

# ***ENCHANTING VIETNAM TOUR***



**MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE**

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1300 168 910



## Enchanting Vietnam Escorted Tour with Flights

Duration: 11 days

Departs: 2023 & 2024

Stay: 10 nights hotels (4-star rating)

Travel style: Escorted tour with flights from Australia

Booking code: VIETG11M

Call 1300 168 910 to speak to experts at My Travel Experience

Email [hello@mytravelxp.com](mailto:hello@mytravelxp.com)

# 11 Days Enchanting Vietnam Escorted Tour

## About the holiday

Vietnam is a firm favourite with travellers, thanks to its stunning natural beauty, historic sites, rich culture and welcoming people!

This escorted coach tour starts in the south and travels north from Ho Chi Minh City to Hanoi. Enjoy a walking tour in the ancient town of Hoi An and drive over the towering mountains to Hue. Cruise spectacular Halong Bay and experience the cultural highlights of Hanoi, including the world-famous Water Puppet Show.

Internal flights are included to make the most of your time and an experienced tour manager is with you all the way to ensure that the trip runs smoothly and provide helpful local knowledge.

## Why you'll love this trip...

Visit Notre Dame Cathedral & the magnificent Saigon Opera house in Ho Chi Minh City  
Old City of Hoi An was an important trading port in the 15th century

Tour the Imperial City and 19th century Citadel in Hue

Cruise Halong Bay & view the thousands of limestone islands rising out of the sea  
Museum of Ethnology and Water Puppet Show in Hanoi

Travel with an English-speaking tour manager to make the most of your trip

## Travel dates

2023 & 2024 - Departs Ho Chi Minh City Sundays to Fridays

*Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking. Price will vary depending on your travel date.*

**Want to stay longer or upgrade your flights?**

**Call our office on 1300 168 910 for current rates & travel deals.**



### **Escorted tour includes:**

**International flights** - Return economy airfare to Ho Chi Minh City & from Hanoi  
Fly from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane or Perth (*ask us for other cities*)

**Domestic flights** - All intra-flights: Ho Chi Minh-Da Nang & Hue-Hanoi

**Accommodation** - 10 nights First Class accommodations

- 3 nights Ho Chi Minh
- 2 nights Hoi An
- 2 nights Hue
- 1 night Halong Bay
- 2 nights Hanoi

**Meals** - 15 meals: 10 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 4 dinners

**Sightseeing** - Sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach

Entrance fees per itinerary

Comfortable wireless earphones for enhanced touring

**Escorted tour** - Services of English-speaking tour manager throughout

### **Package excludes:**

Airport transfers - can be pre-booked on request

Meals & sightseeing not specified in the inclusions or itinerary

Optional tours & activities

Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry etc.

Gratuities for tour managers & drivers

Video & camera permits

Travel insurance is essential

Prices are based on twin share, please contact us for single rates

*Subject to confirmation by hotels, tour company & local operators.*

*Booking conditions & cancellation fees apply.*

**For more information**

**Call our office on 1300 168 910 or email [hello@mytravelxp.com](mailto:hello@mytravelxp.com)**

## Itinerary:

### DAY 1, Thursday - Arrive in Ho Chi Minh

Arrive in Ho Chi Minh (formerly Saigon), the largest city in Vietnam. Make your way to the hotel and enjoy the balance of the day at leisure

Overnight: Ho Chi Minh

### DAY 2, Friday - Ho Chi Minh City Tour

Spend the morning at leisure or, join the optional half day tour to Cu Chi Tunnels. They were part of an underground tunnel network built by the Viet Cong to control a largely rural area near Saigon. The Cu Chi network includes 125 miles of tunnels with many branches connecting to underground hideouts, weapon factories, hospitals, shelters, and other tunnels. In the afternoon, embark on a guided tour in Ho Chi Minh City, which includes the neo-Romanesque Notre Dame Cathedral, the Central Post Office with its French style architecture, City Hall, and the magnificent Saigon Opera House. From here, visit lively Ben Thanh Market - where an unbelievable assortment of wares and crafts are sold under one roof. Continue to Dong Khoi Street, a major shopping thoroughfare in the centre of the city. Early in the evening, enjoy a Welcome Drink and orientation meeting with your Tour Manager on the exciting journey that lies ahead, followed by a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant

Optional: Half Day Cu Chi Tunnels (AM)

Overnight: Ho Chi Minh

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

### DAY 3, Saturday - Full Day in Ho Chi Minh

Today is at leisure to further explore the city on your own or, join the optional full day Mekong Delta River Tour. Today's journey into the Mekong Delta region will take you along the newly built highway, picturesque countryside and seemingly endless paddy fields. Upon arrival at My Tho, you will board a private motor boat for a fascinating cruise along the river, observing the daily life of local people on the waterways. The tour includes a visit to a coconut factory, handicraft workshop and honey bee farm. You will be introduced to the daily life of the local people, learning about local fruit and plants as well as an opportunity to sample some local tropical fruit in an orchard. The tour ends with a great lunch at a local restaurant by the river bank

Optional: Full Day Mekong Delta River Tour

Overnight: Ho Chi Minh

Meals: Breakfast

### DAY 4, Sunday - Flight to Da Nang, Hoi An Walking Tour

Depart Ho Chi Minh on your flight to Da Nang, one of Vietnam's major ports, situated on the coast of the South China Sea. Travel south to the picturesque ancient town of Hoi An, where people still wear the "ao dais", Vietnam's traditional dress. The ancient town of Hoi An, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was the most important trading port in Southeast Asia in the 15th century. Its ancient past is superbly preserved in an enchanting collection of temples, pagodas, shop houses and magnificent private homes in the town's Old Quarter.

Walking tour of this artistic jewel, with its century's old architecture, includes the gorgeous Phuoc Kien Pagoda, the 400-year-old bright-red Japanese Covered Bridge, and the Ancient House. Afterward, continue to dinner at a local restaurant

Overnight: Hoi An

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

#### DAY 5, Monday - Full Day in Hoi An

Spend a full day at leisure discovering all of the delights of Hoi An independently. Walk through the Old City, stopping at one of the city's many museums, or see artisans using age-old techniques to fashion a variety of crafts. Of special interest are the colourful and elaborate paper lanterns created by lantern artisans for which Hoi An is well known. Or, join the optional boat trip on the Thu Bon River visiting the Organic Village, including lunch. The boat trip begins at a local pier in the Old Town. You'll cruise down streams and past many fishing areas before arriving in Kim Bong village, home of traditional woodworking and boat building. Return to the mainland and drive to the Traque Organic Village for lunch. Here, you'll learn about the many vegetables and herbs organically grown to support the people of Hoi An. After a Vietnamese culinary lesson and tasting, return to Hoi An

Optional: Boat Trip on the Thu Bon River & Organic Village with Lunch

Overnight: Hoi An

Meals: Breakfast

#### DAY 6, Tuesday - Travel to Hue, Hue Imperial City Tour

This morning, travel to Da Nang, with stunning views of bowl-shaped Da Nang Bay. Drive by Marble Mountain, a village well-known for its sophisticated handmade marble products. Journey over the towering mountains to Hue, home to a wealth of palaces, temples, libraries, and museums. Take an afternoon tour of this former Imperial capital, modelled after the Forbidden City in Beijing. Enter the Ngo Mon Gate, principal entrance to the Imperial Enclosure and the central passageway reserved for use by the Emperor. Continue to the Thai Hoa Palace with its spacious hallways and ornamental roof, the Halls of the Mandarins, the Nine Dynastic Urns, and the ruins of the Forbidden Purple City, once home to the royal family. Tonight, spend time at leisure to explore on your own or join the optional Cyclo Ride with Dinner at the Citadel. Enjoy a panoramic view of both the daily life and the architecture of Hue with a Trishaw (Cyclo) Tour. Later arrive at a family-run restaurant within the Citadel and savour a multi-course dinner replica of the Royal Feast

Optional: Cyclo Ride with Dinner at the Citadel

Overnight: Hue

Meals: Breakfast

#### DAY 7, Wednesday - Full Day in Hue

Today is at leisure to explore Hue independently. Or, participate in the not-to-be-missed optional boat excursion on the gentle Perfume River, which explores the life along the banks of the ancient royal capital city. The river, with its shimmering blue colour is dotted with a poetic landscape of boats, gardens, pagodas, towers and temples. The tour continues to the legendary Thien Mu Pagoda, on the north bank of the Perfume River, built in seven successive tiers.

Then, a drive to the Tomb of Emperor Tu Duc, final resting place of Vietnam's longest reigning emperor and to Khai Dinh, the last monument of the Nguyen dynasty. Here, a vegetarian lunch will be prepared by Buddhist nuns of the Dong Thien Pagoda. Return to Hue

Optional: Perfume River Boat Trip and Lunch at Dong Thien Pagoda

Overnight: Hue

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8, Thursday - Flight to Hanoi, Sightseeing en route to Halong Bay

Depart Hue on the flight\* to sparkling Hanoi, cultural centre of the country. Upon arrival, travel overland and through the lush Vietnamese countryside to picturesque Halong Bay, considered one of Vietnam's most celebrated attractions. As you approach, you'll see thousands of limestone islands rising out of the sea creating a truly magical scene. Arrive at your hotel in Halong Bay for overnight

\*On some departures, the flight Hue-Hanoi may be changed to depart from Da Nang-Hanoi.

Details will be provided locally by your Tour Manager

Overnight: Halong Bay

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 9, Friday - Cruise Halong Bay, Travel to Hanoi

Incredible views await you today! Halong Bay is considered one of the most breathtaking places on the planet, added to the list of UNESCO Heritage Sites and declared recently as one of the "New Seven Natural Wonders of the World". There are over 3000 islands in the emerald waters and over 1000 have their own names. Numbers of caves and grottos of all sizes and shapes are filled with small waterfalls, stalactites, and stalagmites. Sail on a traditional wooden boat on the tranquil bay with lunch served on board. Visit one of the caves. Afterward, drive to Hanoi, Vietnam's vibrant capital and check into your hotel. This city's history is tied to French colonialism - its architecture, cuisine and local culture still bear evidence of the French influence

Overnight: Hanoi

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 10, Saturday - Hanoi City Tour & Evening Water Puppet Show

Today, visit the Museum of Ethnology, centre for the preservation and exhibition of cultural heritage for over 50 ethnic groups in Vietnam. In the evening, attend a performance of the world-famous Water Puppet Show, accompanied by a traditional Vietnamese orchestra and Cheo (a form of opera). The show depicts a series of ancient Vietnamese folktales, acted out by puppets over a pool of water. Tonight, your journey to Vietnam ends with many lasting memories. Enjoy a Farewell Dinner with your fellow travellers and Tour Manager

Overnight: Hanoi

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 11, Sunday - Depart Vietnam

The tour comes to an end today. Check out of the hotel this morning and make your own way to the airport for your departure flight

Meals: Breakfast

Please note: The day by day descriptions are intended as an indicative guide only. Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, road conditions, public holidays, travel restrictions and many other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that are ultimately for the client's benefit. It is essential that clients are flexible in this regard.

## Hotels:

Please note that the hotels are only a guide and may be substituted for similar properties at the discretion of the tour operator. Hotels vary depending on the departure day of the week and those listed are an example of tours that start on Friday.

### **Liberty Central Saigon Centre Hotel, Ho Chi Minh**

This first class hotel is located in one of the busiest hubs of Ho Chi Minh City, on the fashionable and trendy Le Thanh Ton Street.

### **Silk Luxury Hotel & Spa, Hoi An**

This first class hotel is a short walk from the Japanese covered bridge.

### **Eldora Hotel, Hue**

This first class hotel is located in the heart of Hue.

### **Saigon Halong Hotel, Halong Bay**

This first class hotel is located near Halong Bay.

### **Le Jardin Hotel Haute Couture, Hanoi**

This first class hotel is located within walking distance of West Lake.

## Optional Tours:

Book your Optional Tours before you travel. See more, save time, save money.

- Tours purchased while travelling may cost an extra 10% or more
- Tours often sell out. Avoid disappointment
- Enjoy the convenience of paying in Australian dollars before you travel
- Save your cash. Credit card processing may not be possible locally
- Travel insurance might only cover services purchased prior to departure
- Contact us to book these tours up to 1 week before your departure
- The day the optional tours operate varies by the day of the week

### **Half Day Cu Chi Tunnels**

The Cu Chi tunnels were part of an underground tunnel network built by the Viet Cong to control a large rural area near Saigon. These tunnels were first used during the French/Vietnamese War (1946-1954) and later used by the Viet Cong as a base of operations during the 1968 Tet offensive. The Cu Chi network includes 125 miles of tunnels with many branches connecting to underground hideouts, weapon factories, hospitals, shelters and other tunnels. The entire structure was dug out of the rock by hand tools without the use of cement. On this tour, you'll learn about the tunnels and other aspects of the war. Opportunity for a brief view of life underground as you enter areas that have been enlarged to create easier access for visitors. The majority of the tour will be above the tunnels.

*Please note: This tour is presented from a Vietnamese perspective, based on past wars with France and the United States. If you are uncomfortable with the expressed point-of-views and prefer not to hear this discussion, then we recommend that you do not participate.*

Approximate tour duration is 5 hours.

### **Full Day Mekong Delta River Tour**

The Mekong River is the lifeblood of Southeast Asia. It starts from Tibet, running through 5 countries before entering Vietnam and created a great basin via its 9 tributaries. Today's journey into the Mekong Delta region will take us along the newly built highway, picturesque countryside and seemingly endless paddy fields. Upon arrival at My Tho, you will board a private motor boat for a fascinating cruise along the river, observing the daily life of local people on the waterways. The tour includes a sampan ride through the winding canals, a visit to a coconut factory, handicraft workshop, honey bee farm. You will be introduced to the daily life of the local people, learning about local fruit and plants as well as an opportunity to sample some local tropical fruit in an orchard. The tour ends with a great lunch at a local restaurant by the river bank.

Return to H Chi Minh City by bus. Approximate tour duration is 8.5 hours

### **Boat Trip on the Thu Bon River & Organic Village with lunch**

Begin the boat trip at a local pier in the Old Town, cruising down streams and passing many fishing areas before cruising out to the main river. Stop at Kim Bong village, home of traditional woodworking and boat-building families. Return to the mainland and drive to the Traque Organic Village for lunch. Here, meet local farmers and learn about the many vegetables and herbs that are organically grown here to support the people of Hoi An. Walk through the gardens and see how, even today, local farmers work their fields using the traditional methods used hundreds of years ago. A culinary lesson follows on the traditional ways of preparing and cooking Vietnamese food, plus the local specialty called Banh-xeo. Once the lesson is over, enjoy the food you helped to prepare.

Departs at 8:30 am. Pick-up and drop-off at the hotel. Approximate tour duration is 6 hours.



### **Cyclo Ride with Dinner at the Citadel**

Enjoy a panoramic view of both the daily life and the architecture of Hue with a Trishaw (Cyclo) Tour. (The Cyclo is a very common mode of transportation in Vietnam.) Begin at the French Quarter with its beautiful French villas. Pass by the school where former presidents Ho Chi Minh and Ngo Dinh Diem, as well as Vo Nguyen Giap - a prominent Vietnamese politician - were educated. Continue via the market to the former Royal Palace. Then, arrive at a family-run restaurant within the Citadel walls; its owner is the descendant of a high ranking Mandarin official, and thus considered "a master of Royal cuisine." Savour a multi-course dinner - each dish will be presented in the shape of a peacock, dragon or turtle. This feast is a replica of the Royal Feast presented to the royal families in the past.

Approximate tour duration is 3 hours.

### **Perfume River Boat Trip with lunch at Dong Thien Pagoda**

Enjoy a boat trip on the beautiful and serene Perfume River with a stop to a local village to learn about the daily life of local people in one of the most traditional parts of North Central Vietnam. Continue to the Thien Mu Pagoda, situated on Ha Khe hill, on the north bank of the Perfume River. The temple complex stretches north from the river banks in seven successive tiers, each of which is dedicated to a human form taken by the Buddha, or a step to enlightenment. Then, drive to the Tomb of Emperor Tu Duc, the final resting place of Vietnam's longest reigning emperor, set among forested hills and lakes. Lastly, proceed to Khai Dinh, the last monument of the Nguyen dynasty. A vegetarian lunch prepared by Buddhist nuns of the Dong Thien Pagoda is a very special experience, with time to interact with the Buddhist nuns, learning more about their lives in the pagoda.

Departs at 8:30 am. Pick-up and drop-off at the hotel. Approximate tour duration is 7 hours.

### **Affordable Holidays - How do we do it?**

With over 30 years' in the business, we know the travel industry better than anyone and have tracked down the best experiences around the world. We go directly to local suppliers to source the best price and holiday for you. Dealing directly with local operators is why our holidays are more affordable. We work with reputable travel professionals that offer exceptional service and safe travel policies. If you think you are paying too much for your travel arrangements, please give us a call, we will work hard to find the ideal holiday for you - that's My Travel Experience!

**Call 1300 168 910 to speak to us about  
planning your personal holiday.**

## My Travel Experience is a full-service travel agency

Want flights, car hire, escorted tours, airport transfers, travel insurance & more? My Travel Experience offers personalised service and unlike other online booking companies, we are not a one-size-fits-all travel agency. Our experienced travel consultants can design an itinerary or provide a quote for wherever you want to travel and include whatever travel services that you want to pre-book.

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### MY TRAVEL EXPERIENCE BOOKING CONDITIONS

**Please read the following information prior to making your reservation**

Our full set of terms and conditions can be [viewed and downloaded on our website](#), or supplied on request from our office. We highly recommend you read My Travel Experience booking conditions prior to making your holiday reservations. This is the contract under which both parties enter, therefore we request that you only make a booking if you agree with these conditions.

#### **This is a summary in brief for our customers:**

1. Upon making a reservation with My Travel Experience you will receive a booking form, which needs to be filled out and signed to confirm that you agree to the terms and conditions.
2. Your booking will then be confirmed to you in writing and you will be required to pay a deposit to hold your reservation.
3. At this time, you must take out travel insurance for your holiday to protect you against any unforeseen circumstances.
4. 90 days prior to departure you will be asked to make the balance payment for your trip (the exact due date for your travel supplier will be advised at the time of booking).
5. 10 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents via email.

My Travel Experience operates a Client Trust bank account. This means that we do not hold your money. We pay the ultimate travel providers (Suppliers) of your travel services the funds for your holiday. The Suppliers include airlines, tour operators, cruise lines, transport companies, hotels etc. We are required to pay the Suppliers deposits and final payments to secure your booking and in some instances these items are non-refundable.

If you wish to cancel you must notify us of your cancellation in writing. We will then write to the Suppliers to cancel your booking and request a refund (if applicable) for any elements of your holiday that are refundable. You will need to make an insurance claim for any travel arrangements that are non-refundable. If you have any issues during the refund or cancellation process, you have 30 days to contact our office in writing to lodge a complaint so an immediate resolution can be found for you.

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