

Vietnam at a Glance Tour

9 days

- **Itinerary Overview**
 - **Includes & Excludes**
 - **Detailed Itinerary**
-

I. Itinerary Overview

Day	Destination
Day 1	HANOI ARRIVAL
Day 2	HANOI CITY TOUR - FOOD TOUR
Day 3	HANOI - HALONG BAY - NIGHT ON BOARD
Day 4	HALONG BAY - HANOI - FIGHT TO DANANG
Day 5	HOIAN - MY SON TOWERS TOUR
Day 6	HOIAN - HUE SCENIC TRAIN JOURNEY
Day 7	HUE CITY TOUR - FLIGHT TO SAIGON
Day 8	SAIGON CITY + CU CHI TUNNELS TOUR
Day 9	SAIGON DEPARTURE

II. Includes & Excludes

Inclusion:

- Overnights in selected hotels or similar
- Vietnam visa approval letter
- Local English speaking guides
- Excursions as mentioned in the itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Entrance fees for sightseeing mentioned in the itinerary
- Tours and transfers as mentioned, by air-conditioned vehicles

- Halong bay 2 day Cruise package
- 1 day train for Danang - Hue
- 2 Domestic flights (Hanoi - Danang, Hue - Saigon)

Exclusion:

- Meals and services other than those noted in the itinerary
- Visa stamping fees
- Laundry, telephone calls, and personal expenditures
- Gratuities for guides, drivers, porters, boat crew

III. Detailed Itinerary

Day 1 HANOI ARRIVAL

Arrive in Hanoi. Greeted by your guide/driver at the airport. Transfer to your hotel in the city centre for check-in and at leisure in the rest of the day.

Meals: N/A

Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

Day 2 HANOI CITY TOUR – FOODIE TOUR BY NIGHT

Today, we will spend a full day to visit the city. We start with visit to President Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum and residence. We also visit the famous One Pillar Pagoda nearby. Leaving the President's complex, we continue to visit the Temple of Literature (Van Mieu). Although several Van Mieu can be found throughout Vietnam, the most prominent and famous is that situated in the city of Hanoi, and was functioned as Vietnam's first university

After lunch in a local restaurant, we go to the Museum of Ethnology, which is an excellent museum containing the ethnic costumes of the various minorities of Vietnam, as well as relics, tools and even full size replicas of their homes and buildings. Back to the hotel, free time for refreshment.

In late afternoon, start Hanoi street food tour by night.

Your expert English-speaking local guide will give you an insight into the intricacies and traditions of Vietnamese food culture including details on ingredients and historical backgrounds of popular northern dishes. We eat as we go, trying seasonal fruits and sampling a tasty French-inspired snack from a street cart.

Walking through the maze of bustling streets that make up Hanoi's Old Quarter, we tempt our tastebuds with the famed Hanoi dish Banh Cuon at a local eatery. Watch in awe as the skilled chefs demonstrate for you how this tasty dish is put together. Continuing into the atmospheric heart of the

Old Quarter, we wander past street stalls and quiet residential lanes where you can observe local life that has changed little since Hanoi was founded over 1000 years ago.

Our next two snack stops are at outdoor barbeque stalls. We sit down with the Hanoi locals and sample various meat, vegetable and bread specialties that are flame grilled over hot coals for extra flavour. It's then time for dessert as we venture down a small alley to join in the local tradition of feasting on fresh fruit served in a cup and smothered with crushed iced and condensed milk – this speciality is one not to be missed!

Your local guide will then take you to one of Hanoi's best kept secrets, a hidden street food restaurant to taste top ten street foods in Hanoi is Banh My Hanoi, Vietnamese Rice Wine and famous Egg Coffee. This hard-to-find café is one of the few left in the narrow street inside the old quarter of Hanoi. Or, if coffee is not your style, a cold beer awaits!. At the end of the trip you are free to continue exploring the area or your guide will assist you back to your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast/Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

Day 3

HANOI - HALONG BAY - NIGHT ON BOARD

08h00: Pick up from your hotel in Hanoi. Drive to Halong City through the paddy fields in the Red River Delta.

10h00: Stopover on the way for a refreshment break

12h00: Arrive at Tuan Chau wharf – Break and photography time

12h30: Board the Cruise for departure. Welcome drink will be served

13h00: Lunch is served while cruising through the bay

15h30: Visit exciting Cua Van fishing village. The village is free of busy roads and streets, electric lights, houses and high rise buildings. Instead, there are only herds of little boats and rafts. You will have the chance to discover the traditional culture and customs of the fishermen.

16h30: Enjoy kayaking or swimming (if the weather permits).

17h00: Back on board and continue cruising.

19h00: Dinner is served.

21h00: Take some leisure time to enjoy chatting at the bar or enjoy some night fishing.

Meals: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Accommodation: Sleep on board

Day 4

HALONG BAY - HANOI - FIGHT TO DANANG

07.00: Coffee and tea will be served

08.00: Continue cruising

08h15: Visit splendid Sung Sot Cave

09h00: Check out and enjoy a fantastic cruise on the bay, passing Dinh Huong Island, fishing villages, Ga Choi Island, Dog Island and Sail Island.

09.30: Buffet brunch (breakfast/lunch) while cruising back through Halong Bay to the pier

11h30: Arrive at the pier. Time to say goodbye to the crew.

12.00: Return from Halong to Hanoi. Arrive Hanoi at about 17pm.

Airport transfer for late flight to Danang. Transfer to the hotel in Hoian upon arrival.

Meals: Breakfast/Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Hoian

Day 5 HOIAN - MY SON TOWERS TOUR

Pickup at the hotel at 7:50 am, we drive to visit My Son. The My Son temple complex is regarded one of the foremost Hindu temple complexes in Southeast Asia and is the foremost heritage site of this nature in Vietnam. It is often compared with other historical temple complexes in Southeast Asia, such as Borobodur of Java in Indonesia, Angkor Wat of Cambodia, Bagan of Myanmar and Ayutthaya of Thailand. Although badly damaged by bombing raids in the 1960s, the site still has more than 20 structures and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999.

Leaving My Son for boat station and taking a boat trip on Thu Bon river. You could visit the living of the local people and feeling the fresh air. You will have soft lunch on the boat and see the beautiful views along the river. Arrive Hoian in early afternoon. Free time to explore Hoian ancient town.

Meals: Breakfast/Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Hoian

Day 6 HOIAN - HUE SCENIC TRAIN JOURNEY

Free for shopping and personal activities in the morning.

In the afternoon, transfer to the station for day train to Hue. Enjoy scenic view of Hai Van Pass on the way. Arrive Hue in late afternoon. Transfer to the hotel and enjoy free time.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Hue

Day 7 HUE CITY TOUR - FLIGHT TO SAIGON

08:00: Pickup at the hotel.

Today, we will spend a full day touring Hue city. Our visiting sites include Old Imperial City, Flag Tower, Thien Mu Pagoda, Royal Tombs of Tu Duc and Khai Dinh. The tour ends with your self exploration of Dong Ba bustling market then transfer to the airport for the late afternoon flight to Saigon.

Transfer to the hotel in Saigon upon arrival.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Hoian

Day 8

SAIGON CITY + CU CHI TUNNELS TOUR

Pickup at the hotel at 7:40, we head out of town to visit the Cu Chi Tunnels, which is an extensive underground network of approximately 200 kilometers of tunnels dug initially by the Viet Minh and then expanded by the Viet Cong. Here contains hospitals, plus accommodation and schools, and were used extensively for refuge and storage and also utilized as a military base for the Viet Cong close to Saigon. In late afternoon, transfer to Saigon for half day city tour. Our city tour will help you to see the best of Saigon. We visit the historic Reunification palace and War Remnants Museum, followed by the architectural treats of French colonial Notre Dame Cathedral and the post Office. Free time at leisure or shopping at Ben Thanh Market nearby.

Airport transfer for late flight to Danang. Transfer to the hotel in Hoian upon arrival.

Meals: Breakfast/Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Saigon

Day 9

SAIGON DEPARTURE

Today, you are free till airport transfer for departure flight. Trip ends!

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: N/A