

# DETAILED ITINERARY, Vietnam > Ho Chi Minh & Mekong River

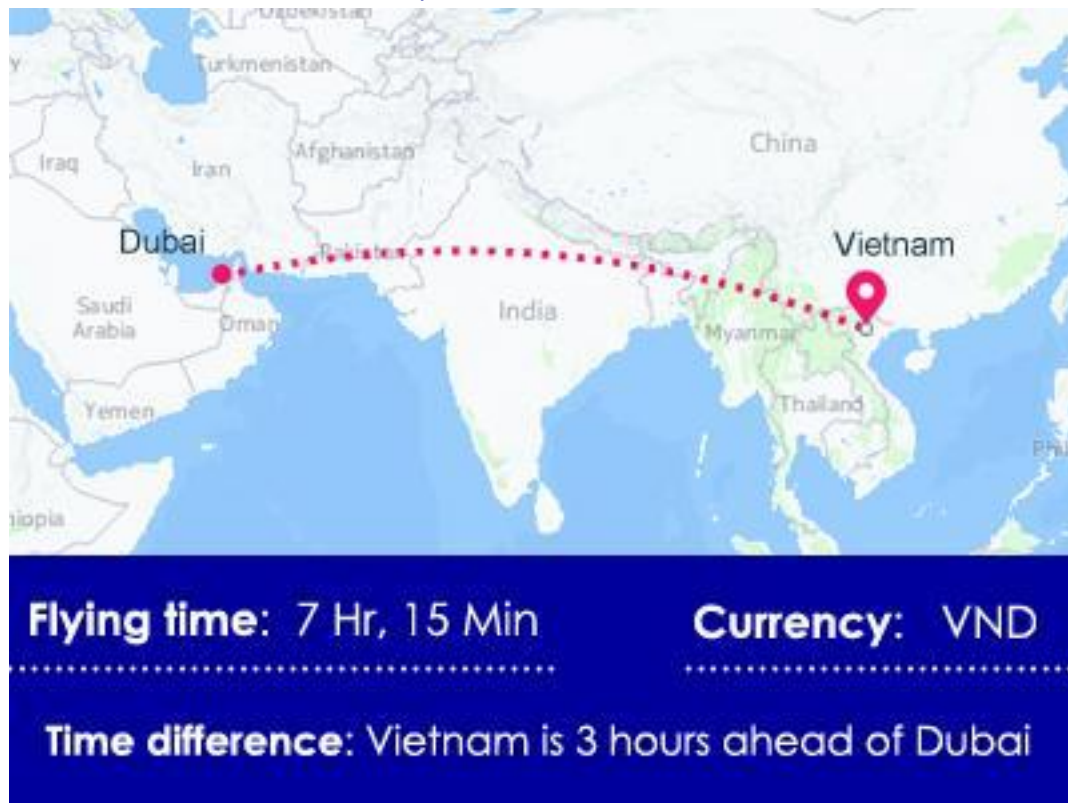
**AED 4,990/-** Per person, Prices are based on twin sharing.

**Duration:** 5 Days / 4 Nights.

**Destinations:** Ho Chi Minh-Cu Chi Tunnels-Mekong Delta

**1**DAY

## Arrival at Ho Chi Minh Airport



Welcome to Vietnam

On arrival at Ho Chi Minh International Airport you will be met by our local representative and you will be transferred to the hotel.

Day is free, for you to explore the city at your own pace.

Ho Chi Minh City (commonly known as Saigon) is a city in southern Vietnam famous for the pivotal role it played in the Vietnam War. It's also known for its French colonial landmarks, including Notre-Dame Cathedral, made entirely of materials imported from France, and the 19th-century Central Post Office. Food stalls line the city's streets, especially around bustling Bến Thành Market.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh.

**2**DAY

## Ho Chi Minh

Breakfast at the hotel. Discover Saigon, today's Ho Chi Minh City – the bustling and vibrating economic centre of the South. Over the past few centuries, Saigon was

called the “Pearl of the Far East” and was an important trading centre for Chinese, Japanese and Western merchants who travelled along the Saigon River. Meet our tour guide at your hotel in Ho Chi Minh City and start our full day sightseeing of Saigon. During the tour, you will visit the major and most beautiful sights of Ho Chi Minh City such as Lam Son Square, Saigon Opera House and the People’s Committee Hall, then walk north on tree-lined Dong Khoi Street, Notre Dame Cathedral and Old Post Office, which were both built in French architecture style during the colonial times. Next stop would be Reunification Palace (the former Presidential Palace), renowned for its symbolic role in the fall of Saigon in 1975. After lunch at restaurant, we continue our sightseeing to the War Remnants Museum. Round up our day with Thien Hau Pagoda, exciting shopping experience in colourful Ben Thanh market, the largest market of Saigon.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh.

### 3DAY

#### Ho Chi Minh-Cu Chi Tunnels

Breakfast at the hotel. Meet our tour guide at your hotel and start our visit to Cu Chi Tunnels, a must-see destination in Southern Vietnam. Located 70 km from Ho Chi Minh City, this place has been known since the Vietnam – American War. Underground tunnels in Cu Chi were used as a base of the Vietnamese Army (Việt cộng). The tunnel system covers almost all the Cu Chi area, stretching over 200km and consists of three levels in depth (from 8 to 12 meters). You will be introduced to the scheme of the system and watch a surprising documentary about the heroic railway land of Cu Chi. Then you will visit parts of the tunnel’s partisan museum, a reproduction of the military department where sawing to produce a bomb grenades and mines. You can also see smoke-free military stove, a conference room and a commander’s bunker. For a more “thrilling” experience, you can even test your shooting skills on original AK47s and other guns from past war times (subject to a surcharge).

Afternoon, we start our shopping activities with first stops at Parkson and Vincom where you can find international brands and high quality Vietnamese brands. Or Saigon Square where the local people often go to buy the international brands, made in Vietnam clothes. Round up our day with shopping at Ben Thanh Market.

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh.

### 4DAY

#### Ho Chi Minh-Mekong River

Breakfast at the hotel. Meet our tour guide at your hotel in Saigon and start our full day tour to My Tho town. Upon arrival at My Tho, take a boat trip on Tiền River to the other side (Bến tre land). Sight-seeing fish farms, floating fish market along the Dragon Island on the way. Through Xếp canal in Bến Tre (land of coconuts) to See coconut collection set and how the locals make handicrafts from coconut trunk and shell. Enjoy seasonal fruits and listening to traditional music. Take the horse-cart on village path and stop at Mr Nam Ngô orchard, taste honey with tea or wine. See bees-breeding in wooden boxes under longans tree. Take rowing-boat along water palm creek. Boat to see local people make coconut candy, taste candy (Special products of Bến Tre province).

Overnight in Ho Chi Minh.

### 5DAY

#### Ho Chi Minh City / End of trip

After breakfast. The day is free until checkout time. The driver will pick you up and drop you to the airport for your onward flight.

## TOUR COST, TERMS & CONDITIONS



**AED 4,990/-** Per person, Prices are based on twin sharing.

**Duration:** 5 Days / 4 Nights.

**Destinations:** Ho Chi Minh-Cu Chi Tunnels-Mekong Delta.



The rates are subject to availability at the time of booking request. in Govt taxes, or hotel charges a surcharge, or BAR rates (Best available without notice). The exchange rate is subject to change. Please e permits & valid passport. The best source of visa information is the



If you are interested in going ahead with this booking, we would form of cash or cheque:

- 30 days to 21 days prior to departure date: 50%.
- 21 days to 01 days prior to departure: 100%.
- Prices in this quotation are subject to availability. Al-Tayer Ho higher standard based in the event of non-availability at the t



Please ensure that the names given to us for reservations match the names on the tickets. Airlines and travel companies are very particular about name changes. Mismatched names can result in denied boarding. We strongly recommend travel insurance as part of your package – we can arrange this for you. Please let us know if you wish us to add this to your package.

## INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

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### INCLUSIONS



Flights

Economy class airfare from Dubai / Ho Chi Minh / Dubai.



Accommodation

4 nights accommodation in Ho Chi Minh based on double room occupancy.



Transportation

Transportation as per the itinerary on private car.



Sightseeing

Half day city tour in Ho Chi Minh, Full day Cu Chi Tunnels & Full day



Meals

Daily breakfast.



Complimentary travel insurance.



All airline and hotel taxes.

## EXCLUSIONS



- Visa fees.
- International airport departure tax.
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary.
- Items of personal nature viz. telephone calls, drinks, laundry
- Except all above mentioned in inclusion.

## TRAVEL TIPS

**Vietnam:** You've probably seen it in the background of countless war movies, but nothing can prepare you for the epic beauty of Vietnam. While it isn't my favorite country in the world, it is very beautiful and filled with delicious food – there is no denying that. From the natural beauty of Sam Mountain and Halong Bay to the man-made artistry of the sacred temples and pagodas to the rice terraces and beaches, Vietnam has a lot to offer travelers. The country has suffered a long dark history of colonialism, communism, war, and poverty. You cannot escape learning about the horrid history whose effects are still visible on the faces, bodies the locals even today. Like India, many travelers either love or hate it here. Admittedly, it's a

hard country to travel through but despite the challenges you'll find a very interesting and visually pleasing place to visit.

**Trip Planning:** The planning stage of your trip can be instrumental in its success and an enjoyable part of the experience itself. You have a world of options...and plenty to consider.

**Entry and Exit formalities:** Visitors must hold a passport valid for at least six months & beyond at the time of entering the country. Some nationalities can obtain visa on arrival and for nationalities who requires visa please refer to the Vietnam consulate website:

<https://vnembassy-abudhabi.mofa.gov.vn>

**Transportation:** Figuring out how to get around is one of your biggest pre-trip decisions. Get our holiday expert best advice on deciding between your options. Based on your trip itinerary, our experts will help you choose wisely. You'll also find a wealth of practical travel tips.

**Money:** Use your money wisely. Know the best time to use cash or card — and how to avoid unnecessary fees either way — as well as tipping etiquette.

**Phones and Technology:** Phones and other smart devices can be huge time-savers...or expensive distractions. Get our tips for making the best use of technology during your trip, and for calling home with or without your own phone.

**Packing Light:** On your trip you'll meet two kinds of travelers: those who pack light and those who wish they had.

**Sleeping and Eating:** Your hotel and restaurant choices can be a matter-of-face chore...or they can provide rich opportunities to connect with locals and their culture.

**Health & Hygiene:** Take comfort: Doctors, hospitals, laundrettes, and bathrooms aren't that different. Dealing with them can even be part of the fun of travel.

**Sightseeing & Activities:** Once you're on the ground, the real fun begins...but it pays to have a thoughtful plan. Our experts will help you get oriented to your surroundings, use your sightseeing hours wisely, and find your way off the beaten path.

### **Things to see & do:**

**Admire the pagodas** – Vietnam's most distinctive architecture can be seen in the pagodas, which can be found all over the country. They are known for their beautifully intricate carvings. Pagodas are used as shrines and temples and are treasured by the Vietnamese people.

**Wander around Hanoi** – Vietnam's capital handsomely combines French colonialism with Eastern influences. Enjoy an afternoon exploring the narrow streets of the Old Quarter or visit the countless temples and galleries dotted around this bustling city. Don't miss the history museum, which showcases artifacts from Vietnam's colorful history and the Ho Chi Minh City Mausoleum. Hanoi is also a good

base for doing multi-day tours to Halong Bay, Hua Lu and Tam Coc. It's a hectic, chaotic city — embrace it!

**Relax or find adventure in Dalat** – Dalat is nestled in the hills of the Central Highlands and is popular with tourists who want to relax in the mountain air, so people flock here for serenity. Others go to Dalat to participate in a host of adventure sports that happen within a naturally beautiful backdrop. The hills around Dalat are filled with traditional tribal villages, which you can tour, but there is plenty to do within the city itself too. Visit the imaginatively titled palaces: Palace I, Palace II and Palace III.

**Tour the Mekong Delta** – The delta is a 60,000km long web of interconnected waterways, which span across three Vietnamese provinces. The area is filled with small craft villages, Khmer Pagodas, mangroves, orchards and the trademark floating markets. The best way to experience Delta life is to go on one of the many boat or bike tours. Spend a few days exploring the stunning region. I did a bike trip here and it was one of the best things I did while in the country.

**Crawl through the Cu Chi Tunnels** – Crawl through the extensive network of nearly 500 km of tunnels utilized by the Viet Cong in the war with the USA in the 1960s. Tours involve a description of the tunnels, after which tourists are allowed to crawl about the maze and fire AK47s at shooting targets. It's a sobering experience and not one meant for anyone claustrophobic. However, if you want a better understand the terror of the Vietnam War, this is a must-visit.

**Get adventurous in Sapa** – This is northern Vietnam's premier trekking area and it's hugely popular with all sorts of travelers. Sapa is famous for its hill tribes, lush vegetation, beautiful hiking trails, and breathtaking mountains. If you really want to get out and see it all, come to Sapa.

**Visit Cuc Phuong National Park** – About 120km southwest of Hanoi lies Vietnam's first National Park, Cuc Phuong. Covering 222 sq km, this place is home to over 2,000 species of trees and some truly rare wildlife including the Clouded Leopard, Delacour's Langur and Owston's Civet.

**Hang out in Hoi An** – Hoi An is one of the most popular destinations for tourists traveling to the country. The place is packed with historical homes and buildings and quaint cafes. It's small and great for walking, buying suits (they have a huge fashion and tailor market), eating, nearby beaches, and relaxing by the river. It was easily my favorite place in Vietnam. It's not unusual to find backpackers using Hoi An as a resting ground while they recharge from constant traveling. This is a relaxing quality to it that makes staying for a while very attractive.

**Explore Ho Chi Minh City** – Also known as Saigon, Ho Chi Minh City is Vietnam's largest city and is definitely worth exploring. Like most cities in Vietnam, you'll be met with the roar of motorbikes speeding through colonial streets. Ben Thanh market is a must-see for amazing food and there is a great buzz of activity within the place. If flying into the SGN airport, it's worth spending a day or two exploring the city. I recommend spending the night at The Common Room Project for a great hostel experience.

**Hike in Halong Bay** – More than 3,000 islands sit within the emerald green waters of Halong Bay, one of the country's most popular tourist destinations. Cat Ba Island has great for hiking and many tourists find themselves taking one of the cave tours. Tours here usually leave from Hanoi and last 3 or 5 days. Try to find a good operator as many oversell or lie about what their boats look like (ask for advice from your hotel staff or travelers who have just returned from their trip).



**Get active in Mui Ne** – Despite being a fishing village, Mui Ne has got a significant tourism scene due to its popularity as a wind- and kite-surfing destination. The rolling sand dunes nearby are the main draw and worth checking out!

**See My Son** – My Son is a set of Hindu ruins in Vietnam which date back to the Cham Empire. The Champas ruled over Central Vietnam from the 3rd to the 19th century. The temples here are of incredible historical importance, but they have been largely reclaimed by the surrounding jungle, and have fallen into a great state of disrepair. Don't come here expecting something as marvelously preserved as Borobudur or Angkor Wat. Entrance fee is 100,000 VND for foreigners.

**Visit the caves in Phong Nha-Ke Bang** – Hang Son Doong is reputed to be the world's largest cave and is located in Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park. It was discovered by a local in 1990, and "rediscovered" by a British caving team in 2009. You can arrange trips to see this stunning cave.

**Dive in Nha Trang** – This area is full of seaside resorts and has a distinct urban feeling to it. However, the beautiful sand and clear water make it the main spot for scuba diving in Vietnam. Two dives will cost around 1,700,000 VND and Open Water certification will cost around

**Check out the rice terraces** – Outside of connections to the Vietnam War, the stereotypical image of Vietnam is of the many rice paddies. You can find these in the Muong Hoa Valley. If you've never visited rice terraces, you should make a point to see them in Vietnam. Visit them to learn about rice production and take stunning photographs of the unbelievable Vietnamese countryside.

**Relax in Hue** – Hue is generally passed by, making it a bit of a quieter stop along the tourist trail. Stroll along the beautiful Perfume River and into the Imperial Citadel. Don't miss the Tombs of the Emperors.