Northern Vietnam Capital, Ancient Sites & Halong Bay Cruise – 6 Days

6D / 5N	Easy	Private	USD 488 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Explore North Vietnam on a 6-day adventure, featuring Hanoi's rich history, the ancient capital of Hoa Lu and Trang An in Ninh Binh, and an unforgettable overnight cruise through the stunning Halong Bay.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Hanoi → Ninh Binh → Ha Long

TOUR OVERVIEW

This six-day journey through Northern Vietnam offers a comprehensive exploration of the region's most iconic destinations. Begin your adventure in Hanoi, the vibrant capital, where centuries of history blend with modern life. Discover ancient temples, colonial architecture, and bustling markets, experiencing the city's unique charm firsthand. The tour then takes you to the serene landscapes of Ninh Binh, often called 'Halong Bay on land,' to uncover Vietnam's ancient capital and navigate breathtaking waterways.

Tour Highlights

Arrival in Hanoi, followed by an evening cultural water puppet performance.

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

Experience a traditional cyclo ride through Hanoi's Old Quarter and a leisurely walk around Hoan Kiem Lake.

Journey to Ninh Binh to visit Hoa Lu's ancient temples and take a scenic boat trip through Trang An.

Overnight cruise on Halong Bay, admiring limestone karsts and participating in a cooking class.

Kayaking or swimming at Tung Sau area and Ti Top beach in Halong Bay.

Discover the impressive stalactite formations inside Sung Sot Cave.

Journey Through Northern Vietnam

Your itinerary spans from the lively streets of Hanoi to the tranquil rice paddies of Ninh Binh, culminating in the majestic seascape of Halong Bay. Each day presents a new facet of Vietnamese culture and natural beauty, ensuring a diverse and engaging travel experience. The route is designed to maximize sightseeing while providing comfortable transfers between locations, allowing you to absorb the essence of each destination.

Who Is This Tour For?

This tour is ideal for travelers seeking a blend of cultural immersion, historical exploration, and natural wonder in Northern Vietnam. It suits those who appreciate guided excursions to major landmarks, enjoy scenic boat trips, and look forward to an overnight cruise experience. The pace is balanced, offering both structured activities and moments for personal discovery, making it suitable for a wide range of visitors.

Practical Information

Accommodation includes comfortable hotel stays in Hanoi and a night aboard a cruise ship in Halong Bay. All major transfers are handled by private vehicle or bus, with additional unique transport experiences like a cyclo ride and local boat trips. Meals are provided as indicated (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner), offering a taste of local cuisine. An English-speaking guide accompanies the group throughout the tour, providing insights and assistance.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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* Journey to Ninh Binh to visit Hoa Lu's ancient temples and take a scenic boat trip through Trang An.
* Overnight cruise on Halong Bay, admiring limestone karsts and participating in a cooking class.
* Kayaking or swimming at Tung Sau area and Ti Top beach in Halong Bay.
* Discover the impressive stalactite formations inside Sung Sot Cave.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 — Hanoi Arrival & Evening Water Puppet Show

Meals: D | Stay: Golden Silk Boutique Hotel, Hanoi | Transport: Flight, private transfer

Your journey begins with an arrival at Noi Bai Airport in Hanoi, following your flight from Kuala Lumpur. Upon clearing customs, a local guide and driver will greet you for a private transfer to your centrally located hotel. After checking in and taking some time to refresh, prepare for an evening of cultural entertainment. Around 18:30, you will attend a traditional Vietnamese water puppet show, a unique art form depicting ancient legends and daily life.
Following the captivating performance, a transfer will take you to a local restaurant where you will enjoy dinner, sampling authentic Vietnamese cuisine. After your meal, the driver will return you to your hotel, allowing for free time to relax or explore the immediate surroundings at your leisure.

Activities: Arrival at Noi Bai Airport
Private transfer to Hanoi city center
Hotel check-in and rest
Attend a traditional water puppet show
Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant

Day 2 — Hanoi City Landmarks & Old Quarter Exploration

Meals: B,L | Stay: Golden Silk Boutique Hotel, Hanoi | Transport: Private vehicle, cyclo

Today is dedicated to discovering Hanoi's most significant historical and cultural sites. The morning begins with a visit to the Ho Chi Minh Complex, a revered area that includes Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, his humble Stilts House, the grand Presidential Palace, and the iconic One Pillar Pagoda. These sites offer deep insights into Vietnam's modern history and its revered leader. Continue your exploration with a visit to the Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first national university, a serene complex of courtyards and pavilions. Afterwards, experience the peaceful ambiance of West Lake, driving along the scenic Thanh Nien street, and visit the tranquil Tran Quoc Pagoda. In the afternoon, enjoy a 30-minute cyclo tour, a traditional three-wheeled bicycle taxi, through the bustling narrow streets of the Old Quarter. Conclude your day with a leisurely walk around Hoan Kiem Lake, absorbing the vibrant atmosphere and local life that defines Hanoi's soul.

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Activities: Visit Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, Stilts House, Presidential Palace, and One Pillar Pagoda
Explore the Temple of Literature
Drive around West Lake and visit Tran Quoc Pagoda
Take a 30-minute cyclo tour through the Old Quarter
Walk around Hoan Kiem Lake

Day 3 Ninh Binh Ancient Capital & Trang An Boat Journey

Meals: B,L | Stay: Golden Silk Boutique Hotel, Hanoi | Transport: Private vehicle, boat

Depart from Hanoi at 8:00 AM for a scenic two-hour drive (approximately 100km) south to Ninh Binh province. Your first stop is Hoa Lu, the ancient capital of Vietnam from 968 AD to 1010 AD. Here, you will explore two historic temples dedicated to the Dinh and early Le Dynasties, learning about the country's fascinating past.
Around 11:30 AM, you will be transferred to a local restaurant to savor a traditional Vietnamese lunch. The afternoon's highlight begins at 12:30 PM with a three-hour boat trip through the stunning Trang An Landscape Complex. Glide through emerald waters, passing dramatic limestone karsts, mysterious caves, and lush rice paddies, often referred to as 'Halong Bay on land.' The serene environment offers incredible photo opportunities and a peaceful escape. At 3:30 PM, you will begin the drive back to Hanoi, arriving at your hotel around 5:30 PM for an overnight stay.

Activities: Drive to Ninh Binh
Visit Hoa Lu ancient capital and its two temples
Enjoy Vietnamese lunch at a local restaurant
Embark on a 3-hour boat trip through Trang An
Return drive to Hanoi

Day 4 Halong Bay Overnight Cruise & Island Adventures

Meals: B,L,D | Stay: Amanda Cruise (Deluxe cabin) | Transport: Bus, tender boat, cruise ship

At 9:00 AM, a bus and tour guide will pick you up from your Hanoi hotel for the transfer to Halong City. The journey offers views of the Red River Delta countryside and crosses the longest bridge in Southeast Asia. Arrive at Tuan Chau Island between 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM, where you'll have a brief break and a welcome drink at the cruise lounge before transferring to your cruise ship, the Amanda Cruise.
After a welcome drink, safety briefing, and check-in, your exploration of Halong Bay begins. Enjoy a buffet lunch featuring Vietnamese and international dishes as the ship navigates through some of the bay's most picturesque and tranquil areas, including Incense Burner, Dog Stone Islet, Fighting Cock, Soi Sim beach, and Coconut Three Island. Visit the Tung Sau area, a cultured pearl fishery, where you can observe the pearl cultivation process and try kayaking. Later, head to Ti Top beach for swimming or climb to the summit for panoramic views of the bay. Return to the boat and sail to the Luon Bo area for overnight anchorage. In the evening, participate in a cooking class to learn how to make Vietnamese spring rolls, enjoy happy hour, watch the sunset, and indulge in a deluxe Vietnamese and international set dinner. Evening activities include relaxing at the bar, watching movies, playing cards, or trying squid fishing.

Activities: Transfer from Hanoi to Halong City

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Board the cruise ship at Tuan Chau Island
Enjoy buffet lunch while cruising Halong Bay
Visit Tung Sau pearl fishery and kayak
Swim or hike at Ti Top beach
Attend a Vietnamese spring roll cooking class
Enjoy happy hour and watch the sunset
Have a deluxe dinner and evening entertainment

Day 5 Halong Bay Cave Exploration & Return to Hanoi

Meals: B,L | Stay: Golden Silk Boutique Hotel, Hanoi | Transport: Cruise ship, tender boat, bus

Start your day early on board with a Tai Chi session on the sundeck from 6:00 AM to 8:00 AM, combining deep breathing with gentle movements. Coffee, tea, and pastries are served for breakfast in the dining room, offering a beautiful morning view of the bay's landscape. Between 8:00 AM and 11:30 AM, transfer by tender boat to Sung Sot Cave, also known as Surprise Cave. A walk up approximately 100 steps leads to the cave entrance, where you'll spend about 45 minutes exploring one of Halong Bay's largest and most stunning caves, filled with impressive stalactites and stalagmites. Proper footwear is recommended for this excursion.

After visiting the cave, return to the cruise ship by tender. Complete your check-out procedures and settle any bills at the reception. Enjoy a buffet brunch as the cruise sails back towards Tuan Chau Wharf. Relax on the sundeck or in the dining room, admiring the scenery as you approach the mainland. Disembark at Tuan Chau Wharf and bid farewell to the crew. From 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM, you will be transferred back to Hanoi, arriving at your hotel around 3:00 PM, with the rest of the day at leisure.

Activities: Participate in a morning Tai Chi session
Enjoy breakfast with bay views
Transfer to and explore Sung Sot Cave
Return to the cruise ship and check out
Have a buffet brunch while cruising back to Tuan Chau Wharf
Disembark and transfer back to Hanoi

Day 6 Hanoi Departure to Kuala Lumpur

Meals: B | Transport: Private transfer, flight

On your final day, enjoy breakfast at your hotel. At 6:00 AM, a private transfer will be arranged to take you from your hotel to Noi Bai International Airport. This transfer is timed to ensure you arrive comfortably for your scheduled flight back to Kuala Lumpur, concluding your memorable 6-day Northern Vietnam tour.

Activities: Enjoy breakfast at the hotel
Transfer to Noi Bai Airport
Depart from Hanoi for Kuala Lumpur

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WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- v Private transportation as per program
- v Hotel accommodation based on Double/Twin rooms as specified or similar with daily breakfast
- v English speaking local tour guides
- v Overnight on Cruises in Halong Bay
- v Meals as indicated as B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D= Dinner
- v Entrance fees
- v Visa Approval Visa Letter
- v 24/7 hotline support guaranteed

NOT INCLUDED

- x Flight ticket
- x Early check-in or Late check-out
- x Personal expenses
- x Tips and gratuities
- x Travel insurance
- x Beverage
- x Other services not mentioned above

PRICE INCLUDES

- v Private transportation as per program
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CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-BBE34EF4EA68