Sapa Highlands & Ecolodge Retreat by Rail – 5 Days

5D / 4N	Easy	Private	USD 575 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Discover the stunning Sapa highlands with a unique blend of luxury and nature. This 5-day tour combines stays at the Victoria Sapa Resort and the eco-chic Topas Ecolodge, offering cultural treks and breathtaking mountain views.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Hanoi → Lao Cai → Sapa

TOUR OVERVIEW

Overview: Sapa Luxury & Highland Trekking

Embark on a captivating 5-day, 4-night journey to the majestic Sapa highlands, a region renowned for its dramatic landscapes and rich ethnic cultures. This meticulously crafted tour offers a harmonious blend of comfort and authentic adventure, beginning with a unique overnight train experience from Hanoi. You'll spend a night at the elegant Victoria Sapa Resort, a 4-star haven, providing a perfect base to explore Sapa town. The tour culminates with two nights at the acclaimed Topas Ecolodge, where luxury meets nature amidst unparalleled mountain vistas. Engage with local hill tribes, trek through verdant valleys, and immerse yourself in the serene beauty of northern Vietnam.

Tour Highlights

Overnight journey from Hanoi to Lao Cai aboard a comfortable private train cabin.

Explore Sapa town and its surrounding landscapes after a scenic mountain drive.

Visit Cat Cat village to observe the daily life and traditions of the Black H'mong ethnic community.

Trek alongside the Muong Hoa River, discovering H'mong and Dzay tribal villages like Lao Chai and Ta Van.

Enjoy a picnic lunch amidst the stunning terraced rice fields of the Sapa valley.

Experience the unique culture of the Red Dao people and a local waterfall in Giang Ta Chai.

Relax and unwind for two nights at the renowned Topas Ecolodge, offering panoramic mountain views.

Leisure time to explore the natural surroundings of Topas Ecolodge at your own pace.

Journey Through the Highlands

Your adventure begins with a comfortable overnight train ride from Hanoi, bringing you directly to the gateway of the highlands, Lao Cai. From there, a scenic drive transports you to Sapa, where you'll settle into the Victoria Sapa Resort. The itinerary then leads you into the heart of Sapa's cultural landscape, with treks to traditional villages such as Cat Cat, Lao Chai, Ta Van, and Giang Ta Chai, offering intimate encounters with local ethnic groups. The latter half of the tour provides a luxurious escape at Topas Ecolodge, nestled amidst the mountains, before a comfortable bus journey returns you to Hanoi.

Who is this tour for?

This tour is ideally suited for active travelers, families, and those seeking a private and personalized experience in Sapa. It caters to individuals who appreciate a balance between cultural immersion through trekking and the comfort of high-quality accommodations. If you desire to explore the natural beauty and diverse cultures of the Vietnamese highlands without compromising on luxury, this itinerary is designed for you.

Practical Information

Transportation throughout the tour includes an overnight train from Hanoi to Lao Cai, private car transfers in the Sapa region,

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and a comfortable bus for your return journey to Hanoi. Meals are provided as specified in the itinerary (Breakfast and Lunch), ensuring you are well-nourished for your explorations. Accommodation features a private cabin on the train, a superior room at the 4-star Victoria Sapa Resort, and a deluxe bungalow at the unique Topas Ecolodge.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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* Explore Sapa town and its surrounding landscapes after a scenic mountain drive.
* Visit Cat Cat village to observe the daily life and traditions of the Black H'mong ethnic community.
* Trek alongside the Muong Hoa River, discovering H'mong and Dzay tribal villages like Lao Chai and Ta Van.
* Enjoy a picnic lunch amidst the stunning terraced rice fields of the Sapa valley.
* Experience the unique culture of the Red Dao people and a local waterfall in Giang Ta Chai.
* Relax and unwind for two nights at the renowned Topas Ecolodge, offering panoramic mountain views.
* Leisure time to explore the natural surroundings of Topas Ecolodge at your own pace.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 — Hanoi Departure & Overnight Train to Lao Cai

Stay: Private train cabin | Transport: Private car transfer, overnight train

The adventure to Vietnam's northern highlands commences in Hanoi with a convenient hotel pick-up in the early evening. Guests will be comfortably transferred to the bustling Lao Cai train station, where preparations for the overnight journey will begin. This initial leg of the trip offers a unique perspective of Vietnam as the landscape transitions from urban sprawl to rural tranquility.

The train is scheduled to depart at 21:50 PM, embarking on a scenic overnight rail adventure. Travelers will settle into their private train cabin, designed to provide a restful and comfortable night's sleep. This allows for a unique travel experience, combining the romance of train travel with practical transportation, ensuring guests arrive refreshed and ready to explore the stunning mountainous regions of Sapa.

Activities: Hotel pick-up
Transfer to train station
Overnight train journey in private cabin

Day 2 — Lao Cai Arrival, Sapa Exploration & Cat Cat Village Trek

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Victoria Sapa Resort | Transport: Private car

Upon arrival at Lao Cai Station at approximately 6:30 AM, a local guide will greet guests. A private car will then transport the

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group on a picturesque 1.5-hour drive covering 38 kilometers up winding mountain roads to Sapa town. After checking into the hotel, a refreshing breakfast awaits, followed by some free time to relax or explore Sapa at leisure during the morning.
In the afternoon, the adventure continues with a trek down to the charming Cat Cat village. Here, visitors will have the opportunity to interact with the local H'mong ethnic community and gain insights into their traditional way of life and daily routines. After experiencing the village, a car transfer will take the group back to Sapa.

Activities: Lao Cai station pick-up
Scenic drive to Sapa
Hotel breakfast
Free time in Sapa
Trek to Cat Cat village
Cultural interaction
Return transfer to Sapa

Day 3 Muong Hoa Valley Trek & Topas Ecolodge Arrival

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Topas Ecolodge | Transport: Private car

The morning commences with an invigorating trek along the scenic Muong Hoa River. This path, running alongside the majestic Hoang Lien Mountain range, leads to several ethnic minority villages. Travelers will visit the H'mong and Dzay communities in Lao Chai and Ta Van villages, observing their distinct cultures and traditional housing. A delightful picnic lunch will be served amidst these beautiful surroundings, offering a chance to savor local flavors in nature.
Following lunch, a shorter trek proceeds to Giang Ta Chai village, home to the Red Dao people, where a beautiful waterfall can also be admired. Finally, the group will trek to the main road where a car awaits to transfer them to the luxurious Topas Ecolodge. Upon arrival, guests will check into their accommodations and enjoy dinner at the ecolodge, with the evening free for relaxation and soaking in the tranquil atmosphere.

Activities: Trek along Muong Hoa River
Visit Lao Chai and Ta Van villages
Picnic lunch
Trek to Giang Ta Chai village
Visit waterfall
Transfer to Topas Ecolodge
Check-in
Dinner at ecolodge

Day 4 Serene Leisure at Topas Ecolodge

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Topas Ecolodge

Day four is dedicated entirely to personal leisure and relaxation amidst the stunning natural beauty surrounding Topas Ecolodge. After the previous days of trekking and cultural discovery, this provides a perfect opportunity to unwind and recharge. Guests are free to wake at their own pace and enjoy a leisurely breakfast while taking in the panoramic views of the Sapa valleys and terraced rice fields.

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The entire day is yours to spend as you wish. You might choose to simply relax on your bungalow's private balcony, indulge in the lodge's amenities, or take gentle strolls around the property to explore the immediate natural environment. The ecolodge is renowned for its harmonious integration with nature and offers a tranquil escape, allowing you to fully appreciate the peaceful ambiance of the Vietnamese highlands before the journey back to Hanoi.

Activities: Enjoy breakfast with scenic views
Leisure time at Topas Ecolodge
Explore surroundings independently
Relax at the lodge facilities

Day 5 Topas Ecolodge Farewell & Return Journey to Hanoi

Meals: Breakfast | Transport: Bus

The final day of the tour begins with a delightful breakfast at Topas Ecolodge, allowing guests to savor the last moments of this exceptional mountain retreat. The morning hours are left free for any final personal exploration around the ecolodge, perhaps capturing a few more photographs of the breathtaking scenery or simply enjoying the peaceful atmosphere one last time. This relaxed start ensures a calm departure from the highlands.
In the afternoon, a comfortable bus transfer will commence the return journey to Hanoi. This scenic ride offers a chance to reflect on the memorable highland adventures, the vibrant cultures encountered, and the stunning landscapes explored throughout the tour. The trip concludes upon arrival in Hanoi at approximately 7:00 PM, bringing an end to your enriching Sapa experience.

Activities: Breakfast at Topas Ecolodge
Free time for final sightseeing
Bus transfer to Hanoi
Arrival in Hanoi

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- v Train ticket Hanoi – Lao Cai
- v Bus ticket Sapa - Hanoi
- v Accommodation based on Double/Twin sharing room
- v English/French speaking tour guide
- v All meal as mentioned (B=Breakfast; L=Lunch)
- v All entrance fee
- v Private car pick up in Hanoi and drop off services in Sapa
- v Full A/C transportation as per tour program

NOT INCLUDED

- x Single supplement
- x Beverage
- x Meals not mentioned on tour
- x Personal expense
- x Tip for guide/driver
- x Visa, airfare

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CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-92329CD68EE5