Northern Vietnam: Hanoi, Ninh Binh & Halong Bay Cruise – 4 Days

4D / 3N	Easy	Private	USD 296 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Explore the cultural heart of North Vietnam, journey through the scenic countryside of Ninh Binh, and enjoy a luxurious overnight cruise on the breathtaking Halong Bay, all on this compact 4-day tour starting from Mumbai.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Hanoi → Ninh Binh → Ha Long

TOUR OVERVIEW

Overview: Northern Vietnam Discovery

This 4-day journey through Northern Vietnam offers a blend of vibrant city life, serene rural landscapes, and the majestic beauty of a UNESCO World Heritage site. Beginning with your arrival in Hanoi, you'll immediately dive into the capital's rich history and bustling charm. The tour seamlessly transitions from urban exploration to the tranquil "Halong Bay on land" in Ninh Binh, culminating in an unforgettable overnight experience aboard a 5-star cruise ship in the iconic Halong Bay.

Tour Highlights & Experiences

From exploring ancient temples and historical complexes in Hanoi to cruising through mystical caves in Tam Coc, this itinerary is packed with diverse activities. You'll witness traditional craft-making in an incense village, marvel at panoramic views from Mua Cave, and enjoy leisure time to soak in the local culture. The highlight remains the immersive Halong Bay cruise, featuring kayaking, a cooking class, and a peaceful night under the stars.

Route Summary & Destinations

Your adventure begins in Hanoi, the historical capital, before venturing south to the picturesque Ninh Binh province, famous for its dramatic limestone karsts and riverine landscapes. The tour then heads east to the legendary Halong Bay, where you'll spend a night amidst its emerald waters and thousands of islands. The journey concludes with a return to Hanoi for your departure.

Who This Tour Suits

This tour is ideal for travelers seeking a comprehensive yet efficient exploration of Northern Vietnam's most iconic destinations. It caters to those interested in cultural immersion, natural beauty, and a mix of guided activities with opportunities for personal discovery. The inclusion of a 5-star cruise ensures a comfortable and memorable experience.

Practical Information

Accommodation includes hotel stays in Hanoi and an overnight on a premium cruise in Halong Bay. All major meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) are provided as specified in the itinerary. Transportation between destinations is handled by private, air-conditioned vehicles, ensuring comfort and convenience throughout your travels.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

* Explore Hanoi's historic Ho Chi Minh Complex, including the Mausoleum and One Pillar Pagoda.
* Discover the diverse cultures of Vietnam's ethnic groups at the Museum of Ethnology.
* Experience a traditional cyclo ride through Hanoi's Old Quarter and witness a Water Puppet Show.
* Visit Quang Phu Cau Incense Village to observe traditional incense stick production.

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* Enjoy a scenic boat trip through the Tam Coc cave system amidst stunning karst landscapes.
* Ascend Mua Cave for panoramic views over Tam Coc and Ninh Binh's countryside.
* Embark on a 5-star overnight cruise in Halong Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
* Kayak through the serene waters and explore Trinh Nu Cave and its secluded beach.
* Participate in a Vietnamese cooking class and enjoy a gala dinner on board your cruise.
* Start your day with a Tai Chi session on the sundeck of your Halong Bay cruise.
* Explore the magnificent formations within Sung Sot Cave, one of Halong Bay's largest grottoes.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 — Hanoi Arrival & City Exploration

Meals: B,L,D | Stay: Golden Silk Boutique Hotel | Transport: Private transfer, Cyclo

Upon your early morning arrival at Hanoi International Airport, you will be met and transferred directly to your hotel in the city center. After an early check-in and breakfast, your guided exploration of Hanoi begins. The morning focuses on the Ho Chi Minh Complex, a significant historical site where you'll visit Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, his traditional Stilt House, the Presidential Palace grounds, and the unique One Pillar Pagoda.

Continue your cultural journey with a visit to Tran Quoc Pagoda, beautifully situated on the serene West Lake. Afterwards, delve into the rich tapestry of Vietnam's diverse ethnic groups at the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology, gaining insight into the traditions and customs of its 54 communities.

Following a midday lunch, the afternoon features more of Hanoi's iconic landmarks. You will explore the Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first national university, followed by a visit to the picturesque Hoan Kiem Lake and the Ngoc Son Temple. Conclude your daytime sightseeing with a charming one-hour cyclo ride through the labyrinthine streets of the Hanoi Old Quarter, offering a unique perspective of local life. The evening culminates in a traditional Water Puppet Show, a classic Vietnamese art form. Dinner will be served in the evening, after which you have free time to experience Hanoi's nightlife. Options include browsing the night market, strolling along the walking street, or enjoying a drink at the lively Ta Hien beer street.

Activities:
Arrive at Hanoi International Airport
Early hotel check-in and breakfast
Visit Ho Chi Minh Complex (Mausoleum, Stilt House, Presidential Palace, One Pillar Pagoda)
Explore Tran Quoc Pagoda
Discover Vietnam Museum of Ethnology
Have lunch
Visit Temple of Literature
Explore Hoan Kiem Lake and Ngoc Son Temple
Enjoy a 1-hour Cyclo ride through Hanoi Old Quarter
Watch a Water Puppet Show
Have dinner
Leisure time to explore Hanoi nightlife

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Day 2 Incense Village & Ninh Binh's Natural Wonders

Meals: B,L,D | Stay: Golden Silk Boutique Hotel | Transport: Bus transfer

Your day begins with a morning pickup from your Hanoi hotel, embarking on a full-day excursion to the Quang Phu Cau incense village and the stunning landscapes of Ninh Binh. Upon arrival at Quang Phu Cau, you'll embark on a walking tour, observing the intricate process of traditional incense making. Witness local artisans chopping bamboo, dipping sticks in vibrant dyes, crafting incense paste, and drying the finished products under the sun. This offers a unique opportunity to interact with villagers and learn about the historical significance of their craft.

After immersing yourself in the village's unique atmosphere and capturing memorable photographs of the colorful incense bundles, the journey continues to Tam Coc in Ninh Binh. A delicious lunch awaits your arrival, preparing you for the highlight of the afternoon: a captivating 2.5-hour boat trip. Glide along serene waterways, exploring a complex of mystical caves including Sang Cave, Toi Cave, Ba Giot Cave, and Nau Ruou, all set amidst the dramatic limestone karsts often referred to as "Ha Long on land."

Following your tranquil boat adventure, prepare for a moderate climb to Mua Cave. The ascent to the peak of Ngoa Long Mountain rewards you with an awe-inspiring panoramic vista of the Tam Coc region and the sprawling city of Ninh Binh. This elevated perspective offers a breathtaking view of the rice paddies, winding rivers, and towering limestone formations.

In the late afternoon, a comfortable bus transfer will take you back to Hanoi. Upon your evening arrival, enjoy dinner before returning to your hotel for some well-deserved leisure time.

Activities:
Travel to Quang Phu Cau incense village
Take a walking tour of the incense village
Observe incense making process
Interact with local artisans
Drive to Tam Coc, Ninh Binh
Have lunch
Embark on a 2.5-hour boat trip through Tam Coc caves (Sang, Toi, Ba Giot, Nau Ruou)
Climb to Mua Cave
Enjoy panoramic views from Ngoa Long Mountain
Bus transfer back to Hanoi
Have dinner
Leisure time

Day 3 Halong Bay Cruise & Kayaking Adventure

Meals: B,L,D | Stay: Amanda Cruise | Transport: Private transfer, Cruise ship, Tender boat

Today, you will depart from your Hanoi Old Quarter hotel for a scenic transfer to Halong Bay. Upon reaching Tuan Chau International Cruise Port, you'll be warmly greeted by the cruise staff in the waiting lounge and complete the check-in formalities for your luxurious overnight cruise.

Boarding the Amanda Cruise, the crew will welcome you with a refreshing drink and cold towel before you settle into your cabin. The vessel then sets sail from Tuan Chau Marina, commencing your captivating voyage through the stunning beauty of Halong Bay. As the cruise navigates towards Trinh Nu Cave, you'll be treated to magnificent views of the bay's iconic limestone

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islands. A delectable lunch will be served in the onboard restaurant while the ship continues its journey.
In the afternoon, after a brief rest in your cabin, prepare for an exciting kayaking adventure in the Trinh Nu Cave area. You'll be transferred by tender to the cave, where you can paddle around ancient limestone formations. To reach the pristine Trinh Nu beach, a short 5-minute walk through the cave is required, revealing a secluded spot with white sands and clear emerald waters.
Returning to the cruise ship in the late afternoon, you'll participate in a lively sunset party and a hands-on cooking class. Enjoy relaxing moments on the sundeck, sipping traditional Vietnamese tea or coffee while admiring the beautiful sunset over the tranquil bay. Learn to prepare delicious traditional Vietnamese steamed rice rolls from the chef and savor your own creations. Happy hour offers a

Activities:
Transfer from Hanoi to Ha Long
Arrive at Tuan Chau International Cruise Port
Check-in and board Amanda Cruise
Enjoy welcome drinks and settle into cabin
Cruise through Halong Bay towards Trinh Nu Cave
Have lunch on board
Prepare for kayaking activities
Transfer to Trinh Nu Cave by tender
Kayak around limestone formations
Walk through Trinh Nu Cave to Trinh Nu beach
Return to cruise ship
Attend Sunset party & cooking class
Enjoy Happy Hour
Have Gala Dinner on Sundeck (weather permitting)
Enjoy evening activities: massage (extra), herbal foot bath (free), music at Sky Bar, squid fishing
Overnight stay on cruise in a quiet area

Day 4 Halong Bay Morning & Departure to Mumbai

Meals: B,Brunch | Transport: Cruise ship, Private transfer, Flight

Begin your final day on Halong Bay with an invigorating Tai Chi class on the sundeck as the sun rises. Following this, a light breakfast of coffee, tea, cake, and fruit will be served, preparing you for the morning's exploration.
The day's main activity involves exploring Sung Sot Cave, also known as Surprise Cave, one of the largest and most impressive caves in Halong Bay. The path to its entrance is shaded by a canopy of leaves, and ascending the steep stone steps creates a sense of adventure as you climb towards the sky, discovering unique rock formations unparalleled elsewhere.
After your cave exploration, return to the cruise ship. You'll have time to relax in your cabin, enjoy a complimentary herbal foot bath, sunbathe on the sundeck, capture more photographs of Halong Bay's stunning scenery, or browse for souvenirs on board. Check-out procedures will commence, requiring you to place luggage outside your cabin and return the room key to reception. Our staff will assist with luggage transfer to the waiting area.
An early lunch buffet will be served in the restaurant, allowing time to settle any outstanding bills. Finally, the cruise will arrive back at Tuan Chau Marina. From there, you will be transferred directly to Noi Bai Airport in Hanoi to catch your evening flight, VN973 at 18h20, back to Mumbai, concluding your memorable North Vietnam adventure.

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Activities: Participate in Tai Chi class on sundeck
Enjoy light breakfast
Explore Sung Sot Cave
Return to cruise ship
Relax, enjoy herbal foot bath, sunbathe, shop for souvenirs
Check-out from cabin
Have early lunch buffet
Arrive at Tuan Chau Marina
Transfer to Noi Bai Airport in Hanoi
Depart from Hanoi for Mumbai

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- v Hotel rooms (double or twin sharing)
- v Overnight on 5-star cruise boat in Ha Long Bay
- v Private transportation with AC
- v English speaking tour guide
- v Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B: breakfast, L: lunch, D: dinner)
- v Bottled water on bus
- v Entrance fees in the program
- v Water Puppet Show in Hanoi
- v Cyclo ride in the old quarter
- v Service charges

NOT INCLUDED

- x Single Room International flight tickets
- x Tips for tour guides
- x Drinks
- x Others not mentioned in the program

PRICE INCLUDES

- v Hotel rooms (double or twin sharing)
- v Overnight on 5-star cruise boat in Ha Long Bay
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- Service charges

CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-744BCE0222A1