



DISCOVER VIETNAM

...in style!

12 Day / 11 Night Small Group Tour

Designed to show the **best of Vietnam** at a leisurely pace, this small group tour explores the real Vietnam whilst staying in centrally located quality 4 star hotels. Visit the main sights of **Hanoi** with the bustling old quarter, cruise **Halong Bay**, visit the imperial city of **Hue** and the spectacular **Hai Van Pass**, a winding road where the sea stretches out before you with stops at China Beach and Marble Mountain. Enjoy an extended stay in delightful **Hoi An**, a charming beach town full of delightful art galleries, shops, markets and tailors before exploring **Ho Chi Minh City** including the infamous **Cu Chi Tunnels**.

Highlights Include..

Tasting the best of the wonderful cuisine

Immersing yourself in the history and people of Vietnam

Overnight cruise on Halong Bay aboard a replica traditional junk boat

Several BONUS inclusions

Great quality centrally located hotels

Supporting local communities

Your tour includes all entrance fees and a careful selection of dining to showcase the vibrant and exciting cuisine. The Discover Vietnam tour represents **great value** for your travel dollar, here's why

- **2 night stays throughout to ensure your holiday is leisurely and enjoyable**
- **Plus 4 nights in everyone's favourite spot – Hoi An!**
- **Cruise Halong Bay on a Deluxe junk style boat**
- **Quality 4 star centrally located hotels and resorts**
- **Our friendly helpful guide throughout your tour**

Vietnam is our favourite and you'll soon see why.



DISCOVER VIETNAM ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrive Hanoi (D)

Arrive Hanoi where your local English speaking guide will meet you as you exit the arrivals hall of Hanoi Airport for the **transfer** to your hotel.

After checking in and time to freshen up, your guide will take the group on an afternoon **walking tour** of the fascinating old quarter and Hoan Kiem Lake. The Old Quarter in Hanoi is over a thousand years old yet retains much of the old flavour that made the area special in earlier times. Discover this fascinating old part of Hanoi comprised of narrow streets named after particular wares sold.



Tonight get to know the other tour members over a group **dinner** at a great restaurant – an introduction to the local cuisine.

2 night's quality, central 4 star hotel

Day 2 Hanoi (B, L)

This morning a **city tour** to visit Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum (photo stop outside) and tour his Historic House to learn more about the great man himself – Ho Chi Minh. Then tour Hoa Lo, the infamous prison nick named the Hanoi Hilton. Afterwards visit the Women's Museum, a fascinating insight into the Vietnamese culture and traditions including the women's role in supporting the family and country.

Then visit the Temple of Literature, built in 1070 it was Vietnam's first University and dedicated to Confucius. Your day concludes with **lunch at KOTO** a not-for-profit restaurant helping trouble youth learn life and culinary skills to bring them an education and a brighter future.

After lunch the afternoon is yours at leisure – you may wish explore one of the many other Museum's in Hanoi, enjoy Hoan Kiem Lake – or simply shop! Your guide is available to assist you if you wish.

Optional Experiences (additional cost):

Chocolate High Tea - *The impressive and historic Hotel Metropole Hanoi built in 1901, offers an exquisite afternoon Chocolate High Tea. Your guide will transfer you to the hotel. Starts 3pm.*

Street Food Tour - *Sample the special flavours of Vietnam on this walking tour. Guided from 4pm – 7pm*

Optional tours can be pre-paid before departure, or alternatively you are able to book directly with your tour guide at least a day prior.

Day 3 Hanoi - Halong Bay (B, L, D)

After breakfast depart by road to the coast and Halong Bay. A legendary world just waiting to be explored. Here board your cruise boat which combines oriental style with contemporary comfort. Together they are the perfect recipe for an enchanting and relaxing holiday.

On arriving at **Halong Bay** around midday, board your cruise vessel for a delicious buffet lunch as it sets sails out amongst the stunning seascape towards Surprise Cave, one of the biggest caves in Halong Bay. Spend the afternoon cruising amongst the limestone islands with a stop to explore a floating village. Onboard enjoy optional activities including sunbathing, traditional massage (payable direct) and cooking demonstrations. Anchorage is made around sunset.

Overnight and dinner onboard – Deluxe Cruise

Your cabin offers all the amenities to feel comfortable: twin or queen-size bed, air-conditioner, fan, ensuite bathroom with shower and expansive windows providing memorable views.

Day 4 Halong Bay – Hoi An (B)

For the early risers you can join in with Tai Chi on the sundeck, feel the early morning salt water scent or watch the sun rising from behind the mountains.

As you cruise back to port, a buffet brunch is served. On disembarking your guide greets you for the return drive to Hanoi with a visit to a local village popular for embroidery and textile products.

Late afternoon arrive Hanoi airport for the short **flight to Danang** in Central Vietnam.
Bonus: We have included access to the airport lounge for you to relax before your flight.

On arrival, **transfer** to Hoi An and your seaside hotel.

4 nights in a 4 star boutique resort

Day 5 Hoi An (B)

After a leisurely breakfast, a later start this morning to allow you to relax and enjoy a leisurely breakfast or early morning swim, before visiting Hoi An historic town.

Begin with a **walking tour** inside and around the historic old buildings. Ancient shop houses line the streets, the Japanese covered bridge is a landmark and you'll discover the history of this ancient trading port.



Bonus: Your visit concludes with your chance to witness how the beautiful lanterns seen all around Hoi An are made – and give it a go yourself!

The afternoon is yours to spend at leisure. Hoi An is one of the most popular places to visit in Vietnam with its charming old town filled with art shops, home-wares, cafés and tailors. During the 17th and 18th centuries Hoi An was a major Asian trading centre, it is a wonderful town for getting clothes tailor-made or for buying souvenirs, Hoi An also boasts an excellent beach.

Optional Experience (additional cost):

BBQ Dinner - Enjoy a special event with a BBQ dinner on a quiet beach, and what's more you will travel there in a restored American Army Jeep. Travel from your hotel through the country to a quiet beach, relax, explore or sit under the sala in a lounge chair while your butler prepares a light BBQ dinner.

Optional tours can be pre-paid before departure, or alternatively you are able to book directly with your tour guide at least a day prior.

Day 6 Hoi An (B)

This morning discover an insight into the ancient ruins of **My Son Holy Land**.

Between the 4th and 13th centuries a unique culture which owed its spiritual origins to Indian Hinduism developed on the coast of contemporary Viet Nam. This is graphically illustrated by the My Son remains of impressive towers located in a dramatic site that was the religious and political capital of the Champa Kingdom for most of its existence.

My Son is considered to be Vietnam's counterpart to the grand cities of other Asian civilizations such as Angkor (Cambodia), Bagan (Myanmar), Ayutthaya (Thailand), and Borobudur (Java).

You'll return to Hoi An **by boat** for a relaxing view of the surround area. Arriving into Hoi An town the afternoon and evening is yours to spend at leisure to enjoy Hoi An or return to your hotel and its beach side setting.

Day 7 Hoi An (B)

We have included a full day at **leisure** in Hoi An as it is the jewel in anyone's visit to Hoi An.

Relax, explore, swim or shop – the choice is yours. Your guide is with you if you would like assistance or suggestions.

To discover more we offer **optional tours** as follows (additional cost).

Optional Experiences:

Red Bridge Cooking Class – Red Bridge offers one of the most professional and fun cooking classes in Vietnam. Begin with a market visit to purchase produce, followed by a boat trip to the school. Red Bridge will teach you how to create many of the popular Vietnamese dishes you will encounter on your holiday. Begins at 8.15am in Hoi An town.

Countryside Village by Bike - Using quality local bikes your guide will collect you from your hotel for a cycle through the countryside to a local village where the way of life remains as it has for generations. You'll see pottery making and visit the Tra Que farming Village, the fresh vegetable gardens and many of local farmers work at their fields using traditional methods. On the way see small handicrafts, such as rice paper making. Lunch is included of local food before biking back to your hotel.

Fitness level: Average. Grade: Easy

Ethnic Village by Jeep (Full Day, guided) – Travel by American Army Jeep for an exciting ride inland towards the Ho Chi Minh Trail, through stunning countryside to a traditional ethnic community still living the ways of their ancestors.

Optional tours can be pre-paid before departure, or alternatively you are able to book directly with your tour guide prior to arriving into Hoi An.

Day 8 Hai Van Pass (B)

This morning travel to Hue via the spectacular **Hai Van Pass**.

After leaving Hoi An the first stop is Marble Mountain, a whole village devoted to carving beautiful sculptures, then stop briefly at the Cham Museum filled with artefacts from the ancient Cham Kingdom, before heading over the pass.

Once rated by National Geographic as one of the 50 'must-do' journeys in the world. Stunning views await at the top of Lang Co Beach and out to the South China Sea. Continue on to arrive in Hue to check in and relax.

2 nights in a stunning 4 star hotel

Day 9 Hue (B, L, D)

Today explore the historical significance on a **city tour** of the small city of Hue – the former Imperial City.

Start the day with a boat trip along the Perfume River to Thien Mu Pagoda, built in 1601. Then continue by car to the Ancient Citadel, the capital of Vietnam from 1802-1945, where the last King of Vietnam – Bao Dai King – abdicated on 30 August, 1945.

After lunch at a delicious and popular local restaurant – visit the tomb of the Emperor Khai Dinh with its mix of Asian and Western architecture. On the return to your hotel a stop is made at a roadside village to observe how locals make incense and traditional conical hats.

Bonus: This evening you'll be pampered like Royalty as you discover the cuisine the Emperor's dined on at a special **Imperial Banquet dinner**.



Day 10 Hue to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) (B)

This morning **transfer** to Hue airport for the **flight to Ho Chi Minh City** (Saigon).

On arrival **transfer** to your hotel for check-in and to freshen up, then **tour the main sights** in and around Saigon including a stop at the stunning Notre Dame Cathedral and Ho Chi Minh Central Post Office. We include a stop for lunch (own cost) and a visit to the War Museum – a stark reminder of the War. Then a special insight with a tour of a traditional medicine museum where you'll discover the use of natural herbs in traditional medicines, used in Asia dating back to the Stone Age. We end the day at a local boutique brewery for those who want to sample an ice cold beer to end their day!

Tip! Tonight enjoy the many restaurants and bars on offer in downtown Ho Chi Minh City. From French, Italian, vegetarian to traditional Vietnamese, Saigon offers great dining. For a special touch we recommend a drink (not included) at the 'Saigon Saigon' Bar on the top floor of the Caravelle Hotel across from the opera house. Reminiscent of Raffles in Singapore with its wooden bar and open shutters giving nice views out to the city.

2 nights in a central 4 star hotel

Day 11 Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) (B, D)

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the wharf for a magical speedboat trip up the River to visit the infamous **Cu Chi Tunnels**. Dug by hand the tunnels were home to the Viet Cong during the US war. A video shows their use and parts have been excavated for you to see inside.

Return to Saigon where the afternoon is yours **at leisure**. Shop or enjoy the cafés and bars.

Tip! For shopping enjoy the luxury brand names around downtown Saigon or head to Ben Thanh market to test your bartering skills.

Tonight we celebrate your tour with a **farewell dinner** on a stunning **evening cruise**.

Day 12 Departure**(B)**

Sadly today is the end of your tour. We include a **transfer** to the airport for your outbound flight.

While you are there - extend your holiday!

- Stunning beaches are just a few hours' drive away
 - This tour connects with our Mekong Explorer tour, experience the amazing Mekong Delta and the stunning Angkor Wat Temples in Cambodia
- Ask for a personalized quote.

Discover Vietnam 12 Day / 11 Night Small Group Tour

Small Group Tour	\$3490 per person share twin	(Travel Apr-Oct)
	\$4290 per person share twin	(Travel Nov 2017 - Feb 2018)
Single Supplement	\$1299 per person	(Travel Apr-Oct)
	\$1399 per person	(Travel Nov 2017 - Feb 2018)

We will happily room-share same-sex single travelers on request and where available. However we regret that should a rooming partner not become available the single supplement will apply.

This tour is **fully escorted** with local English-speaking guide.
Maximum group size 14. (Minimum 2)

Guaranteed Departure Dates:

2017 – 21 Mar, 04 Apr, 15 Apr, 29 Apr, 09 May, 20 May, 30 May, 13 Jun, 27 Jun, 11 Jul, 25 Jul, 08 Aug,
22 Aug, 05 Sep, 19 Sep, 03 Oct, 17 Oct, 31 Oct, 14 Nov & 05 Dec

2018 – 23 Jan & 20 Feb

Guaranteed Departure applies as soon as 2 people are booked on this tour.

NOTE: We welcome all travelers on our tour however we regret we do not accept children under 15 years old on our Discover Vietnam Group Tour. If you are travelling with young children please ask us to customize a special family holiday for you.

Price Includes: All accommodation in **quality 4 star hotels**, one night aboard a Halong Bay deluxe cruise, daily breakfast, transfers and sightseeing tours as detailed including all entrance fees, local English speaking guide throughout, all domestic flights within Vietnam, all meals indicated (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner), full pre-departure information and an emergency contact phone number in Vietnam

Price Excludes: International flights, Vietnam entry visa, travel insurance, beverages during lunches and dinners, departure taxes (if applicable), personal expenses (laundry, mini-bar, internet, etc) and gratuities (tips)

Agent Booking Code: DISVIE

NOTE: Itinerary and price subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control. Please refer to our full terms and conditions available on our brochure or from our website www.activeasia.co.nz. Active Asia reserves the right to alter the hotels and/or the itinerary if needed due to availability and/or adverse weather conditions.

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