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North Vietnam Adventure - 15 days / 14 nights
Pu Luong Natural Park Trekking + Motorbike excursion

102°09'-109°30' EAST
8°10'-23°24' NORTH

Vietnam: your home away from home



Pu Luong Natural Park Trekking + Motorbike excursion (15 days / 14 nights)

PRESENTATION

This tour combines a motorbike excursion in the mountains of North Vietnam and a trekking in Pu Luong natural park . Though in places difficult, it is well worth the effort for the stunning scenery. An extension to Halong Bay is included. Programme is rather alternative and totally off the tourist track. We'll reach Lao Cai from Hanoi by night train (couchette in air conditioned compartment). The tour is rather varied and likely to give you a strong and significant knowledge of North Vietnam.

HIGHLIGHTS

- o Hanoi City Tour
- o Motorbike excursion in the mountains of North Vietnam
- o 3 day trekking in natural park of Pu Luong (home stays)
- o Van Long / Kenh Ga sites (Halong Bay inland)
- o Halong Bay cruise

PACKAGE/FORMULA

Our package tours are fully inclusive of: Accommodation, meals, English-speaking guides, private land transportation, flights, tickets, permits and leisure activities.

For the meals : B = breakfast, L = Lunch, D = dinner

Unlimited drinking water during the whole tour.

Drinks, personal insurance or tips are not included.

Note: The services available will vary according to the geographical conditions of each region, as well as to reflect your preferences, depending on whether you choose a 'package' or 'special' services.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel First Class (3 *) in Hanoi

Guesthouse or homestays in the mountains.

BOAT

Traditionnal junk

TRANSPORTATION

Private car and Motorbike Minsk 125 cc or Honda 250 cc

GUIDE : English speaking guide.

INDIVIDUALS OR GROUP : Maximum 8 persons.

ITINERARY



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- Day 1: Arrival in Hanoi
- Day 2: Hanoi / City tour *
- Day 3: Hanoi / Around the Red river. Evening, night train to Lao Cai
- Day 4: Lao Cai - Bac Ha - Xin Man
- Day 5: Xin Man - Hoang Su Phi (Pan Hou resort)
- Day 6: Hoang Su Phi - Luc Yen (home stays)
- Day 7: Luc yen - Vu Linh (home stays)
- Day 8: Vu Linh - Hanoi
- Day 9: Hanoi - Duong Lam - Mai Chau
- Day 10: Mai Chau - Ban Hang
- Day 11: Ban Hang - Ban Kho Muong (home stays)
- Day 12: Ban Kho Muong - Ninh Binh
- Day 13: Ninh Binh - Hai Phong - Halong Bay cruise (night on the boat)
- Day 14: Halong Bay cruise - Hai Phong - Hanoi
- Day 15: Hanoi. Departure.

*options available



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PROGRAM DETAILS

DAY 1 ARRIVAL IN HANOI.

Arrival in Hanoi where you will be met by your guide at the airport and taken to your hotel for a welcome drink and a light snack. Free time.

- Accommodation : Hotel - Meals : L, D

DAY 2. CITY TOUR.

The whole day is dedicated to discovering Hanoi. Many options are offered:

o Classical Tour

This tour starts with the famous Hoan Kiem Lake otherwise known as the lake of the Restored Sword, one of the city's most important historical sites and the heart of Hanoi. After this we head off to the temple of literature for a hint of Hanoi's ancient scholars. Lunch followed by a visit to the Museum of Ethnology before a discovery tour of the old quarter.

o City tour, ACA Voyage way...

Hanoi as you would never imagine! Off the tourist track. The main theme of this tour is "Hanoi Today". We'll walk, pedal or ride a motor bike and discover some of Hanoi's hidden charms.

Evening the famous water puppet show.

- Accommodation : Hotel - Meals : B, L

DAY 3. HANOI. EVENING, NIGHT TRAIN TO LAO CAI.

Discover the cottage industry in the Red River Delta.

From Dong Ho (the painting village) to Phong Khe (the paper-making village) and Phu Lang (the pottery village), the Red River Delta abounds in handicraft villages, practising their centuries-old crafts.

In the evening we take the night train to Lao Cai.

- Accommodation : Train - Meals : B, L, D

DAY 4. LAO CAI - XIN MAN.

We arrive early in the morning in Lao Cai. Head to Bac Ha then Xin Man. Fabulous landscapes (terraced rice fields), local ethnic minorities. We are now very far away from the tourist track!

- Accommodation : Hotel - Meals : B, L, D

DAY 5. XIN MAN - HOANG SU PHI.

Short excursion in order to fully appreciate the marvellous scenery along this beautiful mountain road. A real delight for bikers. Several stops; walking. Night at Pan Hou resort.

- Accommodation : Hotel - Meals : B, L, D

DAY 6. HOANG SU PHI - LUC YEN.

In the morning we rest, walk and stroll around. Lunch at the resort. We then hit the road and leave the mountains heading the plains through beautiful countryside roads where we can see and visit Tay minority settlements. We arrive to Luc Yen, small villages located on the Thac Ba lake shores. Dinner and accommodation in a superb stilt house.

- Accommodation : Home stays - Meals : B, L, D

DAY 7. LUC YEN - VU LINH.

In the morning, we walk around the surroundings of the village. We meet Red Daos minority, well known for their matriarchal social organisation. Astounding face to face ... The place is also famous for its cinnamon trees.

After the lunch, departure for Vu Linh (Dao Quan Trang minority, literally: "white trousers Daos").

Dinner with our hosts and accommodation in their stilt house.

- Accommodation : Home stays - Meals : B, L, D



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DAY 8. VU LINH - HANOI.

Back to Hanoi through beautiful countryside roads.

- Accommodation : Hotel - Meals : B, L, D

DAY 9. HANOI - DUONG LAM - MAI CHAU.

We go to Mai Chau, starting point of our trekking in Pu Luong park. We stop at Duong Lam village, famous for having maintained its traditional architecture with its city hall, its temple and village gate, the secular banyan, and, of course, some typical village people's houses.

- Accommodation : Home stays - Meals : B, L, D

DAY 10. MAI CHAU - BANG HANG.

In the morning we explore the surroundings of Mai Chau, walking or by car. After lunch we start the trek. First light day of trekking (3 - 4 hours). Overnight at Ban Hang village (Thai minority) in stilt house.

- Accommodation : Home stays - Meals : B, L, D

DAY 11. BAN HANG - BAN KHO MUONG.

The main trekking day, 6 to 7 hours of walk amongst limestone rocks, rivers and terrace rice fields. Some parts might be difficult but we'll have time to rest upon our arrival at the Ban Kho Muong, superb Thai village.

Meals with our hosts. Overnight in a stilt house.

- Accommodation : Home stays - Meals : B, L, D

DAY 12. BAN KHO MUONG - NINH BINH.

Just 3 more hours of walk to our vehicle. Transfer to Ninh Binh. In the afternoon we'll visit the site of Kenh Ga and its huge limestone rocks looming up amongst the rice fields.

A Sampan takes us along the canals amidst a picture post card landscape.

Overnight at the hotel in Ninh Binh.

- Accommodation : Hotel - Meals : B, L, D

DAY 13. NINH BINH - HAI PHONG - HALONG BAY CRUISE.

Cruising amongst the impressive limestone labyrinth of Halong bay. It's a fairy tale choreography of close to 2000 islands and rocks rising up through the clear emerald green water. The night on board a comfortable junk.

- Accommodation : Junk - Meals : B, L, D

DAY 14. HALONG BAY CRUISE- HAI PHONG - HANOI.

The Cruise continues with a few stops in order to explore caves and swim. The next morning we are treated to generous buffet breakfast before disembarking around twelve for the return trip to Hanoi.

- Accommodation : Hotel - Meals : B, L

DAY 15. HANOI. DEPARTURE.

We keep on discovering Hanoi . Programme will be set according to flight schedule and where possible allowing for some free time for last minute shopping.

Meals : B



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