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Best of Northern Vietnam

7 days / 6 nights

Highlights

- Discover the charming beauty of Hanoi and enjoy a traditional water puppet show
- Explore Hoa Lu - Tam Coc dubbed as Halong Bay on land
- Visit the colorful ethnic market of Sapa and observe the daily life of hill tribal groups of Black H'Mong, Giay, Red Dzao
- Take a cruising trip on Halong Bay, the World Heritage Site

Detailed itinerary

Day 1: Arrive in Hanoi (D)

Welcome to Hanoi ! Upon arrival at Hanoi's Noi Bai International airport, you will be greeted by our guide and transferred to city center for hotel check in. You are free to relax at hotel. In the afternoon, you will take a guided tour to discover Hanoi's highlights. Start with the Ho Chi Minh Complex included the Mausoleum (outside only), Ho Chi Minh's Stilts House, Presidential Palace and One pillar Pagoda. Continue to visit the Temple of Literature, dedicated to Confucianism and being the first national university of Vietnam (1070). Top off your adventure by a cyclo tour around Hanoi Old Quarter. Dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight in Hanoi.

Overnight: Hanoi

Day 2: Hanoi - Hoa Lu - Tam Coc- Night train to Sapa (B/L)

Breakfast at hotel You will depart to Ninh Binh, located 120km from Hanoi. Visit Hoa Lu - The Ancient Capital and the remaining two temples of King Dinh & King Le). Continuing to head out to Tam Coc Wharf and have lunch at a local restaurant with delicious foods nearby. PM: We take an exciting boat ride in Tam Coc grottoes dubbed as Halong Bay in land. The small sampan will get you through magnificent caves while gliding along Ngo River among lush green paddies to enjoy the spectacular scenery of countryside of Vietnam. Return to Hanoi at around 5 pm. You will relax, bath and dinner (paid by yourself) before transferring to the station for overnight train to Sapa. (4 berth cabin, soft sleeper).

Overnight: On the train

Day 3: Sapa Discovery Tour (B)

Arrive in Lao Cai Station (about 5.30am), you will take 35 km by car to reach to Sapa. Breakfast at hotel and check in hotel. After breakfast, we'll take a leisurely climb to the top of Mount Ham Rong to enjoy a beautiful view over the town and its surroundings. Later in the day, we'll visit the village of Cat Cat of Black H'mong people and the village of Ta Phin- home to the ethnic minority of Red Dzao people to explore culture as well as their daily life.

Overnight: Sapa

Day 4: Sapa – local market - Hanoi (B/L/D)

Breakfast at your hotel. Today we will have a chance to discover one of the colorful markets of hill tribal groups in the Northwest Vietnam. The market is not only the meeting place where minority people buy and sell their products but also an important cultural meeting point, a spiritual symbol of ethnic minority in mountainous region of Vietnam. Hereafter is market's calendar: Can Cau – Saturdays Bac Ha or Muong Hum or Muong Khuong – Sundays Cao Son – Wednesdays Lung Khau Nhin – Thursdays Coc Ly – Tuesdays In the late afternoon transfer back to Lao Cai to catch the night train back to Hanoi. Overnight on the train.

Overnight: On the train

Day 5: Sapa - Ha Noi – Ha Long Bay (B/L/D)

Return to Hanoi in the early morning. You will have 2 hours to relax, bath and have breakfast before the shuttle bus pick you up to transfer to Halong. You will have 30 minute break en route. Arrive in Halong at 12:00 pm, check in Halong cruise. You'll be welcomed on board our luxury junk and treated with fruit juice and cold towel when our manager takes a briefing of the cruise itinerary. You will enjoy seafood lunch while the junk glides further into the centre of Halong Bay. The cruise will stop for tourists to visit Sung Sot Cave and discover Titop Island. Don't forget to bring swimsuit with you. Overnight on board.

Overnight: Halong Junk Boat

Day 6: Halong Bay – Hanoi (B, L)

After breakfast, we'll take a little sampan to visit a secret lagoon of Ha Long Bay while the surrounding mountains are just waking up. After that our cruise takes us further into the Bay of Bai Tu Long traveling past the Human Head Island, the Turtle Island, and the Duck Islet... to the studio site where the famous Indochine film was shot. You can do kayaking or swimming here with the guide of one cruise staff. Around noon, our junk travels back to the harbor, pick up and drive back to Hanoi. On the way, we will visit Yen Duc Village, one of peaceful and rustic agricultural villages in the Red River Delta. You will see a water puppet show outside instead of inside a theater. Fruits and snack will be served when you are watching the show. Overnight in Hanoi hotel. (Note: The cruise itinerary is subject to change depend on the cruise you choose).

Overnight: Hanoi

Day 7: Hanoi Departure (B)

Breakfast at hotel. Free at your leisure time before check-out at 12.00 PM. Transfer to airport for boarding flight to the next destination. End of services!

End of the journey!

Included

Included

- All private transportation
- Accommodation based on double/twin sharing room
- Meals as mentioned in the program
- Local English speaking guide
- Entrance fee and sightseeing ticket
- Two bottles of fresh waters

Not Included

- Domestic and international flights
- Single supplement
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses: tips, laundry, telephone
- Others not mentioned in the program
- Surcharge for Tet holiday, New Year holiday