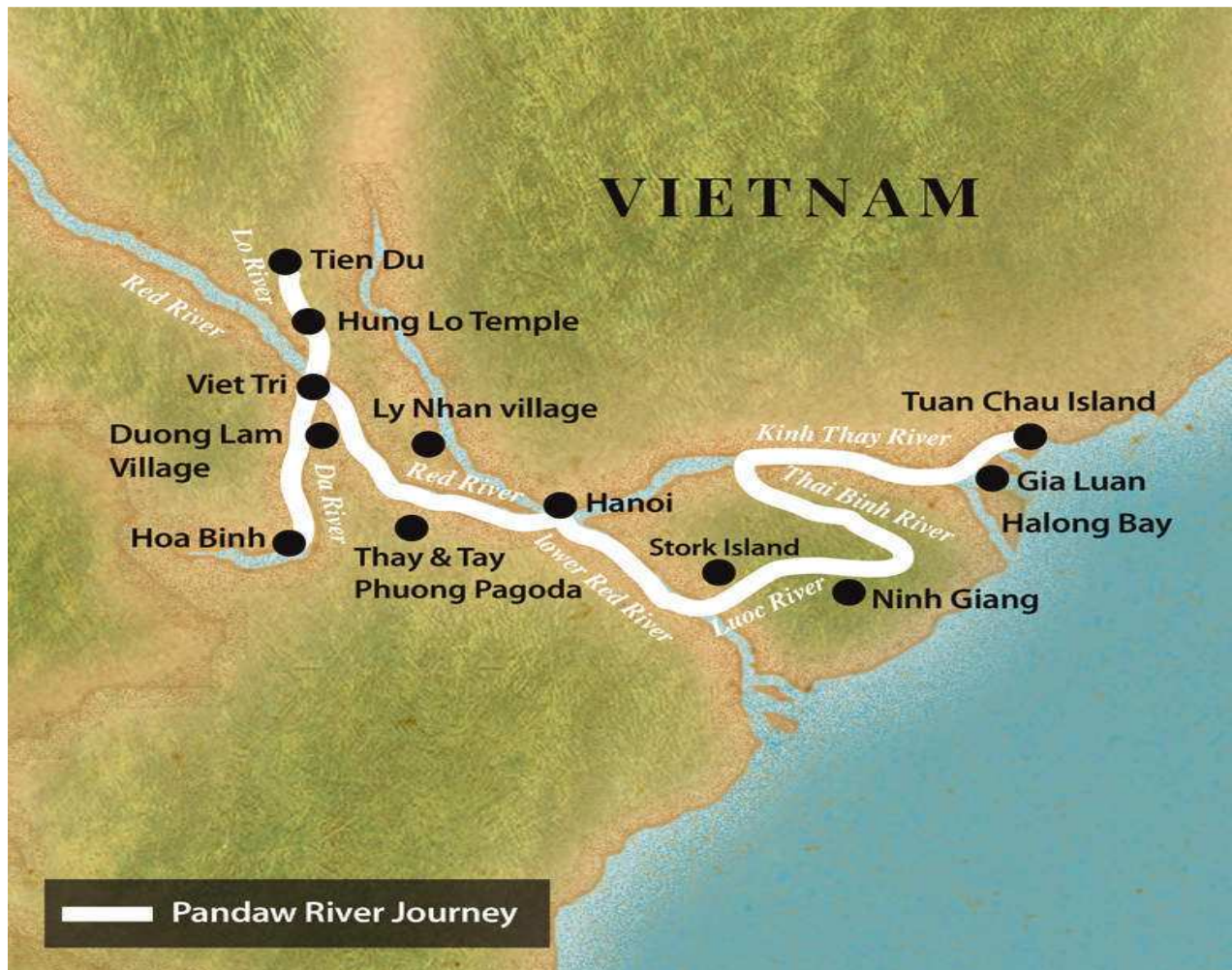


## Halong bay and Red River, 11 days (Pandaw Cruise)

### Travel Map



### Full Itinerary

#### Day 1 Hanoi – Halong - Embarkation

Transfer from Hanoi International Airport/Meeting point to Halong Bay to embark the cruise with a stop for lunch enroute. Cast off in the late afternoon for an evening sailing to drop anchor in a sheltered bay amidst the amazing island scenery.

#### **TRANSFER FROM HANOI AIRPORT**

We pick you up at Hanoi Noi Bai International Airport – Seat in coach. Last departure is no later than 12.00 noon. Please look for a Pandaw sign with your name on in the arrival hall. Arrival in Halong Bay at 16.00pm.

#### **TRANSFER FROM HANOI CITY**

For passenger already in Hanoi the night before, please meet us at: 10.00am.

Registration at hotel lobby 10.00am. Coach departs from Sofitel at 11.00am. Arrival in Halong Bay at 16.00pm.

**PRIVATE ARRIVAL AT HA LONG BAY**

For passengers already in Ha Long Bay on the night before, please come to Tuan Chau International Jetty at 16.00pm for check in.

**Meals:** Lunch/Dinner

**Accommodation:** Pandaw Cruise

**Day 2 Halong Bay Cruise**

Morning sail around Halong Bay and beyond with its 1,500 dramatic limestone islands and extraordinary rock formations, dating back 20 million years. We will visit by local boat a local floating home, kayaking or taking a rowing basket boat to bright & dark limestone caves.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

**Accommodation:** Pandaw Cruise

**Day 3 Halong Bay – Red River**

Morning continue cruising in Halong Bay then we will enter the river in the afternoon and setting sail to Pha Lai. Observe the lively and interesting life of the river, a key commercial waterway. We will anchor mid-stream.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

**Accommodation:** Pandaw Cruise

**Day 4 Duong River**

Morning sail on Duong river to Duc Tai Village. take a walking around Duc Tai Village and visit a local family where bamboo baskets being made by family member. Back to the ship and have lunch while the ship cruising on Thai Binh river. PM excursion to Thanh Ha commuinne for water puppet show & village walkabout. Continues cruising to Ninh Giang.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

**Accommodation:** Pandaw Cruise

**Day 5 Ninh Giang – Hanoi**

In the morning take a walking tour in Ninh Giang commune to visit local market and taste a homemade special cake (BANH GAI). Then we will continue to Stork 's island on a 25 minutes bus ride before wer return back to the ship for lunch. Afternoon cruising to Ha Noi.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

**Accommodation:** Pandaw Cruise

**Day 6 Hanoi City**

Dropped anchor in the bustling city of Hanoi, passengers will visit some highlights of this Asian metropolis, must see's like the notorious Vietnam war prison known as the Hanoi Hilton, temple of

literature where Confucius did his thinking and the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum. Afternoon walking tour of Hanoi including a visit to a coffee shop where we learn about Vietnam's famous coffee making industry. Before returning to your ship you will enjoy a traditional unicorn and lion dance at the jetty.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

**Accommodation:** Pandaw Cruise

#### Day 7 Lower Red River

Morning visit Bat Trang ceramic village then sail through day from Hanoi up the Red River to Viet Tri, not the most picturesque of towns but an excellent base for going deeper into Highland Vietnam. Going ashore we visit a timeless Arcadian Vietnam with emerald green rice paddies punctuated by lime stone rock formations. Of particular interest is the Thay and Tay Phuong Pagodas, hardly known, yet with exquisite temples dating from the 8th and 11th century and home to some fine Buddhist statuary carved from jackfruit trees. We will arrive in Viet Tri in the evening.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

**Accommodation:** Pandaw Cruise

#### Day 8 Lo River

In the morning cruising to Tien Du ferry station to the conical hat making village of Gia Thanh. Take in the sights and sounds of the bustling river with all kinds of craft and activity. By bus we continue to Hung Lo Temple.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

**Accommodation:** Pandaw Cruise

#### Day 9 Da River

Enjoy a day sailing downstream admiring the unspoilt beauty of the Da River. We pass the Ba Vi National Park with its rich and diverse tropical and sub-tropical flora and fauna before arriving at Hoa Binh. We will visit the UNESCO village of Duang Lam.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

**Accommodation:** Pandaw Cruise

#### Day 10 Hoa Binh

Hoa Binh was the site of a major battle with the French in 1951 & 1952 and is home to the Muong ethnic group. This morning we will take a boat ride on the reservoir of Hoa Binh power station and visit a local village and tonight you will enjoy the traditional performance of local hill tribe people.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

**Accommodation:** Pandaw Cruise

#### Day 11 Hoa Binh Disembarkation - Hanoi

Disembark after breakfast (08.30am) and visit a museum and local village where villagers still wear traditional dresses. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant, followed by a transfer to Hanoi airport or

drop off point Sofitel Plaza.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** N/A

***Inclusion:***

- Vietnam visa approval letter
- Mekong 11 days package by Pandaw Cruise
- Local English speaking guides
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Entrance fees for sightseeing mentioned in the itinerary
- Port tax and services charge

***Exclusion:***

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