



Vietnam Impressions Private

Vietnam Impressions Private 10 Days Inclusive from the UK

Enjoy a snapshot of the main sights in the three main cities of Vietnam in once concise tour. This concentrated itinerary visits Hanoi, Hoi An and Saigon and captures the varied faces of the country bringing to life the beauty of its scenery, the depth of its history and the vibrancy of its people.

Inclusive price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Meals as stated (excluding drinks)
- Touring with Local 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 Impressions Private Tour – Comfortable Pace

Our private tours are accessible to everyone. This tour will involve sightseeing on foot, some climbing of stairs and getting on and off boats throughout the tour.

This tour is not strenuous, and can be taken at the pace, and according to the abilities of passengers travelling in your party. If any member of your party has mobility difficulties, please advise Wendy Wu Tours, so that our operators can be made aware, and may rearrange the itinerary to suit your needs. If at any point during the tour you feel you are being rushed, or not moving fast enough, please let your Local Guide know, so that they may adjust the touring accordingly and provide you with the best experience possible. Similarly, as you are travelling on a private basis, if you would like to change the touring, dates, timings, please speak to your reservations consultant, prior to travelling, or speak to your Local Guide whilst on tour.

NB: Please note that times and distances listed in the tour dossier are approximate.

Days 1-2: UK/Hanoi

On Day 2, you will be met at Hanoi Airport in the arrivals hall by your Local Guide from Wendy Wu Tours. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer (1 hour drive) to your hotel and check-into your room. There is no sightseeing today.

No Meals

Day 3: Hanoi

Sightseeing in central Hanoi involves approx. 4hrs on foot. You will visit the Ho Chi Minh complex, the Temple of Literature and the Hanoi Old Quarter. This evening, watch a Water Puppet show.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

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

Day 4: 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.

Breakfast and Lunch

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

Day 5: Hanoi to Hoi An

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Danang (flight duration 1 hour), the closest airport to Hoi An. 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. Afterwards, transfer 45 minute drive to the hotel in Hoi An. Tonight enjoy a cooking demonstration on how to make some of the region's specialities; dine on the results

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

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

Day 6: Hoi An

At least 2 hours on foot around Hoi An Old Town. We will visit one of Hanoi's oldest houses as well as the Hoi An Market, Quan Cong Chinese Temple and the Japanese Covered Bridge. The afternoon is free at your leisure.

Breakfast

Day 7: Hoi An to Saigon

Transfer back to Danang airport for your flight to Saigon (flight duration 1 hour).

[NB: Check-out time in Vietnam is midday so your group's rooms are unlikely to be available. This morning you will commence sightseeing and check-in at your hotel later.]

Sightseeing around downtown involves approx. 4hrs on foot and you will visit the Notre Dame Cathedral, Central Post Office, Reunification Palace 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.

Breakfast and Lunch

Day 8: 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.

Breakfast and Lunch

Day 9-10: Cu Chi Tunnels – Depart Saigon

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

Sightseeing 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.]

Depending on your chosen airline, you may arrive home later today or tomorrow.

Breakfast and Lunch

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 Hanoi on Day 2. On Day 9, you will checkout from your Saigon 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 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 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 approximately 2 hours 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 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 while 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.

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. Please enquire with our reservations team if you wish to upgrade to 4* or 5* accommodation.

Tipping – As with most countries, tipping is a way of life in Indochina. For private tours we recommend an amount of US \$7-10 per person per day for tipping to be distributed amongst drivers, restaurants, guides etc. This amount is at your own discretion.

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 - 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. Please note not all meals are included. Please check the itinerary to see which meals are included.

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. Please note also to take extra money for meals which are not included in the above itinerary.

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.