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YOUR JOURNEY TO **VIETNAM**

PlaceMakers ~ Hanoi & Halong



VIETNAM

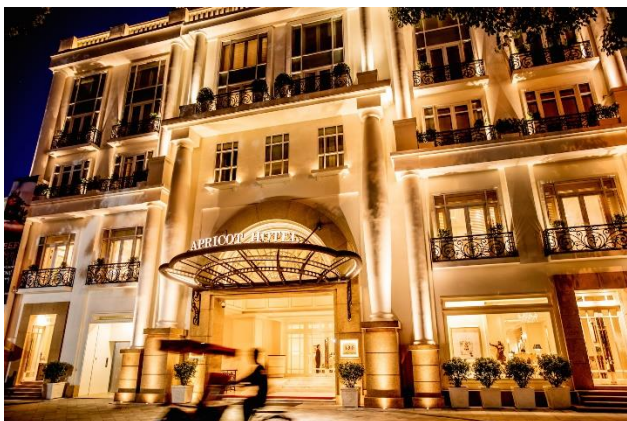
AUGUST 2025

MON 25 DANANG > HANOI

You will be met at your hotel in Danang and transferred to the airport for the flight to Hanoi (flight included in economy class).

Apricot Hotel

Accommodation for 1 night in a Canvas Room including breakfast



Set by the fabled Hoan Kiem Lake, Apricot Hotel is bound to transport you back and forth between the glamorous past and the modern present of Hanoi. Inspired by classic French architecture mixed with Vietnamese art, Apricot makes for your exquisite home away from home in the capital city of Vietnam.

TUE 26 HANOI (B)



With ochre-coloured colonial buildings, tree-lined boulevards and scenic lakes, Hanoi is full of charm. Many of Hanoi's grandiose villas and palaces built by the French are still in use today. Wide tree-lined boulevards skirt the misty lakes of the city and amongst it all are ancient temples and busy markets. As the sun rises over the city and the mist rises from the lakes, seemingly the entire population of the city takes to the lakesides, parks and streets for Tai Chi. Highlights of this city include the colourful and vibrant flower market, the shopper's paradise in the "Old Quarter" and the up-market boutiques on Nah Tho Street.

HANOI CITY TOUR CYCLO RIDE

Explore the charming city of Hanoi, often referred to as the 'Paris of the East', with its yellow ochre colonial buildings, tree-lined boulevards and scenic lakes. Visit the historic Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, an imposing monument of marble and granite built to house the preserved body of beloved Vietnam leader Ho Chi Minh, affectionately known to the Vietnamese as "Uncle Ho". Visit the One Pillar Pagoda, a Buddhist temple built in 1049 of wood in the shape of a lotus blossom and set on a single stone pillar. Continue to Ho Chi Minh's House nearby, a simple wooden house in a tranquil setting where Ho Chi Minh lived and worked. Some of his belongings are on display and visitors can walk up the steps to see his bedroom.

Next, visit the Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first national university built in the late 11th century. The picturesque temple is an example of well-preserved traditional Vietnamese architecture and is featured on the back of the 100,000 Vietnamese dong banknote. In the afternoon, visit the fascinating Museum of Ethnology (closed on Mondays) which houses an extensive collection of traditional costumes and artefacts from Vietnam's 54 ethnic minority groups.

Drive back to central Hanoi for a 1hr cyclo tour through the famed Old Quarter known for its '36 streets of 36 wares' named after the original 36 artisan guilds that date as far back as the 13th century. Explore the fascinating maze of back streets, fronted by narrow houses known as "tunnel" or "tube houses", built to avoid taxes based on the width of their frontage onto the street, a wonderfully eclectic glimpse into Hanoi street life. Conclude the day by watching an entertaining water puppet performance, a uniquely northern Vietnamese art form said to have originated in the flooded rice fields of the Red River Delta. The show uses colourful wooden puppets to depict scenes of rural life and episodes of national history set to music.

The Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum is closed every Monday & Friday. Please note that Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum will have seasonal closure during low season. The exact timing for the closure will be updated by the local government around 1 month in advance. Other destinations in Ho Chi Minh's complex open as per normal and we can only visit the exterior area of the Ho Chi Minh mausoleum during this time.

WED 27 HANOI ②

At leisure.

THU 28 HANOI > HALONG BAY ②③④

Depart this morning from your hotel for the drive to Halong Bay, a journey of around 3 hours.

Halong Bay, in the Gulf of Tonkin, includes some 1,600 islands and islets, forming a magical seascape of limestone pillars and breathtaking caves. The islands (in mainly limestone and schist) mostly lie in the two main areas: the south-eastern part of Bái Tu Long Bay and south-western part of Halong Bay. These islands represent the most ancient geographical image, having a tectonic age ranging from 250 million to 280 million years and are the result of the repeated rising and lowering processes of the continent to form the karsts. The unique formations of various graceful shapes, both familiar and strange, have been weathered by nearly full erosion, culminating in a skilful masterpiece of natural creation that is now protected as a World Heritage site.



On arrival in Halong Bay, travel to your cruise by support vessel and board your cruise, settle into your cabin and prepare your appetite for an enjoyable lunch on deck. This afternoon visit the Tra Bau area, known for its unspoiled, poetic natural beauty and attractive seascape of Lan Ha Bay. This is the best time for kayaking to discover the truest beauty of the limestone islands. Immerse yourself in the emerald green water of the bay or enjoy the Jacuzzi pool on board.

This evening join us for a cooking demonstration to learn how to make one of the most famous Vietnamese dishes, spring rolls. Relax and sip the exotic cocktails and drinks at the sky bar (pay on board) or try your luck at the squid fishing with the crew on the main deck.

Peony Cruise

Accommodation for 2 nights in a Deluxe Balcony cabin including breakfast, lunch & dinner



Please note: The cruise programme is subject to change due to weather conditions, tide levels, and operating conditions. Excursions may be cancelled due to poor weather, and unused services are not subject to refund.

FRI 29 HALONG BAY (B)(L)(D)

Wake up at dawn to the lapping of the waves and the smell of freshly brewed coffee, which is available with pastries in the dining room. If you wish for an active start to your day, you can join the early morning Tai Chi class on the sun deck. If you wish to stay on board today, of you may but todays excursion includes cycling or riding in an e-cart to Viet Hai village through the tropical rainforest and towering limestone mountains. Learn about the villager's daily life and how people built and lived in the bamboo thatched houses; the earthen walls are made of straw and mud covered with trellis. This afternoon can be spent swimming or kayaking from the ship, before a cooking demonstration and dinner on board.

SAT 30 HALONG BAY > HANOI (B)(L)

Join the early morning Tai Chi class on the sun deck before you visit the Cat Ba World Biosphere by transshipment. It takes 30 minutes to transfer from Gia Luan to Trung Trang – one of the most impressive caves in Cat Ba island, Vietnam. The limestone cave has thousands of stalactites in various shapes, offering geological values with a typical cave ecosystem. Return to the vessel for brunch and disembark.

Transfer back to Hanoi and check in to your hotel.

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SUN 31 DEPART HANOI (B)

Check out after breakfast and transfer to the airport for your onward flight.

YOUR WORLD JOURNEY CONCLUDES

INCLUSIONS:

- Accommodation inclusive of hotel tax, hotel service charges and daily breakfast
- 2 night Halong Bay cruise with sightseeing on board

- Economy class flight Danang > Hanoi
- Private transfers and transportation
- Sightseeing with Local English-speaking guides
- Entrance fees
- Meals as specified within itinerary (ⓑ Breakfast Ⓛ Lunch ⓓ Dinner)

EXCLUSIONS:

- Vietnam visa
- Other meals where not mentioned in the programme
- Hotel early check in/late check-out
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance
- Tips & gratuities