**Best of the North - 7 days**
(Hanoi – Sapa – Halong)

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**Itinerary Overview**

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**Note**: B: Breakfast / L: Lunch / D: Dinner

**Detailed Itinerary**

**Day 1**

**HANOI ARRIVAL**

Arrive in Hanoi. Greeted by your driver at the airport. Transfer to your hotel in the city centre for check-in and at leisure in the rest of the day.

**Note**:
- The hotel room will be available at 2:00pm, and in case that you would like to secure an early-check in, an additional charge will be applied.
- Please be advised that both international and domestic might be crowded at sometimes during the day, so in case that you arrive and cannot find our representatives, please be presented at Pole No.10 outside lobby A2 (International) or Lobby of domestic arrival (Domestic flight) and contact us, so we could easily search for you.

**Meals**: N/A

**Accommodation**: Hotel in Hanoi

**Note**: this is a copy of itinerary on Indochina Treks Travel’ Official Website and not the final itinerary.
Day 2  HANOI - CITY TOUR - NIGHT TRAIN TO SAPA

Today, we will spend a full day to visit the city. We start with visit to President Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum and residence. We also visit the famous One Pillar Pagoda nearby. Leaving the President's complex, we continue to visit the Temple of Literature (Van Mieu). Although several Van Mieu can be found throughout Vietnam, the most prominent and famous is that situated in the city of Hanoi, and was functioned as Vietnam's first university.

Back to the hotel. Free till transfer to the station for overnight train to Lao Cai (for Sapa). Driver meets at your hotel in Hanoi at around 21:00 hrs and transfer to Hanoi train station. Overnight train trip to Lao Cai in shared sleeping compartments (sharing with other passengers in 2 lower & 2 upper berths per compartment). Train departs at approximately 22:00 hrs.

Note*:
- Late checkout at the hotel is not included.
- Our tour guide will not accompany during the train trip.
- Train schedule is subject to change depending on availability.
- Private compartments on request at surcharge.
- Train journeys are part of a great local experience. Cabins are shared with other local passengers (unless private cabin is requested and all berths paid for - with supplement). Restrooms at either end of the carriages.

Meals: Breakfast
Accommodation: Night on overnight train to Sapa

Day 3  Y LINH HO - LAO CHAI - TA VAN VILLAGES TREKKING

Sa Pa is a quiet mountain town and home to a great diversity of ethnic minority peoples. Most of the ethnic minority people work their land on sloping terraces since the vast majority of the land is mountainous. Their staple foods are rice and corn. Rice, by its very nature of being a labour intensive crop, makes the daily fight for survival paramount. The unique climate in Sapa has a major influence on the ethnic minorities who live in the area. With sub-tropical summers, temperate winters and 160 days of mist annually, the influence on agricultural yields and health related issues are significant.

05:30 ~ 06:00: Arrive at Lao Cai Train Station. Pick up at the train station and transfer to Sapa. Early check in upon arrival is possible upon room occupancy (Surcharge applicable). Breakfast and Relax for a while to get ready for our full day tour.

9.30am: Meet up your local guide and start trekking for 6km of walking down to the south east of...
Sapa along the side of Muong Hoa valley to Y Linh Ho village of the Black H’mong. A 2 km-trekking down to Lao Chai village, through terraced rice fields to Ta Van village of the Dzay minority people. On the way, we would have chance to learn about the local agriculture producing customs and daily lifestyle. We have lunch at a local family, offering you a worth chance to learn about the local house architecture, which is full of their daily life styles and exclusive custom. We will then get back to Sapa by jeep or motorbike.

**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch  
**Accommodation:** Hotel in Sapa

### Day 4  
**CAT CAT - SIN CHAI VILLAGES TREKKING - BUS TO HANOI**

08:30: Pickup at the hotel. We start a walk down to the South-west of Sapa (around 4 km) to visit Cat Cat village of the Black H’mong. Relax at the food of the stunning waterfall and the vestige of a hydroelectric power station that was constructed by the French during the colonial time in Vietnam. We enjoy picnic lunch by the side of the river, and trek for 6 km to Sin Chai village, which is located at the foot of Fansipan Mountain, “the roof of Vietnam and Indochina”. From here you can enjoy huge stunning landscapes before climbing up on the way back to Sapa.

You are free to explore the town till bus transfer to Hanoi departing at 3:00pm. Arrive Hanoi at 9pm.  
**Meals:** Breakfast/Lunch  
**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hanoi

### Day 5  
**HANOI - HALONG BAY - NIGHT ON BOARD**

07h30: Pick up from your hotel in Hanoi (option 1) or Ninh Binh (option 2). Drive to Halong City through the paddy fields in the Red River Delta.  
10h00: Stopover on the way for a refreshment breakk  
12h00: Arrive at Tuan Chau wharf – Break and photography time  
12h30: Board the Cruise for departure. Welcome drink will be served  
13h00: Lunch is served while cruising through the bay  
15h30: Visit exciting Cua Van fishing village. The village is free of busy roads and streets, electric lights, houses and high rise buildings. Instead, there are only herds of little boats and rafts. You will have the chance to discover the traditional culture and customs of the fishermen.  
16h30: Enjoy kayaking or swimming (if the weather permits)  
17h00: Back on board and continue cruising.  
19h00: Dinner is served.  
21h00: Take some leisure time to enjoy chatting at the bar or enjoy some night fishing.

**Note**: the itinerary and activities on board would vary depending on the boat you choose. Please see the choice of boat in Hotel Inclusions.

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Meals: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner
Accommodation: Night on Board

Day 6  HALONG BAY - HANOI

07.00: Coffee and tea will be served
08.00: Continue cruising
08h15: Visit splendid Sung Sot Cave
09h00: Check out and enjoy a fantastic cruise on the bay, passing Dinh Huong Island, fishing villages, Ga Choi Island, Dog Island and Sail Island.
09.30: Buffet brunch (breakfast/lunch) while cruising back through Halong Bay to the pier
11h30: Arrive at the pier. Time to say goodbye to the crew.
12.00: Return from Halong to Hanoi. Arrive Hanoi at about 17:00

Note*: the itinerary and activities on board would vary depending on the boat you choose. Please see the choice of boat in Hotel Inclusions.

Meals: Breakfast/Lunch
Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

Day 7  HANOI DEPARTURE

Free at leisure until our transfer is presented at your hotel and take you to Noi Bai International Airport for flight to for departure flight. Trip ends.

Note*: depending on your flight schedule, we will arrange airport transfer accordingly (2.5 hours for domestic flight/ 3.5 hours for international flights).

Meals: Breakfast
Accommodation: N/A

Hotel Inclusions

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Standard - 2-3*</th>
<th>Superior - 3*</th>
<th>Deluxe - 4*</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Hanoi</td>
<td>La Suite Hotel &amp; Spa</td>
<td>Noble Boutique</td>
<td>Golden Silk Boutique</td>
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<th>Halong Bay Cruise</th>
<th>A Class Cruise</th>
<th>Stellar Cruise</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sapa</td>
<td>Panorama Hotel</td>
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**Note**:  
- All prices are in USD per adult, in Double/Twin sharing  
- Small group tour - daily departure with max 12 pax (for Halong Cruises, you will join bus by boat companies)  
- In some major cities in Vietnam, hotel rooms may not have windows.  
- Similar hotels are selected if any of above are booked  
- Checkin/checkout time is 14:00pm and 12:00am respectively. Early checkin/late checkout is not included  
- Surcharge will be applied for single traveller or single room request  

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## Inclusions & Exclusions

### INCLUSIONS
- Overnights in selected hotels or similar  
- Vietnam visa approval letter  
- Halong bay 2 day Cruise package  
- All in-tour stationed local English speaking guide.  
- Excursions as mentioned in the itinerary  
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary  
- Entrance fees for sightseeing mentioned in the itinerary  
- Tours and transfers as mentioned, by air-conditioned vehicles (bus and group tour)  
- Hanoi – Lao Cai Overnight train (4 berth AC cabin)  
- Sapa – Hanoi by Limousine bus  

### EXCLUSIONS
- Meals and services other than those noted in the itinerary  
- Visas fees  
- Laundry, telephone calls, and personal expenditures  
- Gratuities for guides, drivers, porters, boat crew, and personal, non-itinerary services
Booking Terms & Conditions

Payment

➢ To guarantee your land tour booking, a deposit 30% must be paid in advance. The balance must be settled either in USD Cash on arrival or 1 week before arrival date via any other methods.
➢ We accept payments in cash, by credit card or by bank transfer and Western Union. Any charges to settle the payment must be paid by the Clients. We will recognize the amount receive only.

Cancellations

Cancellations for all or any part of the trip will not be effective until received in writing. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply:

➢ Cancellation received 60 days or more before arrival date: 10% of total rate
➢ Cancellation received from 30 days to 59 days prior arrival date: 20% of total rate
➢ Cancellation received from 15 days to 29 days prior arrival date: 30% of total rate
➢ Cancellation received from 7 days to 14 days prior arrival date: 50% of total rate
➢ Cancellation received less than 7 days prior arrival date or No show: 100% of total rate

Note*: full charge for all flights is applied in case of cancellation (US$180/person)

Important Information

Emergency Contact

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call the travel consultant whom you deal with and then our hot line contacts. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please send us a detailed message and contact information by email to the agent and to info@indochinatreks.com, we may check and return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

Our all travel consultants use WhatApps. Please ensure that you have the contact number. It's best to buy a local sim-card upon arrival. Most hotels offer free wifi. So it's very easy to contact in urgent case.

Emergency contact numbers
Mr. Kelvin Do: +84 986759655
Ms. Thuy Pham: +84 984654964

Combo Trip

Note*: this is a copy of itinerary on Indochina Treks Travel’ Official Website and not the final itinerary.
If you book small group tour option, please note that the tour combines with our other tours. As such, some travel companions on your tour may have previously been travelling together with us. Likewise, some travel companions may be continuing together on another tour after your trip concludes. You can start the tour on any date (please contact our consultant in advance to avoid peak dates or holidays) and customize itinerary with extra days/activities at any destination.

**Internal Flights**

For all internal flights, we would use Vietnam Airlines, VietJesair, Jestar, Cambodia Angkorair or Laos Airlines. Most domestic flights in Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar, airlines would use small 70 seat ATR72 for short distances. Most airlines in Vietnam use the Airbus A321. 20kg for checkin luggage and 7kg for hand-bag is included in the price.

International flights before/after the tour must be booked by yourself before travelling date.

**Accommodation**

We would use different hotel categories and you can select any basing on your budget. So your travel companions would not stay at your hotel. A Hotel Voucher will be provided once your tour is confirmed with all hotel details.

**Packing List**

**Conservative Dress**

- Modest clothing that covers knees and shoulders (Long pants, long skirts, shirts that cover shoulders)
- Shawl or scarf (for temple visits)

Note*: Please pack clothing for the season in which you will be travelling. From Dec-Feb weather can be cold, so please pack warm clothing. From May-Nov it is the wet season, so please bring waterproof clothing.

**Documents**

- All tickets (required)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Required visas
- Hotel & Tour Vouchers
- Meeting sign (with your names and flight details that we will use for transfers)

**Train Travel**

Train travel in Vietnam is very basic and train cleanliness is often not a priority for train staff. Sleeper trains normally have 4 seats per compartment, which convert into sleeping bunks (two upper and two lower). A sheet, pillow and blanket are provided, although many people prefer to bring their own sleeping sheet. At times, passengers of different genders may be required to share a sleeper train berth.
and/or share a compartment with people not travelling in your group. For short distance - 3 hours (as Hue to Danang or vv), you will do the trip on soft/hard seat carriage.

Simple food is available on the train but many people like to stock up on freshly baked bread, cheese and fruit prior to departure. Water should also be bought before the journey.

Train journeys in Vietnam are an experience and allow you to get a real taste of Vietnam.

**Airport transfers**

All airport transfers are included in the tour price. You should provide us your arrival/departure flight details and we will arrange things basing on the information. A meeting sign with your name and all flight details will be sent to you. Please be ready at the lobby at pointed time for pickup.

Driver/guide should always be present at the airport before your arrival time. If you could not find the driver, please contact your travel consultant whom you deal with. For any reason that airport transfer could not be arranged, please take the taxi to the hotel. We will refund the money then.

**Travel insurance**

Travel insurance is not included in our tour price. When travelling with us, you are suggested to buy insurance that covers all medical coverage, cancellation, personal liability, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects.

**Trip Specific Safety**

We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage.

Be aware that petty theft can be an issue in some towns and cities especially late at night. A common tactic is opportunists on motorbikes that drive by and snatch bags. Please always leave valuables and passports etc in your hotel in safety boxes if available and only carry with you enough cash to spend for the day. Bags should always be carried over the neck and not left to sit on your shoulder.

**Warming**

Please do not buy gems unless you know what you are doing. Even if genuine you should not expect to be able to sell them at home. If you fall victim to a gem scam, we are unable to assist you.

**Visas and Entry Requirements**

Please note that visas for Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos are the responsibility of the inidual traveller. The visa requirements for your trip vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. For the most up to date information please check your Governments Foreign Ministry website or with you travel agent as rules do change.

CAMBODIA - Visas can be obtained at the Cambodian border or Siem Reap Airport for approx. $35 USD very easily. Please have *at least* 2 passport photos with you as well.
VIETNAM - As of March 2017, a select 80 nationalities are now eligible to enter Vietnam with an E-Visa. Please contact your Foreign Ministry or Vietnamese consulate to see if your nationality is eligible. Please note that you should ONLY apply for a Vietnam E-Visa if you are entering Vietnam by international airport - either Noi Bai International Airport (Hanoi) or Tan Son Nhat International Airport (Ho Chi Minh City).

If you are entering Vietnam by land border, please apply for a regular visa for Vietnam. Many of the land borders we travel through do not accept the Vietnam E-Visa. Please view this link to apply E-Visa: https://evisa.xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn/web/guest/trang-chu-ttdt

We will help you apply an approval letter for visa on arrival if you enter Vietnam through international airports. You will have to pay for stamping fees to the custom at the airport. View how visa on arrival works through this link:

LAOS - Visas are issued upon arrival in Laos. You will need two passport size photographs and approx $35. Tourists are generally admitted to Laos for 15 days with a visa on arrival or for 30 days with a visa issued at a Lao embassy. Please bring visa photos with you.

Please be aware that you will require four clean pages (minimum) in your passport and at least six months validity.

**Tipping**

It is customary in Asia to tip service providers such as waiters, at approximately 10%, depending on the service. Tipping is expected - though not compulsory - and shows an expression of satisfaction with the people who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides or drivers we use. Recommendations for tipping drivers and local guides would range from $3-$5 USD per person per day depending on the quality and length of the service.

**Electricity**

Indochina Countries use 220V, and a mixture of flat 2-pin, round 2-pin or 3 pin plugs. It is recommended to bring a universal plug adapter.

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