

Summary of the Itinerary

Day 1: Ho Chi Minh City Arrival N/A
Day 2: Ho Chi Minh City Tour (B)
Day 3: Ho Chi Minh – Mekong Delta (B/L)
Day 4: Mekong Delta – Ho Chi Minh City (B)
Day 5: Ho Chi Minh City – Hanoi – Street Food Tour (B/L)
Day 6: Hanoi City Tour (B)
Day 7: Hanoi – Halong (B/L/D)
Day 8: Halong – Bangkok (B/L)
Day 9: Bangkok City Tour (B)
Day 10: Bangkok – Floating Market – Rose Garden (B)
Day 11: Bangkok – Chiang Rai (B)
Day 12: Chiang Rai – Chiang Mai (B)
Day 13: Chiang Mai - Elephant Ride - Bamboo rafting (B)
Day 14: Chiang Mai Departure (B)

Exclude

- Flights are not mentioned in itinerary
- Travel insurance, visa
- Drinks, laundry or other personal expenses
- Gala Dinner on 24th and 31st December
- Gratuities for guide/driver etc

Highlights:

- Vibrant life in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City
- Colourful markets in Mekong Delta
- The magnificent scenery of Halong Bay
- World famous Golden Triangle
- Elephant Camp in Chiang Mai

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
- Flights: **Ho Chi Minh City - Hanoi; Hanoi - Bangkok; Bangkok - Chiang Rai**
- Mineral water bottles daily



Details

Day 1: Ho Chi Minh City Arrival N/A

Upon your arrival at Tan Son Nhat 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.

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 2: Ho Chi Minh City Tour (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 3: Ho Chi Minh – 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 4: 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 then drive back to Saigon, arriving in the late afternoon. Enjoy the rest of the day on your leisure

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Day 5: Ho Chi Minh City – Hanoi – Street Food Tour (B/L)

Enjoy some leisure time in Hanoi before transferring to the airport for your internal flight to Hanoi. 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.

Then, Enjoy the food tour experience with a first visit to one of the local markets in the city to see all different kinds of food that used for a Vietnamese breakfast, lunch, dinner and understand more about life of Vietnamese.

Secondly, we walk to explore everyday life of Hanoian, try some more different dishes which are very special, popular and preferred such as: Banh Ran - Sticky rice pancake; Bun Cha - Hanoi Style Vermicelli with Grilled Pork; Hanoi grilled pork in stick; Banh My Pate – Stuffed French Baguette; Bia Hoi – Draught beer; Trung Vit Lon - Fertilized duck eggs; Egg coffee...

Finally, we will try Cha Ca - Fried Fish which is considered as one of the best dishes to try while you are traveling in Hanoi. This unforgettable Hanoi food tour will take about 4 hours and you will end the trip at your hotel.

Day 6: 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 7: Hanoi – Halong (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

Day 8: Halong – Bangkok (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 Bangkok. Arrival at Bangkok airport, you'll be met and transferred to your hotel for check in. You'll spend the night in Bangkok.

Day 9: Bangkok City Tour (B)

After breakfast, you'll begin your tour of Bangkok with a long tail boat ride along the Chao Phraya River to see many lively inner canals which provide some fantastic views of the local life. Along the way you will stop over at Wat Arun, the temple of dawn, before continuing to the Grand Palace which dedicated to the Thai Royal Family's ceremonies. Nearby is the magnificent Wat Phra Kaew, which is famous for the Emerald Buddha Image. After seeing this complex, you will drive through the many vibrant streets of China Town to some of the most significant temples in Bangkok. The landmark of Wat Traimit is well known as the Golden Buddha Temple while Wat Pho houses a gigantic Reclining Buddha. You will spend the night in Bangkok



Day 10: Bangkok – Floating Market – Rose Garden (B)

Breakfast at hotel. Then you'll be driven southwards of Bangkok to the garden province of Samut Songkhram in the Mae Klong river delta area. Firstly, you'll visit a unique country market along the railway tracks. See the train arrive bringing the people to the market. Later on, you'll continue to visit fascinating floating market at Damnoen Saduak about 110 km from Bangkok in the Ratchaburi province. On arrival, you'll visit local Sugar Palm factory before board on a long tails boat along Damnern canals. After spend time at the floating market, you'll continue to visit teakwood carving. On the way return to Bangkok, you'll stop at the Rose Garden which is a picturesque country resort consisting of over 50 acres of tropical paradise with flower gardens, orchards and a typical Thai village. Buffet lunch inside the Rose Garden and then followed by Thai cultural shows, you can witness ordination into the fingernail dance, Thai boxing, hill tribe dance, sword fighting, elephants at work and folk dancing. You will spend the night in Bangkok

Day 11: Bangkok – Chiang Rai (B)

Breakfast at hotel. Transfer to Bangkok airport for a morning flight to Chiang Rai. On arrival transfer to visit the world famous Golden Triangle where the borders of three countries (Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar) are met. Enjoy the panoramic view of Mekong River and Hall of Opium and Boat Trip along the Mae Khong River, made a stop at Don Sao Village, Laos. Then continue to Mae Sai town, the Thailand-Myanmar border and the northernmost point of Thailand. Enjoy shopping the Myanmar products at the local market. After the tour proceed to Chiang Rai to check into hotel and free at own leisure. You will spend the night in Chiang Rai

Day 12: Chiang Rai – Chiang Mai (B)

Breakfast at hotel, checkout from hotel then drive to Chiang Mai. On the way visit to Wat Rongkum known for its famous White Temple. After the tour proceed to Chiang Mai with a visit on arrival to Wat Phrathat Doi Suthep, This temple was built in 1383. It is located 15 kms from the city and 3,500 feet above sea level. See the marvelous golden pagoda, which is containing the holy relics of Lord Buddha. You can enjoy the panoramic view of Chiang Mai City and Ping valley from the summit of Doi Suthep. Lunch at local restaurant, check into hotel for accommodation. You will spend the night in Chiang Mai.

**Day 13: Chiang Mai - Elephant Ride - Bamboo rafting (B)**

Breakfast at the hotel, you'll travel north of Chiang Mai route to Mae Taman Elephant Camp, which is 56 km northwards of Chiang Mai. Enjoy the spectacular scenery along the way. The idea of this trip is to see the demonstration of how trained elephants are used as working animals in teak forests includes elephant bathing in the river, working in the jungle, dragging and pushing logs, and responding commands. Then take a special time to riding on elephant for 1 hour through the jungle, made a stop at Lisu Hill tribe Village. For the truly adventurous! Continue an ox-cart riding back to the camp. Lunch served at the Camp. Take Bamboo Rafting along Mae Taeng River for 45 minutes. Then, visit Orchid Nursery to see a large collection of more than 50 different types of colorful exotic year-round-bloom orchids. After taking great pleasure at the Orchid Nursery, continue to visit the handicraft center at San Kampaeng district. The highlight is to see the local people making the handicraft including Silverware, Hand-woven Textiles by silk

and hand-painted cotton and Umbrellas or paper parasols which are hand-painted in a variety designs. Return to your hotel at Chiang Mai for overnight stay.

**Day 14: Chiang Mai Departure (B)**

Free time at leisure for you to wrap up your memorable Vietnam – Thailand Holiday until our tour guide escorts you to the airport for your departure flight.

Goodbye and see you again.