



LUXURY TAILOR MADE TRAVEL

## Tailor Made Vietnam: Farm to Fork

13 days from \$8,995 per person

Private journey designed for you

*Travel with your private party on this Luxury Tailor Made Journey, departing when you choose and with expert local guides leading the way; you can even customize the itinerary to your interests.*

Discover the culinary wonders of Vietnam from north to south, sampling local street food, kayaking past old fishing villages on Ha Long Bay, cycling through lush rice paddies to meet local hill tribe for a cooking lesson, and sipping tea with Hoi An elders.

### Included with Every Luxury Tailor Made Journey

- One-of-a-Kind Itinerary Designed for You
- Hand-Selected Luxury Accommodations
- Exclusive Insider-Access Opportunities and Inspiring Sightseeing
- English-Speaking Local Guides
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Full Breakfast Daily
- Entrance Fees and Taxes
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support

### A&K Advantages

Experience the best of Vietnam from north to south, including Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and tranquil central Vietnam  
Kayak through local fishing villages and enjoy an overnight cruise in Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site  
Explore Hanoi by scooter, visiting local markets, navigating hidden passageways, and sampling a giant egg coffee before dining at a world-renowned restaurant  
Cycle through the serene Mai Chau countryside, peddling through local villages and verdant rice paddies and visiting local hill tribe  
Sip tea with elders and visit ancient temples and local homes in Hoi An  
Join local farmers as they pick vegetables and herbs, and experience the lives of daily fishermen when you hop aboard a basket boat  
Delve into Vietnam's complex history, descending into the Cu Chi Tunnels near Ho Chi Minh City  
Toast to your journey with a craft beer experience in Ho Chi Minh City

**To Book Your Next Adventure Contact**  
**Chessine's Travels**  
**1-808-319-9762**  
**<https://chessinestravels.com/south-east-asia>**

# Itinerary

Luxury Tailor Made Journeys depart on the dates that work for you and feature expert local guides throughout your journey. The itinerary below can be customized to your interests.

## DAY 1 ARRIVE HANOI, VIETNAM

Arrive in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, and transfer to your colonial hotel.

Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi

## DAY 2 HANOI | VIETNAM'S CULTURAL HEART

Discover Hanoi, the country's cultural heart, bearing traces of centuries of changing dynasties. Visit Ho Chi Minh's house, a simple structure from which the revolutionary leader pursued independence for Vietnam. Continue to lotus-shaped One Pillar Pagoda, dating back to the first Vietnamese empire independent from China. Then, explore Hoa Lo Prison, where American prisoners of war were once confined, in the company of a former prison officer — an extraordinary opportunity to hear a unique, firsthand perspective on the notorious "Hanoi Hilton." Next, Ride Like a Local by *cyclo* through the city's Old Quarter. After pausing for lunch at a local restaurant, change gears, viewing the Vietnam National Museum of Fine Arts' collection of stone carvings, sculptures and folk paintings. Proceed to the private studio of one of Vietnam's most celebrated female artists. Return to your hotel, where you have time to unwind. Later, set out to explore Hanoi by scooter, visiting a local market and travelling through a hidden passageway. Along the way, sample local fare, including at the restaurant where President Obama and Anthony Bourdain once dined.

Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 3 HA LONG BAY | CRUISING AMONG THE KARSTS

Journey by private vehicle to Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO Heritage World Site, to board your intimate, luxury boutique traditional Vietnamese junk vessel. Enjoy a leisurely lunch as the dramatic beauty of the bay begins to unfold around you, taking in majestic views of the surreal landscape where hundreds of limestone karsts rise out of emerald waters. Pass by a century-old lighthouse, built by the French during colonial times. In the afternoon, visit Viet Hai, a village on Cat Ba Island where you hop on a bike (or an electric car, if you prefer) and cycle along small paved roads to a small village nestled in a valley. Pass by the village school and meet some of the villagers as you observe their simple lifestyle. Return to your ship in the late afternoon, where you are invited to join a cooking demonstration by the chef in the open kitchen, learning how to make a classic Vietnamese dish. Savor the cool sea breeze and the warm glow of twilight as the boat anchors for the night.

'Ginger' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 4 HA LONG BAY & MAI CHAU | KAYAKING IN THE BAY

Wake up to the peaceful sounds of the gentle breeze and water lapping against the boat in the early morning. Enjoy light refreshments, including tea, coffee and pastries in the dining room. For an energetic start to the day, head to the sundeck for an optional tai chi session. Visit Frog Lake, where you can truly immerse in the wild beauty of the bay. Take a kayak, or ride a bamboo boat, or *sampan*, to explore more of the tranquil scenery, admiring the dream-like landscape filled with tree-topped islands. Disembark and board a coach for a scenic, half-day drive to Mai Chau, pausing for breaks along the way. Arrive in the evening, settle into your accommodations and, later, dine at your hotel.

Mai Chau Ecolodge | Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

## DAY 5 MAI CHAU | CYCLING THE COUNTRYSIDE

After a leisurely breakfast, choose to set out on a cycling excursion through local valleys. Your cycling adventure takes you through Chieng Chau, Van Mai, Cun and Mai Hich, passing villages, lush rice paddies and seldom-seen countryside. En route, visit a local hill tribe, the White Thai, learning about their enduring cultural traditions and receiving a Thai cooking lesson in a resident's home. Return to your hotel for an afternoon at leisure. Tonight, enjoy dinner on site.

Mai Chau Ecolodge | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 6 HUE | PERFUME RIVER

This morning, return to Hanoi. After lunch at a local restaurant, transfer to the airport for your flight to Hue. En route, visit a local school and learn about how Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy (AKP) helps provide clean filtered drinking water to students. Upon arrival in Hue, transfer to your boutique hotel fronting the banks of the Perfume River. Enjoy the remainder of the evening at leisure.

Azerai La Residence, Hue | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

## DAY 7 HUE | COOKING WITH A LOCAL

Immerse in Hue's traditional lifestyle, culture and cuisine at a historic garden home where centuries of heritage and architecture are beautifully preserved. Spend time with the charismatic owner, learning about the story of the house and its place in Hue history and society, while preparing a delicious lunch. Continue to the tomb of Emperor Tu Duc, the dynasty's longest reigning ruler. Stroll among the citadel's other monuments, noting the scars of war that remain from the conflicts over the last century. Return to your hotel for time at leisure.

Azerai La Residence, Hue | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

## DAY 8 HUE & HOI AN | HIDDEN CHARMS OF HOI AN

After breakfast, explore the legacy of the Nguyen dynasty, a powerful family that ruled Vietnam from 1802 to 1945. Their reign witnessed the construction of Hue's Imperial Citadel, which served as the nation's political capital and religious hub. Venture inside it to discover the Imperial City, a walled palace that mirrors the



grandeur of China's Forbidden City. Then transfer to Hoi An via the stunningly scenic Hai Van Pass. Also known as "Cloudy Pass," this winding mountain road overlooks lush countryside, sandy beaches and the blue waters of the South China Sea. Arriving in Hoi An, check in to your hotel. After setting in, explore the city's hidden charms, observing ancient houses and sitting down to tea with local elders. Then, visit a local temple, try your hand at calligraphy and set out on a culinary excursion in search of local street food, sampling traditional dishes from market stalls. Finally, see the 400-year-old covered bridge, before returning to your hotel for an evening at leisure.

Four Seasons Resort The Nam Hai | Meals: Breakfast

#### **DAY 9 HOI AN | LIFESTYLES OF FARMERS AND FISHERMEN**

Discover the art of rice farming alongside local farmers. You are then welcomed into a local farmer's home, where you learn how rice makes its way into Vietnamese food and drink. Next, learn about lifestyles of local fishermen as you board a traditional basket boat and savor lunch onboard. Spend the afternoon relaxing at your resort or exploring Hoi An on your own.

Four Seasons Resort The Nam Hai | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

#### **DAY 10 HO CHI MINH CITY | EVOCATIVE SAIGON**

Fly this morning to lively Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known as Saigon. Recently experiencing a resurgence of art and culture, this evocative city is a hub of activity. Upon arrival, check in to your hotel, where the remainder of the day is at leisure.

Park Hyatt Saigon | Meals: Breakfast

#### **DAY 11 HO CHI MINH CITY | STORIES OF CULTURE & CUISINE**

Discover Ho Chi Minh City by *cyclo* (three-wheeled bicycle taxi) this morning as the city is waking, passing Notre Dame Cathedral and the Central Post Office, examples of the city's colonial legacy, en route to leafy Tao Dan Park, where locals are often seen playing sports or doing yoga. Proceed to the Venerable Thich Quang Duc Monument, a memorial to the monk who set himself on fire in protest of Buddhist persecution in Vietnam. A Vespa driver then picks you up and whisks you to a local street market, where a secret, underground weapons bunker lies hidden under a trap door in a narrow house. Next, admire the colorful floral displays at the flower market. Enjoy a complimentary beverage before sitting down to a traditional breakfast of *pho* (Vietnamese noodle soup) at one of the city's best noodle houses. Return to your hotel for time at leisure before heading to Independence Palace (Reunification Hall) — home and workplace of South Vietnam's president during the Vietnam War — and the Museum of Vietnamese History, seeing its Khmer artifacts, Buddha statues, relics from Angkor Wat and impressive porcelain collection. Then, continue to a Cao Dai temple to learn about a unique religion in Southern Vietnam. After lunch at local restaurant, return to your hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day as you wish.

Park Hyatt Saigon | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

#### **DAY 12 HO CHI MINH CITY | INTO THE CU CHI TUNNELS**

This morning, venture into the countryside and explore the expansive Cu Chi Tunnel network, a key Vietcong resource during the Vietnam War. You have the opportunity to squeeze into and crawl through the small tunnels once traversed by Vietcong guerrillas. Have lunch at a local restaurant and enjoy some time at leisure. Afterward, discover Ho Chi Minh City's hidden craft-beer scene. After sampling freshly tapped beer at the city's best venues, return to your hotel.

Park Hyatt Saigon | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### **DAY 13 DEPART HO CHI MINH CITY**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport and board your homebound flight.

Meals: Breakfast

**Note:** Touring on board 'Ginger' is on a shared basis. Cruise itineraries are subject to change.

## Enhance Your Journey

Elevate your experience with a host of options available for an additional cost.

## Dates & Prices

Jan-Mar; Priced from \$9,495

Apr; Oct-Dec; Priced from \$8,995

Internal Air from \$320

Hanoi/Hue; Danang/Ho Chi Minh City

Prices are per person, double occupancy for the itinerary as published for 2023 travel, and subject to availability.

Pricing reflects A&K's recommended months of travel of this itinerary. Supplements may apply over holiday periods, festivals, special events and due to high demand. International air not included.

Prices are per person based on double occupancy. Internal and international air not included. See complete terms and conditions [here](#).