
GEEO ITINERARY

Vietnam 12/24/2026

Day 1: Hanoi Arrive in Hanoi at any time. Meet your group for a welcome meeting around 6:00 or 7:00 p.m.

Arrive in Hanoi at any time. There are no planned activities until the Welcome Meeting in the evening. The airport in Hanoi is **Noi Bai International Airport (HAN)**.

Consider arriving 1-2 days early to explore the city, adjust to the time zone, and buffer against flight delays. We can request extra hotel nights for you before the program begins.

Pre-Trip Must-Sees: Stroll through **Hanoi's Old Quarter** and its maze of streets, each one traditionally devoted to a different product or industry. Alternatively, you could visit **Tran Quoc Pagoda**, the **Temple of Literature** (Van Mieu), or **Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum and Museum**. The Mausoleum houses the remains of Ho Chi Minh, the founding father of the unified Vietnam.

Hotel Check-in and Welcome Meeting

Hotel check-in is normally between 2-3 p.m. Check with reception for the exact time and location of the group welcome meeting, typically between 6-7 p.m. Please make every effort to attend this meeting. If you're running late, send a message in the group WhatsApp or call the emergency number on your trip voucher so that your tour leader can let you know where and when to meet the group.

After the meeting, you might choose to get dinner at a nearby restaurant with your traveling companions and your tour leader to further get to know one another.

Joining Instructions

Pre-Booked Arrival Transfer: If you've arranged an airport transfer through GEEO, look for a driver holding a sign with the [G Adventures Logo](#) in the arrivals hall. **Verify the driver knows your name and hotel name.** If in doubt, ask them to call their manager to confirm. If you're not met or cannot make contact, call the emergency number on your trip voucher or take a taxi to the hotel (keep your receipt).

Warning: People have misrepresented themselves as G Adventures representatives at Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh airports. Do not accept unsolicited offers of "help."

Taxi: (~\$17 USD | 40-50 minutes) Airport taxis are available outside arrivals. Pay your driver when you arrive at the hotel.

Shuttle Bus + Taxi: (~45,000 Dong / \$2-4 USD) The Vietnam Airlines shuttle bus goes to the Vietnam Airlines office downtown. From there, take a metered taxi to your hotel.

Caution: Avoid illegal taxi drivers who may overcharge in USD or offer unfavorable exchange rates for Vietnamese Dong. Use official airport taxi services only.

Day 2: Hanoi/Ha Long Bay Enjoy a Ha Long Bay cruise on a junk boat with visits to a cave and an island lookout. Savor a seafood lunch and dinner.

A 3-hour drive takes us to Bai Chay harbor, our entry point to Ha Long Bay.

Thousands of islands rise dramatically from the serene waters of Ha Long Bay. The massive limestone karst formations contain intricate cave systems and make for spectacular scenery. We board a traditional junk boat at Ha Long Bay harbor and cruise out among the isles. Swim, kayak, or go cave exploring on one of the islands, if conditions are right. We will also indulge in fresh seafood meals with a variety of dishes to sample before drifting to sleep in a cozy cabin on board.

On rare occasions, Ha Long Bay is closed to tourist vessels by the government authorities due to extreme weather conditions. Should this occur, an alternate activity will be provided.

Approximate travel time: 3 hrs by shared van

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 3: Ha Long Bay/Huế Cruise back to the port and drive to Hanoi. Enjoy more time in the city before an overnight train to Huế.

Today, we enjoy breakfast and lunch on board the junk boat before sailing back to the port. Back at port, we hop in a private vehicle for the drive back to Hanoi for a little more free time to enjoy the city. You will have enough time for shopping or further sightseeing before we catch our overnight train to Huế.

Train travel in Vietnam is very basic, and train cleanliness is often not a priority for train staff. Sleeper trains normally have 4 seats per compartment, which convert into sleeping bunks (two upper and two lower). A sheet, pillow, and blanket are provided, although many people prefer to bring their own sleeping sheet. At times, passengers of different genders may be required to share a sleeper train berth and/or share a compartment with people not traveling in your group.

Simple food is available on the train, but many people like to stock up on freshly baked bread, cheese, and fruit prior to departure. Water should also be bought before the journey.

Approximate travel time: 4 hrs by private vehicle (Ha Long Bay to Hanoi); 14 hrs by overnight sleeper train (Hanoi to Huế)

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch

Day 4: Huế Guided tour of the Imperial Citadel, Tien Mu Pagoda, and Royal Tomb. Opt to take a countryside motorbike tour.

Arrive in Huế, once the imperial capital of Vietnam, early in the morning, and get started right away with a tour of the Imperial Citadel. The UNESCO World Heritage Site is a walled fortress and former palace, with many gateways, courtyards, and gardens to explore. Inside the citadel, the Forbidden Purple City, modeled on China's Forbidden City, was once home to the imperial family and was significantly damaged during the Vietnam War.

Next, we visit to the Tien Mu Pagoda, one of the most elegant and tallest pagodas in Vietnam at seven stories high. Built more than 400 years ago along the north shore of the Perfume River, the pagoda has been the site of many political protests. We also visit the Royal Tombs along the Perfume River in Hue. Embracing the concept of Feng Shui, these tombs are extremely ornate and provide fantastic insight into the lives of the former rulers.

While in the city, try some local Hue specialties such as banh khoai (Hue savory pancakes), and banh bot loc boc tom thit (thin rice paper filled with meat and shrimp).

Day 5: Huế/Hoi An Drive the Hai Van pass. Take advantage of Hoi An's many options over your two and a half days there. Opt for a cooking class, riverboat trip, lantern making class, bike ride, beach time, tailor visit, or Mỹ Sơn ruins.

This morning, we depart for Hoi An. We will cross through the Hai Van Pass, weather permitting, with fantastic views all around. We arrive in Hoi An in the afternoon for a 3-night stay.

Once known as Faifo, Hoi An was an important trading town with strong south Chinese influence and connections. You can take a walking tour of this living museum, which includes the Museum of History and Culture, the Tan Ky house, the Japanese bridge, the Fujian Assembly Hall, and lunch at a riverside restaurant to sample some of the local delicacies. Hoi An is also a shopping mecca for tourists in the region. Tailors can produce virtually anything overnight. Clothing, silk lanterns, lacquerware, and many

other crafts abound. For sun worshipers, Cua Dai Beach, 4 km from town, makes for a great, flat bike ride.

Approximate travel time: 4 hrs by private vehicle

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 6: Hoi An Spend 2 full days exploring all Hoi An has to offer. Dive into the culture, hang out on the beach, or buy tailor-made clothes. Enjoy a noodle-making demonstration and lunch at Oodles of Noodles, a G Adventures-supported project.

Today is the first of two full days for you to explore all that Hoi An has to offer. You can choose to immerse yourself in the culture, bike to the beach for some quality sun time, or get custom-made clothes by one of the many tailor shops around town.

We get together as a group for an included cooking class and lunch, when you can try some of the oodles of noodles (more than 26 types!) available in the city. Run by a Planeterra Foundation partner, STREETS International, the class was developed exclusively for G Adventures. Former street youth that are part of this hospitality training program will help you prepare and cook a number of different types of noodles. The program helps them practice their English, increasing their skill set and opportunities available to them in the tourism industry.

You may want to continue your culinary education in the evening and take an optional cooking class to learn even more about Vietnamese food and its distinct flavors. Tour the local market to buy fresh ingredients before preparing some popular regional dishes. You get to enjoy your creations when you're done!

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch

Day 7: Hoi An Spend another free day exploring Hoi An.

Today, you spend a second free day exploring all Hoi An has to offer.

You might consider a day trip visit to Mỹ Sơn. Travel approximately one hour from Hoi An to arrive at Mỹ Sơn, with its Hindu temples built between the fourth and 14th centuries. The site is widely accepted as one of the most important Hindu temple complexes in Southeast Asia. Learn about the architectural style and history of a site that's often compared to Angkor Wat in Cambodia and Bagan in Burma.

You can also opt for a boat trip on the Thu Bon River, which plays an important part in Hoi An's history and culture.

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 8: Hoi An/Ho Chi Minh City Fly from Hoi An to Ho Chi Minh City. Enjoy free time in this energetic city.

This morning, we drive to Da Nang for the flight to Ho Chi Minh City, the sprawling metropolis that was once the capital of South Vietnam and remains the country's commercial center. Start by exploring the small alleys and busy streets, keeping an eye out for lacquerware shops and delicious local food stalls.

Approximate travel time: 45 mins by private vehicle (Hoi An to Danang); 1 hr by plane (Da Nang to Ho Chi Minh City)

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 9: Ho Chi Minh City Take a guided tour of the famous Cu Chi Tunnels in the morning. Enjoy more free time in the afternoon.

In the morning, we drive 1.5 hours to the Cu Chi Tunnels, where we will get a guided tour of a complex network of tunnels that the Viet Cong lived in to protect themselves from opposing forces during the Vietnam War. Try crawling through some of the tunnels, if you're not claustrophobic. These tunnels stored ammunition, contained underground hospitals, and served as a hidden base for attacking allied forces. Afterward, we drive back to Ho Chi Minh City.

Enjoy free time in the afternoon, possibly to visit the Thien Hau and Giac Vien pagodas and stroll through the immense Ben Than Market. There is also the Reunification Palace, the residence of the presidents of South Vietnam before 1975. Or, you can take in the busy rhythm of daily life in Cholon (Big Market), the Chinese quarter full of teahouses and pagodas.

The War Remnants Museum is a gut-wrenching but worthwhile experience that includes three stories of exhibits. Learn about the devastation that occurred in Saigon during the Vietnam War, a period that greatly contrasts with the joy and liveliness of the Vietnamese people today.

Approximate travel time: 3 hrs by private vehicle

Meals included: Breakfast

Day 10: Ho Chi Minh City Depart Ho Chi Minh City at any time.

There are no planned activities today, so you may depart Ho Chi Minh City at any time. HCMC's airport is **Tan Son Nhat International Airport (SGN)**. If you wish to extend your stay in HCMC, consider booking post-tour accommodation with us.

Please note that check-out time from the hotel is usually mid-morning, but luggage storage services are available at the reception desk.

Meals included: Breakfast

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Interested in extending your time abroad? We can help you find a trip from our tour partner G Adventures' larger catalog. Their tours are open to the general public and not designed specifically for educators, but by booking through GEEO we can offer you a discounted educator price, and you will be helping our non-profit.

Accommodations List

The hotels listed below reflect the properties *expected to be used* for this program. Final accommodations are subject to change based on group size, availability, or seasonality. **The confirmed start and end hotels are listed on your trip voucher:**

***Itinerary Disclaimer:** *While it is our intention to adhere to the routes described on our website, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable, to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The information on our website is a general guide to the tour and region, and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.*