

Northwest Vietnam Explorer: 11 Days of Culture & Stunning Landscapes

Trip overview

Our Sapa & Northwest Vietnam Beauty tour caters to the preferences of budget travelers and solo adventurers, promising an intimate and personalized 11-day package of the beauty that graces the Northwest region.

This immersive journey, from the lively streets of Hanoi to the serene landscapes of Sapa, Mai Chau, and the enchanting Halong Bay, gives a unique blend of cultural exploration and natural wonders. Secure your spot for an exclusive tour tailored just for you!

- **Durations:** 11 days
- **Trip outline:** Hanoi - Sapa - Mu Cang Chai - Mai Chau - Halong Bay
- **Price from:** US \$1455/person
- **Tour inquiry:** <https://besttratetours.com/vietnam-tours/northwest-vietnam-explorer-11-days-of-culture-stunning-landscapes.html>

Trip outline

day	Activities	Accommodations	Meals
Day 1	Hanoi Arrival - Vespa Motorbike Night Food Tour	Hotel in Hanoi	Dinner
Day 2	Hanoi - Transfer To Sapa	Hotel in Sapa	Breakfast
Day 3	Sapa Trekking - Muong Hoa Valley - Lao Chai - Ta Van	Homestay in Ta Van	Breakfast, Lunch
Day 4	Sapa - Silver Waterfall - Mu Cang Chai	Homestay in Mu Cang Chai	Breakfast, Lunch
Day 5	Mu Cang Chai Short Trek - Nghia Lo	Hotel in Nghia Lo	Breakfast, Lunch
Day 6	Nghia Lo - Moc Chau - Mai Chau	Homestay in Mai Chau	Breakfast, Lunch
Day 7	Mai Chau - Hoa Binh - Hanoi	Hotel in Hanoi	Breakfast, Lunch
Day 8	Hanoi Half-day City Tour	Hotel in Hanoi	Breakfast, Lunch
Day 9	Hanoi - Halong Bay Overnight Cruise	Halong Bay Cruise	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 10	Halong Bay - Hanoi	Hotel in Hanoi	Breakfast, Brunch
Day 11	Hanoi Departure	NA	Breakfast

Itinerary

Day 1: Hanoi Arrival - Vespa Motorbike Night Food Tour

Morning

Upon your arrival at Noi Bai International Airport, our tour guide and driver will pick you up and transfer you to your hotel in Hanoi. Check-in and relax in your room after a long flight.

NOTE: The normal check-in time will be around **14:00**. In case you check in early, an additional charge will be applied.

Afternoon/Evening

Meet your guide outside the hotel. Listening to safety rules and tour introduction then start the food tour in the beautiful Hanoi on a vintage Vespa (*any special diet requirements should be informed and specified before the trip*).



First, we will enjoy Banh Cuon, a rice flour roll stuffed with minced pork and wood ear mushrooms, at a local restaurant. Then, we weave through the old streets to a 45-year-old restaurant serving tasty local dishes of Bun Cha, Banh Goi.

After that, pass along crowded streets to arrive at **Ngũ Xá Village** for several varieties of Pho and other delicacies at a local BBQ seafood eatery.

Continue to [West Lake](#) to take gorgeous photos at nighttime and see guards march out to ceremonial music to lower the flag at Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum.

Stop at a local Egg Coffee shop dated since 1946 to wrap up an adventurous foodie night. Back to your hotel to rest.

Meals: Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

Day 2: Hanoi - Transfer To Sapa

Morning

After having breakfast, around **06:30** to **07:00**, you will embark on a 6-hour drive to Sapa, a beautiful and poetic town of the North.



Afternoon

Arrive in Sapa town around **13:00 - 14:00**. After the check-in process, you can enjoy your free time for the rest of the day. You can relax at the hotel or explore the stunning Sapa town by yourself.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Hotel in Sapa

Day 3: Sapa Trekking - Muong Hoa Valley - Lao Chai - Ta Van

Morning

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel. Meet your tour guide and drive to **Muong Hoa Valley**, around 7 km away from the town center. Drop off once you reach the main road of the valley and begin the trekking tour.

Travel through small trails of rock and gravel, which lead to an opening view of the beautiful terrace fields. Head to **Y Linh Ho** and meet the Black H'Mong people along the way.



From there, move along the river to [Lao Chai Village](#). Spend time making friends with the locals and hear their life stories in the mountainous area. Have a welcoming lunch with the locals in a restaurant by the river and relax after an active morning.

Afternoon

Continue trekking to [Ta Van Village](#), where the Giay people live. Meet some families in the neighborhood and hear their stories while sipping locally grown tea.



NOTE: *Trekking distance is around 13 km down hills.*

Get to your homestay in Ta Van and stay for a night.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Homestay in Ta Van

Day 4: Sapa - Silver Waterfall - Mu Cang Chai

Morning

Have breakfast prepared by your host. Begin the day by visiting the **Silver Waterfall**, a wild and natural spot for taking pictures.



Drive to the "Heaven Gate" of Sapa on [Hoang Lien Son Mountain](#), where you can grasp a panoramic view of Lai Chau Valley and Fansipan Mount from many angles. Have a look at local life while passing by the villages of the Lu people in Binh Lu and the Lao people in Than Thuoc.

Afternoon

After lunch, reach [Mu Cang Chai](#) in Yen Bai, famous for its gorgeous terrace fields. Spend time discovering the surrounding areas and meeting the friendly locals.



Following that, you can enjoy your free time for the remainder of the day. Overnight in your homestay.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Homestay in Mu Cang Chai

Day 5: Mu Cang Chai Short Trek - Nghia Lo

Morning

After breakfast, meet your tour guide and trek to the **Han Xung village** of the H'Mong people. Along the way, you have a great chance to observe the majestic landscape on the way.



Stop at **La Man Tan** to spend your time in the rural area, visiting families and schools there to learn more about ethnic lifestyles. Then, head to **Nghia Lo** in the southwest of Yen Bai province, via Khau Pha Pass and have lunch along the way.

Afternoon

Arrive in Nghia Lo and stay overnight in this tranquil town. You can spend your free time hanging around while staying here.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Nghia Lo

Day 6: Nghia Lo - Moc Chau - Mai Chau

Morning

Have breakfast beforehand. Go on a driving trip to **Moc Chau Province**, which is famous for dairy farms and green tea plantations in the North. Pass by Phu Yen, Bac Yen district of Son La Province. Here, you will learn about the production process of local products here.



Continue the trip to Mai Chau and have lunch on your way.

Afternoon

Arriving in [Mai Chau](#) then get to the village of White Thai ethnic people for an overnight stay. Enjoy your leisure time in the village and visit the beautiful fields.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Homestay in Mai Chau

Day 7: Mai Chau - Hoa Binh - Hanoi

Morning

Have breakfast at your homestay. Take a look at the gorgeous sunrise in the tranquil village.

Enjoy your time in the village with a trekking trip. Besides the chance to immerse in the natural atmosphere of the peaceful mountainous, tourists also integrate into the cultural and daily life of Thai people.



After lunch, transfer a 4-hour drive back to Hanoi with your private driver.

Afternoon

Arrive at Hanoi and check in at your hotel. After that is your time to rest after a long drive, the rest of the day is spent at your leisure.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

Day 8: Hanoi Half-day City Tour

Morning/ Afternoon *(depending on the availability)*

Your tour guide will pick you up from your hotel, and be ready for the half-day city tour to explore famous attractions in Hanoi.

Begin your trip with a visit to visit the [Temple of Literature](#), Vietnam's very first university dedicated to Confucius. Then, move to witness the unique **One Pillar Pagoda** - one of the most important pagodas in Hanoi that has a special design like a blooming lotus.



Next, pay a visit to the [Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum](#), the resting place of President Ho Chi Minh, and listen to some interesting stories about the great leader of the Vietnamese revolution. End the tour in **Tran Quoc Pagoda**, established 1500 years ago, has the best site in the airy West Lake - and is one of the most prominent Buddhist structures in Vietnam.



We'll stop for a delicious authentic traditional Vietnamese lunch before you return to the hotel.

NOTE:

- Depending on availability, the excursion departs in the morning or afternoon.
- The Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum is witnessed from outside, and closed on Mon and Fri and from Jun - Aug

Evening

Spare time to enjoy the city's atmosphere at night. You can wander around the Hanoi Old Quarter and Hoan Kiem Lake to get a feel for local life.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

Day 9: Hanoi - Halong Bay Overnight Cruise

Morning

Around **08:00 - 08:30**, our driver will pick you up and head to the World Heritage [Halong Bay](#) through the highway, which takes about **2.5 hours**. Upon arrival at the port, check in and get on a tender to the main ship, and begin your adventure to Halong Bay.



Having lunch on board as the cruise travels through the bay. Witness the various islets come from many shapes and sizes, which is the signature scenery of the bay.

Afternoon

Participate in amusing activities hosted by the cruise such as swimming, kayaking, cave visiting, etc.

Return on board around **17:00 - 17:30** and join the Happy Hour (buy 1 get 1 free) and the Vietnamese cooking class in the sunset.

Evening

Savor your deluxe dinner and join the nightlife onboard with squid fishing, karaoke, board games, etc. Stay overnight on the cruise.



NOTE:

- Our tour guide will not escort you but the cruise staff, who are skillful and fluent in English instead.
- The exact schedule depends on each cruise's program

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Halong Bay Cruise

Day 10: Halong Bay - Hanoi

Morning

Before your breakfast, you can get up early to join a Tai-chi class or simply admire the stunning view of Halong Bay at sunrise

Join more activities to explore the bay further, including swimming, kayaking, etc. (*depending on the cruise's itinerary*).



After your water activities, return to the main cruise to check out then have brunch. Arrive at the port and disembark around **11:30 - 12:30**. Say goodbye to the crew and get on the shuttle bus to Hanoi.

Afternoon

15:00 - 15:30: Return to your hotel for a rest. Let's go shopping and enjoy your time on the last night in Vietnam.

Meals: Breakfast, Brunch

Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

Day 11: Hanoi Departure

Morning

Have breakfast and enjoy the leisure time left in Hanoi. Make sure to check your luggage then check out.

NOTE: Check-out time is at noon. Please contact your travel assistant if you want a late checkout.

Our driver will take you to Noi Bai Airport for your flight as scheduled. End your Northern Vietnam tour here and see you again in the future!

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: NA

Booking Policy

Inclusion

- Accommodation in TWN/ DBL sharing except overnight at local homestay or on train

- All transport and transfer by air-conditioned vehicle (including airport pick up & see off), as per itinerary
- All in-tour stationed local English-speaking guides.
- Entrance fees as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the program

Exclusion

- Hotel EARLY check-in & LATE check out
- Peak season surcharge & compulsory dinner at the hotel (if any)
- International flights to or from Vietnam with taxes
- Vietnam Visa (above 6 months passport Valid & 3 clear-page require)
- Travel Insurance
- Tips for guide /driver (recommended US \$3-5 /pax /day)
- Tipping is completely up to you and should be based on your perception of the service quality

Cancellation Policy

- Cancellation before 60 days: FREE of charge
- Cancellation from 30 days to 59 days: 10% of total rate
- Cancellation from 15 days to 29 days: 30% of total rate
- Cancellation from 7 days to 14 days: 50% of total rate
- Cancellation less than 7 days or No show: 100% of total rate

Children Policy

- The rate for children applicable for one child sharing a twin or double cabin with two adults.
- For infants (<04 years old): FOC except for domestic flight tickets.
- 04 - under 11 years old without bed: 50% adult rate.
- 04 - under 11 years old with extra bed: 75% adult rate.
- 04 - under 11 years old in twin share: 90% adult rate.
- From 11 years old: count as an adult.

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Best Rate Guaranteed

Local consultants with rich of knowledge will give you the most suitable itineraries for you.

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