

**AkORN**  
AKORN DESTINATION MANAGEMENT



Southeast Asia



# The Akorn Advantage

Akorn Destination Management is the most comprehensive network of high-quality Destination Management Companies, with DMCs on every continent offering value driven ground operations and complete brand protection for quality-conscious tour operators and travel agents.

Akorn guarantees complete **brand protection** throughout all operations, using Akorn branding on the ground or operating as a 'white-label' brand using our partners' logos and signage.

**41 years of ground operating experience** and more than 30 offices worldwide, provide unparalleled resources to draw on.

The Akorn **quality control** procedures backing any operation, ensures the quality that defines an Akorn Travel Experience.

Akorn's **superior buying power** and relationships with the best local suppliers offer a unique combination of value and excellence.

**Tried and tested emergency procedures** facilitate immediate assistance and/or repatriation, in the event of a medical emergency or major disaster.

**Corporate Indemnity:** our substantial liability insurance coverage for all clients travelling with Akorn guarantees their security and your peace of mind.

Akorn's **in-depth destination knowledge** of the countries where we operate and access to unusual places - from privately owned art collections to meetings with local dignitaries - guarantees our itineraries will be distinctive and unique.

Akorn is practiced in tailoring exciting and original itineraries for **special interest groups** with expert local guides and lecturers.

## Brand Moments

Akorn's Brand Moments allow our guests to delve into the culture of the country they are visiting – to understand, interact and ultimately, to expand their own horizons.

## Insider Access

Utilizing on-the-ground local knowledge, our Insider Access opportunities identify the hidden aspects of a destination, providing unique access to rare and authentic moments that few travelers enjoy.





## Akorn in Southeast Asia

Akorn is proud to provide a true point of difference in Southeast Asia. Our professional and highly experienced team of consultants and guides includes informed researchers, experts and passionate individuals. Educated and engaging, our guides' extensive knowledge of history, architecture, food, wine, indigenous culture and arts enables each journey to be tailored to each traveler's interest.

Akorn provides security and reassurance. Our 24-hour contact lines in each destination provide access to immediate assistance whenever required. For added peace of mind, our in-country specialists and local presence provide reassurance for guests who know they are dealing with Akorn, and Akorn only.

Unique personal relationships with hoteliers, third party suppliers and local communities mean that Akorn possesses the ability to "open closed doors" and secure priority check-in, preferential treatment, room upgrades, flexible check-out times and exclusive Akorn amenities.

Whether your clients are traveling independently, on a shore excursion, as part of a group or on a family holiday, our vastly experienced team goes the extra mile to exceed guests' expectations.





# Akorn in Thailand

Universally known as ‘The Land of Smiles’, Thailand is home to ancient palaces and spectacular temples; lively markets; cultural wonders and breath-taking natural beauty. Today’s Thailand transcends its ancient roots yet clings to unique cultural traditions and its blend of old and new make it one of the most exotic and diverse destinations in modern Asia.

## What to do

Visit hill tribe villages in northern Thailand, make offerings and receive blessings from monks at a temple, stroll through colorful markets filled with local handicrafts or float along scenic rivers and sleepy canals that offer a glimpse of a slow, traditional way of life.

Thailand is also home to stunning islands and pristine beaches as well as some of the world’s top-ranked fine dining restaurants.

## Principal Attractions

**Bangkok** - A bustling, modern metropolis, Bangkok is a city where time-honored Buddhist culture and traditions meet architectural wonders and futuristic technology. Visit the city’s bustling bazaars and experience its vibrant nightlife.

**Chiang Mai** - Home to hill tribes and ethnic minorities, this area is the gateway to the beautiful mountainous region of Northern Thailand formerly known as the Lanna Kingdom. Trek through the exotic jungle and discover local produce and tea plantations.

**Phuket and the Southern Islands** - Famous for their shimmering turquoise seas, secluded beaches and sheer limestone outcrops, the islands of Thailand offer the perfect setting to relax & unwind. Enjoy island-hopping or simply settle on a beach and enjoy paradise as you please.

**Best time to go:** The peak travel season spans from October to March. Thailand experiences little rain during this period, and is traditionally blessed with slightly more moderate temperatures in December and January. The hottest time of year is April, when the country celebrates the Thai New Year (Songkran festival). The best value time to travel is between April and September when there are fewer crowds at the popular attractions.

**Capital City:** Bangkok

**Currency:** Thai Baht

**Time Zone:** GMT +7 hours

**Visa Requirements:** US, UK, Australian & most European citizens can enter Thailand visa-free for up to 30 days. Alternatively, visas may be obtained on arrival at a Thai embassy prior to departure from the point of origin. The visa fee may vary depending on the applicant’s nationality.





# Akorn in Myanmar

The 'jewel' of Southeast Asia, Myanmar (formerly known as Burma) is perhaps one of the last great destinations free from mass tourism. With magnificent cultural sights, an inspiring natural environment and warm, welcoming people, this charming nation inspires even the most seasoned traveler with its raw vibrancy.

## What to do

Discover a rich landscape of dazzling pagodas and archaeological treasures. Enjoy a leisurely cruise along the Ayeyarwady River and discover ethnic villages and natural scenery that seem to have been forgotten in time.

## Principal Attractions

**Yangon** - Despite the inevitable steps towards modernization, Yangon remains the embodiment of the colonial-era orient and represents a world long forgotten

and dearly missed. Stroll along leafy tree-lined avenues, to discover colonial architecture, scenic lakes and atmospheric parks.

**Bagan** - Countless temples and pagodas are scattered around a picturesque bend of the Ayeyarwady River, creating a majestic scene. The archaeological zone provides an inspirational backdrop for dramatic sunsets.

**Mandalay** - Immortalized in Rudyard Kipling's 'The Road to Mandalay', the former royal capital evokes romantic images of mystical dreams. See the world's largest bell at Mingun and visit some of the many monasteries and nunneries that cover the hills of Sagaing.

**Inle Lake** - Home to the Intha people, the crystal clear lake is flanked on all sides by the verdant Shan Hills. The locals live in symbiosis with the water, utilizing a unique one-legged rowing style to navigate between the stilted buildings that appear to float upon the lake.

**Best time to go:** Myanmar's peak travel season spans from October to March, when the country experiences little rain. The hottest time of year is April, while slightly more moderate temperatures occur in December and January. The best value time to travel to Myanmar is from May to September when the rain replenishes the coastal regions and Yangon, while Bagan, Inle Lake and Mandalay are typically spared from heavy rains.

**Capital City:** Naypyidaw

**Currency:** Myanmar Kyat

**Time Zone:** GMT +6.5 hours

**Visa Requirements:** Tourist visas must be obtained in advance, prior to arrival in Myanmar. An online eVisa system is available for passport holders of 100 nations. All other nationalities must submit an application at their nearest Myanmar embassy or consulate.





# Akorn in Vietnam

Vietnam's faded colonial charm blends seamlessly with the relics of an ancient imperial dynasty. From the serene highlands of Sapa and Ha Giang to the imperial splendor of Hue and the lush lowlands of the Mekong Delta, Vietnam is a land of unique cultural distinctions and exquisite natural beauty.

## What to do

Explore bustling cities and remote ethnic villages, trek through the scenic mountain regions of Sapa and Ha Giang, cruise Ha Long Bay on a traditional junk, discover the beauty of the Mekong Delta or escape to one of the many pristine beaches.

## Principal Attractions

**Hanoi** - Centuries of Chinese influence and French colonialism are reflected in the streets Hanoi, where historical temples and monuments line the bustling old quarter.

Hanoi is also a convenient base for exploring the majestic limestone karsts of Ha Long Bay and the tranquil mountainside retreat of Sapa.

**Hue** - Set on the southern banks of the Perfume River, Hue was the center of Vietnamese culture, religion and education during the Nguyen Dynasty. Magnificent architecture and numerous mausoleums remain as reminders of the city's opulent past.

**Da Nang & Hoi An** - Sitting elegantly on the coast of the South China Sea, Da Nang serves as the gateway to Hoi An, a charming old town which was once a flourishing port - a melting pot of Eastern and Western cultures.

**Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC)** - Still lovingly known as Saigon, HCMC is one of the liveliest cities in Southeast Asia. Vibrant markets, bustling pavement cafes and exuberant street vendors at every corner reflect a strong traditional culture amid rapid modernization.

**Best time to go:** Vietnam is a year-round destination with differing climates in the north, central and south. Hanoi, Ha Long Bay, Sapa and other areas in the north enjoy cool and dry weather from November to April, while Ho Chi Minh City and the southern regions enjoy moderate temperatures throughout the year with dry season from November to May. Hoi An and Central Vietnam remains hot and dry from January to August.

**Capital City:** Hanoi

**Currency:** Vietnamese Dong (US Dollars are accepted)

**Time Zone:** GMT +7 hours

**Visa Requirements:** Citizens of selected European countries including France, Germany, Spain, Italy and UK may enter Vietnam visa-free for up to 15 days. A Visa Approval Letter is required to obtain a visa on arrival (this is provided in Akorn's pre-departure documents). Tourist visas can also be obtained online or at a Vietnamese embassy or consulate prior to departure from the point of origin.





# Akorn in Cambodia & Laos

## Cambodia

From the glory years of the mighty Khmer Empire to the intolerable cruelties faced during the time of the Khmer Rouge, Cambodia's dramatic and turbulent past is transcended by its scenic beauty, enduring traditions and gifted artisans.

### Principal Attractions

**Phnom Penh** - Once considered the most beautiful city in French Indochina, Phnom Penh is characterized by an old-world charm. The glittering Grand Palace stands beside leafy boulevards lined with colonial buildings, lively pavement cafes and colorful local markets.

**Siem Reap** - Once a sleepy riverside village, Siem Reap is the gateway to the magnificent UNESCO World Heritage Site of Angkor Wat, whose stone ruins stand testament to the power of the once vast and glorious Khmer Empire. Surrounded by over 1,000 temples and ruins, Siem Reap offers plenty of historical and cultural wonders to explore.

**Best time to go:** The peak travel period is October to March, while April to September offers the best value with fewer crowds.

**Capital City:** Phnom Penh **Currency:** Riel (US Dollars are accepted)

**Time Zone:** GMT +7 hours

**Visa Requirements:** US, UK, Australian & most European citizens can obtain a visa on arrival. Tourist eVisas are also available.

## Laos

Largely unaffected by large-scale development, Laos is as naturally stunning today as it was in centuries past. Its rich cultural traditions, idyllic colonial era towns and warm, welcoming people offer an unmatched glimpse into the Southeast Asia of old.

### Principal Attractions

**Vientiane** - An eclectic mix of Thai, Vietnamese, French and Soviet influences, the capital's glittering temples rest on tranquil tree-lined avenues neighboring colonial houses and terraced cafes.

**Luang Prabang** - Dotted with glittering golden spires, colorful markets and architecture from a distant colonial era, Luang Prabang sits on the confluence of the Mekong and Mae Kok Rivers and is a wonderful gateway to discovering the sacred Pak Ou Caves or the various weaving and whisky villages that line the banks of the majestic Mekong.

**Best time to go:** October to March is the peak travel season, although travel between April and September offers the best value.

**Capital City:** Vientiane **Currency:** Kip (US Dollars are accepted)

**Time Zone:** GMT +7 hours

**Visa Requirements:** Citizens of most countries can obtain a visa on arrival in Laos.



# Suggested Itineraries

## Classic Vietnam

<b>Day 1</b> Arrive Hanoi	<b>Day 6</b> Hoi An
<b>Day 2</b> Hanoi	<b>Day 7</b> Hoi An - HCMC
<b>Day 3</b> Hanoi - Ha Long Bay	<b>Day 8</b> HCMC
<b>Day 4</b> Ha Long Bay - Hue	<b>Day 9</b> HCMC
<b>Day 5</b> Hue - Hoi An	<b>Day 10</b> Depart HCMC

## Best of Cambodia & Laos

<b>Day 1</b> Arrive Phnom Penh	<b>Day 6</b> Siem Reap - Luang Prabang
<b>Day 2</b> Phnom Penh	<b>Day 7</b> Luang Prabang
<b>Day 3</b> Phnom Penh - Siem Reap	<b>Day 8</b> Luang Prabang
<b>Day 4</b> Siem Reap	<b>Day 9</b> Luang Prabang
<b>Day 5</b> Siem Reap	<b>Day 10</b> Depart Luang Prabang

## Treasures of Thailand

<b>Day 1</b> Arrive Bangkok	<b>Day 7</b> Chiang Mai - Koh Samui
<b>Day 2</b> Bangkok	<b>Day 8</b> Koh Samui
<b>Day 3</b> Bangkok	<b>Day 9</b> Koh Samui
<b>Day 4</b> Bangkok - Chiang Mai	<b>Day 10</b> Koh Samui - Depart Bangkok
<b>Day 5</b> Chiang Mai	
<b>Day 6</b> Chiang Mai	

## Best of Myanmar

<b>Day 1</b> Arrive Yangon	<b>Day 7</b> Mandalay - RV Sanctuary Ananda
<b>Day 2</b> Yangon	<b>Day 8</b> RV Sanctuary Ananda
<b>Day 3</b> Yangon - Heho - Inle Lake	<b>Day 9</b> RV Sanctuary Ananda - Bagan
<b>Day 4</b> Inle Lake	<b>Day 10</b> Bagan
<b>Day 5</b> Inle Lake - Heho - Mandalay	<b>Day 11</b> Bagan - Depart Yangon
<b>Day 6</b> Mandalay	

## AKORN Thailand, Laos & Cambodia

Suite 1514, 15th Floor, Empire Tower  
1 South Sathorn Road  
Bangkok 10120, Thailand  
Tel: +66 (0) 2 670 0064  
Email: thailand@akorndmc.com

## AKORN Myanmar

67 Shwe Taung Tan Street  
Lanmadaw Township  
Yangon, Myanmar  
Tel: +95 (0) 9 966 73 88 77  
Email: myanmar@akorndmc.com

## AKORN Vietnam

7th Floor, VVA Building 277-279  
Ly Tu Trong Street, Ben Thanh Ward, District 1  
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam  
Tel: +84 (0) 28 3820 5775  
Email: vietnam@akorndmc.com