Northern Vietnam Heritage & Craft Villages Exploration – 11 Days

11D / 10N	Easy	Private	USD 1,470 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

This 11-day private tour through Northern Vietnam offers an immersive cultural experience, combining visits to ancient craft villages with exploration of stunning natural landscapes like Mai Chau, Ninh Binh, and Ha Long Bay. Engage with local artisans, participate in traditional activities, and enjoy serene cruises.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Hanoi → Mai Chau → Ninh Binh → Ha Long

TOUR OVERVIEW

Overview of Northern Vietnam's Cultural Tapestry

Embark on an 11-day private tour designed to reveal the profound cultural heritage and breathtaking natural beauty of Northern Vietnam. This meticulously crafted itinerary takes you from the historic streets of Hanoi to the tranquil rice paddies of Mai Chau, the dramatic karst formations of Ninh Binh, and the iconic emerald waters of Ha Long Bay. Experience authentic encounters with local communities and witness ancient traditions firsthand.

The journey emphasizes hands-on cultural immersion, allowing you to connect deeply with Vietnamese artistry and rural life. Discover the intricate processes behind traditional handicrafts, from conical hats and lacquerware to pottery and woodblock prints. Learn about local customs, taste regional delicacies, and gain insights into the daily lives of ethnic communities.

Highlights of Your Heritage Journey

Beyond the cultural discoveries, this tour also showcases Northern Vietnam's diverse landscapes. Cycle through serene valleys, explore ancient temples, and marvel at the geological wonders of Tam Coc and Ha Long Bay. Enjoy comfortable accommodations, including an overnight cruise, ensuring a relaxing and enriching travel experience.

Who Is This Tour For?

This tour is ideal for travelers seeking a comprehensive and authentic cultural experience in Vietnam, particularly those interested in traditional crafts, local interactions, and diverse natural scenery. It offers a blend of active exploration and relaxing moments, suitable for individuals or small groups desiring a private and personalized adventure.

Practical Information for Travelers

Your journey includes a selection of meals as specified, comfortable air-conditioned transport throughout, and the expertise of local English-speaking guides. Accommodations range from hotels to a traditional stilt house and an overnight cruise. The tour is designed for flexibility, with departures arranged at your request.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

* Witness the meticulous handcrafting of Vietnam's iconic conical hats in Lang Non.
* Explore the vibrant Quang Phu Cau Incense Village, known for its colorful drying incense bundles.
* Discover the refined artistry of lacquerware production in Ha Thai Lacquerware Village.
* Observe traditional pottery techniques at Phu Lang Pottery Village in Bac Ninh.
* Participate in tea leaf harvesting and traditional pan-roasting at a Thai Nguyen tea farm.

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* Enjoy a leisurely bicycle ride through the picturesque rice fields of Mai Chau.
* Experience rural life by feeding water buffalo and traditional fishing in Ninh Binh.
* Visit the ancient capital of Hoa Lu and its historic temples dedicated to early Vietnamese kings.
* Drift through the stunning karst landscape of Tam Coc on a traditional rowboat.
* Embark on an overnight cruise through the magnificent limestone formations of Ha Long Bay.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 — Hanoi Arrival & Relaxation

Meals: NA | Stay: Hotel in Hanoi | Transport: Private vehicle transfer

Upon your arrival at Noi Bai International Airport, a friendly local representative will meet you and facilitate your private transfer to your hotel in Hanoi. Take some time to settle into your accommodation and unwind after your journey. Hanoi, Vietnam's capital, is a city where ancient traditions coexist with modern life, evident in its tree-lined avenues, historic temples, and French colonial architecture.

Activities: Airport greeting and transfer
Hotel check-in and leisure time
Receive a complimentary massage voucher

Day 2 — Hanoi's Artisan Villages Exploration

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Hanoi | Transport: Air-conditioned vehicle

Today, delve into the rich artistic heritage surrounding Hanoi by visiting several acclaimed handicraft villages. Your first stop is Lang Non, a village renowned for the meticulous creation of the iconic Vietnamese conical hat, the 'Non La'. Observe skilled artisans as they meticulously fold and stitch palm leaves, transforming them into elegant hats that symbolize Vietnamese grace.

Activities: Visit Lang Non conical hat village
Explore Quang Phu Cau Incense Village
Discover Ha Thai Lacquerware Village

Day 3 — Bac Ninh Traditions & Culinary Delights

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Stay: Hotel in Thai Nguyen | Transport: Air-conditioned vehicle

Journey to Bac Ninh Province, a region deeply rooted in Northern Vietnamese folklore and artistry. In the morning, explore one of Bac Ninh's celebrated craft villages. You might visit Phu Lang Pottery Village, where rustic ceramics are shaped by hand using time-honored techniques, or Dong Ho Painting Village, known for its vibrant woodblock prints depicting mythical motifs. Alternatively, discover the delicate process of traditional handmade paper production in Do Paper Village.

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Activities: Visit Phu Lang Pottery Village or Dong Ho Painting Village or Do Paper Village
Participate in a traditional Bac Ninh cake-making experience
Taste Banh Phu The, Banh Khuc, and Banh Te
Travel to Thai Nguyen
Enjoy a BBQ dinner

Day 4 Thai Nguyen Tea Plantations & Return to Hanoi

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Hanoi | Transport: Air-conditioned vehicle

Today's excursion takes you to the serene hills of Thai Nguyen, Vietnam's most famous tea-growing region. Begin with an immersive experience at a local tea farm, where you'll join farmers in the ancient ritual of 'Hai Che' – hand-picking tender tea buds with care. Learn about the unique terroir of the region and how it influences the tea's flavor.

Activities: Hand-pick tea leaves at a local farm
Learn the traditional 'Sao Che' pan-roasting process
Participate in Matcha ice cream making
Enjoy lunch at the tea farm
Return travel to Hanoi

Day 5 Mai Chau Valley Immersion & Local Life

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Stay: Traditional stilt house in Mai Chau | Transport: Air-conditioned vehicle, Bicycle

Depart from the lively capital of Hanoi and travel southwest to Mai Chau, a tranquil valley embraced by limestone mountains and home to the welcoming White Thai ethnic community. Upon arrival, embark on a leisurely bicycle ride through the verdant rice fields, cycling along narrow village paths. Greet local weavers, farmers, and children, gaining insights into the region's vibrant rural rhythm.

Activities: Travel from Hanoi to Mai Chau
Leisurely bicycle ride through Mai Chau rice fields
Visit Thac Go Lao (Go Lao Waterfall)
Enjoy a local dinner with a host family

Day 6 Mai Chau Cultural Encounters & Ninh Binh Rural Activities

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Ninh Binh | Transport: Air-conditioned vehicle

Start your day with a cultural encounter in the peaceful villages of Na Meo and Na Mo, situated near the Laos-Vietnam border. These communities preserve a rich weaving heritage, creating intricate brocade textiles with traditional patterns. Witness the delicate process of hand-weaving within local homes.

Activities: Visit Na Meo and Na Mo villages to observe traditional weaving
Travel from Mai Chau to Ninh Binh
Participate in feeding and showering water buffalo
Experience traditional fish catching methods

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Day 7 Ninh Binh: Ancient Capital & Scenic River Journey

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Ninh Binh | Transport: Air-conditioned vehicle, Traditional rowboat

Today, explore the historical heartland of Vietnam's early dynasties with a cultural journey through Hoa Lu, the ancient capital of Dai Co Viet in the 10th century. Wander through the moss-covered temple courtyards dedicated to King Dinh and King Le, whose reigns marked the unification of the nation. These sites offer a glimpse into Vietnam's rich imperial past.

Activities: Explore Hoa Lu ancient capital and its temples
Take a traditional rowboat ride through Tam Coc

Day 8 Ninh Binh to Ha Long Bay Overnight Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Stay: Halong Bay Cruise | Transport: Air-conditioned vehicle, Cruise boat

Depart from the spiritual heartland of Ninh Binh and journey towards the iconic Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its mythical beauty. Upon arrival at the harbor, you will check in and step aboard your chosen cruise. A welcome drink awaits as your boat begins to glide through the emerald waters, navigating a labyrinth of majestic limestone pillars rising dramatically from the sea.

Activities: Travel from Ninh Binh to Ha Long Bay
Check-in and welcome drink on cruise
Enjoy lunch on board while cruising through the bay
Participate in activities like swimming or cave exploration
Dinner and overnight stay on the cruise

Day 9 Ha Long Bay Exploration & Return to Hanoi

Meals: Breakfast, Brunch | Stay: Hotel in Hanoi | Transport: Cruise boat, Air-conditioned vehicle

Awaken to the serene beauty of Ha Long Bay at dawn, as the rising sun casts a golden glow across the timeless seascape. Enjoy a peaceful morning onboard, perhaps with a cup of Vietnamese tea. After breakfast, set out to explore one of the bay's iconic natural wonders, such as Sung Sot Cave. Wander through its vast chambers, adorned with surreal stalactites and stalagmites, carved by centuries of natural processes.

Activities: Morning exploration of Sung Sot Cave
Enjoy brunch on board the cruise
Disembark from the cruise
Return travel to Hanoi

Day 10 Hanoi Historical City Tour

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Hotel in Hanoi | Transport: Air-conditioned vehicle

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Assemble in the hotel lobby to meet your local guide, who will provide an insightful introduction to Hanoi's rich historical layers and the day's cultural highlights. Your journey begins with a solemn visit to the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum Complex, where you'll pay tribute to President Ho Chi Minh, the revered leader of modern Vietnam. Explore the Mausoleum grounds and visit his simple house-on-stilts, offering a glimpse into his humble lifestyle.

Activities: Visit Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum Complex
Explore the One Pillar Pagoda
Tour the Temple of Literature

Day 11 Hanoi Departure

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: NA | Transport: Private vehicle transfer

Begin your final day in Vietnam with a satisfying breakfast at your hotel. Take some time to reflect on the vibrant culture, scenic landscapes, and heartfelt moments experienced throughout your journey across Northern Vietnam. After checking out from your accommodation, a comfortable private transfer will be arranged to Noi Bai International Airport, ensuring a smooth and timely departure for your onward journey.

Activities: Breakfast at hotel
Hotel check-out
Transfer to Noi Bai International Airport

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- v 10 Breakfasts, 7 Lunches, 1 Brunch, 3 Dinner
- v Hotel accommodation for 8 nights
- v Traditional stilt house accommodation in Mai Chau for 1 night
- v Halong Bay Cruise for 1 night
- v Overnight in shared Twin/Double room with Air-condition (AC) at hotel
- v All transport during tour on air-conditioned vehicle as per itinerary (including airport pick up & see off)
- v All in-tour stationed local English speaking guide
- v Entrance fees as per itinerary

NOT INCLUDED

PRICE INCLUDES

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CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-93DFD6379852