure you have a valid visa before your departure for Vietnam. Visas are available from your nearest Vietnam embassy or consulate or on arrival with prior arrangement through online service providers such as www.visacentral.com
- Meals not included in the itinerary
- Personal travel insurance. Please note that it is essential to take out a travel insurance policy that includes medical evacuation for travel in Vietnam
- Alcoholic drinks, telephone calls, laundry
- International airport fees, taxes and baggage charges
- Gratuities to luggage handlers or housekeeping
- Optional sightseeing or recreational activities
- Any other items not specifically mentioned as included in the itinerary



Tour Pricing and Registration

TOUR DURATION

15 Nights / 16 Days

PRICING BASED ON 12 - 16 TRAVELERS

\$8,125.00 Land Price — Double

\$1,860.00 Single Supplement

PRICING BASED ON 10 - 11 TRAVELERS

\$8,825.00 Land Price — Double

\$1,860.00 Single Supplement

PRICING BASED ON 8 - 9 TRAVELERS

\$9,575.00 Land Price — Double

\$1,860.00 Single Supplement

~ Fewer than 8 travelers will result in a surcharge

~ Itinerary subject to change without notice

DEPOSIT

\$1,500.00 per person with reservation to secure your spot on this Tour

TO REGISTER VISIT

<https://www.friendshiptours.net/group-travel>

Select "Group Sign In" and enter the Tour Code **24 MAR11VIETNAM** in the box labeled "Make a New Reservation."



FRIENDSHIP TOURS
THE SHIP SHOP

Minnesota State
**Horticultural
Society** 

Terms and Conditions

Best of Vietnam

Escorted by C. Colston Burrell

March 11-26, 2024 15 Nights / 16 Days

ARRIVAL: Monday, March 11, 2024 at Ho Chi Minh City's Tan Son Nhat International Airport (SGN). Meet your local guide & fellow travelers at airport for transfer to hotel. Time TBD based on passengers' arrivals.

RETURN: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 depart for home from Hanoi's Noi Bai International Airport (HAN) unless continuing on the Post-Tour to Cambodia.

COST (with 12-16 paying guests):

\$8,125. per person based on double occupancy
+\$1860. per person single supplement

COST (with 10-11 paying guests):

\$8,825. per person based on double occupancy
+\$1860. per person single supplement

COST (with 8-9 paying guests):

\$9,575. per person based on double occupancy
+\$1860. per person single supplement

AIR TRAVEL: Do not purchase air until you have been advised that the minimum number of travelers for this tour has been reached. This trip is based on a minimum of 8 travelers. International Flight arrangements are not included in this tour package.

The domestic flights within Vietnam from Dalat to Danang & Hue to Hanoi are included. The local agency will make those flight arrangements for each traveler. A copy of your passport will be required at time of final payment.

RESERVATIONS VIA FRIENDSHIP TOURS:

CALL: 800-243-1630 and ask for **VIETNAM tour with C. Colston Burrell**

ON LINE : www.friendshiptours.net/group-travel

and select "Group Sign In." Enter the Tour Code **24MAR11VIETNAM** in the box labeled "Make a New Reservation."

DEPOSIT: \$1,500. per person with reservation to secure your spot.

2ND PAYMENT: \$2,000. per person due Sep 11, 2023

FINAL PAYMENT: balance due Nov 10, 2023

Please reserve now. Small group tour.

Commitment required in order for trip to operate.

CANCELLATION POLICY: If a passenger cancels after deposit to Sep 11, 2023, the fee is \$1,000; Sep 12 to Nov 10, 2023, the fee is \$2,000 pp; no refunds if cancelled after Nov 10, 2023.

PASSPORT: U.S. Citizens: Valid Passport required and must be valid 6 months past the return date. Non U.S. Citizens are responsible for obtaining proper documentation for travel.

VIETNAM VISAS: For U.S. citizens, a valid visa is required to enter Vietnam. Visas are available through online service providers such as: www.visacentral.com. U.S. & Non-U.S. Citizens are responsible for obtaining proper documentation for travel.

PRICES & ITINERARY: Prices are valid at time of publication. Friendship Tours shall not be liable for any fluctuation in price or change in schedule or equipment or accommodations for any travel booking or travel service to be provided by a Travel Supplier. Changes to itineraries may become necessary. These changes will not be considered a material change and will not be cause for cancellation or refund. This itinerary is planned & operated by Vietnam Birding. Friendship Tours acts solely as the liaison between Vietnam Birding & Garden & Nature Tours.

COVID-19: PROOF OF VACCINATION

All travelers are strongly requested to be vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine and have a booster(s) wherever possible to participate in this tour. At this time, there are no travel requirements by Vietnam or the USA to have proof of vaccine or proof of a negative COVID test.

TRIP PROTECTION COVERAGE:

Proof of travel insurance coverage is required for this tour. Your travel insurance policy must include coverage for medical evacuation for travel in Vietnam. Friendship Tours can assist with the purchase of trip protection coverage through Travel Insured International's Worldwide Trip Protector Plan.

Ask Friendship Tours for more information. Or request a quote online: <https://www.travelinsured.com/agency/?r=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.friendshiptours.net&p=> **Agency #18649**

RESPONSIBILITY: This package is subject to our full terms and conditions which can be found on our website at <https://www.friendshiptours.net/tour-policies>. Paper copies are available upon request. **By signing up for the tour, making a payment and continuing to use our services, you are agreeing to be bound by the Terms and Conditions.**



FRIENDSHIP TOURS
THE SHIP SHOP

705 Bloomfield Ave, Bloomfield, CT 06002
860-243-1630 • 800-243-1630
www.friendshiptours.net

Itinerary

Day 0 Sunday, March 10 Depart Home Cities

Depart home cities for flights to Ho Chi Minh City.

Day 1 Monday, March 11 Arrive Ho Chi Minh City

Arrive at Ho Chi Minh City's Tan Son Nhat International Airport and transfer to hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. Overnight at Ho Chi Minh City. D

Day 2 Tuesday, March 12 Ho Chi Minh City to Mekong Delta

Today, after our included breakfast, we depart Ho Chi Minh City and head south to the Mekong Delta by road. Board the Bassac, a converted traditional wooden rice barge in Can Tho at Ninh Kieu Pier and enjoy a welcome drink with the crew. After checking in, lunch is served on board as the Bassac departs downstream on the Hau River toward Mang Thit. Relax on deck and take in the lush tropical scenery of the verdant delta waterways, fruit orchards and fields of sugar cane. A visit to a village on the banks of the River Mang Thit offers an opportunity to appreciate the way of life and hospitality of the locals. Returning to the Bassac, enjoy a pre-dinner drink on the upper deck as the sun sets before dinner. Overnight on board the Bassac at Mang Thit. B, L, R, D



By Teijo Hakala from Jyväskylä, Finland - Mekong Delta river

By User:Doron - Own work

Itinerary

Day 3 Wednesday, March 13 Mekong Delta to Ho Chi Minh City

Breakfast is served while the Bassac cruises towards Cai Be, crossing the Co Chien River and Co Lach Canal, sharing the waterway with rice and sand barges. Boat building yards where wooden boats are constructed in the traditional way and fruit drying facilities line the riverbanks. Transfer to a sampan to explore some quieter backwaters before visiting a local handicraft market at Cai Be and disembarking to travel back to Ho Chi Minh City mid-morning. Note: Depending on the day the cruise schedule may be reversed. In the afternoon visit some of Ho Chi Minh City's famous landmarks including the Notre Dame Cathedral, Old Saigon Post Office, the former Presidential Palace and Ben Thanh Market. Overnight at Ho Chi Minh City. B, L, D



By Diego Delso,

Day 4 Thursday, March 14 Ho Chi Minh City to Cat Tien

Leaving Ho Chi Minh City after breakfast, transfer by road the 150 km to Cat Tien National Park. Cat Tien National Park contains the largest remaining area of lowland tropical forest in southern Vietnam and an incredible diversity of birds and mammals. Endangered birds found at Cat Tien include Germain's Peacock-pheasant, Green Peafowl and the elusive Orange-necked Partridge. Overnight at Cat Tien National Park. B, L, D



Itinerary

Day 5 Friday, March 15 Cat Tien National Park

A full day for birding at Cat Tien National Park. There are excellent trails starting right at the park headquarters. For areas further afield such as Crocodile Lake park jeeps are used. The 5 km walk through semi-evergreen forest to Crocodile Lake can be good for the near-endemic Germain's Peacock-pheasant and Blue-rumped & Bar-bellied Pittas while the beautiful Siamese Fireback can often be seen on an early morning drive to the start of the Crocodile Lake trail. Among the many other avian treats to be found at Cat Tien are Green-legged Partridge, Asian Woollyneck, Lesser Adjutant, White-bellied, Great Slaty, Pale-headed, Black-and-buff & Heart-spotted Woodpeckers, three species of broadbill and the Indochinese-endemic Grey-faced Tit-Babbler. The mammal list includes Leopard Cat, Lesser Mousedeer, Gaur and three beautiful primates, Black-shanked Douc Langur, Silvered Langur and Buff-cheeked Gibbon. Overnight at Cat Tien National Park. B, L, D

Day 6 Saturday, March 16 Cat Tien National Park to Dalat

A final morning of birding at Cat Tien National Park before heading up Highway 20 to the cooler climes of Dalat in the afternoon with a stop en route to visit a tea plantation. Transfer to hotel on arrival at Dalat. Overnight at Dalat. B, L, D



Itinerary

Day 7-9 Sunday - Tuesday, March 17-19 Dalat

A full three days to explore the former French hill station of Dalat, home to market gardens, flower nurseries and endemic birds. Located at 1,500 m above sea-level Dalat's temperate climate is perfect for growing flowers and vegetables that are exported around the world. Dalat Market is a photographer's paradise with its colorful stalls of flowers, vegetables and exotic fruits. Overnight at Dalat. B, L, D



Itinerary

Day 10 Wednesday, March 20 Dalat to Hoi An via Danang

Depart for Dalat Airport after an early breakfast to take the short morning flight to Danang. On arrival in Danang transfer the 25 km to Hoi An by road. Hoi An was a major trading port in the 17th and 18th centuries and its architecture and relaxed lifestyle has changed little over the years. In the afternoon take a walking tour of the ancient town centre to visit former merchants' houses, the 400-year-old Japanese Covered Bridge, a Chinese communal hall and the colorful market. Some of the merchant's houses and temples have courtyards with ornamental gardens. Overnight at Hoi An. B, L, D

Day 11 Thursday, March 21 Hoi An

Hoi An is known throughout Vietnam for its wonderfully unique cuisine and a morning cooking class is a great way to discover some of Hoi An's culinary delights. The morning starts with a visit to the local market to buy ingredients, followed by a short boat trip along the Hoi An River to the school, where students are treated to demonstrations of Hoi An specialties before being let loose in the kitchen. In the afternoon explore the countryside around Hoi An visiting an organic farm and vegetable garden. Overnight at Hoi An. B, L, D



By dronepicr - Hoi An Laternen und Lampions

By Mstyslav Chernov - Self-photographed, <http://mstyslav-chernov.com/>

By Sznyr - Own work

Itinerary

Day 12 Friday, March 22 Hoi An to Hue

Depart after breakfast for a half-day trip to visit the capital and religious centre of the former Champa Kingdom, My Son. Here, 40 km south-west of Hoi An, in a lush green valley, are dozens of red brick towers and sanctuaries dating from between the seventh and thirteenth centuries. Visit the museum and the holy site then return to Hoi An and continue north to the former imperial capital of Hue. In the late afternoon visit the elaborate mausoleums of emperors Tu Duc and Khai Dinh on the banks of the Perfume River. Overnight at Hue. B, L, D

Day 13 Saturday, March 23 Hue

A morning cultural tour of Hue takes in the manicured gardens of the Imperial Citadel from where the Nguyen Dynasty ruled between 1802 and 1945 and Thien Mu Pagoda with its seven-tiered tower. In the afternoon visit some of Hue's traditional garden houses. Overnight at Hue. B, L, D

Day 14 Sunday, March 24 Hue to Hanoi

Transfer to Hue Airport after breakfast for the morning flight to Hanoi, the modern day capital of Vietnam and transfer to hotel on arrival. In the afternoon enjoy a city tour of this unique Asian capital, a city of temples, lakes and tree-lined boulevards. Overnight at Hanoi. B, L, D



Itinerary

Day 15 Monday, March 25 Hanoi to Halong Bay

Leave Hanoi after breakfast for the two-hour drive to Halong Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the natural wonders of the world. Board the Bhaya, a luxurious oriental cruise boat for the ultimate Halong Bay experience. After a sumptuous buffet lunch enjoy the wonderful natural scenery while relaxing on deck, explore some of the spectacular caves on a shore excursion, enjoy kayaking, spa treatments or a cooking demonstration. Dinner and overnight on board the Bhaya. B, L, D

Day 16 Tuesday, March 26 Halong Bay to Hanoi. Depart Hanoi

Wake up to fresh coffee and a wholesome breakfast or join one of the early morning Tai Chi classes that are held daily on the sundeck before breakfast. Disembark at Tuan Chau Quay mid-morning and transfer to Hanoi by road. On arrival at Hanoi transfer to Noi Bai International Airport for departure flight back to the States or continue to Cambodia. B



By Cyril Doussin from London, United Kingdom



By Chuoibk at English Wikipedia

Map



This area has many fertile valleys and spectacular mountains. This region is ideal for travelers looking for adventure.

Discover the regions of Vietnam !



Ha Long Bay



Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, the Ha Long Bay is a major attraction. A cruise through the islets offers a magnificent view of the landscape.

Northern region



Central region



The historical sites, the traditional gastronomy (especially in Hue) and the rich culture make this region an essential stopover.

Ho Chi Minh City and its surroundings



Also called Saigon, this metropolis as of great cultural and commercial value. Intense and dynamic. It is one of the top destinations in Vietnam.

THE TRAVELER . NET

From Trung Song to the Eastern Sea

Discover miles of coastline and beautiful unspoilt beaches. The most popular seaside resorts are Nha Trang and Mui Ne.

The Mekong Delta



Discover an aquatic landscape: boats, rivers, floating markets and rice fields. This region offers unique and authentic hikes.



OPTIONAL EXTENSION

BEST of CAMBODIA

History, Culture, Gardens and Birds

MARCH 26 - 31, 2024



AN EXCLUSIVE TOUR ESCORTED BY
C. COLSTON BURRELL
and
LE QUY MINH



STUNNING SCENERY * MAGNIFICENT BIODIVERSITY
EXCEPTIONAL CUISINE * RICH CULTURE

Join **Garden and Nature Tours**, **Friendship Tours** and the **Minnesota State Horticultural Society** in cooperation with **Vietnam Birding** as we travel from the temples of Angkor to the Khmer ruins at Kon Ker and Beng Mealea to experience the diverse landscapes, intriguing cultural heritage and stunning birds of Cambodia. Immerse yourself in this beautiful country as we explore the historic sites and natural history of several diverse area. Along the way, discover colorful local culture and cuisine.



Tour Escorts



C. Colston Burrell is a lifelong naturalist, plantsman, and gardener. An avid birder with a special interest in parrots, he has made many trips to Central and South America in search of new additions to his life list. When Cole is not birding, he is designing gardens for his clients, or tending his own 10-acre property designed to display the plants he loves while letting natural succession serve as head gardener. He shares his garden with birds, butterflies, and a wealth of amphibians. Cole escorts garden and natural history tours throughout the United States and abroad. The New World tropics are a favorite destination. He has traveled in Costa Rica, Panama, Venezuela, Ecuador, Brazil and Argentina, as well as Europe and Japan.

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Tour Itinerary Highlights

- Explore the temples and Angkor Wat
- Enjoy picturesque drives through the bucolic countryside
- Walk amongst the dramatic ruined temples at Kon Ker and Beng Mealea
- Discover the carved fertility symbols in a stream bed at Kbal Spean
- Visit Angkor Center for Biodiversity and Conservation where illegally trapped native birds and mammals are given refuge before they can be released back to the wild
- Marvel at the spectacular pink sandstone sculptures at Banteay Srey Temple
- Get to know the stunning birds that we encounter in the diverse sites we visit
- Explore the natural history of Ang Trapeang Thmor Nature Reserve
- Enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant



By Satdeep Gill - Own work

Tour Details

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- 5 Nights hotel accommodations in deluxe hotel or lodge
- All meals at hotels and lodges from dinner on March 26 through to breakfast on March 31
- Airport transfers and ground transportation by air conditioned coach
- Admission and permits to parks, nature reserves and gardens
- All entrance fees & permits
- International flight from Hanoi to Siem Reap
- Domestic airport fees, taxes and baggage charges
- Drinks and snacks in the coach
- Local Insurance against accidents
- Escort throughout tour — C. Colston Burrell
- Expert local guide — Le Quy Minh
- Gratuities for your driver, guide and escort

NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR

- International flights from Cambodia to home cities
- Cambodia visas are available on arrival at Siem Reap International Airport. Ensure passport is valid for at least 6 months. Current visa fee is \$35 US dollars. Bring 2 passport-sized photos. Obtain a visa in advance by visiting www.visacentral.com
- Personal travel insurance. Please note that it is essential to take out a travel insurance policy that includes medical evacuation for travel in Cambodia
- Alcoholic drinks, telephone calls, laundry, tips and any other expenses not mentioned under 'Tour inclusions'
- Other meals not included in the itinerary
- Airport fees, taxes and baggage charges
- Gratuities to luggage handlers and housekeeping
- Optional sightseeing or recreational activities
- Any other items not specifically mentioned as included in the itinerary



Tour Pricing and Registration

TOUR DURATION

5 Nights / 6 Days

PRICING

Based on 8 - 9 Travelers

\$3,350.00 Land Price — Double Occupancy

\$400.00 Single Supplement

Based on 6-7 Travelers

\$3,850.00 Land Price — Double Occupancy

\$400.00 Single Supplement

~ Fewer than 6 travelers may result in a small surcharge

~ Itinerary subject to change without notice

DEPOSIT

\$1,500.00 per person with reservation to secure your spot

TO REGISTER VISIT

<https://www.friendshiptours.net/group-travel>

Select "Group Sign In" and enter the Tour Code **24 MAR 1 VIETNAM** in the box labeled "Make a New Reservation."



FRIENDSHIP TOURS
THE SHIP SHOP

Minnesota State
**Horticultural
Society** 

Terms and Conditions

Best of Cambodia - Post Tour Escorted by C. Colston Burrell March 26-31, 2024 5 Nights / 6 Days

ARRIVAL: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 arrive at Siem Reap International Airport on the evening flight from Hanoi and transfer to hotel. This international flight from Hanoi to Siem Reap is included. The local agency (Vietnam Birding) will make those arrangements for each traveler continuing from the Main Tour of Vietnam. A copy of your passport will be required at time of final payment.

RETURN: Sunday, March 31, 2024 depart for home from Siem Reap International Airport (REP). Arrange your flight home to the USA.

COST (with 8-9 paying guests):

\$3,350. per person based on double occupancy
+\$400. per person single supplement

COST (with 6-7 paying guests):

\$3,850. per person based on double occupancy
+\$400. per person single supplement

AIR TRAVEL: Do not purchase air until you have been advised that the minimum number of travelers for this tour has been reached. This trip is based on a minimum of 6 travelers. International Flight arrangements from Cambodia to home are not included in this tour package. A copy of your passport will be required at time of final payment.

RESERVATIONS VIA FRIENDSHIP TOURS:

CALL: 800-243-1630 and ask for **VIETNAM & CAMBODIA** tour with C. Colston Burrell

ON LINE : www.friendshiptours.net/group-travel and select "Group Sign In." Enter the Tour Code **24MAR11VIETNAM** in the box labeled "Make a New Reservation."

DEPOSIT: \$1,500. per person with reservation to secure your spot on both the POST TOUR & the MAIN TOUR.

2ND PAYMENT: \$2,000. per person due Sep 11, 2023

FINAL PAYMENT: balance due Nov 10, 2023

Please reserve now. Small group tour.

Commitment required in order for trip to operate.

CANCELLATION POLICY: If a passenger cancels after deposit to Sep 11, 2023, the fee is \$1,000; Sep 12 to Nov 10, 2023, the fee is \$2,000 pp; no refunds if cancelled after Nov 10, 2023.

PASSPORT: U.S. Citizens: Valid Passport required and must be valid 6 months past the return date. Non U.S. Citizens are responsible for obtaining proper documentation for travel.

VIETNAM & CAMBODIA VISAS: For U.S. citizens, a valid visa is required to enter Vietnam & Cambodia. Visas are available through online service providers such as:

www.visacentral.com. U.S. & Non-U.S. Citizens are responsible for obtaining proper documentation for travel.

Cambodia visas are available upon arrival at Siem Reap International Airport. Ensure passport is valid for at least 6 months. Current visa fee is 35 US dollars. Must bring 2 passport-sized photos. Vietnam visas must be acquired before travel.

PRICES & ITINERARY: Prices are valid at time of publication.

Friendship Tours shall not be liable for any fluctuation in price or change in schedule or equipment or accommodations for any travel booking or travel service to be provided by a Travel Supplier. Changes to itineraries may become necessary. These changes will not be considered a material change and will not be cause for cancellation or refund. This itinerary is planned & operated by Vietnam Birding. Friendship Tours acts solely as the liaison between Vietnam Birding & Garden & Nature Tours.

COVID-19: PROOF OF VACCINATION

All travelers are strongly requested to be vaccinated with the COVID-19 vaccine and have a booster(s) wherever possible to participate in this tour. At this time, there are no travel requirements by Vietnam or Cambodia or the USA to have proof of vaccine or proof of a negative COVID test.

TRIP PROTECTION COVERAGE:

Proof of travel insurance coverage is required for this tour. Your travel insurance policy must include coverage for medical evacuation for travel in Vietnam and Cambodia. Friendship Tours can assist with the purchase of trip protection coverage through Travel Insured International's Worldwide Trip Protector Plan.

Ask Friendship Tours for more information. Or request a quote online: <https://www.travelinsured.com/agency/?r=http%3F%3Fwww.friendshiptours.net&p=> Agency #18649

RESPONSIBILITY: This package is subject to our full terms and conditions which can be found on our website at <https://www.friendshiptours.net/tour-policies>. Paper copies are available upon request. **By signing up for the tour, making a payment and continuing to use our services, you are agreeing to be bound by the Terms and Conditions. and Conditions.**



FRIENDSHIP TOURS
THE SHIP SHOP

705 Bloomfield Ave, Bloomfield, CT 06002
860-243-1630 • 800-243-1630
www.friendshiptours.net

Itinerary

DAY 1 - Tuesday, March 26 Arrive Siem Reap

Arrive at Siem Reap International Airport on the evening flight from Hanoi and transfer to hotel. Overnight at Siem Reap. D

DAY 2 - Wednesday, March 27 Angkor Wat

A full day tour of the Angkor temples includes the magnificent 12th century Angkor Wat, the fabulous Ta Prohm Temple embraced by the roots of enormous fig trees and gigantic creepers, the mysterious Bayon Temple and the Terrace of Elephants. Overnight at Siem Reap. B, L, D



Itinerary

DAY 3 - Thursday, March 28 Kbal Spean

Depart Siem Reap after breakfast for a day trip to Kbal Spean in the northern plains of Cambodia passing through timeless rural Cambodian villages before arriving at a dry deciduous forest. From here visit Kbal Spean to see the famous lingas, fertility symbols, carved into a stream bed. These carvings were thought to ensure the fertility of the great lake as well as the fertility of the king. Continue to the Angkor Center for Biodiversity and Conservation where illegally trapped native birds and mammals are given refuge before they can be released back to the wild. Before heading back to Siem Reap stop to visit Banteay Srey Temple with its spectacular pink sandstone sculptures. Overnight at Siem Reap. B, L, D

DAY 4 - Friday, March 29 Ang Trapeang Thmor Nature Reserve

Leave Siem Reap after breakfast for a day trip to Ang Trapeang Thmor, a nature reserve based around a reservoir dating from the Khmer Rouge era. Today is devoted to birding and enjoying the diversity of the natural world. The reserve is a unique wetland set amongst grasslands, dipterocarp forest and rice fields and is an important wintering site for the endangered Eastern Sarus Crane. Highlights of Ang Trapeang Thmor are the breeding colonies of Spot-billed Pelican and Painted Stork and large numbers of waterfowl including Spot-billed Duck, Cotton Pygmy Goose, Garganey, Black-backed Swamphen, Pheasant-tailed and Bronze-winged Jacanas. Return to Siem Reap in the late afternoon. Overnight at Siem Reap. B, L, D



By Photo Dharma from Penang, Malaysia - 016
Unidentified face



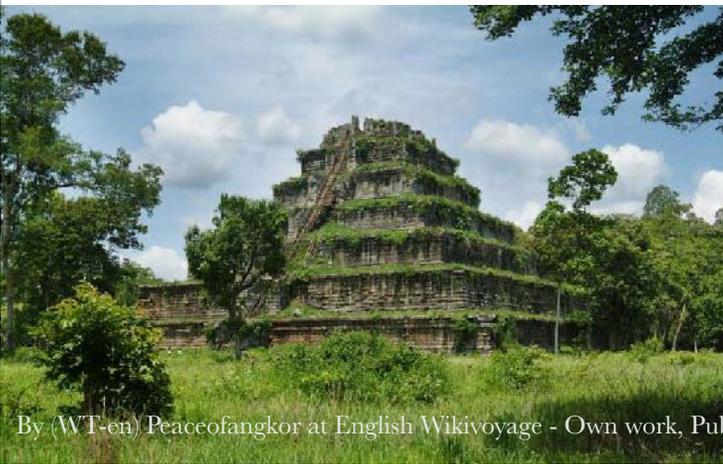
By Luc Viatour, CC BY-SA 3.0

Itinerary

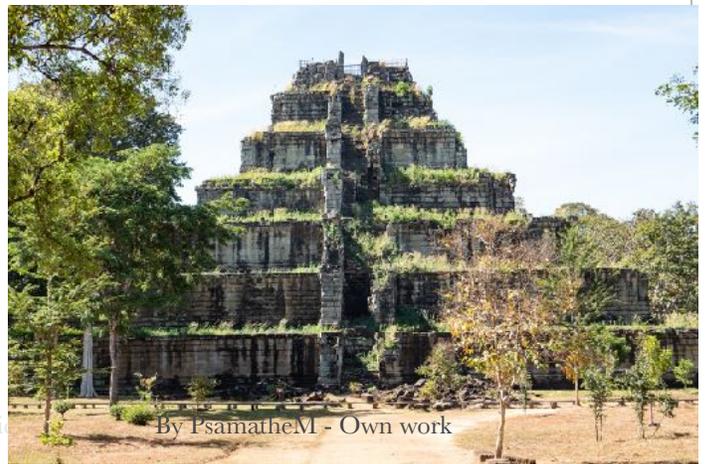
DAY 5 - Saturday, March 30

Kon Ker and Beng Mealea

A full day visiting the ruins of the seldom-visited Khmer temples at Kon Ker and Beng Mealea. Enjoy the beauty of the ruins and learn the history of these extraordinary temples. The dry deciduous and semi-evergreen forest here offer excellent birding opportunities. We may see species such as Rufous-winged Buzzard, White-rumped Pygmy-falcon, Collared Falconet, Black-headed & White-bellied Woodpeckers, Velvet-fronted & Burmese Nuthatches and Indochinese Bushlark. Return to Siem Reap in the late afternoon. Overnight at Siem Reap. B, L, D



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DAY 6 - Sunday, March 31

Depart for Home

After our included breakfast, we check out and the morning is at your leisure before transferring to Siem Reap International Airport for departure flight back to the United States. B

Map

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