

# **Tonkin Travel**

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# Quote: Service for All British Classics Car Club Accomodation: All are 3\* hotels, 4\* cruise, high standard of accomodation, suitable for mature clients.

# DAY 1 HANOI (Friday)

Arrival Hanoi on your flight, meet by local driver and guide then transfer to hotel, free at your own time.

Golden Rice Hotel – Deluxe Room www.goldenricehotel.com

# DAY 2: HANOI/NIGHT TRAIN SAPA (Saturday) (B,L)



The day is dedicated to a more in depth discovery of Hanoi beginning with a visit to Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum. This imposing monument, dedicated to the father of modern Vietnam, was constructed from marble and granite and takes the form of a stylized lotus (closed Mondays and Fridays). Located nearby is Ho Chi Minh's house on stilts and the One Pillar Pagoda, a symbol of Hanoi. Continue your tour with a visit to the ancient Taoist Temple of Quan Thanh, where lies the genie protector of the city (or Tran Quoc Pagoda located on the shores of Lake West). Next visit the Temple of Literature, or van Mieu, a structure dedicated to Confucius. Constructed in 1070, the compound soon became first Vietnam's university. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, where you will have the opportunity to sample some regional delicacies.

In the early afternoon visit the renowned Museum of Ethnography (closed Mondays), which houses an interesting collection of artifacts relating to the mosaic of ethnic groups that inhabit Vietnam. Alternatively, visit the Museum of History (closed Mondays) which displays an array of exhibits ranging from prehistoric times to the fight against French colonization. This afternoon's touring will also provide the opportunity to see Hanoi's famed old quarter from the seat of a cyclo. During your tour around the district you will see some of the areas original 36 streets which have always sold the same wares. Silver Street, Silk Street and Flower Street are just a few. During your adventure through this maze of streets you will see traditional 'tube houses', a style of architecture indigenous to this part of Hanoi. Next, visit the Temple of Jade at the centre of atmospheric Hoan Kiem Lake, otherwise known as the lake of 'the restored sword'.

Finish, visit Hanoi's water puppets theatre to attend a performance of the traditional show.

At night transfer to train station for night train back to Sa Pa. Fanxifang Train – 4-berth Cabin

# DAY 3 : LAO CAI / BAC HA / SA PA (Sunday) (B,L)

Arriving in Lao Cai in the early morning, begin your jeep exploration of this fascinating area with a visit to Bac Ha dye market, one of the most popular in the region. Held only on Sunday, the market is a focal point for many of the region's ethnic groups. Groups such as the Flower H'mong, the Tay and the Thai come to trade wares such as silver jewelry and embroidered clothing. This spectacularly colourful market is justly well known for its many hand-made craft products. Lunch.

Depart Bac Ha for Sa Pa, en route visit the bridge of beauty "Cau Kieu" linking Vietnam and China before continuing. Arrive in Sa Pa late in the afternoon and enjoy some free time for exploration of this pretty hill station. At an altitude of 1,650 metres, with a refreshing temperate climate, Sa Pa was founded by the French in an effort to escape the oppressive heat of summer in the coastal plains. Near the town is the imposing Mount Fan Si Pan (3,143m),



Vietnam's highest peak. This region can indeed be called the roof of Indochina. Sa Pa itself is a town with a powerful draw for the regions inhabitants, many of them from ethnic minorities. Groups such as the H'mong, Red Zao, Tay and Dzay regularly visit the town. The town also retains some of its former colonial feel with many stately mansions set amongst the stunning mountain scenery. Finish your day with a tasty meal at a local restaurant.

\* Option 1: Saturday: Replace Bac Ha market with a trip to Can Cau

\* <u>Option 2</u>: Tuesday: Replace Bac Ha market with a trip to Coc Ly, where you can enjoy a cruise on the River Chay. **Boutique Sapa Hotel – Deluxe.** www.boutiquesapahotel.com

# DAY 5: HANOI (Monday) (B)

4.30AM train arrives station, meet by local guide and driver then transfer to hotel, early check in and free at your own time. *Golden Rice Hotel – Deluxe Room* 

#### DAY 6: HANOI/HALONG (Tuesday) (B,L,D)

| 7.45 – 8.15AM:   | Shuttle bus come to pick up to Halong bay or bay of 'the descending dragon', a journey of approximately 3½ hours. Listed as a World Heritage site by UNESCO, Ha Long Bay is a stunning limestone archipelago stretching over some 1500 square kilometers and comprising nearly 2000 islets. |
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| 12.00 – 12.30:   | Embark at Hon Gai International harbour.  |
| 13: 00:  | Check-in, enjoy welcome drink and cruise briefing.  |
| 13:30 – 15:00:   | Have lunch while cruising to magnificent Bai Tu Long Bay, admiring by the fascinating formations of the Bay.  |
| 15.00 – 15.30:   | Enjoy swimming in the crystal water.  |
| 15.40:   | Explore the well-hidden Thien Canh Son Cave.  |
| 16.45:   | Short cruise to Hon Co island where you can enjoy relaxing on a white sandy beach, swimming or kayaking.  |
| 18.00:   | Back to junk for relaxing.  |
| 19.00:   | Have dinner and overnight on board. Dragon Pearl Junk <u>http://www.indochina-junk.com/</u>   |
| DAY 7 HALONG/HANOI (Wednesday) (B,L)                                       |   |
| 07.30 - 08.00:   | Morning view of Bay's landscape with a cup of tea or coffee. Have breakfast in the fresh air.   |
| 08.30 - 09:30:   | Visit Vung Vieng fishing village by a rustic row-boat, meet the local people and pass through the floating school and fish farms.   |
| 09.30 - 10.00:   | More time for swimming in the middle of the bay.  |
| 10.00 – 11.30:   | Start cruising towards the harbour while an A la carte lunch is served.   |
| 11.45 – 12.00:   | Disembark. Fare well.   |
|  | Shuttle bus pick up transfer back to hotel.   |
| 17.30:   | Driver meet then transfer to airport for late flight to Hue VN1545(20.10/21.20). On arrival meet by driver then transfer to hotel.  |
| Mondial Hotel – Deluxe Garden or City View http://www.mondialhotel.com.vn/ |   |

#### DAY 8 HUE CITY TOUR (Thursday) (B,L)

8.30AM guide and driver pick up again from hotel, spend the day to visit Hue, capital of Vietnam from 1802 to 1945 during the reign of the Nguyen dynasty emperors. Declared a world heritage site by UNESCO in 1993, the Citadel is only one of many wellpreserved historical sites in the city and its environs. Cruise in a sampan on the Perfume River to Thien Mu Pagoda, or pagoda of the Heavenly Lady, a Buddhist shrine dating from the mid-seventeenth century. Located on the banks of the Perfume River, it is easily recognizable by its octagonal tower. Continue your tour with a visit to the Citadel, seat of the Nguyen Dynasty emperors. Construction began in 1804 under the orders of the first Emperor Gia Long after the site had been selected using principles of geomancy (Feng Shui). The citadel was inspired by Vauban fortifications and is composed of three sections; the capital city (Thanh Kinh), the Imperial city (Hoang Thanh) and the Forbidden City (Cam Thanh). It was largely destroyed in 1968 during the fighting that engulfed Hue following the Tet Offensive. Today, efforts are being made to restore and preserve this invaluable piece of heritage. Next, take a walk through Dong Ba market that offers an array of goods and produce, ranging from fresh vegetables to conical hats.



In the afternoon: Visit the intricately decorated tomb of Khai Dinh, which contains a beautiful altar and a bust of the king.

Next, visit Minh Mang's mausoleum located on the left bank of the Perfume River, which represents the perfect harmony between nature and architecture. *Mondial Hotel – Deluxe Garden or City View* 

# DAY 9 HUE /HOIAN (Friday) (B,L)

9.30AM guide and driver meet you from hotel then transfer to Hue along Highway 1 which links Hanoi to Saigon. This drive is reputedly the most beautiful in all Vietnam, taking you past coastal fishing settlements, most notably Lang Co with its stunning lagoon backdrop. The drive also takes you over Hai Van Pass, or 'pass of the ocean clouds'. En route you can stop in Danang for a visit to the informative Cham Museum, which houses one of the largest collections of Cham artifacts in the world (optional). Also stopping in a village of stone carvers at the foot of the Marble Mountain – giving you a chance to climb to the top and view the secret Vietnamese wartime hospital in a cave.

Having lunch on the way. On arrival check-in at hotel and free at your own time.

Vinh Hung Resort – Superior Roomswww.vinhhunghotels.comDAY 10HOIAN/WALKING TOUR(Saturday)(B)

Free at your own time in the morning

The afternoon is spent strolling through the narrow streets of this atmospheric old town. This former port, a UNESCO



World Heritage site, is full of architectural gems that show a range of influences. Visit the Japanese bridge, the temple of the genie of water, the Fujian temple and the fish market. Around the seventeenth century Hoi An was one of the busiest ports in South East Asia, with Chinese, Portuguese, Japanese, Dutch, French and English merchants visiting the town in search of spices, lacquer ware, and ceramics. Enriched by the proceeds of this trade many merchants constructed beautiful homes. One can admire these charming houses along Tran Phu Street, one of the oldest in Hoi An. Architecture in the old town tends to show an integration of Sino-Japanese influences in a local style. Most buildings share the same overall plan; built on two levels, they are constructed like a tube between two streets that run parallel. In the late afternoon take a boat ride on the Thu Bon River for the chance to view some

beautiful rural scenery, finishing at around sunset. VinhHung Resort - Superior Rooms

DAY 11 HOIAN (Sunday) (B)

Free at your own time

VinhHung Resort – Superior Rooms

DAY 12 HOIAN /HO CHI MINH (Monday) (B)

Take flight to HoChiMinh city - airport transfer is included

Asian Ruby Hotel – Deluxe Rooms www.asianrubyhotel.com

DAY 13 HO CHI MINH/MEKONG/HO CHI MINH (Tuesday) (B,L)

8.00AM driver and guide pick up from your hotel transfer to CaiBe.

10.30 arrive Cai Be – The program will start with the visit of Cai Be colourfull floating market cruising among local barges full of fruits and vegetables. Then, an optional stop can be made at local workshops where you can see how rices paste, coconut candy and pop-rice, pop-corn are made.

It is so interesting to visit the handicraft village where you can see how they make some special products: making rice-net for spring-rolls, fish sauce & soya sauce, cooking salt, sewing coconut-leaves for cottage proof...

A delicious lunch will be served under the shade of local orchards on An Binh Island

After lunch, the rowing boat will take you deeper into the countryside on smaller canals and to enjoy the peaceful time. It is so interesting to see traditional houses made of wood and palm tree leaves and see some activities of the local

farmers with an apportunity to make contacts with them and see how they catch fish or pick up fruits by ancestral ways in Mekong Delta..

One more stop can be made at the nursery garden where you can learn how to have some high quality fruit trees. This is the best choice for you to contact the real famous farmers – Mr Tiger and his son who are very successful in Vietnam agriculture. We will enjoy some kinds of fruits from his garden and home made rice wine when listening to the traditional music.

The boat will take you to visit the floating village to see how people farm catfish under the houses. The cruise will end at around 16 :00 pm in Vinh Long

**(B)** 

Guide and driver pick up and transfer to HoChiMinh Asian Ruby Hotel – Deluxe Rooms

DAY 14 HO CHI MINH DEPART (Wednesday)

Free at your own time until driver and guide meet then transfer back to airport for flight leaving.



# Note:

- Program is subject to change without prior notice due to Vietnam Airlines unexpected changes of schedule or flight cancellation.
- Room type: R.O.H. (Run of the House Best Available Room at Time Of Check-in)
- Check-in time: 14.00, check-out time: 12.00

# B: Breakfast L: Lunch D: Dinner

# INCLUSIVE

- \* Modern Vehicle with air conditioning
- \* Local English speaking guide.
- Meal as program
- \* Entrance and Sightseeing fee as program
- \* Accommodation (twin-sharing)
- \* Twin-sharing cabin on the junk with kayaking
- Domestic flight ticket (Hanoi/Hue; Danang/HCM)
- \* Tax and service fee.

#### **EXCLUSIONS**

- \* Travel insurance
- Visa on arrival
- \* Drinks, tips and things not mentioned in program.
- \* Bank fee if you pay by Visa/Master (3%) and AMEX (4%) on total amount.

# **QUOTATION IN US DOLLARS**

# The approximate cost for the trip will be:

Group more than 10 persons: \$US1,200 per person Group more than 15 persons: \$US1,120 Per person Single Supplement is: \$US450 per person

# **TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

#### **Hotel Check-in And Check-out Times**

Hotel Check in time: 14.00 – Check out time is usually 12h00.

Extended check-in - check-out time may be granted, subject to availability and agreement by the participating hotels.

#### Responsibility

Except in situations beyond human control, Tonkin Travel will be held responsible for any additional expense resulting from the change caused by us in itinerary, transportation, accommodation.

Except in situations beyond human control, Tonkin Travel shall provide compensatory service for participants or refund the difference in payment for service rendered below standard.

The detailed program and schedule flights are subject to changes by airline without prior notice and in accordance with the weather conditions and daily operation of flights. Consequently, itinerary concerned might be adjusted. If this occurs, Tonkin Travel will do all in its power to assist participants in boarding flights or finding alternative arrangements. Note however that it is done as a courtesy to participants and Tonkin Travel can not be held responsible for denied boarding, nor for additional costs occurred.

# Policy Regarding Cancellation / No Show / Early Departure

At Tonkin Travel we do our best to minimize cancelation penalty for our guests but we must abide by the cancelation policy of each service provider.

- Cancellation before 15-20 days before departure date: 10% of total amount.
- Cancellation before 10-14 days before departure date: 20% of total amount.
- Cancellation before 5-9 days before departure date: 50% of total amount.
- Cancellation before 1-5 days before departure date: 100% of total amount.

To avoid any money lose for customers, we will negociate our best in case the late cancellation happens.

# Travel Insurance

Tonkin Travel highly recommends you to have travel insurance when travelling around Asia. Please save our numbers for emergency calls:

Mrs. Huong: (Sales and operator) +84 904.113.044 Or Tonkin's Office: +84 43 719 1180 (Ext 15) / +84 43 719 1184 Fax: +84 43 719 11 81 Email: <u>huong@tonkintravel.com</u>