

North Vietnam Bike Tour

a 7 day Vietnam Bicycle & Sea Kayak Tour





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Day by Day Itinerary

Day 1 - Arrive in Hanoi, water puppet performance, welcome dinner

Your guide will meet you at Hanoi's airport, then transfer downtown to our hotel. The day is free at your leisure until evening. We'll gather for a bit of tour orientation then head out for dinner at a local restaurant, your first taste of our guide curated menus, plus enjoy a water puppet show, where the puppeteers are actually standing in the water.

Relax: Free time until dinner

Eat: Dinner

Sleep: Anantole Hotel

Day 2 - Hanoi sightseeing by Vespa and street food tour

Start the day local style, exploring the city on an antique vespa scooter. You'll ride pillion while our experience local drivers pilot you through the hidden charms of Hanoi Old quarter and West Lake areas. Experience the magical moments of Hanoi waking up! Let us take you on a unique, early morning adventure riding pillion on one of our vintage Vespas. Experience the magical moments of Hanoi waking up! Of course breakfast is on tap with some freshly made, Banh Cuon, a mouth-watering healthy steamed rice rolls and a non-missable egg coffee. Later in the afternoon, we head back out on foot to experience the incredible variety of street foods that Hanoi has to offer. Not only will your taste buds be jumping with joy but this pastime is archetypal of the city's culture and the daily lives of the people. Sit down at any of the countless street food stalls and you will be met with delicious food and friendly smiles. And don't worry, you will be burning off the calories from all this eating in the days to come as we bike.

Explore: Walking and Vespa tour

Eat: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sleep: Anantole Hotel

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Day 3 - Mai Chau by Bicycle

After breakfast we will shuttle out of Hanoi to quiet Bai Lang, where we will get you set up on the bikes and embark on the cycling portion of the tour. We will be pedaling to Thung Nai, a slow gradual climb into the hills. Reaching Thung Nai we will join a local family for lunch. Letting everyone digest a bit while shuttling to Cao Phong, we resume riding to our lodge in Mai Chau surrounded by lush landscapes.

Ride: 67 mi / 105 km, Land: hills

Eat: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sleep: Mai Chau Ecolodge

Day 4 - Mai Chau, cycling to Don Village (Pu Luong Nature Reserve)

This morning you will embark by bike and continue cycling west to Pu Luong Nature Reserve. The route gets a bit more challenging after the first 20km from Mai Chau as we will tackle the hills on small roads. But the beautiful views on the valleys and terraced rice fields, stops at the villages and interact with friendly locals, help keep the minds off the challenge. Arrive at the Pu Luong Retreat in the afternoon, a lovely spot nestled between two streams at the foot of a limestone mountain. Spend the rest of the day at leisure enjoying the cascades and natural pools all around your private bungalow.

Ride: 43 mi / 70 km, Land: hills

Eat: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sleep: Pu Loung Retreat

Day 5 - Pu Luong Nature Reserve by bicycle

No need to pack this morning as you will enjoy a morning ride to nearby beautiful villages. You will stop in Ban Hieu, a remote village in Pu Luong Nature Reserve. This beautiful village is named after the stream running through it- Hieu stream which is originated from Pu Luong Peak. Unlike the above one, this village is famous for the giant waterwheels standing on the running water, surrounded by peaceful rice fields that turn yellow right in the harvest season. Breathtaking scenes in this village also include 5 waterfalls called Hieu waterfall that cool down the temperate in the whole area, especially in the summer. Visit to the waterfall before we cycle back to Don village, where we spend our second night.

Ride: 15 mi / 25 km, Land: hills

Eat: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sleep: Pu Loung Retreat

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Day 6 - Pu Luong to Hoa Lu ancient capital of Vietnam

The towering karst cliffs line your route this morning, cycling to Hoa Lu, the 10th century capital of Dai Co Viet (as Vietnam was known as back then). Tour around the many palaces, pagodas, tombs and pavilions that were built by different dynasties. One of the most popular pieces of architecture is the Bao Thien Tue Palace, which was plated with gold and silver. After visiting, we keep cycling on the beautiful country lane to the scenic Tam Coc. Enjoy lunch in local restaurant in Tam Coc, then take a sampan on a river through the rice paddies to the grottoes of the sacred Tam Coc Caves. Enormous limestone karsts jut out from the green rice fields giving rise to this place's other name, 'Halong on Land'. We will stop at Hang Mua (Dancing cave), enjoy climbing up over 500 steps to the summit. From the top of mountain, we can enjoy the dramatic panorama of Tam Coc rivers, canals and mountains. Overnight in Tam Coc.

Ride: 38 mi / 60 km, Land: hills

Eat: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sleep: Aravinda Resort

Day 7 - cruise Halong Bay by junk

You have a leisurely morning before we leave for our drive to Hai Phong & enjoy the journey through the rich farmlands of the Red River Delta and the scenery of rice fields, water buffalo and everyday Vietnamese village life. In Hai Phong, embark for two nights onboard a luxurious junk, exploring away from the tourist hordes in Halong Bay. Today sail to Ao Ech area where we break out the sea kayaks for a bit of exploring, then on to the lesser visited areas of Tra Bau and Lan Ha Bay. After enjoying sunset over the Gulf of Tonkin, join the ship's chef for short cooking class before dinner.

Sail: kayak and sailing

Eat: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sleep: Peony Cruise



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Day 8 - Halong Bay Cruise and bike to Viet Hai Village

Arise early if you wish for some Tai Chi on the deck before breakfast. Hop the shuttle craft to Viet Hai village on the nearby island, where we enjoy some cycling through the rainforest and tree tunnel to visit some local villages and discover island life. Enjoy lunch on the shuttle boat as we explore some areas out of reach of the junk, before returning for afternoon swims or a bit more sea kayaking. Perhaps the chef might show you how to prepare a few more Vietnamese dishes before dinner. Perhaps round out your day by trying your hand at night squid fishing.

Ride: 8 mi / 15 km, Land: flat

Eat: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sleep: Peony Cruise

Day 9 - Halong Bay back to Hanoi

More Tai Chi perhaps? After breakfast disembark to visit a limestone grotto, before sailing back to Hai Phong. We'll shuttle back to Hanoi, where you have the afternoon free to explore, relax, shop for gifts. Enjoy farewell dinner in one of the most popular local restaurants.

Relax: Sail back to port, transfer

Eat: Breakfast, Dinner

Sleep: Anantole Hotel

Day 10 - Departure

Drive to Hanoi airport for your onward flight. T?m bi?t

Travel: Shuttle to airport

Eat: Breakfast



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Scheduled Dates You Can Join:

You can find the most up to date information on available departures and book your spots on the tour's webpage linked below. Lets Travel!

<https://pedalers.travel/north-vietnam-bike-tour-food-culture-landscapes.htm>

Private Dates For Your Gang:

Any Pedalers tour can be made private at your request. If you don't see the date you want, we'll create one for you. A tip from our local experts, this tour is best enjoyed October thru March with warm temperatures and little rain.

Why Pedalers?

Experience the Heart and Soul of Each Country with Our Local Expert Team

Our passionate and diverse team of local experts will guide you through their homeland, sharing intimate knowledge and hidden wonders. They are not just guides but also skilled bike mechanics, ensuring a comfortable and enjoyable ride. Unlike other tour companies, Pedalers' local crew brings an insider's perspective to the table. You'll be pampered by a friendly team, equipped with the skills to fix anything. A sweep rider and sag wagon provide support, and your baggage travels comfortably with you. Pedalers treats you like family, making your journey unforgettable.

Indulge in Mouthwatering Local Delights on a Culinary Adventure

Unlock the essence of culture through food as we take you on a culinary extravaganza. Bond with fellow riders over scrumptious dishes at local restaurants specializing in regional cuisine. Family-style dining lets you sample outstanding dishes, carefully chosen by our expert guides. Lunch is satisfying but not overwhelming, and breakfast offers comforting Western delights. Pedalers knows the importance of good food for cyclists, creating a mouthwatering experience that combines riding and dining.



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Immerse Yourself in Authentic Accommodations, Where Culture Meets Comfort

Discover the charm of our handpicked accommodations. Pedalers takes a unique approach to accommodations, ensuring an authentic and immersive experience. Choose between Classic and Première Classe tours, each offering carefully selected lodging options. Classic tours feature mid-priced boutique inns that blend comfort with local character, while Première Classe tours add a touch of luxury to your adventure with upscale lodges and inns. Regardless of your choice, Pedalers' accommodations reflect the local culture, providing a delightful and comfortable stay that complements your journey.

Lodging:

Boutique Hotels, Small Inns and Ship Cabins

What's Included:

- 7 nights Accommodation in the area's better hotels (double occupancy)
- 2 nights Accommodation on Junk
- All meals from Dinner on Day 1 until Breakfast on Day 10 (except where noted)
- Rental bike
- Water, sodas or beer included at dinner
- Service of bilingual Team Pedalers Guide(s)
- Full Van Support
- Daily route directions and maps
- Sightseeing and cultural activities
- Airport pick up & drop off



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Meeting & Flights:

The tour meets on Day 1 at Hanoi Mai Airport. Guides will meet all incoming flights.

Fly into Hanoi (HAN) anytime on Day 1

Fly out of Hanoi (HAN) after 10 am on Day 13

For assistance with flights contact our friends at Exito Travel: help.pedalers.travel/flights.htm

Route Conditions:

The entire ride is on paved roads, with moderate to light traffic. Pavement is a bit coarse and suitable for touring, sport road and also performance road bikes with wider tires (25 or wider). Terrain is a mix of flat and hilly terrain.

Passport, Visa and Travel Documents:

Passports are required for all guests unless you are a citizen of or currently residing in Vietnam. US and Canadian citizens need a visa and can apply for an eVisa in advance:

https://evisa.xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn/en_US/web/guest/khai-thi-thuc-dien-tu/cap-thi-thuc-dien-tu. Citizens of other countries should check with the Vietnam Embassy in their country for entry requirements applicable to your trip. We strongly recommend looking into this well in advance of your tour, so as to be prepared and not left standing at the gate.

Pedalers does not provide any visa processing services for tour guests.

Giving Back:

Guests often ask what they can do or bring to help people in the region. We suggest purchasing school notebooks after you arrive in Vietnam to pass out to children in the remote villages we visit. Or if you have a discount store nearby home, pick up some simple reading glasses (2 to 3.75) to pass out to elderly villagers, so that they can continue to lead productive lives.