

Vietnam Family Adventure

Country(ies): Vietnam

Tour type: Family

Transport: A/C minibus, junk boat, sleeper train & flight

Group size: Min: 3 | Max: 16

Days: 13 days

Start Location: Hanoi, Vietnam

End Location: Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Meals: Breakfasts - 11, Lunches - 8, Dinners - 2



Highlights:

Night on a junk boat in Halong Bay, Hanoi's Old Quarter, traditional cooking class, quaint riverside town of Hoi An, energetic old Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City), exploring the cramped Cu Chi tunnels

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Hanoi and transfer to hotel

Arrive Hanoi Airport. After customs and immigration formalities you will be met by our representative and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is free for you to rest and recover after your flight, or start to explore the area around your hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Hanoi hotel

MEALS: None

EXTRAS: Extra day in Hanoi - pre-tour Single room supplement (VEFAFA)

Day 2: Hanoi, full day city tour

Today you'll enjoy a full day guided tour around Hanoi. We start with a visit to the Ho Chi Minh Complex including the Mausoleum, his former stilt-house residence, the Presidential Palace and the Ho Chi Minh Museum. Next we stop at the Temple of Literature - Vietnam's first university dating back to 1070, before take a break to try a local Vietnamese lunch.

In the afternoon we visit the Museum of Ethnology, widely acknowledged as the best in the country, containing an extensive display of life-size structures dedicated to Vietnam's 54 ethnic minority peoples. We also explore Ngoc Son Temple and Hoan Kiem Lake - the Ngoc Son Temple is set on a tiny island on Hoan Kiem Lake, its history dating back to the 13th century. Later in the afternoon we enjoy a one-hour cyclo tour through the narrow, chaotic streets of the Old Quarter - a must for any visitor to Hanoi!

In the evening we take in a traditional performance of the famous Vietnamese water puppets.

OVERNIGHT: Hanoi hotel

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

EXTRAS:

Day 3: Hanoi, Vietnamese cooking class

This morning starts with a visit to the Hanoi Cooking Centre to begin your day of Vietnamese cooking. You will enjoy a special 'La Han' Vietnamese welcome tea, followed by a brief introduction to Vietnamese cuisine, including highlighting the contents of a traditional Vietnamese meal. Then take a short walk to Chau Long Market, where you will be shown around by the Chef who will explain the interesting goods on sale. Anything from livestock to silk worms are available to buy.

Upon arriving back at the HCC the cooking class will begin and you will be able to sample some local goods, as well as getting all of the recipes printed for you to take home.

On completion of the cooking class, enjoy the meal you have prepared. This gives you a chance to chat to the chef in the comfort of the HCC dining area and enjoy a drink whilst you relax.

After the lesson receive a HCC 'Going Home' gift and you can also purchase some of the Vietnamese spices, tools and books that you have used during the day.

OVERNIGHT: Hanoi hotel

MEALS: Breakfast,Lunch

EXTRAS:

Day 4: Halong Bay Cruise

Today we head east on a four hour drive to the coast and Halong Bay. We board a restored junk boat and start exploring the jade green waters of the bay, sailing amongst the impressive limestone cliffs and islands. During the day we'll visit Sung Sot cave for some easy hiking and exploring the stalactite and stalagmite formations (there are over 700 steps here, rubber shoes and sandals are recommended). We'll also visit Titop island for some more exploring and swimming (towels provided).

In the evening there will be a cooking demonstration on the deck you can join if you wish, or just relax with your freshly prepared seafood dinner and watch the sun set over the bay.

OVERNIGHT: Halong Bay junk boat

MEALS: Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 5: Halong Bay Cruise

An early morning Tai Chi class is available on the deck of the boat for those interested and keen to try this pastime, very popular with the Vietnamese. We sail further through the bay today, visiting a Van Floating Fishing Village by sampan boat or kayaking. Here you'll be able to see the farm pens that hold a variety of fish, shrimps and crabs that the locals farm in the bay.

After a local lunch we'll visit the Drum cave area on kayaks, before returning to the boat for some free time before dinner. A cooking demonstration is again available on the deck this evening for those interested, and you can also try squid fishing from the deck too.

OVERNIGHT: Halong Bay junk boat

MEALS: Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 6: Halong Bay, Hanoi then train to Danang

You have another chance to try some Tai Chi on the deck this morning if you wish. Our final visit from the boat today is then an early trip to Luon cave, either by kayak or bamboo boat (a small supplement is payable on board for kayaking). We'll then have breakfast on board while cruising back to the the main port from where we drive back to Hanoi. Depending on our arrival time in Hanoi we'll arrange some activities or free time in the city before you are transferred to the train station for the overnight journey on the Reunification Express southwards to Danang. Accommodation aboard the train in four berth shared cabins, which are simple but comfortable.

OVERNIGHT: On board sleeper train

MEALS: Breakfast,Lunch

EXTRAS:

Day 7: Travel to Hoi An and explore the town

Upon arrival in Danang , transfer directly to your hotel in Hoi An. Early check-in is based on room availability.

From the 16th to 18th centuries, Hoi An was a thriving international commercial port for Chinese, Dutch, French, Japanese, Portuguese and Arab merchants. Today, Hoi An is a quaint riverside town, renowned for its silk and popular with tourists for its eclectic architecture, tailors shops and numerous cafes. Some of the buildings in the narrow streets have remained unchanged for more than a century and much of the town is now heritage-listed.

After lunch, enjoy a walking tour through the narrow winding streets of the Ancient Quarter visiting Chua Ong Pagoda, Assembly Hall, 200-year-old Tam Ky house and the Japanese Covered Bridge.

OVERNIGHT: Hoi An hotel

MEALS: None

EXTRAS:

Day 8: Hoi An, Farmer & Fisherman tour

This exciting full day tour gives you an insight into the lives of the farming and fishing communities in this beautiful region of Vietnam.

Begin your adventure by cycling out into the countryside through emerald green rice paddies. After a short ride you will arrive at the village of Tra Que. This charming little settlement, on the edge of Hoi An, is famous for its sweet scented green vegetables that spice up Hoi An's famous delicacies such as Cao Lau and Mi Quang. On arrival you will be introduced to the history of the village and the cultivation of the vegetables they grow. Continue with a walk around the vegetable garden and join the farmers in preparing the land and planting some crops. Finish off your village experience with a fun cooking demonstration.

Later, return to Hoi An and board the Eco Tour boat for a river cruise to meet and engage with local fisherman. You are sure to enjoy the hands on experience of river net fishing with the locals. Next, you have the opportunity to paddle a unique bamboo basket boat, known as a coracle, as you explore the area's coconut palmed waterways.

OVERNIGHT: Hoi An hotel

MEALS: Breakfast,Lunch

EXTRAS:

Day 9: Hoi An, lantern making

As you stroll along the beautiful streets of the old town at night, you will no doubt have seen the flickering lights of the many beautiful lanterns.

Today we cycle from you hotel to the home of a local craftsman, where you will learn about the history, shape and colour of the lanterns and the many stages of their production. Next you get the chance to create your own lantern, which will be yours to keep as a souvenir.

At the end you'll enjoy the gentle cycle ride back to your hotel.

OVERNIGHT: Hoi An hotel

MEALS: Breakfast,Lunch

EXTRAS:

Day 10: Hoi An, free day

Spend the day at leisure on the beach or having clothes made by one of the famous, inexpensive tailors Hoi An is famous for.

OVERNIGHT: Hoi An hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 11: Hoi An, Danang then flight to Ho Chi Minh

Transfer to the airport in Danang. Take a flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Upon arrival, you are met by your guide and transferred to your hotel. You can spend the afternoon exploring Saigon's bustling city streets at your leisure! Places of interest include Notre Dame Cathedral, Reunification Palace and the War Remnants Museum. Or just relax at a street side cafe or noodle shop.

OVERNIGHT: Ho Chi Minh City hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 12: Ho Chi Minh City, half day Cu Chi Tunnels

Early morning we depart from the hotel and take a bus to the Cu Chi tunnels. After watching a short introductory video on the construction of the tunnels, the next hour is spent exploring the maze of tunnels, accompanied by the guide. Also on display are various mantraps and the remains of an American tank as well as numerous bomb craters made by 500-pound bombs from B52 bombers.

Next we take a short drive through the countryside to a cricket farm. Many locals consider crickets a real delicacy and folk lore says the hungry soldiers ate them to help their nutrient-poor diets. At the farm you'll explore the life cycle of these versatile insects and of course you'll get a chance to sample some wrapped up in a tasty spring roll!

After lunch we head back to Ho Chi Minh city where the rest of the afternoon is free for you to relax or explore the city more.

OVERNIGHT: Ho Chi Minh City hotel

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

EXTRAS:

Day 13: Depart Ho Chi Minh City

At leisure, until you are transferred from the hotel to the airport for your departure flight.

OVERNIGHT: N/A

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: Cambodia Extension Extra day in Ho Chi Minh - post-tour

Included:

- All accommodation as stated in the itinerary
- All transport and transfers
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- Services of a local tour guide during sightseeing and activities
- Admission fees, with instruction where necessary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Internal Flight from Da Nang to Ho Chi Minh

Excluded:

- International flights (available on request)
- Visas fees (Currently waived for GB nationals. We can arrange a pre-registration VISA letter for other nationalities - you will still need to pay for visa stamp fee upon arrival into the country, at customs check in counter, at a cost of \$45 per person together with 2 passport photos. Please contact us for more information about the cost of this letter as prices vary depending on nationality.)
- Travel insurance (compulsory, available on request)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Drinks, snacks, tips and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tips for tour guides and drivers
- Any other items not mentioned above

Options

Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting. However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements - full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

Extra day in Hanoi - pre-tour

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra day to the start of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport arrival transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

Extra day in Ho Chi Minh - post-tour

Min numbers: 1

This option adds an extra day to the end of your tour, staying in the same hotel as the main tour itself (subject to availability). Your airport departure transfer is still included. Prices shown are per person and based on two people sharing.

Note: Single room and peak season supplements apply.

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Note: Please [download an up-to-date copy](#) of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.
