

9D8N · VIETNAM

# Grand Vietnam: Saigon, Danang, Hanoi, Ninh Binh & Halong Bay

Mekong Delta · Cu Chi Tunnels · Danang · Marble Mountains · Hoi An · Ba Na Hills

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| DURATION | DESTINATION | MEALS | STARTING FROM |
|---|---|---|---|
| **9 Days / 8 Nights** | **Vietnam** | **As per itinerary** | **Get Your Custom Plan** |

## Highlights

Nine days from south to north: Saigon, the Mekong Delta and Cu Chi Tunnels, Hoi An and Ba Na Hills, Ninh Binh and a night on a Halong Bay cruise.

## Day-by-day itinerary

**Day 1**

### Saigon Arrival and City Tour

On arrival at Tan Son Nhat International Airport your local guide meets you and takes you to your hotel. Check in is from 2 pm; early check in carries a surcharge.

Visit the Independence Palace, a symbol of Vietnam's victory, peace and unity, with its striking design, richly furnished rooms and large grounds. Continue to Notre Dame Cathedral and the Old Post Office, built between 1877 and 1883 and among the finest examples of French colonial architecture. Visit Thien Hau Pagoda, a much loved temple built in the early 19th century. The tour ends at the busy Ben Thanh Market, with everything from souvenirs to silk Ao Dai dresses.

Meals: None

Overnight: Saigon

**Day 2**

### Mekong Delta

Travel to My Tho to explore the Mekong Delta. Cruise the Mekong River, passing river banks, floating fish markets and the Dragon, Unicorn, Turtle and Phoenix islands. Row along Vam Chua natural canal in Ben Tre province, visit a tropical fruit orchard, enjoy seasonal fruit with traditional southern music and taste fresh sweets at a coconut candy workshop. Return to Saigon.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Saigon

Day 3

## Cu Chi Tunnels and Flight to Danang

Visit the Cu Chi Tunnels, an underground defence network of about 250 km first dug in the late 1940s and used as a base during the war with America. It held clinics, living rooms, kitchens, stores and offices. Take a short jungle walk to see the traps, secret entrances, bunkers and hideouts.

Return to Saigon and take the afternoon flight to Danang.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Danang

Day 4

## Marble Mountains and Hoi An

Visit the Marble Mountains, a cluster of five limestone and marble hills, and explore the caves, pagodas and shrines within them, such as Huyen Khong Cave, Tam Thai Pagoda and Linh Nham Cave.

Visit Hoi An town, listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 1999 for its unusually well preserved ancient streets and homes: the Japanese Bridge, a merchant house, the Chinese Fujian Temple, Hoi An Central Market, the Museum of History and Culture and the Hoi An Handicraft Workshop.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Danang

Day 5

## Ba Na Hills and Flight to Hanoi

Your driver and local guide take you to Ba Na Hills. Ride the record setting cable car to the hill station and see the Golden Bridge, Vong Nguyet hills, Linh Ung Pagoda and the old French villas. Continue by cable car to Nui Chua Mountain, the top of the Ba Na range, to see Nghinh Phong Peak, Le Nim Villas and the Orchid Garden. Ride the hill funicular, the first in Vietnam, and stroll through Le Jardin D'Amour flower garden.

Transfer to Danang Airport for the short flight to Hanoi.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Hanoi

Day 6

## Ninh Binh Day Trip

Drive about 90 km south of Hanoi to Ninh Binh, an ancient capital of Vietnam before Hanoi took that role in the 11th century. Start at Hoa Lu with the old temples dedicated to King Dinh and King Le, who reigned in the 10th century. Continue with a boat trip at Tam Coc, where limestone karsts rise from green paddy fields, earning the area the name "Halong Bay on land". Return to Hanoi.

Meals: Breakfast

Overnight: Hanoi

Day 7

## Hanoi to Halong Bay Overnight Cruise

After an early breakfast your driver will take you from the hotel to the coast at Halong. The journey takes around four hours, with a break to stretch your legs. At Tuan Chau Marina board your boat and start cruising.

Halong Bay is a UNESCO World Heritage Site of almost 2,000 islands and jungle covered limestone pillars. Enjoy an overnight cruise with an excellent menu of fresh seafood. Lunch and dinner are served on board.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

Overnight: On the cruise

Day 8

### Halong Bay to Hanoi

Wake early to enjoy the bay at its best. After tea or coffee and pastries, the boat continues through the limestone formations of Halong Bay and its more secluded islands. After a hearty brunch on board at 12 noon you return to Halong Harbour.

Drive back to Hanoi.

Meals: Breakfast and brunch

Overnight: Hanoi

Day 9

### Hanoi Departure

Breakfast at the hotel, then free time until your transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Meals: Breakfast

## Hotels

### Eco

- Avanti Hotel (Superior) or similar — Saigon
- Fivitel King Hotel (Superior) or similar — Danang
- First Eden Hotel (Deluxe) or similar — Hanoi
- Hera Classic Boutique Cruise (Deluxe) or similar — Halong Bay

### Comfort

- Aristo Hotel (Premier Deluxe) or similar — Saigon
- Grand Gold (Deluxe Partial Sea View) or similar — Danang
- Minasi Premium (Deluxe) or similar — Hanoi
- Verdure Classic Cruise (Deluxe) or similar — Halong Bay

### Premium

- Equatorial Ho Chi Minh (Deluxe City View) or similar — Saigon
- Peninsula Hotel (Deluxe City Queen) or similar — Danang
- May De Ville Luxury Hotel & Spa (Deluxe City View) or similar — Hanoi

Twin sharing · taxes as applicable

## Inclusions

- ✓ Hotel stays with breakfast, on double, twin or triple sharing
- ✓ All airport, hotel and sightseeing transfers
- ✓ English speaking guide as mentioned
- ✓ Meals as mentioned

- ✓ Sightseeing tours and cruise as shown in the itinerary
- ✓ Bottled drinking water in the vehicle (1 to 2 bottles per person per day)
- ✓ Overnight Halong Bay cruise (2 days, 1 night)

## Exclusions

- ✗ Visa arrangements
- ✗ Flights, including flights within Vietnam, and international taxes
- ✗ Travel insurance
- ✗ Early check in and late check out
- ✗ Hotel or room upgrades
- ✗ Festival surcharges and compulsory festival meals charged by hotels
- ✗ Detours
- ✗ Tips and personal expenses
- ✗ Any service not clearly listed as included

## Additional Information

- We strongly recommend travel insurance, including emergency medical evacuation, for trips to Vietnam.
- Air fares can change without notice by the airline.
- Peak dates (Christmas, New Year, Vietnamese Lunar New Year, Easter and national holidays) may carry extra charges and compulsory meals.
- Hotel check in is from 2 pm on the day of arrival and check out is by 12 noon on the day of departure. Early check in or late check out costs extra.
- Hotels listed are examples; you will stay at these or similar ones.

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