



## Tours

### EXPLORE VIETNAM'S CULTURE

14 Days / 13 Nights



#### DAY 1: Arrival in Ho Chi Minh City

Arrive in Tan Son Nhat Airport - Ho Chi Minh City, transfer to hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. Later, escape the bustle of the city and cruise along Saigon River to experience Saigon by night and enjoy a buffet dinner onboard the biggest dragon boat in Vietnam with entertainment and music. Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City (D)

#### DAY 2: Ho Chi Minh City-Cu Chi Tunnels-Ho Chi Minh City

After breakfast, city tour of Ho Chi Minh City, also known as Saigon. Visit the former Presidential Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral, Old Saigon Post Office, a lacquer ware factory and Thien Hau Pagoda in Chinatown. In the afternoon visit the famous Cu Chi Tunnels, an incredible underground network of tunnels

constructed by Vietnamese resistance fighters during the time struggle for independence.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City. ( B )

#### DAY 3: Ho Chi Minh City-My Tho-Ho Chi Minh City

After breakfast at the hotel, take a coach trip for about 2 hours to the watery world of the Mekong Delta. Take a boat trip along Mekong River, sampling exotic fruits at one of the many orchards along the way. Stop for lunch at a local restaurant featuring Elephant's Ear fish. Visit Vinh Trang Ancient Pagoda on the way back to Ho Chi Minh City.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City. (B,L)

#### DAY 4: Ho Chi Minh City-Dalat

Depart Ho Chi Minh City after breakfast and proceed to Dalat through rubber and tea plantations up to the cooler climes of Dalat highland, 300km from Ho Chi Minh City. It was built as a hill station at the beginning of the century. Dalat is reminiscent of an alpine town with its French chalets and pine forests. In the afternoon, sightseeing in Dalat, visit the former summer palace of Emperor Bao Dai, the old Dalat Railway Station, Xuan Huong Lake, the Central Market, Truc Lam Meditation.

Overnight in Dalat. (B)



#### DAY 5: Dalat - Nha Trang

In the morning, visit Lat Village at the foot of the Langbiang Mountain, meet ethnic minorities and enjoy Cong - Chieng - music of the forest and mountain while drinking Can, the locally made alcoholic beverage. Rock and roll on board a coach down the Spectacular Pass to the arid coastal city of Phan Rang. Stop over here to visit the 13th century Po Klong Jarai Cham Towers. Following the National Road No 1 along the coast, we then head north past salt ponds and rice fields to Nha Trang. Check in to hotel on arrival in Nha Trang. Overnight in Nha Trang. (B)

#### DAY 6: Nha Trang-City tour and boat cruise

In the morning, visit the Po Nagar Cham Towers, the Stone Church and Long Son Pagoda with its enormous white Buddha statue. In the afternoon, take a boat trip on Nha Trang Bay to visit some of the nearby islands and swim and snorkel in the clear warm waters.

Overnight in Nha Trang. (B)



**DAY 7: Nha Trang-Danang-Hoi An**

Transfer to Cam Ranh airport for flight to Danang. Upon arrival, visit Marble Mountain, stone carving village and Cham Museum in Danang. Arrive in Hoi An in the afternoon. Hoi An was a major Asian trading port in the 17th and 18th centuries and its architecture and relaxed lifestyle has changed little over the years. Take a walking tour of the ancient town centre to visit former merchants' houses, the 400 year-old Japanese Covered Bridge and the colourful market. Overnight in Hoi An. (B)

**DAY 8: Hoi An-Cooking Class-Hue**

Today you will have chance to learn about Vietnamese food by taking a cooking class. Visit the market, where we will have the opportunity to interact with the local sellers and purchase some of the ingredients to be used in the cooking lesson. Board a boat for a cruise along Hoi An River to the cooking school. The cooking class is an interesting and fun way to learn about the local cuisine and includes demonstrations from the school's chefs as well as the chance for you to help prepare some dishes. Included in the demonstration is a brief introduction to Vietnamese food carving (plate decoration). Enjoy your lunch.

After lunch, leave Hoi An early in the afternoon for Hue, the former imperial capital of Vietnam. On the way pass through Danang, before climbing up the Pass of Ocean Clouds and down to Lang Co fishing village. Arrive in Hue late afternoon, check into hotel. Overnight in Hue. (B, L)



**DAY 9: Hue**

A boat trip on the Perfume River visits Hue's best-known religious site, Thien Mu Pagoda, and the mausoleum of former emperor Minh Mang. In the afternoon visit the elaborate mausoleums of emperors Tu Duc and the Imperial Citadel from where the Nguyen Dynasty ruled between 1802 and 1945. Overnight in Hue. (B)

**DAY 10: Hue-Hanoi-Hai Phong**

Transfer to Hue Airport after breakfast for a short flight to Vietnam's capital city, Hanoi. Road to Hai Phong, Vietnam's third largest city, after arrival in Noi Bai airport - Hanoi. Hai Phong still has many impressive examples of classic European colonial architecture in the town centre. An afternoon city tour along the wide boulevards includes a visit to Hang Kenh Tapestry Factory and the Du Hang Pagoda, founded over three centuries ago. Overnight in Hai Phong. (B)

**DAY 11: Haiphong-Halong-Hanoi**

After breakfast continue to Halong board a private boat for a cruise among some of the 3,000 limestone islands that are scattered throughout this spectacular bay. The cruise includes a fresh seafood lunch. Back on shore. Drive to Hanoi. At leisure. Overnight in Hanoi. (B,L)

**DAY 12: Hanoi-City tour**

A full day city tour Hanoi. Hanoi is a unique city with French colonial architecture, peaceful lakes and oriental temples. Visit Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, the One Pillar Pagoda, the Fine Arts Museum and the Temple of Literature. After lunch, continue to the Museum of Ethnology, the Lake of the Restored Sword and end the afternoon by taking a cyclo tour to visit the Old Quarter. In the evening enjoy a traditional Vietnamese water puppet show. Overnight in Hanoi. (B)



**DAY 13: Hanoi-Bat Trang Ceramic Village**

After breakfast, a short drive across the Red River will take you to Bat Trang ceramic village, where you will see the complete production process, starting from preparing the clay, shaping the items, drawing and putting them into the kiln. It is a great opportunity to bargain for some products as a special souvenir of the trip.

At leisure in the afternoon.

Overnight in Hanoi (B)

**DAY 14: Depart Hanoi**

At leisure until transfer to Noi Bai Airport for onward flight. End of tour. (B)