

## VIETNAM EXPLORER – TRIP NOTES

TRIP CODE: TAGVS113

Valid until 31 Dec 2025

### Overview

This tour offers an unforgettable journey through Vietnam's vibrant cities, rich culture, and breathtaking landscapes. Begin in dynamic Ho Chi Minh City, where colonial landmarks and bustling markets showcase the country's energy. Then, experience the tranquil Mekong Delta with a riverside homestay in Ben Tre, immersing yourself in the daily rhythms of local life. A scenic train ride takes you to Nha Trang, a coastal paradise known for its pristine beaches, offshore islands, and relaxing hot springs. Continue to the enchanting heritage town of Hoi An, where lantern-lit streets and centuries-old architecture create a magical atmosphere. Head north to Hanoi, Vietnam's vibrant capital, where the charm of the Old Quarter, rich history, and diverse street food scene await. Venture into Ninh Binh's stunning karst landscapes, gliding through caves and rice paddies by boat. Conclude your journey with a spectacular overnight cruise in Halong Bay, surrounded by emerald waters and towering limestone formations. From bustling cities to serene countryside and natural wonders, this tour captures Vietnam's most captivating contrasts.

### Detailed itinerary

#### **Day 1: Ho Chi Minh City**

*Xin Chao!* Welcome to Vietnam!

Upon arrival at Tan Son Nhat International Airport, our representative will greet you, holding a sign with your name. A short transfer will take you to your hotel located in the heart of the city. If time allows, take a stroll through the energetic streets of Ho Chi Minh City, where modern skyscrapers blend seamlessly with colonial architecture, bustling markets. At 6:00 PM, you'll have a group meeting with your tour guide and fellow travelers. Later, you can opt to join your travel companions for dinner and drinks at one of Saigon's lively street cafes.

#### Accommodation

- Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City

#### Meals Included

- None

#### **Special notes**

Hotel check-in is available from 2:00 PM. If you arrive earlier and wish to access your room sooner, you can arrange pre-trip accommodation when booking your trip or by notifying us in advance. Today's group meeting is essential as you'll meet your tour guide and fellow travelers, receive necessary documentation, instructions, and a trip briefing. If you anticipate arriving late, please inform your travel agent or the hotel reception. Check with the hotel reception or look for a note in the lobby for details on the meeting location.

## Day 2: Mekong Delta – Ben Tre homestay

Leave the hustle of Ho Chi Minh City behind as you venture southward to the peaceful Mekong Delta, often called Vietnam's "rice basket." On the way, visit a colorful Cao Dai Temple, a unique religious site that combines elements of Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and Christianity.

Upon arriving in Ben Tre, known for its abundant coconut palms, embark on a leisurely wooden boat cruise along the river. Observe the daily life along the riverbanks and take in the serene countryside scenery. Visit a traditional brick kiln and handicraft workshops where locals produce coconut candy, puffed rice, woven mats, and so on. Interact with the locals and learn about their crafts and lifestyles.

Continue your journey with an exciting motor cart ride through coconut groves, rice paddies, and vibrant vegetable gardens, offering an intimate glimpse into the region's timeless rural charm.

Enjoy a delightful Mekong-style lunch, featuring specialties such as elephant ear fish, fresh prawns, and crispy banana flower cake.

After lunch, experience a tranquil sampan ride through narrow, meandering canals lined with lush water coconut palms, soaking in the beauty of the Delta's mangroves and waterways. Later, check in at your homestay, where you can unwind or participate in activities such as rowing a boat or catching shrimp in a creek. In the evening, join the host family in preparing a traditional dinner and enjoy a cozy, communal meal, sharing stories and experiencing rural life.

### Included activities

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

### Meals included

- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### Accommodation

- Homestay local house in Mekong Delta

### **Special notes**

You only need to bring a day bag with essentials for your overnight stay in the Mekong, while the rest of your luggage can be securely stored at the hotel.

## Day 3: Mekong Delta – HCMC – Train to Nha Trang

Begin your day with a hearty breakfast before setting off on a cycling tour through the serene countryside. Pedal your way to a bustling local market, where you can observe daily trading activities and experience the vibrant atmosphere. Continue your journey to a broom-making workshop, where you'll see skilled artisans crafting traditional brooms by hand, and then visit a soya sauce production site to learn about the intricate process of making this essential condiment. Next, visit a local school to meet students and teachers, offering a glimpse into the educational life in the Delta. This enriching experience provides insight into the community's culture and values. After the morning activities, return to Ho Chi Minh City. Enjoy some free time in the afternoon to explore the city at your own pace, perhaps visiting a nearby café, shopping, or simply soaking in the local sights and sounds.

In the evening, you'll be transferred to the train station for an overnight train journey to Nha Trang. Settle into your cabin and relax as the train carries you towards your next destination, ready for new adventures.

### Included Activities

- Mekong Delta country cycling
- Villages and school visit

#### Meals Included

- Breakfast

#### Accommodation

- Overnight train to Nha Trang

#### **Special notes**

There is day room for the group to take shower before you get to the station. The overnight train journey from Ho Chi Minh City to Nha Trang takes approximately 8 hours. You'll stay in a shared cabin with four bunk beds, arranged in two levels, offering comfortable soft sleepers and air conditioning. Depending on the group's arrangement, you may share the cabin with passengers of different genders or those not part of the group.

#### **Day 4: Nha Trang beach relax**

Arrive in Nha Trang early in the morning and transfer to your hotel.

Nha Trang, a coastal paradise, is renowned for its long sandy beaches, crystal-clear waters, and warm weather all year round. While its natural beauty offers the perfect setting for relaxation, the city also buzzes with energy, blending leisure with exciting activities.

Spend your free day unwinding on the beach, swimming in the turquoise sea, or indulging in a rejuvenating spa treatment.

For those seeking more adventure, an optional boat tour of Nha Trang Bay and its surrounding islands is available.

As night falls, explore Nha Trang's vibrant nightlife. Stroll along the beachfront promenade, enjoy fresh seafood at a seaside restaurant, or visit a rooftop bar for panoramic views of the city. For a more lively experience, check out live music venues, or beachfront clubs offering a mix of entertainment and relaxation.

#### Meals Included

- None

#### Accommodation

- Hotel in Nha Trang

#### Optional Activity

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

#### **Day 5: Nha Trang beach relax – Train to Da Nang**

Enjoy another day soaking up the sun on Nha Trang's beautiful beaches. Swim in the clear waters, relax on the soft sands, or indulge in a beachfront spa treatment. If you're looking to explore more, consider visiting Long Son Pagoda, a historic Buddhist temple known for its towering white Buddha statue and panoramic city views. Stroll through Dam Market, the city's bustling marketplace, where you can shop for souvenirs and sample local delicacies. Discover marine life at the National Oceanographic Museum, explore the ancient Po Nagar Cham Towers, or unwind in the mineral-rich waters of Thap Ba Hot Springs.

In the evening, you'll be transferred to the train station for an overnight journey to Da Nang, the gateway to the charming town of Hoi An.

#### Meals Included

- Breakfast

#### Accommodation

- Overnight train

#### Optional Activities:

- Nha Trang Oceanographic Museum: US\$ 1
- Thap Ba Ponagar ticket: US\$ 1.5
- Hot Spring Mud bath ticket: US\$ 5

#### **Special notes**

Check-out time is at 12:00 PM. After checking out, you can leave your luggage at the hotel storage and enjoy some leisure time.

The train journey to Da Nang takes approximately 11 hours.

### **Day 6: Hoi An ancient town**

Arrive in Da Nang late in the morning, where you'll be met and transferred to your hotel in Hoi An. This charming riverside town, nestled along the Thu Bon River, was a prominent trading port from the 15th to 19th centuries. Hoi An is renowned for its unique blend of Japanese, Chinese, and European architectural styles, featuring yellow-painted buildings, quaint streets, and a rich cultural tapestry that makes it one of Vietnam's most captivating destinations.

Once you've checked in, enjoy an afternoon walking tour of the ancient town. Wander through its bustling streets and visit key attractions like Hoi An Market, the historic Tan Ky Ancient House, the Japanese Covered Bridge, and the Hoi An Museum.

Along the way, marvel at the colorful lanterns, browse local shops for distinctive crafts such as ceramics, woodwork, and tailored clothing, or savor traditional dishes like Cao Lau noodles and White Rose dumplings.

The evening is yours to enjoy at leisure. Immerse yourself in the enchanting atmosphere of Hoi An, stroll along the lantern-lit riverbanks, set floating lanterns adrift, take a boat ride on the Thu Bon River, or simply revel in the lively streets adorned with glowing lanterns and the melody of local music.

#### Included Activities

- Hoi An ancient town walking tour

#### Meals Included

- Breakfast

#### Accommodation

- Hotel in Hoi An

### **Day 7: Hoi An easy**

Today, you have the freedom to explore Hoi An at your leisure and uncover its many hidden treasures. Meander through its serene alleys, where ancient, moss-covered walls whisper stories of the past. For a tranquil escape, settle on a lantern-lit balcony with a cup of traditional Vietnamese coffee or a local beer, and soak in the town's charm as the world moves around you. If you're up for some adventure, take a bicycle ride through the picturesque countryside, where lush rice fields and coconut groves create a stunning backdrop. Alternatively, take a scenic boat ride along the Thu Bon River to appreciate the peaceful beauty of the waterways.

If you're a foodie, consider joining a Vietnamese cooking class to learn the art of preparing authentic dishes, allowing you to savor the region's rich culinary traditions in a hands-on way.

#### Meals Included

- Breakfast

#### Accommodation

- Hotel in Hoi An

### Optional Activities

- Cooking class: US\$ 35

## **Day 8: Hoi An – Train to Hanoi**

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel, then spend a free morning further exploring the charming streets of Hoi An.

Later, transfer to Da Nang train station for an unforgettable overnight journey to Hanoi. More than just transportation, this ride is like a sightseeing tour from your window. As the train winds its way north, be captivated by breathtaking views of Vietnam's ever-changing landscapes. Gaze out at the dramatic Hai Van Pass, where mist-shrouded mountains plunge into the sparkling sea, then watch as the scenery shifts to lush countryside, emerald rice paddies, and charming villages. As night falls, settle into your sleeper cabin, lulled by the soothing rhythm of the train. Wake up refreshed, ready to explore Hanoi, Vietnam's vibrant and historic capital.

### Meals Included

- Breakfast

### Accommodation

- Overnight train

### **Special notes**

The overnight train journey from Da Nang to Hanoi takes approximately 16 hours - a long ride, but a comfortable and exciting experience. The train has a dining car serving meals, but you may want to bring some food from Hoi An for more variety. Snack and drink will be available from trolleys that pass through the cabins sometimes, but for a fresh hot coffee or cold beer, head to the dining car/bar, where you can enjoy a drink and chat with fellow travelers. While the journey is generally safe, it's best to keep your valuables with you at all times for security.

## **Day 9: Hanoi sightseeing**

Arrive in Hanoi early in the morning and transfer to your hotel. After freshening up, embark on a half-day city tour to explore some of the historical and cultural highlights of Vietnam's capital. The tour includes a visit to the Ho Chi Minh Memorial Complex, where you can see the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, the Presidential Palace, and Uncle Ho's humble stilt house, reflecting his simple lifestyle. Nearby, the One Pillar Pagoda, a unique wooden structure built on a single stone pillar, stands as a symbol of purity and enlightenment.

Also, visit the Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first National University, founded in 1076. This well-preserved complex honors Confucian scholars and the value of education, featuring tranquil courtyards, ancient pavilions, and nearly 100 stone stelae mounted on turtle statues, each inscribed with the names of successful royal exam candidates.

After checking in to your hotel, enjoy the afternoon at your leisure. You can explore the bustling Old Quarter, known for its lively markets and charming narrow streets, or relax by Hoan Kiem Lake and visit Ngoc Son Temple. For a deeper cultural experience, consider attending a traditional water puppet show at Thang Long Theatre or joining a local food tour to sample Hanoi's famous street cuisine.

### Included Activities

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

### Meals Included

- No meal included on this day

#### 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 10: Ninh Binh Karst landscapes explore**

After breakfast, set out for Ninh Binh, a region famed for its ancient capital of Hoa Lu, picturesque countryside, and dramatic karst landscapes rising from lush rice paddies.

Upon arrival in Hoa Lu, the former capital of Vietnam in the 10th century, explore the historical temples dedicated to the Dinh and Early Le dynasties. Built on the remnants of ancient palaces, these temples offer a glimpse into Vietnam's royal heritage and architectural splendor. For a breathtaking panoramic view, take a short hike to the mountaintop, where the King's grave rests, offering stunning vistas of the surrounding landscapes.

After visiting Hoa Lu, hop on a bicycle and enjoy a leisurely ride through the charming countryside. Pedal along peaceful village roads, past golden rice fields, limestone peaks, and quaint local homes. Feel the refreshing breeze as you weave through scenic paths, greeting friendly locals along the way and soaking in the tranquility of rural Vietnam.

Following a delicious local lunch, embark on a serene two-hour boat ride along the Ngo Dong River. Glide past verdant rice paddies, towering karst mountains, and hidden caves, witnessing locals farming and fishing with time-honored techniques.

Return to the quay and drive back to Hanoi, where the rest of the day is yours to unwind at your leisure.

#### Included Activities

- Hoa Lu Ancient Capital
- Country villages cycling
- Rowing boat trip and cave exploration in Tam Coc

#### Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch

#### Accommodation

- Hotel in Hanoi

### **Day 11: Halong Bay cruise**

After breakfast, depart for Halong Bay, one of Vietnam's most iconic natural wonders and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Upon arrival, board your boat for a scenic cruise through the emerald waters of the bay, where towering limestone islands and lush green islets rise from the sea. As you sail, take in the stunning landscapes and explore some of the bay's mysterious caves and grottoes, home to impressive stalactites and stalagmites.

A delicious seafood lunch will be served on board, featuring fresh, local ingredients, perfectly complementing the breathtaking surroundings.

Later, you can choose to paddle kayak to get closer to the towering cliffs, take a rowing boat through natural tunnels and lagoons, or simply relax on the boat and enjoy the tranquil beauty of the bay.

After the cruise, return to the harbor and drive back to Hanoi, arriving at your hotel in the late afternoon.

In the evening, enjoy some free time to explore Hanoi. As tonight is your last evening, why not join your fellow travelers for a farewell outing? It's the perfect opportunity to share memories, try local delicacies, and soak up the vibrant atmosphere of the city one last time.

#### Included Activities

- Halong Bay cruise
- Kayaking/boat rowing

#### Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Lunch

#### Accommodation

- Hotel in Hanoi

### **Day 12: Hanoi - Departure**

Today marks the conclusion of your journey. Take the morning to relax and enjoy the final moments in Hanoi. This is the perfect time for last-minute shopping.

Later, you will be transferred to the airport for your departure. Safe travels, and we look forward to welcoming you again!

#### Meals included

- Breakfast

#### **Special notes**

Check-out time is 11:00 AM. If your departure flight is later and you'd like to keep the room longer, please inform us in advance so we can help to arrange it for you. Alternatively, you can store your luggage at the hotel and use the public facilities available.

If you're planning to stay longer, we can assist with post-trip accommodations and arrange activities to enhance your experience.

In case you are interested in exploring more of the region? Browse our tour list for options, including set departure dates, to combine with your current itinerary.

### **Trip Style: Standard**

This style is designed with great flexibility to ensure you can make the most of your experience while staying within a reasonable budget. Aimed at adventure-minded travelers, this tour focuses on active exploration, unique landscapes, and local cultures. Accommodations typically range from tourist-standard 2- to 3-star hotels, with guesthouses and homestays with local families also included to enhance your cultural experience. In addition to the included activities, you'll have free time to explore independently. Transportation is primarily by buses and trains, with public buses occasionally used as well.

### **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:** 2.5/5

This tour is suitable for most fitness levels. While it includes some active activities, none are overly strenuous or challenging, making it an enjoyable experience for those with moderate physical fitness.

### **Price inclusions**

Meals included: 9 breakfast, 3 lunches, 1 dinner

Transportation: Bus, train, boat

Accommodation: Hotels (7 nights), Homestay (1 night) Overnight train (3 nights)

Included activities: Mekong: Mekong River boat cruise, Mekong village motor cart ride, Mekong bicycle ride, Mekong home stay with home lunch & dinner; Hoi An: ancient town walking tour; Hanoi: Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, Ho Chi Minh Museum, Temple of Literature; Ninh Binh: Hoa Lu ancient capital, Country village cycling, Boat rowing Tam Coc; Halong Bay: Halong boat cruise, 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:**

Liberty Saigon Park View 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.

**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**

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.

## **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.