



WORLD DISCOVERY
— HISTORY CULTURE WILDLIFE —

Jewels of the North



The stunning scenery of Sapa

DAY 1 – Depart UK.

DAY 2 – Arrival in Hanoi.

On arrival in Hanoi you will be met outside customs by a representative of World Discovery and taken by private car direct to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure.

DAY 3 – Hanoi sightseeing.

This morning your guide will collect you from your hotel for a tour of the city. Visit the 11th century **Temple of Literature**, Vietnam's most important Confucian sanctuary consisting of 5 walled courtyards. Continue to the picturesque **Hoan Kiem Lake** in the centre of Hanoi and also visit the **Mausoleum of Ho Chi Minh** (the mausoleum is closed on Mondays and Friday and usually for maintenance in October and November) and the tiny **One-pillared Pagoda**. The afternoon is free for you to explore Vietnam's pleasant capital on your own.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 4 - Hanoi. Board the train for Sapa.

The day is free for you to explore Hanoi on your own. In the evening transfer to the Railway Station and board the 'Victoria Express' overnight sleeper train to Sapa.

Meals included: Full breakfast, dinner.

DAY 5 - Sapa.

Arrive early in the morning in the town of Lao Cai. You will be met and driven to your hotel in Sapa (your room is booked for immediate occupancy). Sapa was established by the French in the 1920s as a hill station; the scenery is magnificent, with high forested mountains all around, including Vietnam's highest peak Mount Fansipan (3,143m/10,311ft). Your programme in Sapa is flexible; gentle walks to challenging hikes can be arranged depending on fitness levels. With an expert local guide, navigate small paths through terraced valleys of rice and corn fields, passing by ethnic minority tribes ploughing their lands with water buffalo. The ethnic hill tribes are proud of their culture and still maintain their traditions and way of living, including their own language and intricately embroidered, exotic clothing.

Meals included: Full breakfast .

DAY 6 – Sapa. Board the train back to Hanoi.

Today you will visit the Red Dao people, stopping at a waterfall along the way. The Red Dao women wear colourful red embroidery and coins sewn on their clothing, with giant red scarves wrapped around their heads. Spend the afternoon at leisure in Sapa before returning to Lao Cai to board the 'Victoria Express' overnight sleeper train for the journey back to Hanoi.

Meals included: Full breakfast, dinner.

DAY 7 – Halong Bay.

On arrival in Hanoi you will be taken to your hotel to freshen up after the overnight train journey before departing for Halong Bay for your luxury junk cruise. The Paradise Junk departs at 12.15 and during the next three days you will enjoy a variety of excursions and activities as you cruise through the incredible scenery of this UNESCO World Heritage area. This afternoon a visit to the amazing Surprise Cave (Hang Sung Sot) is included.

Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, dinner.

DAY 8 - Halong Bay.

Today there will be an excursion to Cat Ba National Park with the option of taking a bicycle trip on the forest trails. Lunch is taken at a local restaurant. There are also opportunities for swimming and kayaking.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 9 - Return to Hanoi. Depart for home.

Disembark at 11.00. You will be collected and driven back to Hanoi, where a day room is booked until your transfer to the airport in the evening for your homeward international flights.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 10 – Arrive London.

Arrive London Heathrow in the morning.