



HANOI & NINH BINH SHORTSTAY

Short Stay | 5 Days | Physical Level 1
Hanoi (1N) - Ninh Binh (1N) – Hanoi (2N)

Known as 'Halong Bay on land', the karst scenery and vivid green rice paddies of Ninh Binh stretches scenically along the Ngo Dong River, best explored by local boat. Combined with time to explore vibrant capital Hanoi, this extension perfectly showcases both urban and rural Vietnam.

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Daily tours and entrance fees
- Transportation and transfers as stated
- English speaking guide

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Day 1: Arrive in Hanoi

Meals: D

On arrival in Hanoi you will be met and transferred to your hotel by private car.

Spend your first night savouring delicious local flavours on a guided street food tour through the alleys of the Old Quarter. Meet your guide at your hotel, before strolling to a secret eco-friendly coffee shop and enjoy a demonstration of the preparation the iconic Vietnamese egg coffee (with a twist). Then, set off into the maze of alleys and try various local food including a fried nem, pho, banh ran (sweet fried sticky rice), banh mi Vietnamese roll and a real exotic experience: fried chicken legs (or wings for the less daring travelers).



Finally, your local gastronomy immersion will end with the most social activity in Vietnam: bia hoi. Grab a stool at the neighboring Bia Hoi Corner and watch the commotion as this spot comes to life in the evening, while sipping a tall glass of cold local draft beer. After your refreshing drink, your tour guide will bring you back to your hotel, or feel free to stay and enjoy more of Ta Hien Street by yourself for a fun evening out.

Destination Information

Hanoi - With a population of approximately four million, Hanoi is a charming and richly historic city of lakes, shaded boulevards and leafy open parks.

Day 2: Explore Ninh Binh

Meals: B, L

Today you will be met at your Hanoi hotel and transferred by private car to the beautiful Ninh Binh region.

Once there, board a local sampan to drift along the spectacular Ngo Dong river.

After lunch, continue the exploration with a visit to the village of Van Lam hamlet to learn about local traditions and discover the stunning temples of Thai Vi.



Please note: You will need to be able to board these small sampan boats unassisted.

Destination Information

Ninh Binh- A mesmerizing area known locally as 'Ha Long Bay on Land' thanks to its magical riverine landscape, with sheer limestone mountains rising up from the paddies.

Thai Vi- Built in 1258 by King Tran Thai Tong to worship Buddha and the three saints, this stunning example of ancient architecture has an undeniable air of peace and tranquillity. Constructed from monolithic greenstone and boasting unique features such as pagodas, stone carvings and more, Thai Vi is a place that will not be easily forgotten.

Day 3: Visit Trang An

Meals: B, L

Today you will begin your journey to the ancient capital of Hoa Lu for an exploration of their ruins.

Afterwards, you will continue to nearby Trang An. Board a small boat and meander lazily down the peaceful river while passing through a series of caves. Enjoy the sounds of soaring birds overhead as you are paddled along the crystal-clear waters of the river, jagged limestone hills jutting skyward out of electric green rice paddies- it will be sure to bring out the photographer in you.



After lunch, your private vehicle will be waiting for you to transfer back to your Hanoi hotel, arriving in the late afternoon.

Destination Information

Hoa Lu – This is the ancient capital of the Dinh and Le dynasties dating back to the 11th century. Having been eroded over the millennia, the dilapidated ruins have nearly been absorbed by the spectacular scenery creating a mystical atmosphere that will be sure to titillate your imagination.

Trang An- A UNESCO World Heritage site known for its outstanding natural beauty and the scenic karst formations which contribute to its reputation as being the “Halong Bay on land”.

Day 4: Discover Hanoi

Meals: B, L

Today you will embark on a city tour of Hanoi.

Begin the day passing the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, and visit the One Pillar Pagoda, Presidential Palace and Temple of Literature.

In the afternoon, visit the Museum of Ethnology before boarding a cyclo to venture through the Old Quarter's 36 vibrant streets.

In the evening, attend the Quintessence of Tonkin show – a spectacular open-air performance showcasing Vietnam's rich history.



Please note: The Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum is closed on Mondays and Fridays. During closure, the Ho Chi Minh Residence and other places in the complex can be visited as normal. A long waiting time in line is required to visit Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum especially in high season (March and April) and on rainy days. You can't visit other places in the complex without visiting the Mausoleum. The Museum of Ethnology is closed on Monday & Vietnamese New Year.

Destination Information

Ho Chi Minh Quarter - Dedicated to the father of modern Vietnam and where Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum stands in Ba Dinh Square. Ho Chi Minh first declared independence from French rule in 1945.

One Pillar Pagoda - Rebuilt in 1955 after damage during the French evacuation, the pagoda is made of wood and sits on a single pillar. Designed to reflect the shape of a lotus flower emerging from the water, it has become a popular spot for locals to enjoy the tranquil surroundings.

Temple of Literature - Hanoi's first university, dating back to 1070; now dedicated to Confucian worship.

Hanoi Old Quarter - A maze of streets weaving through Hanoi and dating back to the 13th century. Each street specialises in merchants and artisans selling their wares of silk, silver, wood and more.

Day 5: Depart Hanoi

Meals: B

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before checking out of the hotel. The rest of the day is free to spend as you wish before being transferred to the airport by private car.



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