



VIETNAM

PHO-nomenal Vietnam

A dash of culture, a sprinkle of nature and a banquet of deliciousness.
It's Vietnam as you'd expect it, but better.

It's a cultural melting pot, with more things to see than the ingredients list for a Vietnamese soup. From the buzzing city of Ho Chi Minh City, to the UNESCO world heritage listed town of Hoi An, this is one trip that'll leave your bellies as full as your memories.

Day 1 Ho Chi Minh

Your guide will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel before you discover the sights of Ho Chi Minh City after dark on a vintage vespa and dine on street foods in authentic local restaurants.

Overnight: The Myst Dong Khoi

Day 2 Ho Chi Minh

Visit the ingenious Cu Chi tunnels, an immense network of connecting underground tunnels used by the Viet Cong as hiding spots during combat. Return to Ho Chi Minh City by speedboat.

Overnight: The Myst Dong Khoi

Day 3 Ho Chi Minh

A walking tour through the 'real' Ho Chi Minh City will offer up the delicious food delights, starting at a pho place that's been serving noodle soup for more than 35 years. Sit down for a picnic in a local park where there's a fortune-telling temple famous nearby and then transfer to Ho Chi Minh airport for a flight to Danang.

Overnight: Almanity Hoi An Resort

Day 4 Hoi An

Visit Hoi An's Cam Thanh Village known for dense water coconut jungles and rice fields. Transfer to the Co Co river for a bamboo basket-boat ride to Thanh Dong village, the only organic farm in Hoi An. Explore the Thu Bon River by kayak.

Overnight: Almanity Hoi An Resort

Day 5 Lang Co

Head to Lang Co where you can embark on the local boat and enjoy the water overlooked by the Annamite Cordillera covered by jungle. Discover local fishing techniques and how the locals live in this village, which revolves around the lagoon. Have lunch in an authentic stilt house above the water.

Overnight: Lang Co Beach Resort

Day 6 Lang Co

Visit Bach Ma National Park. Meet a local forest expert for an eight kilometre hike along sub-tropical forest trails. Visit the Ngu Ho Lake and Do Quyen Waterfall. Transfer to Hue, popular for historical monuments. Visit the home of a local family to see traditional dishes, then ride to the citadel to visit a doctor of herbal medicine and his shop.

Overnight: Hue Riverside resort

Day 7 Hue

Depart from Hue for Phong Nha with a stop at the Ben Hai River and Hien Luong Bridge. Upon arrival in Phong Nha, check-in to your hotel and depart for a biking trip around Bong Lai Eco village, and a boat trip along Son river to explore Phong Nha cave.

Overnight: Chay Lap Farmstay

Day 8 Phong Nha

Depart Phong Nha on a 90 minute drive to Paradise Cave. The 31 kilometre long cave is the largest cave in the area. Lunch outside the cave followed by zip lining and kayaking on the Chay River. Don headlights and specialised equipment to explore Dark Cave, with an optional swim in the cool water of Thuy Tien Lake inside the cave, before transferring back to Dong Hoi.

Overnight: Chay Lap Farmstay

Day 9 Phong Nha

Drive to the Phong Nha – Ke Bang National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Hike through lush jungle to the village of Ban Doong. Learn about the unique Van Kieu ethnic group while travelling through the jungle, streams and rivers to the entrance to Hang En Cave, home to thousands of swifts.

Overnight: Simple tent in the cave

Day 10 Ban Doong

Explore the breathtaking exit to Hang En Cave and trek through the dry passage to the viewpoint high above camp where you can marvel at 300 million-year-old fossils. Trek back through the mountainous river valley, through the jungle and across streams until reaching Ban Doong Village from where you'll transfer to the train station for the overnight train to Hanoi.

Overnight: Thong Nhat train/two people per cabin

Day 11 Hanoi

Depart from Hanoi to Pu Luong Nature Reserve. You will be transferred to a suspension bridge over the Cham River. Arriving at a local fisherman's house, you have a short rest to gear up for the rafting adventure with Dinh and his team, which will end at the scenic Tan Lap Bridge. From here, a transfer will take you back to Pu Luong Retreat for dinner.

Overnight: Pu Luong Retreat

Day 12 Hanoi

Start early to descend into the beautiful valley facing the retreat, where you walk around tumbling rice terraces. Trek through small paths shrouded in vegetation, which will leave you to a picturesque village sitting at the base of a towering mountain.

Overnight: Pu Luong Retreat

Day 13 Hanoi

You have the chance to get close to village life and interact with locals living in the hills above the retreat. Walk around working farms and rice fields, and learn about making rice wine and weaving colourful textiles, followed by lunch with a local family.

Overnight: The Chi Hotel

Day 14 Hanoi

Free time at leisure, then transfer to Hanoi airport for your onward flight.

Inclusions

- Experienced English speaking local guides
 - Private transportation by air-conditioned vehicle for transfer and support truck for cycling days (from five people up)
 - Bicycle rental and helmet for cycling days
 - Meals as mentioned in the full itinerary
 - Bottled drinking water for sightseeing
 - Snack and fresh fruit for cycling day
 - All sightseeing entrance fees where required
 - Mechanic support from seven people up
 - Accommodation in twin/double shared room in hotel with daily breakfast
 - Basic first aid kit
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Exclusions

- International flight to/from Vietnam
- Vietnam visa
- Travel Insurance. We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance from home
- Personal expenditure (telephone, laundry, shopping, etc)
- Tips for guide, driver, porters. We recommend AU\$4 per person, per day for guide, AU\$3 per person, per day for driver and AU\$3 per person, per hotel when you check in/out
- Beverages and alcoholic drinks
- Any other services not clearly mentioned on itinerary