

# Vietnam Highlights

From \$4,799 - 18 Days - Fully Inclusive From New Zealand

Rich in historical treats, Vietnam will also astound you with its stunning scenery. The friendliness of its people will make you want to return to this land; history is entwined in their smiles. Your tour starts in Ho Chi Minh City or Saigon as most people still prefer to call it. There's a lot to see in this dynamic city. You will visit the Presidential Palace and the fascinating War Remnants Museum. It displays many graphic photographs and has an interesting collection of weapons. Cholon (China Town) will be of great interest, as will the wonderful Ben Thanh Markets.

Exploring the Mekong Delta will be fun. Travelling by boat you will gain an understanding of how people go about their daily life. You will stop at farmer's houses and sample authentic Vietnamese hospitality. A visit to the Cu Chi Tunnels will simply amaze you. This incredible underground tunnel network was constructed by Vietnamese fighters during their long struggle for independence.

Peace and warmth will surround you as you stroll along the beach at Nha Trang. The leisurely pace here will come as a welcome break. Cruising around the islands will be equally as relaxing. At Hoi An visit the Japanese Bridge, a Chinese pagoda and the Cham Ruins. You will travel over the Hai Van Pass discovering breathtaking scenery along the way. Hue is regarded as one of Vietnam's most cultural and historically significant cities. Visit the wonderful Imperial Citadel which was once the centrepiece of the royal empire, a massive moated palace that was damaged during the Vietnam War. Your cooking skills will be put to the test as you partake in a cooking class, focusing on dishes designed for the Royal Courts of Hue.

Hanoi is quite simply one of the most interesting and atmospheric cities in Asia. Its old quarter delights most who visit. The streets are named after what is sold on them including 'Sugar Street' and even 'Fried Fish Street'! Your city tour will include a visit to Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum (closed Sep-Dec), the One Pillar Pagoda and Stilt House and Museum. A performance of the Water Puppets will be a pleasant way to end your day.

You will be utterly enchanted with Halong Bay. Every idyllic detail you have heard about Halong Bay is true. The only way to absorb the true romance of this wonder is by junk boat. Imagine being greeted by magnificent limestone peaks as you cruise on the emerald green waters. Vietnam offers a wealth of unimaginable riches. Join us and find out for yourself.

## Day 1: New Zealand to Saigon

Fly with Singapore Airlines to Saigon for 2 nights.

## Day 2: Saigon

Visit the former Presidential Palace, War Remnants Museum, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Central Post Office, Cholon (Chinatown) where we see the Binh Tay Wholesale Market and Thien Hau Pagoda. After stopping at Ben Thanh Market for some shopping, the remainder of the day is at leisure.

## Days 3-4: Saigon to Mekong Delta (home stay in Vinh Long)

Over the next 2 days explore the Mekong Delta first hand by various types of boats in and around Vinh Long Province. Stop at a local farmer's house where we will also spend the night and visit various traditional businesses. The next morning continue exploring the area before returning to Saigon.

## Day 5: Saigon - Cu Chi Tunnels

Explore the famous Cu Chi Tunnels and Tay Ninh, where we experience the midday service at the head temple of the unique Cao Dai religion.

## Day 6: Saigon to Nha Trang

Fly to Nha Trang. The afternoon is free to stroll along the beach of this seaside town.

## Day 7: Nha Trang

Spend the day cruising around the islands off Nha Trang visiting the Tri Nguyen Aquarium, Tam Island and a local fishing village.

## Day 8: Nha Trang to Hoi An

Fly to Danang and transfer to the town of Hoi An visiting the Marble Mountains and China Beach en route.

## Days 9-10: Hoi An

Undertake a walking tour of the old centre of Hoi An. Visit an old merchant's home still lived

in by descendents of the original merchant, the Japanese Bridge, Hoi An Market, a local Chinese pagoda and assembly hall. The following day visit the Cham Ruins at My Son.

## Day 11: Hoi An to Hue

Drive over the Hai Van Pass to Hue where upon arrival we visit the Imperial Citadel and Tu Duc Tomb. This evening, partake in a cooking class focusing on select local dishes and cuisine.

## Day 12: Hue to Hanoi

Cruise on the Perfume River to Thien Mu Pagoda and visit the tomb of Khai Dinh. This afternoon we fly to Hanoi and visit the Ethnology Museum.

## Day 13: Hanoi

Visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum (closed Sep-Dec), Stilt House and Museum, One Pillar Pagoda and drive around Hoan Kiem Lake.



### Day 14: Hanoi

Enjoy a walking tour of the old quarter, visit Dong Xuan Market and the Temple of Literature. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. This evening enjoy a performance of the famous Water Puppets.

### Day 15: Hanoi to Halong Bay

Travel to the 'Jewel in the Crown of Vietnam', Halong Bay and commence our cruise around the thousands of karst islands on our junk boat. Spend the night onboard.

### Day 16: Halong Bay to Hanoi

Continue cruising around the islands this morning before returning to Hanoi.

### Day 17: Depart Hanoi

Enjoy a morning at leisure before boarding our overnight flight to New Zealand.

### Day 18: Arrive New Zealand

Arrive home this morning.

### Sapa Extension (3D/2N):

#### Day 16: Hanoi to Sapa

You may choose to leave the group this evening and transfer to Hanoi Railway Station and board the overnight sleeper train to the hill station of Sapa.

#### Days 17-19: Sapa

Over the next 3 days explore Sapa and the surrounding area including the local markets, different minority villages, spectacular valleys and fine examples of tribal agriculture (each day will involve 5-6hrs walking). On the 3rd night we board our overnight sleeper train back to Hanoi.

#### Day 20: Depart Hanoi

Arrive early this morning and transfer to our hotel for breakfast and day use of the hotel room before transferring to the airport for our flight back to New Zealand.

#### Day 21: Arrive New Zealand

Arrive home this morning.

## Inclusions

International airfares, all transportation in Vietnam, accommodation, all meals, entrance fees, guides and daily tours, New Zealand and Vietnam departure taxes (where included in air tickets)

## Price Guide

18 Days, Fully Inclusive Twin Share

- ✈ From \$4,799 per person - Departing Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch with Singapore Airlines
- 🏠 Single Hotel Supplement - From \$509
- 🛖 Single Junk Cabin Supplement - From \$93
- 🚗 Land Only - From \$2,922
- ★★ Medium Paced Tour (see page 2)
- 💰 Compulsory Tipping: Approx US\$70-80 per person - see page 30

### Make the most of your holiday

- Sapa Extension (3D/2N), based on 4 berth compartment
  - + Add From \$983 per person to the Twin Share price
  - + Add From \$242 to the Single Supplement price

Due to flight schedules Christchurch passengers need to depart one day earlier from New Zealand and require a Singapore stopover at their own expense. This will extend the itinerary to 19 days

Local Fruit Vendor - Halong Bay



## Departures

Tour Code	Depart New Zealand	Arrive New Zealand	Twin Share Price
<b>2010</b>			
V10111*	06 Feb	23 Feb	\$4,799
V10113	06 Mar	23 Mar	\$4,799
V1010301	13 Mar	30 Mar	\$4,799
V10115	17 Apr	04 May	\$4,799
V10116	08 May	25 May	\$4,799
V10117	17 Jul	03 Aug	\$4,799
V10119	04 Sep	21 Sep	\$4,799
V101110	09 Oct	26 Oct	\$4,799
V101111	23 Oct	09 Nov	\$4,799
V101112	06 Nov	23 Nov	\$4,799
V101113	13 Nov	30 Nov	\$4,799
<b>2011</b>			
V1121*	05 Feb	22 Feb	\$4,799
V1122	19 Feb	08 Mar	\$4,799
V1123	05 Mar	22 Mar	\$4,799
V1124	19 Mar	05 Apr	\$4,799
V1125	16 Apr	03 May	\$4,799
V1126	07 May	24 May	\$4,799

\* Departure coincides with Tet New Year celebrations and sightseeing may be affected due to public holiday closures (see page 4)



Locals - Sapa

