



TRAILS OF INDOCHINA

*Artisans of bespoke journeys to
Southeast Asia & beyond*

ITINERARY PROPOSAL CRAFTED FOR

**JOHANNES MARIA APPELMAN
PENELOPE LYNNE APPELMAN**

**OLLAMI TRAVEL (IL)
11 May 2023 - 25 May 2023**

**Vietnam
Booking Code: SGIT230808/SG0317**

**Prepared on 15 Feb 2023
By Lien Nguyen (Ms.), Leisure Consultant**



ABOUT US

Dear Mr & Mrs Appelman,

I am delighted to submit this handcrafted itinerary proposal based on your interests. Should you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Warm regards,

Lien Nguyen (Ms.)
Leisure Consultant

About Trails of Indochina

Trails of Indochina had its humble beginnings in 1999 as a boutique in-bound tour operator to three Indochina destinations, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Though the company has since expanded to include six additional destinations, our driving passion remain the same - to create memorable, authentic experiences through connecting travelers with the people and culture of Southeast Asia.

Being a locally owned travel company based in Vietnam with regional offices throughout Southeast Asia, allows us access to first-hand knowledge of each destination. As such, we are able to cultivate personal relationships with individuals from varied backgrounds and expertise lending to unique experiences that are deeply enriching for our guests.

We invite you to experience our part of the world where we'll uncover the hidden gems and show a different perspective of Southeast Asia making each journey unique and personalized.

ITINERARY OVERVIEW



Number of guest: 02 adults

Room type: 01 Twin Room

Room reference: Non-smoking, nice view (where possible)

Remarks: Leisure

Dates	Destinations	Accommodation
In: 11 May 2023 Out: 14 May 2023	Saigon	Liberty Central Saigon Riverside Hotel
In: 14 May 2023 Out: 19 May 2023	Hoian	Allegro Hoi An - Luxury Hotel & Spa
In: 19 May 2023 Out: 21 May 2023	Hue	Pilgrimage Village Boutique Resort & Spa
In: 21 May 2023 Out: 22 May 2023	Hanoi	Apricot Hotel Hanoi
In: 22 May 2023 Out: 24 May 2023	Halong	Bhaya Classic Cruise
In: 24 May 2023 Out: 25 May 2023	Hanoi	Apricot Hotel Hanoi
25 May 2023	Departure	

DISCLAIMER:

- Please be advised that this is just primary proposal for your reference.
- Tour quotation is based on the suggested hotel/room categories. Price is subject to change due to availability and fluctuation in airfares.
- We will only proceed the reservations upon receiving your written confirmation. We recommend your early confirmation to avoid disappointment of unavailability and varying prices.

DETAILED ITINERARY



Day 1 - Thursday 11 May 2023: Saigon Arrival on Flight #SQ178 SINSGN @09:45 – 10:55 (Own Tickets)/ International Airport Arrival Assistance Service/ Private Airport Transfer with English Speaking Guide “ESG”

As soon as you deplane, our Immigration Officer and guide will meet you at the end of the jet bridge or at the entrance of the terminal, holding a signboard with your name(s) on it. The officer will assist you with immigration procedures. For those who already have their Vietnam visa, the estimated time to clear immigration is approximately 15-20mins per person. For those applying for a visa on arrival, the estimated wait time for the visa is usually 30mins, depending on the number of guests in the queue. (FYI, there is only one visa-on-arrival counter at Tan Son Nhat Airport.) After clearing immigration, our Immigration Officer will escort you to the baggage claim to collect your luggage and introduce you to your guide who will be waiting outside the terminal.

NOTE:

- This service does not include visa fees or associated visa fees.

Upon arrival **Tan Son Nhat airport**, after clearing all customs procedures, please proceed to exit gate and look for your guide who will be waiting at the lobby, holding the Trails of Indochina signboard with your name on it. If you cannot locate your guide, please come to the closest Information booth and have them call the emergency number **(+84) 9 1871 3456**. Your guide will come to meet you and transfer you to hotel.

The regular check-in time is at 14:00; early check-in is NOT included and subject to availability

Meals: None

Accommodation 3: Liberty Central Saigon Riverside Hotel/ Deluxe

****Early Bird Offer: Book 45 days prior to arrival**

Address: 17 Ton Duc Thang street, District 1

Tel: 84 28 3827 1717. **Fax:** 84 28 3827 1818

www.odysseahotels.com/vn/saigon-centre-hotel

Day 2 - Friday 12 May 2023: Morning Leisure/ Afternoon City Highlights Tour

Enjoy your morning at leisure after a long flight (No car and no guide at deposit).

With over eight million inhabitants and four million motorbikes, Saigon is truly a city that never sleeps. Despite its modernity, Saigon maintains a strong link to the past and our city tour takes in some of Saigon's most historic landmarks including the **Notre Dame Cathedral**, a red brick edifice with twin spires

constructed from materials imported from France (entrance is only permitted when no services are being performed). Then head across the square to the **Central Post Office**, completed in 1891. A short drive away is the former **Presidential Palace**, the headquarters of the Saigon Government during the American War. Continue to the **War Remnants Museum** for a vivid perspective of the American War through the eyes of the Vietnamese. (Please note that some of the displays are very graphic.) Experience Saigon's famed street coffee culture while your guide provides a brief language lesson as well as insights into daily life of a Saigonese before returning to your hotel.

NOTES:

- Availability: Afternoon
- Suggested departure time: 13:00
- Tour duration: 04 hours
- Outside visit only due the renovation at Notre Dame Cathedral until late 2023

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation 3: Liberty Central Saigon Riverside Hotel/ Deluxe

Day 3 - Saturday 13 May 2023: Inside The Heart Of Mekong Delta River Life

Depart Saigon for a 1.5hr drive to Ben Tre, the gateway to the Mekong Delta. Escape the high-energy city for a day of exploring sprawling rice paddies and colorful fruit farms. Arrive at the quaint An Khanh hamlet, where travelers will visit a small home factory that makes the traditional dish of sticky rice covered by coconut leaves. Meet with the owner and her hard-working team who will teach you about how they use century-old traditional methods to make this special and tasty cake. Continue this rural journey of discovery with a short drive to meet a local family in Quoi Son village, where you can sample exotic fresh fruits in the orchard of a local fruit farmer. After wandering through the lush gardens of this village, a motorboat awaits your arrival to begin a thirty-minute excursion passing peaceful scenes of countryside living. Trade boat for bicycle and enjoy a relaxing ride over easy, level terrain as you travel through narrow village lanes lined with fruit orchards and customary cottages. Here you will take auto rickshaw through the lush surroundings of the fruit farms before boarding a sampan and cruise along the narrow canals of the Mekong. End your excursion at a local farmer's house where a lunch of Mekong Delta specialties will be served before driving back to Saigon.

NOTES:

- Suggested time: 08:00
- Duration: 7 hours
- The cycling distance can be 3, 5, or 7 km, depending on your physical ability and length you desire.
- If you can't ride bicycle, motorcycle can be arranged with a rider.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation 3: Liberty Central Saigon Riverside Hotel/ Deluxe



Day 4 - Sunday 14 May 2023: Private Airport Transfer with ESG/ Flight Saigon to Danang on Vietnam Airlines Flight #VN128 @12:05 – 13:30 (Economy Class – TOI Books)/ Private Airport Transfer with ESG/ Hoi An Walking Night Food Safari

After check out hotel, your guide and driver will transfer you from your accommodation to the airport for your flight to Danang.

Upon arrival at Danang Airport, please proceed to exit gate and look for your guide who will be waiting at the lobby, holding the Trails of Indochina signboard with your name on it, if you cannot locate your guide, please go to the nearest Information counter and have them call the emergency number (+84) 9 1349 3398 for assistance. Your guide will come to meet you up and transfer you to hotel in Hoi An.

Hoi An by night is always busy with hundreds of food stalls and local restaurants. This evening, take a walk around the town at night and you discover many vendors offering Hoi An specialties. This tour takes you off the beaten path to get a unique glimpse into nightly life of this lovely ancient town and discover unforgettable street food. Meet your tour guide and start zigzagging through the alleys to explore a popular snack – “white rose”. It is a Find your way to a “banh mi” stand owned by an elderly woman and try a small piece of crispy baguette sa crispy Fried Wonton “Hoanh Thanh Chien”. Next stroll to a hidden family restaurant serving barbecued pork which you combine with fresh greens and herbs to create your own fresh spring roll. It is the best to enjoy the roll with cold beer! Walk further into the central of the village for a look at the ancient sweet soup “Che” before capping off the journey at the riverside to release floating lanterns for good luck.

NOTES:

- Approx. Duration: 4 hours
- Suggested time: 17:00
- Km riding: 5 km

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation 3: Allegro Hoi An - Little Hoi An Group. Luxury Hotel & Spa/ Junior Suite

Address: 86 Tran Hung Dao

Tel: 84 235 3529 999. **Fax:**

www.littlehoiangroup.com/allegro-hoi-an

Day 5 - Monday 15 May 2023: Buffalo Cart & Fishing Life Tour/ Making Lantern With Local Handicraftsman

The flat, quiet roads around Hoi An’s countryside are ideal for exploring by **traditional buffalo cart**. In Vietnam, farmers and buffalo working the fields have become a symbol of countryside life, with the buffalo being the most valuable possession of poor farmers, and therefore treated almost as a member of the family. Enjoy a scenic **buffalo cart ride** passing by rice paddies, shrimp ponds, and vegetable farms with excellent photo opportunities. At the dock, **board a local river boat** and start cruising down the Hoi An River. The boat will stop along the shore where you can try your hand at **casting traditional fishing nets**, a common fishing method still practiced today. Also learn the art of paddling the unique Vietnamese **round basket boats**. Return to your river boat and **enjoy light seafood dishes and a refreshing drink** as you head back up the river and return to town.

Silk lanterns, the simple yet colorful handicraft is now an essential part of Hoi An culture. The lantern is inspired and hand-made by local artisans and is meant to bring good fortune. It has really made a comeback thanks to experienced men who were born in traditional lantern making families. Chat with a local handicraftsman for a brief introduction to the history, shape, and color of the lanterns as well as the stages of production. Try creating your own lantern and take it home as a souvenir.

NOTES:

- Availability: Morning
- Suggested departure time: 08:00
- Tour duration: 5.5 hours

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation 3: Allegro Hoi An - Little Hoi An Group. Luxury Hotel & Spa/ Junior Suite

Day 6 - Tuesday 16 May 2023 to Day 8 - Thursday 18 May 2023: Leisure Days

Enjoy your days at leisure (No car and no guide at disposal).

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation 3: Allegro Hoi An - Little Hoi An Group. Luxury Hotel & Spa/ Junior Suite



Day 9 - Friday 19 May 2023: Private Transfer Hue to Hoi An with ESG

After check out hotel, your guide will meet you at the lobby and transfer you from Hoi An to Hue

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation 3: Pilgrimage Village Boutique Resort & Spa/ Deluxe

Address: 130 Minh Mang Street

Tel: 84 234 3885 461. **Fax:** 84 234 3887 057

www.pilgrimagevillage.com

Day 10 - Saturday 20 May 2023: City Highlights and Duong No Village

Once the imperial capital of the Nguyen Lords from the 17th to the 19th centuries, Hue's splendid emperors' tombs, ancient pagodas and the remains of the Citadel contribute to its undeniable royal charm. Begin your exploration with a visit to the **Thien Mu Pagoda**, Hue's best-preserved religious monument. Built in 1601, the seven-storied tower pagoda, perched on top of on a hill overlooking the Perfume River, is one of Vietnam's most recognisable icons. Next, choose to explore one of the following two sites: (1) **The Imperial Citadel** at the centre of the Complex of Hue Monuments inscribed by UNESCO as a World Heritage site. Enter through the towering main gate and appreciate the magnificent architecture and gardens while your guide explains the events and the intrigue surrounding the former royal court. Despite being heavily bombed during the Vietnam War, there are some incredibly well-preserved sections intact and others which are being carefully restored; or (2) **The Royal Tomb of Minh Mang**. The second Nguyen Emperor, Minh Mang ruled from 1820-1841 and was known for his isolationist and conservative Confucian policies. He designed his tomb himself, but died before it was complete. His son and successor finished the tomb which is renowned for its symmetry and grandeur, situated in a picturesque forest setting.

In the afternoon, take a short drive into the Hue countryside to the village of **Duong No**, best known for being where a young Ho Chi Minh lived and studied. Walk along the river to the ornately decorated **Thanh Toan Covered Bridge**, with its Chinese and Japanese features and rare squared timber arch speckled with ancient ceramics. Note the calligraphy inscription in ancient Vietnamese and Chinese script. Return to your hotel.

NOTES:

- Suggested departure time: 09:00
- Tour duration: 08 hours

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation 3: Pilgrimage Village Boutique Resort & Spa/ Deluxe



Day 11 - Sunday 21 May 2023: Private Airport Transfer with ESG/ Flight Hue to Hanoi on Vietnam Airlines Flight #VN1542 @10:25 – 11:45 (Economy Class – TOI Books)/ Private Airport Pickup with ESG/ Hanoi Half-Day City Tour With Old Quarter Cyclo Ride

Upon arrival at Noi Bai Airport, either Domestic or International arrival, please proceed to exit gate and look for your guide who will be waiting at the lobby, holding the Trails of Indochina signboard with your name on it, if you cannot locate your guide, please go to the Airport Information counter situated in the middle of Domestic and International arrival lobby (inside the terminal) and call the emergency numbers (+84) 9 1323 7040 for assistance. Your guide will come to meet you up and transfer you to hotel.

Explore the charming city of Hanoi, often referred to as the ‘Paris of the East’, with its yellow ochre colonial buildings, tree-lined boulevards and scenic lakes. Visit to the Temple of Literature, Vietnam’s first national university built in the late 11th century. The picturesque temple is an example of well-preserved traditional Vietnamese architecture and is featured on the back of the 100,000 Vietnamese dong banknote. Continue to the Vietnamese Women’s Museum, offering broad insights into the people of Vietnam, including its 54 ethnic groups, through the lens of women’s topics. Walk through diverse exhibitions showcasing everything from street vendors and marriage to family life and traditional fashion.

Then take a 1hr **cyclo tour** through the famed **Old Quarter** known for its ‘36 streets of 36 wares’ named after the original 36 artisan guilds that date as far back as the 13th century. Explore the fascinating maze of back streets, fronted by narrow houses known as “tunnel” or “tube houses”, built to avoid taxes based on the width of their frontage onto the street, a wonderfully eclectic glimpse into Hanoi street life.

NOTES:

- Availability: Afternoon
- Suggested departure time: 14:00
- Tour duration: 3.5 hours

The regular check-in time is at 14:00; early check-in is NOT included and subject to availability

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation 3: Apricot Hotel Hanoi/ Canvas Room

Address: 136 Hang Trong Street, Hoan Kiem District

Tel: 84 24 3938 9595. Fax: 84 24 3936 6565

www.apricothotels.com



Day 12 - Monday 22 May 2023: Private Transfer Hanoi to Halong with ESG/ 3D2N on Bhaya Classic

Around 08:00 your guide will meet you at the hotel lobby and drive to Halong Bay.

Board the cruise and check in your cabin before heading to the restaurant for a safety briefing. Enjoy the welcome drink while meeting the Cruise Manager and the crew team at the restaurant. Enjoy **lunch** as the the boat cruises towards the southeast of Halong Bay, passing Fighting-cock Islet. Kayak around the **Tung Sau area**. Surrounded by cascading mountains that jut out from the jewel-colored waters of the bay, this place is an isolated region of water in Halong used for pearl farming. Return to the boat and freshen up for the evening's activities. Bar opens for **Happy Hour** "Buy one, Get one for free" on a selection of drinks. Join the exciting **cooking demonstration** on the sundeck (or in the restaurant, depending on the weather). Don't miss out on the stunning view of sunset over the enchanting Halong Bay from the sundeck of the boat. Savor the delicious **dinner** in the restaurant. Free time to enjoy a drink at the bar or stargaze on the sundeck. Or enjoy squids fishing program on the first deck.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Bhaya Classic Cruise/ Deluxe 3D2N
(Share Cruise/ Private Cabin)

Address: 47 Phan Chu Trinh Str., Hoan Kiem Dist
<https://bhayacruises.com/>

Day 13 - Tuesday 23 May 2023: Lan Ha Bay – Halong Bay

Rejuvenate the body and the mind with a refreshing **Tai Chi lesson** during sunrise on the deck. **Breakfast** is served in the restaurant while the boat cruises towards the center of the World Heritage Site. Get on the rowing boats to visit the **Luon Cave area** while taking in the magnificent karsts and limestone mountains. Return to the boat* and cruise to the next attraction. Sight-see around **Cua Van Floating Village** well-known for its location in the heart of Halong Bay, by kayak or traditional rowing boat. The area is considered one of the most beautiful destinations in the world by Travel & Leisure Magazine. Back to the boat* and enjoy **lunch** while the boat cruises to **Trinh Nu area**. Time to relax and explore the **Trinh Nu beach** or visit **Trinh Nu Cave** - one of the finest sunlight-filled cave in Halong Bay covering an area of 2,000m2 with stunning stalactites and stalagmites. Return to the Bhaya boat for some time at leisure to relax and freshen up after the day's excursions.

Check in the bar's complimentary snacks while taking advantages of the **Happy Hour** promotion of "buy one get one free" on a selection of drinks. Leisurely sip a drink while being enchanted by the glorious sunset of Halong Bay. Join the interesting **fruit carving demonstration** carried out by our talented chefs onboard. Appreciate the exotic flavors of the **dinner** on the last night of cruising in Halong. Free time to enjoy a drink on the sundeck or rest in the cozy cabin.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Bhaya Classic Cruise/ Deluxe 3D2N

Day 14 - Wednesday 24 May 2023: HALONG BAY – HANOI

Seize the chance to take in another sunrise on the bay as you join a rejuvenating **Tai Chi lesson** on the sundeck. A **light breakfast** is served in the restaurant. The boat cruises towards the center of Halong Bay. Avoid the morning crowd and explore **Sung Sot Cave**, the largest cave inside Halong Bay with 10,000 square meters of space hold thousands of stalactites and stalagmites and are threaded by a 500-meter paved passageway. Return to the boat and enjoy the **brunch** served in the restaurant. Time to pack your luggage and get ready to check out. Enjoy the scenery as the boat cruises back to the port, passing Ngon Tay Islet. Disembark from the boat at Tuan Chau International Marina.

NOTES:

- Please note that the itinerary detailed above may be subject to change without prior notice.
- The boat: Operating conditions might require using a transfer boat (wooden junk with a restaurant) on the second day of the program. Passengers will have lunch and be transferred to attractions using the transfer boat. Inclement weather, tide levels and operating conditions at sea may force changes in cruise itinerary and schedule at any time. Kayaking and swimming excursion, in particular, may be canceled or relocated to another area due to rough weather.
- The cruise offers fusion cuisine: international, seafood and Vietnamese. Please advise our reservation team at least one (01) week ahead of departure about any specific food preference, dietary or food allergies.
- Port authority insists on advance registration including full name, gender, date of birth, nationality and passport number. At check-in, a valid passport is required. Port authority may deny boarding if these conditions are not met.
- Free Wifi available on terrace deck, but note that the internet signal at sea suffers frequent interruption.

Your guide will meet you at the pier and transfer back to Hanoi.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation 3: Apricot Hotel Hanoi/ Canvas Room

Day 15 - Thursday 25 May 2023: Private Airport Transfer with ESG/ Departure on Flight #SQ191 HANSIN @12:35 – 17:05 (Own tickets)

After check out hotel, your guide and driver will transfer you to the airport for your flight back home.

The regular check-out time is at 12:00; late check out is NOT included and subject to availability

Meals: Breakfast

END OF SERVICES!

PRICING

Tour Price	02 persons on double/twin share
Price per person	US\$ 2,520.00
TOTAL price for 02 persons	US\$ 5,040.00

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

Inclusions:	Non-inclusions:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overnight accommodation including daily breakfast, hotels tax and service charges• 3 days 2 nights Bhaya Classic Cruise (Shared cruise/private cabin)• Private transfers and transportation on tour• Sightseeing with local English speaking guides (one guide in each city)• Entrance fees and boat rides• Meals as specified (meals only, no drinks/ water)• Airfares: SGN-DAD/ HUI-HAN (Economy class with airport tax)• Cold towels and water on sightseeing days• International Airport Arrival Assistance in Saigon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Airport Assistance Service• Separate luggage truck• Visa• Other meals where not mentioned in the program• Drinks/water at included lunches and dinners• Other flights & airport taxes• Hotel early check in/ Late check-out• Overweight luggage• Personal expenses• Travel insurance• Tips & gratuities• Other services not listed in inclusive column

NOTES:

- All flight times are local.
- Flight times and the daily order of sightseeing are subject to change.
- Vietnam Airlines allow for advance seat assignment on some domestic and regional flights (those departing Hanoi/Danang/Saigon airports only) with advance seat assignment within 24 hours before departure by check-in online.
- Transfer times are approximate and subject to local conditions at the time of travel.
- Please refer to the pre-departure guide which has been provided with this proposal.

OPTIONAL ADD-ONS

Click on the link to find out more experiences to add to your itinerary:

[Airport Fast Track Service](#)

[Tailored Experience VIETNAM Collection](#)

GENERAL BOOKING CONDITIONS

PAYMENT

- 20% of the total tour cost to be deposited upon commitment of the tour. **This deposit is non-refundable.**
- 80% of the total tour cost to be paid 46 days prior to arrival date.
- 100% of the total tour is required 45 days prior departure or within 24 hours of confirmation if travelling within 45 days from departure.

CANCELLATION: Any cancellations must be made in witting.

- Non-refundable deposit 20% for all confirmed booking.
- 21 - 15 days prior to arrival date: 50% of the total tour cost
- 14 - 8 days prior to arrival date: 75% of the total tour cost
- 7 days or less prior to arrival date: 100% of the total tour cost

Special conditions: Depending on airlines, hotels, cruises' cancellation policies, the above conditions may be modified.



TRAVEL INFORMATION



PRE-DEPARTURE GUIDES

Please refer to the links below for your pre-departure guides:

[*Vietnam Predeparture Guides*](#)

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Please refer to the links below for Country Overview:

[*Vietnam Country Overview*](#)

VISAS

VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR ARRIVAL BY AIR

Please ensure your passport is valid more than 6 months from the date of return for every country you are visiting. Please also ensure there is sufficient space in your passport to allow for all immigration procedures, taking note that some South East Asian countries take up a full page for the visa sticker and need yet more space on a separate page for entry & exist stamps.

Kindly note that visa service is not included in our proposal. Please contact Trails of Indochina for any visa service or guidance. Please note the following general information is subject to change concerning visas from our part of the world.

Vietnam: Visa on arrival has been suspended (until further notice). You must apply e-visa via:

<https://evisa.xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn/web/guest/khai-thi-thuc-dien-tu/cap-thi-thuc-dien-tu>

It is recommended to apply e-visa 7 to 14 days before departure.

TRIP AND TRAVEL INSURANCE

The tour price does not include personal insurance. Travelers are highly recommended to purchase Trip Insurance and Travel Insurance upon commitment of the booking in case of force majeure. Trip Insurance covers the cost of your trip should you be forced to cancel your trip before you start the trip. Travel Insurance covers such costs as emergency and medical evacuation, hospital fees, property loss, etc which could possibly happen during the trip. If you would like Trails of Indochina to have a copy of your Trip Insurance & Travel Insurance information in case of emergency, please forward these details to your agent who will in turn forward to our office.