



Central to Northern Vietnam

Moderate Hiking Walking

12 Days / 11 Nights



From ~ \$2,150 per person

Feb 10-23, 2027

Custom trips available upon request

When Is Best Time to Go?



Feb-Apr

Cool & dry,
great visibility



Sep-Nov

Pleasant weather,
waterfalls &
green landscapes

Your Journey at a Glance

From lantern-lit Hoi An and imperial Hue to the world's most spectacular caves, then off the beaten path through mountains, lakes, and waterfalls in the North.

Four signature hikes, authentic local experiences, and two days in Ninh Binh to complete the journey.



Hoi An



Hang Tiên Cave



Hà Giang



Bản Giốc Waterfall

Trip Highlights



Hang Tiên Cave Day Trek



4 Signature Hikes
(choose 2 on plateau)



Off-the-beaten-path loop:
Hà Giang - Bảo Lạc - Cao Bằng



Scenic drives & authentic
local experiences



2 days in Ninh Binh
to complete the journey

Why Travel With Us?

- ✓ Small groups and customized private trips
- ✓ Expert local guides
- ✓ Flexible weather planning
- ✓ Meaningful cultural experiences
- ✓ Support 24/7
- ✓ Responsible & sustainable travel

Let's hike Vietnam!

NORTHERN LOOP HIGHLIGHTS (DAYS 5-10)

- ▲ Nậm Hổ - rice terraces & local life
- ▲ Hà Giang - dramatic karst landscapes
- ▲ Bảo Lạc - waterfalls & ethnic villages
- ▲ Cao Bằng / Trùng Khánh / Bản Giốc - local culture & markets
- ▲ Lâm Bình - lakes, villages & national park
- ▲ Tuyên Quang - history & local heritage
- ▲ Ninh Bình - scenic karst & boat rides

INCLUSIONS

- ✓ Private transfers & all transportation
- ✓ 11 nights accommodation + breakfast
- ✓ All entrance fees & activities
- ✓ Local English-speaking guides
- ✓ Bottled water & travel support 24/7

BEST TIME TO GO



Feb - Apr: cool & dry,
great visibility



Sep - Nov: pleasant weather,
waterfalls & green landscapes

Custom trips available upon request

START PLANNING

Custom trips available
upon request



Scan for details

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1 Arrive Danang



Short drives in the area, less than 1-2 hours up to 5-6 hours walking/sightseeing, depending on the group
Settle in, then choose one based on arrival time and energy: Ba Na Hills (Golden Bridge/Giant Hands), My Son Sanctuary Marble Mountains. Evening in Hoi An.
MEALS: Welcome Lunch

DAY 2 Danang to Hue



2-2.5 hours driving, then up to 3-4 hours walking/sightseeing - optional leisurely pace, or up to 5-6 hours if the group prefers
Thive Mu Pagoda on the Perfumery City, Titbits (Rau Quế, Thịt Chua),
MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3 Hue to Phong Nha & Quang Binh



~3 hours driving, then up to 2 hours hiking - optional leisurely pace, or up to 5-6 hours if the group prefers
Paradise Cave, lunch, then Phong Nha Cave river-boat trip (~1.5h-3.15pm). First of two nights in Phong Nha / Dong Hoi.
MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4 Phong Nha: Hang Tiên Cave Day Trek



~1-1.5 hours transfer, then 6-7 hours hiking
Full-day trek to Hang Tiên, the biggest dry cave in Tu Lan system. Natural forest pool, return to Phong Nha.
MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch (trek)

DAYS 5-10

Northern Loop: Nậm Hổ - Hà Giang - Bảo Lạc - Cao Bằng

Epic mountain loop with four possible hikes.
Two nights in Hà Giang or Bảo Lạc.

Choose 2 of the 4 signature hikes on the plateau (weather-dependent; see guide inside).

MEALS: Daily breakfast, lunches, some dinners

DAYS 11-12

Ninh Binh

Scenic karst landscapes, boat rides, caves, and temples.

Relax and enjoy two nights in Ninh Binh to complete the journey.

MEALS: Daily breakfast



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lifetime memory
in Vietnam! ❤️



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VN 12 Days Revised

Danang / Hoi An · Hue · Quang Binh (two caves + Hang Tien trek) · Hanoi · Tuyen Quang · Lam Binh · Nam Hong (Hoang Su Phi) · Dong Van · Ma Pi Leng · Meo Vac · Bao Lac · Trung Khanh · Cao Bang · Hanoi · Ninh Binh · Hanoi (departure)

12 days / 11 nights · Feb 10-23, 2027

From ~\$2,150 per person

Overview

This 12-day route combines Central Vietnam's heritage and caves with an updated, less-rushed Northern Vietnam mountain journey. Days 1-4 cover Danang/Hoi An, Hue, Paradise Cave and Phong Nha Cave, followed by the full-day Hang Tien Cave trek. Days 5-12 continue from Hanoi through Tuyen Quang, Lam Binh, Nam Hong/Hoang Su Phi, the Dong Van Karst Plateau and Ma Pi Leng, Meo Vac, Bao Lac, Trung Khanh, Cao Bang, Hanoi, and Ninh Binh.

This classic route to Dong Van/Meo Vac instead of a Ha Giang city stop, not including Du Gia.

Best fit for: travelers who especially enjoy hiking, walking, scenery, photography, local villages, and less-touristy places, while still keeping comfortable overnight stops and realistic driving days.

Trip Highlights

Golden Bridge + Hoi An	Dong Van + Ma Pi Leng
Hue Imperial City & royal heritage	Khau Coc Cha viewpoint
Paradise Cave + Phong Nha Cave	Phong Nam Valley
Hang Tien Cave full-day trek	Ban Gioc Waterfall
Lam Binh village/valley walking	Angel Eye Mountain
Nam Hong / Red Dao mountain scenery	Trang An + Hang Mua, Ninh Binh

Price (Double Occupancy)

Per Person, Double Occ.	Single Supplement	Group Discount
~\$2,150-\$2,350	+\$425	5% off, groups > 6

Final pricing depends on post-Tet/holiday surcharges for accommodations, restaurants, and transportation availability. Confirm live pricing closer to your dates.

Included / Not Included

Included

- Private car/driver transportation throughout the itinerary
- Accommodation, double occupancy, as listed in Lodging Options
- Daily breakfast and meals specifically listed in the itinerary
- Entrance fees to core listed attractions and sightseeing
- The Hang Tien Cave Day Trek (Oxalis transfers, guide/safety team, gear, trek lunch)
- Domestic flight, Dong Hoi → Hanoi (economy)
- English-speaking guide services and local hiking support where required
- Bottled water and travel support during the trip

Not Included

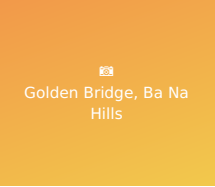
- International flights
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Tips/gratuities for guides and drivers
- A tip for the trip organizer/planner (suggested)
- Optional comfort hotel upgrades (+\$75-\$100 per room/night typical)
- Alcoholic beverages and drinks outside included meals
- Personal expenses, spa, laundry, and souvenirs
- Visa fees
- Meals not specifically listed as included
- Optional/add-on activities listed under Include if Time Permits

Tips & gratitude. A tip of **5-10% of the total trip cost** to the trip organizer/planner is suggested (for work behind the scenes). It's also customary in Vietnam to tip local guides and drivers directly, in cash, at the end of each service — a rough guide is **~\$8-12/day per traveler** for an English-speaking guide and **~\$5-8/day per traveler** for a driver, split among the group; the Hang Tien and Angel Eye Mountain guides are typically tipped separately, ~\$5-10/person per activity.

Day-by-Day Itinerary

DAY 1

Arrive Danang



Golden Bridge, Ba Na Hills

 Short local drives — up to 5-6 hours walking/sightseeing across three stops

Golden Bridge · My Son · Hoi An

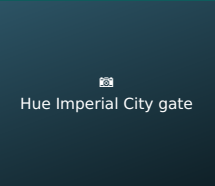
Arrive Danang ~11:00am; airport pickup and lunch. Visit Ba Na Hills/Golden Bridge, My Son Sanctuary (UNESCO Cham ruins), and Hoi An Ancient Town for the lantern-lit evening. This is the most ambitious sightseeing day on the trip — the order adjusts to actual flight arrival, traffic, and attraction hours.

Walking: ~3-4 mi / 4-5 hrs cumulative across all three stops. No extra guide fee — covered by the trip guide.

MEALS: Welcome Lunch

DAY 2

Danang / Hoi An to Hue



Hue Imperial City gate

 ~2.5 hours driving, then up to 3-4 hours walking/sightseeing

Hai Van Pass · Imperial City

Drive via the scenic Hai Van Pass, with flexible photography stops. Visit Hue Imperial City, Thien Mu Pagoda, and selected royal tombs (Khai Dinh, Tu Duc).

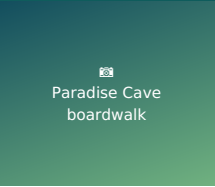
Driving: ~2.5h — under the 3-4h break threshold, no stop needed.

Walking: ~3-4 mi / 3-4 hrs cumulative across the Imperial City, Thien Mu Pagoda, and tombs.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 3

Hue to Quang Binh / Phong Nha



Paradise Cave boardwalk

 ~3 hours driving, then up to 2 hours walking/hiking

Paradise Cave · Phong Nha Cave

Depart Hue ~7:00am, private car to Phong Nha (~3h) with a rest/coffee stop en route. Paradise Cave, then lunch, then the Phong Nha Cave river-boat trip. First of two nights in Phong Nha.

Driving: Hue→Phong Nha ~3h — rest/coffee stop near Dong Ha (~1.5h in).

Hiking: Paradise Cave ~1.5-2 mi / ~1.5h, including steps and boardwalk, self-guided.

Walking: Phong Nha Cave river-boat trip includes a short walking section, ~20 min.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 4

Phong Nha: Hang Tien Cave Day Trek



Hang Tien cave mouth, Tu Lan

 ~1-1.5 hours transfer, then 6-7 hours hiking

Tu Lan System · Oxalis

Full-day specialist cave trek: hotel pickup, transfer to Tan Hoa, jungle and valley trekking to Hang Tien, lunch during the trek, return in the evening. Anyone sitting it out gets an easy Phong Nha day instead (see Include/Time-Permitting notes). Second night in Phong Nha.

Hiking: ~10-12 km (6-7 mi), genuinely demanding jungle/valley terrain. Oxalis guide team, safety equipment, gear, and trek lunch included.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch (trek)

DAY 5

Phong Nha to Hanoi to Tuyen Quang



Hoan Kiem Lake, Hanoi Old Quarter

 ~1h05 flight + ~2.5-3 hours driving, then up to 1.5-2 hours walking/sightseeing

Old Quarter · Hoan Kiem

Transfer to Dong Hoi Airport for the mid-morning flight to Hanoi. Brief stop in central Hanoi: a walk through the Old Quarter and around Hoan Kiem Lake, followed by lunch. Depart Hanoi early afternoon, private car to Tuyen Quang (~2.5-3h). Overnight in Tuyen Quang.

Flying: Dong Hoi→Hanoi ~1h05, mid-morning departure.

Walking: Old Quarter + Hoan Kiem Lake, ~1.5-2 mi / ~1.5 hrs.

Driving: Hanoi→Tuyen Quang ~2.5-3h — under the break threshold.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 6

Tuyen Quang to Lam Binh to Nam Hong

Lam Binh valley walking ~4-5 hours driving, then ~2-2.5 hours walking **Village Walking · Red Dao Region**

Depart Tuyen Quang ~6:00-6:30am. Lam Binh / Thuong Lam: ~2-2.5 hours of village-valley-viewpoint walking, no boat required. Early lunch, depart Lam Binh around noon, continue by mountain road toward Nam Hong / Thong Nguyen — the Hoang Su Phi Red Dao region. Target arrival before dark; optional Red Dao herbal bath in the evening. Overnight in Nam Hong.

Driving: Tuyen Quang→Lam Binh ~2.5h, then Lam Binh→Nam Hong ~2-2.5h more, timed to finish walking by late morning so the group reaches Nam Hong before dark.

Walking: Lam Binh / Thuong Lam village-valley-viewpoint trail, ~2-3 mi / ~2-2.5 hrs, self-guided — no boat, no extra fee.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 7

Nam Hong to Dong Van to Ma Pi Leng to Meo Vac

Ma Pi Leng Pass, Dong Van Plateau ~5-6 hours driving, then up to 1-1.5 hours walking (weather dependent) **Karst Plateau · Mountain Villages**

Optional 45-60 minute early-morning Nam Hong village/terrace walk. Continue toward the Dong Van Karst Plateau, keeping roadside stops selective for an unrushed day. Prioritize Dong Van and Ma Pi Leng: in clear weather, allow ~1-1.5 hours for viewpoints, photography, and a short walk; in fog or poor visibility, shorten the Ma Pi Leng stop and continue to Meo Vac earlier rather than waiting it out. Overnight in Meo Vac.

Walking (optional): Nam Hong village/terrace walk, ~1-1.5 mi / ~45-60 min, self-guided.

Walking (weather-dependent): Ma Pi Leng Pass viewpoints, ~1 mi / ~1-1.5 hrs in clear weather, shortened in fog. Self-guided — no extra fee.

Driving: ~5-6h across Dong Van, Ma Pi Leng, and on to Meo Vac.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 8

Meo Vac to Bao Lac to Khau Coc Cha to Trung Khanh

Khau Coc Cha switchbacks ~5-6 hours driving, then up to 30-60 minutes walking (weather dependent) **Scenic Mountain Transfer**

Depart Meo Vac ~7:00-7:30am; drive through Bao Lac with a rest/coffee or early lunch stop. Khau Coc Cha: if visibility is good, allow ~30-60 minutes for viewpoint walking and photography over its 14-15 switchbacks; skip it in fog, since there's nothing to see. Continue to Trung Khanh, prioritizing arriving safely before dark. Overnight in Trung Khanh.

Driving: Meo Vac→Bao Lac→Trung Khanh ~5-6h — stop ~3h in at Bao Lac for a 30-45 min break.

Walking (weather-dependent): Khau Coc Cha viewpoint trail, ~0.6-0.7 mi / ~30-60 min. Self-guided — no extra fee, skipped entirely in poor visibility.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 9

Phong Nam to Ban Gioc to Angel Eye Mountain to Cao Bang

Ban Gioc Waterfall ~4-5 hours local driving, then up to 4-5.5 hours walking (weather dependent) **Cao Bang Scenic Day**

Early start from Trung Khanh, especially in clear weather. Phong Nam: ~1.5-2 hours of valley/village walking and photography in clear/dry weather, shortened in fog or rain. Ban Gioc Waterfall: ~1-1.5 hours for walking, viewpoints, and photography. After lunch, continue to Angel Eye Mountain (Nui Mat Than) for ~1.5-2 hours of scenic walking and photography when conditions permit. Continue to Cao Bang City for a comfortable evening. Overnight in Cao Bang.

Walking (weather-dependent): Phong Nam Valley ~2-3 mi / ~1.5-2 hrs in good weather, shortened in fog/rain. Self-guided — no extra fee.

Walking: Ban Gioc Waterfall viewpoints, ~1-1.5 mi / ~1-1.5 hrs, self-guided.

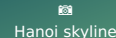
Walking (weather-dependent): Angel Eye Mountain, ~2-3 mi / ~1.5-2 hrs when conditions permit. Local guide recommended, ~\$20-30/group — over the 1/2-mile guide threshold.

Driving: Trung Khanh→Phong Nam→Ban Gioc→Angel Eye→Cao Bang, ~4-5h local driving across the day.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 10

Cao Bang to Hanoi

Hanoi skyline

🕒 ~7-8 hours driving, with rest and lunch stops

Transfer · Rest Day

Depart Cao Bang ~7:30-8:00am; comfortable private-car transfer to Hanoi with lunch and rest stops. Target afternoon arrival in Hanoi. After check-in, free time — if desired and timing permits, Temple of Literature, West Lake/Tran Quoc Pagoda, or the Ba Dinh area. This is a dedicated transfer/rest day: the Hanoi overnight here is what prevents an unnecessarily long same-day continuation to Ninh Binh. Overnight in Hanoi.

Driving: Cao Bang→Hanoi ~7-8h — stop ~3.5h in for a lunch/rest break.

MEALS: Breakfast

DAY 11

Hanoi to Ninh Binh

Hang Mua viewpoint, Trang An

🕒 ~2 hours driving, then up to 3.5-4.5 hours walking/boating

Hang Mua · Trang An

Depart Hanoi ~7:00-7:30am, drive to Ninh Binh / Tam Coc (~2h). Hang Mua viewpoint hike, including the stair climb and photography. After lunch, the Trang An boat trip. If time and energy allow, add a short Bich Dong Pagoda visit or countryside walk. Overnight in Ninh Binh.

Driving: Hanoi→Ninh Binh ~2h, under the break threshold.

Hiking: Hang Mua (Mua Cave) viewpoint, ~0.5-0.7 mi round trip / ~1-1.5 hrs including the 486-step climb. Self-guided ticketed climb — no additional guide fee.

Boating: Trang An boat trip, ~2.5-3 hrs, mostly seated.

MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 12

Ninh Binh to Hanoi — Departure

Bai Dinh Pagoda

🕒 Flexible morning walking/sightseeing, then ~2-2.5 hours driving

Bich Dong · Hoa Lu · Bai Dinh

Flexible morning: Bich Dong Pagoda, Hoa Lu Ancient Capital, Bai Dinh Pagoda, or a short countryside walk, depending on the onward flight schedule. Private transfer to Noi Bai Airport for a late-afternoon or evening departure.

Walking: flexible, ~0.5-1.5 mi / ~45 min-1.5 hrs depending on which stop(s) fit the schedule.

Driving: Ninh Binh→airport ~2-2.5h — under the 3-4h threshold.

MEALS: Breakfast, Farewell Lunch

All other meals are on your own — every stop on this route has abundant restaurant and street food options.

Include if Time Permits or Group Prefers

None of the following are in the core itinerary or price above:

1. Danang / Hoi An (Day 1)

- Marble Mountains, if flight arrival and attraction hours leave sufficient time

2. Hue to Quang Binh (Day 3)

- Our Lady of La Vang
- The Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone (V-DMZ) — the 17th parallel in Quang Tri province, only if timing remains comfortable

3. Phong Nha, for anyone not joining Hang Tien (Day 4)

- Nuoc Mooc Spring
- Botanic Garden
- An easy Phong Nha day

4. Hanoi (Day 5 or Day 10)

- Temple of Literature
- Tran Quoc Pagoda / West Lake
- One Pillar Pagoda
- Imperial Citadel of Thang Long
- Water puppet show

5. Northern mountain route (Days 6-9)

- Lo Lo Chai village, only if road/weather timing remains comfortable
- Pho Bang, the near-abandoned border town

6. Cao Bang (Day 9)

- Nguom Ngao Cave, if time and energy remain after Phong Nam, Ban Gioc, and Angel Eye Mountain

7. Ninh Binh (Days 11-12)

- Van Long Nature Reserve boat ride
- Cuc Phuong National Park, ~45 min west
- Whichever of Bich Dong/Hoa Lu/Bai Dinh doesn't fit Day 12's flight timing

Lodging Options

Stop	Hotel	Category
Danang (Night 1)	Golden Lotus Grand Da Nang	4-star
Hue (Night 2)	White Lotus Hue Hotel	4-star
Phong Nha (Nights 3-4)	Victory Road Villas OR Phong Nha Heritage By Night Hotel	Boutique villa / 3-4-star equivalent
Tuyen Quang (Night 5)	Bach Thao Ngan Hotel	Local 3-star equivalent
Nam Hong / Hoang Su Phi (Night 6)	Mong Ngua Hoang Su Phi - Nam Hong	Boutique homestay / local comfort
Meo Vac (Night 7)	Phuong Anh Hotel - Meo Vac	Local 3-star equivalent
Trung Khanh (Night 8)	Trung Khanh Hotel	Local 3-star equivalent
Cao Bang (Night 9)	Indigen Riverside Hotel	3-star boutique equivalent
Hanoi (Night 10)	HNC Premiere Hotel	4-star
Ninh Binh (Night 11)	Trang An Ecolodge OR Tam Coc Holiday Hotel	3-star / 3-star equivalent

Optional Comfort Upgrades

Stop	Upgrade	Category
Danang	Premium room/suite at Golden Lotus Grand Da Nang	4-star
Hue	Premium room/suite at White Lotus Hue Hotel	4-star
Phong Nha	Premium villa category at Victory Road Villas	4-star equivalent boutique luxury
Tuyen Quang	Muong Thanh Grand Tuyen Quang	4-star
Nam Hong / Hoang Su Phi	Panhou Retreat	4-star
Meo Vac / Pa Vi	Meo Vac Clay House - premium private room	3-star equivalent
Trung Khanh / Ban Gioc	Saigon - Ban Gioc Resort	4-star equivalent
Cao Bang	Max Boutique Hotel - premium room	4-star equivalent
Hanoi	Tirant Hotel Hanoi	4-star
Ninh Binh	Tam Coc Garden Resort	4-star

Typical additional cost: approximately +\$75-\$100 per room/night, depending on availability, room category, and post-Tet/holiday surcharges. Optional, not included in the base trip price.

Payment Schedule (Per Person)

Payment	Due Date	Amount	Refund Policy
Deposit	Now	\$300	Non-refundable
2nd Payment	1 week from now	30% of Trip Cost	Non-refundable
3rd Payment	Dec 15, 2026	50% of Trip Cost	Non-refundable
Final Payment (estimated)	Jan 15, 2027	Remaining balance	Non-refundable

Estimated payment breakdown (per person):

Trip Cost	2nd Payment (30%)	3rd Payment (50%)	Final Payment (est.)
~\$2,150-\$2,350	~\$660-\$705	~\$1,100-\$1,175	~\$140-\$170

Final Payment = Trip Cost – \$300 Deposit – 2nd Payment (30%) – 3rd Payment (50%). All payments are non-refundable once made; after January 15, 2027, the full Trip Cost is forfeited in the event of cancellation. A 5% group discount for groups larger than 6 may be applied before the payment schedule is calculated, if offered for the final booking.

This trip does not include travel insurance — travelers are strongly encouraged to purchase their own policy before departure.

Practical Notes

- Dates: Feb 10–23, 2027. Tet falls Feb 6, 2027; post-Tet demand can still affect hotels, restaurants, flights, and private transport through roughly Feb 18–20.
- Day 1 timing is ambitious with an ~11:00am Danang arrival. Golden Bridge, My Son, and Hoi An remain the intended program, but the exact order and time at each site must follow actual arrival time and operating hours.
- Hang Tien (Day 4) is a demanding 10–12 km / 6–7 mile jungle-and-valley trek. Book Oxalis well ahead and keep a non-trekking alternative ready for anyone sitting it out.
- Day 6 Lam Binh walking should finish by late morning so the group can reach Nam Hong before dark.
- Day 7 Ma Pi Leng and Day 8 Khau Coc Cha are visibility-dependent. In fog, shorten the stop rather than swapping in another long hike — there isn't a good substitute at that elevation.
- Day 9 is intentionally based from Trung Khanh and finishes in Cao Bang City, giving more time for Phong Nam, Ban Gioc, and Angel Eye Mountain without a long same-day transfer onward.
- Day 10 is a dedicated Cao Bang→Hanoi transfer/rest day; the Hanoi overnight here is what prevents an unnecessarily long continuation straight to Ninh Binh.
- Mountain roads can be slow and winding. Plan a meaningful rest/meal stop after roughly 3–4 hours of continuous driving, and avoid unnecessary night driving.
- Reconfirm road conditions, weather, and local guide availability about one week before the northern mountain section.
- This classic route to Dong Van/Meo Vac instead of a Ha Giang city stop, not including Du Gia.