

## ULTIMATE VIETNAM

### An In-depth 15-day Fully Guided Small Group Tour

This is our most popular tour staying in **good quality, centrally located 3 star hotels.**

The tour is designed to give the best of both worlds, touring of all the main sights with time for you to explore places which interest you or just shop. Our knowledgeable English speaking Vietnamese guide looks after you throughout and delivers local information on what you are witnessing.

Fully inclusive of all your tour components including all entrance fees and many meals – you just need take your spending money! The Ultimate Vietnam tour represents real value for your travel dollar. Join us and experience the best of Vietnam!

- **The BEST way to see Vietnam in depth!**
- **Fully inclusive – no hidden extras – your tour is fully prepaid before you leave**
- **Includes 14 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 6 dinners**
- **Several days at leisure for shopping or personal exploration**
- **No long days spent driving overland**
- **Includes 2 nights or more in every city**

#### Your Itinerary:

#### Day 1 Hanoi (D)

Arrive Hanoi. Your local English speaking guide will meet you as you exit the arrivals hall of Hanoi airport for the transfer to your hotel.

For those who have arrived at the hotel by midday an afternoon walking tour is included which takes you around the fascinating old quarter, a myriad of narrow streets once named after each ware (silk street, tin street, etc) and Hoan Kiem Lake which is popular with locals for early morning exercise and evening relaxation.

Tonight dinner is at a local restaurant for you to get to meet the rest of the tour group.  
2 nights Hanoi

#### Day 2 Hanoi (B)

This morning a half-day city tour to visit Hanoi's historical sights. Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum and Ho Chi Minh's house where he preferred to live simply are splendid reminders of the great man who led the country. One Pillar Pagoda is a small but significant pagoda with a Buddhist representation of the world and the Temple of Literature which was originally built in 1070.

The afternoon is at leisure to enjoy Hanoi's narrow streets and the fascinating old quarter  
We recommend seeing the Water Puppet Theatre (not included) – a traditional form of entertainment, combine this with Hanoi's night market for a great night out

#### Day 3 Halong Bay (B, L, D)



Departing Hanoi this morning through rolling fields and small towns to Halong Bay. Here we board a traditional junk boat for a boat trip through the magical seascape of Halong Bay which includes stops at various islands and caves. For those who wish time is spent anchored for a swim or optional kayaking is available (payable to your guide).

Overnight is spent on board in air-con cabins – enjoy the sunset, dinner on board and being under the stars on Halong Bay.

**Day 4 Halong Bay to Hue (B)**

Awake to the sunrise over Halong Bay and breakfast on the cruise back to Halong for the drive back to Hanoi. On the drive back a visit is made to a local village popular for embroidery and textile products.

We stop for a late afternoon break before transferring to Hanoi airport for the short flight to Hue.  
Transfer on arrival in Hue to your hotel  
2 nights Hue

**Day 5 Hue (B, L)**



Today explore the historical significance on a city tour of the small city of Hue – the former Imperial City.

Start the day with a boat trip along the Perfume River to Thien Mu Pagoda, built in 1601. Then continue by road to the Ancient Citadel, the capital of Vietnam from 1802-1945, which was recognized as a World Heritage Site, where the last King of Vietnam – Bao Dai King – abdicated on 30 August, 1945.

After lunch at a rather rustic but delicious and popular local restaurant – visit Khai Dinh Tomb with its mix of Asian and Western architecture.

**Day 6 Hai Van Pass (B, D)**

This morning tour over the spectacular Hai Van Pass, once rated by National Geographic as one of the 50 'must-do' journeys in the world. Stunning views await of Lang Co Beach and out to the South China Sea.

A stop is made to visit Marble Mountain, made up of 5 limestone hills with marble outcrops. Home to a Temple, in more recent times it was used by the Viet Cong, due to the view it has of the Danang air base – used by the Americans during the war which at the time made it one of the busiest airports in the world

You'll also pass China Beach (we will stop time allowing) and the Cham Museum in Danang before arriving in Hoi An

During the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries Hoi An was a major Asian trading centre and is now one of the most popular places to visit in Vietnam with its charming cobblestone streets and old shop houses. A wonderful town for getting clothes tailor made or for buying art and souvenirs, Hoi An also boasts an excellent beach 5km from town, which can be reached by hiring a bicycle or grabbing a taxi.

Tonight experience some of the local specialities with dinner at a local restaurant  
3 nights Hoi An

**Day 7 Hoi An (B)**

Today begins with a visit to see how a traditional 'home industries' are made in villages all around Vietnam. Then explore the ancient town centre of Hoi An on a short walking tour as you discover the history behind this World Heritage town.

Afternoon at leisure to enjoy this popular and magnificent town. Your guide is available to assist.

**Day 8 Hoi An (B)**



Free day to take in this magnificent town, Hoi An – shop, relax at the beach or beside the pool, enjoy the great local restaurants, get clothes tailor made or explore the ancient buildings.

Optional tours are available from your guide including cooking classes, a visit to My Son Holy Land (ancient Cham ruins) or a cycling tour.

**Day 9 Nha Trang (B, D)**

A morning transfer through to Danang for the short flight to Nha Trang. On arrival in Nha Trang transfer to your beachside hotel for check-in before an afternoon visit to the Big Buddha and the Cham Tower – one of the best examples of these ancient structures left in Vietnam. A stop is made if you wish to visit the 'Hot Springs' for either a swim in the natural hot pools or a mineral rich mud-bath.

Tonight enjoy a popular local restaurant featuring the local cuisine.  
2 nights Nha Trang

**Day 10 Nha Trang (B)**

Today is your choice of activities. An optional tour available from your guide is a boat trip around the outlying islands to swim or snorkel. If you prefer spend your day at one of the luxury Spa's at a nearby hotel or simply enjoy the activities along the beach – parasailing, banana boats, sunbathing and dining at the beachside restaurants.

**Day 11 Nha Trang to Ho Chi Minh (Saigon) (B)**

After breakfast you have time for a morning swim or spa before we transfer for the midday flight to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), on arrival transfer to your hotel. The afternoon is at leisure for you to explore Saigon's downtown shops, wide boulevards and cafés.  
2 nights Saigon

**Day 12 Ho Chi Minh (Saigon) (B, L)**



Discover Saigon's biggest attractions. In the morning the 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 visit a lacquerware workshop. In the afternoon tour Saigon including visits to Cholon (China Town) and its Wholesale Market, Thien Hau Pagoda and the stunning Notre Dame Cathedral and if time allows the War Museum.

### Day 13 Mekong Delta (B, L, D)

2-day Mekong Delta Tour. A visit to the Mekong is one of the best ways to experience rural life in Vietnam. Departing Saigon you're driven through beautiful agricultural areas known as the fruit bowl of Vietnam to board a boat to explore the many tributaries of the area.

Visits are made to orchards and bonsai gardens with the opportunity to sample the wonderful array of fruit from this region and to witness fascinating home industries such as sweet and rice-paper making.

You spend the night in the home of a local family. Your accommodation is simple but the experience unforgettable with some amazing local cuisine to end a perfect day.

**NOTE:** Sleeping arrangements tonight are **very basic** with shared facilities (cold shower/toilet) and canvas stretcher type beds with blanket and mosquito net. Basic but an magical experience!

### Day 14 Mekong Delta – Ho Chi Minh (Saigon) (B, D)



After breakfast visit the floating market where masses of boats ply their wares in the early morning, before returning to Saigon by road with a stop enroute to see the colourful Cao Dai temple.

A farewell dinner tonight to celebrate your experiences

### Day 15 (B)

Sadly today is the end of your tour.  
We include a transfer to the airport for your outbound flight.

#### **Extend your Holiday!**

Make full use of your time – add extra shopping days in Saigon or enroute home in Bangkok or Singapore.

Extend your holiday with a beach break at Phan Thiet, Vietnam or explore the magnificent Temples of Angkor in Cambodia.

This tour is fully escorted with local English-speaking guide. Maximum group size is 10.

**Only \$ 2790 per person twin share**

**SAVE \$ 1000 per couple**

Strictly Limited Offer

On sale until 15 March or until sold out, on selected tour dates, SAVE \$ 500 pp

**NOW ONLY \$ 2290 pp twin share**

Available for departures: May 1<sup>st</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, May 26<sup>th</sup>, June 12<sup>th</sup>, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, July 3<sup>rd</sup>\*, July 14<sup>th</sup>,  
July 24<sup>th</sup>, Aug 7<sup>th</sup>, Aug 18<sup>th</sup>, Aug 28<sup>th</sup>, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>\*

**Single Travellers**

Single Supplement \$ 790

We will happily room-share same-sex single travellers on request and where available. However we regret that should a rooming partner not become available the single supplement will apply.

**Departure Dates: Guaranteed Departure \***

2010 – Mar 13<sup>th</sup>, Mar 24<sup>th</sup>, April 3<sup>rd</sup>\*, April 21<sup>st</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup>, May 15<sup>th</sup>, May 26<sup>th</sup>, June 12<sup>th</sup>, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, July 3<sup>rd</sup>\*, July 14<sup>th</sup>,  
July 24<sup>th</sup>, Aug 7<sup>th</sup>, Aug 18<sup>th</sup>, Aug 28<sup>th</sup>, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>\*, Oct 13<sup>th</sup>, Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>, Nov 13<sup>th</sup>, Nov 27<sup>th</sup>

2011 – Feb 12<sup>th</sup>, Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, March 12<sup>th</sup>, March 26<sup>th</sup> ....

**Dates in *ITALICS* denotes – SOLD OUT**

\* Denotes New Zealand School Holiday dates suitable for older children.

NOTE: We welcome all people on our tour however we regret we do not accept children under 11 years old on our Ultimate Group Tour. If you are travelling with young children please ask us to customize a special family holiday for you

**Price Includes:** all accommodation in **quality standard class (3 star) hotels** (except Mekong Delta, which is a village stay), daily breakfast, transfers and sightseeing tours detailed including all entrance fees. English speaking local guide throughout, all domestic trains and flights, additional meals indicated (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner), full pre-departure information and an emergency contact phone number in Vietnam.

**Price Excludes:** International flights, VISA, departure taxes, personal expenses and gratuities.

**Guaranteed Departure** applies as soon as 2 people are booked on this tour.

**Agent Booking Code: ULTVIE**

**NOTE:** Itinerary and price subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control. Please refer to our full terms and conditions available on our brochure or from our website [www.activeasia.co.nz](http://www.activeasia.co.nz). Active Asia reserves the right to alter the hotels and/or the itinerary if needed due to availability and/or adverse weather conditions.

**If our small group tour departure dates do not suit you please enquire about an independent package available for any date departure**

**We specialize in custom designing your own group tour for families, clubs and groups**

Active Asia

Phone: (+64-9) 360 7669

Email: [sales@activeasia.co.nz](mailto:sales@activeasia.co.nz)

[www.activeasia.co.nz](http://www.activeasia.co.nz)