Southern to Northern Vietnam: Cities, Delta & Halong Bay – 10 Days

10D / 9N	Easy	Private	USD 750 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Experience the diverse landscapes and rich cultural tapestry of Vietnam on this comprehensive 10-day journey. From the southern metropolis of Ho Chi Minh City to the ancient capital of Hanoi, explore historical sites, vibrant markets, serene waterways, and the iconic limestone karsts of Halong Bay.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Ho Chi Minh City → Tay Ninh → My Tho → Ben Tre → Da Nang → Hoi An → Hue → Ha Long → Hanoi

TOUR OVERVIEW

Overview of Your Vietnam Adventure

This meticulously planned 10-day expedition traverses Vietnam from its bustling southern heart to the tranquil north, offering a profound insight into the nation's history, culture, and natural splendor. Begin in Ho Chi Minh City, exploring its dynamic urban environment and surrounding historical sites. Journey through the fertile Mekong Delta, discover the ancient charm of Hoi An, and delve into the imperial legacy of Hue. The tour culminates with the breathtaking natural wonder of Halong Bay and the historic capital, Hanoi, providing a complete picture of this captivating country.

Tour Highlights

Explore the historic Cu Chi Tunnels and witness a Cao Dai Temple service near Ho Chi Minh City.

Cruise the Mekong Delta's canals, enjoying local fruits and traditional music on Unicorn Island.

Wander through the UNESCO-listed Hoi An Ancient Town, admiring its unique architecture and Japanese Covered Bridge.

Discover Hue's imperial past with a Perfume River boat trip to Thien Mu Pagoda and royal tombs.

Cruise the magnificent Halong Bay, marveling at its limestone islands and hidden grottoes.

Experience Hanoi's rich history, from the Ho Chi Minh Complex to the Temple of Literature and a water puppet show.

Witness the vibrant local life in bustling markets like Ben Thanh and Dong Ba.

Enjoy scenic drives, including the Hai Van Pass, offering panoramic coastal views.

Journey Through Vietnam's Iconic Landscapes

Your adventure starts in the energetic Ho Chi Minh City, moving through the strategic Cu Chi Tunnels and the serene Mekong Delta. A domestic flight transports you to Da Nang, serving as the gateway to the charming town of Hoi An. From there, a picturesque drive along the coast and over the Hai Van Pass leads to the imperial city of Hue. Another flight takes you north to Hanoi, with an excursion to the spectacular Halong Bay, before concluding your journey in the capital.

Who Is This Tour For?

This tour is ideal for families, couples, and small private groups seeking a comprehensive exploration of Vietnam's most significant cultural and historical sites, combined with stunning natural beauty. Travelers interested in history, local traditions, scenic cruises, and diverse culinary experiences will find this itinerary particularly rewarding. The pace balances guided excursions with opportunities for personal discovery.

Practical Information for Travelers

Accommodation is provided in comfortable hotels or resorts, with options ranging from 3-star to 5-star categories, based on your preference. All internal flights and ground transfers are handled by air-conditioned private vehicles. Expert English or French-speaking guides accompany you throughout, ensuring a smooth and informative journey. Meals are included as specified in the

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itinerary, offering a taste of local cuisine. Please note that personal expenses, tips, drinks, and single room supplements are not included in the base price.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

* Explore the historic Cu Chi Tunnels and witness a Cao Dai Temple service near Ho Chi Minh City.
* Cruise the Mekong Delta's canals, enjoying local fruits and traditional music on Unicorn Island.
* Walk through UNESCO-listed Hoi An Ancient Town, admiring its unique architecture and Japanese Covered Bridge.
* Discover Hue's imperial past with a Perfume River boat trip to Thien Mu Pagoda and royal tombs.
* Experience the geological wonders of Halong Bay with an overnight cruise among its limestone karsts.
* Visit Hanoi's Ho Chi Minh Complex, One Pillar Pagoda, and the Temple of Literature.
* Engage with local culture at Ben Thanh Market, Dong Ba Market, and Saigon's Chinatown.
* Enjoy scenic coastal views while driving over the Hai Van Pass between Da Nang and Hue.
* Gain insights into Vietnamese history at the War Remnant Museum and Ethnologic Museum.
* Observe traditional pottery making at Dong Trieu village on the return from Halong Bay.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 — Ho Chi Minh City Arrival & Leisure

Stay: Ho Chi Minh City | Transport: Private transfer

Upon your arrival at Ho Chi Minh City's airport, a dedicated transfer service will meet you and provide transportation to your hotel. After checking in and settling into your room, the remainder of the day is yours to spend at leisure. You might choose to unwind at the hotel or begin your exploration of this dynamic southern city. Options include visiting some of the modern shopping malls, indulging in a spa or massage treatment, sampling local cuisine at various restaurants, or experiencing the lively atmosphere of Ben Thanh Market, a central hub for shopping and dining. This free time allows for a gentle introduction to the vibrant energy of Ho Chi Minh City at your own pace.

Activities: Airport transfer to hotel
Hotel check-in
Free time for shopping, spa, dining, or exploring Ben Thanh Market

Day 2 — Cao Dai Temple & Cu Chi Tunnels Exploration

Meals: B,L | Stay: Ho Chi Minh City | Transport: Roads (private vehicle)

Following breakfast, your day begins with a road journey to Tay Ninh province. Here, you will visit the distinctive Cao Dai

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Temple, an architectural marvel known for its unique blend of religious symbols. You'll have the opportunity to observe the fascinating mid-day service, where followers in colorful robes participate in a ceremony that reflects the syncretic nature of Cao Daism, incorporating elements of Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism.

After this cultural experience, the tour continues to the historically significant Cu Chi Tunnels. This extensive underground network was ingeniously constructed by Vietnamese resistance fighters during their struggle for independence. Gain insight into the challenging conditions faced by soldiers as you explore sections of the tunnels, which once housed hospitals, living quarters, and schools, serving as a crucial military base during the American War. The day concludes with your return to Ho Chi Minh City for an overnight stay.

Activities: Travel by road to Tay Ninh
Visit Cao Dai Temple
Attend mid-day Cao Dai service
Explore the Cu Chi Tunnels
Return to Ho Chi Minh City

Day 3 Mekong Delta River Life & Local Crafts

Meals: B,L | Stay: Ho Chi Minh City | Transport: Private transfer, boat

Today's journey takes you to My Tho province, the gateway to the Mekong Delta. Upon arrival, you will board a boat for a scenic cruise through the region's intricate network of small canals. This offers an excellent vantage point to observe the daily life of local communities and admire the numerous islands dotting the delta. The boat excursion will pass through lush green landscapes before reaching the renowned Unicorn Island. Here, you'll disembark to wander through an orchard, sampling a variety of fresh seasonal fruits while enjoying traditional Vietnamese music performances.

The adventure continues with a visit to Ben Tre Province, where you'll discover local industries and craft workshops, gaining insight into traditional production methods. A substantial lunch will be served, providing a taste of regional specialties. In the afternoon, you will journey back to Ho Chi Minh City. Along the way, stops include the beautiful Vinh Trang Pagoda, a prominent Buddhist temple, and Cho Lon, Saigon's historic Chinatown, characterized by its sacred temples and winding, narrow streets. You will spend the night back in Ho Chi Minh City.

Activities: Transfer to My Tho province
Boat trip through Mekong Delta canals
Explore Unicorn Island
Sample seasonal fruits
Enjoy traditional music
Visit local industries in Ben Tre
Have lunch
Visit Vinh Trang Pagoda
Explore Cho Lon (Saigon's Chinatown)
Return to Ho Chi Minh City

Day 4 Ho Chi Minh City Sights & Flight to Hoi An

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Meals: B | Stay: Hoi An | Transport: Private transfer, flight

Begin your day with a half-day city tour of Ho Chi Minh. Your first stop is the Reunification Palace, the former residence of the President of South Vietnam until April 1975, offering a glimpse into a pivotal moment in the nation's history. You will also see significant French colonial architecture, including the impressive Notre Dame Cathedral and the historic Old Saigon Post Office.

The tour continues with a visit to the Jade Emperor Pagoda, a beautifully adorned Taoist temple, followed by the War Remnants Museum, which provides a powerful and moving perspective on the Vietnam War. Conclude your city exploration at the bustling Ben Thanh Market, where a wide array of goods, from souvenirs to local foods, is available. Later, you will be transferred to the airport for a domestic flight to Da Nang. Upon arrival in Da Nang, you will be met by a driver and transferred directly to Hoi An, a charming town with a rich history as a Cham seaport, influenced by centuries of international trade. Settle into your accommodation for the night in Hoi An.

Activities:
Half-day Ho Chi Minh City tour
Visit Reunification Palace
See Notre Dame Cathedral and Old Saigon Post Office
Explore Jade Emperor Pagoda
Tour War Remnants Museum
Shop at Ben Thanh Market
Transfer to airport
Flight to Da Nang
Transfer from Da Nang to Hoi An

Day 5 Ancient Hoi An & Scenic Drive to Hue

Meals: B,D | Stay: Hue | Transport: Private vehicle

This morning, embark on a walking tour to explore the ancient town of Hoi An, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This delightful and peaceful town showcases a captivating blend of Vietnamese traditions with Chinese and Japanese architectural influences. Highlights of your visit include the iconic Japanese Covered Bridge, the Pottery Museum, the remarkably preserved 200-year-old Tam Ky House, the Chua Ong Pagoda, and the lively local market. As you stroll through the narrow streets, you'll observe numerous low tiled houses and assembly halls, all reflecting the town's diverse multicultural past.

In the afternoon, you will drive north to Hue, Vietnam's last imperial capital. The journey itself is scenic, with planned stops along the way. Your first stop will be the sensational Marble Mountains, a cluster of five limestone and marble hills. You'll also pause at China Beach, known for its long sandy shores, and visit Da Nang City to explore the Cham Museum, housing a significant collection of Cham sculpture. The road then ascends over the breathtaking Hai Van Pass, offering panoramic views of the coastline, before descending into Hue, where you will spend the night.

Activities:
Morning walking tour of Hoi An Ancient Town
Visit Japanese Covered Bridge, Pottery Museum, Tam Ky House, Chua Ong Pagoda, and local market
Drive to Hue
Stop at Marble Mountains
Visit China Beach
Explore Cham Museum in Da Nang

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Drive over Hai Van Pass

Day 6 Imperial Hue & Perfume River Cruise

Meals: B,L | Stay: Hue | Transport: Boat, private transfer, walking

After breakfast, embark on a serene boat cruise upstream on the Perfume River. This journey provides a peaceful view of the surrounding countryside and leads you to the beautiful Thien Mu Pagoda, an iconic symbol of Hue. After exploring this historic pagoda, the cruise continues to the mausoleum of Emperor Minh Mang, set within a tranquil landscape of gardens and lakes, offering a glimpse into imperial burial traditions.

Your next stops include the elaborate royal tomb of Emperor Tu Duc, another significant imperial resting place, and the famous Tu Hieu Pagoda. Upon returning to the city center, you'll take a leisurely walk through the bustling Dong Ba Market. This vibrant market offers a chance to observe local commerce and discover various fantastic eating spots, where you can sample some of Hue's renowned local delicacies. The day concludes with an overnight stay in Hue.

Activities:
Boat cruise on Perfume River
Visit Thien Mu Pagoda
Explore Emperor Minh Mang's mausoleum
Visit Emperor Tu Duc's royal tomb
See Tu Hieu Pagoda
Walk through Dong Ba Market
Sample local delicacies

Day 7 Hue Exploration & Travel to Halong

Meals: B,L,D | Stay: Halong | Transport: Private transfer, flight

The morning offers further opportunities to explore Hue, allowing you some free time to revisit a favorite spot or discover something new within the city. Later, you will be transferred to the airport for a flight to Hanoi. Upon your arrival in Hanoi, your tour guide and driver will be waiting to pick you up.

From Hanoi, you will embark on a scenic three-and-a-half-hour drive to Halong, home to one of Vietnam's most impressive natural landscapes. The journey provides chances to stop as desired, allowing you to stretch your legs and capture photographs of the passing scenery. You will arrive in Halong in the late afternoon or early evening, where you will check into your accommodation for an overnight stay, preparing for your bay exploration the following day.

Activities:
Free time in Hue
Fly from Hue to Hanoi
Transfer from Hanoi airport
Drive to Halong
Check into Halong accommodation

Day 8 Halong Bay Cruise & Return to Hanoi

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Meals: B,L | Stay: Hanoi | Transport: Boat, private vehicle

Today, prepare for an unforgettable five-hour cruise through the legendary Halong Bay. Departing from the town, your boat will navigate through a breathtaking landscape where the sky meets the emerald waters, dotted with approximately 3,000 towering limestone islands. These dramatic karst formations are adorned with secluded beaches, hidden grottoes, and stunning caves. During the cruise, the boat will anchor in a secluded cove, providing an opportunity for a leisurely swim in the clear waters. You will also enjoy a visit to one of the many hidden grottoes nestled beneath the towering cliffs, exploring its unique geological features. A fresh seafood lunch will be served onboard, allowing you to savor local flavors amidst the stunning scenery. In the afternoon, you will return to Hanoi, making a stop en route at the Dong Trieu pottery village to observe traditional craftsmanship. You will spend the night in Hanoi.

Activities: Boat exploration of Halong Bay (5-hour cruise)
View limestone islands, beaches, grottoes, and caves
Swim in a secluded cove
Visit a hidden grotto
Enjoy seafood lunch on board
Return to Hanoi
Stop at Dong Trieu pottery village

Day 9 Hanoi City Tour & Cultural Immersion

Meals: B,L | Stay: Hanoi | Transport: Private vehicle, walking

Dedicate today to a full-day city tour of Hanoi, starting with the significant Ho Chi Minh Complex. This revered site includes the mausoleum of Vietnam's founder, Ho Chi Minh, the Presidential Palace, and Ho Chi Minh's modest house on stilts. Nearby, you will visit the unique One Pillar Pagoda, an architectural marvel whose origins trace back to the city's foundation.
The tour continues to the Temple of Literature, recognized as Vietnam's first national university, offering a serene glimpse into ancient scholarship. Next, explore the impressive Ethnologic Museum, which provides comprehensive insights into Vietnam's 54 diverse ethnic groups. You will also see the beautiful West Lake and visit the History Museum, housing an excellent collection of artifacts that illustrate Vietnamese history. Conclude your day at the peaceful Hoan Kiem Lake, where you will attend a fantastic traditional water puppet theatre performance, a unique form of Vietnamese art. You will spend the night in Hanoi.

Activities: Full-day Hanoi city tour
Visit Ho Chi Minh Complex (mausoleum, Presidential Palace, house on stilts)
See One Pillar Pagoda
Explore Temple of Literature
Tour Ethnologic Museum
View West Lake
Visit History Museum
Attend water puppet theatre performance at Hoan Kiem Lake

Day 10 Hanoi Departure

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Meals: B | Transport: Private transfer

Enjoy your final breakfast at the hotel in Hanoi. After checking out, a transfer service will take you to Noi Bai Airport, where you will depart, concluding your memorable 10-day journey through Vietnam.

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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- v Accommodation (double/twin sharing in hotels or resorts)
- v A/C private car/van/minibus transfer as per program
- v All meals as mentioned
- v English/French speaking tour guide
- v Flight tickets: Ho Chi Minh City - Da Nang, Hue - Hanoi
- v Entrance fees
- v Boat trip in Halong Bay, Mekong Delta

NOT INCLUDED

- x Personal expenses
- x Tips
- x Single room supplement
- x Drinks

PRICE INCLUDES

- v Accommodation (double/twin sharing in hotels or resorts)
- v A/C private car/van/minibus transfer as per program
- v All meals as mentioned
- v English/French speaking tour guide
- v Flight tickets: Ho Chi Minh City - Da Nang, Hue - Hanoi
- v Entrance fees
- v Boat trip in Halong Bay, Mekong Delta

CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-F3A75C6E8A40