

Sapa and the Fansipan

High mountains & Ethnic minorities



Perched in the mountain side at an altitude of 1650m close to the Chinese border, **Sapa is the main touristy destination of Northwest Viet Nam**, especially in terms of beauty of scenery (*steep-sided valleys, rice fieldterraces...*). It mostly shelters the ethnic minorities such as the red Daos and the black H'Mongs. Sapa is also surrounded by many small villages where different ethnicities meet such as the flower H'Mongs, the green Daos and some Tay or even Nung...

The local markets are really worth the detour in those mountainous regions. Apart from buying handicraft and local products, those markets also allow to meet **the ethnicities in a festival of colors**. Beware however, the markets being weekly, we have to carefully organize the trip to Sapa in order to attend them!

I would advise you to stay at least **3 days** in Sapa to do at least a 2 day long trek in the nearby villages, as well as to another market than Sapa's. **You will see extraordinary landscapes but also you will also understand the life of the local minorities, their way of life, their cultures and beliefs.**

Staying in Sapa « city » can be quite stuffy because of the great number of tourists and the oppressive H'Mongs street vendors... However, the surrounding villages are, in my opinion, must-see places!



PROGRAM 1 : 2 Days - 1 Night

24 HOURS HIKING

Day 1

The day before, at 9.15pm, you will take the night train to get to Lao Cai.
You will travel with the comfort of sleepers in cabin with air conditioner (4 sleepers per cabin)

Your train arrives in the train station of Lao Cai at 6am. A car or the bus will take you for breakfast in a local restaurant.

At 9am, a local guide will come and pick you up to go on a trek in the garden of roses. You will carry on along the rice field terraces of Muong Hoa.

The trek begins throughout the village of Lao Chai San, inhabited by the Black H'Mong minority.

Afterwards, you will carry on by foot in the village of Lao Chai, inhabited by the Black H'Mong minority where you will be having lunch prepared by the guide.

In the afternoon, you will arrive to the village of Ta Van where you will be having dinner and will be spending the night at Day's place, at homestay.

*Sleep train comfort Ha Noi - Lao Cai.
Local guide,
Private car or Bus,
Petit déjeuner,
Tickets d'entrée,
Picnic lunch,
Diner and overnight at the inhabitant.*

Day 2

After breakfast, the trek will begin throughout the bamboo forest and you will be visiting the village of Giang Ta Chai, inhabited by the Red Dao minority.

Afterwards, you will carry on along the rice fields terraces to go up to the main road where you will be having your lunch prepared by the guide.

After lunch, a private car will be driving you back to Sapa.

At 6pm, a bus will be waiting for you to get you to Lao Cai (if you choose to take the bus).

Diner at liberty in Lao Cai.

Your night train for Ha Noi leaves at 8.15pm.

You will travel with the comfort of sleepers in cabin with air conditioner.

*Breakfast,
Local guide,
Tickets d'entrée,
Lunch,
Private car,
Bus Sa Pa-Lao Cai, Or
Private car (if option
Private car chosen)
Train Lao Cai - Ha Noi Or
Hotel in Sapa (in the
case of Upgrade 2).*

PROGRAM 2 : 3 Days - 2 Nights

72 HOURS HIKING

Day 1

IDENTICAL TO THE PROGRAM 2

Day 2

After breakfast, you will go through a bamboo forest and you will down the Seo bridge where you can rest.

You have a lunch prepared by the guide.

You will climb up the hills to reach for the main road where you will carry on the trek until the village of Ban Ho, inhabited by the Tay minority.

Diner and accommodation at the inhabitant's place.

*Local guide,
Private car,
Picnic lunch,
Diner and overnight at the inhabitant.*

Day 3

After breakfast, you will visit the villages of Ban Ho and Nam Toong, inhabited by the Red Dao minority.

The trek will carry on to the village of Thanh Phu, inhabited by the Tay minority where you will be having your lunch.

Then, you will go back to the village of Ban Ho where a car will be waiting for you to go back to Sapa.

At 6pm, a bus will be waiting to get you to Lao Cai (if you choose the bus option).

Your night train to Ha Noi leaves at 8.15pm. You will travel with the comfort of sleeper's cabin with air conditioner.

*Breakfast,
Local guide,
Private car,
Tickets,
Picnic lunch,
Bus Sa Pa-Lao Cai, Or
Private car (if option
Private car chosen)
Sleep train comfort Lao Cai - Ha Noi.
Ou
Hotel in Sapa (in the
case of Upgrade 2).*



UPGRADE 1

VISIT OF AN AUTHENTIC MINORITY MARKET

TUESDAY : The Coc Ly market THURSDAY : The Lung Khau Nhin market
SATURDAY : The Pha Long or Can Cau market SUNDAY : The Bac Ha or Muong Hum market

First or Last Day

If you arrive by train from Ha Noi :

A local contact of mine will be waiting for you at the train station. You will be having breakfast in a local restaurant in Lao Cai. You will be then going for the minority market with a private car (between 2 and 3 hour long journey, depending which market).

If you are already in Sapa (end of the trek the day before):

After breakfast, the local guide will come and pick you up with a private car to go to the ethnic minority market (between 2 and 3 hour long journey, depending on the market).

You will discover the market, the local handicraft products sold by the very colorful Flower Hmong, Day, Dao and Nung minorities... You will take the time to understand the craftsmanship and the business of those ethnicities among all of these very colorful outfits.

Lunch is taken in a local restaurant.

Depending on the market you will be visiting, a stroll is scheduled in the surroundings (by boat in Coc Ly for example) with the visit of villages to get to the closest to the local population and to discover the landscapes of the region.

If you leave by train to Ha Noi :

Around late afternoon, you will be going back to Lao Cai. Diner at liberty in Lao Cai. The night train leaves at 8.15pm from Lao Cai train station. You will be traveling with all the comfort of sleeper's wagon and will be arriving around 5am the next morning in Ha Noi.

If you are leaving for Sapa (trek starts the next day) :

The car will be driving you to Sapa. Diner at liberty in Sapa. You will be spending the night at "Panorama" hotel.

*Breakfast,
Local guide,
Voiture privée,
Lunch,*

*Following the schedule:
- Sleep train comfort Ha
Noi - Lao Cai..
- Or Hotel in Sapa.*

UPGRADE 2

MOUNT FAN SI PAN ASCENT (3 143 meters)

Day 1

At 8am, a local guide comes and picks you up with a jeep. You will go for 15 kilometers to the foothills of the mountain. You will start the trek on the mountain. The picnic lunch will be taken on the road. Diner and accommodation in a camp at 2 100 meters high.

*Local guide,
Jeep,
Tickets,
Picnic lunch,
Diner and
accommodation in a
camp.*

Day 2

After breakfast, you will carry on the trek of this wonderful mountain. Once you arrived on top of the summit, after 4 or 5 hours of walk, you will be having your lunch there. There, you can admire the mountains of Hoang Lien Son and the city of Sapa (the visibility however depends on the weather).

You will then start to descent the mountain. Diner and accommodation in a camp in 2100m high.

*Local guide,
Breakfast,
Picnic lunch,
Diner and
accommodation in a
camp.*

Day 3

After breakfast, you will carry on your descent towards Sapa. The picnic lunch will be taken on the road. The jeep will be waiting for you at the foothills of the mountain. Return to Sapa is scheduled around late afternoon. Diner and accommodation at the "Panorama" hotel.

*Breakfast,
Local guide,
Jeep,
Picnic lunch,
Diner,
Hotel,
Breakfast the day after.*

Fare information



Number of Persons	1 Pers	2 Pers	3 Pers	4 Pers	5 Pers
Program 2 Days by car	250 €	350 €	427 €	548 €	647 €
Program 2 Days by bus	179 €	285 €	390 €	495 €	602 €
Program 3 Days by car	309 €	438 €	548 €	701 €	833 €
Program 3 Days by bus	236 €	374 €	512 €	648 €	786 €
Program 2 Days + Upgrade1 by car	410 €	519 €	687 €	781 €	928 €
Program 2 Days + Upgrade1 by bus	388 €	497 €	665 €	759 €	907 €
Program 3 Days + Upgrade1 by car	446 €	585 €	787 €	912 €	1 090 €
Program 3 Days + Upgrade1 by bus	426 €	543 €	745 €	870 €	1 048 €

Number of Persons	6 Pers	7 Pers	8 Pers	9 Pers	10 Pers
Program 2 Days by car	747 €	845 €	943 €	1 043 €	1 088 €
Program 2 Days by bus	707 €	812 €	917 €	1 023 €	1 128 €
Program 3 Days by car	961 €	1 092 €	1 223 €	1 354 €	1 400 €
Program 3 Days by bus	921 €	1 059 €	1 197 €	1 334 €	1 358 €
Program 2 Days + Upgrade1 en voiture	1 037 €	1 183 €	1 291 €	1 438 €	1 547 €
Program 2 Days + Upgrade1 by bus	967 €	1 161 €	1 269 €	1 417 €	1 525 €
Program 3 Days + Upgrade1 by car	1 230 €	1 482 €	1 548 €	1 728 €	1 785 €
Program 3 Days + Upgrade1 by bus	1 188 €	1 368 €	1 507 €	1 686 €	1 743 €

Fare valid until 31/12/2019

Fare information



Number of Persons	1 Pers	2 Pers	3 Pers	4 Pers	5 Pers
Upgrade 2: Fan Si Pan	+ 320 €	+ 464 €	+ 618 €	+ 808 €	+ 968 €

Number of Persons	6 Pers	7 Pers	8 Pers	9 Pers	10 Pers
Upgrade 2: Fan Si Pan	+ 1 122 €	+ 1 222 €	+ 1 391 €	+ 1 692 €	+ 1 794 €

Fare valid until 31/12/2019

