

Live a Larger Life

Experience More...North Vietnam

Luxury Small Group Journey



HANOI - MAI CHAU - NINH BINH - CUC PHUONG - HALONG BAY- LAN HA BAY

12 days/11 nights from \$2270pp | departs 13 June 24

HIGHLIGHTS

- A tailored tour including all you should see at a slower pace
- Follow the paths less travelled and immerse yourselves with locals, hilltribes and minority groups.
- Explore caves, National parks wildlife, nature picturesque countryside amazing landscapes, streams and rice paddies.
- Enjoy local life, a cyclo tour and fabric dying class and much more
- Have fun, play with children in a local community school
- End your journey in style travelling the lesser-known islands of Halong Bay for 3 days/ 2 nights in luxury.

PACKAGE INCLUDES

- All land arrangements as per itinerary. Extensions available for Hue or Hoian
- Accommodation at handpicked 4-star accommodation with breakfast
- 8 locally made lunches and 4 specialty dinners
- Incredible sightseeing with local English-speaking hand-picked local guides in each town
- All land arrangements as per itinerary.
- Extensions available to anywhere in Vietnam. Ask me for a unique experience for you
- All entrance fees
- Private air-con vehicle with seats to spare
- #LiveALargerLife – Escorted by the vibrant Nat Miller

EXCLUDES - Flights

*Conditions apply. Secure your spot with a non-refundable deposit of \$600. Balance due 1 Apr 2024 . Price is based on per person double / twin share. Single supplement available. Prices are correct at time of publication. The package is based on minimum of 10 people. If the minimum is not reached the price will be recalculated based on the number of participants. Cancellation fees will apply. Check for full terms and conditions. <https://www.travelmanagers.com.au/terms-and-conditions>



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Your itinerary

Live a Larger Life- Undiscovered Vietnam 12 days on a designer journey

Hanoi - Mai Chau - Ninh Binh - Cuc Phuong - Halong Bay - Lan Ha Bay - Hanoi
Optional Extensions to Hue / Hoian or ask me about anywhere else in Asia

Day 1: Hanoi: Hanoi local life on foot, cyclo tour and fabric dyeing class Enjoy complimentary continental breakfast. Our guide will meet you at your hotel lobby and take you to Hoan Kiem Lake (The Lake of the Returned Sword) that shows the traditional architecture style of the Old Quarter.

Leaving Hoan Kiem Lake, you'll explore Hanoi's streets and visit an ancient house on Ma May Street. Dating back to the 19th century, this well-preserved house showcases Hanoi's traditional architecture. Next, we'll visit Bach Ma Temple, the city's oldest temple, known for its relics and historical significance. The trip continues through the narrow streets of the Old Quarter, where local markets and tasty food await. Choose from popular dishes like Phở, Bún chả, or Bún Bò. Experience a short cyclo ride to observe the bustling streets before joining a fabric dyeing class at the Indigo Store to learn about Vietnamese culture. Lastly, enjoy a memorable experience at Train Street, sipping an ice-cold beer while watching trains pass by. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy at leisure.

Accommodation: May de Ville Luxury Hotel & Spa- (Deluxe City View)

Day 2: Hanoi A day at leisure – may I suggest you rise at 5am and head down to Kiem Lake and mix it with the locals with morning exercise. Spend the day wandering the old quarter, shopping, enjoying a rooftop bar or sipping a beer on a stool at beer corner.

Day 3: Hanoi Mai Chau Departing Hanoi, you will embark on a scenic 3 ½ hour journey to Mai Chau, travelling over the Cun Pass with its glorious panorama of lush valleys and mountains. The region is home to White Thai, H'mong, Zao, Muong, Tay and Hoa ethnic minorities who live in charming stilt homes. On arrival at the village, you will be free to explore Mai Chau and its surrounds. In the evening, you can enjoy the warm hospitality of the locals with an extensive home cooked meal preceded by the traditional welcome tasting of a local rice wine. Accommodation: Mai Chau Lodge: Room (Deluxe Pool View)

- Traditional Thai dance is optional

Day 4: Mai Chau Explore - Visit the Minority School After breakfast at our homestay, we take an easy trek for 3 hrs around the beautiful Mai Chau valley to visit more Muong and Thai minority villages. After a relaxing picnic lunch, you will have an opportunity to shop for local ethnic handicrafts. Have lunch at the local house. After lunch, we will transfer to one of the minority schools in this area. You will have a chance to communicate, play and meet some of these children. If you wish you can prepare some old clothes, toys, pencils or books at home and give to them as gifts. Relax by the homestay at night.

Day 5: Mai Chau – Hoa Lu Tam Coc Boat trip – Ninh Binh Enjoy complimentary continental breakfast at your hotel.

8:00AM - Our car and guide will pick you up at hotel and transfer to Ninh Binh to view the famous Tam Coc Cave. The drive will take around 2.30 hours. First, we will take a visit to Hoa Lu – the ancient Royal Capital of Vietnam, visit the two temples: Temple of King Dinh and King Le whilst admiring the unique architecture from ancient times. Continue to Tam Coc for lunch to experience local delicacies. We will then board a small sampan to visit Tam Coc which means literally “three caves”. With views of majestic limestone cliffs and mysterious caves, as well as peaceful streams, rice paddies and deserted green fields. If time permits, you can also visit Bich Dong pagoda nearby and climb up the mountain to have a wonderful scenic view of the Bich Dong and Tam Coc. We will then be transferred to our resort.

Accommodation: Le Clos du Fil Hotel



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Day 6: Ninh Binh Vis Mua Cave and Thung Nham Valley 10.00am – Our car and guide will pick you up and start our trip to Hang Mua Cave. Mua Caves (Hang Múa – Ninh Binh) is one of the most famous attractions in Ninh Binh that tourists visit. It also has a connection with the King Kong movie. Only Mua Cave brings you a chance for viewing the picturesque landscape of Tam Coc from the peak above. We will have **lunch at a local restaurant** and in the afternoon at 14.00pm, travel to Thung Nham bird valley, where you will be immersed in its wild beauty whilst enjoying the sounds of a thousand birds singing. We will board a small sampan to visit Thung Nham bird park and discover the more than 4000 birds and 40 species that inhabit it every day. We will also explore Hang But (Buddhist Cave), about 500m in length, with views of the stalactites and stalagmites, including a big Buddha-shaped stalactite sitting beside an underground river. Later there is a visit to an orchard of tropical fruit within this area.

Day 7: Cuc Phuong National Park After breakfast at 08.00am, our guide will pick you up and transfer to Cuc Phuong National Park, located in Ninh Binh Province, around 40km away from the Tam Coc, in Vietnam's Red River Delta. Cuc Phuong was Vietnam's first national park and is the country's largest nature reserve known for its biodiversity. Have a walk through the park in the morning, to understand the history behind the park and all the species in the forest. **Lunch at local restaurant** then back to the resort for leisure time.

Day 8: Ninh Binh - Hanoi After breakfast free time, At 12.00pm, check out of your room and transfer back to Hanoi. Time to shop, bargain, taste, have a massage and enjoy this fabulous city. Accommodation: May de Ville Luxury Hotel & Spa

Day 9: Hanoi – Halong Cruise Peony Cruise This morning you will check out of your hotel room and embark on a luxurious craft for your Ha Long Bay trip. Enjoy the scenic drive through the Red River Delta. Arrive and be welcomed onboard with refreshing drinks and a special lunch. Set sail for Lan Ha Bay, a member of the World's Most Beautiful Bays, and indulge in the breathtaking scenery. Enjoy a cooking demonstration and capture the sunset over Lan Ha Bay. Savor delicious local food and relax on the top deck or try your luck at squid fishing.

Day 10: Halong Cruise Begin the day with a Tai Chi session and admire the sunrise. Enjoy breakfast and transfer to a day trip boat to explore Lan Ha Bay. Cycle or ride to Viet Hai village to learn about the daily life of villagers. Return to the boat for lunch and explore the secluded lagoon by kayak or swim. Relax on the cruise, soak in the Jacuzzi pool, and watch the sunset. Enjoy dinner and immerse yourself in the nightlife of the bay.

Day 11: Halong Cruise - Hanoi Start the day with Tai Chi and breakfast while cruising back to Gia Luan jetty. Join the tour of Cat Ba World Biosphere and visit Trung Trang Cave. Return to the main boat, do the cabin check-out, and have lunch. Disembark from cruises and transfer back to Hanoi. Check in at May de Ville Luxury Hotel & Spa.

Day 12: Hanoi Departure (24/06): Enjoy breakfast at the hotel. Meet your driver for airport transfer or add a unique extensions:

HOIAN – 3 nights stay at the **La Siesta Hoian Resort & Spa** in a Deluxe Balcony room including private transfers and flight from Hanoi. (\$650pp share twin)

HUA – 3 nights Hue stay at **Alba Wellness Resort** in a Deluxe room, including lots of lovely experiences (ask me for details), private transfers and flight from Hanoi (\$945pp share twin)

