Northern Vietnam Highlights: Hanoi, Ninh Binh & Ha Long Bay Cruise – 6 Days

6D / 5N	Easy	Private	USD 424 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Explore the cultural and natural wonders of Northern Vietnam over six days, featuring the historic capital of Hanoi, the stunning karst landscapes of Ninh Binh, and an unforgettable overnight cruise through the iconic Ha Long Bay.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Hanoi → Ninh Binh → Ha Long

TOUR OVERVIEW

This comprehensive six-day tour invites you to explore the rich history, vibrant culture, and stunning natural landscapes of Northern Vietnam. Beginning with your arrival in Hanoi, you'll delve into the capital's ancient traditions and modern pulse before venturing to the serene countryside of Ninh Binh. The journey culminates with an unforgettable overnight experience on the emerald waters of Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Tour Highlights

Explore Hanoi's historical and cultural landmarks, including Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum and the Temple of Literature.
Experience the vibrant atmosphere of Hanoi's Old Quarter with a traditional cyclo tour and water puppet performance.
Journey to Ninh Binh to visit the ancient capital of Hoa Lu and its historic temples.
Enjoy a scenic three-hour boat trip through the captivating caves and "Ha Long on land" landscapes of Tam Coc.
Spend a night aboard a luxury cruise ship, navigating the breathtaking limestone karsts of Ha Long Bay.
Participate in a Vietnamese cooking class and witness a magnificent sunset over Ha Long Bay from the sundeck.
Discover the impressive stalactites and stalagmites within the vast chambers of Sung Sot Cave.
Engage in optional activities like kayaking in Tung Sau area or swimming at Ti Top beach.

Journey Through Northern Vietnam

Your adventure starts with an international flight to Hanoi, followed by an immersive city tour that introduces you to Vietnam's past and present. From the solemn Ho Chi Minh Complex to the bustling Old Quarter, you'll witness the city's diverse character. A day trip to Ninh Binh reveals the ancient capital of Hoa Lu and the natural beauty of Tam Coc, often likened to Ha Long Bay on land, explored via a traditional boat ride. The tour's pinnacle is an overnight cruise on Ha Long Bay, where you'll marvel at limestone islets, explore caves, and enjoy onboard activities before returning to Hanoi for your departure.

Who is this tour for?

This tour is designed for all travelers interested in a balanced exploration of Northern Vietnam's key cultural and natural attractions. It combines historical sites, local experiences, and scenic beauty, making it suitable for those seeking both relaxation and discovery. Whether you are a history enthusiast, a nature lover, or simply looking to experience Vietnamese hospitality, this itinerary offers a fulfilling journey.

Practical Information

Accommodation includes comfortable hotel stays in Hanoi and an overnight cruise in Ha Long Bay. All major transfers are handled by private transportation, ensuring comfort and convenience. Meals are provided as indicated in the itinerary (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner), offering a taste of local cuisine. English-speaking guides will accompany you throughout the tour, providing insightful commentary and assistance. International flights are not included, but a visa approval letter is provided.

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DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 — Departure from New Delhi to Hanoi

Transport: Flight

Travelers will begin their journey from New Delhi, boarding Vietjet Air flight VJ972. The scheduled departure time is late in the evening. This day is primarily dedicated to the international flight to Vietnam's capital city.

Day 2 — Hanoi Arrival, City Exploration & Cultural Evening

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

Upon early morning arrival at Hanoi International Airport, guests will be transferred to their city center hotel for an early check-in and breakfast. The morning cultural tour commences at 8:00 AM, visiting the Ho Chi Minh Complex, which includes Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, his traditional Stilts House, the Presidential Palace, and the nearby One Pillar Pagoda. Following this, the journey continues to Tran Quoc Pagoda, situated on the scenic West Lake. An enriching visit to the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology will provide insights into the diverse cultures of the nation's 54 ethnic groups.
Lunch will be served at midday. The afternoon program begins at 1:30 PM with a visit to the historic Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first national university. Afterwards, explore the serene Hoan Kiem Lake and the Ngoc Son Temple. A one-hour cyclo ride offers a charming perspective of the bustling Hanoi Old Quarter, concluding with an authentic water puppet show. The remainder of the evening is at leisure.

Day 3 — Ninh Binh Day Trip: Ancient Capital & Tam Coc Caves

Meals: B,L | Stay: Golden Silk Boutique Hotel | Transport: Private vehicle, Boat

The day begins with an 8:00 AM departure for Ninh Binh, a picturesque journey of approximately 100 kilometers taking about

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two hours. By 10:00 AM, guests will arrive at Hoa Lu, the ancient capital of Vietnam from 968 AD to 1010 AD, where they will explore two historic temples.

A traditional Vietnamese lunch awaits at a local restaurant around 11:30 AM. In the early afternoon, embark on a three-hour boat trip through Tam Coc. This serene journey reveals a complex of mystical caves, including Sang Cave, Toi Cave, Ba Giot Cave, and Nau Ruou, showcasing the area's wild beauty and stunning river and mountain scenery, often referred to as "Ha Long on land."

The return journey to Hanoi commences at 3:30 PM, with an anticipated arrival back at the hotel by 5:30 PM. The evening is then free for personal relaxation or further exploration of Hanoi.

Day 4 Journey to Ha Long Bay & Overnight Cruise Experience

Meals: B,L,D | Stay: Amanda Cruise | Transport: Bus, Cruise boat, Tender boat

At 9:00 AM, a bus and tour guide will collect guests from their hotel for the transfer to Ha Long City. The route offers views of the Red River Delta countryside and crosses a significant new bridge in Southeast Asia. Arrival at Tuan Chau Island is expected between 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM, where a welcome drink and a brief break await at the Pelican Halong Cruise Lounge before transferring to the Pelican Cruise vessel.

After a welcome drink, safety instructions, and check-in, the cruise begins its exploration of Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the New Seven Wonders of Nature. A buffet lunch featuring Vietnamese and international cuisine is served as the ship sails through tranquil areas, past distinctive formations like Incense Burner, Dog Stone Islet, Fighting Cock, Soi Sim beach, and Coconut Three Island. The journey includes a visit to the Tung Sau area, known for its cultured pearl fishery, where guests can observe the pearl cultivation process and even try kayaking.

Later, the cruise visits Ti Top beach, offering opportunities for swimming or climbing to the summit for panoramic bay views. Returning to the boat, there's free time as the vessel sails to the Luon Bo area for an overnight anchor. An optional massage service is available for booking. Guests can participate in a cooking class on the sundeck to learn how to make Vietnamese spring rolls, followed by a Happy Hour and the chance to watch the sunset. A deluxe Vietnamese and international set dinner is served from 7:30 PM. Evening activities include relaxing at the bar, watching cultural films, playing cards, or trying squid fishing.

Day 5 Ha Long Bay Sunrise, Cave Exploration & Return to Hanoi

Meals: B,L | Stay: Golden Silk Boutique Hotel | Transport: Cruise boat, Tender boat, Bus

The day starts early between 6:00 AM and 8:00 AM with a Tai Chi session on the sundeck, combining deep breathing with gentle movements. Coffee, tea, and pastries are served for breakfast in the dining room, offering morning views of the bay's scenery.

From 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM, guests transfer by tender boat to Sung Sot Cave. A walk of approximately 100 steps leads to the cave entrance, and the visit inside takes about 45 minutes to explore its impressive stalactites and stalagmites. Proper footwear is advised. After exploring the cave, return to the Pelican Halong Cruise by tender.

Guests will check out and settle any bills at reception before enjoying a buffet brunch while the cruise sails back towards Tuan

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Chau Wharf. Relax on the sundeck or in the dining room, taking in the bay scenery as the ship approaches the dock. Disembark at Tuan Chau Wharf and bid farewell to the crew. The return transfer to Hanoi takes place from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM, with an estimated arrival back at the hotel around 3:00 PM, leaving the rest of the afternoon at leisure.

Day 6 Hanoi Leisure & Departure to New Delhi

Meals: B | Transport: Private vehicle, Flight

Enjoy a free morning in Hanoi, perhaps for some last-minute souvenir shopping or revisiting a favorite spot. Guests will have breakfast at the hotel. At the appropriate time, a transfer will be arranged to Hanoi International Airport for the Vietjet Air flight VJ971, scheduled for an evening departure at 6:04 PM, heading back to New Delhi. The flight is expected to arrive in New Delhi International Airport at 10:15 PM, concluding the tour.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- v Private transportation throughout the tour itinerary
- v Hotel accommodation in double/twin rooms with daily breakfast
- v English-speaking local tour guides for excursions
- v One night accommodation on a Ha Long Bay cruise
- v Meals as specified: Breakfast (B), Lunch (L), Dinner (D)
- v All entrance fees to attractions mentioned in the program
- v Visa Approval Letter for Vietnam
- v 24/7 hotline support

NOT INCLUDED

- x International flight tickets
- x Early check-in or late check-out at hotels
- x Personal expenses and souvenirs
- x Tips and gratuities for guides and drivers
- x Travel insurance coverage
- x Beverages and drinks not specified in meals
- x Any services not explicitly mentioned in the inclusions

PRICE INCLUDES

- v Private transportation throughout the tour itinerary
- v Hotel accommodation in double/twin rooms with daily breakfast
- v English-speaking local tour guides for excursions
- v One night accommodation on a Ha Long Bay cruise
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CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-733041219358