



# Exotic Lands of Vietnam

Escorted  
from  
Perth

## Red River and Ha Long Bay

Explore the stunningly scenic and culturally distinctive lands that lie along the remarkable Red River and Ha Long Bay on this escorted 15 day holiday. Aboard Pandaw Cruises' Angkor Pandaw you will experience real adventure through the exotic lands of Vietnam in the comfort of true luxury.

**15 days** » Departing 16 November 2015

from **\$5,599\*** per person  
twin share

**!** BONUS - RAC members save 10%

### Inclusions

- » Return economy class airfares from Perth to Hanoi flying Singapore Airlines
- » Transfers, sightseeing and meals as per itinerary in Hanoi and Sapa
- » 1 night in Hanoi at Sofitel Hanoi 5★ in a Luxury room
- » 1 night onboard Victoria Sapa Express train in a Superior cabin 4 berth
- » 1 night in Sapa at Victoria Sapa Resort & Spa 5★ in a Deluxe room
- » 10 night cruise aboard Pandaw Expeditions' Angkor Pandaw, in your choice of stateroom
- » Cruise includes entrance fees, guide services, gratuities to crew, main meals, local soft drinks and alcoholic beverages, coffee, tea and mineral water. Transfers between ports of embarkation and Hanoi as per itinerary
- » 1 night in Hanoi at Sofitel Hanoi 5★ in a Luxury room
- » English speaking local guides
- » Services of an RAC tour escort from Perth

Call 1300 655 898, go to [rac.com.au/cruise](http://rac.com.au/cruise)  
or visit your local RAC Travel Centre



A deposit of \$1,000 per person is due within 7 days of confirmation along with signed and completed booking forms and passport copies. Deposit is non-refundable. Full airfare payment is due by 10 March 2015. Prices are reflective of RAC Member 10% saving. Airfares are subject to taxes and pricing fluctuations until ticketed. Any changes or amendments after ticketing may result in applicable airline fees. Any applicable visas are not included in the pricing and the responsibility of the individual client. Full twin rate is applicable and 3rd and 4th rates are not available. Final payment is due on or prior to 10 August 2015. Tour escort from Perth is subject to minimum numbers of 20 passenger, should this number not be met, the tour will still depart without an escort. Travel insurance is not included - please ask your RAC travel consultant for a quote. Itinerary is subject to change. Credit card fees of up to 2.5% may apply. Excludes laundry, visa costs, imported beverages such as wines, premium spirits and liqueurs, espressos and cappuccinos at the bar. Personal expenses, Travel insurance, meals other than specified in the itinerary. **River Conditions Warning:** 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 and may prevent passing under bridges. Groundings on sandbars are not infrequent and are part of the excitement of any Pandaw expedition. The itinerary is an indication only and subject to sudden change. In such an event alternative itineraries will be provided and if one particular stop is missed it Pandaw will do their best to make up for it with another stop. Passengers are to be forewarned and expected to be flexible and patient. River cruising in Asia is dramatic and adventurous. Please note that Pandaw operates in areas with little or no infrastructure and subject to the strictures of local officialdom.

# Itinerary

## 15 day guided cruise holiday

### Day 1 (16 Nov 2015) » Perth to Hanoi

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

### Day 2 (17 Nov 2015) » Hanoi - Sapa

Check out hotel and you begin to explore Hanoi with a Street food and Market tour and then visit an art gallery and meet an artist for discussion of the development of fine arts in Vietnam. After your excursion, we transfer you to the train station to depart the overnight express to Sapa. With its elegant carriages, the Victoria Express Train recalls a more romantic era. Passing through the exotic landscapes of North Vietnam, it offers every visitor a wonderful travelling experience. Overnight train to Sapa.

### Day 3 (18 Nov 2015) » Sapa

Arrival at 6:15 am and transfer to Sapa to start your guided day. 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, transfer to Ta Van village. Ta Van located far from Sapa less than 10 kilometers, Ta Van - a village of Lao Cai province is lying peacefully in the valley of Muong Hoa. Residents are mainly the H'Mong ethnic, Giay, and Red Dao... with approximately 1000 people. Check in at your hotel in Sapa at the end of the visit. Overnight at Victoria Sapa Resort & Spa.

**!** Compulsory dinner / Vietnamese set menu

### Day 4 (19 Nov 2015) » Viet Tri

In the morning a transfer from Sapa on a stunning new highway with beautiful views of mountains, through tunnels and slight bends through valleys, finally arriving at Viet Tri where you will board the Angkor Pandaw. Embark after transferring from Hanoi International Airport or coming from Sapa and the Tonkin Alps. Set sail upstream for sunset and a night on the Red River.

### Day 5 (20 Nov 2015) » The Upper Red River

The Red River flows down from China's Yunnan province and has for centuries been a key trade route between nations. Between Viet Tri and Hoa Ha the mountains loom large and the river narrows and flows fast. Hoa Ha is a typical riverine village and a pleasant place for a hike ashore.

### Day 6 (21 Nov 2015) » The Da River

Enjoy a day sailing downstream admiring the unspoilt beauty of the Da River. We pass the Ba Vi National Park with its rich and diverse tropical and sub tropical flora and fauna before arriving at Hoa Binh.

### Day 7 (22 Nov 2015) » Hoa Binh

Hoa Binh was the site of a major battle in 1951 and 1952 with the French and is home to the Muon ethnic group. We visit a museum and a local village where villagers still wear traditional dresses. The largest power station in South-East Asia was built here by the Russians between 1979 and 1994 and is still fully operational and subject to security clearance tours can be arranged deep inside the mountain where at one point 1,000 Russian engineers toiled. We will also visit a 400 ton statue of Ho Chi Minh which commands spectacular views over the Hao Binh valley.

### Day 8 (23 Nov 2015) » Mai Chau

Early morning we will take a coach trip to Mai Chau through staggeringly lovely scenery. The sleepy town of Mai Chau is home to the Black Thai and White Thai, an ethnic minority who still live in Thai bamboo stilt houses. In the afternoon we return downstream to the town of Viet Tri. In the afternoon we visit an orphanage, set in lush gardens, in Viet Tri where the children are encouraged to live together with their own responsibilities in family units under the care of a foster parent.

### Day 9 (24 Nov 2015) » The Lower Red River

In Viet Tri we visit a timeless Arcadian Vietnam with emerald green rice paddies punctuated by limestone rock formations. Of particular interest is the Tay village, 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 then sail on the Lower Red River to Hanoi.

### Day 10 (25 Nov 2015) » Hanoi

Docked 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, the water puppets show, temple of literature where Confucius did his thinking and the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum.

### Day 11 (26 Nov 2015) » Hanoi

Further explorations of Hanoi visiting the Van Phuc Silk Village with personal time to explore the Old French Quarter with its café life and many interesting boutiques.

### Day 12 (27 Nov 2015) » The Duong River

From Dong Trieu town we continue the expedition towards Halong on the Duong River. Here we will explore the Bat Trang ceramic village where traditions of producing ceramic items are passed on from generation to generation and then on to Dong Ho village, where we can witness the Dong Ho Vietnamese folk painting, dating back to the 11th century, on paper made from sticky rice & oysters. All colouring is natural, from materials such as coal for burned bamboo leaves.

### Day 13 (28 Nov 2015) » The Kinh Thay River

Enter the Kinh Thay River and moor at Yen Duc Village, a beautiful spot set amidst poetic scenery on a charming stretch of rivers with historical mountains coupled with sacred legends and relics related to Ly and Tran dynasty. The village was recognised as a national relic in 1993. Continue to enter Halong Bay to drop anchor in a sheltered bay amidst the amazing island scenery.

### Day 14 (29 Nov 2015) » Halong Bay - Hanoi

Morning sail around in Halong Bay and beyond with its 1,500 dramatic limestone islands and extraordinary rock formations, dating back 20 million years. We will visit by local boat a floating fisherman village, a floating school and limestone caves. Disembark late morning for transfer to Hanoi. Transfer from the disembarkation point of Halong to Hanoi by Pandaw. Overnight at Sofitel Plaza Hanoi Hotel.

### Day 15 (30 Nov 2015) » Hanoi

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



# Pricing

Cabin category	Per person twin share	Per person single
Main deck	\$5,599	Prices upon application
Upper deck	\$6,399	Prices upon application