

## 13 DAYS \_ ELEGANT VIETNAM

Vietnam (Ho Chi Minh – Da Nang – Hoi An – Hue - Hanoi, Ha Long)

### 1. OVERVIEW:

This tour is designed for travelers seeking the very best of Vietnam and a high standard of comfort. See the contrast in Ho Chi Minh – a bustling metropolis with rich cultural attractions that looks as much to the past as it does to the future. Absorb the sights and sounds of the Mekong Delta as you sailing through its intricate canals, lush verdant orchard, and get in touch with local daily life. Head north for the slower pace of life in Hoi An – World Heritage Site and take part in a cooking demonstration before drive along the scenic road to Hue. Here, catch a glimpse at the royal relics of the place once the imperial ancient capital of Vietnam in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In Hanoi capital, feel its French colonial charm as you discover the city by cyclo. Leave the noise of the city behind as you board a seaplane and take impressive aerial views of the Vietnam countryside as you fly to Ha Long Bay then aboard a private cruise to explore the bay.

### 2. ITINEARY IN BRIEF:

DAY	ITINERARY
1	HO CHI MINH ARRIVAL
2	FULL DAY CITY TOUR
3	FULL DAY MANGO CRUISE IN BEN TRE
4	HO CHI MINH - FLIGHT TO DA NANG
5	HOI AN COOKING CLASS - HALF DAY CITY TOUR
6	FREE AT LEISURE
7	HOI AN - HUE HALF DAY CITY TOUR
8	HUE FULL DAY CITY TOUR
9	HUE - FLIGHT TO HANOI
10	FULL DAY CITY TOUR
11	HANOI - HALONG BY SEAPLANE & ENJOY A 15 MINUTES SCENIC TO HALONG - OVERNIGHT ON BOAT
12	HA LONG - HA NOI BY PRIVATE TRANSFER
13	HA NOI DEPARTURE

### 3. THE TOUR

#### Day 1 : HO CHI MINH ARRIVAL

Arrive at Tan Son Nhat International Airport, welcome by our guide and transfer to your hotel. 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.

**Meals: No**

**Accommodation: Overnight at Park Hyatt Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City**

### **Accommodation: Park Hyatt (5\*)**

The Park Hyatt is ideally located within short walk to the business centers, shopping malls, entertainment and some main tourist attractions in the downtown of Ho Chi Minh City. It boasts colonial style rooms with wooden floors, white marble baths, luxurious walk-in rain shower and stunning pool view. Guests can enjoy the view of Lam Son Square while dining at the casual yet contemporary Morocco Restaurant or at Square One which offer authentic Vietnamese and Western dishes. For a sheer relaxation, the Xuan Spa is a tranquil place tucked away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Let's indulge yourself, refresh your senses and spirit in the luxurious setting and spa treatments.

### **Day 2 : FULL DAY CITY TOUR**

Meet our guide at your hotel and take a full city tour. Start with a visit to the War Remnants Museum, which features an extensive collection of exhibits including weaponry, photos and documentation on Vietnam's wars with the French and Americans. Continue to the Reunification Palace, which was formerly the South Vietnam President's residence and symbol of the Southern Administration's reign until end of April 1975. Next, call in Saigon Post Office, a fine colonial building which was designed and built in the early 20th Century by the famous French architect Gustave Eiffel. Stop at Saigon Notre-Dame Basilica, a neo-Roman cathedral built over 130 years ago by the colonial French with materials entirely imported from Marseilles. 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.

**Meal: Breakfast**

**Accommodation: Overnight at Park Hyatt Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City**

### **Day 3 : FULL DAY MANGO CRUISE IN BEN TRE**

Depart from Saigon around 8 am and head south to Ben Tre province, it takes 2 hours for driving, the place is famous for its coconut production and quiet, peaceful waterways. On arrival, take a Xe loi ride through the local village of Huu Dinh to enjoy the green fields and gardens, start your boat trip through small canals with beautiful tropical scenery. On board the boat, enjoy a welcome drink of fresh coconut juice and tropical fruits while cruising.

The cruise will first stop at a brick making shop, then take a sampan trip through narrow canals and enjoy the peacefulness of the region. Enjoy fresh fruits and tea at local house before heading to visit a rice noodles factory which produces *Hu Tieu* noodles, one of most popular breakfast dishes in the region. Then switch to a bicycle and ride on village roads past green gardens and local houses, and stop at another local house where they live on their traditional family business, sampan boat building. Continue your cycling trip to visit Mr Sau Tuong, a former Vietcong soldier who survived two years fighting the Khmer Rouge in Phnom Penh. Have a chat with him and enjoy the crispy rice paper made by his wife, and see how it is made.

Enjoy a 5-course lunch of local specialties, relaxing before the boat bring you back to Ben Tre city and back to Saigon.

**Meal: Breakfast, Lunch**

**Accommodation: Overnight at Park Hyatt Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City**

#### **Day 4 : HO CHI MINH - FLIGHT TO DA NANG**

Meet our guide & driver at the hotel lobby then transfer to Tan Son Nhat airport for one hour flight to Da Nang. On arrival, you are transferred 45 minutes to Hoi An ancient town by private car & guide.

**Meal: Breakfast**

**Accommodation: Overnight at The Nam Hai Resort in Hoi An**

#### **Accommodation: Nam Hai (5\*)**

The Nam Hai sits along a seemingly infinite stretch of sand, amidst Vietnam's richest cultural heritage, a strand of sophisticated, visually striking villas lines the dramatic beachfront. Inspired by 2,500 years of history, The Nam Hai's architecture and interior design presents a dramatic play on wind and water inspired by ancient feng shui philosophy and the grandeur of the Tu Duc royal tombs of Hue. The Nam Hai features 60 One-Bedroom Villas and 40 Pool Villas, all offering views of the South China Sea and feature large bedrooms and living spaces, en-suite bathtubs, walk-in closets and luxurious bathrooms.

#### **Day 5 : HOI AN COOKING CLASS - HALF DAY CITY TOUR**

Morning meet our guide at your hotel and transfer out to a local market. A guide from the local cooking school will take you on a tour through the market to learn about the ingredients to be used in your recipes. After the market, aboard a boat to ride along the Hoi An river for about 25 minutes, watching local fishermen casting nets as part of their daily routine. Arrive at a small township and walk to the cooking school. The class starts in an open-air pavilion by the river under the instruction of an experienced chef. Observe, practice, sample and bring out a good lunch cooked the local style to your own taste. Enjoy it yourself.

Afternoon, continue tour for half day Hoi An city tour. Once a bustling maritime commercial port of Asia between 15th and 19th centuries, 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.

**Meal: Breakfast, Lunch prepared by you in cooking class**

**Accommodation: Overnight at The Nam Hai Resort in Hoi An**

#### **Day 6 : FREE AT LEISURE**

Morning, have breakfast at hotel then free at leisure in your hotel

**Meal: Breakfast**

**Accommodation: Overnight at The Nam Hai Resort in Hoi An**

#### **Day 7: HOI AN - HUE HALF DAY CITY TOUR**

Transfer to Hue via the Hai Van Pass (Ocean Cloud Pass). It takes around 2.5 hours to 3 hours for transferring from Hoi An to Hue. On the way, you will have time to 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

Arrival Hue, check in your hotel and start for a half day city tour with our guide. This place is the former Imperial Capital of Vietnam for the 1802-1945 periods and the last refuge of Vietnamese feudalism. Listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site, the city is characterized by a natural scenic landscape and an extensive variety of historical relics. Take a boat cruise along the Perfume River to enjoy an 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.

**Meal: Breakfast**

**Accommodation: Overnight at La Residence Hotel & Spa in Hue**

#### **Accommodation: La Residence Hotel & Spa (5\*)**

La Résidence Hotel & Spa is truly a boutique hotel and great care has been taken to preserve the charm, comfort and atmosphere of this classic colonial villa. With 122 rooms and suites, boasting modern convenience, La Résidence is situated in an incredible area, overlooking the Citadel and Perfume River; giving this resort its uniqueness, while offering guests serene tranquility.

#### **Day 8: HUE FULL DAY CITY TOUR**

Morning, meet our guide at your hotel and take a 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.

Afternoon, stop for shopping at Dong Ba market - the city's traditional commercial center

**Meal: Breakfast**

**Accommodation: Overnight at La Residence Hotel & Spa in Hue**

#### **Day 9: HUE - FLIGHT TO HANOI**

You are free until transfer to airport for an hour flight to Hanoi airport, warm welcomed by our guide & driver then transfer to the city.

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.

**Meal: Breakfast**

**Accommodation: Overnight at Sofitel Metropole Hotel in Ha Noi**

#### **Accommodation: Sofitel Metropole (5\*)**

The exquisite Metropole in Hanoi, which was built by the French in the colonial style in the early 1900s, combines old-world charm with modern convenience. With its rich history and evocative public spaces, it is easy to imagine the days when Graham Greene propped up the bar and intrigue radiated from every room. Located in the heart of downtown, the hotel features 363 rooms and suites and a beautiful interior garden. Le Beaulieu serves fine French cuisine while Hanoi specialties are served at the Spices

Garden. A swimming pool and fitness center are available and the beautiful city of Hanoi is just at the doorstep, ready for you to explore its sights and sounds.

### **Day 10: FULL DAY CITY TOUR**

Morning, start a full day city tour beginning with Ho Chi Minh Complex which features the life of Ho Chi Minh, the nation's founder. At the complex, visit Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum where the nation's founder's body is preserved (closed on Monday, Friday and through October - November) and the rural style 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. Go to 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. Next, 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 Sofitel Metropole Hotel in Ha Noi**

### **Day 11 : HANOI - HALONG BY SEAPLANE & ENJOY A 15 MINUTES SCENIC TO HALONG (JOINING GROUP)- OVERNIGHT ON BOAT (PRIVATE BOAT)**

Finish your breakfast around 9 AM, say farewell to Hanoi as you depart from the Noi Bai Airport by seaplane to the coastal port town of Halong Bay. Enjoy fabulous aerial views over the countryside and experience the thrill of a water landing at the Tuan Chau Island Marina. It takes about an hour for the flight with 15minutes of scenic.

11h00: Landing at Tuan Chau Marina, Halong Bay and then wait until 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.

12h30: Board: Welcome drinks and a quick briefing of the itinerary and safety information by our Cruise Manager.

13h00: Let the vacation begin with a lunch buffet as the boat cruises towards South East Halong Bay, passing by Chicken Rock, Finger Islet, and Frog Islet.

15h00: Arrive to Dark and Bright Lagoon and visit the area by rowboat or kayak. Kayaks can be booked in advance at reception with extra cost. Anticipate a great chance to see Cat Ba Langur, one of the rarest langurs left.

16h30: Return to main boat for swimming around the area, relaxing on sundeck or indulging yourself with spa service.

17h00: Bar opens for the Happy Hour "Buy one get one free".

17h30: Cooking demonstration with traditional Vietnamese food on the sundeck (or in the restaurant if weather does not allow).

19h00: Set menu dinner will be served in the restaurant.

21h00: Free time to be spent watching a movie in the restaurant, squid fishing at reception, or relaxing at the bar.

**Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner**

**Accommodation: Overnight at Bhaya Legend Cruise**

### **Accommodation: Bhaya Legend (4\*)**

It is amazing if you will have a chance to enjoy a private boat with privacy atmosphere for only you at cruise in Halong. Bhaya Legend Halong is your good choice, which has expanded its fleet to the total of 08 vessels to offer you more choices for dream charter cruises in Halong Bay. The Legend fleet includes 01 junk of one cabin, 02 junks of two cabins, 04 junks of three cabins, and 01 junk of four cabins. Offering luxury junks cruises fit for Imperial Royalty, each cabin can accommodate 02 passengers with comfort and relaxation. Unique routing, private boat, and personalized services also guarantee your ultimate privacy. Overnight aboard a Legend Halong include free-flow soft drinks, coffee and tea, lunch, dinner and brunch. They are perfect for individuals, couples, families and friends wishing for an exclusive, private, customized charter cruise on Halong Bay.

### **Day 12: HA LONG - HA NOI BY PRIVATE TRANSFER**

06h15: Early start for a Tai Chi demonstration on the sundeck; tea and coffee available.

07h00: Light breakfast will be served in the restaurant.

07h45: Discover Surprise Cave, one of the biggest caves in Halong Bay with beautiful stalactites and stalagmites.

09h00: Back to main boat for check out. Please put your baggage out to the corridor and settle your bill at reception.

09h30: Buffet brunch will be served in the restaurant while the boat heads back to harbor.

10h30: Disembark to Tuan Chau Marina and depart for Hanoi.

15h00: Return to Hanoi.

#### **Meal: Buffet Brunch**

**Accommodation: Overnight at Sofitel Metropole Hotel in Ha Noi**

### **Day 13: HA NOI 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 2015 - 30 Apr 2016**

Description	2 pax	3-4 pax	5-6 pax	7-8 pax	Single Supp
Deluxe packages	5,295	5,035	4,705	4,635	+3297

**Date valid: 01 May 2016 - 30 Sep 2016**

Description	2 pax	3-4 pax	5-6 pax	7-8 pax	Single Supp
Deluxe packages	5,189	4,939	4,624	4,596	+3248

**Date valid: 01 Oct 2016 - 31 Dec 2016**

Description	2 pax	3-4 pax	5-6 pax	7-8 pax	Single Supp
<b>Deluxe packages</b>	<b>5,392</b>	<b>5,127</b>	<b>4,791</b>	<b>4,755</b>	<b>+3354</b>

### **SURCHARGE FOR FLIGHT TICKET**

**Note:** Subject to be changed without prior noticed

- From Ho Chi Minh (SGN) to 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
- One way seaplane + 15 minutes scenic

### **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**

Destination	Hotel used
Ho Chi Minh	<b>PARK HYATT HOTEL</b> - Park Room ( City View) <a href="http://saigon.park.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html">http://saigon.park.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html</a>
Hoi An	<b>THE NAM HAI</b> - One bed room villa <a href="http://www.thenamhaihoian.com">www.thenamhaihoian.com</a>
Hue	<b>LA RESIDENCE HOTEL HUE</b> - Superior <a href="http://www.la-residence-hue.com">www.la-residence-hue.com</a>
Hanoi	<b>SOFITEL METROPOLE HANOI HOTEL</b> - Premium Room <a href="http://www.sofitel-legend.com">www.sofitel-legend.com</a>
Halong	<b>BHAYA LEGEND</b> -Night Charter <a href="http://www.bhayacruises.com">www.bhayacruises.com</a>

### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

- All prices are quoted in USD/ per person, based on Double/Twin occupancy
- Supplement for standard Vietnamese menu meals: US\$ 16 for lunch & US\$ 25 for dinner
- Private services & daily departure. More or less you can send us our exact order
- Quotation is quoted based on English speaking guide: Surcharge for other guide

- Supplement for German Speaking guide: USD 15/day per group
- Supplement for Spanish Speaking guide: USD 20/day per group
- Supplement for Italian Speaking guide: USD 35/day per group
- Surcharge for Compulsory dinner for Xmas and New Year Eve
- Surcharge for Peak Season at above mentioned hotels (if have)
- Surcharge for Vietnamese Lunar (TET) New Year from 6 – 14 Feb 2016 - 25% of adult prices

**FREE OFFER**

- Mineral water is available during transfers
- Vietnam visa approval letter on arrival (this fees isn't refundable even clients don't need)