

INSIGHTS INTO VIETNAM

September 1 to 15, 2018

Asia has always been a fascinating destination full of the rich history of centuries past and resplendent with natural beauty. Our 15 day adventure covers not only the sights of the country but some of the stunning beauty that can only be found "on foot". You are invited to join our small group as we delve into the hustle and bustle and the tranquility of modern and ancient Vietnam. Our tour will visit Hanoi, Sa Pa, Lao Cai, Halong Bay, Hue, Da Nang, Hoi An and Ho Chi Minh City. Fully escorted and rich with the history, tastes and reality that is today's Vietnam!

Toronto	September 1	Eva Air 035	depart:	01:45
Taipei	September 2		arrive:	04:45
Taipei	September 2	Eva Air 397	depart:	09:05
Hanoi			arrive:	11:05

September 02, 2018: Hanoi City (D)

On arrival at Noi Bai Airport, we will meet our tour manager / guide and transfer to our hotel for check-in (subject to time of arrival). Time to relax. Dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight in Hanoi.

September 03, 2018: Hanoi City (B / L)

City tour in Hanoi: Ho Chi Minh mausoleum complex and The Temple of Literature, well known as the first university in Vietnam. Visit Hanoi Hilton – the old prison for American pilots during the Vietnam War, Hoan Kiem lake and Ngoc Son temple. Today we will enjoy a cyclo tour in the old quarter area of Hanoi. Late this afternoon we will see a lively performance of Hanoi's famous water puppet show. Overnight in Hanoi.

September 04, 2018: Hanoi – Sa Pa (B / L / D)

Breakfast and an early departure

06.30: Take the express bus to Sa Pa (on a good road)

13.30: Arrive in Sa Pa. Lunch at a local restaurant and hotel check-in.

This afternoon we start with a trek around the valleys and minority villages around Sa Pa. We will start on the road leading west from Sa Pa that winds through hilly terrain and past terraced paddy fields / Cat Cat village, just 2 km from the town. Here we walk through the ancient village to see traditional customs and practices of the ethnic Black H'mong. Visits between May and October coincide with the planting and harvesting season, a chance to see local farmers in action. Dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight in Sa Pa.

September 05, 2018: Sa Pa – walking day (B / L)

After breakfast, we will drive (90-minutes) to Ban Ho village where we will see the stunning views of the Muong Bo valley and terraced rice fields. Here we explore a house on stilts and the traditional costume and culture of the Tay ethnic group before crossing a suspension bridge over Lave Stream. We will walk through rice fields to the Red Dao Village of Nam Toong and enjoy a picnic lunch at the Village. We then trek up and down to My Son Village, inhabited by the Xa Pho minority, one of the smallest ethnic groups in Viet Nam. Mid-afternoon we transfer back to Sa Pa for our overnight stay.

September 06, 2018: Sa Pa – walking day (B / L)

Early morning drive to the lowest valley of Sa Pa (app. 2 hours). Here we have many opportunities to see breathtaking view of paddy terrace and corn fields (the largest terrace paddy in the Sa Pa District) passing Ban Ho village. Our transfer ascends to My Son Village then Nam Cang Village, where there are a number of minorities living including the Xa Pho, Red Zao and White H'mong. Stop at Nam Than Village for a visit, then over the suspension bridge to a small waterfall. We will walk for approximately 2 hours and have lunch in a house on stilts in Thanh Phu Village. Transfer back to Sa Pa and view the sun set over the mountains. Overnight.

September 07, 2018: Sa Pa – Lao Cai - Night train to Hanoi (B / L / D)

Free time in the morning. Check out and have lunch at a local restaurant. Drive to Lao Cai. Stop for photos at the border with China. Dinner at the local restaurant and then the overnight train to Hanoi.

September 08, 2018: Hanoi - Ha Long Bay (B / L / D)

Arrive in Hanoi early in the morning. We then transfer to visit a morning wholesale market of flowers and fruit. Breakfast in a local restaurant. Drive to Ha Long city, truly one of Vietnam's most scenic and impressive sights. Here we board our cruise ship to enjoy fantastic views of the picturesque scenery and some 3,000 limestone islands rising amazingly from the clear and emerald water. Lunch and dinner and overnight on the cruise ship.

September 09, 2018: Ha Long Bay - Hanoi – Hue (B / L / D)

More visits discovering Halong Bay this morning. After a brunch on board, we return to the shore and depart for Hanoi. We will transfer to the airport for a night flight to Hue. Arrival in Hue, transfer to our hotel – check-in, dinner and overnight.

September 10, 2018: Hue (B / L)

This morning we will enjoy a cruise upstream on the Perfume River – this journey gives us a taste of the scenic countryside as well as an enjoyable visit to the beautiful pagoda of Thien Mu. We then continue the visit to the mausoleum of Emperor Minh Mang, in a tranquil setting of gardens and lakes. We will also visit the Imperial Citadel where the Nguyen Dynasty ruled between 1802 and 1945. Return to Hue for an open evening and overnight.

September 11, 2018: Hue – Bach Ma National Park - Hoi An (B / L / D)

Drive to Hoi An. Stop on the way to take the photos at a lagoon and a local fishing village. Continue to explore Bach ma National park. Here we will walk to the summit -1450 m above the sea level and visit Vong Hai Dai – The observation base offers panoramic views of the mountains, lagoons, villages, the beach, Hai Van pass and Chan May port. We walk to explore Five Lakes in the park. Here we rest for lunch. After lunch we will walk to Do Quyen waterfall to enjoy the beauty of the waterfall and the surrounding forest. Proceed to Hoi An for dinner and hotel check-in. Dinner and overnight.

September 12, 2018: Hoi An tour (B / L)

Morning: Walk in Hoi An originally a Cham seaport but has been influenced through the centuries by a myriad of traders from various cultures. The ancient architecture of Hoi An is a fascinating combination of Vietnamese traditional characters with Chinese and Japanese influence. Visit the famous Japanese Covered Bridges, the 200 years old Tam Ky House, the Chua Ong Pagoda and the vibrant market. Lunch and return to our hotel in the afternoon with a boat ride on the river or a walk to visit nearby villages with traditional handicrafts. Free time – possibly enjoy dinner with some local flavor! Overnight in our hotel.

September 13, 2018: Hoi An – Da Nang – Ho Chi Minh City (B / L / D)

Transfer to the airport for a flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Ho Chi Minh City is a center of commerce, finance, culture and tourism in Vietnam. This bustling metropolis, a contradiction to its northern counterpart, is crowded with bikes and motorbikes, and numerous shopping areas and sidewalk cafes. If time permits, we will stroll around the downtown core exploring different ways of local life. Visit Notre Dame Cathedral, Reunification Palace, City Hall and the Saigon Centre Post Office. Dinner at local restaurant and Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

September 14, 2018: Ho Chi Minh City – Cu Chi Tunnel – Ho Chi Minh City (B / L)

Drive 40 km to the famous Cu Chi Tunnels; an incredible underground network constructed by Vietnamese fighters during the long struggle for independence. Back to the city. Visit Thien Hau Pagoda and Binh Tay Market in the city's bustling china town. Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

September 15, 2018: Ho Chi Minh – Departure (B)

Free time to relax or further explore Ho Chi Minh City. The tour ends after our transfer to Tan Son Nhat airport for departure.

Ho Chi Minh City	September 15	Eva Air 392	depart:	12:50
Taipei			arrive:	17:15
Taipei	September 15	Eva Air 036	depart:	19:40
Toronto			arrive:	21:55

As with the majority of our tours, this departure is strictly limited to a maximum of 19 travelers.

Tour Includes:

- Fully escorted by Charles Whitlock, Walkaway Treks
- Return group air with Eva Air from Toronto including all taxes as of November 2017
- Local language-capable tour manager
- Hotel accommodation & daily breakfast based on twin or double sharing
- Overnight cruise in Halong Bay
- Private transfers by motorcoach
- Domestic air tickets
- Entrance fees, sightseeing as detailed and private boat trip
- Meals as indicated (no drinks) B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner
- Additional sightseeing with local English speaking guides

Exclusion:

- Visa to enter Vietnam (see notes)
- Early check in and late check out
- Other meals with drinks
- Optional travel and Medical insurance
- Tipping and Other service not mentioned above

AIR

We offer a group air arrangements from / to Toronto or the option of a land only. In the case where a land only is used, we will provide transfers on a group basis only for independent travelers who arrive and / or depart at the same approximate time(s) as our group. Independent transfers at a different arrival or departure can easily be pre-confirmed through our local tour operator.

Strictly Limited Availability:

Our Vietnam program is strictly limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. In order to ensure the quality of our tour, this program is limited to a maximum of 19-participants.

Once the tour is filled we will accept wait-lists. As with the tour itself, wait lists will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

TOUR PRICE:

Complete tour with air: Canadian \$3,895 per person share twin

Land ONLY Tour price: Canadian \$2,445 per person share twin

Single room surcharge: Canadian \$740*

*** Includes single on the cruise ship and the over-night train**

Deposit required to secure: Canadian \$750

Final payment due: June 15, 2018

Cancellation Penalties:

From date of booking to June 14, 2018	loss of deposit paid
From final payment date to departure	100% non-refundable

In the event that we are able to find a replacement from wait-lists or other requests received for the tour between date of booking and 31-days prior to date of departure, a flat \$50.00 p.p. administration charge will be accessed. Within 31-days prior, we regret that all payments become non-refundable with or without a replacement. We cannot guarantee a replacement for any cancelled passenger regardless of the date the cancellation is received in our office.

PASSPORT AND VISA

A valid Canadian passport is required to travel to Vietnam. A tourist visa is also required and further information on this process, costs and requirements will be provided to each traveler approximately 6 months prior to the tour departure. The cost of the visa is NOT included in the cost of the tour and we will arrange to send a single group request to the Embassy of Vietnam, by courier, app. mid-June, including all passports and visa applications.

Further information on this will be provided app 6 months prior to tour departure.

Insurance

We strongly recommend adequate travel insurance and will provide details of insurance suggestions at the time of booking.

**Exclusive reservations through:
(register on line at: <http://worldwide.on.ca/vietnam2018/index.html>)**



572 Weber Street North, Unit 1, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 5C6

CONTACT: Scott Allen, CTC

Phone (519) 745 – 1860 ext 303

Toll Free: (800) 578 – 8958

e-mail: scotta@ftwaterloo.com

Fax (519) 745 - 5694

Cell: (519) 897 - 9673

LIST OF ACCOMMODATION

Hanoi: Lan Vien Hotel Hanoi
<http://lanvienhotel.com.vn/>

Sa Pa: Amazing Hotel
www.amazinghotel.com.vn

Train: New Livingtrans Train

Halong Bay: Victoria Cruises
<http://www.victoryhalong.com/vn/cruises/53/victory-cruise-21-cabins.html>

Hue City: Romance Hotel
www.romancehotel.com.vn

Hoi An Town: Emm Hotel
<http://emmhotels.com/hoian/>

Ho Chi Minh City: Lavender Hotel
<http://www.lavenderhotel.com.vn/lavender>