

Preliminary itinerary - Highlights of Vietnam 2012

31 January - 12 February

\$3295 per person twin share in top quality accommodation * Single supplement - **\$556**

Included -

Return International economy flights with Vietnam Airlines * Airline tax * All breakfasts *
 *Domestic flights with Vietnam Airlines * Airport/hotel/airport transfers in Vietnam * 2 cooking classes
 - one city, one rural * Halong Bay cruise - 2 days, 1 night incl all meals * Ground transportation *

Not Included

Visa fees - single entry (\$75), Tips , Personal laundry, telephone or mini bar expenses

<p>2012 Day 1 31 Jan Tues</p>	<p>11.15 Depart Sydney VN 772 16.00 - Arrive HCMC (Saigon) Flt 8hr 45min You will be met and transferred to your hotel. Hotel Majestic</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3 nights</p>
<p>Day 2 1 Feb Wed</p>	<p>HCMC Free day. Suggest - Visit Central Markets and War Remnants Museum (open 7.30-12 & 13.30-17.00) – a unique museum which displays exhibits on war crimes and the aftermath by foreign aggressive forces caused to Vietnamese people. One needs time here to see the various displays particularly the collection of photos taken by over a hundred war reporters (from 11 nationalities) killed during the Vietnam war and the display of the US weaponry used in the Vietnam war (called the American War by the Vietnamese people) This afternoon we will organize a Vietnamese cooking class at the Majestic Hotel from 4 - 6pm. Hotel Majestic</p>
<p>Day 3 2 Feb Thur</p>	<p>HCMC Cu Chi Tunnels –This morning you could take the coach tour to visit the Cu Chi Tunnels constructed by Viet Cong guerrillas during the American War. This fascinating underground tunnel network ran directly under US military bases and was used both as shelters and to stage surprise attacks. OR Free day – plenty to see including the Presidential Palace, History Museum, the Notre Dame Cathedral, The Post Office & Dong Khoi Street or hit the shops!</p>
<p>Day 4 3 Feb Fri</p>	<p>HCMC to Hoi An 3 nights 8.50 - depart HCMC VN 1310 10am Arrive Da Nang Airport - transfer to Hoi An</p> <p>Hoi An has something for everyone - good eating, good shopping - renowned for Tailors, good hotels and history too! Ancient Hoi An is famous for its Chinese and Japanese influences.</p>
<p>Day 5 4 Feb Sat</p>	<p>Hoi An - Free Day to shop, visit tailor and explore old city relax or try a Day Spa - a complete day spa specializing in the ultimate pampering for the hands, feet, face, body, and even hair Consider a cycle ride to the beach</p>

Day 6 5 Feb Sun	Hoi An 8.15am - we have a cooking class starting at Hoi An's colourful market. Here we experience the amazing sights, sounds and aromas and interact with the local sellers and learn about the ingredients to be used. We then board a boat for a leisurely cruise to the Cooking School. This is the chance to view local river life. After exploring the cooking school's herb garden we learn about Vietnam's best known dishes. The Chefs demonstrate each dish before we prepare the same dish. After the 2 hr cooking lesson, we eat what we have cooked. Time then to relax and enjoy the school's swimming pool. Free afternoon to shop or just laze around the hotel pool.
Day 7 6 Feb Mon	Hoi An - to Hue (pronounced Whey) approx 102 km. 1 night Drive - Along the way see Marble Mountain, China Beach, Elephant Springs. Charming Hue is renowned as the most Royal city in Vietnam. Hue is a good place to rent a bicycle to look around and cycle to the Royal Tombs a few kilometers out of town or rent one of the river boats for a simple cruise up and down the Perfume river or to take you to the Royal Tombs.
Day 8 7 Feb Tues	This morning consider a cycle ride around the Royal tombs of the old city. 16.00 - Depart Hue VN 1542 17.10 - Arrive Hanoi - Vietnam Airlines 1 night
Day 9 8 Feb Wed	Ha Long Bay Excursion - 1 night 8.30 - Shuttle bus Hanoi - Halong Bay Cruise through Halong Bay Accommodation in Luxury air conditioned en-suite cabin One lunch, one dinner & one breakfast Visit fishing village by rowing boat & Visit grotto of surprise Suggestion - Leave luggage at Hanoi hotel & take overnight bag only for boat trip. Overnight on Junk
Day 10 9 Feb Thur	Brunch on board 11am Luggage and check out Bus back to Hanoi . Drop-off time is at around 2.30pm 3 nights Remainder of the day free
Day 11 10 Feb Fri	Hanoi Consider a city tour to see Ba Dinh Square & Ho Chi Minh's marble and granite Mausoleum where the embalmed body of the father of the modern state lies enclosed in a glass case, his wooden cottage and the One Pillar Pagoda, the Temple of Literature; Vietnam's historic seat of learning and sacred place for disciples of Confucius, a walking tour through the bustling streets of the Old Quarter with a stop at the markets and History Museum. Check out Minh's Jazz
Day 12 11 Feb Sat	Morning at leisure - Take a walk around Hoan Kiem Lake . This beautiful small lake is between the Old Quarter and the French Quarter is central to Hanoian folklore. The Turtle Pagoda shrine stands on an islet at its center pays homage to a golden turtle. In the 15th century, this heroic reptile is said to have returned a magic sword to its home in the lake after it had been taken. These days, you can walk the parkway along the banks where you will see postcard sellers, hawkers, old men playing chess, freelance money changers, photographers looking for a lucrative snap 16.30 - Depart Hanoi VN 733 18.30 - Arrive HCMC 21.05 - Depart HCMC VN 733
Day 13 12 Feb Sun	9.15 Arrive Sydney