

# AN ESSENTIAL LINE

09 days - 08 nights from 513\$



Hanoi | Bat Trang | Kayaking Ha Long | Hue | Hoi An | Danang | Saigon | Tayninh Holysee | Cu Chi Tunnels | Saigon

## OVERVIEW

Tour code	<b>VNH03-S</b>
Duration	09 days / 08 nights
Features	Excellent to visit the major landmarks of Vietnam within a very limited time, easy to connect with surrounding highlights of the Southeast Asian countries.
Extension	Easy to connect Laos, Cambodia and other Southeast Asian countries.

## ITINERARY IN BRIEF

Day 01	: Arrive In Hanoi (-/-/D)
Day 02	: Hanoi – Bat Trang - Halong – Overnight On The Boat (B/L/D)
Day 3	: Halong - Hanoi – Train To Hue (B/L/-)
Day 4	: Arrival In Hue (B/L/-)
Day 5	: Hue – Hoian (B/L)
Day 6	: Hoian (B/L/-)
Day 7	: Hoian - Danang – Saigon (B/L/-)
Day 8	: Tayninh Holysee – Cu Chi Tunnels – Saigon (B/L)
Day 09	: Saigon Departure (B/-/-)

## ITINERARY IN DETAIL

### DAY 01: ARRIVE IN HANOI (-/-/D)

Welcome to Vietnam!

The tour guide and a private comfortable car of THREELAND will be welcoming you at Noi Bai airport. Drive to the centre of Hanoi (around 35 minutes) and check-in hotel. Have a light tour to Hoan Kiem Lake – Ngoc Son Temple, hang around the Old Quarter of Hanoi and visit the Temple of Literature, the 1<sup>st</sup> social university of Vietnam. The welcome Dinner is followed by a Show of Water Puppetry, a stage art created by the Vietnamese peasants. The show last more than an hour and is a wonderful opportunity to learn about some of Vietnam's mythology,

traditions and current customs. (Lunch at your own account for flexibility). Overnight in Hanoi.

**Please note!** Usual check-in and check-out time is 12.00 noon.

### DAY 02: HANOI – HALONG – OVERNIGHT ON THE BOAT (B/L/D)

From Hanoi, head East for more than 3 hours to Halong Bay, the pride of the Gulf of Tonkin, a Natural World Heritage as designated by UNESCO in 1994. The road will pass by the Red River delta with green paddy fields and rural villages, where hard-work farmers are busy with their farming jobs, ploughing buffaloes or planting seedling. Upon arrival in Halong, we'll take a big boat to cruise the Bay to discover the magnificent beauty of this "Descending-dragon" bay, created by thousands odd-shaped limestone rocks and karst grottoes. After a lunch of fresh seafood on board, we can visit the Surprising Grotto, stop for swimming or kayaking, passing floating villages and approach islets to enjoy their beauty in close distance. Back to the boat for dinner late afternoon. Evening attend activities on the boat or relax at your own leisure. Overnight on the boat near Titov Beach.

### DAY 03: HALONG - HANOI – TRAIN TO HUE (B/L/-)

After breakfast, visit by boat or kayak to Luon Cave, a ring-shaped pool inside an island in Halong with absolutely tranquil landscape and emerald water. Back to the Wharf of Halong passing the most densely area with many islands that have been named like the Cock-Fighting Rock, Sail Island, Incense burner rock or Sea Dog Rock. Arrive at Halong Wharf around 11.00. Return to Hanoi with stop at Hong Ngoc Charity Center for lunch. On the way back we will turn to visit Bat Trang ceramic village, founded in 15<sup>th</sup> century in the suburb of Hanoi, which has been renown for centuries for their products of refined porcelain, terra-cotta, crackle glazed pottery for Vietnamese use and shipping abroad. Back to Hanoi later afternoon. Have your own time in Hanoi for your own dinner or relax before arrival at the railway station to take the night train to Hue. Overnight on the train.

### DAY 04: HUE (B/L/-)

More than any other towns in Vietnam, Hue probably reflects the former glory of a traditional capital. After arrival in Hue, we will be picked up at the Station and have

a breakfast of Hue delicious local foods before the visit. We can start hereby at the Imperial Enclosure including the Citadel, Forbidden City, Hue Museum of Royal Fine Arts, then visit Dong Ba bustling market to experience the daily life of Hue people. Have lunch at a garden restaurant before driving to Linh Mu pagoda, located by the Perfume River, and visit the Tombs of Kings Minh Mang and Tu Duc. Dinner at your own account for flexibility. Overnight in Hue.

**DAY 5: HUE – HOIAN (B/L/-)**

After breakfast, we will drive south to Hoian Ancient Town with stopovers to enjoy the landscape of Lang Co Beach, Hai Van (the “Ocean Cloudy” Mountain Pass), and the Marble Mt. with a stone-carving village nearby. Different from royal traces of Hue which reminisce about the ruins of feudal dynasties, Hoian is featured by friendly, cozy but charming and mysterious ambience at the same time. An architectural combination of Vietnamese, Japanese and Chinese styles, Hoian itself is an open-air museum of Central Vietnam. Let’s walk over the tile-roofed Japanese



Bridge, visit taciturn Chinese Assembly Halls and Trading Houses, Hoian museum, pagodas and stroll into the market located by Thu Bon river to discover this unique beauty. Overnight in Hoian. (Lunch in Hoian, Dinner at your own account for more leisure time).

**DAY 6: HOIAN (B/L/-)**

Morning cycle to Tra Que village with our guide to intermingle with the normal life of gardeners and residents in Hoian, learn how to garden, cook some Hoian traditional delicious foods, and back to Hoian for a boat trip on Thu Bon tranquil river visiting Thanh Ha terracotta village and Kim Bong furniture village. At leirsure in the rest of the day. Overnight in Hoian (Lunch in Tra Que village, dinner not included).

**DAY 7: HOIAN – SAIGON (B/L/-)**

Transfer to Danang Airport to take the morning flight from Danang to Saigon. We will be warmly greeted at Tan Son Nhat Airport and transferred to the city centre. We should start the tour from the Notre Dame Cathedral, built between 1877 and 1883 and being the major seat

of the Catholic religion in modern Vietnam; close by this famous site is a remarkable building: the Reunification Palace that once witnessed the end of the American War in Vietnam and now is a Museum and a grand Reception Hall. After lunchtime, let’s go on to the “China town” of Saigon, including an extensive living quarter of Chinese-originated inhabitants, the bustling Binh Tay market and numerous Chinese temples. We can drop into Thien Hau pagoda, one of the most famous temples in the district before ending our trip at a lacqueware workshop. Overnight in Saigon.

**DAY 8: TAYNINH HOLYSEE – CU CHI TUNNELS – SAIGON (B/L/-)**

Our day will begin with a visit to Tayninh, the centre of Caodaism, a local sect of Buddhism founded by a Vietnamese countryman in early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Arriving at noontime, we will have the chance to join the daily solemn ceremony at the temple of Cao Dai people which called “Tayninh Holysee”. On the way back to Saigon, we can call at Cu Chi Tunnels, one of the few monuments remained from the fierce Vietnam War. We can even crawl a part of the tunnel to experience the real life of the Vietnamese guerrillas, who used to use and live inside this system during the wartime. Return to Saigon late afternoon. Lunch in Tayninh or en route. Dinner by your own arrangement. Overnight in Saigon.

**DAY 09: SAIGON DEPARTURE (B/-/-)**

It’s your own time today for more relax and shopping in Saigon, the biggest commercial centre of Vietnam. Your tourguide will see you at the hotel on time to transfer you to the Tan Son Nhat Airport for the flight leaving Vietnam.

**Please note!** Usual check-out time is 12.00 noon.

**Optional tour:** (One-day tour) Saigon - Vinh Long - Saigon

After breakfast, we will head to Vinh Long, a city on the Mekong delta. The road passes by endless paddy fields which make the delta the rice basket of Vietnam and contribute in making it the world 2<sup>nd</sup> rice exporter. Upon arrival in Vinh Long, visit a floating market with numerous sellers busy with their boats full of various delicious tropical fruits and consume goods on the river. Have a rest in an orchards before visiting family factories in the region. Back to Saigon late afternoon.

**SERVICES INCLUDED**

- English-speaking tour guides
- Land transfer by air-con vehicles
- Overnight train from Hanoi to Hue
- Twin-shared room with breakfast
- Meals as mentioned in the program (no drinks)
- Boat trips and admission

**SERVICES not INCLUDED**

- Airfare (international and domestic) and airport tax
- Visa to Vietnam
- Early check-in, late check-out surcharge
- Other meals
- Drinks and personal expenses (phone call, laundry, tipping etc.)
- Any services not mentioned in the program
- Optional Tours.