



TRAVELLING TO NEW PLACES WITH CONFIDENCE

## Best of Vietnam

### 10-Day, 9-Night Journey

*Hanoi, Ha Long Bay, Hoi An, Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Mekong Delta*

This 10-day journey offers a comprehensive insight into Vietnam and is filled with many highlights that makes this tour special. Travel from north to south and be dazzled by the emerald waters of Ha Long Bay, rolling rice terraces and picturesque historic riverside towns. Immerse yourself in Vietnamese culture and feel the heritage that is still alive and well. The imperial city of Hanoi and ancient Hoi An offer you a glimpse into the old royal lifestyle, while the temples and markets are a window into today's local life. We end our journey in the bustling Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) where there's a charming mix of old and new. Here you enjoy delicious local food and French colonial architecture, and view it's pivotal role in the Vietnam War.



Ha Long Bay Overnight Cruise



Japanese Bridge, Hoi An



Tran Quoc Pagoda, Hanoi



Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica



Mekong Delta



Bo Bia, Vietnam Cuisine

## Inclusions

- ▶ Private Airport Transfers
- ▶ Hotel Accommodations (Choice of Premium 4-star or Deluxe 5-star hotel)
- ▶ Daily Breakfast & Selected Meals  
(See tour plan for details)
- ▶ English-speaking Local Guide
- ▶ Entrance Fees to Monuments and Attractions per Itinerary

## Exclusions

- ▶ International & Domestic Airfare
- ▶ Travel Insurance
- ▶ Medical Expenses
- ▶ Visa Fees
- ▶ Gratuities
- ▶ Personal Expenses

## Nearby Airport

Hanoi - Noi Bai International Airport (HAN)

Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) – Tan Son Nhat International Airport (SGN)

# Itinerary

### DAY 1: HANOI

Welcome to Vietnam! Your driver will meet you at the airport for a transfer to your hotel. The remainder of the day is free.

**Hanoi** is one of the most ancient capitals in the world. Travelers can find well-preserved colonial buildings, ancient pagodas, and unique museums within the city center. This former French colonial city is known for its delectable cuisine,



vibrant nightlife, silks and handicrafts, as well as a multi-cultural community with Chinese, French and Russian influences.

[3 nights in Hanoi. Meals: None]

## **DAY 2: HANOI | CITY TOUR**

A day tour of this historic city that is full of charming lakes, parks and shaded boulevards. Your first stop is the **Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum** (closed on Monday and Friday) where the father of modern-day Vietnam lies. Visit famous attractions including the **Stilt House, Presidential Palace** and **One Pillar Pagoda**. Then drive to the **Temple of Literature** (built in 1070, dedicated to Confucius).

After lunch we visit **Vietnam Museum of Ethnology** for a glance at the life-style of 54 ethnic groups of Vietnam. Following is the **Hanoi 'Hilton' Prison**. The exhibits focus on the sufferings of Vietnamese revolutionaries who were confined (and sometimes executed) here during the French colonial period in the early part of the 20th century. End of the day with an enjoyable **Water Puppet Performance**.

[Meals: Breakfast, Lunch]

## **DAY 3: HANOI - HA LONG BAY | OVERNIGHT CRUISE**

Depart for your overnight cruise on **Ha Long Bay**, often called Vietnam's eighth wonder of the world. Ha Long means Descending Dragon. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore the bay with adventure excursions such as kayaking, visit sea cave or floating village, swimming, and fishing. Settle onto your deck chair and witness a spectacular sunset amongst the bay's rock formations. Join in a cooking demonstration featuring traditional Vietnamese cuisine, followed by a gourmet dinner onboard. Retire to your cabin to enjoy a restful night's sleep as the waves lap gently against the hull.

***Note:** Ha Long Bay activities may change without prior notice, due to cruise, sailing and weather conditions.*

[Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner]

## **DAY 4: HA LONG BAY - HANOI – HOI AN**

Greet the day with a sunrise Tai Chi lesson with a beautiful view of the bay. Breakfast on the boat followed by a choice of activities. After Ha Long Bay, return to Hanoi's airport for your late afternoon flight to Da Nang. Arrive in Da Nang and transfer to **Hoi An** for hotel check-in.

[3 nights in Hoi An. Meals: Brunch]

## **DAY 5: HOI AN | COOKING CLASS & HOI AN ANCIENT TOWN TOUR**

**Hoi An** had been acquiring a rich cultural heritage from Chinese, Japanese and European traders since 16<sup>th</sup> century, no wonder it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The local shops offer inexpensive silks, express custom-made outfits as well as handicrafts. Hoi An is also a magnet for foodies with lush neighboring farms and fishing villages.

This morning, we visit a farmer's house in **Tra Que Vegetable Village**. Stroll around the vegetable garden with your guide before joining the farmer to learn about the traditional farming methods of

preparing and fertilizing the soil with seaweed from the nearby river. Followed by a hands-on **cooking class** taught by the farmer's family or a local chef to prepare some of the famous local dishes such as "Banh Xeo" pancake and "Tam Huu" rolls. Enjoy your lunch with local specialties as well as dishes from the cooking class. Then we drive back to hotel.

Afternoon visit to the **Japanese Covered Bridge Pagoda**, first constructed in 1593 by the Japanese community in the city as a link to the Chinese quarters across the stream. Next we see the **Sa Huynh Museum, Tran Family Chapel** and **Lantern Workshop**. You will also see the **Phuoc Kien Assembly Hall**, a Chinese pagoda built around 1690 and dedicated to the Goddess of the Sea.

[Meals: Breakfast, Lunch]

## **DAY 6: HOI AN | DAY OF LEISURE**

Full day at leisure.

[Meals: Breakfast]

### **① Add-on: BA NA HILL WITH GOLDEN BRIDGE**

Depart to visit Ba Na Hills 5000 feet above sea level. You journey up a mountain via the longest (19000 feet) non-stop cable car in the world. Visit: Deer Park, Quang Noodle, Debay wine cellar. See Linh Ung Pagoda where Buddha Shakyamuni is nearly 90 feet high. Have lunch at a restaurant while enjoying the breathtaking scenery. Take some memorable photos at the Golden Bridge. The tour guide takes you for a walk to explore the natural ecological Ba Na. Conquer the mountain on one of the hiking or biking trails. Fantasy Park has entertainment for all ages. Descend by cable car and return to Hoi An.

### **① Add-on: HOI AN MEMORIES SHOW**

*Operate every evening except Tuesdays, from 7:30 to 8:45pm*

Let's take a ride down the memory lane with Hoi An Memories Show, an outdoor visual arts performance focused on the rich history, culture, and identity of Hoi An. With 5 impressive performances, the show celebrates and elevates Vietnam's iconic ao dai into an artistic language to tell the story of Hoi An 400 years ago. It masterfully blends music, lights, visual arts, and performance to create an experience that will take you on an emotional journey and create long-lasting memories. This is a show that you have to experience!

*Included: Transfer, English Speaking Guide, Eco Class Ticket*

## **DAY 7: HOI AN – HO CHI MINH CITY (HCMC)**

Depart to Da Nang airport and fly to **Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon)**. Your driver will meet you at the airport for a transfer to your hotel. The remainder of the day is free.

[3 nights in HCMC. Meals: Breakfast]

## **DAY 8: HO CHI MINH CITY | CU CHI TUNNELS & CITY TOUR**

Ho Chi Minh City has risen since the Vietnam War to become a modern city with sleek skyscrapers while still retaining its elegant French architecture and broad boulevards. It is dotted with ornate temples and pagodas.

A journey to **Cu Chi Tunnels** about 1.5 hours outside the city. The site where the Viet Cong lived and fought during the war. It has over 75 miles of underground tunnels, with trapdoors, living areas, kitchens, storage facilities, armories, hospitals, and a command center.

Transfer back to HCMC for a half day city tour, seeing the beautiful structures from the French colonial times such as the **Notre Dame Cathedral** and the historic **Central Post Office**. Followed by the remarkable **War Remnants Museum** (showcases the two Indochina wars.)

[Meals: Breakfast, Dinner]

#### **DAY 9: MEKONG DELTA EXCURSION**

In the morning, travel from HCMC to **Ben Tre** in the **Mekong Delta**. Transfer to a **boat excursion** to visit a traditional brick kiln, coconut processing and sleep mat workshops along the canal. Take a motor cart (xe lôi) or bike on shady road. Pass by rice fields and vegetable gardens to see daily life and find out about tropical culture from the locals.

In the afternoon, ride on a rowing boat along water palm creek.

[Meals: Breakfast, Lunch]

#### **DAY 10: HO CHI MINH CITY (SAIGON) | END OF TOUR**

After breakfast, the tour comes to an end. Hotel check-out and transfer to **Tan Son Nhat International Airport (SGN)** for your flight home.

[Meals: Breakfast]

## Hotels

We carefully handpick our hotels to ensure they provide you with the best comfort and experience. For Private Tours, you may request a specific hotel as one of the customizable options.

