

VACATIONS THAT MATTER!

Vietnam Voluntourism Program



Please note that this proposed itinerary is subject to availability.

Day 1: Arrival Hanoi (Flight information to be advised/International air not included)

Upon arrival, your guide will meet you at the airport and transfer you to the hotel. Hanoi is full of charm with ochre-coloured colonial buildings, tree-lined boulevards and scenic lakes. Tonight enjoy a cosy welcome dinner at Hoa Sua restaurant where street kids are offered hospitality training. A representative from a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) will attend the dinner to offer an overview about the country's poverty and the organization's current projects and humanitarian activities.

Meals	None
Accommodation	Option 1: Maison d'Hanoi/ Classic Suite www.hanovahotel.com
	Option 2: Sofitel Metropole/ Premium Room www.sofitel-legend.com
Service Project	None

Day 2: Hanoi (should not be on weekends)

Drive 1.5 hours to Duong Lam village in the rural outskirts of Hanoi to have an overview of the countryside life. Then get to Duong Lam secondary school and contribute to the school's library by clearing, tidying up, re-decorating and bringing more books then donating one or two computers for the pupils to approach the world outside. Afternoon, drive back to Hanoi and enjoy walking around the old quarters to explore local daily life. Cap off the day watching a water puppet performance. The art of water puppetry began approximately a thousand years ago, possibly in the flooded rice fields of Vietnam. Puppeteers stand in waist-high water and manipulate their charges in such a way that you can't help but be swept up in the legend being told. Each short skit in the performance relates to the daily life of the people.

Meals	Breakfast
Accommodation	Option 1: Maison d'Hanoi/ Classic Suite

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	www.hanovahotel.com
	Option 2: Sofitel Metropole/ Premium Room www.sofitel-legend.com
Service Project	Approx. 3 hours

Day 3: Hanoi — Tam Dao national park

Enjoy 2.5 hour drive to Tam Dao National Park to share and learn about environmental education with local communities. Upon arrival, meet with community outreach staff at a traditional stilt house classroom, set on hill with a scenic view of Tam Dao National park across the valley. Learn about local community-based awareness activities outside protected areas throughout Vietnam. Help prepare a fun game or activity with a nature or environment theme that you can lead! Spend the afternoon at a local school, delivering the lesson of how to protect forests and the environment to local students.

Meals	Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Accommodation	Tam Dao Training Center stilt house (standard and very basic)
Service Project	Approx. 3 hours

Day 4: Tam Dao national park — Hanoi

Spend the morning at Tam Dao National Park, to get an increased understanding of the area's history and biodiversity, threats to the park, and the urgent need for community awareness programs in the communities living in buffer zones around National Parks. In the afternoon, help planting native trees at a local school. Return to Hanoi in the afternoon.



Meals	Breakfast
Accommodation	Option 1: Maison d'Hanoi/ Classic Suite www.hanovahotel.com
	Option 2: Sofitel Metropole/ Premium Room www.sofitel-legend.com
Service Project	Approx. 3 hours

Day 5: Hanoi – Halong – Hanoi



Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, Halong Bay is one of Vietnam’s most spectacular natural wonders. The tiny limestone islands, with beaches and grottoes created by the wind and the waves, provide an excellent backdrop for relaxation and swimming. Embark on a 3.5 hour drive to Halong Bay with a quick rest stop at Hong Ngoc Center — the best place to stop and stretch your legs en route. Board your private junk to begin a 4 hour cruise through the spectacular bay, stopping along the way to explore magnificent grottoes where stalactites hanging from the high ceiling forms numerous designs and shapes. Enjoy a delicious seafood lunch on board while cruising through the stunning scenery. Drop off at the boat docking station and transfer back to Hanoi.

Meals	Breakfast and Lunch
Accommodation	Option 1: Maison d’Hanoi/ Classic Suite www.hanovahotel.com
	Option 2: Sofitel Metropole/ Premium Room www.sofitel-legend.com
Service Project	None

Day 6: Hanoi — Hue via VN1543 @ 12.20 / 13.30 (Air, economy class, TOI HAN books)

Morning, depart for a sightseeing tour of this charming capital city to visit the Temple of Literature, the first University for the sons of Mandarin. Then be transferred to the airport for flight to Hue. Hue became a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1993. On arrival, transfer to the hotel for check-in. Remainder of the afternoon is free at leisure or explore the former Royal city on your own.

Meals	Breakfast
Accommodation	Option 1: Morin Hotel/ Junior Deluxe www.morinhotels.com.vn
	Option 2: La Residence Hue/ Deluxe River View Room www.la-residence-hue.com
Service Project	None

Day 7: Hue

Morning, visit Thuy Xuan Primary School, 3km drive from Hue. Some members in your group to join traditional games with the kids or you can teach them your interesting games and songs. Some members turn up your sleeves and get into the basic kitchen. Help the school to prepare lunch for the kids such as steamed rice, vegetable soup, grilled fish or braised pork, stir-fry vegetable. Your group can buy some more fruits or cakes as dessert to add more enhancements to their meal.

Afternoon, visit former Imperial Citadel, surrounded by moats which was home to the royal court of Vietnam in the 19th century. End your day with a stroll around the elaborate Khai Dinh Royal Tomb. Its architecture and atmosphere showcase elements of eastern art and western designs.



Meals	Breakfast and Lunch
Accommodation	Option 1: Morin Hotel/ Junior Deluxe www.morinhotels.com.vn
	Option 2: La Residence Hue/ Deluxe River View Room www.la-residence-hue.com
Service Project	Approx. 4 hours

Day 8: Hue—Hoi An via Danang (120 km driving per way ~ 2.5 hours)

In the morning, drive to the rural outskirts for a small, random act of kindness and help make the world a better place. A gift of just one cow can offer a big change for poor farmers. Go to a village and transport the female cow to the needy family in another village. Then participate in a ceremony during which you donate this cow to a farmer together with the local authority and villagers as your witness. Chat with the family who received the gift to better understand their needs and future plans. Then some members in your group help the family to water the gardens. The remainder of your group can help them build a cage for the cow.

After a late boxed lunch here, drive 2,5 hours over the Pass of the Ocean Clouds — where the summit offers a spectacular panoramic view of the central coastline.

Meals	Breakfast and Lunch
Accommodation	Option 1: Boutique Hoi An Resort/ Deluxe Room www.boutiquehoianresort.com
	Option 2: Life Resort/ Junior Suite River View www.life-resorts.com
Service Project	Approx. 3 hours

Day 9: Hoi An

Between the 17th and 19th centuries, Hoi An was a prosperous trading port. Today, this World Heritage-listed ancient town boasts well-preserved buildings, pedestrianized streets and unique cuisine, allowing visitors a glimpse of its illustrious past. Lantern, the simple yet colorful item is now an essential part of Hoi An culture. The lantern is inspired and hand-made by local artisans and is meant to bring good fortune. Thanh Ha pottery village is also famous in Hoi An who made the bricks, tiles and floor slabs for the old buildings in Hoi An and nowadays souvenir gifts.

Both lantern and pottery gifts are most tourists' favorite stuff. Some members in your group will help a family to finish the lantern products and get them ready for sale. Some will get pottery stuff at Thanh Ha village. Then one group stands at a stall to sell these 2 products. Another group sells them around tourist sites as well as cafeterias and restaurants. At the end of the day, the group leader will collect the money and see how much you can contribute to the 2 local families.

Meals	Breakfast
Accommodation	Option 1: Boutique Hoi An Resort/ Deluxe Room www.boutiquehoianresort.com
	Option 2: Life Resort/ Junior Suite River View www.life-resorts.com
Service Project	Approx. 7 hours

Day 10: Hoi An to Danang for Saigon via VN1311 @ 10.30 / 11.40 (Air, economy class, TOI HAN books)

Morning is free at leisure to explore the city on your own or relax on the beach at Cua Dai. Transfer to Danang for the flight to Saigon. Upon arrival in Saigon, enjoy a quick walking tour to admire Saigon's historic landmarks. See the Opera House, Notre Dame Cathedral and Central Post Office.



Meals	Breakfast
Accommodation	Option 1: Duxton Hotel/ Deluxe Room www.duxtonhotels.com
	Option 2: Caravelle Hotel/ Deluxe Room www.caravellehotel.com
Service Project	None

Day 11: Mekong Delta (Cai Lay)

Depart very early in the morning from Saigon and head two hours to the southwest. Notice lush rice paddies and fruit farms emerging alongside the highway. Upon arrival in Cai Lay, board a charming wooden boat to enjoy countryside scenery and river life. Then stretch your legs a bit and hop on a bicycle for a short ride of about 7km (over easy, level terrain) along narrow village lanes, past fruit orchards and local cottage industries. Locals will often greet you with a hello or "xin chào" as you pedal by. Arrive at the home of a tropical fruit farmer and have a walk around his orchard. Enjoy the opportunity to taste fresh fruits. Then relax while enjoying the view from a small sampan boat as you are paddled slowly along tropical canals. Disembark and walk through this Mekong village to a local house where they need your support to replace the old thatch-roof and re-paint the house to offer a fresher look. Enjoy a simple boxed lunch on the ground and continue your work until late in the afternoon before driving back to Saigon.

Farewell dinner tonight is at KOTO restaurant, a grass-roots charity which helps street children aged from 16 – 21 get a head start in life by providing vocational training.

Meals	Breakfast and Lunch
Accommodation	Option 1: Duxton Hotel/ Deluxe Room www.duxtonhotels.com
	Option 2: Caravelle Hotel/ Deluxe Room www.caravellehotel.com
Service Project	Approx. 5 hours

Day 12: Departure

Free at leisure until your transfer to the airport for your departing flight.

Late check-out is Not included

(The regular check-out time for all hotels is 12.00pm. Late check out is subject to availability)

Meals	Breakfast
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End of services.

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Vacations That Matter
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TRAVEL ADVICE REGARDING NEW YEAR

◆ **VIETNAM:** *If the dates of travel for this booking fall during Tet, the Vietnamese New Year (January 22 – 26, 2012), travelers who are visiting larger cities like Saigon or Hanoi during the holidays may encounter empty streets and deserted parks as Vietnamese people return to their home town to celebrate the New Year with their families. Most businesses are closed from January 22 – 26.*

TOUR COST

The tour cost is based on the above suggested hotel/room categories, including hotel tax and service charges. Rates may fluctuate based on availability and changes in air fares.

Valid From November 2011 to April 2012

Tour Cost- option 1	3-4 persons	5-6 persons	7-10 persons	11-14 persons	Single Supplement
Price per person on double/twin room share	US\$ 3,675	US\$ 2,865	US\$ 2,670	US\$ 2,295	US\$ 795
Price per person on triple share	US\$ 3,545	US\$ 2,735	US\$ 2,540	US\$ 2,165	N/A
Surcharge per person for compulsory gala dinner on 24Dec11 at Maison d'Hanoi: US\$ 46/person					
Surcharge per person for compulsory gala dinner on 31Dec11 at Maison d'Hanoi: US\$ 46/person					
Surcharge per person for compulsory gala dinner on 24Dec11 at Morin Hue: US\$ 63/person					
Surcharge per person for compulsory gala dinner on 31Dec11 at Morin Hue: US\$ 69/person					
Surcharge per person for compulsory gala dinner on 24Dec11 at Hoian Boutique: US\$ 86/person					
Surcharge per person for compulsory gala dinner on 31Dec11 at Hoian Boutique: US\$ 86/person					

Tour Cost- option 2	3-4 persons	5-6 persons	7-10 persons	11-14 persons	Single Supplement
Price per person on double/twin room share	US\$ 4,465	US\$ 3,655	US\$ 3,455	US\$ 3,085	US\$ 1,635
Price per person on triple share	US\$ 4,135	US\$ 3,325	US\$ 3,130	US\$ 2,755	N/A
Surcharge per person for compulsory gala dinner on 24Dec11 at La Residence Hue: US\$ 81/person					
Surcharge per person for compulsory gala dinner on 24Dec11 at La Residence Hue: US\$ 81/person					
Surcharge per person for compulsory gala dinner on 24Dec11 at Life Resort Hoi An: US\$ 58/person					
Surcharge per person for compulsory gala dinner on 31Dec11 at Life Resort Hoi An: US\$ 63/person					

What is included:	What is NOT included
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation with daily breakfast • Private transfers and transportation on tour • Sightseeing with Local English speaking guides (one guide in each city) • Entrance fees and private boat rides • Water puppet show (1st class ticket) • Meals as specified (meals only, no drinks/water) • Airfares: HAN-HUI, DAD-SGN (Economy class with airport tax) • Special visit & interaction arrangements • Cold towels and water on sightseeing days • Welcome pack 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airport Assistance Service • Vietnam visa • Other meals where not mentioned in the program • Drinks/water at included lunches and dinners • Other flights • Hotel early check in / Late check out • Overweight luggage • Personal expenses • Travel insurance • Tips & gratuities • Separate luggage truck • Other services not listed in inclusive column