Vietnam Culinary & Cultural Journey: Hanoi to Mekong Delta – 13 Days

13D / 12N	Easy	Private	USD 3,969 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

This luxurious 13-day private tour through Vietnam offers an exquisite exploration of the country's diverse culinary landscape and profound cultural heritage. From the vibrant street food of Hanoi to a serene Halong Bay cruise, imperial Hue, charming Hoi An, and the bustling Ho Chi Minh City, travelers will engage in hands-on cooking classes, enjoy fine dining, and discover historical landmarks.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Hanoi → Ha Long → Hue → Hoi An → Ho Chi Minh City → Ben Tre

TOUR OVERVIEW

Embark on an exceptional 13-day private journey across Vietnam, meticulously designed for discerning travelers with a passion for gastronomy and cultural immersion. This tour seamlessly connects you with the authentic flavors and rich history of Vietnam, from its northern capital to the southern delta. Experience a blend of luxury accommodations, expert-led culinary workshops, and insightful cultural excursions, all while enjoying the personalized service of a private tour.

Culinary Highlights & Cultural Discoveries

Your adventure begins in Hanoi with a deep dive into its street food scene and a hands-on cooking class, followed by an overnight luxury cruise through the breathtaking limestone karsts of Halong Bay. Continue to the imperial city of Hue for royal dining experiences and a serene dragon boat trip on the Perfume River. In Hoi An, participate in another immersive cooking class and explore the ancient town's vibrant markets and tranquil countryside.

Southern Charm & Historical Insights

The journey then takes you south to Ho Chi Minh City, where you'll explore significant historical sites like the War Remnants Museum and the Cu Chi Tunnels. A unique cooking class in the Cu Chi district provides further culinary insights. Conclude your tour with a peaceful exploration of the Mekong Delta's waterways and local life, offering a comprehensive and unforgettable Vietnamese experience.

Who This Tour Suits

This private luxury tour is ideal for seniors, solo travelers, and couples seeking a sophisticated and in-depth exploration of Vietnam's food and culture. With a focus on comfort, personalized experiences, and authentic encounters, it caters to those who appreciate fine dining, historical context, and the beauty of local traditions.

Practical Information

The tour includes all domestic flights, comfortable private vehicle transfers, and a luxury overnight cruise. You'll enjoy 12 breakfasts, 8 lunches, and 5 dinners, with all entrance fees and an English-speaking local guide provided throughout. Accommodation is in 5-star hotels and an overnight cruise, ensuring a relaxing and indulgent travel experience.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

* Savor authentic Vietnamese street food and fine dining experiences in Hanoi.
* Participate in hands-on cooking classes to master traditional Vietnamese dishes.
* Cruise overnight on a luxury vessel through the stunning UNESCO World Heritage site of Halong Bay.

Vietnam Culinary & Cultural Journey: Hanoi to Mekong Delta – 13 Days

13D / 12N	Easy	Private	USD 3,969 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

* Discover the imperial legacy of Hue with a royal-inspired dinner and scenic river journey.
* Explore the ancient town of Hoi An, including its vibrant markets and tranquil countryside.
* Gain historical insights into the Vietnam War with visits to the Cu Chi Tunnels.
* Experience the serene waterways and local life of the Mekong Delta on a traditional sampan.
* Stay in exquisite 5-star accommodations across major Vietnamese cities.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 — Hanoi Arrival & Fine Dining Welcome

Meals: Dinner | Stay: Hotel de l'Opera Hanoi MGallery by Sofitel | Transport: Car

Upon arrival in Hanoi, a local guide will greet you and provide a comfortable transfer to your centrally located hotel. After checking in and settling into your accommodations, take some time to refresh. In the evening, prepare for an exquisite welcome dinner at one of Hanoi's esteemed fine dining establishments. Here, classic Vietnamese flavors are reimagined and presented with a modern flair, offering a sophisticated introduction to the country's culinary artistry and setting a refined tone for the journey ahead.

Activities: Receive airport welcome and transfer to hotel
Check into hotel and relax
Enjoy a fine dining welcome dinner

Day 2 — Hanoi Culinary Class & Egg Coffee Experience

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel de l'Opera Hanoi MGallery by Sofitel | Transport: Car

Your day begins with a morning pickup from your hotel in Hanoi's Old Quarter, leading to a vibrant traditional market. With your local guide, learn the art of local bargaining and identify essential herbs and spices fundamental to Vietnamese cooking. Following a guided demonstration, step into the kitchen for a hands-on cooking session, preparing various authentic dishes under the guidance of a professional chef. Enjoy the delicious results of your efforts during a communal meal that showcases regional flavors. In the afternoon, unwind at the historic Café Giang, renowned for its cozy ambiance. Savor a cup of Vietnam's famous egg coffee, a unique blend of creamy egg yolk, sugar, condensed milk, and strong Vietnamese coffee, offering a delightful balance of taste and cultural immersion in the heart of the city.

Activities: Visit a traditional local market with a guide
Participate in a hands-on Vietnamese cooking class
Enjoy a shared meal of your prepared dishes
Visit Café Giang for a traditional egg coffee

Day 3 — Luxury Halong Bay Overnight Cruise

Vietnam Culinary & Cultural Journey: Hanoi to Mekong Delta – 13 Days

13D / 12N	Easy	Private	USD 3,969 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Stay: Overnight on board | Transport: Car, Cruise

Start your morning with a transfer from your hotel to Halong Bay, where you will board a luxurious vessel for an unforgettable overnight cruise. This UNESCO World Heritage site captivates with its emerald waters and towering limestone karsts. Enjoy gourmet lunch and dinner served onboard, featuring a range of delicious options. The afternoon is filled with exciting activities and excursions. You can kayak through hidden coves, explore ancient caves, or try squid fishing under the night sky. Relax on the sundeck, taking in the breathtaking scenery as your ship glides through the serene bay. The evening concludes with entertainment and games provided by the crew, ensuring a memorable experience.

Activities: Transfer from Hanoi to Halong Bay
Board a luxury cruise ship
Enjoy lunch and dinner onboard
Engage in activities like kayaking, cave exploration, or squid fishing
Relax on the sundeck and enjoy the scenery

Day 4 Halong Bay Sunrise & Hanoi Night Food Tour

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Stay: Hotel de l'Opera Hanoi MGallery by Sofitel | Transport: Cruise, Car

Begin your final morning on Halong Bay with an optional Tai Chi session or simply witness the spectacular sunrise over the karst formations. After breakfast, disembark from the cruise and transfer back to Hanoi, Vietnam's bustling capital. In the late afternoon, around 17:30, embark on a captivating walking food tour through Hanoi's historic Old Quarter. This immersive experience allows you to explore hidden culinary gems and taste a variety of local specialties. Sample dishes such as Bun Bo (beef noodle soup), Banh Cuon (steamed rice rolls), Banh Mi (Vietnamese baguette sandwich), and conclude your gastronomic adventure with another delightful Ca Phe Trung (Egg Coffee), experiencing the vibrant night life and flavors of Hanoi.

Activities: Participate in a Tai Chi lesson or watch the sunrise (optional)
Disembark from the cruise and transfer back to Hanoi
Undertake a walking food tour in Hanoi's Old Quarter
Sample local dishes like Bun Bo, Banh Cuon, Banh Mi, and Egg Coffee

Day 5 Flight to Hue & Imperial Royal Dinner

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner | Stay: Azerai La Residence | Transport: Airplane, Car, Motorcycle

Today, you will fly from Hanoi to Hue, the historic imperial city. Upon arrival, a friendly tour guide will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel, allowing you time to settle in and relax. In the afternoon and evening, experience Hue's enchanting atmosphere with a delightful cyclo tour, exploring the city's culinary offerings. Indulge in an array of mouthwatering Hue cuisines, culminating in a unique dining experience. Savor "royal dishes" designed to replicate the extravagant feasts once enjoyed by Vietnam's emperors, providing a taste of historical luxury.

Activities: Fly from Hanoi to Hue
Receive airport welcome and transfer to hotel
Enjoy a cyclo tour of Hue
Experience a royal-themed dinner with traditional Hue cuisines

Vietnam Culinary & Cultural Journey: Hanoi to Mekong Delta – 13 Days

13D / 12N	Easy	Private	USD 3,969 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Day 6 Hue City & Eco-Village Cultural Immersion

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Azerai La Residence | Transport: Boat, Bicycle

Your day begins with a captivating journey from Toa Kham Wharf, cruising on a traditional dragon boat to the revered Thien Mu Pagoda, Hue's oldest and most beautiful pagoda. Continue your scenic river trip to Hue Ecolodge, nestled within Thuy Bieu Eco-village. Here, you'll have ample opportunity to explore the tranquil village on foot or by bicycle, visiting local gardens, ancestral temples, and engaging with the friendly villagers. Witness the skill of local artisans as you observe traditional craftsmanship. Participate in a special cooking class at Hue Ecolodge, where an Eco-chief will guide you in preparing authentic Hue dishes. Enjoy your culinary creations and receive feedback. Conclude your immersive experience with a therapeutic foot soak in medicinal herb water and a rejuvenating massage by blind practitioners, with the tour finishing around 14:30.

Activities: Take a dragon boat cruise to Thien Mu Pagoda
Explore Thuy Bieu Eco-village by walking or cycling
Visit local gardens, ancestral temples, and handicraft families
Attend a Hue cooking class at Hue Ecolodge
Enjoy a therapeutic foot soak and massage

Day 7 Hue to Hoi An Transfer & Night Street Food Adventure

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Anantara Hoi An Resort | Transport: Car

Today involves a scenic road transfer from Hue to the charming town of Hoi An. Upon arrival, you will check into your hotel and have some free time to unwind and prepare for the evening's activities. As dusk settles, Hoi An's vibrant streets transform into a lively hub of culinary delights. Embark on a street food adventure, strolling through the night market where local vendors showcase an enticing array of dishes. From delicious Banh Mi sandwiches and savory Cao Lau noodles to crispy Banh Xeo pancakes and refreshing sugarcane juice, there's a flavor to satisfy every palate. Immerse yourself in the bustling atmosphere, savor the authentic tastes, and create lasting memories of Hoi An's dynamic street food scene.

Activities: Transfer by road from Hue to Hoi An
Check into your hotel and relax
Explore Hoi An's night market
Sample various local street food dishes

Day 8 Hoi An Red Bridge Cooking School Experience

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Anantara Hoi An Resort | Transport: Boat, Car

Your culinary morning commences at Hai Scout Café in Hoi An Ancient Town with a welcome drink and an overview of the day. Next, explore the bustling central market, discovering a colorful display of fresh produce, herbs, and spices while interacting with local vendors to gain insight into daily life. Enjoy a picturesque 25-minute boat ride along the Hoi An River to the Red Bridge Cooking School, offering serene views of riverside life. Upon arrival, tour the school's herb and vegetable garden before joining a hands-on cooking class led by expert chefs. Learn to prepare iconic Vietnamese dishes such as fresh rice paper,

Vietnam Culinary & Cultural Journey: Hanoi to Mekong Delta – 13 Days

13D / 12N	Easy	Private	USD 3,969 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

shrimp rolls, crispy pancakes, seafood salad, and Mi Quang noodles. You'll also be introduced to traditional food carving, creating a tomato rose and a cucumber hand fan. After preparing your meal, savor your creations, accompanied by BBQ lemongrass beef. The class concludes around 12:30, with a return transfer to central Hoi An, arriving back at your hotel by approximately 13:00.

Activities:
Receive a welcome drink and tour introduction
Visit Hoi An's central market
Enjoy a scenic boat cruise along the Hoi An River
Tour the Red Bridge Cooking School's herb and vegetable garden
Participate in a hands-on cooking class, learning several Vietnamese dishes
Learn food carving techniques
Dine on the dishes you prepared, including BBQ lemongrass beef

Day 9 Cam Kim Island Countryside & Cam Thanh Village

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Anantara Hoi An Resort | Transport: Bicycle, Car

Today, embark on a captivating journey to Cam Kim Island, where you'll experience the picturesque countryside and gain insight into local life. Visit an Ancestral House and a traditional boat builders' yard, learning about the island's rich heritage. Cycle or stroll through serene rice paddies, interact with friendly locals, and enjoy local snacks and coffee. Continue to the stunning coast near the Thu Bon River mouth, passing scenic roads lined with cashew nut trees. Arrive at the charming Cam Thanh village, renowned for its water coconut palms, and enjoy a delicious lunch at a local restaurant. The rest of the afternoon and evening are at your leisure, with optional tours available for further exploration.

Activities:
Journey to Cam Kim Island
Visit an Ancestral House and traditional boat builders' yard
Explore rice paddies and interact with locals
Enjoy local snacks and coffee
Travel to Cam Thanh village
Have lunch at a local restaurant
Enjoy free time or optional tours

Day 10 Ho Chi Minh City Arrival, City Tour & Dinner Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner | Stay: Renaissance Riverside Hotel Saigon | Transport: Airplane, Car, Cruise

After flying from Da Nang to Ho Chi Minh City, you will check into your hotel, ready for an exciting urban exploration. In the afternoon, immerse yourself in the vibrant history and culture of Ho Chi Minh City with visits to iconic landmarks. Begin at the War Remnants Museum, gaining profound insights into Vietnam's wartime history through an extensive collection of artifacts and exhibits. Then, step back in time at the Reunification Palace, exploring the grandeur and significance of this historic site, which marked a pivotal moment in Vietnam's independence. Next, marvel at the architectural beauty of the Saigon Central Post Office, a fusion of French colonial and Gothic influences, and discover its rich cultural significance. Your knowledgeable guides will share fascinating stories, bringing the city's past to life. In the evening, around 18:45, transfer from your hotel to Nha Rong

Vietnam Culinary & Cultural Journey: Hanoi to Mekong Delta – 13 Days

13D / 12N	Easy	Private	USD 3,969 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Port (Saigon Port) to board a beautifully appointed dinner cruise. Enjoy a relaxing evening along the Saigon River, which flows through the city's heart, reflecting its vibrant culture. As the ship glides past the illuminated skyline, savor a carefully crafted menu featuring a fusion of Vietnamese and international cuisine. The elegant ambiance, delicious dishes, and attentive service create a memorable dining experience. The cruise returns to the pier around 20:45.

Activities: Fly from Da Nang to Ho Chi Minh City
Check into your hotel
Visit the War Remnants Museum
Explore the Reunification Palace
Admire the Saigon Central Post Office
Transfer to Nha Rong Port
Board a dinner cruise on the Saigon River
Enjoy a fusion dinner onboard while viewing the city skyline

Day 11 Cu Chi Tunnels Exploration & Rural Cooking Class

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Renaissance Riverside Hotel Saigon | Transport: Car

At 07:30, depart from your hotel for a scenic drive to the Cu Chi District, renowned for its historical significance and peaceful countryside. Your day begins at the Ho Chi Minh Agricultural Villages, where you can stroll through lush rice fields and observe local prawn and fish farms, gaining firsthand insight into Vietnam’s rural lifestyle and sustainable farming practices. Next, participate in a hands-on cooking class led by experienced chefs. Learn to prepare three traditional Vietnamese dishes and a local dessert using fresh ingredients sourced directly from the farm, offering a deeper understanding of Vietnamese flavors and cooking techniques. After lunch, visit a local village to explore the traditional rice paper-making process and observe the detailed techniques passed down through generations. Continue to a nearby rubber tree forest to witness how latex is skillfully extracted by local workers. Your journey then takes you to the legendary Cu Chi Tunnels, a vast underground network utilized by Vietnamese soldiers during the war. Start with a short documentary providing historical context, followed by an exploration of the tunnels and hidden chambers that reveal the daily life and survival tactics of wartime soldiers. Visit Hoang Cam’s smokeless kitchen, an ingenious wartime innovation, and sample boiled tapioca with hot tea, a staple food of the era. For an optional thrill, there's an opportunity to try shooting an AK-47 with real bullets (additional cost). At 17:30, return to your hotel in Ho Chi Minh City, concluding an enriching and interactive day.

Activities: Drive to Cu Chi District
Visit Ho Chi Minh Agricultural Villages, including rice fields and fish farms
Participate in a hands-on cooking class, preparing traditional Vietnamese dishes
Explore a local village to see rice paper making
Visit a rubber tree forest and observe latex extraction
Tour the Cu Chi Tunnels, including a documentary and hidden chambers
See Hoang Cam’s smokeless kitchen and sample tapioca with tea
Optional AK-47 shooting experience (extra cost)

Day 12 Mekong Delta Discovery - Ben Tre

Vietnam Culinary & Cultural Journey: Hanoi to Mekong Delta – 13 Days

13D / 12N	Easy	Private	USD 3,969 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Renaissance Riverside Hotel Saigon | Transport: Car, Boat

Today offers a serene exploration of the Mekong Delta, with a focus on local life in Ben Tre. You will embark on a traditional sampan boat from Cai Be Jetty (or Vinh Long Pier depending on option chosen). As you cruise through the intricate network of canals, you'll visit a 19th-century traditional house and observe local workshops crafting coconut candy and puffed rice. Lunch will be a refined experience at Le Longanier Restaurant, set in a charming riverside garden. The afternoon continues with a leisurely cruise past An Binh and Binh Hoa Phuoc Islands, stopping at Cai Be Church. Depending on your chosen option, you will either be transferred to Can Tho for an overnight stay or return to Ho Chi Minh City by vehicle, concluding a day of tranquil river life and cultural insights.

Activities: Board a traditional sampan boat
Cruise through the Mekong Delta
Visit a 19th-century traditional house
Observe local workshops making coconut candy and puffed rice
Enjoy lunch at Le Longanier Restaurant
Cruise past islands and visit Cai Be Church
Transfer to Can Tho or return to Ho Chi Minh City

Day 13 Ho Chi Minh City Departure

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: NA | Transport: Car

Enjoy a final delicious breakfast at your hotel, taking time to savor the morning. The remainder of the morning is at your leisure, allowing for relaxation or last-minute souvenir shopping. At the appropriate time, our team will provide a convenient transfer from your hotel to the airport for your onward flight. Depart from Vietnam with cherished memories of your culinary and cultural journey.

Activities: Enjoy breakfast at the hotel
Free time for leisure
Transfer to the airport for departure

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- v 12 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 5 dinners
- v All transfers within the tour by modern private vehicle
- v Domestic flights: Hanoi to Hue, Da Nang to Ho Chi Minh City (20 kg luggage included)
- v Overnight accommodation in shared Twin/Double rooms with air-conditioning at hotels
- v One night overnight on board a cruise

NOT INCLUDED

- x Early hotel check-in and late check-out fees
- x Peak season surcharges and compulsory hotel dinners (if applicable)
- x International flights for arrival and departure, including taxes
- x Vietnam Visa fees (passport valid for over 6 months with 3 clear pages required)

Vietnam Culinary & Cultural Journey: Hanoi to Mekong Delta – 13 Days

13D / 12N	Easy	Private	USD 3,969 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

- v All entrance fees as per the itinerary
- v Stationed local English-speaking guide throughout the tour

- x Travel insurance
- x Tips, laundry services, and gratuities
- x Meals not explicitly listed in the itinerary and water during meals
- x Recommended tips for guide/driver (US $3-5 per person per day)
- x Fuel surcharge if fuel prices increase by over 15%

PRICE INCLUDES

- v 12 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 5 dinners
- v All transfers within the tour by modern private vehicle
- v Domestic flights: Hanoi to Hue, Da Nang to Ho Chi Minh City (20 kg luggage included)
- v Overnight accommodation in shared Twin/Double rooms with air-conditioning at hotels
- v One night overnight on board a cruise
- v All entrance fees as per the itinerary
- v Stationed local English-speaking guide throughout the tour

AVAILABLE DEPARTURES

Departure Date	Return Date	Price / Person	Availability	Languages
01 May 2025	20 Dec 2026	**USD 3,969**	Available	–
21 Dec 2026	20 Dec 2027	**USD 4,089**	Available	–

CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-67AD04477BF3