

Vietnam Nature and Adventure with Local Guides - 16 Days

16 days · Tailor-made itinerary



Tour photograph · Phong Nha

Your journey. Your pace. Your experiences.

Ho Chi Minh City - Hoi An - Quang Binh - Phong Nha - Hanoi - Pu Luong - Ninh Binh - Halong Bay

From USD 3,110 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

- Discovering Saigon's street food on a Vespa tour
- Cycling, crafts and food in the Mekong Delta
- Group trekking and cave adventures in Hang Tiên and Tú Làn
- Walking and cycling in Pu Luong Nature Reserve

DAY 1**Welcome to Ho Chi Minh City**

Tour photograph · Ho Chi Minh City

On arrival at Tan Son Nhat 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 city centre. The rest of the day is yours to relax or explore.

Overnight at La Siesta Premium Hotel.

Transfer: approximately 1 hour by private car.

DAY 2

Saigon's landmarks and an evening Vespa food tour



Tour photograph · Ho Chi Minh City

Discover a city where modern life and history sit side by side. See the red-brick Notre-Dame Cathedral, built with materials imported from France, the Central Post Office, completed in 1891, and the former Presidential Palace, once the headquarters of the South Vietnamese government.

In the evening, explore Saigon's lively streets on a vintage Vespa food tour. Stop at local eateries to try southern Vietnamese specialities, then finish at a welcoming bar for a signature cocktail, or a mocktail for younger travellers, and a chance to chat with local people.

Overnight at La Siesta Premium Hotel.

City tour: approximately 4 hours, starting at 8:00 am | Food tour: approximately 4.5 hours, starting at 6:00 pm | Transport: private car and motorbike | Meals: breakfast and dinner.

Each guest rides as a passenger with an experienced driver. Access inside Notre-Dame Cathedral depends on services and any restoration restrictions.

DAY 3**Mekong Delta cycling, crafts and cooking**

Tour photograph · Mekong Delta

Travel to Coco Riverside Lodge in Trung Ngai, Vung Liem, a journey of around 3.5 hours. On arrival, a member of the lodge team will welcome you and lead you to the riverside property for a refreshing drink and check-in.

Enjoy lunch at the lodge, followed by time to relax before your village cycle ride. Visit a local home to learn how puffed rice is made and hear about everyday life in the delta.

Meet another family to see how palm and water-coconut leaves are woven for house construction. Mrs Chien demonstrates the making of “Poon” torches, traditionally used after dark, while your guide explains local livestock keeping and biogas production.

Cycle along quiet lanes through rice fields. Choose a shorter route of around 5–7 kilometres or a longer ride of around 13 kilometres return to a dragon fruit plantation. Enjoy the sunset before heading back towards the lodge.

In the early evening, sample local rice spirits and other drinks while chatting with village residents. Walk back to the lodge carrying traditional torches made from dried coconut leaves. Finish with a class making Vietnamese pancakes, followed by dinner in the lodge restaurant.

Overnight at Coco Riverside Lodge.

Activities: approximately 5 hours | Transfer: approximately 3.5 hours | Transport: private car and bicycle | Meals: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

DAY 4**Mekong markets and crafts, then return to Saigon**

Tour photograph · Mekong Delta

After breakfast, take a motorboat to a local market for a glimpse of daily life along the river.

Visit a Cao Dai temple and a nearby riverside coconut workshop, where coconut fibres are made by hand into ropes and mats, mainly for overseas buyers, including Korea.

Return to the lodge to relax or swim before checking out. Travel back to Saigon and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight at La Siesta Premium Hotel.

Excursion: approximately 3 hours | Transfer: approximately 3.5 hours by private car | Meals: breakfast. The programme may change according to tides and weather.

DAY 5**Fly to Da Nang and continue to Hoi An**

Tour photograph · Hoi An

After breakfast, enjoy some free time before checking out. Your driver will take you to the airport for your flight to Da Nang. On arrival, meet your local team and transfer to your hotel in Hoi An. The rest of the day is free.

Overnight at La Siesta Hoi An Resort.

Transfers: approximately 1 hour at each end | Flight: approximately 1.5 hours |
Transport: private car and plane | Meals: breakfast.

DAY 6

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 past water-coconut groves, shrimp and fish farms, and rice fields to Thanh Dong Organic Farm, a 10,000-square-metre garden supporting ten local families.

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

Overnight at La Siesta Hoi An Resort.

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

DAY 7

Hoi An at your own pace



Tour photograph · Hoi An

Enjoy a free day in Hoi An. You might like to hire bicycles at your hotel and ride to the beach for a swim or a relaxing afternoon under the palms. In the evening, wander through the Ancient Town as the shops light their lanterns.

Overnight at La Siesta Hoi An Resort.

Meals: breakfast.

DAY 8**Travel from Hoi An to Quang Binh**

Tour photograph · Phong Nha

After breakfast, travel towards Dong Hoi in Quang Binh Province. Along the way, stop at Quang Tri Citadel, the Ben Hai River and Hien Luong Bridge. On arrival, check in and enjoy some free time.

Overnight in a Farm Room at Chay Lap Farmstay.

Transfer: approximately 6.5 hours by private car | Meals: breakfast.

DAY 9**Trek to Hang Tien Cave — shared group excursion**

Tour photograph · Tu Lan

Your team will collect you from your hotel in Phong Nha between 7:00 and 7:30 am and take you to the Oxalis office in Tan Hoa. After a safety briefing, completion of the required waiver and equipment fitting, begin your jungle walk towards Hang Tien, part of the Tu Lan cave area.

Have a snack at the cave entrance, then explore its vast chambers, high ceilings and impressive limestone formations. Return to the entrance for lunch before walking to a natural pool, where you can swim and relax. Continue to the road for your return transfer to Tan Hoa and check in to a River Bungalow at Tu Lan Lodge.

At around 6:00 pm, share dinner with a local family before returning to your accommodation.

Overnight in a River Bungalow at Tu Lan Lodge.

Duration: approximately 10 hours | Meals: breakfast, lunch and dinner.

A good level of fitness and sure-footedness are required. Wear sturdy walking shoes and lightweight outdoor clothing, and bring sun and insect protection, swimwear and a small towel. The route may change according to weather and ground conditions; please follow your guides' instructions throughout.

DAY 10**Trek, climb and swim in the Tu Lan cave area — shared group excursion**

Tour photograph · Tu Lan

After an early breakfast at Tu Lan Lodge and a briefing on the day's route, walk through cornfields and meadows towards the Rao Nan River. Cross the river and follow a short uphill trail to Hang Chuot Cave. With a helmet, head torch and safety equipment, explore around 300 metres of passage, taking in limestone formations and high, heart-shaped chambers.

Return to the river and tackle the roughly 60-metre "Baby Hill" before continuing through Hung Ton Valley to Hung Ton Cave. Discover fossil traces of ancient marine life, negotiate a protected climbing section and swim through an underground river.

Lunch is served beside To Mo Lake. Walk back through the valley to the Oxalis office in Tan Hoa, where you can freshen up, then return to Phong Nha at around 6:30–7:30 pm.

Overnight in a Farm Room at Chay Lap Farmstay.

Tour: approximately 9 hours.

DAY 11**Fly to Hanoi and explore the city**

Tour photograph · Hanoi

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to Hanoi. Meet your local team on arrival and travel to your hotel to check in.

In the afternoon, discover Hanoi's ochre-coloured colonial buildings, tree-lined boulevards and lakes. Visit the Ho Chi Minh memorial complex, his former home and the lotus-shaped One Pillar Pagoda. Continue to the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology to see traditional clothing and objects from the country's 54 ethnic groups. Finish with a water puppet show, a northern Vietnamese art form that originated in the flooded rice fields of the Red River Delta.

Overnight at La Siesta Premium.

Tour: approximately 3 hours | Transfers: approximately 1 hour at each end | Flight: approximately 1.5 hours | Transport: private car and plane | Meals: breakfast.

The Mausoleum itself has restricted opening hours and maintenance closures; entry depends on your arrival time and travel date. The Museum of Ethnology is closed on Mondays.

DAY 12**Travel to Pu Luong Nature Reserve**

Tour photograph · Pu Luong

After breakfast, travel to Pu Luong Nature Reserve. Enjoy a local lunch on arrival, then settle into your retreat and take in its valley views and quiet surroundings. In the afternoon, walk through fields and villages in the hills above the retreat, meet residents and learn about daily life. Dinner is served at the retreat.

Overnight at Pu Luong Retreat.

Excursion: approximately 3 hours | Difficulty: easy | Transfer: approximately 4.5 hours by private car | Included meals: breakfast and lunch. Dinner arrangements will be confirmed in your personalised quote.

DAY 13**Walk and cycle through Pu Luong**

Tour photograph · Pu Luong

At around 9:00 am, begin descending into a valley of rice terraces. Follow narrow, leafy paths towards Uoi village at the foot of a steep mountain, taking in the views along the way.

Continue to a local home, where you collect bicycles to explore Lan village, known for embroidery. Ride past streams, rice fields and small villages. Stop for lunch at a local house or beside the river, overlooking a waterwheel. Finish in Hieu village, where you can see Hieu Waterfall.

Overnight at Pu Luong Retreat.

Tour: approximately 7.5 hours | Transport: bicycle and walking | Difficulty: easy | Meals: breakfast and lunch.

DAY 14**Van Long Nature Reserve and the views from Mua Mountain**

Tour photograph · Ninh Binh

After breakfast, travel to Ninh Binh Province and have lunch at a local restaurant. Continue to Van Long Nature Reserve for a 1.5-hour sampan ride through a wetland landscape framed by limestone peaks and grottoes. During the dry season, the area also attracts migratory birds from northern Asia.

After your boat trip, take a buffalo-cart ride and continue to Mua Mountain. Climb around 500 stone steps, decorated with dragon and phoenix carvings, for panoramic views over Ninh Binh.

Overnight at Tam Coc Retreat Resort.

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

DAY 15**An overnight cruise on Halong Bay**

Tour photograph · Halong Bay

Leave Ninh Binh early for Halong Bay. At the pier, board your cruise and check in. Lunch is served as you sail between the bay's limestone formations. In the afternoon, join the activities arranged by the cruise or simply relax on board. Towards evening, the boat anchors among the islands and dinner is served.

Overnight on Peony Cruise.

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 16**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 returns 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.

Included services

- Private tour following the itinerary described.
- Pick-up service and transfers as described in the itinerary.
- Domestic flights according to the itinerary: Ho Chi Minh City – Da Nang; Dong Hoi – Hanoi.
- 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.

Ho Chi Minh City

3 stars**Gk Central Hotel**

Premier Deluxe

4 stars**La Siesta Premium Sai Gon**

Deluxe

5 stars**Hôtel Des Arts Saigon Mgallery**

Grand Deluxe Room

Mekong Delta

3 stars**Coco Riverside Lodge**

Bungalow

4 stars**Coco Riverside Lodge**

Bungalow

5 stars**Coco Riverside Lodge**

Bungalow

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

Phong Nha

3 stars**Chay Lap Farm Stay**

Farm Room

4 stars**Chay Lap Farm Stay**

Farm Room

5 stars**Chay Lap Farm Stay**

Farm Room

Phong Nha

3 stars

Tú Làn Lodge

River Bungalow

4 stars

Tú Làn Lodge

River Bungalow

5 stars

Tú Làn Lodge

River Bungalow

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

Pu Luong

3 stars

Puluong Luna Resort

Junior Suite

4 stars

Pu Luong Retreat

Deluxe

5 stars

Pu Luong Retreat

Valley View Suite

Ninh Binh

3 stars

Le Clos Du Fil Boutique Hotel & Spa

Superior

4 stars

Tam Coc Retreat

Suite Garden Bungalow

5 stars

Tam Coc Garden Resort

Premium Tonkin

Halong Bay

3 stars

Milalux Cruise

Junior With Balcony

4 stars

Peony Cruises

Deluxe Balcony

5 stars

Halong Capellacruise

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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