

# 17 DAY VIETNAM

The wonders of Vietnam - a land of natural beauty and cultural complexities.  
Vietnam is both exotic and intriguing.

TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER TO THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2025



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## DAY 1 – TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER

After pick up from your home we travel to Tullamarine for our flight to Singapore en route to Vietnam accompanied by Brendan's Australian Tours tour leader.

Depart Melbourne at 11.35pm and we are in transit

## DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER HOME TO VIETNAM

We arrive in Singapore at 5.30am in transit to Vietnam. Depart Singapore at 9.05am with Singapore Airlines and on arrival in Hanoi at 11.25am we will be met by our guide and transferred to our hotel. Hanoi is Vietnam's capital city and home to seven million people. Traditional and refined, with French colonial architecture, tree-lined boulevards, scenic lakes and a bustling Old Quarter, Hanoi has a sophisticated charm. Observe elderly people practicing Tai Chi by the lake, with barbers and food vendors plying their sidewalk trade. This afternoon we will enjoy a one-hour tour by cyclo, a chauffeur-pedalled tricycle, through Hanoi's Old Quarter, also known as "36 streets". This bustling area of narrow streets and alleys is home to literally thousands of small businesses and shopkeepers. It's a great place to explore, especially by cyclo, with plenty of photo opportunities all around us. A welcome dinner tonight will be at a nice local restaurant.

Accommodation: Peridot Grand Hotel in Premium Deluxe Room. 2 nights

D.

## DAY 3 – THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER HANOI

Breakfast is at the hotel this morning. With ochre-coloured colonial buildings, tree-lined boulevards and scenic lakes, Hanoi is full of charm. After breakfast this morning we depart on a tour with our local guide to visit Hanoi with the following highlights: The Buddhist Tran Quoc Pagoda, the oldest of all pagodas in Hanoi. Continue to the historic Ho Chi Minh mausoleum, an imposing monument lavishly built using marble and granite, and where the preserved body of "Uncle Ho" resides. Behind the Mausoleum, we can see Ho Chi Minh's house. The simple house where Ho Chi Minh lived and worked from 1954 until 1969 is made of wood and situated in a tranquil setting, with a view of a lotus pond. Ho Chi Minh's belongings are on display and we can walk up the steps of his house to see his bedroom. You'll also see the lotus shaped One Pillar Pagoda – resting on a single stone pillar emerging from the water, founded by King Ly Thai To in 1049. This structure has become an important symbol for the people of Hanoi. Visit the Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first university. Constructed in 1070, the gardens and well-preserved architecture offer a relaxing glimpse into Vietnam's past. Lunch today is at KOTO. KOTO stands for "Know One, Teach One". Return to the hotel where the rest of the afternoon and dinner is at leisure.

B.L

## DAY 4 – FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER HANOI TO NINH BINH

Breakfast is at the hotel. This morning we depart at 8:30 am and have a 70km – 2.5 hour drive through rural northern Vietnam to the site of Vietnam's first capital, Hoa Lu. The ravages of time have destroyed the ancient citadel but some vestiges including King Dinh and King Le worship temples still stand to this day among the rice paddies and are a worthwhile visit to get a glimpse of the ancient Vietnamese past. Followed by an included light lunch at a local restaurant (local home). We then continue on, boarding a sampan and enjoy a cruise of Trang An. Limestone hills surround a peaceful river which passes through a series of caves (one which takes 15-minutes to pass through in darkness). An 'eco tourism' area, the only interruptions here are the sound of birds and the gentle paddle of the oar upon the crystal clear river. Check in our hotel late in the afternoon and rest of the evening is free at leisure.

Accommodation: Emeraldal Ninh Binh in a Superior room.

B.L

**DAY 5 – SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**  
**NINH BINH TO HALONG**

**B.L.D**

Our morning departure is at 8.30am from our hotel in Ninh Binh to Halong Bay takes us on a journey through the rich farmlands of the Red River Delta. Observe everyday life of Vietnamese Villages as we see the villagers work the local rice fields, take live pigs to market on bicycles and plough the fields with their large water buffaloes. Our tour arrives in Halong and we board a traditional sailing junk for the next two nights. As the vessel sets sails, we will be greeted by the crew who will look after us throughout our stay. Discover some of the treasures disseminated across the Bay of the Descending Dragon during the afternoon: fascinating caves, pristine beaches, picturesque floating villages, fantastic rock formations rising up out of emerald water. While onboard, we can take advantage at leisure, of the cruise services; surrounded by a stunning setting in motion, we could attend our chef's cooking demonstration and try our skills in the art of traditional Vietnamese cooking. Defined to be one of the highlights of our stay, a highly refined, innovative and varied cuisine will be presented for Lunch and Dinner in the elegant dining-room  
Accommodation: Indochine Premium in a Junior Suite. 2 nights

**DAY 6 – SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**  
**HALONG BAY**

**B.L.D**

As the day breaks, you are invited to join a Tai Chi demonstration taking place on the top deck of the vessel. We will enjoy a buffet breakfast on the main vessel before being transferred to our day-boat, which will take us to a further amazing area of the bay with beautiful islands and long- white- sandy beaches. Depending on season and weather condition, we will have chance to land on one of the beautiful islands to explore by bicycle or motorbike and visit a local village. The guide will explain about life on the island and you will have the chance to visit the local school and chat to the friendly and welcoming villagers; Or you will cruise to visit one of the largest floating villages in Halong Bay, a ramshackle collection of buildings that include a school, museum and almost a hundred dwellings where the fishermen and their families reside all year round. This unusual way of living only on water and in relative isolation has encouraged a completely unique culture not seen anywhere else in Vietnam. Enjoy the seafood lunch on the cruise and the boat starts sailing again. On the way, visit some famous caves. Kayak, swim, or just enjoy the quiet and splendid setting. Back on the main vessel, relax and enjoy the facilities at leisure. Dinner served on board followed by the evening entertainment activities as movie night, squid fishing or just enjoying a cocktail surrounded by limestone rocks majestically springing out from silent waters in the night.

**DAY 7 – MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**  
**HALONG BAY - HUE**

**B.D**

Early birds can attend a Tai Chi demonstration on the sundeck at the break of dawn. Start the day enjoying some delights with a light breakfast and follow by a colourful brunch. Our cruise will come to an end at the pier in Halong late morning, and we will be met and our coach will be waiting for you for the drive back to Hanoi. On arrival in Hanoi, we will be transferred to the airport for our short flight to Hue. Once in Hue we will be met by our guide for this sector of the journey, transfer to our hotel and check in. Dinner tonight is at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Indochine Palace in a Palace Deluxe Room. 2 nights

**DAY 8 – TUESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**  
**HUE HIGHLIGHTS**

**B.L.D**

Hue served as an imperial capital to the Nguyen Lords, a feudal dynasty which reigned from the 17th to the 19th century. With splendid emperors' tombs, ancient pagodas and the remains of the Citadel, the city retains its royal charm. After breakfast at the hotel, depart from our hotel to enjoy the historic visit of Hue which including the following: Transfer to visit the UNESCO listed site - Imperial Citadel where the Nguyen Dynasty ruled between 1802 and 1945. We take the electric car to visit the Citadel. Enter through the towering main gate and you will appreciate the magnificent architecture and gardens while our guide explains about the events and the intrigue of the former royal court. Despite being bombed heavily, there are some incredibly well-preserved sections still intact and others which are being lovingly restored. The visit also includes the Hue Royal Fine Art Museum which is housed within the former Dien Long An Royal Palace. A short drive to a pier where we will embark on a half-hour boat trip on the picturesque Perfume River to visit Thien Mu pagoda, Hue's best-preserved religious monument. Standing on the riverbank with its seven-storey tower, the pagoda is a sight to behold. Enjoy included light lunch at nice local restaurant. We then return to hotel and free time or continue the tour with visiting a famous Royal Tomb. Drive out about 30 minutes to the elaborate Khai Dinh Royal Tomb from where the Nguyen Dynasty ruled between 1802 and 1945. Its architecture and atmosphere showcase elements of eastern art and western designs. This evening enjoy an included dinner at nice local restaurant.

**DAY 9 – WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER**  
**HUE TO HOI AN**

**B.D**

You can enjoy a leisurely breakfast at hotel before we depart for Hoi An. The guide and driver will take us over the beautiful Hai Van Pass - Vietnam's geographical and psychological boundary between north and south. The peak of the pass lies perpetually shrouded in clouds. Stop en route at the beautiful Non Nuoc Beach. In Danang we will visit the Marble Mountains, five sacred hills containing dozens of Buddhist shrines. Believed to have been settled no less than 2,200 years ago, Hoi An was known as Faifo to early Western traders. Hoi An was one of the major ports of Southeast Asia from the 17th to 19th centuries. Chinese, Japanese, French, English, Spanish, Portuguese and other traders had small communities here, and the old wooden houses, bridges and temples that remain are reminiscent of a Vietnam of centuries past. This unique old trading town slowly became isolated due to its river silting up and by destroyed rail lines, leaving it untouched by war and frozen in time. Nowadays, this absolutely charming and relaxed town has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Dinner tonight is at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Allegro Hoi An in a Junior Suite Room. 3 nights

**DAY 10 – THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER****B.L****HOI AN**

After breakfast this morning transfer to the old city where you'll take a walking tour to familiarize yourself. Between the 17th and 19th centuries, Hoi An was a major and prosperous Asian trading port. Hoi An's architecture and relaxed lifestyle have changed little over the years. Today, this World Heritage-listed ancient town boasts well-preserved buildings, pedestrianized streets and unique cuisine, allowing visitors a glimpse of its illustrious past. The narrow lanes are ideal for a guided leisurely walking tour. There is plenty to visit including the old merchant's houses with influences from Chinese, Japanese and Vietnamese architecture; the 400-year-old Japanese Covered Bridge; the Assembly Hall of the Chaozhou Chinese Congregation with outstanding wood carvings; and the colourful market with stalls brimming with local specialties including silk, which can be turned into fashionable garments within a day or two. Lunch today will be at a great local restaurant and the rest of the day is at leisure.

**DAY 11 – FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER****B.L****HOI AN**

Later this morning we take a private cooking class at Red Bridge (Cau Do) restaurant which is situated on the banks of the Hoi An River. After a cup of coffee or tea at a local Hoi An café, students at the Red Bridge Cooking School head off to the colourful market, and experience the amazing sights, sounds and aromas of this busy market. We will have the opportunity to interact with the local sellers and purchase some of the ingredients to be used in the cooking lesson. Then it's a quick boat trip along the Hoi An River to the school, where students are treated to demonstrations of Hoi An specialties before being let loose in the kitchen. Enjoy the dishes you cooked. Return to the hotel early evening. Dinner tonight is own arrangements.

**DAY 12 – SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER****B.L****HOI AN – DANANG - SAIGON**

This morning we checkout of the hotel and travel to Da Nang to connect with our flight to Saigon. On arrival in Saigon, we meet our guide and start our city visit. A city tour takes us to visit Thien Hau temple, built by the Cantonese congregation in the early 19th century to honour the Goddess of the Sea. The temple's ornate interior courtyard is always full of life as worshippers from the local Chinese community come to offer their prayers. Take time to make a wish, write it on a small card and attach it to one of the incense coils in the local custom. After an included lunch at a nice local restaurant, a city tour takes us to visit the former Presidential Palace and / or the War Remnants Museum. From there stroll by some of the major sights of colonial Ho Chi Minh City: the Notre Dame Cathedral (from outside), Old Saigon Post Office, Dong Khoi Street (formerly Rue Catinat), the Continental Hotel, Opera House and City Hall. Return to hotel and rest of the day is free at leisure.

Accommodation: Rex Saigon Hotel in an Executive Premium Room. 4 nights

**DAY 13 – SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER****B.L****LONG TAN / NUI DAT**

Depart for a 2.5-hour drive from Saigon on National Highway 51 passing Bien Hoa city towards Ba Ria – Vung Tau. Take a moment to reflect on the Battle of Long Tan in 1966, arguably the most famous battle fought by the Australian Army during the Vietnam War, while visiting the simple Long Tan Memorial Cross in the middle of the rubber plantations. Pay a visit to the former 1st Australian Task Force Base at Nui Dat, which is now just a clearing surrounded by rubber plantations. Take a moment to reflect on the battle on that fateful day at Long Tan Memorial Cross. Continue travelling to Long Phuoc to visit a wartime tunnel complex. The war has been over for over forty years, but evidence of the tunnel system into the bowels of the earth is still there. Head over to Horseshoe Hill, an elevated site of an extinct volcano. This was a strategic observation out post established by the Australian forces. Nowadays, visitors are not allowed to access it, but it is possible to see from afar. Lunch is included today at a local restaurant. Return to Saigon late this afternoon and dinner tonight is at leisure.

**DAY 14 – MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER****B.L****MEKONG DELTA**

Breakfast this morning is at the hotel. At 8:00am we travel to the Mekong Delta, south west of Saigon, it is known as the rice bowl of Vietnam. Cai Be is located in Tien Giang province, a 2.5 hour drive from Saigon, deep in the heart of the Mekong Delta and you will notice lush rice paddies and fruit farms emerging alongside the highway as you leave the city behind for the peaceful Mekong Delta. On arrival at Cai Be, embark on your private charming wooden boat, a wooden motorboat, which will help you get closer to daily life and agricultural activities along the Mekong River. Enjoy a short stroll through palm fringed trails to observe traditional Delta life and to visit a family-run business. Visiting some local home factories that produce rice paste, rice popcorn and coconut candy. Proceed to evergreen islands among the Mekong River through a large network of meandering tributaries, crisscrossed with countless arroyos. Lunch will be served at a local house where generations of family members live together. The owner of the house will serve us an appetising Vietnamese lunch. After feasting on Mekong Delta specialties, you may wish to take a stroll around the orchard to see how fruit is cultivated. Chose to either walk or be rowed in a sampan along the small canals back to the boat before returning to the pier. Return to Saigon late this afternoon.

**DAY 15 – TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER****B.L.D****CU CHI TUNNELS/SAIGON HIGHLIGHTS**

This morning an early departure as we take a two-hour drive northwest of Saigon, through urbanized areas and typical lush southern Vietnamese countryside, to the famous Cu Chi tunnels. The incredible underground tunnel network was constructed by Vietnamese resistance fighters (Viet Cong) during their long struggle for independence. The tunnel complex was initially started in 1948 to protect the Viet Cong guerrillas from the French air and ground sweeps. The tunnels also served as communication routes, storage facilities

for food and weapon caches as well as hospitals and living quarters for guerrilla fighters throughout the American war. A visit to the underground villages will provide a better understanding of the tunnels' history, the hardship of life in the tunnels and the Vietnamese resilience during combat. Return to Saigon around noon, enjoy light lunch at local restaurant. The rest of the afternoon is free at leisure. There will be a farewell dinner tonight at a nice local restaurant.

**DAY 16 – WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**  
**DEPART SAIGON**

**B.**

Breakfast is at the hotel. Early this morning you may like to visit some of the upmarket shopping centres in downtown Saigon. The Vincom Centre is the largest shopping mall in Saigon, and has over 250 shops. Our local guide will collect us in plenty of time to transfer to Saigon Airport for our flight home.

**DEPART SAIGON AT 12.20PM ON SINGAPORE AIRLINES / ARRIVE SINGAPORE AT 3.30PM**  
**DEPART SINGAPORE ON SINGAPORE AIRLINES AT 7.00PM / WE WILL THEN BE IN TRANSIT**

**DAY 17 – THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

Arrive in Melbourne at 5.20am, where you will be met and transferred to your home, farewelling new friends met experiencing the *Wonders of Vietnam* .

**PRICE: \$8690.00 per person twin share**  
**SINGLE SUPP: \$1780.00**  
**Prices include GST**

**FITNESS**

A good level of general health / fitness is required for this tour. Passengers should be able to walk 400-500 metres unassisted, climb on and off coaches unassisted.

**PRICE INCLUDES:**

**Luxury Coach Travel**

**Brendan's Australian Tours Travel Bag & Wallet**

**Hotel Accommodation**

**All Meals & Admissions as specified**

**English Speaking Guides**

**Airport Taxes**

**All Tipping for guides, drivers & bus boys.**

**Return Economy Airfares:**

**Melbourne to Vietnam with Singapore Airlines**

**Vietnam to Melbourne with Singapore Airlines**

**Pick up and return to your home**

**Please note: You DO require a passport to travel to Vietnam and it must be valid for six months after the date of the return travel.**

**Travel Insurance is mandatory for this tour, and is the responsibility of each passenger.**