



KIPLING & CLARK
YOUR BRIDGE TO THE EAST

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KIPLING & CLARK *itinerary*

VIETNAM – THE SEDUCTIVE & ALLURING PEARL – 11 DAYS

DAY 1: ARRIVE SAIGON

Arrive in Saigon to be met and transferred to the Park Hyatt for check in.

Park Hyatt hotel/park room

DAY 2: SAIGON – HANOI

This morning is at leisure until you are transferred to the airport for a flight to Hanoi via Vietnam Airlines.

Upon arrival, you'll meet with your guide and transfer to town and check-in your hotel. Later this afternoon, enjoy a one hour cycle ride around the Old Quarter of "36 streets and 36 wares" to witness the vibrant small market along the street sides and the Lake of Restored Sword.

This evening, attend a water puppet show, a uniquely northern Vietnamese art form especially designed for depicting scenes from rural life and many episodes of national history. Take advantage of an opportunity to interact with the puppeteers after the show.

To follow, enjoy a traditional Vietnamese dinner at **Wild Lotus** restaurant with Indochine ambiance

*Sofitel Metropole/
Classic Deluxe room
Breakfast, Dinner*

DAY 3: HANOI CITY TOUR

HANOI CITY TOUR

This morning drive to the office of celebrated scholar – **Dr. Huu Ngoc** who has experienced life through the French and American time. Dr. Ngoc will give an in-depth account of Vietnamese history, culture and his life experience. This almost 90-year old historian is also a writer, journalist and cultural researcher. His works inform the world of Vietnamese culture as well as its foreign influences.

Next, visit the One Pillar Pagoda. Fashioned in the form of a lotus flower on its stalk, it emerges from the water resting on a single stone pillar. Inside there is a statue of the Goddess of Mercy with its legendary "thousand arms and thousand eyes".

ONE PILLAR PAGODA HANOI, VIETNAM

Lunch will be at **Wild Rice** restaurant then continue to the Temple of Literature, serving as Vietnam's first University and known for educating the sons of the Mandarins.

Drive further to visit to the beautiful Museum of Ethnology. Through its unique collection of objects &

dress from a variety of the country's 54 ethnic groups, the museum's presentation will enhance your understanding of Vietnam's diverse culture. Today's Vietnam cultural quest will conclude with a cocktail reception at **Art Vietnam gallery**. There you will have the opportunity to experience the rich artistic aspect of Vietnam life and interact with owner, Ms. Suzanne Letch, an American Art Consultant.

*Sofitel Metropole/
Classic Deluxe room*

Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4: HANOI – HALONG

After breakfast, enjoy a scenic drive (3.5 hours) to Halong City with a coffee break en route at a local coffee shop.

Arriving by noon at the quayside, board your deluxe Junk aboard the where a welcome beverage awaits. After a relaxing break, enjoy a delicious seafood lunch while cruising through Bai Tu Long bay recalling the famous Indochine film featuring charming Actress Catherine Deneuve.

Later there is an opportunity to go trekking or swimming at **Soi Sim Island**. Then, continue your water cruise by row boat

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to visit **Hang Doi water tunnel**. Around 0630pm, dock for the night and enjoy dinner on board. Option to dance or interact with Halong Ginger's staff/crew.

Halong Ginger/ Ginger Cabin

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5: HANOI — HUE

You'll want to wake early to catch the sunrise on the bay and Tai Chi demonstration on the sun deck. Relax with a cup of hot coffee or tea. We depart for a visit to the splendid **Sung Sot grotto** and a quick glimpse of a nearby fishing village. Enjoy late buffet brunch on board while cruising back through Halong bay to the pier. Arrive at the pier around 1100am and it's time to say goodbye to the crew.

Return to Hanoi and if time permits, make a stop at Phu Lang pottery making village to see how the locals have kept the traditional art alive through generations.

Then transfer to the airport for the flight to Hue, the former capital of Vietnam during the Nguyen Dynasty of emperors from 1802 to 1945.

Fly from Hanoi to Hue.

Upon arrival, meet and transfer to the hotel for check in.

*La Residence/
Deluxe Room (river view)*

Note: Deluxe Colonial room type only has garden view

Brunch

DAY 6: HUE —HOI AN

HUE – HOI AN (DRIVE 3 HOURS)

This morning proceed to the Forbidden city to visit the Imperial **Citadel** - The Vietnamese Forbidden city from where the Nguyen Emperors once ruled Vietnam.

Take the opportunity to stroll around the complex with an historian/writer and the researcher of Hue's Relics Preservation to learn about the former Royal history and culture as well as the preservation projects of historical relics in Hue. Then drive along the **Perfume River** to visit **Khai Dinh Royal Tomb** with impressive architecture and atmosphere that display elements of eastern art mixed with western designs.

Enjoy home hosted lunch with royal cuisine at the Restored royal home of a local family.

Then enjoy a scenic 3 hour drive to the ancient town Hoi An, over the **Hai Van Pass – Pass of the Ocean Clouds** - where the summit provides a spectacular panoramic view of the central coastline. Drive to your beautiful resort and check-in.

After breakfast, enjoy a morning short boat ride on Thu Bon River along the ancient town followed by a walking tour, exploring the rich history and culture of Hoi An, a private Museum, an ancient Japanese, Chinese and European port of trade. Much of Hoi An's rare wooden architecture remains in this small, pleasant town —

typically a favorite stop for its elegant pagodas, bustling riverfront marketplace, tailoring and artist

shops, delicious cuisine. We take in the former merchants' houses, the 400 year-old Japanese Covered Bridge and the colorful market with its stalls brimming with tropical specialties.

*The Nam Hai/
Villa One Bedroom*

Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 7: HOI AN

Lunch at Brother Café restaurant located by the Thu Bon River.

Your afternoon is at leisure to wander about this ancient town or back to your hotel for relaxation.

Note: weather in the Central part from Nov till Mar is not quite ideal for beach relaxation

*The Nam Hai/
Villa One Bedroom*

Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 8: HOI AN – SAIGON

Free at leisure until transfer to the airport for onward flight, Danang to Saigon.

Upon arrival, meet with your guide and transfer to town. After check-in and fresh up, immerse yourself in this dynamic, bustling city commencing the city tour of Saigon's historic landmarks. Wander along the former French Colonial streets and stop for photos at the Notre Dame Cathedral and the 1880's General Post Office, quick visit to the Former Presidential Palace.

Park Hyatt/Park room

Breakfast



DAY 9: SAIGON

After breakfast, around 0830A, a local Saigonese chef will take you to the central colorful market of Ben Thanh to introduce Vietnamese food and raw materials by a walking tour through the market. Stay round the market to enjoy the daily local life before being shuttled to a private historic home, the former home of the first American Ambassador to Vietnam 1961-1965, for a private cooking class of Vietnamese typical dishes, enjoy the wonderful demonstration, followed by a lunch that we have cooked. This cooking class truly offers a diversity of Vietnamese cuisine from Northern to Southern Vietnam. Followed by lunch with the chef.

This afternoon, visit to the War Remnant Museum to understand about recent history of Vietnam, then drive to Saigon’s ‘twin city’, the Chinese district to enjoy the bustling wholesale quarter of Ho Chi Minh City, **Thien Hau** temple built by Cantonese Buddhists at the end of 18th century, the ancient.

Back to your hotel for fresh up and relax.

Tonight enjoy dinner at one of the best restaurants of Saigon – Hoi An *Park Hyatt/Park room*

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 10: MEKONG DELTA

After an early breakfast, we set out on an excursion to My Tho in the **Mekong Delta**. Enjoy a 2-hour scenic drive passing paddy fields and tributaries. On arrival, board our private motorized boat for a river cruise on the upper part of the Mekong River for a taste of agricultural life on the mighty Mekong River visiting a fish raising village then entering **Vam Xep** canal with beautiful scenery of water palm. Disembark the boat to stroll around Quoi An fruit orchard visiting fruit-drying kilns and coconut craft ware-making home. Enhance your trip with a short horse-drawn cart ride along the village road. Upon arrival at **Ben Truc – Phong Phu** garden, sample some tasty Mekong delta fruit whilst enjoy traditional local music, and an opportunity to interact with the local people who live and work on the Mekong Delta. Complete your trip in a rowing boat to explore the water palm canals. Return to the main boat and then back to My Tho. Arrive at the dock and take lunch at **Ngoc Gia Trang** restaurant incorporating some great Mekong specialties.

Transfer back to Saigon for the night. Independent dinner tonight -- -- many restaurants near your hotel.

Park Hyatt/Park room

Breakfast and Lunch

DAY 11: SAIGON – U.S.

Hotel will provide boxed breakfast for your early morning departure to the airport. You will be met at the hotel lobby and transferred to the airport for your onward flight back to the U.S.

— END OF SERVICES —



For more information or to book your customized journey, please contact:

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