

TROPICALTOURS

Expert in discovering the authentic



photo: doanlinhlong

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Tropical Tours specializes in the discovery of the cultures and traditions of the ethnic peoples of Vietnam. Magnificent made-to-measure expeditions, off the beaten track, in small groups and, where possible, over-nighting in the houses of the local people themselves, in addition, all the classic tours of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Lonely Planet, French edition

COMPANY INTRODUCTION

Tropical Tours has been operating since 2002, beginning under the name of "Eco-tours" with the sponsorship of the Hai Phong Tourism Company.

In 2003, Eco-tours was selected to organize a mission for the officers of the Publishing Department of the Ministry of Culture of Vietnam to tour and work in Europe.

In 2004, the company was legally established under the name of "Tropical Tours" targeting groups of professional experts in sciences, agriculture, forestry, archeology, etc, who wished to come to Vietnam for study tours and, among others, research on tropical biodiversity.

Since beginning operations, Tropical Tours has maintained a premium service to very specialized groups of visitors. Tropical Tours has also established its name among prestige travel agents in the tour/travel industry, specializing in organizing multi-day customized tours. Some of the most frequently requested tours are featured as examples in this small booklet:

1. Mountain to the sea tour (7 days)
2. Mountain tour
3. Halong tour
4. Anthropological tour
5. Eco-tour
6. Ultimate Discovery Tour of Vietnam (18 days, 17 nights).

In addition, Tropical Tours has organized Indochina Tours that help visitors discover Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam in a single trip.

Tropical Tours has established a mutual cooperation with a number of prestige partners in the travel industry, among which:

In 2004, Korean Airlines selected Tropical Tours as its travel agent partner – also introducing other Korean customers.

In 2005, Tropical Tours organized a mission for the Aix Marseille Universite in France to study the culture of the ethnic minorities of Vietnam, especially the Dao and H-Mong ethnic groups in the northern mountainous areas.

In 2008, Tropical Tours organized a study tour for a group of 18 students from the Art & Visual Culture of Olin Arts Center, Bates College (www.bates.edu) , ME, USA for 3 weeks on a tour to discover the lifestyle and culture of the Viet people in the North of Vietnam, Halong Bay and Hue regions with good reviews from the visitors.

From 2008-2011, Tropical Tours was selected as the sole travel agent of the Sofitel Legend Metropole of Hanoi.

In 2012, Lonely Planet identified Tropical Tours as a professional tour organizer with many outstanding qualities in services - compared with other local tour organizers/travel agents.

Other professional travel operators partnering with Tropical Tours include:

Song Xanh Cruise Me Kong

Bassac Cruise Me Kong

Ha Long Indochina Sails

Catba sailing junk

Ha Long Indochina Junk

Hotel de l'Opera Ha Noi

Ha Noi Apricot Hotel

Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi

Victoria Hotels and Resorts

Sa Pa Topas ecolodge

Ky Son Moon Garden Homestay

Mai Chau Ecolodge

Ninh Binh Emeralda Resort

Hue Pilgrimage Village-boutique resort & spa

Hue Asia Hotel

Hoi An Botanic Garden Homestay

Hotel Majestic Saigon

Cassia Cottage Phu Quoc

Laveranda Resorts Phu Quoc

Angkor VillageHotel and Resorts in Siemriep

www.songxanhcruisemekong.com

www.transmekong.com

www.indochinasails.com

www.catbajonques.com

www.indochina-junk.com

www.hoteldelopera.com

www.apricothotels.com

www.sofitel-legend.com

www.victoriahotels.asia

www.topasecolodge.com

www.moongardenhomestay.com

www.maichau.ecolodge.asia/

www.emeraldaresort.com

www.pilgrimagevillage.com

www.asiahotel.com.vn

www.botanichomestay.com

www.majesticsaigon.com

www.cassiacottage.com

www.laverandaresorts.com

www.angkorvillage.com



LAO CAI

photo: duongminhlong

Comment from Mr Stephan Bau with his wife on routard.com
http://www.routard.com/forum_message/3881809/voyage_au_nord_vietnam_avec_tropicaltours.htm

Program: Sharing the lives of Ethnic and Mountain Landscapes tour (7 days 8 nights)

Nationality: French

E-mail address: baustephane@hotmail.com

Greetings to everyone,

We want to share our really perfect experience in North Vietnam, organized by TROPICALTOURS!! As for the organization of the North Vietnam trip, and for all the people who were with us during those seven days:

The Hanoi hotel quality you booked for us is very friendly, and the staff was professional...

You've arranged for us a very nice and careful driver with a very comfortable car ...

All those who gave us hospitality in their homes were very nice and attentive - and served great food!!

The entire TROPICALSTOURS team was attentive, serious, professional ...

We trekked 4 days from Sapa and covered over 50km among ethnic villages.

Then we visited the Cao Son and Bac Ha, and 2 ethnic markets - including one at the Chinese border where we were the only 2 tourists!!

As for the French guide, we will keep those seven days with Lap in our heart. He made it possible for us to be closer to the people, and to discover northern Vietnam. He was very kind, professional and attentive.

Once again, we thank all the people we met - the guide, the driver, the people of northern Vietnam, the professionals, and Tropical Tours.

Stephan Bau



LAI CHAU

photo: aQuangminhlong

Comment from Mr Guy Le Rest

Program: Cambodia and Vietnam Discovery "Historical, cultural and natural tour" 18 days /17nights

Age: 83 years old

Nationality: French

E-mail address: guy.lereste@wanadoo.fr

Dear Hang,

Thank you for these beautiful days spent in your company in Phu Quoc, walking among the fishermen, getting to know you and your colleagues. Also thank you to Ms. Bi and your Tropical Tours team for their hospitality in Hanoi.

Thank you for the perfect organization of the trip and the choice of guides, especially Mai in Hanoi.

Finally, thank you for this beautiful gift waiting for me in Saigon, which I now have decorating my room.

I hope to return soon to Vietnam because I fell in love with your country, I wish to know it better, and to live among its people -whose smiles remain etched in my memory and in my heart.

With my warmest thoughts for you and your wonderful team.

Guy Le Rest



HA GIANG

photo: duongminhlong

Comment from Mr Denis Ferment and his family.

Program: Vietnam Discovery "High plateau and archaeological site, Mekong delta tour" 17 days /16 nights

Age: 68 years old

Nationality: French

E-mail address: dferment@free.fr

Good day, Miss,

To help you in your work, please find attached some comments on our trip and your program, which we all were very happy with and for which we thank you.

We want to highlight our favorites during the trip:

Hoi-An: Visit the old town with the guide, Khuyen, free bike ride to the sea, very nice hotel ThuyDuong3 –well cared-for decor, good breakfast, very good reception.

My Son: Cham site visit in the morning - without a lot of tourists.

Kon Tum: Visit to the wooden cathedral, the museum, the Jarai village and its cemetery with the guide, Nguyen Dinh Son; Night at the homestay in Konkotu (comfortable and peaceful).

Lak Lake: ride an elephant across the lake, walk through the villages around, and dinner in a traditional house.

Dalat: beautiful mountain road between BMT and Dalat 1,5 days free to enjoy the city: Bao Dai Villa, the HangNga folly, summer garden, love valley, railway station and embroidery museum.

Saigon: Ao Show at the Opera, crazy traffic in the streets, the well located hotel. Cai Be: the beautiful Mekong lodge along the Mekong River, bike tours in the island.

Chau Doc / Sadec: Program change due to lack of water in the mangroves; it gave us a ride in the floating gardens of Chau Doc and a tour of the villa of "The Lover" by Marguerite Duras.

The guides:

Appreciated the Hoi-An Guide: Khuyen, pleasant, educated, connected to Hoi-An and My-Son.

Nguyen also for his visit Kon-Tun, villages Banhar.

J.Baptiste: BMT, Dalat too talkative but nice and VERY communicating.

The Hotels: super: Hoi-An / ThuyDuong 3; Living in Konkotu; Mekong Lodge in Cai-Be.

Denis Ferment



LAO CAI

photo: duongminhlong

Comment from Mr Arnaud Tandonnet with his wife on routard.com

http://www.routard.com/forum_message/3640153/tropical_tour.htm

Program: Discover Viet Nam and Cambodia (13days/12nights)

Nationality: French

E-mail address: arnaud.tandonnet@gmail.com

"My wife and I are just returning from another trip to Vietnam and to Siem Reap in Cambodia: we first visited the Angkor temples in Cambodia; and then Hanoi, Halong Bay, Hue and Hoi An in Vietnam.

We chose Tropical Tours from among several agencies I've got to know, and I have to say that we were more than satisfied with their services.

Our principal contact was Ms Hang, and we were impressed with the flexibility and excellence of the service given: no problem whatsoever on hotels, flights, quality guides and drivers - everything.

The agency was always available and attentive to our needs: every day I received a couple of emails to tell me the schedule for the next day. An example of their helpfulness: when arrived at the airport in Hanoi, we were greeted at the airport by the agent of Tropical Tours, who waited for our luggage with us. My suitcase arrived, but my wife's did not. The Tropical Tours agent took his walkie-talkie, and immediately contacted a few people - to discover that the bag had been mis-routed through Paris and had arrived on another flight. Five minutes later we had the bag!

I strongly recommend this agency."

Arnaud Tandonnet



HA GIANG

photo: duongminhlong

Ha Giang is the cape-North frontier in northern Vietnam, an amazing landscape of limestone pinnacles and granite outcrops. The far north of the province has some of the most spectacular scenery in the country, and the trip between Yen Minh and Dong Van, and then across the Ma Pi Leng Pass to Meo Vac is mind-blowing. Ha Giang has become one of the most popular destinations in this region with the un-touched nature and magnificent landscape shaped by the karst and limestone for thousands of years.

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/vietnam/northwest-vietnam-/ha-giang-province#ixzz400ZQK0pT>



HA LONG BAY

photo: daongminhlong

"Towering limestone pillars and tiny islets topped by forest rise from the emerald waters of the Gulf of Tonkin. Halong translates as 'where the dragon descends into the sea' and legend tells that this mystical seascape was created when a great mountain dragon charged towards the coast, its flailing tail gouging out valleys and crevasses. As the creature plunged into the sea, the area filled with water leaving only the pinnacles visible. The geological explanation of karst erosion may be more prosaic, but doesn't make this seascape any less poetic...."

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/vietnam/northeast-vietnam/halong-bay>



HA LONG BAY

photo: tuongminhlong

"Designated a World Heritage site in 1994, Halong Bay's spectacular scatter of islands, dotted with wind- and wave-eroded grottoes, is a vision of ethereal beauty and, unsurprisingly, northern Vietnam's number one tourism hub. Sprawling Halong City is the bay's main gateway but its dowdy high-rises are a disappointing doorstep to this site. Most visitors sensibly opt for cruise-tours that include sleeping on board within the bay, while a growing number are deciding to eschew the main bay completely, heading straight for Cat Ba Island from where trips to less-visited but equally alluring Lan Ha Bay are easily set up...."

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/vietnam/northeast-vietnam/halong-bay>



HA LONG BAY

photo: duongminhlong

"Halong Bay attracts visitors year-round with peak season between late May and early August. January to March is often cool and drizzly, and the ensuing fog can make visibility low, but adds bags of eerie atmosphere. From May to September tropical storms are frequent, and year-round tourist boats sometimes need to alter their itineraries, depending on the weather. November's sunny blue-sky days and lack of crowds make it the best time to make a beeline here...."

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/vietnam/northeast-vietnam/halong-bay>



CHAM ISLANDS

photo: duongminhlong

"A breathtaking cluster of granite islands, set in aquamarine seas, around 15km directly offshore from Hoi An, the Cham Islands make a wonderful excursion. Once closed to visitors and under close military supervision, day trips, diving or snorkelling the reefs, or staying overnight is now possible.

The serenity of the islands has been compromised – especially on weekends and Vietnamese holidays – by boatloads of tourists from the mainland, so plan your visit accordingly. It'll have to be between March and September, as the ocean is usually too rough at other times. There are also plans afoot to develop the islands more like a central Vietnam version of Phu Quoc, and coastal land has been confirmed for resort development...."

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/vietnam/cham-islands#ixzz400aIQwOm>



CENTRAL HIGHLANDS



photo: duongminhlong

"...The central highlands can't quite match the northern mountains for scenic beauty, and its minority groups are far less colourful, but there's a lot to see here – thundering waterfalls, mist-laden mountains, immense longhouses and barely a tourist in sight...."

<http://www.roughguides.com/destinations/asia/vietnam/the-central-highlands/#ixzz400eSW7Tr>

"....Heading north from Da Lat, you'll pass pretty Lak Lake, an attractive body of water surrounded by minority villages. Then comes a series of gritty highland towns whose reputations rest less on tourist sights than on the villages and open terrain that ring them. First comes Buon Ma Thuot, a surprisingly busy place considering its far-flung location. While the city itself has little to detain the visitor, the surrounding waterfalls and E De minority villages certainly do; it's also the gateway for treks into Yok Don National Park...."

<http://www.roughguides.com/destinations/asia/vietnam/the-central-highlands/#ixzz400ewBOCY>



DA LAT

photo: duongminhlong

"Dalat is Vietnam's alter ego: the weather is spring-like cool instead of tropical hot, the town is dotted with elegant French-colonial villas rather than stark socialist architecture, and the farms around are thick with strawberries and flowers, not rice...."

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/vietnam/dalat-around#ixzz400cHAOYn>

Lang Biang of Dalat:

"....Also called Lam Vien Mountain, this spot has five volcanic peaks ranging in altitude from 2100m to 2400m. Of the two highest peaks, the eastern one is known by the woman's name K'Lang, while the western one bears a man's name, K'Biang. Only the upper reaches of the mountain remain forested, whereas just half a century ago the foothills had lush foliage that sheltered many wild animals...."

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/vietnam/central-highlands/dalat/sights/parks-gardens/lang-bian-mountain#ixzz400burlvs>

FEATURE TOURS:

MOUNTAIN TO THE SEA OF VIETNAM IN 7 DAYS

Day 1 (9 Feb 2016): Ha Noi - Sapa - Visit villages

Day 2 (10 Feb 2016): Visit Sa Pa villages

Day 3 (11 Feb 2016): Sapa - Tuyen Quang

Day 4 (12 Feb 2016): Tuyen Quang - Bac Son

Day 5 (13 Feb 2016): Bac Son - Ha Long

Day 6 (14 Feb 2016): Ha Long - Ninh Binh

Day 7 (15 Feb 2016): Ninh Binh - Ha Noi

Day 1 (09 Feb 2016): Ha Noi - Sapa - Black Hmong village of Cat Cat, Sin Chai

Departure for Sapa around 7:30 by the Noi Bai - Lao Cai highway, passing beautiful landscapes. Arrive in Sa Pa, check into hotel.



Descending on the hill and walking along the valley for 4-5km you can see Black H'mong at work: plowing, planting, harvesting, etc. After visiting the village, you can go further down the valley, along the way you will see a hydroelectric plant built in 1925 by the French that has long supplied power to Sapa town, then you will pass a bridge. Continuing on the stone path, you will reach the top of the hill in 10 minutes. This is the buffalo pasture, with stunning views of Sapa town.

Note that some old Hmong houses are still covered with cypress wood shingles, blackened with years. Some of the boards are over 70 years old! Following the path to the right leads through forests and bamboo forests, with spectacular views of the Vang river. A few steps later, you'll take the right path to go down to Sin Chai village, where you will discover the lifestyles of the inhabitants and their daily routines. Return to Sapa in late afternoon. Overnight at hotel in Sapa.

Day 2 (10 Feb 2016): Sapa - Black Hmong village of Lao Chai and Ta Van (Breakfast).

- An easy path takes you 6 km from the town of Sapa in the village of Black Hmong Lao Chai people (possible access by Jeep). This village is in the middle of a beautiful landscape, facing Fansipan Mountain (3143m), Vietnam's highest peak (Indochina's roof), including deep valleys and terraced rice fields. At the end of the valley of small you will find shops that sell tea, fruit. In the afternoon, you will continue to on Ta Van village, which has a large bamboo forest. The village is divided into three parts: the part by the Giay river (whose women wear blouses of pink, fuchsia, apple green, bright canary blue or yellow), the part halfway up the Red Dao (large red hats with pompoms are worn) and the part at the top of the village of the Black Hmong (who are dressed in hemp cloth in dark blue indigo).

- Return to Sapa.

Day 3 (11 Feb 2016): Sapa - Tuyen Quang (Breakfast).

Breakfast. Departure for Tuyen Quang, time to stop along the way in time for photos. Arrival in Tuyen Quang in the afternoon. Overnight at hotel in Tuyen Quang.

Day 4 (12 Feb 2016): Tuyen Quang - Bac Son (Breakfast)



Breakfast. Drive to Bac Son (Lang Son province). This village lies in a high valley, and is inhabited by Tay (also called Tho) and Nung ethnics.

Arrival in Bac Son District, visiting sites in Quynh Son: the Quynh Son Ca temple, Rieng bridge, the Well Fairy (Gieng Tien). Mountain trek to enjoy panoramic views of the Bac Son Valley.

Lunch in the village of Quynh Son Tay eating specialties from the region, Dinner and overnight among Tay ethnic people in a house on stilts.

Day 5 (13 Feb 2016): Bac Son - Ha Long Port of Hon Gai - Bai Tu Long Bay (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



07:30: Departure from your hotel to Halong Bay.

12:00 - 12:30: Boarding at the international port of Hon Gay.

12:30 - 13:00: check-in, welcome cocktail. Beginning of the cruise.

13:30 - 15:00: Lunch on board as the cruise heads to Bai Tu Long Bay, admiring the fascinating rock formations of the bay, such as Poem mountain Teapot Island and goat Head Island

15:15 - 15:40: Discover the secluded Thien Canh Son

15:45 - 18:00: Short cruise to Hon Co Island where you can relax on a white sand beach, kayaking

18:00 - 19:00: Back to junk for relaxation. Contemplation of dusk.

Day 6 (14 Feb 2016): Bai Tu Long - Vung Vieng fishing village - Port of Hon Gay - Ninh Binh (breakfast, lunch)

07:30 - 08:00: Enjoy the fresh air and gentle breeze on the deck with a cup of tea or coffee, Breakfast outdoors onboard.

08:30 - 09:30: Boat trips to the Vung Vieng fishing villages, meeting with villagers, visiting the floating school and fish farms.

09:30: Leisure time for swimming in the middle of the bay.

10:00: Check-out. A la carte lunch while the junk returns to the pier of Hon Gay.

11:45 - 12:00: Disembark at the port of Hon Gay. Then transfer back to Hanoi, visit the village of Yen Duc along the way.

A trip to the village Yen Duc is a journey back in time to a typical Vietnamese agricultural village that is rich in culture and traditions. It is also the chance to visit the charming fields, a holy pagoda, a cave and historic sites while wandering the narrow streets, enjoying the fresh and fragrant air, and talking with the hospitable local people.

2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.: Water-puppet show by artists of the village, a very ancient local tradition.

The region is often called the "Ha Long Bay on land" because we can see limestone islands several hundred meters high that rise up amidst the tender green rice. Crossing rivers and lakes we discover the caves to the rhythm of the boats.

Day 7 (15 Feb 2016): Ninh Binh - Tam Coc - Hoa Lu - Ha Noi (Breakfast)



In the morning, go cycling around the village, followed by a boat trip on the river through the scenic landscapes and routes into the beautiful Tam Coc caves (literally "the 3 caves") naturally formed under the high limestone monoliths with stalactites and stalagmites created by the flow of water over centuries.

Depart at 8am for the city of Hoa Lu, the ancient capital of Vietnam in the tenth century.

- Continue to visit the Temple of Dinh Tien Hoang (Dinh dynasty, tenth century) and the Temple of Lê (Lê dynasty, eleventh century).

Return to Hanoi in the afternoon.

PRICE: 808USD / PERSON (group of 02 people)

Including:

* Transport:

+ Private car and minibus according to the program

+ Sampan boat and by program

+ The private junk Princess (1 cabin) and kayaking in Halong Bay

* Meals as indicated (Poj = Breakfast, Dj = Lunch, Dinner = Di)

* The indicated visits and entrance fees

* The tour guides

* Accommodation and hotels:

+ 2 nights hotel in Sa Pa (Sa Pa Hmong Hotel - deluxe room with views of the valley)

+ 1 night in small hotel in Tuyen Quang

+ 1 night in ethnic capita Tay Bac Son

+ 1 night at hotel in Ninh Binh (Chez Loan)

+ 1 night on the private junk Princess 1 cabin and kayaking in Halong Bay

Do not forget: Passport, Sun Cream, Spray repellent, shoes for small excursions.

MOUNTAIN TOUR

In addition to the famous tourist attractions, Tropical Tours is the expert in showing the untouched places, which no tourists and few visitors have got to know, where the native culture and customs remain intact, and the landscape enchants.

For example, in Lao Cai, we not only help visitors have a more in-depth view of Sapa but we also take you to places off the beaten track, such as: Pha Long commune in Muong Khuong District; Sang Ma Sao commune in Bat Xat district; and Can Cau commune in Simacai district.



Can Cau commune, Simacai district, Lao Cai province



Y Ty commune, Bat Xat district, Lao Cai province



Sang Ma Sao commune, Bat Xat district, Lao Cai province

HALONG TOUR

On our Ha Long tour, in addition to the traditional itineraries in which visitors spend their time on a cruise to discover the bay or kayaking on the sea, we also take our visitors to different places off the worn routes, such as visiting the fishing villages or the untouched islands - so that you can have a true feeling for the nature and people of the Ha Long Bay region. We've been doing this type of tour for many years and have become expert in helping visitors see, feel, touch and sense the true nature of each place.



Ngoc Vung island, Ha Long Bay



Bai Tu Long bay



Ngoc Vung island, Ha Long Bay

ANTHROPOLOGICAL TOUR

"LIVE AMONG THE ETHNIC MOUNTAIN CULTURES " (A PROFESSIONAL ANTHROPOLOGIST IS THE GUIDE)

These tours are organized according to your interests and the time you have. We offer, at your request, custom-designed itineraries off the tourist routes to meet your particular needs and expectations.

The goal is to introduce you unobtrusively into the heart of the life of the mountain tribes in some of the thousands of fascinating villages off the tourist routes.

Your guide, a professional anthropologist is familiar with the local culture, and will bring you to feel and share the rhythm of the ethnic villages. Often, for trips into the forests and the mountains, we ask our hosts to become our guides: a way to spend more time with them and to support them in their economic activities.

One of the secrets of these meetings is time. To really meet the people, we must spend time with them. Thus, our "anthropological excursions" generally follow the rhythm of one day of travel (land cruiser or motorcycle) followed by a day of cultural discovery of the cultures.

By choice, all meals and lodging are homestay, in villages far from the distractions of the major roads.



H-Mong ethnic people in Mu Cang Chai district, Yen Bai province



Dao Ke Mien ethnic people – Taphin, Sapa

ECO-TOUR

Tropical Tours has many special Eco-Tour products. It was, and remains, the first and only group organizing visits in the region of Nghia Do village of Bao Yen district Lao Cai province, considered by Vietnamese and international experts to offer the best opportunities for eco-tourism in the North of Vietnam - for both the level of preservation of local culture and the facilities available.

Day 1 (January 25, 2016): Hanoi - Nghia Do (lunch, dinner included)

- Departure from Hanoi by car early in the morning, you go to Nghia Do, in the southeast of Lao Cai province, the home of the Tay people. You cross the Red River Delta and the mid-mountain area north of Hanoi. The landscape becomes more and more impressive and densely wooded, sometimes with hills completely covered by forest, like around Yen Bai.

Nghia Do: the Tay ethnic village: wooden houses on the most beautiful columns.

- Nghia Do is a village that has long remained isolated from the Red River Valley because the bridge over the Chay river (flowing from China) has been destroyed many times. Since 2006, a modern bridge has connected the village to the capital of Pho Rang district, but the traditional pace of local life is still preserved. In close collaboration with local farmers, a small Franco-Vietnamese has been implemented to preserve the traditional wooden architecture and crafts of the Tay ethnic people.

- The Nghia Do valley is a haven of peace, isolated in spite of easy access by road. Every great pylon-house is surrounded by a large garden planted with palms, whose leaves are still used for covering roofs (economical, local, insulating against the cold as well as the heat, and quiet under the tropical rain). You will certainly have the chance to see village people cooperating to repair palm roofs.

- Home stay with the Tay ethnic people, wooden house on stilts in the middle of a tropical garden.

Day 2 (January 26, 2016): Nghia Do (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

- A day for walks in the different valleys of the village and into the nearby woods. Lovely view of the mountains, traditional homes nestled in the forests, and the local crops around the villages: tea, cinnamon, cassava, rice, etc.

- Home stay with the Tay ethnic people, wooden house on stilts in the midst of a tropical garden.

Pictures of the eco-tour village in Nghia Do commune, Bao Yen district, Lao Cai province.



"ULTIMATE DISCOVERY TOUR OF VIETNAM" (18 days - 17 nights)

Program summary:

Day 1: Ho Chi Minh City arrival, city tour
Day 2: Ho Chi Minh City, the temple of Cao Dai and Cu Chi tunnel
Day 3: Ho Chi Minh City- "Mekong Delta"
Day 4: "Mekong Delta "-
Day 5: "Mekong Delta" - Can Tho - Ho Chi Minh City
Day 6: Ho Chi Minh City, Flight to Danang - Hoi An
Day 7: Hoi An - ancient port city
Day 8: Hoi An - Danang - Hue
Day 9: Hue city tour, night train to Hanoi
Day 10: Hanoi city tour
Day 11: Hanoi - Cat Ba Island
Day 12: Cat Ba Island
Day 13: Cat Ba Island - Hanoi, overnight train to Lao Cai
Day 14: Sapa - On Sunday Bac Ha - Tavan
Day 15: Ta Van - Ban Ho
Day 16: Ban ho- Sapa, night train to Hanoi
Day 17: Hanoi - Hoa Lu - Tam Coc - Hanoi
Day 18: Free morning Hanoi - Departure

Details of the itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive Ho Chi Minh City

Arriving at the airport in Ho Chi Minh City on day 1 at 09:15. Welcome at the airport by our driver and transfer to hotel downtown.

- Reunification Palace (former Presidential Palace)
 - Ben Thanh Market
 - Notre Dame Cathedral (1877) built in red brick from Paris - in the heart of downtown Ho Chi Minh City.
 - French colonial architecture.
 - Central Station: adjacent to the cathedral, colonial-style building with a beautiful domed roof.
 - House of the Opera (1897), the theater since 1903
 - Chinatown Cholon, Binh Tay Market
 - Giac Lam Pagoda: oldest historic pagoda built in the 18th century (1744)
 - Temple of Thien Hau, goddess of seafarers, (early 19th century), one of the oldest Chinese temples
- Overnight at hotel in Ho Chi Minh City, Hoang Phu Gia Hotel

Day 2: Ho Chi Minh City - the Cao Dai temple and the Cu Chi tunnel (Breakfast, Lunch)

- Morning: departure to Tay Ninh, headquarters of Cao Dai religion, local mixture of Buddhism, Taoism, Catholicism and Islam, Visit the main temple during the noon prayer and walk in sacred precincts.
 - Afternoon: departure to Cu Chi. Visit tunnels - historic site, visit the tunnel system that used by the Viet Cong (communist) soldiers resist American attacks
 - Return to Ho Chi Minh City around 16:00.
- Overnight at hotel in Ho Chi Minh City, Hoang Phu Gia Hotel

3rd, 4th and 5th Day: The Mekong Delta on a private Song Xanh sampan (guided)

Day 3: Ho Chi Minh City - the floating market of Cai Be - Sa Dec

- About 08:15, private car departure from Ho Chi Minh city in the direction of Cai Be
- Arrival in Cai Be at around 10:30. Board private Song Xanh sampan
- Visit the floating market of Cai Be in the morning with sellers and buyers exchanging their goods from their boats.
- Visit local factories, where you see the locals make coconut candy, rice pasta and other specialties.
- Crossing landscapes of an un-spoilt countryside, you come to Phu An hamlet.
- A typical breakfast will await you in the "Longanier" restaurant, a former home of colonial Indochinese architecture located on the river.
- After-noon, back on board your sampan, continuing the cruise to Vinh Long and Sa Dec considered a small "local Venice" with numerous narrow canals.
- Visit the old house, dating from 1890, home of Mr. Huyen Thuy Le, the "lover" of Marguerite Duras's novel and film, "The Lover".
- Dinner and overnight on board.

Day 4: Sa Dec- Can Tho

- Breakfast is served on board around 7:00 am.
- Crossing lush landscapes, watching the intense activities by the banks of the river.
- Visit local market of Sa Dec, one of the most exotic and authentic markets of Vietnam.
- Back to sampan, continue cruising to Can Tho through the "monkey bridges"
- En route visit to villages, visit a Cao Dai temple with bright colors, and bike ride.
- Before dusk, a stop along the river for the visit of an old house dating from the 19th century.
- A candlelight dinner is served on board in a unique atmosphere.
- After dinner, continuation of the cruise for about an hour until Can Tho. Sampan will anchor in a quiet place.
- Second night on the Mekong River.

Day 5: The floating market of Cai Rang - Ho Chi Minh City

- While you sleep, your sampan will head slowly towards the floating market of Cai Rang. The market of Cai Rang is located near the city of Can Tho on an arm of the Mekong. At sunrise, you can see hundreds of boats equipped with a long bamboo pole on which is offered a pineapple, a tomato, a dragon fruit ... This is how delta farmers sell their produce.
 - The cruise will end at 10:00 at the pier at Ninh Kieu Can Tho. Private transfer back to Ho Chi Minh City
 - * Lunch on the way = at your expense (the driver will help you to find a good restaurant)
- Overnight at hotel in Ho Chi Minh City. Hoang Phu Gia Hotel
- * Dinner time is flexible at your own comfort and expenses.

Day 6: Ho Chi Minh City, the flight to Da Nang - Hoi An (Breakfast)

- Transfer to Ho Chi Minh airport for the flight to Da Nang
- On arrival, welcome by our driver and transfer to hotel downtown. Free time to rest.
- Overnight at hotel in Hoi An, Thuy Duong Hotel

Day 7: Hoi An - City tour (Breakfast)

- With guide
- The Morning, a short walk through the narrow streets of Hoi An up to the pier. Boat trip on the Thu Bon River to Thanh Ha pottery village where you can learn and enjoy the daily life of Thanh Ha people, and can watch the various stages of manufacture of pottery such as: vase, pot, kettle, pot, ...
 - Boarding on the boat for 30 minutes on the Thu Bon river to get to Kim Bong carpentry village. Possibility to admire the shipbuilding area where wooden fishing vessels are built using traditional techniques, guided tour of a furniture manufacturing carpentry workshop using manual techniques.
 - Back at the port of Hoi An and lunch in a local restaurant.
 - Afternoon, free time to enjoy the beautiful nearby beaches or just the hotel pool
 - Overnight at hotel in Hoi An, Thuy Duong Hotel
 - * Lunch is at your expense
 - * Diner is at your expense

Day 8: Hoi An - Da Nang - Hue (Breakfast)

- No guide & hot weather expected
- Departure by the beautiful coastal road to Hue through the vertiginous Col des Nuages. Stop at the foot of Marble Mountain in the village of marble carvers. Passage in Da Nang, visit the Cham Museum. En route, bathing in the famous Lang Co beach and fishing village. The route continues to Hue. Arrive in Hue in the early afternoon.
 - In the afternoon, visit the Imperial City of Hue, with the library and the various internal buildings.
- Overnight at hotel in Hue, Asia Hotel Hue
- * Lunch is at your expense
 - * Diner is at your expense

Day 9: Hue city tour - night train to Hanoi (Breakfast)

- With guide
- In the morning, from Hue, dragon boat cruise on the Perfume River, visit Thien Mu "Heavenly Lady" Pagoda, and, on the west bank of the Perfume River, tombs of the emperors of the Nguyen Dynasty. Visit the Minh Mang (1843) and Tu Duc (1865) tombs that are havens of peace in beautiful gardens and lakes. Also the very colorful baroque tomb of Khai Dinh (1885) - the father of Bao Dai, the last emperor of Vietnam.
 - Lunch on the road.
 - In the afternoon, visit the Imperial City of the Nguyen Dynasty from 1802 to 1945 recognized by UNESCO as "World Cultural Heritage" (1993) and the Museum of Antiquities Royal Hue with the library and the different internal buildings.

- Transfer to the station for the train to Hanoi (departure 17h48, arriving in Hanoi 08h45 the next morning)
- * Lunch is at your expense
- * Diner is at your expense

Day 10: Hanoi city tour "History and Religious Art" (Breakfast, Lunch)

- The Morning, around 9am, our warm welcome to you at the station.
- Remove your suitcases hotel, then departure to explore the city: the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and his house on stilts, then the One Pillar Pagoda on the lake and Tran Quoc Pagoda. Visit the Temple of Literature (Văn Miếu), the first university of Vietnam (eleventh century), famous for the traditional examinations of the Mandarins.
- Afternoon: visit the Museum of Ethnology. Inaugurated in 1997, the fruit of Franco-Vietnamese cooperation. This is the best place to get an idea of the diversity and beauty of the culture of Vietnam's 54 ethnic groups
- Walk through the Old Town, visiting of Ngoc Son Temple (Temple of Jade) in Hoan Kiem Lake and the colonial era St. Joseph's Cathedral.
- In the evening, traditional puppet show on the water (at 18.00 or 20.00).
- Overnight at hotel in Hanoi, The Suite Hotel Hanoi
- With Franco guide
- Lunch provided
- * Dinner: at your expense
- * On the evening of July 14, the Embassy of France in Hanoi, will be opening to celebrate. If you want to go, please bring your passports for entries.

The 11th, 12th and 13th day: private junk cruise in Halong bay and Lan Ha (without guide)

Halong Bay is listed as a "World Natural Heritage" by UNESCO since 1994. With these 3,000 islands with surprising shapes set in jade water color of the China Sea, it offers one of most beautiful landscapes in the world. There are hundreds of quiet sandy beaches to discover. Cat Ba, "the island with white sand", has been classified as a National Natural Park since 1986.

Day 11: Hanoi - Cat Ba Island - Lan Ha Bay - Halong Bay and a little diversion towards Bai Tu Long Bay and Lan Ha Bay. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

- 6:20 am, the driver picks you up at the station for transfer from Hanoi to Hai Phong by private car.
- 9:00 am, departure Hai Phong to Cat Ba Island by speedboat about 45 minutes.
- 9:45 am arrival at the island of Cat Ba, served free coffee while you wait
- 11:00, boarding on your private junk,
- Lunch of seafood while the junk sails through the small Lan Ha Bay, a protected site of Cat Ba National Park, rarely visited by cruise ships.
- Visit a floating fish and shellfish breeding farm
- Kayak lagoon tour of Hang Luon or Ba Ham, accessible through a tunnel
- Seafood Dinner and overnight on board in Lan Ha Bay.

Day 12: Lan Ha Bay - Halong Bay (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

- Breakfast on board. Sailing in Lan Ha Bay, approaching as close as possible to the most beautiful peaks and rocks.
- Kayak visit to the Hang Ca lagoon, accessible through a tunnel
- Cruise to the beach of Ba Trai Dao, stop for lunch
- Swimming and kayaking
- Dinner
- Overnight on the junk

Day 13: Halong Bay - Lan Ha Bay - Cat Ba Island - Hai Phong - Hanoi (Breakfast, Lunch), night train to Lao Cai

- Breakfast on board.
- Stop on a small secluded beach for swimming
- 11:00, landing in Cat Ba, free time to visit Cat Ba.
- Lunch in a local restaurant in Cat Ba, then transfer to the fast boat harbor.
- 14:00 departure from Cat Ba to Hai Phong by speedboat
- 1445, arrived at the port of Hai Phong
- The car and driver will be waiting for you. Departure for Hanoi (arrival around 1700)
- In the evening, transfer to the station for the sleeper train to Lao Cai
- * Dinner is at your expense

Day 14: Lao Cai - Ethnic market Sunday Bac Ha - Ta Van (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner) (This ethnic walk takes place only on Sundays)

- With guide
- Arrive at Lao Cai (border town with China) at 6am.
- Breakfast and departure to Bac Ha. Upon arrival, visit Bac Ha market. On Sunday morning this is the most colorful market in North Vietnam with ethnic groups from the mountains: Tay (blouses with silver closures), the Phula (dressed blue-black), Dao (with colorful pompons), Hmong (with and pleated embroidered skirts).

- Discover the daily life of the inhabitants of villages around Bac Ha, visit the former palace of a "local king", built around 1910 with mixed Chinese and French architecture.
- Back to Tavan to 15:00, making sure not to miss the landscapes of rice terraces that descend to the bottom of the valley.
- Dinner and overnight homestay in Ta Van

Day 15: Ta Van - Ban Ho (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

- With guide
- Departure for Ta Van village Ban Ho crossing landscapes of terraced rice fields, small traditional villages, and the valley of Muong Hoa River.
- Lunch on the road.
- Check In Ban Ho in the afternoon relaxing in the late afternoon and discovering the Tay village on stilts.
- Overnight and dinner in the stilt houses in Tay village Ban Ho.

Day 16: Ban Ho - Lao Cai night train to Hanoi (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

- With guide
- After-breakfast, with your guide discover the turn of Ban Ho
- At 16h, the car will take you from Ban Ho to Lao Cai station.
- Dinner at Lao Cai.
- Departure of sleeper trains from Lao Cai to Hanoi at 19:30

Day 17: Arrive in Hanoi station - Hoa Lu - Tam Coc (Lunch).

Often called the region the "Ha Long Bay land" because we can see limestone islands several hundred meters high that rise amidst the tender green rice. Crossing rivers and lakes, we discover the caves to the rhythm of the boats.

- With guide
- Depart Hanoi at 8am for the city of Hoa Lu ancient capital of Vietnam in the tenth century.
- Visit the temple of Dinh Tien Hoang (Dinh dynasty, tenth century) and the Temple of L (L dynasty, eleventh century).
- Lunch on site at the restaurant at Tam Coc
- Afternoon, boat trip on the river through the scenic landscapes and to the beautiful Tam Coc (literally "the 3 caves") caves, naturally dug under the high limestone monoliths. Water and centuries have carved many strangely shaped stalactites and stalagmites
- Return to Hanoi at 18h
- Overnight hotel in Hanoi, La Suite Hotel

Day 18: Morning free, flight departure (Breakfast)

- Transfer to the airport for your departure flight.
- Price: 915 euros per person * 4 persons = 3,660 euros (2 adults + 16 + 14)
- Price: 686 euros for 13 year old (I offered you 75% adults)
- Grand total: 4,346 euros
- Including:
- + Taxi to the airport and train station: Ho Chi Minh Hue + + Danang Hanoi
- + The sleeper train Lao Cai (round trip)
- + Private car tour of the city: Hanoi Ho Chi Minh + + Hue, except the free day
- + Private car Hue - Danang - Hoi An
- + Private car for Mekong Delta
- + Private Car: Cat ba island tour + + Mekong Tam Coc
- + Pedicab to visit the old quarter of Hanoi
- + The water puppet tickets
- + 3 days cruise with the private junk (without guide)
- + Kayak the Bay of Lan Ha Bay and Cat Ba Island
- + Sampan boat and depending on the program (Hue + + Mekong Tam Coc)
- + 3 day cruise with the private Song Xanh sampan in the Mekong Delta
- + Meals as mentioned (Pdj = Breakfast, Dj = Lunch, Dinner = Di), except the free day
- + The mentioned visits and entrance fees
- + French speaking guide except free days
- * Accommodation and hotels:
- + 2 nights hotel in Hanoi
- + 2 night on board the private junk
- + 2 nights Homestay in Ta Van and Ban Ho
- + 1 nights at the hotel in Hue
- + 2 nights hotel in Hoi An
- + 3 nights hotel in Ho Chi Minh
- + 2 nights in private sampan Song Xanh edge of the Mekong River
- + 3 nights in the train (sapa + hue)
- Not included:
- + International flight
- + Domestic flights: Ho Chi Minh City - Danang
- + The sleeper train to Hue - Hanoi
- + Drink
- + Drinks
- + The train tickets to Hue

Do not forget: Passport, Sun Cream, Spray repellent for small excursion shoes.