

6 DAYS – THE BEAUTY OF HANOI, SAPA (DRIVING) & HA LONG

Vietnam (Hanoi – Sapa (on road driving) - Ha Long Bay– Hanoi)

1. OVERVIEW

The 6 day tour will focus on the treasures of Northern Vietnam. Spend time in Hanoi, visit Ho Chi Minh mausoleum and the tree-lined boulevards. Then travel by high-way up north to the mountainous area of Sapa being notable for cascading rice terraced fields, rolling hills, colorful ethnic minorities. The trip comes to a relaxing end on an overnight cruise in Halong bay. All promise to be a memorable journey!

2. ITINERARY IN BRIEF

DAY	ITINERARY
1	HANOI ARRIVAL
2	HANOI – HALF DAY CITY TOUR – SAPA (TRANSFER BY CAR)
3	FULL DAY LAO CHAI – TA VAN – GIANG TA CHAI
4	HALF DAY SILVER WATERFALL & HEAVEN’S GATE – TRANSFER BACK TO HANOI
5	HANOI – HALONG – UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE
6	HALONG – HANOI – DEPARTURE

3. THE TOUR

DAY 1: HANOI ARRIVAL

Arrive at Noi Bai International Airport, welcome by our guide and transfer to your hotel.

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. Welcome dinner at local restaurant

Meals: Dinner (Mam restaurant)

Accommodation: Overnight at hotel in Hanoi

DAY 2: HANOI – HALF DAY CITY TOUR – SAPA (TRANSFER BY CAR)

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. Lunch at local restaurant

Afternoon, our guide and transfer to the highland town of Sapa. Go through the highway which is one of the largest, longest and most modern in Vietnam. Reach to Sapa after 5 hour transfer, check in hotel for relaxing. Dinner at local restaurant

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (Minh Anh restaurant/Red Dao restaurant)

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

DAY 3: FULL DAY LAO CHAI – TA VAN – GIANG TA CHAI

Morning, transfer through a scenic landscape to Lao Chai village, a settlement of the Black Hmong ethnic minority people. From a vantage point on the main road, you can catch a panoramic view of the village located right in the Muong Hoa valley at one of its ends and backed by mountains. Enjoy sighting fields, streams and interact with hospitable villagers. Continue by trekking about 4 km to Ta Van village which is clusters of rural houses embraced by the wavy curves of the terraced paddy fields. Villagers here are the Giay ethnic minority people, a small group only inhabiting Northern highlands of Vietnam. Take a break and have a fine lunch in a local household.

After lunch, hike for 3 km over hills and through a bamboo forest. Stop at a waterfall to rest before entering Giang Ta Chai village, home to the Red Dao ethnic minority people. Explore the village and observe villagers in their daily life activities. You will be picked up and return to Sa Pa by car. Dinner at local restaurant

Meals: Breakfast, Picnic Lunch, Dinner (Picnic Lunch/Buffalo bell restaurant)

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

DAY 4: HALF DAY SILVER WATERFALL & HEAVEN'S GATE – TRANSFER BACK TO HANOI

A 30 minute drive takes you to Silver Waterfall (best seen in the rainy season from May to November), take a short walk to the waterfall where great views are offered of the surrounding mountains and lush forests of the Hoang Lien National Park. Along the way your guide will explain about this special part of Sa Pa, where many tree species are grown such as plum and peach trees. Continue by car 10 minutes up to Heaven's Gate, from here you can see Fansipan mountain 'the roof of Indochina' at the height of 3143 meters above sea level. Afternoon, transfer back to Hanoi city, check in hotel & relaxing

Dinner at local restaurant

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner (Nature restaurant/Buffer Sen restaurant)

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

DAY 5: HANOI – HALONG – UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

Morning, transfer to Ha Long Bay, which is about 160 km or 3.5-hour drive away. On the way, 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. Stop half way to visit a handicraft workshop of fine clothes and embroidered paintings. 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. 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. The bay cruise will continue with up close sighting of Dinh Huong Island, Ga Choi Island, Dog Island, Sail Island, a visit to Sung Sot Cave and swimming stop at Titov Beach. Relax to enjoy the bay view at sunset, have dinner after, go fishing at 09:00 PM and spend a night on board.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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

DAY 6: HALONG – HANOI – DEPARTURE

Wake up at 06:30 AM and refresh your body and mind with a Tai Chi exercise on the sundeck. Tai Chi is an ancient internal martial art often practiced in soft and gracefully slow moves to enhance internal harmony and vitality. Have tea and coffee onboard before proceeding to Titov Islet or Soi Sim Island to trek and swim.

Check out at 09:30, have a buffet brunch while cruising back to shore.

Disembark at 11:00 AM to transfer to Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi for departure

Meal: Brunch

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 & 01 Oct 2016 - 31 Dec 2016:

Description	2 pax	3-4 pax	5-6 pax	7-9 pax	Single Supp
First class -3*	777	698	537	468	133
Superior – 4*	921	843	681	612	296
Deluxe – 5*	1084	1006	844	775	447

Date: 01 May 2016 – 30 Sep 2016

Description	2 pax	3-4 pax	5-6 pax	7-9 pax	Single Supp
First class -3*	771	693	532	463	127
Superior – 4*	894	815	654	585	276
Deluxe – 5*	1018	940	778	709	381

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Accommodation in a twin or double room with daily breakfast
- Lunch or dinner as specified in the itinerary
- Services of a driver and private air-conditioned vehicle during all tours and transfers.
- 2D1N Overnight on Wooden Junk in Ha Long Bay
- Experienced English-speaking guide during all tours and transfers
- Vietnam visa approval letter on arrival as complementary (for foreigners who need visa)

- 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:

Place	First Class (3*)	Superior (4*)	Deluxe (5*)
Hanoi	Demantoid Hanoi Hotel www.demantoidhotel.com Or Similar	Sunway Hanoi Hotel www.hanoi.sunwayhotels.com Or Similar	Nikko Hanoi hotel www.hotelnikkohanoi.com.vn Or Similar
Ha Long	V'Spirit Cruise www.vspiritcruises.com Or Similar	Pelican Cruise www.pelicancruise.com Or Similar	Starlight Cruise www.orientalsails.com Or Similar
Sapa	Bamboo Sapa hotel www.bamboosapahotel.com.vn Or Similar	U Sapa hotel www.uhotelsresorts.com Or Similar	Victoria Sapa Resort www.victoriahotels.asia Or Similar

Tour Policy & Notes:

- Infant below 2 years old sharing same room with parents is free of charge.
- Child below 12 yrs old sharing same room with 1 ADL is charged for 90%.
- Child below 12 yrs old with extra bed and sharing same room with parents is charged for 65%.
- Child below 12 yrs old No extra bed & sharing same room with parents is charged for 55%
- Tipping for guide and driver (suggestion):
 - Group from 2 – 4 pax: USD 5/ pax/ day
 - Group from 5 – 9 pax: USD 4/ pax/ day
 - Group from 10 – 15 pax: USD 3/ pax/ day
 - Group above 15 pax: USD 2/ pax/ day
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Surcharge for Chinese new year:

- Surcharge for booking during Lunar New Year from **06.Feb – 12Feb 2016:**
 - US\$25/ pax/ day for FIT booking from 1-4pax
 - US\$15 / pax/ day for FIT booking from 5-9pax
 - US\$10 / pax/ day for GIT booking from 10pax up