

PRIVATE LUXURY VIETNAM INSIGHT TOUR

(Saigon – Mekong cruise – Hue – Danang - Hoian – Hanoi - Ninh Binh - Halong)

Itinerary Overview

Day	Destination	Meals
Day 1	SAIGON ARRIVAL	/
Day 2	SAIGON – HALF DAY CITY BY VINTAGE VESPA	B
Day 3	SAIGON – MEKONG RIVER CRUISE	B/L/D
Day 4	CAN THO – FLOATING MARKET – SAIGON – HUE	B/L
Day 5	HUE – CITY TOUR & COUNTRYSIDE BY BIKE	B/L
Day 6	HUE – GOLDEN HAND BRIDGE - HOIAN	B/L
Day 7	HOIAN – FREE DAY	B
Day 8	HOIAN COUNTRYSIDE & CYCLING TOUR	B/L
Day 9	HOIAN – HANOI – STREET FOOD BY NIGHT	B/D
Day 10	HANOI CITY & COUNTRYSIDE BY SCOOTER	B/L
Day 11	HANOI – NINH BINH – MUA CAVE – TAM COC	B/L
Day 12	NINH BINH – HA LONG BAY	B/L/D
Day 13	HALONG DISCOVERY	B/L/D
Day 14	HALONG – HANOI	B/L
Day 15	HANOI - DEPARTURE	B

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

Note*: this is a copy of itinerary on Indochina Treks Travel' Official Website and not the final itinerary.

Travel Map



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.

Note*:

- The hotel room will be available at 2:00pm, and in case that you would like to secure an early-check in, an additional charge will be applied.
- Please be advised that both international and domestic might be crowded at sometimes during the day, so in case that you arrive and cannot find our representatives, please contact us, so we could easily search for you

Meal: n/a

Accommodation: Hotel in Saigon

Day 2 SAIGON HALF DAY CITY BY VINTAGE VESPA

Pickup at 08:00 at the hotel for fun ride to the most popular tourist attraction in Saigon. Learn the history of each famous sites, follow the beaten track for you to see the real Saigon, ride through Alley, Back street for you to see the real local life.

The sights tour offers a good mix of both famous attractions and less known markets and sites. Our visiting sites include: the central post office , The Notre Dame cathedral , The Reunification palace, The Thich Quang Duc memorial , rider through backstreet, Alley, Ho Thi ky flower market , Cholon (chinatown) and ride pass Thu Thien tunel and stop at the most beautifull poin for you take overview photos of Saigon. The tour ends with delicious lunch at local restaurant. Finish at your hotel hotel at about 1pm. Enjoy your free time to relax and explore Saigon.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Saigon

Day 3 SAIGON – MEKONG RIVER CRUISE

Begin cruising from Phu An Jetty at 11:00 am. From the Song Xanh sampan, observe life as it plays out on shore – people going about their daily activities against picturesque landscapes – while your attentive crew serves tea and seasonal fruit. Before arriving at Sa Dec, stop at various points along the river for a look into some of the cottage industries of the region including a brick factory where everything is made by hand, pass monkey bridges and tiny villages to visit a Cao Dai temple.

Arrive in Sa Dec and stroll to the outdoor market. Visit one of the highlights of the charming town, the ancient house of Huynh Thuy Le, a real-life character in the celebrated novel and film “The Lover” by Marguerite Duras.

Lunch is served on board while cruising towards Can Tho along a narrow canal teeming with life. Explore the countryside surroundings by local rowboat.

After returning onboard, Song Xanh Sampan continues its cruise towards the Hau River. Dinner and overnight on board.

Meal: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

Accommodation: Private Song Xanh Sampan

Day 4 CAN THO – FLOATING MARKET – SAIGON - HUE

Wake up early at 6:00 am for a visit to the famous Cai Rang Floating Market which operates daily starting from 5:00 am. Breakfast is served on board while the Song Xanh navigates towards the market among local barges loaded down with fruits and vegetables from the Delta, making for some stunning photos.

Continue cruising towards Can Tho. Checkout and disembark at the jetty at about 9am. Pickup and transfer to Tan San Nhat airport for afternoon flight to Hue. Arrive Hue at night time. Free.

Note*: The floating markets in the Mekong Delta are no tourist markets but wholesale markets where produce of the Mekong Delta like fruits and vegetables are traded. For this reason the number of boats on the market fluctuates depending on harvesting seasons and market demand. Furthermore, modern wholesale markets are becoming more popular in Vietnam. This can result in decreasing numbers of boats being present on the markets.

Meal: Breakfast/Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Hue

Day 5 HUE – CITY TOUR & COUNTRYSIDE BY BIKE

Today, we enjoy a full day cycling around to visit Hue city and its countryside. We visit Old Imperial City, Flag Tower, Thien Mu Pagoda and Dong Ba bustling market. Lunch at the local restaurant.

After lunch, we ride the bike to visit the countryside. We will visit Thanh Toan village, 8km east of Hue, is famous for its beautiful roads, peaceful rural landscape and particularly the tile-roofed bridge, which is classified as rare and of high artistic value in kinds of ancient bridges in Viet Nam, has become a popular destination for tourists.

Riding around the village and enjoying its tranquility will bring to you the special experience that you will never forget.

Then get back to the hotel in Hue in late afternoon.

Meal: Breakfast/Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Hue

Day 6 HUE – GOLDEN HAND BRIDGE - HOIAN

08:00: Pick you up at your hotel in Hue. We advise a late start to beat the crowds that flock to the Golden Hand Bridge and Ba Na Hills. The adventure begins by taking the most modern Cable Car in Southeast Asia – and the world's longest – to the top of mountains. On arrival explore Le Jardin

D'Amour (consisting of 9 gardens) and the Linh Ung Pagoda. Enjoy walking on the Golden Bridge which nestles in the forested hills supported by two giant concrete hands that materialize through the trees. The Golden Bridge is 148.6 m long, with 8 spans, the largest span being 21.2 m. The bridge sits 1414 m above sea level.

After lunch, discover and play games at the Fantasy Park – a perfect tourist attraction for an entire family as well as to explore King Peak. Return to the Cable Car Station and back to the Gateway then transfer to the hotel in Hoian through Hai Van Pass. Enjoy scenic view from Hai Van pass. Arrive the hotel in Hoian in late afternoon.

Meal: Breakfast/Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Hoian

Day 7 HOIAN – FREE DAY

Today, enjoy your free day in the world heritage listed Hoi An.

You can spend your time the Central Market and the street stalls selling paintings, woodwork, ceramics, lanterns, and more. Hoi An is also famous for its talented tailors who can make beautiful items to order within a few hours. You can hire a bicycle and tour the surrounding. Other optional activities include a day trip to My Son Towers – World Heritage-listed temples that reflect the rich cultural traditions of the Cham civilization

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Hoian

Day 8 HOIAN – COUNTRYSIDE & CYCLING TOUR

Pickup at the hotel in the morning for full day cycling tour. Spend a day leisurely cycling through the scenic countryside of Vietnam, far from the traffic the motor scooters, and the noises the city. You will cross the islands on the Song Thu river delta using local transportation, including ferries and floating bridge.

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 16km 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.

This tour will take you to discover how wooden river boats are made, learn the secret of weaving the colorful straw “Hoi An” sleeping mats Try the renowned Vietnamese basket boats and much more. You will spend the day with first-hand contact with one of the rural inhabitant of the region, far from the

usual tourist circuits.

After you have relaxed for a while under the shade of a mango tree, you will begin your return towards Hoi An by boat, which will take about 35 minutes. Arrive Hoian in the afternoon.

Meal: Breakfast/Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Hoian

Day 9 HOIAN – HANOI – STREET FOOD BY NIGHT

Free to relax in the morning.

In the afternoon, transfer to the airport for the flight to Hanoi. Transfer to the hotel upon arrival. In late afternoon, enjoy street food walking tour. Your expert English-speaking local guide will give you an insight into the intricacies and traditions of Vietnamese food culture including details on ingredients and historical backgrounds of popular northern dishes. We eat as we go, trying seasonal fruits and sampling a tasty French-inspired snack from a street cart.

Walking through the maze of bustling streets that make up Hanoi's Old Quarter, we tempt our tastebuds with the famed Hanoi dish Banh Cuon at a local eatery. Watch in awe as the skilled chefs demonstrate for you how this tasty dish is put together. Continuing into the atmospheric heart of the Old Quarter, we wander past street stalls and quiet residential lanes where you can observe local life that has changed little since Hanoi was founded over 1000 years ago.

Our next two snack stops are at outdoor barbeque stalls. We sit down with the Hanoi locals and sample various meat, vegetable and bread specialties that are flame grilled over hot coals for extra flavour. It's then time for dessert as we venture down a small alley to join in the local tradition of feasting on fresh fruit served in a cup and smothered with crushed iced and condensed milk – this speciality is one not to be missed!

Your local guide will then take you to one of Hanoi's best kept secrets, a hidden street food restaurant to taste top ten street foods in Hanoi is Banh My Hanoi, and famous Egg Coffee. This hard-to-find café is one of the few left in the narrow street inside the old quarter of Hanoi. At the end of the trip you are free to continue exploring the area or your guide will assist you back to your hotel.

Meal: Breakfast/Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

Day 10 HANOI CITY & COUNTRYSIDE BY SCOOTER

Pickup at the hotel. We start off in the heart of the capital, taking in views overlooking the spectacular

Long Bien Bridge that spans the Red River. From there we take a ride on our scooter, almost being transported back in time visiting temple over 1000 years old at 1400 years old village and continue to see rice paddies fields. We will drive through the small alley of local villages, for you to see green and fresh air at the middle of the field.

Then visit a local market where you can see the daily life of local people and see amazing staff local people sale in market then we breeze down cool back roads to stop and explore the ancient city of Co Loa.

Take a ride through the quiet countryside and lush green rice paddies, we arrive at a local family at the middle of the fields where they own farm and their grow fruits farm with many kind of tropical fruits. Visit their home and see the life also chance to see some traditional rice wine if that day they make it, we interact with the homeowner and get a deeper understanding of local Vietnamese life and how they do the farm, and also the host will invited to pick fresh fruit at the farm and you can enjoy it.

Back to Hanoi. Enjoy have lunch and time to explore Hanoi city.

Afternoon, your driver take you to see the railway train tracks, we can see how of the locals life & work, just beside the train tracks in tall narrow houses. We will then visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum our rider will stop at the point you can see overview of the area including president place, parliament house and all government office, our guide will tell you about the history and story about Hanoi. We will then visit the Temple of Literature which is know as Vietnam's first University.

Now time continue rider through pass to see botanical garden and ride pass small alley see the narrow houses to visit Huu Hiep Lake to see the B52 crash site at the lake, this US bomber was shot down during the 1972 bombing raids of Hanoi, a poignant reminder of recent history

Our next ride to visit West Lake one of the biggest lake in Hanoi city, some point we can see overview of the city with beautiful houses and amazing view and see part of the rich people living. Driver to Thanh Nien street Next to west lake is Truc Bach lake where we stop at the monument of John MC Cain and see the lake and the place he get shot down, you will learn about the story of John MC Cain.

Back to the old quarter, relax and enjoy Vietnamese coffee the Egg coffee . Then drop off at your hotel at about 4pm.

Meal: Breakfast/Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

Day 11 HANOI – NINH BINH – MUA CAVE – TAM COC

In the morning, pick up from your hotel and depart to Ninh Binh. Have a short break on the half way for rest room or relaxing.

10.00 : Arrive Ninh Binh start your visit Mua Cave and hiking to the top of Dragon Mountain to see panorama view of Ninh Binh. Then we will head to the restaurant for have lunch set menu.

13.00: Board the sampan boats (2 people share a boat) – Tam Coc dock to drift down the river among the villages, mountains and lush rice fields. Passing through 3 caves amid dramatic natural sceneries of a maze of jungle-clad Lime-Stones mountains raised majestically out of flooded – rice paddy fields.

14.30: then start to explore the local villages, valley and limestone mountains by bicycle, where you can take pictures of amazing scenery and landscape.

15.10: Visiting Bich Dong Pagoda. Tour guide will give you an introduction of Vietnam history and Buddhist. Then drop off at the hotel in Ninh Binh. Enjoy your free time to explore Ninh Binh.

Meal: Breakfast/Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Ninh Binh

Day 12 NINH BINH – HALONG BAY

07.45 – 08.15 : Pick up at your hotel in Ninh Binh by shuttle bus.

12.00 – 12.30 : Embark at Hon Gai International harbor.

12.30 – 13.00 : Check-in, enjoy welcome drink & cruise briefing.

13.30 – 15.00 : Have lunch while cruising to magnificent Bai Tu Long Bay; admire the fascinating formations.

15.00 – 16.30 : Cruise to Cap La.

16.30 – 17.30 : Enjoy paddling around Cap La fishing village by kayak.

17.45 – 19.00 : Back to junk for swimming or relaxing.

19.00 – 21.00 : Have dinner and overnight on board in Cong Do.

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: Halong bay cruise

Day 13 HALONG DISCOVERY

07.30 – 08.00 : Morning view of Bay's landscape with a cup of tea or coffee. Have breakfast in the fresh air.

08.30 – 09.00 : Start cruising to Cong Dam while discovering geological values of Bai Tu Long Bay.

09.00 – 11.00 : Enjoy kayaking through the hidden lagoons and geological park in Cong Dam. Go swimming in the crystal water.

11.30 – 14.00 : Back to junk for lunch and relaxing.

14.00 – 19.00 : Cruise to Hon Co Island for swimming or kayaking to discover the stunning scenery of the Bay.

19.00 – 21.00 : Overnight in Cong Do area.

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: Halong bay cruise

Day 14 HALONG - HANOI

08.00 – 08.30 : Enjoy fresh air & gentle breeze of the bay in morning. Have breakfast on board.

08.30 – 09.30 : Visit Vung Vieng fishing village by a rustic row-boat, meet the local people and pass through the floating school and fish farms.

10.00 : Check out of the cabin. Start cruising towards the harbor while an A la carte lunch is served.

11.45 – 12.00 : Disembark. Pickup and transfer to Hanoi. Arrive Hanoi in the afternoon. Enjoy your free time to explore Hanoi.

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 15 HANOI - DEPARTURE

Free and easy till airport transfer for the departure flight. Trip ends.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: n/a

Important Note*

- PROGRAMS & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
- The itinerary can be customized basing on your interests (you can extend your stay at each location, add/remove activities)

Inclusions & Exclusions

Inclusions:

- Overnights in selected hotels or similar
- Private 2 day package on Song Xanh Sampan
- Halong 3 day package on luxury cruise – join group tour
- 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
- 2 Internal flights: Saigon – [Hue](#); [Danang](#) – Hanoi
- 1 day trains: Hue – Danang

Exclusions:

- Meals and services other than those noted in the itinerary
- Visa stamping fee
- International flights pre/post tour
- Laundry, telephone calls, and personal expenditures
- Gratuities for guides, drivers, porters, boat crew, and personal, non-itinerary services

Cancellation Policy

- Cancellation received 60 days or more before arrival date: 15% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 30 days to 59 days prior arrival date: 25% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 15 days to 29 days prior arrival date: 50% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 7 days to 14 days prior arrival date: 70% of total rate
- Cancellation received less than 7 days prior arrival date or No show: 100% of total rate

Children Policy

- For infant (<02 years old): FOC
- 02 – 10 years old without bed: 35% adult rate
- 02 – 10 years old with extra bed: 75% adult rate
- 02 – 10 years old in twin share: 90% adult rate
- from 11 years old: 100% adult rate

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, 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

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>

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.