



A Small-Group Journey

Vietnam

Flavors, History & Culture from Hanoi to Saigon

April 16 to 29, 2027 | 12 nights | Hanoi, Hue, Hoi An & Ho Chi Minh City



Trang An, Ninh Binh. Photo: Jakub Hafun, CC BY 4.0

Vietnam is a country best understood at the table. Over twelve nights we travel from the misty limestone landscapes of the north to the imperial heart of Hue, the lantern-lit lanes of Hoi An and the energy of Saigon, eating our way through four distinct regional cuisines with local guides who live and cook here. Every day pairs a signature experience with time to wander, rest and discover on your own, and every night is spent at a boutique 5-star hotel chosen for its location and character.

Your Journey at a Glance

Destination	Dates	Nights	Your 5-Star Hotel
Hanoi	April 17 to 21	4	La Siesta Classic Hang Thung
Hue	April 21 to 23	2	Pilgrimage Village Resort & Spa
Hoi An	April 23 to 26	3	La Siesta Hoi An Resort & Spa
Ho Chi Minh City	April 26 to 29	3	Hotel des Arts Saigon, MGallery

Choosing the optional Ha Long and Lan Ha Bay cruise? Your Hanoi stay becomes 3 nights plus 1 night aboard Orchid Cruises.

Three Threads Run Through Every Day

- **A Taste of Each Region.** Four guided food tours, a hands-on cooking class and countless chances to sample Hanoi pho and bun cha, Hue's spicy bun bo, Hoi An's cao lau and Saigon's sizzling banh xeo.
- **Living History.** Walk through 2,000 years of Vietnamese story, from the ancient capital of Hoa Lu and the Champa temples of My Son to Hue's Imperial Citadel and the Cu Chi Tunnels.
- **Everyday Culture.** Ride a vintage jeep down Hanoi backstreets, glide through Trang An by sampan, spin in a bamboo basket boat and stroll Hoi An's night market beneath glowing lanterns.



Hanoi & the North



Hanoi Old Quarter. Photo: Richard Mortel, CC BY 2.0

A thousand years old and still endlessly lively, Hanoi is where Vietnamese food culture begins. Our days here move from sidewalk kitchens in the Old Quarter to the karst river valleys of Ninh Binh.

FRIDAY, APRIL 16

Depart the United States

Travel Board your international flight to Hanoi. Routing and connections depend on your departure city, and we are happy to help you find the best option.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

Welcome to Hanoi

Arrival Your private driver meets you at Noi Bai International Airport for the transfer to La Siesta Classic Hang Thung, in the heart of the Old Quarter.

At leisure Most flights arrive late in the evening, so tonight is simply about checking in and resting up for the days ahead.

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

Hanoi by Vintage Jeep: Food, Culture & Backstreets

History and flavor from the passenger seat

12:30 PM See Hanoi from a whole new angle aboard a vintage Soviet-era military jeep. Rumble through bustling streets, historic neighborhoods and quiet backroads as your guide shares the stories behind Vietnam's history, culture and everyday life. Highlights include the historic Ba Dinh Square area, local markets and neighborhoods most visitors never see, with stops along the way to taste authentic Vietnamese food. Approximately 4 to 5 hours.

Free time Morning and evening at leisure.

MONDAY, APRIL 19

Private Hanoi Street Food Walk

Lunch, the way Hanoians eat it

11:30 AM Follow a local food expert through the narrow lanes and busy markets of the Old Quarter, stopping at family-run eateries and neighborhood stalls to sample about 10 traditional dishes. Along the way, learn about the ingredients, cooking traditions and cultural influences that make Hanoi one of Southeast Asia's great food cities. Come hungry: the tastings add up to a full lunch. Approximately 3 hours.

Free time Late afternoon and evening free for museums, cafés, shopping or independent sightseeing.

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

Private Ninh Binh Excursion: Hoa Lu, Trang An & Mua Cave

"Ha Long Bay on land" and Vietnam's first capital

7:30 AM Journey south into the countryside of Ninh Binh, famous for its towering limestone peaks and winding rivers. Begin at Hoa Lu, Vietnam's ancient capital, where temples tell the story of the country's earliest dynasties. Continue to Trang An for a sampan ride through quiet waterways, limestone caves and dramatic karst formations. After a traditional Vietnamese lunch together, visit Mua Cave, where adventurous travelers can climb about 500 steps to a panoramic view over rice fields and mountains. Full day, approximately 9 hours, returning to Hanoi around 5:00 PM.

Dining We will enjoy a traditional Vietnamese lunch together during the excursion. Lunch is paid individually and is not included in the tour cost.

Option B | \$475 total supplement, double or single

Optional: Ha Long & Lan Ha Bay Overnight Cruise

Trade two days in Hanoi for a night among the limestone islands of one of Vietnam's most iconic landscapes. Sailing with Orchid Cruises in a Premium Balcony Cabin, this option takes the place of the April 19 street food walk and the April 20 Ninh Binh excursion, with your Hanoi hotel stay becoming 3 nights.



Lan Ha Bay. Photo: Velvet, CC BY-SA 4.0

MONDAY, APRIL 19

Into the Bay

Kayaks, karst and dinner on the water

8:00 AM Leave Hanoi for a scenic drive through the Red River Delta to Tuan Chau Marina, where a speedboat carries us to our cruise ship. Settle into your Premium Balcony Cabin as towering limestone islands rise from the emerald waters of Ha Long and Lan Ha Bay.

Enjoy a buffet lunch while cruising through the karst landscape, then set out by kayak to explore the secluded waters of Ao Ech. The ship continues to the peaceful Tra Bau area to anchor for the night.

As the sun sets, join a Vietnamese cooking demonstration or relax with a drink at happy hour. An elegant fusion dinner follows, then time on the sundeck, a try at traditional squid fishing or simply a quiet evening on the bay

beneath the stars.

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

Sunrise on the Bay & Return to Hanoi

Wake to first light on the limestone formations. Join an optional sunrise Tai Chi session on deck before breakfast, then visit Thien Cung Cave, the "Heavenly Palace," known for its vast chambers and intricate stalactites. Return aboard for a leisurely brunch and final views before disembarking at Tuan Chau Marina, then continue by private transfer back to Hanoi.

Disembarkation is approximately 11:00 to 11:30 AM, followed by about a 3-hour transfer to Hanoi. Orchid Cruises' full published schedule appears at the end of this itinerary.

Central Vietnam

Hue, the Imperial City



Meridian Gate, Imperial City of Hue. Photo: Vyacheslav Argenberg, CC BY 4.0

For more than a century Hue was the seat of Vietnam's last dynasty, and its royal kitchens gave the country some of its most refined and fiery dishes. Here we slow down among palaces, pagodas and riverside gardens.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

Fly from Hanoi to Hue

7:30 AM Check out and transfer to Hanoi's airport for our 10:20 AM domestic flight to Hue. The flight is included in your package.

Afternoon Transfer to Pilgrimage Village Resort & Spa and settle in. Enjoy the pool, spa and gardens, or arrange optional sightseeing. Hue's Old Town is a short taxi ride away.

THURSDAY, APRIL 22

Private Hue Imperial History Tour

Walking in the footsteps of emperors

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Explore Vietnam's former imperial capital with a private guide. Discover the Imperial Citadel, once home to the Nguyen emperors, and learn about the traditions and events that shaped the country's last ruling dynasty. Depending on the route, highlights may include the historic Thien Mu Pagoda, royal tombs and a traditional dragon boat journey along the Perfume River. Approximately 4 hours.

Afternoon At leisure. This is the perfect time to taste Hue's regional specialties, including bun bo Hue, banh beo and banh khoai.

Central Vietnam

Hoi An, the Lantern Town



Lanterns of Hoi An. Photo: Deba Prasad Roy, CCO

Once a thriving international trading port, Hoi An blends Vietnamese, Chinese and Japanese influences in its architecture and its cooking. Three nights here bring markets, a cooking class, ancient temples and lantern-lit

evenings.

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

Over the Hai Van Pass & a Lantern-Lit Food Walk

One of Vietnam's great coastal drives

8:30 AM Travel south from Hue to Hoi An by private vehicle on one of Vietnam's most scenic coastal routes. Rather than the direct highway, we cross the spectacular Hai Van Pass, where winding mountain roads reveal sweeping views of the coastline and the East Sea. Depending on the stops chosen, the journey may also include Lang Co Bay and other scenic or cultural sights near Da Nang. The drive takes up to 5 hours with stops (about 3 hours of actual driving).

Afternoon Check in at La Siesta Hoi An Resort & Spa.

5:30 PM Discover Hoi An after dark on a private walking food tour through the Ancient Town and nearby neighborhoods. Follow your guide along lantern-lit streets, quiet alleys and lively stalls, sampling eight or more regional dishes and learning how centuries of trade shaped the local cuisine. Finish with a stroll through the colorful Hoi An Night Market. Approximately 3 to 4 hours, dinner included.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

Hands-On Cooking Class in Hoi An

Market, basket boats and your own Vietnamese feast

8:00 AM Begin at a local market, learning about the fresh herbs, vegetables and essential ingredients of Vietnamese cooking. Continue to the coconut palm waterways for a ride in a traditional round bamboo basket boat and an introduction to local net-fishing techniques. Finish with an interactive cooking class, preparing four Vietnamese dishes with a local chef before sitting down to enjoy what you have made. Approximately 4 hours.

Afternoon and evening Free for An Bang Beach, the resort pool and spa, cafés, tailoring, shopping or exploring the Ancient Town on your own.

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

Private Excursion to My Son Sanctuary

The lost temples of the Champa Kingdom

8:00 AM Travel into Vietnam's ancient past at My Son Sanctuary, a UNESCO World Heritage Site set in a lush mountain valley. Once the religious and ceremonial center of the Champa Kingdom, the complex holds remarkable Hindu temples and intricately carved brick structures dating from the 4th to 13th centuries. Your guide shares the history, religious traditions and architectural achievements of the Cham civilization. Approximately 4 hours.

Afternoon and evening Free for leisure or a final dinner in Hoi An.

Ho Chi Minh City & the Mekong



Saigon Central Post Office. Photo: Yesvn123, CC BY-SA 4.0

Saigon is Vietnam at full speed: French colonial boulevards, glittering rooftops and some of the country's best street food. We close the journey with the city's landmarks and a day in the green waterways of the Mekong Delta.

MONDAY, APRIL 26

Fly to Ho Chi Minh City & Saigon After Dark

The flavors of the south

8:30 AM Private transfer to Da Nang airport for our 11:55 AM flight, arriving at Ho Chi Minh City's Tan Son Nhat Airport (SGN) at 1:30 PM. Transfer to Hotel des Arts Saigon, MGallery.

6:30 PM Experience Saigon's energy on a private street food walking tour with a local guide. Venture beyond the main tourist areas to neighborhood eateries, lively streets and family-run stalls serving southern specialties, including traditional savory pancakes and local drinks, while learning about the city's food culture and daily life.

TUESDAY, APRIL 27

Private Ho Chi Minh City Highlights Tour

Colonial landmarks and a modern metropolis

9:00 AM Discover the history, architecture and cultural landmarks of Ho Chi Minh City by private vehicle. Visit the historic Central Post Office, the Notre-Dame Cathedral area, bustling Ben Thanh Market and the colorful Jade Emperor Pagoda while learning about the city's French colonial heritage, religious traditions and growth into Vietnam's largest metropolis. Approximately 4 hours.

Afternoon Free for shopping, museums, rooftop drinks or relaxing at the hotel.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

Cu Chi Tunnels & the Mekong Delta

Two sides of the south in one day

7:30 AM Begin at the Cu Chi Tunnels, the vast underground network used during the war, and learn how the tunnels were built and what life underground was like. Continue to the Mekong Delta near My Tho, where riverboats reveal the region's waterways, tropical scenery and village life. Enjoy a Vietnamese lunch and sample local fruits before returning to the city in the evening. Full day, approximately 8 to 9 hours.

Evening Dinner at leisure, depending on return time.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29

Farewell, Vietnam

Departure Breakfast, check-out and private transfer to the airport for your international flight home. The trip ends before the busy April 30 to May 1 national holiday period.

Optional Extension: Angkor Wat, Cambodia

Extend your journey with a flight from Ho Chi Minh City to Siem Reap Angkor International Airport to visit the temples of Angkor Wat, one of the world's great archaeological wonders. Details are available upon request.

Investment

Pricing & Booking

	Per Person
Double occupancy	\$3,975.00
Single occupancy	\$5,375.00
Non-refundable deposit	\$1,500.00
Final payment due	February 1, 2027

Choose Your Hanoi Experience

At the time of booking, please let us know which option you prefer:

Option A 4 nights in Hanoi with all included tours.

Option B 3 nights in Hanoi plus the Orchid Cruises overnight in Ha Long and Lan Ha Bay. The \$475 cruise supplement is payable with your deposit. The cruise schedule is subject to change at the cruise line's discretion; the published schedule is included at the end of this itinerary.

The Details

What's Included

Accommodations

- 12 nights at our carefully selected 5-star hotels:
- **Hanoi:** 4 nights at La Siesta Classic Hang Thung (3 nights with the optional cruise)
- **Hue:** 2 nights at Pilgrimage Village Resort & Spa
- **Hoi An:** 3 nights at La Siesta Hoi An Resort & Spa
- **Ho Chi Minh City:** 3 nights at Hotel des Arts Saigon, MGallery
- Daily breakfast at each hotel
- All applicable hotel taxes and service charges

Optional Cruise Inclusions

- One night in a Premium Balcony Cabin
- Onboard lunch, dinner, breakfast and brunch
- Kayaking and scheduled cave excursion
- Cooking demonstration and sunrise Tai Chi
- English-speaking guide and onboard service
- Welcome drink and two bottles of water in the cabin
- Scheduled sightseeing fees and onboard insurance
- Round-trip transportation from Hanoi

Transportation

- Two domestic flights within Vietnam: Hanoi to Hue, and Da Nang to Ho Chi Minh City
- Private airport transfers on arrival in Hanoi and departure from Ho Chi Minh City
- Airport transfers for domestic flights
- Private ground transportation from Hue to Hoi An, including sightseeing stops on the scenic Hai Van Pass
- Transportation for scheduled sightseeing tours and excursions, as specified in each tour itinerary

Guided Tours & Experiences

Eleven organized tours and experiences:

- Hanoi sightseeing and cultural experience aboard a vintage Soviet-era jeep
- Private Hanoi street food walking tour
- Private Ninh Binh excursion featuring Hoa Lu, Trang An and Mua Cave
- Private Hue historical and cultural sightseeing tour

- Private scenic sightseeing transfer from Hue to Hoi An
- Guided Hoi An evening street food tour
- Hoi An market visit, traditional basket boat experience and Vietnamese cooking class
- Private guided excursion to My Son Sanctuary
- Private Ho Chi Minh City evening street food tour
- Private Ho Chi Minh City historical and cultural sightseeing tour
- Cu Chi Tunnels and Mekong Delta full-day excursion

Additional Inclusions

- English-speaking local guides during scheduled guided experiences
- Entrance fees and activities explicitly included in the scheduled tour packages
- Meals and food tastings specifically included in the guided food tours and cooking classes

What's Not Included

- **International airfare:** flights from the United States to Hanoi and from Ho Chi Minh City back to the United States
- **Travel insurance:** travel protection, including trip cancellation, interruption, medical coverage and emergency evacuation
- **Passport and visa expenses:** passport application or renewal fees and any applicable Vietnam visa or e-visa fees
- **Meals:** lunches, dinners, snacks and beverages unless specifically included in the scheduled itinerary
- **Alcoholic beverages:** beer, wine, cocktails and other alcoholic drinks unless explicitly included in a scheduled experience
- **Gratuities:** tips for local guides, drivers, hotel staff and other service providers
- **Personal expenses:** laundry, minibar charges, spa treatments, telephone charges, room service and other personal purchases
- **Souvenirs and shopping:** personal shopping expenses, gifts and souvenirs
- **Optional activities:** excursions, activities or experiences not specifically identified as included in the itinerary
- **Additional transportation:** taxis, rideshares or private transportation arranged independently during free time
- **Excess baggage fees:** airline charges for luggage exceeding the allowance included with domestic flights
- **Additional expenses:** costs arising from itinerary changes, flight delays, cancellations or circumstances beyond the tour operator's control, except where covered by the applicable supplier terms or travel insurance



Ready to Reserve Your Place?

Space on this small-group journey is limited. Reach out with questions or to secure your spot.

Travis Fink | Book the Ticket Travel

Call or text: 231-486-5450 | travis@bookthetickettravel.com | bookthetickettravel.com

Orchid Cruises: Published 2-Day, 1-Night Schedule



Lan Ha Bay. Photo: Velvet, CC BY-SA 4.0

Round-trip transportation between Hanoi and Ha Long Bay is included in your Book the Ticket Travel package. Times are set by Orchid Cruises and may change without notice due to tides and weather.

Day 1: A Warm Welcome to Ha Long Bay and Lan Ha Bay

- **07:50 to 08:20 Morning Departure.** Board the Orchid bus for a scenic drive through the Red River Delta toward Ha Long Bay.
- **11:00 to 11:30 Arrival at Tuan Chau Marina.** Check in at the waiting lounge (Lot 32) and enjoy a selection of welcome teas.
- **11:45 to 12:00 Boarding & Briefing.** A speedboat transfers you to the main vessel for a welcome drink and brief safety orientation.
- **12:45 to 13:00 Lunch with a View.** Buffet lunch while cruising deep into the landscapes of Ha Long and Lan Ha Bay.
- **14:45 to 15:00 Exploring Ao Ech.** Discover a "hidden paradise" by kayak, immersed in the pristine nature of this secluded area.
- **16:00 to 16:45 Transition to Tra Bau.** Cruise on to the overnight anchorage at Tra Bau, a serene and beautiful corner of the bay.
- **18:00 to 18:15 A Culinary Journey.** Join the culinary team for a cooking demonstration or enjoy happy hour at the bar as the sun sets. Massage services are available; please book with the Cruise Manager directly.
- **19:15 to 19:30 Gourmet Dinner.** A sophisticated fusion dinner of fresh ingredients in an elegant neoclassical setting.
- **21:00 to 21:30 Nighttime Leisure.** Try squid fishing, watch a movie in the restaurant or relax at the sundeck bar.

Day 2: Ha Long Bay to Hanoi (Breakfast & Brunch)

- **06:00 to 06:30 Morning Reflections.** A final sunrise Tai Chi session, with breakfast served as the cruise continues through the karst landscape.
- **07:40 to 07:55 Thien Cung Cave.** Explore the "Heavenly Palace," celebrated for its vast chambers and intricate stalactite formations.
- **09:45 to 10:00 Brunch & Check-Out.** Return to the ship to check out while enjoying a final brunch.
- **11:00 to 11:30 Disembarkation.** Arrive back at Tuan Chau Marina and bid farewell to the crew.

Cruise Included

- Luxury cabin and facilities as booked
- All onboard meals as listed in the itinerary
- Kayaking, cooking demonstration, Tai Chi, swimming (weather permitting), movies and squid fishing
- English-speaking tour guide and onboard service fee
- Welcome drink and two bottles of water in the cabin
- Onboard insurance, sightseeing fees and value added tax

Cruise Not Included

- Massage treatments (available to book in advance)
- Personal expenses and services not listed as included

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