

CARLZJSODA.COM

Vietnam

PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR 22ND JULY - 3RD AUG

A 13-DAY LUXURY ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME FROM NORTH TO SOUTH VIETNAM. EXPERIENCE ALL THE FLAVOURS OF VIETNAMESE CULTURE AND CUISINE, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, GROW YOUR PHOTOGRAPHY SKILLS AND DEVELOP BUSINESS ACUMEN.

An aerial photograph of Ha Long Bay, Vietnam, showing numerous limestone karsts covered in lush green vegetation rising from the emerald-green water. The water's color varies from a deep green to a lighter, milky green, indicating different depths and sediment. The karsts are scattered across the bay, some with small sandy beaches. The overall scene is a stunning natural landscape.

HA LONG BAY

Luxury photography tour and coaching retreat.

Lens and Learn: See Vietnam Through Your Camera.



HOI AN AT DUSK

A cultural melting pot

My favourite place in Asia

Vietnam is easily in my top 3 countries and for someone who's had the privilege to travel to over 68 nations on our planet, that's a pretty big call. So what is it about Vietnam that is so magical and exciting that I keep returning, this time with a group of photographers in tow?

Well, simply put - Vietnam is everything you could want in a destination. It's easy to travel around, it's safe and friendly, the food is extraordinary, the landscape is dramatic and breathtakingly beautiful.

I love sharing my passion for travel and experiencing new cultures via my social media channels, so I figured why not just take you there instead?

This tour will encompass my favourite spots alongside the very best of Vietnam. I'll show you how to capture the magnificent landscapes, beautiful street portraiture and the culture. As we travel we will have fireside mentorship sessions around the creative industry.

Are you ready

for the trip of a lifetime?

→ When?

We will be meeting each other in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam on the 22nd of July. The tour will conclude in Ho Chi Minh City on August the 3rd 2024.

→ What?

This adventure takes you to incredible places along my favourite locations, away from the tourist spots and immerses you deeply in the culture of the country.

→ Locations

On the following pages you'll see our itinerary. The locations we visit are specifically chosen to include beautiful locations and cultural experiences for photography purposes.

→ Mentoring

Alongside travelling with other creatives, we will sit down to discuss the business of creativity, building a network and an online audience and ways to monetise your skills.



HO CHI MINH BACKSTREETS

Let's explore together.

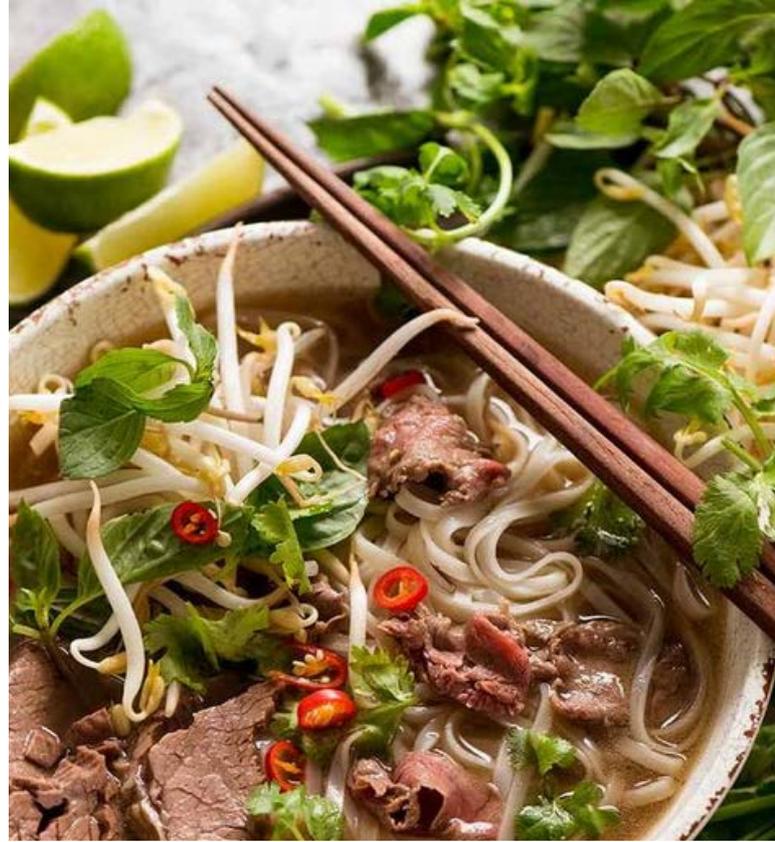
Bring your camera and we will document the magic and flavour of Vietnam in luxury the whole way!

Taste the world

Discover the Flavors & Traditions of Vietnamese Food

Vietnam's culinary landscape is a tapestry of flavours and traditions, a journey through a rich palette of tastes and aromas. From the bustling streets of Ho Chi Minh City to the tranquil terraces of Sapa, each region presents its unique twist on Vietnamese cuisine.

As you explore, you'll encounter the freshness of herbs, the tang of fish sauce, and the zest of local spices in dishes like pho, banh mi, and spring rolls.



Each meal is not just a feast for the palate but a window into Vietnam's vibrant culture and history, making every bite a discovery of the country's heart and soul.





Exploring Vietnam's Natural Wonders

And capture them through your lens!

Vietnam's landscapes offer a photographer's paradise, a canvas of breathtaking beauty waiting to be captured. From the emerald waters of Ha Long Bay, dotted with limestone karsts, to the terraced rice fields of Sapa that paint the hills in vibrant greens and golds, each scene tells a story of natural splendour.

The ancient charm of Hoi An's streets, bathed in the golden hues of sunset, contrasts with the dynamic cityscapes of Ho Chi Minh City, alive with colour and motion.

In the quiet majesty of the Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park, the intricate cave systems and rugged mountain scenery beckon. Every frame is a chance to capture not just a landscape, but a moment in Vietnam's rich tapestry of beauty, culture, and history.



The itinerary.

Here's where our journey begins....

Day one



ARRIVE HO CHI MINH CITY

We will all meet together in Ho Chi Minh City at the Vin Pearl Autograph hotel, a 5 star luxury hotel, that's also the tallest building in South East Asia.

Day two



EXPLORE HO CHI MINH CITY

We will spend the day exploring the city, visit The Cafe Apartments (cool coffee & cafes and shops) and Ben Thanh Market (big market, street food). We will head to Hoi An later in the evening.

Day three



THE ANCIENT CITY - HOI AN

Wake up in Hoi An, or Ancient Town which is a blend of Vietnamese, Japanese, and Chinese influences, reflected in every lantern-lit alley and centuries-old shophouse. A UNESCO World Heritage Site and my all-time favourite stop in Vietnam. Today is for exploring & getting to know each other.

Day four



EXPLORE HOI AN CITY

We will spend the day exploring Hoi An, riding bikes, eating delicious food and swimming to escape the heat. At nightfall, the town comes to life with colourful lanterns and we'll jump on some boats to enjoy the chaos of the river! This is where we will capture some incredible images.

Day five



CHASING THE SUNRISE

We will have an early start, heading out on the river to ride in a coconut boat, fish for crabs and even learn how to cook Vietnamese food. This is always my FAV way to embrace the culture. The afternoon is for a pool side coaching session - it's hot, so grab a cocktail and let's talk photography and business.

Day six



HOI AN TO HUE

This is a travel day as we head up the coast via My Khe Beach to Hai Van Pass and Lang Co Bay. Take in the absolutely breathtaking scenery via the luxury of our private bus & capture it all on camera! We will throw up the drones, stop for a swim and enjoy getting lost in some untouched beauty.

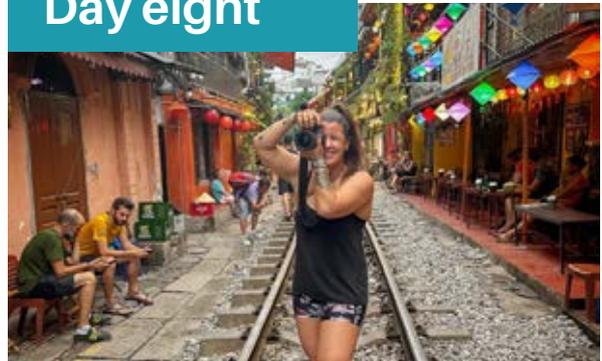
Day seven



LET'S EXPLORE HUE

Hue, once the imperial capital of Vietnam, is a city steeped in history and culture. In the walled Hue Imperial City, also known as the Citadel, you will find the Forbidden Purple City, dozens of royal tombs, pagodas, temples, royal rooms, a library and a museum. It's a photographers dream!

Day eight



ENTER THE CRAZY OF HANOI!

Get ready for it, as we are about to get enter the most hectic Asian city you'll ever visit! Hanoi is MAYHEM but in an amazing way. It can feel a bit overwhelming, so we don't spend too long here, but it is the gateway to Ha Long Bay. We will visit the infamous train street, Dong Xuan Market and relax by the pool for another 'fireside' chat about editing and photography.

Day nine



HA LONG BAY CRUISE

Famed for its surreal seascape of limestone karsts and islets rising dramatically from emerald waters. We will have a 3-hour drive down to the bay where we will board an overnight boat cruise around the bay. This is where you relax, kayak, eat, take photographs and just take it all in.

Day ten



HA LONG BAY BACK TO HANOI

This is a travel day as we head back up to Hanoi and then up to Sapa overnight via The Reunification Express train. Train travel is a unique experience and a must in Vietnam. It's also the easier way to get up North to the hills of Sapa.

Day eleven



LET'S EXPLORE SAPA

Nestled in the northern mountains of Vietnam, Sapa is a picturesque town known for its stunning terraced rice fields that cascade down the slopes of the Hoang Lien Son mountains. This area is a cultural melting pot, home to several ethnic minority groups, each with unique traditions and colourful attire. Another dream for photographers.

Day twelve and thirteen



SAPA AND BACK TO HANOI

We will spend our day together in Sapa and head back to Hanoi by later in the evening. Arriving in Hanoi in the early morning, we will spend our last night together to sit back and take in the chaos of the big city. The following morning we will say our goodbyes as we head back to Ho Chi Minh city for our flights back home to Australia.



INFAMOUS TRAIN STREET HANOI

Getting Around

This is an adventure not a holiday, so **STRAP** in for one hell of a trip!

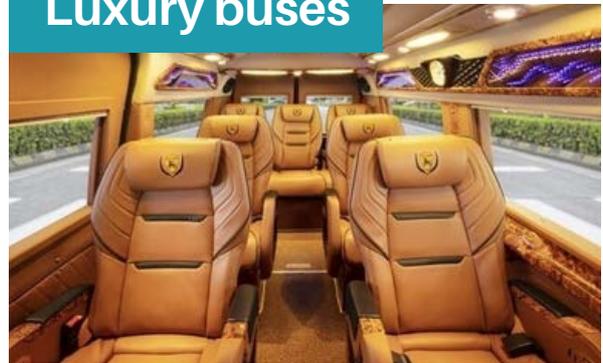
It's important to note that we will be moving at quite a pace through this trip, which means early mornings and some late nights. There is so much to see and Vietnam is a big country. There will be plenty of downtime, to enjoy the pools, have a few drinks and relax and of course if you'd prefer to not do some activities that is more than ok.

Internal flights



This trip includes three internal flights via Vietnam Airlines. We will fly from Ho Chi Minh to Da Nang (Hoi An) and then Hue to Hanoi and finally, Hanoi back to Ho Chi Minh city.

Luxury buses



Vietnam knows how to road trip. All buses we catch will be private luxury "limousines" that stop for bathroom breaks/food and also for anything worth seeing.

Train



We catch two trains: A return trip from Hanoi to Sapa. This is the easiest way to get to Sapa and it's a nice way to unwind and watch the landscapes change. We will be in the VIP private cabins.

Bikes



The Vietnamese love a bike and a scooter or 20. We will use some push bikes but no scooters. The locals know what they are doing but we don't! You'll soon see why I have said that!



Travel on a Dime

Your money goes a very long way in Vietnam.

Vietnam is a very inexpensive country to travel through. This trip is inclusive of all hotels, travel, and internal flights and covers most breakfasts and some meals. We will cover this in our zoom call when we have our induction.

Eating Cheaply

You will live like a King or Queen in Vietnam. A coffee will cost you \$1.50, a bowl of Pho \$2. We will eat a three-course meal for \$20 including drinks!

Luxury Accommodation

Again, our money goes a long way and all of our hotels will be a minimum 4 stars, including a pool and buffet breakfast. If you're cool with sharing a room, that's the cheapest option, but if you'd like your own space, I can do that too.

READY TO JOIN ME IN VIETNAM?

ZOOM Q&A NIGHT MARCH 4TH AT 8 PM.

Join us for an online Q&A where I will take you through the trip, what to expect, visa applications and what you need to know and you can ask any questions you like. This Zoom call will go for approximately 30 minutes plus any Q&A we have.

To book your spot on our Vietnam tour a deposit of \$1000 will be required. The total cost of the trip is \$3752 for twin share. You can pay in 4 instalments of \$938 with the final payment required by June 30, 2024. This includes all accommodation, internal flights, a boat cruise in Ha Long Bay, kayaking, breakfast each morning, cooking school and all travel throughout Vietnam.

This trip DOES NOT include flights from Australia to Ho Chi Minh City, however, I am keeping a close eye on these flights and will keep you all updated with sale airfares. In previous trips I haven't paid more than \$500 return, however, I of course can't promise that. I will help you book these flights if you're concerned about booking international flights.