



# 14 Days – Vietnam & Cambodia Connection

**Hanoi – Sapa – Hoi An – Ho Chi Minh – Phnom Penh – Siem Reap**

## OVERVIEW

*Travel around the must-see sites in North Vietnam such as Hanoi - the 1,000-year-old capital of Vietnam; Ha Long Bay, twice recognized as the UNESCO World Heritage or Sapa the home to hill tribes and paradise for trekking then fly to the central of Vietnam. The midpoint of the trip in central Vietnam will impress you with interesting historical, cultural sites of Hoi An town. Your Vietnam part will end at the verdant and tranquil Mekong Delta, one of the world's great rice baskets. Tour ends in Siem Reap. On this spectacular visit to Cambodia, you will explore the wonders of Angkor with our expert guides grew up amongst the fields and sprawling temples.*

## ITINERARY IN BRIEF

DAY	ITINERARY
1	HANOI ARRIVAL - FOODIE DELIGHTS
2	FROM INSANE SCOOTERS TO FIRST-CLASS TRAINS
3	HIKE THE EMERALD HILLS OF SAPA
4	WAKE UP IN SAPA VALLEY
5	KAYAKS AND KARAOKE ON HALONG BAY

6	SUNRISE YOGA AND THE CALL OF HOI AN
7	COOK UP A VIETNAMESE FEAST
8	A TAILOR-MADE DAY OF FREEDOM
9	THE HUSTLE AND HISTORY OF HO CHI MINH
10	CU CHI TUNNELS AND ONWARD TO CAMBODIA
11	CAMBODIA, OLD AND NEW
12	MARVEL AT THE MAJESTY OF ANGKOR WAT
13	SUNRISE TEMPLES AND A KHMER FEAST
14	SIEM REAP - DEPARTURE

## **ITINERARY IN DETAIL**

### **DAY 1 HANOI ARRIVAL - FOODIE DELIGHTS (D)**

**Take a food safari around the back streets of Hanoi.**

**Grab a first-hand flavor of one of the culinary capitals of the world.**

Welcome to Vietnam. Arrive at Noi Bai International Airport, our car pick you up at the airport then transfer to your hotel for check in.

Hanoi or “River-bound City” as its name literally means is Vietnam’s capital with a thousand-year-old history dating back to 1010. The city’s fascinating beauty which is characterized by unique cultural relics, ancient streets of antique houses, elegant French colonial buildings, tree-lined boulevards and romantic lakes has made it one of the most charming cities of Asia.

Late afternoon, kick off with a tour of some of the city’s best local markets, where you’ll get to eat like the locals and sample mouth-watering food on our street food tour of Hanoi. Winding your way through hidden alleyways, this will be your first chance to immerse yourself in the essence of Vietnamese culture. In the evening, visit Bia Hoi corner, aka ‘beer corner’!

*Meal: Street food*

*Overnight hotel in The Ann*

### **DAY 2 FROM INSANE SCOOTERS TO FIRST-CLASS TRAINS (B)**

**Soak in the irrepressible energy of Hanoi, visit its famous Old Quarter and ancient sights.**

**Jump aboard a first-class sleeper train to Sapa.**

After breakfast, start with a tour of the Old Quarter. Navigating the hustle and bustle of the narrow streets, and if you thought rush hour was bad where you live then prepare for the craziest scooter traffic on the globe. Constant honking and whole families squeezed on one scooter will weave past, but this is all part of the culture here as we visit Hanoi’s most popular sights. You also visit the Temple of Literature - known as the first university of Vietnam built in 1070 by the Ly Dynasty to honor Confucius, sages and outstanding Vietnamese scholars and One Pillar Pagoda, built in the 11th Century in dedication to Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara or Buddha of Compassion and reminiscent of a lotus blossom rising from a pond. At about 8pm, you’ll be transferred to the station for your overnight train to Lao Cai.

*Meal: Breakfast*

*Overnight on train Hanoi/ Sapa*

### **DAY 3 HIDE THE EMERALD HILLS OF SAPA (B/L)**

**Discover mist-clad mountain valleys and lush rice fields on a trek through idyllic Sapa.**

**Meet with hill tribes living in the area, and have lunch with a local family.**

Early morning, picks up from Lao Cai train station to Sapa town. Take your time as we hike in Sapa and explore shimmering rice paddies, bamboo forests and waterfalls, before enjoying a home-made lunch courtesy of local Giay families. After checking into your hotel in Sapa Town, we'll meet for dinner at a nearby restaurant on the scenic hillside.

*Meal: Breakfast, lunch*

*Overnight at Sapa Dragon Hotel*

#### **DAY 4 WAKE UP IN SAPA VALLEY (B)**

**Soak in more of Sapa's spectacular scenery by taking a half-day village trek, or unwind in the elegant spa.**

You're free to spend the day to enjoy the alluring sights, smells and sounds of the valley or if you're feeling energetic then head to the hills for a half-day Sapa village trek, or simply relax at the hotel spa by getting a massage to soothe any trek-tired muscles. Afternoon, travel by car back to Hanoi.

*Meal: Breakfast*

*Overnight hotel in The Ann*

#### **DAY 5 KAYAKS AND KARAOKE ON HALONG BAY (B/L/D)**

**Set sail aboard a traditional junk boat through the limestone karsts of Halong Bay.**

**Explore hidden grottoes and lagoons, and enjoy a night on the boat.**

Morning pickup at 8:00 AM from your hotel for transfer to Halong Bay, which is about 160 km or 3.5-hour drive away. The transfer is approximately 3 hours. You will see some rural areas of the Red River Delta with plenty of chances to take photos of Vietnamese farmers working in paddy fields and you may stop on the way to admire the local scenery.

Arrive in Halong City at 11:30 AM and check in aboard the booked junk right after the welcome drink is served. Start cruising while having lunch on board and enjoy the mighty bay view. Halong Bay meaning Descending Dragon Bay in Vietnamese as legend has it that it was where a holly dragon landed down from sky. The bay, famous as one of the world's wonders and heritage sites whose formation dates back 500 million years, consists of around 2,000 karst islands and islets scattered over an area of 1,553 km<sup>2</sup>.

After lunch, you'll have the opportunity to kayak around the bay, or relax with a drink on deck. Cruise through Bai Tu Long Bay, visit the quaint floating fishing villages in Vung Vieng then take in the sunset over dinner before a spot of squid fishing. Celebrate this unique experience with a night of karaoke (talent optional) and dancing (same applies), before being lulled to sleep by the gentle sound of waves lapping the side of the boat.

*Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

*Overnight at Calypso Cruise in Ha Long*

#### **DAY 6 SUNRISE YOGA AND THE CALL OF HOI AN (BRUNCH)**

**Stretch into the morning with an on-board yoga class, and see more of beautiful Halong Bay.**

**Fly to Hoi An Ancient Town – a UNESCO World Heritage Site.**

Enjoy a sunrise breakfast with breathtaking views. We'll do a little more exploring before beginning the journey back to Hanoi. Arriving late afternoon, make our way straight to the airport for a flight to Da Nang. Flight time is approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. Arrival Da Nang airport, you are transferred to Hoi An town. Check in hotel & relax. This delightful riverside town and former trading port is renowned for its fine selection of handmade silk, vibrant nightlife and timeless architecture. After a full day of travelling, we'll cap off the night with a feast at one of the many stylish restaurants.

*Meal: Breakfast, Brunch*

*Overnight at Belle Maison Hadana Hoian Resort & Spa*

#### **DAY 7 COOK UP A VIETNAMESE FEAST (B/D)**

**Amble the charismatic streets of Hoi An under the lead of your dedicated guide.**

**Uncover the secrets of Vietnamese cuisine with a cooking class, and feast on a five-course dinner.**

Discover the charm of Hoi An recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, is now a peaceful town of exceptionally well-preserved architecture, lifestyles and traditions. The town exemplifies a fascinating fusion of cultures between Vietnam and the outside world including China, Japan, Thailand and the Philippines. Your sightseeing will include the iconic 400-year-old Covered Bridge with a small temple attached to one side as a prominent example of Japanese architecture, the Ong Temple built in 1653 by Chinese settlers to worship Guan Yu, the 200 year old Tan Ky House, and the Jinshang Temple that is dedicated to the goddess of the sea and protector of sailors. Continue the tour by joining a cooking class in Hoi An to learn all the secret local ingredients, then prepare three delicious dishes to enjoy as part of a five-course dinner. Prepare to wow at your next dinner party.

*Meal: Breakfast, Dinner after cooking class*

*Overnight at Belle Maison Hadana Hoian Resort & Spa*

## **DAY 8 A TAILOR – MADE DAY OF FREEDOM (B)**

**Take a full day off. Get clothes made to order from some of the world's finest tailors, mosey around the market stalls or hit the local beach.**

Today is free at leisure. You can cycle to the beach, chill by the pool or hunt for paintings, embroidery, ceramics, lanterns, you name it at the local markets. The tailors in Hoi An are among the best in the world and have a staggering amount of fabric on hand. Take advantage of their quick turnaround and have a new wardrobe stitched together while you're out exploring.

*Meal: Breakfast*

*Overnight at Belle Maison Hadana Hoian Resort & Spa*

## **DAY 9 THE HUSTLE AND HISTORY OF HO CHI MINH (B)**

**Fly to Ho Chi Minh and take a guided jaunt around this eclectic city, from age-old markets to world-class boutiques. Learn about the history and impact of the Vietnam War.**

Morning, free at leisure until transfer to Da Nang airport for flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Flight time is approximately 1.5 hours. Meet your driver for an airport transfer with a private vehicle and guide. The transfer distance is approximately 30 minutes. Ho Chi Minh City, formerly named Saigon, is the largest city and economic center of Vietnam always bustling with activities of modern life. It is where businesses converge and shoppers indulge themselves into unlimited choices. However the city also carries with it a rich historical legacy in contrast with its dazzling glamor.

We start the tour by strolling around Dong Khoi Street, the Opera House and the People's Committee Building, and stop to gaze up at the towering spires of the 19th century Notre Dame Cathedral. Stop to visit the Reunification Palace which was the former residence of the President of South Vietnam until end of April 1975 and the War Remnants Museum, which features a comprehensive collection of the machinery, weapons, photos, and documentation of Vietnam War with the both the French and Americans.

*Meal: Breakfast*

*Overnight at Grand hotel Ho Chi Minh*

## **DAY 10 CU CHI TUNNELS AND ONWARD TO CAMBODIA (B/D)**

**Find out more about Vietnam's war legacy with a visit to the Cu Chi tunnels. Cross the border to Cambodia and arrive in Phnom Penh for night stay.**

Morning, meet your guide and transfer about 75 km North-west of downtown Ho Chi Minh City. Discover the famous Cu Chi Tunnels, which were once a major underground hideout and resistance base of Viet Cong forces during the two wars against the French and the Americans. The tunnels, entirely hand-dug, formed a highly intricate network of interlinked multilevel passageways at times stretched as far as the Cambodian border and totaling over 120 km in length. Its complexity was beyond imagination containing meeting rooms, kitchens, wells, clinics, schools, depots,



trenches and emergency exits all aimed for guerrilla warfare. The tunnels were deep and strong enough to withstand destructive bombings and self-contained enough to outlast prolonged sieges. From here, we'll settle in for the seven-hour journey across the border to Cambodia and arrive in Phnom Penh in time for dinner and drinks. This city is teeming with motorbikes and the sound of haggling vendors, so the graceful, tree-lined boulevards and riverfront promenades are a reminder of simpler times.

*Meal: Breakfast, Dinner*  
*Overnight at Patio Urban*

## **DAY 11 CAMBODIA, OLD AND NEW (B)**

**Learn more about Cambodia's tragic past with a visit to the Genocide Museum and notorious Killing Fields. Enjoy a glimpse of modern-day Phnom Penh: from its colourful markets to your hotel's rooftop pool.**

Today we will learn more about Cambodia's tragic past on a guided tour of the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum. It's estimated that more than 20,000 people were held and tortured here. We'll also visit the Choeung Ek Memorial, where a stupa made up of 8,000 human skulls marks the site of the infamous Killing Fields. Standing in this peaceful field today, it's hard to imagine it was once the execution ground for the torture victims of Tuol Sleng, and that to-date, nearly 9,000 corpses have been exhumed from the area. To learn about a brighter period in the country's history, make an optional visit to the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda, as well as the National Museum.

*Meal: Breakfast*  
*Overnight at Patio Urban*

## **DAY 12 MARVEL AT THE MAJESTY OF ANGKOR WAT (B)**

**Fly to Siem Reap and check into the award-winning Shinta Mani hotel, with its luxury pool and spa. Visit Angkor Wat at sunset, and see the ancient buildings glow.**

Morning, free time to enjoy until our short flight to Siem Reap, the gateway to the temples of the Angkor Archaeological Park. This UNESCO World Heritage site is an ancient world of historic temples that date back as far as the 9th century, and their perfect balance, symmetry and composition are believed to represent the cosmic world. A sunset visit to Angkor Wat is an absolute must-see. It's the largest and most complete structure on the site, so watching the golden sun fade behind its striking silhouette is a sight you won't forget.

*Meal: Breakfast*  
*Overnight at Shinta Mani Shack*

## **DAY 13 SUNRISE TEMPLES AND KHMER FEAST (B)**

**Capture the ultimate sunrise at Angkor Wat, before meandering your way through a labyrinth of magnificent temples. End of the day with a Khmer feast.**

You've seen the sunset at Angkor Wat so now it's time to see its sunrise, to complete the ultimate sun gazing experience. Spend the rest of the day temple-hopping between the main ruins of the site, including Baphuon, the multi-faced Bayon, Angkor Thom and the jungle-covered Ta Prohm. These temples were built between the 9th and 13th centuries and their intricately carved designs are mind-blowing. Once we are all templed-out, we'll head back to town to enjoy a Khmer feast at a hospitality training organization that provides opportunities for former street kids.

*Meal: Breakfast*  
*Overnight at Shinta Mani Shack*

## **DAY 14 SIEM REAP - DEPARTURE (B)**

Free at leisure for shopping souvenirs from the market or perhaps indulge in some cheap and tasty street food until transfer to Siem Reap International Airport for flight departure.

**Date: 01 Jan 2018 to 31 Apr 2018 & 1 Oct 2018 to 31 Dec 2018**

ALL RATES ARE NET IN US\$ PER PERSON						
Category	2	3-4pax	5-6pax	7-9pax	10-15	Single Supplement
Superior – 4*	1,459	1,257	1,117	1,067	1,044	676

**Date: 01 May 2018 – 30 Sep 2018**

ALL RATES ARE NET IN US\$ PER PERSON						
Category	2	3-4pax	5-6pax	7-9pax	10-15	Single Supplement
Superior – 4*	1,375	1,187	1,043	991	963	551

#### **SUPPLEMENT FOR TICKET**

Hanoi (HAN) to Da Nang (DAD) by Vietnam Airline:	<b>US \$ 115 per person</b>
Da Nang (DAD) to Ho Chi Minh (SGN) by Vietnam Airline:	<b>US \$ 115 per person</b>
Phnom Penh (PNH) to Siem Reap (REP) by Cambodia:	<b>US \$ 120 per person</b>

#### **OUR SERVICE INCLUDED**

- Accommodation in a double or twin room with daily breakfast in selected hotel
- One night cruise on a wooden junk in Ha Long Bay
- Meal as mentioned in the itinerary (B=Breakfast/ L=Lunch/ D=Dinner).
- One way by train from Hanoi to Laos Cai
- Private transfer from Sapa to Hanoi
- Services of a driver and private air-conditioned vehicle during all tours and transfers.
- Experienced English-speaking guide during all tours and transfers
- Private boat for sightseeing as mentioned in the program, Entrance fees for all visits as mentioned in the itinerary
- Daily drinking water and cold towels.

#### **OUR SERVICE EXCLUDED**

- International & Domestic flight tickets
- Visa stamping fee at the airport (25US\$ in Vietnam paid by cash at the airport, FREE FOR UK MARKET)
- Meals, if not specified in the itinerary
- Tipping for guides, drivers, hotel staff, restaurant staff, boat rider, etc.
- Travel insurance (we highly recommend that you purchase adequate insurance). We strongly recommend the purchase of a travel insurance (covering emergency medical evacuation) for trips to Vietnam.

#### **SUPPLEMENT FOR**

- **Standard menu meals: US\$ 12 for lunch & US\$ 15 for dinner. Standard Western Set Menu USD 15 per person for Lunch and USD 20 per person for Dinner**

#### **NOTES FOR VIETNAM**

- Reservations during peak times (Christmas, New Year, Vietnamese Lunar New Year, National Holidays) may be subject to supplementary charges and compulsory meals

## LIST OF HOTELS

Destination	Superior _ 4 star
Hanoi	THE ANN HOTEL <a href="http://www.theann.com.vn">www.theann.com.vn</a>
Sapa	BB HOTEL & RESORT <a href="http://www.bbhotels-resorts.com">www.bbhotels-resorts.com</a>
Ha Long	CALYPSO <a href="http://www.orientalsails.com/cruises/calypso-cruiser">www.orientalsails.com/cruises/calypso-cruiser</a>
Hoi An	BELLE MAISON HADANA HOIAN RESORT & SPA <a href="http://www.bellemaisonhadana.com">www.bellemaisonhadana.com</a>
Ho Chi Minh	GRAND HOTEL HO CHI MINH <a href="http://www.grandhotel.vn">www.grandhotel.vn</a>
Phnom Penh	PATIO URBAN <a href="http://www.patio-hotel.com">www.patio-hotel.com</a>
Siem Reap	SHINTA MANI SHACK <a href="http://www.shintamani.com">www.shintamani.com</a>