



# Vietnam Intro 9 day

Vietnam Intro is the most amazing way to experience Vietnam! You'll discover crazy Hanoi, experience the stunning Ha Long Bay, stay on your own private island, go sea kayaking, crab fishing with traditional fisherman, soak up fascinating local culture, learn to cook delicious Vietnamese food, relax on beautiful beaches, party the night away and much more. Plus you'll have an awesome Group Leader with you from the moment you step off the plane, an instant group of friends to share your adventure with and help with all your onward travel. Get ready for the trip of a lifetime!

- Duration:** 9 days / 8 nights
- Starts:** Hanoi
- Finishes:** Ho Chi Minh City
- Transport:** Minivan, Bus, Boat, Overnight Train, Plane
- Meals:** 7B, 4L, 3D
- Group size:** 12 - 20
- Age Range:** 18 - 39
- Local Fees:** None

- Accom:**
  - 2 Nights Hanoi - 4 Bed Mixed Dorm Hostel (Cocoon Inn)
  - 1 Night Ha Long Bay - Twin/Dbl/Triple Share Boat
  - 1 Night Private Island - Multi-Share Dorm
  - 1 Night Ninh Binh - Twin/Dbl Share Homestay
  - 1 Night Sleeper Train - 4 Bed Cabin
  - 2 Nights Hoi An - Twin/Dbl Share Hotel

**Included:** Airport pickup, 8 nights accommodation, Walking & Rickshaw Tour of Hanoi, Local Markets, Night out in Hanoi, 3 Day / 2 Night Ha Long Bay Boat trip with overnight stay on Private Island, Kayaking, Local Homestay in Ninh Binh, Bicycle Tour, River Boat Trip, Dragon Mountain Viewpoint, Cooking Class, Traditional Crab Fishing Basket Boat Tour, all transport, some meals, experienced western Group Leader and local guides, onward travel help & planning, 24/7 support after the trip finishes.

**Not Included:** Travel Insurance, Visas, some meals, Return transfer to Ho Chi Minh Airport.



## Trip Highlights

- Cruise on a rickshaw through the crazy capital of Hanoi, meet the friendly locals, sample the delicious street food and immerse yourself in the fascinating daily life of this awesome city.
- Experience the world heritage listed and stunning natural wonder of Ha Long Bay, cruise on beautiful emerald green waters through towering limestone islands topped with rainforest, go kayaking through caves and stay overnight on your own private island!
- Experience a Local Homestay in the beautiful countryside of Ninh Binh with a Riverboat trip through the rice paddies and a 450 step climb to the amazing Dragon Mountain viewpoint.
- Wander through Hoi An, Vietnam's most relaxed and beautiful town, learn to cook delicious Vietnamese food before being guided through coconut groves by traditional fisherman and fishing for crabs!
- Learn first-hand how the locals live, as you explore the incredibly lush green beauty of the Mekong Delta. Before discovering the fascinating and eye-opening Cu Chi Tunnels, a network of underground tunnels used by the Viet Cong during the War. (12 Day Trip)

## Itinerary

**Day 1: Arrive and meet the Group** - We'll pick you up from the airport and take you to the Hostel in Hanoi. You'll then have plenty of time to recover from your flight, chill out and meet everyone in your group.

**Day 2: Hanoi City Tour** – Discover what makes the chaotic capital of Vietnam so special with a Walking and Rickshaw Tour of the city. Experience the bustling streets, fascinating culture and delicious street food. We'll then head out for dinner and experience some of Hanoi's best nightlife! **(B)**

**Day 3: Ha Long Bay Overnight Boat** – We'll depart early for our amazing 3 Day / 2 Night Boat trip to the stunning natural wonder of Ha Long Bay. We'll cruise on beautiful emerald green waters through towering limestone islands topped with rainforest, go kayaking through caves and enjoy some drinks aboard our overnight boat. **(B, L, D)**

**Day 4: Ha Long Bay Private Island Stay** – Continue soaking up the natural beauty of Ha Long Bay throughout the day before arriving at our own private island! Chill out in a hammock, play some beach volleyball or just relax on the beach and work on your tan. **(B, L, D)**

**Day 5: Ha Long Bay & Ninh Binh Homestay** – We'll arrive back from Ha Long Bay mid-morning and then head south to the beautiful countryside of Ninh Binh, a landscape of endless rice paddies and epic limestone mountains. Check in to our unique and amazing local homestay and watch the sunset whilst relaxing in our private riverside bungalows for the evening. **(B, L)**

**Day 6: Ninh Binh & Overnight Train** – Today we explore the best of the amazing Ninh Binh. We'll take a bike ride through the countryside before boarding a local row boat and cruising a network of rivers and caves. After some lunch we'll tackle the iconic 450 steps of the Dragon Mountain Viewpoint for sunset. We'll then freshen up before boarding the overnight train south to Hoi An. **(B)**

**Day 7: Hoi An** – We'll arrive in Hoi An, one of the most beautiful and fascinating towns in Vietnam. You'll have some time in the afternoon to chill out, go shopping or even get some clothes made!

**Day 8: Hoi An, Basket Boat Tour with Crab Fishing and Cooking Class** – Be guided through coconut groves by traditional fishermen while you try your hand at some crab fishing. We'll then learn the secrets of preparing delicious Vietnamese food with a traditional cooking class. **(B, L, D for 9 day)**

**Day 9: Fly to Ho Chi Minh City, Trip Finishes** – Today we catch a short flight to the southern city of Ho Chi Minh City and arrive early afternoon. For those on the 9 day tour, your tour finishes today. We recommend adding an extra night in Ho Chi Minh and flying out on day 10. Your Group Leader can organise this accommodation. If you're flying out on day 9 then please ensure it is an evening flight so you have time to make your connection out of Ho Chi Minh City. If you're doing the 12-day trip you'll stay on and discover more of Ho Chi Minh City today. **(B)**

# Vietnam Intro 12 day

Experience the awesome Vietnam Intro 9 day trip plus 3 more amazing days in Southern Vietnam. Discover the secret underground world used during the Vietnam War known as the Cu Chi tunnels. Explore the vast maze of rivers and lush green rice fields of the famous Mekong Delta and visit a traditional local village.

**Duration:** 12 days / 11 nights

**Starts:** Hanoi

**Finishes:** Ho Chi Minh City

**Transport:** Minivan, Bus, Boat, Overnight Train, Plane

**Meals:** 10B, 6L, 4D

**Group size:** 12 - 20

**Age Range:** 18 - 39

**Local Fees:** None

**Accom:**

- 2 Nights Hanoi - 4 Bed Mixed Dorm Hostel
- 1 Night Ha Long Bay - Twin/Dbl/Triple Share Boat
- 1 Night Private Island - Multi-Share Dorm
- 1 Night Ninh Binh - Twin/Dbl Share Homestay
- 1 Night Sleeper Train - 4 Bed Cabin
- 2 Nights Hoi An - Twin/Dbl Share Hotel
- 2 Nights Ho Chi Minh City - Twin/Dbl/Triple Share Hotel
- 1 Night Mekong Delta - Twin/Dbl Share Local Guesthouse

**Included:** Airport pickup, 11 nights accommodation, Walking & Rickshaw Tour of Hanoi, Local Markets, Night out in Hanoi, 3 Day / 2 Night Ha Long Bay Boat trip with overnight stay on Private Island, Kayaking, Local Homestay in Ninh Binh, Bicycle Tour, River Boat Trip, Dragon Mountain Viewpoint, Cooking Class, Traditional Crab Fishing Basket Boat Tour, Night out in Ho Chi Minh City, Overnight Mekong Delta Experience, Local village visit, Cu Chi Tunnels tour, all transport, some meals, experienced western Group Leader and local guides, onward travel help & planning, 24/7 support after the trip finishes.

**Not Included:** Travel Insurance, Visas, some meals, Return transfer to Ho Chi Minh City Airport.



## Itinerary

### Days 1 - 9: Same as Vietnam Intro 9 Day Trip

**Day 10: Mekong Delta** – We'll explore the incredibly lush green beauty of the Mekong Delta, learn first-hand how the locals live, visit local villages and experience daily life on the Mekong. We then stay overnight in the Delta. **(B)**

**Day 11: Cu Chi Tunnels** – Today we'll explore more of the Mekong before making our way to the Cu Chi Tunnels. A fascinating network of underground tunnels used as supply routes, hideouts and living quarters by guerilla fighters during the Vietnam War. We'll arrive back to Ho Chi Minh City in the afternoon before heading out for our farewell dinner and party! **(B, D)**

**Day 12: Check Out and Onward Travel Help** – Your amazing 12-day adventure comes to an end. You can either check out and make your way back home, stay on longer in Vietnam or continue your travels with our help and the new friends you've made! **(B)**

### Arrival Information

It's best to arrive on the actual start date. There are no activities on the first day, so you can arrive at any time. If you do arrive early we'll still pick you up from the airport and will book you into our Hanoi Hostel – 'Cocoon Inn' from the day you arrive. Extra nights will be approx. £8 / \$15 per night for a multi-share room and can be pre-paid with your agent or paid on arrival.

### After Vietnam Intro

Vietnam Intro finishes in Ho Chi Minh City in the south of Vietnam. If you're staying on longer in Vietnam, your Group Leader will help organise any of your onward travel.

If you're doing the Vietnam Intro 9 day and then going home, we recommend adding on an extra night in Ho Chi Minh City, as we arrive there on day 9. Your Group Leader can organise any extra nights. If you have to fly out on day 9 then please ensure it is an evening flight so you have enough time for your connection.

If you need to get back to Ho Chi Minh City airport then it's a simple taxi ride that will take around 30 minutes and cost around £10 / \$20. We can organise this for you in Vietnam.

If you need to get back to Hanoi then the easiest way is to get yourself a cheap internal flight, we can help you with this. Just let your Group Leader know when you arrive.

### Travel Insurance

Travel Insurance for Vietnam is compulsory to join Vietnam Intro. Your Group Leader will ask to see proof of your cover before your trip begins. You can organise a quote and policy for yourself here: [www.introtravel.com/travel-insurance](http://www.introtravel.com/travel-insurance)

## Visas

It's important to check your visa requirements before entering Vietnam.

Some nationalities including the UK, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Norway can enter Vietnam without a visa for a maximum of 15 days.

Other nationalities or those wishing to stay longer than 15 days need a visa for Vietnam and have two options:

- Option 1: Apply for a one month visa at a Vietnamese Consulate nearest to you before you arrive. This requires submitting an application form along with your passport, passport photos and paying a fee, which starts at \$60USD for a single entry one month visa. Please allow at least 2 weeks processing time for this visa.
- Option 2: Apply for a Visa Invitation Letter that is emailed to you, which you then print and bring with you to Vietnam. This letter allows you to fly into Vietnam and pick up your Visa on Arrival (VOA) at the airport. This VOA is for one month and is at a cost of \$25USD for a single entry and \$50USD for a multiple entry and needs to be paid in USD cash on arrival in Vietnam. There are a variety of websites that will provide you this Visa Invitation letter such as [www.myvietnamvisa.com](http://www.myvietnamvisa.com) They will require you to submit an online application form and pay a fee of approx. \$20USD. Please allow at least 4-5 working days processing time for the Visa Invitation Letter.

A VOA is not available to those arriving into Vietnam overland. If you plan on arriving overland you'll need to go with Option 1.

Please note that while the above information is currently accurate, visa rules can often change so it's always best to double-check before departing. If you're unsure of your visa requirements or need any help just contact us.

## FAQ's

### **Do many people travel alone?**

Yes. Lots of people who go to Vietnam are travelling solo. But by doing Vietnam Intro you'll be part of a group, so it's a great way to meet people and make friends!

### **When is the best time to visit Vietnam?**

It's always a good time to go travelling in Vietnam. Most months of the year you will experience both sunshine and possibly some rain. It's usually quite hot and humid most of the time, but it can occasionally get cold, especially in the north of Vietnam between November and February, so it's always best to bring a couple of warm layers with your summer clothing.

### **How much spending money will I need?**

All your activities, accommodation, transport and some meals are included with Vietnam Intro, so you'll just need money for some meals, drinks, shopping and any onward travel. We recommend you bring at least £300 / \$500 spending money.

### **How will I access money while I'm away?**

It's best to take a Visa or Master Card debit, credit or travel money card. There are ATM's available throughout Vietnam so it's easy to get access to cash. Some places accept credit card but not all.

**Is there Wi-Fi throughout the trip?**

All accommodations we stay at have free Wi-Fi available. Vietnam's network quality is often lower than you're used to but you can generally connect and do basic stuff.

**What luggage do you recommend?**

We always recommend travelling with a backpack and packing light! 10-20kgs of stuff should be plenty. It's generally quite hot in Vietnam so dragging around a huge suitcase is not much fun. There is luggage storage at the airport or at some accommodations if needed.

**What plugs do they use in Vietnam?**

Vietnam generally uses a flat or round 2 pin socket the same as most of Europe. It's always best to grab yourself an appropriate adaptor if needed before you go.

That's about it for now.

Once you've booked you'll get access to our online Check In Area and the Intro Travel App, which will give you all the information you'll need on Vietnam and Vietnam Intro, so you can just relax and enjoy the experience.

Of course if you have any more questions just contact us. We're happy to help!

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