

10 DAYS _VIETNAM PORTRAIT

VIETNAM (Ho Chi Minh City, Cu Chi Tunnels, Vinh Long Mekong Delta, Da Nang, Hoi An, Hue, Hanoi, Ha Long)

1. OVERVIEW

A multi-colored picture of Vietnam is going to be revealed before your eyes. See the contrast of the old and new in the vibrant Ho Chi Minh City, hear the story of war through museum as well as the unthinkable underground tunnels of Cu Chi. Watch bustling floating market and interact with Southern locals in Mekong Delta. Delve in long-established cultures in old cities of Hoi An, Hue and Hanoi through fancy architecture of houses, bridge, citadels, temples and much more. Take an enjoyable boat on the Perfume River in Hue and delight at a traditional water puppet show in Hanoi. Last, immerse in the heavenly-like sight of Halong Bay while cruising, swimming and relaxing on a junk boat. Not only seeing the picture, you are part of it.

2. ITINERARY IN BRIEF

DAY	ITINERARY
1	HO CHI MINH ARRIVAL - HALF DAY CITY TOUR
2	HO CHI MINH CITY TOUR & CU CHI TUNNELS – STORY OF WAR
3	HO CHI MINH - FULL DAY MEKONG DELTA (VINH LONG)
4	HO CHI MINH - DANANG - HOI AN ANCIENT TOWN
5	HOI AN - HUE CITADEL TOUR
6	HUE RIVER CRUISE - HA NOI ARRIVAL
7	HA NOI OLD QUARTER TOUR
8	HA NOI - HA LONG OVER NIGHT ON BOAT - UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE
9	HA LONG - HA NOI
10	HANOI DEPARTURE

3. THE TOUR

DAY 1: HOCHIMINH (SAI GON) ARRIVAL

Arrive at Tan Son Nhat International airport, welcome by our guide and transfer to hotel for check in. The distance is approximately 30 minutes

Your visa should be pre-arranged, or be sure that your visa-on-arrival letter is in your carry-on luggage. Please go to custom desk as your first point of entry into the country and present these documents for visa upon arrival.

Ho Chi Minh City formerly named Saigon is the largest city and economic center of Vietnam always bustled 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.

Begin with the Reunification Palace which was formerly the South Vietnam President's residence until the end of April 1975. Proceed to the War Remnants Museum featuring an extensive collection of exhibits of weaponry, photos and documentation on Vietnam's wars with the French and American, Saigon Notre-Dame Basilica, a neo-Roman cathedral built by the French with materials entirely imported from Marseilles, France. Move on to the City Hall and take a leisurely stroll down to the colorful Dong Khoi Street full of fancy shops, stylish café, restaurants and art galleries. Stop for sipping a cup of Vietnamese coffee **at a rooftop café**.

Accommodation: Overnight at hotel in Ho Chi Minh City (3*, 4* or 5*)

DAY 2: HO CHI MINH FULL DAY CITY TOUR & CU CHI TUNNELS – STORY OF WAR

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. Return to the city at noon time for a rest

Afternoon, tour in the city starting with Saigon Notre-Dame Basilica, a neo-Roman cathedral built over 130 years ago by the colonial French with materials entirely imported from Marseilles and stained-glass windows from Chartres. Next, visit Sai Gon Post Office, a fine colonial building which was designed and built in the early 20th Century by the famous French architect Gustave Eiffel. Move on to Cho Lon or the city's China Town where you will visit the Jade Emperor Temple (Phuoc Hai), a rare Taoist structure in Vietnam built in 1909 in dedication to the Lord of Heaven. It's filled with smoky incense and fantastic carved figurines and still buzzing with worshipers, many lounging in the front gardens.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Overnight at hotel in Ho Chi Minh (3*, 4* or 5*)

DAY 3: HO CHI MINH - FULL DAY MEKONG DELTA (VINH LONG)

Today, meet with your hotel to transfer about 136 km to Vinh Long, a riverside town in the vast Mekong Delta, the world's largest delta. Embark a boat cruise to lively Cai Be floating market where sellers and buyers bargain and exchange goods from their boats. Proceed through a fascinating maze of shady canals to Hoa Binh Phuoc Island. Beautiful landscape of zigzag canals, lush vegetation, peaceful villages and activities of rural life will make you a delightful sight. There on the island, visit some local farmers' homes, interact with warm-hearted hosts and learn about their trades of bonsai gardening, tile and ceramic production and rice paper and coconut candy making. After tour, we transfer back to Ho Chi Minh

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Overnight at hotel in Ho Chi Minh (3*, 4* or 5*)

DAY 4: HO CHI MINH - DANANG - HOI AN ANCIENT TOWN

Meet our guide & driver at the hotel lobby then transfer to airport for flight to Da Nang. Flight time is approximately 1hour and 15 minutes.

Transfer from Da Nang to Hoi An with a private vehicle and English speaking guide. The transfer from airport to hotel in Hoi An is approximately 40 minutes. Check in & relax

In the afternoon, 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 Museum of Trade Ceramics which is an elegant Vietnamese style wooden house built in 1858 showcasing antique ceramic artifacts, the 200-year-old Tan Ky House typifying an ancient Chinese merchant residence, the Ong Temple built in 1653 by Chinese settlers to worship Guan Yu, an ancient Chinese general whose character stands for loyalty, bravery and justice and the local market vibrant with colors and activities. Return to your hotel

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Overnight at hotel in Hoi An (3*, 4* or 5*)

DAY 5: HOI AN - HUE – CITADEL TOUR

Morning transfer to Hoi An via the Hai Van Pass (Ocean Cloud Pass). Enjoy a stunning headland-and-bay panoramic view from the pass, which for miles hugs the mountainside along the shoreline and overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Stop on the way to visit Cham Museum, Marble Mountain & Lang Co Beach resort if time permitted.

Afternoon take full day tour of Hue City, the former Imperial Capital of Vietnam for the 1802-1945 period and the last refuge of Vietnamese feudalism. The city's beauty is characterized by a natural scenic landscape and an extensive variety of historical relics. Begin with Hue Citadel, a well-known UNESCO-recognized World Heritage Site which is a 520 ha fortress-like grand complex built in the early 1800s and featuring three enclosures separated by heavy ramparts namely Kinh Thanh Hue (Civic City) as the outer, Hoang Thanh (Royal City) as the middle and Tu Cam Thanh (Forbidden City) as the inner. Continue to Khai Dinh Tomb, the burial site of Vietnam's second-to-last king, and the most elaborate compared to other kings' tombs. The tomb shows a vivid European influence in architecture despite its Asian style. Next, visit Tu Duc Tomb, one of the Nguyen Dynasty's finest architectural works nested in a pine forest where the 4th emperor of the Nguyen family was laid to rest. Last, shopping at Dong Ba market, which is the city's traditional commercial center.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Overnight at hotel in Hue (3*, 4* or 5*)

DAY 6: HUE RIVER CRUISE - HA NOI

Morning, we continue to take a boat cruise along the Perfume River to enjoy the open view of the river and its surroundings. Stop along the way and land on shore to visit two prominent historical landmarks namely the Minh Mang Tomb, where the 2nd Emperor of the Nguyen dynasty was buried, and Thien Mu Pagoda, an active Buddhist monastery overlooking the river from a vantage point with its origin dating back to 1601.

You are free until transfer to airport for flight to Hanoi. Flight time is approximately 1.5 hours.

Meet your driver for an airport transfer with a private vehicle and guide. The driving distance is approximately 45 minutes. Arrival Hanoi airport, warm welcomed by our guide & driver then transfer to the city

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Overnight at hotel in Ha Noi (3*, 4* or 5*)

DAY 7: HA NOI OLD QUARTER TOUR

The city tour begins with a visit to the Ho Chi Minh Complex which features the life of Ho Chi Minh, the nation's founder. At the complex, visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, where the nation's founder's body is preserved (closed on Monday, Friday and through October - November), the colonial Presidential Palace, originally the French Governor Office and a fine example of French architecture in Hanoi, and the rural style Ho Chi Minh's house on stilts where Ho Chi Minh lived and worked. Stop by one of Hanoi's icons, the 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. Continue to 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.

Afternoon, continue the tour to one of the following museums of choice namely the Museum of Fine Arts, the National Museum of Vietnamese History, the Museum of Revolution, the Museum of Military History or the Museum of Ethnology. Next, head for Hoan Kiem Lake, the center point of Hanoi whose name "The Return Sword Lake" originated from a legend of a sacred sword and home to a rare endangered giant turtle species and visit Ngoc Son Temple on the lake. Take a one-hour cycle tour of the Old Quarter of Hanoi with its ancient streets representing traditional trades from the past. Finish the tour at the Thang Long Opera Theatre with a traditional Vietnamese water puppet show.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Overnight at hotel in Ha Noi (3*, 4* or 5*)

DAY 8: HA NOI - HA LONG OVER NIGHT ON BOAT - UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

Morning pickup at 8:00 AM from your hotel for transfer to Ha Long 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 Ha Long 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.

Arrive in Ha Long City at 11:30 AM and check in aboard the booked junk when your journey across Ha Long Bay starts. Ha Long 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 km².

After lunch, take a short trek to a nearby summit for a panoramic view of the bay dotted with golden sails, go swimming on a quiet beach or sunbath on the sundeck. Later in the afternoon, you will visit an interesting fishing village with an opportunity to interact with local people who have been living in the bay for almost three generations. An optional kayaking

trip is available weather permitting. Back onboard enjoy a lavish dinner and enjoy the bay view at sunset. Spend a night on board.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Overnight on cruises in Ha Long Bay (3*, 4* or 5*)

DAY 9: HA LONG - HA NOI

In the morning, refresh your body and mind with a Tai Chi exercise on the sundeck at the break of dawn. Have tea and coffee onboard and continue exploring Ha Long Bay sailing across its 2000 islets and visiting some of its major highlights. Normally, check out at 09:30, have a buffet brunch while cruising back to shore. Disembark at 11:00 AM to transfer to Hanoi capital.

Meal: Brunch

Accommodation: Overnight at hotel in Ha Noi (3*, 4* or 5*)

DAY 10: HANOI DEPARTURE

Free at leisure until meet our guide then transfer to airport for flight departure

Meal: Breakfast

4. EXTENSION TOURS:

Add-on beach relaxation or tours to neighbor countries; Laos, Cambodia and Thailand or Myanmar

5. PRICE: All rates are per person sharing DBL or TWN/FB Basis, in US dollar, net and non-commissionable.

Date valid: 01 Oct - 30 Apr

Description	2 pax	3-4 pax	5-6 pax	7-9 pax	Single Supp
First Class	903	743	597	594	+258
Superior packages	1,147	987	841	838	+451
Deluxe packages	1,537	1,377	1,231	1,228	+790

Date valid: 01 May - 30 Sep

Description	2 pax	3-4 pax	5-6 pax	7-9 pax	Single Supp
First Class	957	789	636	628	+273
Superior packages	1,153	986	832	825	+391
Deluxe packages	1,477	1,310	1,156	1,148	+707

Date valid: 01 Oct - 31 Dec

Description	2 pax	3-4 pax	5-6 pax	7-9 pax	Single Supp
First Class	971	803	650	642	+287
Superior packages	1,221	1,053	899	892	+458

Deluxe packages	1,604	1,437	1,283	1,275	+808
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SURCHARGE FOR FLIGHT TICKET

Note: Subject to be changed without prior noticed

- From Ho Chi Minh (SGN) Da Nang (DAN): US\$ 115 per person
- From Hue (HUI) to Hanoi (HAN): US\$ 115 per person

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Accommodation in a Twin or Double room with daily breakfast
- One night cruise on a wooden junk in Ha Long Bay
- Lunch or dinner as specified in the itinerary
- Services of a driver and private air-conditioned vehicle during all tours and transfers.
- Experienced English-speaking guide during all tours and transfers
- Vietnam visa approval letter on arrival as complementary
- Private board for sightseeing as mentioned in the program, Entrance fees for all visits as mentioned in the itinerary
- Mineral water is available as complementary

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

- International & Domestic flight tickets
- Meals, if not specified in the itinerary
- Gratuities for guides and drivers
- Visa stamping fee at the airport (45US\$ in Vietnam paid by cash at the airport)
- Travel insurance (we highly recommend that you purchase adequate insurance)
- Personal expenses, such as laundry, telephone, drinks, etc. All other services not specified in the itinerary
- All other services not specified in the itinerary

LIST OF HOTELS USED:

Destination	First Class – 3 star	Superior packages – 4 star	Deluxe packages – 5 star
Ho Chi Minh	SONNET SAIGON Deluxe www.sonnetsaigonhotel.com	EDEN SAIGON HOTEL Deluxe Room www.edensaigonhotel.com	MAJESTIC SAIGON HOTEL Colonial Superior www.majesticsaigon.com.vn
Hoi An	LOTUS HOI AN Superior (European Market) www.hoianlotushotel.com	HOI AN TRAILS Superior www.hoiantrailsresort.com.vn	PALM GARDEN RESORT Superior Garden View www.palmgardenresort.com.vn
Hue	ASIA HUE HOTEL Deluxe www.asiahotel.com.vn	MUONG THANH HUE HOTEL Deluxe City View www.hue.muongthanh.vn	PILGRIMAGE VILLAGE Deluxe www.pilgrimagevillage.com
Ha Noi	LAROSA HOTEL Superior www.hanoilarosahotel.com	THE ANN HOTEL Deluxe http://theann.com.vn	INTERCONTINENTAL HANOI WESTLAKE Superior www.intercontinental.com/hanoi
Ha Long	ORIENTAL SAILS Superior ; www.orientalsails.com	PELICAN CRUISE Deluxe Ocean View www.pelicancruise.com	PARADISE CRUISE Deluxe (ROH) www.paradisecruises.vn