



Gourmet Safaris Vietnam Tour – sample itinerary September – October 2009

Day 1: Sunday – SYDNEY - HANOI

Depart Sydney on 10.35am flight. Meet at the airport **2hours before departure**. **If travelling from interstate on the morning of departure please allow time to transfer from the domestic to international terminal**. Travel to Hanoi via HCMC. Arrive in Hanoi mid evening. Overnight at the five star **Sofitel Metropole** in Hanoi. If not too tired, first night Welcome Drinks in the chic “Raffles style” bar at the Sofitel or just fall into bed.

Day 2: Monday - HANOI – B, L, D

If you're interested, take an early morning walk around the nearby lake. Breakfast at hotel. Start with a morning tour of one of the local food markets followed by a cooking class at the hotel. Later in the afternoon take a walk in the old quarters with the guide and enjoy great shopping in the boutiques around St Josephs Cathedral. Dinner tonight will be at one of Hanoi's famous restaurants. Overnight at the **Sofitel Metropole Hotel**.

Day 3: Tuesday - HA LONG - HANOI - B, L

Breakfast at hotel. Early AM departure for the extraordinary World Heritage Site of Ha Long Bay and spend the day on the comfortable Huong Hai boat. Swim and enjoy a banquet seafood lunch. Return to Hanoi. Free evening. Optional dinner (**guide can suggest**) at local restaurant. Overnight at the **Sofitel Metropole Hotel**.

Day 4: Wednesday - HANOI – HOI AN – B, L, D

Breakfast at hotel. Check out. Time today to visit the ancient Temple of Literature, set in a beautiful green oasis with ponds and gardens. Visit KOTO and have lunch and then the afternoon is free for shopping or more exploring. Transfer to airport for flight to Danang at 1845. Transfer to Hoi An and check into **Life Resort**.

Day 5: Thursday - HOI AN - B, L, D

Breakfast at the hotel. Meet the legendary Ms Vy for morning market tour. Followed by hands on cooking class with Chef Vy including lunch. Visit silk factory. Free time for shopping and exploring. Dinner tonight in a local restaurant. Enjoy the pretty lanterns in the streets of the town (weather permitting). Overnight at **Life Resort**.

Day 6: Friday - HOI AN – B, L, D

Breakfast at the hotel. Free day for shopping, exploring, maybe take an historical tour or visit the beach. Dinner tonight at a local restaurant. Overnight at **Life Resort**.

Day 7: Saturday - HOI AN - HCMC – B, Late lunch

Breakfast at hotel. Free morning to shop or take hotel boat to beach area. Optional early morning fish market tour – highly recommended (**6.30am**). Late check out then board boat to sail down the river for relaxed meal at Red Bridge restaurant. Depart for airport for late afternoon flight to Ho Chi Minh. Check into the **Majestic Hotel**.

Day 8: Sunday - HCMC - LONG AN – B, L

Breakfast at hotel. Early morning departure for Tan An (30km south of HCMC - 1.5 - 2 hours) to Peter Nguyen's country home town of Vinh Cong in the township of Long An for a traditional country lunch. Visit the markets with Peter's extended family, stop for pho and then head off to visit a local rice paper factory. We then climb aboard traditional boats which will take us down the river to Peter's family village which is surrounded by vibrant green rice paddies, for a home-cooked lunch. In the late afternoon we have a wonderful “wind in your hair” experience, riding pillion along the rice paddies back to the bus and the return journey to HCMC. Evening free for relaxation. Overnight **Majestic Hotel**.

Day 9: Monday - HCMC – B, L, D

Breakfast at hotel. Mid morning we take you to a terrific and fun hands-on cooking class and lunch. In the afternoon we'll give you a good orientation of the city including the renowned Ben Thanh market and show you the best areas for elegant clothing, t-shirts, DVD's, CD's, bags, shoes and jewellery. Last night drinks at local bar (at guests expense) with sensational views high above HCMC followed by a last night dinner. Overnight **Majestic Hotel**.

Day 10: Tuesday - HCMC – B

Breakfast at hotel. Free day for shopping, packing and to pick up those last minute gifts and souvenirs. Early evening departure (**6pm**) for airport for late night flight to Sydney.

Day 11: Wednesday - Morning arrival in Sydney – 8.30am approx. (9.30am approx. if daylight savings)

The tour will include:

Return airfares with Vietnam airlines
9 nights **accommodation in 4½-5 star** hotels plus
Boat Cruise on Halong Bay
9 Breakfasts, 8 lunches, 4 dinners
2 internal flights

3 Cooking classes
Visit to local village for traditional country lunch
Experienced guides
Taxes, Visas, travel insurance and entry fees.
Please note this does not include gratuities
This tour is for both women and men

Costs:

With return airfares with Vietnam Airlines - **\$4850 twin share** / Land content only - \$3550 twin share. Single supplement - \$850

Terms and conditions

Deposit and Payment: A **non-refundable deposit** of \$450 per person is required on confirmation in order to secure your reservation. Final payment is due 60 days prior to departure date.

Special Requirements: Please advise Gourmet Safaris of any special requirements such as Special Meals, Medical Requirements etc., as soon as possible. If you get motion sickness it is imperative that you bring with you motion sickness pills as we travel by boat and coach through sometimes mountainous roads.

Travel Insurance: Travel Insurance is **compulsory** on all overseas Gourmet Safaris and is a condition of booking. (Travel insurance is included in the costs for this tour). You are strongly recommended to take out cancellation insurance at time of booking which will cover cancellation penalties in certain circumstances (note: such insurance will not cover a change of mind). Insurance should also cover cancellation fees payable for airline tickets, accommodation, loss of deposit, luggage etc. Normal travel insurance conditions apply. (Insurance may not cover trip cancellation due to pre-existing medical conditions). Please read your policy carefully. If organizing your own insurance the **insurance policy details will need to be provided before departure** of your trip. Failure to do so will mean exclusion from the trip. Please ensure you have your policy number and emergency telephone number for your insurance company with you during the tour.

Cancellation: If cancelling prior to final payment the deposit is non-refundable. After final payment is received a cancellation fee of approximately 75% applies. This percentage may be less depending on the date of cancellation. A cancellation fee of 100% is applicable within 14 days of travel. If cancellation is not due to pre-existing illnesses, travel insurance will cover most or all of the cancellation fee. Please read your policy carefully.

Pricing: All prices are shown in Australian dollars and are current at the date of printing this itinerary. If there is a dramatic fluctuation in the exchange rate or the price of services provided, which are beyond the control of Gourmet Safaris, Gourmet Safaris reserves the right to adjust tour prices accordingly, even though the balance of payment may have been made. This would only happen in unusual circumstances.

Exclusions: Excess baggage, extra meals, laundry, drinks, items of a personal nature and tips.

Itinerary Validity and Content: This itinerary is valid for the period of **2009** unless otherwise specified. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. Gourmet Safaris shall not be liable for any injury, damage or loss caused by any inaccuracy. Gourmet Safaris reserves the right to change tour arrangements or accommodations due to safety or security reasons, and will endeavour to provide alternative arrangements of the same standard as that originally booked.

Disclaimer: Gourmet Safaris is not a carrier or hotelier, nor do we own aircraft, hotels or coaches. The services Gourmet Safaris supplies consist of arranging and coordinating accommodation, tours and transfers, making bookings and issuing vouchers to be redeemed by suppliers if necessary. We exercise every care in the selection of reputable airlines, tour operators, coach operators, hotels and other suppliers of the various travel services which are used in these tours. It is important to note, therefore, all bookings with Gourmet Safaris are subject to the terms, conditions and limitations of liability imposed by the service providers whose services we utilise, some of which limit or exclude liability in respect of death, personal injury, delay and loss or damage of baggage. Because of this Gourmet Safaris does not accept liability for events beyond our control nor liability for accidents incurred due to actions taken at your own risk.

Clients' Responsibilities: It is your responsibility to obtain passports, health certificates or other travel documents where required for the tour. It remains your responsibility to ensure that these documents are in order and to meet any additional costs incurred as a result of failure to comply with such requirements. It is also your responsibility to obtain **any vaccinations** that may be required to travel.