

Real Taste of Vietnam 13 days

Trip overview

This 13-day Vietnam tour package will allow you to immerse yourself in Vietnamese cuisine by sampling excellent street food, seeing bustling markets, and interacting with friendly locals. For individuals looking for excitement, leisure, and food cultural, this food tours is the ideal getaway. Book this tour now for a novel experience!

- **Durations:** 13 days
- **Trip outline:** Hanoi - Halong Bay - Hue - Hoi An - Ho Chi Minh City - Cu Chi Tunnels - Mekong Delta - Ben Tre
- **Price from:** US \$1179/person
- **Tour inquiry:** <https://besttratetours.com/vietnam-tours/real-taste-of-vietnam-13-days.html>

Trip outline

day	Activities	Accommodations	Meals
Day 1	Hanoi Arrival	Hotel in Hanoi	NA
Day 2	Hanoi Cooking Class Half Day	Hotel in Hanoi	Breakfast, Lunch
Day 3	Halong Bay - Overnight on Cruise	Overnight on board	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 4	Ha Long Bay - Hanoi Street Food Tasting	Hotel in Hanoi	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 5	Flight to Hue - Cyclo Food Tour	Hotel in Hue	Breakfast, Dinner
Day 6	Hue City Tour Full Day	Hotel in Hue	Breakfast, Lunch
Day 7	Road Transfer: Hue - Hoi An	Hotel in Hoi An	Breakfast
Day 8	Be a farmer in Tra Que Village	Hotel in Hoi An	Breakfast, Lunch
Day 9	Hoi An Food Tour	Hotel in Hoi An	Breakfast, Dinner
Day 10	Da Nang Flight to Ho Chi Minh - Night Life Tour by Motorbike	Hotel in Ho Chi Minh	Breakfast
Day 11	Cu Chi Tunnels & Cooking Class full day	Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City	Breakfast, Lunch
Day 12	Mekong Delta Full Day Discovery	Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City	Breakfast, Lunch
Day 13	Ho Chi Minh Departure	NA	Breakfast

Itinerary

Day 1: Hanoi Arrival

Upon arrival at Noi Bai International Airport, you will be greeted by the Best Rate Tours guide.

The check-in time for accommodation is **14:00**, so there will be a surcharge if you want to check in early.

Afterward, you have the rest of the day for yourself.

Meals: NA

Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

Day 2: Hanoi Cooking Class Half Day

- Morning Class: 09:00 - 12:30
- Afternoon Class: 15:00 - 18:30

Your culinary journey begins with a pickup from your accommodation in Hanoi Old Quarter. Accompanied by our expert guide, you'll explore a bustling **local market**, where you'll master the art of haggling and discover the fresh ingredients that define Vietnamese cuisine.

Next, watch as our talented chef demonstrates the secrets of authentic Vietnamese dishes before you step into the kitchen yourself. Under guided instruction, you'll recreate these flavorful masterpieces and enjoy a tasting session featuring a variety of local delights.

Once your dishes are ready, sit down to savor the fruits of your labor, indulging in the rich and vibrant flavors of Vietnam. At the end of this immersive experience, you'll receive detailed recipes and a certificate to take home as a memento of your culinary skills.

After class, we'll transport you back to your accommodation, marking the end of a fantastic gastronomic adventure.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

Day 3: Halong Bay - Overnight on Cruise

Morning

Wake up early to savor prepared breakfast at the hotel.

From **08:00 - 08:30**, we depart from the hotel lobby to meet our tour guide and head to the next destination, Halong Bay. The trip to this must-see location is quick and easy, taking only about 2.5 hours by car.

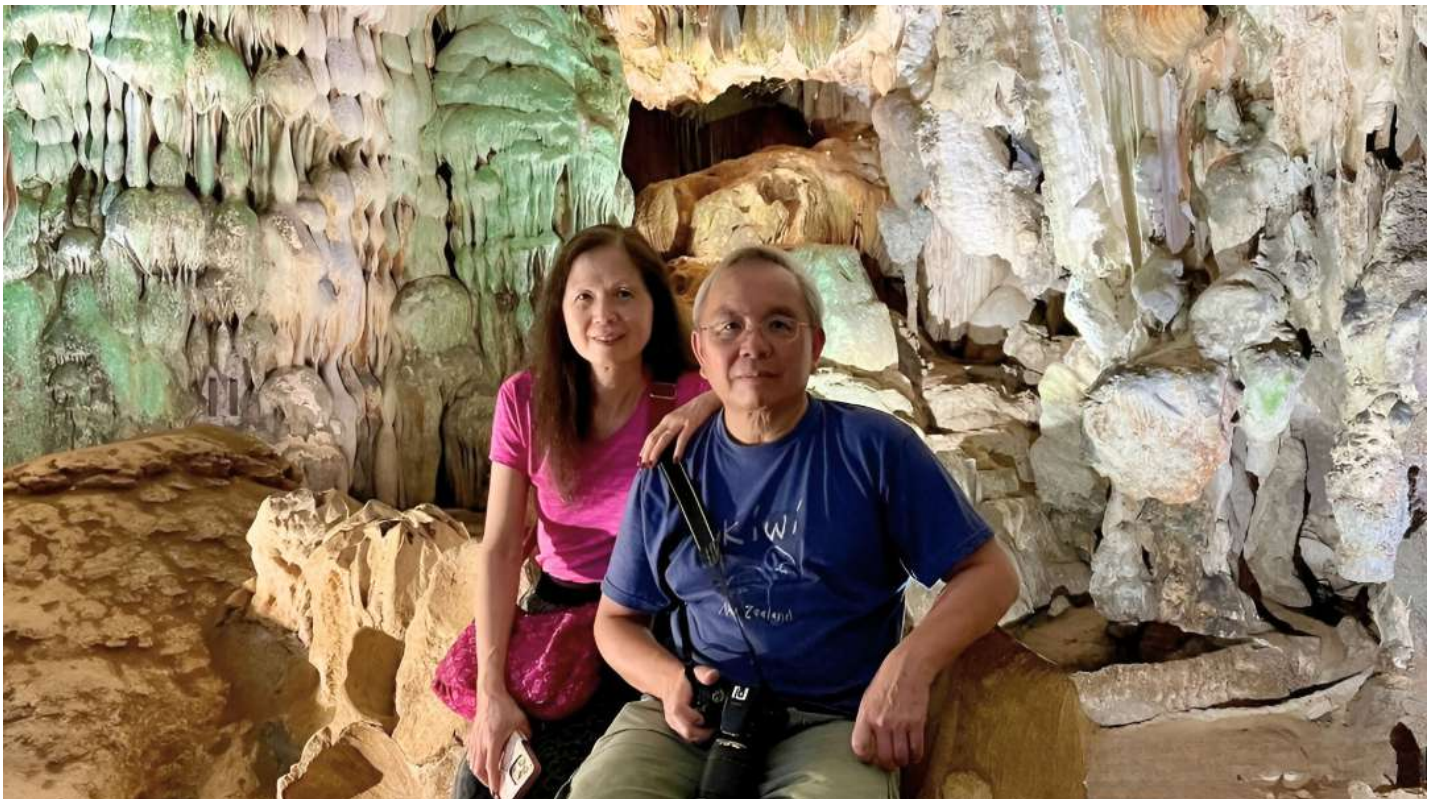


At noon, you will board the cruise in warm welcome of the crew staff then enjoy a tasty drink from them. For a safe cruise trip, listen carefully to the rules and guidance from our manager.

You can enjoy a variety of unique islets and gleaming blue ocean scenery while lunch is served on board.

Afternoon

Take a nap after lunch to refresh yourself for the afternoon's activities, which may include swimming in the crystal-clear waters of Halong Bay, kayaking, or cave exploration.



The Sunset Party's "buy one, get one free" promotion will start at **17:00 - 17:30**, so you might be itching to head back to the boat.

Enjoy a delectable meal at **19:00**.

On board, there are numerous activities to keep you busy at night, such as squid fishing, board games, movies, a nightclub, etc. If you are not a fan of going to bed early, don't hesitate.

NOTE: The specific schedule will depend on each boat, contact our sales consultant for more information.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Overnight on board

Day 4: Ha Long Bay - Hanoi Street Food Tasting

Morning

To commemorate the start of a new day, **06:00** is time to join the Tai Chi session on the sundeck. For those who rise early, this kind of entertainment is ideal for decompressing both physically and mentally following a demanding first day.

Enjoy a light breakfast buffet full of mouthwatering starters, snacks, and drinks to revive yourself.



As they paddle you into the cave on a bamboo raft, admire the serene beauty of nature surroundings. A large diversity of aquatic life could be visible if you detour through the fishing community.

Before setting sail, return to the ship to check out and review your belongings one last time. A brunch on the route to Halong Bay is a terrific way to relax if you've already checked out.

At noon, you will disembark at the cruise port.

NOTE: Depending on the cruise liner you choose, the attraction you visit may vary.

Afternoon & Evening

Once back in Hanoi, you take some time to stroll around the Old Quarter's historic streets. Our culinary adventure will begin at **17:00** with a few of Hanoi's most well-known delicacies.

Hanoi street food specialties are must-try, such as Nem Chua Ran (fried fermented pork roll) and Nom Bo Kho (dried beef salad).

Delicious choices include Banh Cuon, often known as "Steamed Rice Rolls," and Banh Mi (Vietnamese bread).

For the main meal, soup-based dishes such as Pho Bo (Vietnamese beef noodles), Bun Thang (rice vermicelli noodles with chicken and eggs), and Bun Bo Hue are excellent choices.



Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

Day 5: Flight to Hue - Cyclo Food Tour

Morning

You have some time off this morning to eat breakfast and pack your luggage. Then, take the flight directly to the Old Capital of Vietnam - Hue.

Evening

At about **18:00**, your guide will reach your accommodation in Hue by cyclo.

Then, your first trip in Hue is a food tour to sample Hue's most specialties: Banh Beo, Banh Nam, Banh Bot Loc, Banh Ram It, Banh Uot, Banh Khoai, etc...



After that, you will ride the cyclo to "Hen Island" where you may have clam dishes like clam noodles and clam rice ("Hen" meaning baby clam).

Along the route, you will stop along the way to see the [Imperial Citadel](#) at night, which served as the ruler of the Nguyen Dynasty's palace.

It will be ideal in case we reach [Truong Tien Bridge](#) at dusk, which is a perfect place for sunset watching.



En route back, you still can sightsee the picturesque panorama of Hue nightlife as the cyclo drives you around the streets.

For mementos, you can purchase Minh Mang wines, sour prawns, conical hats, long dresses (ao dai), and sesame candy at some street stalls.

You will be back to the hotel before **22:00** to rest and recharge energy for the day after.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel in Hue

Day 6: Hue City Tour Full Day

Morning

Gather at the hotel lobby between **08:00 - 08:30** to start our journey.

[Thien Mu Pagoda](#) is the first attraction we visit. The pagoda has a rich history dating back to the early 17th century. It is a popular destination which attracts visitors with its historical significance, architectural beauty, and scenic surroundings.



Next, come to the **Imperial Citadel of Hue** is a vast walled complex featuring a unique blend of traditional Vietnamese, Chinese, and European architectural styles. You might take time to admire the beauty from the front gate, to the Flag Tower, and The King's Palace.

After two historic destinations, you can go shopping in **Dong Ba Market**. In this oldest market in Hue, you can find a bunch of interesting things displayed on kiosks that stand next to each other that you definitely want to purchase as gifts when you travel back to your country.

Afternoon

See the [Khai Dinh Tomb](#), which is the smallest tomb of the Nguyen Emperors and is renowned for its exquisite fusion of Western and Oriental design elements.



Admire the magnificent scenery in the **Tomb of Emperor Minh Mang**. The architecture is striking to your vision with its old-world sense infused with Confucian values.

Before returning to the hotel, visit a conical hat village to observe the artisans at work and have an opportunity to chat with the people.

Our tour ends in your hotel lobby at approximately **17:00**.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Hue

Day 7: Road Transfer: Hue - Hoi An

Take a shuttle bus or a private car to your accommodation in Hoi An. You can make a few stops along the way for sightseeing and photo ops (entry cost not included).

When the whole group is ready, our walking tour shall begin. First, immerse in the timeless beauty of Hoi An Ancient Town by taking a leisurely stroll around the winding pathways that are located along the [Thu Bon River](#).



You can have an understanding of the lives of the Japanese immigrants to the United States in the seventeenth century by visiting the [Japanese Covered Bridge](#).



Visit the **Fujian Assembly Hall**, which served as a house of worship for the people who immigrated from the Chinese province of Fujian to Hoi An in the 17th century.

Enjoy a wonderful evening in Hoi An before the upcoming exploration in Tra Que village.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Hoi An

Day 8: Be a farmer in Tra Que Village

Morning

After breakfast, meet your local guide in the hotel lobby. Depart for a rural farm in [Tra Que Village](#) at **08:00**.

Accompany the farmers as they prepare the field, apply seaweed fertilizer from a nearby lake, rake the ground, plant, water, harvest, and perform numerous other gardening tasks.



Work on the farm for the remainder of the morning, taking a break to make lunch with your hosts.

Then you can savor organic dishes made from several regional specialties, such as spring rolls and pancakes.

Afternoon

After enjoying a foot massage and bidding farewell to your host family, you will return to Hoi An.

You can take a ride to the craftsman's house in the late afternoon, and he or she will give you a quick overview of the lantern's form, color, and history as well as the procedures involved in creating one.

There, you get the opportunity to create your own lantern which you can keep after having it done.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Hoi An

Day 9: Hoi An Food Tour

Afternoon

Starting at sundown, you are taken on a satisfying culinary trip through local cafes, food stalls, markets, and restaurants.

Here are some traditional Hoi An cuisine suggestions we listed for you:

Vietnamese bread (Banh Mi): Bread followed in the footsteps of the French and was introduced to our country in the shape of a baguette, which was served with butter, jam, and cold meat in the nineteenth century.

Baguettes were "modified" over time by Vietnamese people based on their own eating habits and tastes, becoming a popular food today.

Cao Lau: The difference between Cao Lau and other noodle dishes is the texture. Cao Lau noodles are firmer and chewier. Additionally, the best way to enjoy Cao Lau's taste is to eat from street vendors who only serve Cao Lau or a small handful of local dishes.

Banh Beo: Banh Beo is a traditional Vietnamese cake that is a popular snack among the residents of Hoi An. To find it, you will need to navigate several narrow alleys and stop at a few local business buildings.



Banh Khot: A round pancake made with rice flour, turmeric, coconut milk, quail egg, and vegetables. A street vendor near Hoai Square will be an ideal place to try Banh Khot.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel in Hoi An

Day 10: Da Nang Flight to Ho Chi Minh - Night Life Tour by Motorbike

Morning

Before heading to the Da Nang airport for your journey to Ho Chi Minh City, you have a little free time in the morning.

Transfer to the hotel from the airport upon arrival. After finishing checking in, you can unwind in the hotel or wander around Ho Chi Minh.

Evening

Experience the vibrant energy of Saigon at night on a thrilling motorbike tour. Ride through bustling streets and hidden alleyways, uncovering the city's best-kept secrets with our expert guides. This one-of-a-kind adventure offers an immersive glimpse into local life, street food culture, and iconic landmarks, ensuring an unforgettable night in Ho Chi Minh City.



Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh

Day 11: Cu Chi Tunnels & Cooking Class full day

Morning

At **07:30**, depart from your hotel in Ho Chi Minh City for a scenic drive to Cu Chi District, a region steeped in history and rural charm.

Upon arrival, visit the Ho Chi Minh Agricultural Villages, where you can stroll through lush rice fields, observe fish and prawn ponds, and gain insight into the agricultural backbone of Vietnam.

Next, take part in an interactive cooking class, where you'll learn to prepare three traditional Vietnamese dishes and a dessert, offering a hands-on experience of Vietnam's rich culinary heritage.



Afternoon

After lunch, explore a local village and witness the traditional rice paper-making process, where skilled artisans craft this staple using time-honored techniques. Continue to a rubber tree forest, where you'll observe local workers extracting latex—a fascinating look into an important industry.

The journey then takes you to the **Cu Chi Tunnels**, an extensive 250-kilometer underground network used during wartime. Start with an informative documentary, then venture into the tunnels for a firsthand experience of the challenging conditions soldiers faced.

At **17:30**, return to your hotel in Ho Chi Minh City, concluding a day filled with culture, history, and hands-on experiences.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City

Day 12: Mekong Delta Full Day Discovery

Morning

After being picked up from your Saigon hotel, travel to Ben Tre Province to explore the Mekong Delta at **08:00**.

The journey kicks off with a boat excursion through **Ham Luong River**.



Depending on the season, we might have a chance to tour a few local factories like a coconut candy factory to get a feel for how the local economy functions.

A quiet atmosphere greets our touring group at the village where you'll be able to take a quick stroll and get a taste of real life in a Delta town. By riding in a motorized rickshaw, known as a "xe loi," we head into the forest to see the fruit farms.

A delicious and filling dinner will be served at a restaurant, featuring regional specialties and will be paired with a variety of light drinks and beers.

One of the Mekong region's most famous delicacies is elephant-ear fish, which surprises people with its unusual appearance right away.



Afternoon

Tourists leisurely pass through Mekong waterways on a sampan boat ride along the tiny canals till **17:00** before concluding today's excursion.

Returning to the accommodation in Saigon as the sun goes down.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City

Day 13: Ho Chi Minh Departure

Morning

Before the departure flight from Ho Chi Minh City, you have a spare morning to have breakfast and get ready.

At the announced time, we will transport you to the Tan Son Nhat airport.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: NA

Booking Policy

Inclusion

- All transport during tour (including airport pick up & see off), as per itinerary
- Accommodation with daily breakfast in Twin/ Double sharing
- All in-tour local English speaking guide:
- Domestic flight (Hanoi - Hue and Da Nang - Ho Chi Minh)
- Meals as stated in the itinerary
- Admission fee as per itinerary.

Exclusion

- Hotel EARLY check in & LATE check out
- Peak season surcharge & compulsory dinner at the hotel (if any)
- International flights to or from Vietnam with taxes
- Vietnam Visa (above 6 months passport Valid & 3 clear-page require)
- Passport Fees
- Travel Insurance
- Tips, laundry and gratuities
- Meals not marked on itinerary, and water during meals
- Tips for guide /driver (recommended US \$3-5 /pax /day)
- Tipping is completely up to you and should be based on your perception of the service quality

Cancellation Policy

- Cancellation received before 60 days: FREE of charge
- Cancellation received from 30 days to 59 days prior arrival date: 10% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 15 days to 29 days prior arrival date: 30% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 7 days to 14 days prior arrival date: 50% of total rate
- Cancellation received less than 7 days prior arrival date or No show: 100% of total rate

Children Policy

- The rate for children applicable for one child sharing a twin or double cabin with two adults.
- For infants (<04 years old): FOC except for domestic flight tickets.
- 04 - under 11 years old without bed: 50% adult rate.
- 04 - under 11 years old with extra bed: 75% adult rate.
- 04 - under 11 years old in twin share: 90% adult rate.
- From 11 years old: count as an adult.

WHY BOOK WITH US?

Best Rate Guaranteed

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