

Birmingham Museum of Art
FROM AU LAC TO VIETNAM



2000 Years of Arts, Crafts and Architecture

Extension to the Temples of Angkor

October 2011

Tour Information

Tour Date

The tour is in October 2011; the departure date is to be determined. As airlines have not yet published air schedules for this period there may be a slight adjustment to the itinerary if schedules vary from those of 2010. There is no set group air, but we do have recommended flights from a number of gateway cities and which we will make. For those who wish to take other flights, use frequent flier miles, add days pre or post tour we can make also these arrangements and arrange air if desired.

Cost

Tour cost is also to be determined, however as of June 2010 we envisage a cost of \$2750, not including air, and the Angkor Wat Extension \$855. As it is over a year prior to departure, and some suppliers have not yet finalized their costs we reserve the right to increase the tour cost by up to \$200 if necessary; by joining the tour you agree to such an increase if necessary.

Inclusions

This is an all-inclusive tour; no part is refundable if missed or you choose not to partake, nor can any sections be broken out for individual costing. Cost of the tour includes transfers to and from airports when traveling on our chosen flights; nights 4 or 5-star/best available hotels in Vietnam and two nights 5-star hotel in Siem Reap; multi-shared hotel rooms last night of tour in Siem Reap to clean up prior to flight; all touring as private touring; entry fees; all meals as per the itinerary, tips to drivers, guides and hotel staff; English-speaking guides throughout and accompanied throughout including extension by Dr Don Wood. In short, this is a very inclusive tour with few additional costs other than two lunches and one dinner and personal expenses likely to be necessary.

Exclusions

International and internal Vietnam flights, departure taxes (currently \$14 for Vietnam and \$25 for Cambodia; the Cambodian tax is paid with your air ticket but the Vietnamese one is not); visa costs; soft drinks and alcohol; personal snacks; other items of a personal nature such as phone calls and laundry; transfers required due to personalized flight arrangements.

Flights

Numerous carriers fly to Vietnam and Cambodia. Our preferred carrier is Korean Airlines as it has conveniently timed flights into Saigon and out of Siem Reap with no internal flights required. Korean also flies from a number of US cities spread around the US. However, other airlines also offer suitable flights, and each participant's home city will help determine the most suitable flight. Generally flying across the Pacific, even for many cities in the eastern half of the country, is more convenient and provides better connections and fares. As of June 2010 fares for this tour, including taxes, were about \$1150 - \$1250 depending on home city and routing. Naturally as the tour does not depart until October 2011 we can only estimate air fares. Those with frequent flyer miles or other flight possibilities should contact us first for suggested flights before finalizing arrangements with the airlines involved.

Travel Insurance

Travel Insurance is highly recommended, as deposits and final payments are necessary well in advance of travel, as is airfare payment, and there are steep cancellation penalties. While participants can choose any insurance provider we strongly suggest contacting us before you do so to ensure the correct type and level of coverage is chosen. Our insurance provider, Travelex, one of the world's largest, has very competitive and comprehensive insurance, and we would be happy to give you a quote to compare if you have another preferred provider. Please note that the insurance provided by many credit cards is not as comprehensive as normal travel insurance. Please note that due to the remoteness of parts of this tour medical/evacuation insurance is mandatory for the tour and is part of the ship conditions of carriage. This is covered in all normal travel insurance policies, and can be taken out separately for a very modest sum (\$45 including fees for a person 61-70 years old) through our insurer. MedjetAssist also provides annual evacuation insurance. More information about both these forms of travel insurance can be found here, including downloadable forms. Information can also be found by clicking on the Travelex and Medjet logos in the side panel of this page. Remember that you only need to insure for the amount you have laid out; the amount covered, and therefore the premium, can be increased later to cover the entire trip.

Terms and Conditions

Please see our full Terms and Conditions, including cancellation policy and charges, on our reservation pages.

Booking

Please call Andrew Haffenden on 1 877 285 1170 to secure your place. We will then send you complete reservation forms, and these and other relevant forms, including visa forms, can be inspected and downloaded at www.naturetravelspecialists.com/southeast-asia/bhmmusdocs.htm We strongly suggest securing your place by phone before sending in a reservation by mail.

Payment Schedule

A deposit of \$500 per person is required to secure your place for the main tour. Final payment is due July 8, 2010. An additional deposit of \$200 is required for the Angkor Wat extension. Payment for air arrangements will be required when those arrangements are made. Please see our Terms and Conditions for cancellation policy and charges.

Passport and Visas

A valid passport effective for six full months beyond the return date is required. Vietnam requires a visa; more information can be found at www.vietnamembassy.us/consular_services/visa_info/. It takes about a week for a visa to be issued, and can be applied for up to 6 months prior to travel. As the exact arrival and departure dates must be included on the application, this should not be sent until final travel arrangements are secured. Cambodia also requires a visa; this can be obtained at the airport (you need a photograph and a form which will be usually distributed on the plane, or can be obtained at the airport). However, it is recommended that you obtain your visa prior to travel to avoid waiting in line at the airport. This can be done through the Cambodian Embassy www.embassyofcambodia.org/visa.htm There is also an e-Visa system, which is faster and cheaper as there is not fedex type cost, but there has been some controversy over its operation. While officially endorsed by the Cambodian government, it is operated privately and any problems must be addressed to the company, not the embassy.

Call 1 877 285 1170 to secure your space