



VIETNAM CULINARY ADVENTURE

13 Days - \$ 2,742 AUD Per Person Twin Share

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Discover why Anthony Bourdain continues to return to Vietnam

**“You don’t have to go looking for great food in Vietnam. Great food finds you. It’s everywhere.
It’s a country filled with proud cooks – and passionate eaters”.**

Anthony Bourdain

Vietnam cuisine has a profound impact on every visitor, so even when their holiday memories fade, their passion for the flavours of this fascinating country remain. Take a look at this exciting itinerary that will stimulate your taste buds and ignite your sense of adventure.

TOUR INCLUDES

11 Nights - 3 & 4 Star Boutique Hotels
1 Night - Ha Long Bay Junk
Airport Transfers
3 cooking classes
3 city tours
Countryside bicycle tour
Perfume River boat cruise
Noi Restaurant Dinner
Mekong Delta full day tour

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience Hanoi’s delicious street food amid the chaos & colour of the Old Quarter
- Compare the cooking styles of 3 distinct regions with hands on cooking classes
- Enjoy sunset cocktails on your luxurious overnight boat in Ha Long Bay
- Taste the wholesome goodness of a luncheon prepared by Buddhist nuns
- Travel across ‘Top Gear’s’ favourite Vietnam mountain pass with coastal views
- Get up close and personal with a water buffalo and learn new gardening techniques
- Stroll the peaceful lanes of historic Hoi An and get a new outfit tailored
- Dine in absolute darkness and marvel at your heightened sense of taste
- Meander along the Mekong Delta in a tiny sampan



Travel
Managers
As individual
as you are

HANOI





Day 1 - Welcome To Vietnam

HANOI

You will be welcomed at the airport and escorted to your hotel in the centre of Hanoi, a city which effortlessly combines its charming French heritage with Asian chaos. A blend which will excite and intrigue you, a place where there is always something to watch.

Your evening is free to relax and unwind after your journey.

FUN FOOD FACTS



BUN CHA

A lunch-time only Hanoi specialty, this is simply marinated grilled pork served on a bed of cold rice noodles with fresh herbs. The liquid it is served in has a delicate flavor & comes with pickled green papaya.

INCLUDES



x



May De Ville Hotel



Airport Transfers

Day 2 - History & Street Food

HANOI

With an early morning start you begin with a visit to the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, where Vietnam's beloved former leader, Uncle Ho, is embalmed, followed by a walk through the adjoining Presidential Gardens.

Your tour travels past Truc Bach Lake, where John McCain's plane was shot down during the war in 1967, to the tiny back streets near the expansive West Lake. Down a chaotic back street we visit a very special coffee shop, Cafe Duy Tri. This family owned business sells its 75-year-old patented coffee recipe in a tiny narrow old multi-story house which is truly without pretension. Also available is yoghurt coffee and fermented rice with yoghurt.

After the coffee break you cross town to visit the fascinating Hoa Lo Prison, built by the French where Vietnamese prisoners and later American servicemen were incarcerated.

Then it is time for Hanoi's signature dish, Bun Cha, made famous by Anthony Bourdain and

President Obama during their visit to Hanoi in 2016. After lunch you continue to Hoan Kiem lake for an electric cart ride through the chaotic streets of the old quarter. Your final snack for the day is Che Bap, a Vietnamese pudding with a delightful mix of sweet corn, glutinous rice, syrupy coconut milk and sesame seeds.

Our self-discovery recommendation - Cau Go Restaurant, serving high quality Vietnamese cuisine from all regions in a classy environment overlooking Hoan Kiem Lake.

-   Breakfast & Lunch
-   May De Ville Hotel
-   City Tour
-   City Tour





Day 3 - Gastronomic Extremes

HANOI

Today's cooking class will inspire a deep appreciation of the flavours, history and culture of Vietnamese cuisine and begin with a tour of the local market where your chef will demystify the local produce and encourage you to taste along the way. Back at the restaurant you will each have a cooking station to follow the chef step by step to prepare your own delicious lunch.

Your afternoon is free to enjoy Hanoi at your leisure.

Our self-discovery recommendation - Bia Hoi Ha Noi, 50 Bat Dan Street. To understand the true culture of Hanoi a visit to a local bia hoi for beers and dinner is a must do activity. Some of the tastiest food in Vietnam is served at the local bia hoi and it is the best way to see the locals relaxing in their noisy social environment. For lovers of wine, there is no problem to BYO.



INCLUDES



Breakfast & Lunch



May De Ville Hotel



City Tour



Cooking Class





HA LONG BAY





Day 4 - Seafood & Limestone Karsts

HA LONG BAY

After breakfast you farewell Hanoi and travel 190km to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Ha Long Bay where the towering limestone islands and emerald waters will take your breath away.

On board our private junk you will cruise through the magnificently scenic bay, enjoying banquets of seafood, kayaking, visiting caves and enjoying cocktails at sundown. Tonight you sleep on the peaceful waters in the comfort of our luxury boat.

DID YOU KNOW?

FISHING VILLAGE



The floating village is a cultural heritage and tourist attraction in Ha Long Bay. People have been living in these houses for hundreds of year with fishing as the main income activity, never touching the the land.



INCLUDES



Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Paloma Cruise



Transfer





Day 5 - Ha Long Bay To Hue



HUE

Your glorious cruise continues this morning with some early morning tai chi on the top deck, island hopping and more delicious meals on board before you disembark for your journey to the Hanoi airport. You then take a short flight to the historic and deeply spiritual town of Hue.

DID YOU KNOW?

Hue is a peaceful central city that has a fascinating history, beginning with its ancient Cham origins, to becoming the capital of Vietnam until 1945, and the site of one of the bloodiest and longest battles of the Vietnam War in 1968.

Today Hue is regarded as the cultural and spiritual capital of the country and has been recognised by UNESCO as a World Cultural Heritage site.

FUN FOOD FACTS



BUN BO HUE

Vietnamese soup rice vermicelli with a predominant flavor of lemon grass. Beef & pork and sometimes cubes of congealed pig blood. It is commonly served with mung bean sprouts, coriander, raw onions and thinly sliced banana blossom or purple cabbage.



INCLUDES



Breakfast & Lunch



Emm Hotel



Flight & Transfers





Day 6 - History & Hue Cuisine

HUE

Your exciting day on the back of a motor scooter begins with an introduction to our highly skilled and qualified drivers who are sensitive to tentative pillion passengers and will travel at a gentle pace of 40km and less.

During the tour you will ride through little laneways, beside canals and through local markets, visit a king's tomb, pagoda and local handicrafts. Lunch is a delicious traditional Buddhist banquet prepared by nuns and served at a pagoda.

This is a truly action packed day of scenery, history, culture and cuisine. There is the option of joining this tour by private airconditioned vehicle.

Tonight, take a traditional dragon boat cruise along the Perfume River to your hands on cooking class in a beautiful garden on the banks of the river, discovering the rich and spicy flavours Hue has to offer.

You will then enjoy your self made meals in the cool breeze and with stunning views of the Thien Mu Pagoda.



INCLUDES



Breakfast & Lunch & Dinner



Emm Hotel



City Tour & Dragon Boat



Cooking Class



HOI AN



Day 7 - Hai Van Pass & Hoi An

HOI AN

You farewell Hue and begin your 160km journey to Hoi An travelling through coastal rice paddies to the fishing village of Lang Co, before taking the scenic mountainous route over the spectacular Hai Van Pass. You will climb to 496 m (1,627 ft) on a road quoted in the Top Gear Program as "a deserted ribbon of perfection—one of the best coast roads in the world."

Your journey continues through Da Nang to the picturesque World Heritage village of Hoi An, which has been beautifully preserved. Its narrow streets are teeming with tailor shops, galleries, restaurants and shops.

After briefly checking in to your hotel our guide will take you on an orientation walking tour of the Old Town where you will enjoy a Vietnamese Banh Mi. This humble baguette with delicious fillings will have you craving another. It is quintessentially Vietnam, they are sold all over the country, and arguably the very best are in Hoi An.

Your evening is free to explore the town.

INCLUDES



Breakfast & Lunch



Beachside Boutique Resort



Transfers



Walking tour of Hoi An

Our self-discovery recommendation - Lantern Town Restaurant where you can enjoy Hoi An specialities - White Rose, Cao Lau, Quang Noodle and Fried Wonton - these dishes are unique to Hoi An so don't miss the opportunity to try them when you're here.

Day 8 - Hoi An Free Day

HOI AN

Your day is free to enjoy Hoi An, a town you can never get enough of and there is something for everyone. Tailoring, shopping, massages, beach, scuba, golf, photography, cycling, canyoning, abseiling or simply people watching from a corner cafe, this town has everything.

There are also tours to Marble Mountain, My Son Ancient Ruins and countryside vespa tours. Ask us and we can select something just right for your style.

FUN FOOD FACTS



CAO LAU

Only available in Hoi An, this dish is made with fat sticky rice noodles, pork and greens. A wonderful mix of flavours and textures.

INCLUDES



Breakfast



Beachside Boutique Resort



Boat Trip

Day 9 - Vegetable Village Tour



HOI AN

Your easygoing bicycle tour begins with a visit to Tra Que organic vegetable village. Here you will have fun with the farmers and learn their techniques of planting, watering and harvesting before adventuring into the rice paddies to interact and take photos of buffalos and the wonderful scenery.

After fun in the garden and with the buffalo you will enjoy a traditional leg and foot soak made from the medicinal herbs in the garden followed by learning and taking part in making your speciality lunch dishes such as:

- Tam Huu (herbs, lean pork, leek and prawns)
- Banh xeo (rice pancake with savoury filling)

Your afternoon is free to relax.

Our self-discovery recommendation - Hmong Sisters Restaurant on An Bang Beach for a delicious steak with a sea view.

INCLUDES



Breakfast. Lunch



Beachside Boutique Resort



Tour



Day 10 - Central Cuisine Cooking Class

HOI AN

After a morning visit to the local market to select the ingredients, one of Hoi An's best chefs will introduce you to the delights of cooking their local cuisine. You will be delighted, entertained and informed whilst enjoying a divine lunch that you have lovingly cooked.

Your afternoon and evening is free to collect your tailored clothes and explore some of the most outstanding restaurants Vietnam has to offer.

Our self-discovery recommendation - Nu Eatery for some outstanding Asian fusion cuisine. Regarded by some as the best restaurant in town.

FUN FOOD FACTS



BANH MI PHUONG

Famously, Anthony Bourdain celebrated Banh Mi Phuong on television and it hasn't looked back since. With cheap prices and a vast selection, tourists flock there, but so do locals early in the day.

INCLUDES



Breakfast, Lunch



Beachside Boutique Resort



Cooking Class



Travel
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SAIGON



Day 11 - Dining in the Dark



SAIGON

A short morning flight takes you to Ho Chi Minh City, formally Saigon, a city of bright neon lights, endless shopping and trendy cafes. Its wide tree-lined boulevards reflect its French heritage, and towering skyscrapers announce it has landed squarely in the 21st Century. As a contrast to this modern backdrop is the chaotic traffic of swarming motorbikes which are generally overloaded or carrying exotic passengers.

A visit to Vietnam would not be complete without tasting the national dish, Pho, so today's lunch we celebrate this delicious dish before we check in to our hotel. This afternoon we take in the highlights of Saigon, including the War Remnants Museum, Notre Dame Cathedral and the historic Post Office.

Tonight's dinner is a very unique culinary journey through taste, smell, touch and sound which unite to bring you a completely new experience of the senses. You will be eating in complete darkness.



INCLUDES



Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Grand Silverlands



Flight & Transfers





Day 12 - Mekong Delta

SAIGON

The 'rice bowl of Vietnam'; the Mekong Delta is essential to Vietnamese agriculture. As the mighty Mekong river approaches the coast at the end of its journey from China, it begins to spread out into a myriad of tributaries that bring life to the whole region. Explore these tributaries both big and small, and witness a life lived almost entirely on water.

Mekong Delta cuisine is unique and today you will enjoy the famous Elephant Ear fish which is served upright and then eaten inside rolled up rice paper with noodle and salad.

Our self-discovery recommendation - Quan Bui Restaurant - Stylish Vietnamese restaurant offering traditional dishes in home cooking style which fully captures the tastes of Vietnamese cuisine. A perfect final dinner.

INCLUDES



Breakfast, Lunch



Grand Silverlands



Boat Trip & Transfers



Day 13 - Departure

INCLUDES



Breakfast



Airport Transfer