



VIETNAM CULINARY

Tour Code: **INS-CK05**

Duration: **12 days/11 nights**

Accommodation: **Included**
Meals: **Included**
Transportation: **Private transfer**

OVERVIEW

From the busy alleys of bustling Hanoi, to the ancient Old Town of Hoi An, the marvellous limestone cliffs of Halong Bay, to the modern city of Ho Chi Minh, we will assault your senses and tantalise your tastebuds with the diverse flavours that make up the food of Vietnam.

ITINERARY

Day 1 | Arrive Hanoi

Upon arrival, meet your guide and driver then transfer to hotel. Rest of the day is free at leisure. This evening meet for your introduction to Vietnam talk, following will be the welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Hanoi, The capital of Vietnam welcomes you with very special oriental beauty which lies in the lovely and friendly smiles from the locals you meets. During your time here, you would stay at a very comfortable hotel in the city centre. It is located near the Old Quarter, therefore you could find it easy to explore the vibrant life of the true Hanoi, go shopping and visit many cultural sites during your visit.

*Accommodation: In Hanoi
Meals: Dinner*

Day 2 | Hanoi City Tour

Today you will visit some beauty spots which are regarded as the heart and soul of Hanoi such as Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, his House on stilts, One-pillar pagoda. Next stop will be the Temple of Literature- dedicated to Confucious and is the former first National University of Vietnam. Lunch at local restaurant. Afternoon discover the 54 traditions of Vietnam through a visit to the Ethnology museum. Enjoy the water puppet show before going to dinner.

The traditional music performance inside the Temple of Literature is worth seeing. It is truly unique.

Accommodation: In Hanoi

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3 | Hanoi Cooking Class

This morning explore the food markets with Madam Anh Tuyet who will guide you through the intricacies of the local food, herbs, meat, poultry and fish varieties available. Following this you will proceed to her house to enjoy a very interesting cooking class. The end product will be a shared lunch. Later we will visit the notorious Hoa Lu prison (Hanoi Hilton) which also used to house US Airmen POWs. Visit Hoan Kiem lake and the Jade Island before taking a cyclo trip through the old quarter.

Accommodation: In Hanoi

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch/optional with cooking class

Day 4 | Hanoi – Ha Long Bay

This morning we drive for about 4 Hrs including a half way rest stop, before we reach Halong Bay then embark on our vessel and start our fantastic cruise to explore the magnificent rock formations and grottos that this area is famous for. After lunch, board a rowing boat to visit one of the floating fishing villages in the bay. In the late afternoon, maybe take an optional kayak trip to discover more of this area or just enjoy relaxing and watching the sunset. A seafood dinner will be served onboard. A spa service is available.



Halong Bay is a UNESCO World Natural Heritage site which one should never miss on your journey to Vietnam. It has a vast landscape of beautiful limestone karst mountains, riddled with caves, beautiful beaches and inlets it's a truly magnificent place to visit..

Accommodation: on board Ha Long Bay | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 | Ha Long Bay - Hanoi

Early morning enjoy a cup of tea or coffee or join the Vietnamese Tai Chi class on the sundeck and catch the first rays of sunrise for another beautiful day in the bay. Continue your cruise among the breathtaking scenery, Visit to one of the most beautiful limestone caves, and open your eyes, your mind and your ears to this wonderful natural setting. At 9.30 check-out, have a delicious brunch before disembarking. Around 11:00 meet your driver at the pier then enjoy the transfer back to Hanoi. Afternoon is at your leisure.

*Accommodation: In Hanoi
Meals: Brunch*

Day 6 | Hanoi – Hue

After breakfast, take a short flight to Hue. On arrival, have boat trip along the beautiful Perfume river to visit Thien Mu Pagoda, then drive to the Imperial City, here you will have a field trip to explore this UNESCO cultural heritage site.

Hue is famous for its magnificent monuments and architectural buildings. The old capital located in the centre of Vietnam, with a simple lifestyle and pleasant people, Hue brings to you a warm welcoming feeling.

*Accommodation: In Hue
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner*

Day 7 | Hue - Hoian

Leaving Hue for a scenic drive over Hai Van (Sea Cloud) pass to Hoi An. En route you would stop over at Lang Co Beach which is as beautiful as a picture with its turquoise water surface, 10-km of white



sand beaches and a backdrop of seemingly endless mountains. A visit to the Cham museum will be made at Da Nang. There will be an opportunity for a photo stop of the beautiful pagodas at the Marble Mountain before arrival in Hoi An. Lunch is at local restaurant in Hoi An ancient town. The afternoon will continue with a short walking tour along the charming streets of this UNESCO Heritage town, including the Japanese Bridge, ancient houses, Chinese assembly hall... Then it's your time for shopping.

Hoi An is called "ancient town", one of quietest cities in Vietnam with plenty lantern shops along the streets, silk shops and tailors shops. Hoi An is one of the most exciting ancient trading port centers of Southeast Asia dating back to the 16th century. Hoi An is also known for Chinese and Japanese architecture and tasty central Vietnamese cuisine.

*Accommodation: In Hoi An
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

Day 8 | Hoi An Cooking Class

Pick you up from your hotel to the meeting point then transfer to the Hoi An market. Our staff and the Chef will escort you for a very interesting walking tour at the market, here you will have a chance to meet and chat with the locals – both the producers and the vendors, learn about different ingredients – the taste, the smell, the use of those in the local cuisine. After the market tour, walk down to the peaceful river, enjoy a boat trip downstream to discover the river life of Hoi An. Arrive at the Red Bridge cooking center, for your class. Following will be a delicious lunch made by you and special offers from our chef to discover more of the Hoian food.

*Accommodation: in Hoi An
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

Day 9 | Hoi An – Ho Chi Minh City

After breakfast, transfer to the airport to take a short morning flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Upon arrival, transfer to a local restaurant for lunch. In the afternoon visit the War Remnants Museum, Reunification Palace, Central Post Office & Notre Dame Cathedral. Check into the



hotel then have free time to relax. Dinner tonight will be served while cruising along the Saigon river.

Ho Chi Minh City formerly named Saigon, is the largest city in Vietnam and much more crowded & exciting than Hanoi. It overcame the war history to become a modern & dynamic City. Saigon boasts about it's French Colonial architecture and attractive wide boulevards.

*Accommodation: In Ho Chi Minh City
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

Day 10 | Ho Chi Minh City – Cooking Class

Another cooking class to show you how the cuisines in this wonderful country differ between each region.

You will be thrilled to get back to your home country with your handbook packed with new recipes for your family and friends.

*Accommodation: In Ho Chi Minh City
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch*

Day 11 | Mekong Delta Exploration

Depart to Cai Be, a small town deep in the Mekong Delta. Here board a private boat and visit the colourful Cai Be floating market, where you'll cruise among local barges full of fruit and vegetables. Later a special visit will be made to an ancient Mandarin's house, dating from the 19th century, where the family will host you with a special lunch. You'll also visit some local home factories that produce rice paste, rice popcorn and coconut candies. After lunch, your boat trip will cruise deeper into the countryside through smaller canals and pass under small traditional bridges made from wood and bamboo. You will discover beautiful landscapes and observe the typical Mekong Delta rural life. At the end of your cruise, return by road to Ho Chi Minh City and witness the chaos of peak hour traffic

Farewell dinner tonight at a local restaurant.

*Accommodation: In Ho Chi Minh City
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.*



Day 12 | Ho Chi Minh Departure

Breakfast then free time until departure. Hotel check-out time is at 12:00.

Accommodation: on your flight

Meals: Breakfast

INCLUSIONS:

- Accommodation in a double or twin share room with daily breakfast
- Domestic flight Hanoi – hue, Danang-Saigon
- Overnight cruise on non-private board in Halong Bay
- Private air-conditioned vehicle during all tours and transfers.
- An English speaking guide throughout the whole trip
- Entrance fees for all visits as mentioned in the itinerary
- Meals as described in the itinerary
- Water puppet show
- All recipes for cooking classes and notes
- Private boat in Mekong, cooking class in Hanoi, Hoi An and Ho Chi Minh
- 1 bottle of Water and tissues a day per person

EXCLUSIONS:

- International Flights
- International airfares and departure taxes
- Vietnam visa (a visa is compulsory and must be arranged in advance)
- Meals, if not specified in the itinerary
- Travel insurance (we highly recommend that you purchase adequate insurance)
- Gratuities for guides and drivers
- Personal expenses, such as laundry, telephone, drinks, etc.
- All other services not specified in the itinerary

