



HGH TRAVEL

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YOUR INDOCHINA ADVENTURE STARTS HERE

THE HIGHLIGHTS & DELIGHTS OF VIETNAM & BURMA (MYANMAR)

16 DAYS - 15 NIGHTS

HO CHI MINH – VINH LONG – DA NANG – HOI AN – HUE – HA NOI – NINH BINH – HA LONG – YANGON – BAGAN – SALAY – MT. POPA – HEHO – INLE LAKE

This trip offers the thrilling highlights of these two exotic and fascinating countries. Be charmed by the two largest cities in Vietnam as well as the historical and extraordinarily engaging towns of Hoi An and Hue as well as the rural settings of Ninh Binh and Ha Long Bay. Then move onto to the mysterious land of Burma (Myanmar) where you will be awestruck by the magnificence of this rich and largely unexplored country from the capital city of Yangon to the exquisite beauty of the Pagodas and countryside including Mt Popa and Inle Lake.



DAY 1 : ARRIVAL HO CHI MINH CITY

On your arrival at the Tan Son Nhat International Airport, you will be picked up and transferred to your hotel (early check-in is subject to the hotel's availability). Being the heart and soul of South Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh is a bustling, dynamic and industrious city. It is not only the largest city but also the economic capital and trendsetter of Vietnam. Yet within the teeming metropolis are the timeless traditions and beauty of an ancient culture. You can enjoy a myriad of street markets, shops, pavements, cafes, stands-on-wheels and vendors all with their wares spread out on the sidewalks as well as history, culture and beautiful architecture. Let the exhilarating vibe of Ho Chi Minh City fill you with joy and wonder.

Your city tour will start with a visit to the Reunification Palace, a tribute to the war when the gates came crashing down in Saigon to the North Vietnamese. In the same area is the Notre Dame Cathedral with the twin bell towers that form the most famous landmark in Ho Chi Minh that can be seen for miles. You will spend the rest of the night in Ho Chi Minh City.

DAY 2 : HCM CITY – VINH LONG – HCM CITY

After breakfast, we leave the City for a beautiful scenic drive through the Mekong River Delta, home to the richest agricultural lands in Vietnam. Enjoy a boat trip to an island that houses orchard gardens and the beautiful Cai Be floating market, a famous place in the Mekong Delta. The Cai Be floating market is a magnificent site to see as hundreds of small merchant boats anchor alongside the banks of the river trading their commodities. We continue with our cruise through the maze of canals that crisscross around An Binh island.

Lunch is served at Mr. Muoi Huong old house. We can enjoy the delicious fresh tropical fruits of the Delta as we continue to cruise through islands and cross the Mekong River to Vinh Long (2km). On our way back to Ho Chi Minh City, we will visit the bonsai garden. Savor dinner with the delicious food and elegant music. You will spend the night in Ho Chi Minh City.



DAY 3 : HCM CITY – DA NANG – HOI AN

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DAY 4 : HOI AN

Today we enjoy a walking tour through the narrow and ancient streets of this charming town. Perhaps more than any other place in Vietnam, Hoi An retains the feel of centuries past. Once known as Faifo, Hoi An was an influential port along the Silk Road. For over 500 years, merchants from China, Japan, France and Portugal settled in the prosperous town resulting in a distinctive blend of culture, cuisine, religions and architecture. In 1999, the town was declared an UNESCO World Heritage Site listed for having the most unique architecture in Southeast Asia. It has been restored and protected by both the UNESCO funding and proud locals ever since. Lunch will be served at the Cargo Restaurant.

Take the whole afternoon to relax and be lazy on the beach or be adventurous and set of and explore the surroundings of Hoi An by bicycle, visit the local market or take a trip down the river: the choice is yours.

DAY 5 : HOI AN – DA NANG – HUE

We will leave Hoi An and travel north to Hue City through the emerald-green paddy fields. Hue was the political, economic and cultural capital of Vietnam during the Nguyen Dynasty (1802–1945) and used to be the home of past emperors. Along the way, you will have the opportunity to stop en route to take pictures at the summit of Lang Co Beach, Hai Van Pass and visit the Cham Museum located in Da Nang City. The museum offers the most extensive collection of Cham art sculptures throughout the world. The sculptures date from the 7th to the 15th century.

Our tour of Hue starts at the beautiful Imperial Citadel, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage Site since 1993. The Citadel includes the Imperial City and Forbidden City. Enjoy the various palaces, ornate halls, libraries, residences, colleges, Flag Tower and Noon Gate. We then visit the traditional Dong Ba Market, a typical market that has existed in this way for centuries where vendors sprawl their goods out for you to walk around and select the items you want. Dinner will be served at Y Thao Garden Restaurant. You will stay the rest of the night in Hue.

DAY 6 : HUE

We spend the entire day exploring ancient Hue and finding its beauties and marvels. We start by taking a boat trip down the romantic Perfume River to the Thien Mu Pagoda, one of the oldest and most beautiful pagodas in Hue. After that we move on to see the Minh Mang Tomb who was emperor of Vietnam from 1820 to 1841. Enjoy a vegetarian lunch and take the chance to chat with the nuns to learn more about Buddhism and gain insight into their daily lives and their calligraphy art.

In the afternoon, we will start our journey by heading to the outskirts of Hue to explore the Tu Duc Tomb. On the way back to Hue, you will get to see a traditional village where they make conical hats and incense. Enjoy dinner and relax to traditional folk music on the mystic dragon boats down the beautiful Perfume River. You will spend the night in Hue.



DAY 7 : HUE – HANOI

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport to catch the flight Ha Noi. Ha Noi is over 1000 years old and is the current capital of Vietnam as well the commercial, political, and cultural heart of the country. Once you arrive in Hanoi, you will be brought downtown to check into the hotel.

A city tour of Hanoi starts with a visit to the Temple of Literature. The temple was built in October 1073 to worship Confucius and is considered to be the first university in Vietnam. We will then drive to Hoan Kiem Lake where you will see Ngoc Son Temple which worships Van Xuong saint and Tran Hung Dao, a former general commander. You can then walk down the elegant tree lined boulevards where we can see many French influences such as Hanoi Opera House, the State Bank, the former Governor's palace, and the Hanoi Cathedral (Saint Joseph's built in the late 19th century). Finally, you can relax and enjoy a 1-hour cyclo ride around the 36 streets in the Old Quarter of Hanoi. After that, you are free to explore on your own in this splendid and exciting city or relax in your hotel room. You will spend the night in Hanoi.

DAY 8 : HA NOI – HOA LU – HA NOI

Today you will experience the ancient culture and history of Vietnam as well seeing the stunning landscape and beautiful scenery en route to the Ninh Binh Province. This area is known as "Ha Long Bay on land" and is located 80 km South of Hanoi.

We will go for a relaxing sampan ride through the gentle and elegant landscape of plains and mountains leading to the beautiful and mysterious Tam Coc Grottoes followed by a gentle cycle ride (4km) to Bich Dong Cave. This journey takes you through breath taking scenery of rice fields and imposing mountains. We then move on to the Thai Vy Temple where we will have lunch. Being built in the 13th century, the Thai Vy Temple offers magnificent insight and depth into the ancient Vietnamese culture. Once departing the Thai Vy Temple, we then head off to Hoa Lu, formally the capital of the Dinh and early Le dynasties between the 10th and 11th centuries.

We will then head back to Ha Noi where, later in the evening, we will enjoy dinner at one of the local restaurants before going to see the unique and intriguing Water Puppet Show, a traditional folk performance held on the Red River Delta. You will spend the rest of the night in Ha Noi.



DAY 9 : HA NOI – HA LONG

After breakfast, we drive to Ha Long Bay, one of the most beautiful places in Southeast Asia. The Bay is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The day starts with a leisure boat ride through the breathtaking Ha Long Bay where you will see mountainous peaks (karsts) reaching majestically out of the water. Lunch will be fresh local seafood cooked in the characteristically delicious style of the Vietnamese and served onboard while cruising to Bai Tu Long Bay, Teapot Islet, Blockhouse Islet, and Goat Head Islet.

We will explore the mystery of Sung Sot Cave, one of the most beautiful caves in Ha Long Bay before getting the opportunity to relax at a beautiful beach where you can enjoy swimming & kayaking. Later we will head back to the boat to enjoy a beautiful sunset while cruising to the Hang Trong area to anchor at Ho Dong Tien, near Trong cave. During the evening, relax to the casual and comfortable atmosphere on the luxury boat with an elegant dining experience. If we are in the right season, we can see fresh squid being caught the traditional way.

And after all that, relax under the clear, starry sky, enjoying the peace and quiet of the Bay before retiring to your cabin for the night.





DAY 10 : HA LONG – HA NOI – YANGON (BURMA)

After breakfast, we will continue to cruise through the karsts some of which display fantastic and mystical shapes before getting into a small boat to visit the Luon Cave. Back on board for an early lunch before saying goodbye to our boat and crew and heading by road to Hanoi where you will be brought to the airport to catch the flight to Yangon. Upon your arrival, you will be picked up and transferred to your hotel and the rest of the night is free to your leisure.

DAY 11 : YANGON

After breakfast, we start our sightseeing tour in Yangon. Sightseeing features include the beautiful Kandawgyi Lake, Botataung Pagoda, which has been hollowed out and allowing you to walk through it to view many ancient relics and artifacts. We finish our tour today with a visit to the awe-inspiring Shwedagon Pagoda which towers over all of Yangon. It is perhaps the most beautiful pagoda complex in all of Asia and is one sight that no visitor to Myanmar should miss. You will spend the night in Yangon.



DAY 12 : YANGON - BAGAN

After breakfast at the hotel, we set out for a tour of one of Asia's most popular archeological destinations, the busy Nyaung Oo Market, Bagan's distinctive pagodas such as Shwezigon, a prototype of later Myanmar stupas and Wetkyi-in- Gubyaukgyi, a 13th century 'cave temple with interesting fine frescoe.

In the afternoon, we explore the Ananda Pagoda, one of the finest, largest and best persevered pagodas in Old Bagan, Ananda Ok Kyaung, one of the few surviving brick monastery buildings from the Early Bagan period and Htilominlo Temple, known to be the last Myanmar Style temple built in Bagan. As the sun goes down, we will be at the ideal viewing site for a panoramic sunset view over the temples. You will spend the night in Bagan.



DAY 13 : BAGAN – SALAY – MT. POGA – BAGAN

After breakfast, we drive to Salay, 1 and half hours. It is famous for spectacular woodcarving monastery "Yoke-Sone-Kyaung" which was built in 1882, museum (it is closed every Monday, Tuesday and gazette holidays) of Myanmar famous writer U Pon Nya and lacquer ware "Man" pagoda built in 1300. Then drive to Bagan. We will stop en route, visit Mt. Poga which is said to have risen from the ground in a massive earthquake in 442 BC. Mt. Poga is famous as the abode of the Nats (Spirit Gods) and for its panoramic view of the local tropical region. We can climb to the top to see the temple that is built on the volcanic plug. Along the way, you will see a local toddy palm farmer and see how toddy palm juice and sugar are produced. You will spend the night in Bagan.

DAY 14 : BAGAN – HEHO – INLE LAKE

We leave Bagan for Heho airport and then drive to Nyaung Shwe, the gateway village to Inle Lake. Along the way, you can see the wooden Shwe Yan Pyay Monastery which features beautiful carvings and a collection of Buddha images.

Upon reaching the edges of Inle Lake, board a private motorboat to head out to Inle Lake, one of Myanmar's most spectacular sights. Pass villages built on stilts over the lake, inhabited by the local Intha people. Observe the 'leg-rowing' fishermen and see their floating gardens built up from strips of water hyacinth and mud and anchored to the bottom with bamboo poles. We visit Nga Hpe Chaung Monastery, which houses dozens of Shan Buddha Images, Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda, the lake's main sanctuary which contains five sacred Buddha images covered in gold leaf.

You can explore the local crafts of Inle Lake with a stop at the weaving village of Inpawkhone and a cheroot factory, where the typical Burmese cigars are made by hand. You will spend the night at Inle lake.



DAY 15 : INDANN SIGHTSEEING

From the middle of the lake, continue down a small canal leading to the Pa-oh village of Indainn. On arrival, continue to the Inainn area on foot, strolling around the village, visit a local school, and wander through the beautiful Alaung Sitthou area. Here you can climb the covered stairway to the top of a hill which is covered with picturesque ancient stupas and has magnificent views of the lake below. You will spend the night at Inle lake.



DAY 16 : HEHO – YANGON – DEPARTURE

On the day of your departure, you are free to shop, relax and do whatever you would like at your leisure until you are transferred to the Yangon Airport for your departure flight. This is the end of our service.