Hill Tribes, Halong Bay & Beyond
13 days | Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City

From Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City, discover Vietnam’s remote ethnic minority villages and go trekking in the beautiful Mai Chau Valley, cruise around the limestone peaks of picturesque Halong Bay and the floating markets of the Mekong, explore imperial cities and more on this 13 day tour.

**HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS**

**Trip Highlights**
- Halong Bay – cruise around the picturesque bay in a deluxe Junk Boat, kayak, swim and explore the remarkable caves
- Hanoi – ride on a rickshaw around Vietnam’s capital and visit highlights including Ly Thai To Park, the Opera House and the 36 Streets
- Mekong Delta – sail aboard a traditional sampan and explore the vibrant Cai Rang floating market
- Hue – take a guided tour of this imperial city, including the famous seven story Thien Mu Pagoda and the Purple Palace
- Ho Chi Minh City – discover the highlights of the city on our walking tour and learn about the Vietnam War at the War Remnants Museum
- Tra Que farm experience – cycle through lush countryside and experience tending the fields like traditional Vietnamese farmers
- Hoi An – enjoy some R&R in this enchanting riverside town with its cobbled streets, lanterns and iconic Japanese Bridge
- Hai Van Pass – admire the stunning scenery as we drive along the famous “Road of the Ocean Clouds”
- Mai Chau Valley – trek through picturesque countryside and enjoy lunch in a Vietnamese home
- Tra Que farm experience – cycle through lush countryside and experience tending the fields like traditional Vietnamese farmers
- Hoi An – enjoy some R&R in this enchanting riverside town with its cobbled streets, lanterns and iconic Japanese Bridge
- Hai Van Pass – admire the stunning scenery as we drive along the famous “Road of the Ocean Clouds”
- Mai Chau Valley – trek through picturesque countryside and enjoy lunch in a Vietnamese home
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private air-conditioned vehicles
- Escorted by an English speaking Vietnamese tour guide

**What’s Not Included**
- Tipping Kitty: USD$35-45pp, paid in USD
- 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 : Hanoi**

Wednesday. Xin Chao! Welcome to Vietnam!
On arrival at the airport you’ll be transferred to our hotel, where the rest of the day is free to explore Hanoi at leisure. Perhaps visit the Presidential Palace or Ho Chi Minh’s famous House on Stilts.

For those arriving early or the day before the tour begins, consider our Backstreets of Hanoi add-on. Explore the lesser-visited districts of Cho Buoi, Hoang Hoa Tham and Vinh Phuc. You’ll also get to ride behind a driver on taxi motorbikes through the narrow streets of Hanoi on the back of a motorbike taxi. You’ll experience a side of Saigon that’s away from the bustling main drag and get to see a different side of the city.

At the end of your tour, you’ll have the option to stay on for another 3-4 days of private touring. This is a good option if you’d like to have more time to explore the backstreets of Hanoi or consider adding on a few days in Ho Chi Minh City.
Hill Tribes, Halong Bay & Beyond

Day 2: Mai Chau Valley

**Hanoi - Mai Chau.** Leave bustling Hanoi this morning as we drive to a charming village in the Mai Chau Valley. Enjoy lunch at a traditional family-run guesthouse on stilts and take a leisurely walk in the countryside this afternoon. Stroll through rice fields and meet the locals, before the rest of today is at leisure. **Overnight - Mai Chau** *(B, L)*

Day 3: Trek through H'mong ethnic lands

Today we drive to the H'mong ethnic lands in the mountainous province of Hoa Binh and the rocky plateau of Hang Kia. Meet the colourfully dressed locals and eat lunch in a traditional wooden home. This afternoon we enjoy an easy-paced trek downhill to Mai Chau Valley, admiring the picturesque scenery as we go. We’ll then be transferred back to our lodge in the valley. **Overnight - Mai Chau** *(B, L)*

Please note: If you prefer not to trek, we can transfer you by road back to the lodge, where you can enjoy the afternoon at leisure.

Day 4: Muong Culture Museum

**Mai Chau - Hanoi.** There’s the opportunity to visit the local Mai Chau market this morning, before we continue to the town of Hoa Binh. Explore the charming Muong Culture Museum to see women in traditional dress and authentic Muong stilt houses, as well as a collection of fascinating artefacts. After our visit we enjoy a traditional Muong lunch, before returning to Hanoi. **Overnight - Hanoi** *(B)*

Day 5: Junk boat cruising in Halong Bay

**Hanoi - Halong Bay.** This morning we leave Hanoi and drive to the beautiful UNESCO-listed Halong Bay. The bay is dotted with around 2,000 limestone islets and some are home to flora and fauna found nowhere else on Earth. Board a comfortable Junk Boat and enjoy stunning views as we sail around the bay and discover the striking stalagmites and stalactites in Trinh Nu Cave. There’s also the opportunity to swim and kayak. This evening enjoy a Vietnamese cooking demonstration and a delicious seafood dinner onboard, before we spend the night in the bay. **Overnight - Deluxe Junk Boat** *(B, L, D)*

Day 6: Hanoi cyclo ride

**Hanoi - Road of the Ocean Clouds - Hoi An.** This morning enjoy an optional Tai Chi class on deck or a traditional massage. 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.

This afternoon we return to Hanoi and enjoy an exciting rickshaw ride around the city’s narrow streets. See highlights of the capital including the Opera House and Ly Thai To Park. We’ll then take a walk through the “36 Streets” of the Old Quarter. Tonight, we board the ‘Reunification Express’ night train to Hue (standard 4 berth sleeper cabin) or there is an option to fly to Hue if you prefer. **Overnight - Sleeper train** *(B)*

Day 7: Imperial Hue

**Arrive in Hue today and enjoy a guided tour of this former imperial capital of Vietnam.** Discover the iconic seven story Thien Mu Pagoda - Hue’s most famous landmark and home to the oldest monastery in the city. We’ll also explore the Imperial Purple Palace, heavily bombed during the 1968 TET Offensive. Later, visit the Royal Tombs of the Nguyen Dynasty kings and the mausoleum of Emperor Tu Duc. The Emperor spent much of his reign living at this lavish site but was actually buried elsewhere in the city. His final resting place remains undiscovered to this day. This evening, there’s an optional long boat excursion on the Perfume River. Marvel at the rugged mountain scenery as we cruise along. **Overnight - Hue** *(B, L)*

Day 8: The Hai Van Pass to Hoi An

**Hue - Road of the Ocean Clouds - Hoi An.** Today we drive along the famous Hai Van Pass (Road of the Ocean Clouds), one of the...
Hill Tribes, Halong Bay & Beyond

most beautiful coast roads in the world. Enjoy the striking views before we stop for a walk and a quick swim at My Khe beach - famous for appearing in the blockbuster film ‘Apocalypse Now’. Continue to the charming port city of Hoi An for a guided walking tour. Explore highlights including the Chua Ong Pagoda and the iconic Japanese Bridge. The rest of the day is at leisure to explore the cobbled streets and bustling waterfront of the city. You may also wish to consider our Hoi An Street Eats add-on. Hop on a vintage Vespa motorcycle and ride with a driver to several local restaurants. Try delicious all-you-can-eat local cuisine and enjoy free-flowing drinks. **Overnight - Hoi An (B)**

Day 9 : Tra Que farm experience & bike ride

Enjoy a leisurely bike ride into the countryside today as we visit Tra Que village. Learn about traditional farming methods and medicine, before you have a go at tending the fields yourself. We’ll then enjoy a tasty lunch, but not before we cook it ourselves with a fun and interactive cooking demonstration. **Overnight - Hoi An (B, L)**

Day 10 : Free time in Hoi An

Today is free to enjoy in Hoi An at leisure. Take a rowboat along the river, relax on the beach or do some shopping. There is an optional excursion to the site of the infamous My Lai Massacre. The massacre was one of the most barbaric acts of the Vietnam War, when more than 500 unarmed civilians were killed by US forces. Walk through the village and learn more about this harrowing event. **Overnight - Hoi An (B)**

Day 11 : Cruising the Mekong

Hoi An - Ho Chi Minh City. This morning we fly to Ho Chi Minh City (included) and drive to the Mekong Delta. Board a traditional sampan at Cai Be and cruise down the canals, enjoying the stunning scenery as we sail. Watch the locals go about their daily lives and stop at some of the home factories where local people produce popcorn and sweets. We’ll enjoy lunch in a traditional wooden home on Dong Hoa Hiep Island. **Overnight - Can Tho (B, L)**

Day 12 : Mekong & Ho Chi Minh City

Can Tho - Ho Chi Minh City. Early this morning we visit the Cai Rang floating market before returning to Ho Chi Minh City. Enjoy a walking tour of the former capital of South Vietnam and take in highlights of the city including the Notre Dame Cathedral and the sobering War Remnants Museum. **Overnight - Ho Chi Minh City (B)**

Day 13 : Ho Chi Minh City

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.

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.

HOTELS

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.

If you wish, extend your tour with a day trip to the famous Cu Chi Tunnels, vital to the Viet Cong fighters during the Vietnam War.
Sol Bungalows
Surrounded by emerald mountains and bamboo gardens, Sol Bungalows is set in the very heart of the Mai Chau valley. Its guestrooms are elegantly decorated and equipped with modern amenities including complimentary WiFi access. This secluded resort is the perfect spot to relax and soak up the dramatic scenery, with fantastic views over the surrounding lush rice paddies. An onsite restaurant offers delicious regional fare and guests can enjoy a host of other activities including a weaving class, traditional dance class, massage treatments, mountain biking and much more.

Bhya Classic I Junk Boat
This premier cruise boat offers 18 well appointed cabins 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!

EMM Hotel
Situated in the heart of the former imperial capital, EMM 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 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.

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.

Hill Tribes, Halong Bay & Beyond - 13 days
www.onthegotours.com
uk: 020 7371 1113  info@onthegotours.com
aus: 1300 855 684  aus-info@onthegotours.com
nz: 0800 44 77 69  can: 1866 890 7038
usa:1 866 606 2960  sa: 0800 990 311
Hill Tribes, Halong Bay & Beyond

Why not grab a cocktail and relax by the pool in the afternoon - a great way to refresh yourself from the Vietnam heat.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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 world-class 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 sight-seeing.

**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 (or 3 persons if you wish to book a triple) 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, this can be arranged, thus avoiding the single person supplement.

**PRICES / DATES 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Twin Share</th>
<th>Single</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18 Sep</td>
<td>USD 2,495</td>
<td>USD 3,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02 Oct</td>
<td>USD 2,595</td>
<td>USD 3,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09 Oct</td>
<td>USD 2,595</td>
<td>USD 3,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Oct</td>
<td>USD 2,595</td>
<td>USD 3,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06 Nov</td>
<td>USD 2,595</td>
<td>USD 3,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Nov</td>
<td>USD 2,595</td>
<td>USD 3,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04 Dec</td>
<td>USD 2,595</td>
<td>USD 3,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Dec</td>
<td>USD 2,645</td>
<td>USD 3,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 Dec</td>
<td>USD 2,645</td>
<td>USD 3,665</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PRICES / DATES 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Twin Share</th>
<th>Single</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 Jan</td>
<td>USD 2,545</td>
<td>USD 3,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Jan</td>
<td>USD 2,545</td>
<td>USD 3,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Feb</td>
<td>USD 2,545</td>
<td>USD 3,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04 Mar</td>
<td>USD 2,545</td>
<td>USD 3,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Mar</td>
<td>USD 2,545</td>
<td>USD 3,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01 Apr</td>
<td>USD 2,545</td>
<td>USD 3,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08 Apr</td>
<td>USD 2,545</td>
<td>USD 3,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Apr</td>
<td>USD 2,545</td>
<td>USD 3,565</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 May</td>
<td>USD 2,495</td>
<td>USD 3,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03 Jun</td>
<td>USD 2,495</td>
<td>USD 3,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Jun</td>
<td>USD 2,495</td>
<td>USD 3,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01 Jul</td>
<td>USD 2,495</td>
<td>USD 3,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Jul</td>
<td>USD 2,495</td>
<td>USD 3,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 Jul</td>
<td>USD 2,495</td>
<td>USD 3,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05 Aug</td>
<td>USD 2,495</td>
<td>USD 3,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Aug</td>
<td>USD 2,495</td>
<td>USD 3,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02 Sep</td>
<td>USD 2,495</td>
<td>USD 3,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09 Sep</td>
<td>USD 2,495</td>
<td>USD 3,515</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07 Oct</td>
<td>USD 2,595</td>
<td>USD 3,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Oct</td>
<td>USD 2,595</td>
<td>USD 3,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04 Nov</td>
<td>USD 2,595</td>
<td>USD 3,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Nov</td>
<td>USD 2,595</td>
<td>USD 3,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02 Dec</td>
<td>USD 2,595</td>
<td>USD 3,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Dec</td>
<td>USD 2,645</td>
<td>USD 3,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Dec</td>
<td>USD 2,645</td>
<td>USD 3,665</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>