Vietnam from North to South

Trip Code: VNS

Version:

WALK & TREK	GUIDED GROUP	3 LEISURELY



HIGHLIGHTS

- Cruise Ha Long Bay aboard a comfortable Junk
- Unique 4-day homestay trek through the villages and rice fields of the Pu Luong NP
- Wander the streets of Hanoi's Old Quarter and sample vietnamese streetfood
- Travel by rowing boat through the limestone outcrops of Tam Coc
- Visit the Cu Chi Tunnels and experience life on the Mekong Delta

AT A GLANCE

- 9 days touring and sightseeing
- 4 days walking,
- Join at Hanoi, End in Saigon

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

Wander the smoky streets of Hanoi, trek amongst North Vietnam's verdant rice terraces, explore the delta of the mighty Mekong River and experience the nightlife of Ho Chi Minh City on this voyage through Vietnam. We start out in the 1000 year old city of Hanoi, where we explore the maze like streets of the 'Old Quarter'. Travelling inland we spend 4 days trekking between villages in the Pu Luong National Park, sleeping in stilted houses, and experiencing rural life in an area where the fields are still ploughed by water buffalo and irrigated by wooden water wheels.

We'll explore the impressive limestone spires at Tam Coc, known as Halong Bay on land, before heading on to Halong Bay itself, for some great seafood and a night on a traditional junk. Our journey south begins with an overnight journey on the famous 'Reunification Express' sleeper train. Arriving in Hue, we cruise the Perfume River in search of imperial palaces and pagodas before visiting Hoi An, known for its lantern lit bridges and skilled tailors. Next we explore the canals, mangroves and floating markets of the Mekong Delta, the 'rice bowl of Vietnam'. We will take time to visit the Cu Chi Tunnels, a remnant of the Vietnam war, before on we end our holiday with a night in lively Ho Chi Minh City where we can experience the city's evocative mix of ancient pagodas and modern skyscrapers.

Is this holiday for you?

This is an active journey, which includes a gentle, 4-day trek point to point trek. On our trek each day's walk will be between 4 and 6 hours and overnight stops will be in simple homestay accommodation. We've included as many highlights as we can within our 14 days, so the pace of the holiday is pretty full on. We'll use several means of transport are used during this holiday, including minibus, sleeper train, plane, sampan, junk and rowing boat. The combination of different means of travel, and the variety of accommodation used, will mean a degree of flexibility will be required - this diversity is part of the charm of this holiday.

Itinerary

Version:

Extensions

When booking your holiday, you will be able to 'add an extension option'. Once we have received your booking we will contact you to discuss additional services required for the extension and to take any additional deposit.



Highlights of Angkor Extension

Angkor, in northern Cambodia, is one of the most important archaeological sites in South-east Asia. Stretching over some 400 square km, the park contains the magnificent remains of several capitals of the Khmer Empire from the 9th to the 15th centuries, including the largest pre-industrial city in the world. The most famous are the Temple of Angkor Wat and, at Angkor Thom, the Bayon Temple with its countless sculptural decorations.

4 days from
US$200 per person

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A professional and qualified tour leader
- Internal flights
- Single timed group airport transfers
- All accommodation as described
- Meals as detailed in the Meal Plan
- Ferries and cruise boats and all land transport

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Visas
- Some meals as detailed in the Meal Plan
- Tips for local staff
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The group will meet at the group hotel in Hanoi. A single timed transfer from the airport to the group hotel is provided on Day 1.

On Day 14 there will be a single timed transfer from the hotel in Ho Chi Minh City to the airport.

Anyone may join the group transfers by prior arrangement. Travelling as a group or on public transport saves energy. If this is not practical, we can provide private transfers at an additional cost. Taxis are also available.

Hotel contact details and an emergency phone number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

All breakfasts, 11 lunches and 8 dinners are included. Where lunches and dinners are not included there will be a large range of dining options and budgets to choose from and so it makes sense to leave the choice to you. You should budget £2 - £5 per meal (or less if you want to try some delicious street food) or up to £15 for the more expensive restaurants.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Food & Water

It is not recommended to drink untreated water from the taps. You should take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a Water-To-Go bottle) to treat your water. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

This will be a gourmet experience. Start practising your chopstick technique now, as there are no knives and forks for parts of this trip. Vietnamese cuisine is fresh, fragrant and flavoursome. Typically a selection of dishes or varying flavours will be served together and each person takes a little of each dish - so there will usually be something to please everyone (vegetarians included!) at every meal. A typical meals will include Pho (Vietnamese noodle soup), spring rolls, spiced beef and pork dishes, fish in chilli, tomato served with tofu, stir fried vegetables and rice, with fresh fruit for dessert. On board the junk in Halong Bay we will certainly be treated to a variety of fresh and delicious sea food. You can expect to feast on a A to Z of delicious Vietnamese cuisine during the course of your stay!

Accommodation

In Hanoi, HCMC (Saigon), Hue and Hoi An we will stay in well located 3* hotels. In Tam Coc and on the Mekong Delta we will stay in comfortable bungalows, in beautiful grounds/surroundings. .

During the 3 homestay nights, we will stay in traditional stilted wooden houses, footwear will be left outside! The group will share a large communal room, but each person will have their own foam mattress, with bedding and mosquito net provided. You will need to bring a sleeping bag liner or a light sleeping bag, but there will be plenty of colourful blankets to use should the temperature fall in the evenings. Hot water for washing is available and there will be basic bathroom and shower facilities.

During the train journey to Hue we use 'soft sleeper' class with four berths per compartment (bedding is provided).

On board our Junk on Halong bay we will have twin cabins with air conditioning, electricity, and en suite facilities. The Junk has a sun deck, dining room, bar and a friendly crew ready to look after you.

All accommodation is based on twin-share (except homestay). If you are travelling on your own, you will be paired with another single traveller of the same sex. Depending on availability, single accommodation for the hotel nights only is available for a supplement.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be led by a professional and qualified tour leader. During the 4-day trek in the Pu Luong Nature Reserve the group will also have the assistance of baggage porters.

Altitude

This holiday does not involve any significant ascent to altitude and we would not expect any altitude issues with this trip.

Spending Money

Approximately $250-$300 should be allowed for miscellaneous expenses. This amount should be enough to cover the non-included meals, tips to local staff. If you are intending to buy expensive souvenirs, you should budget accordingly (credit cards can be useful in this respect). It is not necessary to obtain local currency (Vietnamese Dong) prior to travelling. Money can be changed easily at the airport or at banks in Hanoi. The group hotel will be able to make small exchanges only. Sterling, Euros and US dollars are acceptable for exchange in Hanoi Hue and Ho Chi Minh City but US dollars are the most convenient currency as they can often be exchanged at smaller places. We recommend that you carry your travel money in cash rather than travellers cheques since you will exchange most of it on the day of arrival and travellers cheques can be difficult and time consuming to change.

Guidance on Tipping

It usual to tip staff including your local guide and driver if you are happy with the services provided. We suggest you coordinate these tips as a group and as a rough guide we recommend and as a rough guide we suggest you allow a total of $80 - $100 to a pool for tipping your crew. The exact amount should be determined by the group and the guide will give advice on the appropriate levels.

Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage, which should be a soft duffle bag, and one day pack. During the trekking part of this holiday your baggage will be transported by motorbike, and should not weigh more than 15kg. For some sections of the trip you may be asked to ‘decant’ items not required, which will travel by alternative means to your next hotel. We recommend that you therefore bring a second fold away bag to store these items in. For international flights please check your baggage allowance with your airline.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the ‘Dates and Prices’ table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required**,** and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

Visa Vietnam

British Citizen passport holders do not normally need a visa for durations of stay up to and including 45 days for tourism and transit.

NB. Irish and US and some EU country passport holders do need a visa to enter Vietnam.

For information about multiple entry visas, longer stays or different nationalities please contact the relevant embassy. The Vietnamese Embassy in the UK is in London.

PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION - IMPORTANT

The Vietnamese authorities now require travellers to submit Passenger Information online **within 3 days** preceding the arrival in Vietnam.

Go to this link https://prearrival.immigration.gov.vn/ to enter your personal information and travel details.

UK citizens should choose 'Default visa exemption by country' when asked to provide visa details.

Receive a confirmation email with a QR code.

Show the QR code to the immigration officer upon arrival.

If you are booking an extension to Cambodia you will also need to check Cambodia's visa requirements.

Visa Cambodia

UK and USA passport holders do require a visa. The visa fee is $30 and we recommend that you pick up your visa on arrival at the international airport or at the land border if crossing into Cambodia from Vietnam. Payment must be made in cash (good condition USD), your passport must have 6 months remaining validity and you need 2 passport photographs.

e-ARRIVAL REGISTRATION - PRE-DEPARTURE - IMPORTANT

The Cambodian authorities now require travellers to go through this e-Arrival procedure **within 7 days** preceding the arrival in Cambodia.

Download the official E-arrival app: https://arrival.gov.kh/

Enter your personal information and travel details.

Receive a confirmation email with a QR code.

Show the QR code to the immigration officer upon arrival.

You can also apply for an e-visa prior to departure online at https://www.evisa.gov.kh/.

This e-visa may not be valid if crossing into Cambodia at a land border.

We do keep our information up to date but be advised that visa requirements are subject to change. It is recommended that you contact the relevant commission in case of recent alterations.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Currency

The unit of currency in Vietnam is the Vietnamese Dong.

Preparing for your Holiday

Getting some additional exercise before coming on an active holiday makes a lot of sense. The fitter you are, after all, the more enjoyable you will find the experience.

Climate

Vietnam has a tropical climate with two distinct monsoon seasons. From May to September the country is dominated by the south monsoon winds and from October to April, the north monsoon is dominant with northerly to northeasterly winds affecting the country. There is a transition period between each monsoon season when winds are light and variable. Vietnam's single rainy season occurs during the south monsoon with June, July and August the wettest months. At this time daytime temperatures are typically in the range of 25 - 30 degrees Celsius. During the north monsoon, northern Vietnam has cloudy days with occasional light rain, while southern Vietnam tends to be dry and sunny. Temperatures during this period are in the range of 25 - 30 degrees Celsius in the south and 15 - 20 degrees Celsius in the north with the occasonal chilly night. Frost and some snow may occur on the highest mountains in the north for a few days a year. During September to January coastal areas can be affected by typhoons in the South China Sea bringing short-lived tropical stoms.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

- Lonely Planet.: Vietnam.
- Rough Guide: Vietnam.
- Vietnam Pocket Guide
- Insight Guides Vietnam Handbook
- Footprint Handbooks Vietnamese Phrasebook
- Hill Tribes Phrasebook: Lonely Planet

Maps

Vietnam North and South. Reise Know-How

Reise Know-How Verlag produce a 1:600.000 scale map over two double-sided sheets, Vietnam North and Vietnam South. The maps show road networks and driving distances and symbols highlight places of interest, archaeological remains, temples and museums, viewpoints etc.

Private Groups Information

Make this KE Adventure holiday your own!

- Do our normal group departure dates not fit?
- Would you prefer to travel with just friends and/or family?
- Are you looking to organise a trip for your local walking, biking or mountaineering club?

It's really easy to make a trip your own. Simply select from our full range of adventure holidays and choose the dates that work for you and your group.

We are experts in creating holidays for groups of friends, families, charities and clubs. Our personal service means you'll be fully involved as we make the arrangements for your perfect adventure holiday.

Independence with Security

Travelling as a KE Private Group allows you more flexibility and choice, but still with the peace of mind that everything is pre-planned and arranged for your group by a reputable adventure travel company.

To take your first step to an amazing adventure with your friends and family complete the private group enquiry form, or call our **Sales Experts on: 017687 73966**

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

Please try to keep the weight of your baggage to a minimum. See the 'baggage allowance' section for further details.

You must bring the following items:

- Hiking boots or comfortable/sturdy walking shoes
- Daypack 30 litres
- Training shoes or similar
- Trekking trousers
- Lightweight waterproof over trousers
- Underwear
- Socks
- Swimwear
- Thermal base layer shirts
- Casual shirt and/or T-shirts
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper/sweater
- Lightweight waterproof jacket
- Travel clothes
- Sunhat
- Warm hat (Nov to Feb departures only)**
- Thermal gloves (Nov to Feb departures only)**
- Scarf neck buff
- Sunglasses

- Ear Plugs (for use on overnight train journeys)
- Headtorch and batteries
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Water bottles 1 Litre x 2 (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Washbag and toiletries
- Antibacterial handwash
- Small towel
- Basic First Aid Kit including: Antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters and blister treatment, Insect repellent, antihistamine cream and tablets, and re-hydration salts (Dioralite). Glucose tablets and multi-vitamin tablets are a good idea.

The following items are optional:

- Sheet sleeping bag
- Trekking poles
- Camera
- Shorts (should not be worn in temples etc)
- Pen-knife (remember to pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

NOTES

*Mosquito nets are provided throughout the tour, including at the homestay accommodation.

**Please bring these items with you for departures from November through to February when temperatures are slightly cooler.

Land Only Information

Please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' within Holiday Information for further details.

Flights and other transport to your destination should not be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary joining in Hanoi and ending in Ho Chi Minh City. Single timed transfers are included from/to the airports.

Flight Inclusive Information

Limited seats are available at the advertised flight price, please book as early as you can. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures and/or upgrades, we will provide you with an alternative quote. It is likely that flight payment will be in advance of your final holiday balance. Booking a flight inclusive package means you will benefit from full financial protection, eases your holiday planning, and leaves us to deal with airlines and schedule changes. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London to Hanoi, and returning from Ho Chi Minh City.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

All the highlights and more... Not only does our tour visit all the highlights (north, south AND central!), you can also experience real village life on our gentle, unique, 4-day trek through the Pu Luong National Park, complete with overnight homestays in traditional wooden stilted houses.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 24/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change