Best Vietnam Tour: Sapa, Ha Long Bay & Mekong Delta – 13 Days

13D / 12N	Easy	Private	USD 704 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Experience the essence of Vietnam on this 13-day adventure, exploring the vibrant streets of Hanoi, trekking through Sapa's terraced rice fields, cruising the majestic Ha Long Bay, discovering imperial Hue, charming Hoi An, and the bustling Ho Chi Minh City, before delving into the serene Mekong Delta.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Hanoi → Sapa → Ha Long → Hue → Hoi An → Ho Chi Minh City → Lao Cai → Da Nang → My Son

TOUR OVERVIEW

Tour Overview

Embark on a comprehensive 13-day exploration of Vietnam, traversing its diverse landscapes and rich cultural heritage from north to south. This journey begins in the historic capital of Hanoi, leading you to the mountainous tribal regions of Sapa and the unique Bac Ha market. A highlight includes an overnight cruise through the breathtaking limestone karsts of Ha Long Bay. Further south, discover the imperial grandeur of Hue and the ancient trading port of Hoi An, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The tour culminates in the dynamic Ho Chi Minh City, with excursions to the historic Cu Chi Tunnels and the vibrant waterways of the Mekong Delta, offering a deep insight into local life and history.

Tour Highlights

Explore Hanoi's colonial architecture, tranquil lakes, and vibrant Old Quarter by cyclo.

Trek through Sapa's terraced rice fields and engage with Black H'mong and Dzay communities.

Experience the colorful Bac Ha Sunday market, a gathering place for diverse ethnic groups.

Enjoy an overnight cruise on Ha Long Bay, navigating through stunning limestone formations and caves.

Discover Hue's Imperial Citadel, ancient tombs, and the serene Perfume River by dragon boat.

Wander through Hoi An Ancient Town, admiring its Japanese Covered Bridge and Chinese-style houses.

Crawl through sections of the historic Cu Chi Tunnels, learning about their wartime significance.

Cruise the Mekong Delta, visiting orchards, local farms, and experiencing riverine life.

Route Summary

This extensive itinerary guides you from the northern capital of Hanoi, with a scenic overnight train journey to Lao Cai, serving as the gateway to Sapa's highlands. After exploring the northern mountains, return to Hanoi for a memorable overnight cruise on Ha Long Bay. The journey then continues south via overnight train to the former imperial city of Hue, followed by a picturesque drive over the Hai Van Pass to Hoi An. The final leg involves a flight to Ho Chi Minh City, providing access to the Cu Chi Tunnels and the lush Mekong Delta before your departure.

Who This Tour Suits

This tour is ideal for families, small private groups, and individuals interested in a deep dive into Vietnamese culture, history, and natural beauty. Travelers seeking a blend of relaxation, historical insights, and active exploration, including trekking and cruising, will find this itinerary particularly rewarding. It caters to those who appreciate diverse landscapes, from mountain villages to coastal bays and river deltas.

Practical Information

Accommodation throughout the tour varies, including comfortable hotels in major cities and Sapa, an overnight cruise on Ha

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Long Bay, and two overnight train journeys. Transportation is primarily by private vehicle for transfers and excursions, with train travel between key destinations and an internal flight from Danang to Ho Chi Minh City. Meals are provided as indicated (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner), offering a taste of local cuisine.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

* Explore Hanoi's colonial architecture, tranquil lakes, and vibrant Old Quarter by cyclo.
* Trek through Sapa's terraced rice fields and engage with Black H'mong and Dzay communities.
* Experience the colorful Bac Ha Sunday market, a gathering place for diverse ethnic groups.
* Enjoy an overnight cruise on Ha Long Bay, navigating through stunning limestone formations and caves.
* Discover Hue's Imperial Citadel, ancient tombs, and the serene Perfume River by dragon boat.
* Wander through Hoi An Ancient Town, admiring its Japanese Covered Bridge and Chinese-style houses.
* Crawl through sections of the historic Cu Chi Tunnels, learning about their wartime significance.
* Cruise the Mekong Delta, visiting orchards, local farms, and experiencing riverine life.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 — Hanoi Arrival & Leisure Time

Stay: Palago Hotel | Transport: Private transfer

Upon your arrival at Noi Bai International Airport (HAN), a representative will greet you and provide a comfortable transfer to your hotel in Hanoi. After checking in, the remainder of the day is yours to enjoy at your leisure. You might choose to relax at the hotel, or perhaps take a gentle stroll around the immediate vicinity to get a first feel for Vietnam's charming capital city. Hanoi offers a blend of ancient traditions and modern influences, visible in its tree-lined streets and French colonial architecture. Use this free time to unwind and prepare for the adventures ahead, perhaps sampling some local street food or simply observing daily life.

Activities: Arrive in Hanoi; Hotel check-in; Free time.

Day 2 — Hanoi City Exploration & Overnight Train to Lao Cai

Meals: B,L | Stay: Overnight Train | Transport: Private car, Cyclo, Overnight train

Today is dedicated to discovering Hanoi's most significant cultural and historical landmarks. Your full-day tour begins with a visit to the Ho Chi Minh Complex, which includes the revered Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum (exterior view), his traditional Stilts House, the Presidential Palace grounds, and the unique One Pillar Pagoda. These sites offer insight into the life and legacy of Vietnam's revolutionary leader.

Continue to the serene Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first national university, a beautiful example of traditional Vietnamese

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architecture. Later, explore the peaceful West Lake, passing by Thanh Nien street, and visit the ancient Tran Quoc Pagoda. The afternoon features a delightful one-hour cyclo ride through the bustling Old Quarter, allowing you to absorb the sights, sounds, and distinctive atmosphere of Hanoi's historic commercial heart. In the evening, you will be transferred to the railway station to board an overnight train bound for Lao Cai.

Activities: Visit Ho Chi Minh Complex (Mausoleum, Stilts House, Presidential Palace, One Pillar Pagoda); Explore Temple of Literature; See West Lake and Tran Quoc Pagoda; Enjoy a cyclo tour of the Old Quarter; Transfer to railway station; Board night train to Lao Cai.

Day 3 Lao Cai Arrival, Sapa Transfer & Cat Cat Village Trek

Meals: B,L | Stay: Sapa Charm Hotel | Transport: Private transfer

Your overnight train journey concludes with an early morning arrival at Lao Cai train station, typically around 06:00 AM. A waiting vehicle will then transfer you to Sapa, a picturesque town nestled in the Hoàng Liên Sơn mountains. The drive covers approximately 33 kilometers and takes about 1.5 hours, offering scenic views as you ascend into the highlands.
Upon reaching Sapa, you'll have the morning free to explore the town at your own pace. Wander through its streets, perhaps visit the local market, or simply enjoy the fresh mountain air. In the afternoon, embark on a guided walking tour to the nearby Cat Cat village. This is home to the Black H'mong minority people, and as you descend into the valley, you'll have opportunities to interact with locals and learn about their traditional way of life and culture. The day concludes with an overnight stay in Sapa.

Activities: Arrive at Lao Cai; Transfer to Sapa; Free morning in Sapa town; Walking tour to Cat Cat village; Cultural exchange with Black H'mong people.

Day 4 Sapa Valley Trekking Adventure

Meals: B,L | Stay: Sapa Charm Hotel | Transport: Private car, Trekking

Today features an immersive trekking experience through the stunning Muong Hoa Valley. Your morning begins with a car transfer from your hotel, taking you to the starting point of your trek. You will visit two distinct villages, home to both H'mong and Dzay ethnic minority communities, observing their daily routines and unique customs.
A picnic lunch will be provided either en route or at a local family's home, offering a taste of authentic regional cuisine amidst beautiful surroundings. Continue your trek to Giang Ta Chai village, inhabited by the Red Dzao people. Along the way, you'll encounter a picturesque waterfall and cross a suspension bridge, adding to the scenic beauty of the journey. After approximately 4 hours and 7 kilometers of trekking, a car will meet you to transfer you back to Sapa for your overnight stay.

Activities: Car transfer to Muong Hoa Valley; Visit H'mong and Dzay villages; Enjoy a picnic lunch; Trek to Giang Ta Chai village; See a waterfall and suspension bridge; Return to Sapa by car.

Day 5 Bac Ha Market & Chay River Cruise, Night Train to Hanoi

Meals: B,L | Stay: Overnight Train | Transport: Private car, Traditional boat, Overnight train

An early morning departure takes you on a two-hour drive to Bac Ha, renowned for its vibrant Sunday market. This is the

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largest and most colorful market in the region, attracting various ethnic groups such as the Flower Hmong, Phu La, Black Dao, Tay, and Nung minorities. Witness a lively spectacle as locals gather to trade unique handmade goods, textiles, and agricultural products not found elsewhere.

After enjoying lunch, embark on a walk to Trung Do, a village of the Tay minority. Here, you will board a traditional boat for a leisurely cruise along the scenic Chay River, observing the tranquil riverine landscape and local life along its banks. Following the cruise, you will be transferred back to Lao Cai train station to catch your overnight train returning to Hanoi.

Activities: Drive to Bac Ha; Explore Bac Ha Sunday market; Walk to Trung Do Tay village; Cruise along the Chay River; Transfer to Lao Cai; Board night train to Hanoi.

Day 6 Hanoi Return & Ha Long Bay Overnight Cruise

Meals: B,L,D | Stay: Amanda Cruise | Transport: Private transfer, Cruise boat

The train arrives back in Hanoi early this morning, around 05:00 AM. You will be met at the station and transferred to a 3-star hotel for breakfast and a brief opportunity to rest and freshen up. Around 08:00 AM, begin your scenic three-hour drive along the highway to Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site famous for its emerald waters and thousands of towering limestone islands.

Upon arrival at the cruise port, you will check in to your overnight cruise vessel. Settle into your cabin before enjoying a fresh seafood lunch as the boat begins its journey through the bay. The afternoon is dedicated to exploring some of Ha Long Bay's magnificent limestone caves. Later, you'll have the chance to swim in the bay's calm waters, relax on the sundeck, or try kayaking amidst the stunning scenery. Dinner and overnight stay are on board the cruise.

Activities: Arrive in Hanoi; Breakfast and rest at hotel; Drive to Ha Long Bay; Check-in to overnight cruise; Seafood lunch; Explore limestone caves; Swim or kayak; Relax on deck.

Day 7 Ha Long Bay Exploration & Night Train to Hue

Meals: B,L | Stay: Overnight Train | Transport: Cruise boat, Private transfer, Overnight train

Wake up to the serene beauty of Ha Long Bay this morning. The cruise continues its journey, seeking out more secluded areas within the bay. You'll have further opportunities to swim in tranquil coves or paddle a kayak, offering a closer perspective of the majestic limestone karsts and hidden lagoons.

Around midday, the boat will make its way back to the main harbor. After disembarking, a vehicle will be waiting to transfer you back to Hanoi. Upon arrival in Hanoi, you will proceed directly to the railway station to board another overnight train, this time bound for the imperial city of Hue. Relax in your soft sleeper cabin as you travel south.

Activities: Continue Ha Long Bay exploration; Swim or kayak in secluded areas; Return to main harbor; Transfer back to Hanoi; Board night train to Hue.

Day 8 Hue Imperial City & Perfume River Cruise

Meals: B,L | Stay: Eldora Hue Hotel | Transport: Private transfer, Dragon boat

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Your train arrives in Hue, the former imperial capital, at approximately 08:00 AM. After enjoying breakfast at a local restaurant, you will embark on a traditional Dragon Boat for a leisurely cruise along the romantic Perfume River. This scenic journey takes you out to the countryside, offering picturesque views along the riverbanks.

The first stop of the day is the charming Thien Mu Pagoda, also known as the Lady Pagoda, an iconic symbol of Hue and Vietnamese Buddhism. From here, you'll enjoy panoramic views of the Perfume River and its surroundings. Continue your exploration with a visit to the magnificent Hue Imperial Citadel, a sprawling complex of palaces, temples, and gates that once served as the administrative center of the Nguyen Dynasty. Conclude your day with a visit to the bustling Dong Ba market, where you can observe local commerce and perhaps find unique souvenirs. Overnight in Hue.

Activities: Arrive in Hue; Breakfast at local restaurant; Dragon Boat cruise on Perfume River; Visit Thien Mu Pagoda; Explore Hue Imperial Citadel; Visit Dong Ba market.

Day 9 Hue to Hoi An via Hai Van Pass

Meals: B | Stay: Coco River Resort & Spa | Transport: Private transfer

Enjoy a relaxed morning at your leisure in Hue. This free time allows for personal exploration, perhaps revisiting a favorite spot, or simply soaking in the atmosphere of this historic city. In the afternoon, your journey continues south with a scenic drive to Hoi An, passing through the city of Danang.

The route includes a stop at the incredibly photogenic fishing village of Lang Co, offering opportunities for stunning coastal views. The drive then ascends over the famous Pass of Ocean Clouds, or Hai Van Pass, known for its breathtaking panoramic vistas of the coastline and mountains. Upon arrival in Hoi An in the late afternoon, you will be transferred to your hotel for check-in and overnight stay.

Activities: Free morning in Hue; Drive to Hoi An via Danang; Stop at Lang Co fishing village; Drive over Hai Van Pass; Arrive in Hoi An; Hotel check-in.

Day 10 My Son Sanctuary & Hoi An Ancient Town Exploration

Meals: B,L | Stay: Coco River Resort & Spa | Transport: Private transfer, Walking

Begin your day with a morning drive to My Son, a UNESCO World Heritage site located approximately 40 kilometers southwest of Hoi An. This ancient complex was once a capital and religious center for the Cham people, featuring impressive red brick towers and sanctuaries that date from the 7th to the 13th centuries. Explore these remarkable ruins, which are considered among Southeast Asia's most significant archaeological sites.

After your visit to My Son, return to Hoi An for lunch at a local restaurant. The afternoon is dedicated to exploring the tranquil and charming Hoi An Ancient Town. Wander through its narrow streets, admiring the distinctive low tiled houses, the iconic Japanese Covered Bridge, and the brightly painted temples and pagodas that give Hoi An its unique character. This delightful town offers a glimpse into Vietnam's rich trading history. Overnight in Hoi An.

Activities: Drive to My Son Sanctuary; Explore Cham ruins; Lunch at local restaurant; Visit Hoi An Ancient Town; See Japanese Covered Bridge; Explore temples and pagodas.

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Day 11 Hoi An to Ho Chi Minh City Flight & Cu Chi Tunnels

Meals: B,L | Stay: Vien Dong Hotel | Transport: Private transfer, Domestic flight

This morning, you will be transferred to Danang Airport for a short domestic flight to Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known as Saigon. Upon arrival, your journey continues with a drive to the historic Cu Chi Tunnels, an extensive underground network built by the Vietcong during the American War. These tunnels stretched from the Cambodian border to the Saigon River, playing a crucial role in the conflict.

At Cu Chi, you will have the unique opportunity to creep into a section of the tunnels, experiencing firsthand the challenging conditions in which the Vietcong soldiers lived and fought. After exploring the tunnels, return to the city center of Ho Chi Minh. Your afternoon includes visits to significant landmarks such as the Reunification Palace, the former residence of President Thieu, along with the nearby historic Post Office and the grand Notre Dame Cathedral. Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

Activities: Transfer to Danang Airport; Fly to Ho Chi Minh City; Drive to Cu Chi Tunnels; Explore Cu Chi Tunnels; Visit Reunification Palace; See Post Office and Notre Dame Cathedral.

Day 12 Mekong Delta River Life Excursion

Meals: B,L | Stay: Vien Dong Hotel | Transport: Private transfer, Private boat

Today, depart from Ho Chi Minh City for a full-day excursion to the lush Mekong Delta. Your destination is My Tho, where you will board a private boat to cruise through the verdant canals, observing the vibrant riverine life. The boat will take you to a local orchard, where you can enjoy the fresh tropical fruits of the region.

A delicious lunch will be served at a local restaurant situated in the heart of the Mekong Delta, providing an authentic culinary experience. In the afternoon, you will visit the Dong Tam snake farm, an interesting facility that breeds snakes for various purposes, including traditional snake wine production. After a day immersed in the unique culture and landscapes of the Mekong Delta, you will be transferred back to Ho Chi Minh City for your overnight stay.

Activities: Drive to My Tho; Cruise through Mekong Delta canals; Visit an orchard; Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant; Visit Dong Tam snake farm; Return to Ho Chi Minh City.

Day 13 Ho Chi Minh City Departure

Meals: B | Transport: Private transfer

Enjoy your final morning in Ho Chi Minh City at your leisure. Depending on your flight schedule, you might have time for some last-minute souvenir shopping, a visit to a local cafe, or simply relaxing at your hotel. At the appropriate time, a private transfer will be arranged to take you to the airport for your onward flight departure.

This marks the conclusion of your comprehensive 13-day tour of Vietnam, filled with diverse cultural experiences, historical insights, and breathtaking natural beauty from north to south.

Activities: Free time in Ho Chi Minh City; Transfer to airport for departure.

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WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- v Private door-to-door pick-up and drop-off services.
- v All private transportation as per itinerary.
- v Accommodation in a shared double room with daily breakfast.
- v Experienced English-speaking local tour guides.
- v Train tickets for Hanoi - Lao Cai - Hanoi and Hanoi - Hue routes.
- v Private boat trips as specified in the tour program.
- v Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B: Breakfast; L: Lunch; D: Dinner).
- v All sightseeing entrance tickets.
- v Vietnam Visa On Arrival pre-approved letter.
- v Service charges and government tax.
- v Exclusive and personalized single agent/single customer service.
- v No extra charge after services confirmation.
- v 24/7 hotline support.

NOT INCLUDED

- x Internal flight ticket (quoted separately).
- x Personal expenses, tips, and gratuities.
- x Travel insurance.
- x Beverages.
- x Peak season or public holidays surcharge (if applicable).
- x Compulsory Gala dinner on Christmas or New Year (if applicable).
- x Vietnam visa stamp fee (US$25 and 01 passport photo per person).
- x Other services not mentioned above.

PRICE INCLUDES

- v Private door-to-door pick-up and drop-off services.
- v All private transportation as per itinerary.
- v Accommodation in a shared double room with daily breakfast.
- v Experienced English-speaking local tour guides.
- v Train tickets for Hanoi - Lao Cai - Hanoi and Hanoi - Hue routes.
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CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-1D5AC16A01FE