Northern Vietnam Culture & Halong Bay Cruise – 4 Days

4D / 3N	Easy	Group	USD 389 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Discover the cultural heart of Northern Vietnam on a 4-day journey, exploring Hanoi's vibrant street life, engaging in traditional craft workshops, and cruising the stunning waters of Halong Bay. This family-friendly private tour offers hands-on experiences and scenic beauty.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Hanoi → Ha Long

TOUR OVERVIEW

Tour Overview

This four-day private tour immerses travelers in the rich heritage and natural splendor of Northern Vietnam. Beginning in Hanoi, you'll experience the city's dynamic evening atmosphere through a unique street food and night market scooter adventure. The journey continues with visits to ancient craft villages, offering opportunities for hands-on pottery making and insights into traditional conical hat, blacksmithing, and lacquerware production.

The tour culminates with a breathtaking day cruise through the iconic limestone karsts of Halong Bay, exploring floating villages and enjoying water activities in the serene Lan Ha Bay. Designed for families and groups, this itinerary provides a blend of cultural discovery, artistic engagement, and stunning natural landscapes.

Highlights of Your Journey

Experience Hanoi's vibrant street food scene and illuminated landmarks on an evening scooter tour.

Participate in a hands-on pottery workshop at the historic Bat Trang Ceramic Village.

Explore traditional craft villages, witnessing the making of conical hats, forged tools, and intricate lacquerware.

Discover the playful art of 'To He' figures crafted from colorful rice dough.

Enjoy a scenic day cruise through the majestic Lan Ha Bay, part of the Halong Bay complex.

Visit Viet Hai Village on Cat Ba Island, offering a glimpse into local island life.

Route Summary

Your adventure begins and concludes in Hanoi. The itinerary includes immersive explorations within Hanoi, a half-day excursion to the Bat Trang Ceramic Village, and a full day dedicated to discovering various traditional handicraft villages surrounding the capital. The tour's grand finale is a captivating day cruise through Halong Bay, specifically focusing on the beautiful Lan Ha Bay area, before returning to Hanoi.

Who This Tour Suits

This private tour is ideal for friends, groups, and families with children who seek an engaging and educational travel experience. Those interested in local culture, traditional crafts, culinary adventures, and stunning natural scenery will find this itinerary particularly appealing. The hands-on activities and varied experiences cater to different interests, ensuring an enriching journey for all participants.

Practical Information

The tour includes three nights of hotel accommodation in Hanoi, with options for 3-star, 4-star, or 5-star hotels. Meals provided include three breakfasts, three lunches, and one dinner. Transportation throughout the tour is via private car transfers and a comfortable shuttle bus for the Halong Bay excursion. An English-speaking local guide is provided for all in-tour activities.

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Please note that international flights, visas, travel insurance, and personal expenses are not included.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

* Experience Hanoi's vibrant street food scene and illuminated landmarks on an evening scooter tour.
* Participate in a hands-on pottery workshop at the historic Bat Trang Ceramic Village.
* Explore traditional craft villages, witnessing the making of conical hats, forged tools, and intricate lacquerware.
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DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 — Hanoi Nightlife & Street Food by Scooter

Meals: Dinner | Stay: Hotel in Hanoi | Transport: Scooter

Your Vietnamese adventure commences in the evening with a thrilling exploration of Hanoi's vibrant nocturnal scene. A local guide will take you on the back of a scooter, navigating the bustling streets to immerse you in the city's renowned street food culture. You will sample a curated selection of authentic local dishes, each offering a taste of Hanoi's rich culinary traditions. The journey continues through lively alleys to the Quang Ba Flower Market, where fresh blooms are exchanged during the quieter pre-dawn hours. Next, you'll stop at a traditional fruit market, a colorful spectacle of produce and the energetic atmosphere of late-night vendors. As the evening draws to a close, your ride will pass by Hanoi's iconic landmarks and thoroughfares, beautifully illuminated, providing a unique perspective on local life after dark. This immersive experience concludes with your return to the hotel, leaving you with a profound sense of Hanoi's charm, flavors, and its hidden nighttime pulse.

Activities: Explore Hanoi's streets by scooter with a local guide.
Savor a variety of local street food dishes.
Visit the bustling Quang Ba Flower Market.
Discover a traditional fruit market.
Observe Hanoi's illuminated landmarks at night.

Day 2 — Bat Trang Ceramic Village by Vintage Jeep

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Hanoi | Transport: Vintage Jeep

Today begins with a pickup from your accommodation in or around Hanoi's Old Quarter, setting the stage for an exciting countryside excursion aboard a vintage Jeep. Leaving the city's main thoroughfares behind, you'll travel along picturesque backroads, crossing a bridge to the serene, verdant landscapes on the other side of the Red River. Along the route, enjoy

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expansive views of peaceful farmlands and gain insights into rural Vietnamese life.
Your destination is Bat Trang Ceramic Village, Vietnam's most celebrated pottery hub, boasting a history spanning over a millennium. Wander through its narrow, winding lanes, which are lined with artisan workshops where the tradition of craftsmanship continues to flourish. Engage with the village's vibrant artistic heritage by participating in a hands-on ceramic class led by a local artisan, where you can create your own pottery piece as a personal keepsake. A delicious and healthy Vietnamese meal, prepared with fresh, organic ingredients, will be served. This half-day Jeep tour offers a perfect blend of cultural discovery, practical experience, and charming rural scenery, making it a memorable highlight of your trip.

Activities: Travel through the countryside in a vintage Jeep.
Observe rural life and farmlands along the Red River.
Explore Bat Trang Ceramic Village.
Participate in a hands-on pottery workshop.
Enjoy a traditional Vietnamese meal.

Day 3 Northern Vietnam Handicraft Village Exploration

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

Embark on a cultural journey into the heart of Northern Vietnam today, exploring a collection of traditional handicraft villages that surround Hanoi and embody the essence of Vietnamese craftsmanship. Your initial destination is Non Chuong Village, renowned for its iconic conical hats, known as Non La. Stroll through the tranquil village paths, observing skilled artisans meticulously shaping and stitching palm leaves into elegant, durable hats – enduring symbols of Vietnamese identity. Alternatively, you may visit Da Sy Village, where blacksmithing has been practiced for centuries. Witness local smiths hand-forging knives and metal tools using time-honored techniques. The journey continues to Ha Thai Village, celebrated for its exquisite lacquerware art. Here, you'll observe how natural materials and precise layering methods combine to create shimmering, polished works of functional art, including trays, vases, and paintings. Another option is a visit to a village where children and families can delight in the playful world of To He – colorful figurines crafted from glutinous rice dough. Watch artisans shape miniature animals, flowers, and folk characters, or even try creating your own. A local lunch will be provided, and you will return to Hanoi with a deeper appreciation for Vietnam’s living heritage and the dedicated individuals who preserve these traditions.

Activities: Visit Non Chuong Village to observe conical hat making.
Witness blacksmiths forging tools in Da Sy Village.
Explore Ha Thai Village, known for lacquerware art.
Discover the craft of 'To He' figurines from rice dough.
Enjoy a local lunch.

Day 4 Halong Bay Day Cruise & Cat Ba Island Discovery

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: NA | Transport: Shuttle bus, boat cruise, electric car/bicycle

Your day begins with a morning hotel pickup between 7:00 - 7:30 from the Hanoi Old Quarter, followed by a picturesque drive towards Cat Ba Island via a comfortable shuttle bus, traversing the lush Northern Vietnamese countryside. Upon reaching Cat

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Ba Island, a serene drive through the heart of Cat Ba National Park leads you to Beo Pier, where your cruise adventure commences. Around 10:45, you'll board your vessel, receive a welcome drink, and a brief introduction from your guide outlining the day's itinerary and safety protocols.

The cruise sets sail into Lan Ha Bay, gracefully passing Cai Beo Floating Village, where daily life unfolds entirely on the water. Marvel at the emerald-green waters and the dramatic limestone karsts that majestically emerge from the bay. While soaking in the breathtaking scenery, a delicious Vietnamese lunch will be served onboard. In the afternoon, disembark at Viet Hai Port and take an electric car or bicycle through the untouched landscapes of Cat Ba National Park to reach Viet Hai Village. Tucked away amidst forested hills, this ancient village offers an authentic glimpse into local life. Relax with a fish-foot massage, explore traditional homes, and interact with friendly locals to enrich your cultural experience. Returning to the boat, your next adventure involves water activities in the calm bay. Weather permitting, enjoy swimming, kayaking, boat jumping, and water slides, all set against the bay's surreal backdrop. As the cruise makes its way back to Beo Pier, unwind on the sundeck with a sunset party, featuring fresh fruit, tea, and biscuits – a perfect conclusion to your day on the water. At 16:45, disembark and transfer back to Hanoi by bus. Please note that the cruise route may vary based on your selected cruise operator.

Activities: Travel to Cat Ba Island via scenic shuttle bus.
Board a cruise at Beo Pier.
Sail through Lan Ha Bay, past Cai Beo Floating Village.
Enjoy a Vietnamese lunch onboard.
Visit Viet Hai Village by electric car or bicycle.
Experience water activities like swimming and kayaking (weather permitting).
Enjoy a sunset party on the sundeck.
Transfer back to Hanoi.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- v 3 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 1 Dinner
- v Hotel (3 nights)
- 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

NOT INCLUDED

- x Hotel EARLY check in & LATE check out
- x Peak season surcharge & compulsory dinner at the hotel (if any)
- x International flights to or from Vietnam with taxes
- x Vietnam Visa (above 6 months passport Valid & 3 clear-page require)
- x Travel Insurance
- x Tips, laundry and gratuities
- x Meals not marked on itinerary, and water during meals
- x Tips for guide /driver (recommended US $3-5 /pax /day)

PRICE INCLUDES

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CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-53D6E5FEA9C6