

Essence Of Vietnam - 9 Days

Brief Itinerary:

Day 1: Hanoi arrival (D)

Day 2: Hanoi city tour (B)

Day 3: Hanoi – Halong bay on cruise (B, L, D)

Day 4: Halong bay – Hanoi – fly to Danang – Hoian (B)

Day 5: Hoian cooking class and ancient town tour (B, L)

Day 6: Hoian – drive to Hue – Hue city tour (B)

Day 7: Hue – fly to Saigon (B)

Day 8: Saigon – Cu Chi tunnels and Cao Dai temple (B)

Day 9: Saigon departure (B)

Remark:

B = Breakfast, **L** = Lunch, **D** = Dinner

Tour includes:

- Accommodation based on **double/twin sharing room** with daily breakfast
- Vietnam visa approval letter
- Experienced English-speaking guides as indicated in the itinerary
- Private transportation with AC
- Flight tickets Hanoi – Danang, Hue – Saigon
- All sightseeing tickets
- Lunches and dinners as indicated in the itinerary
- Taxes and services charges

Tour excludes:

- International flight tickets and airport tax
- Visa stamping fee
- Early check in and late check out
- Drinks, gratuities and personal expenses
- Insurance

Detail itinerary:

Day 1: Hanoi arrival (D)

Upon arrival, tour guide and driver of S Vietnam Travel will welcome you. Tour briefing and transfer to your hotel. Enjoy walking tour around Hoan Kiem lake and the Old Quarter of Hanoi. In the evening, have a welcome dinner at the local restaurant hosted by S Vietnam Travel.

Day 2: Hanoi city tour (B)

Having breakfast at hotel then start a guided city tour of Hanoi. Having celebrated its 1000- year anniversary in 2010, the city has a rich and fascinating history. Your city tour will take you to the main attractions of Hanoi, including Ho Chi Minh complex (Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum and stilt house); the Presidential Palace, the nearby One Pillar Pagoda, the Temple of Literature, West lake, Tran Quoc pagoda, Quan Thanh temple and of the city's museum

(History Museum or Ethnology Museum). Late afternoon, enjoy Water puppet show – one of Vietnamese traditional performance.

Day 3: Hanoi – Halong bay (B, L, D)

At around 8 am, your driver will pick you up for the journey to Halong Bay and arrive at around midday to board a traditional junk for an overnight cruise. Halong Bay is widely considered to be one of the natural wonders of the world. Thousands of towering pillars of sea and wind-carved limestone karst make the bay an unforgettable sight. After lunch, explore some of the huge limestone caves dotted around the bay and visit a floating fishing village. Then the captain will find a secluded spot where you can swim, soak up the sun on the top deck, or try your hand at kayaking. In the evening enjoy a seafood feast for dinner.

Day 4: Halong Bay – Hanoi – fly to Danang – Hoian (B)

Enjoy an early morning swim (during the summer), followed by breakfast as you cruise through more spectacular scenery. The cruise arrives at the harbor by noon. The driver will pick you up and then transfer directly to the airport for flight to Danang. Upon arrival in Danang, you will be transferred to your hotel in Hoian. Check in and free time to explorer the ancient town.

Day 5: Hoian – cooking class and ancient town (B, L)

This morning, you will join in a cooking class at Red Bridge Cooking School. Visit Hoi An's colourful market, and experience the amazing sights, sounds and

aromas of this busy market. You will have the opportunity to interact with the local sellers and learn about all the ingredients to be used in the cooking lesson later.

After that, board the Red Bridge boat for a leisurely cruise (25 minutes) along the Hoi An River to the Red Bridge Cooking School. On arrival, you explore the cooking school's herb and vegetable garden, before learning about some of Hoi An's and Vietnam's well-known dishes. The cooking lesson runs for about 2 hours – each dish is first demonstrated by the Red Bridge chef's, before you prepare the same dish yourself. Included in the class is a brief introduction to Vietnamese food carving (plate decoration). After the lesson, you can enjoy what you have cooked.

In the afternoon, enjoy a walking tour of the ancient town, including the 200 year-old Tan Ky house, Phuc Kien Pagoda, the Assembly Hall, the former merchants' houses, the 400 year-old Japanese Covered Bridge. Free time for shopping and tailor made suits.

Day 6: Hoian – Danang – Hue city tour (B)

This morning, you leave Hoian for Hue. On the way, you will have chance to the fascinating Marble Mountain en route. Upon arrival, you will visit the Citadel and the Forbidden Purple City. You have chance to enjoy boat to visit Thien Mu pagoda and then take a drive to visit Minh Mang tomb. Have free time to enjoy shopping at the vibrant Dong Ba market.

Day 7: Hue – fly to Saigon – Saigon city tour (B)

In the morning, you will catch flight to Saigon. Upon arrival in Saigon - Vietnam's largest city, you will have a half-day tour including the interesting sites such as The Reunification Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral and Old Post Office, Remnant War Museum and Ben Thanh market

Day 8: Saigon – Cu Chi tunnels and Cao Dai temple (B)

This morning, you will visit the famous Cu Chi tunnels, an incredible underground tunnel network constructed by Vietnamese resistance fighters during the long struggle for independence. The network included innumerable trap doors, specially constructed living areas, storage facilities, weapons factories, field hospitals, command centers and kitchens.

After that, drive to Tay Ninh province to visit Cao Dai great temple – one of the most striking structures in Asia. This temple is the holy land of Cai Dai religion - a mixture of Buddhism, Confucius, Taoism, Hinduism, Christianity...). You will have chance to attend the daily noon prayer. Come back Saigon in the late afternoon.

Day 9: Saigon departure (B)

Today is your free time. The driver and tour guide will pick you up and transfer to your departure flight. Thank you for travelling with us. Tạm biệt và hẹn gặp lại.