



TRAVELLING TO NEW PLACES WITH CONFIDENCE

Vietnam Culinary Tour

12-Day, 10-Night Journey

Hanoi, Ha Long Bay, Hoi An, Hue, Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)

Eat your way through Vietnam and experience its amazing cuisine on this food and culinary tour! Sample street food, cook with local chefs, and connect with locals as you travel to iconic sights and engage in enriching experiences. Vietnam has over 2000 miles of coastline and each region has something different to offer. The imperial cities of Hanoi and Hue offer you a glimpse into the old royal lifestyles. CNN named Hoi An one of the most picturesque towns in Asia. Explore Vietnamese cuisines that absorbed culinary influences from China, colonial France and neighboring countries. Get to know the heritage and how it influenced the cuisines. For all the foodies out there, this trip makes a fantastic and fun way to discover Vietnam and captures its unique and exuberant culture!

◆ Private Tour With Air

Trip Overview (*UNESCO World Heritage Sites)

- ▶ Hanoi City Tour
- ▶ Chau Long market
- ▶ Truc Bach Lake
- ▶ Old Quarter
- ▶ Bach Ma Temple
- ▶ Hang Be Market
- ▶ Street Food Lunch Tour
- ▶ Dong Xuan Market & Egg Coffee
- ▶ Presidential Palace
- ▶ Ho Chi Minh’s House
- ▶ One Pillar Pagoda
- ▶ Temple of Literature
- ▶ **Ha Long Bay*** Overnight Cruise
- ▶ Hoi An Central Market
- ▶ Organic Farm Tour & Cooking Class
- ▶ Hoi Ann City Tour
- ▶ **Hoi An Ancient Town***
- ▶ Family Chapel
- ▶ Japanese Covered Bridge

- ▶ Fukien Chinese Temple
- ▶ Ceramic Museum
- ▶ Chua Ong Temple
- ▶ Hai Van Pass
- ▶ Museum of Cham Sculpture
- ▶ **Hue Imperial Citadel***
- ▶ Thanh Toan Village
- ▶ Thien Mu Pagoda
- ▶ Emperor Minh Mang Tomb
- ▶ Dinner at the Home of Royal Descendant
- ▶ Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) Tour
- ▶ Hotel de Ville (City Hall)
- ▶ Notre Dame Cathedral
- ▶ Central Post Office
- ▶ Ben Thanh Market
- ▶ Saigon Cooking Class & Lunch
- ▶ Walking Food Tour

Why You'll Love This Tour



HISTORIC TOWNS & IMPERIAL CITIES

The hidden gems that showcase the rich culture that draws from Cambodian and Vietnamese emperors, the influence of the French, Chinese and Japanese, all well preserved here.



COOKING CLASSES & STREET FOOD TOURS

Get to know the locals and cuisine from visiting farms and cooking demonstrations. The long coastline provides plentiful fish and seafood, while the tropical climate offers an abundance of rice, vegetables and exotic fruits, from rambutans to mangosteens. Don't forget to try everyone's favorite Pho, Banh Mi, and Bah Xeo dishes!



GET TO KNOW THE LOCALS

Vietnamese are friendly and welcoming to travelers with open arms. Whether chatting up a local while awaiting your food or meeting a farmer in the countryside, they love to share their family stories and tales of daily life, letting you immerse and delve deep into the local life.

Inclusions

- ▶ Airfare from Selected USA Airport and Vietnam Internal Airfare
- ▶ Airport Transfers, Meet and Greet
- ▶ Hotel Accommodations
- ▶ Daily Breakfast & All Meals
(See tour plan for details)
- ▶ English-speaking Local Guide
- ▶ Entrance Fees to Monuments and Attractions per Itinerary

Exclusions

- ▶ Travel Insurance
- ▶ Medical Expenses
- ▶ Visa Fee
- ▶ Gratuity
- ▶ Personal Expenses

Nearby Airport

Hanoi - Noi Bai International Airport (HAN)

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

Itinerary

(B)-Breakfast, (L)-Lunch, (D)-Dinner

DAY 1: MAJOR USA AIRPORT - HANOI (HAN)

Depart from your USA departure airport for your flight to Hanoi.

Night on board.

DAY 2: 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 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.



DAY 3: HANOI | CITY & FOOD TOUR (B, L, D)

Our tour today begins a blast from the past. See Vietnam's traditional ways of life and replicas of old homes. Visit the wildly wonderful **Chau Long market**, **Truc Bach Lake** and stop to savor unique traditional specialties. Walk through Hanoi's **Old Quarter**; visit the **Bach Ma temple** and then the **Hang Be market**. An exhilarating mouthwatering **lunch street food tour** lets you taste the local specialties from dried beef salad (Nom Bo Kho), Hanoi Bread and Kebab rice noodles (Bun Cha) to fruits salad.

Afterwards, continue to bustling **Dong Xuan Market**, one of the biggest and oldest markets in Hanoi to taste the famed Egg-milk coffee. (Note: food selection is subject to change according to availability and weather) In the afternoon, visit the colonial **Presidential Palace**; **Ho Chi Minh's house-on-stilts** and the **One Pillar Pagoda**. Visit Hanoi's first university, the 10th century **Temple of Literature**. Then the evening is free to relax on your own.

DAY 4: HANOI - HA LONG BAY | OVERNIGHT CRUISE (B, L, D)

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, swimming, and fishing. Settle onto your deck chair and witness a spectacular sunset. 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.

DAY 5: HA LONG BAY - HANOI – HOI AN (B, L, D)

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 for example an excursion to the most beautiful and largest sea cave on the bay or a visit to a floating village that was voted as one of the 11 insanely beautiful small towns around the world by Huffingtonpost.com.

After Ha Long Bay, return to Hanoi airport for your flight to Danang then drive to Hoi An. **Hoi An** has been absorbing a rich cultural heritage from Chinese, Japanese and European traders since 16th century, no wonder it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

DAY 6: HOI AN | ORGANIC FARM TOUR & COOKING CLASS (B, L, D)

We combine the two of top attractions of **Hoi An** today - beautiful country side and fabulous food. You will see sprawling green rice paddies, swaying bamboo and coconut trees, farmers donning the iconic conical hats, water buffalos trotting along the road and quiet riverside villages. You will cook with some of the world's freshest ingredients and learn the secrets behind each Hoi An specialty,

This morning we bike to Hoi An's colorful **central market**. Chat with the stall sellers and get the inside tips about the ingredients to be used in our cooking lesson later. (Alternate transport is available if you don't wish to bike). Continue biking to an organic vegetable farm in **Tra Que village**. A guided tour in the

working farm that still follows traditional manual cultivation methods. Followed by a hands-on cooking class at the farm restaurant, where you will learn how to prepare authentic dishes like Tra Que vegetable salad, Tam Huu dish, Banh Xeo (Vietnamese Pancake), Hoi An spring rolls. Finish off the class by enjoying your freshly prepared meal.

In the afternoon, visit the Chinese ancestor worship **Family Chapel**, **Japanese Covered Bridge**, **Fukien Association Temple**, **Ceramic Museum** and **Chua Ong Temple**.

DAY 7: HOI AN - HUE | MUSEUM OF CHAM SCULPTURE, IMPERIAL CITY (B, L, D)

Travel to Hue over the spectacular **Hai Van Pass**. En route, visit the **Museum of Cham Sculpture** including altars, sandstone pieces and busts of Hindus gods dated between 7th to 13th century. The former **Imperial City of Hue** is celebrated for its great culture and historical sites, and for its sophisticated cuisine.

Step back in time in **Imperial Citadel** (a UNESCO World Heritage site) where the Nguyen Dynasty ruled between 1802 and 1945. Visit the Flag Tower, Noon Gate, Nine Dynastic Urns, Nine Holy Cannons, Thai Hoa Palace, and the Forbidden Purple City.

DAY 8: HUE | THANH TOAN VILLAGE, ROYAL DESCENDANT VISIT (B, L, D)

Passing verdant rice paddies, we explore **Thanh Toan village**, home to a legendary market and a beautiful covered bridge. Visit **Thien Mu Pagoda**, the iconic symbol of Hue. Then the **Tomb of Emperor Minh Mang**.

Visit the family home of a descent of Princess Ngoc Son, partake an exclusive authentic Vietnamese dinner and an insight of their heritage.

DAY 9: HUE – HO CHI MINH CITY (SAIGON) | CITY TOUR (B, L, D)

Transfer to Danang airport and fly to **Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)**. Your driver will meet you at the airport for a transfer to your hotel.

In the decades since the Vietnam War, Ho Chi Minh City has 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. Visit **Hotel de Ville (City Hall)** and **Notre Dame Cathedral**. Admire the amazing chandeliers at the elegant **Central Post office**. One of Saigon's oldest landmarks, **Ben Thanh market** offers a great atmosphere that is absolutely authentic Vietnam. A great place to shop for local handicrafts, Vietnamese art and souvenirs. And to taste of delicious Vietnamese hawker food! Followed by shopping on Dong Khoi Street.

DAY 10: HO CHI MINH CITY (SAIGON) | COOKING CLASS (B, L, D)

Let's take a glimpse into Vietnamese history and culture through a culinary experience.

Start the day with morning market shopping for our ingredients. The chef decides the menu based on the availability of fresh ingredients. Return to the kitchen for a hands-on cooking class using traditional

Vietnamese kitchenware. Enjoy your own 3 course lunch and dessert, together with recipes to bring home. (Note: A private tour group of 4 or more will have a private cooking class. Smaller groups will join a public cooking class.)

The rest of the day is free.

DAY 11: HO CHI MINH CITY (SAIGON) | FOODIE WALKING TOUR (B, L, D)

This morning is free to relax or explore Ho Chi Minh City on your own.

In the late afternoon, embark on a **foodie walking tour** to savor some amazing food and local scenes. Taste Green papaya salad (Nom du du), broken rice (Com Tam), flan cake and Phnom Penh rice noodle soup (Hu Tieu), and a drink in Sonate Café. In between, watch locals engage in afternoon exercises and see the Pink Church which was built in 1877. (Note: Food selection is subject to change according to availability and weather)

DAY 12: HO CHI MINH CITY (SAIGON) | END OF TOUR (B)

After breakfast, the tour comes to an end. Hotel check-out and transfer to Tan Son Nhat International Airport (**SGN**). Arrive back in the USA the same day.

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.

