

**Highlight**

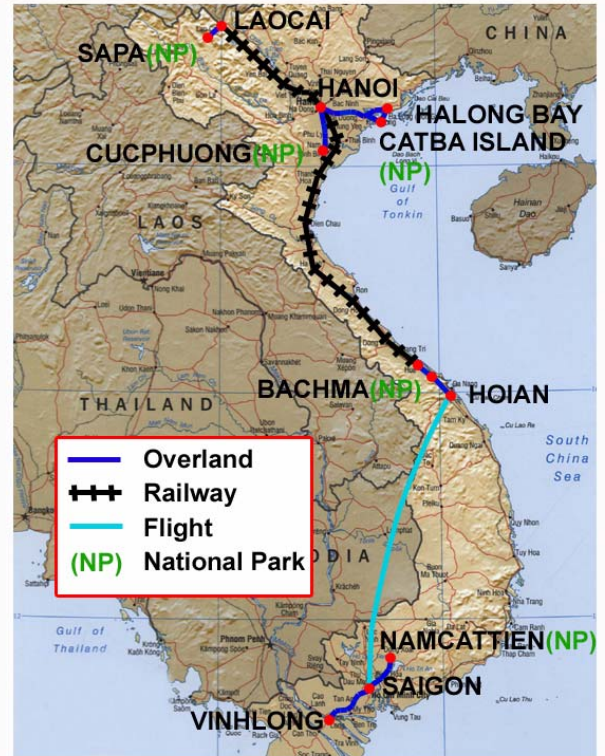
- The best national parks in Vietnam
- Charming ancient town of HoiAn
- Halong Bay
- Homestay in Sapa

**Itinerary at a glance**

- Day 1:** Arrival in Saigon
- Day 2:** City tour & Cu Chi Tunnel
- Day 3:** Excursion to Mekong Delta
- Day 4:** Saigon – Nam Cat Tien National Park
- Day 5:** Trek & Transfer back to Saigon
- Day 6:** Fly Danang – Transfer to HoiAn
- Day 7:** HoiAn – Bach Ma National Park
- Day 8:** Bach Ma National Park – Hue
- Day 9:** Sightseeing in Hue – Night train to Hanoi
- Day 10:** Transfer Hanoi to Cuc Phuong National Park
- Day 11:** Cuc Phuong – Hoa Lu – Tam Coc – Hanoi
- Day 12:** In Hanoi
- Day 13:** Cruise on Halong Bay
- Day 14:** Halong Bay – Cat Ba National Park
- Day 15:** Cat Ba – Hai Phong – Hanoi – Night train to Lao Cai
- Day 16:** Transfer to Sapa. Trek & Home stay
- Day 17:** Trek & Home stay
- Day 18:** Trek & Night train to Hanoi
- Day 19:** In Hanoi
- Day 20:** Departure

**Trip note**

- Duration:** 20 days, 19 nights
- Group size:** 08 persons
- Arrival:** Saigon
- Departure:** Hanoi
- When:** Year round
- Activities:** Trekking, Cruising, Home stay
- Grading:** Introductory to Moderate
- Transportation:** Airplane, AC vehicle, Chinese junk, Boats in Mekong Delta, Night train, Airplane
- Accommodation:** 12 night hotels & guest house, 3 night homestays, 1 night junk, 3 night trains
- Tour guide:** English or French speaking tour guide
- Meals:**
  - Day 1: Welcome Dinner
  - Day 2-5: Breakfast, Lunch
  - Day 6: Breakfast
  - Day 7: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
  - Day 8-9: Breakfast, Lunch
  - Day 10: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
  - Day 11-12: Breakfast, Lunch
  - Day 13: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
  - Day 14-15: Breakfast
  - Day 16-17: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
  - Day 18-20: Breakfast



**Tour cost**

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

**Inclusion:**

- AC vehicle as indicated in the program
- Twin shared hotel room
- Twin shared AC cabin on junk
- Train ticket (overnight train) Hue - Hanoi
- Home stay permissions
- Boats in Mekong Delta
- English or French speaking guide
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Water & Snacks
- Sightseeing & Entrance fees

**Exclusion:**

- Travel insurance
- Visa
- Air-tickets
- Tips
- Personal expenses

**Note on client safety**

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

## 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 cities we use the finest 3-star hotels with centre location. Please contact us if you prefer higher hotel categories.

Homestay in villages is simple in term of bedding condition and amenities. We will sleep on beds with mattress, clean sheet, pillows and mosquito nets. Toilet is usually western style.



## The trekking day

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

## ATA tour guide

The tour will be led by one of our tour guides who is experienced in guiding trekking tours in Vietnam. He has been carefully 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

Trekking boot, sun block, hat, anti-insect repellent, sunglasses, sleeping bag (optional), rain coat, flashlight, toiletries, original passport,

## Detailed Itinerary

### Day 1: Arrival in Saigon

Arrival in Saigon. Meet our guide at the airport and transfer to hotel in Saigon. Welcome dinner and tour briefing in the evening. Overnight in Saigon

#### Summary

Hotel transfer: 20 mins  
Meal: Welcome Dinner  
Accommodation: Hotel in Saigon

### Day 2: City tour & Cu Chi Tunnel

After breakfast in hotel we take a city tour to see the different faces of this bustling city on a full day tour with extensive visits to the Re-Unification Palace, the Central Post Office, the Notre Dame Cathedral, the Jade Emperor Temple and the Ben Thanh market. Lunch in local restaurant. After lunch we drive to the famous Cu Chi underground tunnel system to experience how the Viet Cong lived and fought during the American War. Back to Saigon in the afternoon.

#### Summary:

Sightseeing: Half day city tour & half day tour to Cu Chi tunnel

Transportation: AC vehicle  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch  
Accommodation: Hotel in Saigon

### Day 3: Mekong Delta

After breakfast we depart for Cai Be. Upon arrival in Cai Be we board a boat for a journey through the town's floating market. See how river life goes on, trading between merchant ships and local farmers. Cruise through secluded canals and over the Mighty Mekong to an island where we stop to enjoy seasonal fruits. More cruise on small canals by rowing boat. Visit to local families and have lunch in local restaurant. Take motor boat to Vinh Long town. Bus transfer back to Saigon. Overnight in Saigon.

#### Summary:

Cruise & Culture exploration: Full day  
Transfer Saigon – Cai Be: 1.5 hr  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch  
Accommodation: Hotel in Saigon

#### Day 4: Saigon – Nam Cat Tien National Park

Leave Saigon for Cat Tien National Park in the morning. The terrain rises up gradually via volcanic area. On arrival, we cross Dong Nai River to the park center. We meet the forest ranger and start trek 15km to Crocodile Lake Station where we have dinner and stay overnight.

From 20.00 to 22.00 we can spot animals from rangers watch tower

\*Note: check with your guide for using boat to discover the lake, there are crocodiles in the lake.

##### Summary

Transfer Saigon – Cat Tien: 3 hrs  
Trekking: 15 km, Intermediate grade  
Meals: Lunch, Dinner  
Accommodation: Forest station

#### Day 5: Nam Cat Tien – Saigon

Breakfast at the Crocodile Lake Station. Start our hard trek 15km through jungle to Dat Do Ranger Station. A great day for bird watching. Picnic lunch en route. Upon arrival at Dat Do Ranger Station we have a short rest.

Jeep 4wd pick up at the ranger station and transfer 20km back to the park center. This is route of buffer zone along Dong Nai River where Chau Ma and Stieng ethnic minority cultivate and settle their villages centuries ago.

15.00 back to the park center. We leave Cat Tien National Park for Saigon. Trip completes in Saigon.

##### Summary

Transfer Cat Tien - Saigon: 3 hrs  
Trekking: 15 km, Intermediate grade  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

#### Day 6: Flight to Danang – Hoian

Breakfast in hotel and free at leisure until we are transferred to airport to take a short flight to Danang. On arrival in Danang we take a bus ride to the ancient town of Hoian. We will check in a resort on the beach and spend the rest of the day relaxing on the beach. In the evening we take a walk in the illustrated ancient part of Hoian and have dinner with local delights. Overnight in Hoian.

##### Summary:

Flight Saigon – Danang: 1hr  
Transfer Danang – Hoian: 1hr  
Transportation: Airplane, AC vehicle  
Meals: Breakfast  
Accommodation: Hotel in Hoian

#### Day 7: Hoian – Bach Ma National Park

After breakfast in the hotel we drive north to Bach Ma

National Park, which is located in the mid way from Hoian to Hue. Upon arrival at the park we visit the visitor centre take a jeep ride up to the centre of the park where we have lunch in the restaurant of the park. After lunch we embark on a beautiful jungle trek. We will walk on animal trails and listen to bird songs and see beautiful water falls. After the trek we take a great jeep ride to the summit of the mountain for watching sunset and panorama view of the park. Dinner and overnight in Bach Ma resort in the park.

##### Summary:

Trek: 3 hr-Intermediate grade  
Transfer Hoian – Bach Ma: 2hr  
Transportation: AC vehicle, Jeep  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
Accommodation: Hotel in the park

#### Day 8: Bach Ma – Hue

Short trek in the morning following jungle trails. If we are lucky we would see animals seeking food.

Breakfast at the campsite. We leave Bach Ma National Park at 10 am driving to Hue. Upon arrival in Hue we check in hotel and have lunch in local restaurant. In the afternoon we visit to Imperial Citadel, which is a walled fortress and was intended to be a copy of Chinese Emperors' Forbidden City in Beijing. After the trip we transfer back to hotel.

Overnight in Hue

##### Summary

Transfer Bach Ma – Hue: 1,5 hrs  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch  
Accommodation: Hotel in Hue





### Day 9: Hue – Night train to Hanoi

Today we have a full day tour to see all the “must-see” in Hue. In the morning we will take a relaxing boat trip on Perfume River to reach Thien Mu Pagoda, a beautiful pagoda on a small hill looking over the river. After the pagoda we continue cruising on the river to reach the Tomb of Emperor Tu Duc, with its lotus-filled lake and central pavilion and the simple and serene Tomb of Khai Dinh. After that we drive back to Hue for lunch. Back to hotel for a short rest before we catch train to Hanoi.

Overnight on train

#### Summary:

Sightseeing: Full day  
 Transportation: AC vehicle, Boat, Night train  
 Meals: Breakfast, Lunch  
 Accommodation: Soft sleeper AC cabin on train

### Day 10: Hanoi – Cuc Phuong National Park

Arrive in Hanoi in early morning. Picked up at Hanoi Railway Station and transferred to Ninh Binh which is 100km south of Hanoi. Upon arrival in Ninh Binh we have breakfast in local restaurant and continue to Cuc Phuong National Park. We will visit to Primate Rescued Centre where we meet the park’s rangers and learn about different kinds of monkey, gibbon and langur in Vietnam. We continue to Bong, the centre of the park, where we start our jungle trek. We will have picnic lunch in the park under the shade of a giant tree. This jungle trek ends in the afternoon when we reach Khanh Village, home of Muong ethnic minority. Tonight we will have dinner and overnight in a traditional house-on-stilt of a Muong family.

#### Summary

Transfer Hanoi – Cuc Phuong: 2.5 hr  
 Trekking: 18 km, Intermediate to Challenging grade  
 Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
 Accommodation: Home stay

### Day 11: Cuc Phuong – Tam Coc – Hoa Lu – Hanoi

Breakfast in the village before we head to Tam Coc,

also known as Halong Bay on the rice field thanks to its stunning rock formations emerging on river and rice field similar to Halong Bay. We will take a relaxing rowing boat trip on river to see caves and impressive scenery. Lunch in local restaurant in Tam Coc before we drive to Hoa Lu, the former capital of Vietnam, which dates from 9<sup>th</sup> century. Visit to temples and walk hundred steps up to top of a mountain for a panorama view of the old capital. Drive back to Hanoi. Check in hotel. Overnight in Hanoi.

#### Summary

Transfer Hoa Lu – Hanoi: 2 hrs  
 Boat trip: 2 hrs  
 Meals: Breakfast, Lunch  
 Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

### Day 12: City tour of Hanoi

After breakfast in the hotel you will take an interesting guided city tour of Hanoi including Ho Chi Minh complex (the mausoleum, the house & garden and the museum) and One Pillar Pagoda, a unique ancient architecture. After here we move to Temple of Literature, the site of Vietnam’s first university, dates back to 1070. Its peaceful gardens and pavilions offer a relaxing respite from Hanoi’s busy streets. Lunch in local restaurant.

In the afternoon, we enjoy a relaxing cyclo tour in the ancient part of Hanoi. Walking down some small and lively street to see busy local market then join locals for green tea or coffee in local café. Free time for shopping. Back to the hotel. Overnight in Hanoi.

Note: “Cyclo is three wheeled rickshaws, operated by pedal-power, with a seat attached to the front.

#### Summary:

Sightseeing: full day  
 Transportation: AC vehicle, cyclo  
 Meals: Breakfast, Lunch  
 Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

### Day 13: Hanoi – Halong Bay

Leave Hanoi for Halong Bay at 8.30am. On the way we will have a short break for refreshment at a handicraft centre. Upon arrival in Halong City we board a junk for a fine seafood lunch and an amazing cruise on the bay. We will explore Thien Cung Cave after lunch. Dinner and overnight on junk

#### Summary:

Transfer Hanoi – Halong: 3.5 hrs  
 Transportation: AC vehicle, Junk  
 Activities: Cruising  
 Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
 Accommodation: Twin shared AC cabin on Junk

#### Day 14: Halong – Cat Ba National Park

After breakfast we will move to another junk for a cruise to Lan Ha Bay, which is smaller than Ha Long Bay and near Cat Ba Island. We cruise around Lan Ha Bay and reach Cat Ba Island around noon. Transferred to Cat Ba Town we check in hotel and have a lunch break. In the afternoon we take a beautiful drive to Cat Ba National Park for a short hike to the summit of Trung Trang peak for panorama view of Halong Bay. Overnight in hotel on Cat Ba Island.

##### Summary:

Transfer Halong – Cat Ba: 3 hrs  
Transportation: Boat, Bus  
Activities: Cruising, Hiking-Introductory grade  
Meals: Breakfast  
Accommodation: Hotel on Cat Ba Island

#### Day 15: Cat Ba – Hai Phong – Hanoi – Night train to Lao Cai

Breakfast in hotel and free at leisure in the morning. In early afternoon we take a hydrofoil to Hai Phong City. We will be picked up and transferred back to Hanoi. Upon arrival in Hanoi we take shower, pack up and have dinner before taking night train to Lao Cai. Overnight on the train.

##### Summary:

Transfer Cat Ba – Hai Phong: 1 hr  
Transfer Hai Phong – Hanoi: 2 hrs  
Transportation: Hydrofoil, AC vehicle, Night train  
Meal: Breakfast  
Accommodation: Soft sleeper in AC cabin

#### Day 16: Lao Cai – Sapa (Hoang Lien Son National Park) Trek and Home stay

Arrive in Lao Cai around 6am. Bus transfer to Sapa. On arrival in Sapa we check in hotel and have breakfast in local restaurant. After breakfast we have free time to explore Sapa Town and its local market. In early afternoon we begin our trek down to Muong Hoa valley. We first descend the valley on tarmac then hit a beautiful dirt path which runs through rice terraces and minority villages. We will have a break in Lao Chai Village to visit the church and the school of this H'mong village. Continue to Ta Van village, home of Dzay people, where we spend our night in a local house. Dinner in the home stay.

##### Summary

Transfer Lao Cai – Sapa: 1 hr  
Trekking: 15km—Intermediate grade  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
Accommodation: Home stay

#### Day 17: Sapa Trek & home stay



After breakfast at the home stay we leave Ta Van for Giang Ta Chai, a village of the Red Dzao ethnic minority. We will trek through bamboo forest and reach Giang Ta Chai around noon. Lunch in a Red Dzao family. After lunch, we cross a river and walk on the main road for 10 minutes before we trek down to Ban Ho, a village of the Tay ethnic minority. Dinner and overnight with a local family.

##### Summary

Trekking: 20 km, Intermediate grade  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
Accommodation: Home stay

#### Day 18: Ban Ho – Sapa – Lao Cai.

After breakfast stroll around Ban Ho villages, visiting to village school and then trek to Ban Den, where we meet our bus and take a beautiful drive back to Sapa. Upon arrival in Sapa we take shower and spend the rest of the day exploring Sapa town. At 5.30 pm we will be transferred to Lao Cai for the night train back to Hanoi.

##### Summary

Trekking: 5 km, Intermediate grade  
Transfer Ban Den – Sapa: 20 mins  
Transfer Sapa – railway station: 1-hr  
Transportation: Jeep or bus, Night train  
Meal: Breakfast  
Accommodation: Soft sleeper in AC cabin

#### Day 19: In Hanoi

Arrive in Hanoi early in the morning. Transferred to hotel, breakfast in the hotel and free at leisure for the rest of the day. Overnight in Hanoi.

##### Summary

Transfer to hotel in Hanoi: 10 mins  
Meal: Breakfast  
Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

#### Day 20: Departure

Breakfast in the hotel and free until we are transferred to airport for departure. Trip completes

##### Summary

Transfer to airport: 50 mins  
Meal: Breakfast

## Holiday Extensions

### Minority markets in Sapa:

*Nothing can prepare you for the riot of color and activity at the regional minority markets that can be found dotted around the Sapa region. Make sure you've brought enough film or your camera's batteries are fully charged, as they are a photographer's delight!*



#### **Pha Long Market – Saturday**

Open from 6am to midday

Very rural market, ethnic groups include, the H'mong, Tou Zi, Pa Zi and Tou Lao. Along the road can be found several Nung and Mong villages, often consisting of traditional houses constructed with baked earth tiled roofs.

#### **Can Cau Market – Saturday**

Saturday morning 6am to midday

In the middle of paddy and corn fields. Visitors are generally H'mong groups from highland villages. The local H'mong are the famous variegated or Flower H'mong due to the intricate and colourful nature of their costumes. Travel is often made by horseback as a way of carrying the heavy loads to and from market.

#### **Muong Hum Market – Sunday**

Every Sunday from 6am to 1pm. This market is the biggest cardamom market in the region, pre-dating the French and serves as a meeting point for the ethnic groups living in the mountains; including the Giay, Dao, White H'mong and Ha Nhi. Those who live in the upper reaches of the mountains such as the Mong or Red Dao come down to sell specific products such as cardamom and mountain plants. In Muong Hum, it's worth taking a sip of the local brew - here it's paddy rice brandy from the Dao village of San Lung. It's become quite a famous tippie.

#### **Muong Khuong – Sunday**

Big market with a variety of ethnic groups, Mong, Dao, Nung and others, including visitors from as far away as China come to sell their products. Pa Zi

women can be found selling traditional incense made from bark and resin of scented trees.

#### **Bac Ha Market – Sunday**

From 9am to lunchtime

The biggest ethnic market in Lao Cai province. Here you will be able to find, buffaloes, horses, blacksmiths, saddlers, traditional medicine doctors, clothing and local artifacts. Frequented by H'mong, Dao, Tay, Nung and Phu La. Be sure to arrive by 9am as the market finished around lunchtime.

#### **Binh Lu & Tam Duong Market – Sunday**

Binh Lu and Tam Duong market is located on the other side of Sapa, passing the 1900 meter Tram Ton pass, Viet Nam's highest mountain pass and considered the most beautiful stretch of road in the country. The town is bustling with activity as the local hill tribes gather for their weekly market day, amazing tribal markets in Binh Lu where thousand of Thai Kadai language groups such as Tai Lu, Tai Laos, White Tai, and H'mong - Yao group (black Yao, Yao Lantien..), Giay, Khomu.. comes to buy and sell their own produces.

#### **Coc Ly Market – Tuesday**

Off the beaten track. Several groups of Mong, Dao, Tay, Nung and Phu La groups can be found in this secluded mountain market. Return back by boat down the river Chay and marvel at the untouched natural beauty of the region.



#### **Angkor Wat Classic**

*3-day tour of Angkor Wat by bicycle, tuk tuk or car*

"The temples of Angkor were spiritual, political, cosmological, and astronomical or geo-physical centers. They embodied and encapsulated the world spheres through which the Khmer culture and power structures moved, lived, breathed. In their scope and conception alone, they are among the most spectacular of human achievements." - Eleanor Mannikka

**ACTIVELY EXPLORING HIDDEN LANDS**