

# EXPEDITIONS



## SIGNATURE: VIETNAM FROM THE MEKONG DELTA TO HANOI

12 days, Ho Chi Minh City to Hanoi

Trip code AVSHNS

# WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Your G for Good Moment: Oodles of Noodles Demonstration and Lunch, Hoi An
- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet your Expedition Leader and Group, Ho Chi Minh City
- Your Foodie Moment: Pho Lunch, Ho Chi Minh City
- Your Local Living Moment: Cacao Farm Experience, Tỉnh Tiên Giang
- Signature Moment: Private Roundtable with Dr. Nguyen Huu Thien, Cần Thơ
- Your Foodie Moment: Private Dinner at Mango Restaurant, Hoi An
- Signature Moment: Behind-the-Scenes Japanese Covered Bridge, Hoi An
- Your Foodie Moment: Hanoi Elevated Street Eats Tour, Hanoi
- Arrival & departure transfer
- Reunification Palace Visit
- Social Impact Dining at ST25 by KOTO
- Free time in Ho Chi Minh City
- Walking tour of Ho Chi Minh City
- Welcome Dinner at One River Restaurant
- Vintage Camera Photography Experience
- Cu Chi Tunnels Guided Tour
- Sunrise at Cai Rang Floating Market
- Free Time in Can Tho
- Hoi An Guided Walking Tour and Exploration
- Free Time in Hoi An
- Private Dinner & Concert at Ben Xuan Garden House
- Royal Tombs Visit
- Hue's Heritage by River & Citadel
- Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, Presidential Complex, and One Pillar Pagoda
- Foot Massage at Dao's Care Spa Social Enterprise
- Long Bien Bridge Guided Visit
- Night Tour at the Temple of Literature
- Van Long Wetlands Boat Trip
- Session on Vietnamese Wildlife with National Geographic Grantee
- Cuc Phuong Conservation Experience
- Emeralda Resort Farewell dinner
- Engaging Discussions with the National Geographic Expedition Expert throughout

- Porterage at hotels and when getting on and off of vehicles
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities
- Tips are included for all activities, meals and portage, except for your Expedition Leader

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 October 22nd, 2025 and onwards

# ITINERARY

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**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

## HO CHI MINH CITY

Welcome to Vietnam. Your expedition begins as you touch down in Ho Chi Minh City, where the tropical heat mixes with the electric hum of a metropolis on the move. You will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel to settle in. The evening is free to rest and refresh, preparing for the upcoming expedition.

Please note, there are no planned activities today and your Welcome Meeting will be held on day 2.



### ACCOMMODATION

Hotel des Arts Saigon (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Arrival Transfer

Tan Son Nhat International Airport - Ho Chi Minh City

30m

You will be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel to start your adventure.

Day 2

## HO CHI MINH CITY

Meet your National Geographic Expedition Leader and Expedition Expert for a welcome briefing before visiting the Reunification Palace. Walk the time-capsule rooms of the 1970s and descend into the wartime bunker, feeling the heavy silence of the past. For lunch, experience social impact dining at ST25 by KOTO, hearing inspiring stories of how hospitality training transforms the lives of disadvantaged youth. Explore the neo-Romanesque Notre Dame Cathedral and the Central Post Office before a nostalgic coffee stop at a communist-era themed café. Conclude with a welcome dinner, celebrating the start to your expedition through Vietnam.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

Hotel des Arts Saigon (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

#### ACTIVITY

Begin with a welcome briefing and expert-led “Introduction to Vietnam” presentation, followed by an in-depth visit inside the Reunification Palace, including its wartime bunker – offering essential context for understanding modern Vietnamese history.

Reunification Palace Visit

Ho Chi Minh City

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.

Social Impact Dining at ST25 by KOTO

Ho Chi Minh City

Enjoy a set-menu lunch at ST25 by KOTO, where the restaurant manager shares stories from KOTO's social enterprise model.

Free Time

Ho Chi Minh City

During your free time, relax at your hotel or explore your surroundings before the afternoon walk.

Signature Saigon City Walk **Ho Chi Minh City**

Explore key downtown icons – the Central Post Office, Notre Dame Cathedral, and a nostalgic coffee stop at Cong Cafe – before ending with a private top-floor welcome dinner.

Welcome Dinner at One River Restaurant **Ho Chi Minh City**

Enjoy a private top-floor welcome dinner at One River Restaurant featuring a pre-dinner cocktail session.

Day 3

## HO CHI MINH CITY

See the city through a new lens – literally. Join an immersive photography workshop using vintage film cameras to capture the texture of Saigon, framing shots of hidden cafés, peeling colonial facades, and bustling markets. After a classic pho lunch, travel to the Cu Chi Tunnels. Explore the underground network with a Vietnam War veteran, gaining a visceral understanding of resilience and survival in the cramped, silent earth. Return to the city by scenic speedboat, letting the river breeze cool you as the skyline comes into view, transforming the ride back into a visual experience of life on the water. The evening is free to dine on your own.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



### ACCOMMODATION

Hotel des Arts Saigon (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Vintage Camera Photography Experience Ho Chi Minh City

Join an immersive photography workshop using vintage film cameras to explore hidden Saigon corners from Cheo Leo Coffee (the city's oldest café) to former American barracks and local markets.

#### ACTIVITY

Enjoy an authentic bowl of pho in a classic Saigon eatery known for its local flavors and cultural significance.

Private Vehicle Ho Chi Minh City - Củ Chi 2h 50km

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

Cu Chi Tunnels Guided Tour Củ Chi

Explore the Cu Chi Tunnels with a Vietnam War veteran, gaining firsthand insights into the site's history before returning to Ho Chi Minh City by scenic speedboat and ending the day with a relaxed evening at leisure.

Speedboat Củ Chi - Ho Chi Minh City 1h30m 50km

Enjoy a scenic speedboat transfer along the Saigon River, offering unique views of the city's skyline.

Day 4

## HO CHI MINH CITY/CẦN THƠ

Leave the city for the lush, green world of the Mekong Delta. Stop at a local cacao farm to trace the stages from pod to bar, smelling the roasting beans and tasting unique specialties like cacao wine. After lunch surrounded by tropical foliage, transfer to Can Tho by speedboat, gliding deeper into the river's arteries past stilt houses and fishing boats. Settle into your resort with high tea by the pool. Join the group for a discussion and introduction to Life along the Mekong river, preparing for tomorrow's immersion in the "Rice Bowl" of Vietnam.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



### ACCOMMODATION

Legacy Mekong (or similar) Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Private Vehicle

Ho Chi Minh City - Tỉnh Tiền Giang

1h30m

60km

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

#### ACTIVITY

Visit a local cacao farm to learn about the cacao-making process firsthand, meet the farmer, and taste unique regional specialties such as cacao wine and fresh coconut juice.

Private Vehicle

Tỉnh Tiền Giang - Cần Thơ

1h30m-2h

70km

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

High Tea & Expert Introduction to Mekong Life

Cần Thơ

Settle in with High Tea by the pool, where an expert provides an engaging introduction to the Mekong River's ecology, culture, and local livelihoods.

Day 5

## CẦN THƠ/HOI AN

Rise early to witness the Cai Rang Floating Market, where the river teems with boats piling high with tropical fruit – pineapples, watermelons, and dragon fruit hanging from bamboo poles. Navigate the colorful chaos as the sun rises over the water, revealing the daily life of river traders. Later, engage in a discussion delving into the challenges facing the Delta's ecosystem. Return to the city and fly to Da Nang and transfer to the ancient town of Hội An. The evening offers a culinary introduction to Central Vietnam with dinner celebrating the unique regional flavors in a beautiful, atmospheric setting.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

Anantara Hoi An Resort (or similar) **Hotel**

Anantara Hoi An Resort is a refined riverside sanctuary blending French colonial charm with Dutch and Asian design. Set in lush gardens along the Thu Bon River, this 5-star retreat is less than a kilometre from the UNESCO historic quarter. Split-level rooms feature private balconies and photography by local artist Rehahn. Guests enjoy riverfront dining, sunset cruises from a private jetty, and wellness journeys at the spa. With a heated pool and fitness centre, it's an elegant gateway to ancient shrines and artisan villages.



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Sunrise at Cai Rang Floating Market **Cần Thơ**

Begin the day with a private boat ride through the Cai Rang Floating Market, witnessing sunrise over a river filled with trading boats and vibrant displays of fruit – followed by a walk through the lively land market. Cai Rang Floating Market is one of the ten most impressive markets in the world, characterized by colorful boats selling tropical fruits and vegetables that are tossed from craft to craft and a little coffee vendor boat bounces in and out of the gaps, serving strong iced coffee to both vendors and customers. This market is considered a special gem in Vietnam, boasting the uniqueness of life on the Mekong River.

#### ACTIVITY

Participate in an intimate and insightful discussion with one of the Mekong Delta's leading environmental expert, known as the Delta Boy.

Free Time in Can Tho

Cần Thơ

During your free time, relax at your hotel or explore your surroundings before traveling to Can Tho Airport.

Plane

Can Tho International Airport - Da Nang International Airport

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

Private Vehicle

Da Nang International Airport - Hoi An

1h

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

## ACTIVITY

Enjoy a private dining experience with Chef Duc at Mango Restaurant, offering an inspired culinary introduction to Central Vietnam.

Day 6

## HOI AN

Walk the vibrant streets of Hoi An, smelling the street food and admiring the yellow merchant houses draped in bougainvillea. Join a workshop at Oodles of Noodles, a G Adventures-supported partner, to learn the art of making local noodles while supporting youth empowerment. Later this evening holds an exclusive after-hours access to the Japanese Covered Bridge. Accompanied by a conservationist, walk the silent, lantern-lit structure without the crowds, learning about the efforts to preserve this icon. Conclude with a light dinner in the old town, watching lanterns float down the Thu Bon River.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

Anantara Hoi An Resort (or similar) **Hotel**

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### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Hoi An Guided Walking Tour and Exploration **Hoi An**

Join a walking tour of Hoi An, including Hoi An Market, a traditional ancient house, and an Assembly Hall, followed by free time to explore the ancient town on your terms.

Free Time in Hoi An **Hoi An**

Travel back to the hotel for free time in the afternoon.

#### ACTIVITY

Enjoy exclusive after-hours access to the iconic Japanese Covered Bridge, accompanied by a conservation specialist who shares insider knowledge on preservation.

## ACTIVITY

Try some of the oodles of noodles (more than 26 types!) available in Hoi An through this tasty cooking class. Former street youth that are part of this community project will help you prepare and cook a number of different types of noodles. Then, enjoy your delicious creations while learning more about local cuisine. This hospitality training program helps youth practice their English, increasing their skill set and opportunities available to them in the tourism industry.

Day 7

## HOI AN/HUẾ

Board the Heritage Train for a scenic journey to Huế, watching the dramatic coastline and lush Hai Van Pass unfold through the window – a route often called one of the most beautiful in the world. Arrive in the former imperial capital and settle in. The evening brings an exclusive experience at the Ben Xuan Garden House, the residence of an imperial descendant. In the candlelit garden villa, surrounded by antiques and orchids, enjoy a delicious dinner accompanied by an intimate musical performance. It is a moment of pure connection to the refined cultural heritage of the Nguyen Dynasty.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

Azerai La Residence (or similar) **Hotel**



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Free Time in Hoi An **Hoi An**

This morning, enjoy free time for leisure or last minute shopping in the Old town before check-out.

Private Vehicle **Hoi An - Da Nang** 1h 31km

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

Train **Da Nang - Huế** 2h45m-3h

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Private Vehicle **Huế** 15m 5km

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

Private Dinner & Concert at Ben Xuan Garden House **Huế**

Spend the evening at the elegant home of artist-musician Camille Huyen, a descendant of Emperor Minh Mạng, featuring a private dinner and intimate musical performance in a beautifully preserved garden villa.

Day 8

## HUẾ/HANOI

Cruise the Perfume River to the seven-story Thien Mu Pagoda, a symbol of the city rising from the mist. Explore the vast Imperial City by electric car, stopping for a traditional tea tasting to learn the nuances of royal blends and the philosophy of Vietnamese tea culture. Savor a vegetarian lunch at a historic restaurant, honoring the Buddhist roots of the city. Visit the tomb of a Nguyen Emperor, admiring the harmony of architecture and nature in the pine forests. After, transfer to the airport for an evening flight to Hanoi, the thousand-year-old capital where ancient temples sit beside French villas.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch



### ACCOMMODATION

Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi (or similar) **Hotel**

Step into the enduring legacy of Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi, a treasured five-star landmark in the Old Quarter since 1901. Blending French colonial charm with neoclassical elegance, this classy hotel has hosted heads of state, celebrities, and literary greats. Guests choose between the historic Heritage Wing or the opulent Opera Wing, with Sofitel MyBeds, exceptional dining from French haute cuisine to Vietnamese specialties, and a luxury spa and poolside Bamboo Bar.



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Private Vehicle

Noi Bai International Airport - Hanoi

1h30m

30km

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

Hue's Heritage by River & Citadel

**Huế**

Enjoy a scenic Perfume River boat ride to Thien Mu Pagoda, followed by an electric-car visit through the Imperial City, ending with a traditional tea tasting at the historic Nhi Do Mai Tea House.

Private Vehicle

Huế - Phu Bai International Airport

45m

18km

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

Royal Tombs

**Huế**

Explore one of Hue's most remarkable mausoleums. Visit the tranquil lakes, stunning architecture and pavilions surrounded by pines.

Plane

Huế - Hanoi

1h30m

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

Day 9

## HANOI

Pay respects at the Ho Chi Minh Complex before enjoying a restorative foot massage at Dao's Car, a social enterprise supporting visually impaired therapists. Walk the historic Long Bien Bridge and hear stories of resilience from the Expedition Leader. In the afternoon, hop on a cyclo for an 'elevated street eats' tour, weaving through the traffic to sample bun cha and egg coffee while learning about a unique initiative supported by the Planeterra Foundation. Conclude the day with an atmospheric night tour of the Temple of Literature. Watch a cultural performance in the ancient courtyards, illuminated by soft light that highlights the stone stelae of scholars past.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



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### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, Presidential Complex, and One Pillar Pagoda

**Hanoi**

Enter the Ho Chi Minh Comple, a significant historical and cultural landmark honoring the revolutionary leader, President Ho Chi Minh, to visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, Presidential Complex, and One Pillar Pagoda.

Foot Massage at Dao's Care Spa

**Hanoi**

Enjoy a restorative foot massage experience at Dao's Care, a social enterprise dedicated to training visually impaired therapists.

Long Bien Bridge Guided Visit

**Hanoi**

Travel to Long Bien Bridge for a guided bridge tour with an expert talk on Red River trade, colonial engineering, wartime survival, and everyday life under/around the bridge.

#### ACTIVITY

Enjoy an immersive cyclo-led street food journey curated by Insight Hanoi – from bánh cuốn to bún chả to an egg coffee performance – capped with a special talk about Planeterra by Insight Hanoi's founders.

Night Tour at the Temple of Literature Hanoi

Conclude the night with the Temple of Literature Night Tour, a beautifully staged cultural performance and optional calligraphy workshop.

Day 10

## HANOI/NINH BÌNH

Travel to the karst landscapes of Ninh Binh, often called "Halong Bay on land." Glide through the tranquil Van Long Nature Reserve on a small boat, the only sound being the dip of the oar and the call of birds. Search the limestone cliffs for the critically endangered Delacour's langur. After a family-style lunch, check into your resort. The afternoon features an exclusive session with a National Geographic Explorer. Gain rare insight into Vietnam's ecosystems and the fight to protect its most vulnerable species, deepening your appreciation for the natural world around you before a relaxed dinner.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

**Emeralda Resort Ninh Binh (or similar)** **Hotel**



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Van Long Wetlands Boat Trip **Ninh Binh**

Experience the tranquility of the Van Long Nature Reserve, gliding through peaceful wetland landscapes surrounded by limestone karsts and rich biodiversity.

Private Vehicle **Hanoi - Ninh Binh** 2h30m 90km

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

Wildlife Talk **Ninh Binh**

Join an exclusive wildlife session with a Nat Geo Grantee, gaining rare insights into Vietnam's ecosystems and conservation efforts.

Day 11

## NINH BÌNH

Witness conservation in action at the Endangered Primate Rescue Center and Save Vietnam's Wildlife organizations which were founded by National Geographic Explorer, Thai Van Nguyen. Walk the quiet paths to see the meticulous care given to pangolins and langurs, learning about the challenges of rehabilitation and release. Return to the resort for a celebratory farewell dinner. Toast the expedition and the people working to protect the country's unique heritage, reflecting on the path from the bustling south to the wild beauty of the north.



### Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



### ACCOMMODATION

**Emeralda Resort Ninh Binh (or similar)** Hotel



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Private Vehicle **Ninh Bình - Cúc Phưởng** 1h 30km

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

**Cuc Phuong Conservation Experience** Cúc Phưởng

Visit both the Primate Rescue Center and Save Vietnam's Wildlife Rescue Center, gaining firsthand insight into Vietnam's leading conservation efforts. Then, hear from Mr. Thai Van Nguyen or a member of his team about deepening the understanding of wildlife protection, endangered species, and real-world conservation challenges in Vietnam.

Private Vehicle **Cúc Phưởng - Ninh Bình** 45m 18km

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

**Farewell Evening at Emeralda Resort** Ninh Bình

Return to the resort for an expert-led wrap-up presentation followed by a family-style farewell dinner, celebrating the journey and the people working to protect Vietnam's natural heritage.

Day 12

## NINH BÌNH/HANOI

Your expedition to Vietnam concludes today. Transfer to the Hanoi airport, provided at any time during the day.

Please schedule onward travel departing from Noi Bai International Airport (HAN) no earlier than 5:00 pm on the final day of your trip.



### Meals included

Breakfast



### TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Departure Transfer

Ninh Binh - Noi Bai International Airport

112km

You will be met at your hotel and transferred to the airport at the end of your adventure.

Departure Day

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

## What's included

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- Engaging Discussions with the National Geographic Expedition Expert throughout
- Porterage at hotels and when getting on and off of vehicles
- Tips are included for all activities, meals and porterage, except for your Expedition Leader
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

## What are the main highlights of this trip?

Engage in an intimate discussion on the delta's future with a leading environmental expert, Master local noodle traditions in Hội An while supporting a youth empowerment project, Gain exclusive after-hours entry to Hội An's iconic bridge with a conservation specialist, Visit primate and wildlife rescue centres to learn about protecting Vietnam's species, Tour a local cacao farm to meet growers and taste fresh chocolate and cacao wine.

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

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**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.

## 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?

### WEIGHT RESTRICTION

There may be a weight restriction for the internal flight on this tour. Each passenger is allowed to carry one checked bag with a maximum weight of 20kg (44lbs). Additional bags or excess weight charges may apply. These charges are the responsibility of the passengers.

## What is the group leader like?

All National Geographic Signature group trips are accompanied by one of our National Geographic Expedition Leaders throughout. The aim of the Expedition Leaders 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 22

## What meals are included in this trip?

11 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 7 dinners

## 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 Expedition 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?

Private Vehicle, Electric Car, Walking, Cyclo, Plane, Boat, 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.

There may be a weight restriction for the internal flight on this tour. Each passenger is allowed to carry one checked bag with a maximum weight of 20 kg (44lbs). Additional bags or excess weight charges may apply. These charges are the responsibility of the passengers.

## Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?

Yes, for those travelling solo there is a single supplement

## Where will we stay during the trip?

Hotel (11 nights)

## What are the joining instructions?

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

An arrival transfer is included when you arrive on Day 1, or if you arrive up to three days prior provided that you have booked your pre-accommodation through National Geographic Signature Journey in our joining hotel. Due to customer experience and quality considerations, all services related to the tour must be continuous.

Our driver will be waiting for you with a National Geographic Signature Journeys sign, and they will be waiting for you outside the luggage hall. 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.

Please note that day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned on this day.

Upon arrival to your Joining Hotel (note that check-in time will be in the afternoon), look for a note or bulletin board in the reception with a note from your National Geographic Expedition Leader. This note will give the details of your Welcome Meeting on day 2 (in the morning), where you will get a chance to meet your leader and other travellers, as well as learn more about how the tour will run. If you don't see a note, please ask reception for details!

## 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. Included arrival transfers are provided from the nearest airport to your starting location. If you are advised of a flight schedule change or flight cancellation within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, please call the emergency contact number to advise of your new arrival flight information. If you do not, we will not be able to rearrange your arrival transfer and you will need to make your own way to the starting hotel at your own expense. 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.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER

G Adventures Office Bangkok, Thailand

From outside Thailand: +66 92 338 9222

From within Thailand: 092 338 9222

G Adventures Local Representative (Vietnam)

Ms. Alice

Emergency number: +84 90 430 5130

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found [here](#).

Toll-free, North America only: 1 800 394 5416

Calls from UK: 0800 041 8146

Calls from Germany: 0800 181 9454

Calls from Australia: 1 800 204 905

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 424 389

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

## What information should I be aware of as the itinerary draws to a close?

You will be met at your hotel and transferred to the airport at the end of your adventure.

## **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 15kg/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!) You will also need a day pack/bag to carry water, cameras and other electronics like ipods and mobile phones.

# What should be on my packing list?

## 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.)

## 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 (minimum 2 weeks) and they are not available upon arrival.

Vietnamese E-Visa can be applied for [here](#)

Entry to Vietnam with an eVisa is supported at 13 airports, 16 land borders, and 13 seaports - details can be found [here](#)

Information is accurate as of April 1st, 2024.

## 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?

During this tour the local currency you will use is the Vietnamese Dong. As currency exchange rates in South East Asia do fluctuate, we ask that you refer to the following website for the most up to date daily exchange rates: [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com) for each of the above mentioned currencies.

The best way to carry your money is in debit cards, withdrawing cash in local currencies from ATM machines. ATMs are found throughout South East Asia and will generally accept cards on the Visa and Mastercard networks. It is a great idea to travel with both a Visa and Mastercard if at all possible in case of loss or problems with one card, you will have a back up. Please note, your bank will charge a fee for overseas withdrawals.

USD Cash is recommended for times when ATMs are not accessible. You should bring some cash with you for emergency situations (please refer to our trip dossier) but carrying only cash is a high safety risk. ATM card/s and some cash is the ideal mix.

Credit cards can be used at some upmarket restaurants, and at some larger stores if shopping for big items. If you are bringing US Dollars, please make sure that the notes are new and in good condition. Notes older than 2003, or with any tears or blemishes may not be accepted. Be fussy with your bank when buying cash!

## How much emergency money should I bring on this trip?

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$250 (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!

## Should I be tipping on my trip?

On our National Geographic Signature tours, tipping is included for all included activities and meals, and portage. Tipping is not included for the Expedition Leader. Should you want some basic guidelines on tipping for the activities you do on your own, please see below. At the end of each trip if you felt your National Geographic Signature Expedition Leader did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline would be \$10-\$15 per person per day.

For meals and activities not included in your itinerary, it is appropriate in Asia to tip 10%. Though not compulsory, tipping is expected. 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 and shows an expression of satisfaction.

In addition, please note that tipping is not required or expected for the Expedition Expert.

## What activities are optional on this trip?

- No optional activities

## 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 information pertaining to the country you are traveling to well before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit and hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as a full supply of any personal medical requirements. In Asia, you will not find the same drugs as you get at home. Please be aware that sometimes we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities. Also note that for legal reasons our Leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. 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 the Expedition 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 deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Expedition 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 and explore at your leisure. While your Expedition 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. 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 Expedition 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. [Read more about travel safety](#) for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

## What are the trip specific safety considerations?

Be aware that petty theft can be an issue in some Vietnamese towns and cities especially late at night. A common tactic is opportunists on motorbikes that drive by and snatch bags. Please always leave valuables and passports etc in your hotel, in safety boxes if available, and only carry with you enough cash to spend for the day. Bags should always be carried over the neck and not left to sit on your shoulder.

## 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 Expedition Leader have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they use prostitutes.

## Is travel insurance required for my trip?

Travel Insurance: 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 Expedition Leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy please bear in mind that all clients must have medical coverage and that we require a minimum coverage of USD 200,000 for repatriation and emergency rescue. 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?

When packing be aware that dress standards are conservative throughout Asia. To respect this and for your own comfort, we strongly recommend modest clothing. This means covering shoulders and no very short shorts. Loose, lightweight, long clothing is both respectful and cool in the predominantly hot Asian climate. Shorts should be knee-length.

## 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.

## 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 National Geographic Signature Specialist 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.