Northern & Central Vietnam Discovery: Hanoi, Halong Bay & Hue – 8 Days

8D / 7N	Easy	Group	USD 669 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Explore the cultural heart and natural wonders of Vietnam on an 8-day adventure. This itinerary takes you from the historic streets of Hanoi to the stunning karst landscapes of Halong Bay, the imperial city of Hue, and the charming ancient town of Hoi An, concluding in modern Da Nang.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Hanoi → Ha Long → Hue → Hoi An → Da Nang

TOUR OVERVIEW

Tour Overview

Embark on an enriching 8-day exploration of Northern and Central Vietnam, designed to showcase the country's diverse beauty and rich history. This journey connects vibrant cities with serene natural landscapes, offering a comprehensive experience of Vietnamese culture and heritage.

Begin your adventure in Hanoi, the nation's capital, where ancient traditions blend with contemporary life. Next, cruise through the breathtaking limestone formations of UNESCO-listed Halong Bay, enjoying an overnight stay on a traditional boat. Travel south to discover the former imperial grandeur of Hue, followed by the enchanting lantern-lit streets of Hoi An. The tour concludes in the coastal city of Da Nang, providing a perfect blend of relaxation and discovery.

Journey Highlights

Experience an overnight cruise amidst the dramatic karst scenery of Halong Bay.

Explore Hanoi's historic landmarks, including the Temple of Literature and Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum.

Uncover the ancient Cham civilization at the UNESCO World Heritage site of My Son Sanctuary.

Wander through the Imperial Citadel and Thien Mu Pagoda in Vietnam's former capital, Hue.

Ascend Ba Na Hills to walk across the iconic Golden Bridge with its majestic hand supports.

Route at a Glance

Your journey commences in Hanoi, where you'll spend two nights immersing yourself in the city's vibrant atmosphere and historical sites. Day three takes you to the magnificent Halong Bay for an overnight cruise, followed by a scenic overnight train ride to Hue. You'll explore Hue's imperial past before transferring to Da Nang, with a stop in Hoi An. The tour includes dedicated time for cultural exploration in Hoi An and a free day to relax or discover more of Da Nang, before your departure.

Who Will Love This Trip

This tour is ideal for active travelers and solo adventurers interested in a flexible group experience. It caters to those who appreciate nature, seek interaction with local communities, and enjoy exploring destinations slightly off the main tourist paths. With a mix of guided excursions and free time, it suits individuals eager to delve into Vietnam's history and culture while maintaining a sense of independence.

Essential Information

Accommodation includes a mix of comfortable hotels, an overnight cruise in Halong Bay, and a unique overnight train experience. All major transport, including flights and private cars, is arranged, alongside an English-speaking local guide for in-tour activities. Meals are provided as indicated in the itinerary, ensuring a taste of local cuisine throughout your journey.

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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

* Experience an overnight cruise amidst the dramatic karst scenery of Halong Bay.
* Explore Hanoi's historic landmarks, including the Temple of Literature and Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum.
* Uncover the ancient Cham civilization at the UNESCO World Heritage site of My Son Sanctuary.
* Wander through the Imperial Citadel and Thien Mu Pagoda in Vietnam's former capital, Hue.
* Ascend Ba Na Hills to walk across the iconic Golden Bridge with its majestic hand supports.
* Discover the charming ancient town of Hoi An with its unique architecture and vibrant markets.
* Enjoy a scenic overnight train journey from Northern to Central Vietnam.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 Hanoi Arrival & Leisure Time

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

Upon your arrival at Noi Bai International Airport, a friendly local guide will be waiting to greet you. You will then be transferred directly to your hotel in Hanoi, allowing you time to settle in comfortably. The rest of the day is at your leisure, providing a perfect opportunity to unwind after your journey.
You may choose to relax at your accommodation or embark on a self-guided exploration of Hanoi's charming streets. This free afternoon allows you to acclimatize to the local time and prepare for the exciting itinerary ahead. Consider a gentle stroll to soak in the city's atmosphere or enjoy a quiet meal at a local eatery.

Activities: Airport greeting and transfer to hotel
Leisure time in Hanoi

Day 2 Hanoi Cultural City Tour & Historical Landmarks

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

Today, a knowledgeable tour guide will accompany you on a half-day city tour of Hanoi, commencing either in the morning or afternoon based on availability. Your first stop is the Temple of Literature, Vietnam's inaugural university, which stands as a testament to the profound influence of Confucianism on the nation's heritage.
Continue your exploration to the unique One Pillar Pagoda, admired for its distinctive architecture, followed by a visit to the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum complex, the revered final resting place of Vietnam's independence leader (note: the mausoleum has specific closure days). Afterwards, journey to West Lake to see the historic Tran Quoc Pagoda, one of Vietnam's most significant Buddhist structures, boasting 1500 years of history.
The tour concludes with a delightful traditional lunch at a local restaurant, offering a taste of authentic Vietnamese cuisine. The remainder of your day is free for personal pursuits, with optional activities available for further discovery.

Activities: Guided half-day city tour of Hanoi

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Visit the Temple of Literature
Explore the One Pillar Pagoda
See the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum complex
Discover Tran Quoc Pagoda on West Lake
Enjoy a traditional Vietnamese lunch

Day 3 Halong Bay Cruise & Evening Activities

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Stay: Overnight cruise on Halong Bay | Transport: Car, Cruise boat

Between 08:00 and 08:30, a driver will pick you up for a transfer to Halong Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site celebrated for its breathtaking natural beauty. The scenic drive to the bay takes approximately 2.5 hours. Upon arrival, the boat crew will extend a warm welcome and assist with your check-in onto the cruise ship, with boarding scheduled around 12:00.
Enjoy a delicious seafood lunch as your vessel glides through the spectacular scenery of Halong Bay. Marvel at the unique limestone islets and emerald waters that define this iconic destination. Please note that a local English-speaking crew member will be your guide on board, as the main tour guide does not accompany the cruise.
The afternoon is dedicated to exciting activities, including exploring a magnificent cave, kayaking through tranquil lagoons, or swimming in the bay's clear waters. Return to the boat between 17:00 and 17:30 for a festive 'Sunset Party'. A delectable dinner awaits you from 19:00 to 19:30, followed by various onboard nighttime entertainment options such as squid fishing, board games, or movie screenings.

Activities:
Transfer from Hanoi to Halong Bay
Boarding and check-in for overnight cruise
Enjoy a seafood lunch while cruising
Explore a cave (specific cave depends on cruise itinerary)
Kayaking or swimming in Halong Bay
Participate in a Sunset Party onboard
Savor a delicious dinner
Engage in evening activities like squid fishing or board games

Day 4 Halong Bay Exploration & Overnight Train to Hue

Meals: Breakfast, Brunch | Stay: Overnight on Train | Transport: Cruise boat, Train

Begin your day with an invigorating Tai Chi session on the deck as the sun rises over Halong Bay, or simply wake up to admire the stunning morning views. A light breakfast will be served around 07:00, after which you'll have another opportunity to explore the bay, possibly visiting additional caves or enjoying more kayaking.
Return to the boat by 10:00 for check-out procedures. Your final delicious meal onboard will be served before the cruise concludes around 11:30, as the boat arrives back at the port. From there, you will be transferred for your onward journey.
In the afternoon, board an overnight train bound for Hue, embarking on a charming and nostalgic journey southward through Vietnam. Settle into your comfortable sleeper cabin and let the rhythmic sounds of the train lull you to sleep. This scenic overnight ride offers a unique perspective of the country's landscapes and local life, with arrival in the former imperial capital anticipated by morning.

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Activities: Morning Tai Chi class or sunrise viewing
Light breakfast onboard
Further exploration of Halong Bay (caves or kayaking)
Check-out from cruise
Final meal onboard
Transfer to train station
Overnight train journey to Hue

Day 5 — Hue Imperial City Tour & Transfer to Da Nang

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Hotel in Da Nang | Transport: Car

At 08:00, your tour guide will pick you up for a half-day exploration of Hue, Vietnam's ancient imperial city. Your first stop is the iconic Thien Mu Pagoda, one of Hue's oldest and most renowned royal Buddhist temples, celebrated for its intricate architecture and centuries of history.

Next, delve into the historical Imperial Citadel, once the residence of the Nguyen emperors, Vietnam's last dynasty. Here, you'll gain insights into its structure and design while exploring significant landmarks such as the King's Palace, the Flag Tower, and the main gate. Conclude your morning at Dong Ba Market, Hue's largest traditional trading hub, where you can find unique souvenirs and observe the daily commerce of local vendors.

In the afternoon, a driver will transfer you to your hotel in Da Nang. After checking in, the remainder of the day is yours to enjoy at leisure, whether relaxing at the hotel or beginning your own exploration of the city.

Activities: Guided half-day tour of Hue
Visit Thien Mu Pagoda
Explore the Imperial Citadel (King's Palace, Flag Tower, front gate)
Discover Dong Ba Market
Transfer from Hue to Da Nang
Check-in at Da Nang hotel

Day 6 — My Son Sanctuary Exploration & Thu Bon River Cruise

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

Commence your journey from Hoi An to the ancient My Son Sanctuary, a UNESCO World Heritage Site nestled within a peaceful valley. Explore the impressive temple complex on foot, learning about the fascinating Champa civilization from your guide. Enjoy a traditional performance that vividly portrays this rich cultural heritage.

Following your visit to the sanctuary, you'll visit a local residence to observe the traditional craft of rice paper making. You'll have the opportunity to try making your own and savor your handmade creation. Continue to another local home for a relaxing meal, where you can unwind with freshly prepared dishes and herbal tea in a serene countryside setting (for the sunset option, a light local snack like banh mi and fresh coconut replaces the meal).

Conclude your day with a tranquil boat ride along the Thu Bon River, taking in the calm river scenery as you return to Da Nang. The tour concludes with a convenient drop-off at your hotel.

Activities: Travel from Hoi An to My Son Sanctuary

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Explore the temple complex with a guide
Witness a traditional Champa performance
Visit a local home for rice paper making demonstration and tasting
Enjoy a relaxing meal at a local house (or light snack for sunset option)
Take a boat ride along the Thu Bon River
Return transfer to Da Nang hotel

Day 7 Da Nang Free Day or Ba Na Hills Excursion

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Hotel in Da Nang | Transport: Car, Cable Car (optional)

Today is a flexible day for you to explore Da Nang at your own pace. You might choose to relax on the beautiful My Khe Beach, renowned for its soft sands, or visit prominent city landmarks such as the Marble Mountains and the Dragon Bridge. Alternatively, immerse yourself in the local food scene and café culture, discovering the city's vibrant charm in your preferred way.

For those seeking more adventure, an optional day trip to Ba Na Hills is available. After breakfast, you will be transferred to Suoi Mo Cable Car Station, then proceed to Marseille Station. Experience the awe-inspiring Golden Hand Bridge, famous for its unique architecture featuring giant stone hands supporting the walkway, offering spectacular views of the surrounding landscapes.

Continue to explore the enchanting Le Jardin D'Amour, a beautifully landscaped flower garden, and the serene Linh Ung Pagoda, known for its towering statues. You'll also have the chance to visit Debay Wine Cellar for a wine tasting. A delightful Vietnamese buffet lunch is included. In the afternoon, return via cable car to the gateway for your transfer back to your hotel, with the evening free to experience Da Nang's nightlife.

Activities:
Free day to explore Da Nang at leisure
Optional Ba Na Hills Day Trip:
Cable car ride to Ba Na Hills
Walk across the Golden Hand Bridge
Explore Le Jardin D'Amour (Flower Garden)
Visit Linh Ung Pagoda
Wine tasting at Debay Wine Cellar
Enjoy a Vietnamese buffet lunch
Return to Da Nang

Day 8 Da Nang Departure

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: NA | Transport: Car

Enjoy a final breakfast at your hotel in Da Nang. After your meal, prepare for your departure, as our dedicated driver will provide comfortable transportation to the airport for your onward flight.

This marks the conclusion of your memorable journey through Northern and Central Vietnam. We hope you carry cherished memories of your experiences and look forward to the possibility of welcoming you back in the future. Please note that the standard check-out time is 12:00 PM.

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Activities: Breakfast at hotel
Transfer to Da Nang airport
Departure

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- v Accommodation in twin/double sharing rooms at hotels, except for the overnight train and cruise.
- v All transportation, including airport transfers, as specified in the itinerary.
- v Overnight train journey from Hanoi to Hue.
- v Meals as indicated in the program: 7 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 1 Brunch, 1 Dinner.
- v All in-tour stationed local English-speaking guides.
- v Entrance fees for sites as per the itinerary.

NOT INCLUDED

PRICE INCLUDES

- v Accommodation in twin/double sharing rooms at hotels, except for the overnight train and cruise.
- v All transportation, including airport transfers, as specified in the itinerary.
- v Overnight train journey from Hanoi to Hue.
- v Meals as indicated in the program: 7 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 1 Brunch, 1 Dinner.
- v All in-tour stationed local English-speaking guides.
- v Entrance fees for sites as per the itinerary.

AVAILABLE DEPARTURES

Departure Date	Return Date	Price / Person	Availability	Languages
21 Dec 2026	28 Dec 2026	**USD 690**	Available	–
21 Dec 2026	28 Dec 2026	**USD 813**	Available	–

CANCELLATION POLICY

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