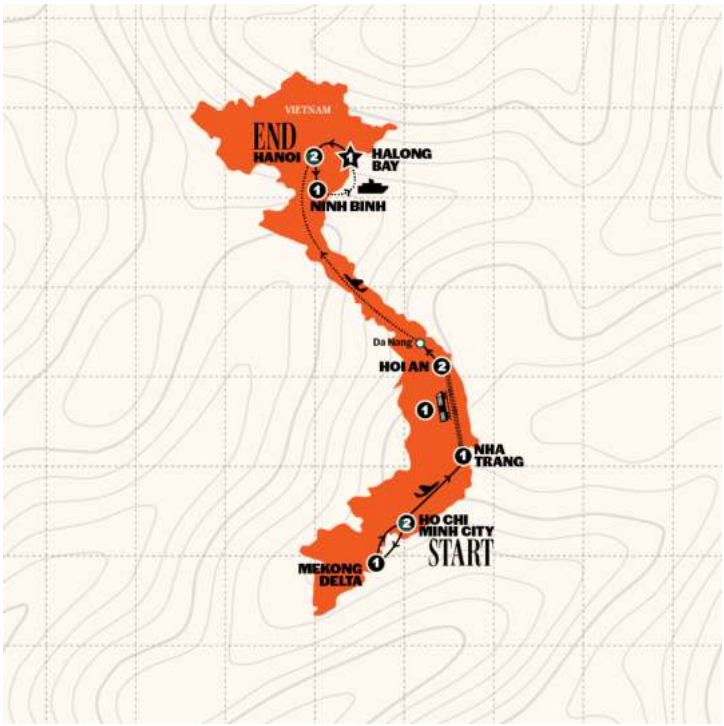
Where you're going



BEST OF VIETNAM

12 DAYS

This 12-day Vietnam trip takes you through Ho Chi Minh City, Hoi An, Hanoi and Halong Bay, with action and highlights at every turn. Cook your way through local flavours, float through the Mekong by traditional boat, explore the Củ Chi Tunnels and roll north by overnight train. Street eats, city buzz, limestone cliffs and a junk boat stay - your Vietnam hit list starts here.

Itinerary

DAY 1

START HO CHI MINH CITY

Ho Chi Minh City

Welcome to Ho Chi Minh city, formerly known as Saigon. This is one of Asia's most exhilarating cities, steeped in grand history and post-Vietnam war memories. You'll meet your travel comrades and after our kickstart meeting, have a free evening to explore. Oh yes, this is the right way to get your Vietnam trip started.

Itinerary

DAY 2

HO CHI MINH CITY TO MEKONG DELTA

Ho Chi Minh City

Today we leave Ho Chi Minh City, exchanging fast paced city life for an energy that's a little more quaint. Such is the contrasting beauty of Vietnam.

Mekong River Delta

After a 3.5-hour coach ride out of the city, we'll hop aboard a traditional boat to explore the river's ever-changing edges. Think floating life, lush scenery and a slower pace. We'll stop by a rice paper factory, sample Vietnam's famous rice whisky, then settle in with a home-cooked meal and live local music. Tonight, it's all about the experience as we stay in a local homestay.

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Included Experiences

- Catch Your Own Dinner
- See artisans at work

Itinerary

DAY 3

MEKONG DELTA TO HO CHI MINH CITY

Mekong River Delta

After an early breakfast we'll make our way back to Ho Chi Minh City, detouring past Viet Cong's Cu Chi Tunnels. See traps, hidden doors & some of the 250kms of tunnels that Vietnamese resistance fighters dug by hand, and even go down into the skinny tunnels to experience them first hand in this look into Vietnam's staggering past.

Ho Chi Minh City

Back in the addictive mayhem of Vietnam's biggest city you will have free time to carry on your explorations. Best part? There'll be a few more Contiki travellers joining us this evening. Continuing to eat your way through Vietnam's culinary highlights would be one wise way to use your time (we think).

Meals

Breakfast

Included Experiences

- Crawl through Củ Chi Tunnels

Itinerary

DAY 4

HO CHI MINH CITY TO NHA TRANG

Ho Chi Minh City

This morning we'll put on our discovery boots, hitting up the highlights of Ho Chi Minh on a city walking tour and then checking out the harrowing but important War Remnants Museum. Later, we'll catch a flight to the coastal town of Nha Trang.

Nha Trang

Golden sand beaches and big night-time energy, that’s Nha Trang. We’ll roll into the hotel this evening, then the night is yours. Grab dinner by the beach or discover the city for yourself!

Meals

Breakfast

Included Experiences

- Ho Chi Minh Sightseeing Highlights
- Pay Respects at the War Remnants Museum
- Fly to Nha Trang

Itinerary

DAY 5

OVERNIGHT TRAIN TO HOI AN

Nha Trang

Good news - we have a whole full day to soak up Nha Trang before heading to Hoi An. Have a massage, sign up for the optional cruise, or just hang on the beach before returning to our hotel to freshen up for our overnight train experience.

Overnight Train to Hoi An

Tonight, we'll head north via our overnight train - where you'll wake up in our next destination and ready to explore it all.

Meals

Breakfast

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Cruise & Swimming Day Trip -

Explore the beauty of Nha Trang Bay and its surrounding islands from the water. Spend the day snorkelling, swimming, sunbathing on deck and soaking up the views with your crew. There’s even lunch included to keep you fuelled for it all.

Price: 1,140,000.00 VND

Itinerary

DAY 6

HOI AN

Overnight Train to Hoi An

Time to rise and shine. After travelling North overnight, we'll be waking up in Da Nang and driving on to Hoi An this morning.

Hoi An

Join a guided bike tour with a local expert as you ride through the vibrant town, visiting the iconic Japanese Bridge, exploring a traditional ancient house and experiencing the sights and sounds of the central market. Tonight you can opt into a Vietnamese cooking class, whipping up a storm of up to 4 traditional dishes.

Meals

Breakfast

Included Experiences

- Guided Cycling: Hoi An Ancient Town

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Tasty Vietnamese Cooking Class -

With the guidance of a local master chef, learn to cook delicious street food favourites (like spring rolls) & popular Vietnamese family dishes in an old French-style colonial building. Situated in the centre of Hoi An's UNESCO World Heritage listed Ancient Town. You'll also get a recipe list so you can keep up your new cooking skills & recipes back home.

Price: 954,000.00 VND

Itinerary

DAY 7

HOI AN

Hoi An

Morning travellers! The day is all yours. Poke around in galleries & market stalls (the best shopping spots in Vietnam in our opinion) and devour all of the delectable treats on offer. And for a dose of culture, you could ride on one of Vietnam's very own Bamboo Basket Boats (Yes, the ones that you've probably seen on Instagram). And to top it all off, we'll grab some fresh coconut water straight from the tree to your tummy.

Meals

Breakfast

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Ride the Hand-Made Bamboo Basket Boats -

Float (and spin) through the serene Bay Mau Coconut Forest of Vietnam in one of the traditional Bamboo Basket Boats. Sing on the boat. Catch some crabs. Nothing beats a good boating experience.

Price: 675,000.00 VND

Itinerary

DAY 8

HOI AN TO HANOI VIA DA NANG

Hoi An

Leaving Hoi An will be sad. But we're heading to Hanoi, so there's hardly an excuse to not be excited. We'll grab a quick breakfast and head to Da Nang airport...

Da Nang

Fasten your seatbelts, folks. We'll catch our internal flight to Hanoi from this quaint coastal town.

Hanoi

Welcome to the city where all the bustling magic happens. We'll head straight to KOTO for a feel-good feast that supports disadvantaged youth in Vietnam, then jump into culture mode at the Temple of Literature (Vietnam's first-ever university). Next up: the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, a major landmark with big history behind it. Tonight's yours to do Hanoi your way, or level it up with an optional Hanoi After Dark Vespa ride for street-food stops and neon-lit city vibes.

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch

Included Experiences

- Included Flight Da Nang to Hanoi
- Get a Unique Dining Experience at KOTO Restaurant MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience
- Learn at the Temple of Literature
- See the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

See Hanoi after dark via Vespa -

Climb on the back of a classic Vespa and watch Hanoi light up at night. With local drivers at the helm, you'll zip through buzzing neighbourhoods, stop at local restaurants, and see the city from a whole new angle.

Price: 2,220,000.00 VND

Itinerary

DAY 9

HANOI TO NINH BINH

Hanoi

Next up, we’re heading to the epicentre of Vietnam's show-stopping natural beauty.

Ninh Binh

Do you see them? Those lush landscapes are calling. This afternoon, you can jump on an optional Bike & Boat adventure out in Van Long, cycling through local villages before cruising the rivers by sampan through “Ha Long Bay on land” scenery. Prefer to keep it chill? The rest of the day is yours to breathe in the fresh air, soak up the greenery, and keep your eyes peeled for birds along the way.

Meals

Breakfast

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Bike and Boat Van Long -

Head out to Van Long, a quieter corner of Ninh Binh Province, then explore on two wheels with a 13km bike ride through local villages and open countryside. After that, we’ll swap bikes for a sampan (a traditional flat-bottomed wooden boat) and cruise through rivers and limestone scenery that locals call “Ha Long Bay on land.” Heads up: this one’s physical and you’ll need to be confident riding a bike for about 13km.

Price: 27.00 USD

Itinerary

DAY 10

NINH BINH TO HALONG BAY

Ninh Binh

Up and about at the crack of dawn today! We're climbing up 500 steps to the top of the Mua Cave. (You certainly don't wanna forget your camera for this one).

Halong Bay

A drive through stunning scenery will evoke plenty of 'oh wow's', but it only gets better as we board our home for the night, a Chinese-style junk boat in Halong Bay. Feel the serenity kicking in immediately as we drift around the limestone island seas of the Gulf of Tonkin. We'll pass hidden lagoons, thick forests & dreamy grottos and also chill atop the Ti Top Island. A fresh seafood dinner and sunset at our docking spot will polish off a wonderful day packed with unforgettable moments and experiences.

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Included Experiences

- Catch a Serene Sunrise at the Mua Cave
- Chill at Ti Top Island
- Stay on a Junk Boat

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Kayaking on Halong Bay -

Cruise through caves and glide along the glass-like waters. No strenuous Olympic level activity here, just you & the serenity of the bay. Excursions last for about one hour.

Price: 398,000.00 VND

Itinerary

DAY 11

HALONG BAY TO HANOI

Halong Bay

Today will be all about the leisurely vibes as we wake up to breakfast with a quick stop to explore the Sung Sot Caves. Make the most of your time on the junk boat - the views don't get much better than this.

Hanoi

After heading back to Hanoi we find ourselves enjoying our final night together on tour. Save the choir of tears for tomorrow - this evening is all about making the most of your free time and staying positive so why not join us for one last family dinner and then onto Ta Hien to dance the night away.

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch

Included Experiences

- Stroll around the Sung Sot Caves

Itinerary

DAY 12

HANOI

Hanoi

Enjoy one final breakfast with the squad this morning before this epic Vietnam trip wraps up. Hug it out & make plans to reunite sometime soon - Latin America perhaps?

Meals

Breakfast

Itinerary

This document was last updated on 15 October 2026.
While all info is correct at the time of publication, occasionally details or timings may differ.
Looking for the latest updates? Check out Contiki.com or speak to your Trip Manager.