



Taste of Vietnam

Duration: 12 days / 11 nights

Overview: Hanoi - Halong - Hoian - Saigon - Mekong



Key Experiences:

What better way to experience a culture than through its food. Tantalize your taste buds on this 12-day tour that takes you through Vietnam, finding culinary inspiration in the rich history, vibrant culture and beautiful landscapes.

- Discover the colonial charm of Hanoi
- Cruise on the emerald seas of Halong Bay for stunning water vistas
- Learn how was royal cooking in Hue with a king's descendant
- Visit Tra Que herb plantations
- Become a real farmer and cook as a local in the South of Vietnam
- Savor the best of street food in Saigon on motorbike.



Day 1: Hanoi Arrival & Welcome Dinner 🍴

Welcome to Hanoi: Vietnam's bustling colonial capital. Your driver and guide will meet you outside the baggage claim of Noi Bai Airport and take you to your hotel in the city center. In the afternoon enjoy a cyclo tour through the Old Quarter's narrow streets lined with French colonial buildings – followed by a traditional Water Puppet Performance – a unique Vietnamese art form hailing from Southeast Asia's wet-rice culture. Savor a welcome dinner at one of Hanoi's finest restaurants. Overnight in Hanoi.

Day 2: Hanoi Cooking Class & City Tour 🚗

This morning, your tour guide will take you to the cooking class. Discover a local market and learn about ingredients, flavors and see how the local prepare for meals. Next is a short talk on the art of Hanoian gastronomy, vegetables, herbs & spices & learn how to prepare & use them. The Chef will share to you her pride of Vietnamese cuisines and the secrets how to make it good. Enjoy the local food in Hanoi style.

In the afternoon you will explore Vietnam's charming capital. With its wide tree-lined boulevards, French colonial architecture, peaceful lakes and ancient oriental pagodas, Hanoi is an eclectic mix that offers something for everyone. Your city tour will take you to Hanoi's key sites: the Temple of Literature; Hoa Loa Prison, West Lake including the sedate Tran Quoc Pagoda & Quan Thanh Temple. Overnight in Hanoi.

Day 3: Hanoi - Halong Bay Cruise 🚢

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel, before setting out on a 3 to 4 hour drive to the UNESCO World Heritage Site: Halong Bay. Spend 24 hours on a traditional Junk Cruise in the amazing bay: a natural wonderland composed of jutting limestone islands and sparkling turquoise waters. Savor a gourmet lunch of fresh seafood onboard as you sail out into the mystical bay. In the afternoon, cruise around some of Halong's numerous islands. Along the way visit one of the bay's 3 largest caves (Thien Cung, Dau Go or Sung Sot). Stop at an island cove with a sheltered white sanded beach and take a dip in the warm waters of the Gulf of Tonkin (if the weather will be suitable). Pass the night on your junk, lulled to sleep by the gentle rocking of calm waters.

* The Halong Bay itinerary is a sample for our standard service on a 3 star junk/ cruise. Different programs are available through our luxury cruise itineraries (Please contact us for more details) *

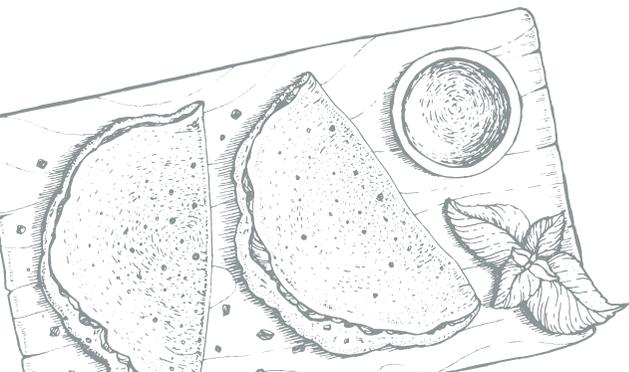
Day 4: Halong Bay - Hanoi, Fly To Hue ✈️

Awake early and participate in Tai Chi on the top deck or simply relax watching the sunrise over the bay's towering islands. Enjoy a morning cup of coffee or tea, before setting out to explore the nearby islands by rowboat. Return to the junk for brunch then take advantage of the sundeck and admire the amazing rock formations of Bai Tu Long Bay as you navigate back to Halong City, where your driver will meet you at the dock and take you to Noi Bai Airport to catch your short flight to Hue. Your tour guide and driver will transfer you to hotel for check in. Overnight in Hue.



Day 5: Hue Imperial & Cooking Class 🚗

Spend an entire day touring Vietnam's former ancient capital. Start the day with a visit to the Imperial Citadel, home to the Imperial City and Forbidden Purple City – once the Emperor's private residence. The Imperial City was created in the 19th century and modeled on the Forbidden City in Beijing. The Imperial Enclosure houses many palaces and temples within its walls. In the afternoon, continue on your tour stopping at the Imperial Museum, Tu Hieu Pagoda and the vibrant Dong Ba riverside market. Enjoy cooking class at royal family house. Overnight in Hue.



Day 6: Hue, Drive To Hoi An 🚲

Breakfast at hotel. Drive along the coast and via mountain passes to Hoi An with a stop en route at the photogenic village of Lang Co Beach. Visit the Cham Museum in Danang which houses the world's finest collection of Cham artworks before proceeding to Hoi An. Visit Phuc Kien Assembly Hall, the 400-year-old Japanese Covered Bridge and the vibrant riverside market. The rest of the day is at your leisure to explore the town. Overnight in Hoi An.

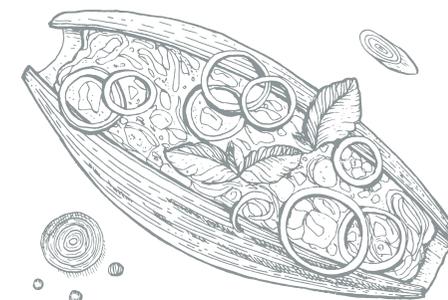
Day 7: Tra Que Herb Village & Cooking Class 🚗

Breakfast at hotel. Then we will take a bike trip to Tra Que Vegetable Village. Here, you will enjoy glasses of herbal tea and take a short tour around the vegetable gardens to see many different kinds of vegetables planted in the gardens. Back inside the

local house for 15 minutes foot massage. Continue riding bicycle along village path to see daily activities of local farmers, capture natural view of country side, riding Buffalo. Cooking class will be taught by professional chef how to make 2 dishes Banh Xeo and Tra Que Spring Rolls. Enjoy Vietnamese Lunch at the vegetable village. Overnight in Hoi An.

Day 8: Organic Farm Cooking & Cu Chi Tunnels 🚗

Tour start from 7:30am to organic farm for visiting Cow areas, Buffalo Areas, Rice Field. You will have a chance to become a real Vietnamese Farmer on Vietnamese Traditional hat and pick up a lot of herbs, spices, vegetables and mushrooms on the garden before you start for the cooking class. Enjoy lunch and chat with local farmers.



After lunch, just 15 minutes drive to Cu Chi Tunnels, where you will visit the vast underground network of tunnels built first as a defense against the French, and later expanded during the American war. See secret trapdoors, underground kitchens, living areas and meeting rooms. Those inclined are invited to crawl through selections of the tunnels to better understand what life was like for the Vietnamese soldiers during wartime. Back to hotel for rest. Overnight in Saigon.

Day 9: Saigon City & Food Tour On Bike

Breakfast at hotel. We start this day tour by a visit to The Reunification Palace. This is one of the most important buildings in the city. Continue to The Post Office Center for the best examples of classical French colonial architecture in Saigon, Notre Dame Cathedral and War Remnants Museum, which formerly known as the Museum of American War Crimes. Lunch at local restaurant. In the afternoon, we will go to Thien Hau Pagoda, and Binh Tay Market. Come back to your hotel around 5:00 pm. Explore Saigon by night on bike. Overnight in Saigon.

Day 10: Mekong Delta: Cai Lay & Homestay

Depart from Saigon, we drive via Mekong Delta paddle fields. En-route, stop for visit Pineapple Workshop and learn how pineapple products are made here while enjoying sample pineapple jam and candies. Next, stop by or stroll along the way where local family craftsmen workshops make straw bags, boats, incense and mushrooms... You will be welcome by very friendly people and get to explore life as it has traditionally been.



Arrive at Thien Ho market and get on boat. Get off bus at this Mekong town market and walk around to take a look at local lifestyle while stretching your body a bit before getting on a boat to tour around the area. While boating, stop by some places to visit a fish farm, a rice process factory and a plantation. Lunch at local house, then heading to homestay. You will visit the vegetable garden and gather the vegetables for your dinner. You yourself will prepare your own dinner with the help of local host. Stay overnight at the home-stay. Overnight in Cai Be.

Day 11: Cai Be, Back To Saigon

After breakfast, our guide will guide you to explore more the Tan Phong Island by bike. You will visit kinder garden if it is school day. Stopping at a local farmer's house to learn how to make Jackfruit leafs cake and then cycling to Bonsai garden and talking to him to understand how local farmers take care for their gardens, then try plucking the fruits and tasting them. After cycling back to Mekong Rustic, taking short rest and check-out at about 11:00. Then the small boat will transfer you back to the tourist boat Cai Be for driving back to Saigon. Check in hotel for rest. Overnight in Saigon.

Day 12: Saigon Departure

Breakfast at hotel. Free time till guide pick up at hotel for flight back home.





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