North Vietnam

This North Vietnam experience will give students a deeper appreciation of the cultures and traditions of this region, experiencing life in rural communities, trekking through beautiful wilderness areas and visiting Halong Bay, the stunning UNESCO World Heritage site.

Vietnam - Hanoi, Mai Chau & Halong

**Highlights**
- Learn about Vietnamese culture and traditional ways of life
- Trek alongside picturesque views of the Kho Muong valley
- Explore Halong Bay on a 2 day/1 night cruise in a traditional boat
- Work on important community projects at a local school
- Explore the city of Hanoi

**About Vietnam**
A long, skinny country curled around the west of the South China Sea, Vietnam has 3,450km of coastline and a central spine of mountains, including the highest peak in mainland Southeast Asia, Mount Fansipan. The narrow band of lowland deserts and steep mountains in the centre give way to broad expanses of river deltas in the north and south. Having begun its journey in Tibet, the Mekong River divides into nine tributaries and feeds the agricultural region of the Mekong Delta in the south. Meanwhile, the Red River Delta is the economic centre of the northern region, notably known for farming and villages specialising in producing handicrafts.

**Weather**
Being a long country with a large difference in Latitude, there can be stark differences in temperature between the north and south during the winter season. However, for the most part the weather is hot and sunny. That said Vietnam also has scattered and unpredictable rain, especially during the wet season in May to September. The rains, which tend to be concentrated in the late afternoons, provide welcome relief to the heat. In general, Vietnam has a tropical climate with average annual temperatures ranging from 22°c to 30°c.

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**Included**
- Comprehensive travel insurance
- UK Expedition Leader
- Project funds and management
- All meals
- Unlimited drinking water
- All accommodation mentioned in the itinerary
- Entrance fees for all sights mentioned in the itinerary
- All transfers mentioned in the program in private vehicles
- Local Expedition Leader
- Tips for Guides
- 24 hour support throughout expedition

**Not Included**
- International flights
- Tourist visa
- Vaccinations
- Spending money
- Additional drinks
- Personal equipment
Itinerary

Day 1 Arrive Hanoi
Upon arrival at Hanoi Noi Bai airport you will be transferred the short distance into the city and to the hotel to check in. After settling in, there will be a welcoming brief and orientation including a detailed outline of the upcoming week of activities. The team will then make their way past the colonial architecture and ancient tree-lined commercial streets of central Hanoi’s bustling Old Quarter, exploring the area and getting accustomed to the hustle and bustle of the city.

Day 2 Hanoi - Mai Chau - Hang Village
A beautiful drive takes the team through spectacular limestone mountains dotted with verdant rice paddies. The first stop is Cun Mountain, which offers a unique photo opportunity to capture the superb panorama of Mai Chau, with its lush valleys and stilt house villages. Upon arrival at the peaceful village of Poom Cong, the team will head for lunch at a local home-stay, after which they can wander around the village and watch women working on embroidery and other local handicrafts. Then its back on the bus to continue driving to Pu Luong gateway, where the trek begins through some interesting landscapes to Hang village, which is home to a Thai ethnic minority group. In the evening, the team will learn about local cultures and traditions. (Trekking 3 hours)

Day 3 Hang - Pa Kha - Kho Muong
After a hearty breakfast, the team will set off on a glorious part of the trek, heading for the hidden village of Kho Muong. With beautiful views of valleys, forest and terraces, the path is a mixture of ups and downs throughout the day as the team treks past picturesque rice paddies and hamlets of Muong and Thai people. The journey from Pa Kha to Kho Muong valley offers breathtaking scenery. (Trekking 6 hours)

Day 4 Kho Muong - Hin
The final full day of trekking includes a challenging but glorious downhill hike through a nature reserve before stopping for a well-deserved lunch. Afterwards the team will jump on a bus to transfer 7km. In the village there will be a chance to investigate the fascinating architecture, bamboo waterwheels and the beauty of the surrounding area. By now hopefully the team will have a few words of Vietnamese which they can practise. (Trekking 6 hours)

Day 5 Hin - Canh Nang - Hanoi
After breakfast, the team will walk to La Han Bridge several hours away. Here the team will be picked up at Canh Nang town, no doubt after a brief top up of refreshments at the local stalls, and will be transferred the several hour drive back to Hanoi. In the evening, the team will enjoy a celebratory meal to mark the accomplishments of the previous days. (Trekking 3 hours)

Day 6 Hanoi - Halong
Depart for Halong Bay on a journey through the rich farmlands of the Red River Delta and the scenery of rice fields, water buffalo and everyday Vietnamese village life. Halong bay lies 160km east of Hanoi and is a natural wonder of the World, and one of Vietnam’s five UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Over three thousand jagged limestone islands emerge from the emerald green waters of Halong Bay. While some islands are no more than large rocks, others are much more substantial and contain huge cathedral-like caves of stalactites and stalagmites. Anchor overnight with time to see the stunning rock formations and hidden lagoons before watching a beautiful sunset over the bay.

Day 7 Halong - Hanoi - Depart
After breakfast, continue the journey past rock formations named after their shape. Cruise out to Bai Tu Long Bay around Bai Tho Mountain and head back to the mainland. Transfer directly to Noi Bai airport for departure.
Why Us?

- We use a cadre of excellent UK expedition leaders
- We have the best in country Guides
- We have a high Guide:Client ratio, which increases safety
- High standard of accommodation, vehicles and ground services

Leadership

A Camps International accredited Expedition Leader will accompany you for the duration of the trip. Our leaders have been chosen not only on the merits of their technical ability or qualifications, but also on their leadership skills and temperament. We will provide a leader who will make the trek both successful and enjoyable throughout. Their primary objective will be to maximise every participant’s chances of completing the trek, and to manage a team of individuals with a broad spectrum of experience and expectations. Our leaders hold current first aid certificates and have experience of dealing with wilderness medicine and emergency care.

What Now?

If this itinerary is of interest, please make contact with us using the details below and we will be in touch to discuss your requirements shortly.

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