



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW: BANGKOK TO HANOI OVERLAND PLUS SOUTHERN THAI ISLANDS

Travelling around South East Asia is a well-trodden route; so many people are spending a few months in Asia as part of their gap year these days. What I did find however is most people go to the same places, do exactly the same thing and travel in exactly the same order. When it came to choosing which way we went around South East Asia it all came down to what was high on our priorities and having to be in certain places for pre booked flights. However if I had of had a few more weeks getting around Asia wouldn't have needed such precise planning. In the end we chose to miss Northern Thailand and Laos in favour of exploring Vietnam properly and getting to Cambodia and Southern Thailand.

So here it is, everything I think you might need to know about travelling the 'no-so-popular' way around Asia in three weeks and four days plus Southern Thailand for 10 days.



Bike Taxi's in Hoi An

Bangkok to Trat to Ko Chang

Make sure you use the Government Buses in Thailand to get around. There are three stations in Bangkok and plenty others all over the country. We originally booked a ticket to Ko Samet the day before however after missing that bus we turned up, purchased a ticket and were on a bus within the hour.

Nights in Bangkok = 2
Government Bus – Bangkok to Trat = \$8
Tuk-Tuk – Trat to Ko Chang Ferry = \$3
Ferry to Ko Chang = \$2.45
Tuk-Tuk – Ferry to Long Island = \$4.60

Accommodation in Bangkok = Lub D Silom \$14 a night for a mixed 8 bed dorm

Ko Chang Thailand to Koh Kong Cambodia

REMEMBER no matter what a company says no busses cross the border at Hat Lek/Cham Yeam. For more information on border crossings check out this [post](#). We booked none of this journey ahead of time.

Nights in Ko Chang = 2
Tuk-Tuk – Lonely Beach to Ferry = \$3
Ferry from Ko Chang = \$2.45
Tuk-tuk to Trat = \$1.50
Trat to Hat Lek border = \$3.60
VISA = \$30
Cham Yeam border to Koh Kong = \$6.70 (for 2 of us) – YOU WILL HAVE TO HAGGLE HERE – so many cars that want to charge you double that, but if you wait long enough you can find a moto tuk-tuk who will charge you half the price!

Accommodation in Ko Chang = Seaflower Resort – a bungalow with sea view and air con for \$18.40 a night.

Koh Kong to Koh Rong

Koh Kong was only a stop to break up the journey and work out how we would get from Koh Kong to Sihanoukville. We luckily managed to jump on the last ferry to [Koh Rong](#) or we would have had to spend the night in Sihanoukville.

Nights In Koh Kong = 1
Virak-Buntham Bus Koh Kong to Sihanoukville = \$7
Tuk-Tuk Sihanoukville to Ferry = \$6 (the ferry is a dive office who then transfer you to the harbour)
Ferry to Koh Rong = \$5

Accommodation in Koh Kong = Paddys Guesthouse \$6 for a double fan room

Koh Rong to Otres Beach 2

Getting back to Sihanoukville was pretty simple, just make sure if you are heading out to Otres Beach you know if its 1 or 2!!

Nights in Koh Rong = 2
Ferry from Koh Rong = \$5 (we jumped back on the connecting bus to Sihanoukville)
Tuk-tuk from Sihanoukville to Otres Beach 2 via the Vietnam Visa Office (more on getting a Vietnamese Visa [here](#)) = \$13

Accommodation in Koh Rong = Coco's \$20 for a double fan bungalow



Otres Beach 2 to Siem Reap

The drive from Sihanoukville to Siem Reap was 10 ish hours and is offered as an overnight service but after every horror story I have heard of overnight buses in Cambodia we chose to waste a day on the bus! Cambodian's still get up at their regular time of 5am and then drive all night thus fall asleep at the wheel.

Nights in Otres Beach 2 = 1

Mekong Express Bus Otres Beach 2 to Siem Reap = \$20

Tuk-Tuk Bus Station to Hostel = \$3

Accommodation in Otres Beach = Footprints = \$10 for a double fan room

We found most buses will pick you up from your accommodation at the beginning of your journey.

Siem Reap to Phnom Penh

If you want to know how to spend a day at the Angkor Temples then check out this [post](#). There is only one road from Phnom Penh so you travel along the same road as getting there.

Nights in Siem Reap = 2

Capitol Tours Bus Siem Reap to Phnom Penh = \$6

We were lucky enough to book accommodation within walking distance of the bus stop.

Accommodation in Siem Reap = Downtown Hostel \$11 for a double air con room



Saigon Traffic!

Phnom Penh to Saigon

Learn about my S-21 Prison and Killing Fields experience [here](#). Another border crossing journey this time super easy as we already had our visas and the busses run over the border. Read more of the Bavet/Moc Bai border crossing [here](#). REMEMEBER you have to buy a Vietnamese visa before you get to the border.

Nights in Phnom Penh = 2

Mekong Express Bus Phnom Penh to Saigon = \$11

Again our accommodation was within walking distance – this was a great way to save a few bucks here and there.

Accommodation in Phnom Penh = Sunday Guesthouse \$8 for a double fan room

Saigon to Nha Trang

For the whole journey north in Vietnam we purchased one bus ticket from Sinh Tourist. Need some ideas of what to do in Saigon then check out this [blog](#).

Nights in Saigon = 2

Sinh Tourist Bus Saigon to Nha Trang = \$40 for the full ticket (Saigon to Hanoi)

Accommodation in Saigon = Vinh Guesthouse \$16 for a double air con room

Nha Trang to Hoi An

Our first Asia night bus wasn't so bad however I found their driving uber scary!! There was so much about [Nha Trang and Hue that surprised me](#).

Nights in Nha Trang = 2

Sinh Tourist Bus Nha Trang to Hoi An (overnight) = \$40 for the full ticket (Saigon to Hanoi)

Accommodation in Nha Trang = Truong Giang Hotel \$12.50 for a double air con room

Hoi An and Hue

I ABSOLUTELY loved Hoi An, it was so [picture perfect](#) and I purchased a few [tailor made dresses](#).

Nights in Hoi An = 3

Sinh Tourist Bus Hoi An To Hue = \$40 for the full ticket (Saigon to Hanoi)

Accommodation in Hoi An = Sunflower Hotel \$20 for a double air con room



Hue to Hanoi

I wasn't a fan of Hanoi but it's a must if you want to visit the amazing [Halong Bay](#).

Nights in Hue = 1

Sinh Tourist Bus Hue to Hanoi (overnight) = \$40 for the full ticket (Saigon to Hanoi)

Accommodation in Hue = Binh Duong \$12 for a double fan room

Accommodation in Hanoi = Bluebell Hotel \$10 for a double air con room

We then spend 2 nights in Hanoi and 2 nights in Halong Bag to make up three weeks and four days.

From Hanoi we flew to Bangkok and then Bangkok to Phuket – ***TIP if a flight is coming up expensive try flying to a bigger airport and then getting another flight to your final destination. Hanoi to Phuket was super expensive but stopping in Bangkok made it affordable.***

Phuket Town to Ko Phi Phi

We choose to spend a few days in Phuket just chilling out after such a nonstop time in Vietnam. From there we chose which islands we wanted to visit and how to discover the [Andaman Coast](#) the best.

Nights in Phuket Town = 2

Tuk-tuk Phuket Town to ferry = \$3

Ferry to Phi Phi = \$18.40

Accommodation in Phuket Town = Ekkamon Mansion \$12.30 for a double fan room



Maya Bay Ko Phi Phi

Ko Phi Phi to Ao Nang

Our next stop was the beach town in Krabi to be able to explore the [beautiful Railay Beach](#).

Nights in Ko Phi Phi = 4

Ferry to Krabi = \$9.20

Bus Krabi to Ao Nang = \$4.60

Accommodation in Ko Phi Phi = Tara Inn \$15.30 for a double fan room

Ao Nang to Patong

We chose to see another area of Phuket in Patong but I really didn't like it and wished I hadn't of wasted two nights there! We also made a huge mistake getting a minibus instead of the Government bus. It was cramped and we ended up being heard like cattle with the journey taking far longer than it should have.

Nights in Ao Nang = 3

Mini Bus Ao Nang to Patong = \$13.80

Accommodation in Ao Nang = Ao Nang Cozy Place \$15.30 for a luxury double room with air con

Accommodation in Patong = Square One Hotel \$13.50 for a double air con room

There you have it, all transport and accommodation costs for five weeks in South East Asia. You can find more in-depth posts on [Thailand](#), [Cambodia](#) and [Vietnam](#) – describing things to do and ratings of each accommodation.

For food I would recommend about \$3-4 a meal and more if you would like drinks, although most drinks will only cost \$1 each but you can see a better break down in my monthly summaries from my time in Asia [here](#) and [here](#).

If you have any more budget costs for South East Asia do not hesitate to send me an email and I will do my best to help you.

A guide by The Little Backpacker