

Vietnam and Thailand — Culture and Nature in 11 Days

11 days · Tailor-made itinerary



Tour photograph · Chiang Mai

Your journey. Your pace. Your experiences.

Hanoi - Ba Vi - day trip - Halong Bay - Chiang Mai - Bangkok

From USD 1,475 per person

Indicative price · international arrival and departure flights excluded

A tour idea we can personalise together.

Your journey at a glance

Destinations: Vietnam · Thailand



- 1 Hanoi
- 2 Ba Vi - day trip
- 3 Halong Bay
- 4 Chiang Mai
- 5 Bangkok

— Itinerary - - - Arrival & departure

Connections are schematic. Flights depend on your travel arrangements.

Map data: Natural Earth.

What makes this journey special

- Hanoi's culture and museums
- Tea, cooking and crafts in Ba Vi
- Boat trip on the Da River
- Overnight Halong Bay cruise
- Doi Suthep and Chiang Mai's temples
- Elephant Jungle Sanctuary
- Bangkok's Buddha figures and Marble Temple

DAY 1**Arrival in Hanoi**

Tour photograph · Hanoi

Your journey begins on arrival in Hanoi. Your private driver will meet you at the airport with a sign bearing your name and take you to your accommodation in the city centre, close to the Old Quarter. Explore at your own pace or relax at your hotel after the flight.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 2**Hanoi city sightseeing: group tour (B/L)**

Tour photograph · Hanoi

Set beside the Red River, Hanoi brings together well-preserved colonial buildings, old pagodas, temples and distinctive museums.

Your guide will collect you between 08:00 and 08:30. At 08:45, visit Tran Quoc Pagoda on Golden Fish Island in West Lake, a historic pagoda with origins in the sixth century.

At 09:30, explore the Ho Chi Minh Complex, including the mausoleum when open, the gardens and the houses where Ho Chi Minh lived and worked between 1954 and 1969. Continue to the One Pillar Pagoda, dedicated to the Goddess of Mercy.

Please cover your shoulders and knees when visiting the mausoleum, temples and pagodas. Mausoleum access is subject to opening days and maintenance closures, and will be confirmed for your travel dates. The surrounding grounds can still be visited when access to the mausoleum itself is unavailable.

At 11:15, visit the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology to learn about the country's 54 ethnic groups. On Mondays, the programme visits the Vietnamese Women's Museum instead. At 12:45, enjoy lunch at a restaurant with a selection of eight Vietnamese dishes.

Between 14:00 and 14:15, continue to the Temple of Literature, founded in the 11th century and associated with Vietnam's first university. At 15:15, visit Hoa Lo Prison Museum. The French colonial authorities first used it for political prisoners; North Vietnam later held American prisoners of war here, who nicknamed it the 'Hanoi Hilton'.

The tour ends with your return to the hotel between 16:15 and 16:30.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 3**Ba Vi countryside: private excursion (B/L)**

Tour photograph · Ba Vi

Your driver will collect you at 07:30 for the journey to Ba Vi. Visit three villages, where local hosts share aspects of rural life.

Meet Mr Duoc, a war veteran who shares stories of his life during and after the Vietnam War. He also knows the local tea trade well. In a village with established tea gardens, walk among the plants, help pick the leaves and learn how to select the best ones.

Join Ms Chin for a cooking class and lunch in her garden. After a break, she will introduce you to her village and local workshops. Learn about tofu making and rice husking, and meet a long-serving village blacksmith.

Cycle through rice fields to Mr Chau's home, where you can relax with a warm herbal foot bath based on Muong traditions. Afterwards, take a boat trip on the Da River to enjoy the scenery and glimpse life along its banks.

Return to Hanoi in the evening, arriving at your hotel at around 18:30.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 4**Hanoi to Halong Bay: shared cruise and transfer (B/L/D)**

Tour photograph · Halong Bay

Discover Halong Bay today, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its limestone formations and emerald-green water.

After breakfast, meet your driver for the scenic journey through the Red River Delta's green rice fields. At the pier, board your cruise and take in the limestone formations and caves.

After a seafood lunch, enjoy the bay from the sun deck. At a quiet stop, go kayaking or swimming to experience the karst landscape up close. Return on board for an early dinner, then join an onboard activity or simply relax.

Overnight on board.

Please note: the cruise may be cancelled without advance notice if bad weather prevents the boats from sailing or staying overnight. Alternative arrangements or a refund will be considered according to the circumstances.

DAY 5**Halong Bay to Hanoi (B/L)**

Tour photograph · Halong Bay

Rise early to watch the sunrise. Breakfast is served in the dining room, and a tai chi session on the sun deck offers a gentle start to the day.

Check out of your cabin and enjoy brunch as the boat returns to the harbour. After disembarking, transfer to your accommodation in Hanoi.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 6**Fly from Hanoi to Chiang Mai (B)**

Tour photograph · Chiang Mai

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your international flight from Hanoi to Chiang Mai.

A local representative will meet you on arrival and take you to your hotel to check in. Relax for the rest of the day or begin exploring Chiang Mai.

Overnight in Chiang Mai.

DAY 7**Doi Suthep and Chiang Mai temples: group tour (B)**

Tour photograph · Chiang Mai

This excursion of around five hours introduces Chiang Mai's long history and temples. Follow a winding road into the hills to Wat Phra That Doi Suthep, around 3,500 feet above sea level.

Climb the 306-step Naga Staircase, flanked by mythical serpent figures, to reach the temple. Its gleaming chedi and five-tiered golden parasol shelter sacred Buddha relics. On a clear day, the terrace offers broad views over the city.

In Chiang Mai, visit Wat Suan Dok, the Royal Flower Garden Temple with its large central stupa, and Wat Chedi Luang, known for its imposing historic chedi.

Overnight in Chiang Mai.

DAY 8**Elephant Jungle Sanctuary: group excursion (B/L)**

Tour photograph · Chiang Mai

The half-day programme lasts around six hours, including transfers. After pick-up from your accommodation, drive approximately 1.5 hours south of Chiang Mai through hills, forests and farmland.

At Elephant Jungle Sanctuary, learn about the elephants and their individual stories before changing into traditional Karen clothing. Feed the animals and meet them in their natural surroundings, with opportunities to take photographs and learn about their behaviour.

The programme then includes a mud bath and a walk with the elephants to the river for a bathing activity. After a traditional meal, say goodbye and return to Chiang Mai, a drive of around 1.5 hours, with drop-off at your accommodation.

Overnight in Chiang Mai.

DAY 9**Fly from Chiang Mai to Bangkok (B)**

Tour photograph · Bangkok

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to Bangkok. The direct flight takes approximately one hour and 15 minutes. A local representative will meet you on arrival and take you to your hotel or the next agreed stop. Spend the remaining time relaxing or exploring Bangkok as you wish.

Overnight in Bangkok.

DAY 10**Bangkok's temples: private tour (B/L)**

Tour photograph · Bangkok

After hotel pick-up, begin exploring Bangkok. Thailand's capital was established in 1782 by King Rama I, the first ruler of the Chakri dynasty, and is also known for its exceptionally long ceremonial name.

Visit Wat Traimit, home to a solid-gold Buddha from the Sukhothai period, approximately three metres tall and weighing around 5.5 tonnes. Continue to Wat Pho, one of Bangkok's oldest and largest temple complexes, to see the immense gilded Reclining Buddha with mother-of-pearl decoration on its feet.

Continue past Sanam Luang, the royal ceremonial field, the Democracy Monument, Ratchadamnoen Klang Avenue, Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall and the parliament area. Visit Wat Benchamabophit, known for its marble main building from the reign of King Rama V.

Overnight in Bangkok.

DAY 11**Departure from Bangkok (B)**

Tour photograph · Bangkok

After breakfast, enjoy free time until your private driver collects you for the transfer to Suvarnabhumi International Airport. We hope you have enjoyed your journey and wish you a pleasant trip home.

Included services

- Economy-class flight from Hanoi to Chiang Mai with 20 kg of checked baggage per person.
- Economy-class flight from Chiang Mai to Bangkok with 20 kg of checked baggage per person.
- Child airfares follow the airline's conditions at booking. Please contact us for a quote if travelling with more than one child.
- Experienced English-speaking guide. German-, French-, Spanish- or Dutch-speaking guides are available on request for a supplement.
- Meals as listed in the itinerary: B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner.
- Private door-to-door collection and drop-off.
- Air-conditioned buses or private vehicles for excursions.
- All sightseeing and admission tickets listed in the itinerary.
- Tissues and drinking water in the vehicle.
- Service charges and government taxes.
- 24/7 assistance through our hotline.

Your personal proposal will set out the included services. Any changes and availability will be confirmed before you book.

Additional costs

- International arrival and departure flights, and departure taxes. The expressly listed flight from Hanoi to Chiang Mai is included.
- Travel insurance.
- Drinks, personal expenses and tips.
- Early check-in and late check-out unless expressly included.
- Compulsory gala dinners on 24 and 31 December and during Tet, where applicable. The programme lists 21 January for Tet; dates must be confirmed when booking.
- Holiday surcharges at Christmas, New Year, Tet in Vietnam and local New Year celebrations in Cambodia, Laos and Thailand, where applicable.
- Airport-transfer surcharges between midnight and 5 am.
- Any applicable visa fees.
- Other activities and services not expressly included.

Your personal proposal will set out the included services. Any changes and availability will be confirmed before you book.

Carefully selected accommodation

Suggested hotels by destination and category. Your personal proposal will confirm room types and availability.

Hanoi

3 stars**Chalcedony Hotel or similar****4 stars****Le Jardin Haute Couture or similar****5 stars****Apricot Hotel or similar**

Halong Bay

3 stars**Le Journey Premium Cruise or similar****4 stars****Milalux Cruise or similar****5 stars****Amanda Luxury Cruise or similar**

Chiang Mai

3 stars**De Charme Chiang Mai or similar****4 stars****Empress Chiang Mai Hotel or similar****5 stars****NA NIRAND Romantic Boutique Resort or similar**

Bangkok

3 stars**True Siam Rangnam or similar****4 stars****Silom Serene, a Boutique Hotel or similar****5 stars****The Sukosol Bangkok or similar**

Check-in is from 2 pm and check-out is by noon, unless early check-in or late check-out is expressly included in your itinerary. Final hotels are confirmed when you book.

These hotels are suggestions, not reservations. If unavailable, a comparable alternative will be offered. Columns show the trip categories; some lodges, homestays and cruises may be the same across categories.

Turn your idea into your journey.

Discuss your route, pace, accommodation and activities with our local travel team. We will help you shape a trip around your interests, with personal advice in English.



Tell us what you have in mind.

enquiry@vietnamtourfun.com

Phone / WhatsApp: +84 962 954 525

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Plan this trip

Chat on WhatsApp

This document is a flexible tour idea, not a booking confirmation. Your personal proposal confirms the agreed services and accommodation. Photographs illustrate the journey and may not show your exact booked arrangements.

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