



**NEW** LUXURY SMALL GROUP JOURNEYS

## Vietnam: A Nation Revealed 2019

12 days

Limited to 18 guests

Discover the many faces of this dynamic nation as you explore Hanoi's Old Quarter, cruise Ha Long Bay, pedal rural Mai Chau, uncover Hue's imperial legacy, taste the local flavors of Hoi An and stroll the bustling streets of Ho Chi Minh City.

### Included With Every Luxury Small Group Journey

- English-Speaking Resident Tour Director® and Local Guides
- Hand-Selected Luxury Accommodations
- Travelling Bell Boy® Luggage Handling
- Breakfast in Bed on Select Days
- Traveller's Valet® Laundry Service
- Internet Access (Where Available)
- Airport Meet and Greet with Private Transfers
- Full Breakfast Daily; Select Lunches and Dinners
- Entrance Fees, Taxes and All Gratuities Except Resident Tour Director
- 24/7 A&K On-Call Support
- Guaranteed Departures with Just Two Guests

### A&K Advantages

Reveal the spirit of a nation as you explore Vietnam's iconic cities, stunning rural scenery and enduring cultural traditions

Experience the contrast of Vietnam's two largest cities: austere, traditional Hanoi and modern Ho Chi Minh City

Take in breathtaking seascapes as you cruise a less-frequented course through stunning Ha Long Bay

Discover traditional ways of life in rural Vietnam as you explore Mai Chau by bicycle

Explore Hue's Imperial Citadel, the former national capital

# Itinerary

## DAY 1 ARRIVE HANOI, VIETNAM

Arrive in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, and transfer to your colonial-style hotel.

Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi

## DAY 2 HANOI | ECHOES OF THE PAST

Hanoi is the country's cultural heart, bearing traces of centuries of changing dynasties. Visit Ho Chi Minh's house, a simple structure located among banyan and milkweed trees, which served as home to the revolutionary guerrilla leader who pursued independence for Vietnam. Continue to the lotus-shaped One Pillar Pagoda, dating back to the first Vietnamese empire independent from China. Next, visit the Temple of Literature, Hanoi's first university. After lunch at a local restaurant, reflect at Hỏa Lò Prison, the infamous "Hanoi Hilton," where American prisoners of war were once confined. Next, Ride Like a Local by *cyclo* through the Old Quarter. Later this evening, gather with your fellow guests for a welcome cocktail reception and dinner.

Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 3 HA LONG BAY | CRUISING AMONG THE KARSTS

This morning, you are transferred to the port city of Hai Phong, where you board 'Orchid,' the stylish vessel that is your home for the evening. Cruise into the stunningly picturesque seascape of Ha Long Bay, setting course for Da Chong islet, then watching as its century-old French colonial lighthouse drifts by. Settle into your deck chair as 'Orchid' snakes her way past the islets of Con Vit and Gia Luan, their striking *karsts* (limestone formations) rising dramatically from the tranquil bay. 'Orchid's' course isolates you from the typical tourist route, winding past Thoi Quyt and Coc Ngoi islets. Disembark on Cat Ba Island and travel overland through a stunning karst landscape cloaked in verdant forests on your way to Trung Trang Cave. Admire the cave's intricate features, formed over millennia. Step back aboard 'Orchid' as she maneuvers for the best vantage of a dramatic sunset framed against the Gulf of Tonkin shoreline. Join a Chef's Table demonstration featuring traditional Vietnamese cuisine, followed by dinner on board. Retire to your cabin to enjoy a restful night's sleep as the waves lap gently against the hull.

'Orchid' | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 4 HA LONG BAY & MAI CHAU | A JOURNEY INTO THE HILLS

Greet the day with sunrise tai chi overlooking the bay from 'Orchid's' deck. Set out for an early morning kayak excursion among the towering limestone pinnacles. Return for brunch on board as 'Orchid' makes her way back to port. Disembark and board a coach for the scenic, half-day journey to Mai Chau, pausing for breaks along the way. This evening upon arrival, settle in to your accommodations, and then gather for dinner and a traditional dance performance.

Mai Chau Ecolodge | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 5 MAI CHAU | CYCLING THE COUNTRYSIDE

After a leisurely breakfast, you may opt to set out on a cycling tour of the local valleys. Your 12-mile ride snakes its way through Chieng Chau, Van Mai, Cun and Mai Hich, passing villages, lush rice paddies and seldom-seen countryside. En route, pause to meet a local hill tribe community and learn about their enduring cultural traditions. Visit a local school and learn about how AKP supports a program which provides clean filtered drinking water to students. Then, enjoy lunch at a local home, before returning to your lodge by late afternoon with the remainder of your day at leisure.

Mai Chau Ecolodge | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 6 HUE | PERFUME RIVER VISTAS

This morning, transfer to Hanoi. After lunch at a local restaurant, transfer to the airport for your flight to Hue. Upon arrival, you are transferred to your boutique hotel fronting the banks of the Perfume River. Enjoy the remainder of your evening at leisure.

Azerai La Residence, Hue | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

## DAY 7 HUE | REVEALING AN IMPERIAL LEGACY

Today, explore the legacy of the Nguyen dynasty, a powerful family that ruled Vietnam from 1802 to 1945. Their reign witnessed the construction of Hue's Imperial Citadel, which served as the nation's political capital and religious hub. Venture inside it to discover the Imperial City, a walled palace that mirrors the grandeur of China's Forbidden City. Next, explore the tomb of Emperor Tu Duc, the dynasty's longest reigning ruler. Stroll among the citadel's other monuments, noting the scars of war still remaining from the conflicts of the last century. After lunch at a local restaurant, return to your hotel for time at leisure. Later, hop on a Vespa for a ride to a nearby home, where you are welcomed in by a local family. Step into the family's temple to learn more about their traditions and beliefs. Next, head to their kitchen for a Chef's Table demonstration. Finally, gather round the table for dinner with your newfound friends. Return to your hotel with a deeper understanding of local life.

Azerai La Residence, Hue | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 8 HOI AN | AUTHENTIC FLAVORS OF THE MARKET

After breakfast, transfer to Hoi An via the stunningly scenic Hai Van Pass. Also known as the "Cloudy Pass," this winding mountain road overlooks lush countryside, sandy beaches and the blue waters of the South China Sea. Pause in Danang to view the Museum of Cham Sculpture's collection of artifacts dating back to the seventh century. Continue to Hoi An for a guided culinary exploration of local street food. Sample traditional dishes from a collection of ten market stalls hand-chosen for their diverse offerings and Westerner-friendly preparations. Afterward, transfer to your hotel for an evening at leisure.

Four Seasons Resort The Nam Hai | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

## DAY 9 HOI AN | ARCHITECTURAL MELTING POT



Set out on a walking tour of Hoi An, a UNESCO World Heritage Site retaining a diverse mix of architecture influenced by the many nations that traded in this historic port of call. Explore the Old House of Tan Ky, the Fujian Assembly Hall and the 400-year-old covered bridge. Return to your resort for an afternoon at leisure. Later, gather for a Scenic Sundowner on the beach, watching as the warm glow of twilight paints the sky over the palms.

Four Seasons Resort The Nam Hai | Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

#### DAY 10 HO CHI MINH CITY | VIBRANT, EVOCATIVE SAIGON

Fly this morning to Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known as Saigon. Recently experiencing a resurgence of art and culture, this lively, evocative city is a hub of activity — a sharp contrast to the traditional ambience of Hanoi. Later, view examples of the city's colonial legacy, including the Central Post Office, the Opera House and the Notre Dame Cathedral.

Park Hyatt Saigon | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

#### DAY 11 HO CHI MINH CITY | INTO THE CU CHI TUNNELS

This morning, travel out of the city and into the countryside to explore the expansive Cu Chi Tunnel network, a key Vietcong resource during the Vietnam War. You have the opportunity to squeeze into and crawl through the small tunnels once traversed by Vietcong guerrillas. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, and then visit the War Remnants Museum. After some time at leisure, gather at a culinary hotspot for a cocktail reception and farewell dinner.

Park Hyatt Saigon | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### DAY 12 DEPART HO CHI MINH CITY

After breakfast, transfer to the airport and board your homebound flight.

## Extensions



## Explore Dubai: Stopover Package

3 days from \$1,695 per person  
Single Supplement from \$1,195 per person

Park Hyatt Dubai (from \$1,695; single supplement from \$1,195)  
Taj Dubai (from \$1,695; single supplement from \$1,195)  
Four Seasons Resort Dubai at Jumeirah Beach (from \$1,995; single supplement from \$1,395)  
*International air not included.*

3 Days

#### Add a Remarkable Stopover to Your Journey

Take advantage of an incredible opportunity to fly one of the world's premier airlines at exclusive preferred business and first-class rates, and spend two nights in Dubai before or after your journey. Fly glamorous Emirates to Dubai and check in to your luxury hotel. Discover the best of this dazzling city, viewing its remarkable architecture, visiting the Spice Market and colorful shops at the Deira Gold Souk, and ascending the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest skyscraper. On the last day, continue on to your journey or board your flight home.

Park Hyatt Dubai or Taj Dubai or Four Seasons Resort Dubai at Jumeirah Beach | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch (Day 2) Breakfast (Day 3)

## Dates & Prices

Prices are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy.

#### Journey Details

Internal Air: Economy class from \$350  
Hanoi/Hue; Danang/Ho Chi Minh City

This journey contains some active elements.

Minimum age is 10 years.

First group event: welcome briefing at 9:30 a.m. on Day 2.

Last group event: farewell dinner at 7:00 p.m. on Day 11.

Departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 2 guests.

Prices are per person based on double occupancy. Internal and international air not included. See complete terms and conditions [here](#).