

# **Vietnam Detailed Itinerary**

Northern Vietnam: Ha Giang Motorcycle Loop. Magical Ha Long Bay Boat Cruise & Floating Homestay. Cultural Immersion & Architectural Masterpieces. Sapa: Serenity in the Clouds.

Welcome to the Ultimate Adventure Trip through Vietnam!

<u>Airport Information</u>: Need assistance booking your flight? We are here to help.

🚅 Arrive and depart: Noi Bai International Airport – Hanoi, Vietnam

#### Day 1: Welcome!

Plan to arrive at Noi Bai International Airport **by 5 PM**, to make our welcome meeting and dinner, which typically start at 6:30pm. If you are unable to arrive by 5pm, please contact us to arrange alternative transportation and dinner options. After dinner, adjust to the time difference and rest up for our adventure packed itinerary.

#### Airport transfer and hotel details will be provided after booking.

If you are arriving ahead of our scheduled itinerary, we will help coordinate transportation and hotel accommodations.

#### **Transportation:**

## Air-conditioned shuttle vehicle

Airport transfer 🔁 Hotel

Approximate travel time: approximately 30-40 minutes

#### Meals included:

✓ Welcome dinner

🖺 Accommodation included: Single occupancy accommodation in Hanoi

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#### Day 2: Hanoi: Your Start to Our Wild Ride

Wake up refreshed and ready to start your exploration of Northern Vietnam.

Today's highlights:

We'll acclimate to whirlwind of Hanoi with a cultural deep dive. Our local guide will help us navigate the streets of Hanoi wandering through ancient temples, learning about the past and the present and getting acquainted with the city.

Dive into Hanoi's flavorful streets with a local guide—slurping noodles, sizzling bites, and bold dishes you've probably never heard of (but won't forget).

Next up, we will head to the famous train street to witness the trains swooshing by just inches from us while we sip some tea, coffee or beer at a local cafe.

#### **Transportation:**

Walking Time

Hotel → Tours

Approximate travel time: a few hours per tour walking on a combination of city streets and potentially uneven streets.

#### Meals included:

✓ Breakfast, lunch, dinner

🖺 Accommodation included: Single occupancy accommodation in Hanoi

#### Day 3: Hanoi - Your Day, Your Way

Today's yours to explore—wander Hanoi's tangled lanes, chase hidden gems, and let the city reveal its secrets at your own pace. Suggestions below. However, that's just a starting point for your free day to play. Prefer to stick with the guide today? No problem—they're ready to show you around and take you to some of their favorite local spots or set you up with other guides in the area for specific tours that interest you.

Want a little structure to your free day? Your guide will suggest lunch and dinner meet-up spots—feel free to join or roam solo. No pressure, your day, your way!

Whatever you chose, you'll want to be back in time for our centuries-old Vietnamese storytelling session. Watch ancient legends come to life as wooden puppets dance across the water. After the magic of the puppet show, we trade city lights for starry skies—boarding the overnight sleeper bus bound for Vietnam's wild north and the start of our epic Ha Giang motorcycle loop.

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#### Free time suggestions:

# For the Café-Hopper

**Stroll the Old Quarter** and pop into hidden cafés for Vietnamese egg coffee, rooftop views, or chic interiors tucked behind French colonial façades. Try **Café Dinh** or **The Note Coffee** for atmosphere that charms.

# Market Meandering

Get wonderfully lost in **Dong Xuan Market**, or browse **Hang Gai Street** for local silk, art, and quirky souvenirs. A tailor-made ao dai? Yes, please.

## 🌆 Old Quarter Wanders & Rooftop Views

Spend the day weaving through Hanoi's buzzing alleys, then take a midday breather above it all—soaking in sweeping city views from one of the Old Quarter's vibrant rooftop cafés.

# **Solution** Explore the Underground Bunker at the Metropole Hotel

Step into Cold War history with a guided tour of the secret wartime bunker beneath this iconic hotel. It's eerie, fascinating, and totally unexpected.

### Kayak West Lake

Paddle through Hanoi's largest lake for a peaceful yet active escape from the city buzz—bonus points for spotting floating lotus gardens.

#### **Transportation:**

Walking Time Hotel → Tours

Approximate travel time: walking time is dependent on excursions chosen today.

Approximate travel time: approximately 7-8 hours

#### Meals included:

✓ Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Accommodation included: Single occupancy accommodation in Hanoi

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#### Day 4: Our Ha Giang Loop Adventure Begins

After arriving by bus in the morning, if you are still needing a little extra beauty sleep, we've arranged shared dorms for a few extra hours of shut eye before the tour begins.

Why We Chose This Motorcycle Tour Company - We partnered with a team that reflects our values—community-driven, culturally immersive, and deeply experienced.

- Safety First: Local riders with 5+ years of experience navigating Vietnam's rugged terrain.
- Off-the-Beaten-Path: From iconic routes to hidden gems, expect thrilling, lesser-known roads.
- **Small & Private Groups:** Most likely, this will be our own private adventure. But if we do join others, group sizes stay intimate—never more than 10 travelers per guide.
- **Cultural Immersion**: Ditch the party scenes for meaningful connections and authentic experiences.

Ha Giang City - Quan Ba - Yen Minh (110 km)

**7:30 AM** We'll kick off the day with a hearty breakfast to fuel up for the epic journey ahead. We will meet our guide/easy rider, and receive tour information before starting our adventure.

**9:30 AM** Arrive to **Bac Sum Pass**, the longest pass in Ha Giang, often likened to a giant snake slithering along steep cliffs.

**10:30 AM** Hike 30 minutes to **Khau Lan Waterfall**, nestled within lush tropical forests, preserving its wild and majestic beauty.

12:00 PM Arrive at Quan Ba Heaven Gate and enjoy panoramic views of Tam Son Town.

12:30 PM Have lunch in Quan Ba.

**2:00 PM** Pass by **Nam Dam Cultural Village**, a beautiful blend of terraced fields and primaeval forests, featuring traditional rammed earth houses of the Dao people.

**2:30 PM** Visit **Linen Weaving Village**, a long-standing traditional craft village of brocade weaving by the Hmong.

**3:30 PM** Take in the breathtaking views at **Can Ty Viewpoint**.

4:00 PM Sightsee rice terraces at Lao Va Chai.

**4:30 PM** We will make our way to **Yen Minh Town** and check into our homestay.

**7:00 PM** Enjoy a family dinner at the homestay. Taste corn wine as part of the local greeting culture, share stories, and enjoy music.

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#### Meals included:

✓ Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Accommodation included: Single occupancy accommodation, if available, in homestay on loop.

#### Day 5: Our Ha Giang Loop Adventure Continues

Yen Minh - Vietnam China Border - Northernmost Point of Vietnam - Dong Van (115 km)

**7:30 AM** Have breakfast, then head to **Dong Van Karst Plateau UNESCO Global Geopark**, a natural geological museum over 80 million years old.

**9:00 AM** Reach the legendary **Tham Ma Pass**, a historical site with continuous hairpin bends where horses were once tested for strength and endurance.

9:30 AM Continue through the steep Nine-Turn Pass and sightsee Pho Cao Valley.

**10:30 AM** Visit **Lao Xa Village** and check out the unique rammed earth houses and the silver carvings of the H'mong people.

**11:30 AM** Tour the **H'Mong King Palace**, a national relic showcasing a blend of traditional Chinese and H'Mong architectural styles.

12:30 PM Have lunch in Sa Phin.

**2:00 PM** Pass by **Lo Lo Chai Village**, check in with the iconic **Lung Cu Flag Tower** in the background.

**2:30 PM** Get to the **Vietnam-China Border** and the Northernmost Point of Vietnam, enjoy the panoramic view of the vast mountains and rivers below.

3:00 PM Pass by Ma Le Village, home to the Giay people, nestled among the rocky mountains.

Then stop at **Khe Lia Viewpoint** to enjoy the serene terraced view.

3:30 PM Pass through Thien Huong Village and head towards Dong Van Ancient Town.

**4:30 PM** Check into your homestay in **Dong Van Town**.

**7:00 PM** Enjoy a family dinner at the homestay. Taste corn wine as part of the local greeting culture, share stories, and enjoy music.

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#### Meals included:

✓ Breakfast, lunch, dinner

**Accommodation included:** Single occupancy accommodation, if available, in homestay on loop.

#### **Day 6: Our Ha Giang Loop Adventure Continues**

Dong Van - Meo Vac - Mau Due - Du Gia (100 km)

**7:30 AM** Have breakfast and visit the **Dong Van Ethnic Market** (only on Sunday mornings) to experience local culture and buy unique handicrafts and food.

**8:30 AM** Conquer the stunning **Ma Pi Leng Pass**, known as the "King of Passes" with extremely sharp hairpin bends for spectacular mountain views.

**9:30 AM** Hike 5 km to **White Cliff** for unmatched panoramic views of the Nho Que River, Tu San Canyon and surrounding landscapes.

**12:00 PM** Stop to check in at **M-shaped pass**.

12:30 PM Have lunch in Mau Due Town.

**2:00 PM** Head to **Ngoc Long**, then ride a handcrafted bamboo raft along the crystal-clear **Ban An Stream** to reach the hidden gem **Tham Lin Cave**.

3:00 PM Get on the way to Du Gia Village.

**4:30 PM** Check in your homestay in **Du Gia** and enjoy the peaceful views of the surrounding fields.

**7:00 PM** Enjoy a family dinner at the homestay. Taste corn wine as part of the local greeting culture, share stories, and enjoy music.

#### Day 7: Our Ha Giang Loop Adventure Winds Down

Du Gia - Lung Ho - Ha Giang City (90km)

**8:00 AM** Enjoy breakfast before heading to **Du Gia Waterfall**. Take a refreshing dip to kickstart your day.

**10:00 AM** Sightsee at breathtaking **Lung Ho Valley**, where ancient houses lie beneath towering mountains.

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**11:30 PM** Stop to sightsee at the tranquil **Duong Thuong Viewpoint**.

12:30 PM Have lunch at Thai An.

2:00 PM Refresh at A Boong Waterfall, a peaceful oasis hidden in the forest.

4:00 PM Return to Ha Giang City to complete your adventure.

\* The tour's duration and stops may be adjusted depending on weather and road conditions.

Before the next leg of our adventure begins, we'll fuel up with dinner in town and enjoy a well-earned dose of R&R in Sapa—you've earned it.

#### **Transportation:**

🚜 Sleeper Bus

Ha Giang Loop → Hotel in Sapa

Approximate travel time: approximately 6 hours

#### Meals included:

✓ Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Accommodation included: A few zz's on our sleeper bus. Upon our arrival in Sapa, we will immediately check into our single occupancy accommodation.

#### Day 8: Sapa - A Moment of Pause with Awe-Inspiring Views

Before the group takes to the sky in the late afternoon—whether by soaring cable car or a rewarding hike to the 'Roof of Indochina'—your morning is wide open. Sapa, a compact mountain town with outsized charm, invites you to rise slowly, wander misty lanes, sip something warm, or soak in the views from our cozy hideaway. Whether you're chasing new paths or soaking in the stillness, today moves at your rhythm.

#### **Options Abound:**

Take a short ride to **Sky Gate Sapa**, perched atop the legendary O Quy Ho Pass at 2,035 meters above sea level, is where clouds kiss the peaks and the horizon feels infinite. Prefer to stay closer to town? Hit the Sapa market for colorful textiles, handmade crafts, and snacks that'll have you coming back for seconds.

Want a more relaxed pace? Spend time with local Red Dao women in Sapa, joining them in the forest to forage medicinal herbs—gathering leaves, roots, and wild spices that will later be transformed into a soul-soothing herbal bath steeped in centuries of healing tradition.

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Float above the clouds on the Fansipan cable car—or if you're feeling up for the challenge, hike your way up to the "Roof of Indochina" and earn those views.

#### **Transportation:**

🛚 🦍 Walking Time

Accommodations → Fansipan Cable Car

Approximate Walking Time: 15-30 minutes each way

#### Meals included:

✓ Breakfast, lunch, dinner

🖺 Accommodation included: Single occupancy accommodation at hotel

# Day 9: Sapa - A Day with Sapa's Locals

We'll trek through Sapa's lush rice fields, winding along hidden paths that lead us deep into the valley—where an authentic Hmong house visit offers a glimpse into centuries-old traditions and everyday mountain life.

We'll spend time with local Hmong artisans in Sapa, learning the ancient art of batik embroidery—a wax-resist dye technique rich with cultural symbolism and storytelling.

#### **2Transportation:**

Walking Time

Rice Field Trek

Approximate Walking Time: 2 hours. Fairly easy trek. Potential for mud on trek.

# Bus

Sapa → Hanoi Hotel

Approximate travel time: approximately 6 hours

#### Meals included:

✓ Breakfast, lunch, dinner

**Accommodation included:** Single occupancy accommodation in Hanoi

#### Day 10: Ha Long Bay: Sleep Beneath the Stars, Wake to a Dream

In the morning, we'll be whisked away to the coast, where our Ha Long Bay cruise awaits. Get ready for an unforgettable overnight sail—gliding past limestone cliffs, drifting through hidden coves, and

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finding that sweet spot between adventure and deep, dreamy relaxation. Every room has a private balcony with sweeping bay views.

While offerings may vary depending on the availability of cruise provider, your onboard experience might include kayaking, cave exploration, a pearl harvesting demo, sunset tai-chi, swimming, squid fishing, or even a soak in an onboard pool or hot tub—because why not cruise in style?

#### **Transportation:**

A Shuttle or Bus

Hanoi Hotel → Ha Long Bay Cruise

Approximate travel time: approximately 2.5 hours

#### ? Meals included:

✓ Breakfast, lunch, dinner

💼 Accommodation included: Single occupancy accommodation on overnight ship

#### Day 10: Ha Long Bay to Cat Ba Floating Homestay

Wake up with an astonishing bay view.

Onboard breakfast to fill up before our continued exploration of the bay. At approximately noon, we will arrive back at the bay for our transfer away from the crowds and slip into our floating accommodations.

Far from the tourist crowds, nestled in the heart of Lan Ha Bay, we're welcomed by Lan and his family into our floating homestay. Our accommodations include kayaks to explore the less crowded bay.

Dinner is a highlight—freshly caught seafood, grilled by our hosts and served on the open deck with views that steal your breath.

As night falls, our guide accompanies us on our kayaks to witness a hidden wonder: bioluminescent plankton shimmering beneath our paddles, lighting up the bay.

#### **Transportation:**

Cruise Ship → Floating Accommodations

Approximate travel time: 1.5 - 2 hours

Meals included:

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✓ Breakfast, lunch, dinne	<b>J</b>	Breakfast,	lunch,	dinner
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**Accommodation included:** Single occupancy accommodation in floating homestay

#### Day 11: Ha Long Bay: Sleep Beneath the Stars, Wake to a Dream

Enjoy the sunrise and the stillness of the bay one last time. After breakfast, we'll set off on our final coastal adventure—gliding from island to mainland via cable car, soaring above the emerald waters with views that make saying goodbye just a little sweeter. From there, it's onward to Hanoi where we will gather one last time to share a celebratory farewell dinner.

# ☑Transportation: ➡ Cable car & shuttle Floating Accommodations ➡ Hanoi Approximate travel time: 3 hours ☑ Meals included: ✓ Breakfast, lunch, farewell dinner

Accommodation included: Single occupancy accommodation in Hanoi

**Day 12: Depart from Hanoi** 

**Departure Day–Noi Bai International Airport | Hanoi, Vietnam** Your flight can depart at any time, but if you're not ready to close the chapter on Vietnam just yet, your guide can help you plan post-trip experiences. While this adventure has taken us deep into the soul-stirring north, there's still so much more to uncover—from sun-kissed coastlines to dynamic southern cities. The journey doesn't have to end here... just say the word.

### **Transportation:**

→ Taxi Hanoi Accommodations → Airport

Approximate travel time: 30 minutes

Meals included: ✓ Breakfast

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