

Architecture

Temple of Literature
Notre Dame | Thien Mu Pagoda

Culture

Sampan Boats | Water Buffalo
Rice Farming | Dragon Boats

History

Ho Chi Minh | Dinh Dynasty
Mekong Delta | War Museum

2020: Feb. 1 - 21 | \$5,650 (includes roundtrip airfare)

Explore Vietnam

life can be a trip

Let us show you the world





Saturday February 1

Depart from the Erie airport and connect in Detroit for flight to Seoul, Korea.

Sunday February 2

Arrive Seoul, Korea at 4:30 PM Check into Incheon Airport Hotel, which is located inside security.

Overnight at Incheon Airport Hotel or Hanoi

Viet NAM

Explore the enchanting landscapes, colorful traditions, enticing cuisine, and genuinely friendly people of a remarkable country at the crossroads of past and future. Visit seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the Complex of Huế Monuments, Ha Long Bay, Hoi An Ancient Town, My Son Sanctuary, Central Sector of the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long, Citadel of the Ho Dynasty, and the Trang An Landscape Complex.

Experience the colonial charm of Vietnam's capital Hanoi, then travel to the natural wonderland of Ha Long Bay and relax during an overnight cruise. Visit the ancient capital Hue and bask on the beaches of Hoi An. Explore the lush landscape of the Mekong Delta and enjoy the bright lights and urban bustle of Saigon.





Monday February 3

Morning flight from Seoul to Hanoi

Welcome to Vietnam! Check into your hotel, unpack, and relax. Later, join us for an orientation tour of the area. Our hotel, the Silk Path, is conveniently located in the heart of Hanoi's charming Old Quarter. This is the perfect central location for discovering all the city has to offer. This evening, experience a taste of Vietnam at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Hanoi – Silk Path Hotel

Tuesday, February 4

This morning our tour begins at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum where Ho Chi Minh, the president who was known as 'Uncle Ho,' lies in state, followed by Ba Dinh Square, an important point of pilgrimage for many Vietnamese. The Ho Chi Minh complex is filled with botanical gardens, monuments, memorials and pagodas. Later, visit the Temple of Literature, the first University of Vietnam, built in 1070 and dedicated to Confucius. See the Hanoi Hilton where John McCain's flight suit and parachute are on display. Later stop for a cup of Vietnamese coffee (Vietnam is the second largest exporter of coffee in the world) or one of the many delectable dishes rising from the steaming woks of street vendors.

Overnight in Hanoi – Silk Path Hotel



Wednesday, February 5

Explore the traditional rural villages of northern Vietnam. Each craft village has its own know-how, which has been passed down from generation to generation since the feudal period. See local artisans' skills performed in traditional ways. Visit the *ceramic village* and *silk village*. Return to Hanoi in the late afternoon and attend a classic *Water Puppet Show*.

Overnight in Hanoi – Silk Path Hotel



Thursday, February 6



Journey back in time to Ninh Binh and experience Vietnamese rural life and history. Ninh Binh was the ancient capital of Vietnam, dating back to the 10th century. Later, transfer to Tam Coc, which means three caves in Vietnamese, for a sampan ride along the Trang An River. Step into your sampan boat and explore the river's cave complex as your guide paddles the boat with her feet! Marvel at the lush fields and karst rock formations that give the site its local nickname "Ha Long Bay on Land."

Overnight in Hanoi – Silk Path Hotel

Friday, February 7



Head deep into the Vietnamese countryside for a scenic drive to Ha Long Bay, the country's most prized natural treasure and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Ha Long Bay is famed for its spectacular vistas and majestic islands. Board a traditional Chinese boat to cruise the idyllic limestone islands. Enjoy a welcome drink followed by a fresh seafood buffet lunch. Admire the beauty as you sail to visit Thien Cung Cave or Sung Sot Cave which is the most famous grotto in Ha Long Bay. Relax or swim at Titop Beach. The cruise also includes a cooking class, local wine tasting, Happy Hour, kayaking, candle-lit dinner and a unique opportunity for night squid fishing.

Overnight on cruise boat



Saturday, February 8

Begin your day with a Tai Chi lesson on the sundeck, complete with complimentary tea and coffee. Breakfast on board. Cruise through Ha long Bay past Man's Head Islet and Tortoise Islet. Arrive at Luon Cave (Hang Luồn) and explore the most tranquil floating village on your own rowing boat. Enjoy kayaking, relax on the sundeck, or indulge in a massage. Check out of your cabin and transfer to the Hanoi Airport for a flight to Hue. Hue was the capital of the Nguyen Dynasty from 1802 until 1945 and contains the treasures of Vietnam's royal history. Hotel check-in and orientation tour of Hue.

Overnight in Hue - Saigon Morin Hotel

Sunday, February 9



Today's tour begins with a brief cruise on a private dragon boat along the Perfume River to the most sacred Temple of Hue, the seven-tiered Thien Mu Pagoda. Built in 1601, the pagoda is still an active religious site. Later, transfer by rickshaw (cyclo) ride to visit Vietnam's former imperial capital and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Imperial Citadel contains the Imperial City, the Forbidden Purple City and the Emperor's Private Residence. Enjoy a unique experience during a visit to Dong Thien Pagoda where a special lunch is prepared by the nuns. We will have an opportunity to sit with the nuns and learn about their daily lives. After lunch is the visit to the Mausoleum of Emperor Tu Duc and his 103 concubines who were forced to live next to his tomb for two years of mourning before they could return to the Imperial City! Visit the incense making house before returning to our hotel.

Monday, February 10

Morning drive to Da Nang with a stop at an oyster farm. During the Vietnam War, Da Nang was the largest military base in the country and the town outside the base was slightly more than a typical village. Today the shacks and tin huts of the past have been replaced by stylish hotels, restaurants, beach resorts and trendy cafes. Enjoy lunch on the beach then continue to Hoi An. This afternoon discover the antique charm of Hoi An, a town whose history dates back to the 16th century.

Check in to your beach front hotel.





Tuesday, February 11

Morning excursion to My Son, an architectural complex on the coast of Vietnam. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage, My Son is one of the oldest archaeological sites in the region. In the afternoon, explore Ho An on a private guided tour. Recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage site for its cultural relevance, Hoi An is one of the most interesting and well-preserved destinations in Vietnam, famous for its history, talented tailors, excellent beaches and fresh seafood. With more than 400 shops, custom-made dresses, jewelry, suits, shirts and leather shoes can be purchased at very reasonable prices. This is the “shopping mecca” of Asia. Hoi An is the “Town of Lanterns” and they are everywhere in the Old City. During the day they make the city colorful and warm, but during the evening they transform the town into a magical, multicolored painting.

Overnight in Hoi An – Hoi An Boutique Beach Resort



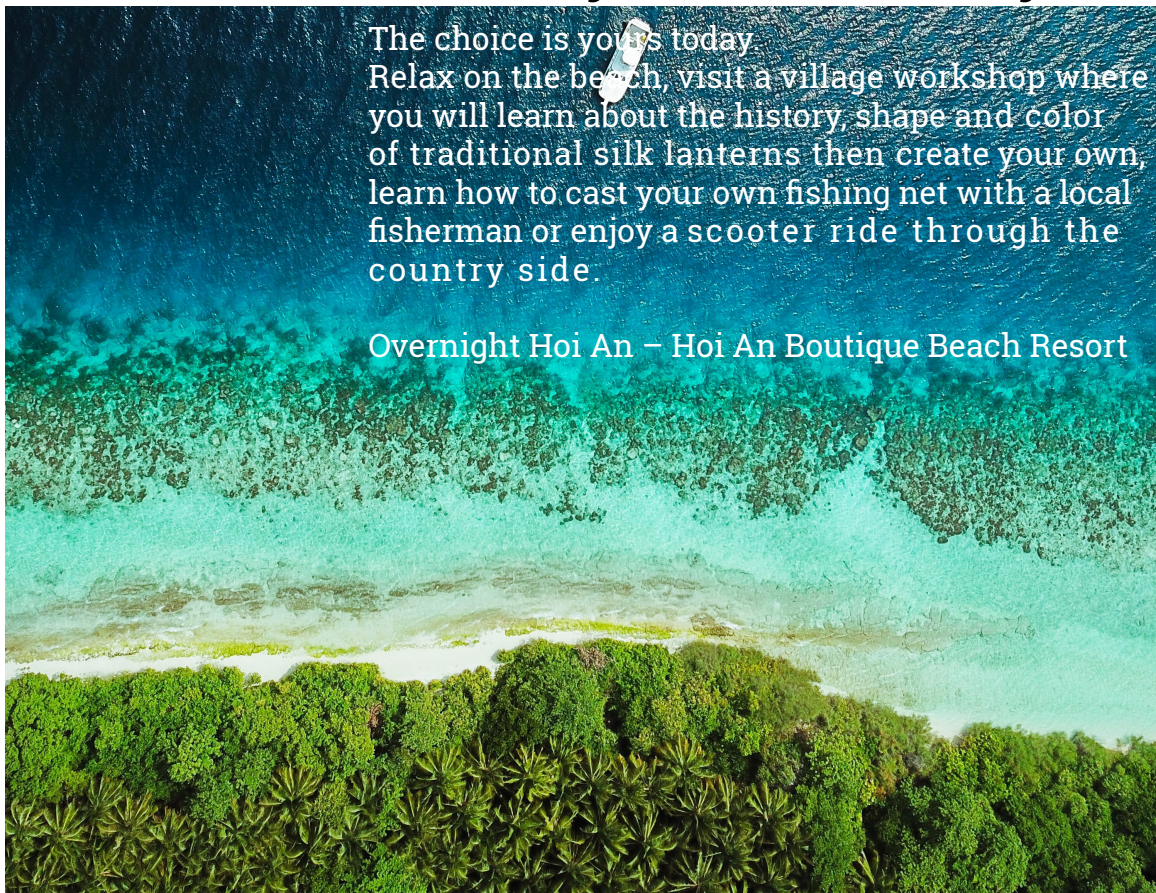
Wednesday, February 12



Today the cooking class begins with a visit to the local food market in Hoi An. Travel by river boat to Bay Mau on Thuan Tinh Island. Here you will learn how to paddle a traditional basket boat through a water coco palm forest, tour a typical Vietnamese vegetable garden and understand the growing and processing of rice. Later, using the ingredients purchased at the morning market, prepare yand enjoy your own tasty Vietnamese lunch!

Overnight Hoi An – Hoi An Boutique Beach Resort

Thursday, February 13



The choice is yours today. Relax on the beach, visit a village workshop where you will learn about the history, shape and color of traditional silk lanterns then create your own, learn how to cast your own fishing net with a local fisherman or enjoy a scooter ride through the country side.

Overnight Hoi An – Hoi An Boutique Beach Resort



Friday, February 14

Transfer to the Da Nang Airport for domestic flight to the Ho Chi Minh Airport. Then continue to Cai Be district in the Mekong Delta via My Tho Town. Upon arrival in Cai Be, enjoy a boat trip on Mekong River and through the small canals to Binh Hoa Phuoc village.

Overnight in Cai Be - Mekong Riverside Boutique Resort & Spa

Saturday February 15

Morning visits to local people's homes, the ancient houses, bonsai and fruit gardens. Cruise the Mekong Delta and then transfer to Can Tho city.

Overnight in Can Tho - Muong Thanh Luxury Hotel



Sunday, February 16

Starting at 6:00 AM board a private boat on Mekong River. Visit the famous Cai Rang floating market where local people are trading fruits & vegetables on boats. Return to the shore for breakfast at hotel. Transfer to Ho Chi Minh City and check into your hotel. Later in the afternoon join us for an orientation tour of Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon to the locals) with a market visit.

Overnight Saigon - Majestic Hotel



Monday, February 17

This morning our discovery tour of Saigon continues with visits to the Presidential Palace. It was here in April 1975 that a tank belonging to the Northern Army breached the gates, signifying the fall of the South and Saigon. The building has remained largely untouched since. In the basement is the command center for the South, complete with military charts from the time of the war. The Saigon Central Post Office, built by renowned architect Gustave Eiffel between 1886 and 1891, is a majestic piece of French architecture. Tour Notre Dame Cathedral, built between 1863 and 1880 by the French colonists, following their conquest of the city. The War Museum is an optional visit as it is a bit disturbing & sobering about the Viet Nam War. In the evening, soak up the electric atmosphere of Ho Chi Minh City. For the adventurous, we can arrange a street food tour by motorbike.

Overnight Saigon - Majestic Hotel



Monday, February 18

One of the historic attractions that the visitors should not miss when coming to Ho Chi Minh are the Cu Chi Tunnels. These once held hospitals, living quarters, schools, and meeting halls. Crawl through the underground network of narrow tunnels, taste the manioc, and sip special tea to imagine life during war. Return to Saigon in the afternoon.

Overnight Saigon - Majestic Hotel

FINAL DAYS

Tuesday, February 19

Day at leisure to explore Saigon or enjoy an optional excursion to the surrounding province.

Overnight Saigon - Majestic Hotel

Thursday, February 20

Depart Vietnam

Learn about the educational system of Vietnam during a visit to a local high school where we will meet & interact with the students in English. This evening, transfer to Ho Chi Minh Airport for your return flight home.

Friday, February 21

Arrive in Erie

TRAVEL

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Let us show you the world
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