# Complete Vietnam Holiday

## 10 days/ 9 nights




### Itinerary at glance:

Day 1: Ho Chi Minh City Arrival
Day 2: Ho Chi Minh City – Cu Chi Tunnels
Day 3: Mekong Delta day trip
Day 4: Ho Chi Minh City – Hoi An
Day 5: Discover Hoi An Ancient Town
Day 6: Hoi An – Hanoi – Rickshaw ride and train street
Day 7: Hanoi City Sightseeing
Day 8: Hanoi – Halong Bay
Day 9: Halong Bay – Hanoi
Day 10: Hanoi Cooking Class – Departure

### Detailed itinerary:

**Day 1: Ho Chi Minh City Arrival**

Upon arrival at the Tan Son Nhat Airport, you will be welcomed by your driver and local guide before getting transferred by private car to your hotel.

Included meals: -
Accommodation: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City

**Day 2: Ho Chi Minh City – Cu Chi Tunnels**

Spend this day to venture Cu Chi Tunnels and unveil Ho Chi Minh City. Drive for around 2 hours, you will reach the famous Cu Chi Tunnels, one of the most significant historical sites in Vietnam. This immense network of underground tunnels was initially hand-dug by the Viet Minh in the late 1940s during the French-Indochina War, then expanded and used massively by the Viet Cong during the subsequent Vietnam War.

In the afternoon, set off to uncover a few prominent attractions of the city: the French colonial Saigon Central Post Office, the iconic Notre Dame Cathedral, and Dong Khoi Street - a wide avenue lined with luxurious shops and hotels. Next, spend some time roaming the insightful War Remnants Museum – exhibits US weapons and vehicles used during the Vietnam War. This museum also displays photographs showcasing the war's effects on Vietnamese civilians, including the consequences of chemical weapons.

Included meals: Breakfast, lunch
Accommodation: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City

**Day 3: Mekong Delta day trip**

This morning, depart from Ho Chi Minh City and head west to explore Ben Tre Province in the Mekong Delta region. You will board the boat sailing along a Mekong's tributary. Make stops to discover several local workshops to gain a deeper insight into some local specialties such as the coconut candies and a brick factory to learn about the local way of making handmade bricks, etc. During your adventure in Mekong Delta, you will ride a local motorized rickshaw called *xe loi* to wander around the village and catch some fascinating sights of traditional farms, rice fields, and vegetable plants.

At noon, move toward a humble local restaurant for a delicious and hearty lunch. In the afternoon, hop on a bicycle to traverse the village roads with lush landscape, visit a local workshop specializing in carpet weaving, enjoy a leisurely sampan ride along the zigzag canals, then travel back to Ho Chi Minh City by car.

Included meals: Breakfast, lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City

**Day 4: Ho Chi Minh City – Hoi An**

This morning, move to Tan Son Nhat Airport for your flight to Da Nang City, which typically takes about 1.5 hours. Upon your arrival at Da Nang Airport, you will be picked up by your enthusiastic tour guide and transferred to your hotel in Hoi An.

Late afternoon is the time for a lovely sunset cruise on the Thu Bon River. Reaching the dock, you will get on a wooden boat to sail along the major branch of the Thu Bon River's lower section. You can take in the beautiful surroundings while gaining some knowledge about the local lifestyle. As the boat heads toward the Cua Dai Estuary, you will have a chance to observe the lush green Bay Mau Coconut Forest, the magnificent scenery of the countryside, and many interesting activities on the Thu Bon River. Spend the dusk soaking in the spectacular view of the Thu Bon River before returning to Hoi An.

Included meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Hoi An

**Day 5: Discover Hoi An Ancient Town**

Today, you will get to explore Hoi An Ancient Town, a charming place recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. The well-preserved ancient streets and houses showcase a harmonious blend of Vietnamese, Japanese, Chinese, and French architectural elements can be seen via outstanding structures like the renowned Japanese Covered Bridge, the marvelous Fujian Assembly Hall, and the 200-year-old house of Tan Ky.

Later, commence a relaxing bicycle ride through Hoi An's rural paths to Tra Que Vegetable Village, known for its organic farming practices and production of fresh vegetables and herbs. Take your time to observe local farmers' daily work, or even join them in planting and picking vegetables. At lunch, feast on the village's specialties and some other salient dishes of the region.

In the afternoon, join a lantern workshop to learn more about this traditional handicraft. Introduced to Hoi hundreds of years ago by the Chinese, the art of lantern-making has now become a symbol of the city's rich cultural heritage. The workshop allows you to create your lanterns from bamboo frames and silk fabric under the guidance of skilled artisans. This is a work

of precision, which requires patience and a touch of dexterity to complete. At the end of the class, you'll be able to take home your masterpiece as a meaningful souvenir.
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch
Accommodation: Hotel in Hoi An
Remark: Guests who can't ride bicycles will travel to Tra Que Village by Car

**Day 6: Hoi An – Hanoi – Rickshaw ride and train street**

In the morning, you will catch a flight from Da Nang to Hanoi, which also takes approximately 1.5 hours. After arriving, meet up with your local guide and move to the center of Hanoi for check-in.Spend the afternoon experiencing Hanoians' life in the 1950s by traversing the Old Quarter on a cycle rickshaw in 45 minutes. This exciting cyclo ride let you discover the cultural heart of Vietnam's capital where each street is historically dedicated to a particular trade: silver items, silks, medicinal herbs, paper products, tin goods, jewelry, cooking utensils, painting supplies, fish sauce, jars and ceramics... This maze-like quarter stands out with not only old-fashioned Vietnamese houses, pagodas, and temples, but also colonial French buildings, cozy cafes, and colorful shops. As the ride ends, let's stop by a cafe and feel the vivacious ambiance over the train street where trains often pass by.
Included meals: Breakfast
Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

**Day 7: Hanoi City Sightseeing**

Begin your full-day discovery of the capital with Tran Quoc Pagoda, one of the most ancient pagodas in Hanoi. Constructed in the 6th century, the pagoda has been relocated to a peninsular on West Lake since the 17th century. Afterward, take a 15-minute leisure walk along the beautiful Thanh Nien Road to Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum - the final resting place of Vietnam's greatest leader, his traditional stilt house, and the architecturally striking One-Pillar Pagoda nearby.
In the afternoon, pay a visit to the Temple of Literature (or *Van Mieu* in Vietnamese), a temple dedicated to Confucius and also the site of Vietnam's first university. This complex is like a peaceful oasis amid the bustling city with ornate gates, pretty water lily ponds, traditional style pavilions, and well-manicured gardens. Later on, you will explore the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology. Created in November 1997 at the Francophonie Summit, it is both a research center and a public museum that showcases the rich diversity of the country's 54 ethnic groups.
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch
Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi
*Notes: The Vietnam Museum of Ethnology is closed on Monday. You can opt for an alternative to visit the Hoa Lo Prison or the Vietnamese Woman Museum.*

**Day 8: Hanoi – Halong Bay**

On this day, let's venture to Halong Bay - a fabulous natural wonder that's approximately 2.5 hours of driving from Hanoi. This world-famous bay is one of the most stunning landscapes in Vietnam with over 1,900 limestone islands and islets, mostly uninhabited and unvisited. These towering formations rise majestically from the emerald waters, creating a breathtaking panorama that

helped the bay earn its UNESCO World Heritage status in 1994. Upon arrival, you will soon embark on an inclusive cruise trip through the most splendid attractions of Halong Bay. The trip includes delectable meals with freshly caught seafood, and fun activities onboard after the night falls.
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner
Accommodation: Halong Bay overnight cruise

**Day 9: Halong Bay – Hanoi**
On the next day on Halong Bay, let's get up at dawn to admire the gorgeous sunrise over the turquoise waters of the bay. The cruise will continue to glide around the bay until it finally docks at the end of the morning. After that, you will return to Hanoi. Have free time at your leisure to explore further of Hanoi City and go shopping around the Hanoi Old Quarter.
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch
Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

**Day 10: Hanoi Cooking Class – Departure**
After checking out of the hotel, you will head out of the Old Quarter to a small local market, where your chef awaits. They will accompany you as you explore the vibrant market stalls and discover a colorful array of fresh ingredients and local produce. Next, move to a riverside house to savor a warm cup of tea. With your hosts as your guide, you'll dive into the art of traditional Vietnamese cooking, master the preparation of several authentic dishes, and learn more about the local culture. When your culinary creations are complete, sit down to enjoy a delicious, freshly prepared meal before bidding a fond farewell to your hosts.
After the meal, take a rest before taking a 30-minute drive to Noi Bai Airport for your outbound flight.
Included meals: Breakfast, lunch
Accommodation: