

TASTE OF VIETNAM

USA - HANOI - HALONG - HOIAN - HUE -
HO CHI MINH CITY - MEKONG DELTA - USA

10 Days/ 08 Nights

This journey explores the wonderful sights of Vietnam with stunning landscapes, fascinating cultures, and friendly people. Experience the glorious cities, from ancient Hanoi to vibrant Saigon, imaginary Halong Bay to splendor of imperial Hue, also the charming of Hoi An ancient town. Specially, you will have a cooking class in Hoi An. We put all our effort into bringing you the real taste of Vietnam.



Day 1/ Departure USA

Your tour begins with overnight flight to Vietnam (check in either late evening one day before or early this morning). Lose a day en route as you cross the International Dateline.

Day 2/ Sep. 21, 2008 Arrival in Hanoi (D)

Upon arrival at Noi Bai Airport you will have a warm welcome from our tour guide and transfer to a hotel. This late afternoon have a cyclo tour through Hanoi Old Quarter followed by a water puppet show. Tonight we will have welcome dinner at a famous local buffet, SEN RESTAURANT.



Day 3/ Sep. 22, 2008 Hanoi - Halong (B,L,D)

- 08:30: depart Hanoi for Halong with a scenic drive through Red River delta.
- 11.45: Transfer by tender to Indochina Sails Junk enjoy Welcome Cocktail
- 12.15: Depart by boat to Halong Bay start cruise and check-in cabins
- 13.00 - 14.30: Lunch enjoy Vietnamese Set Menu
- 14.45: Arrive by boat at Hang Doi cave choose from optional tour program: visit local fishing village by tender OR visit cave by rowing sampan OR relax with beauty services onboard
- 15.00: Transfer from boat visit Cua Van Fishing Village by tender/ visit Bat Cave by rowing sampan or kayak/ relax onboard
- 16.30: Depart by boat to Soi Sim Beach
- 18.5:0 Arrive by boat at Luon Bo Area anchoring for overnight
- 19.00 - 21.00 Dinner - enjoy Vietnamese Set Menu or Buffet
- 21.00 - 23.00: Happy Hour, "Buy 1 Get 1 Free" at Bar and Sundeck
- 21.30: Evening Activities choose from optional evening activities: enjoy classical Movie Night OR play board games with fellow passengers OR relax with onboard beauty services OR join squid fishing with crew



Day 4/Sep. 23, 2008 Halong- Hanoi (B,L)

- 06.00: Optional Meditation and Yoga Session on Sundeck
- 07.00: Depart by boat to Sung Sot cave
- 07.20: Arrive by boat at Surprise Cave choose from optional tour program: visit famous cave OR enjoy swimming and kayaking OR relax with beauty services onboard
- 08.30: Return transfer by tender to boat
- 08.30 - 10.00: Breakfast international buffet or set menu
- 09.45: Depart by boat to Bai Chay Continue cruise
- 10.15: Check-out cabins and settle bills
- 11.15: Arrive by boat at Bai Chay/Halong
- 11.20: Transfer by tender from boat Farewell and- End of Cruise.

You will be transferred back to Hanoi by bus in the afternoon. Tonight you will have a free evening. Overnight in Hanoi.

Day 5/Sep. 24, 2008 Hanoi -HoiAn (B,L,D)

Morning visit Ho Chi Minh mausoleum complex with Presidential Palace (façade only), One Pillar pagoda then onwards to Temple of Literature. Having lunch at Le Tonkin restaurant. Transfer to the airport for short flight to Danang. Upon arrival, transfer to HoiAn and check in hotel. Tonight you will have dinner in town at Cargo Club restaurant. Overnight in HoiAn.



Day 6/ Sep. 25, 2008 Hoi An (B,L) Culinary tour

- After breakfast, we will take a tour to Hoi An colorful market, then have boat cruise down Thu Bon River to RED BRIDGE COOKING SCHOOL
 - We start the day with a cup of coffee at Hai Scout Cafe - Our meeting point.
 - Visit Hoi An's colorful market, and experience the amazing sights, sounds and aromas of this busy market. We will have the opportunity to interact with the local sellers and learn about all the ingredients to be used in the cooking lesson later.
 - We board the Red Bridge boat for a leisure cruise (25 minutes) along the Hoi An river to the Red Bridge Cooking School. This is a chance to view local river life, so make sure your camera is handy.
 - On arrival, we explore the cooking school's herb and vegetable garden, before learning about some of Hoi An's and Viet Nam's well-known dishes. The cooking lesson runs for about 2 hours the Red Bridge chefs first demonstrate each dish before we prepare the same dish ourselves. Included in the class is a brief introduction to Vietnamese food carving (plate decoration).
 - After the lesson, we sit down and enjoy our own cooked
 1. Rice paper
 2. Fresh Rice Paper Roll of Shrimp
 3. Crispy Hoi Pancakes with Shrimp, Herbs, Bean Sprouts & a Peanut Sauce
 4. Warm Squid Salad in Half a Pineapple
 5. Vietnamese Eggplant in Clay Pot
 6. Food Decoration Pineapple Boat, 3 colored Flowers & Vietnamese Hand Fan
- Enjoy an afternoon tour of Hoi An, a trading post of seafaring Chinese, Japanese and Portuguese merchants several centuries ago. Evening, you have free time at leisure.

Day 7/Sep. 26, 2008 Hoi An-Hue (B,L,D)

- Morning departing Hoi An for Hue, widely known for its magnificent monuments built under the Nguyen Dynasty (1802-1945). Visit the tomb of King Tu Duc (1848-1883). The monuments, designed by the kings themselves, were also used as holiday retreats during their lifetime. You will have lunch at one of the vegetarian restaurants in Hue, BODE RESTAURANT.
- Afternoon, we visit the former Imperial city. We will stop over at TRA THAT and TRA CUNG DINH, an ancient space where offer to you in impression is very tranquil and peace. A cup of royal tea will make you thinking about the soul, the humidity, and the meditation.
- While being here, you'll not only enjoy the beautiful garden, the attractive statues of Dat Ma but also the beauty of culture and mental spirit of Hue people. Tonight you will have a free evening. Overnight in Hue.



Day 8/ Sep. 27, 2008 Hue - HCMC (B,L,D)

- Morning, take a boat ride on the Perfume River to Thien Mu Pagoda, a symbol of Hue, viewing rural landscape and local activities at sunrise. We will have light lunch at BANH HUE HANG ME with specialities of Vietnam's central food.
- Transfer to Phu Bai for flight to Saigon. Upon arrival, transfer to hotel. Tonight we will have dinner on INDOCHINA JUNK while cruising on Saigon river. Overnight in Saigon.

Day 9/ Sep. 28, 2008 HCMC - Mekong Delta - HCMC (B,L,D)

Full day trip to Cai Be floating market by Cai Be Princess cruise. We will leave Saigon at 08AM then drive to Cai Be (around 2.5 hours). The program will start with the visit of Cai Be colourful floating market cruising among local barges full of fruits and vegetables. Further, a visit will be done at an ancient Mandarin house dating from the 19th century where you will be greeted by the family.

We will proceed to Phu An, an untouched remote area reflecting some of the best sights the Mekong Delta can offer. On the way, an optional stop can be made at local home factories where you can see how rice paste and rice popcorn are made. A delicious lunch will be served at LE LONGANIER, a superb Indochina villa located in a lush tropical plantation, by the river. On the river banks, you will observe some very large rice fields while cruising between numerous suspended fishing nets, an ancestral way of fishing in the Mekong Delta. The cruise will end at around 3pm at Phu Nhuan Bridge near Cai Lay. Then we will drive back to Saigon around 5:30PM. Tonight we will have a big farewell dinner at ROYAL COURT RESTAURANT AT REX HOTEL. Overnight in Saigon.



Day 10/ Sep. 29, 2008: Departure Ho Chi Minh City - USA (B)

Spend last minutes for downtown shopping (embroideries, silk, lacquer ware,...) or at leisure before check out. Transfer to Tan Son Nhat airport for departure. End of services.

Meals code: B: Breakfast L: Lunch D: Dinner

Tour included:

- Private air-conditioned vehicle with driver as per program
- Local English speaking guide in each city
- Accommodations based on Twin or Double share with daily breakfast
- Hanoi: Sofitel Plaza hotel/ 5 star for 2 nights
- Halong: Indochina Sails/ Deluxe Junk for 1 night
- Hoi An: HoiAn Riverside resort/ 4 star for 2 nights
- Hue: Imperial hotel/ 5 star for 1 night
- Saigon: Legend hotel/ 5 star for 2 nights
- Meals as indicated: 8 breakfast, 7 lunches, 6 dinners. (excluding soft drinks and alcohol)
- Boat fee & sightseeing fee as specified, on a private basis
- Water puppet show ticket & cyclo tour in Hanoi
- Welcome gift & government tax and services charges
- Economy domestic airfares and taxes for land only
- Bottled drinking water (2 bottles per person per day)