

Vietnam Off-Road: Ta Xua, Ha Giang and Cao Bang by Motorbike 10 days

This Motorcycle Tour to Ta Xua, Ha Giang, and Cao Bang is a once-in-a-lifetime journey that takes you far beyond the tourist trail into the raw and unspoiled beauty of northern Vietnam. Over 10 thrilling days, you'll conquer rugged mountain passes, ride through terraced rice fields, and immerse yourself in the vibrant cultures of ethnic minority communities. Blending exhilarating off-road challenges with authentic encounters and breathtaking scenery, this adventure promises not just a ride, but a deep connection with Vietnam's wild highlands.

- **Durations:** 10 days
- **Trip outline:** Mu Cang Chai - Sapa - Ha Giang - Dong Van - Cao Bang - Lang Son
- **Price from:** US \$1379/person
- **Tour inquiry:** <https://bestratetours.com/vietnam-tours/vietnam-off-road-ta-xua-ha-giang-and-cao-bang-by-motorbike-10-days.html>

Trip outline

day	Activities	Accommodations	Meals
Day 1	Hanoi Motorcycle Tours to Ta Xua (Son La)	Homestay in Ta Xua	Lunch, Dinner
Day 2	Ta Xua Motorbike Tour to Mu Cang Chai (Yen Bai)	Hotel in Mu Cang Chai	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 3	Mu Cang Chai Motorbike Tour to Sapa (Lao Cai)	Hotel in Sapa	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 4	Sapa Motorcycle Tour to Bac Ha (Lao Cai)	Homestay in Bac Ha	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 5	Bac Ha Motorcycle Tours to Ha Giang City via Hoang Su Phi	Hotel in Ha Giang	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 6	Ha Giang Motorcycle Tours to Dong Van	Hotel in Dong Van	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 7	Dong Van Motorcycle Tours to Cao Bang	Hotel in Cao Bang	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 8	Cao Bang Off-Road Motorbike Loop Tour to Ban Gioc Waterfall	Homestay in Cao Bang	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 9	Cao Bang Motorcycle Tour to Lang Son City	Hotel in Lang Son	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Day 10	Lang Son Motorcycle Tour Back to Hanoi	NA	Breakfast, Lunch

Itinerary

Day 1: Hanoi Motorcycle Tours to Ta Xua (Son La)

Morning

We kick off our adventure by leaving Hanoi and cruising along a weaving dyke-road that hugs the **Red River** toward **Trung Ha Bridge**. This route offers a refreshing escape from the city bustle, with shimmering waters on one side and glimpses of daily riverside life on the other. The air feels fresher with every kilometer as the urban chaos gives way to open skies and flowing countryside.

From there, the ride takes us onto **National Highway 32**, where the landscape transforms into a painter's masterpiece of endless paddy fields, tree-lined country roads, and jagged limestone karsts rising dramatically from the flat terrain. This fertile farming region gives you a real sense of Vietnam's rural heartbeat, where water buffalo graze lazily and farmers work the land much as their ancestors did.



Afternoon

After lunch at a local restaurant, we press on toward **Phu Yen Town**, following dirt tracks that snake through lush tea hills. The fragrance of young tea leaves drifts in the breeze, and the soft green rows curve beautifully across the hillsides, creating a soothing yet energizing backdrop for our ride.

Once in Phu Yen, the journey shifts gears as we face the true challenge: a vertical mountain trek with our bikes. This section can stretch anywhere from **8 to 18 kilometers** (depending on your demand). The trail is demanding - steep, winding, and unpredictable - but the rewards are immense. Towering cliffs, cloud-draped peaks, and raw wilderness push us forward, every turn unveiling another breathtaking scene.

Our ultimate goal is **Ta Xua**, a remote mountain range in Bac Yen district, Son La province. Towering at 2,865 meters, Ta Xua is the tenth-highest peak in Vietnam and is often compared to the "Dinosaur Backbone" for the jagged line of its three main summits.

This off-the-beaten-path paradise is a dream for thrill-seekers, with swirling seas of clouds and rugged beauty that few travelers ever witness. If time allows, we'll venture deeper into surrounding villages on dirt tracks, where life unfolds in traditional ways, far from the modern world.



Evening

As evening falls, we settle into a rustic stilt house homestay in the village. Here, amid cool mountain air and the warmth of local hospitality, we share stories over a cold beer, listening to the quiet hum of nature.

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Homestay in Ta Xua

Day 2: Ta Xua Motorbike Tour to Mu Cang Chai (Yen Bai)

After breakfast, we begin our ride at **08:00**, rolling down the winding mountain road back toward **Bac Yen town**. The morning air is crisp, and mist still lingers over the valleys, giving the ride a dreamlike quality.

From Bac Yen, we follow **National Road 37** along the mighty **Da River**, its vast waters shimmering beneath towering cliffs. Passing through **Muong Chum** to **It Ong**, the ride is both peaceful and dramatic, with quiet fishing villages and endless mountains reflecting in the river's glassy surface.

The road then carries us onto **Road 109**, where the scenery changes to vibrant rice fields and charming villages of the Thai ethnic people. The fields glow in shades of emerald, and the small stilt houses give glimpses into a lifestyle deeply tied to nature.

Along the way, there are countless opportunities to stop, capture photographs, and simply soak in the harmony of land, river, and people. Depending on the conditions, today also offers plenty of chances to test ourselves with challenging off-road stretches - whether in the morning or afternoon, the dirt tracks promise excitement and reward with views few travelers ever see.

We reach [Mu Cang Chai](#), one of Vietnam's most iconic landscapes and home to some of Asia's most spectacular rice terraces. Here, mountains are wrapped in golden-green ribbons that coil and cascade down the hillsides, a masterpiece of human ingenuity and natural beauty.

Beyond its scenery, Mu Cang Chai is alive with culture - most notably the Black Hmong people, who make up the majority of the population. Their villages, scattered across the highlands, offer a window into a way of life that is simple, peaceful, and enduring.



Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel in Mu Cang Chai

Day 3: Mu Cang Chai Motorbike Tour to Sapa (Lao Cai)

Morning

At **09:00**, after a hearty breakfast, we set off from **Mu Cang Chai**, first rolling along quiet backroads that wind between hills and valleys. Soon, the warm-up ride gives way to real challenges - rugged dirt tracks cutting through the mountains and remote Hmong villages, where life unfolds in harmony with a harsh yet breathtaking landscape. This ride offers intimate glimpses into daily life, from terraced fields carved by hand to villagers tending crops under the weight of unforgiving terrain and weather.

By midday, we pause in **Than Uyen**, a tranquil town surrounded by rolling tea plantations and endless rice fields. The air here carries the earthy fragrance of tea leaves and the golden glow of ripening paddies, making it a perfect backdrop for lunch before we continue deeper into the mountains.



Afternoon

The road then leads us to the legendary **O Quy Ho Pass**, one of Vietnam's most awe-inspiring and demanding mountain passes. It is approximately 10 kilometers away from the town of Sapa and 60 kilometers away from the city of Lai Chau.

Stretching nearly 50 kilometers along the Hoang Lien Son Mountain Range, **O Quy Ho** is a serpentine ribbon of road, climbing high into the clouds. As you ride, the temperature drops, the mist thickens, and every turn reveals sweeping views of plunging valleys and jagged peaks. At its summit, the pass marks the natural boundary between Lao Cai and Lai Chau provinces, a place where earth and sky seem to meet.

Descending the pass, the cool mountain breeze ushers us into **Sapa**, perched 1,600 meters above sea level. Known for its year-round crisp climate and dramatic scenery, Sapa is also a cultural mosaic, home to six different ethnic tribes whose traditions still color daily life.

Tonight, we settle into a comfortable hotel, the mountain town's cool air and lively spirit setting the stage for the adventures yet to come.



Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel in Sapa

Day 4: Sapa Motorcycle Tour to Bac Ha (Lao Cai)

Leaving the misty heights of Sapa, we begin our descent by motorcycle towards **Lao Cai City**, a bustling border hub that connects Vietnam with China.

Here, we pause for a refreshing coffee-stop on the bank of the **Nam Thi River**, where the tranquil flow of water contrasts with the lively border crossing nearby. As you sip your coffee, you can gaze across the river into Chinese territory, a rare moment of stillness that offers both scenic beauty and a sense of cultural connection.

The ride continues as we follow **Road 70** before turning onto **Road 153**, winding through valleys and villages that open up to sweeping views of farmland and rugged highlands. The changing landscape makes the journey itself a highlight, with every curve revealing another glimpse of rural life in northern Vietnam.

Our destination is **Bac Ha**, a charming highland town long regarded as the weekend alternative to Sapa. Unlike Sapa's dramatic mountain setting, Bac Ha offers a calmer atmosphere during the week, with quiet streets and a slower pace of life.

But on Sunday mornings, the town transforms as throngs of visitors gather for the vibrant [Bac Ha Market](#), where the Flower H'mong people, dressed in dazzlingly colorful traditional attire, fill the streets with energy and trade.



Beyond its market, Bac Ha is also known for its unique tradition of crafting potent homemade liquors, ranging from rice wine to corn moonshine so strong it can ignite. This fiery spirit, especially the corn hooch made by the Flower H'mong, is unlike anything found elsewhere in Vietnam, and a whole section of the market is devoted to it.

As the day winds down, we settle into Bac Ha for the night. The evening is yours to enjoy at leisure before resting in preparation for the next leg of the journey.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Homestay in Bac Ha

Day 5: Bac Ha Motorcycle Tours to Ha Giang City via Hoang Su Phi

Morning

After breakfast, we rev up our engines and leave Bac Ha behind, taking winding backroads that gradually reveal the raw beauty of Vietnam's northern frontier. Our first highlight is **Xin Man**, a rugged district that sits right on the border with China.

Hidden away among wild mountains and dense forests, Xin Man feels like a place frozen in time, untouched by mass tourism. The air here is crisp, the scenery unspoiled, and the sense of isolation only adds to its mystique.

From Xin Man, we continue along the road towards [Hoang Su Phi](#), one of the most enchanting and untouched corners of Ha Giang Province. Known for its mesmerizing terraced rice fields, this area was long separated from mainstream society and still preserves an authentic way of life.

The journey through Hoang Su Phi is like stepping into a living tapestry: endless green hills, cascading paddies, and the vibrant traditions of ethnic groups such as the Nung, the Flower H'mong, the Tay, and the Ha Nhi. Their colorful attire and warm smiles add humanity to the grandeur of the landscape, making every encounter along the road unforgettable.



Afternoon

After a simple yet satisfying lunch, we ride on, joining the main road that winds toward **Ha Giang City**. The ride becomes smoother as the road broadens, but the mountain views continue to inspire awe.

By late afternoon, we roll into Ha Giang City, a vital gateway to the province's legendary limestone peaks and winding passes. Here, we check into our accommodation for the night, preparing ourselves for the thrilling adventures that lie ahead in the heart of Ha Giang.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel in Ha Giang

Day 6: Ha Giang Motorcycle Tours to Dong Van

After obtaining the special travel permit from Ha Giang Immigration Police, we set off on our motorbike adventure deeper into the borderlands. The road quickly turns into a thrilling zig-zag track, challenging yet rewarding, with every bend opening up new panoramas of limestone peaks, misty valleys, and vibrant hill-tribe hamlets. The landscape here is both harsh and poetic, shaped by time and resilience.

Our ride takes us through **Bac Sum Pass** and the iconic **Tham Ma Pass**, two of the most breathtaking mountain passes in Ha Giang. The serpentine roads coil along steep cliffs, offering heart-stopping views that will etch themselves into memory. As we ride, bursts of colorful attire from ethnic minority villagers flash against the grey rocks, adding life to the rugged scenery.

Continuing the journey, we make a stop at the **Vuong Family Residence** in Sa Phin Valley, just 14 kilometers before Dong Van. Known as the former palace of the "Hmong King," this stunning residence was built entirely from wood and rock, with materials imported from China, showcasing a unique fusion of Chinese architecture and Hmong heritage.



Arriving in [Dong Van Town](#), we find ourselves in a settlement rich with history and culture. The ancient streets are lined with traditional Hmong homes built centuries ago from clay bricks and tiled roofs, exuding a timeless charm.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel in Dong Van

Day 7: Dong Van Motorcycle Tours to Cao Bang

Morning

After breakfast, we set off from Dong Van and immediately face the legendary **Ma Pi Leng Pass**, one of the most dramatic mountain passes in all of Vietnam. Towering cliffs plunge steeply to the emerald ribbon of the **Nho Que River** below, while clouds drift lazily across jagged limestone peaks.

Words barely capture its magnificence - this breathtaking scene is like a living painting, both awe-inspiring and humbling to behold. For those who wish, a serene boat ride on the **Nho Que River** offers the chance to glide through deep gorges and marvel at the vertical cliffs rising from the jade-green waters.



The morning ride continues along the hauntingly beautiful **Dong Van Karst Plateau**, where limestone towers rise like sentinels against the sky. The winding mountain passes lead us into Meo Vac, a charming frontier town nestled among rugged peaks.

Here we pause for lunch, savoring the simple yet flavorful highland cuisine while watching daily life unfold in this remote corner of the country.

Afternoon

In the afternoon, our motorbikes descend gracefully along the river valleys, where the scenery shifts to a softer palette. The mountains become greener, the slopes blanketed with forests and terraced fields, and the rhythm of rural life feels more gentle. Along the way, we take the chance to cross the river on a traditional bamboo raft, a thrilling yet tranquil experience that connects us to the timeless ways of local villagers.

By late afternoon, we roll into **Bao Lac Town** around **17:00**, a quiet stopover surrounded by verdant hills. From here, we continue on to **Cao Bang City**, where a comfortable hotel stay awaits. The contrast of rugged wilderness and calm urban rest perfectly closes another unforgettable day of riding through Vietnam's northern highlands.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel in Cao Bang

Day 8: Cao Bang Off-Road Motorbike Loop Tour to Ban Gioc Waterfall

This morning, we begin a thrilling off-road ride through the highlands of **Cao Bang Province**, winding along mountain passes and valleys that reveal sweeping panoramas at every turn. The route is gentle but full of blind curves, which makes the ride both exciting and scenic.

We can stop very often in places like **Nguyen Binh** and **Tinh Tuc**, where terraced fields, misty ridges, and traditional villages present endless opportunities for photography and quiet moments of admiration.

Leaving town behind, the road carries us upward toward the graceful curves of **Ma Phuc Pass**. Unlike the steep and perilous passes of Vietnam's far north, **Ma Phuc Pass** charms visitors with its serenity and balance. From the top, the view stretches out across limestone peaks and fertile valleys, with villages tucked away in the folds of the mountains - a landscape that feels both timeless and poetic.



Continuing the journey, the roar of water grows louder as we approach the legendary [Ban Gioc Waterfall](#), one of the most spectacular natural wonders in Vietnam. Cascading down a 53-meter drop and spreading across a 300-meter span, the waterfall straddles the border with China, creating a dramatic staircase of water that crashes into emerald pools below.

After a day filled with natural beauty and exhilarating riding, we return to Cao Bang City for the night, where comfort and rest await after an unforgettable adventure.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Homestay in Cao Bang

Day 9: Cao Bang Motorcycle Tour to Lang Son City

Morning

Today's ride follows the legendary **Highway 4**, a road etched deeply into Vietnam's history. As we cruise along this iconic route, we pass through **Dong Khe Town**, forever remembered for the fierce Battle of Dong Khe during the First Indochina War in September 1950. The terrain here still whispers stories of strategy and sacrifice, where the Viet Minh secured a decisive victory that shifted the course of history.

By noon, we arrive in **Lang Son City**, a bustling border hub that hums with the energy of trade and cultural exchange. After enjoying a late lunch, we'll have time to explore the city and browse **Dong Kinh Market**, where stalls overflow with goods - from everyday essentials to cheap Chinese products - making it a vibrant and colorful shopping experience.



Afternoon

If time allows, we'll ride up to **Mau Son Peak**, where winding roads open to sweeping vistas of the border landscape. You can admire misty valleys, rolling hills, and the patchwork of villages scattered across the frontier, a view that perfectly captures the beauty of Vietnam's northeast.

We end the day in Lang Son with an overnight hotel stay, reflecting on the blend of history, culture, and natural charm that defined today's journey.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Hotel in Lang Son

Day 10: Lang Son Motorcycle Tour Back to Hanoi

This final stretch of the journey begins in **Lang Son City**. If you wish, you can stroll once more through **Dong Kinh Market**, where the bustling stalls brim with inexpensive goods, local specialties, and Chinese imports - a perfect chance to pick up a few souvenirs.

From Lang Son, we follow the smooth **Highway 1B**, an easier route that allows you to relax and savor the changing scenery as limestone karsts gradually give way to the fertile Red River Delta.

We roll back into **Hanoi** by mid-afternoon, arriving before the rush hour around **15:00**. The city's vibrant energy welcomes you back, marking the end of an unforgettable motorbike adventure through Vietnam's highlands, mountains, and borderlands.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodation: NA

Booking Policy

Inclusion

- Motorbike(s) (Honda or Yamaha). The surcharge to upgrade to Honda XR 150cc & Honda CRF 250cc is US\$22/bike/day, US\$34/bike/day and US\$ 45/bike/day respectively
- Basic riding gears of Helmet(s), elbow + knee pads and gloves
- Gasoline on tour
- English-speaking guide
- Accommodation as indicated in the itinerary
- Homestay permission
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Entrance fees & Sightseeing fees
- Boat trip

Exclusion

- Hotel EARLY check in & LATE check out
- Peak season surcharge & compulsory dinner at the hotel (if any)
- International flight to or from Vietnam with taxes
- Vietnam Visa (above 6 months passport Valid & 3 clear-page require)
- Passport Fees
- Travel Insurance
- Tips, laundry and gratuities
- Meals not marked on itinerary, and water during meals
- 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 received before 60 days: FREE of charge
- Cancellation received from 30 days to 59 days prior arrival date: 10% 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

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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