Vietnam & Laos Grand Cultural Expedition: Ho Chi Minh to Luang Prabang – 14 Days

14D / 13N	Easy	Group	USD 2,129 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Explore the vibrant cultures and historical landscapes of Vietnam and Laos on a 14-day journey. From the bustling streets of Ho Chi Minh City and the serene Mekong Delta, through imperial Hue and charming Hoi An, to the natural wonder of Halong Bay and the spiritual tranquility of Luang Prabang, this tour offers a deep dive into Southeast Asia's rich heritage.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Ho Chi Minh City → Hue → Hoi An → Hanoi → Ha Long → Luang Prabang

TOUR OVERVIEW

Tour Overview

Embark on an immersive 14-day adventure spanning the cultural heartlands of Vietnam and Laos. This thoughtfully designed itinerary guides you from the dynamic energy of Ho Chi Minh City, through the lush waterways of the Mekong Delta, and into the historical grandeur of Hue and the picturesque charm of Hoi An. Experience the iconic limestone karsts of Halong Bay before concluding your journey amidst the serene temples and natural beauty of Luang Prabang, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

This expedition combines historical exploration with authentic cultural encounters, offering unique insights into local life, traditions, and stunning landscapes. From ancient tunnels and imperial citadels to tranquil river cruises and sacred alms-giving ceremonies, prepare for a diverse and enriching travel experience.

Journey Highlights

Navigate the intricate Cu Chi Tunnels, a testament to Vietnamese resilience.

Explore the vibrant waterways and local industries of the Mekong Delta by boat.

Wander through the Imperial City of Hue and the ancient trading port of Hoi An.

Cruise the emerald waters of Halong Bay, admiring its dramatic limestone formations and participating in onboard activities.

Witness the sacred morning alms-giving ceremony in Luang Prabang.

Discover the mystical Pak Ou Caves, filled with thousands of Buddha images.

Relax by the stunning turquoise cascades of Kuang Si Waterfall.

Route at a Glance

Your journey begins in the southern Vietnamese metropolis of Ho Chi Minh City, venturing into the Mekong Delta. You'll then fly north to the imperial city of Hue, followed by the enchanting ancient town of Hoi An. A flight to Hanoi precedes an unforgettable overnight cruise in Halong Bay. The final leg of your adventure takes you by flight to Luang Prabang in Laos, where you'll spend several days exploring its spiritual and natural wonders.

Who Will Love This Trip

This tour is ideal for seniors, couples, and honeymooners seeking a blend of cultural immersion, historical discovery, and scenic beauty. Travelers interested in interacting with local communities, exploring UNESCO World Heritage sites, and experiencing both the lively urban centers and tranquil natural landscapes of Southeast Asia will find this itinerary particularly appealing. It offers a flexible group tour format, allowing for a balanced pace of exploration and relaxation.

Essential Information

Accommodation includes a mix of 3-star and 4-star hotels for 12 nights, plus one memorable night aboard a Halong Bay cruise.

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All internal flights (Ho Chi Minh – Hue, Da Nang – Hanoi, Hanoi – Luang Prabang) are included, ensuring seamless transitions between destinations. A local English-speaking guide accompanies you throughout the tour, providing valuable insights and assistance. Meals are provided as indicated in the daily itinerary, including 13 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 1 brunch, and 3 dinners.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

* Explore the historic Cu Chi Tunnels, learning about their strategic importance and the ingenuity of their builders.
* Glide through the Mekong Delta on a private boat, observing coconut production and local village life.
* Discover the UNESCO-listed Imperial Citadel in Hue and the ancient town of Hoi An with its unique architecture.
* Experience an overnight cruise on Halong Bay, marveling at its dramatic karst landscapes and engaging in onboard activities.
* Participate in the traditional morning alms-giving ceremony with Buddhist monks in Luang Prabang.
* Journey by boat along the Mekong River to the sacred Pak Ou Caves, housing countless Buddha statues.
* Visit the beautiful Kuang Si Waterfall, enjoying its multi-tiered cascades and turquoise pools.
* Wander through Luang Prabang's vibrant night market, showcasing local artisan crafts.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 — Ho Chi Minh City Arrival & Rooftop Dinner

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

Upon your arrival at Ho Chi Minh City airport, a member of our team will extend a warm welcome and facilitate your transfer to the hotel for check-in. Please note that standard check-in time is 2:00 PM; an early check-in can be arranged with an additional charge if desired. Your travel consultant can assist with this booking.
As evening descends, gather with your fellow travelers for a delightful dinner experience. Enjoy a meal at a rooftop restaurant, offering panoramic views of Ho Chi Minh City's illuminated skyline and vibrant urban energy.

Activities: Airport welcome and transfer
Hotel check-in
Rooftop dinner with city views

Day 2 — Cu Chi Tunnels Exploration & Saigon Landmarks

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

Begin your day with an exhilarating speedboat journey along the Saigon River. This unique perspective allows you to witness the transition from the city's modern architecture to the tranquil, verdant paddy fields lining the riverbanks, capturing the true essence of Saigon's diverse landscape.

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Upon reaching the Cu Chi Tunnels, step into a significant historical site that showcases the extraordinary ingenuity and perseverance of the Vietnamese people during the Vietnam War. These meticulously constructed tunnels, initially dug in 1948, served as vital hidden networks for Viet Cong guerrillas, providing refuge and protection from military forces. You will have the unique opportunity to meet a former Viet Cong soldier, gaining firsthand insights into the challenging living conditions faced by the guerrilla fighters during that tumultuous period. Following this insightful visit, enjoy a light lunch before returning to Ho Chi Minh City.

In the afternoon, your guide will lead you to some of the city's most iconic colonial landmarks. Admire the grandeur of Notre Dame Cathedral and the architectural elegance of Gustave Eiffel's Central Post Office, absorbing the city's atmosphere and appreciating their historical importance. The evening is then yours to enjoy at leisure, perhaps exploring the enchanting allure of Saigon after dark. Please be aware that Notre Dame Cathedral is currently undergoing restoration until approximately 2027, limiting direct panoramic views.

Activities: Speedboat trip along Saigon River
Explore Cu Chi Tunnels
Meet a former Viet Cong soldier
Visit Notre Dame Cathedral (exterior view)
Visit Central Post Office

Day 3 Mekong Delta River Life & Local Crafts

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

Embark on a private boat trip to the captivating Mekong Delta, an area renowned for its intricate network of rivers and canals. Your initial stop will introduce you to the fascinating process of coconut production and processing. As part of this engaging experience, you'll have the pleasure of savoring freshly extracted coconut juice.

Following this, enjoy a unique tricycle ride through the charming, narrow village roads. This journey provides an intimate glimpse into local life, allowing you to observe the traditional craft of making rice noodles, a staple breakfast item in the region. Continue your river cruise to Mango Home, where a delicious lunch awaits, promising to tantalize your taste buds with local flavors. Afterward, take a leisurely stroll along the peaceful, shaded village paths, leading you to the home of Mr. Sau Tuong, a courageous former soldier who bravely fought against the Khmer Rouge.

Activities: Private boat trip to Mekong Delta
Observe coconut production and processing
Enjoy fresh coconut juice
Tricycle ride through village roads
Witness rice noodle crafting
Lunch at Mango Home
Walk to Mr. Sau Tuong’s house

Day 4 Flight to Hue & Imperial City Leisure

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Hotel in Hue | Transport: Flight

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Your morning begins with a smooth transfer to Ho Chi Minh City airport, where you'll board a flight to Hue, Vietnam's former imperial capital. As your plane ascends, take in the breathtaking aerial vistas of Vietnam's lush green landscapes and meandering rivers below.

Upon arrival in Hue, you'll immediately notice the city's more relaxed pace and tranquil charm, a stark contrast to the southern metropolis. Hue is steeped in rich history and profound culture, evident in its ancient pagodas and serene riverside scenery.

The remainder of your day is free for you to unwind, or to begin your exploration of the peaceful streets and historical sites at your own leisure.

Activities: Transfer to Ho Chi Minh City airport
Flight to Hue
Transfer to hotel in Hue
Free time to relax or explore

Day 5 Perfume River Cruise & Royal Tombs of Hue

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch | Stay: Hotel in Hue | Transport: Boat, private vehicle

At 8:00 AM, your guide and driver will meet you at your hotel, escorting you to the boat landing for a relaxing journey along the Perfume River. This scenic cruise leads you to the majestic Thien Mu Pagoda, a renowned Vietnamese landmark with a storied past, having witnessed centuries of dynastic changes and conflicts.

Following your pagoda visit, a short drive will take you to the elaborate Tu Duc Tomb and Khai Dinh Tomb. These sites offer profound insights into the lives of Vietnam's former emperors and showcase remarkable royal architecture. For lunch, you'll enjoy a delightful meal outside the city, savoring classic Hue cuisine in a picturesque garden setting.

In the afternoon, return to the city center to explore the Imperial Citadel, a magnificent UNESCO World Heritage Site that once housed the Forbidden Purple City. If conditions are favorable, you might witness a glorious and mesmerizing sunset over the Perfume River. Your driver will then take you back to your hotel, concluding the guided portion of your day. The evening is free for you to explore Hue at your own pace.

Activities: Boat trip along Perfume River
Visit Thien Mu Pagoda
Explore Tu Duc Tomb
Explore Khai Dinh Tomb
Lunch at a garden restaurant
Visit Imperial Citadel and Forbidden Purple City
Optional sunset viewing on Perfume River

Day 6 Scenic Transfer to Hoi An & Ancient Town Arrival

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Hotel in Hoi An | Transport: Private vehicle

Begin your morning with an early departure from Hue, commencing a scenic drive towards Hoi An. The journey will take you through Da Nang, allowing you to appreciate the diverse and changing landscapes of central Vietnam as you travel south.

Upon your arrival in Hoi An, you will check into your hotel. After settling in, the rest of the day is dedicated to your leisure. You

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are free to begin exploring the captivating Hoi An Ancient Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site celebrated for its rich history and beautifully preserved architectural treasures. Allow yourself to be enchanted by its unique atmosphere.

Activities: Scenic drive from Hue to Hoi An
Pass through Da Nang
Hotel check-in in Hoi An
Free time to explore Hoi An Ancient Town

Day 7 Cam Thanh Coconut Village & Basket Boat Adventure

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Hotel in Hoi An | Transport: Local transfer, basket boat

Around 9:00 AM, your friendly local guide will meet you in Hoi An's Old Town to escort you to the serene Cam Thanh Coconut Village. Upon arrival, you'll be greeted by the warm and welcoming local community, offering an opportunity to learn about their daily routines and life in this charming riverside setting.

Next, board a traditional bamboo basket boat for a gentle ride through the lush green coconut palm forest. This tranquil escape allows you to immerse yourself in nature's calm. As you drift along the waterways, your guide will share fascinating insights into the history of Cam Thanh Village. You'll also get the chance to join locals in some hands-on activities, such as trying your skill at casting fishing nets, paddling a round basket boat, or even participating in a friendly basket boat race!

After an exciting and enjoyable journey filled with laughter and authentic experiences, you will return to your hotel, carrying unforgettable memories of genuine Hoi An village life.

Activities: Meet local guide in Hoi An Old Town
Travel to Cam Thanh Coconut Village
Meet local villagers
Traditional bamboo basket boat ride
Learn about Cam Thanh Village history
Try casting fishing nets
Paddle a round basket boat
Participate in a basket boat race

Day 8 Hoi An Leisure, Flight to Hanoi & City Tour

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner | Stay: Hotel in Hanoi | Transport: Flight, private vehicle

Enjoy a leisurely morning, allowing you to relax or revisit any favorite spots in the enchanting city of Hoi An. Later, you will bid farewell to Hoi An and transfer to Da Nang airport for your flight to Hanoi, Vietnam's bustling capital city. After checking into your Hanoi hotel, take some time to unwind before your afternoon city exploration.

In the afternoon, convene in the hotel lobby to meet your tour guide for an introductory briefing. Your insightful journey begins with a visit to the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, his house-on-stilts, and the Presidential Palace, providing a deeper understanding of Vietnam's revered leader. Continue to the unique One Pillar Pagoda, an architectural marvel built on a single wooden column, showcasing exquisite design and traditional craftsmanship.

Conclude your afternoon by exploring the Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first national university and a symbol of

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Confucianism. This historic site is a testament to Hanoi's rich intellectual heritage and has nurtured many prominent Vietnamese figures throughout generations. The evening is then free for you to enjoy at your leisure, perhaps exploring Hanoi's lively Old Quarter.

Activities: Free time in Hoi An
Transfer to Da Nang airport
Flight to Hanoi
Hotel check-in in Hanoi
Visit Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum
Explore Ho Chi Minh's house-on-stilts and Presidential Palace
Visit One Pillar Pagoda
Explore Temple of Literature

Day 9 Halong Bay Overnight Cruise & Limestone Karsts

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner | Stay: Halong Bay cruise | Transport: Private vehicle, cruise boat

After a delightful breakfast, embark on a scenic drive to Halong Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site celebrated for its magnificent natural beauty. Upon arrival, you will board a traditional junk boat. Savor a complimentary lunch on board, surrounded by the breathtaking backdrop of the bay's serene and stunning natural scenery.
The afternoon invites you to immerse yourself in the awe-inspiring scenery of hundreds of majestic limestone karsts rising dramatically from the emerald sea. Depending on your cruise's itinerary, you will visit enchanting limestone caves and captivating fishing villages nestled within Halong Bay. As the cruise through the bay draws towards evening, return to the ship where an array of exciting activities awaits. You can choose to join a delightful sunset party or participate in an engaging cooking demonstration led by the skilled chefs on board.
Spend a memorable night fully immersed in the exciting onboard activities, such as squid fishing, karaoke, movies, or poker, all while surrounded by the tranquil beauty of Halong Bay.

Activities: Scenic drive to Halong Bay
Board junk boat and enjoy lunch
Cruise through Halong Bay
Visit limestone caves
Visit fishing villages (itinerary dependent)
Attend sunset party or cooking demonstration
Enjoy evening activities like squid fishing, karaoke, movies

Day 10 Tai Chi on Deck & Return to Hanoi

Meals: Breakfast, Brunch | Stay: Hotel in Hanoi | Transport: Cruise boat, private vehicle

Start your day with a serene and invigorating Tai Chi lesson on the deck of your cruise ship. Embrace this ancient art, practiced in harmony with the gentle movements of the rising sun, fostering a sense of balance and well-being amidst the tranquil bay. Following your Tai Chi session, enjoy a delectable brunch served on board as your cruise gracefully navigates its way back to Halong City for disembarkation. From there, you will be transferred back to the captivating capital city of Hanoi.

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With the evening at your disposal, seize the opportunity to explore the vibrant nightlife of Hanoi. Discover its bustling streets, enjoy local cuisine, or simply relax and soak in the city's unique atmosphere.

Activities: Participate in a Tai Chi lesson on board
Enjoy brunch on the cruise
Disembark in Halong City
Transfer back to Hanoi
Free evening to explore Hanoi's nightlife

Day 11 Hanoi to Luang Prabang Flight & Leisure

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Hotel in Luang Prabang | Transport: Flight, private vehicle

After breakfast, bid farewell to the vibrant capital of Vietnam as you transfer to the airport for your flight to Luang Prabang. This charming former royal capital of Laos is renowned for its tranquil atmosphere and spiritual heritage.
Upon arrival, you'll be met by your local guide and transferred to your hotel for check-in. Take some time to relax and settle in, or begin exploring the peaceful streets lined with golden temples and distinctive French colonial architecture at your own pace. The remainder of the day is free for you to unwind and immerse yourself in the serene charm of this UNESCO World Heritage city.

Activities: Transfer to Hanoi airport
Flight to Luang Prabang
Transfer to hotel in Luang Prabang
Free time to relax or explore

Day 12 Luang Prabang Royal Heritage & Pak Ou Caves

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Hotel in Luang Prabang | Transport: Boat, private vehicle

Following breakfast, your day of exploration begins with a visit to the Royal Palace Museum. Constructed in 1904 during the French colonial era for King Sisavang Vong and his family, the palace offers fascinating insights into Laos's royal history and cultural heritage.
Next, embark on a leisurely upstream cruise along the Mekong River. Enjoy the serene countryside views and the calm rhythm of river life as you make your way to the mystical Pak Ou Caves. These two sacred caverns are filled with thousands of golden Buddha statues of varying sizes, left by devoted pilgrims over centuries. On your return journey, make a stop at Ban Xanghai Village, known for its traditional rice wine production.
Back in the city, visit Wat Sene and the magnificent Wat Xiengthong, considered one of Luang Prabang's most beautiful temples. Admire its graceful two-tiered roof and intricate mosaics, including the stunning "Tree of Life" glass mural. If time permits, drive to Ban Xangkhong, a Thai Lue village celebrated for its traditional weaving and handmade crafts, and visit nearby Ban Xienglek, where locals skillfully create traditional Saa paper. Conclude your day at Luang Prabang's Night Market, where vibrant stalls showcase handmade textiles and crafts from local artisans and hill tribe communities.

Activities: Visit Royal Palace Museum
Cruise upstream along the Mekong River

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Explore Pak Ou Caves
Stop at Ban Xanghai Village (rice wine production)
Visit Wat Sene
Visit Wat Xiengthong
Optional visit to Ban Xangkhong (weaving) and Ban Xienglek (Saa paper)
Explore Luang Prabang Night Market

Day 13 Morning Alms, Phousi Hill & Kuang Si Waterfall

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: Hotel in Luang Prabang | Transport: Private vehicle

Rise early this morning to partake in one of Laos' most sacred and ancient traditions: the daily morning alms giving. Dating back to the 14th century, this serene ritual involves over 200 Buddhist monks walking barefoot through the streets to collect offerings from the faithful. Witnessing this peaceful ceremony provides a truly authentic glimpse into the spiritual essence of Luang Prabang.

Afterward, visit the bustling morning market near the former Royal Palace, where locals gather to trade fresh produce, fish, and handmade goods. Return to your hotel for breakfast before continuing your city exploration. Next, climb the 329 steps to the summit of Phousi Hill, where you'll be rewarded with panoramic views of Luang Prabang's old quarter and the majestic Mekong River winding below.

Continue your journey to the spectacular Kuang Si Waterfall, the largest in the Luang Prabang region. Cascading through three tiers into crystal-clear turquoise pools, this natural wonder invites you to relax, swim, or simply soak in its serene beauty. For those seeking tranquility, a walk to Ban Thapene Village offers hidden, less-visited waterfalls. Nearby, you can visit the Bear Rescue Center, home to dozens of Asiatic black bears saved from poachers and wildlife traffickers. On your return to Luang Prabang, stop at Ock Pop Tok Living Craft Center, a beautiful riverside workshop where local artisans create exquisite fabrics using traditional techniques.

Activities:
Witness morning alms giving ceremony
Visit local morning market
Climb Phousi Hill for panoramic views
Visit Kuang Si Waterfall
Optional visit to Ban Thapene Village
Visit Bear Rescue Center
Stop at Ock Pop Tok Living Craft Center

Day 14 Luang Prabang Departure

Meals: Breakfast | Stay: NA

Enjoy your final morning in Luang Prabang at a leisurely pace. Depending on your flight schedule, you may have time for a last stroll through the charming streets, to pick up a few souvenirs, or simply relax at your hotel, soaking in the last moments of this tranquil city.

When it is time for your onward journey, our driver will provide a seamless transfer to Luang Prabang International Airport, ensuring you depart comfortably for your flight.

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Activities: Leisure time in Luang Prabang
Transfer to Luang Prabang International Airport

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- v 13 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 1 Brunch, 3 Dinner
- v Hotel accommodation for 12 nights
- v Halong Bay cruise for 1 night
- v Accommodation in TWN/DBL sharing at hotels
- v All transport within Vietnam as per itinerary
- v All in-tour stationed local English speaking guide
- v Entrance fees as per itinerary
- v 3 flights: Ho Chi Minh – Hue, Da Nang – Hanoi, Hanoi – Luang Prabang

NOT INCLUDED

PRICE INCLUDES

- v 13 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 1 Brunch, 3 Dinner
- v Hotel accommodation for 12 nights
- v Halong Bay cruise for 1 night
- v Accommodation in TWN/DBL sharing at hotels
- v All transport within Vietnam as per itinerary
- v All in-tour stationed local English speaking guide
- v Entrance fees as per itinerary
- v 3 flights: Ho Chi Minh – Hue, Da Nang – Hanoi, Hanoi – Luang Prabang

AVAILABLE DEPARTURES

Departure Date	Return Date	Price / Person	Availability	Languages
01 May 2025	20 Dec 2026	**USD 2,149**	Available	–
01 May 2025	20 Dec 2026	**USD 2,429**	Available	–
21 Dec 2026	20 Dec 2027	**USD 2,214**	Available	–

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Departure Date	Return Date	Price / Person	Availability	Languages
21 Dec 2026	20 Dec 2027	**USD 2,502**	Available	–

CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-5CFDB114552C