

Full Itinerary & Trip Details

Northern Vietnam & Laos 13 days



- ✓ Inspiring trip to Luang Prabang, the sacred Pak Ou Caves and the beautiful boulevards of Vientiane
- ✓ Amazing journey through attraction of Northern Vietnam: Hanoi, Halong bay, Dien Bien Phu, Mai Chau
- ✓ Special tour give you chance to understand cultures and traditions of both Indochina's most exceptional countries

Trip Overview

This fascinating tour is designed to highlight two of Indochina's most exceptional countries. Discover Vietnam's incredible diversity: walk through the ancient city of Hanoi, enjoy a boat cruise on the picturesque Halong Bay, experience a homestay with the Thai tribe people of Mai Chau, visit the old French battle field in Dien Bien Phu, and marvel at the peaceful countryside of the Red river and Northwest hill tribes. Explore the enchanting land of Laos, visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Luang Prabang, the sacred Pak Ou Caves, local villages along the Mekong river, and the beautiful boulevards of the capital city – Vientiane. This breathtaking and inspiring journey through Indochina is sure to astound you at every turn.



What you'll get

DURATION

PRICE STARTING FROM
US\$1,930

STARTS IN / ENDS IN
Hanoi / Vientiane





SUITABLE

Friends, Family, Honey moon couple, All of people

Transportation

A/C transfer, Airplane, Cruise

PRODUCT CODE

T80VTP07

MEALS

12 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches, 4 Dinners

ACCOMMODATION

Cruise Cabin, Homestay, Hotel

TYPE

Land tour

Price Includes

- Accommodations
- Cruise on Halong Bay
- Boat trip on Mekong River
- Domestic flight Phonsavan - Vientiane
- English speaking guides in every location
- Entrance fees for all mentioned sights visited
- Breakfast and meals per mentioned in the itinerary
- Services of a private driver and air-conditioned vehicles



Price Excludes

- Vietnam Visa
- Travel insurance
- Gratuities for tour guides/ drivers
- Beverages & other personal expenses

Cancellation by Customer

For almost of our tours, once tour is confirmed and fully paid but for one reason they cancel the tour, the following charges will apply in the event of cancellation prior to tour commencement:

- More than 22 days before arrival: No charge (Full refund will be made but transaction fee will be paid by you).
- 15-21 days before arrival: 10% of total tour price.
- 7-15 days before arrival: 50% of total tour price.
- 4-7 days before arrival: 75% of total tour price.
- Within 3 days before arrival: 100% tour price.

Notes:

- There will be no refund given for any unused or missed ground arrangements, sightseeing, meals or hotel accommodations and nonrefundable flight/train ticket...
- For no show cases, there will be no refund.
- All cancellations must be in person or in writing and received/confirmed by us

Cancellation by Weather

In case of an unexpected situation/ bad weather causes an effect on your trip after commencement, we serve the right to change the itinerary of your booked tour for the safety of all clients in the group. If there are more than one solution, we will ask for your

permission and agreement to do the next step. In such kind of cancellation, the refund of any payment on the un-used portion of transportation service, hotel service, car rental or tours will be given.

Itineraries

Day 1: Hanoi Arrival

Welcome to Hanoi: Vietnam's bustling colonial capital. Your guide and driver will meet you outside the baggage claim of Noi Bai Airport and take you to your hotel in the city center. In the evening savor a welcome dinner at one of Hanoi's finest restaurants.

Meals: D

Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi.

Day 2: Hanoi ? Halong Bay Cruise

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel, before setting out on a 3 to 4 hour drive to the UNESCO World Heritage Site: Halong Bay.

* The following Halong Bay itinerary is a sample for our standard service on a 3 star junk/ cruise. Different programs are available through our luxury cruise itineraries on the Violet, Jasmine, Ginger, Paradise or Au Co. Please contact us for more details.*

Spend 24 hours on a traditional Junk Cruise in the amazing bay: a natural



wonderland composed of jutting limestone islands and sparkling turquoise waters. Arrive at the dock around noon and board your junk. Savor a gourmet lunch of fresh seafood onboard as we sail out into the mystical bay.

In the afternoon, cruise around some of Halong's many islands, including Dinh Huong and Ga Choi. Along the way visit one of the bay's 3 largest caves (Thien Cung, Dau Go or Sung Sot). Stop at an island cove with a sheltered white-sand beach and take a dip in the warm waters of the Gulf of Tonkin (weather permitting). Pass the night on your junk, lulled to sleep by the gentle rocking of calm waters.

Meals: B, L, D

Accommodation: Halong Bay Cruise

Day 3: Halong Bay ? Hanoi City Tour

Awake early and participate in Tai Chi on the top deck or simply relax and watch the sunrise over the bay's towering islands. Enjoy a morning cup of coffee or tea, before setting out to explore the nearby islands by rowboat. Return to the junk for brunch, then take advantage of the sundeck to admire the amazing rock formations of Bai Tu Long Bay as you navigate back to Halong City. Your driver will meet you at the dock and take you back to Hanoi. Enjoy a 3-hour Hanoi City Landmark tour.

Meals: Br

Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

Day 4: Hanoi ? Mai Chau ? Trekking



Your driver and guide will meet you at the lobby of your hotel and take you along highway No.6 to Mai Chau: a small town nestled in the midst of a lush valley and surrounded by emerald-green rice fields. Enjoy picturesque views of the scenic landscape, sown with pagodas and rural villages. Stop along the way to visit the Muong tribe and then at Thung Khe Pass for a spectacular view of Mai Chau Valley.

Have lunch in Mai Chau then spend the afternoon trekking off the typical tourist track, along the Song Ma River. Trek through terraced rice paddies and small villages, discovering the natural beauty of the valley and encountering the culture of the White Thai people, living in the region. Stop at a Thai village for the night, having dinner with a local family and enjoying a live dance and music performance in the evening.

Meals: B, L, D

Accommodation: Homestay in Mai Chau.

Day 5: Mai Chau ? Dien Bien Phu

Start the day with a simple breakfast with your host family. Farewell to your host of homestay drive to Son La. Let's stop en route to visit villages of various tribes including the H'mong, Thai, Muong and Dzao and orchard, tea farm in Moc Chau plateau – Vietnam's premier tea-growing region, before reach Son La (200km from Mai Chau) for a late lunch.

In the afternoon, continue along winding mountain roads through North Vietnam's stunning countryside. The most picturesque scenery here is Pha Din Pass, wellknown as a historical site during the 1st Indochina War ended in 1954, and a charming and dangerous pass at elevation 1,300m with breathtaking view. According to local legend, "Pha Din" means the connection between Heaven and Earth. On arrival, check in your hotel and spend rest of day at leisure.





Meals: B, L, D

Accommodation: Hotel in Dien Bien Phu.

Day 6: Dien Bien Phu ? A visit to the historical relics

Nestled in a heart shaped basin near the border with Laos, lies Dien Bien Phu. The famous historical battleground, where the Vietnamese successfully defeated the French, marking the end of French colonial occupation in 1954.

Start the day early with a visit to the local market where you will meet charming Thai tribes in their traditional costume purchasing their farm products.

The next is military base and historical site of the First Indochina War. We drive 30 minutes out of city to the base of The Command of Dien Bien Phu Campaign (Muong Phang) – Located in a primitive forest in Muong Phang commune to the commanding bunker of General Commander-in-chief Vo Nguyen Giap and Hoang Van Thai.

In the afternoon, you will visit Dien Bien Phu Museum, built in 1984 on the occasion of the year 30th after Dien Bien Phu Victory before visiting A1 Hill - the most important camp of the French and Bunker of the French General De Castries.

Some free time of your own in the afternoon relax by the hotel's pool or strolling around the town.

Meals: B

Accommodation: Hotel in Dien Bien Phu.

Day 7: Dien Bien ? Cross border to Muang Khua ? Drive to





Nong Khiaw

After breakfast in the hotel, drive down south through the peaceful Muong Thanh Valley to the Tay Trang border gate to Laos where our Laos guide and driver are await you.

(It may take some 30 minutes for Immigration and customs processes)

Crossing the border, you will continue through one of Laos' most remote regions to Muang Khua, a one-horse border town located on the banks of the Nam Ou River. It depends on the time you may choose the lunch stop at Pak Nam Noy or drive 1 and half hour more to Ban Na My.

Then continue the journey to Nong Khiaw – a charming rustic little town on the bank of the Ou River. It is squeezed in between some of the most fantastic limestone mountains north of Laos.

Note: The Tay Trang border gate immigration normally closes for lunch between 12.00 - 13.30.

Meals: B

Accommodation: Hotel in Nong Khiaw.

Day 8: Nong Khiaw ? Luang Prabang



Have breakfast in the hotel then take a pleasant walk around the village enjoying the village feel with great views over the Nam Ou river or visit a small temple complex in the center of town. Continue the journey of 2 hours drive passing picturesque scenery along the Nam Ou River and beautiful mountainous setting heading to Pak Ou Caves - a pantheon of gold Buddha statues tucked into the nooks of the limestone cliffs.

Enjoy the cruise along Mekong from the cave to village of Ban Xang Hai. Stop here to learn how local make LauLao (Lao whisky) and LauHai (Lao wine), before continuing this river way down the Mekong to Luang Prabang.

Check in at the hotel then take an evening stroll through the quaint streets and enjoy the sunset over the river and surrounding lush countryside. The evening highlight includes a visit to the local night market in the city center, where ethnic minority people come together to buy and sell their wares.

Meals: B

Accommodation: Hotel in Luang Prabang.

Day 9: Luang Prabang City Tour

Situated where the Nam Khan River meets the Mekong, lies the fabled city of Luang Prabang - the former capital of Laos and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. With its lantern lit streets, lined with a mix of faded colonial mansions and sparkling mosaic temples, this city is known to enchant its visitors.





Have breakfast at the hotel then enjoy a half-day tour through Luang Prabang. Begin with a visit to the Royal Palace Museum, then head to the magnificent Wat Xiengthong - representative of classic Laotian architecture, before seeing the impressive stupa of Wat Visoun and the shrines of Wat Aham and Wat Mai. Spend the rest of the day at your leisure, relax in one of the city's many quirky cafés or stroll along the beautiful riverbank.

Meals: B

Accommodation: Hotel in Luang Prabang.

Day 10: Luang Prabang ? Phonsavan

Today you drive from Luang Prabang to Xieng Khuang, passing through Laos' pristine countryside. This is over 7 hours journey with spectacular views of Laos' rain forests and mountain ranges. Along the way you will stop for photo opportunities and visit various hill tribe villages. On arrival, check-in at your hotel and relax.

Note: the long drive today, our guide will mention this issue again a day in advance for necessary preparation)

Meals: B, L

Accommodation: Hotel in Phonsavan.

Day 11: Xieng Khuang - Plain of Jars and Muang Khoun





Start the day with a trip to Phonsavan's bustling central market. Visit the MAG (demining organization) exhibition before heading out to see the great stone wonders of Xieng Khuang, the Plain of Jars. First you will explore Site 1 where hundreds of large stone jars lie scattered about the enchanting plateau.

Next, is the forested area of site 2 and a short scenic trek to Site 3, passing through the Thai Dam and Laos Leum village. Enjoy an afternoon tour of the old capital Muang Khoun and nearby villages of the H'mong and Thai Dam peoples.

Meals: B

Accommodation: Hotel in Phonsavan.

Day 12: Xieng Khuang ? Vientiane

Today you take a short in-country flight from Phonsavan to Vientiane. Your driver and guide will meet you at the airport and take you to your hotel in the city center. After a short rest, set out on a sightseeing tour of Laos' eccentric capital, visit all the city's key attractions. Start the tour with a stop at Vientiane's oldest temple, Wat Si Saket, filled with over 2,000 ceramic, gold, and silver Buddha images.

Next we visit Haw Pha Kaew - the Royal Temple that once housed the famous Emerald Buddha, before continuing on to Laos' most significant national monument: Pha That Luang. Conclude your tour at Patuxai, known as Vientiane's own Arc de Triumph.

Meals: B

Accommodation: Hotel in Vientiane.

Day 13: Vientiane Departure



Have breakfast at the hotel and then enjoy a free morning at your leisure before driving to the airport to catch your departure flight home.

Meals: B

Accommodation: N/A

1 Reviews



Abundant memories

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24/7 Customer Support

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