



Classical Vietnam

17 Days

Fully Inclusive from the UK

See Vietnam in style. Staying at deluxe hotels, some with historic origins and built at the turn of the century. This tour re-lives the ambiance of a time long gone and the slower paced itinerary allows plenty of time to soak in the atmosphere of this ever-changing country.

Fully Inclusive price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals (excluding drinks)
- Touring with Guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK passport holders

Welcome to Wendy Wu Tours

Vietnam continues to amaze, fascinate and thrill our passengers, many of whom have travelled to one country in Asia with us, then another, year after year. We urge you to keep in mind all the rewards, as well as challenges of travelling in a country with a history, culture and attitude so unlike your own.

A typical day's sightseeing may include the bustle and noise of a city street, sights and smells of a local market and interacting with the locals. Travelling in Vietnam requires patience and potential delays are to be expected due to standards of service. There is a low level of English spoken throughout Vietnam, so your local guides or National Escort will be indispensable during your trip.

Almost everything will be different to what you may be used to. We have found that our passengers who embark with a sense of humour and adventure, who accept that things do not always go to plan, are those who find their experience most rewarding. It is essential that all passengers recognize the demands of factors such as basic facilities and cultural differences they may encounter in some areas.

Book now on **0844 499 3899** visit www.wendywutours.co.uk or see your preferred travel agent.

Your Tour Dossier

This document is designed to be read in conjunction with the other pre-departure information provided by Wendy Wu Tours including the tour itinerary as described in our brochure and/or website. It aims to provide a straightforward description of the physical activities involved in sightseeing or travelling during the tour.

If there are any particular challenges, from the length of time spent on your feet, the length of drives and flights, to the standard of remote accommodation; they will be explained here.

All passengers must read this document to ensure the itinerary is suitable for their interests and physical capabilities. This is not your final itinerary and therefore does not mention all the sites visited.



Classical Vietnam - Comfortable Paced Tour

These tours are accessible to most people with an average level of fitness and normal mobility. They involve sightseeing on foot, some climbing of stairs and getting on and off boats throughout the tour.

Of course our local guides always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance, but they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. If you do have mobility difficulties, please contact us for our range of private tours which are more flexible and can better cater for individual needs.

N.B Please note that times and distances listed in the tour dossier are approximate.

Day 1-2: UK to Saigon

Fly overnight from the UK to Saigon. On day 2, 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 approx. 45mins to your hotel and check-in to your rooms. There is no sightseeing today. A tour introduction will be held in the hotel later today or tomorrow morning. There will be no 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: Saigon

Sightseeing in downtown Saigon and the Cholon district involves approx. 4hrs on foot over the whole day. Watch your valuables while in market area. There are some graphic images in the War Remnants Museum, which some people may find confronting.

Day 4: Mekong Delta day trip (My Tho)

We have an early rise this morning to drive approx. 2hrs (80km) to the city of My Tho, where we will pick up the local Mekong Guide then continue for a further 5mins to the docks. You will travel by motorised, wooden boat 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 on foot across the islands. Approx. 2hrs later, return to the docks and transfer back to Saigon.

Day 5: Cu Chi Tunnels/Tay Ninh

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

N.B: At the Cu Chi Tunnels you will be given the opportunity to shoot a range of guns (example AK47, M16). If you decide to do this, please be aware that the level of noise is extremely high and although ear muffs are available, they may not provide the level of protection required. It is recommended you bring ear plugs from home if you would like to participate.

Day 6: Saigon/Nha Trang

Drive approx. 45mins to Danang Airport for the morning flight to Nha Trang (flight duration 1hr 10mins). Drive approx. 25mins from the airport to your hotel and check-in. Sightseeing at the Cham Towers involves approx. 30mins of walking over uneven ground and steps.

Day 7: Nha Trang

You will need to be able to board your group's boat sometimes without handrails, ladders or assistance from staff. This could also involve climbing over and through other boats, moored between it and the dock. These 'cruise boats' are old fishing boats which have had benches and seats fitted for tourist groups. They are quite basic but have ample room for our group to sit and relax while cruising. The deck has a roof providing shade. We will return to the hotel in the mid afternoon.

Day 8: Nha Trang/Hoi An

Transfer to the airport for a morning flight to Danang (flight duration 1hr 45mins); the closest airport to Hoi An. Enjoy some easy sightseeing in Danang at the Cham Museum and China Beach en-route. At the Marble Mountains there are a number of uneven stone steps up and it can get 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 may descend on the other side of Marble Mountain and re-board the coach there. There are marble workshops at the bottom of the stairs. Watch your step inside dark and damp caves.

Day 9: Hoi An

Leisurely sightseeing around the Old Town of Hoi An involves approx. 2hrs on foot. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Day 10: Hoi An/Hue

Drive approx. 3.5hrs (135km) over the Hai Van (*Cloudy*) Pass to Hue. This is a winding and sometimes steep but scenic road along the coast. In Hue, sightseeing at the Citadel involves approx. 1.5hrs on foot through the palace complex – it can get hot here and often rains in the afternoon, so you may need sun and/or rain protection. Transfer approx. 20mins to the hotel.

Day 11: Hue

There is easy sightseeing this morning around Hue, involving approx. 3hrs on foot. There are steep and uneven steps without handrails at the Thien Mu Pagoda and 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. There are steep and uneven steps without handrails at the Tomb of Tu Duc.

Day 12: Hue/Hanoi

Easy sightseeing at the Dong Ba markets this morning – watch your valuables while in the market area. Transfer approx. 30mins to the airport for an afternoon flight to Hanoi (flight duration 1hr). From Noi Bai airport, transfer approx. 1hr to the hotel and check-in.

Day 13: Hanoi

Easy sightseeing in central Hanoi involves approx. 4hrs on foot at the Ho Chi Minh 'quarter', Temple of Literature and the Old Quarter. Please note that the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum is closed from 11am each day and from Sep-Dec, so you may not be able to enter it. However, if you do enter it, both men and women must dress respectfully with covered shoulders and knees. You must also be quiet, show respect and you will not be allowed to carry cameras, mobile phones, etc (usually your Local Guide will offer to hold these for you).

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

Day 14: Halong Bay overnight Junk Boat

This morning, drive approx. 3.5hrs (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 maximum for overnight) passengers, have an enclosed dining area and open deck on the upper deck. We have lunch and dinner on-board and cruise around the bay. We anchor the night in Halong Bay.

N.B: Itinerary in Halong Bay is subject to change due to local conditions.

Day 15: Halong Bay/Hanoi

Continue cruising and after an early lunch, return to docks and drive back to Hanoi through the striking Red River Delta.

Day 16: Depart Hanoi

Transfer from your hotel to Hanoi Airport for your overnight flight to the UK. Depending on your chosen airline, some flights to the UK will arrive the same day, day 16, whereas others will arrive the following day, day 17.

Day 17: UK

Arrive home.

Land Only

If you are travelling on a land only basis, you will need to make your own way to the starting hotel in Saigon Day 2 and end the tour on Day 16 in Hanoi, continuing as per your own arrangements.

Please refer to the Wendy Wu Tours brochure and/or website for details on departure dates, prices, itineraries, inclusions and tour extensions available as well as full booking conditions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Before You Leave

Itinerary Changes - The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in Vietnam are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your Local Guide or National Escort will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Roads in Vietnam have generally been improved over recent years, but some road construction and/or weather conditions may still lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day to day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

- Vietnam Airlines' domestic flights are subject to frequent changes. For this reason we have indicated morning, afternoon or evening flights only. Your Local guide or National Escort will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them.

Visas - A visa is required for entry into Vietnam. A standard visa processing service is included in your tour cost. We will require your passport, completed visa application form, and 1 passport photo, taken within the last 6 months, to process your visa. We will require all this information 8 weeks prior to departure. As per our standard visa processing service, we will have your passport for at least 4 weeks. In rare cases you may be required to provide further information or documentation to the Vietnamese Embassy and or be required to attend an interview at the embassy in London. If this is the case we will notify you as soon as possible.

Vaccinations and Your Health - We recommend that you contact either your local GP or a travel doctor for advice on vaccinations and travel health. www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk is a comprehensive website that you may also find useful.

Climate - Please refer to our website or brochure for detailed temperature charts.

Book now on **0844 499 3899** visit www.wendywutours.co.uk or see your preferred travel agent.

Insurance - It is a condition of booking with us that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurers and their 24 hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

What to Expect on Tour

Development - Although Vietnam is developing, it still lacks international standards of civil infrastructure and therefore tourist facilities. For example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade; concepts of personal responsibility are different to those in the UK. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in the UK. However, all of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense as well as refer to notices and follow advice from your National Escort/Local Guides.

Group Size - All our group tours are guaranteed to run subject to a minimum number of 8 travellers and a National Escort will accompany each group of over 10. The maximum group size varies depending on the tour, but is usually no more than 22 passengers.

Accommodation - Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Vietnam. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

Meals - All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our fully inclusive group tours from the groups' arrival until the day of departure. Our schedule of meals is designed so that you can experience the local dishes, their individual flavours as well as the different ways they are prepared and cooked throughout Vietnam.

Tipping - As with most countries, tipping is a way of life in Vietnam. For our passengers' convenience we ask for a compulsory amount to be paid at the beginning of our group tours to cover tipping for guides, drivers, restaurant staff etc. Approximate tipping amounts can be found in our brochure and/or website; however exact tipping amounts will be stated in your final documentation pack.

Optional Extras - Our tours are planned to be as fully inclusive as possible. However, from time-to-time your National Escort or Local Guide may suggest optional tours/sightseeing in addition to the standard sightseeing planned for that city. Such options are at an additional cost, with prices ranging from US\$20-US\$50 per person (payable in local currency). If you do not wish to take part in any optional extras, you will have the option of enjoying some free time at leisure or to return to the hotel.

After Your Booking

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application form, help sheet, and a Indochina travel guide. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approx. 2 weeks prior to departure, and will include a travel wallet, badge, lanyard, suggested packing list and a phrase book, along with your final itinerary and international etickets.

Last Updated July 2011