



Better Life Vietnam

Supporting lives to excel

## Comprehensive Vietnam Tour

### **Day 1: Hanoi arrival - Brief introduction (D)**

Upon arrival, you will be welcomed by TMA tour guide, then transfer to hotel for check-in. Relaxing in your hotel.

After that, you will have a small talk with our friendly travel advisors to have some essential information about the country & the city. You will also be given a free Hanoi map from us and try to learn some basic Vietnamese.

Take an hour Cyclo Tour through the Old Quarter of Hanoi (a.k.a. The 36 Streets and Guilds), this bustling area of narrow streets is home to literally thousands of small businesses and shopkeepers. Then enjoy a traditional water puppet show in Thang Long Theater where you have an overview of daily life in Vietnam's rural areas in dramatic form. We will end our tour with a welcome dinner including authentic Vietnamese food.

In the evening, get back to your hotel to relax. Overnight in your hotel.

*Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi*

### **Day 2: Hanoi full-day city tour (B/L)**



08:00: Our tour guide will meet you at your hotel and we will start covering all highlighted sites in Hanoi. First we will visit Ho Chi Minh complex (mausoleum, museum, president palace) - considered the heart of Vietnamese people. We also take a look at One Pillar Pagoda - one of the most iconic Buddhist temple in Hanoi attached to an interesting legend referring the construction of the pagoda. Next we visit Temple of Literature (a temple to Confucius) - the first Vietnam University dating back to 1070.

12:00: Having lunch at a nice restaurant in Hanoi.

In the afternoon, enjoy a drive out to the outskirts of Hanoi to visit Museum of Ethnology, widely acknowledged as the best museum in the country; and having an extensive display dedicated to Vietnam's 54 ethnic minority.

After that, we will get back to your hotel and you can relax. Overnight in your hotel.

*Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi*

### **Day 3: Hanoi - Halong Bay (B/L/D)**



08:00: Our guide will pick you up at your hotel and take you to a local restaurant for breakfast, 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.

12:00: Arrive at the dock and board your junk. Savor a gourmet lunch of fresh seafood on board as we sail out into the mystical bay.

13:30: Cruise around some of Halong's many islands, including Dinh Huong and Ga Choi. 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-sand beach and take a dip in the warm waters of the

Tonkin Gulf (weather permitting). Pass the night on your junk, lulled to sleep by the gentle rocking of calm waters.

*Accommodation: On cruise*

#### **Day 4: Halong Bay - Hanoi - Hue (B/L)**

06:30: You can wake up early and take part in Tai Chi on the top deck, or simply relax and enjoy the sunrise over the bay's towering islands.

07:00: Enjoy a morning cup of coffee or tea, before setting out to explore nearby islands by rowboat.

8:00: Return to the junk for breakfast then take advantage of the sundeck and admire the amazing rock formations of Bai Tu Long Bay as you navigate back to Halong City.

11:30: Have brunch on board before returning to Halong pier. Your driver will meet you at the dock and take you back to Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi for flight departure to Hue. Upon arrival Hue, our guide will pick-up you and transfer to the city center for hotel check-in.

*Accommodation: Hotel in Hue*

#### **Day 5: Hue city tour with boat trip (B/L)**



08:00: Our tour guide will meet you at hotel lobby and we begin the tour from the Imperial Citadel where the Nguyen Dynasty ruled between 1802 and 1945. The ancient citadel reflects the pomp and ceremony of the dynastic rulers as well as the scars of many years of turmoil, both ancient and modern (the Royal Citadel was badly damaged in the latter stages of the

war) but retains a sense of grace and majesty even today.

Then we take a boat trip to Thien Mu Pagoda, also known as Heavenly Lady Pagoda, one of the most famous architectural pagodas in Vietnam unofficially symbolized Hue's Royal City. It is an active Buddhist monastery with its origins dating back to 1601. Also visit King Tu Duc mausoleum, which is a picturesque complex including his tomb and palace that Emperor Tu Duc ordered the construction by himself when he was still alive.

12:00: We go to Dong Thien Pagoda for a well-prepared vegetarian lunch, served by nuns in a much more the life of religious people in the central area.

Before heading back to your hotel take time to stroll around Dong Ba Market with our guide.

The market is another of the must see sites in Hue, the stalls are teeming with color and a great place to catch a glimpse of everyday life.

*Accommodation: Hotel in Hue*

## **Day 6: Hue - Hoi An (B/L)**



It will take you around 3-hour road trip from Hue to Hoi An. We will pass by and overlook some famous places such as: Lang Co beach, Hai Van Pass, Museum of Cham Sculpture, My Khe beach, Non Nuoc Stone Carving Village and Marble Mountain (Ngu Hanh Son) - a fairy land with a dreamlike scenery, pagodas, grottoes on the way from Da Nang to Hoi An.

Arrive Hoi An during late afternoon, check-in hotel and free at your own time. Overnight in Hoi An.

*Accommodation: Hotel in Hoi An*



### **Day 7: Hoi An city tour - Kim Bong carpenter village (B/L)**



08:00: Our tour guide will pick you up at your hotel to start our city tour by strolling around the ancient town: Chua Cau or Japanese Covered Bridge - considered the symbol of Hoi An the finest example of Japanese architecture. Step back in time to discover the Chinese street with stunning Phuc Kien Hall and Phung Hung old house typical of Hoi An original architecture. We then visit Hoi An vibrant market and ancient port to explore the rhythm of local daily life and savor the true color, flavor and taste of the oriental. Finally, we visit Phuc Thanh Pagoda – the oldest pagoda in Hoi An.

12:00: Enjoy a well-served lunch in the local restaurant with signature specialties of Hoi An: the Cao Lau noodle and White Rose dumpling.

After lunch, we will take a 4-hour boat trip on Thu Bon River - the poetic river that shaped the verdant nature and rich cultural heritage of Hoi An. Stop en route to visit two handicraft villages nestled on the river banks: Thanh Ha pottery village and Kim Bong carpentry village well known for their nice handicraft products. Transfer back to the hotel in the late afternoon.

*Accommodation: Hotel in Hoi An*

### **Day 8: Hoi An cooking class (B/L)**

08:15: We will start our day tour with a welcome drink at Hai Café - a famous coffee shop in town - also our meeting point.

We will begin the trip by visiting Hoi An's colourful market, and experience the amazing sights, sounds and aromas of this busy place. We will have the opportunity to interact with the local sellers and learn about all the ingredients to be used in the cooking lesson later.

Then we will board the Red Bridge boat for a leisurely cruise (around 25 minutes) along the

Hoi An River to the Red Bridge Cooking School. This is a chance to view local river life, so make sure your camera is handy.

On arrival, we can explore the cooking school's herb garden, before learning about some of Hoi An's and Vietnam's well-known dishes, such as fresh rice paper shrimp rolls; the crispy Hoi An shrimp pancake with bean sprouts & peanut sauce; the seafood salad with mixed Vietnamese herbs served in half of a pineapple; and Vietnamese eggplant in clay pot. Then comes the 2-hour cooking lesson: you will follow the demonstration of the Red Bridge's chef for each dish making your own ones. Meanwhile you will have a brief introduction to Vietnamese food carving (plate decoration) by making the "pineapple boat" and some flowers. When everything is done, it's time to enjoy our self-made dishes.

After the class, you can relax and enjoy free use of our swimming pool - towels and showers provided.

*Accommodation: Hotel in Hoi An*

### **Day 9: Hoi An - NhaTrang (B)**

After breakfast, you will be transferred to airport for flight to Nha Trang. Upon arrival Cam Ranh International Airport, our guide will pick you up and transfer to the city center for hotel check-in.

*Accommodation: Hotel in Nha Trang*

### **Day 10: Nha Trang boat trip (B/L)**



08:30: Our tour guide will pick you up from your hotel and head to Cau Da port. We will first stop at Tri Nguyen Aquarium on Mieu Island, where gathers a wide range of special marine species creating a small but colorful ocean world. Mun Island is the best island for snorkeling where you can see lots of live colorful corals and fishes. You will also be able to see caves in which the sea swallows make their nest.

After that, relaxing, swimming & taking part in water sports or other activities at Mot Island, Tranh Beach Island or on a small island calling “Mini beach”. Taking a fresh lunch at the island. On the way back you will visit a fishing village before getting back to Nha Trang.

*Accommodation: Hotel in Nha Trang*

### **Day 11 & 12: Nha Trang free on the beach**

You are free on the beach or relaxing in hotel

*Accommodation: Hotel in Nha Trang*

### **Day 13: Nha Trang - Da Lat (B)**

After breakfast, you are free until being transferred to Da Lat by private car with guide. Free time on the rest of day. Overnight in Dalat

*Accommodation: Hotel in Da Lat*

#### **Day 14: Da Lat full-day city tour (B/L)**



08:15: Our tour guide will pick you up at your hotel and we will start our morning sightseeing by visiting Bao Dai Summer Palace - a faded art-deco-influenced villa with striking design, one of three palaces Bao Dai - the last king of Vietnam - kept in Da Lat. We then take a look at some of Da Lat's most highlighted spots such as Da Lat Cathedral, Robin Hill 1600m (cable car 2300m-panoramic view), the Buddhist Meditation Monastery & Paradise Lake, and Datanla Waterfall.

12:00: We will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant with scenic view.

In the afternoon, we continue visiting The Old Railway Station - kind of a secret place, very beautiful and romantic, then pass to the Valley Of Love, the Flowers showroom and then stop over at Da Lat jam workshop to enjoy jam and choose some specialties to take home.

We will get back to your hotel around 15:30.

*Accommodation: Hotel in Da Lat*

#### **Day 15: Da Lat - Ho Chi Minh (B)**

After breakfast, you are free until being transferred to airport for flight departure to Ho Chi Minh city. Upon arrival, our guide will pick you up then drive to hotel for check-in.

*Accommodation: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh city*



**Day 16: Ho Chi Minh city tour - Dinner on cruise (B/L/D)**



08:00: Our guide will meet you at your hotel and we will drive to explore the incredible Cu Chi tunnel, a 250km underground tunnel system, created manually by Vietnamese resistance fighters (a.k.a. Viet Cong) during their long struggle for independence. Also on display are various mantraps and the remains of an American tank as well as numerous bomb craters made by 500 pound bombs dropped by B52 bombers.

After lunch, we head back to Ho Chi Minh city and take a half-day city tour. We start by looking at the Notre Dame Cathedral - one of the best examples of classical French colonial architecture in town. Nearby is the Old Post Office - the country's largest post office built in 1891. Then, we move on to see the Reunification Palace, which is former residence of the President of South Vietnam until April 30, 1975. Our last stop is War Remnants Museum - formerly known as the Museum of American War Crimes. This is a poignant display the futility of war.

18:30: We will drive to the wharf to embark cruise for dinner. While sailing along Saigon river, you will have a chance to enjoy the night lights and panoramic view of Ho Chi Minh city and of course, enjoy delicious Vietnamese cuisine.

21:00: Get back to your hotel to relax.

*Accommodation: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh city*

**Day 17: Ho Chi Minh city - Cai Be boat trip - Ho Chi Minh city (B/L)**



After having breakfast at your hotel, we will have a day escape from the bustling city and take a boat trip to Cai Be floating market and see the daily floating life of the locals in this lively market, with vendors selling ranges of goods on boats. Continue visiting some local home factories such as rice paste making, rice pop corn, coconut candies, and Longan drying processing.

Cruising through the maze of canals crossing An Binh Island, we land at an ancient house. Here we will have the chance to taste the fresh tropical fruits of the Delta.

Then we will enjoy a fantastic lunch at a local restaurant with the authentic cuisine of the Mekong Delta.

After lunch, take a short row on local sampan, then get back on motor boat to the Nursery Garden of Mr. Tam Ho. Continue cruising to visit the Brick & Pottery Kiln then drive back to Ho Chi Minh for hotel check-in.

*Accommodation: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City*

**Day 18: Ho Chi Minh departure (B)**

After having breakfast at the hotel, you will be at leisure until transferred to the airport to take the flight back. End of our services.

For any queries, write us at [blvtoursforbooks@gmail.com](mailto:blvtoursforbooks@gmail.com)