Cruise Details

Name:	Grand Tour of Indochina
Reference:	EMERALDEWUL170327-1
Operator:	Emerald Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Emerald Harmony
Regions:	Mekong
Departs On:	17 Mar 27
Departs From:	Hanoi
Arrives On:	09 Apr 27
Arrives At:	Luang Prabang
Cruise Nights:	23
Total Vacation Days:	24

Itinerary

Day 1: Hanoi (Vietnam)

Xin Chao and welcome to Hanoi. On arrival, you'll be transferred to downtown Hanoi and your hotel for your included one-night stay. Relax at the hotel, explore the city, or wander Hanoi's romantic West Lake. This evening, meet your tour director for your welcome briefing.

Arrives On: 17 Mar 27

Day 2: Hanoi (Vietnam)

This morning after breakfast, leave Hanoi and travel to Halong Bay where you will board your elegant Au Co cruise ship. Cruise through the bays and islets enjoying the stunning scenery of this magnificent region. Enjoy the tours offered on board, learn more about the main livelihood of the locals in the area or simply choose to relax. Towards the end of the day, the ship anchors for the night in the Trinh Nu area among the karst formations where dinner will be served on board. Included Excursion
A two-night Halong Bay

cruise on the elegant Au Co cruise ship

Arrives On: 18 Mar 27

Day 2: Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 18 Mar 27

Day 3: Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)

Today, continue sailing further into the region’s more untouched areas towards Lan Ha Bay. From a smaller boat, enjoy swimming on quiet beaches and kayaking in Ho Ba Ham Lake. Then visit Cua Van fishing village by rowing boat. After a full day’s exploration, you’ll return to your cruise ship and after dinner, try your hand at squid fishing.

Arrives On: 19 Mar 27

Day 4: Ha Long Bay (Vietnam)

Enjoy the sunrise and breakfast. Then cruise through breathtaking rock formations and visit Sung Sot Cave, before arriving back at port for your transfer to Hanoi. On arrival back in Hanoi, you will explore the Temple of Literature, Vietnam’s first university established to educate Vietnam’s royalty, mandarins and members of the elite. The university functioned for an incredible 700 years, and its charming gardens and well-preserved architecture offer a fascinating glimpse into the nation’s storied past. Later you’ll visit the historic Old Quarter, also known as the ‘36 Streets’. This atmospheric and bustling area of ancient narrow streets and alleys is home to literally thousands of small businesses as well as revered temples and traditional ‘tube houses.’ The Old Quarter is a fascinating place to explore, with plenty of photo opportunities at every turn. You can also visit the local-style Hang Be Market. Then enjoy a stroll around the legendary Hoan Kiem Lake, located nearby in the heart of Hanoi. Here, you can walk across the iconic Red Bridge to ancient Ngoc Son Temple located on Jade Islet within the lake.

This evening enjoy a traditional water puppet show, a unique North Vietnamese art form depicting scenes from rural life and episodes of historical significance. As part of EmeraldPLUS, you'll enjoy dinner at KOTO (Know One Teach One), a unique restaurant set up to train and educate disadvantaged children. EmeraldPLUS
Dinner at KOTO Restaurant Included Excursion
Visit Hanoi’s Old Quarter Included Excursion
A traditional water puppet show

Arrives On: 20 Mar 27

Day 4: Hanoi (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 20 Mar 27

Day 5: Hanoi (Vietnam)

Begin your morning city tour and learn about ‘Uncle Ho’, Ho Chi Minh, regarded as the father of modern Vietnam. Admire the exterior of his imposing mausoleum, before continuing to the Ho Chi Minh Quarter to glimpse his humble stilt house and the small but iconic One Pillar Pagoda. Depart Hanoi and transfer to the airport for your included flight to Da Nang (Hoi An). Upon arrival in Hoi An, transfer to your resort for your included three-night stay. Tonight you can join a DiscoverMORE excursion. DiscoverMORE
Hoi An Memories Show (extra expense) Included Excursion
Hanoi City Tour

Arrives On: 21 Mar 27

Day 5: Hoi An (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 21 Mar 27

Day 6: Hoi An (Vietnam)

Today, start with our EmeraldPLUS visit to the Reaching Out Project. Reaching Out is an NGO (non-governmental organisation) established in 2000, which provides opportunities for people with disabilities to learn skills and gain meaningful employment. Visit the workshop and get a glimpse of how this NGO helps them to integrate fully with their communities and lead independent and fulfilling lives. After, enjoy a walking tour of Hoi An and see the old merchant’s houses, the Japanese Covered Bridge and the Assembly Hall of the Chinese Congregation. Tonight, after a dinner menu sampling the local style street food, the evening is yours free to wander the historical lantern lit streets and their many shops or bars. EmeraldPLUS
Reaching Out Project Included Excursion
A walking tour of Hoi An

Arrives On: 22 Mar 27

Day 7: Hoi An (Vietnam)

Enjoy a day of leisure to explore Hoi An and its surroundings. Perhaps take the time to explore the Old Town and visit one of the many tailors Hoi An is known for, or take a cyclo (bicycle style rickshaw) to An Bang Beach. Alternatively venture out on one of our DiscoverMORE excursions. The choice is yours. DiscoverMORE
My Son Historic Kingdom Tour (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Hoi An Rural Life (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Thu Bon River Sunset Cruise (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Red Bridge Cooking Class (extra expense)

Arrives On: 23 Mar 27

Day 8: Hoi An (Vietnam)

Leave Hoi An for Hue, the former imperial capital of Vietnam. You will drive through Danang before crossing the Hai Vân Pass, known as the Ocean Clouds Pass before dropping down to the wonderfully photogenic fishing village of Lang Co. In Hue, you will visit the Imperial Citadel where the Nguyen Dynasty ruled between 1802 and 1945. Enjoy a relaxing cyclo (bicycle-style rickshaw) ride from Dai Noi 'Old City' to Tinh Tam Lake where the Emperors where the emperors used to go to relax. Then later, join a boat trip to visit Thien Mu Pagoda before checking into your hotel for the night. This evening, for your EmeraldPLUS experience, savour a traditional Vietnamese royal dinner menu. Included Excursion
Cyclo ride from Dai Noi 'Old City' to Tinh Tam Lake Included Excursion
A visit to the Imperial Citadel Included Excursion
A boat tour on the Perfume River to Thien Mu Pagoda EmeraldPLUS
A traditional Vietnamese royal dinner at a local restaurant

Arrives On: 24 Mar 27

Day 8: Hue (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 24 Mar 27

Day 9: Hue (Vietnam)

Today, transfer to Hue airport for your flight to Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known as Saigon. After checking into your hotel, you will be free to explore the city.

Arrives On: 25 Mar 27

Day 9: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 25 Mar 27

Day 10: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

Drive away from Ho Chi Minh City to Cu Chi Tunnels, watching the city skyline fade into the distance as the road winds through rice paddies, villages and scenes typical to southern Vietnam. Spend a couple of hours walking around Cu Chi's rugged grounds with a local guide. Upon your return to Ho Chi Minh City, enjoy a Pho (noodle soup) lunch with the remainder of the afternoon

and evening yours to enjoy at leisure or venture out on one of our DiscoverMORE excursions. Included Excursion
Cu Chi Tunnels DiscoverMORE
An evening Saigon Street Food walking tour (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Saigon After Dark by Vintage Jeep (extra expense)

Arrives On: 26 Mar 27

Day 11: Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam)

After checkout, enjoy a guided city tour, visiting the Notre Dame Cathedral, Opera House and Town Hall. Then, visit the Reunification Palace before transferring to the port where you will board your Emerald Cruises Star-Ship, Emerald Harmony. You'll be welcomed on board by your captain and crew before setting sail down the Saigon River to Cho Gao canal where you will anchor for the night. This evening, enjoy your first dinner on board with your fellow travellers. Your Cruise Director will conduct a port talk to review the activities and itinerary for the days ahead. Included Excursion
An orientation tour of Ho Chi Minh City

Arrives On: 27 Mar 27

Day 11: Port information not found

Arrives On: 27 Mar 27

Day 12: Ben Tre (Vietnam)

This morning, you'll cruise through the bustling Cho Gao canal, one of the major arterial canals of Vietnam connecting Tien Giang Province in the Mekong Delta with Ho Chi Minh City. You'll be fascinated watching the heavy commercial traffic navigate this important waterway, where upwards of 1,800 vessels transit each day. Once on the Mekong River, this afternoon you'll visit the Tan My Floating community followed by a ride through local plantations to visit a mushroom farm, a fruit farm with sampling and a honey farm with local sweets. Later, you'll sail onwards to Sa Đéc, a Mekong Delta hidden gem. Included Excursion
Visit the Thoi Binh hamlet and its farming and fishing communities, untouched by tourism

Arrives On: 28 Mar 27

Day 13: Sa Déc (Vietnam)

After a short sampan ride to Sa Đéc, enjoy a walking tour with a visit to the home of Mr. Huynh Thuy Le, who inspired Marguerite Duras' celebrated novel, L'Amant, and the town's bustling

central market. Return to Emerald Harmony by sampan, then sail on to My An Hung Island. Recognised as a cultural and historical destination, this small rural village specialises in cultivating red-hot chilli and peppers. As part of your EmeraldPLUS experience, listen to local folk singing during your visit. EmeraldPLUS
Listen to some local folk singing in My An Hung Included Excursion
A visit to the home of Mr. Huynh Thuy Le and the bustling Sa Dec Markets Included Excursion
A visit to My An Hung village

Arrives On: 29 Mar 27

Day 13: My An Hung (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 29 Mar 27

Day 14: Giêng Island (Vietnam)

Known as ‘Mango Island,’ Cu Lao Gieng is a small, scenic island untouched by tourism, located along the upper Mekong River. Travel by local motorcycle rickshaw through the island’s villages to visit families who work in a variety of local industries including Mango farming, different types of boat building and a factory making incense sticks for temples. The afternoon is yours to enjoy at leisure on board. As part of our EmeraldPLUS experience, you’ll delight in a traditional Lion Dance performance on board. EmeraldPLUS
A Lion Dance performance on board Included Excursion
See the local industries in Gieng Island

Arrives On: 30 Mar 27

Day 14: Long An (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 30 Mar 27

Day 15: Tân Châu (Vietnam)

Embark on a sampan ride to Evergreen Island for a walk through a local village, giving you a glimpse into the lives of the local farming community. Reboard your sampan and return to Tan Chau and as part of our EmeraldPLUS experience, visit the local Cao Dai Temple. Cao Dai is a syncretic, monotheistic religion established in Tây Ninh, southern Vietnam, in 1926. At the temple, learn more about this fascinating and complex religion. Afterwards, ride in a Xe Loi (local form of cyclo) back to your sampan before returning to Emerald Harmony. Back on board your Star-Ship, you’ll sail to the border between Vietnam and

Cambodia. EmeraldPLUS
A visit to a local Cao Dai Temple and Xe Loi ride, unique to the Mekong Delta Included Excursion
A visit to Evergreen Island

Arrives On: 31 Mar 27

Day 15: Port information not found

Arrives On: 31 Mar 27

Day 16: Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

This morning, you'll awake in Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh. Known as the 'Pearl of Asia,' the city was almost entirely evacuated by the Khmer Rouge in 1975. Today, you'll learn about the Khmer Rouge and the darkest days of Cambodia's history. A short drive will take you to the Killing Fields at Choeung Ek, where you'll have the opportunity to stroll through the fields, visit the memorial and understand more about this country's sombre chapter. Afterwards, visit Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum (also known as 'S-21'), a former school converted to the Khmer Rouge's main prison and torture HQ. Spend the afternoon as you please, either exploring our DiscoverMORE excursions, visiting the Central Market located in the heart of Phnom Penh, or simply relaxing on board Emerald Harmony. This evening, as part of your EmeraldPLUS experience, enjoy a remork (local Tuk-Tuk) tour through Phnom Penh to admire the city lights. EmeraldPLUS
Phnom Penh by night on a remork (Tuk-Tuk) tour Included Excursion
Killing Fields at Choeung Ek and Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum DiscoverMORE
A silk farm tour at Koh Oknha Tei (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Craft Beer Adventure by remork (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Samai Distillery (extra expense)

Arrives On: 01 Apr 27

Day 17: Phnom Penh (Cambodia)

Located north of Phnom Penh, Oudong was the former royal capital of Cambodia until it relocated to Phnom Penh in 1866. Start your day with a visit to the Oudong Monastery and Temples. Important remnants here include the burial sites of Khmer kings as well as religious artefacts dating back more than a century. In Oudong Monastery's main temple, receive a traditional Buddhist blessing from the resident monks, as part of your EmeraldPLUS experience. In the afternoon, you'll visit the majestic Royal Palace, with its French-inspired gardens and Silver Pagoda. Back on board, as part of your EmeraldPLUS experience, enjoy a cultural performance by the Cambodian Student and Children's Organisation. Afterwards set sail, gliding past the

illuminated Phnom Penh at night, to Rokar Koang, a small town located further up along the up the Mekong River. EmeraldPLUS
A traditional Buddhist Monk blessing EmeraldPLUS
Cultural Performance by the Cambodian Student and Children’s Organisation Included Excursion
A visit to the Royal Palace

Arrives On: 02 Apr 27

Day 17: Oudong (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 02 Apr 27

Day 17: Rokar Koang (Vietnam)

Arrives On: 02 Apr 27

Day 18: Rokar Koang (Vietnam)

Disembark Emerald Harmony in the morning, then continue your journey by road to Siem Reap for your included two-night stay. Upon arrival in this lively northern city, check into the beautiful Shinta Mani Hotel, a deluxe boutique property of world-class design, which takes great care in honouring the environment and paying homage to the traditional and local aesthetics.

This evening, for your EmeraldPLUS experience, you’re invited to Phare, The Cambodian Circus, where a combination of acrobatics, music and dance tell a uniquely Cambodian story. For Dinner try a special Emerald DiscoverMORE option either while attending the circus, to further support Phare’s work or try Cambodian Street Food Discovery Tour beforehand. EmeraldPLUS
Phare Cambodian Circus performance. DiscoverMORE
Evening – Local Fare at Phare Circus (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Evening - Cambodian Street Food Discovery Tour (extra expense)

Arrives On: 03 Apr 27

Day 18: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

Arrives On: 03 Apr 27

Day 19: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

Start the day with a visit to magnificent Angkor Thom. This is not a single temple such as the historic sites it neighbours, but rather, one of the most remarkable royal cities of the Angkor Period and an architectural wonder. As the last capital of the Khmer Empire, Angkor Thom was a fortified city, the home to priests, officials of the palace, military and buildings for administering the

kingdom. Afterwards, visit the sacred Ta Prohm temple. In an incredible standoff between human creation and nature, the jungle's root systems have reclaimed this spiritual location, now enshrouded in wild vegetation. The backdrop to numerous Hollywood scenes, the iconic Ta Prohm is both a cinematic and contemplative location to explore.

This afternoon, enjoy time at leisure to explore Siem Reap or join an Emerald DiscoverMORE excursion. Later, for today's EmeraldPLUS experience, enjoy an immersive evening and dinner at Satcha Handicraft Centre, accompanied by an enchanting traditional Khmer entertainment. Included Excursion
Visit to Angkor Thom Included Excursion
Visit to Ta Prohm Temple DiscoverMORE
Evening – Gondola Boat ride at Banyon with drinks (extra expense) EmeraldPLUS
Apsara dance performance and farewell dinner show at Satcha Handicraft Centre

Arrives On: 04 Apr 27

Day 20: Siem Reap (Cambodia)

Witness a mesmerising sunrise over Angkor Wat, a truly unforgettable experience. Afterwards, walk through this magnificent UNESCO World Heritage-listed site, considered one of the greatest ancient wonders on earth and renowned for its well-preserved, intricate carvings.

After visiting Angkor Wat, enjoy time at leisure to explore Siem Reap before your afternoon flight to Laos or join an Emerald DiscoverMORE excursion.

Later transfer to the airport for your included flight VN930 to Laos and Luang Prabang, a former royal capital and the heart of Laotian culture and Buddhist spirituality. In this enchanting riverside city, enjoy a four-night stay at the Villa Maly Hotel – within walking distance to Luang Prabang's famous night markets. Included Excursion
Sunrise visit to Angkor Wat DiscoverMORE
Khmer Cooking Class (extra expense)

Arrives On: 05 Apr 27

Day 20: Luang Prabang (Laos)

Arrives On: 05 Apr 27

Day 21: Luang Prabang (Laos)

Discover key landmarks within the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Old Town, including the exquisite, 16th century temple, Wat Xieng Thong and former Royal Palace, now converted into the National Museum. The remainder of the day is at leisure before dinner tonight. Included Excursion
Tour of the UNESCO World

Heritage-listed Old Town

Arrives On: 06 Apr 27

Day 22: Luang Prabang (Laos)

Today enjoy a boat cruise along the Mekong River, stopping at a local village which specialises in traditional rice wine before continuing to the Pak Ou Caves, a sacred grotto crammed with thousands of multi-sized golden Buddhas. After returning to Luang Prabang, let the locals show you how to play Pétanque, also known as Petong in Laos. Tonight, enjoy your free time, perhaps shopping for souvenirs and sampling local cuisine at the vibrant night market. Included Excursion
Cruise along the Mekong River to Pak Ou Caves Included Excursion
Learn how to play Pétanque, also known as Petong

Arrives On: 07 Apr 27

Day 23: Luang Prabang (Laos)

Rise early to witness the incredible sight of Buddhist monks move silently through the atmospheric streets as they collect alms. Later this morning, travel to Kuang Si waterfalls, a set of picturesque, tiered falls and swimming holes set amongst the lush, dense jungle.

This afternoon, join an Emerald DiscoverMORE excursion, before enjoying your Farewell Dinner with your fellow guests this evening. Included Excursion
Travel to Kuang Si waterfalls DiscoverMORE
Ock Pop Tok Living Craft Centre – natural dyeing class (extra expense) DiscoverMORE
Ban Chan (Laos Pottery House) – Pottery lesson (extra expense)

Arrives On: 08 Apr 27

Day 24: Luang Prabang (Laos)

Later this morning checkout of your hotel and bid farewell to Laos. Transfer to the airport for your included flight PG942 to Thailand and its vibrant capital, Bangkok, where your extraordinary Indochina journey ends. Emerald Cruises transfers are only available for flights departing out of Bangkok after 07:00 PM. Rivers and waterways are subject to variations in water levels. While every effort is made to adhere to the planned itinerary, changes in river conditions, ad hoc local government regulations or local festivities may require journey modifications. These will be made based on the advice of local authorities or for safety reasons. Hotels are indicative and are subject to change.

Arrives On: 09 Apr 27

Day 24: Bangkok (Thailand)

Arrives On: 09 Apr 27

For more information on this cruise, please call +44 (0)1202 767926.

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