

The Best of Vietnam - 12 days / 11 nights



Day 1: Hanoi

Arrival in Hanoi. Upon clearing Customs and Immigration, your guide will present you with a welcome packet including all necessary documentation and information. Transfer by air conditioned vehicle to your hotel. Check-in and overnight.

Overnight in Hanoi

Day 2: Hanoi

Breakfast at the hotel. There's no arguing - Hanoi has to be the coolest city in Vietnam. And no, we're not just referring to the climate. This chaotic, colourful, motorbike-clogged, 1,000-year-old city is a delicious mix of East and West. Hanoi clings on tightly to its heritage - the Temple of Literature is one of the oldest landmarks. More recent history can be seen in Ho Chi Minh's Stilt House, while the man himself, lies embalmed in an austere mausoleum. There's picturesque lakes and parks, as well as museums and prominent colonial buildings. So jump right in and experience it all. You'll even go green and explore the Old Quarter by electric buggy.



Today's Highlights: Ho Chi Minh Memorial Complex (Mausoleum is closed on Monday & Friday), One Pillar Pagoda, Temple of Literature, Museum of Ethnology, Hoan Kiem Lake, Old Quarter by electric buggy. (9 hours)

In the afternoon, enjoy a Water Puppet Show, a fantastic art form originating in northern Vietnam, best seen in Hanoi. Return to your hotel and evening is at leisure. Try out the local street food, popular in Hanoi.

Overnight in Hanoi

Day 3: Hanoi - Ninh Binh

Breakfast at the hotel. By vehicle from Hanoi to Ninh Binh (90 kms). Journey south along Highway 1 past Hanam and through the provinces of Ha Tay, Nam Ha and Ninh Binh.

A regular star on the silver screen, the breath-taking scenery of Tam Coc, also known as Dry Halong Bay, has appeared in quite a few blockbusters! And no wonder - this area is out of this world. In a hand-rowed sampan, glide along green waterways and pass under three caves. All around,, dramatic limestone formations rise sharply out of green rice paddies and wetlands.

Set among this incredible scenery is the ancient Hoa Lu Citadel - the first capital of Vietnam. Visit the temples surrounded by lotus ponds and karst formations.

Overnight in Ninh Binh

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Day 4: Ninh Binh - Hai Phong - Cruise

Breakfast at the hotel. By vehicle from Ninh Binh to the GOT pier for your cruise on Lan Ha Bay. Cruise aboard Orchid Premium cruise through Lan Ha bay, without guide (guide is not onboard). Upon boarding, the Orchid Premium cruise, enjoy a welcome drink, receive a cruise briefing, safety instructions and check in. Start cruising and explore Lan Ha bay.

Enjoy lunch onboard while cruising to Viet Hai village. Take a bicycle trip along the village path and go through rain forests and a dark tunnel. Enjoy stunning scenery of rice fields on the way. Stop at the village to relax. Visit an ancient local house, made from straw, mud, bamboo, and have chance to see the local life. Optional electric car service is available at an extra cost. Return to the cruise, join a cooking demonstration with the chef and enjoy an afternoon tea.

Dinner onboard.

Overnight onboard the cruise

Day 5: Cruise - Hai Phong - Hanoi - Hue

Cruise aboard Orchid Premium cruise through Lan Ha bay without guide

Join an early morning Tai Chi session on the sundeck and enjoy breakfast. Head out to explore the bay in the area, try kayaking (on your own) at Ao Ech area to discover the hidden charm of Lan Ha bay. Back to the cruise, check out then enjoy the brunch. Joining the Tea Ceremony at the restaurant, learn how to enjoy Vietnamese tea and Vietnamese cultural while the cruise heads back to Got terminal. Disembark and depart by vehicle from Got ferry pier to Hanoi's Noi Bai airport, for your flight to Hue. Arrive in Hue where you will meet your guide and transfer by air conditioned vehicle to your hotel.

Overnight in Hue

Day 6: Hue

Breakfast at the hotel. Sightseeing in Hue (Full day). Hue served as the capital of Vietnam for more than 140 years. It houses ancient temples, imperial buildings and French-style edifices. Start your day by taking a boat trip to the Thien Mu Pagoda, one of the oldest. Visit the Royal Imperial City; located in the heart of Hue is the Imperial Citadel, a vast complex built in the early 19th century and modeled after the Forbidden City of Beijing. Today, most of the buildings have been destroyed by the bombing during the Vietnam-American War. Enter into an area of spacious courtyards and serene lotus ponds, including a visit to the Hue Royal Antiquities Museum. Next, venture into the countryside around Hue to the Imperial Tomb of Tu Duc. Tu Duc, the longest reigning Vietnamese emperor, designed and built this elegant tomb during his lifetime, using it as a retreat for meditation, reading and theatre performances. Return to your hotel and time free.

Overnight in Hue

Day 7: Hue - Hoi An

Breakfast at the hotel. Twisting winding curves, sudden bends, views that take your breath away - welcome to the Hai Van Pass. Drive along this incredible mountain pass on the way to Danang.

This city is home to beaches made famous by American soldiers during the Vietnam War, several quirky bridges, and the wonderful Cham Museum containing the best collection of Cham sculpture. Make a photo stop at the Marble Mountains - a group of limestone and marble hills filled with caves.

Your afternoon at leisure to explore on your own.

Overnight in Hoi An

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Day 8: Hoi An

Breakfast at the hotel. Pretty as a picture is how to describe Hoi An! The quirky mix of Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese and European influences make this ancient town a photographers' paradise. You'll walk through the narrow winding streets of the old quarter past ochre-hued stone houses, lantern-filled shops and colourful fishing boats. One of the most iconic sights is the Japanese Covered Bridge. There are also ancient temples and merchant homes over 200 years old. In the afternoon, take a lazy cruise along the river to traditional pottery villages.

Overnight in Hoi An

Day 9: Hoi An - Danang - Ho Chi Minh

Breakfast at the hotel. By vehicle from Hoi An to Danang airport (35 kms) for your flight from Danang to Ho Chi Minh (Saigon). Arrival in Ho Chi Minh and transfer by air conditioned vehicle to your hotel.

Rest of the day is at leisure. Try the local street food famous in Ho Chi Minh.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh

Day 10: Ho Chi Minh

Breakfast at the hotel. Start the day going underground - deep into the Cu Chi Tunnels! These hand-dug tunnels changed the course of the Vietnam War. The well-camouflaged entrance holes lead into a network of incredibly narrow tunnels that stretch for over 200 kilometres connecting command posts, hospitals and shelters. Learn about the life of the Vietcong and venture into some of the tunnels. The deadly, bamboo-spiked booby traps are another must-see.

Ever-vibrant, ever-changing - this is the buzzing city of Saigon, where sleek skyscrapers loom over incense-infused temples and motorcycles rule the roads. There's classic European-style landmarks such as the Notre Dame Cathedral, the Opera House, the ornate City Hall and the art-deco Post Office. Reminders of a recent past can be seen in the Reunification Palace, famously stormed by tanks in 1975. You'll visit all the main sights of the city and make time to browse the stalls in the bustling Ben Thanh Market.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh



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Day 11: Ho Chi Minh/Cai Be/Ho Chi Minh

Breakfast at the hotel. The Mekong Delta is a watery world where everyday life floats on the rivers, canals and streams. From Cai Be, you'll board a local boat to explore the narrow waterways that cut through lush green orchards. Go ashore to explore a riverside village to sample locally-made, traditional treats including dried longans, rice pancakes and puffed rice candies.

Lunch at a local restaurant.

Return to Ho Chi Minh and evening at leisure.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh

Day 12: Ho Chi Minh

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer by air conditioned vehicle to the airport.

Hotel options

City	Option A	Option B
Hanoi	Flower Garden 4*	Pan Pacific 5*
Ninh Binh	Ninh Binh Hidden Charm 4*	Emerald Ninh Binh Resort 4+*
Halong Bay	Orchid Trendy 4* <i>Deluxe Balcony Cabin</i>	Orchid Classic Cruise 5* <i>Suite balcony cabin</i>
Hue	Romance Hotel 4*	Indochine Palace 5*
Hoi An	Shining Riverside Boutique 4*	Allegro Hoi An 4+*
Ho Chi Minh	Liberty Central Saigon Riverside 4*	Majestic Saigon 5*

Land package 12 days / 11 nights, price per person in double occupancy

Dates 2023	Hotels Option A	Hotels Option B
May 1 - Sep. 30, 2023	\$ 3,599	\$ 3,999
Oct. 1, 2023 - Mar. 31, 2024	\$ 3,749	\$ 4,249
<i>Single traveler/ Single room supplement</i>	<i>On request</i>	

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