

10 Days Deluxe Vietnam Tour (Hanoi, Halong, Hue, Hoi An, Danang, Saigon) (Land Only)

VIET10DLAND2010



Price Included (land only):

- 5 star accommodation with daily breakfast
- 2D1N Halong Jasmine Junk (Join-in)
- Transfers and transportation on tour
- Sightseeing with Local English speaking guides (one guide in each city)
- Entrance fees and private ride
- Water puppet show (1st class ticket)
- Meals indicated in the itinerary (drinks on your own)
- Economy class air fare: Hanoi—Hue and Danang — Saigon

Price NOT Included:

- Vietnam Visa
- Meals not mentioned in the program
- Drinks/water at included lunches and dinners
- International & other flights
- Overweight luggage
- Travel insurance
- Tips & gratuities

From
\$1,999 per person
Land Only



Itinerary:

Day 01 Hanoi Arrival

Meet and greet by local guide at Hanoi airport, transfer to hotel for rest.

Accommodation: Melia/Deluxe room

Day 02 Hanoi (B)

Start the tour at the historic **Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum** (closed every Mon & Fri, all afternoons and from late Sep until Dec for annual maintenance); an imposing monument lavishly built using marble and granite, and where the preserved body of “Ho Chi Minh” resides. A short walk from the mausoleum is the lotus shaped **One Pillar Pagoda**—resting on a single stone pillar emerging from the water. Inside is a statue of the Goddess of Mercy with its legendary ‘thousand arms and thousand eyes’. Wind your way afterwards to the **Temple of Literature**, the first University for the sons of mandarins, for an overview about Hanoi culture and ancient Vietnamese architecture.

In the afternoon, continue to visit **Hanoi Hilton** and learn about the decades preceding its use as a place for holding American POWs. It was used by the French to imprison Vietnamese patriots. Then proceed to visit **Hanoi Fine Art Museum** before taking a walking tour through the old quarter to enjoy the bustling local life. Then cap a fun day with show at the water puppet theatre—a uniquely northern Vietnamese art from depicting scenes of rural life and episodes of national history.

Accommodation: Melia/Deluxe room

Day 03 Hanoi—Halong (B, L, D))

Embark on a 3,5-hour drive to Halong with a quick rest stop en route at a **local house**. Board your deluxe junk where a welcome drinks awaits. After a relaxing break, enjoy a delicious seafood lunch while cruising through the magical bay, where thousands of sculpted limestone islands rise from the waters like dragons’ teeth. After lunch, take a short trek to a nearby summit for a panoramic view of the bay, swim on a quiet beach or sunbath on the deck. Later in the afternoon, visit a fishing village living in the bay for generations. At sunset, join a bamboo rowing sampan to discover a water tunnel with coral reefs in a scenic lagoon. Back on board for sunset and later unwind at the restaurant for dinner.

Accommodation: Halong Jasmine/Premium Cabin

Day 04: Halong—Hanoi—Hue (B)

Wake up early to catch the dramatic sunrise on the bay and enjoy a Tai Chi demonstration on the sun deck. Relax with a cup of hot coffee before departing to the splendid Sung Sot grotto where stalactites hanging from the high ceiling take on numerous shapes and forms. Enjoy late buffet brunch on board while cruising back to the boat docking station. Arrive at the boat docking station around 11:00AM. Transfer to Hanoi with snack provided en route. Make a stop at Phu Lang village, one of the last survivors of an old pottery village amidst the modern pressure to industrialize. The pottery here is defined by the brown color and unique patterns. Wander around the village and chat with the artisans at Nhung's workshop with a multitude of terracotta items. Artist Nhung's designs have traditional roots but contemporary touches.

(Note: only 25-seater bus is accessible to Phu Lang village).

Arrive Hue, check in the hotel and evening at leisure

Accommodation: La Residence/Deluxe room

**Day 05: Hue (B)**

Hue served as an imperial capital to the Nguyen Lords, a feudal dynasty which reigned from the 17th to 19th centuries. With splendid emperors' tombs, ancient pagodas and the remains of the Citadel, the city retains its Royal charm. Start the cultural integration with a 10 minute *cyclo* tour from your hotel to the **Imperial Citadel**. Take a stroll to explore the history and architecture around the Capital Citadel (the bastion), Royal Citadel (the sanctum), and the Forbidden Citadel (the royal family's residence). From there, a 20minute *cyclo* ride will take you to the boat docking station, where you will embark on a half-hour boat trip on the picturesque Perfume River to visit **Thien Mu pagoda**, Hue's best-preserved religious monument. Standing on the riverbank with its seven-storey tower, the pagoda is a sight to behold. After enjoying royal Hue cuisine at the Ancient Hue Restaurant, drive out 30 minutes to the serene **Tu Duc Royal Tomb**, designed to blend in with the natural surroundings. An incense stick making house makes for an interesting stop before heading to the elaborate **Khai Dinh Royal Tomb**, architecture and atmosphere showcase elements of eastern art and western designs.

Accommodation: La Residence/Deluxe room

Day 06: Hue—Hoi An (B)

After leisure breakfast, take in the scenery along the Vietnamese coast and Hai Van Mountain during a drive to Danang and the 18-mile-long China Beach. Arrive Hoi An, check in the hotel.

Between 17th and 19th centuries, Hoi An was a prosperous trading port. Today, this World Heritage-listed ancient town boasts well-preserved buildings, pedestrian streets and unique cuisine, allowing visitors a glimpse of its illustrious past. The narrow lanes are ideal for a walking/*cyclo* tour to visit the old merchant's house with influences from Chinese,

Japanese and Vietnamese architecture; the 400-year-old Japanese Covered Bridge; the Assembly Hall of the Chaozhou Chinese Congregation with outstanding wood carvings; and the colorful market with stalls brimming with tropical specialties including silk, which can be turned into fashionable garments within a day. An optional stop, subject to availability, is the private home of Diep Dong Nguyen with a stunning collection of artifacts ranging from pottery, seals, paintings, money to old Hoi An's photos

Accommodation: Life Resort/Junior Suite River View

Day 07: Hoi An (B, L)

Experience an organic discovery tour with the local farmers in the rural outskirts of Hoi An ancient town. Start your morning with a leisurely 4km bike ride through the countryside, heading to Tra Que vegetable village which is named after a sweet scented herb they grow and use to Hoi An specialty dishes, like Cao Lau noodles. Upon arrival, learn about the history and custom of this charming village before getting your hands dirty and venturing into the garden (You may like to borrow the farmers' clothing provided by the villagers). Join the friendly farmers to learn the traditional gardening methods and how they cultivate vegetables. Bid farewell to your host family then board a boat trip to the Cua Dai sea. Here you can visit a fishing village where you will get the chance to work with local fishermen and find out about traditional fishing methods. Learn to differentiate traditional fishing tools, how to cast a net and hopefully catch some fish. A late lunch will be served on your boat. Cycle back to hotel and enjoy a relaxing evening.

Accommodation: Life Resort/Junior Suite River View

Day 08: Hoi An—Danang—Saigon (B)

Morning transfer to the airport for the flight to Saigon. Upon arrival, meet and transfer to the hotel for check in (early check in subject to availability)

Your tour will include a stroll down Rue Catinat made famous in Graham Greene's 'The Quiet American'. Revealed to you will be colonial classics; the **Opera House**, a three-story classical theatre built to entertain the French colonists (outside visit); the former **Hotel de Ville** constructed for the French bureaucrats of Indochina in 1901, now The People's Committee building (no public access); the **Notre Dame Cathedral**, a stunningly massive red-brick edifice with twin spires, a clear reminder that the French once ruled this city (open only 3-4pm everyday); the **Central Post Office** is delightfully influenced by Renaissance architecture; and the former **Presidential Palace**, headquarters of the Saigon Government during the Vietnam war. You may also opt for a short 6km drive to an other district to visit **Thien Hau Temple** built by the Cantonese congregation in the early 19th century to honor the goddess of the sea and protector of fishermen. The temple's interior courtyard is definitely worth seeing with beautiful ceramic figurines and antiques shrouded in incense-smoke. It is always bustling here with worshippers from the local Chinese community. Here you will have the chance to write out your wishes on a small red note, stick it on an incense coil and pray for your wishes come true. Return to the hotel and relax.

Accommodation: Caravelle/Deluxe room

Day 09: Saigon (B,L)

Get on 2-hour drive to a lush green area in the middle of the Mekong Delta called Ben Tre. Stop en route to visit Vinh Trang pagoda, an ancient southern architectural gem. Built in 1849, the structure is a mixture of Asian and European architecture including elements from the Renaissance period, Romanesque style, French decorative flowers and Japanese enameled tile. Upon arrival in My Tho jetty, get on local motorized boat trip to Ben Tre, visit a small coconut-candy workshop, just to get a glimpse of typical family run business in this area. Another 30min bobbing on the waves brings you to deeper parts of agriculture life. Disembark your boat, walk around sleepy villages and picturesque orchards until you reach Vuon Dau rest stop, sample freshly picked fruit at the invitation of friendly local farmers. Savor tasty lunch with Mekong Delta specialties (*it is not restaurant-the standard is quite basic*). Then enjoy a fun rowing boat in the shadows of water-coconut palms along idyllic tiny canals. Goodbye to the boat rowers and drive back to Saigon.

Accommodation: Caravelle/Deluxe room

Day 10 Saigon departure (B)

Free time until you transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

The regular check-out time for all hotels is 12.00pm.

Late check out is subject to availability.

Note:

- Above prices based on double occupancy; for single supplement, please add US\$869.
- Tour guide fee approximately US\$65 each.
- Vietnam visa and handling fee US\$95 (US passport)



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