Vietnam Culinary & Cultural Discovery: Hanoi to Mekong Delta – 10 Days

10D / 9N	Easy	Private	USD 1,419 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Embark on a 10-day culinary and cultural exploration across Vietnam, from the ancient streets of Hanoi to the tranquil Mekong Delta. Savor Michelin-selected street food, cruise the breathtaking Ha Long Bay, and uncover the historical charm of Hoi An and Ho Chi Minh City.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Hanoi → Ha Long → Da Nang → Hoi An → Ho Chi Minh City

TOUR OVERVIEW

Tour Overview

This comprehensive 10-day itinerary invites you to delve into the heart of Vietnam's diverse landscapes and celebrated cuisine. Starting in the historic capital of Hanoi, you'll journey south, experiencing the serene beauty of Ha Long Bay, the coastal allure of Da Nang, the timeless elegance of Hoi An, and the bustling energy of Ho Chi Minh City, concluding with a peaceful exploration of the Mekong Delta. Each destination offers a unique blend of cultural immersion and gastronomic delight, with a special focus on local street food recognized by the Michelin Guide.

You will navigate vibrant city streets, cruise emerald waters, and walk through ancient towns, all while connecting with Vietnam's rich heritage and warm hospitality. This private tour is designed for those who appreciate authentic experiences, from hands-on cooking classes to historical site visits, ensuring a memorable adventure through this enchanting country.

Highlights of Your Journey

Savor Michelin-selected street food in Hanoi, Da Nang, Hoi An, and Ho Chi Minh City.

Cruise the stunning karsts of Ha Long Bay on a luxury vessel with onboard activities.

Wander through the historic streets of Hoi An Ancient Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Experience Ho Chi Minh City's vibrant nightlife and culinary scene via scooter.

Explore the intricate Cu Chi Tunnels, a significant historical war site.

Discover the tranquil waterways and local life of the Mekong Delta by boat.

Enjoy traditional Vietnamese cooking demonstrations aboard your cruise.

Relax on beautiful beaches in Da Nang, gateway to Central Vietnam.

Route Summary

The adventure commences in Hanoi, where you'll explore the Old Quarter and its renowned food scene before heading to the majestic Ha Long Bay for an overnight cruise. From there, a flight takes you to Da Nang, providing access to its coastal attractions and further culinary discoveries. The journey continues to the charming ancient town of Hoi An, offering a blend of history and relaxation. Finally, you'll fly to the dynamic Ho Chi Minh City, from which you'll visit the historic Cu Chi Tunnels and embark on a serene boat trip through the Mekong Delta before your departure.

Who This Tour Suits

This private tour is ideal for food enthusiasts eager to sample authentic Vietnamese cuisine, particularly those interested in Michelin-recognized street food experiences. It also appeals to culture seekers who wish to explore UNESCO World Heritage sites, historical landmarks, and local traditions. Travelers looking for a blend of city exploration, natural beauty, and historical insight, with comfortable accommodations and guided experiences, will find this itinerary particularly rewarding.

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Practical Information

This private tour offers flexibility for departure dates, tailored to your request. Accommodations include a mix of 4-star or 5-star hotels and a luxury cruise, ensuring comfort throughout your journey. All major transport, including domestic flights and airport transfers, is arranged, along with an English-speaking local guide at each destination. Meals are a significant part of the experience, with many breakfasts, lunches, and dinners included to showcase local flavors.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

* Savor Michelin-selected street food in Hanoi, Da Nang, Hoi An, and Ho Chi Minh City.
* Cruise the stunning karsts of Ha Long Bay on a luxury vessel with onboard activities.
* Wander through the historic streets of Hoi An Ancient Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
* Experience Ho Chi Minh City's vibrant nightlife and culinary scene via scooter.
* Explore the intricate Cu Chi Tunnels, a significant historical war site.
* Discover the tranquil waterways and local life of the Mekong Delta by boat.
* Enjoy traditional Vietnamese cooking demonstrations aboard your cruise.
* Relax on beautiful beaches in Da Nang, gateway to Central Vietnam.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 Hanoi Arrival and Old Quarter Exploration

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Hotel in Hanoi | Transport: Airport transfer, local walking

Upon your arrival at Noi Bai International Airport, a friendly representative will extend a warm welcome and arrange your transfer to your hotel, conveniently situated in the heart of Hanoi. You'll have time to settle in and refresh after your flight. Depending on your arrival schedule, the afternoon presents an opportunity to begin your discovery of Vietnam's capital. You might choose to wander through the lively thoroughfares of the Old Quarter, where charming French colonial architecture lines narrow, historic lanes. Alternatively, enjoy a tranquil walk around the serene Hoan Kiem Lake, observing local life unfold. This initial introduction to Hanoi allows you to acclimate to the city's unique atmosphere, blending ancient traditions with modern vibrancy. The evening is at your leisure, providing a chance to relax or explore nearby dining options independently.

Activities: Arrive in Hanoi; Transfer to hotel; Relax and unwind; Explore Hanoi Old Quarter; Stroll around Hoan Kiem Lake.

Day 2 Hanoi Michelin-Selected Street Food Night Tour

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner | Stay: Hotel in Hanoi | Transport: Local walking

Today offers a deep dive into Hanoi's renowned culinary scene, culminating in an evening street food tour. After breakfast at your hotel, the daytime is free for you to explore more of Hanoi at your own pace. You might visit historical sites like the Temple

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of Literature or Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, or simply enjoy the city's many cafes.
As evening approaches, a local guide will lead you on an exciting walking tour through the narrow, aromatic alleyways of Hanoi's Old Quarter. The air will be filled with the enticing scents of grilled meats and fresh herbs. You will sample some of Vietnam's most iconic dishes, including Bun Cha, a fragrant grilled pork with vermicelli, a comforting bowl of Pho noodle soup, and the famous Cha Ca La Vong, a turmeric-infused grilled fish with dill. The culinary journey concludes with a rich, traditional egg coffee, a unique Hanoi specialty. Each tasting provides insight into the city's vibrant food culture, which has garnered recognition from the Michelin Guide, with your guide sharing fascinating stories behind these generational recipes.

Activities: Free time in Hanoi; Join a guided street food walking tour; Sample Bun Cha, Pho, Cha Ca La Vong; Try traditional egg coffee.

Day 3 Ha Long Bay Luxury Cruise & Cave Exploration

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Stay: Ambassador Cruise | Transport: Private vehicle transfer, tender boat, cruise, rowing boat/kayak (optional)

Your day begins with a transfer from your Hanoi Old Quarter hotel between 8:00 and 8:30 AM, heading towards Halong International Cruise Port. Upon arrival, a tender boat will transport you to the luxurious Ambassador Cruise. After a warm welcome, enjoy a briefing in the elegant Piano Lounge before settling into your private cabin. A buffet lunch featuring local and international dishes will be served as the cruise sails into the spectacular heart of Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its towering limestone karsts and emerald waters.
The afternoon's adventure includes a visit to Luon Cave, a secluded lagoon accessible by a serene rowing boat or an optional kayak paddle. Next, the cruise anchors at Titop Island, offering a crescent-shaped beach for swimming and a winding path to a summit viewpoint for panoramic bay vistas. Back on board, unwind with Happy Hour and canapés, or participate in a hands-on Vietnamese cooking class on the sundeck or in the Piano Lounge. As evening falls, indulge in a Michelin-inspired dinner under the stars, accompanied by live music, before enjoying activities like squid fishing, cocktails, or a spa treatment.

Activities: Transfer to Ha Long Bay; Board Ambassador Cruise; Enjoy welcome drink and lunch; Explore Luon Cave by rowing boat or kayak; Swim or hike on Titop Island; Attend cooking class; Enjoy Michelin-inspired dinner; Participate in evening activities like squid fishing or live music.

Day 4 Ha Long Bay Sunrise & Flight to Da Nang

Meals: Breakfast, Brunch | Stay: Hotel in Da Nang | Transport: Cruise, private vehicle transfer, domestic flight

Start your day with a tranquil Tai Chi session on the sundeck, set against the backdrop of a breathtaking Ha Long Bay sunrise. A light breakfast of tea, coffee, and pastries will be served afterwards. The morning continues with an excursion to Sung Sot Cave, also known as Surprise Cave, the largest and most impressive grotto in Ha Long Bay. Explore its vast chambers, marveling at the ancient stalactites and stalagmites, illuminated to highlight their natural beauty and the stories they tell over millennia.
Returning to the cruise, you'll enjoy a buffet brunch with continuous panoramic views of the bay's iconic limestone formations as the vessel gently glides back to the harbor. After settling your bills and checking out, you'll disembark at Halong International

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Cruise Port. A waiting transfer will then take you to the airport for a short domestic flight to Da Nang, the vibrant coastal city and gateway to Central Vietnam. Upon landing, a driver will meet you and transfer you to your hotel for check-in, leaving the rest of your day free to relax on the beach or explore the city at your leisure.

Activities: Participate in Tai Chi on sundeck; Enjoy light breakfast; Visit Sung Sot Cave; Enjoy buffet brunch on cruise; Disembark cruise; Transfer to airport; Fly to Da Nang; Transfer to hotel; Free time in Da Nang.

Day 5 Da Nang Michelin Street Food Tour by Motorbike

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Stay: Hotel in Da Nang | Transport: Motorbike (self-ride or passenger)

Today, after a leisurely morning and breakfast at your hotel, you will discover the culinary delights of Da Nang in a truly local fashion. In the afternoon, around 4:00 PM, a friendly local guide will pick you up for an exhilarating food adventure. You have the option to ride your own motorbike or relax as a passenger, navigating the lively streets of this beachside city.

As you weave through bustling markets, scenic seaside roads, and colorful alleyways, you'll gain an authentic insight into Da Nang's rhythm. Your guide will share fascinating stories about the city's history and its vibrant food culture. The tour includes stops at carefully selected local eateries, known for their authentic flavors and high hygiene standards, many of which are Michelin-listed or highly celebrated by locals. You'll sample regional specialties such as Banh Xeo (sizzling pancakes), Bun Bo (spicy beef noodle soup), Mi Quang (turmeric rice noodles), fresh seafood, sweet desserts, and the ever-popular Banh Mi. By the time the tour concludes around 8:00 PM, your appetite will be fully satisfied, making dinner unnecessary. This experience offers more than just food; it's a deep immersion into the culinary heart of Da Nang.

Activities: Free morning in Da Nang; Join a guided street food tour by motorbike; Sample Banh Xeo, Bun Bo, Mi Quang, seafood, desserts, Banh Mi; Explore Da Nang's markets and streets.

Day 6 Hoi An Ancient Town Walking Tour & Michelin Dinner

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner | Stay: Hotel in Hoi An | Transport: Private vehicle transfer, local walking

After enjoying breakfast, your journey continues with a scenic transfer from Da Nang to the enchanting ancient town of Hoi An, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Upon arrival, you'll check into your hotel and then embark on a guided walking tour through its timeless streets. Hoi An was once a thriving international trading port, and its rich history is evident in every alleyway and building.

During your walk, you'll visit iconic landmarks such as the Japanese Covered Bridge, the ornate Fujian Assembly Hall, and explore the vibrant traditional market, where the daily rhythm of local life and an array of fresh produce offer an authentic cultural glimpse. As dusk settles, prepare for an exquisite Michelin-style dinner. This culinary experience will feature signature dishes from Central Vietnam, including "Com Ga" (chicken rice), "Bun Rieu" (crab noodle soup), "Bun Bo" (beef noodle soup), and "Bo Cuon La Lot" (grilled beef in wild betel leaves). This evening promises not only bold new flavors but also memorable insights into Hoi An's celebrated food culture.

Activities: Transfer to Hoi An; Check into hotel; Guided walking tour of Hoi An Ancient Town; Visit Japanese Covered Bridge, Fujian Assembly Hall, traditional market; Enjoy a Michelin-style dinner featuring local specialties.

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Day 7 Leisure Day in Historic Hoi An

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Hotel in Hoi An | Transport: Local walking

Today is dedicated to your personal exploration of Hoi An's enduring charm. After breakfast, the day is entirely yours to enjoy at your own pace. You might choose to wander leisurely through the lantern-lit alleyways, admiring the centuries-old architecture that gives the town its unique character. Browse the numerous tailor shops and artisan boutiques, perhaps commissioning custom-made clothing or finding unique handcrafted souvenirs.

For those seeking relaxation, the golden sands of An Bang Beach are a short distance away, offering a perfect spot to unwind. Alternatively, you could participate in an optional cooking class to learn more about Vietnamese cuisine, or simply find a quiet café to sip traditional Vietnamese coffee while observing the gentle flow of local life. Whether your preference is for cultural immersion, culinary discovery, or peaceful contemplation, Hoi An provides ample opportunities for an authentic and personalized experience.

Activities: Free day in Hoi An; Stroll through ancient streets; Browse tailor shops and boutiques; Relax at An Bang Beach (optional); Join a cooking class (optional); Enjoy local coffee.

Day 8 Hoi An to Ho Chi Minh City & Scooter Food Tour

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner | Stay: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City | Transport: Private vehicle transfer, domestic flight, scooter

Following breakfast, enjoy some final free moments in Hoi An for last-minute souvenir shopping or a peaceful walk through its historic streets. You will then be transferred to the airport for a short domestic flight to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam’s dynamic southern metropolis. Upon arrival, you'll check into your hotel and have some time to relax or begin to soak in the energetic atmosphere of Saigon at your leisure.

As evening descends, your adventure truly begins with professional drivers picking you up for an exciting scooter tour through the illuminated streets of Ho Chi Minh City. You'll glide past iconic landmarks like the towering Bitexco Tower, absorbing the city's vibrant energy as it comes alive after dark. This journey takes you through bustling districts, revealing Saigon's authentic nightlife with locals dining at street stalls and neon-lit corners buzzing with activity. A highlight is a visit to Chinatown, where Vietnamese and Chinese cultures merge, reflected in the architecture, colorful temples, and spirited streets. Here, you'll sample street food favorites such as Bun Thit Nuong, Pho, and Xoi Ga. The tour also includes a visit to the Ho Thi Ky Flower Market, the city's largest, which transforms into a fragrant spectacle at night. Around 10:00 PM, you'll return to your hotel, filled with new flavors and vivid memories of Saigon's enchanting evening.

Activities: Free time in Hoi An; Transfer to airport; Fly to Ho Chi Minh City; Transfer to hotel; Free time in Ho Chi Minh City; Evening street food tour by scooter; See Bitexco Tower; Explore Chinatown; Sample Bun Thit Nuong, Pho, Xoi Ga; Visit Ho Thi Ky Flower Market.

Day 9 Cu Chi Tunnels and Mekong Delta Discovery

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City | Transport: Private vehicle, local boat

Prepare for a day blending historical insights and cultural exploration as you journey to two of Southern Vietnam's most

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significant sites. Your morning begins with an early departure to the Cu Chi Tunnels, an extraordinary underground network that vividly illustrates the resilience and ingenuity of the Vietnamese people during wartime. Here, you'll have the opportunity to navigate through the narrow passageways once used by soldiers, explore hidden chambers and trapdoors, and hear compelling stories about life underground, from makeshift kitchens to secret command centers that played a vital role in Vietnam's resistance.

After this impactful historical experience, the tour continues southward to My Tho, serving as the gateway to the lush Mekong Delta, a region celebrated for its tranquil waterways and verdant landscapes. You'll board a boat for a peaceful cruise along quiet, palm-lined canals. As you drift through the calm waters, you'll observe the gentle rhythm of delta life, visit a local orchard to taste freshly picked tropical fruits, and enjoy a cup of fragrant honey tea. The day concludes with a relaxing experience as villagers perform traditional folk music in an authentic countryside setting, offering a deeper connection to local culture.

Activities: Visit Cu Chi Tunnels; Crawl through tunnel passages; Explore underground chambers; Transfer to My Tho; Boat cruise along Mekong Delta canals; Visit local orchard; Sample tropical fruits; Enjoy honey tea; Listen to traditional folk music.

Day 10 Ho Chi Minh City Departure

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: NA | Transport: Airport transfer

Enjoy your final breakfast in Vietnam before checking out from your hotel. Depending on your flight schedule, you may have some free time for a last stroll through the lively streets of Ho Chi Minh City, perhaps to enjoy a final Vietnamese coffee at a local café or pick up any last-minute souvenirs to commemorate your trip.

At the pre-arranged time, a transfer will take you to the airport for your departure flight. As your incredible journey through Vietnam concludes, you will carry with you cherished memories and a deeper understanding of its rich culture, profound history, and the warm spirit of its people.

Activities: Enjoy final breakfast; Check out from hotel; Free time for leisure or souvenir shopping; Transfer to airport for departure.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- v 10 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 1 Brunch, 5 Dinners
- v 8 nights hotel accommodation
- v 1 night on Ambassador Cruise
- v Overnight in shared Twin/Double room with air-conditioning at hotels
- v All transport during the tour in air-conditioned vehicles as per itinerary (including airport pick-up and drop-off)
- v All in-tour stationed local English-speaking guides
- v Entrance fees as per itinerary

NOT INCLUDED

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- Two domestic flights: Hanoi - Da Nang, Da Nang - Ho Chi Minh City

PRICE INCLUDES

- 10 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 1 Brunch, 5 Dinners
- 8 nights hotel accommodation
- 1 night on Ambassador Cruise
- Overnight in shared Twin/Double room with air-conditioning at hotels
- All transport during the tour in air-conditioned vehicles as per itinerary (including airport pick-up and drop-off)
- All in-tour stationed local English-speaking guides
- Entrance fees as per itinerary
- Two domestic flights: Hanoi - Da Nang, Da Nang - Ho Chi Minh City

CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-4ADE664F1430