For the first time travellers will be 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 excitement of down town 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 this is a new river expedition and itineraries and schedules very much subject to change due to uncertain local conditions.

Note that departures from December to March have an alternative itinerary covering a larger inland water cruising area on the coastal plain area. We cruise in beautiful rural areas as well as some interesting more industrial sections. Note the daily temperature range at this time of year can be from 7C to 21C and there is a higher chance of mists.

"In North Vietnam we have an expression," says our guide Duoc -- or Duke, as his badge reads. "The Red River is our mother's milk."

Northern cruising: A journey up Vietnam’s Red River - 24 Oct 2016 article by Colin Hinshelwood for CNN Travel
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

April to November

DAY 1

HALONG BAY

Transfer from Hanoi International Airport or meeting point to Halong Bay to embark your Pandaw ship with a stop for lunch en route. Cast off late 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.

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

Weather dependent, end the day with cocktails at a beautiful beach in Halong Bay - bring your swimwear!

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.

Depart Halong Bay and enter the river to drop anchor near Hai Phong.

In the afternoon, our chef will share his skills in fruit carving and demonstrate how to create Vietnamese spring rolls.

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.

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

Return to ship and continue cruising until late evening, dropping anchor midstream.

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.

Afternoon walking tour of Hanoi’s old quarter, including a visit to a coffee shop to learn about Vietnam’s famous coffee-making industry.

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.

Afternoon excursion to a carpenter village famous for exquisite carvings and wood work techniques.

Evening arrival in Viet Tri.

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.

The ‘non la’ are handmade with palm leaves and bamboo. There is no machinery available to create this work of art. Their origin dates approximately 3,000 years back.

By bus continue to Hung Lo Temple.

MORE ABOUT LO RIVER
DAY 9

THE DA RIVER

Day sailing downstream while admiring the unspoilt beauty of the Da River. Pass through the Ba Vi National Park with its rich and diverse tropical and sub-tropical flora and fauna before arriving at Hoa Binh then visit the UNESCO-praised village of Duong Lam.

In the afternoon, take a tour of the ship including the galley, crew area and engine room.

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 power station and visit a local village. A traditional performance by local hill tribe people is given in the evening.

MORE ABOUT HOA BINH
DAY 11

HOA BINH

Disembark after breakfast (08.30am) and visit a museum and local village where villagers still wear traditional dress.

Lunch will be served at a local restaurant, followed by a transfer to Hanoi airport or drop off point Pan Pacific Hotel Hanoi.

MORE ABOUT HOA BINH
December to March

DAY 1

HALONG BAY

Transfer from Hanoi International Airport or meeting point to Halong Bay to embark your Pandaw ship with a stop for lunch enroute. Cast off late afternoon for an evening sailing, 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.

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

Our exploration of Halong Bay continues and we stop at 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.

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

Dropped anchor in the bustling city of Hanoi, passengers will visit some highlights of this Asian metropolis, must see’s like the notorious Vietnam war prison known as the Hanoi Hilton, temple of literature where Confucius did his thinking and the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum. Afternoon walking tour of Hanoi including a visit to a coffee shop where we learn about Vietnam’s famous coffee making industry. Before returning to your ship you will enjoy a traditional unicorn and lion dance at the jetty.

DAY 9

HANOI

Morning going off shore to visit Bat Trang ceramic village then sail through 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. Going a shore we visit a timeless Arcadian Vietnam with emerald green rice paddies punctuated by lime stone rock formations. Of particular interest is the Thay and Tay Phuong Pagodas, hardly known, yet with exquisite temples dating from the 8th and 11th century and home to some fine Buddhist statuary carved from jackfruit trees. We will arrive in Vinh Phuc in the evening.
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 airport or drop off point Pan Pacific Hotel Hanoi.
19 Sep 2019

**DAY 1**

**HALONG BAY**

Transfer from Hanoi International Airport or meeting point to Halong Bay to embark your Pandaw ship with a stop for lunch enroute. Cast off late afternoon for an evening sailing, 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.

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

Our exploration of Halong Bay continues and we stop at 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.

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**

Dropped anchor in the bustling city of Hanoi, passengers will visit some highlights of this Asian metropolis, must see’s like the notorious Vietnam war prison known as the Hanoi Hilton, temple of literature where Confucius did his thinking and the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum. Afternoon walking tour of Hanoi including a visit to a coffee shop where we learn about Vietnam’s famous coffee making industry. Before returning to your ship you will enjoy a traditional unicorn and lion dance at the jetty.

---

**DAY 9**

**HANOI**

Morning going off shore to visit Bat Trang ceramic village then sail through 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. Going a shore we visit a timeless Arcadian Vietnam with emerald green rice paddies punctuated by lime stone rock formations. Of particular interest is the Thay and Tay Phuong Pagodas, hardly known, yet with exquisite temples dating from the 8th and 11th century and home to some fine Buddhist statuary carved from jackfruit trees. We will arrive in Vinh Phuc in the evening.
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 airport or drop off point Pan Pacific Hotel Hanoi.
11 Oct 2019

DAY 1

HALONG BAY

Transfer from Hanoi International Airport or meeting point to Halong Bay to embark your Pandaw ship with a stop for lunch enroute. Cast off late afternoon for an evening sailing, 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.

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

Our exploration of Halong Bay continues and we stop at 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.

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**

Dropped anchor in the bustling city of Hanoi, passengers will visit some highlights of this Asian metropolis, must see’s like the notorious Vietnam war prison known as the Hanoi Hilton, temple of literature where Confucius did his thinking and the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum. Afternoon walking tour of Hanoi including a visit to a coffee shop where we learn about Vietnam’s famous coffee making industry. Before returning to your ship you will enjoy a traditional unicorn and lion dance at the jetty.

**DAY 9**

**HANOI**

Morning going off shore to visit Bat Trang ceramic village then sail through 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. Going a shore we visit a timeless Arcadian Vietnam with emerald green rice paddies punctuated by lime stone rock formations. Of particular interest is the Thay and Tay Phuong Pagodas, hardly known, yet with exquisite temples dating from the 8th and 11th century and home to some fine Buddhist statuary carved from jackfruit trees. We will arrive in Vinh Phuc in the evening.
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 airport or drop off point Pan Pacific Hotel Hanoi.
2 Nov 2019

DAY 1

HALONG BAY

Transfer from Hanoi International Airport or meeting point to Halong Bay to embark your Pandaw ship with a stop for lunch enroute. Cast off late afternoon for an evening sailing, 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.

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

Our exploration of Halong Bay continues and we stop at 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.

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

Dropped anchor in the bustling city of Hanoi, passengers will visit some highlights of this Asian metropolis, must see’s like the notorious Vietnam war prison known as the Hanoi Hilton, temple of literature where Confucius did his thinking and the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum. Afternoon walking tour of Hanoi including a visit to a coffee shop where we learn about Vietnam’s famous coffee making industry. Before returning to your ship you will enjoy a traditional unicorn and lion dance at the jetty.

DAY 9

HANOI

Morning going off shore to visit Bat Trang ceramic village then sail through 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. Going a shore we visit a timeless Arcadian Vietnam with emerald green rice paddies punctuated by lime stone rock formations. Of particular interest is the Thay and Tay Phuong Pagodas, hardly known, yet with exquisite temples dating from the 8th and 11th century and home to some fine Buddhist statuary carved from jackfruit trees. We will arrive in Vinh Phuc in the evening.
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 airport or drop off point Pan Pacific Hotel Hanoi.
24 Nov 2019

DAY 1

HALONG BAY

Transfer from Hanoi International Airport or meeting point to Halong Bay to embark your Pandaw ship with a stop for lunch enroute. Cast off late afternoon for an evening sailing, 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.

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

Our exploration of Halong Bay continues and we stop at 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.

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

Dropped anchor in the bustling city of Hanoi, passengers will visit some highlights of this Asian metropolis, must see’s like the notorious Vietnam war prison known as the Hanoi Hilton, temple of literature where Confucius did his thinking and the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum. Afternoon walking tour of Hanoi including a visit to a coffee shop where we learn about Vietnam’s famous coffee making industry. Before returning to your ship you will enjoy a traditional unicorn and lion dance at the jetty.

DAY 9

HANOI

Morning going off shore to visit Bat Trang ceramic village then sail through 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. Going a shore we visit a timeless Arcadian Vietnam with emerald green rice paddies punctuated by lime stone rock formations. Of particular interest is the Thay and Tay Phuong Pagodas, hardly known, yet with exquisite temples dating from the 8th and 11th century and home to some fine Buddhist statuary carved from jackfruit trees. We will arrive in Vinh Phuc in the evening.
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 airport or drop off point Pan Pacific Hotel Hanoi.
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 1 Night

Savour a 5-star hotel experience with the best views in the city. Pan Pacific Hotel Hanoi enjoys a spectacular location rising up between the watery expanses of Truc Bach Lake, West Lake and the Red River with inspiring, uninterrupted panoramas.

Rates include:
All transfers as above by coach or car with local guide, 1-night Pan Pacific Hotel Hanoi in a Luxury Room.

Note

- Please advice arrival/ departure 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.

PAN PACIFIC HOTEL HANOI
1 Thanh Nien Road
Ba Dinh District
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 Moon 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.
Hue & Hoi An 4 Nights 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, 2 nights at Pilgrimage Village Hue (Deluxe Room) and 2 nights at Victoria Hoi An (Deluxe Garden Room), transportation by AC vehicle, daily breakfast, and entrance fees.

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

**Compulsory dinner**

- Christmas 24Dec: Victoria USD 88.- / Pilgrimage USD 70.- per person
- New Year’s Eve 31Dec: Victoria USD 97.- / Pilgrimage USD 70.- per person

**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**

**HANOI**

Transfer from the disembarkation point to Hanoi by Pandaw. Overnight at the Pan Pacific Hotel Hanoi.
DAY 2

HANOI

Room available until check out time at 12:00 noon. Transfer to Airport for your flight.

5 STAR

Post Tour Hanoi 1 Night

Savour a 5-star hotel experience with the best views in the city. Pan Pacific Hotel Hanoi enjoys a spectacular location rising up between the watery expanses of Truc Bach Lake, West Lake and the Red River with inspiring, uninterrupted panoramas.

Rates include:
All transfers as above by coach or car with local guide, 1-night Pan Pacific Hotel Hanoi in a Luxury Room.

Note
- Please advice arrival/ departure 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.

PAN PACIFIC HOTEL HANOI
1 Thanh Nien Road
Ba Dinh District
10000 Hanoi

Tel: +84 4 382 38888

Visit Hotel Website

POST-TOUR EXTENSION

DAY 1

TRANSFER TO SAPA

After lunch, transfer from ship to Sapa. Overnight & dinner at Victoria Sapa Resort & Spa.
DAY 2

SAPA

Discover the landscapes of terraced rice paddies and the minorities’ villages at Victoria Sapa Resort & Spa. Sapa is located in Lao Cai Province, 380 km Northwest of Hanoi, in close proximity to the Chinese border. 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. From Sapa, heading northwards on national road 4C to O Quy Ho with several stops for magnificent landscapes of Fansipan, Sin Chai valley and especially amazing flower and vegetable farms. Then turn right to Ban Khoang, a village of the Red Zao ethnic peoples who live their unique way of life and well maintain their traditional values. The village looks prosperous thanks to the combination of wet rice cultivation on the terraced fields with cardamom farming under the shade of trees in thick forest. Take a walk to explore this remote village for a brief understanding of local life. Then leaving Ban Khoang for Ta Giang Phing valley inhabited by the Black Hmong who live in some small villages scattering along a peaceful stream, explore the local life and then back to hotel in Sapa. Overnight at Victoria Sapa Resort & Spa. Lunch at local restaurant.
DAY 3

SAPA - HANOI

Locating just at the south eastern side of HAM RONG MOUNTAIN and just close to Sapa town but this valley seems to be unknown by most of the tour operators as well as visitors. Inhabited by the Hmong peoples this narrow valley is quiet and non touristic which is quite different from TA PHIN or MUONG HOA VALLEYS where the local peoples have changed much because of the strong influence of tourism. Trip begins from Sapa at 08.30 in the morning firstly by road transfer for 12km southwards and uphill the DEN THANG MOUNTAIN. Enjoy several stops for marvelous landscapes of Hoang Lien mountain range and Muong Hoa valley before arriving to a small hamlet of village which sits at 1,572m high and overlooking down the Muong Hoa valley. Leaving the vehicle for an easy walk to explore this charming hamlet of the Black Hmong with lots traces of the past sifting lifestyle of the Hmong. Then follow the large village path gradually downhill along the stunning valley of Sa Seng, passing several hamlets of the SA SENG and SAU CHUA VILLAGES along the way which are organized in typical way of the Hmong dwelling, Wooden roofed houses surrounded by rock-all where pot-belly pigs, chickens, water buffaloes running here and there and children entertaining themselves with their own games and toys. There are chances to see Hmong women making fiber from hemp, spinning, weaving to make traditional costumes. Walk end after paying visiting to Sa Pa, another hamlet of the Hmong which located near the former place of Sapa traditional market.

Transfer to train station. Overnight train to Hanoi. Lunch at local restaurant.

**Note:** Victoria trains don’t run daily. Please see below under “NOTE” if your date is affected, an alternate night train with ORIENT TRAINS will be arranged for you.
HANOI

Arrival at 4:10 in Hanoi train station. Transfer to your hotel where a room will have been booked for your early time of arrival. Explore Hanoi with a Street food tour and then visit an art gallery, meet an artist for discussion of the development of fine arts in Vietnam. Breakfast at hotel, street food for lunch.

HANOI

Breakfast at your hotel, transfer to the airport.

DISCOVER

Post Tour Sapa & Hanoi 4 Nights

The four star Victoria Sapa Resort & Spa, the only luxury hotel in the region, was built as a traditional chalet with accented wooden décor, the Resort overhangs the village, blending perfectly with its natural surroundings.
Rates include:
Transfers and tours as per itinerary, one night accommodation at Pan Pacific Hotel Hanoi in a Luxury Room, one night in a superior cabin with 4 berths on the Victoria night train, two nights at Victoria Resort and Spa Sapa Deluxe Room, with daily breakfast and three lunches and one dinner during the tour.

Compulsory dinner

- Christmas Eve Gala Dinner (24DEC) USD 88.- per person
- New Year's Eve Dinner (31DEC) USD 98.- per person

Note

- Please advice arrival/ departure flight details in order to arrange the transfer accordingly
- Check out time from hotel at 1200hrs
- Please note it’s a group tour. The size of the group is 1-12 depending on the interest
- Please note that this is a 4-berth cabin on the Victoria train. If you would like to have a private cabin, the surcharge will be as below. Please contact us at information@pandaw.com if you wish to do so:
  - Extra charge for 1 guest sole use private cabin: USD390 per person
  - Extra charge for 2 guest sole use private cabin: USD150 per person
- Victoria train does not operate on every day. Should your train journey fall on one of these dates you will travel on Sapaly or Orient trains, which are of slightly lower quality than Victoria and don’t have deluxe cabins. Standard compartment contains 4 sleeping berths, but we will aim to convert it into a 2-berth cabin free of charge
- Should Victoria train be fully booked on the dates of your travel, we will use Sapaly or Orient trains as above

Please note Victoria trains don’t run for pre extensions of cruises 08JAN19 / 16APR19 /12NOV19 and guests will be booked on the Orient train instead.

* 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 Moon 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.
Hue & Hoi An 4 Nights 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, 2 nights at Pilgrimage Village Hue (Deluxe Room) and 2 nights at Victoria Hoi An (Deluxe Garden Room), transportation by AC vehicle, daily breakfast, and entrance fees.

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

**Compulsory dinner**

- Christmas 24Dec: Victoria USD 88.- / Pilgrimage USD 70.- per person
- New Year’s Eve 31Dec: Victoria USD 97.- / Pilgrimage USD 70.- per person

**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**