

# THE BEST OF VIETNAM

Hanoi - Halong Bay - Da Nang - Hoi An - Hue - Ho Chi Minh City



2020 - 12 DAYS FROM (NZD)    LAND ONLY FROM (NZD)

**\$2,999**

per person twin-share

**\$2,199**

per person twin-share



This medium-paced tour covers some of the best historical and cultural sights Vietnam has to offer, while also providing plenty of free time for you to relax or explore further. From the peaceful capital city of Hanoi to the stunning natural beauty and emerald waters of Halong Bay; from the ancient streets of Hoi An to the rural charm of the Mekong Delta; from the vibrant city life of Ho Chi Minh City to the poignant Cu Chi Tunnels, there's so much to explore and discover!

Image: Halong Bay



#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience a full-day guided tour of **Hanoi City**, including **Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum** and the 'Hanoi Hilton'
- Take an overnight traditional junk cruise through **Halong Bay**
- Stroll through the peaceful ancient streets of **Hoi An**
- Tour **Hue City**, the former capital of Vietnam and location of the impressive **Imperial City**
- Immerse yourself in the vibrant city life of **Ho Chi Minh City**
- Savour the rural delights and local lifestyles of the **Mekong Delta**
- See the remnants of the Vietnam War at the **Cu Chi Tunnels**

#### DAY 01: Arrive in Hanoi

Fly to Hanoi via connecting cities. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to the hotel.

Note: Some flights may depart the day before.

#### DAY 02: Hanoi City Tour (B, L)

Visit the infamous **Hoa Lo Prison**, known as 'the Hanoi Hilton' during the American War. Those incarcerated at Hoa Lo included Pete Peterson, who became the first US Ambassador to a unified Vietnam in 1995, and the late Senator John McCain, the Republican nominee for the US presidency in 2008. Visit the **Temple of Literature**, the first university in Vietnam, built for the sons of mandarins. Then it's on to **West Lake** and **Tran Quoc Temple**, the oldest Buddhist temple in Hanoi. Visit **Ba Dinh Square**, where Ho Chi Minh read Viet Nam's Declaration of Independence on 2 SEP 1945 and **Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum** (reminiscent of Lenin's Mausoleum in Moscow), and **Ho Chi Minh's House**, a modest residence from which he led the country until his death in 1969. Then, explore the ancient **'36 Meandering Streets' of Hanoi's Old Quarter**. You may watch the stunning **Water Puppet Show and Hanoi Food Tour** (\$85): Enjoy the world-famous puppet show performed on a water stage. It is one of the cultural highlights of Northern Vietnam because of the history of the puppetry, as well as the splendid skills controlling puppets by the puppeteers behind the scene. You will walk through the Old Quarter full of pop-up street food shops on the sidewalks. You can try Vietnamese fresh homemade beer 'Bia Hoi', and other authentic local dishes, such as Pork Rice Rolls 'Banh Cuon', Grilled Pork Noodles 'Bun Cha', etc. Relax yourself with a drink before returning to hotel.

#### DAY 03: Hanoi Halong Bay (B, L, D)

Travel to **Halong Bay** and **take a boat trip** to explore one of the world's great natural wonders, cruising the thousands of limestone islands filled with caves of all shapes and sizes. The sails of junks and sampans gliding along the clear and emerald waters of the bay form a magnificent picturesque scene that blends with

the sky. You also get a chance to visit some of the hidden grottoes beneath the towering cliffs. A seafood lunch and dinner will be served on board the charming junk. Stay overnight on board.

#### DAY 04: Halong Bay Hanoi Da Nang Hoi An (B, L)

Enjoy the aquamarine waters of the bay at its best as the junk continues to cruise quietly through spectacular limestone formations. Disembark from the junk at noon and transfer to Hanoi airport for a short flight to Da Nang. On arrival, travel to Hoi An. Enjoy free time at your own leisure or discover the ancient town at night lit up by lanterns. *Note: In the event that insufficient seats are available for the Hanoi to Da Nang flight, you may instead fly from Hai Phong to Da Nang.*

#### DAY 05: Hoi An (B, L)

Discover Hoi An by walking tour through the narrow streets of this charming town. Once known as Faifo, Hoi An was an influential port along the Silk Road. For over 500 years merchants from China, Japan, France, and Portugal settled in the prosperous town resulting in a distinctive blend of culture, cuisine, religions and architecture. In 1999, the town was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the **Réhahn Museum**, to view the 'Precious Heritage Collection', by French Photographer Réhahn. The rest of the day is at your own leisure. You may also take one of the following optional tours:

**A: Evening Cultural Stage Show, Lune Production A O Show** (\$120): *With pre-show cocktail & Vietnamese tasting platter. Note: If Lune Production is not available, you will instead watch the Hoi An Memories Show.* **OR**  
**B: Evening Cultural Stage Show, Hoi An Memories Show** (\$120): *With pre-show cocktail & Vietnamese tasting platter*

#### DAY 06: Hoi An (B)

Today is free at your own leisure. You may join the following optional tours:

**Hoi An Photography Tour at Dawn** (\$170): *with local style breakfast & coffee. Exclusive to Nexus Holidays, this unique photo tour is fully guided by Alden Anderson, an Emmy Award Winning artist with over 20 years of*

*experience as a professional photographer, and Trinh, Alden's local cultural guide, with a wealth of knowledge about photography & local Vietnamese street food. Suitable for people of all skill levels and camera types, cell phones to DSLRs. Note: This tour conducts at 5am to 8am, time may vary based on sunrise.*

#### A. Fishing Village & Waterway Eco-tour (\$120):

*with lunch & a drink. Explore the coconut-palm which was the flanked waterways of a war, meet local fishermen and experience their daily life. You can also see and learn about how to use reeds or palm leaves to make grasshoppers, birds, rings, etc. Then, return to the fishing village and finish this tour with some delicious local food and a drink. OR*

#### B: Ba Na Hills & Golden Bridge Tour (\$175):

*With cable cars & lunch. Explore Ba Na hills, sightseeing the panoramic views of Quang nam – Da Nang city; Ride on a cable car and discover the famous Golden Bridge; see famous places such as the French Village Campanile, Nine Floor Goddess Shrine, Tombstone Temple, Linh Phong Monastery, and Linh Chua Linh Tu Temple, and discover Fantasy Park with its adventurous games.*

#### DAY 07: Hoi An Hue (B)

Drive to Hue City stopping along the way to take pictures at **Lang Co Beach**. Hue City, its historical monuments were recognised as a World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO since 1993. On arrival, you will **take a boat trip to Thien Mu Pagoda** - an historic pagoda on the banks of the Perfume River. Apart from the scenic riverside and hilltop location, the Thien Mu Pagoda and its environs are rich in history, standing witness to almost four hundred years of tumultuous nation-building in Vietnam. Travel to the centre of Hue city, visit the massive **Kinh Thanh Citadel**, comprised of the Imperial City, several museums, lakes, and lovely gardens, all laid out in a series of concentric circles. You may join an optional Royal Dinner (\$105): Dress in traditional clothes (provided) and be served a sumptuous meal of dishes which used to be made for the royal family, and enjoy live music during dinner.

#### DAY 08: Hue Ho Chi Minh City (B)

Enjoy the morning at your own leisure (time permitting) before transferring to the airport for your direct flight to





Ho Chi Minh City. On arrival, transfer to visit the imposing Dong Khoi Street (formerly Catinat street) before going to the Notre Dame Cathedral. In the same square is the famous Saigon Post Office, the largest functioning post office in Vietnam. Later, visit Reunification Palace, the palace of the presidents of South Vietnam before 1975, and the War Remains Museum, where you can learn about the Vietnam War. Next, visit Ben Thanh Market.

#### DAY 09: Ho Chi Minh City Cu Chi Tunnels Ho Chi Minh City (B)

Drive to the outskirts of Ho Chi Minh City for a visit to the amazing Cu Chi Tunnels, a well-known historical vestige of the Vietnamese revolution. As a distinctive architecture, this cobweb-like tunnel complex is a network of underground dug-outs of over 200 kilometres long, consisting of many layers and turnings with meeting, living and fighting quarters where we learn firsthand how the Viet Cong survived the extraordinary underground existence during the Vietnam War. Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure. You may join the following optional tours:

**Lunch at Hoi An Sense Restaurant** (\$65): *Sense restaurant is a beautiful harmony between refined cuisine and unique architecture. Set on an opulent rooftop with intimate terrace, relaxing fish pond and vivid lanterns, Hoi An Sense draws influences from vibrant flavours of Vietnam's central region.*

**Buffet Dinner Cruise on Saigon River** (\$80): *Enjoy a delicious selection of local dishes as you take in the ambience of this charming city.*

#### DAY 10: Ho Chi Minh City Mekong Delta (B, L)

Depart Ho Chi Minh City for a scenic drive through the Mekong Delta, home to the richest agricultural lands in Vietnam. On arrival in **My Tho City**, take a boat trip along the **Mekong River** to fishing villages as well as **Dragon, Unicorn, Turtle and Phoenix Islands**. Crossing the Mekong River, you will cruise along a small canal to the see daily life of locals in **Bien Tre Province**. Visit **Quoi An bee farm and handicraft workshop** to enjoy some honey tea and see how people make things from coconut wood. Taking horse-carts along country road to visit orchards, enjoy tropical fruits and listen to traditional. Then, take small sampans back to your cruise to 'Coconut Village' for a coconut candy workshop and tasting. Visit **Phoenix Island for rice-paper workshop**, then return by boat to My Tho and then by road back to Ho Chi Minh City. Enjoy the rest of the day free at leisure.

#### DAY 11: Depart Ho Chi Minh City (B)

Enjoy the day at your own leisure (time permitting) before transferring to the airport for your return flight home.

#### DAY 12: Arrive Home



#### PRE-TOUR EXTENSION Indochina 7 Nights

from NZD\$2999; single supplement NZD\$699; includes  
+ 7 nights 3 star hotel (local rating) accomm.  
+ Daily breakfast  
+ All transfers in air-conditioned vehicles  
+ English speaking tour guide  
Excludes compulsory prepaid tipping: NZD\$80



#### PRE-TOUR EXTENSION Sapa Trekking 3 Nights

from NZD\$699; single supplement NZD\$399; includes  
+ 3 nights 3 star hotel (local rating) accomm.  
+ 3 breakfast (B) & 1 lunch (L)  
+ All transfers in air-conditioned vehicles  
+ English speaking tour guide  
Excludes compulsory prepaid tipping: NZD\$40

#### DAY 01: Arrive in Hanoi

Fly to Hanoi via connecting cities. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to the hotel.

Note: Some flights may depart the day before.

#### DAY 02: Hanoi Sapa – Hike to Cat Cat Village (B)

Transfer to Sapa, visit Cat Cat village (medium-advanced trekking required), where you may wish to try the local apple wine or purchase a hand-woven blanket, and Sapa town.

#### DAY 03: Sapa – Hang Da – Sa Seng – Sapa (B, L)

Drive southwards and up Den Thang Mountain. Explore Hang Da, a Black Hmong village by foot, which displays the age-old lifestyle of the Hmong. We then follow the village path downhill through the stunning valley of Sa Seng. Along the way, we pass several hamlets which are organised in the typical Hmong style. Visit to Sa Pa, another hamlet of the Hmong which is located near the former Sapa traditional market.

#### DAY 04: Sapa Hanoi (B)

This morning is free at leisure. Relax at the hotel or go shopping in Sapa town before transfer to Hanoi.

#### 2020 DEPARTURES

22 Feb	22 Apr*	25 Jul	17 Oct
07 Mar	16 May	22 Aug	14 Nov
21 Mar	13 Jun	12 Sep*	

\*Shoulder season surcharge: NZD\$250  
Single supplement: NZD\$799

#### DEPARTURE OPTIONS

- AKL: Airfare included
- Other cities: fr. NZD\$400

#### INCLUSIONS

- + Vietnam Airlines/China Southern Airlines/Malaysia Airlines or similar economy international airfares & taxes
- + Internal flights (operated by a local carrier)
- + 9 nights 3-4 star (local rating) hotel accomm.
- + 1 night on board Halong Bay Cruise
- + 10 breakfasts (B), 4 lunches (L) & 1 dinner (D)
- + Coach transportation & transfers
- + Entrance fees to scenic attractions (unless otherwise indicated)
- + English speaking tour guide(s)

#### EXCLUSIONS

- Compulsory prepaid tipping: NZD\$120
- Optional programs
- Vietnam visa
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)

#### AIR UPGRADES (long haul int'l sectors)

- Economy class: Qantas/Cathay Pacific/Singapore Airlines fr NZD\$550

#### EXTEND YOUR STAY

- Early Arrival/Stay Behind Fare Difference: fr \$280
- Hotel w/breakfast: \$90 twin-share, \$180 single
- Private transfer: \$50/person/way (min. 2 ppl)

#### HOTEL ACCOMMODATION (or similar)

Hanoi	Hotel Le Carnot
Halong Cruise	Bai Tho Cruise
Hoi An	Hoi An Garden Palace & Spa
Hue	ParkView Hotel
Ho Chi Minh City	Silverland Central Hotel

#### OPTIONAL PROGRAMS PACKAGE NZD\$700

1. Water Puppet & Hanoi Foodie Tour
2. Evening Cultural Stage Show: A. Luna Production OR B. Hoi An Memories
3. Hoi An Photography Food Tour
4. A. Fishing Village & Waterway Eco-tour ^ OR B. Ba Na Hills & Golden Bridge Tour
5. Full Royal Dinner in Hue
6. Hoi An Sense Lunch
7. Buffet Dinner Cruise on Saigon River

^Change to Ba Na Hills & Golden Bridge Tour +\$55

**Note:** All optional programs require min. 2 ppl, and min. 3 ppl required for Photography Foodie Tour

All prices are per person twin-share in NZD unless otherwise stated and subject to revision without notice. Itineraries, airlines, hotels & ships are subject to availability and change. Nexus Holidays reserves the right to provide substitutes of similar quality and adjust the itinerary as we see fit to ensure smooth operations. Hotel locations can be within or outside itinerary cities and may not be centrally located. Double-bedded rooms are not guaranteed. Passengers must remain with the group at all times. Fees may apply for deviations from the set itinerary. Total length of trip includes time spent in flight and is subject to flight schedule. Final travel documentation and flight info may not be available until within 2 weeks before departure. Several shopping stops are included as cultural learning experiences with no obligation to purchase local specialty products. Booking conditions apply, refer to website for latest information. ver01AUG2019

## POST-TOUR EXTENSION Angkor Adventure 3 Nights

fr NZD\$999; single supplement NZD\$599; includes

- + Economy class airfare
- + 3 nights 3 star hotel (local rating) accomm.
- + Daily breakfast, and lunch on day 3
- + Coach transportation & transfers
- + Entrance fees to scenic attractions
- + English speaking tour guide

Excludes prepaid tipping: NZD\$40, Cambodia visa & Phare Circus in Siem Reap: NZD\$105

### DAY 11: Ho Chi Minh City ✈ Siem Reap (B)

Fly to Siem Reap. Transfer to your hotel. Enjoy the rest of the day free at leisure. This is your opportunity to experience (optional at your own expense) **the world-renowned Phare Circus**, where young local dancers and acrobats enact Khmer folk tales and modern stories. Developed by the charity Phare Ponleu Selpak, this performance expresses the history, challenges, and resilience of the people of Cambodia.

### DAY 12: Angkor Ancient City Tour (B)

Visit the largest, best preserved, and most religiously significant of the **Angkor temples**. Angkor Thom covers an area of 10 square km. Enter by the monumental South Gate over a causeway lined on either side by statues of demons and gods, each carrying a giant naga (a mythical serpent symbolising the transition from the mundane to the sacred world). Continue to the **Terrace of the Elephants** and the **Terrace of the Leper King**, former spaces for public ceremonies that are both adorned with dramatic bas-relief carvings. Visit the ruined **Baphuon, Royal Enclosure and Phimeanakas**, before continuing to the mysterious **Bayon Temple**. In this temple, one of the most popular and compelling in Angkor, explore the galleries of beautifully preserved bas-reliefs and ascend narrow stairs to reach the central sanctuary, where giant stone Buddha faces smile enigmatically down from every angle.

Visit **Ta Prohm temple**, one of the most popular attractions of Angkor as much of the jungle has not been cleared and it looks very much as most of the Angkor monuments would have appeared when European explorers first stumbled across them. Continue your visit to **Angkor Wat**, the Crown Jewel of Khmer architecture, the national symbol and the highlight of any visit to Cambodia.

### DAY 13: Siem Reap 🚢 Kompong Kleang 🚢 Siem Reap (B, L)

Travel to **Kompong Kleang floating village**. This is a settlement of over 20,000 people where houses tower up to ten meters above the water. Greeted by waves from the friendly locals, here you can glimpse Cambodia's rural culture and traditional family lifestyle through a nice boat trip. Enjoy a picnic lunch with the locals in Kompong Kleang, then transfer back to Siem Reap and enjoy free time at leisure or for shopping.

### Day 14: Depart Siem Reap (B)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home via connecting cities.

### DAY 15: Arrive Home



## POST-TOUR EXTENSION Nha Trang 3 Nights

fr NZD\$999; single supplement NZD\$599; includes

- + Economy class airfare
- + 3 nights 5 star hotel (local rating) accomm.
- + Daily breakfast
- + All transfers in air-conditioned vehicles

Excludes prepaid tipping: NZD\$40

### DAY 11: Ho Chi Minh City ✈ Nha Trang (B)

Fly to Nha Trang. Transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is free at leisure.

### DAY 12: Nha Trang (B)

Today you're free to explore the city, taking up an optional activity, or just relaxing on the beach.

**A. Three Mineral Spring Spas** (NZD\$105): Visit Thap Ba Mud Spa Centre, I-Resort Mud Spa, and 100 Eggs Mud Spa. Relax and enjoy mud bathing in private tubs or egg-shaped tubs, and enjoy swimming in healing mineral springs. These three mud-bathing centres are located 4-6 km away from Nha Trang's center. Afterwards, visit Po Nagar Temple (pictured bottom right), a fascinating remnant of the Cham kingdom that once occupied southern Vietnam, near Thap Ba Mud Center. Return to your hotel through the streets of Nha Trang to observe local life. The option to cycle to the resorts may be available upon request, depending on local conditions. **OR**

**B. Islands and Snorkelling Tour** (NZD\$160): Depart from your hotel to Cau Da Port. Tri Nguyen Aquarium on Mieu Island is the first place to visit, and the many sea species of Nha Trang/Khanh Hoa province make a small ocean world there. Mun Island is the best island for snorkelling – you can see lots of colourful coral and fish. You will also be able to see caves in which the sea swallows make their nests. Then relax, swim, & do water sports or other activities at Mot Island, Tranh Beach Island or on a small island calling 'Mini Beach'. Enjoy a fresh lunch. On the way back you will visit a fishing village.

Note: The activities offered cannot be combined.

### DAY 13: Nha Trang (B)

Enjoy the whole day at leisure, or embarking on an optional activity.

**A. Discover Vinpearl Land Amusement Park** (NZD\$60): Experience exciting activities & games such as the Compact Coaster, Swing Carousel, Evolution, Merry-go-round, 4D Movies, Bumper Cars, Crazy Bull riding and much more. **OR**

**B. Meals Package** (NZD\$90): Taste world-renowned Vietnamese classics at Vinpearl Land. Your lunch and dinner are freshly prepared by incredibly talented, specialist chefs with 5-star experience. Savour an appetising array of local, regional and international cuisine with a delicious serving of classic and contemporary dishes from Vietnam, as well as Japan, Thailand, China and South Korea and from as far as Russia, the US, France and Italy.

### DAY 14: Depart Nha Trang (B)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home via connecting cities.

### DAY 15: Arrive Home

## POST-TOUR EXTENSION Phu Quoc Island Paradise 3 Nights

fr NZD\$999; single supplement NZD\$599; includes

- + Economy class airfare
- + 3 nights 5 star hotel (local rating) accomm.
- + Daily breakfast
- + All transfers in air-conditioned vehicles

Excludes prepaid tipping: NZD\$40

### DAY 11: Ho Chi Minh City ✈ Phu Quoc Island (B)

Fly to the heart-shaped island of Phu Quoc. Located in the Gulf of Thailand just off the coast of Cambodia & Vietnam. On arrival, you'll be transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is free at leisure. In the evening you may wish to join our optional **Sunset Barbecue & Squid Fishing Cruise** (NZD\$90): Watch a beautiful sunset over Phu Quoc as you sail out on a fishing boat. A barbecue dinner is provided – if you can hook a squid, you get to eat it!

### DAY 12: Phu Quoc Island (B)

Today you're free to explore the island's rugged jungle, striking white sand, and sparkling cobalt waters. You may join our optional: **Full Day Tour, East and South Phu Quoc Island** (NZD\$130): Visit a pearl farm, An Thoi Port, a dried sea food market, and Phu Quoc Prison Museum. Built in 1967-68 by the U. S. Army to detain captured Viet Cong and North Vietnamese soldiers, many of the high ranking leaders of Vietnam were detained in Phu Quoc Prison. At Sao Beach – one of the most beautiful beaches of the island, we enjoy a simple lunch (included in package). Continue on visit Cau Temple, a traditional fish sauce factory, a pepper garden, Su Muon Pagoda & Ham Ninh fishing village.

### DAY 13: Phu Quoc Island (B)

Enjoy the whole day at leisure, or taking up an optional activity.

**A. Discover Phu Quoc Vinpearl Land Amusement Park & Safari Park** (NZD\$100): This world-class recreational paradise is located by one of the most beautiful sea gulfs in the world. Exciting activities & games such as the Compact Coaster, Swing Carousel, Evolution, Merry-go-round, 4D Movies, Bumpers Cars, Crazy Bull riding, 3D & Video games are available, and much more. Vinpearl Land will definitely not disappoint! Vietnam's largest wildlife conservation park is nestled in Bai Dai, on the Northwest coast of Phu Quoc Island. Vinpearl Safari Park conserves abundant indigenous and exotic flora and fauna. This is a unique opportunity to see wildlife that can't be seen anywhere else! **OR**

**B. Meals Package** (NZD\$90): Taste world-renowned Vietnamese classics at Vinpearl Land. Your lunch and dinner are freshly prepared by incredibly talented, specialist chefs with 5-star experience. Savour an appetising array of local, regional and international cuisine with a delicious serving of classic and contemporary dishes from Vietnam, as well as Japan, Thailand, China and South Korea and from as far as Russia, the US, France and Italy.

Note: The activities offered can be combined.

### DAY 14: Depart Phu Quoc (B)

Enjoy the morning at leisure before transferring to the airport for your onward flight to Saigon then connecting with your flight home.

### DAY 15: Arrive Home

Note: All optional programs require minimum 2 passengers to operate and need to be prebooked & prepaid in Australia at least two months prior to departure.