



WENDY WU TOURS

Tour Dossier

VIETNAM IMPRESSIONS, 11 DAYS

This document was designed to be read in conjunction with our other pre-departure information provided after you have made a booking with Wendy Wu Tours. It aims to provide a straightforward description of the physical activities involved in sightseeing or travelling during the tour. All passengers should read this dossier to confirm their ability to complete the tour. This is not your final Itinerary and therefore does not mention all the sites visited.

Tour grade - Comfortable Paced Tour

This is defined in our brochure as the following: "Whilst you will encounter some walking throughout the tour, these programmes are comfortably operated to appeal to most people. Generally these tours are shorter in duration and visit the mainstream tourist attractions."

This is the easiest pace of tour that Wendy Wu Tours offers in Vietnam. Anyone with a reasonable level of fitness should be able to complete this itinerary. Of course, our local guides always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance, but they cannot be expected to cater for those who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

Group Size

In most cases, the group size will operate with a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 passengers.

Itinerary Changes

1. Vietnam Airlines' domestic flights are subject to frequent changes. For this reason we have indicated morning, afternoon or evening flights only in the ITINERARY section below. Your Local guide or National Escort will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them.
2. Order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

Tipping

If there are less than 10 people in your group, please allow USD\$48 each for tipping (i.e. \$16 for Hanoi, \$16 Hoi An/Danang and \$16 Saigon).

If there are more than 10, please allow USD\$35 each for the entire tour).

This amounts listed above **do not include hotel portage** so if you would like your luggage carried to your hotel room this will be at your discretion.

NB: Times and distances listed in this section are approximations only.

Days 1-2: South Africa/Hanoi

You will be met at Hanoi airport in the arrivals hall by your Local Guide and/or National Escort from Wendy Wu Tours. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer (1hr drive) to your hotel and check in to your rooms. There is no sightseeing today.

Day 3: Hanoi

Both men and women must dress respectfully for the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, with covered shoulders and knees. Sightseeing in central Hanoi involves approx 4 hrs on foot; at the Ho Chi Minh 'quarter', Temple of Literature and Old Quarter. When visiting the Mausoleum you must be quiet, show respect and will not be allowed to carry cameras, mobile phones, etc (usually your Local Guide will offer to hold these for you).

[NB: Your Local Guide will confirm the menu for tomorrow's seafood lunch on board the junk boat, so please mention any food allergies or dislikes again before the end of today.]

Day 4: Hanoi

We have an early rise this morning to drive 3 ½ hrs (170km) to Halong City and port, including a 20min rest stop. Boarding your junk boat could involve navigating your way over and through other boats, moored between it and the dock – sometimes without handrails or assistance from staff. The junk boats have been recently built and modelled on the traditional 'junk' which was both home and working vessel for fishermen in the Orient for centuries. They usually have an enclosed dining area and open deck on the upper deck. We take a 4hr cruise including lunch onboard, return to the dock and drive back to Hanoi.

Day 5: Hanoi/Hoi An

Transfer to the airport for morning flight to Danang (flight duration 1hr); the closest airport to Hoi An. Easy sightseeing in Danang at Cham Museum, China Beach and then Marble Mountains. There are some uneven stone steps up and it can get hot here. If you choose not to participate in this activity, you will need to remain with the coach. Afterwards transfer (¾hr drive) to hotel in Hoi An.

Day 6: Hoi An

At least 2 hrs walking in Hoi An Old Town, then afternoon at leisure.

Day 7: Hoi An/Saigon

Transfer back to Danang airport for morning flight to Saigon (flight duration 1hr).

[NB: Check-out time in Vietnam is midday so your group's rooms are unlikely to be available. This morning you will commence sightseeing and check in at your hotel later.]

Transfer (40mins drive) to Cholon district for sightseeing, then back into Saigon's downtown to see the Ben Thanh markets before checking in at your hotel. After lunch, there is more sightseeing around downtown; involving approx 1 ½ hrs on foot. Watch your valuables while in the market area. There are some graphic images in the War Remnants Museum, which some people may find confronting.

Day 8: Cu Chi Tunnels/Tay Ninh day trip

Remember to take insect repellent today as mosquitoes are more common in the Cu Chi district. With this evening's flight departure this is a full day of sightseeing; leaving the hotel this morning at about 7am. Transfer 2hrs (75 km) to Cu Chi; which is actually an outer suburb of Ho Chi Minh City. Sightseeing here involves 2 hrs on foot on uneven paths and, if you choose, crawling through some of the tunnels. It is important to follow your Guide's directions to leave on time as to arrive at Tay Ninh in time to see the midday service. Transfer 1.30 hrs (60km) to Tay Ninh to the 'Holy See' and watch most of the Cao Dai service. Then transfer (10mins drive) to have lunch - the meal is simple but this is the only suitable restaurant in the area. Transfer 3hrs (100km) back to Saigon.

Day 9: Mekong Delta

We have an early rise this morning to drive 2hrs (75km) to city of My Tho. You will travel by motorised, wooden boats between the islands and perhaps smaller, paddle boats in the canals. Sightseeing involves crossing from one small boat to another to embark/disembark. You will travel by motorised, wooden boats between the islands and perhaps smaller, paddle boats in the canals. Sightseeing involves crossing from one small boat to another to embark/disembark and 1hr on foot to cross the islands. Approx 2 hrs later, return to docks, have lunch and drive back to Saigon. Overnight in Saigon. Dinner is not included.

Day 10: Depart Saigon

Transfer to the airport.

Day 11: Arrive in South Africa

Arrive home.