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Sorry! There are no remaining departures for "Cycle Vietnam's Back Roads" (AVEC), [but here are some similar trips](#).



Cycle Vietnam's Back Roads

14 days, Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City

Trip code AVEC

What's included

- Your G for Good Moment: Oodles of Noodles, Hoi An
- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group

- Cycling equipment including bicycle
- All cycling routes and excursions as detailed in the itinerary
- Guided tour of Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing April 3rd, 2019 and onwards

Itinerary



NOTE: Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Day 1

Hanoi

Arrive at any time.



Today's Activities

ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

Day 2

Hanoi/Huế

Tour Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum and explore Hanoi with some free time before boarding the Reunification Express for an overnight train journey.

Opt to attend a performance at the famous Water Puppet Theatre with some free time before heading south.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and Museum Visit

Hanoi

Take a guided tour of the mausoleum where Ho Chi Minh's embalmed body is housed in a glass case. Continue to the Presidential Palace and visit the museum to learn about Ho Chi Minh's life and political history. Opt to visit the palace gardens.

Note: The Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum is open until 11:00am and closed on Monday and Friday. Entry is dependent on what time the group arrives in Hanoi.

Free Time

Hanoi

Free time in the city to explore the winding streets and alleyways of this fascinating city.

Overnight Train (beds)

Hanoi - Huế

13h-14h

Stretch out and get some well-earned rest en route to the next stop.



Optional Activities - Day 2

Thăng Long Water Puppet Theatre Performance

Hanoi

200000VND

Watch a traditional Vietnamese water puppet show with beautiful live music and intricate puppets dancing in a water stage.

Day 3

Huế

Cycle through Hue and to landmarks like the Citadel and Tu Duc's tomb.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Hue Cycling Tour

Huế

3h-4h

35km

Cycle through Hue and to landmarks like the Citadel and Tu Duc's tomb.

Day 4

Huế/Lăng Cô

Take a full day exploring the countryside to the south of Hue before continuing along the coast following the route of the Reunification Express.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Cycling Huế to Lăng Cô

Huế - Lăng Cô

5h-6h

90km

Travel out of Hue and ride south along the coast past small bays on this first full day on the bikes. Cycle alongside the famous Reunification Express and enjoy a ride that is mostly flat and easy, although there are a couple of short climbs late in day. Spend the night in the beachside town of Lang Co. Relax on the beach, and enjoy a pleasant seaside afternoon.

Cycling grading - moderate

Terrain - mostly paved roads

Day 5

Lăng Cô/Hoi An

Cycle up and over the famous Hai Van Pass – the geographic north-south divider of Vietnam. Cycling this stretch is a great adventure. Travel to the picturesque Hoi An and enjoy the historic town.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Cycling Lăng Cô to Hội An

Lăng Cô - Hoi An

6h-7h

80km

Begin the morning with a challenging 10km (6.2 mi) uphill ride to the top of Hai Van Pass, the geographic divider of the north and south. Tackle a test of endurance on this scenic pass – the road sits ominously overlooking the ocean and the scenery is great motivation to keep going up the climb. Arrive at the top before a thrilling downhill stretch. Ride through busy Danang and on to the beautiful town of Hoi An. Hoi An was once a major trading port, and now the World Heritage-protected old town is a wonderfully preserved area.

Cycling grading - challenging

Terrain - many ascents and descents, paved roads, good downhill riding

Day 6

Hoi An

Take a day to relax and rest in Hoi An after a challenging day of cycling. Enjoy a noodle making demonstration and lunch at Oodles of Noodles, a G Adventures-supported project.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



Today's Activities

ACTIVITY

Try some of the oodles of noodles (more than 26 types!) available in the city in this tasty cooking class. Run by our G for Good partners, STREETS International, this class was developed exclusively for G Adventures. Former street youth that are part of this hospitality training program, will help you prepare and cook a number of different types of noodles. This program helps these youth practice their English, increasing their skill-set and opportunities available to them in the tourism industry. Enjoy your yummy creations while learning more about the local cuisine and this initiative which empowers street youth through skills and employment training.



Optional Activities - Day 6

Hoi An Bike and Boat Tour

Hoi An

Enjoy a peaceful exploration of the villages around Hoi An, cycling through rice paddies and along narrow country lanes. Take advantage of this tour – it includes a boat trip through the water palm forest and a visit to the farming village of Tra Que.

Hoi An Old Town Walking Tour

Hoi An

6USD

2h-3h

Stroll through the narrow winding streets of Hoi An's old town to see Chinese assembly halls, ancestral homes, The Japanese Covered Bridge, and well-preserved pagodas on this self-guided tour. Opt to try local delicacies and fusion food at one of the restaurants for which Hoi An is becoming famous.

Hoi An Cooking Class

Hoi An

35USD

Take a cooking class to learn more about Vietnamese food and its distinct flavours. Tour the local market to buy fresh ingredients before preparing some popular regional dishes. Enjoy your creations when you're done!

Day 7

Hoi An/Tam Kỳ

Cross the Thi Bon River by boat and continue cycling along the stunning Vietnamese coastline. The route to Tam Ky is filled with picturesque views and tall sand dunes. Overnight in Tam Ky.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Thi Bon Riverboat

Hoi An - Tam Kỳ

Come aboard and cross the Thi Bon River by boat.

Cycling Hội An to Tam Kỳ

Hoi An - Tam Kỳ

5h-6h

58km

Start the day with a boat trip to cross the Thi Bon River. Continue cycling along a lovely quiet road with the coast on one side, fish farms on the other, and a sparse sandy landscape in the middle. Overnight in Tam Ky, a town that gets few visitors, but is great for getting away from the tourist regions of Vietnam.

Cycling grading - easy/moderate

Terrain - mostly paved roads, flat, easy cycling

Day 8

Tam Kỳ/Quảng Ngãi

Follow the backroads of Vietnam, passing paddy fields and villages to My Lai and the sobering Massacre Monument. Continue by bus to Quang Ngai and unwind by the coast.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Cycling Tam Kỳ to Quảng Ngãi

Tam Kỳ - Đại Lãnh

6h-7h

70km

Return to the coastal route and travel along mostly paved, coastal roads. Follow a back road that goes to the site of one of the many dark moments of the Vietnam War; arrive at the My Lai Massacre Memorial. The monument stands as a great anti-war statement. Then travel to Quang Ngai, another town well off the tourist route, so expect something of an oddity.

Cycling grading - moderate

Terrain - mostly paved, coastal roads

Day 9

Quảng Ngãi/Quy Nhon

Cycle south along the coast. Stop at Eo Gio beach before continuing by bus to Quy Nhon for the night.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Private Vehicle

Quảng Ngãi - My Châu

1h

50km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Cycling Quảng Ngãi to Quy Nhon

Quảng Ngãi - Quy Nhon

5h-6h

70km

Cycle small back roads, passing rice fields, villages, sites for salt farming, and a set of beautiful deserted beaches. Enjoy lunch at a small local restaurant before continuing on to Quy Nhon. Cycling grading: Easy.

Terrain: Back roads, country paths.

Private Vehicle

Ga Eo Gió - Quy Nhon

30m-45m

25km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 10

Quy Nhon/Tuy Hòa

Pedal from Quy Nhon to Tuy Hoa – the longest cycle of the trip. Follow the coastline over undulating hills all the way to the beach.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Cycling Quy Nhon to Tuy Hòa

Quy Nhon - Tuy Hòa

7h-8h

75km

Get ready for the longest day of the ride. Time to test those legs! (Don't worry – the support vehicle will always be on hand for those who want to take a break.) Follow the stunning coastline on undulating roads that sometimes turns into a real climb. The biggest uphill of the day is at 3.5km (2 mi), but it comes early in the day. The cycle route is close to the beach – so if there is time, enjoy a swim in the afternoon.

Cycling grading - challenging

Terrain - mostly ascents and descents on paved roads – some tough climbs

Cycle the coastal route to Vung Ro. Pass beautiful beaches, friendly villages, and thousands of waving children. Stop at Đại Lãnh beach for lunch, before hopping back in a vehicle for the drive to Nha Trang.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Cycling Tuy Hòa to Vung Ro

Tuy Hòa - Vung No

3h30m-4h

58km

Enjoy a last final stretch with a beautiful day of undulating coastline riding. Take in the surrounding mountain scenery, while climbing a couple of hills - the longest being a 3.5km (2 mi) slog. Be rewarded for all the hard work with a visit to the coastal town of Nha Trang. Boasting beautiful beaches, crystal clear water, and lots of fun activities, it is the perfect place for a well-earned rest and a celebration of the end of the cycling component of the trip.

Cycling grading - moderate

Terrain - mostly flat, paved roads - some tough climbing

Private Vehicle

Vung No - Đại Lãnh

30m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Private Vehicle

Đại Lãnh - Nha Trang

2h-2h30m

83km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 12

Nha Trang

In Nha Trang, enjoy a free day to relax by the crystal-clear water and celebrate the end of the cycling journey.

Spend the day on the beach soaking up the sun, explore the local shops and markets, or visit nearby historical towns.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Free Time

Nha Trang

Enjoy free time by the beach to relax and take the sun, sea, and sand.



Optional Activities - Day 12

Scuba Diving

Nha Trang

Explore a fascinating underwater world at a number of local dive sites. Discover the corals and nudibranchs unique to the waters, and keep an eye out for a wide range of marine life, including turtles and small reef sharks.

Snorkelling

Nha Trang

Book a snorkelling day trip near one of the local tropical islands. Grab a snorkel and explore Nha Trang Bay's underwater world.

Day 13

Nha Trang/Ho Chi Minh City

Fly to Ho Chi Minh City, where there is some time to explore Vietnam's biggest and busiest city.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Plane

Cam Ranh International Airport - Tan Son Nhat International Airport

1h

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.



Optional Activities - Day 13

War Remnants Museum Visit

Ho Chi Minh City

2USD

Visit the War Remnants Museum, a gut-wrenching but worthwhile experience that includes three storeys of exhibits and military hardware. Learn about the devastation that occurred in Saigon during the Vietnam War, a period that greatly contrasts the joy and liveliness of the Vietnamese people today.

Reunification Palace Visit

Ho Chi Minh City

2USD

Wander the historic halls of the Reunification Palace (Independence Palace), a landmark in Ho Chi Minh City. This former home of the South Vietnamese president during the Vietnam War became the location of the end of the war when a North Vietnamese tank pushed through the palace gates on April 30, 1975.

Ho Chi Minh City Cyclo Tour

Ho Chi Minh City

10USD

Take a city tour on a cyclo (cycle rickshaw) – a great way to absorb the sights, sounds, and smells of Ho Chi Minh City while keeping your hands free for that camera action.

Depart at any time.



Meals included

Breakfast



Today's Activities

Departure Day

Not ready to leave? Your CEO can help with travel arrangements to extend your adventure.

What's included

- Your G for Good Moment: Oodles of Noodles, Hoi An
- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Cycling equipment including bicycle
- All cycling routes and excursions as detailed in the itinerary
- Guided tour of Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Cycle the bustling streets of Huế, follow the path of the famous Reunification Express by bike, take on the challenge of the Hai Van Pass, weave through rice paddies and villages on the back roads of Vietnam, relax on the beach at Nha Trang.

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Cycle the bustling streets of Huế, follow the path of the famous Reunification Express by bike, take on the challenge of the Hai Van Pass, weave through rice paddies and villages on the back roads of Vietnam, relax on the beach at Nha Trang.

Is there a disclaimer I should read before booking this trip?

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VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you view a final copy of your Trip Details a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

Is there a travel disclaimer for my itinerary I should review before booking this trip?

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

What important notes should I be aware of before the trip?

Days cycling: 8

Distance cycled Approx 567km

Difficulty Moderate - this trip involves some riding uphill and longer days over 80km. Riders should be of reasonable cycling fitness but feel free to hop in the support vehicle if any of the riding is too hard.

Cycling conditions

Road conditions in Vietnam are good. Apart from some short sections on dirt the entire ride is on sealed roads. We will be spending time on Highway One so be prepared for traffic that can (and probably will) include trucks, buses, motorbikes, bicycles, pedestrians, children, dogs, chickens, and other fun things. You will need to stay alert at all times.

Helmets

A helmet will be provided and for safe cycling we highly recommend wearing a helmet whilst cycling on our trips. If you prefer, bring your own helmet with you as the quality of helmet may not be what you are accustomed to.

Support vehicle

For the cycling days we will have the backup support of a small bus that will carry our luggage, snacks, water, and anybody not cycling.

What is the group leader like?

All G Adventures group trips are accompanied by one of our group leaders. The aim of the group leader is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting- we think it's the best of both worlds.

How large will the group be?

Max 15, Avg 12

What meals are included in this trip?

13 breakfasts, 1 lunch

What are the meals like on this trip?

Eating is a big part of traveling. Travelling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility, though generally food is cheap. Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. Your group leader will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip. Included breakfasts will usually be asian style consisting of noodles or congee (rice porridge) or bread and eggs. Vegetarians will be able to find a range of different foods, although in some areas the choice maybe limited. While trekking in remote regions food is included, plentiful and made of fresh local ingredients. For all trips please refer to the meals included and budget information for included meals and meal budgets.

What are the modes of transportation on my trip?

Bicycle, bus, plane, train.

Are local flights included in the cost of the trip?

All local flights are included in the cost of your tour unless otherwise noted. It is important that we have your passport information at the time of booking in order to process these tickets. Internal flight tickets are issued locally and will be given to you prior to the flight departure.

Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?

We believe single travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and single travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

Where will we stay during the trip?

Hotel (12 nts), overnight train (1 nt).

Do any exceptions apply to Rooming or “My Own Room” on my tour?

Night 2 (overnight train)

What is the joining hotel?

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

What are the joining instructions?

When arriving at Noi Bai Intl Airport in Hanoi you have a choice of pre paid taxi or Vietnam Airlines shuttle bus to get you into the city. The airport is 35 km outside of the city and the drive should take between 40-50 minutes depending on traffic. The airport taxis are a safe and convenient way to arrive at your hotel. The cost is 16 USD and is paid directly to your driver upon arrival at the hotel. The other option is to take the Vietnam Airlines shuttle bus which drops everyone at the Vietnam Airlines office downtown, The cost of the tickets is 45000 Dong (approx 3 USD). From the Vietnam Airline office there are taxis that can take you to your hotel with the meter on about 2-4 USD.

If you have paid in advance for an arrival transfer, a G Adventures representative will be at the airport to meet you. If for any reason you are not met at the airport, please call our local support line. If you are unable to make contact for whatever reason, please make your way to the joining point hotel via taxi.

Unfortunately there have been cases in Vietnam of people misrepresenting themselves as G Adventures representatives at both Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh airports. We recommend that you do not take advantage of any offers of "help" at the airport, and rather just organize a meter taxi for yourself to our starting point.

Please note that Day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned for that day other than your welcome meeting in the evening, so you can arrive at any time.

A G Adventures Representative will organize a short meeting soon after arrival, during which you will meet other tour participants and receive information about general and specific aspects of the trip. A welcome note will be left for you in the hotel so you have all the necessary information regarding the meeting time. If you arrive late, s/he will leave you a message detailing what time and where you should meet the next morning.

What happens if I experience problems when arriving?

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, as soon as possible please contact your starting point hotel, requesting that you speak to or leave a message for your trip leader (if you are not on a group tour please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier). If you are unable to get in touch with your leader, please refer to our emergency contact details. If you have pre-booked an airport transfer and have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

Who should I contact in case of an emergency?

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call either the G Adventures Local Representative (if one is listed below) and then our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

AIRPORT TRANSFER

If you have purchased an arrival through G Adventures or if an arrival transfer is included in the cost of your tour, please note that:

Your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. If you are advised of a flight schedule change within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, we will do our best to rearrange your arrival transfer however we cannot guarantee this. If your arrival transfer does not arrive within 30 minutes after you have exited the arrivals area please take a taxi to your start point hotel.

If you are experiencing complications with your Ho Chi Minh City AIRPORT TRANSFER that was booked through G Adventures please call: +84 91 204 0262

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Vietnam Local Operator: +84 912040262 - Ms.Nhung (24 Hours) or +84 903486488

G Adventures Local Office – Bangkok, Thailand

During Office hours (Weekdays, 9am-5pm Local Time)

From outside Thailand: +66 2 508 8630

From within Thailand: 02 508 8630

After hours emergency contact: +66(0)870496074 (Bangkok, Thailand)

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, we have a toll-free line for North America, which will connect you directly with our Toronto office. In the event that you cannot get through, you can reach a member of our Operations department at the mobile number below.

Toll-free, North America only: 1 800 465 5600.

Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618

Outside North America, Australia and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

Are there any additional packing suggestions I should consider?

What you need to bring depends on the trip you have chosen and the countries or regions you are planning to visit. We suggest that you pack as lightly as possible as you are expected to carry your own luggage. As a rule we try not to have to walk more than 15-20 minutes with your bags which is why we recommend keeping the weight of your bags between 10-15kg/22-30lb. Suitcases are not recommended for G Adventures trips! Most travellers carry a backpack or rolling bag of small to medium size (no XXL ones please!) as they need to fit with you in buses or on trains. You will also need a day pack/bag to carry water, cameras and other electronics like ipods and mobile phones. If your trip involves overnights in homestays, villages or camping then you usually have the opportunity to rent sleeping bags if need be instead of bringing them with you.

What should be on my packing list?

Conservative Dress:

- Modest clothing that covers knees and shoulders (Long pants, long skirts, shirts that cover shoulders)
- Shawl or scarf (for temple visits)

Cycling:

- Bicycle pedals (optional)
- Bicycle saddle cover (optional)
- Bicycle saddle (optional)
- Biking gloves
- Cycling clothing (cycling shorts and cycling jersey)
- Cycling shoes
- Handlebar bag (optional) (For easy access to small personal items.)
- Personal cycling gear

Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

Essentials:

- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Footwear
- Hat
- Headphones (Noise-cancelling recommended)
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

Health & Safety:

- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)

Warm Weather:

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear Note: Please pack clothing for the season in which you will be travelling. From Nov-Feb weather can be cold, so please pack warm clothing. From May-Oct it is the wet season, so please bring waterproof clothing.

When can I do my laundry on this trip?

Laundry facilities are offered by some of our hotels for a charge. There will be times when you may want to or have to do your own laundry so we suggest you bring non-polluting/biodegradable soap.

What are the visas and entry requirements for my trip?

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page [here](#)

VIETNAM - If you require a visa for Vietnam, they need to be arranged ahead of time (BEFORE your trip) as the processing time varies and they are not available upon arrival.

If you are entering Vietnam by land border, please apply for a regular visa for Vietnam. Many of the land borders we travel through do not accept the Vietnam E-Visa.

What should I consider when planning my personal expenses and discretionary spending for this itinerary?

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

What should I know about currency, credit cards, and exchanging money while on this tour?

As currency exchange rates in Asia fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: www.xe.com As of July 2009 the exchange rate for VIETNAM was 1 USD = 17,810 VND (Vietnamese Dong). There are many ATM machines that accept both Visa and Mastercard but these are limited to major cities. We also recommend the use of cash and travellers cheques in USD currency. Major credit cards are accepted in some shops but they may charge a 2-4% transaction fee.

How much emergency money should I bring on this trip?

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

Do I need to pay a departure tax?

Departure Tax is included in all International and Domestic tickets in China, Thailand & Vietnam.

Should I be tipping on my trip?

It is customary in the Middle East to tip service providers such as drivers and guides. Tipping is expected - though not compulsory - and shows an expression of satisfaction with the people who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides or drivers we use. You may do this individually, or your Tour Leader will offer to collect the money and tip as a group. Recommendations for tipping drivers and local guides would range from 5-10USD per person per day depending on the quality and length of the service; ask your tour leader for specific recommendations based on the circumstances and culture. Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures Tour Leader did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline \$10-15 USD per person, per week can be used.

What activities are optional on this trip?

Hanoi

- Thăng Long Water Puppet Theatre Performance
(200000VND per person)

Hoi An

- Hoi An Bike and Boat Tour
- Hoi An Old Town Walking Tour
(6USD per person)
- Hoi An Cooking Class (35USD per person)

Nha Trang

- Scuba Diving
- Snorkelling

Ho Chi Minh City

- War Remnants Museum Visit
(2USD per person)
- Reunification Palace Visit
(2USD per person)
- Ho Chi Minh City Cyclo Tour
(10USD per person)

Are there any health considerations I should know before travelling?

Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit and hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that sometimes we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities, and for legal reasons our leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. In Asia pharmacies tend to stock the same western drugs as you get at home but they are usually produced locally so please bring the full drug name with you when trying to purchase a prescription drug. When selecting your trip please carefully read the brochure and itinerary and assess your ability to cope with our style of travel. Please refer to the Physical and Culture Shock ratings for trip specific information. G Adventures reserves the right to exclude any traveller from all or part of a trip without refund if in the reasonable opinion of our group leader they are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group.

What do I need to know to about safety and security on my trip?

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it is deemed necessary due to safety concerns. Your leader will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy or explore at your leisure. While your group leader will assist you with options available in a given location please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Protests and Demonstrations- Protests and demonstrations, even those that are well intended, have the potential to turn violent with no warning. Counter protests can also turn violent. Action by security forces to disperse demonstrators and protesters may occur at any time. If you are in an area where demonstrators or protesters are gathering, avoid the temptation of staying for a good photo opportunity and leave the area immediately.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards) have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our Tour Leaders to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk.

We take all prudent measures in relation to your safety. For ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling, please click [here](#).

What are the trip specific safety considerations?

We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage.

What rules should I know before joining this trip?

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter, and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of prostitutes is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our group leader has the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they use prostitutes.

Are there any things I should be aware of?

As Vietnam embraces capitalism with open arms it is also falling victim to some of the problems of the West. Some parts of city centres are now a favourite hangout for pickpockets. If doing some exploring on your own carry only the necessary minimum with you and use a well-hidden money belt. Valuables, including your passport, should be left in the hotel safe - organize this at reception. There is no need to get paranoid, just be cautious.

Is travel insurance required for my trip?

Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency repatriation. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

What is Planeterra?

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with [Planeterra Foundation](#).

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating \$1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

How should I dress to respect local customs during the tour?

In Asia the dress standard is more conservative than it is back home. When packing try to pick loose, lightweight, long clothing that will keep you cool in the usually hot and humid climate of Asian summers. In predominately Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim countries we ask that you dress respectfully and avoid very short shorts/skirts and singlets/tanktops when visiting temples or mosques or other holy sites.

How can I share feedback about my trip experience?

Earn 5% off your next G Adventures Tour (up to \$100 USD)*

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us and to thank you for your time, we are pleased to offer a 5% discount (up to a maximum of \$100 USD) off your next G Adventures holiday. All you need to do is submit the form within 4 weeks of the completion of your tour, and you'll be able to join the thousands of travellers who have taken 2, 3, 4 or even 10 or more tours with us!

Discount cannot be combined with other offers or applied to 'Independent' style trips. Maximum discount value is \$100 USD (or equivalent currency). Valid for new bookings only. G Adventures reserves the right to withdraw or modify this offer at any time without notice. Limited to one discount per person.

Does G Adventures have an email newsletter I can subscribe to?

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at www.gadventures.com/newsletter_signup

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

How old must I be to join this trip?

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

Are international flights included in this trip?

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

What should LGBTQ+ travellers know about safety and travel considerations on this trip?

The safety and well-being of all of our travelers is a priority at G Adventures and that includes our travelers who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize that there are specific concerns and questions you may have about your adventure in terms of safety and security. We encourage you to visit our [LGBTQ+ page](#) for useful resources to ensure you feel safe and comfortable throughout the duration of your trip. The Equaldex tool linked on this page can be of particular help when deciding where you may want to visit next.

Dossier Disclaimer

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.