

Hanoi to Hoi An

8 days | Hanoi to Hoi An



Travel between two of Vietnam's most charming destinations from the fading colonial chic of Hanoi to the attractive riverside merchant town of Hoi An with a night spent cruising the jade waters of Halong Bay and time spent exploring the royal citadel of imperial Hue, all in just 8 days.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Hanoi – rickshaw ride through the French Quarter and explore the 36 streets of the Old Quarter
- Hue – discover the iconic Thien Mu Pagoda and the Purple Palace, then visit the ancient Royal Tomb of Emperor Tu Duc
- Tra Que village – ride bicycles into the countryside and learn how to farm the land before enjoying a hands-on cooking lesson
- Halong Bay – cruise the beautiful UNESCO-listed bay aboard a comfortable junk boat, kayak, swim and explore the remarkable caves
- Cua Van - kayak to this floating fishing village in Halong Bay

- Hoi An – stroll around the enchanting UNESCO Listed Old Town, with its picturesque riverside setting

What's Included

- 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 1 dinner
- 5 nights 4 star and special class hotels, 1 night deluxe junk boat and 1 overnight sleeper train (Junk boat: private cabin, Sleeper train: basic, 4 berth cabin)
- Halong Bay Junk boat cruise - opt to swim, kayak and explore caves
- Bicycle ride to Tra Que village and cooking demonstration
- Airport arrival transfer day 1 and departure transfer day 8
- Guided sightseeing - Hanoi, Halong Bay, Hue and Hoi An
- Escorted by an English speaking Vietnamese tour guide
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private air-conditioned vehicles

What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$25-35pp, paid in USD or VND
- Entrance Fees: USD\$30-40pp, 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

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Welcome to Hanoi

Xin Chao or 'hello' in Vietnamese! Welcome to Hanoi, one of the region's most charming cities where French colonial elegance meets Asian spirit with attractive lakes, colourful pagodas and atmospheric streets. On arrival you will be met by our local representative and transferred to our joining hotel where the remainder of the day is at leisure for you to relax or head out and explore.

For those able to arrive very early today or the day prior, why not get off the beaten track and explore Hanoi with us on our optional Back Streets of Hanoi add-on, which explores the quaint districts of Cho Buoi, Hoang Hoa Tham and Vinh Phuc, and also includes an exhilarating local experience - riding pillion, on taxi-motorbikes through a maze of tiny streets and along the shore of beautiful Ho Tay Lake.

Overnight - Hanoi

Hanoi to Hoi An - 8 days

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Hanoi to Hoi An

Day 2 : UNESCO-listed Halong Bay



Hanoi – Halong Bay. After breakfast this morning we leave Hanoi and transfer to the jewel in Vietnam's scenic crown - the incredibly beautiful Halong Bay. Board a comfortable junk boat to explore the emerald waters of the bay, dotted with green islets, and enjoy lunch with a view onboard.

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.

Overnight - Deluxe Junk Boat (B, L, D)

Day 3 : Caves & 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 by 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.

Later this evening there's a chance to freshen up before boarding the overnight train (4 berth sleeper cabin, basic standard) on the 'Reunification Express' railway line to Hue. An option to fly from Hanoi to Hue is also available.

Overnight - Sleeper train (B)

Day 4 : Imperial citadel of Hue



Arriving into imperial Hue this morning, we enjoy a guided sightseeing tour of the 19th-century capital. Visit the iconic Thien Mu Pagoda, with its 21-metre-tall tower. There will be time to explore the walled fortress of the Imperial Purple Palace, ringed by a moat with elaborate arches and impressive ramparts, some of which lie in ruin.

Later we head out to the countryside and visit the mausoleum of Emperor Tu Duc, one of the wonderfully ornamented Royal Tombs of the Nguyen kings. This evening there is an optional sunset cruise on the Perfume River. Travelling by longboat, it's the perfect way to enjoy the city skyline.

Overnight - Hue (B, L)

Day 5 : Charming Hoi An

Hue - Road of the Ocean Clouds - Hoi An. Departing Hue this morning our scenic drive via the Hai Van Pass (Road of the Ocean Clouds) takes us to Hoi An. The road follows the coast so there'll be wonderful views of beach to the east and verdant hills to the west. We enjoy a stop to walk along My Khe beach, nicknamed 'China Beach' by the Americans during the war. This beach also featured in Francis Ford Coppola's movie 'Apocalypse Now'.

Arrive into the charming, old-world trading port of Hoi An later this afternoon. A short walking tour will introduce you to the highlights of this enchanting and historical town with highlights including the Chua Ong Pagoda, Chinese Assembly Hall, 200-year-old Tam Ky house, former merchants' homes and the 400 year-old Japanese Covered Bridge.

During your stay in Hoi An, we offer a unique optional Hoi An Street Eats add-on, which explores the city's most popular local haunts. Cruise the city the way the locals do, by vintage Vespa and enjoy lots of tasty Vietnamese Cuisine. Book early with your reservation consultant, as numbers are limited.

Overnight - Hoi An (B)

Day 6 : Rural Life in Vietnam



Today will be spent out in the countryside learning all about the rural way of life in Vietnam. We'll reach Tra Que village by bicycle, a leisurely ride on flat roads that take us through rice paddies and farm land. The option of a taxi is available locally for those not keen on bike riding (payable locally). Once at the village we'll get our hands dirty learning about age-old farming practices and

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Hanoi to Hoi An

putting our knowledge to use by tending the fields and gardens. Lunch is a home-cooked affair with everyone mucking in. Later this afternoon return back to Hoi An on your bikes.

Overnight - Hoi An (B, L)

Day 7 : Hoi An - at leisure



Today is completely free for you to enjoy Hoi An as you wish. Lose yourself in the cobbled streets lined with boutique restaurants, hip cafes, delightful craft shops and some of Asia's best bespoke tailors (whose services come at a nominal price). If you prefer some R&R, lounge by the hotel pool or head to the beach. Those keen on Vietnam's ancient and more recent history can take an optional excursion to the ruined Cham city of My Son, or to Quang Ngai, the site of the My Lai massacre memorial, which marked a significant turning point in the Vietnam War.

Overnight - Hoi An (B)

Day 8 : Hoi An

Saturday. Today marks the end of your time in Vietnam. A departure transfer will be provided to take you to Danang airport in time for your onward flight. (B)

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. If you require a complete list of the confirmed hotels for your tour please request this from your reservations consultant two weeks prior to your departure. **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.



Sleeper train - 4 berth cabin

Cabins on board are comfortable though not comparable to European standards. Aboard each wagon are 9 compartments that comprise of 4 bunks per compartment shared by mixed sexes. 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.



Bhaya 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!



ÊMM Hotel

Situated in the heart of the former imperial capital, ÊMM 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.

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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 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.



PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 2 persons. Prices shown are per person when there are 2 persons sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the per person price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same gender on your tour, this can be arranged provided there is another single traveller booked on the tour date of your choosing. If a roommate cannot be found the single room supplement will apply.

PRICES / DATES 2019

Date	Twin Share	Single
17 Aug	USD 1,145	USD 1,675
24 Aug	USD 1,145	USD 1,675
07 Sep	USD 1,295	USD 1,825
14 Sep	USD 1,145	USD 1,675
21 Sep	USD 1,145	USD 1,675
28 Sep	USD 1,145	USD 1,675
05 Oct	USD 1,295	USD 1,825
12 Oct	USD 1,295	USD 1,825
26 Oct	USD 1,295	USD 1,825
09 Nov	USD 1,295	USD 1,825
23 Nov	USD 1,295	USD 1,825
07 Dec	USD 1,295	USD 1,825
21 Dec	USD 1,345	USD 1,875
28 Dec	USD 1,345	USD 1,875

PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
04 Jan	USD 1,245	USD 1,775
18 Jan	USD 1,245	USD 1,245
01 Feb	USD 1,245	USD 1,775
08 Feb	USD 1,245	USD 1,775
22 Feb	USD 1,245	USD 1,775
07 Mar	USD 1,245	USD 1,775
21 Mar	USD 1,245	USD 1,775
04 Apr	USD 1,245	USD 1,775
11 Apr	USD 1,245	USD 1,775
18 Apr	USD 1,245	USD 1,775
25 Apr	USD 1,245	USD 1,775
02 May	USD 1,145	USD 1,675
16 May	USD 1,145	USD 1,145
23 May	USD 1,145	USD 1,675
06 Jun	USD 1,145	USD 1,675
20 Jun	USD 1,145	USD 1,145
04 Jul	USD 1,145	USD 1,675
18 Jul	USD 1,145	USD 1,145
25 Jul	USD 1,145	USD 1,675
01 Aug	USD 1,145	USD 1,675
08 Aug	USD 1,145	USD 1,145
15 Aug	USD 1,145	USD 1,675
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