

Vietnam Local Life: Sapa to the Mekong Delta - 13 Days

13 days · Tailor-made itinerary



Tour photograph · Sapa

Your journey. Your pace. Your experiences.

Hanoi - Ba Vi - Halong Bay - Ta Van - Sapa - Hoi An - My Son - Ho Chi Minh City - Mekong Delta - Cu Chi

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



— Itinerary - - - Arrival & departure

Connections are schematic. Flights depend on your travel arrangements.
Map data: Natural Earth.

What makes this journey special

- Tea farm and cooking class in Ba Vi
- Overnight Halong Bay cruise
- Overnight train to Lao Cai
- Sapa walks and a homestay in Ta Van
- My Son, rice-paper making and a Thu Bon boat ride
- Mekong Delta and Cu Chi Tunnels

DAY 1**Welcome to Hanoi**

Tour photograph · Hanoi

Your private driver will meet you at Noi Bai Airport and take you to your hotel in central Hanoi, near the Old Quarter. After check-in, rest after your flight or explore the neighbourhood at your own pace.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 2**Ba Vi — tea farming, home cooking and village life (B, L)**

Tour photograph · Ba Vi

After breakfast, travel to rural Ba Vi. Meet a Vietnam War veteran on his tea farm in Ri village and learn about harvesting and processing tea. Continue to Moc village to prepare Vietnamese dishes with a local host, then enjoy your homemade lunch in a tropical garden.

Walk through the village and visit local families, then cycle past rice fields for a closer look at rural life. End with a traditional herbal foot bath before returning to Hanoi.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 3**Hanoi to Halong Bay — overnight shared cruise (L, D)**

Tour photograph · Halong Bay

After check-out, travel through the Red River Delta to Halong Bay. Board your cruise and enjoy views of limestone cliffs and caves. A seafood lunch is served, followed by time to relax on the sundeck.

Explore the bay by kayak or enjoy a swim. After an early dinner, spend the evening relaxing or joining the activities offered on board.

Overnight on board a cruise shared with other guests.

DAY 4**Halong Bay to Hanoi and overnight train to Lao Cai (B, L)**

Tour photograph · Halong Bay

Rise early to watch the sunrise. After breakfast in the dining room, explore a limestone cave with stalagmites and stalactites. Check out and enjoy brunch as the boat returns to the harbour.

Transfer to Hanoi, where a hotel serves as the meeting point for your onward journey. Between 8:30 and 9:00 pm, you will be collected for the transfer to the station. Board the overnight train to Lao Cai, the gateway to Sapa.

Overnight on the train.

DAY 5**Sapa — Lao Chai and a Ta Van homestay (B, L, D)**

Tour photograph · Sapa

On arrival at Lao Cai Station, transfer to Sapa for breakfast, a rest and a chance to leave your luggage.

Walk around 12 kilometres through Muong Hoa Valley to Lao Chai, home to a Black Hmong community, with views of rice terraces along the way. Continue to Ta Van, where Dzay families live. Have dinner with your hosts and spend the night in their home.

Overnight at a local homestay in Ta Van.

DAY 6**Ta Van, Giang Ta Chai and Sapa (B, L, D)**

Tour photograph · Sapa

Rise early to enjoy the village morning and have breakfast. Walk to Giang Ta Chai to learn about the Red Dao community and the different traditions of the area's ethnic groups.

Follow scenic paths to a waterfall, with a picnic and time to rest. In the evening, return to Sapa by bus.

Overnight in Sapa.

DAY 7**Cat Cat and Sin Chai, then return to Hanoi (B, L)**

Tour photograph · Sapa

After breakfast, walk around four kilometres to Cat Cat, a Black Hmong village. Relax beside a waterfall and see a hydroelectric station dating from the French colonial period. Enjoy a picnic lunch by the river.

Continue on foot for around six kilometres to Sin Chai at the foot of Fansipan, then return to Sapa by car. Travel on to Hanoi by limousine bus.

Overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 8**Fly to Da Nang and transfer to Hoi An (B)**

Tour photograph · Hoi An

Enjoy your remaining time in Hanoi before your private driver takes you to the airport for your flight to Da Nang. On arrival, transfer to your accommodation in Hoi An. The rest of the day is yours to explore.

Overnight in Hoi An.

DAY 9**My Son, rice-paper making and the Thu Bon River
(B, L)**

Tour photograph · My Son

Meet your guide between 7:45 and 8:15 am for the journey to My Son. Spend around two hours exploring the ancient Cham temple ruins, learning about their history and watching traditional performances.

Visit a family to learn how rice paper is made and try it yourself. Have lunch at another local home, then return to Hoi An by boat along the Thu Bon River, arriving at around 2:00 pm.

Overnight in Hoi An.

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

Tour photograph · Ho Chi Minh City

Enjoy your remaining time in Hoi An before your private driver takes you to Da Nang Airport for your flight to Ho Chi Minh City. A driver will meet you at Tan Son Nhat Airport and transfer you to your accommodation. Spend the rest of the day relaxing or exploring the neighbourhood.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

DAY 11**Discover the Mekong Delta (B, L)**

Tour photograph · Mekong Delta

After breakfast, meet your guide between 7:15 and 7:30 am for the journey to the Mekong Delta. In My Tho, board a sampan and cruise past Dragon, Unicorn, Phoenix and Tortoise islands.

On Unicorn Island, walk along village paths and through orchards. Visit plantations, sample tropical fruit and listen to traditional folk music. Travel by hand-rowed sampan through Thoi Son Canal, then visit family workshops and a beekeeping farm to learn about local crafts.

After a Vietnamese lunch, cycle through Tan Thach village or relax in a hammock if you prefer. Return to Ho Chi Minh City afterwards.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

DAY 12**Explore the Cu Chi Tunnels (B)**

Tour photograph · Cu Chi

After breakfast, travel around 1.5 hours to the Cu Chi Tunnels. An introduction and short film explain how the network was built and how people survived underground during the war.

Explore the underground network's living areas, kitchens, sleeping quarters, weapons workshops, field hospitals and command centres. Concealed entrances and traps illustrate how the tunnels were defended. Afterwards, sample tea and cassava, an important wartime staple for guerrilla fighters, before returning to your hotel.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

DAY 13**Departure from Ho Chi Minh City (B)**

Tour photograph · Ho Chi Minh City

After breakfast, check out. Depending on your flight time, 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 Da Nang with 20 kg of baggage.
- Domestic flight from Da Nang to Ho Chi Minh City with 20 kg of baggage.
- Child airfares follow the airline's conditions at booking; please request a quote if travelling with more than one child.
- 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 itinerary.
- B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner.
- Vegetarian and vegan meals available on request.
- Private door-to-door collection and drop-off.
- Overnight train to Lao Cai and transfers to Sapa as listed in the itinerary.
- Limousine bus from Sapa to Hanoi.
- Return air-conditioned bus transfers between Hanoi and Halong.
- Air-conditioned buses or private vehicles for excursions.
- Shared Halong cruise, kayaking according to the boat's programme, Sapa walks with a homestay, a Ba Vi experience, My Son, the Mekong Delta and Cu Chi as described in the daily itinerary.
- All sightseeing and admission tickets listed in the itinerary.
- Tissues and drinking water in the vehicle.
- Service charges and government taxes.
- Assistance through our 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, other flights not listed, 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.

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**

Halong Bay

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

Nachtzug Hanoi - Lao Cai

3 stars**Nachtzug****4 stars****Nachtzug**

Ta Van

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

Sapa

3 stars**Sapa Panorama Hotel or similar****4 stars****Amazing Hotel Sapa or similar**

Hoi An

3 stars**Kim An Hotel Hoi An or similar****4 stars****Silkotel Hoi An or similar**

Ho Chi Minh City

3 stars**Acnos Hotel or similar****4 stars****Alagon Saigon Hotel & Spa or similar**

This trip offers two accommodation categories. A sleeper-train journey and a homestay are part of the itinerary. Check-in is from 2 pm and check-out is by noon, unless your itinerary specifies otherwise. Final accommodation 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.

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-encounters-13-days-from-sapa-rice-terraces-to-the-mekong?currency=USD>

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