

# 14-Day UNESCO Vietnam tour

With its ancient culture, beautiful scenery, Chinese and French influences, Vietnam is one of the most exciting destinations in South East Asia, drawing visitors from all over the world to experience its vibrant cities, natural landscapes, ancient temples, turbulent history, exotic cuisne and incredibly friendly people.

On this tour, you will discover the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Vietnam when you visit Hanoi, Halong Bay, Dong Hoi, Imperial City of Hue, Hoi An Ancient Town, and Ho Chi Minh City. Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park and My Son Sanctuary are not to be missed and the Mekong Delta always makes for exciting exploring.

#### **■ Tour Overview**

Tour type: Customized tour

Tour route: Hanoi, Halong Bay, Dong Hoi, Hue, Hoi An, Ho Chi Minh City, Mekong Delta

Tour date: To suit you

Vehicle: Private air-conditioned vehicle and local licensed driver

Guide service: Private English-speaking guide service

Suggested Group size: 2-8 adults

# **Detailed Itinerary**

## Day 1: Arrival - Hanoi

Upon arriving at Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi, you will be greeted by a local guide and transferred to <u>Silk Path Hanoi Hotel</u> (4 star), Premium Deluxe room, (or similar) in the center of Hanoi. The rest of the day is to relax or explore on your own.

Overnight Hanoi.

(Additional pre-tour night in Hanoi available on request.)



Photo by Custom Touring. Typical street shop in Hanoi.

# Day 2: Hanoi

#### Breakfast, Lunch

On the first day of your tour, pay insightful visits to several landmarks of this city, such as Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum (outside view only), One Pillar Pagoda and Temple of Literature. From your knowledgeable guide you will learn about modern Vietnamese history and local religious culture.

Then enjoy a cyclo ride (Vietnamese rickshaw) through the maze-like streets of Hanoi's Old Quarter for an immersive dose of local flavour. As the tour concludes, watch an entertaining live performance of water puppetry, a traditional northern Vietnamese art form dating back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century.



Photo by Custom Touring. Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum

# Day 3: Hanoi - Halong Bay

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner on ship

Private road transfer, about 3 hours, to the UNESCO-recognized natural wonder, Halong Bay. Upon arrival, board **Athena Luxury Cruise** sightseeing ship for an overnight scenic cruise on the emerald waters.



Marvel at the numerous limestone karst isles in different shapes and sizes. Experience sunset on the Bay, a cooking class, Squid fishing, Tai Chi at dawn, sunbathing, kayaking, swimming and enjoy Ha Long seafood through the talented hands of a professional team.

Overnight onboard.



Photo by Custom Touring. Mysterious limestone karsts in the Bay.

## Day 4: Halong Bay - Hanoi

#### Breakfast

This morning, enjoy the sunrise on the prow, partake in Tai Chi exercises, relax on the deck, option to explore the grotesque Surprise Cave.

After disembarkation, your guide will take you back to Hanoi by car to check back into Silk Path Hotel. Free time to explore Hanoi independently for the remainder of today. Overnight Hanoi.

#### Day 5: Hanoi - Dong Hoi

Breakfast

Free time until transfer to the airport for your flight to Dong Hoi.

Flight Hanoi-Dong Ho (TBA), Economy Class, arranged by operator

Upon arrival check in to Muong Thanh Luxury Nhat Le Hotel (4 star), Deluxe Room (or similar).

Free time for the rest of the day and evening.

Overnight Dong Hoi.

# Day 6: Dong Hoi

Breakfast, Lunch

Transfer to Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park, one of the world's largest limestone regions and the oldest major karst in Asia. *Inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2003, the Park covers 85,754 hectares and shares a boundary with the Hin Namno Nature Reserve in the Peoples Democratic Republic of Laos. The Park's landscape is formed by limestone plateaux and tropical forests. It features great geological diversity and offers spectacular phenomena, including a large number of caves and underground rivers. The site harbours a high level of biodiversity and many endemic species. Board your private boat for the 1.5km cruise down the Son River to the Phong Nha Cave where you will enter the mystical tunnels filled with mighty stalactites and stalagmites.* 

Finally, visit the Paradise Cave before returning to Dong Hoi.

Overnight Dong Hoi.

# Day 7: Dong Hoi - Hue

Breakfast, Lunch

Private road transfer from Dong Hoi to Hue. Depart Dong Hoi for Quang Tri Province, where you will visit Vinh Moc Tunnels, Old DMZ (Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone), Ben Hai River and Hien Luong Bridge - once the Border between North and South Vietnam. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant en route to Hue.

#### Settle into **Eldora Hotel Hue**

(4 star), Deluxe Panorama View (or similar) and spend the rest of today at leisure.

Overnight Hue.



Photo by Paul Mannix, Flickr The Hien Luong bridge on the Ben Hai river

#### Day 8: Hue

Breakfast, Lunch

Start by visiting the Royal Tomb of King Minh Mang, followed by a sightseeing cruise aboard a Royal Dragon Boat on the Perfume River until arriving at Thien Mu Pagoda. Along the way, enjoy the beautiful scenery on both river banks. Next, come to today's highlight - the Imperial Citadel, a walled enclosure with monuments, temples, and palaces for former royalty of Vietnam.

Overnight Hue.



Photo by Mig Gilbert, Flickr Dragon boat on the Perfume River

# Day 9: Hue - Hoi An

Breakfast, Lunch

After a relaxing breakfast, private road transfer to Hoi An. On the way, stop to visit Hai Van Pass, Cham Museum, Marble Mountains, and Non Nuoc Beach. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

Arrive in Hoi An in the afternoon, check in to <u>Lasenta Boutique Hotel Hoi An</u> (4 star), Deluxe Rice Field View (or similar). Free time for the rest of the day. Walk or cycle (complimentary bikes) into Old Town or take the free shuttle from the hotel.

Overnight Hoi An.



Photo by Custom Touring. No traffic allowed in the streets of the Old Town

## Day 10: Hoi An

#### Breakfast, Lunch

Road transfer this morning to My Son-Holy Land to see the remains of Kingdom of Champa. After lunch, drive back to Hoi An to visit the Japanese Bridge, renowned Chinese Temple, and former Vietnamese former merchant's house. For the rest of today, enjoy some leisure time in the ancient town, wander the streets, browse in the shops, sit at a cafe and watch the passing parade.





Photos by Custom Touring. Beautiful temple in Hoi An and fascinating street food!

#### Day 11: Hoi An - Ho Chi Minh City (old Saigon)

#### Breakfast

Free time until private transfer to Da Nang airport near Hoi An for your flight to Ho Chi Minh City.

Da Nang - Ho Chi Minh City, Flight (TBA), Economy Class, arranged by operator

Upon landing, meet a new guide and take a private transfer to **Harmony Hotel & Spa** (4 star), Club City View Room (or similar), with the rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight Ho Chi Minh City.

## Day 12: Ho Chi Minh City

# Breakfast, Lunch

Kick off the day with visits to Thien Hau Temple and Binh Tay Market, both located in Chinatown. Later, delve into the country's recent history at the War Remnants Museum and the Reunification Palace (Former Presidential Palace). Your guide will take you to explore some famous landmarks within walking distance, such as Tan Dinh Church, Old Saigon Post Office, Dong Khoi Street, Continental Hotel, Opera House, and City Hall.

Overnight Ho Chi Minh City.



Photo by Custom Touring. Opera House

# Day 13: Mekong Delta exploration

Breakfast, Lunch

Private road transfer to My Tho, getaway to the fertile Mekong Delta. Alongside your guide, hop aboard a motorboat drifting down the major waterway, pausing on route to visit the orchid garden, chocolate processing workshop, and coconut candy workshop. After a tuk-tuk ride along the village road, pay a visit to a local farmhouse, sample fresh tropical fruits, and enjoy traditional music. Then, transfer to a rowing sampan snaking along a slender canal under the shadow of the water coconut trees.

After lunch at a local restaurant, boat back to My Tho and go ashore to visit the remarkable Vinh Trang Pagoda. Return by road to Ho Chi Minh City.

Overnight Ho Chi Minh City



Photo by Custom Touring. Life along the Mekong.

# Day 14: Ho Chi Minh City - Departure.

Breakfast

Your guide will escort you to the airport for onward flights, armed with memories to last a lifetime.

#### **END OF SERVICES**

# RATES per number in group (subject to change until reservations are made)

2 people USD 2,450 per person sharing 4 people USD 2,040 per person sharing 6 people USD 1,835 per person sharing 8 people USD 1,810 per person sharing

Arrival transfer and In-tour flights are included in above rates.

Extra pre-tour night in Hanoi, if required: USD 50 per person sharing (subject to change)

#### Notes:

- 1. Prices subject to change until reservations are confirmed by completion of Booking Form and payment of deposit.
- 2. **No hotel rooms or flights have been reserved.** Reservations will be made after deposit payment is received. The confirmation of rooms at desired hotels will be subject to availability on the day of booking. If rooms are not available at the preferred hotel, bookings will be made in alternate hotel of similar category. Any supplement/reduction applicable in such cases will be payable accordingly.
- 3. It is recommended for all travelers to be covered by travel, medical, health insurance. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are fully and adequately insured for the duration of your holiday. Please take the time to confirm that all activities, excursions and destinations in your itinerary are included in your travel insurance policy.

#### **Price Includes:**

- 1. **Entrance fees** of the scenic spots as listed in the itinerary.
- 2. **Meals** as specified in the itinerary.
- 3. **Meeting and assistance on arrival or departure** and all transfers at airport/hotel/ferry as per itinerary.
- Flights as listed in the itinerary. No additional charge for in-tour flights listed.

Flights: Hanoi - Dong Hoi, Da Nang - Ho Chi Minh City airport tax and fuel fee included.

Please note for the internal flights, the free luggage allowance is 20 kg for checked luggage and 7-8 kg for hand luggage.

- 5. Sightseeing or activities as listed in the itinerary.
- 6. **Accommodation** with daily breakfast. Check-in after 14h00 & Check-out before 12h00. Early check-in or late check-out is subject to room availability and may generate additional full-day room charges.
- 7. **Private transfers** between airports, hotels and scenic spots while sightseeing in each city or area via private air-conditioned vehicle as listed in the itinerary. Appropriate size vehicles will be used according to the number in the group to ensure everyone has enough leg room and luggage space.
- 8. **Bottled water on sightseeing days:** Guests are provided with at least one bottle of drinking water per day on the days with sightseeing. However, in an effort to help reduce single-use plastic bottle waste while traveling, some suppliers have made the decision not to provide bottled water in some destinations. In that case, you will be provided you with a reusable bottle which can be filled at your hotel, and you will be able to purchase bottled water from shops during the trip.

#### **Price Excludes:**

- 1. International Flight
- 2. Sightseeing / Meals NOT listed in the itinerary.
- 3. **Passport and Visa fees**: Your passport should be valid for a certain period beyond your intended stay in the destination country. The required validity can vary.

Six months beyond your planned departure date from the destination country is a common requirement. And ensure you have at least 2 blank pages for visa stamps.

Visa requirements vary from country to country; please consult your travel consultant for more details if you are unsure whether a visa is required for your trip.

**Vietnam Visa –** E-Visa: You can apply for the E-visa onine before traveling (normally 3 months prior to your departure); the official website is <a href="https://www.evisagov.vn/official/en-us/">https://www.evisagov.vn/official/en-us/</a>

- 4. **Gratuities:** The suggested gratuities of USD 10-15 per traveler per day to the tour guide, USD 6-8 per traveler per day to the driver. However, this is just a suggestion and gratuity is dependent on the quality of services received.
- 5. **Personal Expenses** such as room service, internet charge, laundry, drinks, telephone call, optional activities, etc.
- 6. **Excess Baggage Charge:** Extra or overweight luggage will be subject to extra cost, payable by passengers to the airlines upon checking in at the airport.
- 7. **Optional activities** either recommended by tour guides or out of your own interests.
- 8. **In-Room WIFI:** Some hotels only have free WIFI available in the lobby and some with free WIFI coverage in room.



