

Food lovers will get an in-depth look into the much admired and tasty Vietnamese cuisine on this 10 day tour! Begin your exploration with the rush of Ho Chi Minh City and the Mekong Delta. Everyone alike will love the charm of Ancient Hoi An & Hue before ending in Hanoi.

Starting Point Instructions

As you have an arrival transfer as part of this tour, 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 – Grand Hotel

8 Dong Khoi St
Ho Chi Minh City
Vietnam
Tel: +84 8 823 0163
Fax: +84 8 827 3047

Finishing Point Instructions: As you have a departure transfer as part of this tour, 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 – Flower Garden

46 Nguyen Truong To St
Hanoi
Vietnam
Tel: +84 4 715 2688
Fax: +84 4 715 2699

Day 1 Ho Chi Minh City

Today you can check into your hotel and spend the day exploring the streets of Ho Chi Minh. Look for the Wide Eyed Tours welcome note at reception, on it your tour leader will have arranged a time to meet with you to run through the tour itinerary. After the group meeting, walk around the lake to sample some of Ho Chi Minh's best at a well known Vietnamese restaurant.

Day 2 Ho Chi Minh City

Today you will have the opportunity to learn a selection of favourite southern dishes, an ability to recognize the basic ingredients, the blending of these many ingredients and spices to create the famous "nuoc mam" (fish sauce) as well as cooking of a multitude of different rice. Apart from the preparation and cooking under our Chef guidance, you will be introduced to the traditional Vietnamese kitchen with cooking utensils still closely linked to the Vietnamese way of life, you will learn a touch of oriental science with the Yin-Yang aspect along with the history of Vietnamese Cuisine from its roots in the Hue Citadel Imperial Cuisine to the effects of various influences from both the West and other Eastern Cultures. Finally you will understand the intricacies of the Vietnamese dining Etiquette and the technique to master the chopsticks!



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!?

Light

The trip includes 3 - 4 star accommodation. 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

This trip has been planned with comfort in mind, everyone can participate in all activities. There are not too many challenges on this tour.

Here today, where tomorrow?

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Day 1 HCMC | Grand Hotel |
| Day 2 HCMC | Grand Hotel |
| Day 3 HCMC | Grand Hotel |
| Day 4 Hoi An | Hoi An Hotel |
| Day 5 Hoi An | Hoi An Hotel |
| Day 6 Hoi An | Hoi An Hotel |
| Day 7 Hue | Asia Hotel |
| Day 8 Hanoi | Flower Garden Hotel |
| Day 9 Hanoi | Flower Garden Hotel |
| Day 10 Home | |

Day 3 Ho Chi Minh City

A 2 hour drive to My Tho, where you get on our private boat & go to Turtle Island, an island with many orchards. Here you can enjoy a variety of tropical fruits while listening to traditional South Vietnamese folk songs performed by local artists. Then, you go on a short horse cart ride to a Bee Farm, where we can play with the pythons, try some honey tea, and taste local confectionery. Finally, you have a short rowing boat ride to your main boat, which in turn will take you to Phoenix Island where you will have a cooking demonstration followed by lunch. Here you will get to try the local specialty of Elephant's Ear Fish. After lunch, we go back to the harbour and drive back to Ho Chi Minh.

Day 4 Hoi An

An early morning airport transfer for a flight to Da Nang. On arrival you transfer a short distance to Hoi An. Originally a Cham seaport, this town has been heavily influenced down centuries by a myriad of traders from various cultures. There are plenty to see in this tranquil and delightful town, some of which are the famous Japanese Covered Bridge, the Pottery Museum, the 200 year old Tam Ky House, the Chua Ong Pagoda and the vibrant fish market.

Day 5 Hoi An

Meet our Chef and go to visit Hoi An colorful market and experience the amazing sights, sounds and aromas of this busy market. We have chance to interact with local sellers and purchase some of ingredients to be used in the cooking class this morning at Red Bridge Cooking School. We have opportunity to discover the cooking school's herb and vegetable garden before learning about some of Hoi An's and Vietnam's well-known-dishes. This Cooking Class & Demo gives an interesting insight into the unique local cuisine. The course lasts about 1 hour and 15 minutes including demonstrations from the school's chefs and introduction to Vietnamese food carving & plate decoration.

Day 6 Hoi An

Today is a free day; your leader will explain the numerous options available. You may wish to have that last minute outfit made up!

Day 7 Hue

You will leave Hoi An and head north through coastal rice paddies to the fishing village of Lang Co, after taking the scenic mountainous route over the spectacular Hai Van Pass. In the afternoon, you will arrive at the Vietnam's former capital and take a look at the Citadel. Tonight we will not only learn how to cook the meal but also we learn how to lay the table and decorate dishes.

Day 8 Hanoi

Drive to Phu Bai airport for early flight to Hanoi. Upon arrival, get picked up and transferred to hotel in Hanoi. Start to visit Hanoi for half day. We will visit the first University of Vietnam - Temple of Literature, the Hoa Lo Prison and have 1 hour on cyclo to discover the local life in the Old Quarter. Tonight we'll visit the famed Water Puppet Theater near Hoan Kiem Lake. Dinner at local specialty restaurant; Cha Ca!

Day 9 Hanoi

Meet Ms An at her private cooking school and then go shopping at local market. Stroll around to visit distinct food sections with their variety of herbs, vegetables, meat and seafood. It is interesting to see and to learn how local's choose and buy the best quality of the fresh food from numerous food stalls in the market. With a rattan hand basket, your job is to buy some herbs and spices for the cooking class. Cooking lesson followed by lunch, Ms An, the chef will taste and give a reward to the best dish. After lunch, a little gift and all of the recipes from the cooking class will be given to you as you leave. Free time for shopping before last night's dinner.

Day 10 Hanoi

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

Accommodation:

4-5 star hotels (9 nights). Breakfast is included in all hotels where you have stayed the previous night.

Included Activities

All Meals included. Imperial Citadel, Tomb in Hue; orientation tour in Hoi An; in HCMC, cyclo tour, War Remnants museum, day tour to Mekong Delta, including boat tour. All transport is included for these activities. All transport included. All flights tickets during the tour are included.

Bring along USD200 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?

Ha Long Bay & Sapa Extensions

Try our short breaks at www.wideeyedtours.com or phone Hang on 09436 73414