

# 13-Day Buddhist Vietnam: Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City

A 13-day journey through sacred landscapes, imperial Hue, engaged Buddhist thought and contemporary urban practice, without reducing Vietnam to temple visits.



## Duration

13 days / 12 nights

## Travel style

Reflective and culturally grounded

## Accommodation

4-star or equivalent, confirmed in the final proposal

## Route

Hanoi - Ninh Binh - Hue - Hoi An - Ho Chi Minh City

## Trip highlights

- Từ Hiếu and the roots of Thích Nhất Hạnh
- Sacred geography and older capitals
- Respectful entry into religious space
- Urban adaptation and everyday devotion

## Recommended for

Reflective and culturally grounded

## Season note

Religious calendars, heat and heavy rain affect the timing of outdoor visits.

This is a sample itinerary, not a quotation or booking confirmation.

Hotels, availability, exact inclusions, pricing and booking terms will be confirmed in a personalised proposal from your travel advisor.



#### Route covered

Arrive in Hanoi; Hanoi city tour and Buddhist sites; Ninh Binh temples and ancient capitals; Return north and fly to Hue

### Day 1 - Arrive in Hanoi

- Meet the guide, settle into the hotel and keep the evening light.
- A welcome dinner introduces the route and its emphasis on careful observation rather than a checklist of sacred sites.

Overnight: Hanoi | Meals: Dinner

### Day 2 - Hanoi city tour and Buddhist sites

- Explore selected historical and religious settings to consider how Buddhism has appeared within the political and urban life of the capital.
- The day may pair one significant pagoda with the wider Ba Dinh or Old Quarter landscape, avoiding a procession of similar sites.

Overnight: Hanoi | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

### Day 3 - Ninh Binh temples and ancient capitals

- Travel south to Ninh Binh.
- Landscape, former political centres and religious architecture are read together, showing how sacred places take meaning from their geography as much as from individual buildings.

Overnight: Ninh Binh | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

### Day 4 - Return north and fly to Hue

- Keep the morning measured before transferring to Hanoi airport for the flight to Hue.
- Arrival is deliberately light, with time to settle beside the Perfume River.

Overnight: Hue | Meals: Breakfast



**Route covered**

Hue Imperial City and religious sites; Từ Hiếu Pagoda and Thích Nhất Hạnh; Hue meditation and community visits

## Day 5 - Hue Imperial City and religious sites

- Use the Imperial City and one carefully chosen religious setting to examine the relationship between court culture, ritual authority and Buddhist life.
- The day focuses on context, not monument count.

Overnight: Hue | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

## Day 6 - Từ Hiếu Pagoda and Thích Nhất Hạnh

- Visit Từ Hiếu Pagoda, the root temple of Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh.
- The visit introduces Engaged Buddhism, peace activism and the relationship between monastic roots and his later international work.
- Access and any direct encounter remain subject to the pagoda's own schedule and consent.

Overnight: Hue | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

## Day 7 - Hue meditation and community visits

- Keep a slower rhythm for quiet observation, a garden-house meal, reflective discussion or a limited monastic routine where genuinely available.
- This is not presented as a retreat; it is space to notice how practice is held within ordinary time.

Overnight: Hue | Meals: Breakfast



**Route covered**

Hue to Hoi An; Hoi An heritage and local belief; Fly to Ho Chi Minh City

## Day 8 - Hue to Hoi An

- Travel over Hai Van Pass to Hoi An.
- The journey shifts from monastic and imperial Hue to a former trading town shaped by different communities, beliefs and household traditions.

Overnight: Hoi An | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

## Day 9 - Hoi An heritage and local belief

- Explore the old town through merchant houses, assembly halls, ancestor practices, food and craft.
- The day broadens the conversation beyond formal Buddhism and leaves the later afternoon open.

Overnight: Hoi An | Meals: Breakfast

## Day 10 - Fly to Ho Chi Minh City

- Fly south and begin with a light orientation.
- The city provides a very different setting for religion: metropolitan, politically charged and continually adapting.

Overnight: Ho Chi Minh City | Meals: Breakfast



#### Route covered

Ho Chi Minh City Buddhist history sites; Ho Chi Minh City pagodas and community life; Departure

### Day 11 - Ho Chi Minh City Buddhist history sites

- Examine selected places connected with the Buddhist crisis, public protest and the memory of Thich Quang Duc, balanced with the wider urban history of the period.
- Interpretation is careful and avoids reducing living religion to one dramatic event.

Overnight: Ho Chi Minh City | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

### Day 12 - Ho Chi Minh City pagodas and community life

- Visit one contemporary religious community or pagoda where access is appropriate, observing how practice, charity, family devotion and urban life meet today.
- Conclude with a closing discussion and farewell dinner.

Overnight: Ho Chi Minh City | Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

### Day 13 - Departure

- Transfer to the airport according to flight time.
- Late departures can retain a quiet morning rather than adding another formal visit.

Meals: Breakfast



## Inclusions and practical information

This sample itinerary illustrates a proposed route and experiences. Hotels, availability, exact inclusions and pricing will be confirmed in a personalised proposal from your travel advisor.

### Included

- Accommodation in the stated overnight locations, based on the rooming arrangement confirmed in the final proposal.
- Daily breakfast and the lunches or dinners specifically marked against each day.
- Private ground transport for the airport transfers, touring and intercity movements shown.
- English-speaking local guide services for scheduled sightseeing and hosted activities.
- Entrance fees and activities explicitly listed in the confirmed itinerary.
- Domestic flights shown in the itinerary, subject to final schedules, fares and operating conditions.

### Not included

- International flights and any airfare not specifically included in the final proposal.
- Passport, visa, vaccination, travel insurance and personal medical costs.
- Tips, drinks, laundry, minibar, personal purchases and other incidental expenses.
- Early check-in, late check-out, room upgrades and special room arrangements unless confirmed.
- Optional activities, independent meals and services requested after the itinerary is confirmed.

### Final details to be confirmed

- Exact hotel names, room category, bedding and check-in arrangements.
- Guide coverage and any supplier- or host-dependent visits.
- Final flight, cruise, train and transfer timings.
- The complete inclusion list, price, payment schedule and cancellation terms.

**Your travel advisor remains your point of contact.**

The final proposal replaces this sample once dates, travellers and service choices are confirmed.