



## THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

# INDOCHINA EXCURSION

(1/19/2012 updated)

Thank you for choosing RITZ TOURS!!!

### **PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED THE FOLLOWING TOUR DOCUMENTS:**

1. Day-by-Day Itinerary with Hotel Information and Emergency Contact Phone Numbers
2. US domestic and international airline tickets (if applicable)
3. Your Flight Schedule (if applicable)
4. Vouchers (if applicable)
5. Ritz Tours Badge
6. Luggage Tag
7. A Copy of “Indochina Excursion - Things to Know Before You Go”
8. Travel Insurance Policy (if applicable)
9. Questionnaire

Upon your arrival, please go through Customs and Immigration on your own. After exiting the Customs area, please look for Ritz Tours representative who will be holding a sign with “Ritz Tours”. Please make sure that you wear your Ritz Tours badge for easy identification.

### **AN IMPORTANT NOTE ON TIPPING:**

Please note that gratuities are not included in your tour cost. They are customary, and their purpose is to encourage and reward quality service. Our tour conductors, local guide, drivers, hotel porters and other service personnel do their utmost to make your trip smooth and pleasant. Gratuities are a way of showing your appreciation and also constitute a large part of their monthly income. However, tips are NEVER mandatory.

Ritz Tours suggests tipping in the following manner (US dollars):  
\$6 per person per day (except free day) – to be distributed between driver & guide

Tipping is not customary in Vietnam but appreciated. In Cambodia, it is not obligatory but widely practiced.

Again, thank you for choosing Ritz Tours as your partner-in-travel. We are confident that your trip will be happy and rewarding. If you need further information, please contact your travel agent or Ritz Tours.



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### Travel Documentation

U.S. Passport must be valid for at least 6 months from the return date of your trip. No entry visa required for stays of up to 30 days in Thailand. Entry visas are required to Vietnam and Cambodia. You must purchase the Vietnam visa in advance at the consulate. The Cambodia visa may be purchased either in advance or at the airport upon arriving in Cambodia. \$20 cash paid to Cambodia Customs upon arrival, valid USA passport, one recent passport size 2"x 2" color photo, and complete visa application form (available upon arrival). For non-U.S. citizen, please check with the appropriate embassy or consulate for requirements.

### Health & Medical Matter

No vaccinations are required for your trip with the exception of anyone traveling from or via an infected area. Due to the length of the trip and local traveling conditions, it is advised that you consult your doctor for existing medical / dental conditions before departure. If you are taking prescription medicine, please pack (in your hand luggage) a sufficient quantity for the duration of the trip. It may also be useful to bring aspirin, over-the-counter medicine for flu, indigestion, motion sickness, etc. In case of illness during the trip, please immediately notify your tour conductor and local guide for assistance. You can also contact the Center for Disease Control (C.D.C.) 404-639-3534 for updated information.

### Electrical Requirement

Electrical outlets are rated at 220 volts so a converter is needed to operate a normal 110-volt American appliance. Electrical appliances will also require an adapter that can change the shape of the plug prongs.

### Shopping

Although local guides will be happy to assist you with any shopping requirements, Ritz Tours does not assume responsibility for any items purchased at shops while on tour. You are never required to purchase any items while on tour and thus must be responsible for your own purchases. Any after sales correspondence must be between the passenger and the shop in question.

### Clothing

Clothes should be light and loose; natural fibers or blends are best. Sunglasses are essential; light hats are advisable. Shorts are taboo for men and women at temples and mosques. Shoes must be removed upon entering temple buildings, so non-laced shoes (but not sandals without back straps) are best.

A sweater will be handy for the cool season in Vietnam. Many visitors save luggage space by buying inexpensive vacation clothes there, leaving

them behind when they return home. Be aware that you may encounter some rainfall.

### Baggage

#### **Cathay Pacific baggage allowance:**

Economy class:

Maximum weight: 50lbs per bag

Maximum number of checked bags: Two

Maximum dimension per bag: 158cm

(62in) length + height + width

Infant ticket holder maximum number of checked bag: ONE, maximum dimensions per bag: 115cm (45in).

#### **Vietnam Airlines baggage allowance:**

Maximum number of checked bags: One

The baggage allowance is 20kg (44lbs) per person.

Overweight charge per kilogram is 1.5% of full airfare.

#### **Bangkok Airways baggage allowance:**

Maximum number of checked bags: One

The baggage allowance is 20kg (44lbs) per person.

Overweight charge per kilogram is 1.5% of full airfare.

DO NOT pack medicine, valuables and other personal necessities in checked luggage. Keep them in your carry on bag.

### Currency

As of January 2012, the following exchange rate applies:

US\$1.00 = 31.73 THB (Thailand Baht)

US\$1.00 = 21036 VND (Vietnam Dong)

US\$1.00 = 4040 KHR (Cambodia Riel)

### Climate & Weather

This area's climate is hot and humid, but there are regional and seasonal temperature variations.

Due to its long shape, **Vietnam** has a diversified weather that is affected by the monsoon. There are two seasons: Hot and humid with rain (May to October; 23-26 °F) and Cold (Nov. to April; around 52°F in Hanoi and around 73 °F in Ho Chi Minh). There is a high rate of rainfall and high humidity.

**Cambodia** is a tropical country and experiences fairly consistent weather. There are two distinct seasons: Rainy (June to October; 80-95 °F) with one or two afternoon downpours a day, and Dry (November to May; 80-100 °F) with little rain.

Thailand's tropical climate is hot and humid, but there are regional and seasonal temperature variations. **Bangkok** enjoys three seasons: Hot (March to mid-June; 80-95 °F), Rainy (June to October; 75-90 °F), and Cool (Nov. to Feb; 65-90 °F), although the humidity is considerably lower.



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### Useful Vietnamese Phrases

<u>ENGLISH</u>	<u>VIETNAMESE</u>	<u>PRONUNCIATION</u>
Yes	Vang	Vom
No	Khong	Khom
Thank you	Cam on	Cumon
Hello	Xin chao	Seenchow
Excuse me	Xin loi	Sin loy
Please	Lam on	Lam on
How much?	Bao nhieu	Bough new?
I do not understand	Toi khong biet	Toy kom beet
Toilet	Nha ve sinh	Nya vay sing
Good/Bad	Tot/Khong tot	Tote/Khom tote

### Useful Cambodian (Khmer) Phrases

Yes (For men)	Baat
Yes (For women)	Chaa
No	Tei
Thank you	Awkun
Hello (Informal)	Sues'day
Hello (Polite)	Chum reap sour
Goodbye (Informal)	Leah sen heuy
Goodbye (Polite)	Chum riep leah
Where is the toilet?	Bangkun now ey nah?
What time is it?	Moung bon maan?
Excuse me	Soum doh
Please	Soum

### Useful Thai Phrases

Yes	Chái
No	Mái cháí
Thank you	Khàp khun
No, thank you	Mái ao khàp khun
Hello	Sawàt dii
How are you?	Sabai dee rue?
I'm fine	Sabàay dee
Excuse me	Khǎw thòht
Please	Karuna
When?	Mêu-arai?
Today	Wan ní
Tomorrow	Phrúng ní
I do not understand	Mái Khào jai
How old are you?	Ah yoo thao rai?
I like you!	Phom chawp koon
I cannot speak Thai	Poot passat Thai mai dai
Can speak a little Thai	Poot passat Thai nit noy
No smoking/don't smoke	Haam soop buree