

## Real Vietnam Tour - 17 days

(Saigon – Mekong River Delta – Hoian – Hue – Dong Hoi– Hanoi – Pu Luong – Ninh Binh  
Ha Long – Hanoi departure)

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### Itinerary Overview

Day	Destinations/Activities	Meals
Day 1	SAIGON ARRIVAL	--
Day 2	SAIGON – CU CHI TUNNELS	B/L
Day 3	SAIGON – MEKONG RIVER DELTA TOUR	B/L
Day 4	SAIGON - HOIAN	B
Day 5	HOIAN – COUNTRYSIDE & CYCLING TOUR	B/L
Day 6	HOIAN FREE & EASY DAY	B
Day 7	HOIAN - HUE SCENIC TRAIN JOURNEY	B
Day 8	HUE CITY TOUR	B/L
Day 9	HUE – PHONG NHA BY BUS	B
Day 10	PHONG NHA NATIONAL PARK – PARADISE CAVE - HANOI	B/L
Day 11	HANOI HALF DAY CITY TOUR	B
Day 12	HANOI – PU LUONG	B/L/D
Day 13	PU LUONG – NINH BINH	B/L
Day 14	NINH BINH CYCLING & TRANG AN CAVE	B/L
Day 15	NINH BINH - HALONG BAY - NIGHT ON BOARD	B/L/D
Day 16	HALONG BAY - HANOI	B/L
Day 17	HANOI DEPARTURE	B

**Note\*:** B: Breakfast / L: Lunch / D: Dinner

## Detailed Itinerary

### Day 1 SAIGON ARRIVAL

Arrive in Saigon. Greeted by your driver at the airport. Transfer to your hotel in the city centre for check-in and at leisure in the rest of the day.

**Meals:** N/A

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Saigon

### Day 2 SAIGON CITY – CU CHI TUNNELS & MEKONG TOUR

Pickup at the hotel at 7:40, we head out of town to visit the Cu Chi Tunnels, which is an extensive underground network of approximately 200 kilometers of tunnels dug initially by the Viet Minh and then expanded by the Viet Cong. Here contains hospitals, plus accommodation and schools, and were used extensively for refuge and storage and also utilized as a military base for the Viet Cong close to Saigon.

In the afternoon, transfer to Saigon for half day city tour. Our city tour will help you to see the best of Saigon. We visit the historic Reunification palace and War Remnants Museum, followed by the architectural treats of French colonial Notre Dame Cathedral and the post Office. Free time at leisure or shopping at Ben Thanh Market nearby.

**Meals:** Breakfast/ Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Saigon

### Day 3 SAIGON – MEKONG RIVER DELTA TOUR

8:00: Pick you up at your hotel and head south to Ben Tre province (90km ~ 2.0 hours).

Enjoy boat trip along the river to visit a brick kiln factory, a coconut processing workshop and a local mat-weaving house.

We will then visit a quite village where you can have a short walk to experience real Delta village life and try some local fresh fruits before taking Xe Loi ride (tuktuk car) or cycling tour to explore around village under coconut row.

Enjoy lunch at a local riverside restaurant. After lunch, row a sampan along the water coconut canals with beautiful tropical scenery. Take boat back to pier and return to Saigon. Arrive Saigon at about 5pm.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Saigon

#### Day 4 SAIGON – HOIAN

In the morning, enjoy your free day for shopping and personal activities in Saigon.

In the afternoon, airport transfer for the flight to Danang. Transfer to the hotel in Hoian upon arrival.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hoian

#### Day 5 HOIAN – COUNTRYSIDE & CYCLING TOUR

07:45: Pickup at the hotel. Transfer to pointed place for cycling tour.

After a boat transfer of approximately one hour on the Thu Bon river, you will arrive at a small village in the middle of the delta where you will begin your cycling tour.

The morning will be spent cycling 14km across the countryside and rice fields. You will cross from island to island taking the unusual bridges made from wood or bamboo.

A short boat crossing will bring you to a small island where you will enjoy lunch in the home at a local family.

In the afternoon, discover how wooden river boats are made, learn the secret of weaving the colourful straw "Hoi An" sleeping mats Try the renowned Vietnamese basket boats. You will spend the day with first-hand contact with one of the rural inhabitant of the region, far from the usual tourist circuits.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hoian

#### Day 6 HOIAN - FREE AND EASY DAY

Free and easy day to explore Hoian town or swim at beach.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hoian

#### Day 7 HOIAN – HUE SCENIC TRAIN JOURNEY about 2.5 hours

Free in the morning.

In the afternoon, transfer to the station for day train to Hue. Enjoy scenic view of Hai Van Pass on the way. Arrive Hue in late afternoon. Transfer to the hotel for checkin and enjoy free time.

**Note\*:** Train journeys are part of a great local experience. Restrooms at either end of the carriages.

**Optional activities:** instead of the Train Journey, you can do full day tour to visit the Bana Hill and Golden Hand Bridge, then transfer to Hue. Please view the tour to Bana Hill and Golden Hand Brige.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hue

## Day 8 HUE CITY TOUR

08:00: Pickup at the hotel.

Today, we will spend a full day touring Hue city.

In the morning: visit Old Imperial City, Flag Tower, Thien Mu Pagoda and Dong Ba bustling market.

Lunch at the local restaurant.

In the afternoon: visit Royal Tombs of Minh Mang and Khai Dinh. We will also visit a Conical hat village and incense stick village

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hue

## Day 9 HUE – PHONG NHA BY BUS

Free and easy day to explore Phong Nha till bus transfer to Phong Nha.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Homestay in Phong Nha

## Day 10 PHONG NHA NATIONAL PARK & PARADISE CAVE - HANOI

Phong Nha is one of the most captivating places to visit in Vietnam, surrounded by imposing limestone mountains, ancient jungle forests, and traditional villages that straddle the impressive waters of the Son River.

The day trip starts at the semi-wild enclose where you'll learn about the critically endangered Ha Tinh Langurs. You'll enjoy an easy walk around the enclosure and if you're lucky the ranger will point out a family of these incredibly rare mammals for you.

A short drive along Victory Road 20 into the national park will have you winding through jaw-dropping mountains covered with endless wild banana trees towards 8 Ladies Cave, the second highlight for the day. Here you will learn a little more about the Vietnam/American War and its impact on the area, and visit a historically significant temple that honors the soldiers who lost their lives when a cave collapsed where they were taking shelter from bombings.

We press on through the park to the absolute highlight for visitors, Paradise Cave, or as locals call it Hang Thiên Đường, a 31 km cave discovered in 2005. Your guide will give you a fresh perspective of the cave as you wander its network of walk-ways and impressive cave formations, highlighted by moody lighting.

Chay Lap village is next on the agenda, where you'll have a chance to relax and enjoy a delicious lunch by at local village. Catch some rays on our awesome deck chairs or take a quick refreshing swim, before setting out on the final leg of the journey, a bike ride to reach Tram Village. Tram village is so close to bustling little Phong Nha but still a world away. You'll have a chance to wander through the village with your guide learning even more about the local area. This visit to the village provides a cultural perspective to this classic tour of Phong Nha. From Tram village, you will cycle back to Phong Nha. Transfer to the airport for the late afternoon flight to Hanoi. Transfer to the hotel upon arrival.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hanoi.

## Day 11 HANOI HALF DAY CITY TOUR

Free to relax in the morning.

Pickup at 13:30. We will spend a half day to visit the city. We start with visit to President Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum (Outside). We also visit the famous One Pillar Pagoda nearby. Leaving the President's complex, we continue to visit the Temple of Literature (Van Mieu). Although several Van Mieu can be found throughout Vietnam, the most prominent and famous is that situated in the city of Hanoi, and was functioned as Vietnam's first university.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hanoi

## Day 12 HANOI – PU LUONG

07:00: Pick-up at the hotel to go to Pu Luong Nature Reserve by Limousine Bus.

09:00: Short break in Luong Son (Outside of Hanoi).

11:00: Stop at the local market of the Muong Ethnic Minority; enjoy the beautiful scenery of ThungKhe Pass (One of the 10 most beautiful passes in Vietnam).

12:00: Arrival in Mai Chau and transfer to a van to go to Pu Luong Reserve nature

13:00: Check in and lunch at Pu Luong Eco Garden – The Mountain Retreat.

14:30: Board the van to the starting point. Following the small road through the terrace rice and sugar cane fields, cross the Hanging Bridges to visit other remote rural villages of Thai Ethnic. Stop at the giant waterwheels, ducks farm to learn about the agriculture before getting on the Bamboo Raft for a relaxing cruise on Cham stream (cruise depending on weather conditions).

17:30: Pick up the van to go to the Eco Garden – Mountain Retreat. Enjoy swimming in the Infinity Pool.

19:00: BBQ Dinner at the lodge, enjoy some local rice wine. Have a quiet night in the middle of the Reserve.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

**Accommodation:** Homestay in Pu Luong

## Day 13

### PU LUONG – NINH BINH

07:30: Have breakfast in the lodge. Enjoying the breathtaking view from Pu Luong Eco Garden.

08:30 = Trek following the small roads through the terrace rice fields and cross the stream to visit remote hidden village of Kho Muong to learn about the local people in Pu Luong.(6kms) Explore Doi Cave (Bat cave), this is the largest cave in Pu Luong. (Depending on the weather condition)

12:00: Back to the Eco Garden – The Mountain Retreat, check out.

13:00: Have lunch and have free time to relax in the Infinity pool or walking around the village before boarding the car to go to Ninh Binh at 14:30.

17:30: Arrive in Ninh Binh Retreat, check in and have free time.

19:00: Have dinner at the retreat.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

**Accommodation:** Homestay in Ninh Binh

## Day 14

### NINH BINH – CYCLING & TRANG AN CAVE

7:30: Breakfast at the homestay

8:30: Cycling through the limestone karsts to reach 2 temples of the first 2 Emperors in the 10 th Century in Hoa Lu Ancient Capital hike up the Ma Yen Mountain to visit the King’s tomb in 10th century and enjoy the panorama view from the mountain. On the way back, stop in a local family to discover daily life and culture and share a tea with them.

12:00: have lunch at the homestay

13:30: Go to TrangAn for a boat ride in between the karst pics and enjoy the beautiful scenery and peaceful atmosphere.

16:00: Drop you off at the hotel

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch

**Accommodation:** Homestay in Ninh Binh

## Day 15

### NINH BINH - HALONG BAY - NIGHT ON BOARD

07h30: Pick up from your hotel. Drive to Halong City through the paddy fields in the Red River Delta.

10h00: Stopover on the way for a refreshment break

12h00: Arrive at Tuan Chau wharf – Break and photography time

12h30: Board the Cruise for departure. Welcome drink will be served

13h00: Lunch is served while cruising through the bay

15h30: Visit exciting Cua Van fishing village. The village is free of busy roads and streets, electric lights, houses and high rise buildings. Instead, there are only herds of little boats and rafts. You will have the chance to discover the traditional culture and customs of the fishermen.

16h30: Enjoy kayaking or swimming (if the weather permits).

17h00: Back on board and continue cruising.

19h00: Dinner is served.

21h00: Take some leisure time to enjoy chatting at the bar or enjoy some night fishing.

**Note\*:** the itinerary and activities on board would vary depending on the boat you choose. Please see the choice of boat in Hotel Inclusions.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

**Accommodation:** Sleep on board

## Day 16

### HALONG - HANOI

07.00: Coffee and tea will be served

08.00: Continue cruising

08h15: Visit splendid Sung Sot Cave

09h00: Check out and enjoy a fantastic cruise on the bay, passing Dinh Huong Island, fishing villages, Ga Choi Island, Dog Island and Sail Island.

09.30: Buffet brunch (breakfast/lunch) while cruising back through Halong Bay to the pier

11h30: Arrive at the pier. Time to say goodbye to the crew.

12.00: Return from Halong to Hanoi. Arrive Hanoi at about 17pm.

**Note\*:** the itinerary and activities on board would vary depending on the boat you choose. Please see the choice of boat in Hotel Inclusions.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hanoi

## Day 17

## HANOI DEPARTURE

Today, you are free till airport transfer for departure flight. Trip ends!

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** N/A

## Hotel Inclusions

Location	Hotel		
	2-3*	3-4*	4*
Hanoi	La Suite Hotel & Spa	Hanoi Noble Hotel	Golden Silk boutique hotel
Pu Luong	Homestay		
Ninh Binh	Homestay		
Phong Nha	Homestay		
Halong Bay Cruise	A Class Cruise	Aclass Stellar Cruise	Huong Hai Sealife Cruise
Hoian	Uptown Hoi An Hotel	Vinh Hung Riverside Resort	Vinh Hung Riverside Resort
Hue	Orchid hotel	Hue Cherish Hotel	Eldora Hotel
Saigon	Saigon Beautiful 3	Tan Hoang Long Saigon Hotel	Grand Silverland Hotel & Spa

### Note\*:

- All prices are in USD per adult, in Double/Twin sharing
- Small group tour - daily departure with max 12 pax (for Halong Cruises, you will join bus by boat companies)
- In some major cities in Vietnam, hotel rooms may not have windows.
- Similar hotels are selected if any of above are booked
- Checkin/checkout time is 14:00pm and 12:00am respectively. Early checkin/late checkout is not included
- Surcharge will be applied for single traveller or single room request



## Inclusions & Exclusions

### Inclusions

- Overnights in selected hotels or similar
- Vietnam visa approval letter
- Halong bay 2 day Cruise package/ Join boat
- All in-tour stationed local English speaking guide.
- Entrance fees for sightseeing mentioned in the itinerary
- Excursions as mentioned in the itinerary
- Transfers as mentioned by air-conditioned vehicles (including airport pick up & see off)
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Internal flights (Saigon – Danang, Dong Hoi - Hanoi)
- 1 day train for Danang - Hue

### Exclusions

- International flights pre/post tour
- Meals and services other than those noted in the itinerary
- Visas fee stamping fee (US\$25 – pay at the airport)
- Laundry, telephone calls, and personal expenditures
- Gratuities for guides, drivers, porters, boat crew, and personal, non-itinerary services

## Children Rates

- FOC for infant under 2 years old (full charge for flight tickets - US\$180)
- 02 - 6 years old without bed: 35% adult rate
- 06 - 11 years old with extra bed: 75% adult rate
- 06 - 11 years old in twin share: 90% adult rate

**Note\*:** The rate for children applicable for one child sharing a twin or double cabin with two adults.

## Booking Terms & Conditions

### Payment

- To guarantee your land tour booking, a deposit 30% must be paid in advance. The balance must be settled **either** in USD Cash on arrival **or** 1 week before arrival date via any other methods.
- We accept payments in cash, by credit card or by bank transfer and Western Union. Any charges to settle the payment must be paid by the Clients. We will recognize the amount receive only.

## Cancellations

Cancellations for all or any part of the trip will not be effective until received in writing. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply:

- Cancellation received 60 days or more before arrival date: 10% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 30 days to 59 days prior arrival date: 20% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 15 days to 29 days prior arrival date: 30% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 7 days to 14 days prior arrival date: 50% of total rate
- Cancellation received less than 7 days prior arrival date or No show: 100% of total rate

**Note\*:** full charge for all flights is applied in case of cancellation (US\$180/person)

## Important Information

### Emergency Contact

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call the travel consultant whom you deal with and then our hot line contacts. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please send us a detailed message and contact information by email to the agent and to [info@indochinatreks.com](mailto:info@indochinatreks.com), we may check and return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

Our all travel consultants use WhatApps. Please ensure that you have the contact number. It's best to buy a local sim-card upon arrival. Most hotels offer free wifi. So it's very easy to contact in urgent case.

Emergency contact numbers

Mr. Kelvin Do: +84 986759655

Ms. Thuy Pham: +84 984654964

### Combo Trip

If you book small group tour option, please note that the tour combines with our other tours. As such, some travel companions on your tour may have previously been travelling together with us. Likewise, some travel companions may be continuing together on another tour after your trip concludes.

You can start the tour on any date (please contact our consultant in advance to avoid peak dates or holidays) and customize itinerary with extra days/activities at any destination.

### Internal Flights

For all internal flights, we would use Vietnamairlines, Vietjesair, Jestar, Cambodia Angkorair or Laos Airlines. Most domestic flights in Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar, airlines would use small 70 seat ATR72 for short distances. Most airlines in Vietnam use the Airbus A321. 20kg for checkin luggage and 7kg for hand-bag is included in the price.

International flights before/after the tour must be booked by yourself before travelling date.

## **Accommodation**

We would use different hotel categories and you can select any basing on your budget. So your travel companions would not stay at your hotel. A Hotel Voucher will be provided once your tour is confirmed with all hotel details.

## **Packing List**

### Conservative Dress

- Modest clothing that covers knees and shoulders (Long pants, long skirts, shirts that cover shoulders)
- Shawl or scarf (for temple visits)

Note\*: Please pack clothing for the season in which you will be travelling. From Dec-Feb weather can be cold, so please pack warm clothing. From May-Nov it is the wet season, so please bring waterproof clothing.

### Documents

- All tickets (required)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Required visas
- Hotel & Tour Vouchers
- Meeting sign (with your names and flight details that we will use for transfers)

## **Train Travel**

Train travel in Vietnam is very basic and train cleanliness is often not a priority for train staff. Sleeper trains normally have 4 seats per compartment, which convert into sleeping bunks (two upper and two lower). A sheet, pillow and blanket are provided, although many people prefer to bring their own sleeping sheet. At times, passengers of different genders may be required to share a sleeper train berth and/or share a compartment with people not travelling in your group. For short distance - 3 hours (as Hue to Danang or vv), you will do the trip on soft/hard seat carriage.

Simple food is available on the train but many people like to stock up on freshly baked bread, cheese and fruit prior to departure. Water should also be bought before the journey.

Train journeys in Vietnam are an experience and allow you to get a real taste of Vietnam.

## **Airport transfers**

All airport transfers are included in the tour price. You should provide us your arrival/departure flight details and we will arrange things basing on the information. A meeting sign with your name and all flight details will be sent to you. Please be ready at the lobby at pointed time for pickup.

Driver/guide should always be present at the airport before your arrival time. If you could not find the driver, please contact your travel consultant who you deal with. For any reason that airport transfer could not be arranged, please take the taxi to the hotel. We will refund the money then.

## **Travel insurance**

Travel insurance is not included in our tour price. When travelling with us, you are suggested to buy insurance that covers all medical coverage, cancellation, personal liability, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects.

## **Trip Specific Safety**

We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage.

Be aware that petty theft can be an issue in some towns and cities especially late at night. A common tactic is opportunists on motorbikes that drive by and snatch bags. Please always leave valuables and passports etc in your hotel in safety boxes if available and only carry with you enough cash to spend for the day. Bags should always be carried over the neck and not left to sit on your shoulder.

## **Warming**

Please do not buy gems unless you know what you are doing. Even if genuine you should not expect to be able to sell them at home. If you fall victim to a gem scam, we are unable to assist you.

## **Visas and Entry Requirements**

Please note that visas for Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos are the responsibility of the individual traveller. The visa requirements for your trip vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. For the most up to date information please check your Governments Foreign Ministry website or with you travel agent as rules do change.

CAMBODIA - Visas can be obtained at the Cambodian border or Siem Reap Airport for approx. \$35 USD very easily. Please have *\*at least\** 2 passport photos with you as well.

VIETNAM - As of March 2017, a select 80 nationalities are now eligible to enter Vietnam with an E-Visa. Please contact your Foreign Ministry or Vietnamese consulate to see if your nationality is eligible. Please note that you should **ONLY** apply for a Vietnam E-Visa if you are entering Vietnam by international airport - either Noi Bai International Airport (Hanoi) or Tan Son Nhat International Airport (Ho Chi Minh City).

If you are entering Vietnam by land border, please apply for a regular visa for Vietnam. Many of the land borders we travel through do not accept the Vietnam E-Visa. Please view this link to apply E-Visa: <https://evisa.xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn/web/guest/trang-chu-ttdt>

We will help you apply an approval letter for visa on arrival if you enter Vietnam through international airports. You will have to pay for stamping fees to the custom at the airport. View how visa on arrival works through this link:

[https://www.indochinatreks.com/Vietnam\\_Visa\\_On\\_Arrival](https://www.indochinatreks.com/Vietnam_Visa_On_Arrival)

LAOS - Visas are issued upon arrival in Laos. You will need two passport size photographs and approx \$35. Tourists are generally admitted to Laos for 15 days with a visa on arrival or for 30 days with a visa issued at a Lao embassy. Please bring visa photos with you.

Please be aware that you will require four clean pages (minimum) in your passport and at least six months validity.

### **Tipping**

It is customary in Asia to tip service providers such as waiters, at approximately 10%, depending on the service. Tipping is expected - though not compulsory - and shows an expression of satisfaction with the people who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides or drivers we use. Recommendations for tipping drivers and local guides would range from \$3-\$5 USD per person per day depending on the quality and length of the service.

### **Electricity**

Indochina Countries use 220V, and a mixture of flat 2-pin, round 2-pin or 3 pin plugs. It is recommended to bring a universal plug adapter.