

## The Glories of Vietnam 20 days / 19 nights



Discover enchanting Hanoi and breathtaking Halong Bay. Explore the hill tribe villages in Vietnam's northern Region, Sapa. Visit the historical cities of Hue and Hoi An and discover the floating villages on the Mekong Delta. Vietnam is Asia's cultural jewel full of colour, friendly people, beautiful beaches and magical rice fields!

### ITINERARY

#### **Day 1 Arrive Hanoi**

Arrive in Hanoi, city of lakes, shaded boulevards and public parks. Transfer to your hotel.  
Accommodation › Pan Pacific Hanoi for 2 nights.

#### **Day 2 Hanoi (B/L/D)**

Today, your visit will include Hoan Kiem Lake in the city center and the Temple of Literature dedicated to Confucius. After lunch, visit a museum and return to your hotel. In the evening enjoy a welcome dinner.

**Day 3 Hanoi · Halong (B/L/D)**

Morning departure for Halong Bay. After check-in on your “junk” boat, start cruising amongst thousands of islands emerging from the Gulf of Tonkin. Visit Dinh Huong and Ga Choi islands and Songsot cave (or similar). Lunch and dinner and overnight on board.  
Accommodation › Paradise Cruise

**Day 4 Halong – Hanoi – Train to Lao Cai (B/L)**

Breakfast on board and while enjoying the cruise back to shore. Disembark and transfer by vehicle to Hanoi train station. Board your train to Lao Cai. Overnight on board. **Victoria Express Train operates daily EXCEPT Saturdays**

**Day 5 Lao Cai – Sapa (B/L)**

Arrive in Lao Cai and transfer to Sapa (38kms). Check in to your hotel. After breakfast, depart for a visit to Cat Cat and Ta Phin with a trek. This tour takes guests down a winding road to the Black Hmong village of Cat Cat which is nestled among beautiful mountain scenery. Wander through the village, visiting the traditional houses and observing the rural way of life. Afterwards, continue to the handicraft village of Ta Phin, inhabited by the Red Dzao, known for their distinctive red headscarves. Total trekking distance is about 7kms (2.5hrs).  
Accommodation › Victoria Sapa Resort

**Day 6 Sapa - Lao Cai - Train to Hanoi (B/L)**

Leave Sapa at about 08.30am by vehicle and travel southwards. The first 16km portion of the road offers spectacular landscapes of Hoang Lien mountain range, Fansipan peak as well as marvelous terraced rice fields of the Muong Hoa valley. Enjoy several photo stops before arriving to Su Pan commune where customers will pay a visit to Hoa Su Pan, a small hamlet of the Black Hmong tribe for half an hour. Continue the trip along the road further south to Muong Bo valley of Thanh Phu commune. Walking along the large village path for nearly an hour, paying visiting to several homes of the Tai people who live in spacious houses built on stilts, witnessing their daily life and experiencing their hospitality. Lunch break in a local home. Continue the trip in the afternoon with a short drive along the rocky road to My Son and spend half an hour to walk around this charming village of the Xa Pho ethnicity for a brief understanding of their very unique culture and custom. Then travel further to Nam Cang commune for visiting a beautiful and prosperous village of the Red Dao people in Nam Than village. Transfer to Lao Cai train station for your overnight train to Hanoi departing around 9pm. (B/L) **Victoria Express Train operates daily EXCEPT Saturdays**



**Day 7 Hanoi – Hue (B/L)**

Arrive in Hanoi around 5am and transfer to the airport for your flight to Hue. Arrive in Hue and transfer to your hotel.

Accommodation › Muong Thanh Hue Hotel for 2 nights.

**Day 8 Hue (B/L)**

Visit the Old Imperial City modeled after the Forbidden City of Beijing, the Thai Hoa Palace, and the Halls of the Mandarins. Enjoy a leisurely boat ride on the Perfume River and visit the Thien Mu Pagoda. Continue cruising to the Imperial Tomb of Minh Mang, a majestic complex of courtyards, pavilions and temples.

**Day Hue · Danang · Hoi An (B/L)**

Take the scenic route to Hoi An with spectacular landscapes and mountains. Stop in Danang and visit the Cham Museum. Pass by China Beach and the Marble Mountains before arriving in Hoi An.

Accommodation › Hoi An Historic Hotel for 2 nights.

**Day 10 Hoi An (B/L)**

Enjoy a rickshaw ride through the cobbled streets to see the central market and the harbor. Visit a private house and its traditional setting. Continue to the Japanese Covered Bridge, built by the Japanese community to link the town with the Chinese quarters across the stream.

**Day 11 Hoi An · Danang · Cam Ranh Bay – Nha Trang (B/L)**

Transfer to Danang airport for your flight to Cam Ranh Bay. Arrive and transfer to Nha Trang (36kms). Check in to your hotel and rest of the day at leisure.

Accommodation › Novotel Nha Trang for 2 nights



**Day 12 Nha Trang (B/L)**

This morning, visit the Po Nagar Cham Towers. Rest of the day at leisure to enjoy the beach

**Day 13 Nha Trang – Dalat (B/L)**

Depart by vehicle to Dalat (150kms). Arrive and check in to your hotel.

Accommodation › Ana Mandara Villas Resort & Spa 2 nights

#### **Day 14 Dalat (B/L)**

Nestled in the mountains, Dalat is a former colonial hill station with an abundance of colorful parks, lakes, gardens and waterfalls. Its ever temperate climate has earned it the name, the City of Eternal Spring. Stroll around the French District, an area reminiscent of a provincial town in France; visit the beautiful church, Domaine De Marie; and continue to Xq Embroidery to see the exquisite art of hand embroidery. Get an insight into the daily life of the last Vietnamese emperor at Bao Dai's Summer Palace; visit colorful flowers in the City Flower Garden. Continue to visit Datanla Waterfall, reached by a short walk through the rainforest. Return to your hotel and evening at leisure.

#### **Day 15 Dalat · Ho Chi Minh (B/L)**

Depart by vehicle to Ho Chi Minh (310kms). Stop en route for lunch. Arrive in Ho Chi Minh and transfer to your hotel.

Accommodation › Equatorial Hotel for 2 nights

#### **Day 16 Ho Chi Minh (B/L)**

This morning, drive to the Cu Chi Tunnels. Never discovered by American forces, these tunnels were an important Vietcong base during the American War. Stretching over 200 km, this incredible underground network, dug by hand out of hard laterite, connected command posts, hospitals, shelter and weapon factories. Today, walk through the area and learn about the day-to-day life of the Viet Cong, see the cleverly disguised entrances and elaborate booby-traps, and even venture inside the tunnels, some of which have been modified to accommodate tourists.

Afterward, go to Tay Ninh, the birthplace of the unique Cao Dai religion, a fusion of Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Christianity, Islam and native Vietnamese spiritual beliefs. Every day at noon, worshipers garbed in colorful robes flock to the Cao Dai Great Temple to participate in the daily prayer sessions, which visitors may respectfully observe from the upper balconies. (during holiday the ceremony may be cancelled). Return to your hotel.

#### **Day 17 Ho Chi Minh – Ben Tre - Cantho (Mekong Delta) (B/L)**

Depart by vehicle from Saigon to Can Tho with sightseeing in Ben Tre and a boat ride to Mekong River Islands (201 kms). Journey through the Mekong Delta to My Tho. Take a boat trip on the Mekong River to Tan Thach (Ben Tre) where local handicrafts and sweets from coconut are produced. Enjoy fresh seasonal fruits, a performance of traditional songs, and observe the local life. Take a short ride on motor cart to a typical local house to taste some homemade honey-tea. Proceed by with small sampan boat through the small canals and observe daily life along the riverbanks, stopping for a leisurely stroll. Continue by vehicle to Can Tho.

Accommodation › Victoria Cantho Resort for 2 nights



### Day 18 Cantho (B/L)

Breakfast cruise aboard the Mekong Princess to Cai Rang Floating Market (Shuttle, visit before 8.00am, tour with the early morning start) (4.5 hours)

Enjoy breakfast on board the Mekong Princess, an elegantly converted rice barge, en-route to Cai Rang Floating Market, the largest and most colorful of the Mekong Delta markets. After arriving at the market, transfer to smaller boats to explore the market close up, navigating between the fruit barges and vendors. Continue into the narrow creeks and canals, stopping to visit a noodle factory and an orchard, before returning to the Mekong Princess and back to the hotel.

Sightseeing in Can Tho (1-2.5 hour)

Explore the rural city of Can Tho. See the distinctive Ong temple, a bustling local market, and experience the sights and sounds of the back roads. Return on the main road with a visit to Binh Thuy Ancient House, a beautifully preserved and ornate French-style house built in 1870.

### Day 19 Cantho – Ho Chi Minh (B/L)

Depart by vehicle and transfer back to Ho Chi Minh for your last night in Vietnam.

Accommodation › Equatorial Hotel

### Day 20 Ho Chi Minh – Depart (B)

Transfer to the airport. End of services.



*This tour is guaranteed with minimum 2 passengers. A private vehicle with driver and private local guides will be provided during sightseeing.*

## INCLUSIONS

First class and deluxe accommodation in double occupancy · Domestic flights within Vietnam, as per itinerary · Return train from Hanoi to Lao Cai in a 4 berth cabin on Victoria Express Train (subject to availability) · Return airport transfers · English speaking local guides · Meals and visits as per itinerary ·

**Not included** · International airfare and airport taxes · Gratuities to hotel personnel, guides and drivers · Beverages · Optional excursions · **Visa for Vietnam**

## The Glories of Vietnam

**Minimum 2 passengers required**

Rates are in CAD\$, per person, double occupancy, <i>starting from</i>	Land package
	Double occupancy
<b>Departure dates (daily)</b>	
January 10, 2019 – December 01, 2019	5999
<b>Single supplement (minimum 2 passengers required for tour)</b>	TBA

Location	Var. A
<b>Hanoi</b>	Pan Pacific Hanoi, 5*
<b>Cruise</b>	Paradise Luxury CruiseCruise* Deluxe/2D1N/Without kayak
<b>Train</b>	Victoria Express Train4* 4 berth sleeper (4 beds)
<b>Sa Pa</b>	Victoria Sapa Resort & Spa 4* Superior
<b>Train</b>	Victoria Express Train 4* 4 berth sleeper (4 beds)
<b>Hue</b>	Muong Thanh Holiday Hotel 4*
<b>Hoi An</b>	Hoi An Historic Hotel4*
<b>Nha Trang</b>	Novotel Nha Trang4*
<b>Dalat</b>	Ana Mandara Villas Dalat Resort & Spa 5*
<b>Saigon</b>	Equatorial Hotel 5*
<b>Can Tho</b>	Victoria Can Tho Resort 4*