

A Taste of Vietnam: A Culinary Journey - 12 Days

12 days · Tailor-made itinerary



Tour photograph · Hanoi

Your journey. Your pace. Your experiences.

Hanoi - Halong Bay - Hue - Hoi An - Ho Chi Minh City - Cu Chi - Mekong Delta

From USD 2,605 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

- Vietnamese cooking with Chef Ai
- Discovering Hue's specialities on a street-food tour
- Food experiences and a sunset boat trip in Hoi An
- Exploring Saigon's food on a vintage Vespa

DAY 1**Arrival in Hanoi**

Tour photograph · Hanoi

Welcome to Hanoi!

Your private driver will meet you at the airport and take you to your hotel. Take some time to rest, or enjoy a first stroll through the Old Quarter, with its historic streets and small cafés. Meals are at your own expense today.

Overnight at your hotel in Hanoi.

DAY 2**Discover Hanoi through local eyes**

Tour photograph · Hanoi

Leaving your hotel, drive past historic Ba Dinh Square, where Ho Chi Minh declared Vietnam's independence in 1945, and continue to Lenin Park, a favourite meeting place for local residents. Walk through Hanoi's small lanes for a glimpse of everyday life, then visit the Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first university, founded in the 11th century.

Next, visit the Museum of Ethnology, which is closed on Mondays. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, then spend the afternoon exploring the Old Quarter's lively market stalls and narrow streets.

This evening, join a Hanoi family for a special dinner and a personal introduction to Vietnamese food and family traditions. Afterwards, return to your hotel.

Overnight in Hanoi.

Meals included: Breakfast · Lunch · Dinner

DAY 3**A culinary experience with Chef Ai**

Tour photograph · Hanoi

This morning, meet Chef Ai for a walk through a local market. Drawing on decades as a professional chef and her experience as a top-five finalist in MasterChef Vietnam 2014, she will show you how to choose fresh ingredients used in Vietnamese cooking. Take in the colours, aromas and sounds as you explore.

Walk to her welcoming home for a private cooking class. Chef Ai shares her enthusiasm and knowledge as you prepare the dishes, before sitting down together to enjoy what you have made for lunch.

Return to your hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight in Hanoi.

Meals included: Breakfast · Lunch

DAY 4**Halong Bay and an overnight cruise**

Tour photograph · Halong Bay

Check out this morning and leave behind any luggage you will not need for the next two days. The cruise company's shuttle will collect you for the journey towards Halong Bay, passing the Red River and green rice fields.

Board your vessel and begin cruising among the bay's limestone islands and grottoes. Enjoy a fresh seafood lunch on board. In the afternoon, visit a well-known limestone cave and have time for swimming or kayaking. You will also discover the bay's floating villages and shops.

Dinner is served in the early evening, followed by free time or activities on board.

Overnight in a comfortably equipped cabin on the boat.

Please note: You will spend one night on board and return to Hanoi the following day to collect your stored luggage.

Meals included: Breakfast · Lunch · Dinner

Guide: English-speaking

DAY 5**Continue to Hue**

Tour photograph · Hue

Enjoy breakfast on board and the fresh sea air before exploring another cave. There will be opportunities to photograph Halong Bay's distinctive scenery.

Disembark at around noon and return to Hanoi. After collecting your luggage, take a domestic flight to the former imperial city of Hue. Your guide and driver will meet you on arrival and take you to your hotel.

The rest of the day is free for you to enjoy at your own pace.

Overnight at your hotel in Hue.

DAY 6**Explore Hue and discover its street food**

Tour photograph · Hue

Discover Hue's imperial heritage, associated with the Nguyen dynasty. Explore the UNESCO-listed Citadel, its grand architecture and gardens, and hear stories of life at the former imperial court.

Next, visit one of two royal tombs:

- the expansive, atmospheric tomb of Tu Duc; or
- the richly decorated tomb of Khai Dinh, which combines Asian and European influences.

Return to your hotel afterwards.

Evening street food tour:

At around 5:30 pm, meet your guide and visit a local market. Taste Hue specialities, including savoury noodle dishes, regional cakes and vegetarian food influenced by Buddhist traditions. Finish with traditional desserts before returning to your hotel.

Overnight in Hue.

Meals included: Breakfast · Dinner

DAY 7**The historic trading town of Hoi An**

Tour photograph · Hoi An

After breakfast, travel along a scenic coastal road, with mountains on one side and the sea on the other. The journey to Hoi An takes around 3.5 hours. Check in at your hotel on arrival and enjoy some free time.

On the banks of the Thu Bon River, Hoi An, formerly known as Faifo, was one of Southeast Asia's major trading ports from the 17th to the 19th century. Today, its UNESCO-listed Ancient Town is known for its well-preserved architecture, pedestrian streets and regional cuisine.

On a guided walk, explore historic merchants' houses, the Japanese Covered Bridge, the Chaozhou Chinese community's assembly hall and the colourful market, with its local food and silk.

Overnight in Hoi An.

Meals included: Breakfast

DAY 8**Vietnamese cooking and a sunset cruise**

Tour photograph · Hoi An

Meet your guide at a local café at 8:15 am and begin the day with a Vietnamese iced coffee, cà phê sữa đá. Visit a lively market to learn about the fresh ingredients, herbs and spices you will use in your cooking class.

Travel by xe lam to Dai Hiep pier, then take a short boat ride to Rêu. Enjoy a welcome drink made with organic herbs and walk through the peaceful herb and vegetable gardens.

During the “Spirit of Rêu” cooking class, learn to prepare local specialities. Afterwards, sit down together for lunch featuring the dishes you have cooked.

In the late afternoon, board a local boat and watch fishers prepare for the night's catch. Try casting traditional nets and paddling a Vietnamese basket boat. Enjoy a drink and snack as the sun sets over the river, then return to town.

The rest of the evening is at leisure.

Overnight in Hoi An.

Meals included: Breakfast · Lunch

DAY 9**Discover Ho Chi Minh City**

Tour photograph · Ho Chi Minh City

Enjoy a relaxed morning before your private driver takes you to Da Nang Airport for your flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Meet your driver on arrival, transfer to your hotel and check in.

With more than eight million residents, Saigon is a lively city where modern life and history sit side by side. Your city tour visits Notre Dame Cathedral, the historic Central Post Office, the Reunification Palace and the War Remnants Museum.

Finish with a taste of Saigon's pavement café culture and a brief introduction to the Vietnamese language and local daily life, then return to your hotel.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

Meals included: Breakfast

DAY 10**Cu Chi Tunnels and an evening food tour by vintage Vespa**

Tour photograph · Cu Chi

This morning, visit the Cu Chi Tunnels, an important site from the Vietnam War. The tunnel network, extending more than 250 km, once served as shelter, a supply network and living space. Learn about the lives of Viet Cong guerrillas and, if you wish, descend into a section of tunnel yourself. Return to Ho Chi Minh City afterwards.

After dark, discover Saigon as a passenger on a vintage Vespa. Taste local specialities at neighbourhood restaurants, experience the city's nightlife and finish the evening in a welcoming bar with cocktails or mocktails. Return to your hotel afterwards.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

Meals included: Breakfast · Dinner

DAY 11**Explore the Mekong Delta by boat**

Tour photograph · Mekong Delta

Leave Ho Chi Minh City and travel around 1.5 hours to Cai Be in the Mekong Delta, where rice fields and orchards replace the cityscape. From the pier, take a boat trip to visit the floating market, followed by a peaceful rowing-boat ride along narrow canals. Cross one of the Mekong's main branches and see fish farms and rural life along the way.

Continue to Ut Trinh Homestay on An Binh Island. After lunch, walk through the orchard and enjoy tea and traditional music. Explore the village and visit local workshops making rice paper, coconut sweets and popped rice.

You may choose to cycle through the villages, passing gardens, schools, pagodas and traditional houses. Visit the brick kilns before the boat journey ends in Vinh Long, then return to Ho Chi Minh City.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

Meals included: Breakfast · Lunch

DAY 12**Farewell to Vietnam**

Tour photograph · Ho Chi Minh City

Enjoy breakfast on your final morning in Vietnam. After checking out, you may have time to browse the markets for souvenirs.

Your driver will collect you later and take you to the airport.

Your flight home marks the end of this 12-day journey through Vietnam.

Meals included: 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**La Siesta Hang Be Hotel**

Deluxe

5 stars**Peridot Grand Luxury Boutique Hotel**

Junior Suite

Halong Bay

3 stars**Milalux Cruise**

Junior With Balcony

4 stars**Peony Cruises**

Deluxe Balcony

5 stars**Halong Capellacruise**

Oasis Suite

Hue

3 stars**White Lotus Hotel**

Deluxe

4 stars**Silk Path Grand Hue Hotel**

Pre. Classic

5 stars**Pilgrimage Village - Boutique Resort & Spa**

Pool Access Villa

Hoi An

3 stars**La Charm Hoi An Hotel & Spa**

Premium with River View & Balcony

4 stars**La Siesta Hoi An Resort & Spa**

Deluxe Balcony

5 stars**Palm Garden Resort - Hoi An**

Bungalow Beach Front

Ho Chi Minh City

3 stars	4 stars	5 stars
Gk Central Hotel Premier Deluxe	La Siesta Premium Sai Gon Deluxe	Hôtel Des Arts Saigon Mgallery Grand Deluxe 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.

enquiry@vietnamtourfun.com

Phone / WhatsApp: +84 962 954 525

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.

Latest tour details: <https://vietnamtourfun.com/tour-item/vietnam-culinary-experiences?currency=USD>

Image credits: <https://vietnamtourfun.com/image-credits>