



**Tailored Departures**

*The world is your oyster! This is a package that can be 100% customized according to your trip length, budget and itinerary inclusions.*

**10 nights**

Please contact us for the latest pricing.

***We'll match you with your best option!***

# VIETNAM STUDENT TOUR

## Educational Group Tour

*Join in on this incredibly comprehensive tour of Vietnam over 10 nights, as we journey from Hanoi, to Hue, Hoi An and Ho Chi Minh City.*

This tour offers a comprehensive and in-depth look into Vietnam from the hustle and fast paced life of Ho Chi Minh City to the relaxed calm of Ha Long Bay. Learn about rice farming, fishing and local cultural performances. See how the locals live and how local organizations are supporting orphaned and vision impaired children. Learn about Vietnamese traditions, history, the Vietnam War and modern day Vietnam. Cruise amongst islands, ride a buffalo driven cart through farming lands, hop on a dragon boat down the Perfume River and see market places, shopping strips and eat incredible food.

**✔ What's Included:**

- 10 nights accommodation\*
- Breakfast daily, mineral water (two bottles per person, per day and meals as per the itinerary)
- Transportation as per the itinerary
- English-speaking guide
- Entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Dragon boat on Perfume River in Hue
- Traditional Folk Show and package tour in Cai Be
- Buffalo cart tour in Hoi An

**Educational Group Experts**

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\*triple occ. Not included: airfare to/from Vietnam and airport taxes, visa fees (45USD/PAX), tips (3USD/PAX/day), domestic flight ticket in Vietnam (2 flights: Hanoi – Hue and Hoi An – HCMC), any personal expenses, meals and drinks not mentioned in the itinerary, travel insurance (quote available upon request), kayak on Ha Long Bay, gifts for children at Thien An Warm-house and Duc Son Orphanage. ON-4499356/4499372 | BC-34799 | QC-7002238 | 111 Peter Street, Suite 200, Toronto, ON. M5V 2H1 | Canadian owned Tico.ca Merit Travel is a registered trademark of Merit Travel Group Inc. All rights reserved.



## Your Itinerary | Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner = (B, L, D)

*Note: Itinerary is subject to change depending on confirmed flights and availability of rooms. In case hotels we recommend are not available, booking will be changed to others in similar class. Additional charges will be applied for peak season unless booking is confirmed at the time of reservation.*

### DAY 1 | CANADA - HANOI (D)

Upon arrival, your local tour guide will pick you up in a coach and transfer you to your hotel. Once settled, you are free to explore Hanoi for the remainder of the day.

#### **Overnight in Hanoi (2 nights)**

### DAY 2 | HANOI (B, L, D)

After breakfast at the hotel, we depart on a tour of Hanoi. The tour will include, Ba Dinh Square, the political centre of the country and the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, the largest memorial in Vietnam. Throughout the day we will visit the Presidential Palace, The One Pillar Pagoda, The Temple of Literature, The Museum of Ethnology, a research centre and a public museum exhibiting the ethnic groups of Vietnam.

### DAY 3 | HANOI - HA LONG BAY (B, D)

Depart for Ha Long Bay, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, where upon arrival, we will board our boat and cruise through the limestone islets of Cho Da, Dinh Huong, Ga Choi and Hoa Cuong. Lunch is served on board. In the afternoon, visit Sung Sot Grotto, the "Cave of Surprises", before taking a swim in the pristine waters



of Titov Beach or Soi Sim Beach. The vessel then cruises further to reach its overnight anchorage location near Ho Dong Tien or Luon Cave. Enjoy the sunset from the sundeck or while swimming. Dinner will be served on board. Our evening is devoted to relaxing or to experiencing night-fishing from the boat's deck.

#### **Overnight on board the cruise ship (1 night)**

*Note: Cruise program on Ha Long Bay is subject to change depending on which cruise you choose and weather conditions. No triple room accommodations, we will use one double/twin room and one single room.*

### DAY 4 | HA LONG BAY - HANOI - HUE (B, L)

An early start today with breakfast surrounded by stunning scenery. Then a small boat will take you to visit Luon Cave, before cruising to Tuan Chau pier. Lunch is served on board before we disembark at noon. The tour guide will pick up the group at Tuan Chau pier for the transfer back to Hanoi for a night flight to Hue. Upon arrival in Hue the tour guide will organize transfers to the hotel.

#### **Overnight in Hue (2 nights)**

### DAY 5 | HUE (B, D)

After breakfast at the hotel, the group will take a dragon boat tour on the Perfume River. The tour will include visits to Thien Mu Pagoda and Minh Mang King Tomb. In the afternoon, the group will visit Duc Son Orphanage, home to approximately 200 orphaned children. Afterwards, we visit Khai Dinh King tomb before returning to the hotel to relax.



## DAY 6 | HUE - HOI AN (B, D)

After breakfast at the hotel, we check out and start the day of sightseeing which will include The Nine Holy Cannons and The Imperial Citadel. Lunch is served at a local restaurant, before we depart for Hoi An. On the way, you will have a chance to admire the stunning beauty of Hai Van Pass and Lang Co Bay – one of the most beautiful bays in the world. Upon arrival in Hoi An, visit the Phuc Kien Communal House, The Japanese Bridge, and Tan Ky Ancient House.

*Overnight in Hoi An (2 nights)*

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## DAY 7 | HOI AN (B)

After breakfast at the hotel, the group will be picked up for a trip to Cam Thanh Village. Board a buffalo-pulled cart for a tour passing by and inspecting farming villages and rice fields. Spend time with a local farming family enjoying refreshments and sharing stories of farming life. The group will also have the chance to learn about the water buffalo, the story of rice, and how to cook rice and enjoy a rice meal the authentic Vietnamese way. Later we return to the hotel for leisure time.

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## DAY 8 | HOI AN - HO CHI MINH CITY (B, D)

After having breakfast at the hotel, we check out and transfer to Da Nang Airport for a morning flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Upon arrival, a guide will be waiting to take the group on a city sightseeing tour. The tour will include The City Opera and City Hall, Notre Dame Cathedral, the Central Post Office, designed and constructed by the famous architect Gustave Eiffel, the War Remnants Museum, Thien Hau Temple and The Jade Emperor Pagoda. The tour will also include time to do some shopping at Binh Tay market.

*Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City (3 nights)*

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## DAY 9 | HO CHI MINH CITY (B, D)

After having breakfast at the hotel, depart for The Cu Chi Tunnels - one of the most famous battlegrounds of the Vietnam War. Visit Tay Ninh, the first church of Cao Daiism, a syncretistic, monotheistic religion with origins in Vietnam.

Later, return to the hotel to relax.

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## DAY 10 | HO CHI MINH CITY (B, D)

After breakfast at the hotel, depart for a visit to the Mekong Delta – Vietnam’s rice bowl. The group will be picked up at Cai Be pier for a boat trip on the Mekong River. The morning portion of the tour will include visits to Cai Be Floating market, local workshops, a coconut-candy workshop and a flapjack workshop. Finish the morning with a short bicycle trip on Tan Phong Island to visit local orchards and enjoy fresh fruit. Lunch will be at a local restaurant, before spending the afternoon cruising to Dong Phu Island to visit a fishing village and learn about fish export. Later we will enjoy a traditional music called “tai tu”.

In the late afternoon we will drive back to Ho Chi Minh City to enjoy leisure time.

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## DAY 11 | HO CHI MINH CITY - CANADA (B)

After breakfast at the hotel, check out and transfer to visit Thien An Warm House, also called MATA, which is currently raising thirty children with visual impairments.

Later in the day we transfer to Tan Son Nhat airport for the flight back home.



**RESPONSIBILITY**

Merit Travel Group Inc. doing business as Merit Travel, acts solely as agents for the Travel Service Suppliers such as hoteliers, airlines, ground service operators, bus operators, etc. who are providing their facilities as described in this brochure. We do our best to select such suppliers but exercise no control over them and cannot be held responsible for the failure of these suppliers to carry out any obligations. Any and all bookings made with these suppliers by us, for you, are subject to the terms and conditions of each and every such supplier. Supplier liability may also be limited by law, tariffs, or conditions set forth in their documentation, tickets, etc.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Merit and its directors, officers, employees, affiliates, successors, assigns, agents and other representatives are not responsible for any and all claims for losses, damages (whether direct, indirect, special, punitive, or other consequential damages, lost profits or opportunities) delays, illness, injuries, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, or anxiety (whether based in contract, tort, negligence, strict liability or otherwise, and even if Merit and the Travel Service Suppliers have been advised of the possibility of damages to such party or any other party) arising from:

- Fault or negligence or omissions on the part of the said travel service suppliers;
- Illness, theft, strikes, mechanical problems, quarantine, governmental intervention, weather conditions, acts of hostility or violence, and any other grounds beyond our control;
- Your failure to obtain passport, visas, other travel documents or inoculations
- Your failure to advise us the name of the traveller exactly as it appears on the passport;
- Your failure to report on time at an airport or ground transfer facility;
- Material damages, theft or other mysterious disappearances of your goods;
- Personal injuries or death;
- Force Majeure - an event(s) beyond our, or our supplier(s), reasonable control including, but not limited to, acts of God, strikes, lockout or other labour disputes or disruptions, wars, blockades, insurrections, riots, earthquakes, weather conditions, floods or acts of restraints imposed by governmental authorities.

**PRICING**

All prices are per person in Canadian dollars unless otherwise noted. GST, HST and provincial taxes are applicable on tours as noted.

**INCREASE IN TOUR COSTS**

Merit reserves the right to increase tour prices in the event of an increase in government and airport authority imposed taxes and fees, fuel and currency surcharges, supplier price increases, or any other cost increase. If the increase is greater than 7% of the tour cost, the client may cancel the booking within seven days of notification and obtain a full refund.

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

A group can only be reserved upon a non-refundable deposit (amount to be specified at the time of quotation) payable in one lump sum applicable to the total cost of the group reservation.

Full and final payment is due no later than 60 days prior to departure. Please note that some of our suppliers may require an additional deposit or full payment at time of booking pending seasonality. You will be advised of any additional requirements at time of booking.

**LIABILITY**

Merit cannot assume responsibility for any costs incurred for any travel arrangements purchased separately from the Merit tour. Merit's responsibility shall extend only to the provisions of advice as to industry-standard or supplier recommended connections and check-in times. Provided Merit supplies such advice, they shall not be responsible for missed connections or departures, regardless of the cause.

**TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN (INSURANCE)**

Trip cancellation and interruption insurance, medical and hospital insurance, baggage insurance, and various additional insurances are available and

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. If you choose not to purchase insurance, you are required to sign an Insurance Waiver Form. Note that if you choose not to purchase insurance, you are fully liable for any and all penalties imposed as stated under Cancellation Policy on this page. Please speak to your representative at the time of making reservations about insurance.

**REFUNDS**

The nature of travel involves risks and unpredictable weather and thus Merit cannot assure any departure or arrival times at any point of an itinerary. Your right to receive a refund is limited. There will be no discounts or monies refunded for any missed or unused services. Merit reserves the right to cancel the tour for any reason. Should this occur, a full refund will be made to the traveller.

**CANCELLATION POLICY**

While Merit will do its utmost to minimize any penalties charged, there are irrecoverable costs associated with your tour. The following penalties will be considered the costs incurred with cancellation:

- 60 days or more prior to departure: partial or full refund permitted less deposit per passenger. Please note that group rates may change if numbers fall below group booking conditions with our suppliers in which case individual rates may apply.
- Less than 60 days prior to departure final payment is non-refundable.

**Cancellation penalties for some tours will vary and there may be additional penalties associated with the airfare. If so, these policies will be noted separately at time of booking and will prevail.**

**TOUR CHANGES**

We reserve the right to substitute itineraries, hotels, airlines or vessels due to conditions beyond our control. In such cases we will do everything possible to ensure the locations visited, the excursions taken and the hotels offered are similar to the ones originally planned. Any change to itineraries will not result in eligibility for a refund.

**REVISION FEE**

Changes to your tour reservation might not be possible. Should you request a change and we are able to accommodate it, you will be subject to any charges imposed by the airline or tour suppliers. In addition, we reserve the right to charge a \$50 revision fee for any change made after the deposit is paid. A change in name or departure date may constitute a cancellation, and the corresponding penalties may apply.

**PERSONAL DOCUMENTATION**

All passengers travelling internationally must travel with a passport. Many countries require the passport to be valid for 6 months beyond the traveller's return date. Visas may be required for some destinations. It is the passenger's responsibility to obtain at the passenger's expense, all documentation required by all relevant authorities. In the event that the passenger does not possess the correct documentation, the air carrier has the right to refuse passage.

**DESCRIPTION**

Every effort has been made to describe and produce the travel services and photographs as accurately as possible in the printed tour description. However we reserve the right to correct errors and we will make all reasonable efforts to inform you should any significant changes occur.

**Please note that the living standards and local conditions during your tour may be different from what you are accustomed to at home.**

**CONSENT**

Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute your consent to the above terms.

If you encounter any concerns during your tour, please inform your local travel service provider. If the matter cannot be resolved, please inform Merit Travel in writing upon your return.

**Please note that the above terms and conditions are subject to the terms and conditions agreed to under signed school board agreements between Merit Travel and the School Board.**