

**Highlight**

- Beautiful and challenging route
- Just you, no others travelers
- Charming ancient trading town of Hoian
- Support vehicle

**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 Hoian
- Day 10: In Hoian
- Day 11: Transfer to Da Nang Airport for departure

**Trip note**

- Duration:** 11 days, 10 nights
- Group size:** 06 persons
- Depart from:** Hanoi
- End at:** Da Nang
- When:** Year round
- Activity:** Motorcycling
- Grade:** Moderate
- Transportation:** Minsk bike
- Accommodation:** 01 night at home stay & 09 nights in hotel
- Tour guide:** English or French speaking guide
- Support crew:** 1 mechanic & support vehicle
- Meals:** Day 1: Dinner  
Day 2— 9: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
Day 10,11: 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](mailto: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 & Guesthouse
- 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

**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.



## 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.

## Hotel & Homestay

In big towns we use the finest 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 main 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.

## 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, 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  
 Home-stay: 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



### 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: Departure

Transfer from Da Nang to take flight to onward destination.

#### Summary

Transfer: 1hr  
Meal: Breakfast



## Holiday Extensions

### **Ho Chi Minh City & Mekong Delta Tour:** *4 day tour to see Saigon and Mekong Delta*

Ho Chi Minh City, or Saigon as it is still known to many, is Vietnam's largest city with a growing population of around 7 million. This is a city on the go 24 hours a day, where everybody seems to be busy either buying, selling, studying, working or just enjoying themselves. Ho Chi Minh City is a real shopper's paradise with modern shopping centers and trendy boutiques rubbing shoulders with traditional street markets. The city's best-known market is Ben Thanh Market where you can buy anything from fresh fruit and flowers to the latest imported electronics and cosmetics.

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.

### **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 geophysical 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

### **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.

Away from the beach Nha Trang has some other interesting attractions including Long Son Pagoda, with its enormous seated white Buddha statue, and the 7th century Po Nagar Cham Towers.

**Phan Thiet – Mui Ne Beach:** Further south, and just 200km north of Ho Chi Minh City, is the small fishing town of Phan Thiet.

While Phan Thiet is a pleasant enough town, the real attraction is the nearby 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.



**ACTIVELY EXPLORING HIDDEN LANDS**