



Hoi An old town from the water

Occupational Therapy in Vietnam

2 – 13 May 2027

With extension to Angkor Wat, Cambodia

2 – 16 May 2027



Level 3
MODERATE





Hue Citadel

Discover one of Asia's most captivating countries through the prism of occupational therapy. This immersive study tour takes you inside Vietnam's hospitals and clinics for meetings with local therapists, offering on-the-ground insight into occupational therapy. Between professional visits, an equally rich cultural itinerary unfolds, providing ample room to experience the beauty, history, and living culture of Vietnam.

Begin in the elegant capital Hanoi, then sail overnight through the towering limestone karsts of Halong Bay. Travel on to the ancient imperial city of Hue, follow the coast to the lantern-lit streets of Hoi An, and finish in the fast-paced energy of Ho Chi Minh City. For those wanting to extend the journey, join an optional extension to the temples of Angkor Wat in Cambodia after the tour.

Jon Baines Tours has been running healthcare study tours to Vietnam and Cambodia for

two decades. These remain two of our most loved destinations, thanks to warmly welcoming healthcare professionals, rich history around every corner, and food that alone is worth the trip.

A profession in the making

Formal OT training in Vietnam began only in 2015. Since then, OT has grown quickly, with new training programmes, hospital units, and recent recognition from the WFOT. This is a fascinating time to explore a young profession still finding its shape.

THIS TOUR IS CLASSED AS:

Level 3 | Moderate



Regular walking at destinations, extended standing and /or increased travel distances. Good fitness is required.

Tour Leader

Marilyn Pattison AO is the founder and General Manager of MPOT/Access Fitness, a leading provider of adult community rehabilitation services in South Australia; the General Manager of Talking Matters, a leading provider of paediatric services in South Australia; the General Manager Allied Health Torrens Health, a major provider of health services nationally, Executive Chair of Autism SA, an (Adjunct) Associate Professor at Flinders University and a past president of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT).

Marilyn has been involved with the state and national Australian Occupational Therapy associations and worldwide with WFOT, including liaising with the World Health Organisation. She is recognised as an international expert in workplace health, rehabilitation and entrepreneurship and is regularly invited as a guest speaker internationally.

Marilyn has been awarded the OT Australia National Award for her contribution to her professional association, the Sylvia Docker Lectureship for her contribution to the



profession and she is also an Honorary Life Member of OT Australia. Internationally, Marilyn has been made an Honorary Member of the Swedish Occupational Therapy Association and the Moroccan Association of Occupational Therapy, and an Honorary Fellow of WFOT, the highest international honour an occupational therapist can receive.

In 2023 Marilyn was awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for her contribution to the profession.

Cruise through Halong Bay



3 nights Hanoi – 1 night cruise, Halong Bay - 2 nights Hue – 3 nights Hoi An
– 2 nights Ho Chi Minh City – **Extension** 3 nights Siem Reap



Day 1: Hanoi (Sun, 2 May) **D**

Am/Pm: Arrive and transfer to the **Silk Path Hotel**.

Eve: Local dinner.

Day 2: Hanoi (Mon, 3 May) **B D**

Am: Visit Hoan Kiem Lake, Ngoc Son Temple and the Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first university.

Pm: Walk through Hanoi's '36 Streets,' where each street is named after the produce sold there and visit a street of traditional medicine. Take a cyclo tour of the Old Quarter to catch a glimpse of ancient Hanoi.

Eve: Welcome dinner.

Day 3: Hanoi (Tues, 4 May) **B L**

Am: Visit Bach Mai Hospital's Rehabilitation Centre, Vietnam's top national referral centre for rehabilitation – and its largest – and meet its multidisciplinary OT team at work shaping the profession's growth.

Pm: Have lunch at KOTO, an Australian Vietnamese charity that trains disadvantaged youth in hospitality skills. Free time to wander Hanoi's atmospheric streets, linger in cafes, and browse its shops.

Day 4: Hanoi / Halong Bay (Wed, 5 May) **B L D**

Am: Set off early for Halong Bay, where thousands of steep-sided islands tower above the emerald waters.

Pm: Board the elegant **Indochine Lan Ha** in time for lunch. Cruise through beautiful Halong Bay – relax on deck, visit islands, kayak or enjoy the scenery from your cabin balcony.

Day 5: Halong Bay / Hue (Thurs, 6 May) **Brunch**

Am: Disembark and visit Legend Pearl, one of the most famous centres for cultivating and processing saltwater pearls in Halong Bay.

Pm: Professional visit to Quang Ninh Geriatric and Rehabilitation Hospital, a respected facility focusing on elderly care and rehabilitation. Transfer to the airport to fly to Hue.

Eve: Check in to the Silk Path Hotel.

Day 6: Hue (Fri, 7 May) **B L**

Am: Visit the dramatic Royal Tu Duc Tomb.

Pm: Explore mighty Hue Citadel, which was home to the nation's last royal family and still bears battle scars from defending the Imperial City. Continue to the innovative Quang Hop Integrative Medicine Clinic and learn of their work using acupuncture.

Day 7: Hue / Hoi An (Sat, 8 May) **B D**

Am: Take one of the world's great railway journeys along the South China Sea to Hoi An (bags transferred by coach).

Pm: Arrive and check in to **La Siesta Resort**.

Day 8: Hoi An (Sun, 9 May)

B L

Am: Hoi An was once a thriving port popular with European, Chinese and Japanese merchants. It is an excellent place to have a local tailor run up a bespoke outfit or shop in the silk market. Take a walking tour of its atmospheric old quarter.

Pm: Take a boat across Thu Bon River and visit a family-run vegetable and herb farm in Kim Bong. Enjoy lunch made with fresh home-grown ingredients and relax with a foot massage.

Day 9: Hoi An (Mon, 10 May)

B D

Am: Drive to visit Da Nang Psychiatric Hospital and learn about mental health rehabilitation in Vietnam.

Pm: At leisure before a local dinner.

Day 10: Hoi An / Ho Chi Minh City (Tues, 11 May)

B D

Am: Fly to cosmopolitan Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) and check in to **Liberty Central Riverside**.

Pm: Visit the Children's Rehabilitation Centre and learn about paediatric rehabilitation.

Eve: Finish the day with drinks at the Rex Hotel's rooftop bar — site of the Vietnam War's famous "Five O'Clock Follies" press briefings. Enjoy dinner with local occupational therapists from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City (UMP HCMC).

Day 11: Ho Chi Minh City (Wed, 12 May)

B D

Am: Guided tour of Ben Thanh food market. Visit UMP HCMC's Rehabilitation Department, a leading OT and speech therapy training centre, to meet faculty and clinical staff and see rehabilitation education in action.

Pm: Visit the French era Notre Dame Cathedral and Reunification Palace.

Eve: Farewell dinner.

Day 12: Ho Chi Minh City (Thurs, 13 May)

B

Am: Depart or take extension (next section).

Extension: 13 – 16 May 2026

Day 12: Ho Chi Minh City

B D

/ **Siem Reap** (Thurs, 13 May)

Am: Fly to Siem Reap in Cambodia and check in to **Hotel Lotus Blanc**.

Pm: Dinner at the Foreign Correspondents Club.

Day 13: Siem Reap (Fri, 14 May)

B L

Am: Start early to visit atmospheric Bayon Temple and Ta Prohm, still entwined with centuries-old tree roots. Continue to Angkor Wat, part of the Khmer city of Angkor (802-1220 AD) — at its peak likely the largest city in the world, home to over a million people.

Pm: At leisure.

Day 14: Siem Reap (Sat, 15 May)

B D

Am: Visit the Land Mine Museum and learn about their important work.

Pm: At leisure.

Eve: Farewell dinner.

Day 15: Siem Reap (Sun, 16 May)

B

Am: Depart hotel after breakfast.

NB: All itineraries are subject to change according to local conditions.



A market in Ho Chi Minh City



The deck of Indochine Lan Ha, Halong Bay

Hotels

Silk Path Hotel – Hanoi

A comfortable, modern four-star hotel in the heart of Hanoi, just steps from the historic 36 Streets. Its central location makes it easy to stroll through the old quarter, taking in the city's markets, temples, and street life at your own pace.

Indochine Lan Ha – Halong Bay

An upmarket cruise ship offering Junior Suite cabins, each with a private balcony overlooking Halong Bay. The overnight cruise includes all meals, along with a spa and a spacious sundeck from where you can relax while drifting by stunning limestone karsts.

Silk Path Grand Hue Hotel – Hue

Set on the banks of the An Cuu River in the former royal capital, this elegant 5-star hotel blends European architecture with Imperial-style décor, echoing Hue's royal history. Every room has wonderful city views. Facilities include a gym, garden swimming pool, and the Chi Spa.

La Siesta Hoi An – Hoi An

A luxury boutique resort set in tropical gardens, La Siesta is known for excellent service and relaxed pace. Facilities include four pools, an award-winning spa, and Vietnamese and French restaurants.

Liberty Central Riverside – Ho Chi Minh City

A chic city centre hotel in Ho Chi Minh City overlooking the Saigon River. Facilities include a spa and bistro, while the rooftop pool area offers one of the city's best spots for evening cocktails with sweeping river views.

Lotus Blanc Hotel – Siem Reap (extension)

A stylish, relaxing hotel in Siem Reap offering excellent food, an attractive pool, and a spa. With several restaurants and bars on-site, it's a comfortable base for unwinding after days spent exploring the temples of Angkor.



Spectacular Angkor Wat, Cambodia (extension) (top);
Your junk sailing on Halong Bay; Everyday street life;
Ta Prohm, Siem Reap (extension) (above)

The cost of the tour sharing a room is US \$3,426 per person (excluding international flights and transfers)

The cost of the tour with a room to yourself is US \$4,118

The cost includes:

- The services of an expert tour leader (Marilyn Pattison)
- 11 nights' accommodation in twin-bedded rooms with private facilities in medium grade and first-class hotels
- One night's accommodation in twin-bedded rooms with private facilities and private balcony on the Halong Bay cruise ship, Indochine Lan Ha
- Breakfast and lunch or dinner daily (all meals on the cruise) with water
- All admission fees and tips
- Services of English-speaking national guides in Vietnam
- Mineral water daily
- All transport services and taxes in Vietnam
- Internal flights and taxes

The cost excludes

- International flights
- Airport transfers
- Meals not mentioned and drinks with meals
- All optional excursions, tours and visits
- Travel insurance and visa

The cost of the Cambodia extension sharing a room is US \$860 per person

The cost of the extension with a room to yourself is US \$998

The cost of the extension includes: transfers to HCMC Airport and from Siem Reap Airport / International flight to Cambodia / 3 nights' accommodation at a first-class hotel / Breakfast and lunch or dinner daily / Cambodian guide throughout / All transport on the tour / Admission fees and taxes

The cost excludes: Visa on arrival (USD \$30 in cash) / Meals not mentioned / Drinks with meals / Departure flight and airport transfer

Places on this tour are strictly limited.

About Us

To travel with us is to dig below the surface, revealing the deeper destination. Of course, you will visit the great historical sites; marvel at the wonders of architecture and engineering; be moved by the riches of culture and art; and experience the most spectacular landscapes in the world. We also ensure that you see the country as it is today, giving you privileged access that independent travel and other tour companies rarely get close to.

From the sublime to the humble, we provide a variety of experiences in the company of intelligent, curious, like-minded people. And while we can be worthy, we also make sure that you have a lot of fun!

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ATOL

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Take the train from Hue to Hoi An (top); The streets of Hoi An; The Japanese Bridge, Hoi An; Cycling back from market, Saigon (above)



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TOURS**

