



Vietnam North West FAM trip



Group Name	: Vietnam FAM Trip
No. of pax	: 6-20 pax
Tour Date	: 15 - 23SEPT 2016
Rooming	: DBL/TWIN
Itinerary	: Hanoi-Nghia Lo – Mu Cang Chai – Sa Pa – Bac Ha – Ha Long bay

Tour Overview

The North West Vietnam is dominated by the mountain chain of Hoang Lien Son, offers grand and unforgettable performances. Sumptuous, the road runs over vertiginous cliffs. Few visitors to venture too far north. Hoang Lien Son, to among the most beautiful rice fields of Vietnam, tea fields, wooden houses with warm colors, many ethnic groups still wearing their traditional costume. Bac Ha market or better still that of Dong Van. The inevitable return Halong Bay. A grand tour of North West Vietnam is mostly complete.



Highlights of the tour

- Discover the most beautiful landscapes of North Vietnam, the rice terraces
- Of Mu Cang Chai, classified national natural heritage of Vietnam.
- Meeting with a dozen ethnic minorities in their secular environment.
- Total immersion in the daily typical Vietnamese village of Red River Delta life.
- Diverse activities to help you make the best of the trip.
- Cruising Halong Bay aboard a comfortable boat.
- Accompanied by an experienced facilitator contacts with local people speaking guide.
- Displacement comfortable vehicle suitable for mountain roads.

Itinerary

Day 1	Hanoi arrival
Day 2	Hanoi city tour
Day 3	Hanoi – Nghia Lo – Homestay
Day 4	Nghia Lo – Mu Cang Chai: the most beautiful rice paddies of Vietnam
Day 5	Mu Cang Chai - Sapa
Day 6	Sapa - Bac Ha – Hanoi

Day 7 Ha Noi – Ha Long bay

Day 8 Ha Long bay – Ha Noi

Day 9 Ha Noi Departure

Detailed program

Day 1 Hanoi arrival

Transfer: 30 km - 45 minutes drive

Arrival at the airport of HaNoi, you will be greeted and taken to the hotel.

Stroll through the city and discover quietly small crowded streets of Vietnamese cycling and small motorcycles. Overnight at hotel in Ha Noi

Meals: Dinner

Day 2 Hanoi city tour

Start your day of exploring Hanoi with a walk in the gardens of the former **Palace of the Governor of Indochina**, now become the Presidential Palace. Discover the **One Pillar Pagoda on stilts of Ho Chi Minh**, the founder of modern Vietnam, and the inside of his **Mausoleum** (except Monday and Friday when visiting the interior is impossible).

You can also visit the **pagoda Tran Quoc** at the edge of the large Lake (**West Lake**), and the **Museum of Ethnography**, which offers a way of life, customs and habits of the 54 ethnic minorities populating Vietnam.

In the afternoon, visit the **Temple of Literature**, the first national university in the original architecture built in the eleventh century and now dedicated to the worship of Confucius and the Scholars. This Temple has become the symbol of Hanoi and the Vietnamese Culture.

In the evening, you will enjoy a **puppet show** on the water, folk art of the peoples in the Red River Delta. Overnight at hotel

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch



Day 3 Hanoi – Nghia Lo – Homestay

Transfer: 200km – 6 hours drive

2 hours easy hiking

We leave Hanoi in the morning. The temperate climate allows the breeding of dairy cows (one in Vietnam!). At the edge of the country, are shelled the **villages of Mong, Thai and Muong**. A large reservoir lake is crossed by ferry. The road follows the lake. Picturesque landscapes of rice cultivation in terraces farmed aquatic products in bamboo rafts ... And always charming traditional wooden houses ... Small walk through the **valley of Phu Yen**. Lunch in a local restaurant. Then the route continues in full Thai region. Flooded rice fields, vegetable gardens, peaceful villages at the

foot of mountains photographers give heart to joy. Arrive at **Nghia Lo end of the day**. Overnight in guesthouse or homestay.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 4 Nghia Lo – Mu Cang Chai: the most beautiful rice paddies of Vietnam

Transfer: 90 km. 2.5 hr drive. 4-5 hours walking

The road winds through the **chain Hoang Lien Son**, in the heart of the highest mountains of Indochina. The **village of Tu Le**, marks the beginning of our hike. In Mu Cang Chai, you discover **the most beautiful rice paddies of Vietnam** or even Southeast Asia. The path winds through rice fields and villages (thais and mong). Women, fine lines and slender, always in traditional dress size marvel at our passage. Few Western visitors venture into these remote hamlets.

The mongs women weave linen on the immutable loom. Night in local guesthouse or homestay Mu Cang Chai.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 5 Mu Cang Chai - Sapa

Transfer: 150 km. 4 hour drive. 2 hours of walking.

Final day in the Hoang Lien Son. The road winds and climbs to the highest pass in Vietnam (2047 m), dominated by Fanxipan (3143 m), the roof of Indochina. Arrive at Sapa around noon. Visit the multi-ethnic market, Sapa. Strolling through the old town with beautiful colonial houses. A pleasant **stroll around Sapa concludes the day: mongs villages, Zao, dzays ...** Overnight at hotel in Sapa

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



Day 6 Sapa - Bac Ha – Hanoi

Transfer: 410 km. 8 hour drive. 2 hours of walking.

Early, we leave Sapa and tourist activities. A Lao Cai, the capital of the province and border town, a simple bridge between us and China. Smuggling and trafficking of all kinds contribute to the richness of the city. The road creeps again among the hills to reach Bac Ha. Visit the biggest market on the region

In the afternoon, small two-hour hike in the **village of Ban Pho** populated mostly Hmong Flowering, to discover the daily life of the ethnic minority and special customs. These villages, which are two kilometers from the city, located in a beautiful valley.

Back to Hanoi in the and arrival around 8-9pm. Overnight in hotel in Hanoi

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Day 7 Ha Noi – Ha Long bay

Transfer: 200 km – 4.5 hours drive

Arrival early in the morning. You will have the day use room for shower and breakfast

After breakfast, transfer by road to **Halong Bay**, the eighth wonder of the world. This journey give you a chance to see the rice fields and the countryside of the Red River Delta.

On arrival around noon, check in a beautiful wooden junk for a cruise enchanting 2 days / 1 night in Halong Bay.

During this cruise, you can explore this **vast chaos of karst mountains, caves, lagoons** with all these ghostly shapes that can be seen from far away. It is so nice to feel completely lost and discovering every second new forms of increasingly tormented rocks. In addition, the play of light, clouds and mist creates unexpected atmospheres. It is the same life on the bay with all its fishing boats, whole families who either live in floating houses or aboard simple craft.

In late afternoon, the ship dropped anchor for the night in the bay. It is then **possible for you to swim in the emerald sea or kayaking**.

The lunch and dinner are served on the junk menu with excellent seafood. Overnight on board the junk in private cabin.

Meals: Breakfast , Lunch and Dinner

Day 8 Ha Long bay – Ha Noi

Transfer: 200 km – 4.5 hours

Morning in the bay, this is a special time for meditation and take a morning bath.

The buffet breakfast is served while the junk starts up slowly towards the pier. The return cruise allows you to discover other parts of the bay, including the **Heavenly Palace Cave or the Cave of Surprise**.

Landing at 11:30 and taken the road towards Hanoi. Direct transfer to the airport. On the road, visiting a **traditional pottery village**. This village, which stays away from mass tourism, still keeps the shapes of the oldest villages of the Red River Delta. Overnight in hotel

Meals: Breakfast , Brunch



Day 9 Ha Noi Departure

Transfer: 30km – 45 minutes

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight. The room is available until noon only.

Meals: Breakfast

Selected accommodation:

Sites	Accommodation	Night
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Ha Noi	Medallion hotel *** or other the same caterogy	3
Nghia Lo	Homestay or Guesthouse	1
Mu Cang Chai	Homestay or Guesthouse	1
Sa Pa	Sa Pa Boutique *** or other at the same caterogy	1
Ha Long	Huong Hai Junk or the same	1

Tour Price NETT (US Dollars) – based on twin sharing

(Minimum 6 Pax, Maximum 20 Pax)

Number of persons	US Dollars per person
Travel Industry Professionals	USD 390
SGL Supplement	Approx. USD 180 <i>SS Price TBC on request</i>

Notes

- Minimum number of six participants required for the main tour of the FAM to operate.
- Participants will be informed at least one month before departure date if the minimum number has not been reached.
- Hotel selection is subject to change.
- The FAM Trip program and itinerary are subject to minor changes.
- Pricing is based on the mentioned arrival and departure times / arrival and departure times in accordance with the majority of participant's flight details. Additional transfers can be arranged and are chargeable.

Our services include:

- Accommodation in a shared twin or shared double room
- 2 days/ 1 night cruise on the sharing comfortable junk in Ha Long bay
- Meals as mentioned in the program
- English speaking guide
- Tours and transfers as mentioned by private air conditioned vehicle
- Entrance fees for mentioned visits
- Boat trips as mentioned in the itinerary
- Bicycle or cyclo tour as mentioned
- Water puppet show in Ha Noi

Our services do not include:

- Other meals not mentioned
- Other services not mentioned
- Visa fee to Viet Nam
- International Flights
- Laundry, telephone calls and expenditure of a personal nature

- Tips
- Travel insurance(*)

SEVERAL POINTS TO NOTE:

1. The above tour prices are based on our **current transportation rates**. Increasing petrol rates might affect our transportation and boat fees, in which case we reserve the right to revise our current rates. If any increase should arise we will of course keep you well informed.
2. **Availability:** Please note that if a certain hotel is not available at the time of booking, then we will gladly make alternative suggestions in the same category. We will advise you accordingly with the surcharge if any. As a result, we would highly appreciate it if you could advise us to block rooms soonest possible to guarantee the rooms and rates in period of high and peak season.
3. All the above **points of interest** are open for visit based on current updates. In case of closure for construction or any other reason, we will replace with a similar point of interest.
4. Above itinerary is based on the current **flight schedule**. In case of flight changes, the itinerary will be changed accordingly.
5. **No early check in or late check out** is included except those indicated in the program. Generally, the check in time is 14.00pm and check out time is 12.00pm.
6. **Visas into Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia are required** except for countries who have signed the visa exemption contracts. Please contact us for visa information details.
7. **Compulsory dinners** on Dec 24th (Christmas), Dec 31st (New Year) or Vietnamese Lunar New Year will be advised at time of booking.
8. **The list of hotels** is recommended by Lana Tour Travel and please feel free to advise us of hotels you prefer in each category or combine hotel categories if wish (tour price will be changed accordingly).
9. Any **travel itinerary** is generally dependent on weather conditions, and its feasibility may be constrained due to exceptional environmental or social events or circumstances
10. Please note that all the above services & tours **have yet to be booked**, they are proposed for your information only and we will not make any reservations before we receive your confirmation to do so. Availability is always subject to change until booking confirmation from our side.
11. If any proposed service(s) is/are not available at the moment of booking, we will try to find other possibilities/options or other similar service(s) in order to avoid changes to the program.
12. It is recommended for travelers to Vietnam to have fully comprehensive **travel insurance** which covers the cost of medical evacuation flight in need. A travel insurance policy is best purchased in your country of origin/residence and cannot be purchased on arrival.