



Pandaw Cruises

EXPEDITION No 5

HALONG BAY AND RED RIVER

10 NIGHTS

On a Pandaw ship travellers are able to explore the key sites of Northern Vietnam by river ship traversing the Red River delta and its main tributaries, connecting the wonders of Halong Bay with the excitements of downtown Hanoi, and then on into the interior, well off the beaten track. This is a combination of scenic beauty, lively and interesting (sometimes industrial) life of the river and exploring rivers where no other tourist craft operate.

Sailing deep into Highland Vietnam we will discover the mountain villages and a number of tribal areas. We will go as far as is navigable up the Song Red River and then down the little known Da or Black River. Note that this is a real river expedition and itineraries and schedules very much subject to change due to uncertain local conditions.

YOUR SHIP - [RV ANGKOR PANDAW](#)

[MORE IMAGES OF THE RV ANGKOR PANDAW](#)

Cruise Price Includes: Entrance fees, guide services (English language), gratuities to crew, main meals, local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes. Transfers between ports of embarkation and Hanoi International Airport at the start and end of the voyage.

Cruise Price Excludes: International flights, port dues (if levied), laundry, all

visa costs, fuel surcharges (see terms and conditions), all beverages except local mineral water, jugged coffee, teas & tisanes and tips to tour guides, local guides, bus drivers, boat operators and cyclo drivers.

UPSTREAM ITINERARY

July to October

DAY 1

HALONG BAY

Transfer from Hanoi to Halong Bay to embark your Pandaw ship followed by lunch on board. Cast off in the afternoon with a welcome cocktail for an evening sail, dropping anchor in a sheltered bay amidst the beautiful island scenery.

[MORE ABOUT HALONG BAY](#)

DAY 2

HALONG BAY

Morning sail around Halong Bay and beyond with its 1,500 dramatic limestone islands and extraordinary rock formations, dating back 20 million years.

Stop at Viet Hai Village and explore on mountain bike or electric buggy, visiting the village's vegetable farm and typical village houses. It is a breathtaking trip along a small road winding its way through the limestone rocks.

[MORE ABOUT LAN HA BAY](#)

DAY 3

HALONG BAY

Exploration of Halong Bay continues with a visit to the so called "Dark and Bright Cave". Take a kayak or a local basket boat rowed by fishermen and enter this remarkable cave into an enclosed area similar to a crater. Bats can be heard in the cave and massive stalagmites hang from the ceiling.

[MORE ABOUT HALONG BAY](#)

DAY 4

THE KINH THAY RIVER

Observe the lively and interesting life of the KinhThay river, a key commercial waterway.

Meet your guide in the dining room for a lecture on Vietnam, its history, geography and the boat people.

[MORE ABOUT THANH HA AND WATER PUPPETS](#)

DAY 5**BAT TRANG VILLAGE**

The day is spent cruising towards Hanoi. Enroute, stop at Bat Trang in the afternoon, a ceramic village. On the way back to the ship watch a traditional unicorn and lion dance at the jetty.

This dance originated in China and spread over Southeast Asia.

[MORE ABOUT BAT TRANG](#)

DAY 6**HANOI**

Drop anchor in the capital and bustling city of Hanoi to visit some highlights of this Asian metropolis. Must-sees include the notorious Vietnam War prison known as the Hanoi Hilton, temple of literature where Confucius did his thinking, and the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum.

[MORE ABOUT HANOI](#)

DAY 7

THE LOWER RED RIVER

Morning sail through the day from Hanoi up the Red River to Viet Tri - not the most picturesque of towns, but an excellent base for going deeper into Highland Vietnam.

Go ashore to visit a timeless Arcadian Vietnam with emerald green rice paddies punctuated by limestone rock formations. Of particular interest are the Thay and Tay Phuong Pagodas.

[MORE ABOUT THAY AND TAY PHUONG PAGODAS](#)

DAY 8

LO RIVER

In the morning cruising to Tien Du ferry station to the village of Gia Thanh, makers of the conical hats (known as 'non la'). Take in the sights and sounds of the bustling river with all kinds of craft and activity.

[MORE ABOUT LO RIVER](#)

DAY 9

THE DA RIVER

Day sailing upstream while admiring the unspoilt beauty of the Da River. We stop to visit K9 Ho Chi Minh Memorial House, a small museum newly opened to international visitors introducing the life of President Ho Chi Minh and his contributions to the country's revolution. We moor overnight mid-river alongside Ba Vi National Park with its rich and diverse tropical and sub-tropical flora and fauna.

[MORE ABOUT DUONG LAM](#)

DAY 10

HOA BINH

Hoa Binh was the site of a major battle with the French in 1951 & 1952 and is home to the Muong ethnic group.

The Hoa Binh Dam at the Black River is the largest hydroelectric dam in Vietnam and Southeast Asia. Take a morning boat ride on the reservoir of Hoa Binh and explore the inner workings of the power station. In the afternoon, visit a museum and local village where villagers still wear traditional dress before being treated to a traditional performance by local hill tribe people.

[MORE ABOUT HOA BINH](#)

DAY 11

HOA BINH

Disembark after breakfast (08.30am) and transfer to Hanoi. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant, followed by a transfer to Hanoi Noi Bai International Airport or your central Hanoi hotel.

[MORE ABOUT HOA BINH](#)

November to June

DAY 1

HALONG BAY

Transfer from Hanoi to Halong Bay to embark your Pandaw ship followed by lunch on board. Cast off in the afternoon with a welcome cocktail for an evening sail, dropping anchor in a sheltered bay amidst the beautiful island scenery.

[MORE ABOUT HALONG BAY](#)

DAY 2

HALONG BAY

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We make a stop at Viet Hai Village and continue our journey by mountain bike or electric buggy to visit the village's vegetable farm and typical village houses. It is a breathtaking trip along a small road winding its way through the limestone rocks.

In the afternoon we will continue cruising towards Lan Ha Bay for a visit to a floating fishing house.

Weather dependent, we will end the day with cocktails at a beautiful beach in Halong Bay.

[MORE ABOUT HALONG BAY](#)

DAY 3

HALONG BAY

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In the afternoon, we leave Halong Bay and are enter the river where we drop anchor near Hai Phong.

[MORE ABOUT HALONG BAY](#)

DAY 4

THE KINH THAY RIVER

Observe the lively and interesting life of the Kinh Thay river, a key commercial waterway.

Afternoon excursion to Thanh Ha Commune with village walk and a private water puppet show set under shade by a beautiful pond of lotus and lilies.

We continue cruising until late evening and drop anchor midstream.

DAY 5**DAY RIVER**

This morning we will sail on the Lower Red River and Day River. Afternoon visit the Dien Xa Bonsai Village where we will walk to the bonsai village and meet with local artists and share their bonsai experience. Cruise on Day River towards Ninh Binh City.

DAY 6**NINH BINH**

In the morning we will visit Tam Coc, taking a rowing boat ride to visit the so call "Halong on land" in Ninh Binh. In the afternoon we visit the quaint village of Pham Phao where guests can walk around the village visiting a host family where musician instruments have been made and repaired for generations. Listen to the owner who plays every instrument within his family run business. We visit local Woodworking Artisans who produce items for local and international markets.

DAY 7**THE LOWER RED RIVER**

In the morning we sail upstream on the Red River to Phat Diem Cathedral visit the famous stone cathedral of Pat Diem. We then continue on the Red River to Hanoi.

DAY 8**HANOI**

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DAY 10**THE UPPER RED RIVER**

In the morning we go ashore to visit the UNESCO praised village of Duang Lam. In the afternoon, visit the carpenter and smith village of Ly Nhan. We sail upstream on the Upper Red River to Viet Tri. Enjoy traditional dances on board.

DAY 11**VIET TRI**

Disembark after breakfast and visit the conical hat making village of Gia Thanh. By bus we continue to Hung Lo Temple, Lunch will be served at a local restaurant, followed by a transfer to Hanoi Noi Bai International Airport or your central Hanoi hotel.

19 Sep 2019

DAY 1

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[MORE ABOUT HALONG BAY](#)

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11 Oct 2019

DAY 1

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[MORE ABOUT HALONG BAY](#)

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2 Nov 2019

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24 Nov 2019

DAY 1

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STATEROOM

The Pandaw stateroom is the most celebrated feature of our ships.

Finished in brass and teak, the main and upper deck rooms are very spacious at 168 square feet (15.6 sqm). Much loved by all our passengers we have ensured that with each ship we build the stateroom remains the same. Our cabins do not have mini-bars, satellite TV's, internet or phones. Pandaw passengers usually want to escape from the tiresome features found in international business hotels.

Many passengers describe life on board a Pandaw more like being a guest on a private motor yacht than a cruise ship. Where we go and what we see is intrepid in extreme. What you come back to is a floating base of discreet comfort, caring service and all the good things one looks for in life. All our cabins have the same size and Pandaw signature amenities. Choose from Main Deck, Upper Deck or Premium Upper Deck (Mekong only).

Special to Your Stateroom

- Fruit and flowers on arrival
- Kimonos and slippers
- Spa-branded amenities
- Unlimited mineral water

PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

ARRIVAL IN HANOI

Our guide will pick you up at the airport and bring you to your hotel. Enjoy this bustling Asian metropolis at your own leisure. Overnight at the hotel.

Please note: Guides and drivers are not allowed inside the terminal building. We will be waiting for you outside with a Pandaw sign. Hanoi Airport has two exits; if you don't see us, please try the other exit on the same level (30 meters).

DAY 2

DEPARTURE

Transfer and embark your Pandaw cruise.



Pre Tour Hanoi (Sofitel Legend Metropole)

Hanoi is a magical and charming city. You will find that the character, history and romance of the Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi may add a little extra special something to your journey here. Savour the French art de vivre blended with elegant Vietnamese touches and enjoy this wonderful place.

Rates include:

All transfers as above by coach or car with local guide, 1 night accommodation with breakfast included.

Note

- Please advise arrival flight details in order to arrange the transfer accordingly
- Check out time from hotel at 1200hrs

* Please note that your hotel will be confirmed after we have received your deposit payment. Prices are subject to change. Hotel subject to availability. We will try to offer you an alternate accommodation if the requested hotel would not be available.

Airport Arrival Transfer Notes

Please take note your driver/guide will be waiting for you at Column No 12 outside the arrival area (either the International Arrival area or Domestic Arrival area, depending on your flight). Upon exiting the Arrival Terminal please look for column No 12. In case you do not see the driver/guide at column No 12, please call the Pandaw hotline number and remain standing at the column No 12 in order for the guide/driver to locate you. Please be on the lookout for the Pandaw welcome sign in front of Column No 12.

15 Ngo Quyen Street
Hoan Kiem District
15 Ngo Quyen
Hoan Kiem 100000
Hanoi

Tel: +84 24 3826 6919

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

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5 STAR

Pre Tour Hanoi (Silk Path Boutique)

Welcome to this charming boutique hotel situated a stone's throw from Hoan Kiem Lake, the historical center of Hanoi. Silk Path Boutique Hanoi is an oasis of distinguished design and serenity in the bustling heart of the city, putting you on the doorstep of the capital's most inspiring sights, top shopping areas and the street food delights that have put Hanoi on every foodie's bucket list.

Rates include:

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SILK PATH BOUTIQUE HANOI

21 Hang Khay

Hoan Kiem

Hanoi

Tel: +84 24 3938 5555

[Visit Hotel Website](#)

PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

ARRIVE IN HUE

Individual arrival at Hue airport, meet your local guide and transfer to your hotel for a 2-night stay on a bed and breakfast basis. The rest of the day is free to enjoy the hotel and relax.

Meals: none.

DAY 2

HUE

This morning we take a boat trip on the serene Perfume River to the best-known pagoda in Middle Vietnam, Thien Mu. Then we visit to the impressive tomb of former Emperor Tu Duc and a beautiful garden once belonging to the royalty followed by a royal style lunch at a local restaurant (included). In the afternoon, visit Hue citadel including Noon Gate, Thai Hoa Palace, Royal Urns and the ruins of the Forbidden Purple City.

Meals: Breakfast at hotel, Lunch at local restaurant.

DAY 3

HUE - HOI AN

After breakfast we leave Hue for Hoi An. En route we'll travel through the Ocean Clouds Pass, visit Non Nuoc Beach and the fascinating Cham Museum. We continue to your hotel in Hoi An. In the afternoon, you will have time to explore this charming and wonderfully preserved merchant town that retains Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese and European influences from its flourishing old days.

Meals: Breakfast at hotel.

DAY 4

HOI AN

Day at leisure. Explore the beautiful old town of Hoi An or relax at the beach.

Meals: Breakfast at hotel.

DAY 5

HOI AN - HANOI

Transfer to Danang Airport for morning flight to Hanoi Airport, followed by transfer to the Angkor Pandaw. It is possible to extend your stay in Hoian - please email information@pandaw.com for availability and prices.

Meals: Breakfast at hotel.



DISCOVER

4 Night Hue & Hoi An Pre Tour

This is a Pandaw group tour.

Hue and Hoi An are two of Vietnam's scenic and historic highlights and a 'must see;' on most people's visit to this most wonderful country. Our included trip on the Perfume River and visit to the enormous Hue Citadel are fascinating. Hoi An is best explored independently and retains a charming village feel which comes alive after sunset with the glow of red lanterns and the senses of Asia. And, of course, enjoy time to relax at your beach resort.

We are pleased to offer a pre and post extension staying in delightful and specially selected boutique hotels, including a connecting domestic flight, all transfers, excursions in Hue, a scenic journey from Hue to Hoi An and 2-nights in Hoi An. It is possible to extend your stay in Hoi An if required.

Rates include:

English speaking guide on tours, 1x lunch at local restaurant, economy one-way domestic air ticket Danang - Hanoi, hotels as advertised, transportation by AC vehicle, daily breakfast, and entrance fees.

Rates exclude:

International flights, visa, travel insurance, not mentioned beverages and meal.

Note

- Please advice arrival flight details in order to arrange the transfer accordingly
- Check in time at hotel is 1400hrs
- Check out time from hotel at 1200hrs
- Early check in and late check out are subject to hotel room availability

* Please note that your hotel will be confirmed after we have received your deposit payment. Prices are subject to change. Hotel subject to availability. We will try to offer you alternative accommodation if the requested hotel is not available.

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

TRANSFER TO SAPA

After lunch, transfer from ship to Sapa. Arrive at the Silk Path Grand Sapa and check in to the mountaintop retreat before enjoying dinner in the hotel.

Overnight Silk Path Grand Sapa

Meals: Breakfast on ship, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 2

SAPA

After breakfast, we visit Mount Fansipan, the Roof of Indochina, 3143m above the sea level. Starting your trip by train from central Sapa we continue by cable car for our journey upwards. Enjoy the fresh air and the beautiful landscapes from the peak as well as the various temples located high in the mountain. In the afternoon, your guide will offer a choice of excursions including the local market, national forest trek or simply relaxing and enjoying the facilities at the hotel.

Overnight: Silk Path Grand Sapa

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

DAY 3

SAPA

Today we explore the various hilltribe peoples that reside in this mountainous region with trekking through the breathtaking terraced mountainsides and local village visits. We check out of the hotel early before visiting the H'mong people and Red Dao people with exact stops are dependent on weather conditions and physical ability and can be tailored with your local guide. A picnic lunch amidst the dramatic scenery of Sapa is provided. After the day's excursions, we transfer to Lao Cai train station and relax in the exclusive Chapa lounge for dinner and showers before we board our luxury overnight train to Hanoi.

Overnight aboard Chapa Luxury Train

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4

HANOI

Early morning arrival into Hanoi followed by transfer to your hotel for check-in. Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and free time in the morning before we explore Hanoi with a street food tour.

Overnight Silk Path Boutique Hanoi

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

DAY 5

HANOI

Breakfast at your hotel, transfer to the airport.

Meals: Breakfast



DISCOVER

Sapa & Hanoi 4 Night Post Tour

Explore Sapa with Pandaw in combination with your Red River expedition. Famous for its terraced rice paddies & highlands, Sapa is home to more than 30 colorful hill tribes and close to Vietnam's highest peak, Mount Fansipan. During colonial times Sapa - surrounded by what is referred to as the "Vietnamese Alps" - was a hill station where the French escaped the Hanoi heat, and this heritage is reflected in our elegant, regal interior design and architecture.

Rates include:

Transfers and tours as per itinerary, accommodation at the Silk Path Boutique Hanoi and the Silk Path Grand Sapa, with daily breakfast and three lunches and one dinner during the tour.

Note

- Please advise arrival/departure flight details in order to arrange the transfer accordingly
- Check out time from hotel at 1200hrs
- Please note this is a group tour. The size of the group is 1-12 depending on the interest

* **Please note** that your hotel will be confirmed after we have received your deposit payment. Prices are subject to change. Hotel subject to availability. We will try to offer you an alternate accommodation if the requested hotel would not be available.

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

HANOI - HUE

Disembark and fly from Hanoi to Hue. On arrival at Hue airport, meet your local guide and transfer to on a bed and breakfast basis. The rest of the day is free to enjoy the hotel and relax.

Meals: none.

DAY 2

HUE

This morning we take a boat trip on the serene Perfume River to the best-known pagoda in Middle Vietnam, Thien Mu. Then we visit to the impressive tomb of former Emperor Tu Duc and a beautiful garden once belonging to the royalty followed by a royal style lunch at a local restaurant (included). In the afternoon, visit Hue citadel including Noon Gate, Thai Hoa Palace, Royal Urns and the ruins of the Forbidden Purple City.

Meals: Breakfast at hotel, Lunch at local restaurant.

DAY 3

HUE - HOI AN

After breakfast we leave Hue for Hoi An. En route we'll travel through the Ocean Clouds Pass, visit Non Nuoc Beach and the fascinating Cham Museum. We continue to your hotel in Hoi An. In the afternoon, you will have time to explore this charming and wonderfully preserved merchant town that retains Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese and European influences from its flourishing old days.

Meals: Breakfast at hotel.

DAY 4

HOI AN

Day at leisure. Explore the beautiful old town of Hoi An or relax at the beach.

Meals: Breakfast at hotel.

DAY 5

HOI AN - DANANG

Transfer to Danang Airport for your onward flight.

It is possible to extend your stay in Hoian – please email information@pandaw.com for availability and prices.

Meals: Breakfast at hotel.



DISCOVER

4 Night Hue & Hoi An Post Tour

This is a Pandaw group tour.

Hue and Hoi An are two of Vietnam's scenic and historic highlights and a 'must see;' on most people's visit to this most wonderful country. Our included trip on the Perfume River and visit to the enormous Hue Citadel are fascinating. Hoi An is best explored independently and retains a charming village feel which comes alive after sunset with the glow of red lanterns and the senses of Asia. And, of course, enjoy time to relax at your beach resort.

We are pleased to offer a pre and post extension staying in delightful and specially selected boutique hotels, including a connecting domestic flight, all transfers, excursions in Hue, a scenic journey from Hue to Hoi An and 2-nights in Hoi An. It is possible to extend your stay in Hoi An if required.

Rates include:

English speaking guide on tours, 1x lunch at local restaurant, economy one-way domestic air ticket Hanoi to Hue, hotels as advertised, transportation by AC vehicle, daily breakfast, and entrance fees.

Rates exclude:

International flights, visa, travel insurance, not mentioned beverages and meal.

Note

- Please advice arrival flight details in order to arrange the transfer accordingly
- Check in time at hotel is 1400hrs
- Check out time from hotel at 1200hrs
- Early check in and late check out are subject to hotel room availability

* Please note that your hotel will be confirmed after we have received your deposit payment. Prices are subject to change. Hotel subject to availability. We will try to offer you alternative accommodation if the requested hotel is not available.

River Conditions Warning!

The rivers you will sail on are subject to seasonal rises and falls of water level, in some places as much as 30 metres. Water levels can change dramatically overnight and a sudden rise can impede our progress upstream considerably and even prevent us from passing under certain bridges. A sudden fall can result in our being unable to get into certain places or go as far upstream as we would hope. Groundings on sandbars are not infrequent and are part of the excitement of any Pandaw expedition. Published itineraries are indicational only and subject to sudden change. In such events alternative itineraries will be provided and we do our best to ensure that if a stop is missed we make up for it with another stop. Passengers are thus forewarned and expected to be flexible and patient. River cruising in Asia can be a dramatic and adventurous experience - not like cruising the controlled waterways of Europe or America. Note also that we operate in areas with little or no developed infrastructure and subject to the strictures of local officialdom. Be prepared for this and it is all more the fun!

Useful Links

[Terms & Conditions](#)

[General Information & Life on Board](#)

[Visa Information](#)