

A TASTE OF VIETNAM

Ho Chi Minh, Cu Chi, Cai Be, Hue, Hoi An, Da Nang, Hanoi, Ha Long
9 Days 8 Nights
Land Only



All images are provided courtesy of Vietnam Airlines Canada

DAY 1 HO CHI MINH – CU CHI – HO CHI MINH

Welcome to Vietnam!

Upon your arrival at the Tan Son Nhat International Airport, you will be greeted and transferred to your hotel.

In the afternoon, you will depart on an excursion to the **Cu Chi Tunnels**. These tunnels were an important Vietcong base during the War. Stretching over 200 km, this incredible underground network, dug by hand out of hard laterite, connected command posts, hospitals, shelters and weapon factories. Today, you can walk through the area and learn about the day-to-day life of the Vietcong, see the cleverly disguised entrances and elaborate booby-traps, and even venture inside the tunnels, some of which have been modified to accommodate tourists.

Transfer back to your hotel in Ho Chi Minh City at the end of your tour.

Accommodation: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh for 2 Nights

DAY 2 HO CHI MINH – CAI BE – HO CHI MINH (B, L)

Breakfast will be served in your hotel.

Depart from Ho Chi Minh City in the morning and drive into the heart of the Mekong Delta. Arrive in the town of Cai Be and board a local boat to explore the **Cai Be Floating Market**, a lively market of fruit and vegetable barges with a picturesque **Catholic cathedral** on the riverside. You will then travel along smaller waterways and canals, stopping at the Mekong River Islands to visit orchards and local cottage industries. Enjoy watching how the delta residents make traditional treats such as dried longans, rice pancakes and puffed rice candies.

You will also have the chance to sample these local delicacies. Your tour will end at Vinh Long, where you will disembark and travel by vehicle back to Ho Chi Minh City.



DAY 3 HO CHI MINH – HUE (B)

Breakfast will be served in your hotel. Check out of your hotel in the morning and transfer to the Airport to board your flight to Hue.

Flight: VN1372 at 9:10, est. arrival 10:30



Arrive in Hue and depart on your city tour. Hue served as the capital of Vietnam for more than 140 years and houses ancient temples, imperial buildings and French-style edifices. Today you will visit the **Imperial Tomb of Emperor Khai Dinh**, located on the slopes of Chau E Mountain in Chau Chau Village. You will then take a walking tour of the **Old Imperial City**; a vast complex built in the early 19th century and modeled after the Forbidden City of Beijing. You will approach the city past the striking Flag Tower, where a giant Vietnamese flag waves proudly overhead, before passing through the imposing **Ngo Mon Gate**. Once inside the city you will visit **Dien Tho Palace**, **Thai Hoa Palace**, the **Halls of the Mandarins** and the original **Nine Dynastic Urns**. You will end your tour with a visit to the **Hue Royal Antiquities Museum** before you transfer to your hotel.

Spend the rest of the day at leisure.

Accommodation: Hotel in Hue for 1 Night

DAY 4 HUE – DANANG – HOI AN (B, L)

Breakfast will be served in your hotel.

After breakfast, transfer to the banks of the Perfume River, where you will depart on a **boat cruise**. Your first stop will be at **Dong Ba Market**, where you will shop for the necessary ingredients you will need for your cooking class. You will also visit **Thien Mu Pagoda** before you re-board your boat and continue on to **Thuy Bieu Village**. It is here that you will begin your cooking class. Today you will learn to cook a number of Vietnamese dishes under the supervision of a local chef. You will then enjoy lunch, sampling the dishes you have prepared. After lunch there will be some time to relax and explore the village before you travel back to Hue. You will then travel by vehicle from Hue to Hoi An, travelling over the dramatic **Hai Van Pass** and **Lang Co Beach**. You will then make a stop at the Cham Museum in Danang before arriving at your hotel.



Accommodation: Hotel in Hoi an for 2 Night

DAY 5 HOI AN (B)

Breakfast will be served in your hotel.

Today you will tour the exquisitely preserved **merchant town of Hoi An**, which was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999. The best way to explore the town is on foot, and your tour today will start with a visit to the bustling Central Market and the nearby Harbour. You will also visit a local Family Chapel and a traditional Chinese-style Pagoda before visiting the **Sa Huynh Museum**, which contains exhibits from the earliest period of the town's history. You will then visit a handicraft workshop before arriving at the famous **Japanese Covered Bridge Pagoda**. In the afternoon you will depart on a cruise down the Thu Bon River, where you will stop to visit a local Pottery Village as well as a Woodcarving Village. Return to your hotel at the end of your tour.

DAY 6 HOI AN – DANANG – HANOI (B)

After breakfast, you will be transferred from Hoi An to Danang Airport to board your flight to Hanoi.

****Flight: VN162 at 9:00, est. arrival 10:20****



Upon arrival, start your tour at the **Temple of Literature**, a peaceful series of walled courtyards and graceful gateways, this monument is one of the best-preserved examples of traditional Vietnamese architecture. Founded in 1070 and dedicated to Confucius, this was also the site of Vietnam's first university. You will then stroll through the nearby park to visit **Ho Chi Minh's Stilt House** and the **One Pillar Pagoda**. You will then travel by electric car to **Hoan Kiem Lake**, also known as Sword Lake, a natural freshwater lake in the city. You will also visit **Quan Su Pagoda**, **Hang Gai Street**, also known as the "Silk Street" of Hanoi, **Hanoi Railway Station**, Hoa Lo Prison, which was more known as the "Hanoi Hilton", and the **Hanoi Opera House**.

Check in to your hotel at the end of your tour.

Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi for 1 Night

DAY 7 HANOI – HA LONG (B)

After breakfast in your hotel, depart from Hanoi in the morning and travel by vehicle to HaLong. Along the way you will visit **Phat Tich Pagoda**, which dates back to the 7th century, and **Do Temple**.

Arrive in HaLong and check in to your hotel. Spend the rest of the day at leisure.

Accommodation: Hotel in Ha Long for 1 Night



DAY 8 HA LONG – HANOI (B, L)

After breakfast in your hotel, transfer to the pier and depart on a cruise on board a traditional wooden junk through **HaLong Bay**. The cruise will take you past many of HaLong Bay's stunning natural rock formations, many of which have names including Stone Dog, Incense Burner (Dinh Huong) and Fighting Cock (Ga Choi). A buffet lunch will be served on board. You will also visit two grottoes, Thien Cung (Heavenly Residence Grotto) and Dau Go (Driftwood Grotto) before returning to HaLong pier.

Arrive back at the pier and travel by vehicle back to Hanoi, where you will spend the night.

Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi for 1 Night

DAY 9 HANOI – DEPARTURE (B)

Breakfast will be served. Enjoy your time at leisure until departure.

Transfer to the airport where you will board your return flight back to Canada.

B – BREAKFAST
L – LUNCH

TOUR PRICE PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY – MINIMUM 2 PEOPLE

Daily Departure 1 July - 30 Sep 2015 LAND ONLY	min. 2 Guests	3 - 6 Guests	7 - 9 Guests	10 - 14 Guests	15 - 19 Guests	20 -25 Guests	26 + Guests	Single Supplement
3 - 4 Stars Hotel	1736	1736	1648	1648	1530	1530	1412	412

HOTEL BLACKOUT DATES MAY APPLY.
TOUR PRICE IS NOT VALID FOR PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
ALL PRICES ARE IN CANADIAN DOLLARS AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

Your Tour Package Includes:

- Air tickets (Domestic routine): Ho Chi Minh to Hue/ Da Nang to Hanoi
- Land tour transportation with air conditioned coach.
- Hotel accommodation with twin sharing and breakfast daily.
- Meals as per itinerary.
- Admission tickets to sightseeing spots per itinerary.
- English speaking guide
- Two bottle of fresh water per passenger per day (Complimentary)
- One group picture per passenger (Complimentary)
- Special gift per passenger (Complimentary)

Your Tour Package Does NOT Include:

- International Airfare from Canada to Vietnam
- Any applicable weekend and other surcharges imposed by airlines.
- Any taxes, airport fees and fuel surcharge.
- Travel insurance, Travel Visa and all personal expenses.
- Tipping and gratuities to local guides, drivers, and hotel staff.
- Any items not specified as included.