Vietnam's Cultural Highlights & Mekong Delta – 10 Days

10D / 9N	Easy	Private	USD 718 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Discover the diverse landscapes and rich history of Vietnam on a 10-day journey. Begin in Hanoi, exploring its ancient quarter and colonial architecture, then cruise the stunning limestone karsts of Ha Long Bay. Travel to the imperial city of Hue, wander the charming streets of Hoi An, and delve into the wartime history of the Cu Chi Tunnels. Conclude your adventure amidst the vibrant waterways of the Mekong Delta, experiencing local life and traditions.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

Hanoi → Ha Long → Hue → Hoi An → My Son → Ho Chi Minh City → Da Nang → My Tho

TOUR OVERVIEW

Overview of Your Vietnam Adventure

This comprehensive 10-day tour provides an in-depth exploration of Vietnam's most iconic destinations, stretching from the northern capital of Hanoi to the southern delta. Designed for travelers seeking a blend of cultural immersion, historical insight, and natural beauty, this itinerary covers significant UNESCO World Heritage sites and offers authentic local experiences. You'll witness the bustling energy of major cities, the serene tranquility of ancient landscapes, and the unique charm of rural life.

Journey Highlights

Experience the captivating contrasts of Vietnam, from the ancient traditions preserved in Hanoi's Old Quarter to the modern pulse of Ho Chi Minh City. Glide through the emerald waters of Ha Long Bay, a natural wonder, and step back in time in the imperial city of Hue. Wander through Hoi An's lantern-lit streets, a UNESCO-listed town renowned for its unique architecture and vibrant atmosphere. This tour also offers a poignant look into Vietnam's past with visits to the Cu Chi Tunnels and the Cham ruins of My Son, before culminating in the lush, riverine landscapes of the Mekong Delta.

The Route Through Vietnam

Your journey commences in Hanoi, where you'll spend several days discovering its historical and cultural treasures before venturing to the breathtaking Ha Long Bay for an overnight cruise. Returning to Hanoi, you'll then fly south to Hue, the former imperial capital. From Hue, a scenic drive along the Hai Van Pass leads to the enchanting town of Hoi An, with an excursion to My Son. The final leg involves a flight to Ho Chi Minh City, serving as a base for exploring the Cu Chi Tunnels and the verdant Mekong Delta, before your departure.

Who Will Love This Tour

This tour is ideal for all travelers interested in a well-rounded Vietnamese experience. History enthusiasts will appreciate the deep dives into imperial pasts and wartime narratives. Culture seekers will enjoy the local interactions, traditional performances, and vibrant markets. Nature lovers will be captivated by Ha Long Bay's seascape and the Mekong Delta's lush waterways. With a mix of guided tours and some free time, it balances structured exploration with personal discovery.

Practical Information

Accommodation throughout the tour is provided in double rooms with daily breakfast, with options for 3-star, 4-star, or 5-star hotels based on your preference. All private transportation, including airport transfers and inter-city travel, is included. Domestic flights are quoted separately. An experienced English-speaking local tour guide will accompany you, and all sightseeing tickets are covered. Meals are specified in the itinerary (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner). Please note that international flights,

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personal expenses, tips, travel insurance, and visa stamp fees are not included.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

* Explore Hanoi's historic Old Quarter, Hoan Kiem Lake, and the Ho Chi Minh Complex.
* Enjoy an overnight cruise on Ha Long Bay, navigating through its iconic limestone karsts and secluded coves.
* Discover the imperial grandeur of Hue with a Perfume River boat trip and visits to ancient tombs and the Citadel.
* Wander through the charming, lantern-lit streets of Hoi An Ancient Town and visit the Japanese Covered Bridge.
* Journey to My Son Sanctuary, a UNESCO World Heritage site showcasing ancient Cham architecture.
* Delve into Vietnam's wartime history with an exploration of the intricate Cu Chi Tunnels.
* Experience local life in the Mekong Delta with a private boat cruise through lush canals and a visit to an orchard.
* Witness a traditional Water Puppet show in Hanoi, a unique Vietnamese art form.
* Drive along the scenic Hai Van Pass, offering panoramic coastal views between Hue and Hoi An.
* Savor authentic Vietnamese cuisine with included breakfasts and lunches throughout the journey.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 — Hanoi Arrival & Leisure Time

Stay: Overnight in Hanoi | Transport: Transfer from Noi Bai airport to hotel

Upon your arrival at Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi, a dedicated transfer service will greet you and transport you directly to your hotel. After completing the check-in process, the remainder of the day is yours to enjoy at your own pace. You might choose to relax and recover from your journey, or perhaps begin a gentle exploration of the vibrant surroundings near your accommodation. This initial free time allows for a smooth transition into the local rhythm before the main touring activities commence.

Hanoi, Vietnam's historic capital, offers a captivating introduction to the country. Its streets are a blend of ancient traditions and colonial influences, with serene lakes and bustling markets. Take this opportunity to simply soak in the atmosphere, perhaps enjoy a local coffee, or plan for the adventures ahead. Your overnight stay will be in Hanoi, preparing you for a full day of sightseeing tomorrow.

Activities: Airport transfer to hotel
Hotel check-in
Free time for leisure

Day 2 — Hanoi City Exploration & Cultural Show

Meals: B,L | Stay: Overnight in Hanoi | Transport: Private car for city tour, cyclo tour

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Today, delve into the heart of Hanoi with a comprehensive full-day tour of its most significant landmarks. The city, known for its tree-lined boulevards and French colonial architecture, also boasts a rich tapestry of Vietnamese culture and history. Your exploration begins with the Ho Chi Minh Complex, a revered site dedicated to the nation's founding father. Here, you'll visit Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, his humble Stilts House, the grand Presidential Palace, and the unique One Pillar Pagoda nearby, all offering insights into his life and legacy.

The journey continues to the tranquil Lake of the Restored Sword (Hoan Kiem Lake) and its iconic Ngoc Son Temple, a spiritual oasis in the city center. You'll then proceed to the Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first national university, a beautiful example of traditional Vietnamese architecture and a testament to the country's scholarly past. A visit to the peaceful West Lake, with its picturesque Thanh Nien Street, and the serene Tran Quoc Pagoda, one of Hanoi's oldest Buddhist temples, provides further cultural context.

In the afternoon, experience the charm of Hanoi's Old Quarter with a one-hour cyclo tour. This traditional mode of transport offers a unique perspective on the bustling streets, allowing you to absorb the sights, sounds, and daily life of this historic district. The day concludes with a captivating Water Puppet show, a traditional Vietnamese art form that brings ancient folklore to life on a water stage, providing a delightful cultural experience before returning to your hotel for the night.

Activities: Visit Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, Stilts House, Presidential Palace, and One Pillar Pagoda
Explore Hoan Kiem Lake and Ngoc Son Temple
Tour the Temple of Literature
Visit West Lake and Tran Quoc Pagoda
Enjoy a one-hour cyclo tour around the Old Quarter
Attend a Water Puppet show

Day 3 Journey to Ha Long Bay & Overnight Cruise

Meals: B,L,D | Stay: Overnight onboard Ha Long Bay | Transport: Car transfer to Halong Bay, cruise boat

Your day begins with a morning transfer from Hanoi, departing at approximately 9:00 AM, for the scenic drive to Ha Long Bay. This journey takes you through the verdant landscapes of the Red River Delta, offering glimpses of rural Vietnamese life. Upon arrival at the harbor around 11:30 AM, you will complete the necessary boarding procedures for your overnight cruise. The exact itinerary on the bay will vary depending on the specific cruise package selected, but all options promise an unforgettable experience amidst one of Vietnam's most iconic natural wonders.

Once aboard your traditional junk boat, you will be welcomed with a refreshing drink and a safety briefing. As the cruise sets sail, you'll begin to navigate through the emerald waters, surrounded by thousands of towering limestone karsts and islets. A delicious lunch will be served on board, featuring fresh seafood and local delicacies, as you take in the breathtaking scenery. The afternoon typically includes a range of activities such as kayaking through hidden lagoons, exploring magnificent caves, or simply relaxing on the sundeck, marveling at the panoramic views.

As evening approaches, the boat will anchor in a secluded area of the bay. You'll have the opportunity to participate in onboard activities, which may include a cooking demonstration, squid fishing, or simply enjoying the peaceful ambiance under the stars. A sumptuous dinner will be served, offering another chance to savor Vietnamese cuisine. Spending the night on the bay provides a unique and serene experience, allowing you to wake up to the stunning dawn over the karsts.

Activities: Transfer from Hanoi to Ha Long Bay

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Boarding the cruise ship
Cruise through Ha Long Bay
Lunch and dinner onboard
Kayaking and cave exploration (package dependent)
Relaxing on the boat

Day 4 Ha Long Bay Morning & Return to Hanoi

Meals: B,L | Stay: Overnight in Hanoi | Transport: Cruise boat, car transfer to Hanoi

Wake up to the tranquil beauty of Ha Long Bay as the sun rises over the limestone formations. A light breakfast will be served on board, allowing you to enjoy the serene morning atmosphere. Depending on your cruise itinerary, you may have the chance to participate in a tai chi session on the sundeck, offering a peaceful start to your day amidst the stunning natural backdrop. The boat will continue its gentle navigation through the bay, revealing more hidden corners and picturesque landscapes. Throughout the morning, the cruise will seek out more secluded areas, providing opportunities for further exploration. You might engage in additional swimming in the calm waters or kayaking to discover hidden grottoes and pristine beaches. These activities allow for a closer interaction with the bay's natural environment, away from the more crowded tourist spots. Enjoy the fresh air and the breathtaking views as you make the most of your final hours on the water.
Around midday, the boat will begin its journey back towards the main harbor. A final brunch or early lunch will be served on board as you cruise past familiar sights. Upon disembarking, a waiting vehicle will transfer you directly back to Hanoi. The drive offers another chance to observe the changing landscapes from coastal areas to the bustling city. You will check back into your Hanoi hotel for an overnight stay, with the evening free to reflect on your Ha Long Bay experience or explore local dining options.

Activities: Morning activities on Ha Long Bay (swimming, kayaking)
Breakfast and lunch onboard
Return cruise to main harbor
Transfer back to Hanoi
Check-in to Hanoi hotel

Day 5 Hanoi to Hue Flight & Imperial City Tour

Meals: B,L | Stay: Overnight in Hue | Transport: Flight from Hanoi to Hue, private boat, private car

This morning, you will transfer to Hanoi airport for a domestic flight to Hue, the former imperial capital of Vietnam. The flight duration is approximately one hour, providing a quick and efficient way to travel south. Upon your arrival in Hue, you will be met and immediately begin your exploration of this historically rich city. The first activity involves boarding a private boat for a leisurely cruise along the romantic Perfume River, a central feature of Hue's landscape and cultural heritage.
As you cruise along the river, you'll head towards the tranquil countryside, where ancient tombs of past emperors are nestled amidst lush greenery. A visit to some of these magnificent royal mausoleums, which showcase intricate architecture and serene garden settings, will be part of today's itinerary. Your first significant stop will be the charming Thien Mu Pagoda (Lady Pagoda), an iconic seven-story pagoda situated on a hill overlooking the Perfume River. This site offers not only spiritual significance but

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also provides splendid views of the river and its surrounding areas.
In the afternoon, the tour shifts to a comprehensive exploration of Hue City itself. You will visit the majestic Citadel, a vast complex that once housed the Imperial City and the Forbidden Purple City, the private residence of the emperor. These sites offer a deep dive into Vietnam's royal history and architectural grandeur. The tour also includes a visit to the Imperial Museum, showcasing artifacts from the Nguyen Dynasty, and a bustling local market, Dong Ba market, where you can experience the daily life and commerce of Hue. Your day concludes with an overnight stay in Hue.

Activities: Fly from Hanoi to Hue
Cruise on the Perfume River
Visit ancient imperial tombs
Explore Thien Mu Pagoda
Tour the Hue Citadel and Forbidden Purple City
Visit the Imperial Museum
Discover Dong Ba market

Day 6 Hue Leisure & Scenic Drive to Hoi An

Meals: B | Stay: Overnight in Hoi An | Transport: Private car from Hue to Hoi An via Da Nang

The morning in Hue is reserved for your personal leisure. This free time allows you the flexibility to revisit a favorite spot, explore more of the city at your own pace, or simply relax at your hotel. You might choose to wander through local markets, enjoy a traditional Hue breakfast, or perhaps discover a hidden cafe. This unguided period offers a chance for independent discovery and a deeper appreciation of Hue's serene atmosphere.
In the afternoon, your journey continues with a picturesque drive from Hue to Hoi An, passing through Da Nang. This scenic route is renowned for its breathtaking coastal views and mountainous landscapes. A significant stop along the way will be the wonderfully photogenic fishing village of Lang Co, known for its pristine beach and tranquil lagoon. This provides an excellent opportunity for capturing stunning photographs and enjoying the serene coastal environment.
The drive then ascends over the spectacular Pass of Ocean Clouds, famously known as Hai Van Pass. This winding mountain road offers panoramic vistas of the coastline, the East Sea, and the surrounding verdant hills, making it a highlight of the journey. As you descend from the pass, you'll eventually reach Hoi An in the late afternoon. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to your hotel for check-in, ready to explore the charming ancient town tomorrow.

Activities: Free time in Hue during the morning
Drive from Hue to Hoi An
Stop at Lang Co fishing village
Travel over the Hai Van Pass
Hotel check-in in Hoi An

Day 7 My Son Sanctuary & Hoi An Ancient Town

Meals: B,L | Stay: Overnight in Hoi An | Transport: Private car to My Son and around Hoi An

Today's itinerary begins with an excursion to My Son Sanctuary, a UNESCO World Heritage site located approximately 40

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kilometers southwest of Hoi An. This historically significant site was once the capital and religious center of the Cham people, who flourished in the region from the 4th to the 13th centuries. You will explore the impressive remnants of red brick towers and sanctuaries, which stand as a testament to the sophisticated Cham civilization. My Son is often compared to other great archaeological sites in Southeast Asia, such as Angkor Wat in Cambodia and Bagan in Myanmar, for its architectural and historical importance.

These ancient towers and sanctuaries, constructed between the 7th and 13th centuries, offer a fascinating glimpse into the spiritual and artistic achievements of the Cham kingdom. A guided tour of the site will provide context on the religious practices and architectural styles prevalent during that era. After immersing yourself in the historical grandeur of My Son, you will return to Hoi An for lunch at a local restaurant, savoring regional flavors.

In the afternoon, the focus shifts to the tranquility and charm of Hoi An Ancient Town. This beautifully preserved trading port, also a UNESCO World Heritage site, captivates visitors with its low-tiled houses, distinct Chinese architectural influences, and brightly painted temples and pagodas. You will take a leisurely stroll through its pedestrian-friendly streets, admiring the iconic Japanese Covered Bridge, a symbol of Hoi An. The town's vibrant atmosphere, enhanced by numerous tailor shops and artisan workshops, makes it one of Vietnam's most delightful destinations. Your day concludes with an overnight stay in Hoi An.

Activities: Drive to My Son Sanctuary
Explore the Cham towers and sanctuaries
Lunch at a local restaurant in Hoi An
Visit Hoi An Ancient Town
Walk across the Japanese Covered Bridge
Discover temples and pagodas in Hoi An

Day 8 Hoi An to Saigon Flight & Cu Chi Tunnels Exploration

Meals: B,L | Stay: Overnight in Ho Chi Minh | Transport: Transfer to Da Nang airport, flight to Ho Chi Minh, private car

This morning, you will transfer from your hotel in Hoi An to Da Nang airport for a short domestic flight to Ho Chi Minh City, often referred to as Saigon. Upon arrival at Ho Chi Minh City, a vehicle will be waiting to take you directly to the Cu Chi Tunnels. This historical site offers a profound insight into Vietnam's wartime past and the ingenuity of the Viet Cong soldiers.

The Cu Chi Tunnels were an integral part of an extensive underground network, meticulously constructed by the Viet Cong during the American War. This complex system stretched from the southern tip of the Ho Chi Minh trail near the Cambodian border all the way to the Saigon River. During your visit, you will have the unique opportunity to creep into a section of the tunnels, experiencing firsthand the incredibly cramped and challenging conditions in which the Viet Cong lived, worked, and fought.

After exploring the tunnels and learning about their historical significance, you will return to the city center of Ho Chi Minh. The afternoon continues with a tour of the city's prominent landmarks. You will visit the Reunification Palace, the former presidential palace of South Vietnam, which stands as a symbol of the end of the war. Nearby, you'll see the impressive Central Post Office, a colonial-era architectural masterpiece, and the Notre Dame Cathedral, a striking red-brick basilica. Your day concludes with an overnight stay in Ho Chi Minh City.

Activities: Transfer to Da Nang airport
Flight to Ho Chi Minh City

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Drive to Cu Chi Tunnels
Explore the Cu Chi Tunnels
Visit the Reunification Palace
See the Central Post Office and Notre Dame Cathedral

Day 9 Mekong Delta River Life Excursion

Meals: B,L | Stay: Overnight in Ho Chi Minh | Transport: Private car to My Tho, private boat cruise

Today, embark on a full-day excursion from Ho Chi Minh City to the lush landscapes of the Mekong Delta. Your journey takes you to My Tho, a vibrant town situated on the Mekong River. Here, you will board a private boat, beginning a tranquil cruise through the verdant vegetation of the Delta's intricate canal system. This boat trip offers a close-up view of the daily life along the riverbanks, with stilt houses, fishing boats, and local markets.

The cruise will lead you to a charming orchard, where you'll have the opportunity to sample fresh tropical fruits, a true delight of the region. Following this, a delicious lunch awaits at a local restaurant, nestled in the heart of the Mekong Delta, providing an authentic culinary experience amidst the serene surroundings. This meal is a chance to savor traditional dishes prepared with fresh, local ingredients.

In the afternoon, the excursion includes a visit to the Dong Tam snake farm. This unique facility breeds various types of snakes, not only for conservation but also for products like snake wine, which is a local specialty. This stop offers an interesting, albeit perhaps unusual, insight into some of the regional practices. After a day filled with river adventures, cultural insights, and local flavors, you will begin your return journey to Ho Chi Minh City for your final overnight stay.

Activities: Travel from Ho Chi Minh City to My Tho
Cruise through the Mekong Delta canals on a private boat
Visit a local orchard and sample tropical fruits
Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant
Visit the Dong Tam snake farm
Return to Ho Chi Minh City

Day 10 Ho Chi Minh City Departure

Meals: B | Transport: Transfer to the airport

On your final day in Vietnam, the morning is yours to spend at your leisure. Depending on your flight schedule, you might choose to do some last-minute souvenir shopping, revisit a favorite spot in Ho Chi Minh City, or simply relax at your hotel. This free time provides an opportunity for any final personal errands or a relaxed breakfast before your departure.

At the appropriate time, a private transfer will be arranged to take you from your hotel to the airport for your onward flight. This marks the conclusion of your 10-day Vietnam Impression tour, filled with cultural discoveries, historical insights, and memorable experiences across the country's diverse regions. We hope you leave with lasting memories of Vietnam's charm and hospitality.

Activities: Free time until departure
Transfer to the airport for your flight

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WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- v Private door-to-door pick-up & drop-off services.
- v All private transportation.
- v Accommodation shared in Double room with daily breakfast.
- v Experienced English speaking local tour guides.
- v Private boat trip as per tour.
- v Meals as stated in the itinerary (B: Breakfast ; L: Lunch ; D: Dinner).
- v All sightseeing tickets.
- v Vietnam Visa On Arrival pre-approved letter.
- v Services charges and government tax.
- v Exclusive and personalized single agent/single customer service.
- v No extra charge after services confirmation.
- v 24/7 hotline support guaranteed.

NOT INCLUDED

- x International flights & Departure taxes if any.
- x Internal flight ticket (quoted separately).
- x Personal expenses, tips and gratuities.
- x Travel insurance.
- x Beverage.
- x Peak season or Public holidays surcharge if any.
- x Compulsory Gala dinner on X-Mas or New Year if any.
- x Vietnam visa stamp fee (US$ 25 & 01 passport photo each person).
- x Other services not mentioned above.

PRICE INCLUDES

- v Private door-to-door pick-up & drop-off services.
- v All private transportation.
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CANCELLATION POLICY

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