

# THE BEST OF VIETNAM

HANOI > HALONG BAY > DA NANG > HOI AN > DA NANG > HUE > HO CHI MINH CITY > MEKONG DELTA



12 DAYS FROM (NZD)

**\$2,599**

per person twin-share

LAND ONLY (NZD)

**\$1,799**

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





### Day 1: Arrive in Hanoi

Fly to Hanoi via connecting cities. On arrival, you will be welcomed by your guide and driver who will bring you to your hotel in Hanoi City to rest up for the tour ahead. Note: some flights may depart the day before.

### Day 2: Hanoi City Tour (B, L)

Drive to **Ba Dinh Square**, where the Ho Chi Minh read Viet Nam's Declaration of Independence on 2 September 1945, and visit **Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum** (from outside if your visit is on Mondays & Fridays as it's closed and from 5/9 to 5/11 for annual maintenance), and **One-Pillar Pagoda**, a must-see monument in Ha Noi. The pagoda resembles a lotus blossom and gets its name from its lone support pillar. Next, visit the **Temple of Literature**, the first university for the sons of mandarins. After lunch at a local restaurant, we visit **'the Hanoi Hilton'**, an infamous prison during the American War. Then take a cyclo ride around **Hanoi's Old Quarter**.

#### Optional - Hanoi Foodie tour (at your own expense):

Meet your guide at the hotel, and walk through the bustling old quarter as your guide tells you about the various foods on offer – stop and try some if you like! Then we will stop at a 'Bia hoi' store, sit down and share a relaxing moment with locals. At night, the sidewalks are full of pop-up restaurants which offer truly local food like Banh Cuon (rice rolls with pork and herbs inside), and many kinds of noodle dish. For dinner, you will enjoy Southern beef-noodles in Hang Dieu street. End the night with a drink at a local coffee shop before heading back to your hotel.

### Day 3: Hanoi Halong Bay (B, L, D)

Travel by coach to your **Halong Bay Cruise** around the thousands of dramatic limestone islands of one of the world's great natural wonders. The sails of junks and sampans gliding along the clear and emerald waters of the bay form a magnificent scene, and you can 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.



### 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 4: 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 and transfer to Hoi An, the ancient town recognised as a World Cultural Heritage site by UNESCO. Check into your hotel and enjoy free time at your own leisure to discover the ancient town.

### Day 5: Hoi An (B)

Discover **Hoi An on a guided walking tour**. This city was an influential port along the Silk Road, and 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 the most unique architecture in Southeast Asia, and the city still retains the feel of centuries past. The afternoon is free at leisure, or you may take one optional tour.

#### Half-day cycling tour from Hoi An to Tra Que Village

(at your own expense): Take a scenic bicycle ride through the rice paddies to Tra Que Village just outside Hoi An. This little village is well-known for supplying the many restaurants and hotels in the area with fresh herbs and vegetables. You will walk through the vegetable gardens, and experience how the local farmers work the land and the importance of herbs in Vietnamese medicine and cuisine, before your relaxing pedal back to town.

#### Half-day Fishing Village & Waterway Eco-tour

Enjoy an authentic social and cultural insight into the local Vietnamese way of life. Drive to a local farming village traveling along picturesque country roads. Explore the now tranquil coconut-palm flanked waterways of a past war and hear of the extreme conditions endured by soldiers on both sides. You will take a wooden boat to a 'water coconut forest', and join local fishermen on the river to experience round net and cast net fishing. Learn to paddle bamboo basket boats and join in a basket boat race. You'll also learn how to use reeds or palm leaves to make grasshoppers, birds, rings, sunglasses, etc. Return to the boat to enjoy lunch and a cold beer or soft drink and then return the hotel by car.

### Day 6: Hoi An Da Nang (B)

Today you are free to explore Hoi An until your coach transfer to Da Nang. On arrival, check in to your hotel and enjoy the rest of the day free at leisure. Or take the following optional tour (at your own expense).

#### Half-day Danang City tour

Meet your guide at the hotel and transfer to visit *The Marble Mountains* which is a cluster of five marble and limestone mountains which are named after the five elements and is a popular sightseeing location in Da Nang because of its alluring beauty. Stone steps carved into the mountain lead to a Buddhist Pagoda. You can also discover stunning caves and enjoy the beautiful view from the top of the mountain. Next, visit *Am Phu Cave* where there's a model of a traditional 'heaven and hell'. The Marble Mountains are also home to *Non Nuoc Stone Carving Village*, which is a unique 200+ year old craft village situated at the foot of the Marble Mountains, famous for its fine art stone engravings. Then, head north to visit the *Son Tra Peninsula*. Here, at 693 meters above sea level, we will pay a visit to *Linh Ung Pagoda* – one of the most significant pagodas in Da Nang in both scale and architectural style.

### Day 7: Da Nang Hue (B)

Drive to **Hue City**, stopping en route to take pictures at **Lang Co Beach**. On arrival, check in to your hotel. Hue City was the political, economic and cultural capital of Vietnam during the Nguyen Dynasty (1802 – 1945), and was recognised as a World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1993. On arrival, you will take a boat trip to **Thien Mu Pagoda** – A historic pagoda on the banks of the Perfume River in Hue, Vietnam. Apart from their scenic setting, Thien Mu Pagoda and its environs stand witness to almost four hundred years of Vietnam's tumultuous history. Back in the centre of town, we visit the massive **Kinh Thanh Citadel**, the most iconic site in Hue and a sprawling complex comprised of the **Imperial City**, several museums, lakes, and lovely gardens, all laid out in a series of concentric circles. We also visit **Hue Royal Antiques Museum**. Finally, we visit **Khai Dinh Tomb** before returning to your hotel. Enjoy an optional **Royal Dinner** (at



your own expense, four people minimum). Dress in traditional clothes and be served dishes which used to be made for the King and his family.

**Day 8: Hue ✈ Ho Chi Minh City (B)**

Transfer to Hue Airport for a morning flight to **Ho Chi Minh City**. On arrival, you will visit the imposing **Dong Khoi Street** before going to **Notre Dame Cathedral**, the most famous landmark in Vietnam. In the same square is the famous **Saigon Post Office**, the country's largest functioning post office. Next up is **Reunification Palace**, and the **War Remains Museum**, where you can learn about the Vietnam War. Finally, visit the **Ben Thanh Market** before returning to your hotel, where you are free at leisure, or you may join an optional (at your own expense) **Dinner Cruise on Saigon River**.

**Day 9: Ho Chi Minh City 🚗 Mekong Delta (B, L)**

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

**Day 10: Ho Chi Minh City 🚗 Cu Chi Tunnels (B)**

After breakfast, we visit the amazing Cu Chi Tunnels, a well-known relic of the Vietnamese revolution. This cobweb-like tunnel complex is a network of underground dug-outs over 200 km long, consisting of many layers and turnings with meeting, living and fighting quarters where we learn firsthand how the Viet Cong survived their extraordinary underground existence during the Vietnam War.

**Day 11: Depart Ho Chi Minh City (B)**

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your return flight home.

**Day 12: Arrive Home**

Images: 1. Saigon Post Office, 2. Hoi An Fishing Village, 3. Mekong River Cruise, 4. Notre Dame Cathedral, 5. Cu Chi Tunnels, 6. Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, 7. Hue, 8. Bhaya Cruise, 9. Hoi An city



**DEPARTURES**

2018	4 Aug 15 Sep*	20 Oct 17 Nov	
2019	09 Mar 20 Apr* 18 May	15 Jun 13 Jul 10 Aug	07 Sep 19 Oct 16 Nov

\*Peak season surcharge: NZD\$330  
Single supplement: NZD\$550

**DEPARTURE OPTIONS**

- AKL: Airfare included
- Wellington: request for a quotation

**INCLUSIONS**

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

**EXCLUSIONS**

- Prepaid tipping: NZD\$120
- Vietnam visa
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)

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

- Economy class: Singapore Airlines fr NZD\$550

**EXTEND YOUR STAY**

- Break fee: fr NZD\$220
- Hotel w/breakfast: fr NZD\$220/twin-room/night

**HOTEL ACCOMMODATION (or similar)**

Hanoi	La Dolce Vita
Halong Cruise	Bhaya Cruise
Hoi An	Hoian Silk Boutique
Danang	Belle Maison Parosand
Hue	Romance
Ho Chi Minh City	Le Duy Grand

**OPTIONAL PROGRAMS**

<b>Hanoi Foodie Tour</b>	\$70
<b>Hoi An Cycling Tour</b>	\$50
<b>Hoi An, Fishing Village &amp; Waterway Tour</b>	\$120
<b>Half day Danang City tour</b>	\$90
<b>Royal Dinner in Hue</b>	\$105
<b>Dinner Cruise on Saigon River</b>	\$55



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. 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 itineraries and flight info may not be available until 2 weeks before departure. Booking conditions apply, refer to website for latest information. ver28JUN2018

## 📍 ANGKOR ADVENTURE EXTENSION

fr NZD\$770; single supplement NZD\$165; includes  
+ Economy class flights  
+ 3 nights hotel accommodation (twin-share)  
+ Daily breakfast, and lunch on day 3  
+ Coach transportation & transfers  
+ Entrance fees to scenic attractions  
+ English speaking tour guide  
Excludes prepaid tipping: NZD\$33, Cambodia visa  
& Phare Circus in Siem Reap: NZD\$83

🏨 **HOTEL ACCOMMODATION** (local rating)  
Hanoi Seam Siem Reap Hotel or similar 3★

**Day 11: Ho Chi Minh City ✈️ Siem Reap (B)**  
Fly to Siem Reap. Your expert guide will meet you and transfer you privately 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)**  
Today you will 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)**

After breakfast, you will be transferred 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**

Images: 11. Angkor Wat, 12. Angkor Thom, 13+14. Phu Quoc, 15. Ta Prohm temple, 16. Terrace of the Elephants.



## 📍 PHU QUOC ISLAND PARADISE EXTENSION

fr NZD\$660; single supplement NZD\$440; includes  
+ Economy class flights  
+ 3 nights hotel accommodation (twin-share)  
+ Daily breakfast  
+ All transfers in air-conditioned vehicles  
+ English speaking tour guide  
Excludes prepaid tipping: NZD\$33

🏨 **HOTEL ACCOMMODATION**  
Phu Quoc Saigon Phu Quoc Resort or similar 4★

**Day 11: Ho Chi Minh City ✈️ Phu Quoc Island (B)**  
Fly to Phu Quoc Island. Located in the Gulf of Thailand just off the coast of Cambodia & Vietnam, the heart-shaped island of Phu Quoc is rapidly becoming one of Vietnam's premier tour destinations. On arrival, you'll be transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is free at leisure.

**Day 12: Phu Quoc Island (B)**  
Today you're free to explore the island's rugged jungle, striking white sand, and sparkling cobalt waters. Phu Quoc also offers varied options for fishing & diving, such as sunset fishing, night-time squid fishing, or even a camping tour. Or just have a relaxing day on the beautiful beach.

**Day 13: Phu Quoc Island (B)**  
Enjoy the whole day at leisure for relaxing at your hotel/resort or on the beach.

**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**



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