

Travel the length of the country on National Highway One, the backbone of Vietnam. Take in the changing scenery as you travel overland from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City. This tour offers the highlights such as Hoi An, Hue and more. Take in the stunning rural journey through Quy Nhon to the coastal delight of Mui Ne as you discover Vietnam inside out. This style of tour suits those who like to do more of their own thing whilst having the hassle of accommodation and transport taken care of. Minimal inclusions.



Starting Point Instructions

If 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 – Hong Ngoc Hotel

34 Hang Manh St
Hanoi
Vietnam
Tel: +84 4 8 285 053
Fax: +84 4 8 285 054

Finishing Point Instructions: If 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 – Madame Cuc Hotel

126 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. After the group meeting, walk around the lake to sample some of Hanoi's best at a well known Vietnamese restaurant.

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. Many days are free for you to explore on your own.

Physical Rating

There will be times where you will 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	Hong Ngoc Hotel
Day 4 Hanoi	Hong Ngoc Hotel
Day 5 Hue	Gold Hotel
Day 6 Hue	Gold Hotel
Day 7 Hoi An	Hai Yen Hotel
Day 8 Hoi An	Hai Yen Hotel
Day 9 Hoi An	Hai Yen Hotel
Day 10 Quy Nhon	Hoang Yen
Day 11 Nha Trang	Dong Phuong
Day 12 Nha Trang	Dong Phuong
Day 13 Dalat	Villa 28
Day 14 Dalat	Villa 28
Day 15 Mui Ne	Canary Resort
Day 16 Mui Ne	Canary Resort
Day 17 HCMC	Madame Cuc
Day 18 HCMC	Madame Cuc
Day 19 HCMC	Madame Cuc
Day 20 Home	

Day 3 Hanoi

Return to Hanoi and enjoy free time to explore the city at your own pace. Your leader will give you suggestions on where to go & what to see.

Day 4 Hanoi

This morning your leader can take you to Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum before leaving you free to further explore this great city. Why not visit The Temple Of Literature, Hanoi's first university or take time to explore the Old Quarter. This evening board your overnight train bound for the imperial city of Hue.

Day 5 Hue

Hue, the former Imperial Capital of Vietnam, you are sure to enjoy the many sights and slower pace of this tranquil city. Today you have the option of visiting the Nguyen Emperors' tombs of Tu Duc and the impressive Citadel.

DAY 6 Hue

Today is free for you to explore Hue and its surrounds. Ask your leader about optional activities in and around Hue. Choices include a motorbike ride through the surrounding countryside, a visit to Thien Mu Pagoda or enjoy a dragon-boat cruise on the Perfume River. 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 Hue specialties.

Day 7 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).

Day 8 Hoi An

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 9 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 to have that last minute outfit made up!

Day 10 Quy Nhon

A full day's travel by bus along the backbone of Vietnam – Highway One. Enjoy the spectacular rural scenery as you sit back and enjoy the journey.

Day 11 Nha Trang

Continue your way south along the highway to the coastal town of Nha Trang. After checking in there is time for swim or simply chill out & relax.

Day 12 Nha Trang

A bus will collect you to take you to meet the boat that will take you for a relaxing cruise around Nha Trang Bay. Swimming & a sumptuous sea food lunch is all that's on the agenda today.

Accommodation:

2 star hotels (17 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; boat trip in Nha Trang. All transport is included for these activities. Bring along USD 400 for optional activities not incl. 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.

Day 13 Dalat

Leave the coast for the mountainous city of Da Lat. Enjoy the cooler climate and ambience of this former Colonial hill station.

Day 14 Dalat

Dalat is home to many Vietnamese artists and those of the avant garde set. As part of your city tour today you will visit the Mad Monk, Vien Thuc and explore his garden of Zen paintings and poetry.

Day 15 Mui Ne

Return to the coast and the beachside town of Mui Ne

Day 16 Mui Ne

Relax all day or take the opportunity to explore the town of Mui Ne (famed for its fish sauce!). You options are varied from water sports to sand dunes or simply do nothing and relax.

Day 17 Ho Chi Minh City

Enjoy a relaxing morning before heading to the hustle and bustle of Ho Chi Minh City.

Day 18 Ho Chi Minh City

A free day in this vibrant bustling city. For those who wish then you leader will organise a tour 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. Back on the bus for the drive back to HCM city where you will have time for shopping, before your final nights dinner.

Day 19 Ho Chi Minh City

This morning is an early start to first go and visit the former Viet Cong stronghold at Cu Chi where the tunnel system provides a valuable insight into the tenacity and resourcefulness of the Vietnamese people. Back to HCM city, lunch followed by an orientation tour by cyclo of the main attractions, including the very sobering War Remnants Museum. Your hotel is centrally located to the city's main shopping district and Ben Thanh Market, so there is much for you to explore and discover during the afternoon.

Day 20

Departure day, your transfer will pick you up from the hotel 3 hours before your departure flight.

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.wideeyetours.com or phone Hang on 09436 73414