

# NORTHERN HIGHLIGHT OF VIETNAM

- Duration: 05Days/04Nights
  - Tour code: **VN5D-06**
- Highlights: Hanoi – Halong – Ninh Binh



## DAY 01: HANOI ARRIVAL – HALF DAY CITY TOUR (NO MEAL)

Arrive at Noi Bai International Airport, welcome by **our tour guide** and transfer to your hotel (*Check in time of hotel will be 14:00, early check in will depend to hotel availability of hotel, we did not include early check in fee*).

Afternoon: continue the tour to one of the following museums of choice namely: the **Museum of Fine Arts**, the **National Museum of Vietnamese History**, the **Museum of Revolution**, the **Museum of Military History** or the **Museum of Ethnology**. Continue to the **Temple of Literature**, known as the first university of Vietnam built in 1070 by the Ly Dynasty to honor Confucius, sages and outstanding Vietnamese scholars. Late afternoon, visit Hoan Kiem Lake and **Ngoc Son Temple** located on an islet in the lake. Hoan Kiem Lake is the center point of Hanoi and home to a rare endangered giant turtle species. Its name “Returned Sword” comes from a legend of a sacred sword being lent to an ancient Vietnamese King by a holy turtle from the lake and later returned to the turtle. Shop or walk at leisure in the Old Quarter of 36 ancient streets. Enjoy 30 minutes by cyclo tour. Overnight at hotel in Hanoi

*Meals: No Meal*

*Accommodation: A hotel used in Hanoi*

## DAY 02: HANOI – FULL DAY TAM COC BICH DONG TOUR (B)

Morning, meet our guide at your hotel and transfer to Ninh Binh Province about 100 km South of Hanoi. Head for Hoa Lu to see the few vestiges of the first capital of Vietnam. Built in the 10th Century by the Dinh Dynasty not only for a capital but also as a stronghold against the Northern invaders, Hoa Lu shortly later it was inherited by the Le Dynasty. Visit the two old temples one dedicated to Dinh Tien Hoang, the only king of the Dinh Dynasty and also Vietnam’s first emperor and the other to the succeeding kings of the Le Dynasty. Though the temples are no longer intact, some precious antique carvings and sculpture of stone and wood are still preserved. Then continue to visit Bich Dong pagoda, an ancient three tiered cave pagoda only accessible by steep stone steps, but it is really worth climbing up for a charming pagoda and stupendous view from the top.

Afternoon, take a sampan cruise along the Hoang Long River through the scenic landscape of Tam Coc, a 350 ha area of karst mountains scattered over the lush wetland with paddy fields. This area is referred to as “an inland Ha Long bay” for its strikingly similar water-and-rock terrain features. Depending on the time of visit, you may see local farmers harvesting rice or transplanting seedlings for the new crop. Pass through three big caves which feature the area’s name (Tam Coc means three caves in Vietnamese) and which represent a host of local rocky caves and grottoes. Back to Hanoi. Overnight at hotel in Hanoi

*Meals: Breakfast*

*Accommodation: At hotel in Hanoi*

### **DAY 03: HANOI – HA LONG– OVERNIGHT ON CRUISE IN HALONG (B/L/D)**

Morning pickup at 8:00 AM from your hotel for transfer to Ha Long Bay by private transfer, which is about 160 km or 3.5-hour drive away. On the way, you will see some rural areas of the Red River Delta with plenty of chances to take photos of Vietnamese farmers working in paddy fields. Stop half way to visit a handicraft workshop of fine clothes and embroidered paintings.

Arrive in Ha Long City at 11:30 AM and check in aboard the booked junk right after the welcome drink is served. Start cruising while having lunch on board and enjoy the mighty bay view. Ha Long Bay meaning Descending Dragon Bay in Vietnamese as legend has it that it was where a holly dragon landed down from sky. The bay, famous as one of the world’s wonders and heritage sites whose formation dates back 500 million years, consists of around 2,000 karst islands and islets scattered over an area of 1,553 km<sup>2</sup>. The bay cruise will continue with up close sighting of Dinh Huong Island, Ga Choi Island, Dog Island, Sail Island, a visit to Sung Sot Cave and swimming stop at Titov Beach. Relax to enjoy the bay view at sunset, have dinner after, go fishing at 09:00 PM and spend a night on board.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch (Local Food), Dinner (Local Food)*

*Accommodation: A cruise used in Ha Long*

### **DAY 04: HA LONG – HANOI (B/L or BR)**

Early risers can enjoy the splendid yet tranquil view of the bay at the crack of dawn. Breathe the sea’s fresh air, feel the morning breeze and hear the sounds of birds above. Have breakfast and cruise to visit Human head shaped island and Tortoise Island. Continue to cruise into Bai Tu Long Bay to discover the adjacent bay of “The Little Dragon Bowing to His Mother” as it is named. Check out and have lunch or brunch on board while heading to shore. Disembark and transfer back to Hanoi hotel. Free and easy. Overnight at hotel in Hanoi

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch or Brunch (Local Food)*

*Accommodation: At hotel in Hanoi*

### **DAY 05: HANOI DEPARTURE (B)**

Free at leisure until check out hotel. transfer to airport for departure flight.

*Meals: Breakfast*

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