



Vietnam Discovery - 14D/13N (Ref. V14D)

Overview:

Discovering Vietnam in a couple of week will enable you to visit the major places of interest of the country. With the harmonious combination of activities like sight-seeing, walking, cycling, cruising...and relaxing, this trip can maximize your possibility of exploring the beauty of nature, the diversification of cultures; experiencing the hospitality of the people as well as enjoying the delicious local cuisine. This holiday itinerary is especially favourable for those who want to travel to the most exciting sites of Vietnam in the fairly shortest period of time

Detail Itinerary:

Day 1: Hanoi Arrival (-,-,D)

Upon your arrival at the airport/ train station, you will be met and transferred to hotel in Hanoi Center. In late afternoon you will take a cyclo ride through Hanoi Ancient Street and enjoy a tasty dinner at a nice restaurant, followed by a Traditional Water Puppet show.

Accommodation: Hong Ngoc hotel

Note: the guide runs an information meeting with the group upon arrival at the hotel.

Day 2: Hanoi City tour. Night train to Lao Cai (B,L,-)

You will commence the day with a visit to Ho Chi Minh Complex (*), which includes the Mausoleum, the Museum and the One Pillar Pagoda. The next



INCLUSIVE

- English/French Speaking Guide during airport/station transfer and on excursions only
- Accommodation based on twin sharing rooms in indicated hotels
- All indicated transportation
- All indicated meals (B: Breakfast; L: Lunch; D: Dinner)
- Chartered Traditional wooded style junk for overnight and cruising in Halong Bay
- Return train ticket to/from Hanoi (soft sleeper in 4-berth AC cabin)
- Indicated domestic flight tickets
- Entrance fees

EXCLUSIVE

- Insurance
- Pre and post trip accommodation
- Private expenses
- Drinks and Beverage
- All other services not mentioned as inclusive



visit is to Temple of Literature, the first University of Vietnam. After enjoy lunch at a nice restaurant, you will have a 20 minutes drive to Museum of Ethnology, the research centre and public museum exhibiting the ethnic groups of Vietnam. You will then drive back to the downtown of Hanoi, the Restored Sword Lake, to visit the Ngoc Son Temple. From here, you will have a walk into the Old Quarter, visiting a gallery, shopping for some souvenirs... before having a transfer back to your hotel. Later in the evening you go to the station to take night train to Lao Cai, a busy town on the Chinese border.

Accommodation: on board the train (soft sleeper in 4 berth-cabin)

Notes:

- *Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum is closed on Mondays and Fridays. It's annually closed time for maintenance is October and November.*

- *All Hanoi Museums are closed on Mondays.*

Day 3: Full day walking - Topas Ecolodge (B,L,D)

The train arrives Lao Cai Station approx 05h30. From here you will take Topas Shuttle bus to Sapa, where you enjoy your breakfast at the local restaurant.

At 9h00, you will commence your journey from Sapa by a transfer to Lao Chai village, a Black Hmong ethnic minority village. You will then be able to walk from Lao Chai to Ta Van village where the Giay ethnic minority hill tribe live. Here you will be able to rest and enjoy a delicious lunch prepared by your guide in a local house. After lunch the walk continues through a bamboo forest to Giang Ta Chai, a Red Dao ethnic minority village. After taking a rest nearby a waterfall to refresh, you start climbing uphill to a road where the car is waiting to transfer you to Topas Ecolodge. You check in to your bungalow and enjoy the view into the valley and dotted mountain surrounding.

Approx: Grade 2 of 5/ 1 hour driving/ 4 hours walking/ 1 hour lunch.

Accommodation: Topas Ecolodge

Day 4: Hiking to Lech Dao village from Topas Ecolodge (B,L,D)

After having breakfast, you will go to visit Lech village of Red Dao minority. You will follow the road for a while before descending toward a river. Going through rice paddy terraces gives you many opportunities to enjoy magnificent valley view. You cross the river by stepping on a bridge made of stone and then follow a trail going up to the village. You will be able to spend some times at the village to experience daily life, and learn how minorities women embroidery. From the village, you head back to the lodge for lunch.

The rest of the day is at your leisure at the Topas Ecolodge.

Accommodation: Topas Ecolodge

Day 5: Leisure day in Sapa town. Night train to Hanoi. (B,-,-)

After having breakfast at Topas Ecolodge, At 9h00 you will take the Topas Ecolodge Shuttle bus to Sapa. Rest of the day is at your leisure to visit Sapa town.

At 17h30 you will take the shuttle bus to Lao Cai for the night train back to Hanoi.

Accommodation: on board the train (soft sleeper in 4 berth-cabin)

Day 6: Hanoi – Halong. Start cruising. (B,L,D)

You arrive early enough in Hanoi to take a stroll around Hoan Kiem lake and witness the local population preparing for their day's work doing gymnastics (Tai Chi) and playing badminton in the cool morning air. You will have breakfast at your hotel.

At 8h00 - 8h30 AM, you will commence from Hanoi by taking a shuttle bus trip to Halong. After around 3 and half hours, you will arrive in Halong where you get on board the Huong Hai junk. After enjoying a well-prepared lunch with the local fresh seafood, you will have a fantastic cruise among hundreds of Islets such as Dinh Huong, Ga Choi, Dog and Finger Islets., as well as visiting the Surprise cave, the largest and finest cave in Halong Bay. You will then having a swim at Titov beach (or Soi Sim beach) and watching sunset from the Junk's desk, before enjoy your dinner.

Accommodation: on board the boat (Air-conditioning private twin shared cabin with attached shower room)

Day 7: Finish the cruise. Transfer to Hanoi airport. Flight to Hue. (B,L,or Brunch,-)

You would rise up early to enjoy a morning view of Bay's landscapes. It is amazing to sit on the upper deck to watch the sun rise through the rocky Islands on the crystal-clear waters of the Bay in the sound of natures. At 8h00 am you will visit the Luon Cave on small bamboo boat and enjoy the quiet atmosphere enclosed by high islets and mountains. The junk will continue its weaving around the Bay, among thousands of islets. Today you will enjoy the view of the Man's Head, Tortoise, Lion Islets and Bai Tho Mountain. After you enjoy your lunch, the Junk will disembark at the Halong wharf before noon, where your bus is waiting for your journey to Hanoi airport to take the flight to Hue. Upon arrival in Hue airport, you have a transfer to your hotel. Rest of the day is at your leisure.

Accommodation: Asia hotel



Day 8: Hue City biking tour. Transfer to Hoi An (B,L,-)

At 8h00, together with our guide, you start the tour on bicycles from your hotel. You first visit Nam Giao esplanade, the Heaven and Earth prayer rituals that were conducted for hundreds of years. You will then continue the ride for a while before reaching the Tomb of Tu Duc, which is not only one of the most beautiful works of the Nguyen Dynasty, but also famous for its romantic sceneries of mounts and lakes. From Tu Duc Tomb you pedal to the Perfume River, where you get on the "Dragon" boat. You will enjoy lunch on board while the board cruising upstream the peaceful poetic river to Thien Mu Pagoda (Heavenly Lady), which has been one of typical sites of Hue for ages. From the Pagoda you will continue cycling to the Citadel, where the last 13 Nguyen dynasty Kings ruled. Part of the Citadel has been renovated after being bombed during the American war. You will then have a transfer to Hoi An, where you will arrive in the late afternoon.

Accommodation: Thanh Binh III hotel

Day 9: Leisure day in Hoi An. (B,-,-)

Back in history Hoi An was the most important harbour in Vietnam, and the old town which today is under the protection of UNESCO, have been renovated and is clearly a picture of all the different nationalities arrived here from all over Asia. Many of the old houses are today souvenir shops or home to some of all the tailors, based in Hoi An. Hoi An gives you the best opportunity in Vietnam to change or renew your suit or dress collection back home. Today is at your leisure to explore Hoi An.

Accommodation: Thanh Binh III hotel

Day 10: Hoi An – Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). (B,-,-)

At around noon, you will have a transfer to Da Nang airport for the flight to Ho Chi Minh City. You will arrive in Ho Chi Minh City Airport, where your guide and driver are waiting to transfer you to the hotel. The rest of the day is free at your leisure.

Accommodation: Tan Hai Long hotel

Day 11: Cu Chi Tunnels and Ho Chi Minh City Tour (B,L,-)

You commence the full day excursion today by a drive to Cu Chi. Cu Chi Tunnels are located approximately 70 km northwest of Ho Chi Minh City in Cu Chi district. On the way to Cu Chi tunnels, you enjoy spectacular view of paddy fields. After that you will go to Ben Dinh tunnels. First you see documentary film about guerrillas war in Cu Chi district. Then you walk around the tunnel area to see Bomb crates, underground bunkers, deadly traps, ... Try tunnels to see how guerrillas could live, fight and survive during the war. You can feel the atmosphere of war. You will be back in Ho Chi Minh city and enjoy lunch at a nice local restaurant.

After lunch, you will start again for a half day city tour including a visit to Re-Unification Palace, the former Presidential Palace. You then visit the nearby Central Post Office and the Notre Dame Cathedral, which are in Romanesque art and French-style. Another destination is War Remains Museum, where you can have a closer look of the Vietnam War.

Accommodation: Tan Hai Long hotel

Day 12: Ho Chi Minh City – Cai Be – Vinh Long - Can Tho (B,L,-)

The 2 days exploring Mekong Delta starts with a transfer to Cai Be. After 3 hour driving, you arrive at Cai Be boat wharf where you start a motorized boat trip to visit the Cai Be floating market, a characteristic style of trading in Mekong Delta area. You also have opportunity to visit a local workshop that produces coconut candy, rice paper, rice crispy before crossing the big river to An Binh, a small island where you have lunch in a nice bonsai garden. You then can relax on a hammock for a short rest or taking the bike for a short ride on village road. The next boat cruise will bring you to a pottery factory before you arrive to Vinh Long town. Your vehicle is waiting here to transfer you to Can Tho, where you check in your hotel in the down town.

Accommodation: Ninh Kieu hotel

Day 13: Can Tho – Cai Rang Floating Market – Ho Chi Minh City (B,L,-)

You rise up early today for another cruise to visit the Cai Rang Floating Market. It is an opportunity to experience and understand precisely how important the Mekong River is for the Delta. Cai Rang is the main wholesale floating market near Can Tho, where hundreds of boats gathering every morning. A piece of fruit or a vegetable hanged on a pole at the bow signifying what is for sale on each boat. Having explored the market you continue your cruise to visit a fruit garden or a family's rice pancake workshop. The cruise then ends at the other bank of the river, where your vehicle is waiting for your journey back to Saigon. You will have a lunch break on the way and arrive back to Saigon in late afternoon.

Accommodation: Tan Hai Long hotel

Day 14: Departure Saigon (B,-,-)

Today is at your leisure.