Best of Vietnam
13 Days | Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City

Kicking off in Vietnam's capital Hanoi, embark on a breathtaking 13 day journey through imperial cities and rural villages, taking in beautiful Halong Bay and the lush Mekong Delta. Finish up in vibrant Ho Chi Minh City and the fascinating Viet Cong tunnels of Cu-Chi!

**HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS**

Trip Highlights

- Hanoi – Ride pillion on taxi-motorbikes and discover the backstreets of the city including the Temple of Literature and Hoa Lo Prison
- Cu Chi Tunnels – Discover the legendary tunnels which were used masterfully by the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War
- Ho Chi Minh City – Explore the sobering War Remnants Museum, the Reunification Palace and the fascinating FITO Museum
- Halong Bay – Weave around beautiful limestone islets onboard a junk boat and explore inside the beautiful caves
- Hue – See the iconic Thien Mu Pagoda and the Imperial Purple Palace which is hidden behind the walls of the ancient Citadel
- Tra Que village – Enjoy a bicycle ride in the countryside, learn how to tend the fields and enjoy a hands-on cooking lesson
- Mekong Delta – Cruise the waterways on a traditional sampan, visit local cottage industries and enjoy lunch in a local home
- Hoi An – Enjoy some R&R in this enchanting riverside town with its cobbled streets, lanterns and iconic Japanese Bridge

What's Included

- Breakfast daily, 5 lunches and 1 dinner
- 10 nights 4 star and special class hotels and 1 night aboard deluxe junk boat (private en suite cabin)
- 1 overnight sleeper train Hanoi to Hue in basic 4 berth cabin (or opt to fly - see Add-ons for details)
- Guided sightseeing - Hanoi, Halong Bay, Hue, Hoi An, Mekong Delta, Cu Chi Tunnels and Ho Chi Minh City
- Halong Bay Junk boat cruise - opt to swim, kayak and explore caves
- Sampan boat trips in the Mekong Delta
- Bicycle ride to Tra Que village and cooking demonstration
- Escorted by an English speaking Vietnamese tour guide
- Economy class flight: Danang to Ho Chi Minh City
- Airport arrival transfer day 1 and departure transfer day 13
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private air-conditioned vehicles

**What’s Not Included**

- Tipping Kitty: USD$35-45pp, paid in USD or VND
- Entrance Fees: USD$50-60pp, paid in USD or VND
- International flights and visa
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow USD$3-6 per day, per traveller. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture

**COVID SAFE GUIDE**

**DETAILED ITINERARY**

**Day 1 : Hanoi**
Friday. Welcome to Hanoi, perhaps the most graceful, atmospheric and exotic capital city in Asia. Airport to hotel arrival transfer. The remains of the day offers free time for you to explore the wide tree lined avenues, beautiful lakes, ancient pagoda's and thriving, historic old city, all easily navigated on foot.

Overnight - Hanoi

**Day 2 : Backstreets of Hanoi tour**
After breakfast we embark on an exciting back streets tour of Vietnam’s capital. Our adventure starts with a taxi ride from the hotel...
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...to a well known street market northwest of the city which sells giant trees and plants. From here we stroll along the sidewalks, following an urban trail through the backstreets to the quaint district of Vinh Phuc. After exploring this wonderful neighborhood we stop for refreshments at a unique coffee shop tucked away down a narrow alley. Then it’s time for an exhilarating local experience, riding pillion on taxi-motorbikes through a maze of tiny streets and along the shore of beautiful Ho Tay Lake. Our 2-wheeled taxis drop us off for a tasty lunch of Vietnamese street food, in the yard of a former film studio.

In the afternoon we walk past Ho Chi Minh’s Mausoleum (exterior only), where ‘Uncle Ho’ has laid since 1975 and learn all about the great man himself, who is regarded as the father of the nation. Continuing on we stroll down Hung Vuong Avenue to explore the complex of the beautiful Temple of Literature, which was Vietnam’s first university. Then we board the local bus to the Hoa Lo prison, aka the Hanoi Hilton, named by US prisoners of war. We finish the day with a glass of refreshing beer on a sidewalk facing the Soviet palace. Return to the hotel by taxi for an evening at leisure.

**Please note:** If you would prefer not to travel by taxi-motorbike, please inform your guide prior to the start of the tour and an air-conditioned car/taxi will be provided at no extra cost. Some travel insurers do not provide cover for motorbike riding so please check your policy to ensure you have adequate cover for the activity. **Overnight - Hanoi** (B, L)

**Day 3 : Junk boat cruising, Halong Bay**

Hanoi – Halong Bay. Take a moment to picture in your mind some two thousand rugged karst islands dappled with lush vegetation seeming to float on top of pristine emerald coloured waters and you have the natural wonder that is Halong Bay. This morning a scenic drive will take us to this beautiful UNESCO World Heritage Site where we will enjoy a junk boat cruise.

Based on traditional designs, these wonderful vessels combine oriental style with modern luxury. Soak up the panoramic views from the sundeck as the boat gently plies its course. This afternoon we visit Trinh Nu Cave, one of the finest caves in Halong Bay, covering an area of 2,000m² with a stunning array of stalactites and stalagmites. There’s also the opportunity to go kayaking and enjoy a refreshing swim. Later this evening back on board, watch a Vietnamese cooking demonstration held on the sundeck before settling down for a sumptuous seafood dinner.

**Please note:** the itinerary in Halong Bay can vary dependent upon the cruise we use and weather conditions.

**Overnight - Halong Bay, Deluxe Junk Boat** (B, L, D)

**Day 4 : Hanoi cyclo ride**

Halong Bay - Hanoi - Hue. Early birds can start the day with a relaxing Tai Chi class on the sundeck or a traditional massage - the perfect way to start the day. Before heading back to port this morning we explore the beautiful Sung Sot cave (Surprise Grotto), which is 10,000m² and consists of two major chambers. These spectacular chambers are spacious enough to hold thousands of people.

On arrival back into Hanoi mid-afternoon we’ll explore the maze of streets in the French Quarter on a cyclo (rickshaw), taking in highlights such as the Opera house and Ly Thai To park. We then swap our wheels for a leisurely walk through ‘36 streets of the old quarter’, named after the numerous guilds that once set up shop on a particular street from silk tailors to traditional medicine shops.

Time will be given to freshen up before boarding our train (4 berth sleeper cabin, basic standard) on the ‘Reunification Express’ railway line to Hue.

If you’ve booked our Hanoi - Hue flight add-on you’ll be transferred to the airport early this evening and touch down in Hue an hour later. Overnight - Hue Hotel. Tomorrow you will rendezvous with your guide and group (arriving off the overnight train) in the hotel upon at approx 10am.

**Overnight - Sleeper train (B)**

**Day 5 : Imperial Hue**

Breakfast boxes will be served on the train. Arriving to Hue, we disembark and drive to our hotel. If rooms are ready we can check in, if not we’ll depart shortly after on a guided sightseeing tour of the 19th-century Nguyen empire capital. We visit the Thien Mu Pagoda, home to the oldest monastery in the city, whose 21m high tower has become something of a symbol for Hue and the citadel. Within the citadel is the Imperial Purple Palace, an exact copy of the Forbidden City in Beijing, with its impressive ramparts, formal moats and imperial palaces, some of which lay in ruin.

In the countryside lies the Royal Tombs of the Nguyen kings, here we’ll view the elaborate mausoleum of Emperor Tu Duc. As the sun sets there’s an optional cruise in a long boat along the gentle Perfume River (pay locally) or you enjoy some retail therapy at the ever lively...
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www.onthegotours.com

Day 6: Delightful Hoi An

Hue - Road of the Ocean Clouds - Hoi An. Today we take the scenic Hai Van Pass (Road of the Ocean Clouds), which offers magnificent views of beaches to one side and lush hills to the other. En route we stop for a walk along China beach. Perhaps enjoy a refreshing swim in the sea before continuing our journey south to Hoi An.

The charming, old-world trading port of Hoi An with its cobbled streets, traditional homes and tiny shop houses is a perfect place to lose yourself in a by gone era. Boutique restaurants, hip cafes along the waterfront, delightful craft shops and artisans including some of Asia’s best bespoke tailors (whose services come at a nominal price), all can be found here.

On a short walking tour of the enchanting historical town, we’ll visit the Chua Ong Pagoda, Chinese Assembly Hall, 200-year-old Tam Ky house, former merchants’ homes and the 400 year-old Japanese Covered Bridge.

Note: Travellers that have pre booked the optional Hoi An Street Eats add-on, your guide will inform you today of which evening this will take place during your stay in Hoi An. 

Overnight - Hoi An (B)

Day 7: Tra Que village

This morning we set off on a leisurely bike ride through the countryside to Tra Que village. Here we discover age old farming practices and learn about traditional medicine. It’s a fun, hands on experience today as we don conical hats and assist with tending the fields and gardens before watching an entertaining cooking demonstration and helping to cook a tasty lunch. 

Overnight - Hoi An (B, L)

Day 8: Hoi An - at leisure

A free day for you relax or further sightsee. You may wish to take a relaxing rowboat journey along the river or spend the day lazing by the beach or hotel pool. Alternatively you can opt to take an excursion to the UNESCO-listed My Son sanctuary or enjoy a day trip to the Ba Na Hills mountain resort, where you will ride the second longest cable car in the world and walk along the striking Golden Bridge (book and pay locally).

Overnight - Hoi An (B)

Day 9: Cruising the Mekong

Hoi An - Ho Chi Minh City. Early morning flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Drive to the Mekong Delta. Often referred to as the ‘rice bowl’ of Vietnam, the fertile Mekong Delta is famous for its abundant harvests of tropical fruits, flowers and rice, as well as its fantastic views while boating along the canals. Taking our sampan from Cai Be we cruise through the maze of waterways watching the hubbub of daily life on the river. Passing colourful trading boats, house boats and children swimming we stop to visit some of the local cottage industries that produce popcorn, coco candies and paper along the way. Lunch is served today in a traditional wooden home on Dong Hoa Hiep Island. 

Overnight - Can Tho (B, L)

Day 10: Mekong & Ho Chi Minh City

Can Tho - Ho Chi Minh City. Early today we visit the ever lively Cai Rang floating market before driving back to Ho Chi Minh City. Once called the Pearl of the Orient, modern Ho Chi Minh City is a thriving metropolis on the move. Sleek sky scrapers, gourmet restaurants, designer malls and swanky bars and spas are scattered between ancient pagodas, colonial era landmarks and lively street markets. On a walking tour of Ho Chi Minh City we’ll see the Notre Dame Cathedral and the Old Post Office before visiting the sobering War Remnants Museum. Evening at leisure.

Overnight - Ho Chi Minh City (B)

Day 11: Cu Chi Tunnels

Ho Chi Minh City – Cu Chi. This morning we visit the famous Cu Chi Tunnels used by the Viet-Cong in their struggle to keep control of the region during the 1960’s. After a short video presentation we take an exciting walk around the many bush trails and see trapdoors, booby traps, living areas, weapon factories and kitchens that were used and lived in during the war. We can also safely crawl through sections of the tunnels, that have been widened for the tourists and stand in the middle of bomb craters that are still just as defined as the day they were created. At the end of the visit you can opt to fire weapons of the era (including the M16 ‘s and AK47) on
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Day 12 : Ho Chi Minh City Tour

Today we head out to explore more of Ho Chi Minh City. Starting off with the Reunification Palace - former residence of the President of South Vietnam until the fall of Ho Chi Minh City on April 30th 1975. The building is now a museum and a popular wedding venue. We’ll take a look in the famous ‘War Room’ where the North Vietnamese army took control in 1975. Next we explore Giac Lam Pagoda, Ho Chi Minh City’s oldest and one of its most beautiful temples.

Later on we take a journey through Vietnam’s medical history at the FITO Museum. This is Vietnam’s first traditional medicine museum with an amazing collection of over 3000 items. Our last stop of the day is Ben Thanh Market, where you can shop till you drop and master the art of haggling for just about anything!

Day 13 : Ho Chi Minh City

Wednesday. Today marks the end of our tour and after breakfast we will transfer you to the airport for your onward departure flight.

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

Sunway Hotel

This ambient, boutique hotel combines traditional appeal with modern pleasures. Rooms are furnished in a contemporary fashion with an array of amenities for added comfort. Its restaurant provides a great variety of Vietnamese cuisine and you are welcome to enjoy cocktails and live music in the Jazz Bar or relax in the hotel's health spa.

Bhya Classic I Junk Boat

This premier cruise boat offers 18 well appointed cabins with en suite amenities. Cabins are contemporary in design, whilst the finer touches have a distinct oriental influence. All cabins feature large windows creating a bright and airy atmosphere as well as scenic views. Facilities and services onboard include a dining room and bar, a sunbathing area on-deck, masseur and small library.

Syrena Junk Boat

A tradition hand crafted boat, the Syrena Junk Boat offers superb en suite air conditioned cabins with comfortable interiors and balconies. The on board Lotus Restaurant serves up a delicious array of Vietnamese and International cuisine. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available in the public areas. Swimming, kayaking and tai chi are all offered on board and movie nights are also very popular.

Mondial Hotel

Just a 5 minute walk from the Ho Chi Minh museum, the Mondial Hotel is a contemporary hotel with excellent amenities. Guest rooms benefit from spacious interiors, comfortable beds and lots of mod-cons. There is complimentary Wi-Fi for guests, an outdoor pool and onsite spa - perfect for a relaxing massage. As well as the delicious Huong Xuan Restaurant there is also the Lobby Lounge - great for cocktails before dinner!

ÉMM Hotel

Situated in the heart of the former imperial capital, ÉMM Hotel is the perfect base from which to explore Hue’s UNESCO World Heritage-listed sights. Completely renovated in 2016, the guestrooms are generously-sized and complete with modern amenities. The imperial jade and royal purple colour scheme was inspired by ancient Hue itself and guests can take advantage of the mini-gym, pool-side bar and a spacious reading area. Enjoy delicious Vietnamese and international cuisine in the contemporary restaurant after a day of exploring.

River Green Hotel

Set next to the Hoai River, the River Green Hotel is just a five-minute walk from the iconic Japanese Bridge. Guestrooms offer city or river views, alongside all the amenities you’d expect of a contemporary hotel. There’s an outdoor pool, perfect for a refreshing swim, and an on-site restaurant where you can enjoy a variety of international flavours. Complimentary WiFi, bicycle hire and a fitness centre add to this...
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hotel's list of facilities, making it a great base for exploring historic Hoi An.

Vinh Hung Riverside Resort
Situated right on the banks of the Thu Bon River, this upscale hotel is just a 10-minute walk from the ancient town of Hoi An. Combining Vietnamese tradition with modern facilities, its guestrooms are set in coconut tree-shaded gardens beside the water. They're well-equipped, with free WiFi and air conditioning, as well as private balconies. The hotel also offers a riverside restaurant, serving local specialties and western dishes on the outdoor terrace. This hotel's highlight, however, is its pool and fabulous swim up bar, which is the perfect place to enjoy a pre-dinner cocktail.

Thanh Binh Riverside hotel
Boasting a beautiful outdoor swimming pool, the Thanh Binh Riverside offers excellent accommodation in a great location. Guest rooms benefit from garden or river views and all come full air-conditioned, with stunning hardwood floors and all mod-cons. The onsite restaurant offers a great selection of Vietnamese and International dishes and the town centre is just a mere 200m walk away. Why not grab a cocktail and relax by the pool in the afternoon - a great way to refresh yourself from the Vietnam heat.

River Green Hotel
Set next to the Hoai River, the River Green Hotel is just a five-minute walk from the iconic Japanese Bridge. Guestrooms offer city or river views, alongside all the amenities you'd expect of a contemporary hotel. There's an outdoor pool, perfect for a refreshing swim, and an on-site restaurant where you can enjoy a variety of international flavours. Complimentary WiFi, bicycle hire and a fitness centre add to this hotel's list of facilities, making it a great base for exploring historic Hoi An.

Iris Hotel
This elegant hotel is housed within a modern building in the city of Can Tho. Each guest room comes equipped with plush furnishings to ensure a good night's sleep and is decorated with a neutral palate and calming tones. Rooms look over the city and boast a range of modern amenities such as air conditioning and stylish ensuite facilities. Magnificent views of the city can be had from the hotel's skybar while a range of gourmet local and international dishes can be sampled at the onsite restaurant.

Victoria Hotel Can Tho
This attractive, colonial-style resort is tastefully decorated with well-appointed rooms and a wide range of facilities including a spa, tennis courts, open-air bar, restaurant and a gym. The hotel also offers sunrise and sunset cruises to the floating markets aboard the Lady Hau junk.

Muong Thanh Centre
Centrally located, yet on a peaceful, tree-lined street, you will find the Muong Thanh Centre. Only a ten-minute walk from top attractions such as the Notre Dame Cathedral, Opera House and Ben Thanh Market, this hotel is a great base for exploring the famous sights of the city. Its guest rooms boast sophisticated designs and panoramic views. Warm and friendly, the Muong Thanh Centre also features a spa and swimming pool for you to relax and unwind after a long day of sightseeing.

Lotus Central Hotel
Just footsteps from the Ben Thanh Market, the Lotus Central Hotel offers a great location in Ho Chi Minh City. Its guestrooms are well-equipped, with ensuite bathrooms, air conditioning and free WiFi. On the 8th floor you’ll find the Moon Restaurant, where you can enjoy a range of Vietnamese, Asian and Western specialties. However this hotel's highlight is the rooftop pool, where you can enjoy a cocktail or two alongside views over the city.

Liberty Hotel Greenview
Enjoying a great location in the bustling District 1 close to Ben Thanh Market, the Liberty Hotel Greenview is a great choice for those looking to explore Saigon's nightlife.

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Updated on 09-11-2021 08:40:31

This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

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and shopping. The guestrooms are sleek in design with the feel of a relaxed city apartment with stylish furnishings and modern technologies including satellite TV and free WiFi. The hotel’s restaurant offers range of Vietnamese, Asian and Western dishes.

COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements
As of 01 November 2021 it is a condition of travel, as detailed in our Terms & Conditions that all travellers over 18 years provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

We recognise any vaccine that has been authorised for use in the country where the vaccine was administered. This includes vaccines such as AstraZeneca, Covaxin, Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, Sinopharm, Sinovac and Sputnik.

In all instances, you must be fully immunised. This means you must receive the full dosage of the COVID-19 vaccine and allow a minimum of 14 days before travelling in order for immunity to take effect. Each COVID-19 vaccine has different dosages and timeframes for immunisation, so please check the related medical advice associated with your vaccine. Children under 18 years are not required to provide evidence of vaccination to travel at this time.

If you are unable to be vaccinated due to medical reasons, you may apply for an exemption. Exemptions will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. To apply, you must provide supporting documentation from a medical professional.

Proof of COVID-19 immunisation must be provided to us no less than 4 weeks prior to travel. We accept COVID-19 digital certificates, NHS Covid Pass or Vaccination Record Cards emailed to info@onthegotours.com or you can upload your vaccination history yourself via our traveller login. https://www.onthegotours.com/Login

The information you will need to upload includes: Administering national authority or government, document No, name of Vaccine, date/s of vaccination.

Entrance Fees
Entrance fees to most sites are not included, although reasonably priced. The entrance fee amount is noted on exclusions on page one of this document and a breakdown of the entrance fees is provided upon arrival in your Welcome Letter.

For tours starting in Vietnam and Myanmar we collect from all tour participants the entrance fees on Day 2 of the tour. All funds collected in Vietnam are payable in either US dollars (USD) or Vietnamese dong (VND).

Multi-country tours starting in Laos: Please note if you are travelling on our Laos to Vietnam, Inside Indochina or Indochina Discovery tour your tipping kitty will be split into two separate payments. Entrance fees for Laos will be collected on day 2 of the tour in Vientiane and entrance fees for Vietnam/Cambodia/Thailand will be collected on day 8 in Hanoi.

Tipping Kitty
At the start of your tour, we collect from all tour participants a small tipping kitty (the amount is noted under exclusions on page one of this document). This kitty covers tips throughout your holiday and saves you the hassle of knowing when and how much to tip bellhops, luggage handlers, bus drivers, train conductors and other support staff throughout the tour.

This amount does not include a tip for your tour guide/s. For a job well done, we would suggest USD $3-6 per traveller, per day. Tipping your guide is an entirely personal gesture and ultimately the amount is up to you.

Multi country tours starting in Laos: Please note if you are travelling on our Laos to Vietnam, Inside Indochina or Indochina Discovery tour your tipping kitty will be split into two separate payments. The tipping kitty for the Laos section of your tour will be collected on day 2 of the tour in Vientiane. Then, on day 8 in Hanoi the Vietnam/Cambodia/Thailand tipping kitty will be collected for these onward touring arrangements.

Groups & guides
The longest Signature Range tour we offer in Southeast Asia is our Indochina Discovery 23 day tour. All other Signature Range tours we offer (with the exception of the family tours) are sectors of this larger tour.

The longest Essentials Range tour we offer in Southeast Asia is our Hanoi to Bangkok 19 day tour, all other Essentials Range tours are sectors of this longer tour.

As our tours are modular, travellers may join you part way through your holiday, for example in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City or Phnom Penh on our Signature Range tours, or in Ho Chi Minh City our Essentials Range tours. There will also be travellers who end their tour when you continue on.

Myanmar:
Our longest tour in Myanmar is Best of Myanmar & Beach - 14 day tour. All other tours in Myanmar are sectors of this longer tour. All our Myanmar trips operate together from day 1 - day 7, then from day 7 some in your tour group may leave and others continue on. Our Yangon City Stay travellers will also join our tour arrangements of day 1 and day 2.

Guides:
In Laos, a Lao national guide escorts our tours from Vientiane through to Luang Prabang.

In Vietnam a Vietnamese national guide escorts our tours from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City.

In Cambodia, our tours have two guides, a Cambodian national guide in Phnom Penh and a specialist regional guide in Siem Reap.
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Our tours that end in Bangkok are not fully escorted for the Thailand sector. On our Signature Range tours there is a local Thai guide for the Bangkok city tour. If you are travelling on one of our Essentials Range tours, a local guide will meet you at the Cambodia border and escort you to the hotel, the remainder of your Bangkok stay is unescorted with free time to independently explore.

What to pack
Please check local temperatures so you can pack accordingly. Visit www.worldclimate.com

- Lightweight cotton garments. Ladies may need to have their shoulders and legs (to below the knee) covered when visiting certain sites, so please pack accordingly
- Comfortable walking shoes in addition to flip flops/thongs
- DEET based mosquito repellent and antihistamine cream
- Universal travel adaptor
- Lightweight, fold up raincoat/poncho/ umbrella
- Tour Voucher and a copy of your travel insurance policy, spare passport photos and a photocopy of your passport
- A small daypack for your day-to-day needs
- Sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, swimming costume and torch
- Sleep sheet if taking an overnight sleeper train in Vietnam. These also can be easily purchased in Hanoi at an approx. cost of USD $5
- An overnight bag, if your tour includes a night aboard a Junk boat in Halong Bay. As we will be returning to Hanoi, it is not essential that you take your big bag/suitcase with you

It's not like home
Travel to far-flung corners of the earth involves lifestyles and conditions that are sometimes very different from what you are used to back home. You must come prepared to cope with unusual situations, local inadequacies and unpredictable events, and as when they occur. Foreign travel is definitely not suitable for people who expect or demand everything to go exactly as planned. With the greatest respect and in the interest of your ultimate enjoyment you must understand this. Things can and do change in foreign countries.

Shopping experiences on your tour
All shopping experiences on your tour have been noted in the itinerary and they been carefully selected based upon positive feedback from On The Go travellers. You are under no obligation to partake in a listed shopping experience and you are most welcome to wait inside or outside the premises.

In the tourism industry it’s common practice for commission to be offered in exchange for recommending particular shops or suppliers. This can become an issue when clients feel obliged to purchase goods. We do our best to avoid this by monitoring all shopping experiences offered.

Although we only visit reputable retailers, please note that we cannot explicitly guarantee the quality of their products. All purchases made whilst on holiday with us are at your own discretion. Please make sure that you are completely happy with your purchase. On The Go cannot be held responsible for any items that you buy if they fail to meet expectation, or any shipping arrangements. Proceed with caution.

Vietnam Country Guide

Welcome to Vietnam - Arrival transfer
A complimentary airport arrival transfer is provided on our Signature Range Tours, Private Tours and Short Stays if you are arriving on day 1 or you have booked pre tour accommodation with us. An arrival transfer is not included on our Essentials Range tours”.

Arrival procedure for Hanoi - Noi Bai International Airport and Ho Chi Minh City - Tan Son Nhat International Airport. Upon arrival, please proceed to the immigration counter and pay the visa stamping fee of USD$25 (if applicable). After collecting your luggage proceed to the arrival hall and go to the meeting point detailed on your Tour Voucher.

If, for any reason you have trouble locating our representative (after waiting 20 minutes) or your flight is delayed, please call or send a text message (standard text message, not Messenger or WhatsApp) to the emergency contact number as stated on your Tour Voucher.

Please note: If arriving prior to 9am on day 1 (essentially on a flight that arrives very, very early in the morning) you will need to purchase a night of pre-tour accommodation to save you waiting until standard hotel check in time which is generally 2pm. Breakfast is included with our pre tour accommodation rates.

*Essentials Tours: Please note, airport transfers are NOT included on our budget Essentials Range of tours, please make your own way to the start hotel noted on your Tour Voucher. Transfers can be booked upon request for an additional fee, please contact us for rates.

Visas & passports
Visa requirements are subject to change and visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Vietnam.

After booking your holiday, please provide us with your passport details as soon as possible so that we can proceed to book all services. Please be advised visa requirements are subject to change, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. For information about visas, head to www.onthegotours.com/Vietnam/Visas

Health requirements & water
You should seek medical advice for vaccinations and about medications before travelling.

Water
The tap water in Vietnam is generally considered safe to drink, but as a precaution against stomach upsets you may want to
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drink bottled mineral water, which is readily available from shops, hotels and restaurants.

What to expect in Vietnam
Please visit www.onthegotours.com/Vietnam/Travel-tips-and-useful-info for local customs, currency, WiFi and other helpful information to prepare you for an enjoyable holiday.

Airline luggage allowance
If your tour includes international or domestic flights within the region please be mindful that the free baggage allowance for Economy class travel is strictly 20kg and 1 piece of hand luggage up to 6kg. Any additional weight is charged at a per kilo rate. You may wish to bear this in mind whilst shopping.

Trains in Vietnam
It's not the Orient Express, but Vietnam's Reunification Express. On a number of our group tours we include an overnight train journey on the Reunification Express Railway Line between Hanoi and Hue and on our budget Essentials Range tours we include a second overnight train journey from Danang to Mui Ne. The particular SE series train that we use is the highest class of train available in Vietnam. It's titled as being the nation's fastest train; though by international standards it's quite the opposite. Nevertheless, our journey between Hanoi and Hue takes approximately 14 hours and travellers are accommodated in 4 berth 'Soft Sleeper' cabins.

Aboard each wagon are 9 compartments that comprise of 4 bunks per compartment. 4 persons of mixed sex share one compartment. You may be sharing with people from your tour group, other tourists or Vietnamese people. Who you will share your cabin with is ultimately dependent upon how the Vietnamese Railways Corporation configures the bookings.

Cabins onboard are comfortable though not comparable to European standards. A western style toilet (with a varying degree of cleanliness) is located at either end of the wagon. Air-conditioning (not always operational in the summer) and lighting are controlled from inside the cabin, which is also lockable. Luggage can be stored in a compartment under the bottom bunk. Linen and a pillow are provided though we strongly recommend that you bring your own sleep sheet (easily purchased in Hanoi at a cost of USD$5). The cleanliness of the train varies according to wagons assigned to the journey for that particular day. Some wagons are spotlessly clean whilst others can be unclean and should have been decommissioned long ago. Irrespective of the particular wagon, they all have large clear glass windows that allow for uninterrupted views of stunning landscapes and never ending rice paddy fields.