

Highlight

- Stunning scenery
- Historical sites
- Charming ancient trading town of Hoi An
- Relaxing in Dalat
- Encountering ethnic minorities
- Just you, no others travelers
- All inclusive

Itinerary at a glance

- Day 1: Arrival in Hanoi
- Day 2: City tour of Hanoi
- Day 3: Ride to Mai Chau/village home-stay
- Day 4: Head south to Vinh
- Day 5: Drive to Huong Khe
- Day 6: Drive to Phong Nha for cave exploration
/continue to Dong Hoi
- Day 7: Ride to Dong Ha
- Day 8: Head west to Khe Sanh/ride to Aluoi
- Day 9: Long drive to Hoi An
- Day 10: In Hoi An
- Day 11: Hoi An – My Son – Dong Phu – Kham Duc
- Day 12: Kham Duc – Kon Tum
- Day 13: Kon Tum – Buon Me Thuot
- Day 14: Buon Ma Thuot – Lak Lake – Dalat
- Day 15: Dalat Touring
- Day 16: Dalat – Saigon
- Day 17: Saigon
- Day 18: Departure

Trip note

Duration:	18 days, 17 nights
Depart from:	Hanoi
End at:	Saigon
When:	Year round
Activity:	Motorcycling
Grade:	Moderate
Transportation:	Minsk bike
Accommodation:	1 night homestay, 16 night hotels and guesthouses
Tour guide:	English speaking guide
Support crew:	1 mechanic, support vehicle
Meals:	Day 1: Dinner
	Day 2—9: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
	Day 10: Breakfast
	Day 11 – 14: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
	Day 15: Breakfast
	Day 16: Breakfast, Lunch
	Day 17: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
	Day 18: Breakfast

Note on client safety

We reserve the right to deviate from this itinerary for any reasons, including road and weather conditions or for any other factor which may influence client safety.



Tour cost

Please contact our **Customer Service** at info@activetravel.asia or call +84 97 980 0588 (24/7 LiveHelp)

Inclusion:

- Support vehicle
- Minsk motorbike 125CC
- Gasoline for the ride
- Helmet
- English or French speaking guide
- Mechanic
- Hotels & Guesthouses
- Home-stay permission
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- First-aid kit
- Water & Snacks
- Entrance fees & Sightseeing fees

Exclusion:

- Travel insurance
- Visa
- Air-tickets
- Tips
- Personal expenses—beer, souvenirs

Upgrade: 150CC or 250CC Honda & Yamaha Sport Motorbike — contact us for more information

Food

All meals, which are indicated in the itinerary, are included in the price of this trip. While in big towns we will enjoy Vietnamese cuisine in fine restaurants. Once we travel away from big towns, the emphasis will be on healthy and nutritious fresh local produce.



Hotel & Homestay

In big towns we use fine 3-star hotels with centre location. Please contact us if you prefer higher hotel categories.

In remote areas we use the best hotels or guest houses available. Homestay in Mai Chau is simple in term of bedding condition and amenities. We will stay overnight in the traditional house-on-stilt of the Thai people and, as the locals do, we will sleep on bamboo floor with mattress, clean sheet, pillows and mosquito nets. Toilet is usually western style and some steps away from the house.

The motorcycling day

A typical motorcycling day starts at about 8.30 am after breakfast. Lunch times can vary depending on the distance. We aim to reach the next overnight stop by 4.30 or 5. During the day we will have short breaks for rest, snack and photographing.

The bike

On our trip we use the Belarussian 125cc Minsk which is perfectly suitable for the roads of Vietnam. For more information about the Minsk, please view our Motorcycling Tips.

ATA tour guide

The tour will be led by one of our tour guides who are experienced in guiding motorcycling tours in Vietnam. He has been carefully selected and trained in this field and is fully licensed in tour guiding by the government. In addition, he has been trained in first-aid by SOS International and he knows how to deal with difficult situations. You will have a great time traveling with him.

What to bring

Sun block, hat, anti-insect repellent, sunglasses, sleeping bag (optional), rain coat, toiletries, original passport.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 01: Arrival in Hanoi

Arriving in Hanoi, you will clear customs and immigration. Leaving the airport, you will be met by your guide, holding a sign with your name on it. He will transfer you to your hotel. The rest of day is free to wash up and rest.

In the evening we will attend the famous Water Puppet Show, with its introduction to Vietnamese history and mythology. At night, you will have a welcome dinner with local delights. Overnight in Hanoi.

Summary

Transfer: 50min
Hotel: Hanoi
Meal: welcome dinner

Day 02: Hanoi city tour

After breakfast we will begin our city tour of Hanoi. At first, we visit to Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, and

the "Uncle Ho" house. After that we head to the unique One Stilt Pagoda, which date from one thousand year ago.

Continue to the Hanoi's famous Temple of Literature, the first university of Vietnam founded in 1070. The highlight of this cultural, historical site is the garden of stelae where you find 82 stone stelae bearing names, places of birth and achievements of men who received doctorates in each triennial examination from 1442; each stelae sits on a stone tortoise.





Lunch in local restaurant before heading to the Old Quarter for a relaxing cyclo tour through the ancient part of Hanoi. Perhaps the most interesting area you will visit is the Old Quarter. Here many tiny streets join to sell a huge diversity of products. In the old days, each street bore the name of the product sold – “Shoe Street,” “Noodle Street,” and the like. Today, the streets sometimes sell a variety of items, but often the names are accurate. The Old Quarter also houses some of the most interesting art galleries and fashion houses.

After the cyclo tour we will drive to the Museum of Ethnology, which is quite away from the central Hanoi. It features a fascinating collection of art and everyday objects gathered from Vietnam and its diverse tribal people. On our trip we will meet some tribal groups – now it is time to learn about them. Overnight in Hanoi.

Summary

Sightseeing: Full day
 Hotel: Hanoi
 Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 03: Hanoi – Mai Chau

In the morning we take a short bus drive to the Ho Chi Minh Trail Museum on the outskirts of Hanoi. The museum is a great place to learn about the historic trail which we will ride on. After the visit to the museum we will jump on our Minskis and spend sometime to get familiar with the bikes.

Now, let’s begin our adventure. We will ride on Highway 6 passing extensive farming lands comprising a sea of paddy fields split by tree-lined roads punctuated by limestone karst scenery. After a light lunch in Hoa Binh Town, the capital of Hoa Binh Province, we cross two short mountain passes then descent to the mountain valley settlement of Mai Chau. Dinner and overnight in a stilt house of the Thai people.

Summary

Distance: 140km
 Homestay: Village in Mai Chau
 Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 04: Mai Chau – Vinh

Say goodbye to the villagers we then head south on a beautiful winding road which follow the banks of the Ma River. After some hours riding on undulating quiet road we join the new Ho Chi Minh Highway. This newly carved route leads us due south, through remote back country , not far from the Laos border. Lunch will be on the way with local foods. In the afternoon we cut eastward towards the coast and stay overnight in the peaceful city of Vinh, which is close to where Ho Chi Minh was born.

Dinner in local restaurant and overnight in hotel.

Summary

Distance: 268km
 Hotel: Vinh City
 Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 05: Vinh – Huong Khe

This morning we head inland towards the Laos border after 40min riding we can reach the birthplace of Ho Chi Minh in Kim Lien Village. The place is truly a shrine to the Vietnamese and visited by few westerners.

After paying respects to Uncle Ho, we head to the HCM Highway via Thanh Chuong District. You cross the Lam River on the Ro Bridge and then drive primarily on the beautiful new highway of Ho Chi Minh. Lunch break in Pho Chau Town, a tiny town about 40km from Thanh Chuong.

After lunch, we continue on the quiet highway to Dong Loc Intersection, (main junction for supply lines during the war) which is widely regarded in Vietnamese eyes as the beginning of Ho Chi Minh Trail. We then pass through remote back country, close to the border , as the scenery steadily becomes dominated by karst limestone rock formations. We will reach our overnight spot, Huong Khe Town, around 5pm. Dinner in local restaurant and overnight in a mini hotel.

Summary

Distance: 160km
 Hotel: Huong Khe town
 Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 6: Huong Khe – Phong Nha – Dong Hoi

Today's ride is on a very quiet section of the new highway. En route, you will come to Khe Ve Intersection and Pheo – the very first branch of the Ho Chi Minh Trail into Laos.

Continuing on from Pheo, we will arrive in Phong Nha around noon. After lunch in local restaurant, we board a dragon boat to explore the famous Nature World Heritage Site of Phong Nha cave. After the exploration of Phong Nha, we ride 30km eastward to the coastal town of Dong Hoi, our today's overnight spot. Dinner and overnight in hotel.

Summary

Distance: 210 km
Accommodation: Hotel in Dong Hoi Town
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 07: Dong Hoi – Dong Ha (Quang Tri)

Today's ride is also on the new, quiet highway. Along the way, we will have a short stop at Truong Son National Cemetery to pay respect to the soldiers who fought and died on the trail during the American War. After here we head to Dong Ha Town passing Ben Tat Bridge, built by the VC over the Ben Hai River.

Arriving in Dong Ha, we will check into the hotel, and have some lunch. In the afternoon, we ride to the mystic Vinh Moc Tunnel and the famous DMZ, Doc Mieu fire base and the historic Hien Luong Bridge.

Dinner and overnight in Dong Ha.

Summary

Distance: 176km in the morning & 80km in the afternoon
Hotel: Dong Ha town
Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 08: Dong Ha – Khe Sanh – A Luoi (Thua Thien Hue Province)

Continuing west on Highway 9, we will climb into the Truong Son foothills. About 16km from Khe Sanh is the Dakrong Bridge and the road turns winding and narrow. A bit further, we will come to Huang Hoa, once known as Khe Sanh Base, which was established as a forward base by General Westmoreland near Laos to secure Highway 9. About 3km from Khe Sanh is Ta Con Airbase.

Lunch in Khe Sanh and then head out across the famous Dakrong River Bridge on Rte. 14 Near the town of Ta Rut, we will stop for a visit with the Pa Co people and a walk through their village.

From Ta Rut, you head over scenic Pe Ke Pass and then down to A Luoi for the night.

Dinner in local restaurant and overnight in a simple

guesthouse.

Summary

Distance: 200km
Hotel: guesthouse in A Luoi town
Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 09: A Luoi – Hien – Thanh My – Hoi An

Today's riding is the best riding of the whole route. For the first 110km, we cross one of the longest and most stunning pass on new and quiet road, through stunning scenery of primitive forests backed by the imposing Truong Son mountain range. There are also two long tunnels and very little traffic. The next 68km from Hien to Thanh My are on good road with some gentle climbs. Lunch on the way in local restaurant. The last 40km of the day are on an older, bumpier road all the way from Ai Nghia to the charming ancient town of Hoi An. Dinner and overnight in Hoi An.

Summary

Distance: 240km
Hotel: Hoi An town
Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 10: Hoi An – Free at leisure

Hoi An, nestled on the banks of the Thu Bon River. Before the river silted up, Hoi An was one of the most important trading ports in Southeast Asia, and a center for East-West exchange and trade. The rooftops of Hoi An retain a magical old world Oriental feel and are a favorite subject for Vietnamese artists. In the early 1980s Hoi An's ancient quarters and historical monuments came under the protection and restoration efforts of UNESCO and the Polish government.

You will spend the day visiting the town of Hoi An on your own. Overnight in Hoi An.

Summary

Hotel: Hoi An town
Meal: Breakfast



Day 11: Hoi An – My Son – Dong Phu – Kham Duc (Phuoc Son)

Time to hit the road again! We leave Hoi An in the morning and head to My Son, a world heritage site that is the Cham version of Angkor Wat.

Most of the temples are dedicated to the Hindu god, Shiva, considered by the Cham as the founder and protector of their dynasties.

From My Son, we will continue along the highway, busy at first, until the road shifts and becomes smaller, although paved. Then the drive becomes challenging, but a lot of fun and progress is far slower.

We will continue driving along the river, but the road itself, new and not very busy, climbs up along a very steep valley with the river rushing below. The river below is dotted with unique rock formations and there are waterfalls along the way. Lunch will be in Dong Phu.

Leaving Dong Phu, eventually, we will come to the town of Kham Duc or Phuoc Son. Overnight in Kham Duc Hotel.

Summary

Distance: 200 km
Accommodation: Hotel in Kham Duc
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 12: Kham Duc – Kon Tum

After breakfast in local restaurant we continue driving north on Highway 14 today on a bit of a bumpy section of the road to Kon Tum.

Today is really a day to visit different minority villages. We will drive over Lo Xo Pass, making lots of stops along the way to meet De and Trieng minorities, who live along the Dak Po Ko river. Along the river are many amazing hanging bridges, built by the local people to cross to the opposite shore. Lunch will be in Tan Canh, and we can visit a village of Se Dang, before driving on to Kon Tum. Along the way, we also pass one of the key towns and battle sites of the Vietnam War – Dak To and outpost Charlie.

In Kon Tum we can visit the Catholic church and the orphanage, based behind the Catholic Church in town and run by a group of French nuns. If time permits, you can also visit a beautiful Bahnar village near town.

Overnight in Kon Tum at the Dac Bla Hotel.

Summary

Distance: 190 km
Accommodation: Hotel in Kon Tum
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 13: Kon Tum – Buon Me Thuot

The new Ho Chi Minh Highway was built on the old trail, but from Kon Tum to Daklak, the historic HCM

trail (Highway 14C), runs parallel to Highway 14 linking Kon Tum, Pleiku, and Buon Me Thuot.

We will continue riding Highway 14 today, finding that traffic is busier than usual. Lunch will be in Pleiku. From here, we ride along the Tun River and up over a pass. Along the way are coffee plantations and the stilt houses of the Central Highland's largest ethnic group, the Gia Rai.

Eventually, we will cross the Nha Rong pass down into Buon Me Thuot, the provincial capital of Dac Lac Province, and the site of the last battle of the Vietnam war in March 1975.

At night we can stop by the beer parlors or sample the local coffee grown in the region. It is far and away the best coffee in Vietnam and worth bringing home. Overnight at the Thang Loi Hotel.

Summary

Distance: 240 km
Accommodation: Hotel in Buon Ma Thuot
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 14: Buon Ma Thuot – Lak Lake – Dalat

This morning, we drive to Lak Lake on Rte. 27, a small paved road with poor surfacing and quite busy. Here we can have a break for refreshment and troll around the by the lake. There are said to be about 31 different ethnic groups in Dac Lac, each with their own traditional dress and customs. Some of the villages are known for elephant hunting and taming, some for weaving and other arts. After lunch in Lak Lake, we continue on to Da Lat. The road is narrow, winding, but not busy. We have three passes to cross – Krong No, Chuoi, and Phu Son. The drive itself is quite beautiful and lined with dense forests. Late in the afternoon, we will arrive in the hill town of Dalat. Overnight in Dalat.

Summary

Distance: 200 km
Accommodation: Hotel in Dalat
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 15: Dalat Touring

Dalat is known as “The City of Love,” and is a favorite holiday resort for Vietnamese as well as the French. With evergreen forests, waterfalls, beautiful lakes, the country’s best flower gardens, and delicious fresh produce, Dalat has always provided a welcome respite from the heat of the lowlands. We can spend the day visiting the highlights of Dalat - its gardens, cathedral, waterfalls, market, Valley of Love, convent, university and key pagodas. Overnight in Dalat.

Summary

Accommodation: Hotel in Dalat
Meals: Breakfast

Day 16: Dalat – Saigon

Today we head to Saigon on bus, since the road is so very crowded and busy! On the way, we will stop for lunch in Bao Loc, where we can also see the impressive Dambri Waterfall. In the afternoon, we will finally arrive in Ho Chi Minh City and the famous Rex Hotel. The rest of the day is free to relax or wander on your own.

We might want to visit the Re-Unification Palace, the former palace of President Thieu and his predecessors. Today this building is a museum and venue for official receptions. Inside you can visit the private rooms of the president, the “War Room” from where the South Vietnamese forces were controlled, and, most poignantly, the room where the North Vietnamese army finally took control in 1975. A second stop is at the Notre Dame Cathedral, built between 1877 and 1883 and one of the city’s major landmarks. Neo-Romanesque in form, Notre Dame is the major seat of the Catholic religion in modern Vietnam of the Sea. Tonight, if weather permits we can have dinner outside at the Ben Thanh Market. Overnight in Saigon

Summary

Distance: 300 km
Accommodation: Hotel in Saigon
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 17: Saigon

Our day begins with a visit to the Cu Chi Tunnels, one of the few remaining monuments to the Vietnam War. Beneath the ground lie 200 km of tunnels, dug by hand and inhabited by the forces of the Viet Cong during the conflict, which ended in 1975.

From Cu Chi, we will return to Ho Chi Minh City. Here, we can stop at Cholon, the Chinese market. Tonight you will have a farewell dinner. Overnight in Saigon.

Summary

Accommodation: Hotel in Saigon

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 18: Departure

Free until time to be transferred to the airport for your flight home.

Holiday Extensions

Beach escape:

Nha Trang Beach: The south central coast has Vietnam’s finest beaches and the best-known beach resort is Nha Trang with its white sandy beach and swaying palm trees. A boat trip on the clear blue-green waters of Nha Trang Bay with some snorkeling among the coral reefs and a fresh seafood lunch is a great way to spend a day in Nha Trang. For scuba divers there are several diving shops along the beach offering professional dive services.

Phan Thiet – Mui Ne Beach: Further south, and just 200km north of Ho Chi Minh City, is Mui Ne Peninsula and its 10km of sandy beaches and coconut groves. Many attractive small-scale beach resorts have opened up in recent years amongst the palm trees of Mui Ne and it has become a popular place to rest up for a few days.

Phu Quoc Island: A mountainous island that is still mostly forested, Phu Quoc is blessed with some beautiful white sandy beaches and clear blue seas. The island is famous throughout Vietnam for the production of black pepper and its fish sauce, said to be the best in the country. Several small-scale beach resorts have opened over the past few years on Phu Quoc and it is connected by a daily flight to Ho Chi Minh City.

Mekong Delta Tour from 1 - 3 days

The Mekong Delta, often referred to as Vietnam’s rice basket, is the biggest rice-growing region in the country, the rich alluvial soils producing three harvests a year. One of the most popular destination for day-trippers from Ho Chi Minh City is Vinh Long, another 65km deeper into the delta. It is the islands in the Mekong River rather than the town itself that is the highlight of a trip to Vinh Long. Most of the islands are given over to fruit orchards and the narrow canals are often straddled by flimsy-looking wooden bridges made from the trunks of coconut palms or bamboo and known as monkey bridges.

