

Best of Vietnam



For **SINGLE TRAVELLERS 45 Years & Over** (16 days / 15 nights)
Saturday 2 to Sunday 17 April 2011

Ho Chi Minh • Cantho • Ho Chi Minh • Hoi An • Hue • Sapa • Halong Bay • Hanoi

Best of Vietnam

The unspoiled charm of Vietnam makes it one of the 'hot spots' in Asia. The diversity of the country, the friendliness of the people and Vietnam's compact size make for an ideal 16 day/15 night tour.

The tour visits all the major highlights from the Mekong Delta in the south to Hanoi in the north. You'll be guided by an expert Vietnamese national, discovering the charm of the country that is enticing more and more people to make its discovery.

Tour Highlights

- Small group touring (maximum of 24 travellers only)
- All sightseeing and attractions on itinerary included in price
- Leisure time to make your own discoveries
- Mekong Delta boat tour
- Bicycle tours at two destinations; cycle past the town boundaries to witness rural life (optional)
- 3 night stay in Central Vietnam (Hoi An)
- Overnight cruise on Halong Bay
- Free evenings (in Vietnam where eating locally is a highlight, it's great to have the freedom of choice)
- 2 domestic flights to reduce travel time

Tour Pace

This is leisurely group, touring with a maximum of 24 travellers. Touring is by private coach plus a return overnight train journey to the highlands in the north, two domestic flights within Vietnam to reduce travel time and also an overnight boat cruise on Halong Bay.

Share your journey - this tour is exclusively for single travellers. We 'go the extra mile' and offer a pre-departure group contact service. (see itinerary page for details).

aRendezvous



Popular tour. Book early to secure your place.



TOP 5 REASONS TO BOOK

1. Age-matched holiday groups
2. Travel with like-minded singles
3. Tours provided by leading tour operators
4. Early bird savings with many tours
5. Room-mate matching option

Tour Inclusions

- Accommodation in comfortable hotels *
- Daily full breakfast
- 7 lunches & 5 dinners
- English speaking Vietnamese national group tour leader
- Two domestic flights in Vietnam
- Overnight cruise on Halong Bay ^
- Transportation by air-conditioned bus
- Tours and excursions as per itinerary
- Maximum group size 24 person

* hotels are 3 to 4 star rated

^ for single room bookings on the overnight cruise a single cabin can not be guaranteed.

Not Included with Tour Price :

- Travel Insurance & Visa fees
- Tips for tour guide
- Items of a personal nature such as drinks, laundry, excess baggage fees,

ROOM MATE MATCHING

Avoid the single supplement with our room mate matching service. In the event of a 'forced single room'; when we are unable to offer a room mate, you will be offered a single room at a reduced rate of \$390 (rather than full price \$650).

Tour Prices

Prices Per Person AUD	Twin Share	Single Room
Tour Price	\$2795	\$3445
Pre-tour hotel (Ho Chi Minh)	\$55	\$100
Post-tour hotel (Hanoi)	\$55	\$100
Private Airport Transfer	\$45 (only required if group flight is not booked)	
Tipping Fund**	USD75 (payable on arrival)	
Airfares	Quoted on request	

** A tipping fee is due and payable directly to the tour guide in US dollars on day 1 of the tour. The tour guide manages the tips provided for service personnel related to the tour including but not limited to; the tour bus drivers, boat crew, hotel porters, and waiters at restaurants included on the itinerary. This tip does not cover the tip for the group tour guide. A tip for the tour guide is customary and highly recommend. This payment is at each passenger's discretion

Prices were correct at time of publishing but are subject to change should circumstances dictate.

About Us

At *arendzvous travel & leisure* we offer holiday groups for single travellers. All trips age-matched so there's more chance you'll share your journey with like-minded travellers.

Visiting destinations across Australia and around the globe, choose from short escapes to adventure trips and leisurely touring.

Contact Us

arendzvous travel & leisure

Monday to Thursday 10am to 6pm
Friday 10am to 5pm (EST/EDT)

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For your protection and peace of mind we are a member of the Travel Compensation Fund.

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DAY 1 SATURDAY (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 SUNDAY (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 and Dinner)*

DAY 3 MONDAY (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 and Lunch)*

DAY 4 TUESDAY (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 WEDNESDAY (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 and Lunch)*

DAY 6 THURSDAY (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 FRIDAY (Cooking School and 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 and Lunch)*

DAY 8 SATURDAY (From Hoi An to 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 and Lunch. Dinner)*

DAY 9 SUNDAY (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 MONDAY (Heading North to 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 and 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 TUESDAY (Market and 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 and Lunch)*

DAY 12 WEDNESDAY (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 THURSDAY (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 FRIDAY (Huong Hai Junk Cruise, Halong Bay).

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 and 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 SATURDAY (Return to Hanoi).

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

DAY 16 SUNDAY (Our Final Day, Depart Hanoi).

This morning is at your leisure before departing from the hotel to the airport for your return home. *(Breakfast)*

PRE-DEPARTURE CONTACT SERVICE.

We offer a pre-departure contact service. With your permission, we share your first name, state and email (or other preferred contact method) with the other travellers in the group. It provides you with the opportunity to get in touch with others prior to departure. This list is provided after bookings close, about four weeks prior to departure.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Full terms and conditions are available on the holiday website. Information was correct at the time of publishing however some details may change without notice.

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