

Earthbound Expeditions

Classic Vietnam Tour

14 days, from US$0 per person

Duration	Group size	Country
14 days	**15 people**	**Vietnam**

Classic Vietnam Tour Overview

Vietnam, formally the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, is the easternmost country on the Indochina Peninsula in Southeast Asia.

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Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive in Ho Chi Minh City

• Arrive at Tan Son Nhat International Airport, where you are met and assisted. • Transfer to your hotel (early check-in is subject to availability). • Free time for the rest of the day. • Welcome dinner at a local restaurant. • Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

Altitude: 20 m On foot: None, arrival day Night: Hotel, Ho Chi Minh City Meals: Dinner

Day 2

Ho Chi Minh City sightseeing

• Visit the Reunification Palace. • Continue to the War Remnants Museum, which covers the history of the Vietnam War in detail. • Lunch of Vietnamese specialities. Afternoon: • Visit the Jade Emperor Pagoda. • Visit Ben Thanh Market. • Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

Altitude: 20 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Ho Chi Minh City Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 3

Mekong Delta day trip from Ho Chi Minh City

• Depart from Ho Chi Minh City. • Drive through the Mekong Delta. • At My Tho, take a boat to an island with orchards. • Take a horse-drawn cart to Quoi Son to visit a bee farm and enjoy tea and sweets. • Travel by sampan through the narrow, tree-lined canals of the Mekong Delta. • Continue by boat to a family-run business making coconut sweets. Lunch. • Return by boat to My Tho and visit Vinh Trang Pagoda, if time permits. • Return to Ho Chi Minh City by late afternoon. • Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

Altitude: 20 m On foot: Easy walking, 1–2 hrs Night: Hotel, Ho Chi Minh City Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 4

Cao Dai Temple and Cu Chi Tunnels, then fly to Danang and drive to Hoi An

• Morning excursion to the Cao Dai Temple in Tay Ninh. • Visit the Cu Chi Tunnels. • Drive back to Ho Chi Minh City in the late afternoon. • Transfer to the airport for a flight to Danang. • Drive to Hoi An. • Overnight in Hoi An.

Altitude: 5 m On foot: Easy walking, 1–2 hrs Night: Hotel, Hoi An Meals: Breakfast

Day 5

Hoi An sightseeing

• Visit the Chinese Assembly Halls, the old family houses, the Japanese Bridge and Hoi An Market. Afternoon: • Take a boat to visit the handicraft villages, which specialise in ceramics, and the boat-building yards. • Relax at Cua Dai Beach. • Overnight in Hoi An.

Altitude: 5 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Hoi An Meals: Breakfast

Day 6

Free day in Hoi An

• Free time for shopping or the beach. • See the old town lit by lanterns in the evening. • Overnight in Hoi An.

Altitude: 5 m On foot: Optional 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Hoi An Meals: Breakfast

Day 7

Drive from Hoi An to Hue

• Drive from Hoi An to Hue through green paddy fields. • Stop on the way for photographs at the top of the Hai Van Pass and at Lang Co Beach. • Visit Hue Citadel, including the Imperial City and the Forbidden City, a complex of palaces, ornate halls, libraries, residences and colleges. • Overnight in Hue.

Altitude: 10 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Hue Meals: Breakfast

Day 8

Hue sightseeing

• Morning boat trip on the Perfume River to visit Thien Mu Pagoda. • Continue by boat to Minh Mang Tomb. • Drive to Tu Duc Tomb, Khai Dinh Tomb and the Hue Kite Club, where you learn how kites are made.

Altitude: 10 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Hue Meals: Breakfast

Day 9

Fly from Hue to Hanoi

• Transfer to the airport for a flight to Hanoi. Evening: • Attend a water puppet show, a tradition dating back more than a thousand years. • Overnight in Hanoi.

Altitude: 20 m On foot: None, flight day Night: Hotel, Hanoi Meals: Breakfast

Day 10

Hanoi sightseeing

• Take a short drive to the Ho Chi Minh Complex, which includes the Mausoleum, Ho Chi Minh's former home and the One Pillar Pagoda, followed by the Temple of Literature and Hoan Kiem Lake. Afternoon: • Visit the Museum of Ethnology and take a one-hour cyclo ride around the 36 streets of Hanoi's Old Quarter. • Overnight in Hanoi.

Altitude: 20 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Hanoi Meals: Breakfast

Day 11

Drive from Hanoi to Halong Bay

• Drive 170 kilometres to Halong Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Vietnam's best-known natural landmarks. • Board a refurbished wooden junk for a cruise among the limestone cliffs and green waters of Halong Bay. • Anchor for the night near a remote island. • Overnight on the junk.

Altitude: Sea level On foot: None, 3–4 hr drive Night: Junk boat, Halong Bay Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 12

Halong Bay cruise and return to Hanoi

• Spend half a day cruising to new parts of the bay, stopping to visit colourful caves and to swim near deserted beaches. • Return to Hanoi in the late afternoon. • On the way, visit the Phu Lang or Dong Trieu ceramic village. • Overnight in Hanoi.

Altitude: 20 m On foot: Easy walking, 1–2 hrs Night: Hotel, Hanoi Meals: Breakfast

Day 13

Day trip to Hoa Lu and Tam Coc

• Depart for Hoa Lu, the former capital of ancient Vietnam. • Take a sampan through the karst landscape to visit the Tam Coc caves. • Leave the sampans and visit Thai Vy, a small temple built in the 13th century. • Lunch is served at Thai Vy Temple. • Continue to Hoa Lu, the capital of the Dinh and Early Le dynasties in the 10th and 11th centuries. • Drive back to Hanoi in the afternoon. • Overnight in Hanoi.

Altitude: 20 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Hanoi Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 14

Departure from Hanoi

• Free time. • Transfer to Noi Bai Airport for your flight home.

Altitude: 20 m On foot: None, departure day Night: No overnight Meals: Breakfast

What's included

- Accommodation with breakfast at the hotels in the hotel list, or similar.
- Private transfers as per the programme.
- Local English-speaking guide.
- Meals as stated.
- Shared junk cruise in Halong Bay.
- Train ticket Hanoi to Lao Cai to Hanoi (in a sleeper cabin shared with another group).
- All boat trips as per the programme.
- All entrance fees.
- Two bottles of mineral water per person per sightseeing day.

Not included

- All international air tickets and international airport taxes.
- Vietnam visa on arrival ($25 per person).
- Domestic economy class air tickets (Saigon to Danang and Hue to Hanoi).
- Early check-in and late check-out at hotels.
- Meals not mentioned in the programme.
- Drinks with meals.
- Travel insurance.
- Personal expenses and anything not mentioned above.
- Optional visits.
- Gala dinners.
- New Year's Eve.
- Lunar New Year's Eve.
- Christmas Eve and similar occasions.

Photos, videos and reviews of this trip: earthbound.rajansimkhada.com/classic-vietnam-tour