



## BEST OF VIETNAM

### **Day 1 Sat Arrival Day Ho Chi Minh**

When you arrive to Vietnam an airport-hotel transfer is provided for all passengers travelling on a group flight. Most of the flights will arrive at the end of the day. If you have made your own travel arrangements the transfer to the hotel is by your own arrangement (or you can request a private transfer at your own expense). The evening is at your leisure. You will probably have met some other group members on the airport to hotel transfer but in any case, a meeting point in the hotel lobby is nominated at 8pm for anyone who wants to join as a group and head out for dinner.

### **Day 2 Sun Discover Ho Chi Minh Ho Chi Minh**

Your first full day in Vietnam starts with a city tour and discovery of all the key iconic places of Ho Chi Minh City; Binh Tay Market, Jade Emperor Pagoda, War Remnants Museum, Notre Dame Cathedral, General Post Office. Plus some free time to make your own discoveries. Tonight, the group enjoys a welcome dinner.  
(Breakfast. Dinner)

### **Day 3 Mon Mekong Delta Cantho**

This morning we transfer to Cai Be (3 hours) for a boat tour with stops along the way to arrive at Vinh Long before transferring to Cantho in the Mekong Delta for the evening. Today, we lunch at a local house during your boat tour of the Mekong Delta. Seafood meals are a focus on the local restaurant menus and tonight you may like to try the local mouse that features on some menus!  
(Breakfast. Lunch)

### **Day 4 Tue Mekong Delta Ho Chi Minh**

We are up early to make sure you see the best of the local trade on the Mekong Delta with a boat tour (great photo opportunities this morning) of the floating market and a walk in a local village of Cantho. If you prefer to lie in, you can make your own plans for the morning in Cantho (just let your tour guide know you will not be joining the morning boat tour). In the afternoon, we transfer back to Ho Chi Minh City for the night.  
(Breakfast)

### **Day 5 Wed Chu Chi Tunnels Hoi An**

Excursion to the renowned Cu Chi Tunnels. After your visit to the Cu Chi Tunnels there's a packed lunch for the bus transfer to the airport for a short afternoon flight to Danang. From Danang we transfer to the historic town of Hoi An for the next three nights.  
(Breakfast. Lunch)

### **Day 6 Thu Hoi An Tour Hoi An**

Start your day with a morning city walk, the best way to become accustomed with historical Hoi An. The tour includes, Assembly Hall of the Fujian Chinese Congregation Hall, Japanese Bridge and Phung Hung House. In the afternoon, there's a leisurely bike tour to get know the city further afield. Or if you prefer, some free time to do some shopping, have some clothes tailored or soak up the atmosphere of Hoi An.  
(Breakfast)

### **Day 7 Fri Cooking School & Free Time Hoi An**

Ever wondered or wanted to know how the Vietnamese cook up such delicious food? Well today, get the answers at our special group cooking class at a cooking school in Hoi An. For lunch, you'll enjoy your cooking creations at the cooking school. In the afternoon, enjoy some leisure time. Relax by the resort pool, wander around Hoi An or visit the local beach.  
(Breakfast. Lunch)

### **Day 8 Sat From Hoi An to Hue Hue**

A day out on the road as we transfer to Hoi An via the Marble Mountains and Hai Van Pass, some of the most scenic countryside in Vietnam. We stop for lunch en route at a local restaurant. Tonight, there's a group dinner to enjoy the cuisine of central Vietnam.  
(Breakfast. Lunch. Dinner)

### **Day 9 Sun The Perfume River Hue**

We enjoy a boat tour on the Perfume River to the royal tombs area. In the afternoon, there's a two hour cycling tour which is a highlight as you roam into the countryside around Hue to get you among local village life. If



cycling is not your preference you can choose to do your own thing around town.  
(Breakfast)

**Day 10 Mon Heading North to Hanoi Hanoi Overnight Train (to Sapa)**  
A short morning flight to Hanoi with Vietnam Airlines.

In Hanoi, there's a city tour discovery including the Old Quarter with lunch at a local restaurant. The Old Quarter is a legacy of Hanoi's ancient past with a history that spans over 2000 years and is known as the 'eternal soul of the city.' The tour visits of the Prison Museum, Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum (outside only), Temple of Literature and a walk in the Old Quarter. This evening you take the night train to Lao Cai. It's a sleeper train with four beds per berth. Before boarding there's a group dinner plus time for purchasing snacks and drinks for the train journey.  
(Breakfast. Lunch. Dinner)

*TIP: have a small travel bag/day pack available that you can use for the visit to Sapa. Large bags will be stored at the hotel in Hanoi as it is not possible to travel with your main luggage bag on the train.*

**Day 11 Tue Market & boat tour Sapa**  
This morning, there's an excursion to the weekly Coc Ly market to experience local market shopping with plenty of sights and aromas that are a very different experience to our supermarkets. There's also a boat tour before transferring to Sapa.  
(Breakfast. Lunch)

**Day 12 Wed Silver Waterfall Sapa**  
An excursion to Thac Bac (Silver Waterfall), 5km north of Sapa. It's a dramatic waterfall about 100 meters high. The rest of the day is at your own leisure. It's a chance to make your own discovery of this beautiful highland village.  
(Breakfast)

**Day 13 Thu Ta Phin Sapa Overnight Train (to Hanoi)**  
Today we have an excursion to Ta Phin village, outside of Sapa. Ta Phin is a picturesque drive North of Sapa set within a valley with a towering mountain peak at one end. It's alive with the daily life of the Kinh, Red Dao and Black Hmong people. The rest of the day is at your leisure and this evening we return to Hanoi on the overnight train.

**Day 14 Fri The Cruise Halong Bay Huong Hai Junk, Cruise**  
This morning we make our way to Halong Bay for an overnight cruise of the bay. A major highlight of your Vietnam Explorer tour! Halong Bay is a world heritage site and includes some 1600 islands and islets forming a spectacular seascape of limestone pillars. Make sure you pack your swimwear.  
(Breakfast. Lunch. Dinner)

*Note for single room bookings; a single cabin can not be guaranteed on the overnight boat tour on Halong Bay and that they may be required to share with another person (of the same gender).*

**Day 15 Sat Return to Hanoi Hanoi**  
We continue the cruise in the morning before transferring to Hanoi in the afternoon. This evening there is a grand farewell dinner.  
(Breakfast. Dinner)

**Day 16 Sun Our Final Day Hanoi/Depart**  
This morning is at your leisure before departing from the hotel to the airport for your return home.  
(Breakfast)

#### PRE-DEPARTURE CONTACT SERVICE

With your permission, we share your first name, state and email to the rest of the travellers in the group prior to departure. This service provides you with the opportunity to get in touch with others prior to departure. This list is provided about three weeks prior to departure.