

VIETNAM HERITAGE JOURNEY

Hanoi-Halong Bay-
Hue-Hoi An- Ho Chi
Minh City

Tour Type: Private tour

12
DAYS

Tour Highlights:

- The Quintessence of Tonkin show
- Halong Bay Cruise
- Hue city tour
- Phong Ha Cave
- Mekong Delta



DAY 01: Arrival Hanoi

Fly to Hanoi - the heart of Northern Vietnam. Hanoi, Vietnam's capital city, boasts tree-lined streets and centuries-old temples via connecting cities. Transfer to your hotel for check in by driver only. At 17:00, be at pick-up point, the shuttle bus will transfer you to the stage of The Quintessence of Tonkin show. The spectacle which lasts approximately 60 minutes can be best thought of as a mosaic of Vietnamese culture, taking the most compelling elements and weaving them into a performance masterpiece. Overnight in Hanoi

DAY 02: Hanoi city Tour (B/L)

Pick up at hotel to take part in Hanoi City Tour, firstly visit Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum (outside view on Monday and Friday/Fine Art Museum as alternative), his house on stilt, the botanical garden and the Presidential palace while learning about his life and revolutionary activities. On the way out visit One Pillar pagoda. The pagoda was constructed in 1049 by King Ly Thai Tong according to his dream of Bodhisattva seating on a lotus flower and led him to the pagoda and Temple of Literature. Having lunch at a local restaurant. After that, visit, Hoan Kiem Lake (Restored Sword lake) with Ngoc Son temple and Ethnology Museum (closed every Monday/ Vietnam Women's Museum as alternative). Then take the 1 hour rickshaw tour around the Old quarter through its streets which are named after the guilds that used to represent such as Hang Bac (Silver Street), Hang Gai (Silk Street), Hang Tre (Bamboo Street) etc. Return to hotel and overnight in Hanoi.

DAY 03: Ha Noi – Hoa Lu, Tam Coc – Ha Noi (B/L)

Tour guide will see you at your hotel in Hanoi Old Quarter, then leave by coach to Hoa Lu (2.5 hrs). Located near the Ninh Binh city, Hoa Lu is the site

of a 10th-century capital of an ancient Vietnamese Kingdom called Dai Co Viet. The Kingdom was enclosed by a citadel. The citadel and the Yen Ngu limestone hills provided good defence for this kingdom against the invaders. You have a chance to enjoy landscape in one of the most famous tourist province in the North of Vietnam. Visiting Hoa Lu you will have the opportunity to explore the mausoleum, temples worshipping the King of Vietnam - the Dinh Tien Hoang Temple (King Dinh temple) and Le Hoan Temple (King Le Temple). Then we will transfer from Hoa Lu to Tam Coc for lunch (buffet or set menu). At afternoon, we will start to explore Tam Coc - means three caves, is often referred to as "Ha Long among the rice paddies". You have a chance to release souls into the natural scenery in Tam Coc caves a beautiful picture combined with Natural beauty and rural countryside. You will have a memorable experience when participating in the program. Arrive wharf, we start boat trip on Ngo Dong River to visit Tam Coc to see the beauty of the karst formations as you pass along their base and row into one of the many caves carved through the limestone. Then, cycle for an hour on quiet roads through villages, rice fields, rivers and rocky outcrops in Tam Coc - Bich Dong (around 5 km). Dive back to Hanoi and drop off at your hotel around at 18:30PM. Overnight in Hanoi

DAY 04: Hanoi – Halong Bay (B/L/D)

Pick up from your hotel in Hanoi and start our trip to explore the most amazing bay in the North of Vietnam. On the way, we will have a quick stop. Arrive in our office at Hon Gai Pier, you will have time to relax and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee. Wait for our captain to finish the registration and transfer by tender to our boat. Enjoy welcome drink and spend a couple of minutes briefing about safety on boat and activities included then we check in our cabin. Delicious Vietnamese set menu will be served while leisurely cruising further into Bai Tu Long

Bay. Arrive in kayaking area – that is Cap La Island. Enjoy kayaking through the karst and breath-taking nature, swimming and relaxing. Get back to the boat and enjoys our Sunset party while our cruise sailing to the overnight anchorage. Sumptuous set-dinner on board. Free time to challenge yourself in Vietnamese puzzle games, or gathers your group/family for a board game; try your luck with squid fishing or simply has a cocktail and enjoy the quiet night on the bay. Overnight on board

DAY 05: Halong Bay – Hanoi - Hue (B/L)

Start your day with a Tai Chi routine on sundeck or catch a morning view of the stunning bay's landscape with a cup of tea or coffee. Breakfast will be served in Western style. Explore the well-hidden Thien Canh Son Cave. Upon return to the boat you will have about 30 minutes to freshen up and finish packing. Attend a Vietnamese cooking demonstration. You can quickly learn a simple but delicious Vietnamese dish that Gordon Ramsey (a 2 Michelin Star Chef) used to guide – Nem Cuon or challenge yourself in fruit and vegetable carving. Enjoy a traditional Vietnamese lunch on boat. Back to the harbour and disembark in Hon Gai pier. Our shared limousine will take you back to the hotel in Hanoi. Our private car transfers to the train station for the trip to Hue (you will be provided breakfast box before you get on the train. Overnight on Train.

DAY 06: Full day Hue City (B/L)

Pick-up at the train station, you will head to a day explore Hue city. Start your visit at the Citadel, Hue's prime attraction. Here you will find the Imperial City, the Forbidden Purple City and the Emperor's Private Residence. Following this, we will take a boat trip on the Perfume River with a stopover at Thien Mu pagoda, considered by many as the unofficial symbol of Hue. It is an active Buddhist monastery with its origins dating back to 1601. One of its most poignant displays is a car belonging

to a former monk, who in 1963, drove to Sai Gon and set himself alight to protest against the South Vietnamese regime and its cruel treatment of Buddhist monks and followers. Upon arrival in Hue, enjoy lunch at garden house restaurant. Continue visiting the serene Khai Dinh Royal Tomb, designed to blend in with its natural surroundings and built on principles of feng-shui. At the conclusion of your tour, you will be transferred to your Hue hotel. Overnight in Hue.

DAY 07: Hue – Phong Ha Cave – Hue (B/L/D)

Early morning, our Guide will pick you up at your hotel in Hue city. Then, you will depart to Phong Nha Ke Bang national Park, classified as the World heritage site. On the way, you will stop over La Vang holy land – a national shrine located in Hai Lang district, Quang Tri Province, an important place of pilgrimage of Catholic Vietnam. On the car, our guide will introduce information about DMZ of Quang Tri including The Old Citadel, Hien Luong Bridge, and Ben Hai River, Doc Mieu Base. Have Lunch at restaurant and have a short rest. Boat trip on Son River to visit Phong Nha cave. After 25 minutes on the boat, you will arrive Phong Nha cave. Take a couple of hours to visit the cave. You discover Phong Nha Cave, which contains many fascinating rock formations given beautiful names such as the “Lion”, the “Fairy Caves”, the “Royal Court”, and the “Buddha. After visiting Phong Nha Cave, back to Hue. Arrive in Hue at the evening, back to your hotel after having dinner. Overnight in Hue.

DAY 08: Hue - My Son Holy Land – Hoi An (B/L)

Pick up at hotel and then we drive to Hoi An by driver only. After lunch with Vietnamese dishes. Our guide will meet you at the restaurant, continue your trip to My Son Sanctuary. Drive towards the southwest



to pamper in religious centre of My Son Sanctuary - The UNESCO – listed site was constructed between the 7th and the 13th centuries, with dozens of red brick towers and sanctuaries scattered through a scenic valley. This was the heart of the Champa kingdom, and many of the landmarks recall the Cham people’s Hindu beliefs. After tour you are back to your hotel in Hoi An for check-in. Overnight in Hoi An.

DAY 09: Hoi An Half day Excursion (B)

Pick up at hotel. Hoi An was a bustling international trading port, a meeting place of the trading ships of Japan, China and the West during the 17th and 18th centuries. Before this period, there was traces of Champa port which was known as a site on Silk Road along the sea. It is now considered as a special example of a traditional port city in Southeast Asia which has been well preserved. Most houses here are of traditional architecture dating from the 17th to the 19th century, and are along the narrow main streets. UNESCO has recognized the ancient town of Hoi An as a world cultural heritage in 1999. Arrive Hoi An, visit museum and transfer to your hotel.

DAY 10: Hoi An – Ho Chi Minh City (B/L)

Say goodbye to beautiful Hoi An town, we are now heading to Da Nang Airport for your flight to the next destination – Ho Chi Minh City. Our tour guide and driver wait for you at the airport. Have lunch at local restaurant. After lunch, visit Cu Chi Tunnels - located approximately 70km northwest of Ho Chi Minh City centre in Cu Chi Rural District. They consist of more than 200km of underground tunnels. This main axis system has many branches connecting to underground hideouts, shelters, and entrances to other tunnels. This underground network provided sleeping quarters, meeting rooms, hospitals, and other social rooms. Arriving

at Cu Chi Tunnels, you will watch documentary video and explore the tunnels. You will be guided to the tunnels system including the weapon factory, hospitals, kitchens and crawl under the tunnels. After that you’ll have the chance to try delicious manioc which is the main food for guerrillas in Cu Chi during the war. You’ll also have the opportunity to try to fire off an AK47 or MK16 or machine gun at the nearby shooting range (at your own cost). Free in the evening. Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

DAY 11: Ho Chi Minh City –Mekong Delta – Ho Chi Minh City (B/L)

Leave Ho Chi Minh City behind as you drive about 2.5 hours to the Mekong Delta town of Cai Be, one of the less travelled parts at the centre of the agricultural basket. Hop aboard a small boat to take a trip around the Cai Be colourful floating market cruising among local barges full of fruits and vegetables. Though it is not nearly as busy and crowded as day’s past, you might still spot locals tossing watermelons or pineapple between their boats! The rowing boat will take you deeper into the countryside on smaller canals of the Delta surrounded by thousands of coconut palms to enjoy the peaceful time. Lunch at the local house, after meals we can walk around and then we will enjoy some kinds of fruits when listening to the traditional music. One more thing to do in this trip is biking! It will be so amazing to bike on village paths to see traditional houses made of wood and palm tree leaves and see some activities of the local farmers with an opportunity to make contacts with them and know how to make rice paper, coconut candy and pop-rice, pop-corn. Visit the brick kilns where you can see how the local people create beautiful potteries from clay. Hop back on board the boat to explore more of the waterways before return. Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

DAY 12: Ho Chi Minh City Departure

Free at leisure until transfer to the airport for the flight back home.

Prices are from per person

\$3,400

*Price does not apply at local public holidays, festivals and trade fairs.
*Price is based on minimum two people travelling, twin share.

Hotel Accommodation (or similar)

Hanoi	Rex Hanoi Hotel, Executive room
Halong Bay	Renea Cruise, Deluxe Cabin
Hue	Eldora hotel, Deluxe City room
Hoi An	Thanh Binh Riverside, Deluxe Riverview Room
Ho Chi Minh	Liberty Central Saigon Centre, Deluxe Room

Price includes

- Domestic flights
- Train from Hanoi to Hue (shared cabin)
- Hotel accommodation
- Meals as specified (B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner)
- Entrance fees to the scenic spots
- English-speaking tour guide
- All transfers and transportation in private vehicle
- Daily 2 complimentary bottle water

Remark: Gratuities to tour guide and driver (USD\$5 per person per day suggested).