



Tour Dossier

VIETNAM AT A GLANCE, 13 DAYS

This document was designed to be read in conjunction with our other pre-departure information provided after you have made a booking with Wendy Wu Tours. It aims to provide a straightforward description of the physical activities involved in sightseeing or travelling during the tour. All passengers should read this dossier to confirm their ability to complete the tour. This is not your final Itinerary and therefore does not mention all the sites visited.

Tour grade - Comfortable Paced

This is defined in our brochure as the following: "Whilst you will encounter extensive walking throughout the tour, these programmes are comfortably operated to appeal to most people. Generally these tours are shorter in duration and visit the mainstream tourist attractions."

This is the easiest pace of tour which Wendy Wu Tours offers in Vietnam. Anyone with a reasonable level of fitness should be able to complete this itinerary. Of course, our local guides always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance, but they cannot be expected to cater for those who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

Group Size

In most cases, the group size will operate with a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 passengers, however in rare cases this number could increase to 24 passengers in peak season.

Itinerary Changes

1. Order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.
2. Vietnam Airlines' domestic flights are subject to frequent changes. For this reason we have indicated morning, afternoon or evening flights only in the section below. Your Local guide or National Escort will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them.

Tipping

If there are less than 10 passengers on your tour, then please allow US\$50 each for tipping, made up in the following way; US\$20 each for Saigon, US\$15 each for Hoi An/Hue and US\$15 each for Hanoi). If there are more than 10 passengers, please allow US\$40 each for the entire tour.

The amounts listed above do not include hotel portage so if you would like your luggage to be carried to your hotel room this will be at your discretion.

NB: Times and distances listed in this section are suggestions only.

Days 1-2: New Zealand to Saigon

Fly via Singapore with an included overnight stop. Next day, you will be met at Saigon airport in the arrivals hall by your Local Guide and/or National Escort from Wendy Wu Tours. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer (¾ hr) to your hotel and check-in to your rooms. There is no sightseeing today.

At some point today, when the whole group has arrived, a tour introduction will be held in the hotel. There will not be food or drinks served at this meeting; it is simply an opportunity for your group to meet and learn more about travelling in Vietnam.

Day 3: Mekong Delta day trip

We have an early rise this morning to drive 2hrs (80km) to city of My Tho. You will travel by motorised, wooden boats between the islands and perhaps smaller, paddle boats in the canals. Sightseeing involves hopping on and off the boats, often on unsteady and slippery surfaces, sometimes without handrails or assistance, and approx 1hr walking across the islands. Approx 2 hrs later return to the docks, have lunch and drive back to Saigon.

Day 4: Saigon

Sightseeing in downtown Saigon and the Cholon district involves approx 4hrs walking over the whole day. Watch your valuables while in market area. There are graphic pictures in the War Remnants Museum that some people might find confronting.

Day 5: Cu Chi Tunnels/Tay Ninh day trip

Remember to take insect repellent today as mosquitoes are more common in the Cu Chi district. Transfer 2hrs (75km) to Cu Chi. Sightseeing here involves 2hrs walking on uneven mud paths through the bush and, if you choose, crawling through some of the tunnels. It is important to follow your Guide's directions to leave on time as to arrive at Tay Ninh in time to see the midday service. Transfer 1hr (60km) to Tay Ninh to the 'Holy See' and watch most of the Cao Dai service. Then transfer (10mins) to have lunch - the meal is simple but this is the only suitable restaurant in the area. Transfer 3hrs (100km) back to Saigon.

Day 6: Saigon to Hoi An

Transfer to the airport for your morning flight to Danang (flight duration 1hr); the closest airport to Hoi An. Easy sightseeing in Danang at Cham Museum and China Beach. At Marble Mtns there are over 500 uneven stone steps up and it can get extremely hot. If you are unable to complete this activity, or choose not to go with the group - you will need to remain with the driver/coach because the group will descend on the other side of Marble Mtn and reboard the coach there. Watch your step inside dark and damp caves. Transfer (45mins drive) to hotel in Hoi An and check-in.

Day 7: Hoi An

At least 2 hrs walking in Hoi An Old Town, then afternoon at leisure.

Day 8: Hoi An to Hue

Drive north for 3 ½hrs, (approx 135km) over the Hai Van (Cloudy) Pass to Hue. This is a winding and sometimes steep, scenic road along the coast. This afternoon there is easy sightseeing around Hue, at the Citadel, involves 1½hrs walking through the palace complex - it can get very hot

here and often rains in the afternoon, so you may need sun and/or rain protection.

1 ½hrs walking at the Thien Mu Pagoda, there are steep and uneven steps without handrails.

Day 9: Hue to Hanoi

This morning is easy sightseeing around Hue, involving at least 1 ½hrs walking. There are steep and uneven steps without handrails at the Khai Dinh Tomb. If you are unable to complete this activity, or choose not to go with the group – you will be able to wait with the driver/coach, or explore as far as you are able then return to the parked coach on your own. Transfer ½ hr to the airport for your afternoon flight to Hanoi (flight duration 1hr). From Hanoi airport, transfer (1hr) to the hotel and check-in.

For the last few years, the Hanoi Govt has restricted traffic within central Hanoi, to reduce traffic and protect the Old Quarter. At certain times of the day there are restrictions for larger coaches into the area and also during the time when the night market is on.

Day 10: Hanoi

Both men and women must dress respectfully for the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum (closed Sep-Dec), with covered shoulders and knees. Sightseeing in central Hanoi involves approx 4hrs walking at the Ho Chi Minh 'Quarter', Temple of Literature and Old Quarter. When visiting the Mausoleum you must be quiet, show respect and will not be allowed to carry cameras, mobile phones, etc (usually your Local Guide will hold these).

[NB: Your Local Guide will confirm the menu for tomorrow's seafood lunch on board the junk boat tonight, so please mention any food allergies or dislikes to them again before the end of today.]

Day 11: Halong Bay day trip

We have an early rise this morning to drive 3½ hrs (170km) to Halong City and port, including a 20min rest stop. As it is so popular, there are usually a crowd of boats at the docks – please be reassured that the cruise itself will be scenic and relaxing. Boarding your junk boat could involve climbing over and through other boats, moored

between it and the dock – sometimes without handrails, ladders or assistance from staff. The junk boats have been recently built and modelled on the traditional 'junk' which was both home and working vessel for fishermen in the Orient for centuries. They usually hold about 20 dining (or 18 max for overnight) passengers, have an enclosed dining area and open deck on the upper deck. We take a 4hr cruise including lunch onboard, return to the dock and drive back to Hanoi.

[NB: You have the option of leaving the group permanently at the wharf and joining an overnight version of the cruise of Halong Bay instead of the regular day trip. You will then return direct to Hanoi airport tomorrow from Halong Bay. This option must be arranged at the time of your original booking and cannot be added in Vietnam.]

Day 12: Depart Hanoi

You will be transferred from the hotel to the airport, according to the departure time of your international flight.

Day 13: New Zealand

Arrive home.

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