

# VIETNAM

## DAY 1: DEPARTURE

Meet at O.R Tambo International Airport at the check-in counter. Please ensure that you arrive at the Airport at least 3 hours prior to departure.

Overnight on board the flight

## DAY 2: HANOI

Arrive at Hanoi, Noibai Airport this afternoon and transfer to your hotel. Imagine a city where the exotic chic of old Asia blends with the dynamic features of the new Asia and where the Medieval and modern co-exist. A city with a blend of Parisian grace and Asian pace, an architectural museum in harmony with its history. Hanoi is where imagination meets reality. In the evening, attend a Water Puppet Show and enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant in the Old Quarter. Water puppetry is a tradition that dates back as far as the 11th century when it originated in the villages of the Red River Delta area of northern Vietnam. Today's Vietnamese water puppetry is a unique variation on the ancient Asian puppet tradition.

Dinner and overnight in Hanoi

## DAY 3: HANOI / HALONG BAY DAY TRIP

After breakfast, leave Hanoi at 8:00 for Halong Bay, a World Heritage Area of outstanding natural beauty. En route you will be able to stop at a rice plantation to experience more of the agricultural heritage of Vietnam. Majestic and mysterious, inspiring and imperious: words alone cannot do justice to the natural wonder that is Halong Bay. Imagine 3000 or more incredible islands rising from the emerald waters of the Gulf of Tonkin, a vision of breathtaking beauty. Halong Bay is pure art, a priceless collection of unfinished sculptures hewn from nature's hand. Upon arrival, board the private boat for a cruise around the islands, caves and grottoes. Enjoy a seafood lunch onboard, and take a short excursion to the Surprising Cave and perhaps even have a quick swim. Drive back to Hanoi and end the tour at about 19:30.

Dinner and overnight in Hanoi

## DAY 4: HANOI / CITY TOUR / NIGHT TRAIN IN HUE IMPERIAL

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and depart for the Hoan Kiem Lake and the lake of the Restored Sword. Experience the Vietnamese culture and architecture in the "Old quarter" where you will visit the Tran Quoc pagoda and Quan Thanh temple. One of the reasons Hanoi - the capitol of Vietnam, has attracted so many tourists over the years is the Old Quarter (36 old streets and guilds). It's an area well-known for the history, architecture, the day to day life of its residents and the enormous amount of product diversity. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit Van Mieu, the first national university of Vietnam and also have a quick trip to the Ethnology museum. In the evening, transfer to the station to board your overnight train to Imperial City.

Overnight onboard your train.

## DAY 5: HUE IMPERIAL ARRIVAL / CITY TOUR

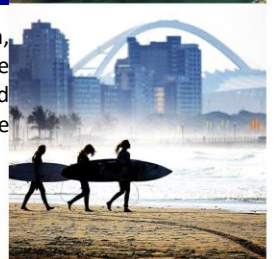
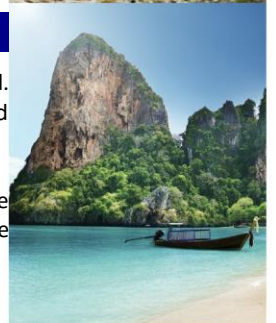
The train arrives at 08:00 – 8:45am. Transfer to the hotel for check in and enjoy breakfast. After breakfast, meet the guide and driver and transfer to the Imperial Citadel, King Minh Mang Tomb, King Tu Duc Tomb and Thien Mu Pagoda. The capital of the Nguyen emperors, Hue is packed with temples, tombs, palaces and pagoda. Late afternoon embark on the Dragon boat cruise along the Perfume River to admire the sunset. Enjoy a special dinner accompanied by the traditional music performance onboard the cruise

Dinner and overnight in Hue

## DAY 6: HUE / HOIAN-DANANG / HO CHI MINH CITY

After breakfast, check out of your accommodation and depart from Hue. Arrive in Danang and visit the Cham Museum, which features a fine collection of open-air sandstone carvings, and learn a bit more about the Cham culture. In the afternoon, enjoy a walking tour of Hoi, an Ancient Town. Hoi, is a town oozing charm and history, having largely escaped the destruction of successive wars. Late afternoon, transfer to Danang airport for your flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Arrive in Ho Chi Minh City, meet the guide and driver and transfer to your accommodation for check-in.

Dinner and overnight in Ho Chi Minh City



## DAY 7: HO CHI MINH CITY TOUR / TOUR TO CU CHI TUNNELS

After breakfast, depart for a tour to Cu Chi Tunnels. Cu Chi Tunnels was an important base during the American War, because of its strategic location. The Vietcong built a 200km long network of tunnels connecting command posts, hospitals, shelters, and weapon factories. Dug out by hand tools without the use of cement, this amazing network was only recently opened to tourists. Enjoy lunch in Saigon City. In the afternoon visit the Reunification Palace, War Museum, Ben Thanh Market, China town and the Notre Dame Cathedral. Fasten your seatbelts as Ho Chi Minh City is a metropolis on the move - and we're not just talking about the motorbikes that throng the streets. Saigon, as it is known to all but city officials, is Vietnam at its most dizzying: a high-octane city of commerce and culture that has driven the whole country forward with its limitless energy. It is a living organism that breathes life and vitality into all who settle here, and visitors cannot help but be hauled along for the ride.

Dinner and overnight in Ho Chi Minh City

## DAY 8: HO CHI MINH CITY / MY THO DAY TOUR

After breakfast, meet the guide and driver and depart for My Tho. On arrival at My Tho, board a private boat and cruise along the creek to Mekong River estuary, to Phoenix Island and stop at garden restaurant for a traditional Vietnamese Lunch. Visit a beekeeping farm, where you will taste natural honey and honey wine. Experience traditional music, a local distillery, and the coconut candy production process, where you will of course also have a taste of the candy and coconut pulp. In the afternoon, transfer to Ho Chi Minh City for a cooking class at Cookery Center. This hands-on cooking course is conducted by a professional chef and translated by a MC who will explain the teaching of the chef and talk about the history and culture of Vietnamese cuisine. The lesson includes a market visit & dinner. After the cooking class, transfer back to hotel for the rest of the evening at leisure

Dinner and overnight in Ho Chi Minh City

## DA 9: HO CHI MINH CITY / HONG KONG / JOHANNESBURG

After breakfast, check out of your accommodation and enjoy some leisure time to do some shopping at Ben Thanh Market before you transfer to the airport for your flight to South Africa via Hong Kong.

## DAY 10: JOHANNESBURG

Arrive at O.R. Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg.

