



Vietnam – ‘World Heritage Sites of Vietnam’

All year round: 13D/12N ex London or 11D/10N Hanoi to Saigon

A fascinating journey exploring Northern and Central Vietnam – areas particularly rich in UNESCO World Heritage Sites: dramatic Halong Bay, fabulous former imperial capital of Hue, the charming old port town of Hoi An and the ancient ruined city of My Son, but as usual we’ll explore some of the lesser known highlights such as the picturesque Pu Luong National Park, the ethnic Tai village of Mai Chau and the spectacular caves of Trang An. A stay on a secluded, unspoilt island in the South China Sea is also available should you wish to extend your tour.



Day 1 Depart from the UK.

Day 2 Arrival in Hanoi, check-in to a downtown hotel in the heart of the Old City with the afternoon free to relax or explore the area, before an evening trip to see the unique water-puppet show.

Day 3 Day tour of some of this beautiful old City, with it's French colonial ambience. Sites include Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum, the 11th century University, Hoan Kiem Lake and a stroll through the bustling back streets of the old quarter.

Day 4 Departure for Halong Port where we'll board the Bai Tho Junk for a journey through the dramatic limestone scenery of the World Heritage Halong Bay. Local fishermen over the years have given names to the various isles, caves and coves that make up the Bay of the Descending Dragon. Amongst other sites, you'll visit the Monster Head and Teapot Islands, Oan Lagoon, Titop Beach and Surprise Cave. Explore the islands, visit the grottoes and swim on the beaches, before dinner on board and overnight on the junk. (Traditional wooden style, yet now equipped for visitors with air con and en-suite cabins).

Day 5 Early rise for dawn over Halong Bay before continuing the visit with stops at Man's Head and Tortoise Islands, plus a tour of one of the picturesque lagoons by local rowing boat. Return to Halong Port via Bai Tu Long Bay and transfer to Hanoi.

Day 6 Leaving the capital we'll head into the scenic mountainous region of Hoa Binh Province where we'll continue to Pu Luong – one of Vietnam's remotest and most spectacular national parks. Afternoon hike to discover the regions amazing flora and fauna and overnight in the ethnic White Tai village of Mai Chau.



Day 7 Scenic drive through the lush paddy fields and jagged limestone escarpments of this region, sometimes known as the 'Halong of the rice fields', to the remarkable cave system of the [Trang An Grottoes](#). Rowing boats will take us through the labyrinth of caves, tunnels and emerald streams for a fascinating visit before continuing to Ninh Binh Town to board the night sleeper train.

Day 8 Morning arrival at Dong Ha and a chance to discover the country's more recent history with a day trip to the infamous DMZ (Demilitarized Zone) to visit some of the key sites of the Vietnam War. Sites to include the Vietcong tunnels at Vinh Moc, Hien Luong Bridge on the 17th parallel which marked the border between former South and North Vietnam, and Khe Sanh Combat Base - scene of some of the most intense fighting of the war. Overnight in Hue.

Day 9 Time to check out the numerous UNESCO World Heritage Sites of this historic city and former imperial capital. Morning cruise by dragon boat along the Perfume River to visit some of the majestic tombs of the former emperors and afternoon walk around the ancient citadel.



Day 10 Short, scenic drive to nearby [Hoi An Town](#) with a stop on the way at the beautiful and spectacular beach at Lang Co, and an afternoon tour of the old town and waterfront area. Well-preserved and charming, Hoi An (now UNESCO World Heritage Site) was one of Southeast Asia's most important ports during the 17th to 19th centuries.

Day 11 Morning trip to the atmospheric ruined temples of ancient My Son City – Vietnam's most important site of the former Cham Empire. The city was occupied from the 4th to 13th centuries, before succumbing to its powerful Khmer and Vietnamese neighbours. Return to Hoi An and a free afternoon to discover the picturesque old streets at your leisure, visit the bustling silk market or bicycle down to the nearby beach for a dip or massage.

Day 12 Time to explore some of the sites of the Danang region with a visit to the famous China Beach, Marble Mountain and the fascinating Cham Museum before an evening departure for the UK via Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City).



Day 13 Evening arrival in the UK.

***Note:** from Danang a 4 day, 3 night island extension is available to the unspoilt [Whale Island](#).

Note: this tour is offered with or without flights London – Hanoi & Saigon - London. Those persons not wishing to take up the flight option should join the tour on day 2 in Hanoi and leave on day 12 in Saigon.

Highlights: Hanoi, Pu Luong National Park, Mai Chau, Trang An caves, Royal tombs of Hue, World Heritage, Hoi An, DMZ tour, ruined city of My Son, Vietnamese food

Fitness: easy – hikes can be adjusted to any level

Accomm: hotel, cabin on the Bai Tho Junk, guesthouse in the White Tai village of Mai Chau, night sleeper train

Transport: minibus, train, flight, boat

Meals: full board except for lunch on days 2 & 10 and dinner on days 10 & 12



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