



SEA KAYAKING VIETNAM

A Kayaking and Cruising Adventure in Legendary Halong Bay

VIETNAM ~ SEA KAYAKING ~ 10 DAYS

TRIP DETAILS

10 days

Easy to intermediate sea kayaking, cruising, wildlife-watching and photography.

*2 nights hotel accommodation in Hanoi
6 nights deluxe accommodation aboard a 100 ft. classic yacht.*

2010 DATES

November 8 – 17

2011 DATES

February 24 – March 5

November 3 – 13

LAND COST

\$4490 US per person

*Single Sup.: \$350 US
(single accommodation space is limited)*

*From: Hanoi
Group Size: 12*

Vietnam's Halong Bay is a UNESCO World Heritage Site one of the most spectacular sea kayaking destinations in the world. The bay's name means "descending dragon," and the mythical beasts are said to have created the soaring limestone islets that form a labyrinth of protected waterways. Explore this vast archipelago's hidden lagoons and sea caves, swim in the warm jade-colored water, relax on beautiful sand beaches and visit the floating villages of fisherfolk who live their whole lives aboard tiny bamboo boats.

We journey through this magnificent area in style aboard a mothership, a beautiful, traditional 100 ft. sailing vessel, complete with a friendly crew and a marvelous chef. It features double cabins with en-suite bathrooms, large deck areas and a dining room. Our trip begins and ends in Hanoi, "the Paris of Southeast Asia," where we stay at the exquisite Sofitel Metrople and explore the city's fascinating old quarter. During this trip we enjoy some of the best paddling in the world, gain an insight to Vietnamese culture, tradition and mythology and, as a bonus, enjoy the finest cuisine Vietnam has to offer!

Our guides have been exploring Halong Bay for more than a decade, and they know its secrets. Let them show you.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 ~ Arrive on Hanoi

Our trip begins in charming Hanoi – the Paris of Southeast Asia. You will be picked up from the airport and taken to the Sofitel Metrople hotel near the city's Old Quarter, from which you can easily go shopping in the bustling markets, or stroll around legendary Hoan Kiem Lake. In the evening we'll enjoy fine Vietnamese cuisine, a unique blend of Asian and French influences, at our welcome dinner hosted at one of the country's best restaurants.

DAY 2 ~ City Tour (B,L,D)

We'll spend the day exploring the wonders of this thousand year old city. Hanoi has one foot in the past and one in the future and blends Asian culture with European influences both colonial and contemporary. Starting with a walking tour of the Old Quarter where the streets are named for the type of crafts people or wares found there. Silks, porcelain, ethnic crafts and antiques are some of the most popular items but those represent only a fraction of what is available. On Pho Hang Gai (Silk Street) you can commission custom-made clothes in an dazzling array of silks and linens that will be ready when we return from Halong Bay (consider bring-

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ing a favourite item or two of clothing from home to be expertly duplicated). Boarding a mini-bus we'll tour the city visiting some of the must-see sights including the Confucian Temple of Literature Pagoda, Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum complex and Hoa Lo prison - the infamous "Hanoi Hilton". A lunch at a restaurant on one of Hanoi's broad colonial era boulevards will provide a respite and chance to discuss the day's sights. In the evening we'll go to a century-old restaurant for Cha Ca, a fabulous fish dish, prepared on a tabletop brazier, that is so unique it's cited in Patricia Schultz's, "1000 Places to See Before You Die" (Workman Press).

DAY 3 ~ Halong Bay and Kayaking (B,L,D)

At the break of dawn we'll walk around famous Hoan Kiem Lake where thousands of people of all ages gather to do tai chi and other morning exercises. After breakfast a mini van will take us on the three hour trip to Ha Long Bay. Driving through the verdant green countryside we'll see water buffalo in fields, while on the road there are remarkable examples of how many people and goods (including livestock!) can be stacked on a motor scooter. Arriving in Ha Long City we'll be greeted by the crew and board our mothership, the most beautiful and luxurious sailing junk on Ha Long Bay. Almost immediately we'll set sail for the seldom visited southern area of Halong bay where we have obtained special permit to kayak. There will be time to get out in the kayaks and paddle before the first of several beautiful Ha Long Bay sunsets. Our day ends with an exquisite seafood meal under a starry sky.

DAYS 4 to 8 ~ Exploring the Mysteries of Halong Bay (B,L,D)

Our trip takes us on an odyssey through Ha Long Bay's maze of 2000 islands. The only way to describe Halong Bay is as relentlessly spectacular. Incredible rock formations rise out of jade green water, every turn brings another surprise and secret passages lead to hidden lagoons and magical sea caves. These are pristine places with unique ecosystems; they are rarely visited, even by local fishermen. Visits to floating villages of fishing folk provide a unique cultural insight to a warmly open and friendly people of the sea who live their whole lives aboard tiny bamboo boats.

The days on the Bay have a very pleasant rhythm of mornings that start with good strong Vietnamese coffee served on deck followed by a delicious breakfast before setting off in the kayaks. We'll stop from time to time for breaks on lovely sand beaches and to swim in the warm, jade waters. Most often the boat will weigh anchor after we've left and rendezvous with us on the other end of an island group for a leisurely lunch. In the afternoon we do shorter paddle returning in time to relax and swim before drinks, a multi-course dinner and a discussion of the next day's paddle.

DAY 9 ~ Return to Hanoi (B,L,D)

After a final paddle, we return to "civilization" and we disembark in Bai Chai. Returning to Hanoi by van and we'll check into the Sofitel Metrople. The afternoon will be free to shop and further explore this enchanting city. Our farewell dinner takes place in a beautifully restored French colonial mansion.

DAY 10 ~ Departure (B)

After breakfast guests depart to Hanoi International Airport (HA

PREREQUISITES:

No previous kayaking experience is needed: The warm, flat calm waters of Ha Long Bay are ideal for novice paddlers. More experienced kayakers will enjoy the intricate rock gardens and deep sea caves. Having our mothership close at hand makes it possible to everyone to take part in as much or as little paddling as they want.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

The trip starts with arrival in Hanoi on the first scheduled day of the trip and finishes with departure on the final scheduled day.

LAND COST

\$4490 US per person.

Rates are per person, based on sharing double accommodations.

Cost Includes: guides, all accommodations, all kayaking equipment, all meals as specified in the itinerary, airport arrival transfer, ground transportation, boat charters and park entrance fees.

Single Supplement: \$350 US

THE NEXT STEP

Ready to go? Registering is easy!

Just call us at 1-800-677-0877 and reserve your spot! You can also book a reservation online at our website (www.tofino.com).

Leave the Rest to Us

Before you go, we provide you with extensive pre-departure information, including clothing recommendations, suggested reading lists, up-to-date health advice and other details.

Why Tofino Expeditions?

We have more than 20 years of experience as an expedition guide service, are leaders in sea-kayak instruction and have an industry wide reputation for safety, service and great food. We have guided thousands of paddlers on wilderness trips and are thrilled that so many guests become repeat clientele. Our trips are physically satisfying vacations that are designed to be relaxing, safe, thought-provoking and fun.

References

Don't take our word for how great our trips are. We'll be happy to provide you with references of satisfied past travelers.

Our Commitment to Conservation

Tofino Expeditions has always been at the forefront of minimum impact camping technique and we have been formally recognized for our responsible expedition methods and management. We actively support a range of organizations that share our commitment to wilderness preservation.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Deposits and Payment: A \$500 US per person deposit holds your space until 120 days before trip departure when an additional \$1000 deposit is due, at 90 days before departure payment is due in full. If your deposit is made by credit card we will process further deposits and balance prior to departure unless notified to do otherwise. Due to the nature of international operations, prices are subject to change.

All payments may be made by check or credit card (Visa or MasterCard — Visa only for Canadian funds). Prices are in US or Canadian dollars as specified in the trip description and schedule. All payments are to be made in US or Canadian dollars. Immediately after we receive your deposit you will receive a detailed package with a clothing and equipment list, invoice, medical form, Release From Liability Agreement and other information needed to prepare for your trip.

What's Included: The information package for each trip contains a comprehensive list of equipment and services which are included in the trip cost. Please read these carefully and call our office if you require further information.

Not included: Airfares, most meals in town (to allow for individual choice), gratuities to staff, insurance of any kind, airport taxes (if any), alcoholic beverages or soft drinks and other items of a personal nature. Medical costs, costs of hospitalization, evacuation by helicopter or any other means are not covered in the trip cost.

Delays: If the trip is delayed because of bad weather, canceled or delayed flights or delays of other modes of transport, sickness or situations for which Tofino Expeditions or its agents cannot make provisions, the cost of delays is not included.

Insurance: We strongly recommend the purchase of cancellation insurance for your protection in event of illness. Please contact your travel agent for more information

Single Travelers: Hotel and tent accommodations are based on double occupancy. If you are traveling alone and wish to share accommodations, we will match you with a room/tent mate of the same sex if one is available. If there is no one with whom you can share, or if you prefer single hotel accommodations, you are requested to pay the single supplement fee listed for your trip

Trip Prices: Prices are subject to change due to currency fluctuations and other factors beyond Tofino Expeditions' control.

Cancellations: A significant portion of our expenses are committed long before departure. At the time we receive written notice that you must cancel your trip, the following fees will apply (all dates are from departure date):

From time of reservation until 120 days prior to departure: \$500

119 to 90 days prior to departure: 25% of Land Cost

89 days or less prior to departure: 100% of Land Cost.

Canceled Trips: Due to the nature of operating in the wilderness and remote international areas, Tofino Expeditions reserves the right to cancel any trip prior to departure for any reason whatsoever, including inadequate sign-up which makes the trip economically unfeasible for us to operate or logistical problems which may impede trip operations. At least 1 month notice prior to the departure date will be given for a trip cancellation due to inadequate sign-up. In such a case, a full refund of the trip Cost is given, but Tofino Expeditions is not responsible for expenses incurred by trip members in preparation for the trip (e.g., non-refundable airline tickets, medical expenses, equipment etc.).