

Indulgence - Food - Culture - Small Group Tours

VIETNAM

8 nights/9 days









Discover the heart of Vietnam, flavours and heritage with Food I Am, your culinary and cultural tour specialists.

Our thoughtfully curated tour spans the length of the country, from the vibrant Mekong Delta in the South, where you'll witness the rhythms of river life, to the bustling commercial hub and historically significant Ho Chi Minh City. From there, we take a flight to Danang, where you'll explore the UNESCO heritage listed ancient port town of Hoi An. As you wander through its well preserved labyrinth of shops, houses and pagodas adorned with paper lanterns, you'll feel like you've stepped back in time. While it's beautiful at any time of the day, at night, it transforms into something truly magical.

Continuing our journey northward, we arrive in the charming capital of Vietnam, Hanoi. This city is a blend of lakes, parks, French colonial villas and the captivating Old French Quarter. Hanoi exudes the charm of a bygone era, offering a microcosm of Vietnamese



culture. From Hanoi, we venture to Halong Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its breathtaking limestone mountains rising from the waters. There's nothing quite like the serene experience of cruising through the bay, surrounded by these dramatic formations—an ideal conclusion to your Vietnamese adventure.

Our tour provides a deep dive into the culinary secrets of Vietnam, offering insights into the nuances and specialties of each distinct region–North, Central and Mekong Delta. The delectable cuisine of Vietnam varies from one region to another, and you'll learn to discern and savour these differences. Northern cuisine leans towards being savoury, mild and refined, while Southern cuisine bursts with vibrancy, flavour and rustic charm. Don't miss the opportunity to taste French-inspired dishes like Banh Mi and pates. Our dining experiences encompass the best of Vietnamese street food, hand picked regional delicacies and fine dining adventures.

Explore coffee culture and learn to make the iconic egg coffee during a city walk in Ho Chi Minh. Discover the lush Ben Tre Province, known as 'the rice bowl of Vietnam', where you wander through exotic fruit orchards, coconut groves and engage in an immersive experience with the farmers. Cruise along the picturesque Xep canal on a local boat and visit Vinh Trang Buddhist Pagoda. Enjoy a street food tour in Hoi An, featuring exclusive access to local people and unique dishes. Visit an organic vegetable and herb farm, explore bustling markets and participate in a private cooking class guided by a renowned chef. Discover historic sites such as the One Pillar Pagoda, Japanese Bridge and explore Hanoi's charming old quarter on a cyclo ride. Explore Thanh Ha market and savour delectable Hanoi street food delicacies.

We've taken care of all the details for you. Our expert guides have invaluable local knowledge, ensuring you uncover the culinary and cultural treasures of Vietnam that can only be experienced through the eyes of a local.

If you're keen to explore Vietnam with Food I Am—a country we hold dear, along with its people—join us on one of life's great adventures!

Tania Sibrey Creator & Global Food Explorer, Food I Am









Ho Chi Minh City: Your Culinary Adventure through Vietnam Commences!

Day 1

"People say that time goes by; time says that the people go by" - Famous Vietnamese Proverb.

In the city formerly known as Saigon, you'll find an abundance of Art Deco treasures, magnificent French colonial buildings and traditional Chinese temples.

Upon your independent arrival in Ho Chi Minh City, you'll be warmly welcomed at the airport by your private transfer guide, who will accompany you to your home for the next two nights. Your luxury hotel boasts a perfect location, blending the classical charm of French Indochina.

Your culinary adventure through Vietnam commences! This afternoon, we embark on a brief city walk and visit a meticulously restored "shophouse" in the historic centre. Here, we'll delve into the vibrant Vietnamese coffee scene, exploring its history, production and unique specialty coffees. You'll even learn to craft Ca Phe Trung, the famous and delightful "egg coffee". In Vietnam, coffee culture is truly a way of life!

Vietnamese cuisine, with its subtle flavours, showcases the diversity of the three regions. From the delicate steamed rice rolls filled with pork and mushrooms, to the savoury hot rice flour cake with ground pork and the rich crab noodle soup - you'll have the pleasure of savouring these culinary delights and plenty more during our journey.

Tonight's dinner will be a treat for food enthusiasts, where you'll quickly discover the wide ranging flavours of Vietnamese cuisine.





Day 2

"When eating a fruit, think of the person who planted the tree" - Vietnamese saying.

After breakfast at the hotel, we will depart bustling Ho Chi Minh City for the Mekong Delta, a remarkable agricultural area referred to as the 'rice bowl of Vietnam'. Today, we go beyond the usual tourist stops and gain an in-depth look at life on the Mekong Delta. We explore the less travelled back roads and quaint waterways of Ben Tre Province, known as the land of coconuts. We discover the unique lifestyle of the Delta region residents, exploring orchards, fruit farms, coconut groves and enjoy tastings of exotic fruits and honey harvested by the residents, famous throughout Vietnam.

Travel will be by a local boat as we cruise among the river islands and Xep canal, nestled amidst a dense grove of palm trees. Then, we switch gears and travel by horse drawn cart along country roads, spending time with a local family whose livelihood has been in the Delta for generations. Lunch will be an authentic homestyle meal featuring dishes from this Southern region. Before returning to Ho Chi Minh City, we will stop at the Buddhist Pagoda, Vinh Trang. It's a charmed day of adventure on the Mekong, one you will long remember!

Late in the afternoon, we head back to Ho Chi Minh City. Tonight, we venture out for a fine dining experience featuring modern French fusion cuisine. Every dish on the menu tonight promises a delightful experience, as it inherits the traditions of French haute cuisine enriched with touches of local flavours.









Ho Chi Minh City to Hoi An: Behind the Scenes Street Food Tour

Day 3

"I can't say what made me fall in love with Vietnam - that a woman's voice can drug you; that everything is so intense. The colours, the taste, even the rain" - Graham Greene, English Novelist.

This morning, we bid farewell to Ho Chi Minh City. Upon our arrival by flight in Danang, we will transfer to the enchanting UNESCO listed riverfront town of Hoi An. Along the way, we'll make a short visit to Marble Mountain before checking into our luxury boutique hotel, situated in the vibrant colonial capital. Hoi An, the ancient port town, is a must see destination – a captivating blend of white sand beaches, exquisite ancient architecture and a mix of influences from its days as a bustling international trading port. Hoi An offers a multitude of attractions and activities and it never fails to enchant.

In the late afternoon, get ready for a culinary adventure in an area known to many yet still relatively undiscovered by visitors outside of the Old Town. Our street food tours are always a highlight, offering exclusive access and a 'behind-the-scenes' experience as we explore the hidden corners, unique dishes and people of Hoi An town.

Arrive hungry, as we will be 'snacking' our way through the local street food scene during the time the locals call their 'snack time'. Hoi An's streets come alive with a plethora of street food carts, stalls and vendors offering a variety of specialties such as Cao lầu, Cơm Gà and Bánh Mì.

Under the guidance of our expert local guide, who grew up on these streets and ate at these food stalls as a child, we gain exclusive access to the culinary secrets of Hoi An. Discover how the locals live and eat and experience the grazing culture where people can eat all day due to portion sizes. We'll navigate the small alleyways and enjoy local delicacies at stalls you'd never find on your own.

Accommodation: Luxury Resort

Flight: Ho Chi Minh City to Danang (private transfer to Hoi An).





Day 4

Cao lầu - this seemingly simple dish is much more than the sum of its parts!

In Hoi An, you will encounter a unique set of culinary traditions that have been developed and refined by a community that takes its culinary endeavours very seriously.

After breakfast, we will escape the bustling town centre of Hoi An and transfer to a local farm in Tra Que village. Here, we will learn about the locally grown produce, ancient farming techniques that are still in use today and gain insights into daily life and the rich culture of the Vietnamese countryside.

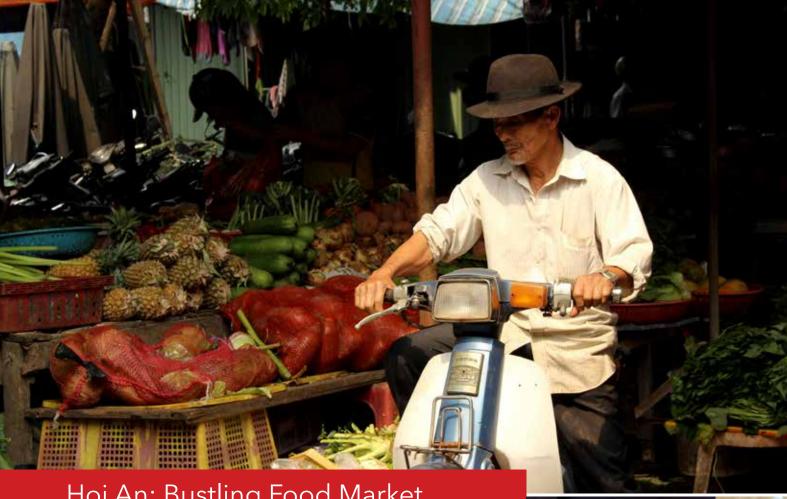
A local family will host us for lunch today, using vegetables and herbs picked fresh from the garden. They will share the secrets behind some of Hoi An's most famous traditional dishes, including "tam huu", a blend of prawns and pork with an abundance of herbs, and "bánh xèo", a savoury pancake served in thin rice paper sheets. We will relish a home cooked meal, concluding a memorable day in the countryside.

After lunch, we embark on a short walking tour of the old town, including a visit to the 400 year old Japanese Bridge. This experience immerses us in the incredible ancient architecture, temples and pagodas that are an integral part of Hoi An's charm.

The rest of the afternoon is yours to explore Hoi An. The best way to experience Hoi An is by bicycle or on foot, as the old town is closed to motorised traffic for most of the day. This freedom allows you to explore at your own pace. You can consider having a new wardrobe tailored, enjoying a massage, lounging by the pool, visiting Cua Dai beach, or simply immersing yourself in the famous old quarter of Hoi An and its enchanting atmosphere.

The stars of our rustic menu for dinner this evening are wild ingredients and organic produce at our inspiring location.





Hoi An: Bustling Food Market and Exclusive Cooking Class with Renowned Chef

Day 5

"I left my heart in Hoi An" - Anonymous

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before we head to Hoi An's colourful bustling central food market for an introduction to the area's produce, from farm to sea. A sight to behold is the locals shopping from the seat of their motorbikes. Life here is about speed and convenience, both in cooking and in life!

After our market visit, we join one of Central Vietnam's most renowned chefs for an exclusive half day culinary experience at his incredible home. Our chef has appeared on numerous international cooking and travel programs and is a culinary expert in modern Vietnamese cuisine. We will enjoy a private demonstration in our chef's cooking studio, observing the prepping, slicing, shredding and cooking required to create our menu for lunch today. Lunch is prepared by our entertaining chef exclusively for us. A culinary treat you will long remember.

The rest of the afternoon and evening are yours to enjoy some last minute shopping or take in the charm of Hoi An's old town.







Hoi An to Hanoi: Cyclo through Hanoi's Charming Old Quarter and Historic Hanoi Sights

Day 6

"A day of traveling will bring a basketful of learning" - Vietnamese saying.

After breakfast, we depart from our hotel and travel to Danang for our flight to Hanoi. Upon arrival in Hanoi, we will enjoy a half day city tour, taking in the wide, tree lined boulevards, ancient oriental pagodas, twentieth century architecture, French colonialism and Vietnamese Buddhism. Hanoi's French quarter is romantic and enchanting!

We will pass by the mausoleum of the historic figure and father of modern Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh and visit the small but iconic One Pillar Pagoda.

Next, we'll take a tour by cyclo through Hanoi's charming Old Quarter, also known as the "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 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 Hanoian home cuisine.

Accommodation: Boutique Hotel

Flight: Hoi An to Hanoi















Hanoi: Food Tour with our Local Culinary Expert, Charming Old Quarter

Day 7

"Sun is for cucumbers, rain for rice" - Vietnamese saying.

This morning, we'll indulge in some of Hanoi's finest dishes on our food tour with our local culinary expert. You'll enjoy strolling through the hidden streets as we seek out delicious regional delicacies and exotic snacks. Our guide will also provide insights into the vibrant, authentic lifestyles of the Hanoian people.

Highlights of our tour will include a visit to the eclectic Thanh Ha market, where we'll browse the food stalls, learn about local culinary culture and sample unusual Hanoi delicacies. Next, we'll meander into the Old Quarter to taste a special French influenced dessert, visit the ceremonial cake stalls and explore the traditions of food gifts and celebrations. Our tour will conclude at a small local coffee shop, the perfect way to end a wonderful culinary and cultural tour of Hanoi.

The afternoon is yours to enjoy the sights of Hanoi, a great place to shop or explore more of the historic sites.

Hanoi is an eclectic mix that offers something for everyone. Our dinner will be a superb example of modern fusion, French-Vietnamese cuisine.





Hanoi to Halong Bay: UNESCO World Heritage Listed, Board your Luxury Boat and Drift through the Bays

Day 8

No visit to Vietnam is complete without spending time sailing around Halong and Lan Ha Bays. The unique beauty of these bays, with towering limestone karsts, makes this area a natural wonder worthy of a UNESCO World Heritage listing.

After breakfast, we depart by private transfer to Tuan Chau Port. Upon arrival, we board our luxury sailboat and enjoy lunch while cruising towards the bay. Throughout the afternoon, you have the option to visit the stunning limestone caves by kayak or sampan, or simply grab a deckchair, relax and savour the picturesque panorama that surrounds you.

In the late afternoon, you can attend a cooking demonstration or try your hand at squid fishing. Enjoy sunset sippers on deck before a traditional Vietnamese dinner is served, all while drifting tranquilly through the bays.

It's a mesmerising way to enjoy your last night with Food I Am in Vietnam!

Accommodation: Luxury Sailboat







Halong Bay to Hanoi: Reflections on a Remarkable Journey with Food I Am Culinary and Cultural Tours

Day 9

"Vietnam, I love you for a long time. All day, all night, I love you a long time" - Alex Garland.

Awakening amidst the bay is truly surreal. You might want to participate in a Tai Chi class on the sundeck to witness the sunrise. Our final activity in Halong Bay is a transfer by tender to one of the most spectacular grottoes for a visit. Back on board we enjoy brunch as we sail back into port, mesmerised by the mysterious beauty of Ha Long.

Wow, where did that time go!

As we bid farewell to enchanting Halong Bay, it's hard to believe how quickly time has flown by. While all good things must eventually come to an end, the memories of our adventures will linger on.

It's time to bid adieu to exotic Vietnam.

Your private group transfer awaits to take you to Hanoi.

As we conclude this unforgettable tour, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for choosing Food I Am Culinary and Cultural Tours.

Until we meet again on another culinary and cultural exploration, may your memories of Vietnam continue to inspire and delight.

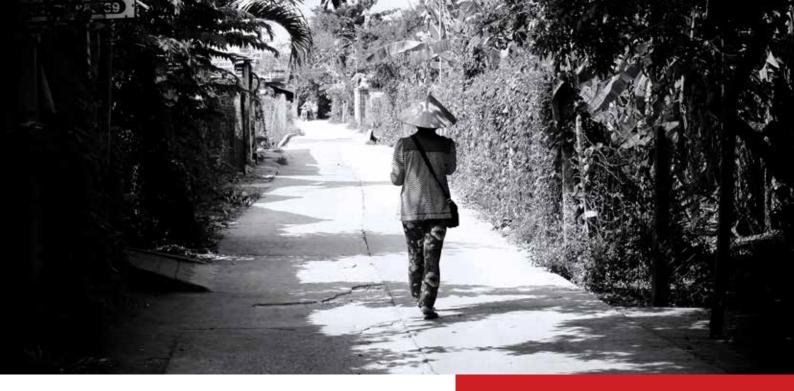
The tour is now concluded.

Note: Please do not book a flight departure out of Hanoi today before 5pm.









Snapshot

PRICE INCLUDES

- Eight (8) nights boutique and luxurious accommodation A wonderful mix of Five-Star Boutique Hotels, Colonial Villas and a Luxury Sailing Boat. Accommodation that is chosen for not only being beautiful but in a fabulous location.
- Most Meals Multi-course lunch and/or dinner or tastings. Our meals are a combination of fine dining, traditional and modern, regional cuisine and street food. Each day full five-star hotel breakfast. We are a culinary tour so expect exceptional food offerings, in exceptional locations and more than you can eat!
- Private ground transport, professional drivers, excellent vehicles
- Two (2) domestic flights
- 1. Ho Chi Minh City to Danang
- 2. Danang to Hanoi
- Mekong Delta Ben Tre Province rural experience, Sampan cruise
- Hoi An street food tour
- Tra Que Village farm tour
- Private artisan producer experiences and demonstrations
- Exclusive Private Chef Hoi An cooking class and lunch
- Hanoi, Hoi An and Ho Chi Minh City tours
- Hanoi Old Quarter cyclo tour
- Hanoi street food tour
- Halong Bay luxury sailing experience
- Being part of a small group tour
- Fully escorted by Food I Am guide and a private national tour escort in Vietnam. We use the best food guides, transport and Vietnam tour partners.

PRICE EXCLUDES

- International Airfares
- Tipping
- All beverages alcoholic and non alcoholic (unless otherwise stated in itinerary), laundry, phone, items of a personal nature
- Passport & Visa
- Travel Insurance (COMPULSORY). You should organise travel insurance at the time of paying your deposit. Ask your travel agent or contact an insurance provider such as NRMA & Covermore.

WHY A FOOD I AM TOUR?

- Fully escorted by Food I Am
- Our itineraries are carefully thought out and put together with the assistance of our worldwide culinary connections
- Small groups no waiting
- Unique food and wine experiences. Our tours are not cooking tours
- No decision making needed Sit back and relax, we have done all the hard work for you
- Guaranteed the best meals without having to look for the perfect restaurant
- Experience our tours are full of surprises!
- Authentic and cultural regional experiences balanced with free time
- Travel and share experiences with like-minded people
- Meet the passionate producers and artisans, learn about their craft
- Comfort and luxury travel and accommodation
- Stress free no google maps required
- Gastronomy experts and local English guides with exceptional knowledge
- Hosts that care about you as an individual

PRICING INFORMATION:

Cost Per Person (Twin Share) \$6590

Single Supplement (Room on your own)

Please contact us

For solo travelers willing to share, please contact us.

CLICK HERE

TO SECURE YOUR SPOT ON THE 2025 TOUR

Sharing the love of Food I Am Luxury Food Tours



The tour was amazing. Extremely well organised and it showed off the culinary diversity of the entire country. The thing I liked about it the most was being guided down alleyways and into buildings that I would have never have entered myself and then discovering wonderful people serving even more wonderful food.

I would highly recommend this experience to anyone.

- Tim & Camille Rose





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If you are single, couple or a group looking for a holiday idea fuelled with delicious food, culture, fun and adventure then a Food I Am culinary tour is for you.

Perfectly organised with attention to detail, Tania has perfected her itinerary to cater for a wide genre.

After heading on the Northern Italy Tour in 2017 I knew it wouldn't be my last.

I've just returned from the Food I Am Vietnam Tour and I know that won't be my last either!

It really is a great opportunity to be able to immerse yourself into the culture of a Country.

- Jodie Hamilton - Nth Italy & Vietnam





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 hostessing.

Thank you again from us both. We loved it. With kind regards,

- Annette & David Lamont





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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

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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

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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!

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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

- Lee

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We travelled to Vietnam with Food I am and had an amazing, fun filled, action packed agenda which was such a unique experience.

Tania shows great love and attention for all, she knows all the secrets places.

Bring along your sense for adventure & appetite to try new things. The street food was some of the best!

- Kym & Travis

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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 & Philip Goldsmith

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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 and eating venues, fantastic cultural experiences, expert local guides in a variety of fields, organisation and 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 and special.

- Carol & Pat Ingram

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Thank you Tania, the trip to Vietnam was a wonderful experience. A taste of the unique place Vietnam is and plenty of fun and laughter along the way. Travelicious in every sense - delicious food, culinary skills to learn, lots of things to do (even bike riding)! Can't wait for you to announce your next adventure that we can share. Cheers.

- Leeann Commins







For anyone that wants to experience the real Italy this is the tour for them. Brilliantly organised with personalised attention to detail to maximise the adventure for everyone. Very pleased to have made so many new friends whilst enjoying a daily apperitivo... Or two. Highly recommended for single travellers as well as couples. Will definitely be coming back to do another tour.

- Geoff Crouch

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We have had a wonderful time - THANKS so much. All of our food has been EXCEPTIONAL and choices of accommodation superb. Have

really loved seeing the back roads of Italy and staying in the "countryside". Food I Am has given us beautiful and amazing memories of the tastes, landscapes and people of Italy.

- Gary & Pam Krieg

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What an amazing adventure Food I Am provided. The tour was so much more than we expected. Everything was thoroughly planned and highly organised but at no time did you feel you were on a tour, it was more like travelling with a group of friends. We saw so much more than we thought we would and got a real sense of the authentic Italian way of life. Tania and Melina's passion and enthusiasm set the tone from the moment we began our journey and remained throughout the entire adventure. This trip was excellent value for money, however the sense of belonging created amongst the group was something no amount of money could buy.

- Vicki & Anthony

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Having done three tours with Food I Am I can't choose a favourite day. I remember waking up after the first night on the Italian food tour and thinking "it can't get any better than this" and that was a common statement on all the tours! With great accommodation, wonderful company and terrific agritourism. Being treated with wonderful simple local produce to amazing molecular gastronomy, every day offered lasting memories. The tours were all balanced with sedentary and physical activity. Although I went as a single person I thought I was away with my best friends. I would have no hesitation in recommending Food I am and can't wait to do another tour.

- Angela Smith - Italy, Spain





