

Northern Vietnam Adventure: Mountains, Villages and Lakes - 13 Days

13 days · Tailor-made itinerary



Tour photograph · Ha Giang

Your journey. Your pace. Your experiences.

Hanoi - Bac Ha - Ha Giang - Dong Van - Bao Lac - Ba Be Lake - Ninh Binh -
Halong Bay

From USD 1,686 per person

Indicative price · international arrival and departure flights excluded

A tour idea we can personalise together.

Your journey at a glance

Destinations: Vietnam

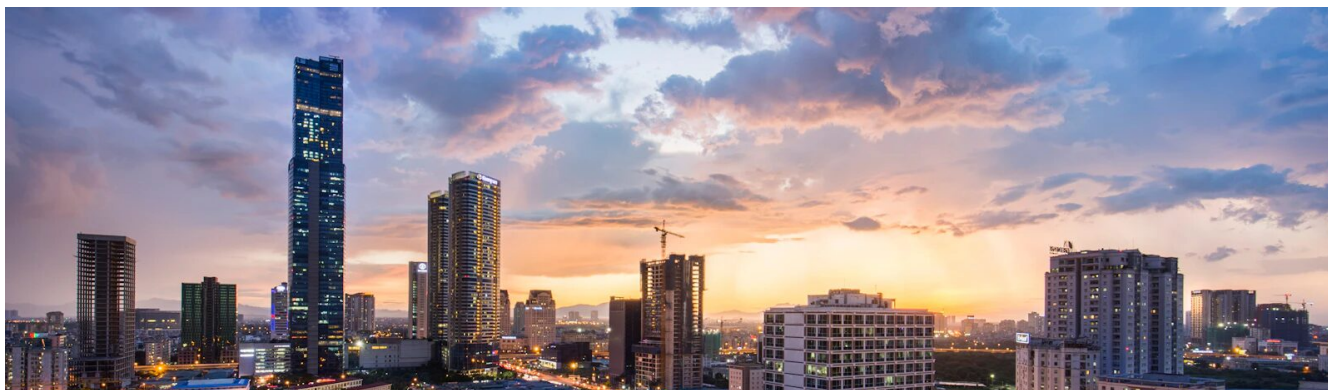


Connections are schematic. Flights depend on your travel arrangements.

Map data: Natural Earth.

What makes this journey special

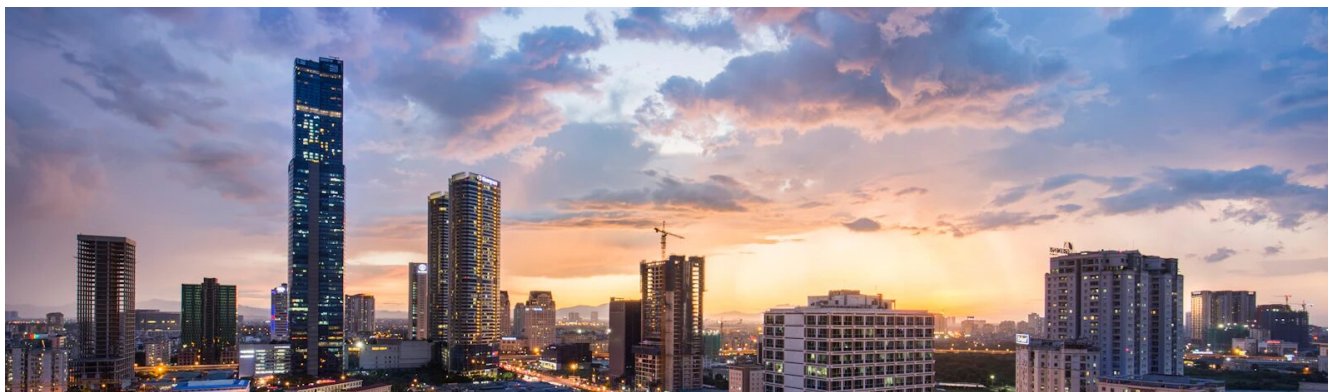
- Incense, conical hats and lacquerware near Hanoi
- Bac Ha and a Ta Van Chu homestay
- Ha Giang and the Vuong family palace
- Ma Pi Leng Pass and Bao Lac
- Ba Be Lake and Dau Dang Waterfalls
- Tam Coc day trip
- Halong Bay cruise

DAY 1**Arrival in Hanoi**

Tour photograph · Hanoi

Meet your driver at the airport and transfer to your centrally located hotel near the Old Quarter. Explore the surroundings at your own pace or rest after your flight.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 2**Craft villages around Hanoi (B/L)**

Tour photograph · Hanoi

Visit traditional craft makers around Hanoi. In Quang Phu Cau, learn how incense is made. At the conical-hat village, decorate and paint your own hat. Have lunch with a craft-making family or in a riverside restaurant, then paint your own piece in a lacquerware village. Before returning, stop at a shop selling export-surplus clothing.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 3**Hanoi, Bac Ha and Ta Van Chu (B/D)**

Tour photograph · Bac Ha

Travel by private vehicle from Hanoi to Bac Ha, a journey of around five hours. This valley is surrounded by cultivated hillsides and fields. From Bac Ha, walk around 10 km to your homestay in Ta Van Chu. Settle in and enjoy a peaceful afternoon in the countryside.

Overnight in a local homestay.

DAY 4**Regional market and mountain walk (B/L/D)**

Tour photograph · Bac Ha

After breakfast, visit a regional market with dyed fabrics, hemp and handmade textiles. The market visited depends on the day of the week. Walk for around five to six hours through terraced fields and bamboo towards a mountain village, stopping for a picnic with valley and mountain views. Afterwards, return to the homestay.

DAY 5

Onwards to Ha Giang (B/D)

Tour photograph · Ha Giang

A longer drive takes you to the highland province of Ha Giang, with forests and terraced rice and maize fields. Close to the Chinese border, the region offers wide mountain views around Quan Ba Heaven's Gate. On arrival, visit local markets, the museum and Cuom village, whose residents are known for colourful traditional clothing. The evening is free.

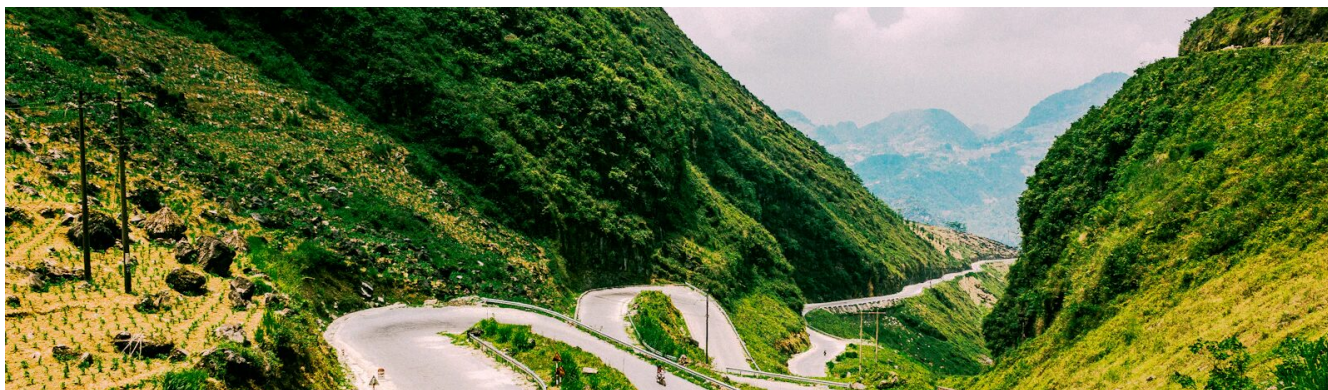
Overnight at a homestay.

DAY 6**Mountain roads to Dong Van (B/D)**

Tour photograph · Ha Giang

Drive through Ha Giang's scenery, stopping at Minh Tao Market. Walk through Nam Luong and visit the weaving village of Lung Tam. In Sa Phin, explore the Vuong family palace, modelled on a royal Manchu residence and once home to the Hmong king. Continue to Dong Van.

Overnight in a homestay or Hoa Cuong Hotel, according to your booked category.

DAY 7**Ma Pi Leng, Meo Vac and Bao Lac (B/L/D)**

Tour photograph · Ha Giang

A winding mountain road of around 15 km crosses Ma Pi Leng Pass between dramatic peaks and deep gorges. Continue to Meo Vac for lunch and a market visit. The programme also includes a moderately challenging circular walk of around four hours near Dong Van, overlooking green valleys and rice fields. The order of visits will be adjusted to suit the driving route.

Continue for around four hours through terraced countryside to Bao Lac, home to Black Lo Lo communities known for colourful clothing and bronze-drum traditions.

Overnight at a homestay.

DAY 8**Ba Be Lake and a host family in Pac Ngoi (B/L/D)**

Tour photograph · Ba Be Lake

After a drive of around four hours, arrive at Ba Be Lake. Take a boat trip through the national park to see waterfalls feeding the lake, with easy walks offering opportunities to observe local plants and wildlife.

In the afternoon, settle into a family-run guesthouse in Pac Ngoi village, where your hosts prepare lunch. Help prepare dinner together and learn about your host family's life and culture.

Overnight at a homestay.

DAY 9**Dau Dang Waterfalls and return to Hanoi (B)**

Tour photograph · Ba Be Lake

After breakfast, take a boat across Ba Be Lake and along the Nang River to Dau Dang Waterfalls. A walk brings you closer to the falls. Continue upstream, then cross the lake from north to south. Return to the homestay and prepare for your transfer to Hanoi.

Overnight in Hanoi.

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

Tour photograph · Ninh Binh

Set off early for Ninh Binh, with a short break along the way. At Hoa Lu, Vietnam's capital from 968 to 1010, learn about the Dinh, Le and Ly dynasties. A bicycle ride through the village offers a glimpse of everyday life.

After lunch in a local restaurant, take a bamboo-boat ride of around 1.5 hours through Tam Coc, passing rice fields and limestone cliffs into its cave system. This landscape is often called Halong Bay on land. Return to Hanoi in the evening.

DAY 11**Halong Bay — shared cruise (B/L/D)**

Tour photograph · Halong Bay

After breakfast and check-out, meet the cruise team in your hotel lobby. Reach the pier around noon and board your boat. Lunch is served as you sail among hundreds of islands.

Afternoon activities follow the boat's programme, or you can choose to relax on board. The boat anchors in a scenic spot for the evening. Enjoy the sunset before dinner.

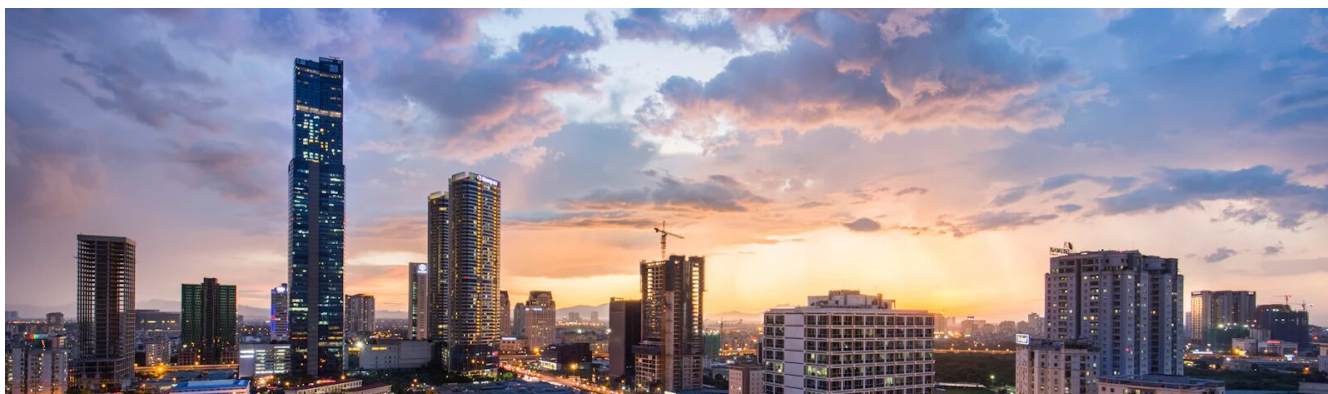
Overnight on board.

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

Tour photograph · Halong Bay

Wake early for sunrise and breakfast in the dining room. A tai chi session on the sun deck offers a gentle start to the day. Visit a limestone cave with stalagmites and stalactites, then return on board, check out and enjoy brunch as the boat heads to the harbour. Transfer to your Hanoi accommodation afterwards.

Overnight in Hanoi.

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

Tour photograph · Hanoi

After breakfast and check-out, you may have time to browse local markets for souvenirs, depending on your flight schedule. Your private driver will then take you to the 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.
- Boat travel as described in the itinerary.
- Sightseeing and admission tickets as listed in the daily itinerary.
- Tissues and drinking water in the vehicle.
- Service charges, government taxes and access to a 24/7 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 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**San Premium Hotel or similar****4 stars****Tirant Hotel or similar**

Bac Ha

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

Ha Giang

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

Dong Van

3 stars**Local homestay****4 stars****Hoa Cuong Hotel or similar**

Bao Lac

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

Ba Be

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

Halong Bay

3 stars**Le Journey Cruise or similar****4 stars****Aquamarine Cruise or similar**

This trip offers two accommodation categories, with mainly simple local homestays in the mountain villages. The final selection is 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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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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