North to South Vietnam

An exciting journey to discover the best of Vietnam's stunning scenery, compelling history and captivating culture.

Group departures

See overleaf for departure dates

Holiday overview

Style	Tour
Accommodation	Hotels, Cruise boat
Grade	Tour
Duration	16 days from London to London
Min/Max group size	4 / 12. Guaranteed to run for 4
Trip Leader	Local Tour Leader Vietnam
Land only	Joining in Hanoi, Vietnam Departing from Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City)

Private Departures & Tailor Made itineraries available

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Last updated: 27 October 2026

Group Departure Dates and Prices

Group departures

2027 Dates:

Fri 19 Feb – Sat 06 Mar

Fri 07 May - Sat 22 May

Fri 29 Oct - Sat 13 Nov

This is the itinerary for our May and October 2027 departures only. Separate itineraries for other departures can be downloaded from our website or requested from the Mountain Kingdoms office.

Group prices

Visit the holiday page of our website for up-to-date land only and flight inclusive prices for all group departure dates https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/holiday/north-to-south-vietnam. Single supplement options can also be found here.

No Surcharge Guarantee

The flight inclusive or land only price will be confirmed to you at the time you make your booking. There will be no surcharges after your booking has been confirmed.

Will the trip run?

This trip is guaranteed to run for 4 people and for a maximum of 12. In the rare event that we cancel a holiday, we will refund you in full and give you at least 6 weeks warning. Many trips do fill up quickly – we advise you to book early if you want to secure a place(s) on the dates of your choice.

Insurance

We offer a travel insurance scheme - please contact us for details.

Private Departures

We can also offer this trip as a private holiday. A Private Departure follows exactly the same itinerary as the group departure but at dates to suit you (subject to availability) - please contact us with your preferred dates.

Tailor Made service

We pride ourselves on the level of quality and choice we provide for our clients who want a fully tailor made holiday. A holiday will be created especially for you by one of our well-travelled experts. They will be able to advise on the accommodation best suited to your needs, the sights you should visit (and those to avoid!) and the best walks and activities matched to your ability. In short, we will work together with you to create your perfect holiday. If you would like to explore the idea of a Tailor Made holiday with Mountain Kingdoms then please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or see the Tailor Made pages of our website for further inspiration.

Your guide

Our holidays in Vietnam are led by professional English-speaking Vietnamese tour leaders. They have an intimate and expert knowledge of the history, culture and nature of Vietnam.

They will be sure to provide you with an unforgettable experience in their wonderful country of Vietnam.

Your trip highlights

- Discover the historic and cultural attractions of Hanoi, Hue and Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City)
- Sail through the scenic delights of Ha Long Bay for two nights on a luxury cruise boat
- Take in many of Vietnam's UNESCO World Heritage Sites such as the Royal Citadel of Hue and Trang An
- Take a day cruise along the Mekong Delta
- Enjoy culinary delights and the chance to try cooking the local cuisine
- Stay in 4 and 5 star luxury accommodation

At a glance itinerary

Days 1-3	Fly to Hanoi. Sightseeing.
Days 4-5	Transfer from Hanoi to Ninh Binh. Explore by boat and on foot and visit the Trang An Landscape complex.
Days 6-8	Ha Long Bay cruise and sightseeing. Fly to Hue.
Day 9	Sightseeing in Hue.
Day 10	Transfer to Hoi An. Guided walking tour.
Days 11-12	Bike to Tra Que for a cooking class then visit My Son Holy Land. Day at leisure.
Day 13	Fly from Da Nang to Saigon. Sightseeing in Saigon.
Day 14	Mekong Delta bike ride and cruise.
Days 15-16	Time at leisure in Saigon. Fly to London.

Trip summary

Vietnam is a country of beautiful landscapes, compelling history and culinary delights, and this tour allows you to immerse yourself in the country's absorbing culture whilst enjoying good quality hotel accommodation from start to finish.

The tour begins in the capital city of Hanoi where layers of Vietnam's enthralling history are gradually revealed in the buildings, museums and places you visit. Whether walking past houses from the French colonial era, standing in line at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, exploring the labyrinth of streets and alleys in old town or reflecting on the horrors of the Hanoi Hilton prison, you will gain a real insight into Vietnam's rich and complex past.

From Hanoi you travel south to enjoy Vietnam's most notable natural wonders and attractions. First you visit Ninh Binh province, famous for its stunning limestone karst landscape of soaring peaks, giant caves and crystal clear waters. You will explore this area by boat, bike and on foot.

Next you make your way to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ha Long Bay to enjoy time on board the luxurious Au Co cruise ship. You can relax on your private balcony, try your hand at a little fishing from the deck, enjoy cookery demonstrations and even take part in Tai Chi sessions. Whilst at sea, you will visit a cave, venture out to a village and have the chance to kayak to beautiful sandy beaches.

After your cruise, you will continue south via Hue with its magnificent Royal Citadel before reaching charming Hoi An where you can sample tasty treats at street-food market. Your tour ends with time to relax and enjoy the evocative sights of Saigon (Hoh Chi Minh City) and explore the beautiful Mekong Delta by boat and bike.

Your trip itinerary

Day 1: Fly London to Hanoi

Today you will depart the UK and fly to Hanoi

Overnight: In flight

Day 2: Arrive Hanoi. Group transfer to hotel. Half day sightseeing tour.

Today you will arrive in Vietnam's capital Hanoi. Once you have passed through customs and collected your baggage, it is a short drive to the city. Your hotel rooms will be available for immediate check in, and the morning will be spent at leisure to relax and recuperate after the flight. Your first taste of authentic Vietnamese cuisine will be lunch at a local restaurant overlooking Hoan Kiem Lake.

Hoan Kiem Lake is arguably the focal point of Hanoi - from old women practicing aerobics to teenage couples canoodling, there's always something interesting going on. Here you will visit the 17th century Ngoc Son Temple, and will hear the legend of the lake's legendary turtle and the 'returned sword'.

In the afternoon you will be taken to see one of northern Vietnam's cultural highlights - a private water puppet show. The water puppet artist is the descendant of a family of puppeteers and, after the show, there will be a chance to talk to the artist and view the handcrafted puppets.

After the show you will take a walking tour of Hanoi's old quarter. This is a chaotic yet architecturally fascinating area with its appealing mix of old French colonial buildings and tall, narrow, Vietnamese style houses lining bustling streets filled with small shops, coffee houses and street vendors selling a dizzying array of wares. It is here within the old quarter that you'll learn the art of crossing the road, a task that may be daunting at first given the tide of mopeds and traffic, but will be second nature by the end of the trip! After the city tour you will be transferred back to your hotel to rest before enjoying a welcome dinner.

Overnight: La Casa Hotel or Similar, Hanoi (Meals: L D)

Day 3: Tour of the highlights of Hanoi City.

After breakfast you will visit Ba Dinh Square and the Presidential Palace (formerly Palace of the Governor-General of French Indo China) and will also see Ho Chi Minh's House on Stilts, a humble, traditional stilt house where Ho Chi Minh lived intermittently from 1958 to 1969.

You will then visit the Temple of Literature, one of Hanoi's oldest surviving buildings and said to be the oldest university in the world. Opened in 1076, the Temple of Literature (known as Van Mieu) welcomed only those of royal descent. However this was later changed so that all of those who were deemed gifted enough to study were admitted. The Van Mieu is one of Hanoi's top attractions with people coming to view its wonderful gardens and pagoda.

You will continue to the Museum of Ethnology, which gives an excellent overview of the country's ethnic groups, their customs and ways of life. A highlight here is the large and beautiful outside area featuring genuine houses and compounds as traditionally built and used by many of the country's ethnic groups, and still remaining part of their culture today. This will give you an excellent introduction to peoples you will be seeing during your stay in Vietnam.

After lunch you will visit the Hoa La Museum. Hoa La Prison was known ironically by the Americans as the 'Hanoi Hilton'. The prison was built in 1896 by the French when Vietnam was still part of French Indochina, and at its peak housed up to 2,000 Vietnamese, mainly political prisoners agitating for independence, with the majority of inmates living in conditions that can only be described as subhuman. The prison came to seen as symbol of colonial exploitation and abuse and was finally demolished in 1996. Today a small part of the jail remains open to the public as a tribute to the many who died within its walls.

You will then head for the Vietnam Women's Museum which, although often overlooked, is considered one of Hanoi's best museums. The galleries present three main themes, 'Women in Family', Women in History' and

'Women in Culture' and show marriage customs, family life, traditional women's clothing, the role of women in defense of the nation etc as well as presenting exhibitions on contemporary social issues.

There may also be time today for a walk around beautiful Hoan Kiem Lake or a visit to Hanoi's Museum of History, which shows life from prehistory to the present day.

Overnight: La Casa Hotel or Similar, Hanoi (Meals: B L)

Day 4: Transfer to Ninh Binh - 90km, 2 hours. Visit Hoa Lu. Afternoon visit to Trang An and boat trip.

After breakfast you will drive to Ninh Binh. You drive south to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Trang An Landscape Complex, located in Ninh Binh province. As you drive south, the landscape changes to typical limestone karst scenery with huge rock formations jutting up from the rice paddies and vast cave systems underground. Firstly you visit Hoa Lu, formerly the capital of Vietnam during the Dinh and early Le dynasties in the 10th and 11th centuries. Here you will see palaces, pagodas, tombs and pavilions built during these different dynasties.

You'll then make your way to the Trang An Eco Centre where you will take a boat trip to explore the caves of Trang An. Gliding serenely on crystal clear waters your boat will take you through shallow rice paddies and through a string of caves, each varying in length. The caves have low ceilings and low-level lighting, but your local guide will navigate their twists and turns with ease. En-route you may also stop at one of the many pagodas in the area.

You will return to your hotel for dinner.

Overnight: Emeralda Resort or Similar, Ninh Binh (Meals: BLD)

Day 5: Explore Ninh Binh. Boat trip and cycle ride.

This morning after breakfast you'll take a short walk to Van Long Wharf for a rowing trip lasting around 1 hour 30 minutes. As you pass through the picturesque landscape you may see different species of large water birds or even a White langur monkey. Once you've reached land it's on to two wheels for a short cycle ride to explore the local countryside. You will be able to interact with the friendly locals and lunch is taken with a local family. You will then head back to the hotel where there will be time to relax and freshen up before your evening meal.

Overnight: Emeralda Resort or Similar, Ninh Binh (Meals: BLD)

Day 6: Transfer to Tuan Chau port and board Ha Long Bay cruise boat. Visit Cua Van floating village.

Today you will be transferred to Tuan Chau port to begin your cruise of Ha Long Bay aboard the luxurious Au Co cruise ship.

After a welcome drink and safety briefing you will set sail and enjoy lunch as the ship cruises towards the southwest corner of Ha Long Bay. After lunch you visit Cua Van floating fishing village either by kayak or on a traditional rowing boat. This beautiful village is well known for its location in the heart of the World Heritage Site of Ha Long Bay.

Back on the Au Co, you may want to try your hand at fruit carving and join in the 'Master Chef' competition or simply relax on deck, sipping a sundowner, as the sun sets. After dinner there's time to catch a movie on board or even try a bit of squid fishing whilst the ship is anchored.

Overnight: Au Co Cruise, Ha Long Bay (Meals: BLD)

Day 7: On board Au Co cruise, Ha Long Bay.

You can choose an early start today with some Tai Chi, or to take in the beautiful views as the boat raises its anchor and sets sail again. After breakfast you visit a pretty island and explore its villages and a community farm project in the company of one of the Au Co's expert guides.

Returning to the boat for lunch, the afternoon is free for you to relax onboard or to kayak out to discover some of the delightful sandy beaches in the Ho Ba Ham area. Dinner tonight is a BBQ on the sundeck followed by movies and other optional activities.

It is important to note that the cruise itinerary and schedules are subject to change due to weather, tide levels and operating conditions without prior notice. Swimming or kayaking excursions may be cancelled in the event of poor weather.

Overnight: Au Co Cruise, Ha Long Bay (Meals: BLD)

Day 8: Visit Tien Ong Cave. Disembark the cruise boat and transfer to Hanoi. Fly to Hue.

This morning brings a final chance to take part in one of the Tai Chi classes available on board your cruise boat. After breakfast you will visit Tien Ong Cave. Covering an area of 1,000 square metres, with stunning stalactites and stalagmites, Tien Ong is one of the finest caves in Ha Long Bay.

You re-board the Au Co for a traditional tea ceremony after which it is time to say a fond farewell to the crew members and disembark back onto dry land. You will then be transferred to Noi Bai Airport in Hanoi, for your flight to Hue.

Overnight: El Dora Hotel or Similar, Hue (Meals: BLD)

Day 9: Sightseeing in Hue. Visit Tu Duc Tomb and cycle ride. Cruise on Perfume River and visit Imperial Citadel. Local handicraft experience.

Hue was formerly the capital of Vietnam during the Nguyen dynasty, 'the last ruling family of Vietnam', which ended in 1945. The city itself is a hive of culture, history and normal day-to-day business. There is a bustling local market by the river where everyday items and all kinds of food are for sale, and the streets are teeming with a jumble of cars, motor bikes, cycles and pedestrians.

After breakfast at your hotel you will transferred the short distance to the Tu Duc Tomb. This beautiful Imperial tomb was designed by the Emperor Tu Duc himself and also served as his summer residence during his lifetime. It was a place where he could retreat from the Citadel to compose poetry or go hunting. After visiting the tomb you continue to a nearby village. You will then go on a leisurely cycle ride, about 8 kms and mostly flat, to arrive at a lovely hamlet on the shores of the Perfume River where you will visit the descendants of the Mandarin family in their beautiful ancient garden house. You will have lunch with a family in the village.

After lunch in the village you will board a boat for a cruise on the Perfume River to visit the Imperial City, passing the seven storied Thien Mu Pagoda on the way. Behind the Pagoda is the old Austin car which transported the Buddhist monk, Thich Mang Du, to Ho Chi Minh City for his self-immolation in protest in 1963.

You will visit Hue Imperial Citadel where you have a guided tour. This Imperial City was actually a walled fortress and palace and is an astonishing remnant of the mighty power that was the Nguyen dynasty. Although many parts were destroyed and reduced to rubble by the Vietnam War, it is still a fantastic spectacle. Some of the buildings in this huge complex have been re-built and renovated to a high standard while other parts are still in ruins and require more imagination as to how they looked in their original condition. The citadel was built in the 19th century and is surrounded by a 10 km moat fed by the Perfume River. There are lots of huge fish in the moat which you can feed and then watch them in their feeding frenzy trying to grab the food. There are also a few cafes dotted around where you can sit in the shade and watch the world go by and opportunities to buy souvenirs.

Leaving the Citadel you make your wear to a nearby craft workshop and gallery. After a cup of tea, the local artisans will help you try your hand at a traditional handicraft such as hat making, kite drawing or crafting lotus flowers.

Overnight: El Dora Hotel or Similar, Hue (Meals: BLD)

Day 10: Transfer from Hue to Hoi An. Walking tour of Hoi An. Evening street-food tour.

This morning you will transfer to Hoi An. During the 17th to 19th centuries this was one of Southeast Asia's major international ports and home to many Dutch, Portuguese, Chinese and Japanese traders. It is now a hub of culinary delights and historic buildings attracting visitors from all round the world who want to experience its unique charm. What used to be traders' homes are now restaurants, cafes and outlets for local craftsmen. The majority of the buildings in Hoi An are constructed of wood, infused with Vietnamese, Chinese and Japanese designs. Many are astonishingly will preserved and you can explore them inside and out.

Next you will be taken on a guided walking tour of the city's main sights. Many of the streets are pedestrianised, making it a pleasure to walk around and browse in the shops, look at the old temples dotted around and watch the world go by whilst relaxing in one of the many cafes and restaurants. During your tour you will visit the Japanese Bridge, created by the Japanese both as a physical link and as a sign of peace between themselves and the Chinese traders who lived across a small stream. Constructed in a unique architectural style, the bridge has not been altered much since its creation in 1590. The rest of the tour will be spent exploring the Old Quarter within Hoi An which in 1999 became a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

You will then embark on a street-food tour where you can sample some of the many culinary treats that Vietnam has to offer. Finally, you can have your dinner in town before returning to your hotel for the night.

Overnight: Belle Maison Hadana Hotel or Similar, Hoi An (Meals: B)

Day 11: Cycle to Tra Que for cooking class and foot soak. Afternoon visit to My Son Holy Land.

This morning you will hop on a bike to go cycling through downtown Hoi An and on to Tra Que, an 'organic vegetable village'. Here you will be greeted with a drink and a chance to see the farmers working their fields in the age old traditional way. Before you put your apron on for your cookery class, you will observe and learn, working together with the chef, to make traditional Vietnamese pancakes, spring rolls and Tra Que vegetable salad. Once you have admired your handiwork you can enjoy sampling the food. Hopefully you can take your new found skills home with you and impress your friends. You will also enjoy a herbal foot soak.

In the afternoon you will visit the My Son Holy Land. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is a fascinating mixture of cultures and owes its spiritual origins to the Hinduism of India. In importance and grandeur it can be compared to Angkor Wat in Cambodia or Bagan in Burma. Surrounded by mountains and home to the Cham people, My Son was created as a religious and political capital for the Champa Kingdom between the 4th and 13th centuries. The towers themselves symbolise Mount Meru, the mountain home of the Hindu Gods at the centre of the universe. As you walk around the red brick temples, you'll be amazed by the intricate designs and architectural sophistication. The setting for My Son is delightful, within a verdant valley with massive Hon Quap Mountain towering above. During your tour you will be given a brief introduction to the history of the site and the Hindu influence on it.

Overnight: Belle Maison Hadana Hotel or Similar, Hoi An (Meals: BLD)

Day 12: Day at leisure in Hoi An.

Today you will enjoy a free day giving you the opportunity to further explore the city. Lunch and dinner are not included today so you can delve into the many different culinary options available in the city.

Overnight: Belle Maison Hadana Hotel or Similar, Hoi An (Meals: B)

Day 13: Fly from Da Nang to Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City). Tour of the city highlights and coffee workshop tour.

This morning after breakfast you will take a morning flight from Da Nang to Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City), Vietnam's largest city. The fast-paced nature of the city helps this economic capital to thrive, whilst still retaining its traditions and ancient culture. On arrival you will go for lunch in a local restaurant.

In the afternoon you will be taken on a city tour visiting many of its highlights including the Reunification Palace, which was the home to the President of Southern Vietnam. It was subsequently heavily associated with the fall of Saigon, when Northern Vietnamese tanks burst through the palace gates. Other famous landmarks that you will visit are the Notre Dame Cathedral - built entirely with materials bought from France - and Saigon Post Office, also dating from the French colonial era. Finally you'll be taken to the Ben Thanh Market. Packed full of anything and everything, there really are great bargains to be had here and it definitely is a real 'must see' of the city.

During the afternoon, you will be taken to the Coffee Workshop to learn about the production of coffee in Vietnam and learn how to create the perfect Vietnamese Drip - a great pick-me-up for the remainder of the day.

Returning to your hotel for the evening you can relax before your day on the Mekong Delta tomorrow. Your guide will be able to suggest somewhere for dinner.

Overnight: Cochin Zen Hotel or Similar, Saigon (Meals: B L)

Day 14: Mekong Delta - bike ride and boat ride. Gastronomic evening – craft beer and farewell meal.

After breakfast you will drive out to the Mekong Delta region. The delta of the mighty Mekong River marks the end of the river's 2,800 mile journey from the Tibetan plateau. The land is pancake flat, but brilliant green - the area is known as Vietnam's 'rice-basket'. Firstly you will drive, away from more touristy areas, to Cai Thia Pier. From here you will take a bike ride to visit some local villages to see fruit orchards, workshops and homes and try some typical snacks.

You will then board a boat for a trip to explore some of the smaller tributaries and arroyos of the Mekong, looking at villages along the way to see southern Vietnamese culture and way of life - the traditional farmers here produce much of Vietnam's rice and tropical fruits - lychees, pineapples, jackfruits, bananas and coconuts. You can also watch local fisherman along the river side. You will have lunch on board. Later you will drive back to your hotel.

On your return you will have the chance to freshen up before heading out with your guide for a farewell gastronomic evening. Firstly you walk to Pasteur Street to see the most renowned craft beer tap room of the country. You will meet the brewer to learn about this fusion of western craft brewing techniques and local ingredients and to try some of Pasteur Street's award winning beers. You then walk a little further to an outdoor restaurant, located on the rooftop of an old apartment block, where you can enjoy a farewell meal of traditional Vietnamese cuisine.

Overnight: Cochin Zen Hotel or Similar, Saigon (Meals: BLD)

Day 15: At leisure. Group transfer to the airport.

Today you are free to further explore Saigon, to do some last minute shopping in the markets or sit in one of the many cafes or bars and watch the world go by. Later in the afternoon you will be transferred to the airport for your flight back to London.

Overnight: In flight (Meals: B)

Day 16: Depart Saigon in the early hours.

Fly to London.

What the price includes

Mountain Kingdoms aims to offer the best value for money. We do not charge extra for meal packages or apply local charges and try to ensure that all the key elements of your holiday are included.

What's included:

- ✓ 13 x breakfasts, 11 x lunches, 9 x dinners
- ✓ 11 nights good quality hotel accommodation on a twin-share basis
- ✓ 2 nights on a first class cruise boat in a twin-share cabin, full board basis
- ✓ A local English-speaking Vietnamese guide
- ✓ All road transport by modern, comfortable, quality private vehicles
- ✓ All sightseeing and activities as stated
- ✓ Economy class return air fares from the UK & UK Departure Tax (flight inclusive only)
- ✓ Group airport transfers
- ✓ Carbon offsetting with the Ecoan Tree Planting Project (for clients taking our flight inclusive option)
- ✓ A free Mountain Kingdoms gilet

Airport transfers

The cost of a transfer to/from the airport is included in the price of your holiday. This is a single group transfer which is arranged to coincide with the timings of the group flights. If you book your own flights which arrive/depart at different times to this, or we book flights at your request that have different timings, we will be happy to provide a quote for a separate transfer. Please contact us should you require any further information.

What's not included:

- × Travel insurance
- × Visa fees
- × Optional trips
- × Tips
- × Some meals as indicated in the itinerary

Your accommodation

We will endeavour to secure the hotels named in this itinerary but if our first choice of hotel is not available we will book a suitable alternative of a similar standard.

La Casa Hotel or Similar, Hanoi

With its outdoor pool, sun terrace, bar, spa and sauna, La Casa offers its guests plenty of opportunity to kick back and relax. The generous, modern rooms also come with all conveniences including a kettle, air-conditioning, mini bar and free Wi-Fi.

Emeralda Resort or Similar, Ninh Binh

The Emeralda Hotel is situated on the edge of a nature reserve and surrounded by mountains. The villa style rooms are decorated with traditional art and have high quality bathrooms. Within the beautiful hotel gardens are a large outdoor swimming pool and spa, and daily yoga sessions are available. The hotel is a haven of tranquillity.

Au Co Cruise, Ha Long Bay

The Au Co cruise ship is a wonderful vessel. It has with 32 spacious, en suite cabins, each with their own balcony. The ship provides great food, has welcoming and helpful staff and its own spa.

El Dora Hotel or Similar, Hue

The El Dora Hotel is a 4 star boutique hotel conveniently located not far from the Huong River and the Hue Citadel. Rooms are large and comfortable with all amenities, and the hotel has an indoor swimming pool, restaurant and a fitness centre.

Belle Maison Hadana Hotel or Similar, Hoi An

Belle Maison Hadana in Hoi an is a resort and spa hotel located not far from Hoi An Ancient Town. The well-appointed rooms have views of the city, the swimming pool or nearby paddy fields.

Cochin Zen Hotel or Similar, Saigon

Located in the heart of Saigon's bustling District 1, the Cochin Zen is an oasis of calm and contemporary elegance. Rooms are designed with a minimalist Japanese styling and come complete with minbars, air-con and Wi-Fi. The hotel has several restaurants and bars, although its main attraction is a rooftop pool with jacuzzis, bar and a mini park from where you can enjoy stunning city views.

Meal arrangements

13 x breakfasts, 11 x lunches, 9 x dinners.

Flight arrangements

Flight inclusive from price

Our 'Flight inclusive from' price is based on the best fare available at the time of printing. As airfares change on a constant basis, this should be used only as a guide price. Rest assured that, at the time of booking, we will endeavour to get the best possible price for the flights you need. Remember, the earlier you book the greater your chances of securing the best fare.

Flight inclusive packages booked through Mountain Kingdoms are protected through our ATOL bonding scheme.

Flight upgrades and regional Airports

Please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 for flight options from regional UK airports, Business Class upgrades, alternative airlines and stopovers. Please also check our website for the most up to date flight inclusive 'from' prices.

Further information

When we receive your booking, we send you a full Trip Dossier which contains details of any visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. If you do have queries at this initial stage do call us on 01453 844400 and we will be pleased to offer advice.

The nature of adventure travel

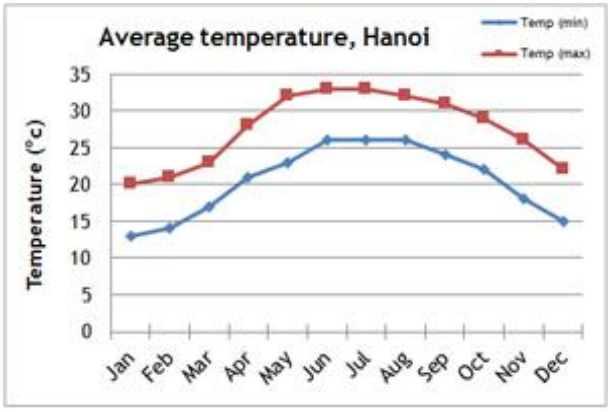
Every effort will be made to keep to this itinerary but we cannot guarantee that things may not change, either before you travel or while you are away. By its very nature, adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected, particularly in more remote areas. A variety of factors such as adverse weather conditions, changes to local schedules and difficulties with transportation can all contribute to the need to make changes to the itinerary, often at the very last minute. Our Operations Manager and your Trip Leader will make every effort to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary and minimise the impact of any changes, but an easy-going and flexible nature is a real asset! Please note that all timings and distances given are approximate.

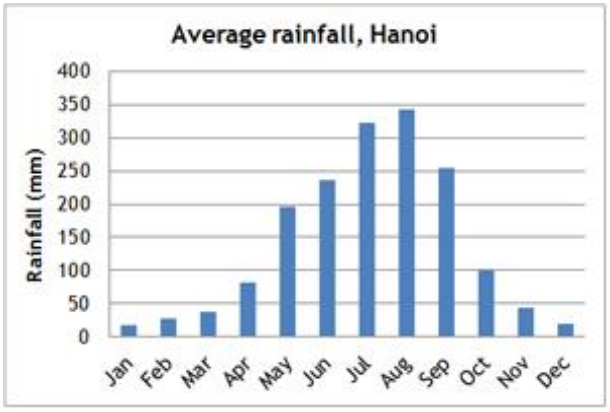
Our grading system

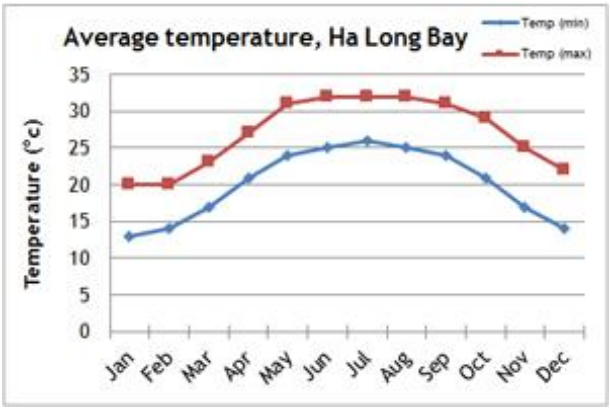
North to South Vietnam in Style is graded as a Tour, as described below.

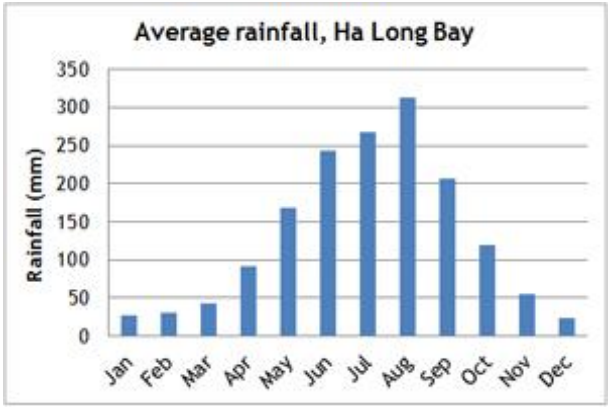
Tours
Tours may include any of the following activities: sightseeing, visiting local villages, exploring temples, game viewing, birdwatching, husky sledding, mountain flights, city tours and dramatic journeys by road, rail, or river. Occasionally there will be short, gentle walks so that you can properly explore the cultural sites you are visiting.

Climate information









Extensions

Extending your holiday

If you would like additional inspiration on how or where to extend your holiday please call us on 01453 844400.

Please contact one of our experts for extension ideas

There are many ways you can extend your holiday in Vietnam with Mountain Kingdoms: you could book extra nights at a hotel, relax at a beautiful beach resort, take a personal sightseeing tour or enjoy some other exciting activity. In fact whatever's available, we can help make it happen. We're happy to suggest ideas, provide quotes and make all the arrangements. We can also assist with flight and hotel upgrades.

Why book this holiday with Mountain Kingdoms?

- This is a well-balanced itinerary with a varied range of activities that allows you ample time to explore the sights and absorb the culture.
- We include time to explore the atmospheric cities of Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) and Hanoi, cruises in Ha Long Bay and along the Mekong and visits to the many cultural attractions of Hue and Ninh Binh.
- We use good quality, well-located hotels as well as spending two nights onboard a luxury cruise boat exploring Ha Long Bay.
- Our English-speaking local guides have a wealth of enthusiasm and knowledge about their country and its history.
- Our maximum group size is 12 for this trip. This provides for a genuine small group travel experience and helps reduce the negative aspects often associated with larger tour groups.
- We have a wealth of travel experience at Mountain Kingdoms. If you have any questions about this holiday, contact Harry on 01543 844400 who researched this trip and would be very happy to help.
- As part of our responsible tourism commitment, we will be carbon-offsetting all international flights booked through us by donating funds to the Ecoan Tree Planting Project in Peru.
- If you wish to fly with a specific airline, from a regional UK airport or on alternative dates to the main group we would be happy to arrange this for you. Please contact our Flights team, for flight options, quotes and further information.

If we've tempted you to take your next holiday with us, we advise you to check availability and you can do this via our website: www.mountainkingdoms.com or by calling the team on +44 (0)1453 844400. Bookings can be made online, by phone or by completing a booking form and returning it to us. We can also provisionally hold places if you need time to consider your options.

What our clients say

An incredible introduction to Vietnam covering so many cultural and scenic highlights with amazing experiences . The arrangements for accommodation and food were consistently good.
-CM, Scotland

This tour gave a great insight into Vietnam, with beautiful food, culture and scenery it was a trip to remember. Ha Long Bay was a definite highlight for me, the crew were fantastic and always helpful. I was able to immerse myself in the peacefulness of Trang An and explore the treasures of Hanoi.
- Harry Gray, Mountain Kingdoms

Mountain Kingdoms – distinctly different

Truly independent

In an age where many so-called 'independent' travel companies have in fact been bought out by multi-national giants, we remain fiercely independent with all the benefits this offers our clients.

Value for money prices with an emphasis on quality

We are not in the business of cutting our itineraries and services to the bone to offer eye-catching cheap prices. We use some of the best airlines, and typically 3 or 4 star hotels in cities. We include the majority of meals and private transport for road travel. We use excellent equipment and appoint well-trained staff and leaders. Last year, over 98% of our clients rated their Mountain Kingdoms holiday as 'excellent' or 'good'. We are members of AITO and bound by their quality charter.

Complete financial security

You can book with us confident that your holiday has full financial protection. Flight inclusive holidays are financially protected by the Civil Aviation Authority under ATOL licence number 2973 and 'Land Only' holidays are covered by a bond secured with ABTOT.

No Surcharge Guarantee

Your peace of mind is important to us so we have a No Surcharge Guarantee on all Land Only and Flight Inclusive bookings. This means that there will be no change to the price of your holiday once we have confirmed your booking, regardless of fluctuations in exchange rates or fuel prices.

Award winning Responsible Tourism

We feel strongly that all our holidays should benefit local communities, protect the environment and respect local traditions, religion and heritage. You can read more about the charities we support and our Responsible Tourism commitments and initiatives on the following page or at www.mountainkingdoms.com.

Genuine small group travel

Almost all of our holidays have a maximum group size of just 12, plus leader. This provides more contact with your leader, readier access to off-the-beaten-path areas, greater interaction with local communities and a reduced environmental impact.

Loyalty Discount

If you have previously travelled with us we recognise your loyalty with a discount on future trips.

Booking your holiday – it couldn't be easier

Once you've chosen your Mountain Kingdoms holiday you can book online, call the office or complete and post a booking form which can be found in our brochure or downloaded from our website. If you would like to a hold a place on one of our trips, whilst you make up your mind, please give us a call to make a provisional booking. This is a no-obligation, no-cost booking and we will hold your place until space comes under pressure or we need your decision.

Comprehensive information

When we receive your booking we send you a full trip dossier which contains details of visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. In fact, everything you need to know to give you peace of mind and allow you to prepare for your trip of a lifetime.

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM STATEMENT

For almost four decades, Mountain Kingdoms has been offering people the chance to visit amazing places on this extraordinary planet. We now have trips to all corners of the globe but are conscious that our holidays can have a detrimental impact on the world around us and want to do all we can to reduce that.

We have focused our main responsible tourism efforts on reducing the carbon emissions produced by our holidays, and counterbalancing this carbon by supporting carbon offset measures. Here are some of our current and future plans to minimise the impact of our business as a whole.

Carbon offsetting

Since 2007, we have donated a percentage of our client and staff flight costs to the Ecoan tree planting project in Peru. Ecoan are a trusted local NGO who use the funds directly to purchase seedling trees with the long-term goal of restoring 2.5 million acres of Andean land.

Ecoan maintains over 100 tree nurseries across Peru where their tree saplings are grown and then transported to planting sites during the rainy season. They use native trees such as the Polylepis, as these can survive at high altitudes. As well as sequestering carbon, they help protect against soil erosion, landslides and the effects of extreme weather on local crops. As such, they are enormously beneficial to the economic well-being of the surrounding communities. This is very much a community-led conservation project, with the local Quechuan people coming together to plant tens of thousands of saplings in the Andean highlands where they live. During the annual Queuña Raymi (tree festival), over 150,000 native trees can be planted in a single day!

For every person booking a long-haul, flight inclusive holiday with us, Ecoan can purchase and plant 20 trees in Peru, and for short-haul flights, 7 trees. Typically, we send over $7,000 per year to Ecoan, which is over 7,000 trees.

Reducing carbon emissions

- ✓ We offer the majority of our clients a free, filtered Water-to-Go bottle to help reduce the need for single-use plastic bottles during their travels.
- ✓ We predominantly use locally-owned hotels and guesthouses rather than multinational chains. In some of our destinations, such as Bhutan, we use homestays. Not only does this type of small-sized, locally-owned accommodation have a much-reduced carbon footprint, but it also helps support communities.
- ✓ We evaluate our flights to make sure we are using the most fuel-efficient airlines with the youngest fleets and, where possible, choose direct flights for each trip.
- ✓ We have stopped offering unnecessary optional flights, such as Everest sightseeing. We try to minimise internal flights where possible.
- ✓ We recycle as much of our office waste as possible and have introduced a client portal to reduce paperwork and to make it easier for clients to manage their trips online.

Wider commitment to responsible and sustainable tourism

- ✓ We are signatories to the Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency initiative to stand alongside other like-minded travel companies to initiate best practices to make tourism as sustainable as possible.
- ✓ We will continue to support several charities with whom we have a long-standing relationship, such as Shiva Charity in Nepal.

Over the years, we have given sizeable payments to emergency relief when a disaster has occurred in the countries we operate in. We always try to ensure that these funds go directly to those who need them most to help rebuild their lives.