

# Hidden Gems of Northern Vietnam - 13 Days

13 days · Tailor-made itinerary



Tour photograph · Ha Giang

**Your journey. Your pace. Your experiences.**

Hanoi - Hoang Su Phi - Bac Ha - Sapa - Mu Cang Chai - Mai Chau - Ninh Binh -  
Halong Bay

**From USD 2,306 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

- Walks through the villages of Hoang Su Phi
- Trekking in Ban Khoang and Ta Giang Phinh near Sapa
- Rice terraces and villages around Mu Cang Chai
- Walking in Hang Kia village near Mai Chau

**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. Your guide and driver will meet you and take you 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.

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**DAY 2****Hanoi to Hoang Su Phi and its mountain villages**

Tour photograph · Hoang Su Phi

After breakfast and check-out, leave Hanoi at around 8:00 am for Hoang Su Phi, stopping for lunch at a local restaurant on the way. On arrival, visit Nam Dich village for a first glimpse of rural life in Vietnam's far north. Walk through the landscape, admire the rice terraces and learn about daily life among Long-Tunic Dao, Flower Hmong and Nung communities. Share dinner with a local family.

Day's programme: approximately 8 hours | Walking: 3 km | Transfer: approximately 6 hours | Transport: private car | Meals: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

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**DAY 3****Walk through Ho Thau, Ban Van and Suoi Thau**

Tour photograph · Hoang Su Phi

After breakfast, explore mountain villages and terraced landscapes on foot. Visit Suoi Thau, home to a Long-Tunic Dao community and some of Hoang Su Phi's extensive rice terraces. Along the route, pass a stream, a waterfall, bamboo woodland and the Ban Luoc Heaven's Gate viewpoint. Watch daily farming activities as you follow the winding paths through the area's Man Ta Pan and Long-Tunic Dao communities.

In Suoi Thau, discover tea trees more than a century old, used to produce Shan tea. Enjoy a freshly brewed cup after exploring the plantation, then visit an old Dao temple. Have lunch with a Man Ta Pan family, sampling local dishes. Spend the night in a homestay hosted by another ethnic community, giving you a closer insight into the region's varied traditions.

Tour: approximately 5 hours | Transport: private car and walking | Meals: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

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**DAY 4****Suoi Thau to Bac Ha**

Tour photograph · Bac Ha

After breakfast, leave Hoang Su Phi for Bac Ha, enjoying views of the rice terraces along the way. On arrival, visit Ban Pho village to learn about everyday life in the area.

Day's programme: approximately 8 hours | Transfer: approximately 3 hours | Transport: private car | Meals: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

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**DAY 5****Bac Ha Sunday Market, Ta Phin and Sapa**

Tour photograph · Sapa

After breakfast at your homestay, visit Bac Ha's colourful Sunday market. People from surrounding villages gather in traditional dress to trade local snacks, crafts, homemade corn spirits and livestock.

Continue to Ta Phin village, surrounded by mountains and rice terraces. Home to Red Dao and Black Hmong communities, the village offers an opportunity to learn about different cultural traditions and ways of life. Enjoy views over the village and surrounding hills towards sunset, then continue to Sapa for the night.

Day's programme: approximately 8 hours | Transfer: approximately 3 hours | Transport: private car | Meals: breakfast and lunch. The Bac Ha market visit must fall on a Sunday.

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**DAY 6****Trek through Ban Khoang and Ta Giang Phinh**

Tour photograph · Sapa

Leave Sapa at around 8:30 am for O Quy Ho Pass and the Hoang Lien Son mountains, stopping for photographs of Fansipan and Sin Chai Valley. Follow a narrow road past forests and waterfalls to Ban Khoang, then walk through the village to see local farming life and mountain scenery.

Continue to Ta Giang Phinh Valley, where Black Hmong communities live in hamlets beside a stream. Have lunch by the water, then take a two-hour walk through mountain landscapes and rice terraces. Depending on the season, you may see residents ploughing, harvesting or working on traditional crafts before returning to Sapa.

Day's programme: approximately 8 hours | Walking: 13 km | Transport: private car and walking | Meals: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

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**DAY 7****Sapa to Mu Cang Chai**

Tour photograph · Mu Cang Chai

After breakfast, leave Sapa for Mu Cang Chai. Along the way, see Silver Waterfall and O Quy Ho Pass, also known as Heaven's Gate, with stops to take in the mountain and valley views. On arrival in Mu Cang Chai, visit rural villages and admire the sweeping tiers of rice terraces. Learn about local farming and daily life before dinner with your host family at the homestay.

Day's programme: approximately 7 hours | Transfer: approximately 4 hours | Transport: private car | Meals: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

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**DAY 8****Mu Cang Chai, Tu Le and Muong Lo**

Tour photograph · Nghia Lo

This morning, travel from Mu Cang Chai towards Muong Lo in Nghia Lo, a scenic area of northern Vietnam and home to Thai communities. On arrival, take a two-hour walk with your guide to learn about White Thai traditions and the architecture of their stilt houses. You will also have the opportunity to join local residents in seasonal farming activities. Dinner is served at your homestay.

Walking tour: approximately 2 hours | Transfer time listed in the programme: approximately 8 hours | Transport: private car | Meals: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

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**DAY 9****Muong Lo to Mai Chau via Moc Chau**

Tour photograph · Mai Chau

After breakfast, set out for Mai Chau along a scenic route, stopping for photographs, village visits and lunch at a local restaurant. A highlight is a tea plantation on the Moc Chau Plateau, where green tea-covered hills stretch across the landscape. Arrive in Mai Chau in the afternoon and relax at your homestay before dinner.

Transfer: approximately 8 hours | Transport: private car | Meals: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

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**DAY 10****Walk to Hang Kia village**

Tour photograph · Mai Chau

This morning, drive to Xa Linh village and begin a walk along quieter trails towards Hang Kia. Meet local families along the way, learn about their way of life and join in with everyday activities.

Day's programme: approximately 8 hours | Transport: private car and walking | Meals: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

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**DAY 11****Mai Chau to Tam Coc**

Tour photograph · Ninh Binh

After breakfast, travel to Tam Coc and have lunch at a local restaurant on arrival. In the afternoon, take a boat trip through limestone scenery rising above the rice fields, passing through a cave shaped by the water. Afterwards, cycle along quiet lanes through villages and past fields, rivers and rocky outcrops.

Excursion: approximately 2 hours | Transfer: approximately 3 hours | Cycling: 5 km | Transport: private car, boat and bicycle | Meals: breakfast and lunch.

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**DAY 12****Ninh Binh to Halong Bay — overnight shared cruise**

Tour photograph · Halong Bay

Leave Ninh Binh early for Halong Bay. At the pier, board your cruise and check in. Enjoy lunch as the boat sails between limestone islands. In the afternoon, join activities arranged by the cruise or relax on board and take in the scenery. 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.

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**DAY 13****Halong Bay and departure from Hanoi**

Tour photograph · Hanoi

Enjoy a final morning on the bay. Early risers can watch the sunrise before breakfast as the boat makes its way back through the limestone formations to the harbour. Disembark and transfer to Hanoi for your onward flight.

Transfer: approximately 3.5 hours by private car | Meals: breakfast.

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# Included services

- Private tour following the itinerary described.
- Pick-up service and transfers as described in the itinerary.
- 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

### Ha Giang

**3 stars****Local homestay****4 stars****Local homestay****5 stars****Local homestay**

### Bac Ha

**3 stars****Local homestay****4 stars****Local homestay****5 stars****Local homestay**

### Sapa

**3 stars****Sapa Charm Hotel**

Panorama View

**4 stars****Pistachio Sapa Hotel**

Superior Mountain View

**5 stars****Silk Path Grand**

Balcony Executive Suite

### Mu Cang Chai

**3 stars****Local homestay****4 stars****Local homestay****5 stars****Local homestay**

## Nghia Lo

3 stars

Local homestay

4 stars

Local homestay

5 stars

Local homestay

## Mai Chau

3 stars

Local homestay

4 stars

Local homestay

5 stars

Local homestay

## 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

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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