

14 Days – Vietnam Family Adventure

- Highlights: Hanoi (4N) – Sapa (2N) – Halong Bay (1N) – Da Nang – Hoi An (3N) – Saigon (3N) – Cuchi Tunnels – My Tho
- Tour type: Historical & Cultural Tours

Traveling to Vietnam on a family adventure from Hanoi to Saigon will give your family deep memories than ever. With great food, lush scenery and lots of warm, friendly locals, the whole family will fall in love with Vietnam. Exploring the traditional and old-aged craft village of Hanoi, experiencing tribes' lives, sailing along Ha Long Bay, enjoying lantern making; Cycling... will be the activities suitable to yours. An incredible opportunity for your family to get off the beaten track in Vietnam. This tour was nominated by the National Geographic Travel Magazine as one of the Tours of a Lifetime in 2011.

Day 1: Hanoi Arrival

Upon arrival at the Airport, you will meet our guide and be transferred to hotel for check-in

Meals: No

Accommodation: Maison D' Hanoi Hanova Hotel (3*)

Day 2: Ha Noi

Morning, start a city tour beginning with **Ho Chi Minh Complex** which features the life of Ho Chi Minh, the nation's founder. At the complex, visit **Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum** where the nation's founder's body is preserved (closed on Monday, Friday and through October - November), **colonial Presidential Palace**, originally the French Governor Office and a fine example of French architecture in Hanoi, and rural style Ho Chi Minh's house on stilts where Ho Chi Minh and worked. Stop by one of Hanoi's icons, the **One Pillar Pagoda**, built in the 11th Century in dedication to Avalokiteshvara or Buddha of Compassion and reminiscent of a lotus blossom rising from a pond. Continue to the **Temple of Literature**, known as the first university of Vietnam built in 1070 by the Ly Dynasty to honor Confucius, sages and outstanding Vietnamese scholars. Lunch at a Vietnamese restaurant



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In the afternoon, visit **Hoan Kiem Lake** and **Ngoc Son Temple** located on an islet in the lake. Hoan Kiem Lake is the center point of Hanoi and home to a rare endangered giant turtle species. Its name "Returned Sword" comes from a legend of a sacred sword being lent to an ancient Vietnamese King by a holy turtle from the lake and later returned to the turtle. Discover **special Vietnamese traditional art of water puppetry** as well as Vietnamese folklore through a compelling puppet show at Thang Long Theatre. Shop or walk at leisure in the Old Quarter of 36 ancient streets or return your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Maison D' Hanoi Hanova Hotel (3*)

Day 3: Hanoi - Lao Cai – Sapa

Early departure by Sapa Express bus from Hanoi at 7:30 to Sapa at 12:30, meet our English local guide and driver upon arrival then transfer to hotel for check in

Morning, transfer Southward to **Muong Hoa valley** which is the largest paddy terrace in Sapa area. Our guide will provide you with interesting information about processes of rice growing. A visit to the valley between May and October will give you a chance to observe locals either planting a new crop or harvesting an old one. Take a walk to **Lao Chai village** of Black H'mong minority to **Ta Van village** of Giay minority and come back to town to visit its Catholic Church. If time permits, visit minority village named **Cat Cat** to observe minority villagers colorfully dressed in indigo tunics, leggings, elaborate pleated skirts, and silver-studded jackets. Interact with these minorities and learn about their unique lifestyle, which has not much changed despite the long passage of time. You will also enjoy a mountain minority traditional dance show here.



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Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Bamboo Hotel (3*)

Day 4: Sapa

You head out from Sapa by cycling downhill into **Ban Ho valley**. The ride offers beautiful views to fantastic scenery of mountains and paddy fields along the way until you arrive at the Lodge. Here you will have lunch in the Tay stilt restaurant. After lunch, you will have a pleasant walk to the Lodges. The Ecolodge consists of 25 individual lodges placed in a circle around the hills. From the Lodge, there are breathtaking views across the scenic valleys below, which are home to villages of Tay, **Red Dao and Xa Pho minorities**. Later you will cycle over to the nearby **Red Dao village** of Lech. Here you have time to explore the daily life of the Red Dao minority. After visiting the Red Dao village you cycle back to the downtown



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Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Bamboo Hotel (3*)

Day 5: Sapa – Bac Ha Market – Hanoi

Morning, leave Sapa early to transfer to **Bac Ha Market** about 2.5 hour drive away. Arrive to discover the big outdoors market, known as the venue for largest fairs in the regions, lively with minorities of various groups buying and selling assorted goods including handicraft and farming tools.

Move on to **Trung Do Village** to enjoy a water buffalo-pulled ride amid the scenic countryside inhabited by the hospitable minority people. From the village, travel by boat down the River for sightseeing along the river before enjoying a



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refreshing cup of tea before taking the evening Sapa Express bus from Sapa 16:30 to Hanoi 21:30.

Upon arrival, our local guide in Hanoi transfers you bus station to your hotel. Check in for overnight

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Maison D' Hanoi Hanova Hotel (3*)

Day 6: Hanoi – Ha Long (B/L/D)

At 8:00 AM, transfer to Ha Long Bay about 160 km or 3.5-hour drive away. On the way, you will see some rural areas of the Red River Delta with plenty of chances to take photos of Vietnamese farmers working in paddy fields. Stop half way to visit a handicraft workshop of fine clothes and embroidered paintings. Arrive in Ha Long City around noon and check in aboard the booked junk right after the welcome drink is served.



Taichi Exercise

Start cruising while having lunch on board and enjoy the mighty bay view. Ha Long Bay meaning Descending Dragon Bay in Vietnamese as legend has it that it was where a holly dragon landed down from sky. The bay, famous as one of the world's wonders and heritage sites whose formation dates back 500 million years, consists of around 2,000 karst islands and islets scattered over an area of 1,553 km². The bay cruise will continue with up close sighting of **Dinh Huong Island, Ga Choi Island, Dog Island, Sail Island, a visit to Sung Sot Cave** and swimming stop at Titov Beach. Relax to enjoy the bay view at sunset, have dinner after, go fishing at 09:00 PM and spend a night on board.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: V'Spirit Cruise in Ha Long

Day 7: Ha Long – Hanoi

Early risers can enjoy the splendid yet tranquil view of the bay at the crack of dawn. Breathe the sea's fresh air, feel the morning breeze and hear the sounds of birds above. Have breakfast and cruise to visit Human head shaped island and Tortoise Island. Continue to cruise into Bai Tu Long Bay to discover the adjacent bay of "**The Little Dragon Bowing to His Mother**" as it is named. Check out and have lunch on board while heading to shore. Disembark and transfer back to Hanoi with your private vehicle, guide and driver. Arrival Hanoi, check in & free at leisure.

Meals: Brunch

Accommodation: Maison D' Hanoi Hanova Hotel (3*)

Day 8: Hanoi – Da Nang – Hoi An

Morning, transfer to airport for flight to Da Nang. Arriving at Da Nang, meet our guide and transfer to Hoi An Ancient Town. Check in & free at leisure.

Afternoon, take a town tour of Hoi An to see its beauty up close. Included for your sightseeing will be **the town's iconic 400-old Covered Bridge** with a small temple attached to one side prominent example of Japanese architecture, the **Museum of**



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Trade Ceramics which is an elegant Vietnamese style wooden house built in 1858 showcasing antique ceramic artifacts, the 200-year-old Tan Ky House typifying an ancient Chinese merchant residence, the Ong Temple built in 1653 by Chinese settlers to worship Guan Yu, an ancient Chinese general whose character stands for loyalty, bravery and justice. Enjoy strolling the small streets of antique low tile-roofed houses, which reflect the town's multi-cultural past.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Lantern Hotel in Hoi An

Day 9: Hoi An – Lantern making – Cooking class & Cycling

Morning, meet our guide at hotel and transfer to cooking class. guide of restaurant will bring you to the market and show you ingredients you should use in your recipes. Afterwards, you board a boat for the 25-minute ride on the Hoi An River to the cooking school. We believe the ride is very worth the price watching the fishermen cast their nets up the water and life the river. You arrive at a small town and walk to the cooking school that starts in an open-air pavilion next to the river. Chef Thanh will teach you how to cook a good Vietnamese lunch. You watch and follow the guideline to cook yourself, and then lunch is ready preparation for you, you also taste the food you cook.



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After lunch, go to a family making lanterns by Bicycle. Spending half day together with families making lanterns, you can see with your eyes and yourselves make all work stages: from sharpening bamboo, bending into frame, cutting cloth, sticking and completing lanterns under the guidance of enthusiastic craftsmen. After saying goodbye, you will be presented a meaningful souvenir. The lanterns made by yourselves.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Lantern Hotel in Hoi An

Day 10: Hoi An

Full day free at your own leisure at the beach

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Lantern Hotel in Hoi An

Day 11: Hoi An – Da Nang – Ho Chi Minh (Saigon)

Morning, transferred to airport for flight from Da Nang to Saigon. Arriving at Saigon, meet our guide and transfer to hotel for check-in.

Afternoon, we visit **the War Remnants Museum**, which features an extensive collection of exhibits including weaponry, photos and documentation on Vietnam's wars with the French and Americans, the Reunification Palace which was formerly the South Vietnam President's residence and symbol of the Southern Administration's reign until end of April 1975. Stop at **Saigon Notre-Dame Basilica**, a neo-Roman cathedral built by colonial French with materials entirely imported from Marseilles, Saigon Central Post Office, former US Embassy, **Cho Lon** or the city's **China Town** with its **Quan Am Pagoda**. Proceed to



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the **Jade Emperor Temple** (Phuoc Hai), a rare Taoist structure in Vietnam built in 1909. Then last stroll around the French-built Ben Thanh Market which dates back to 1870 and whose main entrance clock tower has become a city's symbol.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Sonnet Hotel in Ho Chi Minh

Day 12: Ho Chi Minh – Cu Chi Tunnels

Morning, take a half-day tour to the **Cu Chi Tunnels**, 75 km Northwest of downtown Ho Chi Minh City, which were once a major underground hideout and resistance of Viet Cong forces during the two wars against the French and on Americans. The tunnels, entirely hand-dug, formed a highly intricate network of interlinked multilevel passageways at stretched as far as the Cambodian border and totaling over 120 in length. Its complexity was beyond imagination containing meeting rooms, kitchens, wells, clinics, schools, depots, trenches and emergency exits all aimed for guerrilla warfare. The tunnels were deep and strong enough to withstand destructive bombings and self-contained enough to outlast prolonged sieges. Back to Ho Chi Minh City and spend time at leisure. Lunch at a local restaurant.



Cu Chi tunnels

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Afternoon at leisure

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Sonnet Hotel in Ho Chi Minh

Day 13: Ho Chi Minh – Cycling to Mekong Delta

You will be picked up at your hotel in early morning and transfer with bikes to Long An (car & guide escorted). You riding to My Tho and cruising along small creek to Mekong estuary and stop over a garden on Con Phung (Phoenix Island) restaurant for Vietnamese lunch.

After lunch, enjoy a cruise by motorized boat along natural creeks and quiet village in Ben Tre Province. You'll also visit orchards and bee - keeping farm, tasting natural honey and honey wine, enjoying tropical fruit, listening to traditional music, seeing round a distillery, exploring the local coconut candy production process, tasting candy & coconut pulp.



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Continue to ride along the single track around **Quoi An village** in Ben Tre and stop at the pier for a boat row through the narrow canal with lush water-coconut trees on head back to the motorized boat, cruising to the van heading HCM city.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Sonnet Hotel in Ho Chi Minh

Day 14: Ho Chi Minh - Departure

After your final breakfast in Vietnam, you are free to do some last minute shopping and exploring before transferred to the airport for your flight departure.

Meals: Breakfast

Valid from 01 Oct 2014 to 30 April 2015

365/VN14D-01AD	ALL RATES ARE NET IN US\$			
	2	3-4	5-6	Single Supplement
Value - 3*	972	884	746	366

Surcharge:

- Domestic airfare with taxes for flights by Vietnam Airlines (Subject to be changed)
 - Hanoi (HAN) – Da Nang (DAN): US\$ 110/ pax/ way
 - Da Nang (DAN) – Saigon (SGN): US\$ 110/ pax/ way

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Accommodation in a double or twin room with daily breakfast
- Services of a driver and private air-conditioned vehicle during all tours and transfers
- Experienced English-speaking guide during all tours and transfers
- Private board for sightseeing as mentioned in the program
- Entrance fees for all visits as mentioned in the itinerary
- Lunch or dinner as specified in the itinerary

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

- International & Domestic flight tickets
- Visa stamping fee at the airport
- Meals, if not specified in the itinerary
- Travel insurance (we highly recommend that you purchase adequate insurance)
- Gratuities for guides and drivers
- Personal expenses, such as laundry, telephone, drinks, etc.
- All other services not specified in the itinerary

5. HOTEL USED IN THIS TOUR:

Place	3star hotel	Website
Hanoi	Maison D' Hanoi Hanova Hotel	www.maisondhanoi.com
	La Rosa Hotel	www.hanoilarosahotel.com
Sapa	Bamboo Hotel	www.bamboosapahotel.com.vn
Halong Cruise	V'Spirit Cruise	www.vspiritcruises.com
	Glory Cruise	www.halongglorycruise.com
Hoi An	Lantern Hoi An	www.HoiAnlanternhotel.com
	Kim An Hotel	www.kimanHoiAnhotel.com
Ho Chi Minh	Elios Hotel	www.elioshotel.vn
	Sonnet Hotel	www.sonnetsaigonhotel.com

All other alternative hotels will be used in case the above mentioned hotels are fully booked

6. SERVICE DETAILS DURING THE TRIP:

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- All prices are quoted in USD/ per person, based on Double/Twin occupancy
- Supplement for standard menu meals: US\$ 12 for lunch & US\$ 18 for dinner
- Private services & daily departure
- Surcharge for Compulsory dinner for Xmas and New Year Eve
- Surcharge for domestic flight tickets with taxes:

SPECIAL OFFER

- [Free] Mineral water is available during transfers
- [Free] Vietnam visa approval letter on arrival
- [Free] Traditional Gifts