Ninh Binh Day Trip: Ancient Capital, Trang An Grottoes & Mua Cave Climb from Hanoi

1D / 0N	Moderate	Private	USD 66 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Embark on a private day tour from Hanoi to Ninh Binh, exploring the ancient capital of Hoa Lu, navigating the Trang An UNESCO complex by boat, conquering Mua Cave for panoramic views, and visiting the serene Bich Dong Pagoda. Experience the natural beauty and rich history of Vietnam's 'Halong Bay on Land'.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Hanoi -> Ninh Binh

TOUR OVERVIEW

Overview of Your Ninh Binh Private Day Tour

This exclusive private day tour offers a comprehensive exploration of Ninh Binh, often referred to as 'Halong Bay on Land,' directly from Hanoi. Designed for comfort and cultural immersion, you will journey through stunning landscapes, delve into Vietnam's ancient history, and experience unique local activities. From scaling Mua Cave for breathtaking vistas to gliding through the UNESCO-listed Trang An grottoes, this itinerary promises a day filled with unforgettable sights and authentic experiences, all guided by a knowledgeable local expert.

Tour Highlights and Experiences

Your day begins with a luxurious private transfer, setting the tone for a premium travel experience. The itinerary is packed with diverse activities, including a challenging yet rewarding climb to the peak of Mua Cave, offering expansive views of the Tam Coc valley. You'll also enjoy a tranquil boat journey through the intricate waterways and caves of Trang An, a dual World Heritage site. Cultural stops include the historic Hoa Lu Ancient Capital and the unique Bich Dong Pagoda, built into a mountainside. An optional bicycle ride provides a chance to connect with the serene Vietnamese countryside, complemented by a gourmet traditional lunch.

Route Summary: Hanoi to Ninh Binh's Wonders

The journey starts with an early morning pick-up from your Hanoi hotel, heading south to Ninh Binh province. Your first major stop is Mua Cave, followed by an optional village cycling experience. Next, you will visit Bich Dong Pagoda before enjoying a traditional Vietnamese lunch. The afternoon features a captivating boat trip through the Trang An complex, exploring its grottoes and temples. The historical exploration continues at Hoa Lu Ancient Capital, where you'll discover the ancient Dinh and Le King Temples. Finally, you will be comfortably transported back to Hanoi, concluding your adventure.

Who This Tour Suits

This private day tour is ideal for travelers seeking a deep dive into Vietnam's natural beauty and rich history without the constraints of a group schedule. It caters to those who appreciate comfortable, private transportation, expert guidance, and authentic culinary experiences. Participants should be prepared for moderate physical activity, particularly the climb at Mua Cave. It is perfect for couples, families, or small groups desiring a personalized and flexible exploration of Ninh Binh's most iconic attractions.

Practical Information and Preparation

To ensure a comfortable and enjoyable day, it is recommended to wear comfortable walking or hiking shoes, especially for the ascent to Mua Cave. Bring sun protection such as a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen, along with a reusable water bottle to stay hydrated. A fully charged camera or phone is essential to capture the stunning landscapes. Please note that the order of activities may be adjusted based on weather conditions to optimize your experience. For guests staying outside the Hanoi Old

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Quarter, alternative pick-up arrangements may be necessary.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

* Ascend Mua Cave's 500 steps for a spectacular 360-degree panorama of Tam Coc valley and its winding rivers.
* Glide through Trang An's UNESCO-listed karst landscape and mystical caves on a traditional sampan boat.
* Explore Hoa Lu Ancient Capital, visiting the Dinh King Temple, a significant historical site.
* Discover Bich Dong Pagoda, a series of ancient temples built into a mountainside with cave sanctuaries.
* Cycle through peaceful rural villages, experiencing the authentic Vietnamese countryside atmosphere.
* Savor a curated Vietnamese set menu lunch at a tranquil, handpicked local restaurant.
* Travel in comfort and style with private luxury Dcar Limousine transfers from Hanoi.
* Benefit from insightful commentary and local expertise provided by a professional English-speaking guide.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 — Ninh Binh Exploration: Mua Cave, Pagodas & Trang An Boat Ride

Meals: Lunch | Stay: null | Transport: Luxury Dcar Limousine, sampan boat, bicycle

Start the day with a convenient hotel pick-up in Hanoi, beginning your private journey to the scenic Ninh Binh province. Travel in a luxurious Dcar Limousine, enjoying the comfort of plush seating and air conditioning during the approximately two-hour drive. A brief 20-minute refreshment stop is scheduled en route, allowing you to relax before reaching your first destination. Your expert English-speaking guide will provide insights into the region's history and culture throughout the morning transfer.
Upon arrival in Ninh Binh, your adventure commences with an exhilarating visit to Mua Cave, also known as the 'Muse of Ninh Binh.' Prepare for a moderate physical challenge as you ascend approximately 500 stone steps to the summit of Ngoa Long Mountain. This climb rewards you with an unparalleled 360-degree panoramic vista over the entire Tam Coc valley, characterized by its winding rivers, lush paddy fields, and dramatic limestone karsts. At the peak, observe the iconic Dragon Statue before descending to admire the picturesque heart-shaped lotus pond (seasonal).
Following the Mua Cave experience, you have the option to enjoy a leisurely 30-minute bicycle ride through tranquil rural paths, offering a glimpse into local village life and the serene Vietnamese countryside. Alternatively, your private vehicle will transport you directly to the next site. Next, discover Bich Dong Pagoda, an ancient spiritual complex carved into a mountainside. Explore its three distinct temples—Lower, Middle, and Upper Pagodas—each reached by climbing stone stairs and nestled within mystical caves, offering a profound sense of peace. Afterward, savor a carefully selected traditional Vietnamese set menu lunch at a quiet local restaurant, focusing on authentic Ninh Binh flavors.
The afternoon is dedicated to a serene 2.5-hour rowing boat excursion through Trang An, a UNESCO Dual World Heritage site. Glide along crystal-clear waters, winding through towering limestone formations, passing through mystical caves, and stopping to visit ancient, sacred temples that dot the landscape. This immersive journey offers a deeply relaxing connection with one of Southeast Asia's most stunning natural wonders. Conclude your cultural exploration at Hoa Lu Ancient Capital, the 10th-century heart of Vietnam, protected by natural mountain fortresses. Enjoy a gentle walk across the expansive grounds, visiting the majestic Dinh King Temple and the serene Le King Temple, dedicated to Vietnam's founding heroes. Finally, your

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private driver will ensure a comfortable return journey to Hanoi, arriving back in the city around 8:00 PM, concluding your memorable day trip.

Activities: Travel from Hanoi to Ninh Binh in a private luxury Dcar Limousine.
Ascend 500 stone steps to Mua Cave for panoramic valley views.
Optionally cycle through peaceful rural villages.
Explore the ancient Bich Dong Pagoda, including its cave temples.
Enjoy a traditional Vietnamese set menu lunch.
Take a 2.5-hour sampan boat trip through the Trang An UNESCO complex.
Visit Hoa Lu Ancient Capital, including the Dinh and Le King Temples.
Return to Hanoi by private vehicle.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- v Full-day private luxury Dcar Limousine transportation.
- v Hotel pick-up and drop-off within Hanoi Old Quarter.
- v Experienced professional English-speaking tour guide.
- v Traditional Vietnamese set menu lunch at a local restaurant.
- v 24/7 English-speaking support via WhatsApp or email.
- v All entrance fees for Hoa Lu, Trang An, Mua Cave, and Bich Dong Pagoda.
- v Trang An boat trip ticket.
- v Cycling activity through local villages (approximately 40 minutes).
- v One bottle of mineral water per person.

NOT INCLUDED

- x Beverages and personal expenditures.
- x Any items or services not explicitly listed in the inclusions.

PRICE INCLUDES

- v Full-day private luxury Dcar Limousine transportation.
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AVAILABLE DEPARTURES

Departure Date	Return Date	Price / Person	Availability	Languages
01 Jan 2024	04 Sep 2027	**USD 66**	Available	–
01 Jan 2024	04 Sep 2027	**USD 67**	Available	–
01 Jan 2024	04 Sep 2027	**USD 68**	Available	–
01 Jan 2024	04 Sep 2027	**USD 71**	Available	–
01 Jan 2024	04 Sep 2027	**USD 75**	Available	–
01 Jan 2024	04 Sep 2027	**USD 90**	Available	–
01 Jan 2024	04 Sep 2027	**USD 105**	Available	–
01 Jan 2024	04 Sep 2027	**USD 145**	Available	–
01 Jan 2024	04 Sep 2027	**USD 250**	Available	–
01 Jan 2024	04 Sep 2027	**USD 88**	Available	–
01 Jan 2024	04 Sep 2027	**USD 102**	Available	–
01 Jan 2024	04 Sep 2027	**USD 120**	Available	–

CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-7E3865BA640F