

**HA LONG BAY CRUISE  
WEEKEND TRIP**

## WEEKEND OVERVIEW

Unsurprisingly, Ha Long Bay is Vietnam's number one most visited attraction, and we for one know why! With thousands of towering limestone pillars and tiny islets topped by rainforest that rise from the emerald waters, the national park is like something out of a movie. Designated as a World Heritage Site in 1994, this unique expanse of land has been shaped by more than 500 millions years of tropical downpours and dense jungle growth - offering you a surreal experience like no other.

No trip to Vietnam would be complete without seeing the famous Ha Long Bay, but this weekend trip offers so much more! You will spend your days and nights on-board a cruise ship, where you will get to enjoy your 360-degree surroundings, taking in many of the 1,600 islets looming above you. We will make several stops around the bay, with the chance to go kayaking and watch the sun set on the top deck!

During your weekend cruising around Ha Long Bay you will get to take part in many activities, including:

- Discovering the depths of Surprising Cave
- Exploring the bay on kayaks
- Taking in the panoramic views from Ti Top island
- Relaxing on the golden sandy beaches
- Enjoying a sun set party on the top deck
- Heading out on a fishing excursion
- Singing to your hearts content with Karaoke
- Watching the sun rise behind one of the many islands
- Witnessing stones being cultivated at Pearl Farm
- Learning to cook some traditional Vietnamese dishes

Our structured weekend trips will ensure you get the most out of your time and a local co-ordinator will accompany you throughout.

Each trip leaves on a Saturday morning and returns on the Sunday evening. The cost to take part in the trip is **£109 per person**.

The following are included within this fee:

- All transport
- Accommodation on cruise boat
- Three meals per day
- Any entrance fees
- All activities

## START DATES

We will be running the Ha Long Bay cruise weekend trip on the following dates:

**10<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – 12<sup>th</sup> January 2020**  
**7<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020**  
**13<sup>th</sup> March 2020 – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020**  
**10<sup>th</sup> April 2020 – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020**  
**8<sup>th</sup> May 2020 – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020**  
**12<sup>th</sup> June 2020 – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2020**  
**10<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2020**  
**7<sup>th</sup> August 2020 – 9<sup>th</sup> August 2020**  
**11<sup>th</sup> September 2020 – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020**  
**9<sup>th</sup> October 2020 – 11<sup>th</sup> October 2020**  
**6<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2020**  
**11<sup>th</sup> December 2020 – 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

**8<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021**  
**12<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021**  
**12<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021**  
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Additional start dates can be added if there are at least 2 participants looking to take part. Please feel free to ask within the TMR Vietnam Facebook group to find other interested volunteers.

## BOOKING YOUR PLACE

You can simply add this weekend trip when applying for any programme in Vietnam under 'Optional Extras'.

If you've already signed up for one of our volunteer programmes in Vietnam and would like to add this weekend trip, then please email us – [hello@themightyroar.co.uk](mailto:hello@themightyroar.co.uk).

**Places on our weekend trips are non-refundable and non-transferable between volunteers.**

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 – TRAVELLING, SURPRISING CAVE, TI TOP ISLAND & SUN SET PARTY

The local co-ordinator will pick you up from the volunteer accommodation after breakfast at around 8am. We will then make the journey to Ha Long Bay that takes approximately 4 hours depending on traffic.

Upon arrival at the harbour, you will board the boat and receive a welcome drink before heading to the short orientation and cruise briefing.

As we set sail to begin the journey into the jigsaw of islands, everyone will sit down to enjoy a delicious Vietnamese lunch consisting of seafood and other appetizing favourites.

The first stop of the day will be at the biggest cave in Vietnam, Surprising Cave. As the name suggests, we don't want to give anything away!

After exploring it's depths, everyone will board the cruise ship as we make our way east to Ti Top Island.

Known for it's tranquillity and beautiful still waters, you will have time to relax on the crescent moon shaped beach or go snorkelling.

The summit of the small island is 450 steps (110 metres) and if you're looking for the best photos of the bay, it's well worth the climb! When at the top you can enjoy the panoramic and far-reaching views - a moment you will never forget.

Just as the sun starts to set (6pm), it's time to relax on a sun lounger on the top deck of the boat and watch the sun go down. You will get to enjoy a delicious dinner, enjoying the ever-changing views around you.

The day is not over yet though! You will have the chance to join a fishing excursion with the local guides, or, if you prefer, join in with the party and karaoke.

### DAY 2 – PEARL FARM, KAYAKING & COOKING CLASSES

For those who do not mind an early wake up, you can gather on the top deck around 6am to watch the sunrise through the clouds, with Ha Long Bay as the beautiful backdrop.

The first stop of the day will be at Pearl Farm. You will have the opportunity to witness these beautiful stones being cultivated by the local fishermen.

After a quick tour, it's then your turn to be in charge of navigating the waters and islets as we go kayaking. This is your chance to explore all of Ha Long Bay's hidden nooks and caves – an unbeatable experience!

As we make our way back into the depths of the bay and head back to the mainland, it's time to get your chef hat on.



You will take part in a Vietnamese cooking class where you will get to learn some traditional techniques to cook the best spring rolls.

Along with your freshly prepared spring rolls, you will enjoy your lunch on-board the cruise ship before disembarking.

Our time in the bay has come to an end and we will start the journey back to the volunteer accommodation around 12pm.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

You will stay on board the cruise ship on Saturday night, ensuring you get the most amount of time to enjoy everything Ha Long Bay has to offer.

You will be sharing your room with up to 5 other people. Our local team will do their best to arrange twin or single beds, but from time to time some volunteers may be required to share a double bed – depending on availability.

The accommodation will be basic but clean and comfortable. You will have all of the amenities you need, including Wi-Fi, hot water showers and western style toilets.

## **MEALS**

You will be provided with three meals a day that will consist mainly of local Vietnamese cuisine. Any drinks or snacks will be at your own expense – apart from the welcome drink when you first hop on-board.

## **TRANSPORT**

You will travel to and from Ha Long Bay by coach. Throughout the rest of your time on the weekend trip, you will be on-board the cruise ship.

