

Northwest Vietnam in Style - 8 days

Brief Itinerary:

Day 1: Hanoi arrival (D)

Day 2: Hanoi – Mai Chau (B, L, D)

Day 3: Mai Chau – Moc Chau – Son La (B, L, D)

Day 4: Son La – Dien Bien Phu (B, L, D)

Day 5: Dien Bien Phu – Lai Chau – Phong Tho (B, L, D)

Day 6: Lai Chau – Sapa (B, L)

Day 7: Sapa (B, L)

Day 8: Sapa – Lao Cai – night train to Hanoi (B)

Remark:

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

Tour includes:

- Homestay, hotel with basic accommodation
- Vietnam visa approval letter
- Experienced English-speaking guides
- Private transportation with AC (4WD car)
- One way train ticket Lao Cai – Hanoi (4 soft berth sharing ticket)
- All sightseeing tickets
- Breakfast, 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, you will be welcomed by tour guide and driver of S Vietnam Travel. 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 – Mai Chau (B, L, D)

Depart Hanoi in the early morning for 3.5 hour journey to Mai Chau. The region is home to White Thai, H'mong, Zao, Muong, Tay and Hoa ethnic minorities who live in charming stilt homes. On arrival, you will immerse in spectacular picturesque surrounded by karst rock formations and rice paddies. After lunch, take an easy trek for 3 hours around the beautiful Mai Chau valley to visit more Muong and Thai Minority villages. Going from one village to another and have a chance to get in touch with local villagers going about their daily business tilling the fields, logging or herding the buffalo.

This evening, you can enjoy the warm hospitality of the locals with an extensive home cooked meal and a traditional Thai performance of music and dance.

Day 3: Mai Chau – Moc Chau – Son La (B, L, D)

Enjoy breakfast at home stay before driving up north to Son La. The road is in good condition and the scenery is spectacular. You may take frequent stops to visit minority villages of H'mong, Black Thai to talk to the locals and take the photos. On the way, you will stop in Moc Chau – one of the biggest plateau in Vietnam. You have chance to join in some tea making activities in O Long Tea Processing Factory and Moc Suong Tea Plantation. After that, there is nothing better than a tea party in the heart of the field. Here you can taste perfect hot tea while breathing in the aroma of the plants and listening to the rustle of the leaves in the breeze. Have lunch in Moc Chau town and reach to Son La in the later afternoon. Dinner and overnight in Son La.

Day 4: Son La – Dien Bien Phu (B, L, D)

Today you continue to travel northwest. Today the drive is greater with more winding road, longer passes, more colorful minority groups and more stunning scenery. The highlight of today ride could be the impressive pass of Pha Din pass, the longest pass in Vietnam with total length is approximately up to 32 km. According to a local legend, Pha Din Pass is the place where the sky meets the earth, so it is considered as the frontier between Heaven and Earth. You will reach Dien Bien Phu early in the afternoon and spend the rest of the day visiting

Dien Bien Phu Old battle field, A1 hill and Dien Bien Phu Museum. Dinner and overnight in Dien Bien Phu.

Day 5: Dien Bien Phu – Lai Chau – Phong Tho (B, L, D)

Depart in the early morning for Lai Chau. Continue the way through sloping passes which are typical for the Vietnam Northwest Mountain Region, passing spectacular landscapes of various North-west passes, misty mountain ranges. On the way, you will have interesting stops to visit H'mong and Dzaos villages. You would reach Tam Duong in the afternoon. Take time to visit its market (Phong Tho market). which is at its busiest on the days of local fairs. The market is popular with the many different ethnic groups from the villages surrounding the town. It's also a good place to buy green tea which is grown in plantations. Dinner and overnight in Phong Tho.

Day 6: Phong Tho – Sapa (B, L)

Depart Lai Chau in the morning. You continue to make the way through stunning scenery and villages. The driver today is the highlight of the trip. It is great opportunity for photographer for amazing shoots with fertile valley, pristine river and high mountains. Climbing Tram Ton pass, the highest pass in Vietnam with the view to Fansipan Mountain Peak – the roof of "Indochina". Visit the beautiful areas of Heaven's Gate and Silver Waterfall before reaching Sapa in the later afternoon. Check in hotel and free time to explore the town.

Day 7: Sapa – trekking (B, L)

After having breakfast in a hotel you embark on a lovely trek that will take you along buffalo paths and trails and through several hill tribe villages Lao Chai & Ta Van, home to Black H'mong, and Dzay people. This is an absolutely spectacular walk through stunning scenery inhabited by some of the friendliest people you can meet. Once on the valley floor you can really appreciate the wonderful scenery that surrounds you. The walls of the valley are covered with multi-layered rice terraced fields and scattered villages. Back to Sapa town in the afternoon. Free time at your leisure.

Day 8: Sapa – Lao Cai – night train to Hanoi (B)

You have free time until be transfer to the Lao Cai station for night train to Hanoi. End of the tour. Thank you for using our service.