

Northern Vietnam: Rice Terraces and Village Life - 13 Days

13 days · Tailor-made itinerary



Tour photograph · Mu Cang Chai

Your journey. Your pace. Your experiences.

Hanoi - Ba Vi - Mai Hich - Pu Luong - Nghia Lo - Mu Cang Chai - Sapa - Bac Ha
- Ninh Binh - Halong Bay

From USD 1,705 per person

Indicative price · international arrival and departure flights excluded

A tour idea we can personalise together.

Your journey at a glance

Destinations: Vietnam



— Itinerary

- - - Arrival & departure

Connections are schematic. Flights depend on your travel arrangements.

Map data: Natural Earth.

What makes this journey special

- Tea and the Da River in Ba Vi
- Mai Hich and Pu Luong
- Mu Cang Chai's terraces and Khau Pha Pass
- Sapa and an 18 km walk to Giang Ta Phin
- Regional markets according to the day of the week
- Hoa Lu and Tam Coc day trip
- Overnight Halong Bay cruise

DAY 1**Arrival in Hanoi**

Tour photograph · Hanoi

Your driver will welcome you at the airport and take you by private vehicle to your hotel. After check-in, spend the rest of the day resting after your flight.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 2**Ba Vi eco-tour and the Da River (B/L)**

Tour photograph · Ba Vi

After breakfast, drive around 90 minutes to rural Ba Vi. At Mr Duoc's tea plantation, help with green-tea processing. Join a Vietnamese cooking demonstration with a local host, then enjoy lunch in the garden.

Cycle along country lanes, with optional visits to a conical-hat maker and workshops processing tofu and rice. Finish the outing with a herbal foot bath based on Muong recipes and a private boat trip on the Da River.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 3**Hanoi to Mai Hich (B/D)**

Tour photograph · Mai Chau

Leave Hanoi at 8 am for Mai Hich in the Mai Chau Valley, a landscape of green mountains and ethnic-minority villages. In the afternoon, explore on foot or by bicycle, meeting local people among the rice fields.

You may choose to help plant rice, prepare dinner with your hosts or taste local wine. Stay overnight in a local homestay.

DAY 4**Pu Luong Nature Reserve (B/D)**

Tour photograph · Pu Luong

Travel from Mai Hich to Pu Luong Nature Reserve, home to White Thai and Muong communities. A walk offers opportunities to spot birds and unusual plants before you settle into your simple accommodation.

In the afternoon, enjoy the surrounding small villages, green fields, limestone mountains and quiet waterways. Accommodation is a simple homestay or lodge; the specific property will be confirmed.

DAY 5**Onwards to Nghia Lo (B)**

Tour photograph · Nghia Lo

Travel to Nghia Lo in Yen Bai Province, visiting villages and meeting Hmong and Thai residents along the way. Tea plantations shape the scenery. Depending on the season, peach and plum blossoms may be visible from late January to early February.

Reach Nghia Lo in the Muong Lo Valley in the late afternoon. Stay in a local homestay, as listed for your accommodation category.

DAY 6**Tu Le and Khau Pha Pass to Mu Cang Chai (B)**

Tour photograph · Mu Cang Chai

After breakfast with local hosts, travel by air-conditioned vehicle along the Hoang Lien Son mountains. From Tu Le, walk across rice terraces and suspension bridges to Thai and Hmong villages.

After a lunch break, follow the winding Khau Pha Pass towards Mu Cang Chai, with opportunities for photographs. Only breakfast is included today; lunch is at your own expense.

Overnight at a homestay.

DAY 7**Through Than Uyen to Sapa (B)**

Tour photograph · Sapa

Travel from Mu Cang Chai through Than Uyen to Sapa. Stop at a mountain pass for views towards Fansipan, which rises to 3,143 metres. Take a break on arrival.

In the afternoon, walk through a valley in the Hoang Lien Son mountains, passing rice terraces and villages and meeting Black Hmong and Red Dao communities.

Overnight in Sapa.

DAY 8**Walk to Giang Ta Phin and continue to Bac Ha (B)**

Tour photograph · Bac Ha

After breakfast, begin a walk of around 18 km to Giang Ta Phin. Terraced fields, bamboo, green valleys and waterfalls line the route. A picnic break is planned, but only breakfast is included today, so picnic food is at your own expense. Afterwards, travel by private vehicle to Bac Ha.

Overnight at a homestay.

DAY 9**Highland market and return to Hanoi (B)**

Tour photograph · Bac Ha

After breakfast, visit a regional market selling dyed fabrics, hemp and handwoven textiles. The market depends on the day of the week: Coc Ly on Tuesday, Sin Cheng on Wednesday, Cao Son or Lung Khau Nhin on Thursday, Can Cau on Saturday and Bac Ha on Sunday.

Return to Hanoi by private vehicle.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 10**Hoa Lu and Tam Coc day trip (B/L)**

Tour photograph · Ninh Binh

Meet your guide at the hotel between 8 and 8:30 am and travel to Hoa Lu, Vietnam's 10th-century capital. Learn about the Dinh and Le dynasties.

After a traditional Vietnamese lunch, take a private sampan through Tam Coc's limestone formations and caves. Cycle through rice fields and villages before returning to Hanoi.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 11**Halong Bay with an overnight cruise (B/L/D)**

Tour photograph · Halong Bay

Meet your driver at 7:30 am for the journey through the Red River Delta. In Halong, board a shared cruise to explore the bay's limestone cliffs and karst caves.

After a seafood lunch, visit a well-known limestone cave. Depending on the boat's programme, you may kayak or swim near floating villages. Return on board for dinner, followed by free time or optional activities.

Overnight on board.

DAY 12**Halong Bay to Hanoi (B/Brunch)**

Tour photograph · Halong Bay

At sunrise, you may join an optional tai chi session or enjoy breakfast at leisure. Visit a limestone cave with stalagmites and stalactites on the return towards the harbour. Brunch is served on board.

Arrive in Hanoi at around 5 pm and check into your hotel. There is time to browse local markets for souvenirs.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 13**Departure from Hanoi (B)**

Tour photograph · Hanoi

Enjoy breakfast and some free time on your final morning. At the agreed time, your driver will take you to Noi Bai International Airport for your flight home.

Your journey comes to an end.

Included services

- Experienced English-speaking guide for the planned excursions.
- German-, French-, Spanish- or Dutch-speaking guides are available on request for a supplement.
- Meals as listed in the daily itinerary.
- B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner.
- Vegetarian and vegan meals available on request.
- Private door-to-door collection and drop-off.
- Private vehicle for the planned excursions.
- Return air-conditioned bus transfers between Hanoi and Halong.
- This route includes no domestic flights.

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.
- Travel insurance.
- Drinks, personal expenses and tips.
- Early check-in and late check-out unless listed.
- Compulsory gala dinners on 24 and 31 December and during Tet, where applicable. The festival date will be confirmed when you book.
- Holiday surcharges at Christmas, New Year and Tet, where applicable.
- Airport-transfer surcharges between midnight and 5 am.
- Vietnam visa fees: the proposal lists USD 25 per person.
- Applicable fees and entry procedures will be confirmed for your travel dates.
- Services not expressly included.
- Meals not marked as included, and activities you arrange independently.

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**

Mai Hich

3 stars**Local homestay****4 stars****Local homestay**

Pu Luong

3 stars**Local homestay or lodge, to be confirmed****4 stars****Local homestay or lodge, to be confirmed**

Nghia Lo

3 stars**Local homestay****4 stars****Local homestay**

Mu Cang Chai

3 stars**Local homestay****4 stars****Local homestay**

Sapa

3 stars

Sapa Panorama Hotel or similar

4 stars

Amazing Sapa Hotel or similar

Bac Ha

3 stars

Bac Ha Homestay

4 stars

Bac Ha Homestay

Halong Bay

3 stars

Le Journey Cruise or similar

4 stars

Milalux Cruise Halong or similar

This trip offers two accommodation categories, with local homestays in the mountain villages. The alternative Tu Le property mentioned in one daily example does not form an additional category. Final properties, including the simple accommodation in Pu Luong, will be 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.

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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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