

**Highlight**

- Sea kayaking in Halong Bay
- Trekking and home-stays in Mai Chau
- Plain of Jars in Xieng Khoang
- Ancient city of Luong Prabang
- River kayaking in Luong Prabang Area

**Itinerary at a glance**

- Day 1:** Arrival in Hanoi
- Day 2:** City tour of Hanoi
- Day 3:** Kayaking Halong Bay
- Day 4:** Kayaking Halong Bay
- Day 5:** Back to Hanoi
- Day 6:** Trekking & home stay Mai Chau
- Day 7:** Trekking & home stay Mai Chau
- Day 8:** Cross border to Laos/drive to Xam Nua
- Day 9:** Drive to Xieng Khoang
- Day 10:** Visit Plain of Jars/drive to Luong Prabang
- Day 11:** In Luong Prabang
- Day 12:** Biking and river kayaking in Luong Prabang
- Day 13:** Drive to Vang Vieng
- Day 14:** Biking & caving in Vang Vieng
- Day 15:** Drive to Vientiane
- Day 16:** In Vientiane
- Day 17:** Departure

**Trip note**

- Duration:** 17 days, 16 nights
- Group size:** 08 persons
- Depart from:** Hanoi
- End at:** Vientiane
- When:** Year round
- Activities:** Sea kayaking, River kayaking, Trekking, Biking, Elephant riding, Culture expedition
- Grade:** Introductory to Moderate
- Transport:** AC vehicle, Junk, Kayak, Bicycle, On foot
- Accommodation:** 12 nights hotels, 2 nights home stays, 2 nights on junk
- Tour guide:** English speaking guides
- Meals:**
  - Day 1: Dinner
  - Day 2: Breakfast, Lunch
  - Day 3,4: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
  - Day 5: Breakfast, Lunch
  - Day 6-10: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
  - Day 11,15: Breakfast, Lunch
  - Day 16: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
  - Day 17: Breakfast



**Note on client safety**

We reserve the right to deviate from this itinerary for any reasons, including road and weather conditions, frequency of visits to a village, or for any other factor which may influence client safety.



**Tour cost**

Please contact our **Customer Service** at [info@activetravel.asia](mailto:info@activetravel.asia) or call +84 1234 272728 (24/7 LiveHelp)

**Inclusion:**

- Hotels (twin shared room)
- Home stay permission
- Twin shared AC cabin on junk
- AC vehicle
- Sit-on-top double kayak
- Mountain bikes
- Elephant ride
- English speaking guides
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Water & Snacks
- Entrance fees & Sightseeing fees

**Exclusion:**

- Travel insurance
- Visa
- Tips
- Personal expenses

## Food

All meals, which are indicated in the itinerary, are included in the price of this trip. While in big towns we will enjoy Vietnamese cuisine in fine restaurants. Once we travel away from big towns, the emphasis will be on healthy and nutritious fresh local produce.

## Hotel & homestay

In cities we use fine 3-star hotels with centre location. Please contact us if you prefer higher hotel categories.

In small town we use the best hotels or guest houses available. Homestay in villages is simple in term of bedding condition and amenities. We will sleep on beds or floor with mattress, clean sheet, pillows and mosquito nets. Toilet is usually western style.



## ATA tour guide

The tour will be led by our tour guides who are experienced in guiding outdoor tours in Vietnam and Laos. They have been carefully trained in different fields and are fully licensed in tour guiding by the governments. In addition, they have been trained in first-aid by qualified organization and they know how to deal with difficult situations. You will have a great time traveling with them.

## Detailed Itinerary

### Day 1: Arrival in Hanoi

Arrive in Noi Bai Airport. Meet ATV guide at the airport and transfer to our hotel in downtown Hanoi. Welcome drink and tour briefing in the afternoon (If you come in the afternoon, the tour briefing will be done at dinner time)

In the evening, enjoy a special Water Puppet show and have welcome dinner with local delights. Overnight Hanoi.

#### Summary

Transfer: 45 mins by AC vehicle  
Meals: Welcome drink & Dinner  
Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

### Day 2: City tour of Hanoi

After breakfast in the hotel you will take an interesting guided city tour of Hanoi including Ho Chi Minh complex (the mausoleum, the house & garden and the museum) and One Pillar Pagoda, a unique ancient architecture. After here we move to Temple of Literature, the site of Vietnam's first university, dates back to 1070. Its peaceful gardens and pavilions offer a relaxing respite from Hanoi's busy streets. Lunch in local restaurant.

In the afternoon, we enjoy a relaxing cyclo tour in the ancient part of Hanoi. Walking down some small and lively street to see busy local market then join locals for green tea or coffee in local café. Free time for shopping. Overnight in Hanoi

" Cyclo is three wheeled rickshaws, operated by pedal-power, with a seat attached to the front.

#### Summary

Sightseeing: Full day city tour  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch  
Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

### Day 3: Hanoi – Halong Bay

Leave Hanoi for Halong Bay at 8.30am.

On the way we will have a short break for refreshment at a handicraft centre. Upon arrival in Halong City we board a wooden boat for a fine seafood lunch and a short cruise to Thien Cung Cave. After a short exploration of the cave we start our kayaking time paddling through an amazing area of limestone islets. We will pass a floating village to reach Luon Cave, which is a tunnel thrusting through a mountain. Paddling through the tunnel to explore a beautiful secluded lagoon. We will meet the motherboat, a junk in Chinese style, in front of the cave. Aboard the junk for dinner and overnight

#### Summary

Transfer Hanoi – Halong: 3.5 hrs  
Kayaking: 2.5 hrs/caml sea  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
Accommodation: Twin shared cabin



#### Day 4: Kayaking Halong Bay

After breakfast we start paddling to Van Chai Floating village and then continue paddling to Dark Cave. Tide permitting, we explore this amazing cave by kayak. The cave is a 200m long, dark tunnel thrusting through a limestone mountain. The tunnel is the only entry to a secluded and beautiful lagoon. Lunch on support boat in front of the cave. After lunch we paddle to Ba Trai Dao Lagoon, along a stunning and fairly rough sea channel, to explore its beautiful beaches. Continue paddling to Lan Ha Bay, which is smaller than Halong bay but much more interesting with lots of secluded beaches. Cruise back to Halong Bay for dinner and overnight on motherboat

##### Summary

Activity: Kyaking 6 - 7hr/calm sea  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
Accommodation: Twin shared cabin

#### Day 5: Halong Bay – Hanoi

Breakfast on the junk and enjoy the sundeck of the junk while she navigates amazing rock formations of Bai Tu Long Bay to get back to Halong City. Lunch on the junk before reach Halong Harbor for a drive back to Hanoi. On the way back to Hanoi we will have a stop in Dong Trieu Town for refreshment and visiting to a ceramic factory. Overnight in Hanoi.

##### Summary

Transfer Halong – Hanoi: 3.5 hrs with AC vehicle  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch  
Accommodation: Hotel in Hanoi

#### Day 6: Hanoi – Mai Chau

Pick up at your hotel at 8 am and leave Hanoi for Mai Chau, the beautiful gate way to the mountainous area of northern Vietnam. On the way we will have a short stop for refreshment.

Upon arrival in Mai Chau we will pick up our local guide and continue driving to Xa Linh Village, where we will have our lunch in a H'mong house before setting off on a beautiful trekking in the afternoon. After lunch we will begin our trek on the village's road and then walk on dirt path used by the locals. After 40mins we will reach Tra Day Village, home to a small community of Black H'mong minority people. From the Tra Day village we trek on rocky path to Hang Kia, a small and scenic village which is home to a group of Flower H'mong minority people. Tonight we will stay overnight with a H'mong family.

##### Summary

Transfer Hanoi – Mai Chau: 4.5 hrs  
Trekking: 3 hrs/dirt & rocky path/easy climb  
Meal: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
Accommodation: Local house

#### Day 7: Trekking Mai Chau

After breakfast in the house we will say goodbye to the family and begin an exciting trekking day. Right after the village we will walk on jungle trail for one hour. The trail could be a bit wet due to the dense trees that keep sunlight away. After that we descend the hill passing farm and terraces. The scenery is stunning with mountains, terraces and expansive valley. During the trek we will have some breaks for snack, rest, and photographing. After crossing a small river we reach a village of White Thai minority group, where we have lunch in a local house. After lunch, you may wish to have a short nap in the house. In the remainder of the day we will walk on village road to reach Buoc Village, a beautiful village of White Thai minority people. The road runs zigzag along the valley and through lots of scenic village. Tonight we will have dinner and stay overnight with a Thai family.

##### Summary

Trekking: 5.30 hrs/long descent on dirt path  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
Accommodation: Local house

#### Day 8: Tour price

**Mai Chau – Xam Nua (Laos)**

After breakfast we say goodbye to the hosts and take a short walk to the pick-up point where we

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##### Inclusion:

- Support vehicles
- One-way train ticket Hanoi-Laocai (AC, soft sleeper)
- English or French speaking guide
- High-end Mountain bike
- Helmet and biking gloves
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Hotels (Twin shared room)
- Home-stay permission
- Boat in Ba Be
- First-aid kit
- Water & Snacks
- Entrance and Sightseeing fees

##### Exclusion:

- Travel insurance
- Visa
- Tips



### Day 9: Xam Nua – Xieng Khoang

This morning we head to Xieng Khoang, the capital of Phonsavan Province. The drive is long (6 hrs) but interesting as we drive through a mountainous area with stunning mountains, dense forest, winding rivers and rice terraces. Lunch will be in small local restaurant en route. Upon arrival in Xieng Khoang, we check in hotel and relax until dinner. If there is time, we can take a stroll around the town.

#### Summary

Transfer Xam Nua – Xieng Khoang: 6 hrs  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
Accommodation: Hotel in Xam Nua

### Day 10: Xieng Khoang – Luong Prabang



After breakfast in hotel we take a short drive to the Plain of Jars, where we will see some hundreds of stone jar of different sizes laying on the fields. These stone jars date back from some thousand year ago and no one know

what they were made for. From here we drive further west to Luong Prabang. Lunch will be served in local restaurant en route. We will arrive in Luong Prabang around 4.30 or 5 pm. After hotel check-in we can walk to the evening market.

#### Summary

Transfer Xieng Khoang – Luong Prabang: 6 hrs  
Sightseeing: Plain of Jars  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
Accommodation: Hotel in Luong Prabang

### Day 11: Luong Prabang by bike

Luong Prabang is a charming ancient town, which was recognised as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO thank to its outstanding historical and cultural value. Today we take our time to explore some of most important monasteries in town and the royal palace as well as the museum.

A special afternoon tour brings us to some more remote places and markets. We learn about the history of Luong Phabang as well as about the kings family and their former life.

#### Summary

Sightseeing: Full day city tour by bike  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch  
Accommodation: Hotel in Luong Prabang

### Day 12: Elephant riding and river kayaking in Luong Prabang

Leave the town after breakfast we will proceed to

the Elephant Camp about 15 km out of town and in the middle of a green surrounding. After crossing the small river we will be introduced to asian elephants and go out for a scenic ride. Enjoy the new perspective and the wonderful nature on this 1,5 hr ride. Make our way through forests and along the Nam Khan river up to the waterfalls of Tad Sae. (in dry season we ride a village trail) After a visit and lunch break we will be instructed for the soft 4-hr



kayaking back into town. Some easy rapids are along the way down to Luang Phabang and of course wonderful nature and great views.

#### Summary

Elephant ride: 1,5 hr  
Kayking: 4 hr/easy paddling  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

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- Visa
- Tips

Accommodation: Hotel in Luong Prabang

### Day 13: Luong Prabang – Vang Vieng

Another day through mountains and valleys and down to the small town of Vang Vieng which welcomes us with amazing limestone mountains

### Day 15: Vang Vieng – Vientiane

A short transfer brings us into the capital of Laos, Vientiane, the centre of politics and education. Many temples and monasteries invite for sightseeing as well as the national monument.

In the afternoon we have free time to explore the town or just hang out on the bank of the magic Mekong which lies right in front of the city.

#### Summary

Transfer Vang Vieng – Vientiane : 3 hrs  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch  
Accommodation: Hotel in Vientiane

### Day 16: Vientiane



The city tour of Vientiane shows us the most exciting and interesting sights of this small and charming capital. Our sightseeing start with a visit to Wat Sisaket, the Buddha museum where more than ten thousand

Buddha statues in the niches can be seen.

Continue to Pathu Xay or Victory Gate was first built in 1958. Moving on to That Luang, the national symbol and recognized throughout the world. This biggest stupa is also a gathering place for national Buddhism ceremony.

After lunch in local restaurant we drive to Centre Market and have free time to shop around or get back to hotel.

#### Summary

Sightseeing: Full day city tour  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner  
Accommodation: Hotel in Vientiane

### Day 17: Departure

Relax until we are transferred to airport for flight home. Trip concludes

#### Summary

Transfer airport: 15 mins  
Meals: Breakfast

## Holiday Extensions

**Angkor Wat Classic:** 3-day tour of Angkor Wat by bicycle, tuk tuk or car

"The temples of Angkor were spiritual, political, cosmological, and astronomical or geophysical centers. They embodied and encapsulated the world spheres through which the Khmer culture and power



## Tour price

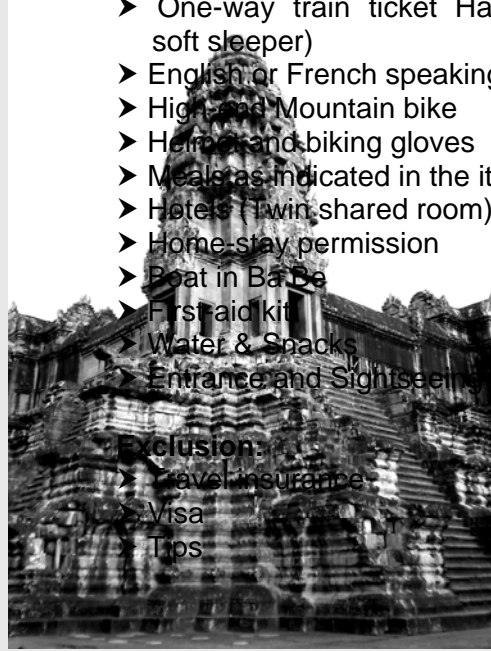
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## ACTIVELY EXPLORING HIDDEN LANDS