Day 1: Fly to Vietnam
Meet your group and travel on an overnight flight to Ho Chi Minh City.

Day 2: Ho Chi Minh City
Arrive in Ho Chi Minh City: Welcome to Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known as Saigon and now Vietnam’s largest city. Depending on your arrival time, you may have free time to settle in and explore the city on your own.

Day 3: Cù Chi region | Ho Chi Minh City
Cù Chi Tunnel tour: Cù Chi is famous for its 124-mile network of underground tunnels built and used by the Viet Cong during the French Indochina War and the Vietnam War. Since the 1940s, a hidden world of secret meeting rooms, dining rooms, hospitals and printing presses has existed 40 feet underground. Your visit includes a historical description of the tunnel system followed by the opportunity to crawl through parts of the maze—which rarely reached two feet in width or five feet in height.

Reunification Palace: See the tank that broke through the gates, signaling the victory of the Communist Party in Vietnam. The Reunification Palace was the home of the president of South Vietnam during the Vietnam War. After the Fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, power was officially handed over at the Reunification Palace.

War Remnants Museum: When it opened in 1975, the museum was originally called “The House for Displaying War Crimes of American Imperialism and the Puppet Government.” As such, it provides an interesting perspective on the United States’ involvement in the Vietnam War. Visitors will see a “Huey” helicopter, M48 Patton tank and F-5A fighter, among other war memorabilia. There’s also a reproduction of the tiger cages where political prisoners were kept, and a guillotine used to behead prisoners.

Day 4: Cai Be | Ho Chi Minh City
Boat trip to the floating market: Travel to Cai Be and enjoy a truly unique shopping experience. Board a traditional long-tail boat, and float through the winding maze of shops known as the floating market. The floating market is a collection of stores located on boats or stilts over the river. If you see something you like, you can dock alongside the vendor’s vessel and can purchase it right on the water. Bargain for Vietnamese handicrafts and fresh fruits, or go for a traditional snack like coconut water.

Day 5: Da Nang | Hoi An
Travel to Da Nang: Fly to Da Nang, an influential port city in central Vietnam.

Cham Museum: Pay a visit to the world’s only museum dedicated solely to the Champa kingdom, which ruled over much of Vietnam for over 1000 years.

Travel to Hoi An: Continue on to Hoi An, at one time one of the largest ports in the world and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Along the way you’ll see China Beach, whose idyllic tranquility provided a reprieve for American soldiers during the war, and stop for photos at the Marble Mountains—five remarkable marble and limestone formations.

Explore Hoi An: Acquaint yourself with the city on a walking tour. Boasting an impressive array of ancient architecture including the famed Japanese Bridge, Hoi An promises to be a magical experience.

Day 6: Hoi An | Hue
Bicycle excursion to a local village: This morning, grab a bicycle and venture into the spectacular Vietnamese countryside. Flanked by ancient ruins and breathtaking rice terraces, you’ll pedal your way to a local village for a glimpse of life in rural Vietnam.

Travel to Hue: Depart Hoi An for Hue, another window into Vietnam’s past. Ancient sites abound in Hue, whose contributions to history have been commemorated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Day 7: Hue | Night train
Sightseeing tour of Hue: Your guide leads you through the many impressive sites of the former Vietnamese capital, including the intricately carved Tomb of Tu Duc and the magnificent Tomb of Khai Dinh. As part of the tour, you’ll also travel by boat to the equally beautiful Tomb of Minh Mang.

Boat excursion on the Perfume River: Spend the afternoon drifting down the Perfume, whose winding flow divides Hue in half. Snap photos of the spectacular jungle landscapes around you as venture into the heart of imperial Hue. The 200-year-old Citadel and Imperial City, your first stops, are draped with equal parts jungle vines and mysticism, while the Thien Mu Pagoda inspires from all seven of its majestic floors.

Board a night train for Hanoi: Wave goodbye to Hue as you begin your overnight journey to Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam.

Day 8: Hanoi
Arrive in Hanoi: Get your camera ready as your train pulls into Hanoi.

Sightseeing tour of Hanoi: Nestled on the banks of the Red River—whose silt-laden waters have taken on a reddish-brown color—Hanoi is overflowing with tributes to its storied past. With a guide, you’ll visit the Ho Chi Minh Complex, complete with a mausoleum, palace and museum dedicated to the beloved former president. Stop at Hoa Lo Prison, remembered as the “Hanoi Hilton” by American prisoners of war. Before you visit Vietnam’s first university at the Temple of Literature, walk the perimeter of Hoan Kiem Lake and encircle the mystical Turtle Tower.

Day 9: Depart for home
Transfer to the airport and check in for your return flight home.

2-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

Days 9-10: Ha Long | Cruise | Hanoi
Travel to Ha Long: Your group makes its way to the city of Ha Long, home to the stunning seascapes of Ha Long Bay.

Take a cruise in Ha Long Bay: Settle in on a traditional Bai Tho boat as the limestone karst of Ha Long Bay dazzles from port to starboard. Navigate amongst the bay’s nearly 2,000 islands, including Dinh Huong Island and Ga Choi Island, and discover the wonder that lies within Sung Sot Cave. In the evening, choose to view the sunset from atop Titov Mountain or from a hidden lagoon only accessible by bamboo rowboat. Anchor in the bay for the night, and sleep soundly in a private cabin. The next morning, awake to a sunrise as spectacular as any you’ll ever see.

Return to Hanoi: Disembark and head back to Hanoi for your final night in Vietnam. On the way there, visit a ceramic village.

Day 11: Depart for home

For the most recent itinerary and a full list of everything included in your program, visit efcst.com/viea