

Vietnam: Hanoi, Halong Bay & Trekking Pu Luong - AVHG

11 days: Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City

What's Included

- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group
- Your Foodie Moment: Hoi An Cooking Class, Hoi An
- Your OMG Day: Guided Tour of My Son Ruins or Old Town Mangrove Kayaking, Hoi An
- Complimentary Arrival Transfer
- Welcome Dinner
- Ha Long Bay Junk boat overnight cruise with seafood lunch and dinner
- Lady Motorbike Tour of Hanoi
- Hanoi Cyclo Tour
- Hanoi Foodie Walking Tour
- Ha Long Bay Cave Kayaking
- Bamboo Rafting & Lunch Barbecue Experience
- Trek Near Pu Luong among the rice terraces
- Hoi An Walking Tour
- Ho Chi Minh City Cyclo Tour
- Ho Chi Minh City Sunset Cruise
- Cycling Tour With Visit to Cu Chi Tunnels
- Farewell Dinner
- Internal flights
- All tips included for activities and meals, except for CEO and portorage
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

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 September 18th, 2023 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: A Sweet Welcome

From the organized chaos of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City to the soothing lush green terraces of Pu Luong, Vietnam pushes you to let go, step out of your comfort zone, and reconnect with your inner explorer. Vietnam can feel unfamiliar and familiar all at once. Try foods you have never even heard of before while being greeted with smiling hosts who feel like familiar friends. Welcome to Hanoi, and to Vietnam, and we invite you to dive in, push your limits, and refill your cup.

After an informative welcome briefing, join your CEO for a multi-course Vietnamese feast. Try sizzling ginger chicken and fresh mango salad. Sip the unexpected with a complimentary egg coffee made right at your table.

Arrival Transfer - Hanoi

Hanoi 1h 30km

Enjoy an included arrival transfer from the airport to your Welcome Meeting spot at the joining hotel in Hanoi.

Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. 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.

Meals included: Dinner

Accommodation

Bespoke Trendy Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

Day 2 Hanoi: Highlights of Hanoi

It wouldn't be a trip to Vietnam without hopping on the back of a motorbike. Your drivers and guides this morning are all women from a local organization dedicated to empowering women through employment as motorbike drivers in the tourism sector. These women will guide you through the city-stopping the motorbike to allow for exploration of all the must see stops. Walk around the perimeter of the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and visit Ba Dinh Square and One Pillar Pagoda. Explore Huu Tiep Lake and Tran Quoc Pagoda. After working up an appetite, return to the Old Quarter for a huge bowl of Pho at a local restaurant. Slurping is highly encouraged.

Later this afternoon, dive straight into a foodie walking tour of Hanoi. Dig into some of the best Bun Cha you've ever had and end the afternoon at Bia Hoi corner just in time to do some people watching with a cold drink in hand.

Lady Motorbike Tour

Hanoi3h

A once-in-a-lifetime motorbike ride throughout Hanoi Old Quarter and the outskirts of the city to explore all aspects of Hanoi, not only the bustling city, but also the peaceful side. Visit landmarks like the outside of the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, Ba Dinh Square, One Pillar Pagoda, Huu Tiep Lake, and Hoa Lo Prison.

Hanoi Cyclo Tour

Hanoi

Take a seat on a cyclo for a tour of Hanoi's lively Old Quarter. Let the driver navigate through the bustling streets and start taking some photos or just use the tour to help get familiar with the area.

Hanoi Foodie Culture Tour

Hanoi2h30m Evening 1-2km

Indulge your inner foodie with a street food tour through bustling Hanoi. Follow your guide through the back streets and markets of the city's old quarter, sampling local fare along the way. Observe rush hour, mingle with city natives and experienced street food artists alike, as you taste a variety of Hanoi faves like "nem ran" and "banh goi." Stop at a streetside bar to savour a Bia Hoi like Hanoians do.

Private Vehicle

Hanoi15m-45m6km

Sit back and relax taking in the scenery as you transfer from the hotel to various included activities.

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Accommodation

Bespoke Trendy Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

Day 3 Ha Long Bay: Junk boats & Cave Kayaking

Standing as a symbol of centuries worth of discoveries by sea, the junk boat was first created in 3000 B.C. and throughout time the ship has been used by explorers and merchants alike. Now is your chance to spend a night aboard, embracing your inner explorer. (Albeit with way comfier pillows.) Glide through the steely waters in Halong Bay past limestone karst mountains and lush green islands and paddle a kayak through thousand year old caves.

Step on board our private boat and dig into a thoughtfully catered Vietnamese lunch. Sample local delights like pumpkin soup, fried chicken and Halong steamed tiger prawn. Get in the water with a guided kayaking adventure to explore the natural scenery of the incredible caves within Ha Long Bay. Look out for fossilized shells of oysters and crabs-prove that life existed here millions of years ago. Join your hosts to help prepare springs rolls, or sit back with a well earned glass of local beer. Dinner is plentiful this evening-and served on board.

Pack a small overnight bag with everything you need for tonight and tomorrow morning in Ha Long Bay. Your big suitcase will be stored in a safe place and you will not have access to it after you board the boat until you disembark the next day.

Hạ Long Bay Overnight Cruise

Hạ Long Bay24h

Spend the day aboard a traditional junk boat. Cruise slowly on the calm bay on this comfortable craft, soaking in the magnificent karst scenery. Relax on deck and catch some rays or stay inside – you'll still be able to enjoy the scenery through the windows.

During the cruise, feast on local seafood, visit one of the massive cave systems in kayaks, and participate in a cooking class on the boat.

The next day, continue to cruise through the limestone karsts in the morning before disembarking after breakfast.

Ha Long Bay Cave Kayaking

Ha Long Bay 45m-1h 1-2km

Embark on a guided kayaking adventure through the incredible karst formation caves to explore the natural scenery of beautiful Ha Long Bay.

Private Vehicle

Hanoi - Ha Long Bay 2h30m 155km

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

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Accommodation

Renea Cruise (or similar)

Junk Boat

Day 4 Pu Luong: Rice Terraces of Vietnam

Tropical rainforest covers the low mountains that surround Pu Luong-with rice terraces as far as the eye can see. Villages dotted throughout the valley are like splashes of colour against a bright green painting. Trekking along the terraces, throughout villages, brings you face to face with day to day life in this picturesque corner of northern Vietnam.

Spend the morning in Halong Bay, enjoying a leisurely breakfast on board. Disembark and make your way to Pu Luong, situated west of Hanoi. Dinner will be familiar favourites - beans, bamboo shoots, and farm raised pork-and some local delicacies like mountain snails dipped in fish sauce.

Free Time

Chieng Lau Village Evening

After arriving at Pu Luong Hotel you will be able to spend free time exploring the grounds or getting settled in your new relaxing surroundings.

Private Vehicle

Ha Long Bay - Chieng Lau Village 6h30m-7h30m 310km

Travel to your featured stay accommodation in Pu Luong with a stop for lunch at a local restaurant.

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Accommodation

Puluong Retreat (or similar)

Resort

Puluong Retreat is located in Pu Luong, just west of Hanoi, situated among the terraced rice paddies. Valleys of deep green spread out for miles. The bungalows offer sweeping views over the terraces and large spacious rooms made with local materials.

Day 5 Pu Luong: Trekking and Riverway Exploration

The village of Pu Luong lies just west of Hanoi, but feels a million miles away. Step out of your wooden bungalow to a vast landscape of green. Start the day with a rich coffee and fuel up for a morning trekking among the rice paddies. Pass by local villages and wave hello to local people as they move about their daily routines. Walk to Ban Cong and dig into a BBQ picnic lunch prepared for you by local chefs just along the riverbank.

Trekking through the rice paddies, you will certainly work up an appetite. Your local chef prepares dishes like barbecue Pork Belly with local Mac Khen seeds and stir-fried morning glory with garlic. While they whip up this delicious feast, participate in a spring roll making activity with your hosts and CEO. It's harder than it looks, but in our view: all spring rolls are good spring rolls.

Bamboo Rafting & Lunch Experience

Chieng Lau Village 2h30m

After the trek transfer a half hour to the bamboo rafting meeting point. From here you will walk 1.2km to Ban Cong Village to attend an immersive cooking demonstration and local BBQ with your generous hosts along the bank of a peaceful river. Board the raft after lunch for a 45 minute float on the river amid the serene landscape. A private vehicle will be waiting to take you back to the hotel upon exiting the raft.

Trek Near Pu Luong

Chieng Lau Village 2h15m-2h30m 3-5km

Start the morning with a quick ten minute transfer to the beginning of the trek. Stroll through symmetrical rice paddies stopping to visit local families along the way.

Total distance: 3-5km

Duration: 2-2.5 hours

Free Time

Chieng Lau Village

You will have free time this evening to enjoy more of the hotel amenities and peaceful grounds.

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch

Accommodation

Puluong Retreat (or similar)

Resort

Puluong Retreat is located in Pu Luong, just west of Hanoi, situated among the terraced rice paddies. Valleys of deep green spread out for miles. The bungalows offer sweeping views over the terraces and large spacious rooms made with local materials.

Day 6 Hoi An: A Peaceful Meeting Place

Hoi An roughly translates to "a peaceful meeting place" and we promise it lives up to its name.

Admittedly, it's hard to get more peaceful than the rice terraces of Pu Luong, but Hoi An offers a contrast to its northern neighbour. Where Pu Luong boasts serenity and calm, Hoi An offers conviviality and vibrancy. Explore this meeting place with a cooking class led by a local chef preparing a three course meal.

One final sip of coffee and a deep breath of jungle air and it's time to bid farewell to Pu Luong. Return to Hanoi to catch a flight to Da Nang. Arriving in Hoi An in the late afternoon, there is no better way to get acquainted than to set out on foot to reach your cooking class and evening meal.

Your Foodie Moment: Hoi An Cooking Class

1km

Participate in a cooking class in Hoi An. Walk as a group the 1km to the Green Mango restaurant and learn how to cook five traditional dishes before enjoying your creations for dinner.

Plane

Hanoi - Da Nang 1h30m

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

Private Vehicle

Chieng Lau Village - Hanoi 4h30m 178km

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

Private Vehicle

Da Nang - Hoi An 45m-1h28km

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

Meals included: Breakfast | Dinner

Accommodation

Little Riverside Hoi An (or similar)

Hotel

Day 7 Hoi An: Highlights of the Old Town

Discover the highlights of Hoi An with your CEO on an informative walking tour. Visit the Ong Pagoda, Chua Cau (Japanese Covered Bridge), and the local market. You're getting to know a lot about Hoi An-but what about the claim that its home to the best banh mi in Vietnam? Your CEO will offer to show you to the best place in town (but no guarantees you won't acquire a serious banh mi craving from here on out).

The remainder of the afternoon will involve some time at leisure. Your CEO will lead an excursion to a local beach. For the adventure-seekers, we recommend a Jeep tour through the countryside. Learn about the agricultural practices of local farmers by visiting their crops and livestock. Witness how traditional occupations have changed through time from weaving to rice-wine making, to newer industries like bird's nest farming and aquaculture. Interact with friendly locals, spark conversations, and leave feeling a genuine connection to this place and the people you are meeting along the way.

Hoi An Old Town Walking Tour

Hoi An 2h-3h

Embark on a captivating half-day CEO lead walking tour of Hoi An's ancient town. Stroll through the narrow winding streets, exploring its rich history and visiting significant landmarks such as ancient

houses, the Cantonese merchant house, Ong Pagoda, the Japanese covered bridge, and the local market. The entrance fee for the old city is included.

Free Time

Hoi An

Spend the remainder of the day at leisure. Join your CEO on a visit to a nearby local beach or if you are craving more adventure, join a guided jeep tour in Hoi An, travelling through rural landscapes and local communities. If you want to kick back, choose a massage and a dip in the pool.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation

Little Riverside Hoi An (or similar)

Hotel

Day 8 Hoi An: Your OMG Day

Hoi An is a must visit on any Vietnam itinerary because you can do it all here. From ancient ruins and fascinating architecture, to delicious food and active adventures-there is a dizzying array of things to see and do. You get to choose today between two curated choices. Embark on a kayaking adventure that takes you from the Cua Dai bridge down to a fishing village and beyond. If you would rather explore the ruins of My Son, join a local guide for comprehensive exploration of various complexes of the site, before returning to Hoi An by boat.

Both of your OMG Day options return to Hoi An in time for some leisure time in the afternoon. Take a dip in the pool or book another activity to complete your customized day.

Free Time

Hoi An Half Day

The remainder of the afternoon and evening will be free to enjoy more of Hoi An.

Your OMG Day: Guided Tour of My Son Ruins or Old Town Mangrove Kayaking

Option 1: See My Son Ruins on a guided tour. Listen as your guide gives a comprehensive explanation and historical lesson on My Son. This in-depth tour aims to provide you with a profound understanding of Cham history, the Cham people, Cham culture, and the Cham Kingdom. After moving through the temple complexes the group will board a covered boat for a 40-minute boat ride with a stop at Kim Bong Carpentry Village.

Option 2: Grab those paddles for a guided kayaking tour of the old town through the mangroves. Start with a comprehensive safety briefing before kayaking towards Cua Dai bridge in the early morning. Then, paddle to a local fishing village for a visit where local breakfast and coffee will be served. On the return, travel through a serene coco-palm mangrove.

Meals included: Breakfast

Accommodation

Little Riverside Hoi An (or similar)

Hotel

Day 9 Ho Chi Minh City: Cyclo Rides and Sunset Cruising

Ho Chi Minh City is Vietnam's most populated city with just around 9 million people calling it their home. For every 6 people, 1 motorbike enters the city on a daily basis. This organized chaos is a recognizable feature of many Vietnamese cities and learning to navigate the chaos is all part of the adventure. When you arrive in the afternoon, hop onto a pedaling cyclo to get a bit above the motorbike fray and tour the city with your knowledgeable guide. A sunset boat ride is peaceful way to end the day in the big city.

Board a flight from Da Nang, near Hoi An, bound for Ho Chi Minh City. After a delicious Pho lunch, begin the afternoon of adventure featuring a cyclo tour of the city. Wrap up the day with a relaxing sunset cruise.

Plane

Da Nang - Ho Chi Minh City 1h30m-2h

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

Private Vehicle

Hoi An - Da Nang 45m-1h29km

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

Ho Chi Minh City Sunset Private Cruise

Ho Chi Minh City 1h30m

This evening board a private sunset cruise to see Ho Chi Minh City from the water. Snacks and a refreshing drink will be available as you cruise along soaking in the scenic views.

Ho Chi Minh City Cyclo Tour

Ho Chi Minh City 1h30m-2h

Take a city tour on a cyclo (cycle rickshaw) – a great way to absorb the sights, sounds, and smells of Ho Chi Minh City. On this 2-hour experience you will visit the Independence Palace and War Remnant Museum while your knowledgeable guide offers insightful commentary along the ride.

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch

Accommodation

Continental Saigon Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

Day 10 Ho Chi Minh City: Cycle to the Cu Chi Tunnels

The Cu Chi Tunnels remain a testament to the enduring spirit of the Vietnamese people and their ingenuity in the face of unthinkable wartime tragedies. The tunnels may be your destination today, but the journey to get you off the beaten track to discover more of Vietnam. Hop on a bicycle and pedal your way through the countryside en route to the Cu Chi Tunnels.

Pass through local villages and stop at a local market to sample local produce. Visit the Phu Hoa Dong traditional rice paper village and witness the age-old craftsmanship and traditions that have withstood the test of time. Your cycling adventure comes to an end once you arrive at the tunnels—where your guided tour begins. Venture into the depths of history with a visit to Ben Dinh Tunnel, one of the remarkable sections of the Cu Chi Tunnels network. Learn how the tunnels were used for strategy and for survival. When you return to Ho Chi Minh City, it's time to freshen up and prepare for a final farewell dinner with your CEO and fellow travellers.

Private Vehicle

Ho Chi Minh City 1h15m-2h30m 28km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle while you transfer from the hotel to the beginning of the cyclo tour and the end of the cyclo tour back to the hotel.

Cycling Tour With Visit to Cu Chi Tunnels

Ho Chi Minh City 6h30m-7h30m

After a safety briefing the group will set off on a full-day cycling tour with an included visit to Cu Chi Tunnels. Pedal through fruit gardens along the winding Saigon River and admire the lush green landscape. Dive into the rich heritage of Vietnam at Phu Hoa Dong Traditional Rice Paper Village before searching for travel mementos at the local market. Continue onwards through the rustling leaves of a rubber plantation before venturing into the Ben Dinh Tunnel—one of the sections of the Cu Chi Tunnels network.

Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Accommodation

Continental Saigon Hotel (or similar)

Hotel

Day 11 Ho Chi Minh City

Your adventure comes to end, and you can depart at any time.

Departure Day

Not ready to leave? Your CEO can help with any onward travel arrangements you require.

Meals included: Breakfast

What's Included

Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your CEO and Group

Your Foodie Moment: Hoi An Cooking Class, Hoi An

Your OMG Day: Guided Tour of My Son Ruins or Old Town Mangrove Kayaking, Hoi An. Complimentary Arrival Transfer. Welcome Dinner. Ha Long Bay Junk boat overnight cruise with seafood lunch and dinner. Lady Motorbike Tour of Hanoi. Hanoi Cyclo Tour. Hanoi Foodie Walking Tour. Ha Long Bay Cave Kayaking. Bamboo Rafting & Lunch Barbecue Experience. Trek Near Pu Luong among the rice terraces. Hoi An Walking Tour. Ho Chi Minh City Cyclo Tour. Ho Chi Minh City Sunset Cruise. Cycling Tour With Visit to Cu Chi Tunnels. Farewell Dinner. Internal flights. All tips included for activities and meals, except for CEO and portage. All transport between destinations and to/from included activities.

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Motorbike Tour of Hanoi, Overnight Junkboat in Halong Bay, Trekking the Rice Terraces of Pu Luong, Cooking class in Hoi An, Sunset Cruise in Ho Chi Minh City, Cycle to and tour of Cu Chi Tunnels.

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

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 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 an 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.

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

1. COMBO TRIP

Please note that this tour combines with other G Adventures tours. As such, the CEO and some travel companions on your tour may have previously been travelling together with G Adventures, prior to Day 1 of your tour. Likewise, some staff and travel companions may be continuing together on another G Adventures tour after your trip concludes.

2. LUGGAGE

There may be a weight restriction on luggage 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 G Adventures group trips are accompanied by one of our Chief Experience Officers (CEO). The aim of the CEO 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

What meals are included in this trip?

10 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 6 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 CEO 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, Junk boat, plane, walking, motorbike, cyclo.

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 solo 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 solo travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

Where will we stay during the trip?

Hotels (9nts), Junk Boat Ha Long Bay (1nt).

Will I get my own room?

Please note that if you have booked the "My Own Room" option for this tour, you will receive your own single room for all night stops

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 G Adventures 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 G Adventures 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 CEO. This note will give the details of your Welcome Meeting on day 1 (usually between 5pm and 7pm), where you will get a chance to meet your CEO 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!

If you are arriving later and will miss the Welcome Meeting, your CEO will leave a note at reception for you with any information you may need, and with morning instructions for the next day.

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 CEO (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. 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.

If you are experiencing complications with your airport transfer that was booked through G Adventures, please call +84 88 844 9969.

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

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: 1 888 800 4100
Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000
Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000
Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618
Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307
Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

What should I take on my trip?

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 under the beds when travelling on sleeper 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)

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 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.

How much spending money do I need for my trip?

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 Southeast Asia do fluctuate, we ask that you refer to the following website for the most up to date daily exchange rates: 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. Travellers cheques can be tricky, timely and expensive to exchange. While we do not recommend that you bring them as your primary source of funds, it is great to have one or two cheques in case of emergency. Thomas Cook or American Express travellers' cheques in US currency are the easiest to exchange. Cash advances can also be made with some banks but are time consuming and tend to have high fees attached. 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 \$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?

On the Geluxe Collection tours, tipping is included for all included activities and meals. Tipping is not included for the CEO or Porterage. 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 G Adventures CEO did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline \$10-15 USD per person, per day can be used.

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.

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 travel information well before departure. We recommend that you carry a small 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 CEO 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 Chief Experience Officer (CEO) 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 CEO 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 CEOs 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?

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.

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 people in the sex trade is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they utilize the services of paid sex workers, in any capacity.

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 evacuation and repatriation. A minimum coverage of USD200,000 is required. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some tours include adventure activities that require extra coverage (e.g. crampon use); please review your itinerary and make sure that you are covered for all included activities. 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. In Pakistan we recommend a head scarf for women while walking around.

How can I share feedback about my trip experience?

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that we'll give you 5% off the price of your next G Adventures trip if your feedback is completed on-line within 30 days of finishing your trip. Your tour evaluation will be e-mailed to you 24 hours after the conclusion of your trip. If you do not receive the tour evaluation link in the days after your tour has finished, please drop us a line at customersolutions@gadventures.com and we will send it on to you.

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/newsletters/

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.

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.