

BEYOND THE TRAIL . JOURNEYS BY DESIGN

# Vietnam Trail Adventure 10 Days 7th January 2025





# **Our Story**

Beyond the Trail came about for us through a longtime dream and a passion for sharing our love of running trails, travelling and discovering new adventures with our friends and family.

Our journey began with the vision to create something meaningful that not only fellow runners would love but would also inspire their family to come along for the ride!

Through our experience in training and competing on different trails over various terrain, distances and climates, we are excited to offer personalised training plans and coaching services to any interested participants. These programs are tailored to the individual looking to improve their running form and technique.

With all our trips, a good amount of cultural experience, R&R and entertainment are included as essential elements to the overall experience.

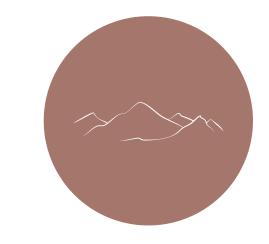
Building new friendships, cementing old ones and creating life long memories is at the very core of our "why".

We can't wait to explore the world on the trails with you all!

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# **Vietnam Trail Adventure**

## Itinerary

#### **Key Features**

- Run an ultra marathon (70km) marathon (42km)/half marathon (21km) or 10km in Moc Chau, surrounded by tea plantations, ethnic communities, and peach blossom forests.
- Overnight cruise in Lan Ha Bay.
- Experience the scenic beauty of Mai Chau's valley.

#### **Ideal for**

- Loved ones accompanying a Vietnam Trail Marathon participant.
- First- or second-time visitors to Vietnam.
- Those seeking a perfect blend of vibrant city life and unspoiled natural landscapes in Northern Vietnam.

#### 7th Jan

#### Day 1: Welcome to the land of the ascending Dragon

#### Hanoi Arrival





Xin Chao and Welcome to Hanoi. Upon arrival, welcome you to the capital before heading straight to your hotel in the heart of the city. After freshening up at your hotel, the rest of your day is yours to explore or relax. **Included meals: N/A Distance: 45 minutes transfer** 

Overnight at Silk Path Hotel Hanoi

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#### 8th Jan

Day 2: Hanoi- Half Day Hanoi Highlight & Hidden Gem on Vintage Jeep



Visit the top attractions of Hanoi – Ho Chi Minh Complex, Temple of Literature, French Quarter, Old Quarter, Long Bien Bridge, Westlake.

• Explore the hidden gems of Hanoi, featuring with the maze of tiny backstreets and local people's daily life.

• Diving into the local culture where local people live and work.

• Experience the REAL Hanoi as it is what it is, featured with the Good, the bad & the weird of the places.

#### Part 1: Hanoi Highlights: (2 hours)

**7:30 AM** You will be greeted by the tour guide and driver at your hotel lobby we then ride to Ho Chi Minh Complex to have a quick visit to Ho chi Minh mausoleum – the Mecca of Vietnamese, Ba Dinh square, Presidential Palace, Ho Chi Minh Residential area and One Pillar Pagoda. After that, we move to Temple of Literature, a 1000-year-old iconic architecture of Hanoi to learn about Vietnamese long-standing culture and history.

#### Part 2: Hanoi Hidden Gems: (2.5 hours)

Explore the parts-unknown of Hanoi by riding through the maze of zigzagging backstreet and narrow alleyways and markets. Diving into the rivers of motorbikes and Hanoi street symphony. Traveling with all your senses heightened: Watching, Hearing, Touching, Tasting and smiling. Experiencing the GOOD, the BAD, and the WEIRD of the city as it is what it is. Experiencing different slides of life behind the scene, the hidden part of the iceberg. Meeting people where they live, work, learn and pray. Building personal connections and culture exchanges.

Afternoon is free for your own exploration in the city

#### Included Meals: Breakfast

Overnight at Silk Path Hotel Hanoi



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#### 9th Jan

Day 3: Hanoi- Mai Chau



8 AM Leave the city behind as your journey 3 hours southwest through the verdant rice fields, shallow mountains, and lush valleys of Hoa Binh Province. Pause at the Muong Culture Museum, an excellent showcase of the Muong people with informative exhibits on art, culture, traditions, and architecture. There's even a playground on-site made entirely from bamboo–a perfect way for kids to work off some energy before the remaining 90-minute journey to Mai Chau.
Upon arrival to Mai Chau, check-in to hotel. Rest of the day is free and relaxation.
Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch
Distance and activities: 3h transfer – 1h museum visit



Overnight at Mai Chau Hideaway

#### 10th Jan

Day 4: Up to the Plateau Mai Chau- Moc Chau







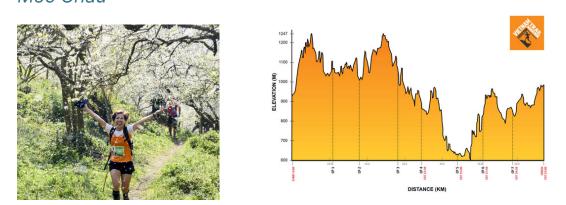


Spend the morning at leisure in Mai Chau.
Early afternoon transfer to the highlands of Moc Chau, where the Vietnam Trail Marathon (VTM) will take place.
Collect your bib package from the VTM EXPO at Muong Thanh Luxury hotel, and then join the carb-load party from 18:00-20:00.
The opening ceremony for the Vietnam Trail Marathon will run from 19:00-21:00, with music, dancing and a bonfire as well as a race briefing, giving you more opportunities to meet your fellow runners.
Included meals: Breakfast
Distance and activities: 1h20' transfer – 2h opening ceremony



Overnight at Glenda Tower Moc Chau Hotel

### **11th Jan** Day 5: RACE DAY *Moc Chau*





6:30AM Transfer from your hotel to Muong Thanh Holiday Moc Chau Hotel

#### 07:00 AM - START 21km race from Muong Thanh Holiday Moc Chau Hotel

Enjoy the run through tea plantations, flowering peach blossoms, pine trees, and ethnic minority villages on your 21k run.

The Winners' and Farewell ceremony will take place between 13:00-17:30 depending on the race you've run.





Đồi chè Trái Tim (the heart-shaped tea-hill) - Finish Area:
10:00 Winner Ceremony: 10km & 21km Đồi chè Trái Tim - Finish Area
12:00 Winner Ceremony: 42km & MALE 70km Đồi chè Trái Tim - Finish Area
16:00 Winner Ceremony: FEMALE 70km Đồi chè Trái Tim - Finish Area

Transfer from Finish Area back to your hotel to rest your muscles after such an eventful day. Included meals: Breakfast, Finisher's Meal Distance and activities: Depends on race distance



Overnight at Glenda Tower Moc Chau Hotel

#### 12th Jan

#### Day 6: Moc Chau- Ninh Binh







8:30 AM Depart Moc Chau after breakfast and make the journey to Ninh Binh, arriving in the early afternoon.
Check-in to your Hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.
Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch
Distance and activities: 5h transfer



Overnight at Emeralda Tam Coc



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#### 13th Jan

Day 7: Ninh Binh- Hoa Lu- Tam Coc



**8:30 AM** Ninh Binh remains one of Vietnam's most captivating locations, combining stunning natural splendor with an engrossing history that spans a millennium.

Hoa Lu, established a thousand years ago, was the capital of Vietnam under the Dinh and Le dynasties. The sights and smells still evoke the atmosphere of a lost kingdom, with stunning temples and pagodas built by the different dynasties and elaborate tombs to commemorate them. You'll also uncover evidence of ancient palaces and royal pavilions that reference an ancient era, surrounded by towering karst mountains and vivid jungle. Take a bicycle and dive into Tam Coc and adjacent countryside, passing small villages and bright green rice paddies along the way.

Ninh Binh is famous for its river cruises – and with good reason. Various snaking rivers meander around sky-high karst mountains covered in lush jungle. Some parts of the river are home to birds and butterflies, whereas other sections are designated spots for water farming. Take small sampan rowed by a local in Tam Coc Cave.

You will be transferred back to your hotel in Ninh Binh for overnight. *Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch* 



Overnight at Emeralda Tam Coc



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#### 14th Jan

Day 8: Ninh Binh- Halong- Lan Ha Bay



7:30 AM the driver will pick you up at hotel and transfer you to Halong.
12:00 The crew members of Peony Cruises will welcome you at No.34, Tuan Chau.
12:30 You will be taken aboard our support vessel and travel from the wharf via the bay to board our luxurious craft, Peony Cruises. Itinerary briefing is announced during this time.

**13:00** Welcome fresh drinks, wet towels and a special lunch of fresh food and an assortment of appetizing delicacies will be served. You will be enchanted when decadently dining on our luxury junk. Life just doesn't get better than this! We then set sail for Lan Ha Bay - A member of the World's Most Beautiful Bays. Enjoy the delicious luncheon of fresh seafood and an assortment of appetizing. delicacies while cruising along Lan Ha bay with the breathtaking scenery.

**15:30** Visiting Tra Bau area where has known as an area famous for its unspoiled, poetic natural beauty and attractive seascape of Lan Ha Bay. This is the best time for kayaking to discover the truest beauty of the limestone islands. Immerse yourself in the emerald green water of the bay or enjoy the Jacuzzi pool on the Peony Cruises.

**17:30 - 18:30** Joining us for Cooking demonstration to learn how to make one of the most famous Vietnamese cuisines, the spring rolls. Or reach the top deck of cruise where the guests can admire the magnificent sunset over the Gulf of Tonkin.

Enjoy a Happy Hour time – BUY ONE GET ONE FREE at the bar. It is an ideal time for photography enthusiasts to capture the greatest moment of sunset over Lan Ha Bay.





**19:30** Enjoy delicious local food prepared and served by our skillful chef. This is a delightful meal in an intimate romantic setting.

**21:00 - 22:00** Relax and sip the exotic cocktails and drinks at the sky bar (with surcharge). Indulge yourself with spa service (optional) or simply relax on the top deck just under the cover of a brightly illuminated sky. Or try to get your luck at the squid fishing on the main deck.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner Distance and activities: 5h transfer



Overnight at Peony Cruise

#### 15th Jan

### Day 9: Lan Ha Bay-Halong- Hanoi



**6:00** Begin the day full of energy with the Tai Chi session and enjoy the sun just rising up beyond the horizon.

**6:45 - 7:15** Breakfast is served while cruising back to Gia Luan jetty. (Breakfast time maybe adjust and follow updated itinerary)

**7:30 - 9:00** You will join the tour of Cat Ba World Biosphere by transshipment. It takes 30 minutes to transfer from Gia Luan to Trung Trang – one of the most impressive caves in Cat Ba island, Vietnam. The limestone cave has thousands of talactites in various shapes, offering geological values with a typical cave ecosystem.

**9:30** Return to the main boat from the cave and the guests will do the cabin check out. Luggage is placed outside of the cabin. Lunch is served at the restaurant. Settle the bar bill by the desk at the restaurant (if any).





**10:30 - 11:00** Disembark the Peony Cruises and transferred back to Block #34, Big Bay group terminal, Tuan Chau Marina. Relax and wait for the luggage.

11:30 - 12:00 The guests are ready at Tuan Chau Marina.

Transfer back to Hanoi for overnight.

Included meals: Breakfast, lunch

Distance and activities: 2.5h transfer

#### Note:

- The itinerary is subject to change without notice, in accordance with the weather and other operating conditions.



Overnight at Silk Path Hotel Hanoi

#### 16th Jan

#### Day 10: Hanoi Departure





Transfer from your hotel to the airport for departure flight. Included meals: Breakfast Distance: 45 minutes transfer





### Price

\$3998 per person (Based on twin/double share)

#### Single Supplement \$1200 per person

A detailed list of all the services included in your trip are summarised below. They reflect exactly what you will receive in terms of accommodation, transport and other services such as guiding or other experiences. If something you are expecting to see is not listed or there is anything you'd like to clarify, please just ask us!

#### **Tour Inclusions**

- Private A/C airport transfer as indicated
- Private transfer Hanoi Mai Chau Moc Chau Ninh Binh Halong Hanoi
- Accommodation as indicated
- 1 nights on Peony cruise in Lan Ha Bay (shared boat, private cabins)
- Meals as indicated in the program.
- Entrance fees tickets for activities days
- 21 km race fee at Vietnam Trail Marathon
- Private English speaking local tour guide through the trip (Lan Ha Bay: share guide on boat)
- Government VAT
- Service charge
- Tailored training plan
- Group training runs
- Fully escorted from Australia

#### **Tour Exclusions**

- Drinks and alcohol
- Air fare tickets for any flights (Domestic and international flights)
- Vietnam visa Please refer to Passport and Visa portion in our Term and Condition
- Travel insurance Compulsory. Please refer to Travel insurance and risks portion in our Terms and Conditions
- Upgrades to higher standard rooms or single supplements. Early check in or late check out hotel.
- Personal travel items
- Tips
- Other services not mentioned in itinerary and inclusions

\*Terms and Conditions Apply

## Contact

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