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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

VIETNAM EXCURSION 2026

Date: 1. April – 10. April 2026

Registration deadline: 20.10.2025

Number of participants: 5-12

Fee: 2.150,- Euro p.P. (see below)

Day 1: Wednesday 1. April 2026

Your arrival in *Hanoi*: Pickup at the airport (usually around 6 in the morning), sightseeing in the 36 Streets of Hanoi's Old Quarter in the afternoon (optional). (2 nights in *Hanoi*)

Day 2: Thursday 2. April 2026

Morning: Visit to a gem dealer in *Hanoi*. Afternoon: Visit to another gem dealer combined with a city tour.

Day 3: Friday 3. April 2026

8:00 AM: Departure from *Hanoi* - *Halong Bay* (UNESCO World Heritage Site), boarding and boat tour in *Halong Bay* with a visit to a saltwater Akoya pearl farm. (1 night on a ship in *Halong Bay*)

Day 4: Saturday 4. April 2026

11:30 AM: Departure from *Halong Bay* - *Luc Yen* (City of Gem Deposits): approximately 6-7 hours of travel time including breaks. (3 nights in *Luc Yen*)

Day 5: Sunday 5. April 2026

Visit to the local gemstone market near the hotel (until 10:00 AM). Departure from the hotel heading towards the mine. Visit to a ruby/spinel mine (primary deposit) in *Luc Yen* (approximately 5 - 6 hours of hiking, round trip).

Day 6: Monday 6. April 2026

Visit to the local gem market near the hotel (until 10:00 AM). Departure from the hotel for the mine; followed by a visit to the ruby, sapphire, and tourmaline mines (secondary deposits) with a hike lasting about 2 hours; lunch at the mine. Afternoon: visit to local gem shops.

Day 7: Tuesday 7. April 2026

Departure from *Luc Yen* for *Thanh Hoa*: approximately 6-7 hours of travel time including breaks. (2 nights in *Thanh Hoa*)

Day 8: Wednesday 8. April 2026

7:30 AM: Departure from *Thanh Hoa* for *Thuong Xuan* (Aquamarine, Topas Mine), travel time approximately 1.5 to 2 hours). Visit to the Aquamarine, Topas Mine (stay including a hike to the mine and back approximately 6 hours; lunch at the mine) and Aquamarine, Topas dealers in *Thuong Xuan*. Return trip to *Thanh Hoa*.

Day 9: Thursday 9. April 2026

Morning: Visit Aquamarine, Topaz dealer in *Thanh Hoa*. 2:00 PM: Departure for *Hanoi*. 8:00 PM visit to the water puppet theatre in *Hanoi*. (1 overnight stay in *Hanoi*)

Day 10: Friday 10. April 2026

Lunch and farewell (afternoon). Transport to the airport (usually 6:00 PM from the hotel).

Important notes for participants:

1. Scope of services: Guided excursion with evening seminars.
Included: Transport in Vietnam, expert geologist-gemmologist guide, possible lab/field activities, overnight stays, meals, water, theatre ticket.
Excluded: alcoholic beverages, personal equipment, additional services, travel insurance.
2. The booking of hotels includes single rooms. The exception is the one night on the ship, which provides for double rooms (two single beds). If you require a single room on the ship, additional costs of 200 euros will be added to the total price of the trip.
3. Means of transport: Van or minibus.
4. For the excursions to the mines, sturdy shoes and appropriate clothing are necessary (including sun protection, possibly rain gear; on days 5 and 8, longer hikes of several hours are planned).
5. Please ensure that you arrange for foreign health insurance or travel insurance in advance.