8 Days Vietnam Highlights

Experience the rich cultural heritage, historical landmarks, and breathtaking landscapes of Vietnam in this 8-day journey. From the ancient capital of Hanoi to the dynamic city of Ho Chi Minh, this itinerary covers the essence of the country's diverse regions.

Duration: 8 Days
Route: Hanoi → Hue → Hoi An → Da Nang → Ho Chi Minh
Highlights:

- Explore Hanoi's historical landmarks, including Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum and the Temple of Literature.
- Take a scenic boat trip along the Perfume River and discover the royal history of Hue.
- Wander through the ancient streets of Hoi An and enjoy a hands-on cooking class.
- Visit the Cham Museum and the vibrant city of Da Nang.
- Explore the historic Cu Chi Tunnels and the colonial charm of Ho Chi Minh City.

Itinerary Highlights

- **Day 1**: Arrive in Hanoi and settle in Vietnam's capital city.
- **Day 2**: Explore Hanoi's rich history with visits to the Ho Chi Minh Complex, Temple of Literature, and the Old Quarter.
- **Day 3**: Fly to Hue for a boat trip on the Perfume River and visit Thien Mu Pagoda and the Imperial Citadel.
- **Day 4**: Visit the imperial tombs of the Nguyen Dynasty and enjoy the scenic drive to Hoi An, stopping at Lang Co Village.
- **Day 5**: Join a cooking class in Hoi An and learn to prepare traditional Vietnamese dishes.
- **Day 6**: Visit the Cham Museum in Da Nang, then fly to Ho Chi Minh City.
- **Day 7**: Take an excursion to the Cu Chi Tunnels and explore Ho Chi Minh City's iconic sites like the Notre Dame Cathedral and the History Museum.

- **Day 8**: Free time for shopping or relaxation before departure from Ho Chi Minh City.

Why Choose This Tour?
This itinerary offers a perfect balance of cultural immersion, historical exploration, and natural beauty, covering the highlights of northern, central, and southern Vietnam. With private, customizable services and a mix of hands-on experiences, it ensures a comfortable and enriching travel experience. Whether you're captivated by history, architecture, or food, this journey provides a complete Vietnamese adventure.

DETAILS ITINERARY

DAY 01: HANOI ARRIVAL

Upon arrival in Noi Bai International Airport, you will be greeted by local guide and transfer you to your hotel in Hanoi that is Vietnam's capital, ranks amongst the world's most attractive and interesting cities. It was first the capital of Vietnam in A.D. 1010, and though the nation's capital moved to Hue under the Nguyen dynasty in 1802, the city continued to flourish after the French took control in 1888. In 1954, after the French departed, Hanoi was declared Vietnam's capital once again. The remnants of over 1,000 years of history are still visible here, with that of the past few hundred years wonderfully preserved. After checking in hotel, you are free at leisure. There's plenty to do and see or you may choose to find a spot on the lakeside and just watch the world go by - Hanoi is a truly unique city. In the evening you can choose from one of the many restaurants near Hoan Kiem lake or in the Old Quarter. Hanoi is also a fascinating city to enjoy an alfresco drink. Overnight in Hanoi.

Meals included: None

Optional lunch or dinner:

- ✔ *Asia & Local Cuisine*
- ✔ *Western Cuisine*

DAY 02: HANOI CITY TOUR

This morning enjoy a full day city tour of Hanoi. First, visit **Ba Dinh Square**, where silent sentries guard the marble and granite mausoleum where Ho Chi Minh lies in state (closed every Friday & Monday and in October & November). See the simple cottage where Uncle Ho lived and worked. Nearby, visit the **Ho Chi Minh Museum**, an extraordinary tribute in abstract form to the life of the 'father of the country' and the evolution of Vietnamese independence. French architecture is a feature of Hanoi, and the nearby former Governor's Residence is a fine example as well as the **One Pillar Pagoda**. Continue to the **Temple of Literature**, built in 1070 and then dedicated to Confucius, it is a serene retreat from the busy streets outside, and later became Vietnam's first university. This afternoon, enjoy an orientation of the tree-lined streets of Hanoi, resplendent with French colonial architecture, including the recently restored Opera House. Pass by Hoan Kiem Lake, also known as Lake of the Restored Sword from the legend that surrounds it en-route to one of the city's fascinating museums. Then take to the streets on foot for a walking tour of the Ancient Quarter or 36 Streets District. This densely populated corner of the city was once a centre of commerce where goods were sold under the street name of a particular guild. Still a thriving community of sellers today, you will see street names such as Sugar Street, Tin Street and Paper Street. Ancient homes and temples are interspersed with stores in this souvenir hunter's paradise! Enjoy a performance of the renowned **Water Puppet show** - an ancient Vietnamese form of entertainment, which enables the puppeteers to control their active marionettes by levers hidden under the water. Water puppet skits generally enact ancient folklore and legends that are rural in origin, and the theme of water is often present, as it defines so much of Vietnam's landscape. Drive to your hotel and overnight in Hanoi.

Meals included: Breakfast

Optional lunch or dinner:

- ✔ *Asia & Local Cuisine*
- ✔ *Western Cuisine*

DAY 03: HANOI - HUE BY FLIGHT (EXCLUDED AIRFARE)

Free at leisure until transferring to the Noi Bai domestic Airport for your flight to Hue. Upon arrival in Phu Bai Domestic Airport, you will be greeted by local guide and transfer you to your hotel in Hue that Hue is a beautiful and welcoming city.

As Vietnam's capital throughout the Nguyen Dynasty (1802-1945), as a centre of Vietnamese Buddhism and scholarship and finally as the setting for some of the Vietnam War's most bloody fighting, Hue provides a unique window into Vietnam and its complex past. Have a boat trip on the romantically named **Perfume River**, passing the 10-metre thick protective walls of the Citadel on board a Vietnamese 'dragon boat'. A short distance up river is perhaps Hue's best-known religious site, the **Thien Mu Pagoda** with its distinctive seven-storey octagonal tower. This serene and picturesque landmark is also an important Buddhist sight. From here, in 1963, the monk Thich Quang Duc travelled in his pale blue Austin to Sai Gon and publicly burned himself to death to protest against the anti-Buddhist stance of the President. Take a cyclo to the **Imperial Citadel**, a vast complex built in the early 19th century and modelled after the Forbidden City of Peking. The original walls stretched for 10 km and were surrounded by a wide moat. Today, most of the buildings have been destroyed due to bombing during the Vietnam-American War, but the monuments that remain provide a fascinating glimpse into the court life of the Nguyen Dynasty. Then Cyclo back to your hotel. Overnight in Hue.

Meals included: Breakfast

Optional lunch or dinner:

- ✔ *Asia & Local Cuisine*
- ✔ *Western Cuisine*

DAY 04: HUE - EMPERORS' TOMB - LANG CO VILLAGE - HOI AN

The hills surrounding Hue are dotted with the tombs of the Nguyen dynasty emperors. Built not only as an eternal resting place, the tombs were designed for recreation; somewhere the Emperor could fish, hunt and enjoy the company of concubines in his twilight years. Your tour combines visits to two of the most contrasting tombs. First, you will visit the tomb of **Emperor Tu Duc**, resplendent in traditional architecture, paved walkways, resting pavilions overlooking tranquil lotus ponds, and a small forest for hunting. In stark contrast, you will continue on to **Khai Dinh's Tomb**. Remembered as the "Puppet Emperor" because of his affiliation with the French, this tomb was designed with colonial flair, and a glass mosaic frieze dominates the interior. Depart Hue for Hoi An, on the way our vehicle will stop at Lang Co Village and Hai Van pass to take in the spectacular view along the coast to Da Nang. Continue to Hoi An Ancient Town along some of

the most winding roads in Viet Nam and glory in the best sea views in Central Viet Nam. Upon arrival, check in at hotel. Hoi An is the unique trading town; a civilization cut off by destroyed rail lines and a silted river, leaving it untouched by war and almost frozen in time. No cars are allowed to pass through Hoi An, rendering it an excellent walking village. You start your walking tour which includes a visit to Chinese communal houses/pagodas, the unique Japanese covered bridge, architecture reminiscent of traders of a bygone era - Japanese, French, Chinese, and Indian, as well as beautifully preserved ancient houses. You will also have chance to visit the Hoi An local market or shop for art at one of the numerous galleries and enjoy the riverside ambience. Overnight in Hoi An.

Meals included: Breakfast

Optional lunch or dinner:

- ✔ *Asia & Local Cuisine*
- ✔ *Western Cuisine*

DAY 05: HOI AN COOKING CLASS

Start the day with a drink at a local restaurant which is the meeting point then visit Hoi An's colourful market, and experience the amazing sights, sounds and aromas of this busy market. You will have the opportunity to interact with the local sellers and purchase some of the ingredients to be used in the cooking lesson later. Board a boat for a leisurely cruise along the Hoi An River to the local restaurant. This is a chance to view local river life along riverbanks. On arrival, explore the cooking school's herb and vegetable garden, before learning about some of Hoi An's and Vietnam's well-known dishes. The cooking lesson runs for about 2 hours, each dish is first demonstrated by a local chef's, before you prepare the same dish ourselves. Included in the class is a brief introduction to Vietnamese food carving (plate decoration). After the lesson, enjoy the meal you have cooked. The rest of day is free at leisure. Overnight in Hoi An.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch at cooking class

Optional lunch or dinner:

- ✔ *Asia & Local Cuisine*
- ✔ *Western Cuisine*

DAY 06: HOI AN - DA NANG - HO CHI MINH BY FLIGHT (EXCLUDED AIRFARE)

On route to Da Nang Airport you willl drive overland and visit the **Cham Museum**. Situated in a quiet area of Da Nang City, the Cham Museum was built in 1915. The kingdom of Champa controlled what is now south and central Vietnam from approximately 192 through 1697. At present, the museum houses 297 stone and terracotta sculptural works made between the 7th and the 15th centuries. These are impressive works typical of the Cham culture. Take a domestic flight to Ho Chi Minh. Upon arrival in Tan Son Nhat International Airport, you will be greeted by local guide and transfer you to your hotel in Sai Gon - a vibrant metropolis, Sai Gon teems with energy, activity and motion. Everywhere you look, you see the meeting of traditional and modern life. The emerging modern skyline stands cheek by jowl with colonial buildings and traditional temples. Outside on the streets, young professionals zip by on motorcyles, chatting on cellphones; inside the quiet temple courtyards, worshippers pray amidst clouds of incense. The remainder your day is at leisure. It's a great city to explore at night, lots of bars and great restaurants...you'll be spoilt for choice! Overnight in Ho Chi Minh.

Meals included: Breakfast

Optional lunch or dinner:

- ✔ *Asia & Local Cuisine: 15 USD/ Person/ Meal*
- ✔ *Western Cuisine: 18 USD/ Person/ Meal*

DAY 07: HO CHI MINH - CU CHI TUNNEL

Journey out of Ho Chi Minh City to the Cu Chi region, where you will visit the vast underground network of tunnels built first as a defence against the French, and later expanded during the Vietnam war. It was from here that the North Vietnamese waged their guerrilla warfare. You will marvel at their ingenuity and resilience. See secret trapdoors, underground kitchens, living areas and meeting rooms. The more adventurous may explore the deeper second, and even third level tunnels. For those preferring to remain above ground, there is ample opportunity to view excavated areas from above. Your guide will advise you of the length and level of difficulty of each tunnel before entering - some are easily accessed by stairs. We recommend good walking shoes and sun protection for this tour.

In the afternoon, enjoy a tour of Ho Chi Minh City. Proceed to the former **Presidential Palace**, which is now preserved as a museum, including the underground communications bunker headquarters for the Sai Gon Government during the War. Continue to the **History Museum**, which houses an excellent display tracing the origins of the indigenous Vietnamese. Visit the **neo-Romanesque Notre Dame Cathedral, Central Post Office**. Strolling along Dong Khoi Street, formerly known as the Rue Catinat, the main shopping thoroughfare and heart of old colonial Sai Gon, passing by classic European-style landmarks such as the ornate City Hall (Hotel De Ville), the old **Opera House** (both may only be viewed from the outside). Overnight in Ho Chi Minh.

Meals included: Breakfast

Optional lunch or dinner:

- ✔ *Asia & Local Cuisine*
- ✔ *Western Cuisine*

DAY 08: HO CHI MINH - DEPARTURE

After having a breakfast at your hotel, free at leisure until transferring to Tan Son Nhat International Airport for departure.

Meals included: Breakfast

COMPETITIVE PRICE FOR B2B:

- ***CASE BY CASE***
- ***SERI BOOKING***

Services Inclusion	Services Exclusion
✔ Accommodation bases on Twin/Double sharing room with daily breakfast ✔ Transfer by private A/C vehicles ✔ Regional English Speaking Guides	✔ International & Domestic Airfare/ Alcoholic drinks & drinks at mealtime + Optional visits + Personal expenses (Telephone, laundry...) ✔ Domstic Airfare:

✔ Meals as mentioned in the itinerary at local restaurant	✔ Hanoi - Hue: 115 USD/ Adult by Vietnam Airlines (Included All Tax)
✔ All entrance fees as indicated in itinerary	✔ Da Nang - Ho Chi Minh: 115 USD/ Adult by Vietnam Airlines (Included All Tax)
✔ 02 Bottle of pure water per pax per day (500 ml)/ 02 Cold tissue per pax per day	✔ Personal travel insurance
✔ Boat trip on Perfume River	✔ Tips for guide, driver
✔ Water Puppet Show	✔ Tips for hotels' porters
✔ Cyclo	✔ Meals not indicated in the itinerary
✔ Reconfirmation of flight ticket	✔ Vietnam Visa
	✔ Other services not clearly indicated in the Package Inclusion above

BEING ALWAYS AT YOUR SERVICES