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# Culinary Tour Across Vietnam

(12 days/ 11 nights)

## Spirit Of The Tour

The Vietnamese cuisine is known as one of the most diverse and tasteful of the world and this tour will take you to discover countless local specialties. Between all the tasting we will also be visiting natural wonders as well as learn about the history and culture from North to South Vietnam. You will get the opportunity to not only try the food but also learn how to prepare the Vietnamese dishes.

## Programme Overview

**Day 1 : Hanoi**

**Day 2 : Hanoi**

**Day 3 : Hanoi – Halong Bay**

**Day 4 : Halong Bay – Hanoi – Hué**

**Day 5 : Hué**

**Day 6 : Hué – Hoi An**

**Day 7 : Hoi An**

**Day 8 : Hoi An – Ho Chi Minh City**

**Day 9 : Ho Chi Minh City – Xeo Quyt – Cai Be**

**Day 10 : Cai Be – Can Tho**

**Day 11 : Can Tho – Ben Tre – Ho Chi Minh City**

**Day 12 : Ho Chi Minh City**

## Detailed Itinerary

### Day 1 : Hanoi

Arrival at **Noi Bai Airport**. Transfer to the hotel. Free time to rest at the hotel. Lunch at a local restaurant, where you can taste **Bun Cha** (noodles and grilled pork), which is a specialty of Hanoi. The afternoon is devoted to walk at the **Lake of the Restored Sword**, a place that lies in the heart of **Hanoi**. Visit the **Temple of the Jade Mountain**, located at the shore of the lake. Take a cyclo to get around the old neighborhoods. Dinner in a local restaurant A **water puppet show** awaits us in the evening. Overnight stay at the hotel.



### Day 2 : Hanoi

Today you're the cook! The guide takes you to a **Hanoi** market to buy the necessary ingredients. Back at the restaurant, the chef explains the steps to cook specialties of North Vietnam. Enjoy your dishes. The afternoon is devoted to visit the **Temple of Literature**, Vietnam's first university. You continue to visit the **Ethnographic Museum**, which preserves and presents the cultural heritage of Vietnam. Dinner in a restaurant near the **Truc Bach Lake** with the specialty **Pho Cuon**, a rice cake roll (used for Pho) with sautéed beef. Overnight stay at the hotel.



### Day 3 : Hanoi – Halong Bay

In the morning we depart to the **Halong Bay**, one of the 7 natural world wonders. We get on a beautiful wooden junk for two days to discover this incredible gift of nature. The junk crosses lagoons along thousands of limestone karsts and isles in various shapes and sizes. You can participate in a cooking class offered by the chef of the junk. Get back on board to have a tasty seafood meal. Overnight stay on board.



### Day 4 : Halong Bay – Hanoi – Huế

The sunrise over the bay is a truly unforgettable experience of this cruise. The morning we spend visiting the **Surprise Cave**. Landing at noon, then departure to **Hanoi**. Transfer to the airport for the flight to **Huế**. Dinner in a traditional local restaurant. Overnight stay at the hotel.



### Day 5 : Hué

In the morning we visit the **Dong Ba market**.

We will buy the food we later need to cook our own dish in a famous restaurant in **Hue**. The chef gives us instructions how to prepare a special dish of **Hue**. We taste the food we cooked at lunch. Afterwards we visit the **Imperial City** and the **Purple Forbidden City** of the Nguyen Dynasty, a famous historical relic in Vietnam. We also to visit the **Pagoda of the Celestial Lady**, the highest pagoda in Vietnam which is one of the major symbols of the city. Dinner. Cruise trip on the **Perfume River** listening to **Nha Nhac Cung Dinh Hue**, which is a type of traditional court singing established in the Nguyen kingdom, ranked World Intangible Heritage of UNESCO. Overnight stay at the hotel.



### Day 6 : Hué – Hoi An

We continue the journey to **Hoi An**, which was declared UNESCO World Cultural Heritage because of its ancient town. It is an exceptionally well-preserved example of a South-East Asian trading port dating from the 15th to the 19th century. Its buildings and its street plan reflect the influences, both indigenous and foreign, that have combined to produce this unique heritage site. Lunch in a local restaurant. Walk in the center of the old town and visit typical **old houses in Hoi An**, the **Chua Cau bridge (Japanese Covered Bridge)** and the **Quan Cong Temple**. Dinner. Overnight stay at the hotel.



### Day 7 : Hoi An

Departure in the morning to **An Bang**. Discover the daily life of the fishermen of the village. Try to fish using traditional techniques with a fisherman





on a sampan boat. Then the journey continues by bike to the village of **Tra Que**, a charming village famous for its vegetables and herbs. We meet with local farmers and learn how to plant vegetables. Possibility to participate in agricultural activities such as tilling the soil, planting vegetables, watering, etc. Lunch prepared by locals.

In the early afternoon we board a boat to the pottery village of **Thanh Ha**. We walk through the village and discover the pottery techniques used by the local craftsmen of **Thanh Ha**. Possibility of making a cup or a traditional Vietnamese terracotta game. Return to the hotel. Dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight stay at the hotel.

### Day 8 : Hoi An – Ho Chi Minh City

Departure to **Da Nang** Airport for the flight back to **Ho Chi Minh City**. Lunch in a restaurant specialized in different rolls (e.g. spring rolls). Discover the **Notre Dame Cathedral** and the **Central Post Office** designed by Gustave Eiffel. Visit **Thien Hau Temple**, a Taoist temple in Cho Lon, which is the Chinese district of Ho Chi Minh City. Then we continue to discover **Chinatown** with the famous **Binh Tay Market**. Dinner. Walk on the pedestrian **Nguyen Hue Street**. Overnight stay at the hotel.



### Day 9: Ho Chi Minh City – Xeo Quyt – Cai Be

Departure to **Quyt Xeo**, a historic and ecotouristic site in the **Dong Thap** province. We will visit the heart of the **cajuput forest** by boat or trekking by foot (your choice). We discover **giant lotus gardens** in the quiet landscape of the South Vietnam countryside. On the way to **Cai Be**, we board the sampan to go to the **Mekong Lodge**. Set up in the great bungalows and rest. In the evening, you can attend classes with the chef of the resort to prepare your dinner. Dinner with your self-made dishes. Overnight stay in the bungalow.



### Day 10 : Cai Be – Can Tho

Ride by bike or walk to visit a coconut candy-making workshop and enjoy the fresh air in the gardens of local residents. Return to port. Lunch. Departure to **Can Tho**. Visit the ancient house in **Binh Thuy**, also known as the orchid house, where



the movie "The Lover" (1990) was filmed, a novel by Marguerite Duras. Dinner. Overnight stay in **Can Tho**

### Day 11 : Can Tho – Ho Chi Minh City

Discover the **Cai Rang** floating market early in the morning. This is a typical market of the South, and also the largest market in the **Mekong Delta**. You will experience getting around in a boat filled with heaps of fruits and vegetables. Back in port, we continue to the **Ben Tre** province, which is famous for its coconut production. Upon arrival, you will make a tour by **xe loi** (tuk tuk) through the local village **Huu Dinh** to enjoy the fields and green gardens. The day continues with a short walk to the **Huu Phuoc** bridge where you start your boat trip through small channels in a picturesque tropical landscape. On board, enjoy a welcome drink (mango cocktail) and tropical fruits during the cruise. The cruise will first stop at a **brick-making facility**, where locals still use old traditional brick-making methods by hand. Then you will take the boat across the **river An Hoa** where you can take a walk beside the narrow canals and enjoy the peace of the region. The sampan will take you to visit a factory where the rice noodles **Hu Tieu** are produced, one of the most popular local breakfast dishes. Return to the village by bike, before stopping at a local restaurant near the river. Relax and walk in the garden after lunch. Then visit the house next to Mr. Hung, who is a famous **manufacturer of sticky rice**. After the visit, the boat will be waiting for you to return to **Ben Tre**. Return to **Ho Chi Minh City**. Overnight stay at the hotel.



### Day 12 : Ho Chi Minh City

The guide will accompany you to visit the **Ben Thanh Market**, the largest, oldest and liveliest of all markets in **Ho Chi Minh City**. After shopping for the preparation of the lunch dishes, we go to a workshop where the chef will explain how to make a Vietnamese meal you can repeat at home. Enjoy your dishes. The rest of the day is free time to prepare your suitcase until the transfer to **Ho Chi Minh City** airport for your departure flight. End of tour.



customized tour for 2-4 persons	price / person
3* resort	from <b>1350 €</b>

### The price of the tour includes:

- domestic flights
- air taxes and fuel surcharge
- transfers with private air-conditioned vehicle
- cooking classes
- excursion to Ben Tre
- accommodation in 3\* hotel, breakfast included
- visits and services mentioned in the programme
- meals mentioned in the programme
- drinks: 2 bottles of water/day/person
- the assistance of a local guide (English speaking)
- travel insurance (1300 USD / person / tour)

### The price of the tour excludes:

- international flights
- transportation apart from the programme
- personal expenses
- tips for the guide and the driver (3 USD / person / day)