

Highlights of Vietnam 12 Days

Trip overview

Prepare for a 12-day trip to Vietnam with must-see wonders and hidden jewels from the North to the South!

You are given the opportunity to visit the mysterious limestone islands of Ha Long Bay by boat, explore the underground labyrinths of the Cu Chi Tunnels, and admire the breathtaking historic town of Hoi An on foot. It is a pleasure for every small group to enjoy delectable regional cuisine and become immersed in an engaging culture that is full of fascinating traditions that you will remember long after you leave. Adventure and unforgettable experiences are guaranteed on this highlighted Vietnam tour!

- **Durations:** 12 Days
- **Destinations:** Hanoi - Halong Bay - Hue - Hoi An - Ho Chi Minh City - Cu Chi Tunnels - Mekong Delta
- **Price from:** ~~\$1021~~ **\$868** /Pax
- **Tour inquiry:** <https://asiachinatour.com/highlights-of-vietnam/>

Itinerary

Day 1: Hanoi Arrival

Once you arrive in Hanoi, our tour guide will pick you up at Pole No.10 outside the Terminal and then transfer you to your hotel. 14:00 is the check-in time at the hotel. If you want to order the early check-in, there will be a surcharge fee.

Optional

Since the rest of this day is free for leisure, you might take sleep to recover, explore the city, or consider taking part in one of our suggested activities below:

- [Water Puppet Performance](#): Watch the interesting traditional water puppet show which will tell you some Vietnamese fairy tales or historical stories.

- [Vietnamese Cooking Class](#): Explore the Vietnamese cuisine world in Hanoi by joining a cooking class and learning how to cook some tasty traditional foods.
- [Food Tours](#): Taste the typical street flavors around the capital.

Meals: NA

Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

Activities: Resting; Having short tours.

Day 2: Half-day Hanoi City Tour

Even a single morning or afternoon is enough to sweep you away into the intoxicating rhythm of Vietnam's capital. This meticulously curated half-day exploration bridges the gap between Hanoi's grand, tree-lined French boulevards and the buzzing, subterranean energy of its ancient trading quarters. Begin with a tranquil lakeside stroll around the emerald waters of Hoan Kiem Lake, crossing the iconic scarlet bridge to uncover legends of ancient emperors and sacred turtles. From there, settle into a traditional cyclo (three-wheeled bicycle rickshaw) to weave through the chaotic charm of the Old Quarter's 36 Streets, where families have practiced the exact same artisanal trades for over half a millennium.

Your journey balances this vibrant street life with moments of quiet grandeur, leading you past the historic Ba Dinh Square, Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, and the striking 11th-century One Pillar Pagoda—a marvel of classic wooden architecture rising from a single stone pillar. To conclude, your guide will lead you away from the traffic into a hidden, courtyard cafe tucked inside a vintage French-colonial building, where you will savor an authentic Hanoi egg coffee, enjoying its rich, custard-like sweetness just as the locals do.

Day 3: Hanoi - Halong Bay

Leave the energetic hum of Hanoi behind this morning as you journey through the verdant delta plains of the Red River toward the Gulf of Tonkin. Your destination is Halong Bay—a breathtaking UNESCO World Heritage site and a landscape of pure fantasy. Upon arrival at the harbor, step away from the bustling piers and slide smoothly onto a beautifully appointed, traditional wooden junk or a sleek modern cruiser. As the vessel sets sail, a magnificent panorama unfolds: thousands of towering limestone karsts, sheer cliffs, and forested islets rising dramatically out of the calm, emerald waters.

Savor a sumptuous fresh seafood lunch on deck as you navigate deep into the heart of the bay. The afternoon offers a perfect blend of leisure and discovery. You will drop anchor to explore spectacular, hidden grottoes like Sung Sot (Surprise Cave), where vast cavern chambers are illuminated by dramatic geological formations. Later, slip into a kayak or board a traditional bamboo rowing boat to glide through low-hanging sea arches into quiet, emerald lagoons completely cut off from the outside world. Conclude your day on the sundeck, watching the sun dip below the jagged limestone horizon as the bay settles into a mystical evening calm.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 4: Halong Bay - Hanoi

Awaken to a magical morning as the first light of dawn breaks over the mist-shrouded karsts of Halong Bay. For those wishing to greet the day, join a peaceful Tai Chi session on the open sundeck, drawing energy from the quietest hour on the water. Following a light breakfast, your vessel continues its graceful navigation through the labyrinth of limestone giants, offering a final opportunity to capture the surreal beauty of the archipelago from the upper deck.

Enjoy a fulfilling brunch on board as the boat charts a course back toward the mainland harbor. Upon disembarking in the late morning, your private driver will be waiting to welcome you back ashore. Settle into your comfortable, air-conditioned vehicle for a smooth journey inland via the modern express highway. As the rural coastal villages gradually give way to the bustling energy of the city, arrive back in Hanoi by mid-afternoon, checking back into your hotel with the tranquil spirit of the bay still fresh in your mind.

Meals: Breakfast or Brunch

Day 5: Flight to Da Nang - Hoi An

Bid farewell to Hanoi this morning as your private driver transfers you to the airport for a short, scenic flight south to Da Nang. As you descend, watch the dramatic rugged coastline and the sparkling East Sea rise up to meet you. Upon arrival in Da Nang, your dedicated southern guide and driver will welcome you at the arrivals gate, whisking you away on a beautiful coastal drive past the Marble Mountains straight to the UNESCO World Heritage town of Hoi An.

Check into your boutique resort and step directly into a living museum. The afternoon is yours to wander through Hoi An's remarkably preserved ancient quarter, where 15th-century Japanese covered bridges, grand Chinese assembly halls, and mustard-yellow French colonial shophouses stand side-by-side. As evening falls, witness the town's magical transformation as motorized traffic is cleared from the streets and thousands of hand-crafted silk lanterns illuminate the historic riverfront in a soft, timeless glow.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 6: Half-day Hoi An Ancient Town

Spend a magical morning or afternoon uncovering the nostalgic charm of Hoi An Ancient Town, an exceptionally well-preserved 15th-century trading port. As you walk through the car-free historic core, admire the striking mustard-yellow shophouses, terracotta-tiled roofs, and vibrant bougainvillea draping over old wooden doorways. Your guided walking tour reveals a seamless fusion of indigenous, Chinese, Japanese, and European architectural influences.

Explore the beautifully restored Fujian Assembly Hall, known for its ornate sea-goddess altars, and stroll past the grand multi-generational merchant homes like Old House of Tan Ky. A major highlight is crossing the iconic **Japanese Covered Bridge** (Chùa Cầu), an architectural treasure that has guarded the canal for over four centuries. Conclude your tour with a relaxed stop at a boutique tea house to sample local treats, or time your afternoon walk to see the town light up with thousands of glowing silk lanterns as dusk approaches.

Day 7: Hoi An - Hue Road Transfer

Trade the ancient streets of Hoi An for the imperial grand vistas of Hue on a spectacular overland journey across Central Vietnam's shifting landscapes. This is far more than a simple point-to-point transfer; it is one of the most scenic coastal drives in all of Asia. Leaving the lowlands, your private vehicle will smoothly ascend the legendary **Hai Van Pass** ("Ocean Cloud Pass"). Wind through dramatic mountain roads where sheer emerald peaks drop straight into the crashing waves of the East Sea below, stopping at the misty crest to explore historic brick watchtowers and capture breathtaking panoramic photos of the crescent-shaped coastline.

Descending the mountain pass, pause along the serene shores of Lang Co Bay, a tranquil fishing village famous for its turquoise lagoons and white-sand beaches. Enjoy a relaxed lunch or a fresh coconut overlooking the water before continuing inland. As the rugged coast softens into rolling hills and tranquil riverbanks, you will cross the old provincial borders and enter the imperial capital of Hue by mid-afternoon, checking into your hotel ready to uncover the monumental remnants of the Nguyen Dynasty.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 8: Half-day Hue City Tour

Spend a captivating morning or afternoon stepping into the grand, poetic past of the Nguyen Dynasty, Vietnam's last imperial ruling house. Your exploration begins behind the massive brick ramparts and moat of the UNESCO-listed **Imperial Citadel**. Walk through the monumental Noon Gate into the Forbidden Purple City, exploring beautifully restored throne halls, ornate ancestral temples, and quiet courtyards that once housed the royal court, all while your guide uncovers stories of grand court intrigues and imperial rituals.

Next, leave the fortress walls behind to cruise along the serene Perfume River to the iconic **Thien Mu Pagoda**. Rising seven tiers above the riverbank, this historic landmark stands as an enduring symbol of Hue's deep spiritual heritage. Conclude your half-day journey winding through the fragrant alleys of a traditional incense-making village, where colorful bundles of bamboo sticks are laid out like blossoming flowers, or opt to visit the grand, symmetric tomb of Emperor Minh Mang, nestled harmoniously within manicured pine forests and lotus-filled lakes.

Day 9: Flight to Ho Chi Minh City

Board your flight to Tan Son Nhat International Airport (SGN), the bustling primary gateway to Southern Vietnam. As your aircraft descends over the winding Saigon River, watch the sprawling cityscape reveal its iconic mix of sleek modern skyscrapers and historic colonial blocks.

Upon clearing immigration and retrieving your luggage, pass into the arrival hall where your private driver will be waiting to greet you. Lean back in the air-conditioned comfort of your private vehicle as you are whisked directly to your downtown hotel, receiving a sensory introduction to the city's legendary, vibrant energy and flowing streams of motorbikes along the way. Settlement, check-in, and the rest of your evening is yours to relax or catch your first glimpse of the illuminated city skyline.

Day 10: Cu Chi Tunnels and Ho Chi Minh City Exploration

Journey underground and through the centuries in a single, high-contrast day that charts the dramatic transformation of Saigon. Your morning begins with a drive through rural landscapes to the historic **Cu Chi Tunnels**, an immense, 250-kilometer underground labyrinth that served as a subterranean city during the war. Walk through the shaded jungle canopy as your expert guide uncovers hidden trapdoors, ingeniously disguised ventilation shafts, and secret living quarters. For a true sense of history, step down inside the fortified tunnels to experience firsthand the remarkable resilience and engineering mastery of those who lived beneath the earth.

Returning to the city for lunch, transition into the architectural and cultural heartbeat of modern Ho Chi Minh City. Spend your afternoon admiring the striking French-colonial facades that frame the downtown core, from the elegant brickwork of **Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica** to the magnificent arched ceilings of the historic **Saigon Central Post Office**, designed by Gustave Eiffel's studio. Conclude your urban exploration at the **War Remnants Museum**, an essential, deeply moving repository of modern history, before exploring the lively, labyrinthine stalls of **Ben Thanh Market** to watch the city's timeless mercantile spirit in action.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 11: Mekong Delta Full day

Escape the urban rush of Saigon for a full-day immersion into the landscape of the Mekong Delta, famously known as Vietnam's "rice bowl." Journey south through changing rural scenery to the riverfront gateway of Ben Tre or My Tho. Here, board a private motorized boat to cruise across the expansive Tien River. Glide past floating fish farms and rustic stilted houses, watching the unique river mercantile trade unfold around you.

Disembark on a lush orchard island to wander through fruit groves, sampling fresh tropical varieties while listening to traditional Southern Vietnamese folk music (*Don Ca Tai Tu*). Next, step onto a hand-rowed sampan boat. Settle in as local rowers guide you down a labyrinth of narrow, quiet canals sheltered beneath a dense canopy of water coconut palms. After a traditional lunch featuring regional specialties like the famous crispy "Elephant Ear Fish," visit a family-run home workshop to see how traditional coconut candy is crafted by hand, before a smooth afternoon drive brings you back to Hanoi.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 12: Ho Chi Minh Departure

Savor your final morning in Ho Chi Minh City, enjoying a leisurely breakfast at your hotel as you look out over the buzzing streets of District 1. Depending on your flight schedule, take advantage of a free morning to pick up last-minute premium souvenirs—perhaps some rich Vietnamese specialty coffee beans, delicate local ceramics, or fine hand-woven silk textiles from the boutique shops lining Dong Khoi Street.

At the designated hour, your private professional driver will meet you in the hotel lobby to assist with your luggage. Relax in the climate-controlled comfort of your executive vehicle as you travel through the city center to Tan Son Nhat International Airport (SGN). Arrive smoothly at the international departure terminal with ample time to check in for your homeward or onward flight. Bid a fond farewell to Vietnam, carrying with you a wealth of rich cultural memories, unique

stories, and a newfound appreciation for the timeless charm of Indochina.

Meals: Breakfast

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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