## Day 1
### Ho Chi Minh City
Transfer to Tan Son Nhat Airport and fly to Hanoi

### Hanoi
Once you’ve arrived at Noi Bai International Airport, 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
This morning, you’ll check out of your hotel after breakfast and head via motorcoach to Sapa

### Sapa
Check in to your hotel and relax over lunch.

**FEATURED EXCURSION: Sapa’s vivid street life**
Join a guide to get acquainted with the boisterous, ever-changing streets of the town. Stroll down Cau May Street, the town’s main avenue, to the open-air market. Like a European market town, Sapa’s open-air market spreads out around a Gothic-style church in the center of town. Unlike a European town market, though, you won’t find tables and canopies; rather, you’ll find the vendors—who are often the creators of their wares—sitting on the grass or sidewalk with their goods spread out around them: colorful and intricately hand-stitched and embroidered textiles, bags, garments, sandals and jewelry. After your tour, you can venture off on your own. A climb to the top of the Sapa Radio Tower will reward you with a great view of the town and its environs.

## Day 3
### Sapa
**FEATURED EXCURSION: “Huge sky, great green mountains”**
One of Vietnam’s most famous poets, Khong Lo, began a poem with that line in the 12th century, but it might describe your adventure today in the Sapa highlands. People come from all over the world to trek through this ravishing landscape; join them on the trail to the villages of Lao Chai and Ta Van. Rice paddies are terraced into impossibly steep hillsides, water buffalo graze beside the path, women work in the fields—every step calls for another photo. Lao Chai is home to about 100 Black Hmong families; the Hmong migrated over the mountains from China around 300 years ago and, like other ethnic minorities in the area, have maintained their distinctive culture and lifestyle over the centuries. Lunch awaits you at the community house in the village of Ta Van, where you will also have a chance to watch traditional dances performed to music played on the qeej (a reed pipe) and other traditional instruments. It’s almost like stepping into a living history museum—but these are real people maintaining their genuine traditions; nothing here has been recreated. After lunch, your group will head up to Silver Falls and Heaven’s Gate, two of the most scenic spots in this astonishingly scenic region. Silver Falls—sometimes fancifully described as a white dragon—spills down a series of cliffs. The road winds up from the falls to the pass called Heaven’s Gate, where you’ll have a fabulous view of the Sapa valley below and the surrounding mountains, including Mount Fansipan, Vietnam’s tallest peak.

## Day 4
### Sapa
**FEATURED EXCURSION: Ethnic communities**
Sapa’s street market takes place every day, as the Hmong bring their handcrafts in to sell them, but many villages in the area also host outdoor markets once a week. You’ll ramble through one of these markets—its location will be determined by the day of the week—and stop at Ta Phin, home to the Red Dao people. There are 24 different ethnic groups in this region, each one following its own customs and speaking its own language. Traditional garb helps identify each group: Black Hmong women, for instance, generally wear black headaddresses; Flower Hmong are among the colorfully dressed. The Red Dao women wear red headdresses. In Ta Phin you’ll see the area’s characteristic bamboo-and-wood houses topped with corrugated roofs, often with wood stacked along one wall for burning—it’s a simple life, with meals prepared over an open fire. Men and women work in the fields growing corn and rice; women create the elaborately embroidered costumes they wear. Did these people cross from China into Vietnam at the same spot on the border where you’ll stop for a photo opportunity? No one knows, of course, but it’s not hard to imagine that crossing all those centuries ago.

## Day 5
### Sapa
Check out of your hotel and return to Hanoi.

### Hanoi
Check into your hotel for one last night in Vietnam. You’ll have some free time in the afternoon to explore on your own.

## Day 6
### Hanoi
You’ll check out of your hotel after breakfast and transfer to the airport. Though your adventure has ended, the memories will last you a lifetime.