# Jungle and Junks - Vietnam Family Adventure

Trip Code: FVT

Version:

| MULTI ACTIVITY | FAMILY | LEISURELY |
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## HIGHLIGHTS

- Cruise Halong Bay in a traditional junk boat on this Vietnam adventure family holiday
- Homestay with the ethnic group the Thai People, in the rural Mai Chau Valley region
- Make a lantern, explore by bicycle and learn to cook Vietnamese food

- Explore the Mekong Delta backwaters, the Cu Chi Tunnels, and relax at a coastal resort

### AT A GLANCE

- 13 days multi-activity sightseeing & beach
- SWIMMING: 6 nts in hotel pool or sea
- Join at Hanoi, End in Ho Chi Minh City

### ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

# Introduction

For a complete Vietnam experience for the family this adventure holiday is a true gem. Our journey starts in the capital Hanoi where we explore the narrow streets of the old town by bicycle rickshaw. The next highlight is the Mai Chau Valley. Here we see thatched bamboo huts set in a patchwork of brilliant green rice paddies and tended by women in conical hats, dense bamboo forest and traditionally built stilt houses of the Muong Hill Tribes. We enjoy a bike ride and overnight with these charming people and gain a little insight into daily life. It's then onto the sensational Halong Bay, where we board a Vietnamese junk boat for a two day cruise around the island limestone towers. Sleeping on board there will be opportunities to explore caves and kayak in this very special scenery. We head south from Hanoi on the overnight sleeper train to Hoi An to enjoy some fun cultural highlights including a Vietnamese cooking session, a visit to the silkworm handicraft centre, make a little lantern and an optional fishing trip on basket boats. We visit Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known as Saigon, take a boat trip on the backwaters of the Mekong Delta and crawl around in the historically important Cu Chi Tunnels. Our family adventure holiday Vietnam ends perfectly with 2 full days of relaxation at a comfortable hotel in the laid-back coastal resort of Phan Thiet. Here we can all swim in the pool, enjoy water sports or just chill with a glass of wine after exploring this fascinating country.

## Is this holiday for you?

**Suitable for children from 8 years old**

This family adventure holiday in Vietnam is a mix of touring and sightseeing with activities such as walking, cycling and kayaking. On the walk the underfoot conditions are good, following mainly inter-village trails. The bicycle rides that we have are on small dirt roads, side roads or tracks. We have a one night homestay and the opportunity to take part in local family and village life. This is a multi-area holiday and in order to see as much as possible of the country from north to south there is a lot of travelling to be done. We have balanced the travelling with enough fun activities and included the important sightseeing to get the flavour of the country. Three nights of relaxation at the coastal resort at the end with the opportunity for further optional activities should please Mums and Dads too! If you wish to take part in any of the cycling you must bring your own helmet. If you wish to do some optional kayaking when in Halong Bay you do not require any experience, however you must be able to swim for 25m unaided. The junk boats are very pleasant with ensuite cabins. On the sleeper train you will usually be in compartments of 4 people / bunks and in the homestay the sleeping arrangements vary from 1 to 2 families you are travelling with, being in the same room. Many of the other hotels have swimming pools.

# Itinerary

Version:

# Holiday Information

## What's Included

- Professional and qualified tour leaders (from Day 1 to Day 11)
- Single timed airport transfers on arrival & departure
- All accommodation as described
- Meals as described in the Meal Plan
- All land transport required by the itinerary
- All activities/excursions mentioned except where specified as 'optional'

## What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Visas
- Departure Taxes (if applicable)
- Some meals as detailed in the Meal Plan
- Any additional activities/excursions indicated as optional
- Tips
- Miscellaneous personal expenditure - drinks and souvenirs etc

## Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The group will meet at the hotel in Hanoi.

A single transfer from Hanoi Airport to the group hotel is provided at lunchtime of Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary.

On the last day of the Land Only itinerary, there will be a single transfer (5hrs) back to Ho Chi Minh Airport timed to meet the check in for late afternoon flights.

Anyone may join the group transfers by prior arrangement. Travelling as a group saves energy. If this is not practical, we can provide private transfers at an additional cost.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

## Meal Plan

All breakfasts, 5 lunches and 5 dinners are included

There is a wide choice of dining options on each of the days when you are expected to pay directly for meals. Food is not expensive in Vietnam and you should budget £3 - £5 per meal for each family member.

## Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

## Food & Water

It is not recommended to drink untreated water from the taps. You should take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a Water-To-Go bottle) to treat your water. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

Vietnamese food varies from region to region. Almost 500 traditional dishes have been recorded! Rice and noodles are staple foods, served with nearly all meals. Typical dishes are Nem ran (spring rolls), and Bun thang (noodles with sliced pork, eggs, shredded chicken and shrimp). Among common ingredients used are: duck, pork, fish, spices, fruits, vegetables, crab meat, lobster and oysters. With the exception of the homestay it will also be possible to eat more familiar international cuisine on most days of the trip. And usually there will be enough choice for even the fussiest of little eaters! Seafood will be a major feature while on the junk. In Hanoi, Hoi An, and Ho Chi Minh City, there are many excellent restaurants, cafes and fast food outlets.

## Accommodation

In Hanoi we have 2 nights (pre and post the homestay) in a centrally located hotel with en-suite rooms.

At the home stay accommodation (1 night) the number of beds in the rooms varies. It could be that 1 family is in a single room, or that the whole group is in one room together. Facilities are shared. Bedding and blankets are provided. You may wish to take a sleeping bag liner.

We have 1 night on board a junk boat (converted rice boats) in Halong Bay. The junk boats are very comfortable with en-suite cabins. Our groups do not have solo use of a single junk boat, so just like a hotel there may be other tourists on the boat.

We have 1 night on a sleeper train. The compartments usually have 4 bunks and are separated from the corridor with a door. At the end of the carriage there is a simple wash room. Sheets and bedding is provided on the train, however you may wish to use your sleeping bag liner as well.

In Hoi An we stay for 3 nights, in a hotel with swimming pool and is an ideal place to relax for a couple of nights in the middle of the itinerary when you have a free day.

On the Mekong Delta we will stay at the Mekong Lodge, in comfortable bungalows, set in beautiful gardens, right on the side of the river.

In Saigon/Ho Chi Minh City we stay 1 night in a good, centrally located hotel.

For the 3 nights at the end of the holiday we stay in a resort style hotel located on the coast and has a swimming pool, gardens with hammocks, various restaurants and bars. Our guide does not join us on these days, as the hotel staff will look after your needs.

Children under the age of 12yrs will usually share rooms with their grownups. This might be a twin, triple or quad room, a double with an extra bed, or multiple rooms depending on the number of family members. If you are travelling with children over the age of 12yrs, you will be in separate rooms or sharing twin/multi-bed rooms. Please talk to us about your requirements and we will do everything to ensure that you are happy with your rooming allocation..

There are a limited number of triple rooms on the junk boats.

If you are planning on extending your holiday additional nights at the group hotel are available on request.

## Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be accompanied by professional and qualified tour leaders from Day 1 to Day 11. Note that there will be 3 different leaders for each section of the trip - north, central and south. The free time spent at the resort at Phan Thiet from after the Cu Chi tunnel visit on Day 11 to departure at the airport on Day 14 the group will not be accompanied by a leader. Escorted transfers will be provided to and from Phan Thiet. The staff at the hotel are very helpful and will look after you well.

## Altitude

This holiday does not involve any significant ascent to altitude and we would not expect any altitude issues with this trip.

## Spending Money

Approximately £400-500 per family of four (Mum, Dad & two children), or equivalent in US Dollars or Euros, should be allowed for tips, soft drinks, snacks, non-included meals and miscellaneous expenses. Alcoholic drinks, souvenirs and optional activities are additional so you may wish to budget for these.

USD dollars are the easiest to change in country and can be used to pay for some goods and services directly including the departure tax. A supply of US $1, $5 and $10 dollar bills are useful. There will be the opportunity to change money into local currency on arrival at the airport and your local leader will advise the best places to change money en-route. Additionally, you will be able to get currency from bank ATMs in most of the towns that we will visit. Credit cards are useful and it is a good idea to carry one in case of emergency.

## Optional Activity Costs:

Please note that these prices are correct at time of writing, but are subject to change without warning. All prices are in USD. Optional activities taken outside the KE holiday are at your own risk.

- Fish & Chip Tour approximately $25 per person depending on group size

## Guidance on Tipping

Tips are the accepted way of saying ‘thank you’ to your local guides. They do not form part of their wages. KE always pays local crews the best rates of pay, no matter what country they are in and any tips they receive are seen as a personal thank you from group members. For our part, we advise local teams that tips are not a duty or a prerequisite but are a bonus and entirely dependent on the service that was given. We suggest a tip to your tour leaders the equivalent of £15 to £20 per family member (with perhaps a little more for small groups of five or less).

## Beat the Jet Lag

Our holidays are normally designed with minimal 'down time' at the start of the trip, but having a day or two at the beginning will have the additional benefit of allowing you time to get over the stress of a long journey or travelling across time zones, leaving you refreshed and ready for your holiday. We can easily arrange for you to have additional nights and airport transfers.

## Baggage Allowance

For this holiday you should take one piece of luggage and a daypack. When you overnight at the homestay we recommend that you leave the majority of your luggage securely in Hanoi. You can repack your overnight belongings and sheet sleeping bag into your daypack. However if you do wish to take an additional light foldaway bag whilst in the mountains for 1 night you are welcome. There is one internal flight and 1 night overnight train journey involved in the itinerary and it would be good to be able to easily carry your baggage, so pack light and possibly in a bag with wheels. Domestic flight baggage allowance is one bag of 23kg per person and one piece of hand-luggage at 10kg. For international flights please check your baggage allowance with your airline.

## Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the ‘Dates and Prices’ table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

# General Information

## Passport & Visas

**The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.**

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required**,** and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

**It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates** *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

**Visa Vietnam**

British Citizen passport holders do not normally need a visa for durations of stay up to and including 45 days for tourism and transit.

NB. Irish and US and some EU country passport holders do need a visa to enter Vietnam.

For information about multiple entry visas, longer stays or different nationalities please contact the relevant embassy. The Vietnamese Embassy in the UK is in London.

## Health & Vaccinations

**Vaccinations:**

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

**It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.**

**Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.**

**Severe Allergies:**

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

## Currency

The unit of currency in Vietnam is the Vietnamese Dong.

## Climate

The climate varies greatly from north to south. The north has a cool dry season from November to April when daytime temperatures are typically in the range 20 - 25ºC. The south is hot and humid all year round with daytime temperatures in the low 30 ºC. The rainy season lasts from May to November so summer departure can have wet days. The central highlands has a similar climate to the south, but it is cooler and temperatures can even fall to freezing in winter. The official peak season for travel to Vietnam is from September to April.

## Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

## Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

## FAQ's about our family holidays

We welcome all family dynamics and we will try to accommodate you in the roomings of your choice. The only stipulation for joining a family group holiday is that 1 party member is 17yrs or under, and they are accompanied by an adult. An average group size is around 10 members in total. Further general information and FAQ's are available here: KE Family Adventure Holidays general information.

### Private Groups Information

## Make this KE family holiday your own!

- Choose your own departure date
- Travel on this holiday with just your family and friends
- Tailor your holiday by adding extra days for relaxation or upgrade your hotels

If our standard dates do not fit with your school holidays or you wish to travel with just your family or with your family and friends, we will be pleased to set up a private departure for any of our family holidays.

Depending on what you are looking for we can look at tweaking the itinerary to allow you some extra relaxation time or upgrading the hotels. Our personal service means you'll be fully involved as we make the arrangements for your perfect family adventure holiday.

### Independence with Security

Travelling as a KE private family group allows you more flexibility and choice, but still with the peace of mind that everything is pre-planned and arranged for you and your family and friends by a reputable adventure travel company.

To take your first step to an amazing adventure with your family and friends complete the private group enquiry form, or call our **Sales Experts on: 017687 73966**

### Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation.  When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct.  Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

# Equipment Information

### Equipment List

Please try to keep the weight of your baggage to a minimum. See the 'baggage allowance' section for further details.

## You should bring the following items:

- Sturdy shoes/trainers for the walks**
- Sandals
- Socks & Underwear
- Trekking trousers / shorts
- Lightweight waterproof jacket & overtrousers
- Wicking shirts or tops
- T-shirts / tops / casual shirts
- Fleece jacket or warm jumper
- Warm hat
- Sun hat
- Sunglasses
- Lightweight thermal gloves
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Water bottles 1 Litre (x2) (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Sun protection
- Small towel (for the homestay)
- Swimwear
- Washbag and toiletries
- Antibacterial hand wash
- Sleeping Bag Liner
- Daypack 20 - 30 litres (depending on how much of the family's kit you want to carry)
- Basic First Aid Kit including : Antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium),
- painkillers, plasters and blister treatment, insect repellent, antihistamine cream and tablets, and re-hydration salts (Dioralite).

## The following items are optional:

- Trekking poles
- Pocket-knife (note: always pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- Camera
- Cycling helmet*
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

## Notes:

- All equipment required for the kayaking is provided
- *Cycling helmet. These are provided for adults and children, however if you may still wish to bring your own.
- **The paths might be wet under foot, so you may wish to take a more walking style shoe/boot.

### Land Only Information

Please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' within Holiday Information for further details.

Flights and other transport to your destination should not be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

### Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary joining in Hanoi and ending in Ho Chi Minh City. Single timed transfers are included from/to the airports.

### Flight Inclusive Information

Limited seats are available at the advertised flight price, please book as early as you can. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures and/or upgrades, we will provide you with an alternative quote. It is likely that flight payment will be in advance of your final holiday balance. Booking a flight inclusive package means you will benefit from full financial protection, eases your holiday planning, and leaves us to deal with airlines and schedule changes. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

### Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London to Hanoi, and returning from Ho Chi Minh City.

Outbound flights will depart from the UK in the late morning, arriving early afternoon of the following day (day 1 of the land only itinerary). Return flights, from Ho Chi Minh City, will depart in the late afternoon of the last day of the itinerary, arriving in the UK the following morning.

# Why Choose KE

### Why KE

Something a little different!  Our itinerary differs from the rest, as we include a walk in the rural Mai Chau Valley and an overnight at a homestay.  It's also great value for money when you check out what's included!

**Please Note** This document was downloaded on 11/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change