# SPICEROADS

CYCLING





# **CULTURAL ROAD FROM HOI AN TO SIEM REAP**

Tour Code MCT-MHS 14 DAYS 13 NIGHTS

Destinations

Tour Meets
Tour Ends

Fly in to Fly out of

Group Size
Minimum Age

Vietnam, Cambodia

Hoi An, Vietnam Siem Reap, Cambodia

Da Nang International Airport (DAD) Siem Reap International Airport (REP)

2-16 riders

18 (on scheduled departures)

# **ACTIVITY PROFILE**



Cycling days

72 km Avg distance / day  $795_{\text{km}}$  Total cycling distance

 $\begin{array}{c} 600_{\text{m}} \\ \text{Avg climbing / day} \end{array}$ 

## **PRICING**

Price US\$ 2,900
Bike Hire (Mountain Bike) US\$ 185
Bike Hire (E-Bike\*) US\$ 560
Single Supplement US\$ 470

\*E-bikes are in limited supply, please enquire to reserve one.

# DEPARTURES

13 October - 26 October 2024
05 January - 18 January 2025
16 February - 01 March 2025
12 October - 25 October 2025

# WHAT'S INCLUDED

- SpiceRoads jersey
- Water bottle
- ✓ Support vehicle
- ✓ Guide(s)
- ✓ Meals (as indicated)
- ✓ Airport drop off
- ✓ Accommodation
- Snacks and drinks

# WHAT'S EXCLUDED

- × International flights
- ✗ Domestic flights
- × Airport pick up
- × Visa fees
- × Alcohol
- X Tips



#### TRIP PROFILE

Our biking adventure takes us from the coast of Vietnam through the central highlands to the heart of Cambodia. We cycle approximately 791 km in 11 cycling days, with lots of time sightseeing and exploring the countryside. The cycling is on a mixture of well-surfaced roads and good quality dirt tracks.

Some of the days are quite long, and experienced riders usually find it sufficiently challenging. Faster cyclists can ride at their own pace after consulting the guides on the route. However, the average rider will want to ride and take photographs, stopping here and there to take in the magnificent sites. If you race through the countryside, you'll be missing out. The terrain is varied from flat days to hilly and undulating days. We do have a few days where we cover longer distances, but these are mostly on flat terrain, and the kilometres will speed by. Experienced riders will find the distances long enough to challenge them, while less experienced riders are easily able to travel at a more relaxed pace.

Suitability: This trip is suitable for anyone with a reasonable level of fitness. This trip is mildly challenging, so the more time you have spent in the saddle and the fitter you are, the more you will enjoy it.

Biking Conditions: This trip is mainly on good quality tarmac roads and some vehicle-width dirt roads. No off-road riding experience is required. A support truck is always available to help when required, and participants can cycle as much or as little as they like and still enjoy the same views as the rest of the group.



## Day 1 Meet in Hoi An

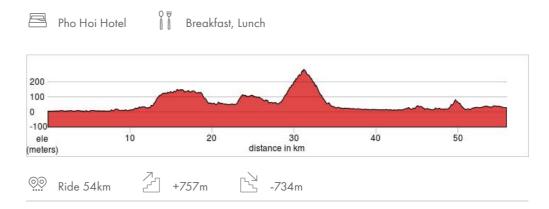
We meet in the charming town of Hoi An, which was one of Southeast Asia's major trading ports during the 17th and 18th centuries. An important point of call for Chinese, Japanese, and Portuguese traders, the architecture reflects its cosmopolitan past. More than anywhere in Vietnam, Hoi An retains the feel of the past and is now protected as a UNESCO World Heritage Site with more than 844 structures of historical significance. It is a fantastic place to spend the day wandering the narrow streets and rubbing shoulders with the locals. We meet for a welcome dinner and trip briefing to prepare for our cycling adventure!





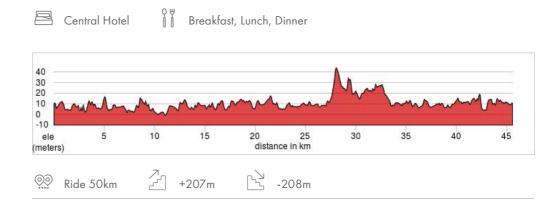
# Day 2 Hoi An - My Son - Hoi An

An easy start to riding with a visit to another World Heritage Site. After a short transfer to avoid busy H1, we ride to see My Son, the ancient centre of the Cham civilization. We cycle along scenic country back roads, past rice paddy fields, through a eucalyptus forest, and pass many scenic villages. The road eventually climbs away from the coast, offering stunning views, and then turns into rough gravel as we move into an increasingly more remote region. This 14-km road cuts a gorge through the lush jungle alongside the Song Tranh River and eventually leads us to My Son, which was once Champa's greatest city. Although many temples were destroyed during the war, there is still enough of the archaeological site to impress most visitors. We take lunch before spending the afternoon visiting the site. In the afternoon, we transfer by bus back to Hoi An. Dinner is on your own to choose from Hoi An's many fantastic restaurants.



# Day 3 Hoi An - Quang Ngai - My Lai

We start the morning with a pleasant ride from Hoi An to Tam Thanh where we eat lunch and spend time admiring the beautiful beach. We then transfer to My Lai, site of the American War/Vietnam war, and spend the afternoon on a guided tour of the site and museum to learn about the massacres that took place there. Before our visit to the museum, we make time to visit visit an old temple where we are challenged with a small climb. After our tour, we transfer back to our hotel in town.



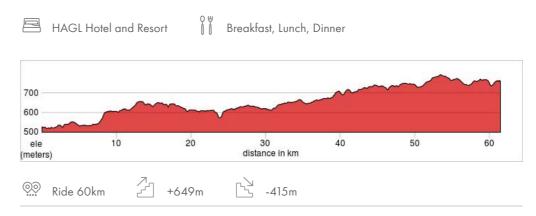
## Day 4 Quang Ngai - Kon Tum

Today is more challenging as we leave the coast and head into the central highlands towards Quang Nam and on to Kon Tum. We cycle only part of today, along undulating roads through thick pine forests with stunning photo opportunities. We transfer about 2 hours to the town of Bato in the highlands and cycle 15 km uphill to the top of Violak Pass (1300 m above sea level) and the brand-new town of Mangden. This is an incredible experience, followed by a 20-km descent to the bottom of the pass. From here, the route undulates past many remote villages, tropical forests, over bridges, and along quiet and scenic roads. We then transfer to our hotel to relax for the evening. Cyclists should note that cycling uphill to the Violak pass is extremely challenging and should consider option to transfer during this part of the ride if needed.



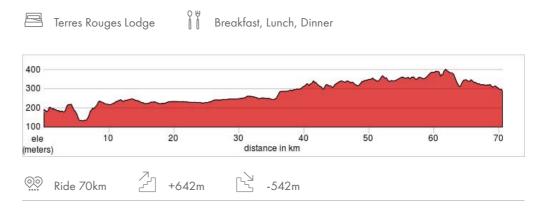
# Day 5 Kon Tum - Pleiku

After breakfast, we ride out into the countryside to visit some local villages of the Jarai and Bhanar ethnic minorities. These tribes still practice animism, believing that demons inhabit all of creation. The area is well known for their communal houses with very steep and tall roofs. Each village takes great pride in these unique designs as they define the regional landscape. After a local lunch, we pedal to the Pleiku, home of the best coffee in Vietnam. This is an easier day, and you will notice the change in scenery as you cycle through a wide valley surrounded by mountains, punctuated by tea and coffee plantations along the route.



# Day 6 Pleiku - Cambodia Border - Banlung

A two-hour transfer by car after breakfast takes you to the border with Cambodia. At this point, it is time to say goodbye to the Vietnamese team. After the immigration formalities at the Le Thanh border checkpoint, our team will be waiting for you on the Cambodia side. We start our ride from the O Yadao border to Banlung in Ratanakiri. Banlung is one of the most remote of the Khmer provincial capitals. We spend the night in the surroundings of Terres Rouge, a traditional Khmerstyle house oozing with old world charm in this remote part of Cambodia.

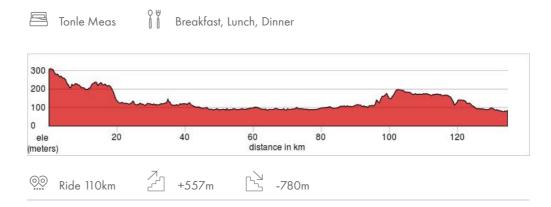


# Day 7 Banlung Rest Day

Wake this morning to a well-deserved day of rest and relaxation. The full day is yours to do as you wish. For the early bird, there is the early morning market buzzing with merchants of every description hawking their wares. Enjoy lunch on your own today. Take a picnic lunch and explore the mysterious crater lake of Boneng Yeak Laom, believed to be the home of water demons and is so deep, its bottom has never been touched. Or just stay and enjoy the lodge, where we meet up for dinner beneath the stars.

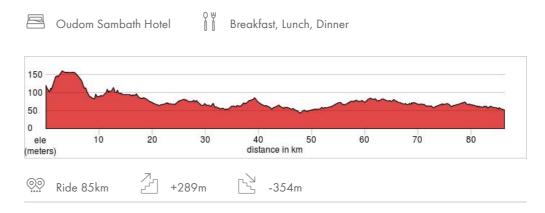
# Day 8 Banlung - Stung Treng

After a day of rest, it's time to get back in the saddle. In the morning, we set out on our cycle to Stung Treng province along a tarmac highway. On route, you can expect to see true rural Cambodia. Rice paddies and rubber tree plantations roll away from the raised road as the flat expanse of the landscape is met by electric blue skies. We stop to enjoy the simple pleasures of rural life in Rattanakiri. Making our way into Steung Treng, we are welcomed by the shade of lush green plantations lining the road as we cycle towards the setting sun. Tonight, experience a special dinner at Le Tonlé Tourism Training Centre, where young locals are being trained in hospitality to ensure a better future in Stung Treng. Dining here means most delicious Khmer food paired with a very personalised service. The students are as excited to meet their guests as the guests are to meet the students.



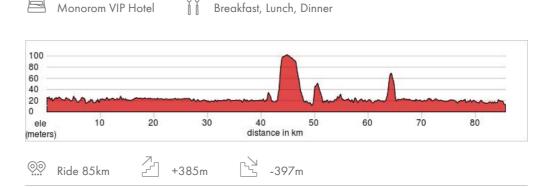
# Day 9 Stung Treng - Kratie

We rise early for our breakfast in town. We have a long day of riding ahead of us, towards Kratie, a small provincial capital located right on the Mekong River. This place is primarily known for the endangered Irrawaddy dolphins, whose largest population can be found here, near Kratie. After a short morning transfer, we set the bikes down and begin cycling through rural villages. After a while, we pick up the bikes for another short transfer to the junction between the new National Road 7 and the old. Here, we need to watch out for playing kids, chickens, cows, dogs, ducks, and oxen. Just before we arrive in Kratie, we board a boat and enjoy an afternoon cruise on the Mekong to see the Irrawaddy dolphins. We transfer to the hotel where you can enjoy views of the Mekong from the rooftop terrace of your hotel.



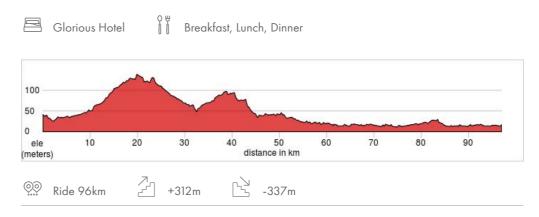
### Day 10 Kratie - Kampong Cham

We transfer south through the town of Chhlong and take a ferry to the western bank of the Mekong to start riding from Phnom Han Chey on quiet roads along the river, through small rural villages and scenic countryside. We stop for a drink and snack at the tiny town of Chhlong. The many French colonial houses in this town are among the most beautiful in Cambodia. It is a scenic ride as we pass many Cham communities, which are predominantly Muslim. Buddhist pagodas form a pretty contrast with small mosques, and the particularly friendly locals will welcome you warmly in each village you pass. We cycle up to Wat Han Chey, a small hilltop pagoda that houses an 8th century pre-Angkor temple and offers spectacular views over the Mekong. Here, we enjoy a well-deserved picnic lunch complimented by sweeping views of the Mekong. Then, we cycle the last 22 km to Kampong Cham, where you can relax at the hotel.



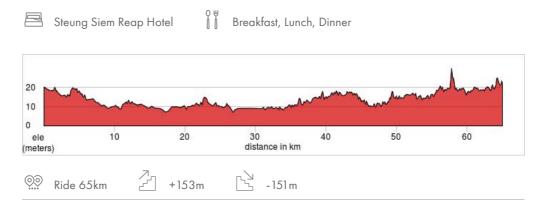
# Day 11 Kampong Cham - Kampong Thom

We leave Kampong Cham over dirt and tarmac roads along the Mekong and eventually head for a quiet secondary highway towards Kampong Thom. You will be flanked by rubber plantations, paddy fields, and typical Khmer villages on today's ride. Kampong Thom is on the banks of the Stung Saen River, and is a good base to visit the wooded Khmer temple site, Sambor Prei Kuk.



## Day 12 Kampong Thom - Siem Reap

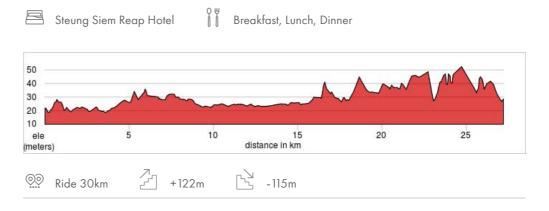
We avoid some of the poorer roads in Siem Reap by transferring 85 km for one and half hours to an ancient bridge at Kampong Kdei, one of the best examples of the remaining 800-year-old bridges in Cambodia. Continue to transfer another 31 km to Domdek village where the team and bike are ready for you to start your 66-km challenge on back roads through the historic highway connecting the province of Kampong Thom and Angkor Wat. We stop and have lunch in local restaurant. After lunch, we continue our challenge to celebrate when we finish our cycle for today, located a short distance from the Western Gate of Angkor Wat. Tonight, enjoy a celebratory Khmer dinner at Viroth's, a stylish and comfortable restaurant set in a quiet garden.



# Day 13 Siem Reap - Angkor - Siem Reap

This morning, we start our bike ride to the entrance of the Angkor temple complex. We enter from the south and traverse up portions of tarmac road and jungle paths until we reach our first temple of today, Tah Prohm. After our visit, we carry on through the jungle and toward the eastern gate of Angkor Thom, ancient capital of the Khmer Empire. Near the centre of this massive enclosure,

we'll find the enigmatic temple of Bayon. This temple is known for its many smiling faces. As the sun reaches its zenith, we take a short rest and lunch, before visiting the grandest temple of them all, Angkor Wat. Depending upon the time, we can choose to return to Siem Reap after our visit, for a brief rest before returning to the Angkor complex. This evening, we'll enjoy a beautiful sunset in the Angkor Park and return to our hotel by transfer for our farewell dinner.



# Day 14 Onward Travels

You are free in the morning until we transfer you to the airport.



Disclaimer: The adventure cycling tours we operate often go beyond the beaten track, and the countries where we ride are not always predictable. Due to these reasons, it is occasionally necessary to reroute or update itineraries. Our guarantee is that we will not change a trip unless for safety or to improve it. Our listed hotels are always accurate at the time of writing, but should we have to change any hotel, it will always be for a similar or better one.

### **NUTS & BOLTS**

#### **Bikes**

Because some people can't imagine going on a trip without their own beloved bicycle, we do not provide them as part of this tour. However, you can hire bikes locally for the price listed in the tour pricing section.

If you bring your own bike, please make sure it is a mountain bike in good mechanical order.

We also have E-Bikes available for hire, but they are limited in number & size - please send an email to us to check on availability.

### **Bike Repairs**

Basic spares and tools are carried by the guide and on the support vehicle, though we cannot guarantee having spares for every conceivable problem. Carrying a basic tool kit, a spare tube and a pump while riding is recommended.

# Safety

Wearing a helmet is required on all our biking adventures and is non negotiable. If you do not wear a helmet you will not be allowed to cycle. Your tour leader is trained in first aid and emergency rescue, but to a large degree you must be responsible for your own safety while riding. It is therefore compulsory that you take out travel insurance that will cover you for a mountain biking tour.

#### Guides

You will be led by a local English-speaking guide and if the group is 9 people or more we will add another guide to the tour. All our guides are well informed in the history, culture and religions of the area where you are biking and are skilled at passing that knowledge on to you. Your guide is also medically trained and an experienced cyclist, able to handle most minor repairs en route.

#### THE NITTY GRITTY

#### VIETNAM

#### Passports and Visas

Vietnam e-Visa is available to 80 nationalities. Please check this link to determine if your country is on the list. To apply for an e-visa please visit the official government website here and follow the required steps and make payment. You can apply for a single entry visa up to 30 days. Multiple entry e-visas are not currently available. For peace of mind, we suggest applying for your e-visa as early as possible, and no later than 2 weeks before your expected arrival in Vietnam. While processing time is generally no more than 1-3 working days (not including weekends and Vietnamese holidays), it is wise to give yourself some buffer time in case there are any issues.

If your nationality is not on the list for e-visa eligibility, or you need options for longer stays or multiple entries, then you may consider Visa on Arrival. The process for this is more complicated than e-visa and requires the acquisition of a visa letter prior to arrival. Please see <a href="here">here</a> for a detailed overview.

If you are joining our "Saigon to Bangkok" or "Saigon to Siem Reap" tour, when you are applying for your e-visa, please select Song Tien Landport as the exit point. This refers to the river crossing at Chao Doc.

### Health

Recommended vaccinations are typhoid, polio, tetanus and hepatitis A. A certificate for Yellow Fever is required when arriving from an infected area within six days. Vietnam is a malarial area and you will need to take anti-malarial tablets. Please speak to your doctor for the most up to date information.

### Weather

Weather in Vietnam is divided into 4 main regions - the far north, north, central and south.

The far north can get very cold in December and January while the dry season runs from October to late March and the wet season between April to September.

In Hanoi & the north, it is hot, wet and humid from May to October while November to April is cooler and dry.

Central Vietnam experiences hot, dry weather between January & August with temperatures ranging in the mid 30°C. High levels of rainfall are during September - November.

Southern Vietnam is dry and hot from November to April, and warm and wet between May & October, with the highest rainfall in June, July & August.

#### Food

Meals are included as per the itinerary where B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner. Most meals are Vietnamese food and features noodles, rice curries and soups. Vietnamese cuisine is world famous and we make sure you sample as much variety as possible. Any special dietary requirements can also be catered for as well. Please let us know at the time of booking.

#### Drink

Keeping you completely hydrated is a job we take very seriously. Cold water, some energy-restoring local fruit, and soft drinks are included in the tour price while riding. Soft drinks and other beverages during meals are not included. Beer is freely available everywhere in Vietnam but is NOT included in the price.

#### Solo Travelers

SpiceRoads does not require you to pay a surcharge for traveling alone. We will arrange for you to share accommodation with another traveler of the same gender and if we can not match you up we will provide a single room at no extra charge. If you prefer not to share a single supplement is payable to guarantee your own room. The cost of the single supplement is listed above.

#### **Extra Expenses**

We recommend that you tuck away a few extra dollars, perhaps US\$10, for incidentals. It is customary to tip local tour guides and drivers, however, the amount you give should be dependent on the level of service you receive. As a general guide, we suggest US\$ 3-4 per person per day is appropriate.

### Money

The official national currency is the Vietnam dong (d), but the US dollar is widely accepted in tourist centers. However, in smaller towns and villages the dong is preferred. ATMs are available in all major tourist destinations and big cities. Vietcombank has the best network with a single withdrawal limit of 2,000,000d (about US\$125). Most major currencies can be exchanged at leading banks in Vietnam, but the US dollar is preferred away from the tourist centers. Changing US\$100 will make you an instant millionaire! You cannot legally take the dong out of Vietnam but you can reconvert reasonable amounts of it into US dollars on departure.

#### **CAMBODIA**

## Passports and Visas

All nationalities require a visa and a passport valid for 6 months after their planned exit from Cambodia. A 30-day visa on arrival is available at Phnom Penh and Siem Reap Airports and at some land border crossings. You can also obtain a visa online through e-Visa. There is a 3-day processing time and you'll need a scanned copy of the passport. Not all border crossings accept the e-Visa, please check this port of entry page which provides a list of which checkpoints support the e-Visa service. If your chosen tour includes a border crossing where e-Visa is not available we'll tell you at the time of booking. For Visa-On-Arrival, the cost is 35 USD and it needs to be paid in cash. It is important that the USD are in good condition - i.e. no visible tearing, creasing, crumpling, or scribbling - so please only bring new and crisp USD bills to avoid any issues upon entry.

#### Health

We recommend that you visit a travel medical doctor and ask about the following vaccinations: typhoid, polio, tetanus and hepatitis A. A certificate for Yellow Fever is required when arriving from an infected area within six days.

#### Weather

Cambodia has two distinct seasons - wet and dry. The dry season usually lasts from October to April. The wet season starts in May until September. Within each season there are variations in temperature. The coolest being 24C around November/December and hottest hitting 35C around April/May.

## Food

Meals are included as per the itinerary where B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner. Most meals are local and feature noodles, rice, curries, and soups. Cambodian cuisine is a mixture of Thai, French and Chinese dishes and we make sure you can sample a wide variety. Any special dietary requirements can also be catered for as well. Please let us know at the time of booking.

## Drink

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#### Extra Expenses

We recommend that you tuck away a few extra dollars, perhaps US\$20, for incidentals.

#### Money

Thai baht and US dollars are widely used in Cambodia, especially in larger cities and towns. In smaller towns and villages, Cambodian riels are usually preferred. There are ATMs in most areas, however, machines dispense US dollars. The guides will be able to show you where the ATMs are. Spend riel before departing as no one will exchange them for you once you leave.

#### **GENERAL BOOKING INFO**

If this is the tour for you here's what you need to do to confirm your place:

#### FLEXIBLE BOOKING CONDITIONS

Booking a SpiceRoads cycling adventure is easy and we try to do everything possible to make sure you have full flexibility and peace of mind. We do not require a deposit to hold your place on a tour and once full payment has been made your money is protected in our client account and you have the flexibility to cancel or change your booking if needed.

#### CONFIRMING YOUR BOOKING

Just complete our online booking form or send your booking details offline (email or post), and we will confirm your participation. No deposit is needed to confirm your place on a SpiceRoads tour.

You are advised to read our <u>Booking Conditions</u> in full before you make your payment and should you require further clarifications of any of the conditions below, please <u>email us</u> or call our office.

#### TRIP STATUS

There is a minimum number of participants (usually 2) required to enable the trip to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to Depart'. Once a trip is guaranteed to depart you are free to book your flights and make other travel arrangements. If the trip status is 'Limited' will mean we have only a small number of spaces available for booking. If you are unsure about the trip status, please <a href="mailto:em

#### **BOOKING ONLINE**

From the tour page, click the 'Book Now' link. All departures for this tour will appear, just select the date you'd like to travel. For the next steps, you'll need to know the names of the people travelling. If you wish you can also provide extra details such as passport numbers, height (for bike hire), or you can add that later by logging into Manage My Trip (we'll set up an account for you automatically if you don't already have one). Our system will contact you from time to time to fill in the missing information, as it will be required before departure. However, if the trip that you are booking offers a child discount, you will have to fill out the date of birth of each rider (so we can calculate the appropriate discount).

If you are having any problems please send us an email, or give us a call (+66 026 3295) and one of our travel specialists will assist you with your booking.

#### **BOOKING OFFLINE**

Just call us or send an email indicating which trip you want to join and we will happily send you a list of questions and process your booking for you.

### **DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS**

We do not require a deposit or full payment to book a place for you on a tour.

The balance of the tour's cost (final invoice) will need to be paid 60 days before the departure date with fees for any bicycle rental(s), single supplement(s) and extra hotel nights.

In the case where a booking is made when there are less than 60 days until the tour departure date, the tour's cost should be paid in full within 72 hours of receiving an invoice from SpiceRoads. Payment can be made by credit card using our online payment gateway or by bank transfer. When making payment online you will need to confirm that you have read these booking conditions during the "checkout" process, which equates to agreeing to the terms of services and stipulations as indicated in this document.

In all cases, tour fees need to be paid "in full" before participation in a tour. No person(s) will be allowed to join a tour without fully settling their invoice and receiving a confirmation number from SpiceRoads.

The exception can be made for last-minute miscellaneous fees that can be paid locally (visas, additional local hotel bookings, etc.) can be settled on the day of arrival.

#### **FULL FLEXIBILITY FOR TOUR CANCELATIONS**

If the tour is cancelled or postponed by SpiceRoads because we didn't make the trip numbers and the tour can't run, we will make a full cash refund (by bank transfer or on your credit card).

If the tour is cancelled for any other reason, including due to Covid related travel restrictions, we will give you a full credit (with no deductions for admin or any other small-print item) to use on any SpiceRoads tour with no time limit. (Exceptions being flights, special permits and other non-refundable items and these will be advised when booking the trip).

Before paying for your tour, you can cancel your booking with no charge and up until 40 days before departure, you can change your booking to another travel date or move your booking onto another SpiceRoads tour with no charges.

If you need to cancel after you have made full payment, please see our cancellation policy.

# Loyalty Riders Club

For those who have been on several long tours with us, we reward customer loyalty by offering repeat customers a special discount off the tour price (excludes single supplement and bike rental). If this is your fourth scheduled tour or more you will receive a 5% discount. If this is your eighth scheduled tour or more we will extend a 10% discount. The discount will be reflected in your online booking, but please contact us if any questions. Loyalty discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Note: Only tours of 7 days or more will be applicable for a loyalty discount.

## International Flights

International flights, to and from the start and finish points are not included in the tour price. Once your tour is Guaranteed to Depart you can book your flight. Please contact us for advice before arranging flights for the best arrival and departure times. We would only cancel a trip for an extreme circumstance, but in that case, where we cancel your trip, we cannot be liable for losses incurred relating to any flight booking you have made. Please claim any losses from your <a href="travel insurance">travel insurance</a> that you acquired when you booked your holiday.

#### Newsletter

Our adventure travel <u>e-newsletter</u> is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from SpiceRoads, be sure to subscribe.

The information in this document is given in good faith, and covers the average range of conditions likely to be found on this trip. Please note that the itinerary is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, however, we will always do our best to adhere to this original itinerary

#### **CONTACT US**

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Email: info@spiceroads.com Website: www.spiceroads.com

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