

INDO-CHINA REGION – ESSENTIAL VIETNAM

08 Nights / 09 Days

Hanoi * Halong * Hoi An * Hue * Ho Chi Minh * Can Tho - Mekong Delta

Highlights:

- **Ho Chi Minh City** – Chinese quarter at Colon, Thien Hau Pagoda, FITO museum, Ben Thanh market, War Remnants or History museum, Presidential Palace, the Old Saigon post office, Dong Khoi Street, Continental hotel, Opera house and city hall. and Mekong Delta – Cai Be floating market.
- **Hoi An** – Half day walking tour.
- **Hue** – Danang – Cham Museum, Fishing village Lang Co, the Imperial Citadel, The Mausoleum of Tu Duc, Khai Dinh's Tomb, Thien Mu Pagoda, Tomb of Minh mang, Cruise on Perfume River.
- **Hanoi** – Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, One Pillar Pagoda, Temple of Literature, Old quarter, National Fine Arts Museum.
- **Halong** – Cruise on Halong Bay.

Day 01 Ho Chi Minh City

Arrive Ho Chi Minh City also known as Saigon and transfer to the Hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 02 Ho Chi Minh City

After breakfast, we proceed for a full day tour of Ho Chi Minh. Venture in to the Chinese quarter at Cholon, the city's Chinatown district. Discover the markets and shops of the area, and The Cantonese **Thien Hau Pagoda** – dedicated to the goddess of the Sea, learn traditional Vietnamese medicine at **FITO museum**, and browse the amazing array of goods at Ben Tanh Market. In the afternoon, visit the **War Remnants** or History Museum and the former **Presidential Palace** for a glimpse into Vietnamese history before ending with an exploration of the city's French-influenced colonial architecture – the Old Saigon Post office, Dong Khoi Street, Continental hotel, Opera house and city hall. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 03 Ho Chi Minh City – Mekong Delta – Ho Chi Minh City

After breakfast, Proceed to the delta town of Cai Be which is 2.5hrs drive from City. Board your a boat for cruise of Cai Be floating market where Traders work the river and some have been living on these waters for generations. After visiting the market continue to a cottage factory where „pop-rice“, rice paper and coconut candies are made. Return to the boat for the cruise to Dong Hoa Hiep Island, along the way admire the scenery and the daily life of the local villagers. Lunch will be local Mekong style serving specialties of the area. Transfer to Ho Chi Minh City by boat and then road. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 04 Ho Chi Minh City – Danang – Hoi An

After breakfast, we transfer you to the Tan Son Nhat Airport for the short flight to the central port city of Danang. On arrival in Danang, transfer to Hoi An - a major Asian trading port during the 17th and 18th centuries, whose architecture and relaxed lifestyles has changed little over the years. Take a walking tour of the ancient town center to visit the former merchants' homes, the 400-year-old Japanese covered bridge and the colorful market. Evening enjoy sunset boat trip. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 05 Hoi An – Hue

This morning after breakfast, proceed to Hue, the former imperial capital of Vietnam. The scenic route passes through Danang visit **Cham museum** which contains the finest collection of Cham sculptures in

the world before climbing over the Pass of Ocean Clouds and dropping down to the wonderfully photogenic fishing village of **Lang Co**. Arrive Hue visit the Imperial Citadel where the Nguyen Dynasty ruled between 1802 & 1945. After proceed to visit **Thien Mu Pagoda** overlooking the perfume river; the 21- meter tall tower is the centerpiece of the pagoda and represents seven reincarnations of Buddha. Overnight at the Hotel.

Day 06 Hue – Hanoi.

After breakfast, Start your visit to the city's vibrant Dong Ba Market to see it's abundance of fresh produce. Afterwards proceed to take cyclo through the „old city“ to Tinh Tam Lake where the Emperors used to come to relax, full of lotus flowers in summer there are many local style coffee shops around the lake. After visit **Khai Dinh's Tomb** which is traditional Vietnamese in design with European touch making it unique. Drive onto Thien Mu Pagoda and the mausoleum of former Emperor Minh Mang, in a tranquil setting of gardens and lakes. Afternoon, we transfer you to the airport for your short flight to Hanoi, the modern day capital of Vietnam. On arrival at Hanoi, transfer to the hotel. Overnight at Hotel in Hanoi.

Day 07 Hanoi

After breakfast, we proceed for a full day city tour of Vietnam's capital. First visit the **Temple of literature**. In 1076 Quod Tu Giam – Vietnam's first university. The city tour includes such sights as The **One Pillar Pagoda** - an important symbol for the people of Hanoi. Continue to picturesque West Lake and one of the oldest Buddhist pagodas in Hanoi, **Tran Quoc**, and the nearby **Toaist temple of Quan Thanh** which dates from the Ly Dynasty. After lunch in the town, continue to visit **the Museum of Ethnology**. At the end of the day take a walking tour of Hanoi's Old Quarter, also known as the **'36 streets'**. **Take** a walking tour through charming Hang Be market and around Hoan Kiem Lake. This bustling area of narrow streets and alleys is home to literally thousands of small businesses and shopkeepers. It's a great place to explore with plenty of photo opportunities all around you. Evening enjoy a **water puppet show**. This is uniquely northern Vietnamese art form depicting scenes from rural life and episodes of national history. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 08 Hanoi - Halong

This morning after breakfast, we start journey there through the rich farmlands of the Red River Delta, observe everyday life of Vietnamese villagers as they work the rice fields, take pigs to the market on bicycles and plough the fields with their water buffaloes. Arrive in Halong City late morning and board your traditional wooden junk or **The Emeraude**, a classic replica steamship of the colonial era for the overnight journey into the Bay. En-route lunch will be served. Following cruise by rock formations with such names as Sail, Dog and Dinh Huong (incense pot). As the sun sets over the bay dinner is served on board with fresh seafood, salads, and fruits. Overnight on Halong Bay

Day 09 Return

Enjoy the beauty of Halong Bay in the morning. After breakfast and disembarkation, transfer to Hanoi airport for your onward flight.