



VIETNAM HIGHLIGHT 14 days/13 nights

Itinerary Code: INS-VHL14
Tour Operator / Agent: Inspire Travel
Quotation date: March 20, 2014
Validity: March 20, to Dec 31, 2015

OVERVIEW

In two exciting weeks 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. We then travel up to Central Vietnam to experience the delights of this ancient area and its delicious cuisine. 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 (Saigon) (D)

Arrive in Ho Chi Minh City. Meet your guide and driver then transfer to your hotel. Free time at your leisure after check-in.
Welcome dinner cruise on the Saigon river.

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

Accommodation: In Ho Chi Minh City

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

This day you will visit Ho Chi Minh former of Saigon to see the sprawling city. The War Remnants Museum shows the Vietnam War through Vietnamese eyes, the Reunification Palace one of the most fascinating sights in Ho Chi Minh. After lunch, continue on to Cu Chi tunnels which were built by the Viet Cong over a period of 20 years from late 1940s to the Vietnam war. Have a walking tour around the site to understand more about the greatest tunnel system of a guerrilla war. Drive back to your hotel, and relax for the evening.

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 the 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 nice 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 arroyos 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 – Nha Trang (B/L/D)

After breakfast, take a morning flight to Nha Trang. Upon arrival, have a short city tour with the visits to Long Son Pagoda (great view around the big White Budha seated on the top of the hill), beautiful Cham Towers with thousand years of history. Lunch at local restaurant. Free at leisure for the rest of the day.

Dinner in a nice restaurant located on the side of the beach.

Accommodation: In Nha Trang | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, dinner

Day 5 | Nha Trang (B/L)

Morning: visit the Oceanographic institute to learn more about the sea life of Vietnam, then board a private boat to cruise around some islands of Nha Trang, take photos of the fishing villages on the way. Spend couple of hours to enjoy a peaceful little beach by the side of the island, here you can have time for relaxing, swimming, snorkeling, sunbathing, or enjoy some local manicure, face or foot massages with just few dollars. After a seafood lunch, cruise back to the pier then transfer to hotel. The rest of the day is free time to discover the city- one of the 29 most beautiful bay cities of the world.

Accommodation: Nha Trang. Meals : Breakfast, lunch.

Day 6 | Nha Trang – Hue (B/L/D)

After breakfast, you will take a short flight to Hue. On arrival have a boat trip along the beautiful Perfume river to visit Thien Mu Pagoda, then drive to the Imperial City, here you will have a field trip to discover the UNESCO's cultural heritage. If time permits, we will visit king Tu Duc's tomb. Evening, enjoy dinner in a local restaurant.

Hue is famous with magnificent monuments and architectural buildings. Located in centre of Vietnam, with a simple life and pleasant local people, Hue brings to you a warm welcome feeling. This place also is popular for travelers.

Accommodation: In Hue | Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 7 | Hue - Hoi An (B/L/)

Leaving Hue for a scenic drive over Hai Van (sea cloud) pass to Hoi An. En route we would stop over at Lang Co Beach which is as beautiful as a picture with turquoise water surface, 10-km white sand expanses and a backdrop of seemingly endless mountains. A visit to the Cham museum will be made at Danang. There will be an opportunity for a photo stop of the beautiful pagodas at the Marble Mountain before arrival to Hoi An. Lunch in a local restaurant in Hoi An ancient town. The afternoon will continue with a short walking tour along the charming streets of the UNESCO's Heritage town, including the Japanese Bridge, ancient houses, Chinese assembly hall... Then it's your time for shopping. After check-in the hotel, free time.



Hoi An is called "ancient town", one of quietest city in Vietnam with plenty lantern shops along the streets, silk shops, tailers shops. Hoi An is one of the exciting and gaudy trading port centers of Southeast Asia from the 16th century. Hoi An is also known for Chinese and Japanese architecture and tasty central Vietnamese cuisine.

Accommodation: In Hoi An | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 8 | Hoi An optional day (B)

The morning is dedicated to any activity that takes your special interest. You might chose one of the following options:

- a half day excursion to My Son Sanctuary (morning or afternoon)
- A half day farming tour (afternoon, light meal included).
- A half day Cham island tour (morning, lunch included).

Rest of the day enjoy more shopping or simply relax at the pool side.

Accommodation: in Hoian | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch (option)

Day 9 | Hoi An - Hanoi (B/D)

Transfer to the airport for flight to Hanoi, the capital city of Vietnam. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to the hotel. Today is mostly for your own leisure. In the evening, you will enjoy a traditional unique show "Water puppet", following will be a Vietnamese dinner Hanoi style.

Hanoi, The capital of Vietnam welcomes you with very special oriental beauty which lies in the lovely and friendly smiles from the locals you meets. During the first 2 days, you would stay at one of the well located hotels in the city centre. It is near or within the old quarter, therefore you could find it easy to explore the vibrant life of truly Hanoian, go shopping and approach many cultural spots within a walking distance.

Accommodation: In Hanoi | Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 10 | Hanoi City Tour (B/L)

Today, you will visit some beauty spots which are regarded as the heart and the soul of Hanoi such as Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum & Stilt House, then continue our visit to the Temple of Literature, the first national university of Vietnam, you may take part in music exchanges with local people here. Lunch at local restaurant. Afternoon, learn about the 54 traditions of Vietnam through an excursion to museum of Ethnology, then end the day with photo oportunities around Ngoc Son temple in the beautiful Jade island of Hoan Kiem Lake.

Accommodation: In Hanoi | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 11 | Hanoi - Ha Long Bay (B/L/D)

With about three and half hour drive (04hrs for the big bus, a half way rest stop will be made), you will reach Halong bay then embark on a nice junk and start 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 option Kayaking to discover more parts by your own, or just relax and enjoy watching the sunset. Dinner will be served on board with local seafood.

Halong is a UNESCO's World Natural Heritage which one should never miss for his or her visit to Vietnam. It has a lot of beautiful caves and grottoes around with characteristic limestone cliffs. It doesn't matter if you are a nature lover or anyone else, this bay is truly majestic to you.

Accommodation: on Ha Long Bay junk | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Day 12 | Ha Long Bay - Hanoi (B//)

Early morning enjoy a cup of tea or coffee then join the Vietnamese Taichi class on the sundeck and catch the first rays of the sunrise for another beautiful day on the bay. Continue our cruise among the breathtaking scenery, a visit to one of the most beautiful limestone cave, and open your eyes, your mind and your ears to the call of nature. At 9h30: check-out, have a delicious brunch before disembarking. Around 11:00 meet the driver at the pier then enjoy the transfer back to Hanoi.

Accommodation: In Hanoi | Meals: Brunch

Day 13 | Hanoi – Duong Lam Village (B/L/D)

For a special last day in Vietnam, it's great to come back to Vietnamese history from thousands of years ago: a visit to Duong Lam village – a truly traditional Vietnamese village, a museum of laterite. After 1,5 hour drive, you will spend sometime to walk inside the village to see a simple rural life of the locals, take a look at the Mong Phu Communal house. A simple family style lunch will be served inside one of the oldest traditional houses in the middle of the village. Afternoon will continue with the walk to Mia pagoda to see several different statues of Mahayana Buddhism. A bicycle ride for about one hour in this peaceful countryside could be organized for those who would love to. You will be back to hotel at around 4:30pm. Tonight you will have a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Hanoi | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 14 | Hanoi Departure

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

Accommodation: on your flight | Meals: Breakfast

INCLUDED:

- Accommodation in a double or twin share room with daily breakfast
- Overnight cruise on board a wooden boat in Halong Bay (non-private boat)
- Sightseeing tours, transfers and all services as mentioned in the itinerary
- Private air-conditioned vehicle during all tours and transfers.
- Private boat in Nha Trang, Hue
- Experienced English speaking guide throughout whole trip
- Entrance fees for all visits as mentioned in the itinerary
- Meals as described in the itinerary
- Water puppet show



- 1 bottle of Water and tissue /day/person

EXCLUDED:

- All flights
- Single supplement
- International airfare and departure taxes
- Vietnam 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 specified in the itinerary

