

VIETNAM INSPIRATION 14 DAYS – CHARMED BY VIETNAM



Code: VN14

Routes: Hanoi – Sapa – Halong – Hue – Da Nang – Hoian – HCM City – Cu Chi – Mekong

Duration: 14 Days / 13 Nights

Features: This new set tour is ideal for travelers whose time is limited but still want to have a panorama of the diversity and the majestic beauty of charming Vietnam.

Day 1: Good morning Hanoi



Chao Ban! Welcome to Hanoi, we meet you at the airport and take you to your hotel for check-in. Today is free at your leisure to rest or explore, discovering your own first impressions of Vietnam (depending on what time you arrive). Overnight in Hanoi.

Inclusion: Transfer, guide, hotel

Day 2: Hanoi village with bike - night train to Lao Cai



We pick you up at 8:30 AM for a short transfer outside of Hanoi, we have this morning to learn about Hanoi villages' life, its traditions, customs.

We walk and cycle along the villages, visiting local markets, some old houses, their worshipping temples, communal houses... then we have a small food demonstration before our lunch at one of the local family here.

In the afternoon, we set out from Dong Ngac, cycling on mostly rural lanes through surrounding villages to Lien Mac, a beautiful area of immaculately tended vegetables and flowers. Here you get a close-up look at the colorful fields and have the chance to chat with some of the local people out caring for their crops. After taking another route from Lien Mac back to Dong Ngac, you'll have a short break for a drink at your host family's home, bid your farewells, and catch the van back to your hotel in Hanoi at around 5:00 PM.

Free to have dinner until 8:30 PM, our guide picks you up for night train to Lao Cai. Boarding is at around 9:40 PM. You are in a shared AC soft sleeper cabin.

(Our tour guide shows you prearranged hotel near the train station which you have a shower and breakfast before going on Halong trip).

Inclusion: Transfer, guide, entrance fees, breakfast, lunch, local bike, community development fund, train ticket.

Day 3: Lao Cai - Sapa, trek to Ta Phin



The train arrives at about 6:30 AM. Look for the “Footprint Travel” sign when you exit the train station, as our guide is there to pick you up (about 1.5 hour drive to Sapa).

When you arrive in Sapa we make sure that you have a time for a short rest, hot shower and some breakfast before your inspiring trek. A short transfer and we’re off. Chances to meet and talk with locals working in the fields are plentiful.

Picnic lunch en route then continue trekking to Ta Phin village – home of the Red Dao people. Your Dao host family warmly welcomes you to their traditional home where we share in an ethnic style dinner and stay the night.

Trekking Distance: 14 km

Inclusion: Transfers, guide, train ticket, morning shower, entrance fee, all meals, permit, homestay.

Day 4: More in Ta Phin and back to Sapa



At the first gleam of daylight, you see and hear the sounds of morning village life. You can join your host family in some of their morning activities like feeding the animals, cleaning the houses, gardening or preparing breakfast. After breakfast, we take a short wander around the village or spend more time enjoying the view and company at the homestay. Then, you are supported by our car / van back to Sapa (30 minutes).

Back in Sapa, check in to your hotel, shower, rest and lunch on your own. At 2:30 PM, we take an easy walk to Cat Cat village, home of Black H’mong. Take part in a traditional musical performance. Back in Sapa for dinner and the evening on your own. Overnight here.



Trekking Distance: about 5 km

Trail Difficulty: 2/5

Note: The music show in Cat Cat village is closed on Tuesday afternoon, an alternative is arranged.

Inclusion: Transfer, guide, entrance fee, breakfast, music show ticket, hotel.

Day 5: Sapa - night train back to Hanoi



Wake up in Sapa town, breakfast at the hotel then enjoy the morning activities in the town markets. Today your guide is available to you for the whole day, although you do have the option to enjoy the day on your own. Suggestions for today: visit the orchid gardens at Dragon Mountain or complete another day trek to a hill tribe village.

At 5:30 PM, transfer to the Lao Cai train station.

Departure is at 8:15 PM on an AC soft sleeper class cabin to Hanoi.

Trekking Distance: around 6 km (optional trek)

Inclusion: Transfer, guide, train ticket, breakfast, entrance fee.

Day 6: Hanoi – Ha Long, welcome on the boat



Safely back in Hanoi at 5:00 AM please find your way on foot back to a prearranged hotel near the train station. Shower, short rest and basic breakfast.

Departure for Ha Long Bay is around 8:00 AM in a shared van (about 4 hours) from your hotel. Arrive at the port around noon. Welcomed on board, you are taken to your cabin before the trip briefing.

You enjoy a fresh and local seafood lunch while cruising to explore the magic Bai Tu Long

Bay. Stop for a swim and visit the mysterious cave. Relax at our secluded island-beach or explore by kayak. Later you return back to the boat just in time to watch the beautiful sunset from the top deck before enjoying the bay's freshest seafood dinner.

Inclusion: *Transfer, guide on boat, morning shower, entrance fee, kayak, boat / junk, all meals, permits.*

Day 7: Explore Bai Tu Long bay, back to Hanoi - Night train to Hue



Early risers can enjoy the sunrise and the quiet breath-taking beauty of Bay's landscape with towering limestone. You have breakfast at around 8:00 AM before our short rowboat by the locals of the bay.

Lunch on the boat as we slowly cruise back to boat pier. Hit the road, stopping for a water puppet show at a traditional Vietnamese village

before arriving back to Hanoi around 5:30 PM.

Hotel then pick up around 6:30 PM for the night train to Hue. Boarding is at 7:30 PM. You are in a shared AC soft sleeper cabin.

Inclusion: *Transfers, guide on boat, entrance fee, boat/junk, breakfast, lunch, train ticket.*

Day 8: See Hue heritage on boat & bike to rural villages



Arrival in Hue at around 09:00 AM. Station pick up then transfer to a prearranged hotel. Shower, short rest and breakfast.

Departure from your hotel for our morning explorations to visit the Imperial city to learn all about the royal kingdom here in the past. We then embark for our beautiful boat ride along the Perfume River, with stop at Thien Mu Pagoda.



Continue our boat journey downstream with pleasant viewing along the sides of the river and lunch onboard while we are sailing down the Perfume River.

Our afternoon start with biking to visit the flower village of Tien Non, it's just lovely to be among different types of flowers, then cycle a bit more to visit Thanh Tien paper flower making village, you can try to make one by yourself. After that, we will visit village where they make traditional folk painting, more ride through the beautiful and peaceful countryside of Hue before hitting the road back to your hotel for about 5:00 PM.

Cycling Distance: 14 km

Inclusion: Transfer, guide, entrance fee, morning shower, breakfast, lunch, local boat, bike & helmet, hotel.

Day 9: Hue – visit Royal tombs, Vietnam cyclo & market visit - transfer to Hoian



After breakfast at your hotel around 8:30 AM, we go on a relaxing 1 hour Vietnam cyclo ride to visit Dong Ba market then explore the Royal Tombs, choosing only to visit the best ones, as we have lots to do today. Visit Ming Mang and Khai Dinh Royal Tombs.

After it is time to begin our transfer to Hoian (about 4 hours). There is fabulous sightseeing en route and we may make stops at: Lang Co Beach, Hai Van Pass, Cham Museum, and the Marble Mountains depending on time. Hoian in the evening. Overnight here.

Tip: This is a very good chance for you to get great tailor-made clothes at reasonable prices. Hoian is well known for its tailoring.

Inclusion: Transfer, guide, entrance fee, breakfast, Vietnam cyclo, hotel.

Day 10: Countryside tour & visit ancient town of Hoian



At 8.00 AM, we meet at your hotel for a very short transfer to the boat docks, we boat to a fishing village where you see & experience the life of a fisherman here, activities from preparing the fishing tools to go fishing. Followed by a short basket boat row along the village of water coconut before our lunch.

We then cycle along the country road through the paddy fields of rice, coconut or corn heading to the main town of Hoian.

Our afternoon is continued with sightseeing to the famous cultural sites around Hoian, we end our trip at around 5:00 PM at your hotel.

Inclusion: Transfer, guide, local bike, local boat & basket, breakfast, lunch, water & snack, hotel.

Day 11: Hoian – HCM City, City tour



Breakfast at the hotel then transfer to the airport in Da Nang for an early morning flight to HCM City. Touchdown then transfer and check-in to your hotel before our city tour of bustling HCM City. Visit the Binh Tay Market in Cho Lon; stopover at Thien Hau, a 150-year-old Chinese Temple; then visit a Lacquer-wares workshop as well as the Jade Emperor Pagoda. In the afternoon visit the War Remnants Museum, the Notre Dame Cathedral and the historic Central Post Office. We

drop you off at your hotel around 5:30 PM.

Inclusion: Transfer, guide, entrance fee, breakfast, domestic flight ticket, hotel.

Day 12: Tay Ninh and the Cu Chi tunnels



Departing HCM City at 8:00 AM from your hotel for a morning excursion to Tay Ninh and the Great Cao Dai Temple (a place to worship a mixture of Buddhism, Confucius, Taoism, Hinduism and Christianity). Take part in the noon mass at the temple (1 hour). Lunch in Tay Ninh.

In the afternoon we visit the Cu Chi outdoor museum to learn about the infamous tunnel systems of the Viet Cong. Take this opportunity to get a unique understanding of the guerillas

underground fighting strategies during the war. Crawl through 50 to 100 meters of the 200 km tunnel system if you dare. On the way back to HCM City visit a local rice paper workshops and take in views of the Vietnam countryside. We drop you off at your hotel around 5:30 PM. Overnight at your hotel.

Inclusion: Transfer, guide, entrance fee, breakfast, hotel.

Day 13: HCM City – Visit the fertile Mekong delta



Getting started at 8:00 AM from your hotel, then a drive about 70 km out of HCM City to see Mekong Delta life around My Tho. Upon arrival Ben Tre, drift down the busy branches of the Mekong and into its peaceful canals. We visit a brick kiln and a coconut shell husking workshop. See the daily life of farmers and try the hard work taking shell of the coconut that is unique to the region.

More boat cruise inner the natural waterways, we visit a coconut-candy workshop, a main product that made Ben Tre famous then visit a local market and farmer workshop making sleeping mats, an old tradition hand weaving sedge mat or rush mat.

And now, the Mekong adventure is on, see what life is really like for locals by explore this quiet island by bicycle or more relaxing way by hop on a Lambretta triporteur an old 1960 traditional tricycle in south Vietnam which is winding around the coconut palms, bitter melon or cucumber farms to a farmer house that we break for lunch and relax.

In the afternoon, we walk a bit more of coconut farms and fruit orchards of this village then enjoy the local hand – rowing sampan slowly cruise under the canopy of water coconut palms along the canals. Our boat picks us again and cruises back to the boat landing in Ben Tre town. Head back to HCM City. Tour ends around 5:00 PM.

Inclusion: Transfer, guide, entrance fee, local boat trip, breakfast, lunch, hotel.

Day 14: Departure HCM City, Goodbye Vietnam



Breakfast at hotel. Depending on your flight you may have some more time for shopping. Then we transfer you to the airport for your flight home. Goodbye, and hope to see you again soon!

Inclusion: Transfer, breakfast.

Exclusion: Visa, Insurance, drinks, personal expenses, others not mentioned in details, tips are welcome!

LEGAL ASPECTS

Booking Terms & Conditions: Tour itinerary and tour prices are subject to change without prior notice. Please [click here](#) for more information.

ORGANISATION

Transportation schedule: Please be aware that flight times, trains, hotels and other services are subject to availability. When flights/trains are cancelled or delayed, Footprint will endeavour to secure alternative arrangements of similar value. Hotel, flight and train details will be updated once the booking is confirmed (your confirmation e-mail).

Tour guide: English speaking guides (on sites)



Closed sites: Some sites might be closed during the time you visit Vietnam (e.g. the HCM mausoleum in Hanoi is closed on Mondays and Fridays). Please consult with your travel agent if you want to have further information concerning this issue.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel: We use 3 star standard hotel (s) except beach hotel/resort 4 star standard in Hoian, twin shared room (s). Upgrade is available on request. Check – in: 14:00; out: 12:00 noon. Early check in if it is subject to availability.

Homestay condition: Very basic & simple with local style , please visit our website for FAQs on www.Footprint.vn

TRANSPORT

Ha Long Bay: Shared minivan and deluxe junk. Twin shared cabin aboard the boat. Upgrade is available at your request.

Car/Van Quality: Using new AC car or van depending on your group size.

Train: Sleeper Train to Sapa/Hue: Please [click here](#) for more information.

FOOD

Meals: Vietnam foods and seafoods. If you have any allergies, special requests or if you are on a special diet please let us know. We will arrange it for you in advance.

SUSTAINABILITY

Please Travel Responsibly: The small things you do will make a [big difference!](#)

PREPARATION OF THE CUSTOMER

What to Bring: Passport, change of clothes, sunglasses and hat, toiletries, sunblock, insect repellent, flashlights, good sport shoes, personal first aid kit and medicines, small VND



notes for buying drinks. If you feel the need then sleeping bags and a cable lock for your bags is recommended.

TREKKING AND CYCLING INFORMATION

Trekking & Cycling times are just estimates and may change depending on your personal fitness and weather.

Experience: The trek demands some experience in co-ordination, fitness and stamina. The great effort will be rewarded with fantastic views. Clients should have previous trekking experience. Nevertheless, our guide will be flexible to suggest you the most proper trekking route adapted to your physical fitness.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This itinerary and supplementary information has been compiled in good faith and was accurate at the time of writing.