

VIETNAM HIGHLIGHTS TOUR

(Hanoi – Ninh Binh – Halong cruise- Hue – Danang – Hoi An - Ho Chi Minh)
(12 days / 11 nights)

DEPARTURE FROM CYPRUS 27/09/2024

Flights with Emirates airlines

27/09/24	20:10 Larnaca	01:05 Dubai	+1
28/09/24	03:30 Dubai	13:15 Hanoi	
08/10/24	23:55 Ho Chi Minh	04:25 Dubai	+1
09/10/24	07:35 Dubai	10:10 Larnaca	

Domestic Flights with Vietnam airlines

10:50 Hanoi	12:10 Danang
10:45 Danang	12:25 Ho Chi Minh

Group leader from our office

DAY 01: HANOI ARRIVAL

Upon your arrival at Noi Bai International Airport (**Flight EK 394: 03h30-13h15**), you are warmly welcomed by tour guide and driver. Transfer to the hotel (standard check-in time is 14h00). Take a rest at the hotel.

19:00 Welcome dinner by Opera travel in local restaurant.

Overnight at a hotel in Hanoi.

Distance: Noi Bai airport - hotel in Hanoi center is 30km and 45 minutes' drive

Meals included: None

***Note: Please take note that International check-in time to hotel is 1400 hrs and check-out time is 1200 hrs.**

DAY 2: HANOI HOA LU TRANG AN TOUR

Breakfast at hotel and today our guide will pick you up at your hotel in Hanoi and take a morning drive to visit **Hoa Lu** which was the capital city of Vietnam under the **Dinh Dynasty** between 968 and 980 AD and ancient sanctuaries and tombs can still be seen today. Apart from the historical importance, the area is naturally beautiful, referred to many as the "dry Halong Bay," with limestone peaks and fertile green valleys. After lunch, take the amazing boat trip to visit **Trang An Scenic Landscape Complex** was inscribed as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** which is a gathering of 31 valleys, 50 cross-water caves, and home to 600 kinds of flora and over 200 kinds of fauna, many of them in the Red Book of Vietnam. While rowing through Trang An grotto in the quiet, fresh air of the highlands, with only the sound of birds and the oars stirring the clear water and surrounded by magnificent forested mountains upon which graze white goats, visitors enjoy a heaven on earth. The end of the day, drive back to Hanoi.

Distance: Hanoi center -> Ninh Binh is 100km and take 02 hours driving.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 03 : HANOI HALONG BAY

After breakfast, you will take a morning depart for Halong bay, we go through the scenic countryside. The wondrous Halong bay is truly one of Vietnam's most impressive scenic sights. Heading out of the town we embark on cruise to explore the legendary Halong bay. You will see a fantastic view of the picturesque scenery blending with the sky and some 3,000 limestone islands rising amazingly from the clear and emerald water. The limestone karsts formations are littered with beaches, grottoes and beautiful caves. Along the way we will anchor for a leisurely **swim** in a secluded cove and an enjoyable visit to one of the many hidden grottoes beneath towering cliffs. Moreover, you will have chance to **kayak** by yourself or take a **boat trip** to see the karst mountain closer. In the evening, have a cooking demonstration with the chef. Drop the anchor and have an hearty dinner. After that, try your luck at **fishing squid** with the assistance of cruise staff. Stay overnight on the cruise.

Distance: Hanoi center - Halong bay is 180km and 02 hours + 45 minutes' drive

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 04: HALONG BAY HANOI

Waking up and having breakfast served onboard. Continue cruising around the bay. Having brunch before disembarking at around **11h30** and car will pick you up at the pier. Then transfer back to Hanoi. Arrive Hanoi at around 15h00. Check-in hotel and take rest. Then visit: visit **Jonseph's Cathedral, Hoan Kiem Lake {Include Thap But (Pencil Tower), Dai Nghien (Ink Pot) and especially Ngoc Son (Jade Mountain) Temple sat on an island at the North end of Hoan Kiem Lake and is connected to the mainland by a bright red The Huc (Morning Sunlight) Bridge. Enjoy local egg coffee.** Today you will have a chance to watch the traditional **Water Puppet Show** (*the show is available at 15:00, 16:10, 17:20, 18:30 & 20:00 and lasts 45 minutes*). Back to your hotel and you are free the rest of the day. Overnight at a hotel in Hanoi.

Distance: Halong bay - Hanoi center is 180km and 02 hours + 45 minutes' drive.

Meals included: Brunch

DAY 05: HANOI COOKING CLASS TOUR (approx. 4 hours) NOI BAI AIRPORT HUE

Enjoy breakfast at hotel, in this morning:

8h.15: Our Chef will pick you up at your hotel by taxi to the class.

9h.00: Chefs are generalized about the program.

9h.10: Take a taxi tour.

9h.30: Local market tour & street food tasting. Walking through the local market to exploring a characteristic of Vietnamese market which described the culture that only can find in Vietnam. Besides, some of the local seasoning and food material would be explained by our chef during the market tour.

10h.40: Cooking Class is start. the chef will teach you how to pre-process and making the Vietnamese foods with detailed instruction & recipes.

12h00: Time to enjoy your own food, drinks are available on your request during lunch. After that, transfer to Noi Bai airport to take onward flight **VN 1545 (16h30 - 17h50)** (*recommended schedule*) to Da Nang. Upon arrival, greeted by our local guide and driver. Then transfer straight to Hoi An for hotel check-in. Free for leisure time and discovery night in Hue on your own. Overnight at a hotel in Hue.

Distance: Hanoi center- Noi Bai airport is 30km and 45 minutes' drive

Phu Bai Airport - hotel is 15 km and 30 minutes drive.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 06: HUE FULL DAY CITY TOUR

After breakfast, enjoy visit **The Citadel by electric car, and then visit to Mieu Shrine, Thai Hoa Palace, Khai Dinh. Next to visit Tu Duc Tomb Conical Hat & Incense Making Village. In this afternoon, visit Thien Mu Pagoda** then get on the boat for sightseeing along the Perfume River to see a fishing village and sampan on the way back, Shopping at Dong Ba Market. Overnight at hotel in Hue.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 07 : HUE DANANG BANA HILLS HOI AN

08h00: After breakfast at hotel, check out hotel and drive to Hoi An, on the way photosop on Hai Van Pass. On the way visit Bana Hills visit **Ba Na Hills - King Mountain.**

10:30 You will admire the high by the most modern cable car system in Southeast Asia. You will visit Dream Stream Cable car Station. After finishing the first cable car, you will visit France wine cellar, Exploring the **Golden Bridge** (Winding its way around a 150-meter course lined with flowers, a golden bridge shimmers against the Ba Na Hills, supported by a pair of giant hands. You will see the panorama of Danang City.

12:30 Have a buffet lunch and take a rest at the restaurant.

13:30 Explore **King Peak** at an altitude of 1.487m, you can see panorama view of Da Nang on high.

Spend your time in **Fantasy Park**, which is 21,000 square meters of indoor fun and games included in the ticket.

16:30 Return to the cable car station and continue to transfer to Hoi An. You are free the rest of the day to discover Hoi An Ancient Town. Overnight at a hotel in Hoi An.

Distance: Hue – Bana Hills is 110 km and 2 hours 30 minutes' drive

Bana Hills – Hoi An is 60 km and 1 hour 30 minutes' drive

Meals included: Breakfast, Buffet Lunch

DAY 08: HOI AN MY SON SANCTUARY HOI AN ANCIENT TOWN (APPROX. 5 HOURS)

After breakfast, 08H00: Local tour guide and driver will pick you up at lobby hotel and transfer to Discover My Son sanctuary. My Son was an imperial city during the Cham dynasty between the 4th and 12th centuries. My Son sanctuary, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a large complex of religious relics that comprises of more than 70 architectural works. My Son Hindu Sanctuary is a great example of the ancient Champa civilization, with temples dated over 1,000 years in the middle of the jungle. Their skillful use of red bricks and sandstone with their intricate carved-brick decorations is remarkable. Then back to Hoian. Then transfer to Hoi An old town - a world heritage site recognized by UNESCO in 1999, considered as a major Asian trading port in the 17th and 18th centuries and its architecture and relaxed lifestyle has changed little over the years. Walking city tour of Hoi An: visit to the Museum of History, Chinese temple and Pagoda, Japanese Bridge, Chinese old.

hotel at around **15h00** and the tour ends.

Overnight at a hotel in Hoi An.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 09: HOI AN 🚗 DANANG ✈️ HO CHI MINH CITY 🚗

Breakfast at hotel, check out hotel. Then tour guide and driver pick up you by bus to the airport to take your flight **VN 109 (09H15-1045)** (*recommended schedule*) to Ho Chi Minh city. Upon arrival, transfer to the restaurant for lunch. After lunch, take a short rest at hotel before taking a fascinating trip around Ho Chi Minh. Take a short orientation tour includes: **Opera House**, a three-story classical theatre built to entertain the French colonists (outdoor visit); the former **Hotel de Ville** constructed for the French bureaucrats of Indochina in 1901, now The People's Committee building with no public access; the **Notre Dame Cathedral**, a stunningly massive red-brick edifice with twin spires, a clear reminder that French once ruled this city (open only 3-4pm every day, otherwise just an outdoor visit); the **Central Post Office** influenced by Renaissance architecture; and the former **Presidential Palace**, headquarters of the Sai Gon Government during the American war. Then we will visit the **War Remnants Museum**, which primarily contains exhibits relating to the American phase of the Vietnam War. Enjoy **A O Show**- <https://www.luneproduction.com/ao-show> . Overnight at hotel in Ho Chi Minh.

Distance: Tan Son Nhat airport - hotel in Ho Chi Minh city center is 9km and 30 minutes' drive.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 10 : HO CHI MINH 🚗 MEKONG DELTA (BEN TRE) 🚤 🚗 HO CHI MINH

Today at 08h00 our tour guide will pick you at hotel in Ho Chi Minh city center and drive to **Ben Tre**. You will be welcomed at the foot of Phong Nam Bridge, then take you along the **Chet Say River** to enjoy the sight of moving cargo boat, traditional coconut processing facilities on the river bank... It will take you to visit **brickyard** where you can experience the traditional way local people make brick, and see how coconut shells are used in the coal-fired oven to make activated carbon, explore how people process coconut such as: coconut peeling, coconut crushing, coconut cutting, coconut shaving... Enjoy fresh coconut water while the boat takes you to Cai Son canal where you will see local people fishing along the river. Visit the **coconut candy oven** - enjoy hot coconut candy at the oven, use seasonal fruits with honey tea. Visit **mat weaving village** in Nhon Thanh, bus or bike will take the group along the village to the restaurant for lunch. Paddle boat in **coconut water canal**, motorboat takes you to Hung Vuong wharf.

15h00: Get on car and then you will go back to Ho Chi Minh city center for overnight. The tour ends at hotel around **17h00**. Overnight at hotel in Ho Chi Minh city.

Distance: Ho Chi Minh city center – Ben Tre is 87km and 01 hour + 55 minutes' drive.

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 11: HO CHI MINH DEPARTURE 🚗

Breakfast at hotel. Free for leisure time until time check out hotel at **12h00 noon**.

Our guide and driver will pick you up at hotel in Ho Chi Minh. Enjoy a 2-hour drive northwest of Sai Gon to the Cu Chi tunnels, through urbanized areas and a lush southern Vietnamese countryside. This tunnel complex was dug in 1948 for the guerrillas to hide from French air and ground sweeps. The tunnels also served as communication routes, food and weapon caches, and as hospitals and living quarters for guerrilla fighters throughout the American war. Visit the underground villages to better understand the tunnels' history, life in the tunnels and the Vietnamese people's resilience during combat. The tour end at your hotel.

Distance: Ho Chi Minh city center - Cu Chi tunnels is 70km and 02 hours' drive

Transfer to the airport to take your departure flight back to your home.
Distance: hotel in Ho Chi Minh city center - Tan Son Nhat airport is 9km and 30 minutes' drive.

Meals included: Breakfast

PRICE PER ADULT	4 STARS
09 - 13 adults	EUR 3380
Single room surcharge	EUR 540

Services Inclusion	Services Exclusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Air tickets with Emirates airlines Larnaca-Hanoi- Ho Chi Minh- Larnaca ✓ Bagage 25 kg and 7 kg hand bag ✓ Domestic Flights Hanoi – Da nang and Danang- Ho Chi Minh ✓ Airport Taxes ✓ Hotel accommodation based on double or twin rooms sharing with daily breakfast at hotel ✓ Private transportation with A/C vehicle on tour ✓ Entrance fees on tour ✓ 2 days 1 night cruise on Halong bay ✓ Private boat trip on Mekong river ✓ Cooking class tour in Hanoi on 4th Day ✓ Ticket (Ooh! [O] class) at A O Show in Ho Chi Minh ✓ Meals included as indicated in the itinerary (9 Lunch and 3 Dinners) ✓ English speaking tour guides ✓ 02 mineral bottles of water per person per day <p>Tour</p> <p>Free group travel insurance</p> <p>Free from Opera travel internet sim cards</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Visa entry Vietnam & visa services 35 USD (For Cyprus or EU passport holders) ✓ Drinks & other meals not mention in the program ✓ Personal expenses ✓ Early check-in and late check-out ✓ Tipping for tour guides and drivers ✓ Other services not mentioned in the itinerary



*** List of hotels used & room typed:**

All hotels are 8+ rate reviews.

Range	Location	Hotel Names & Websites	Room Type
4 stars	Hanoi	Anatole hotel - www.anatolehotelhanoi.com/	Deluxe
	Halong bay	Pelican Cruise - www.pelicancruise.com	Deluxe cabin
	Hue	Eldora hotel - www.eldorahotel.com	Deluxe City View
	Hoi An	Belle Maison Hadana Hoi An resort & spa - www.bellemaisonhadana.com	Deluxe
	Ho Chi Minh	Harmony Sai Gon hotel - www.harmonysaigonhotel.com/en/	Premium Deluxe

*** Note: In case the hotels recommended in the package are fully booked, we will suggest similar hotels to substitute**

*** THE VEHICLE USED WHEN TRAVELING IN VIETNAM**

Group of 10 - 14 adults	Group of 15 - 17 adults
 <p>29 seats bus - Hyundai County</p>	 <p>35 seats bus - Samco</p>

IMPORTANT NOTES (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY):

All of our tours are designed to include the highest quality hotels and service available at each destination. We are one of the few agencies which offers close to 100% "all inclusive, nothing more to pay" itineraries on our tours. There are no hidden costs and all non-inclusive items are clearly identified on each itinerary. Most of our tours include the services detailed below and any which do not will state this clearly:

- ✓ Selective accommodation at the comfort/cost level you specify
- ✓ English speaking tour guide (other languages are available upon your request)
- ✓ All transport and transfers from the first to last day
- ✓ Quality meals in the finest restaurants

- ✓ Domestic flights with airport taxes
- ✓ All entrance fees and permits during guided time
- ✓ The list is long, but not complete as we save some surprises for you to discover!

ACCOMMODATION:

Opera Travel selects only the best accommodation for our customers. Each hotel we use is carefully inspected by our staff and customer comment is taken into account. Selection is based on simple criteria: the best facilities, friendly accommodating staff and fair for the price. Our customers often report that their hotels have been above their expectations.

TOUR GUIDES

OperaTravel thinks that your tour guide can make or break your trip so we select our guides with care. Tour guides who work with us are well-paid, with a university background and with years of experience in tourism. Most are young and eager to exchange our culture and style of life with travelers, and have a great passion for their country and understand the personal touch.

TRANSPORTATION

Opera Travel guarantees to offer the best means of transport on all our tours. The safety of our customers comes first. We use only the latest modern cars, coaches or vans and all our drivers are full time workers, government licensed in the tourism industry with at least ten years driving experience. We are fully in control of our quality and service as we own our own transport.

MEALS

Opera Travel does not and never will provide cheap meals on our tours. Our focus is on cultural tours, and food is one of the ways we can show this culture to our customers. Travel with us and every evening meal is a surprise! Our guides ensure that our hand-picked menus are such that you will rarely eat the same food twice in two weeks. We believe that this will make your nights even more enjoyable after an interesting day's touring.

VACCINE

There is no compulsory to get any vaccine to visit our countries. But we encourage you to have popular Vaccine such as Diphtheria, Tetanus, Typhoid, Polio. You may consult your doctor before traveling.

TIPPINGS

Tipping is not compulsory, but it is recommended to tip the guide and driver who go with you at the end of the trip. The amount is up to you. If you find he is good, friendly, helpful and you are satisfied with his performance, give him more. If you find his performance is bad, give him less, even nothing. But again it is recommended to give him some to encourage his job and like lucky money in the New Year. The tips may ranges from US\$ 3.00/guest/day for a guide and from US\$ 2.00/guest/day for driver.

OTHER

- ✓ Please be aware that flight times, hotels and all other logistics, services and days of travel are subject to availability. Where flights are cancelled or delayed we will endeavor to secure alternative arrangements of similar value as noted in our booking conditions.
- ✓ Please bear in mind that you will have to carry your luggage when you are

- ✓ The traveling times mentioned within this dossier are approximations only. These times will vary according to weather, road, traffic or any other prevailing conditions.
- ✓ This itinerary and supplementary information has been compiled in good faith and was accurate at time of writing. However it DOES NOT form part of a contract between the client and Asiana Travel.