



NORTHERN VIETNAM · FOUR DAYS

Ha Giang Expedition

4 Days · 3 Nights through Vietnam's northern highlands

BEFORE THE JOURNEY BEGINS

Ha Giang is not the kind of place that reveals itself quickly. The drive north from Hanoi takes the better part of a day, and for most of it the landscape changes slowly — paddy fields, low hills, small towns. Then, somewhere past the last bend, the mountains open and everything shifts. Limestone peaks, cloud-filled valleys, villages tucked into folds of the land. This is the beginning of the journey.

HOW IT MOVES

Four days, privately guided, shaped around your group. Choose the travel style that fits — a private SUV with a local driver, an open jeep expedition, a chauffeur-driven road trip, a photography expedition built around the light, or motorbike with a local lead and a support vehicle for non-riding partners. Routes, stops and pace are adjusted on the day for weather, light, and the rhythm your group settles into.

AT A GLANCE

DURATION	4 Days · 3 Nights
REGION	Ha Giang Province, Northern Vietnam
PACE	Moderate — longer stops, flexible schedule
GROUP	Small and private
TRAVEL MODES	Private SUV · Jeep · Chauffeured car · Photography · Motorbike
BEST FOR	Couples, solo travelers, families, photographers, riders and non-riders
ACCOMMODATION	Family homestays and selected boutique lodges
SEASON	Year-round; finest light Sep–Apr

Four days. Three nights. A landscape that takes its time.

THE ITINERARY · DAYS ONE & TWO

Into the highlands.

The road north, and the first nights in the mountains.

DAY ONE

The Climb Up

ROUTE Hanoi → Ha Giang town → Tam Son

OVERNIGHT Family homestay, Quan Ba area

The journey leaves Hanoi early and follows the river road north. Paddy fields give way to low hills, and by midafternoon the road begins to climb in earnest. By the time you reach Quan Ba, the air has cooled and the landscape has shifted into limestone and forest — terraced fields, deep valleys, wooden houses tucked into the hillsides. The pace eases. The road quiets. Dinner is whatever the family is cooking that evening: simple, unhurried, and almost always good. There is time to walk the village before the light goes, time to do very little, time to let the altitude settle in.

Evening — a quiet walk through the village, tea on the porch, the first night in the mountains.

DAY TWO

Into the Plateau

ROUTE Yen Minh → Dong Van Karst Plateau → Lung Cu

OVERNIGHT Boutique lodge or homestay, Dong Van

The Dong Van Karst Plateau is one of the most dramatic landscapes in Southeast Asia, and at altitude, on a quiet road, it earns the description. The day moves through remote Hmong villages and high mountain passes. There are stops — for tea, for a viewpoint, for no particular reason other than that your guide knows a place worth pausing at. Some mornings the clouds sit below the road; this is not an exaggeration. By late afternoon the route descends into Dong Van, a small old town with stone houses and a slow, end-of-day rhythm that suits the pace of the journey.

Evening — dinner in Dong Van old town, a slow walk through the lantern-lit lanes.

THE ITINERARY · DAYS THREE & FOUR

And back down.

The slower days, and the long road home.

DAY THREE

The Slower Day

ROUTE Dong Van → Meo Vac → Ma Pi Leng Pass

OVERNIGHT Homestay, Meo Vac valley

This tends to be the day people remember most, even though nothing particularly dramatic happens. Quieter valleys, smaller villages, the Ma Pi Leng Pass with the Nho Que river winding far below — one of the most striking views in northern Vietnam, made better by the fact that almost no one is rushing through it. A lunch that turns into a two-hour conversation about everything and nothing — the kind of day that is hard to describe in a trip summary but easy to recall six months later.

Evening — a homestay dinner in the valley, cooked over a wood fire.

DAY FOUR

Coming Back Down

ROUTE Meo Vac → Du Gia → Ha Giang town → Hanoi

OVERNIGHT Return to Hanoi by evening

One last morning in the mountains, a slow stop in Du Gia for lunch, then the long road south. The same landscape looks different on the way out — familiar now, in the way places become when you have actually spent time in them rather than only passed through. The road unwinds back down through forest and paddy, and by evening the lights of Hanoi appear again, and the journey closes the way it began.

Evening — arrival in Hanoi, the city quietly returning around you.

PRACTICAL DETAILS · TRAVEL STYLES · HOW TO PLAN

The shape of the journey.

How it travels, what to expect, and how to begin.

TRAVEL STYLES

PRIVATE SUV	Comfortable, weather-flexible, ideal for couples and families.
JEEP EXPEDITION	Open and characterful, with a driver who knows the routes.
CHAUFFEURED CAR	A quieter pace, designed around longer stops and slow days.
PHOTOGRAPHY	Built around the light — early starts, viewpoint stops, soft hours.
MOTORBIKE	For experienced riders, with a local lead and a support vehicle.

PRACTICALITIES

BEST SEASON	Sep–Apr for clear light; Mar–Apr for blossoms.
PACK	Layers, light rain shell, sturdy shoes, sun protection.
ALTITUDE	Up to ~1,600 m; gentle, no acclimatisation needed.
CONNECTIVITY	Mostly covered; occasional quiet zones in valleys.
DIFFICULTY	Moderate — long road days, comfortable nights.

PLAN YOUR JOURNEY

We design each expedition privately. Share your travel dates and preferred style — we reply within 48 hours with a tailored proposal.	
WEBSITE	vietnambylocals.com
WHATSAPP	+84 971 986 466
EMAIL	hello@vietnambylocals.com
BASED IN	Hanoi, Vietnam

Travel with a local.

*The part people tend to talk about when they get home is the people. The hosts. The guides.
That is what this expedition is built around.*