



Full Itinerary & Trip Details

Hanoi to Hoi An



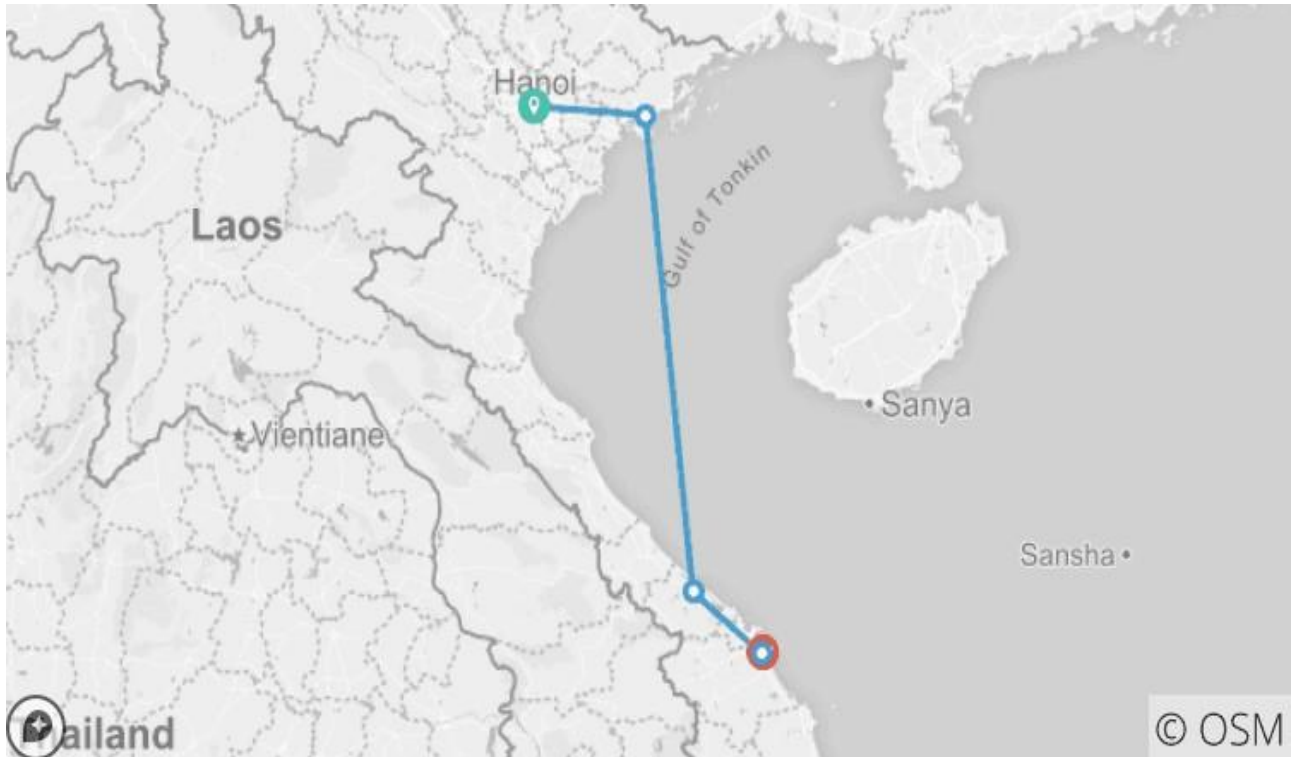
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Trip Overview



PRICE STARTING FROM

\$1,145

DURATION

8 days

IDEAL AGE

18 to 70 year olds

STARTS IN → ENDS IN

Hanoi → Tra Que

STYLE

In-depth Cultural

Itinerary

Introduction

FAMILY TOUR TO VIETNAM (for children aged 12 years and above): Travel with your teens on this fun-filled 8 day family adventure in Vietnam. Travelling from Hanoi to Hoi An, cruise around the islets of Halong Bay in a Junk and cyclo ride around Hanoi, farm the land in Tra Que, explore Hue's ancient citadel and relax by the pool in Hoi An.

Day 1: Hanoi

Saturday. Welcome to Hanoi and the start of your holiday! Upon arrival you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel for check-in. The rest of the day is free for you and your family to explore the city, with its picturesque tree-lined avenues, scenic lakes, ancient pagodas and bustling old town, all which are easily accessible by foot.

Day 2: Junk boat cruising, Halong Bay

Hanoi – Halong Bay. Take a moment to picture in your mind some two thousand rugged karst islands dappled with lush vegetation seeming to float on top of pristine emerald coloured waters and you have the natural wonder that is Halong Bay. This morning a scenic drive will take us to this beautiful UNESCO World Heritage Site where we will enjoy a junk boat cruise. Based on traditional designs, these wonderful vessels combine oriental style with modern luxury. Soak up the panoramic views from the sundeck as the boat gently plies its course, then this afternoon we will visit the spectacular Tien Ong Cave which was recently opened to the public in 2010, with its stunning stalagmites and stalactites. Later this evening back on board, watch a Vietnamese cooking demonstration held on the sundeck before settling down for a sumptuous seafood dinner.

Day 3: Floating villages and cyclo rides

Halong Bay - Hanoi - Hue. Early birds can start the day with a relaxing Tai Chi class on the sundeck or a traditional massage - the perfect way to start the day. Before heading back to port we'll explore by kayak the Floating Village of Cua Van, which is home to generations of fishing families. Here we'll see the traditional and colourful floating wooden houses and the locals going about their daily lives. On arrival back into Hanoi mid-afternoon we'll explore the maze of streets in the French Quarter on our very only cyclo (rickshaws), taking in highlights such as the Opera house and Ly Thai To park. We then swap our wheels for a leisurely walk through '36 streets of the old quarter', named after the numerous guilds that once set up shop on a particular street from silk tailors to traditional medicine shops. Later this evening there's a chance to freshen up before boarding the train (4 berth sleeper cabin, basic standard) on the

'Reunification Express' railway line to Hue. An option to fly from Hanoi to Hue is also available.

Day 4: Imperial Hue

Upon arrival in Hue we will set out on a guided sightseeing tour of this fascinating imperial city. Once the capital of the Nguyen emperors, the last ruling family of Vietnam, UNESCO-listed Hue is full of palaces, pagodas and temples. Two of the main highlights here are the Thien Mu Pagoda, home to the oldest monastery in the city, and the Citadel. Within the walls of the latter is the Imperial Purple Palace – an exact replica of the famed Forbidden City in Beijing, with impressive ramparts, formal moats and imperial palaces, some of which lay in ruin. Outside of the city we will visit the Royal Tombs of the erstwhile Nguyen kings, including the extravagant mausoleums of the two emperors Tu Duc and Khai Dinh. In the evening there will be the chance to opt for a peaceful long boat cruise along the Perfume River as the sun sets and the river banks become illuminated by the dark of nightfall.

Day 5: Delightful Hoi An

Hue - Road of the Ocean Clouds - Hoi An. Today we will travel on to the laidback riverside town of

Hoi An, travelling through the picturesque Hai Van Pass – nicknamed the Road of the Ocean Clouds, with beaches on one side and verdant hills on the other. We will break up our journey with a stop at China Beach, an expansive sandy beach made famous by the film 'Apocalypse Now'. Here there will be the chance to opt for a swim in its warm waters before continuing our journey south along the coast. Radiating age-old charm with grand colonial architecture, Hoi An is one of Vietnam's most delightful destinations. The Old Town, recognised as an UNESCO World Heritage Site, is an immaculately preserved example of an Asian trading port with covered bridges, pagodas, temples and merchant houses. The town's beguiling riverside setting adds to the overall picturesque appeal of Hoi An with women in conical hats rowing their wooden vessels downstream and the glow of red lanterns in the evenings reflected on the water's iridescent surface. A short walking tour will take us to a bygone era, with a visit to the Chua Ong Pagoda, Chinese Assembly Hall, a 200-year-old Tam Ky house, former merchants' homes and the 400 year-old Japanese Covered Bridge.

Day 6: Village Life

For a taste of provincial life, today we will take a bicycle ride out of Hoi An to Tra Que village, famed for its traditional farming practises and rural atmosphere. Here enjoy a hands-on day for all the family, tending to the fields and gardens, before taking a lesson in preparation of traditional Vietnamese cuisine. Later enjoy your culinary masterpiece while soaking up the clean air and country views.

Day 7: Hoi An - at leisure

Today is free for you to spend as you choose. You may wish to head to the beach for a day of relaxation or hit the town for some serious shopping - the streets of Hoi An are overflowing with tailor shops where you can get your own silk suit made exclusively! Hoi An is also something of a culinary mecca with classy restaurants for those who prefer their food served to them and local cooking schools for those who enjoy getting their hands dirty. Alternatively, those seeking a little more culture or history can opt to visit My Son – one of Vietnam's holiest and most evocative Cham sites, or Quang Ngai – the site of the My Lai massacre memorial.

Day 8: Hoi An

Saturday. Today marks the end of your time in Vietnam. A departure transfer will be provided to take you to Danang airport in time for your onward departure flight.

What's Included

Accommodation

- 5 nights 4 star and special class hotels, 1 night deluxe junk boat and 1 overnight sleeper train (Junk boat: private cabin, Sleeper train: basic, 4 berth cabin)

Guide

- Guided sightseeing - Hanoi, Halong Bay, Hue and Hoi An
- Escorted by an English speaking Vietnamese tour guide

Meals

- 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 1 dinner

Transport

- Airport arrival transfer day 1 and departure transfer day 8
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private air-conditioned vehicles

Others

- Halong Bay Junk boat cruise - opt to swim, kayak and explore caves
- Bicycle ride to Tra Que village, farm experience and cooking demonstration

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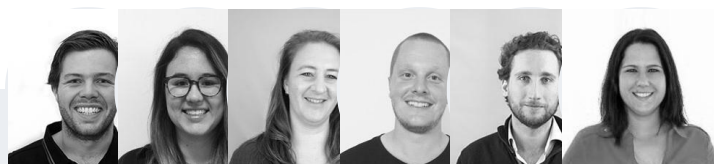
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