

Vietnam Cultural Tour

12 day tour to HCMC (Saigon), Da Nang, Hoi An, Hue, Ha Long Bay Cruise & Hanoi

Discover the historic cities, verdant agriculture, and glittering bays of Vietnam and be captivated by the warmth of the people you meet. Uncover the youthful excitement of Saigon, explore beautiful Mekong Delta; learn about the Cu Chi tunnels, shop at the living museum city of Hoi An; wander around world famous Golden Bridge; discover the UNESCO site in Hue; float across Halong Bay on boat and enjoy the unique pedicab ride in the old quarter in Hanoi.

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 Ho Chi Minh City Meal: B/L/D

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. 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 3 Mekong Delta Meal: B/L/D

Enjoy a full-day excursion to My Tho, 75km south of Saigon, a peaceful town on the bank of the Mekong River. The tour comprises a cruise on the Mekong River, a visit to orchards and local homes, a sampan ride on palm-shaded creeks, a taste of seasonal fruit & honey tea and a performance of traditional southern singing. Lunch of Mekong specialties is arranged.

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

Transfer to the airport for our flight to Da Nang. Upon arrival, we visit World famous floating Golden Bridge that is seemingly held up by a pair of giant stone hands. Take in panoramic views of Da Nang from this impressive Bridge then followed by riding cable car – one of the longest in the world – over the lush Ba Na forest. Continue our drive to Hoi An, the most charming town in Vietnam. Here we stay 2 nights.

Day 5 Hoi An Meal: B/L/D

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 – Hue Meal: B/L/D

After breakfast, transfer to Hue (03 hours driving). Admire beautiful landscape along the road through the Hai Van Pass. Panoramic views of the clouds, the sea

and the mountains around are unfolded at the scenic Lang Co lagoon. Upon arrival, discover the UNESCO World Heritage-listed wonder of the Citadel including the Forbidden Purple City then make your way to the Hue Royal Antiques Museum to see a collection of ornaments, where preserves royal treasures has a history with many changes. Your guide will take you through the hallways, temples and tombs that were modelled after Beijing's Forbidden City. Afterwards transfer to Toa Kham boat station to embark boat for cruise along the poetic Perfume River (1 hours), admire the landscape and enjoy the sunset over the river.

Day 7 Hue ✈ Hanoi Meal: B/L/D

After breakfast, visit "Khai Dinh King's Tomb" – a blend of Western and Eastern architecture and "Minh Mang King's Tomb" – among the finest royal tombs in Hue with 40 constructions of palaces, temples, pavilions, lake and others. After lunch, transfer to Hue 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/D

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, attend a morning Tai chi class or Cooking demonstration, Squid Fishing, or a movie show. Overnight on the cruise.

Day 10 Ha Long Bay ✈ Hanoi Meal: B/L/D

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. Overnight in Hanoi.

Day 11 Hanoi ✈ Australia Meal: B

This morning is at leisure. In time you are transferred to the airport for your overnight flight to Australia.

Day 12 Australia

Arrive into Australia this morning.