



TASTE OF VIETNAM 7 days/6 nights

Itinerary Code: INS-PA04
Tour Operator / Agent: Inspire Travel
Quotation date: March 20, 2013
Validity: March 13, to Dec 31, 2014

OVERVIEW

In one exciting week we sample the best of the North and the South, a taste of the diversity and contrasts this country has to offer. Highlights in the south include Ho Chi Minh City, the Cu Chi Tunnels and the Mekong River. In the North we visit majestic Ha Long Bay and explore the many wonders of Hanoi's Old Quarter.

ITINERARY

Day 1 | Arrive Ho Chi Minh City (D)

Arrive in Ho Chi Minh City, meet your guide & driver then transfer to hotel for check-in. In the evening enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Ho Chi Minh City formerly named Saigon, is the largest city in Vietnam and much more crowded and exciting than Hanoi. It overcame the war history to become a modern and dynamic City. The boast of Saigon is it's French Colonial architecture and wide boulevards.

*Accommodation: In Ho Chi Minh City
Meals : Dinner*

Day 2 | Ho Chi Minh City - Cu Chi tunnel (B/L)

Today you will visit Ho Chi Minh City, the former Saigon – capital of the South Vietnam during 1954-1975. The tour will include the War Remnants Museum, which shows the Vietnam War through many left-over weapons and photos taken by international journalists, then travel on to see the Reunification Palace, former residence of the South Vietnam President. Continue the morning with a stop at Notre Dame Cathedral and the Central Post Office, which was designed by the Gustavo Eiffel Company in 1886. Enjoy a Vietnamese lunch at a local restaurant, and then drive to Cu Chi to see the tunnels which were built over a period of 20 years from 1940s to 1972 by Vietcong to hide themselves. Take a walking tour at the site, try a short part of the tunnel (if you wish to) to understand more about the life of guerrillas in the war time. Return to the hotel by late afternoon.

*Accommodation: In Ho Chi Minh City
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

Day 3 | Mekong Delta Exploration (B/L)

Depart to Cai Be, a small town deep in the Mekong Delta. Here board a private boat and visit the colourful Cai Be floating market, where you'll cruise among local barges full of fruits and vegetables. Later a special visit will be made to an ancient Mandarin's house, dating from the 19th century, where the family will host you with a delicious lunch. You will also visit some local home factories that produce rice paste, rice popcorn and coconut candies. After lunch, your boat trip will cruise deeper into the countryside on smaller canals and creeks passing under small traditional bridges made from wood and bamboo. You will discover beautiful landscapes and observe typical Mekong Delta rural life. At the end of your cruise, return by road to Ho Chi Minh City.

Accommodation: In Ho Chi Minh City

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 4 | Ho Chi Minh City – Hanoi (B//L)

After breakfast, check-out then transfer to the airport for the flight to Hanoi, the capital city of Vietnam. When you've settled in, you will visit some beautiful spots which are regarded as the heart and soul of Hanoi such as Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum and Stilt House, then continue our visit to the Temple of Literature, the first National University of Vietnam, where you may take part in music exchanges with local people. Lunch is served at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, learn about the 54 traditions of Vietnam through an excursion to the Museum of Ethnology, then transfer to downtown for an meandering cyclo trip in the Old Quarter. There will be plenty of photo opportunities around Hoan Kiem Lake then end the day with a special traditional Water Puppet show.

Hanoi, The capital of Vietnam welcomes you with very special oriental beauty which lies in the lovely and friendly smiles of the locals you meet. During your holiday, you will stay at one of the well located hotels in the city center. It is near or within the old quarter, therefore you will find it easy to explore the vibrant life of a true Hanoian, go shopping and visit many cultural spots within easy walking distance.

Accommodation: In Hanoi

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 5 | Hanoi - Ha Long Bay (B/L/D)

About a three and half hour drive from Hanoi (4hrs for the big bus with a half way rest stop), you will reach Halong Bay then board on a traditional junk for a fantastic cruise to explore the magnificent rock formations and grottos that this area is famous for. After lunch, take a rowing boat to visit one of the fishing villages on the bay. In the late afternoon, an optional Kayaking trip is available to discover more parts of the area on your own, or just relax and enjoy watching the sun go down. Dinner will be served on board with local seafood specialities.

Halong is a UNESCO World Natural Heritage site which should never be missed on a visit to Vietnam. It has a lot of beautiful caves and grottoes around with



characteristic limestone cliffs. It doesn't matter whether you are a nature lover or not, this bay is truly majestic..

*Accommodation: On Ha Long Bay Junk Boat
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner*

Day 6 | Ha Long Bay - Hanoi (B/D)

Early in the morning enjoy a cup of tea or Vietnamese coffee then join the Vietnamese Tai Chi class on the sundeck and catch the first rays of sunrise for another beautiful day on the bay. Continue our cruise among the breathtaking scenery, visit one of the most beautiful limestone cave, and open your eyes, your mind and your ears to nature. At 9.30am we will check-out and then have a delicious brunch before disembarking. Around 11:00 meet the driver at the pier then enjoy the drive back to Hanoi.

In the evening gather together in a local restaurant for your farewell dinner.

*Accommodation: In Hanoi
Meals: Brunch, Dinner*

Day 7 | Hanoi Departure (B)

Breakfast at hotel then free time until departure. Hotel check-out time is 12:00pm.

*Accommodation: On your flight
Meals: Breakfast*

INCLUSIONS:

- Accommodation in a double or twin share room with daily breakfast
- Overnight cruise on board a wooden boat in Halong Bay (non-private boat)
- Private boat in Mekong
- Private air-conditioned vehicle during all tours and transfers.
- Local Experienced English speaking guide
- Entrance fees for all visits as mentioned in the itinerary
- Meals as specified in the itinerary
- Water puppet show
- 1 bottle of Water and tissues/day/person

EXCLUSIONS:

- Flights in and out of Vietnam
- Domestic flight
- Single supplement
- Vietnamese visa (a visa is compulsory and must be arranged in advance)
- Meals, if not specified in the itinerary
- Travel insurance (we highly recommend that you purchase adequate insurance)
- Gratuities for guides and drivers
- Personal expenses, such as laundry, telephone, drinks, etc.
- All other services not mentioned in the itinerary



Note:

- Air fares are quoted in economy class and subject to change without prior notice
- For Scandinavian Nationals, visas are exempt if your stay in Vietnam is less than 15 days.
- Surcharge for peak season may be required for Jan 1, Dec 24 - Dec 25, Dec 31, Apr 30 - May 1, 2013

HOTEL SPECIFICATION

| Cities | 3 star hotel | 4 star hotel |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Hanoi | Golden Lotus (Superior room) | Prestige Hotel (Deluxe room) |
| | Chalcedony (Deluxe room) | Sunway Hotel (Deluxe room) |
| Halong | Huong Hai Boat (Deluxe Cabin) | Indochina Sails (Superior Cabin) |
| | Bai Tho Boat (Superior Cabin) | Emeraude Classic (Superior Cabin) |
| HCMC | Elois (Superior room) | Duxton (Deluxe room) |
| | Northern (Superior room) | Saigon Palace hotel (Deluxe room) |

