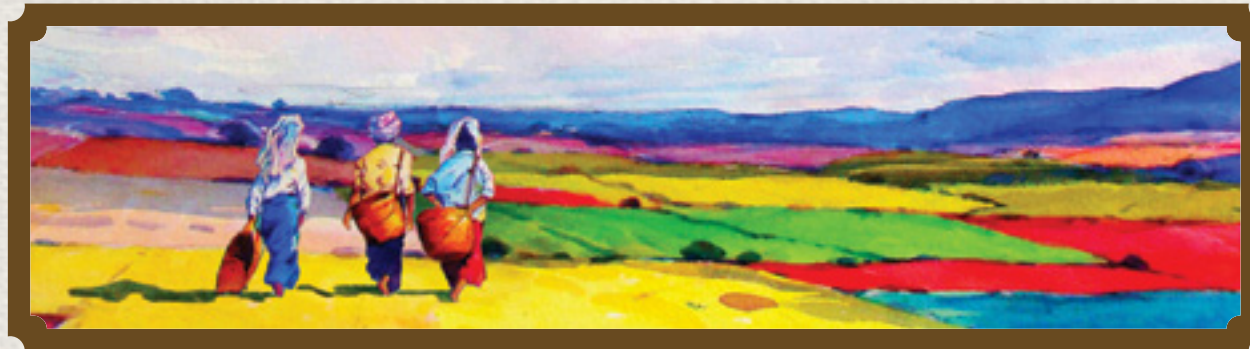




TRAILS OF INDOCHINA

*Artisans of bespoke journeys to
Southeast Asia & beyond*



✦ INSPIRED JOURNEYS ✦

*"Travel, like dreams, is a door that opens from the
real world into a world that is yet to be discovered"*

Guy de Maupassant



*Tailored Experiences
Local Connections
Unforgettable Moments*

After eighteen years of developing Trails of Indochina into one of Southeast Asia's leading specialty tour operators, I remain committed to my original vision – providing travellers with authentic and enriching experiences accentuated by meaningful connections with the people in the destinations visited.

The logistics of travel has never been easier in the digital age. However, technology is no substitute for the personal touch and inspiration of a handcrafted program. With intimate knowledge of our destinations and a true understanding of the complexity of travel, our team designs a travel itinerary with dedicated passion, confident that we will deliver an innovative program which offers a highly personalised experience.

This brochure showcases our tailor-made expertise and introduces our ten new specialty themes that cater to a diverse range of interests. From family travel to wellness retreats, each specialty program adheres to our core philosophy of authenticity and local connections. More uniquely, we offer guests the option of including philanthropic activities in their customised itinerary, such as donating a sampan or volunteering to help build a home, as a way of engaging in the most personal of ways for a truly enriching travel experience.

I invite you to explore the enclosed sample of our curated itineraries and tailored experiences which I hope will arouse your curiosity and inspire your wanderlust to explore our part of the world.



John Tue Nguyen
Founder & CEO

Contents

▣ SLOW JOURNEYS	04	▣ ROMANCE	32
Luxury River Cruising and Camping		Magical Luang Prabang	
Impressive Gorges of the Ayeryawaddy		Escape to Paradise	
▣ CULTURE & HISTORY	10	▣ FAMILY	38
Modern Royal Kingdoms		Cultural Exploration for Families	
Heritage and Traditions		Family Adventure in Cambodia	
▣ ARTS & CRAFTS	16	▣ ACTIVE	44
Vietnamese Cultural Heritage Through the Arts		Magnificent Caves & Jungle Trek	
Art Treasures of Myanmar			
▣ PHOTOGRAPHY	22	▣ WELLNESS	48
Vietnam Through the Lens		Luxury Spas of Vietnam	
		Wellness Immersion	
▣ CULINARY	26	▣ PHILANTHROPY	54
Culinary Capitals of Vietnam			
Flavours of Thailand		▣ ABOUT TRAILS OF INDOCHINA	58

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A special thank you to Myanmar artist, Khin Maung Zaw, for sharing his beautiful watercolour paintings in the front and back inside cover.

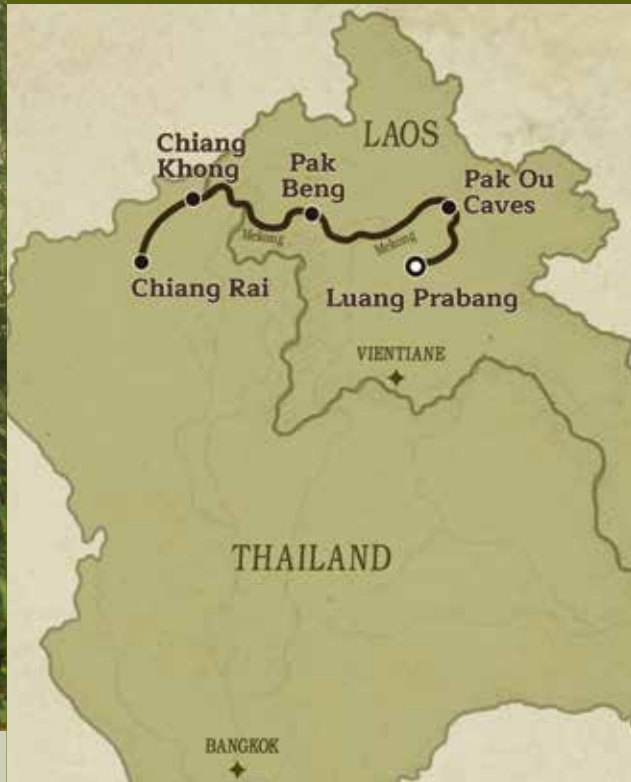
Slow Journeys

Outside of Southeast Asia's frenetic megacities, the laid-back pace of life invites willing travellers to experience the rustic charm and beauty of the region by taking the road less traveled. Instead of dashing from one must-see highlight to the next, slow journeys often yield the most impactful memories by getting "under the skin" of a place. Whether it's a luxury river cruise, vintage train excursion or remote getaway, our specialists can arrange a method of travel that allows you to truly experience your surroundings as a local might, with time to admire the journey and not just the destination.





LAOS – THAILAND



Destinations:

Luang Prabang – Pak Ou Caves

Pak Beng – Chiang Khong – Chiang Rai

Number of Days:

6

Contact us to plan your tailor-made itinerary



Luxury River Cruising and Camping

Experience a placid pace of life on a three-night river journey traversing the remote Upper Mekong River through Laos and Thailand on a boutique luxury cruise. Marvel in the changing scenic river landscape and visit ethnic villages along the way. Cross the border into the Golden Triangle and continue to Chiang Rai where adventure awaits at your luxury-tented camp.



A Boutique Journey on the Remote Upper Mekong

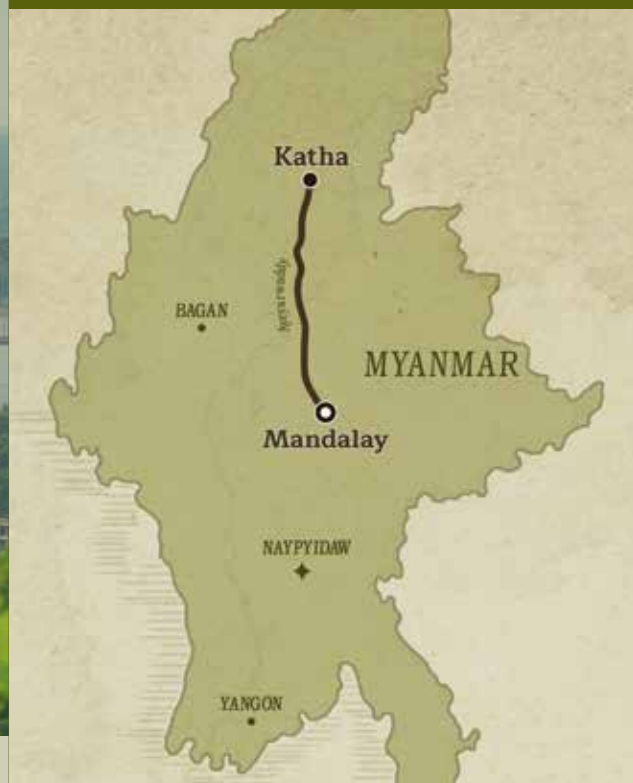
With its tight gorges, churning rapids and fluctuating water levels, the upper part of the Mekong is one of the most challenging rivers in the world to navigate. However, those who are able to make the journey are rewarded with unique experiences and breathtaking views. Travel in style and comfort aboard a luxury boutique vessel from Luang Prabang to Chiang Khong to experience a region where few outsiders ever go. Without a dull moment on board, the changing nature of the river and the contrasting landscapes promise to beguile while onshore excursions to remote ethnic minority villages offer opportunities to interact with local people who seldom have contact with the outside world.



Luxury Camping in the Golden Triangle

Tucked away in a secluded swath of forested jungle in northern Thailand, bordering Myanmar and Laos, is the luxury Four Seasons Tented Camp complete with modern creature comforts. Designed to capture the explorer's spirit, this camping experience takes you back to the age of elegant simplicity. Exchange paved roads and automobiles to explore scenic mountain trails by foot in the company of elephants. For a jungle-to-table dining experience, learn to forage for food with a botanical expert who will teach you how to identify and handpick edible plants and herbs for your meal. Without the distractions of modern life, your days are spent immersed in nature, marvelling at the beauty and serenity of this slower pace of life.

MYANMAR



Destinations:

Mandalay – Katha – Mandalay

Number of Days:

8

Contact us to plan your tailor-made itinerary



Impressive Gorges of the Ayeryawaddy

The route on the upper Ayeryawaddy from Mandalay to Katha traverses through breathtaking sceneries, passing forested jungles and quaint villages. Walk in the footsteps of George Orwell in Katha, the real-life setting for his popular novel, “Burmese Days”. On board, learn from cultural demonstrations and lectures while enjoying the luxurious facilities.





Passage to the Remote Upper Ayeyarwaddy

The river route from Mandalay to Katha passes through some of the most dramatic scenery on the upper Ayeyarwaddy. From the balcony of your private cabin aboard Heritage Line's luxurious Anawrahta, observe the contrasting landscapes from forested hills to imposing cliffs as the ship sails to one of the most remote areas of the country. Moor in quaint fishing villages and small towns where life remains largely unchanged. The tranquil pace of the cruise is punctuated by breathtaking moments as the vessel navigates through two defiles, with the narrowest passage being just 100 metres wide. The excitement heightens as the vessel plunges back into the fast-flowing waters, creating a sense of adventure similar to that experienced by 19th century explorers as they traversed through this beautifully untamed environment.

Relive George Orwell's "Burmese Days"

Situated along the banks of the upper Ayeyarwaddy, the sleepy harbour town of Katha offers a nostalgic glimpse into life under British occupation as depicted in George Orwell's "Burmese Days". His famed semi-autobiographical novel was inspired by the five years Orwell spent in Katha as an officer in the Imperial Police Force. Relive this part of history by visiting locations and buildings mentioned in the book, most of which have remained intact, including the British Club where colonial-era gentlemen lounged and drank (now a government office), the elegant home of the British Commissioner (today a museum displaying colonial relics) and most memorably, Orwell's former residence, a two-storey wooden house where he lived from 1926-27.





Culture & History

Southeast Asia is a tapestry of diverse peoples, cultures and history dating back thousands of years. Despite modernisation, individual countries in the region have been able to preserve aspects of their cultural traditions that are passed down from one generation to the next. With our extensive network in the region, we have access to this 'living library' of people, who have lived the history and practised the traditions. From historians, cultural experts, to artists – these personal connections offer an insightful perspective that truly brings the culture and history of Southeast Asia to life.



CAMBODIA – THAILAND



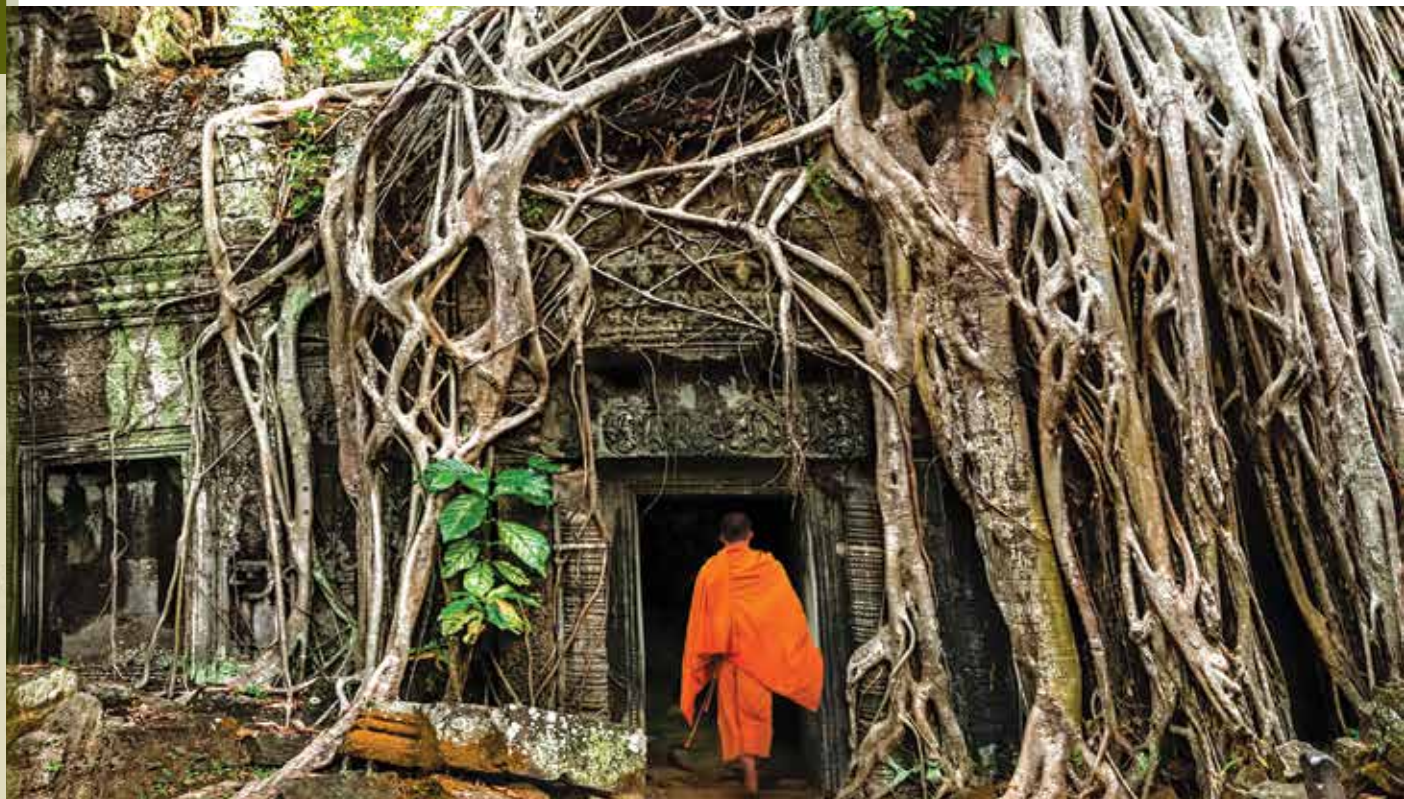
Destinations:

Phnom Penh – Siem Reap – Bangkok – Chiang Mai

Number of Days:

10

Contact us to plan your tailor-made itinerary



Modern Royal Kingdoms

Gain insight into the culture and history of the neighbouring royal kingdoms of Cambodia and Thailand. Witness how Cambodia is recovering from its war-torn past and admire Angkor Wat, a testament to the power and influence of the former Khmer Empire. Experience the contrasting cities of Bangkok and Chiang Mai for a deeper understanding of modern and traditional culture of Thailand today.



Stories of a Landmine Survivor

Though the Cambodian people are presently living in peaceful times, an entire generation continues to bear the consequences of three recent decades of civil war. Still today, Cambodia is plagued with the highest casualties in the world caused by unexploded ordnances and landmines. Hidden behind the popular Angkor Wat temple complex is a community of landmine victims, many of whom were children during the war. Meet landmine survivors and hear their personal stories of life during the harsh Pol Pot period and more importantly, how they have overcome adversity to rebuild their lives. Learn about the efforts by the community to support the livelihood of the victims and how visitors can contribute to helping them achieve a brighter future.



The Living Legacy of Jim Thompson's Weavers

The mysterious disappearance of Jim Thompson in 1967 continues to captivate the imagination of many. While much is known about the American businessman who helped revitalise the Thai silk industry in the 1950s on the way to becoming a global silk brand, very few know about the other half of his legacy. Upon discovering a community of skilled weavers of Cham descent living across the canal from his Bangkok home, Jim Thompson decided to build his company right next to the community and hired local employs to produce his prized silk. Visit the last of his original weavers who still produce silk, and listen to their fascinating childhood stories of when they watched Jim Thompson cross over to their homes every morning to visit his weavers and their families.

VIETNAM



Destinations:

**Hanoi – Ninh Binh – Hue – Hoi An –
Danang – Ho Chi Minh City**

Number of Days:

13

Contact us to plan your tailor-made itinerary



Heritage and Traditions

Discover Vietnam's fascinating culture and history visiting key cities from the ancient capital city of Hanoi in the north, the central imperial city of Hue in the central, and the former Indochine capital of Saigon in the south. Visit heritage sites and learn about their cultural significance with opportunities to interact with local experts for a unique perspective of the country's recent history.



Exploring Saigon's History Through Modernist Architecture

The identity of a city is shaped not only by its people and culture, but also by its buildings, which provide important clues to the values and aspirations of its residents over time. While most associate Vietnam's history with its ancient Chinese temples and ochre-coloured French colonial buildings, not many are familiar with its modernist buildings which reflect the country's more recent history starting from the 1940s. Join an American architect and researcher as he shares insights into the modernist architecture movement, highlighted by visits to key examples of modernist designs such as the former Presidential Palace. Learn how to identify modernist buildings and gain a unique perspective of the city's history as revealed through its architecture.



Understanding Feng Shui of a Royal Traditional Garden House

An imperial capital of Vietnam until the country became a republic in 1945, Hue's royal palaces and garden houses stand as an important cultural and historical reminder of a glorious period under the Nguyen Dynasty. Visit the traditional garden home of Princess Ngoc Son where she lived with her husband, the head of the army under the Mandarin court. Meet with a royal descendant who still lives in the home and listen to her riveting story of life and drama in the royal household. Gain insight into how feng shui played an integral role in the detailed design of the garden home including the five elements which symbolise the concept of life.





Arts & Crafts

Arts and crafts are a colourful representation of the diversity of peoples and cultures in Southeast Asia. As the soul of the heritage, they provide valuable insight into the cultural traditions that span back hundreds of years. While traditional arts and crafts continue to be valued in modern society, contemporary visual and performing arts are flourishing as a young generation of artists are taking a bold approach to creative expressions. New art space and galleries are fusing both modern art with cultural heritage, showcasing the depth of the country's history and cultural influences. From traditional crafts to modern art, we connect our guests to artists and artisans for a first-hand look into how the art is brought to life.



VIETNAM



Destinations:

Hanoi – Hue – Hoi An – Ho Chi Minh City – Can Tho

Number of Days:

11

Contact us to plan your tailor-made itinerary



Vietnamese Cultural Heritage Through the Arts

Gain a deeper understanding of Vietnam's history and culture through the perspective of art and crafts. Meet with artisans who are passionate about preserving their craft and learn how cultural traditions are expressed through their work. Discover the vibrant contemporary art scene exploring new art spaces and meeting with gallery curators and up-and-coming artists.



Preserving Folk Art Traditions

Down an obscure alley in Hanoi's Old Quarter lives a 66-year-old man who happens to be the last remaining master of Hang Trong folk paintings. Originating in the 17th century under the Le Dynasty, this ancient art form involves a combination of woodblock printing and colourful painting on special handmade paper. Spend a fascinating few hours visiting this talented artisan in his home. Observe the process as he creates a folk painting from the same woodblock used by previous generations of craftsmen and come to understand his desire to preserve this ancient craft. Though this folk painting tradition has nearly disappeared, the paintings themselves continue to be prized by Hanoians, especially during the Vietnamese Lunar New Year, when the paintings are placed on family altars, valued for their spiritual and cultural symbolism.



Inside Saigon's Contemporary Art Scene

The exciting contemporary art scene in Ho Chi Minh City is fuelled by a young generation of artists who are enjoying more freedom of expression than ever before, experimenting with innovative art forms such as multimedia installations, performing and visual arts. Meet a Vietnamese-French art scholar who will guide you through the evolving contemporary art scene in Vietnam for a deeper understanding of artist's work and interpretation. Visit the exclusive Salon Saigon, a contemporary art and heritage space for private exhibitions, cultural performance and exchange. Depending on the day of your visit, you may also meet a scholar of Vietnamese classic poetry, view an abstract painting exhibition or listen to an artist talk, providing insights into Vietnam's exciting, emerging contemporary art scene.

MYANMAR



Destinations:

Yangon – Mandalay – Pindaya – Bagan

Number of Days:

11

Contact us to plan your tailor-made itinerary



Art Treasures of Myanmar

Discover the handicraft traditions of Myanmar and learn about crafts unique to the country, such as Inle Lake's lotus silk weaving. Myanmar's traditional art is strongly influenced by the philosophy of Buddhism. Gain insight into 'Pan Sel Myo', the ten religious traditional arts, from an expert, and meet with contemporary artists for a personal perspective of the thriving art scene in Yangon.



The Ancient Art of Marionette Puppetry

Marionette puppetry is one of Myanmar's oldest art forms dating back to the 11th century, when it was a means for commoners to safely communicate with the King. The colourful, 55 cm-tall marionettes represent 24 mythological characters and achieve life-like movements thanks to 17 strings attached to various parts of the body, deftly manoeuvred by master puppeteers. Today, there are just a handful of theatres that showcase marionette puppetry in the entire country. For a better appreciation of the historical and cultural significance of this ancient art, attend a Myanmar marionette performance and meet one of the founders of a legendary marionette theatre who will share her personal story of opening the theatre and how the performances have evolved over the centuries.



Meet a Master of Watercolour Paintings

Recent democratic reforms in Myanmar have spurred the growth of its contemporary art scene, particularly in Yangon, where private galleries represent a diverse range of artists experimenting with different subjects and art forms. Visit the home studio of artist Khin Maung Zaw, considered one of Myanmar's masters of watercolour paintings, well-known for depicting Buddhist monastic life and the detailed temple architecture of Bagan. View his latest paintings in progress and listen as the soft-spoken artist shares stories of his humble beginnings and how the country's fascinating political events as well as his own personal experiences have influenced his work.



Photography

Much more than just capturing photos and memories, travel photography is also about connecting with the people and gaining a deeper understanding of the cultures and the unique social fabric of each destination. Traveling in Southeast Asia, you will discover that something as simple as taking a photograph can bring a smile to people's faces, transcend language barriers and create opportunities for authentic interaction with complete strangers. Partnering with local and international professional photographers, we uncover the hidden gems and identify photographic opportunities that capture the authenticity of the destinations.





VIETNAM



Destinations:

Hanoi – Hue – Hoi An – Ho Chi Minh City

Number of Days:

10

Contact us to plan your tailor-made itinerary



Vietnam Through the Lens

Vietnam's stunning landscapes along with its fascinating culture and friendly people make it one of the most attractive destinations for travel photography. From vibrant street scenes to quaint villages, you will have opportunity to get up-close and capture authentic images of the local way of life and people in their natural environment.





Street Life of Saigon

Beneath the surface of frenetic Saigon with more than ten million inhabitants, a more placid pace of life unfolds in its parks, markets, and narrow alleyways. Accompanied by a locally-based street photographer, explore the city by foot in the early morning and witness the city come to life. The “golden hour” offers the perfect opportunity to capture morning activities in the park, from practicing Tai Chi to playing badminton. Wander through a wet market and be spellbound by the colourful sights and sounds that clamour for your attention. You will learn how to approach people and capture your subjects in their natural environment. Conclude your exciting morning over a ‘ca phe sua da’ (ice coffee) while reviewing your photos with your photographer-guide.

Capturing the Real Hoi An

The countryside of Hoi An comes to life in the early hours before sunrise. The warm glow of the morning combined with the purposeful activities of farmers and fishermen make for ideal landscape and portrait photography. Join a locally-based international photographer as he takes you to his favourite spots, capturing colourful scenes of fishermen bringing in their catch and intimate portraits of Hoi An’s open, friendly people in their everyday environment. Benefit from strong relationships developed over time between photographer and the locals, enabling you to get up close to practise portrait photography while receiving tips on composition and up-close. Later in the morning, return to town for coffee where your photographer-guide will review and comment on the images you have captured.





Culinary

Southeast Asia has become world-renowned for its street food and incredible diversity of culinary influences, making it a foodie paradise for both those who love to eat and those with a culinary passion. Our connections to local cooks and chefs throughout the region mean their homes and kitchens are open to you. Enjoy a delicious a home-cooked meal while engaging in interesting conversations with your host or learn how to prepare specialty cuisine with the guidance of a local chef. You'll discover that delving into the cuisine is one of the most authentic ways of experiencing the local culture and connecting with its people.



VIETNAM



Destinations:

Ho Chi Minh City – Hoi An – Hue – Hanoi

Number of Days:

10

Contact us to plan your tailor-made itinerary



Culinary Capitals of Vietnam

Discover the diverse tastes and textures of Vietnam's regional cuisines visiting the three culinary capitals of the country. Explore quaint villages and wet markets for the behind-the-scenes look at where produce and meats are sourced as you select ingredients for cooking lessons with a local chef. From street food to fine dining, you will have the opportunity to experience the best of Vietnamese cuisine.



Morning Street Eats of Hanoi's Old Quarter

Morning in Hanoi is one of the best times to observe the local way of life where many traditional rituals remain largely unchanged. It is also an opportune time to explore local street eats and sample dishes that are only available each morning. Accompany a local food blogger who knows all the ins and outs of places to eat and their specialties on a walking street food exploration of the Old Quarter. Uncover reputable eateries that have been in business for decades, passing on family recipes from one generation to the next. Another must-experience morning tradition in Hanoi is enjoying a leisurely Vietnamese coffee on the sidewalk. Sitting on low plastic stools, you will be rubbing elbows with the regulars while people watching from an up-close vantage point, just like the locals.



The Revival of Salted Rice Royal Cuisine

Cuisine from the former imperial capital of Hue stands apart from other Vietnamese regional dishes for its complexity, depth of flavours and colourful presentation, fit to be served to kings and queens. Salted rice or “com muoi” is one of Hue’s treasured royal dishes, traditionally served on special occasions or for honoured guests. The meticulous process of preparing the dish involves roasting then grinding the refined rice before blending it with various salted spices and ingredients. Madame Nhu, a celebrated cook and researcher, is among a small number of chefs who have inherited the knowledge and skill to prepare this elaborate dish. Experience the unique Salted Rice in the home of Madame Nhu while learning about her efforts in preserving this prized recipe.

THAILAND



Destinations:

**Bangkok – Phuket – Chiang Rai –
Chiang Mai**

Number of Days:

13

Contact us to plan your tailor-made itinerary



Flavours of Thailand

Thai cuisine is one of the most popular Asian foods in the world, known for its aromatic and spicy dishes. In Bangkok, the culinary capital of Thailand, experience a diverse range of dining options from street food barbeques to gourmet cuisine in Michelin rated restaurants. Learn how to prepare Royal Thai Cuisine and traditional northern Thai dishes in a hands-on cooking class while also gaining insight into the history and culture.



Uncover the Secrets of Royal Thai Cuisine

Though Thai food is world-renowned, Royal Thai Cuisine remains enigmatic. “Chaowang” in Thai refers to cuisine of the royal court, which is prepared using the highest quality ingredients with lavish garnishing to showcase flavours both delicate and complex. Spend time at the Royal Exquisite Thai Culinary Centre in an interactive cooking class to gain a deeper understanding of the history and techniques involved in preparing royal Thai dishes. Because no meal of Royal Thai Cuisine is complete without a final serving of Luk Chup, meet with a royal descendent who is an award-winning culinary artisan of this traditional dessert. Enjoy a private hands-on lesson molding mung bean paste mixed with coconut milk into vegetable or fruit shapes while listening to her Royal Highness’ fascinating stories of life as a royal.



Cooking with a Traditional Lanna Family

The Lanna Kingdom flourished from the 13th to 18th centuries in what is now northern Thailand. Travel to the rural countryside of Chiang Mai for a traditional Lanna home cooking experience and discover why this region is called the “Kingdom of a Million Rice Fields”. Visit the traditional teakwood home of a Lanna family who settled in the area 150 years ago and take a personal tour of their home as they explain the architecture and history of the house. In the family orchard and organic garden, pick herbs and vegetables for a hands-on cooking class of traditional Lanna cuisine. Afterwards, enjoy the meal you helped prepare with the delightful company of your hosts while taking in panoramic views of the village from the terrace.

A wide-angle photograph of a tropical beach. In the foreground, the water is a deep, vibrant blue. A narrow, white sandbar stretches across the middle ground, separating the deep blue water from a shallower, lighter turquoise area. The background shows a dense line of green trees on a hillside under a clear sky.

Romance

Honeymoons and anniversaries deserve an exceptional celebration. These extraordinary experiences can range from romantic getaways on secluded islands in the Andaman Sea to a luxury safari in the Golden Triangle. With our insider knowledge and personal connections, we can arrange unique activities such as a chartered boat to a remote island or a private, catered candlelit dinner next to an ancient temple. These shared experiences of romance, adventure and learning help strengthen the bond and create meaningful memories that will last for a lifetime.





LAOS



Destinations:

Luang Prabang

Number of Days:

6

Contact us to plan your tailor-made itinerary



Magical Luang Prabang

Surrounded by beautiful vistas of mountains and rivers, the quaint town of Luang Prabang exudes an air of romance and serenity. Share a romantic adventure in the Huay Say Valley and complete your journey with a private sunset cruise on the Mekong.



Sunset Champagne Cruise on the Mekong

The placid Mekong River against the backdrop of forested mountains and glistening temples creates the setting for the ultimate romantic experience. Board a private, traditional long-tail boat for a gentle cruise on the Mekong at the most magical time of day. With comfortable seating and dedicated service staff on board, sit back, relax and take in the bucolic scenery bathed in the golden light of dusk. The boat anchors in the middle of the river for an uninterrupted view of the sun descending over the cascading mountains. With champagne glass in hand, embrace the stillness and spectacular scenery, knowing that this moment is one that will be remembered and treasured for years to come.



Trails to a Romantic Past

Step back in time and experience the romantic era of discovery as you retrace the steps of French explorers into the heart of northern Laos. Set next to the legendary Nam Khan River, your rustic tented camp with touches of luxury is your base for exploring the remote forests of the Huay Say Valley. During the day, embark on a soft adventure combining trekking and elephant riding through dense jungle and over rolling hills with stunning views of the dreamy landscape. After a traditional Lao picnic lunch next to a secluded waterfall, a private bamboo raft carries you down the gentle stream as you sit back and watch the scenery drift by. In the evening, enjoy a quiet, romantic barbeque dinner for two under a blanket of stars listening to the melodic soundtrack of nature.



MYANMAR



Destinations:

Yangon – Mergui Islands

Number of Days:

8

Contact us to plan your tailor-made itinerary



Escape to Paradise

Sail on a chartered boat to one of the 800 untouched islands in the Mergui Archipelago in Myanmar's remote south. A world away from modern life, this private sailing expedition takes you to secluded islands with powder white sand beaches and azure seas. Choose to relax or embark on a jungle trek and meet local inhabitants of the islands.



Sailing to Untouched Hideaways

Hundreds of kilometres away from civilisation lie more than 800 sparsely populated islands that make up the unspoiled Mergui Archipelago. This vast area remains one of the most untouched places in Southeast Asia, teeming with colourful sea life and pristine habitat. Set sail on a chartered yacht, your home for the week, as you explore the islands of the Andaman Sea. Your days are spent sailing the crystal clear aquamarine waters where the only care in the world is reeling in your next catch from the deep sea. Your only human encounters will be the indigenous Moken sea nomads who live most of the year on their boats. When feeling adventurous, explore one of several jungle-forested islands, home to rare plant and wildlife species or find yourself on a secluded island sipping champagne as you watch the sun dip below the horizon.



Romantic Retreat on the Royal Lake

Hidden in plain sight in Yangon's city centre is the romantic, secluded Royal Bungalow at the historic Kandawgyi Palace Hotel. Surrounded by the greenery of parks and the Royal Lake, this one-of-a-kind bungalow is built entirely of teak featuring traditional architectural elements and furnished with ornate, handcrafted Burmese pieces. Sit down to a candlelit dinner for two in the bungalow's private garden with a frontage view of the scenic lake. And just when you thought nothing could be better, you look up and see the magnificent golden Shwedagon Pagoda, glittering across the water. How easy it is to lose yourself in this magical moment where it feels like there are just the two of you in this city of 10 million.



Family

While adults may appreciate the cultural aspect of travel to Southeast Asia, for children it can also be an adventure and a true eye-opening experience. Our family-focused activities are designed to be fun and engaging. Combined with our philanthropic programs, families can visit schools to donate books where the children can also meet their peers. Family travel not only expands children's awareness by exposing them to a different culture and way of life, but can also enrich their life skills, teaching them to be more understanding and compassionate towards others.





VIETNAM



Destinations:

Hanoi – Ninh Binh – Hue – Danang – Hoi An – Ho Chi Minh City – Mekong Delta

Number of Days:

12

Contact us to plan your tailor-made itinerary



Cultural Exploration for Families

Vietnam's youthful population and fascinating culture make it an ideal destination for family travel, allowing for a wide range of cultural exploration and discoveries travelling from north to south. Hands-on activities such as being a farmer for a day or learning how to make traditional woodblock prints are designed to engage the entire family in a fun and cross-cultural experience.



Explore the World of Kong

Immerse yourself in the otherworldly surroundings of the largest wetland nature reserve in northern Vietnam, the location for the stunning backdrops seen in the blockbuster “Kong: Skull Island”. Just a 2-hour drive from Hanoi, the expansive 3,000-hectare nature reserve is home to hundreds of bird species. Explore the primitive and wild reserve from a small rowboat, which takes you through majestic scenery of verdant marshland set against spectacular soaring limestone karsts. Transfer from boat to bicycle for on-the-ground exploration of rural life in the idyllic countryside highlighted by scenes of farmers working their rice fields and buffalo carts transporting agricultural goods. En route, visit a local family for a home-hosted lunch with the opportunity to learn about their daily life activities and aspirations.



Creating Art from Bamboo Paper

“Truc Chi” (bamboo paper) is a recent innovation originating in the central Vietnamese city of Hue. Used in a variety of decorative pieces including lantern shades, conical hats, umbrellas, and fans, this finely textured paper is crafted from bamboo fibres, known for their resilience and wide availability throughout Vietnam. More impressively, artisans can deftly embed designs right into the paper as it is being made. Visit the Truc Chi art studio and be amazed by the creativity and ingenuity of the art pieces on display. Under the guidance of a local expert, individuals of all ages can participate in the enjoyable process of creating their own piece of Truc Chi art to take back as a souvenir of their memorable time in Hue.

CAMBODIA



Destinations:

Phnom Penh – Siem Reap

Number of Days:

11

Contact us to plan your tailor-made itinerary



Family Adventure in Cambodia

Steeped in history, a fascinating culture and home to Angkor Wat, the film location of the popular “Tomb Raider” movie, Cambodia offers a variety of immersive, fun and educational activities for the entire family. Gain a raw glimpse into the local life visiting villages and interacting with peers at their schools. Explore the untouched jungles and archeological ruins of Angkor, bringing out the adventurous spirit of young travellers.



Explore Life on Silk Island

Just minutes from bustling Phnom Penh lies Koh Dach, a pair of rural islands on the Mekong River collectively known as “Silk Island”. Spend the day with a local resident and her expat husband and explore the island, known for its home-based silk weaving industry. With a background in creative arts, Sopheap will take you to homes specialising in handicrafts and food production, and provide fascinating insights into their livelihoods. Learn how to make your own noodles from a woman who has spent her life dedicated to perfecting their texture and flavour. Before departing the island, visit the very school Sopheap attended as a child, and meet with the headmaster to deliver school supplies that are very much in need.



Learn to Juggle for a Cause

Travel to Battambang, home to Phare Ponleu Selpak, Cambodia’s best-known circus. Founded more than 25 years ago, Phare Ponleu Selpak has helped transform the lives of youths from disadvantaged backgrounds including poverty, neglect, and trafficking by teaching them to cope with trauma through the arts. Visit the centre to better understand how the “social circus” uses performing arts to empower at-risk youth and join a juggling workshop with some of these world-class performers. This engaging experience is not only entertaining for the kids but also educational, offering insight into the lives of the less-privileged children of Cambodia and how they have overcome their situations. Afterwards, join the audience and watch the riveting cirque performances by the inspiring youths you have just met.



A full-page photograph of a terraced rice field in Southeast Asia. In the foreground, two people wearing colorful headscarves and carrying large wooden baskets are seen from behind, standing in a field of tall yellow grass. The middle ground features a series of terraced rice fields that curve along the contours of a hillside, with some fields appearing golden and others green. The background shows more hills and mountains under a bright sky with some clouds.

Active

From virgin, tropical jungles to deep blue seas, Southeast Asia's diverse landscapes offer a myriad of possibilities for the active and nature enthusiasts. Activities such as hiking and biking combine the best of outdoor adventure with cultural exploration, affording opportunities to interact with local people. For those interested in wildlife, active travel can also be paired with safaris and bird watching in protected national parks. Many of our destinations border the coastline providing access to beautiful beaches and pristine seas, perfect for snorkeling and diving. From soft to extreme adventures, our team of experts can connect you to a myriad of possibilities the region has to offer.



VIETNAM - LAOS



Destinations:

Phong Nha – Luang Prabang

Number of Days:

8

Contact us to plan your tailor-made itinerary



Magnificent Caves & Jungle Trek

An exhilarating adventure combining caving and trekking in two spectacular destinations. Explore the spectacular Hang En Cave and camp overnight inside the cave amongst million-year-old fossils. The adventure continues to the scenic Nam Khan River Valley, outside Luang Prabang, for a trek deep into the jungles with stops in several remote ethnic minority villages.



A Magical Cave and Camping Adventure

Experience one of the most sought-after adventures in the world! The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park is home to the world's largest cave network and contains the oldest karst mountains in Asia dating back approximately 300 million years. This trekking adventure takes you through pristine jungle against a spectacular backdrop of majestic, craggy karsts. Enter Hang En Cave, the third largest cave in the world, truly stunning for its sheer size and fantastical grotto formations. Settle into your tent on the cave floor where you will spend the evening enjoying a meal next to a bonfire while taking in the picturesque views and imagining what life was like millions of years ago.



A Jungle Trek in the Nam Khan River Valley

The Nam Khan River weaves through some of the most picturesque, unspoiled landscapes of northern Laos. Embark on a scenic boat ride to the trailhead where your trekking adventure begins, following the footpaths of local villagers and traversing through rice paddies and terraced slopes. At a Khmu village nestled on the foothills of a steep mountain, spend time with the villagers learning about their traditional beliefs in spirits and animism and how these beliefs manifest in the layout of their village and arrangement of their homes. Trek deeper into the jungle in more challenging terrain and be rewarded with spectacular views of karst limestone mountains on your way to Tad Sae Waterfall, famous for its vibrant turquoise cascades.



Wellness

Steeped in spirituality and healing traditions combined with exotic locations ranging from virgin rainforests to picturesque beaches, it is no wonder that Southeast Asia has emerged as a popular destination for travellers seeking relaxation and rejuvenation. Our extensive network of luxury destination spas and wellness-centric resorts enables us to customise programmes towards individual and group requirements, whether it is a yoga retreat or personalised wellness immersion. Wellness travel is ideal for travellers seeking to focus on their well-being while also discovering the local cultures of the destination.





VIETNAM



Destinations:

**Ho Chi Minh City – Phu Quoc – Hoi An
– Hanoi**

Number of Days:

9

Contact us to plan your tailor-made itinerary



Luxury Spas of Vietnam

The ultimate pampering spa experience featuring Vietnam's most prestigious luxury hotel and resort spas, handpicked for their unique treatment offerings, exceptional service, comprehensive facility, and stunning design. The spa journeys are supplemented with organised cultural activities and sightseeing in individual destinations for a holistic travel experience.



Pampering in Wonderland

Escape to one of Vietnam's finest luxury spas at JW Marriott Emerald Bay Phu Quoc. Designed by famed American architect Bill Bensley, the "Alice in Wonderland"-inspired Spa Chanterelle makes for a truly fanciful, one-of-a-kind spa experience. While the spa's fabulously whimsical interior design will take you on a fairy tale journey, the spa treatments will elevate your senses to a new level. Select from the four spa experiences of Calm, Indulge, Invigorate or Renew, designed to fulfill the desired results. For a truly luxurious experience, book the VIP suite, a spacious private sanctuary complete with designer stone bath, sauna, steam, and rain shower.

Sounds of Healing

The Heart of the Earth Spa by Four Seasons in Hoi An is the only spa in Vietnam to offer crystal, sound vibrational healing. Begin your journey to wellness with crystal singing bowls designed to help ease you into a state of relaxation and openness to receive the healing therapies. The exclusive Sound & Breath Experiences feature a synchronised set of eight quartz crystal alchemy bowls with powerful vibrations that can alter the energy flow. Inspired by Thich Nhat Hanh, Vietnam's most renowned Zen master, the treatments are grouped into the three well-being virtues of Stability, Creativity and Non-Judgement and are conducted in a stunning private Spa Suite Villa, overlooking the tranquil lotus pond.

THAILAND



Destinations:

Phuket

Number of Days:

7

Contact us to plan your tailor-made itinerary



Wellness Immersion

Escape to a secluded hideaway on the peninsula of Phuket overlooking the turquoise waters of the Andaman Sea for an immersive wellness experience. Your entire stay at the luxurious Amanpuri, the Aman brand's flagship property, is dedicated to your well-being with a customised daily programme designed to achieve the desired outcome amongst a tranquil environment ideal for relaxation and rejuvenation.



Healing Traditions of Thailand

Predominately influenced by the teachings of Buddhism, Thailand's healing traditions, such as the Thai massage and herbal poultice have proven so effective in reducing pain and stress that they have been adopted in spas around the world. In Thailand, these therapies are considered part of daily life to the extent that natural practices including yoga massage, meditation and herbal medicine are seamlessly integrated into the local lifestyle in the pursuit of good health. When combined with tranquil natural landscapes of stunning beaches and forested mountains, this direct access to traditional healing makes Thailand a popular choice for a wellness holiday.

Personalised Wellness

Your well-being is as personal as it gets. Understanding that there is not a one-size-fits-all approach to wellness, Aman's 'Individual Wellness Immersion' experience are tailored to each guest's desired outcome based on an in-depth assessment and consultation. The programmes range from three to 14 days with four specific areas of focus: Fitness, Weight Loss, Cleanse, and Awareness. Together with a team of specialists and holistic practitioners, a daily bespoke programme is designed to your specific requirements and includes movement exercises, spa treatments, healing therapies, and nutritious meals. Combining the wellness immersion experience with cultural sightseeing in the destination makes for the ideal escape for both mind and body.

Philanthropy

Visiting Southeast Asia can be a life-changing experience. Travellers are not only learning and experiencing a culture entirely different from their own, but are also exposed to a way of life that is often highlighted by poverty and economic disparity. These experiences often lead travelers to question what they can do to make a difference in the lives of the people they meet during their journey. Trails of Indochina has established a number of community-based philanthropic experiences allowing our guests to directly give back to the local people. A simple act, such as donating a sampan boat or books, can help create a sustainable future allowing those in need to feed their family and educate their children. Guests may add any of these philanthropic activities to their itinerary.







MYANMAR

Homes for Tomorrow

Beyond the tourist attractions of Inle Lake, the reality is that over half the local population in this region lives below the poverty line of less than USD 1 a day. Additional challenges come in the form of frequent heavy rains and flooding that cause severe damage to houses traditionally constructed of natural materials. Children are most affected by displacement, requiring them to drop out of school and become labourers to help their family fix their homes, thereby contributing to the continuing cycle of poverty. Helping to build a home for displaced families not only provides them with a safe, clean living environment, but also allows the family and their children to rebuild their lives in a sustainable manner.



VIETNAM

A Sampan for a Better Life

Riverboats and sampans are the main means of transport in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam's largest rice farming area. The traditional sampan is used for transporting goods to and from market (both floating and land-based), ferrying children to school, and even as floating shops. As a result, families who cannot afford a sampan can find themselves cut off from everyday life. Trails of Indochina identifies a family in need then facilitates a face-to-face meeting with the traveller. The highlight is an intimate ceremony where the traveller personally delivers the sampan to the family, witnessed by villagers and local authorities. The event is emotional for everyone involved ; the grateful family for a truly life-changing gift and the traveller rewarded with the knowledge that a single, meaningful gesture will provide an entire family with a sustainable livelihood for years to come.



LAOS

Supporting Literacy in Rural Communities

Present-day landlocked Laos is still very much a rural community plagued with low literacy rates. Trails of Indochina partners with a local community-based organisation to arrange trips for guests to donate and deliver books to children in impoverished rural villages outside of Luang Prabang. Board the Book Boat, a traditional long-tail boat that has been converted to a travelling library stocked with school supplies and more than a thousand books. Travel with the organiser along the Mekong River, making stops at several remote villages. When docked, children go on board in groups to choose books, then sit next to the river and read. It is an eye-opening experience to see how a simple gesture can have an immediate, positive impact on children in poor rural communities.



CAMBODIA

Creating Access to Clean Water

Although Cambodia is home to the largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia, provinces like Battambang have limited access to safe water and sanitation. In the dry season when water is limited, villagers walk as far as two kilometres to reach streams to bathe or wash their clothes. Trails of Indochina supports this need through our Waterpump Donation Program. After identifying a village in need, our local staff organises the groundwork construction for a waterpump. Guests are then invited to the village in time to join the community in witnessing the final pouring of cement to secure the pump. Through this meaningful act, guests can see the far-reaching benefits of their generosity, particularly in impoverished areas.

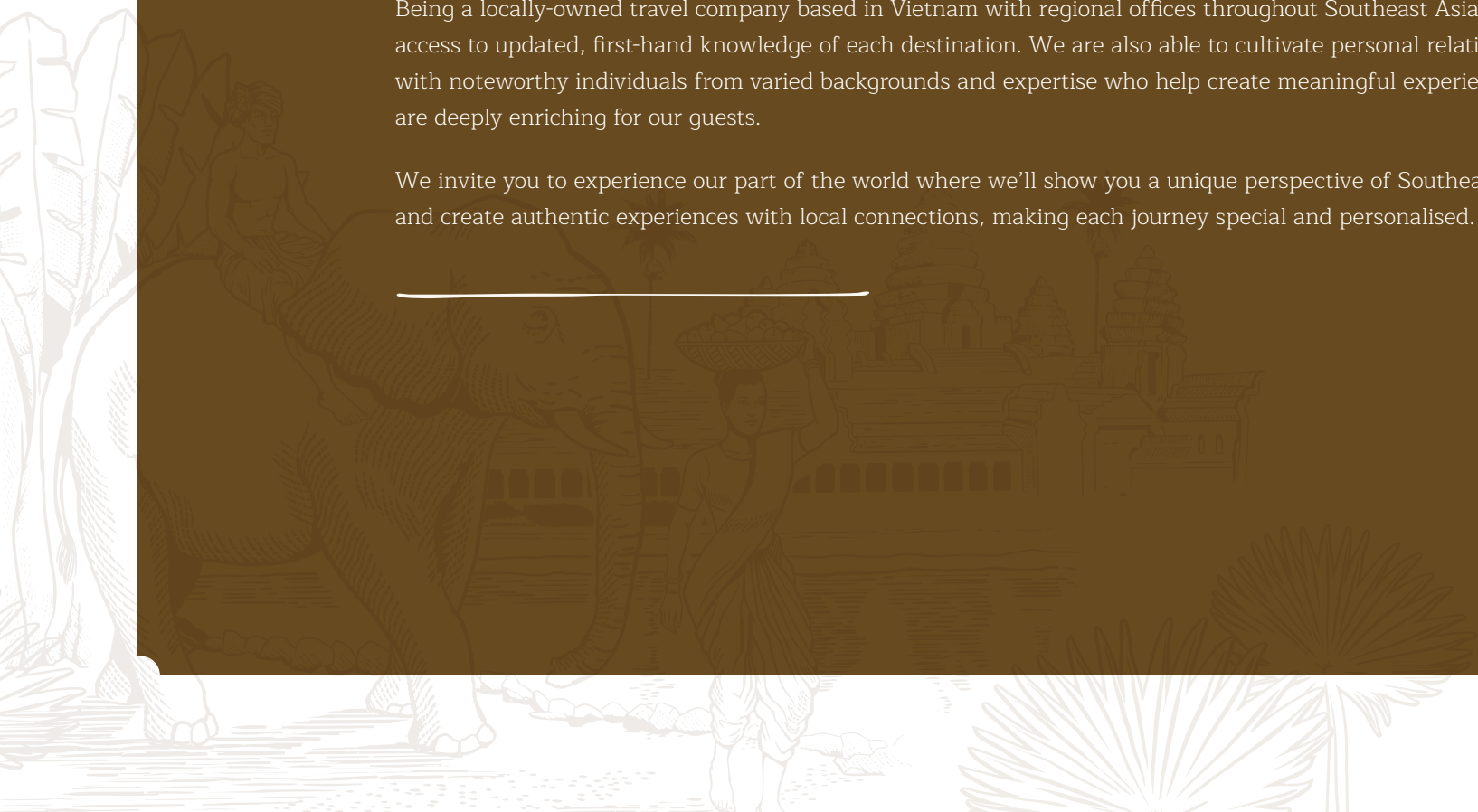


TRAILS OF INDOCHINA

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

Being a locally-owned travel company based in Vietnam with regional offices throughout Southeast Asia allows us access to updated, first-hand knowledge of each destination. We are also able to cultivate personal relationships with noteworthy individuals from varied backgrounds and expertise who help create meaningful experiences that are deeply enriching for our guests.

We invite you to experience our part of the world where we'll show you a unique perspective of Southeast Asia and create authentic experiences with local connections, making each journey special and personalised.







*"A mind that is stretched by a new experience
can never go back to its old dimensions"*

Oliver Wendell Holmes



TRAILS OF INDOCHINA

*Artisans of bespoke journeys to
Southeast Asia & beyond*