North to South Vietnam: Family Adventure from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City – 11 Days

11D / 10N	Easy	Private	USD 1,229 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Embark on an 11-day family vacation across Vietnam, traveling from the historic northern capital to the vibrant south. Enjoy cultural discoveries, hands-on experiences, and memorable moments designed for all ages, creating lasting connections and cherished memories.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Hanoi → Ha Long → Hue → Hoi An → Da Nang → Ho Chi Minh City

TOUR OVERVIEW

This meticulously crafted 11-day itinerary offers families an enriching exploration of Vietnam, spanning from the ancient traditions of the north to the modern pulse of the south. Designed with a blend of cultural immersion, natural beauty, and engaging activities, this journey ensures every family member finds something to delight in.

Begin your adventure in Hanoi, where you'll dive into local life with a cooking class and explore the charming Old Quarter. A serene overnight cruise through the magnificent limestone karsts of Ha Long Bay provides breathtaking scenery and relaxing moments. Transitioning south, discover the imperial grandeur of Hue through its historic citadel and pagodas, followed by a delightful cycling tour through rural villages.

The journey continues to the enchanting town of Hoi An, where you'll participate in traditional farming activities at a local vegetable village, connecting with the rhythm of Vietnamese rural life. Experience the modern marvels and entertainment of Ba Na Hills before flying to Ho Chi Minh City. Here, explore significant historical sites and embark on an ecological excursion to the Can Gio Mangrove Forest, observing diverse wildlife and unique landscapes. This tour offers a perfect balance of education, adventure, and relaxation, creating an ideal setting for family bonding.

This private tour is highly suitable for families with children, group travelers, seniors, luxury travelers, and couples. With a focus on history, culture, and interaction with local communities, it provides a comprehensive and comfortable way to experience Vietnam's diverse offerings.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

* Explore Hanoi's historic Old Quarter and discover its culinary traditions.
* Participate in a hands-on Vietnamese cooking class in Hanoi, learning authentic dishes.
* Experience an overnight cruise on Ha Long Bay, admiring its iconic limestone formations.
* Journey by overnight sleeper train, offering a unique perspective of Vietnam's landscapes.
* Wander through Hue's Imperial Citadel and visit the serene Thien Mu Pagoda.
* Cycle through tranquil villages and lush rice paddies in the Hue countryside.
* Engage in traditional farming activities at Tra Que Vegetable Village near Hoi An.
* Walk the iconic Golden Bridge and enjoy attractions at Ba Na Hills.
* Discover significant historical landmarks in Ho Chi Minh City, including the Reunification Palace.

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* Explore the Can Gio Mangrove Forest biosphere reserve and observe local wildlife.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 Hanoi Arrival & Old Quarter Exploration

Meals: NA | Stay: Hotel in Hanoi | Transport: Car

Upon your arrival at Hanoi's airport, a welcoming driver will be waiting to transfer your family directly to your accommodation in the historic Old Quarter. After completing the check-in process, the remainder of the day is free for you to settle in and unwind after your journey. This provides an excellent opportunity to acclimate to your new surroundings.

You might choose to venture out and explore the fascinating maze of narrow streets that define the Old Quarter. Each street traditionally specialized in a different trade, offering a captivating first glimpse into authentic local life, the vibrant street food scene, and the distinct character of Hanoi. For those interested in a structured introduction to the city's culinary delights, optional experiences like a Hanoi Street Food Walking Tour or a Hanoi Food Tour by Motorbike are available.

Activities: Transfer from Hanoi airport to hotel
Check into hotel in Hanoi Old Quarter
Explore the Hanoi Old Quarter at leisure
Optional: Hanoi Street Food Walking Tour
Optional: Hanoi Food Tour by Motorbike at Night

Day 2 Hanoi Family Cooking Class Experience

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Hanoi | Transport: Car

Today promises an engaging and interactive culinary adventure for the whole family. In the morning, you will be collected from your Hanoi Old Quarter accommodation and driven to a bustling local market. Your guide will lead you through the vibrant market, introducing you to the sights, sounds, and aromas of daily Vietnamese life. Children will particularly enjoy observing how locals shop, perhaps even trying some friendly bargaining, and identifying the fresh herbs, vegetables, and spices essential to Vietnamese cuisine.

Following the market visit, the group will proceed to a cooking school. Here, a skilled chef will provide demonstrations on preparing various traditional Vietnamese dishes. Then, it's your family's turn to get hands-on! Under the chef's guidance, you'll work together to cook your own meals, picking up valuable culinary tips along the way. Once your creations are complete, you'll sit down to savor the delicious dishes you've prepared as a family.
As a memento of your experience, you'll receive recipe cards to recreate the dishes at home, along with a certificate. After the class, you will be transferred back to your accommodation. The rest of the day is yours to relax or continue discovering more of Hanoi at your leisure, perhaps trying out some of your newfound culinary knowledge.

Activities: Visit a local market with a guide

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Learn about Vietnamese ingredients and shopping culture
Attend a traditional Vietnamese cooking class
Prepare and cook various Vietnamese dishes
Enjoy the meal prepared by the family
Receive recipes and a certificate
Return to hotel

Day 3 Overnight Cruise in Ha Long Bay

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Stay: Halong Bay Cruise | Transport: Car, Cruise

Following breakfast, the morning begins with a transfer from Hanoi, departing between 08:00 and 08:30, for the scenic journey to the breathtaking Ha Long Bay. The drive, utilizing the expressway, takes approximately 2.5 hours, leading you to one of Vietnam's most iconic natural wonders. Upon arrival, you will board your chosen overnight cruise vessel and settle into your cabin. The crew will extend a warm welcome with a refreshing drink, followed by a brief orientation about your upcoming voyage.

As the cruise gracefully glides through the bay's emerald waters, dotted with magnificent limestone karsts, you'll enjoy a delicious lunch served onboard, providing an unparalleled dining experience amidst stunning views. The afternoon is dedicated to engaging in the activities outlined in your specific cruise itinerary. This may include visiting a serene floating fishing village, exploring ancient caves, or embarking on a kayaking excursion through calm waters and hidden lagoons. These activities offer a fantastic opportunity for your family to collectively appreciate the natural splendor of Ha Long Bay.

In the evening, you will return to the main boat for a freshly prepared dinner. Afterward, the night is yours to enjoy. Options might include trying your hand at squid fishing, enjoying some board games with the family, or simply relaxing on deck beneath the starlit sky. Spending the night surrounded by the peaceful, majestic scenery of Ha Long Bay is undoubtedly a highlight of this journey. Please note that specific cruise itineraries may vary.

Activities:
Transfer from Hanoi to Ha Long Bay
Board overnight cruise
Enjoy welcome drink and cruise briefing
Have lunch on board while cruising through Ha Long Bay
Participate in afternoon cruise activities (e.g., floating village, cave exploration, kayaking)
Dine on board with freshly prepared dinner
Enjoy evening activities (e.g., squid fishing, games, relaxing)

Day 4 Ha Long Bay Exploration & Overnight Train to Hue

Meals: Breakfast, Brunch | Stay: Overnight train to Hue | Transport: Cruise, Car, Train

Wake up to a light breakfast served on board as your cruise continues its scenic journey through the captivating landscapes of Ha Long Bay. Later in the morning, depending on your specific cruise route, you will visit one of the bay's renowned caves. This could be the impressive Sung Sot Cave, the mystical Trung Trang Cave, or the romantic Trinh Nu Cave, each celebrated

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for its unique limestone formations and natural beauty. This excursion provides an opportunity to marvel at the geological wonders hidden within the karsts.

Following the cave exploration, you'll return to the boat for your final moments cruising through the bay. As the vessel makes its way back to the harbor, you'll complete the check-out process and enjoy a leisurely brunch on board, taking in the last panoramic views of Ha Long Bay. Around midday, you will disembark and meet your driver for the transfer back to Hanoi. Once back in the city, there will be some free time for relaxation, freshening up, or a brief stroll before your evening departure.

In the evening, you will head to Hanoi Railway Station to board an overnight sleeper train bound for Hue. This train journey offers a distinctive and memorable way to experience Vietnam, adding an element of adventure for the family. It's advisable to purchase some snacks beforehand, as breakfast is not provided on the train.

Activities: Enjoy light breakfast on board
Visit a famous cave in Ha Long Bay (e.g., Sung Sot, Trung Trang, Trinh Nu)
Return to boat and complete check-out
Have brunch on board while cruising back to harbor
Disembark and transfer back to Hanoi by car
Free time in Hanoi
Transfer to Hanoi Railway Station
Board overnight sleeper train to Hue

Day 5 Imperial History of Hue & Ancient Pagodas

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Hue | Transport: Car

Upon your morning arrival in Hue, you'll be greeted by a friendly local guide who will accompany you on a journey through the city's profound historical legacy. Your initial destination is the former Royal Palace, an integral part of Hue's magnificent citadel complex. Here, you'll wander through the ancient grounds, learning about the Nguyen Dynasty, which once governed Vietnam from this significant imperial capital, immersing yourselves in centuries of royal history.

Next, the tour takes you to the celebrated Thien Mu Pagoda, one of Hue's most iconic landmarks. Situated gracefully alongside the tranquil Perfume River, this peaceful pagoda houses the city's oldest monastery, offering a serene and picturesque setting for the entire family to appreciate. The calm atmosphere and scenic views provide a perfect contrast to the grandeur of the citadel.

The afternoon continues with an extensive walk through the impressive Imperial City, nestled within the Citadel's formidable walls. This vast complex, once exclusively reserved for emperors and the royal court, is encircled by thick walls and protective moats. You'll have ample time to admire the historic gates, grand courtyards, and intricate architecture while your guide recounts captivating stories of Hue's illustrious royal past. After the comprehensive tour, you will be transferred back to your hotel for a well-deserved opportunity to relax and reflect on the day's historical discoveries. An optional Hue Night Food Tour is available for those interested in further local culinary exploration.

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Activities: Arrive in Hue and meet local guide
Explore the former Royal Palace within Hue's citadel
Visit the historic Thien Mu Pagoda by the Perfume River
Walk through the impressive Imperial City, admiring its architecture
Learn about the Nguyen Dynasty and Hue's royal history
Return to hotel
Optional: Hue Night Food Tour

Day 6 Countryside Cycling & Transfer to Hoi An

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Hotel in Hoi An | Transport: Bicycle, Boat, Car

This morning, embark on a leisurely family cycling excursion through the picturesque countryside surrounding Hue. Your ride will take you towards the local boat station, with your first stop being Sinh Village. Here, you'll have the unique opportunity to meet a local family renowned for their traditional wood painting craft. You'll learn about this enduring art form and observe firsthand how these intricate, handmade artworks are meticulously created, providing insight into local artistic heritage.

Continuing your cycling adventure, you'll pedal through quiet village lanes to Thanh Tien Village, a community celebrated for its vibrant paper flowers. From there, the route winds through verdant rice paddies and peaceful rural scenery towards Tien Non Hamlet. This gentle 6 km ride offers the family a wonderful chance to experience a slower, more authentic side of Vietnamese rural life, enjoying the fresh air and serene landscapes. After the cycling portion, you will board a local boat for a relaxing return journey towards Hue.

Following the boat ride, enjoy a satisfying lunch at a local restaurant and take a short break before continuing your journey south. In the afternoon, a private car will transfer you from Hue to Hoi An, a scenic drive of approximately 3 hours. The route passes through beautiful central coast landscapes before arriving at the charming, UNESCO-listed ancient town of Hoi An.

After checking into your hotel, the rest of the day is free for you to relax or explore the enchanting, lantern-lit streets at your own pace. You might also consider an optional Hoi An Motorbike Street Food Tour to sample local culinary delights.

Activities: Cycle through the Hue countryside (approx. 6 km)
Visit Sinh Village and observe traditional wood painting
Cycle to Thanh Tien Village, known for paper flowers
Ride through rice paddies and rural landscapes
Take a local boat back towards Hue
Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant
Transfer by private car from Hue to Hoi An
Check into hotel in Hoi An
Explore Hoi An Ancient Town at leisure
Optional: Hoi An Motorbike Street Food Tour

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Day 7 Hoi An Farming Experience at Tra Que Vegetable Village

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Hoi An | Transport: Bicycle

Today offers a delightful and interactive family experience in the tranquil Hoi An countryside. Your guide will meet you at your hotel in the morning, and together you'll collect bicycles for the day's adventure. Once equipped, you'll cycle along quiet rural lanes, enjoying picturesque views of rice paddies, swaying palm trees, and glimpses of local village life, as you make your way towards Tra Que Vegetable Village. This peaceful farming community is situated just outside Hoi An, offering a serene escape.

Upon your arrival, you'll receive a warm welcome from the local farmers, who will invite you to explore their vibrant gardens. Then, it's time to get involved! The entire family can participate in simple yet engaging farming activities such as preparing the soil, carefully planting herbs, watering various crops, and harvesting fresh produce. This hands-on session provides an enjoyable and educational way for both children and adults to learn about daily life and traditional agricultural practices in rural Vietnam.

After the farming session, you'll gather for a fresh, home-cooked lunch prepared with ingredients sourced directly from the village gardens. This meal is a wonderful opportunity to savor authentic local flavors, straight from the source. Throughout the day, you'll also gain valuable insights into traditional farming methods that have been lovingly passed down through many generations. Later in the day, you'll cycle back to Hoi An, with the remaining afternoon free for you to relax or continue exploring the charming town.

Activities:
Collect bicycles for the day
Cycle to Tra Que Vegetable Village
Explore the village gardens
Participate in farming activities (preparing soil, planting, watering, harvesting)
Enjoy a home-cooked lunch with fresh village ingredients
Learn about traditional farming methods
Cycle back to Hoi An
Free time in Hoi An

Day 8 Ba Na Hills Mountain Resort & Golden Bridge

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Da Nang | Transport: Car, Cable Car

This morning, between 07:45 and 08:00, your guide will pick you up from your hotel for the drive to Ba Na Hills, a renowned mountain resort celebrated for its refreshing climate, expansive views, and family-friendly attractions. Upon arrival, you'll board the cable car at Suoi Mo Station, embarking on a scenic ride that ascends through lush forested hills, past cascading waterfalls, and into misty mountain landscapes, offering stunning vistas along the way.

Once at the summit, your first stop is the famous Golden Bridge, an architectural marvel and one of Vietnam’s most recognizable landmarks. Suspended high above the hills and seemingly held aloft by giant stone hands, it provides an

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incredible setting for family photographs and panoramic views of the surrounding area. Continue your exploration to Jardin D'Amour, a beautifully landscaped garden featuring a variety of flowers, elegant fountains, and themed sections, perfect for a leisurely family stroll. Afterward, enjoy a buffet lunch offering a diverse selection of Vietnamese and international dishes.

The afternoon is dedicated to fun at Fantasy Park, an extensive indoor entertainment complex. Here, your family can enjoy a range of games, thrilling rides, and engaging attractions suitable for both children and adults. Later, ascend to King Peak, standing at approximately 1,487 meters, where you can take in sweeping mountain views and breathe in the crisp alpine air. At the conclusion of your visit, you'll return via cable car and transfer back to your hotel in Da Nang. Please note that the tour ticket covers round-trip cable car rides and access to major attractions like the Golden Bridge, Fantasy Park, and Moon Castle, but excludes the Wax Museum, Debay Wine Cellar, and certain premium games.

Activities: Transfer from hotel to Ba Na Hills
Ride cable car from Suoi Mo Station
Visit the Golden Bridge
Explore Jardin D'Amour gardens
Enjoy a buffet lunch
Spend afternoon at Fantasy Park (games, rides, attractions)
Visit King Peak for mountain views
Return by cable car and transfer back to hotel

Day 9 Flight to Ho Chi Minh City & City Landmarks Tour

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City | Transport: Airplane, Car

After breakfast at your hotel, you will be transferred to the airport for your domestic flight to Ho Chi Minh City, often still affectionately referred to as Saigon. Upon arrival in this dynamic southern hub, a local driver will meet you to begin your half-day exploration of the city's significant landmarks, offering a fascinating glimpse into Vietnam's modern and colonial history.

Your city tour commences at the Reunification Palace, a pivotal landmark deeply connected to Vietnam's modern narrative and the reunification of the country. Next, you will visit the War Remnants Museum, which provides a profound and thought-provoking perspective on the Vietnam War through compelling photographs, artifacts, and historical exhibits, offering a powerful educational experience for the family.

The journey continues to two of the city's most iconic colonial-era structures: the grand Saigon Central Post Office, renowned for its architectural beauty, and the impressive Notre Dame Cathedral. Please be aware that the Notre Dame Cathedral is currently closed indefinitely for maintenance. If time permits, a stop at a nearby local market will allow you to soak in the lively atmosphere, browse for souvenirs, or sample a few authentic local snacks, experiencing the city's vibrant daily life. Following the tour, you will be transferred to your hotel to check-in and enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure, perhaps exploring more of the city's culinary scene.

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Activities: Have breakfast at hotel
Transfer to airport for flight to Ho Chi Minh City
Meet local driver upon arrival
Visit Reunification Palace
Explore the War Remnants Museum
View Saigon Central Post Office and Notre Dame Cathedral (exterior only)
Optional: Visit a local market
Transfer to hotel and check-in

Day 10 Can Gio Mangrove Forest & Wildlife Eco-Tour

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City | Transport: Car, Speedboat

Around 07:45, escape the urban energy of Ho Chi Minh City for a full-day adventure to Can Gio, a UNESCO-listed biosphere reserve celebrated for its extensive mangrove forests, diverse wildlife, and scenic riverside landscapes. You'll meet your guide and travel comfortably by air-conditioned vehicle to this unique coastal region situated just outside the bustling city, embarking on a journey into nature.

Your first fascinating stop is Monkey United, a sanctuary home to hundreds of playful long-tailed monkeys that roam freely within the forest. You'll wander through the reserve, enjoying the opportunity to observe these curious creatures up close in their natural habitat. Continue your exploration at the Crocodile Farm, where you can learn about these impressive reptiles and witness their remarkable size and strength, offering an exciting encounter with local fauna. Afterward, board a speedboat for a thrilling ride through the intricate, winding waterways of the Mangrove Forest. Cruise beneath lush green canopies, admiring the untouched beauty of Can Gio National Park, and keep an eye out for local wildlife along the riverbanks.

The journey also includes a visit to a former wartime base, where your guide will share captivating stories and historical insights about the area's significant role during the Vietnam War, providing a deeper understanding of the region's past. At midday, you'll enjoy a delicious lunch at a well-regarded local restaurant, popular for its regional specialties. After lunch, take some time to relax or enjoy the swimming pool before visiting Can Gio Market. Here, you can browse the lively stalls selling fresh produce, seafood, handicrafts, and textiles, with an opportunity to practice your bargaining skills. Before returning to Ho Chi Minh City, you'll receive a special local gift: a tasting of instant bird’s nest soup. You will arrive back at your accommodation in the late afternoon or early evening, concluding a day full of natural discovery and historical insight. Please note that points of interest may be adjusted based on river tide conditions, but all scheduled visits will be included.

Activities: Transfer from Ho Chi Minh City to Can Gio Biosphere Reserve
Visit Monkey United to observe long-tailed monkeys
Explore the Crocodile Farm
Take a speedboat ride through the Mangrove Forest waterways
Visit a former wartime base and learn about its history
Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant

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Relax or use the swimming pool
Browse Can Gio Market for local goods
Receive a local gift of instant bird's nest soup tasting
Return to Ho Chi Minh City

Day 11 Ho Chi Minh City Departure

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: NA | Transport: Car

Enjoy your final morning in Ho Chi Minh City at a relaxed pace, allowing you to tailor your last hours in Vietnam to your preferences. You might choose to indulge in some last-minute souvenir shopping, seek out a traditional Vietnamese coffee at a local cafe, explore a nearby market for unique finds, or simply unwind and relax at your hotel before your onward journey.

At the pre-arranged time, a private transfer will take you from your hotel to the airport for your departure flight. Kindly remember that hotel check-out is typically required before 12:00 PM, ensuring you have ample time for your transfer. This marks the conclusion of your memorable family holiday across Vietnam.

Activities: Enjoy free morning in Ho Chi Minh City
Optional: Last-minute shopping or coffee
Transfer to the airport for departure flight

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- v 10 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 1 Brunch, 1 Dinner
- v Airplane, Car, Train, Cruise, Bicycle, Shuttle Bus
- v Hotel (8 nights), Halong Bay Cruise (1 night), Overnight train to Hue (1 night)
- v Accommodation in TWN/ DBL sharing accommodation at hotel, except overnight on train and home-stay (if any)
- v Car transfer as per itinerary (excluding airport pick up and drop off)
- v All in-tour stationed local English speaking guide.
- v Entrance fees for Vietnam attractions, as per itinerary
- v Meals as indicated in the program
- v Train ticket Hanoi - Hue
- v 1 domestic flight Da Nang – Ho Chi Minh City

NOT INCLUDED

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AVAILABLE DEPARTURES

Departure Date	Return Date	Price / Person	Availability	Languages
01 Jan 2026	20 Dec 2026	**USD 1,229**	Available	–
01 Jan 2026	20 Dec 2026	**USD 1,419**	Available	–
01 Jan 2026	20 Dec 2026	**USD 1,749**	Available	–
21 Dec 2026	20 Dec 2027	**USD 1,266**	Available	–
21 Dec 2026	20 Dec 2027	**USD 1,462**	Available	–
21 Dec 2026	20 Dec 2027	**USD 1,802**	Available	–

CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-908F084EB515