



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

2007 DATES

*October 14 – 23 Sold Out
NEW DATE JUST ADDED
October 24–November 2*

LAND COST

\$3890 US per person

*Single Sup.: \$180 US
(single accommodation space is limited)*

*From: Hanoi
Group Size: 12*

Halong Bay in Vietnam is the most spectacular sea kayaking destination in the world. The bay's name means "descending dragon," and the mythical beasts are said to have created the rocky islets that form a maze of protected waterways. Our guests will explore the sea arches, caves and hidden lagoons in this vast archipelago, swim in the jade-colored water and relax on beautiful sand beaches.

The scenery isn't the only thing that makes Halong Bay amazing. It is home to Cat Ba langurs, the rarest primate on Earth. There are only a few dozen of them left, but sometimes they emerge to feed in a hidden cove, and we catch a glimpse of them from our kayaks.

We journey through this magnificent area in style. Our trip begins and ends in Hanoi, "the Paris of Southeast Asia," and we stay downtown in the city's fascinating old quarter. In Halong Bay, our guests stay on a luxurious, traditionally styled, 100 ft. sailing junk. It features double cabins with en-suite bathrooms, large deck areas and a dining room where you will be served spectacular cuisine.

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 Hanoi – Southeast Asia's most charming city. You are picked up from the airport and taken to a boutique hotel in the evocative Old Quarter, from which you go shopping in the bustling markets, or stroll around legendary Hoan Kiem Lake. In the evening we enjoy a welcome dinner in one of Vietnam's best restaurants.

DAY 2 ~ City Tour

We'll spend the day exploring the wonders of this ancient city. Hanoi has one foot in the past and one in the future and blends Asian culture with European influences both colonial and contemporary. We'll see the sights, visit colorful markets, sip espresso in cafes and look at the wondrous array of delicious foods available from street vendors.

DAY 3 ~ Halong Bay and Kayaking

At the break of dawn we walk around famous Hoan Kiem Lake and watch (or join) thousands of people of all ages exercising and doing tai chi and other morning exercises. After breakfast a mini van takes us to Ha Long Bay and into kayak nirvana.

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We move aboard our mothership, the most beautiful and luxurious sailing junk on Ha Long Bay, and meet our friendly crew, including a cook sent to us from heaven! We sail into the vast expanse of Ha Long Bay and anchor in a secluded cove. The guides give basic paddling instruction on pristine white beach below towering limestone cliffs. Our day ends with an exquisite seafood meal under a starry sky.

DAY 4 to 8 ~ Exploring the Mysteries of Halong Bay

Our mothership takes us on an odyssey through Ha Long Bay's maze of 2000 islands. We slip into quiet anchorages from where we paddle extensively each day, exploring the labyrinth of limestone islands that tower above us in many fantastical shapes. We find secret passages to hidden lagoons and magical sea caves. These are pristine places with unique ecosystems; they are rarely visited, even by local fishermen – and no wonder, for they are the perfect dragons' lairs! We stop for breaks on lovely sand beaches and swim in warm, jade waters. We visit the floating villages of fishing folk who live their whole lives aboard tiny bamboo boats. They, and the mother ship crew who have become our friends, invite us to witness their animistic ceremonies, in which they lyrically worship the spirits and deities of the bay.

As well as enjoying the best paddling in the world, during this trip we also gain an insight to Vietnamese culture, tradition and mythology. As an added bonus, on board our mothership we enjoy the finest cuisine that Vietnam has to offer!

DAY 9 ~ Return to Hanoi

After a final paddle, our mothership takes us back to "civilization" and we disembark in Bai Chai. We return to Hanoi by van and we check into the hotel. The afternoon is free to shop and further explore this enchanting city. Our farewell dinner takes place in a beautifully restored French colonial mansion.

DAY 10 ~ Departure

After breakfast guests are transferred to Hanoi International Airport or begin the trekking extension.

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.

EXTENSIONS

TREKKING AND KAYAKING IN THE HIGHLANDS OF NORTH VIETNAM

An extraordinary cultural trek among the hill tribe villages of the north. Explore the Ba Be lake region that has been declared a national park to protect the many wildlife rare species found there.

Length: 6 days

Activities: Easy trekking, .

Accommodation: 1 night luxury hotel, 4 nights lodges and village stays.

Land Cost: \$980 US

GUIDES

Dag Goering and Maria Coffey are renowned adventurers and an internationally published photographer/writer team. They are passionate about exploring new landscapes and cultures and love to share their passion with others. They have paddled and guided sea kayaking expeditions around the globe.

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

\$3890 US per person.

Rates are per person, based on sharing double accommodations.

Cost Includes: guides, all accommodations, all kayaking equipment, all meals, airport transfers, ground transportation, boat charters, park entrance fees.

Single Supplement: \$180 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 19 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

Questions?

Please don't hesitate to call us if you have questions or concerns. We're here to help you. You can also find answers to many questions on our website (www.tofino.com)

To Register:

If you would like to reserve a space on one of our expeditions, you can either call (800-677-0877), fax (503-364-5326), email us (info@tofino.com) or register online at our website (www.tofino.com). We accept Visa and Mastercard for deposits and trip costs. If you have any questions about our trips please contact our office.

Deposits and Payment

A \$400 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.

Inclusive Services

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 towns (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.

Cancellations

Any cancellation is regrettable but a significant portion of our expenses are committed long before departure, as such there is a \$500 per person administration charge applied to all cancellations. Upon receipt of written notice of cancellation, the balance of your trip fee will be refunded according to the following schedule:

From time of reservation until 120 days prior to departure: \$400

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

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