

MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL PTY. LTD.

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Vietnam Explorer Tour

15 day Conducted Tour

only **\$2,785** per person twin share

This price includes airport taxes & levies

This price is incredible value as it covers all of the following:

- ❖ Return air fares from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane into Saigon and out of Hanoi with Singapore Airlines, plus two flights within Vietnam.
- ❖ There will be three nights in bustling Saigon, three nights in historic Hoi An, four nights in beautiful Hanoi, the “Paris of the East”, two nights in the hill tribe village of Sapa and one night in Halong Bay.
- ❖ Good three to four star accommodation. The hotels rooms are all air conditioned and have their own bathroom and toilet.
- ❖ Breakfast daily plus five lunches and three dinners.
- ❖ All transfers between the airports and hotels.
- ❖ City tours in Saigon and Hanoi.
- ❖ Service of a Vietnamese tour guide and if there are 12 or more passengers there will be an Australian tour escort.
- ❖ A full day boat cruise of amazing Halong Bay, one of Vietnam’s spectacular World Heritage sites.



There will be a full program of optional half-day and full-day tours.



If you do not have a travel partner, but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try and assign you with another person, but this is not guaranteed. If you require a single room, there will be an additional charge of \$865.



Tour departs Australia 6th March and returns 20th March 2024

We try harder to find you the best travel deal

Itinerary for Vietnam Explorer Tour – March 2024

Included meals are indicated as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

06.03.24 **Australia – Singapore - Saigon**

Depart Sydney at 9.05am on SQ 212, arriving in Singapore at 2.15pm.

Depart Brisbane at 9.10am on SQ 256, arriving in Singapore at 3.10pm.

Depart Melbourne at 10.35am on SQ 238, arriving in Singapore at 3.15pm.

All passengers depart Singapore at 5.30pm on SQ 186, arriving in Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) at 6.40pm. Upon arrival we will be met and transferred to our hotel in central Saigon for a three night stay.

Accommodation: Huong Sen Hotel

07.03.24 **Saigon**

(B/L)

This morning there will be an included city tour of Saigon. We begin with a short walking tour around downtown Saigon passing the Opera House, City Hall, Notre Dame Cathedral and the Central Post Office. This is followed by a visit to the former Presidential Palace (Reunification Palace), the War Remnants Museum, Chinatown and Thien Hau Temple. Lunch is at a local restaurant where we will have Pho (traditional Vietnamese noodle soup) and spring rolls.

In the afternoon there is an optional tour to the Cu Chi Tunnels. At approximately 1:30pm we take a 65km drive through villages as well as tapioca and rubber plantations to visit the Cu Chi Tunnels, an amazing complex of underground tunnels used during the Vietnam War. We will see a film about the tunnels, then walk around the complex to view the trap-doors and other booby traps. We can also go through one of the larger tunnels or view the rest of the complex. We can sample some of the food traditionally eaten by the Viet Cong, such as steamed tapioca and tea. There is also an opportunity for you to go to the firing range and practice at the targets for a small fee. We return to the hotel in the early evening.

Price: \$40

Accommodation: Huong Sen Hotel

08.03.24 **Saigon**

(B)

Today there is an optional full day tour to the unforgettable Mekong Delta including lunch. We travel by road to My Tho and then enjoy a boat trip on the Mekong River, stopping at an island to visit a bee keeping farm, fruit orchards and taste some fruit. We continue on small sampans through the canals to see more local life. We also visit a coconut workshop and then take a tuk tuk to a farmer's house for an included lunch. After lunch we have another boat trip through a canal to return to our larger boat and head back to My Tho. We return to Ho Chi Minh City in the late afternoon.

Price: \$60

Accommodation: Huong Sen Hotel

09.03.24 **Saigon - Danang - Hoi An**

(B)

Transfer to the airport for our flight to Danang. Upon arrival in Danang we have a 40 minute drive to Hoi An where we check into our hotel for a three night stay.

Tonight there is an optional cooking demonstration at a local restaurant in town.

Price: \$30 including dinner

Accommodation: Hoi An Hotel

10.03.24 Hoi An

(B) Today there is an optional full day sightseeing tour of Danang and Hoi An including lunch. We drive to Danang and stop at the Marble Mountains with their beautiful grottoes and temples, which can be reached by climbing steep steps (please wear appropriate shoes). We also stop at China Beach where the Americans came for R&R (rest and relaxation) during the Vietnam War.

Lunch is at "LY" restaurant in Hoi An.

After lunch there is a short boat trip along the river to see the daily lives of the local people. After that discover the Hoi An ancient town, known to early western merchants. Hoi An was one of the major trading centres of Southeast Asia in the 16th century and has a distinctive Chinese atmosphere with low tiled roof houses and narrow streets. The original structure of some of these streets is still virtually intact. Many of the houses were constructed of rare timbers and decorated with lacquer panels engraved with Chinese characters and pillars carved with ornamental designs. During a leisurely discovery tour on foot we will visit some of the historic merchant and community houses, places of worship and the famous bridge. Afterwards we return to the hotel. **Price: \$60**

Accommodation: Hoi An Hotel

11.03.24 Hoi An

(B) Optional full day tour from Hoi An to Hue, departing Hoi An at 7.30am. Hue is the homeland of the Nguyen dynasty, the last dynasty of Vietnam which ruled the country from 1802 to 1945. We will drive over the Hai Van Pass (Pass of the Ocean Clouds), through many pretty red-tiled villages with fruit orchards, enjoying spectacular views of sky and sea. Upon arrival in Hue we visit the ancient Citadel which was built by Nguyen emperors from 1804 to 1833 and then have lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon enjoy a boat trip on the Perfume River, then visit the Thien Mu Pagoda and the Tomb of Khai Dinh, the 12th Emperor of the Nguyen dynasty who ruled the country from 1916 to 1925. On the way back we travel through the longest tunnel through a mountain in South East Asia. Arrive in Hoi An early in the evening. **Price: \$77**

Accommodation: Hoi An Hotel

12.03.24 Hoi An – Danang – Hanoi – Sapa

(B/D) Transfer to Danang Airport in the late morning for our flight to Hanoi. Upon arrival in Hanoi we commence a 4 – 5 hour scenic drive to Sapa, arriving in the early evening. Sapa is a hill station built in 1922. The whole area is spectacular, as Sapa lies in a valley surrounded by paddy fields in a variety of shades of green and is overlooked by Vietnam's highest mountain, Mount Fansipan. We will see the local minority groups, the H'mong, Dzay and the Dzao People, who are the largest and the most colourful ethnic groups in the region.

On arrival in Sapa, we check into the hotel for a two night stay. Dinner this evening is at 'Indigo' restaurant.

Accommodation: Amazing Hotel

13.03.24 Sapa

(B/L) After breakfast this morning we have a 4km drive to the rim of a deep valley. Along the road we'll see H'Mong, Dzay and Dzao minority people dressed in their traditional costumes. There is a two hour walk at a gentle pace around Ta Van and Lao Chai, which is home to all three minorities. Observe their daily lives for a rare glimpse into their culture and costumes. Lunch is at the hotel, with the remainder of the day at leisure to explore this interesting town.

Accommodation: Amazing Hotel

14.03.24 Sapa – Halong Bay

(B/L/D)

Today we leave Sapa on a scenic driving journey to Halong Bay.

Halong Bay has been compared with the magical landscape of limestone islets at Guilin in China and Krabi in southern Thailand. These tiny islands are dotted with innumerable beaches and grottoes created by the wind and waves.

We arrive in Halong Bay in the late afternoon with lunch en route.

This evening we enjoy an included dinner at the hotel.

Accommodation: Saigon Halong Hotel (Ocean View Room)

15.03.24 Halong Bay - Hanoi

(B/L)

This morning we board the Bai Tho Junk for a 6 hour cruise on the magnificent Halong Bay with its 1,969 islands rising from the clear emerald waters of the Gulf of Tonkin, one of the natural marvels of Vietnam.

This province shares a common border with China in the north and has some of the most stunning scenery in Vietnam. Bizarre rock sculptures jut dramatically from the sea and numerous grottoes have created an enchanted timeless world. The sails of junks and sampans add further to the beauty of the scene. Halong Bay was made famous to westerners in the French film 'Indochine'. We will stop at one of the many grottoes and have a swim at the beach before returning to port. A seafood lunch is included onboard. After the cruise we disembark and drive back to Hanoi, arriving in the early evening. We check into our hotel for a four night stay.

Accommodation: Tirant Hotel

16.03.24 Hanoi

(B)

Today is at leisure to discover this interesting city, which was named by the French 'Paris of the East'.

For those who wish there is an optional morning XICH LO (Pedicab) city tour around the Old & the French Quarters of Hanoi, then visit the excellent Ethnology Museum. **Price: \$30**

This evening there is an optional tour to see the Water Puppet show including dinner at a good local restaurant. **Price: \$35**

Accommodation: Tirant Hotel

17.03.24 Hanoi

(B)

Today there is an optional full day tour to Trang An grottoes (Dry Halong Bay). We depart Hanoi for Ninh Binh, which in the 10th century was an ancient capital of Vietnam. We have lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch we have a two hour boat ride in a sampan to see the beautiful Trang An grottoes which is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy the spectacular sight of the serene limestone rocks towering over the rice fields.

We arrive back in Hanoi in the late afternoon. **Price: \$65**

Accommodation: Tirant Hotel

18.03.24 Hanoi

(B/L/D)

Today there is an included half day city tour of Hanoi, visiting Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum (outside), Residence, One Pillar Pagoda, Hoan Kien Lake and the Temple of Literature, which is considered Vietnam's first university. The tour finishes with a good lunch at KOTO, who's owner employs and trains disadvantaged Vietnamese in the hospitality industry.

The afternoon is at leisure to further explore the city.
This evening we have an included farewell dinner at a local restaurant.
Accommodation: Tirant Hotel

19.03.24 Hanoi – Singapore - Australia

(B) Today we are transferred to the airport for our flights home.
Depart Hanoi at 12.35pm on flight SQ 191, arriving in Singapore at 5.15pm.
Sydney passengers depart Singapore at 8.40pm on SQ 221, arriving in Sydney at 7.40am the next morning (20.03.24).
Brisbane passengers depart Singapore at 9.35pm on SQ 235, arriving in Brisbane at 7.15am the next morning (20.03.24).
Melbourne passengers depart Singapore at 9.50pm on SQ 227, arriving in Melbourne at 8.15am the next morning (20.03.24).

Tour Difficulty Level 3

1	2	3	4	5
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This tour rating typically involves a good level of physical activity, such as ascending stairs, getting into a bathtub shower, being responsible for your own luggage at airports and hotels, walking distances of up to 500 metres at a time over possible uneven ground and/or cobblestone streets. Walking tours of considerable distances should be expected on tours with this rating as well as early departures. Please note there are some occasions on this tour where you may be required to walk in excess of the above amount, however you are free not to participate on these activities if you prefer.



Conditions for Macleay Valley Travel's Vietnam Explorer Tour

Deposits and Payments - A non-refundable deposit of \$200 per person is payable within 7 days of booking. This deposit is not refundable should you later cancel. The balance is payable in full 8 weeks prior to departure. Macleay Valley Travel has to adhere to strict payment deadlines and your booking on the tour may be cancelled if final payment is not received by the due date, with no refund applicable.

Refunds and Cancellations - Cancellations after final payment will result in a refund limited to whatever we can recoup from the airline. Any refund for a cancelled booking will not be paid until the airline(s) provide the refund to Macleay Valley Travel.

Limitation of Liability concerning Covid-19 - It is possible that there may be outbreak(s) of Covid-19 during this tour. Whilst we take necessary safety precautions, Macleay Valley Travel cannot be held responsible for any quarantines or other associated costs brought about by quarantines, border closures and/or travel delays. You are aware that Covid-19 is a highly contagious and potentially dangerous disease that may result in significant personal illness and even death. You acknowledge that you are voluntarily participating in the tour with knowledge of the inherent risks of Covid-19, and you agree to assume all risks.

Insurance - Adequate travel insurance that includes medical coverage for Covid-19 is required. Please contact your preferred travel insurance provider. The responsibility to obtain adequate travel insurance rests with the passenger. Proof of your travel insurance is required to be presented to us on or before the final payment date of the tour.

Airline Tickets - Please note that any changes made to airline tickets once they have been issued will likely incur high cancellation and/or reissue fees. These fees are typically set by the airline and are outside of our control.

Passports - All travellers require a current passport with at least 6 months left on it at the end of the tour. Non-Australian passport holders require a re-entry visa for Australia. Visas are required for all passport holders to Vietnam. For Vietnam, an Evisa can be obtained online at <https://evisa.xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn/trang-chu-ttdt> The current cost is USD \$25 per person. We do not recommend that you apply for a Visa on arrival, as this can result in delays at the airport when you arrive. There are also certain risks associated with this process which we hold no responsibility for. Please note that if you intend to get a visa on arrival, you do so at your own risk. The tour group will not wait for any time spent obtaining visas at the airport and you may need to arrange a separate transfer at your own expense.

Basic Tour Price and Taxes - Air taxes and fuel levies are included in the basic tour price if the tour is paid in full on or before the due date on the final invoice. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to charge for any increase in air taxes and fuel levies if the tour is not paid in full by the due date.

Not Included in the Cost - Travel insurance, visas and all items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, drinks, excess baggage, tips, meals (except those specified in the itinerary), etc. are not included in the cost. Similarly, credit card payments (Visa/MasterCard) can only be accepted if 1.2% is added to the price to help defray the merchant fees charged to us by the credit card companies. There is a 2% surcharge for American Express.

Twin Share Bookings - If you do not have a travel partner, but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try and assign you with another traveller but this is not guaranteed. We assign passengers by their gender, on a first come, first served basis and do not assign twin share passengers according to their age, profession, interests etc. There are risks with sharing a room with a person you do not know, and Macleay Valley Travel accepts no responsibility if you are incompatible with your assigned room mate. Additionally, if you are assigned a travelling companion to share with and they cancel off the tour prior to making the final payment, then you will either be required to pay the single room supplement or we will try our best to assign you with another twin share passenger, if one is available.

Breakaway - All fully inclusive prices are based on group travel and any deviation from the set itinerary can be permitted under certain circumstances. Please contact our office to discuss your specific request and pricing.

Accreditation - Macleay Valley Travel is a fully accredited travel agency under the AFTA (Australian Federation of Travel Agents) ATAS - AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme. As such, you are assured of a consumer focused and quality assured business, ensuring professional conduct and ethical business practices.

Health and Fitness - Macleay Valley Travel recommends that the passenger is reasonably healthy and/or fit to participate in this tour. Persons with a disability requiring special assistance must be accompanied by a companion. Macleay Valley Travel and their representatives cannot provide this service. The Health & Fitness Questionnaire located on the last page of this itinerary needs to be completed in full by each passenger and accompany your booking form. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to accept/decline or terminate a passenger's participation in the tour under certain circumstances. It is strongly recommended that you are fully vaccinated against Covid-19, but this is not mandatory. Passengers must comply with any specific Covid-19 requirements that may be imposed by airlines and/or authorities of the destinations visited.

Disclosure of fees or commissions received from third parties - Macleay Valley Travel Pty Ltd may receive fees, commissions, gifts or financial incentives from third parties under this contract.

Airline Seating - All seating requests will be passed onto the airline, however please note that Macleay Valley Travel has no direct control over group seating and requests are not guaranteed.

Limitation of Liability - As Macleay Valley Travel acts only as agent for the Airlines, Hotels, Coach Companies etc., providing accommodation, transportation and other services, Macleay Valley Travel shall not be liable or responsible for death or injury to any person or loss or damage to any property including baggage arising out of or connection with any transportation, accommodation or other services, or resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, fire, breakdown in machinery or equipment, acts of Government or other authorities, de jure or defacto wars, whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, epidemics, pandemics, endemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, delays or cancellations caused by changes in schedules or itinerary, or over bookings or defaults or for any causes beyond Macleay Valley Travel's control or any loss or damage resulting from improper or insufficient passports, visas or other documents and neither Macleay Valley Travel, and its servants or employees shall be or become liable or responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the tour member as a result of the foregoing causes. Additionally you must meet the entry requirements for each country you visit. Macleay Valley Travel will not be liable if you are denied entry to a country for any reason, including a past criminal history. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to decline bookings made for any group tour. Any tour booking confirmation is conditional, contingent on our view of the ability of a person to be able to participate in a tour without the likelihood of conflict between members of a tour whether perceived or actual. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to modify the itinerary or the accommodation if circumstances make this necessary, provided that the amended itinerary is of equal value or greater value than that of the original program.

MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL - BOOKING FORM

PLEASE PRINT DETAILS CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS AND ALSO

A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR PASSPORT MUST BE SENT WITH BOOKING FORM

Name of Tour : _____ Departure Date: _____

Passenger 1 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Passenger 2 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Postal Address: _____

_____ **Post Code** _____ **Email** _____

Telephone / Fax Number: _____ **Mobile** _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____ Nationality: _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____ Nationality: _____

(Passport must have 6 months validity from the time of tour completion)

Single room / Twin beds / Double bed: (Room type is subject to availability)

Circle which airport you wish to depart from: SYDNEY / MELBOURNE / BRISBANE

Special Dietary Requests – Passenger 1: _____ Passenger 2: _____

Optional Extensions: _____

Any existing medical conditions – Passenger 1: _____ Passenger 2: _____

In case of emergency, please notify :

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please return this sheet with your non-refundable deposit of \$200 per person and the health & fitness form.

DECLARATION. I have read and understand fully the booking conditions and I accept them.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

A copy of passport is required to verify spelling of name. If this is not provided and the information we have for the airline is incorrect and ticket is issued, then the airline will charge a reissue fee.

HEALTH & FITNESS QUESTIONNAIRE

Macleay Valley Travel strives to make our tours enjoyable experiences for all passengers, however some countries and tour services lack the standards that you can typically expect in Australia.

To help ensure your personal safety and enjoyment on tour, please answer the following questions. The information you provide will be treated confidentially and will be used to check that the transportation, accommodation and facilities on tour are suitable for you:

1. Do you have any allergies? Yes / No

If yes, please provide details and severity: _____

2. Can you walk 500 metres to 1km in distance comfortably and unaided?

Yes / No

3. Can you negotiate uneven, undulating and sometimes challenging terrain?

Yes / No

If no, please provide details about these limitations: _____

4. Do you use a mobility aid? Yes / No

If yes, please provide details: _____

5. Are you travelling with a companion or carer who is able to provide all the assistance you need to enter buildings, disembark and embark ships, aircraft, coaches, small boats and assist you on excursions? Yes / No

If yes, please provide the name of your carer/companion and your relationship to them: _____

6. Are you taking any medical equipment to assist you? Yes / No

If yes, please provide details: _____

7. Do you suffer from any condition which may cause you to experience memory loss or become disoriented? Yes / No

If yes, please provide details: _____

8. Are you asthmatic or do you have other breathing difficulties? Yes / No

If yes, please provide details (travelling to high altitudes is not recommended): _____

9. Do you require supplementary oxygen? Yes / No

10. Are you currently taking medication? Yes / No

If yes, are you able to administer your own medication? Yes / No

11. If you have any other medical information that is not covered in the previous questions, please provide a description here: _____

The information you supply us will be passed onto relevant travel suppliers who will do their best accommodate you. However, it is very important to remember that meeting your needs cannot be guaranteed, especially when travelling to third world countries.

DISCLAIMER

I confirm that the information provided on this questionnaire is both true and correct and I understand that there is no guarantee that all these needs will or can be met. I agree that Macleay Valley Travel may offer a recommendation with regard to fitness to travel, based on the information I have provided. I also understand that this information may be passed onto those responsible for supplying the land arrangements for my travel, and that my information will not be communicated to any party which is not directly responsible or otherwise associated with my travel arrangements. I further confirm and agree that should I choose not to disclose information which subsequently requires me to return or be returned home from a tour or cruise, Macleay Valley Travel is not responsible for any costs associated with cancellation penalties, airfares, land transportation or any other related hardship. Please note that a refund for lost touring cannot be claimed. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to update the information I provided to Macleay Valley Travel immediately should my circumstances change.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

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5. Are you travelling with a companion or carer who is able to provide all the assistance you need to enter buildings, disembark and embark ships, aircraft, coaches, small boats and assist you on excursions? Yes / No

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Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____