



Gourmet Safari - Vietnam 2016

13th – 23rd March – *SAMPLE ITINERARY*

Day 1: Sunday 13th March - SYDNEY - HANOI

Depart Sydney on morning flight. Transfer to connecting flight to Hanoi arriving late afternoon/early evening. Transfer to hotel De L'Opera where we'll have welcome drinks at the hotel and then let you sink into big comfortable beds.

(Please note that this flight schedule is based on departures from Sydney. Departures from other cities may depart at different time or need to fly overnight the day before.)

Day 2: Monday 14th March - HANOI – B, L, D

If you're interested, take a morning walk around the nearby lake where, between around 6am to 7am there is a flurry of activity as local Vietnamese do exercise classes and tai chi, play badminton, get healthy. Breakfast at hotel. We will go to a hidden coffee shop to meet my friend An who will take us on a tour of the old quarter and organize a street food lunch and tour of the produce markets. Afternoon free time for siesta/ water puppet theatre/ shopping and exploring. We'll meet for dinner at one of Hanoi's famous restaurants. Overnight at Hotel De L'Opera.

Day 3: Tuesday 15th March – HANOI - B, L, D

Breakfast at hotel. Today we will have an orientation tour of Hanoi and visit a cooking school to do some hands-on learning about this wonderful cuisine, featuring Hanoi classic dishes. We finish with a guided visit to one of the oldest and strangest coffee houses where you can taste one of the best coffees in the world – the rich caramel Vietnamese coffee poured over house-made yoghurt. We will then go and explore some of the shopping streets around St Joseph's Cathedral and head back to the hotel to relax before dinner. Overnight at Hotel De L'Opera.

Day 4: Wednesday 16th March - HANOI – HOI AN – B, L, D

Breakfast at hotel. We will visit the ancient Temple of Literature and have an early lunch at the acclaimed charity KOTO then transfer to airport for flight to Danang. Transfer to Hoi An and check into the beautiful Anantara Hoi An Resort on the river and close to town. We will meet my friend Van who will take us on a street food tour of this charming town...you'll try the local chicken and rice with Hoi An chilli and an ice cold beer and some classic Hoi An tastes. Enjoy the pretty lanterns in the streets of the town and make a wish with a little wish candle. Overnight at Anantara Hoi An Resort.

Day 5: Thursday 17th March - HOI AN - B, L

Breakfast at the hotel. We'll start the day with a guided tour of the bustling produce market followed by a hands on cooking class with legendary chef Chef Miss Vy including lunch. We will then take you through some of the highlights of the World heritage town of Hoi An – the Japanese Bridge, ancient houses, a silk factory with its busy silkworms and bolts of exceptional fabric. Free night. Overnight at Anantara Hoi An Resort.

Day 6: Friday 18th March - HOI AN – B, D

Breakfast at the hotel. Free day for shopping, exploring, maybe take tour of some of the local villages. You can borrow bicycles from the resort to go exploring. The beach is close by and has many lovely restaurants along the sand. Dinner tonight at a charming restaurant in the centre of town. Overnight at Anantara Hoi An Resort.

Day 7: Saturday 19th March - HOI AN - HCMC – B, L

Breakfast at hotel. Optional but highly recommended – start the day with a visit to the local herb village followed by a coffee with the locals, taste of the local delicacy white rose and cao lau and then a light flavoursome pho Hoi An style. Late check out then board boat to sail down the river for relaxed meal at Red Bridge restaurant. Depart for airport early evening flight to Ho Chi Minh. Check into new MGallery Hotel.

Day 8: Sunday 20th March - HCMC - LONG AN – B, L

Breakfast at hotel. Early morning departure for Tan An (30km south of HCMC - 1.5 - 2 hours) to Peter Nguyen's

country home town of Vinh Cong in the township of Long An for a traditional country lunch. Visit the markets with Peter's extended family, stop for pho and then head off to visit a local rice paper factory.

We then climb aboard traditional boats, which will take us down the river to Peter's family village, surrounded by vibrant green rice paddies, for a home-cooked lunch. In the late afternoon we have a wonderful "wind in your hair" experience, riding pillion along the rice paddies back to the bus and the return journey to HCMC. Evening free for relaxation. Overnight MGallery Hotel.

Day 9: Monday 21st March - HCMC – B, L, D

Breakfast at hotel. Mid morning we take you to a terrific and fun hands-on cooking class and lunch. In the afternoon we'll give you a good orientation of the city including the renowned Ben Thanh market and show you the best areas for elegant clothing, t-shirts, DVD's, CD's, bags, shoes and jewellery. Last night drinks at local bar with sensational views high above HCMC followed by a last night dinner at one of Saigon's new glamorous restaurants. Overnight MGallery Hotel.

Day 10: Tuesday 22nd March - HCMC – B

Breakfast at hotel. Free day for shopping, packing and to pick up those last minute gifts and souvenirs. Early evening departure for airport for overnight night flight to Sydney, Melbourne or further afield.

Day 11: Wednesday 23rd March

Arrive **Sydney** at approximately 11.40am, **Melbourne** 10.20am or **Perth** 5.20am

Cost: \$4950 pp twin share / + \$880 single supplement (own room)

The tour includes:

Return international airfares plus domestic flights within Vietnam with Vietnam airlines
9 nights accommodation in 4½-5 star hotels
9 Breakfasts, 8 lunches, 5 dinners
2 Internal flights
3 Cooking classes
Visit to local village for traditional country lunch
Experienced Tour guides
Taxes and entry fees, gratuities

Terms and conditions

Deposit and Payment: A **non-refundable deposit** of \$450 per person is required on confirmation in order to secure your reservation. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure date.

Special Requirements: Please advise Gourmet Safaris of any special requirements such as Special Meals, Medical Requirements etc., as soon as possible. If you get motion sickness it is imperative that you bring with you motion sickness pills as we travel by boat and coach through sometimes mountainous roads.

Travel Insurance: Travel Insurance is **compulsory** on all overseas Gourmet Safaris and is a condition of booking. You are strongly recommended to take out cancellation insurance at time of booking which will cover cancellation penalties in certain circumstances (note: such insurance will not cover a change of mind). Insurance should also cover cancellation fees payable for airline tickets, accommodation, loss of deposit, luggage etc. Normal travel insurance conditions apply. (Insurance may not cover trip cancellation due to pre-existing medical conditions). Please read your policy carefully. If organizing your own insurance the **insurance policy details will need to be provided before departure** of your trip. Failure to do so will mean exclusion from the trip. Please ensure you have your policy number and emergency telephone number for your insurance company with you during the tour.

Cancellation: If cancelling prior to final payment the deposit is non-refundable. After final payment is received a cancellation fee of approximately 75% applies. This percentage may be less depending on the date of cancellation. A cancellation fee of 100% is applicable within 14 days of travel. If cancellation is not due to pre-existing illnesses, travel insurance will cover most or all of the cancellation fee. Please read your policy carefully.

Pricing: All prices are shown in Australian dollars and are current at the date of printing this itinerary. If there is a dramatic fluctuation in the exchange rate or the price of services provided, which are beyond the control of Gourmet Safaris, Gourmet Safaris reserves the right to adjust tour prices accordingly, even though the balance of payment may have been made. This would only happen in unusual circumstances.

Exclusions: Vietnam Visa (compulsory), Travel insurance (compulsory), Excess baggage, extra meals, laundry, drinks, items of a personal nature and tips/gratuities.

Itinerary Validity and Content: This itinerary is valid for the period of **2016** unless otherwise specified. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. Gourmet Safaris shall not be liable for any injury, damage or loss caused by any inaccuracy. Gourmet Safaris reserves the right to change tour arrangements or accommodations due to safety or security reasons, and will endeavour to provide alternative arrangements of the same standard as that originally booked.

Disclaimer: Gourmet Safaris is not a carrier or hotelier, nor do we own aircraft, hotels or coaches. The services Gourmet Safaris supplies consist of arranging and coordinating accommodation, tours and transfers, making bookings and issuing vouchers to be redeemed by suppliers if necessary. We exercise every care in the selection of reputable airlines, tour operators, coach operators, hotels and other suppliers of the various travel services which are used in these tours. It is important to note, therefore, all bookings with Gourmet Safaris are subject to the terms, conditions and limitations of liability imposed by the service providers whose services we utilise, some of which limit or exclude liability in respect of death, personal injury, delay and loss or damage of baggage. Because of this Gourmet Safaris does not accept liability for events beyond our control nor liability for accidents incurred due to actions taken at your own risk.

Clients' Responsibilities: It is your responsibility to obtain passports, health certificates or other travel documents where required for the tour. It remains your responsibility to ensure that these documents are in order and to meet any additional costs incurred as a result of failure to comply with such requirements. It is also your responsibility to obtain **any vaccinations** that may be required to travel.