



Vietnam at Glance

Vietnam at a Glance

12 Days

Fully Inclusive from the UK

Discover the best of Vietnam from the Mekong Delta in the south to Halong Bay in the north. Combined with a relaxing stay in the charming UNESCO listed town of Hoi An and a visit to the bustling cities of Saigon, Hue and Hanoi; this is an excellent action-packed two week tour.

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



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.

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.

Vietnam at a Glance - 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.

This is the easiest pace of tour that 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.

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

Days 1-2: UK/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 (45 minutes) to your hotel and check-in to your room. There is no sightseeing today.

Day 3: Saigon

Sightseeing in downtown Saigon involves approx. 4hrs on foot over the whole day. Visit the Notre Dame Cathedral, the Central Post Office and the War Remnants Museum. There are graphic pictures in the War Remnants Museum that some people might find upsetting. Easy sightseeing and shopping time at Ben Thanh Market; watch your valuables in this area.

Day 4: Saigon – Mekong Delta

Rise early to drive 2 hours (80km) to the city of Ben Tre. You will travel by motorised, wooden boats between the islands and then change to smaller, paddle boats in the canals. Sightseeing involves hopping on and off these boats, often on unsteady and slippery surfaces, sometimes without handrails or assistance. Approx. 2hrs later, you will return to Saigon, stopping at the Vinh Trang Pagoda en-route.

Day 5: Saigon – Cu Chi & Tay Ninh

Remember to take insect repellent today as mosquitoes are more common in the Cu Chi district. Transfer 2 hours (70km) to Cu Chi. Sightseeing here involves 2 hours on foot on

uneven mud paths through the bush and, if you choose, crawling through some of the tunnels.

Transfer 1.5 hours to Tay Ninh to the 'Holy See' and watch some of the Cao Dai service. Then drive 10 minutes to a local restaurant for lunch; the meal is simple but this is the only suitable restaurant in the area. Transfer 3 hours (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 to Hoi An

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Danang (flight duration 1 hour); the closest airport to Hoi An. There is easy sightseeing at Danang Beach. At Marble Mountains there are some uneven stone steps and it can get hot. If you are unable to complete this activity, you will have to remain with the driver/coach. Transfer 45 minutes to the hotel in Hoi An and check-in. There will be a At least 2 hours on foot around Hoi An Old Town.

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

Day 7: Hoi An - Tra Que

Take a short drive to Tra Que village, known for providing local herbs and vegetables to local businesses. Next have the choice of going to Cua Dai Beach or returning back to the town of Hoi An for an afternoon of leisure.

Day 8: Hoi An to Hue

Drive north for approx. 4hrs (140km) over the Hai Van (Cloudy) Pass to Hue. This is a winding and steep but scenic road along the coast. Take a cyclo to the Imperial Citadel. Each cyclo takes 1 passenger and is operated by a cycle driver behind the carriage. There is 2hrs of easy sightseeing at the Citadel, which is mainly in the open so remember your hat/sunscreen etc.

Day 9: Hue to Hanoi

Sightseeing around Hue involves approx. 2hrs on foot, including 1 hour at Minh Mang tomb and 1 hour of easy walking around the city. Afterwards spend 45 minutes at the Thien Mu Pagoda. Transfer to Hue airport for your flight to Hanoi (flight duration 1hr). Transfer (1 hour drive) to the hotel and check-in.

Day 10: Hanoi

Both men and women must dress respectfully for the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, with covered shoulders and knees. When visiting the Mausoleum you must be quiet and show respect. Cameras and mobile phones are not allowed. The Mausoleum is closed from September to December. If you are travelling during this time you will view the Mausoleum from the outside. Sightseeing in central Hanoi involves approx. 4hrs on foot.

[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: Hanoi – Halong Bay

Drive 3.5 hours (170km) to Halong City and port, including a 20 minute rest stop. There is usually a crowd of boats at the docks; however the cruise itself will be scenic and relaxing.

Boarding your junk boat could involve navigating your way over and through other boats, moored between it and the dock, sometimes without handrails, ladders or assistance from staff. The junk boats have been modelled on the traditional 'junk' which was both home and working vessel for fishermen for centuries. They usually hold about 20 dining passengers (or 18 maximum overnight), have an enclosed dining area and an open deck on the upper deck. Enjoy a 4 hour cruise including lunch on board. Return to the dock and drive back to Hanoi.

[NB: Your Halong Bay cruise may be affected by local weather conditions. Please refer to the 'Itinerary Changes' section. 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: Hanoi /UK

You will be transferred from the hotel to the airport, according to the departure time of your international flight. Transfer from your hotel to Hanoi airport, for your overnight flight back to the UK. Depending on your chosen airline, some flights to the UK will arrive on Day 12, whereas others will arrive the following day.

Land Only

If you are travelling on a land only basis, then you will need to make your own way to the starting hotel in Saigon on Day 2. On Day 12, you will checkout from your Hanoi hotel, and continue 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.

1. 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.
2. The Halong Bay Authorities are taking extra precautions to ensure the safety of all passengers cruising around Halong Bay. Weather conditions such as mist, fog, wind, rain and storms may delay the departure time of your cruise, or in some cases your cruise may be cancelled. Notifications of any delays or cancellations may not be known until your group's arrival in Halong Bay. If your cruise is cancelled after your arrival in Halong Bay, you will have lunch in Halong City and return to Hanoi. If notification of the cruise cancellation is given prior to your departure for Halong Bay an alternative day trip will be arranged to Hoa Lu and Tam Coc or 'Halong Bay on Land', an area located approx. 2hrs from Hanoi. Our guides will make every effort to inform the group at the earliest possible moment should there be any itinerary changes.

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.

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 insurer, policy number 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.

Luggage- All clients are limited to two items of luggage each; a suitcase with a maximum weight of 20kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of 5kg. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that local authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage may be confiscated.

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.

Seatbelts - Please note that seatbelts are not compulsory by law in Vietnam and therefore the Vietnamese people largely choose not to wear them. For this reason some vehicles may not be fitted with seatbelts or they may be hidden underneath protective seat covers. It is recommended that where seatbelts are available customers must use them and remain seated at all times whilst the vehicle is moving. If you have any concerns, please notify your National Escort or Local Guide.

Traffic in Vietnam- Roads in Vietnam have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road – not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections above are approximations only.

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 28 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 to four 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 assure that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

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 on your invoice.

Exchanging Cash - It is highly recommended that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money when travelling outside major cities in Vietnam. US Dollars are easily exchanged throughout Vietnam, however other currencies such as British Sterling can generally be exchanged in hotels and airports provided notes are new and undamaged. US Dollars should be from the new series from the year 2003 onwards. Old series notes can be difficult to exchange, apart from in some national banks in Vietnam, such as Vietcombank. We suggest for your convenience that you ensure your US Dollars are from the new series to avoid any difficulties exchanging money during your trip. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to remote areas and smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be limited. Your National Escort will remind you to do this before departure.

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.

Personal Expenses- You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of £150 per week should be sufficient; however for those that can't resist a bargain, consider allocating a higher amount.

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 and a help sheet. 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.

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