



Thailand, Cambodia & Vietnam Information

Travel documents

U.S. citizens traveling to Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam must have a passport valid for six months after their expected return date. U.S. citizens traveling to Cambodia and Vietnam need a visa, which should be obtained prior to tour. We recommend using [visacentral.com/efvisas](https://www.visacentral.com/efvisas) where EF travelers receive a discount. U.S. citizens will be issued a free 30 day tourist visa upon entry into Thailand. Please check travel.state.gov to confirm passport validity requirements prior to your tour. Citizens of all other countries should contact their appropriate embassies to find out what specific documentation is required for them to travel. For a list of embassies, please visit [embassy.org](https://www.embassy.org).

Vaccinations and health precautions

For the most up-to-date information on vaccinations and other health requirements, we recommend checking [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) or consulting your physician.

Tour Director and bus drivers

It's a requirement that any Tour Director in Southeast Asia is a national of the country you're visiting. Therefore, if you are on the combination Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam tour, you will have three different Tour Directors—one for each country you visit. The Vietnamese Tour Director will take you to the departure airport and the Cambodian Tour Director will meet you outside customs at the airport when you arrive. The Cambodian Tour Director will accompany the group to the Cambodian-Thai border, where you will meet your Thai Tour Director. Bus drivers may change from day to day, so consider tipping on a daily basis.

Tipping

It's customary to tip your Tour Director and bus drivers as a token of appreciation. We recommend:

- \$6–8 per person per day for your Tour Director
- \$3 per person per day for your bus driver
- \$2 per person per tour for each local guide

We encourage Group Leaders to collect all tip money from their travelers before departing for tour. To keep tips organized, we recommend using the envelopes from your Departure Kit. For larger groups, feel free to divvy up the money between chaperones. It is preferable for tips to be given in the local currency of your destination, especially for local guides. You can ask your travelers to convert their U.S. dollars before you collect tip money, or you can exchange the money yourself into local currency (either in the U.S. or when you arrive abroad). If you have any questions on tipping, please reach out to your Tour Consultant.

Currency

The currencies for these three countries are the Thai Baht, Cambodian Riel, and Vietnamese Dong. U.S. dollars are generally accepted among major shops and restaurants. We recommend bringing an ATM card or a credit card to withdraw cash from a bank or ATM machine. ATM machines are available throughout the tour. Make sure to inform your bank about your travel plans prior to your departure. While most shops accept credit cards, the phone lines are much slower, making the use of credit cards time consuming and causing delays in your group's schedule. Traveler's checks are difficult to cash and should not be brought on tour. Visit xe.com for more currency information.

Transportation

Tours to this region of the world rely on both bus transfers and internal flights. Buses are new and well-equipped. Please note if you are traveling on the combination Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam tour, the transfer from Siem Reap, Cambodia to Bangkok, Thailand is approximately eight hours.

Accommodations

Hotels in this region are generally large and modern. Most hotels have swimming pools and all the modern conveniences you would expect from a U.S. hotel. Students under the age of 20 will share rooms with two or three other travelers of the same gender. These rooms will have either single or shared double beds (or a combination of the two). Students may share rooms with students in the tour group who are not from their own school. Adults will share twin rooms with other adults of the same gender. Adults may also share rooms with adults in the tour group who are not from their own school. Please note that groups may not all have rooms next to each other (some may even be on different floors) and that hotels may be located outside of the city center. Please contact your Tour Consultant if you'd like a list of sample hotels.

Please note that Vietnam has type A, C, and F sockets and a standard voltage of 220V. Cambodia has type A, C, and G sockets and a standard voltage of 230V. Thailand has type B sockets and a standard voltage of 220V.

Phones and internet

It's easy to buy an international phone card in these countries and your Tour Director can help you find places to buy them. If you plan to use your personal cell phone on tour, contact your wireless provider to see what fees you may incur for calling, texting or using data abroad. Wi-Fi is not available at all hotels and when it is available there is often a fee.

Local food

Thai, Cambodian, and Vietnamese cuisines offer a truly wonderful dining experience. Be aware, however, that traditional food may be very spicy and unfamiliar to the foreign palate. Travelers should not drink the tap water in Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam, and should only drink water from pre-sealed containers. Bottled water is available for purchase everywhere for \$1–2. Travelers should still bring reusable water bottles to take advantage of refilling stations available at most hotels and on the bus. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be provided in this region. The only exception is during the beach extension to Thailand, where only breakfast will be included, and lunch and dinner are on your own. Breakfasts and dinners are usually buffet-style. Breakfasts usually consist of eggs, toast, butter, jam, juice, and coffee. Lunches and dinners can be booked at local restaurants or at your hotels. They consist of noodle or rice dishes with chicken, beef, or vegetables. Salad and fruit are also usually provided during dinner. Options are available for vegetarians or travelers with allergies.

Safety

Always inform your Tour Director if you should need to break away from the group at any point. Store valuables in hotel safe deposit boxes and refrain from carrying large sums of money or wearing valuable jewelry. Please be sure to read EF's *Safety Handbook* before going on tour.

Weather

Generally, this area is impacted by monsoons during summer months, but there are some climate variations in different parts of each country at different times of the year. In Northern Thailand, the monsoon season runs between May and July. The rain usually starts in the form of short downpours that last an hour or two and lead to warm, clear skies. As the season progresses, the rain can become heavier and more constant, traditionally reaching peak levels in August and September. In the early wet season (June to August), temperatures generally remain high (85–95°F). The wet season in Cambodia runs from May to early October. During this time, daytime temperatures still remain high (75–80°F). From May to June, expect infrequent, short downpours. From July to September, the rain tends to be more intense and can be heaviest along the Southern coast. Vietnam is located in the tropical area, with high temperatures and humidity all year-round. In the North, from May to September, summers are hot and humid with the highest amounts of rainfall. In central Vietnam, the weather is hot and dry from January to August, and temperatures can reach around 90°F. Due to less influence of monsoons and constant temperatures year-round (between 77–95°F), the wet season in southern Vietnam runs from May to early November. Please check weather.com for your destinations and travel periods.

Luggage

Checked bag fees are included on both international flights and internal flights. The maximum baggage allowance for flights within Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam is one checked bag no more than 20 kg (44 lbs), and one carry-on item no more than 7 kg (15 lbs).