Day 1: Hanoi

Once you’ve arrived at Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi, you’ll be greeted by a Uniworld representative who will help you with your luggage and take you to your luxury hotel. After check-in, you may choose to rest at the hotel or go out and explore the city. Your local host will be happy to offer suggestions, such as a stop at the nearby Kim Lien Pagoda. The stunning 800-year-old temple, whose name means “golden lotus,” is considered the most beautiful in Hanoi.

Day 2: Hanoi

Today, you’ll explore what has been called Asia’s most beautiful city. Begin your full-day city tour by visiting a complex honoring Ho Chi Minh, the founder of modern Vietnam. Here, you’ll see his residence, the museum devoted to his life and the iconic One Pillar Pagoda, which has been built and rebuilt countless times since 1049 AD. You’ll also visit the Temple of Literature, which was originally built as a Confucian temple in 1070 AD and later became the site of Vietnam’s first university. See another aspect of Vietnam’s complex history by stepping into one of the cells of Hoa Lo, a French colonial-era prison that was known to American pilots held there during the Vietnam War as the “Hanoi Hilton.” Much of the original prison has been demolished, but the remnants are now a museum.

After lunch, it’s time to hop onboard an electric car for a tour of colonial Hanoi. The city’s elegant, tree-lined boulevards and weathered colonial buildings are sure to delight you, as are the affable street vendors selling everything from flowers to ice cream off the backs of their bicycles. Enjoy a traditional water puppet show, a thousand-year-old musical performance that tells tales from northern Vietnam’s rural villages.

Day 3: Ha Long Bay

Pay witness to the otherworldly beauty of Ha Long Bay, where emerald waters are flanked by towering limestone pillars and a seemingly endless collection of islets. Board a traditional sampan for a water-bound tour past some of the bay’s most colorful fishing villages. Adventurers will rejoice at a one-of-a-kind excursion that will bring you to one of the most spectacular caves—Sung Sot Cave on Bo Hon Island. This massive cave encompasses three separate chambers filled with stalactites and stalagmites, and also gives a colorful ethereal glow. After, you’ll have time to swim or enjoy optional services, including a kayak trip through the bay or a relaxing massage.

Day 4: Hanoi

Disembark today and return to Hanoi, where you’ll check back into the hotel from the start of your extension. You’ll then have the rest of the day to spend at leisure in Vietnam’s charming capital city. Perhaps you’d like to venture up to the 65th floor of the of the Lotte Center for an unmatched view of the city or head into the Old Quarter for a look at the Heritage House, a beautifully decorated, traditional merchant’s house.

Day 5: Hanoi

Your extension may be over, but there’s much more to discover as you fly to Ho Chi Minh City and embark on your cruise/tour.

PLEASE NOTE: Itinerary and hotel subject to change. Visit Uniworld.com for the latest information.