

Best of Hanoi – Ninh Binh – Halong Bay Tour

(Hanoi – Ninh Binh – Halong)

(Issued date: 18 Jan 2023)

Itinerary Overview

| Day | Destinations/Activities | Meals |
|-------|--|-------|
| Day 1 | HANOI ARRIVAL | -- |
| Day 2 | HANOI FULL-DAY CITY TOUR | B/L |
| Day 3 | HANOI – NINH BINH – HOA LU – TAM COC – RURAL VILLAGE – CYCLING | B/L |
| Day 4 | NINH BINH – HALONG BAY NIGHT ON BOARD | B/L/D |
| Day 5 | HALONG BAY – HANOI | B/L |

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

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1

HANOI ARRIVAL

Arrive in Hanoi. Greeted by your driver at the airport. Transfer to your hotel in the city centre for check-in.

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 be presented at Pole No.16 outside lobby A2 (International) or Lobby of domestic arrival (Domestic flight) and contact us, so we could easily search for you.

Meal: N/A

Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

Day 2

HANOI FULL-DAY CITY TOUR

In the morning, pick up at your hotel for a full-day city tour in Hanoi.

8.30 am: Tran Quoc Pagoda & West Lake

The bus and tour guide will pick you up from hotel in old quarter about 8 AM, driving to Tran Quoc Pagoda is located on an island east of West Lake (Tay Ho District), with 1500-year history, which is considered to be the oldest in Thang Long-Hanoi. It was the Buddhist center of Thang Long citadel in the Ly and Tran dynasties. With its historical and architectural values, Tran Quoc pagoda is famous for its sacred Buddha land, which attracts many Buddhists and visitors to Vietnam.

9.30 am: Ho Chi Minh complex

Visitor to Ho Chi Minh complex (Ho Chi Minh mausoleum, the presidential palace, house on stilts the final resting place of Uncle Ho, where He lived and worked from 1954- 1969).

11h00: Vietnam Museum of Ethnology

This is the most recent yet probably the largest and undoubtedly the most interesting Museums in Ha Noi and Viet Nam. There are both indoors and outdoors section, while the in – housed exhibition is particularly informative, the outdoors display and activities make the museum stand out from the rest. There are a number of houses modeling after the traditional architecture of ethnic minorities, especially those who live in Northern and Central highlands.

12.30.pm: Lunch Time

2.00.pm: The temple of literature (The first university in Vietnam)

Being an ancient school of Thang Long and the first university in Vietnam, Temple of Literature is acknowledged as an ancient historical-cultural heritage which gives tourists deeper understanding about Hanoi's years of culture and tradition.

03h00: Hoa Lo prison

It were built in 1899. The French kept mainly political prisoners here along with those awaiting sentencing at the nearby Court of Justice, also where American pilots who had been shot down and captured were kept as prisoners of war. The pilots called it, sarcastically, the "Hanoi Hilton." John McCain was held here at various times during his five and a half years as a POW.

Note*:

- On Monday and Friday morning Ho Chi Minh mausoleum and museum are closed, instead by Vietnamese women museum.
- Before departure suggest all clients not wearing sort clothing to come in mausoleum and temple.
- Special request (diet, vegetarian...) should be informed before your departure days.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

Day 3

**HANOI – NINH BINH – HOA LU – TAM COC – RURAL VILLAGE
– CYCLING**

07.20 – 07.45: Pick up from your hotel and depart to Ninh Binh.

09.00: Have a short break on the half way for rest room or relaxing.

10.00: Arrive Ninh Binh then start to explore the rural villages, valley and limestone where you can take pictures of amazing scenery and landscape.

11.30: Heading to our local restaurant for lunch (set menu).

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

15.10: Visiting Ding and Le King temple. Tour guide will give you an introduction of the century that you can understand more about the Ancient Capital of Vietnam.

Drive to the hotel in Ninh Binh for check-in.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Ninh Binh

Day 4

NINH BINH – HALONG BAY NIGHT ON BOARD

07:00 – 07:15 : Pick up at your hotel by shuttle bus

12:30 – 12:30 : Embark the cruise at Tuan Chau harbor. Enjoy welcome drink, cruise briefing & start cruising.

13:00 – 15:30 : A stunning lunch is served while cruising into the Halong Bay with thousands of extraordinary shaped limestone islands considered as the heaven on the earth.

15:30 – 17:00 : Explore the area and be charmed by the outstanding masterpiece of the Mother Nature. Visit Mê Cung Cave – one of the most beautiful caves in Halong Bay. Climb up & see the panoramic view of the bay from above. Enjoy swimming in the crystal water of the peaceful Bay.

17:00 – 19:00 : Return to the cruise the Sunset party and admire the best moment of the day when the sun starts to set. Or enjoy the massage treatment in your comfortable cabin.

19:00 : Savor an amazing and dreamlike dinner in Fairy cave (or Drum cave) with extremely delicious food which is not only impressed by its incredible taste, but also by great fruit and vegetable carving performance. Socialize with new friends and crew members, enjoy squid fishing or leisurely relax on the top deck in the middle of the tranquil bay.

Note*: the itinerary and activities on board would vary depending on the boat you choose.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Night on board

Day 5

HALONG BAY – 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. Trip ends!

Note*: the itinerary and activities on board would vary depending on the boat you choose.

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: N/A

Inclusions & Exclusions

| INCLUSIONS | EXCLUSIONS |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Meals as indicated ➤ Join luxury bus ➤ Entrance fees ➤ Pick up and drop off at your hotel ➤ English-speaking guide ➤ Cycling by sport mountain bike ➤ Bamboo Boat trip in Tam Coc | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Personal expenses ➤ Tips and Gratuities ➤ Travel insurance ➤ All service not mentioned above |

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

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

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.

Warning

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.