

Each private luxury tour is custom to the wishes of each client. This itinerary is a sample. Our Sister Company, TRAVNET, may provide assistance with mileage points conversion. Do not hesitate to call Randy to create your custom tour.

Overview

Vietnam is truly a land of contrasts: wonderfully chaotic city markets, lush green rice fields, verdant jungles, charming historical Hanoi—perhaps representing Vietnam’s past—and bustling Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), epitomizing Vietnam’s high energy quest for economic development. When Bev and I think of Vietnam, we think of wonderful food, its most interesting contemporary history, and beautiful French-colonial architecture. You will love engaging with the genuinely friendly and kindhearted Vietnamese!

VIETNAM

Temperature Range:

Highs: Low 90’s

Lows: High 70’s

Area:

329,247 SQ KM

127,123 SQ MILES

Population:

89.7 Million

Language:

Vietnamese

Capital:

Hanoi

Currency:

Dong

Day 1

Fly to Saigon

Through our sister company, premium air provider TRAVNET, we may assisted with your international airfare, as well as with mileage points conversion.

Park Hyatt Saigon (RL)

We feel this is the finest luxury hotel in Saigon. The relatively new (perhaps 6-7 years old) Park Hyatt Saigon has a nice, old world French/Vietnamese charm. The 224-room 5 Star property was designed in a French-colonial aesthetic, with large rooms, the rooms with French doors with wooden shutters being our favorites. The morning buffet breakfast is among the most lavish in all of Southeast Asia, featuring both Western and Asian options. If you have time you may enjoy the outdoor 60’ pool set amidst lavish tropical gardens (also nice spa!). Great location in District 1 overlooking the Opera House.

Meals: --

Accommodations: Park Hyatt Saigon

Day 2

Arrive Saigon

Upon arrival in Saigon, you will be privately driven to the Park Hyatt Saigon. Saigon, with more than 8 million inhabitants, is the country’s commercial center. This is a gritty, entrepreneurial city where it seems ambition is all pervasive.

Park Hyatt Saigon (RL)

We feel this is the finest luxury hotel in Saigon. The relatively new (perhaps 6-7 years old) Park Hyatt Saigon has a nice, old world French/Vietnamese charm. The 224-room 5 Star property was designed in a French-colonial aesthetic, with large rooms, the rooms with French doors with wooden shutters being our favorites. The morning buffet breakfast is among the most lavish in all of Southeast Asia, featuring both Western and Asian options. If you have time you may enjoy the outdoor 60’ pool set amidst lavish tropical gardens (also nice spa!). This is a great location in District 1 overlooking the Opera House.

Meals: --

Accommodations: Park Hyatt Saigon

Day 3

Saigon

After breakfast, you will be met your guide and driver for a full day of private Saigon touring including the following stopover activities: Rue Catinat of Graham Green's "The Quiet American", the Opera House, Hotel de Ville, Notre Dame Cathedral, and the Central Post Office. Other remarkable stopovers include the War Remnants Museums, showcasing graphic displays of the "American War". Following lunch at a local restaurant, you will have discretionary use of your guide for further exploration.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodations: Park Hyatt Saigon

Day 4

Fly Saigon/ Da Nang

Upon arrival in Da Nang, you will be privately transferred to Hoi An for check-in at the Nam Hai Hotel

Nam Hai Resort (RL)

We believe the Nam Hai to be the finest 5-star beach property in the Hoi An area. Our favorite villa is the 861 sq. ft. 1 bedroom beach villa – among 100 villas/suites that encompass Nam Hai's spacious grounds. The three separate pools here are quite spectacular + great spas! We feel the stretch of beach along the property is perhaps the finest stretch of beach in all of Vietnam. As of December 2016, the Nam Hai will reopen as Four Seasons Resort The Nam Hai. This re-opening will bring additions of an all-new beach bar, kids club, and world-class spa featuring eight private pavilions surrounded by the glass-like waters of a lotus pond.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Nam Hai Resort

Day 5

Hoi An

After breakfast at the Nam Hai Resort, you will be met by your guide for a full day of Hoi An private touring. Today, this World Heritage-listed ancient town boasts well-preserved buildings, pedestrianized streets and unique cuisine, allowing visitors a glimpse of its illustrious past. In the afternoon, you will venture to an ancient town in rural Hoi An for an immersive experience where you will meet with a host family illustrating their way of life. An optional half-day cooking class with Mr. Duc Mango may also be offered.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Nam Hai Resort

Day 6

Fly Da Nang/Hanoi

Upon arrival in Hanoi, you will be privately transferred to the Sofitel Metropole Hotel. Hanoi represents all that is most compelling about Vietnam; the resourceful/entrepreneurial spirit of its people (do not miss "36 Streets"), its rich French traditions as reflected in its charming French-colonial architecture (think Sofitel Metropole) and French-influenced Vietnamese cuisine ("Seasons" and so many other wonderful restaurants), and, of course, its symbol as Vietnam's cultural and political capital.

Sofitel Metropole (RL)

Our favorite hotel in all of Vietnam, the early 20th century built French-colonial Sofitel Metropole is a truly a national treasure. You feel the grandeur and grace of a by-gone era, coupled with the comforts/amenities of a contemporary 5-star luxury hotel. We love the display of contemporary Vietnamese modern art adorning the lobby area as well as the very special personal service. The Bamboo Bar and LeClub are places to be seen by the local Hanoi elite! (Nice small pool and spa) Kudos to G.M. Franck Lafourcade for the hotel's service and his newly-planted garden!

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Sofitel Metropole

Day 7

Hanoi Private Tour

After breakfast at the Metropole you will be met by your private guide and driver for a full day of private touring. Historic Hanoi offers variety of sites including the imposing Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, Ho Chi Minh's house, the One Pillar Pagoda, and the Temple of Literature. Upon visiting these sites, you will stop to have lunch at one of our favorite high-end, authentic Vietnamese restaurant. Following a refuel, you may stop at the national renowned coffee shop (with a satirical Communist era them!), go for a cyclo tour, and visit in Thong Nhat Park (Lenin Park). In the evening, we may arrange home hosted with a local family

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodations: Sofitel Metropole

Day 8

Fly Hanoi/Halong Bay

This morning you will be privately driven to Halong Bay. Despite its ever-increasing number of tourist boats, we feel UNESCO World Heritage Site Halong Bay is Vietnam's number one natural wonder. Although a three hour drive, this is perhaps the nicest stretch of highway in all of Vietnam! Upon arrival in Halong, you will board the Paradise Peak Vessel. You also have the option of traveling from Hanoi to Halong Bay by sea plane via the Cessna Caravan 2018, which we very much enjoy.

Paradise Peak Vessel (RL)

Based on client feedback over the past two years, we are now using the Paradise Peak Vessel for the Halong Bay overnight cruise. With only eight cabins, we feel this is perhaps the most luxurious of the Halong Bay boats. Although promoted as a five-star, we rate this cruise as more of an upper four-star.

In addition to all included meals, you may also choose to participate in a Vietnamese cooking class with the on-board chef (this is much fun!) Sailing stopovers include Sung Sot Cave, Cha Van Village, and Ti Tip Island. Past clients enjoyed the small spa onboard as well as the vessel's 200 movie library.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Paradise Peak Vessel

Day 9

Fly Halong Bay/Hanoi/Home