

HIGHLIGHTS OF VIETNAM TOUR. DEPARTING NOVEMBER 2024

Day 1: Arrive in Ho Chi Minh city

Meals: Not Included / Accommodation: Eden hotel (Deluxe)

Arrive in Ho Chi Minh city from Sydney. You will be picked up and transferred to your hotel in center Saigon. Free to explore the city of Saigon the rest of the day.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh.



Day 2: Saigon & Cu Chi tunnel

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch / Accommodation: Eden hotel (Deluxe)

We depart at 8am from your hotel to visit Cu Chi - a byzantine maze of underground passages, chambers, rooms and booby traps used during the war. You'll be able to get an idea of what it would have been like to live, sleep and eat in the underground passages and bunkers during the fierce battles above and below the surface.

Return to the city for lunch at a tasty restaurant in the city centre.

In the afternoon, you'll discover the Reunification Palace - a blend of traditional ritual and modern architecture, served as the presidential palace of South Vietnam until reunification in 1975. The building now functions as a museum, offering tours of the former state rooms, presidential office and library, living quarters of the president's family, and underground war rooms. Then, you'll also visit the War Remnants Museum - one of the most sobering, yet popular, museums in the city. It highlights the suffering of the Vietnamese people at the hands of the French and American forces up to 1975, and while its perspective is less than perfectly balanced, its exhibits nonetheless are well designed and ably document the folly of war. You'll find a collection of weapons, machinery, aircraft, tanks, artifacts and horrific photographs illustrating the devastating affects of napalm, Agent Orange and other weapons of mass destruction. Trip ends at your hotel around 4pm.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh city

Day 3 : Saigon- Can Tho Mekong Delta

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Accommodation: Victoria Resort (Superior)

Dep., Sai Gon at 8h00 head south to Cai be. On arrival walk through the village streets and watch locals making manioc chips before boarding a boat for a journey through the town's floating market. Cruise through the secluded canals to an island where we stop to enjoy seasonal fruits before our boat takes us to Vinh Long where we get back on the bus for our trip to Can Tho to stay overnight.

Day 4 : Can Tho

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Accommodation: Victoria Resort (Superior)

An early start for a boat trip to Cai Rang and Phong Dien floating markets. We stop for a walk on a quiet country road to take in the magnificent scenery and get close to the locals as they go about their daily routine. We try a xe loi, the local colonial-era cab pulled by motorbike, on a country road. In the afternoon, you will be free at leisure to enjoy the peaceful atmosphere at the hotel.

Day 5 : Can Tho - Saigon

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch | Accommodation: Eden hotel (Deluxe)

Free to explore the city of Can Tho in the morning.

Afternoon, we drive back to Saigon. Local rice paper workshops, nice paddy fields are pleasant sights on the way.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh.



Day 6: Saigon- Hoian

Meal: Breakfast, Dinner | Accommodation: Vinh Hung resort (Superior)

You will be picked up at your hotel at 9h30 to transfer to Saigon airport to get a flight to Danang (VN324- 11h20- 12h30). Your local guide in Hoian will pick you up in Danang and take you to Hoian. With sightseeing tour on the way. Transfer to your hotel late afternoon.

Day 7: Hoi An – Cooking class

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch | Accommodation: Vinh Hung resort (Superior)

- We start the day (8.15am / 1.30pm) with a drink at Hai Scout Café – our meeting point.
- Visit Hoi An's colourful market, and experience the amazing sights, sounds and aromas of this busy market. We will have the opportunity to interact with the local sellers and purchase some of the ingredients to be used in the cooking lesson later.
- We board the Red Bridge boat for a leisurely cruise (25 minutes) along the Hoi An River to the Red Bridge Cooking School. This is a chance to view local river life, so make sure your camera is handy.
- On arrival, we 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 the Red Bridge chef's, before we prepare the same dish ourselves. Included in the class is a brief introduction to Vietnamese food carving (plate decoration).
- After the lesson, we sit down and eat exactly what we have cooked.



Day 8: Hoi An- Morning cycling tour to Tra Que village

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch | Accommodation: Vinh Hung resort (Superior)

In the morning, you'll be met at your hotel and driven to Tra Que village, where you'll be introduced to one of the local families who will take you to their fields. Your first job will be helping to water the vegetables, a fine opportunity to feel what it's like to use a bamboo shoulder-pole to carry water. It takes quite a bit of skill as well as strength. A good photo opportunity, if nothing else!

Next, you'll be shown how to cultivate and scatter seeds and harvest the produce, after which you'll help to prepare and eat a Vietnamese lunch with the family. It'll be an exhausting day, but there's no better way of gaining an insight into the life of Vietnamese peasant families. Your overnight stay will be in Hoi An.

- Tra Que is a small village about three kilometres northeast of the old town on the bank of Tra Que lagoon. The villagers rely upon market gardening for their livelihood, and supply much of Hoi An's vegetable produce requirements.

Day 9: Hoian- Free day

Meal: Breakfast | Accommodation: Vinh Hung resort (Superior)

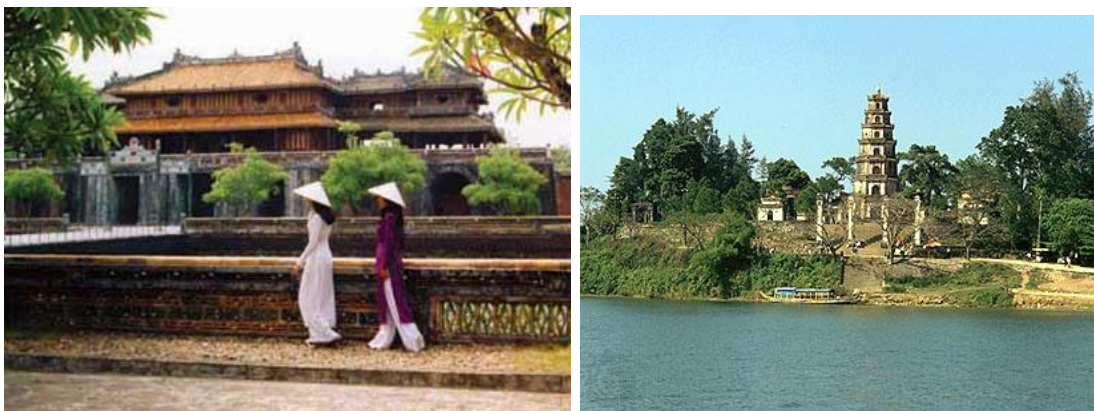
Free day in Hoian to enjoy the beach or shopping in the old town.



Day 10: Hue

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Accommodation: Moonlight Hotel (Deluxe Riverview)

In the morning, you will transfer to Hue, with a great chance to visit the Marble mountain and Cham Sculpture museum and drive over the stunning Hai Van pass. Check into Gerberra Hotel. In the afternoon, you will take a Dragon style boat trip on Perfume river to visit the ancient Thien Mu (Heavenly Lady) pagoda. Hue is also very famous for its historical relics including King's tomb. Your boat will stop by Tu Duc tomb, one of the nicest King's tomb which is set in hamony of Earth, Heaven, Green trees, Water and monuments. You will take a small walk to a smaller tomb of Dong Khanh before your bus pick you up to go back to your hotel.



/Day 11: Hue- Hanoi

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Accommodation: Accommodation: Hanoi Pearl Hotel (Executive room)

This morning take you to the Forbidden Purple City, the former living place of the Royal family during the Nguyen dynasty in from 19th century to mid 20th century. Although most of palaces were destroyed during the American War (Vietnamese War) especially in Tet offensive (1968), this place still worth a visit with many palaces and temples. Your guide will help you to understand more about this period in Vietnam history as well as the daily life of the Royal family.

Afternoon fly to Hanoi. Your friendly Hanoi guide will meet you at Hanoi airport and transfer to Hanoi downtown.

Day 12: Hanoi City tour

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Accommodation: Hanoi Pearl Hotel (Executive room)

After breakfast in your hotel you will be met by your guide at 8:00am for an insightful city tour to visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and Museum, One Pillar Pagoda (ad 1049), and The Temple of Literature (ad 1070). Following lunch, you will take a fascinating 2 hour tour of Hanoi's Old Quarter by Cyclo. The history of the Old Quarter dates back some 2000 years with its 36 narrow streets each named after the trade or merchandise made and sold there. With various influences in the architecture and the many temples dedicated to the patron saint of each guild, this is truly a shoppers and photographers delight. Back to your hotel to relax.



Day 13: Hoian – Halong Bay

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Accommodation: Treasure Junk (Superior)

Depart from Hanoi at 8.00 for a 3.5 hours drive to Halong City through the Red River Delta. Upon arrival, get on board of the Treasure Junk. Start cruising from Hon Gai pier to the boundaries of Halong bay while lunch with fresh seafood is served (vegetarian and kids menus available).

After lunch, just make yourself at ease and relax. We are slowly getting off the classic cruising routes, far from the clichés of a busy tourism spot. Limestone rock formations will parade around us for about 2 hours before our first stop.

We reach the perfect spot, remote and scenic, where the waters of Halong and Bai Tu Long hit and wave together. Let's get ready for serious things. Swimming suits, ok. Kayaks and tender boat, ok. Paddles and gears, ok. Let's get closer to the water and explore the bay in depth.

After one/one and a half hour kayaking, we get back on board to refresh and start the aperitif on the sundeck. Dinner is served either inside or outside depending on weather conditions. Overnight on board in a cozy air-conditioned cabin with en-suite bathroom facilities.

Day 14: Kayaking in Halong Bay

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Accommodation: Treasure Junk (Superior)

The breakfast will be served from 7.15am. But if you like, we invite you to share a cup of tea or coffee from 6.30am and participate then in a Tai Chi session before breakfast.

Around 8.30am, we board a smaller boat. It takes us even farther from the touristy area, to the hidden nooks of the archipelago.

A whole day of fun and relaxation. More kayaking, more swimming, more sandy beaches, more floating houses, more local cuisine, definitely a "cruise++"... The exact program depends on tide and weather conditions but we guarantee that we will make this trip extension worth. Lunch will be served on the support boat.

The guide will lead you back to the Treasure Junk in the mid-afternoon. Time to refresh and to make yourself cozy on the sundeck. Dinner will be served again either in the dining room or on the deck. Second night onboard.

Day 15: Ha Long – Ha Noi

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Accommodation: Hanoi Pearl Hotel (Executive room)

We will be back at the pier about 11am, and driven to Hanoi with an expected arrival time about 4pm. The day will be short so let's wake up early to take the maximum of it.

Coffee, tea and cakes will be served from 6.30am. Wake up smoothly while witnessing the silence of beautiful misty bay. A 30-minute Tai Chi session will be organized, energize your body and soul or just allow yourself some farniente time on a sunbath with a cup of coffee.

About 7.45am, we hop on bamboo boats to go visiting a secluded floating village surrounded by the mountains. We spawn our way between numerous floating houses and small rowing boats that serve the everyday life as vehicle, itinerant shops, fishing utility, sometimes overnight shelter.

Back on treasure before 9am, we start cruising back to the pier. From 9.30am, a brunch will be served. Take a last glance at the rocks, standing still as the eternal guardians of a kingdom, we are about to reach the pier.

Once on land, we sit in a small café to wait for our overland vehicle.

Farewell dinner at Wild Rice restaurant.

Day 16: Free in Hanoi.

Free in Hanoi until your flight out of Vietnam Trip ends.



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The guide will lead you back to the Treasure Junk in the mid-afternoon. Time to refresh and to make yourself cozy on the sundeck. Dinner will be served again either in the dining room or on the deck. Second night onboard.

Day 18: Ha Long – Ha Noi

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Accommodation: Treasure Junk (Superior)

We will be back at the pier about 11am, and driven to Hanoi with an expected arrival time about 4pm. The day will be short so let's wake up early to take the maximum of it.

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Farewell dinner at Wild Rice restaurant.

Day 19: Free in Hanoi

Free in Hanoi to do some retail therapy before you check out of your hotel at 12 noon flight departs at 1600

TOUR COST PER PERSON TWIN SHARE \$4350

Accommodation: Or Similar

City	Hotel	Room type	Rate	Location
Saigon	Royal Lotus hotel – New Wing	Classic	4 star	City Saigon Center near Dong Khoi
Can Tho	Victoria Can Tho	Superior	4 star	By Mekong river with 5 minute shuttle boat to city center
Hoian	Vinh Hung resort	Superior	4 star	By Thu Bon river with 2 minute walk to the Old town
Hue	Gerbera Hue hotel	Deluxe city view	4 star	City center
Hanoi	Golden Silk Hotel	Luxury	4-star	Old quarter
Halong	Treasure Junk	Superior cabin	4 star	n/a

Services not included:

- Evening Meal
- Visa fees, currently USD 20-- per person
- International airport tax, currently USD 25-- per person
- Expenditure of a personal nature.
- Travel Insurance
- Travel insurance (cover against all cancellation costs, medical expenses, including repatriation, in the event of accident of illness)

VIETNAM

Service included

- Two** Internal flights with Vietnam Airlines
- Local English-speaking guides, except for free time in Hoian
 - Ho Chi Minh & Mekong Delta: 01 Guide
 - Hoian & Hue: 01 Guide
 - Hanoi & Halong: 01 Guide
 - Accommodation in double/ twin shared at mentioned hotels with daily breakfast
 - Private transfer by appropriate vehicle with air-conditioner and by experienced driver:
 - Boat trip cruise in Halong Bay and Bai Tu Long bay by Treasure Junk
 - Meals as mentioned in the itinerary: B- Breakfast, L- Lunch, D- dinner
 - Boat trips in Mekong Delta river as specified
 - Entrance fees for all sightseeing.

Services not included:

International flights

- Travel insurance
- Other meals, tip, drinks even drinking water
- Single room supplement
- Personal expenses
- Visa and visa service to Vietnam/ Cambodia
- Any optional additional tours or activities during free time
- Late check out from the hotels
- Things are not mentioned in above lists



PO Box 947 Mona Vale NSW 1660 Phone 0299977442/ 0418917342
Email: enquiries@tayloradventure.com
www.tayloradventure.com