

Code: VIET_CLAS_001

A journey that touches the most beautiful places in **Vietnam**: the fascinating capital **Hanoi**, a mixture of French colonial influences and Asian culture, the **Halong Bay**, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, the ancient capital Hué and the town of Hoi An, where there are some of the most important artistic and architectural treasures of the country and the archaeological site of My Son. The itinerary then continues in the south of the country to visit the lively and dynamic city of **Ho Chi Minh** and the river route of the **Mekong Delta**.



Program:

1° Day: Hà Nội

Arrival at **Hanoi** International Airport. Handling of border formalities, meeting with the Asia Travel Best guide and transfer to the city. Accommodation in a 4-star hotel.

Hà Nội, the political capital of Vietnam, in Vietnamese means "On this side of the River", lies along the bank of the **Red River** and is inhabited by about one million inhabitants. Imperial capital since 1010 and during the Le dynasty from 1428 to 1788, it resumed its role in French Indochina during the colonial period from 1902 to 1953, to become the political capital of the country after reunification in 1976. **Hanoi** presents itself as a typical French city from the beginning of the century, with avenues, parks, monuments, a center crowded with shops and colors.



Visit Hanoi City



the **Single Pillar Pagoda**: The **Single Pillar Pagoda** (in Vietnamese: Chùa Một Cột ☐ 一 柱, formally Diên Hựu tự [延祐寺] or Liên Hoa Đài [蓮花臺]) is a historic Buddhist temple located in Hanoi, capital of Vietnam. It is considered, together with the Perfume Temple, as one of the two most iconic temples in Vietnam. Built in 1.049, to represent the purity of the lotus flower, the esplanade of the **Mausoleum of Hồ Chí Minh**

The Temple of Literature: The **Temple of Literature** (Vietnamese: Văn Miếu, Hán-Nôm: 文廟 [1]) is a Confucius temple in Hanoi, in northern Vietnam. The temple houses the Imperial Academy (**Quốc Tử Giám**), the first national university in Vietnam. The temple was built in 1070 at the time of **Emperor Lý Thánh Tông**. It is one of several temples in Vietnam dedicated to Confucius, sages and scholars. The temple is located south of the Long Long Imperial Citadel. The various pavilions, halls, statues and stelae of the doctors are places where ceremonies, study sessions and rigorous examinations took place. The temple is represented on the back of the 100,000 Vietnamese banknotes. Just before the Vietnamese New Year celebration, calligraphers will gather outside the temple and write their wishes in Hán script. The works of art are given as gifts or special decorations.



Quan Than Temple: Quán Thánh Temple (Vietnamese: Qun Quán Thánh), formerly known as **Trần Vũ Temple** (Hán Việt: Trần Vũ Quán, Hán tự: 真武觀), is a Taoist temple in **Hanoi**, Vietnam . Dated to the 11th century, the temple was dedicated to **Xuan Wu**, or **Trần Vũ** in Vietnamese, one of the main deities of Taoism. As one of the capital's four sacred temples, **Quan Thánh temple** is located near West Lake in a neighborhood with the same name: **Quán Thánh Ward**; and is one of the main tourist attractions of Hanoi. The name of the temple means Place (alternatively shop / restaurant) of the Gods. The name of the long road traveled by the temple is also called "**Quán Thánh**" .



Il Lago della Spada Restituita:Lago Hoan Kiem (Vietnamita: Hồ Hoàn Kiếm, Hán tự: 湖還劍, che significa "Lago della Spada Ritornata" o "Lago della Spada Restaurata"), noto anche come Hồ Gươm (Lago della Spada), è un lago di acqua dolce , misura circa 12 ettari nel centro storico di Hanoi, la capitale del Vietnam. In passato, il lago si chiamava "Luc Thuy Lake" (vietnamita: Hồ Lục Thủy, che significa "Green Water Lake" - giustamente chiamato per il colore dell'acqua) o "Thuy Quan Lake" (vietnamita: Hồ Thủy Quân, che significa "Mariner's Lake "). Il lago è uno dei principali punti panoramici della città e funge da punto focale per la sua vita pubblica.



2° Day: Hà Nội- Halong:

Halong Bay overnight cruise, full board with seafood meals on board.

After an excellent breakfast, you will leave for **Halong Bay**, called the eighth wonder of the world. The bay, dotted with karst rocks, has been eroded by wind and water over the millennia, creating a phantasmagoric environment of islands, islets and stacks, some of which hundreds of meters high. Some islands have also formed an internal lake accessible through a passage that disappears completely at high tide, while others have caves and formations with the strangest shapes. During the mid-seasons, the morning mist creates even more evocative effects, making islands and rocks appear and disappear in the distance. According to a legend, the hundreds of islets are the remains of the tail of a dragon that sank into the waters of the bay.



3° Day: Halong - Hanoi - Danang

Wake up at dawn (**absolutely not to be missed**) to watch the sun rise on the deck of the junk. After an excellent breakfast you will continue sailing and visiting the Bay. You will then return to Halong and leave by bus / van for Hanoi airport.

Along the way, you will stop for lunch in one of the characteristic local trattorias.

In the late afternoon you will have the flight to Danang, from where you will continue by land to nearby Hoi An, and you will be escorted to your hotel



4° Day: Hội An (Mỹ Sơn)

After breakfast, you will leave to visit the following attractions:



Mỹ Sơn: is a cluster of abandoned and partially ruined Hindu temples in Vietnam, built between the 4th and 14th centuries AD by the kings of Champa (Chiêm Thành in Vietnamese) .The temples are dedicated to the worship of the **god Shiva**, known by various local names, the most important of which is Bhadresvara. The temples are located in a valley about two kilometers wide surrounded by two mountain ranges. From the 4th to the 14th century AD, the **valley of Mỹ Sơn** was a place of religious ceremony for the kings of Champa's ruling dynasties, as well as a burial place for Cham rulers and national heroes. It was closely associated with the nearby Cham towns of Indrapura (Đồng Dương) and Simhapura (Trà Kiệu). At one time, the site included over 70 temples and numerous stelae with historically important inscriptions in **Sanskrit** and **Cham**. Mỹ Sơn is perhaps the longest inhabited archaeological site in Indochina, but a great majority of its architecture was destroyed by the bombing of the American carpet during one week of the Vietnam War. The **Mỹ Sơn** temple complex is considered to be one of the most important Hindu temple complexes in Southeast Asia and is the main heritage site of this nature in Vietnam. Since 1999, **Mỹ Sơn** has been recognized by UNESCO as a world heritage site.

Cham Museum in Danang: At the **Cham Sculpture Museum** you will have the opportunity to observe sculptures of goddesses and gods and historical artifacts that date back over 1000 years. This cultural attraction, which you can visit via **Da Nang**. The museum houses a large collection of works of art from the **ancient Champa kingdom**. Move between rooms and galleries where figures in sandstone, terracotta and bronze are exhibited.



Hội An: Visit to the city. **Hội An**, full of buildings with Chinese architectural influence that testify to its important past as a trading center. Known by the ancients as Faifo, **Hoi An** was a lively commercial port since the 2nd century AD, under the Champa kingdom. Decayed in the 14th century, it resumed its function as an international emporium towards the middle of the 15th century. It was only in the 19th century, with the silting of the **Cai River**, that the city lost its importance in favor of Danang, which it is located 30 km to the north. Visit of

the old town with the Japanese bridge of 1592, the temple dedicated to the goddess Fukie, the old municipal houses.

At the end, return to the hotel and overnight.

5° Day: Hoi An - Hue:

After breakfast, you will leave for **Hué**, visit the city

Hué, a city founded in 1687 along the banks of the **Perfume River**, capital of the southern part of Vietnam since 1744, and capital of the country from 1802 to 1945 under the reign of the 13 emperors of the Nguyen dynasty. Rest of the day dedicated to visiting **Hue**; the Old City, with the Citadel and the imperial residence, stands on the left bank of the river, while the New City (where Europeans once lived) and the imperial tombs are on the right bank. We visit the imperial tomb of **Min Mang**, the pagoda of **Thien Mu** overlooking the Perfume River and the imperial citadel, now restored with the help of UNESCO.



During the visit of the city, you will have lunch in one of the classic local trattorias and at the end of the visit, you will be taken back to your hotel.

6° Day: Hoi An - Hồ Chí Minh city:

After breakfast a van will take you to the airport, where by airliner, you will reach **Hồ Chí Minh** was born as a small fishing village, was originally known as **Prey Nokor** and was located in a marshy area inhabited by the Khmer people.



With the settling of the Vietnamese in the seventeenth century it became known as **Sài Gòn**, and many still call it by this name. **Nguyen Phuc Chu**, a Vietnamese noble, was sent to establish the administrative structures of the area in 1698 and is often credited with the expansion of **Sài Gòn** into a significant settlement. The city was also influenced by the French during their colonial occupation of Vietnam, and several of its most important buildings reflect this influence.

In 1954, the French were defeated by the **Communist Viet Minh** in the battle of **Dien Bien Phu** and withdrew from Vietnam. They did not recognize the new communist government, they gave their support to a government entrusted to the "**Emperor Bảo Đại** with the creation in 1949 of the state of Vietnam which had **Saigon** as its capital. When Vietnam was officially divided into North Vietnam (the Democratic Republic of Vietnam) and South Vietnam (the Republic of Vietnam), the southern government, led by President **Ngô Đình Diệm**, kept **Sài Gòn** as its capital.



At the conclusion of the Vietnam War in 1975, forces from the National Liberation Front of Vietnam engulfed the city. The event ended the conflict and is also known as the "**Fall of Saigon**", while for the North Vietnamese it represented the liberation of **Saigon**, a "positive" expression used in communist countries.

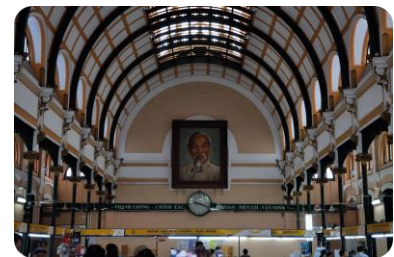
The victorious Communists then renamed the city, dedicating it to the founding father of socialist Vietnam **Ho Chi Minh**. The former name Saigon is still used but, officially, only indicates today's District One of the city.

Visit a Hồ Chí Minh city

The Basilica of Notre Dame. The **Basilica of Notre-Dame** of **Saigon** (Vietnamese: Nhà thờ Đức Bà Sài Gòn) is the cathedral located in the city of Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam. The cathedral was built by the French colonizers between 1863 and 1880. It has two 58m high bell towers. In addition to the various Vietnamese-language celebrations, Sunday morning mass at 11am is celebrated in English and is crowded with the city's international community.



The Post Office. The **Post Office** is a tourist destination. But the classic interior of the Saigon post office continues to be a favorite among travelers visiting **Ho Chi Minh** for the first time. Completed in 1891, the design of this architectural landmark mimics that of an old European railway station with high ceilings, a huge portrait of **Ho Chi Minh** and a centrally located clock. Travelers going to the post office to buy stamps or postcards, stop to admire the beautiful interior where hand-painted maps of the old city are displayed.





Binh Tay Market Binh Tay Market, built by the French in 1880, is located in the center of Vietnam's largest Chinatown district. Unlike Ben Thanh Market in District 1, this market mainly serves the local population with its wide range of fresh fruit, vegetables, poultry, meat and fish from regions all over Vietnam.

The **Cho Lon**. **Cholon district**, the district of a thousand colors. The beating heart of the area, which is located in district 5, is the **Binh Tay Market**, a beautiful multi-storey Chinese-style building where you can find all kinds of goods. Among the thousand alleys of this extraordinary labyrinth are hidden some of the most beautiful Buddhist temples. One of many is the Temple of the **Celestial Lady** (Thien Hau), protector of sailors and merchants, dating back to 1600. In Vietnam, Taoism is followed, based on an unchangeable destiny: the only possibility of the faithful is to make offerings to the Five Elements to ask for the realization of one's desires.



Of Cholon, however, I keep in mind the corners told by Duras in the famous book *L'Amour, made of paddle fans*, light filtered by bamboo mats and the scent of incense.

Thien Hau pagoda. **Thiên Hậu** is the Vietnamese transcription of the Chinese name Tianhou ("Empress of Heaven"), an epithet of the Chinese sea goddess Mazu, the deified form of **Lin Moniang**, a medieval Fujianese girl credited with saving one or some members of his family from damage during a typhoon for his spiritual power. While not officially recognized by both mainland China and Taiwan governments, the faith is popular in China's southern maritime provinces and, most notably, Taiwan and the Chinese diaspora. In Vietnam, she is also sometimes known as the "**Lady of the Sea**" (**Tuc Goi La Ba**). Mazuism is often synchronized with Taoism and Buddhism. The temple was first erected c. 1760 by the Cantonese community in the city, but has had expansions since the 1800s



7° Day: Hồ Chí Minh City – Mekong Delta:

After breakfast, departure by van to **My Tho**, a town on the banks of one of the main arms of the river, from which you can embark on a cruise on the **Mekong River** to observe life in the coastal villages, the dense vegetation and the countless channels that make up the delta. Stop at a plantation, with a taste of tropical fruit and lunch in a typical abode.

At the end, return to **Hồ Chí Minh** and you will be taken back to the hotel.



8° Day: Hồ Chí Minh città - Rientro:

After breakfast you will have the day free until the transfer to the airport for the return

---- End Service ----

Services included in the Tour

- *Reception at Hà Nội international airport*
- *Breakfast at the hotel*
- *2 Nights at First Eden Hotel 3 ★ in Ha Noi (Same or Superior)*
- *1 Nights at the Oriental Sails Boat in Ha Long (Full Board)*
- *2 Nights at the Lantern Hotel 3 ★ in Hoi An (Same or Superior)*
- *2 Nights at the Lafelix Hotel 3 ★ in Ho Chi Min (Same or Superior)*
- *Entry to all the attractions and monuments of the Tour*
- *All Tour Transfers*
- *All transfers and travel by boat or ship*
- *Domestic flight from Ha Noi to Danang*
- *Domestic flight from Hue-Ho to Chi Minh.*
- *Cold water and food during the Tour*
- *Continuous telephone support with Asia travel Best*

Services not included in the Tour

- *Health insurance (Optional)*
- *Trip cancellation insurance (Optional)*
- *Guide in a language other than English*
- *Arrival Visa (USD 25 per person) and letter fee*
- *Mandatory Bank Debit (22 USD)*
- *Drinks, Food and personal expenses*
- *Any tips*
- *Visit to monuments not included in the Tour*
- *International flight*