

9 Days Classic Vietnam Tour

Trip overview

Unveil the diverse beauty of Vietnam on our **9-day Classic Highlights Tour**, a comprehensive journey designed to showcase the country's most beloved destinations at a perfect pace. This itinerary bridges the gap between the colonial elegance of the North, the historical treasures of the Center, and the tropical vibrance of the South, including an immersive escape to the lush Mekong Delta.

- **Durations:** 9 Days
- **Destinations:** Hanoi - Halong Bay - Hue - Hoi An - Ho Chi Minh City
- **Tour inquiry:** <https://asiachinatour.com/9-days-vietnam-classic-tour/>

Itinerary

Day 1: Hanoi Arrival & Welcome

Welcome to Vietnam! Upon your arrival at Noi Bai International Airport (HAN), your private guide and driver will be waiting to warmly welcome you at the arrival hall. Enjoy a seamless transfer to your downtown hotel for check-in. The rest of the day is yours to relax and recover from your flight, or perhaps take your first stroll through the charming streets of the Old Quarter to soak in Hanoi's vibrant atmosphere.

Accommodation: Selected Hotel in Hanoi

Meals: On your own

Travel Expert's Tips:

To ensure a smooth start, we recommend exchanging a small amount of local currency (VND) at the airport for immediate expenses like snacks or tips. If you're eager to explore, the Old Quarter is a sensory delight best discovered on foot—just remember to walk at a steady, slow pace when crossing the street so motorbikes can easily flow around you. Don't miss out on your first authentic bowl of Pho or a legendary Egg Coffee by Hoan Kiem Lake!

Day 2: Hanoi City Highlights – Heritage & Traditions

In the morning, your guide and driver will meet you at your hotel to begin your exploration of Hanoi's storied past. Your first stop is the serene **Tran Quoc Pagoda**, the city's oldest Buddhist temple, perched elegantly on the shores of West Lake. Next, visit the **Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum Complex**, the final resting place of the beloved President Ho Chi Minh. Explore his modest stilt house and the iconic **One Pillar Pagoda**, a unique 11th-century structure designed to resemble a lotus blossom rising from the water. Your morning journey concludes at the **Temple of Literature**, a stunning architectural complex that served as Vietnam's first national university.

In the afternoon, customize your experience with a visit to either the **National Museum of History** or the **Vietnam Museum of Ethnology**. Afterward, enjoy a peaceful stroll by the legendary **Hoan Kiem Lake** before hopping on a **traditional cyclo** for an immersive tour through the labyrinthine streets of the **Old Quarter**, where ancient trade traditions still thrive today.

Accommodation: Selected Hotel in Hanoi

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Travel Expert's Tips:

When visiting sacred sites like the Mausoleum and Pagodas, please ensure your shoulders and knees are covered as a sign of respect. The afternoon cyclo tour is a fantastic way to capture photos of the city's "organized chaos," but do keep a firm grip on your camera or phone. If you have a choice for the museum, we highly recommend the Ethnology Museum for families or those interested in the colorful diversity of Vietnam's 54 ethnic hill tribes.

Day 3: Hanoi – Halong Bay – Overnight Cruise

After breakfast, depart Hanoi for a scenic drive to the legendary **Halong Bay**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Upon arrival at the harbor, you will be warmly welcomed aboard your cruise vessel. After a safety briefing, check into your private cabin and begin your journey through this aquatic wonderland.

As you enjoy lunch on deck, the ship will glide past thousands of towering limestone karsts. In the afternoon, explore the "Bay of the Descending Dragon" with its hidden treasures: visit magnificent caves filled with stalactites, relax on pristine beaches, or see the unique way of life in picturesque floating villages. You can also tailor your adventure with optional activities like **kayaking** through sea caves, **swimming** in the emerald waters, or participating in a **traditional cooking class** on the sundeck as evening falls.

Accommodation: Overnight on Cruise in Halong Bay

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Travel Expert's Tips:

We suggest packing a small overnight bag with essentials like swimwear, sunscreen, and a light jacket for the bay's evening breeze, leaving your larger luggage at the hotel or securely in the cruise's storage. While most cruises offer Wi-Fi, the signal can be weak between the limestone peaks—take this chance to 'unplug' and fully enjoy the majestic sunset. If you're early to rise, don't miss the Tai Chi session on the sundeck the following morning!

Day 4: Halong Bay – Hanoi – Fly to Hue

Start your day with a peaceful **Tai Chi** session on the sundeck as the sun rises over the limestone peaks—a perfect way to harmonize with the bay's natural beauty. Enjoy a light breakfast and continue cruising through the stunning karst landscape until you disembark at the pier around noon. After a final brunch or lunch on board, your driver will transfer you back to Hanoi's Noi Bai Airport for your flight to **Hue**, the former imperial capital of Vietnam.

Upon arrival at Phu Bai Airport, your local guide and driver will be waiting to escort you to your hotel. As you enter this historic city, you'll immediately feel its poetic and regal atmosphere, set along the banks of the iconic Perfume River.

Accommodation: Selected Hotel in Hue

Meals: Breakfast & Brunch/Lunch

Travel Expert's Tips:

Hue is the culinary capital of Vietnam, famous for its "Royal Cuisine" and sophisticated flavors. For your first evening, we highly recommend trying the local specialty "Bun Bo Hue" (spicy beef noodle soup) or taking a relaxing walk along the Perfume River to see the Truong Tien Bridge illuminated in changing colors. It's a much quieter and more rhythmic city compared to Hanoi, perfect for a peaceful evening stroll.

Day 5: Hue Imperial Heritage & Traditional Villages

Today, step back in time to explore the majestic **Imperial Citadel**, a sprawling UNESCO-protected complex that served as the home of Vietnam's last royal family. Wander through its ornate gates and ancient pavilions before visiting the magnificent **Tomb of King Minh Mang**, renowned for its grand architecture and harmonious balance with nature. Your spiritual journey continues at the **Thien Mu Pagoda**, the city's unofficial symbol, perched on a hill overlooking the river.

In the afternoon, delve into local traditions with visits to a **Conical Hat Village** and an **Incense Making Village**, where you can witness artisans crafting these quintessential Vietnamese items by hand. Your day concludes with a serene **dragon boat cruise on the Huong River** (Perfume River), allowing you to soak in the poetic sunset views of this ancient capital.

Accommodation: Selected Hotel in Hue

Meals: Breakfast

Travel Expert's Tips:

The Imperial Citadel involves a fair amount of walking on stone paths, so comfortable shoes are a must. For the best photos, the Incense Making Village offers a stunning sea of colorful incense sticks—don't be shy to ask the locals if you can try your hand at bunching them! As the sun sets during your river cruise, the breeze can get a bit cool, so bringing a light pashmina or cardigan is a good idea.

Day 6: My Son Sanctuary & Hoi An Ancient Town Discovery

In the morning, journey to the lush valley of **My Son Sanctuary**, a UNESCO World Heritage site that served as the spiritual heart of the ancient Champa Kingdom. Wander through the atmospheric red-brick ruins and towering temples surrounded by jungle, offering serene views and deep historical insights.

In the afternoon, return to the enchanting **Hoi An Ancient Town**. Explore its signature landmarks on foot, including the iconic **Japanese Covered Bridge**, the ornate **Chinese Assembly Halls**, and the vibrant local market. Your exploration continues with a peaceful **boat trip on the Thu Bon River**. Visit **Cam Kim Island** to meet families of skilled woodworkers and boat-builders, and stop at **Thanh Ha Pottery Village** to see artisans crafting ceramics with techniques passed down through generations. At the end of the day, transfer back to your hotel to enjoy the evening at your leisure.

Accommodation: Selected Hotel in Hoi An

Meals: Breakfast

Travel Expert's Tips:

To avoid the heat and crowds, My Son is best explored early in the day—don't forget your sunscreen and a hat. Hoi An is the tailoring capital of the world; if you're looking to have a custom suit or dress made, we recommend visiting a tailor shop as soon as you arrive in town to allow time for fittings. In the evening, the town is transformed by thousands of colorful silk lanterns, creating a magical atmosphere perfect for a riverside walk or a local dinner.

Day 7: Hoi An – Danang – Fly to Ho Chi Minh City

In the morning, enjoy a final breakfast in the peaceful surroundings of Hoi An before your private transfer to Danang Airport for your flight to **Ho Chi Minh City**. Formerly known as Saigon, this vibrant metropolis is the economic heart of Vietnam, where sleek skyscrapers stand in striking contrast to French colonial landmarks and traditional street markets.

Upon arrival at Tan Son Nhat International Airport (SGN), your local guide and driver will be waiting to provide a smooth transfer to your downtown hotel. After checking in, the rest of the day is yours to begin exploring the energy, history, and culinary delights of this dynamic city at your own pace.

Accommodation: Selected Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City

Meals: Breakfast

Travel Expert's Tips:

Ho Chi Minh City is a paradise for coffee culture and street food. For your first evening, we suggest heading to a rooftop bar to enjoy a panoramic view of the city's sparkling skyline as the sun sets. If you're feeling adventurous, a "Motorbike Night Food Tour" is the most authentic and thrilling way to discover hidden culinary gems that only locals know about. Just remember, when crossing the street, keep a steady pace and let the river of motorbikes flow around you!

Day 8: Cu Chi Tunnels & Saigon City Highlights

In the morning, travel through the countryside to the legendary **Cu Chi Tunnels**, an immense underground labyrinth that served as a strategic base during the Vietnam War. You will have the unique opportunity to explore this sophisticated network, featuring concealed trapdoors, living quarters, makeshift kitchens, and command centers that allowed thousands of people to live and operate entirely underground.

In the afternoon, return to the city center to delve into its complex history and colonial charm. Visit the **War Remnants Museum** for a poignant look at Vietnam's past, followed by the **Reunification**

Palace, the site where the war officially ended. You will also admire the French colonial elegance of the **Old Saigon Post Office** and take a stroll down **Dong Khoi Street**, the city's most fashionable boulevard. Finally, immerse yourself in the bustling energy of **Ben Thanh Market**, the perfect place to test your bargaining skills for local souvenirs.

Accommodation: Selected Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Travel Expert's Tips:

The Cu Chi Tunnels can be quite narrow and humid, so we recommend wearing lightweight clothing and comfortable sneakers. At the War Remnants Museum, some of the photography exhibits are very emotionally intense—feel free to take a break in the courtyard if needed. When shopping at Ben Thanh Market, remember that the first price quoted is often higher than expected; a friendly smile and a bit of lighthearted haggling are all part of the local culture!

Day 9: Ho Chi Minh City Departure

Savor your final breakfast in the vibrant heart of Saigon and take the morning to enjoy some last-minute sightseeing or pick up those final souvenirs. At the appointed time, your private driver will meet you at your hotel for a comfortable transfer to **Tan Son Nhat International Airport (SGN)** for your onward flight. Your 9-day classic journey from the ancient temples of the North to the dynamic energy of the South concludes here, leaving you with a lifetime of memories.

Accommodation: On your own

Meals: Breakfast

Travel Expert's Tips:

To ensure a smooth and stress-free departure, we typically arrange your airport transfer 3 to 4 hours before your international flight, as Saigon's traffic can be quite unpredictable during peak hours. Be sure to double-check your hotel safe for passports and valuables before checking out. If you have some extra time at the airport, it's a great place to pick up some premium Vietnamese coffee beans as a fragrant reminder of your incredible adventure!

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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