

Vietnam Vietnam by Bike + Boat

Halong Bay & Mekong Delta

Consultant

Christine Schmid
Vietnam

Details

Included services:

- 14 nights of which 5 overnight stays on comfortable ships in air conditioned double cabins and 9 overnight stays in very good hotels (at least 3 stars ranking)
- catering as specified in the itinerary (B = breakfast; L = lunch and D = dinner)
- domestic flights (see description)

- guided bicycle tours, walks and kayak tours
- all city tours and entrance charges to National Parks, museums, etc.
- english speaking guides
- rental bike (the bikes vary from destination to destination)
- airport transfers on official arrival and departure day
- road book, maps and information material per cabin

Day-to-day programm

Tour profile:

The cycle routes require a certain level of fitness which one should have required by regular cycling trips. The bike routes have a length of approx. 25 km / 16 mi. and lead through hilly or mountainous areas and will be crossed without time constraints. The roads are mainly asphalted, but good accessible natural roads are crossed as well. Helmet use is mandatory on all bike tours. You are strongly encouraged to bring your own (well-fitted) helmet.

Day 1: Hanoi (D)

Individual arrival at Hanoi Airport. A shuttle bus takes you to your hotel in the heart of the old quarter of Hanoi. The historic old town district is considered as one of the best preserved in Southeast Asia. The colourful and bustling streets contribute to the Asian flair. You take a walk through the streets and in the afternoon you visit the famous water puppet theatre- a traditional Vietnamese form of art. Today you get to know your fellow travellers when joining the dinner together. Overnight you stay at the hotel.

Day 2: Hanoi – Halong City – Trà Bản Island, approx. 15 km, (B, L, D)

After breakfast your shuttle bus takes you past the vast rice fields into direction of Halong Bay. . During the transfer we take a short break from driving to enjoy our first small bike tour. A local farmer along the way offers us the opportunity to try local fruits, to strengthen us before we continue on our bikes. Lunch is served in Dong

Trieu, after which we continue with the shuttle bus to Ha Long City. Here we are welcomed on board the Junk and we depart on a longer crossing to a quiet bay in front of the Island of Trà Bản.

Day 3: Trà Bản Island and Quan Lan Island, approx. 10 + 29 km, (B, L, D)

After breakfast a transfer by tender takes you from the Junk to a small jetty on the island of Trà Bản.

Narrow paths and expansive rice fields pass by as you cycle across this virtually tourist free island. A common sight are the Vietnamese water buffaloes grazing as you pass, you may even come into conversation with one of the local farmers tending to their fields. After a pleasant tour you will meet the ship once again for lunch while you cross over to Quan Lạn. Your next destination, Quan Lan, lies only a few meters away from Tra Ban as the crow flies. On your second bike tour of the day you will discover the brilliant white sand Isle and the expanses of untouched sandy beaches for which Quan Lan is so well known for. That evening you leave behind the Bai Tu Long bay and cover the first miles across the sea in the direction of Halong Bay.

Day 4: Ha Long Bay, Kayak-day, (B, L, D)

After breakfast you continue your cruise to the magic Halong Bay. After lunch you get an introduction into kayaking and spend the afternoon kayaking this craggy fairytale world. You paddle into Luon Cave. Through the beautiful gate, you'll see a round lagoon lake with flat surface and luxuriant vegetation in all four sites. The cliffs are high and dangerous with lot of monkeys running around and under peaceful water surface. Before dinner you visit the so-called Amazing Cave on Bo Hon Island. It is one of the finest and widest grottoes of Halong Bay. You will spend the night on your comfortable junk.

Day 5: Ha Long Bay and Lan Ha Bay, Kayak-day, (B, L, D)

This morning you disembark the Junk with your baggage and take a transfer boat to Lan Ha bay. Here you will climb into kayaks and paddle to a magnificent beach where the midday meal awaits you. After lunch and a lengthy relaxing swim break in the emerald green waters, a small boat will pick you up from the beach and take you to the island of Cát Bà. Here a short transfer will take you to your hotel where you will have time in the afternoon to unpack, relax at the pool side or at the beach.

Day 6: Cát Bà Island – Viet Hai Village, approx. 20 km, (B, L, D)

Early in the morning a transfer will bring you to a small dock. A one hour crossing will bring you to yet another small jetty. From here you will start a cycling tour to a small tribal village of the Viet Hai minority. Parking the bikes here, a guided walk will take you through the protected old-growth forest where not only the untouched flora but also the large and colourful butterflies which inhabit it will leave you astounded. The aim is to reach the highest peak of the island which, on a good day, offers breath-taking views of the Ha Long bay and the rest of the island. After the walk a bike tour will take you back to the boat which will bring you to the comfort of the Sunrise Resort. Here the evening can be enjoyed on the hotel's very own sandy beach.

Day 7: Cát Bà Island – Hai Phong – Hanoi, approx. 35 km, (B, L)

After breakfast you will depart the hotel for a further bike tour on Cát Bà. During the tour you will be able to experience the hustle and bustle of the local market life and take a visit to the information centre at the national park which will inform you further on the diverse flora and fauna of the region. After lunch at the hotel a taxi boat will take you to Hai Phong where a bus waits, to take you to the nearby airport. In the late afternoon your flight to Da Nang departs, from where you have only a short transfer with the shuttle bus until you reach your Hotel Resort in Hanoi.

Day 8: Hanoi, approx. 17 km, (B, L)

Today you have the possibility to observe the daily life of the local farmers. In the morning you cycle to Tra Que - a small village in the suburban area of Hanoi. The name of the place originates from a sweet vegetable often used by the locals to spice their meals: a totally new and special kind of speciality! Your host prepares the meal together with you and explains the special ingredient. The afternoon can be spent individually: A stroll through the picturesque old town or a relaxing afternoon bathing at the white beach of Cua Dai.

Day 9: Hanoi – Huayphai, (B, L)

The morning in Hanoi is free to your disposal. You will check out of the hotel first in the early afternoon and hop on the shuttle bus to Huayphai. En route you make a brief stop at the Cloud Pass, the weather line between North and South Vietnam. Afterwards you make a short stopover on Lang Co Beach. If weather conditions allow you can stay for a refreshing swim, before you continue back to Huayphai. After checking in to the hotel you visit one of the most popular emperor's graves, which lies not far away from the town centre.

Day 10: Huayphai, approx. 21 km, (B, L)

This day is dedicated to the old imperial city of Huayphai, situated between rolling hills and rice fields along a bend in the Perfume River. The spiritual heart of Vietnam beats here, with more than 300 temples and pagodas. By bike and by foot you first visit the Dong Ba Market, where you are able to catch interesting insights in the variety of regional products. On the north shore of the Perfume River you continue your way to the old town of Bao Vinh, where you can still see and feel the trading activities of the capital's former past. On your way you visit the rambling citadel, which once was reserved for the emperors of the Nguyen-Dynasty. A late lunch in one of the regionally typical restaurants gives the daily program its perfect finish. The rest of the afternoon is free and can be spent strolling through the alleys of the town.

Day 11: Huayphai – Ho Chi Minh City – Mekong Delta, approx. 20 km (B, L, D)

After breakfast you have a flight to Ho Chi Minh City with a subsequent transfer to Mekong Delta, where check-in on board the ship takes place. The ship takes you along the Mekong in the direction of Cai Be. During the short trip you cruise along the Mekong and can enjoy the flourishing nature of the delta as well as the river related life of the inhabitants. North of Ben Tre you have a relaxing and short cycle tour. Back on board lunch is

served. In the afternoon the schedule includes the discovery of the green island Ngu Hiep and you have the opportunity to try exotic fruits while being astonished by different local handicrafts.

Day 12: Mekong Delta: Cái Bè – Islands of Vinh Long und Traon, approx. 30 km, (B, L, D)

In the morning you cross over to Vinh, Long Island, where you cycle under palm-shaded paths around the island. You continue by boat to Traon Island where you again have the opportunity to explore the surroundings by bike. Later on you can enjoy the excellent cuisine on board and the wonderful evening atmosphere in the water labyrinth of the Mekong Delta.

Day 13: Cần Thơ – Ho Chi Minh City (B, L, D)

During breakfast the ship takes you to Cần Thơ, where you will be transferred to a small boat taking you to Cái Răng, the most famous floating market of the Delta. Make sure to have your camera ready before getting caught up in the unique atmosphere of the merchants on their vibrantly painted boats. The following cruise through the small tributaries of the Delta completes your visit in the south. After lunch on board of the Conchinchine you check out and are transferred back to Ho Chi Minh City.

Day 14: Ho Chi Minh City (B, L, D)

Ho Chi Minh City, former Saigon, is the Boomtown and the modern centre of Vietnam. On a guided city tour you learn about the growing megacity, the town hall, the cathedral Notre Dame, main post office and other important sights which characterize the city's history. In the afternoon you have the possibility to buy some souvenirs and dive into the madding crowd of the Benh Thanh Market. A farewell-dinner with your fellow passengers and all travel guides is planned in the evening. Overnight stay in the hotel.

Day 15: Ho Chi Minh City (B)

Individual departure after breakfast or extended stay in Ho Chi Minh City or Siem Reap.

Important Information:

Due to changing wind and weather conditions as well as organizational requirements we reserve the right to make changes of routing and program.

Prices
