Northern Vietnam Culture & Scenery: Hanoi, Ninh Binh & Halong Bay – 5 Days

5D / 4N	Easy	Private	USD 375 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Discover the vibrant capital of Hanoi, the breathtaking 'Halong Bay on land' in Ninh Binh, and the iconic limestone karsts of Halong Bay on this comprehensive 5-day tour.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Hanoi → Ninh Binh → Ha Long

TOUR OVERVIEW

Overview of Your Northern Vietnam Adventure

This meticulously crafted 5-day, 4-night itinerary offers a deep dive into the cultural heart and natural wonders of Northern Vietnam. Beginning in the historic capital of Hanoi, you'll uncover ancient traditions and modern life before venturing into the picturesque countryside. The journey continues to Ninh Binh, often called 'Halong Bay on land,' where stunning karst formations rise from rice paddies. A highlight includes an overnight cruise through the majestic Halong Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site, promising unforgettable vistas and experiences.

Tour Highlights

Experience the best of Northern Vietnam with a carefully curated selection of activities and sights. From exploring bustling city streets to serene natural landscapes, this tour ensures a diverse and enriching travel experience. Engage with local culture, witness traditional crafts, and relax amidst some of Asia's most stunning scenery.

Journey Through Northern Vietnam

Your adventure starts and concludes in Hanoi, serving as a perfect base for exploring the region. The route takes you from the urban charm of the capital to the rural beauty of Quang Phu Cau, then through the dramatic landscapes of Ninh Binh, culminating in the serene waters of Halong Bay. This loop provides a comprehensive look at the region's varied attractions.

Who is This Tour For?

This private tour is ideal for families and groups of friends seeking a flexible and personalized exploration of Northern Vietnam. Travelers interested in cultural immersion, stunning natural scenery, and a mix of city and rural experiences will find this itinerary particularly appealing. The pace allows for both guided excursions and moments of leisure.

Practical Information for Travelers

The tour includes comfortable accommodations, most meals as specified, and all necessary ground and water transportation. An English-speaking guide will accompany you, enhancing your understanding of the local culture and history. International flights, personal expenses, and gratuities are not included, allowing for personal budgeting. Please note that exact timings may vary slightly based on local conditions.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

* Explore Hanoi's historic Old Quarter, Hoan Kiem Lake, and significant cultural landmarks.
* Witness a traditional water puppet show, a unique Vietnamese art form.
* Visit the vibrant Quang Phu Cau Incense Village, observing traditional craft making.
* Experience a scenic boat trip through Tam Coc's 'Halong Bay on land' landscapes.

Northern Vietnam Culture & Scenery: Hanoi, Ninh Binh & Halong Bay – 5 Days

5D / 4N	Easy	Private	USD 375 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

* Ascend Hang Mua Cave for panoramic views of Ninh Binh's stunning karst scenery.
* Enjoy an overnight cruise on Halong Bay, navigating past iconic islets.
* Participate in a cooking demonstration and squid fishing aboard your Halong Bay cruise.
* Start your day with a Tai Chi session on the sundeck amidst Halong Bay's sunrise.
* Discover the impressive formations within Sung Sot Cave, one of Halong Bay's largest grottoes.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 — Hanoi Arrival & Capital City Exploration

Meals: L | Stay: MK Premium Hotel or similar | Transport: Private airport transfer, private car for city tour

Upon your arrival at Noi Bai International Airport (HAN), you will be greeted and transferred to the heart of Hanoi. After settling into your accommodation, your guided city excursion begins. This afternoon focuses on some of Hanoi's most significant landmarks, offering a glimpse into Vietnam's rich history and culture. You'll visit the expansive Ba Dinh Square, a site of national importance, and the serene Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first national university.

The tour continues to the tranquil West Lake, known for its scenic views and the picturesque Thanh Nien street. Here, you'll also explore the ancient Tran Quoc Pagoda, a stunning Buddhist temple. Afterwards, delve into the bustling maze of the Old Quarter, wandering through its narrow streets filled with traditional shops and vibrant street life. A leisurely walk around the iconic Hoan Kiem Lake provides a peaceful contrast, allowing you to soak in the city's unique atmosphere.

The day concludes with an evening performance of a traditional water puppet show, a captivating art form unique to Vietnam. This cultural spectacle provides an entertaining end to your first day in the capital, before returning to your hotel for the night.

Activities: Arrival at Noi Bai International Airport; Transfer to Hanoi Center; Guided city tour of Ba Dinh Square, Temple of Literature, West Lake, Tran Quoc Pagoda; Walking tour of Old Quarter and Hoan Kiem Lake; Attend a water puppet show.

Day 2 — Incense Village & Ninh Binh's Karst Landscapes

Meals: B, L | Stay: MK Premium Hotel or similar | Transport: Private car/bus transfer

After breakfast and checking out from your Hanoi hotel, your day begins with a morning departure at 8:00 AM towards the Quang Phu Cau Incense Village. Located approximately 40 kilometers from Hanoi, the journey takes about an hour. Upon arrival, you'll be greeted by a striking display of vibrant red incense sticks laid out to dry, creating a truly photogenic scene. Villagers will be actively working, arranging the incense in various intricate patterns.

You'll have the opportunity to explore the village workshops, observing the traditional methods of incense production. This includes watching processes such as bamboo chopping, dipping the sticks in colorful dyes, and crafting the incense paste. This visit offers a unique insight into a generations-old craft and a chance to interact with the local artisans who maintain this cultural heritage.

By 10:30 AM, you'll depart for Ninh Binh province, arriving at a restaurant in Tam Coc around midday for lunch. The afternoon features a serene boat trip through Tam Coc, often referred to as 'Halong Bay on land' due to its dramatic limestone karsts and

Northern Vietnam Culture & Scenery: Hanoi, Ninh Binh & Halong Bay – 5 Days

5D / 4N	Easy	Private	USD 375 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

tranquil waterways. You'll glide through three grottoes, enjoying the stunning natural scenery from a traditional rowing boat. Following the boat excursion, prepare for a climb of 400 steps to Hang Mua Cave. From the summit, you'll be rewarded with a breathtaking panoramic vista of the Tam Coc region, perfectly timed to experience the sunset over the mountains before returning to Hanoi for the evening.

Activities: Visit Quang Phu Cau Incense Village; Observe incense making process; Depart for Ninh Binh; Lunch in Tam Coc; Take a boat trip through Tam Coc and its grottoes; Climb to Hang Mua Cave for panoramic views and sunset; Return to Hanoi.

Day 3 Halong Bay Cruise & Evening Activities

Meals: B, L, D | Stay: Crown Legend Cruise | Transport: Shuttle bus, cruise boat, kayak/bamboo boat

Your day begins with an 8:30 AM departure from your Hanoi hotel, boarding a shuttle bus bound for Halong Bay. The journey offers picturesque views of the Vietnamese countryside, farmlands, and the Red River Delta as you travel. Upon arrival at the Crown Legend Cruise check-in lounge around 11:30 AM, you'll have time to refresh before the boarding process.

At 12:15 PM, you'll be transferred to the Crown Legend Cruise. After a warm welcome and safety briefing from the Cruise Manager, you'll settle into your cabin. A delicious buffet lunch will be served at 1:00 PM, allowing you to savor your meal while enjoying the initial stunning views as the boat cruises towards the southeastern part of Halong Bay, passing famous islets like Fighting Roosters and Finger Islets.

From 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM, immerse yourself in the bay's dramatic limestone scenery as you sail towards Luon Cave. Here, you have the option to explore the cave either by kayaking independently or by relaxing in a bamboo boat rowed by locals.

Following this, between 4:00 PM and 5:00 PM, you'll visit either Titov Island, known for its beach and viewpoint, or the mystical Trinh Nu Cave. Returning to the cruise at 5:30 PM, enjoy a sunset party with a 'Happy Hour' at the Crown Legend Bar or Sundeck until 7:00 PM. At 6:00 PM, join a cooking demonstration where the chef will teach you to make Vietnamese spring rolls. Dinner is served at 7:15 PM, followed by evening entertainment options such as karaoke or drinks at the bar. Squid fishing tools are also available at reception. You'll spend the night aboard the cruise in a comfortable, air-conditioned room with a private washroom.

Activities: Depart Hanoi by shuttle bus; Arrive at Crown Legend Cruise check-in lounge; Board Crown Legend Cruise; Welcome drinks and safety briefing; Buffet lunch; Cruise through Halong Bay; Explore Luon Cave by kayak or bamboo boat; Visit Titov Island or Trinh Nu Cave; Sunset party and Happy Hour; Cooking demonstration; Dinner; Karaoke or drinks at Crown Legend Bar; Squid fishing.

Day 4 Halong Bay Sunrise & Cave Exploration, Return to Hanoi

Meals: B, L | Stay: MK Premium Hotel or similar | Transport: Cruise boat, shuttle bus

Begin your day at 6:00 AM with an optional Tai Chi lesson on the sundeck. As the sun rises over Halong Bay, this activity offers a serene start and a fantastic opportunity for sunrise photography. Guests may also choose to remain in their cabins for a more relaxed morning. A light breakfast is served in the restaurant between 7:00 AM and 7:30 AM.

Your next destination, from 7:30 AM to 8:30 AM, is the magnificent Sung Sot Cave, also known as Surprise Cave. This is one of the largest and most impressive caves in Halong Bay, featuring stunning stalactites and stalagmites formed over millions of

Northern Vietnam Culture & Scenery: Hanoi, Ninh Binh & Halong Bay – 5 Days

5D / 4N	Easy	Private	USD 375 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

years. As you exit the cave, you'll be treated to a breathtaking panoramic view across the bay, a truly memorable sight.
By 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM, you'll return to the cruise ship to settle any bills and check out from your cabin as the boat begins its journey back to Tuan Chau Island. A leisurely brunch is served in the restaurant between 9:45 AM and 10:45 AM while the cruise continues towards the harbor. Disembarkation at Tuan Chau Marina takes place between 10:45 AM and 11:00 AM, where you'll board a shuttle bus for your return transfer to Hanoi. You are expected to arrive back at your hotel around 3:00 PM, with the remainder of the afternoon and evening free for your leisure.

Activities: Optional Tai Chi lesson on sundeck; Light breakfast; Visit Sung Sot Cave; Check-out from cruise; Brunch on board; Disembark at Tuan Chau Marina; Shuttle bus transfer back to Hanoi; Free time in Hanoi.

Day 5 Departure from Hanoi

Meals: B | Transport: Private airport transfer, international flight

On your final day, an early start is required for your departure. At 5:30 AM, a private driver will meet you at your hotel to provide a comfortable transfer to Noi Bai International Airport (HAN). This early transfer ensures you have ample time for check-in and security procedures for your international flight back home.
The tour concludes with your flight from Hanoi to Manila, scheduled for 8:35 AM, arriving at 1:35 PM. This marks the end of your memorable 5-day journey through the cultural and natural highlights of Northern Vietnam.

Activities: Early morning transfer to Noi Bai International Airport; Depart from Hanoi on international flight.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- v Overnight on Cruiser in Halong Bay
- v Boats in Tam Coc
- v Bus Transfer in the itinerary
- v English speaking tour guide
- v Accommodation (Double/Twin share)
- v Entrance fees at visited places
- v Meals as mentioned (B: breakfast, L: lunch, D: dinner)
- v Drinking water and tissues

NOT INCLUDED

- x International flight tickets
- x Personal expenses
- x Tips for the guide
- x Drinks and others not mentioned

PRICE INCLUDES

- v Overnight on Cruiser in Halong Bay
- v Boats in Tam Coc

Northern Vietnam Culture & Scenery: Hanoi, Ninh Binh & Halong Bay – 5 Days

5D / 4N	Easy	Private	USD 375 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

- Bus Transfer in the itinerary
- English speaking tour guide
- Accommodation (Double/Twin share)
- Entrance fees at visited places
- Meals as mentioned (B: breakfast, L: lunch, D: dinner)
- Drinking water and tissues

CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-9E176F2F82DD