

# Very Vietnam

## 10 days | Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City



*From charming Hanoi with its fading colonial architecture and national monuments, to the spellbinding scenery of Halong Bay and bustling Ho Chi Minh City on the edge of the Mekong Delta, Vietnam is as colourful as it is diverse. See the very best of vibrant Vietnam in 10 captivating days.*

### HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

#### Trip Highlights

- Hanoi – ride on a cyclo rickshaw through the French Quarter and see highlights including the Opera House and Ly Thai To Park
- Ho Chi Minh City – discover the 'Pearl of the Orient' on a walking tour to visit the sobering War Remnants Museum and the Notre Dame Cathedral
- Halong Bay – weave between limestone islets in the UNESCO-listed bay on a deluxe junk boat and explore Tien Ong Cave
- Mekong Delta – cruise the maze of waterways on a traditional sampan and enjoy lunch in a traditional home on Dong Hoa Hiep Island
- Tra Que village – enjoy a cycle ride into the country, learn how to farm the land and enjoy a fun cooking lesson

- Hue – explore the city on a guided tour to visit the iconic seven story Thien Mu Pagoda and the Imperial Purple Palace
- Hoi An – stroll along My Khe Beach and explore highlights of the city including the Chinese Pagoda and iconic Japanese Bridge
- Cua Van – kayak to this floating village which is home to colourful houses and traditional fishing families

#### What's Included

- 9 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 1 dinner
- 7 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)
- Economy class flight Danang - Ho Chi Minh City
- Halong Bay Junk boat cruise - opt to swim, kayak and explore caves
- Bicycle ride to Tra Que village and cooking demonstration
- Sampan boat trips in the Mekong Delta
- Airport arrival transfer day 1 and departure transfer day 10
- Guided sightseeing - Hanoi, Halong Bay, Hue, Hoi An, Mekong Delta and Ho Chi Minh City
- 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\$35-45pp, 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 : Hanoi

Saturday. Welcome to Hanoi, perhaps the most graceful, atmospheric and exotic capital city in Asia. Airport to hotel arrival transfer. The remainder of the day offers free time for you to explore the wide tree-lined avenues, beautiful lakes, ancient pagodas and the thriving historic old city, all easily navigated on foot.

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.

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**Overnight - Hanoi**

## Day 2 : Junk boat cruising, Halong Bay



Hanoi – Halong Bay. After breakfast this morning we leave Hanoi and transfer to the crown in Vietnam's scenic crown - the incredibly beautiful Halong Bay. We'll explore the jade waters studded with karst islands aboard a traditional wooden junk boat and after embarkation there's time for lunch soaking up the views.

This afternoon we will visit the spectacular Tien Ong Cave which was recently opened to the public in 2010, with its stunning stalagmites and stalactites. Later this evening back on board, watch a Vietnamese cooking demonstration held on the sundeck before settling down for a sumptuous seafood dinner. **Overnight - Halong Bay, Deluxe Junk Boat (B, L, D)**

## Day 3 : Floating villages and cyclo rides



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 we'll explore by kayak the Floating Village of Cua Van, which is home to generations of fishing families. Here we'll see the traditional and colourful floating

wooden houses and the locals going about their daily lives.

On arrival back into Hanoi mid-afternoon we'll explore the maze of streets in the French Quarter on our very only cyclo (rickshaws), 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 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 Hue



Upon arrival to Hue we embark 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 and here we'll view the elaborate mausoleum of Emperor Tu Duc. As the sun sets there is an optional cruise in a long boat along the gentle Perfume River, beautifully illuminated at night. **Overnight - Hue (B, L)**

## Day 5 : 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 My Khe beach, a beautiful stretch of coastline which was nicknamed 'China Beach' by the Americans during the war and famously featured in Francis Ford Coppola's movie 'Apocalypse Now'. Perhaps enjoy a refreshing swim in the sea before continuing our journey south along the coast 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 bygone 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.

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)**

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## Day 6 : Tra Que Village



A bicycle ride into the countryside leads us to Tra Que village. Here, we discover age old farming practices and learn about traditional medicine. It's a hands-on experience today where we'll assist with tending the fields and gardens and cooking lunch. **Overnight - Hoi An (B, L)**

## Day 7 : 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. It's also possible to take an optional excursion to the holiest and most evocative of Vietnam's Cham sites - My Son, or to Quang Ngai, the site of the My Lai massacre memorial. The massacre was a significant turning point in the Vietnam War and the story is told through photo presentation on a walk through the village. **Overnight - Hoi An (B)**

## Day 8 : 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'll 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 9 : Mekong & Ho Chi Minh City



Can Tho - Ho Chi Minh City. Early today we visit the ever lively Cai Rang floating market. Watch as melons, pineapples, fresh greens, sacks of rice and children's toys get tossed from one sampan to another at great heights and speed 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. Our walking tour of Ho Chi Minh City includes visits to the Notre Dame Cathedral, Old Post office and the sombering War Remnants Museum. Evening at leisure. **Overnight - Ho Chi Minh City (B)**

## Day 10 : Ho Chi Minh City



Monday. Today is free for you to enjoy Ho Chi Minh City before your departure transfer to

the airport. Opt for a relaxing foot massage, shop for souvenirs at Ben Thanh Market or visit the grand Independence Palace, with its secret bunker and military command centre beneath.

You could also extend your stay and join us on a day trip to the Cu Chi Tunnels Here you can go underground to explore the vast network of tunnels and hideouts used by Viet Cong guerrilla fighters, see booby traps, trap doors or test your skill with an AK 47 at the firing range.(B)

## HOTELS

The hotels listed below are ones which we frequently use on this tour. We reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard when necessary.

## 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.



## 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 Huang Xuan Restaurant there is also the Lobby Lounge - great for cocktails before dinner!

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## Vinh Hung Riverside Resort

Vinh Hung Riverside Resort offers luxury and gracious hospitality in a traditional Vietnamese environment right on the banks of the Thu Bon river with top notch facilities.



## 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.



## 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 travelling. 'Twin/Double' prices per person apply when there are 2 people travelling, sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the 'Twin/Double' price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same sex on your tour, this can be arranged, thus avoiding the single person supplement.

### PRICES / DATES 2019

Date	Twin Share	Single
15 Jun	USD 1,895	USD 2,735
29 Jun	USD 1,895	USD 2,735
13 Jul	USD 1,895	USD 2,735
27 Jul	USD 1,895	USD 2,735
03 Aug	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
10 Aug	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
17 Aug	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
24 Aug	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
07 Sep	USD 2,195	USD 3,035
14 Sep	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
21 Sep	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
28 Sep	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
05 Oct	USD 2,195	USD 3,035
12 Oct	USD 2,195	USD 3,035
26 Oct	USD 2,195	USD 3,035
09 Nov	USD 2,195	USD 3,035
23 Nov	USD 2,195	USD 3,035
07 Dec	USD 2,195	USD 3,035
21 Dec	USD 2,095	USD 2,935

### PRICES / DATES 2019

Date	Twin Share	Single
28 Dec	USD 2,095	USD 2,935

### PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
04 Jan	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
18 Jan	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
01 Feb	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
08 Feb	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
22 Feb	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
07 Mar	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
21 Mar	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
04 Apr	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
11 Apr	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
18 Apr	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
25 Apr	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
02 May	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
16 May	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
23 May	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
06 Jun	USD 1,895	USD 2,735
20 Jun	USD 1,895	USD 2,735
04 Jul	USD 1,895	USD 2,735
18 Jul	USD 1,895	USD 2,735
25 Jul	USD 1,895	USD 2,735
01 Aug	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
08 Aug	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
15 Aug	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
22 Aug	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
05 Sep	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
12 Sep	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
19 Sep	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
25 Sep	USD 2,195	USD 3,035
03 Oct	USD 2,195	USD 3,035
10 Oct	USD 2,195	USD 3,035
17 Oct	USD 2,195	USD 3,035
24 Oct	USD 2,195	USD 3,035
07 Nov	USD 2,195	USD 3,035
21 Nov	USD 2,195	USD 3,035
05 Dec	USD 2,195	USD 3,035
19 Dec	USD 2,095	USD 2,935
26 Dec	USD 2,095	USD 2,935

### PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
02 Jan	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
09 Jan	USD 1,995	USD 2,835
16 Jan	USD 1,995	USD 2,835

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