

# Ultimate Vietnam 2 week itinerary

(Hanoi – Ninh Binh – Halong – Hoian – Hue – Saigon – Mekong River Delta)

## Itinerary Overview

Day	Destination	Meals
Day 1	HANOI ARRIVAL	--
Day 2	HANOI CITY TOUR BY JEEP	B/L
Day 3	HANOI – NINH BINH – TRANG AN	B/L
Day 4	NINH BINH – HALONG BAY – NIGHT ON BOARD	B/L/D
Day 5	HALONG BAY – HANOI – DANANG – HOIAN	B/L
Day 6	HOIAN FREE DAY	B
Day 7	HOIAN COUNTRYSIDE & CYCLING TOUR	B/L
Day 8	HOIAN - HUE SCENIC TRAIN JOURNEY	B
Day 9	HUE CITY TOUR	B/L
Day 10	HUE – HO CHI MINH	B
Day 11	HCMC – CITY & CU CHI TUNNELS TOUR	B/L
Day 12	HCMC – MY THO – BEN TRE – CAN THO	B/L/D
Day 13	MEKONG – HCMC	B
Day 14	HCMC DEPARTURE	B

**Note\*:** B: Breakfast / L: Lunch / D: Dinner

## TRAVEL MAP



## Detailed Itinerary

### Day 1 HANOI ARRIVAL

Arrive in Hanoi. Greeted by your driver at the airport. Transfer to your hotel in the city centre for check-in and at leisure in the rest of the day.

#### Note\*:

- The hotel room will be available at 2:00pm, and in case that you would like to secure an early-check in, an additional charge will be applied.
- Please be advised that both international and domestic might be crowded at sometimes during the day, so in case that you arrive and cannot find our representatives, please contact us, so we could easily search for you.

**Meals:** N/A

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hanoi

**Note\*:** this is a copy of the itinerary on Indochina Treks Travel Official Website and not the final itinerary.

## Day 2 HANOI HALF DAY CITY TOUR BY JEEP

Pick you up from your hotel in Hanoi Old Quarter.

On the first part of the tour, we will take you to see the Hanoi Opera House – the biggest theatre in Vietnam, which is also considered as a historical and architectural landmark as well as attraction in Hanoi where a range of important events have taken place. We expose you the REAL HANOI with a day in the life experiences, featured with the parts-unknown of the city with slices of life in the maze of backstreets, tiny alleyways, local homes, schools, random markets and black market, experiencing where & how locals live, work and play. Other travel companies show just you the beautiful and tell you to run away from the bad and the weird of your destinations.

Then, we pass by & stop at the MUST-SEE places of our beautiful city. On the way we will pass through Ho Chi Minh mausoleum – the Mecca of Vietnamese Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, sacred place built to keep Ho Chi Minh's body remained after he passed away so that he can somehow find contentment in seeing Vietnam united. After that, we take you go through the Thanh Nien street which lies between 2 beautiful lakes of Hanoi, one of the most beautiful streets of the city. Then we move to banana island which we call The hidden charm of Hanoi where is just about 3,4 km far from the center but the scenery is totally different with to modern city. You have chance to visit their farm, see the local's houses, talk with local people to know about their life style, enjoy the organic tropical fruits they grow by themselves and try the green tea. After that we also take you to the peaceful & allure out-skirt villages around West lake and Truc Bach lake to enrich your experiences about the contrast in harmony of life between the city center and the out-skirt. Then we go to visit and learn about Van Nien pagoda or also known as 1000-year-old Buddhist pagoda, it's one of the most ancient pagoda in Hanoi.

While we are travelling, you will see Hoang Hoa Tham – the most beautiful bonsai street in Hanoi street which will make you impress by the fresh green trees and colourful flowers. Our Jeep will take you go through the back street, see the small alleys of Hanoi as you would experience a hidden tranquil of Hanoi – B52 American aircraft which was shot down by Vietnamese people, a hectic of Hanoi with thousands of Skyscrapers in the new parts of the city. It is not only ride but a journey that you would learn about Hanoi before, now and then.

Finally, you will stop at different AUTHENTIC restaurants, eateries and food stalls to savor the tastiest of the tasty dishes of Hanoi including family heirloom & secret recipe dishes, local delicacies and specialties. Tour ends at the hotel at about 12:30.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hanoi

## Day 3 HANOI – NINH BINH – TRANG AN

08:00: Pick up you from your hotel. Transfer to Ninh Binh.

09.10: We have a short break on the way for you have rest room or enjoy some tea or coffee

10,00: You will arrive at Ninh Hai village located near Tam Coc where you start your visit and discover

the beautiful of the area, when we arrive will get a mountain bike and start cycling to discover the rural villages to see how of the local people live and see their culture. Our tour guide will lead you to cycle through the narrow alley and special unique countryside road where few tourists know or see of the area

10.30: Our tour guide will take you to visit a local family and you will have chance to see the daily life and learn about their culture after visiting the local family you will cycle through Tam Coc Valley where you see the AMAZING landscape with beautiful Nature and all limestone mountain look amazing the area call Halong On Land

11.00: Visit Thai Vi temple where dedicated Tran dynasty and temple was built by King Tran Thai Tong in 1258

11.30: We head to our local home restaurant for lunch.

13.20 Get on the van to take you to Tranq An harbors for the bamboo Boat trip to visit the AMAZING Landscape called Halong on land, Board the sampan boats (2 to 4 people share a boat) traditional sampan gently rowed down the exquisite river through numerous caves; Hang Toi (Dack) cave, 320 meters long, Sang (Light) cave, 90 meters long, and Hang Nau Ruou (Cooking wine) cave, 250 meters long.

15.45: Arrive at Hoa Lu, the ancient capital of Vietnam in the 10th century, and visit the temple of King Dinh. Under the introduction of our local guide, you will get to know more about Vietnamese history. We will then drive to the hotel in Ninh Binh for overnight.

**Meal:** Breakfast/Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Ninh Binh

#### Day 4 NINH BINH - HALONG BAY - NIGHT ON BOARD

08h00: Pick up from your hotel. Drive to Halong City through the paddy fields in the Red River Delta.

10h00: Stopover on the way for a refreshment break

12h00: Arrive at Tuan Chau wharf – Break and photography time

12h30: Board the Cruise for departure. Welcome drink will be served

13h00: Lunch is served while cruising through the bay

15h30: Visit exciting Cua Van fishing village. The village is free of busy roads and streets, electric lights, houses and high rise buildings. Instead, there are only herds of little boats and rafts. You will have the chance to discover the traditional culture and customs of the fishermen.

16h30: Enjoy kayaking or swimming (if the weather permits).

17h00: Back on board and continue cruising.

19h00: Dinner is served.

21h00: Take some leisure time to enjoy chatting at the bar or enjoy some night fishing.

**Note\*:** the itinerary and activities on board would vary depending on the boat you choose.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

**Accommodation:** Sleep on board

**Day 5**

**HALONG BAY – HANOI – DANANG – HOIAN**

07.00: Coffee and tea will be served

08.00: Continue cruising

08h15: Visit splendid Sung Sot Cave

09h00: Check out and enjoy a fantastic cruise on the bay, passing Dinh Huong Island, fishing villages, Ga Choi Island, Dog Island and Sail Island.

09.30: Buffet brunch (breakfast/lunch) while cruising back through Halong Bay to the pier

11h30: Arrive at the pier. Time to say goodbye to the crew.

12.00: Return from Halong to Hanoi. Arrive Hanoi at about 17pm.

Airport transfer for late flight to Danang. Transfer to the hotel in Hoian upon arrival.

**Note\*:** the itinerary and activities on board would vary depending on the boat you choose.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hoian

**Day 6**

**HOIAN FREE DAY**

Free and easy day to explore Hoian town or swim at nearby beach.

**Optional tour:**

- My Son Tower Tour
- Golden Hand Bridge Tour

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hoian

**Day 7**

**HOIAN – COUNTRYSIDE & CYCLING**

08:00: Pickup at the hotel, transfer to pointed place for cycling tour.

Spend a day leisurely cycling through the scenic countryside of Vietnam, far from the traffic the motor scooters, and the noises the city. You will cross the islands on the Song Thu river delta using local transportation, including ferries and floating bridge.

This tour will take you to discover how wooden river boats are made, learn the secret of weaving the colorful straw "Hoi An" sleeping mats Try the renowned Vietnamese basket boats and much more. You

will spend the day with first-hand contact with one of the rural inhabitant of the region, far from the usual tourist circuits.

At lunchtime you will be invited into the home of a local Vietnamese family for a traditional Vietnamese meal, and learn their customs and traditions. After you have relaxed for a while under the shade of a mango tree, you will begin your return towards Hoi An by boat, which will take about 35 minutes. Arrive pointed place. Manage yourself to get back to the hotel or enjoy free time to explore Hoian town.

**Meal:** Breakfast/Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hoian

#### Day 8 HOIAN - HUE SCENIC TRAIN JOURNEY about 2.5 hours

Free in the morning.

In the afternoon, transfer to the station for day train to Hue. Enjoy scenic view of Hai Van Pass on the way. Arrive Hue in late afternoon. Transfer to the hotel for checkin and enjoy free time.

**Note\*:** Train journeys are part of a great local experience. Restrooms at either end of the carriages.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hue

#### Day 9 HUE CITY TOUR

08:00: Pickup at the hotel. Today, we will spend a full day touring Hue city. In the morning: visit Old Imperial City, Flag Tower, Thien Mu Pagoda and Dong Ba bustling market. Lunch at the local restaurant.

In the afternoon: visit Royal Tombs of Minh Mang and Khai Dinh. We will also visit a Conical hat village and incense stick village.

Then enjoy your free time to relax and explore Hue city.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hue

#### Day 10 HUE - HO CHI MINH CITY

Free and easy till airport transfer for the flight to HCMC. Transfer to the hotel upon arrival. Free to relax.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Hotel in HCMC

#### Day 11 HCMC – CITY & CU CHI TUNNELS TOUR

Pickup at the hotel at 7:40 for half day city tour. Our city tour will help you to see the best of Saigon. We visit the historic Reunification palace and War Remnants Museum, followed by the architectural treats of French colonial Notre Dame Cathedral and the post Office.

In the afternoon, we head out of town to visit the Cu Chi Tunnels, which is an extensive underground network of approximately 200 kilometers of tunnels dug initially by the Viet Minh and then expanded by the Viet Cong. Here contains hospitals, plus accommodation and schools, and were used extensively for refuge and storage and also utilized as a military base for the Viet Cong close to Saigon. Come back to Saigon in late afternoon.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel in HCMC

#### Day 12 HCMC – MY THO – CAI BE – CAN THO

Pick up at your hotel in Ho Chi Minh city and start the trip to My Tho. Upon arrival, visit Vinh Trang pagoda which dated back to the late 19th century. Then boarding the sampan and cruising down the river around the four beautiful islands known as Dragon, Unicorn, Phoenix and Tortoise islands.

Stop over at Unicorn Island, go walking in the village paths to contemplate orchards, enjoy tropical fruits, and Vietnamese folk music performed by the local people. Visit the fruit plantation.

Be rowed in a small sampan through the Thoi Son canal and treat yourself to the beauty of the countryside, visit the family business & bee-keeping farm, enjoy honey tea and coconut candy workshop.

Have lunch at the local restaurant. Break time.

The afternoon is time for cycling around the Tan Thach village, meeting the local people to experience their daily life in the Mekong delta. Relaxing on hammocks to enjoy the cool breeze is for those do not want to join the cycling trip. Proceed to Can Tho City and overnight in Can Tho.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Can Tho

Day 13

CAN THO – CAI RANG FLOATING MARKET - HCMC

Have breakfast at hotel. You can take a leisurely boat ride to explore the picturesque tributaries of the Lower Mekong River (Bassac River), then visit Cai Rang Floating Market, the most vibrant floating market in the area.

Walking tour of the local noodle factory. Visit Munir Ansay Pagoda – Khmer temple, famous for its unique structure. Then move by boat to the Con Son tourist area, visit the fruit plantation and enjoy seasonal fruits.

Have lunch and return to Ho Chi Minh city.

Arrive HCMC at about 5pm.

**Note\*:** The floating markets in the Mekong Delta are no tourist markets but wholesale markets where produce of the Mekong Delta like fruits and vegetables are traded. For this reason the number of boats on the market fluctuates depending on harvesting seasons and market demand. Furthermore, modern wholesale markets are becoming more popular in Vietnam. This can result in decreasing numbers of boats being present on the markets.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel in HCMC

Day 14

SAIGON DEPARTURE

Enjoy your free time to explore Saigon till pickup for airport transfer. Trip ends.

**Note\*:** late checkout is not included.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** N/A

## Inclusions & Exclusions

### *Inclusions*

- Overnights in selected hotels or similar
- Halong bay 2 day Cruise package
- All in-tour stationed local English speaking guide.
- Entrance fees for sightseeing mentioned in the itinerary
- Excursions as mentioned in the itinerary
- Transfers as mentioned by air-conditioned vehicles (including airport pick up & see off)
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary

**Note\*:** this is a copy of the itinerary on Indochina Treks Travel Official Website and not the final itinerary.



- Internal flights (Hanoi – Danang, Hue – Saigon )
- 1 day train for Danang – Hue

### **Exclusions**

- Meals and services other than those noted in the itinerary
- Visa stamping fee
- International flights pre/post tour
- Laundry, telephone calls, and personal expenditures
- Gratuities for guides, drivers, porters, boat crew, and personal, non-itinerary services

## **Booking Terms & Conditions**

### **Payment**

- To guarantee your land tour booking, a deposit 30% must be paid in advance. The balance must be settled **either** in USD Cash on arrival **or** 1 week before arrival date via any other methods.
- We accept payments in cash, by credit card or by bank transfer and Western Union. Any charges to settle the payment must be paid by the Clients. We will recognize the amount received only.

### **Cancellations**

Cancellations for all or any part of the trip will not be effective until received in writing. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply:

- |  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| ➤ 65 days or more before departure:          | 20% of total tour cost  |
| ➤ Between 64 and 35 days before departure:   | 30% of total tour cost  |
| ➤ Between 34 and 15 days before departure:   | 50% of total tour cost  |
| ➤ Between 14 and 7 days before departure:    | 80% of total tour cost  |
| ➤ 6 days or less before departure / No Show: | 100% of total tour cost |

### **Full charge is applied for domestic flights**

**Note\*:** We strongly recommend for your protection that you purchase a trip cancellation insurance.

## **Important Information**

### **Emergency Contact**

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call the travel consultant whom you deal with and then our hot line contacts. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate

answer, please send us a detailed message and contact information by email to the agent and to [info@indochinatreks.com](mailto:info@indochinatreks.com), we may check and return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

Our all travel consultants use WhatApps. Please ensure that you have the contact number. It's best to buy a local sim-card upon arrival. Most hotels offer free wifi. So it's very easy to contact in urgent case.

Emergency contact numbers

Mr. Kelvin Do: +84 986759655

Ms. Thuy Pham: +84 984654964

## **Combo Trip**

If you book small group tour option, please note that the tour combines with our other tours. As such, some travel companions on your tour may have previously been travelling together with us. Likewise, some travel companions may be continuing together on another tour after your trip concludes.

You can start the tour on any date (please contact our consultant in advance to avoid peak dates or holidays) and customize itinerary with extra days/activities at any destination.

## **Internal Flights**

For all internal flights, we would use Vietnamairlines, Vietjesair, Jestar, Cambodia Angkorair or Laos Airlines. Most domestic flights in Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar, airlines would use small 70 seat ATR72 for short distances. Most airlines in Vietnam use the Airbus A321. 20kg for checkin luggage and 7kg for hand-bag is included in the price.

International flights before/after the tour must be booked by yourself before travelling date.

## **Accommodation**

We would use different hotel categories and you can select any basing on your budget. So your travel companions would not stay at your hotel. A Hotel Voucher will be provided once your tour is confirmed with all hotel details.

## **Packing List**

Conservative Dress

- Modest clothing that covers knees and shoulders (Long pants, long skirts, shirts that cover shoulders)
- Shawl or scarf (for temple visits)

Note\*: Please pack clothing for the season in which you will be travelling. From Dec-Feb weather can be cold, so please pack warm clothing. From May-Nov it is the wet season, so please bring waterproof clothing.

Documents

- All tickets (required)

- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Required visas
- Hotel & Tour Vouchers
- Meeting sign (with your names and flight details that we will use for transfers)

## Train Travel

Train travel in Vietnam is very basic and train cleanliness is often not a priority for train staff. Sleeper trains normally have 4 seats per compartment, which convert into sleeping bunks (two upper and two lower). A sheet, pillow and blanket are provided, although many people prefer to bring their own sleeping sheet. At times, passengers of different genders may be required to share a sleeper train berth and/or share a compartment with people not travelling in your group. For short distance - 3 hours (as Hue to Danang or vv), you will do the trip on soft/hard seat carriage.

Simple food is available on the train but many people like to stock up on freshly baked bread, cheese and fruit prior to departure. Water should also be bought before the journey.

Train journeys in Vietnam are an experience and allow you to get a real taste of Vietnam.

## Airport transfers

All airport transfers are included in the tour price. You should provide us your arrival/departure flight details and we will arrange things basing on the information. A meeting sign with your name and all flight details will be sent to you. Please be ready at the lobby at pointed time for pickup.

Driver/guide should always be present at the airport before your arrival time. If you could not find the driver, please contact your travel consultant who you deal with. For any reason that airport transfer could not be arranged, please take the taxi to the hotel. We will refund the money then.

## Travel insurance

Travel insurance is not included in our tour price. When travelling with us, you are suggested to buy insurance that covers all medical coverage, cancellation, personal liability, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects.

## Trip Specific Safety

We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage.

Be aware that petty theft can be an issue in some towns and cities especially late at night. A common tactic is opportunists on motorbikes that drive by and snatch bags. Please always leave valuables and passports etc in your hotel in safety boxes if available and only carry with you enough cash to spend for the day. Bags should always be carried over the neck and not left to sit on your shoulder.

## Warming

Please do not buy gems unless you know what you are doing. Even if genuine you should not expect to be able to sell them at home. If you fall victim to a gem scam, we are unable to assist you.

## **Visas and Entry Requirements**

Please note that visas for Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos are the responsibility of the individual traveller. The visa requirements for your trip vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. For the most up to date information please check your Governments Foreign Ministry website or with your travel agent as rules do change.

**CAMBODIA** - Visas can be obtained at the Cambodian border or Siem Reap Airport for approx. \$35 USD very easily. Please have *\*at least\** 2 passport photos with you as well.

**VIETNAM** - As of March 2017, a select 80 nationalities are now eligible to enter Vietnam with an E-Visa. Please contact your Foreign Ministry or Vietnamese consulate to see if your nationality is eligible. Please note that you should **ONLY** apply for a Vietnam E-Visa if you are entering Vietnam by international airport - either Noi Bai International Airport (Hanoi) or Tan Son Nhat International Airport (Ho Chi Minh City).

If you are entering Vietnam by land border, please apply for a regular visa for Vietnam. Many of the land borders we travel through do not accept the Vietnam E-Visa. Please view this link to apply E-Visa: <https://evisa.xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn/web/guest/trang-chu-ttdt>

**LAOS** - Visas are issued upon arrival in Laos. You will need two passport size photographs and approx \$35. Tourists are generally admitted to Laos for 15 days with a visa on arrival or for 30 days with a visa issued at a Lao embassy. Please bring visa photos with you.

Please be aware that you will require four clean pages (minimum) in your passport and at least six months validity.

## **Tipping**

It is customary in Asia to tip service providers such as waiters, at approximately 10%, depending on the service. Tipping is expected - though not compulsory - and shows an expression of satisfaction with the people who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides or drivers we use. Recommendations for tipping drivers and local guides would range from \$3-\$5 USD per person per day depending on the quality and length of the service.

## **Electricity**

Indochina Countries use 220V, and a mixture of flat 2-pin, round 2-pin or 3 pin plugs. It is recommended to bring a universal plug adapter.