

# Northern Vietnam Explorer: Hanoi, Tam Coc & Halong Bay 4 days

Spend four enriching days in Vietnam's capital and beyond, where history, culture, and natural beauty come together in a journey designed for curious travelers. From the timeless streets of Hanoi to the serene landscapes of Ninh Binh and the breathtaking limestone peaks of Halong Bay, this itinerary blends cultural immersion with unforgettable scenery. Savor authentic local cuisine, connect with Vietnam's heritage, and return home with stories that capture the essence of this remarkable destination.

- **Durations:** 4 days
- **Trip outline:** Hanoi - Ninh Binh - Halong Bay
- **Price from:** US \$299/person
- **Tour inquiry:** <https://bestراتetours.com/vietnam-tours/northern-vietnam-explorer-hanoi-tam-coc-halong-bay-4-days.html>

## Trip outline

day	Activities	Accommodations	Meals
Day 1	Hanoi Arrival - Half Day City Tour & Shopping	Hotel in Hanoi	Dinner
Day 2	Hanoi - Ninh Binh (Hoa Lu - Tam Coc)	Hotel in Hanoi	Breakfast, Lunch
Day 3	Halong Bay Day Cruise	Hotel in Hanoi	Breakfast, Lunch
Day 4	Hanoi Departure	NA	Breakfast

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Hanoi Arrival - Half Day City Tour & Shopping

Upon arrival at the airport, you will be warmly greeted and transferred to your hotel in Hanoi before beginning your cultural adventure.

In the afternoon, please gather in the hotel lobby to meet your local guide, who will provide an introduction to the fascinating journey that awaits.

Begin your exploration at the [Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum](#), his House-on-Stilts, and Presidential Palace, a revered complex dedicated to Vietnam's beloved leader. Walking through these solemn grounds, you'll feel the weight of history and admire the simplicity of Ho Chi Minh's stilt house alongside the grandeur of the French-colonial Presidential Palace.



Next, marvel at the **One Pillar Pagoda**, an architectural masterpiece built atop a single wooden pillar rising from a lotus pond. Its delicate design and symbolic beauty make it one of Vietnam's most treasured cultural icons, reflecting harmony between architecture and spirituality.

Continue your journey to the [Temple of Literature](#), Vietnam's first national university and a living symbol of Confucian values. Established in the 11th century, this serene sanctuary with courtyards, altars, and ancient stelae honors scholars and offers a glimpse into the intellectual heritage of Hanoi's capital.

As evening falls, delight in a sumptuous dinner of traditional Vietnamese cuisine at a local restaurant.

Conclude your first day with time for shopping for **traditional handicrafts**, browsing local shops for handwoven textiles, lacquerware, and other unique souvenirs that allow you to take a piece of Vietnam's artistry home.



**Meals:** Dinner

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hanoi

## Day 2: Hanoi - Ninh Binh (Hoa Lu - Tam Coc)

### Morning

Around **07:30 - 08:00**, your guide will meet you at your hotel, and together you will set off on a 120-kilometer journey to Ninh Binh aboard a comfortable Limousine bus. As you ride through verdant countryside and rural landscapes, you'll have a short rest stop before continuing on to this land often called "Ha Long Bay on land."

At **10:30**, you'll arrive at your first destination - the [Hoa Lu Ancient Citadel](#), the former capital of Vietnam and now a UNESCO-recognized heritage site. Stepping onto this historic ground, you'll discover remnants of royal palaces, temples, and gates that echo stories of national defense and dynastic rule.

Within the citadel lies the **Dinh King Temple**, a 17th-century sanctuary with exquisite stone and wood carvings that honor King Dinh Tien Hoang and showcase remarkable artistry.



Around **12:00**, savor a delicious local lunch at a traditional restaurant, where you can taste authentic northern Vietnamese flavors prepared with fresh regional ingredients.

### Afternoon

By **14:00**, glide peacefully along the **Ngo Dong River** on a sampan boat rowed by locals. As you float past golden rice paddies and towering limestone cliffs, you'll enter the mysterious caves of **Hang Ca**, **Hang Hai**, and **Hang Ba**, marveling at the hanging stalactites in whimsical shapes that nature has crafted over centuries.

At **16:00**, head to the [Mua Cave](#) and **Ngoa Long Mountain Peak**, where a short trek rewards you with one of the most breathtaking panoramas in Vietnam. From the top, sweeping views of Tam Coc's dramatic karst landscape unfold before you, dotted with rivers, rice fields, and stone animal sculptures that embody Vietnam's spiritual artistry.



Around **17:30**, as the day winds down, return to Hanoi on the Limousine bus, arriving back at your hotel around **20:30**. This memorable day offers a perfect balance of history, culture, and natural beauty.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hanoi

### Day 3: Halong Bay Day Cruise

#### Morning

At **07:00**, you will meet your shuttle bus and driver at your hotel in Hanoi Old Quarter. Upon arrival at Tuan Chau Harbor, check in and board the elegant Day Cruise, where your adventure into the breathtaking UNESCO World Heritage Site of Halong Bay begins.

As the cruise departs, enjoy a refreshing welcome drink and marvel at the iconic limestone islands rising dramatically from the emerald waters, including the formations of **Dog Rock**, **Duck Rock**, and **Thumb Rock**.



A sumptuous buffet lunch awaits on board, featuring a rich variety of seafood and traditional Vietnamese dishes. While you dine, the ship glides through the tranquil bay, allowing you to soak in panoramic views of Halong's legendary seascape.

### **Afternoon**

In the early afternoon, step ashore to explore the magnificent [Sung Sot Cave](#), the largest and most spectacular cave in Halong Bay. Inside, you'll wander through two vast chambers filled with stunning stalactites and stalagmites, their natural formations resembling animals, plants, and mythical figures.

Your journey continues at [Luon Cave](#), where you'll have the choice of kayaking or taking a bamboo boat rowed by locals. Surrounded by towering cliffs, this circular lake offers serene waters and an intimate encounter with Halong Bay's hidden beauty.

Next, arrive at [Titov Island](#), known for its soft sandy beach and crystal-clear waters. You may choose to swim, sunbathe, or climb to the top of the island for a spectacular panoramic view of the bay, capturing the grandeur of Halong's limestone seascape from above.



As the day winds down, return to the cruise and join the lively **Sunset Party** on the sundeck. Sip Vietnamese tea or coffee, sample fresh fruits and snacks, and relax in the Jacuzzi while passing through the enchanting **Hoa Cuong area**, one of the most beautiful corners of the bay.

At **17:45**, you'll disembark at Tuan Chau Harbor, bringing your memorable Halong Bay journey to a close.

**NOTE:** The itinerary may change depending on the specific cruise you book

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** Hotel in Hanoi

## Day 4: Hanoi Departure

After breakfast, enjoy some leisure time at your hotel before preparing for your journey home. Depending on your flight schedule, you may have the chance to take a gentle stroll through the Hanoi Old Quarter. This is the perfect opportunity to soak up a final impression of the city's charm and perhaps purchase a few last-minute souvenirs.

When it is time, you will be transferred to the airport for your departure flight.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Accommodation:** NA

## Booking Policy

### Inclusion

- Accommodation in TWN/ DBL sharing accommodation at hotel, except sharing cabin on train and overnight at local homestay
- All transport within Vietnam (including airport pick up and see off), as per itinerary
- All in-tour stationed local English-speaking guide.

- Entrance fees for Vietnam attractions, 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 flight to or from Vietnam with taxes
- Vietnam Visa (above 6 months passport Valid & 3 clear-page require)
- 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 is 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: counted as an adult.

## WHY BOOK WITH US?

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