

A PLACE FULL OF HARMONY

# Travel Guide for Vietnam







# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

*Culture & Religion*

*Festivals & Cuisine*

*Best time*

*Experience*

*Souvenirs recommendation*

*Travel tips*

*Itinerary*

*Visa*



# CULTURE & RELIGION

Vietnam is a beautiful country filled with rice terraces, endless beaches and streets decorated with colorful lanterns. Located in Southeast Asia, Vietnam is bordering China to the north and Laos and Cambodia to the west. The Mountains of the Annam Cordillera rise over most of the western side and the endless coastline in the east and south of Vietnam provides perfect sunset panoramas.







## CULTURE

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The Vietnamese culture is one of the oldest in Southeast Asia and is heavily influenced by neighboring Asian cultures. The French colonial rule introduced the Western culture and led to the spread of Catholicism and the Latin alphabet. Authentic Vietnamese culture includes the veneration of the ancestors, the respect for family values and the devotion to study.



## RELIGION

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Vietnam is a communist country and has therefore no official religion. Even so, most Vietnamese are not atheists, but worship a combination of religions. The three main religions are Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism. They are often grouped together as one religion called the three teachings or tam giáo.



# FESTIVALS & CUISINE

Vietnam is undoubtedly one of the most fascinating countries in Southeast Asia. Nature enthusiasts will love all the different outdoors, ranging from unspoilt beaches and untouched islands to magnificent mountains and tropical forests housing thousands of rare wildlife species.







## LUNAR NEW YEAR

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The most important holiday Lunar New Year, locally called Tet, is the biggest festival of the year with the whole country having family get-togethers. It's a fascinating time to visit Vietnam, because locals will light up fireworks, set up interesting flower stalls and visit temples with their families.



## HUE FESTIVAL

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A biannual celebration that takes place in UNESCO-listed Hue City. The array of cultural events is held in order to preserve traditional customs that were practiced during the Nguyen Dynasty.





## THE PHO

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Vietnam's best-known dish is Pho (pronounced "fuh"), a noodle soup eaten at any time of day but primarily at breakfast. Pho is made of a combination of meat, green herbs, and rice noodles, all served in a perfect broth.



## GOI CUON

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Goi Cuon are Vietnamese spring rolls packed with vegetables, coriander and various combinations of minced pork or shrimp.



## BANH MI

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A baguette sandwich heavenly filled with vegetables and a choice of filling. This popular snack is available with meat, seafood or tofu.



## BUN CHA

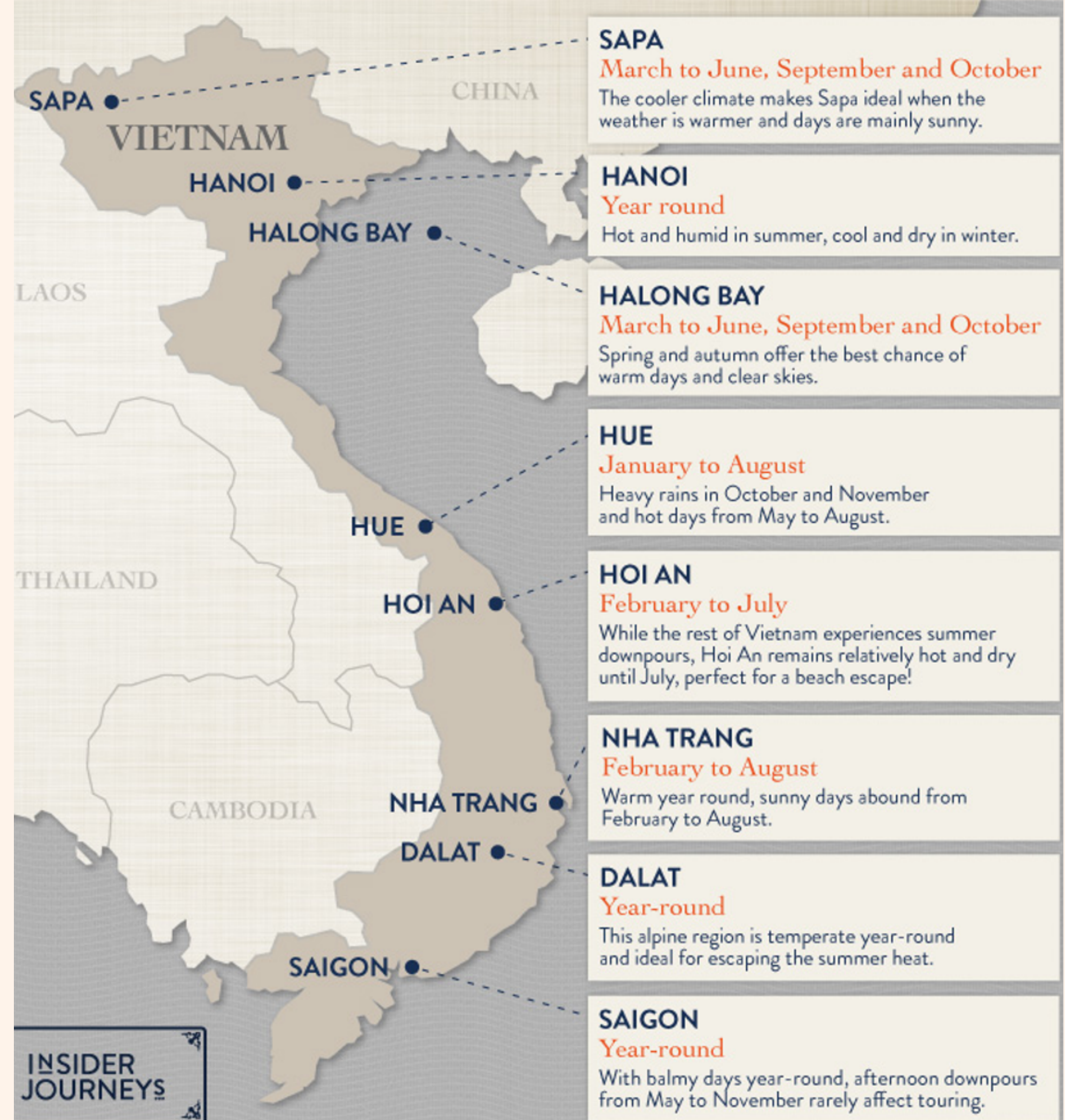
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As a Hanoi specialty, you'll find it everywhere across the city. The barbecue pork is served on a bed of cold rice noodles with assorted foliage and a great broth.



# BEST TIME

The best time to visit Vietnam's northern region is between March and May, and from September to November when you'll be spared the full brunt of the summer heat and the cold winter downpours. The period between March and May is Vietnam's spring season and the countryside around Hanoi is in full bloom.



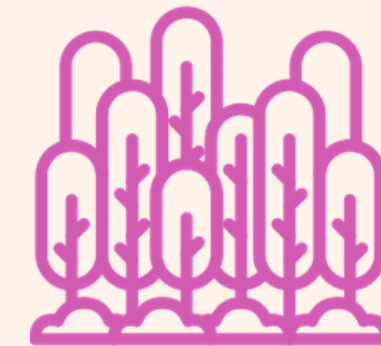


# EXPERIENCE

Vietnam is home to ancient cities, impressive landscapes and mouth-watering cuisine. This country is filled with colorful streets, historic stories and joyful people.



Culture



Nature



History



Beach



Religion



Cruise



# NORTHERN VIETNAM



## HANOI

The ancient capital city boasts with original Vietnamese beauty. There are many unique spots like the Hoan Kiem Lake, Hanoi's Old Quarter and the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum.



## HA LONG BAY

Ha Long Bay is arguably Vietnam's most recognised landscape, boasting over 1,600 limestone islands and islets. Located in northern Vietnam, the UNESCO-listed bay features a wide range of biodiversity, while the surrealistic scenery has been featured in plenty of films throughout the years.



# NORTHERN VIETNAM



## BAC HA AND SAPA

Bac Ha's majestic countryside is home to one of the biggest ethnic minority markets. The authentic market towns are the perfect starting point for a trekking route through the charming mountains and rice paddies.



## BAN GIOC DETIAN WATERFALLS

The Ban Gioc Falls are a breathtaking complex of waterfalls right on the border with China. Comparable with the Niagara Falls and undoubtedly the most impressive panorama in Vietnam.



# CENTRAL COAST



## HUE THE IMPERIAL CITY

Hue was the capital city during the time Vietnam was still an empire. A lot of the old, authentic glory survived natural disasters and the war. Admire the imperial city with the banks of the Perfume River.



## HOI AN THE ROMANTIC CITY

Hoi An is a well-preserved town on the central coast of Vietnam. Food lovers will love the local cuisine and the atmosphere filled with colorful colonial houses, iconic lanterns and dazzling temples.



# CENTRAL COAST



## DA NANG THE GOLDEN DESTINATION

The coastal city Da Nang has a variety of enjoyable sceneries, ranging from the Five Mountains (Ngu Hanh Son) over Cu Lao Cham island to amusement parks like Ba Na Hill and Asia Park.



## BAI XEP REMOTE BEACH

Bai Xep is a remote fishing village with a pretty beach and crystal-clear water, perfect for diving.



# CENTRAL HIGHLANDS



## PHONG NHA KE BANG NATIONAL PARK

The spectacular Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park contains the oldest karst mountains in Asia. The complexity of the cave systems and length of the river system is out of this world. This is the perfect place for riding a zipline or renting a kayak.



## DA LAT THE FRENCH DREAM

The hill town of Da Lat is famous for its wide variety of flowers, vegetables and fruit from its surrounding farmlands as well as countless nature sites; it's beautiful landscape, evergreen forests and minority villages.



## NHA TRANG THE SUNNY COAST

Nha Trang is a very small lively town surrounded by small islands with breathtaking coral reefs and fish species, making it the perfect spot for diving. Of particular note are the long sandy beaches with crystal clear water.



# SOUTHERN VIETNAM



## CAT TIEN NATIONAL PARK

A great place for those who want to get away from the bustle of the big city, get back to nature, stay in the middle of the forest, and go trekking. The Endangered Primate Rescue Center specializes in the rescue of endangered primates from the South of Vietnam which are seized from the illegal wildlife trade.



## HO CHI MINH

Ho Chi Minh is one of two economic and cultural centers of the country. This city preserved the charming architectural features of the French colonial era. Learn more about Vietnams war history in the War Remnants Museum and in the Cu Chi tunnels.



## MEKONG DELTA

Murky canals, floating markets, and vast swamps; this region is a fascinating mixture of nature and culture. Discover the Mekong River by boat and enjoy the local lifestyle.



# SOUTHERN VIETNAM



## CON DAO ISLANDS

Con Dao Islands consist mostly of uninhabited islets just off the southern coast of Vietnam, making it an expensive beach escape with stunning hiking trails and a wide range of outdoor activities.



## PHU QUOC ISLAND

Vietnam's most desired beach getaway makes it easy to forget all your worries. Swim near waterfalls, snorkel above vibrant reefs or just relax and sunbathe on the stunning beach.



## PHAN THIET

The simple lifestyle of Phan Thiet city is very calming. The sunrise view with the picturesque backdrop of the red sandy desert landscape is incredibly beautiful.



# SOUVENIRS RECOMMENDATION

We all want our travel memories to remain fresh forever. But if only memories were left alone. It is human nature to possess material belonging as a reminder of their cherished memories. Whether you splurge on your travels, buy a cheap souvenir, pick a free memento or just take lots of photos, there is always something to look back to after your return.

AO DAI



COFFEE

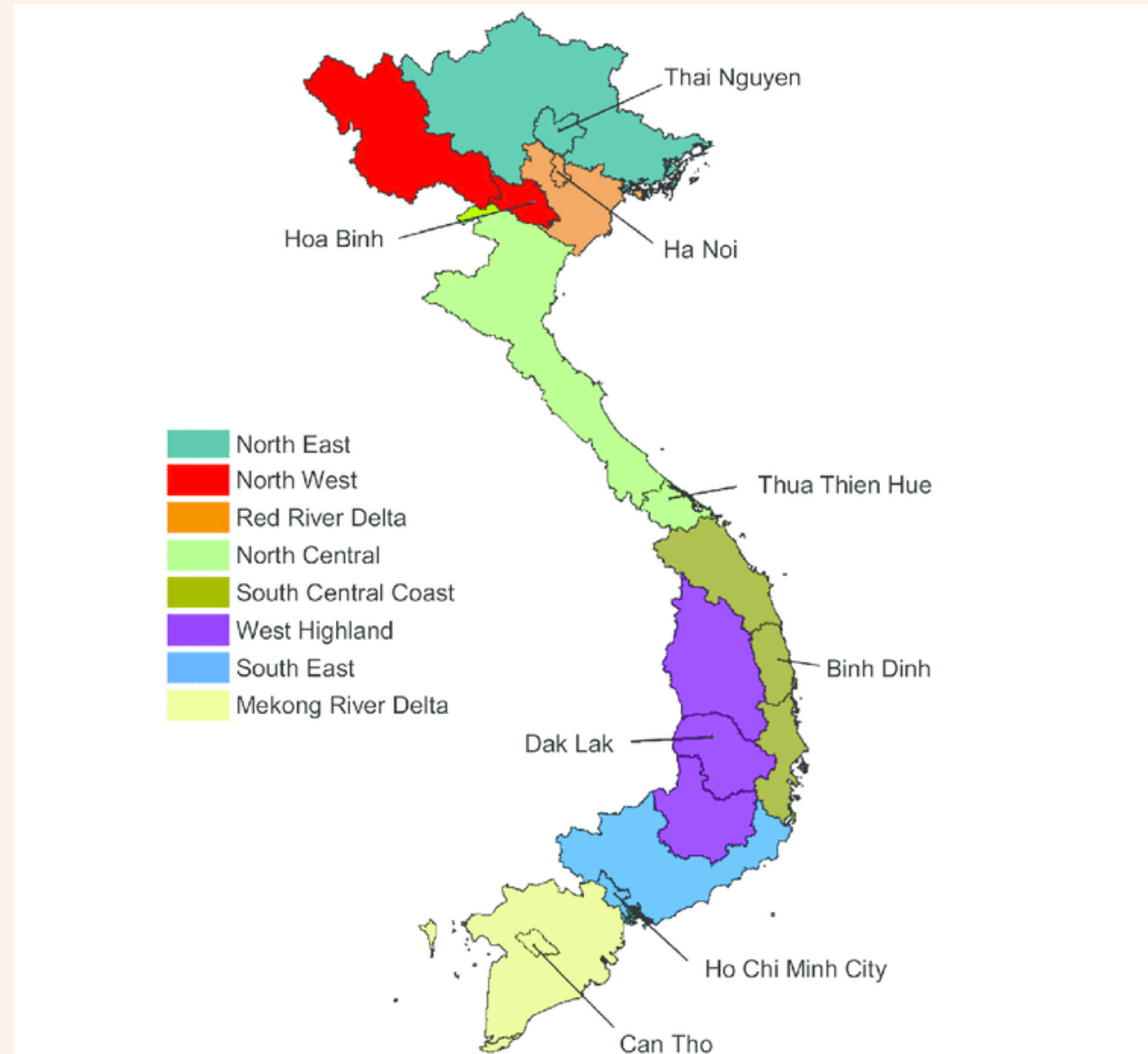


VIETNAMESE EMBROIDERY



# TRAVEL TIPS

4 things to know before visiting Vietnam for the first time.







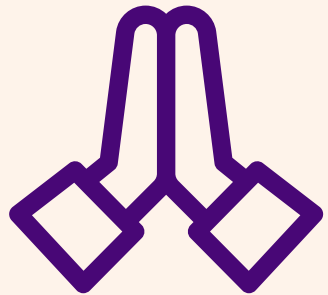
## TIPPING

If you really want to tip for exceptional service, be discrete. Leaving a tip isn't expected and upfront tipping could make a person lose their face.



## SHOPPING

The best shopping strategy is to negotiate and then threaten to walk away.



## RELIGIOUS BELIEF

It doesn't matter if you believe in traditions around ancestral beliefs, never make light of ghosts or the deceased.



## WARNING TOPIC

Don't speak ill of Vietnamese war heroes, or make jokes about anything related to the colonial past or the war.



# ITINERARY

Vibrant colonial towns, delicious food and the unrivalled natural scenery make Vietnam irresistible. This country should be on top of your South East Asia bucket list.





A nighttime photograph of the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum in Hanoi, Vietnam. The mausoleum is a large, multi-tiered structure with a central spire, illuminated with warm lights. It is situated on a hillside overlooking a body of water, likely Hoan Kiem Lake. The city lights of Hanoi are visible in the background, and the lights of the mausoleum are reflected in the water in the foreground.

# 6-DAY OVERLOOK OF VIETNAM TOUR

## DAY 1. WELCOME TO HANOI!

*Pickup from the airport. Start the tour by visiting Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and Ho Chi Minh Museum.*

*Continue to visit the Temple of Literature (Quoc Tu Giam) – Vietnam's first University constructed in 1070. Its gardens and well-preserved architecture offer a relaxing glimpse into Vietnam's past.*

*Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. We will proceed our visit at the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology which focuses on the 54 officially recognized ethnic groups in Vietnam.*

*After that we will take you to Hoan Kiem Lake, enjoy the peaceful water, and visit Ngoc Son Temple, meaning Temple of the Jade Mountain. At 18.00, we go back to your hotel in Hanoi. It's then your free time now to have dinner and a short while to explore the streets of Hanoi on your own.*





## DAY 2. EXPLORE HALONG BAY BY CRUISE

*Around 8.00am, our guide picks you up at your hotel and go to Halong Bay. Arrival in Halong at 10:30. The captain and crew welcome you aboard. Savor the delicious lunch as boat pass through thousands of Islands and Islets with different shapes.*

*After the lunch, explore the biggest and the most amazing cave in Halong Bay - Surprise Cave. Kayak for an hour around the fishing village and discover the life of community there. Sunset Party, get to calm, clean water place for swimming. Enjoy delicious and romantic dinner with some barbecue courses.*

*In the evening, there will be free time for entertainment with the funny plays such as squid fishing, karaoke program, stars watching on sundeck... Spend a romantic night on boat.*

*Overnight on board in Halong bay .*





## DAY 3. ENJOY ANOTHER DAY IN HALONG BAY

*Early in the morning, start your new day on Halong bay with doing morning exercises, Taichi or hunting photos. Breakfast is served with coffee or tea.*

*After breakfast, our bus takes you to Cai Beo harbor, get on the "Day Boat". Visit Ba Hang Fishing Village to experience the lifestyle of local people.*

*After that we will head back to the boat restaurant to join the cooking class and enjoy lunch. Around 11.45 AM, we will disembark and transfer back to Hanoi. We will transfer you directly to Noi Bai airport (in Hanoi) for the flight to Ho Chi Minh.*

*Arrival in Ho Chi Minh. Check-in to the room at the hotel and stay overnight in Ho Chi Minh.*





## DAY 4. DISCOVER HO CHI MINH CITY AND CU CHI TUNNELS

*In the morning, we will tour Ho Chi Minh City. We start the trip by these famous places: Notre Dame Cathedral, the historic Central Post Office, followed by exploring the Reunification Palace, and the remarkable site of the War Remnants Museum. (Drop you off at Ben Thanh Market for shopping if we have enough time).*

*Afternoon, Cu Chi tunnel, before entering the tunnels visitors can watch a short introductory video showing how the tunnels were constructed. You will spend the next hour exploring the tunnels. Afterwards, enjoy tea, cassava (guerrilla's food during the war).*

*Overnight in Ho Chi Minh city.*





## DAY 5. MEKONG DELTA EXPLORATION

*Around 8.00am, travel to My Tho and Ben Tre, enjoy the scenic journey along the National Highway bordered by green rice fields.*

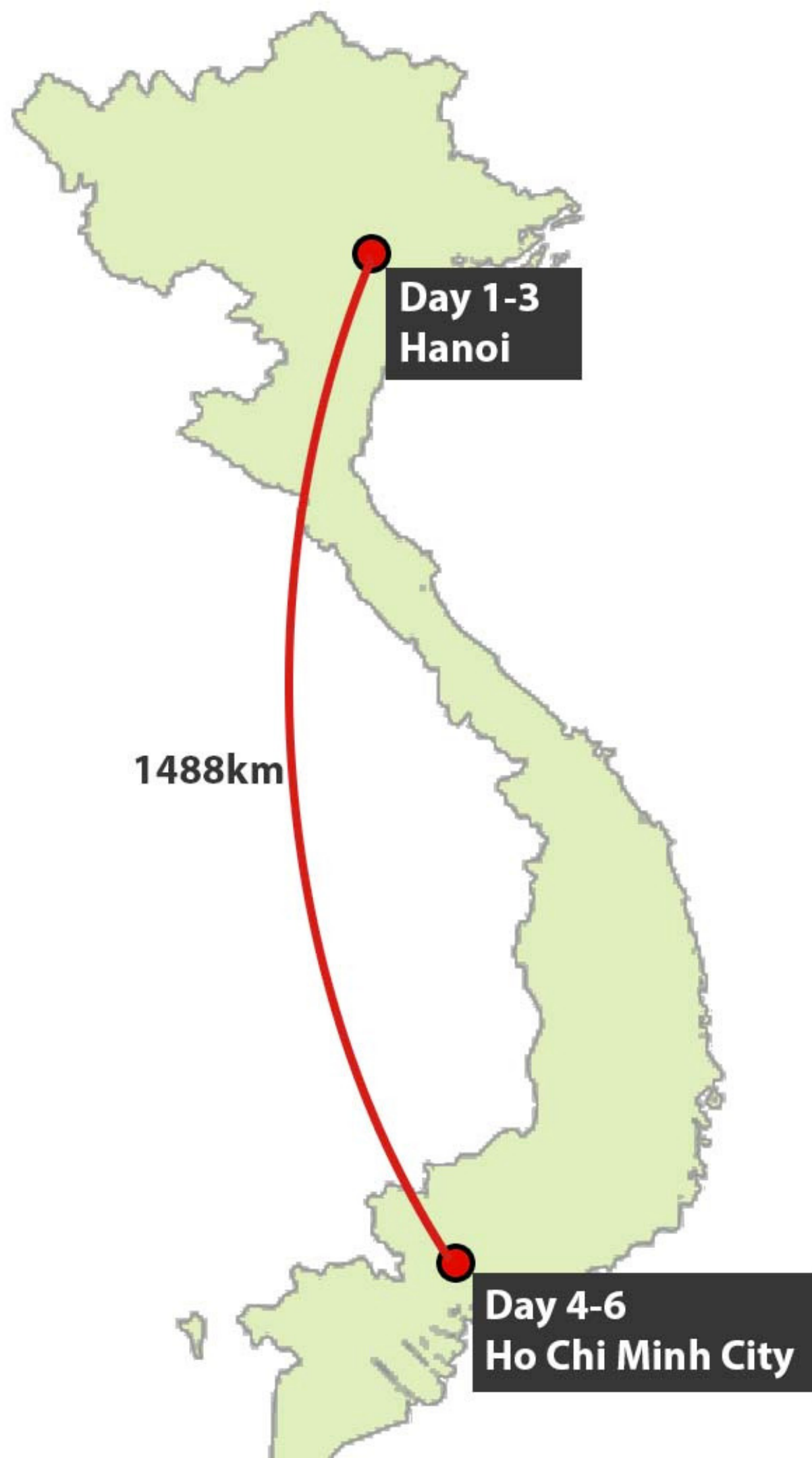
*On arrived at My Tho, visit Vinh Trang pagoda, take a leisurely boat ride along the river, view stilt houses, fruit plantations and fishing villages along the river bank.*

*Proceed to Tortoise islet, have lunch in the orchard garden. Then we will take a boat ride to An Khanh, a less touristy attraction in Ben Tre, enjoy cruising on a hand-rowed sampan under the shade of the water coconut trees along natural canals.*

*Enjoy seasonal fruit & honey tea to the sound of “Southern Vietnamese folk music”, performed by the locals.*

*Visit a family business which epitomizes the idyllic rural lifestyle, taste delicious coconut candy & observe the pastoral life as you roam through fruit plantations and villages. Go back to the city.*





## DAY 6. GOODBYE VIETNAM!

*Start off your last day by bidding farewell to Ho Chi Minh city and prepare to depart home.*

*We hope you enjoyed our tour to the fullest as much as we did. We wish you good luck and hope to hear from you again!*

*Pick up from the hotel in the morning.*

*Transfer to the airport.*

## FROM 996 USD / PER PERSON

Note: Expats Holidays can arrange the tour according to your needs. The tailor-made tour price will change depending on your needs.



# VISA

Applications can be submitted in person or by post or by email. The visa fee can be paid together or separately. Tourist visa can be issued for up to three months for single entry and multiple entry.

For the application via email you will need the following documents: The Visa application form, a copy of the data page of your passport (ID page), a 2x2 inch identical photo, your current mailing/shipping address and your Credit Card information.

After all required documents are submitted, the issuing process will take around 1-2 business days.







# Explore the colours of life



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**MANY THANKS!**

All we care about is you.