



H Y N A T R A V E L



D E T A I L E D I T I N E R A R Y

7-Day Northern Vietnam Retreat

Hanoi – Ninh Binh – Mai Chau – Pu Luong



YOUR JOURNEY

Trip at a Glance

DURATION

7 days / 6 nights

ROUTE

Hanoi – Ninh Binh – Mai Chau – Pu Luong

TOUR STYLE

Private tour · English-speaking guide on sightseeing days

GETTING AROUND

Private car & driver

MEALS INCLUDED

6 breakfasts · 5 lunches

PERFECT FOR

Slow travellers who want countryside, valleys and rice terraces away from the crowds

Tour highlights

- ✓ **Hanoi city tour** – Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, Train Street, the Temple of Literature and a water puppet show.
- ✓ **Ninh Binh** – limestone karsts and river landscapes.
- ✓ **Mai Chau valley** – stilt houses among the rice fields.
- ✓ **Pu Luong** – terraced valleys, water wheels and a nature lodge.



YOUR ROUTE

Route Map





DAY BY DAY

Itinerary at a Glance

Day	Itinerary	Guide	Overnight	Meals
Day 1	Hanoi Arrival – Free & Easy	Guide pickup	Tirant Hotel Hanoi	—
Day 2	Hanoi Full-Day City Tour	Full day guide	Tirant Hotel Hanoi	B, L
Day 3	Hanoi to Ninh Binh Nature Retreat	Full day guide	Emeralda Resort Ninh Binh Ninh Binh	B, L
Day 4	Ninh Binh to Mai Chau Valley Escape	Full day guide	Mai Chau Ecolodge Mai Chau	B, L
Day 5	Mai Chau to Pu Luong Retreat	Full day guide	Pu Luong Retreat Pu Luong	B, L
Day 6	Pu Luong Slow Nature Day	Full day guide	Pu Luong Retreat Pu Luong	B, L
Day 7	Return to Hanoi – Departure	Guide dropoff	—	B

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner



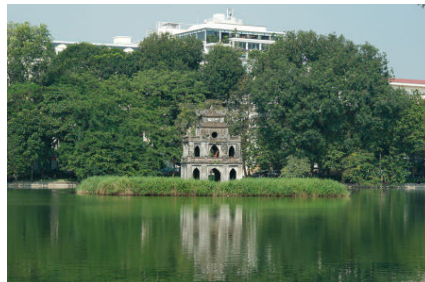
DAY 1 HANOI

Hanoi Arrival – Free & Easy

Overnight: Tirant Hotel, Hanoi

Meals: Lunch and dinner on your own

Guide: Guide pickup

**On arrival**

Welcome to Vietnam. Your HYNA guide and driver wait for you in the arrival hall at Noi Bai International Airport with a name sign and take you to your hotel in the **Old Quarter**, about 45 minutes away.

Evening

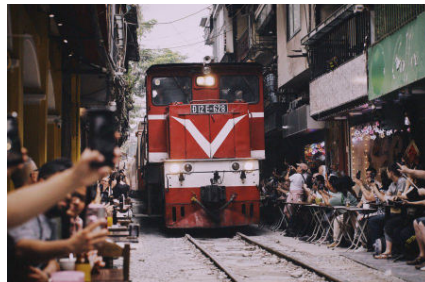
Rest after your flight, then wander the Old Quarter at your own pace – a maze of narrow streets, each once named after the trade practised there. Pull up a plastic stool for street food, browse the small shops and join the evening stroll around **Hoan Kiem Lake** as the lights come on.



DAY 2 HANOI

Hanoi Full-Day City Tour

Overnight: Tirant Hotel, Hanoi | Meals: Breakfast, Lunch · Dinner on your own | Guide: Full day guide

**Morning**

Your guide and driver meet you at your hotel around 8:00 AM and you head for **Ba Dinh Square**, where the marble **Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum** stands.

Wander past the yellow **Presidential Palace** to his simple stilt house and the **One Pillar Pagoda**, rising from its pond like a lotus. The mausoleum opens in the morning and closes on Mondays, Fridays and during its yearly maintenance; on those days you see it from the square.

Next come **Tran Quoc Pagoda**, the city's oldest, its red tower rising above **West Lake**, and **Train Street**, where the railway runs a few steps from front doors and tiny cafés.

Midday

Lunch around midday brings a taste of Hanoi's cooking at a local restaurant.

Afternoon

At the **Temple of Literature**, Vietnam's first university, founded in 1070, shaded courtyards lead past a lotus pond to stone stelae carved with the names of doctoral laureates.

Then wander the lively **Old Quarter** and the shores of **Hoan Kiem Lake**.

Evening

Around 5:00 PM, lacquered puppets glide across the water to live folk music at a water puppet show, an art born in the rice fields of the north. You are back at your hotel by about 6:30 PM, free for dinner at your own arrangement.

**DAY 3** HANOI – NINH BINH**Hanoi to Ninh Binh Nature Retreat****Overnight:** Emeraldalda Resort Ninh Binh, Ninh Binh
day guide**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch · **Dinner on your own****Guide:** Full**Morning**

After breakfast and check-out, your guide and driver meet you in the lobby around 8:00 AM for the drive of about 2 hours south to Ninh Binh. Limestone peaks begin to rise from the rice fields, and by around 10:00 AM you are stepping into a wooden sampan at **Trang An**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. For the next two and a half to three hours a local rower guides you along quiet waterways between the karst mountains and through cool, dripping cave tunnels, with green paddies running alongside the river.

Midday

Back on land, lunch around 1:00 PM is at a local restaurant in Ninh Binh, a short drive from the pier.

Afternoon

Around 3:00 PM you arrive at your resort in the quiet countryside of Ninh Binh. Spend the rest of the afternoon by the pool, or cycle along the rice fields as the evening light turns the peaks gold.

**DAY 4** NINH BINH – MAI CHAU

Ninh Binh to Mai Chau Valley Escape

Overnight: Mai Chau Ecotodge, Mai Chau
guide

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch · **Dinner on your own**

Guide: Full day

**Morning**

After breakfast, your guide and driver meet you at the resort around 9:00 AM. The drive to **Mai Chau** takes about 3–3.5 hours, with a rest stop on the way, as the karst plains give way to rolling green hills and small villages.

Midday

Lunch around 12:30 PM is at a local restaurant in Mai Chau.

Afternoon

In the afternoon, cycle or walk with your guide along the narrow paths between the rice fields to the Thai villages of the valley. Wooden stilt houses stand above the fields, and in the shade beneath them women work their looms, weaving brocade in bright patterns passed down through generations. Along the way you glimpse the unhurried rhythm of farming life in the valley.

Evening

Around 4:30 PM you check in at your lodge. As dusk falls, the valley settles into a deep, green quiet.

**DAY 5** MAI CHAU – PU LUONG**Mai Chau to Pu Luong Retreat****Overnight:** Pu Luong Retreat, Pu Luong**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch · **Dinner on your own****Guide:** Full day guide**Morning**

Enjoy a slow breakfast, then set off with your guide and driver around 9:00 AM. The mountain road to **Pu Luong** takes about 1.5–2 hours, winding past terraced fields and limestone peaks, with a new view at every bend.

Midday

Lunch around midday is at a local restaurant in Pu Luong.

Afternoon

In the afternoon, take an easy walk through a Thai village among the rice terraces. Paths lead past stilt houses and rustling bamboo groves, and the views open out across the nature reserve, where forested mountains fold into one another.

Evening

Around 4:00 PM you arrive at your retreat. Sit back and watch the light fade over the valley as evening falls.

**DAY 6** PU LUONG**Pu Luong Slow Nature Day****Overnight:** Pu Luong Retreat, Pu Luong**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch · **Dinner on your own****Guide:** Full day guide**Morning**

Your guide meets you at the retreat around 8:30 AM, after breakfast. At an easy pace, you walk the paths through the terraced valley, past small hamlets and fields that change colour with the seasons – brilliant green as the rice grows, gold before the harvest. Out here, the loudest sounds are birdsong and running water.

Midday

Lunch around midday is at a local restaurant in the valley.

Afternoon

In the afternoon, follow the stream to the bamboo water wheels. Creaking slowly as they turn, these simple wheels, built by the Thai people, lift water from the river into bamboo channels that feed the fields, a clever design that needs no engine at all. You are back at your retreat by about 3:30 PM, with the rest of the day to relax.

**DAY 7 PU LUONG – HANOI****Return to Hanoi – Departure**

Overnight: — | Meals: Breakfast · **Lunch and dinner on your own** | Guide: Guide dropoff

**Morning**

Enjoy a last breakfast with a view over the valley, then check out. Your guide and driver take you north through the hills and across the plains, about 5 hours with a rest stop, straight to Noi Bai International Airport. The departure from the retreat is timed to your flight, so an afternoon or evening flight home fits this day.

Departure

Your guide accompanies you to the airport for your flight home. Thank you for travelling with HYNA – we hope Vietnam stays with you long after you leave.



YOUR TOUR

What's Included

PRICE ON REQUEST

The price of this itinerary depends on your travel dates, group size and hotel class.

See the last page to request your personal quote.

Included	Not included
✓ Private English-speaking guide on sightseeing days (see the Guide column) ✓ Airport pick-up and drop-off with your English-speaking guide ✓ Transportation as described in the itinerary ✓ Accommodation as described in the itinerary (hotel class of your choice) ✓ Daily breakfast at the hotel ✓ Meals as listed in the itinerary (B, L, D) ✓ Drinking water on tour days ✓ Entrance fees for the attractions listed ✓ Activities listed in the itinerary (boat trips, cable cars, workshops, performances) ✓ Travel insurance ✓ VAT and service charges	✗ International flights ✗ Domestic flights (unless otherwise stated) ✗ Vietnam visa fee (if applicable) ✗ Personal expenses – laundry, minibar, phone calls, etc. ✗ Tips for guide and driver: USD 3 per person per day ✗ Optional tours and activities not in the itinerary ✗ Meals and drinks not listed in the itinerary ✗ Early check-in and late check-out ✗ Public holiday, peak season and special event surcharges (if applicable) ✗ Any service not listed under “Included”

Accommodation

Destination	Nights	Hotel / Cruise
Hanoi	2	Tirant Hotel or similar
Ninh Binh	1	Emeralda Resort Ninh Binh or similar
Mai Chau	1	Mai Chau Ecolodge or similar
Pu Luong	2	Pu Luong Retreat or similar

Check-in from 2:00 PM, check-out by 12:00 PM.



Children policy

Age	Policy
Under 5 years	• Free of charge for land services (transport, meals, accommodation, entrance fees) • Shares bed with parents; no extra bed • Maximum 1 free child per 2 paying adults (unless otherwise specified) • Additional young children may be charged according to supplier policy • Airfare, visa, travel insurance and personal expenses are charged separately
5 – 9 years	• With extra bed: 75% of the adult price • Without extra bed: 65% of the adult price • Child airfare varies by airline and will be advised separately
10 years and over	• 100% of the adult price

A child's age is based on the tour start date, not the booking date.



BOOKING

How to Book

1

Confirm your trip

We confirm the services and itinerary by email, then both parties sign the travel contract.

2

Pay the deposit

A 50% deposit secures all services for your trip.

3

Pay the balance

The remaining 50% is due at least 7 days before departure.

4

Get ready to travel

Once payment is received, we email your booking confirmation and open a WhatsApp group with our operations team. There you will receive travel updates, send us the documents we need, and reach us any time before and during your trip.

Payment terms

Deposit	50% upon confirmation
Balance	50% no later than 7 days before arrival
Payment methods	Wise, OnePay payment link, Western Union, bank transfer
Bank details	Provided on your invoice
Card fees	Visa / Mastercard 3.8%; American Express 3.85%
Invoices	Sent to your email within 48 hours of booking confirmation

Cancellation policy

Cancellation notice	Charge
31 days or more before departure	30% of the tour price
8 – 30 days before departure	50% of the tour price
7 days or less before departure	100% of the tour price
Any time	Airfares booked by HYNA are non-refundable. Refunds exclude international transaction fees.

Different cancellation terms may apply during peak season (Christmas and New Year) and public holidays; we will advise these case by case.



BEFORE YOU GO

Good to Know

Vietnam public holidays

Holiday	Date
New Year's Day	1 January
Lunar New Year (Tet)	1st day of the 1st lunar month – 17 February 2026; 6 February 2027. The official multi-day holiday is announced by the government each year.
Hung Kings Commemoration	10th day of the 3rd lunar month (usually April)
Reunification Day	30 April
International Labour Day	1 May
National Day	2 September (plus one adjacent day)

Surcharges may apply on public holidays and during the Christmas – New Year peak season.

Practical notes

- **Itinerary changes:** the schedule may be adjusted for weather, road conditions or flight times.
- **Closed attractions:** if a site is closed for maintenance or a holiday, we will arrange a similar alternative.
- **Meals:** Vietnamese cuisine is served; vegetarian options are available. Please tell us about allergies or dietary needs in advance.
- **Dress code:** shoulders and knees must be covered at pagodas, temples and mausoleums. Visitors in shorts or tank tops may be refused entry.
- **Flights:** full passport names are required for bookings. Airfares can change without notice until tickets are issued.
- **Tipping:** a gratuity of USD 3 per person per day for your guide and driver is required and collected at the end of the tour, in USD or VND.



LIKE THIS ITINERARY?

Get a Price for This Tour

Tell us your travel dates, the number of travellers and the hotel class you prefer, and mention the itinerary name below. We will send you a quote for this tour.

Itinerary: **7-Day Northern Vietnam Retreat: Ninh Binh, Mai Chau & Pu Luong**

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Thank you for travelling with HYNA