

Itinerary specially designed for

John



McGlashan College Group
Vietnam - September 2024

Vietnam – Vietnam is a Southeast Asian country known for its beaches, rivers, Buddhist pagodas and bustling cities. It is officially known as the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is a country in Southeast Asia, at the eastern edge of mainland Southeast Asia, Vietnam borders China to the north, and Laos and Cambodia to the west. It shares maritime borders with Thailand through the Gulf of Thailand, and the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia through the South China Sea.

CITY	NIGHTS	HOTELS	ROOM CATEGORY
Hanoi	03	Hotel La Rose (4*)	Deluxe Room
Sapa	02	Hotel BB Resort (4*)	Superior Room
Hoi An	03	Hotel Hoi An Historic (4*)	Classic Room
Hue	02	Hotel Eldora (4*)	Deluxe City View Room
Saigon	03	Hotel Central Palace (4*)	Park View Room

Hanoi - Sapa - Hanoi - Hoi An - Danang - Hue - Saigon

Day 1: Fri 27 Sept Dunedin - Auckland - Singapore

Today, please make your own way to Dunedin airport to connect the flight to Auckland.

1455 hrs Depart from Dunedin
1645 hrs Arrive in Auckland

On arrival, please transit to your connecting flight to Singapore.

2355 hrs Depart from Auckland

Day 2: Sat 28 Sept Singapore - Hanoi

0640 hrs Arrive in Singapore

Upon arrival, please transfer to your connecting flight to Hanoi.

0915 hrs Depart from Singapore

1140 hrs Arrive in Hanoi

On arrival in Hanoi, you will be picked and transferred to your hotel.

*Your accommodation in Hanoi: Three nights in **Hotel La Rose (4*)** in Deluxe Room including breakfast*

In the afternoon, you will be picked up from your hotel and we will proceed for a walking tour of Ha Noi's quaint Old Quarter which allows you to catch a glimpse of historic Ha Noi and see plenty of traditional Vietnamese architecture. Visit an ancient Vietnamese long house.

Enjoy your Dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 3: Sun 29 Sept

Hanoi

(B/L)

Today, you will be picked up from your Hotel and we will proceed for a half day tour of Hanoi. Visit the imposing marble edifice housing the Ho Chi Minh mausoleum followed by government buildings.

Then visit Hoa Lo Prison, more popularly known as the "Hanoi Hilton", is a museum near the French Quarter of Hanoi, Vietnam. It was first built in the late 1890s by Vietnam's French colonizers as a central prison (Maison Centrale) for Vietnamese criminals.

Enjoy your lunch at Koto Restaurant.

Day 4: Mon 30 Sept

Hanoi - Ninh Binh - Hanoi

(B)

Today, you will be picked up and we will proceed towards Ninh Binh. The trip starts at Tam Coc area. Taking a rowing Tam Coc Boat Tours from Tam Coc wharf. The boat tour is arranged by local people.

After that, you will visit 3 Magical Grottos: Hang Ca (First Grotto), Hang Hai (Second Grotto), Hang Ba (Third Grotto) during Tam Coc River Tour. Relax with Biking around

Tam Coc in 30-45 minutes. If you travel during harvest season, you will see many rice fields in golden colours.

Enjoy your lunch at a local restaurant.

The last destination, visit Mua Cave. The cave is compared with the "Great wall of China". Here you walk 500 steps to reach the top of Mua cave then take a lookout of a splendid overview of Ninh Binh.

Day 5: Tue 01 Oct

Hanoi - Sapa

(B)

This day, you will be picked up and we will proceed towards (325kms/6hrs)

Upon arrival, you will be transferred to your Hotel.

*Your accommodation in Sapa: Two nights in **Hotel BB Resort (4*)** in Superior Room including breakfast*

Day 6: Wed 02 Oct

Sapa

(B)

In the morning, you will be picked up and proceed for a half day tour of Sapa. The trip commences with car driving to Silver Waterfall where you can enjoy the stunning views of the surrounding mountains and the lush green forests belonging to Hoang Lien National Park. Along the way, you will experience a large farming area where local grows vegetable, fruit and flower.

After spending some time at Silver Waterfall, your ride will continue for few more kilometres to the gate of Hoang Lien national park, where you will take a short walk access into the jungle to visit the Love Waterfall. The area is covered by trees, lush green forest and a beautiful the water falling from rocky cove. Enjoy the great time by listening to the sound of the waterfall, dip your feet into the cool water that makes you feel very relaxing.

Leave the waterfall by walking back to vehicle then you have short drive to visit Haven Gate - The highest Pass in Vietnam. At the height of 2000m above sea level you have chance to enjoy the spectacular view of the Pass, mountainous and valley below which direct to Lai Chau province.

Then drive to Y Linh Ho where your scenic trek will lead you down to the Muong Hoa Valley festooned with lush, terraced paddy fields (September - October). Depending on your health and time, there are options from 1.5 to 4 hour trek along the Hoang Lien Mountain Range with various photo stops before heading to the Lao Chai Junction for a panoramic view of the Muong Hoa Valley.

Walk to Ta Van and return to Sapa by coach. (Difficulty level: 3/5).

Day 7: The 03 Oct

Sapa - Danang -Hoi An

(B/D)

This morning, you will be picked up from your hotel and we will drive towards Hanoi (315kms/6hrs)

Upon arrival, you will be transferred to Hanoi airport to connect with the flight for Danang.

TBA Depart from Hanoi by flight
TBA Arrive in Danang

On arrival, you will be picked up and transferred to your Hotel in Hoi An.

*Your accommodation in Hoi An: Three nights in **Hotel Hoi An Historic (4*)** in Classic Room including breakfast*

Enjoy dinner in the evening.

Day 8: Fri 04 Oct

Hoi An

(B/L)

Today, experience the amazing sights, sounds and aromas of the Hoi An Market on a personally-guided tour with the chef of the Red Bridge Restaurant. Interact with the stall holders and purchase fresh ingredients for the day's meals.

After completing the shopping, take a boat cruise along the Hoi An River to the Red Bridge Cooking School. Learn about Vietnamese herbs and spices, local ingredients, and the art of food decoration. The chef will demonstrate how to prepare some of Vietnam's most delicious dishes. Guests then have an opportunity to prepare their own meals under the Chef's guidance. Enjoy a delicious home-cooked meal of Vietnamese and Hoi An specialties.

This afternoon, proceed for a walking tour to explore this World Heritage Site. Highlights include an ancient merchant house, the Phuc Kien Assembly Hall, the 400-year-old Japanese Covered Bridge and the vibrant riverside market. In the afternoon, visit one of Hoi An's famous lantern workshops and learn how to make one yourself.

End the tour by taking a peaceful boat trip on the Thu Bon and afterwards enjoy free time to further explore the old town.

Day 9: Sat 05 Oct

Hoi An

(B/L)

Today, you will be picked up and we will proceed for a full day tour of My Lai. My Lai, in the central Vietnamese district of My Son was a watershed in the history of modern American combat and a turning point in the public perception of the U.S - Vietnam War. On March 16, 1968, the angry and frustrated men of Charlie Company, 11th Brigade, American Division, entered the village of My Lai.

The 'search and destroy' mission degenerated into the massacre of 503 unarmed civilians including 182 women, 172 children and the elderly. Lt. William Calley ordered his men to enter the village firing. There were no reports of opposing fire. This day trip allows you to visit the museum, meet the local villagers and tour the village to absorb the history of this seminal conflict.

Day 10: Sun 06 Oct

Hoi An - Danang - Hue

(B/L)

In the morning, you will be picked up and we will Depart for the ancient capital of Hue with a coastal drive via the Cloudy Pass and the photogenic village of Lang Co.

Upon arrival in Hue, you will be transferred to your Hotel.

*Your accommodation in Hue: Two nights in **Hotel Eldora (4*)** in Deluxe City Room including breakfast*

After that, we will drive to the outskirts of Hue to visit the impressive mausoleums of Emperor Tu Duc and Emperor Khai Dinh. The mausoleum of Tu Duc, the 'poet Emperor', is set in an elegant garden with a magnificent lake and pavilion complex. In complete contrast to Emperor Tu Duc's stylish creation, the mausoleum of Emperor Khai Dinh appears at first to be an unimposing concrete construction. The beauty and originality of it lies with a unique combination of Vietnamese and European features and the use of fragments of ceramics and glass for decoration.

Day 11: Mon 07 Oct

Hue

(B)

Today, take an excursion to the Imperial Citadel. The spectacular Citadel (which was built in accordance with strict principles of geomancy) houses a series of palaces, ornate halls, libraries, residences, and colleges.

Then, proceed to the elegant Thien Mu Pagoda to witness a daily Buddhist prayer recital led by the monks before enjoying a cruise on the river back to Hue City.

Rest of the day is at leisure.

Day 12: Tue 08 Oct

Hue - Ho Chi Minh City

(B)

Today, you will be picked up from your Hotel and transferred to Airport to connect the flight to Saigon.

TBA
TBA

Depart from Hue by flight
Arrive in Saigon

On arrival, you will be picked up and transferred to your Hotel.

*Your accommodation in Saigon: Three nights in **Hotel Central Palace (4*)** in Park View Room including breakfast*

Rest of the day is at leisure.

Day 13: Wed 09 Oct Ho Chi Minh City

(B/L)

In the morning, you will be picked up and we will proceed for a tour of Cu Chi Tunnels. One of the few intact monuments to the Vietnam War. Beneath the ground lie 200km of underground tunnels, dug by hand and inhabited by the Viet Minh during the US war. A video of the tunnels in use is shown, before walking around the area to view some of the tunnels, field kitchens and hospital. Crawl inside and experience life in the tunnels if you wish.

On the return to Saigon a stop for lunch before exploring the city with visits to the famous Reunification Palace, Post Office and Notre Dame Cathedral.

Day 14: Thu 10 Oct Ho Chi Minh City

(B/L/D)

In the morning, you will be taken on a cyclo tour of Ho Chi Minh (formerly Saigon) - a fast paced city with a unique mix of French colonial architecture, Chinese influences, a modern entrepreneurial spirit and numerous temples. On this tour, you will take in the highlights of Ho Chi Minh starting with an exploration of Saigon's turbulent past

with visits to the Reunification Palace, the War Museum and the famous Dong Ba Market.

This evening, enjoy your dinner at a local BBQ Restaurant.

Day 16: Fri 11 Oct Ho Chi Minh City - Singapore (B)

Today at an appointed time, you will be picked up and transferred to the airport to commence your homeward flights.

1215 hrs Depart from Saigon
1520 hrs Arrive Singapore

On arrival, please transfer to your connecting flight to Singapore.

1840 hrs Depart Singapore

Day 17: Sat 12 Oct Auckland - Dunedin (B)

0935 hrs Arrive in Auckland

Upon arrival, please transit to your connecting flight to Dunedin.

1225 hrs Depart Auckland
1420 hrs Arrive Dunedin

Meals mentioned above: B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner

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