

Vietnam off the Beaten Track - 14 Days

14 days · Tailor-made itinerary



Tour photograph · Hue

Your journey. Your pace. Your experiences.

Hanoi - Ba Vi - Pu Luong - Ninh Binh - Halong Bay - Hue - Hoi An - Ho Chi Minh City - Cu Chi - Mekong Delta

From USD 2,512 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

- Street food in Hanoi and village life near Ba Vi
- Trekking in Pu Luong Nature Reserve
- Cycling and sunset at Tam Giang Lagoon
- The Cu Chi Tunnels and a boat trip near Saigon

DAY 1**Welcome to Hanoi**

Tour photograph · Hanoi

On arrival at Noi Bai International Airport, clear immigration and customs and make your way to the arrivals exit, where your guide and driver will meet you. Transfer to your hotel in the Old Quarter, check in and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Transfer: approximately 1 hour by private car.

DAY 2**Hanoi's heritage and an evening of street food**

Tour photograph · Hanoi

Discover Hanoi's ochre-coloured colonial buildings, tree-lined boulevards and lakes. Begin over coffee in a small local café as your guide introduces everyday life in the city. Visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, the house where he lived and worked, and the lotus-shaped One Pillar Pagoda. Continue to the Temple of Literature, the site of Vietnam's first national university, before returning to your hotel for a break.

In the late afternoon, explore the markets and lanes of the Old Quarter on a street-food walk. Sample northern Vietnamese favourites such as pho ga, chicken noodle soup; banh duc, a savoury rice-flour dish; treats made with com, young green rice; and a pâté-filled banh mi from Banh My Lan Ong. Finish with che, a Vietnamese sweet dessert, and a cup of egg coffee.

City tour: approximately 3.5 hours | Food tour: approximately 4 hours | Walking: 4 km | Transport: private car and walking | Meals: breakfast and dinner.

The Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum has weekly and annual maintenance closures. Your visit depends on its opening schedule for your travel dates.

DAY 3**Ba Vi village life and onward to Pu Luong**

Tour photograph · Ba Vi

Leave the city for the rural mountain area of Ba Vi. Meet Mr Duoc, a Vietnam War veteran and tea farmer, who introduces you to picking and roasting tea leaves by hand. Join in with the process and hear his stories about life during the war.

Continue to another village to meet Mrs Chin and learn to cook Vietnamese dishes. Share the food you have prepared for lunch, then walk through the village, visit local families and discover how everyday products are made. Cycle past rice fields before continuing to Pu Luong Retreat. Check in and enjoy a peaceful evening at your own pace.

Activities: approximately 6 hours | Transfer: approximately 3.5 hours | Transport: private car and bicycle | Meals: breakfast and lunch.

DAY 4**Walk through Pu Luong's villages and rice terraces**

Tour photograph · Pu Luong

Start the morning with a walk downhill through rice terraces. Follow narrow, leafy paths towards Uoi village at the foot of the mountains, with plenty of opportunities to pause for photographs. Continue past palm-thatched homes to Lan village, enjoying the changing valley scenery.

Return to the retreat for lunch. In the afternoon, take another village walk through fields and rice paddies for a closer look at everyday life.

Tour: approximately 6 hours | Walking: 8 km | Difficulty: easy | Meals: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

DAY 5**Pu Luong to Ninh Binh**

Tour photograph · Ninh Binh

Travel to Tam Coc in Ninh Binh Province, often called “Halong Bay on land”. Take a leisurely two-hour boat ride along winding waterways, passing limestone formations and entering natural caves beneath the hills. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

In the afternoon, climb Mua Mountain. Follow the stone steps decorated with dragon and phoenix carvings, with around 500 steps leading to sweeping views of Ninh Binh.

Tour: approximately 5 hours | Transfer: approximately 3 hours | Transport: private car and boat | Meals: breakfast and lunch.

DAY 6**Ninh Binh to Halong Bay — overnight shared cruise**

Tour photograph · Halong Bay

Leave Ninh Binh early and travel to Halong Bay. Board your cruise at the pier and check in, then enjoy lunch as the boat sails between limestone islands. Spend the afternoon joining cruise activities or relaxing on board. Towards evening, the boat anchors among the karst formations and dinner is served.

Transfer: approximately 3.5 hours | Transport: private car and shared cruise | Meals: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Cruise activities and routing may change according to weather conditions.

DAY 7**Halong Bay and a flight to Hue**

Tour photograph · Hue

Enjoy the morning light over the bay as breakfast, or brunch on some boats, is served during the return to the harbour. After disembarking, travel to Hanoi Airport for your flight to Hue. Meet your local team on arrival and transfer to your hotel. The evening is free.

Transfers: Halong Bay to the airport, approximately 3–4 hours; in Hue, approximately 1 hour | Flight: approximately 1.5 hours | Transport: private car and plane | Meals: breakfast and brunch, according to the cruise schedule.

DAY 8

Thanh Toan cycling and sunset on Tam Giang Lagoon



Tour photograph · Hue

Cycle past rice fields to Thanh Toan village, where local farmers introduce traditional ploughing with water buffalo. Visit a clan temple and the agriculture museum, then join residents fishing by the historic covered bridge. Share lunch with a host family and cycle to another home to learn how traditional Vietnamese sticky-rice cakes are made.

In the afternoon, travel to Ru Cha mangrove forest, which helps protect the coast near Thuan An. Continue to Tam Giang Lagoon for a boat trip past waterside homes as the sun begins to set. You can join local fishing activities, explore by kayak or swim. Finish at a local home or restaurant to sample regional dishes and seafood and chat with your hosts.

Village experience: approximately 6 hours | Lagoon experience: approximately 5 hours | Cycling: 17 km | Transport: private car, bicycle and boat | Meals: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

DAY 9**Early morning at Hue's Citadel, then on to Hoi An**

Tour photograph · Hoi An

Rise early to explore Hue's Imperial Citadel in the soft morning light. Discover the architecture and gardens as your guide shares stories of life and intrigue at the Nguyen royal court. End the visit with a light snack and green tea in Co Ha Garden, once a place of leisure for royalty and nobles.

Check out of your hotel and travel to Hoi An. The afternoon is yours to settle in and explore at leisure.

DAY 10**Cam Thanh cycling and Thanh Dong Organic Farm**

Tour photograph · Hoi An

Travel to Vong Nhi village in the morning and collect your bicycle. Ride through countryside dotted with water-coconut groves, shrimp and fish farms, and rice fields. Arrive at Thanh Dong Organic Farm, a 10,000-square-metre garden supporting ten local families.

Walk through the vegetable plots, learn about organic growing and help with seasonal farm tasks. Take a basket boat along the Do River to The Field Restaurant, where you can enjoy the surroundings or try fishing with local residents. Join a short cooking class and share a Vietnamese family-style lunch before returning to your hotel. The afternoon is free.

Tour: approximately 5 hours | Cycling: 6 km | Transport: private car, bicycle and basket boat | Meals: breakfast and lunch.

DAY 11**Fly to Saigon and explore its food scene by vintage Vespa**

Tour photograph · Ho Chi Minh City

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to Ho Chi Minh City. On arrival, travel to your hotel and take time to rest.

In the evening, set out on a vintage Vespa food adventure through Saigon after dark. Explore the lively streets and stop at local eateries to try southern Vietnamese specialities. Finish in a welcoming bar with a signature cocktail, or a mocktail for younger travellers, and a chance to chat with the people you meet.

Evening tour: approximately 4.5 hours | Transfers: Hoi An to the airport, approximately 1 hour; airport to your Saigon hotel, approximately 40 minutes | Flight: approximately 1.5 hours | Transport: private car, motorbike and plane | Meals: breakfast and dinner.

DAY 12**Travel by speedboat to the Cu Chi Tunnels**

Tour photograph · Cu Chi

After breakfast, transfer to Tan Cang Pier and board a chartered speedboat for Cu Chi. As you travel along the Saigon River, the city's high-rises give way to green fields and pottery villages.

Explore the Cu Chi Tunnels and learn how the network developed during the conflicts with France and later the United States. The tunnels served as communication routes, food and weapons stores, hospitals and living quarters. A visit offers insight into how they were built and the difficult conditions people endured underground.

Return to Ho Chi Minh City by car, stopping at a cricket farm and a local restaurant for lunch.

Tour: approximately 6 hours | Transport: private car and speedboat | Meals: breakfast and lunch.

DAY 13**My Tho and Tan My's riverside communities**

Tour photograph · My Tho

Travel to My Tho in the Mekong Delta, one of Vietnam's important farming regions. Take a motorboat to the floating village of Tan My, then change to a rowing boat to explore the smaller, quieter canals.

Visit a fishing community and cycle through the village to a mushroom farm and tropical orchards, where you can sample freshly picked seasonal fruit. Enjoy lunch with a host family and visit a rice-spirit distillery before returning to Saigon.

Tour: approximately 8.5 hours | Transport: private car, boat and bicycle | Meals: breakfast and lunch.

DAY 14**Farewell to Ho Chi Minh City**

Tour photograph · Ho Chi Minh City

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel and check out. Your driver will take you to the airport for your flight home.

Transfer: approximately 1 hour by private car | Meals: breakfast.

Included services

- Private tour following the itinerary described.
- Pick-up service and transfers as described in the itinerary.
- Domestic flights according to the itinerary: Hanoi – Hue; Da Nang – Ho Chi Minh City.
- Accommodation and room or cabin category according to your selected proposal.
- Meals as specified in the itinerary (F = breakfast, M = lunch, A = dinner).
- Guiding for the guided sightseeing specified in the itinerary; German-speaking guides available on request.
- Boat trips and activities as specified in the itinerary.
- Admission tickets for the sightseeing included in the itinerary.
- Drinking water during transport.
- Service charges and VAT.
- 24/7 assistance hotline.
- No additional charge for confirmed services after the service confirmation.

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 any applicable airport departure taxes.
- Early check-in and late check-out unless expressly agreed.
- Travel insurance.
- Drinks, personal expenses and tips.
- Visas and any applicable visa fees.
- Holiday surcharges, where applicable.
- Mandatory gala events on 24 or 31 December, where applicable.
- Bank charges associated with payment.
- Meals and optional activities not listed as included in the itinerary.
- Any taxi or airport-transfer surcharges between midnight and 05:00.
- Other services not listed in the confirmed travel proposal.

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**MK Premier Boutique Hotel**

Deluxe city view

4 stars**Anatole Hotel**

Grand Deluxe

5 stars**The Orientel Jade Hotel**

Diamond Church View

Pu Luong

3 stars**Pu Luong Boutique Garden**Suite Rice Terraces View
Bungalow with Balcony**4 stars****Pu Luong Retreat**

Deluxe

5 stars**Pu Luong Retreat**

Valley View Suite

Ninh Binh

3 stars**Lalita Boutique Hotel & Spa Ninh Binh**

Executive

4 stars**Tam Coc Retreat**

Deluxe Garden

5 stars**Tam Coc Garden**Premium Tonkin Garden
Bungalow

Halong

3 stars**Milalux Cruises**

Junior with Balcony

4 stars**Peony Cruise**

Deluxe Balcony

5 stars**Capella Cruise**

Oasis Suite

Hue

3 stars

White Lotus Hotel

Deluxe river View

4 stars

Silk Path Grand Hue Hotel

Pre Classic

5 stars

aNhill Boutique

Deluxe Suite

Hoi An

3 stars

Hoi An Coco River Resort & Spa

Deluxe Garden view

4 stars

Little Hoi An

Little Deluxe

5 stars

La Siesta Hoi An Resorts & Spa

Premium Suite Terrace

Ho-Chi-Minh

3 stars

Acnos Grand Hotel

Junior

4 stars

The Odys Premium

Odys Premium

5 stars

The Myst Dong Khoi

Verdant Calm Room

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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