12 DAY ITINERARY

This 12-day tour provides a comprehensive experience of Vietnam, including its cultural richness, natural beauty, and historical significance.

Day 1: Arrival in Hanoi

- Explore the area around Hoan Kiem Lake and the Old Quarter.
- Lunch: at a local restaurant.
- Attend a traditional Vietnamese Water Puppet Show.
- Dinner: on your own.

Day 2: Hanoi City Tour

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- · Visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, One Pillar Pagoda, and Temple of Literature.
- Lunch: at a local restaurant.
- · Explore the Museum of Ethnology.
- Dinner: on your own.

Day 3: Hanoi - Halong Bay Cruise

- · Breakfast at the hotel.
- Depart for Halong Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its stunning limestone karsts and emerald waters (about 3-4 hours by road).
- Day cruise on Halong Bay.
- Explore caves, go kayaking.
- · Lunch: local seafood on the boat.
- Return to Hanoi in the evening.
- Dinner: on your own.

Day 4: Ninh Binh Day Trip

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Travel to Ninh Binh, often referred to as "Halong Bay on land."
- Visit Trang An, a scenic landscape of karst formations and river caves.
- · Boat ride through this picturesque area.
- Lunch: at a local restaurant.
- Explore the ancient capital of Hoa Lu and visit the historic temples.
- · Return to Hanoi in the evening.
- Dinner: on your own.

Day 5: Hanoi - Hue

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- · Catch an early flight to Hue.
- Lunch: Royal lunch with traditional music at the hotel.
- Explore the Citadel in Hue, a historic imperial complex in Vietnam.
- Dinner: on your own.

Day 6: Hue City Tour

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Royal Tombs, and Thien Mu Pagoda.
- Lunch: at a local restaurant.
- · Boat trip on the Perfume River.
- Dinner: on your own.

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Day 7: Hue - Hoi An

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Travel to Hoi An via the scenic Hai Van Pass (3 hrs.).
- · Check in to your hotel in Hoi An, a charming UNESCO World Heritage town.
- Lunch: at a local restaurant.
- · Walk around/tour the old town.
- · Visit the famous tailors to get custom made clothes, shoes, and leather goods.
- · Dinner: on your own.
- Explore the lantern-lit streets and enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 8: Hoi An Ancient Town

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Optional half-day trip to ancient Cham My Son Temple, that is over 1000 years old.
- Lunch: at a local restaurant.
- Explore Hoi An's historic district, including Japanese Covered Bridge, Tan Ky Ancient House, and local markets.
- · Dinner: on your own.

Day 9: Hoi An - Danang - Ho Chi Minh City

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- Transfer to Danang for a flight to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon).
- Take a cooking class to learn to make traditional Vietnamese dishes.
- Lunch: at the cooking class.
- Dinner: on your own.

Day 10: Ho Chi Minh City

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- · Visit Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica of Saigon, Central Post Office, & Book Street.
- City Sightseeing on the Hop-on, Hop-off Double Decker Bus.
- Lunch: at a local restaurant.
- Explore the history of the Independence Palace.
- Dinner: on your own.

Day 11: Mekong Delta Day Trip

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- · Depart for a day trip to the Mekong Delta, known as the "Rice Bowl" of Vietnam.
- · Explore local villages, take a boat ride on the Mekong River, and
- Lunch: at a local lunch.
- Return to Ho Chi Minh City in the evening.
- Dinner: on your own.

Day 12: Departure from Ho Chi Minh City

- Breakfast at the hotel.
- · Visit Ben Thanh market for last minute shopping and bartering for deals.
- · Check out from the hotel and transfer to Tan Son Nhat International Airport for your onward flight.