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# Vietnam Tour Program – 19 days.

Arrival.

**Day 1:** You are greeted on arrival by one of our personal guides and transferred by private transport to your hotel. The rest of the day is free for you to relax.

(Overnight in Hanoi hotel – includes breakfast)

## Hanoi City - (Private Tour)

**Day 2:** At 8am you are picked up from your hotel and begin your tour of Hanoi City. Passing through the Hanoi Old Quarter and Dong Xuan market we visit the ancient citadel and the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum complex with Ho Chi Minhs stilt house and Museum. Continuing on to the One Pillar and Tran Quoc pagodas, and Quan Thanh temple. *(Stop for lunch)* We drive through the Botanical gardens and the city taking in the scenery on the way to the Museum of Ethnology, and the Temple of Literature. Returning with a trip around Hoan Kiem Lake, we arrive in plenty of time to have dinner and see the famous Hanoi Water Puppets.

Hanoi City Tour includes: Private car, personal guide, lunch & refreshments and entrance tickets.

(Overnight in Hanoi hotel – includes breakfast)

## Halong Bay – Paloma Junk - 2 days / 1 night.

**Day 3:** You are picked up from your hotel at around 8.00am and arrive at Halong Bay wharf at 11.45am, were you will be met by our crew who will escort you on board the Paloma Junk and serve welcome drinks. After a refreshing drink you check into your cabin and we begin cruising into Halong bay. You then enjoy a fresh seafood lunch in the restaurant or on the outdoor dining area. Enjoy the stunning views of the Bay as you sail through the calm waters. In the early afternoon we arrive at Vong Vieng floating fishing village and drop anchor. Our guide will give you some information and interesting facts about this fascinating village and its local community.

We disembark and travel on the sampans rowed by the local people. They will be your guides through their fishing village where you can meet the locals, visit the school and pearl farms. See first-hand what life is like living on the water. Back on board we head for the calm waters of the lagoons and beaches for swimming and relaxing on deck or pamper yourself with a massage and sauna in our luxurious spa. *(Optional kayaking)* 

Enjoy a great sunset dinner, and spend a relaxing evening on board the Paloma Junk maybe fishing and drinking Vietnamese wine.

(Overnight on Paloma Junk)

**Day 4:** For the early risers join us for a Tai Chi session on the sun deck or take the opportunity to have an early morning swim and enjoy the beauty of a Halong Bay sunrise. After breakfast we set sail for Bo Hon Island. Disembark and visit (Sung Sot) Surprise Cave. It is one of the largest grottoes in Halong Bay with thousands of stalactites and stalagmites.

An early lunch is made available to enjoy while we head back to Halong wharf on another scenic route. We arrive back at the wharf at 12 noon for our drive back to your hotel in Hanoi arriving at 4.30pm.

**Halong Bay Tour includes:** Guide and transport from and returning to your hotel, all meals and accommodation, Tai Chi, kayaking, and national park entrance fees.

(Overnight in Hanoi hotel – includes breakfast)

## Free Day.

**Day 5:** Free day for you to further explore the Old Quarter and do some shopping. In the evening you are picked up from your hotel at 8pm and taken to the railway station for the overnight sleeper train to Sapa. (*Private cabin on tourist coach*)

## Sapa Tour - 2 days / 3 nights - (Private Tour) - (Overnight in 3\*\*\* Hotel)

**Day 6:** Arriving in Lao Cai at 7am your private car will take you over the mountains to Sapa. After checking in to your hotel and having some breakfast you are free to have a look around the town and the local ethnic markets.

After lunch in the hotel we take a short walk down into the valley to visit the Black H'mong Hamlet of Cat Cat. Here you can chat with the locals and watch the young women weave their traditional designs on their looms, or you can just sit and relax and bathe in the rainforest waterfall.

#### (Dinner and overnight stay in Sapa hotel - includes breakfast)

**Day 7:** This day you have the choice of going to the village of Lao Chai to visit the Tay and Day tribe's people for lunch or have a free day in the Sapa town and maybe take the short walk up to the lookout over the Sapa Valley, have lunch in your hotel and do some final shopping. After having dinner in your hotel your private car will take you to Lao Cai railway station for the evening train soft sleeper back to Hanoi arriving at 5.40am.

**Day 8:** On arrival back in Hanoi you will have a hotel room made available for you to freshen up and have some breakfast. At 11am you are picked up from your hotel by private car and taken to the airport for your flight to Hue.

**Sapa Tour includes:** All transport, Private car, accommodation, all meals, private guide and national park entrance fees.

## Hue.

On arrival in Hue one of our guides will pick you up at the airport and transfer you by private car to your hotel. The rest of the day is free for you to relax and explore your new surroundings.

(Overnight in Hue hotel – includes breakfast)

**Day 9:** In the morning your guide will pick you up from your hotel and take you on a tour of Hue and the Forbidden City.

In the afternoon your guide will take you on a Perfume River cruise to see the tombs of the kings. In the evening at 7pm you are picked up by bus or cyclo from your hotel and taken to the Perfume River for an evening cruise with a traditional music show.

#### **Perfume River Tours include:**

In the afternoon tombs of the kings' cruise: Return private car or cyclo transfer to the harbour, private boat, personal guide, lunch and entrance tickets.

In the evening traditional music show cruise: Return bus or cyclo transfer to the harbour and music show tickets.

(Overnight in Hue hotel – includes breakfast)

## Hoi An.

The ancient town of Hoi An was one of the major trading centres of Southeast Asia in the 16th century and is now a living museum. Its narrow streets are bordered by splendid architecture reflecting the past cultural influences.

**Day 10:** After breakfast your personal guide and private minibus will pick you up from your hotel for the  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hr scenic journey through the Hai Van pass to Hoi An. Arriving around 1pm the remainder of the day is free to relax and begin to explore the town.

(Overnight in Hoi An hotel – includes breakfast)

**Day 11:** This day you can choose from the various activities available. There's plenty to do, you can take the cultural and heritage half day walk through the town and see the local artisans working their mediums such as ceramics, wood, paint and fabrics. Taste some of the local cuisine and get measured up for some tailor made clothes. You can take a half day private tour to Marble Mountain to see the ancient temples built into the mountain and the many beautiful marble sculptures ranging from huge to small that can be purchased. All activities including the hiring of bicycles can be viewed and chosen from your hotel.

(Overnight in Hoi An hotel – includes breakfast)

## **Red Bridge Deluxe Cooking Tour.**

**Day 12:** Taking a short walk or cyclo ride from your hotel the day starts at 8am with a welcome drink on meeting at the Hai Café.

You are taken by minibus to Tra Que Organic Village, where local farmers work their fields using the traditional methods of hundreds of years ago. After a short walk through the market gardens to pick fresh saw-tooth coriander and Vietnamese mint for your cooking lesson you have a special herbal drink at a local home.

You then travel to the local village market to purchase a range of local ingredients, including star anise, cardamom, sesame rice paper, water spinach and banana flower before arriving at the Red Bridge Cooking School. You will cook 4 famous dishes, including the national dish of 'Pho' learning the traditional ways of preparing and cooking Vietnamese food using the freshest ingredients and traditional Vietnamese utensils.

After the days cooking class activities you get a chance to savour the dishes you have prepared and enjoy a leisurely cruise for 25mins along the Hoi An River.

**Red Bridge Cooking Tour includes:** Lunch and all drinks (excluding wine and spirits), Guided tour of Tra Que village with herbal drink at a local home, Red Bridge apron and recipe booklet, boat from Red Bridge Cooking School to central Hoi An. Free use of the new Red Bridge swimming pool (towels & showers provided).

(Overnight in Hoi An hotel – includes breakfast)

Day 13: Free day.

(Overnight in Hoi An hotel – includes breakfast)

**Day 14:** Free morning to relax and further enjoy the town of Hoi An, pick up your tailor made clothes and do some final shopping. At 11.30am you are picked up from your hotel by private car and taken to Danang airport for your flight to Ho Chi Minh. On arrival you are greeted by our guide and taken by private car to your hotel.

(Overnight in Saigon hotel – includes breakfast)

## Ho Chi Minh City & Cu Chi Tunnels Tour - (Private Tour)

**Day 15:** At 8am you are picked up from your hotel by your personal guide and private car to visit the Cu Chi Tunnels, an amazing complex of underground tunnels used by the Viet Cong during the Vietnam War. The tunnel network stretched from the South Vietnamese capital to the Cambodian border. In the district of Cu Chi alone there was over 250km of tunnels. A large part of the complex has been realistically reconstructed to portray the everyday life of the men and women who lived and served their lives underground. The network encompassed specially constructed living areas, weapons factories, hospitals and command centres.

There is also a shooting range which has all the old rifles and machine guns that were used in the war. They are available for you to have a go of if you want. On return to Ho Chi Minh City you are taken to a traditional Vietnamese restaurant for lunch. In the afternoon you are taken on a tour of Ho Chi Minh City seeing those places of interest that you choose.

Ho Chi Minh City & Cu Chi Tunnels Tour includes: Private minibus, personal guide, entrance tickets and lunch.

(Overnight in Saigon hotel – includes breakfast)

Day 16: Free day to relax and explore the Quarter area of Ho Chi Minh City.

(Overnight in Saigon hotel – includes breakfast)

## Mekong Delta Tour.

**Day 17:** At 8am you are picked up by private car from your hotel and head of to the Mekong Delta. On arrival you board your boat and begin your exploration of the area.

During your visit you will cruise down the maze of small canals taking in the pleasant rural outlook of the local villages, stopping on the way to visit places of interest such as a family run coconut candy workshop, a honey bee farm, or a beautiful orchid garden.

(Overnight in Mekong Delta hotel – includes breakfast)

**Day 18:** Continue on tour of Mekong Delta visiting the bustling Floating Market, this is an exciting shopping experience, cruising easily around the boats sampling the many exotic fruits and vegetables of the region. Returning to your hotel in Ho Chi Minh in the afternoon.

Mekong Delta Tour includes: Private car, private boat, personal guide and all meals.

(Overnight in Saigon hotel – includes breakfast)

## Departure.

**Day 19:** Free day to relax and do some final shopping before your private car picks you up from your hotel and takes you to the airport for your ongoing or return flight to Australia.