

American Celebration of Music in Vietnam

Hanoi – Halong Bay – Hue – Saigon – Cu Chi – Tay Ninh

Standard Tour #4 (8 nights / 10 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled airline service to Hanoi, Vietnam

Day 2

Hanoi (D)

Arrive at Hanoi. Meet your MCI Vietnamese Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motor coach for a transfer to the hotel. Along the way to the hotel, we will enjoy a brief orientation tour of Hoan Kiem Lake, the French Quarter and Old Quarter of Hanoi, time permitting. This evening we will attend a Water Puppets performance at the Municipal Water Puppets Theater and a Welcome Dinner at a local restaurant.

The Vietnamese nation was born among the lagoons and marshes of the Red River Delta around 4000 years ago and for most of its independent existence has been ruled from Hanoi, Vietnam's small, elegant capital lying in the heart of the northern delta. Given the political and historical importance of Hanoi and its burgeoning population of three million, it's still a surprisingly low-key city, with the character of a provincial town.

Day 3

Hanoi (B,L,D)

Following breakfast at the hotel, we will enjoy a city tour with visits to the Temple of Literature, Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and Presidential Palace, Ho Chi Minh Stilt House, One Pillar Pagoda and the famous "Hanoi Hilton" prison.

We will have lunch at a local restaurant in Hanoi.

The afternoon will be spent at our leisure and prepare for this evening performance.

Evening Concert at Hanoi Opera House as part of the American Celebration of Music in Vietnam

Day 4

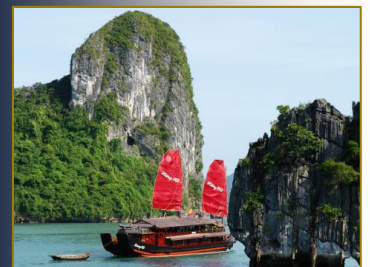
Hanoi / Halong Bay (B,L,D)

This morning will start with breakfast in the hotel, followed by hotel checkout. ***We will then visit a high school or college class (providing that school is in session) and will participate in a cultural exchange and enjoy lunch with the students.***

We will then drive north to the Bac Ninh Province where we will visit a local village and enjoy a traditional performance at the Communal House.

We will then continue to travel along the Red River Delta, arriving in Halong Bay in the late afternoon.

The Ha Long bay, dotted with 1,600 limestone islets rising from emerald waters, is the best known natural wonder of Vietnam. Because of their precipitous nature, most of the islands are uninhabited and unaffected by a human presence. The site's outstanding scenic beauty is complemented by its great biological interest. The islands feature endless numbers of beaches, grottoes, and caves. Ha Long means "where the dragon goes into the sea". According to a legend, as a great dragon who lived in the mountains ran towards the sea, its



Music Celebrations International
Concert Tours With Integrity

tail gouged out valleys which later filled out with water, leaving only bits of land over the surface, the many tiny islets

Day 5 **Halong Bay** **(B,L,D)**

After breakfast, we will spend most of the day discovering Halong Bay by private boat. The 6-hour cruise will pass many beautiful islands and will stop at one of the most gorgeous caves on the bay. We will swim (weather permitting) in the gulf of Tonkin, of the South China Sea

Lunch will be served on the cruise

We will return to the mainland in the afternoon

Evening performance at Theatre in Ha Long City as part of the American Celebration of Music in Vietnam



Day 6 **Halong Bay / Hue** **(B,L,D)**

After breakfast at the hotel, we will leave for the airport for a flight to Hue. Upon our arrival to Hue, we will enjoy a late lunch before boarding a boat trip on the Perfume River. We will then visit the Thien Mu Temple and Hue Ancient Citadel before returning to the city in the late afternoon

This ancient capital, also known as Thua Thien Hue, was founded on the northern bank of Perfume River in the 17th century by Nguyen Dynasty. Nowadays, the city, about 660 kilometers from Hanoi, looks more like a massive open-air museum with hundreds of temples, pagodas, palaces and tombs. Some parts of the city were badly damaged during the war but there are still many notable structures worth a visit



Day 7 **Hue** **(B,L,D)**

Following breakfast, we will drive to the Duc Son Pagoda's Care orphanage, which is on the outskirts of the city. We will have the opportunity to meet the children, ranging in age from 2 months to 18 years old, and visit with the nuns. We will then return to our hotel, where we will have time to relax and prepare for the evening performance.

Evening performance at the City Theater as part of the American Celebration of Music in Vietnam



Day 8 **Hue / Saigon** **(B,L,D)**

We will start the morning with a walking tour of Hue

We will then check out of our hotel and drive to the airport for a flight to Saigon. Along the way to the hotel, we will enjoy a brief orientation tour of Saigon, the Notre Dame Cathedral, Central Post Office, Reunification Palace, and Ben Thanh Market

Evening performance at the Saigon Conservatory as part of the American Celebration of Music in Vietnam

Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) is the heart and soul of Vietnam. It's a bustling, dynamic and industrious centre, the largest city in the country, the economic capital and the cultural trendsetter. Yet within the teeming metropolis are the timeless traditions and beauty of an ancient culture



Day 9 **Saigon** **(B,L,D)**

Early in the morning we will depart for Cu Chi to visit the tunnels, where we will have the opportunity to go into the underground tunnels

We will then continue on to Tay Ninh to visit the Cao Dai Temple, where a



prayer service is held every day at noon. Caodaism was founded in the 1920's by using a combination of teachings from Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Hinduism, Christianity, Islam and other religions into one religion to promote peace

We will have lunch and then travel back to Saigon

There will be time in the afternoon to relax

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

Day 10

Depart for home

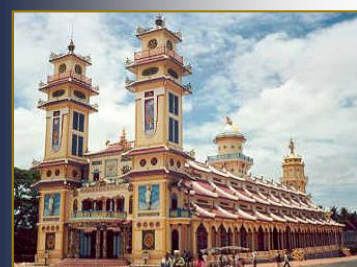
(B)

Breakfast will be served upon awakening. Transfer to Saigon's International Airport for return flight

Arrive home in the evening of the same day

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

© Music Celebrations International



Music Celebrations International
Concert Tours With Integrity