



From
THE MOUNTAINS TO THE BAY
in Luxury
6 DAYS



TRIP OVERVIEW:

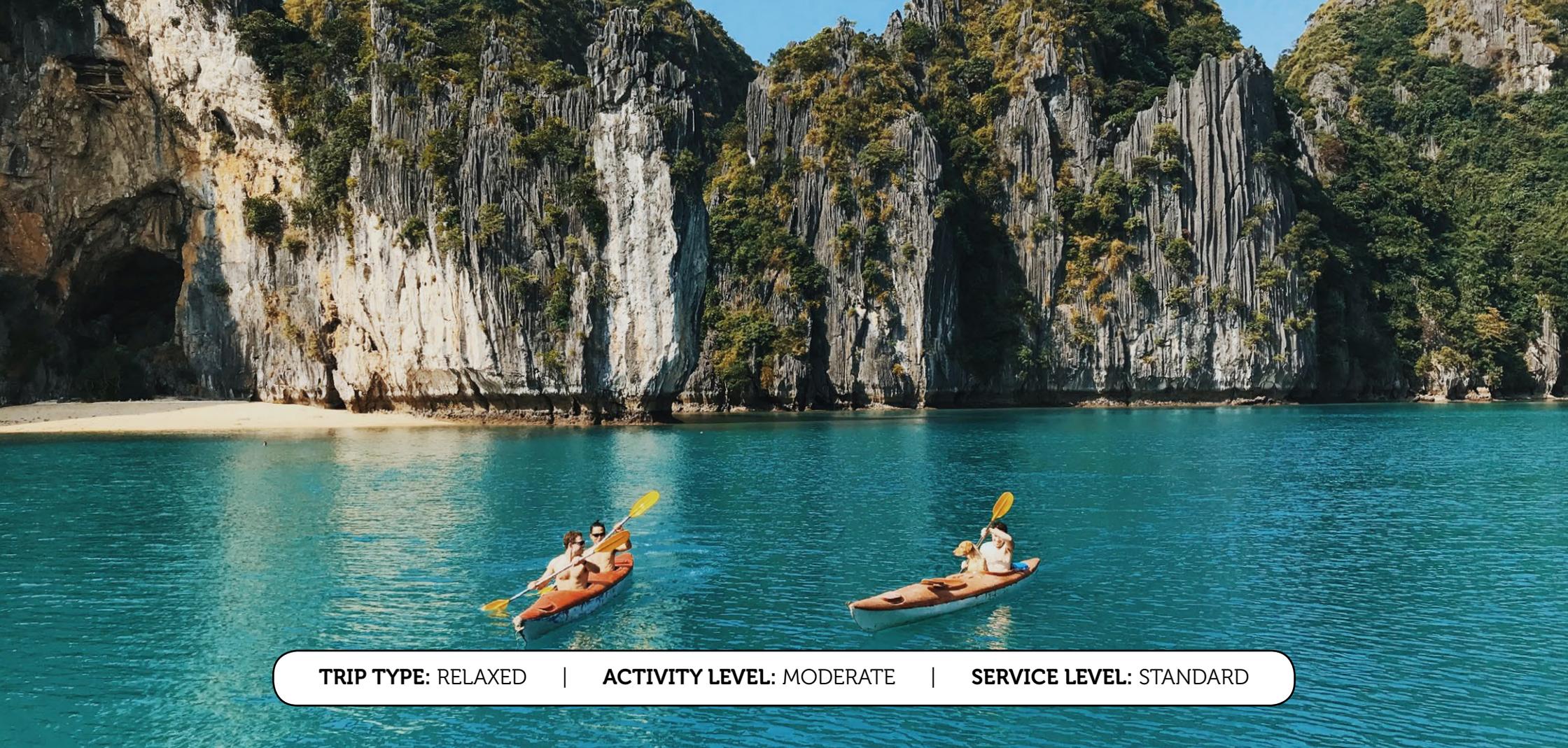
Let us introduce you to Vietnam on this luxury 6-day journey through the traditional and cultural heartland of the country. Brave the hustle and bustle of **Hanoi's** intriguing city center before heading to the peace and quiet of the famous rice terraces and mountains of **Sapa**, visiting remote ethnic minorities and listening to the sounds of nature. End your travels cruising among the impressive limestone karsts on the jade waters of **Lan Ha Bay**.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Experience 2 nights at the historic Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi, with its French art de vivre blended with elegant Vietnamese touches.
- Enjoy a mouthwatering street food tour guided by a top expert
- Trek through terraced rice fields, mountains, and valleys deep in northern Vietnam
- Meet ethnic minorities in remote villages rarely seen by tourists
- Stay at the world-class Topas Ecolodge
- Sail Lan Ha Bay with a charming Vietnamese expedition on the a heritage-inspired high end designer ship

THIS TOUR IS PERFECT FOR:

- Seeing the best of and most quintessential landscapes of the country
- Those wanting to trek away from the crowds
- Enjoying North Vietnam in style, with the very best hotel, lodge and cruise
- Please speak with your travel designer about potential modifications to this proposed itinerary – we are always ready to tailor every trip to the bespoke needs of our guests.



TRIP TYPE: RELAXED | **ACTIVITY LEVEL:** MODERATE | **SERVICE LEVEL:** STANDARD

IN BRIEF:

- Day 1:** Hanoi arrival – Street Food Tour
- Day 2:** Hanoi – Nam Cang Village - Topas Riverside Lodge
- Day 3:** Jungle BBQ – Transfer to Topas Ecolodge
- Day 4:** Topas Ecolodge – Hanoi
- Day 5:** Hanoi – Lan Ha Bay
- Day 6:** Lan Ha Bay – Hanoi

DETAILED ITINERARY:

DAY 1: WELCOME TO THE LAND OF THE ASCENDING DRAGON | HANOI

Xin Chao and welcome to Vietnam! Upon arrival to Hanoi's Noi Bai International Airport, your Topas guide will welcome you before heading straight to your hotel in the heart of the city. The day is at your leisure until the late afternoon, when our guide will pick you up at the hotel and start your cuisine journey with our street eats tour.

Start with a buzz by delving into the hubbub of Hang Be market, one of the Old Quarter's vibrant local wet markets. Wet means fresh, so expect picture-perfect mountains of vegetables, a rainbow of tropical fruits for you to sample, and fish that couldn't be fresher.

You've seen where it's bought, now you'll see how it tastes! Dive into an alley and settle down to some bun ca and ca cuong (noodles with fried fish and fried fish cakes) served with or without soup and with plenty of vegetables. Then sample some of the local brew with a refreshing glass of cold street beer before a tour of the fabled craft streets. Once you've made room, time for some more noodles (bun means noodles) with a visit to one of the Old Quarter's most famous food streets. Take your pick from chicken noodle soup, crab spring rolls, or even snails.

Finish off the tour with a coffee of the dessert variety. Egg coffee is a quintessential Hanoi specialty with a fascinating history – spoon it up, satisfy your sweet tooth, and learn the story behind one of Vietnam's most unusual drinks.

Included meals: Evening Street food

Distance and Activities: 45' drive and 3 hours walking tour





DAY 2: FIRST TASTE OF THE MOUNTAINS | HANOI – NAM CANG VILLAGE – TOPAS RIVERSIDE LODGE

After an early morning breakfast, sit back and relax aboard the Topas Mountain Express that covers the five-hour journey from Hanoi to Topas Riverside Lodge in comfort. Arrive just in time to enjoy a local lunch prepared by the resident family.

In the afternoon, meet your local tour guide in Nam Cang Village to gain some in depth knowledge of the intriguing Red Dao community on our Red Dao Discovery experience.

As your guide acts as your interpreter and window to the Red Dao way of life, you will visit a silversmiths and see paper being made from bamboo. Find out why embroidery is such an important skill for women to learn and how they use generations of familial knowledge to concoct herbal remedies.

Back at the lodge, you can either simply relax on the riverfront veranda or enjoy a dip in the cool waters. If you're brave enough, jump into the refreshing waters of the river running next to Topas Riverside Lodge.

Dinner is served in the communal way associated with Vietnamese families, all at once in the sharing style. If you feel the need to relax further, try a traditional herbal bath made by the local Red Dao specialists, famous for its medicinal and therapeutic qualities.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Distance and Activities: 5h drive – 3km village Walk



DAY 3: DEEP IN THE JUNGLE | NAM CANG VILLAGE – TOPAS ECOLODGE

Discover the jungle on a gentle hike this morning into a hidden valley. Steep mountain sides are covered in dense jungle and soon below you will see your destination – the Nam Pa BBQ hut on the edge of rice paddies by a white-water river and waterfall.

Enjoy the area and the suspension bridge (if you dare!) while your private BBQ lunch is prepared by your Red Dao host. After lunch, return to the lodge, where our driver will take you to Topas Ecolodge.

Check in to your private bungalow at this certified Unique Lodge by National Geographic and enjoy an included afternoon at our Rice Spa

offering the array of wellness treatments including massages and facials, traditional Red Dao herbal baths, providing the perfect treat after a day of intrepid exploration.

End your day with an exclusive wine cellar dinner which has just one table overseen by our top staff.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Distance and Activities: 8km jungle walk – 1h drive – 60 minutes massage

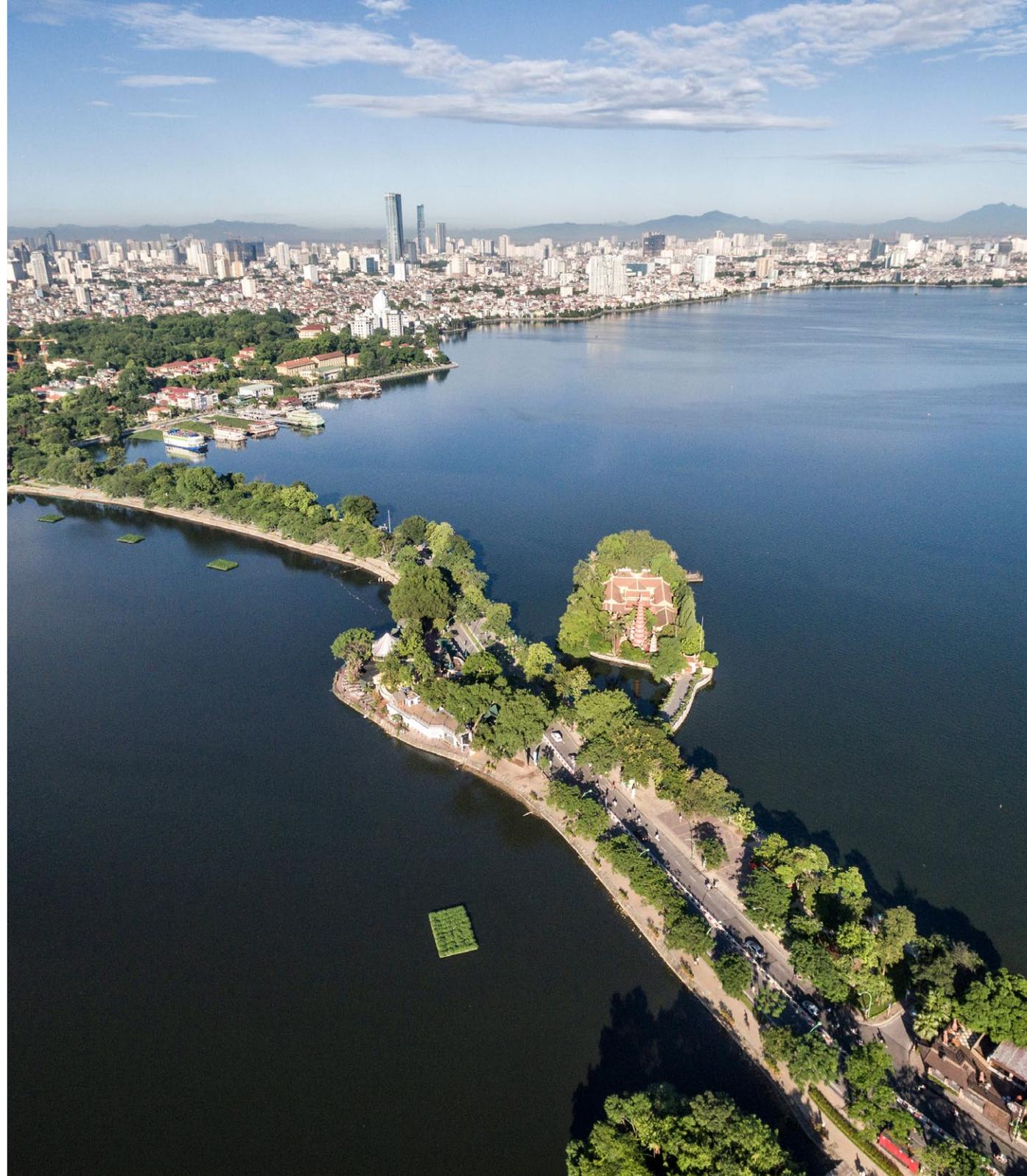
DAY 4: TOPAS ECOLODGE - BACK TO HANOI

Enjoy the morning at the lodge. You can also borrow high quality mountain bikes free of charge from the lodge for an exploration of surrounding areas on your own, or talk to us about a guided tour. Alternatively, just make the most of the grounds and the two mountain infinity pools.

At 14:30 you will have a transfer by Topas Mountain Express back to Hanoi and arrive in the evening.

Included meals: Breakfast

Distance and Activities: 5h drive





DAY 5: SAIL THROUGH LAN HA BAY | HANOI – HA LONG – LAN HA BAY

Depart Hanoi after a leisurely breakfast for a private car to Tuan Chau Harbor. Board your cruise for an epic voyage through Lan Ha Bay, the pristine little sister of the popular (and more crowded) tourist destination, Halong Bay.

Check in to your cabin and get accustomed with your cruise ship. Enjoy an onboard lunch while sailing between the limestone karst formations the region is known for. Spend the afternoon seeing the Ba Trai Dao beaches in Lan Ha Bay, a natural frontier between two provinces, Halong Bay and Cat Ba Archipelago. This is a secret hideaway with its pristine beaches, caves, and coves, plus the natural beauty of about 400 limestone islands. Options include kayaking or swimming.

Return to the ship for some downtime, enjoying a cocktail and watching the sunset over the Gulf of Tonkin before a delicious dinner onboard. Finally, retire for the night in your beautiful cabin.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Distance and Activities: 2,5h drive –
Sightseeing walk



DAY 6: HALONG BAY TO HANOI

Savor your last morning in the Gulf of Tonkin with an excursion via bamboo boat to the Dark and Bright Cave, two of the Bay's most atmospheric water caves. Look out for monkeys on the tree-lined shores, sometimes visible on the rock faces or swinging from the branches, before returning to the cruise ship for the return to port. Return to Hanoi in the afternoon for your onward departure.

Included meals: Light Breakfast, Brunch

Distance and Activities: 2,5h drive

RATES AND CONDITIONS:

ACCOMMODATION:

DESTINATION	ACCOMMODATION	ROOM TYPE	NO. OF NIGHTS
Hanoi	Metropole Hotel	Premium	2
Sapa	Topas Riverside Lodge	Standard	1
Sapa	Topas Ecolodge	Premium Executive	1
Lan Ha Bay	Heritage Cruise	Delta	1

RATES:

GROUP SIZE (NO OF PERSON)	PRICES PER PERSON IN USD
2	1,226 \$
3	1,175 \$
4	1,143 \$
5	1,124 \$
6	1,112 \$
Single Supplement	



IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Prices are quoted in USD and valid until Dec 22
- Prices calculated with VAT
- Surcharge may be applicable during peak season and public holidays at booking stage



TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- 2-way private A/C airport transfer
- Join-in Mountain Express Limousine between Hanoi and Topas Riverside Lodge
- Private transfer from Hanoi and Ha Long
- All accommodation indicated as twin-shared room
- All meals as indicated in the program
- All entrance tickets to local villages, Hoang Lien National Park, and Lan Ha Bay
- Refillable water in vans (Please check with your guide or driver)
- 1 x English speaking local tour guide on days with activities (except for Lan Ha Bay)
- Government VAT

TOUR EXCLUSIONS:

- Drinks and alcohol
- Vietnam visa (On request with additional charge)
- Travel insurance (Compulsory for International tourist covers COVID-19 treatment, with a minimum cover of US\$10,000)
- Upgrades to higher standard rooms or single supplements
- Personal travel items (Please visit our Vietnam weather page for more information)



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