



## A LIVELY VIETNAM 20 DAYS - A TRULY VALUABLE FOOTPRINT GUEST FAVORITE



Code: VN20

Routes: Hanoi – Sapa – Ha Long – Ninh Binh - Hue – Da Nang – Hoian– Nha Trang – HCM City – Cu Chi – Mekong.

Duration: 20 Days / 19 Nights

Features: Traveling in Vietnam is easy, but having the opportunity to explore the truly unspoiled Vietnam in a hassle-free way is not. With this package tour your guide shows you Vietnam at a pace and style that complements your way of travel.

Visit charming Hanoi and bustling HCM City. Participate in the rich and colorful cultures of Sapa and become a part of daily Mekong River life. Not to be forgotten, are the ancient stories of the past told at the numerous World Heritage sites in Vietnam's Center. Finally, at least twice on this tour you find time to relax and let your mind wander by the sea. Cruise

Any question?

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[www.Footprint.vn](http://www.Footprint.vn)

amongst the magic of Ha Long and sun bathe on the gorgeous beaches of Nha Trang. This is Vietnam travel your way, the way travel should be. Come explore Vietnam with us at Footprint!

## 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:* Airport pick-up, guide pick up, hotel

## Day 2: Hanoi village with bike



We pick you up at 8:00 AM for a short transfer outside of Hanoi, you have this morning to learn about Hanoi villages' life, its traditions, customs.

You walk and cycle along the villages, visit local markets, some old houses, their worshipping temples and communal house. Then, you attend a small food demonstration before having 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 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. End of services at around 4:30 PM.

*Inclusion:* Transfer, guide, entrance fees, breakfast, lunch, local bike, community development fund, hotel.

### Day 3: Hanoi – Trang An, Hoa Lu – night train to Lao Cai



Depart from your hotel at 8:00 AM and transfer 100 km (2.5 hours) to Ninh Binh. Relax on a local rowboat trip as soon as we arrive to Trang An. Meander within the karst landscape and float through some local caves. Later, local Vietnamese foods are served for lunch.

A short transfer to Hoa Lu, Vietnam's 9<sup>th</sup> century ancient capital, for some cultural sightseeing and storytelling of past kings. Return to Hanoi around 6:00 PM. Dinner on your own.

At 8:30 PM transfer from a prearranged meeting spot to the station for your night train to Sapa. Boarding is at around 9:40 PM. You are in shared AC soft sleeper cabin to travel North to Lao Cai town.

*(Our tour guide shows you prearranged hotel near the train station which you have a shower and breakfast before going on Ha Long on Day 7).*

*Inclusion:* Transfer, guide, entrance fee, breakfast, lunch, local rowboat, train ticket.

### Day 4: Lao Cai - Sapa, trek to Ta Phin



Today morning at around 6:30 AM, you are welcomed by our driver at the train station to transfer to Sapa. When you arrive in Sapa, 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 welcome you to their traditional home where we share in an ethnic style dinner and stay the night.

Trekking Distance: 14 km (4-5 hours)

Trail Difficulty: 4/5

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

## Day 5: 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. We arrange and alternative activity.

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

## Day 6: 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 7: Hanoi – Ha Long, welcome on the boat



Safely back in Hanoi at 05:00 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 8: Explore Bai Tu Long bay, back to Hanoi



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.

*Inclusion: Transfer, guide, entrance fee, boat / junk, breakfast, lunch, hotel.*

## Day 9: Hanoi free. Night train to Hue



Today is your free day in the Hanoi capital with all of its fascinating historical charm. Spend your day relaxing or shopping. Some suggestions include waking up early (about 6:00 AM) and joining in the some exercising around Hoan Kiem Lake, or visiting the numerous markets, shopping, and trying all of the street side traditional foods.

At 6:30 PM, we pick you up from our office or your hotel for the night train to Hue. Boarding is at 7:30 PM. You are in a shared AC soft sleeper cabin.

*Inclusion: Transfer, guide, breakfast, train ticket.*

## Day 10: See Hue heritage on boat & bike to rural villages



Arrival in Hue at around 9:00 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 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 11: Hue – Visit Royal tombs, Vietnam cyclo & market visit - transfer to Hoi An



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. Hoianis well known for its tailoring.*

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

## Day 12: Countryside tour & visit ancient town of Hoi An



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 13: Hoian – Nha Trang



Breakfast at the hotel then transfer to the airport in Da Nang for a noon- flight to Nha Trang. Upon arrival, airport pick up then transfer to your hotel. Free to chill out on the beautiful white sand beach.

*Inclusion: Transfer, guide, domestic flight ticket, breakfast, hotel*



## Day 14: Boat trip to islands in Nha Trang



Morning pick up at around 8:00 AM from hotel and transfer to the boat station (about 15'). Hop on the private boat and begin a day on the water. The first stop is Tri Nguyen Aquarium. Then we cruise to Mot Island. This is one of the best places for snorkeling in Nha Trang. Hold your breath for as long as you can and dive deep into this colorful world of fish and coral. Next stop, Coral Island for sun bathing and relaxing on the off shore beach.

Lunch is served with a selection of fresh seafood.

After lunch, cruise to Tranh Island for more swimming and relaxing then boat back to Nha Trang city for around 5:00 PM. Free time in the evening and overnight at your hotel.

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

## Day 15: Nha Trang – fly to HCM City, city tour



We take an early flight this morning at 7:50 AM, arriving to HCM City at 8:45 AM. Transfer downtown and check-in at our hotel before our city tour of bustling HCM City starts. Visit the Binh Tay Market in Cho Lon; stopover at Thien Hau, a 150-year-old Chinese Temple; then visit a Lacquer-ware 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 16: Day trip to Tay Ninh and 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 17: HCM City – Visit the fertile Mekong delta, Can Tho



Depart HCM City at 8:00 AM from your hotel. Head south to Cai Be. Upon arrival at around 10:30 AM, board a boat for a journey through the Mekong's floating markets. See how river life goes on here, watch the trading between merchant ships and local farmers. Alive and exciting! Cruise through the secluded canals and cross the Mighty Mekong to an island where we stop to enjoy fresh seasonal fruit before boating to Vinh Long. Back on the bus

for our trip to Can Tho to overnight.

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

## Day 18: Can Tho - HCM City



An early start at 6:30 AM for a boat trip to Cai Rang floating market, then we have some distance to cover. First a cruise, then a walk on a quiet country road taking in the magnificent scenery and getting a little bit closer to the locals as they go about their daily routine. In the afternoon, we head back to HCM City. We drop you at the same hotel by 6:00 PM.

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

## Day 19: HCM City free



Breakfast at the hotel then a day at your leisure in HCM City. Today is a great day for you to relax, shop and finish any last preparations before you take your flight home the next day.

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

## Day 20: Departure HCM City, Good bye 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 Hoi An, 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](http://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:** Vietnamese 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.