



Discover Corps
Unforgettable Vacations With Purpose



VIETNAM: CULTURAL GEMS

From Hanoi's historic old town to stunning countryside landscapes, experience Vietnam's charm while engaging with leading social projects.



MOMENTS THAT MATTER:

- Uncover the breathtaking emerald waters & limestone cliffs of Ha Long Bay
- Learn to make traditional paper lanterns with a pioneering NGO helping those with disabilities
- Explore Old Hanoi & meet a local veteran of the Vietnam War at his house for a fascinating conversation
- Venture to Cuc Phuong National Park to lend a hand with an organization helping to protect local wildlife
- Experience the quaint ancient town of Hoi An lined with colorful silk lanterns & wooden houses



TRIP AT A GLANCE

Day 1 - Arrive in Hanoi. Enjoy a Welcome Dinner

Day 2 - Explore Hanoi's Old Quarter on a walking tour. Take a cooking class with a Master Chef.

Day 3 - Meet Mr. Liem, a seventh-generation puppet maker, for a traditional performance. Delve into Vietnam's war history with a veteran.

Day 4 - Venture to the countryside and take a traditional sampan boat ride along a river through giant cliffs and caves.

Day 5 - Visit Cuc Phuong National Park and support wildlife conservation efforts alongside the pioneering non-profit Save Vietnam's Wildlife.

Day 6 - Embark on an overnight excursion through majestic Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Day 7 - Explore Ha Long Bay's mesmerizing landscapes and kayak alongside the towering limestone cliffs. Disembark the boat and fly to Central Vietnam.

Day 8 - Take a morning walking tour of ancient Hoi An. Engage in a lantern making project with the social enterprise Reaching Out.

Day 9 - Take a cycling tour of the Vietnamese countryside meeting with artisans and exploring charming villages.

Day 10 - Fly home or continue on to the Saigon extension.

SAIGON POST-TRIP EXTENSION

Day 10 - Fly to Saigon. Venture to the Cu Chi Tunnels and explore the city by night in a vintage jeep.

Day 11 - Embark to the Mekong River Delta and experience traditional village life.

Day 12 - Enjoy free time before your flight home.



**SIGNATURE
JOURNEY**

VIETNAM: CULTURAL GEMS

OUR PURPOSE

Embark on an unforgettable journey to Vietnam, where the vibrant tapestry of culture, history, and breathtaking landscapes awaits to captivate your senses. From the bustling streets of Hanoi, where the aromas of street food waft through the air, to the serene beauty of Ha Long Bay, where emerald waters cradle towering limestone cliffs, Vietnam is unrivaled in its diversity.

We'll connect with several organizations working to improve both society as well as the country's increasingly threatened wildlife in one of Asia's fastest growing countries. In Cuc Phuong National Park, we'll have the opportunity to lend a hand on daily tasks to rangers helping to protect the park's wildlife. We'll also make a visit to the Endangered Primate Rescue Center, home to a range of monkeys and other primates. In Hoi An, we'll support the work of one of Vietnam's leading NGOs, Reaching Out. With the goal to empower locals with disabilities, we'll join the team for an afternoon at their quaint cafe making traditional paper lanterns and seeing how these life skills change lives.

Sail over the calm waters of Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Cycle through rice fields of Vietnam's countryside and meet with the locals in centuries-old villages. Visit the workshop of Mr. Liem, a passionate seventh-generation water puppet master. Each night, unwind in the comfort of a hand-picked 4-star boutique hotel.



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HIGHLIGHTS



MAJESTIC HA LONG BAY

Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site nestled in the northeastern part of Vietnam, beckons travelers with its ethereal beauty and otherworldly landscapes. Thousands of limestone cliffs and islets, adorned with lush vegetation, rise dramatically from the emerald waters, creating a surreal seascape. We'll spend a day cruising through the bay with time to swim and explore the hidden caves and grottoes. As the sun dips below the horizon, spend an unforgettable night on the water in the well-appointed cabins of our boat, the MV Orchid.



HOI AN'S CHARMING OLD TOWN & COUNTRYSIDE

Hoi An, a picturesque town on Vietnam's central coast, beckons with its timeless charm and cultural richness, making it an irresistible destination for any traveler. Steeped in history, Hoi An boasts a well-preserved blend of ancient architecture, traditional wooden houses, and vibrant lantern-lit streets that transport visitors to a bygone era. Over the course of three days, we'll meander through the quaint alleys on a guided tour, learn to make lanterns with the folks at Reaching Out and venture to the nearby countryside to see traditional village life.



VIETNAMESE CULTURE & HISTORY IN HANOI

Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, stands as a living testament to the country's rich culture and storied history. Steeped in a past marked by imperial rule, French colonization, and the struggle for independence, Hanoi is a captivating blend of tradition and modernity. Venture to the city's Old Quarter one day, with its narrow streets and ancient temples, and engage in a cooking class the next. Dive into Vietnam's War history with a fascinating visit to the home of a veteran and meet with Mr. Liem, a famous local artist known for his water puppets.



CUC PHUONG NATIONAL PARK - A HIDDEN GEM

Nestled in the amongst towering cliffs and a vast landscape of lush rainforests, Cuc Phuong National Park stands as a hidden sanctuary, offering a captivating retreat into the country's natural wonders. Established in 1962, it is Vietnam's first national park and hosts over 2000 species of plants and 135 species of mammals. We'll go behind-the-scenes meeting with the rangers of the Carnivore Conservation Center, a rescue for civets, otters and badgers, where we'll help prepare daily meals and assist with health checks. We'll also visit the Endangered Primate Rescue Center which works tirelessly to rehabilitate and protect monkeys from the park.





ITINERARY

DAY 1: Welcome to Vietnam!

Arrive in Hanoi Noi Bai International Airport where you'll be greeted with open arms by your guide to Vietnam! Settle into our charming 4-star boutique hotel in Old Hanoi and meet the group for a delicious Welcome Dinner at a restaurant in the city. (D)

DAY 2: Hanoi City Tour and Vietnamese Cooking Class

After a relaxed morning, embark on a guided walking tour through Hanoi's Old Quarter, a sensory journey that will immerse us in the rich tapestry of Vietnam's capital. The narrow, bustling streets are a vibrant maze of ancient architecture and traditional shops, where the aroma of street food wafts through the air. Admire the ornate pagodas, hidden courtyards, and French colonial buildings that coexist harmoniously, reflecting the city's diverse history. Along the way, visit the 800 year old Temple of Literature and have lunch at a popular local restaurant.

Later in the afternoon, travel to the home of Ms. Ai, a local chef who is was rated as on of the top 5 Master Chefs of Vietnam and is passionate about Vietnamese cuisine. Together, we'll head to the neighborhood's market to buy our ingredients and see how locals shop for fresh produce. Return to Chef Ai's home to slice, dice and cook a range of delicious Vietnamese dishes. (B,L,D)

DAY 3: Water Puppet Experience and Vietnam War Discussion

This morning, we'll step into the home of Mr. Liem, a passionate seventh-generation puppet maker and performer, for an immersive, behind-the-scenes experience. A traditional performing art that originated over a thousand years ago, water puppets are skillfully crafted wooden characters that are controlled puppeteers behind a bamboo screen. The performances are accompanied by traditional music and singing, showcasing a blend of folk tales, rural life, and historical stories. Tour Mr. Liem's workshop, learn the secrets of the performers and enjoy a private water puppet performance.

In the afternoon, delve into Vietnam's war history with a visit to the "Hanoi Hilton", a prison used during the war, as well as an exclusive visit with a war veteran at his home. Learn about his experience commanding hundreds of signal troops during the war. Afterwards, enjoy some free time in Hanoi shopping and sampling the city's many restaurants. (B,L)





DAY 4: Take a Row Boat through the Countryside

Enjoy a relaxing breakfast before starting our journey to Vietnam's serene countryside. Our destination today is Ninh Binh, known as the "Ha Long Bay on land". Settle into our quaint boutique hotel surrounded by paddy fields and lush greenery enjoying a fresh lunch along the way.



In the afternoon, we'll hop aboard a small sampan boat which is rowed by a local member of the community. Set out to explore this UNESCO World Heritage Site weaving through the meandering river in between giant rock cliffs. Daily village life will pass by alongside us as we explore various caves and vistas as we row along the calm waters. Return to our hotel later in the evening for a relaxing dinner together under the stars. (B,L,D)

DAY 5: Support Wildlife Conservation Efforts in Cuc Phuong National Park

After breakfast, head out to Cuc Phuong National Park along with our guide. Vietnam's first national park, Cuc Phuong is renowned for its rich biodiversity, ancient limestone cliffs and conservation efforts to protect endangered species. Some of the park's rarest and most famous resident mammals include the Clouded Leopard and Asian Black Bears. We'll begin our journey with a visit to the Endangered Primate Rescue Center where we'll receive a private briefing and get up close to some of the rarest monkeys in the world.



We'll have lunch and an opportunity to take a short hike in the park before our behind-the-scenes visit to the Carnivore Conservation Center. Established in 2016 by the NGO Save Vietnam's Wildlife, we'll learn about the rescue's residents including otters, badgers and civets. We'll then spend some time helping the rangers with a range of activities which may include preparing daily meals, building enrichment toys, assisting with health checks and feeding the orphaned animals. Return to the Ninh Binh in the evening for a dinner together. (B,L,D)

DAY 6: Sail through Majestic Ha Long Bay

Enjoy breakfast before taking off on a roughly three hour drive to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ha Long Bay. We'll board our luxury cruise boat, the MV Orchid, for our overnight experience on the bay. Start with a journey through the mystical Trung Trang caves followed by the opportunity to swim in the emerald waters of Ha Long. Along the way, take in the mesmerizing landscape of rock cliffs and crystal blue waters in one of Asia's most recognized natural landmarks.



As the sun sets, head to the boat's spa for a massage or to a cooking demonstration hosted by the chef. Enjoy a fusion dinner of fresh Vietnamese ingredients followed by a relaxing night over the water. (B,L,D)





DAY 7: Kayaking in Ha Long before Journeying to Hoi An

Watch the sunrise over the bay before breakfast. We'll continue sailing towards Ao Ech, an area of Ha Long known for its natural beauty and hidden charms. Hop into a kayak and paddle across the waters savoring in the breathtaking scenery. Around noon, we'll disembark from the boat and continue back to Hanoi Noi Bai International Airport.



Take a one hour flight to Da Nang in Central Vietnam. Upon arrival, we'll make the short journey to Hoi An and check-in to our quaint boutique hotel adjacent to the ancient streets of the city. Tonight's dinner will be at one of Hoi An's iconic eateries where we'll get acquainted with the charming streets lined with small shops and lit by traditional lanterns. Enjoy some free time exploring before heading back to our hotel for the evening. (B,D)



DAY 8: Hoi An Walking Tour and Purposeful Project with Reaching Out

Discover the timeless charm of Hoi An this morning on a guided walking tour. A UNESCO World Heritage gem nestled along the picturesque Thu Bon River in Vietnam, Hoi An is renowned for its well-preserved ancient architecture, enchanting lantern-lit streets, and vibrant cultural heritage. Immerse yourself in the vibrant tapestry of this ancient town, where centuries-old merchant houses, traditional wooden bridges, and atmospheric temples tell tales of its rich past.



Our tour will end at Reaching Out, a social enterprise that is working to empower locals with disabilities learn skills and gain meaningful employment. We'll get a short introduction to the project and the artisans. Continue to the workshop to learn how to create your own foldable Hoi An lantern. This is an opportunity to support a meaningful cause while learning how to create a one-of-a-kind lantern. Later in the evening, we'll be treated to a traditional Vietnamese bamboo acrobatic performance called the Teh Dar show followed by some free time to explore Hoi An's shops and boutiques. (B,L)

DAY 9: Countryside Cycling Tour and Farewell Dinner

Today, we'll venture to the countryside of Central Vietnam for a relaxing cycling tour through lush green rice paddies and charming villages (note: for those who don't cycle transfers can be made by vehicle as well). Meander alongside the Thu Bon River and take in the slow beat of local life. Visit a 400 year old handicraft & pottery villages witnessing firsthand how the community craftsmen create these beautiful works of art. Continue through the golden paddies to a local home where they weave traditional vietnamese sedge mats. We'll have a break at a local cafe before our final stop at a small fishing village for a home-cooked lunch.





Later in the afternoon, take some final moments to explore Hoi An and pickup souvenirs before a special Farewell Dinner together in town. (B,L,D)

DAY 10: Farewell Vietnam!

After breakfast, we'll pack up and head to the airport for our flights back home. For those continuing on to the Saigon Extension, we'll hop aboard a short flight to Saigon, also known as Ho Chi Minh City. (B)



PREMIER LODGING

Begin the journey at the charming 4-star La Siesta Classic Hang Thung in the heart of Hanoi's scenic Old Quarter. A brand new property that combines traditional Vietnamese style with a modern twist, enjoy the hotel's pool & spa as well as morning breakfast overlooking the city at the rooftop restaurant.

Continue on to the countryside enclave of Ninh Binh for two nights at the 4-star Emeralda Tam Coc. Nestled in Van Long Nature Reserve, this hotel blissfully combines the surrounding nature with well-appointed rooms & amenities. Then it's off to Ha Long Bay for one memorable night on the water aboard the 5-star luxury MV Orchid, a small ship cruise that will take you to the most beautiful corners of the bay.

The last three nights will be spent in the relaxing ancient town of Hoi An at the 4-star Allegro Hoi An. A luxurious hotel nestled in the heart of Hoi An, the Allegro is known for its elegant design and sophisticated ambiance. With a blend of colonial and Vietnamese architectural elements, Allegro Hoi An offers a stylish retreat that blends comfort and a touch of local charm.

Please note that the exact properties are subject to change.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION: Saigon



DAY 10: Fly to Bustling Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City)

Get ready for a taste of one of Asia's most up and coming cities. Take a short flight to Ho Chi Minh City, locally known as Saigon. Upon arrival, we'll head out to see a piece of Vietnam War history, the infamous Cu Chi Tunnels. An intricate underground network of tunnels used by the Vietcong, the Cu Chi Tunnels are a fascinating glimpse into this era and a true piece of well-preserved history.

Later in the afternoon, we'll head into the city to check-in to our boutique hotel in the bustling center of Saigon. Tonight will be an experience unlike any other, an evening exploring the nooks and crannies of Saigon by vintage jeep! Our first stop will be a vibrant rooftop with sweeping city views followed by an evening tour of the main landmarks. Stop at a popular local restaurant for dinner and a drink and even sample the street food. The perfect way to experience the city like a local. (L,D)



DAYS 11: Full-day Adventure in the Mekong Delta

The Mekong Delta is a place unlike any other - a sprawling network of rivers, swamps, and islands in southern Vietnam that is renowned for its picturesque landscapes, vibrant floating markets, and a unique way of life centered around water. The experience begins with a picturesque boat trip alongside the Tan My floating community. Witness firsthand the unique lifestyle of this community, who live in floating houses and make their living from fishing and farming. We'll then board a sampan, a traditional wooden boat used by locals for transportation to get a glimpse of the countryside from a local's perspective.



We'll then visit a local farm and meet with an artisan who is native to the region. Take a shot at this traditional form of art before an unforgettable home-hosted lunch with food from the farm. We'll have a farewell drink with our hosts from the village before taking a boat ride and continuing our drive back to the city for the evening. (B,L,D)

DAY 12: Fly Home

After breakfast, we'll have some free time before packing up and head to the airport for our flights back home. (B)



VIETNAM: CULTURAL GEMS



SIGNATURE
JOURNEY

10 DAYS / 9 NIGHTS

PRICING

ADULT: \$4,395

CHILD: \$3,995

OPTIONAL
EXTENSION

ADULT: \$1,095

CHILD: \$995

The above prices reflect the price of double occupancy. Single Room Supplements (SRS) are \$795 per person, and \$200 per person for the extension. This will guarantee you your own, single occupancy room for the entirety of the trip. If you are a solo traveler and would like us to match you with a roommate of the same gender, please book as double occupancy. Child prices apply to those 16 years younger sharing a room with an adult.

**SEE WEBSITE FOR CURRENT LIST OF
DEPARTURE DATES**

RECOMMENDED FOR

- Adults & children ages 8+
- Travelers who are comfortable with MODERATE physical activity

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 9 breakfasts, 7 lunches & 7 dinners
- 8 nights premier 4-star boutique hotel lodging
- 1 nights on 5-star cruise in Ha Long Bay
- Transportation in private vehicles
- An immersive itinerary including behind-the-scenes visits to local organizations
- Discover Corps Guide that is there to support, guide, and inform you throughout the trip
- All scheduled activities and excursions
- \$50,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance
- Trip literature and pre-departure support from Discover Corps
- 24-hour Discover Corps emergency hotline

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Tips for the Discover Corps Guide and Driver
- 2 lunches & 1 dinner
- International airfare + \$150 one-way domestic flight supplement
- Alcoholic beverages
- Visa (if required)

RESERVE YOUR TRIP TODAY

Trips are limited to 16 travelers and do fill. Reserving a trip with Discover Corps is easy. Simply visit our website and fill out the online registration form and pay a \$365 deposit and \$30 non-refundable booking fee per person. If you have any questions or would like to speak to a Travel Specialist, call/text us at (619) 758-3030 or e-mail us at info@discovercorps.com

CUSTOM / PRIVATE GROUPS

Have a group of 6 or more? We can operate a trip for your group. Whether it's a family reunion, corporate group, alumni association or a professional or student organization, we'll make it easy and turnkey for your group to have an incredible experience.

RETURNING ALUMNI?

We like to reward those who travel with us again and again. Enjoy a \$250 discount off our trip if you are a returning Discover Corps traveler.

PAYMENT PLANS

Discover Corps offers monthly payment plan options for all of our trips. Contact us anytime, before or after booking, to sign up for a monthly payment plan or with any questions:

Although unlikely, prices, dates, and accommodations subject to change with a 60 day notice from Discover Corps.



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Our Mission

Discover Corps' mission is to inspire travelers to become advocates for our planet's natural wonders, cultural treasures, and local communities through immersive and sustainable travel experiences.



OUR DESTINATIONS

ALASKA	JAMAICA
AUSTRALIA	JAPAN
BALI	KENYA
BAJA	MOROCCO
BHUTAN	OAXACA
CHILE	PERU
COSTA RICA	SOUTH AFRICA
CUBA	TANZANIA
EGYPT	THAILAND
GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS	UGANDA
GREECE	VIETNAM
GUATEMALA	



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