Ninh Binh: Bai Dinh Pagoda & Trang An Grottoes Day Tour from Hanoi

6D / 5N	Easy	Private	USD 98 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Explore the spiritual grandeur of Bai Dinh Pagoda, Southeast Asia's largest pagoda complex, before a serene sampan journey through the stunning Trang An Grottoes. Conclude your day with a peaceful bicycle ride through rural villages, all on a convenient day trip from Hanoi.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Hanoi → Ninh Binh

TOUR OVERVIEW

Escape the urban energy of Hanoi for a day and journey to the serene landscapes of Ninh Binh province, often referred to as "Ha Long Bay on Land." This comprehensive full-day tour offers a profound cultural and natural exploration, combining spiritual discovery with breathtaking scenery. You'll travel approximately 100 kilometers south of the capital to uncover two of northern Vietnam's most iconic attractions: the majestic Bai Dinh Pagoda and the enchanting Trang An Grottoes.

This excursion is designed for travelers eager to experience Vietnam's rich heritage and stunning karst topography within a single, well-organized day. From monumental Buddhist architecture to tranquil riverine caves and peaceful rural cycling, this tour provides a diverse array of experiences, culminating in a return to your Hanoi accommodation by early evening.

Tour Highlights

Ascend to Bai Dinh Pagoda, Southeast Asia's largest Buddhist complex, marveling at its scale and spiritual significance.

Admire monumental bronze statues, including a colossal 100-ton Buddha Sakyamuni, and ancient bells.

Journey through the Trang An Grottoes by traditional sampan, navigating a series of captivating caves and secluded valleys.

Cycle through tranquil rural landscapes and traditional villages, offering a glimpse into local life amidst dramatic limestone mountains.

Savor authentic local Ninh Binh cuisine during a traditional lunch, featuring regional specialties.

Experience the breathtaking limestone karsts and serene river valleys that define Ninh Binh's "Ha Long Bay on Land" moniker.

Route Summary

Your journey begins with an early morning pickup from your hotel in Hanoi, heading south towards the scenic province of Ninh Binh. The first major stop is the expansive Bai Dinh Pagoda complex, where you'll spend ample time exploring its various temples and statues. Following a local lunch, the tour continues to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Trang An Grottoes for a captivating boat excursion through its intricate cave system and stunning natural surroundings. The afternoon also includes an opportunity for a leisurely cycling trip through the picturesque countryside before the transfer back to Hanoi, concluding your day trip.

Who This Tour Suits

This day tour is ideal for individuals and small groups interested in cultural immersion, spiritual sites, and natural beauty. It caters to those who appreciate a blend of historical exploration, serene boat rides, and gentle outdoor activity. Travelers looking for a convenient escape from Hanoi to experience some of Vietnam's most celebrated landscapes and religious architecture will find this tour particularly rewarding. It's suitable for most fitness levels, with options for walking and cycling.

Practical Information

The tour includes comfortable private transfers from and to your Hanoi hotel. An English-speaking guide will accompany you

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throughout the day, providing insights into the sites visited. Lunch at a local restaurant is included, offering a taste of regional cuisine. Please wear comfortable walking shoes for exploring the pagoda complex and bring appropriate sun protection. The boat trip in Trang An is a relaxed experience, while the cycling portion is optional and adjustable to your comfort level.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

* Ascend to Bai Dinh Pagoda, Southeast Asia's largest Buddhist complex, marveling at its scale and spiritual significance.
* Admire monumental bronze statues, including a colossal 100-ton Buddha Sakyamuni, and ancient bells.
* Journey through the Trang An Grottoes by traditional sampan, navigating a series of captivating caves and secluded valleys.
* Cycle through tranquil rural landscapes and traditional villages, offering a glimpse into local life amidst dramatic limestone mountains.
* Savor authentic local Ninh Binh cuisine during a traditional lunch, featuring regional specialties.
* Experience the breathtaking limestone karsts and serene river valleys that define Ninh Binh's "Ha Long Bay on Land" moniker.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 — Journey to Ninh Binh: Bai Dinh Pagoda & Trang An Grottoes

Meals: Lunch | Transport: Private car/van, traditional sampan, bicycle

Your day begins with an 8:00 AM pickup from your hotel in Hanoi. A comfortable private vehicle will transport you approximately 100 kilometers south to Ninh Binh province, a journey that typically takes around two hours. By 10:00 AM, you will arrive at the expansive Bai Dinh Pagoda Complex, a site renowned as the largest Buddhist pagoda in Southeast Asia.

Upon arrival, immerse yourself in the spiritual atmosphere of Bai Dinh. Follow pathways winding up Dinh Mountain, offering stunning vistas of the surrounding river valleys and the distinctive limestone karsts. Explore the pagoda's impressive collection, including 500 stone statues of Arhats, two massive bronze bells weighing 27 tons and 36 tons respectively, and three magnificent bronze statues of Tam The, each weighing 50 tons.

The exploration culminates with an ascent to the mountain summit, where a colossal 100-ton bronze statue of Buddha Sakyamuni stands. From this vantage point, you can absorb breathtaking panoramic views of the picturesque landscape, dotted with countless limestone mountains. Following your spiritual and scenic exploration, you will be transferred to a local restaurant at 12:00 PM for lunch, where you can savor special regional dishes such as goat meat.

At 1:00 PM, the journey continues to the enchanting Trang An Grottoes, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here, you will board a traditional sampan boat for a serene ride along the exquisite river. The boat gently navigates through numerous captivating caves, including the 320-meter-long Hang Toi (Dark) Cave, the 90-meter-long Sang (Light) Cave, and the 250-meter-long Hang Nau Ruou (Cooking Wine) Cave. Each passage reveals hidden, tranquil valleys, creating a sense of stepping into another world.

Throughout your boat trip, observe the rich local flora and fauna; it's common to spot goats gracefully leaping between the

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limestone cliffs. Around 3:00 PM, transition to a cycling trip, exploring the charming rural roads. Pedal through a network of canals and quaint small villages, all set against the dramatic backdrop of a maze of limestone mountains.
Finally, at 4:00 PM, you will begin your transfer back to Hanoi. The tour concludes with your arrival back at your hotel in Hanoi around 6:00 PM, marking the end of a memorable day exploring the natural and cultural wonders of Trang An and Bai Dinh Pagoda.

Activities: Depart from Hanoi hotel
Travel to Ninh Binh province
Arrive at Bai Dinh Pagoda Complex
Walk through Bai Dinh Pagoda, viewing Arhat statues, bronze bells, and Tam The statues
Ascend Dinh Mountain to see the 100-ton Buddha Sakyamuni statue
Enjoy panoramic views of the limestone landscape
Savor a local lunch featuring regional dishes
Travel to Trang An Grottoes
Take a traditional sampan boat trip through Trang An caves (Hang Toi, Sang, Hang Nau Ruou)
Observe local wildlife and serene valleys during the boat trip
Cycle through rural villages and canal networks
Transfer back to Hanoi
Arrive at Hanoi hotel

Day 2 **Day 2**

Day 3 **Day 3**

Day 4 **Day 4**

Day 5 **Day 5**

Day 6 **Day 6**

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WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- v Private transfer by New model Car/Van
- v Boat trip in Trang An Complex
- v Entrance fees
- v Lunch at local restaurant
- v English speaking tour guide.

NOT INCLUDED

- x Personal Expenses
- x Drinks
- x Others not mentioned

PRICE INCLUDES

- v Private transfer by New model Car/Van
- v Boat trip in Trang An Complex
- v Entrance fees
- v Lunch at local restaurant
- v English speaking tour guide.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-B859A9A2FED0