

Vietnam's best highlights for you to enjoy including the faded colonial elegance of Hanoi, the natural wonders of Halong Bay, Hue's rich history and majestic buildings. Relax in the magical town of Hoi An. Visit the dynamic and vibrant city of Ho Chi Minh City, the tunnels of Cu Chi and the bustling Mekong Delta.

### Starting Point Instructions

If you have an arrival transfer, a driver will await you holding a sign with your name when you exit the airport terminal. Please note most drivers don't speak English.

### Arrival Complications

We don't expect any problems but if for any reason you are unable to commence your group trip as scheduled, please contact your starting point hotel, requesting that you speak to or leave a message for your trip leader. If this is unsuccessful, please refer to our Emergency Contact person & phone number.

If your airport transfer has not made contact within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point Hotel. Should this occur, please apply to your travel agent for a refund of the transfer cost on your return.

### Starting Point Hotel – Hong Ngoc Hotel

39 Hang Bac St  
Hanoi  
Vietnam  
Tel: +84 4 926 0322  
Fax: +84 4 926 0321

**Finishing Point Instructions:** If you have a departure transfer, a driver will collect you from the finishing point hotel 3 hours before your departure flight. If your airport transfer has not made contact within 30 minutes before the appointed time, we recommend that you make your own way to the airport. Should this occur, please apply to your travel agent for a refund of the transfer cost on your return.

### Finishing Point Hotel – Madame Cuc Hotel

127 Cong Quynh St  
Ho Chi Minh City  
Vietnam  
Tel: +84 8 836 8761  
Fax: +84 8 836 0658

### Day 1 Hanoi

Today you can check into your hotel and spend the day exploring the streets of Hanoi. Look for the Wide Eyed Tours welcome note at reception, on it your leader will have arranged a time to meet with you to run through the tour itinerary.

### Day 2 Halong Bay

After breakfast you will drive to Ha Long Bay (approx. 3.5 hours) and board your private boat (group tour for small group numbers). You will enjoy lunch whilst cruising through some of the thousands of limestone karsts within this World Heritage site. There is an opportunity to swim in the bay's emerald waters, explore caves with incredible formations of stalactites and stalagmites and enjoy the tranquility of this bay of wonders. Spending the night on the boat allows you to sit back and enjoy the tranquility of Ha Long Bay whilst sipping away on your favorite beverage. Lunch, dinner & breakfast are included.



### Important Note:

When traveling with Wide Eyed Tours we hope to give you as much information as possible before your departure and we recommend that you read our Important Messages document which can be downloaded from our website. This will help you prepare and have a great journey in Vietnam

### CULTURE SHOCK RATING!?

The trip includes a range of accommodation, such as basic hotels with western facilities or overnight trains. Days of being on the move are well interspersed, communication with the outside world is ever-present and a wide variety of food is commonly available.

### Physical Rating

There will be times where you may be required to carry your own bag. Your itinerary may include easy paced walks or bike rides, but these are on mainly flat ground.

### Here today, where tomorrow?

Day 1 Hanoi	Hong Ngoc Hotel
Day 2 Halong	Overnight Boat
Day 3 Hanoi	Overnight Train
Day 4 Hue	Gold Hotel
Day 5 Hoi An	Hai Yen Hotel
Day 6 Hoi An	Hai Yen Hotel
Day 7 HCMC	Madame Cuc Hotel
Day 8 HCMC	Madame Cuc Hotel
Day 9 HCMC	Madame Cuc Hotel
Day 10 Home	

**THIS TOUR ALSO RUNS IN REVERSE**

### Day 3 Hanoi

This morning you have the opportunity to visit Dong Trieu ceramic village as you make your way back to the capital. In Hanoi it is free time for some shopping and sightseeing before boarding the train this evening.

### Day 4 Hue

On arrival to the former Imperial Capital of Vietnam you have a full day to enjoy the many sights and slower pace of this tranquil city. You have the opportunity to visit the Imperial Citadel followed by visiting one of the Nguyen Emperors' tombs. Hue, known as the centre of Buddhism and education in Vietnam, has a wealth of pagodas and monasteries to discover.

You may wish to check out the bustling Dong Ba Market which offers a vast array of goods and foods to see and sample, including some traditional specialties.

### Day 5 Hoi An

You will leave Hue and head south through coastal rice paddies to the fishing village of Lang Co, before taking the scenic mountainous route over the spectacular Hai Van Pass. In the afternoon, you will arrive at the once bustling river port of Hoi An (approx. 4 hours driving time). Declared a World Heritage site, the architecture of Hoi An is being beautifully restored and preserved. It's also a shopping mecca, with much to browse over and buy. Choose from original paintings, handcrafted woodwork, ceramics, embroidery, lanterns and more. Hoi An has also become famous for its tailoring - there is a huge variety of fabrics to choose from.

### Day 6 Hoi An

Free day for you to make the most of what Hoi An has to offer. Enjoy the local sea food and relax on the beaches, or explore the My Son temples on a countryside trip.

You may consider doing a cooking class that your leader can organise for you.

### Day 7 Ho Chi Minh City

A short flight brings you to the economic hub of Ho Chi Minh City (approx 1 hour). After arriving at the hotel, settle in time before absorbing the sights and sounds of this famous Asian city by cyclo.

### Day 8 Ho Chi Minh City

Today it's off to the fascinating Mekong where you get to see how life is dependant on the river for survival. Taking a boat cruise on the mighty Mekong allows for numerous photo opportunities. Another highlight is you will also get to sample an array of tropical fruits that are grown locally. Lunch included.

### Day 9 Ho Chi Minh City

This morning you have a half day trip to the Cu Chi Tunnels, returning to Saigon in the afternoon. There is time for some shopping before your last night's dinner.

### Day 10

Departure day

#### Accommodation:

2 star hotels (7 nights), sleeper train (1 night), boat (1 night). Breakfast is included in all hotels where you have stayed the previous night.

#### Included Activities

Halong Bay boat trip includes meals & entrance fee; Imperial Citadel, Tomb x 1 in Hue; orientation tour in Hoi An; in HCMC, Cu Chi Tunnels, cyclo tour, War Remnants museum, day tour to Mekong Delta, including boat tour & lunch.

All transport is included for these activities.

All flights during the tour are included.

Bring along USD 100 for optional activities not included in the trip.

#### Tipping Guide

For your leader we recommend \$2 USD a day. For drivers & local guides, we recommend \$1 USD a day.

**Arrival & Departure transfer included.**

#### Wide Eyed Tours Rules

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on our trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for Wide Eyed Tours travellers. Wide Eyed Tours philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter, and in particular the local people who make our destinations such special places. The exploitation of prostitutes is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our group leader has the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they use prostitutes.

#### Responsible Travel

We believe strongly in low impact or rather positive impact tourism. Broadly speaking this means that we try to minimise the negative aspects of tourism on the local cultures and environments that we visit and highlight the positive aspects.

**Not ready to go home yet?**

**Visit Cambodia 3 and 4 day options**

**Mui Ne Beach Break and Phu Quoc Island Resort**

Try our short breaks at [www.wideeyedtours.com](http://www.wideeyedtours.com) or phone Hang on 09436 73414