Northern Vietnam: Hanoi, Sapa & Mt Fansipan

HANOI

5D 4N | 25–30 PAX | STARTS KUALA LUMPUR | MALAYSIA AIRLINES

Discover northern Vietnam's cooler mountain landscapes and historic capital over five rewarding days. Fly directly from Kuala Lumpur to Hanoi and continue by road to Sapa, where terraced valleys and Hmong villages sit beneath 3,143-metre Fansipan. Ride the mountain railway, funicular and cable car toward the summit, visit Cat Cat Village and Rose Valley, and experience the Alpine Coaster through the Sapa countryside. Return to Hanoi for the Temple of Literature, Hoa Lo Prison, the Old Quarter, Dong Xuan Market and Al Noor Mosque. Malaysia Airlines flights, hotels, meals, transport, entrances, guide service and mobile data are included. With halal meals throughout, this compact route makes northern Vietnam's key experiences easy to access without sacrificing cultural depth.

DAY

01

SAPA · OVERNIGHT 1 OF 1

Arrive Hanoi — then straight into the mountains

You land at Noi Bai International Airport and the day immediately gets going. Your guide meets you at arrivals and the coach heads north for Sapa — a 6.5-hour drive through the Red River valley, climbing through Lao Cai before the road bends west into the mountains. It is a long first day and worth knowing that in advance. The landscape makes up for it: terraced paddies, karst hills, and the air cooling noticeably as you gain altitude.

Noi Bai to Sapa by road — The expressway via Lao Cai is the standard route. A packed halal lunch is provided en route. Toilet stops are built into the journey. Arrive Sapa late afternoon.

Sapa Town check-in — Your hotel is in or near Sapa Town at approximately 1,500 metres. Sapa is cool even in summer — bring a layer for the evenings.

MEALS

Lunch Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Sapa Vista Hotel / Sapa House Hotel

DAY

02

MT FANSIPAN · OVERNIGHT 1 OF 1

Fansipan — Southeast Asia's highest point, by cable car

This is the day the trip is built around. Fansipan stands at 3,143 metres — the highest peak in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia combined. The mini train from Sapa station runs through a narrow mountain valley to the cable car base, and the ascent takes about 20 minutes across 6,292 metres of rope. At the top, the summit plateau is cooler and quieter than the town below.

Mini Train, Sapa to Fansipan base — A short, scenic rail journey through the mountain valley to the cable car terminal. Departs from near the Sapa town centre. Tickets included.

Fansipan Cable Car — One of the longest three-rope cable car systems in the world. The ascent passes over dense forest and cloud cover. Warm clothing is recommended — the summit can be 10°C or below even in summer.

Rose Valley — A garden terrace below the summit with mountain views. Worth 20–30 minutes on the way back.

Cat-Cat Village — A Hmong settlement in the valley below Sapa, reached by a short downhill walk. The village has been here for generations; the craft stalls and weavers are not reconstruction. Allow an hour.

Sun Plaza, Sapa Town — Free time for shopping before returning to the hotel.

MEALS

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Sapa

DAY

03

HANOI · OVERNIGHT 1 OF 1

Sapa countryside — then the long road back to Hanoi

The morning explores the Sapa countryside before the coach heads south to Hanoi. This is the day's honest trade-off — the countryside is good, and the transfer is long. The Ban Mong Alpine Coaster is a genuine highlight: a downhill mountain coaster through the forest that runs for over a kilometre. The Vietnam–China border stop is brief and mostly for photos. Arrive Hanoi by evening.

Ban Mong Alpine Coaster — A gravity-fed mountain coaster above the Sapa valley. The track runs approximately 1.2 kilometres through forest and open hillside. Ticket included. Sensible footwear recommended.

Vietnam–China Border Point — The Lao Cai border crossing is one of the main land routes between the two countries. A brief photo stop on the way back south.

Transfer to Hanoi — The return journey to Hanoi takes approximately 5–6 hours by expressway. Halal lunch is provided en route.

MEALS

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Eden Hotel

DAY

04

HANOI · OVERNIGHT 1 OF 1

Hanoi — a city that takes its history seriously

Hanoi is compact, walkable, and genuinely interesting in a way that rewards attention. Today covers the full circuit of the city's most significant sites without rushing.

Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum & Stilt House — The mausoleum is where Ho Chi Minh's embalmed body lies in state. The adjacent stilt house — where he chose to live rather than in the Presidential Palace — is the more revealing of the two.

Temple of Literature (Van Mieu – Quoc Tu Giam) — Built in 1070, this was Vietnam's first national university, originally dedicated to the scholars of Confucius. The stone stelae recording doctoral graduates from the 15th to 18th centuries are UNESCO-listed.

Hoa Lo Prison Museum — Originally built by the French to house Vietnamese political prisoners, later used as a POW camp during the American war — where US pilots called it the 'Hanoi Hilton'. The museum presents both histories, and does not sanitise either.

Dong Xuan Market — Hanoi's largest covered market. Four floors of wholesale and retail, strong on fabrics and produce.

Al Noor Mosque — Hanoi's main mosque, near Hoan Kiem Lake. Prayer time included in the itinerary.

Hanoi Old Quarter & Old Railway Street — The 36 Streets at walking pace.

MEALS

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

OVERNIGHT

Hanoi

DAY

05

HANOI

Fly home — Hanoi to Kuala Lumpur

Hotel check-out and a free morning before the transfer to Noi Bai International Airport. If time allows, a final Vietnamese coffee at a street-side cafe near the hotel is worth the 20 minutes. Malaysia Airlines MH753 operates the return to Kuala Lumpur. The tour ends on landing.

Noi Bai Airport transfer — Timing depends on your flight schedule. Your guide will advise on departure time from the hotel.

MEALS

Breakfast

YOUR TRIP AT A GLANCE

What's Included

DEPARTS FROM	FLIGHTS	GROUP SIZE
Kuala Lumpur	**Malaysia Airlines**	**25–30 pax**

INCLUDED

- check Return flights on Malaysia Airlines (MH752/MH753)
- check 3-star hotel accommodation in Sapa (Sapa Vista Hotel or Sapa House Hotel)
- check 4-star hotel accommodation in Hanoi (Eden Hotel)
- check Meals as per itinerary
- check Mineral water throughout the tour
- check All entrance fees included
- check Alpine Coaster at Ban Mong (ticket included)
- check Mini train to Fansipan & funicular ride (ticket included)
- check Fansipan Cable Car experience (ticket included)
- check Transportation throughout the tour
- check Free unlimited data SIM card
- check Tour guide speaking Malay or English

NOT INCLUDED

- Travel insurance
- Any other personal expenses not stated in the itinerary