

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

VIETNAM EXCURSION October 2026

Date: October 5th – 12th, 2026

Registration deadline: June 29th, 2026

Number of participants: 3-5

Fee: 2.850, - Euro p. P. (see below)

Day 1: Monday, October 5th 2026

Your arrival in **Hanoi**: Pickup at the airport (usually around 6 AM in the morning). Depending on arrival time: at your free disposal (acclimatization or sightseeing of Hanoi's Old Quarter).

Day 2: Tuesday, October 6th 2026

Departure (approx. 8:30 am) from **Hanoi - Halong Bay** (UNESCO World Heritage Site), boarding and boat tour in Halong Bay with a visit to a saltwater **Akoya pearl farm**. (overnight stay on a ship in Halong Bay). Evening: Lecture on geological topics.

Day 3: Wednesday, October 7th 2026

Visit of a **Karst Cave** on one of the islands in Halong Bay after breakfast. Travel back to Hanoi (approx. 2 hours). Check-In in the hotel. Afternoon: visit of gemstone dealers in Hanoi. Evening Event: **water puppet theatre** in Hanoi.

Day 4: Thursday, October 8th 2026

Check-Out and departure from Hanoi for **Luc Yen** (approx. 4 - 5 hours including lunch). Check-In in Luc Yen; time at your free disposal until dinner.

Day 5: Friday, October 9th 2026

Breakfast and visit of the local **gemstone market** near the hotel (until 11:00 AM). Departure from the hotel heading towards the mine. Visit to a ruby or spinel mine (**primary deposit in marble**) close to Luc Yen. Other accompanied gemstones can be pargasite and clinohumite. Participants will have time to collect rocks and gems. Dinner in a local restaurant and lectures on Gemmology, Geology and other topics (optional).

Day 6: Saturday, October 10th 2026

Breakfast and visit of the local gemstone market. After lunch visit to the ruby, sapphire, spinel, tourmaline and amazonite mine (secondary, alluvial deposits). Participants will have time to collect rocks and gems. Dinner in a local restaurant.

Day 7: Sunday, October 11th 2026

Breakfast and visit of the local gemstone market again (until 12:00 AM). Lunch and Departure from **Luc Yen for Hanoi**. Afternoon: Check-In in the hotel. Further visits to the gemstone dealers in Hanoi (optional).

Day 8: Monday, October 12th 2026

Breakfast and farewell. Transport to the airport. Time at your free disposal (for those who will depart in the afternoon) or shopping in Hanoi (optional).

Important notes for participants:

1. Scope of services: Guided excursion with evening lectures.
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. Excursion will end officially after breakfast on the last day. For those who will depart in the afternoon, we will organize an airport shuttle (approx. 1 hour from city centre to airport).
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). Please respect the announcements and information given by excursion guides while staying on the mines. Do not sample rocks or minerals directly in the active mining area of the miners. Hotels in Luc Yen represent the regional standard. Dishes in restaurants in Luc Yen represent local specialities.
5. Please ensure that you arrange for foreign health insurance or travel insurance in advance.