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## Explore Vietnam - The land of the Ascending Dragon

11 Nights/12 Days

- Visit the Temple of Literature, Hoan Kiem Lake, Old Quarter of Hanoi
- Drive to Ha Long Bay and later explore the Sung Sot
- Visit Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Take a boat ride on the Son River to Phong Nha Cave
- Visit the Forbidden Purple City, modeled after Beijing's famed Forbidden City in Hue
- Visit Dong Khoi Street, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Central Post Office, War Remnants Museum and Reunification Palace in Ho Chi Minh City
- Visit the Cu Chi tunnels

**From £1409 per person**

### Overview:

With its long history, interesting culture, and sprawling landscapes, Vietnam offers something for everyone. On this Vietnam tour, you'll overnight in Hanoi, Ha Long Bay, Phong Nha National Park, Hoi An, Hue, and Ho Chi Minh City. Sightseeing tours in the cities feature the must-see historic sites, including Hanoi's Temple of Literature, built in 1070, and One Pillar Pagoda, built in 1049; Hoi An's Japanese Covered Bridge; Hue's Forbidden Purple City, the emperor's residence constructed in 1804; and Hoi An's Thien Mu Pagoda. In Ho Chi Minh City, your sightseeing includes the War Remnants Museum and the Cu Chi region, where you'll have a chance to enter and explore the deep, narrow tunnels constructed by the Viet Cong during the war. Vietnam isn't just home to beautiful temples and historic sites though! You'll enjoy seeing some of Vietnam's most gorgeous sights and destinations via the water. Perhaps the highlight of the trip is your cruise on Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with some of the world's most amazing limestone formations. You'll sail by islets, caves, beaches, and floating villages. In Phong Nha National Park, a boat ride on the Son River takes you to Phong Nha Cave. You'll also enjoy a cruise in Hoi An on the Thu Bon River, where you'll pass unspoiled countryside. These are just some of the many highlights on this tour through Vietnam. From the historic sites to the stunning scenery, this Vietnam tour designed for savvy, value-minded travelers is a vacation of a lifetime!

### Itinerary:

#### Day 1: Hanoi, Vietnam

Welcome to Vietnam's capital city. Hotel rooms are available for a mid-afternoon check-in.

#### Day 2: Hanoi

Today's included sightseeing tour takes you to many of the city's highlights, including the Temple of Literature, a peaceful series of walled courtyards and gateways, and One Pillar Pagoda, designed to resemble a lotus blossom. You will also see Ho Chi Minh's stilt house, Hoan Kiem Lake, and the fascinating

network of alleyways and shop houses that make up the Old Quarter. This evening, enjoy a performance of Hanoi's famed water puppets.

Breakfast & Dinner

### **Day 3: Hanoi-Ha Long Bay**

Drive to Ha Long Bay, one of Vietnam's favorite destinations, and board your afternoon cruise through the stunning bay. Enjoy lunch on board as you sail through the dramatic limestone islands, then explore the Sung Sot (Surprising Cave) and visit Titov Island.

Breakfast & Lunch

### **Day 4: Ha Long Bay–Hanoi–Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park**

Return to Hanoi this morning and fly to Dong Hoi. From here, journey inland to remarkable Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site park littered with beautiful jungles, caves, and underground rivers. Your lodging tonight is a charming farmstay at the base of the park.

Breakfast

### **Day 5: Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park**

This morning, take a boat ride on the Son River to Phong Nha Cave, famous for its rock formations with names like the "Lion" and the "Buddha." The afternoon is at your leisure to enjoy the activities and serene views at your hotel.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

### **Day 6: Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park–Hue**

Drive to Hue, stopping at the DMZ bridge en route. Upon arrival in the imperial walled city of Hue, visit the Forbidden Purple City, modeled after Beijing's famed Forbidden City. During your visit, you will see Thai Hoa Palace, the Halls of the Mandarins, and the Nine Dynastic Urns.

Breakfast

### **Day 7: Hue–Hoi An**

Begin today with a visit to Thien Mu Pagoda, made up of seven tiers, each dedicated to a step assumed by Buddha to reach enlightenment. Continue up the river to the Imperial Tomb of Minh Mang, a majestic complex of courtyards, pavilions, and temples in a beautiful setting. Head south through spectacular Hai Van Pass (weather permitting) and visit the Cham Museum, then continue to the charming town of Hoi An.

Breakfast & Lunch

### **Day 8: Hoi An**

Start today with a cruise on the Thu Bon River, passing unspoiled countryside. Then, a leisurely walking tour through Hoi An Ancient Town brings you to the Japanese Covered Bridge. The remainder of the day is at your leisure.

Breakfast

### **Day 9: Hoi An–Ho Chi Minh City**

Enjoy your morning at leisure. This afternoon, fly to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam's largest and most vibrant city, packed with timeless traditions.

Breakfast

### **Day 10: Ho Chi Minh City**

Today's sightseeing tour takes in Dong Khoi Street, the main shopping thoroughfare, Notre Dame Cathedral and the Central Post Office. Afterward, visit the Reunification Palace and the War Remnants Museum, as

well as the Chinese district.

Breakfast

### **Day 11: Ho Chi Minh City - Cu Chi Tunnels Excursion**

Today, visit the Cu Chi tunnels, an extraordinary network of tunnels more than 120 miles long that was used by the Viet Cong as a hideout and secret village during the war. See secret trapdoors, underground kitchens, living areas, and meeting rooms. If you are feeling adventurous, you may enter and explore the deep, narrow tunnels.

Breakfast

### **Day 12: Ho Chi Minh City**

Your tour ends with breakfast this morning.

Breakfast

## **Inclusions:**

- Private, deluxe, air-conditioned motorcoach while touring
- Meals as specified in the programme
- Activities as mentioned in the program
- English speaking guide

## **Exclusions:**

- Expenses of personal nature
- Camera fee
- Any other expenses in not mentioned above

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