

## Vietnam Family Holidays With Teenager – 14 days

(Hanoi – Halong – Phong Nha – Hue – Hoian – Saigon – Mekong Delta)

### Itinerary Overview

Day	Destinations/Activities	Meals
Day 1	HANOI ARRIVAL	--
Day 2	HANOI CITY & STREET FOOD WALKING TOUR	B/D
Day 3	HANOI – HALONG BAY	B/L/D
Day 4	HALONG BAY – HANOI – DONG HOI OVERNIGHT TRAIN	B/L
Day 5	DONG HOI – LADIES & PARADISE CAVES – PHONG NHA	B/L/D
Day 6	PHONG NHA – DARK CAVE – HUE	B/L
Day 7	HUE CITY TOUR	B/L
Day 8	HUE – HOIAN SCENIC TRAIN JOURNEY – WALKING TOUR	B
Day 9	HOIAN COUNTRYSIDE & CYCLING TOUR	B/L
Day 10	HOIAN FREE DAY	B
Day 11	HOIAN – SAIGON HALF DAY CITY TOUR	B
Day 12	SAIGON – MY THO – BEN TRE – CAN THO	B/L
Day 13	CAN THO – CAI RANG FLOATING MARKET – SAIGON	B
Day 14	SAIGON DEPARTURE	B

**Note\*:** B: Breakfast / L: Lunch / D: Dinner

## TRAVEL MAP



## Detailed Itinerary

### Day 1

### HANOI ARRIVAL

Arrive in Hanoi. Greeted by your driver at the airport. Transfer to your hotel in the city centre for check-in and at leisure in the rest of the day.

#### Note\*:

- The hotel room will be available at 2:00pm, and in case that you would like to secure an early-check in, an additional charge will be applied.
- Please be advised that both international and domestic might be crowded at sometimes during the day, so in case that you arrive and cannot find our representatives, please contact us, so we could easily search for you.

**Meals:** N/A

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hanoi

## Day 2

## HANOI CITY TOUR

Free to relax in the morning.

Pickup at 13:30. We will spend a half day to visit the city. We start with visit to President Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum (Outside). We also visit the famous One Pillar Pagoda nearby. Leaving the President's complex, we continue to visit the Temple of Literature (Van Mieu). Although several Van Mieu can be found throughout Vietnam, the most prominent and famous is that situated in the city of Hanoi, and was functioned as Vietnam's first university.

Back to the Old Quarter in the late afternoon. We will then enjoy street food walking tour to explore Hanoi by night.

Your expert English-speaking local guide will give you an insight into the intricacies and traditions of Vietnamese food culture including details on ingredients and historical backgrounds of popular northern dishes. We eat as we go, trying seasonal fruits and sampling a tasty French-inspired snack from a street cart.

Walking through the maze of bustling streets that make up Hanoi's Old Quarter, we tempt our tastebuds with the famed Hanoi dish Banh Cuon at a local eatery. Watch in awe as the skilled chefs demonstrate for you how this tasty dish is put together. Continuing into the atmospheric heart of the Old Quarter, we wander past street stalls and quiet residential lanes where you can observe local life that has changed little since Hanoi was founded over 1000 years ago.

Our next two snack stops are at outdoor barbeque stalls. We sit down with the Hanoi locals and sample various meat, vegetable and bread specialties that are flame grilled over hot coals for extra flavour. It's then time for dessert as we venture down a small alley to join in the local tradition of feasting on fresh fruit served in a cup and smothered with crushed iced and condensed milk – this speciality is one not to be missed!

Your local guide will then take you to one of Hanoi's best kept secrets, a hidden street food restaurant to taste top ten street foods in Hanoi is Banh My Hanoi, and famous Egg Coffee. This hard-to-find café is one of the few left in the narrow street inside the old quarter of Hanoi. At the end of the trip you are free to continue exploring the area or your guide will assist you back to your hotel.

**Meal:** Breakfast/Dinner

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hanoi

### Day 3

### HANOI - HALONG BAY - NIGHT ON BOARD

08h00: Pick up from your hotel in Hanoi. Drive to Halong City through the paddy fields in the Red River Delta.

10h00: Stopover on the way for a refreshment break

12h00: Arrive at Tuan Chau wharf – Break and photography time

12h30: Board the Cruise for departure. Welcome drink will be served

13h00: Lunch is served while cruising through the bay

15h30: Visit exciting Cua Van fishing village. The village is free of busy roads and streets, electric lights, houses and high rise buildings. Instead, there are only herds of little boats and rafts. You will have the chance to discover the traditional culture and customs of the fishermen.

16h30: Enjoy kayaking or swimming (if the weather permits).

17h00: Back on board and continue cruising.

19h00: Dinner is served.

21h00: Take some leisure time to enjoy chatting at the bar or enjoy some night fishing.

**Note\*:** the itinerary and activities on board would vary depending on the boat you choose.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

**Accommodation:** Sleep on board

### Day 4

### HALONG BAY – HANOI – DONG HOI OVERNIGHT TRAIN

07.00: Coffee and tea will be served

08.00: Continue cruising

08h15: Visit splendid Sung Sot Cave

09h00: Check out and enjoy a fantastic cruise on the bay, passing Dinh Huong Island, fishing villages, Ga Choi Island, Dog Island and Sail Island.

09.30: Buffet brunch (breakfast/lunch) while cruising back through Halong Bay to the pier

11h30: Arrive at the pier. Time to say goodbye to the crew.

12.00: Return from Halong to Hanoi. Arrive Hanoi at about 17pm. Free to relax till pickup for overnight train to Dong Hoi

**Note\*:** the itinerary and activities on board would vary depending on the boat you choose. Please see the choice of boat in Hotel Inclusions.

**Meal:** Breakfast/Lunch

**Accommodation:** Overnight Train

## Day 5

### DONG HOI – LADIES & PARADISE CAVES – PHONG NHA

Our driver and Guide will pick you up at Dong Hoi Train station. Transfer to the restaurant for breakfast.

Then we drive on to the Ho Chi Minh-West Trail. There will be a short stop at the 8 Ladies Cave. This is a memorial temple for 8 brave woman that sought shelter inside one of the caves during the war. Our tour guides will explain the entire story to the participants!

Visit Paradise Cave. Named as Heaven in Mother Earth's Underground, Paradise Cave is one of the most magnificent and magical wonders in the world. The British Royal Caves Research Association has recognized it as the longest dry cave in Asia. Especially, the stalactite system here are so beautifully glitzy and shimmering that beyond human's imagination.

Continue the journey to visit the Mooc Spring Eco Trail.

The Mooc Spring Eco-Trail is home to many exotic animals like Gibbons, colorful birds, snakes, many fresh water fish and butterflies. Enjoy the great moments of relaxation, mix the natural scenery of the romantic Mooc stream.

**Meal:** Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

**Accommodation:** Homestay in Phong Nha

## Day 6

### PHONG NHA – DARK CAVE – HUE

Have breakfast at the hotel and check-out.

Visit Phong Nha Cave. The only way to enter the cave is by a short 30 minute boat ride on the Son river. Every tour to Phong Nha Cave starts at the boat station at the Phong Nha Ke-Bang Tourism Center. The mouth of the cave is simply beautiful and unlike any other cave entrance in the world.

Conquering the Phong Nha Cave is the longest wet cave or river cave in the world, enjoy the scenery spectacular limestone, underground river system and unique stalactite in the world.

Continue the journey to visit the Chay River – Dark Cave.

The entrance of the Dark Cave is at the opposite river bank from the Zip-Line tower. The beautiful deep blue color of the Chay river will catch your eye while riding the Zip-Line and a short 20 meter swim is required to actually enter the cave after the ride.

The cave is home to many lakes, with a water temperature of about 18 degrees. Inside the cave there

are many unique things to see and experience! There is a natural mud bath at the end of one of the narrow passages and there are many ancient fossils to be found. The fossils are over a million years old!

Our guides will provide information about the history of the cave while exploring it. After successfully exploring the cave it's time to take the kayak and paddle back to the boat station. Pickup and drive to the train station to transfer to Hue Transfer to the hotel in Hue upon arrival.

Note\*: we would have to arrange bus transfer in case there is not suitable train today.

**Meal:** Breakfast/Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hue

## Day 7

### HUE CITY TOUR

08:00: Pickup at the hotel.

Today, we will spend a full day touring Hue city.

In the morning: visit Old Imperial City, Flag Tower, Thien Mu Pagoda and Dong Ba bustling market. Lunch at the local restaurant.

In the afternoon: visit Royal Tombs of Minh Mang and Khai Dinh. We will also visit a Conical hat village and incense stick village

Enjoy free time to explore Hue city.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hue

## Day 8

### HUE – HOIAN SCENIC TRAIN JOURNEY – WALKING TOUR

Free in the morning.

In the afternoon, transfer to the station for day train to Hoian.

Enjoy scenic view of Hai Van Pass on the way. Arrive Danang station in the afternoon, transfer to Hoian. Upon arrival, enjoy walking tour in Hoian ancient town. We explore the ancient city of Hoi An highlights with Fukian assembly hall, Tan Ky ancient commercial house, Japanese covered bridge,

Phung Hung ancient trading house, and amazing places where you can observe the daily life of local people. Then transfer to the hotel. Free to relax.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hoian

## Day 9

### HOIAN COUNTRYSIDE & CYCLING TOUR

8:00 AM – Pick up from your hotel, we'll then hop on our bicycles for a short ride to get out of town center and discover the authentic charm of the Cam Kim island. The ride leads us through lush countryside and tracks lined by river coconut palms, with the gentle breeze sweeping in off the river. We'll with stops at several handicraft workshops en-route to get a closer look at everyday life of local people, they can be the wood carving and boat building in Kim Bong, and sedge-mat weaving in Tra Nhieu.

After around 2 hours cycling, we'll cross the river in a wooden boat then continue pedaling to a riverside garden. It's time to relax, sock your feet in an herbal bath and enjoy a tasty lunch with local produce. Back to Hoian at about 2pm. Then free time to relax and explore Hoian town.

**Meal:** Breakfast/Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hoian

## Day 10

### HOIAN FREE DAY

Today, enjoy your free day in the world heritage listed Hoi An.

You can spend your time the Central Market and the street stalls selling paintings, woodwork, ceramics, lanterns, and more. Hoi An is also famous for its talented tailors who can make beautiful items to order within a few hours. You can hire a bicycle and tour the surrounding. Other optional activities include a day trip to My Son Towers – World Heritage-listed temples that reflect the rich cultural traditions of the Cham civilization

**Meal:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hoian

## Day 11

### HOIAN – SAIGON HALF DAY CITY TOUR

Pickup at the hotel in the morning. Transfer to Airport for the flight to Saigon. Upon arrival, pickup and enjoy half day Saigon city tour. Our city tour will help you to see the best of Saigon.

We visit the historic Reunification palace and War Remnants Museum, followed by the architectural treats of French colonial Notre Dame Cathedral and the post Office.

**Meal:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Saigon

## Day 12

### SAIGON – MY THO – BEN TRE – CAN THO

Pick up at your hotel in Ho Chi Minh city and start the trip to My Tho. Upon arrival, visit Vinh Trang pagoda which dated back to the late 19th century. Then boarding the sampan and cruising down the river around the four beautiful islands known as Dragon, Unicorn, Phoenix and Tortoise islands.

Stop over at Unicorn Island, go walking in the village paths to contemplate orchards, enjoy tropical fruits, and Vietnamese folk music performed by the local people. Visit the fruit plantation.

Be rowed in a small sampan through the Thoi Son canal and treat yourself to the beauty of the countryside, visit the family business & bee-keeping farm, enjoy honey tea and coconut candy workshop.

Have lunch at the local restaurant. Break time.

The afternoon is time for cycling around the Tan Thach village, meeting the local people to experience their daily life in the Mekong delta. Relaxing on hammocks to enjoy the cool breeze is for those do not want to join the cycling trip. Proceed to Can Tho City and overnight in Can Tho

**Meal:** Breakfast/Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Can Tho

## Day 13

### CAN THO – CAI RANG FLOATING MARKET – SAIGON

Breakfast at the hotel. Take a leisure boat trip to explore the picturesque tributaries of the Lower Mekong River (Bassac River) then visit to Cai Rang floating market which is the liveliest one in the whole of region.

Walking trip to visit the fruit plantation and local noodle factory. Visit Binh Thuy communal house and Munir Ansay Pagoda – a Khmer pagoda, renowned for its unique structure.  
 Have lunch and return to Ho Chi Minh City.

**Meal:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Saigon

## Day 14

## SAIGON DEPARTURE

Free and easy till airport transfer for the departure flight. Trip ends.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** n/a

## Inclusions & Exclusions

INCLUSIONS	EXCLUSIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Overnights in selected hotels or similar</li> <li>➤ Homestay at local village</li> <li>➤ All in-tour stationed local English speaking guide.</li> <li>➤ Entrance fees for sightseeing mentioned in the itinerary</li> <li>➤ Excursions as mentioned in the itinerary</li> <li>➤ Transfers as mentioned by air-conditioned vehicles (including airport pick up &amp; see off)</li> <li>➤ Meals as indicated in the itinerary</li> <li>➤ 1 Internal flight: Danang – Saigon</li> <li>➤ 1 overnight train: Hanoi – Dong Hoi</li> <li>➤ 2 day trains: Dong Hoi – Hue; Hue – Danang</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Meals and services other than those noted in the itinerary</li> <li>➤ Visa fee</li> <li>➤ International flights pre/post tour</li> <li>➤ Laundry, telephone calls, and personal expenditures</li> <li>➤ Gratuities for guides, drivers, porters, boat crew, and personal, non-itinerary services</li> </ul>

## Important Information

### Emergency Contact

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call the travel consultant whom you deal with and then our hot line contacts. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please send us a detailed message and contact information by email to the agent and to [info@indochinatreks.com](mailto:info@indochinatreks.com), we may check and return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

Our all travel consultants use WhatApps. Please ensure that you have the contact number. It's best to buy a local sim-card upon arrival. Most hotels offer free wifi. So it's very easy to contact in urgent case.

Emergency contact numbers

Mr. Kelvin Do: +84 986759655

Ms. Thuy Pham: +84 984654964

### Combo Trip

If you book small group tour option, please note that the tour combines with our other tours. As such, some travel companions on your tour may have previously been travelling together with us. Likewise, some travel companions may be continuing together on another tour after your trip concludes.

You can start the tour on any date (please contact our consultant in advance to avoid peak dates or holidays) and customize itinerary with extra days/activities at any destination.

### Internal Flights

For all internal flights, we would use Vietnamairlines, Vietjesair, Jestar, Cambodia Angkorair or Laos Airlines. Most domestic flights in Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar, airlines would use small 70 seat ATR72 for short distances. Most airlines in Vietnam use the Airbus A321. 20kg for checkin luggage and 7kg for hand-bag is included in the price.

International flights before/after the tour must be booked by yourself before travelling date.

### Accommodation

We would use different hotel categories and you can select any basing on your budget. So your travel companions would not stay at your hotel. A Hotel Voucher will be provided once your tour is confirmed with all hotel details.

### Packing List

Conservative Dress

- Modest clothing that covers knees and shoulders (Long pants, long skirts, shirts that cover shoulders)
- Shawl or scarf (for temple visits)

**Note\*:** Please pack clothing for the season in which you will be travelling. From Dec-Feb weather can be cold, so please pack warm clothing. From May-Nov it is the wet season, so please bring waterproof clothing.

### **Documents**

- All tickets (required)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Required visas
- Hotel & Tour Vouchers
- Meeting sign (with your names and flight details that we will use for transfers)

### **Train Travel**

Train travel in Vietnam is very basic and train cleanliness is often not a priority for train staff. Sleeper trains normally have 4 seats per compartment, which convert into sleeping bunks (two upper and two lower). A sheet, pillow and blanket are provided, although many people prefer to bring their own sleeping sheet. At times, passengers of different genders may be required to share a sleeper train berth and/or share a compartment with people not travelling in your group. For short distance - 3 hours (as Hue to Danang or vv), you will do the trip on soft/hard seat carriage.

Simple food is available on the train but many people like to stock up on freshly baked bread, cheese and fruit prior to departure. Water should also be bought before the journey.

Train journeys in Vietnam are an experience and allow you to get a real taste of Vietnam.

### **Airport transfers**

All airport transfers are included in the tour price. You should provide us your arrival/departure flight details and we will arrange things basing on the information. A meeting sign with your name and all flight details will be sent to you. Please be ready at the lobby at pointed time for pickup.

Driver/guide should always be present at the airport before your arrival time. If you could not find the driver, please contact your travel consultant who you deal with. For any reason that airport transfer could not be arranged, please take the taxi to the hotel. We will refund the money then.

### **Travel insurance**

Travel insurance is not included in our tour price. When travelling with us, you are suggested to buy insurance that covers all medical coverage, cancellation, personal liability, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects.

### **Trip Specific Safety**

We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage.

Be aware that petty theft can be an issue in some towns and cities especially late at night. A common tactic is opportunists on motorbikes that drive by and snatch bags. Please always leave valuables and passports etc in your hotel in safety boxes if available and only carry with you enough cash to spend for the day. Bags should always be carried over the neck and not left to sit on your shoulder.

### **Warning**

Please do not buy gems unless you know what you are doing. Even if genuine you should not expect to be able to sell them at home. If you fall victim to a gem scam, we are unable to assist you.

### **Visas and Entry Requirements**

Please note that visas for Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos are the responsibility of the individual traveller. The visa requirements for your trip vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. For the most up to date information please check your Governments Foreign Ministry website or with your travel agent as rules do change.

CAMBODIA - Visas can be obtained at the Cambodian border or Siem Reap Airport for approx. \$35 USD very easily. Please have \*at least\* 2 passport photos with you as well.

VIETNAM - As of March 2017, a select 80 nationalities are now eligible to enter Vietnam with an E-Visa. Please contact your Foreign Ministry or Vietnamese consulate to see if your nationality is eligible. Please note that you should ONLY apply for a Vietnam E-Visa if you are entering Vietnam by international airport - either Noi Bai International Airport (Hanoi) or Tan Son Nhat International Airport (Ho Chi Minh City).

If you are entering Vietnam by land border, please apply for a regular visa for Vietnam. Many of the land borders we travel through do not accept the Vietnam E-Visa. Please view this link to apply E-Visa: <https://evisa.xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn/web/guest/trang-chu-ttdt>

LAOS - Visas are issued upon arrival in Laos. You will need two passport size photographs and approx \$35. Tourists are generally admitted to Laos for 15 days with a visa on arrival or for 30 days with a visa issued at a Lao embassy. Please bring visa photos with you.

Please be aware that you will require four clean pages (minimum) in your passport and at least six months validity.

### **Tipping**

It is customary in Asia to tip service providers such as waiters, at approximately 10%, depending on the service. Tipping is expected - though not compulsory - and shows an expression of satisfaction with the people who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides or drivers we use. Recommendations for tipping drivers and local guides would range from \$3-\$5 USD per person per day depending on the quality and length of the service.

### **Electricity**

Indochina Countries use 220V, and a mixture of flat 2-pin, round 2-pin or 3 pin plugs. It is recommended to bring a universal plug adapter.