



Vietnam with Italian speaking guide (May-Sep 10) 10 days

day 1

Hanoi

Arrival in Hanoi - Transfer - Sightseeing in Hanoi with a visit by cyclo to the Old Quarter
Although it is the modern-day capital of Vietnam, HANOI still retains the mystery and charm of past centuries. Narrow lanes and traditional shophouses invite exploration by cyclo, while its many beautiful public spaces - lakes, parks, tree-lined boulevards and monuments - give the city an air of elegance and harmony with nature unique among Asian capitals. Begin your day visiting the TEMPLE OF LITERATURE, a peaceful series of walled courtyards and graceful gateways, and one of the best surviving examples of traditional Vietnamese architecture. Founded in 1070 and dedicated to Confucius, this was also the site of Vietnam's first university. Continue to the miniature ONE PILLAR PAGODA. Also dating from the 11th century, this monument was rebuilt after being destroyed by the French in 1954. Today it stands near the vast HO CHI MINH MEMORIAL COMPLEX, a lovely park setting which is home to Ho Chi Minh's final resting place, as well as a museum and other memorials. Stroll past the HO CHI MINH MAUSOLEUM (closed to visitors on Mondays and Fridays), where visitors can pay respects to the embalmed body of Ho Chi Minh. Continue through the park to HO CHI MINH'S STILT HOUSE, the simple two-room dwelling where Ho Chi Minh lived from 1948 until his final days. Preserved in the same condition as during his life, it may be viewed through the windows. Finally, discover the OLD QUARTER of Hanoi by cyclo. This fascinating network of narrow alleys and shophouses is also known as 'The 36 Streets,' each street being named after the merchandise traditionally sold there, ranging from fabrics to crafts to medicines to tombstones. A handicraft-lover's paradise and an endlessly interesting place to explore local life.
Overnight in Hanoi

day 2

Hanoi (Breakfast / Lunch: Traditional Junk)

Excursion to Halong Bay with boat trip including lunch (4 hours)
Depart from Hanoi in the morning for scenic Halong Bay. Arriving at the pier around noon, begin cruising on a traditional wooden boat among the emerald waters and craggy limestone cliffs of Halong Bay, stopping at different islands to explore some of the many caves in this area. Sail past floating villages, fishermen casting their nets and pearl fisheries and observe the rhythms of daily life on the bay. Disembark at Halong pier at approximately 16.30 pm and return to Hanoi by vehicle.
Visit a Water Puppet Show
WATER PUPPET SHOW: a fantastic art form originating in the northern Vietnam, best seen in Hanoi.
Overnight in Hanoi

day 3

Hanoi - Hue (Breakfast)

Transfer - Flight from Hanoi to Hue. - Transfer - Sightseeing in the Old Imperial City
Located in the heart of Hue is the IMPERIAL CITADEL, a vast complex built in the early 19th century and modelled after the Forbidden City of Peking. The original walls stretched for 10 km and were surrounded by a wide moat. Today, most of the buildings have been destroyed due to bombing during the Vietnam-American War, but the monuments that remain provide a fascinating glimpse into the court life of the Nguyen Dynasty. Approach the city past the striking FLAG TOWER, where a giant Vietnamese flag waves proudly overhead, to the imposing NGO MON GATE, the main entrance to the Imperial Enclosure. Enter into an area of spacious courtyards and serene lotus ponds, and visit DIEN THO Residence (Dien Tho palace) is where the Queen mother lived, visit THAI HOA PALACE, the magnificently decorated reception hall, the HALLS OF THE MANDARINS, and the original NINE DYNASTIC URNS, among other sites.
Excursion to Thien Mu Pagoda with a boat trip on the Huong Giang river
Embark on a local boat and cruise down the PERFUME RIVER to the iconic THIEN MU PAGODA, an elegant seven-tiered octagonal tower which has become Hue's most widely recognizable monument. During the early 1960s, this became a center of anti-government protest, and the site of the famous self-immolation of the monk Thich Quang Duc.
Overnight in Hue

day 4**Hue - Hoi An (Breakfast)**

By vehicle from Hue to Hoi An with sightseeing in Danang

Journey from Hue over scenic mountainous roads with spectacular views over the coastline. Halfway between Danang and Hue lies the dramatic HAI VAN PASS, the high dividing line between the climate zones of north and south Vietnam. Continue southwards passing LANG CO, a lovely stretch of beach curving outwards between a clear blue lagoon and the South China Sea.

After arriving in DANANG, tour the CHAM MUSEUM, an elegant colonial building which now houses the finest collection of Cham sculpture in the world and briefly pass CHINA BEACH, a famous spot for American soldiers during the Vietnam-American War. Continue south to Hoi An, stopping enroute to visit the MARBLE MOUNTAINS, five stone hillocks, once islands, that now rise sharply from the surrounding ricefields. Riddled with caves and shrines, they are said to each represent one of the five elements of the universe.

Cooking class at Hoi An Beach Resort with market visit

Start with a boat trip for 1 hours to a market to learn about Vietnamese ingredients and how to choose fresh food. Return to Hoi An Beach Resort and enjoy a gourmet cookery class with a talk on the art of Vietnamese gastronomy and the use of special ingredients. Practice traditional Vietnamese cooking under the direction and supervisor of a chef. Experience with making traditional dishes to enjoy self-prepared meal.

Overnight in Hoi An

Special Remark : Cooking class is from 2 - 6 PM, including dinner

day 5**Hoi An (Breakfast)**

Free time for shopping activities or leisure - - Overnight in Hoi An

Special Remark : Life Heritage Hoi An requires one meal Lunch or Dinner at hotel for GIT 10rms up.

day 6**Hoi An (Breakfast / Dinner: Fullmoon Towns Restaurant)**

Sightseeing in Hoi An

Hoi An is a picturesque riverside town south of Danang. Known as Faifo to early western traders, it was one of South East Asia's major international ports during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Now, this beautifully preserved historic city is best seen on foot. The walking tour includes:

JAPANESE COVERED BRIDGE PAGODA: the first bridge on this site was constructed in 1593 by the Japanese community of Hoi An to link the town with the Chinese quarters across the stream. The bridge was provided with a roof so it could be used as a shelter from rain and sun.

SA HUYNH MUSEUM: located near the Japanese Covered Bridge, it contains exhibitions from the earliest period of Hoi An's history.

TRAN FAMILY CHAPEL: this house for worshipping ancestors was built about 200 years ago with donations from family members. The Tran family traces its origins to China and moved to Vietnam around 1700. The architecture of the building reflects the influence of Chinese and Japanese styles.

PHUOC KIEN ASSEMBLY HALL: Chinese pagoda built around 1690 and then restored and enlarged in 1900. It is typical of the Chinese clans that were established in the Hoi An area. The temple is dedicated to Thien Hau Thanh Mau (Goddess of the Sea and Protector of Sailors and Fishermen).

LANTERN MAKING WORKSHOP: Visit one of the lantern workshop in Hoi An. The framework of lantern will be made by the industry itself and clients can observe locals making silk cloth on the lantern.

Afternoon at leisure - Sunset cruise on the Thu Bon River - Transfer to/from restaurant -

Overnight in Hoi An

Special Remark : Life Heritage Hoi An requires one meal Lunch or Dinner at hotel for GIT 10rms up.

day 7**Hoi An - Qui Nhon (Breakfast / Dinner: Life Resort Qui Nhon / Restaurant)**

By vehicle from Hoi An to Qui Nhon

Journey south along the coast and Highway 1 past Tam Ky and Quang Ngai. This region is one of the most arid in Vietnam. The nearby plains are dominated by rocky, roundish mountains and support some marginal irrigated rice agriculture.

Time at leisure - Overnight in Qui Nhon

day 8**Qui Nhon (Breakfast)**

All day at leisure - - Overnight in Qui Nhon

Special Remark : Inclusive of Cham Steam Therapy (15 mins) + Body Wrap Treatment (30 mins) + Full Body Massage (60 mins) + Facial Treatment (60 mins)

day 9 Qui Nhon - Saigon (Breakfast)

Transfer - Flight from Qui Nhon to Saigon. - Transfer - Sightseeing in Saigon and Cholon (Chinatown) - Visit the Reunification Palace
 REUNIFICATION PALACE: the Independence Palace of the South Vietnamese president, it was stormed by tanks on 30 April 1975, signifying the fall of South Vietnam. It has been preserved in its original state.

Visit City Hall (Hotel De Ville)

CITY HALL: completed 1908, also known as Hotel de Ville at the northern end of Nguyen Hue Boulevard. With its ornate gingerbread facade it looks like the town hall of a French town.

****view from outside only****

Visit the Opera House

OPERA HOUSE: this colonial-era monument is today one of the main places for cultural exchange. May be viewed from the outside only.

Visit Notre Dame Cathedral

NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL: built between 1877 and 1883, is set in the heart of Saigon's government quarter. It has a neo-Romanesque form and two high square towers, tipped with iron spires. In front of the cathedral is a statue of the Virgin Mary.

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Visit Thien Hau Pagoda

THIEN HAU PAGODA: built by the Cantonese congregation in the early 19th century. The pagoda is one of the most active in Cholon and is dedicated to Thien Hau. It is said that she can travel over the oceans on a mat and ride the clouds to wherever she pleases.

Visit Cholon (Chinatown)

CHOLON: this is the huge Chinese neighbourhood to the west of the city in District 5. Cholon means 'Big Market', a good indication of the importance the Chinese have traditionally played in Vietnam's economy.

Overnight in Saigon

day 10 Saigon (Breakfast)

Sightseeing in Saigon - Visit Ben Thanh Market

BEN THANH MARKET: this is the central market of Saigon and the market and the surrounding streets make up one of the city's liveliest areas. Everything commonly eaten, worn or used by the average resident of Saigon is available here.

Transfer -

Package price is per person in a half twin/double sharing room.

euro p.p.	1 Pax	2 Pax	3-6 Pax	7-10 Pax	Sgl Suppl.
Var. A	1759	1050	930	814	262
Var. B	2180	1266	1150	1021	655

- Above rates are valid for 30 days from the date of quotation for travel between 01-May-10 to 30-Sep-10
- Reduction for 3rd pax in triple room (where available): US\$84 for Var. A; US\$212 for Var. B. Single supplement will be charged where extra bed option is not available.
- Special Note : - Supplement for Italian speaking guide usd703/group.
- child reduction (sharing bed of parents): under 2 years FOC.
- children under 12 years receives a 30% discount of adult rate (sharing bed of parents).
- children requesting extra bed will receives the standard triple reduction as mentioned in our proposals.

Hotel	Var A	Var B
Hanoi	La Dolce Vita Hotel 3* Superior	Melia Hotel 5* Deluxe/ROH
Hue	Hue Riverside (Vida) Hotel 3* Deluxe Riverview	Pilgrimage Village 4* Villa Deluxe
Hoi An	Ancient House Resort 3* Ancient House Garden View	Life Heritage Resort Hoi An 4* Superior Garden View
Qui Nhon	Life Wellness Resort Quy Nhon 4* Superior	Life Wellness Resort Quy Nhon 4* Superior
Saigon	Lavender Hotel Saigon 3* ROH	Renaissance Riverside Hotel 5* Deluxe Cityview

Accommodation in hotels is subject to availability. If the listed hotel is fully booked, alternate accommodation will be offered. All hotel ratings are according to the local accreditation authority.

INCLUDED SERVICES:

- English-speaking guide.
- meals according to itinerary / Breakfast box in lieu of ABF when early morning flight.
- flight ticket(s) as mentioned in the itinerary.
 - Flight from Hanoi to Hue.
 - Flight from Qui Nhon to Saigon.
- Current fuel surcharges are included, however, these are subject to change prior to tour start date.
- boat ticket(s) according to itinerary.
- ground transportation in private A/C vehicle (complimentary cold towels and drinking water).
- sightseeing incl. admissions fees according to itinerary.
- accommodation in hotels as mentioned above or equivalent.

EXCLUDED SERVICES:

- international and domestic airport tax.
- visa fees, drinks, personal expenses. ** Visa Procedures: Vietnam

