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PANORAMA OF VIETNAM

ITINERARY

DATE	ITINERARY	DURATION OF TRANSPORT	MEALS INCLUDED
Day 1	ARRIVE IN HANOI		Dinner
Day 2	HANOI – HA LONG	4H	Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner
Day 3	HA LONG – NINH BINH	3H	Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner
Day 4	NINH BINH – DIEN CHAU	4H	Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner
Day 5	DIEN CHAU – HUE		Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner
Day 6	HUE		Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner
Day 7	HUE – HOI AN		Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner
Day 8	HOI AN		Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner
Day 9	HOI AN – SAI GON – BEN TRE – SAI GON	1H FLIGHT	Breakfast - Lunch
Day 10	SAI GON - DEPARTURE		Breakfast - Lunch

PROGRAM DETAILS

DAY 1 : ARRIVE IN HA NOI

Meet at **14:00** at the reception of the hotel.

HANOI CITY : is the capital of Northern Vietnam and keeps this role until now. The city is located on the right bank of the Red River and far about 1760 kilometers from Ho Chi Minh City. Hanoi features a warm humid subtropical climate with plentiful precipitation. In addition, Hanoi is considered one of the main cultural centers of Vietnam, where most Vietnamese dynasties have left their imprint.

Begin to discover Hanoi city:

Ho Chi Minh's Stilt House : this humble, traditional stilt house where Ho lived intermittently from 1958 to 1969 is set in a well-tended garden adjacent a carp-filled pond and has been preserved just as Ho left it.

One pillar pagoda : a wooden pagoda on a single stone pillar, and it is designed to resemble a lotus blossom, which is a Buddhist symbol of purity, since a lotus blossoms in a muddy pond.



Temple of Literature : founded in 1070 by Emperor Ly Thanh Tong, the Temple of Literature is dedicated to Confucius (Khong Tu). Inside you'll find a pond known as the 'Well of Heavenly Clarity', a low-slung pagoda and statues of Confucius and his disciples. A rare example of well-preserved traditional Vietnamese architecture, the complex honours Vietnam's finest scholars and men of literary accomplishment. It is the site of Vietnam's first university, established here in 1076, when entrance was only granted to those of noble birth.

Continuation of the visit **Ngoc Son Temple** was built in the 18th century on Jade Island in the centre of the 'Lake of the Returned Sword' or Hoan Kiem Lake. Legend describes how an emperor was once given a magical sword which helped him defeat the Chinese Ming Dynasty and in doing so saw the return of the Golden Turtle God to the lake.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel.



Overnight at hotel in Ha Noi



dinner included



English speaking guide.



Transfers with sightseeing

DAY 2 : HANOI – HA LONG

Breakfast at the hotel

Early in the morning depart **to Halong Bay**. Along the way stop at handicraft workshops of handicapped people of Dai Viet. Boarding aboard a **traditional junk**. Start of the cruise.

Seafood lunch.

Ha Long Bay : in the Gulf of Tonkin, includes some 1,600 islands and islets, forming a spectacular seascape of limestone pillars. It was called 'the wonder standing in the heaven'. In the heart of stone islands, there have the beautiful caves such as Thien Cung Cave, Dau Go Cave, Sung Sot Cave, and Tam Cung Cave that are really the castles of the heaven. With the special values, on December 17th 1994, in the 18th session of World Heritage Committee of UNESCO, Halong Bay was officially recognized as the World natural heritage. In November 2000, Halong Bay was recognized by UNESCO as the World natural heritage about the values of geomorphology. On April 27th, officially stated that Halong Bay became one of the Seven Wonders of the World.



Dinner and overnight on board

(The nature of the visits being related to the change of tides and the weather conditions, the itinerary will be defined by the boat's captain the same day.)



Overnight on the junk at Halong Bay



Breakfast, lunch, dinner included



English speaking guide.



Transfer to the pier.

DAY 3 : HA LONG – NINH BINH

You will start your morning while freshness on the deck, undoubtedly admiring a sunrise over the Bay (depending on the weather).

Breakfast on board, then you will visit Luong cave (tunnel cave). Back on your junk, the cruise will continue to discover the Bay. Landing.

Lunch at the local restaurant.

Landing and Road to Ninh Binh. Scenes of Vietnamese peasants' country life will accompany you all the way.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel.



Overnight at hotel in Ninh Binh



Breakfast, lunch, dinner included



English speaking guide.



Transfer to the pier - the hotel in Ninh Binh.

DAY 4 : NINH BINH – DIEN CHAU

Breakfast at the hotel.

Visit the **Halong Bay On Land** covers a very large swampy area with various rocky landscapes, limestone mountains, the ecosystem where the flora and fauna are very varied, lakes, flooded rice land, and countless river routes offering its visitors a special impression. Halong Bay on Land has several beautiful caves to discover like: Thien Ha (Galaxy Cave), Thien Thanh (Cave of Blue Sky), Tien (Fairy Cave), Vai Gioi (Prayers to Heaven Grotto), Thuy Cung (Aquarium Grotto), Phat (Buddha Cave), Tam Coc (Three Caves), Trang An caves ... and several archaeological sites of big values such as Hang Me, Hang Boi, Hang Trong, May Oc....Furthermore, this are still many historical, cultural monuments in the ancient capital of Hoa Lu dating from 938 to 1009, many other historical relics of Vietnamese dynasties such as: Dinh, Le, Ly and Tran, palace of Vu Lam, Jade pagoda, the temples of Dinh Tien Hoang, Le Dai Hanh, Thai Vi ...without forgetting the magnificent bird sanctuaries in the Thung Nham valley, Thung Nang valley or Sun valley....

Boat trip of 1h30 among the rice fields that surround the sugar loaf hills where served the decor of the film " Indochina ".

Then, visit the temples and **caves of Bich Dong**.

Depart to **Phat Diem**, village known for its cathedral with Sino-Vietnamese architecture and which was built between 1875 and 1899.

Lunch at the inhabitant.

Visit Phat Diem Stone Cathedral : is one of the most famous and beautiful churches in Vietnam with special architecture: an elegant combination between Western church architecture style and Vietnamese religious buildings. This is an Eastern architectural ensemble including Lake, Phuong Dinh, cathedral with 4 churches on the sides, 3 man-made grottos, stone churches.

Transfer to Vinh by road.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel .



Overnight at hotel in Dien Chau



Breakfast, lunch, dinner included



English speaking guide.



Transfers with sightseeing until 20h00

DAY 5 : DIEN CHAU – HUE

Breakfast at the hotel

Road to the South. Admire landscapes and observe rural life on the way.

Lunch at the local restaurant.

Visit **Vinh Moc tunnels** :Vinh Moc is a tunnel complex in Quang Tri, Vietnam. During the Vietnam War it was strategically located on the border of North Vietnam and South Vietnam. The tunnels were built to shelter people from the intense bombing of Son Trung and Son Ha communes in Vinh Linh county of Quang Tri Province in the Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone. The American forces believed the villagers of Vinh Moc were supplying food and armaments to the North Vietnamese garrison on the island of Con Co which was in turn hindering the American bombers on their way to bomb Hanoi. The idea was to force the villagers of Vinh Moc to leave the area but as is typical in Vietnam there was nowhere else to go. The villagers initially dug the tunnels to move their village 10 metres underground but the American forces designed bombs that burrowed down 10 metres. Eventually, against these odds, the villagers moved the village to a depth of 30 metres. It was constructed in several stages beginning in 1966 and used until early 1972. The complex grew to include wells, kitchens, rooms for each family and spaces for healthcare. Around sixty families lived in the tunnels; as many as 17 children were born inside the tunnels.

Stop at the **bridge of the 17th parallel**, natural border between the south and the north from 1954 to 1975 according to the agreements of Geneva.

Then, crossing the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone), demarcating South Vietnam and North.

Arrival in Hue. **Dinner and overnight at the hotel .**



Overnight at hotel in Hue



Breakfast, lunch, dinner included



English speaking guide.

Transfers with sightseeing until 20h00

DAY 6 : HUE

Breakfast at the hotel

Hue : is located in central Vietnam on the banks of the Huong River, a few miles inland from Bien Dong. It is about 700 kilometers south of the Hanoi national capital and about 1100 kilometers north of Ho Chi Minh City. Throughout the centuries, the quintessence of country converges here to create a fantastic natural picture with romantic river and charming mountain. The architecture seems to be mixed with wonderful nature, which creates the charming picture. Today, Hue becomes the typical city of Vietnam. Every two years, people welcome Hue festival.

Depart to a sampan on the Perfume River to the **Pagoda of the Celestial Lady (Thien Mu)**, located on the left bank of the Perfume River, it is a Buddhist shrine raised in 1601. Its stupa form octagonal has 7 floors with a total height of more than 21 meters.

Visit the charming **Temple of Eunuchs**. Stop at the workshops of incense and conical hats. Visit of the tomb and gardens of **Emperor Tu Duc**.

Lunch at the local restaurant.

Demonstration of Tai Chi and Calligraphy (minimum 10 pax) in a martial arts center:

Tai chi is an internal Chinese martial art practiced for both its defense training and its health benefits. The term taiji refers to a philosophy of the forces of yin and yang, related to the moves. Though originally conceived as a martial art, it is also typically practiced for a variety of other personal reasons: competitive wrestling in the format of pushing hands, demonstration competitions and achieving greater longevity. As a result, a multitude of training forms exist, both traditional and modern, which correspond to those aims with differing emphasis. Some training forms are especially known for being practiced with relatively slow movements.

You will attend **a puppet show on the water**.

Royal dinner (minimum 16 pax) and overnight at the hotel.



Overnight at hotel in Hue



Breakfast, lunch, dinner included



English speaking guide.

Transfers with sightseeing until 20h00

DAY 7 : HUE – HOI AN

Breakfast at the hotel

Continuation of visits to the Citadel of Hue with the **Imperial City**, the Palace of Supreme Peace, the Dynastic Temple, Pavilion of Splendor and the Nine Dynastic Bronze Urns.

You will then ride a **pedicab in busy** city streets to **Dong Ba Market** where you will have free time to walk or shop.

Lunch.



Depart to Hoi An. **Stopover in the village of stonemasons**: this job has been passed on from generation to generation for hundreds of years.

Arrival at Hoi An.

Having dinner. Overnight at the hotel .



Overnight at hotel in Hoi An



Breakfast, lunch, dinner included



English speaking guide.

Transfers with sightseeing until 20h00

DAY 8 : HOI AN

Breakfast at the hotel

Hoi An : is one of the most famous destinations in the middle part of Viet Nam , 30km far from Da Nang. Hoi An ancient town was recognized as the World heritage by UNESCO. Moreover, the diverse cultural influences remain visible today from the culture of Kingdom of Champa ,the Asian culture of Japanese, Chinese, Indian and the Western culture during the trading time from the 16th century. Since 1998, the Hoi An resident decided to preserve one of the beautiful culture that's using colored lanterns. On the 14th of each lunar month, residents will switch off their lights and hang cloth and paper lanterns on their porches and windows. Others electronics as TV, radios, street lights and neon lights are turned off, and a sparkling, romantic and mysterious view is opened. Hoi An residents place offerings of food and incense on their ancestral altars and then go to visit the pagodas. The scent of incense and the sounds of people singing add to the town's enchanted atmosphere.

Morning: **Excursion with Ecotourism:**

Depart by bike through the sweet Vietnamese companion for the vegetable village of Tra Que (Located 5kms).

Renowned for its aromatic herbs, mint and basil, this village will allow you to discover the life of farmers and introduce you to their technique. The locals will guide you in the work of digging and picking vegetables.

You will then enjoy a session of foot massage (20mins) with the aromatic herbs of the village.

Lunch.

Discovery on foot from Hoi An with the main centers of interest:

Fujian Assembly Hall in Hoi An : Originally a traditional assembly hall, this structure was later transformed into a temple for the worship of Thien Hau, a deity from Fujian province. The green-tiled triple gateway dates from 1975. The mural on the right-hand wall depicts Thien Hau, her way lit by lantern light as she crosses a stormy sea to rescue a foundering ship. Opposite is a mural of the heads of the six Fujian families who fled from China to Hoi An in the 17th century.

Phuc Thanh Pagoda: the oldest pagoda of Hoi An (1454) founded by a Chinese monk, it contains a statue of Buddha A Di Da and very beautiful ritual objects.

The Japanese Covered Bridge : in Hoi An is one of the famous tourist attractions in Hoi An, Vietnam. The original Vietnamese name of this bridge is "Lai Vien Kieu". The bridge was built in the early seventeenth century. However, the builder of the bridge is still anonymous to the people of Hoi An. The Japanese Covered Bridge in Hoi An is a beautiful example of Japanese architecture. At one end of the bridge, there is a sculpture of dog and on the other end of the bridge here is a sculpture of monkey. These two animals are symbol of sacredness in Japanese culture. Inside the Japanese Covered Bridge in Hoi An, there is a temple of the northern god Tran Vo Bac De. This god is considered to be the god of weather. People believe that He controls all kinds of weather changes and natural calamities.

Having dinner. Overnight at the hotel.



Overnight at hotel in Hoi An



Breakfast, lunch, dinner included



English speaking guide.



Vehicle with driver for visits until 20h00

DAY 9: HOI AN – DA NANG – SAI GON – BEN TRE – SAI GON

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Danang airport and flight to Saigon.

Ho Chi Minh city : also known as Saigon is the largest city in Vietnam with the population nearly 9 millions. The city is called 'Diamond of the Far-East', the same luxury level overriding Hong Kong or Bangkok. Ho Chi Minh city becomes very important city in Vietnam. The nice location at central of the South Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh city becomes very important center of transportation lead to surrounding provinces , bring opportunities to develop the economy and tourism of Eastern and Western area of the South.

Visit the colonial district of the city: Dong Khoi Street: Formerly known as Rue Catinat during the French colonial days and Tu Do in the 1960s, this street was reborn during Doi Moi as the centre of Saigon's commercial and shopping district. Local boutiques compete with international brands, and restaurants litter the street set in beautifully restored French colonial buildings.

The Central Post Office : is one of the oldest buildings in Ho Chi Minh City. This was built around 1886 - 1891 based on Villedieu's design, a famous French architect. It has been the busiest post office of the country. Its architecture, with a roof topped by a glass roof, is reminiscent of the buildings of the World Expo. It is a place where it is nice to stop .

Saigon Notre Dame Cathedral : built in the late 1880s by French colonists, is one of the few remaining strongholds of Catholicism in the largely Buddhist Vietnam. Sitting between two streams of traffic, Notre Dam Cathedral is in the middle of Saigon's chaotic District 1. A brick, neo-Romanesque church with 40m-high square towers tipped with iron spires. Interior walls are inlaid with devotional tablets and some stained glass survives. In front of the cathedral stands a Virgin Mary statue, which is said to have shed tears in 2005, causing thousands of people to stop around the Basilica.

The Saigon Opera House is owning an elegant architecture. The building still many lively evidences for the influence of French architecture in Vietnam. This magnificent building designed by French architect Ferret Eugene, was built as a classical opera house with 800 seats. The style of this majestic building is influenced by flamboyant style of the French Third Republic. Since 1975, he has returned to his original function .

On the same square, square **The Hotel Continental** is a hotel in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. It was named after the Hôtel Continental in Paris, and is located in District 1, the central business district of the city. The hotel is situated on Dong Khoi Street by the Saigon Opera House and was built in 1880 during the French colonial period. The hotel has undergone refurbishments over the years, while still maintaining the essence of its original architecture and style !

The People's Committee Building of Ho Chi Minh City : was built and put into use in 1909 as a hotel whose original name was Hôtel de Ville. It was designed by Gardes, a famous French architecture. This building is thus one of the oldest, biggest and most beautiful French style buildings in Ho Chi Minh City, functioning both as a city institution and as the city's most prominent landmark today .

Depart to visit Mekong Delta.

Mekong delta : is located in Southwestern Vietnam. The water that moves to the rhythms of the mighty Mekong, where boats, houses and markets float upon the innumerable rivers, canals and streams that criss-cross the landscape like arteries. The bustling commerce of its towns contrasts sharply with the languid, almost-soporific pace of life in the countryside. Here buffalo wallow in rice paddies, coconut- and fruit-laden boats float slowly along the mud-brown waters, and two-wheeled exploration of the narrow lanes is amply rewarded with a true taste of rural hospitality.

Stop on the road for the visit of the temple of the Cao daist religion.

Arrival at My Tho: boarding a local motor boat and then sailing to the island of Phoenix. During your walk, you will taste the coconut juice of the region.



Local specialty lunch at the local restaurant on the island (Giant gourami).

Boarding then continue to the **island of Ben Tre**: where you will visit **a family candy factory at the base of coconut milk**. Depart by horse-drawn carriage and to the bee farm, **where you will enjoy a honey tea and seasonal fruits**. Boarding a rowing boat in the arroyos. Back to Saigon. **Visit a lacquerware factory**.

Overnight at the hotel .

Free dinner to offer you ..



Overnight at hotel in Ho Chi Minh City



Breakfast, lunch included



English speaking guide.



Transfers with sightseeing until 17h00

DAY 10: HO CHI MINH CITY – RETURN

Breakfast at the hotel ,

Free day.

Lunch at your own expense



Breakfast, Lunch included

End of our services