Vietnam Cycling & Culture Journey: Hanoi to Mekong Delta – 10 Days

10D / 9N Duration
USD 1,369 / pax Starting From

Experience Vietnam's diverse landscapes and rich heritage on this 10-day adventure. Cycle through Hanoi's historic streets and rural villages, cruise the emerald waters of Halong Bay, explore the ancient charm of Hoi An, and delve into the history of the Cu Chi Tunnels before discovering the serene Mekong Delta. This journey combines active exploration with authentic cultural encounters.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Hanoi → Ninh Binh → Ha Long → Hoi An → Ho Chi Minh City

TOUR OVERVIEW

Overview of Your Vietnam Adventure

This 10-day tour provides an engaging blend of active exploration and deep cultural immersion across Vietnam's most iconic regions. From the vibrant energy of Hanoi to the tranquil waterways of the Mekong Delta, each day offers a unique perspective on the country's beauty and history. Travelers will enjoy a mix of cycling excursions through urban and rural landscapes, relaxing cruises, and opportunities to connect with local traditions.

Journey Highlights

Pedal across Hanoi's historic Long Bien Bridge and through the verdant Banana Island.

Glide on a traditional sampan boat through Tam Coc's dramatic limestone karsts.

Spend a night aboard a luxury cruise ship amidst the stunning Halong Bay seascape.

Explore the lantern-lit streets of Hoi An Ancient Town and participate in a local cooking class.

Cycle through Hoi An's peaceful countryside, visiting artisan workshops.

Discover the intricate underground network of the Cu Chi Tunnels near Ho Chi Minh City.

Experience the serene beauty of the Mekong Delta with a combination of cycling and river cruising.

Route Summary

Your adventure begins in the northern capital of Hanoi, where you'll explore its bustling streets and historical sites. From there, a day trip takes you to the picturesque Ninh Binh province, known for its natural beauty. The journey continues with an overnight cruise on the breathtaking Halong Bay. Following a domestic flight, you'll arrive in the charming central town of Hoi An for cultural experiences and countryside biking. The final leg of the tour involves another flight to the southern metropolis of Ho Chi Minh City, serving as a base for excursions to the Cu Chi Tunnels and the Mekong Delta.

Who This Tour Suits

This itinerary is ideal for travelers seeking an active yet relaxed exploration of Vietnam. It caters to those who appreciate outdoor activities like cycling and boating, alongside rich cultural experiences. The pace allows for both guided discovery and personal leisure, making it suitable for individuals or small groups looking to uncover Vietnam's diverse offerings without strenuous physical demands.

Practical Information

The tour includes comfortable hotel accommodations for eight nights and one night on a Halong Bay cruise. All specified meals, including eight breakfasts, six lunches, one brunch, and one dinner, are provided. Transportation throughout the tour is via air-conditioned vehicles, with two domestic flights included to facilitate travel between regions. English-speaking local guides are

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available for in-tour activities, and an English-speaking crew assists on the Halong Bay cruise.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

* Cycle across Hanoi's historic Long Bien Bridge and explore the lush greenery of Banana Island.
* Experience the serene beauty of Tam Coc in Ninh Binh while gliding along the Ngo Dong River.
* Enjoy an overnight stay on a luxurious cruise ship in the majestic Halong Bay.
* Uncover the vibrant culture of Hoi An, from its lantern-lit streets to engaging countryside workshops.
* Delve into history at the Cu Chi Tunnels, showcasing Vietnamese ingenuity.
* Discover the tranquil landscapes of the Mekong Delta through cycling and boat excursions.
* Participate in a hands-on Vietnamese cooking class in Hoi An.
* Visit traditional artisan workshops in Hoi An's rural areas.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 — Hanoi Arrival & Old Quarter Evening Exploration

Meals: NA | Stay: Hotel in Hanoi

Upon your arrival at Noi Bai International Airport, a dedicated driver will be ready to transfer you directly to your hotel, strategically situated in the heart of Hanoi. After checking in, take some time to settle into your comfortable surroundings and refresh from your journey.

As evening approaches, step out to experience the city's lively atmosphere. A recommended way to begin your Hanoi adventure is by visiting Ta Hien Street, renowned for its bustling nightlife. Here, you can enjoy a refreshing beverage or sample a variety of delicious local snacks from the numerous cafes and eateries lining the street. Allow yourself to be captivated by the evening breeze and the friendly interactions with locals as you soak in the dynamic charm of Hanoi's streets.

Activities: Transfer from airport; Unwind at hotel; Explore Ta Hien Street; Sample local snacks.

Day 2 — Hanoi Bicycle Exploration & Iconic Landmarks

Meals: Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Hanoi

Your morning begins with a taste of Hanoi's famous egg coffee at a local establishment, followed by an essential safety briefing from your guide. Once prepared, you'll mount your bicycle and commence an exciting ride across the Long Bien Bridge, a remarkable French colonial-era structure spanning the Red River. This bridge offers exceptional vantage points of the river and its surroundings, perfect for photography enthusiasts.

Next, the cycling journey leads to Banana Island, a serene green oasis situated along the river. Here, you'll gain insight into rural Hanoi and observe the daily lives of residents in this unique community. The exploration continues as you cycle past

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several of Hanoi's most celebrated landmarks, including the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, the Presidential Palace, and Ba Dinh Square, absorbing their profound historical significance. You'll also circumnavigate Hoan Kiem Lake, a tranquil spot framed by lush greenery, and venture into the French Quarter to admire the impressive St. Joseph Cathedral. Further along, you'll pass by West Lake, Tran Quoc Pagoda, and Truc Bach Lake, witnessing the harmonious blend of Hanoi's diverse landscapes. After a fulfilling morning of discovery, a traditional Vietnamese meal awaits before your driver returns you to the hotel. Please note that attractions are viewed from the exterior, and the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum is closed on Mondays, Fridays, and for renovations from June to August.

The afternoon is reserved for your leisure in Hanoi. Should you wish to enhance your experience, various optional tours are available, such as a Manh Farm & Cooking Class, a Bat Trang Pottery Adventure by Jeep, or a Hanoi Highlights & Hidden Gems tour by Scooter.

Activities: Taste egg coffee; Bicycle ride across Long Bien Bridge; Explore Banana Island; Cycle past historical landmarks; View Hoan Kiem Lake and French Quarter; Enjoy Vietnamese lunch.

Day 3 Ninh Binh's Ancient Capital & Tam Coc River Journey

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Hanoi

Start your day early with a scenic 120 km bus journey through Vietnam's breathtaking countryside, heading towards Ninh Binh. This region is renowned for its dramatic karst mountains, verdant valleys, and peaceful rivers. Upon arrival, your first stop will be the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital, an important historical site featuring the 17th-century King Dinh Temple. This visit offers a captivating glimpse into Vietnam's royal past and its early history.

Following a delightful lunch at a local restaurant, you'll proceed to Tam Coc. Here, you'll board a traditional sampan boat for a tranquil ride along the Ngo Dong River. The journey will take you through stunning limestone cliffs, expansive rice fields, and into ancient caves, including Hang Ca, Hang Hai, and Hang Ba. This boat trip provides a peaceful and picturesque experience, allowing you to fully appreciate the surrounding natural beauty.

If time permits, you can enjoy a leisurely bike ride through the charming villages of Tam Coc, further exploring the region's rural character. Later, embark on a picturesque trek up to Mua Cave, ascending stone steps to the summit of Ngoa Long Mountain. From this vantage point, you'll be rewarded with panoramic views of the entire stunning valley. In the late afternoon, you'll return to the bus for your journey back to Hanoi.

Activities: Bus transfer to Ninh Binh; Explore Hoa Lu Ancient Capital; Visit King Dinh Temple; Sampan boat ride on Ngo Dong River; Bike ride through Tam Coc villages (optional); Trek to Mua Cave; Climb Ngoa Long Mountain.

Day 4 Halong Bay Cruise & Sunset Activities

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Stay: Halong Bay Overnight Cruise

After a satisfying breakfast, your journey continues as your driver collects you for the transfer to the Halong Bay cruise port. Upon arrival, the friendly cruise staff will assist with a smooth check-in process. Around midday, you'll be greeted with a refreshing welcome drink, followed by an introduction to the cruise facilities and essential safety instructions.

As the vessel gracefully sails into the calm waters of Halong Bay, you'll enjoy a delectable lunch while admiring the spectacular

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scenery of emerald waters dotted with towering limestone formations. Your afternoon is filled with exciting opportunities to explore Halong Bay's natural splendor. You can plunge into the crystal-clear waters for a refreshing swim, or embark on an exhilarating kayaking adventure to discover hidden caves and secluded coves.

For those interested in Vietnamese culinary arts, a fun and informative cooking class awaits, where you'll learn to prepare traditional spring rolls. Alternatively, you might prefer to unwind on the sundeck with a cocktail during Happy Hour, enjoying a special Buy 1 Get 1 Free offer. As the day draws to a close, a sumptuous gourmet dinner will be served in the cruise's restaurant. Afterward, you can partake in various onboard entertainment options, such as squid fishing, board games, or watching a movie under the stars. For a more vibrant evening, the karaoke lounge or the bar offer opportunities for drinks and conversation. Please note that while a tour guide will not accompany you on the cruise, the English-speaking crew will be available to assist. The itinerary may vary based on the specific cruise chosen, and smaller tender boats may be used for accessing more remote locations.

Activities: Transfer to Halong Bay; Check-in to cruise; Enjoy welcome drink; Lunch onboard; Swim in Halong Bay; Kayak through caves; Participate in cooking class; Enjoy Happy Hour; Savor gourmet dinner; Engage in evening entertainment.

Day 5 Halong Bay Sunrise & Flight to Hoi An Ancient Town

Meals: Breakfast, Brunch | Stay: Hotel in Hoi An

Wake up to the serene beauty of Halong Bay. You can begin your day with a peaceful Tai Chi session on the sundeck, embracing the calm surroundings with mindful movements. If you prefer a more relaxed start, enjoy a leisurely breakfast and take in the captivating views at your own pace.

Following breakfast, the cruise will take you on a scenic tour to explore more of Halong Bay's hidden gems, including tranquil lagoons and captivating caves. Afterward, you'll return to the ship to pack your belongings and prepare for checkout. As the cruise makes its way back to the harbor, you'll indulge in a delightful farewell brunch onboard, savoring fresh flavors while enjoying the last glimpses of the stunning bay.

After disembarking, your driver will transport you to the airport. You'll then board your flight, and upon arrival at Da Nang Airport, a friendly driver will greet you and transfer you to the enchanting town of Hoi An. Renowned for its well-preserved ancient architecture, vibrant lantern-lit streets, and charming riverside views, Hoi An offers a peaceful escape. Spend your evening exploring the picturesque Ancient Town, where narrow streets are lined with beautiful old houses, quaint cafes, and traditional shops. You might also enjoy a serene riverside dinner, soaking in the beauty of the town's illuminated lanterns floating on the water.

Activities: Participate in Tai Chi (optional); Explore Halong Bay lagoons and caves; Enjoy farewell brunch; Fly from Hanoi to Da Nang; Transfer to Hoi An; Explore Hoi An Ancient Town; Dine by the river.

Day 6 Hoi An Market, Cooking Class & Rural Cycling

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Hoi An

Your day begins with a visit to Hoi An Market, where you'll have the opportunity to explore the diverse array of local ingredients that form the foundation of Vietnamese cuisine. Discover the unique flavors and therapeutic properties of these fresh

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components, which will be central to your upcoming cooking experience. From the bustling market, you'll enjoy a picturesque 40-minute boat ride along the Thu Bon River to a charming village.

Here, under the shade of swaying coconut trees, you'll embark on an outdoor cooking class. You'll learn traditional techniques to prepare iconic Vietnamese dishes such as marinated pork skewers, xeo banh (savory pancakes), papaya salad, and Vietnamese-style fish. A vegetarian menu is available upon request, and the menu may vary with seasonal ingredients.

After savoring the delicious meal you've prepared, take a leisurely bike ride through the peaceful countryside surrounding Hoi An. Pedal through tranquil islands and villages, immersing yourself in the local way of life. Along your route, you'll visit traditional workshops where rice alcohol is distilled and observe the meticulous process of crafting basket boats. The journey also includes stops at artisan workshops where intricate mats, often used for mattresses, are woven by hand. Throughout the day, enjoy the calm beauty of the countryside and the chance to engage with local communities, experiencing time-honored traditions that continue to thrive in this charming region.

Activities: Visit Hoi An Market; Boat ride on Thu Bon River; Participate in outdoor cooking class; Bicycle ride through Hoi An countryside; Visit traditional workshops (rice alcohol, basket boats, mats).

Day 7 Hoi An Leisure & Ho Chi Minh City Arrival

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City

Begin your day with a delicious breakfast at your hotel, then enjoy a leisurely morning to relax before bidding farewell to the charming town of Hoi An. This free time allows you to revisit a favorite spot, do some last-minute souvenir shopping, or simply unwind at your accommodation.

In the afternoon, you'll be transferred to Da Nang airport to catch your flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Upon arrival in Vietnam's bustling southern metropolis, a warm welcome awaits as our representative arranges a seamless transfer to your hotel, located in the heart of the city. Once checked in, you'll have the remainder of the day to relax and recharge. Alternatively, you can step out and begin exploring the vibrant streets of Ho Chi Minh City at your own pace. Optional evening tours, such as a Saigon Night Life & Food Tour by Motorbike or a Saigon by Night: Jeep Adventure & Street Food Delights, are also available to enhance your experience.

Activities: Enjoy free morning in Hoi An; Fly from Da Nang to Ho Chi Minh City; Transfer to Ho Chi Minh City hotel; Relax or explore independently.

Day 8 Cu Chi Tunnels History & Countryside Cycling

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City

Your day begins with a 07:30 pick-up from your hotel, followed by a scenic 90-minute drive heading north from Ho Chi Minh City. As you journey through the tranquil, forested landscapes of Cu Chi, you'll be immersed in the beauty of the countryside, passing rows of towering rubber trees and expansive farmlands. The serene atmosphere and picturesque vistas along the way offer plenty of opportunities for breathtaking photos during your 40 km cycling ride.

Along the route, you'll stop at a traditional rice paper-making workshop, where you'll witness the time-honored techniques used to create this staple of Vietnamese cuisine. You'll also observe local farmers tending to their fields and livestock, offering a

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genuine glimpse into the daily life of the region.
Upon arrival at the renowned Cu Chi Tunnels, a complex network of underground passageways famously used during the Vietnam War, a knowledgeable guide will lead you through the tunnels. You'll learn about their historical significance and the incredible ingenuity behind their construction. After this fascinating tour, enjoy a delicious lunch before beginning your return journey to Ho Chi Minh City, arriving back in the city around 17:00.

Activities: Drive to Cu Chi; Cycle through countryside (40 km); Visit rice paper-making workshop; Observe local farming; Explore Cu Chi Tunnels with a guide; Enjoy lunch.

Day 9 Mekong Delta Cycling & Riverside Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City

Start your day with a 07:30 pick-up from your hotel, followed by a comfortable 1-hour van transfer to a cozy café situated south of Ho Chi Minh City. Once there, you'll spend the next two hours cycling along peaceful dirt paths that meander through expansive rice paddies. As you ride across the flat terrain, you'll become fully immersed in the picturesque countryside, passing local farmers diligently tending to their crops, vibrant Mekong-style homes, and towering rows of coconut trees.
After a relaxing stop for a snack and a refreshing drink, you'll continue cycling through serene country roads shaded by tall indigenous trees. At a local dock, you will board a private boat for a leisurely 30-minute cruise along the river to a charming riverside restaurant. Here, you'll enjoy a delicious, authentic Mekong-style lunch, savoring the flavors of the region while surrounded by its natural beauty. Afterward, you'll have the opportunity to refresh with a cool shower before beginning your return journey to Ho Chi Minh City, arriving back in the bustling metropolis by 18:00 to conclude your peaceful Mekong Delta day trip.

Activities: Transfer to Mekong Delta; Cycle through rice paddies; Enjoy snacks and drinks; Boat cruise on the river; Savor Mekong-style lunch; Return to Ho Chi Minh City.

Day 10 Ho Chi Minh City Leisure & Departure

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: NA

On your final day in Vietnam, enjoy a leisurely morning to soak up the last moments of this vibrant city. You can take a relaxing stroll through Ho Chi Minh's bustling streets, perhaps revisiting a favorite spot or discovering a new corner. Alternatively, if you prefer, unwind at your hotel and savor the comfort of your surroundings.
For those looking to add a little more adventure before departing, our travel consultant can arrange an exciting half-day tour for you to explore some of the city's hidden gems. By 12:00, please ensure you are back at your hotel to complete the check-out process. Our driver will then ensure a smooth and timely transfer to the airport, where you'll catch your flight home, bringing this memorable journey to a close.

Activities: Enjoy free morning in Ho Chi Minh City; Check out from hotel; Transfer to airport.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

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INCLUDED

- 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 Meals as indicated in the program (8 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 1 Brunch, 1 Dinner).
- v Entrance fees as per itinerary.
- v 2 domestic flights: Hanoi – Da Nang and Da Nang – Ho Chi Minh City.

NOT INCLUDED

- x International airfare.
- x Early check-in and late check-out.
- x Peak season surcharges and compulsory gala dinners (if applicable).
- x Visa (passport valid for at least 6 months with a minimum of 3 blank visa pages).
- x Personal expenses (tips, laundry, gratuities, etc.).
- x Meals and drinks not mentioned in the itinerary.

PRICE INCLUDES

- 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 Meals as indicated in the program (8 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches, 1 Brunch, 1 Dinner).
- v Entrance fees as per itinerary.
- v 2 domestic flights: Hanoi – Da Nang and Da Nang – Ho Chi Minh City.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-CDC279850A26