

# Luxury Culinary Tours

Vietnam: 20th – 27th March 2018

8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS



*Authentic*



*Flavour Filled*



*Food Adventure*

FULLY ESCORTED  
FROM HO CHI MINH CITY TO HANOI BY  
TANIA SIBREY FROM FOOD I AM &  
A NATIONAL TOUR ESCORT IN VIETNAM



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## Tuesday 20th March 2018: Ho Chi Minh City



### *Day 1*

In the city formerly known as Saigon, Art Deco treasures, magnificent French colonial buildings and traditional Chinese temples abound.

Upon independent arrival to HCMC check into your Luxury hotel. Meet Tania (Food I Am) 6.30pm at the hotel rooftop bar and watch over the city lights of Ho Chi Minh City. Your culinary journey through Vietnam begins! Dinner tonight will be at a destination for gourmet food lovers. It won't take you long to discover the diversity of Vietnamese cuisine!

The subtle flavours of the food highlight the three regions of Vietnam. From the gentle flavour of the steamed rice rolls stuffed with pork and mushroom, hot rice flour cake with ground pork or the profound flavour of fresh water crab noodle soup to the noodle soup with steamed snail!!

All leave a strong impression for the gourmet food lover.

**Meals:** Dinner

**Accommodation:** Luxury Accommodation



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Wednesday 21st  
March 2018:  
Ho Chi Minh City to  
Mekong Delta

Thursday 22nd  
March 2018:  
Mekong Delta to  
Hoi An

## Day 2

After buffet breakfast at the hotel we will depart bustling Ho Chi Minh City for the Mekong.

Today we explore the less-traveled back roads and quaint waterways of Ben Tre Province, the "land of the coconuts". Discover the unique lifestyle of the Delta region residents, exploring orchards, fruit farms and fisheries; visiting intimate authentic cottage industries such as "hu tieu" (rice noodles), rice paper, brick making, and coconut processing; and travel like a local on the back of a xe loi, by bicycle and by sampan.

Spend time with locals whose family's livelihoods have been made in the Delta for generations. Authentic homestyle lunch in a local residence, then we depart for our overnight stay at Can Tho.

A charmed day of adventure on the Mekong!

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Luxury Hotel

## Day 3

Wake up on the Mekong - something you will never forget!

This morning we board our sampan and cruise around the Cai Rang floating market in between the traders boats, immersing ourselves in daily local life. Returning to our beautiful hotel inspired by Indochinese architecture to enjoy a relaxed breakfast and perhaps a swim before check out and departure for the journey back to HCMC airport for our afternoon flight to Hoi An.

Upon arrival in Hoi An we will check into luxury hotel, located in the colourful colonial capital and UNESCO listed riverfront town of Hoi An. The ancient port town of Hoi An has become a must see stop on any tourist's visit to Vietnam. A winning combination of white sand beaches, gorgeous ancient architecture and a fascinating set of influences stemming from its heyday as an international trading port. Hoi An punches well above its weight for things to see and do... prepare to be enchanted. Tonight we dine at one of my favourite Hoi An restaurants.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Luxury Hotel

**Flight:** HCMC to Danang (transfer to Hoi An)

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## Friday 23rd March 2018: Hoi An

### Day 4

In Hoi An you will discover a unique set of culinary traditions, developed and refined by a community that takes all things culinary very, very seriously.

This morning enjoy breakfast at the hotel. At 8am we will transfer to a local farm in Tra Que Village. Take a trip around the vegetable garden and learn more about the still current, ancient farming activities, you will then be shown how to prepare local delicacy tam huu.

We then head back to Hoi An and begin our street food tour. This morning we will enjoy the most famous of all Hoi An's dishes, Cao Lau (Hoi An's most famous noodle dish) a tangle of chewy smoked noodles, pork and herbs, a symphony of texture and flavours, this seemingly simple dish adds up to so much more than the sum of its parts. Enliven with a dollop of Hoi An's equally famous chilli sauce and let your taste buds delight!

A walking tour of the old town will immerse us in the incredible ancient architecture, temples and pagodas that form such an integral part of Hoi An and, of course, we'll find plenty of snacks along the way! With delicious dishes such as grilled pork rice rolls, soft tofu with ginger syrup (my all-time favourite), Hoi An chicken rice and traditional Vietnamese sweets called su se (dough made from sticky rice flour wrapped around coconut and palm sugar, wrapped in banana leaf and steamed!) on almost every corner we will ensure that we don't go home hungry!

We will return to our Hotel at approximately 1.30pm so you can enjoy the free afternoon to explore the many things to do in Hoi An. In the evening we meet back up for dinner and enjoy the many speciality dishes of the Hoi An region.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Morning Tea, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Luxury Hotel



  
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Saturday 24th  
March 2018:  
Hoi An

Sunday 25th  
March 2018:  
Hoi An to Hanoi

## Day 5

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before heading off to our Vietnamese cooking class. Travel by boat to Hoi An's colourful central food market to purchase the freshest produce available for our class.

Designed for all skill levels, we will be preparing a 4 course traditional Vietnamese family style lunch; starter, main dish, side and dessert. We will be prepping, chopping, slicing, shredding and cooking together around a large kitchen table in an intimate fun hands-on class.

After lunch the rest of the afternoon and evening is yours free to explore Hoi An. The best way to see Hoi An is by bicycle or on foot. The old town is closed to motorised traffic for most of the day so travelling this way lets you go where you want, when you want. Time to have a new wardrobe tailor made, massage, lay by the pool, visit Cue Dai beach, just immerse yourself in the famous old quarter of Hoi An and be enchanted.

**Meals:** Breakfast, morning tea & lunch

**Accommodation:** Luxury Hotel

## Day 6

After buffet breakfast at the hotel we will then depart our resort and travel to Danang for our flight to Hanoi. Upon arrival in Hanoi we will commence our city tour. Visiting the house of former president, historic figure and father of modern Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh, his house illustrating the modesty of this Vietnamese revolutionary.

Take in the wide tree-lined boulevards, ancient oriental pagodas, twentieth century architecture, French colonialism and Vietnamese Buddhism. Hanoi's French quarter romances and enchants!

Next a tour by cyclo through Hanoi's charming Old Quarter, also known as "36 streets". This bustling area of narrow streets and alleys is home to literally thousands of small businesses and shopkeepers. It's a great place to explore, especially by cyclo, with plenty of photo opportunities all around

Our hotel is located in the heart of Hanoi city, close to beautiful Hoan Kiem lake and the tree-lined boulevards of the Old Quarter. Tonight we dine in a beautiful French colonial villa and enjoy elegant versions of traditional Hanoi home cuisine.

**Meals:** Breakfast and Dinner are included.

**Accommodation:** Luxury hotel

**Flight :** Hoi An to Hanoi

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WE would have no hesitation in recommending Food I Am tours because every aspect of the tour – accommodation, careful selection of restaurant & eating venues, fantastic cultural experiences, expert local guides in a variety of fields, organisation & shopping advice was top class. Thank you Tania, you make a wonderful tour guide, a tour leader with a very engaging personality who managed to cater to every individuals needs and make everyone feel welcome & special. Carol & Pat Ingram

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Monday 26th  
March 2018: Hanoi

Tuesday 27th  
March 2018: Hanoi

## Day 7

This morning at 9am we meet our very knowledgeable chef/guide and start our Hanoi street food tour. An introduction to the local food scene will commence with a hearty bowl of pho; noodle soup, the quintessential Hanoi street food. Then it is off to a bustling local market where our chef will demystify the local produce, and encourage you to taste some of its most exotic ingredients. We continue onto many other venues & vendors with tastings along the way, finishing with a typical Vietnamese ca phe, or che (Vietnamese tea) and local sweets. Learn about other favourite eating and shopping secrets in Ha Noi to explore further in your free time.

The afternoon is at your leisure schedule a massage in the beautiful hotel spa, relax by the hotel pool, visit a museum or be guided by Tania to some of Hanoi's best shopping.

Our farewell dinner will be a superb example of Vietnamese cuisine at one of Hanoi's fine dining restaurants.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Tastings/Lunch and Dinner are included.

**Accommodation:** Luxury hotel

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As always we have done the hard work for you!! **Our tours are small group which ensure a more intimate & unique experience of Vietnam...**our motto is – if you need a name badge you're on the wrong tour! I am extremely excited about this itinerary, this is the perfect introduction to Vietnam. Our tour offers an insight into the culinary secrets of Vietnam. We explore the many differences and specialities between the three distinct regions of Vietnam i.e. – North, Central and Mekong Delta (South).

**Experience the real Vietnam....** Our activities are handpicked (**tours are land content only**), and include a little bit of everything i.e. - history, pampering, food, culture, retail therapy with local insight to all activities. We stay in luxurious accommodation and our meals include the best of Vietnamese street food and fine dining experiences. Our guides are expert and will help you discover the treasures of Vietnam that only come with local knowledge.

If you are interested in exploring Vietnam with me, a country I truly love and know so well, please email or call me for full details.

**Warm Regards, Tania**

## Day 8

After buffet breakfast at the hotel, sadly it's time to say goodbye and start your journey home or extend your holiday and stay on in Asia.

**Take a journey into the heart of Vietnam and experience the authentic essence of Vietnamese cuisine and culture. Just released... tours fill quickly**

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“ Thank you for an amazing trip. I will remember it forever and will definitely return to the beautiful country and people of Vietnam. It was a real holiday – not having to think & plan everything, especially “where & what to eat”, luxury accommodation & service.....such a treat!

Debbie Webb

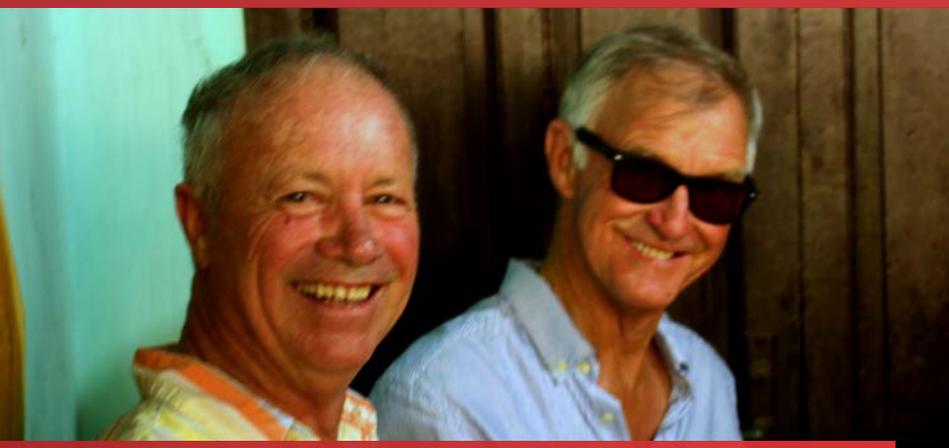


“ Dear Tania, I've cooked a version of pho each night since getting home as can't possibly face chops yet after all those Vietnamese delicacies. I'm also missing that delicious strong brew of black coffee each morning.

Please accept that as a compliment and thank you for organising such a wonderful taste of Vietnam. We loved every minute and feel we had such a rich and diverse experience with a lot of learning and a lot of fun. We both thought your tour was perfectly orchestrated and my senses were certainly saturated each day. I'm left totally inspired by the positive and friendly people considering their extended history of occupation and war and the current rate of development, despite the seeming chaos, is testament to their tenacity. I only hope the reverence they seem to retain for family and tradition doesn't diminish in the process.

Tuan, Sarah and Tracy provided great insight into local life and we really appreciated meeting and having time with them along the way. Can you believe we bumped into Tuan whilst walking in Hanoi one afternoon! The only person we knew in town and there he was! I hope you've now had a few days of well earned rest and can reflect very happily on such a successful few weeks of hosting.

Thank you again from us both. We loved it. With kind regards, Annette & David Lamont



“ Our trip to Vietnam was amazing! Meticulously organised, beautifully executed, with a perfect balance of busy and free time. The whole trip was a delight for the senses - the sights, sounds and oh! The food! Incredible!

What better way to relax than to let someone else do all of the organising for you, where your biggest decision is a glass of wine or a cocktail? This was the best holiday I have ever had, I would travel with you guys anywhere, anytime. Lisa Harvey



“ Xin Chau to you to Tania and welcome home. Firstly, let me say congratulations on such a beautifully run tour. We were just reflecting on it again last night and saying that it was perfect in every way. Accommodation, organisation, food of course, and your easy going way of dealing with everything and everyone made all of it memorable and pleasurable.

Thank you so much for making available your tour and all the wonderful things of Vietnam it showed us. We are telling everyone who asks that this is a truly impressive tour. Take care, Anne and Philip Goldsmith



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This trip has set the bar so high for holidays from here on - travelling with a small group with a well thought out itinerary that provided an excellent mix of unique experiences, structured activities and free time was so relaxing. The accommodation & meals were outstanding & it was so well organised that I never had to think about what to do next. It felt more like travelling with a group of friends than a structured tour & without any of us having to do the hard work.

Thank you - for sharing your passion for food & Vietnam in creating such a wonderful holiday for all of us, and to do it so seamlessly & calmly.....amazing! Lee

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Thank you so much for organising such a wonderful holiday. It was very relaxing as everything was organised & taken care of. I just sat back & enjoyed the ride! The group was also a perfect size - intimate yet social, lifelong friendships & amazing experiences were made. Attention to detail was excellent with a vast range of activities to enjoy. Jo Stroud

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#### PRICE INCLUDES

- Seven (7) breakfasts, three (3) tastings, four (4) lunches and six (6) dinners
- 2 domestic flights and seven (7) nights luxury accommodation
- Excursions - Ben Tre Province experience, Sampan cruise through Cai Rang market, Hoi An street food tour, Tra Que Village farm tour, Hoi An cooking class, Hanoi city tour, Hanoi Old Quarter cyclo tour and Hanoi street food tour
- Fully escorted by Tania Sibrey, Food I Am and a national tour escort in Vietnam

COST PER PERSON: \$3690.00 (based on twin share accommodation, land only arrangement)

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$1050.00 per person (paid in addition to the above package price, land only arrangement)

PLEASE NOTE: Hotels listed are subject to change. All menus and meals listed are subject to change without prior notice.

TOUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE: INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS, VIETNAM VISA (AUSTRALIAN PASSPORT HOLDERS), TRAVEL INSURANCE, BEVERAGES (OTHER THAN SPECIFIED), PASSPORT, ITEMS OF A PERSONAL NATURE (LAUNDRY ETC.) AND TELEPHONE EXPENSES



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