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Absolute Vietnam Package Tour 19 days / 18 nights

Ho Chi Minh city - Tay Ninh/ Cu Chi - Me Kong delta - Da Lat - Nha Trang - Hoi An/ My Son - Hue - Hanoi - Hoa Lu/ Tam Coc - Hanoi - Sapa - Halong bay - Hanoi

Day 1: Saigon Arrival

Arrive in Saigon, where your tour guide will accompany you from the airport to your hotel. The rest of the day you are free to enjoy at your leisure.

Day 2 (B/L): Saigon - City Tour

A full day tour of the city begins with a visit to the Thien Hau Temple before continuing to the lively Binh Tay Market. See the incredible display of fresh produce on offer and enjoy the eclectic array of goods that are on sale. After lunch, visit the War Remnants or History Museum and the former Presidential Palace. From there, the Notre Dame Cathedral, Old Saigon Post Office, Dong Khoi Street (formerly Rue Catinat), Continental Hotel, Opera House and City Hall are all a short walk away.

Day 3 (B/L): Saigon - Tay Ninh - Cu Chi tunnels - Saigon

Enjoy a morning drive through typical southern Vietnamese countryside to Tay Ninh Province in the west of Vietnam to visit the Cao Dai Great Temple. After lunch in a local restaurant, visit the famous Cu Chi Tunnels, an incredible underground tunnel network constructed by Vietnamese resistance fighters during the struggle for independence. You will return to Saigon later in the afternoon.

Day 4 (B/L): Saigon - Mekong delta - Saigon

In the morning, leave Saigon for the Mekong Delta town of Cai Be, where you will board the Cai Be Princess boat for a tour of the Delta. Proceed to visit some local cottage industries before continuing to Dong Phu, Binh Hoa Phuong and Anh Binh; these evergreen islands on the Mekong River combine large networks of meandering rivers, crossed with countless arroyos.

Lunch will await you at a superb colonial style villa located in a quaint village before boarding the boat once again for a tour of the landscapes along the river. After crossing the Co Chien, the boat will dock and from where you will head back to Saigon by road.



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Day 5 (B): Saigon - Da Lat

Transfer to Saigon's domestic airport for your flight to Dalat. Established as a hill station at the beginning of the century, Dalat's French chalets and pine forests are more reminiscent of an alpine village than a town in Southeast Asia. An afternoon of sightseeing in Dalat takes in the art deco former summer residence of Emperor Bao Dai, the old Dalat Railway Station, Xuan Huong Lake, the Central Market and Lam Ty Ni Pagoda where a Buddhist monk, Vien Thuc, produces abstract paintings and writes poetry.

Day 6 (B): Da Lat - Phan Rang - Nha Trang

Leaving for Nha Trang after breakfast, you will visit the 13th century Po Klong Jarai Cham Towers perched high on a rocky hill surrounded by prickly pear cacti. After Phan Rang, travel through vivid green rice fields and salt ponds to Nha Trang, where an afternoon tour of the city includes the Po Nagar Cham Towers and Long Son Pagoda with its enormous white Buddha statue.

Day 7 (B, L): Nha Trang

A morning boat trip on Nha Trang Bay visits some of the nearby islands where you will have the opportunity to swim and snorkel in the clear warm waters. After a fresh seafood lunch, return to shore. In the afternoon, explore Nha Trang at your own pace.

Day 8 (B): Nha Trang - Hoi An

Transfer to Nha Trang's domestic airport for your flight to Danang. From here transfer to Hoi An, a major Asian trading port in the 17th and 18th centuries with a relaxed lifestyle that has changed little over the years. In the afternoon, take a tour of the ancient town center to visit the homes of former merchants, the 400 year-old Japanese Covered Bridge and the exotic local market.

Day 9 (B, L): Hoi An - My Son - Tra Kieu - Hoi An

Today there is a half day trip to the capital and religious center of the former Champa Kingdom, My Son. Set in a lush green valley, dozens of red brick towers and sanctuaries dating from between the 7th and 13th centuries provide a breathtaking site. On the way back to Hoi An stop to visit Tra Kieu, formerly known as Simhapura or the Lion Citadel, that once stood as the capital of Champa between the 4th and 8th centuries.



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On returning to Hoi An, the afternoon is free to relax, browse for souvenirs in art galleries and silk shops, or maybe cycle to the nearby Cua Dai Beach.

Day 10 (B): Hoi An - Da Nang - Hue

Leave Hoi An for Hue by road, passing through Danang where you will visit the Cham museum, which holds the finest collection of Cham artwork in the country. After your visit, drive over the Pass of Ocean Clouds before dropping down to the wonderfully photogenic fishing village of Lang Co.

Then, you will reach Hue, the former imperial capital of Vietnam, to visit the ancient Forbidden City from where the Nguyen Dynasty ruled between 1802 and 1945.

Day 11 (B): Hue - Boat trip

After breakfast, take a boat trip on the romantically named Perfume River to visit Hue's best-known religious site, Thien Mu Pagoda, as well as the mausoleum of former Emperor Minh Mang. In the afternoon, visit the elaborate mausoleums of Emperors Tu Duc and Khai Dinh. Enjoy some free time in Hue to explore its small streets and the Dong Da market.

Day 12 (B): Hue - Hanoi

Transfer to Hue's airport for the short flight to Hanoi. Explore Vietnam's capital by an escorted, full-day city tour. Tree-lined boulevards, French colonial architecture, peaceful lakes and oriental temples make for a unique blend of east and west in this beautiful city. The tour includes such sites as Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, the One Pillar Pagoda and the Temple of Literature.

In the afternoon, visit the museum of Ethnology. In the evening, enjoy a traditional Vietnamese water puppet show with traditional music.

Day 13 (B/L : Hanoi - Hoa Lu/Tam Coc - Hanoi

Leave Hanoi for rural northern Vietnam and the site of the county's first capital, Hoa Lu. After visiting the two remaining sanctuaries of the ancient citadel, take a sampan (traditional boat) on the river through rice paddies to the grottoes of the sacred Tam Coc Caves. Enormous limestone karsts jut out from the green rice fields giving rise to this place's other name, 'Inland Halong bay'.

Day 14 (B): Hanoi - Traditional Villages - Night train to Sapa



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Today, you will have a visit to Bat Trang ceramic village. After that you'll see Dong Ho traditional paper village, where 'giay do' paper is produced and painted. All the paper is made by hand and some still in the traditional method using only natural products. Then a visit to the But Thap old pagoda.

In the afternoon visit Dong Ky wood village, where furniture inlaid with mother of pearl is made. Return to Hanoi before boarding the night train to Lao Cai (Sapa, North-western Vietnam).

Day 15 (B/L): Sapa

You will arrive at Lao Cai train station in the early morning. From Lao Cai the road winds up the terraced hillsides to Sapa, a former French hill resort and home to some of Vietnam's most diverse ethnic groups.

On arrival in Sapa, you will be transferred to your hotel for breakfast and the chance to freshen up. A morning walking tour of Sapa visits the busy market, whilst the afternoon visit features some nearby hill tribe villages.

Day 16 (B): Sapa - Hanoi

In the morning enjoy a light trek to discover Sapa's lesser-known areas. Have the chance to enjoy the breathtaking scenery of mountain rice terraces, waterfalls and buffalo at work. Crossing rivers by suspended bridges you will witness people toiling the fields in Vietnam's traditional way before a free afternoon discover Sapa by yourself. Return to Lao Cai for the onward journey back to Hanoi by overnight train.

Day 17 (B/L/D): Hanoi - Halong bay

On arrival at Hanoi train station, you will be served breakfast before heading to Halong Bay. Enjoy the great scenery of the surrounding farmlands of the Red River Delta including rice fields, water buffalo and everyday Vietnamese village life.

On arrival in Halong, you will board the luxury Indochina Sail cruise. Halong Bay covers an area of 1,500 km over which thousands of limestone islands and grottoes rise from the clear emerald waters of the Gulf of Bac Bo. Climbing the steps up to the top of Titop islet will enable you to see breathtaking views over the entire bay. If you prefer kayaking, bathing or simply soaking in the sun then feel free to do so with a massage service and bar available on board. At night, the boat anchors away from the crowds at the Bay, enabling you to enjoy the quietness and romance of the region under the stars!

Day 18 (B): Halong bay - Hanoi



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After a night on board the Indochina Sail, wake up early and see daylight filtering through the mist and towering rock formations, leaving you with a dream-like memory of your visit to Halong Bay. Enjoy a breakfast and perhaps join a Tai Chi class on the boat's deck. Transfer by tender to Surprising Cave. Walk up the 100 steps to the entrance of the cave and tour on foot for approximately 45 minutes. Cruise back to the harbor. Drive back to Hanoi

Day 19 (B): Hanoi Departure

Today is departure day. Enjoy some free time for last purchases or simply relax before the transfer to Hanoi's Noi Bai Airport and your onward flight.

Includes:

- Accommodation at selected hotels.
- Tours, transfers and all services as mentioned in the itinerary.
- Services of a driver and Private air-conditioned vehicles during all tours and transfers.
- Services of an English speaking guide during all tours and transfers.
- Entrance fees for all sights visited.
- Breakfast, Lunch or dinner if mentioned in itinerary with (B,L,D)
- Three domestic flights: Saigon - Dalat; Nha Trang - Da Nang; Hue - Hanoi.

Excludes:

- International flights to and from Vietnam
- Meals other than those mentioned above
- Personal expenses such as laundry, telephone, drinks etc....
- Tips
- Personal insurance
- Any domestic flights not mentioned

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