

16 DAYS VIETNAM EXPLORER

Routing: Ha Noi - Mai Chau - Ninh Binh - Ha Long - Hue - Hoi An- Nha Trang - Da Lat - Ho Chi Minh

Tour Style: Nature, Culture & History Tour

Tour Start: in Ha Noi / **Tour End:** in Ho Chi Minh

Trip duration:: 16 Days 15 Nights

Overview

This 16-day Vietnam journey takes you from the vibrant capital of Hanoi to the peaceful mountains of Mai Chau, the stunning landscapes of Ninh Binh and Ha Long Bay, and down through the cultural treasures of Hue and Hoi An. Continue south to the beaches of Nha Trang, the cool highlands of Da Lat, and end in dynamic Ho Chi Minh City and the Mekong Delta. The tour blends culture, nature, history, and local experiences for a complete discovery of Vietnam.

Highlights

- Explore Hanoi's cultural icons and enjoy a traditional Water Puppet Show
- Experience local life in Mai Chau with an overnight in a stilt house
- Discover Ninh Binh's limestone karsts and Trang An boat trip
- Cruise through Ha Long Bay and visit Sung Sot Cave
- Travel by overnight train to the imperial city of Hue
- Visit royal tombs, the Imperial Citadel, and cruise the Perfume River
- Cross the scenic Hai Van Pass to Hoi An Ancient Town
- Join a lantern-making experience and visit handicraft villages
- Relax on the beaches and islands of Nha Trang with snorkeling activities
- Explore Da Lat's waterfalls, lakes, and landscapes
- Discover Ho Chi Minh City and the Cu Chi Tunnels
- Experience local life in the Mekong Delta with boat and village visits

Tour Summary

Day	Trip Summary
1	HA NOI CAPITAL
2	HANOI CITY TOUR[B/L]
3	HA NOI CAPITAL - MAI CHAU[B/L]
4	MAI CHAU > NINH BINH CITY[B/L]
5	NINH BINH CITY > BAI DINH PAGODA > TRANG AN > HA LONG BAY[B/L]
6	HA LONG BAY BAY- HANOI - HUE CITY (B,L) NIGHT TRAIN TO HUE
7	HUE CITY TOUR[B/L]
8	HUE – DANANG – HOI AN[B/L]
9	HOI AN ANCIENT TOWN – HANDICRAFT VILLAGE[B/L]
10	HOI AN – DANANG – NHA TRANG (B,L) BY FLIGHT[B/L]
11	NHA TRANG ISLAND[B/L]
12	NHA TRANG – DALAT[B/L]
13	DA LAT – HO CHI MINH (B,L) BY FLIGHT
14	HO CHI MINH CITY- CU CHI TUNNELS[B/L]
15	HO CHI MINH – MEKONG DELTA[B/L]

Trip Details

DAY 1: HA NOI CAPITAL

Pick up at the airport and then transfer to the hotel by private car with an English speaking guide. Free time.
Overnight at a hotel in Hanoi.

DAY 2: HANOI CITY TOUR[B/L]

Experience the rich culture of Hanoi. Spend time at the Temple of Literature, One Pillar Pagoda and the Presidential Palace. Visit the Vietnam History Museum and the Hanoi Opera House. Stroll around the Old Quarter and end the day watching a performance of a traditional Water Puppet Show. The evening is free to discover the city at your own way. Night in Hanoi

DAY 3: HA NOI CAPITAL - MAI CHAU[B/L]

Morning: 7.30 am departure to Mai Chau. On the way to Mai Chau, pay a Visit to Hang Pagoda (Ancient Cave pagoda) to enjoy peaceful scenarios and to get a better understanding of the most popular religion - Buddhism. Visiting a Muong ethnic minority village to see stilt-house and their lives. 12.30 am lunch at a restaurant.
Afternoon: 1.30 pm drive to Mai Chau. Overnight stilt house - Lac village (Mai Chau guesthouse). Go shopping around Lac Village. Walking through some White Thai villages to see people making traditional dresses and stools.
Dinner and overnight at a stilt house. (Optional – Mai Chau Hideaway) <http://www.maichauhideaway.com/>

DAY 4: MAI CHAU > NINH BINH CITY[B/L]

Am : Breakfast. Short walk to the Muong minority village. Walking through plum & peach gardens to contemplate peaceful scenery. at 12.30 am lunch at the village then transfer to Ninh Binh, Check in Hotel and overnight in Ninh Binh.

DAY 5: NINH BINH CITY > BAI DINH PAGODA > TRANG AN > HA LONG BAY[B/L]

Today, you will visit the glimmering Bai Dinh pagoda complexes, the largest pagoda, not only in Vietnam but also in Southeast Asia. Scenically set on the foot hill of Dinh Mountain surrounded by amazing views of the exquisite river valley below and the limestone karsts dotted around which will take your breath away. These pagoda complexes stunningly boast an array of the most massive and magnificent architecture of Vietnamese tradition refined ever built that it takes a full day to explore all. So you will visit some of the highlights that owned the national: 500 stone statues of “La Han” (Arhats), 2 huge bronze bells, one weighs 27 tons, other weighs 36 tones and Three bronze statues of Tam The (50 tons each) then have buffet lunch with Vietnamese Cuisines in our restaurant.

In the afternoon, you arrive at Trang An Wharf – the most exciting boating trip with sampan boats through caves and visit stunning river surrounded by Limestone Karsts with rich fauna and flora. Then reach Halong bay.
Overnight at hotel in Halong

DAY 6: HA LONG BAY- HANOI - HUE CITY (B,L) NIGHT TRAIN TO HUE

AM: breakfast then transfer to boat station, embark a day trip boat for a cruise on Halong Bay. Fresh seafood lunch is served on board while cruising among hundreds of islets to discover unspoilt pockets of Halong Bay.
The boat stops for a visit to the Halong Bay’s largest cave of Sung Sot (Amazing Cave).
After the visit,– Make a stop at Titop Island where you can enjoy a swim or climb to the top of the mountain for a panoramic view of Halong Bay and wonderful photo shoots.
Pm: Transfer back to Hanoi .Late this afternoon we caught the train to the old imperial city of Hue.
Overnight on train - soft sleeper first class. SE1 at 19h30 pm.

DAY 7: HUE CITY TOUR[B/L]

Arriving in Hue at around 9:00 a.m. Pick up and transfer to hotel to leave the luggage (Check in hotel at 14h00)
Then, the driver and guide will take you to the boat landing on the river to make a trip on Perfume river for visiting Thien Mu pagoda. Along the river on a dragon boat you will enjoy the tranquil feeling with two sides of the green banks’ river and see the daily life of local people. Have a break for lunch at a restaurant.
This afternoon you will continue to visit the mausoleums of Nguyen’s Kings like Tu Duc tomb, And Khai dinh tomb, and are back at the hotel around 5.00 pm.
Overnight at a hotel in Hue.

DAY 8: HUE – DANANG – HOI AN[B/L]

Breakfast then you will be transferred back to Hue city center to visit the Imperial Citadel where Nguyen Dynasty ruled between 1802 and 1945 with numerous of attractive places to see like Flag Tower, Noon Gate, Nine Dynastic Urns, Nine Holy Cannons, Thai Hoa Palace, and Forbidden Purple City. Thai Hoa Palace. Transfer to Hoi An . Spent time in LangCo beach enroute, taking photographs from HaiVan Pass (The pass of Sea and Cloud). Cham Museum in Danang then visit Marble Mountain and enjoy sea/sun bathing in DaNang beach. Arrive Hoian. Overnight in Hoi An.

DAY 9: HOI AN ANCIENT TOWN – HANDICRAFT VILLAGE[B/L]

In the morning, We will arrange a boat trip on the Thu Bon River to visit handicraft villages (Thanh Ha pottery village, Kim Bong carpentry village). Continue to visit Lantern village . Here you will have a brief introduction into the history, shape, and color of the lanterns, as well as the many stages of making them. You can make your own lantern and keep it as a souvenir.

Continue half day to explore Hoi An town: the Japanese Covered Bridge-the symbol of Hoian. Step back in time to discover the Chinese street with stunning PhucKien Hall and Phung Hung old house typical of Hoi An original architecture. We then visit Hoi An vibrant market and ancient port to explore the rhythm of local daily life and savor the true color, flavor and taste of the oriental. Finally, we visited Phuc Thanh Pagoda – the oldest pagoda in Hoi An built in 1454 with Chinese bronze. Drop off at the hotel.

Overnight in Hoi An.

DAY 10: HOI AN – DANANG – NHA TRANG (B,L) BY FLIGHT[B/L]

Being transferred to the airport for the flight to the Beach City of Nha Trang. Pick up and transfer to a hotel in Nha Trang. Short visit to the Po Nagar Cham Tower, LongSonpagoda . Relax and free time at the beach. Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 11: NHA TRANG ISLAND[B/L]

Start from your hotel to Cau Da port. Tri Nguyen Aquarium on Mieu Island is the first place to visit, many sea species of Nha Trang/Khanh Hoa province make a small ocean world there. Mun Island is the best island for snorkeling where you can see lots of colorful corals and fish. You will also be able to see caves in which the sea swallows make their nest. Then relaxing, swimming & doing water sports or other activities at Mot Island, Tranh Beach Island or on a small island called "Mini beach". Taking a fresh lunch at the island. On the way back you will visit a fishing village before going to the shore.

Overnight in Nha Trang

DAY 12: NHA TRANG – DALAT[B/L]

Dalat – the jewel of the Central Highlands. It is featured by a park-like environment, with lovely temperature 15°-24°C and sunlight all year round, which create numerous waterfalls, pinewood hills, lakes and evergreen forests and gardens.

Start from Nha Trang around 8.00 am. Take a new road to Dalat city, namely the city of Eternal Spring and drive over a very beautiful Khanh Le Pass. Don't forget to take a short stop for photos. Upon arrival, you will first visit Datanla waterfalls on the way, about 5 km away from Dalat city center, thenTuyen Lam Reservoir, Truc Lam grandiose Temple. Having lunch, then taking the horse cart (by your own cost) round the hilly roads of Dalat to the graceful Xuan Huong Lake in the center of the city is highly recommended.

Overnight in Dalat.

DAY 13: DA LAT – HO CHI MINH (B,L) BY FLIGHT

After breakfast, you will go on a half day tour around Dalat city. Visit the Summer Palace of Bao Dai, the last King of Vietnam, Dalat Flower Garden & Crazy House. Time is on your own to explore Dalat by yourself before transferring to Dalat airport for flight to HoChiMinh. Pick up at HoChiMinh airport and transfer to the hotel. Overnight in Ho Chi Minh.

DAY 14: HO CHI MINH CITY- CU CHI TUNNELS[B/L]

Experience the very best of Ho Chi Minh City on a half-day city tour. Soak up the history of Dong Khoi Street, home to several colonial-style buildings. Visit the Reunification Palace, also known as the Independence Palace, and the poignant War Remnants Museum. In the afternoon experience the Cu Chi Tunnels, an incredible underground network of tunnels, rooms, and passageways used by Vietnamese soldiers.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh

DAY 15: HO CHI MINH – MEKONG DELTA[B/L]

After Breakfast, transfer to Ben Tre. Pickup and drop off at Ben Tre Pier in town or Buffalo Pier (5 km from center). Boating on Ben Tre river – one of tributaries of Mekong river- go along mangrove trees growing up ashore of waterway. Witness lively

activities of town market on land and transferring on waterway as fishing boats, coconut cargo boats. Discover handmade local workshops and country in Nhon Thanh village.

Stop at traditional brickwork to see how to make bricks by hand. Turn on Cai Son canal winding through coconut jungle, visit coconut workshop, have a look stages of coconut processing from husk off, prize out to peel out by hand. Go on small waterway and stop at coconut candy workshop, have a look them making candy by hand, try some sweet, enjoy some fruits and listen to local music as well. Go on by boat and step ashore and take a shortwalk to farmer house who making sleepmats.

Hop on tuktuk through coconut grove, deeping on coconut jungle in country. Stop for lunch at local restaurant. Relax and keep going by rowing boat on shady palm tree canal.

Go back by boat and drop tour off at Buffalo pier. Tour end

Overnight in Saigon.

DAY 16: HO CHI MINH CITY – DEPARTURE[B]

Free time until transfer you to the airport for your flight out of Vietnam. End tour.

INCLUSIVE

- Accommodation in twin/double room with daily breakfast at the below indicated room types (see hotel category list below) (check-in and check-out around noontime)
- 2Days/1Night cruise on board a cruise in Ha Long Bay (double/twin cabin on shared boat).
- Services of a driver and private air-conditioned vehicle during all tours and transfers
- Experienced English-speaking guide during day tour.
- Entrance fees for all visits as mentioned in the itinerary
- Meals (B/L/D) (Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner) as indicated in the program
- 02 Domestic Flight - as per program . Vietnam Airlines, economic Class: Danang - Nha Trang, Da Lat - Ho Chi
- Night train tickets: Hanoi- Hue/Soft sleeper – 4 berths of shared cabin (on shared train).
- Boat Trip at sights mentioned
- 01 bottles of mineral water per person per day on days of sightseeing .

EXCLUSIVE

- Early check-in or late check-out
- International flight tickets
- Meals (other than mentioned in the program)
- Additional transfer required due to any emergency situation
- Visa - as per country requirements
- Offering tips and expressing gratitude for guides and drivers is recommended at a rate of 5 USD /client /day for guides and 2 USD per client /day for drivers. Feel free to adjust the amount based on your satisfaction with their services.
- Travel insurance (we highly recommend that you purchase adequate insurance)
- Optional excursions and activities

LIST OF HOTELS USE

City	Hotel Class 3*	Hotel Class 4*	Hotel Class 5*
HA NOI	LA DOLCE VITA HOTEL SUPERIOR www.ladolcevita-hotel.com	THANG LONG OPERA Superior www.thanglongoperahotel.com	APRICOT HANOI HOTEL CANVAS http://www.apricothotels.com
MAI CHAU	MAI CHAU HIDEAWAY LAKE RESORT SUPERIOR www.maichauhideaway.com		
NINH BINH	LALITA BOUTIQUE HOTEL & SPA NINH BINH	NINH BINH LEGEND HOTEL Superior	EMERALDA RESORT TAM COC Deluxe

	Deluxe https://lalitahotel.com/	http://ninhbinhlegendhotel.com	www.emeraldaresort.com
HA LONG	D'LECIA HOTEL Deluxe http://dleciahotel.com/	NOVOTEL HALONG BAY Standard novotelhalongbay.com	WYNDHAM LEGEND HALONG HOTEL Superior Premie https://www.wyndhamhalong.com
HUE	ROSALEEN BOUTIQUE HOTEL Deluxe http://www.rosaleenhotel.com/	ELDORA HUE HOTEL Deluxe City View www.eldorahotel.com	SILK PATH GRAND HUE HOTEL CLASSIC http://www.silkpathhotel.com
HOI AN	LA CHARM HOI AN HOTEL & SPA Deluxe Double/Twin Old Town View https://lacharmhoianhotel.com/	WYNDHAM GARDEN HOI AN DELUXE QUEEN GARDEN-CITY VIEW www.wyndhamgardenhoian.com	BLISS HOI AN BEACH RESORT & WELLNESS Deluxe www.Blisshoian.com
NHA TRANG	IMPERIAL NHA TRANG HOTEL SUPERIOR WINDOW imperialnhatranghotel.com	LIBERTY CENTRAL NHA TRANG Deluxe http://www.odysseahotels.com	THE ANAM CAM RANH Deluxe Room www.theanam.com
DA LAT	LA SAPINETTE HOTEL DA LAT Deluxe https://lasapinette.com/	TTC DA LAT Deluxe city view https://ttchospitality.vn/ttc-hotel/ttc-hotel-da-l	DALAT PALACE HERITAGE HOTEL Superior http://www.dalatpalacehotel.com
HO CHI MINH	ACNOS GRAND HOTEL Grand Deluxe http://acnoshotel.com/	HAPPY LIFE GRAND HOTEL & SKY BAR Lessini Premier (with window) www.happylifeenterprise.com	REX HOTEL Deluxe Room - East Wing www.rexhotelvietnam.com