Vietnam's Northern & Central Highlights by Air & Sea – 7 Days

7D / 6N	Easy	Private	USD 600 / pax
Duration	Difficulty	Tour Type	Starting From

Explore Vietnam's rich heritage and natural beauty over seven days, from Hanoi's vibrant streets and Halong Bay's karst landscapes to the charming ancient town of Hoi An and the bustling Ho Chi Minh City. This journey combines cultural immersion with scenic cruises and historical insights.

DESTINATIONS & ROUTE

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

TOUR OVERVIEW

Tour Overview

This seven-day expedition through Vietnam offers a comprehensive experience of the country's diverse landscapes and profound history. Beginning in the northern capital of Hanoi, travelers will delve into ancient traditions and modern life before embarking on a breathtaking overnight cruise through the iconic Halong Bay. The adventure continues south to the UNESCO-listed Hoi An Ancient Town, renowned for its unique architecture and vibrant cultural scene. The tour culminates in the dynamic Ho Chi Minh City, providing a glimpse into southern Vietnam's energetic pulse.

Journey Highlights

Explore Hanoi’s significant historical landmarks and vibrant Old Quarter.

Experience an overnight cruise through the spectacular limestone karsts of Halong Bay.

Discover the ancient Cham ruins at My Son Sanctuary, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Wander through the charming streets of Hoi An Ancient Town, a living museum of Vietnamese, Chinese, and Japanese influences.

Visit key cultural and historical sites in Ho Chi Minh City, including pagodas and colonial architecture.

Route Summary

The journey commences in Hanoi, followed by a transfer to Halong Bay for an overnight cruise. After returning to Hanoi, a flight transports guests to Da Nang, from where they transfer to Hoi An. The tour then continues with a flight from Da Nang to Ho Chi Minh City, where the adventure concludes.

Who This Tour Suits

This tour is ideal for active travelers, families, and those seeking a private tour experience who wish to explore Vietnam's major historical sites and natural wonders within a condensed timeframe. It caters to individuals interested in history, culture, and scenic beauty, offering a blend of guided excursions and opportunities for personal discovery.

Practical Information

The tour incorporates domestic flights between key regions to maximize sightseeing time. Accommodation is provided in hotels or resorts on a double/twin sharing basis, with options for various star categories. Meals are included as specified in the itinerary, ensuring a taste of local cuisine. An English or French-speaking guide accompanies the group throughout the journey, providing valuable insights and assistance.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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* Discover Hanoi's Ho Chi Minh Complex and the serene Temple of Literature.
* Cruise overnight through the stunning limestone formations of Lan Ha Bay.
* Explore Viet Hai Village by bicycle or electric car on Cat Ba Island.
* Paddle a kayak or ride a bamboo boat through the mystical Dark & Bright Cave.
* Wander the ancient Cham ruins of My Son Sanctuary, a UNESCO World Heritage site.
* Stroll through Hoi An Ancient Town, admiring its unique blend of architectural styles.
* Experience a traditional cyclo ride through Hanoi's bustling Old Quarter.
* Attend a captivating Water Puppet Show, a classic Vietnamese art form.
* Visit historic landmarks in Ho Chi Minh City, including Thien Hau Pagoda.
* Enjoy authentic Vietnamese cooking demonstrations on board your cruise.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 — Hanoi Arrival & Evening Exploration

Meals: D | Stay: Hotel in Hanoi

Upon your arrival at Hanoi's Noi Bai International Airport, a private transfer will be arranged to take you directly to your hotel in the city. After checking in and settling into your room, the remainder of the day is yours to enjoy at leisure. Take this opportunity to relax after your journey or begin a gentle exploration of the surrounding area near your accommodation. As evening approaches, prepare for a delightful dinner, marking a pleasant start to your Vietnamese adventure.

Activities: Meet and transfer from Noi Bai International Airport
Check into your Hanoi hotel
Enjoy free time for relaxation or initial exploration
Have dinner

Day 2 — Hanoi Historical Sites & Old Quarter Culture

Meals: B, L | Stay: Hotel in Hanoi

Your day begins with a comprehensive tour of Hanoi's most significant historical and cultural landmarks. First, you will visit the Ho Chi Minh Complex, which includes the revered Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, his tranquil Stilts House, the Presidential Palace, and the unique One Pillar Pagoda nearby. Following this, the tour proceeds to Tran Quoc Pagoda, beautifully situated on the shores of West Lake, offering a serene escape and picturesque views. The morning concludes with a visit to the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology, where you can learn about the diverse traditions and lifestyles of Vietnam's 54 ethnic groups.
After a midday break for lunch, the afternoon continues with more cultural exploration. You will visit the Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first national university, a site of profound historical importance. Next, discover the scenic Hoan Kiem Lake and the

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charming Ngoc Son Temple, nestled on an island in the lake. To experience Hanoi's bustling heart, enjoy a leisurely hour-long cyclo ride through the narrow, winding streets of the Old Quarter, observing daily life unfold. The day culminates with an enchanting Water Puppet Show, a traditional Vietnamese art form that brings ancient folklore to life on water.

Activities:
Visit the Ho Chi Minh Complex (Mausoleum, Stilts House, Presidential Palace, One Pillar Pagoda)
Explore Tran Quoc Pagoda on West Lake
Discover the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology
Enjoy lunch
Tour the Temple of Literature
See Hoan Kiem Lake and Ngoc Son Temple
Experience a one-hour cyclo ride through Hanoi Old Quarter
Attend a traditional Water Puppet Show

Day 3 Scenic Transfer to Halong Bay & Lan Ha Bay Cruise

Meals: B, L, D | Stay: Overnight on Boat

In the morning, a comfortable limousine will collect you from your Hanoi hotel for the scenic transfer to Halong International Cruise Port. Upon arrival around midday, you will proceed to the Scarlet Pearl check-in area to complete the necessary procedures before boarding your luxurious cruise. A warm welcome drink awaits as you receive a crucial safety briefing and settle into your private cabin. As the vessel gracefully navigates into the pristine waters of Lan Ha Bay, a sumptuous lunch will be served at the Tahiti Restaurant, offering stunning panoramic views of the hundreds of islands and islets that dot the bay.
The afternoon brings an exciting excursion by speedboat to Viet Hai Village, located on Cat Ba Island. Here, you have the option to cycle or take an electric car through a lush rainforest tunnel, leading to a secluded village nestled within a national park valley. Engage with local inhabitants, visit a traditional house, and observe their daily routines and the village school. Alternatively, for those preferring a different activity, kayaking or swimming in the clear waters near the boat offers a refreshing experience. Please note that choosing the village visit will limit time for water activities upon return. As evening approaches, return to the Scarlet Pearl Cruises to unwind and admire the breathtaking sunset from the sundeck.
Later, participate in a Vietnamese cooking demonstration led by the cruise chef, where you'll learn to prepare classic dishes like traditional spring rolls and salad. Dinner is served in the evening, accompanied by live traditional music, creating a delightful ambiance. The night concludes with opportunities to enjoy the bay views from the bar, try your hand at squid fishing, or simply socialize with fellow travelers on the top deck, with bars remaining open late.

Activities:
Transfer from Hanoi to Halong International Cruise Port by limousine
Check-in and board the Scarlet Pearl Cruise
Receive a welcome drink and safety briefing
Enjoy lunch at Tahiti Restaurant while cruising Lan Ha Bay
Transfer by speedboat to Viet Hai Village on Cat Ba Island
Choose between a bicycle ride or electric car tour through the village
Visit a traditional house and interact with local residents
Alternatively, enjoy kayaking or swimming near the boat
Return to the cruise for sunset viewing on the sundeck
Participate in a Vietnamese cooking demonstration
Dine with live traditional music

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Engage in evening activities like squid fishing or relaxing at the bar

Day 4 Halong Bay Exploration & Flight to Hoi An

Meals: B, L | Stay: Hotel in Hoi An Ancient Town

Begin your day with an invigorating Yoga session, capture stunning sunrise photos, or simply enjoy the tranquil beauty of the bay from your cabin window. A light breakfast is served, allowing you to savor the peaceful morning atmosphere. The highlight of the morning is a visit to Dark & Bright Cave, a captivating natural wonder featuring a serene, round lake enclosed by lush trees and towering stone walls. You have the choice to explore this picturesque cave either by kayaking yourself or by relaxing in a traditional bamboo boat expertly rowed by local guides.

Between 9:00 AM and 9:45 AM, you will return to the Scarlet Pearl Cruises to pack your belongings and complete the check-out process while the cruise makes its way back to port. An exceptional brunch will be served on board before you disembark at Halong International Cruise Port. A luxury limousine car will then transfer you directly to Noi Bai Airport in Hanoi. Upon arrival at Noi Bai Airport around 3:00 PM, you will check in for your 5:00 PM flight to Da Nang Airport. After an approximately hour-long flight, you will arrive in Da Nang at 6:15 PM, where a car will be waiting to transfer you to your hotel in the charming Hoi An Ancient Town. Check into your accommodation and enjoy some well-deserved free time to unwind or begin your exploration of this historic town.

Activities:
- Participate in a morning Yoga session or enjoy the sunrise
- Have a light breakfast on board
- Visit Dark & Bright Cave by kayak or local bamboo boat
- Return to the cruise, pack luggage, and check out
- Enjoy an extraordinary brunch on board
- Disembark at Halong International Cruise Port
- Transfer by luxury limousine to Noi Bai Airport
- Check in for your flight to Da Nang Airport
- Fly from Hanoi to Da Nang
- Transfer by car to your hotel in Hoi An Ancient Town
- Check into your hotel and enjoy free time

Day 5 Ancient My Son Sanctuary & Hoi An Heritage Walk

Meals: B, L | Stay: Hotel in Hoi An

Your day begins with a morning drive to My Son, a UNESCO World Heritage site situated approximately 40 kilometers southwest of Hoi An. This lush valley was once the capital and religious heart of the Cham people, and today it preserves impressive red brick towers and sanctuaries dating from the 7th to the 13th centuries. My Son is considered a significant archaeological site in Southeast Asia, comparable to Angkor in Cambodia or Bagan in Myanmar, offering a profound glimpse into a bygone civilization. After exploring these ancient ruins, you will return to Hoi An for lunch.

The afternoon is dedicated to discovering the tranquility and charm of Hoi An Ancient Town. This historic port city, which flourished from the 16th to the 18th centuries, boasts a unique architectural style influenced by Vietnamese, Chinese, and

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Japanese cultures, evident in its low-tiled houses, the iconic Japanese Covered Bridge, and brightly painted temples. Your guided tour will include visits to key landmarks such as the Phuc Kien Assembly Hall, the well-preserved Tan Ky Old House, and a workshop showcasing traditional Hoi An crafts. Conclude your day with dinner, reflecting on the rich history and beauty you've encountered.

Activities: Drive to My Son Sanctuary
Explore the ancient Cham towers and sanctuaries
Return to Hoi An for lunch
Visit Phuc Kien Hall
Walk across the Japanese Covered Bridge
Tour the Tan Ky Old House
Observe traditional occupation workshops in Hoi An
Have dinner

Day 6 Flight to Ho Chi Minh City & Southern City Highlights

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

After breakfast at your hotel, you will be transferred to Da Nang Airport for your flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Upon arrival in the bustling southern metropolis, a private car will take you to your hotel in the city center for check-in. Lunch will be provided at a local restaurant, offering a taste of regional cuisine, before you embark on an afternoon city tour.
The city tour delves into the vibrant culture and history of Ho Chi Minh City. You'll explore the lively Chinatown district, visit the ornate Thien Hau Pagoda, and gain insights into the country's past at the History Museum. A significant stop is the former Presidential Palace, offering a glimpse into Vietnam's political history. The tour also includes photo opportunities at iconic colonial-era landmarks such as the grand Notre Dame Cathedral and the historic Central Post Office. Conclude your day with dinner and enjoy your overnight stay in Ho Chi Minh City.

Activities: Enjoy breakfast at your hotel
Transfer to Da Nang Airport
Fly from Da Nang to Ho Chi Minh City
Transfer to your city center hotel in Ho Chi Minh City
Have lunch
Embark on a city tour of Chinatown
Visit Thien Hau Pagoda
Explore the History Museum
Tour the former Presidential Palace
Take photos at Notre Dame Church and Central Post Office
Enjoy dinner

Day 7 Ho Chi Minh City Departure

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

Savor your final breakfast at the hotel in Ho Chi Minh City. The morning is reserved for your personal activities, allowing you to

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enjoy some last-minute souvenir shopping, revisit a favorite spot, or simply relax. At the appropriate time, a private transfer will be arranged to take you to the airport for your international flight, concluding your memorable Vietnam tour.

Activities: Enjoy breakfast at the hotel
Have leisure time for personal activities
Transfer to the airport for your international departure

WHAT'S INCLUDED

INCLUDED

- v Accommodation (double/twin sharing in hotels or resorts)
- v A/C private car/van/minibus transfers as per programme
- v All meals as mentioned
- v English/French speaking tour guide
- v Flight tickets: Hanoi - Da Nang and Hue - Ho Chi Minh City
- v Entrance fees
- v Boat trip in Halong Bay

NOT INCLUDED

- x Personal expenses
- x Tips
- x Insurance
- x Single room supplement
- x Drinks

PRICE INCLUDES

- v Accommodation (double/twin sharing in hotels or resorts)
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- v All meals as mentioned
- v English/French speaking tour guide
- v Flight tickets: Hanoi - Da Nang and Hue - Ho Chi Minh City
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CANCELLATION POLICY

Tour Code: IMP-900E05E2DF89