EXPLORE!

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BEST SELLER

Family Discover Vietnam and Angkor Wat Extension

VIETNAM - TRIP CODE FQVNA

FAMILY

Why book this trip?

Experience an exciting introduction to Vietnam as we travel along the coast from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City. Kayak around the island cliffs of Halong Bay, take part in a martial art lesson and cook a Vietnamese meal staying in a traditional homestay in the Mekong delta.

- **Hanoi** - Free time to wander through the bustling narrow streets of the Old Quarter lined with shop-houses
- **Hoi An** - Charming ancient merchant's town on the banks of the Thu Bon River
- **Ho Chi Minh City** - Learn about the resourcefulness of the Viet Cong at the Cu Chi Tunnels, visit an underground weapons bunker and explore old Saigon's bustling back alleys

INCLUDED MEALS	TRIP STAFF	TRANSPORT	ACCOMMODATION	TRIP PACE:	GROUP SIZE:
Breakfast: 12 Lunch: 2 Dinner: 2	Explore Tour Leader Boat Crew Driver(s) Local Guide(s)	Bus Bicycle Boat Flight Train	1 nights comfortable homestay 11 nights comfortable hotel 1 nights comfortable junk 1 nights simple overnight train	Moderate	14 - 20

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Join trip in Hanoi.

Arrive in Hanoi. Vietnam's bustling capital is architecturally styled like a French provincial town, with tree-lined boulevards and low-rise buildings. It's a wonderful city to explore on foot.

For those arriving on time our Leader plans to meet you in the hotel reception at 6pm for the welcome meeting and for those that wish, there is the chance to go out for dinner. There are no other activities planned today, so you are free to arrive in Hanoi at any time. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you'll need to arrive into Hanoi's Noi Bai International Airport (HAN), which is 30KM, around one hour's drive from the airport. Should you miss the welcome meeting, your Leader will inform you of any essential information as soon as you catch up.

If your flight arrives earlier in the day, perhaps you might choose to head to the Old Quarter, a maze of narrow lanes named after the various crafts and specialities of the city's artisans. The pavements are filled with food sellers tempting you with steaming noodles, snacks and stir-fried delights.

ACCOMMODATION:
Nesta Hanoi Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel

MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 2 - Tour of Hanoi with optional cooking class and city tour.

This morning we join our tour leader on a sightseeing tour of Hanoi, visiting the One-Pillar Pagoda, the Temple of Literatures and the Mausoleum of Ho Chi Minh. The afternoon is then free to perhaps take an optional cookery class, or explore Hanoi's elegant French Quarter on foot. In the evening there is the chance to witness a remarkable performance of traditional water puppetry. Set on a flooded stage, the stories tell tales of legendary heroes and everyday life, with dragons and unicorns often sharing the stage with fireworks and naval battles.

ACCOMMODATION:
Nesta Hanoi Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 3 - Morning drive to Ha Long Bay. Overnight cruise on a traditional junk boat, visit fishing village, sea kayaking.

Leaving Hanoi after breakfast, we drive using the new expressway for a two and a half hours to the Gulf of Tonkin and the breath-taking scenery of Ha Long Bay.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most visually impressive landscapes in South East Asia, Halong Bay is the setting for an overnight cruise. Boarding just after midday, set sail towards Bai Tu Long Bay. Lunch is served shortly after embarking, there is ample time after lunch to sit back and admire the towering limestone islands topped by rainforest that Halong Bay is so famous for.

We make a stop to visit a Vung Vieng fishing village by rowing boat or kayak, the choice is yours. The rest of the afternoon is spent further exploring the bay scattered with hundreds of islands and dotted with caves and grottoes. Dinner is served on board, a chance to sample fresh sea food and regional dishes, we anchor overnight in Bai Tu Long Bay.

There are between 10-18 en-suite cabins on board with a restaurant, bar and sundeck area. All bedding is provided. Please be aware, the boat may not be exclusive to our group and consequently we may be sharing with other tourists.

ACCOMMODATION:
Overnight Boat in Halong Bay (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Junk

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 4 - Morning sea kayaking; Afternoon drive to Hanoi and overnight train to Hue

Sunrise takes place around 0630, if the weather is clear it's well worth making the effort to witness sunrise over the bay. A light breakfast of pastries, tea and coffee we disembark to visit the hidden Thien Canh Son caves with numerous stalactite and stalagmite limestone formations in an impressive cavern. Returning to our boat, continue to cruise in the bay. Brunch is served on board.

Returning to Hon Gai harbor, rejoin our vehicle and drive back to Hanoi. The rest of the afternoon is free, with two day use rooms provided for the group to freshen up before we head to the central train station in Hanoi to board the Reunification Express overnight sleeper train to Hue, Vietnam's old imperial capital.

We travel in soft sleeper compartments, with four passengers sharing each compartment with all bedding provided. Please note, breakfast will not be provided on the train, it's advisable to pick up snacks for the morning before boarding the train.

ACCOMMODATION:
Overnight train from Hanoi to Hue

Grade: Simple Overnight Train

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 5 - Arrive Hue. Visit Royal Tombs and kite making and flying

Arriving in Hue this morning, we enjoy some of the highlights of this historic city including a visit to the Royal Palace with its Terracotta Warriors guarding the entrance and the iconic Thien Mu Pagoda, home to the oldest monastery in the city. We also visit the house of a national champion kite flier for Vietnam where we are shown how to make traditional Vietnamese kites. Taking time to decorate our kites with iconic symbols such as dragons, birds and peacocks, we take our completed kites to the nearby Citadel grounds to try them out. The Citadel is an impressive monument that is almost 10 km in circumference with the Imperial City located in the centre of the Citadel which is more than 600m long on each side. Access to the Imperial City can be made by four entrance gates although the Noon Gate is only used for the King.

ACCOMMODATION:
Thanh Lich Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel

SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE

MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 6 - Cycle around the countryside, traditional wood painting and martial arts lesson

We travel to Trieu Son village which is located by the Perfume River on Hue's outskirts for a guided walk and boat ride. Our first stop is to Sinh village where we meet a local family that specializes in making wood paintings and they will teach the group how to make these traditional artefacts. We then take a leisurely cycle ride around the village and along countryside lanes to Thanh Tien village which is famous for paper flowers. Continuing through paddy fields and the Vietnam countryside, we arrive at Tien Non village where we board our cruise boat which takes us back to Hue (total cycling distance is approximately 6km). An included martial arts lesson is our next stop with a visit to a dedicated martial arts school that practices the Vietnamese art of Kinh Van, the countries equivalent to Kung Fu which is based upon defence techniques from the actions of a tiger, cobra, and bird. The owner's ancestors were chosen to guard the Vietnamese king and he now teaches this ancient art. We then travel over the Truong Son Mountains and through the Hai Van Pass, as seen on the TV programme, Top Gear, to the historic merchant seaside town of Hoi An.

ACCOMMODATION:
Vinh Hung 2 Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel

SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 7 - Free in Hoi An; optional bike hire or visit the towns famous tailors

The morning is free to wander through the historic heart of this World Heritage Site, taking in the wonderfully preserved buildings of what was once one of the busiest trading outposts in South East Asia.

Discovering this delightful town, we recommend an early morning visit to Hoi An's fish market which presents the perfect setting for some great photographs and some priceless interaction with the locals. Visit the city's famous Japanese Bridge, before wandering through its historic collection of traditional wooden houses and Chinese temples. This afternoon you could hire bicycles and explore the surrounding countryside, experience a gentle river cruise, spend time at the beach, or grab the chance to visit some of Hoi An's famous tailor shops.

ACCOMMODATION:
Vinh Hung 2 Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel

SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 8 - Drive to Danang, fly to Ho Chi Minh City. Explore Old Saigon, and discover 'Secret Weapons Bunker'

Our drive to Danang this morning takes us past the five peaks of the Marble Mountains, originally believed to have been islands that were said to represent the five elements of water, wood, fire, gold and earth. On arrival in Danang, we then board the morning flight to Ho Chi Minh City.

This afternoon we will experience a different side of Ho Chi Minh City. We make our way to District 3 by cyclo (cycle carriages with a seat at the front) and turn off the main thoroughfare and into the maze of narrow streets of this bustling district. Our walk takes us past ramshackle shopfronts, through local markets selling anything from colourful fruit to bootleg DVDs, and past houses, churches and schools, all squeezed into the small buildings that line the narrow alleys. It's a fascinating inter-connected community here that is a stones-throw from the city centre, yet feels a far cry from the modern buildings and throngs of tourists. We stop at a local stall for a traditional Vietnamese coffee (brewed coffee served sweet with condensed milk) where we can also sample 'Banh Mi' - a Vietnamese take on the humble French baguette - freshly baked and packed with a combo of traditional and more exotic, aromatic ingredients.

The walk ends the so-called 'secret weapons' bunker'. A small unassuming 'tube house' nestled in a quiet neighbourhood hides a trap door in the floor, concealing a basement stocked full of rifles, grenades and ammunition. The bunker played a key role in the TET Offensive of 1968, it was the base from which the Viet Cong's "Team 5" launched their assault, and its location was only revealed after the end of the war. We have some time to explore the house and bunker, filled with decommissioned weapons and photographs, news clippings and memorabilia from the wartime.

ACCOMMODATION:

Liberty Hotel Saigon Parkview (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 9 - Morning visit to Cu Chi Tunnels; Afternoon free with optional visit to a water park

After breakfast this morning we head out to visit the infamous Cu Chi tunnels. First constructed by the Vietnamese during their colonial war with the French, the tunnels were later greatly expanded and went on to achieve notoriety during the Vietnam War, when they served as an underground command base for 10,000 Viet Cong troops. Exploring Cu Chi gives some idea as to the conditions that the Vietnamese and their American adversaries had to endure (the tunnels are narrow and can be quite claustrophobic). The afternoon allows for more time in the city including an optional visit to the waterpark, a great way to cool off from the mid-day sun.

ACCOMMODATION:
Liberty Hotel Saigon Parkview (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 10 - Drive to the Mekong Delta, cycle ride, homestay and cooking lesson

Leaving the city, we drive to the Mekong Delta and catch a boat to the start point of our cycle ride. We cycle for around 10-12 km along the flat Cai Thai village path with constant views of the delta as we wind our way around its many tributaries. The route is often shaded which is helpful to combat the humidity (the boat can pick up cyclists at various stopping points if required). Along the way, we visit Mrs Nani's home who will show us how to make rice paper in the traditional way and Mr and Mrs Chin's home who will provide refreshments that include her famous 'Banh Tieu' (traditional doughnut). We return to the boat where we have lunch on-board and sail close to our night stop. Transferring from our cruise boat to a sampan craft, which is a small traditional boat that is regularly used by the villagers to travel along the delta, we complete our journey to our homestay close by. Set in a lovely garden setting with a main lounge area and dining room, accommodation is en-suite (shower and toilet) with traditional décor throughout. After settling into our comfortable accommodation, we have a Vietnamese cooking lesson in the early evening followed by a delicious home prepared meal.

ACCOMMODATION:
Ut Trinh & Ut Quynh Homestay (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Homestay

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER

DAY 11 - Morning cruise on the Mekong Delta. Drive to Chau Doc on the border of Vietnam and Cambodia.

Leaving our homestay behind, we cruise along the delta to the famous Cai Be Floating Market. One of the most colourful attractions of the Mekong area is its floating markets and we visit one of the biggest in the Delta at Cai Be. Spend some time cruising through the market and soaking up the atmosphere of this unique trading place. After our visit, we drive onto Chau Doc on the border of Vietnam and Cambodia via a stop at the emerald green wetlands of Tra Su where we take a boat trip in Tra Su Cajeput Forest with its many water hyacinths and water lilies.

ACCOMMODATION:
Chau Pho Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel

MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 12 - Morning boat to Phnom Penh and city tour

Driving to the jetty in Chau Doc this morning, we board an early morning boat to Phnom Penh, a four and a half hour river journey that takes us up the Hau Giang River into neighbouring Cambodia. The afternoon is spent discovering Phnom Penh, Cambodia's fascinating and colourful capital. We visit the National Museum of Arts and the grand elegance of the French built Royal Palace, whose spectacular pagoda-style structure is without doubt one of the city's most recognisable landmarks. Later we'll take in the hilltop sanctuary of Wat Phnom, the monument from which the city gets its name.

ACCOMMODATION:
Home Chic Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 13 - Flight to Siem Reap and afternoon visit to the Roluos group of temples near Angkor Wat

We take the morning flight from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap and drive to our hotel which will be our home for the next two nights.

In the afternoon we visit the Roluos group of temples dating from the 9th and 10th centuries, making these some of the earliest permanent structures built by Khmer. There are three main temples in the site including Preah Ko (or Sacred Bull), Bakong whose design corresponds to the worlds of mythical beings (Nagas, Garudas, Raksasas and Yaksas) and the Lolei Temples which are famed for their carvings and inscriptions.

ACCOMMODATION:
Treasure Oasis Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel

SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 14 - Full day visits to Angkor Thom, Ta Prohm and Angkor Wat temples

Travelling by local tuk tuk we visit three of the most famous temple sites, those of Angkor Thom, Ta Prohm and Angkor Wat. The fortified city of Angkor Thom was originally built at the end of the 12th Century and was a formidable sight in its day; surrounded by eight metre walls, towering gates and a crocodile filled moat. We also visit the atmospheric ruins at Ta Phrom, made famous in the Tomb Raider film and then finish the day viewing the beautiful setting of Angkor Wat, without doubt the most renowned and impressive of Siem Reap's jungle temples.

ACCOMMODATION:
Treasure Oasis Hotel (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel

SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 15 - Trip ends Siem Reap

The trip ends after breakfast at our hotel in Siem Reap.

There are no activities planned today, so you are free to depart from Siem Reap at any time. If your flight is departing later in the day luggage storage facilities are available at our hotel. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you need to depart from Siem Reap International airport (airport code REP), which is 8km, around 15 minutes from the hotel.

Why not extend your trip to Indochina with three nights on the tropical white sand beaches of Phu Quoc Island? Nestled in the warm waters of the Gulf of Thailand this Vietnamese island is 90% national park, a thick-rainforest interior framed by idyllic white sand beaches. Easily accessible by a short flight from Hanoi, Siem Reap or Ho Chi Minh City, this is a great way to unwind after an action-packed trip in Indochina.

MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

Trip information

Climate and country information

Vietnam

Climate

As Vietnam is a long, narrow country from north to south climate conditions vary considerably. The climate can be divided into three distinct patterns between the north, central and south regions. The climate in the north is generally humid and subtropical, although the winter months from November to March can be colder with temperatures from 10 - 15 degrees. Summer months, May to September can be quite hot with temperatures from 30 - 35 degrees. Meanwhile south Vietnam enjoys a tropical climate all year round, with little variation throughout the year (around 27 - 32 degrees), however May to November is the rainy season when short, heavy downpours are quite frequent. Central Vietnam lies somewhere in between. The coastal strip is usually dry and hotter from April to October while November to March is wetter and cooler. A light rain jacket and small umbrella are recommended year round.

Time difference to GMT	Plugs	Religion
+7	2 Pin Round	Mahayana Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism

Language

Vietnamese

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

A selection of optional activities are listed below to help you budget for your Family adventure. Whilst the basic tour price you pay before you travel includes a great selection of highlights, we have also built in free time to allow you the flexibility to choose from a carefully selected range of additional excursions and activities or take time to relax, the choice is yours. At certain destinations along the way there may be several options to choose from and it may not be possible to fit all the activities in; your Explore Leader will be able to give advice on which are the most suitable for your family.

Day 1 or 2: Hanoi
Discover a unique part of Vietnamese culture at the Thang Ling water puppet theatre. Duration: Approx. 1 hour. USD $7 per person

Day 5: Hue
Dong Ba market is the oldest trading venue in Hue spanning almost 16,000 square meters on the northern bank of the Perfume River. Be sure to visit the food court on the ground floor to sample authentic Vietnamese dishes such as pho, banh khoai (stuffed omelette), and fresh spring rolls. Guided tour USD $18 per person.

Day 7: Hoi An
Taking part in a cookery lesson is a great way for the whole family to get involved in learning about the complex flavours that makes Vietnamese food so delicious. Choose from a morning or afternoon cookery class. USD $ 39 to USD $45 per person.

Day 9 or 11: Ho Chi Minh City
Visit the Reunification palace USD $2 per person.
Dam Sen Water Park, 31 slides and shoots and a large wave pool. Ideal for cooling down. Height restrictions apply for children. USD $7 per person (entrance only, excludes transport to the park)

Clothing

Pack essentially for hot weather although December through to February warmer clothing is needed for

the North. Bear in mind that the region is tropical (humid) and can be hot. Lightweight rainwear is advisable at all times. The north is cold at night during the winter.

Casual clothes are the most practical, although bear in mind that when visiting temples you will need shorts or skirts that cover below the knees.

Footwear

Comfortable walking shoes and sandals.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and daypack. Remember you are expected to carry your own luggage so don't overload yourself.

Equipment

Binoculars, torch, water bottle, insect repellent, high factor suncream, good quality sunglasses and a lip salve with sun protection. An overnight bag and swimming gear and towel is also recommended.

Tipping

Explore leader
Tipping isn't compulsory, and we work hard to ensure that our leaders all receive a fair wage. You may however, want to recognise a leader that's done a great job or really added to your trip by giving them a tip. We're often asked about the recommended amount. It's a tricky one, and down to personal preference, but we'd recommend between £15 to £20 per person per week as a guideline.

Local crew
In this region, tipping is a recognised part of life across the service industry. Local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided.

To assist with this your Explore Leader may organise a group tips kitty for included activities and meals, they will then account for kitty use throughout the tour.

For this we suggest $30 per family member.

For all non-included services and meals on your trip please tip independently at your discretion.

Vietnam

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£9	£2.00 - 4.00	£0.5

Foreign Exchange

Local currency
Dong.

Recommended Currency For Exchange
Carry your money in US$ Dollars cash. You can also take GBP but US$ are easier to exchange. (Dollar bills can be used in some hotels and shops; change is often given in local currency).

Where To Exchange
Most towns.

ATM Availability
There are ATMs virtually everywhere in Vietnam and in Cambodia, though we also recommend bringing cash.

Credit Card Acceptance
Credit card's are widely accepted throughout Vietnam

Travellers Cheques
Travellers cheques are not recommended as they can be difficult to exchange

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Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, Bicycle, Boat, Flight, Train

Accommodation notes

Our hotel in Hanoi is located in the center overlooking the historical street of Hanoi and famous Westlake with the famous Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and the Old Quarter close by. The en-suite rooms are beautifully designed and have great views of the city skyline. The hotel also has an excellent restaurant, cafe with views of the city's Old Quarter. After time on the Junk Cruise boat, we travel to Hue where we stay in a recently built city centre hotel next to the Perfume River. There are three restaurants decorated in the Nguyen dynasty's style, a health club, swimming pool, bar, gym plus internet access.
Moving onto Hoi An, our accommodation is designed with a Vietnamese and Chinese influence just a short walk from the ancient town. The restaurant and bar overlooks the swimming pool with free internet access in the lobby. Finally to Ho Chi Minh City where we stay in a centrally located hotel with the Ben Thanh market close by. Rooms have air conditioning, hairdryer, Wi Fi, safe and TV along with a facilities that include four restaurants, fitness and health centre with massage and spa treatment.

Family swimming

It is possible to swim at Halong Bay and Hoi An beach and hotel

Essential Information

Government Travel Safety Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK citizens, check the latest Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office advice.

Please refer to our COVID-19 entry requirements page for any country-specific conditions of entry. Whilst we strive to update this on a regular basis we recommend you also check the FCDO website for the latest advice on entry requirements in this fast-evolving situation. Information can change at any time.

Under 18 immigration guidance
Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Price Guarantee

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information.Booking Conditions

Visa and Passport Information

Vietnam: Until 30th June 2021 'British Citizen' passport holders can visit Vietnam for up to 15 days without a visa. A visa will be required if you enter after this date or if you wish to re-enter within 30 days of your departure.
For visits of up to 30 days, you can get an e-visa before you travel from https://evisa.xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn

For visits of longer than 30 days you must get a visa from the nearest Vietnamese embassy before travelling to Vietnam. If you want to make a second visit within 30 days of leaving Vietnam, you'll need to get a multiple entry visa to re-enter.

Visa's are required for citizens of the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. eVisa's can be applied for via https://evisa.xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn

Please note that it is a pre-requisite for entry into Vietnam that your passport is valid for a minimum of 6 months from your date of entry

All visa related issues including information for other nationalities should be confirmed with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

Cambodia: A single visa is required by UK, New Zealand, Australian, USA & Canadian citizens and can be obtained on arrival. A passport sized photograph for immigration will also be required. Alternatively you can now obtain an e-visa prior to departure for certain points of entry from www.mfaic.gov.kh

All visa information should be confirmed with the relevant consulate.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

Transfers

Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.

Booking a land only package with Explore
Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad
Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.
Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.
If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer click here

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your

policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.
Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them here.

Flight Information
You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore
We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.
On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Ability to swim

An ability to swim is essential for your safe enjoyment of the water based activities on this trip. If you wish to participate in these activities then we insist that you are able to swim.

Vietnam

Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against malaria, typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria, polio and hepatitis A. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on Malaria and Zika Virus. Although not compulsory travellers may also wish to immunise themselves against Japanese encephalitis. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

Family information

Extend your stay on the beach: Why not extend your trip to Vietnam with three nights on the tropical white sand beaches of Phu Quoc Island from £495 per person? Nestled in the warm waters of the Gulf of Thailand this Vietnamese island is 90% national park, a

thick-rainforest interior framed by idyllic white sand beaches. Easily accessible by a short flight from Hanoi, Siem Reap or Ho Chi Minh City, this is a great way to unwind after an action-packed trip in Indochina. Click here for more details

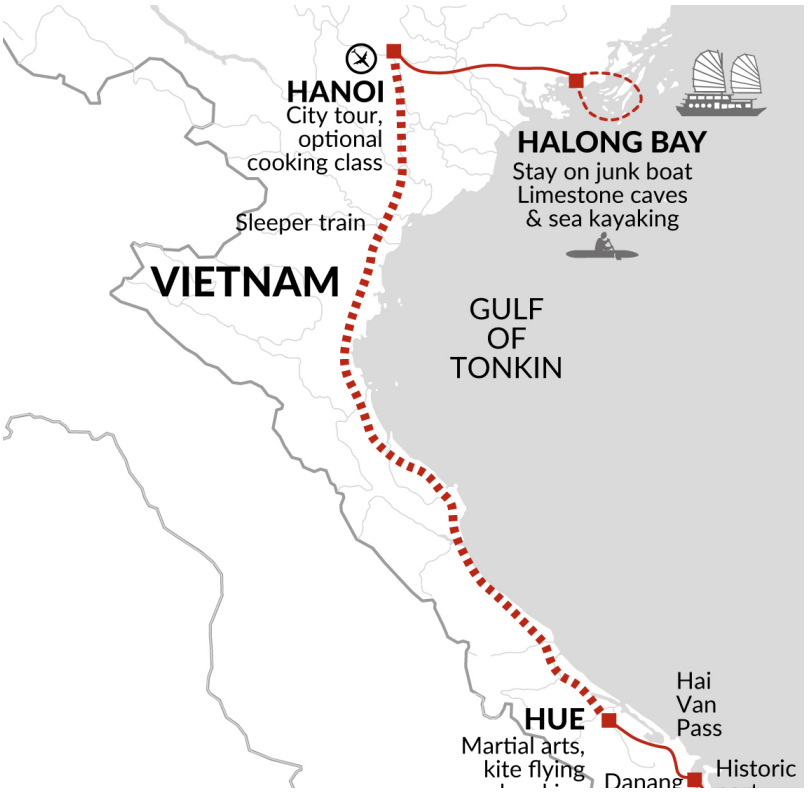
Family holidays in Vietnam: With world class sights and offering great value, Vietnam is a fantastic destination for a family holiday. The country is jam-packed with first rate activities for children. Kayak in Halong Bay, try kite making in Hue, cycle in the Mekong delta and get involved in preparing a home cooked meal in the deep south. With a good balance of free time and fun activities; this 11-day trip has all the ingredients for a truly memorable family holiday.

Triple rooms: This trip allows the option for triple rooms to be included within the booking on all night stops within the holiday with the exception of the Halong Bay cruise and overnight train. If you would like this option, a small discount is applicable on the cost of the trip - please ask our Sales team for further information.

Average Age: As a guide we have identified the actual average age of the children who have travelled on this trip over the the last 5 years, to help you decide whether it's the right one for your family. The average age on this trip is 14 years old.

Minimum age: This trip is suitable for children of all ages from 7 upwards. On certain trips there may be some flexibility to accept children from the age of 5 if travelling with older siblings, please speak to our reservations team for details.

Additional Information



Why book this trip

This holiday is designed for families who want to explore South East Asia and enjoy travelling on a variety of transport options - bus, train, boat, flight and bicycle. There are a number of easy active elements to this adventure including trying out Vietnams answer to Kung Fo, sea kayaking in the stunning Halong Bay, kite flying and cycling along the Delta - this adventure also allows us to meet local people and visit their homes including when we make kites and rice-paper. A great trip from one end of the country to the other with the additional benefit of time in Cambodia.

Reviews

AWARD WINNING EXPLORE LEADERS	PRICE GUARANTEE PROMISE	AIRPORT TRANSFERS