

# Trekking Mu Cang Chai Terraced Fields

(Hanoi – Mu Cang Chai)

(Issued date: 17 Jan 2023)

## Itinerary Overview

Day	Destinations/Activities	Meals
Day 1	HANOI – NGHIA LO	L/D
Day 2	NGHIA LO – MU CANG CHAI	B/L/D
Day 3	FULL-DAY TREKKING MU CANG CHAI TERRACED FIELDS	B/L/D
Day 4	MU CANG CHAI – HANOI	B/L

## Detailed Itinerary

### Day 1

### HANOI – NGHIA LO

You will leave Hanoi from the Old Quarter and travel for about 2 hours to Duong Lam, an ancient village which has been recognized as a cultural and historical site in need of protection by UNESCO since 2006. The houses here date back 100-400 years and are surrounded by temples and gardens that were built in honour of two kings who became renowned national heroes by repelling a Chinese invasion roughly 1200 years ago. Here you will spend 2-4 hours exploring the village and taking in the sights before being served lunch at a local restaurant.

Continuing with your tour, you will be driven through the rural countryside, slowly moving from flat landscapes littered with rice paddies to giant karst formations surrounded by tea and maize plantations as you gain altitude. Eventually you will reach the village of Nghia Lo, where you will stay the night in a traditional White Thai homestay built on stilts.

**Meal:** Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Traditional Thai stilt house

## Day 2

### NGHIA LO – MU CANG CHAI

You will rise early and go on a bicycle ride amongst the paddy fields, basking in the peaceful morning ambience. The mornings begin early for the villagers who can be seen quietly working in the fields surrounded by ducks, chickens, pigs and buffalos.

Breakfast will then be served in the open air overlooking the fields before you check out and set off over the dramatic Khau Pha Mountain Pass. The rice fields of Tu Le along the way are spectacular and will fill you with wonder.

After lunch in a local restaurant, you will continue your drive to Nam Co Village where you will get to see the Flower H'mong ethnic minority wearing their colourful traditional costumes. If your trip falls on the correct day, we will also take you for a visit to the fascinating local market.

Finally, we will drive you to La Pan Tan and Mam Soi where you can enjoy a short walk (roughly 3km each way) up the hill and be rewarded with beautiful views of the surrounding rice fields before heading back down to Kim Noi village and overnighting at Ecobungalow.

**Meal:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Ecobungalow in Mu Cang Chai

## Day 3

### FULL-DAY TREKKING MU CANG CHAI TERRACED FIELDS

Your Breakfast will be served outside and overlooking the fields before moving on to the trekking point. Our trek will start on the dragon spine from Kim Noi to Che Cu Nha on a 15 km long trails. This route will definitely give us a good chance to see the main points and admire the beauty of the wonderful rice terraces that Mu Cang Chai has to offer. You can also visit a few villages of the Hmong hill tribes scattered throughout the area. Picnic lunch on the terraced.

Driver will pick up and route for transferring back to Ecobungalow, where you spend the night.

**Meal:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Accommodation:** Ecobungalow in Mu Cang Chai

## Day 4

## MU CANG CHAI – HANOI

After breakfast at the ecolodge you are free to spend the rest of the morning at your leisure, enjoying the beautiful scenery of the valley or just relaxing with the family at the homestay. Once you've had lunch we will drive you back to Hanoi where it will be time to say our farewells.

**Meal:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Accommodation:** N/A

## Inclusions & Exclusions

INCLUSIONS	EXCLUSIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Private door-to-door pick-up-off services</li> <li>➤ All private transfer and transportation</li> <li>➤ English speaking guide as per program</li> <li>➤ Breakfast (B) Lunch (L) &amp; Dinners as mentioned (L/D)</li> <li>➤ All sightseeing tickets and travel permits</li> <li>➤ Accommodation at hotels/ homestays/ junk boat as mentioned</li> <li>➤ No extra charge after confirmation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Personal expenses</li> <li>➤ Tips and Gratuities</li> <li>➤ Travel insurance</li> <li>➤ International flight and taxes</li> <li>➤ Beverage</li> </ul>

## Important Information

### Emergency Contact

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call the travel consultant whom you deal with and then our hot line contacts. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please send us a detailed message and contact information by email to the agent and to [info@indochinatreks.com](mailto:info@indochinatreks.com), we may check and return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

Our all travel consultants use WhatApps. Please ensure that you have the contact number. It's best to buy a local sim-card upon arrival. Most hotels offer free wifi. So it's very easy to contact in urgent case.

**Note\*:** this is a copy of the itinerary on Indochina Treks Travel Official Website and not the final itinerary.

Emergency contact numbers

Mr. Kelvin Do: +84 986759655

Ms. Thuy Pham: +84 984654964

## **Combo Trip**

If you book small group tour option, please note that the tour combines with our other tours. As such, some travel companions on your tour may have previously been travelling together with us. Likewise, some travel companions may be continuing together on another tour after your trip concludes.

You can start the tour on any date (please contact our consultant in advance to avoid peak dates or holidays) and customize itinerary with extra days/activities at any destination.

## **Internal Flights**

For all internal flights, we would use Vietnamairlines, Vietjesair, Jestar, Cambodia Angkorair or Laos Airlines. Most domestic flights in Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar, airlines would use small 70 seat ATR72 for short distances. Most airlines in Vietnam use the Airbus A321. 20kg for checkin luggage and 7kg for hand-bag is included in the price.

International flights before/after the tour must be booked by yourself before travelling date.

## **Accommodation**

We would use different hotel categories and you can select any basing on your budget. So your travel companions would not stay at your hotel. A Hotel Voucher will be provided once your tour is confirmed with all hotel details.

## **Packing List**

Conservative Dress

- Modest clothing that covers knees and shoulders (Long pants, long skirts, shirts that cover shoulders)
- Shawl or scarf (for temple visits)

Note\*: Please pack clothing for the season in which you will be travelling. From Dec-Feb weather can be cold, so please pack warm clothing. From May-Nov it is the wet season, so please bring waterproof clothing.

Documents

- All tickets (required)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Required visas
- Hotel & Tour Vouchers
- Meeting sign (with your names and flight details that we will use for transfers)

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**Note\*:** this is a copy of the itinerary on Indochina Treks Travel Official Website and not the final itinerary.

## **Train Travel**

Train travel in Vietnam is very basic and train cleanliness is often not a priority for train staff. Sleeper trains normally have 4 seats per compartment, which convert into sleeping bunks (two upper and two lower). A sheet, pillow and blanket are provided, although many people prefer to bring their own sleeping sheet. At times, passengers of different genders may be required to share a sleeper train berth and/or share a compartment with people not travelling in your group. For short distance - 3 hours (as Hue to Danang or vv), you will do the trip on soft/hard seat carriage.

Simple food is available on the train but many people like to stock up on freshly baked bread, cheese and fruit prior to departure. Water should also be bought before the journey.

Train journeys in Vietnam are an experience and allow you to get a real taste of Vietnam.

## **Airport transfers**

All airport transfers are included in the tour price. You should provide us your arrival/departure flight details and we will arrange things basing on the information. A meeting sign with your name and all flight details will be sent to you. Please be ready at the lobby at pointed time for pickup.

Driver/guide should always be present at the airport before your arrival time. If you could not find the driver, please contact your travel consultant who you deal with. For any reason that airport transfer could not be arranged, please take the taxi to the hotel. We will refund the money then.

## **Travel insurance**

Travel insurance is not included in our tour price. When travelling with us, you are suggested to buy insurance that covers all medical coverage, cancellation, personal liability, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects.

## **Trip Specific Safety**

We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage.

Be aware that petty theft can be an issue in some towns and cities especially late at night. A common tactic is opportunists on motorbikes that drive by and snatch bags. Please always leave valuables and passports etc in your hotel in safety boxes if available and only carry with you enough cash to spend for the day. Bags should always be carried over the neck and not left to sit on your shoulder.

## **Warning**

Please do not buy gems unless you know what you are doing. Even if genuine you should not expect to be able to sell them at home. If you fall victim to a gem scam, we are unable to assist you.

## Visas and Entry Requirements

Please note that visas for Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos are the responsibility of the individual traveller. The visa requirements for your trip vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. For the most up to date information please check your Governments Foreign Ministry website or with your travel agent as rules do change.

**CAMBODIA** - Visas can be obtained at the Cambodian border or Siem Reap Airport for approx. \$35 USD very easily. Please have *\*at least\** 2 passport photos with you as well.

**VIETNAM** - As of March 2017, a select 80 nationalities are now eligible to enter Vietnam with an E-Visa. Please contact your Foreign Ministry or Vietnamese consulate to see if your nationality is eligible. Please note that you should **ONLY** apply for a Vietnam E-Visa if you are entering Vietnam by international airport - either Noi Bai International Airport (Hanoi) or Tan Son Nhat International Airport (Ho Chi Minh City).

If you are entering Vietnam by land border, please apply for a regular visa for Vietnam. Many of the land borders we travel through do not accept the Vietnam E-Visa. Please view this link to apply E-Visa: <https://evisa.xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn/web/guest/trang-chu-ttdt>

**LAOS** - Visas are issued upon arrival in Laos. You will need two passport size photographs and approx \$35. Tourists are generally admitted to Laos for 15 days with a visa on arrival or for 30 days with a visa issued at a Lao embassy. Please bring visa photos with you.

Please be aware that you will require four clean pages (minimum) in your passport and at least six months validity.

## Tipping

It is customary in Asia to tip service providers such as waiters, at approximately 10%, depending on the service. Tipping is expected - though not compulsory - and shows an expression of satisfaction with the people who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides or drivers we use. Recommendations for tipping drivers and local guides would range from \$3-\$5 USD per person per day depending on the quality and length of the service.

## Electricity

Indochina Countries use 220V, and a mixture of flat 2-pin, round 2-pin or 3 pin plugs. It is recommended to bring a universal plug adapter.