Northern & Southern Vietnam Highlights with Halong Bay Cruise – 7 Days

7D / 6N	Easy	Group	USD 849 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Experience the best of Vietnam's cultural and natural wonders on this value-focused 7-day adventure. Journey from the ancient capital of Hanoi to the stunning karst landscapes of Halong Bay, explore the modern attractions of Ba Na Hills, and delve into the historical narratives of Ho Chi Minh City.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Hanoi → Ha Long → Hoi An

TOUR OVERVIEW

Journey Overview

This meticulously planned seven-day tour offers an accessible way to discover Vietnam's most celebrated destinations. From the historic streets of Hanoi to the serene waters of Halong Bay, and the vibrant energy of Ho Chi Minh City, this itinerary combines cultural immersion with breathtaking natural beauty. Travelers will explore ancient temples, wartime relics, and modern architectural marvels, all while enjoying comfortable accommodations and local culinary delights.

Highlights of Your Trip

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

Cruise through the stunning karst landscape of Halong Bay with an overnight stay on a traditional vessel.

Ascend Titop Island for panoramic views of Halong Bay and enjoy a refreshing swim.

Experience the Golden Bridge and Fantasy Park at Ba Na Hills via scenic cable car.

Paddle a traditional basket boat and learn local fishing techniques in Hoi An's Coconut Village.

Gain insight into Vietnam's wartime history at the intricate Cu Chi Tunnels.

Discover the French colonial architecture and vibrant markets of Ho Chi Minh City.

Detailed Route

Your adventure begins in Hanoi, Vietnam's historic capital, where you'll explore significant cultural sites. Next, a scenic drive leads to Halong Bay for an unforgettable overnight cruise amidst its iconic limestone formations. A domestic flight then takes you to Da Nang, providing access to the elevated marvels of Ba Na Hills and the charming town of Hoi An. The journey concludes in the south with a flight to Ho Chi Minh City, where you'll visit the Cu Chi Tunnels and key city landmarks, offering a comprehensive look at Vietnam's diverse regions.

Who Will Love This Adventure

This tour is ideal for budget-conscious travelers, solo adventurers, or groups seeking a comprehensive yet affordable exploration of Vietnam's main highlights. Those interested in a blend of history, culture, and natural scenery will find this itinerary particularly engaging. It provides a structured yet flexible approach to experiencing diverse Vietnamese landscapes and traditions.

Essential Information

The tour includes all specified meals and transportation, along with the expertise of local English-speaking guides at each destination. Accommodations are carefully selected to provide comfort and convenience throughout your journey. Two domestic flights are included to efficiently cover the distances between Hanoi, Da Nang, and Ho Chi Minh City, maximizing your sightseeing time.

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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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* Experience the Golden Bridge and Fantasy Park at Ba Na Hills via scenic cable car.
* Paddle a traditional basket boat and learn local fishing techniques in Hoi An's Coconut Village.
* Gain insight into Vietnam's wartime history at the intricate Cu Chi Tunnels.
* Discover the French colonial architecture and vibrant markets of Ho Chi Minh City.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 — Hanoi Arrival and Historic City Exploration

Meals: Dinner | Stay: Hotel in Hanoi

Upon your arrival at Hanoi airport, a private transfer will take you to your hotel for check-in and some time to relax. In the afternoon, your local guide will meet you in the lobby to commence a half-day city tour. The journey begins with a visit to the solemn Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum complex, the final resting place of Vietnam's revered leader. You'll also see his humble stilt house and the Presidential Palace grounds, offering insight into his life.

The tour continues to the iconic One Pillar Pagoda, an architectural marvel standing on a single stone pillar, symbolizing Hanoi's enduring cultural heritage. Next, explore the Temple of Literature – Quoc Tu Giam, Vietnam's first national university, dedicated to Confucius and ancient scholars. This site showcases the country's long-standing tradition of education and intellectual pursuit.

The day concludes with a delightful dinner at a local restaurant, where you can savor authentic Vietnamese cuisine, providing a perfect introduction to the flavors of the capital.

Activities: Transfer from airport to hotel; Join a half-day guided city tour; Visit Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum; Explore the Presidential Palace grounds and stilt house; See the One Pillar Pagoda; Discover the Temple of Literature; Enjoy a traditional Vietnamese dinner.

Day 2 — Halong Bay: Scenic Cruise and Cave Discovery

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

Begin your day with a morning transfer from your Hanoi Old Quarter hotel, traveling along the modern expressway towards Halong Bay. Upon arrival at the port, you will be welcomed aboard an overnight cruise ship. After a refreshing welcome drink, receive a briefing on safety procedures and the cruise itinerary. A delicious lunch will be served in the onboard restaurant as your vessel glides past the majestic limestone karsts, entering the UNESCO-recognized natural wonder of Halong Bay.

In the afternoon, the cruise will navigate towards Sung Sot Cave, one of the largest and most impressive dry caves in the bay.

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Ascend over fifty steps to explore its vast chambers, adorned with unique stalactites and stalagmites, showcasing the bay's rich geological formations. As evening approaches, many cruises offer a Vietnamese culinary demonstration or fruit carving class, allowing you to engage with local traditions.

A sumptuous dinner is served on board, followed by evening entertainment options such as night squid fishing, board games, or simply relaxing at the bar. Spend a tranquil night sleeping on the calm waters of Halong Bay, surrounded by its serene beauty.

Activities: Transfer from Hanoi to Halong Bay port; Board an overnight cruise; Enjoy lunch on board; Explore Sung Sot Cave; Participate in a cooking demonstration or fruit carving class; Have dinner on the cruise; Engage in evening activities like squid fishing or board games.

Day 3 Halong Bay Sunrise and Flight to Coastal Da Nang

Meals: Breakfast, Brunch | Stay: Hotel in Hoi An

Wake early to witness a breathtaking sunrise over Halong Bay, a truly magical experience. A light breakfast, including tea and coffee, will be served on board. You may choose to participate in a revitalizing Tai Chi session on the sundeck, an excellent way to start your day amidst the stunning scenery.

The cruise's next stop is Titop Island, famous for its crescent-shaped beach and observation deck. Here, you can enjoy swimming in the pristine waters or embark on a hike to the island's summit. The ascent to the top offers a magnificent 360-degree panoramic view of Halong Bay, a perfect photo opportunity.

Return to the cruise for a leisurely brunch as the ship begins its journey back to the main port. Take this time to pack your belongings or relax on the sundeck, soaking in the final views of this natural wonder. Upon disembarkation at the cruise port, you will be transferred to the airport for your domestic flight to Da Nang, where you will check into your hotel in Hoi An for the night.

Activities: Witness sunrise over Halong Bay; Participate in a Tai Chi class; Visit Titop Island for swimming or hiking; Enjoy brunch on the cruise; Transfer from cruise port to airport; Fly from Halong Bay area to Da Nang; Transfer from Da Nang airport to hotel in Hoi An.

Day 4 Ba Na Hills Adventure: Golden Bridge and Fantasy Park

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

Your day begins with a morning transfer from your hotel to Ba Na Hills, a renowned mountain resort. At Suoi Mo Cable Car Station, you'll board a cable car for a scenic ascent to Marseille Station. The ride offers spectacular panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and lush landscapes as you make your way up.

Upon arrival at Marseille Station, your first stop is the iconic Golden Bridge, a pedestrian bridge held aloft by two colossal stone hands, providing incredible photo opportunities and sweeping vistas. Continue to the exquisite Jardin D'Amour, a beautifully manicured garden featuring colorful flowers, fountains, and sculptures, perfect for a leisurely stroll. You'll also visit Linh Ung Pagoda, home to an impressive statue of the Goddess of Mercy.

After a morning of sightseeing, enjoy a buffet lunch at a local Vietnamese restaurant, offering a wide array of traditional dishes.

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The afternoon is dedicated to Fantasy Park, an amusement park with numerous games, rides, and attractions suitable for all ages. Conclude your Ba Na Hills experience with views from King Peak before taking the cable car back down and transferring to your hotel.

Activities: Transfer to Ba Na Hills; Ride the cable car to Marseille Station; Visit the Golden Bridge; Explore Jardin D'Amour; See Linh Ung Pagoda; Enjoy a buffet lunch; Spend the afternoon at Fantasy Park; Descend via cable car; Transfer back to hotel.

Day 5 Hoi An Basket Boat Tour and Flight to Ho Chi Minh City

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

In the morning, your guide will pick you up from a central meeting point in Hoi An for a journey to Cam Thanh Village, also known as Hoi An Coconut Village. Here, you'll have the opportunity to interact with local residents and learn about their daily lives and the history of this unique area.

The highlight of the morning is an exciting basket boat ride along the tranquil waterways, surrounded by lush green palm groves. You'll gain hands-on experience in traditional fishing techniques, such as casting round and cast nets. For a bit of fun, you can also learn how to paddle a bamboo basket boat or even participate in a friendly basket boat race.

After your river adventure, visit a local's home for a welcome drink and a traditional Vietnamese lunch. Around midday, you will return to your hotel to collect your belongings before heading to the airport for your flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Upon arrival in the bustling southern metropolis, you will check into your hotel for an overnight stay.

Activities: Transfer to Cam Thanh Coconut Village; Meet local villagers; Experience a basket boat ride; Learn traditional fishing techniques; Enjoy a local lunch; Transfer to airport for flight to Ho Chi Minh City; Check into hotel in Ho Chi Minh City.

Day 6 Cu Chi Tunnels Exploration and Ho Chi Minh City Landmarks

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

Your day begins with an early morning transfer from your Ho Chi Minh City accommodation for a two-hour drive to the Cu Chi Tunnels. Enjoy the serene views of the suburban countryside en route. The Cu Chi Tunnels represent an extraordinary feat of Vietnamese military engineering, serving as a crucial underground network of hideouts, supply routes, and living quarters during the war.

Upon arrival, you'll watch a short documentary detailing the history and construction of the tunnels. Afterwards, venture into the intricate underground passages, which once housed thousands of soldiers and functioned as hospitals, arsenals, and command centers. A light lunch featuring local specialties will be served at the conclusion of your tunnel exploration.

In the afternoon, embark on a city tour of Ho Chi Minh City, visiting iconic landmarks that reflect its French colonial past and wartime history. See the Central Post Office and the Notre Dame Cathedral (exterior view due to ongoing repairs), both showcasing impressive French architectural styles. Continue to the Reunification Palace, a symbol of Vietnam's reunification. Conclude your historical journey at the War Remnants Museum, which offers a poignant look at the war's impact, and then explore Ben Thanh Market, a bustling hub for local goods and souvenirs.

Activities: Transfer to Cu Chi Tunnels; Watch an introductory film; Explore the Cu Chi Tunnels network; Enjoy a light local lunch; Visit the Central Post Office; View Notre Dame Cathedral; Tour the Reunification Palace; Explore the War Remnants Museum;

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Market; Transfer back to hotel.

Day 7 Departure from Ho Chi Minh City

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: NA

On your final day, enjoy some leisure time to relax or conduct any last-minute personal activities. As your memorable journey through Vietnam comes to an end, it will be time to pack your bags and prepare for your onward flight from Ho Chi Minh City, carrying with you unforgettable experiences and cherished memories.

Activities: Enjoy free time; Prepare for departure; Transfer to Ho Chi Minh City airport.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED	NOT INCLUDED

PRICE INCLUDES

AVAILABLE DEPARTURES

Departure Date	Return Date	Price / Person	Availability	Languages
21 Dec 2026	27 Dec 2026	**USD 875**	Available	–
21 Dec 2026	27 Dec 2026	**USD 926**	Available	–

CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-AFCA6DF86C81