Central Highlands Vietnam Cultural & Nature Journey – 7 Days

7D / 6N	Easy	Private	USD 759 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Explore the heart of Vietnam's Central Highlands over seven days, journeying through Pleiku, Kon Tum, and Buon Ma Thuot. Discover unique ethnic traditions, ancient landscapes, and the region's rich coffee heritage, encountering waterfalls, communal houses, and national parks.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Pleiku → Kon Tum → Buon Ma Thuot

TOUR OVERVIEW

Overview: Discover the Central Highlands

Embark on a seven-day private tour through the captivating Central Highlands of Vietnam, a region less explored but rich in cultural heritage and natural beauty. This journey focuses on Pleiku, Kon Tum, and Buon Ma Thuot, offering an authentic glimpse into the lives of ethnic minority communities, stunning natural landscapes, and the vibrant coffee culture that defines this area. From ancient volcanic lakes to majestic waterfalls and traditional villages, this itinerary promises a profound connection with Vietnam's highland heartland.

Tour Highlights

Visit traditional Banar and Ede ethnic minority villages.

Admire the unique architecture of Nha Rong communal houses.

Observe elephants in their natural habitat at Yok Don National Park.

Experience the spiritual rhythm of UNESCO-recognized gong performances.

Explore Vietnam’s vibrant coffee culture at the World Coffee Museum.

Witness the majestic Dray Nur and Dray Sap waterfalls.

Discover the historical significance of Pleiku Former Prison and Minh Thanh Pagoda.

Journey to the serene Chu Dang Ya Volcano for panoramic views.

Route Summary

The adventure commences with your arrival in Pleiku, serving as the initial base for exploring the surrounding areas, including local villages and historical sites. A day trip to Kon Tum reveals its unique cultural and natural wonders before an overland transfer takes you to Buon Ma Thuot. The latter part of the tour delves into the rich coffee traditions and impressive waterfalls around Buon Ma Thuot, culminating in your departure from this coffee capital.

Who This Tour Suits

This private tour is ideal for travelers seeking a deep cultural immersion and an appreciation for untouched natural beauty. It caters to those interested in ethnic traditions, historical insights, and the intricate process of coffee production. Adventurous spirits and individuals looking for an off-the-beaten-path experience in Vietnam will find this journey particularly rewarding.

Practical Information

This private tour includes six nights of hotel accommodation, daily breakfasts, and several lunches as specified in the itinerary. All internal transportation within Vietnam, including airport transfers and daily excursions, is provided by private vehicle. You will be accompanied by a local English-speaking guide throughout the tour. Entrance fees to all listed attractions are also covered, ensuring a seamless and enriching travel experience.

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* Discover the historical significance of Pleiku Former Prison and Minh Thanh Pagoda.
* Journey to the serene Chu Dang Ya Volcano for panoramic views.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 Pleiku Arrival and Leisure

Meals: NA | Stay: Hotel in Pleiku

Travelers arrive in Pleiku, the gateway to Vietnam's Central Highlands, typically by a domestic flight. Upon landing, the crisp highland air provides a refreshing welcome to this region known for its mountains, forests, and deep-rooted spiritual heritage. The remainder of the day is dedicated to relaxation, allowing visitors to acclimate to the serene pace of Pleiku and prepare for the upcoming cultural and natural explorations. This offers a gentle start to the journey, setting a calm tone for the experiences ahead.

Activities: Arrive in Pleiku
Settle into accommodation
Rest and prepare for the tour

Day 2 Pleiku City Exploration & Cultural Insights

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Pleiku

The morning begins with a guided tour of Pleiku's significant sites after breakfast. The first stop is T'Nung Lake, a tranquil body of water formed within an ancient volcanic crater, often referred to as the “eye of the highlands.” Following this, the journey continues to Dektu and Dekrol villages, home to the Banar community, where the impressive Rong House, a traditional communal structure, stands as a symbol of their culture. Visitors will also explore a Banar cemetery, observing unique wooden statues and jars that mark ancestral resting places. A highlight is a soulful Gong performance, reflecting the region's deep spiritual connection.

In the afternoon, after a traditional local lunch, the tour proceeds to the Gia Lai Museum of Ethnology, offering insights into the lives and traditions of the Bahnar and Jarai ethnic groups through various artifacts. A visit to the Pleiku former prison provides a moment for reflection on historical resilience. Spiritual serenity can be found at Minh Thanh Pagoda, a site of Buddhist

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architectural elegance, followed by a stop at the graceful Immaculate Conception Cathedral. The day concludes with a stroll through a bustling local market, rich with mountain herbs and local produce, before returning to the hotel.

Activities: Visit T'Nung Lake
Explore Dektu & Dekrol villages
See a Rong House
Visit a Banar cemetery
Experience a Gong performance
Tour Gia Lai Museum of Ethnology
Reflect at Pleiku former prison
Find serenity at Minh Thanh Pagoda
Stop by Immaculate Conception Cathedral
Stroll through a local market

Day 3 Kon Tum's Cultural and Volcanic Wonders

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Pleiku

After breakfast, depart from Pleiku for a day trip to Kon Tum, focusing on its prominent attractions. The first destination is Nha Rong in Plei Don Village, another magnificent communal house serving as the heart of the Banar community, where gatherings for festivals and prayers take place. Next, explore the serene Bishop's House of Kontum, a charming wooden retreat that showcases the blend of French missionary influence and Central Highlands traditions.
The journey continues to Chu Dang Ya Volcano, a dormant volcano revered as a sacred protector of the land. Visitors can walk upon its fertile soil, experiencing the earth's gentle breath and allowing the mountain breeze to bring a sense of calm. This site offers a unique connection to the natural and spiritual landscape of the region. The day concludes with the return to Pleiku, leaving travelers with a profound appreciation for Kon Tum's quiet beauty and cultural depth.

Activities: Visit Nha Rong in Plei Don Village
Explore Bishop's House of Kontum
Journey to Chu Dang Ya Volcano
Return to Pleiku

Day 4 Overland Journey to Buon Ma Thuot

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Hotel in Buon Me Thuat

Following a leisurely breakfast in Pleiku, embark on an overland transfer to Buon Ma Thuot. This approximately 3.5-hour drive showcases the raw, natural splendor of the Central Highlands. The route traverses landscapes characterized by rich red basalt soil, which nurtures extensive coffee plantations and verdant forests. As the journey progresses towards Buon Ma Thuot, the air noticeably warms, and the scenery opens up, welcoming travelers to Vietnam's renowned coffee capital. Upon arrival, check into the hotel, with the rest of the day free for personal relaxation or independent exploration of the surrounding area.

Activities: Transfer from Pleiku to Buon Ma Thuot
Check into hotel
Free time for leisure or exploration

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Day 5 Yok Don National Park & Don Village Elephant Encounter

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Buon Me Thuat

The morning begins with a pickup from Buon Ma Thuot City for a one-hour drive to Don Village and Yok Don National Park. The exploration starts with a visit to a traditional Ede longhouse and a walk across a bamboo bridge spanning the Serepok River. A stop at the Tomb of the Elephant King, a legendary figure in elephant training, offers historical insights, along with visits to two elephant graves and stories of these majestic animals. A short walk through Don Village reveals its multicultural character, including a visit to the house of Amakong, a renowned elephant trainer and herbal healer, known for its Lao-style architecture and local narratives. Opportunities for ethnic snacks, local fruits, and souvenirs are available. Afterward, enjoy a local lunch or participate in a three-hour traditional cooking class with an Ede family in Jang Lanh Village, preparing and sharing a meal in a heartwarming setting.

In the afternoon, from 13:30 to 16:30, the focus shifts to observing elephants living freely within Yok Don National Park. These elephants, previously involved in tourism, are now cared for in their natural environment. The guide will provide information on local medicinal plants and the distinct personalities of each elephant. The day concludes at 16:30 with the return to Buon Ma Thuot City, leaving visitors with a profound sense of connection to the land, its people, and its wildlife.

Activities:
Drive to Don Village and Yok Don National Park
Visit an Ede longhouse
Cross a bamboo bridge
See the Tomb of the Elephant King and elephant graves
Walk through Don Village
Visit Amakong's house
Enjoy ethnic snacks
Have local lunch or participate in an Ede cooking class
Observe free-roaming elephants in Yok Don National Park
Learn about medicinal plants
Return to Buon Ma Thuot

Day 6 Coffee Culture & Waterfall Wonders of Buon Ma Thuot

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Buon Me Thuat

At 08:30, depart with a guide and driver to visit the impressive D'ray Nur and D'ray Sap waterfalls. Enjoy a peaceful hour-long walk amidst nature, feeling the cool mist and having the option for a refreshing swim. Following the waterfalls, the tour visits Kuop Village, an Ede community, where travelers can learn about their unique matriarchal traditions and observe daily life in the highlands. En route, a stop at a local coffee plantation and factory provides insight into coffee cultivation and processing. A delicious lunch will be served at a local restaurant.

The afternoon continues with a visit to Kotam Village, featuring a special Weasel Coffee Farm and the Trung Nguyen Coffee Village. Here, guests can attend a coffee show, learn brewing techniques, and visit a local coffee shop. The day concludes with a stop at the Buon Ma Thuot Central Market before returning to the hotel.

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Activities: Visit D'ray Nur and D'ray Sap waterfalls
Walk in nature and swim (optional)
Visit Kuop Village (Ede community)
Learn about matriarchal traditions
Stop at a coffee plantation and factory
Enjoy lunch
Visit Kotam Village
Explore a Weasel Coffee Farm
Visit Trung Nguyen Coffee Village
Watch a coffee show
Learn coffee brewing
Visit a local coffee shop
Stop at Buon Ma Thuot Central Market

Day 7 — Departure from the Central Highlands

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: NA

After breakfast, take a final moment to savor the fresh highland air. A driver will provide transfer to the airport for the onward flight, concluding this journey through Vietnam's Central Highlands.

Activities: Enjoy breakfast
Transfer to the airport for departure

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- v 6 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches
- v 6 nights hotel accommodation in shared Twin/Double room with air-conditioning
- v All internal transport within Vietnam (including airport pick up & see off), as per itinerary
- v All in-tour stationed local English speaking guide
- v Entrance fees as per itinerary

NOT INCLUDED

PRICE INCLUDES

- v 6 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches
- v 6 nights hotel accommodation in shared Twin/Double room with air-conditioning
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CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-5FA859F7AAFD