

# Best Of Northern Vietnam 9 Days



## Brief itinerary

Day	Itinerary Description	Overnight
Day 1	Arrival in Hanoi - Embrace the Capital's Charms	Hanoi
Day 2	Hanoi Sightseeing - Discover a City Steeped in History	Hanoi
Day 3	Hanoi – Mai Chau Valley: A Journey to Tranquility	Mai Chau
Day 4	Mai Chau Valley Continued Exploration: Immerse in Local Life	Mai Chau
Day 5	Mai Chau – Pu Luong Trekking: Nature's Splendor	Pu Luong
Day 6	Pu Luong Trekking – Drive to Ninh Binh: Nature's Bounty	Pu Luong
Day 7	Ninh Binh Exploration - A Day of Natural Wonders	Ninh Binh
Day 8	Ninh Binh – Halong Bay: From Landscapes to Limestone Karsts	Halong Bay
Day 9	Halong Bay – Return to Hanoi Airport - Bidding Farewell	Halong Bay

# Detailed Itinerary



## Day 1: Arrival in Hanoi - Embrace the Capital's Charms



As you step off the plane and into Hanoi's Noi Bai International Airport, your journey into the heart of Vietnam begins. A warm and hospitable welcome awaits you, as our guide, bearing a sign adorned with the unmistakable Asia Tour Advisor logo and your name, greets you. From here, you will be seamlessly transported to the heart of downtown Hanoi.

During your transfer, your guide will offer you a delightful introduction to the city, setting the stage for your exploration. Keep an eye out for the ASIA TOUR ADVISOR LOGO signboard held by your driver, ensuring a smooth transition from the airport to your destination.

With the day now yours to command, take the opportunity to immerse yourself in the captivating essence of Hanoi. The city is a harmonious blend of tree-lined boulevards, French Indochinese architecture, and tranquil lakes, each contributing to its unique allure.

Hanoi, Vietnam's resplendent capital, is home to seven million inhabitants. With its graceful French colonial architecture, shaded boulevards, picturesque lakes, and the bustling charm of the Old Quarter, Hanoi exudes an understated sophistication. While exploring the city, you'll witness locals practicing Tai Chi by the serene lake, and you'll find barbers and street food vendors engaged in their trade, adding to the city's vibrant atmosphere.

**Meals:** None, Lunch at local favorite restaurant

**Accommodation:** Hanoi hotels



## Day 2: Hanoi Sightseeing - Discover a City Steeped in History



The capital of Vietnam, a city with a history that celebrated its millennium in 2010, boasts a wealth of captivating cultural and historical sites. Today's tour will unveil the city's most notable highlights, granting you a glimpse into its rich heritage.

Begin your journey with a visit to the grand and solemn Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, an iconic structure (please note it is closed on Mondays and Fridays from October to November). Next, discover the famed One Pillar Pagoda, often considered the symbol of Hanoi. The serene Temple of Literature, nestled beside West Lake, along with Tran Quoc Temple and Quan Thanh Pagoda, each offers its own unique charm.

A visit to the bustling Old Quarter sets the scene for your exploration of Hanoi's vibrant streets. Finally, your day concludes with an enchanting water puppet performance, a cultural gem that promises to leave a lasting impression.

**Meals:** Breakfast at the dining lounge, Lunch at local favorite restaurant

**Accommodation:** Hanoi hotels



## Day 3: Hanoi – Mai Chau Valley: A Journey to Tranquility



At approximately 9:00 AM, a private car and guide will arrive to embark on a picturesque journey to Mai Chau, a serene and beautiful valley that has long been home to various ethnic groups, including the Thai, Muong, Hmong, Tay, and Viet. Mai Chau provides the perfect sanctuary, allowing you to escape the hustle and bustle of city life and immerse yourself in the wonders of nature, tranquil villages, local lifestyles, and captivating cultures.

After a scenic 3.5-hour drive, you'll arrive in Mai Chau. Here, you'll savor a delightful lunch at a local eatery before checking in at your homestay.

In the afternoon, the choice is yours: embark on a leisurely walk or bicycle ride through the valley, passing by picturesque Thai ethnic villages, where you can witness their farming practices, observe their distinctive house styles, and even engage with the locals to gain fascinating insights into their unique cultures. Mai Ha village is one of the suggested destinations to explore, although your guide can customize the route to match your preferences.

As the day winds to a close, enjoy a hearty dinner and spend the night in a homestay, hosted by a local family in Mai Hich village.

**Meals:** Breakfast at the dining lounge, Lunch/Dinner at local favorite restaurant

**Accommodation:** Mai Chau hotels



**Day 4: Mai Chau Valley Continued Exploration: Immerse in Local Life**



Awaken to the gentle songs of roosters, the crisp mountain air, and breathtaking mountain vistas. After a nourishing breakfast, embark on a 2.5-hour trek through the valley, passing through various villages in Sam Khoe commune to further immerse yourself in local life.

You'll break for lunch with a local family in Buoc village before making your way to your charming lodge for check-in. Poom Coong or Lac Village are recommended stops for the afternoon, given their proximity to your lodging.

Enjoy a second tranquil night in the embrace of Mai Chau's natural beauty.

(Note: The choice of villages may vary based on current conditions.)

**Meals:** Breakfast at the dining lounge, Lunch/Dinner at local favorite restaurant

**Accommodation:** Mai Chau hotels



## Day 5: Mai Chau – Pu Luong Trekking: Nature's Splendor



Perhaps you'll want to savor the tranquility of your lodge a bit longer. At around 9:00 AM, prepare to journey to the Pu Luong Nature Reserve in Ba Thuoc commune, Thanh Hoa province, a scenic drive that takes approximately 2 hours.

Upon arrival, if your room at Pu Luong Retreat is not yet available, you can store your luggage there. Then, embark on a gentle trek downhill into the Pu Luong Nature Reserve, visiting Don village along the way. Here, you'll witness captivating rice cultivation and observe local farming activities. Later, ascend to the mountain's peak for panoramic views that encompass the region's dotted villages. In the afternoon, return to your accommodation for check-in and relaxation.

(Note: Village choices may be adjusted based on current conditions.)

**Meals:** Breakfast at the dining lounge, Lunch/Dinner at local favorite restaurant

**Accommodation:** Pu Luong hotels



## Day 6: Pu Luong Trekking – Drive to Ninh Binh: Nature's Bounty



After a hearty breakfast, discuss your preferences with your guide and choose from a variety of magnificent trekking routes. These trails offer glimpses of extraordinary rice terraces, stunning hills and valleys, and captivating hamlets, providing insight into daily life. The trekking options range from easy strolls through nearby villages to more challenging hikes extending into more remote areas.

At the appropriate time, journey to Ninh Binh, where you'll check in to your hotel and enjoy leisurely free time.

(Note: The choice of villages may vary based on current conditions.)

**Meals:** Breakfast at the dining lounge, Lunch/Dinner at local favorite restaurant

**Accommodation:** Pu Luong hotels



## Day 7: Ninh Binh Exploration - A Day of Natural Wonders



After a satisfying breakfast at the hotel, your day unfolds with a visit to Ninh Binh's most iconic attractions. The itinerary is flexible, offering you the choice of exploring Hoa Lu, the ancient royal capital of Vietnam. You'll have the chance to visit the Dinh King Temple and Le King Temple, both dating back to the 10th century, and delve into the heroic histories of these two monarchs during the Chinese Wars.

Other attractions that might pique your interest include the magnificent Bai Dinh Pagoda and a boat excursion on either Tam Coc, Trang An, or Van Long. Your guide will assist you in selecting the most appealing options based on your preferences.

**Meals:** Breakfast at the dining lounge, Lunch at local favorite restaurant

**Accommodation:** Ninh Binh hotels



**Day 8: Ninh Binh – Halong Bay: From Landscapes to Limestone Karsts**



At approximately 9:00 AM, our team will collect you from the hotel lobby and set out on a picturesque drive through the verdant Red River Delta. Your destination is the illustrious UNESCO World Heritage site, Halong Bay.

Upon arrival, you'll board a luxurious junk ship for an overnight cruise. As you settle in and relax on deck, prepare to be captivated by the extraordinary limestone karsts rising majestically from the turquoise waters of the Gulf of Tonkin. Halong Bay's enchanting scenery features thousands of jungle-clad islands seemingly suspended on the waves.

Indulge in a delectable seafood lunch while savoring the incredible vistas with a refreshing drink in hand. Your journey includes a visit to a traditional fishing village where the locals have ingeniously built an entire town on their boats. You'll also have the opportunity to explore Tien Ong Cave before returning to the cruise for cocktails, canapés, and a breathtaking sunset. Conclude your day with a romantic, candlelit dinner.

**Meals:** Breakfast at the dining lounge, Lunch/Dinner at local favorite restaurant

**Accommodation:** Halong Bay hotels



**Day 9: Halong Bay – Return to Hanoi Airport - Bidding Farewell**



The day commences with an invigorating Tai Chi session on the sundeck, set against the early morning mist as the sun emerges over the azure waters. As you revel in the beauty of the bay, you'll have the choice between a tranquil island visit for swimming or participating in a cooking demonstration with the ship's chef, where you can delve deeper into the art of Vietnamese cuisine.

Relish a leisurely brunch while your junk gracefully sails through Halong Bay, passing by scenic islets and caves as it retraces its course to the harbor.

Upon disembarkation, your driver will be ready to meet you, transferring you to Noi Bai Airport for your evening flight home. Alternatively, if your departure is scheduled for the early morning of the following day, we can arrange an additional night's stay in Hanoi.

### **Farewell and Future Adventures**

As your tour with Asia Tour Advisor draws to a close, we extend our heartfelt thanks for sharing this incredible journey with us. Until we meet again, safe travels, and we look forward to welcoming you on your next adventure.

Should you find that the above itinerary does not fully align with your expectations, please remember that Asia Tour Advisor specializes in crafting customized trips tailored to your unique preferences and desires. Explore more of our remarkable country with our diverse range of Vietnam tours.

**Meals:** Breakfast at the dining lounge, Lunch at local favorite restaurant

**Accommodation:** Halong Bay hotels

# Booking Policy

## What's Included

- Accommodation in double room with daily breakfast.
- Meals as mentioned in the itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner. Food only – NO drinks
- Transfers by private air-conditioned vehicles.
- English speaking local guides
- All entrance fees as indicated in itinerary.
- Boat trips as mentioned in the itinerary
- Cruise in Halong Bay
- Cold water and towel during tours

## What's Excluded

- Visa stamp fee
- International air ticket
- International airport tax
- Other meal, drink, Tip to guide and driver, personal expenses
- Supplement for French, Italian and German speaking guide
- Festival surcharge

## Cancellation by Customer

- Cancellation received before 60 days: FREE of charge
- Cancellation received from 30 days to 59 days prior arrival date: 10% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 15 days to 29 days prior arrival date: 30% of total rate
- Cancellation received from 7 days to 14 days prior arrival date: 50% of total rate
- Cancellation received less than 7 days prior arrival date or No show: 100% of total rate

## Children Policy

- The rate for children applicable for one child sharing a twin or double cabin with two adults
- For infant (<04 years old): FOC except domestic ticket cost

- 04 - 11 years old without bed: 50% adult rate
- 04 - 11 years old with extra bed: 75% adult rate
- 04 - 11 years old in twin share: 90% adult rate

## Why us

100% Local Expert	24/07 Support
Best Customer Values	Price Beat Guarantee
100% Customer Satisfaction	100% Money Back Guarantee
Save up to 50%	Unique Tailor-made Tours