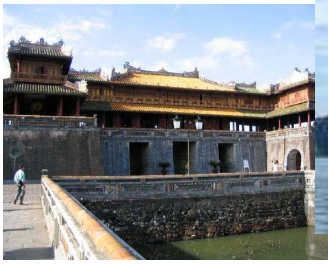


History, Geography & Culture Tour of Vietnam

11 Nights / 12 Days



Hue Imperial Citadel



Halong Bay



Co Chi Vi etcong Tunnels



Emperor Minh Mang Mausoleum

Tour Features Include:

- ◆ Tour price is based on minimum 15 students + 1 teacher
- ◆ Return airfare ORT/Hanoi Hochiminh/ORT
- ◆ Domestic Flight Hanoi/Hue & Da Nang/Hochiminh
- ◆ Accommodation based on twin/double sharing room with daily breakfast
- ◆ Daily breakfast and dinner + 1 lunches, Vietnamese set menu
- ◆ 2 nights in Hanoi - Thang Long Opera 3* or similar
- ◆ 1 night in Halong – Saigon Halong 4* or similar
- ◆ 3 nights in Hue - Queen 3* or similar
- ◆ 2 nights in Hoi An – Riverside Hotel 4*
- ◆ 2 nights in in Hochiminh - Chancery 2* or similar
- ◆ 1 night in Mekong Delta
- ◆ Private transportation as itinerary
- ◆ Meals as indicated: Vietnamese set menu
- ◆ English speaking guide
- ◆ Entrance fees and boat trip as sites listed
- ◆ AIG group travel insurance



DAILY ITINERARY

FLIGHT ON SINGAPORE AIRLINES

Today we fly from Johannesburg to Hanoi.

DAY 1: ARRIVE HANOI/HAIPHONG BAY

Arrive Hanoi 10:00 and transfer to the hotel. The rest of the day is free at leisure to browse in the streets to get orientated.

Dinner & Overnight Hanoi (B,D)

DAY 2: HANOI CITY TOUR /HO CHI MINH MAUOLEUM/ONE PILLAR PAGODA/ TEMPLE OF LITERATURE/HISTORICAL MUSEUM/HOAN KIEM LAKE/NGOC SON TEMPLE/CYCLO TOUR/WATER PUPPET SHOW

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit **Ho Chi Minh Complex**, containing **Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum**. The mausoleum that was inaugurated in 1975 is the permanent memorial for Respected Uncle Ho, the founder of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. It is 21 m high and in Vietnamese grey marble and granite. Like a lotus flower it was erected right at the historical place of Ba Dinh where President Ho Chi Minh declared the independence for Vietnam in 1945. The mausoleum is now a place of big interest that cannot be missed. The Vietnamese always line up to visit him to show all good sentiments and respects to beloved Uncle Ho. On site are also the **Presidential Palace**, **Ho Chi Minh's house** and **One Pillar Pagoda**. This is a nice square and wooden pagoda leaned on one pillar in the middle of a green lotus pond. It was constructed in 1049 and called Dien Huu. Legends said that King Ly Thai To did not have any sons. One night the Goddess of Mercy in his dream sitting on a lotus gave him a son. Later he married a young country girl and had a successor. The king thanked the Goddess of Mercy by building this pagoda in the form of a lotus. We continue to **Temple of Literature** Built in 1070, consecrated to Confucius and used as a school for princes, the temple of literature was considered as the first university of Vietnam in 1076. It is about 350m long and 70 m wide and surrounded by a vast wall of bricks. There are 5 yards inside. The middle entrance is for the king; one side entrance is for the civilian mandarins and the other for military ones. Behind the big door is the pavilion for poetic entertainment dated 1802. All the most educated people recited and composed poems and made literary comments. In front of the rectangular yard lined with 82 stone stelae carved with the names of the doctors of philosophy who passed the king's examination from 1498 to 1787. After lunch (not included) visit **Hoan Kiem Lake** with **Ngoc Son temple**. In the evening, enjoy **Water Puppet Show**. Water puppetry - a traditional art form with distinctive culture identity of Vietnam. It came to existence, developed and diversified over a thousand years ago in the Red River Delta.

Dinner & Overnight Hanoi (B,D)

DAY 3: HANOI COOKING CLASS/HALONG BAY.

Breakfast at hotel. 08:00 – 12:30: Half day cooking class: Transfer group to Highway 4 restaurant for a **cyclo trip** through the streets of Hanoi's legendary Old Quarter to market (in the event of rain it may be necessary to cancel the cyclo trip and use bus for transfer). Enjoy a guided market tour around market. Transfer back to Highway 4 restaurant, enjoy welcome drink, kit out in chef outfits, and receive menu booklets and briefing from your guide about today's dishes. Begin cooking class (3 dishes). Enjoy lunch – feast on the dishes you have just prepared and get an introduction to Vietnamese dining style. End of cooking course – select a special gift from the Highway 4 range and farewell from our team. 13:00pm Depart for Halong Bay, check in.

Lunch, Dinner & Overnight Halong (B,L,D)

DAY 4: HALONG BAY/HANOI/FLIGHT TO HUE

Breakfast at hotel. Take a **boat cruise** on **Halong Bay** to visit **Thien Cung** and **Dau Go**. Take pictures at **Ga Choi Stone**. Lunch on boat (arranged by Vietravel since it will be included in boat reservation)

Transfer back to Hanoi airport for **flight** to Hue (19:30 / 20:45). Arrive in **Hue**, pick up at airport.

Dinner & Overnight Hue (B,L,D)

DAY 5: HUE

Breakfast at hotel. Cruise along **Perfume River** to visit **Thien Mu pagoda**. Then visit **mausoleum of Minh Mang** and **Tu Duc**. Lunch transfer. Visit **Imperial Citadel** and then shopping at **Dong Ba market**.

Dinner at Cung Dinh Restaurant (Morin hotel).

Dinner & Overnight Hue (B,D)

DAY 6: HUE/VINH MOC/HUE

Breakfast at hotel. Depart for **Quang Tri**.. On arrival, take a city tour: visit **Vinh Moc Tunnels**, **Ben Hai River** one of the demarcation lines between North and South Vietnam, over **Hien Luong Bridge** with two flags towers, **Mc Namara Electronic Fence**. Continue on a **City tour: La Vang Church**.. Transfer back to Hue.

Dinner & Overnight Hue (B,D)

DAY 7: HUE/DA NANG/HOI AN

Breakfast at hotel. Depart for **Hoi An**, stop on top of **Hai Van Pass** for beautiful view and take photos. Visit **Cham museum**. After lunch break visit **Historical and Cultural Museum**.

Overnight Hoi An (B,D)

DAY 8:HOI AN/FREE DAY

Breakfast at hotel. Today is free at leisure.

Dinner & Overnight Hoi An (B,D)

DAY 9: HOI AN/FLIGHT: DA NANG TO HOCHIMINH CITY

Breakfast in box served by hotel. Transfer to Da Nang airport for flight to **Hochiminh City** (08:00 / 09:10). Arrive in **Hochiminh City**, pick up group Visit **War Remnant Museum**, **General Post Office** and **Notre Dame Cathedral**. Lunch transfer. Visit **Reunification Palace** and **Kup Dail Temple** before going to **Ben Thanh market**.

Dinner & Overnight Hochiminh City (B,D)

DAY 10: MEKONG DELTA

Depart for **Vinh Long**. Take a boat cruise on **Long Ho canal** and **Cai Ca canal**. Visit some workshop: tiles, soyabean curd, making burn bricks, ceramic and coconut candy, experiencing local farmer's daily life.

Dinner & Overnight at Local Home (B,,D)

DAY 11: CU CHI TUNNELS/FLIGHT HOME

After breakfast go on a full day visit to the Vitekong's **Cu Chi Tunnels**. Return to **Hochiminh**.

Dinner & Overnight Hochiminh City (B,D)

DAY 12: FREE DAY/FLIGHT HOME

Breakfast at hotel. Free day until transfer to airport for a night flight home.