

Active Vietnam: A Private 12-Day Adventure

12 days · Tailor-made itinerary



Tour photograph · Sapa

Your journey. Your pace. Your experiences.

Hanoi - Sapa - Halong Bay - Hue - Ho Chi Minh City

From USD 1,459 per person

Indicative price · international arrival and departure flights excluded

A tour idea we can personalise together.

Your journey at a glance

Destinations: Vietnam



Connections are schematic. Flights depend on your travel arrangements.

Map data: Natural Earth.

What makes this journey special

- Hmong and Dzao communities in Ta Phin
- Rice terraces and rock carvings in Muong Hoa Valley
- Ban Khoang and Ta Giang Phinh beyond the usual routes
- Overnight Halong Bay cruise
- Thuy Bieu cycling and cooking class
- Saigon by jeep

DAY 1**Welcome to Vietnam: arrive 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 to Sapa by limousine bus; visit Ta Phin (B/L)**

Tour photograph · Sapa

After breakfast, travel to Sapa by limousine bus. Have lunch and check in to your hotel before visiting Ta Phin. Surrounded by high mountains, pine trees and forest, the valley is home to Red Dzao and Black Hmong communities, each with its own traditions and way of life.

A short drive takes you into the valley for an easy walk along village paths. Visit Hmong hamlets extending from the valley floor up the hillsides, with wide views from the higher ground.

Continue to the Red Dzao village, where women make embroidered clothing, bags and other handicrafts. Afterwards, transfer back to Sapa.

Walking time: approximately 1.5 hours.

Overnight in Sapa.

DAY 3**Rice terraces, Ta Van and Giang Ta Chai (B/L)**

Tour photograph · Sapa

Today's walk takes you through the landscapes of Sapa Valley. Follow a scenic road overlooking rice terraces in the morning mist, then take a small trail across the Muong Hoa River. Continue past carefully tended rice fields to the Black Hmong village of Lao Chai.

Walk through more rice terraces to Ta Van Giay. Follow the Muong Hoa River and cross a small suspension bridge around two kilometres from the village. Nearby rock carvings depict people, stilt houses and decorative patterns.

After lunch in a local home, walk through bamboo forest to Giang Ta Chai, a Red Dao village. Pause by the waterfall before climbing to the road, where your vehicle waits to take you back to Sapa.

Total driving time: approximately one hour. Walking time: approximately four hours.

Overnight in Sapa.

DAY 4**Beyond Sapa: Ban Khoang and Ta Giang Phinh (B/L)**

Tour photograph · Sapa

After breakfast, meet your guide and driver and head north out of Sapa. Stop along the way for views of Fansipan, Sin Chai Valley, and flower and vegetable fields.

Follow a narrow road for about half an hour through densely forested mountains. Pass several waterfalls on the way to Ban Khoang, a Red Zao village. Residents maintain their traditions while growing rice on terraces and cardamom beneath the forest canopy. A walk of more than an hour introduces you to this remote village and its daily life.

Drive approximately ten kilometres to Ta Giang Phinh Valley, where small Black Hmong villages lie beside a quiet stream. After a picnic on the bank, walk between the settlements. Depending on the season, you may see people ploughing, planting or harvesting rice and vegetables, or attending to household tasks. In quieter months, men build and repair homes while women make traditional clothing.

Finish your walk in mid-afternoon and drive back to Sapa.

Driving time: approximately two hours. Walking time: approximately four hours.

Overnight in Sapa.

DAY 5**Return from Sapa to Hanoi (B)**

Tour photograph · Hanoi

After breakfast, enjoy free time until your limousine bus journey back to Hanoi. Spend the rest of the day as you please.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 6**Hanoi to Halong Bay: shared overnight cruise (B/L/D)**

Tour photograph · Halong Bay

Check out in the morning and meet your cruise transfer team. Travel through the Red River Delta, passing green rice fields along the way.

Board at the pier and take in the limestone cliffs and caves. A seafood lunch is served, followed by time to enjoy the bay from the sundeck.

The boat stops in a quiet spot for kayaking or swimming, giving you a closer view of the limestone scenery. Return to the ship in the early evening for dinner, followed by time to join on-board activities or relax.

Overnight on board.

DAY 7**Halong Bay to Hanoi (B/Brunch)**

Tour photograph · Halong Bay

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

Visit a limestone cave filled with stalagmites and stalactites, then return to the boat, check out and enjoy brunch as you sail back to the harbour. Transfer to your accommodation in Hanoi afterwards.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 8**Fly from Hanoi to Hue (B)**

Tour photograph · Hue

Enjoy your remaining time in Hanoi before your private driver takes you to the airport for your flight to Hue. On arrival, transfer to your accommodation. The rest of the day is free.

Overnight in Hue.

DAY 9

Thuy Bieu: village cycling and a cooking class (B/L)

Tour photograph · Hue

Begin with a visit to historic Thien Mu Pagoda, closely associated with the Nguyen dynasty. Continue to Thuy Bieu village, where you are welcomed with a drink in a local home.

Cycle through the village for a glimpse of everyday life. Visit family workshops making incense, votive paper and paper paintings, and see countryside scenes painted by young local artists.

Back at the house, unwind with a foot massage before preparing lunch with a chef. Learn to make local dishes such as fig salad with prawns and pork; banh ram it, combining crisp fried and soft sticky-rice dumplings with prawn and pork; and banh khoai, a crisp filled pancake.

Enjoy the dishes you have prepared and take a break before returning to your hotel.

Overnight in Hue.

DAY 10**Fly from Hue to Ho Chi Minh City (B)**

Tour photograph · Ho Chi Minh City

Enjoy your remaining time in Hue before your private driver takes you to the airport for your flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Meet your driver at Tan Son Nhat Airport and transfer to your accommodation. The rest of the day is free.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

DAY 11**Explore Ho Chi Minh City by jeep (B)**

Tour photograph · Ho Chi Minh City

After breakfast, meet your guide and driver for a jeep tour of Saigon. Drive through the city to the Independence Palace, also known as the Reunification Palace. Learn about the events of 30 April 1975, when a North Vietnamese tank entered the grounds of the former presidential residence.

Continue to the War Remnants Museum, whose collection includes military equipment, weapons, photographs and documents relating to Vietnam's wars.

See Notre Dame Cathedral and the neighbouring Central Post Office, two landmarks of old Saigon. Your jeep continues along Dong Khoi and Nguyen Hue to lively Ben Thanh Market in District 1. Your guide can help with bargaining if you wish. Return to your hotel via Bui Vien Street.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

DAY 12**Depart from Ho Chi Minh City (B)**

Tour photograph · Ho Chi Minh City

Enjoy breakfast on the final day of your Vietnam trip. After check-out, you may have time to browse local markets for souvenirs before your private driver takes you to the airport for your flight home.

Your journey comes to an end.

Included services

- Domestic flight from Hanoi to Hue with 20 kg of baggage per person.
- Domestic flight from Hue to Ho Chi Minh City with 20 kg of 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.
- Return limousine-bus transfers between Hanoi and Sapa.
- Return air-conditioned bus transfers between Hanoi and Halong Bay.
- Air-conditioned buses or private vehicles for excursions.
- Jeep for the city exploration in Ho Chi Minh City.
- 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.
- 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 and Tet, where applicable.
- Airport-transfer surcharges between midnight and 5 am.
- Entry visa fees: the programme lists Vietnam at USD 25 per person. Please confirm current requirements and fees before travelling.
- Services not expressly listed.

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**San Premium Hotel or similar****4 stars****Tirant Hotel or similar****5 stars****Apricot Hotel & Spa or similar**

Sapa

3 stars**The View Sapa Hotel or similar****4 stars****Amazing Hotel Sapa or similar****5 stars****Silk Path Grand Sapa or similar**

Halong Bay

3 stars**Le Journey Cruise or similar****4 stars****La Pandora Cruise or similar****5 stars****Doris Cruise or similar**

Hue

3 stars**Cherish Hue Hotel or similar****4 stars****Eldora Hotel or similar****5 stars****Silk Path Grand Hue Hotel & Spa or similar**

Ho Chi Minh City

3 stars**Queen Ann Hotel or similar****4 stars****Alagon Saigon Hotel & Spa or similar****5 stars****The Myst Dong Khoi 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.

Your accommodation · continued

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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Local experts in Vietnam · Tailor-made Southeast Asia tours

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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