Northern Vietnam Culture & Scenery: Hanoi, Sapa & Ha Long Bay – 7 Days

7D / 6N	Easy	Private	USD 318 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Explore the diverse landscapes and rich culture of Northern Vietnam on this 7-day adventure, featuring the historic capital of Hanoi, the stunning terraced fields of Sapa, and an overnight cruise through the iconic limestone karsts of Ha Long Bay.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Hanoi → Lao Cai → Sapa → Ha Long

TOUR OVERVIEW

Overview

Embark on a captivating 7-day journey through the wonders of North Vietnam. This adventure begins in the vibrant capital city of Hanoi, where you'll delve into its rich history, colonial architecture, and bustling street life. From there, the tour transitions to the serene mountainous region of Sapa, renowned for its breathtaking rice terraces and the unique cultures of its ethnic minority communities. The expedition culminates with a tranquil overnight cruise through the magnificent Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site celebrated for its dramatic limestone karsts and emerald waters.

Highlights

This tour offers a blend of cultural immersion, historical exploration, and natural beauty. You'll experience the charm of Hanoi's Old Quarter, trek through Sapa's picturesque valleys, ascend to the highest peak in Indochina, and enjoy the serene beauty of Ha Long Bay from the deck of an overnight cruise ship. Each day brings a new facet of Vietnam's diverse northern landscape and heritage.

Route Summary

Your journey commences in Hanoi, the capital, before an overnight train transports you to Lao Cai, serving as the gateway to Sapa's highlands. After exploring Sapa, a shuttle bus brings you back to Hanoi. The itinerary then continues with a transfer to Ha Long Bay for an unforgettable overnight cruise, returning to Hanoi for your final departure.

Who it Suits

This itinerary is perfectly crafted for travelers seeking a comprehensive experience of Northern Vietnam's primary attractions. It appeals to those interested in cultural encounters with ethnic communities, urban exploration, and scenic natural wonders. The tour combines comfortable accommodations with active excursions like trekking and cruising, making it suitable for individuals, couples, and small groups eager to discover Vietnam's unique charm.

Practical Information

The tour package includes all major transportation within Vietnam, the expertise of English-speaking local tour guides, and entrance fees to all specified attractions. Accommodation is provided with daily breakfast, and other meals are clearly indicated in the day-by-day itinerary. An overnight train trip offers an authentic local travel experience. Please note that international flights and personal expenses are not included.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

* Arrival in Hanoi after a flight from Singapore, followed by a comfortable transfer to your city center hotel.

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* Comprehensive exploration of Hanoi's key historical and cultural sites, including Ho Chi Minh Complex and the Temple of Literature.
* Experiencing a traditional cyclo ride through the charming Hanoi Old Quarter and enjoying a Water Puppet Show.
* Overnight train journey from Hanoi to Lao Cai, offering a unique travel experience to the highlands.
* Discovering the unique lifestyle and traditional attire of ethnic minorities in Sapa's Cat Cat village.
* Ascending to the summit of Fansipan Peak via cable car, the highest point in Southeast Asia.
* Trekking through the expansive rice terraces and ethnic villages of Muong Hoa Valley, like Lao Chai and Ta Van.
* Overnight cruise on Ha Long Bay, including a visit to Vung Vieng pearl village or Dark and Bright Cave, and a cooking demonstration.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 — Arrival in Hanoi & Leisure Time

Stay: Hotel in Hanoi center | Transport: Private transfer

After a 3-hour and 20-minute flight from Singapore's Changi Airport, you will be greeted at Hanoi airport. A private transfer will take you directly to your hotel located in the city center. Upon arrival, complete your check-in formalities and then enjoy the remainder of the day at your leisure. This provides a perfect opportunity to relax after your journey or begin a gentle exploration of your immediate surroundings.

Activities: Arrive at Hanoi airport
Transfer to hotel
Check into accommodation
Enjoy free time

Day 2 — Hanoi Historical & Cultural Exploration, Overnight Train to Sapa

Meals: B, L | Stay: Overnight train to Sapa | Transport: Car, Cyclo, overnight train

Your day begins at 8:00 AM with a comprehensive tour of Hanoi, a city renowned for its tree-lined boulevards, French colonial architecture, serene lakes, and historic pagodas. The first stop is the Ho Chi Minh Complex, where you will visit Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, his traditional Stilts House, the Presidential Palace, and the nearby One Pillar Pagoda. Following this, the tour proceeds to Tran Quoc Pagoda, beautifully situated on the shores of West Lake, Hanoi's largest lake. Next, delve into Vietnam's rich ethnic diversity at the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology, learning about the 54 distinct cultural groups.
Around noon, a local lunch is provided. In the afternoon, explore the Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first national university. Continue to Hoan Kiem Lake and Ngoc Son Temple, central landmarks of Hanoi. Experience the charm of the Hanoi Old Quarter during a one-hour cyclo ride, observing daily life and traditional storefronts. Conclude your city exploration with a captivating Water Puppet Show, a unique Vietnamese art form.
The evening is free for you to find dinner at your leisure. Later, at 9:00 PM, you will be transferred to the train station to board

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an overnight train to Sapa, marking the start of your highland adventure.

Activities: Visit Ho Chi Minh Complex (Mausoleum, Stilts House, Presidential Palace, One Pillar Pagoda)
Explore Tran Quoc Pagoda on West Lake
Discover Vietnamese ethnic cultures at the Museum of Ethnology
Have lunch at a local restaurant
See Hoan Kiem Lake and Ngoc Son Temple
Enjoy a 1-hour cyclo ride through Hanoi Old Quarter
Watch a traditional Water Puppet Show
Transfer to train station for overnight journey to Sapa

Day 3 Sapa Arrival, Cat Cat Village & Fansipan Peak Ascent

Meals: B, L | Stay: Hotel in Sapa | Transport: Car, Fansipan Cable Car

Early this morning, your overnight train arrives at Lao Cai station. A local guide and driver will meet you for a scenic car transfer to the highland town of Sapa. Upon arrival, enjoy breakfast at a local restaurant or your hotel. The day's exploration begins with a visit to a minority village, offering insight into the diverse ethnic groups of the region.

Your first specific stop is Cat Cat minority village, where you will gain a deeper understanding of the local H'mong people's unique lifestyle, traditional dress, and customs. After immersing yourself in the village culture, return to Sapa town for lunch.

In the afternoon, embark on an exciting trip to Fansipan Peak. You will walk to the Fansipan Cable Car Station and take the cable car up to the summit of Fansipan, which at 3143 meters, is the highest peak in Southeast Asia. This offers unparalleled panoramic views of the surrounding mountains and valleys. By 5:00 PM, you will return to your hotel in Sapa, with the evening free for personal activities.

Activities: Arrive at Lao Cai station
Transfer to Sapa town
Have breakfast at a local establishment
Visit Cat Cat minority village
Learn about ethnic minority lifestyles
Enjoy lunch in Sapa
Take the cable car to Fansipan Peak
Experience panoramic views from Southeast Asia's highest summit

Day 4 Muong Hoa Valley Trek & Return to Hanoi

Meals: B, L | Stay: Hotel in Hanoi | Transport: Car, shuttle bus

Your morning adventure starts with a drive southwards into the scenic Muong Hoa Valley. From there, you will begin a descending walk into this expansive valley, known for having the largest paddy terraces in the Sapa region. Your guide will share fascinating details about rice cultivation and its significance to local life. If your visit falls between May and October, you might observe locals engaged in planting or harvesting, key activities in their daily routines.

The trek leads you from Lao Chai village, home to the Black H'mong minority, to Ta Van village, inhabited by the Giay minority. Along the way, you will visit a local Catholic Church, experiencing more of the cultural tapestry of the region. Lunch will be

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served at a local restaurant, providing an authentic taste of the area.
Following lunch, a shuttle bus will pick you up for the approximately five-hour transfer back to Hanoi. You are expected to arrive in Hanoi around 8:00 PM. Upon arrival, check into your hotel and enjoy the rest of the evening at your leisure.

Activities: Drive to Muong Hoa Valley
Begin a descending walk through paddy terraces
Learn about rice growing from your guide
Trek from Lao Chai village (Black H'mong) to Ta Van village (Giay)
Visit a local Catholic Church
Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant
Transfer back to Hanoi by shuttle bus
Check into your Hanoi hotel

Day 5 Ha Long Bay Cruise & Overnight Experience

Meals: B, L, D | Stay: Huong Hai Sealife Cruise | Transport: Private transfer, cruise boat, rowing boat/tender

At 9:00 AM, you will be picked up from your Hanoi hotel for the transfer to Ha Long Bay, with a brief 30-minute stop en route. By noon, you will arrive at Tuan Chau boat dock, where the cruise company staff will welcome you. Around 12:30 PM, the cruise manager will escort guests to the vessel, initiating the tour. After checking into your cabin, a buffet lunch is served in the restaurant on the first deck at 1:00 PM. Savor your meal while admiring the stunning scenery of the bay.
In the afternoon, around 3:30 PM, you will visit Vung Vieng village, a renowned pearl-growing community. Explore the village by a traditional round-shaped rowing boat, observing the local fishing tanks and learning about the pearl feeding process and daily life on the water. By 4:30 PM, a tender will bring you back to the main cruise ship for relaxation and personal time before dinner. Enjoy a happy hour with discounted drinks from 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM.
The cruise then sails from Vung Vieng village towards the Cong Do sleeping area, allowing you to appreciate the beauty of Bai Tu Long Bay as the sun sets. At 6:15 PM, participate in a cooking demonstration led by the chef, learning to prepare traditional Vietnamese spring rolls. An elegant set dinner is served at 7:00 PM, offering a delightful culinary experience amidst the bay's nocturnal charm. Evening activities from 9:00 PM include movie night, board games, or squid fishing.

Activities: Transfer from Hanoi to Ha Long Bay
Board the cruise ship and check into cabin
Enjoy buffet lunch while cruising
Visit Vung Vieng pearl-growing village by rowing boat
Observe local life and pearl cultivation
Return to cruise for relaxation and happy hour
Witness sunset over Bai Tu Long Bay
Participate in a Vietnamese cooking demonstration
Savor a gala set dinner onboard
Engage in evening activities like movie night or squid fishing

Day 6 Ha Long Bay Sunrise, Cat Ba Island & Return to Hanoi

Meals: B, L | Stay: Hotel in Hanoi | Transport: Cruise boat, bus, small boat

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Greet the new day with a beautiful dawn over the Gulf of Tonkin. Begin your morning with a Tai-chi lesson on the sundeck, refreshing your body and mind. Breakfast is served in the restaurant between 7:00 AM and 7:45 AM. Following breakfast, you will take a bus for approximately 20 minutes on Cat Ba Island, traveling from Gia Luan Pier to visit Trung Trang Grotto. This special cave showcases millions of years of karst formations, offering a unique geological experience. During your travel on Cat Ba Island, you will be surrounded by the wild and fresh natural scenery of Cat Ba National Park.
Between 9:30 AM and 10:00 AM, return to the cruise ship for a shower and to check out of your room. An early lunch will be served from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. After settling any bills, a small boat will transfer you to Tuan Chau wharf between 11:30 AM and 12:00 PM.
The cruise officially concludes at Tuan Chau wharf around 12:00 PM to 12:30 PM. From there, a bus will transfer you back to Hanoi. You are expected to arrive in Hanoi by 3:30 PM. Upon arrival, check into your hotel and enjoy free time for the remainder of the day.

Activities: Participate in a Tai-chi lesson on the sundeck
Have breakfast on the cruise
Take a bus on Cat Ba Island to Trung Trang Grotto
Explore the ancient karst formations of the grotto
Enjoy the natural scenery of Cat Ba National Park
Return to cruise for check-out
Have an early lunch onboard
Transfer by small boat to Tuan Chau wharf
Take a bus transfer back to Hanoi
Check into your Hanoi hotel

Day 7 Departure from Hanoi

Meals: B | Transport: Private transfer, flight

Enjoy your final morning in Hanoi with free time, perhaps for some last-minute souvenir shopping or a leisurely breakfast. At the appropriate time, you will be transferred to the airport for your departure flight back to Changi Airport in Singapore. This concludes your 7-day Northern Vietnam adventure.

Activities: Enjoy free time in Hanoi
Transfer to Hanoi airport
Depart for Singapore

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- v All private transportation as per program
- v Hotel accommodation shared in Double/Twin room at specified hotel or similar with daily breakfast

NOT INCLUDED

- x International flight ticket
- x Other meals

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- v Train ticket Hanoi – Lao Cai with air-conditioning, soft-sleeper, 4 people in 01 cabin
- v Shuttle bus ticket Sapa - Hanoi
- v Meals as indicated as B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner
- v Experienced English speaking local tour guides
- v All sightseeing tickets
- v Services charges and government tax.

- x Personal expenses, tips and gratuities
- x Beverage
- x Other services not mentioned above

PRICE INCLUDES

- v All private transportation as per program
- v Hotel accommodation shared in Double/Twin room at specified hotel or similar with daily breakfast
- v Train ticket Hanoi – Lao Cai with air-conditioning, soft-sleeper, 4 people in 01 cabin
- v Shuttle bus ticket Sapa - Hanoi
- v Meals as indicated as B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner
- v Experienced English speaking local tour guides
- v All sightseeing tickets
- v Services charges and government tax.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-3DC48F25D78F