

# Unique Experiences

Cambodia | Laos | Vietnam



“One of the world’s top travel fixers” The Sunday Times

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Dear Friends and Partners,

A very warm welcome to Hanuman's Unique Experiences, genuine encounters with real people from the Mekong region or memorable moments that elevate the ordinary into the realms of the extraordinary.

Hanuman is pleased to bring you our favourite unique experiences in Indochina, the best of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. Enjoy a helicopter ride over remote temples in the jungles of Cambodia or the soar above the islands of Halong Bay; enjoy a nostalgic city tour by vintage car; meet leading artists and sculptors in the regional art scene; discover the secrets of local recipes with a celebrity chef; and learn the art of travel photography with a professional.

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Kulikar Sotho

Executive Director

Hanuman

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## **Cambodia Experiences**

Hanuman is pleased to bring you a selection of unique experiences in Cambodia. Fly by helicopter to remote temples, enjoy exclusive dining at Angkor, meet leading figures in Cambodian arts and society, learn the secrets of Khmer cuisine with a celebrity chef, visit Tuol Sleng Prison with a survivor, learn the art of travel photography with a professional or enjoy a yoga class at a remote temple. All this is possible and more.

## **Exclusive Dining Around Angkor**

Enjoy an exclusive private champagne dinner at one of Angkor's atmospheric ancient temples, a memorable way to celebrate a birthday or anniversary. Enjoy a romantic, private catered breakfast at Angkor, the perfect start to a day of exploring the temples.

## **Helicopter over Angkor and Remote Temples**

Enjoy the exhilarating experience of a helicopter ride over Angkor to see the temples from a unique bird's-eye perspective. Approach Cambodia's remote jungle temples by helicopter: mountain-top Preah Vihear, former capital Koh Ker, remote Preah Khan and the unique carvings of Banteay Chhmar. Combine this with a Temple Safari.

## **Survivors of Tuol Sleng**

Meet one of the survivors of S-21 Prison to understand more about Democratic Kampuchea. This includes a private tour of Tuol Sleng Museum.

## **Cooking with a Celebrity Chef**

Experience a cookery demonstration with one of Cambodia's finest chefs to learn more about the delights of Khmer cuisine, including the art to making amoc.

## **The Secrets of Travel Photography**

Learn the tricks of the photographic trade from one of the professionals here in Cambodia, around the temples of Angkor or in the countryside around Phnom Penh.



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## Phnom Penh's Living History

Understand and appreciate the history of Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh, with an intimate tour of its iconic locations and structures, including the famous French embassy where foreigners sought refuge in April 1975 and the striking Central Market, dating from 1937.

## Meet the Living Masters

Enjoy a rare opportunity to meet some of Cambodia's iconic masters of the arts from classical Royal Khmer Ballet to the famed art of shadow puppetry. Experience a dance class with 'The Tenth Dancer', teacher Em Theay, or learn about shadow puppets with master puppeteer Mann Kosal, both based in Phnom Penh. We also offer a range of music and dance classes in conjunction with Cambodia Living Arts.

## Good Cause Visits

We visit one of the uplifting success stories that is bringing hope for the future to the disadvantaged children of Phnom Penh and Siem Reap. Drop by at the PSE vocational training centre for lunch or visit the Artisans d'Angkor training centre.

## Wildlife Compendium

Discover the wildlife of Cambodia with a birdwatching expedition to Prek Toal in Siem Reap, sign up to be a bearkeeper for a day at Phnom Tamao or walk with the herd at the Elephant Valley Project in Mondulkiri, all part of our new Wild Cambodia trip.

## Hidden Treasures & Behind the Scenes

Enjoy exclusive access to Cambodia's best known museums and conservation departments with one of Cambodia's leading art experts. See the Angkor Conservation collection in Siem Reap. Gain exclusive access to the major restoration projects taking place in the Angkor Protected Area with an expert archaeological guide.



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## Laos Experiences

Hanuman is pleased to bring you a selection of unique experiences in Laos. Enjoy exclusive dining at an abandoned riverside temple on a Mekong island, meet leading figures in Laotian arts and society, learn the secrets of Lao cuisine with a celebrity chef, visit the Vieng Xai Caves with a Pathet Lao soldier, learn the art of travel photography with a professional or enjoy a yoga class in the jungle. All this is possible and more.

## The Gibbon Experience

'Fly' through the jungle canopy on a zipline and experience the perspective of a long-armed gibbon. Spend the night in the treetops in an eco-friendly treehouse in the remote Bokeo Nature Reserve. This is one of those experiences you will never forget.

## Shangri-Laos Elephant Camp

Learn the language of the mahout to control these animals as you move through the beautiful Lao countryside. Located near Luang Prabang, it is possible to undertake a short course or stay overnight in the luxury ecolodge for a more immersive course.

## Uncover the Vieng Xai Caves

Travel to the remote Vieng Xai Caves of Sam Neau Province, like the Cu Chi Tunnels cast in stone, that were once used as a remote base for the leadership of the Pathet Lao. We tour the complex with a survivor from the Indochina War.

## Cooking with a Celebrity Chef

Experience a cookery demonstration with one of Laos' finest chefs to learn more about the delights of Laotian cuisine. This can be arranged in Luang Prabang or Vientiane for your convenience.

## Traditional Baci Ceremony

Partake in a traditional Baci ceremony to welcome you to the charming town of Luang Prabang. Guardian spirits will be bound to your wrist in the shape of 32 strings to protect you on your journey.



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## Host a Book Party in a Village

For a unique experience that helps young children improve their literacy, a Big Brother Mouse book party is a memorable event, staged in a rural school in a remote village in Luang Prabang. For many children, the book party is the first time they actually get to own a book of their own, a significant moment in their young lives.

## Learn the Art of Silk-Weaving

Sign up for a silk weaving course with Ock Pop Tock, one of the leading textile designers and producers in the Luang Prabang area. Learn about the traditional silk production process and weave your own piece of Lao silk to take home.

## The COPE Visitors Centre

Many of the people that COPE treat are victims of the UXO that litters many parts of Laos, but others have been affected by traffic accidents or disease. Considering the graveness of the injuries and disabilities these people face, the COPE Centre in Vientiane is an optimistic place and the work they do is truly inspiring. Pick up a keepsake, including original t-shirts, unique postcards or organic Lao coffee.

## Tree Top Explorer

Try out the new Tree Top Explorer and have the experience of a lifetime in the jungle of the Bolaven Plateau in southern Laos. It is all about adventure and fun, it is about immersing yourself in nature. The zip-line gives you an exhilarating rush, as you fly over deep ravines, in almost touching distance to the roaring water wall or the green roof of the forest. Stay overnight in the incredible treehouses, located 20m up the jungle canopy. Trek through pristine jungle and visit a village coffee plantation. This is something completely different.

## Cultural Experiences in Laos

Take an expert guided tour of the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre in Luang Prabang for an indepth insight into the incredible ethnic diversity of the minority groups that inhabit Laos. Gain exclusive access to the major restoration project taking place at Wat Phu Temple, Champasak Province, with an expert archaeological guide.



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## **Vietnam Experiences**

Hanuman is pleased to bring you a selection of unique experiences in Vietnam. Enjoy a helicopter ride over Halong Bay, enjoy a nostalgic city tour by vintage car, meet leading artists and sculptors in the Vietnamese scene, learn the art of Vietnamese cuisine with a celebrity chef, visit the Demilitarized Zone with a former soldier and learn the art of travel photography with a professional. All this is possible and more.

### **Halong Bay by Helicopter**

One of the natural wonders of the world, Halong Bay is nature at its most expressive. See the bay from another angle with a scenic helicopter flight. This can be combined with a Halong Bay cruise.

### **Visit the DMZ with a Vet**

The DMZ marked the 17th Parallel where Vietnam was divided into North and South for more than two decades. Visit some of the famous battle sites in this area with a former Vietnamese soldier.

### **City Tour by Vintage car or motorbike**

Explore the bustling streets of Hanoi or Saigon by vintage car. For the more adventurous, it is possible to experience a city tour on the back of a Vespa scooter like Jeremy Clarkson and the Top Gear crew or on a Russian-built Ural motorbike and sidecar.

### **Cu Chi Tunnels with a Vet & Jeep**

Go underground at the Cu Chi Tunnels, a testament to the strength and tenacity of the Vietnamese people. Drive to this warren of tunnels by Jeep Willys and experience the wind in your hair.

### **Cooking with a Celebrity Chef**

Experience a cookery demonstration with one of Vietnam's finest chefs to learn more about the delights of Vietnamese cuisine. This can be arranged in Hanoi, Hue, Hoi An or Saigon. We particularly recommend Hoa Sua in Hanoi, a good cause project.



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## Tai Chi Class in Unique Locations

Tai Chi is a popular form of morning exercise in Vietnam. We arrange a class in the harmonious surrounds of an old temple in Hanoi or on a remote desert island beach.

## Travel Photography

Learn the tricks of the photographic trade from one of the professionals here in Vietnam, including diverse destinations such as the windswept sand dunes of Mui Ne and the remote mountains of the north. We can connect you with leading black and white art photographers based in Nha Trang, such as Long Thanh and Do Dien Khanh who run practical workshops to destinations in and around Nha Trang, including beautiful countryside, remote waterfalls and the coastal islands.

## Vietnam Wildlife

Cat Tien National Park is the perfect eco-escape from bustling Saigon. It is a great place to break the journey between Saigon and Dalat now that Forest Floor Lodge has brought a new level of comfort to the park. One of the best run parks in Vietnam, Cat Tien is home to a variety of rare wildlife and the Dao Tien Endangered Primate Centre, who established the Wild Gibbon Trek to see habituated gibbons awaking at dawn. The primate rescue centre at Cuc Phuong National Park is an incredible place to visit. Gibbons are amazing creatures to watch as they swing about trees and vines and have a distinctive call.

## Cat Ba Adventures

Long the overlooked alternative to Halong Bay, Cat Ba Island is now taking off in its own right, quite literally, thanks to world class rock climbing around Lan Ha Bay. If that sounds a bit extreme, it is also the place to explore by kayak or cruise around by catamaran with Blue Swimmer.

## The Beauty of Con Dao

Once hell on earth for a generation of Vietnamese prisoners, Con Dao has emerged as heaven for a new generation of adventurous visitors. Vietnam's best diving, rare green sea turtles, shy dugongs and some impressive trekking add up to make this the most talked about beach destination in the country. It helps the Six Senses Con Dao recently opened its doors to guests.



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