

Northern to Southern Vietnam Highlights: 10-Day Cultural Journey

10D / 9N

Duration

Easy

Difficulty

Group

Tour Type

USD 1,150 / pax

Starting From

Experience the breadth of Vietnam on a 10-day adventure, traveling from the historic capital of Hanoi south to the vibrant Mekong Delta. This tour uncovers ancient traditions, stunning natural landscapes, and the dynamic spirit of Vietnamese cities, offering a comprehensive insight into the country's heritage and daily life.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Hanoi → Ninh Binh → Ha Long → Hoi An → Da Nang → Ho Chi Minh City

TOUR OVERVIEW

Overview: Vietnam's Northern to Southern Splendor

Embark on a remarkable 10-day exploration spanning the entire length of Vietnam, from its ancient northern heartland to the bustling southern delta. This journey is thoughtfully designed to showcase the nation's most iconic destinations, blending cultural immersion with breathtaking natural beauty. Travelers will navigate historical sites, cruise through legendary bays, and witness the daily rhythms of local life, gaining a profound appreciation for Vietnam's diverse character.

Tour Highlights

Cruise the emerald waters of Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with an overnight stay on a traditional vessel.

Explore the ancient capital of Hoa Lu and the stunning karst landscapes of Tam Coc by bamboo boat in Ninh Binh.

Wander through the charming, lantern-lit streets of Hoi An Ancient Town, a beautifully preserved UNESCO site.

Ascend to the clouds at Ba Na Hills, experiencing the unique Golden Bridge and French Village architecture.

Delve into the rich history and vibrant energy of Ho Chi Minh City, visiting significant landmarks.

Navigate the intricate waterways of the Mekong Delta, observing rural life and local industries.

Savor authentic Vietnamese cuisine, including local specialties and fresh seafood.

Journey Across Vietnam

This comprehensive itinerary begins in Hanoi, the nation's capital, before venturing to the serene landscapes of Ninh Binh and the iconic seascape of Halong Bay. A domestic flight then transports you to Central Vietnam, where the historic charm of Hoi An and the mountain resort of Ba Na Hills await. The adventure concludes in the south, exploring the dynamic Ho Chi Minh City and the lush, intricate river systems of the Mekong Delta, offering a seamless progression through Vietnam's diverse regions.

Who Is This Tour For?

This 10-day Vietnamese expedition is ideal for travelers seeking a deep dive into the country's cultural and natural wonders. It caters to those interested in history, local traditions, and stunning scenery, with a mix of guided excursions and opportunities for personal discovery. The tour pace is engaging, suitable for active individuals and small groups eager to experience a wide array of Vietnamese experiences within a focused timeframe.

Practical Information

Accommodation throughout the tour includes a mix of comfortable 3-star and 4-star hotels, plus an unforgettable overnight cruise experience in Halong Bay. Transportation between destinations is primarily by air-conditioned car and includes two domestic flights for efficient travel. A knowledgeable English-speaking local guide accompanies the group on all in-tour excursions, providing insights and assistance. Meals, as specified in the itinerary, feature a blend of local and international flavors. Entrance fees to all listed attractions are covered, ensuring a hassle-free exploration of Vietnam's treasures.

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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- * Sail through the stunning limestone karsts and emerald waters of Ha Long Bay on an overnight cruise.
- * Discover the ancient capital of Hoa Lu and enjoy a serene bamboo boat ride through Tam Coc's rice paddies.
- * Stroll through Hoi An's UNESCO-listed Ancient Town, admiring its unique architecture and vibrant market.
- * Ride a cable car to Ba Na Hills and walk across the iconic Golden Bridge, held by giant stone hands.
- * Explore the historical landmarks of Ho Chi Minh City, from colonial buildings to war museums.
- * Navigate the intricate canals of the Mekong Delta, experiencing local life and traditional crafts.
- * Savor a variety of Vietnamese culinary delights, including fresh seafood and regional specialties.
- * Visit significant Buddhist pagodas, including the historic Vinh Trang Pagoda in My Tho.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1

Hanoi Arrival & City Introduction

Meals: NA | Stay: Flower Garden Hotel (4 Star) or similar in Hanoi | Transport: Car

Upon arrival at Noi Bai International Airport (HAN), a dedicated tour guide will warmly greet you and facilitate your transfer directly to your accommodation in the heart of Hanoi. After checking in, the remainder of the day is at your leisure to unwind and settle into the city's rhythm. You might choose to relax at the hotel or begin a gentle exploration of the surrounding area, perhaps discovering a local café or taking a short walk. For those interested in immediate activities, personalized arrangements can be made through our consultants.

Hanoi, Vietnam's historic capital, offers a captivating blend of ancient traditions and modern vibrancy. Its tree-lined boulevards, French colonial architecture, and bustling Old Quarter create a unique atmosphere. Take this opportunity to acclimate to the local time and prepare for the adventures ahead.

Activities: Meet guide at Noi Bai International Airport
Transfer to Hanoi hotel
Check into hotel and relax

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Day 2**Ninh Binh's Ancient Capital & Scenic River Journey**

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Flower Garden Hotel (4 Star) or similar in Hanoi | Transport: Bus, Bamboo boat

Start your day with an early breakfast before departing by bus for a full-day excursion to Ninh Binh province, often referred to as "Halong Bay on land." Your first stop is Tam Coc, a renowned natural attraction. Here, you will experience a tranquil two-hour journey along the Ngo Dong River aboard a traditional bamboo boat, expertly rowed by local villagers. As you glide downstream, marvel at the dramatic limestone karst formations, lush rice fields, and ancient monasteries, passing through three impressive natural caverns.

Following your river adventure, a delicious lunch featuring local specialties will be served at a nearby restaurant. The afternoon is dedicated to exploring Hoa Lu, Vietnam's ancient capital, which boasts a rich history spanning over a millennium. Visit the revered temples dedicated to King Dinh and King Le, crossing the designated bridge to explore these significant historical sites. By approximately 8:00 PM, you will return to your hotel in Hanoi's Old Quarter, concluding a day filled with natural beauty and historical insights.

- Activities:**
- Travel by bus to Ninh Binh
 - Enjoy a 2-hour bamboo boat ride on the Ngo Dong River in Tam Coc
 - Explore three large limestone caverns
 - Have lunch at a local restaurant
 - Visit Hoa Lu, Vietnam's ancient capital
 - Explore the Temple of King Dinh and King Le
 - Return transfer to Hanoi

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Day 3**Halong Bay Overnight Cruise & Island Activities**

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Stay: Swan Cruises (3 Star) or Peony Cruise (4 Star) | Transport: Car, Cruise

After an early breakfast at your hotel, a driver will pick you up around 8:00 AM for a transfer to the cruise port, where your Halong Bay adventure begins. Around noon, you will board your chosen cruise ship. The friendly crew will welcome you with a refreshing drink as the vessel sets sail into the breathtaking emerald waters of Halong Bay. A fresh seafood lunch, with vegetarian options available, will be served as you begin to explore the bay's iconic karsts and islets.

The afternoon and evening are dedicated to experiencing the unparalleled beauty of this UNESCO World Heritage site. Engage in a variety of activities such as visiting magnificent caves, observing local floating villages, and enjoying a kayaking excursion through hidden lagoons. As the sun begins to set, participate in a "Sunset Party" or "Happy Hour" on deck, followed by a cooking class where you can learn to prepare traditional Vietnamese dishes. Dinner will be served on board, offering a delectable menu that can accommodate dietary requirements. The night concludes with entertainment options like movies, squid fishing, or karaoke, ensuring a memorable overnight experience amidst the bay's serene beauty.

- Activities:**
- Transfer to Halong Bay cruise port
 - Board cruise and enjoy welcome drink
 - Have lunch with fresh seafood on board
 - Explore Halong Bay's rocks, islets, and beaches
 - Visit caves and floating villages
 - Go kayaking
 - Attend a Sunset Party or Happy Hour
 - Participate in a cooking class
 - Enjoy dinner on the cruise
 - Choose from evening entertainment like movies, squid fishing, or karaoke

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Day 4**Halong Bay Caves & Flight to Da Nang**

Meals: Breakfast, Brunch | Stay: BlueSun Danang Beach Hotel (4 Star) or similar in Da Nang | Transport: Cruise, Car, Domestic flight

Begin your day with an optional early morning yoga or Tai Chi session on the sundeck, offering a peaceful start amidst the stunning bay scenery. Following this, embark on a visit to some of Halong Bay's distinctive islands and geological formations, such as Sail Island, Fisherman's Head Rock, and Turtle Islet, each offering unique photo opportunities and natural beauty. Please note that the exact itinerary for island visits may vary depending on the specific cruise operator.

By midday, you will return to the main vessel to complete the check-out procedures. Enjoy a final lunch on board as the cruise slowly makes its way back to the mainland. Upon disembarkation, a driver will be waiting to transfer you to Noi Bai International Airport (HAN) for your domestic flight to Da Nang. After arriving at Da Nang airport, another driver will meet you and provide a transfer to your hotel in the ancient town of Hoi An. The rest of your day is free for personal exploration or relaxation.

Activities: Participate in optional morning yoga or Tai Chi
Visit distinctive islands like Sail Island, Fisherman's Head Rock, and Turtle Islet
Complete cruise check-out procedures
Enjoy a final lunch on the cruise
Transfer to Noi Bai International Airport for a flight to Da Nang
Transfer from Da Nang airport to Hoi An hotel
Check into hotel and enjoy free time

Day 5**Hoi An Ancient Town Exploration**

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Hoi An Central Hotel (3 Star) or Hoi An Delicacy Hotel & Spa (4 Star) | Transport: Car (for transfer), Walking

Your day in Hoi An commences with a visit to the lively Hoi An Market, a hub of activity where colorful stalls display fresh produce, aromatic spices, and handcrafted goods, offering a glimpse into local daily life. A short walk leads you to the Phuc Kien Chinese Assembly Hall, an impressive structure known for its ornate gate, intricate dragon sculptures, and beautifully detailed roof. Here, you'll learn about ancestor worship and observe locals making traditional offerings.

Next, explore some of Hoi An's remarkably preserved ancient houses, such as Phung Hung and Tan Ky, both over two centuries old, providing insights into traditional family life and architecture. Continue to the Museum of Folk Culture, housed in a 150-year-old former Chinese merchant residence, where artifacts vividly illustrate Hoi An's past. You'll also witness traditional art performances at the Hoi An Traditional Performing Arts House. The tour includes a stop at the historic Japanese Covered Bridge, a 400-year-old landmark connecting the former Japanese and Chinese communities. Conclude your exploration by wandering through charming craft shops, art galleries, and hidden alleyways, uncovering the unique character of this ancient town.

Activities: Visit Hoi An Market
Explore Phuc Kien Chinese Assembly Hall
Tour ancient houses like Phung Hung and Tan Ky
Visit the Museum of Folk Culture
Watch traditional art performances at Hoi An Traditional Performing Arts House
Cross the Japanese Covered Bridge
Wander through craft shops and art galleries

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Day 6**Ba Na Hills Cable Car & Golden Bridge Adventure**

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: BlueSun Danang Beach Hotel (4 Star) or similar in Da Nang | Transport: Car, Cable car, Monorail (within Fantasy Park)

Between 7:45 AM and 8:00 AM, you will be picked up from your Hoi An hotel for a scenic transfer to the spectacular Ba Na Hills. Upon arrival, check in at the Suoi Mo Cable Car Station, where you will board a cable car to Marseille Station. This ascent offers breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and lush landscapes. Once at Ba Na Hills, your exploration begins with several key attractions.

A highlight is the renowned Golden Bridge, an architectural marvel supported by two enormous stone hands, providing stunning vistas of the hills and forests. Continue to the beautiful Jardin D'Amour, a series of themed gardens featuring fountains, sculptures, and vibrant floral displays. Your next stop is the Linh Ung Pagoda, a significant Buddhist shrine known for its magnificent statue. Enjoy a delicious Vietnamese buffet lunch at a local restaurant, offering a wide selection of dishes with excellent views. The afternoon is dedicated to Fantasy Park, an amusement park filled with various rides, games, and attractions suitable for all ages. Conclude your day by taking in the magnificent panorama from King Peak, situated at an elevation of 1,487 meters, before transferring back to your hotel in Da Nang from the Cable Car Station.

Activities: Transfer from Hoi An to Ba Na Hills
Take a cable car from Suoi Mo Station to Marseille Station
Explore the Golden Bridge
Visit Jardin D'Amour gardens
See Linh Ung Pagoda
Enjoy a Vietnamese buffet lunch
Spend the afternoon at Fantasy Park
Experience views from King Peak
Transfer back to Da Nang hotel

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Day 7**Da Nang Departure & Ho Chi Minh City Tour**

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Eden Star Saigon Hotel (4 Star) or Queen Ann Hotel (3 Star) | Transport: Car, Domestic flight

After breakfast, ensure all your belongings are packed and prepare for check-out before noon. You will then be transferred to Da Nang International Airport for your domestic flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Upon arrival at Tan Son Nhat International Airport (SGN), a driver will greet you and provide a comfortable transfer to your hotel located in the city center. After checking in and settling down, the afternoon marks the beginning of your half-day tour of Ho Chi Minh City's most significant landmarks. Your tour starts with two impressive examples of French colonial architecture: the Old Post Office and Notre Dame Cathedral. Admire the intricate details of their facades, from the cathedral's soaring spires to the post office's elegant arches. Next, capture the historical essence at the Reunification Palace, a powerful symbol of Vietnam's path to independence and reunification, offering insights into the country's tumultuous past. Continue to the War Remnants Museum, where exhibits, from military equipment to personal artifacts, powerfully illustrate the futility and brutality of war. Conclude your day with a stroll through the bustling Ben Thanh Market, where you can browse for unique souvenirs and experience the vibrant local atmosphere before returning to your hotel.

Activities: Have breakfast and check out from Da Nang hotel
Transfer to Da Nang Airport for flight to Ho Chi Minh City
Transfer from Tan Son Nhat Airport to Ho Chi Minh City hotel
Check into hotel
Visit the Old Post Office and Notre Dame Cathedral
Explore the Reunification Palace
Tour the War Remnants Museum
Stroll through Ben Thanh Market

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Day 8**Mekong Delta River Life Exploration**

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Eden Star Saigon Hotel (4 Star) or Queen Ann Hotel (3 Star) | Transport: Car, Sampan, Bicycle

At 8:00 AM, depart from Ho Chi Minh City for a journey to My Tho, a charming village situated on the left bank of the Mekong River. Your first stop will be the Vinh Trang Pagoda, a renowned 19th-century Buddhist temple in Tien Giang province, known for its unique architectural blend of Vietnamese, Khmer, and French influences. Following this cultural visit, you will board a sampan for a scenic river cruise, navigating the tranquil waters of the Mekong. The journey includes stops at several enticing islands, famously named Dragon, Unicorn, Phoenix, and Tortoise Islands, each offering a glimpse into local life.

On Unicorn Island, you'll have the opportunity to explore lush orchards, sample exotic seasonal fruits, and enjoy traditional Vietnamese folk music performed by local musicians. Continue your adventure with a serene hand-rowed sampan ride through the narrow Thoi Son canal, soaking in the picturesque scenery of the delta. A traditional lunch will be served at a local eatery, providing an authentic taste of the region. In the afternoon, explore Tan Thach Village by bicycle, gaining a deeper understanding of the daily routines and tranquil lifestyle of the Mekong Delta inhabitants before returning to Ho Chi Minh City.

Activities: Travel from Ho Chi Minh City to My Tho
Visit Vinh Trang Pagoda
Take a sampan boat ride on the Mekong River
Stop at Dragon, Unicorn, Phoenix, and Tortoise Islands
Explore Unicorn Island's orchards, taste fruits, and listen to local music
Enjoy a hand-rowed sampan trip through Thoi Son canal
Have lunch at a local restaurant
Cycle through Tan Thach Village
Return transfer to Ho Chi Minh City

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Day 9**Cu Chi Tunnels Historical Insight**

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Eden Star Saigon Hotel (4 Star) or Queen Ann Hotel (3 Star) | Transport: Car

At 8:00 AM, depart from Ho Chi Minh City for a two-hour transfer to the historic Cu Chi Tunnels. The journey offers a chance to observe the tranquil countryside scenery outside the bustling city. Upon arrival at this significant historical site, you will gain profound insights into the Vietnam War through a series of engaging activities. Begin by watching a documentary film that details the construction and strategic use of these underground tunnels during the conflict, providing context to their importance.

Experience a taste of the wartime diet by sampling hot tea, tapioca, and rice, which were staple rations for local soldiers. For those interested, there is an optional opportunity to visit a local firing range and try shooting historical firearms like an AK-47 or M16 (at an additional cost). This provides a visceral understanding of the conditions faced by soldiers. The tour concludes around 1:00 PM with your transfer back to Ho Chi Minh City, leaving the rest of the afternoon free for independent exploration or relaxation.

Activities: Transfer from Ho Chi Minh City to Cu Chi Tunnels
Watch a documentary film about the tunnels
Taste wartime rations (hot tea, tapioca, rice)
Optional visit to a firing range (additional cost)
Explore the underground tunnel system
Return transfer to Ho Chi Minh City

Day 10**Ho Chi Minh City Departure**

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: NA | Transport: Car

Enjoy a final breakfast at your hotel in Ho Chi Minh City. Depending on your flight schedule, you will have some free time to relax or engage in last-minute souvenir shopping. At the appropriate time, a private transfer will be arranged to take you to Tan Son Nhat International Airport (SGN) for your onward journey, marking the conclusion of your comprehensive Vietnam tour.

Activities: Enjoy breakfast at the hotel
Free time until airport transfer
Transfer to Tan Son Nhat International Airport

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- ✓ 9 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 1 Brunch, 1 Dinner
- ✓ All transport during the tour in an air-conditioned vehicle as per itinerary
- ✓ Airport pick-up and drop-off services

NOT INCLUDED

- ✗ International flights
- ✗ Visa fees
- ✗ Personal expenses
- ✗ Drinks and additional meals not specified in the itinerary

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- ✓ Overnight accommodation in a shared Twin/Double room with air-conditioning at hotels
- ✓ One night accommodation on an overnight cruise
- ✓ All in-tour stationed local English-speaking guide
- ✓ Entrance fees to all attractions as per itinerary
- ✓ Two domestic flights: Hanoi – Da Nang and Da Nang – Ho Chi Minh City

- ✗ Tips for guides and drivers
- ✗ Surcharges for single travelers or single room requests
- ✗ Optional activities such as the wax museum and Debay wine cellar at Ba Na Hills

PRICE INCLUDES

- ✓ 9 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 1 Brunch, 1 Dinner
- ✓ All transport during the tour in an air-conditioned vehicle as per itinerary
- ✓ Airport pick-up and drop-off services
- ✓ Overnight accommodation in a shared Twin/Double room with air-conditioning at hotels
- ✓ One night accommodation on an overnight cruise
- ✓ All in-tour stationed local English-speaking guide
- ✓ Entrance fees to all attractions as per itinerary
- ✓ Two domestic flights: Hanoi – Da Nang and Da Nang – Ho Chi Minh City

AVAILABLE DEPARTURES

Departure Date	Return Date	Price / Person	Availability	Languages
21 Dec 2026	20 Dec 2027	USD 1,194	Available	–
21 Dec 2026	20 Dec 2027	USD 1,431	Available	–

CANCELLATION POLICY

Please refer to the tour operator's terms and conditions for detailed cancellation policies.

Tour Code: IMP-AC2D61D8CA88