

Summary of the Itinerary

Day 1: Hanoi Arrival N/A
 Day 2: Hanoi City Tour (B)
 Day 3: Hanoi - Halong Bay (B/L/D)
 Day 4: Halong Bay - Hoi An (B/L)
 Day 5: Hoi An - My Son - Hoi An (B)
 Day 6: Hoi An free day (B)
 Day 7: Hoi An - Danang - Hue (B)
 Day 8: Hue City Tour (B)
 Day 9: Hue - Ho Chi Minh City (B)
 Day 10: Ho Chi Minh City Tour - Cu Chi Tunnels (B)
 Day 11: Ho Chi Minh City - Mekong Delta (B/L)
 Day 12: Mekong Delta - Ho Chi Minh City (B)
 Day 13: Ho Chi Minh City - Yangon (B)
 Day 14: Yangon City Tour (B)
 Day 15: Yangon - Bagan (B)
 Day 16: Bagan Discovery (B)
 Day 17: Bagan – Heho – Inle Lake (B)
 Day 18: Inle Lake – Mandalay – Amarapura – Mandalay (B)
 Day 19: Mandalay – Mingun - Sagaing –Mandalay (B)
 Day 20: Mandalay Departure (B)

Highlights

- Ancient Buddhist temples in Bagan
- Spectacular Inle Lake
- Magnificent Halong Bay
- Royal Capital of Hue and Heritage City of Hoi An
- Colorful floating markets in Mekong Delta

Inclusions

- Private English – speaking guide.
- Accommodation at selected hotels.
- Private transportations with A/C
- Meals as mentioned: (B) for breakfast, (L) for lunch, (D) for dinner.
- All entrance fees, performances, boat trips, excursions mentioned in itinerary
- 2 mineral water bottles daily
- Flights: **Hanoi – Danang; Hue – Ho Chi Minh City; Ho Chi Minh City – Yangon; Yangon - Bagan; Bagan - Heho; Heho – Mandalay.**

Exclusions

- Flights are not mentioned in itinerary
- Travel insurance, Visas
- Drinks, laundry or other personal expenses
- Gala Dinner on 24th and 31st December



Details

Day 1: Hanoi Arrival N/A

Upon your arrival at Hanoi airport, your tour guide and driver will greet you and escort you to your hotel, help with your check-in. The rest of day is for your relax.

Day 2: Hanoi City Tour (B)

After breakfast, you have a full day today to explore Vietnam's charming capital. With its wide tree-lined boulevards, French colonial architecture, peaceful lakes and ancient oriental pagodas, Hanoi is an eclectic mix that offers something for everyone. Visit Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum and his personal residence, the One Pillar Pagoda and the Tran Quoc Pagoda. End the morning with a visit to the Museum of Ethnology (or Women Museum, History Museum, Hoa Lo Prison or Army



Museum)

In the afternoon, visit the Temple of Literature, the first University for the sons of mandarins. Followed by a visit to Ngoc Son Temple nearby Hoan Kiem Lake. Enjoy a one-hour rickshaw sight-seeing tour around Hanoi Old Quarter for great fun. Then, watch a traditional water puppet show in the late afternoon. Back to your hotel, free at leisure and overnight in the hotel of Hanoi.

Note: please note Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum is closed on Monday and Friday and most of museums are closed on Monday.

Day 3: Hanoi - Halong Bay (B/L/D)

We start at 8.00 A.M for the 3.5 hour drive (170 km) through the Red River Delta, which offers plenty of chances for taking photos of Vietnamese farmers tilling the vast green paddy fields. Stop at half way for taking a short break. Arrive at Halong City, check in and board your junk, enjoy approximately 24 hours journey in the amazing bay: a natural wonderland composed of jutting limestone islands and sparkling turquoise waters. Savor a gourmet lunch of fresh seafood onboard as we sail out into the mystical bay. In the afternoon, enjoy some activities in the bay, or just spend some time relaxing on board (Possibility to swim in the bay if weather permits). Dinner is served on board.

Note: Visits or activities will be slightly different depending on each junk's itinerary. Your tour guide will be replaced by a local guide on

board during your cruise.



Day 4: Halong Bay - Hoi An (B/L)

Awake early and participate in Tai Chi on the top deck or simply relax and enjoy the sunrise over the bay's towering islands. Enjoy a morning cup of coffee or tea, and a light breakfast before setting out to explore nearby islands by rowboat. Return to the junk then take advantage of the sundeck and admire the amazing rock formations of Bai Tu Long Bay as we navigate back to Halong City. Have brunch on board the boat before returning to Halong pier. Our guide and driver will meet you at the pier then drive back to Hanoi Airport for your flight to Danang. Upon your arrival at Da Nang airport, your tour guide and driver will greet you and escort you to Hoi An (about half an hour drive), help with your check-in in hotel. The rest of day is for your relax.

Day 5: Hoi An - My Son - Hoi An (B)

After breakfast, Visit to My Son Holy land in the morning, once the spiritual capital of Champa Kingdom that dominated South East Asia for nearly a thousand years and occupied most of the central parts of Vietnam from



2nd century to 16th century with very rich in history and culture. In the afternoon, drive back to Hoi An with visit the former merchants' homes, the 400 year-old Japanese Covered Bridge, Phuc Kien Pagoda and the colourful riverside market. Then enjoy some leisure time in the ancient town.

Day 6: Hoi An free day (B)

Breakfast at hotel, the spend your free time to cycle

rice paddies in the countryside of Hoi An ancient town, shop for souvenirs among the antique shops and art galleries, or just sit at sidewalk cafes and soak up the atmosphere of this quaint town. Or relax on the white sandy beach of the famous Cua Dai Beach.

Day 7: Hoi An - Danang - Hue (B)

After breakfast, leave Hoi An for Hue, the last imperial capital of Vietnam, well-known for magnificent architecture, pagodas and royal tombs laid in small villages and surrounding hills and one of the most popular cities for all the Vietnam Tours. En route have a look at the famous Danang Beach and visit Cham Museum which contains the finest collection of Cham sculpture in the world.

Upon arrival, check in hotel and enjoy your free time.

Day 8: Hue City Tour (B)

After breakfast, spend an entire day touring the Vietnam's former ancient capital. Start the day with a visit to the Imperial Citadel, home to the Imperial City and Forbidden Purple City – once the Emperor's private residence. The Imperial Citadel gives you a better understanding of the beauty of Vietnamese Royal architecture and culture. Then we will take a beautiful dragon boat trip along Perfume River and visit to Thien Mu Pagoda – one of the most popular attractions in Hue. In the afternoon, continue on your tour with the visit to King Ming Mang and King Khai Dinh tombs which are the most beautiful works of royal architecture of the Nguyen dynasty.



Day 9: Hue - Ho Chi Minh City (B)

Enjoy some leisure time in Hue before transferring to the airport for your internal flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Upon your arrival at Tan Son Nhat airport, your tour guide and driver will greet you and escort you to the city, help with your check-in in hotel. The rest of day is for your relax.

Optional tour – Ho Chi Minh Vespa Tour: Experience as local people with a Vespa and escorted by a driver, visiting the city landmarks that give you a view of the city unlike anything on your Vietnam tour. Take a peek at the history, the streets and the sights that most visitors never even hear about or see. You will pass through the Chinese district of Saigon, stop to see a sweet smelling flower market and visit a breathtaking yet hidden Buddhist pagoda, Saigon Opera House & Post Office which were designed by Gustave Eiffel.

Day 10: Ho Chi Minh City Tour - Cu Chi Tunnels (B)

In the morning, drive outside of Ho Chi Minh City to visit the incredible Cu Chi Tunnels. The Cu Chi Tunnels are an underground labyrinth of passageways, used by the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War (or “American War” as it's referred to here) as protection against American air raids. Those inclined are invited to crawl through selections of the tunnels to better understand what life was like for the



Vietnamese soldiers during wartime.

In the afternoon, back to Sai Gon for a visit to the 19th century 'Notre-Dame' Cathedral, the beautiful Central Post Office which are fine examples of classical French colonial architecture. Continue with a tour of the former Presidential Palace (Reunification Palace), now preserved as a museum. After that, we finish the day by visiting the War Remnants Museum and the bustling Ben Thanh Market.

Day 11: Ho Chi Minh City - Mekong Delta (B/L)

Today we will start our exploration of the Mekong Delta, a major rice producing area. This must be one of the most fascinating riverine deltas in the world. After breakfast, drive to Cai Be in the heart of the Mekong Delta. On arrival, we will make a boat trip to the Cai Be floating Market, visit villages and meet the people of the Mekong Delta. Along the way, stop at a candy factory and orchard garden, where you have an opportunity to listen to traditional music. Enjoy a relaxing lunch at a riverside



restaurant, then cross the river by motorized boat to visit some fluvial islands and explore the countryside by bicycle. Then, get on pier at Vinh Long and drive to Can Tho for the night.

Day 12: Mekong Delta - Ho Chi Minh City (B)

In the morning, we make the boat cruise to see the Cai Rang floating market (the nicest one with heaps of rowing boats), truly highlights of any Vietnam Tours where you will enjoy the beautiful scenery and see the daily activities of the locals who live along the Mekong canals. Then venture deeper into the country-side, passing traditional houses made of wood and palm leaves as you observe the activities of the local people. Return to Can Tho for lunch then drive back to Saigon, arriving in the late afternoon.

Day 13: Ho Chi Minh City - Yangon (B)

Free time at leisure for you until our tour guide escorts you to the airport for your departure flight to Yangon, Myanmar.

Upon arrival, you'll greet by your guide who will accompany and transfer you to your hotel. (Check-in Time is 14:00pm).

Day 14: Yangon City Tours (B)

Yangon, formerly known as Rangoon, is a relatively quiet and charming city. Its impressive colonial and spiritual heritage makes it one of the most fascinating cities in Southeast Asia. After breakfast, we'll take a tour around the city center which is filled various historical and colonial buildings partly by car or partly on foot. We'll first visit to Sule Pagoda which is a 2200-year-old temple surrounded by government buildings and commercial



shop. Then, you'll pass along the way to Mahabandoola Park where Independent Monument exists. Continue your tour by passing City Hall, a little india and a little china. Continue to Bogyoke Market, formerly known as Scott's Market, where you can browse through the wide selection of Myanmar handicrafts and other goods (Note: closed on Mondays and public holidays). We'll visit Chaukhtatgyi Pagoda, one of Myanmar's more beautiful reclining buddhas which is topped by a crown encrusted with diamonds and other precious stones. The feet of the statue carved with traditional symbols and often many locals gathering to pay homage and pray. From Here, end your day at Shwedagon Pagoda which is one of the wonders of the world. It was built 2500 years ago and enshrined with hair relics of Buddha and a place where to meet devoted Buddhists meditating and praying. Enjoy breathtaking views of the golden stupa from this

vantage point.

Day 15: Yangon - Bagan (B)

This morning, you'll transfer to the airport for the flight to Bagan (NyaungOo). Bagan, located on the banks of the Ayeyarwady (Irrawaddy) River, is home to the largest and densest concentration of Buddhist temples, pagodas, stupas and ruins in the world with many dating from the 11th and 12th centuries. On arrival, your journey begins with a visit an elevated temple from where you will have a panoramic view of the magnificent plains of Bagan. Continue with a visit to the golden Shwezigon Pagoda, first and prototype monument, which was built in Myanmar style in 1087. Then, visit to Gubyaukgyi, a cave temple @ Wetkyi-Inn Village which is well-known for its exquisite jataka mural paintings and the elegant Htilominlo Temple noted for its fine plaster carvings and glazed sandstone decorations. This afternoon begin with a visit to a traditional lacquer ware workshop where you can observe the production of one of Myanmar's best-known handicrafts. Continue to Ananda Temple, an architectural masterpiece and one of Bagan's most beautiful temples. Built in the early Mon-style, Ananda contains two unique Buddha images whose expressions seem to change depending on the distance from which the statue is viewed. From here, travel by horse cart for a tour passing Thatbyinnyu, the highest temple in Bagan, massive Dhammayangyi Temple, noted for its remarkable brickwork, and Sulamani Temple. Enjoy an unforgettable



sunset over the plains from the upper terrace of one of the temples.

Day 16: Bagan Discovery (B)

After breakfast at your hotel, we'll visit Nyaung Oo Market where villagers gather every day to buy and sell their produce and other goods. Continue to Myinkaba village and take a short walking tour to explore the temples of Manuha and Nan Paya. Explore more temples in the area, visit more craft shops or return to your hotel for a break to relax from the midday heat. This afternoon, continue to the rural village of Minnanthu, one of Bagan's least visited areas. Here you will explore temples such as Payathonzu, Lemyentha and Nandamannya before heading to the riverside pier. Board a local boat for a slow cruise down the Irrawaddy River.

As you cruise the waters, observe the lifestyle of the fishermen and riverside villagers as well as enjoying the unique perspective of Bagan's temples. Return to your hotel this evening.

Day 17: Bagan – Heho – Inle Lake (B)

After breakfast, transfer to Bagan Airport for a flight to Heho. From Heho, a scenic one-hour drive leads to Nyaung Shwe, the gateway village to Inle Lake. Along the way, stop at the wooden Shwe Yan Pyay Monastery which is an elegant ancient monastery with its oval-shaped windows. We will also stop in Nyaung Shwe



for a short walk around town and visit to the colorful market if it is being held that day. Upon reaching the edges of Inle Lake, board a private motorboat to head out to Inle Lake, one of Myanmar's most spectacular sights. Pass villages built on stilts over the lake, observe the leg-rowing fishermen and see their floating gardens built up from strips of water. Visit Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda, famous for the 800 years old Five Buddha statues which are covered in gold leaf. Explore the local crafts of Inle Lake with a stop at the weaving village of Inpawkhone and a cheroot factory, where the typical Burmese cigars are made by hand. If time permits, there may be time to enjoy a short walk through one of the lakeside villages.

Day 18: Inle Lake – Mandalay – Amarapura – Mandalay (B)

This morning fly north to Mandalay. Mandalay is Myanmar's cultural capital. The nature focus of the city is an abrupt hill, rising above a vast moated and walled square.

Upon arrival, drive to Amarapura, a former capital whose name means 'City of Immortality'. First visit a silk weaving workshop which produces exquisite handmade products and then visit Mahagandayon monastery, when over one-thousand monks reside. After touring this tranquil site, continue to U Bein Bridge, the world's longest and 200 year-old teak bridge. Enjoy a stroll along the bridge and the fabulous views of the surrounding farms and streams.

This afternoon, we'll visit Mahamuni Pagoda, 13ft-high seated Buddha image which is one of Myanmar's most famous. Continue your tour of Mandalay with a visit to Kuthodaw Pagoda, whose 729 marble stone slabs of Buddhist scriptures have earned it the title 'World's Biggest Book'. Continue to Shwenandaw Monastery,

the only remaining building from the 19th century Royal Palace. This grand teak building is known for its exquisite woodcarving.

Head to the top of Mandalay Hill as the sun begins to set to enjoy magnificent views of the city and Irrawaddy River.

Day 19: Mandalay – Mingun - Sagaing –Mandalay (B)

Today we'll explore the historic sites around Mandalay. Visiting to iconic attractions include Mingun's gigantic stupa stub, Sagaing's temple-studded hills and U Bein's Bridge in Amarapura.

This morning we'll take a short river journey to visit Mingun



Pagoda. Then, continue your visit to the world's largest uncracked bell called Mingun Bell. Across the road, you can visit a Buddhist nursing home for family-less elderly folk which is always glad of donations. (Donation is own account). Enjoy your lunch at a local restaurant. (Own account)

Then, drive to Ava which is one of the ancient cities and a remarkably rural backwater of empty fields sparsely dotted with widely spaced ruins, monastic buildings and stupas. Explore Ava by plodding horse cart to visit Bagaya Kyaung (a wonderful teak monastery), Maha Aungmye Bonzan monastery (built of stucco-covered brick, royal monastery temple) and Nanmyin (a leaning watchtower of Ava)

Return to dry land by boat and take a drive to Sagaing by crossing a bridge over the Irrawaddy River. Uncountable white-and-gold stupas are highlights of Sagaing. Sagaing Hill is widely regarded as the religious center of Myanmar. It is home to 3,000 monks and 100 meditation centers and you will visit pagodas such as Swan Oo Pon Nya Shin and U Min Thone Sae. We'll also visit Sagaing's local market, a typical Burmese market that few tourists visit. Here you will find a range of items for sale including locally made pottery, silver and other handicrafts. We will also stop at a small pottery village to see the process of making the ubiquitous water pots found throughout Myanmar. Drive back to Mandalay.

Day 19: Mandalay Departure (B)

Today is your leisure at hotel before transfer to airport for your departure flight. Goobye and see you again.