

TOGETHER WE TRAVEL!



solo connections





Vibrant Vietnam
15 Days
Fully Escorted
01 - 15 December 2027

ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Saigon
- Mekong Delta
- Cu Chi Tunnels
- Hoi An
- Cooking Class
- Hue
- Imperial Citadel
- Hanoi
- Lan Ha Bay
- 2 Night Halong Bay Cruise

INCLUDES:

- Domestic Economy Class flights within Vietnam
- **Private single rooms** in classic plus[^] accommodation
- **Private ensuited cabin** on board Halong Bay Cruise
- **Meals** as per itinerary - 14 Breakfasts, 8 Lunches, 8 Dinners
- **Sightseeing** tours and transfers* by private vehicle
- **Tour Host** – Departs from Brisbane
- English speaking **Tour Leader**
- Tipping / Gratuities for local tour leaders and coach drivers

EXCLUDES:

- International Flights - **Please check with reservations for airport transfer times, before booking flights**
- Any meals, tours or transfers other than mentioned above or in the itinerary
- Items of a personal nature i.e. laundry, drinks, phone calls, etc
- Compulsory Travel Insurance
- Vietnam E-Visa

From \$6,300* per person

Terms and Conditions apply. Price is per person Sole Use and subject to availability. Price is correct as at **08/12/2025**. [^]Classic Plus accommodation is considered 3.5 - 4 Star hotels. Tour requires minimum number of 10 passengers to depart. Prices may fluctuate if surcharges, fees, taxes or currencies change. Solo Connections is constantly striving to improve our itineraries and inclusions. If such improvements can be made, or unforeseen circumstances beyond our control make changes necessary, we reserve the right at any time to vary itineraries and to substitute inclusions of equal value. Beverages, additional meals, hotel mini bars, laundry, phone calls, any items of personal nature not included. Further booking conditions apply, please check all prices, availability and other information with your travel agent at time of or before booking. Package cancellation fees apply. Denise Marie Falsay trading as Solo Connections. ATAS Accredited A11424. ABN 92 582 582 996



Day 1 – Wednesday, 01 December 2027
Arrive Hi Chi Minh City

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Today, those passengers who have opted to travel on the same flights as the tour host will meet at Brisbane International Airport or enroute in Singapore. Passengers not travelling with the host will need to ensure that they are at Ho Chi Minh City airport in time for the transfer or you can meet at the hotel.

Welcome to **Vietnam!**

This country is full of contrasts. From huge modern cities to hill-tribe villages anything seems possible in this fascinating country.

At Tan Son Nhat international airport, our local Tour Leader will be waiting and transfer us to our hotel for a light dinner before settling in for the night

Accommodation: Central Palace Hotel – 4-Star - or similar (3 nights)

All passengers - Please check with reservations for airport transfer times, before booking flights

Day 2 – Thursday, 02 December 2027
Cu Chi Tunnels – Ho Chi Minh City

B-L

This morning after breakfast we visit **Cu Chi Tunnels**. Synonymous with the Vietnam War and a testament to the determined spirit of the Vietnamese, the underground network of passages at Cu Chi is a fascinating trip out of the city.

On the way back to Saigon, we will have a green immersion at a unique **organic farm** located in Cu Chi region. This is the perfect opportunity to learn about and taste healthy food - homemade of course. Located in the middle of the farm, enjoy fresh ingredients from the garden and products freshly bought at the nearby local market. We will see how oyster mushrooms are grown and then served delicately on your plate. We stay on here at the vegetable farm for lunch.

Once back in the city, we will visit the unforgettable **Jade Emperor Pagoda**. With the pungent smell of incense hanging heavy in the air and an interior packed full of ornate carvings and fierce-looking statues, this Taoist temple is one of the most atmospheric places of worship in the city.

Later, we will have a stop at **Reunification Palace**. Formerly named the Presidential Palace, this important city landmark was assured its place in history on 30th April 1975, when the first North Vietnamese tanks rumbled past, signalling the Fall of Saigon and ultimately the end of the Vietnam War. Across the street from the cathedral is the city's striking French colonial-era post office.

The final stop today is **Ben Thanh market** for personal exploration and a spot of souvenir hunting. Dinner is at leisure this evening.



Day 3 – Friday, 03 December 2027
Mekong Rural Life - Ho Chi Minh City

B-L

Setting off from Ho Chi Minh City today we are taken to the charming **delta town of Cai Be**, famous for its rustic floating communities. In Cai Be, travelling by boat, we float past a mass of rickety river vessels where water-bound locals spend much of their time between fishing and selling their wares on land. Though the floating market here is not nearly as busy as day's past, you might still spot locals tossing watermelons or pineapples between their boats!

Along the way we will visit **cottage workshops**, making pop rice and coconut candy, and stop at an old house to admire its beautiful architecture and well-preserved interiors.

Continuing on we then **visit a family who weave intricate hyacinth products**.

Later, we take a **rowing sampan** to enjoy the charming Mekong scenery through a maze of narrow canals before enjoying a late lunch in a local house. For a special twist, **watch a demonstration** of how to make a favorite Vietnamese specialty - banh xeo, or a Vietnamese savory pancake before sitting down for a delicious lunch with local delicacies.

Our tour ends with a **gentle ride aboard the boat** back to Cai Be and your onward drive back to Ho Chi Minh City.

This evening will be at leisure.

Day 4 – Saturday, 04 December 2027
Ho Chi Minh City – Da Nang – Hoi An

B-D

This morning, after breakfast and check out, we will be transferred to Ho Chi Minh Airport for the short flight to **Da Nang**.

Once we arrive in Da Nang we'll be met by our local tour leader who will assist to our coach and the transfer to our hotel in Hoi An.

Upon arrival at our hotel, we will check in and have time to refresh before meeting for dinner.

Accommodation: Ahoy Hoi An Boutique Resort & Spa – 4 Star - or similar (4 nights)



Day 5 – Sunday, 05 December 2027
Hoi An

B-L

This morning we learn the story of Hoi An, a former port that welcomed Chinese, Dutch, French, Japanese, Portuguese and Arab merchants between the 16th to 18th centuries.

Today it is renowned for its old quarter lined with two-storey Chinese shops that have elaborate carved wooden facades and terracotta tile roofs. And not forgetting expert tailor shops and delicious food! The tour also includes stops at several famous landmarks.

The first is **Chua Ong Pagoda**, dating back to 1653 and built in honor of the Chinese general Quan Cong, who is worshipped by many as a symbol of loyalty and justice. Next, we pop into **Phuc Kien Assembly Hall**, to see the Jinshang Temple which is dedicated to the goddess of the sea and the protector of sailors.

From there it's a short walk to **Tam Ky House**, a 200-year-old ancestral house and finally, stroll across the often-photographed **17th century covered bridge** built by Japanese craftsmen. The beautifully built bridge doubles as a temple and is a major landmark of Hoi An.

After a Vietnamese lunch, we'll take a **short boat trip** down the river and visit a craft village where local artisans make ceramics. We end the afternoon with a visit to the docks and see traditional fishing boats and the unusual round basket boats that ply the water.

Returning to the hotel we have this evening at leisure.

Day 6 – Monday, 06 December 2027
Hoi An

B-L

This morning, we will visit **My Son Holy Land** to discover the old Cham towers and shrines built 2000 years ago.

Take the chance to wander through crumbling towers and listen to the culture and history of might the **Champa Kingdom** once upon a time.

We will be back to Hoi An in time for lunch and then the rest of the day is at leisure to explore the alleyways, wonderful shops and restaurants.

Day 7 – Tuesday, 07 December 2027
Hoi An

B-D

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast and a full day to relax, shop or explore further at your own pace.

We'll come together again this evening for dinner and share stories from our day



Day 8 – Wednesday, 08 December 2027
Hoi An - Hue

B-D

This morning, after breakfast, we leave Hoi An and travel via the scenic **Hai Van pass**, (about 3.5 hours) to Hue.

Once we arrive in the capital of Mandarins, have lunch (*at your own expense*) and freshen up before we visit the **Imperial Citadel**. Built between 1804 and 1833, this heavily fortified structure is still very much the heart of modern-day Hue and despite a chequered history, the fortress remains superbly intact. There will be time for exploration before moving on to **Long An Palace**.

Later we take a boat ride along the **Perfume River** to the **Thien Mu Pagoda**. Consisting of seven stories, the pagoda is the tallest religious building in Vietnam.

Tonight dinner will be at a local restaurant with typical food from Hue.

Accommodation: EMM Hotel Hue – 4 Star - or similar (1 night)

Day 9 – Thursday, 09 December 2027
Hue - Hanoi

B-D

This morning, we will be transferred to Hue airport for our flight to **Hanoi**.

On arrival in Hanoi we will be met by our local tour leader who will assist us to our coach. We'll drop our luggage at the hotel and then have lunch (*at your expense*).

Taking a **cyclo** (rickshaw) ride through Hanoi's Old Quarter, we venture through a network of narrow alleys and shop houses also known as "The 36 Streets." This is a wonderful place to watch the local life and peruse items from fabrics to crafts to exotic medicines.

Finally, we will go to a secret eco-friendly coffee shop for a demonstration of the preparation of an iconic drink: Vietnamese egg coffee (with a twist).

We finish our first day in the capital with dinner in a local restaurant.

Accommodation: T Boutique Hotel – 4 star - or similar (3 nights)



Day 10 – Friday, 10 December 2027
Hanoi

B-L

This morning, we go to nearby central Hanoi, to meet a lovely host and chef. Her family will receive us in their familial property in a neighbourhood totally away from touristic spots.

She will meet us and take us to the **local market**, which is only operated in the morning. She will give an introduction about the local life, the food and daily life of locals. She will then will instruct us on how to choose the freshest food of the day and assist us to pick some more food before starting a short walk of 2 km to the local family home

Note: - for passengers who do not want to walk, there will be the option to be dropped at the host house directly and await the groups arrival.

Mid-morning we arrive and are given an introduction to the house, its architecture and tradition and get a brief overview of what to expect during our **private cooking class**.

We will enjoy the lunch we have prepared and of course, some delicious fruits and tea will be served for dessert.

Say goodbye to the host family in early afternoon as we are driven back to the hotel for the remainder of the day and evening at leisure.

Day 11 – Saturday, 11 December 2027
Hanoi

B-L

After breakfast, this morning, we travel through **Hoan Kiem Lake**, also known as the 'Lake of the Restored Sword' after the legend that surrounds it, en-route to one of the city's many fascinating museums.

We will enjoy an orientation of **Hanoi**, with its tree-lined streets resplendent with French colonial architecture, including the exquisite, recently restored Opera House.

Then, have explore the **Museum of Ethnology**, which give an overview of 54 ethnic groups in Vietnam. Here we learn about the fascinating cultural diversity of this ancient land.

Today we will also visit the **Temple of Literature**, a serene retreat from the busy streets outside. Built in 1070 and dedicated to Confucius, it became Vietnam's first university.

After lunch at a local restaurant the remainder of the day and evening is at leisure.



Day 12 – Sunday, 12 December 2027
Hanoi - Halong Bay & Lan Ha Bay

B-L-D

After breakfast, we check out and travel to Halong Bay to board the vessel which will be our home for the next two nights.

The adventure begins with a visit to **Viet Hai Village**, a small and peaceful community of 80 households nestled within the lush jungles and towering mountains of Cat Ba National Park. The villagers, native to Ha Long Bay, live self-sufficiently through fishing, farming, and animal breeding. There will be the opportunity to explore the village by biking or taking a trolley ride, immersing ourselves in the serene surroundings while learning about local life and Bhaya's sustainability initiatives, including the Bhaya Community Farm and Save the Langurs projects.

A stop at Bhaya Café offers a chance to enjoy a refreshing "mojitita" or try making Bánh Cuốn, a traditional Northern Vietnamese dish.

Later, you may like to cool off with a swim in a secluded lagoon, an exclusive spot reserved for Bhaya/Au Co passengers, where crystal-clear emerald waters meet the tranquil sounds of nature. As the day winds down take in the breathtaking panoramic views of Ha Long Bay.

In the evening, a Vietnamese rice-wine tasting session at the bar or restaurant provides an opportunity to discover unique local rice wines, including specialties from the Ha Long region.

Accommodation: The Au Co Cruise – 4 Star - or similar (2 nights)

Please note: *The cruise itinerary is subject to change or cancellation based on weather conditions. Drinks are not included with meals.*

Day 13 – Monday, 13 December 2027
Halong Bay

B-L-D

This morning after breakfast the adventure continues at **Luon Cave** and **Trinh Nu Area**, two of Ha Long Bay's most stunning natural attractions.

Luon Cave, a peaceful enclave surrounded by towering limestone cliffs and lush greenery, is accessible only by kayak or rowing boat. Paddling through its calm waters allows guests to admire unique rock formations and spot local wildlife such as colorful fish and playful monkeys.

In the Trinh Nu Area, discover Trinh Nu Cave, one of Ha Long Bay's most beautiful sunlit caves, along with a secluded private beach offering a quiet retreat amidst the bay's emerald waters. Kayak through the tranquil surroundings, explore the cave, or simply relax on the pristine beach.

As the sun sets, a cooking session on the sundeck provides a fun and interactive way to learn about Vietnamese cuisine while enjoying the mesmerizing twilight views of Ha Long Bay.

After dinner, those looking for a unique experience can try squid fishing on the main deck, guided by the crew.



Day 14 – Tuesday, 14 December 2027
Halang Bay - Hanoi

B-D

The final day begins with a rejuvenating **Tai Chi** session on the sundeck. Start your morning with some peaceful and refreshing exercise as the sun rises.

Following breakfast, choose between two excursions: **Sung Sot Cave**, the largest and most famous cave in Ha Long Bay, featuring impressive rock formations and fascinating legends, or **Titov Island**, a scenic destination known for its sandy beach and panoramic views. Those visiting Sung Sot Cave will be captivated by its vast chambers and intricate stalactites, while those opting for Titov Island can enjoy a relaxing swim, sunbathe on the beach, or hike to the hilltop for breathtaking views of the bay.

We depart the boat mid-morning with unforgettable memories of Ha Long Bay's natural wonders and cultural experiences and are transferred to our Hanoi hotel.

The remainder of our day is at leisure and in the evening, we will enjoy a **farewell dinner** together!

Accommodation: T Boutique Hotel – 4 Star - or similar (1 night)

Day 15 – Wednesday, 15 December 2027
Depart Hanoi

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We check out after breakfast, and our guide will meet and transfer us to the airport for our flight.

On arrival to Singapore, our Tour Host will continue on to Brisbane with those passengers also travelling on the same flight. We bid our interstate passengers farewell as they board their flights to their home destinations.

We all return home with newfound friends and wonderful memories of a vibrant country and its charismatic people.