

CLASSIC VIETNAM: HANOI TO HO CHI MINH CITY

FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 9, 2027

IMPORTANT DETAILS

- Start/Finish City: Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City
- Price: USD 1479.00 per person
 - My Own Room (single supplement) is an additional \$299.00USD per person (very limited)
 - Roommate matching is available!
 - Optional 3 day add on Mekong River Adventure (March 9-11, additional \$450)
- Deposit Amount: \$350.00 per person
- Final Payment Due: 60 days prior to departure on 11/10/26
- Meals Included: 8 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 1 dinner
- Allow USD100-130 for meals not included.
- Travel Insurance is required. Jill can help you with this part if needed.
- International airfare is not included
- Transfers and pre/post accommodations not included in the price but can be booked for an additional fee.

DATE ITINERARY & IMPORTANT NOTES

Feb 28 Hanoi

Arrive at any time.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Tran Quoc Pagoda - Free

Visit Hanoi Visit one of the oldest pagodas in Vietnam located on the eastern shore of Tay Ho. Learn about Tran Quoc's history from the 17th-century stela found on site. View it later in the day, if you can – the tall structure is striking against the setting sun.

Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and Museum Visit Hanoi Free-1USD per person

Tour the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and Museum built in the square where Ho Chi Minh read the Declaration of Independence in 1945. Get in line to tour the grounds; queues of visitors come to pay their respects daily.

Thăng Long Water Puppet Theatre Performance Hanoi 200000VND (approx \$8USD) per person

Watch a traditional Vietnamese water puppet show with beautiful live music and intricate puppets dancing in a water stage.

Dinner as a group (at your expense)

Accommodation: Chalcedony Hotel (or similar)



March **Hanoi → Ha Long**

1

Enjoy a Ha Long Bay cruise on a junk boat with visits to a cave and an island lookout.

Savour a seafood lunch.

Drive to Bai Chay harbour, the jumping off point for Ha Long Bay. Thousands of islands with intricate cave systems rise dramatically from the waters. Sail past limestone karst mountains in the junk boat and stop to visit some of the islands and caves.

In the evening, devour a seafood dinner, then opt to enjoy a drink on deck under the stars.

Accommodation: Halong Bay Overnight Cruise

Board a traditional junk boat at Ha Long Bay harbour and cruise out onto serene waters. Marvel at massive limestone karst mountains jutting out of the water, creating unforgettable spectacular scenery. Swim, kayak or go cave exploring on one of the islands, if conditions are right. Indulge in fresh seafood meals with a variety of dishes to sample. Drift to sleep in a cozy cabin on board.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Kayaking - 1h-2h - 10USD per person

Transfer from boat to kayak in this guided water tour, giving you the chance to get even closer to the stunning natural surroundings.

March **Ha Long → Hue**

2

Enjoy breakfast and lunch on board before sailing back to the port and return to Hanoi.

Enjoy some free time in the city before an overnight train to Hue.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Hanoi Foodie Culture Tour - (\$23USD)

Indulge your inner foodie with a street food tour through bustling Hanoi. Follow your guide through the back streets and markets of the city's old quarter, sampling local fare along the way. Mingle with city natives and experienced street food artists alike, as you taste a variety of Hanoi faves like "nem ran" and "banh goi." Stop at a streetside bar to savour a draught beer like Hanoians do. Cap off the tour at the Hanoi Food Culture restaurant, a G Values Fund Project, and try the city's signature specialty coffee.

Accommodation: Overnight Train

March **Hue**

3

Pull into Hue early in the morning and dive right into the city, starting with a guided tour of the Imperial Citadel, Royal Tomb and Tien Mu Pagoda.

The rest of the day, you are free to explore the city how you'd like.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Hue Motorbike Tour - (\$27USD)

Grab a helmet, hop on a motorbike driven by your experienced local guide, and get ready for a crash course in authentic Viet culture. Stops include: Thien My Pagoda, Imperial Citadel Tour, Royal Tombs Visit and much more!

Accommodation: Asia Hotel (or similar)

March **Hue → Hoi An**

4

Drive the Hai Van pass. Cross the Hai Van Pass (weather permitting), with fantastic views in all directions, before arriving to Hoi An in the afternoon.

Use free time in this quaint town to explore any way you like. Opt for a cooking class, riverboat trip, bike ride, beach time, tailor visit or My Son ruins.

Accommodation: Uptown Hoi An Hotel (or similar)

**March
5**

Hoi An

Explore all Hoi An has to offer. Dive into the culture, hang out on the beach or get clothes tailor-made in one of the many shops around town. Enjoy a noodle making demonstration and lunch at Oodles of Noodles

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Bike Rental

Rent a bike from a local shop and head out to explore.

Tailor Shops

Go home with some new (handmade!) clothes from one of Hoi An's famous tailor shops. Walk the streets lined with hundreds of local shops that turn out gorgeous suits, dresses, winter coats, shoes, purses – almost anything – in a day's time to create next season's wardrobe.

Thu Bon River Boat Trip (12USD per person)

The Thu Bon River plays an important part in Hoi An's history and culture. Take a trip down the Thu Bon by river boat for an alternative tour of the city.

Hoi An Old Town Walking Tour (6USD per person)

Stroll through the narrow winding streets of Hoi An's old town to see Chinese assembly halls, ancestral homes, The Japanese Covered Bridge, and well-preserved pagodas on this self-guided tour. Opt to try local delicacies and fusion food at one of the restaurants for which Hoi An is becoming famous. Approximately 2-3 hours.

Mỹ Sơn Excursion(38USD per person)

Travel approximately one hour from Hoi An to arrive at My Son. Tour these Hindu temples built between the fourth and 14th centuries; the site is widely accepted as one of the most important Hindu temple complexes in Southeast Asia. Learn about the architectural style and history of a site that's often compared to Angkor Wat in Cambodia and Bagan in Burma. Please note this optional activity is a half-day and includes a guide, transportation, and the entrance fee.

Accommodation: Uptown Hoi An Hotel (or similar)

Hoi An

**March
6**

Spend a free day exploring all Hoi An has to offer.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Bike Rental

Rent a bike from a local shop and head out to explore.

Tailor Shops

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Hoi An Cooking Class (35USD per person)

Take a cooking class to learn more about Vietnamese food and its distinct flavours. Tour the local market to buy fresh ingredients before preparing some popular regional dishes. Enjoy your creations when you're done!

March
7

Hoi An → Ho Chi Minh City

Fly from Hoi An to Ho Chi Minh City with free time to explore this hectic and amazing city.

Drive to Da Nang for the flight to Ho Chi Minh City, once the capital of South Vietnam and the country's commercial centre.

Start exploring the small alleys and busy streets, keeping an eye out for lacquerware shops and delicious local food stalls.

Accommodation: Amory Hotel (or similar)

March
8

Ho Chi Minh City

Enjoy a guided tour of the Cu Chi Tunnels and learn more about the Vietnam War. Use free time in the afternoon to explore sprawling Ho Chi Minh City.

Afternoon Free Time

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Ben Thanh Marke

Wander this bustling market for more insight into Ho Chi Minh City. Pick up souvenirs, sample local cuisine, and experience local living. Learn a little history along the way; Ben Thanh started as a cluster of street vendors selling wares by the Saigon River, and was formalized into a true market in 1859.

Cholon Visit

Take in the busy rhythm of daily life in Cholon, the Chinatown of Ho Chi Minh City. Tour the area full of teahouses, pagodas, and people, and learn a little more about the unique culture within the city.

Thien Hau Pagoda Visit

Visit the Thien Hau Pagoda, a beautiful temple in the Chinatown district of Ho Chi Minh City. Learn more about the customs associated with this 19th-century monument – it is dedicated to the goddess Thien Hau (the 'Lady of the Sea') who is worshipped in Chinese communities throughout Asia by those who depend on the sea for their livelihoods.

Dam Sen Water Park Visit (4USD per person)

Get away from the hustle and bustle of Ho Chi Minh City at this nearby water park. A lush setting and refreshing water make Dam Sen the perfect place for the whole family to cool off and have some fun—splash around or take a ride down one of the slides.

Giac Vien Pagoda Visit

Find this hidden pagoda behind some small alleyways – it's a rare treat of a monument that has been spared the over-restoration that has been done to so many temples. Tour the inside of this 18th-century pagoda to see nearly 100 carvings of divine beings.

Reunification Palace Visit (2USD per person)

Wander the historic halls of the Reunification Palace (Independence Palace), a landmark in Ho Chi Minh City. This former home of the South Vietnamese president during the Vietnam War became the location of the end of the war when a North Vietnamese tank pushed through the palace gates on April 30, 1975.

War Remnants Museum Visit (\$2USD per person)

Visit the War Remnants Museum, a gut-wrenching but worthwhile experience that includes three storeys of exhibits and military hardware. Learn about the devastation that occurred in Saigon during the Vietnam War, a period that greatly contrasts the joy and liveliness of the Vietnamese people today.

Accommodation: Amory Hotel (or similar)

March
9

Ho Chi Minh City

Depart at any time.

Optional 3 day add on Mekong River Adventure (March 9-11, additional \$450)

March 9 Ho Chi Minh City/Mekong River

9

Meet your group early this morning and get right to it! Travel to the beautiful Mekong River Delta, south of Ho Chi Minh City, and experience the local way of living. Visit two of the main regions of the Delta, Ben Tre and Cai Thia. Cruise through the river in a traditional sampan boat, bike along the waterways and spend time with the family at your local guesthouse preparing a dinner of spring rolls and Banh Xeo before a lantern lit evening performance by the local villagers.

Accommodation: **Ut Trinh Homestay (or similar)**

Meals included: Lunch | Dinner

March 10 Mekong River

10

Depart your homestay after breakfast and visit the community riverside market. From there, board a boat to arrive to the Pottery Brick Village, known as the Red Kingdom, and explore by bicycle. Then drive to the last region we'll visit on the Mekong Delta called Can Tho. Enjoy a free afternoon at leisure to explore the area. Opt to do some bird watching or visit the local town.

Accommodations: Mekong Silt Ecolodge (or similar)

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

March 11 Mekong River/Ho Chi Minh City

11

Wake up to watch the sun rise over one of the most unique parts of life on the Mekong River, Cai Rang Floating Market, one of the ten most impressive markets in the world. Explore by land and boat before driving back to Ho Chi Minh City. Your tour finishes upon arrival to the city.

Meals included: Breakfast

Your flight must depart no earlier than: 17:00

FOR QUESTIONS OR TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT, PLEASE CONTACT JILL!

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