



Explore and

PERFORM



Vietnam

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SAMPLE ITINERARY
MUSIC TOUR OF ASIA - VIETNAM
B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner

DAY 1 – ARRIVAL HANOI (-) 

Welcome to Vietnam! **Hanoi** is the capital city and the second largest city of Vietnam. It earns the title of “City for Peace” from the UNESCO. Hanoi offers something for everyone and will leave you wishing that you had longer to explore this enthralling capital.

DAY 2 – HANOI (B,L,D) 

Today, take time to look at the life of Ho Chi Minh, the father of modern Vietnam. First, visit the **Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum** and the humble cottage from which “Uncle Ho” ruled Vietnam until his death in 1969.

Next on the agenda are visits to the **One Pillar Pagoda**. You will also visit the ancient **Temple of Literature**, more than 900 years old and Hanoi’s first university. Take a “CYCLO” ride to explore the bustling streets of **Hanoi’s Old Quarter**.

Participate in the first performance.

DAY 3 – HANOI TO HALONG BAY (B,L,D)  

Take a journey to **Halong Bay**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Passing through the rich farmlands of the Red River Delta, observe everyday life of Vietnamese villagers as they work the rice fields, take pigs to the market on motorbikes and plough the fields with their water buffaloes.

After a delicious lunch on board, enjoy a relaxing cruise on the Halong Bay’s emerald waters and cruise by thousands of towering limestone islands topped by rainforests. Towards the end of the day set anchor for the night as the sun sets followed by dinner. Overnight on a joining boat.

DAY 4 – HALONG BAY TO HUE (B,L,D)  

On your return to Halong City enjoy a wholesome brunch as your boat weaves through strange-shaped limestone rock formations.

Upon disembarkation your driver will meet you for the transfer to Ha Noi airport for a flight to **Hue**. Hue is an ancient capital of Vietnam during the Nguyen Dynasty. Located on the banks of the beautiful Perfume River, Hue boasts magnificent citadels, pagodas, and royal tombs dating back to the 19th century which makes it one of the most charming towns in Vietnam.

DAY 5 – HUE (B,L,D) 

See the UNESCO-listed Imperial City, visit **Dong Ba Market**, the largest commercial center in the province. It is a busy place full of life and energy and is the perfect market to experience the local life.

The last imperial tomb to be built in Vietnam, the **Khai Dinh Tomb** took eleven years to be completed. A marvelous place to visit, the architecture is mix of Western and Eastern styles. The Khai Dinh Tomb is very impressive to witness.

Learn about **Hue Royal Court Music**, recognizes as a “Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage and Humanity”. Explore Nha Nhac, a broad range of musical and dance styles performed at the Vietnamese royal court from the fifteenth to the mid-twentieth century.

Participate in the second performance (possible exchange with Hue Music Conservatory).

DAY 6 – HUE TO HO CHI MINH CITY (B,L,D)  

Today, depart for **Ho Chi Minh City**, the largest city in Vietnam.

Have an afternoon sightseeing tour of Ho Chi Minh City including visit to the **Reunification Palace** (the former Presidential Palace) and the **Central Post Office**, then have a short walk along the shopping **Dong Khoi Street** (former Rue Catinat) from **Notre Dame Cathedral** to the **Municipal Theatre**.
Stop over at a lacquer workshop on the way back to your hotel.

An early dinner this evening is followed by a fascinating performance of Hanoi's renowned **Water Puppets**, a traditional art form dating back to the 11th century.

DAY 7 – HO CHI MINH CITY (B,L,D) 

Take a special journey to **My Tho**, referred locally as “the rice bowl of Vietnam.”

Participate in the third performance, a community outreach for the children with disabilities.

Continue to the **Mekong excursion**, board a local sampan for cruising along the upper Mekong through a region with islands named after 4 animals that appear in Buddhist writings – Dragon, Unicorn, Phoenix and Turtle.

On this part of the tour you'll observe some of the activities of regional Vietnamese daily life and appreciate how life here depends on the River. Stop to enjoy honey tea, seasonal fruit, fresh coconut candy and southern Vietnamese folk music.

Stay overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

DAY 8 – HO CHI MINH CITY (B,L,D) 

Leaving the city behind, the scenery changes to views of rice paddies, villagers drying noodles by the side of the road and other scenes typical to southern Vietnam.

Arrive and start the visit of the famous **Cu Chi Tunnels** which consist of an incredible underground tunnel network constructed by Vietnamese resistance fighters (Viet Cong) during both the French and American wars.

Participate in the fourth performance.

Enjoy a farewell dinner.

DAY 9 – DEPART HO CHI MINH CITY (B) 

Your tour ends with breakfast this morning. Transfer to the airport for your flight back to home.