

Northern Vietnam

The North of Vietnam is truly a must-see area for anyone coming to this beautiful country. From a short day tour in Hanoi - the capital city, a boat trip in the scenic Hoa Lu Tam Coc, few days cruising in the wonderful Halong Bay, to the adventurous trekking in Sapa... they're all worth a try.



Hanoi city Tour

Good morning Hanoi Tour

Highlights:

Tai Chi class, Vietnam street food

What Can You Expect

This tour provides you a different perspective of Hanoi: a quiet and peaceful Hanoi you can only see in the morning. Especially if you love fresh air and the calmness of Zen, this might be the ideal choice for you.

Program:

6:00: Our tour guide will pick you up at your hotel and we will head on an early morning trip to explore Hanoi.

First we will take a short walk to the local Long Bien market - the most famous wholesale market in Hanoi. Here you can witness the busyness morning of many fruits sellers - their day time starts long before the sun rises. Our guide will teach you some basic Vietnamese words for bargaining and then you can try to buy some fruits by yourselves in Vietnamese style (buying fruits is included on tour price).

After that, head to Ly Thai To garden for the early Tai Chi class - which is considered having a lot of health benefits on morning training. Originated from China, Tai Chi is typically practiced because of its hard and soft martial art technique, demonstration competitions, and longevity. This is also what we focus on: the Tai Chi art and the Tai Chi food. You will be able to practice both the traditional and modern form of Tai Chi, and learn about the balance of life here.

After the class, head to a local restaurant nearby for a hot bowl of Pho. Pho - the best Vietnamese beef noodle soup is also another good example of the country's adherence to the concept of balancing the four flavors: sour, spicy, salty, and sweet. The tasty broth, with strips of succulent beef and chewy rice noodles are perfect for a hearty breakfast.

Our last stop will be for enjoying egg coffee - also known as Vietnamese cappuccino - at one of the most well-known coffee shops in town, which has been featured on a lot of international travel magazines. Then we will drop you back at your hotel. End of our services.

Hanoi Photography Tour

Highlights:

Walking tour, street-style photograph

What You Can Expect

This short photo tour is dedicated to anyone who is fond of street-style photography and contemporary art. Have a quick look at these inspirational places and let your camera be creative.

Program:

8:45: Our tour guide will pick you up at your hotel. Our journey starts from One Pillar Pagoda - one among the two most iconic pagodas in Hanoi, alongside with Perfume Pagoda. Enjoy the fresh morning in a sacred place with unique architecture and take some great shots when the light is at its best for outdoor shooting. Then take a small walk of around 10 - 15 mins toward Dien Bien Phu St. - one among the most green streets in Hanoi.

9:20: Here we can see the Flag Tower of Hanoi, also a symbol of Hanoi and a part of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long. Train your skills of photo composition and interaction with the subject by taking some shots in & outside.

10:00: Reach the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long. Discover the cultural complex comprising the ancient royal palaces of four Vietnam greatest empires (firstly built by the Ly Dynasty and subsequently expanded by the Tran, Le and finally the Nguyen Dynasty). Take a short walk in two most beautiful streets of Hanoi: Hoang Dieu and Phan Dinh Phung Street. Its perfect lighting and scenery will surely help you to capture stunning landscape shots.

11:30: Walk down to a small street in the corner, reach Manzi Art Space and have small talk with the owner, discover a colorful contemporary art gallery here and enjoy some coffee and pastry at your leisure.

12:10: We will take you back to your hotel. End of services.

Hanoi Food on Foot Tour

Highlights:

Walking tour, Vietnam street food

What Can You Expect

If you are interested in walking through the maze of Hanoi Old Quarter and enjoying Vietnamese cuisine, this short day trip might be the perfect choice for you.

Program:

8:30: Our tour guide will meet you at your hotel and we will start the trip by going for a Vietnamese-style breakfast. This could be a unique experience for you, as we will be waiting on quite a long queue like other local people at a famous restaurant in the Old Quarter to have our breakfast served. The main dish could be either a pack of sticky rice or a bowl of Pho - the best Vietnamese noodle soup. You will not only have a chance to enjoy delicious dishes, but also can experience the bustling atmosphere of Hanoi in the morning and the pace of life here. After that we will go for a cup of egg coffee - also known as Vietnamese cappuccino - at one of the most well-known coffee shops in town, which has been featured on a lot of international travel magazines.

Next, we will take a short walk around the Old town and drop-in some ancient houses to witness the architecture in mixed Vietnamese and Chinese style, and explore some streets among the famous "36 Streets of Hanoi" which has the street name originated from the popular goods produced and sold at that street. Try to figure out how to cross the streets and how to bargain in Vietnam.

12:00 - 12:30: It's time to dig deeper in Vietnamese cuisine from the North to the South by dropping by some Hue or Ho Chi Minh local food stores based in Hanoi, which keep the truest taste of the local dishes, and also are guaranteed for high hygiene. You can choose to enjoy either the super tasty traditional cakes from Hue for the Middle Vietnamese style; or Bun Bo Nam Bo (Southern Vietnamese noodle with beef) or Banh Xeo (Vietnamese Pan Cake) for the Southern style.

[**Hanoi Nightlife Tour**](#)

Highlights:

Nightlife exploration, Vietnam street food

What You Can Expect

Hanoi nightlife is one of the must-see things when it comes to Vietnam travel. If you are young, active, and enjoy the lights after sunset, this could be a great place for you to discover more. Spend a night as a local with us and experience the astonishing beauty of Hanoi.

Program:

18:00: Our tour guide will meet you at your hotel's lobby and we will start walking around the narrow and crowded streets of the Old Quarter and discover nightlife in the bustling city.

We will first try a bowl of "Pho" - the most well-known beef noodle soup in Vietnam. Either way, you can choose to taste a typical specialty in the South of Vietnam named "Bun Bo Nam Bo". Then we will drop in a local beer store on the street to enjoy the night atmosphere. You will have a chance to sit at small chairs and drink "Bia Hoi" - draught beer - in big glass like a local. Enjoy it well with the delicious "Nem chua ran" - a kind of Vietnamese pork sausage; and peanut. Here you can also learn how to say "cheer" in Vietnamese style.

Enjoy a few minutes walk to get to some bars or pubs nearby inside the busiest corner of Hanoi Old Quarter. We will provide you a list of nice pubs and bars so it will be easier for you to choose out of your favorite: either dynamic discotheques where you can shake your body with loudly music and enjoy some alcoholic drinks; or the quieter pubs to have space to chat with your guide deeply about the local life here and make friends with others expats (Drinks are exclusive in the program.)

22:00: Get back to your hotel to relax. End of our services.

Dinner with Hanoian family



Highlights:

Dinner with the locals

What You Can Expect

Culinary culture is one of the most colorful highlights in Vietnam. However, it will be much more exciting and giving you the truly original taste if you can try a local meal - enjoying food with the locals.

Program:

17:00 - 18:00: On welcoming you to the host's house, you will be invited to their living room and enjoying a cup of hot green tea - as a traditional custom of Vietnamese family used to showing respect to their guests.

Then you will come to the dining room and enjoy the meal prepared by the host. You will have a chance to try the traditional dishes in a cosy atmosphere at home. See how the local enjoy their dinner, what their kitchen looks like, and also witness some customs during the meal: the children need to invite the elders before eating and after finishing meal, how to use chopstick in the traditional manner, and how to put chopstick to express that we finished meal. Through all of that, you will clearly see the difference between Western and Eastern dining etiquette.

The tour will end in around 20:00 - 21:00.

HA LONG BAY TOUR



Located in Quang Ninh province - the northeastern part of Vietnam - with over thousands limestone islands rising from the emerald water, Halong Bay is an exquisite gem of Tonkin Gulf, which has been recognized twice as the World Heritage by UNESCO. The bay is also home to tropical forests and many amazing coral reefs.

According to a famous Vietnam legend, Halong means "where the dragon descends into the sea" - its beauty lies in the immense mountain and sea.

Thus, the real Halong will be best explored from the deck of a cruise, enjoying a cocktail and watching the sun and the horizon collide. The most popular way to get there from Hanoi is by bus, which departs frequently during daylight hours.

From Halong, you might head to other stunning sites such as Cat Ba Island, Lan Ha Bay, or Bai Tu Long Bay and take part in various activities to discover the local life and the gorgeous nature, e.g. kayaking, cruising, swimming, or visiting floating villages.

It is possible to visit Halong all year round, but if you want to see the bay at its best, you can plan your trip from October to April, when the average temperature is around 25°C, the water is warm, and the sun is not burning too much.

Halong Bay Dragon Cruise 2D/1N

Day 1: Hanoi - Halong Bay (L/D)



07:30 - 08:00: Our tour guide and our shuttle bus will pick you up from your hotel to start a 4.5-hour scenic road trip to Halong city. On the way we will stop at Hai Duong City for refreshment around 20 minutes.

12:30: On arrival, enjoy welcome drink on board the Superior Dragon Cruise and follow briefing cruise safety before entering this magical bay. Check-in your traditionally styled cabin.

13:00: Vietnamese lunch is served while sailing through the symbol of Halong bay: the "Fighting Cocks" Islet.

14:00: Visit Surprising Cave (Hang Sung Sot) with many stalactites in numerous attractive forms and shapes.

15:30: There will be plenty of time for kayaking, swimming and sunbathing (weather permitted) as you anchor for a night on the bay.

18:30: Enjoy a wonderful delectable seafood dinner on board.

20:00: You can try cuttle fishing & karaoke singing with our team before relaxing in your comfortable cabin. Overnight on Superior Dragon Cruise. End of day 1.

Day 2: Halong Bay - Hanoi (B/L)

08:00: Relax in the fresh atmosphere of one of the World's Natural Heritage Sites Halong Bay and enjoy your breakfast.



09:00: Our chef will teach you how to decorate dishes with flowers made from vegetables and fruits or roots while cruising around the bay before checking out and getting back to the harbour.

11:00: Enjoy your lunch at a local restaurant in Halong City.

12:00: Back to our bus and transfer back to Hanoi. Short-break enroute in Hai Duong city for refreshment around 20 minutes.

17:00: Arrive Hanoi. End of our services.

Sapa Tour



Sapa, also called "The Queen of The Mountains", is a frontier town - formerly a French hill station located in Lao Cai province, North West of Vietnam. It is home to several ethnic minorities, for instance: Hmong, Dao, Tay, Pho Lu and Giay.

The town overlooks a picturesque valley, lofty mountains towering over the town on all sides. The surrounding area is the Hoang Lien Son Mountain, including Fansipan – the Vietnam's highest peak. Trekking to the summit is a popular activity often combined with a Sapa trip.

The most interesting things to do when visiting Sapa is taking a short trek to the traditional hill tribe villages here: Cat Cat village, Ta Van village, Lao Chai village, etc. You can also take part in some typical activities of the locals such as visiting Bac Ha, Can Cau and Coc Ly market – three unique markets held monthly in Sapa. Some other famous and scenic sights in the neighborhood might include the epic

Tram Ton Pass, the Silver Falls, Cau May, and Mount Ham Rong.

The whole town is magnificent and frequently shrouded in mist. In the winter, the weather in Sapa is very harsh with low temperature and hazy fog. Thus, the best time to visit Sapa is either from March to May, when you can admire the blossoming cherry trees; or from September to November, when you can view the yellow rice terraces at its best.

[Short Trek Surrounding Sapa](#)

NIGHT 1: HANOI - LAO CAI

19:00 - 20:00: Our tour guide will pick you up from your hotel to the train station B, and start the 9-hour night train trip to Lao Cai.

DAY 1: LAO CAI - SAPA - LAO CHAI - TA VAN VILLAGE (B/L/D)

05:00 - 06:30: Our tour guide will welcome you at Lao Cai station. Take the bus to Sapa.

07:00 - 08:30: Arrive Sapa. Enjoy breakfast in your hotel.

09:00 - 09:30: Start a short trek from center of the town towards the southeast, passing by Muong Hoa Valley to Y Linh Ho and Lao Chai villages of the hilltribe H'Mong.

12:00: Join the lunch in a local Black H'Mong house, explore their daily life routine, and enjoy the picturesque scenery.

13:00: Continue trekking to Ta Van village of Dzay minority.

15:00 - 15:30: Reach the homestay and prepare to have dinner with local specialties. Overnight in the homestay.

DAY 2: TA VAN - GIANG TA CHAI VILLAGE (B/L/D)

08:15: Enjoy the breakfast at homestay.

09:00: Start a joyful road trip between terraced field and crossing bamboo forests to Giang Ta Chai village of the Red Dao minority. Take a glimpse of Silver Waterfall and Rattan Bridge, discover the local life.

12:00: Have lunch at a local house.

13:15: Continue visiting Supan village of the H'Mong minority.

14:30: Get back to Sapa by bus. On the way back, take a look at the ancient stone circle with ancient carvings on each stone. Go back to the hotel and take a shower then have dinner before transfer to Lao Cai Station.

17:00 - 17:30: Bus pick up to Lao Cai train station for the night train back to Ha

Noi.

21:00: Soft sleeper train back to Ha Noi

DAY 3: HANOI ARRIVAL

05:00: Arrive Tran Quy Cap station in Hanoi. Take a taxi back to your hotel by yourself (it should cost 50.000 - 70.000 (VND) for a 4/7 seats car. End of services.

[The Exotic Trail of Sapa](#)

NIGHT 1: HANOI - LAO CAI

20:30: TMA tour guide will pick you up from your hotel to the train station B, and start the 9-hour night train trip to Lao Cai.

DAY 1: LAO CAI - SAPA - LAO CHAI - TA VAN VILLAGE (B/L/D)

Arrive Lao Cai station in early morning, you will be welcomed by TMA local tour guide then take the bus to Sapa. Arrive Sapa. Enjoy breakfast in your hotel.

09:30: Start a short trek from center of the town towards the southeast, passing by Muong Hoa Valley to Y Linh Ho and Lao Chai villages of the hilltribe H'Mong. Join the lunch in a local Black H'Mong house, explore their daily life routine, and enjoy the picturesque scenery.

13:00: Continue trekking to Ta Van village of Dzay minority. After about 2 hours trekking, reach the homestay and prepare to have dinner with local specialties. Overnight in the homestay.

DAY 2: TA VAN - GIANG TA CHAI VILLAGE (B/L/D)

08:15: Enjoy the breakfast at homestay. Then start a joyful road trip between terraced field and crossing bamboo forests to Giang Ta Chai village of the Red Dzao minority. Take a glimpse of Silver Waterfall and Rattan Bridge, discover the local life.

After having lunch at a local house, continue visiting Supan village of the H'Mong minority.

14:45: Take the bus back to Sapa to your hotel. On the way back, take a look at the ancient stone circle with ancient carvings on each stone. Overnight in hotel.

DAY 3: SAPA - BAC HA - LAO CAI - HANOI (B/L/D)

07:00: Enjoy breakfast at the hotel, then freshen up and check out. Head on a mini bus straight to Bac Ha Market - one of the most colorful market in North Vietnam. Discover the traditional trade, the different cultures of various hill tribes, and the mountainous specialties such as corn wine, plump wine... Next we will move to the house of the H'Mong King Hoang A Tuong - the architecture built in the early 20th century, influenced by both French and Chinese style.

13:00: Back to the town and have lunch here. Have a small journey to Ban Pho village, explore the local life here.

15:00: Back to the bus to Lao Cai railway station to catch the night train to Hanoi. Stop to see the Vietnamese and Chinese border on the way.
Have dinner before taking the train back to Hanoi. Overnight on train.

DAY 4: HANOI ARRIVAL

05.00: Arrive Tran Quy Cap station in Hanoi. Take a taxi back to your hotel by yourself (it should cost 50.000 - 70.000 (VND) for a 4/7 seats car. End of services.

For any queries, write us at blvtoursforbooks@gmail.com