

VIETNAM QUEST– TRIP NOTES

TRIP CODE: TAGVS111

Valid until 31 Dec 2025

Overview

This tour offers an exciting opportunity to explore Vietnam's best highlights, from the stunning mountains and bays of the North to the rich heritage of the Centre, and the bustling cities and tranquil delta of the South. It's an unforgettable adventure, showcasing the diverse cultures and landscapes of Vietnam.

Start in the vibrant, chaotic Hanoi Old Quarter, then head to Ha Long Bay for a scenic cruise among its dramatic limestone karsts. A night train takes you to Hue, where you'll visit the ancient Purple Forbidden City and discover the country's fascinating history through its fading monuments. Wander through the charming streets of Hoi An, before heading south to Nha Trang to relax on its white sandy beaches and explore colorful coral reefs. Your journey ends with the dynamic energy of Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) and the peaceful beauty of the Mekong Delta's lush, tropical landscape.

Detailed itinerary

Day 1: Hanoi - Arrival

Xin Chào! Welcome to Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam!

Upon arrival at the airport, you'll be greeted by our representative holding a sign with your name. After a short transfer, check in to your hotel in Hanoi.

If you arrive early, take some time to explore the colorful streets of Hanoi. The city is a lively mix of ancient temples, narrow streets filled with colorful shops, French colonial buildings, tree-lined boulevards, tranquil lakes, graceful pagodas, and bustling street life. Hanoi is one of Asia's most charming cities.

At 6:00 PM, you'll meet your tour guide and fellow travelers for a group briefing. In the evening, feel free to join the group for an optional dinner, followed by a casual hangout, perhaps enjoying a glass of fresh "Bia Hoi" (a local home-brewed beer) at one of the busy street corners.

Transportation

- Airport pickup by car

Accommodation

- Hotel in Hanoi

Meals included

- No meal included on this day

Special notes

Hotel check-in time is from 14:00. If you arrive earlier and wish to access your room before that time, you can book pre-trip accommodation when making your reservation, or let us know in advance so we can arrange it for you.

The group meeting today is important as you will meet your tour guide and fellow travelers, receive essential documentation, instructions, and a brief overview of the trip. If, for any reason, you are

unable to attend the meeting, please inform your travel agent or the hotel reception. You can also check with the hotel reception or look for a notice in the lobby for the meeting location.

Day 2: Hanoi - city sightseeing

Start your day early if you'd like to join the locals for morning exercise around Hoan Kiem Lake. After breakfast at the hotel, head out for a city tour of Hanoi. Experience the city's vibrant contrasts, from the bustling Old Quarter to the elegant French Quarter, and discover its unique charm, where the past and present blend together seamlessly.

Visit the Memorial Complex dedicated to the father of modern Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh. This includes the Mausoleum, Presidential Palace, Ho Chi Minh's humble stilt house, and the Ho Chi Minh Museum. Within the complex, you'll also find the One Pillar Pagoda, an iconic landmark of Hanoi, built nearly a thousand years ago.

Next, visit the Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first National University, established in 1076. The temple features nearly a hundred large stone stelae, each engraved with the names of scholars who received Doctorate degrees through the Royal Examinations.

In the afternoon, you'll have free time to explore Hanoi at your own pace. You can dive deeper into the city's vibrant culture by joining a cooking class to learn the secrets of Vietnamese cuisine, or embark on motorbike ride around the city, offering a fun and different perspective of Hanoi's lively streets. Alternatively, relax at a café by the lake or visit one of the city's many art galleries and hidden gems.

Transportation

- Tour bus

Included activities

- Hanoi Old Quarter orientation tour
- Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum
- Ho Chi Minh Museum
- Temple of Literature

Meals included

- Breakfast

Accommodation

- Hotel in Hanoi

Optional activities

- Ngoc Son Temple: US\$ 1.5
- Water puppet show: US\$ 4
- Hoa Lo Prison: US\$ 1.5
- Hanoi cooking class: US\$ 55

Day 3: Halong Bay boat cruise – night train to Hue

After breakfast, embark on a scenic bus journey to Halong City, where you'll board your boat for a cruise through the breathtaking Halong Bay. Located in the northwest of the Tonkin Gulf, Halong Bay features over 2,000 towering limestone islands, sculpted by wind and water over millions of years. The bay is home to stunning karst caves, hidden lagoons, and picturesque beaches, making it one of Vietnam's most spectacular landscapes. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Halong Bay is famous for its exceptional geological, archaeological, and cultural significance. Enjoy a fresh and hearty lunch on board as you cruise through the bay's dramatic scenery. You'll have the chance to explore up close by kayaking through limestone formations or taking a refreshing swim in the emerald waters at one of the bay's beautiful beaches.

In the late afternoon, return to Hanoi. Enjoy some free time to explore the city on your own. You might take a leisurely stroll around Hoan Kiem Lake or dive into Hanoi's vibrant street food scene with a bowl of pho or a banh mi.

In the evening, take a short transfer to the train station and board the overnight sleeper train to Hue - an adventure in itself!

Transportation

- Tour bus
- Train

Included activities

- Halong Bay boat cruise
- Halong bay kayaking/boat rowing

Meals included

- Breakfast
- Lunch

Accommodation

- Overnight train

Special notes

The overnight train journey from Hanoi to Hue takes approximately 13 hours. You'll stay in a shared, four-berth cabin with two levels of comfortable soft-sleeper beds and air conditioning. The cabin can be locked from the inside for security, and restrooms are available at both ends of the carriage. For refreshments, a dining car - usually located at the end of the train - offers simple meals and drinks.

Day 4: Hue – Imperial city

Arrive in Hue around 9:00 AM. Your tour guide will meet you at the train station and transfer you to your hotel. While waiting for check-in, feel free to explore the surroundings.

Located in central Vietnam, Hue was the imperial capital and remains a treasure trove of the country's royal heritage. The city is renowned for its rich history, ancient architecture, and scenic beauty along the Perfume River.

This afternoon, embark on a guided tour of the Imperial City. Built between 1804 and 1832, this grand complex served as the political and cultural center of the Nguyen Dynasty. The citadel features massive Vauban-style fortified walls surrounded by a deep moat, with the inner Royal City leading to the Purple Forbidden City, once reserved for the emperor and his family. Despite damage from past wars, many palaces, temples, and gates remain, offering a glimpse into Vietnam's regal past.

Later, visit the bustling Dong Ba Market, Hue's largest and oldest marketplace, where you can browse an array of local specialties, from fresh produce and fragrant spices to traditional handicrafts and famous Hue delicacies like 'banh khoai' (savory pancakes) and 'me xung' (sesame candy). It's a great place to experience the everyday life of locals and pick up unique souvenirs.

Evening at leisure – explore the lively night streets along the Perfume River, or opt for a royal banquet dinner, where you can dress in traditional imperial attire and enjoy an authentic feast fit for a king.

Transportation

- Tour bus

Included activities

- Hue Imperial City
- Dong Ba market

Meals included

- No meal included today

Accommodation

- Hotel in Hue

Day 5: Hoi An ancient town

Take a scenic bus ride through picturesque countryside, mountains, and lagoons to the UNESCO World Heritage city of Hoi An. Along the way, stop at Lang Co Beach and Hai Van Pass, the highest point in central Vietnam, offering stunning views of the surrounding landscapes.

Nestled along the peaceful Thu Bon River, Hoi An was once a major trading port from the 15th to the 19th century, welcoming merchant boats from both East and West. The town's narrow streets, lined with yellow-painted ancient houses, reflect a blend of Japanese, Chinese, and European architectural influences. Well-preserved buildings, traditions, and a vibrant local lifestyle make Hoi An one of Vietnam's most beloved destinations.

In the afternoon, enjoy a guided walking tour of Hoi An's ancient town, visiting key attractions like the bustling market, Tan Ky Ancient House, the communal hall, Hoi An Museum, the iconic Japanese Covered Bridge, and so on.

The rest of the day is free for you to explore at your own pace. Hoi An is renowned for its skilled tailor shops, where you can have custom-made clothes, from suits and dresses to traditional Ao Dai. With a wide range of fabrics and quick turnaround times, it's a great opportunity to get a perfectly tailored outfit.

As the sun sets, Hoi An transforms into an enchanting scene. The streets come alive with colorful lanterns, casting a magical glow along the winding lanes. Take a leisurely stroll along the riverbank and join the popular tradition of releasing a lantern onto the water, a symbol of good luck and future wishes.

Transportation

- Tour bus

Included Activities

- Hoi An walking tour

Meals included

- Breakfast

Accommodation

- Hotel in Hoi An

Day 6: Hoi An

Enjoy a free day to explore Hoi An at your own pace. Wander the charming streets to discover timeless beauties - from moss-covered roofs to lantern-lit balconies. Relax at a local bar with a café au lait or a cold beer, browse the shops, or savor local specialties like a bowl of Cao Lau noodles or a plate of White Rose dumplings.

You can also explore the countryside by bike, taking in the rural landscapes, or enjoy a boat cruise along the Thu Bon River. If you're interested, you could join a cooking class to learn how to make delicious Vietnamese dishes.

Meals included

- Breakfast

Accommodation

- Hotel in Hoi An

Optional Activities

- Cooking class: US \$35

Day 7: Hoi An – Train to Nha Trang

Leave Hoi An for a scenic day train ride to Nha Trang. This journey offers stunning views of Vietnam's rural landscapes, green rice paddies, peaceful villages, lagoons, lush hills, and beautiful beaches along the coastline.

Nha Trang, a popular seaside resort in southern Vietnam, is renowned for its pristine beaches, pleasant weather, and emerald waters. The area is home to beautiful islands and marine life protection zones, making it one of the top destinations for snorkeling and scuba diving.

Arrive in Nha Trang in the evening, where you will be picked up and transferred to your hotel for check-in. Spend the rest of the evening at your leisure—explore the beachfront street or enjoy the lively atmosphere at one of the local bars.

Transportation

- Bus
- Train

Meals included

- Breakfast

Accommodation

- Hotel in Nha Trang

Special notes

Today's train ride is a bit long but offers a fascinating journey. There is usually a dining car serving simple Vietnamese meals, but you may want to pack some food from Hoi An for lunch. Trolleys also circulate offering drinks and snacks, but if you're in the mood for a cold beer or fresh coffee, head to the dining car to take a seat and enjoy. As this is a public train, it's recommended to keep your valuables in a small bag or belt, ensuring you carry them with you at all times.

The train cabin is air-conditioned and accommodates four people with soft sleeper bunks on two levels. It's comfortable for sitting and enjoying the views through the window or resting as you like. Depending on the group size, you may share the cabin with other passengers not part of your group.

Day 8: Nha Trang beach relax

Enjoy a full day of relaxation on the beautiful beaches of Nha Trang. Soak up the sun, swim in the clear, warm waters, and take in the stunning coastal scenery. It's the perfect opportunity to unwind and recharge by the sea.

For those wanting to explore more, consider taking an optional boat tour of Nha Trang Bay.

Alternatively, you can visit the fascinating Oceanographic Museum, home to a variety of marine life exhibits, or the historic Ponaga Temple, a well-preserved Cham structure. Another popular option is the Long Son Pagoda, known for its impressive white Buddha statue.

You can also treat yourself to a rejuvenating mud bath at Thap Ba Hot Springs, a therapeutic experience to leave you feeling refreshed.

Meals included

- Breakfast

Accommodation

- Hotel in Nha Trang

Optional activities

- Thap Ba Ponagar ticket: US\$ 1.5
- Hot Spring Mud bath ticket: US\$ 5

Special notes

Nha Trang is famous for its fresh, affordable seafood. In addition to the restaurants in the city center, you may want to explore local-style eateries on the northern side of the city. Here, you can enjoy a casual dining experience, sitting on colorful plastic chairs, and savoring dishes like lobster, snails, and other local specialties.

Be cautious of taxi scams, as some drivers may try to take you to overpriced places where they earn a commission. To avoid this, always check with your hotel receptionist for trusted recommendations.

If you plan to explore the town at night and visit crowded bars or discotheques, make sure to leave your valuables and passport in the hotel safe or with the reception. Bring only what you need for the evening.

Day 9: Nha Trang beach – Night train to Ho Chi Minh City

Spend another relaxing day at Nha Trang's beautiful beaches or explore the city at your own pace. For an exciting optional activity, take a cable car ride over the bay to Vinpearl Land, where you can enjoy the water park and explore the attractions. In the evening, transfer to the train station to board the overnight train to Ho Chi Minh City.

Transportation

- Bus
- Train

Meals included

- Breakfast

Accommodation

- Overnight train

Optional activities

- Vinpearl land & Cable car ride: US\$ 36

Special notes

The train to Ho Chi Minh City departs in the evening. After checking out of your room, you can store your luggage at the hotel's storage. If you plan to spend the day exploring, make sure to check out of your room before heading out. For added security, it's recommended to leave your valuables at the hotel reception. The hotel also provides public bathrooms, so you can freshen up before catching your train.

Day 10: Ho Chi Minh City sightseeing

Welcome to Ho Chi Minh City, also known as Saigon! As the largest city in Vietnam, it's a vibrant, bustling place filled with a mix of old and new, East and West. The city is a fascinating blend of colonial architecture and modern skyscrapers, with lively streets teeming with people from early morning until midnight.

You'll arrive at Saigon Station in the morning, where a bus will take you to your hotel.

Later, enjoy a city tour of some of Ho Chi Minh City's main attractions, including the War Remnants Museum, the Reunification Palace (the former Presidential Palace of South Vietnam before the country reunited in 1975), the Saigon Notre-Dame Cathedral, the Saigon Post Office, the Theatre Hall, and Ben Thanh Market.

Afterward, the rest of the day is free for you to relax.

For those interested in the Vietnam War history, an optional visit to the Cu Chi Tunnels is highly recommended. If you're a foodie, don't miss the chance to experience Saigon's vibrant nightlife and food scene on a motorbike.

Transportation

- Tour bus

Included Activities

- War Remnant Museum
- Reunification Palace
- Notre Dame Cathedral & Central Post Office
- Ben Thanh Market

Meals included

- No meal included today

Accommodation

- Hotel in Saigon – Ho Chi Minh City

Optional activities

- Cu Chi Tunnels tour: US\$ 25

Day 11: Mekong Delta explore

After breakfast, leave Ho Chi Minh City for a day trip to explore the Mekong Delta, known as the "rice basket" of Vietnam. Over thousands of years, the Mekong River has deposited rich alluvial soil that has shaped the lush landscape of rice paddies, tropical orchards, and mangroves along the delta's waterways.

Board a wooden boat for a leisurely cruise along the river, where you'll witness local activities like fishing and water transport. Visit a green orchard and sample fresh tropical fruits. Then, explore local workshops to see how coconut candy, puffed rice, and woven mats are made, and get the chance to taste some local specialties.

Next, hop on a motor cart for an exciting ride along shady paths, passing coconut forests, rice fields, and vegetable plantations, offering a glimpse of daily life in this vibrant tropical region.

Enjoy a delicious local lunch featuring Mekong specialties like elephant ear fish, prawns, and crispy banana flower cakes. Afterward, take a relaxing sampan ride along meandering canals surrounded by lush water coconut mangroves before returning to the pier and heading back to Ho Chi Minh City.

As tonight is your last evening in the city, why not gather with your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner and celebrate your journey together?

Transportation

- Tour bus

Included activities

- Mekong River boat cruise
- Mekong motor cart ride through villages
- Mekong boat rowing

Meals included

- Breakfast
- Lunch

Accommodation

- Hotel in Saigon – Ho Chi Minh City

Day 12: Ho Chi Minh City - Departure

Today is departure day so you there are no activity organized. Just relax and enjoy time at your own pace until check out time then get transfer to the airport for your departure flight. Safe travel and see you again!

Transportation

- Airport transfer

Meals included

- Breakfast

Special notes

The hotel check-out time is 11.00AM so, if your departure flight is later and you wish to keep the room longer, please let us know so that we can book the room for you, otherwise you can store your luggage in the hotel storage and use the public bathroom there. In case you have extra stay in Ho Chi Minh City we can arrange post-trip accommodation and activities for you.

If you wish to explore other countries in the region, you can have a look at our tour list and find suitable set departure date to combine this with.

Trip Style: Standard

This style is designed with great flexibility to ensure that you can enjoy your experience most with a reasonable budget. Whilst it is built for adventure-minded people, this tour style focuses on active exploration, uncommon landscapes, and local cultures. Accommodations in these trips are normally tourist standard 2 or 3 stars. Guest houses and homestay with a local family are also used in these trips to enhance your local experience. Apart from included activities, you also have some free time to explore the place on your own way. Transports used on these trips are normally by buses and trains with public buses also sometimes used.

Joining & group size

Group tours allow you to meet and connect with others, adding fun and enriching your local experiences. During the trip, and at certain locations, you may join other travelers for specific activities. To ensure quality, group sizes are limited to no more than 16 people, except on larger cruisers or public transportation.

Most day tours and excursions are directly organized and operated by Travel Authentic Asia. Occasionally, some activities may be conducted by our trusted local partners, following agreed-upon standards. In such cases, Travel Authentic Asia guarantees the quality of your trip and takes full responsibility for addressing any issues or complaints with our local service providers on behalf of our customers.

Physical Grading: 2/5

This tour is suitable for most fitness levels. Nothing is too challenging.

Price inclusions

Meals included: 9 breakfast, 2 lunches

Transportation: Bus, train, domestic flight, boat

Accommodation: Hotels (9 nights), Overnight train (2 nights)

Included activities: Ho Chi Minh City: War Remnant Museum, Reunification Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral & Post Office, Ben Thanh Market; Mekong Delta: River boat cruise, Country motor cart ride, Mekong boat rowing; Hoi An: Ancient town walking tour; Hue: Royal Citadel & Forbidden city, Dong Ba market; Hanoi: Old Quarter orientation tour, Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, Ho Chi Minh Museum, Temple of Literature; Halong Bay: Boat cruise with lunch; Halong kayaking/boat rowing

Price exclusions

Visa, International flights in and out the country, Laundry, Personal expenditures, Travel Insurance, Tips, Other than mentioned in the trip notes & itinerary.

Optional activities

In addition to the activities included in the day-to-day itinerary, you may also pursue your own interests and adventures during your free time by participating in optional activities, where available.

Please note that optional activities are not necessarily endorsed or recommended by Travel Authentic Asia, nor are they included in the price of the trip. Participation in any optional activities is at your own risk. It is important to understand that your decision to participate is entirely yours and does not form part of your contract with Travel Authentic Asia. For some optional activities, you may be required to sign a waiver or receipt.

Dossier & Itinerary Disclaimer

These trip notes have been compiled with the itinerary and are updated regularly with the most reliable info on local travel facts. For the itinerary, though trying very much to adhere to the route, we cannot say that the local travel conditions stay unchanged so, a certain level of flexibility is requested in case of any alteration need to be made to fit with local circumstances.

Please ensure that you read well and have a copy of these trip notes before your departure in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

Tour guide

During your trip, you will be guided by tour guides specific to each region. This ensures you receive the benefit of their deep knowledge of the area's history, culture, and hidden gems, making your experience richer and more authentic. Their familiarity with local customs and practices will enhance your understanding and connection to the destination.

Tour guides will manage all organized activities, including pickups and drop-offs when necessary. However, they may not accompany you at all times, giving you the freedom to explore independently when desired.

For your peace of mind, our operations team and 24/7 customer care service are always available. You can reach us easily via phone, WhatsApp, or Messenger to ensure any concerns are promptly addressed.

Meals on tour

When traveling with Travel Authentic Asia, you'll have the opportunity to experience a wide variety of delicious cuisine unique to each country you visit. While some meals are included in the trip price, you will also have the freedom to choose where, what, and with whom to dine, based on your own budget and preferences. This flexibility allows you to explore local food at your own pace.

Your tour guide will offer restaurant suggestions throughout the trip, and group members are welcome to dine together or explore their own culinary choices for privacy and personal enjoyment.

Transportation

Most of the vehicles used during the trip are air-conditioned and designed for tourist comfort. For short distances or specific activities, we occasionally incorporate local transportation options, such as taxis, tuk-tuks, or cyclo, to offer a more authentic travel experience.

In certain cases, domestic or regional flights may also be arranged to save time or accommodate long-distance travel efficiently.

For overnight train journeys, we use local trains with air-conditioned, 4-berth compartments featuring lockable doors. These cabins are shared with fellow travelers or, occasionally, with other passengers not part of the group. During peak travel seasons, when availability is limited, 6-berth compartments may be provided as an alternative.

Accommodations

Our accommodations on this trip are typically 2- or 3-star hotels, offering comfortable stays throughout the trip. The standard check-in time is 14:00 PM. If the group arrive early in the morning, we will arrange a day room for showering and luggage storage. While we always strive to have rooms ready upon our arrival, if we arrive close to the standard check-in time, this isn't always possible, meaning that check-in may not be immediate at some hotels.

In larger, more populated cities, hotel rooms tend to be smaller compared to those in smaller towns, and some rooms may not have windows due to high population density. Although hotels are of the same standard, facilities may vary slightly depending on the location.

Single Travelers

On our joined group trips, you will typically share a room with another group member of the same gender. However, if you are traveling alone and there is no one else available to share the room with, you may be required to pay a single supplement. Alternatively, you have the option to pay for a single supplement in advance to ensure that you have your own room throughout the trip. Please note that single supplements are not available for overnight trains or local homestays.

Start-Ending-points

Starting point:

Hanoi HM Boutique Hotel

3 Hang Dau street – Hoan Kiem - Hanoi – Vietnam

Phone: +8424 3266 8586

The hotel is located in the Old Quarter of Hanoi, very close to the Hoan Kiem Lake and within walking distance of Hanoi's interesting sights. Rooms are air-conditioned and have an en suite bathroom.

Notes: If local conditions require a change to the starting hotel, we will select an alternative of the same standard and notify you via email at least one month before your arrival to ensure you arrive at the correct location.

Arrival complication

If you are unable to commence your group trip as scheduled, please contact your starting-point hotel and leave a message for your tour guide.

Upon arrival at the airport, you will be greeted by our representative holding a sign with your name and our company logo in the arrival hall. Please note that neither the driver nor the representative will request additional payment. If you cannot locate our representative or have concerns about your transfer, contact our hotline at +84 903432999 or +84 912221442 for immediate assistance.

To ensure a smooth airport transfer, please provide your flight details at least 14 days before your departure. If the transfer (included in the tour price or booked as an extra service) or any portion of your trip is missed due to a flight schedule change without prior notice, no refund will be issued. Any additional costs incurred to rejoin your group will be your responsibility.

If you need to arrange your own taxi from the airport to the starting-point hotel, metered taxis are available at the airport's ground-floor exit gates. Alternatively, you can approach airport taxi service counters managed by uniformed staff. To ensure a safe and reliable service, seek assistance from airport security or staff. Avoid unsolicited offers from taxi touts claiming to have metered taxis parked outside the airport.

Ending point

Liberty Saigon Parkview Hotel
265 Pham Ngu Lao Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City

Tel: +84 28 3837 0772

Centrally located in the tourist hub of Saigon – Ho Chi Minh City, from the hotel it is convenient to find restaurants, bars, and other tourist venues. It is within walking distance of many of the area's main attractions such as Ben Thanh Market, Reunification Palace, Post office, and so on.

Money

The official currency of Vietnam is the Vietnamese Dong (VND). According to government regulations, all prices for goods and services must be quoted in VND. Foreign currencies can only be exchanged through authorized exchange bureaus or used with special permission.

In practice, USD is widely accepted in tourist areas and is often considered a secondary currency. Other foreign currencies, such as EUR, AUD, and GBP, are also accepted in some locations, though less commonly. In tourist hotspots, establishments like restaurants, bars, travel agencies, and souvenir shops may accept both USD and VND, with prices sometimes displayed in both currencies. However, outside tourist areas or in remote regions, only Vietnamese Dong is accepted. During your trip, it's best to carry a mix of VND and USD for convenience. Ensuring that any bills, particularly USD, are in good condition without tears or excessive wear, as damaged bills may be rejected. Vietnamese Dong (VND) can be easily withdrawn from ATMs, which are widely available on street corners throughout the country. Having both currencies on hand ensures you are well-prepared for transactions in both tourist hubs and more remote areas.

Tipping

Tipping is not compulsory, but it is greatly appreciated. If you are satisfied with the service provided, offering a tip is a meaningful way to show your appreciation. It is especially significant to those who take care of you during your travels and helps inspire excellent service. Tipping should be given directly to the recipient.

Here are some suggested tipping amounts based on local practices and feedback from previous travelers:

Local Restaurants: If dining alone, a tip of around US\$2 is appropriate. In more upscale restaurants, tipping ranges from 10% to 15% of your bill. For group dining, a collective tip of US\$5 to US\$8 is suggested, depending on the group size.

Drivers: For a single traveler, a tip of US\$5 is recommended. For a group, a total tip of US\$10-15 per day is appropriate.

Tour Guides: Tipping for guides depends on the level of service, and US\$2-4 per person per day is typical for group tours. Free to tip more as you see fit. The amount is entirely up to your discretion based on service quality.

Visas

Visas are the responsibility of the individual traveler. Visa requirements vary depending on your nationality and destination. Generally, most countries require that your passport be valid for at least six months beyond your intended stay. Upon arrival, you may be asked to show return tickets and proof of sufficient funds to cover your stay.

Travel Authentic Asia offers e-visa and visa-on-arrival services, which can be arranged by booking the additional service when you make your tour reservation or by contacting us via email.

For more details, please visit our website at: <https://travelauthenticasia.com/travel-guides/vietnam/how-to-get-a-visa-for-vietnam.aspx>

What to bring

What you need to bring will depend on the trip style, the countries you are visiting, and the time of year. Generally, we recommend packing as lightly as possible. You'll be expected to carry your own luggage on excursions, though you won't be walking long distances with it. We suggest keeping the weight under 20kg/44lbs.

You can choose to carry your luggage in a backpack or suitcase, but with wheels is most convenient. An overnight bag or a small backpack with a shoulder strap is useful for carrying essentials like water and a camera on day trips.

Depending on the season and the activities included in your trip, be sure to bring appropriate clothing. In winter (November to February), North Vietnam can be cold, so warm clothing is necessary. During other times of the year, light and comfortable clothing will be sufficient. If your trip involves trekking, make sure to bring trekking shoes or sandals. You'll find that most items can be purchased locally at reasonable prices, so there's no need to pack everything; only bring the essentials.

Health

There are no specific health requirements for this trip. However, we recommend consulting your doctor for up-to-date medical travel advice before departure. It's a good idea to bring along a basic First Aid kit, hand sanitizers, antibacterial wipes, and any personal medications or medical items you may need during your journey.

Safety and Security

Before departure, we encourage you to seek advice on international travel safety and familiarize yourself with potential situations you may encounter during your trip. Traffic can be more chaotic than what you're accustomed to at home, so take your time to adjust to the new environment. Your tour guide and locals are great resources to learn how to navigate local traffic safely.

For added security, we recommend using a neck wallet or money belt to store your passport, air tickets, travelers' cheques, cash, and other valuables. Only carry the amount of money you'll need for the day, and leave the rest in the hotel's safe. We also suggest using a lock to secure your luggage.

While the cities visited are generally safe during the day, we advise caution when wandering at night. It's best to stay in small groups and take taxis to and from restaurants or on evening excursions.

In certain situations, your tour guide has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the itinerary for safety reasons.

If engaging in water activities in oceans, rivers, or open water, be aware that waves and currents can be unpredictable. All participants should be able to swim and have experience in open water, and we recommend seeking local advice before entering the water.

For more information, please visit our website's travel guides.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is mandatory for all Travel Authentic Asia travelers and must be obtained independently. It is your responsibility to carefully review your insurance policy before traveling to ensure it provides adequate coverage for personal accidents, medical expenses, evacuation and repatriation, baggage loss, and cancellation or curtailment of your trip. Please note that any local travel insurance included in sightseeing tickets at certain sites is limited and does not replace comprehensive travel insurance. Travelers with pre-existing medical conditions must confirm that their chosen insurance policy covers these conditions. If such conditions are not covered, it is understood that the traveler assumes full financial responsibility for any issues or costs arising from treatment or complications related to their pre-existing medical condition. Travel Authentic Asia is not liable for any problems, delays, or expenses resulting from such conditions.

Responsible travel

At Travel Authentic Asia (TAA), we operate with a strong commitment to Responsible Travel. We believe that both tour operators and travelers play a vital role in making the world a better place. By traveling responsibly, we not only contribute to the advancement of tourism but also enhance the overall travel experience.

Responsible travel is not an abstract concept; it is reflected in the actions, behavior, and appearance we exhibit every day during our travels. With small efforts, each of us can make a significant difference in the places we visit.

Issues on your trip

While we always strive to provide the best possible holiday experience, we understand that travel can sometimes present challenges due to local conditions or unforeseen circumstances. If something goes wrong, the best way to address the issue is by discussing it with your tour guide or one of our travel consultants or customer care personnel. This allows us to resolve the problem and minimize any negative impact on the rest of your trip.

We acknowledge that there may be situations where a tour guide or our local partners may not be able to resolve an issue to your satisfaction. If that occurs, please feel free to reach out directly to our travel consultant or management team via chat or email, and we will do our best to assist you.

Trip review & feedback

After traveling with us, your feedback is invaluable in helping us improve our services and ensure a better experience for you and future travelers. You are the best person to tell us what we need to do to meet your expectations. Therefore, your comments and suggestions are highly appreciated.