



## Vietnam & Cambodia | 01 – 16 October 2020

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Join us to explore Hanoi, Saigon, Halong Bay & Chau Doc, continuing to Cambodia to visit Phnom Penh & Siem Riep to discover Angkor Wat & Angkor Thom. Beautiful countryside, history and wonderful cuisine will complete this experience.

# Vietnam & Cambodia Itinerary | October 2020

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## 01 OCTOBER | DEPART SOUTH AFRICA

Overnight flight from South Africa to Hanoi, Vietnam.

## 02 OCTOBER | ARRIVE HANOI | D (2 NIGHTS)

Upon arrival at Noi Bai Airport, we will be met and transferred to our hotel.

Dinner is served at a local restaurant.

## 03 OCTOBER | HANOI | B L D

We will start the day by exploring the historic **Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum**, an imposing monument lavishly-built, using marble and granite, where the preserved body of “Uncle Ho” resides. Behind the Mausoleum, we will see **Ho Chi Minh's House**, indeed a modest dwelling, in keeping with his character and way of life. This simple structure (where Ho Chi Minh lived and worked) is made of wood, set in tranquil surroundings, with a view of a lotus pond. Ho Chi Minh’s belongings are on display and we can walk up the steps of the house to see where and how he lived. A short walk from the Mausoleum takes us to the **lotus-shaped One Pillar Pagoda** – resting on a single stone pillar, **emerging from the water**. We will continue afterwards to the **Temple of Literature**, the first University for the sons of Mandarins, for an overview of Hanoian culture. We will also gain an appreciation for ancient Vietnamese architecture. In the afternoon we visit the **Museum of Ethnology** (a 20-minute drive out of town), which provides a fascinating insight into Vietnam’s 54 ethnic minority groups. Thereafter we drive back to Central Hanoi for an hour **cyclo tour through the Old Quarter**, to enjoy the bustling local life. We will round off the day with a show at the **water puppet theatre** - a uniquely-North Vietnamese art form, depicting scenes of rural life and episodes of national history.

We will enjoy a traditional Vietnamese cuisine dinner at Madame Hien Restaurant and visit an old house on Ma May Street to enjoy Ca Tru, a type of Vietnamese religious music (or chamber music), an old tradition from the North. In the 15th Century Ca Tru was played for ceremonies and entertainment in the Imperial Court; this traditional show has different types of singing skills, dance, instruments and costumes.

## 04 OCTOBER | HANOI - HALONG | B L D (1 NIGHT)

After breakfast, we will depart on the 3 hour journey to **Halong Bay**, stopping en route for a break at Dai Viet Centre – the best place to stop and stretch our legs! On arrival in Halong Bay, we will board our **exotic junk**, settle into our cabins and prepare ourselves for an enjoyable **lunch on deck**. In the afternoon we visit the mysterious **Tien Ong Cave**, adorned with stalactites and stalagmites, and onto the **Cua Van Fishing Village**, the largest fishing community on the Bay. Back at the boat, we will participate in a **cooking class** with the chef; hopefully also enjoying not only our culinary handiwork, but also the sunset and a **sundowner on the top deck**, all just before dinner.

Dinner and overnight on board the junk boat

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### 05 OCTOBER | HALONG - HUE | B L D (2 NIGHTS)

Today we will prepare to rise early and greet the day with a refreshing **Tai Chi class**; making our way to the upper deck. We will transfer from the main boat to a small beach on **Ti Top Island** where those wanting or needing some exercise are challenged to a 20 minute climb to the top of the island. Later we will re-join the main boat and subsequently transfer back to Hanoi around 11h00.

Transfer to airport for evening flight to Hanoi. **Fly Hanoi – Hue 18h30-19h40**.  
On arrival in Hue, met and transferred to our hotel. Dinner is served at local restaurant.

### 06 OCTOBER | HUE | B L D

Following breakfast, we will enjoy a **city tour** around **Hue**, which served as an Imperial Capital to the Nguyen Lords, a feudal dynasty which reigned from the 17th – 19th Centuries and behold the splendid Emperors' Tombs, ancient pagodas and the remains of The Citadel, proof that the city still retains its royal charm. Starting from our hotel, we will have a fun **10 minute cycle ride** to the **Imperial Citadel**, a UNESCO listed site. Entering through the towering main gate, we will appreciate the magnificent architecture and gardens, while our guide explains the events and intrigue of the former Royal Court. Despite being bombed heavily in the "American War", there are some incredibly well-preserved sections still intact, plus others which are being lovingly restored. From there, we move onto **Thien Mu Pagoda**, Hue's best-preserved religious monument. Standing on the river bank with its seven-storey tower, the pagoda is a sight to behold. In the afternoon, we take a 30-minute drive to the elaborate **Khai Dinh Royal Tomb**. Its architecture and atmosphere showcase elements of Eastern art and Western designs. Continue to the serene **Tu Duc Royal Tomb**, designed to blend in with its natural surroundings, and built on the principles of feng shui. Transfer back to your hotel with a stop for a **drink at Vong Canh Hill** which offers an amazing view of breath-taking scenery and ancient relics. The hill itself is now covered with pine trees and daisies.

Lunch & Dinner is served at a local restaurant

### 07 OCTOBER | HUE - HOI AN | B L D (1 NIGHT)

Today we will enjoy a **walking tour of Hoi An**, which was a prosperous trading port between the 17th and 19th Centuries. Today this World Heritage-listed ancient town boasts well-preserved buildings, pedestrianized streets and unique cuisine, allowing visitors a glimpse of its illustrious past. The narrow lanes are ideal for a guided walking tour. There is plenty to see, including the old merchants' houses, their designs displaying influences of Chinese, Japanese and Vietnamese architecture. Enjoy also the unique **400-year-old Japanese Covered Bridge**, a spectacular sight; the Assembly Hall of the Chaozhou Chinese Congregation with its outstanding **wood carvings**; and the colourful market with stalls brimming with local specialties, including silk. The latter can be turned into fashionable garments within a day or two, so why not indulge? Enjoy an hour-long **boat trip** on the Thu Bon River for up close views of fishing boats and country villages before returning to your hotel.

Lunch & Dinner is served at local restaurants.

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### 08 OCTOBER | HOI AN - SAIGON | B D (2 NIGHTS)

Enjoy your leisure time until check-out and transfer to Danang Airport for flight to Saigon.  
Fly Danang-Saigon 14h05-15h35.

Upon arrival, your guide will transfer you to our hotel. After that, discover **Saigon** night life, meet up with your **foodie guide** at a local coffee shop for a tour briefing, before setting out to discover some of the **best street food gems** you can imagine. Join the queue at a local **banh mi shop** for some of the **best bread** in Saigon. Drive or walk to a banh cuon eatery (steamed rice flour **crepe** filled with **pork**), a dish originally from North Vietnam, but now popular throughout the country. Next, sample banh trang nuong, a **pizza-like snack** from Dalat loaded with interesting toppings. Indulge your sweet tooth at a nearby **dessert stall** selling delicious chuoi nep nuong (**grilled banana with coconut milk**). Your final stop will be at a busy eatery famous for its fresh **grilled seafood**, best washed down with a cold local beer. Return to your hotel in the late evening.

### 09 OCTOBER | SAIGON | B D

This morning after breakfast, we will be met and transferred via a 2-hour drive Northwest of Saigon, through urbanized areas and typical lush southern Vietnamese countryside, to the famous **Cu Chi Tunnels**. The tunnel complex was initially started in 1948 to protect the Viet Cong guerrillas from French air and ground attacks. The tunnels also served as communication routes, storage facilities for food and weapon caches, as well as hospitals and living quarters for guerrilla fighters, and all this amazing activity lasted throughout the so-called American War. A visit to the **underground villages** will provide a better understanding of the tunnels' functions and **history**, the hardship of life in the tunnels and Vietnamese resilience during combat.

We will return to Saigon (now officially known as Ho Chi Minh City) for an **afternoon city tour**. The city is the country's commercial centre and, with over **8 million inhabitants** and some **4 million motorbikes**, it is a city which never sleeps! Despite the well-documented hustle and bustle, Saigon retains its connections with the past. Enjoy the city tour to admire Saigon's historic landmarks, including the **Notre Dame Cathedral**, a red brick edifice with twin spires based on the original construction/design from Paris (it is only possible to visit inside when no service is being held). Then head across the square to the **Central Post Office**, designed by the French architect, **Gustave Eiffel** (yes, he popped elsewhere with a Tower, named after him!). We continue our visit to the former Presidential Palace, the headquarters of the Saigon Government during the American War, revealing the history of Saigon during its recent turbulent past. Thereafter we drive to the War Remnants Museum for a revealing insight into the American War through the local citizens' eyes, noting that some of the photos are graphic and disturbing.

Dinner and overnight in our Saigon hotel.

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### 10 OCTOBER | SAIGON - CAN THO – CHAU DOC | B L D (1 NIGHT)

We will leave Saigon early on this day, travelling some 2 hours to the Southwest, witnessing lush rice paddies and fruit farms alongside the highway. Upon arrival in Cai Lay, we will board a **charming wooden boat** to enjoy countryside scenery and river life and then stretch our legs; at which point we will **hop onto a bicycle** for a short ride of about 7km, over easy, level terrain, along narrow **village lanes**, past fruit orchards and local cottage industries. Locals will greet us along the way, with a hello or “xin chao” as we pedal by! We eventually arrive at the home of a tropical fruit farmer and will enjoy a **walk around his well-stocked orchard**, capitalising on the opportunity to taste some fresh fruit. Then we relax while enjoying the view from a **small sampan boat** as we are paddled slowly along **tropical canals**. Land at, and walk through, a **Mekong village** to a local home and enjoy a **home-hosted lunch** of Mekong Delta specialties. After lunch, a short walk takes us back to our coach for the 2-hour drive to Can Tho, and onto Chau Doc.

Arrive at our Chau Doc hotel for dinner and overnight.

### 11 OCTOBER | CHAU DOC – PHNOM PENH (CAMBODIA) | B D (2 NIGHTS)

After an early breakfast, we will transfer from our Chau Doc hotel to the pier for our **5-hour speedboat journey to Phnom Penh**, the **capital city of Cambodia**. Upon arrival, we will be met and transferred to our hotel. We will then enjoy a half day **city tour**, including inter alia, the Royal Palace and the Silver Pagoda. These are two of the most striking buildings in the capital which are considered to be some of the finest examples of Khmer architecture. They were initially constructed in 1866 by the French. The Royal Palace is home to the current King Norodom Sihamoni while the neighbouring Silver Pagoda stands out in its own distinctive way. The floor consists of over 5,000 solid silver tiles, to which the building owes its name. The building houses many gold and jewelled **Buddha statues**, including the highly-prized 17th Century baccarat crystal, Buddha. Other important buildings to be seen within the compound include: Wat Preah Keo Morokat (where Royal ceremonies are performed), and the stupas, such as King Ang Doung Stupa – the burial site of former King Norodom. We will then make our way to the **rooftop of the Foreign Correspondents’ Club** for an optional **sunset cocktail**, complete with a back drop of the sun, descending over the Tonle and Mekong Rivers.

Dinner and overnight at our Phnom Penh hotel.

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### 12 OCTOBER | PHNOM PENH | B L D

Today we will learn more about the **turbulent Khmer Rouge years** with visits to Tuol Sleng, a high school turned **interrogation prison**, known as S-21 during the Khmer Rouge era and now a genocide museum; and Cheung Ek, a large memorial commemorating the **17 000 victims** who died under the reign of Khmer Rouge leader, Pol Pot, made famous by the movie "The Killing Fields". While sombre, reminders of the cruelty of the Khmer Rouge regime, these visits will also provide an appreciation of the **struggle that Cambodian people** have faced and their tremendous courage to move on and rebuild their nation. Thereafter we visit the **National Museum**, designed in 1917 in Khmer style by a French archaeologist and painter. The museum houses Khmer art and sculptures from different periods of Cambodian history. After lunch at a local restaurant, return to our hotel for a short rest. In the early evening, when the sunlight fades and the neon lights appear along the river banks, a **small cruise boat** will take you out onto the river to view the city from a different perspective. Witness the sunset over the Royal Palace and the Mekong River while enjoying a drink and snack. Enjoy a **leisurely cruise** while taking in the sights along the river bank, including many local Cambodian families and friends socializing.

Cruise back to the port and transfer back to our hotel.

### 13 OCTOBER | PHNOM PENH – SIEM REAP | (2 NIGHTS) B L

After breakfast, we will experience a fascinating journey by bus through the **Cambodian countryside** on the way to our hotel in **Siem Reap**.

Lunch on arrival.

In the afternoon, start our first tour in Siem Reap. Located in the heart of Siem Reap, **Wat Damnak** is one of the town's most beautiful pagodas, highlighted by French colonial architecture and a **spacious statue garden**. Bring along candles and incense sticks and participate in a private blessing ceremony performed by **local monks** who reside at the temple. Take a seat on a mat while the monks chant blessings and sprinkle holy water on you, a traditional practice which is believed to pass on the good luck of the gods. Afterwards, a **sacred thread** will be tied around your wrist for protection and good luck. Before leaving, receive a small keepsake from the monks to remind you of this special encounter.

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### 14 OCTOBER | SIEM REAP | B D

Transfer by private vehicle to **Ta Prohm**, this **beautiful temple**, built in 1186 as a Buddhist temple, dedicated to the mother of Jayavarman VII, is one of **Angkor's jewels** and is overgrown with fig trees, giving a haunting yet exotic atmosphere. One of the largest temple sites in Angkor it took almost 80 000 people to maintain the temple. Drive a short distance to **Ta Keo**, which would have been one of the finest temples in Angkor had it been completed. Continue to **Angkor Thom**, not a temple, but an entire **walled city** of 9 square kilometres and the royal Capital from 1181. With a population of 1 million, it was far bigger than any city in Europe at the time. The centre piece is Bayon Temple crowned with **216 giant, smiling faces** of King Jayavarman VII. Also visit the Terrace of the Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King, which houses almost perfectly **preserved carvings**.

After a leisurely break our exploration continues as we enter the rear gate of **Angkor Wat** (early 12th century). Surrounded by a 190 metre wide moat, 1.5 kilometres by 1.3 kilometres it is claimed to be the largest religious building in the world. The temple, which **took 30 years** to construct & used the labours of **300,000 workers** was built as the earthly representation of the universe with it's central tower symbolizing Mt Meru which, Hindus believe, is at the centre of the Universe.

Later, return to our hotel late afternoon.

**In the evening, transfer to our dinner with Apsara Dance show.**

### 15 OCTOBER | DEPART SIEM REAP | B

We transfer from our hotel to the airport for our flight to Singapore and home; as we bid Singapore and the old countries of Indochina a fond "Totsiens", following a memorable tour to that exotic corner of the world!

### 16 OCTOBER | ARRIVE SOUTH AFRICA

# Map of Vietnam & Cambodia

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## Information & Costs

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You will visit all the places included in the following itinerary however, Titch Global Tours reserves the right to amend the itinerary according to conditions before, or at, the time of travel.

Where arranged, Breakfast (B), Lunch (L) or Dinner (D) is indicated below.

**Per Person Sharing:** R 46 500

**Single Supplement:** R 13 500

Based on 15 travellers

### **Includes:**

Domestic airfares Hanoi-Hui, Danang-Saigon

Overnight accommodation includes daily breakfast.

2 days 1 night Jasmine Junk boat

Private transfers and touring with private English speaking guide

Entrance fees and private boat rides

Meals as specified

Victoria speedboat Chau Doc – Phnom Penh

### **Excludes:**

International airfares.

### **Airfares:**

Airfare estimate on Singapore Airlines :

Ex Cape Town / Johannesburg from R16 900

Estimated costings & itinerary costed in April 2019 | Subject to change due to currency fluctuations.

# Travel Information:

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## VISA & IMMIGRATION

- South African passport holders require a Vietnam Visa that needs to be obtained prior to arrival.
- All nationalities require a Cambodian Visa and that will be obtained on arrival for between \$33-\$37 per person, please take a passport photo with you for this
- Passports need to be valid for at least 6 months after travel & have at least 4 blank pages.

## PACKING ESSENTIALS

- Light cotton shirts & shorts
- Long trousers/slacks
- Sun hat with wide brim
- Comfortable shoes / hiking boots
- Swimming costume

## WHAT WE LOVE ABOUT VIETNAM & CAMBODIA

- The friendly people
- The food
- The rich history
- The pace & energy of the cities
- The mix of natural and historical UNESCO Heritage sites

## WEATHER IN OCTOBER

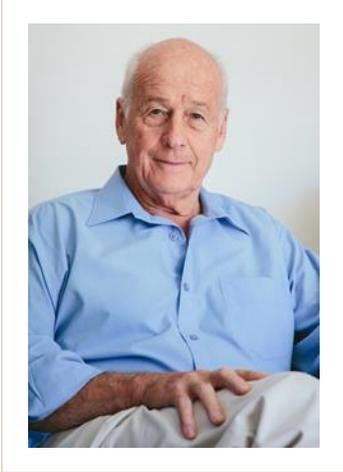
- Vietnam summer lasts from May to October when it is hot and humid and the region experiences its highest rainfall
- Cambodia Weather. As October runs into November dry weather replaces the warm rains of the SW monsoon which have dominated since April. With temperatures and humidity falling towards their lows of the year and the countryside vibrant and green this is the best time to visit Cambodia.

## CURRENCY

- The Vietnamese currency is the Vietnamese Dong (VND) The current rates of exchange are as follows: R1 = VND 1,643.18
- The Cambodia currency is the Cambodian Riel (KHR) or USD R1 = KHR 284.866 / USD1 = KHR 4,017.50

## Meet your Tour Leaders

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Tour leading for his favourite tour company, Titch Global Tours is Michael's main retirement hobby and fun, assisting his daughter Mandi Aliverti.

Titch offers regular, fully-escorted tours to exotic destinations, catering for the "mature traveller". Michael has been leading tours for over 40 years, starting as early as his University days; that passion is still with him. He is fortunate to have his partner Linda Godlonton accompanying him, assisting him on most of the tours.

Michael loves life and seeks at all times to share his love of travel, as well as his travel brand of *joie de vivre*, with his fellow travellers, who become lifelong friends.



Mandi was born practically with a backpack on her back and a head filled with dreams of adventure. Given both her parents working in the industry, it's no surprise that Mandi went on to complete studies in travel and marketing before jetting off to explore the world.

She later returned to South Africa where she worked in the family travel business before being appointed as MD of Titch in 2008. In addition she holds the appointment as MD of Travel Concepts, as part of the Concepts Collection Group.

Mandi is married to her Italian husband Federico and they have 2 children, Gabriella and Claudio. Mandi promises to share her love of travel and all places foreign!

# Travel Concepts Booking Form | Vietnam & Cambodia

## | October 2020

Please complete this booking form and return it with your deposit of R 10,000 and photo-copy of your passport to Travel Concepts.

Name as per passport:		Title:	
Name you wish to be called:		Maiden name (if applicable):	
Address:			
Telephone:		Work -	Cell -
Home -			
Fax:		Email:	
Nationality:		Id no:	
Passport no		Date of birth:	
Date of issue:		Date of expiry:	
Alt passport no:		Nationality:	
Date of issue:		Date of expiry:	
If you have two passports, which one will you be travelling on:			
Smoking:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Special meal requests:
Seating request (on flight):			
Please note that we can only request your choice of seating and cannot confirm it.			
Accommodation - I would like to share with:			Single <input type="checkbox"/>
In the case of passengers travelling alone who wish to share twin accommodation, we endeavour to fulfil these requests. However, should this not be possible, a single room supplement will be payable.			
Name of next of kin /friend:		Relationship:	
Address:		Tel:	Email:
<p>I enclose my cheque for the deposit of R 10,000 (or will do so, or have done so by eft) to secure a place on the tour. Furthermore I confirm I have read, understood and accept the terms &amp; conditions of travelling on tour with Titch Global Tours, a division of Travel Concepts. I also note that the balance of the cost of the tour is payable 6 weeks before departure; costed April 2019, based on 15 full paying passengers. If you are over 85 at time of travel please speak to us about your travel insurance before booking.</p>			
Signed this.....day of.....201      Signature .....			
Method of payment: tick applicable one			
Air ticket: Bank transfer <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card <input type="checkbox"/>			
Credit card <input type="checkbox"/> No. _____ Expiry date: _____ 3 digit code: _____			
Card type: _____ Bank name: _____			
Land & Deposit (no credit card): bank transfer <input type="checkbox"/> cheque <input type="checkbox"/>			
Bank details:		Name: Travel Concepts Bank: Standard Bank Cape Town Branch Code: 051001	
		Account no.: 0624830802 Swift Code: SBZAZAJ	
Distinctive Travel Concepts CC   T/A Travel Concepts 1 Park road, Gardens, Cape Town, 8001, South Africa Telephone: 021 426 5809   Fax: 021 426 5721 Registration No. 2008/001007/23			

# Terms & Conditions | Titch Global Tours

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## A Division of Travel Concepts

**Accommodation** | Hotels & lodges generally of 4 star category.

**Airline Clause** | The carrier(s) concerned will not be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passengers are not aboard the aircraft or conveyance. The passenger ticket in use by the airline concerned, when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the airline(s) concerned and the purchaser of this tour and/or the passengers.

**Baggage** | One piece of luggage per person not exceeding 20 kilograms (on an exceptional basis this may be increased to 23 kilograms) plus one piece of cabin luggage/carry-on, not exceeding a total length of 115cm.

**Cancellation** | All cancellations must be made in writing. Titch Global Tours reserves the right to claim all or a portion of the fares paid by passenger(s) who cancel(s) reservations. In accordance with standard procedures adopted by tour operators worldwide, Titch Global Tours reserves the right to cancel the tour prior to departure without any further liability to Titch Global Tours, other than making an appropriate refund, at the discretion of Titch Global Tours, of amounts paid to Titch Global Tours in respect of the tour.

**Fares/Flights** | The tours are generally costed excluding international airfares. Accordingly Titch Global Tours recommends the air carrier, according to the destination of the tour, based on convenience of the flights/connections recommended and competitive pricing.

**Gratuities** | Tips for personal services are not included. Tips for the guides and drivers are not obligatory, but are customary and are left to the discretion of the travellers; ideally these are collected by the tour leader at the beginning of the tour.

**Insurance** | Comprehensive insurance cover is strongly recommended and is obtainable through Titch Global Tours, which constitutes an additional expense.

**Itinerary** | The itinerary is subject to alteration, without notice, where necessary, according to the conditions en route.

**Meals** | Breakfast, Lunch and/or Dinner daily shall be supplied, as specified in terms of the itinerary and subject to clause 8 above, by the symbol B, L or D.

# Terms & Conditions | Titch Global Tours

## A Division of Travel Concepts

**Liabilities** | Titch Global Tours, its employees, the Tour Operators and/or their agents, in making arrangements for the tour, act as agents only and on condition that they shall not be held liable for injury, damage or any loss arising in respect of their services. Participation in the tour is strictly undertaken at the traveller's own risk. Titch Global Tours warrants that whilst it will use its reasonable endeavours to ensure that the services are carried out timeously, and accordingly it cannot warrant such services and cannot be held liable for any claims of whatsoever nature by any person whatsoever, arising directly or indirectly out of, or in consequence of its services.

**Not included in tour price** | The tour specifically excludes all entertainment not shown in the itinerary, insurance cover, flights/fares, gratuities, meals or food purchased over and above the tour menus, morning and afternoon teas, beverages, wines, spirits, laundry, optional tours, additional portorage, telephone calls or any other incidental expense etc.

**Passport and Visas** | Travellers will be advised of visa requirements, if any, in relation to the destination(s) of the tour. Travellers are furthermore requested to ensure that their passports are valid for at least 6 months after the end of the tour, and that there are a minimum of 2 (two) blank and consecutive pages in the passport still unused for the purpose of applying for a visa, if required.

**Payment** | A deposit of R10, 000.00 is required at the time of booking. The cost of the tour in question will be based on the advertised minimum full-paying passengers. In the event that less than the minimum number of full-paying passengers are on the tour, the tour cost may change, in which event the traveller will be entitled to withdraw from the tour if desired, and will be refunded any monies paid for the tour, provided the payment for the tour has not already been remitted to the destination country/countries in question.

Name: Distinctive Travel Concepts cc  
Bank: Standard Bank Cape Town  
Branch Code: 051001  
Account No: 0624830802  
Swift Code: SBZAJJ

**Indemnity** | Titch Global Tours, its employees, tour operators and/or their agents are indemnified from any liability in making arrangements for the tour and Titch Global Tours, its employees, tour operators and/or their agents will not be liable for injury, damage or any loss which may be occasioned by carrying out the arrangements of the tour or otherwise in connection therewith.