SPICE ROADS
CYCLING



TOURING

NORTH VIETNAM FAMILY EXPLORER

Tour Code
VNM-VNF

5 DAYS
4 NIGHTS

Destinations	Vietnam
Tour Meets	Hanoi
Tour Ends	Hanoi
Fly in to	Noi Bai International Airport (HAN)
Fly out of	Noi Bai International Airport (HAN)
Group Size	n/a
Minimum Age	0 (on scheduled departures)

ACTIVITY PROFILE

4 Cycling days	**110** km Total cycling distance
28 km Avg distance / day	m Avg climbing / day

PRICING

Price	On request
Bike Hire	N/A
Single Supplement	N/A

DEPARTURES

There are no scheduled departures for this trip at the moment. Please contact us to arrange a private departure.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ✓ Water bottle
- ✓ Support vehicle
- ✓ Guide(s)
- ✓ Meals (as indicated)
- ✓ Hotel pick up
- ✓ Hotel drop off
- ✓ Accommodation
- ✓ Bike and helmet
- ✓ Snacks and drinks
- ✓ Entrance fees
- ✓ Ferry/boat fares
- ✓ Trekking
- ✓ Accident insurance

WHAT'S EXCLUDED

- ✗ International flights
- ✗ Domestic flights
- ✗ Airport pick up
- ✗ Airport drop off
- ✗ Visa fees
- ✗ Alcohol
- ✗ Tips

TRIP PROFILE

We ride a total of 110 km over 4 cycling days. This tour is ideal for families that want to expose the young ones to bicycle touring while packing in a whole lot of North Vietnam's cultural and natural highlights. The riding takes place on mixed surface roads through flat and rolling terrain amidst scenic rural areas far away from the hustle and bustle of the city. We include vehicle transfer at the beginning and/or end of each ride, allowing us to avoid busy main roads, keep the distances manageable, and focus on the most enjoyable routes.

Beyond the cycling, highlights include painting water puppets in the Red River Delta, taking a rowboat through the Van Long Wetland Nature Reserve, and visiting a wildlife rescue centre dedicated to endangered primates and pangolins in Cuc Phuong National Park. In the highlands of Pu Luong, we trek among the terraced rice fields, cool off at Hieu Waterfall, and cook sticky rice in a bamboo shoot.

The trip is fully supported, and your guide's expert knowledge of the area and terrain means that you always know what is coming up in terms of distance and difficulty. This makes a tremendous difference, as does the constant supply of water and refreshments along the way.

**Suitability:* This trip is designed and suitable for families with children of any age. Besides a few inclines here and there, there are no sustained climbs and the rides are predominantly flat throughout. One exception is the ride in Pu Luong on Day 4, which has some tougher climbs, but they are optional. Navigating narrow lanes and occasional gravel, sand, or cratered country roads requires some handling skills but does not involve technical manoeuvring. The main challenge of the tour is keeping up stamina over back-to-back riding days and cycling in the tropical heat. The pace is leisurely and with plenty of refreshment stops so riders with less experience are more than welcome to join. The support vehicle is always nearby to offer refuge to any weary cyclists.

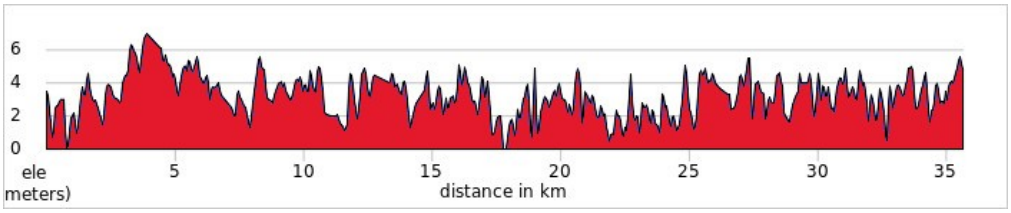
Biking Conditions: Our rides include a mix of paved roads in varying conditions. You can expect smooth tarmac and concrete interspersed with narrow village roads and country lanes containing potholes, road debris, or loose gravel. Although much of the route follows quiet countryside roads with minimal traffic, we regularly share the roads with cars, motorbikes, and buses. There are a few unavoidable sections along main roads, particularly when entering or leaving towns and near popular sites. We generally ride rain or shine, but route modifications can be made based on the guide's discretion and your family's comfort level. It is all part of the adventure!

Accommodations: Accommodations on this tour are character-filled, well-regarded hotels at the 3- to 4-star level. Expect clean, spacious rooms with air conditioning, professional service, and swimming pools. Room configurations are based on double or twin rooms, with the option to add one or two extra beds where available. Connecting rooms are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your family's preferred room configuration isn't available at a listed hotel, we may need to switch to an alternative property (surcharges might apply). For larger groups or in cases of limited availability, we may utilise more than one accommodation or switch to an alternative property from the one originally listed in the itinerary.

Day 1: Hanoi → Nam Dinh → Ninh Binh

In the morning, we pick you up from your pre-tour hotel in Hanoi and transfer for around two hours to the province of Nam Dinh. We kick things off at a community committed to the preservation of water puppetry, where local artisans teach us how to hand-paint the whimsical wooden figures to make them show-ready! Then it's onto the bikes for our first ride, zipping through the vast expanse of rice paddies in the Red River Delta along flat, quiet village roads. The last few kilometres take us through the commune of Hai Anh, famous for its intricate Catholic churches built in a fusion of classic European and Vietnamese styles. We also visit an elegant Buddhist temple before loading the bikes and driving for around 1.5 hours to a cosy rural resort nestled in the karst-studded landscape of Ninh Binh. We are based here for two nights.

Emeralda Ninh Binh Resort Lunch, Dinner

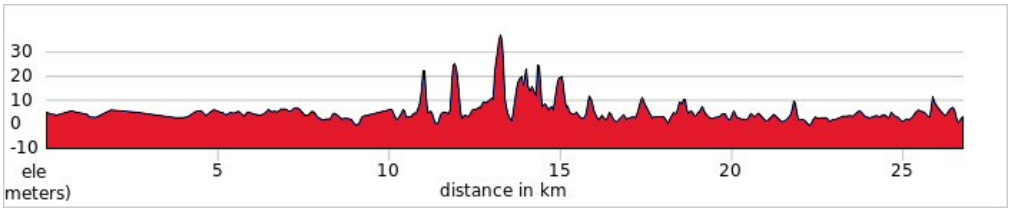


Ride 36km +121 m -120m

Day 2: Ninh Binh Ride & Van Long Wetland Cruise

The day begins with a relaxed ride through the picturesque countryside of Ninh Binh. We cycle through rice fields and villages into an area of densely clustered, jungle-clad, limestone towers rising above the plains. Here, we walk up 500 steps to the stunning Dragon Mountain Viewpoint and visit the historic Thai Vi Temple. Post-lunch in the tourist hot spot of Tam Coc, we drive 30 minutes back to the resort for some free time. In the mid-afternoon, we head to the nearby Van Long Wetland Nature Reserve for a bamboo rowboat cruise. Expertly rowed by local villagers, we get comfortable and enjoy the scenery of mirror-like waters framed by rocky cliffs, home to flocks of storks and rare langurs. Dinner is on your own tonight at the resort.

Emeralda Ninh Binh Resort Breakfast, Lunch



Ride 27km +217m -219m

Day 3: Ninh Binh → Cuc Phuong National Park → Pu Luong

Today's route begins by skirting along the edge of the Van Long Wetland Reserve, appreciating by bike what we saw up close on the boat the day before. We then take to quiet, flat rural roads and immerse ourselves in the rhythm of daily life unfolding in the rice paddies, villages, and farms. Keep an eye out for cheeky ducks and water buffaloes crossing our path! We end our ride at the edge of Cuc Phuong National Park where we load the bikes and transfer a short distance into the thick, primary forest to visit an acclaimed wildlife rescue centre. Here we meet the resident langurs and gibbons, most of whom were rescued from the illegal wildlife trade, and learn about the conservation efforts to protect them. We also see the scale-armoured pangolins – the most trafficked mammal in the world – who are given a chance at rehabilitation into their native environment. After our visit, we have lunch and drive around 2.5 hours into the remote highlands of the Pu Luong Nature Reserve, where we base ourselves for the final two nights at a stylish mountain retreat.

Asia Tropical Resort Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



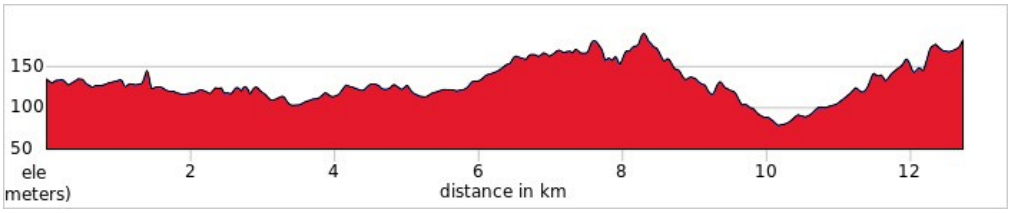
Ride 35km +145m -138m

Day 4: Pu Luong Hike & Bike

Pu Luong is one of Northern Vietnam's best-kept secrets. While far less visited than the more popular Sapa or Mai Chau, the scenery is equally stunning: dense tropical rainforests, rugged mountain peaks, terraced rice fields, and stilt-house villages. This morning we set out from the resort on foot and hike around 9 km through this highland idyll. We pass through Thai and Muong villages where we may observe the production of handwoven textiles and the fermentation of rice wine. After our hike, we drive around 30 minutes to the Hieu Waterfall, where the multi-tiered cascade and calm pools may tempt us for a quick dip before treating ourselves to an al-fresco BBQ lunch at a local homestay. If you're up for a challenge, in the

afternoon you have the option to ride back to the hotel on rolling village and forest roads. Dinner is on your own tonight at the resort.

Asia Tropical Resort Breakfast, Lunch



Ride 13km +239m -193m

Day 5: Pu Luong → Kho Muong → Hanoi

We make the most of our last day and spend the morning exploring more of Pu Luong. A 45-minute drive brings us to Kho Muong village, from where we have a short but steep hike up to the mysterious Bat Cave, a massive natural limestone cavern with stalactites (and bats) hanging from the ceiling. After descending back to the village, we are invited into a local Thai house to prepare the regional delicacy of com lam – sticky rice cooked in bamboo tubes over an open flame. Served alongside a spread of seasonal mountain specialties, fresh local greens, and roasted peanut salt, we sit down and enjoy an authentic, homemade lunch. We then make our way back to Hanoi, with a total driving time of around 4.5 hours, where you will be dropped off at your hotel. If you are flying out today, please ensure your departure flight is after 21:00 (9:00 PM). Let us know if you need assistance with post-tour hotel bookings or airport transfers.

Breakfast, Lunch

Disclaimer: The adventure cycling tours we operate often go beyond the beaten track, and the countries where we ride are not always predictable. Due to these reasons, it is occasionally necessary to reroute or update itineraries. Our guarantee is that we will not change a trip unless for safety or to improve it. Our listed hotels are always accurate at the time of writing, but should we have to change any hotel, it will always be for a similar or better one.

NUTS & BOLTS

Bikes

Bike hire is included in the tour. Child bikes are available. We provide hardtail mountain bikes from well-known brands. Child carriers (typically for ages 1-4) and trailers (typically for ages 5-11) are also available but limited in supply and weight limits apply - please let us know as early as possible if you'll require a carrier or a trailer and we will do our best to secure one for you. E-bikes are available for hire but only for adults.

Bike Repairs

Basic spares and tools are carried by the guide and on the support vehicle, though we cannot guarantee having spares for every conceivable problem. Carrying a basic tool kit, a spare tube and a pump while riding is recommended.

Safety

Wearing a helmet is required on all our biking adventures and is non negotiable. If you do not wear a helmet you will not be allowed to cycle. Your tour leader is trained in first aid and emergency rescue, but to a large degree you must be responsible for your own safety while

riding. It is therefore compulsory that you take out travel insurance that will cover you for a mountain biking tour.

Guides

You will be led by a local English-speaking guide and if the group is 9 people or more we will add another guide to the tour. All our guides are well informed in the history, culture and religions of the area where you are biking and are skilled at passing that knowledge on to you. Your guide is also medically trained and an experienced cyclist, able to handle most minor repairs en route.

THE NITTY GRITTY

Passports and Visas

The visa requirements for Vietnam can be divided into three sections, dependent on your nationality and the point of entry/exit. Please review the details below to determine which applies to you. Visa policies are subject to change, and it is the traveler's responsibility to confirm their visa requirements for Vietnam before departure.

E-Visa

The Vietnam e-visa is now available to almost all nationalities. You can apply for a single or multiple-entry visa valid for up to 90 days. Application is through the Vietnam **visa portal**. Please note that e-visas cannot be used if you are joining Road Biking from Saigon to Angkor (more information in the **Visa on Arrival** section below).

Please carefully fill out the form and check the information you have entered. Even minor spelling errors will render the visa invalid and your entry to Vietnam will be denied.

For peace of mind, we suggest applying for your e-visa as early as possible, and no later than 2 weeks before your expected arrival in Vietnam. While processing time is generally no more than 1-3 working days (not including weekends and Vietnamese holidays), it is wise to give yourself some buffer time in case there are any issues.

If you are joining a multi-country trip beginning in Vietnam, please be sure to select the correct exit point from the list below:

- Saigon to Bangkok by Bicycle and Biking Saigon to Angkor Wat: Vinh Xuong Landport
- Remote Vietnam and Laos by Bike: Na Meo Landport
- Biking Hanoi to Luang Prabang: Tay Trang Landport
- Cultural Road from Hoi An to Angkor Wat: Le Thanh International Border Gate

If your SpiceRoads trip will end in Vietnam, please choose your point of exit as the airport, port or land border through which you have arranged to leave Vietnam.

Please keep a printed copy of your e-visa with you at all times, as it may be requested at some exit points.

Visa Exemption

Citizens of certain countries (including many European and Asian nations) can enter Vietnam visa-free for up to 45 days. Please check if your nationality is exempt here before applying for an e-visa. If you are on the exemption list, you still need to make sure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your date of entry and has at least two blank pages. You do not need to apply for anything in advance; you will simply receive an entry stamp at immigration upon arrival.

Visa on Arrival

If you are joining "Road Biking from Saigon to Angkor", **e-visas are not permitted for the exit through the land borders we cross during the tour.** Before the tour, our sales team will collect your passport and flight information from you, and we will provide you with the Visa on Arrival letter within 10 business days.

When you arrive in Vietnam, you will need to present the following at the Visa on Arrival counter:

- a printed copy of the Visa on Arrival letter, which we will have sent to you by email. You will also likely need this printed letter to check in and board your flight to Vietnam.
- the visa stamping fee (USD $25 for a single-entry visa). Please prepare the visa fee amount in cash, using USD or the equivalent in Vietnam dong to avoid unfavourable airport exchange rates.
- two printed passport photos.

Your Visa on Arrival will be processed quickly, and you may then proceed to immigration to enter Vietnam.

Please ensure that you update our sales team if your passport or flight details change before the tour, as mismatched information will result in entry to Vietnam being denied. Changes to this information when a Visa on Arrival letter has already been issued will result in a charge for a new letter to be processed.

Important Update: Effective immediately, all non-Vietnamese nationals entering the country in Hanoi (Noi Bai International Airport - HAN), Danang (Danang International Airport - DAD), Ho Chi Minh City (Tan Son Nhat International Airport - SGN) and Phu Quoc (Phu Quoc International Airport - PQC), must complete the **Digital Pre-Arrival Declaration** form before arrival. Please fill out the details on the official website here **within three (3) days before your arrival in Vietnam**. This is a free process - beware of fake websites that charge a fee. If you are already travelling within the three days before your planned arrival in Vietnam, then we suggest completing the form while you are at a hotel with reliable Wi-Fi. It only takes a few minutes. After submission, you will receive a QR Code. Please save a screenshot of this code on your phone to present at immigration.

Health

See here for recommendations and detailed information.

Weather

Weather in Vietnam is divided into 4 main regions - the far north, north, central and south.

The far north can get very cold in December and January while the dry season runs from October to late March and the wet season between April to September.

In Hanoi & the north, it is hot, wet and humid from May to October while November to April is cooler and dry.

Central Vietnam experiences hot, dry weather between January & August with temperatures ranging in the mid 30°C. High levels of rainfall are during September - November.

Southern Vietnam is dry and hot from November to April, and warm and wet between May & October, with the highest rainfall in June, July & August.

Food

Meals are included as per the itinerary where B = breakfast, L = lunch, D = dinner. Most meals are Vietnamese food and features noodles, rice curries and soups. Vietnamese cuisine is world famous and we make sure you sample as much variety as possible. Any special dietary requirements can also be catered for as well. Please let us know at the time of booking.

Drink

Keeping you completely hydrated is a job we take very seriously. Cold water, some energy-restoring local fruit, and soft drinks are included in the tour price while riding. Soft drinks and other beverages during meals are not included. Beer is freely available everywhere in Vietnam but is NOT included in the price.

Solo Travelers

SpiceRoads does not require you to pay a surcharge for traveling alone. We will arrange for you to share accommodation with another traveler of the same gender and if we can not match you up we will provide a single room at no extra charge. If you prefer not to share a single supplement is payable to guarantee your own room. The cost of the single supplement is listed above.

Extra Expenses

We recommend that you tuck away a few extra dollars, perhaps US$10, for incidentals. It is customary to tip local tour guides and drivers, however, the amount you give should be dependent on the level of service you receive. We will send you a tipping guideline before the tour begins.

Money

The official national currency is the Vietnam dong (d), but the US dollar is widely accepted in tourist centers. However, in smaller towns and villages the dong is preferred. ATMs are available in all major tourist destinations and big cities. Vietcombank has the best network with a single

withdrawal limit of 2,000,000d (about US$125). Most major currencies can be exchanged at leading banks in Vietnam, but the US dollar is preferred away from the tourist centers. Changing US$100 will make you an instant millionaire! You cannot legally take the dong out of Vietnam but you can reconvert reasonable amounts of it into US dollars on departure.

GENERAL BOOKING INFO

If this is the tour for you here's what you need to do to confirm your place:

FLEXIBLE BOOKING CONDITIONS

Booking a SpiceRoads cycling adventure is easy and we try to do everything possible to make sure you have full flexibility and peace of mind. We do not require a deposit to hold your place on a tour and once full payment has been made your money is protected in our client account and you have the flexibility to cancel or change your booking if needed.

CONFIRMING YOUR BOOKING

Just complete our online booking form or send your booking details offline (email or post), and we will confirm your participation. No deposit is needed to confirm your place on a SpiceRoads tour.

You are advised to read our Booking Conditions in full before you make your payment and should you require further clarifications of any of the conditions below, please email us or call our office.

TRIP STATUS

There is a minimum number of participants (usually 2) required to enable the trip to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to Depart'. Once a trip is guaranteed to depart you are free to book your flights and make other travel arrangements. If the trip status is 'Limited' will mean we have only a small number of spaces available for booking. If you are unsure about the trip status, please email us or call our office.

BOOKING ONLINE

From the tour page, click the 'Book Now' link. All departures for this tour will appear, just select the date you'd like to travel. For the next steps, you'll need to know the names of the people travelling. If you wish you can also provide extra details such as passport numbers, height (for bike hire), or you can add that later by logging into Manage My Trip (we'll set up an account for you automatically if you don't already have one). Our system will contact you from time to time to fill in the missing information, as it will be required before departure. However, if the trip that you are booking offers a child discount, you will have to fill out the date of birth of each rider (so we can calculate the appropriate discount).

If you are having any problems please send us an email, or give us a call (+66 026 3295) and one of our travel specialists will assist you with your booking.

BOOKING OFFLINE

Just call us or send an email indicating which trip you want to join and we will happily send you a list of questions and process your booking for you.

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS

We do not require a deposit or full payment to book a place for you on a tour.

The balance of the tour's cost (final invoice) will need to be paid 60 days before the departure date with fees for any bicycle rental(s), single supplement(s) and extra hotel nights.

In the case where a booking is made when there are less than 60 days until the tour departure date, the tour's cost should be paid in full within 72 hours of receiving an invoice from SpiceRoads. Payment can be made by credit card using our online payment gateway or by bank transfer. When making payment online you will need to confirm that you have read these booking conditions during the "checkout" process, which equates to agreeing to the terms of services and stipulations as indicated in this document.

In all cases, tour fees need to be paid "in full" before participation in a tour. No person(s) will be allowed to join a tour without fully settling their invoice and receiving a confirmation number from SpiceRoads.

The exception can be made for last-minute miscellaneous fees that can be paid locally (visas, additional local hotel bookings, etc.) can be settled on the day of arrival.

FULL FLEXIBILITY FOR TOUR CANCELATIONS

If the tour is cancelled or postponed by SpiceRoads because we didn't make the trip numbers and the tour can't run, we will make a full cash refund (by bank transfer or on your credit card).

If the tour is cancelled for any other reason, including due to Covid related travel restrictions, we will give you a full credit (with no deductions for admin or any other small-print item) to use on any SpiceRoads tour with no time limit. (Exceptions being flights, special permits and other non-refundable items and these will be advised when booking the trip).

Before paying for your tour, you can cancel your booking with no charge and up until 40 days before departure, you can change your booking to another travel date or move your booking onto another SpiceRoads tour with no charges.

If you need to cancel after you have made full payment, please see our cancellation policy.

Loyalty Riders Club

For those who have been on several long tours with us, we reward customer loyalty by offering repeat customers a special discount off the tour price (excludes single supplement and bike rental). If this is your fourth scheduled tour or more you will receive a 5% discount. If this is your eighth scheduled tour or more we will extend a 10% discount. The discount will be reflected in your online booking, but please contact us if any questions. Loyalty discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Note: Only tours of 7 days or more will be applicable for a loyalty discount.

International Flights

International flights, to and from the start and finish points are not included in the tour price. Once your tour is Guaranteed to Depart you can book your flight. Please contact us for advice before arranging flights for the best arrival and departure times. We would only cancel a trip for an extreme circumstance, but in that case, where we cancel your trip, we cannot be liable for losses incurred relating to any flight booking you have made. Please claim any losses from your travel insurance that you acquired when you booked your holiday.

Newsletter

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from SpiceRoads, be sure to subscribe.

CONTACT US

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