



Smiling Albino's  
**Fashion Media Trip**

Hanoi & Ha Long Bay, Vietnam



**Background:  
The Ascending Dragon  
(Vietnam)**



Vietnam is a land of stunning contrasts and mystical allure. One could spend years in the country and still be surprised at every turn. This customized experience is designed to highlight the diversity of Vietnamese art, cuisine and culture. At the same time we've designed some intimate, stylish outings ranging from tea in traditional homes to three-wheeled cyclo journeys and exotic luxury on a Junk Boat in Ha Long Bay. Prepare to be hosted and impressed.

**Day 1:**  
**Welcome to Vietnam!**



[The Metropole Hanoi](#)

When you arrive we'll be waiting, welcome and escort you to your incredible digs in the center of the city. Get settled, enjoy a massage treatment at the spa (pre-booked for you) and get on Vietnamese-time for the festivities which will officially kick-off tomorrow.



### **About Metropole Hanoi**

The Metropole Hanoi is a French colonial-style building which has stood proudly since 1901. The hotel has a rich history and a century-long tradition of welcoming ambassadors, writers, heads of state, and entrepreneurs. Features include a beautiful interior garden, excellent French cuisine at Le Beaulieu, and Hanoi specialities at the Spices Garden. Located in the heart of downtown, the Metropole blends the hospitality of Vietnamese people with European luxury heritage.

**Day 2:**  
**History & Culture**  
**Time: 09:00–11:00**



Meals: B, L  
[The Metropole Hanoi](#)

After breakfast we'll conduct a deluxe 'Cyclo Tour' through the vibrant streets of Hanoi. We'll glide past important landmarks and essential corners of the Old Quarter. We'll also provide you with a 'Cyclo Kit' to enhance your riding enjoyment. This methodical, visually-stimulating introduction to Hanoi sets the tone for the next few days. We'll circle Hoan Kiem Lake and some essential sights in the Old Quarter before arriving at an old tea house on Ma May Street. Here we'll enjoy tea talk hosted by Mr. Le Van Lan, a well-known professor of history who will walk you through a colorful history of the country and city.

Time: 09:00–11:00

## Lunch Event at Soft Water



Inside the gorgeous Vietnamese dining room at Soft Water, a contemporary Vietnamese home-gallery, we'll enjoy an outstanding meal provided by the house chef. The XXXXXX Group will be on hand to provide a showcase of their products. The owners of XXXXXX Group, will personally introduce you everything you'll need to know about their offerings.

Time: 13:00–15:00

The afternoon and evening are purposely left open to give you some time to pursue areas of personal interest. Our team will be on hand to make recommendations, reservations, escort you, help with bargaining – we're at your service!

**Day 3:**  
**Art and Design**  
**Workshop**



Meals: B, L, D  
[The Metropole Hanoi](#)

This morning we'll visit one of the city's finest ceramics workshops to see how they make their wares. You'll be hosted by the owner and several artisans. Vietnamese ceramic pieces and traditional pottery are making a name for themselves around the world. This morning we have an opportunity for some experiential, hands-on creations of your own. A local artist will introduce us to the world of Vietnamese pottery and then guide us on some clay sculpting ourselves.

Time: 10:00–12:00

We'll head back to the hotel to enjoy lunch and a bit of a break before the afternoon's activities.

A visit to Hanoi wouldn't be complete without a stroll around Nha Tho neighbourhood and the many fantastic galleries in the Old Quarter. Using the area of St Joseph's Church, we'll sketch out a few essential stops and have a guide team on hand to show you around the best places. This is a free & easy afternoon, which gives time to explore the shops on your own or just enjoy the sights and sounds over coffee.

Time: 14:00–17:00

(Continue)



Tonight we'll experience the very best of French-Vietnamese cuisine at one of the city's most celebrated restaurants. We'll take dinner at the Chef's Table, personally hosted by the owner/chef. Seafood, champagne, fusion dishes, you'll be impressed dish after dish. Bring an appetite!

Time: 19:30-22:30

**Day 4:**  
**To Ha Long Bay**



Meals: B, L, D  
IndoChina Sails 3

We set-off a bit early, at 08:00, to make a 3-hour journey towards Ha Long Bay. In order to experience this natural wonder we must endure a journey by road....but the reward justifies the journey! We board our luxury junk at 11:30 and enjoy welcome cocktails, a superb seafood lunch, and take in an afternoon of sailing, massage, and immersing ourselves in natural bliss. There will be a team of masseuses on-board to kneed and pamper you as needed.



### **About IndoChina Sails 3**

Built in 2008, Indo 3 features ceramic artworks handcrafted in Bat Trang, well known as the home of the country's most talented ceramic craftsmen as well as silk from Van Phuc, famous for its artisans. In addition to Superior and Deluxe cabins the Indo 3 has very spacious Suites located on the second deck featuring bathrooms with bathtub/Jacuzzis as well as showers.

In the afternoon we'll trade large boat for small and paddle kayaks through small inlets and caves, literally getting right in to Ha Long Bay's limestone cliffs. This is a unique and fun opportunity to get up close and personal with these amazing formations.

Time: 16:00-18:00

## Dinner Program



Tonight's dinner is truly a celebration. Starting with sunset drinks on the deck of our junk accompanied by light string instruments, we'll then make our way by tender to the beach front of Trong Cave.



At the entrance to the cave we'll have candles and torches as well as traditional rhythmic drums beating to welcome guests when they arrive. Their island hosts will then escort them a short distance into the cave and welcome them to a luxury catered gourmet dining area with linens, silverware, candles and staff immaculately dressed. Truly an exclusive evening.

**Day 5:  
Final Day**



Meals: B, L

At 07:00 a yoga and Tai Chi master will lead two sessions on the junk's deck, providing an invigorating start to your final day. Enjoy a leisurely morning as we sail back to port where we'll board a luxury vehicle back to Hanoi. Here we'll indulge in one more gourmet meal hosted by Chef Don Berger, whose cooked around the world and is now an institution in the city. Good and full we make the short journey to Noi Bai Airport, big farewell and send you on your way.

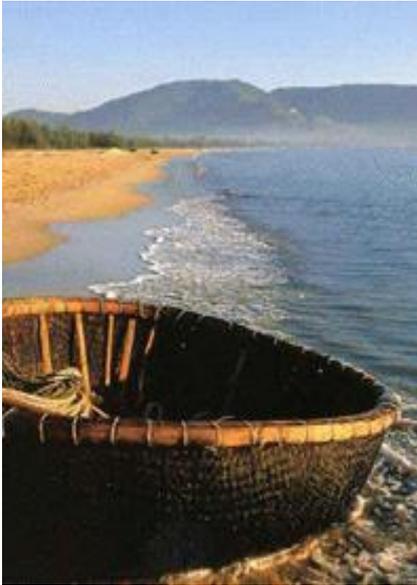
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**Price: Approx. \$800US/pp/day**

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**INCLUDING:**

4 nights of deluxe accommodation, all logistics, local and western hosts, meals as outlined, private junk, kayaking, expert hosts, insider access, professional coordination/management and 24-hr, on-call staff



## **The Smiling Albino Service Difference**

We understand implicitly that a perfect adventure is much more than nice hotels, great meals and hassle-free logistics. For a travel experience to be perfect, all pieces must work together like a symphony. It is the fine details which our guests appreciate most, like cold face towels after a hike, electrolyte beverages for your day cycling, and wine uncorked when the moment is right. From local maps to bottled water and colorful anecdotes on the areas we visit, a Smiling Albino adventure is a thorough, intimately hosted experience. We will also provide you with a complimentary mobile phone for your use throughout your stay. You'll be treated with executive care during your Smiling Albino adventure.

We look forward to hosting you!

### **The Team at Smiling Albino**

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"See a different part of the world, differently."