

February 22, 2023

Dear Christine & Alan,

Thank you for choosing Explorient! We are delighted to once again have the opportunity to serve you on your Asia adventure! Below please find your final itinerary for your trip. We look forward to having you on board with us!

TOUR SUMMARY

11 Day / 10 Night Custom Vietnam Family Adventure – Land Only

- Economy Class Hanoi / Danang / Can Tho Airfares per itinerary
- 2 nights at Grand Mercure Hotel in Hanoi (Grand Deluxe Room)
- 1 night at Emerald Hotel in Ninh Binh (Family Duplex)
- 1 night on board the Bhaya Legend Cruise (private charter with 4 cabins)
- 3 nights at La Siesta Resort in Hoi An (Deluxe Family Room)
- 1 night at Azerai Resort in Can Tho (Family River Room)
- 2 nights at The Caravelle Saigon in HCM City (Deluxe Room)
- Hotel Breakfasts Daily
- Other meals as specified per itinerary (food only)
- Private transfers and sightseeing per itinerary by private vehicle, driver and professional guides

Additional Information

- Price is based on combination of double and quad occupancy, 4 passengers traveling
- Price includes all entrance fees, hotel taxes & service charges, domestic air taxes
- Price excludes personal expenses, beverages during included lunches/dinners, gratuities to guides, drivers, cruise staff, and bell persons
- A visa is required for Vietnam: E-visa may be applied for at <https://evisa.xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn/trang-chu-ttdt>: (\$25 per person for single entry)

TOUR ITINERARY

| Day | Activity Summary |
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| March 11 | <p>Arrive Hanoi: Upon arrival in Hanoi, be met and transferred to GRAND MERCURE HANOI for your next 2 nights' accommodations.</p> <p>Note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fast-track service is included in your package which expedites the arrival process. 2. Your guide will greet you at column 7-9 (Gate A1) upon exiting baggage claim and customs in the Arrivals Hall at Hanoi Airport. <p>Meals: N/A Accommodations: Grand Mercure Hanoi (2 Grand Deluxe Rooms – connecting rooms requested)</p> |
| March 12 | <p>Hanoi: This morning, sleep in a bit and enjoy a leisurely breakfast. Tour Hanoi City starting early afternoon. Visit Ethnology Museum, dedicated to preserving the cultural traditions of Vietnam's 54 ethnic groups, followed by 'Hanoi Hilton', or Hoa Lo Prison where the late John McCain was held captive for 5 years, before moving on to the 11th century Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first university. Next, take a 40-minute stroll at Cua Nam Street with opportunities to observe and communicate with local residents and capture some unique moments of local life. Continue to Train Street and enjoy a bit of interaction with local street vendors before sitting down to enjoy a cold drink.</p> <p>This evening, enjoy a night foodies tour for which Hanoi is known. Hanoi and its environs are the birthplace of many quintessential Vietnamese dishes and the city is considered one of the world's great food capitals. Commencing the tour, your guide will give you an insight into the intricacies and traditions of Vietnamese food culture, including details on ingredients and historical backgrounds of popular northern dishes. Walking through the maze of bustling streets that make up Hanoi's Old Quarter, tempt your taste buds with the famed Hanoi dish Banh Cuon at a local eatery. Watch in awe as the skilled chefs demonstrate for you how this tasty dish is put together. Your next 2 snack stops are at outdoor barbeque stalls. Sit down with the Hanoi locals and sample various meat, vegetable, and bread specialties that are flame-grilled over hot coals for extra flavor. It's then time for dessert as you venture down a small alley to join in the local tradition of feasting on fresh fruit served in a cup and smothered with crushed iced and condensed milk. Before return to the hotel, you will be taken to one of Hanoi's best kept secrets, a hidden café with stunning views over the picturesque Hoan Kiem Lake. This hard-to-find café is one of the few left in the city that still serves egg coffee, a scrumptious local delicacy that you will sample whilst admiring the hustle and bustle of the city center below. Or, if coffee is not your style, a cold beer awaits! (B,D)</p> <p>Meals: Breakfast, Dinner (street foods) Accommodations: Grand Mercure Hanoi (2 Grand Deluxe Rooms – connecting rooms requested)</p> |
| March 13 | <p>Hanoi / Ninh Binh: Depart Hanoi in the early morning (around 7:30am) for a 2-hour drive to Ninh Binh, home to the Trang An Landscape Complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that encompasses Tam Coc-Trang An scenic landscape. Considered as the Halong Bay on land, Ninh Binh is dotted with limestone karst towers and winding rivers.</p> <p>Starting at Tho Ha village, we'll enjoy a leisure cycling trip between 10-15km (per your preference/energy level) to appreciate the immersed rice fields and agriculture life. Then roll up your sleeves, put on your boots, and take part in the fun daily life activities with local fishermen/farmers. Enjoy a chance to catch crab and mudfish using traditional rattan tools and plant rice right on the fields. Engage in a casual talk with the local farmer to get an insight into his family and lifestyle. It's time for lunch at a rustic yet traditional restaurant. Next, participate in a hands-on cooking demo with the chef before having lunch with Ninh Binh specialties.</p> <p>Later this afternoon, get on a rowing boat trip to the Galaxy Cave recently discovered in 2007 due to its small size</p> |

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| | <p>gateway & its hidden location in the rained forest on Tuong mountain. The cave is beautifully untouched with natural formations of stalagmites & stalactites in shimmering colors – giving you the feeling of being lost in a real paradise on earth. After the cave discovery, drive to your resort in Ninh Binh for your check-in and relaxing. Overnight in Ninh Binh. (B,L)</p> <p>Meals: Breakfast, Lunch Accommodations: The Emeralda Ninh Binh (Family Duplex)</p> |
| March 14 | <p>Ninh Binh / Halong Bay: Early morning overland drive (approx. 4 hours) to Halong Bay and board your privately chartered BHAYA LEGEND CRUISE for an unforgettable cruise around the bay. Agenda for today as follows (times are approximated):</p> <p>12:30: Board Bhaya Cruise and check out your private boat & cabin(s) before heading to the restaurant for a safety briefing. Enjoy the welcome drink while meeting the Cruise Manager and the crew.</p> <p>13:00: Enjoy a fusion lunch as the boat sails towards the southeast of Halong Bay.</p> <p>15:00: Visit Thien Canh Son cave, then kayak and swim on the beach around the Hang Co area Named the theater in the center of the sea, visitors have the opportunity to enjoy the mysterious beauty of gorgeous rosin's system hanging inside the cave. The entire ceiling shine because of being covered with thousands of glittering stalactites, dome wavy create unique images: the stone statues, stone dragons, and flowers are likely to make an ideal world.</p> <p>17:00: Return to the boat and freshen up for the evening's activities.</p> <p>17:30 :Join the exciting cooking or fruit carving demonstration on the sundeck (or in the restaurant, depending on the weather). Don't miss out on the stunning view of sunset over the enchanting Halong Bay from the sundeck of the boat.</p> <p>19:00: Dinner is served in the restaurant.</p> <p>21:00: Enjoy squid fishing program after dinner on the first deck.</p> <p>Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Accommodations: Bhaya Legend Cruise (private charter equipped with 4 cabins)</p> |
| March 15 | <p>Halong Bay / Hoi An: This morning, enjoy additional cruising of the Bay along and immersive experiences with the locals on the bay. Visit Vung Vieng fishing village by a rustic rowboat, meet the local people and pass through the floating school and fish farms. After brunch on board, disembark and transfer to Hanoi Airport for your afternoon flight to Danang. Upon arrival, be met and transferred to LA SIESTA RESORT for your next 3 nights' accommodations. (B)</p> <p>Meals: Brunch Accommodations: La Siesta Resort (Deluxe Family Room)</p> |
| March 16 | <p>Hoi An (Craft villages, Mask Making & Dumpling Fun): Enjoy a morning tour of Hoi An. Located along the seaside of Central Vietnam, Hoi An ancient town used to be an indispensable destination on the journey of the ceramic and fragrant roads on the sea. As a flourishing trading port, artisans from all over Vietnam migrated here. Exclusive craft villages were established nearby to supply international trade. This is a haven for those who appreciate local culture and handicrafts where you'll have a chance to discover traditional villages of Hoi An, from pottery to woodworks.</p> <p>Best accessed by water, the small pottery village of Thanh Ha still retains many of its traditional values. where village elders can be seen turning the pottery wheels whilst other members of the family work on other aspects of the finished products. After spending some time in Thanh Ha, continue to Kim Bong, a village specializing in</p> |

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| | <p>woodwork. Dating back to the 15th century, the settlement was an important source of boat building for the nearby port of Hoi An. Today, using specialist tools and techniques passed down from that period, local craftsmen specialize in handmade furniture and ornate sculptures. Notably, the artisans of Kim Bong made a pivotal contribution to the restoration work of historic buildings in Hoi An, culminating in the town being declared a World Heritage site in 1999.</p> <p>After the visit, returning to Hoi An Town by boat. Discover beautifully preserved old merchant houses, atmospheric temples and lively markets as you stroll through the back streets of this enchanting destination. You will visit the iconic 400-year-old Japanese Bridge and the busy waterfront, where colorful fishing boats bob up and down on the Thu Bon River. Continue to a workshop where you'll be roll up your sleeves and start painting local folklore masks under the guidance of a local artisan. The artisan has dedicated his life to painting masks that characterize Tuong singing (classical Vietnamese opera) with various shades and expressions of emotion. You'll have a chance to understand all the ups and downs of how he preserves these traditional crafts passing down generations. Bring home your DIY masterpiece creation! Wrap up the trip with 30-min hands-on making traditional white rose Hoi An dumplings. Laugh and learn how to make the outer cover of each dumpling that looks like a white flower then add the filling of minced shrimp and pork. Then together taste the fruits of your labour. Return to your resort and enjoy the balance of the day at leisure. (B,L)</p> <p>Meals: Breakfast, Lunch Accommodations: La Siesta Resort (Deluxe Family Room)</p> |
| March 17 | <p>Hoi An: Hoi An (Bicycle Ride, Farming & Fishing with the locals): Start the day with a leisurely cycle ride through the beautiful landscapes around Hoi An. This is an ideal chance to observe rural Vietnamese life firsthand, all manner of photo opportunities presents themselves on this compelling excursion; water buffalo ploughing muddy rice fields, ducks waddling along narrow paths and farmers tending their crops. The possibilities to capture some memorable moments are endless. Then board a local boat, enjoy fruit & cake with cup of tea/ café and then cruise to the mouth of the river where it meets the Cua Dai Sea. Join local fisherman on the river and enjoy hands-on experience of round net and cast net fishing. Enjoy learning and experiencing cultural folk music with local fishermen. Learn and try your hand at local traditional fishing techniques using round and cast nets. Learn to paddle the strange and unique Vietnamese bamboo basket boats and make origami creations (grasshopper , birds, ring, sunglasses ,bracelets....etc) from reeds of palm leaves. Continue your return journey on board with a simple lunch served on board. Return to your resort and enjoy the balance of the afternoon at leisure to relax, eat and shop beautiful Hoi An Town. (B,L)</p> <p>Meals: Breakfast, Lunch Accommodations: La Siesta Resort (Deluxe Family Room)</p> |
| March 18 | <p>Hoi An / Can Tho: Early morning transfer for your flight to Can Tho. Upon arrival, be met and transferred to AZERAI CAN THO, a peaceful retreat located on green Con Au, an isolated island on the Hau River in the Mekong accessible only by boat. Azerai Can Tho offers seclusion and privacy in the campus surrounded by many green patches and ancient banyan trees over a hundred years old. Enjoy time at leisure for some rest and pool time at the resort. Later, board a sampan for a cruises along the Mekong River and through hidden canals little known to the typical tourist. Observe life along the banks of canals before returning to your resort. (B)</p> <p>Tip: if you're up for it, be sure to check-out the charming Can Tho town dotted with street food vendors and roof top restaurants/bars; or simply relax and enjoy the grounds of your beautiful resort.</p> <p>Meals: Breakfast Accommodations: Azerai Can Tho (Family River Room)</p> |
| March 19 | <p>Can Tho / HCM City: From the jetty at Azerai Can Tho islet, embark on our Azerai wooden boat for a 45-minute river cruise along the Hau River, passing Ninh Kieu Quay, fishing villages before reaching the Cai Rang floating market, the largest of its kind in SE Asia. Sailing along the banks, you will discover the landscape of daily local life</p> |

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| | <p>while enjoying your continental breakfast on board. Our captain will navigate between the boats of small local traders to discover how traders promote their products such as tropical fruits, vegetables and various local products. Return to your resort for time to relax before heading north to HCM City by road (approx. 3.5 hour drive). Check-in at THE CARAVELLE SAIGON and enjoy the balance of the afternoon at leisure.</p> <p>This evening, enjoy the spectacular A O Show (pronounced Ahhh! Ohhh!) at the Saigon Opera House, a 60-minute production that depicts the transformation of modern Vietnamese society, taking the audience from the serenity and peacefulness of rural village life to the mayhem and frenzy of city dwelling through the medium of dance and music. Using acrobats, contemporary dancers, jugglers and martial arts experts, the performance is accompanied by an ensemble of harmonious instruments. After the show, enjoy time at leisure to relax and explore the vibrant surroundings of your hotel. (B)</p> <p>Meals: Breakfast Accommodations: Caravelle Saigon (2 Deluxe Rooms, connecting rooms requested)</p> |
| March 20 | <p>HCM City: This morning, travel out of the city to the Cu Chi Tunnels. This underground network was dug in 1948 for the guerrillas to hide from French air and ground sweeps. It also served as communication routes and food and weapon caches as well as hospitals and living quarters for guerrilla fighters throughout the Vietnam war. The tunnel system was improved and expanded to create an underground city of meeting areas, storerooms, living quarters and much more. The tunnels allowed the Viet Cong to control a vital area of South Vietnam and at their height, extended for more than 200KM in length and stretched from what was then Saigon to the Cambodian border. Preserved as a memorial park, two sections of this remarkable network are open to the public. You'll have the option to go below the surface and visit sections of the tunnels first hand. The more adventurous may go deeper and your guide will be on hand to give guidance on the degree of expected difficulty. There is plenty of interest above ground as well and it is recommended to bring good footwear, sunscreen and a hat.</p> <p>Return to city for lunch at a local restaurant. Enjoy a stroll through Saigon's French Colonial past with a leisurely walk through Notre Dame Cathedral (outside only) and City Hall followed by some last minute shopping at Ben Thanh Market. (B,L)</p> <p>Meals: Breakfast, Lunch Accommodations: Caravelle Saigon (2 Deluxe Rooms, connecting rooms requested)</p> |
| March 21 | <p>Return Home: Early morning transfer to Saigon Airport for your departure flight home. (B)</p> <p>Note:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hotel restaurant will likely NOT be open due to early morning departure (pick-up at 6am). Please ask front desk if they can prepare box breakfasts. 2. Fast-track service is included in your package which expedites the departure process. <p>Meals: Breakfast* Accommodations: N/A</p> <p>****END OF PROGRAM****</p> |



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