Ho Chi Minh City & Bassac Mekong Delta Cruise – 6 Days

6D / 5N	Easy	Private	USD 929 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

This six-day journey explores the vibrant history and culture of Ho Chi Minh City before embarking on an immersive Bassac River cruise through the picturesque Mekong Delta.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Ho Chi Minh City → Tay Ninh → Can Tho

TOUR OVERVIEW

Uncover the dynamic spirit of Southern Vietnam on a meticulously planned six-day adventure. This tour begins in the bustling metropolis of Ho Chi Minh City, where you'll delve into its rich past and architectural marvels. Following your urban exploration, transition to the tranquil waterways of the Mekong Delta aboard a traditional Bassac Cruise, offering an intimate perspective on local life and stunning riverine landscapes.

The itinerary is designed to provide a comprehensive cultural experience, from the historical landmarks of Saigon to the unique floating markets and lush fruit orchards of the delta. Enjoy comfortable accommodations, expert guidance, and authentic culinary experiences throughout your journey.

Tour Highlights

Experience the lively atmosphere and historical landmarks of Ho Chi Minh City.

Explore the spiritual significance of the Cao Dai Temple in Tay Ninh province.

Crawl through the historic Cu Chi Tunnels, learning about wartime ingenuity.

Embark on a multi-day Bassac Cruise, navigating the intricate waterways of the Mekong Delta.

Witness the vibrant trading activities at the Cai Rang Floating Market.

Savor regional cuisine and observe daily life along the Mang Thit and Co Chien Rivers.

Relax on the deck of a traditional river cruise, enjoying the serene delta scenery.

Journey Through Southern Vietnam

Your adventure commences in Ho Chi Minh City, a hub of history and modern energy. Days are filled with exploring significant sites like the Reunification Palace and colonial-era architecture. A day trip takes you to the unique Cao Dai Temple and the historic Cu Chi Tunnels. The latter half of the tour shifts to the serene Mekong Delta, where you'll board a Bassac Cruise. This river journey allows for close-up views of local communities, floating markets, and the agricultural heartland of Vietnam, concluding back in Ho Chi Minh City.

Ideal for Culture Enthusiasts and Explorers

This tour is well-suited for seniors and couples seeking a blend of cultural immersion and relaxing exploration. Travelers interested in Vietnamese history, local customs, and the tranquil beauty of river life will find this itinerary particularly appealing. The pace allows for both guided excursions and personal leisure time.

Practical Information for Your Trip

All essential ground transportation within Vietnam is included, primarily by car and cruise. Accommodation features a mix of comfortable hotels in Ho Chi Minh City and an authentic Bassac Cruise experience in the Mekong Delta. An English-speaking local guide accompanies you throughout the tour, providing insights into each destination. Meals are provided as indicated, ensuring you sample local flavors. Please note that international airfare, visas, and personal expenses are not covered.

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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

* Discover the historical landmarks and vibrant street life of Ho Chi Minh City.
* Visit the unique Cao Dai Temple in Tay Ninh province, a center of Caodaism.
* Explore the intricate underground network of the Cu Chi Tunnels, a wartime relic.
* Embark on a traditional Bassac Cruise for an immersive journey through the Mekong Delta.
* Observe the bustling trade and local life at the Cai Rang Floating Market.
* Enjoy scenic cruising along the Mang Thit and Co Chien Rivers, surrounded by lush landscapes.
* Savor authentic regional meals served onboard your Bassac river vessel.
* Interact with local communities during riverside stops and garden visits.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 — Ho Chi Minh City Arrival & Leisure Exploration

Meals: NA | Stay: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh

Upon your arrival at Ho Chi Minh City airport, a local guide will extend a warm welcome and facilitate your transfer to the city center. After checking into your hotel around 2:00 PM, you'll have ample time to settle in and begin your personal discovery of this vibrant urban landscape. The afternoon is free for you to explore at your own pace, whether strolling through the bustling streets, visiting local markets, or simply relaxing after your journey.

For those eager to experience the city's evening charm, optional tours are available. You might consider a luxurious dinner cruise along the Saigon River, offering stunning city views from the water, or an exciting motorbike tour to uncover Ho Chi Minh City's dynamic nightlife, including street food and hidden gems. These optional activities provide a fantastic introduction to the local culture and energy.

Activities: Airport welcome and transfer to hotel
Hotel check-in and luggage settlement
Free time for personal city exploration
Optional evening dinner cruise or motorbike tour

Day 2 — Ho Chi Minh City Historical & Architectural Tour

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh

Day two begins with an insightful journey into Ho Chi Minh City's historical and architectural heritage. Your guided sightseeing tour starts with a visit to a prominent museum, where you can admire its beautiful French colonial design and gain a deeper understanding of Vietnam's complex past. Following this, you'll proceed to the majestic Reunification Palace, once the presidential residence, which stands as a significant symbol of the city's historical transitions.

The exploration continues with visits to two iconic architectural masterpieces from the French colonial era: the Saigon Notre

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Dame Cathedral and the historic Old Post Office. Both structures, centrally located and built in the late 19th century, are essential stops for appreciating the city's European influences. Afterwards, the tour takes you to a bustling neighborhood market, offering a glimpse into the daily routines of local residents. Here, you can soak in the lively atmosphere and perhaps find unique souvenirs. The guided tour concludes with your return to the hotel, leaving the remainder of the day free for your leisure, allowing you to relax or explore more of the city independently.

Activities: Visit a museum showcasing French colonial design and national history
Tour the grand Reunification Palace
Admire the architecture of Saigon Notre Dame Cathedral (currently under renovation)
Explore the historic Old Post Office
Discover local life at a neighborhood market
Return to hotel with free time

Day 3 Tay Ninh Province Spiritual Journey & Cu Chi Tunnels Exploration

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh

This morning, embark on a captivating excursion to Tay Ninh province, home to the revered Cao Dai Temple. As the holiest site for Caodaism, this temple presents a unique architectural style that blends various religious symbols. You'll have the opportunity to learn about the intriguing beliefs and practices of this distinct Vietnamese religion, observing its spiritual significance. A delicious lunch featuring local flavors will be served at a nearby restaurant, providing a taste of regional cuisine. In the afternoon, the adventure continues with a visit to the historically significant Cu Chi Tunnels. This extensive underground network, spanning approximately 121 kilometers, played a crucial role during wartime. You may have the chance to experience a section of these intricate tunnels firsthand and witness re-enactments that offer insight into the survival tactics employed by soldiers. The Vietnamese government has preserved this complex as a war memorial park, allowing visitors to understand its historical importance. The day concludes with your return to Ho Chi Minh City, where you'll have free time to explore the city's dynamic evening atmosphere, perhaps discovering hidden spots or enjoying local dining.

Activities: Travel to Tay Ninh province
Visit the Cao Dai Temple and learn about Caodaism
Enjoy a regional lunch
Explore the historic Cu Chi Tunnels
Witness re-enactments and experience tunnel sections
Return to Ho Chi Minh City for free evening

Day 4 Ho Chi Minh City to Cai Be & Bassac Cruise Embarkation

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Stay: Bassac Cruise

Today, your journey takes you from Ho Chi Minh City to Cai Be. Upon arrival around midday, you will prepare to board the Bassac Cruise, your floating accommodation for the next two nights. After checking into your cabin, you'll be welcomed with a refreshing drink as the crew provides an orientation to the ship and its facilities. A delightful lunch will be served as the boat begins its gentle sail towards the bustling Lach Market in Tien Giang province. Here, you'll have the chance to explore this

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area, often referred to as a "kingdom of fruit," immersing yourself in the local culture and sampling fresh flavors.
The cruise then continues, leading you to a serene riverside community situated along the picturesque Mang Thit River. You'll have the opportunity to explore the surrounding area, which may include charming orchards or verdant rice fields, offering a glimpse into rural delta life. As the Bassac docks for the evening, take time to relax on the deck with a complimentary drink, soaking in the tranquil ambiance of the river. Later, a delicious dinner featuring regional specialties will be served onboard, followed by a captivating night experience at the Tra On Floating Market, where you can observe the lively trade. You'll enjoy a peaceful night's rest on the Bassac Cruise, surrounded by the serene beauty of the Mekong Delta.

Activities:
Transfer from Ho Chi Minh City to Cai Be
Board the Bassac Cruise and check into cabin
Receive welcome drink and cruise orientation
Enjoy onboard lunch while sailing to Lach Market
Explore Lach Market in Tien Giang
Cruise to a riverside community along Mang Thit River
Discover orchards or rice fields
Relax on deck with a complimentary drink
Savor dinner onboard
Experience the Tra On Floating Market at night
Overnight on Bassac Cruise

Day 5 Mekong Delta River Life & Cai Rang Floating Market

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Stay: Bassac Cruise

Your morning begins with a traditional boat tour through the renowned Cai Rang Floating Market, a quintessential Mekong Delta experience. Here, you'll observe the vibrant trading activities and the unique daily routines of locals conducting business from their boats. Following the market visit, your group will also stop by a neighboring fruit garden, offering a chance to taste fresh tropical produce. Afterward, you'll return to the Bassac Cruise and commence your journey towards Can Tho, cruising along the scenic Hau River to Ninh Kieu pier. During this leisurely sail, unwind on board and enjoy a refreshing beverage while taking in the picturesque riverine views.
The afternoon offers a deeper immersion into the Mekong Delta. You'll revisit the Cai Rang Floating Market and continue your voyage along the beautiful Mang Thit River and Co Chien River. En route, admire the stunning countryside of Southern Vietnam, characterized by expansive rice fields, lush sugar cane plantations, and dense forests. There will be opportunities to engage with friendly locals as you explore more fruit orchards and rice fields, gaining insight into their agricultural practices. As evening approaches, return to the boat, refresh with a drink, and spend the remaining daylight hours relaxing on deck. Enjoy the serene atmosphere and witness a mesmerizing sunset before a delectable dinner is served onboard.

Activities:
Experience the Cai Rang Floating Market by traditional boat
Visit a local fruit garden
Return to Bassac Cruise and sail towards Can Tho
Cruise along Hau River to Ninh Kieu pier
Revisit Cai Rang Floating Market
Continue cruising Mang Thit and Co Chien Rivers
Admire Southern Vietnam's countryside (rice fields, sugar cane, forests)

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Interact with locals and explore orchards/rice fields
Relax on deck and watch the sunset
Enjoy dinner onboard

Day 6 Cai Be Disembarkation & Return to Ho Chi Minh City

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: NA

Start your final day on the Bassac Cruise with a delightful breakfast served against the scenic backdrop of the riverbank. This morning marks your last boat journey, as you cruise towards the captivating Cai Be. The route will take you through the picturesque Co Chien River, where you can observe the lively ambiance of sand and rice canal traffic en route to Cho Lach. This final stretch of the river journey provides one last opportunity to appreciate the unique charm of the Mekong Delta's waterways and its active communities.

As the cruise concludes in Cai Be, you will disembark from the Bassac. From here, ground transportation will be arranged to transfer you back to the vibrant Ho Chi Minh City. You'll arrive back in the city filled with cherished memories of your comprehensive Mekong Delta adventure and the cultural insights gained throughout your six-day exploration of Southern Vietnam.

Activities: Enjoy breakfast on board while cruising
Navigate the Co Chien River towards Cai Be
Observe canal traffic en route to Cho Lach
Disembark from Bassac Cruise in Cai Be
Transfer back to Ho Chi Minh City

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- v Accommodation in a twin/double sharing room at hotels.
- v Accommodation on board the Bassac Cruise, based on twin share.
- v All ground transportation within Vietnam.
- v Stationed local English-speaking guide for in-tour activities.
- v Entrance fees for all specified attractions in Vietnam.
- v Meals as detailed in the daily program.

NOT INCLUDED

- x International airfare to and from Vietnam.
- x Early check-in or late check-out at accommodations.
- x Surcharges for peak season or compulsory gala dinners, if applicable.
- x Visa fees for entry into Vietnam.
- x Personal expenses, including tips, laundry services, and gratuities.
- x Meals and beverages not explicitly listed in the itinerary.

PRICE INCLUDES

v Accommodation in a twin/double sharing room at hotels.

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CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-9908DE73BEDB