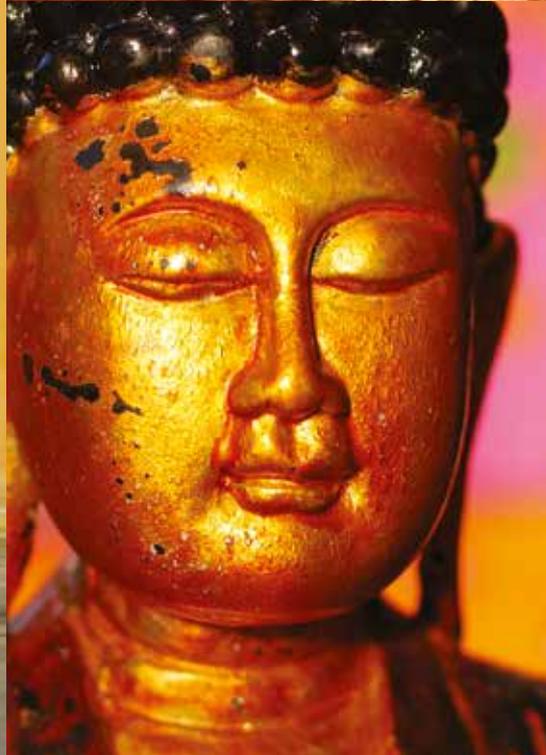


Far East

China • Japan • South-East Asia

2016-17
Group Tours &
Tailor-Made Travel





Cox & Kings

Travel Experienced

The essence of any Cox & Kings holiday is that it will have been planned by a destination expert and brought to fruition by some of the best local representatives, guides and drivers on the ground. Our team has exceptional experience at organising travel, however complex the itinerary and however unpredictable the destination. Our aim is to free you from the cares of travel logistics, so that you can fill your mind with the extraordinary people, wildlife and sights you encounter.

When I picked up the reins of Cox & Kings back in 1986 the company was already almost 10 times older than me. Its illustrious history is extraordinary, not just its longevity but in how it has reinvented itself as the world around it has changed.

You can read more about our company's story online at coxandkings.co.uk/history, from its foundation by Richard Cox in 1758 as military agents, through involvement in banking and shipping in the 19th and 20th centuries, to the modern era as a tour operator for discerning travellers.

For me, a common strand running through the entire history is the spirit of innovation, which has remained a driving force for the business to this day. Our company may be old but it's full of youthful energy.

Although Cox & Kings has particular ties with India, I decided early on in my time that we should broaden our reach beyond the Subcontinent and, over the last 25 years, we have gradually extended our range to offer our brand of high quality group tours and private tailored travel to culturally and naturally fascinating countries all over the world – the back cover of this brochure shows you where.

I am proud that we continue to build on the tradition of high quality service and attention to detail that made Richard Cox so successful more than 250 years ago. I very much hope that this brochure will inspire you to broaden your horizons with Cox & Kings.



Peter Kerkar
Chief Executive



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What we offer to the Far East

- Private tailored travel
- Small group tours
- Royal Academy of Arts expert-accompanied tours
- Special group tours for single travellers
- Luxury train journeys
- Serene river cruises
- Luxury private islands

Why entrust your holiday to Cox & Kings?

- Our extraordinary heritage – founded in 1758
- Award-winning holidays
- Big company value for money
- Small company personal service
- The expert advice of your personal tour consultant
- The best guides to bring a destination to life

Discover the Far East



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Intriguing, exotic and spiritual, the Far East can captivate like no other. Alongside some of the most modern and fast-paced cities in the world are incredible relics of ancient civilisations. Whether its walking the Great Wall of China or drifting above the stupas of Pagan in Burma in a hot air balloon, even the most seasoned traveller will find something new to discover.

Wildlife and awe-inspiring landscapes abound – encounter swinging orang utans in the jungles of Borneo, learn about the plight of the pandas and explore the unique scenery of China’s national parks, meet with Asian elephants in Thailand and lounge on tropical islands in Japan.

From luxury cruises along the Irrawaddy river, secluded beach breaks in Thailand and cultural tours in China and Japan, to wildlife holidays in Borneo and remote journeys across the wilderness of Mongolia, the Far East has something to offer every traveller.



China

Group tours • Tailor-made travel •
River cruises • Rail journeys



China is a vast and varied country with innumerable rewarding sights to see. Mostly we think of the pulsing cities of Shanghai, Hong Kong and Beijing. Such cutting-edge places are undoubtedly fascinating to visit, but beneath all that glitz the old way of life still continues.

Outside the big cities are ancient villages and water towns where old traditions endure, spiritual sanctuaries including the monasteries of Tibet and the temples of Dengfeng, and world-class sites such as the Terracotta Warriors and the Great Wall. Alongside the many cultural splendours are numerous national parks with stunning variations in scenery. Natural wonders include the Stone Forest (Shilin) in Yunnan province, the limestone peaks of Guilin, the misty mountains of Huang Shan, and the mighty Yangtze river. China deserves more than one visit if you are really going to discover all this, and more.

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Image left: Great Wall of China, Jinshanling

Discover China

Beijing

Ancient temples, palaces and museums • Range of luxury hotels & fine restaurants

Beijing has long been the political, cultural and economic centre of China, and its turbulent history is reflected in its ancient palaces, grand monuments, landscaped parks, narrow backstreets and wide boulevards. The city has undergone rapid construction and development in recent years, but in the ancient hutong district it is still possible to see parts of the city that have escaped these changes.

Tiananmen Square and the adjacent Forbidden City and National Museum are priorities for many visitors, but for those with more time the Temple of Heaven and Summer Palace make interesting excursions. For something different, the 798 Art District offers an insight into Beijing's growing artistic community, or a walk in the gardens of Prince Gong Mansion or the botanical gardens provides a welcome respite from the busy city.



The Great Wall of China

Remote and little-visited section at Jinshanling • Cable car access at Mutianyu

Stretching from the Gobi desert to the Yellow Sea, the Great Wall of China is the largest man-made structure on Earth and an amazing feat of engineering, labour and sacrifice. The original wall was begun 2,000 years ago, when China was unified under Emperor Qing Shi Huang, to keep out marauding nomads, then later lengthened and upgraded during the Ming dynasty.

Much of the wall is in disrepair but sections around Beijing remain in a good state or have been restored. The wall at Mutianyu, 1.5 hours' drive from Beijing, offers superb views and is accessible by cable car. Jinshanling pass, a 3.5-hour drive from Beijing, is much less developed and sees far fewer visitors, allowing for a more peaceful experience. Huanghuacheng ('Yellow Cliff') is a beautiful area beside a lake and about 2 hours' drive out of Beijing, but the wall here is mostly in disrepair and walking is difficult.



Forbidden City, Beijing

Modern China

China is often in the news for its industrial exploits and influence overseas. A new skyscraper is thought to be built every five days, and the domestic-housing sector is also booming to accommodate massive population growth and migration from rural areas to the cities. In the decade leading up to 2010, China built houses equivalent to roughly twice the total number of houses currently in the UK. In Shanghai, on the east side of the Huangpu river opposite the Bund, the Pudong area has been rapidly developed over the last 20 years from a low rise area to the towering skyline of the Lujiazui financial district seen today. In the north-western province of Gansu, the government is building Lanzhou Xinqu ('New Area') which, from an area of barren mountains, it plans to create a city of 500,000 people by 2020.



Xian, Shaanxi province

Ancient walled city with pagodas and tombs • Terracotta Warriors archaeological site

Xian, in Shaanxi province south-west of Beijing, is one of the oldest settled areas of China. Once one of the great cities of the world due to its location at the end of the ancient Silk Road, the city retains much of its historic character and is laid out in a grid within large city walls. Over 2,000 years, the city has seen the rise and fall of many Chinese dynasties, the most influential of which were the Tang.

Xian's most famous attraction is an army of thousands of life-sized warriors and their horses in battle formation, known as the Terracotta Warriors. Buried for 2,000 years, they stand guard over the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huang. Discovered in 1974 by a farmer digging a well, they came to be one of the most important archaeological finds of the 20th century.

Shanghai, Jiangsu province

Historic Bund • Gardens, temples and river cruises

Shanghai has, in recent years, become one of the world's most dynamic cities, evident in its gleaming skyscrapers and busy streets lit with neon lights. However, the city does still hold traces of its hey day in the late 19th and early 20th centuries when, as the major port in the east, it became synonymous with recklessness and vice.

Tourist activity is mainly centred around the historic Bund, the waterfront area behind the embankment on the west of the Huangpu river. Construction work is restricted in this area so many buildings retain their colonial features and have been converted into hotels. The former French concession is home to interesting architecture, while the vibrant Xintiandi district has many stylish restaurants, bars and designer shops.



Shanghai

Hangzhou, Zhejiang province

Scenic boat tours on the lake • Impression of West Lake Show

Once described by Marco Polo as the most splendid city in the world, Hangzhou developed as a prosperous commercial city as early as the sixth century and later became the capital of the Song dynasty. Hangzhou is now a more peaceful town set around the tranquil and picturesque Xi Hu, or West Lake, and overlooked by green hills.

Staged entirely upon the lake itself, the Impression of West Lake Show is a spectacle of light, music, dance and theatrics. Using the lake and its surroundings as props, lights and hundreds of actors create a sensational performance depicting the myths and legends of the West Lake. Hangzhou is also celebrated for the quality of its green tea, such as Longjing or Dragon Well tea, noted for their flavour.

Suzhou, Jiangsu province

Walled gardens • Silk Museum

Suzhou is one of the oldest cities in the Yangtze basin. Due to its strategic location on the Grand Canal, linking the mighty Yellow and Yangtze rivers, the city flourished as a trading and silk centre from the sixth century. Its most prosperous period was during the Ming and Qing dynasties when many officials, scholars and artists settled here and local traders grew rich.

This wealth was largely invested in the 150 gardens, hidden behind high walls, which make Suzhou famous today. Some of the finest include the Humble Administrator's Garden, the Garden of the Surging Waves Pavilion and the Lion Grove Garden. Showcasing Suzhou's importance at the heart of the silk trade for centuries, the Silk Museum has displays on the origin, evolution and development of silk production.



Suzhou

Chengdu, Sichuan province

See pandas at the research centres near Chengdu •
Sample spicy Sichuanese cuisine

The Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding offers the best chance to see these charming animals in a natural environment. Alternatively, a 3-hour drive from Chengdu is the Bifengxia Giant Panda Base, which protects 80 pandas, many relocated from Wolong National Nature Reserve after it was severely affected by an earthquake in 2008.

Chengdu, meaning 'perfect metropolis', is Sichuan's thriving capital with a population of just over 14 million and growing. The city is experiencing rapid development and relative prosperity. It now has direct British Airways flights from London, opening up another possible entry point to China. It is still possible to glimpse the old ways of life, with bustling backstreets crammed with artisans, markets and street stalls.



Panda, Chengdu



Great Wall of China

SAMPLE JOURNEY

China in Style

12 Days & 10 Nights from £4,895

Explore China's major sites at a leisurely pace, staying at the best hotels, including a 3-night river cruise aboard the luxurious Sanctuary MS *Yangzi Explorer*.

Day 1: Fly to Beijing

Fly from London to Beijing with British Airways. (N)

Day 2: Beijing

Arrive and transfer to the Raffles Beijing for 3 nights. (N)

Day 3: Beijing

Morning tour of Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. Drive out to the Aman at Summer Palace for lunch, followed by a visit to the Imperial Summer Palace. (B, L)

Day 4: Great Wall

Full-day tour of the Great Wall of China at Mutianyu, including a short walk on the wall and

a champagne picnic in a nearby pine forest. (B, L)

Days 5-6: To Xian

In the morning, relax with a private tai chi lesson at the Temple of Heaven, followed by a tour of the temple. Board a high-speed train to Xian, travelling in first class. Stay at the Sofitel Legend Peoples Grand Hotel Xian for 2 nights. The following day, visit the celebrated Terracotta Warriors. (B)

Day 7: To Chongqing

Fly to Chongqing in first class, then enjoy a dinner of the local spicy hotpot known as *má là* at a local restaurant. Afterwards, board the Sanctuary *Yangzi Explorer* (see page 17) for a 3-night cruise to Yichang. (B, D)

Days 8-9: Yangtze river

Cruise in style for 3 days, stopping for a shore excursion in Fengdu, a charming river village noted for its elaborate Daoist temple, before arriving at the Three Gorges near Yichang. (B, L, D)

Day 10: To Shanghai

Disembark early this morning and visit the site

of the Three Gorges Dam project. Transfer to Yichang and fly to Shanghai in first class. Stay at the Peninsula Shanghai for 2 nights. (B)

Day 11: Shanghai

Visit Jade Buddha temple and Yu Yuan garden, then take a stroll along the famous waterfront of the Bund. (B)

Day 12: Fly to London

Transfer to the airport and fly to London. (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £4,895

High season from: £ 5,495

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

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Discover the Natural Wonders of China

Wulingyuan Scenic Area, Hunan province

Tianmen mountain peaks and Heaven's Gate natural stone arch • Zhangjiajie National Forest Park

Declared a Unesco world heritage site in 1992, Wulingyuan is dominated by more than 3,000 pillars and peaks rising from the dense forest. One of several national parks in the area, the Zhangjiajie National Forest Park is home to magnificent limestone karst pillars, scenery that has inspired traditional Chinese painting for centuries. Tianmen mountain is the highest in the region, with one of the longest cable car rides in the world, leading up to a naturally eroded hole in the mountain known as Heaven's Gate.

Huangshan, Anhui province

Scenery from traditional Chinese paintings • Amazing sunrises and sunsets

For centuries, Huang Shan, or Yellow Mountain, has been popular with artists seeking creative inspiration. An overnight stay on the summit above a sea of clouds offers a chance to enjoy sunsets and sunrises surrounded by a mountain range of 72 peaks, precipitous streams and alpine flora.

Dotted around the paddies below are charming rural villages with historic Chinese buildings dating from feudal times, including Hongcun and Xidi, made famous by Ang Lee's film *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. The picturesque villages of Wuyuan county are all within easy reach.



Zhangjiajie National Park, Wulingyuan

The National Parks of Aba, Sichuan province

Jiuzhaigou, the 'Valley of the Nine Villages' • Alpine scenery and rare wildlife

Home to a range of ethnic groups including Tibetan, Qiang and Hui, the Aba autonomous prefecture in north Sichuan contains three spectacular Unesco world heritage sites, which are all natural, protected areas. The Jiuzhaigou Nature Reserve, literally meaning 'Valley of the Nine Villages', has astounding alpine scenery and dazzling turquoise lakes, with an abundance of wildlife in the reserve and some rewarding hill walks. Huanglong National Park is dotted with colourful mineral pools and waterfalls while Siguniangshan National Park hosts more than 1,000 plant species.

Yangshuo, Guangxi autonomous region

Relaxed river town • Explore rural China

Yangshuo is a small town on the Li river close to Guilin, surrounded by the stunning limestone karst scenery typical of the area. A stay in Yangshuo also offers an opportunity to explore rural China. Hike along the Yulong river against a backdrop of lush green hills covered with dense forest and bamboo groves, paddies and rustic local villages. Alternatively, board a bamboo raft for a sedate cruise down the Yulong river, using rafts equipped with a lounge so you can sit back and enjoy the scenery.



Yangshuo on the Li river

Discover the Ancient Cities of China

Pingyao, Shanxi province

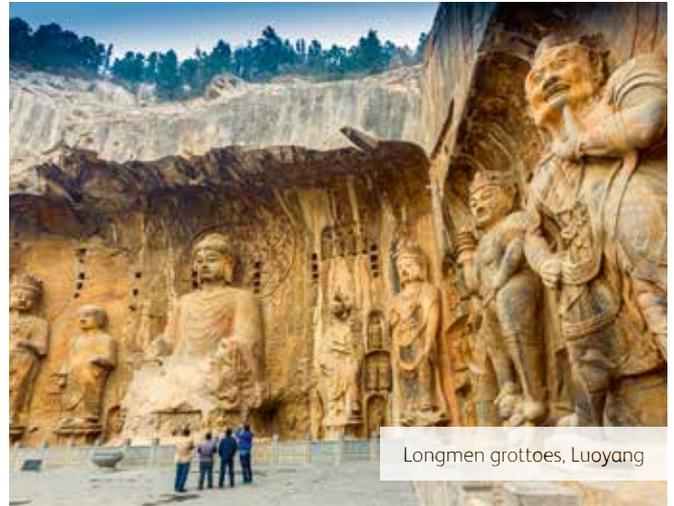
Ming and Qing dynasty architecture • Unesco world heritage site

The ancient walled city of Pingyao is one of the best-preserved historic settlements in China. A Unesco world heritage site since 1997, it is an outstanding example of the Han cities of the Ming and Qing dynasty eras, when the town was a thriving trade centre. A walk in the town centre will showcase some of the fine buildings from this period, such as Jing's Residence guesthouse, formerly home to a wealthy silk merchant; the Rishengchang Exchange Shop, which is the oldest bank in China; the County Government Office on Zhengfu Street; the Temple of the City God; and the Confucius Temple. It is also worth taking a stroll along the cobblestoned Ming-Qing Street, which is lined with Qing dynasty-era architectural works and shops with hanging lanterns. A visit to this fascinating city provides a picture of China's cultural, social, economic, and religious development.

Datong, Shanxi province

The Cloud Ridge Caves of Yungang • Awe-inspiring Hanging Monastery

Located in the north of Shanxi province, Datong is the former capital of the Northern Wei dynasty (386-534AD), when it was known as Pingcheng. Home to the Bojiiaocang Hall and the Shanhua Si temple, Datong is also a base for exploring the surrounding historical sites. The Cloud Ridge Caves of Yungang, carved during the Wei dynasty, are Buddhist temples hewn from the rock face that contain thousands of images of the Buddha. Other attractions include the Hanging Monastery, built precariously on sheer cliffs, the Great Wall at Desheng Bao, and the Yingxian wooden pagoda, one of the oldest wooden buildings in the world that does not contain a single nail.



Longmen grottoes, Luoyang

Luoyang & Dengfeng, Henan province

Unesco site of Longmen grottoes, Luoyang • Legendary Shaolin temple, Dengfeng

As the capital of 13 ruling dynasties, from the Eastern Zhou dynasty (770BC) to the Tang dynasty (923-936AD), Luoyang has been at the heart of the Chinese world for long periods of its history. Today, only fragments of its former prominence remain, visible in the city's museums, monasteries and caves, including the Longmen grottoes that contain more than 100,000 Buddhist images. The nearby Unesco world heritage site of Dengfeng is one of China's most renowned spiritual centres, home to various religious institutions and temples including the Taoist Zhongyue monastery, the Confucian Songyang Academy, and the renowned Buddhist Shaolin temple.

SAMPLE JOURNEY

China's Ancient Heartlands

15 Days & 13 Nights from £3,395

Discover traditional China, visiting remote places including Datong, Pingyao, Luoyang and the Shaolin temple.

Day 1: Fly to Beijing

Overnight flight from London to Beijing with British Airways. (N)

Day 2: Beijing

Arrive and transfer to the Hotel Cote Cour for 3 nights. Take a hutong tour by rickshaw. (N)

Day 3: Beijing

Visit Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City and the Temple of Heaven. (B)

Day 4: Great Wall

Tour the Great Wall of China at Jinshanling. (B, L)

Day 5: To Datong

Morning visit to the Imperial Summer Palace. Train to Datong. Stay 2 nights at the Datong Hotel. (B, L)

Day 6: Datong

Visit the Great Wall at Desheng Bao and the Yungang caves. (B, L)

Day 7: To Pingyao

Drive to Pingyao via the Hanging Monastery and Yingxian wooden pagoda. Stay 2 nights at Yun Jin Cheng Hotel. (B, L)

Day 8: Pingyao

Guided walking tour of Pingyao's ancient centre. (B)

Day 9: To Taiyuan

Drive to Taiyuan via Shuanglin temple and Qiao family manor. Overnight at the Yu Yuan Hotel and visit Shanxi Museum. (B, L)

Day 10: Fly to Xian

Fly to Xian. Visit the Muslim quarter, Grand Mosque, Bell and Drum Towers, and the city walls. Stay 2 nights at the Grand New World Hotel Xian. (B)

Day 11: Xian

Tour the Terracotta Warriors, Forest of Steles and the Shaanxi History Museum. Evening Tang dynasty music performance. (B, L, D)

Day 12: To Luoyang

Train to Luoyang. Visit the Longmen grottoes.

Overnight at the Holiday Inn Express Luoyang Hotel (B)

Day 13: Fly to Shanghai

Kung Fu demonstration at Shaolin temple, then fly to Shanghai. Stay at the Central Hotel for 2 nights. (B, L)

Day 14: Shanghai

Morning Shanghai tour. (B)

Day 15: Fly to London

Fly to London. (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from £3,395

High season from £3,595

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

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Discover Yunnan Province

Yunnan province is thought to have been established in 109AD by the Han dynasty. Located south of Mount Yun, the county was named Yunnan, meaning literally 'south of Yun'. It is one of the lesser-visited, more ethnically diverse parts of China. The scenery is remote and spellbinding, with evocatively named locations such as Jade Dragon Snow Mountain and Tiger Leaping Gorge. Spring and autumn are traditionally considered the ideal times to visit, as the continental weather patterns make for bitterly cold winters and hot, humid summers.

Kunming

History of the Shuhe Ancient Town • Access to the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain

Yunnan's capital, Kunming, is 1,900 metres above sea level off the northern shore of Dian Chi, the province's largest lake. It is known as the 'City of Eternal Spring' with cool summers and mild winters. Kunming is developing as a business centre for China's burgeoning economic links with south-east Asia, offering wide boulevards and leafy parks, although its main draw is the surrounding hilly countryside. North-west of the centre of Lijiang is Shuhe Ancient Town, a former commercial district with many stone bridges and temples.

Lijiang

Unesco-listed buildings • Naxi history and culture

The whole of Lijiang old town has been declared a Unesco world heritage site: a charming collection of narrow pedestrianised streets, elaborate houses with sloping roofs, quiet courtyards, winding cobbled streets fringed with tea houses and cafes, and small canals with fast flowing meltwater from the peaks. The central square is often filled with local men and women in the traditional blue and white costumes of the Naxi minority who gather in the afternoon sun to sing folk songs.



Chinese pavilion, Lijiang

Tiger Leaping Gorge

Stunning scenery • Day walks

Tiger Leaping Gorge is named after the local legend of a tiger that leapt over a 30-metre-wide gap across the gorge while fleeing from a hunter. This 16-kilometre-long gorge was carved out by the strong currents of the Yangtze river, known as the Jinsha in this region, which flows below the 2,000-metre-high cliffs. There is some spectacular scenery in the area, best seen from hiking trails and viewpoints throughout the gorge. The basic Halfway Guesthouse within the gorge offers overnight accommodation.

SAMPLE JOURNEY

Yunnan Explorer

11 Days & 8 Nights from £2,795

Venture into Yunnan province, a unique chance to travel into remote tribal China.

Day 1: Fly to Kunming via Hong Kong

Overnight flight from London to Kunming with Cathay Pacific, via Hong Kong. (N)

Day 2: Arrive Kunming

Arrive and transfer to the Green Lake Hotel for 2 nights. (N)

Day 3: Kunming

Visit the Shilin Stone Forest and the Yunnan Nationalities Museum. (B, L)

Day 4: Fly to Lijiang

Morning flight to Lijiang. Arrive and transfer to

the InterContinental Lijiang Ancient Town Resort for 3 nights. Visit Shuhe Ancient Town and Mu Family Mansion. (B)

Day 5: Lijiang

Full-day tour of Jade Dragon Snow Mountain, including the Baisha frescoes and Yak Meadow. Optional Lijiang Impressions cultural show. (B, L)

Day 6: Lijiang

Half-day tour of Lijiang, visiting Black Dragon Pond and the Dongba Museum. Optional evening excursion to a Naxi music performance. (B)

Day 7: To Zhongdian (Shangri-La)

Drive to Zhongdian. En route, visit Tiger Leaping Gorge and the first bend of the Yangtze river at Shigu. Stay 3 nights at the Songtsam Retreat Hotel. (B, L)

Days 8-9: Zhongdian

Full-day tour of Zhongdian, visiting Songzanlin

monastery and Pudacuo Forest Park, followed by a day at leisure. (B)

Day 10: Fly to London via Kunming & Hong Kong

Fly to Kunming, then on to London via Hong Kong with Cathay Pacific. (B)

Day 11: London

Early morning arrival in London. (N)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £2,795

High season from: £2,995

Tailored travel

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Discover Tibet

Tibet, described as 'the roof of the world', is the highest region on Earth with an average altitude of 4,900 metres. Spectacular snow-capped mountains, rivers, lakes and open grassland dominate the landscape of the Tibetan plateau. It is an area brimming with culture and unique ethnic traditions influenced by Buddhism. The season for travel to Tibet is between April and November, with May and October considered to be the best months, when the skies are generally clear and temperatures are moderate.



Lhasa

At an altitude of 3,683 metres, Lhasa is one of the world's highest cities, and the heart and soul of Tibet. Looming over the city is the architectural marvel of the Potala Palace, a landmark and the traditional winter residence of the Dalai Lama. The palace was the chief residence of the Dalai Lama until the 1959 Tibetan uprising. Today, the palace is a museum and a Unesco world heritage site. Named the Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, it also includes the Jokhang temple monastery and Norbulingka, the former summer palace.

The Himalaya

Venturing further south, towards the Himalaya, it is possible to visit Kumbum monastery and Palkhor Chode monastery in Gyantse. Further south, Shigatse is home to Tashilhunpo monastery, the former seat of the Panchen Lama, and the temple of the Buddha Maitreya. Intrepid travellers can head towards the border with Nepal, via the Friendship Highway, and visit Everest's north base camp. From 1921 to 1938 all the British climbing expeditions were attempted from the Tibetan side, along a route reconnoitred in 1913 by John Noel, who explored in the disguise of a Tibetan traveller.

Lhasa Express: the Qinghai-Tibet Railway

It is possible to fly into Tibet from Beijing, but travelling by train is far more exhilarating. The full journey covers 4,064km and takes almost 47 hours. Most travellers fly to Xining and travel 1,110km along the Qinghai-Tibet section. This is the highest railway in the world and passes some spectacular scenery as it traverses the plateau. Viewing platforms have been set up at nine stations, where travellers can enjoy incredible panoramas of the surrounding landscapes including Lake Namco, the Tanggula mountains, and the Chumaer river.



Potala Palace, Lhasa

C&K Recommends...



Chinese cookery lesson

Chinese cuisine has been extremely popular in the UK for many decades. However, it is mainly Cantonese food on offer when there are in fact seven other culinary traditions in China. Of these, Chuan (Sichuan), Xiang (Hunan) and Zhe (Hangzhou) cooking styles are becoming more recognised among British food connoisseurs. A cookery lesson teaches you to rustle up some Chinese favourites, such as Beijing-style dumplings and homemade noodles, classic Cantonese specialities and healthy vegetarian dishes. Classes that focus on a regional cuisine are also available, including spicy Sichuanese and Hunanese fare, as well as the subtle flavours of Hangzhou.



Sichuan teahouse opera

Chinese Peking opera, Greek tragedy and Indian Sanskrit opera are the three oldest dramatic art forms in the world, dating back to the third century AD. Sichuan opera (Chuanju) originated in Sichuan province in about 1700AD and incorporates vivid and humorous narration, singing, and a series of stunts, one of which is known as Bian Lian or 'changing masks'. In Peking opera, facial make-up is usually painted, but in Sichuan opera, the performer can change his or her mask at the blink of an eye. Watching a Sichuan opera in a traditional Chinese teahouse allows you to simultaneously experience another Sichuanese custom – drinking tea.



Temple of Heaven tai chi lessons

The Temple of Heaven is a spectacular Ming temple that has become regarded as the symbol of Beijing. The peaceful temple grounds are a gathering place for locals, who meet to enjoy a game of chess or practise the ancient art of tai chi. Led by an expert instructor, you can join the locals and learn how gentle movements promote the smooth flow of chi (energy) through the body. After the lesson, take a closer look at the temple's intricate carvings and the bright colours that illustrate the opulent Ming style.



See giant pandas

Located approximately 2.5 hours from Chengdu, the Bifengxia Giant Panda Base is set in 72 hectares of dense forest and assists in raising, breeding and rescuing giant pandas. Among the 80 resident pandas, about 30 were relocated from Wolong National Nature Reserve, which was severely affected by an earthquake in 2008. Visitors can also view the pandas behaving as they would in their natural environment, as the centre rehabilitates the animals in simulated natural enclosures, preparing them for survival in the wild.



Hike on the Great Wall

Stretching from the Gobi desert to the Yellow Sea, the Great Wall of China is the largest man-made structure on Earth and is an amazing feat of engineering, labour and sacrifice. Construction on the original wall began 2,000 years ago, when China was unified under Emperor Qin Shi Huang who wanted to keep out marauding nomads. It took hundreds of thousands of political prisoners as well as an estimated 180 cubic metres of packed earth to build it. Enjoy a picnic lunch on one of the remote sections of the Great Wall, and take time to appreciate the scale of this monumental structure.



Chinese calligraphy lesson

Calligraphy is an important and valued part of Chinese culture, developed in a number of different styles and techniques over the centuries. The Forest of Stone Steles Museum in Xian displays 3,000 steles, or stone slabs, decorated with calligraphy and paintings recording historical events. Try your hand at this Chinese art by taking part in a calligraphy lesson at the museum. Learn how to hold the brush and master some basic strokes, with an emphasis on the motion, order, rhythm and technique of the brush stroke.

Discover River Cruising

Cruising on China's great rivers is a wonderful way to discover the life of the people away from the major cities, allowing access to far-flung areas of the country. The size and length of the Yangtze makes it ideal for longer itineraries, while a section of the Li river makes for a pleasant day trip.

Cruising Along the Yangtze

The Yangtze river, or Chang Jiang, has been central to China's trade and transport for thousands of years. It is the longest river in Asia, flowing all the way from the glaciers of the Tibetan plateau in Qinghai province, north-west China.

Relaxing journeys can be made between Chongqing and Yichang on a 3-night cruise, or 6 nights' sailing between Chongqing and Shanghai. The cruises pass through some beautiful countryside and rural villages, which contrast sharply with the huge Three Gorges Dam, a symbol of the major industrial developments that are taking place in modern China.

The region's other highlights include Fengdu, a charming river village also known as 'Ghost City' and noted for its elaborate Daoist temple and bustling markets, the Qutang gorge and the imposing cliffs of Kui Men. Another natural wonder is Shennu Peak, known as 'Observing the Clouds Peak', believed to represent the figure of the maiden Yao Ji, the 23rd daughter of the Queen Mother of the West. An excursion up the Shennong stream reveals a region abundant with several species of endangered flora and fauna, including elusive golden-hair monkeys and many varieties of medicinal plants.

Longer cruises extend to Huang Shan's misty peaks and the historic cities of Wuhan and Nanjing, where you can connect to Shanghai by bullet train. Reverse journeys are also available.



Li River Cruise from Guilin

The Li river has its source north of Guilin in the Mao'er mountains. It flows south through Guilin and Yangshuo until it merges with the Gui river, finally reaching the Pearl river where it enters the sea at Guangzhou in southern China.

The section between Guilin and Yangshuo is particularly scenic, where the river meanders through dramatic limestone karst peaks and forested hills. A 3-hour cruise is a wonderful way to see this part of rural China, sailing past terraced rice fields and picturesque villages where you may catch a glimpse of locals fishing, washing clothes or bathing their water buffalo.



Karst mountain landscape, Guilin

River Cruisers

Victoria Cruises

The award-winning Victoria Cruises is an American-managed company with cruisers regularly refurbished and maintained to the highest standards.

The *Victoria Katarina* is one of the finest, with 133 well-appointed en suite cabins, fully air-conditioned with private balconies for viewing the magnificent scenery. Facilities include a lounge and dining area, which is stylishly decorated in dark woods and brass, a spacious roof deck, a bar for evening entertainment and socialising, a library, and a small fitness room.

The *Victoria Anna* is the jewel of the fleet, the Yangtze's largest ship with two restaurants (a single-seating main dining room, and an à la carte restaurant on the top deck), two elevators, a three-storey atrium lobby, two lounges, three bars, a gym, lecture room, library, beauty salon, massage room and gift shop. All cabins have private balconies and internet access is available throughout.



Victoria Katarina



Victoria Anna



Victoria Katarina

Sanctuary MS Yangzi Explorer

The Sanctuary MS *Yangzi Explorer* is the smallest and most exclusive boat on the river. Capacity is just 124 passengers, accommodated in 38 luxurious cabins and 24 suites, each featuring a private balcony for passengers to enjoy the stunning natural beauty of the Yangtze river. Public areas are spacious and tastefully furnished, with superb photo opportunities from the observation deck. The Viewing Lounge is the ideal place to relax for a pre-dinner drink. In addition to the international restaurant, there are two private dining rooms that can be pre-booked at an extra cost.

The boat's facilities include a gym, beauty salon, and lounge bar with live entertainment. The spacious Huang Ding Spa offers six individual treatment rooms and a variety of beauty treatments. Service on board is impeccable, with the highest crew to passenger ratio on the river at 1:1. There is also a diverse programme of onboard activities available that highlight the remarkable wealth of China's cultural traditions. Tai chi classes, Chinese cooking classes and hands-on calligraphy and silk embroidery workshops are just some of the engaging activities available. Evenings feature live shows that include both eastern and western entertainment.



MS Yangzi Explorer



Deck



Cabin

China: The Grand Tour

Duration • 16 Days & 14 Nights

Category • Superior & Luxury

Basis • Group or Private Tour

Price • From £3,195

Tour overview

This comprehensive tour of China visits the treasures of Beijing, the Terracotta Warriors at Xian, picturesque scenery between Guilin and Yangshuo, and the pandas at Chengdu. Cruise the Yangtze river and visit the Three Gorges Dam, before ending the tour in cosmopolitan Shanghai.

C&K highlights

- 4-star hotels throughout, or upgrade to 5-star Raffles and Fairmont hotels
- Cruise through dramatic rural landscapes on the Yangtze and Li rivers
- Learn the ancient arts of calligraphy and paper-cutting
- Direct flights with British Airways
- Small group size – maximum 26 people

Weather

Beijing

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	2	4	11	20	27	30	31	30	26	19	10	3
B	-10	-7	-1	7	13	18	22	20	14	7	-1	-7
C	2	4	7	18	29	65	152	143	42	18	7	2

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



Terracotta warriors, Xian

Day 1: Fly to Beijing

Overnight flight from London to Beijing with British Airways. (N)

Day 2: Beijing

Arrive and transfer to the Novotel Peace Hotel / Raffles Beijing Hotel* for 3 nights. Afternoon walk in the gardens of the Summer Palace with afternoon tea at the Aman hotel. (N)

Day 3: Beijing

In the morning, visit Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, followed by a tour of the ancient hutong district by rickshaw. Lunch will be taken in a Chinese family's home, followed by a paper-cutting lesson. End the day with a visit to Jing Shan Park for a bird's-eye view of the Forbidden City. (B, L)

Day 4: Great Wall

Full-day excursion to the Great Wall at Jinshanling, a quiet and dramatic section of the wall. Picnic lunch provided. (B, L)

Day 5: To Xian

Morning visit to the Temple of Heaven. High-speed train to Xian and stay at the Grand Noble Xian hotel / Sofitel on Renmin Square* for 2 nights. (B)

Day 6: Xian & Terracotta Warriors

Morning excursion to the Terracotta Warriors, followed by a visit to the Xian Art Museum and a lesson in Chinese calligraphy. Afternoon visit to the Muslim quarter and Grand Mosque, and stroll among the stalls of the bazaar. Optional evening excursion to enjoy a Tang dynasty music performance with dinner. (B, L)

Day 7: Fly to Guilin

Morning tour of the city walls, then continue to the Wild Goose Pagoda. Afternoon visit to the tomb of Emperor Jingdi (Hanyangling), then fly to Guilin. Stay at the Sheraton Hotel / Shangri-La, Guilin* for 2 nights. (B, L)

Day 8: Li river cruise to Yangshuo

Take a cruise down the Li river, past a landscape of limestone hills, fishing villages and rice fields, then drive back to Guilin. (B, L)

Day 9: Longsheng • To Chengdu

Full-day excursion to the spectacular rice terraces of Longsheng. Late evening flight to Chengdu and transfer to the Sheraton Lido / Shangri-La Chengdu* for 2 nights. (B, L)

Day 10: Chengdu

Morning tour to visit Jinli Street and the Wenshu monastery. Afternoon at leisure. Optional evening excursion to enjoy a Sichuan opera performance. (B)

Day 11: To Chongqing

Morning visit to the Giant Panda Research Base. Afternoon train journey to Chongqing, then transfer to a local restaurant for a traditional hotpot dinner. In the evening, board the *Victoria Katharina* / *Victoria Jenna** (or similar) for a 3-night cruise to Yichang. (B, L, D)

Day 12: Yangtze river cruise

Full-day cruise along the upper reaches of the Yangtze with a morning excursion to Shibaozhai or Fengdu. (B, L, D)

Day 13: Yangtze river cruise

Full day passing through the Three Gorges. The cliffs here reach up to 1,200 metres tall and, even after the dam, they remain hugely impressive. In the evening, pass through the locks. (B, L, D)

Day 14: Fly to Shanghai

Morning visit to the vast Three Gorges Dam. Disembark in Yichang, then take an evening flight to Shanghai for a 2-night stay at the Central Hotel / Fairmont Peace Hotel*. (B)

Day 15: Shanghai

Morning tour of Jade Buddha temple, the Yuyuan garden and the Bund. Optional evening visit to the state acrobatics show. (B)

Day 16: Fly to London

Morning transfer to the airport and fly back to London. Afternoon arrival. (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.



Boat on the Li river

Important information

Group tour manager: This tour is fully escorted throughout by a local tour manager from arrival in Beijing.

***Tour standards:** Superior tour departures are based in 4- and 5-star accommodation. Luxury tour departures will feature upgraded accommodation as indicated by the asterisks, while the Yangtze river cruise is aboard the *Victoria Jenna*, with Bridge Deck privileges for group tours only.

Accessibility: The tour involves climbing steps and some long walks. A reasonable level of fitness is required. You may need to carry your luggage at train stations.

Extensions: Extend your holiday in Hong Kong, Hangzhou or Suzhou. See page 23 for details.

Private & tailor-made travel: This itinerary can be taken privately, sailing on the *Victoria Selina* or other boats in the Victoria Cruises fleet (Executive Deck privileges are not included). Guideline prices are shown. Alternatively, it can be tailored to your exact requirements. Please call 020 7808 6786 or email info@coxandkings.co.uk

Guideline prices for 2016-17

Group tour: Superior departures
Low season: from £3,195
Guide price months: Mar – May

High season: from £3,395
Guide price months: Sep – Oct

Single supplement from £795

Group tour: Luxury departures
Low season: from £3,895
Guide price months: Mar

High season: from £4,095
Guide price months: Sep

Single supplement from £1,295

Private travel: Superior
Low season: from £3,695
Guide price months: Nov

High season: from £4,095
Guide price months: Aug

Single supplement: £POA

British Airways flight upgrades

World Traveller Plus from £545 return
Club World from £2,495 return

Regional air connections

From £35 return British Airways to / from: Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow or Manchester

The guideline tour prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on two people sharing a twin / double room. To see current prices for all departure dates, including special offers when applicable, please call 020 7808 6786, email info@coxandkings.co.uk or visit coxandkings.co.uk. All prices are subject to availability.

Superior group tour departure dates for 2016-17

Tour Code: CGS

Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn
20 Mar 16	04 Apr 16	20 May 16	04 Jun 16	07 Oct 16	22 Oct 16	24 Mar 17	08 Apr 17
08 Apr 16	23 Apr 16	09 Sep 16	24 Sep 16	21 Oct 16	05 Nov 16		

Luxury group tour departure dates for 2016-17

Tour Code: CGR

Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn
26 Mar 16	10 Apr 16	06 May 16	21 May 16	31 Mar 17	15 Apr 17
15 Apr 16	30 Apr 16	16 Sep 16	01 Oct 16		

China: In the Tracks of the Emperors

Duration • 11 Days & 9 Nights

Category • Standard

Basis • Expert-led Group Tour

Price • From £2,745



Tour overview

Journey through China's imperial history with expert Malcolm McNeill. This tour takes in world-class sites such as the Terracotta Warriors and the Great Wall as well as new archaeological discoveries. The ancient walled city of Xian offers pagodas, tombs, ancient artefacts, and of course the celebrated Terracotta Warriors. At the Unesco site of Longmen are grottoes that contain more than 100,000 Buddhist images. Beijing is overflowing with cultural splendours, from ancient temples and palaces to the Great Wall.

Highlights

- Visit the Longmen grottoes, the epicentre of Buddhist influence on Chinese history & art
- Discover less-visited sites including Famen temple and Baoji Bronzeware Museum
- Experience the unmissable Terracotta Army, Forbidden City & Great Wall

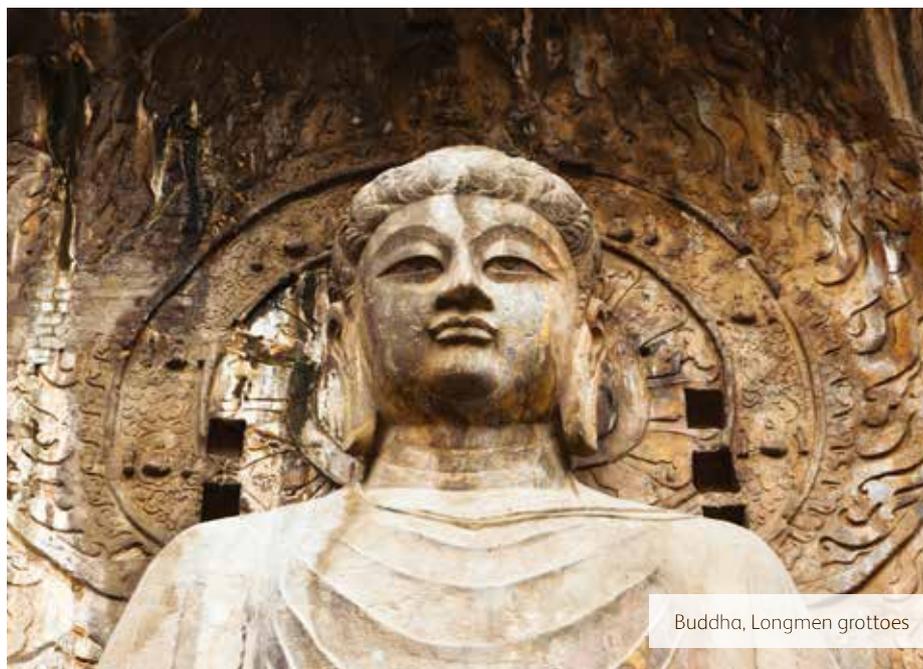
Expert lecturer

Malcolm McNeill

is finishing a PhD on the history of Chinese Buddhist painting at Soas, where he also teaches the history of Chinese art and archaeology. He has written on Chinese art for the V&A and Arts of Asia magazine, and is contributing to an encyclopaedia of Asian design. Malcolm previously worked at the British Museum and the National Palace Museum in Taiwan. He also holds a BA in Chinese studies from Cambridge.



Area map



Buddha, Longmen grottoes

Day 1: Fly to Beijing

Fly overnight from London Heathrow to Beijing with British Airways. (N)

Day 2: Beijing

Morning arrival and transfer to the hotel. Afternoon at leisure or optional visit to the Yiheyuan, or Summer Palace, a former retreat for the Qing court from the pressures of the Forbidden City. A Unesco world heritage site, the palace is a masterpiece of garden design, its pavilions, lakes, bridges, gate towers and corridors a delight to stroll around. Evening welcome dinner followed by 1 night at Pentahotel Beijing. (D)

Day 3: Train to Xian

Morning train to Xi'an, formerly the end of the Silk Road and home to the capitals of several major dynasties. On arrival, visit Hanyang tomb, built in 153AD as a joint tomb between Emperor Jingdi and his wife Empress Wang. The archaeological site is protected by a transparent glass floor, through which thousands of miniature human figures are visible. Stay 4 nights at the Grand Noble Hotel. (B)

Day 4: Xian

Visit Shaanxi Provincial Museum, with a special exhibition on the excellent Tang dynasty tomb-wall paintings, the finest of their kind in China. The museum's exhibits also include a wealth of gold and silverware, ceramics, coins and calligraphy. Continue to Big Wild Goose Pagoda, one of China's best examples of a Tang-style

pagoda, built in 652AD to house Buddhist sutras. Afternoon at leisure or optional visit to Qujiang Museum of Fine Arts, which showcases exceptional Chinese art and antiquities such as murals depicting China's history through different dynasties and a rare collection of Ming and Qing dynasty porcelain. (B)

Day 5: Xian

In the morning, visit Qianling tomb, renowned for its many Tang dynasty stone statues and mural paintings. The mausoleum complex houses the remains of various members of the royal family of the Tang dynasty. In the afternoon, visit Famen temple, regarded as the ancestor of pagoda temples in the Guanzhong area. Continue to the bronzeware museum in Baoji, the largest collection in China of bronze artefacts from the Zhou and Qin dynasties. (B)

Day 6: Terracotta Warriors

Morning tour of the excavation site of the Terracotta Warrior Museum to see the vast collection of sculptures depicting the armies of Qin Shi Huangdi, the first emperor of China. Afternoon at leisure or optional visit to Xian Museum for a special programme on the Small Wild Goose Pagoda Collection. (B)

Day 7: Train to Luoyang

This morning, board the high-speed train to Luoyang, one of China's ancient dynastic cities. Visit the fifth-century Longmen grottoes where tens of thousands of Buddhist statues are carved into the mountains. Together with



Ancient city wall of Xian

stelae, inscriptions and pagodas, this Unesco world heritage site is the finest example of northern Wei and Tang-era Buddhist art in China. Continue to the New Friendship Hotel for 1 night. (B)

Day 8: Train to Beijing

Take a high-speed train to Beijing and visit the Temple of Heaven park complex with its tranquil Confucian design. Continue to Pentahotel Beijing for 3 nights. (B)

Day 9: Beijing

Begin the day with a visit to Tiananmen Square, the world's largest public square and the symbolic centre of Chinese life. Continue to the National Museum of China, containing more than 1.7 million years of history. In the afternoon, explore the Forbidden City, which contains China's largest and best-preserved complex of ancient buildings. (B)

Day 10: Great Wall

Full-day tour of the Jinshanling section of the Great Wall of China, a quieter and less-visited segment that will allow for peaceful exploration of this man-made marvel. Evening farewell dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 11: Fly to London

Transfer to the airport and fly to London Heathrow with British Airways. (B)

Extensions

Tour + Beijing

3 Days & 2 Nights from £145
Extension starts on Day 11 of tour

Extend your stay at the Pentahotel Beijing to delve deeper into Beijing's cultural history or discover more of its vibrant modern art scene.

Tour + Shanghai

3 Days & 2 Nights from £325
Extension starts on Day 11 of tour

Take the high-speed train to Shanghai and spend 2 nights at the Central Hotel to explore this dynamic city's colonial Bund area, the European architecture of the French concession and the stylish Xintiandi district.

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Royal Academy of Arts (RA) tours: A collection of expert-accompanied tours focusing on creativity in its many forms. All RA tours are open to everyone and can be viewed at coxandkings.co.uk/ra.

Expert-led tour: This tour is fully escorted throughout by the lecturer, as well as experienced local guides.

Standard tour: Typically based in 3- and 4-star accommodation.

Accessibility: This tour involves some long walks over uneven ground and therefore requires a good level of fitness.

Optional tours: On days 2, 4 and 6 there are optional tours that must be booked in advance. Please enquire for prices.

Departure dates & guideline prices for 2016

Tour Code: CXC

14-24 Sep 2016: from £2,745 Single supplement: from £345 with Malcolm McNeill

British Airways flight upgrades
World Traveller Plus from £545 return
Club World from £2,495 return

Regional air connections
From £35 return British Airways London to / from:
Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow or Manchester

The guideline tour prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on two people sharing a twin / double room. To see current prices for all departure dates, including special offers when applicable, please call 020 7808 6786, email info@coxandkings.co.uk or visit coxandkings.co.uk/ra. All prices subject to availability.

China in Style by Rail

Duration • 12 Days & 10 Nights

Category • Luxury

Basis • Private Tour

Price • From £2,995

Tour overview

Experience the pace, comfort and efficiency of China's rapidly expanding high-speed rail network as you travel around the major cultural centres of China. Starting in Beijing, continue to Xian, Wuhan and Nanjing, before finishing in the modern metropolis of Shanghai. Along the way, stroll through beautiful gardens, ancient temples and mausoleums, visit celebrated sights such as the Great Wall and Terracotta Warriors, and learn about various aspects of Chinese history in the key museums of each city.

C&K highlights

- Journey through China by high-speed rail
- Marvel at the Terracotta Warriors and the Great Wall of China
- Visit the ancient cities of Wuhan and Nanjing

Weather

Shanghai

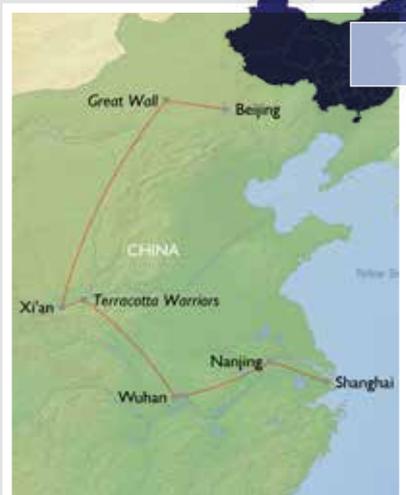
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	7	8	12	18	23	27	31	31	27	22	17	10
B	0	1	5	10	16	20	25	25	21	14	9	2
C	43	60	84	103	115	159	135	136	152	58	52	37

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



Summer Palace, Beijing

Day 1: Fly to Beijing

Overnight flight from London to Beijing with British Airways. (N)

Day 2: Beijing

Arrive in Beijing and transfer to the Peninsula Hotel for a 3-night stay. (N)

Day 3: Beijing

Morning visit to Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. After lunch, visit the Summer Palace, with a walk in the palace gardens, followed by afternoon tea at the Aman Hotel. (B)

Day 4: Great Wall

Drive north from Beijing and visit the legendary Great Wall at Jinshanling, a peaceful and dramatic section of the wall. (B, L)

Day 5: To Xian

Early morning departure to Xian by high-speed train. Afternoon arrival in Xian and proceed to the Wild Goose Pagoda. Afterwards, transfer to the Sofitel on Renmin Square for 2 nights. (B)

Day 6: Terracotta Warriors

In the morning, visit the remarkable Terracotta Warriors, then the Xian Art Museum. (B)

Day 7: To Wuhan

Departure to Wuhan by high-speed train. Arrive and transfer to the Shangri-La Hotel for a 1-night stay. Afternoon visit to the Yellow Crane Tower and the Hubei Provincial Museum. (B)

Day 8: To Nanjing

Departure to Nanjing by high-speed train. Arrive and transfer to the Sheraton Nanjing Kingsley Hotel & Towers for a 2-night stay. (B)

Day 9: Nanjing

Morning tour of Mount Zijin (Purple Mountain), Zijinshan observatory, and Ling Gu temple. Afternoon at leisure, with time to visit the Nanjing Museum and the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall. (B)

Day 10: To Shanghai

Early morning departure to Shanghai by high-

speed train. Transfer to the Fairmont Peace Hotel for 2 nights. (B)

Day 11: Shanghai

Morning tour of Shanghai, visiting the Jade Buddha temple, the Yu garden and the Bund. Optional afternoon cruise on Huang Pu river, or visit the Shanghai Museum independently. (B)

Day 12: Fly to London

Transfer to the airport. Fly to London with British Airways. Afternoon arrival. (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Locally escorted tour: This tour is led in each destination en route by a local tour escort.

Luxury tour: Featuring some of the most luxurious accommodation in each destination throughout the tour. Rooms are based on the standard category.

High season departures: During Chinese holidays, supplements may apply. Dates include, but are not limited to, 4 April (Tomb Sweeping Day), 1-3 May (May Day holiday), 1-7 October (national holiday) and 7-13 February (Chinese New Year).

Tailor-made travel: For a price quote based on alternative accommodation standards or flight options, or to tailor this itinerary, please call 020 7808 6786 or email info@coxandkings.co.uk.



Train travel in China: This itinerary uses only the latest generation of high-speed train, with a top speed of 300km/h, using G category trains and travelling in First Class seats. Luggage allowance is 20kg, and meals / drinks are available in the buffet car or from your seat. Porters at train stations are provided where available.

Guideline prices

Low season from £2,995

High season from £3,125

Tour Extensions

Valid for 'China: The Grand Tour' or 'China in Style by Rail'



Harbour, Hong Kong

Tour + Hong Kong

5 Days & 3 Nights
Low season from £925
High season from £1,295

Hong Kong, enclosed by the Pearl river delta and South China Sea, is celebrated for its culture, cuisine, shopping and magnificent skyline. It also holds many surprises, including spectacular rural scenery, the bays of Sai Kung, and many quiet outlying islands.

Day 1: Fly to Hong Kong

Fly to Hong Kong and transfer to the Royal Pacific Hotel & Towers Hotel* for a 3-night stay. (B)

Day 2: Hong Kong

Morning tour of Hong Kong Island. (B)

Day 3: Hong Kong

Day at leisure to explore the city, go shopping or take a day trip to Macau. (B)

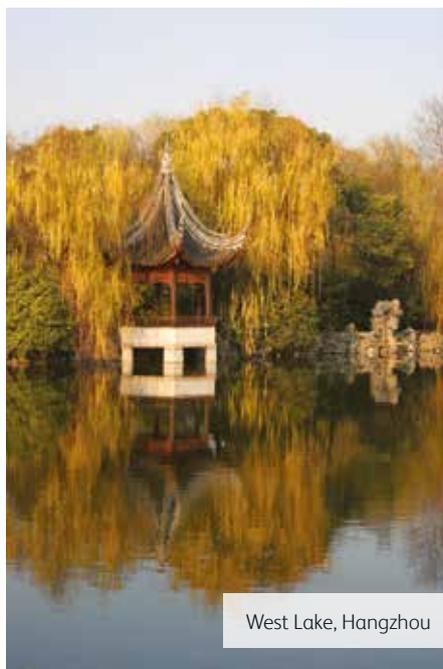
Day 4: Fly to London

Day at leisure. Evening transfer to the airport and fly to London. (B)

Day 5: London

Early morning arrival. (N)

* **Accommodation:** Cox & Kings offers a selection of hotels on Hong Kong Island or in Kowloon to suit your budget and requirements, please see page 29 or ask your consultant for further details and prices. The guideline price above includes private transfers and a half-day tour of Hong Kong Island.



West Lake, Hangzhou

Tour + Hangzhou & West Lake

5 Days & 4 Nights
Low season from £655
High season from £695

Hangzhou developed as a prosperous commercial city in the sixth century and later became the capital of the Song dynasty. Now a peaceful town, it is set around the tranquil and picturesque Xi Hu, or 'West Lake', and overlooked by green hills.

Day 1: To Hangzhou

Train to Hangzhou. Stay at the Hyatt Regency* for 3 nights. (B, L)

Day 2: Hangzhou

Full-day tour of Hangzhou, including the Dragon Well tea estate, Lingyin temple, a cruise on West Lake and stroll along Qinghefang Street. Optional evening excursion to watch the Impression West Lake Show (payable locally). (B, L)

Day 3: Hangzhou

Day at leisure. (B)

Day 4: To Shanghai

To Shanghai by train. Overnight stay at the Central Hotel. (B)

Day 5: Fly to London

Transfer to the airport and fly to London. Afternoon arrival. (B)

* **Accommodation:** Cox & Kings offers a selection of alternative hotels in Hangzhou to suit your budget and requirements. Please ask your consultant for further details and prices.



Suzhou

Tour + Suzhou

4 Days & 3 Nights
Low season from £695
High season from £725

Suzhou is one of the oldest cities in the Yangtze basin. Due to its strategic location on the Grand Canal, the city flourished as a trading and silk centre from the sixth century. Its most prosperous period was during the Ming and Qing dynasties when many officials, scholars and artists settled here and local traders grew rich. This wealth was largely invested in more than 150 ornamental gardens, of which more than 50 remain today.

Day 1: To Suzhou

Drive to Suzhou and stay at the Shangri-la Suzhou* for 2 nights. (B)

Day 2: Suzhou

Visit three of Suzhou's best-known gardens: the Humble Administrator's Garden, the Garden of the Surging Waves Pavilion and the Lion Grove Garden. (B, L)

Day 3: To London

Drive to Shanghai. Stay 1 night at the Central Hotel. (B)

Day 4: Fly to London

Transfer to the airport and fly to London. Afternoon arrival. (B)

* **Accommodation:** Cox & Kings offers a selection of alternative hotels in Suzhou to suit your budget and requirements. Please ask your consultant for further details and prices.

China Hotel Collection

Beijing • Chengdu • Xian



Luxury

Raffles, Beijing

Raffles Beijing occupies one of Beijing's most historic buildings, with an enviable location minutes from Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City and the popular Wangfujing district. In true Raffles style, the hotel is elegantly decorated throughout to create an Oriental ambience of a bygone era, with exclusive guestrooms and suites. Contemporary French cuisine is served at Jaan restaurant, pan-Asian at East 33, or traditional high tea at the Writers Bar.

Features:

171 rooms; 2 restaurants; bar; library; gym; Raffles butler service; Wi-Fi.



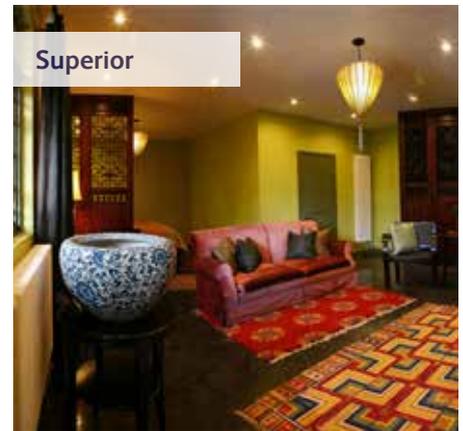
Luxury

The Regent Hotel, Beijing

Located in the historical centre of Beijing, the Regent Beijing has luxuriously appointed, spacious guestrooms in the very centre of the capital, just a short distance from the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Wangfujing shopping district and the many other attractions of the city. Rooms offer 21st-century luxury combined with traditional Chinese elegance. The hotel offers a wide range of dining options with 4 restaurants and a spectacular lobby lounge.

Features:

500 rooms; 5 restaurants; Chinese-themed wellness centre; gym; indoor pool.



Superior

Hotel Cote Cour, Beijing

Hotel Cote Cour is located in the Yanyue hutong of old Beijing, an area that used to be the rehearsal area of the royal musicians, dancers and actors of Ming dynasty's imperial courts. Once a courtyard mansion, Cote Cour has been lovingly restored into a boutique hotel, with well-appointed rooms, a lounge, and courtyard gardens that combine traditional Chinese architecture and design with modern amenities and comfort.

Features:

14 rooms; reading lounge; courtyard garden.



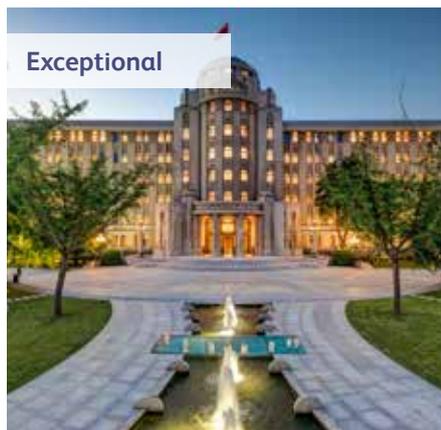
Exceptional

The St Regis, Chengdu

One of the finest hotels in China, the St Regis is set within steps of Tianfu Square and Chunxi Road in the centre of Chengdu, near premier shopping and restaurants. All rooms have floor-to-ceiling windows and the services of the St Regis 24-hour butler service. St Regis 'Aficionado' private experiences include lessons in Shu fabric weaving or tours of the Shuijingfang Museum to discover the craft of Baijiu, a traditional Chinese spirit.

Features:

279 rooms; 3 restaurants; wine bar; rooftop lounge; spa; gym.



Exceptional

Sofitel Legend Peoples Grand Hotel, Xian

Originally established in 1953 as the Xian People's Hotel, the building has been completely refurbished by the Accor group. Set in a beautiful landscaped garden in the centre of Xian, all rooms and suites are spacious and luxuriously appointed, featuring a marble bathroom with shower and bathtub and a 24-hour butler service.

Features:

71 rooms; restaurant; bar; indoor swimming pool; spa; cigar lounge.



Luxury

Sofitel on Renmin Square, Xian

The distinctive building of the Sofitel Xian is located on the impressive Renmin Square in the heart of the old town. Service here is excellent, providing the classic French hospitality for which the Sofitel group is famous for. Dining options include Moroccan, Brazilian, Japanese and Chinese restaurants. Rooms have a chic design with plush Sofitel MyBed, Chinese silks, a unique rainforest shower and complimentary Wi-Fi.

Features:

414 rooms; 4 international restaurants; spa.

Shanghai • Lijiang • Guilin



Fairmont Peace Hotel, Shanghai

The Fairmont Peace Hotel has been lovingly restored to its former glory as one of Shanghai's legendary landmarks. Once the Cathay Hotel, it served as a glamorous playground of the elite during the golden age of the 1920s and 30s, when Shanghai was known as the 'Paris of the east'. With a superb location on the Bund, the hotel faces the Pudong area looking over the Huangpu river. Rooms are elegantly appointed, inspired by the original art deco influence.

Features:

270 rooms; 2 restaurants; café; 3 bars including a jazz bar and cigar lounge; spa; gym.

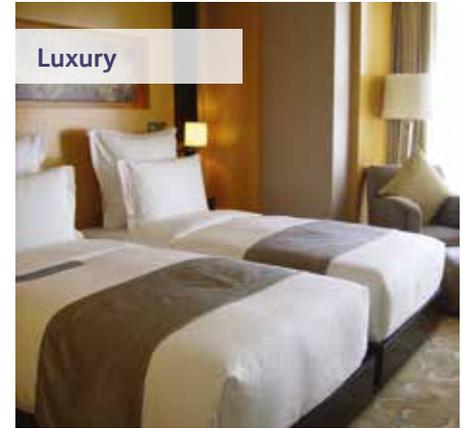


The Peninsula, Shanghai

The first new building constructed on the historic Bund in the last 70 years, The Peninsula Shanghai enjoys spectacular views of Huangpu river and the former British consulate gardens. The Peninsula's guestrooms blend luxury with art deco designs from the golden age. The hotel's customised car fleet for airport transfers includes Rolls-Royce Phantoms, BMW Peninsula Editions, two MINI Cooper S Clubman, and an immaculately restored 1934 Rolls-Royce Phantom I.

Features:

235 rooms; spa; 3 restaurants; 2 bars; shopping arcade.



Le Royal Meridien, Shanghai

Le Royal Meridien Shanghai is located in the heart of Shanghai on the historic and pedestrianised Nanjing Road – an ideal base from which to explore this vibrant city. Rooms have floor-to-ceiling windows with superb views of the Bund and the city's skyline. The hotel partners with the Shanghai Museum of Contemporary Art, located 500 metres away, as part of its Unlock Art™ programme, allowing guests complimentary access to the museum.

Features:

761 rooms; 4 restaurants; 2 bars; indoor swimming pool; spa.

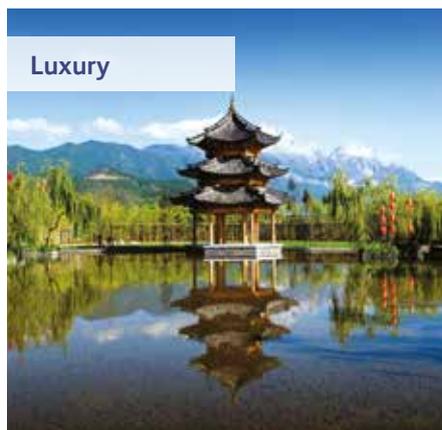


Shangri-La Hotel, Guilin

Overlooking the picturesque Li river, the Shangri-La Hotel is well located for exploring the city of Guilin. Guestrooms are furnished to a high standard and have views of the river, the beautifully landscaped gardens or Diecai mountain. The Shang Palace Chinese restaurant specialises in the local spicy Guilin cuisine, with various stir-fry and steamed dishes. Relax in the spa, which has both an indoor and outdoor pool.

Features:

449 rooms; indoor & outdoor pools; health club.



Banyan Tree Resort, Lijiang

The Banyan Tree Resort is set on the outskirts of Lijiang, overlooked by Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. The resort design combines traditional Yunnan architectural style with contemporary amenities. All suites and villas are spacious and lavishly decorated with opulent fabrics and furnishings, and have their own private garden. The award-winning Banyan Tree Spa has an extensive spa menu and signature treatments.

Features:

124 suites & villas; 2 restaurants & in-villa dining; bar; spa; yoga pavilion; tennis courts.



Sheraton Hotel, Guilin

Set on the banks of the Li river, and a short walk from Elephant Trunk Hill, the Sheraton Hotel is an ideal choice in the heart of Guilin, adjacent to the Zhengyang Pedestrian Street and a variety of shopping and entertainment venues. Rooms are available with garden or river views. The Riviera Mediterranean Restaurant has a large outdoor terrace, or Cantonese and Sichuan dishes are served at the Cathay Restaurant.

Features:

408 rooms; 2 restaurants; bar; outdoor swimming pool; gym; sauna; spa.

China Hotel Collection

Chengdu • Zhongdian • Lijiang • Benzilan



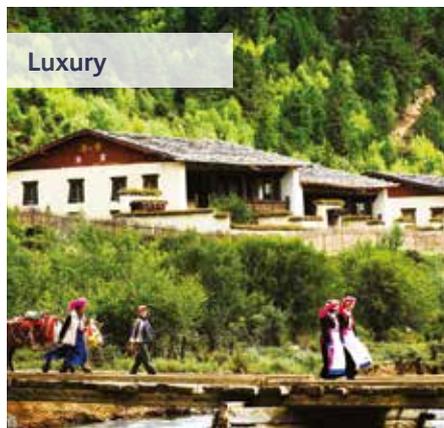
Luxury

Shangri-La Hotel, Chengdu

The Shangri-La Hotel in Chengdu is situated in the Jinjiang district, benefiting from spectacular views of the Jinjiang river and the beautiful Hejiang Pavilion. The hotel has been showcasing the rich artistic culture of Chengdu since its opening by featuring nine famous contemporary artists from Sichuan. The hotel restaurant offers Sichuan cuisine and Cantonese favourites, served in front of views of Jinjiang river.

Features:

593 rooms; restaurant; outdoor terrace bar.



Luxury

Banyan Tree Ringha Tibetan Village, Zhongdian (Shangri-La)

In true Banyan Tree style, Ringha's architecture evokes a sense of place and reflects the local Tibetan culture. Located 45 minutes away from Diqing Shangri-La airport, Banyan Tree is set in the mountains. All lodges are traditional Tibetan farmhouses that have been painstakingly rebuilt and feature intricate woodcarvings, cosy fireplaces and wooden balconies with valley or river views.

Features:

32 rooms; spa; Tibetan restaurant; bar; handicraft shop.



Superior

Songtsam Hotel, Zhongdian (Shangri-La)

The Songtsam Hotel Shangri-La is located next to the Song Zan Lin monastery. The lodge is housed in a traditional dwelling within this typical, self-sufficient Tibetan farming village where the founder of Songtsam, Baima Dorjie, spent his childhood. The lodge restaurant serves traditional Tibetan cuisine using organic produce from the surrounding villages.

Features:

22 rooms; Tibetan restaurant; rooftop terrace; courtyard garden.



Luxury

LUX* Tea Horse Road, Lijiang

In the heart of the Unesco-protected old town of Lijiang, LUX* Tea Horse Road, Lijiang is tucked away in a typical courtyard-shaped house and features traditional Naxi architecture. Guestrooms continue the Naxi theme, with timber-framed structures and design elements reminiscent of the Han and Zang dynasties. The hotel staff can organise personalised excursions into the surrounding region along the Tea Horse Road, one of China's most spectacular routes. Try a Naxi cooking class with local Baisha villagers, learn about the legendary Pu'er tea or explore the mountains on horseback.

Features:

30 rooms; restaurant; bar; tea lounge; library; courtyard.



Luxury

LUX* Tea Horse Road, Benzilan

A gateway to the Meili Snow Mountain National Park, this luxury boutique hotel is located at the entrance to Benzilan town. The area's local culture is reflected in the main building's architecture, combined with the signature LUX* service inspired by local Tibetan hospitality. Rooms and suites at the LUX* Tea Horse Road, Benzilan are located on two levels across the two main buildings, all with views of the riverside and adorned with distinctive Tibetan touches, light interiors and airy living spaces. Local story-tellers and musicians sometimes gather at the hotel bar for impromptu cultural evenings.

Features:

30 rooms; restaurant; tea lounge; library; cafe; infinity pool.

Nanjing • Hangzhou • Yangshuo • Wuhan • Hainan Island • Pingyao

Luxury

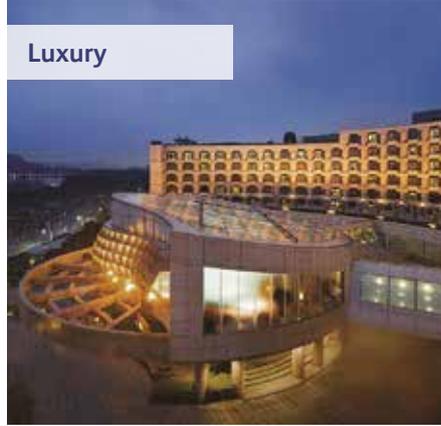
**Kayumanis Villas, Nanjing**

The Kayumanis Villas is an intimate luxurious retreat in the mountainous terrain east of Nanjing, offering superb mountain views and forested landscape. Each of the contemporary villas offers exceptional comfort and privacy, with a private swimming pool set within a tropical garden, living room and dining area, spacious en suite bedroom, outdoor shower, oversized sunken bathtub and an open-air natural hot spring.

Features:

20 villas; personal butler service; restaurant; hot springs; spa.

Luxury

**Hyatt Regency, Hangzhou**

The Hyatt Regency is situated next to the famous West Lake, within walking distance of the shopping and entertainment areas. Rooms are furnished with contemporary fittings and equipped with modern amenities, some with superb views over the lake. Guests are also ideally placed to see the water fountain light show, which takes place just outside the hotel each evening. The extensive spa facilities include an indoor pool with glass rooftop.

Features:

390 rooms; indoor pool; spa; restaurant; bar; cafe; cocktail bar; patisserie.

Simple

**Tea Cozy Boutique Hotel, Yangshuo**

Surrounded by the karst peaks of Yangshuo, the Tea Cozy Boutique Hotel is set among peaceful rice fields beside the banks of the Dragon river. Converted from a large village house, rooms are decorated with antiques and local artwork. As its name suggests, tea is a focal theme of the hotel and the onsite teahouse allows guests to experience a tea ceremony. The rooftop bar and restaurant serves Chinese and western cuisine using organic produce from the garden.

Features:

12 rooms; rooftop bar; teahouse; restaurant.

Luxury

**Shangri-La Hotel, Wuhan**

Located on Jianshe Avenue in the central Hankou business district, the Shangri-La is a 30-minute drive from Wuhan Tianhe International airport and a 10-minute drive from Hankou railway station. Its design, facilities and service are all in keeping with the quality associated with the Shangri-La group. All rooms have contemporary Chinese decor, city views of Wuhan and complimentary internet access.

Features:

442 rooms; 3 restaurants; cafe; bar with live music.

Luxury

**Raffles Hainan, Hainan Island**

With views across the sparkling waters of Clearwater Bay, a championship golf course and impeccable service, Raffles Hainan is the ultimate Raffles experience. The hotel is located minutes from the beach, and rooms are the most spacious in Hainan, with private balconies, ocean views and decor inspired by the architecture of Bali or the culture of Asian hill tribes.

Features:

299 rooms & 32 villas; spa; 2 golf courses; 3 restaurants; 3 bars.

Superior

**The Jing's Residence, Pingyao**

A member of Relais & Châteaux, the Jing's Residence is a charming boutique hotel set in beautiful courtyards that reflect Pingyao's architectural history. Unobtrusive landscaping surround the various courtyards. Rooms are exquisitely decorated, combining modern artworks with traditional Chinese antiques, ancient carved wooden window frames, bamboo flooring and lacquered bedsteads.

Features:

19 rooms; spa; courtyard dining area.

Hong Kong & Macau: Short Breaks & Stopovers

Although worthy of a visit in itself, Hong Kong is an ideal stopover destination to or from mainland China, accessed by direct flights with either British Airways or Cathay Pacific. Often overlooked as it does not have an international airport, Macau can be easily combined with a visit to Hong Kong, and offers another angle on China's colonial heritage. A stop in either city also makes an ideal extension to an escorted group tour or tailor-made itinerary in China, with a huge range of accommodation in both cities. Please see options on the opposite page or speak to a consultant.



Peak Tram, Hong Kong



Ruins of St Paul, Macau

Hong Kong

Enclosed by the Pearl river delta and South China Sea, Hong Kong is one of the world's most modern and dynamic cities, rightly celebrated for its culture, cuisine, shopping and magnificent skyline. Far beneath its gleaming skyscrapers and hidden behind the glare of neon shopping arcades, Hong Kong can still give an insight into ancient Chinese customs and traditions. Explore the maze of streets around the Western District on Hong Kong Island or Mongkok in Kowloon, with its street food stalls and flower and bird markets. Alternatively, venture into the little-known green hills of the New Territories with their traditional small villages. Hong Kong's transport system is a highlight in itself, especially the Star Ferry across the harbour or the Peak Tram, which offers amazing views of the whole city.

Macau

Just 60km south-west of Hong Kong and easily reached by a 45-minute catamaran ride, Macau makes an ideal day trip or twin-centre stay with Hong Kong. Although popular locally for gambling, there is also a unique cultural heritage and a plentiful history to be found here, with some of the oldest and most complete examples of European architecture found in China today. From 1557 until the 1999 handover, Macau was a Portuguese enclave, and retains a Portuguese atmosphere with pavement cafes and public squares overlooked by pastel-coloured buildings. The Ruins of St. Paul's are a city landmark, featuring a magnificent stone facade dating back to the 16th century. Visitors should not miss the chance to sample some delicious Macanese cuisine, or stop off at Lord Stow's Bakery to sample their celebrated egg tarts.

Hong Kong & Macau Hotel Collection

Exceptional



The Peninsula Hong Kong

Opened in 1928, 'The Grande Dame of the Far East' is the flagship property of The Peninsula Hotels group and has established a reputation as a standard bearer of luxury and refined service. Located at the southern tip of the Kowloon peninsula, from where the worldwide hotel group takes its name, its newly renovated guestrooms feature personalised technology in 11 languages, to ensure a supremely luxurious, comfortable stay.

Features:

300 rooms; 7 restaurants; 2 bars; pool with harbour views; spa; transfers by Rolls Royce Phantom.

Exceptional



Mandarin Oriental, Hong Kong

For nearly 50 years, the flagship hotel of the Mandarin Oriental Group in Hong Kong has been offering first-rate standards of service and luxury in the heart of Hong Kong Island. Famous in the city for its dining, there are 6 restaurants to choose from serving a wide array of cuisines. Rooms have a generous sitting area beside floor-to-ceiling windows offering spectacular views either over the city or onto the activity of Victoria Harbour.

Features:

501 rooms & suites; 3 Michelin-starred restaurants; 3 bars; patisserie; spa; salon.

Luxury



The Mira Hotel, Hong Kong

A member of the Design Hotels group, the Mira Hotel in Kowloon features striking modern design and interior decor. The hotel has an ideal location in the Tsim Sha Tsui urban area, just off the main thoroughfare of Nathan Road, with the restaurants along Knutsford Terrace, the Star Ferry and the Mass Transit Railway station all nearby. Rooms are smart and stylish with tech-friendly features, including a smart phone that can be used throughout the city.

Features:

492 rooms & suites; spa; club lounge; pool; Michelin-recommended Chinese restaurant.

Luxury



InterContinental Grand Stanford Hong Kong

Located in the shopping and entertainment district of Tsim Sha Tsui East in Kowloon, the InterContinental Grand Stanford Hong Kong is within easy reach of the MTR underground. Rooms offer views of the harbour or the streets of downtown Hong Kong. A wide selection of world-class dining options are available, offering both international and regional Cantonese cuisine.

Features:

570 rooms & suites; 3 restaurants; heated rooftop swimming pool; spa.

Superior



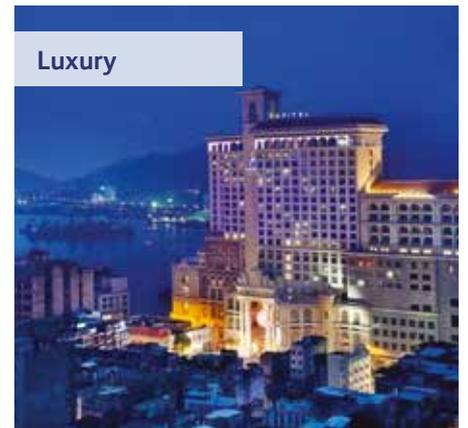
The Royal Pacific Hotel & Towers, Hong Kong

With a prime Kowloon location on Canton Road in the Tsim Sha Tsui district, the Royal Pacific Hotel & Towers has a number of shops, restaurants and bars nearby, while an MTR subway station and the Star Ferry to Macau are also within walking distance. Bright and modern rooms feature floor-to-ceiling windows, with either views of the city, the harbour or Kowloon Park.

Features:

673 rooms; Pacific Place shopping and dining area; 2 restaurants; bar; cafe.

Luxury



Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16, Macau

Situated on Macau's picturesque waterfront, Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16 has an ideal location in the heart of the charming historic quarter, and within walking distance of the Ruins of St. Paul's and the A-Ma Temple. Outdoor seating on Le Terrace offers exceptional views overlooking the pool and Macau's inner harbour. The Ponte 16 Casino is part of the same Inner Harbour development.

Features:

408 rooms; 3 restaurants; bar; casino; swimming pool; sauna; spa.



Japan

Group tours • Tailor-made travel •
Rail journeys



Japan is a country like no other, at once futuristic and high tech, but also with a strong sense of tradition, as well as an incredible natural beauty. Cities that set the trend for the modern world rub side by side with timeworn temples, gardens and palaces, all surrounded by snowy volcanic peaks, valleys of pink cherry blossom in spring and fiery reds in autumn, remote mountains to the north and subtropical islands to the south. What's more, high-speed rail links mean that you can discover much of the diversity of this country in comfort.

Soak up the buzz and energy of Tokyo or discover a more traditional and imperial past in Kyoto, retreat to a Buddhist temple on Mount Koya, see the snow monkeys in Yudanaka, relax on sandy beaches amid coral reefs on the islands of Okinawa prefecture, indulge in healthy and nutritious food and take part in a traditional tea ceremony – Japan will overwhelm your senses with the variety of its scenery and culture.

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Inspired to venture further afield? Browse our website to discover additional destinations, places to stay and itineraries; or speak to our Japan experts.

-  020 7808 6786
-  info@coxandkings.co.uk
-  coxandkings.co.uk

Image left: Mt Fuji, Yokohama

Discover Japan



Ginkakuji temple, Kyoto

Tokyo

Neon cityscapes, world-class restaurants and shopping • Ancient temples, palaces and gardens

The huge, energetic and fascinating city of Tokyo has been the capital of Japan since 1868. Its cosmopolitan nature is reflected in its variety of shops, restaurants, markets and 24-hour activity. Stroll through Hamarikyu Gardens, located at the mouth of Sumida river. The Asakusa Kannon temple, the largest Buddhist temple in Tokyo, is a popular meeting place on holidays and weekends and adjacent to the busy Nakamise Dori shopping street. The Imperial East Garden, the only part of the Imperial Palace complex that is open to the public, contains the Ote-mon Gate and the palace gardens, from where there are views over central Tokyo. The Ginza, Shibuya and Shinjuku districts are characterised by neon lighting, huge public video screens and grand department stores – the classic vision of Tokyo by night.

Kyoto

Zen gardens, pavilions and temples • Traditional Japanese cultural experiences

Japan's capital from the seventh century until around the 11th century, Kyoto is known today as the cultural heart of Japan, with many historical treasures that have world heritage status. Kinkakuji (or the Golden Pavilion) is one of Japan's most celebrated temples. Set in well-tended gardens beside a small lake, this glittering temple is covered entirely in gold leaf. Nijo castle was built in 1603 to demonstrate the power of the first Tokugawa Shogun Ieyasu, with a design that reflects an ambition to impress rather than to engage in combat. Other sites spread throughout the city that merit a visit: include Sanjusangendo Hall, known as the 'Temple of a 1,001 Images of Buddha', Kiyomizu Buddhist temple, Ginkakuji (or the Silver Pavilion), and the Fushimi Inari shrine.

Traditional Japanese tea ceremonies



In Kyoto, travellers can visit the house of a maiko, an apprentice geisha, and take part in a tea ceremony. These ceremonies are an integral part of Japanese culture, and date back to the Nara era (710 to 794AD). Visitors are shown parts of the ceremony and the ritual of enjoying powdered green tea, which is traditionally served with a sweet dish made from red beans to counter the bitter taste of the fresh green tea.



Kenroku-en garden, Kanazawa

Hiroshima

Visit the A-Bomb Museum & Peace Memorial Park • Meet a hibakusha (atomic bomb survivor)

Hiroshima needs no introduction as the first city on Earth to suffer an atomic bombing. These days Hiroshima is a young and lively city. The A-Bomb Museum & Peace Memorial Park was built by the people of the city to symbolise their wishes for everlasting peace. It encompasses the Peace Memorial Museum, the Memorial Cenotaph and the Flame of Peace.

The city's castle, sometimes called Carp Castle, was originally constructed in 1589 but much of it was dismantled following the Meiji Restoration, leaving only the donjon (castle keep), the main gates and turrets.



Torii gate, Miyajima Island

Miyajima Island

Iconic red torii gate • Peaceful island atmosphere

Miyajima is an atmospheric island located just off the mainland between Hiroshima and Kyushu, in a waterway known as the inland sea. Much of this mountainous island is covered in lush vegetation, with some excellent walking trails. Miyajima's most celebrated landmark is the large, bright-red Shinto torii, or gate, floating in the water in front of Itsukushima Shrine. A stay in a ryokan here is highly recommended – see page 44 for more details.

Kanazawa

The beautiful garden of Kenroku-en • Stroll in the Nagamachi district

Kanazawa, on the west coast of Honshu island, grew in importance from the 15th century when the Ikko and Maeda clans chose the town for their headquarters. It came to rival Kyoto and Edo (Tokyo) in cultural significance.

The Nagamachi district, at the foot of Kanazawa castle where the samurai used to reside, preserves a historic atmosphere with its remaining samurai mansions, earthen walls, private entrance gates, narrow lanes and canal. Kanazawa is also notable for Kenroku-en, one of Japan's finest gardens.

Private Travel in Japan

Private travel in Japan is significantly more expensive than in other Far East countries due to the high costs of vehicle hire, drivers and guides. If you would like to plan a more lower cost tailor-made private trip, there is the option of using public transport or shared services that are not exclusive to Cox & Kings for sightseeing and travel between cities. In off-the-beaten-track areas of the country English is not widely spoken and self-guiding may be the best option.

All Cox & Kings private travellers are provided with a comprehensive information pack, including transport instructions and bilingual timetables, hotel addresses and maps, and a guide for each destination covering a wide range of topics from eating out to enjoying a hot-spring bath.

Osaka

Popular for food & shopping • Lively nightlife, bars and restaurants

Osaka is western Japan's commercial hub, a huge sprawling city of more than 19 million people. Situated at the mouth of the Yodo river and with a network of canals, it is regarded as a more lively and fun-loving city than Tokyo, with countless karaoke centres, fashionable clothes shops, bars and theatres. Attractions include the domineering white Osaka castle, Osaka Bay and the Umeda and Namba entertainment districts. The city is also famous for its variety of food: try *takoyaki* – balls of batter filled with diced octopus. With excellent rail transport links and a key international airport, Osaka is likely to feature on most Japan itineraries.

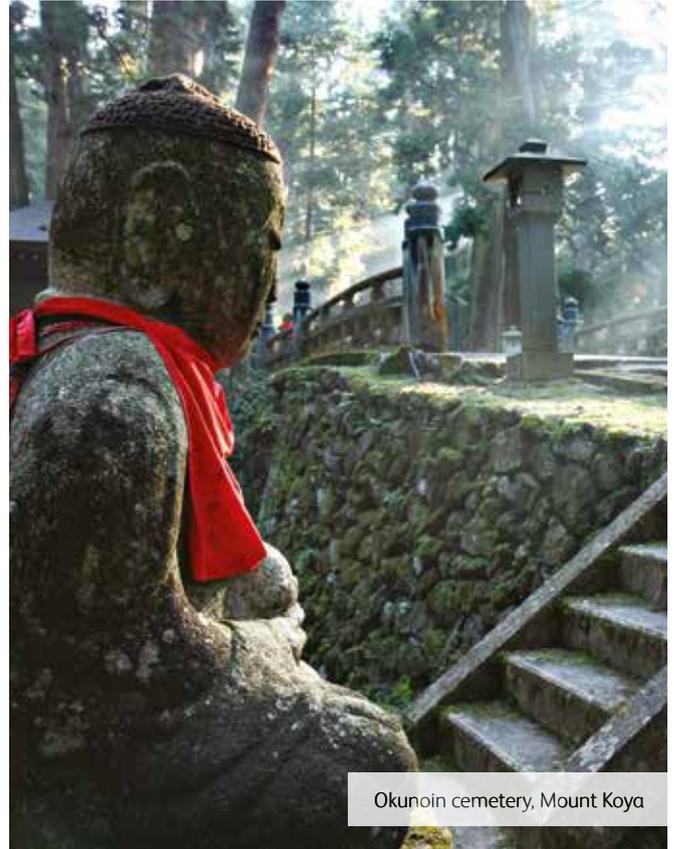


Himeji castle

Mount Koya

One of Japan's holiest mountains • Overnight stays at the monastery

Reached from Osaka or Kyoto, the journey to Mount Koya passes through a cedar-filled valley, 800 metres above sea level, and is watched over by eight mountain peaks. In the early ninth century, Buddhist monk Kobo Daishi founded the first temple here, and there are now more than 100 monasteries surrounding the head temple of Kongobuji. This monastic complex offers a retreat away from the cities, and staying overnight allows you to rise early, avoid the crowds, and join the monks at morning prayers. The nearby town of Koya continues the tradition of religious study with its university and several temples.



Okunoin cemetery, Mount Koya

Tsumago & the Kiso Valley

Historic buildings and heritage • Mountain scenery

Tsumago is a quiet town tucked away in the Kiso valley, one of Japan's most scenic regions, with rivers of melted snow, cedar forests and high mountain peaks. This former postal town lies on the ancient Nakasendo trade route between Tokyo and Kyoto, an important highway during the Tokugawa shogunate between the 17th and 19th centuries. Since then, the town has escaped the modernisation that has spread through much of Japan, and conserved its heritage and historic buildings. A wander through the town's streets will take you past small restaurants, craft workshops, Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines, offering an authentic glimpse into Japan's past.



Tsumago

Hokkaido

Hiking in national parks • Coastal towns, sea cruises and lakes

The lesser-visited northern Japanese island of Hokkaido is known for its scenery, lakes and mountains. The main entry point is the busy city of Sapporo, famous for its breweries. A short drive away is the charming coastal fishing port of Otaru, while further north are the mountain towns of Furano and Asahikawa, as well as the stunning Daisetsuzan National Park. Here you can visit the Souunkyo gorge and the nearby waterfalls of Ryusei-no-taki and Ginga-no-taki. Hikes can be made into the forest following the Asahidake Trail, notable for its mountain lakes, wild flowers and birdlife.

Discover the northerly coastal town of Monbetsu and take a cruise on the Sea of Okhotsk, or visit the world's first underwater drift ice observatory. In the far north-east, visit the Kushiro Shitsugen National Park, with excellent birdwatching in its wetlands and the possibility of spotting the distinctive red-crowned crane.



Beach, Okinawa

Japan's Tropical Islands

Islands of Ishigaki & Okinawa • Idyllic beaches and coral reefs

Okinawa is one of Japan's southern prefectures and consists of a chain of hundreds of islands known as the Ryukyu islands, extending over 1,000km from Kyushu to Taiwan. Okinawa's capital, Naha, is located in the southern part of the largest and most populous island, Okinawa Island, which is approximately half-way between Kyushu and Taiwan. Okinawa is the home of karate and offers numerous stretches of beautiful beaches. Its outlying islands boast some of the most abundant coral reefs found in the world.

Ishigaki is the second largest of the Yaeyama islands, the westernmost part of the Okinawa chain of islands. It is the most populated of the Yaeyama islands and also the main transport and commercial centre. Ishigaki is known for its superb beaches, thought to be the best in Japan, such as the white sands of Sukuji.



Red-crowned cranes, Hokkaido

Kyushu

Nagasaki Peace Park & Kumamoto • Seven Stars luxury train journey

The southernmost of Japan's four main islands, Kyushu has a mild climate, hot-spring spas, beautiful countryside and national parks. According to Japanese legend, the country's first emperor, Jimmu, began his campaign to unify Japan from Kyushu. As a result, the island is considered to be the cradle of Japanese civilisation. The lively city of Kumamoto is home to the majestic Kumamoto Castle and the spectacular Mount Aso, one of the world's largest volcanic craters. Learn more about Japan's recent past in Nagasaki, a beautiful coastal town with a haunting second world war history. Pottery is one of Kyushu's specialities; a tour of Kyushu's pottery museum and a stop at Imari town to see its porcelain workshops is fascinating.

The *Seven Stars* luxury train travels on 2-day or 4-day journeys around Kyushu through the five prefectures of Fukuoka, Oita, Miyazaki, Kagoshima and Kumamoto. The train has a European 1920s style, decorated in varying woods and fabric. Lounge cars feature couches and rotating chairs for passengers to sit in while enjoying live musical performances, while the rear of the lounge car also features a large window for watching the passing scenery. Spacious cabins are equipped with a shower, toilet and air conditioning. A dress code is in place for evening meals. Departures are scheduled throughout the year but are often limited and bookings generally need to be confirmed between 6 and 11 months in advance.



Seven Stars luxury train

Japan's Cultural Treasures

Duration • 13 Days & 10 Nights

Category • Superior

Basis • Group or Private Tour

Price • From £4,395

Tour overview

Discover the cultural heritage of Japan on this exciting journey between Tokyo and Osaka. Visit the tranquil Kenroku-en garden and the castle of Kanazawa, before exploring the imperial city of Kyoto with its many temples and shrines. Experience the sombre modern history of Hiroshima, then visit the picturesque island of Miyajima with its iconic Torii gate, before ending the tour in the city of Osaka.

C&K highlights

- Tea ceremony in Kyoto and watch gold leaf production in Kanazawa
- Tour the Hiroshima Peace Park with a talk by an A-bomb attack survivor
- Explore the temples, gardens and shrines of Kyoto and Nara
- Small group size – maximum 26 people

Weather

Tokyo

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	10	10	13	19	23	25	29	31	27	21	17	12
B	0	1	4	9	14	18	22	24	20	14	8	3
C	43	58	94	119	132	181	128	147	181	158	84	44

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



Day 1: Fly to Tokyo via Hong Kong

Overnight flight from London to Tokyo, via Hong Kong, with Cathay Pacific. (N)

Day 2: Tokyo

Arrive and transfer to the Tokyo Marriott or the Park Hotel for 3 nights. (N)

Day 3: Mount Fuji

Full-day excursion to Mount Fuji and the beautiful Five Lakes region. (B, L)

Day 4: Tokyo

Visit the Asakusa Kannon temple and Tokyo National Museum's Japanese gallery, followed by a kushiage lunch of fried meat or vegetables. In the afternoon, visit the Imperial East Garden and end the day at the tranquil Meiji shrine. (B, L)

Day 5: To Kanazawa

Morning departure by Shinkansen (bullet train) to Kanazawa. Visit the Kanazawa castle park, the Kenroku-en garden, and see the production of gold leaf. Stay 2 nights at the Nikko Kanazawa or the Crowne Plaza ANA Kanazawa. (B, L)

Day 6: Gokayama

Visit the Gokayama region south of Kanazawa and see the Unesco-listed gasshō-zukuri houses, an architectural style where the thatched roofs are constructed like hands in prayer. (B)

Day 7: To Kyoto

Depart by bullet train to Kyoto. Visit Nijo castle and enjoy a traditional tea ceremony in a machiya (wooden townhouse). Stay 3 nights at the Kyoto Royal Hotel & Spa (or similar). (B, L)

Day 8: Kyoto

Morning visit to Ryoanji temple, with its famous zen rock garden, and Kinkakuji temple, also known as the Golden Pavilion. Afternoon visit to the historic city of Nara, and see the Todaiji temple and Kasuga-taisha shrine. (B)

Day 9: Kyoto

Morning visit to Kiyomizu temple, followed by an afternoon walk in the Arashiyama district, including the Tenryuji temple and the Sagano bamboo grove. Optional evening walk in Gion, Kyoto's geisha district (B)

Day 10: To Hiroshima

Morning departure for Hiroshima by train. Visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. A short talk by a bomb attack survivor has been arranged (subject to local conditions). Overnight stay at the Sheraton Hiroshima Hotel. (B)

Day 11: Miyajima island • To Osaka

Tour Miyajima island, including the Itsukushima shrine and the Torii gate. Ferry back to the mainland and train to Osaka. Overnight at the Osaka Marriott Miyako Hotel (or similar). (B)

Day 12: Fly to London via Hong Kong

Transfer to Osaka Kansai airport and fly to London, via Hong Kong. (B)

Day 13: London

Early morning arrival in London. (N)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Group tour manager: This tour is fully escorted throughout by a local tour manager from arrival in Tokyo.

Superior tour: Based in 4-star accommodation. Please note that in Japan room sizes are smaller than in Europe.

Private & tailor-made travel: This itinerary can be taken privately, for which guideline prices are shown. The difference in price for travelling on a private basis rather than as a part of a group is significantly higher in Japan than most countries. This is because of the very high costs of private guides and vehicles. To reduce costs, a similar itinerary can be booked using public transport and some self-guided excursions. Please call 020 7808 6786 or email info@coxandkings.co.uk.



Green tea fields & Mount Fuji

Festival departures

19 & 26 March – Hanami (cherry blossoms)

Hanami, literally meaning ‘flower viewing’, is the traditional Japanese custom of enjoying the blossoming cherry trees from March to early May, and specifically in Tokyo and Kyoto in early April. Cherry blossom can be seen on many of the excursions throughout the itinerary.

9 April – Takayama spring festival & cherry blossoms

Ranked as one of the most colourful festivals in Japan, with decorated floats, this is the annual festival of the Hie shrine in the southern half of Takayama’s old town. On this departure, Day 6 will be an excursion to Takayama for the festival, instead of Gokayama.

4 October – Takayama autumn festival

At the annual festival of the Hachiman shrine in the northern half of Takayama’s old town, colourful processions of elaborate floats are one of the main highlights. On this departure, Day 6 will be a trip to Takayama for the festival, instead of Gokayama.

Guideline prices for 2016-17

Tour Code: JCT

Group tour

Low season: from £4,395
Guide price months: Mar (cherry blossom)

High season: from £4,755
Guide price months: Nov

Single supplement from £595

Private travel

Low season: from £3,595
Guide price months: Oct – Nov

High season: from £3,995
Guide price months: Mar – Apr (cherry blossom)

Single supplement from POA

Cathay Pacific flight upgrades

Premium Economy Class: from £1,295 return
Business Class: from £2,995 return

Regional air connections

From £160 return British Airways to / from: Aberdeen, Belfast, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Newcastle, or Leeds Bradford

The guideline tour prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on two people sharing a twin / double room. To see current prices for all departure dates, including special offers when applicable, please call 020 7808 6786, email info@coxandkings.co.uk or visit coxandkings.co.uk. All prices are subject to availability.

Departure dates for 2016-17

Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn
05 Mar 16	17 Mar 16	09 Apr 16	21 Apr 16	04 Mar 17	16 Mar 17
19 Mar 16	31 Mar 16	04 Oct 16	16 Oct 16	18 Mar 17	30 Mar 17
26 Mar 16	07 Apr 16	12 Nov 16	24 Nov 16	25 Mar 17	06 Apr 17

Japan: Jewels of Culture & Craft

Duration • 12 Days & 9 Nights

Category • Superior

Basis • Expert-led Group Tour

Price • From £4,995

RA Royal
Academy
of Arts

Tour overview

Travel with expert Suzanne Perrin to experience the celebrated temples, stunning gardens and traditional crafts during the beautiful Sakura (cherry blossom) or Momiji' (maple) season. See the scenic views of old Kyoto and Nara, Hiroshima's Peace Park and Miyajima's famous Torii Gateway in the bay, Hakone's national park with Mount Fuji, and Tokyo's bustling 21st-century city.

Highlights

- Travel during Sakura (cherry blossom) or Momiji' (maple) seasons
- Tour specialist crafts workshops with a local expert
- See the silk weaving and dyeing process at first hand
- Visit the world heritage sites of Kyoto, Nara, Hiroshima, Itsukushima & Mount Fuji

Expert lecturer

Suzanne Perrin studied history of art and nihonga (traditional Japanese painting) before teaching Japanese history and culture at Richmond American International University, London. She lectures for Nadfas, adult education, universities, and museums, and contributed to the Asian Arts Courses for Sotheby's at the V&A and the British Museum.



Area map



Great Buddha, Todaiji temple, Nara

Day 1: Fly to Kyoto via Hong Kong

Take the overnight flight from London to Osaka Kansai airport via Hong Kong with Cathay Pacific. (N)

Day 2: Kyoto

On arrival in Osaka, transfer to Kyoto for an introductory lecture and welcome dinner. Stay 5 nights at Kyoto Royal Hotel (or similar). (D)

Day 3: Kyoto

Explore the world heritage site of Kyoto, which preserves Japan's traditional architecture, culture, arts and crafts. Visit Heianjingu shrine, the site of the former Imperial Palace with richly-coloured buildings and a garden, and the Museum of Traditional Handicrafts. In the afternoon, explore the traditional Crafts Centre Museum and nearby Yasaka shrine, before taking a walking tour through the tiny streets of Gion quarter, where maikos (trainee geishas) can be seen in the evenings in their beautiful costumes. (B)

Day 4: Nara

Today travel by train to Nara for a walking tour of Japan's first capital. See the Great Buddha statue in the Todaiji temple and the Grand Shrine of Kasuga Taisha, dedicated to Shinto, the endemic belief system in Japan. Following a traditional tea ceremony, make your way back to Kyoto. (B)

Day 5: Kyoto

Kyoto is the home of Nishijin textiles – beautiful silk brocades and hand-dyed kimonos that are renowned for their intricate patterns. Visit Nishijin Textile Centre and a craft establishment to view the weaving and dyeing process. Continue to potter Kawai Kanjiro's house. Afternoon at leisure or optional visit to the Kyoto Costume Museum, which has a collection ranging from the 17th century to the present day, and Kodai Yuzen Museum, which has a collection of kimonos and yuzen products. (B)

Day 6: Kyoto

Today, visit Daitokuji temple, the head temple of the Daitokuji school of Rinzaï, a sect of Japanese Zen Buddhism, and its sub-temples and gardens. Continue to Kiyomizudera, one of the most famous temples in Kyoto, and the Kiyomizu-yaki ceramics shops in the vicinity. End the day at Nijo castle, home to the Shogun's administration in the 17th century. (B)

Day 7: To Hiroshima

Travel by Shinkansen bullet train to Hiroshima and visit the Peace Memorial Park and Museum, which documents the A-Bomb. Stay overnight at Sheraton Hiroshima (or similar). (B)

Day 8: To Hakone • Miyajima island

Take a ferry to scenic Miyajima island and walk to the world heritage site of Itsukushima shrine



Kiyomizudera Temple, Kyoto

and the beautiful Torii Gate in the bay. Return to Hiroshima, then take the bullet train to Hakone. Spend 1 night at Palace Hotel (or similar) and experience the onsen hot springs. (B)

Day 9: To Tokyo

Set off by coach for Tokyo, first visiting Hakone Open-Air Museum, which houses an art and sculpture collection from around the world. Continue to Lake Yamanaka and Mount Fuji 5th station for views of Japan's highest mountain, followed by the unique Itchiku Kubota Art Kimono Museum. Stay at the Marriott Hotel (or similar) in Tokyo for 2 nights. (B)

Day 10: Tokyo

Tokyo encompasses the ultra-modern with traditional culture. Take a tour on foot and public transport to visit Ukiyo-e woodblock print museum, housing the famous works of Hokusai and Hiroshige, and Edo City Museum, which tells the story of this great city. Continue to see special collections of textiles and kimonos and view historical and contemporary textiles, as well as the famous Mitsukoshi department store to see how kimonos are presented and sold to the public. Evening farewell dinner. (B, D)

Day 11: Fly to London via Hong Kong

Morning at leisure. Transfer to Narita International airport for an overnight flight to London via Hong Kong. (B)

Day 12: London

Morning arrival in London. (B)

Extension

Tour + Tokyo

3 Days & 2 Nights from £595
Extension starts on Day 11 of Tour

Extend your stay with 2 nights at the Marriott Hotel (or similar) to discover more of the modern yet traditional city of Tokyo.

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Royal Academy of Arts (RA) tours:

A collection of expert-accompanied tours focusing on creativity in its many forms. All RA tours are open to everyone and can be viewed at coxandkings.co.uk/ra.

Expert-led tour: This tour is fully escorted throughout by a lecturer who has specialist knowledge of the destination and its culture, as well as an experienced local guide.

Superior tour: Typically based in 4- and 5-star accommodation.

Accessibility: This tour involves some long walks over uneven ground and therefore requires a good level of fitness.

Accommodation: Please note that hotel rooms in Japan are small compared to similar standard hotels elsewhere in the world.

Luggage: Due to lack of space on the bullet train, when travelling to Hiroshima you can only take an overnight bag. The remainder of your luggage will be taken direct from Kyoto to Hakone.

Departure dates & guideline prices for 2016-17

Tour Code: JAP

01-12 Nov 2016: from £4,995
28 Mar – 08 Apr 2017: from £5,045

Single supplement: from £645
Single supplement: from £745

with Suzanne Perrin
with Suzanne Perrin

Cathay Pacific flight upgrades
Premium Economy from £1,295 return
Business Class from £2,995 return

Regional air connections
From £160 return British Airways London Heathrow to / from: Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester Newcastle, Leeds Bradford or Belfast

The guideline tour prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on two people sharing a twin / double room. To see current prices for all departure dates, including special offers when applicable, please call 020 7808 6786, email info@coxandkings.co.uk or visit coxandkings.co.uk/ra. All prices subject to availability.

Japan Explorer

Duration • 12 Days & 9 Nights

Category • Superior

Basis • Self-guided Private Tour

Price • From £3,395

Tour overview

This 12-day itinerary combines some privately guided excursions with self-guided touring, so you can get the most from your visit while avoiding the high costs often incurred with private travel in Japan. Begin with a guided tour of Tokyo, then travel by rail south to Kyoto to visit the temples and gardens of this renowned city. Visit the nearby historic city of Nara, and Mount Koya, the centre of Shingon Buddhism.

C&K highlights

- See Kyoto's botanical garden and Golden Pavilion
- Visit the holy Mount Koya and stay overnight at a temple
- Overnight in a Japanese ryokan, with a traditional kaiseki meal

Weather

Kyoto

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	6	6	10	17	22	25	29	30	26	20	14	8
B	-2	-1	1	7	12	16	21	22	17	11	5	0
C	78	83	111	134	142	228	214	126	181	111	78	65

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



Kasuga-taisha shrine

Day 1: Fly to Tokyo via Hong Kong

Overnight flight from London to Tokyo, via Hong Kong, with Cathay Pacific. (N)

Day 2: Tokyo

Arrive and transfer to the Park Hotel Tokyo for 2 nights. Evening tickets provided for the Tokyo Skytree. (N)

Day 3: Tokyo

Full day private guided city tour using public transport, visiting the Asakusa Kannon temple, Tokyo National Museum's Japanese gallery, the Imperial East Garden and the tranquil Meiji shrine. (B)

Day 4: To Kyoto

Depart by bullet train to Kyoto. Afternoon to explore the Kyoto botanical garden at your own pace. Stay 1 night at the Gion Yoshima ryokan (or similar), a traditional Japanese inn that serves a multi-course kaiseki evening meal. (B, D)

Day 5: Kyoto

Full-day private guided city tour using public transport. Recommendations include the Ryoanji temple, with its famous zen rock garden, and Kinkakuji temple, also known as the Golden Pavilion. Make your way to the Kyoto Hotel Okura for a 3-night stay. (B)

Day 6: Western Kyoto

At leisure to explore western Kyoto, and visit

the Arashiyama district, including Togetsukyo ('moon crossing bridge') and the Sagano bamboo grove. (B)

Day 7: Nara

Take an express train to the historic city of Nara with your private guide for a tour of Nara Park, visiting the Todaiji temple and Kasuga-taisha shrine. (B)

Day 8: To Mount Koya

Take the train to Mount Koya via Osaka. Stay 2 nights at one of the larger temples, with the chance to learn more about monastic life and join the resident monks for morning prayers. (B, D)

Day 9: Explore Mount Koya

Explore Mount Koya with Ms Noriko Matsuyama, a licensed English-speaking guide with more than 20 years' experience guiding in the area. Visit the atmospheric Okunoin cemetery and the Kongabu-ji temple. (B, D)

Day 10: Train to Osaka

Take an express train to Kyoto and then continue to Osaka. Overnight at the Osaka Marriott Miyako Hotel. (B)

Day 11: Fly to London via Hong Kong

Transfer to Osaka Kansai airport and fly to London, via Hong Kong. (B)



Kinkakuji temple, Kyoto

Day 12: Arrive London

Early morning arrival in London. (N)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Locally escorted & self-guided tour: This tour is led in certain destinations en route by a local tour escort, while in others it is self-guided.

Superior tour: Based in 4-star hotel accommodation in Tokyo, Kyoto, Nara and Osaka. Please note that in Japan hotel room sizes are smaller than in Europe. For more

information on staying in ryokans and shukubo (temple lodgings), please see page 44-45.

Tailor-made travel: For a price quote based on alternative accommodation standards or flight options, or to tailor this itinerary, please call 020 7808 6786 or email info@coxandkings.co.uk.

Please note that tailor-made travel in Japan is unlike travel in any other Far East country due to the prohibitively high costs of vehicle hire, drivers and guides. This means that engaging the services of a private guide and driver on a tailor-made journey is not always feasible and, as a result, sightseeing and travel between cities may involve public transport or shared services that are not exclusive to Cox & Kings.

Furthermore, as English is not always spoken in areas away from the main tourist destinations, a degree of independence and self-guiding may be required.

A comprehensive information pack is provided before departure, with transport instructions and bilingual timetables, hotel addresses and maps, and a guide for each destination covering a wide range of topics from eating out to enjoying a hot-spring bath.

Guideline prices

Low season from £3,395
High season from £3,595

Japan Hotel Collection

Tokyo • Hakone National Park



Exceptional

The Mandarin Oriental, Tokyo

The Mandarin Oriental is an elegantly designed hotel occupying the top nine floors of Nihonbashi Mitsui Tower, offering stunning views over the Tokyo city skyline. All rooms are luxuriously appointed and tastefully decorated, blending futuristic design with a touch of Japanese style. The hotel also holds special events, such as cocktail evenings and helicopter tours. The hotel restaurants are world class and some of the best in the country.

Features:

178 rooms; 10 bars & restaurants including a Michelin-starred restaurant.



Luxury

Hyatt Regency Tokyo

The Hyatt Regency Tokyo is located in Shinjuku, a thriving business, shopping and entertainment district. It is an ideal base for exploring Tokyo's diversity including Shinjuku Imperial Gardens, Meiji shrine and the fashionable Shibuya ward. The interior design of the hotel is modern and restrained, making for a chic and calming ambiance. Rooms are available in 17 different categories. Indulge in fine dining at the Michelin-starred Cuisine Michel Troisgros.

Features:

744 rooms; 5 restaurants including a Michelin-starred restaurant; spa.



Luxury

Park Hyatt Tokyo

Located in Shinjuku district and occupying the top 14 floors of Shinjuku Park Tower, Park Hyatt Tokyo hotel is an elegant oasis of calm overlooking Tokyo and the Kanto plain, all the way to Mount Fuji. It is located close to Shinjuku station, a major transportation hub. The hotel's spacious guestrooms have an understated modern decor featuring subtle hues of green marble and granite. The spa and pool enjoy some of the best panoramic views in the city.

Features:

177 rooms; 3 restaurants; jazz bar; cocktail bar; pastry boutique; spa; pool.



Luxury

Andaz Tokyo Toranomon Hills, Tokyo

The Andaz Tokyo Toranomon Hills is located in the Toranomon business district, near the Shinbashi and Ginza areas of Tokyo. Rooms and suites have been designed to reflect the Japanese love of natural materials and textures, with features such as washi paper and natural woods. They are also spacious for Tokyo, with a minimum of 50 sq metres of floor space. The hotel's swimming pool overlooks the Imperial Palace.

Features:

164 rooms; 3 restaurants; rooftop bar; spa; swimming pool.



Luxury

The Tokyo Station Hotel, Tokyo

First opened in 1915, the first incarnation of the Tokyo Station Hotel was damaged in the Great Kanto earthquake of 1923 and, later, in the second world war. After extensive renovation the hotel reopened in October 2012. The hotel is part of the exemplary station building, with views overlooking the Imperial Palace gardens or the reliefs on the cupola dome ceiling of Tokyo Station, as well as the station itself.

Features:

150 rooms; 2 restaurants; 3 bars; spa.



Superior

The Fujiya Hotel, Hakone National Park

Since opening its doors in 1878, the Fujiya Hotel has become world-renowned as one of Japan's classic resort hotels, introducing Japanese culture and traditions to its guests. Consisting of five traditional Japanese houses, it features rooms that combine classical interior design and antique furnishings with a comfortable ambiance. The Miyanoshita hot spring provides Hakone's natural hot spring water to all rooms.

Features:

146 rooms; 2 restaurants; patisserie; hot springs; ornamental garden.

Kyoto • Osaka • Kanazawa

**The Hyatt Regency Kyoto**

This elegant hotel is located in the historic area of Higashiyama Shichijo. Rooms combine traditional Japanese design with modern luxuries, while the larger suites have high ceilings and a separate tatami living room. The hotel's concierge team is on hand to assist with all your travel requests, and can organise tours in Kyoto and the surrounding area. The Hyatt's Japanese restaurant, Touzan, offers a range of light and healthy dishes using seasonal and local produce.

Features:

189 rooms & suites; 4 restaurants; patisserie; cafe; spa; yoga classes; Japanese garden.

**Ritz-Carlton, Kyoto**

The Ritz-Carlton has a superb location overlooking the Kamo river, and is within walking distance of the downtown shops and restaurants of Kawaramachi as well as the Gion and Pontocho geisha districts. Guestrooms are elegantly decorated and include the Ritz-Carlton's signature 600-thread count bed linen. A Japanese aesthetic features throughout the hotel with bonsai and original Japanese artworks decorating each room.

Features:

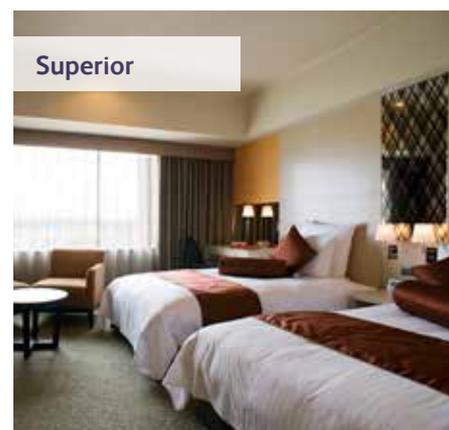
134 rooms; 4 restaurants; bar; patisserie; spa.

**Osaka Marriott Miyako Hotel, Osaka**

The stylish and contemporary Osaka Marriott Miyako Hotel occupies floors 38-57 of the 60-floor cultural complex, Abeno Harukas. The open-air outdoor plaza atrium on the 58th floor and the 60th floor has a 360-degree glass-enclosed observation deck to gain the best views of the city, Osaka Bay and the Ikoma mountains. The hotel's contemporary rooms also have good views and modern amenities.

Features:

296 rooms & suites; top-floor teppanyaki restaurant; cocktail bar.

**Crowne Plaza ANA Kanazawa**

Set in central Kanazawa next to the JR train station and the Ishikawa concert hall, the Crowne Plaza ANA Kanazawa is an ideal base to explore the city. Among the dining options is the Unkai restaurant, which serves wagyu steaks, is set on tatami mats and looks out over the manicured garden. From the 19th-floor Kaga teppanyaki restaurant there are views out to the Sea of Japan.

Features:

249 rooms; 4 restaurants; cafe; lounge bar; outdoor terrace.

Ryokans of Japan

Kyoto • Hakone National Park • Kyoto • Miyajima Island • Takayama

The origins of the ryokan, a traditional Japanese inn, can be traced back to the Nara period (710-784AD) as rest houses for travellers, with a tradition for good food and hospitality that continues today. Guestrooms are usually simply decorated, featuring tatami straw mats on which futon bedding is laid out in the evening, and a low table where a set dinner is normally served. This dinner is called kaiseki and is often a highlight of a ryokan stay, consisting of between six and 15 seasonal dishes. Ryokans often feature onsen (hot spring) facilities with public and, occasionally, private hot spring baths.

Cox & Kings recommends a stay at a ryokan to experience the essence of ancient Japanese culture. Here is a sample of our favourites.



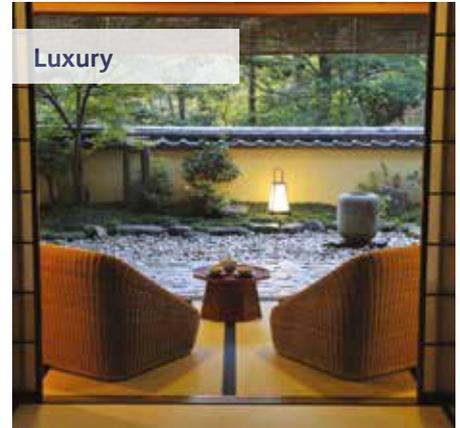
Superior

Tawaraya Ryokan, Kyoto

Operating for 300 years, Tawaraya is Kyoto's oldest ryokan, and ideally located for exploring the city's sites. The impressive guestbook includes names such as Marlon Brando and Alfred Hitchcock. Each room is decorated with ikebana flower arrangements and antiques. Guests can sample Japanese tea followed by an elaborate kaiseki dinner, use the natural onsen, or perhaps pay a visit to the inn's library, through the unforgettable dwarf-sized door.

Features:

Natural hot springs; traditional wooden baths; private gardens.



Luxury

Gora Kadan, Hakone National Park

Gora Kadan, a member of the Relais & Chateaux collection, is located in the heart of the Fuji-Hakone National Park, an area known for its beauty and natural hot springs. A traditional Japanese ryokan, designed to blend in with the nearby mountains, it combines Japanese tradition and impeccable service with modern elements. The mineral-rich hot spring water flows from two wells that feed the open-air baths.

Features:

Relais & Chateaux property; open-air onsen; swimming pool; gym; sauna.



Exceptional

Hoshinoya Kyoto

Reached by private boat, Hoshinoya Kyoto is an exclusive, country retreat in Kyoto with a picturesque location on the banks of the Hozugawa river. The Hoshinoya combines a traditional Japanese ryokan with the latest 21st-century architecture, with rooms furnished in a contemporary Japanese style including features such as hand-blocked wallpaper, sliding glass doors and picture windows.

Features:

Boat cruise excursions; spa; gardens; lounge.



Superior

Iwaso Ryokan, Miyajima Island

With a wonderful setting next to a stream in the woodlands of Momijidani Park, the natural architecture and peace of Iwaso Ryokan complements the tranquility of Miyajima island. Built in 1893 in the miya-daiku style by the same craftsmen who built Japanese shrines, there are 42 Japanese-style rooms in three different buildings, a shared onsen, and views across the islands from the top floor balconies.

Features:

42 rooms; shared onsen; island views.



Good Standard

Ryokan Hanaougi Bettei Iiyama, Takayama

The Ryokan Hanaougi Bettei Iiyama is located just a short taxi ride from Takayama train station. Built using zelkova wood, this traditional inn offers hot spring onsen baths and meals using delicious local ingredients from this mountain region. The beautiful Japanese-style en suite maisonette rooms are equipped with their own outdoor hot spring baths.

Features:

Maisonette rooms with private onsen; kaiseki meal including Hida beef.

Unique Lodgings

Okinawa • Naoshima Island • Mount Koya • Tokyo and throughout Japan

Exceptional



Hoshinoya Okinawa

Hoshinoya is one of the most exclusive accommodation names in Japan. The Hoshinoya Okinawa is a complex of luxury villas on the island of Taketomi, which combine traditional Okinawan architecture, such as red-tiled roofs and stone walls, with stylish modern interiors. With unspoilt beaches a short walk away, and access to pristine coral reefs, Hoshinoya Okinawa is a true luxury getaway experience.

Features:

48 villas; restaurant; pool; spa; nightly local music performances.

Superior



Benesse House, Naoshima Island

Benesse House is located on Naoshima island in the Seto Inland Sea, the waters east of Honshu. Part of the larger Benesse Art site complex, the Benesse House hotel incorporates a museum and a hotel, designed by renowned Japanese architect Tadao Ando. Accommodation is set within four buildings, named Museum, Oval, Park, and Beach, each providing an emphasis on a different aspect of the hotel. All rooms have sea views.

Features:

Art museum; restaurant; cafe; spa; art shop.

Simple



Temple lodgings (Shukubo), Mount Koya

Located in Wakayama prefecture and easily reached from Osaka or Kyoto, Mount Koya is home to more than 100 monasteries surrounding the head temple of Kongobuji. Many of these temples offer lodgings, and staying overnight allows you to rise early, avoid the crowds, and join the monks at morning prayers. Rooms and the food provided are basic, but a stay is a memorable experience.

Features:

Meditation halls; onsen; tea rooms.

Exceptional



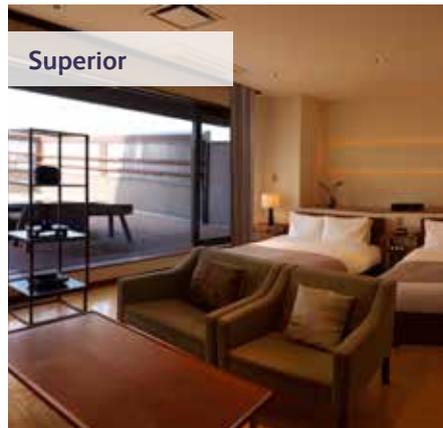
Aman Tokyo

Aman Tokyo occupies the top six floors of the Otemachi Tower in the prestigious Otemachi financial district. A warm and exclusive sanctuary, Aman Tokyo draws its design inspiration from traditional Japanese residential structures, with classic Japanese materials such as timber, washi paper and stone blended with modern technology. The cafe here is the first in Tokyo to serve fresh seasonal sake.

Features:

Views of the Imperial Palace gardens; spa; restaurant; wine cellar; yoga & pilates studio.

Superior



Hotel Claska, Tokyo

Hotel Claska is located in Tokyo's trendy Meguro district, an area away from traditional sightseeing spots. It offers an authentic slice of Tokyo city life where young Tokyoites live and work. Hotel Claska's design concept blends the building's original 1960s fixtures with cutting-edge fashion. The 20 guestrooms are all individually designed by four different architects using materials from across Asia to create innovative spaces.

Features:

Art gallery; roof terrace; restaurant; lobby lounge; bookshop.

Basic



Minshuku, found throughout Japan

Minshuku are family-operated bed and breakfast accommodation. They offer visitors a superb opportunity to get away from the tourists, meet local families and experience traditional Japanese lifestyle. Minshuku are typically located around tourist areas such as hot springs, ski resorts and in the mountains, such as in the Kiso valley. They are also often found in small rural towns or by the sea.

Features:

Traditional Japanese hospitality; authentic cuisine; charming locations.



Taiwan, Mongolia & Korea

Group tours • Tailor-made travel •
Rail journeys



Edging China's expansive borders are the countries of Taiwan, Mongolia, North and South Korea, each with a unique culture and scenery, yet all offering an off-the-beaten-track experience

Taiwan is a relatively unexplored treasure with a tremendous diversity for a small island. Explore cosmopolitan cities and breathtaking scenery, experience exotic cultures and meet with hospitable people. Taiwan also has a fascinating history and delicious food due to its many cultural influences.

Mongolia is for the more adventurous. One of the world's last true wilderness destinations, the country offers visitors stunning desert, mountain and grassland steppe scenery, with the chance to learn about its unique nomadic culture.

North Korea is shrouded in mystery. Under self-imposed isolation since the end of the Korean war in 1953 and where visitor numbers are strictly controlled, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see and experience one of the most unfamiliar countries in the world.

South Korea, or 'Land of the Morning Calm', is a beautiful peninsula littered with palaces, pagodas, fortresses, forests, hills and rivers. The mountainous interior features several dozen national parks, while the exceptional coastline is dotted with more than 3,000 islands, most of which are uninhabited.

Discover Taiwan, Mongolia & Korea

48	Taiwan
50	Mongolia
52	North Korea
53	South Korea

Small group & private tours

54	Taiwan: The Beautiful Island • Group or private
56	Mongolia: Land of Blue Sky • Group or private

Inspired to venture further afield? Browse our website to discover additional destinations, places to stay and itineraries; or speak to our Taiwan, Mongolia & Korea experts.



020 7808 6786



info@coxandkings.co.uk



coxandkings.co.uk

Image left: Tower of Dragon & Tiger, Kaohsiung

Discover Taiwan

Taipei

National Palace Museum • Variety of cuisine and cooking styles

Taiwan's capital, Taipei, is a vibrant blend of traditional culture and cosmopolitan life. As the political, economic, educational and recreational centre of the country, the city is home to a large number of significant cultural sights. More modern cultural focal points in the city include the National Palace Museum, which houses hundreds of thousands of Chinese antiques and art works, and the Taipei 101 Tower, one of the tallest buildings in the world.



Luermen Matsu Temple, Tainan City

Taroko National Park

Visit the stunning Taroko gorge • Scenic mountain hiking trails

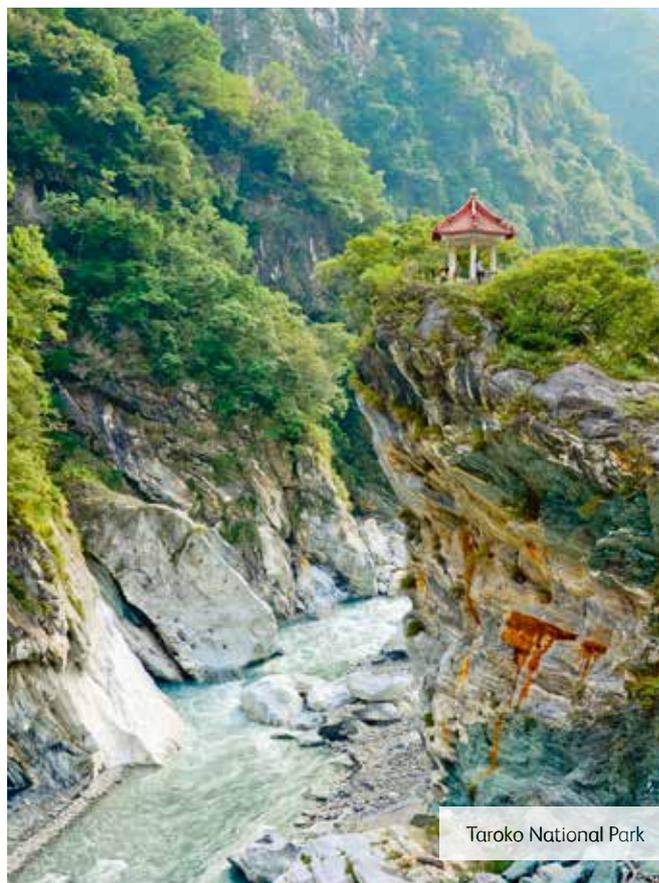
Situated in the north-east of Taiwan, the Taroko National Park covers an area of more than 92,000 hectares of the Central Mountain Range. Visitors can enjoy landscapes of soaring mountains and steep gorges, with many peaks towering above 3,000 metres. Highlights include the spectacular Taroko gorge and the Liwu river, which can be seen from the central cross-island highway. There are also a number of rewarding day hikes in the park: the Taroko Gorge Trail follows the river's course, visiting the Eternal Spring shrine, Swallow Grotto and the Siangde temple, or the more demanding Shakadang Trail, which is built along the river cliff so walkers can observe the rock formations and numerous plants along the way.



Tainan

Taiwan's oldest city • Ancient temples and shrines

Tainan is Taiwan's oldest city, with a long history involving the Dutch, Japanese and Chinese, who left the city with many ancient relics to explore, some over 300 years old. Tainan has always maintained a rich tradition of arts and is also home to some of the finest examples of Taiwanese architecture, such as the Chinese styled Chihkan Towers, and the Confucius Temple. Best explored on foot, wander through the narrow lanes to discover courtyards, walled gardens, chic cafes and tranquil teahouses, and stroll along Shennong Street (or Beishi Street), lined with well-preserved historic buildings that are used as small shops, bars, art galleries and private houses.



Taroko National Park

Lyudao (Green Island)

Beautiful volcanic scenery • Natural saltwater hot springs of Jhaorih

Lyudao, also known as Green Island, is a small volcanic island located in the Pacific Ocean, 33km east of Taitung. It can easily be reached by a short 12-minute flight from Taitung, making it an ideal day trip. Green Island was a place of exile for political prisoners during the White Terror period of Kuomintang single-party rule. The island offers some of Taiwan's most beautiful coastal scenery, created by past volcanic activity, as well as lush inland tropical vegetation. One of the island's highlights is the Jhaorih hot spring, one of only two natural saltwater hot springs in the world. Snorkelling is a great activity here due to the variety of colourful marine life and coral.



Lyudao

Rail Travel in Taiwan

The history of rail travel in Taiwan dates back to 1887, to the declining years of the Qing dynasty. The railways were later expanded by the Japanese occupiers in the 19th century. Today, a modern rail system links most large towns and cities, and a new high-speed train operates from north to south between Taipei and Kaohsiung. In places, old stations and track sections remain.

Trains are generally comfortable and air conditioned, providing an excellent way to enjoy the mountain scenery, striking coastline and magnificent countryside.

Scenic train routes: Of particular interest are the Neivan line, which passes Hakka temples; the Pingsi line, with views of crashing waterfalls and idyllic countryside; and the Jiji line, passing spectacular mountains and quaint villages. All three lines offer a special tourist ticket, which allows travellers to get on and off wherever they like. The East Coast Trunk Line System links Yilan, Hualien, and Taitung along the coast, with the high mountains on one side and the great expanse of the Pacific Ocean on the other. Along the way there are views across the Lanyang plain, the North-East Coast National Scenic Area, the East Rift Valley National Scenic Area and Taroko National Park.

Penghu Islands

Explore the numerous temples • Snorkel among beautiful coral reefs

The beautiful Penghu islands lie off the western coast of Taiwan in the Taiwan Strait. The sprawling archipelago consists of 90 small islands and islets, spanning 60km north to south and 40km east to west. The largest and most populated islands are Penghu, Baisha and Si, which are all connected by bridges. Penghu is the main entry point for tourists, and can be accessed by boat or aeroplane from mainland Taiwan. Snorkelling is a popular activity due to the amazing coral reefs and incredible marine life found here, and white sandy beaches are in abundance. The chain of islands contains more than 165 temples and sites – among the highest number in Taiwan.



Penghu islands

The Taiwan Lantern Festival

The Taiwan Lantern Festival is an annual event held on the fifteenth day of the lunar calendar, which in 2016 is 22 February. The festival is celebrated in different ways throughout the country: in Pingxi district thousands of lanterns are lit and float off into the sky; in Yanshui district firecrackers are set off in the Wumiao temple; and in Tainan there is a Yanshui fireworks display ('beehive of fireworks'), held to ward off evil and disease from the town.



Discover Mongolia

Ulan Bator

Cultural centre of Mongolia • Soviet history

The capital of Mongolia is set in a green valley fringed with mountains, with a compact centre set around Chinggis Square. Previously a nomadic settlement in keeping with Mongolian lifestyle, the city's current location was founded in 1778 and later became known as Ulan Bator ('Red Hero') when it came under Soviet control in 1924.

The Soviet influence is still apparent in the apartment blocks, power stations and factories on the outskirts. Places of interest include the Zanabazar Museum of Fine Arts, Gandan monastery and the National History Museum. Zaisan Memorial, in honour of Soviet soldiers killed in the second world war, stands high in the hills above town and is worth a visit for views over the city and the landscape beyond.



The Gobi Desert

Stunning natural landscapes • Rare wildlife and birds

The Gobi Gurvansaikhan National Park in southern Mongolia is where the Gobi desert truly begins. Discover not only the classic landscapes of sand dunes and red cliffs, but also green valleys, steep mountains, nomadic herds and wildlife.

There are many sites of interest. Yol valley, known locally as Yolyn Am and often also called Eagle or Vulture Valley, is named after the magnificent lammergeiers (bearded vultures) sometimes seen here. The scenery is superb, with steep cliffs, high mountains and green hillsides. The sand dunes of Khongoryn Els, located on the northern slopes of the Sevre and Zuulun mountains, stretch for 180km and are around 20 metres high in places, seeming to appear out of nowhere.

Lake Khövsgöl

Boat trips and lakeside walks • Tribal culture near Murun

Khövsgöl is a huge lake in the north of Mongolia and close to the border with Russia, reached by a 1.5-hour flight from Ulan Bator to Murun town, then a 2.5-hour drive. Known as the 'dark-blue pearl of Mongolia' for its deep-blue waters, the lake is 136km long and 262 metres deep in places, and is thought to hold 1% of the world's freshwater supply.

Using a ger camp as a base, the surrounding area is best explored on foot, where rare medicinal herbs and wildflowers can be found in nearby meadows, or boat trips and horse rides can be arranged. Scattered around the lake are small ger settlements, home to the ethnic minority groups of the Buryat, Darkhat and Tsataan (reindeer herders).

SAMPLE JOURNEY

Spirit of Mongolia

12 Days & 10 Nights from £4,195

Using domestic flights to make the most of your time, this itinerary has the added highlight of staying in the Three Camel Lodge in the Gobi desert (see page 51).

Day 1: Fly to Ulan Bator via Seoul

Evening flight from London to Ulan Bator with Korean Air, via Seoul. (N)

Day 2: Ulan Bator

Arrive in Ulan Bator and stay at the Kempinski Hotel Khan Palace or the Shangri-La Hotel, Ulan Bator for 2 nights. (N)

Day 3: Ulan Bator

Visit the Gandan monastery, the National Museum, Chinggis Square and the Winter Palace of the Bogd Khan. Evening traditional music performance. (B, L, D)

Day 4: To Gurvanbulag

Travel east to the Gurvanbulag Community

Ger Camp to gain an insight into the nomadic lifestyle. Stay 2 nights in a ger. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Gurvanbulag

Spend the day with the nomads and watch them catch horses using an *uurga* – a traditional wooden lasso. (B, L, D)

Day 6: To Ulan Bator

Return via the Khustain Nuruu National Park, the home of the takhi (Przewalski's horse). Continue to the Kempinski Hotel Khan Palace for a 1-night stay. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Fly to the Gobi desert

Fly south to Dalanzadgad, and drive to the Gobi Gurvansaikhan National Park. Stay at the Three Camel Lodge for 3 nights. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Eagle (Yol) valley

Continue to Eagle valley. Visit the Gobi glacier en route (subject to environmental conditions). (B, L, D)

Day 9: The Flaming Cliffs

Drive north to an area known as Bayanzag, famous for its red cliffs of sandstone rock, and Moltsoy Els, one of the few regions of the Gobi desert covered by large sand dunes. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Fly to Ulan Bator

Drive to Dalanzadgad, and fly back to Ulan Bator. Transfer to the Kempinski Hotel Khan Palace for a 1-night stay. (B, L, D)

Day 11: Fly to Seoul

Late evening flight to Seoul. Overnight at the airport transit hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 12: Fly to London

Fly to London. (B)

Guideline Prices:

Low season from £4,195

High season from £4,995

Tailored travel

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Sheep herder, Mongolia

Roy Chapman Andrews, the inspiration for Indiana Jones



Roy Chapman Andrews was an American paleontologist and adventurer, whose adventures and exploits in the name of archaeology are said to have served as inspiration for Steven Spielberg's character, Indiana Jones. One of his most famous discoveries was the Flaming Cliffs, towers of red-orange sandstone that glow brilliantly at sunrise and sunset. Discovered in 1922, a huge number of fossilised dinosaur bones and eggs were found here, and to the trained eye the area is still rich in fossils. Paleontological expeditions continue to make significant discoveries at this site.

Staying in a Ger Camp

Ger is the Mongolian word for a yurt, the portable, felt-covered, wooden-framed tents used by nomads in the steppes of Central Asia. Staying in a ger offers a fascinating opportunity to see, experience and learn about nomadic culture. Facilities are basic, with composting lavatories, hygienic hand washers and shower tents that use water heated by solar panels. It is a unique experience and the only way to truly appreciate the natural splendour and peace of the Mongolian steppe.

Gurvanbulag Community Ger Camp

Our favourite ger experience in Mongolia, the Gurvanbulag Community Ger Camp is run by a trained team selected from local community members. Lying 290km west of Ulan Bator, the camp offers the chance to learn some of the skills the nomads use every day, such as tying a halter, hobbling a horse and saddling horses for riding, and to watch and participate in the making of dairy products (late June onwards). Watch how the local nomads catch horses using an *uurga* – a traditional lasso-like tool consisting of a long pole with a noose at the end. Dinner here is often a *khorkhog*, a Mongolian barbecue of meat grilled with hot stones. For the brave there is the chance to sample *airag* (fermented mares' milk).



Bactrian camel, Gobi desert

The Three Camel Lodge

For those who want to experience the Mongolian wilderness but prefer more modern comforts, the Three Camel Lodge is an ideal place to stay. Built in the heart of the Gobi desert, the lodge offers 20 de luxe ger tents and traditional hospitality in a superb natural setting. Many staff members were raised in the Gobi, and all are happy to share their love and knowledge of their homeland.

Ger tents utilise the traditional latticed wood structure, but include a private bathroom with toilet and sink, a king-size bed and amenities such as felt slippers, Mongolian-styled bathrobes and l'Occitane toiletries. Upgrades are available to gers with private showers. Each has a southward-facing door in the nomadic Mongolian tradition, providing an unobstructed view of the desert and the Gobi-Altai mountains. Facilities include a dining room, the Thirsty Camel bar, a gift shop, laundry service and small spa staffed by professionally trained massage therapists.



The Three Camel Lodge

Discover North Korea

Travelling in North Korea

A popular way to travel in North Korea is on a non-exclusive group tour operated by our local partner, joining a group of like-minded travellers from around the world with a range of itineraries available. Alternatively, travel on your own private tour. The itinerary featured is an example of what can be arranged, but please speak to one of our consultants for more details on what is available.

There is a lack of infrastructure in North Korea and accommodation is often basic. Tours can involve driving over long distances, and possibly long walks and climbing steps that requires a good level of fitness.

North Korea requires a strict conduct of behaviour and there are rules that must be adhered to at all times. Travel notes with details of behaviour expected from visitors will be provided.



SAMPLE JOURNEY

North Korea Explorer

9 Days & 8 Nights from £2,995

Day 1: To Pyongyang

On arrival in Pyongyang, transfer to the Koryo Hotel for 2 nights. Dinner at the Koryo Hotel revolving restaurant. (B, D)

Day 2: Pyongyang

This morning, visit the Fountain Park and Mansudae Grand Monument, with enormous statues of Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong-il. Afternoon tour of Moranbong Park and a walking tour of the city. (B, L, D)

Day 3: To Kaesong

In the morning, visit the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun (Kim Il Sung mausoleum), the Revolutionary Martyrs' Cemetery and the Foreign Language Bookshop. This afternoon, take an excursion to Mangyongdae Native House, where Kim Il Sung was born, Mangyongdae fun fair, Taedong department store, and the local micro-brewery. Afterwards, drive south to Kaesong on the border with South Korea, and stay overnight at Minsok Hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 4: To Pyongyang via Demilitarized Zone

This morning, take a tour of Panmunjom and the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), the Koryo Museum, and the Tomb of King Kongmin. In the afternoon, return to Pyongyang and visit the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum and the War Victory Monuments. Stay for 1 night at the Koryo Hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 5: To Lake Sijung via Wonsan

Morning drive to the port city and naval base of Wonsan and visit Wonsan city docks, Central Square and a local co-operative farm. Continue to Lake Sijung and stay at Lake Sijung Hotel for 1 night. (B, L, D)

Day 6: To Wonsan

In the morning, take a light trekking excursion to Mount Kumgang. This afternoon, visit Samil lagoon and return to Wonsan. Take a tour of the old railway station and Oriental Park, followed by a walk along the pier. Stay 1 night at the Dongmyong Hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 7: To Pyongyang via Ulim waterfalls

Morning drive back to Pyongyang via Ulim waterfalls. Afternoon visit to the Military Exhibition Centre and Mansudae Art Studio. End

the day with a walk along the Taedong river. Stay at the Koryo Hotel for 2 nights. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Pyongyang

This morning, travel on the Pyongyang metro to Kim Il Sung Square and the Arch of Triumph, built to commemorate the Korean resistance against Japan from 1925 to 1945. End the day on Mount Ryonggak with a short walk to a viewpoint for an impressive panorama of Pyongyang. (B, L, D)

Day 9: To Beijing

This morning, depart from Pyongyang to Beijing, either by overnight train or by plane. (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from £2,995

High season from £3,295

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Discover South Korea

Seoul

Energetic city with nightlife and culture • A variety of cuisine

Seoul bears the distinct stamp of the 21st century, with 12-lane freeways and steel and glass skyscrapers, yet hidden away are ancient temples spared destruction during the Korean war. North of the city centre, the Palace Quarter is home to 600 years of history and culture of the Joseon dynasty, including the Royal Palaces and the Bukchon Hanok village. Further south towards the Han river are the Itaewon and Insadong districts with many restaurants, while across the river is fashionable Gangnam, notable for high-end shopping, cafes, and entertainment.

Gyeongju

Cultural heart of South Korea • Ancient Silla history

Gyeongju is a beautiful city with a cultural history of over 2,000 years and is known as a 'museum without walls'. It was capital of the ancient Silla kingdom for a thousand years from around 50BC, and the city is dotted with ancient buildings, temples, and the large tombs of the Silla monarchs. In the last 30 years many of the historical sites have been restored and all of the new construction has been kept in the traditional style. A man-made lake is located below the old fortress of Myonhwal-san, east of Gyeongju.



Gyeongbokgung Palace, Seoul



Bulguksa temple, Gyeongju

The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) & Panmunjom

Unique history • Views into North Korea

The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), a 4-kilometre-wide and 248-kilometre-long division of land between north and south, is the most heavily fortified border in the world. The Dora Observatory allows visitors to see North Korean military personnel as well as great views of Kaesong, Geumgangsang Diamond Mountains and the famous propaganda village, Gijeong-dong. Panmunjom is on the northern side of the Military Demarcation Line, and is the only place within the DMZ that visitors are allowed to visit. It was here that the 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement was signed.

SAMPLE JOURNEY

Wonders of South Korea

10 Days & 8 Nights from £2,995

Visit Seoul, the mountains, waterfalls and temples of Songnisan National Park, the ancient capital of Gyeongju, and the port town of Busan.

Day 1: Fly to Seoul

Fly to Seoul with British Airways. (N)

Day 2: Seoul

Arrive and transfer to the Grand Ambassador Seoul for 3 nights. (N)

Day 3: Seoul

Full-day tour of Seoul, including Gyeongbok Palace, the Folklore Museum, the Blue House, Namdaemun market, Seoul Tower and the hanok traditional village. (B, L)

Day 4: Panmunjom & DMZ

Optional full-day tour of Panmunjom and the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ), visiting the Dora

Observatory, Panmunjom – also known as 'the Truce Village' where the 1953 Armistice Agreement was signed – and the Peace Talks House. (B)

Day 5: To Songnisan

Leave Seoul for Songnisan National Park and visit Beopjusa temple. Stay overnight at Lake Hills Hotel. (B, L)

Day 6: To Gyeongju

Morning drive to Gyeongju. In the afternoon, visit Cheomseongdae astronomical observatory, Royal Tumuli Park and the National Museum. Stay at Hotel Hyundai Gyeongju for 2 nights. (B, L)

Day 7: Gyeongju

Visit the Gwaeneung royal tomb, the Bulguksa temple and the Seogguram grotto, before taking a scenic coastal drive to Guryongpo port. (B, L)

Day 8: To Busan

Morning drive to Busan. Visit Geumjeong mountain, a popular walking area, and discover the Beomeosa temple. Return to the city and explore Jagalchi market, South Korea's largest

seafood market and renowned throughout the country. Visit one of the local restaurants for fresh sashimi or hotpot. Stay overnight at the Westin Chosun Busan. (B, L)

Day 9: To Seoul

Early morning train back to Seoul. Overnight at the Grand Ambassador Seoul. (B)

Day 10: Fly to London

Fly back to London and arrive in the evening. (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £2,995

High season from: £3,595

Tailored travel

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Taiwan: The Beautiful Island

Duration • 11 Days & 9 Nights

Category • Superior

Basis • Group or Private Tour

Price • From £2,695

Tour overview

Early Portuguese sailors named Taiwan *Ilha Formosa*, meaning 'beautiful island', due to the breathtaking scenery, which still impresses modern visitors today. The energetic capital, Taipei, is home to possibly the best collection of Chinese artefacts in the world, while Tainan showcases Taiwanese architecture. The countryside is perhaps the biggest surprise, with deep gorges, snow-capped mountains, hot springs, tea plantations and rugged coastline.

C&K highlights

- Stay at the luxurious Lalu hotel on Sun Moon Lake
- Stay in Fo Guang Shan monastery & join the monks for prayers
- Nature trails in the stunning national parks
- Small group size – maximum 26

Weather

Taipei

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	17	18	20	24	27	30	32	32	30	26	23	19
B	11	11	13	17	20	22	24	24	22	19	16	13
C	105	168	185	163	215	263	196	202	184	122	98	87

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



View over Sun Moon Lake, Taiwan

Day 1: Fly to Taipei via Hong Kong

Fly to Taipei, via Hong Kong, with Cathay Pacific. (N)

Day 2: Taipei

Arrive and transfer to the Landis Hotel for 2 nights. Welcome dinner at a local restaurant. (D)

Day 3: Taipei

Full-day tour of Taipei, including the National Palace Museum, National Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall, Martyrs' Shrine and Longshan temple. Optional evening visit to the Chinese opera. (B, L)

Day 4: To Taroko

Drive to Taroko passing through the hilly tea estates of Yilan, stopping en route to sample some local tea. Stay 2 nights at Silks Place Taroko. (B)

Day 5: Taroko gorge

Morning tour of the remarkable Taroko gorge, visiting the Eternal Spring shrine, Swallow Grotto and the Siangde temple. Optional afternoon walk on the Shakadang trail. (B)

Day 6: To Sun Moon Lake

Drive on the Central Cross-Island Highway to the atmospheric Sun Moon Lake for a 2-night stay at the Lalu hotel. (B)

Day 7: Sun Moon Lake

Short boat excursion on the Sun Moon Lake, then visit the Wenwu temple and Tse-en pagoda. (B)

Day 8: To Alishan

Drive to Alishan Forest Park, one of the most spectacular mountainous regions of Taiwan. Afternoon walk in the Alishan Forest Park. Stay 1 night at Alishan House (or similar). (B, D)

Day 9: To Fo Guang Shan monastery

Optional early morning ride on the Alishan Forest Railway to see the sunrise (weather permitting) from the summit of Mount Alishan. After breakfast, drive to Tainan and visit the Chihkan Towers and the Confucius temple, followed by a walk on Shennong Street. Continue to Fo Guang Shan, the largest Buddhist monastery in south-east Asia. Stay overnight at the monastery guesthouse. (B, D)

Day 10: To Taipei via Kaohsiung

Option to rise early and join the monks for morning prayers, then drive to Kaohsiung city and the village of Meinong, known for its oil-paper umbrellas. Train to Taipei. Stay overnight at the Landis Hotel. (B)

Day 11: Fly to London via Hong Kong

Morning flight to London via Hong Kong with Cathay Pacific. (B)

Extension

Tour + Hong Kong

4 Days & 3 Nights from £755

Hong Kong, enclosed by the Pearl River Delta and South China Sea, is celebrated for its culture, cuisine, shopping and magnificent skyline. But it also holds many surprises, with spectacular rural scenery, the beautiful bays of Sai Kung and many quiet outlying islands.

Day 11: Fly to Hong Kong

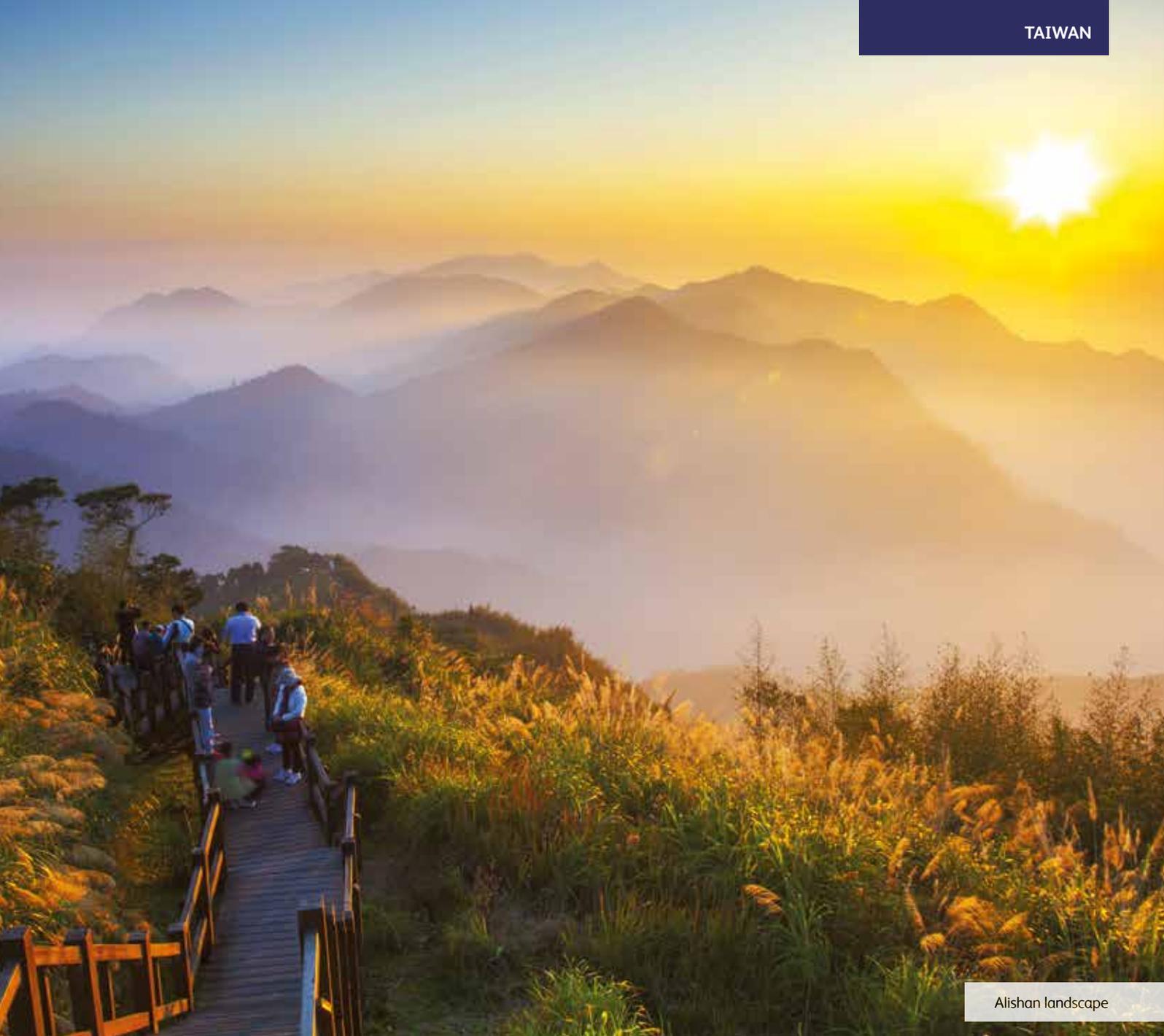
Fly to Hong Kong and transfer to The Royal Pacific Hotel & Towers (please see page 29 for more hotel options) for a 3-night stay. (B)

Day 12: Hong Kong

Morning tour of Hong Kong island. (B)

Day 13: Hong Kong

Day at leisure to explore the city, go shopping or



Alishan landscape

take a day trip to Macau. (B)

Day 14: Fly to London

Transfer to the airport and fly to London.
Evening arrival. (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast,
L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Group tour manager: This tour is fully escorted throughout by a local tour manager from arrival in Taipei.

Superior tour: Typically based in 4- to 5-star accommodation.

Private & tailor-made travel: This itinerary can be taken privately, for which guideline prices are shown. Alternatively, it can be tailored to your exact requirements. Please call 020 7808 6786 or email info@coxandkings.co.uk.

Guideline prices for 2016-17

Tour Code: TWP

Group tour

Low season: from £2,695
Guide price months: May

High season: from £2,850
Guide price months: Mar 2017

Single supplement from £845

Private travel

Low season: from £2,995
Guide price months: Jan – Mar

High season: from £3,395
Guide price months: Dec

Single supplement from £POA

Cathay Pacific flight upgrades

Premium Economy Class: £1,225
Business Class: £2,995

Regional air connections

From £160 return British Airways to / from London Heathrow and Manchester, Aberdeen, Belfast, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle or Leeds Bradford

The guideline tour prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on two people sharing a twin / double room. To see current prices for all departure dates, including special offers when applicable, please call 020 7808 6786, email info@coxandkings.co.uk or visit coxandkings.co.uk. All prices are subject to availability.

Departure dates for 2016-17

Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn
10 Mar 16	21 Mar 16	06 Oct 16	17 Oct 16	09 Mar 17	20 Mar 17
05 May 16	16 May 16	03 Nov 16	14 Nov 16		

Mongolia: Land of Blue Sky

Duration • 16 Days & 14 Nights

Category • Discovery

Basis • Group or Private Tour

Price • From £3,795

Tour overview

Mongolia is a vast country with amazing natural beauty, largely untouched by the modern world. From the Gobi desert to snow-capped mountains and grassy steppes, where wild horses and nomads roam, Mongolia is one of the world's last great wilderness regions. This tour immerses travellers in nomadic culture, staying in gers, learning traditional skills and sampling nomadic foods.

C&K highlights

- Visit nomad communities and stay in traditional ger camps
- Learn Mongolian archery, horse riding and how to erect a ger
- Explore the sand dunes, canyons and mountains of the Gobi desert
- Fossil hunting beneath the dramatic scenery of the Flaming Cliffs
- Small group size – maximum 26 people

Weather

Ulan Bator

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	-16	-12	-3	8	16	21	22	21	15	7	-5	-14
B	-28	-26	-17	-7	1	7	10	8	1	-7	-18	-25
C	3	4	6	15	25	71	86	86	42	15	8	4

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



Day 1: Fly to Ulan Bator via Seoul

Evening flight from London to Ulan Bator with Korean Air, via Seoul. (N)

Day 2: Arrive in Ulan Bator

Arrive in Ulan Bator and stay at the Bayangol Hotel for 1 night. Evening traditional music performance and welcome dinner. (D)

Day 3: To Terej National Park

Travel to Terej National Park and take a short walk to a Buddhist monastery, with the chance to spot some of the 250 bird species recorded here. Throughout the journey in the Mongolian wilderness, accommodation will be in ger camps. (B, L, D)

Day 4: Baga Gazriin Chuluu mountains

Continue south to Gazriin Chuluu, a picturesque mountain in the granite belt of Mongolia. Take lunch at the ger camp, then an afternoon walk in the surrounding area. (B, L, D)

Day 5: To the Gobi desert

Venture into the Gobi desert and the Gurbansaikhan National Park, home to such rare species as the Argali sheep, snow leopards and Siberian ibexes. Here, you will see the striking scenery of the Flaming Cliffs, where many dinosaur fossil discoveries have been made. (B, L, D)

Day 6: To Khongoryn Els sand dunes

Drive to the towering sand dunes of Khongoryn Els, which demonstrate the 'singing' or 'roaring' sands phenomenon when blown by the wind. In the evening, visit a family of camel breeders for an opportunity to try camel riding. (B, L, D)

Day 7: To Eagle valley:

Continue to the Yol valley, a steep-sided canyon also known as Eagle or Vulture valley. Visit the Gobi glacier en route (subject to environmental conditions). (B, L, D)

Day 8: To Ongiin Khiid monastery

Cross the mountains of Ikh Bogdo to Saikhan Ovoo where the mountainside remains of the Ongiin Khiid monastery can still be visited. The monastery was founded in the 17th century, but was destroyed under communist rule. Now it is slowly being rebuilt. (B, L, D)

Day 9: To Karakorum

Established by Genghis Khan in 1220 as the capital of the Mongolian empire, in its heyday Karakorum was a multicultural and cosmopolitan city filled with traders from all over the world and surrounded by huge walls. Little remains today, but visits to the museum and Erdene Zuu monastery are informative. (B, L, D)

Days 10-11: Gurbanbulag nomads camp

Travel to the Gurbanbulag nomad community, and gain an insight into the nomadic lifestyle by watching and participating in various activities. See the making of dairy products, herding of animals and training of untamed horses, try the traditional game of Shagai, and watch horses being caught with an uurga – a traditional wooden lasso. Optional horse riding and ox-cart riding are available. A khorkhog, a Mongolian barbecue of meat grilled with hot stones, and airag, fermented mares milk, can be sampled here. (B, L, D)

Day 12: To Ulan Bator

Return to Ulan Bator. Stay at the Bayangol Hotel for 3 nights. (B, L, D)

Day 13: Nadaam festival opening ceremony

Visit the National Sports Stadium for the festival grand opening ceremony, with traditional music and marching followed by wrestling and archery. Afternoon visit to the Gandan monastery. (B, L, D)

Day 14: Nadaam festival

Watch the horse racing just outside the city, where 200 to 300 riders compete in the races over a distance of 15-35km. Return to the National Stadium for the final rounds of the wrestling competition. (B, L, D)

Day 15: Fly to Seoul

Tour of the Zanabazar Museum of Fine Arts, the National Museum, and Chinggis Square, where a display of Mongolian costumes is on show. Late evening flight to Seoul. (B, L, D)

Day 16: Fly to London

Early morning arrival in Seoul, where you will have use of a room at the transit hotel. In the afternoon, fly to London with Korean Air, arriving later that same day. (N)

Extension

Seoul city break

3 Days & 2 Nights from £745

With an overnight stop in Seoul essential due to flight connections on the return to London, we recommend extending your time here to explore the South Korean capital.

Day 16: Seoul

Early morning arrival in Seoul and transfer to the Grand Ambassador Hotel for 2 nights. (N)

Day 17: Seoul

Full-day tour including Gyeongbok Palace, the Folklore Museum, Namdaemun market and Hanok Traditional Village. (B, L)



Mongolian women on camelback

Day 18: Fly to London

Transfer to the airport and fly to London with Korean Air. (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Group tour manager: This tour is fully escorted throughout by a local tour manager from arrival in Ulan Bator.

Discovery tour: Accommodation is basic and, with the exception of accommodation in Ulan Bator, you will stay in gers – large, traditional heated tents with communal bathrooms. See page 51 for more details. Travelling is over long distances in 4x4s or minivans, sometimes over rough terrain.

Weather: During the Golden Eagle Festival tour in September the weather can be cold, between 5-10C in the day and dipping below 0C at night.

Itinerary: The itinerary featured above is for 29 June departure. The 9 July departure includes the same content but in a different order, visiting the Nadaam festival at the beginning of the tour. The 24 September departure visits the Golden Eagle festival instead of Nadaam – see 'Festival Departures' box, and ask for more details.

Private & tailor-made travel: This itinerary can be taken privately, for which guideline prices are shown. This quote is based on travelling outside the festival periods. For private travel during a festival, or using alternative accommodation standards, flight options, or to tailor this itinerary, please call 020 7808 6786 or email info@coxandkings.co.uk

Festival departures

29 June & 9 July: Nadaam festival

Dating from the Genghis Khan era, the Nadaam festival is a showcase for traditional sporting events and a celebration enjoyed throughout Mongolia from 11 to 13 July.

At the National Stadium in Ulan Bator, nomads compete in wrestling, archery and horsemanship. The 29 June departure will include the colourful opening ceremony and first day of the festival at the end of the tour. On 9 July departure these events will be included at the beginning of the tour.

24 September: Golden Eagle festival

The Golden Eagle festival is a wonderful opportunity to see traditional local life. It is held in Ulgii, a town in the far west of Mongolia near the border with Kazakhstan. Kazakh eagle hunters, known as burkitshi, compete to show off their handling skills and their magnificent birds as they try and catch small mammals such as hares and foxes. Prizes are awarded for exceptional displays of speed, agility and accuracy by the eagles, as well as awards for the best traditional Kazakh dress and for traditional events such as horse racing and archery.

Guideline prices for 2016

Tour Code: MNG

Group tour

Nadaam festival: from £3,795
Guide price months: Jun – Jul

Eagle festival: from £3,995
Guide price months: Sep

Single supplement from £435

Private travel

Low season: from £3,795
Guide price months: May – Jun & Aug

High season: from £4,195
Guide price months: Jul

Single supplement from £POA

Korean Air flight upgrades

Business Class: from £1,595 per person return

Regional air connections

Please speak to your consultant for details

The guideline tour prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on two people sharing a twin / double room. To see current prices for all departure dates, including special offers when applicable, please call 020 7808 6786, email info@coxandkings.co.uk or visit coxandkings.co.uk. All prices are subject to availability.

Departure dates for 2016

Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn
29 Jun	14 Jul	09 Jul	24 Jul	24 Sep	09 Oct



Burma

Group tours • Tailor-made travel •
River cruising



Burma, or Myanmar as it is now known, is one of most fascinating destinations in the Far East, a country relatively new to tourism as a result of decades of isolation imposed by a military dictatorship. It is a culturally rich land with a long history and a diverse ethnic mix. Step back in time to a world where the influence of the western world has not yet made its mark.

Life carries on here as it has done for centuries: in Rangoon (Yangon), the largest city, locals stroll the street in traditional dress; around Inle Lake the fishermen still practise leg-rowing; women continue to walk the teak U Bein bridge with goods balanced atop their heads; and hill tribe minorities continue to exist in the remote villages of Kalaw and beyond. The strong Buddhist roots of the country are visible in the shimmering temples and the wandering, crimson-robed monks. One of the best ways to see local life is by sailing the impressive Irrawaddy and Chindwin rivers, gaining access to villages that are otherwise inaccessible.

Discover Burma

- 60 Rangoon (Yangon) & Mandalay
- 61 Pagan (Bagan), Inle Lake & Maymyo (Pyin Oo Lwin)
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Small group & private tours

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- 68 Burma in Style • Private
- 72 The Irrawaddy in Style • Private
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Places to stay – our suggestions

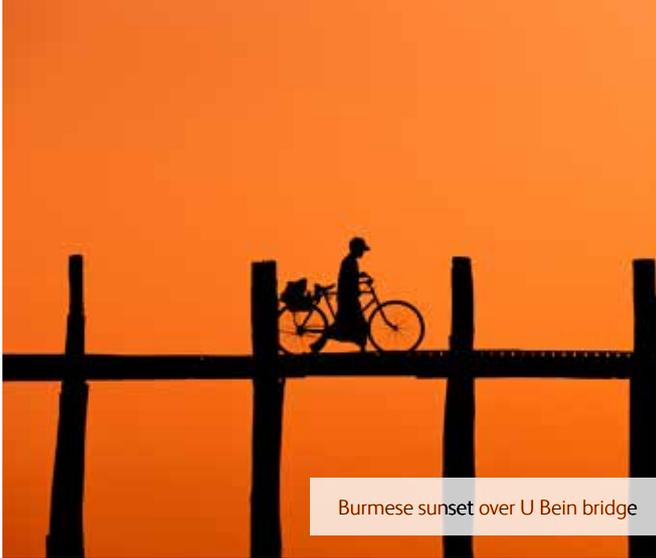
- 76 Burma Hotel Collection

Inspired to venture further afield? Browse our website to discover additional destinations, places to stay and itineraries; or speak to our Burma experts.

-  020 7808 6786
-  info@coxandkings.co.uk
-  coxandkings.co.uk

Image left: Sunrise over temples, Pagan

Discover Burma



Burmese sunset over U Bein bridge



Shwedagon pagoda, Rangoon

Rangoon (Yangon)

Sacred Shwedagon pagoda • British colonial history & architecture

Burma's former capital and its biggest city, Rangoon, became the capital in 1885 when the British completed their conquest of northern Burma. In its early history it was known as Dagon, the district in which the magnificent Shwedagon pagoda is located. The capital was moved to Nay Pyi Taw in central Burma quite unexpectedly in 2005, but Rangoon remains the commercial and diplomatic capital, and is home to some of the country's best hotels and restaurants.

Mandalay

Magnificent palace & fort • Access to Burma's ancient capital cities

Located on a wide bend of the Irrawaddy river, Mandalay is Burma's second biggest city and the last royal capital before the British occupation when the royal family was forced to flee to India. Throughout the colonial era Mandalay was the centre of Burmese culture and Buddhist learning, and there are still many temples and monastic schools in and around the city. The ancient capitals of Inwa (Ava) and Amarapura are a short drive away and provide a glimpse into Burma's majestic past.

Pagan (Bagan)

Temples, pagodas & stupas • Unforgettable sightseeing by hot air balloon

Situated in the dry central plains of Burma on the banks of the Irrawaddy river, Pagan (Bagan) is the capital of many ancient kingdoms in Burma. The area is now a historical site, known as Pagan Archaeological Zone, and is one of Burma's top tourist destinations, with more than 2,000 temples and pagodas covering an area of 67 square km. The temples can be explored by bicycle as the area is flat or, for the most spectacular view, from above in a hot air balloon.



Temples, Pagan

Maymyo (Pyin Oo Lwin)

British colonial heritage • Botanical gardens

Founded by the British in 1896 as a hill town to escape the heat of the plains, Maymyo (May's Town) was named after Colonel May of the 5th Bengal Infantry. It was connected to Mandalay by railway to provide access for the British administration, who built the grand colonial houses, administrative buildings and churches still seen today. The National Kandawgyi Gardens, founded in 1915 by the English botanist Alex Rodgers, encompass 176 hectares of botanic gardens with more than 480 species of flowers, trees and shrubs.

Inle Lake

Boat trips and floating villages • Insight into rural Burma

Scenic Inle Lake in Shan state is famous for its floating gardens, villages and tranquil, rural environment. The main access point is the village of Nyaung Shwe. Located at the north end of the lake, long tail boats operate transfers and sightseeing around the lake from here. The local population consists of various minority ethnic groups, predominantly Intha who are famous for their much-photographed leg-rowers. The area is also of interest for birdwatching, boat tours, and visits to lakeside villages and temples.



Floating village, Inle Lake



Buddha statues, Shwedagon

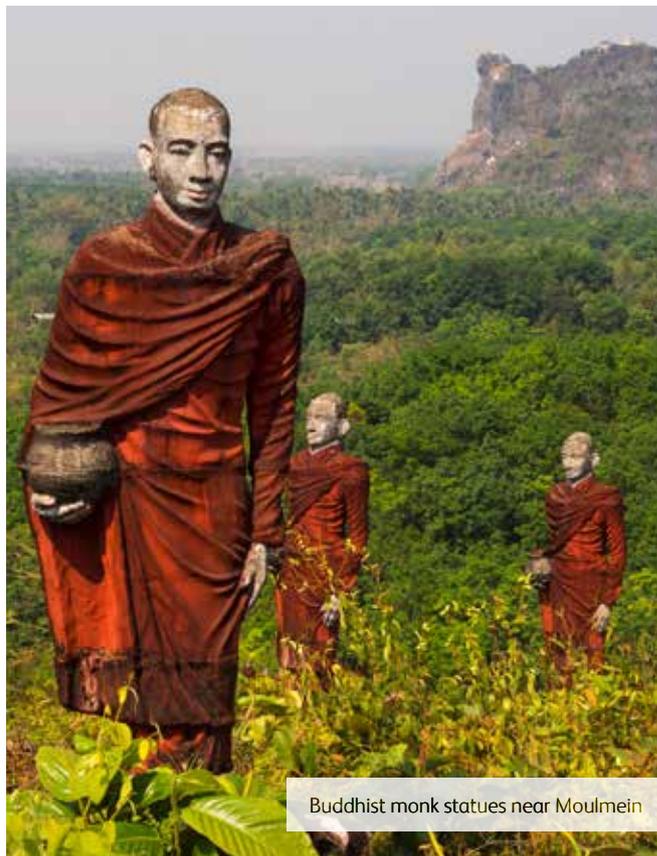
Kalaw

Charming former British hill station • Hill-walking through remote villages

Located between Mandalay and Inle lake, and at an altitude of 1,320 metres, Kalaw was a popular hill station during British rule, offering pleasantly cooler temperatures. Today, it remains a peaceful place to relax as well as an excellent base to explore the surrounding countryside and begin hiking trips. Kalaw's unique mix of ethnic hill tribe minorities with Burmese and Nepalese cultures, as well as an Indian influence which arrived with the British, gives it a quaint and charming atmosphere.



Kalaw



Buddhist monk statues near Moulmein



Ngapali beach

Ngapali Beach

Three-kilometre-long idyllic beach • Picturesque villages & offshore islands

Located in southern Rakhing (Rakhine) state, approximately 7km from Sandoway (Thandwe) airport, Ngapali beach is Burma's best-known beach resort. The beach offers 3km of palm-fringed white sand lapped by the Bay of Bengal's crystal-clear water. Some say Ngapali was named many years ago by an Italian who was reminiscing about his home in Naples. Ngapali beach still retains its fishing community roots and there are a few charming villages as well as some offshore islands that can be explored.

Moulmein

'Little England' with colonial charm & architecture • Mon Culture Museum

Moulmein is the third largest city in Burma and the capital of Mon state. It was once a busy seaport and the administrative capital of British Lower Burma, known as 'Little England'. Today, it is a pleasant and quiet town with tree-lined streets, a charm of its own and a rich history. Colonial architecture can still be found here, along with several brilliantly coloured mosques built decades ago for Indian immigrant workers. Moulmein is also home to the first Baptist church to be established in the country.

Rudyard Kipling in Burma

Rudyard Kipling's famous poem *Mandalay* was written in 1890, and later published for the first time in his collection entitled *Barrack-Room Ballads*. The poem was written after Kipling's unscheduled stop in Moulmein, during his sail home to England from India in 1889. It's unlikely that Kipling actually ever visited Mandalay, but in the poem's opening line Kipling speaks of "the old Moulmein Pagoda", which is thought to be the golden Kyaikthanlan Paya in Moulmein.



Cruising in the Mergui Archipelago

Pristine beaches & coral reefs • Explore a little-known area of Burma

The Mergui archipelago encompasses more than 800 islands off the south-west coast of Burma in the Andaman Sea. Some islands are uninhabited rocky outcrops, while others cover hundreds of square kilometres. Many islands have a thick rainforest covering and coastlines featuring limestone and granite headlands, mangroves and some beautiful deserted beaches. The shores are protected by pristine coral reefs, sheltering a diverse range of marine species and relatively intact ecosystems. The archipelago is home to the sea-dwelling Moken (or 'Mawken'), a minority ethnic group often referred to as the 'sea gypsies'.

As this region currently has very little tourist infrastructure, it is best visited on a luxury cruise departing from Kawthoung (or Kawthaung) in southern Burma, near the border with Thailand. The *SY Meta IV* is a 25-metre luxury yacht with only four cabins, each fully air conditioned with en suite bathrooms and electric toilets. Five-night cruises run from late October until the beginning of May, or the boat can be chartered for up to eight guests. Sail to idyllic beaches, swim among colourful reef fish, and enjoy cocktails back on board, seeing only the occasional fisherman in this remote and untouched area. A second yacht, the *SY Raja Laut*, has also been added to the fleet, a beautiful 100ft classic schooner with space for up to 12 guests. The latest addition is the *MY Drenec*, a comfortable motor yacht available for 3-night group tours.

C&K Recommends...

Rangoon circular railway

Starting out from the central railway station, the Rangoon Circular Railway visits various townships on the outskirts of the city, offering an intriguing insight into everyday local life. A guide will accompany you on the train, explaining more about life in the city. The full circuit encompasses 39 stations, connecting satellite towns and suburban areas over 46km, or you can disembark at the Insein railway station and walk to the market, where numerous stallholders and street vendors sell their wares, with fruits, vegetables and meats being the main items for sale.

Sunrise balloon ride over Pagan

Pagan Archaeological Zone is one of Burma's top attractions and covers an area of 67sq km, with hundreds of temples and pagodas filling the horizon in every direction. Drifting serenely in a balloon over Pagan (Bagan) as the sun rises and seeing its myriad pagodas and temples studding the plains below is one of the most memorable experiences. At dawn, tea and coffee are served while the crew prepare the balloons, and, on landing, you will be served a light champagne breakfast before transferring back to the hotel.

Cycling in Pagan

Cycling is one of the best ways to explore the temples of Pagan and local village life, enabling you to get away from the normal tourist trail and discover the less-visited temples and areas of interest. Riding at an easy pace with a guide, explore colourful local morning markets, lacquerware outlets and wooden handicraft workshops. Pagan's grassy plain, scattered with palm trees, cattle, herds of goats and local farmers, provides a perfect backdrop for photographs and an endless opportunity for meeting people.



Sunset at Pagan

The Golden Land of Burma

Duration • 12 Days & 9 Nights

Category • Superior

Basis • Group or Private Tour

Price • From £2,695

Tour overview

Burma (Myanmar) has a rich cultural heritage and a long, eventful history. This journey visits the highlights of this diverse country, beginning in Mandalay then on to the thousands of pagodas in ancient Pagan (Bagan). Visit beautiful Inle lake, famous for its floating villages and gardens, and the leg-rowers of the Intha tribe, before finishing in the former royal capital of Rangoon (Yangon).

C&K highlights

- Enjoy a sunset cruise on the Irrawaddy river from Pagan
- Sample local wine at the Red Mountain Estate near Inle lake
- See the magnificent Shwedagon pagoda
- Small group size – maximum 26 people

Weather

Rangoon

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	32	35	36	37	33	30	30	30	30	32	32	32
B	18	19	22	24	25	24	24	24	24	24	22	19
C	5	2	6	17	307	567	577	624	381	206	62	7

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



Day 1: Fly to Mandalay via Bangkok

Fly from London to Mandalay, via Bangkok, with Thai Airways. (N)

Day 2: Mandalay

Arrive in Mandalay and transfer to Mandalay Hill Resort for 2 nights. Afternoon visit to Mahamuni pagoda, then on to Amarapura to visit the Mahagandayon monastery, ending with sunset at U Bein bridge. Welcome dinner. (D)

Day 3: Maymyo

Morning visit of Mandalay Palace and its fort, followed by a full-day trip to Maymyo (Pyin Oo Lwin), a former British hill station. Take a horse-drawn carriage to see grand colonial houses, and visit a local market. Lunch is at the Club Terrace in Maymyo, followed by a visit to the National Kandawgyi Gardens. (B, L)

Day 4: Fly to Nyaung U and Pagan

Cross the river to Sagaing Hill to visit the pagodas. Cross back to visit the ancient royal capital of Inwa (Ava) and take a horse-drawn carriage to visit the Bagayar monastery, before flying to Nyaung U. On arrival, transfer to the Aye Yar River View Resort in Pagan (or similar) for 3 nights. (B, L)

Day 5: Pagan temple visits

Optional sunrise balloon ride over Pagan (October to March only. Must be booked in advance). Full-day tour of Pagan, including the Ananda, Dhammayangyi and Htilominlo temples. (B)

Day 6: Pagan temple visits

Full-day tour of Pagan, including Shwezigon pagoda, Lawkananda and Dhammayazika temples. End the day with a sunset cruise on the Irrawaddy river. (B)

Day 7: Fly to Heho and Inle lake

Morning flight to Heho and transfer to Inle lake. In the afternoon, take a tour of the floating

villages, gardens and temples around the lake. Stay 2 nights at the Amata Garden Resort (or similar). (B, L, D)

Day 8: Inle lake

Morning visit to Indein village. Tour the pagoda complex here with its hundreds of stupas. Afterwards, drive into the Shan hills for wine tasting at Red Mountain Estate. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Fly to Rangoon

Morning flight to Rangoon, then visit the Kalaywatawya monastery. Continue to the city via a stop outside Aung San Suu Kyi's gated home, and on to the Chatrium Hotel (or similar) for a 2-night stay. (B)

Day 10: Rangoon

Visit Shwedagon pagoda, then take a walking tour of the downtown area. See the reclining Buddha and the National Museum, then end the day with afternoon tea at the Belmont Governor's Residence. Farewell dinner at Le Planteur. (B, D)

Day 11: Fly to London via Bangkok

Optional visit to the Bogyoke Aung San (Scott) market. Transfer to the airport and fly back to London via Bangkok. (B)

Day 12: London

Morning arrival. (N)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Extension

Beach break at Ngapali

4 Days & 3 Nights from £495

Extend your stay in Burma with some time spent relaxing on the pristine beaches of Ngapali, staying at the Amata Hotel for 3 nights.



Shwedagon pagoda, Rangoon

Important information

Group tour manager: This tour is fully escorted throughout by a local tour manager from arrival in Mandalay.

Superior tour: Typically based in 4-star accommodation.

Itinerary: The itinerary above applies only to departures from October 2016 onwards. For January to March 2016, the itinerary includes the same excursions, but is one day longer and begins in Rangoon instead of Mandalay.

Domestic flights: Due to a restricted domestic flight schedule in Burma, the journey involves a number of early morning flights and requires check in at least one hour prior to departure.

Private & tailor-made travel: This itinerary can be taken privately, for which guideline prices are shown. Alternatively, it can be tailored to your exact requirements. Please call 020 7808 6786 or email info@coxandkings.co.uk

Guideline prices for 2016-17

Tour Code: BTL

Group tour

Oct 2016 onwards: from £2,695
Guide price months: Oct 16 – Mar 17

Until Mar 2016: from £2,995
Guide price months: Jan – Mar 16

Single supplement from £695

Private travel

Low season: from £2,595
Guide price months: Sep 16

High season: from £2,695
Guide price months: Jan – Mar 16

Single supplement from £POA

Thai Airways flight upgrades

Royal Silk Class from £1,995 return

Regional air connections

Please speak to your sales consultant for details.

The guideline tour prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on two people sharing a twin / double room. To see current prices for all departure dates, including special offers when applicable, please call 020 7808 6786, email info@coxandkings.co.uk or visit coxandkings.co.uk. All prices are subject to availability.

Group tour departure dates for 2016-17

Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn
15 Jan 16	27 Jan 16	19 Mar 16	30 Mar 16	16 Dec 16	27 Dec 16	17 Mar 17	28 Mar 17
29 Jan 16	10 Feb 16	21 Oct 16	01 Nov 16	13 Jan 17	24 Jan 17		
12 Feb 16	24 Feb 16	11 Nov 16	22 Nov 16	10 Feb 17	21 Feb 17		

Burma Discovery

Duration • 11 Days & 8 Nights

Category • Superior

Basis • Group Tour

Price • From £2,995

**Single
Travellers**

Tour overview

Join a group of like-minded solo travellers on this journey to Burma (Myanmar). Fully escorted by an expert local guide, your group will explore the highlights of this fascinating country, discovering Buddhist monuments in Pagan (Bagan), tranquil Inle lake, ancient former capital cities near Mandalay and British colonial history in Rangoon (Yangon). Most meals are provided, including a welcome dinner in Mandalay.

C&K highlights

- Twin / double rooms for single use
- Private cruises on the Irrawaddy river & Inle lake
- See the temples and pagodas at Pagan & Mandalay
- Sample local wine at the Red Mountain Estate near Inle lake
- Cooking lesson in Mandalay
- Small group size – maximum 26 people

Weather

Rangoon

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	32	35	36	37	33	30	30	30	30	32	32	32
B	18	19	22	24	25	24	24	24	24	24	22	19
C	5	2	6	17	307	567	577	624	381	206	62	7

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



Floating garden, Inle lake

Day 1: Fly to Mandalay via Bangkok

Fly from London to Mandalay, via Bangkok, with Thai Airways. (N)

Day 2: Mandalay

Arrive in Mandalay and stay 2 nights at Mandalay Hill Resort. Afternoon visit to the Mahamuni pagoda, Amarapura, Mahagandayon monastery and the iconic U Bein bridge. Welcome dinner at the hotel. (D)

Day 3: Mandalay

Morning tour of Mandalay Palace, the fort and the local market. Continue to Ma Ma Guesthouse for a lesson in Burmese cooking and cuisine. (B, L, D)

Day 4: Fly to Nyaung U and Pagan

Visit the ancient royal capitals of Inwa (Ava) and Sagaing, and discover pagodas, craft villages and markets. Fly to Nyaung U then transfer to the Aye Yar River View Resort for 2 nights in Pagan. Dinner tonight is accompanied by a traditional puppet show. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Pagan

Optional sunrise balloon ride over Pagan (October to March only. Must be booked in advance). Full-day tour of Pagan, including the Shwezigon pagoda, and Lawkananda and Dhammayazika temples. Late afternoon cruise on a private boat to enjoy the sunset and a refreshing cocktail. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Fly to Heho and Inle lake

Morning flight to Heho and transfer to Inle lake. Take a cruise on the lake and see floating villages and gardens. Stay 2 nights at the Amata Garden Resort. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Inle lake

Morning visit to see the stupas of Indein village, followed by a visit to the Red Mountain Estate. Take a walk round the estate, learn about wine making and sample the local vintage. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Fly to Rangoon

Morning flight to Rangoon, then transfer to the city via the Kalaywatawya monastery and a stop outside Aung San Suu Kyi's gated home. Stay 2 nights at the Chatrium Hotel. (B, D)

Day 9: Rangoon

Morning visit to the Shwedagon pagoda, followed by a walking tour of the city. Afternoon tour of Chaukhtatgyi Reclining Buddha, Kandawgyi lake and the National Museum. End the day's sightseeing with a classic Burma experience – afternoon tea at the Belmont Governor's Residence. Relax back at the hotel before a farewell dinner at Le Planteur. (B, D)

Day 10: Fly to London via Bangkok

Optional morning visit to the Bogyoke Aung San (Scott) market to pick up souvenirs. Evening flight back to London via Bangkok. (B)

Day 11: London

Morning arrival. (N)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Extension

Beach break at Ngapali

4 Days & 3 Nights from £795

Extend your stay in Burma with some time spent relaxing on the pristine beaches of Ngapali staying at the Amata Hotel for 3 nights.



Pagan landscape

Important information

Single Travellers group tours: These small group tours have been specially created for single travellers. Benefits include single occupancy of double / twin rooms as standard and at sensible prices, plus the company of like-minded travellers. View the complete collection at coxandkings.co.uk/single-travellers.

Group tour manager: This tour is fully escorted throughout by a local tour manager from arrival in Mandalay.

Superior tour: Typically based in 4-star accommodation.

Guideline prices & departure dates for 2016-17

Tour Code: DBS

Year-round: from £2,995
Guide price months: Mar – Oct 16

Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn
04 Mar 16	14 Mar 16	03 Mar 17	13 Mar 17
14 Oct 16	24 Oct 16		

Thai Airways flight upgrades
Royal Silk Class from £1,995 return

Regional air connections
Please speak to your consultant for details

The guideline tour prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on two people sharing a twin / double room. To see current prices for all departure dates, including special offers when applicable, please call 020 7808 6786, email info@coxandkings.co.uk or visit coxandkings.co.uk. All prices are subject to availability.

Burma in Style

Duration • 13 Days & 10 Nights

Category • Luxury

Basis • Private Tour

Price • From £3,795

Tour overview

This luxury private itinerary uses some of the best accommodation available in Burma (Myanmar), starting at arguably the country's finest hotel, the Belmond Governor's Residence in Rangoon (Yangon). Fly to Mandalay to visit Burma's ancient capital cities, monasteries and pagodas. Cruise in style south from Mandalay on a colonial-style vessel, ending at the magnificent temples of Pagan (Bagan).

C&K highlights

- Luxury accommodation, including the Belmond Governor's Residence in Rangoon
- Cruise between Mandalay and Pagan
- Enjoy dinner on the banks of Irrawaddy river

Weather

Rangoon

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	32	35	36	37	33	30	30	30	30	32	32	32
B	18	19	22	24	25	24	24	24	24	24	22	19
C	5	2	6	17	307	567	577	624	381	206	62	7

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



Mandalay fort

Day 1: Fly to Rangoon via Bangkok

Fly from London to Rangoon, via Bangkok, with Thai Airways. (N)

Day 2: Rangoon

Arrive in Rangoon and transfer to the Belmond Governor's Residence for 2 nights. (N)

Day 3: Rangoon

Morning excursion to Shwedagon pagoda, Chaukhtatgyi Reclining Buddha and Kandawgyi lake. Afternoon visit to Bogyoke Aung San (Scott) market, and walk from Sule pagoda to the Rangoon riverfront. End the day at the Governor's Residence for high tea. (B, L)

Day 4: Fly to Mandalay

Early morning flight to Mandalay. On arrival, visit Mandalay Palace and its fort. Afternoon tour of Mandalay including Kuthodaw pagoda, Shwenandaw monastery and Mahamuni pagoda, with sunset at Mandalay Hill. Dinner and cultural show at the hotel. Stay 2 nights at Mandalay Hill Resort. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Mandalay

Morning tour of the ancient royal capital of Inwa (Ava) by horse-cart, including a visit to the Bagaya monastery. Afternoon tour of Amarapura's temples, handicraft workshops and the Mahagandayon monastery. End the day with a boat trip on Taungthaman lake to watch the sunset at U Bein bridge. (B, L)

Day 6: Irrawaddy river cruise

Board the RV *Paukan* or a Pandaw vessel for a

2-night cruise to Pagan. Afternoon visit to the pagodas of Mingun. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Sagaing & Yandabo

Cruise downstream to Sagaing, home to numerous monasteries and nunneries. Afterwards, visit Yandabo, a village that specialises in pottery. (B, L, D)

Day 8: To Pagan

Disembark in Pagan this morning and transfer to the Thiripyitsaya Sanctuary Resort for a 3-night stay. Visit a local family for a cooking demonstration followed by lunch. Late afternoon excursion to one of Pagan's temples to view the sunset. (B, L)

Day 9: Pagan

Optional sunrise balloon ride over Pagan (October to March only, must be booked in advance). Full-day tour of Pagan including Nyaung Oo market, Shwezigon pagoda and a selection of the 2,200 temples. End the day with a private cruise on the Irrawaddy with dinner on the river bank (subject to local conditions). (B, D)

Day 10: Pagan

Full-day to explore Pagan further, with a guide and driver at your disposal. (B)

Day 11: Fly to Rangoon

Morning flight to Rangoon. Visit the National Museum and the Kalaywa Tawya monastery. Stay overnight at the Belmond Governor's Residence. (B)



Shwezigon pagoda, Pagan

Day 12: Fly to London via Bangkok

Transfer to the airport and fly back to London, via Bangkok. (B)

Day 13: London

Morning arrival in London. (N)

Extension**Tour + Inle lake**

6 Days & 4 Nights from £595

Visit Inle lake to explore the floating villages and gardens, and see the Intha leg-rowers and the pagodas at Indein village. Extensions to Ngapali beach are also available.

Day 11: Fly to Heho and Inle lake

Morning flight to Heho and transfer to Inle lake, with optional stops en route at craft villages. Afternoon cruise to see floating villages and the leg-rowing fishermen, with stops at Nga Hpe Chaung monastery and Phaung Daw Oo pagoda. Stay 3 nights at Inle Princess Resort. (B, L)

Day 12: Inle lake

Morning visit to Indein village with its hundreds of small stupas. Continue to the house of an Intha family for a cooking demonstration and lunch. Afternoon at leisure. (B, L)

Day 13: Inle lake

Visit to the colourful morning market, which moves around Inle lake on a 5-day cycle and is frequented by various local peoples including the Intha, Shan, Taungyo, Pa-O, Danu, Kayah, Danaw and Bamar. (B, L)

Day 14: Fly to Rangoon

Morning flight to Rangoon. Visit the National Museum and the Kalaywa Tawya monastery. Stay overnight at the Belmond Governor's Residence. (B)

Day 15: Fly to London via Bangkok

Afternoon transfer to the airport and fly back to London via Bangkok. (B)

Day 16: London

Morning arrival in London. (N)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Locally escorted tour: This tour is led in each destination en route by a local tour escort.

Luxury tour: Featuring some of the most luxurious accommodation in each destination throughout the tour. Rooms are based on the standard category.

Non-exclusive cruise: The Mandalay to Pagan cruise is only available from September to March. Excursions are shared with other cruise passengers, who may or may not be Cox & Kings clients.

Tailor-made travel: For a price quote based on alternative accommodation standards or flight options, or to tailor this itinerary, please call 020 7808 6786 or email info@coxandkings.co.uk.

Guideline prices

Low season from £3,795
High season from £3,995

Discover River cruising in Burma

Burma is home to two great rivers: the Irrawaddy (or Ayeyarwady) and the Chindwin. The Irrawaddy is the largest and most important route for trade and commerce. Rising at the confluence of the N'mai and Mali rivers in the north of the state of Kachin, it flows for 2,170km south through Mandalay before becoming the Irrawaddy delta and emptying into the Andaman Sea. The Chindwin river is the largest tributary to the Irrawaddy and also rises in Kachin state, passing through some sharp defiles and continuing south through the towns of Mingun and Monywa, before joining the Irrawaddy just north of Pagan (Bagan).



Pagan



Temple on the Irrawaddy river

Life Along the River

With a developing tourist infrastructure and remote destinations, Burma is well suited to exploration by river. A multi-day cruise allows visitors to reach remote and little-visited parts of the country, from the comfort of a luxury cabin and without long distance drives or early morning starts to catch domestic flights.

Life unfolds slowly along the river, and although expedition itineraries often include daily excursions, much of the pleasure in cruising comes from relaxing on deck with a drink and enjoying the scenery and tranquillity.

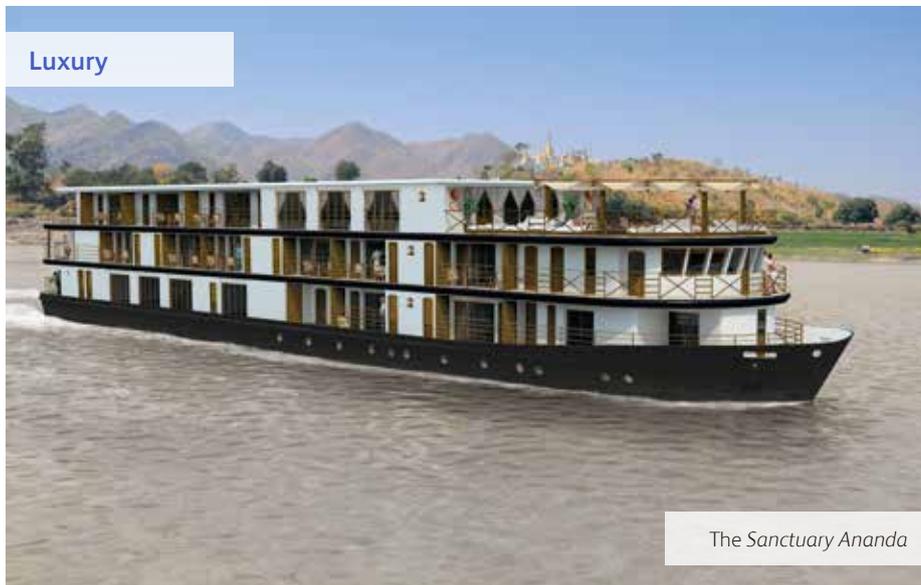
Onboard activities can include informative lectures on Burmese history, culture and the river itself, while expert guides are available to answer questions. For something more hands-on, classes in Burmese cooking,

language and costume are available, while early morning yoga and meditation sessions are often held on deck.

A range of itineraries are available, from 12-night extended explorations of the upper Chindwin river system or the classic 7-night sailing between Mandalay and Pagan, to short 2-night cruises that offer a taste of life on the river.

Over recent years, a number of new companies and vessels have begun river cruising programmes in Burma, all offering different benefits in terms of itinerary and service. The best of these are featured over the next few pages, but please contact one of our expert tour consultants to find the best option for you.

Luxury



The Sanctuary Ananda

The Sanctuary Ananda

Newest luxury cruiser in the Sanctuary fleet • A choice of eight itineraries

The *Sanctuary Ananda* offers 21 suites, blending traditional Burmese design and charm with contemporary luxury. All suites have full balconies, private bathrooms and air conditioning, while the largest suite on the entire river, Aloungpayah Owner's Suite, has a private butler service and a private indoor living area.

Dining and relaxation areas include the indoor Talifoo restaurant, Mindoon for alfresco dining, the Thambyadine spa and fitness centre, library (which can also be booked for private dining), the Kanshi panorama sky lounge and a sun deck with a cocktail pool. Onboard activities are varied and include lectures, traditional Burmese cooking demonstrations and lessons, live traditional Burmese music, yoga and meditation classes, and local cultural performances.

There are eight itineraries on offer, from 3- and 4-night shorter trips, which can be booked as part of a longer Burma tour, to longer adventures for river cruise lovers, such as a 10-night Chindwin river itinerary. The *Sanctuary Ananda* sails every full day of each itinerary, offering plenty of time to combine the essential sights with smaller villages to meet local people.



Sun deck, Sanctuary Ananda



Luxury suite, Sanctuary Ananda

Ayurvata Cruises

Luxury cruises between Mandalay and Pagan • Colonial-style 10-night cruise between Prome & Mandalay

Ayurvata Cruises operate a fleet of four boats on the route between Mandalay and Pagan, with itineraries ranging from 1- to 7-night cruises. Three of these, built in 2007, 2012 and 2014, are modern boutique river cruisers. They are beautifully furnished with a combination of contemporary and traditional motifs, with between 17 and 30 cabins, accommodating up to 55 passengers and served by a 30-member crew. Facilities include a dining room, lounge bar, sun deck and massage room.

The oldest vessel, the *RV Paukan 1947*, was built by the famous Yarrow & Co shipyard on the River Clyde in Glasgow, a period of time when the expression 'Clyde-built' was synonymous with shipbuilding excellence. The ship, then named the *Pandaw 1947*, sailed for Rangoon (Yangon) in 1950 and was converted into a passenger cruise vessel in 1997. Heavily restored again in 2004, the boat still retains its old colonial charm and sails from Prome, just north of Rangoon, to Mandalay.

Superior



RV Paukan 2007



Sun deck, RV Paukan 2007



Suite cabin, RV Paukan 2007

The Irrawaddy in Style

Duration • 13 Days & 10 Nights

Category • Luxury

Basis • Private Tour

Price • From £2,995

Tour overview

Discover the magnificent temples and remote villages of Burma (Myanmar) in style, staying at the Belmond Governor's Residence hotel in Rangoon (Yangon) and then taking a 7-night cruise along the majestic Irrawaddy river aboard the luxurious Road to Mandalay. Lined with ancient palaces and pagodas, the astonishing Irrawaddy river is perhaps the most pleasurable way to experience Burma, to feel its pulse, live its legends and understand its history.

C&K highlights

- Stay at the grand Belmond Governor's Residence
- Cruise aboard the luxurious Road to Mandalay
- Optional sunrise balloon ride over Pagan (Bagan)

Weather

Mandalay

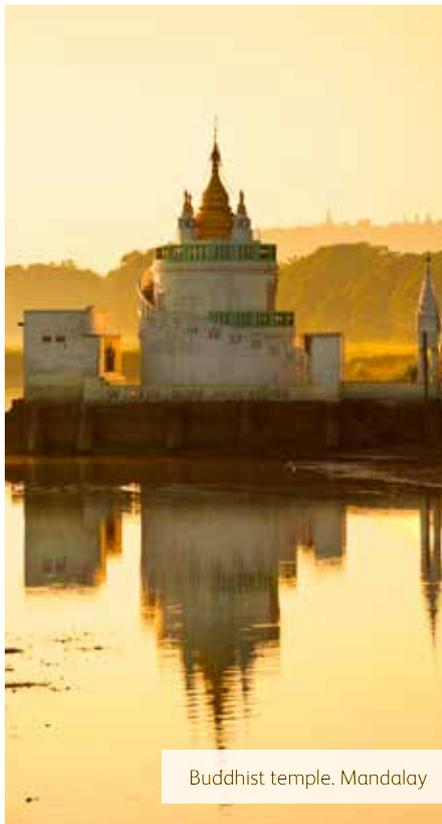
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	23	26	32	38	42	40	35	33	34	34	29	24
B	7	10	16	21	27	29	27	26	24	19	12	8
C	8	8	3	4	21	42	148	148	99	21	2	7

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



Buddhist temple, Mandalay

Day 1: Fly to Rangoon via Bangkok

Fly from London to Rangoon, via Bangkok, with Thai Airways. (N)

Day 2: Rangoon

Arrive in Rangoon and transfer to the Belmond Governor's Residence for 2 nights. (N)

Day 3: Rangoon

Half-day shared excursion of Rangoon, including its colonial buildings, Sule Pagoda, Kandawgyi lake and the Shwedagon pagoda. (B)

Day 4: Fly to Mandalay

Early morning flight to Mandalay. On arrival, transfer to the *Belmond Road to Mandalay* for a 7-night cruise on the Irrawaddy river. Afternoon tour of Mandalay, regarded as the centre of Burmese culture and Buddhist learning. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Irrawaddy river

After an early breakfast, visit a local village for a walking tour. The ship journeys south in the morning. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Pagan

Morning arrival in Pagan, where more than 2,000 temples and pagodas are scattered over a plain beside the river. Spend the full day on a tour of the temples. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Mount Popa

Full-day excursion to Mount Popa, home of powerful and sacred *nats* (spirits). (B, L, D)

Day 8: Pagan

Optional sunrise balloon ride over Pagan (October to March only – book in advance). After breakfast, join the guide to explore some of Pagan's local markets and a lacquerware factory. Alternatively, hire a bicycle or horse-drawn cart and explore this enchanting area on your own. Mid-morning, the ship sets sail for Mandalay. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Mingun

Continue sailing up the river this morning. After lunch, visit the enormous pagoda in Mingun. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Maymyo (Pyin Oo Lwin)

Visit Maymyo, a colonial hill station set high in the mountains. Soak up the atmosphere with its cool climate, English-style houses, colourful market and beautiful botanical gardens. (B, L, D)

Day 11: Fly to Rangoon

In the morning, disembark the cruise and fly to Rangoon for an overnight stay at the Belmond Governor's Residence. (B)

Day 12: Fly to London via Bangkok

Afternoon transfer to the airport and fly back to London via Bangkok. (B)

Day 13: London

Morning arrival. (N)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Luxury tour: Featuring some of the most luxurious accommodation in each destination throughout the tour. Rooms and cabins are based on the standard category.

Non-exclusive cruise: When on board the cruise, the transfers and excursions relevant to that cruise are operated as a group with other passengers who may or may not be Cox & Kings clients.

Tailor-made travel: For a price quote based on alternative accommodation standards or flight options, or to tailor this itinerary, please call 020 7808 6786 or email info@coxandkings.co.uk.

Itinerary: The programme featured is the Ayerwaddy Adventure. Please speak to your consultant for details of other cruise itineraries operated by *Belmond Road to Mandalay*.



Sunrise and temples, Pagan

Belmond Road to Mandalay

The *Belmond Road to Mandalay* is a de luxe river cruiser with 43 en suite cabins, air-conditioned and furnished in traditional Burmese style, with five cabin sizes and categories available. Facilities include a swimming pool, observation deck, restaurant, piano bar, fitness room and spa treatments. A range of cruise programmes and durations are available between Pagan and Mandalay, as well as an itinerary to the sublime gorges of Bhamo. The Belmond sister ship, the *Orcaella*, is also available.

Guideline prices

Low season from £2,995
High season from £4,495

Luxury



The Upper Irrawaddy: Pandaw Cruises

Duration • 12 Days & 9 Nights

Category • Superior

Basis • Private Tour

Price • From £3,155

Tour overview

Explore a little-visited region of northern Burma (Myanmar), sailing from Mandalay to Katha, once the home of George Orwell and the setting for his novel, *Burmese Days*. Highlights will be the passage through the third and second defiles, and visits to charming local towns and riverside villages.

C&K highlights

- Food, local drinks and crew tips all included
- 7-night cruise through spectacular gorges
- Explore the Upper Irrawaddy river
- Visit small villages, pagodas and shrines

Weather

Mandalay

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	23	26	32	38	42	40	35	33	34	34	29	24
B	7	10	16	21	27	29	27	26	24	19	12	8
C	8	8	3	4	21	42	148	148	99	21	2	7

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



U-Bein Bridge, Amarapura

Day 1: Fly to Mandalay via Bangkok

Fly from London to Mandalay, via Bangkok, with Thai Airways. (N)

Day 2: Arrive Mandalay

Arrive in Mandalay and transfer to the Mandalay Hill Resort for 2 nights. (N)

Day 3: Mandalay

Half-day private tour to Amarapura visiting the Mahagandayon monastery and the iconic U Bein bridge. (B)

Day 4: Board Pandaw cruise

Board your Pandaw vessel this morning for the 7-night Upper Irrawaddy cruise. Visit the potteries near Kyauk-myung, where the famous 50-gallon water pots are made by hand. Return to the ship and enter the third defile of the Irrawaddy. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Khan-nyat village

Stop at Khan-nyat village with its Buddhist monasteries. Climb Pagoda Hill at Tigyang with superb views of the Upper Irrawaddy river. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Katha

The colonial town of Katha was the setting for George Orwell's *Burmese Days*, and little has changed since then. Here, the local fire station houses a collection of the Irrawaddy Flotilla

Company's ships' bells, taken from sunken ships in the second world war. Katha was the final resting place of the old flotilla and here over a hundred ships were scuppered in 1942 in an act of denial before the advancing Japanese forces. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Kyun Daw

Transfer by local boat and visit Kyun Daw, a small village with numerous small pagodas. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Through the Second Defile

Cruise through the most dramatic of the three gorges where cliffs tower over the narrow channel. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Tagaung

Disembark for a walking tour of the ancient city of Tagaung. See the town's fortifications, a nat or spirit shrine, and the archaeological area. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Mingun

Visit the unfinished pagoda at Mingun, home of the largest working bell in the world, then drive to the Sagaing hills to enjoy a views over the region and the Irrawaddy river. (B, L, D)

Day 11: Arrive Mandalay • Fly to London via Bangkok

In the morning, disembark in Mandalay and fly back to London via Bangkok, or extend your stay with a flight south to Rangoon (Yangon). (B)

Day 12: Arrive London

Morning arrival. (N)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Superior tour: This itinerary uses a 4-star hotel in Mandalay. Cruise accommodation, service and facilities should also be considered as Superior.

Non-exclusive cruise: When on board the cruise, the transfers and excursions relevant to that cruise are operated as a group with other passengers who may or may not be Cox & Kings clients.

Tailor-made travel: For a price quote based on alternative accommodation standards or flight options, or to tailor this itinerary, please call 020 7808 6786 or email info@coxandkings.co.uk.

Guideline prices

Low season from £3,155
High season from £3,695

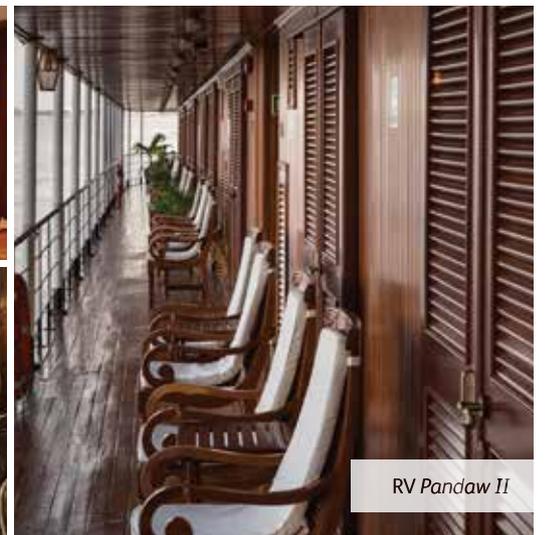
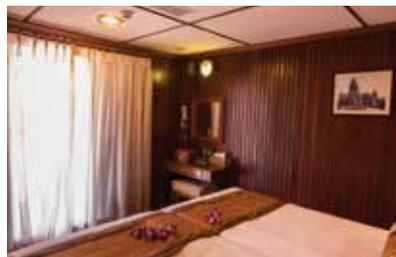
The RV *Kalay Pandaw* near Mingun

Pandaw vessels

Pandaw vessels have been custom-built for river cruising, designed and finished as replicas of colonial river steamers with interiors hand-finished in brass and teak by traditionally skilled craftsmen. Facilities include a cocktail bar and a sun deck.

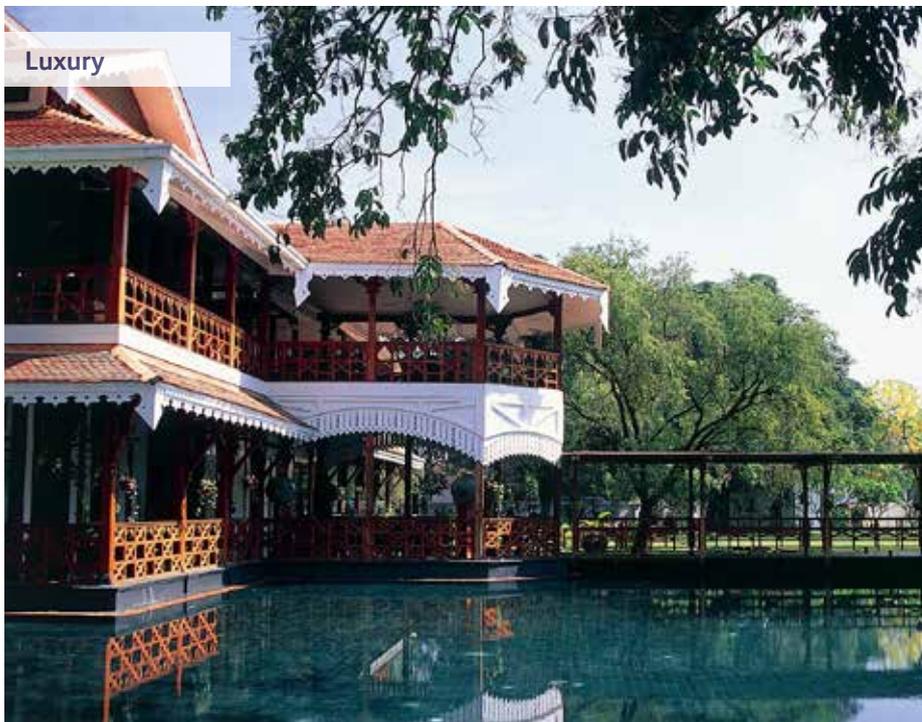
Pandaw cruises in Burma

Pandaw has long pioneered navigation on the rivers of Burma. This continues today, Pandaw being the only operator providing weekly departures. Trips include classic journeys from Rangoon up to Mandalay, cruises between Pagan (Bagan) and Mandalay, and journeys to more remote destinations, such as sailing the Chindwin river to Homalin, then continuing further on the Upper Irrawaddy to Katha. All these cruises are on small and brand new vessels, and can be combined to create a full exploration of the rivers of Burma.

RV *Pandaw II*

Burma Hotel Collection

Rangoon • Mandalay • Inle lake • Pagan • Ngapali beach



Luxury

Belmond Governor's Residence, Rangoon

Arguably the finest hotel in Burma (Myanmar), the Belmond Governor's Residence is an imposing mansion dating from the 1920s. It is located within the elegant Embassy quarter of Rangoon (Yangon), close to the spectacular Shwedagon pagoda, and just 10 minutes from the city centre and 30 minutes from the airport.

Surrounded by a verdant garden, guestrooms and suites are luxuriously furnished with teak furniture, tropical cottons and silks, with views of either the courtyard or gardens. The Mandalay restaurant serves European and Burmese dishes in a garden setting surrounded by tropical plants and lotus ponds, while the Burmese Curry Table is a buffet-style restaurant. While enjoying a drink on a fan-cooled veranda from a teak armchair, it's possible to imagine a bygone era when the building was home to the ruler of Burma's southern states.

Features:

48 rooms; swimming pool; 2 restaurants; cocktail lounge; bar; spa; boutique & gift shop; travel desk.



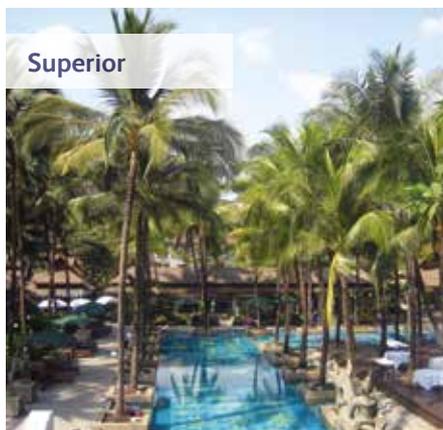
Superior

The Savoy Hotel, Rangoon

The Savoy Hotel is a charming boutique hotel with an intimate and friendly atmosphere, located 10 minutes from the city centre and close to the Shwedagon pagoda. Classic teak wood decor, Burmese antiques and polished wooden floors feature throughout the hotel. Guestrooms are furnished in a colonial style with traditional Burmese antiques combined with modern comforts. The hotel's staff offer a personalised and attentive service.

Features:

30 rooms; 2 restaurants; bar; swimming pool; massage service.



Superior

Chatrium Hotel, Rangoon

Located along the western shore of Kandawgyi (Royal) lake in the heart of Rangoon, the Chatrium Hotel is a large, modern hotel with comfortable rooms and suites that have views of the city, the pagoda or the lake. There are three excellent restaurants on site serving Chinese, Japanese or Thai cuisine. Although just 15 minutes walk from Shwedagon pagoda, a complimentary shuttle bus runs throughout the day to enable convenient sightseeing.

Features:

300 rooms; 3 restaurants swimming pool & bar; cocktail lounge; spa.



Good Standard

Hotel by the Red Canal, Mandalay

Located in a quiet residential area in central Mandalay, the Hotel by the Red Canal has just 25 guestrooms, providing an intimate atmosphere and personable service. Rooms are furnished in traditional Burmese style with teak furniture and wooden floors, and divided into four categories named after major ethnic groups in Burma: Chin, Kachin, Rakhine and Shan. The Spice Garden Restaurant serves some of the best Indian cuisine in the city.

Features:

26 suites; restaurant; spa; outdoor swimming pool.

Luxury

**Sanctum Inle Resort, Inle lake**

The Sanctum Inle Resort at tranquil Inle lake is a haven of calm away from hectic, bustling city. Arches and cloisters reference the monastic life, and offer a more contemplative travel experience.

Stay in one of six classes of rooms and suites, all with spacious bathrooms and garden or lake views. The resort's standard room category, the Cloister Classic, starts at 38 sq metres while larger suites include a private terrace.

The Refectory restaurant serves Burmese dishes with an emphasis on Shan cuisine, using produce from the resort's organic garden. The Cloister Bar is the perfect place to enjoy an evening drink, with a wide range of locally produced beers and wines, as well as a short list of international wines in the cellars. There is also a segregated cigar lounge with a selection of Cuban and Dominican cigars.

Features:

96 rooms & suites; restaurant; bar with cigar lounge; bicycle hire; garden; library; spa; Wi-Fi; gift shop.

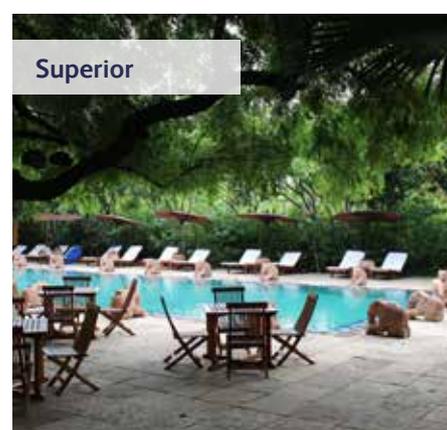
Luxury



Superior



Superior

**Sandoway Resort, Ngapali beach**

Located in Mya Pin village on Ngapali beach, the Sandoway Resort is designed to provide an intimate and relaxing experience for guests, with easy access to the vast, sandy beach lined with palm trees and known for its magnificent sunset views. Guestrooms are classically furnished and, to minimise unnecessary noise, do not feature telephones or televisions. The resort is open from October to May.

Features:

59 rooms; beach access; swimming pool; bar; restaurant; spa; small cinema.

Aye Yar River View Resort, Pagan

The Aye Yar River View Resort is a contemporary hotel with traditional Burmese touches. Located in the heart of Old Pagan on the banks of the Irrawaddy, the resort has panoramic views of the river and pagodas, with the Bupaya pagoda a 5-minute walk away. Guestrooms occupy three separate wings, each decorated with local handmade furnishings and all with a private terrace or balcony.

Features:

103 rooms; restaurant; bar; spa; swimming pool.

The Hotel @ Tharabar Gate, Pagan

The Hotel @ Tharabar Gate is located at the entrance to Old Pagan (Bagan), close to the renowned and beautiful Ananda temple. Guestrooms and suites are all tastefully decorated with teak wood fittings and traditional Burmese antiques. Dining options include European, Asian and traditional Burmese cuisines at the hotel's French Garden and Ananda restaurants.

Features:

83 rooms; 2 restaurants; bar. swimming pool; spa; sun terrace.



Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos



Group tours • Tailor-made travel • River cruising

Vietnam is a colourful and diverse country featuring beautiful karst landscapes in Halong Bay, stepped paddies in the north, historic colonial towns, glorious beaches and the languid Mekong delta. Last but not least is the remarkable cuisine: full of historical influences, it remains some of the most delicious food you can experience in the Far East.

Cambodia is home to the temples of Angkor, the magnificent legacy of the Khmer empire that ruled over much of south-east Asia 1,000 years ago. Aside from impressive Angkor-era sites, encounter lush jungle, beautiful coastline and expansive lakes alongside temples and reminders of the past – including the brutal Khmer Rouge regime.

For many years, **Laos** remained untouched, isolated and over-shadowed by its neighbours. Today, it is still a peaceful, laidback country while the Buddhist culture lends its people a delightful charm and friendliness. Highlights include romantic Luang Prabang, the riverside capital Vientiane, and the natural beauty of the south.

Discover Vietnam, Cambodia & Laos

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90	Laos
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104	Pandaw River Cruising

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94	Spirit of Vietnam • Group or private
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102	A River Journey on the Mekong • Private

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112	Laos Hotel Collection

Inspired to venture further afield? Browse our website to discover additional destinations, places to stay and itineraries; or speak to our Indochina experts.

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	info@coxandkings.co.uk
	coxandkings.co.uk

Image left: Preah Khan, Siam Reap

Discover Vietnam

Hanoi

Colonial buildings in the old quarter • Lively markets and street food

Resting in the Red River delta region, Hanoi is a mix of tree-lined avenues, maze-like back streets, temples and fine colonial buildings from the era of French rule. In the east of the city lies the Hoan Kiem lake, or 'Lake of the Restored Sword', which encompasses Jade island and the Ngoc Son temple. Nearby, Hanoi's old quarter has the city's oldest streets, many of which are named after the trade of resident merchants, for example silver or paper. Hanoi also has a lively street food scene: be sure to try a bowl of *pho*, a simple Vietnamese soup made with noodles and served with chicken or beef and onion, with lime, herbs and chilli to flavour.



Tran Quoc pagoda, Hanoi,

Cruising in Halong Bay

5-star luxury aboard the *Au Co* • Group departures with *Bhaya Classic*, or private charter with *Bhaya Legend* • Explore islands and floating villages by kayak

Halong Bay lies in the north-east of Vietnam, a 3-hour drive north of Hanoi. The bay borders Cat Ba island in the south-west, the East Sea in the east, and the mainland, creating a 120-km coastline with 1,969 islands of various sizes. A densely concentrated area of stone islands, famous for their spectacular scenery of grottoes and caves, form the central zone of Halong Bay and has been named a Unesco world heritage site.

The luxurious *Au Co* cruiser offers a 3-day & 2-night itinerary in Halong Bay for people who want to explore in greater depth. It offers a unique route, taking in not only Halong Bay and Cat Ba island, but also the relatively unexplored bays of Lan Ha and Bai Tu Long. The 32 cabins and suites are light and airy with floor-to-ceiling windows, most of which also have a private balcony. Excursions include cycling in Cat Ba National Park, a visit to a floating village, tai chi classes, cooking demonstrations and kayaking. You can also swim, snorkel and fish from the boat.

Bhaya Cruises, the parent company of *Au Co*, also has a range of 1- and 2-night cruises available in its *Classic* fleet. For a more private experience, the *Legend* fleet of 8 vessels offers 1 junk with one cabin, 2 junks with two cabins, 4 junks with three cabins, and 1 junk with four cabins, all providing personalised services, excursions and itineraries.

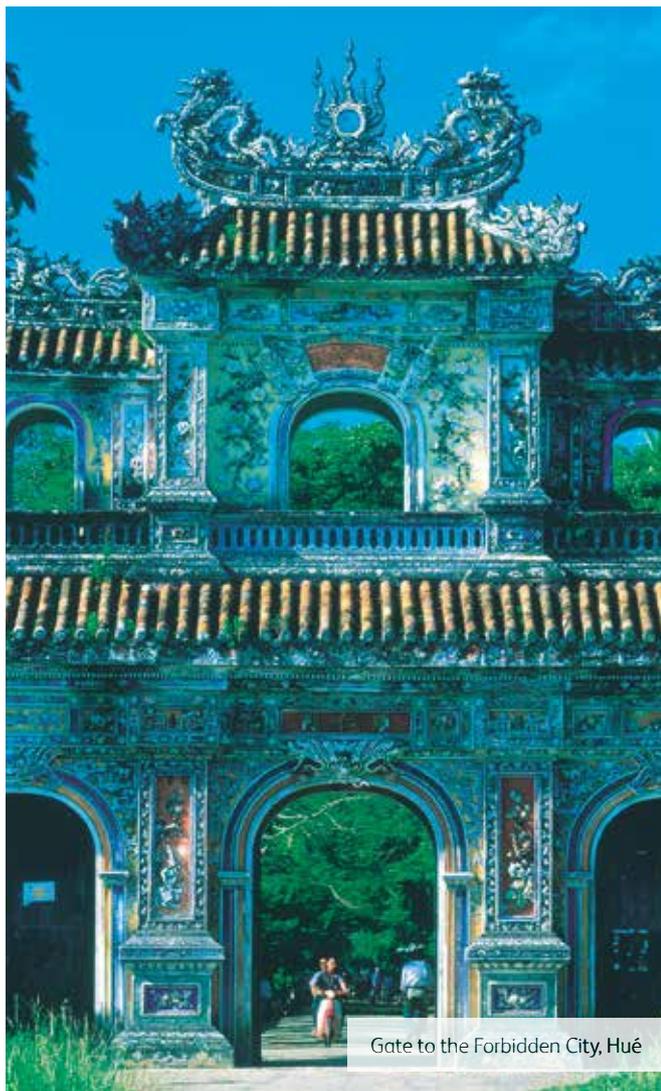


Halong Bay

Huế

Historic riverside town • Dine at a restored royal home of the Nguyen dynasty.

Set on the banks of the Perfume river, Huế was capital of Vietnam between 1802 and 1945 under the Nguyen emperors, and later under French colonial rule. Since the early 19th century it has been regarded as Vietnam's centre of learning which, with its tradition of Buddhism, gives the city a sophisticated air. Huế witnessed some of the most aggressive action of the Vietnam war, including the 1968 Tet offensive. In spite of this many monuments from its imperial past remain, and Unesco declared the city a world heritage site in 1993.



Gate to the Forbidden City, Huế

Hoi An

Charming coastal resort • Distinct Chinese architecture • Renowned for its expert tailors

The ancient town of Hoi An is located 30km south of Danang on the banks of the Thu Bon river. Occupied by many early western traders, Hoi An was one of the major trading centres of south-east Asia in the 16th century. Hoi An has a distinct Chinese atmosphere with low, tile-roofed houses and narrow streets; the original structure of some of these streets still remains almost intact. All the houses were made of rare wood, decorated with lacquered boards and panels engraved with Chinese characters, and pillars carved with ornamental designs.



Hoi An

Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)

Mix of French colonial style and modern Vietnam
• Historic Reunification Palace, museums and cathedrals • Gateway to the Mekong delta

Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known as Saigon and the name by which many locals still refer to their home, is a frenetic city with streets clogged by scooters, food stalls, and pedestrians, and lined with foreign restaurants, office blocks and shopping malls. It is Vietnam's economic powerhouse and the rate of progress over the last few years has been remarkable. The city has much to explore including the best museums in the country. The city's position in the south-east makes it an important gateway to the Mekong delta for both traders and tourists.



Banana seller rowing on the Mekong delta



H'mong woman planting rice, Hà Giang province

Dalat

Beautiful former French hill station • Bao Dai summer palace

Set in the cool central highlands, Dalat is a former French hill station with a somewhat faded elegance, offering respite from the heat and hustle of nearby Nha Trang and Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). The town is surrounded by pine-covered hills and waterfalls, with picturesque churches and beautiful colonial French buildings dotted along the hillsides. The Bao Dai summer palace is a highlight, an art deco-style building offering a glimpse into the retreat of Vietnam's last emperor. The area's other attractions include walking beside Xuan Huong lake, exploring local markets, and sampling the tasty local cuisine.



Farmland, Mai Chau

Mai Chau

Beautiful walks in the countryside • Visit ethnic minority villages

Around 150km south-west of Hanoi, Mai Chau is located in a lush valley surrounded by spectacular limestone karst, forested hills and paddies. The nearby village of Xam Khoe, home to the White Tai people, is an ideal place to begin a walk through the mountains and villages. Local settlements are notable for their stilt houses, which are elevated over 10 feet off the ground and made of bamboo and wood. An overnight stay is advisable to get the most from a visit here while two nights is better to allow time for walking in the hills and through the peaceful countryside.

Hà Giang Province

Vibrant local markets and festivals • Striking mountain landscapes and road journeys

Hà Giang province is an area in northern Vietnam bordering China's Yunnan province, known for its dramatic mountain landscapes, winding roads and natural scenery. The Quan Ba valley warrants exploration with its caves, forests meadows and orchids. Cong Troi, or 'Heaven's Gate', at the top of the valley is a high mountain pass with spectacular views. Much of the population belongs to the various minority ethnic groups of Vietnam, including the Kinh, H'Mông, Tày, Dao and Nùng, who meet at the various markets in towns such as Dong Van to trade and socialise, much as they have done for centuries.



Superior

Mai Chau Ecolodge

The Mai Chau Ecolodge occupies a hill above Na Phon village in Mai Chau, a few minutes walk from the Lac and Pom Coong villages. All rooms are designed with the local environment in mind, combining bamboo furnishings and red tiled floors with modern amenities. The hotel's outdoor pool and massage centre offer welcome relaxation after a walk in the surrounding hills. End the day with a cocktail and a fusion of Vietnamese and Thai tribal dishes at the lodge restaurant.

Features:

43 rooms; restaurant; massage centre; outdoor pool.

Victoria Express Train: Hanoi to Sapa

Private carriages • Sightseeing in the northern highlands

With its elegant carriages, the *Victoria Express* train recalls a more romantic era, passing through the exotic landscapes of north Vietnam. The train departs six times a week between Hanoi and Lao Cai (Sapa), and travels overnight taking approximately 8.5 hours. The train accommodates up to 52 passengers in two luxurious carriages, travelling in either 4- or 2-berth cabins. All feature air conditioning, as well as individual reading lights, baggage storage and oversized windows. Le Tonkin dining carriage serves traditional Vietnamese and international cuisine.



Sapa rice fields

Sapa & the Hoang Lien Son Mountains

Discover villages, markets and minority hill tribes • Magnificent walking in the highlands

Sapa is a small market town perched on a plateau in the Hoang Lien Son mountain range, surrounded by green cultivated rice terraces and facing the peak of Fansipan (3,143 metres). The town grew in importance during the 1930s, when European settlers arrived to establish a hill station away from the heat of Hanoi. Only a handful of the colonial buildings remain after the Chinese invasion of 1979, and today Sapa derives its character from the surrounding minority villages, spectacular mountain scenery and mountain walks.



Women from Red Dao hill tribe, Sapa

Discover The Mekong Delta

The Mekong is one of the most important rivers in south-east Asia, flowing through the heart of the region and supporting the livelihoods of more than 60 million people. It is also one of the world's most diverse fisheries, second only to the Amazon river. The delta covers an area of more than 38,850 square km, mainly of flood plain but with some hilly and forested areas, dotted with small towns, villages and farmsteads. Much of the delta can be explored by vehicle, with excursions by small boat to floating markets and through small channels. For longer cruises through the delta on the Mekong river, see pages 100-101.



Can Tho

Large floating market of Cai Rang • Boat tours into the delta

Can Tho is the largest city in the delta and the capital of a province of the same name. Located at the confluence of the Can Tho and Hau Giang rivers, Can Tho has long been a major trading centre. The city has broad boulevards and an elegant waterfront, and is connected to the rest of the delta via a system of rivers and canals. A boat trip along these canals is the highlight of a trip to Can Tho, including a visit to the Cai Rang floating market early in the morning, the largest in the delta.

Chau Doc

Climb nearby Sam mountain for views of the delta • Crossing point for river journeys into Cambodia

Chau Doc is a busy town on the banks of the Hau Giang river, close to the Vietnam-Cambodia border. Once part of Cambodia, it was awarded to the Nguyen lords in the 18th century and still retains a strong Khmer influence. Residents are a mix of Chinese, Cham, Khmer and Vietnamese people, which is reflected in the city's architecture as each community has their own distinctive temples and pagodas. The town has a thriving cross-border trade with Cambodia and is also renowned for its fish breeding industry.

Cu Chi Tunnels

Unique insight into the war with the US • Chance to enter the tunnels

This vast network of tunnels, stretching for over 150km, was used by the Viet Cong during the battles for the south. The tunnels are a sobering insight into the dedication of the Viet Cong soldiers who virtually lived in the narrow and claustrophobic tunnels while the war raged. Nearby, a chilling demonstration of the traps and weapons that were used against the Americans is given. The Cu Chi tunnels have been widened in places for visitors, however they can still be dark, hot and claustrophobic inside.



Woman rowing a boat on the Mekong delta

Short Mekong Cruises

Explore the Mekong delta • Day trips & overnight cruises

Discover everyday delta life on board a *sampan* (traditional wooden flat-bottomed boat), built using natural materials such as rattan, bamboo and exotic woods. Both private and shared cruises are available, ranging from just a few hours to 1, 2 or 3 days. Day cruises have large open sun decks for delta viewing, while vessels dedicated to private overnight cruises are equipped with modern amenities and comfortable private cabins with en suite bathrooms.

C&K Recommends...

Hanoi market tour and cooking class

Meet with a local chef from the EZ Cooking Class Centre in Hanoi, an institution known for supplying chefs and kitchen staff to some of the best hotels and restaurants in the city. Wander through the vibrant street markets and, with the chef's guidance, select fresh locally produced vegetables, spices, meat, poultry or fish, as you prefer. Finally, head to the centre's kitchens to learn how to prepare traditional Vietnamese cuisine in a hands-on cooking class, with the chance to demonstrate your culinary flair.

Off the beaten track in Ho Chi Minh City

Stroll through the narrow back alleys away from the main thoroughfares, getting closer to local residential areas and authentic markets. Vibrant with haggling locals, street sellers, exotic food, smells and sights, stalls spill out from the main market area into the surrounding passageways. A complicated maze to the uninitiated, your local guide will lead you through the market and explain the background and history of the area. You can also visit a house where Viet Cong commandos gathered to collect weapons for the Tet offensive.

Fishermen and waterways tour, Hoi An

Visit a small fishing village on the outskirts of Hoi An, and take a short guided walk through the area to learn about the daily life of Vietnamese fishermen, their families and their community. Take a cruise on the Cua Dai river, passing local fishermen at work, and try your hand at the art of catching fish by using the local round nets. Change to a small Vietnamese bamboo basket boat and paddle your way through the tranquil Bay Mau waterways.

SAMPLE JOURNEY

Vietnam in Style

16 Days & 13 Nights from £3,395

Travel in style from Hanoi in the north to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), staying in some world-class hotels.

Day 1: Fly to Hanoi via Bangkok

Overnight flight from London to Hanoi, via Bangkok, with Cathay Pacific. (N)

Day 2: Hanoi

Arrive and transfer to the Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi for 2 nights. (N)

Day 3: Hanoi

Tour of Hanoi including a street market visit with food tasting. (B, L)

Day 4: To Halong Bay

Drive to the world heritage site of Halong Bay and board the luxurious *Halong Violet* for an overnight cruise. (B, L, D)

Day 5: To Lao Cai

Watch the sun rise over the bay, then disembark

and transfer to Hanoi for the *Victoria Express* train to Lao Cai. Overnight in a private cabin. (B, L)

Days 6-7: To Sapa

Morning arrival in Lao Cai, then spend two days exploring the Muong Hoa valley, visiting villages and markets. Stay 2 nights at the Victoria Sapa Resort & Spa. (B, L)

Days 8-9: Fly to Hué

Take the overnight train back to Hanoi, then fly to Hué, the 19th-century Nguyen capital. Stay 2 nights at La Residence Hué. (B)

Day 10: Hué

Cyclo ride to the Imperial Citadel and Thien Mu pagoda, then lunch in a restored royal home. (B, L)

Day 11: To Hoi An

Visit the royal tombs of Tu Duc and Khai Dinh, then drive over the spectacular Hai Van Pass to Hoi An. Stay 2 nights at the Anantara Hoi An Resort. (B, L)

Day 12: Hoi An

Morning city tour, including the 400-year-old Japanese covered bridge. (B)

Day 13: Fly to Ho Chi Minh City

Drive to Danang and fly to Ho Chi Minh City. Stay 2 nights at the Park Hyatt Saigon. (B, D)

Day 14: Ho Chi Minh City

Morning drive through the countryside and visit the Cu Chi tunnels. (B, L)

Day 15: Fly to London

Fly to London. (B)

Day 16: London

Morning arrival. (N)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £3,395

High season from: £3,595

Tailored travel

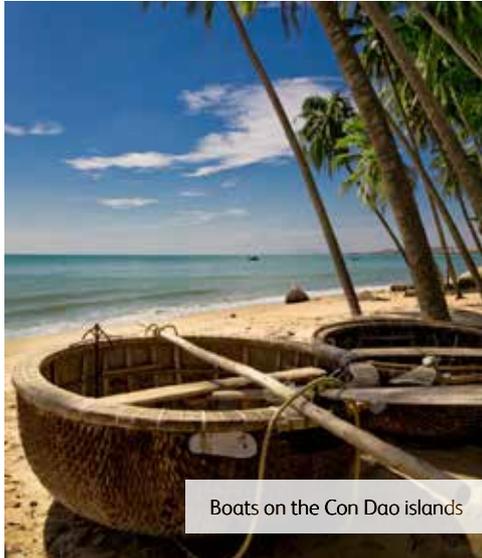
Contact our experts

t 020 7808 6786

e info@coxandkings.co.uk



Discover Islands & Beaches



Boats on the Con Dao islands



Phu Quoc island

Phu Quoc Island

Quiet, tropical island • Range of hotels and guesthouses

Located 45km south-west of Vietnam in the Gulf of Thailand, and 15km south of the Cambodian coast, Phu Quoc is a relatively undeveloped island with beautiful white sand beaches and forested hills.

Since the arrival of an international airport in 2012, infrastructure on the island has improved but the island retains a relaxed atmosphere, with a choice of unspoilt beaches and clear waters ideal for swimming and snorkelling. There are a number of smaller properties available, with La Veranda Resort Phu Quoc, a member of the Accor MGallery collection, one of the best. The ideal time to visit is from November through April.

Con Dao Islands

Snorkelling and turtle watching (May–November) • Hiking trails and nature walks

The Con Dao islands are an archipelago of 15 islands in the South China Sea, a 45-minute flight from Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). The islands have a tragic history: during the French occupation, the largest island was used as a prison complex, a practice continued during the Vietnam war.

Today, the islands are a protected marine nature reserve, with Vietnam's most important sea turtle nesting grounds. With mountainous, forested terrain, there are plenty of opportunities for hiking, and scenic bays with excellent spots for swimming and snorkelling. The Six Senses Con Dao is the premier hotel on the islands.

Nha Trang

Nha Trang is an attractive town surrounded by green hills and a deep-blue bay, fringed with a glorious crescent of golden-white sand. There are many nearby small islands, which protect the bay from the unpredictable South China Sea, and it is possible to take a boat cruise around this picturesque landscape. Another major draw for the town is the excellent seafood available at reasonable rates throughout Nha Trang. Places of interest include a cluster of Cham towers dating from the ninth century, and a 14-metre-high figure of the Buddha overlooking the town.

Phan Thiet, Mui Ne & Ke Ga Bay

Located approximately 4 hours' drive east of Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) on the South China Sea coast, Phan Thiet city has some interesting museums and pagodas, and a place in Vietnam's history as Ho Chi Minh was once a teacher here. Just north of Phan Thiet is the tourist resort of Mui Ne, with a 21-kilometre-long arc of white sand and some fine hotels, including the Mia Resort and Anantara Mui Ne Resort & Spa. To the south is Ke Ga Bay, a much quieter location with deserted beaches, rock formations and an ancient lighthouse.

Danang

Just north of Hoi An, Danang city is Vietnam's major port and a gateway to the country. It grew hugely in the 1960s when used as a centre for the US military, although with its wide boulevards and colonial architecture the French influence is more evident. Non Nuoc, christened 'China Beach' by American troops in the 60s, and My Khe beach to the north, are the main draw for visitors with long stretches of white sand and a range of quality hotels. The Son Tra peninsula, which juts out from the city into the East Vietnam Sea, is home to the luxury InterContinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort.



Fishing boats, Mui Ne Bay



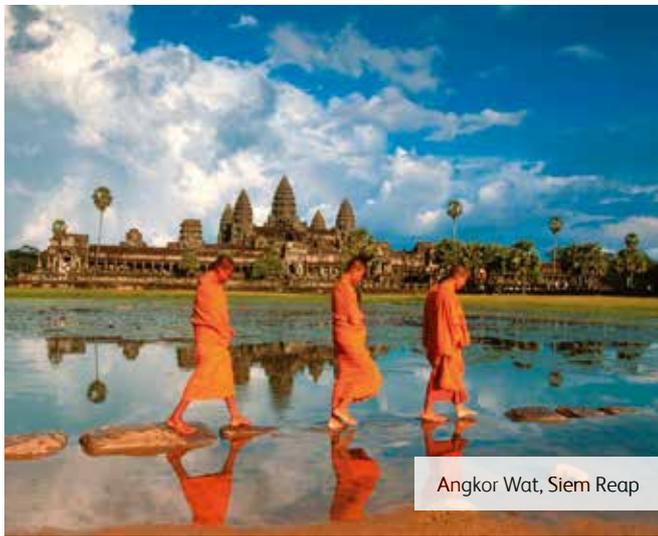
Nha Trang cable-car

Discover Cambodia

Phnom Penh

Royal Palace & the Silver Pagoda • Khmer Rouge history

Cambodia's capital city is awakening from a turbulent recent past to become a busy and vibrant city. Situated on the confluence of three rivers, it is a mix of colonial buildings, temples, markets and broad avenues. The focal point of the city is a promenade on the banks of the river, which comes alive in the evening with busy pavement cafes and strolling families. The harrowing Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum is located in central Phnom Penh in a former school building, while the infamous killing fields of Choeng Ek, marked by a Buddhist stupa, are a short distance south of the city.



Angkor Wat, Siem Reap

Siem Reap & the Angkor Temples

Magnificent temples, carvings and jungle • Explore the countryside and Tonle Sap lake

Siem Reap is the most popular of Cambodia's tourist destinations, with a range of tourist facilities and, most importantly, easy access to the temples of Angkor. There is also the opportunity to venture into traditional rural Cambodia, or take a boat trip to small floating villages on the huge Tonlé Sap lake.

The temples of Angkor belong to the classic period of Khmer art and civilisation. They were created by a succession of Khmer kings who presided over an empire that dominated the region from 800AD to 1430AD, reaching its peak in the 12th century. From the 15th century the temples were abandoned and forgotten, although visited by a number of travellers including the French naturalist Henri Mouhot, who is attributed with their rediscovery in 1861. Highlights include the walled and moated royal city of Angkor Thom, the giant stone faces of Bayon, and the huge three-tiered pyramid of Angkor Wat.

At least two days are recommended to get the most from the site, allowing time to visit some of the outer temples such as Preah Khan, Neak Pean, Prasat Kravan or Pre Rup.



Beyond Angkor Wat: Temple Safari

Stay in a luxury tent among the temples of Angkor Wat • Explore Beng Mealea, Koh Ker & other remote temples

Venture deep into the jungle on a temple safari. In addition to Cambodia's popular temples near Angkor Wat, it is also possible to visit previously inaccessible and relatively untouched ruins. For an unforgettable adventure, take a 2- to 5-night safari visiting the remote temples of the north, such as Banteay Chhmar and Prasat Damrei. You can also explore the monastic complex of Preah Khan; the unrestored temples of Beng Mealea; and Prasat Thom, the vast pyramid at Koh Ker. The tents used are based on luxury African safari tents, which are pitched within the grounds of the temples.



Preah Khan temple, Temples of Angkor, Siem Reap



Luxury tent

Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary

Important breeding ground for globally threatened, large waterbirds • See cormorants, spot-billed pelicans and ibises

Based at Tonle Sap lake, Prek Toal Bird Sanctuary is the most important breeding site for large waterbirds in south-east Asia and is considered a birdwatcher's paradise. Many bird species have been driven away from neighbouring countries and, in 2001, the Wildlife Conservation Society set up a local conservation team to protect colonies during nesting season. The sanctuary is now an integral part of bird conservation in Asia and many endangered species are thriving. Its inhabitants include cormorants, spot-billed pelicans and ibises. Day trips can be easily arranged from Siem Reap or Battambang.



Fishing boat

Kep

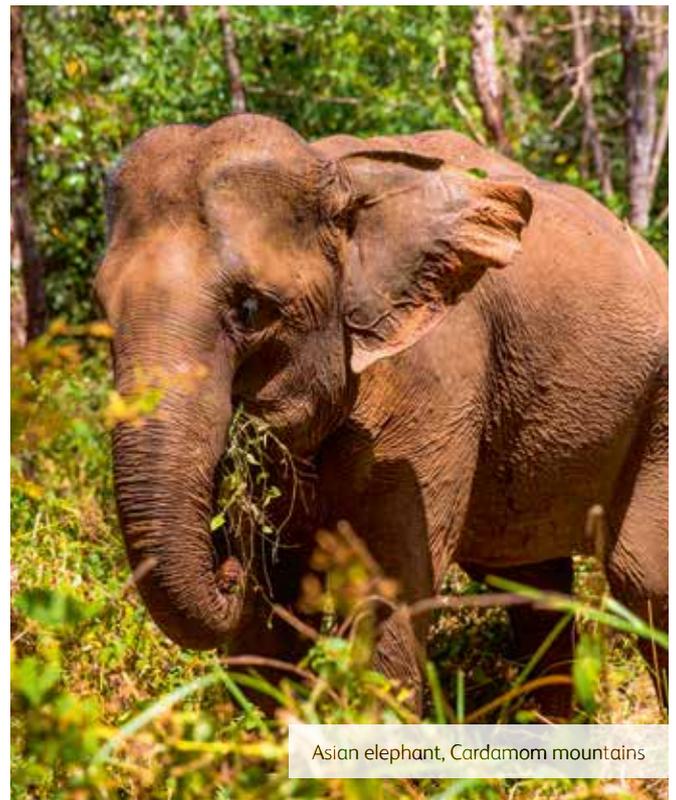
Charming colonial architecture • Boutique hotels and peaceful beaches

Kep is a small, charming, former colonial town located 3 hours south of Phnom Penh and just a few kilometres from Ha Tien on the border with Vietnam. It used to be the most prestigious beach resort in Cambodia, popular with the French and Cambodian elite. During the Khmer Rouge years, many of Kep's French colonial-era mansions and villas were destroyed or abandoned. Kep is re-emerging with quaint boutique hotels opening up to cater for discerning travellers. The ocean is lined with wide promenades and seafood restaurants. Several islands lie off the coast, including Koh Tonsay (Rabbit Island) and its beautiful beaches. The nearby national park has some good walking trails, scenery and views.

Cardamom Mountains

Peaceful over-water bungalow accommodation on the Tatai river • Explore the jungle on foot, or kayak along the river

Located in south-west Cambodia, the Cardamom mountains cover more than 20,000 sq km. They are a designated conservation area, rated as one of the most important eco-regions in south-east Asia. This pristine mountain region is little explored and is home to more than 100 mammal species, including many threatened creatures, such as Asian elephants. The area is connected by boat and by road to Sihanouville and Phnom Penh, and the 4 Rivers Floating Lodge is an ideal base from which to explore the abundant wildlife, waterfalls, river valleys, mangroves and rare flora and fauna.



Asian elephant, Cardamom mountains

SAMPLE JOURNEY

Cambodia Explorer

16 Days & 13 Nights from £3,295

Discover Cambodia beyond Angkor Wat and Phnom Penh with this journey through the Khmer kingdom.

Day 1: Fly to Siem Reap via Bangkok

Fly from London to Siem Reap, via Bangkok, with Thai Airways and Bangkok Airways. (N)

Day 2: Siem Reap

Arrive and transfer to HanumanAlaya for a 2-night stay. (N)

Day 3: Siem Reap

Full-day tour of the temples with a private driver and guide. (B)

Day 4: Temple safari

Temple safari (available Oct-Jul) to the remote temples of Beng Mealea and Kor Ker. Overnight in a luxury tented camp. (B, L, D)

Days 5-6: To Siem Reap

Return to Siem Reap to visit Angkor Wat. Stay at

the HanumanAlaya for 2 nights. (B, L)

Day 7: To Battambang

Early morning drive to the Ang Trapeang Thmor crane sanctuary for bird watching, and continue to Battambang. Stay at the Bambu Hotel for 2 nights. (B, L)

Day 8: Battambang

Visit Wat Banan, Wat Ek Phnom, and Battambang Museum. (B)

Day 9: To Phnom Penh

Morning drive to Phnom Penh. En route, visit the floating villages of Kompong Luong and the pottery-making village of Kampong Chhnang (time permitting). Stay at the Samsara Villa hotel for 2 nights. (B)

Day 10: Phnom Penh

Visit the Royal Palace, the Silver Pagoda, the National Museum, the Tuol Sleng Museum of Genocide and the Killing Fields. (B, L)

Days 11-13: To Cardamom mountains

Drive to Tatai in the Cardamom mountains and transfer to the 4 Rivers Floating Lodge for 3 nights. Excursions to a fishing village, a kayak

trip through the mangroves, and a visit to the beautiful Tatai waterfall. (B, L, D)

Day 14: To Phnom Penh

Return to Phnom Penh and stay overnight at the Samsara Villa hotel. (B)

Day 15: Fly to London via Bangkok

Transfer to the airport and fly to London, via Bangkok. (B)

Day 16: London

Early arrival in London. (N)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £3,295

High season from: £3,995

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

t 020 7808 6786

e info@coxandkings.co.uk



Discover Laos

For many visitors, Luang Prabang is the highlight of any trip to Laos, but for those with more time to explore, Laos has much more to offer. The north of Laos offers remote adventures: travel here is rewarding but can be time consuming, although domestic flights have opened up the region. The quality of accommodation can vary, so base yourself at a lodge and make day trips from there out to tribal villages or to walk in the mountains. The gateway town in the south is Pakse, from where it is possible to explore the Mekong region near the border with Cambodia, and the lush Bolaven plateau.



Wat Xieng Khuan Buddha park. Vientiane

Exploring the Bolaven Plateau

Picturesque waterfalls and forest • Coffee plantations and tribal villages

Located to the east of Pakse, with the Annamite mountains further east towards Vietnam and the Mekong river to the west, the Bolaven plateau has been discovered by tourism in recent years but still lies off the beaten track to most visitors to Laos. Attractions include the plateau's many waterfalls, such as the spectacular Tad Fane that has a drop of almost 120 metres, the villages of the many ethnic groups that live here, and tours and tastings at coffee plantations. At an elevation of between 1,000 and 1,350 metres, the cooler air is welcome after the humidity of the Mekong river.

Cruising on the Mekong

Cruising in Si Phan Don – the 4,000 Islands • Pandaw cruise from Vientiane to Thailand via Luang Prabang

In the far south of Laos, Si Phan Don, or the 4,000 Islands, consists of sandbanks and islands of various sizes, some inhabited and others the haunt of only wild animals and birds. Here the Khone Phapheng waterfalls act as a natural border between Laos and Cambodia, and separate the upper Mekong from the lower Mekong.

Further north in the Laotian capital of Vientiane, it is possible to begin a Pandaw expedition up to Jinghong in China, passing Thailand and Burma at the once notorious Golden Triangle. The journey spends 2 nights in Luang Prabang, visits tribal villages and takes side trips into jungle and countryside.



Buddhist Temple at Royal Palace, Luang Prabang

Luang Prabang & Surrounds

Buddhist temples & colonial architecture • Cruise to the Pak Ou caves

Considered the best-preserved town in south-east Asia, Luang Prabang is a former royal capital with a unique combination of Buddhist temples, French colonial architecture and historic Laotian buildings. Set among verdant mountains and cut through by the Mekong river, the town is Laos' most popular destination.

Despite the interest, the centre has retained its charm and low-key character, thanks in part to its status as a Unesco world heritage site. Highlights include the serene Buddhist temples of Wat May, Wat Visoun, Wat Xieng Thong and Wat Phousi. Participate in the offering of alms and food to local monks at dawn. During this daily morning ritual, saffron-clad monks collect offerings of alms (in the form of sticky rice) from pious local residents. From Phousi hill there are superb views over the city and the surrounding countryside.

To venture further afield, take the Luang Say cruise upstream on the Mekong to the caves of Pak Ou. Here, thousands of Buddhist statues look out of the caves, an accumulation of hundreds of years of offerings from worshippers to whom the caves are sacred. The nearby village of Ban Xangkhong is well known for its paper making and Laotian silk weaving with natural dyes. South of the city are the beautiful waterfalls of Khouangsi. Swim in the clear pools under the multi-tiered limestone formations to escape the heat, or explore the surrounding area via walking trails through native forest.



Monks approaching a temple, Luang Prabang

Vat Phou Temples at Champasak

Exquisite carvings • Beautiful mountainside setting

The Vat Phou temple complex is located at the base of Phu Ka mountain, 50km south of Pakse. The original temple on the site is thought to have been built as early as the fifth century, but the surviving structures date from the 11th to 13th centuries when the temple was part of the Khmer empire. Vat Phou became a Unesco world heritage site in 2001, and minor restoration works continue today to give a flavour of what the site would have been like in its original glory, while other sections lie undisturbed. Climb the hill behind the temple for fine views over the site and the Mekong river.

The Plain of Jars

Superb mountain scenery • Intriguing stone jars on the Xieng Khouang plain

A visit to the Plain of Jars near the town of Phonsavan is an intriguing sight, with more than 250 stone jars scattered all over the Xieng Khouang plain. Archaeologists believe the jars were created about 2,000 years ago, and range in size from 1 to 3 metres in height and diameter. Their exact origins and significance remain a mystery, but they are thought to have been used in burial practices. Tools, ornaments and human remains, left by a civilisation that has yet to be identified, have all been discovered in the area, lending credence to the burial practices theory.

Grand Tour of Indochina

Duration • 21 Days & 18 Nights

Category • Superior & Luxury

Basis • Group or Private Tour

Price • From £3,895

Tour overview

This comprehensive tour takes in the best of Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia, staying in character hotels throughout. The journey begins in the relatively untouched country of Laos. Continue on to Vietnam, a rapidly developing and vibrant country. Explore the Mekong delta before a final journey through the captivating kingdom of Cambodia, ending at majestic Angkor Wat.

C&K highlights

- 4- and 5-star accommodation options, chosen for their character and service
- Visit magical Luang Prabang, the temples of Angkor Wat, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City
- Overnight cruises on Halong Bay and the Mekong delta
- Small group size – maximum 26

Weather

Luang Prabang

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	27	30	32	33	33	32	31	31	31	30	28	26
B	13	14	17	20	23	23	23	22	22	20	17	13
C	16	20	33	110	161	257	241	299	182	121	40	12

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



Halong Bay, Vietnam

Day 1: Fly to Luang Prabang, Laos, via Bangkok

Fly overnight from London to Luang Prabang, via Bangkok, with Thai Airways. (N)

Day 2: Arrive in Luang Prabang

Arrive in Luang Prabang and transfer to the Sala Prabang (or similar) / Belmond La Residence Phou Vao* for 3 nights. A welcome dinner will be held at a local restaurant. (D)

Day 3: Luang Prabang

Morning tour of the ancient temple district and the Royal Palace Museum. Afternoon visit to the Ock Pop Tock weaving centre. (B, L)

Day 4: Luang Prabang

Early morning optional excursion to see monks receiving alms (payable locally). After breakfast, take an excursion to Kuang Si Falls with a picnic lunch. Afternoon at leisure. (B, L)

Day 5: Fly to Hanoi, Vietnam

Morning at leisure. Optional boat trip to the Pak Ou caves and nearby local villages (payable locally). Afternoon flight to Hanoi, and transfer to The Ann Hanoi / Sofitel Legend Metropole* for a 2-night stay. (B)

Day 6: Hanoi

Morning tour of Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum* and residence, and One Pillar Pagoda. Continue to the Temple of Literature, Hoan Kiem lake and Ngoc Son temple. Lunch is at KOTO restaurant, an organisation that provides vocational training for underprivileged youth in Vietnam, followed by a visit to the Museum of Ethnology. In the evening there is an opportunity to see a water puppet show in Hanoi (payable locally). (B, L)

Day 7: To Halong Bay

Morning drive to the world heritage site of Halong Bay. Board a traditional junk sailing vessel for an afternoon cruise and overnight accommodation. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Fly to Danang and Hoi An

Morning cruise around the karst limestone islands. Disembark in the late morning and drive to Hanoi airport for an evening flight to Danang. Transfer to the Palm Garden Beach Resort & Spa / Hotel Royal Hoi An* for a 3-night stay. (B, L)

Day 9: Hoi An

Morning walking tour of this former trading port, which has historic Chinese, Japanese and European influences. Lunch at Streets International restaurant, a social enterprise initiative with the aim of developing and operating sustainable programmes for street children. Afternoon at leisure, or join an optional excursion to the ruined temples of My Son (payable locally). (B, L)

Day 10: Hoi An

Day at leisure. Optional class at the Red Bridge cooking school (payable locally). (B)

Day 11: To Hué

Morning drive over the spectacular Hai Van Pass to Hué (weather permitting), stopping at Cham Museum en route. Afternoon visit to the Tombs of the Nguyễn emperors Tu Duc and Khai Dinh, then visit the Dong Ba market. Dinner will be taken in a restored royal home. Stay 1 night at the Imperial Hotel / La Residence Hué* (B, L, D)

Day 12: Fly to Ho Chi Minh City

Morning cyclo ride to the Imperial Citadel and the Purple Forbidden City, followed by a river cruise to Thien Mu pagoda. After the excursion, transfer direct to the airport and fly to Ho Chi Minh City. Stay 2 nights at the Duxton Hotel / Caravelle Saigon*. (B)

Day 13: Ho Chi Minh City

Morning drive through the countryside to the Cu Chi tunnels. Afternoon city tour, visiting the Reunification Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral and the War Remnants Museum. (B)

Day 14: Mekong delta cruise:

Drive to Cai Be in the Mekong delta, and embark on a cruise through the Mekong delta. Stop for a walking tour of local villages and countryside. Overnight on board. (B, L, D)

Day 15: Fly to Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Early morning boat trip to Cai Rang floating market, one of the largest and most impressive in south-east Asia. Disembark at Can Tho, then drive through the delta to Ho Chi Minh City



Ta Prohm, Angkor, Siem Reap, Cambodia

airport and fly to Phnom Penh. Stay 2 nights at La Rose Boutique Hotel & Spa / Raffles Hotel Le Royal*. (B, L)

Day 16: Phnom Penh

Morning visit to the Royal Palace, the Silver Pagoda and the National Museum. Lunch at the restaurant of Pour un Sourire d'Enfant (PSE) training centre, a project that provides education for the city's poorest children. Afternoon tour of the Tuol Sleng Museum of Genocide and the Choeung Ek killing fields. (B, L)

Day 17: Fly to Siem Reap

Fly to Siem Reap this morning and stay at Tara Angkor Hotel / Belmond La Résidence d'Angkor* for 3 nights. Afternoon tour of the Roluos temples. (B)

Day 18: Angkor temples

Full-day tour of the temples of Angkor. In the morning visit the magnificent Angkor Wat. Return to Siem Reap for lunch. In the afternoon explore Angkor Thom, the Terrace of the Elephants, the Terrace of the Leper King and the Bayon temple. (B, L)

Day 19: Angkor temples

Morning at leisure. Afternoon excursion to Banteay Srei temple and the small island temple of Neak Pean. A farewell dinner will be held tonight at a local restaurant. (B, D)

Day 20: Fly to London via Bangkok

This afternoon, transfer to the airport and fly overnight to London, via Bangkok. (B)

Day 21: London

Early morning arrival in London. (N)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Group tour manager: This tour is fully escorted throughout by a local tour manager from arrival in Luang Prabang.

* **Tour standards:** Superior tour departures are based in 4-star accommodation. Luxury tour departures will feature upgraded accommodation as indicated by the asterisks. Rooms are based on the standard category.

† **Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum:** Each year, Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum is closed between October and December for re-embalming of the body and can only be visited from outside.

Private & tailor-made travel: This itinerary can be taken privately, for which guideline prices are shown. Alternatively, it can be tailored to your exact requirements. Please call 020 7808 6786 or email info@coxandkings.co.uk.

Guideline prices for 2016-17

Group tour: Superior departures
2016: from £3,895
Guide price months: Jan – Nov 16

2017: from £3,995
Guide price months: Feb – Mar 17

Single supplement from £795

Group tour: Luxury departures
2016: from £4,995
Guide price months: Jan – Nov 16

High season: from £5,195
Guide price months: Jan – Mar 17

Single supplement from £1,995

Private travel: Superior
Low season: from £3,995
Guide price months: Jul – Aug

High season: from £4,195
Guide price months: Oct – Nov

Single supplement from £POA

Thai Airways flight upgrades
Royal Silk Class from £2,195 return

Regional air connections
Please speak to your consultant for details

The guideline tour prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on two people sharing a twin / double room. To see current prices for all departure dates, including special offers when applicable, please call 020 7808 6786, email info@coxandkings.co.uk or visit coxandkings.co.uk. All prices are subject to availability.

Superior group tour departure dates for 2016-17

Tour Code: LVS

Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn
21 Jan 16	10 Feb 16	11 Mar 16	31 Mar 16	04 Nov 16	24 Nov 16	24 Feb 17	16 Mar 17
18 Feb 16	09 Mar 16	21 Oct 16	10 Nov 16	03 Feb 17	23 Feb 17	10 Mar 17	30 Mar 17

Luxury group tour departure dates for 2016-17

Tour Code: LVC

Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn
14 Jan 16	03 Feb 16	04 Mar 16	24 Mar 16	13 Jan 17	02 Feb 17	03 Mar 17	23 Mar 17
25 Feb 16	16 Mar 16	11 Nov 16	01 Dec 16	17 Feb 17	09 Mar 17		

Spirit of Vietnam

Duration • 14 Days & 11 Nights
Category • Superior & Luxury

Basis • Group or Private Tour
Price • From £2,295

Tour overview

Discover the varied sights, sounds and flavours of this enchanting country, touring the fascinating cities of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), the Vietnam war-era Cu Chi tunnels, and the historic pearls of Hué and Hoi An. A cruise on the Mekong delta and the magnificent landscapes of Halong Bay, including a night on a traditional junk boat, are all included in this superb tour of Vietnam.

C&K highlights

- Cruise on the waters of the spectacular Halong Bay and the Mekong delta
- Explore the charming towns of Hoi An and Hué
- Dinner at a restored royal home of the Nguyễn dynasty
- Small group size – maximum 26 people

Weather

Hanoi

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	20	20	23	27	32	33	33	32	31	29	25	22
B	14	15	18	21	25	26	26	26	25	22	19	15
C	22	28	42	97	181	242	258	297	225	125	57	19

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



My Son

Day 1: Fly to Hanoi via Hong Kong

Overnight flight from London to Hanoi, via Hong Kong, with Cathay Pacific. (N)

Day 2: Hanoi

Morning arrival. Transfer to the Mövenpick Hotel / Sofitel Legend Metropole* for 2 nights. Welcome dinner at Le Tonkin. (D)

Day 3: Hanoi

Morning tour of Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum†, the One Pillar Pagoda, the Temple of Literature, Hoan Kiem lake and Ngoc Son temple. Lunch is at KOTO restaurant, an organisation that provides vocational training for underprivileged youth in Vietnam, followed by a visit to the Museum of Ethnology (subject to local conditions). Optional evening excursion to a water puppet show (payable locally). (B, L)

Day 4: To Halong Bay

Morning drive to Halong Bay to board a junk boat (traditional Chinese sailing vessel) and cruise around the limestone islands. Overnight on board. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Fly to Hoi An

Morning cruise in Halong Bay. Disembark and drive to Hanoi airport and fly to Hoi An, one of Asia's most enchanting towns. Stay 3 nights at the Palm Garden Beach Resort & Spa / Hotel Royal Hoi An*. (B, L)

Day 6: Hoi An

Morning tour of the ruined temple of My Son. Lunch at Streets International restaurant, a

social enterprise initiative with the purpose to develop and operate sustainable programmes for street children. In the afternoon, take a walking tour of the former trading port of Hoi An, which has historic Chinese, Japanese and European influences. (B, L)

Day 7: Hoi An

Day at leisure. Optional classes at the Red Bridge cooking school (payable locally). (B)

Day 8: To Hué

Morning drive over the spectacular Hai Van Pass (weather permitting) to Hué, visiting the Museum of Cham Sculpture en route. Afternoon visit to the tombs of the Nguyễn emperors Tu Duc and Khai Dinh. Stay at the Imperial Hotel / La Residence Hué* for 2 nights. (B, L)

Day 9: Hué

Morning cyclo ride to the Citadel and the Purple Forbidden City, then cruise to the Thien Mu pagoda. After lunch, visit the Dong Ba market, then continue to Kim garden to see a martial arts performance. Dinner at a restored royal home of the Nguyễn dynasty. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Fly to Ho Chi Minh City

Morning flight to Ho Chi Minh City and transfer to the Hotel Renaissance Riverside / Caravelle Hotel* for a 3-night stay. Afternoon tour of the Reunification Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral and the War Remnants Museum. (B)

Day 11: Mekong delta

Full-day exploration of the Mekong delta, including a boat trip along the Bamboo Canal and sampan ride along the smaller creeks. (B, L)

Day 12: Cu Chi tunnels

After breakfast, drive through southern Vietnamese countryside and visit the Cu Chi tunnels. Rest of the day at leisure. Farewell dinner. (B, D)

Day 13: Fly to London

Afternoon transfer to the airport and fly overnight to London. (B)

Day 14: London

Early morning arrival. (N)

Extension

Tour + Mui Ne beach

4 Days & 3 Nights from £375
 Extension starts on Day 13 of tour

End your tour on the beaches of Mui Ne, a coastal resort 3 hours' drive from Ho Chi Minh City, with a 3-night stay at the Anantara Mui



Banana trader, Mekong river

Ne Resort & Spa. Trips to alternative beach locations can be arranged, including Phu Quoc island, the Con Dao islands and Nha Trang. See pages 86-87.

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Group tour manager: This tour is fully escorted throughout by a local tour manager from arrival in Hanoi.

* **Tour standards:** Superior tour departures are based in 4-star accommodation. Luxury tour departures will feature upgraded accommodation as indicated by the asterisks. Rooms and cabins are based on the standard category.

† **Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum:** Every year, Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum is closed between October and December for re-embalming of the body and can only be visited from outside.

Private & tailor-made travel: This itinerary can be taken privately, for which guideline prices are shown. Alternatively, it can be tailored to your exact requirements. Please call 020 7808 6786 or email info@coxandkings.co.uk.

Guideline prices for 2016-17

Group tour: Superior departures
Low season: from £2,295
Guide price months: Oct

High season: from £2,445
Guide price months: Jan – Feb 17

Single supplement from £545

Group tour: Luxury departures
Low season: from £2,495
Guide price months: Oct

High season: from £2,645
Guide price months: Jan – Feb 17

Single supplement from £895

Private travel: Superior
Low season: from £2,595
Guide price months: May – Jun

High season: from £2,695
Guide price months: Oct – Nov

Single supplement from £POA

Cathay Pacific flight upgrades

Premium Economy Class: from £1,265 return
Business Class: from £2,995 return

Regional air connections

From £160 return British Airways to / from: London Heathrow and Manchester, Aberdeen, Belfast, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle or Leeds Bradford

The guideline tour prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on two people sharing a twin / double room. To see current prices for all departure dates, including special offers when applicable, please call 020 7808 6786, email info@coxandkings.co.uk or visit coxandkings.co.uk. All prices are subject to availability.

Superior group tour departure dates for 2016-17

Tour Code: SPV

Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn
04 Feb 16	17 Feb 16	20 Oct 16	02 Nov 16	16 Feb 17	01 Mar 17
10 Mar 16	23 Mar 16	17 Nov 16	30 Nov 16	09 Mar 17	22 Mar 17

Luxury group tour departure dates for 2016-17

Tour Code: VLD

Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn
14 Jan 16	27 Jan 16	27 Oct 16	09 Nov 16	12 Jan 17	25 Jan 17
25 Feb 16	09 Mar 16	10 Nov 16	23 Nov 16	23 Feb 17	08 Mar 17

Laos & Cambodia: Temples & Treasures

Duration • 13 Days & 10 Nights

Category • Superior

Basis • Expert-led Group Tour

Price • From £3,695



Tour overview

Accompanied by expert lecturer Denise Heywood who has lived in the region, begin your tour in serene Luang Prabang in Laos, filled with glittering temples. Cruise on the Mekong river to sacred caves, before flying to Vientiane. End the tour with a stay in Siem Reap to marvel at the mystical 12th-century temple of Angkor Wat, the largest religious monument in the world and the highlight of the tour.

C&K highlights

- Private curator talk at the Traditional Arts & Ethnology Centre, Luang Prabang
- Special private visit to silkweaver Carol Cassidy's Lao Textiles Gallery
- Traditional Laotian welcome ceremony
- Spend 5 days at Angkor Wat
- Experience a Mekong river cruise

Expert lecturer

Denise Heywood is an author, lecturer, journalist and photographer who worked in Cambodia for three years. Her books include *Ancient Luang Prabang & Laos* and *Cambodian Dance: Celebration of the Gods*. A lecturer for the National Association of Decorative and Fine Art Societies (Nadfas), Art Fund and School of Oriental and African Studies (Soas), she has lectured worldwide on Asian art and culture.



Area map



Day 1: Fly to Luang Prabang, Laos, via Bangkok

Fly from London Heathrow to Luang Prabang, via Bangkok with Thai Airways and Bangkok Airways. (N)

Day 2: Luang Prabang

Arrive and transfer to the Villa Maly (or similar) for 4 nights. Luang Prabang, a world heritage site with 35 golden temples, is the best-preserved town in south-east Asia. Afternoon at leisure. Evening introductory lecture and welcome dinner. (D)

Day 3: Luang Prabang

Temple tour, including Wat Visoun, Wat Mai and Wat That Makmo, seeing other temples, fine secular architecture and French colonial buildings along the way. Afternoon visit to the National Museum, formerly the Royal Palace, with fascinating collections of objects, paintings and costumes. In the evening, see Heritage House, a perfect example of Luang Prabang's secular buildings, and enjoy a traditional baci welcome ceremony at the historic Puang Champa Cultural House. (B)

Day 4: Pak Ou

Today, cruise on the Mekong river to the Pak Ou caves, filled with Buddha images. Have lunch in a wooden cottage overlooking the river before visiting a picturesque village to see silk weaving, sericulture and mulberry paper production. Late afternoon at leisure, with a chance to visit Mount Phousi at sunset, or listen to a Gavarak storytelling. (B, L)

Day 5: Luang Prabang

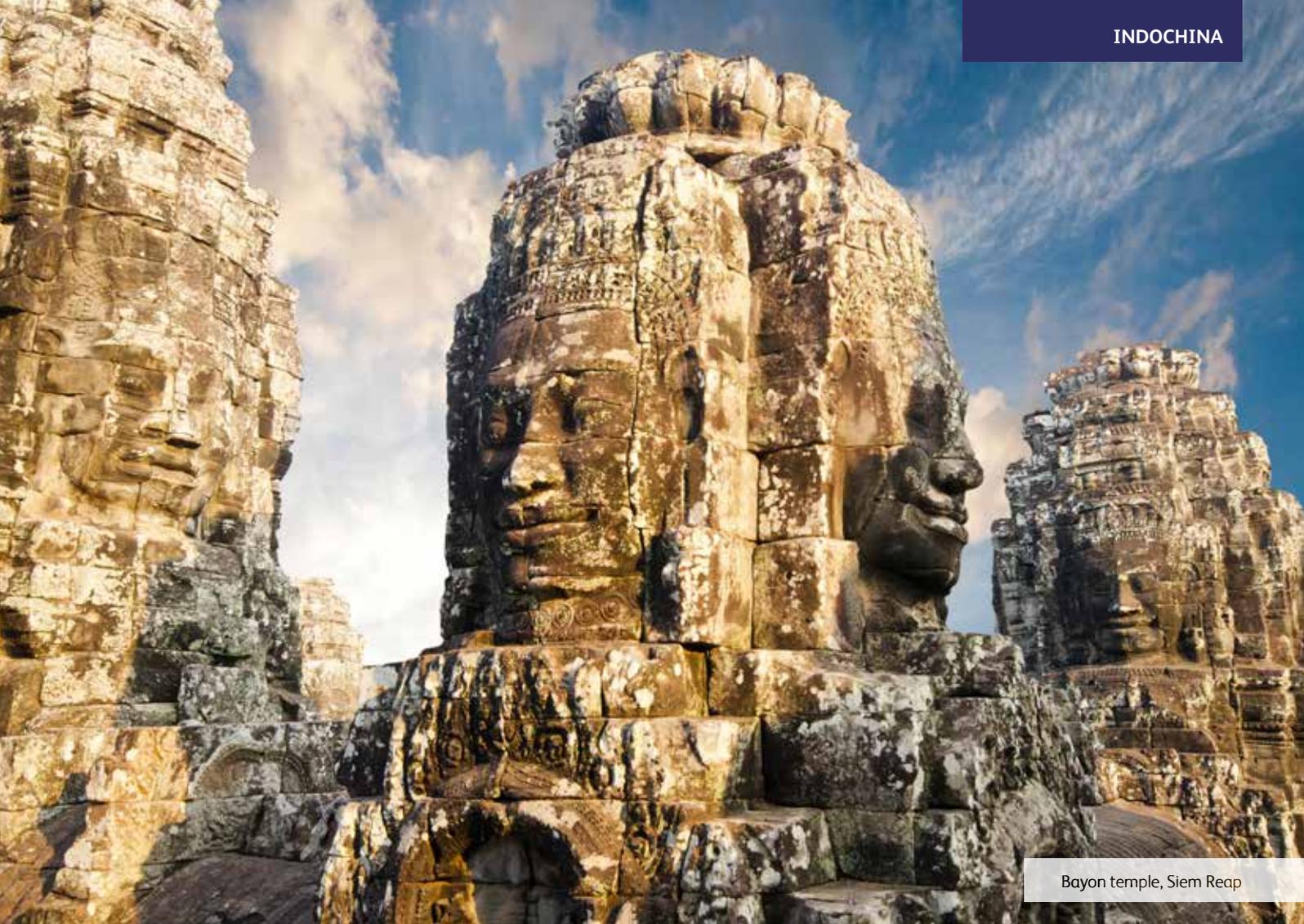
Morning visit to the Traditional Arts & Ethnology Centre for a special tour, introduced by the centre's curator. Special private visit to a traditional teak-wood home furnished with antiques (subject to availability). Afternoon at leisure or visit other temples, study murals and iconography or visit The Living Land Company, an inspiring community farm. (B)

Day 6: Fly to Vientiane

Optional visit to Vipassana Meditation Centre. Fly to Vientiane. Transfer to Green Park Boutique Hotel (or similar) for 2 nights. Visit Wat Sisaket, Wat Phra Keo, Patuxai Monument and, That Luang, the national symbol of Laos. (B)



Wat Phra That Luang, Vientiane



Bayon temple, Siem Reap

Day 7: Vientiane

Continued city visits followed by a special private visit with silkweaver Carol Cassidy at Lao Textiles Gallery. Optional afternoon visit to the National Museum in Vientiane. (B)

Day 8: Fly to Siem Reap, Cambodia

Fly to Siem Reap and stay 4 nights at The Victoria Angkor Resort & Spa (or similar). Afternoon introductory lecture followed by a visit to Ta Prohm temple, now restored but still shrouded in tropical trees. (B)

Day 9: Angkor temples

Morning visit to the early Roluos and oldest group of temples: Preah Ko, Bakong and Lolei. Afternoon visit to Angkor Wat. Stay until sunset to admire the bas-reliefs of the Hindu epics. (B)

Day 10: Angkor temples

Morning at Angkor Wat. Afternoon visit to Angkor Thom, the Bayon temple, Terrace of the Elephants and Terrace of the Leper King. (B)

Day 11: Angkor temples

Morning visit to Banteay Srei, followed by Banteay Samre. Afternoon at leisure or optional excursions to less-visited temples. Exclusive farewell dinner with authentic Khmer food and traditional dance performance. (B, D)

Day 12: Fly to London, via Bangkok

Day at leisure. Optional visits to the Angkor National Museum and further temples. Late afternoon transfer to Siem Reap airport. Fly to London, via Bangkok, with Thai Airways and Bangkok Airways. (B)

Day 13: London

Early morning arrival into London Heathrow. (N)

Extension**Tour + Siem Reap**

3 Days & 2 Nights from £385

Extend your stay at The Victoria Angkor Resort & Spa in Siem Reap for more time to explore the magnificent temples of Angkor.

If you wish to discover more of Indochina or stopover in Bangkok, please contact Cox & Kings for details.

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Royal Academy of Arts (RA) tours: A collection of expert-accompanied tours focusing on creativity in its many forms. All RA tours are open to everyone and can be viewed at coxandkings.co.uk/ra.

Expert-led tour: This tour is fully escorted throughout by the lecturer, as well as experienced local guides.

Superior tour: Typically based in 4- and 5-star accommodation.

Accessibility: This tour involves some long walks over uneven ground and therefore requires a good level of fitness.

Departure dates & guideline prices for 2016-17**Tour Code: LCA**

30 Jan-11 Feb 2016: from £3,695
 19 Nov-01 Dec 2016: from £3,745
 04-16 Feb 2017: from £3,795
 18-30 Nov 2017: from £3,695

Single supplement: from £845
 Single supplement: from £845
 Single supplement: from £855
 Single supplement: from £855

with Denise Heywood
 with Denise Heywood
 with Denise Heywood
 with Denise Heywood

Thai Airways flight upgrades

Royal Silk Class from £2,195 return

Regional air connections

Please ask your consultant for details

The guideline tour prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on two people sharing a twin / double room. To see current prices for all departure dates, including special offers when applicable, please call 020 7808 6786, email info@coxandkings.co.uk or visit coxandkings.co.uk/ra. All prices subject to availability.

Cambodia in Style

Duration • 12 Days & 9 Nights

Category • Luxury

Basis • Private Tour

Price • From £2,995

Tour overview

Combining Angkor temples with the fascinating Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh, and the smaller less-visited areas of Battambang and Kep, this tour explores the Angkor Archaeological Park and visits the key sites as well as some smaller temples. Dinners in Siem Reap are held in private houses in the Cambodian countryside. In Phnom Penh, discover the city's past with visits to historic buildings, sample the local cuisine and, optionally, take a cruise on the Mekong river. Finish on Cambodia's south coast, exploring the islands and jungle.

C&K highlights

- Luxury accommodation at Raffles Phnom Penh & Belmond La Residence d'Angkor
- Explore the temples of Angkor with an expert guide, avoiding the crowds
- Private candle-lit dinner in the Cambodian countryside
- Relax in the coastal resort of Kep

Weather

Siem Reap

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	31	34	36	36	34	33	32	32	31	30	31	30
B	19	21	23	24	25	24	24	24	24	24	22	20
C	1	9	28	64	146	166	186	224	250	215	61	7

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



Monk at Angkor Wat

Day 1: Fly to Bangkok

Fly to Bangkok with Thai Airways. (N)

Day 2: Fly to Siem Reap

Arrive in Bangkok and fly to Siem Reap with Bangkok Airways. Stay at Belmond La Residence d'Angkor for 3 nights. (N)

Day 3: Angkor temples

Full-day discovery of Angkor's temples with an expert guide who will suggest ways of avoiding the crowds or seeing the places that interest you the most. A sample tour starts at Ta Prohm before the crowds arrive, then on to Banteay Srei temple. Afternoon visit to the smaller, outer temples, then into the countryside for a private candle-lit dinner at Sala Roluos, a beautiful traditional wooden house. (B, L, D)

Day 4: Angkor temples

Sunrise visit and breakfast at Sala Kdei, then visit Angkor Wat. In the afternoon, tour Angkor Thom and Bayon. Dinner this evening will be served at the Sala Kdei private house in the countryside outside Siem Reap. (B, L, D)

Day 5: To Phnom Penh

Optional morning helicopter ride over Angkor Wat and Tonlé Sap (must be pre-booked), then drive to Phnom Penh and transfer to the Raffles Hotel Le Royal for a 3-night stay. (B)

Day 6: Phnom Penh

Begin at Wat Phnom, the city's first pagoda, then visit some of the iconic buildings that tell the story of Phnom Penh. See French colonial-era buildings, hidden back-street Chinese temples, and the French Embassy, site of the final evacuation of foreigners still in the city when the Khmer Rouge took over in 1975. Finish the tour with a view over the capital from one of its highest points. (B, L)

Day 7: Phnom Penh

Day at leisure. Optional tour to visit the Royal

Palace and Silver Pagoda, the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and the killing fields of Choeung Ek outside the city. Explore the excellent National Museum with its collection of Angkor-era art at your own pace. Optional evening Mekong river sunset cruise (shared excursion – book in advance). (B)

Day 8: To Kep

Drive from Phnom Penh to Kep, and stay at the Knai Bang Chatt boutique hotel for 3 nights. (B)

Days 9-10: Kep

Days at leisure. Optional excursions to the beaches of Koh Tonsay island, walking in Kep National Park, or visits to Buddhist cave temples. (B)

Day 11: Fly to London via Bangkok

Return to Phnom Penh this morning and fly to London, via Bangkok, with Thai Airways. (B)

Day 12: London

Morning arrival in London. (N)

Extension

Tour + Song Saa Private Island

5 Days & 3 Nights from £2,195

Extension starts on Day 11 of tour

Extend your holiday with a stay at Song Saa Private Island, a luxurious resort reached by speedboat transfer from Sihanoukville. All meals, house wines and spirits are included. The resort hosts a world-class spa and marine reserve.

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Locally escorted tour: This tour is led in each destination en route by a local tour escort.

Luxury tour: Featuring some of the most luxurious accommodation in each destination throughout the tour. Rooms are based on the standard category.

Tailor-made travel: For a price quote based on alternative accommodation standards or flight options, or to tailor this itinerary, please call 020 7808 6786 or email info@coxandkings.co.uk.

Guideline prices

Low season from £2,995
High season from £3,595



The Silver Pagoda, Phnom Penh

Discover Mekong River Cruising

The Mekong is one of the most important rivers in south-east Asia, flowing through the heart of the region and supporting the livelihoods of more than 60 million people. It is also one of the world's most diverse fisheries, second only to the Amazon river. Taking a cruise is one of the best ways to discover the life of the people living along this great river. Cox & Kings has selected the best boats available, which allow you to explore the far-flung reaches of these waterways, taking you to sights that are otherwise inaccessible.

The boats featured on the following pages all have comfortable cabins, dining rooms and communal areas from which to enjoy the passing scenery, but the highlights of any Mekong cruise are the shore excursions undertaken to explore the delta. These excursions use

smaller boats to transfer from the main ship to the shore, or to traverse the smaller channels, and are escorted by an expert local guide to inform guests about life on the river.

All vessels stop at riverside villages, which often specialise in a particular trade or craft such as pottery, silk weaving or fish farming. Another feature of river life is the constant flow of smaller boats on the waterways, engaged in fishing, transportation or congregating as a floating market such as the one at Cai Be. In Cambodia, excursions will also be made to visit small temples and shrines, and if river levels allow, many cruise itineraries will also include a visit to Tonle Sap, a vast freshwater lake near Siem Reap that is home to floating villages, fishing boats and mangroves.

The Aqua Mekong by Aqua Expeditions

The *Aqua Mekong* by Aqua Expeditions is a 20-suite vessel, the third and latest in the Aqua Expeditions fleet, offering 3-, 4- and 7-night expeditions. Introducing a new standard of luxury and sophistication on the river, designed by Vietnam-based architects Noor Design, the boat uses local sustainable materials and artisanal touches to create a floating boutique hotel. Suites feature a twin bed convertible to a California king, floor-to-ceiling windows, a large double closet with safety box, chest of drawers, telephone, an indoor seating area and, for balcony cabins, an outdoor seating area. A large bathroom has a picture window facing the Mekong, two sinks, walk-in shower with rainforest showerhead and bench, hairdryer and natural bath amenities.

Boat facilities include indoor and outdoor bars, screening room, library / games room, outside shaded lounge with daybeds, boutique shop, an observation deck with outdoor sunbeds, and a top deck exercise room overlooking the river. Meals are taken in either the indoor dining room or outdoor private dining area, with a menu designed by top Australian chef and restaurateur, David Thompson. The luxury spa has two spa treatment rooms, one with two massage beds and one with a single bed. The crew consist of 40 personnel, including a cruise director and four English-speaking guides. Excursions are conducted using a fleet of four private speedboats, with a maximum of 10 in each guided group. There are also a limited supply of bicycles on board.



Woman rowing on the Mekong



Aqua Mekong



Suite, Aqua Mekong



Vang Vieng, Laos



Mekong Princess



Suite Cabin, Mekong Princess

Haimark Luxury River Expeditions

Haimark Luxury River Expeditions has a recent addition to their fleet – the 12-suite *Mekong Princess*, which operates an innovative programme on the Mekong. This luxury spa-concept cruiser departs weekly from Ho Chi Minh City, offering an extensive wellness programme including a complimentary, hour-long spa treatment. All suites have panoramic French balconies and spacious marble bathrooms, while the Angkor suite offers a large veranda with patio furniture and soaking tub along with shower.

Meals are served in the Indochina dining room, where Haimark's culinary director, Jorg Penneke, has created an innovative fusion of traditional Asian cuisine and western spa-style gastronomy.

Onboard facilities include a library and computers with complimentary internet access, as well as a small but state-of-the-art fitness centre. Daily yoga, tai chi, and meditation classes are offered on deck. For the indulgent, the Princess Spa has the most extensive spa menu of any ship on the Mekong river, with highly trained spa therapists offering several types of massages, facials, scrubs, body wraps and regional treatments. A nightly programme of evening entertainment includes local cultural performances accompanied by an onboard musician.

A River Journey on the Mekong

Duration • 15 Days & 12 Nights

Category • Luxury

Basis • Private Tour

Price • From £3,095

Tour overview

Explore one of the world's great rivers on this 7-night cruise on the Mekong, passing small riverside villages and sleepy temples that, being inaccessible by road, are well off the tourist trail. These river cruisers are the ideal way to explore remote locations while retaining access to luxury accommodation, facilities and food back on board. This journey can be taken either up or downstream, ending or beginning at the legendary temples of Angkor.

C&K highlights

- Cruise in style on the *Jayavarman* or *Jahan* luxury vessel
- Visit remote riverbank villages, temples and markets
- Enjoy the peace of the river and experience life in the Mekong delta
- Visit the Angkor temples, Phnom Penh and Ho Chi Minh City

Weather

Phnom Penh

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	32	32	34	34	34	33	32	32	31	31	30	30
B	21	22	23	24	25	24	25	25	24	24	23	22
C	6	8	29	68	166	156	149	162	245	263	115	27

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



National Museum, Phnom Penh

Day 1: Fly to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) via Bangkok

Fly from London to Ho Chi Minh City, via Bangkok. (N)

Day 2: Ho Chi Minh City

Arrive and transfer to the Caravelle Hotel for 2 nights. (N)

Day 3: Ho Chi Minh City

Morning tour of the Cu Chi tunnels, the underground network dug by the Viet Cong. Return to Ho Chi Minh City for a tour of the city. (B, L)

Day 4: Mekong cruise

Transfer to My Tho to board the *Jayavarman* / *Jahan* for a 7-night cruise to Siem Reap. Spend the afternoon navigating the waters of the Mekong delta towards Cai Be. (B, D)

Day 5: Cai Be • Sa Dec • Binh Thanh island

In the morning, take a boat trip around Cai Be to see the floating market and explore the islands and orchards of the delta. In the afternoon, cruise to Sa Dec and enjoy a traditional sampan ride to Binh Thanh island, then continue to Tan Chau. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Tan Chau

Morning excursion to a local market, the floating villages, cat fish farms and a visit to a Muslim Cham village near Chau Doc. Return to the boat and continue upriver, crossing the border into Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Phnom Penh

Full-day tour of Phnom Penh, including the Royal Palace, the Silver Pagoda, the National Museum and Tuol Sleng Museum of Genocide. Dinner is followed by a performance of traditional Apsara dance. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Chong Koh • Angkor Ban

Sail to Chong Koh and visit the riverside village here that specialises in silk weaving, then on to the village of Angkor Ban to learn more about village life. Later this evening begin sailing to Kampong Cham. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Visit countryside & temples

Sail upriver to the hilltop pre-Angkor temple of Wat Hanchey, and enjoy the panoramic views of the Cambodian countryside. Afterwards, sail back to Kampong Cham visiting the Wat Nokor temple along the way. Moor overnight near Kampong Cham. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Tonlé Sap lake

Set sail today up the Tonlé river, which connects the Tonlé lake with the Mekong and Bassac rivers that merge at Phnom Penh. Take an excursion by coach to the pottery village of Aundaung Russey. A farewell dinner will be held this evening. Overnight moored in the middle of the lake. (B, L, D)

Day 11: To Siem Reap

Early morning crossing of the huge Tonlé Sap lake, then disembark and coach journey to Siem Reap. Arrive and transfer to Belmond La Résidence d'Angkor for 3 nights. (B)

Days 12: Angkor temples

Full-day tour of the smaller temples of Angkor, including the Roluos Group, Banteay Srei, Preah Khan and Neak Pean. (B, L)

Day 13: Angkor Wat & Angkor Thom

This morning, explore picturesque Ta Phrom and Prasat Tanei where a light picnic breakfast is served. Continue to the jewel of the Khmer empire: Angkor Wat. In the afternoon, visit Angkor Thom, the Terrace of the Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King. End the day at Bayon, where its distinctive stone faces are softened by the light of the setting sun. (B)

Day 14: Fly to London via Bangkok

Transfer to the airport and fly to London, via Bangkok. (B)

Day 15: London

Morning arrival. (N)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.



Angkor Wat, Siem Reap



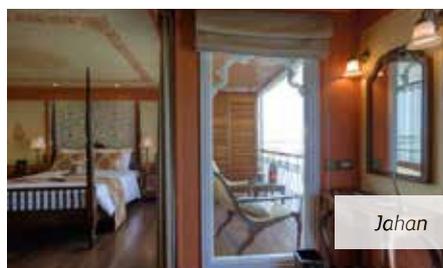
Jayavarman



Jahan



Jayavarman



Jahan

Important information

Locally escorted tour: This tour is led in each destination en route by a local tour escort.

Luxury tour: Featuring some of the most luxurious accommodation in each destination throughout the tour. Rooms and cabins are based on the standard category.

Itinerary: The itinerary that is shown above is correct for times of high water in the region, typically between July and December. At other times of the year, water levels on the Tonle Sap lake are too low to navigate, meaning that the excursions above will be rearranged, and on Day 11 a coach will transport passengers from Kampong Cham to Siem Reap.

Non-exclusive cruise: When on board the cruise, the transfers and excursions relevant to that cruise are operated as a group with other passengers who may or may not be Cox & Kings clients.

Departure dates & guideline prices

Departures: This tour departs the UK on Wednesdays. Itineraries are subject to change and amendments due to local conditions and seasonal water levels. There are no departures in May.

Low season from £3,095 (*Jayavarman*)
High season from £3,995 (*Jayavarman*)

The Jayavarman

Inspired by the golden-age cruise liner Normandie, the *Jayavarman* was Indochina's first boutique-style river cruiser. All 27 spacious cabins and suites are beautifully furnished and have floor-to-ceiling sliding doors leading to private balconies. Facilities include a dining room, bar and lounge, sun deck, library with internet workstation, observatory with binoculars, and the Apsara beauty salon and spa.

The Jahan

The sister ship to the *Jayavarman*, the *Jahan* offers a luxury cruising experience, with 26 elegant cabins furnished in a distinctive British Indian colonial style. On board, facilities include the Viceroy dining hall, which serves western, Khmer and Vietnamese specialities; the Funnel Bar; a pool deck; a gym; and steam bath. Signature services include high tea in the observatory, a cruise concierge desk and private shore excursions with a tour assistant.

Discover Pandaw River Cruising

Pandaw Cruises

Company History

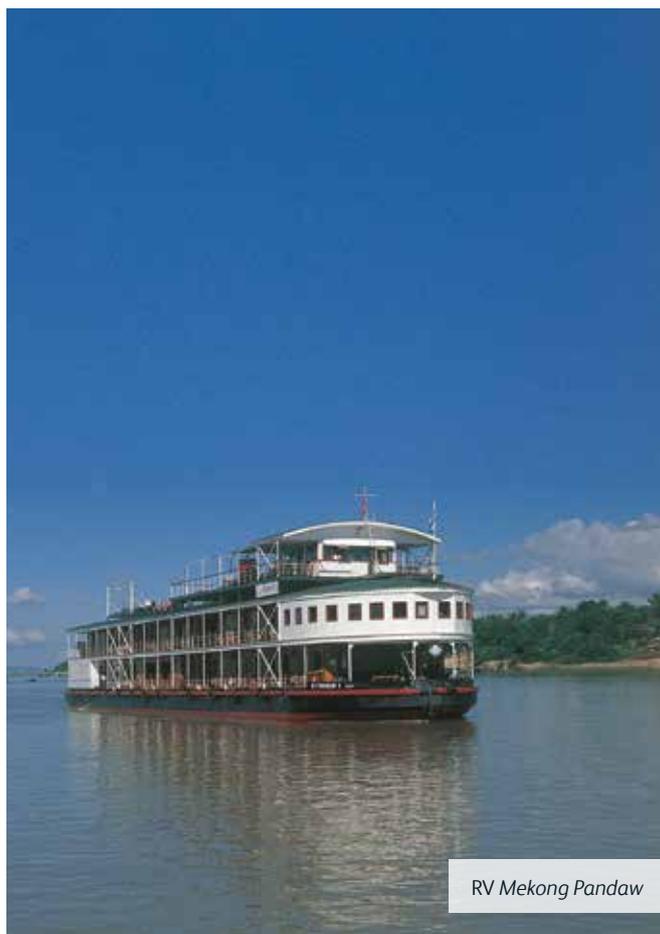
Founded as the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company by Scots merchants in 1865, by the 1920s the company ran over 650 vessels on the rivers of Burma. After a long period of neglect, the fleet was revived in 1995 by Scottish historian Paul Strachan. In 1998 an original Clyde-built steamer called *The Pandaw* was leased and restored, and thus Pandaw was born, with its unique concept and style of river cruising. In 2003, Pandaw expanded to the Mekong river in Indochina, with vessels plying the waters between Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam and Angkor Wat in Cambodia.

Today, Pandaw operates 13 luxury ships that explore the great rivers of south-east Asia. These expeditions offer a real adventure experience, while at the same time travellers can enjoy fine dining, superb cocktails and choice wines, with extraordinary levels of service. These river expeditions are unlike ocean-going cruises, with no formal dress code for dinner or 'captain's table'. The atmosphere on board is friendly and informal, more like a party on a private yacht than a cruise ship. Nearly everything is included in the price and there are no hidden extras for excursions. Most drinks are included

in the price of your cruise. On board, there is an incredibly high level of personal service and care, with a crew to passenger ratio of 1:2.

The Vessels

All ships were custom built, designed and finished as replicas of colonial river steamers, with interiors that have been hand-finished in brass and teak by traditionally skilled craftsmen. Luxury and comfort are present but discreet, but it is the colonial character and friendly atmosphere that impresses. All main and upper deck cabins have 170 sq feet of cabin space, with panoramic French windows leading to personal deck space. On the upper deck is a cocktail bar and sun deck, partly covered by an awning from where you can watch life on the river unfold. Currently only available on the Mekong ships, the Pandaw Spa offers head, foot and body massages in dedicated spa areas. Other facilities available on Pandaw vessels can include lecture rooms, boutique art galleries, souvenir shops, saloon bars, fitness centres and libraries.



RV Mekong Pandaw



Mekong river traffic



Typical houseboat

Pandaw Along the Mekong

This classic 7-night Mekong journey passes through the bustling Mekong delta in Vietnam to the tranquillity of Cambodia, sailing between the French colonial port of Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) and Siem Reap in Cambodia, the gateway to the temples of Angkor. Cruises can be undertaken in either direction, or shortened by disembarking in the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh.

Mekong Unexplored

Pandaw offer the chance to get off-the-beaten track on its 'Mekong Unexplored' expedition. This 10-night itinerary, in addition to the regular cruise itinerary between Ho Chi Minh City and Siem Reap, also visits the Cambodian village of Kratié where it is still possible to find endangered river dolphins. Kratié, in eastern Cambodia, is a small town with a central marketplace and French colonial buildings.



Halong Bay, Vietnam

SAMPLE JOURNEY

Red River & Halong Bay Cruise 13 Days & 10 Nights from £2,695

Explore a little-visited area of northern Vietnam and discover rural life in the Red River delta, along with a classic cruise on Halong Bay.

Day 1: Fly to Hanoi via Hong Kong

Overnight flight from London to Hanoi, via Hong Kong, with Cathay Pacific. (N)

Days 2-3: Halong Bay cruise

Arrive into Hanoi then drive north to Halong City, where you will board a vessel to explore Halong Bay for 2 nights. The bay is famous for its spectacular scenery and was designated a Unesco world heritage site in 1994. Afterwards, transfer to the MV *Angkor Pandaw* for overnight accommodation. (B, L, D)

Day 4: Board the Pandaw cruise

Disembark your Halong Bay vessel and transfer to the mouth of the Kinh Thay river to board the

Pandaw vessel. Sail up river and moor outside the village of Yen Duc, a beautiful spot with a background of hills and mountains. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Cruise on the Duong river

Stop off at small riverside villages to witness Dong Ho Vietnamese folk painting and pottery making, then continue sailing towards Hanoi. (B, L, D)

Days 6-7: Hanoi • Van Phuc

Arrive into Hanoi for an organised city tour, with time to explore the city by yourself as well. Coach tour to Van Phuc, a village renowned for its silk weaving. (B, L, D)

Days 8-9: Cruise on the Red River

Cruise up the Red river, which flows down from China's Yunnan province and has for centuries been a key trade route between the two nations. Stop at the riverside village of Hoa Ha for a walk in the countryside. (B, L, D)

Days 10-11: Hòa Bình province

Turn back towards the coast and sail downstream on the Da river to Hòa Bình province, home of the Muon people. Visits will be made to the Hòa Bình museum, a Muon village, and the

Hòa Bình dam. (B, L, D)

Day 12: Mai Chau • Fly to London via Hong Kong

Coach tour to Mai Chau, home to minority ethnic groups, then cruise back to Viet Tri. Transfer to Hanoi international airport, and fly to London, via Hong Kong. (B)

Day 13: London

Early morning arrival. (N)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £2,695

High season from: £2,995

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

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Vietnam Hotel Collection

Hanoi • Ho Chi Minh City

Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi

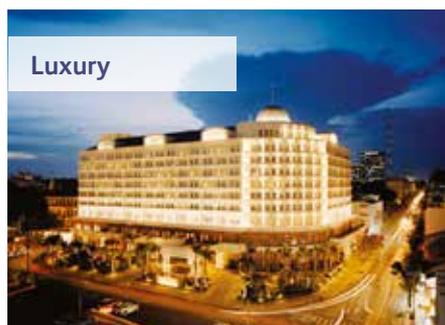
The Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi, formerly the Sofitel Metropole, is a French colonial-style hotel situated in the heart of Hanoi. A historic city landmark, the hotel has hosted many illustrious guests including Charlie Chaplin, who spent his honeymoon here, and the writers Somerset Maugham and Graham Greene, who both wrote here during their stays.

Rooms and suites are spread over two wings: the Metropole Wing, which offers the finest heritage accommodation of Hanoi's French quarter, and the new Opera Wing, with a neo-classical style, Sofitel MyBeds and high-tech fittings.

The Metropole hosts three of the city's finest restaurants: Le Beaulieu serves French haute cuisine accompanied by a sommelier's fine wine pairings, taste authentic Vietnamese in the Spices Garden, or modern Italian culinary art at Angelina. There is also La Terrasse du Metropole, which exudes a Parisian cafe atmosphere, and Le Club, where you can enjoy live music and cocktails.

Features:

364 rooms & suites; 3 restaurants; 3 bars; outdoor swimming pool; health club; spa; salon; gift shop.



Park Hyatt Saigon, Ho Chi Minh City

The Park Hyatt Saigon is the city's foremost luxury hotel, centrally located on Lam Son Square near the opera house and within walking distance of the city's shopping, entertainment and tourist attractions.

Rooms are stylishly decorated in an opulent French colonial style with wood floors, separate work area, high-speed internet access, white marble bath with walk-in rain shower, and one king bed or two twin beds with plush feather pillows and duvets. The spacious Park Suite Kings feature French wooden shutters, which provide a warm residential setting, and a separate living room area.

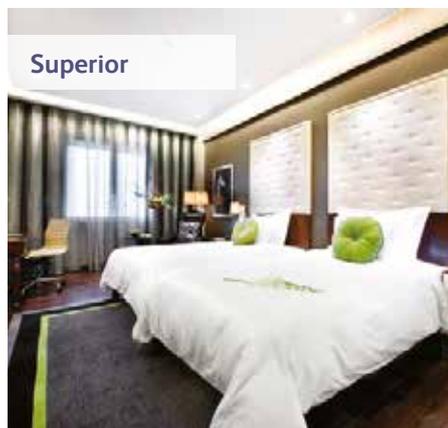
The Xuan Spa offers four private rooms, an outdoor swimming pool and a fitness studio. Diners can choose from two innovative restaurants: Square One, serving Vietnamese seafood dishes and steak, and Opera, an all-day Italian dining venue. Afternoon tea can be taken at The Park Lounge, while 2 Lam Son martini bar is one of the city's top nightlife destinations.

Features:

245 rooms & suites; 2 restaurants; martini bar; spa; 20-metre outdoor pool; airport limousine service.



Hanoi • Ho Chi Minh City • Huế

**The Mövenpick Hotel, Hanoi**

Conveniently located in the heart of Hanoi's business district, the Mövenpick Hotel Hanoi combines elegant French colonial architecture with superior facilities and a high standard of personalised service. Quan Su temple is just around the corner, and Hanoi's famed opera house, old quarter shopping district and central train station are all located a 5-minute taxi ride away. Rooms and suites are well-appointed in a contemporary style.

Features:

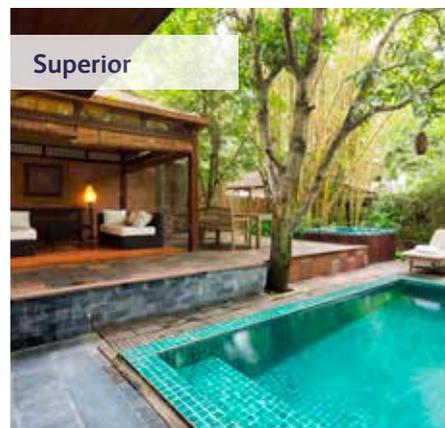
154 rooms & suites; restaurant; bar; sauna.

**Caravelle Hotel, Ho Chi Minh City**

Since 1959, the Caravelle Hotel has been Ho Chi Minh City's landmark 5-star address, set in the heart of the business, shopping and nightlife districts. The hotel's rooftop bar was the haunt of journalists and embassy staff in the 1960s. Located 8km from the airport, a fleet of Mercedes is available for private transfers. The original 10-storey building is now adjoined to a 24-storey tower, which forms the bulk of the new property.

Features:

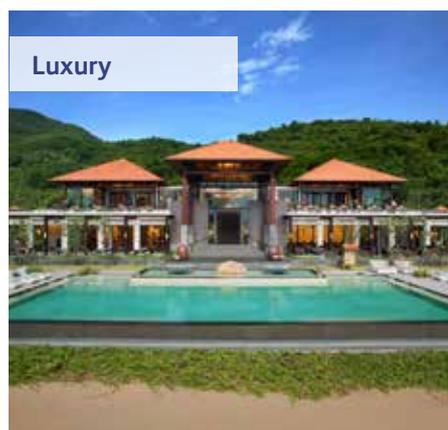
319 rooms; rooftop bar; 2 restaurants; pool.

**An Lam Saigon River, Ho Chi Minh City**

The An Lam Saigon River is a small boutique hotel on the outskirts of Ho Chi Minh City, either a 45-minute drive or 15-minute boat trip from the city centre. Its name derives from the Vietnamese words for peaceful ('An') and nature ('Lam'), reflecting the hotel's tranquil river setting and warm, personal service. Rooms are set across seven luxurious riverside villas with natural exotic wood floors, elegant furnishings and modern amenities.

Features:

16 rooms; riverfront restaurant; spa; outdoor pool.

**Banyan Tree Lang Co, Huế**

Set on the pristine beach of Lang Co bay, between Danang and Huế, the Banyan Tree Lang Co is a contemporary tribute to Vietnam's imperial history. The theme is continued in the interior, with Champa sandstone sculptures, Dong Son bronze drums and Vietnamese calligraphy furnishing the communal areas. Accommodation is in lagoon pool villas or beach pool villas with private pool and sun deck.

Features:

49 pool villas; 3 restaurants; golf club; yoga pavilion; spa.

**Angsana Lang Co, Huế**

The Angsana Lang Co is set in the foothills of the Truong Son mountains south of Huế, overlooking a magnificent crescent bay. A 5-star luxury resort, guests can relax by the 300-metre-long swimming pool, taste local cuisine at the resort's restaurant, or visit the luxury Angsana spa. Accommodation is available in guestrooms, suites or a huge loft room with its own infinity pool.

Features:

229 rooms; 2 restaurants; bar & cigar lounge; 18-hole championship golf course; water sports centre; swimming pool; spa.

**La Residence, Huế**

A former governor's residence, La Residence Huế is a colonial building that has been beautifully restored into a boutique hotel. A distinctive bowed facade and nautical flourishes are hallmarks of the 1930s 'Streamline Moderne' school of art deco architectural style. A member of the MGallery collection of hotels by Accor, it has a prime location on the banks of the Perfume river, with views of the citadel.

Features:

122 rooms; restaurant; bar; swimming pool; spa; small art gallery.

Vietnam Hotel Collection

Hoi An

Palm Garden Resort, Hoi An

Set on Cua Dai beach in 5 hectares of tropical gardens, the Palm Garden Resort offers a touch of Hoi An's traditional architectural design combined with a taste of modern luxury, all within 5km of the world heritage listed Hoi An ancient town.

Elegant accommodation comprises beautifully decorated rooms and bungalows, furnished with Vietnamese silk, wood and natural ceramics and modern amenities. A selection of cuisine is available, ranging from traditional Vietnamese to international specialities at open-air restaurants. The hotels sport and recreation team is on hand to assist with water-sport activities or bike hire, and can also arrange excursions outside the resort to local temples, villages and off-shore islands for snorkelling

The combination of nature, unique architecture and the remarkable culture of Hoi An makes Palm Garden Beach Resort & Spa a perfect getaway paradise.

Features:

214 rooms & bungalows; private beach; 2 restaurants; open-air cafe; 3 bars; swimming pool; spa; gym; water sports; children's area.



Superior

Alma Courtyard, Hoi An

The Alma Courtyard in Hoi An is built around the principle of wellbeing, with 90 minutes of spa treatments included in every stay. The hotel spa is one of the largest in Asia, and features 40 treatment rooms, steam room, sauna, heated relaxation pool and tai chi studio. Rooms are set around a courtyard with terraced pools and tropical gardens, and have a contemporary design complemented by traditional wooden furnishings.

Features:

145 rooms; restaurant; bar; spa with 90-minute treatment included; relaxation pool.



Superior

Anantara Hoi An Resort, Hoi An

The Anantara Hoi An Resort is a boutique hotel set on the banks of the Thu Bon river, a charming boutique retreat just a short walk from the fascinating old town of Hoi An. The resort is built in a charming colonial style with spacious landscaped gardens. The hotel offers a ferry service to the delightful Cua Dai beach, and Vietnamese cooking, language, painting and lantern making classes.

Features:

93 rooms; restaurant; 2 bars; cafe; outdoor swimming pool; spa.



Superior

Hotel Royal Hoi An

The Hotel Royal Hoi An, part of the MGallery collection by Accor is set on the banks of Thu Bon river, a short walk from the Japanese Covered Bridge. A luxury property that blends historical charm and modernity, rooms are spread over eight floors, with views of the town or the river, each with elegant, modern decor. A shuttle bus to An Bang beach, just 7 minutes away, is complimentary.

Features:

119 rooms; 2 restaurants; bar; swimming pool; spa; sauna.

Ke Ga Bay • Mui Ne • Nha Trang • Quy Nhon

Luxury



Princess d'Annam Resort & Spa, Ke Ga Bay

Mixing modernist sensibility with a post-colonial ambience, the resort is set on the secluded Ke Ga Bay facing a century-old French lighthouse, a 3-hour drive from Ho Chi Minh City. The resort is known for its 1,800-sq-metre spa building offering made-to-order royal spa treatments, as well as its Ginger Garden with a collection of rare plants. Fine regional dishes are served at The Terrace, which has a panoramic sea view.

Features:

48 villas; 2 restaurants; 4 swimming pools; spa; botanical garden tours.

Luxury



Anantara Mui Ne Resort & Spa, Mui Ne

Located on the 16-km-long Mui Ne beach, the Anantara Mui Ne Resort & Spa is one of the premier resorts near Phan Thiet, blending Vietnamese traditional architecture with Anantara's high level of service. Accommodation is in a range of rooms, suites and villas, set among tropical gardens and palm trees, each with a private balcony. Classes in yoga and Vietnamese cooking are bookable locally.

Features:

89 rooms; 2 restaurants; swimming pool; spa.

Superior



Mia Resort, Mui Ne

The Mia Resort Mui Ne is a boutique property in the centre of Mui Ne, west of Phan Thiet. The resort is situated right on the beachfront, with views out to the East Sea and its white sand beaches. Rooms are decorated in a contemporary design using natural tones, and are available in the main building, or bungalows set in the gardens or on the beachfront. There is a striking mosaic swimming pool and fine dining on the front terrace with views out to sea.

Features:

32 rooms; fine dining restaurant; swimming pool; spa.

Superior



Mia Resort, Nha Trang

Set in a quiet bay and just 20 minutes' drive from Nha Trang, the Mia Resort is built in the foothills of the Nha Trang mountains on a slope down to a private beach. Accommodation is available in villas, condos and suites, all with sea views and private verandas, and some with a plunge pool. Cooking classes, yoga instruction, snorkelling and sightseeing tours are all bookable locally.

Features:

50 rooms; restaurant; spa; outdoor swimming pool; private beach; range of activities.

Superior



Evason Ana Mandara, Nha Trang

An intimate resort located directly on Nha Trang's golden beach, the Evason Ana Mandara is approximately 2km from the town centre. Rooms are furnished with native wood and traditional rattan, with either garden or sea views. All rooms have their own veranda, while some provide direct access onto the beach. The Six Senses Spa presents Vietnamese speciality treatments in addition to the Six Senses Spa signature menu.

Features:

74 rooms; 2 restaurants; bar; spa; water sports centre; tennis court.

Superior



Avani Resort & Spa, Quy Nhon

Avani Quy Nhon Resort & Spa is set on one of Vietnam's most beautiful shorelines, with a peaceful beach. Rooms blend Vietnamese culture with ancient Champa architecture, and all rooms and suites feature a private balcony overlooking the sea. The hotel also offers lessons in yoga, tai chi, meditation, language and cooking. Meals can be served on your balcony or on the restaurant terrace.

Features:

63 rooms; restaurant; bar; spa; water sports centre; bike rental.

Cambodia Hotel Collection

Siem Reap • Phnom Penh • Kep



Luxury

The Park Hyatt, Siem Reap

The award-winning Park Hyatt Siem Reap is located in the heart of downtown Siem Reap and just minutes from the 12th-century ruins of Angkor. The Park Hyatt is contemporary and residential in design, with a beautiful secluded courtyard and two swimming pools. Suites feature private gardens and / or plunge pools, separate living areas, modern amenities and spacious white marble bathrooms.

Features:

104 rooms & suites; restaurant; cafe; lounge; culinary tours; 2 swimming pools; spa.



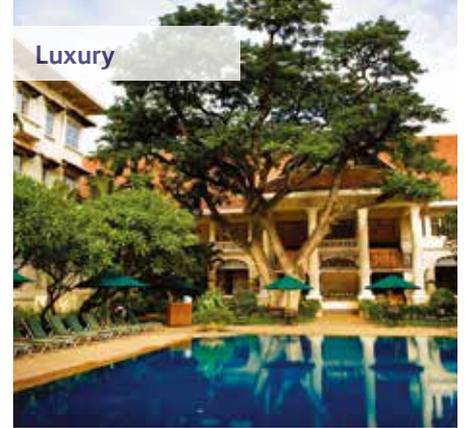
Luxury

Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor, Siem Reap

The Raffles Grand Hotel d'Angkor was the place to stay for early 20th-century European visitors. Synonymous with Angkor for 75 years, the hotel continues to create a timeless colonial atmosphere. The carefully restored building features rich dark woods and antique furnishings. The Apsara Terrace is an excellent place to watch traditional dance performances.

Features:

119 rooms; swimming pool; gardens with 20,540 different species of plants.



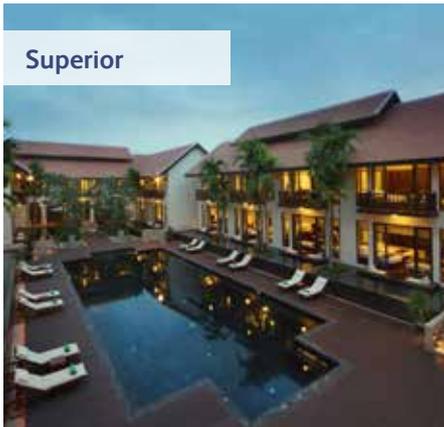
Luxury

Raffles Hotel Le Royal, Phnom Penh

Raffles Hotel Le Royal is located in one of the grandest colonial buildings in the city centre. Dating from 1929, it was renovated by the Raffles group in 1997 and has lost none of its old-world charm. Sip a Million Dollar Cocktail in the Elephant Bar, relax in the spa or eat delicately flavoured Khmer cuisine in Restaurant Le Royal. Rooms are furnished in art deco style with dark woods and Cambodian antiques.

Features:

175 rooms; restaurant; bar; spa; swimming pool.



Superior

Anantara Angkor Resort & Spa, Siem Reap

The Anantara Angkor Resort & Spa is a boutique retreat in Siem Reap, designed to resemble a grand Khmer villa with a beautiful courtyard and pool. The resort is a 15-minute drive from the Angkor temples, and 10 minutes from the town centre. Rooms blend a refined contemporary style with Cambodian heritage, featuring hardwood floors a private balcony and high ceilings.

Features:

39 rooms; 2 restaurants; outdoor swimming pool; rooftop garden; spa; cooking classes.



Superior

Heritage Suites Hotel, Siem Reap

A small, independent hotel, the Heritage Suites Hotel is a charming boutique property, located in the centre of Siem Reap and a 10-minute drive from the majestic temples of Angkor. Guestrooms and suites are housed in a colonial villa surrounded by a lush tropical garden. Each room is beautifully decorated in an Asian and art deco theme. The hotel is committed to supporting the local community.

Features:

26 rooms & suites; private poolside dining; spa; saltwater swimming pool.



Superior

Knai Bang Chatt, Kep

Located by the sea in Kep, a 2-hour drive from Phnom Penh, Knai Bang Chatt is an intimate boutique hotel built by protégés of the well-known designer Vann Molyvann, a pupil of Le Corbusier who pioneered New Khmer architectural design. The buildings date from the 1970s and feature 11 individually decorated and furnished rooms, some with balconies or terraces with sea views.

Features:

11 rooms; saltwater infinity pool; spa; restaurant; library; water sports centre; bike hire.

Exceptional**Amansara, Siem Reap**

The Amansara is housed in a former royal villa, built in 1962 for King Sihanouk as accommodation for distinguished guests. The property was acquired in 2002 by the luxury hotel group Aman resorts and reopened as the Amansara, taking its name from the words aman, Sanskrit for 'peace', and apsara, the heavenly nymphs of ancient Hindu texts. Using old photographs and local knowledge, the property was meticulously reconstructed and transformed into an intimate all-suite resort.

Each suite has an open-plan setting, with a combined sleeping and living area and an outdoor courtyard. The bathroom features floor-to-ceiling glass doors, a large soaking tub and a separate shower. Wireless internet access and the minibar are complimentary. The Dining Room offers traditional Khmer and western cuisine, with a walk-in wine and cheese cellar. Guests can also dine poolside or in-suite. The spa centre encompasses four treatment rooms, each with an attached relaxation area and private steam bath and shower.

Features:

24 suites, 12 with private pools; restaurant with wine cellar; roof terrace bar; 2 swimming pools; spa; library; boutique gift shop.

**Belmond La Résidence d'Angkor, Siem Reap**

Located by the river in the centre of Siem Reap, surrounded by majestic old trees, Belmond La Residence d'Angkor reflects traditional Khmer style and is a charming place to relax and escape the heat.

Deluxe rooms are designed using dark woods, soft cottons and silks, and are located next to the pool or gardens. A private terrace offers the perfect place for a relaxing cocktail at the end of the day. The larger Residence suites are similarly decorated and situated in the quietest part of the hotel. Each has a large bedroom, adjacent lounge and a spacious bathroom with oversized free-standing bathtub, a separate walk-in rain shower, double vanity, dressing and storage areas.

The Kong Kea spa is influenced by ancient Cambodian healing arts to provide a range of treatments, and encompasses VIP treatment rooms, sauna, rain showers and a jacuzzi. Private yoga and meditation sessions are also available and can be booked locally. The hotel's peaceful gardens, swimming pool, and luxury spa make it the perfect place to relax at the end of a busy day's sight-seeing.

Features:

62 rooms; 2 restaurants; lounge bar; gardens; swimming pool; spa; 2 shops; gym.

Luxury

Laos Hotel Collection

Luang Prabang

Belmond La Résidence Phou Vao, Luang Prabang

A luxurious boutique hotel, Belmond La Residence Phou Vao is located on a hill on the outskirts of town with superb views of the mountains towards the temples of Luang Prabang. The property is set in 3 hectares of lush gardens, rich with bougainvillea, palms and frangipani, providing a tranquil oasis.

Spacious suites start at 55 sq metres, with views of the pool, mountains or overlooking the garden. Suites feature a separate living room with sofa, rosewood furnishings, natural cotton fabrics and fresh flowers, along with modern amenities such as espresso machines and iPod docking stations.

Phou Savanh is renowned as one of the best restaurants in Luang Prabang, creating inventive French cuisine delicately enhanced with traditional Laotian touches. For something special, private evening meals are available in the garden, lit up by 500 candles.

Features:

34 suites; restaurant; spa; infinity pool; boutique shop; complimentary tuk-tuk transfers into town.

Luxury



Luxury



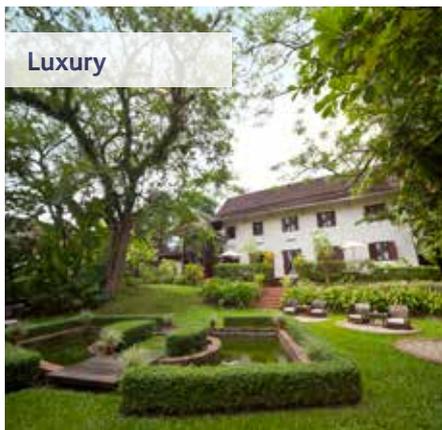
3 Nagas MGallery Collection by Sofitel, Luang Prabang

Set in beautifully Unesco-restored homes in the heart of Luang Prabang, 3 Nagas is a boutique hotel managed by Sofitel. Rooms are situated in three restored historic houses, and feature high ceilings, exotic dark wooden floors, four-poster beds, silk fabrics and traditional weavings. The award-winning hotel restaurant is one of the best in town.

Features:

15 rooms; restaurant; courtyard garden; boutique shop; library; vintage car transfers.

Luxury



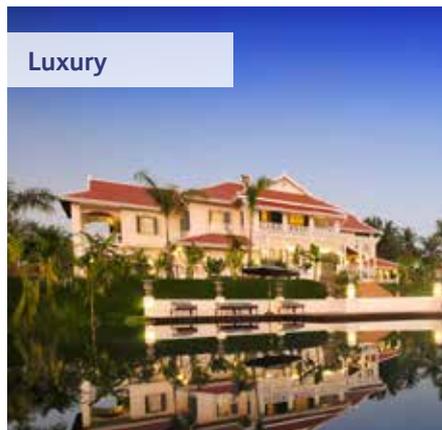
Sofitel Luang Prabang

Formerly a mansion built in the 1900s for the French governor's family, the Sofitel Luang Prabang is located within the Unesco-listed protected area, and blends a colonial charm with luxurious facilities. Set around a courtyard, the 23 suites have high ceilings and private walled gardens, with private plunge pools or oversized hot tubs. The large hotel garden showcases local plants and herbs.

Features:

23 suites; restaurant; spa; outdoor swimming pool; cooking school.

Luxury



The Luang Say Residence, Luang Prabang

Set in a French colonial-style villa located within easy reach of the ancient temple district, The Luang Say Residence is a boutique property and a member of the Small Luxury Hotels of the World. Rooms are housed in five pavilions, each bearing the name of a French explorer from the end of the 19th century, with a large terrace, exterior lounge and a private garden.

Features:

20 suites; restaurant; bar; outdoor swimming pool; library; tropical garden.

Luang Prabang • Vientiane • Muang Champasak • Pak Beng • Oudomxay



Superior

Angsana Maison Souvannaphoum, Luang Prabang

Once the residence of Prince Souvanna Phouma in the 1960s and 70s, the Angsana Maison Souvannaphoum is a distinctive building that blends colonial French and native Laotian designs. Rooms are furnished in a contemporary style, some located in the La Residence wing, which also has three suites in the actual former home of the prince. The hotel is ideally located in the old temple district, within walking distance of restaurants and the night market.

Features:

24 rooms; outdoor restaurant; spa; pool.



Superior

Victoria Xiangthong Palace, Luang Prabang

The Victoria Xiangthong Palace, once the residence of Laos' royalty, is a boutique hotel situated in the heart of the Unesco world heritage site, adjacent to Wat Xiangthong – a revered Buddhist monastery. The beautifully appointed guestrooms and suites combine intimacy and comfort, with local materials and fabrics used throughout. Diners at the hotel's restaurant – the Kitchen by the Mekong – enjoy sweeping views over the Mekong river.

Features:

26 rooms; restaurant; bar; spa; library.



Superior

Settha Palace Hotel, Vientiane

The Settha Palace Hotel is a historical landmark in the heart of Vientiane. Built circa 1932, it was restored to its former glory in 1999 to embrace Laos' French colonial era. French architecture, colonial decor, period furniture and large landscaped gardens are complemented by modern hotel facilities. Rooms feature furniture made from rosewood and Italian marbled bathrooms with a separate shower and bathtub, and a pool or garden view. Enjoy classic fine dining or relaxed poolside meals.

Features:

29 rooms; restaurant; swimming pool.



Good Standard

The River Resort, Muang Champasak

Overlooking the Mekong river, the River Resort has a peaceful location to relax by the river, and is also just 20 minutes' drive from the Vat Phou temples. Accommodation is in detached villas with either river or paddy views from a large, private terrace. The resort's private boat offers daytime and sunset cruises, including a stop for drinks and canapés on the sandy beach of a nearby river island.

Features:

20 rooms; restaurant; infinity pool.



Simple

Luang Say Lodge, Pak Beng

Located on the banks of the Mekong river near Pak Beng, the Luang Say Lodge blends into the natural environment through careful landscaping. Accommodation is in large bungalows of solid teak and rosewood, all with views over the river and mountains, fans, mosquito nets and a private bathroom with hot water. Bungalows are linked by wooden walkways through tropical gardens.

Features:

20 bungalows; traditional Laotian food & coffee; dance & music performances.



Simple

Muang La Resort, Oudomxay

In the heart of northern Laos between China and Vietnam, Muang La Resort is situated on the edge of a small traditional village, and reached by a short drive from Oudomxay airport. Set on the banks of a river and surrounded by forest, the resort is isolated from mass tourism and makes an ideal base from which to explore this remote and little-visited area of Laos.

Features:

10 rooms; restaurant; hot spring, sauna; cooking courses; garden.



Thailand

Group tours • Tailor-made travel •
River cruising • Rail journeys



Thailand has something to offer everyone. This radiant country is home to buzzing cities, mountain scenery, jungles and wildlife, a spectacular coastline fringed with idyllic islands, hill tribe villages, a deeply spiritual culture, and some of the best cuisine in the world. The country has been welcoming travellers for years, which means accommodation and facilities are of the highest standard, though there are still plenty of unexplored corners for those who like to wander off the beaten track.

Discover the beauty of Chiang Rai, or the 'City of Golden Temples', sample delicious street food and wander the traditional markets of Bangkok, tour the Unesco-listed ruins of Ayutthaya, or make a poignant visit to the Allied war cemeteries on the River Kwai. If it's nature you're after then there are numerous national parks offering everything from monsoon rainforest to plains and grasslands. Take to the trekking trails and discover prehistoric paintings, a wide array of exotic wildlife and innumerable plant species. If this all sounds like too much to choose from then hop on a leisurely cruise between the islands and dazzling beaches off the south coast. Whatever appeals, you can find it in Thailand.

Discover Thailand

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120 Beach Resorts

Small group & private tours

122 Eastern & Oriental Express • Private

Inspired to venture further afield? Browse our website to discover additional destinations, places to stay and itineraries; or speak to our Thailand experts.



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Image left: Long-tail boat

Discover Bangkok & Beyond

Bangkok

Grand monuments & bustling local life • Exciting variety of cuisine

Bangkok is an exciting mix of beautiful ancient Buddhist temples, golden royal palaces, riverside houses on stilts, traditional markets and a modern city of skyscrapers and air-conditioned shopping malls. Cultural sites of particular interest include the Grand Palace complex, encompassing Wat Phra Kaew and the Emerald Buddha; the National Museum; and the Dusit Palace complex, which houses the Vimanmek Mansion and the Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall.

Bangkok is well known for its cuisine, available in a variety of places including the night markets of China Town, street food on Kraisi Street in the Banglamphu district, sedate dinner cruises on converted rice barges, classic fine dining at the iconic Blue Elephant restaurant, or dinner at Sala Rim Naam in the Mandarin Oriental Hotel.



Wat Phra Kaew, Bangkok



Buddha statues, Ayutthaya

Day Trips from Bangkok

Ayutthaya

Ayutthaya lies approximately 90km north of Bangkok, and was once the powerful ancient capital of Siam. Much of the fabulously ornate city has been lost, but what remains provides a glimpse of life during the four centuries that the kings of Ayutthaya ruled. A popular way to visit is to drive there and then cruise back to the city on the Chao Phraya. Mekhala offer overnight cruises on its fleet of three beautifully restored rice barges, with air-conditioned cabins and en suite western-style bathrooms.

Floating markets

A number of markets make for interesting excursions from Bangkok. Mahachai fish market is one of the largest and most interesting fresh seafood markets in Thailand. Maeklong

market is famous for its location on railway tracks, where market traders prove remarkably adept at removing their stalls when a train approaches. Amphawa floating market is more traditional and much less visited by tourists than Damnoen Saduak, and a visit here allows for a more authentic insight into local life.

Bridge over the River Kwai

A poignant visit can be made to the River Kwai, which lies in Kanchanaburi province to the west of Bangkok. Visit the bridge, the well-kept Allied war cemeteries and the JEATH Museum, which documents the building of the railway under harrowing conditions by Allied POWs. It is also possible to take a train ride along the railway itself, up to the end of the line at Nam Tok, very close to the Burmese border. The train slows down at the most spectacular points for some great views of the jungle scenery.

Discover Jungles & Beaches



Chiang Mai

Busy night markets • Base for visiting nearby hill tribes

Chiang Mai is Thailand's second city, and sometimes known as the 'City of Golden Temples' due to its 300 temples. Its name literally means 'New City', although it dates from the 13th century and is bounded by city walls and five gates that also date from this era. The famous night market here runs for 1km along the Chang Khlan road, offering branded goods, handicrafts, souvenirs and food. The town is also a base for exploring the surrounding jungles and visiting hill tribe villages.

Chiang Rai

Visit the Golden Triangle • Elephant camp at Anantara Resort

Chiang Rai is a laid-back town in northern Thailand, set on a plain surrounded by green hills with the Mae Kok river flowing along its northern perimeter. Like Chiang Mai, it has a busy night market, but many visitors use the town as a base to explore the nearby 'Golden Triangle' border area between Thailand, Laos and Burma (Myanmar). Hop aboard a long-tail boat on the Mekong river to enjoy the scenery, with visits to nearby ruins and temples before returning to your hotel.

Beaches & Islands

Lavish beach resorts • Idyllic scenery and sunsets

Thailand is justly celebrated for its coastline where tranquil island retreats flaunt picture-postcard white, sandy beaches and turquoise waters. From the tropical islands off the east coast, such as Koh Sichang, Koh Chang and Koh Samui, to Phuket and Krabi off the west coast, discover a wide range of luxury resorts offering pure relaxation and a spot of pampering at the end of your tour.

Sukhothai

Unesco world heritage site • Community tourism projects

Founded in the 13th century, Sukhothai literally means 'Dawn of Happiness'. It was the first truly independent Thai kingdom, and it enjoyed a golden age under King Ramkhamhaeng. Today, this small modern town serves as a gateway to the superb temples and monuments of the Sukhothai Historical Park, a Unesco world heritage site. The nearby Ban Na Thon Chan community project runs a number of tourism-based initiatives, including a homestay collective, a community arts and craft exhibition centre, and an elephant sanctuary.





White Temple, Chiang Rai

SAMPLE JOURNEY

Thailand to Laos: Jungle & Mekong Explorer

15 Days & 12 Nights from £2,995

Journey through the jungles of northern Thailand, then cruise south through Laos with time in Luang Prabang.

Day 1: Fly to Chiang Mai via Bangkok

Overnight flight from London to Chiang Mai via Bangkok with Thai Airways. (N)

Days 2-3: Chiang Mai

Arrive and transfer to the Tamarind Village for a 2-night stay. Visit an elephant camp and explore the famous night markets. (N)

Day 4: To Chiang Rai

Morning visit to handicraft villages, then drive to Chiang Rai. Stay at the Imperial Golden Triangle Resort for 2 nights (upgrades available to the Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp & Resort). (B)

Day 5: Chiang Rai

Visit the Golden Triangle where Laos, Thailand and Burma meet, and discover the ancient Lanna

kingdom of Chiang Saen. (B, L)

Day 6: To Laos

Cross the border into Laos and board a Luang Say Mekong cruise vessel for the journey downriver to Pak Beng. Stay overnight in the simple Luang Say Lodge. (B, L, D)

Day 7: To Luang Prabang

Visit the local morning market, then sail downstream to the Pak Ou caves. Continue to Luang Prabang, and stay at The Luang Say Residence for 3 nights. (B)

Days 8-9: Luang Prabang

Tour the ancient temple district, visiting Buddhist temples and the National Museum, housed in a former Royal Palace. (B)

Day 10: Fly to Pakse via Vientiane

Fly to Pakse via Vientiane. Transfer to Residence Sisouk for 1 night. (B)

Days 11-12: Mekong cruise

Morning excursion to the Vat Phou temple, then transfer to the Vat Phou vessel for a 2-night cruise. Cruise along the river stopping at villages and temples. (B, L, D)

Day 13: To Pakse

Explore the 4,000 Islands region including a

visit to the mighty Khone Phapheng falls. Coach transfer back to Pakse and stay at the Residence Sisouk for 1 night. (B, L, D)

Day 14: Fly to London via Vientiane and Bangkok

Fly to Vientiane and connect with a flight to Bangkok. Thai Airways overnight flight back to London. (B)

Day 15: Arrival in London

Morning arrival in London.

Please note: This tour is classified as a Discovery tour due to more basic accommodation standards in some areas.

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £2,995

High season from: £3,695

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

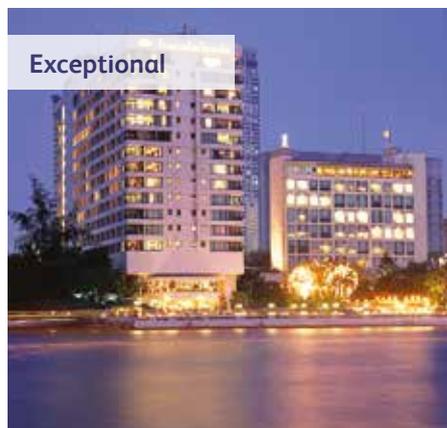
t 020 7808 6786

e info@coxandkings.co.uk



Thailand Hotel Collection

Bangkok • Chiang Mai • Chiang Rai



Exceptional

The Mandarin Oriental Bangkok

Consistently rated as one of the best hotels in the world, the Mandarin Oriental Bangkok has a glamorous 135-year history, and was previously the haunt of Noel Coward and Somerset Maugham. The hotel is set in landscaped gardens on the banks of the river, and offers sumptuous rooms and suites, most with a river view, and a range of bars and restaurants. A smart dress code is in place during the evenings.

Features:

374 rooms; 9 restaurants & bars; butler service; spa; 2 pools.



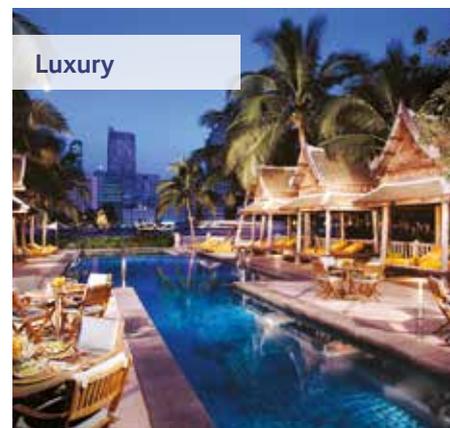
Luxury

The Sukhothai, Bangkok

One of the most elegant hotels in the city, the Sukhothai creates an oasis within central Bangkok. Designed to reflect the palaces of the 13th-century ancient Thai capital, Sukhothai, the layout of the hotel is based on symmetry, with courtyards, reflective ponds and open-air arcades. Rooms are furnished with silks, teak-floored bathrooms and Thai artwork. The hotel's thrice-weekly chocolate buffet proves popular with guests and visitors alike.

Features:

210 rooms; Thai & Italian restaurant; spa; swimming pool; private dining room.



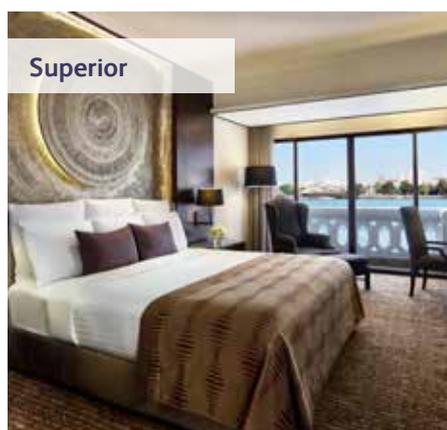
Luxury

The Peninsula, Bangkok

With its riverside location along the banks of the Chao Phraya river, the 39-storey Peninsula hotel offers excellent views across the river and city beyond. All rooms are richly furnished and feature high-tech amenities, as well as enjoying spectacular views of Bangkok. Dine in luxury in a unique riverside garden setting. From the Peninsula Pier lounge take one of the hotel's four beautifully restored rice barges that ferry guests across the river to the Skytrain Station.

Features:

370 rooms; 5 restaurants; three-tiered pool; complimentary river boat service.



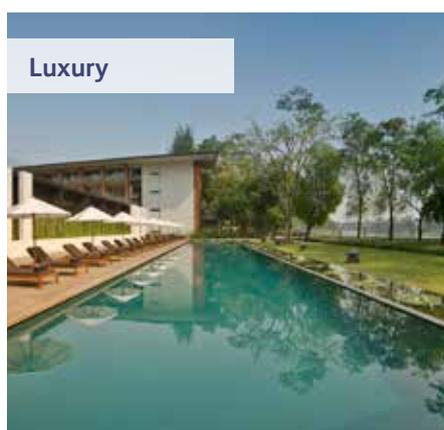
Superior

Anantara Bangkok Riverside Resort & Spa, Bangkok

Set on the banks of the Chao Phraya river, the Anantara Bangkok Riverside Resort & Spa has a wonderful location in acres of riverside gardens. The 37-floor twin towers offer a range of hotel services, while rooms are designed to reflect the feel of a traditional Thai home, with hardwood floors and fine wood furniture, coupled with private balconies and floor-to-ceiling windows.

Features:

408 rooms; 10 bars & restaurants; spa; boutique shops; gym; swimming pool; jacuzzi.



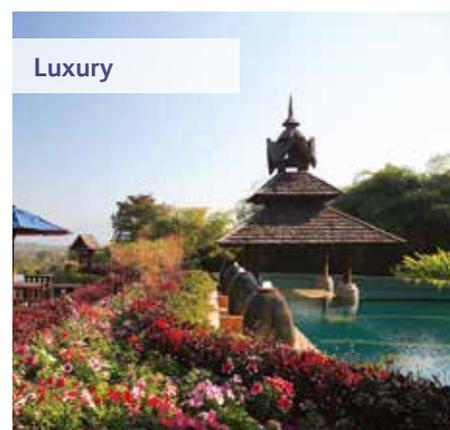
Luxury

Anantara Chiang Mai Resort & Spa, Chiang Mai

The Anantara Chiang Mai Resort & Spa is built along the banks of the Mae Ping river, a peaceful location yet only a 5-minute walk to the central night market. The hotel cooking school offers classes in the dining pavilion, which in the evening can be used for candlelit dinners. Take advantage of the riverside location with a sunset cruise and a gourmet champagne dinner.

Features:

84 rooms & suites; restaurant; library; riverside pool; spa; sunset cruises.



Luxury

Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp & Resort, Chiang Rai

Set in the heart of the Mekong region, the award-winning Anantara Golden Triangle Elephant Camp & Resort commands an incredible view of Thailand, Laos and Myanmar. Accommodation is set within 80 hectares of manicured gardens in low-rise buildings. The onsite elephant camp offers guests elephant trekking and riding experiences.

Features:

77 rooms & suites; onsite elephant camp; infinity pool; cooking school; spa.

Thailand Beach Resorts

Koh Lanta • Hua Hin • Phuket



Luxury

The Layana Resort & Spa, Koh Lanta

With a beautiful location on the west coast of Koh Lanta, the adults-only Layana Resort & Spa is an award-winning resort on a stretch of beach overlooking the Andaman Sea. The hotel is set on a 3-kilometre stretch of beach, with a backdrop of forested hills and surrounded by tropical gardens. Accommodation is designed in a contemporary Thai style with luxurious decor and furnishings, making extensive use of hardwoods, silks and other indigenous materials. Sightseeing tours to outer islands by speedboat can be arranged locally.

Features:

57 rooms; restaurant; bar; award-winning spa; infinity pool; sauna; watersports activities.



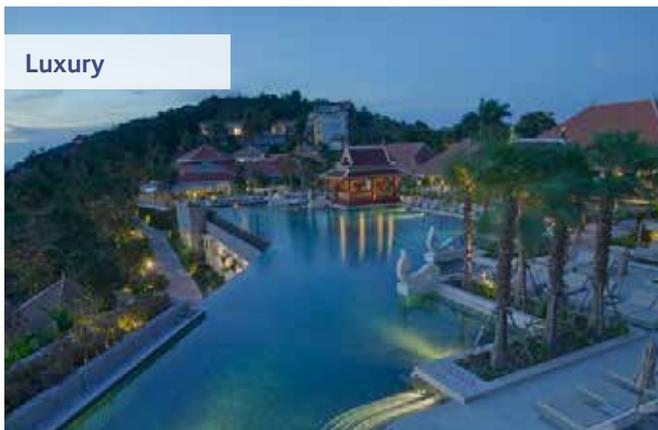
Luxury

Asara Villa & Suite, Hua Hin

The award-winning Asara Villa & Suite is situated on the Gulf of Thailand in the traditional Thai seaside resort of Hua Hin, known for its stunning beaches and world-class accommodation and less than 3 hours' drive from Bangkok. Elegant suites and villas are furnished in a contemporary Thai style and are spacious, with at least 12 sq metres of floor space. Larger villas have a private plunge pool with sun deck terrace and garden. A choice of excellent restaurants are available, as well as in-room or seaside private dining.

Features:

96 villas & suites; 3 restaurants; 2 swimming pools; spa; beauty salon.



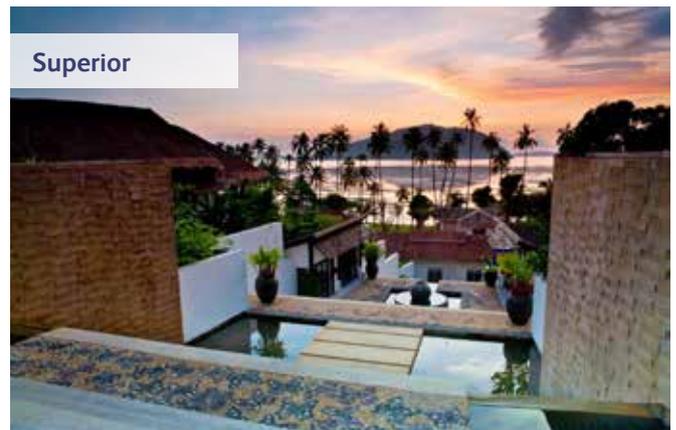
Luxury

Regent Phuket Cape Panwa, Phuket

The Regent Phuket is set on Cape Panwa in a quiet corner of the island, overlooking a secluded bay and white, sandy beaches. It is 45 minutes to Phuket International airport and just 10 minutes to Phuket town, providing easy access to Phuket's attractions. Sensitively designed to harmonise with its exquisite surroundings and providing intuitive service, the hotel offers luxurious comfort across a range of villas, each with its own balcony overlooking the Andaman Sea.

Features:

22 Pavilion, 48 Suite & 35 Pool villas; spa; 2 restaurants; outdoor swimming pool; rooftop terrace; lounges; beach bar; tennis courts; children's club.



Superior

The Vijitt Resort, Phuket

The Vijitt Resort Phuket is set in peaceful landscaped grounds, with palms and expansive lawns sloping towards Friendship Beach and views over Chalong Bay. Accommodation is in elegant stand-alone villas, decorated in a contemporary style. Some have their own pool, while all have floor-to-ceiling windows, bathroom with bathtub and outdoor rain showers. The resort offers complimentary activities including botanical and marine walks, Thai yoga and rubber tree tapping.

Features:

92 villas; 2 restaurants; including Baan Vijitt –Signature Thai Restaurant, beach bar; spa; shuttle bus to Phuket town.

Luxury



The Pimalai, Koh Lanta

The name 'Pimalai' is derived from ancient Sanskrit, meaning, 'a little patch of Heaven' – an ideal name for this luxurious and elegant beach retreat. Situated in quiet Koh Lanta away from the hustle and bustle of crowded beaches, Pimalai is reached by an hour-long journey from Krabi on the resort's speedboat. Set within 40 hectares of tropical vegetation, Pimalai has direct access to over 900 metres of pristine sandy beach, backed by jungle filled with buzzing cicadas, birds and monkeys.

Accommodation is available in villas, suites or guestrooms, all spacious and fitted with polished teak wood flooring, rattan curtains, and rich, luxurious Thai fabrics. The hotel's three restaurants serve a range of fine Asian and European cuisine. Meals can also be served on the beach or in your room.

Numerous excursions are bookable locally, including cooking lessons, sunset cruises, cycling, elephant riding and snorkelling trips in the Lanta Marine National Park.

Features:

121 rooms; villas & suites; 4 restaurants; cafe; bar; private beach; infinity pool; spa; water-sports centre; Wi-Fi.



Eastern & Oriental Express

Duration • 10 Days & 7 Nights

Category • Luxury

Basis • Private Tour

Price • From £3,395

Tour overview

Travel in style through the jungles, rice fields and cities of south-east Asia from Bangkok to Singapore, or vice versa, aboard the luxury *Eastern & Oriental Express*. The train offers refined elegance with fine dining, a piano bar and observation car.

C&K highlights

- Journey in style through the Thai and Malaysian countryside
- Luxurious hotels in Bangkok and Singapore
- River Kwai cruise accompanied by a local historian
- Visit the River Kwai bridge, and the historic town of Kuala Kangsar

Weather

Bangkok

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	32	33	34	35	34	33	33	32	32	32	32	31
B	21	23	25	26	26	26	25	25	25	24	23	21
C	8	21	31	68	182	159	167	207	292	199	49	11

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



The Eastern & Oriental Express

Day 1: Fly to Bangkok

Fly from London to Bangkok with British Airways. (N)

Days 2-3: Bangkok

Arrive in Bangkok and transfer to the Peninsula Hotel for a 2-night stay. Day 3 is at leisure (see p116-117 for more information on excursions). (N)

Day 4: Bangkok

Evening transfer to the train station and board the sumptuous *Eastern & Oriental Express* for a 3-night Classic Journey to Singapore. Enjoy a gourmet dinner on board. (B, D)

Day 5: River Kwai

Morning cruise on the Kwai river accompanied by a local historian. Return to the train for lunch and an afternoon at leisure. Dinner is served while travelling through the southern Thai countryside. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Kuala Kangsar

Morning travelling through northern Malaysia followed by a tour of Kuala Kangsar. Disembark

for a tour of the grand Ubudiah mosque, the Royal Museum of Perak and the Sultan Shah Gallery. Remainder of day is spent travelling down the Malay peninsula. Relax in the observation car and enjoy dinner and cocktails. (B, L, D)

Day 7: To Singapore

After breakfast on board, travel across the Straits of Johor into Singapore. Stay at the Fullerton Hotel for 2 nights (upgrades available to the Raffles Hotel). (B)

Day 8: Singapore

Day at leisure to explore the city. (B)

Day 9: Fly to London

Evening flight to London with British Airways. (B)

Day 10: London

Morning arrival in London. (N)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.



River Kwai

Important information

Luxury tour: Featuring some of the most luxurious accommodation in each destination throughout the tour. Cabins are based on the standard category.

Alternative journeys: The Classic Journey itinerary, as detailed above, also runs in reverse from Singapore to Bangkok as a 2-night trip. *Eastern & Oriental Express* also operates an 'Ancient Kingdom of Lanna' itinerary, a two-night experience that can be added onto a 'Classic Journey'. Departing from and returning to Bangkok, it visits the northern Thailand cities of Lampang and Chiang Mai. The longer 6-night 'Fables of the Peninsula' adventure, limited to just 60 guests in State and Presidential cabins, begins with a night at the legendary Raffles Hotel in Singapore, before visiting Kuala Lumpur, the Cameron Highlands and the small, rural community of Huay Yang.

Non-exclusive activities: This private tour will have transfers and excursions that may be shared with one or more other parties. When on



board the train, the transfers and excursions are operated as a group with other passengers who may or may not be Cox & Kings clients.

Tailor-made travel: These prices are based on the 'Classic Journey' 3-night itinerary in the standard cabin category. For a price quote based on alternative train itineraries, accommodation standards or flight options, please call 020 7808 6786 or email info@coxandkings.co.uk

The Eastern & Oriental Express

The train accommodates 132 passengers in 66 air-conditioned compartments, all furnished in dark woods, beautiful fabrics and with fine linens. The bar car offers a variety of evening entertainment including live piano performances. There is also a reading room with a varied library. The most popular place on board is the open-deck observation car, which provides an unbeatable opportunity to enjoy the beautiful scenery.

Departure dates & guideline prices

Departures: The 'Classic Journey' departs year-round while 'The Ancient Kingdom of Lanna' itinerary departs in March and October only, and the 'Fables of the Peninsula' in September and October only.

Low season from £3,395
High season from £3,895



Malaysia & Singapore

Tailor-made travel



Malaysia could be described as two countries in one: vibrant peninsular Malaysia and lush, exotic Borneo. The peninsula offers a varied mix of cultures and cuisines, from Malay to Chinese and Indian, as well as a cosmopolitan capital, colonial cities such as Penang and Melacca, white sandy beaches and the oldest rainforest in the world. Meanwhile, Borneo is renowned for its steamy rainforests and marine national parks, smouldering volcanoes, remote tribes and diverse wildlife ranging from orang utans to proboscis monkeys and turtles.

The city-state of **Singapore** sits just above the equator. Well known for its efficiency and high standards of service, it is an ideal place to relax for a few days. The city is very compact and has an excellent transport system, making it easy to explore the different districts such as Chinatown, Little India and the redeveloped quay areas. Singapore also has some of the best restaurants in Asia, as well as beautiful parks and many colonial buildings.

Discover Malaysia & Singapore

- 126 Peninsular Malaysia
- 127 Singapore and Malaysian Borneo

Small group & private tours

- 128 Splendours of Borneo • Private

Places to stay – our suggestions

- 130 Malaysia & Singapore Hotel Collection

Inspired to venture further afield? Browse our website to discover additional destinations, places to stay and itineraries; or speak to our Malaysia & Singapore experts.

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Image left: Mother and infant orang utans, Borneo

Discover Malaysia & Singapore



Tea plantation, Cameron Highlands

Kuala Lumpur

Rapidly developing city • Colourful Central Market

Kuala Lumpur, or 'KL' to locals, has come a long way since its humble beginnings as a tin mining town: the name actually means 'muddy estuary' in Malay. It is the largest and fastest growing city in the country, and the huge Petronas Towers twin skyscrapers that dominate the skyline demonstrate the city's ambition.

The Central Market is at the heart of the city, a famous landmark for Malaysian culture and heritage. Built in 1888 it originally functioned as a wet market, but today tourists visit for its stalls selling handicrafts, art, songket fabric, batik cloth and souvenirs. For a more contemporary take on the city, The Annexe Gallery, located at the back of Central Market, is a popular venue for events such as film screenings and art exhibitions.

Malacca

Former silk & spice trading centre • Eclectic mix of architectural styles

Founded in 1403, the Sultanate of Malacca was once the greatest and most powerful empire and seaport in south-east Asia. The Portuguese, Dutch and British ruled over Malacca's silk and spice trade and this rich heritage is evident in the unique mix of architectural styles, such as St John's Fort, Bandar Hilir, Jonker Street and the Chinese burial site of Bukit China.

Georgetown, Penang

Enchanting local nightlife

Penang's capital, Georgetown, is a vibrant mixture of English, Chinese and Indian colonial architecture and culture. Take a rickshaw ride along its enchanting streets and explore the narrow alleys of Chinatown. In the evening, Georgetown takes on a magical quality and comes to life with night markets and street food stalls.

The Cameron Highlands

Picturesque landscapes • Cooling colonial retreat

At an altitude of 1,500-1,800 metres, the Cameron Highlands are a relatively cool retreat from the humidity of the lowlands. A picturesque area of winding trails with mountain peaks, waterfalls and jungle, they were favoured by the English during the colonial era as a place to relax. The area includes many features of English country villages.

SAMPLE JOURNEY

A Journey Through Malaysia

13 Days & 10 Nights from £2,895

Journey the length of the Malay peninsula to the island of Penang in the north, visiting the 15th-century capital Malacca, the Cameron Highlands and the vibrant capital of Kuala Lumpur.

Day 1: Fly to Singapore

Fly direct from London to Singapore with Singapore Airlines. (N)

Day 2: Singapore

Arrive and transfer to the Park Hotel Clarke Quay for 2 nights. (N)

Day 3: Singapore

Morning city tour visiting Merlion Park, Thian Hock Keng temple and the National Orchid Garden. Afternoon high tea at the legendary Raffles Hotel. (B)

Day 4: To Malacca

Drive over the Malaysian border to Malacca, once

of the most powerful seaports in south-east Asia. Stay at the Casa Del Rio for 2 nights. (B)

Day 5: Malacca

City tour, visiting Porta de Santiago, Baba Nyonya Museum and Jonker Street, known for its galleries and antique shops. (B)

Day 6: To Kuala Lumpur

Drive to Kuala Lumpur. Stay 2 nights at the Renaissance Kuala Lumpur. Afternoon tour of Batu caves. Traditional Malay dinner at the Bijan restaurant. (B, D)

Day 7: Kuala Lumpur

Morning city tour, visiting the National Monument, Sultan Abdul Samad government buildings, Independence Square, the Selangor Club and Istana Negara (the King's Palace). (B)

Days 8-9: To the Cameron Highlands

Morning drive to the Cameron Highlands, stopping en route at an Aboriginal village. Visit the Sungai Palas tea plantation for a tour and tea tasting. Stay 2 nights at The Lakehouse. (B).

Days 10-11: To Penang

Drive to Penang, the oldest British settlement in

Malaysia. Stay at the Lone Pine Hotel for 2 nights. Visit Fort Cornwallis, Wat Chayamangkalaram Thai temple, and the Chinese clanhouse of Khoo Kongsi. (B)

Day 12: Fly to London via Singapore

Fly to London, via Singapore, with Singapore Airlines. (B)

Day 13: Arrival in London

Morning arrival. (N)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £2,895

High season from: £2,995

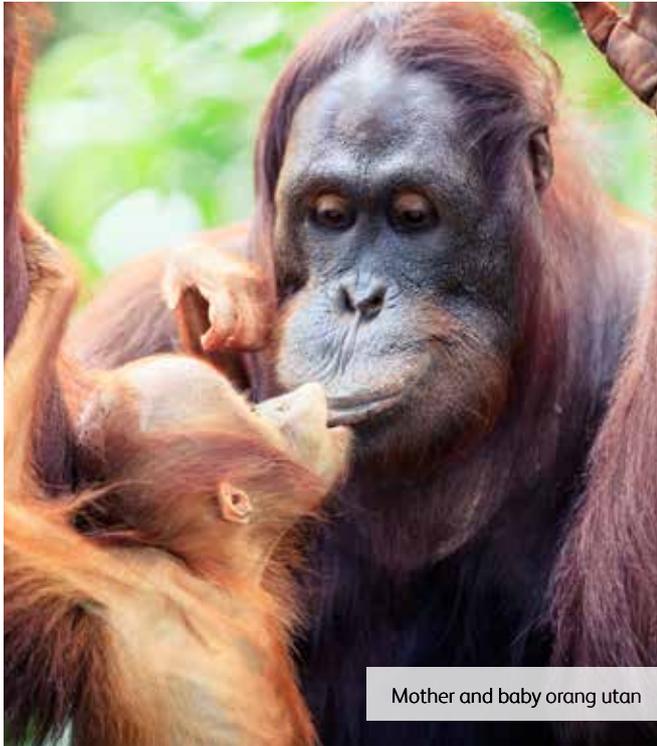
Tailored travel

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Mother and baby orang utan

Malaysian Borneo

Part of Malaysian territory, with Indonesian Borneo to the south, Malaysian Borneo in the north of the island is split into the two states of Sabah and Sarawak, sandwiching the sovereign state of Brunei inbetween. While for most visitors a chance to see orang utans in the wild is the main draw, the jungles here are also home to elephants, monkeys and birds.

Most visits start in Sarawak's laid-back coastal capital, Kuching, which has an attractive waterfront and is close to the Batang Ai National Park, popular with tourists for visits to the traditional longhouses built by the Iban tribe. Further north, Gunung Mulu is Sarawak's largest national park, centred on the peak of Gunung Mulu and noted for its diverse eco-systems, from peat swamp to limestone and forest terrain.

In the far north-west of the island lies Kota Kinabalu, the capital of Sabah state, and the base for exploring the offshore islands of Tunku Abdul Rahman National Park, trekking to the summit of Mount Kinabalu, or relaxing on one of the nearby beaches. South, along the coast of Sabah, lies Sandakan, the gateway to the orang utan rehabilitation centre at Sepilok, Turtle Islands National Park, and journeys along the Kinabatangan river to the wildlife-viewing rainforest lodges in Abai and Sukau.

Orang utan viewing in Malaysian Borneo



The most accessible way to see these iconic animals is with a visit to the Sepilok Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre near Sandakan in Sabah, a short flight from Kota Kinabalu. Founded in 1964, the centre aims to protect orphaned, injured and captive orang utans and introduce them back into the wild. A feeding of these semi-wild animals is held at a platform in the jungle early each morning.

To view truly wild orang utans, it is necessary to travel further inland to the Danum Valley Conservation Area, where they are present in quite large numbers. Spotting them here is difficult as they do not live in groups and move around a lot up in the jungle canopy in search of food, although this does make any sighting all the more authentic and memorable. For the more adventurous, trips can be made into the Tinting Empelau forest near the Batang Ai National Park in Sarawak, an area of rainforest where orang utans are also known to be found.

Singapore

The island city-state of Singapore lies almost on the equator and is an ideal place to relax for a few days, in a city renowned for its efficiency and high standard of service. Singapore has some of the best restaurants in Asia, as well as some beautiful parks, many colonial buildings and interesting areas to visit. There is also a wide range of accommodation, from the luxury Raffles and Mandarin Oriental hotels to good value and centrally located 4-star properties, and a forthcoming selection of smaller, boutique hotels such as the Villa Samadhi and the Amoy.

The city is very compact and has an excellent transport system, so it is easy to explore the different districts, such as Chinatown, Little India and the redeveloped quay areas, including the striking new Esplanade theatre and entertainment complex. The landmark Raffles hotel, birthplace of the Singapore Sling cocktail, is worth a visit to experience the ambience of the famous Long Bar.



Hornbill, Borneo



Luxury

Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resort and Spa, near Kota Kinabalu

The perfect way to end any trip to Borneo is with a stay on one of the island's glorious beaches. Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resort and Spa is the ideal place to stay, set alongside an inviting stretch of sparkling South China Sea beaches and just 10 minutes' drive from the airport. The resort has a range of facilities, excellent restaurants and the superb service that is the hallmark of the Shangri-La hotel group.

Features:

492 rooms; 4 restaurants; 3 bars; spa; marina; beach; health club; 2,000-sq-metre swimming pool; Wi-Fi.

Splendours of Borneo

Duration • 15 Days & 12 Nights

Category • Discovery

Basis • Private Tour

Price • From £3,895

Tour overview

This active private tour explores the Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak, home to pristine rainforests, smouldering volcanoes, glistening beaches, tribal groups and incredible wildlife. Stay overnight on Selingan island (Turtle Island) to observe nesting turtles and new hatchlings, journey along the Kinabatangan river to spot wildlife, and visit the Danum Valley Conservation Area to see wild orang utans.

C&K highlights

- Experience the authentic longhouse life of the Iban tribe in Batang Ai
- Cruise the Kinabatangan river and spot orang utans and proboscis monkeys
- Visit Danum valley, a conservation area that protects primary rainforest
- See turtles hatching on Selingan island

Weather

Kota Kinabalu

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	23	26	32	38	42	40	35	33	34	34	29	24
B	7	10	16	21	27	29	27	26	24	19	12	8
C	8	8	3	4	21	42	148	148	99	21	2	7

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



Iban longhouse, Batang Ai

Day 1: Fly to Kuching via Kuala Lumpur

Fly from London to Kuching, via Kuala Lumpur, on Malaysia Airlines or British Airways. (N)

Day 2: Kuching

Morning arrival in the charming city of Kuching, with its appealing waterfront and colonial architecture. Transfer to the Hilton Hotel for 1 night. (N)

Day 3: To Batang Ai

Travel by road to Lubok Antu, then by boat to the Hilton Batang Ai Longhouse Resort, located on the shores of Batang Ai lake, for a 2-night stay. (B, L, D)

Day 4: Batang Ai

Take a boat journey along the Delok river into the heart of the Sarawak jungle to visit a traditional longhouse. Experience an introduction to longhouse life with the friendly and welcoming Iban tribe, then visit the nearby waterfall. (B, L, D)

Day 5: To Kuching

Morning journey back to Kuching, then take a city tour visiting the Tua Pek Kong Chinese temple, the city mosque, spice markets, Kuching waterfront and the Sarawak Museum. Transfer to the Hilton Hotel for 1 night. (B)

Day 6: Fly to Kota Kinabalu

Transfer to the airport, and fly to Kota Kinabalu, the capital of Sabah. Stay 2 nights at the Hyatt Regency. (B)

Day 7: Kinabalu National Park

Follow nature trails through the rich plant life of

Kinabalu National Park, then continue to Poring hot springs where there is a chance to see the Rafflesia flowers, explore the treetop canopy walkways, and bathe in natural springs. (B, L)

Day 8: Fly to Turtle Island*

Visit Selingan island, also known as Turtle Island, to look for nesting sea turtles. Early morning flight and boat journey to Selingan island for an overnight stay in national park accommodation. Spend the afternoon relaxing on the island's unspoilt beaches. This evening, a park ranger will take you to see turtles laying eggs on the beach and releasing hatchlings into the sea. (B, L, D)

Day 9: To Sepilok & Abai

Early morning boat journey to Sandakan and transfer to Sepilok to see the morning feeding of the reserve's orang utans, which are being reintroduced into the wild. This afternoon, travel to Abai on the banks of Kinabatangan river, and stay 1 night at the Abai Lodge. Afternoon river cruise to search for wildlife. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Kinabatangan river excursions

The wildlife excursions today are great opportunities to see proboscis monkeys, orang utans, pygmy elephants and a variety of birdlife. Stay overnight at the Kinabatangan Riverside Lodge. (B, L, D)

Day 11: To Danum valley

This morning, drive south to the Danum valley to search for wild orang utans. Take a rainforest walk and venture up to the canopy walkway. Stay 2 nights at Borneo Rainforest Lodge. (B, L, D)



Proboscis monkeys, Borneo

Day 12: Danum valley

Full-day exploration of the surrounding rainforest. Visit the Coffin Cliff burial area and swim in freshwater pools. (B, L, D)

Day 13: Fly to Kota Kinabalu

Fly to Kota Kinabalu and stay at the Hyatt Regency for 1 night. (B)

Day 14: Fly to London via Kuala Lumpur

This afternoon, transfer to the airport and fly to London, via Kuala Lumpur. (B)

Day 15: London

Morning arrival. (N)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Locally escorted tour: This tour is led in each destination en route by a local tour escort.

Discovery tour: This tour is better suited to the hardier traveller as it includes some quite basic lodge accommodation, rough road journeys, and a lot of jungle walking.

* **Turtle Island:** Visits to the island are subject to local conditions and FCO advice.

Extensions: Extend your stay in Kota Kinabalu with a few days on the beach at the luxury Shangri-La's Tanjung Aru Resort, or at the Bunga Raya Island Resort in the offshore Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park.

Tailor-made travel: For a price quote based on alternative accommodation standards or flight options, or to tailor this itinerary, please call 020 7808 6786 or email info@coxandkings.co.uk.

Guideline prices

Low season from £3,895
High season from £4,295

Malaysia & Singapore Hotels

Langkawi • Pangkor • Ipoh • Gaya Island • Danum Valley



Luxury

The Datai, Langkawi

The Datai is situated on the north-west tip of the island of Langkawi. It is an exclusive natural retreat surrounded by 500 million-year-old virgin rainforest. Complimentary morning and evening nature walks in the rainforest are available, led by the world-renowned resident naturalist, Irshad Mobarak. Rooms have views over the forest out to the Andaman Sea and the beach below.

Features:

124 rooms; 4 restaurants; 2 pools; private beach; golf course; water-sports facilities.



Superior

The Danna, Langkawi

Located on the west coast of Langkawi, just 15 minutes' drive from the international airport, The Danna is a luxury resort surrounded by mountains. Set in a five-storey building, built in a British colonial style, the hotel is part of Telaga harbour area, which was constructed to resemble a Mediterranean-style harbour town of the French Riviera, with many bars and restaurants.

Features:

125 rooms; restaurant; infinity pool; bar; beach; wine cellar, spa; cafe.



Superior

Pangkor Laut Resort, Pangkor

Sitting alone on the idyllic private island of Pangkor in the Straits of Malacca, the Pangkor Laut Resort's villas are built into the hillside, on the beach, and on stilts above the bay. It has one of the world's most beautiful beaches at Emerald Bay and there are possibilities for jungle exploration, fishing trips and kayaking. The indulgent spa village is set in the south of the island.

Features:

140 rooms; 2 restaurants; spa; tennis court; 2 outdoor pools.



Superior

Banjaran Hotspots Retreat, Ipoh

Set deep in the hills of the Kinta valley near Ipoh, the Banjaran Hotspots Retreat has a stunning setting around a natural pool. The retreat specialises in tailor-made holistic wellness programmes prepared by experienced wellness practitioners, incorporating diet, massages, spa treatments and fitness classes. The restaurant focuses on seasonal, low-fat organic produce, complemented by fine wine.

Features:

26 villas; restaurant; juice bar; steam cave; ice bath; hot spring pools.



Good Standard

The Bunga Raya Island Resort, Gaya Island

Tucked away on a tranquil bay on Gaya Island, the Bunga Raya Island Resort is framed by a white sand beach on one side and centuries-old virgin jungle on the other. The exotic hideaway has 47 timber villas beautifully handcrafted by local tradesmen and terraced into the hillside, reflecting the traditional Bornean style. Hikes through the island jungle are available.

Features:

48 private villas; 2 restaurants; wine cellar; spa; pool.



Simple

Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley

With the backdrop of a thick blanket of virgin rainforest hanging over a meandering river, the Borneo Rainforest Lodge offers comfortable accommodation in stilted bungalows with en suite bathrooms, polished wooden floors, ceiling fans and balconies, some with river views. The surrounding 43,800 hectares of jungle are replete with animal and plant life.

Features:

31 chalets; tree-top canopy walk; restaurant; bar; gift shop; Wi-Fi.

Singapore • Kuala Lumpur • Penang



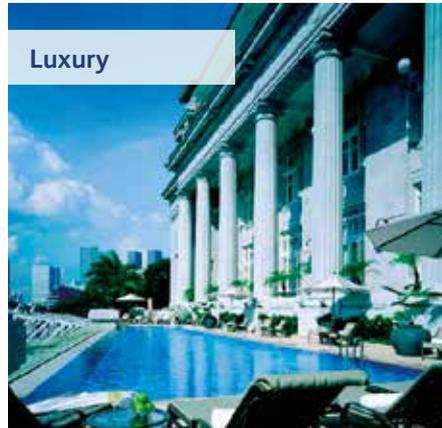
Luxury

Raffles Singapore

Established in 1887, Raffles is one of the world's great hotels and was once a focal point for Singapore high society. Spacious suites are decorated in colonial style, with elegant period furnishings in teak, marble and silk exuding warmth and character. Enjoy a Singapore Sling in the famous Long Bar where previous visitors include Charlie Chaplin, Somerset Maugham and Ava Gardner.

Features:

103 rooms; 4 restaurants; bar; bakery; spa.



Luxury

The Fullerton, Singapore

The landmark Fullerton building, located on the Singapore river, was completed in 1928 and is within walking distance of the Marina Bay shops and the Asian Civilisations Museum. It served as the Post Office, Singapore Town Club and Chamber of Commerce before being developed into a luxury hotel. The Palladian exterior hides a stylish 21st-century hotel with modern guestrooms.

Features:

400 rooms; restaurant; roof pool; spa; heritage gallery; boutique shops.



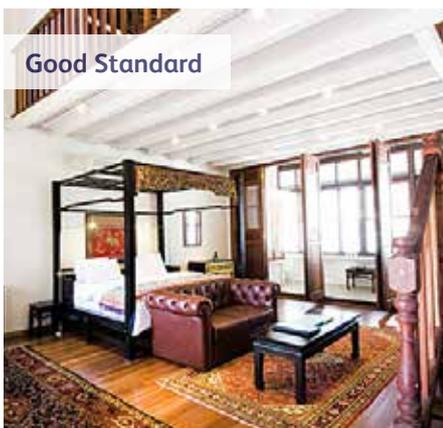
Superior

The Eastern & Oriental, Penang

The Eastern & Oriental Hotel is a historical gem and the benchmark of grand colonial hotels from the early 20th century. Once described as the finest hotel east of Suez, it was known simply as 'the E&O' to generations of travellers. Built in 1885, the Heritage Wing is the historical heart of the hotel, while the Victory Annexe, opened in 2013, still retains the essence of E&O's rich heritage.

Features:

100 rooms; 6 restaurants; pool with views over the seafront; historical gallery.



Good Standard

Seven Terraces, Penang

A luxury boutique hotel with 18 suites, Seven Terraces is a conversion from a row of Anglo-Chinese terrace houses, next door to the 1810 Goddess of Mercy Temple. Accommodation is set around an elegant Chinese-style courtyard, with beds of frangipani set between tall wooden columns and tessellated walkways. Rooms are air conditioned with open-plan bathrooms, four-poster beds, antique furniture and artwork.

Features:

18 suites; restaurant; lap pool; Wi-Fi; veranda; cooking classes.



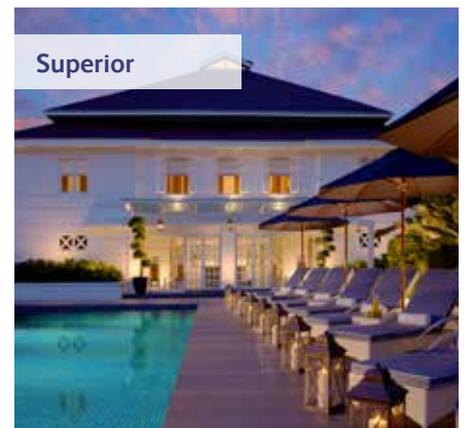
Superior

Villa Samadhi, Kuala Lumpur

An intimate urban retreat, the Villa Samadhi is located in a quiet, central area of Kuala Lumpur. Its collection of luxurious neo-Asian villa-suites are built in the traditional Bumbung style around the swimming pool and restaurant, and overlooked by the rooftop bar. Rooms make abundant use of dark timber and bamboo to create a refined ambience, some with a kitchen and private garden.

Features:

21 rooms; restaurant; rooftop bar; pool; Wi-Fi.



Superior

The Majestic, Kuala Lumpur

Built in 1932, the Majestic was an icon of Malaya's boom years, when it hosted glamorous social events and was the residence of choice for prominent international visitors. The original structure was built in a hybrid of neo-classical and art deco styles, then restored in 2012 to encompass the original and fully restored five-storey hotel and a new, 15-storey tower linked by an air-conditioned, glass-enclosed walkway.

Features:

300 rooms; pool; spa; bar; cigar room; private dining area with a chef on call.



Indonesia, PNG & the Philippines

Tailor-made travel



Indonesia is a vast archipelago encompassing more than 17,000 islands, rich in natural environments, people, history and culture. It's an extremely diverse country, with more than 300 languages spoken and a wealth of attractions to explore, including swinging orang utans, the unusual Komodo dragon, ancient Hindu and Buddhist temples, volcanoes, stepped rice terraces and lengthy stretches of isolated beach.

Papua New Guinea occupies the eastern half of the island of New Guinea and its offshore islands. Tourism remains very much in its infancy, but it is one of the most rewarding destinations within this region, home to stunning natural beauty and fascinating local culture.

The Philippines, with more than 7,000 islands to discover, offers a diverse range of experiences and excursions. While the country's countless beaches, some remote and some fronted by 5-star hotels, are well known, there is much more beyond the sands.

Discover Indonesia, Papua New Guinea & the Philippines

134	Indonesia
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Small group & private tours

136	Indonesia Wildlife Adventure • Private
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Inspired to venture further afield? Browse our website to discover additional destinations, places to stay and itineraries; or speak to our Indonesia, PNG & the Philippines experts.



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Image left: Mount Bromo, Java, Indonesia

Discover Indonesia



Prambanan temple, Yogyakarta



Yogyakarta, Java

Modern yet traditional city • Artistic centre

Yogyakarta is the cultural centre of Java, and offers an interesting contrast between modern and traditional Indonesia. The city is heaving with traffic, shops and restaurants, while maintaining a flourishing arts scene, with batik workshops, upmarket galleries and wayang golek puppetry shows. The main sites are the Keraton, or Sultan's Palace, an ancient walled city built in the 18th century and notable for its magnificent Javanese architecture; and the Sonobudoyo Museum, housing an excellent collection of traditional Javanese art, masks and carvings.

Borobudur, Java

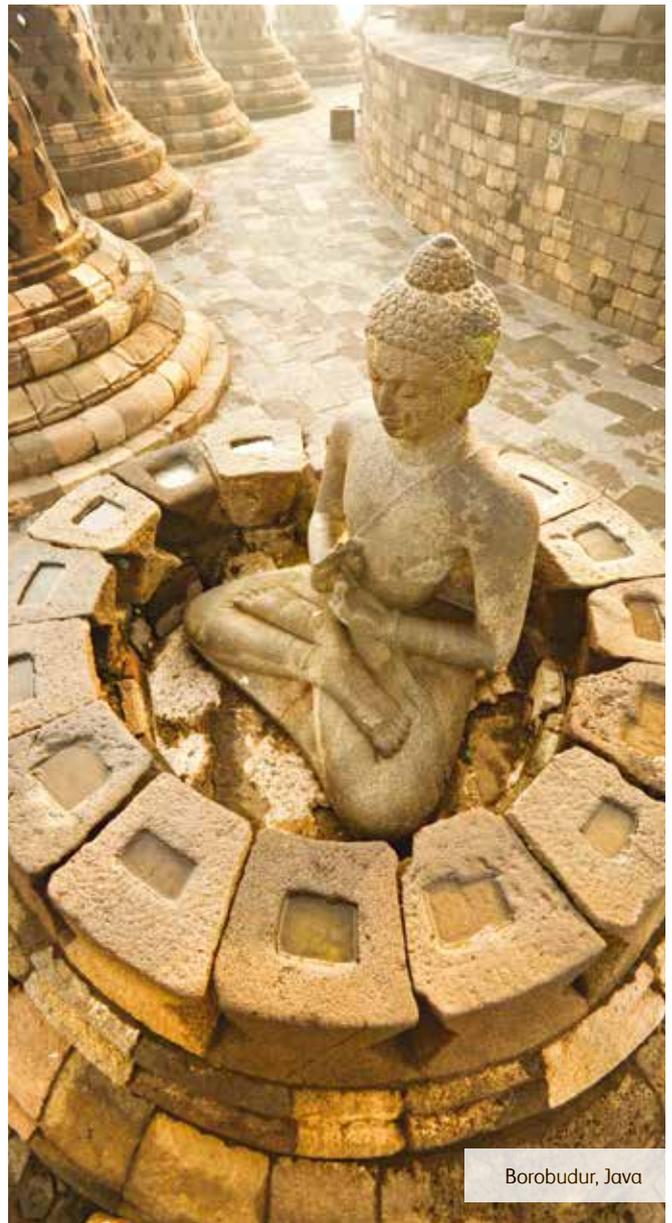
Unesco-listed Buddhist pilgrimage site • Colossal architecture and carving work

Borobudur is a ninth-century Mahayana Buddhist monument in Magelang, central Java, a short drive from Yogyakarta. The sanctuary was founded by a king of the Saliendra dynasty, and is made up of more than a million cut-stone blocks, 1,460 stone relief panels and 504 life-size Buddha statues, each sculpted from a single stone. The architecture and carving demonstrates India's influence over the region, but the indigenous scenes depicted make Borobudur unique, and the temple remains an important place of pilgrimage for Buddhists. A Unesco world heritage site built in three tiers, from the top gallery of Borobudur are superb panoramic views of central Java.

Solo (Surakarta), Java

Former capital & cultural centre

Also known as Surakarta, Solo in central Java is an important cultural centre for the Javanese people. Together with nearby Yogyakarta, the city shares a history as the heir of the Mataram Kingdom. Previously the site of a small village, in 1745 the Mataram susuhunan (king) moved his capital here. It was then that the city began to grow and establish its importance in arts, music and court culture. During the 1945 struggle for independence, Solo lost out to Yogyakarta as the seat of the independent government, and began to decline in significance.



Borobudur, Java

Mount Bromo, Java

Extraordinary rugged landscapes • Astonishing sunrise vistas

Bromo-Tengger-Semeru National Park is named after the Tengger people who inhabit the area and its two mountains: Mount Semeru, Java's highest mountain and one of Indonesia's most active volcanoes, and Mount Bromo, whose entire top has been blown off during past eruptions while the crater constantly belches white sulphurous smoke. Mount Bromo is a popular place to watch the sunrise and the park's rugged scenery is one of unearthly beauty, with barren volcanic peaks, gravel plains and areas of lush green vegetation.

Bali

Outstanding beaches & resorts • Scenic town of Ubud

Primarily known for its beaches, Bali has a number of different resort areas. Seminyak, previously a collection of villages, has been developed into one of the top luxury destinations in Bali, and has a magnificent beach. Sanur is well established as a tourist destination, but does not experience the crowds and tourist hustle of Kuta beach, retaining a more relaxed feel. South of Kuta, Jimbaran Bay features 5-star hotels and luxury villas along its splendid white sandy beach, said to be one of the finest on the island. Nusa Dua refers to the eastern side of the Bukit peninsula, at the southern tip of Bali, where hotels are located in the Kawasan Pariwisata tourism district with a long, white sand beach and promenade lined with shops, restaurants and cafes.

For a change of pace on Bali, the small town of Ubud, set among the rice paddies and mountains, has a rich cultural and historical heritage dating back to the eighth century. Traditionally the island's centre for art, dance and music, Ubud was once a haven for European artists and bohemians. Today, 5-star hotels, restaurants, spas and galleries continue to attract overseas visitors.



Gates of Ubud Palace, Bali



Rice fields, Bali

Lombok

Stunning volcanic scenery & beaches

While the island of Lombok may not have the nightlife and infrastructure of neighbouring Bali, the beaches of Senggigi, snorkelling from the Gili islands and a dramatic volcanic interior make for a memorable visit. Mount Rinjani, an active volcano, makes for a demanding but rewarding trek, with stunning views, caves and the Segara Anak crater lake.

SAMPLE JOURNEY

Highlights of Java & Bali

14 Days & 11 Nights from £2,795

Visit the colonial towns of Surabaya and Malang, the Hindu temple complexes at Prambanan and Penataran, and the Buddhist temple of Borobudur.

Day 1: Fly to Surabaya via Hong Kong

Overnight flight from London to Surabaya, via Hong Kong, with Cathay Pacific. (N)

Day 2: Arrive in Surabaya

Arrive and transfer to Hotel Majapahit for 1 night. (N)

Day 3: To Malang via Purwodadi Botanical Gardens

Drive to Malang via the Purwodadi Botanical Gardens, and stay overnight at the Tugu Malang hotel, which houses a collection of Indonesian antiques and curios. (B, L)

Days 4-5: To Blitar

Continue east to Blitar, and visit the museum and tomb dedicated to Indonesia's first president, Sukarno, and the Penataran temple complex. Stay at the Tugu Blitar hotel for 2 nights. (B, L)

Day 6: To Solo:

Train journey across Java to Solo (Surakarta). Stay for 2 nights at the Royal Surakarta Heritage Solo. (B)

Day 7: Solo

Full-day tour including the Keraton (palace) Surakarta, the Klewer market and Suku, a 15th-century Javanese-Hindu temple. (B, L)

Days 8-9: To Yogyakarta

Drive to Indonesia's cultural centre of Yogyakarta, and visit the magnificent ninth-century Hindu temple of Prambanan and the Candi Plaosan Buddhist temple. Stay at the Phoenix Hotel Yogyakarta for 2 nights. (B, L)

Day 10: To Borobudur

Visit Borobudur, a ninth-century Mahayana Buddhist monument, then drive into the jungle to Plataran Borobudur Resort & Spa for 1 night. (B, L)

Days 11-12: Fly to Ubud

Fly to Denpasar in Bali and transfer to Ubud. Stay at the Maya Ubud for 2 nights. Take a short tour of Ubud town and the beautiful rice terraces at Tegalalang (B)

Day 13: Fly to London via Hong Kong

Fly to London, via Hong Kong, with Cathay Pacific. (B)

Day 14: London

Early morning arrival. (N)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £2,795

High season from: £2,895

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

 020 7808 6786

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Indonesia Wildlife Adventure

Duration • 15 Days & 12 Nights

Category • Discovery

Basis • Private Tour

Price • From £3,995

Tour overview

With over 17,000 islands and diverse ecosystems, Indonesia supports a level of biodiversity second only to Brazil. On this private itinerary, go in search of orang utans and Komodo dragons, and lesser known species of deer and monkeys, as well as some of the country's 1,500 birds. Indonesia's seas also harbour an array of marine life, with tropical fish, sponges, coral and dolphins to see while cruising and snorkelling in the Ujung Kulon and Komodo national parks.

C&K highlights

- Look for orang utans in remote Kalimantan
- Cruise in the Komodo National Park and see the world-renowned dragons
- Visit Krakatoa and the Ujung Kulon National Park
- Spot rare bird species on Peucang island

Weather

Jakarta

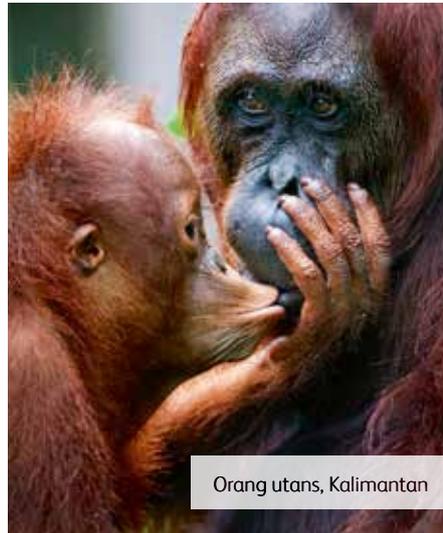
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	30	31	32	33	33	32	32	33	33	33	32	32
B	23	23	23	23	23	23	22	22	23	23	23	23
C	406	298	245	195	173	100	77	77	93	146	174	225

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



Orang utans, Kalimantan

Day 1: Fly to Bali via Singapore

Overnight flight from London to Bali, via Singapore, with Singapore Airlines. (N)

Day 2: Arrive into Bali

Transfer to Ramada Resort Camakila Bali for 1 night. (N)

Day 3: Fly to Flores island

Fly to Labuan Bajo on Flores island, and stay 1 night at Bintang Flores Hotel. (B)

Days 4-5: Komodo National Park

Transfer to the harbour to begin a 2-night cruise in the Komodo National Park. Visit small islands and coves for snorkelling and swimming, and cruise to Komodo island to begin a hike to see the Komodo dragons. Stay on a private boat for 2 nights. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Fly to Jakarta via Bali

Disembark early in the morning in Labuan Bajo, and visit the Batu Cermin cave. Transfer to the airport and fly to Jakarta, via Bali. Stay for 1 night at the Alila Jakarta. (B)

Day 7: To Anyer Kidul

Drive to the small town of Anyer Kidul on the west coast of Java, and stay 2 nights at the Hawaii a Club Bali Resort. (B)

Day 8: Krakatoa

Full-day boat tour around Krakatoa, with a hike on the island and picnic on the beach. (B, L, D)

Day 9: To Ujung Kulon National Park

Full-day tour to the Ujung Kulon National Park, with a canoe journey up the Cigenter river for wildlife viewing. Overnight at the Peucang Island Eco Resort. (B, L, D)

Day 10: To Jakarta

Morning wildlife viewing tour on Peucang island, with the chance to see deer, monkeys and many species of birds. Transfer by boat to the mainland, and then drive north to Jakarta. Stay for 1 night at the Alila Jakarta. (B, L)

Day 11: Fly to Indonesian Borneo

Early morning flight to Pangkalanbun in Kalimantan, part of Indonesian Borneo. Transfer to Kumai, and take a river boat journey to the Tanjung Puting National Park. Stay 3 nights at the Rimba Ecologe. (B, L, D)

Days 12-13: Tanjung Puting National Park

Explore the jungles surrounding the lodge looking for orang utans and other wildlife. Visit the Camp Leakey research station, the Pondok Tanggui orang utan feeding station and the Pesalat Reforestation Project. (B, L, D)

Day 14: Fly to London via Jakarta & Singapore

Morning boat journey to Kumai, then drive to Pangkalanbun airport. Fly to Jakarta, and connect with your Singapore Airlines flight to London, via Singapore. (B)

Day 15: London

Early morning arrival. (N)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Locally escorted tour: This tour is led in each destination en route by a local tour escort.

Discovery tour: This tour is better suited to the hardier traveller, as it includes some quite basic lodge accommodation, rough road and sea journeys, and a lot of jungle walking.

Extensions: Indonesia has an excellent choice of beach hotels in Bali, Lombok and the Karimunjawa islands. Please speak to a Cox & Kings specialist for further details.

Tailor-made travel: For a price quote based on alternative accommodation standards or flight options, or to tailor this itinerary, please call 020 7808 6786 or email info@coxandkings.co.uk.

Guideline prices

Low season from £3,995
High season from £4,295



Discover Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea, comprising more than 600 islands, lies east of Indonesia. It can be a challenging destination for visitors as tourism is still very much in its infancy, but it is an extremely rewarding destination with authentic cultural encounters and a huge range of unique flora and fauna. Two-thirds of the world's species of orchid come from Papua New Guinea, while there are 38 species of birds-of-paradise, 450 different species of butterflies, along with marsupials and mammals such as tree kangaroos, wallabies, bandicoots and spiny anteaters.

Private travel is possible in Papua New Guinea, with many excursions operated by lodges and conducted on a group basis. Birdwatching excursions can be arranged with specialist local guides, and visits to local villages are a memorable part of any trip. However there is a lack of tourism infrastructure in many parts of the country, and therefore a degree of flexibility is required.

Papua New Guinea has one of the most variable climates on Earth, but it is generally hot and humid throughout the year. The wet season runs from November to March, and the driest period is from May to December. Flights are available into the capital, Port Moresby, from Singapore with Air Niugini.



Coastline, Papua New Guinea

C&K Recommends...

Birdwatching

Papua New Guinea is home to more than 781 bird species, including 76 endemic species and 38 of the 43 known species of birds-of-paradise. Notable endemic species include Raggianas, blue birds-of-paradise, fire-maned bowerbirds, crested berrypeckers and the stunning Victoria crowned pigeon.

Ambua Lodge near Tari has recorded 217 species in its surrounding jungle, while Rondon Ridge near Mount Hagen, has more than 180 species, including ten birds-of-paradise. Also near Mount Hagen, Karawari Lodge offer tours from its riverboat and has recorded 229 species, including many water birds. Bensbach Wildlife Lodge in the remote south-west has listed 191 species including huge flocks of migratory birds.

Village visits

Papua New Guinea is extremely culturally diverse, with more than 800 languages among a population of less than 7 million. This diversity has led to many unique cultures and traditions, and a visit to a local village is the best way to learn about local customs and beliefs. Tokua village is notable for its re-enactments of a traditional 'Moka' ceremony, a ritualised exchange, often of pigs, which are highly valued in the highlands. At Paiyagona village it is possible to meet the chief and his multiple wives, the museum, the spirit house, and the chief's ancestors' skeleton house, while Pogla village is famous for the Asaro Mudmen of the Wahgoy valley.



Bird of Paradise, Papua New Guinea



Mudmen, Asaro Mudmen Village

The Goroka Show

Staged since 1957, the Goroka Show was founded by the kiaps, the district officers and patrol officers who acted as travelling representatives of the British and Australian governments before independence. The kiaps brought in 'sing sing' groups from the different areas they patrolled, which encompassed 29 different languages and societies from the Eastern Highlands. The Goroka Show has since grown to become one of the most vivid cultural events in Papua New Guinea, where visitors can experience the customs of over a hundred tribes.

The Sepik Spirit floating lodge

For those who prefer to base themselves in one area and make daily excursions, a stay on the *Sepik Spirit* floating lodge is ideal. Originally commissioned as a river cruiser, the vessel is currently moored and offers nine spacious en suite rooms, an air-conditioned lounge, bar and dining areas. Excursions are made on 18-seater boats, with shallow drafts and the ability to manoeuvre where larger vessels cannot go. In 2016, the *Sepik Spirit* may also be available for cruise itineraries – please ask for details.

SAMPLE JOURNEY

Papua New Guinea Highlands Discovery

13 Days & 10 Nights from £6,295

Visit remote villages with unique cultures and beliefs, where the way of life has remained relatively unchanged for thousands of years.

Day 1: Fly to Singapore

Overnight flight from London to Singapore with Singapore Airlines. (N)

Day 2: Fly to Tari via Port Moresby

Fly from Singapore to Tari, via Port Moresby, with Air Niugini. On arrival, transfer to Ambua Lodge for 2 nights. Located around 2,200 metres above sea level, the lodge has panoramic views across the surrounding highlands. (D)

Day 3: Tari

Opportunities to spot some of the 13 species of birds-of-paradise and native orchid species. (B, L, D)

Day 4: To Mount Hagen

Transfer to the airport and fly to Mount Hagen.

Transfer to the Highlander Hotel for 1 night. (B)

Day 5: To Goroka

Travel overland to Goroka, via a village to watch a traditional skeleton dance by the Omo Masalai tribe. On arrival in Goroka, transfer to Pacific Gardens Hotel for 3 nights. (B, L)

Day 6: Asaro Mudmen village

Visit the Asaro Mudmen village, and watch a performance by the mudmen. (B, L)

Day 7: Chimbu village

Visit Chimbu village for an insight into their traditional way of life. Discover how traditional handicrafts are made, visit a market, coffee factory and JK McCarthy museum that contains artefacts from the surrounding highlands. (B, L)

Day 8: To Madang via Kamaliki village

Travel overland to Madang (approximately 7 hours), via Kamaliki village to watch a traditional dance performance. Stay at the Madang Resort Hotel for 3 nights. (B)

Day 9: Madang cruise

Take a Madang harbour cruise to small and idyllic tropical islands and snorkel over the coral

reef. (B, L)

Day 10: Madang

Visit Suyao Lookout for panoramic views of the surrounding rainforests and river. (B)

Day 11: Fly to Port Moresby

Fly to Port Moresby this morning, and visit the National Parliament and the National Museum. Stay 1 night at the Airways Hotel. (B)

Day 12: Fly to London via Singapore

Transfer to the airport this morning and fly back to London via Singapore. (B)

Day 13: London

Early morning arrival in London. (N)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £6,295

High season from: £6,595

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Discover The Philippines



Fort Santiago, Intramuros

Manila

Colonial history in the Spanish Intramuros district • Churches of Vigan and Laoag

Capital of the Philippines, Manila is situated on Luzon, the largest and most populous island in the Philippines. Its historic walled city is known as Intramuros, Latin for 'within the walls'. Once the heart of the Spanish colonial government and heavily fortified, the area contains a number of historic buildings and landmarks. Fort Santiago was the headquarters of Spanish military troops and prison to thousands of Filipinos, including the country's national hero, José Rizal. The San Agustin Church was founded in 1571 and is now the oldest stone church in the Philippines; terms for the American occupation of Manila were signed here in the sacristy. Nearby is Casa Manila, a reconstruction of the San Nicolas House from the 1850s, rebuilt during the 1980s in a Spanish-colonial architectural style. A few blocks away is Plaza de Roma, dominated by the imposing Manila Cathedral.



Colonial architecture, Vigan



North Luzon

Banaue rice terraces • Hanging coffins of Sagada

Designated a Unesco world heritage site in 1955, the rice terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras in Ifugao province are made up of five separate sites, the most famous in Batad and Bangaan, that make up the area known as Banaue. These terraces, or *payo*, are cut into the contours of the hills and mountains around the province, a 2,000-year-old man-made feat of engineering. Ifugao is home to the ethnic group of the same name, and it is possible to learn more about their culture and traditions at the Banaue Museum or the village of Tam-an.

Sagada is known for its many hanging coffins, which are placed high on cliffs in the mountains of the Echo Valley. There are also many caves and hot springs to explore, including the Sumaguing cave with stalagmite and stalactite formations, as well as textile weaving workshops specialising in the local art of backstrap weaving.



Banaue rice terraces

Palawan

Cruise on the underground river • Stunning beaches and islands

Puerto Princesa is the capital city of Palawan, an island in the west of the Philippines archipelago. With a population of just over 200,000 it is more low-key than other cities, and is known as the 'greenest city in the Philippines'. The city was founded in 1872 by Spanish colonialists, and remains the commercial and cultural centre of Palawan. Located in the centre of the island, and with good transport links and daily flights to

Manila, Puerto Princesa is the main gateway to the beautiful beaches and natural attractions Palawan is famous for, including the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, an enchanting limestone karst landscape with caves and rock formations. The river can be visited on a day trip from Puerto Princesa, or stay in a nearby hotel for a more relaxing visit.



Entrance to the underground river, near Puerto Princesa



Luxury

El Nido Resorts – Pangulasian Island, Palawan

Pangulasian Island is El Nido Resorts' newest and most luxurious island hideaway, located in Bacuit Bay, El Nido. The resort is set fronting a pristine 750-metre white sand beach, and against a backdrop of tropical forest. All the spacious villas are built in contemporary Filipino style, with accommodation perched high on stilts above the forest or set on the beachfront. At reception guests can book visits to vibrant coral reefs and small island beach clubs just minutes away, where you can enjoy remote beaches or snorkelling.

Features:

Restaurant & bar at the clubhouse; infinity pool with beach bar; gym; spa; hiking trail with view deck; marine sports centre.

SAMPLE JOURNEY

Island Hopping in the Philippines

14 Days & 11 Nights from £3,195

Discover Manila's colonial history, then fly to the islands of Cebu and Bohol to see more of the country's wildlife and countryside, including the chance to spot whales. Finish on the white sand beaches of Boracay.

Day 1: Fly to Manila via Hong Kong

Fly from London to Manila, via Hong Kong, with Cathay Pacific. (N)

Day 2: Manila

Arrive and transfer to the Manila Hotel for a 2-night stay. (N)

Day 3: Manila

Morning tour of Intramuros district to visit Fort Santiago, San Agustin Church and Casa Manila. Afternoon at leisure. (B, L)

Day 4: Fly to Cebu

Fly to Cebu and transfer to the Crimson Resort &

Spa Mactan, an hour north of Cebu city, and stay for 2 nights. (B)

Day 5: Island-hopping cruise

Full day island-hopping boat tour aboard a large motorised outrigger canoe. Drop anchor near a small island in the marine reserve and snorkel over the reef, swim or sunbathe. (B, L)

Day 6: To Bohol

High-speed ferry to Bohol. Transfer to The Eskaya Hotel for 3 nights. (B)

Day 7: Bohol

Full-day tour of Bohol, visiting the Unesco site of the Chocolate Hills, the Tarsier sanctuary and a cruise on the scenic Loboc river. (B, L)

Day 8: Whale & dolphin watching tour

Full-day whale and dolphin watching tour. Dolphins can be sighted year round, but the best time to spot whales is between March and June, when sperm whales and Bryde's whales can be seen. (B, L)

Days 9-12: Fly to Boracay via Manila

Drive to Tagbilaran, then fly to Boracay via Manila. On arrival, take the hotel's boat direct to

the Shangri-La Boracay for a 4-night stay. (B)

Day 13: Fly to London via Manila & Hong Kong

Fly to Manila. Connect with Cathay Pacific flight back to London, via Hong Kong. (B)

Day 14: London

Arrive in London. (N)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £3,195

High season from: £3,595

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

t 020 7808 6786

e info@coxandkings.co.uk



Flying in Style

Your choice of scheduled airlines: It is Cox & Kings' policy to use scheduled flights on airlines with strong reputations for service, reliability and punctuality. Our holidays to the Far East feature a number of world-class airlines and on these pages we have highlighted six of the best, as well as the different services they offer.

Stretch out: On long-haul flights, a little extra room can make a big difference to your comfort, so Cox & Kings offers a range of upgrade options at great prices.

In addition, the faster check in and comfortable lounges available to most upgrading passengers allow you to pass through the airport with ease.

Regional connections: Cox & Kings offers excellent add-on prices for those wishing to connect to long-haul flights from regional UK airports.

For further information, please either refer to the table beside the price grid applicable to your tour or contact Cox & Kings.



BRITISH AIRWAYS Preferred Partner

British Airways

British Airways flies from London Heathrow non-stop to Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Seoul, Bangkok, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur. You can check in at the check-in kiosk at the airport, or alternatively online or by using the British Airways app, printing or downloading your boarding pass and taking your baggage directly to the Bag Drop desk.

WORLD TRAVELLER

World Traveller benefits: A 79cm (31in) seat pitch with lumbar support, footrest and adjustable headrest; 23cm (8.9in) personal television screen with audio video on demand, offering access to 200 film, television and music channels; and three-course meals with complimentary bar service.

WORLD TRAVELLER PLUS

World Traveller Plus benefits: A smaller cabin for more privacy; a 97cm (38in) seat pitch; wider seat with adjustable headrest, leg rest, footrest and lumbar support, offering more personal space than World Traveller; 27cm (10.6in) personal in-flight entertainment screen; and enhanced choice of meals served on china crockery with complimentary bar service. Upgrade from £545 per person return.

CLUB WORLD

Club World benefits: Club World customers benefit from dedicated check-in desks, departure and arrival lounges, as well as complimentary treatments in the Elemis Travel Spa*. Club World features a seat that converts into a 183cm (6ft) fully flat bed; 31cm (12.1in) personal in-flight entertainment screen; excellent local and international cuisine is served along with fine wines and beverages; and snacks and beverages are available from the Club Kitchen. Upgrade from £2,495 per person return.



Club World

FIRST

First benefits: First customers benefit from dedicated check-in desks, departure and arrival lounges and complementary treatments in the Elemis Travel Spa*. Your personal suit on board creates a private environment with a seat that converts into a 198cm (6ft 6in) flat bed and a 39cm (15.4in) personal in-flight entertainment screen. Turndown service includes a duvet, pillows and pyjamas; pre-flight dining is available at London Heathrow; on board, choose from a formal à la carte menu or an informal dining option, accompanied by the finest wines and champagnes. Upgrade from £4,285 per person return.

* **Elemis Travel Spa:** Available at London Heathrow Terminal 5.

Cabin design elements may vary by aircraft.



Thai International

Thai Airways International operates twice daily between London Heathrow and Bangkok, with onward connections throughout Thailand and Asia.

Economy Class benefits: An 81cm (32in) seat pitch; 27cm (10.6in) personal television screen with audio video on demand; and a choice of Thai or continental meals with complimentary bar service.

Royal Silk Class benefits: Separate check in and access to lounges; 188cm (74in) seat pitch which converts to a flat bed between London Heathrow and Bangkok; 38cm (15in) personal television screen with audio video on demand; choice of Thai and continental meals; and open complimentary bar. Upgrade from £1,835 per person return.



Royal Silk Class

Royal First Class benefits: Separate check in and access to lounges; 211cm (83in) seat pitch which converts into a 220cm (7ft 2in) fully flat bed; and gourmet cuisine served with the finest wines and champagnes. Upgrade from £3,245 per person return.



Emirates

Emirates operate 17 daily flights to Dubai from the UK. There are onward connections to Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Taipei, Manila, Osaka, Seoul, Bangkok, Phuket, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

Economy Class benefits: Up to 84cm (33in) seat pitch with adjustable headrests; 27cm (10.6in) personal television screen with more than 2,000 channels of on-demand in-flight entertainment; and multi-course meals with full complimentary bar service.

Business Class benefits: Complimentary airport chauffeur-drive service (distance restrictions apply); priority check in and exclusive airport lounge access; lie-flat beds with up to 201cm (6ft 7in) pitch; up to 43cm (17in) personal digital television screen; and multi-course gourmet cuisine served with award-winning wines.
Upgrade from £2,595 per person return.



Malaysia Airlines

Malaysia Airlines flies twice daily non-stop from London Heathrow to Kuala Lumpur, with onward connections across Malaysia, Borneo and south-east Asia. Check in online or use the self-service facilities.

Economy Class benefits: Up to 81cm (32in) seat pitch with adjustable headrest; 27cm (10.6in) personal television screen with audio video on demand; and Malaysian or western meals with complimentary bar service.

Business Class benefits: Separate check in and access to lounges; seats that recline into a 183cm (72in) fully flat bed; personal 43cm (17in) television screen; choice of gourmet Malaysian or western meals, with a chef-on-call meal service, where an extensive selection of meals can be pre-ordered, accompanied by award-winning wines.
Upgrade from £2,995 per person return.

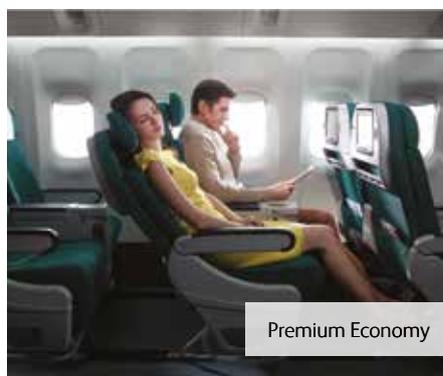


Cathay Pacific

Cathay Pacific operates five daily flights from London Heathrow and four weekly flights from Manchester to Hong Kong, with onward connections to Japan, China, Taiwan, south-east Asia and Indonesia.

Economy Class benefits: Seat's cradle mechanism, enabling you to recline without intruding on those seated behind you; 81cm (32in) seat pitch with adjustable headrest; 23cm (9in) personal television with audio video on demand, offering 450 free channels; choice of meals with complimentary bar and snack service.

Premium Economy Class benefits: Available on the Hong Kong route. Separate check in; a quiet cabin with a maximum of 34 seats; a 97cm (38in) seat pitch with a 20cm (8in) recline; adjustable headrest and footrest; large table; personal 28cm (11in) television; upgraded choice of meals; and complimentary bar service.
Upgrade from £825 per person return.



Premium Economy

Business Class benefits: Separate check in; exclusive airport lounge access; seats with a width of 60cm (24in) that convert into a 198cm (6ft 6in) flat bed; personal 39cm (15in) television with noise cancelling headrest; a personal cabinet; silver-service trolley with four-course meals accompanied by fine wines and champagnes.
Upgrade from £3,395 per person return.



Business Class



Singapore Airlines

Singapore Airlines operates four daily flights from London Heathrow and one daily flight from Manchester to Singapore. There are onward connections through Asia.

Economy Class benefits: A 81cm (32in) seat pitch with adjustable headrest, and ergonomically designed seats; 27cm (10.6in) personal television screen, with more than 1,500 channels of on-demand in-flight entertainment; choice of three meals with complimentary bar service.

Premium Economy Class benefits: A dedicated cabin featuring seats with a 97cm (38in) seat pitch; 34cm (13.3in) personal television screen; enhanced meal service; priority check in; and 35kgs baggage allowance.
Upgrade from £895 per person return.

(Note: This service will be gradually rolled out on certain routes from the end of August 2015)

Business Class benefits: Separate check-in and access to lounges; seats that convert into 193cm (6ft 4in) fully flat beds; personal 40cm (16in) television screen; gourmet cuisine is served along with fine wines, with the opportunity to pre-order your meal in advance.
Upgrade from £3,095 per person return.



Business Class

Suites benefits: Separate check in and access to lounges; the A380 has private suites with doors, a leather seat, and a separate 198cm (6ft 6in) fully flat bed; the 777 has seats that convert into a 198cm (6ft 6in) fully flat bed; sleeper suits and slippers are provided; personal 58cm (23in) television screen; gourmet cuisine is served along with fine wines and champagnes.
Upgrade from £6,795 per person return.



The Cox & Kings Benefits

Expertise

More than 250 years of discovery:

Our history, stretching back more than 250 years, gives us unrivalled experience in organising high quality travel, whether you are planning a stay in a great city or a journey into a remote wilderness.

Dedicated team of experts:

Our Far East tour consultants have all travelled extensively in the region and offer you a wealth of expert knowledge. Whether you are looking to join a set tour or take a private tailor-made journey, you can travel with the reassurance that your itinerary will have been planned by a regional specialist.

The best support in the Far East:

Over the years, Cox & Kings has sought out and developed working relationships with the finest local agents in the Far East. These are all companies that have a detailed knowledge of their own country, a wide network of local representatives and expert guides, an understanding of Cox & Kings' standards and, not least, an appreciation of the expectations of those who travel with us.

Excellent Value

Low price policy:

We believe that expert knowledge and excellent service should come as standard. Whether the planning of your holiday takes one phone call or multiple discussions over many weeks, there is no additional cost to you for our experts' input. It is also our policy to keep our prices as low as possible, to make high quality travel accessible to the largest number of people we can.

Buying power:

This low price policy is made possible through our buying power, which is generated by the combined influence of the Cox & Kings group of companies worldwide. As a result, we are able to contract flights, hotels and ground services at highly competitive rates.

Comparing like with like:

By its nature, high quality travel is not cheap and, when planning a trip, it can seem as if there is a big difference in price between what, on the surface, are similar holidays. When comparing like with like, we are confident that our holidays represent excellent value for money when the number and quality of services included are taken into account.

High Quality Service

Services of the London office:

In addition to the expertise of your personal tour consultant, Cox & Kings aims to provide the highest levels of customer care, from your initial inquiry, through to the detailed itineraries and tour notes sent to you prior to departure, and, finally, in answering any queries you may have when you return from your travels.

Personal service in the Far East:

Whether you are part of a group or travelling independently, you will be met at each airport, train station or quay along the way, transferred to and from your hotel and have the details of your itinerary explained to you. Unless specified otherwise, Cox & Kings groups also benefit from the services of local English-speaking tour managers.

Expert local guides:

Cox & Kings uses the services of specially chosen local English-speaking guides who really know their subject and can bring places to life. In addition to providing relevant background information, they can also explain the local way of life, customs and issues in depth, far beyond what is covered in even the best guidebooks.



Halong Bay, Vietnam

Responsibility

Atol protection:

Cox & Kings is a fully bonded and licensed tour operator and the air holidays in this brochure are Atol protected by the bonding scheme administered by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Our Atol number is 2815. For more information about the protection offered by the CAA, please visit www.caa.co.uk.



Abta:

Cox & Kings is a member of Abta, the Association of British Travel Agents. For more information about Abta and its members, please visit www.abta.com.



Foreign & Commonwealth Office advice:

Cox & Kings receives a great deal of information about conditions on the ground from its local representatives. However, when deciding whether particular countries or regions are safe for travel, the final decision is dependent on the guidance of the British Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO). If you would like to know the current travel advice for any country, you can visit www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice or call 0870 606 0290. Cox & Kings actively supports the FCO's Know Before You Go campaign, to help you stay safe overseas. Find out more at coxandkings.co.uk/kbyg.



Cool Earth:

Cox & Kings supports the charity Cool Earth, which partners indigenous



communities to keep endangered rainforest standing. You too can help. Every time you travel with Cox & Kings you will be given the option of protecting a plot of rainforest and saving it from destruction. Just £60 safeguards a whole acre (4,000 sq metres) of Amazon rainforest in the Ashaninka region of Peru. For more information or to donate, please visit www.coolearth.org/coxandkings.

Magic Bus:

Cox & Kings actively supports the Magic Bus charity, set up by our former Cox & Kings colleague Matthew Spacie MBE to give street and slum children an opportunity to develop and integrate into society by learning more about themselves and their environment, through a range of sports and outdoor activities. This project is currently working with more than 250,000 children and 8,000 young adults across seven Indian states. To make a donation, please visit: www.magicbusindia.org.



Magic bus

Aito:

Cox & Kings is also a member of Aito, the Association of Independent Tour Operators, assuring you of Cox & Kings' commitment to high quality service and ethical business practices. For more information about Aito and its aims, please visit www.aito.co.uk.



Sustainable Tourism:

We acknowledge the importance of Aito's sustainable tourism ethos, which recognises the social, economic and environmental responsibilities of tour operating.

The Aito Quality Charter

Aito is an association of independently minded companies specialising in particular areas or types of holiday and sharing a common dedication to high levels of quality and personal service. Aito defines quality as 'providing a level of satisfaction which, based upon the holiday information provided by the tour operator, aims to meet or exceed a customer's reasonable satisfaction, regardless of the type of holiday sold or the price paid'. The association encourages the highest standards in all aspects of tour operating.

Exclusive membership Aito sets criteria regarding ownership, finance and quality, which must be satisfied before new companies are admitted to membership. All members are required to adhere to a Code of Business Practice that encourages high operational standards and conduct.

Financial security An Aito member is required to arrange financial protection for all holidays and other arrangements (including accommodation only) booked by customers with the member under the Aito logo. This financial protection applies to customers who are resident in the UK at the time of booking and to most overseas customers who have booked directly with the member. In doing so, the member must comply with UK government regulations. Members are required to submit details of their financial protection arrangements to Aito on a regular basis.

Accurate brochures and websites All members do their utmost to ensure that all their brochures and other publications, print or electronic, clearly and accurately describe the holidays and services offered.

Professional service and continual improvements All members are committed to high standards of service and believe in regular and thorough training of employees. Members continually seek to review and improve their holidays. They listen to their customers and always welcome suggestions for improving standards.

Monitoring standards Aito endeavours to monitor quality standards regularly. All customers should receive a post-holiday questionnaire from their tour operator, the results of which are scrutinised by the Association. In addition, customers can leave detailed feedback, directly with Aito, about their holiday.

Sustainable tourism Our members acknowledge the importance of Aito's sustainable tourism ethos, which recognises the social, economic and environmental responsibilities of tour operating.

Customer relations All members endeavour to deal swiftly and fairly with any issues their customers may raise. In the unlikely event that a dispute between an Aito member and a customer cannot be settled amicably, Aito's low-cost independent dispute settlement service may be called upon by either side to bring the matter to a speedy and acceptable conclusion.

Cox & Kings Holidays Explained

You can travel with Cox & Kings in a couple of ways – on our escorted group tours and on a private basis. Our group tour itineraries can also be taken on a private basis, and all private itineraries can be tailored to suit your particular interests, budget and dates.

This brochure describes some of the most popular destinations and activities in each region, often including ‘sample itineraries’ to give you an idea of how to combine some of those places in a private tour.

We are, of course, also able to offer travel arrangements to lesser-visited destinations not listed on these pages. Furthermore, our expert tour consultants are delighted to design a completely personalised itinerary from scratch.

Tour Categories

Our tour categories indicate the level of comfort you can expect on a tour, as described below. The category for a particular tour is indicated immediately below the title. In some cases, tours include some departures in one category and some in another. In such cases, the itinerary is generally the same and just the standard of accommodation varies. However, if there are any other variations in the tour, these are explained on the page. The departure dates table indicates the departures for which the alternative version of a tour applies.

Luxury: These are our most comfortable tours and will usually feature 5-star de luxe accommodation throughout.

Superior: Most Cox & Kings tours fall under this category and are based in 4- or 5-star accommodation where available, or the best alternative elsewhere.

Standard: Simpler in emphasis, these itineraries typically feature 4-star or good 3-star accommodation throughout, or the best alternative elsewhere.

Discovery: This type of holiday is best suited to the hardier traveller, as it will typically include some quite basic accommodation, possibly longer and rougher road journeys and, in some cases, more strenuous activities, such as trekking.

Accommodation Ratings

The properties displayed on the accommodation pages in this brochure and on our website are each given one of the following six ratings, listed in order of comfort:

Exceptional: Truly exclusive and exceptionally luxurious.

Luxury: Very high class accommodation with superb facilities and service.

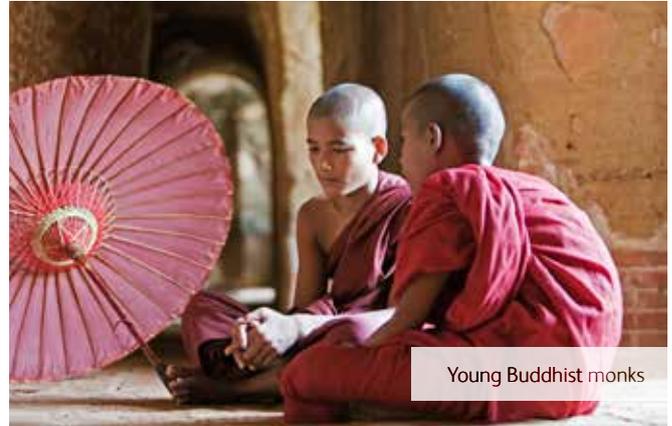
Superior: High standard accommodation, service and facilities.

Good Standard: Good standard accommodation, service and facilities.

Simple: Clean and comfortable with en suite bathrooms, but limited facilities.

Basic: Very modest, typically with shared bathrooms and minimal facilities.

Due to space restrictions this brochure only features a limited selection of the hotels we offer. Please visit coxandkings.co.uk to see our full range of hotels.



Young Buddhist monks

Prices

We go to great lengths to ensure that our group and private tours represent excellent value for money, taking into account the quality of accommodation and the services included.

The pricing for all our tours to the Far East includes the international airfare from the UK. However, in an era when airlines regularly change their fares due to fuel costs and other factors, the cost of a tour can change after the publication of our brochures. Therefore, in this brochure all our prices are guideline prices. For each tour we publish a lead-in price for the low season, which is indicative of the lowest price at which the tour is available, and the lead-in price for the high season.

For group tours, to see more up to date pricing for a specific departure date, please visit our website at coxandkings.co.uk.

Important: For both group and private tours, please contact one of our tour consultants for an accurate price quote for a specific departure date.

Escorted Group Tours

Most Cox & Kings group tours are escorted from arrival in the destination through to departure back home and benefit from the following features:

Small group sizes: To enhance your enjoyment of the tour, we like to keep our groups small and manageable. Therefore, numbers are normally restricted to a maximum of 26 people.

Locally escorted: Most tours are accompanied from arrival in the Far East by a local English-speaking tour manager. Our tour managers are carefully selected for their travel experience and organisational abilities. Cox & Kings prefers to use local tour managers as it helps to support the local economies and they generally have the best local contacts and destination knowledge. Your tour manager will meet your group on arrival and, on most tours, will escort the group throughout the time in the Far East. In some cases, particularly on tours visiting more than one country, the group will be accompanied by separate escorts for different legs of the journey. Where this is the case, it is explained on the tour page.

Expert local guides: On most tours, in addition to the services of the tour manager, Cox & Kings escorted group tours also benefit from the knowledge of local guides who accompany each excursion. In some cases, where appropriate, the tour manager will also act as the local guide. Where possible, your entrance fees are included in the holiday price.

Airport representatives: If joining a group tour for which six or more people are travelling on the same flight from London Heathrow or Gatwick, you will be given the contact number of an airport representative who will be available if you need assistance with check in or have any other queries during the main check-in period.

Scheduled flights: Cox & Kings uses only the services of scheduled airlines for all international and most internal flights. All prices are based on Economy Class flights; however, Cox & Kings offers excellent upgrade rates if required and details of these are shown on the tour pages. Flight schedules to, from and within the Far East mean that some early morning departures or arrivals may be unavoidable.

If you would like to book your international flights independently of Cox & Kings, we are happy to quote you a land-only price, however please read the Land-Only Travel section overleaf for more information about this option.

Comfortable land travel: For road journeys, Cox & Kings uses buses of a size appropriate to the size of the group, with air conditioning where this facility is available. On rail journeys, groups are booked in the best available class on the train.

Tour extensions: Cox & Kings is happy to arrange for you to extend your stay in the Far East before or after a group tour. We have suggested extension options for most tours in this brochure. However, our specialist consultants would also be delighted to design a tailor-made extension for you, either pre- or post-tour, to fit in with your interests, time and budget. Group tour extensions work on the same basis as private travel (see below) unless other members of the main tour group choose to take the same extension, in which case the relevant services may be shared.

In addition to our main group tours, we also feature the following types of group tour:

Single Travellers tours: Some of our group tours are dedicated Single Travellers tours and there is a separate brochure and website section describing the complete worldwide range. In this brochure we have included the tours from this range that visit the Far East. These tours have the term Single Travellers displayed beneath the tour title. This collection has been specially created for individuals who enjoy exploring fascinating parts of the world in the company of like-minded people. All accommodation on these tours is based on single occupancy of twin / double rooms. There are no single supplements and we have sought out good quality hotels that offer the most reasonable prices for individual travellers. These tours offer the opportunity to discover extraordinary places in style, at sensible prices, in good company and with complete peace of mind.

Royal Academy of Arts tours: Cox & Kings is delighted to operate the Royal Academy of Arts (RA) expert accompanied tours. There is a dedicated brochure and website section describing the complete range. In this brochure we have included the RA tours that visit the Far East and those tours display the Royal Academy of Arts' logo beneath the tour title. The RA tours are all accompanied by an expert lecturer and focus on particular aspects of the art, architecture or archaeology of the destination. In some cases the lecturer is able to provide access to exhibits not open to the general public.

Non-exclusive group tours: In a few cases, an escorted group tour may not be exclusive to Cox & Kings' clients and in these cases you will see the term 'non-exclusive escorted group tour' below the tour title.

Private Travel

All escorted group tours can be taken on a private basis and some itineraries are available for private travel only. The private travel itineraries and 'sample journeys' listed in this brochure are suggestions to demonstrate how multiple places can be connected together, giving an idea of how long you might like to spend in each place and also a guideline price. All our itineraries can be arranged for any number of travellers and tailored* to suit your particular needs, for example adding in a day's sightseeing, taking time out to relax, bypassing a city, or altering your accommodation or flight options. Private tours can be taken on the date of your choosing, subject to schedules and availability[†].

Private travel offers you the following benefits:

Support on the ground: On arrival in the Far East and at each new destination on your journey, you will normally be met at the airport (unless you are in transit), station or quay by a Cox & Kings representative who will then accompany you to your hotel, help you check in and confirm the itinerary for your stay.

Transfers by car: For all road journeys, you will have your own car / minivan and driver. This allows you to travel in comfort and to stop off along the way if you see something of interest, want to take a photograph or would like a break. Most cars used are air conditioned, but you will be told in advance should air-conditioned cars not be available for any section of your journey.

Private guides: Your own private English-speaking local guide accompanies most sightseeing excursions. This means that you can ask as many or as few questions as you like, with the emphasis on your own particular interests.

Accommodation flexibility: If you would like to stay in any hotels other than those featured in one of our suggested itineraries, or if you would like to alter the standard of your room, your tour consultant can discuss the options with you and let you know about the price differential prior to booking.

***Tailor your itinerary:** If you prefer to travel at your own pace or wish to explore places not included in the brochure itineraries, Cox & Kings has many years of experience organising tailor-made holidays to the Far East. The pages at the beginning of each regional section of this brochure highlight some of the places you might want to include in a tailored private itinerary, often with 'sample journey' itineraries included to show how you might combine them.

Our expert tour consultants will be delighted to suggest ideas to complement your own and to organise the most appropriate programme to suit your interests, time and budget. Our website at coxandkings.co.uk provides even more inspiration.

†Availability: Cox & Kings cannot hold allocations for all private travel services year round and, as a result, all services are subject to availability at the time of booking. If any element of your private itinerary is not available at the time of booking, Cox & Kings will suggest the most comparable alternative available.

Private travel in Japan, South Korea & Taiwan: Due to the very high cost of private guides and drivers in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan, Cox & Kings group tours on a private basis do not always include private transfers or sightseeing excursions in these countries. Instead, excursions for private visitors to Japan, South Korea and Taiwan may be on a 'seat-in-coach' basis, along with other visitors, not necessarily booked through Cox & Kings. On arrival in Japan, visitors may not be met at the airport, but they will be given instructions for where to meet the regular shuttle bus to their hotel or shown to the platform for their train to a railway station in the city. If a taxi journey is required from the station to the hotel, the holiday cost would normally include the taxi fare or the approximate fare will be advised. If you would like the services of private guides and drivers in these destinations, and you are prepared for the high costs involved, it is recommended that you book a tailor-made holiday.



Cyclist in Vietnam

Cruises & Rail Journeys

Cruises and rail journeys in this brochure are described as private travel. However, the transfers and excursions may be operated on a group basis with other passengers who may not be Cox & Kings clients.

Upgrades & Supplements

Regional air connections: Most Cox & Kings holidays are based on flights from London Heathrow or Gatwick and in most cases it is possible to connect with those flights from regional British airports for a small supplement. Please ask your tour consultant for details.

Flight upgrades: For those wishing to fly in greater comfort, Cox & Kings can offer favourable prices for upgrading to Premium Economy, Business and First Class. Guideline prices for these upgrade supplements are included on the tour page. Please contact your tour consultant for a price quote based on your specific date of departure. The Flying in Style section on pages 142-143 contains more information about the different premium classes on the airlines we most commonly use.

Room upgrades: On both group tours and private holidays there may be opportunities to upgrade to a higher standard of room in many hotels. Please ask your Cox & Kings tour consultant to explain the upgrade options to you and provide you with a price quote.

Single room supplements: If you are a single traveller joining a group tour there will generally be a supplementary charge. This is because hotels typically charge more per person for single occupancy as the cost of maintaining a room for one person can be almost as high as it is for two. Some of the group tours in this brochure are dedicated Single Travellers tours, for which the prices include single occupancy of a double / twin room, so there is no additional supplement – please see the Escorted Group Tours section on the previous page for more information about these tours.

Land-Only Travel

Although guideline prices for the tours in this brochure include the international airfare, if you would prefer to book your own flights, whether to join a group tour or for private travel, your Cox & Kings tour consultant will be happy to quote you the price for taking the tour on a land-only basis.

However, before booking your own flights please always contact your tour consultant because there are important issues to be aware of. For example, if a tour includes internal flights there can be an impact on the cost of those flights if they are booked separately from the international flights, or on a different airline from the one mentioned in the itinerary.

If booking on a group tour you would also need to be aware of the tour timings and there may be supplementary costs if you require private transfers or additional hotel nights on arrival or departure.

We strongly advise against booking flights independently of Cox & Kings if you would incur significant charges in the event that a group tour is cancelled. Finally, it is important to be aware that, if you choose to book your international flights independently of Cox & Kings, you would no longer benefit from the full Atol holiday protection provided by a packaged air and land holiday.

When to Travel

Weather in the Far East is very variable through the seasons and in different regions. Our tour pages include detailed charts showing the average temperature and rainfall in the relevant regions throughout the year. Even greater detail – and measurements in imperial units – can be found online. Our expert tour consultants will also be delighted to give you detailed advice about the likely conditions at different times of year.

The Far East is also well known for its festivals. If you are interested in visiting during a particular celebration, please contact a Cox & Kings tour consultant for dates. Some Cox & Kings tours have special festival departures and these are highlighted on the tour page.

Mobility & Accessibility

Many Cox & Kings tours visit places that require quite a lot of walking. In the case of historical / archaeological sites in particular, surfaces can be uneven and there may be a lot of steps. If you have any concerns about how strenuous a particular itinerary may be, please speak to one of our expert tour consultants prior to booking to get a realistic sense of what is involved.

Combining Multiple World Regions

Should you wish to combine multiple regions of the world in a single journey, Cox & Kings has a great deal of experience in tailoring such travel plans, including arranging round-the-world flights. Please contact us for details of the various options and a price quotation.

Ensuring Your Enjoyment

When making a booking, if you feel that there is anything Cox & Kings should know about that is essential to your enjoyment of your holiday, please ensure that we have been made aware of this in writing at the time of booking, preferably using the reservation form on page 154.



Long boat & Poda island, Thailand

Cox & Kings Collections

Visit coxandkings.co.uk to find your perfect holiday



Short Breaks

Our hand-picked selection of short breaks visits some of Europe's finest cities and cultural destinations; from the magnificent Renaissance city of Florence to the cobbled streets of Tallinn, all offer value for money and superior accommodation. Short breaks to Morocco and Canada are also available.

Visit coxandkings.co.uk/short-breaks.

Pure Relaxation

This online collection of luxury tailor-made escapes is designed for those looking to unwind in stylish hotels and stunning surroundings. The hotels featured are generally small scale, boutique properties with superb service, supreme attention to detail and exceptional locations.

Visit coxandkings.co.uk/relax.

Family Holidays

This online collection has been specially created for families seeking adventure and discovery with comfort and peace of mind. These holiday suggestions can be tailored to suit your own particular interests and family characteristics, and adapted to excite older and younger family members alike.

Visit coxandkings.co.uk/family-holidays.

Honeymoons

Taking the best of our luxury Relax Collection and an array of other romantic escape options, such as railway journeys, city breaks and exotic escapes, Cox & Kings offers the complete honeymoon range. To tailor your holiday of a lifetime and find out about our contribution service, please visit coxandkings.co.uk/honeymoons.

Polar Collection

Cox & Kings' online collection of polar journeys includes expedition cruises to the Arctic and Antarctica, plus a range of tailor-made travel ideas in and around the Arctic Circle. For the cruises, the selected ships are all specialist vessels, ideal for reaching remote regions in safety and comfort.

Visit coxandkings.co.uk/polar.

Art Tours Worldwide

Cox & Kings is the travel partner of the Royal Academy of Arts (RA). This worldwide programme of tours, led by expert lecturers, is open to anyone with a passion for some of the greatest artistic, architectural and archaeological wonders in fascinating destinations around the globe. For full details or a brochure, visit coxandkings.co.uk/ra.

Single Travellers Group Tours

Cox & Kings is delighted to offer a range of small group tours dedicated to single travellers. Featuring many of our most popular destinations, these tours enable single travellers to explore fascinating parts of the world with like-minded people and complete peace of mind.

Visit coxandkings.co.uk/single-travellers.



Booking Conditions

Our full booking conditions apply to all bookings. These appear on our website www.coxandkings.co.uk and can also be provided by post or e-mail on request.

The following booking conditions contain only some of the terms and conditions (which may also be a summary) which apply to your booking. Before you make your booking, you must read our full booking conditions. By seeking confirmation of your booking, we are entitled to assume that you have done so and accept the full booking conditions as the basis for your contract with Cox & Kings Travel Limited ("Cox & Kings", "we", "our" or "us") and with any supplier with whom you have a direct contract. In these booking conditions, "you" and "your" means all persons named on the booking or any of them as applicable (including anyone who is added or substituted at a later date).

1) YOUR CONTRACT

(a) If you book only one type of arrangement with Cox & Kings (for example hotel(s) only or cruise only) and unless otherwise advised at the time of booking, Cox & Kings acts only as a booking agent for the supplier of that arrangement (for example the hotel or cruise provider). Your contract for that arrangement will be with that supplier (in these conditions referred to as the 'Third Party Supplier') and not Cox & Kings. The Third Party Supplier's own terms and conditions (copies available on request) will apply to that contract in addition to the applicable parts of these conditions. (b) In all other cases your contract will be with Cox & Kings. (c) When you make a booking the person who makes the booking guarantees that they have the authority to accept and do accept on behalf of your party the terms of these booking conditions.

2) BOOKING, PAYMENT AND CONFIRMATION

(a) Information as to how to make a booking, including the applicable deposit or other amount payable in order to do so and how we will communicate with you in respect of your booking, is shown on our website.

(c) On receipt of the applicable payment and all information we need to make your booking, and providing your requested holiday is available, Cox & Kings will issue a confirmation invoice. It is at this stage that a binding contract comes into existence between you and Cox & Kings or between you and the Third Party Supplier, as applicable. Please note, though, that if you book a tailor-made itinerary or an extension to a brochure tour, your accommodation, flights etc will only be requested by Cox & Kings once the payment due at the time of booking has been received. Your confirmation invoice will indicate your requested package cost and you will be advised of any accommodation, flights etc that are still on request and not confirmed at the time the confirmation invoice is issued.

(d) It is your responsibility to check the confirmation invoice and any other documents we send you carefully and to let Cox & Kings or your travel agent know immediately in the event of any error or inaccuracy, as it may not be possible to make changes later. Where we act only as agent for a Third Party Supplier we will have no responsibility for any errors in any documentation except where those errors were made by ourselves.

(e) The balance of the cost of your arrangements is payable not less than eight weeks prior to departure, unless you are informed otherwise. If all payments (including any surcharge where applicable) are not received on time, we (or we acting as agent for the Third Party Supplier where applicable) are entitled to assume that you wish to cancel your booking and will retain the deposit paid. If we do not cancel straightaway because you promise to make payment but you still fail to do so, you must pay the cancellation charges shown in clause 10 depending on the date we (or we acting as agent for the Third Party Supplier where applicable) reasonably treat your booking as cancelled by you.

(f) Travel documents will be provided as referred to our full booking conditions.

(h) Cox & Kings has included in the relevant prices all government taxes in the amount applicable at the time of booking that do not have to be paid locally. Those that have to be paid locally by you are extra and are your responsibility (such as international airport departure tax).

3) SPECIAL REQUESTS / MEDICAL CONDITIONS / DISABILITIES / REDUCED MOBILITY

If you have any special requests for flight seats, room / cabin allocation, dietary considerations etc, you must advise in writing at the time of booking. The same applies to any disability, medical condition or reduced mobility which may affect your arrangements or the booking process so that we can advise as to the suitability of the chosen arrangements and / or assist you with making your booking. We will deal with special requests and information relating to any disability, medical condition or reduced mobility as referred to in our full booking conditions.

4) YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

For holidays which do not include flights organised by us, any money you pay to one of our authorised travel agents for your booking will be held by the travel agent on behalf of Cox & Kings / the Third Party Supplier (as applicable) until it is paid to us.

For flight inclusive bookings, all monies paid to any authorised travel agent of ours for your holiday with us will be held on behalf of and for the benefit of the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust subject to the travel agent's

obligation to pay such monies to us in accordance with our trading terms unless we fail. In the unlikely event of our financial failure, all monies then held by the travel agent or subsequently paid by you to the travel agent will be held by the agent on behalf of and for the benefit of the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust without any obligation on the agent to pay such monies to us.

5) INSURANCE

It is a condition of booking with us that you take out insurance at the time of, or prior to, making your booking. Further information in respect of this requirement is shown in our full booking conditions.

6) ALTERATION BY YOU

(a) If you wish to make any amendments to your holiday after the confirmation invoice has been issued (including where you wish to transfer your place on the booking to someone else), you must inform us in writing and we will do our best to help. An amendment fee together with the costs and charges incurred as a result or, for certain alterations, cancellation charges, will be payable. Please see our full booking conditions for further information.

(b) If you wish to change any aspect of your holiday after it has commenced, Cox & Kings and / or their agents will do their best to assist, subject to you being responsible for any cancellation charges that may be levied for the arrangements originally booked, for the cost of your new arrangements and for any costs incurred by Cox & Kings and / or their agents in attempting to secure or securing any revised arrangements. All such charges and costs are payable locally.

7) PRE-DEPARTURE CHANGES TO, OR CANCELLATION OF, YOUR ARRANGEMENTS BY US OR YOUR THIRD PARTY SUPPLIER

(a) This clause 7(a) applies only if your contract is with us. Occasionally, we have to make changes to and correct errors in brochure and other details both before and after bookings have been confirmed and cancel confirmed bookings, which we reserve the right to do.

Most changes are minor. Occasionally, we have to make a significant change. Examples of significant and minor changes and the options and compensation (where applicable) we will offer you in the event of our having to make a significant change or cancel are shown in our full booking conditions. Exceptions to the payment of compensation apply. We are not obliged to notify you of minor changes.

All group holidays with Cox & Kings require a minimum number of bookings before they will operate. If an insufficient number of people have booked to make your holiday arrangements financially viable so that we have to cancel, we will inform you no later than 8 weeks before your departure date. In this case, you will be offered the options set out above but no compensation will be payable.

(b) This clause 7(b) applies if your contract is with a Third Party Supplier.

If the Third Party Supplier changes or cancels your booking, we will pass on the new details to you together with any compensation that the Third Party Supplier may offer. As agent only for the Third Party Supplier we cannot accept any liability for any changes or cancellations made to these bookings.

8) POST-DEPARTURE CHANGES AND CURTAILMENT

Please note, clauses 8(a) and (b) only apply where your contract is with us.

(a) Changes and curtailment after departure (not caused by force majeure) If, after departure, it becomes apparent that a significant proportion of the services you have booked with us cannot be provided, we will make suitable alternative arrangements at no extra cost to you and, where appropriate, compensate you for any difference in value between the arrangements you should have received and the alternative arrangements made and for any disappointment or inconvenience you have reasonably suffered as a result as referred to in our full booking conditions.

(b) Changes and curtailment after departure (caused by force majeure) If, after departure, it becomes apparent that a significant proportion of the services you have booked with us cannot be provided, we will make suitable alternative arrangements at no extra cost to you. If we are unable to do so, or you reject the alternative arrangements offered for good reasons, we will, where appropriate, return you by equivalent transport (type and class of travel) to the departure point of your holiday or such other place as we agree as soon as we are reasonably able to do so. Please refer to our full booking conditions for further details of the extent of our liability in this situation. Very rarely, we may be forced to curtail your holiday and return you to the UK (where your holiday includes return travel) before the scheduled end of your holiday.

This is extremely unlikely, but if this situation does occur, we regret we will be unable to make any refunds, pay you any compensation or meet any costs or expenses you incur as a result.

(c) Changes and curtailment after departure – contract with a Third Party Supplier

As agent only for the Third Party Supplier, we cannot accept any liability for any changes to or curtailment of your arrangements made after departure.

9) FORCE MAJEURE

Except where otherwise expressly stated in these booking conditions, neither we nor any Third Party Supplier can

accept liability or pay any compensation where the performance or prompt performance of our or the Third Party Supplier's contractual obligations is prevented or affected by or you otherwise suffer any damage or loss (as more fully described in clause 13(a)(ii) of our full booking conditions) as a result of force majeure. In these booking conditions, 'force majeure' means any event which we / the supplier of the service(s) in question / the Third Party Supplier could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid. Such events are likely to include, whether actual or threatened, war, riot, civil strife, terrorist activity, industrial dispute, natural or nuclear disaster, adverse weather conditions, flood, epidemics, fire, airport, port or airspace closures, restrictions or congestion, flight restrictions imposed by any regulatory authority or other third party and all similar events outside the control of the party concerned.

10) CANCELLATION BY YOU

Should you wish to cancel your booking, the person who made the booking must notify Cox & Kings or your travel agent (as applicable) in writing. Cancellation charges will be payable depending on the date written notification is received as shown in our full booking conditions. No allowance or refund can be made for meals, rooms, excursions etc included in the price of your tour but not taken, nor can any refund be made for services that cannot be used due to lost, mislaid or destroyed travel tickets or vouchers. Part cancellation of a booking may result in increased costs for the remaining party members.

11) PRICES

Prices are based upon known costs and exchange rates as shown in our full booking conditions which can be viewed on our website at coxandkings.co.uk. For all exchange rates not mentioned, the rate of exchange for the US dollar applies. Where your contract is with Cox & Kings, once the price of your chosen holiday has been confirmed at the time of booking, we will only change it in the circumstances and subject to the safeguards set out in our full booking conditions.

Where your contract is with a Third Party Supplier, as we act only as agent, we must pass on to you in full all additional costs and charges of whatever nature imposed by the Third Party Supplier in accordance with its own terms and conditions.

Please note, changes and errors occasionally occur. You must check the price of your chosen holiday at the time of booking. We reserve the right to make changes to, and correct errors in, advertised prices at any time before your holiday is confirmed. Occasionally our holiday prices are discounted for a limited period for promotional purposes. Discounts cannot be applied retrospectively to reduce the price of a confirmed booking.

12) YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

(a) Visas: General information concerning visa requirements applicable to British citizens with British citizen passports is set out in our Documents & Health section. Please also see our full booking conditions for further information.

(b) Passports: British citizens require a full British passport (valid for at least six months beyond the end of your holiday) for the holidays we offer. Please see our Documents & Health section for full details or seek the advice of our travel consultants. Please note, requirements may change and you must check the up-to-date requirements in good time before departure. A full British passport presently takes approximately three to six weeks to obtain. Please also see our full booking conditions for further information. (c) Health: It is your responsibility to ensure you are aware of all recommended and required vaccinations and health precautions in good time before departure. Please also see our full booking conditions for further information.

(d) Documents: It is the responsibility of the person who makes the booking to ensure that all members of the party are in possession of all necessary travel and health documents and have all necessary vaccination certificates before departure. All costs incurred in obtaining such documentation or vaccinations / certificates must be paid by you. We regret we cannot accept any liability if you are refused entry onto any transport or into any country due to failure on your part to carry correct documentation or have the correct vaccinations / certificates. Please see our full booking conditions for further information.

(e) Travel advice: For up to date travel advice from the UK government, visit www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice which you are recommended to consult before booking and in good time before departure.

13) OUR LIABILITY

This clause 13(a) does not apply where your contract is with a Third Party Supplier

(a) (i) We promise to make sure that the holiday arrangements we have agreed to make, perform or provide as applicable as part of our contract with you are made, performed or provided with reasonable skill and care. This means that, subject to these booking conditions, we will accept responsibility if, for example, you suffer death or personal injury or your contracted holiday arrangements are not provided as promised or prove deficient as a result of the failure of ourselves, our employees, agents or suppliers to use reasonable skill and care in making,

performing or providing, as applicable, your contracted holiday arrangements. Please note, it is your responsibility to show that reasonable skill and care has not been used if you wish to make a claim against us. In addition, we will only be responsible for what our employees, agents and suppliers do or do not do if they were at the time acting within the course of their employment (for employees) or carrying out work we had asked them to do (for agents and suppliers). (ii) We will not be responsible for any injury, illness, death, loss (including loss of possessions or enjoyment), damage, expense, cost or other sum or claim of any nature whatsoever which results from any of the following: (1) the act(s) and / or omission(s) of the person(s) affected or any member(s) of their party or (2) the act(s) and / or omission(s) of a third party not connected with the provision of your holiday and which were unforeseeable or unavoidable or (3) force majeure as defined in clause 9. (iii) We cannot accept responsibility for any services that do not form part of our contract. This includes, for example, any additional services or facilities that your hotel, cruise provider or any other supplier agrees to provide for you where the services or facilities are not advertised in our brochure or on our website as forming part of your holiday and we have not agreed to arrange them as part of our contract, and any excursion / activities you purchase while away. Please also see clause 17 "Excursions / Activities / Suppliers Terms and Conditions". In addition, regardless of any wording used by us on our website, in any of our brochures or elsewhere, we only promise to use reasonable skill and care as set out above and we do not have any greater or different liability to you. (iv) The promises we make to you about the services we have agreed to provide or arrange as part of our contract – and the laws and standards of the country in which your claim or complaint occurred – will be used as the basis for deciding whether the services in question had been properly provided. If the particular services that gave rise to the claim or complaint were provided in compliance with the applicable local laws and standards, the services will be treated as having been properly provided. This will be the case even if the services did not comply with the laws and standards of the UK that would have applied had those services been provided in the UK. The exception to this is where the claim or complaint concerns the absence of a safety feature that might lead a reasonable holidaymaker to refuse to take the arrangements in question. Please note, however, our obligation is to exercise reasonable skill and care as referred to in clause 13(a) (i). We do not make any representation or commitment that all services will comply with applicable local laws and standards and failure to comply does not automatically mean we have not exercised reasonable skill and care. (v) As set out in our full booking conditions we limit the maximum amount we may have to pay you for certain claims you may make against us. (vi) Where any claim or part of a claim (including those involving death or personal injury) concerns or is based on any travel arrangements (including the process of getting on and / or off the transport concerned) provided by any air, rail or sea carrier to which any international convention or EU regulation applies, our liability (including the maximum amount of compensation we will have to pay you, the types of claim and the circumstances in which compensation will be payable) will be limited as if we were the carrier in question as referred to below. The most we will have to pay you for that claim or that part of a claim if we are found liable to you on any basis is the most the carrier concerned would have to pay under the international convention or EU regulation that applies to the travel arrangements in question (for example, the Warsaw Convention as amended or unamended and the Montreal Convention for international travel by air and / or, for airlines with an operating licence granted by an EU country, the EC Regulation on Air Carrier Liability No 889/2002 for national and international travel by air, the Athens Convention (as amended by the 2002 Protocol) and EC Regulation 392/2009 on the liability of carriers for international travel by sea and the Convention concerning International Travel by Rail (COTIF) as amended for travel by rail). Where a carrier would not be obliged to make any payment to you under the applicable international convention or EU regulation in respect of a claim or part of a claim, we similarly are not obliged to make a payment to you for that claim or part of the claim. You are not entitled to make any claim against us which concerns or is based on any travel arrangements provided by any air, rail or sea carrier if such a claim is not expressly permitted to be brought against the carrier by the international convention or regulation that applies to the travel arrangements in question. When making any payment, we are entitled to deduct any money that you have received or are entitled to receive from the carrier for the complaint or claim in question. Copies of the applicable international conventions and regulations are available from us on request. Please note, for international travel by sea, EC Regulation 392/2009 and the Athens Convention as amended (together referred to as the Athens Convention) limits the maximum amount the carrier has to pay if found liable in the event of death or personal injury. The Athens Convention also limits the maximum amount the carrier has to pay if found liable in the event of loss or damage to luggage and also makes provision for valuables. Once on board ship, all valuable and important items should be deposited with the purser or in the mini-safe in your cabin if available. Please remember that no cabin mini-safe is totally secure and consider whether you need to bring such items on holiday with you. Placing items in a mini-safe is not depositing them with the carrier for safekeeping

for the purposes of the Athens Convention. We and the carrier cannot accept any responsibility or liability for any valuable or important items which are not deposited with the purser for safekeeping. For items which are deposited with the purser for safekeeping, the maximum the carrier would have to pay you if found liable for any item(s) lost or damaged (for any reason) while deposited is the maximum which is payable under the Athens Convention in this situation. As referred to above, we are entitled to rely on all limitations of liability available to the carrier. (vii) Please note, we cannot accept any liability for any damage, loss, expense or other sum(s) of any description (1) which on the basis of the information given to us by you concerning your booking prior to our accepting it, we could not reasonably have foreseen you would suffer or incur if we breached our contract with you or (2) which did not result from any breach of contract or other fault by ourselves or our employees or, where we are responsible for them, our suppliers. Additionally we cannot accept liability for any expenses or losses that relate to or arise from any business (including without limitation, self-employed loss of earnings).

(b) Clauses 13(b) (i) and (ii) below apply only if your contract is with a Third Party Supplier.

(i) As we act only as an agent for the Third Party Supplier concerned we accept no liability in relation to the arrangements provided by that Third Party Supplier or for the acts or omissions of the Third Party Supplier concerned. The terms and conditions of the Third Party Supplier will apply to your contract (copies available on request from us). (ii) However, in the event that we are found liable in respect of any Third Party Supplier arrangements on any basis whatsoever, we are entitled to rely on the limitations and exclusions of liability and defences set out in clause 13(a). We do not exclude or limit any liability for death or personal injury that arises as a result of our negligence or that of our employees while acting in the course of their employment.

14) TRANSPORTATION (INCLUDING DELAY)

(a) Air, rail, road and other departure times are supplied by the carriers. Please see our full booking conditions for details of our responsibility in the event of delay. (b) In accordance with EU Directive (EC) No 2111/2005, we are required to bring to your attention the existence of a 'Community list' that contains details of air carriers that are subject to an operating ban within the EU Community. The Community list is available for inspection at http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air-ban/list_en.htm. We are also required to advise you of the carrier(s) (or, if the carrier(s) is not known, the likely carrier(s)) that will operate your flight(s) at the time of booking. Where we are only able to inform you of the likely carrier(s) at the time of booking, we shall inform you of the identity of the actual carrier(s) as soon as we become aware of this. Any change to the operating carrier(s) after your booking has been confirmed will be notified to you as soon as possible. For information on flight timings, please see our full booking conditions. (c) If your flight is cancelled or delayed, your flight ticket is downgraded or boarding is denied by your airline, depending on the circumstances, the airline may be required to pay you compensation, refund the cost of your flight and / or provide you with accommodation and / or refreshments under EC Regulation No 261/2004 – the Denied Boarding Regulations 2004. Please see our full booking conditions for further information.

15) COMPLAINTS AND PROBLEMS

If you have a complaint about any of the holiday arrangements booked with or through Cox & Kings, you must follow the complaint procedure set out in our full booking conditions.

16) ARBITRATION

A choice of two arbitration schemes are available in the event that you have a complaint or claim against Cox & Kings which cannot be resolved. Please see our full booking conditions for further information.

17) EXCURSIONS / ACTIVITIES / SUPPLIERS TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(a) Please see our full booking conditions for details of our liability for the excursions and activities which you may be offered.

(b) Many of the services that make up your holiday are provided by independent suppliers. Those suppliers provide these services in accordance with their own terms and conditions. Some of these terms and conditions may limit or exclude the supplier's liability to you, usually in accordance with applicable international conventions (see clause 13(a)(vi)). Copies of the relevant parts of these terms and conditions are available on request from ourselves or the supplier concerned.

18) FINANCIAL SECURITY

We are a member of ABTA (ABTA number V29999). We also hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence issued by the Civil Aviation Authority (ATOL number 2815.) When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive holiday from us*, you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong. We, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate, will provide you with the services listed on the ATOL Certificate (or a suitable alternative). In some cases, where neither we nor the supplier are able to do so for reasons of insolvency, an alternative ATOL holder may provide you with services you have bought or a suitable alternative (at no extra cost to you). You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative

ATOL holder, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim under the ATOL scheme (or your credit card issuer where applicable). If we, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL certificate, are unable to provide the services listed (or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder or otherwise) for reasons of insolvency, the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust may make a payment to (or confer a benefit on) you under the ATOL scheme. You agree that in return for such a payment or benefit, you assign absolutely to those Trustees any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent or your credit card issuer where applicable. You also agree that any such claims may be re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you have claimed under the ATOL scheme. *The air inclusive holidays and flights we arrange are ATOL-protected providing they are made available in the UK. For further information, visit the ATOL website at: www.atol.org.uk. The price of our air holiday packages includes the amount of £2.50 per person which is the ATOL Protection Contribution (APC) we pay to the CAA. This charge is included in our advertised prices. For further information, visit the ATOL website at: www.atol.org.uk. If you have a contract with us for arrangements that do not include a flight(s), Abta will financially protect your holiday in the event of our insolvency by arranging for you to receive a refund or to be repatriated except where your contracted arrangements with us do not include transport to and from the UK. In this case, if already abroad, you will be returned to the point where your contracted arrangements with us commenced. Please go to www.abta.com for information on Abta's travel protection. Please note, our ATOL and Abta membership does not protect bookings where we act only as agent.

19) LAW AND JURISDICTION

Your relationship (and any contract you may have) with Cox & Kings or with any Third Party Supplier and any dispute, claim or other matters of any nature arising from it ('claim') shall be governed by and construed in accordance with English law. We both agree that any claim (and whether or not involving any personal injury) that arises between us must be dealt with under the Abta or Aito arbitration schemes (if the scheme is available for the claim in question and you wish to use it – see clause 16) or by the Courts of England and Wales only unless, in the case of Court proceedings, you live in Scotland or Northern Ireland. In this case, proceedings must either be brought in the Courts of your home country or those of England and Wales. If proceedings are brought in Scotland or Northern Ireland, you may choose to have your contract and any dispute, claim or other matter of any description that arises between us governed by the law of Scotland / Northern Ireland as applicable (but if you do not so choose, English law will apply).

DATE OF ISSUE AUGUST 2015

DATA PROTECTION PRIVACY POLICY

For the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998, we are a data controller. The following is a summary of our full privacy policy, which sets out how we collect and use the personal information ('personal data') you provide us with directly or through use of our website. Our full, current privacy policy appears on our website, which you should read before providing us with any personal data. Appropriate personal data will be passed on to relevant suppliers / any Third Party Supplier / any other third party (including banks and / or credit card issuers) who need to know it so that your holiday can be provided, to government / public authorities (UK and overseas) such as the police, customs or immigration if required by them, to security or credit checking companies, to other companies who provide services on our behalf (such as mailing brochures and marketing material) or as required by law. We take steps to protect the personal data that is provided to any such party. In making your booking, you consent to personal data being passed on to the relevant parties. Your personal data may be stored, used and otherwise processed within the UK and / or any other country / countries of the European Economic Area (EEA) and / or outside the EEA. Data protection laws may not be as strong outside the EEA as they are in the EEA. Personal data will not be transferred to a country outside the EEA unless the conditions referred to in our full privacy statement are satisfied. We would also like to store and use your personal data for future marketing purposes as referred to in our full privacy policy. We take appropriate technical and organisational measures that are intended to prevent unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data. Our full privacy policy contains the procedure for reviewing and amending any personal data of yours we are processing. See www.coxandkings.co.uk for details.



Abta

Abta and Abta members help holidaymakers to get the most from their travel and assist them when things do not go according to plan. We are obliged to maintain a high standard of service to you by Abta's Code of Conduct. For further information about Abta, the Code of Conduct and the arbitration service available to you if you have a complaint, contact Abta, 30 Park Street, London SE1 9EQ or call 020 3117 0500 or www.abta.com. The above applies only to services supplied by Cox & Kings Travel Limited and does not apply to services featured in this brochure that are provided by any Third Party Supplier where you enter into a contract with the Third party Supplier.

Travel in The Far East

At Cox & Kings, we believe that a good holiday is not luck, but judgement. We have compiled the following information to outline the nature of travel in the Far East, and to help you prepare for your holiday. However, even with the most meticulous planning, minor problems can occur and, while our local representatives are always on hand to rectify such occurrences, we do request that you have a patient and broadminded approach to travelling in the Far East.

Flights

International flights: On most of our tours the following carriers will be used: British Airways, Thai Airways, Malaysia Airlines, Cathay Pacific, Singapore Airlines and Virgin Atlantic Airways. The name of the airline and the city of the departure and arrival airports are clearly listed in the table relating to the tour, together with the stop-off airport, should this apply. We do not print actual flight timings in our brochure, but you will find full details relating to your international flights printed on your confirmation invoice. All flight times as stated on your confirmation invoice refer to local times.

Some flight routings involve a change of aeroplane en route to your destination, so please take note of the flight details in your confirmation invoice, as these will show you the amount of scheduled transit time in the stop-off city. Please note that all flight timings are subject to change by the airline. It is important to note the difference between a 'direct' flight and a 'non-stop' flight. Non-stop flights do not have any scheduled touchdowns en route, while direct flights mean that there is no change of aircraft but that stops are possible, and indeed probable, as per the airline's timetables. Unfortunately, airlines change their schedules regularly, and although we will advise you of any stops or aeroplane changes at the time of booking, we cannot be held responsible for any changes after this date.

Baggage allowances vary according to the destination, flight and class booked, although in the majority of cases, the allowance for Economy is 20kg, Business is 30kg and First is 40kg. When booking Business Class international flights, please check with your consultant the baggage allowance for any domestic flights involved in your itinerary.

Internal flights: Almost all the internal flights in this brochure use jet airliners, with some internal airliners in south-east Asia using turbo prop aircraft. Occasionally, when travelling on internal flights with local carriers or in light aircraft, it may be necessary for operators to change schedules at short notice. If this should happen, everything possible will be done to minimise the inconvenience. Such a change may cause a delay to your onward travel arrangements and require an extra night's accommodation at your board point, or alternative travel by another airline or method of transportation may be required.

Although these arrangements are at the discretion of the airline, Cox & Kings will endeavour to help in any way it can and ensure that arrangements go as smoothly as possible (see below for more details)

Flight delays & insurance: Unfortunately, due to the increase in air traffic, government restrictions and changing weather conditions, flight delays have become more commonplace. These delays can cause problems with onward connections and / or hotel and holiday arrangements. While the airline will sometimes

make alternative arrangements to get you to your next destination at no extra cost, additional costs may well be involved for accommodation in the event of an overnight cancellation and also after your arrival at your next destination. These may be in the form of additional accommodation costs, transfers and onward travel. It is important that your travel insurance covers you against the costs incurred as a result of cancellation or delay to your flight. Unfortunately, since most services are paid for in advance, any services missed due to delays are non-refundable. The insurance policy offered by Cox & Kings is designed to mitigate the costs and effects of such delays in certain circumstances and we strongly advise that you are insured against such eventualities.

Flight amendments: Most of the tours shown in this brochure use special airfares. These have certain conditions, which normally restrict any change of date, route or airline. Any such change made after a ticket has been issued will normally necessitate the purchase of a new ticket at the passenger's expense.

Special requests: Cox & Kings will endeavour to request any specific meals or services, on the condition that we are told at the time of booking. Specific seat requests with most major airlines can now only be requested if travelling in Business or First Class. We are able to request general seating preferences for Economy Class passengers. With all special requests, please remember that they are 'requests' and as such are at the discretion of the airline and cannot be guaranteed.

Airport departure taxes: International UK departure tax is included in the cost of your holiday (unless otherwise stated), when you buy your ticket from Cox & Kings. The cost of our tours does not always include other airport departure taxes or overland departure taxes. Occasionally, taxes may be included in your ticket and we will advise you accordingly. Since there is no standard charge between countries, and taxes are subject to change, it is not possible to list the taxes in this brochure. We will advise you of the current charge with your final documents and our local agents will confirm the amount payable on arrival. Please ensure you keep enough local currency or US dollars to cover these taxes.

Road Travel

In China, the majority of the roads to and from major tourist destinations are sealed and in reasonable condition. Although many of the city roads are now four- to six-lane highways and have had a large amount of investment in recent years, many of the narrower ones and smaller highways are bumpy and pot-holed. Driving rules and regulations are very complicated and it is currently not possible to hire cars to travel outside the major cities within China, and not recommended within the cities. In Mongolia, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines and Cambodia, many of the roads are in poor condition, but most of the main highways are sealed. For longer journeys, we will nearly always advise you to fly. Types of vehicles vary according to the country visited and the numbers on a tour. Generally, the following can be used as a guideline for the size of transportation provided: 1-3 passengers, saloon car; 4-6 passengers, minivan; 6-19 passengers, small bus; 20-28 passengers, medium bus.

Early Starts

A number of flights within China and the Far East arrive / depart early in the morning and, while we will endeavour to schedule your tour with a flight that arrives / departs at a reasonable time, sometimes

there is little or no alternative and early check-in / check-out times may be required.

Accommodation

Accommodation standards vary dramatically throughout the Far East; however, in most of the major cities the hotels are of a good standard. Standards will vary much more in some of the smaller cities and rural areas. For our tours in the Far East, we have chosen hotels primarily for their location and the facilities available. We will endeavour to supply any extra information that you may require on these hotels. The hotels listed in the tour itineraries may occasionally be unavailable for the required dates. In this event, we will advise you of alternative hotels that will, where possible, be of the same or of a higher standard than those featured in the itineraries. There are many new hotels being built in the Far East and we may upgrade those featured in the brochure if better options in the same category become available. In Mongolia, we use traditional tents, known as gers. Please note, all rooms reserved on your tour are standard; however, if you wish to upgrade your room (e.g. to a lake view or suite), please speak to your consultant who will be able to advise about options and applicable supplements.

Check-in & check-out times: For all group and individual tours, hotel check-in time is normally 14:00 and check-out time is normally 12:00, but this does vary between hotels. Early check in and late check out cannot be pre-booked without extra payment.

Single accommodation: Often, the location and standard of single rooms may not be as good as that of doubles. If you are in doubt, we suggest you request a double room at an additional supplement. If you are unhappy with your room while on holiday, please ensure that you query this with a Cox & Kings representative at the time. In the absence of a Cox & Kings representative, we advise you to discuss the matter with the hotel manager.

Walking

Many of the sites in the Far East necessitate a reasonable amount of walking, either to the site or around it. While the walking is normally easy going, a full day's sightseeing can be quite tiring and sometimes strenuous. In addition, at the Great Wall in China there are many steep sections and uneven surfaces. Travel in Mongolia involves a fair amount of walking and it can be of a strenuous nature. A reasonable amount of fitness is required.

Cruises

Cruise boats may vary their itineraries with little or no notice if water levels become unusually low or to avoid areas of dense traffic. Such changes are generally very rare, but you should check the final itinerary at reception when you embark. Cruise itineraries include full board, but all drinks will be charged as extras.

Foreign & Commonwealth Office Travel Advice

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) produces a wide range of material about overseas countries that may be visited by British citizens to ensure that travellers are properly informed about any overseas destination, particularly in relation to political unrest, crime and health issues. Where the FCO considers that British citizens would face unjustifiable risks to health, it actually advises either against travelling to the country in question or against non-essential travel to that country. Full details of all FCO advice can be obtained on the FCO website: www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice.

Travel Insurance

At Cox & Kings, we regard your safety, protection and holiday enjoyment as being of paramount importance. Therefore, travel insurance is essential whenever you go abroad. Indeed it is a condition of booking with us that you must have adequate travel insurance.

We have arranged competitive travel insurance from specialist insurance brokers Campbell Irvine Ltd, who are experts in providing friendly and professional emergency help around the clock. This includes access to the insurer's 24-hour worldwide medical emergency assistance.

If you decide not to purchase Cox & Kings insurance, you must provide us with details of your alternative insurance with your final payment.

COX & KINGS TRAVEL INSURANCE BENEFITS

BENEFIT	LIMIT
A. Medical expenses	£5,000,000
In patient benefit	£10 per day up to £200
Criminal injuries	£100 per day up to £5,000
Personal liability	£2,000,000
B. Personal accident	£25,000
Permanent loss of sight	£25,000
Loss of limb(s)	£25,000
Permanent total disablement	£25,000
Death	£10,000
C. Cancellation or curtailment	£5,000*
D. Delayed departure or arrival	
Either compensation	up to £100
OR cancellation after 12 hours	up to £1,000
Hijack of aircraft £100 per day	up to £3,000
Interruption of transport	£300
E. Personal effects	£2,000
	(Valuables limited to £350)
	(Single article limit £250)
	(Disc collections £200)
Money	£500
Tickets	£1,000
Passport and visas	£250
F. Legal expenses	£15,000
G. Winter sports	Optional

Excesses: Under most sections of the policy, claims will be subject to an excess. This means you will be responsible for paying the first part of each claim.

PREMIUMS PER PERSON

Please contact Cox & Kings direct for a quotation. Different premiums apply depending on the location and length of your trip.

Optional extensions: Winter sports cover is available on payment of an additional premium.

***Top up:** An additional premium is payable to increase the standard £5,000 per person cancellation sum insured. Please call for details.

Family rate: For families travelling together, a special premium applies based on two times the adult rate. This provides for two adults under 66 years and up to four children aged 18 years or less.



Leg-rowing fisherman, Burma

Child reduction: Premiums are reduced by half for children aged 18 years or less at the date of insurance premium payment, if travelling with an adult insured under this scheme.

Free cover – infants under two years old: Infants aged under two years at departure can be included free of charge if travelling from the departure point with a parent insured under this scheme – provided that the insured person requests that the child's name is included on the booking invoice.

Age 66 to 70 years: For persons aged 66 to 70 years at the date of payment of the insurance premium, double the standard rates apply.

Age 71 years & over: For persons aged 71 years or more, please contact Vital Health for a quotation on 0844 826 2716

Annual multi-trip policy: Available upon request for passengers up to and including 65 years old for worldwide trips including North America.

Please call your Cox & Kings consultant for a trip-specific quote, on 020 7873 5000.

Please note: This is only a summary of cover. Full details of the cover provided is shown on your policy document, which will be emailed to you upon receipt of payment of the premium. Please read it carefully to ensure you understand the cover provided, including certain terms, conditions, exclusions and excesses, as this insurance is being sold to you on a nonadvised basis from a single insurer. In particular, cover is excluded for any preexisting medical condition that you, or any other person upon whom travel depends, are suffering from. If in doubt, please contact the insurers medical helpline on 01702 427 237. Should you wish, upon request a specimen copy will be made available prior to purchase. If the insurance does not meet your requirements you may return the documentation within 14 days of the purchase or prior to travel if this is sooner and, providing no claim has been made, obtain a refund. Cover is only available to residents of Europe, other than the Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Montenegro and Switzerland.

All details are correct at time of going to print and may be subject to change.

Cox & Kings is an Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Ltd who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

FAR EAST RESERVATION FORM 2016-17



Important: If you have internet access you can complete the reservation form online. Please ask your tour consultant to email you a personalised form.

Please read the booking conditions and other information carefully before completing this form in BLOCK LETTERS and return to Cox & Kings with your remittance. It is essential that you complete the lined sections as these include mandatory information.

PASSENGER DETAILS – AS THEY APPEAR IN YOUR PASSPORT

Title	Full first name	Surname	Date of birth	Passport number	Nationality	Date of issue	Date of expiry	C&K insurance*
			DD/MM/YY			DD/MM/YY	DD/MM/YY	Yes / No
			DD/MM/YY			DD/MM/YY	DD/MM/YY	Yes / No
			DD/MM/YY			DD/MM/YY	DD/MM/YY	Yes / No
			DD/MM/YY			DD/MM/YY	DD/MM/YY	Yes / No

* TRAVEL INSURANCE: It is required that every passenger holds adequate travel insurance cover at the time of booking. The details of the Cox & Kings travel insurance policy can be found on the reverse side of this form.

If you have existing travel insurance, please insert the details below.

Insurance company: _____ Policy number: _____ Emergency assistance company: _____ Telephone no: _____

VISAS: Visas are required for some destinations. Regulations change, so please check the latest requirements before booking.

Contact details of lead passenger

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Daytime tel: _____ Home tel: _____

Email address: _____

Designated emergency contact details (not travelling)

Name: _____

Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Daytime tel: _____ Home tel: _____

TOUR DETAILS

Tour type	Tour name / Tailor-made journey	Tour extension	Tour code	Date of departure
GROUP TOUR				DD/MM/YY
INDIVIDUAL TOUR				DD/MM/YY

Type of accommodation (subject to availability) Flight upgrades options (subject to availability)

Twin Single Premium Economy Class First Class

Double Triple / Family Business Class Regional airport (specify): _____

Special requests (subject to availability) – eg airline dietary requirements (please specify): _____

Your Cox & Kings tour consultant: _____

Your booking reference number: _____

PAYMENT DETAILS

DEPOSIT 15% of your total holiday cost (or £150 per person whichever is greater)	Amount	No	Total
If a larger deposit is required you will be informed at the time of booking	£		£
INSURANCE (payable at the time of booking) maximum indemnity £4,999 per person	£		£
INSURANCE TOP UP for holidays costing more than £5,000 per person	£		£
COOL EARTH VOLUNTARY CHARITY DONATION <small>(for charity details or to donate including gift aid, please visit www.coolearth.org/coxandkings)</small>	£		£
TOTAL REMITTANCE ENCLOSED Cheque or credit / debit card †	£		£

To pay by credit / debit card please call 020 7808 5690
I wish to pay by: (tick box)

MasterCard Visa

Amex Delta

Switch Cheque

The following processing fees will be applied to final balances paid by credit card: Visa – 1.33% MasterCard – 1.33% Amex – 2.10%. We reserve the right to change the processing fee at any time. Cheques should be made payable to Cox & Kings Travel Ltd.

Travel agent's ref: _____ Abta number: _____

Travel agent's stamp

I hereby accept that I, on behalf of both myself and all the other persons on this booking form have read, understood and accepted the booking conditions, general information, insurance conditions (where applicable) and all other information in this brochure, and, further, that I have the authority of all the persons named on this booking form to make the booking subject to these conditions. All members of the party personally accept responsibility to be aware of, and comply with, health, passport and visa requirements. I am over 18 years of age.

Date: _____ Total enclosed: £ _____ Signature: _____

Documents & Health

Health & Entry Requirements

All the destinations featured in this brochure have specific entry regulations and many have recommended health precautions. The requirements and recommendations in force at the time of publication are detailed below. If there are any alterations, you will be informed at the time of booking or as soon as these are known to us. However, it is your responsibility to check the relevant requirements and recommendations before departure to ensure that you comply with them, and to take with you the correct documentation for the country or countries that you are visiting.

Please note that the entry requirements listed are only valid for British citizens. All other nationalities should check with the relevant embassy/consulate for advice. Regarding any inoculations or health precautions that may be needed, Cox & Kings recommends that you consult your GP or travel clinic for personal advice.

Requirements and recommendations are as follows:

Burma (Myanmar):	ABC [†] DEFGHIKL
Cambodia:	AB [*] C [*] DEFGIL
China:	ABC [*] DEFGHIL
Hong Kong:	AEGIL
Indonesia:	AB [*] C [*] DEFGHIKL
Japan:	AGHL
Laos:	AB [*] C [*] DEFGHIKL
Malaysia:	AC [*] DEFGHIKL
Mongolia:	AEGHIL
North Korea:	ABC [†] EFGHIKL
Papua New Guinea:	AB [*] DEFGHIKL
Philippines:	AC [*] DEFGHIKL
Singapore:	AC [*] GIL
South Korea:	AEEFGIL
Taiwan:	AEGHIL
Thailand:	AC [*] DEFGHIKL
Vietnam:	AC [*] DEFGHIKL

Key to the codes:

A:	Full valid British passport required (minimum six months validity from the intended date of return).
B:	Visa required (see note).
B*:	Visa required and can be obtained on arrival, please check requirements with your tour consultant.
B†:	Visa required, to be completed online.
C:	Yellow fever precautions advised.
C*:	A yellow fever certificate is required if travelling from an infected country.
C†:	A yellow fever certificate is required for all travellers more than one year old when travelling from an infected country.
D:	Cholera precautions advised.
E:	Typhoid, polio, rabies and hepatitis A precautions may be advised.
F:	Malaria precautions advised.
G:	Tetanus precautions advised.
H:	Areas of high altitude – check with your GP for confirmation that it is safe for you to visit.
I:	Food and drink precautions advised.
K:	Diphtheria precautions advised.
L:	Hepatitis B precautions advised.

Changes to requirements and recommendations:

The above information is accurate at the time of writing (June 2015). Cox & Kings will advise you before accepting your booking should there be any subsequent changes to the above recommendations and requirements. You should contact your GP or visit the MASTA (Medical Advice Service for Travellers Abroad) website at www.masta-travel-health.com where you can receive professional advice as well as arrange

any vaccinations. Further country-specific useful health advice for travellers can be found via the following links:

- www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk
- www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

General Health Advice

Please see the advice regarding inoculations for specific countries above. For more general advice, please note the following:

- Drink only bottled water and check the seal is secure when you receive it.
- Do not eat raw vegetables, unpeeled fruit, and raw or uncooked seafood.
- Avoid drinks with ice in unless you know that the ice was made from filtered water.
- Avoid food and drink from street vendors and restaurants that might have suspect refrigeration and sanitary practices.

Please check with your tour consultant as to which areas are at high altitude. In order to minimise the effects of altitude, it is advisable to rest for a few hours upon arrival. If you have any history of heart complaints, or if you are over the age of 60, please check with your GP that it is safe to visit these areas.

Malaria

Malaria is a risk in certain parts of China (particularly in rural areas in the southern provinces of Yunnan, Hainan and Tibet), parts of Bhutan, Indonesia, North Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Burma and certain parts of Thailand (the border areas near Cambodia and Burma). In other areas, the risk is so low that anti-malarial prophylactics are not advised; however, it is advisable to take precautions to prevent mosquito bites. Please check with your doctor on the current precautions advised.

Passports & Embassies

This advice is only valid for British citizen passport holders. Holders of any other type of British passport (eg British subjects) or of any other nationality must contact the relevant embassy/consulate (details listed below). It is important that you hold a valid 10-year British passport and we recommend that your passport is valid for a minimum of six months from your date of return to the UK. Passport application forms can be obtained from the post office or online at www.gov.uk/browse/abroad/passports. The passport advice telephone line is on 0300 222 0000 (calls are charged at national rate). Whether renewing your passport or applying for a new one, all relevant information can be found on the website or by telephoning the number above. The cost for a postal application is £72.50 and takes a minimum of three weeks to obtain from the date of application.

Information on visas may be obtained from the respective embassies and high commissions at the following addresses:

- Embassy of the Union of Myanmar (Burma), 19A Charles Street, London W1J 5DX. Tel: 020 7499 4340.
- Royal Embassy of Cambodia, 64 Brondesbury Park, Willesden Green, London NW6 7AT. Tel: 020 8451 7850.
- Chinese Visa Application Service Centre, 12 Old Jewry, London EC2R 8DU. Tel: 020 7776 7888.
- Indonesian Embassy Consular Section, 38 Grosvenor Square, London W1K 2HW. Tel: 020 7499 7661.
- The Consulate General of Japan, 101-104 Piccadilly, London W1J 7JT. Tel: 020 7465 6500.
- Laos does not have official diplomatic representation in the UK.
- Malaysian High Commission, 45 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QT. Tel: 020 7235 8033.

- Mongolian Embassy, 7 Kensington Court, London W8 5DL. Tel: 020 7937 5238.
- Embassy for Democratic People's Republic of North Korea, 73 Gunnersbury Avenue, London W5 4LP. Tel: 020 8992 4965.
- Papua New Guinea High Commission, 14 Waterloo Place, London SW1Y 4AR. Tel: 020 7930 0922.
- The Philippine Embassy 6-8 Suffolk St, London SW1Y 4HG. Tel: 020 7451 1780.
- Singapore High Commission, 9 Wilton Crescent, Belgravia, London SW1X 8SP. Tel: 020 7235 8315.
- Embassy of the Republic of Korea, 60 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AJ. Tel: 020 7227 5500.
- Taipei Representative Office in the UK, 50 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0EB. Tel: 020 7881 2650.
- Royal Thai Embassy, 29-30 Queens Gate, London SW7 5JB. Tel: 020 7589 2944.
- Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (Consular Section), 12-14 Victoria Road, London W8 5RD. Tel: 020 7937 1912.

Visas

Cox & Kings works with Visa Swift, a company that specialises in visa processing. Please visit its website to download visa application forms, follow links to important embassy websites, or make general enquiries about its visa service. Visa Swift also offers a full range of passport services, including passport renewals, second passports and replacement passports.

The benefits of using Visa Swift include:

- Professional visa advice for any destination
- Easy to follow, step-by-step process
- Quick and efficient service
- Visa application tracking system available online

Please telephone 020 7405 1616 for more information, or visit the Visa Swift website: www.visaswift.com/coxandkings.aspx

Granting visas

Visa Swift will be happy to assist with any necessary visa applications on your behalf. However, it cannot guarantee the granting of any visas, as this is a matter outside of their control. If a visa is not granted through no fault of Visa Swift or Cox & Kings, neither will accept any liability for the consequences. Therefore Visa Swift and Cox & Kings reserve the right to pass on to you any costs incurred as a result, including cancellation charges.

North Korea: Visas can be obtained via our local agent and will be issued during your stay in Beijing. The visa cost is £51. A processing charge will apply.

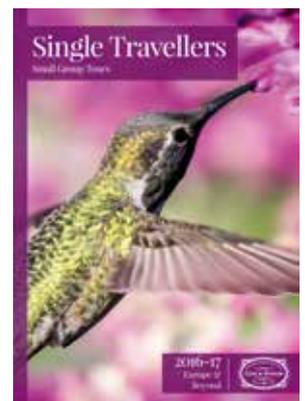
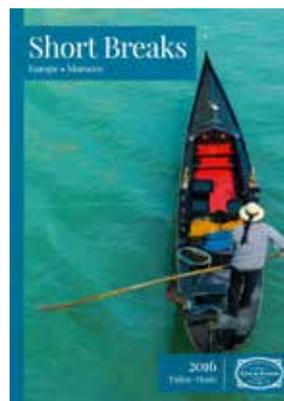
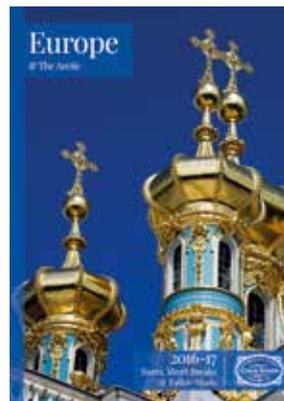
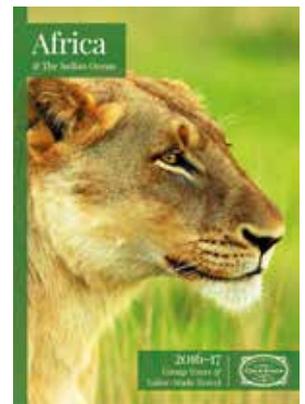
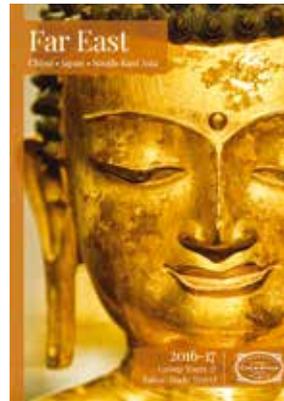
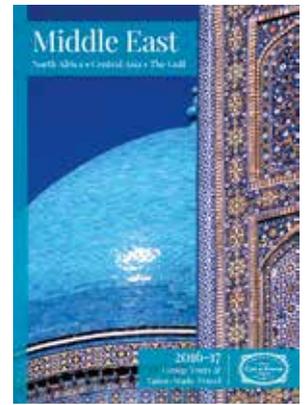
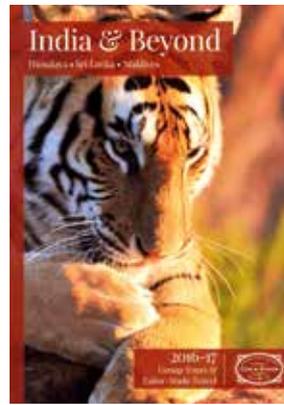
We require the following documentation at least six weeks prior to departure:

1. Colour photocopy of your passport identification page and page opposite.
2. One recent colour passport photograph.
3. Your employment details including:
 - Company name
 - Description of what the company does
 - Your position within the company

If you are unemployed or retired, please provide details of your former employer.

The laws of North Korea do not allow journalists and photographers to travel as tourists. We are therefore unable to allow journalists or photographers to travel with Cox & Kings to North Korea.

Mongolia: Until 31 December 2015, British citizen passport holders do not require a visa for entry into Mongolia, provided your stay does not exceed 30 days.



Cox & Kings Travel Ltd
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30 Millbank,
London,
SW1P 4EE

Far East enquiries 020 7808 6786
General enquiries 020 7873 5000
info@coxandkings.co.uk • coxandkings.co.uk

Hours of business
Mon-Fri: 09.00-18.00 • Sat: 09.30-17.00

