

# Northern Vietnam Multisport

## a 13 day Vietnam Bike & Sea Kayaking Tour



Vietnam is a country filled with captivating natural beauty and tranquil village life. Its highlands continue to yield new species and team with exotic wildlife. Its islands and beaches are among the finest in all of Southeast Asia, and its cuisine is excellent. Our new Highlights Multisport provides you with the opportunity to experience it all firsthand.

We begin our journey in the country's capital, Hanoi, where we explore its history and cultural exhibits. Experience the old French Quarter by cyclo (bicycle taxis). Then head out into the country for a couple of days by bike through the dramatic landscapes of Mai Chau and Ninh Binh. A quick flight takes us to central Vietnam, where we will spend several days exploring the beautiful historic cities of Hue and Hoi An. Your bicycle tour leg also heads into the western mountains for a spectacular ride along the new Ho Chi Minh Highway, with its quiet ethnic villages and broad sweeping landscapes. This winding road follows the old wartime Ho Chi Minh Trail.

The final leg switches gears, leaving the land behind for a cruise by junk through the turquoise waters of UNESCO World Heritage, Ha Long Bay and swaps our bicycles for sea kayaks to explore the many karst limestone islands. Our junk features all the amenities for comfortable evening accommodations, air conditioned rooms with en suite facilities. And our sea kayaks allow us access inside the islands paddling through caves to their hidden interiors. It is a journey unlike any you have done before.

### Day by Day Itinerary

**Day 1** - Arrive in Hanoi and transfer to our hotel in the old French Quarter. The rest day at your leisure. In the evening, we dine at Seasons of Hanoi restaurant.

**Day 2** - We explore Hanoi by van, foot and cyclo (a pedal powered taxi). Among our stops is the Museum of Ethnology, with its informative displays about Vietnam's history, culture and ethnic minorities. You will roll through the historic streets of the French Quarter via cyclo and enjoy a traditional Vietnamese water puppet show at dinner.

**Day 3** - This morning we will bypass Ha Noi's hectic traffic, shuttling to the quiet town of Man Duc. We will mount our bikes and pedal off into the lush hill country. The landscapes are magnificent and our cycling takes the easiest route through the mountains, not over them. A short climb at ride's end takes us into the Mai Chau valley and our lodge sitting at the edge of bright green rice paddies. 30 mi /50 kms

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**Day 4** - After breakfast, we will cycle around the valley a bit exploring quaint little villages with their traditional houses, perhaps visiting the local market where the ethnic Tai sells their handmade cloth. We will do another shuttle, as our next destination is too far for a day's ride, then enjoy an late afternoon spin through the karst scenery surrounding Ninh Binh. 26 mi / 40 kms

**Day 5** - Bike from the hotel to Hoa Lu, the first capital of Vietnam date back from 8th century. Visit the temples and climb some hundred steps to the top of a mountain for a great view over the "Halong Bay on the rice field" After here we bike through an amazing area of Limestone Mountains uprising on rice paddies. After 1hr riding we reach Tam Coc. Lunch in local restaurant and then enjoy an interesting rowing boat trip on river to explore the Halong Bay on the rice paddies. Drive back to Ha Noi. 20 mi / 32 kms (dinner on your own)

**Day 6** - We take a morning flight to Hue. In the afternoon, cycle a 'back roads' loop of Hue through lush countryside on a mix of footpaths and quiet country lanes. Visit the Imperial Citadel at your leisure. After exploring the ruins of this grand monument to the emperors, ride the backstreets, along the banks of the Perfume River to Thien Mu Pagoda. Continue to the Ming Manh mausoleum and loop back across the river to Hue via the funerary monument to Khai Dinh. 18 mi / 30 kms

**Day 7** - Begin riding off the beaten track for 40km along a picturesque, narrow peninsular road from Thuan An Beach to Vinh Loc. Hop on a local ferry to cross the estuary of the Perfume River before joining Highway 1. From here, transfer or cycle the first of the day's three hill climbs. After the first two (moderate) climbs of 2-3km each, cruise down to balmy Lang Co Beach for a rest/swim and lunch before tackling the final hill of the day - the Hai Van Pass, or 'Pass of Ocean Clouds'. With a new tunnel through the mountain diverting highway traffic, the 11km of this leg will be natural and quiet. The gradient is moderately challenging and the views breathtaking! Transfer the rest of the way to Hoi An, a delightful old trading town and UNESCO World Heritage Site. 47 mi / 80 kms

**Day 8** - This exceptional tour is a mix of culture and relaxation. The morning is dedicated to the discovery of rural Vietnam. We will cycle from Hoi An and set out to meet the locals and discover daily life in the Vietnamese countryside. After a meal with a local Vietnamese family, we will set out for a 5km cycle ride on an unspoiled beach. We will cycle along the water's edge on the hard sand\*, where we might come across local fishermen setting out to sea in their traditional "basket boats" or bringing in their nets. After some time to relax and enjoy a swim, we will set out to cycle the few remaining kilometers to join the mouth of the Thu Bon River where a boat will be waiting to bring us back to Hoi An. Free time in the afternoon for relaxing in Hoi An. In the evening dine in Ancient Faifo Restaurant. 25 mi / 40 kms

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**Day 9** - We say good bye to Hue and proceed with a short flight to Hanoi. From Noi Bai airport, transfer to hotel and the rest day is free at leisure. Relax and shopping if you wish. (lunch & dinner on your own)

**Day 10** - After breakfast, depart for Halong Bay. A natural wonder of the world and one of Vietnam's five UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Over three thousand jagged limestone islands emerge from the emerald green waters of Halong Bay. Upon arrival at Halong city, we transfer to a traditional deluxe junk for a cruise among the karst islands. The boat is one of the more traditional varieties that sail through the magnificent UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy a fresh seafood lunch on board while the captain heads out for the horizon. Cruise to discover Halong bay with breathtaking scenery and thousands of limestone outcrops. There will be time to enjoy kayaking in the afternoon. Dinner and overnight on junk.

**Day 11** - After breakfast, we transfer to taxi boat and enjoy a whole day cruise and kayak. Following the boat to cruise to Man's Head Island and Tortoise Island. Paddling to explore Luon Cave ( Tunnel cave), a beautiful crater like lagoon encircled by towering cliff which is only accessed via half submerged 30m tunnel cave. Paddle to visit Cua Van fishing village. Enjoy scrumptious lunch then cruise to unusual Ba Ham Lake, another crater like lagoon in two sections. The afternoon will be spent at Three Peach Beach, a stunning swimming spot. Return to mother junk for dinner and overnight.

**Day 12** - After breakfast, continue kayaking to explore the wonder of Halong bay. Paddle to Duck Islet and Ba Hang area. Cruise back to Halong city passing Bai Tho Mountain and Chopstick Islet. Enjoy the last delicious lunch on board. Arrive Halong around 12 p.m then transfer back to Hanoi. The balance of the day is free for your leisure in Hanoi.

**Day 13** - Depart Hanoi, several shuttles will be available back to the airport.

### Dates & Prices:

Please check our website for the currently available dates and the applicable pricing.

<https://pedalers.travel/vietnam-multisport-tours-highlights-of-vietnam-bike-sea-kayak.htm>

### At Your Request:

Private departures can be arranged November thru May. Get your wheels rolling and request your At Your Request date today. Plan a trip for your bike club or corporate incentive, contact us for more details.

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### **Lodging:**

Boutique Hotels, Small Inns and Ship Cabins

### **What's Included:**

- 10 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 13 (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

### **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](http://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 small hills along the coastal sections, with hilly conditions along the Ho Chi Minh Highway.

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### **Visas & Travel Documents:**

Passports are required for all guests. Your passport should have at least 6 months validity past your intended travel dates. Visas can be obtained from the Vietnam Embassy in your country.

For assistance with obtaining your visas contact our friends at VisaHQ: [help.pedalers.travel/visas.htm](http://help.pedalers.travel/visas.htm)

### **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.