

7 Days Vietnam Essential Tour

Trip overview

Discover the captivating essence of Vietnam on this **7-day essential private tour**, a perfectly curated journey that bridges the soulful north and the dynamic south. Designed for travelers who want to witness the country's most iconic landmarks without feeling rushed, this itinerary offers a deep dive into the heritage, landscapes, and flavors of this S-shaped land.

Your adventure begins in **Hanoi**, a thousand-year-old city where French-colonial architecture meets bustling ancient guilds. From there, you will sail into the mystical emerald waters of **Halong Bay** for an unforgettable overnight cruise among limestone karsts. Finally, fly south to **Ho Chi Minh City** (Saigon) to explore its poignant history and the lush, winding waterways of the **Mekong Delta**. Every moment is supported by private transfers and expert local guides, ensuring an authentic and seamless experience.

- **Durations:** 7 Days
- **Destinations:** Hanoi - Halong Bay - Ho Chi Minh City - Mekong Delta
- **Tour inquiry:** <https://asiachinatour.com/7-days-vietnam-essential-tour/>

Itinerary

Day 1: Hanoi Arrival

Welcome to the captivating capital of Vietnam! Upon your arrival at **Noi Bai International Airport (HAN)**, your professional tour guide and driver will be waiting for you at the arrival hall with a personalized pickup board. You will then be transferred to your hotel in the heart of the city in a private, air-conditioned vehicle.

The rest of the day is yours to relax after your flight or begin your exploration of **Hanoi**. You might choose to take a gentle stroll around the iconic **Hoan Kiem Lake** or wander through the labyrinthine streets of the **Old Quarter**, where the scents of street food and the energy of local life provide a perfect introduction to Vietnamese culture.

Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

Meals: /

Professional Advice:

To ensure a smooth start to your journey, we recommend having your e-visa printout ready for immigration. Once you arrive at your hotel, the Old Quarter is best explored on foot; however, be mindful of the bustling motorbike traffic—the secret to crossing the street in Hanoi is to walk at a slow, steady pace so drivers can predict your movement. For your first meal, don't miss out on a world-famous "Bun Cha" or a bowl of "Pho" at a local eatery to truly welcome yourself to Hanoi.

Day 2: Hanoi - A Journey Through History and Culture

After breakfast, your guide and driver will meet you to begin a comprehensive exploration of Hanoi's most iconic landmarks. Your morning starts at the serene **Tran Quoc Pagoda**, the oldest Buddhist temple in Hanoi, perched on a small peninsula of the **West Lake**. Its striking red stupas and intricate Buddhist symbolism offer a peaceful introduction to the city's spiritual heritage.

Next, you will visit the **Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum Complex**, a site of deep national significance. You will see the grand mausoleum (from the outside) and walk through the tranquil gardens to reach **Ho Chi Minh's Stilt House**, where the late President lived and worked. Nearby, you will admire the **One Pillar Pagoda**, a unique 11th-century structure designed to resemble a lotus blossom rising from the water, symbolizing purity. Your morning concludes at the **Temple of Literature**, a stunning example of traditional Vietnamese architecture and the site of the country's first national university.

In the afternoon, you can tailor your experience by choosing between the **Museum of History**, showcasing Vietnam's ancient origins, or the **Museum of Ethnology**, which offers fascinating insights into the 54 ethnic groups of Vietnam. To end the day, enjoy a scenic view of **Hoan Kiem Lake** and the Ngoc Son Temple, followed by an authentic **cyclo tour** through the 36 bustling streets of the **Old Quarter**. This traditional rickshaw ride is the perfect way to witness the vibrant trade and historic charm of Hanoi.

Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Professional Advice:

When visiting the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and religious sites, please ensure your attire covers your shoulders and knees as a sign of respect. The Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum is typically closed on Mondays and Fridays, as well as during the autumn months for maintenance; during these times, you will view the exterior and the surrounding grounds. On your cyclo tour, keep your camera strap around your neck for safety while capturing the fast-paced street life. If you choose the Ethnology Museum, be sure to explore the outdoor area where full-scale traditional houses have been reconstructed.

Day 3: Hanoi to Halong Bay - Overnight Cruise Adventure

This morning, you will leave the capital behind for a scenic drive through the Red River Delta toward the Gulf of Tonkin. Upon arrival at the harbor, you will be warmly welcomed aboard your **Halong Bay cruise** vessel. After a safety briefing and check-in to your comfortable private cabin, enjoy a delicious lunch as the ship begins its journey into the heart of this **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

In the afternoon, you will discover the "Bay of the Descending Dragon." The cruise will navigate through thousands of limestone karsts and islets, stopping to explore **fascinating caves** adorned with ancient stalactites and stalagmites. You'll have the chance to visit **picturesque floating villages** or relax on a pristine sandy beach. Depending on your cruise itinerary, you can participate in **kayaking** through hidden lagoons, swimming in the emerald waters, or joining a **traditional cooking class** on the sundeck to learn the art of making Vietnamese spring rolls. As evening falls, enjoy a gourmet dinner on board under the starlit sky.

Accommodation: Overnight on Halong Bay Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Professional Advice:

Pack a small "overnight bag" for the cruise so you can leave your heavy luggage securely stored with the driver or at the hotel in Hanoi. While on the water, the sun can be quite strong even on cloudy days, so high-SPF sunscreen and a hat are essential. If you are interested in photography, the "Blue Hour" just after sunset offers the most magical light for capturing the silhouettes of the karsts. Most cruises also offer early morning Tai Chi on the deck—it is a truly serene way to wake up to the beauty of the bay.

Day 4: Halong Bay Sunrise & Fly to Ho Chi Minh City

Wake up to the gentle lapping of waves against the hull. In the early morning, you are invited to the sundeck to learn the ancient art of **Tai Chi** as the sun rises over the limestone pillars—a truly meditative way to start your day. The cruise continues its journey through the labyrinth of islets, offering a final chance to capture the breathtaking scenery of the bay before enjoying a brunch on board.

You will disembark at the harbor around noon and transfer back to Hanoi's Noi Bai Airport for your flight to **Ho Chi Minh City** (formerly Saigon). Upon arrival at Tan Son Nhat International Airport, you will be met by your local guide and driver and transferred to your hotel. The transition from the colonial charm of Hanoi to the high-energy, modern pulse of Saigon marks an exciting new chapter in your Vietnamese adventure.

Accommodation: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City

Meals: Breakfast (or Brunch)

Professional Advice:

*The flight from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City takes approximately 2 hours. Since Saigon is generally warmer and more humid than Hanoi, we recommend having lighter clothing easily accessible in your carry-on. If you have any free time in the evening, the area around **Nguyen Hue Walking Street** is a fantastic place to witness the city's vibrant nightlife and see the beautifully illuminated City Hall.*

Day 5: Cu Chi Tunnels & Ho Chi Minh City Landmarks

After breakfast, you will travel out of the city to visit the legendary **Cu Chi Tunnels**, an immense underground network that played a pivotal role during the Vietnam War. You will gain a profound understanding of the resilience and ingenuity of the guerrillas as you explore the surviving tunnel systems. Walk through specially constructed living areas including underground kitchens and bedrooms, and see the command centers that allowed thousands of people to live and operate

beneath the earth during times of conflict.

In the afternoon, you will return to Ho Chi Minh City to explore its rich history and French colonial charm. The tour includes a visit to the **War Remnants Museum**, which offers a poignant look at the country's past, and the **Reunification Palace**, a beautifully preserved landmark that served as the home and workplace of the President of South Vietnam. You will also admire the architectural elegance of the **Old Saigon Post Office** and the bustling energy of **Dong Khoi Street**. Finally, dive into the vibrant atmosphere of **Ben Thanh Market**, the city's most famous landmark for local crafts and street food.

Accommodation: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Professional Advice:

When visiting the Cu Chi Tunnels, wear comfortable clothing and sturdy walking shoes, as the forest floor can be uneven. For those who feel claustrophobic, there are plenty of open-air exhibits and enlarged tunnel entrances to explore without going deep underground. At Ben Thanh Market, remember that bargaining is part of the local culture—start at about half the quoted price for a friendly negotiation. While visiting the War Remnants Museum, please be aware that some exhibits are quite intense and graphic; it is best to move at your own pace through the galleries.

Day 6: Mekong Delta - Rivers, Orchards & Island Life

After breakfast at your hotel, you will leave the high-energy streets of Saigon behind for a full-day excursion to the **Mekong Delta**, the "Rice Bowl of Vietnam." Upon arriving at **My Tho**, you will first visit the beautiful **Vinh Trang Pagoda**, a unique architectural gem that blends Vietnamese, Chinese, and Angkorian styles.

Next, you will board a private boat to navigate the Mekong River. As you glide along the water, you will witness the fascinating river life of the Delta, passing traditional **stilt houses** and colorful **fishing villages** nestled along the banks. Your journey continues to **Tortoise Islet**, where you will enjoy an authentic local lunch served in a lush **orchard garden**, surrounded by tropical fruit trees.

In the afternoon, you will take a smaller boat to **An Khanh**, a tranquil area famous for its fruit orchards and traditional cottage industries. Here, you can walk through the gardens and learn the art of making **coconut sweets**, a local specialty. After a day of exploring the winding waterways and serene landscapes of the Delta, you will be transferred back to Ho Chi Minh City for your final evening.

Accommodation: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Professional Advice:

The Mekong Delta is tropical and humid, so we recommend wearing breathable cotton clothing and bringing plenty of insect repellent for the orchard walks. While on the small sampan boats through the narrow canals, keep your hands inside the boat as the passages can be tight. This is the best place to purchase authentic coconut-based products and local honey; if you're feeling adventurous, be sure to try the "Elephant Ear Fish," a famous regional delicacy served during lunch.

Day 7: Ho Chi Minh City Departure

Savor your final Vietnamese breakfast at the hotel and take a moment to reflect on a week of incredible memories.

Depending on your flight schedule, you may have some **last-minute leisure time** to explore the local boutiques or enjoy one final cup of traditional Vietnamese iced coffee (Ca Phe Sua Da) at a sidewalk café. At the designated time, your private driver will meet you at the hotel lobby and provide a smooth transfer to **Tan Son Nhat International Airport (SGN)** for your onward flight.

As you prepare to depart, you'll carry with you the vibrant colors, rich history, and the warm hospitality of the S-shaped land. We wish you a safe and pleasant journey to your next destination!

Accommodation: /

Meals: Breakfast

Professional Advice:

Ho Chi Minh City traffic can be quite dense, especially during morning and afternoon rush hours. To ensure a stress-free departure, we recommend leaving for the airport at least 3 hours before your international flight. Before checking out, please ensure you have all your travel documents, souvenirs, and electronic devices. If you have some extra Vietnamese Dong remaining, the airport shops are a great place to pick up premium coffee beans or lotus seeds as a last-minute gift.

Booking Policy

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation by Customer

- Cancellation received before 60 days: FREE of charge
- Cancellation received from 30 days to 59 days prior arrival date: 20% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 15 days to 29 days prior arrival date: 40% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 7 days to 14 days prior arrival date: 70% of total rate
- Cancellation received less than 7 days prior arrival date or No show: 100% of total rate

Children Policy

The rate for children applicable for one child sharing a twin or double cabin with two adults.

- For infant (<04 years old): Free of Charge
 - 04 - 11 years old without bed: 50% adult rate
 - 04 - 11 years old with extra bed: 75% adult rate
 - Above 11 years old with extra bed: 100% adult rate
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