THE NORTHEAST PARKS

06 days/ 05 nights

Many reserves stretch in the Northeast Vietnam, where the roads are fine but not pleasant enough to open for mass tourism. However, thanks to this obstacle the routine and traditions of the hill tribes are still well maintained, and marvelous sights are remained beckoning more discoverv.

Tour Code : VNM02

Connection : Very easy and relaxing to combine with excursions to the Central and South Vietnam.

Itinerary in Brief:
DAY 01: HANOI – BABE LAKES (-/L/D)
DAY 02: BABE LAKES – CAO BANG (B/L)
DAY 03: CAO BANG – BAN GIOC WATERFALL – CAO BANG (B/L)
DAY 04: CAO BANG – LANG SON – HALONG (B/L)
DAY 05: HALONG – CAT BA ISLAND – ROCK CLIMBING (B/L)
DAY 06: CAT BA ISLAND – HAI PHONG – HANOI (B/L)

BABE LAKES – BANGIOC WATERFALL – HALONG BAY – CATBA ISLAND

DAY 1: HANOI – BABE LAKES (-/L/D)
Morning depart from Hanoi to Babe Lakes via Thai Nguyen. Take a stop at Hanoi Ethnology Museum, where we can hear introduction and enjoy a rich collection of the cultural features of 54 ethnical groups living in Vietnam. The visit will be very helpful to us before exploring the real life of these groups in our coming trip. Lunch en route. Arrive Babe Lakes late afternoon. Overnight in Babe town.

DAY 2: BABE LAKES – CAO BANG (B/L)
It's 3km from Babe town to the Lakes, which is the most splendid part of The "Babe National Park". Taking a motorboat from the wharf and flow on the three lakes, along Nang River for 4 – 5 hours, we can drop by Widow Islet, enjoy picturesque scenery and greenery of the Park surrounding the lake, see people fishing for shrimps in their dug-out boats; we can also climb up the large Puong Cave with odd-shaped stalactites and stalagmites, home of thousands bats hanging on limestone walls, visit Dau Dang Waterfall, walk over a cliff to see an earing-shaped pond called Fairy Pond, and finally arrive by boat to Cho Ra, 18km from Babe. Our car will pick-up us at Cho Ra and circle the Lakes by landway with stop to visit the friendly Tay ethnic people in Pac Ngoi hamlet. Late afternoon depart to Cao Bang (3-hour driving). Overnight in Cao Bang.

DAY 3: CAO BANG – BAN GIOC WATERFALL – CAO BANG (B/L)
The most remarkable highlight of Cao Bang province, Ban Gioc Waterfall, the largest Falls in Vietnam, takes 2-hour driving from Cao Bang. We can contemplate on this way very sight-worthy forests, mountain villages, markets of different ethnic groups, and local specialties sold along the road. Upon arrival at Ban Gioc, we can enjoy not only the great waterfall but strong waterpower of Quy Son river, and also see the natural border between Vietnam and China in short distance, or take a bamboo raft to relax on the river. From Ban Gioc, turn back to Cao Bang direction with to visit Nguom Ngao Cave, a huge impressive cave running about 3km long. Return to Cao Bang in the afternoon. Overnight in Cao Bang.

DAY 4: CAO BANG – LANG SON – HALONG (B/L)
From Cao Bang, drive some 9 hours via Lang Son to reach Halong city, the station to take your trip to another National Park in Cat Ba Island. The road from Cao Bang to Lang Son passes by a lot of War memorials and traces of the 1st Indochinese War, ended with the French leave from Indochina in 1954. Lunch in Lang Son at Ha Nga restaurant near the new Dong King bridge with famous dishes of duck, a specialty of Lang Son. Stop at Lang Son to visit exciting Dong Kinh "bordergate market" before arrival at Halong city. Check-in hotel and overnight in Halong.

DAY 5: HALONG – CAT BA ISLAND – ROCK CLIMBING (B/L)
After an early breakfast, we will be transferred to Halong Wharf to take our private boat to visit the Bay of Halong, relaxing on the sundeck and enjoying the great scenery with thousands of rocky islands of Halong. We can choose to stop for visiting grottoes, go swimming, kayaking or just enjoy sunbath. Lunch will be prepared by the crew with fresh seafood caught from Halong: crab, shrimp, fish and squid. Afternoon our boat will reach Cat Ba Island. Check-in hotel in Cat Ba. Trek thru the Park of Cat ba and attend a wonderful Rock Climbing group at the green Butterfly Valley, instructed by licenced guides of a professional rock climbing Team in Catba. Overnight in Cat Ba.

DAY 6: CAT BA ISLAND – HAI PHONG – HANOI (B)
Enjoy yourselves on Cat Ba beaches and at leisure until our tourguide comes and picks up you to take an Express Boat to Hai Phong seaport. Our car is waiting for us in Hai Phong to head to Hanoi (about 2h30 driving).
End of services at your accommodation in Hanoi.