Northern Vietnam Heritage & Hill Tribes – 7 Days

7D / 6N	Easy	Private	USD 392 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Discover the cultural highlights and natural wonders of Northern Vietnam, from Hanoi's historic streets to Sapa's vibrant hill tribe markets and the serene beauty of Halong Bay, all within a compact 7-day itinerary.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Hanoi → Lao Cai → Sapa → Ha Long

TOUR OVERVIEW

This comprehensive 7-day tour offers a deep dive into the diverse landscapes and rich cultural heritage of Northern Vietnam. Beginning in the historic capital of Hanoi, travelers will explore ancient temples, colonial architecture, and bustling street life before journeying to the remote mountainous regions. The itinerary features an immersive experience with ethnic minority communities in Sapa and a visit to the colorful Bac Ha Sunday market, providing a unique glimpse into local traditions and commerce.

A significant portion of the trip is dedicated to the breathtaking natural beauty of Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Guests will enjoy an overnight cruise amidst the iconic limestone karsts, with opportunities for swimming, kayaking, and cave exploration. The journey combines cultural discovery with stunning scenery, offering a balanced and enriching travel experience.

Tour Highlights

Explore Hanoi's historical landmarks and vibrant Old Quarter.

Witness a traditional water puppet show in Vietnam's capital.

Journey by overnight train to the mountainous region of Lao Cai.

Experience the lively Bac Ha Sunday market, a hub for diverse ethnic groups.

Trek through picturesque valleys to H'Mong and Dzay villages near Sapa.

Cruise the Chay River and visit the Tay minority village of Trung Do.

Enjoy a scenic drive through the northern Vietnamese countryside.

Spend a night aboard a traditional cruiser on the magnificent Ha Long Bay.

Kayak or swim in the secluded coves and emerald waters of Ha Long Bay.

Route Summary

The adventure begins in Hanoi, where cultural exploration sets the tone. A night train then transports you to Lao Cai, serving as the gateway to the vibrant Bac Ha market and the trekking trails of Sapa. After experiencing the highland cultures, a comfortable transfer brings you back to Hanoi. The tour culminates with an unforgettable overnight cruise on the stunning Ha Long Bay, followed by a return to Hanoi for departure.

Who is this tour suitable for?

This tour is ideal for families, couples, and small private groups seeking a blend of cultural immersion, natural beauty, and soft adventure. Travelers interested in local markets, ethnic minority cultures, scenic trekking, and iconic landscapes will find this itinerary particularly appealing. It offers a well-paced introduction to Northern Vietnam's most celebrated destinations.

Practical Information

Accommodation is provided in a choice of 3, 4, or 5-star hotels, ensuring comfort throughout your journey. Transportation includes private car transfers, a shuttle bus for the Ha Long Bay segment, and an overnight train with an A/C soft sleeper cabin. Meals are included as specified in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner), featuring local cuisine. English-speaking local guides will accompany you, enhancing your understanding of the sites visited. Please note that international flights,

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personal expenses, and travel insurance are not included.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

* Discover Hanoi's historic Old Quarter and French colonial architecture.
* Attend a traditional water puppet show, a unique Vietnamese art form.
* Experience an overnight train journey to the scenic northern mountains.
* Explore the vibrant Bac Ha Sunday market, meeting diverse ethnic communities.
* Trek through terraced rice fields to H'Mong and Dzay villages near Sapa.
* Enjoy a serene boat trip along the Chay River, visiting a Tay minority village.
* Cruise overnight on the stunning Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
* Participate in kayaking or swimming activities amidst Ha Long Bay's limestone karsts.
* Savor authentic Vietnamese cuisine with included meals throughout the tour.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 Hanoi Arrival & Water Puppet Dinner

Meals: D | Stay: Palago Boutique (3), Anatole Hotel (4*), or Apricot Hotel (5*) in Hanoi | Transport: Private car transfer*

Upon your arrival at Hanoi's airport, a private transfer will be waiting to take you directly to your hotel for check-in. The remainder of the day is yours to unwind and settle in at your leisure. In the evening, prepare for a cultural treat with a welcome dinner, followed by a captivating water puppet show. This traditional Vietnamese art form, originating from the Red River Delta, uses puppets manipulated by hidden performers in a waist-deep pool, telling ancient folk tales and historical legends. It offers a unique introduction to the local culture.

Activities: Airport reception and hotel transfer.
Enjoy free time for relaxation.
Savor a welcome dinner.
Attend a traditional water puppet show.

Day 2 Hanoi City Exploration & Overnight Train to Lao Cai

Meals: B,L | Stay: Overnight on train with A/C, soft sleeper cabin (4 people/cabin) | Transport: Private car transfer, cyclo tour, overnight train

Today is dedicated to exploring Hanoi, Vietnam's charming capital, known for its tree-lined boulevards, French colonial architecture, and serene lakes. Your full-day tour begins with a visit to the Ho Chi Minh Complex, encompassing Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, his humble Stilts House, the grand Presidential Palace, and the nearby One Pillar Pagoda. Afterward, delve into the city's rich history at the Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first national university. The tour continues to the tranquil West Lake, passing by Thanh Nien street, and includes a stop at the ancient Tran Quoc Pagoda.

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In the afternoon, experience the soul of Hanoi with a one-hour cyclo tour through the bustling Old Quarter. This unique ride allows you to absorb the sights, sounds, and vibrant atmosphere of the narrow streets. Later in the evening, you will be transferred to the railway station to board an overnight train bound for Lao Cai, preparing for your highland adventure.

Activities: Visit the Ho Chi Minh Complex (Mausoleum, Stilts House, Presidential Palace, One Pillar Pagoda).
Explore the Temple of Literature.
See West Lake and Tran Quoc Pagoda.
Take a one-hour cyclo tour of the Old Quarter.
Transfer to Hanoi Railway Station.
Board an overnight train to Lao Cai.

Day 3 Bac Ha Sunday Market & Chay River Cruise to Sapa

Meals: B,L | Stay: Sapa Charm Hotel (3), Pao Sapa Hotel (4*), or Silk Path Grand Sapa (5*) in Sapa | Transport: Private car transfer, traditional boat*

Your train will arrive in Lao Cai during the early morning hours, where a local guide will greet you at the railway station. From there, embark on a scenic two-hour drive to Bac Ha, home to the region's largest and most vibrant Sunday market. This bustling weekly event attracts various ethnic minority groups, including the Flower Hmong, Phu La, Black Dao, Tay, and Nung, who gather to trade unique local products. Spend your morning observing the lively commerce and colorful traditional attire. After a local lunch, enjoy a leisurely walk to Trung Do, a village inhabited by the Tay minority. Here, you will board a traditional boat for a tranquil cruise along the Chay River, offering picturesque views of the surrounding landscapes and local life along the banks. Following the river excursion, a private car will transport you to Sapa, where you will check into your accommodation for the night.

Activities: Arrive at Lao Cai Railway Station and meet your guide.
Drive to Bac Ha and explore the Sunday market.
Enjoy lunch.
Walk to Trung Do village.
Cruise along the Chay River by traditional boat.
Transfer to Sapa for overnight stay.

Day 4 Sapa Trekking & Return to Hanoi

Meals: B,L | Stay: Palago Boutique (3), Anatole Hotel (4*), or Apricot Hotel (5*) in Hanoi | Transport: Limousine van transfer*

Today's adventure takes you on a trek through the stunning Muong Hoa Valley, visiting villages populated by the H'Mong and Dzay ethnic groups. Begin with a walk along the main road before descending into Y Ninh Ho Village, home to the Black H'Mong Tribe. You'll have the opportunity to observe local houses and gain insight into their daily lives. Continue your walk through the picturesque valley to Lao Chai Village, and then proceed to Ta Van Village, where the Dzay Hill Tribe resides.
A delicious lunch will be served at a local restaurant, providing a chance to refuel and relax amidst the beautiful scenery. After your village explorations, you will return to Sapa. In the mid-afternoon, a comfortable limousine van will transfer you back to Hanoi. The journey typically takes several hours, with an estimated arrival at your Hanoi hotel around 8:30 PM. Upon arrival, check in and enjoy an overnight stay in the city.

Activities: Trek to Y Ninh Ho Village of the Black H'Mong Tribe.

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Visit local houses.
Walk through Muong Hoa Valley to Lao Chai Village.
Continue to Ta Van Village of the Dzay Hill Tribe.
Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.
Transfer by limousine van back to Hanoi.
Check into your Hanoi hotel.

Day 5 Hanoi to Ha Long Bay Overnight Cruise

Meals: B,L,D | Stay: Amanda Cruise (3), Vspirit Cruise (4*), or Capella Cruise (5*) in Ha Long Bay | Transport: Shuttle bus, overnight cruise*

This morning, you will depart from Hanoi around 9:00 AM for a scenic drive to Ha Long Bay. The journey to the coast typically takes approximately 2.5 hours, offering views of the Vietnamese countryside. Upon arrival, you will board your chosen cruiser for an unforgettable overnight experience on the bay. Settle into your cabin before enjoying a fresh seafood lunch as the boat begins to navigate through the iconic limestone karsts.

In the afternoon, the cruise will take you to explore some of the magnificent limestone caves that dot the bay, revealing stunning geological formations. Later, you'll have the option to take a refreshing swim in the emerald waters, relax on the top deck soaking up the sun, or try your hand at kayaking through the serene coves. The specific activities offered may vary slightly depending on your chosen cruise package, ensuring a tailored experience amidst this UNESCO World Heritage site.

Activities: Drive from Hanoi to Ha Long Bay.
Board an overnight cruise ship.
Enjoy a seafood lunch on board.
Explore limestone caves.
Swim or relax on the sun deck.
Go kayaking (optional).

Day 6 Ha Long Bay Exploration & Return to Hanoi

Meals: B,L | Stay: Palago Boutique (3), Anatole Hotel (4*), or Apricot Hotel (5*) in Hanoi | Transport: Overnight cruise, shuttle bus*

Wake up to the tranquil beauty of Ha Long Bay this morning. The cruise will continue its journey, navigating to more secluded areas of the bay, providing further opportunities for swimming in pristine waters or kayaking through hidden lagoons and around towering limestone islands. Enjoy the serene atmosphere and breathtaking scenery before the boat begins its return journey.

Around midday, the cruiser will arrive back at the main harbor. After disembarking, you will be met by an awaiting vehicle for your transfer back to Hanoi. The drive offers another chance to observe the landscape as you head back to the capital city. Upon arrival in Hanoi, you will check into your hotel for your final overnight stay, reflecting on the natural wonders experienced.

Activities: Continue exploring Ha Long Bay.
Swim or kayak in secluded areas.
Return to the main harbor.
Transfer by vehicle back to Hanoi.
Check into your Hanoi hotel.

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Day 7 Hanoi Departure

Meals: B | Transport: Private car transfer

Enjoy a leisurely morning in Hanoi, with free time until your scheduled airport transfer. Depending on your flight details, you might have time for some last-minute souvenir shopping, a final stroll through the city, or simply relaxing at your hotel. At the appropriate time, a private transfer will take you to the airport for your onward flight, concluding your memorable Northern Vietnam tour.

Activities: Enjoy free time in Hanoi.
Transfer to the airport for departure.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- v Private car transfers as per the program.
- v Shuttle bus transfers for the Hanoi – Ha Long – Hanoi route.
- v Accommodation based on double occupancy in specified or similar hotels.
- v Services of English-speaking local tour guides.
- v Return train ticket from Hanoi to Lao Cai with A/C soft sleeper cabin (4 people/cabin).
- v Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner).
- v Boat trip and all entrance fees for scheduled activities.
- v No extra charges after service confirmation.
- v 24/7 hotline support.

NOT INCLUDED

- x International or domestic flight tickets.
- x Early check-in or late check-out at hotels.
- x Personal expenses, tips, and gratuities.
- x Beverages with meals.
- x Travel insurance.
- x Other services not explicitly mentioned in the inclusions.

PRICE INCLUDES

- v Private car transfers as per the program.
- v Shuttle bus transfers for the Hanoi – Ha Long – Hanoi route.
- v Accommodation based on double occupancy in specified or similar hotels.
- v Services of English-speaking local tour guides.
- v Return train ticket from Hanoi to Lao Cai with A/C soft sleeper cabin (4 people/cabin).
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CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-5838D2993AAC