EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Comfort Itinerary Version (TMVI3)

TOURDURAT
14
DAYS

Tour Code: TM

Tour Essentials

Accommodation:
Included Meals: 12 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 dinner
Transport:
Countries:

Tailormade Classic Vietnam

Suitability

We've given each of our tours a comfort rating and a tour pace, walking or cycling grade to give you a general idea about the level of activity on each tour and the standard of accommodation you will be staying in at the end of your day's adventure.

Often you'll stay in different styles of accommodation during your tour; so we make an average rating across the entire tour. For more information on where you'll stay each night, please refer to the day by day tour itinerary.

Your tour itinerary

Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

Your Tour Leader

A Tour Leader is an integral part of any Explore tour and your tour will be led by one of our experienced tour leaders who have been handpicked and expertly trained. We believe that our Tour Leaders are the key to the success of our tours; they are passionate travellers who are bursting with first-hand local knowledge which they love to share. Your tour Leader will also take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your journey. Their passionate approach will make this tour fun and inspiring, bringing the destination to life whether you’re travelling alone or with others.

DAY 1 Overnight flight to Vietnam

Fly to Hanoi on an overnight flight from the UK.

Why Book this tour?

Extending over 1600 km from north to south, the weather in Vietnam varies according to distinct climate zones hence year round travel is possible. A pleasant time to visit the north is spring and autumn as these avoid any extremes in temperature. The south has a more tropical climate with hot, humid conditions throughout much of the year with June to August registering as the wettest months.

Included Meals: None

DAY 2 Hanoi

Arrive in Vietnam's capital city, Hanoi, where you will spend your first evening.

Included Meals: None

DAY 3 Hanoi sightseeing tour

A day to explore Hanoi’s history with your guide, which may include Ho Chi Minh’s Mausoleum and The Temple of Literature, as well as an exciting cyclo ride through the tangled streets of the Old Quarter and to Hoan Kiem Lake. In the evening watch a performance at the popular water puppet theatre.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4 Hanoi - cycling and cookery

Relax or explore the city some more at your leisure. An optional cycling tour or cookery class is possible.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5 Halong Bay overnight junk cruise

Drive to stunning Halong Bay and board a refurbished wooden junk for a cruise through the limestone cliffs and emerald waters. Drop anchor for the night near a remote island.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6 Halong Bay cruise and Hanoi

Spend the morning sailing, stopping to visit colourful grottos and swimming near deserted beaches. Return to Hanoi in the afternoon.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7 Hanoi to Hue

Fly to Hue, the former imperial capital of Vietnam, and spend the rest of the day visiting the spectacular Citadel, which is built on the same design as Beijing’s Forbidden Palace.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8 Hue city tour and Hoi An

A boat cruise on the Perfume River - elegant Pagodas, elaborate tombs and museums are this morning's highlights. Your journey then continues to Hoi An with an optional visit en route to the Cham Museum to see the extraordinary Cham sculptures followed by a stop at the magnificent Marble Mountains. These interesting mountains have many caves and grottos dotted with Buddhist Pagodas and shrines, they were also a haven for the Vietcong troops during the war.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 9 Hoi An city tour

Embark on a walking tour of this quaint town with its vibrant riverside market and nearby beach. Stop at a lantern workshop to see the locals at work, take a sunset boat trip and dine at an ancient house in town.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10 Hoi An to Ho Chi Minh City

Drive to Danang for your flight to Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known as Saigon, where the rest of your day will be spent exploring the city on your own.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 11 Ho Chi Minh City and Cu Chi Tunnels

A full day to visit the Cu Chi Tunnels, the Reunification Palace and other sights in the city. The Cu Chi Tunnels are amazing - miles of tiny underground passages, which helped to hide Vietnamese soldiers during the war, providing refuge and a place to survive. You can even try and squeeze into one yourself.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 12 Mekong Delta

Depart Ho Chi Minh City this morning for the Mekong Delta. You'll enjoy a boat cruise on the river stopping along the way to meet local people to see how they live and work. You will then board a sampan for a ride through the smaller canals. After lunch, visit a family run business making coconut candies, before returning to the mainland at My Tho.

Included Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 13 Free time in Ho Chi Minh City

The day is yours for more sightseeing, relaxation or last minute shopping.

Included Meals: Breakfast

DAY 14 Arrive UK

Transfer to the airport for your return flight to the UK.

Included Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 12 breakfasts, 2 lunches,1 dinner included in the price of this tour. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years' experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures, self-guided, private journeys & tailormade holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, elephant, or any number of unusual forms of transport . Often you will stay in family run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to – and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

Our commitment to the environment

We are passionate about sustainable travel and work hard to create tours where your holiday delivers real benefits to the local communities. We minimise our impact by travelling in small groups, respecting local cultures and traditional, reducing waste and offsetting 100% of the CO2 from our flights.

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: Toilet Twinning (helping to flush away poverty), Lone Buffalo Foundation (a community project based in Laos providing creative skills for young people), Dekamer (a turtle rescue centre in Turkey) and Kids Saving the Rainforest (a wildlife rescue centre in Costa Rica supported through the LATA foundation). We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation and Friends of Conservation.

Cool Earth

Explore are proud to support Cool Earth in their effort to reduce global carbon dioxide levels through the prevention of deforestation in the South America rainforest. Cool Earth focus on areas in immediate danger of deforestation, supporting local communities to be forest guardians. To date 350,000 acres of rainforest has been protected. Saving rainforest also protects rare animals and plants, allows local forest communities to maintain their way of life, and protects a major source of oxygen and fresh water. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year.

Earth Matters

- The Travel Foundation

  Explore are active members and supporters of the Travel Foundation which has established a variety of sustainable tourism projects in destinations and works with industry to improve practice. Visit their website www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk
- Tourism Concern

  Explore support the work of Tourism Concern who campaign for fairly and ethically traded tourism, and are part of its Ethical Tour Operator Group www.tourismconcern.org.uk
- For further information on responsible travel go to http://www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/

Know before you go

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety andÂ security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. ForÂ UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link atÂ http://www.explore.co.uk/essential-travel-information/travel-resources/travel-safety

Booking Your Holiday

Peace of mind - book with confidence

You can book your Explore holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected. Explore is a fully bonded tour operator licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and by ABTOT.

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's LicenceÂ granted by the Civil Aviation Authority.Â Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

Reserving your place

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is 'Available' or 'Guaranteed' we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

For Self-Guided holidays and Private Journeys simply choose your date of travel and let us know so we can confirm all ground services.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2014 and 31st December 2015.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

Please note: 3 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 3. 4/ itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 4.

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