

14 days of World Heritage Sites of Viet Nam

Tour code: PH 01

Hanoi – Halong- Ninh Binh- Thanh Hoa – Hoi An – Hue- Phong Nha- Ho Chi Minh

Description:

Vietnam is world well-known for its breathtaking natural beauty. With the great potential for tourism, so far there have been 7 places that were recognized by UNESCO as natural and cultural World Heritages in the country: Hanoi, Thanh Hoa, Ninh Binh, Halong, Phong Nha, Hue, Hoi An and My Son. This package in 14 days has been specially designed for the travelers who would like to cover all of these heritages

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hanoi - Exploration of this charming, historical center and its French provincial influences
- Ninh Binh - majestic limestone cliffs and mysterious caves, as well as countryside landscape like peaceful streams, rice paddies and deserted green fields
- Halong Bay - Vietnam's 'Jewel in the Crown'; the stunning beauty of the 3,000 islets of the Gulf of Tonkin
- Phong Nha – Ke Bang - Vietnam's Phong Nha-Ke Bang national park has been recognized as a world natural heritage site by UNESCO
- Hue - The country's former imperial capital
- Hoi An & Myson - Discover this charming UNESCO World Heritage listed site
- Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) - Vietnam's most cosmopolitan and vibrant city
- Mekong Delta - 'Rice basket of Vietnam' and home to many living, working and traveling along the river

DAY 1 : Hanoi Arrival

Arrive in Hanoi and transfer to your hotel in town. The rest of day is at your leisure

Overnight in Hanoi.

Day 2: Hanoi city tour (B,L)

Depart the hotel to visit the Temple of Literature, or Quoc Tu Giam. Built in 1076, The Temple of Literature was Vietnam's first university and was established within a temple to educate Vietnam's royalty, mandarins and members of the elite. The grounds of the university, which functioned for 700 years, have been well-preserved

The next stop is a visit to **Hanoi's** UNESCO World Heritage Site, **the** Thang Long Imperial Citadel. The Citadel was constructed on a Chinese fortress dating back from the 7th century and rebuilt in the 11th century by the Ly Viet Dynasty

We also visited The One Pillar Pagoda, which was founded by King Ly Thai To in 1049. This structure is one of Vietnam's smallest but most iconic temples. Close by is the mausoleum of the historic father figure of modern Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh, and the former presidents house on stilts where he lived from 1958 to 1969

From there head into Hanoi's Old Quarter, also known as the '36 streets' area. Take a walking tour through charming Hang Be Market and around Hoan Kiem Lake. This bustling area of narrow streets and alleys is home to literally thousands of small businesses and shopkeepers and is a must see in person. In the evening, catch a Water Puppet show, a uniquely North Vietnamese art form depicting scenes from rural life and episodes of national history

Overnight in Hanoi

DAY 3: Hanoi – Ninh Binh (B,L)

Depart in the morning for Ninh Binh, the site of Vietnam's first capital, Hoa Lu. Visit the temples dedicated to Emperor Dinh Tien Hoang of the Dinh Dynasty (968-80), and Emperor Le Dai Hanh of the Le Dynasty (980-1009)

After visiting Hoa Lu climb the surrounding limestone karst hills for a spectacular view of the valley
After lunch, visit **Trang An Landscape Complex** which was listed on **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in June 2014. Trang An is a spectacular landscape of limestone karst peaks permeated with valleys. The enormous limestone karsts jutting out from the green rice fields lend its name, 'Halong on Land'
Should you feel adventurous, climb up to Bich Dong Pagoda on nearby Ngu Nhac Mountain, dating back to 1428 and comprising three structures: Ha, Trung, and Thuong Pagodas

Overnight in Binh Dinh

DAY 4: Ninh Binh – Thanh Hoa – Ninh Binh (B,L)

Start the day with a visit to the remote **Ho Citadel**, which was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage** site in 2011, situated in nearby Thanh Hoa Province. Ho Citadel remains consist of the Inner Citadel, La Thanh Outer Wall and the Nam Giao Altar, which are designed for a centralized imperial city in order to show a concept of royal power. The use of large stone walls with traditional feng shui principles are the main characters that represent the almost intact Ho Citadel.

Transfer back to Ninh Binh in the afternoon and enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure

Consider a walk or bicycle ride through the rice paddy fields that surround your hotel to soak up the beauty of the countryside, or if time permits make an optional trip to Cuc Phuong National Park – Vietnam's first national park established in 1962

Overnight in Ninh Binh

DAY 5: Ninh Binh – Halong Bay (B,L,D) Overnight on cruise

Depart Ninh Binh in the morning for **Halong Bay**, perhaps Vietnam's most famous and most popular **UNESCO World Heritage site**. The name 'Ha Long' means the dragon descending into the sea and owes its origins to a Vietnamese myth.

Arrive at the Halong Bay jetty around noon and proceed with check-in formalities before boarding a boat for your unforgettable overnight cruise on Halong bay. After your welcome onboard, a lunch will be served while cruising towards the bay itself

In the afternoon, enjoy some visits and/or activities (depending on each boat's itinerary) or just spend some time relaxing on board. Towards the end of the day the boat sets anchor for the night among the karst formations. Dinner is served on board

Overnight on board the boat in Halong Bay

DAY 6: Halong Bay – Hanoi – Hoi An (B,Brunch) Flight to Da Nang

Experience the sunrise over the emerald waters of Halong Bay
Mid-morning the boat will return to shore

Disembark and transfer to Hanoi Airport for the mid-late afternoon flight to Danang in Central Vietnam

On arrival in Danang, transfer to the nearby historic Hoi An town. Hoi An was a major Asian trading port from the 15th to the 19th centuries. The '**Hoi An Ancient Town**' was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in 1999. While the architecture has been regulated to remain intact, the town has come alive with modern cafes, shops and entertainment making it a favorite destination for international visitors
Overnight in Hoi An

DAY 7 Hoi An - My Son – Hoi An (B,L)

Head out in the morning to another of Central **Vietnam's UNESCO World Heritage sites – the temple complex at My Son Sanctuary**

My Son was the homeland of the grand Champa Kingdom who built dozens of red brick towers during the 7th – 13th centuries. The sanctuary is situated in an impressive location surrounded by hills, around 35 km inland from the coast at Hoi An. Whilst not as spectacular as the great Angkor complexes in Cambodia, the remaining structures are atmospheric enough to conjure images of the majesty of the Champa Kingdom

Return to Hoi An : You will be escorted to the Japanese bridge, TanKy old house, assembly hall... to contemplate their special architectural features.

Overnight in Hoi An

DAY 8: Hoi An –Red Bridge cooking class - Hue (B,L)

Start the day with a half day cooking class - Guided tour of Hoi An's colorful central market, boat trip on the Hoi An River, herb garden walk, 2 hours hand on cooking class, and finish with lunch.

After the cooking class, you will depart from Hoi An for a 3-hour drive through Hai Van Pass to Hue, the former citadel of the very last Nguyen Dynasty

Overnight in Hue

DAY 9: Hue capital (B,L)

This morning after breakfast, do a city tour to **explore the UNESCO World Heritage listed 'Complex of Hue Monuments'**

Boat trip to Thien Mu pagoda: you get on the dragon boat. You will cruise along the **Perfume River** about 30 minutes. After that, the boat will stop at another boat station. Here you can freely visit **Thien Mu pagoda**, which is the oldest pagoda in **Hue city**.

Then visit **Minh Mang King's Tomb:** Considered as the most majestic of all Nguyen Dynasty royal tombs, **Minh Mang Tomb** is a complex of 40 constructions: palaces, temples, pavilions, etc. Many say that it's a perfect combination of man-made and natural beauty in Hue, where architecture fits harmoniously into the surrounding landscape.

Afternoon, visit **Khai dinh tomb and Imperial Citadel** where Nguyen Dynasty ruled between 1802 and 1945 with numerous of attractive places to see like Flag Tower, Noon Gate, Nine Dynastic Urns, Nine Holy Cannons, Thai Hoa Palace, and Forbidden Purple City. Thai Hoa Palace.

The tour ends by shopping at Dongba Market - Dong Ba market is the biggest and most significant central market of Thua Thien Hue province and the adjacent regions

Overnight in Hue

DAY 10: Hue – Paradise cave – Dong Hoi (B,L)

After breakfast, pick you up at your hotel in Hue city depart for **Paradise Cave**- a miracle in the heart of the World Heritage Site – Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park.. On the way, stop for sightseeing at **La Vang Church**, where Virgin Maria appeared in 1798. Our car will drive through **Hien Luong Bridge, Ben Hai River** (latitude 17 division from south to north of the country for 20 years from 1954 to 1973).

Please note that our tour will not stop at these places but our tour guide will brief about **Vietnam War History**.

Have lunch at a local restaurant in **Phong Nha town**.

Then, We continue to transfer to **Paradise Cave**. **Paradise Cave** and begin to explore the glamor of Asia's longest and largest dry cave. You travel on a buggy, pass through dense forest for about 2km, then climb about 500 rocky steps, and you're in.. Paradise. Begin your journey to explore the **magical Heaven** – the Eden on earth with special stalagmites, stalactites system with sparkling, mysterious beauty, out of human beings imagination.

Reach to **Dong Hoi** for overnight at hotel

DAY 11 Dong Hoi – Ho Chi Minh City (B,L) by morning flight

In the morning transfer to Dong Hoi Airport and on to Ho Chi Minh City

In the afternoon, take a tour of some of the main sites, including the Reunification Palace, the Old Saigon Post Office, Dong Khoi Street, the Continental Hotel, Opera House and City Hall

Visit the War Remnants Museum where exhibition halls display imagery of both the French and 'American' wars

Continue to the Jade Emperor Pagoda located on the fringes of district 1. Dating from 1909 and built by Cantonese Buddhists, this quiet oasis was designed using feng shui principles showcasing ornate statues and effigies. Enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure and experience some of Saigon's nightlife

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City

DAY 12: Ho Chi Minh – Cu Chi tunnels (B,D)

Depart from Saigon to **Cu Chi tunnels** (about 50km). As you know, Cu Chi tunnels is one of the most famous historical Vestiges of Vietnam's national liberation War. Its network consists of over 200km of tunnels linked to each other like a Cobweb. You go inside the tunnels which have the kitchens, food and ammunition storage caches, medic-care chambers (a small clinic), meeting room, commanding chambers ..etc. You discover the tunnels by entering inside it, about 15 m, 30m, 60m and 100m long belong to your health. At the end of the tunnels, you can eat Cassava (called Khoai Mi), which was the main food for Vietcong people during the war..

Say goodbye to the Cu Chi tunnels, back to Saigon

Take the afternoon at your leisure and explore other parts of the city

In the evening, Enjoy dinner cruise on SaiGon river

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City

Day 13: Ho Chi Minh – Mekong delta (B,L)

After breakfast, transfer to My Tho – The first bustling town of Mekong Delta. Boat cruise along the Mekong River to visit the orchards on the Thoi Son islet. Enjoy tropical fruits of the season, visit Honey-bee farm and Coconut Candy Workshop; Continuing by hand-oared sampan ride along the canals. Lunch. Visit Vinh Trang Ancient Pagoda before driving back to HoChiMinh.

Overnight at hotel

Day 14: Ho Chi Minh – departure (B)

Free at leisure in morning time. At the appropriate time, you'll transfer to the airport to catch your flight home. Have a nice flight and see you next time !

All prices quoted in USD per person Valid till 30 Sep 2023

- Number of Persons -							
Class	2	3	4	5-7	8-11	12-15	Single Sup
3 stars	1826	1604	1392	1304	1199	1152	310
4 stars	2015	1792	1581	1494	1388	1341	490
4-5 stars	2375	2152	1941	1854	1748	1701	837

Accommodation offering in this trip (click to see):

Cities	3 stars	4 stars	5 stars
Hanoi	May De Ville Classic	The Q hotel	Peridot Grand hotel
Ninh Binh	Hoàng Sơn Peace	Legend Ninh Binh	Emerald resort
Halong bay	Syrena cruise	Senna cruise	Le Theater cruise
Hue	<u>Rosaleen</u>	Eldora	<u>Senna Hue</u>
Dong Hoi	The Luxe hotel	Vinh Hoang hotel	Sun Spa resort
Hoian	Golden Holiday	Silko hotel	Bliss Hoi An resort
Saigon	Blue Diamond hotel	Eden SaiGon	Majestic SaiGon

Tour Cost includes:

- Full transportation by private car as the tour program indicated.
- Half meals as indicated in the itinerary (B = breakfast, L = lunch, D= Dinner) at local restaurant
- Domestic flights : Hanoi –Danang, Dong Hoi – HoChiMinh
- English- speaking guide.
- Entrance fees.
- Boat Trip at sights mentioned
- Double/Twin-share accommodation with daily breakfast; (AC room)

- Mineral water

Tour Cost excludes:

- Other meals
- International airfare to/from Vietnam
- Personal insurance
- Expenditure of a personal nature, tips, such as drinks, souvenirs, laundry, emergency transfers & etc.
- Visa to Vietnam