

Best Cultural & Heritage Vietnam 12 Days



Brief itinerary

Day	Itinerary Description	Overnight
Day 1	Arrive Hanoi	Hanoi
Day 2	Hanoi sightseeing	Hanoi
Day 3	Hanoi – Halong Bay	Halong Bay
Day 4	Halong Bay – Hanoi – Hue	Hue
Day 5	See the Sights of Hue	Hue
Day 6	Hue – Danang – Hoi An	Hoi An
Day 7	A Day to Discover Hoi An	Hoi An
Day 8	Hoi An – Danang – Ho Chi Minh City	Ho Chi Minh
Day 9	Ho Chi Minh City - Cu Chi Tunnels	Ho Chi Minh

Day	Itinerary Description	Overnight
Day 10	Ho Chi Minh City - Mekong Delta – Ben Tre – Can Tho	Can Tho
Day 11	Can Tho – Ho Chi Minh City	Ho Chi Minh
Day 12	Departure from Ho Chi Minh City	Ho Chi Minh

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Hanoi



As you step off your plane at Noi Bai International Airport, our friendly guide will be waiting for you at the baggage claim area. Look for the sign adorned with our distinctive Asia Tour Advisor logo and your name. Your comfort and ease are our top priorities. Once you're ready, we'll escort you to your hotel, providing a brief introduction to the city along the way. The remainder of the day is yours to settle in, unwind, and begin exploring Hanoi.

Hanoi, with its seven million inhabitants, serves as the **capital of Vietnam**. This city gracefully combines tradition and refinement, boasting French colonial architecture, tree-lined boulevards, serene lakes, and a vibrant **Old Quarter**. Here, you can observe locals practicing Tai Chi by the lake, and witness the lively activities of barbers and street food vendors.

Meals: None, Lunch at local favorite restaurant



Day 2: Hanoi sightseeing



It is unmissable in terms of its pretty pagodas, ancient temples, enchanting French colonial quarter and cultural institutions. Just as fun, however, is darting down its winding lanes and discovering your own favourite hidden corners.

After a satisfying breakfast at your hotel, our local tour guide will pick you up to embark on an exploration of Vietnam's capital city, Hanoi. With over a thousand years of history, this city is rich with captivating cultural and historical sites. Your itinerary includes visits to the imposing **Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum**, home to the preserved body of "Uncle Ho." and his House on Stilts to observe how he lived and how his life unfolded to become one of modern history's greatest names.

You'll also experience the delicate beauty of the **One Pillar Pagoda**, **Tran Quoc Temple** are a spiritual and cultural symbol of Hanoi, the capital city of Vietnam. With special features in its structure along with historical values, the temple will surely be a real eye-opener for tourists.

After lunch, continue to visit the millennia-old **Temple of Literature** and explore its role in the country's past, as both a university and a Confucius temple. Next is **Hoa Lo** , a prison used by the French colonists in Vietnam for political prisoners, and later by North Vietnam for U.S. Prisoners of War.

To cap off your day, enjoy a one-hour cyclo tour through the bustling and lively **Old Quarter**, immersing yourself in the vibrant marketplace atmosphere. Sample delicious dishes like Nom Du Du (green papaya salad), Banh Mi Pa Te (a sandwich that reflects Vietnam's culinary heritage)

Meals: Breakfast at hotel, Lunch at local favorite restaurant

Accommodation: Hanoi hotels



Day 3: Hanoi – Halong Bay



Our journey embarks from Hanoi where we'll pick you up for a scenic drive through the verdant landscapes of the Red River Delta. Our destination: the world-famous **UNESCO World Heritage site, Halong Bay, Lan Ha Bay**. Here, you'll embark on a luxurious cruise for an enchanting overnight cruise.

As you relax on board, you'll be captivated by the breathtaking limestone karsts that majestically emerge from the azure waters, surrounded by thousands of jungle-clad islands seemingly suspended on the gentle waves. The turquoise waters of the Gulf of Tonkin conceal hidden grottoes and ancient caves, creating a timeless and mesmerizing world.

Enjoy a delicious seafood lunch with breathtaking views and a refreshing drink. Our next destination is a **charming fishing village**, where locals have ingeniously turned their boats into a floating community. Meet fishermen, explore a stunning lagoon by kayak or rowboat, and unwind on deck as the sun sets. Spend a delightful overnight stay on board!

Meals: Breakfast at hotel, Lunch/Dinner at local favorite restaurant

Accommodation: Halong Bay hotels



Day 4: Halong Bay – Hanoi – Hue



Kickstart your day with **Tai Chi** on the top deck or savor the sunrise over the bay. Sip on morning coffee or tea before setting out to explore nearby islands via rowboat.

Upon returning to the junk, witness a fruit carving demonstration and participate in a cooking class, learning to create traditional Vietnamese cuisine from scratch. Enjoy a Vietnamese lunch on board as you cruise back to Halong City. Upon arrival, your driver will be waiting at the dock to take you to Noi Bai Airport for your short **flight to Hue**.

Upon arrival in Hue, your tour guide and driver will transfer you to your hotel

Hue is one of the most charming towns in the Central Vietnam and has a long and illustrious history as it used to be one of the main royal capitals of the country

Meals: Breakfast at the dining lounge, Lunch at local favorite restaurant

Accommodation: Hue hotels



Day 5: See the Sights of Hue



Today you will explore the royal city of Hue once served as an imperial **capital to the Nguyen Lords**, a feudal dynasty which reigned from the 17th to the 19th century. With splendid emperors' tombs, ancient pagodas and the remains of the citadel, the city retains its royal charm.

After breakfast, you are picked up by your private guide and driver and begin your day with a visit to the atmospheric **Imperial Citadel**, a large complex that contains the remains of the former Imperial Palace and Forbidden Purple City, where the emperors and his family once lived. The two-hour walking tour allows you to see the magnificent architecture and gardens as your guide explains the events and the intrigue of the former royal court.

From the Imperial City, your guide will take you to visit the iconic **Thien Mu Pagoda** – Hue's most famous religious site with its origins dating back to 1601. Here you will explore the pagoda's landscaped gardens, the seven-tiered octagonal tower, and watch the monks chanting.

Hue is famous for its Royal cuisine. The Nguyen Emperors' banquets were legendary. Some feasts were said to have included 300 rare dishes served in more than a thousand bowls. Today your guide will take you to the fine-dining Ancient Hue restaurant where you will be served a royal lunch. This old fashioned style meal which brings a boutique and unique experience.

After lunch, you will explore the tomb of the longest-reigned **Emperor Tu Duc**, located in a tranquil setting of gardens and ponds, inspired by the Chinese Confucianism, harmonious design of balance and symmetry for the emperor's resting place.

Continue to visit the tomb of **King Khai Dinh**, designed in traditional Vietnamese style with a European touch making it unique from the other tombs in Hue.

Meals: Breakfast at the dining lounge, Lunch at local favorite restaurant

Accommodation: Hue hotels



Day 6: Hue – Danang – Hoi An



After breakfast and check out of your hotel, meet your private guide and driver for a three-hour drive to Hoi An via the stunningly Hai Van Pass. Also known as the “Cloudy Pass,” this winding mountain road overlooks the lush countryside, sandy beaches, the blue waters of the South China Sea, and the coastal city of Da Nang.

En route, you will pause in Danang to visit the Marble Mountain with its beautiful caves of worship and the Museum of Cham Sculpture’s collection of artifacts dating back to the seventh century.

Upon arriving in Hoi An, you'll check in to your hotel and have the rest of the afternoon to unwind on the sandy shores of Cua Dai Beach.

Hoi An thrived as a bustling port city from the 16th to the 19th century, conducting trade with merchants from China, Japan, India, Indonesia, and Europe.

Today, the UNESCO World Heritage Old Quarter of Hoi An preserves the city's past with ornate pagodas, antique trading houses, and historic tile-roofed shops. These have been

transformed into art galleries, boutique restaurants, bars, and cafes.

Hoi An is renowned for its architectural fusion of Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, and European styles, offering a rich cultural tapestry. Surrounding the city are scenic countryside landscapes with traditional farming and fishing, as well as sandy beaches featuring modern seaside resorts.

Meals: Breakfast at the dining lounge, Lunch at local favorite restaurant

Accommodation: Hoi An hotels



Day 7: A Day to Discover Hoi An



Discover the vibrant tapestry of Vietnamese daily life and rural heritage on this distinctive Hoi An excursion.

Begin your day with a morning market tour, sourcing fresh ingredients for your upcoming cooking class. Accompanied by your guide and driver, you'll embark on a journey to the bustling Hoi An local market, where a myriad of sights, sounds, and aromas await. Take a leisurely stroll through the market's vibrant aisles, engaging with local vendors and selecting the finest produce for your culinary adventure.

Following the market escapade, head to **Cam Thanh village**, making a pitstop at the enchanting **Bay Mau Water Palm forest**. Enjoy a brief riverside walk in this quaint fishing hamlet, then hop onto a traditional Coracle bamboo boat for a scenic cruise along a charming canal with local fishermen.

Continue to **Tra Que herbs** and vegetables village, where a farmer's family awaits. Don traditional farmer attire, explore the nearby farming land with authentic tools, and engage in a cooking class at a local home. Relish the experience of preparing and enjoying your own meal, culminating in a soothing foot soak with local herbs and a foot massage.

Cap off the day with an afternoon exploration of **Hoi An's UNESCO-recognized ancient town**. Visit iconic landmarks such as the Japanese Bridge, a Sino-Vietnamese merchant house, a Chinese Temple, Hoian Central Market, and the Culture Museum. Conclude this splendid day trip back at your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast at the dining lounge, Lunch at local favorite restaurant

Accommodation: Hoi An hotels



Day 8: Hoi An – Danang – Ho Chi Minh City



After breakfast, we'll pick you up and transfer you to the airport for your flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Upon your arrival, we'll ensure a smooth transfer to your hotel, allowing you to spend the evening immersing yourself in the bustling atmosphere of Saigon.

Ho Chi Minh City is a city that never sleeps, offering a plethora of excellent restaurants and bars catering to all tastes. From street food vendors to the rooftop bar at the Rex Hotel, where international correspondents once covered the Vietnam War, you'll find an array of dining and entertainment options. Whatever your interests, don't hesitate to ask your guide for personalized recommendations.

Meals: Breakfast at the dining lounge, Lunch at local favorite restaurant



Day 9: Ho Chi Minh City - Cu Chi Tunnels



After enjoying your breakfast, your private guide will meet you and accompany you on a drive to **Cu Chi**, a quaint community located 60km northwest of Ho Chi Minh City. Cu Chi is renowned for its extensive network of tunnels, which served as a strategic hideout and infiltration route for the Viet Cong during the latter stages of the Vietnam War.

Upon arrival, you'll have the opportunity to watch a brief introductory video from the era before delving into the tunnels themselves, widely recognized as one of the world's most significant battlegrounds. This hidden labyrinth of **Viet Cong** tunnels spans "hundreds of miles" in total length, featuring living quarters, storage facilities, makeshift hospitals, kitchens, and more. While some sections of the tunnels remain narrow as originally constructed, others have been widened to accommodate tourists like yourself, offering you the chance to explore a portion of this remarkable system.

Following your exploration of the Cu Chi Tunnels, you'll be transferred back to the city, where you'll enjoy a delicious lunch at Local restaurant.

As the afternoon unfolds, you'll embark on a journey to discover some of Ho Chi Minh City's most iconic landmarks.

Your itinerary may include a visit to the **Independence Palace** or the **War Remnants Museum**, providing you with a profound and sobering insight into Vietnam's tumultuous military history.

Next, you'll explore the Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica of Saigon and **Ben Thanh Market** , where vendors display an array of goods and handicrafts, offering you a deeper understanding of local life.

Afterward, you'll return to your hotel. With some time left in the day, you're free to relax and unwind, or perhaps venture out to experience the vibrant nightlife of Ho Chi Minh City.

Meals: Breakfast at the dining lounge, Lunch at local favorite restaurant

Accommodation: Ho Chi Minh hotels



Day 10: Ho Chi Minh City - Mekong Delta – Ben Tre – Can Tho



After breakfast, your private guide and driver will take you out of Ho Chi Minh City in a private vehicle and onto some beautiful country roads to **Ben Tre Town in the Mekong Delta**, famous for its vast rice fields, numerous waterways, and beautiful landscapes. Known as the 'rice bowl' of Vietnam, this region produces most of Vietnam's fruit, rice, sugar cane, and coconuts.

After the two-hour drive through the lush farming land, you will arrive in Ben Tre where you will set out on a motorized boat trip on narrow channels winding through the coconut forest. During the boat ride, you will stop at the local cottage industries to see how the local people make bricks and weave sleeping mats by hand. Learn about their craft handed down through generations.

Take a leisure walk along the village lanes, visiting the local homes to try fresh fruits, taste delicious honey tea while enjoying a local **Tai Tu music show**. Continue to visit another

workshop where the local delicacy of coconut candy is produced and a wide range of coconut husk and fiber products are skillfully handcrafted.

Next, take a small **sampan through palm-fringed back canals**, gliding peacefully along the hidden waterways surrounded by an immense variety of tropical plants. The quiet, rural setting is a welcome and restorative retreat to the frenetic buzz of Ho Chi Minh City which seems far, far away.

Enjoy sitting in the back a Motor Cart (xe lôi) passing local hamlets, rice fields, coconut groves, and lush orchard farms while meeting with local people.

After enjoying lunch at a local restaurant you will return to Ben Tre town and continue the drive through the fields and towns of the **Mekong to Can Tho city**.

Spend the evening at your leisure. Explore Can Tho night market by yourself and try some local food. The market streets come alive with dozens of bustling food stalls selling grilled meats and tofu on skewers, as well as grilled rice-paper banh trang nuong ('Vietnamese pizza')...etc.

Meals: Breakfast at the dining lounge, Lunch at local favorite restaurant

Accommodation: Can Tho hotels



Day 11: Can Tho – Ho Chi Minh City



This morning, partake in a leisurely boat trip to explore the picturesque tributaries of the Lower Mekong River (Bassac River). Your voyage will lead you to the vibrant **Cai Rang floating market**, renowned as the liveliest in the entire region. As you navigate these

waters, you'll have the opportunity to sample Vietnamese vermicelli soup, providing a taste of local culinary delights.

During your time in the village, mingle with the friendly locals and even experience crossing a **"Monkey bridge,"** constructed using a single bamboo stem. Visit an orchard garden and enjoy a sumptuous lunch. As your boat returns to Ho Chi Minh City, soak up the scenery and take in the beauty of this unique region.

Upon arriving in Ho Chi Minh City, check in to your hotel and enjoy some free time.

Meals: Breakfast at the dining lounge, Lunch at local favorite restaurant

Accommodation: Ho Chi Minh hotels



Day 12: Departure from Ho Chi Minh City



Your last day in Vietnam grants you free time in the morning, allowing you to savor the city's atmosphere until your private car arrives to transfer you to the airport for your onward journey.

This marks the end of your Flavor of Vietnam adventure with Asia Tour Advisor. We extend our heartfelt thanks for joining us on this incredible journey to explore the wonders of Vietnam. Farewell, and we hope to welcome you back soon. Should you desire more exploration of our country, consider our Vietnam tours, which offer a wide range of choices to suit your preferences.

Note: Asia Tour Advisor can also customize additional trips to meet your specific expectations if the above itinerary does not fully align with your desires.

Meals: Breakfast at the dining lounge, Lunch at local favorite restaurant

Accommodation: Ho Chi Minh hotels

Booking Policy

What's Included

- Hotel accommodation in shared twin or shared double room with daily breakfast.
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).
- Tours and transfers by private air-conditioned vehicles.
- English speaking local guide
- All entrance fees as indicated in itinerary.
- Boat trips as mentioned in the itinerary
- Domestic flight: Hanoi – Hue; Danang – Ho Chi Minh City;
Cruise in Halong Bay
- Cold water and towel during tours
- Visa Arrival to Vietnam

What's Excluded

- Meals and drinks not mentioned in the itinerary
- Visa fee upon arrival in Vietnam
- Tips and personal expenses including personal insurance
- Any service not clearly mentioned in the itinerary
- Hotel early check in & Late check out
- Peak season surcharge & compulsory dinner at the hotel
- Supplement for French, Spanish, Italian and German speaking guide

Cancellation by Customer

- Cancellation received before 60 days: FREE of charge
- Cancellation received from 30 days to 59 days prior arrival date: 10% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 15 days to 29 days prior arrival date: 30% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 7 days to 14 days prior arrival date: 50% of total rate
- Cancellation received less than 7 days prior arrival date or No show: 100% of total rate

Children Policy

- The rate for children applicable for one child sharing a twin or double cabin with two adults
- For infant (<04 years old): FOC except domestic ticket cost
- 04 - 11 years old without bed: 50% adult rate
- 04 - 11 years old with extra bed: 75% adult rate
- 04 - 11 years old in twin share: 90% adult rate

Why us

100% Local Expert	24/07 Support
Best Customer Values	Price Beat Guarantee
100% Customer Satisfaction	100% Money Back Guarantee
Save up to 50%	Unique Tailor-made Tours