

Vietnam Highlights

14 day tour to HCMC (Saigon), Mekong Delta, Da Nang, Hoi An, Ha Long Bay Cruise, Ning Binh & Hanoi

From the boisterous energy of Saigon to the tranquil islands of Halong Bay, discover the contrasting regions of this diverse country. An insight into traditional Vietnamese life, learn about the people's life at Mekong Delta, wander around antiquated streets in Hoi An and drive through the lush agriculture and stunning coastal vistas of provincial Vietnam from Hoi An to Hue; then cruise on the World UNESCO site of Halong Bay, tour the historic city of Hanoi and take sampan cruise through the stunning landscapes of Tam Coc and UNESCO Heritage site of Trang An in Ninh Binh.

Day 1 Australia ✈ HCMC (Saigon)

Fly from Australia to Ho Chi Minh City, formally called Saigon, the economic and commercial center of Vietnam. Overnight in HCMC.

Day 2 HCMC 🚗 Mekong Delta (Meal: B/L) (Cai Be – Vinh Long)

Drive about 2.5 hours to the Mekong Delta Town of Cai Be, one of the less travelled parts at the Centre of the agricultural basket. Hop aboard a small boat to take a trip around the Cai Be colorful floating market cruising among local barges full of fruits and vegetables. Though it is not nearly as busy and crowded as day's past, you might still spot locals tossing watermelons or pineapple between their boats! The rowing boat will take you deeper into the countryside on smaller canals of the Delta surrounded by thousands of coconut palms to enjoy the peaceful time. After lunch, we can walk around this area take bike ride on village paths to see traditional houses which are made of wood and palm tree leaves and meet the local farmers and learn how to make rice paper, coconut candy and pop-rice, pop-corn.... Visit the brick kilns where you can see how the local people create beautiful potteries from clay. Return to Ho Chi Minh City later in the afternoon. Overnight in Saigon

Day 3 Ho Chi Minh City (Meal: B/L)

This morning, we head to Cu Chi, 70km north of Saigon, which is famous for its 200-kilometre-long tunnels and it was the base for the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War. Return to Ho Chi Minh City; After lunch, return to Ho Chi Minh City, the war theme continues with photo stop at the Independence Palace and visit to the War Remnant Museum and wandering around Cho Ben Thanh Markets.

Day 4 Ho Chi Minh City ✈ Hoi An (Meal: B/L)

Transfer to the airport for our flight to Da Nang. Upon arrival, we visit the Cham Sculpture Museum, which boasts the finest collection of Cham sandstone sculptures in the world and Marble Mountain. Continue to Hoi An, the most charming town in Vietnam. Here we stay 3 nights.

Day 5 Hoi An (Meal: B/L)

Today your guide will show you the ancient town. Hoi An, is so called a 'living Museum City' because of its well-kept original historical buildings and ancient backstreets. Visit one of the three city's oldest homes, each built over 200 years ago and still occupied by descendants of the families that originally built them. We then tour to the Chinese Assembly Hall, followed by a one hour cruise along the river. Later on we visit to the unique Japanese Bridge; afterwards we take one hour cruise along Thu the Bon River. Lunch is served at a local restaurant by the river.

Day 6 Hoi An (Meal: B)

Today is at leisure to explore more of Hoi An at your own pace, possibly to do some shopping, get some tailor-made clothes, walk around the charming town or join one of our optional tours.

Day 7 Hoi An 🚗 Da Nang ✈ Hanoi (Meal: B/D)

After breakfast, transfer to Da Nang airport for your flight to Hanoi, Vietnam's capital city which boasts tree-lined streets and centuries-old temples. Transfer to your hotel.

Day 8 Hanoi (Meal: B/L)

We visit Tran Quoc pagoda, a Buddhist temple set on a West Lake peninsula; then continue to the Ho Chi Minh complex and the One Pillar pagoda. Explore Confucian heritage at the 11th-century Temple of Literature, where you'll find a prime example of traditional Vietnamese architecture, and the site of Vietnam's first university. Afternoon, pay a visit to the Hoa Lo Prison, nicknamed Hanoi Hilton by American pilots during the Vietnam War. This notorious prison was used by French Colonists for political prisoners until the mid-1950s. Your expert guide will share stories and history as you tour the grounds. After that, visit Vietnam Museum of Ethnology to learn about the 54 cultural groups living in Vietnam. Then take the 1 hour cyclo tour around the Old quarter before get back to your hotel.

Day 9 Ha Long Bay Cruise (Meal: B/L/D)

This morning we depart from Ha Noi and travel by road with cruise shuttle bus through the Red River Delta to the beautiful Ha Long Bay. The scenic drive will pass through rural landscapes before arriving at this World Heritage site, recognised by UNESCO in 1994. Upon arrival board the deluxe Junk Boat where you will enjoy a welcome drink and freshly caught seafood lunch whilst sailing out of the bay passing amazing shaped mountains. You will also visit some magical grottoes and relax in the best scenic beauty Vietnam has to offer. You could also do Kayaking or local boat rowing (own expense), attend a morning Tai chi class & Cooking demonstration, Squid Fishing, or a movie show. Overnight is on the cruise.

Day 10 Ha Long Bay 🚗 Hanoi (Meal: B/L)

This morning start with optional early morning Tai Chi class then continue our visit to some of the caves or a pearl farm in Ha Long Bay. After early lunch served on board, you are transferred back to Hanoi with cruise shuttle bus. You stay night in Hanoi.

Day 11 Hanoi – Ninh Binh (Tam Coc) (Meal: B/L)

Drive 2.5 hours to Ninh Binh City; first take a boat trip to visit the population of Van Long eco-tourism. This is the largest wetland nature reserve in the delta. Continue to Tam Coc and board a small sampan to visit Tam Coc which means literally “three caves” (2.5 hour boat trip). With Halong Bay type views of majestic limestone cliffs and mysterious caves, as well as countryside landscape like peaceful streams, rice paddies and deserted green fields, Tam Coc really has it all. If time permits, you can also visit Bich Dong pagoda. Overnight in Ninh Binh.

Day 12 Ninh Binh – Trang An – Hanoi (Meal: B)

After lunch in a local restaurant you will continue to nearby Trang An Grottoes, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its outstanding natural beauty and the scenic karst formations which contribute to its reputation as being the “Halong Bay on land.” Board a small boat and meander lazily down the peaceful river while passing through a series of caves: Sang Cave, Toi Cave, Ba Giot Cave, Sinh Cave. While enjoying the sounds of soaring birds overhead and paddling along the crystal-clear waters of the river, jagged limestone hills jutting skyward out of electric green rice paddies will be sure to bring out the photographer in you. The quiet fresh air of the highlands is broken only by the sound of birds chirping and the oars stirring the clear water. Look closely as you float to see the wild white goats grazing on the forested mountains that rise up from the water. Trang An Grottoes is truly one of the most beautiful sights in Vietnam. Return and overnight in Hanoi

Day 13 Hanoi ✈ Australia (Meal: B)

This morning is at leisure followed by a transfer to the airport for your overnight flight to Australia.

Day 14 Australia

Arrive into Australia this morning.