

Cycle Vietnam North to South - 19 Days

Overview

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Itinerary Brief:

- Day 1: Hanoi Arrival
- Day 2: Hanoi - Dong Trieu (cycling)
- Day 3: Dong Trieu - Hai Phong (cycling)
- Day 4: Hai Phong - Cat Hai Island - Cat Ba Island - Gia Luan (cycling)
- Day 5: Ha Long Bay Cruise
- Day 6: Ha Long Bay - Hanoi (half-day cruise)
- Day 7: Hanoi - Hue (Domestic Flight) (cycling)
- Day 8: Hue - Hoi An (cycling)
- Day 9: Hoi An Tour
- Day 10: Hoi An - Quang Ngai (cycling)
- Day 11: Quang Ngai - Kon Tum (cycling)
- Day 12: Kon Tum - Pleiku (cycling)
- Day 13: Pleiku - Buon Me Thuot (cycling)
- Day 14: Buon Me Thuot - Da Lat
- Day 15: Da Lat - Mui Ne (cycling)
- Day 16: Mui Ne Free Day
- Day 17: Mui Ne - Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)
- Day 18: Ho Chi Minh City - Cu Chi Tunnels - City tour
- Day 19: Ho Chi Minh City Departure

Summary:

As the name implies, this Vietnam cycling tour is designed to let you explore Vietnam from the villages of the north, to the central highlands, to the beaches of the coast, and Saigon in the south. Starting with the capital, Hanoi, you take a tour of the city, and then cycle through villages in the Red River Delta, and along rice paddies to Dong Trieu Village, and stay overnight in a home-stay. On the way to Hai Phong you cycle by 'betel' (Piper betle) plantations, and in Hai Phong, bicycle along tree shaded boulevards taking in the old French colonial buildings.

Crossing by river ferry, you continue cycling on Cat Hai Island with its large salt field, and take another ferry to Cat Ba Island. At the village of Gia Luan you spend the night on a luxury cruise boat anchored offshore.

You take a cruise of the World Heritage Site of Halong Bay, and explore all it has to offer while enjoying gourmet meals. You wake up to a beautiful morning and get ready for more cruising on this incredible seascape, before you head back to Hanoi. The next morning you fly to Hue, and set out on a cycling tour of this ancient imperial capital.

Next stop is Hoi An. You cycle along the coast, and drive over the spectacular Hai Van Pass, and on to Danang, and the picturesque city of Hoi An. Of course the next day you take a tour of this charming river port, and you may even have a Vietnamese cooking class.

We leave Hoi An and cycle along the coast to Ha Lam, and from there to Quang Ngai, and later to My Lai to visit the museum there. From Quang Ngai we have some challenging cycling on the way to Kon Tum. Next we cycle through the beautiful central highlands to Pleiku, and the next day we are cycling along the scenic uplands through undulating terrain to Buon Me Thuot.

We drive from Buon Me Thuot past coffee and rubber plantations on route to Da Lat. From there we cycle down the coast with great ocean views and climb through rolling hills to Mui Ne Beach. We have a free day to relax on the beach and swim and enjoy water sports, or go on optional tours.

Next on the agenda, is Ho Chi Minh City. We explore the city, and take a trip to the Cu Chi Tunnels. Back in Saigon,

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you have time for shopping. Then all to soon, it is the last day of your cycling adventure trip, and time for your departure, or onward travel.

Trip Grade:

Moderate - Due to the amount of cycling on this tour, those attempting the tour must be fit and have experience cycling.

This is a sample cycling itinerary. We design custom cycling tours from luxury, first-class tours to low-cost budget tours, and tours for beginners to expert cyclists. Please let us know the kind of cycling tour we can design for you!

Itinerary

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Itinerary Details:

Day 1: Hanoi Arrival

On your arrival in Hanoi you will be met by our staff and transferred to your hotel for check-in. If you arrive in the morning, you can take a tour of cultural and historical sites of the city. You visit the Ngoc Son Temple (Jade Mountain Temple), the Temple of Literature, take in a Water Puppet Show, and take a cyclo (rickshaw) tour of the Old Quarter. In the evening there will be a welcome dinner in a fine Vietnamese restaurant.

Overnight in Hanoi hotel. Dinner included.

Day 2: Hanoi - Dong Trieu (cycling)

After breakfast we visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum complex, which includes the presidential palace, and the One Pillar Pagoda. Afterward we drive about 2 hours northeast on Highway 1 through the lush countryside of the Red River Delta to Dong Trieu Village. There we are hosted by a Vietnamese family for lunch. After lunch and a short rest, we get on our bikes to cycle leisurely from village to village. We cycle along rice paddies, and along the river, and back to Dong Trieu Village. There will be time to chat with local people, and learn how they cultivate rice. We have dinner, and stay overnight in a comfortable home.

Overnight in home-stay. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.

Day 3: Dong Trieu - Hai Phong (cycling)

After breakfast, we say farewell to our host family, and cycle on a paved road to Hai Phong. Along the way we take a ferry at Ben Trieu to cross to My Nhan Village. This village cultivates mainly 'betel' (Piper betle) vines, and the bright green of the leaves of the plantations give an unusual beauty to the countryside. We go off the main road to cycle around the village for awhile before continuing on to Hai Phong, a charming colonial city close to the sea. We explore Hai Phong by bicycle along tree shaded boulevards with French colonial buildings, and visit the temple of Hang Kenh.

Overnight in Hai Phong hotel. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.

Day 4: Hai Phong - Cat Hai Island - Cat Ba Island - Gia Luan (cycling)

In the morning we leave the hotel and cycle to the ferry at Cai Vieng. Crossing the river, we continue cycling on Cat Hai Island which is not a usual tourist destination. There is a large salt field on the island, and local people specialize in making fish sauce. We cross the island, and another ferry takes us to the island of Cat Ba. We cycle the winding road along the seashore through a national park and arrive at the village of Gia Luan where we spend the night on a cruise boat anchored offshore.

Overnight on deluxe cruise boat. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.

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Day 5: Ha Long Bay Cruise

We have a buffet breakfast on the cruise boat, and then transfer to a day boat with private crew to cruise the bay. We explore islands and sea caves by kayak, or swim in the warm water. The kayaks are lightweight, and all participants are issued with life-vests. We return to Gia Luan by boat, and kayak to Ti Top Beach with the boat following in support. Then we return to the cruise boat for the night.

Overnight on deluxe cruise boat. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.

Day 6: Ha Long Bay - Hanoi (half-day cruise)

In the morning we wake to the tranquil beauty of the bay. You can have an early morning swim before breakfast if you like. Then we continue our exploration of the bay and find more secluded areas for swimming or kayaking. Around noon we will return to the main harbor and transfer to our waiting vehicle for the three-hour drive back to Hanoi.

Overnight in Hanoi hotel. Breakfast and Lunch included. Day 7: Hanoi - Hue (Domestic Flight) (cycling)

After breakfast in the hotel, you are transferred to the airport for a morning flight to Hue. When you land, you will be met by our staff, and transferred to the hotel where you will meet the cycling crew, and also be introduced to your bicycles. We then set out to visit the Old Imperial Citadel, the Forbidden Purple City, and the Imperial Museum. In the afternoon we cycle to the Tu Duc tomb, and then on to the Thien Mu Pagoda.

Overnight in Hue hotel. Breakfast and Lunch included.

Day 8: Hue - Hoi An (cycling)

In the morning after breakfast, we will drive out of the city of Hue, then cycle on the highway to Lang Co Beach where we have lunch. Then we drive over Hai Van Pass, stopping to take in the stunning view of the ocean and the surrounding area. Then it is on to Danang, and to the charming and picturesque city of Hoi An. In the evening you have time to explore this fascinating town.

Overnight in Hoi An hotel. Breakfast and Lunch included.

Day 9: Hoi An Tour

You have breakfast in the hotel, and then take a walking tour of Hoi An to see the sights, such as the 200 year old Tan Ky House, the Phuoc Kien Assembly Hall, and the Japanese Bridge. Hoi An has become known as place where you can get tailor made silk clothes. You can also take a cooking class to learn how to make some delicious Vietnamese dishes. There are many activities and things to do in Hoi An to keep you busy all day.

Overnight in Hoi An hotel. Breakfast included.

Day 10: Hoi An - Quang Ngai (cycling)

In the morning we leave Hoi An and take a short boat trip to cross the Thu Bon River to Duy Hai Village. We cycle along the coast through fishing villages on the way to the town of Ha Lam. From Ha Lam we drive to Tam Ky Town for lunch, and after lunch we drive to Quang Ngai to check in to the hotel. Later in the afternoon, we cycle to the village of My Lai, the site of the infamous massacre of civilians by the U.S. during the Vietnam War. There is a small museum there now with photos of the atrocity, and a peace garden.

Overnight in Quang Ngai hotel. Breakfast included.

Day 11: Quang Ngai - Kon Tum (cycling)

Today we start off cycling inland from Quang Ngai along the Highway 24, and pass through the towns of Ba To and Dak Rve on the way to Kon Tum. This section of road is somewhat challenging for cycling, but fortunately, there is not much traffic along the way.

Overnight in Kon Tum hotel. Breakfast included.

Day 12: Kon Tum - Pleiku (cycling)

This morning is a new day in the central highlands of Vietnam with a beautiful sunrise and cool morning weather. Pleiku, not far away from Kon Tum, is our destination for today. We cycle through rubber plantations, and explore small

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villages, and chat with the local inhabitants along the way.

Overnight in Pleiku hotel. Breakfast included.

Day 13: Pleiku - Buon Me Thuot (cycling)

After breakfast, we ready our bikes and hit the road again. Today's ride is part driving and part cycling on Highway 14, an excellent road going through undulating and scenic upland. We pass coffee plantations and national parks on our way to Buon Me Thuot, the largest town in the highlands.

Overnight in Buon Me Thuot hotel. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included.

Day 14: Buon Me Thuot - Da Lat

After an early breakfast, we leave Buon Me Thuot in the morning by vehicle. Our route today takes us on a fantastic road with very little traffic. The road is narrow, but quite good, and the view is outstanding. We roll past vast coffee and rubber plantations, and the beautiful natural environment.

Overnight in Da Lat hotel. Breakfast and Lunch included.

Day 15: Da Lat - Mui Ne (cycling)

Today we drive for a short distance before starting our cycling down the coastal route. This ride offers wonderful ocean views with a climb on quiet roads through rolling hills and remote Cham villages. After lunch we will continue cycling to Mui Ne Beach.

Overnight in Mui Ne hotel. Breakfast and Lunch included.

Day 16: Mui Ne Free Day

After breakfast in the hotel, there are no scheduled activities, and you are free to plan your own day. You can go swimming in the pool, or choose some of the many water sports available. Of course swimming in the blue ocean, and relaxing on the beautiful white sand beach is also a great option. Outside of town you can climb the sand dunes, or visit the Cham Tower. After an active day, you will want to unwind in the steam room, or spa.

Overnight in Mui Ne hotel. Breakfast included.

Day 17: Mui Ne - Ho Chi Minh City

In the morning you have free time to relax or go cycling. After lunch we drive to Ho Chi Minh City where we check into the hotel. In the evening you will want to get out and do a little exploring of the city on your own. Overnight in Saigon hotel. Breakfast included.

Day 18: Ho Chi Minh City - Cu Chi Tunnels - City Tour

This morning after breakfast, we take about a 2hr drive to the Cu Chi Tunnels. These are the tunnels used by the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong during the Vietnam War to move supplies and personnel around unobserved. They are part of a network of some 250km in total, and visitors can go down into a section of the tunnels which has been preserved and maintained. Then we drive back to Saigon in the afternoon, and we have a short tour of the city, and there will be free time for shopping.

Overnight at the hotel. Breakfast and Dinner included.

Day 19: Ho Chi Minh City Departure

Today is the last day of your cycling adventure trip. After breakfast, it will be time to get ready for your departure or onward travel. Transport will be provided to the appropriate location.

Breakfast included.

This is the end of our suggested cycling itinerary. We specialize in custom cycling tours to fit your needs and requirements. Please let us know how we can design an individualized tour for you.

What's Included

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Trip Price Includes:

- English speaking guide (Other languages available on request)
- Private transfer and transport in safe, clean, well maintained vehicles
- Arrival & departure transfer, and transfers for domestic flight
- Domestic flight: Hanoi - Hue, airport tax included
- Breakfast in hotel, and other meals as noted in the itinerary in restaurant
- All entrance fees & permits during guided tours
- Private boat trips & ferry fees
- Jeep or van support vehicle during cycling
- Extra truck support for groups of 6 or more
- Accommodation in 4-star hotel w/ 2 person room share. Tax included
- Accommodation in home-stay 1- night
- 2 nights on Halong Bay luxury cruise boat with meals (2 person share)
- Halong Bay Cruise
- Mountain bicycle with mechanic, plus spare bikes
- Water, snacks and fruit in season during cycling
- All equipment necessary for cycling (ex. tire pump, tools, spares tubes, spare parts, etc.)

Not Included in Trip Price:

- Airfare and taxes not included in tour
- Visa fees
- Food and drink not noted in the itinerary
- Optional tours & activities not part of itinerary
- Personal travel insurance (Compulsory for all travelers)
- Personal expenses (ex. telephone, laundry charges, souvenirs, etc.)
- Tips and gratuities
- Additional transport required due an emergency situation

* Please Note: Hotel accommodation is subject to change due to availability or other conditions. However, in the event that hotel accommodation is changed, the same level of accommodation will be maintained.

Contact us for current costs regarding this tour. We will price the tour according to your particular tour details and your travel period (Low & High season).