

# **Program Overview**

## **Duration 14 Days**

**Highlights:** Hanoi- Ho Chi Minh-Con Dao, itinerary covers Bustling commercial city & Southeast Asia nicest beach & offer UNESCO World Heritage site Halong Bay & Hoi An ancient town, Colonial city Hanoi, Southeast Asia nicest beach Hoi An & Con Dao & Bustling commercial city Ho Chi Minh

#### **ITINERARY**

# Day 1 Arrival Hanoi

\*\*\*Note: Early check-in at hotel is NOT included.

Arrive in Hanoi by Flight # TBA (Own ticket).

Meet & transfer to hotel. Balance of the day is free at leisure.

Lunch & Dinner at your own account

Overnight Stay: Intercontinental Hanoi Westlake

# Day 2

# Hanoi//Visit to Duong Lam Village, Temple of Literature

After breakfast, start your day to visit Duong Lam Village. The ancient village has a history of about 1,200 years with many houses dating back up to 400 years. One special thing about the village is that most of the buildings here are made of laterite and mud, two materials that are abundant in the area. Laterite is used on house walls, gates, wells, temple walls, and so forth. The mud is taken from ponds. Apart from its historical and tourism values, Duong Lam ancient village is an important place for scientists to study resident communities in ancient agriculture. The village gate, banyan, well, communal house are important factors in classifying Duong Lam ancient village. Enjoy Lunch in the village before heading back to Hanoi.

Next, you will visit the Temple of Literature, founded in 1070 and dedicated to Confucius, honors scholars and men of literary accomplishment.

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Later in the afternoon, you will take an hour cyclo ride into the Old Quarter area. The Old Quarter is characterized by numerous narrow streets, which date from the 15th century, each bearing a name that reflects the business once conducted there.

Drop by Thang Long theatre to enjoy famous Water Puppet Show, the unique Vietnamese traditional art. This art originates from rural festivals in Vietnam. The artists-men and women-stand waist-deep in the water to manipulate the puppets, making them move about, talk, laugh and even dance on water surface.

Dinner at your own account

Overnight Stay: Intercontinental Hanoi Westlake

#### Day 3

# Hanoi/Halong (Overnight Cruise)

After breakfast, departure transfer to Halong bay (around 3.5 – 4 hours driving).

Noon: Check-in at Bhaya Café, Tuan Chau Island.

Embark on Bhaya Legend and enjoy a welcome cocktail while slowly sailing to Bai Tu Long, passing the setting for the movie Indochina, Mat Quy and Am Tich Islets. Savor a delicious fresh seafood lunch on-board.

Bhaya Legend moves on into Vung Vieng fishing village, nestled among the limestone peaks, unaffected by ocean waves or strong winds. Visit the village by kayak or small boat to see the daily lives of locals up close.

Swim or kayak the turquoise waters off the pristine white sandy beaches. Watch the sunset over enchanting Halong Bay while cruising to the overnight anchorage.

Candlelit set-dinner on board

Retire to your cabin or join the fishing program.

Overnight: Bhaya Legend I Cruise

#### Day 4

#### Halong/Hanoi/Danang/Hoi An

Enjoy the sunrise, the lapping waves, the fresh sea air, the gentle breeze or get up at your leisure. Complimentary tea & coffee are available on request.

The crew will ready the vessel to sail to a destination of your choice. Choices include: sightseeing at Sung Sot Grotto; hiking up Titop Mountain; lagoon kayaking or swimming on a deserted beach.

Brunch is served onboard. Bhaya Legend returns to Tuan Chau Island at 11 am. End of services.

Transfer back to Hanoi for free shopping time & dinner (own arrangement) before transfer to Noi Bai Airport for flight to Da Nang (Own ticket)

Upon arrival, private pick up and transfer to check in hotel for night.

Overnight Stay: Victoria Hoi An Resort

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## Day 5 Hoi An//Walking tour Hoi An

After breakfast, free at leisure for your own activities.

In the afternoon, take a walking tour of Hoi An, discover the historic town which used to be a prosperous seaport city during the 16th to 18th centuries. Visit Hoi An colorful local market, Tan Ky old house, Fukien Assembly Hall, and the 400-year-old Japanese covered bridge.

Travelers can also see local residents raise silkworms and produce silk for Hoi An's burgeoning textile industry.

Lunch & Dinner at your own account

Overnight Stay: Victoria Hoi An Resort

## Day 6

# Hoi An//Visit to Tra Que Village

Pick guest up at hotel and transfer to Tra Que Village (bike can be arrange somewhere in the middle route with additional charge), At the home of your host, Mr Tuan, a welcome drink of freshly picked fruits is waiting, before we take a walk around the village and learn about the history and customs of this charming village. We walk through the market gardens where hundreds of local farmers work their fields using the traditional methods of hundreds of years ago - no electrical machinery here.

We return to the home of Mr Tuan, and this is where the real fun begins. Everyone is given farming instruments, and we set about joining the farmers in preparing the land for sewing. Our guide describes the traditional farming methods while we help fertilize the garden using seaweed from the local river, and then water it using huge tin cans strapped to our back. Time is then spent picking vegetables and herbs, and learning how to wrap them to prevent damage.

Many of the local herbs are used by the farmers for traditional village medicines

It's now time to try are hands at making the village speciality named "Tam Huu" spring rolls - using the local herbs and vegetables we have just picked or Xeo Cake (Banh Xeo). We then sit down and enjoy a lovely local meal.

Rest of the day is free at leisure.

Dinner at your own account

Overnight Stay: Victoria Hoi An Resort

#### Day 7

# Hoi An//Danang//Ho Chi Minh City visit Cu Chi

After late breakfast, transfer to the airport for your noon flight to Ho Chi Minh City (Own ticket)

Arrive in Ho Chi Minh City, meet your guide and start to visit Cu Chi, a small community located in the northwest of Ho Chi Minh City, which gained notoriety for its network of deep tunnels that provided shelter and an effective source of infiltration for the Viet Cong during the later years of the Vietnam War. The tunnels, which reached hundreds of miles in total length, housed storage rooms, make-shift hospitals and sleeping quarters that accommodated rebel fighters for up to two weeks at a time. Heavy bombing by U.S. forces did not halt movement through the tunnels, making this an unusually successful defense against the superior weaponry of the American troops.

Back to Saigon

Overnight Stay: Intercontinental Asiana Saigon

#### Day 8

Ho Chi Minh City// Insider Saigon by Vintage Vespa

Breakfast at hotel

This is the best way to get around and explore real Saigon bustle local life, drivers to take you on a tour: past the historic Reunification Hall, down Dong Khoi Street – passing the red-brick Notre Dame Cathedral, elegant Post Office and Opera House – before cruising down central Le Loi and out to Ben Thanh Market, squeezing through backpacker Pham Ngu Lao, out to the Chinese Cholon district and back to the city. Our Vespa tour of modern-day Ho Chi Minh City will give you a view of greater Saigon unlike anything you'll see from the hot, crowded interior of a tour bus, and much more of the city than you could see on your own. (Note: tour will not take guest inside the buildings).

Tour includes: Bird club (morning tour), Thich Quang Duc Monument, Flower market, Funeral house, Ong Bon Pagoda, Tailor's accessories market, Chinese medicine market in Chinatown, driving through tunnel to District 2, visit a local market, People's Committee building, Rex Reunification Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral and the Old Central Post Office, CIA building on Dong Khoi, Opera House. Guests ride pillion behind our drivers.

Return to hotel.

Lunch & Dinner at your own account

Overnight Stay: Intercontinental Asiana Saigon

# Day 9

Ho Chi Minh City//Con Dao

After breakfast, transfer the airport for the airport for the noon flight to Con Dao (Own ticket)

Arrive in Con Dao, PRIVATE transfer to Six Senses Con Dao (arranged by hotel).

Free at leisure rest of the day.

Overnight Stay: Six Senses Con Dao Resort

Day 10-13

Con Dao// Enjoy the Resort at Leisure

Breakfast at hotel & Full day at leisure

Overnight Stay: Six Senses Con Dao Resort

Day 14

Con Dao// Ho Chi Minh City// Departure

Breakfast at hotel

Transfer to airport for the flight to Ho Chi Minh to connect with your departure.(Own ticket)