

Vietnamese coastlines

From **23/10/2022**
to **2/11/2022**

Ship: **LE LAPEROUSE**

From **Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)**
to **Ha Long**



This **PONANT** brand-new itinerary invites you to discover Vietnam. Embark in **Ho Chi Minh-Ville** aboard *Le Lapérouse* for an **11-day cruise** between **sumptuous landscapes** and **timeless cities**.

Your voyage will start in **Ho Chi Minh City**. Founded in the 17th century, this city formerly known as **Saigon** sits right near the **Mekong Delta**, a mythical river on which small, colourful boats throng on market days.

Le Lapérouse will then set sail for **Nha Trang**, a lively seaside resort with **beautiful beaches** bordering the turquoise waters of a bay dotted with tropical isles. Then you will probably have the opportunity to enjoy the crystal-clear shores of wilder **Doc Let**, between dunes of immaculate sand, coconut trees and filao forests on the edge of the beach.

Your ship will then drop anchor at **Quy Nhon**, from where you'll discover Ghenh Da Dia, an astonishing grouping of basalt rocks formed 200 million years ago by the meeting of molten lava and frozen water, giving the impression of perfectly juxtaposed columns.

Le Lapérouse will then navigate to **Da Nang**, a lively city renowned for its five "Marble Mountains" and its long beaches. It is the gateway to the **charming old city of Hoi An**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You will also have the privilege to visit the **former imperial capital of Vietnam, Hué**, and its **mausoleums**. These architectural treasures, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, are surrounded by lush nature and are home to the tombs of the ancient emperors.

You'll then head back to **Hon La**, from where you'll be able to access the **Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its karstic landscapes and lush tropical forest shelter spectacular underground caves and rivers as well as impressive biodiversity, including several rare species.

Finally you'll discover the **Bay of Ha Long**, a real jewel of Vietnam, classified as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**. Sailing among the limestone pillars, grottos and arches of this site with its surreal atmosphere will undoubtedly be the defining moment of your cruise.



The information in this document is valid as of 7/7/2022

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YOUR STOPOVERS :

HO CHI MINH CITY (SAIGON)

Embarkation 23/10/2022 from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Departure 24/10/2022 at 11:59 pm

Located near the **Mekong delta**, **Ho Chi Minh City** is the largest city in Vietnam. It is both the historic heart and economic hub. Formerly Saigon, the city is an imposing avant-guard metropolis. You can admire its famous central post office and its emblematic **Reunification Palace**. From 95 years of French presence, the city has kept some remarkable monuments, like the **Cathédrale Notre-Dame** with its neo-Gothic façade built in 19th century red brick. You'll succumb to the magic of this hectic city, where everything is about contrast, like the very brightly-coloured district of **Cholon**, Saigon's "Chinatown".

AT SEA

Arrival 25/10/2022

Departure 25/10/2022

During your day at sea, make the most of the many services and activities on board. Treat yourself to a moment of relaxation in the spa or stay in shape in the fitness centre. Depending on the season, let yourself be tempted by the swimming pool or a spot of sunbathing. This day without a port of call will also be an opportunity to enjoy the conferences or shows proposed on board, to do some shopping in the boutique or to meet the PONANT photographers in their dedicated space. As for lovers of the open sea, they will be able to visit the ship's upper deck to admire the spectacle of the waves and perhaps be lucky enough to observe marine species. A truly enchanted interlude, combining comfort, rest and entertainment.

NHA TRANG

Arrival 26/10/2022 early morning

Departure 27/10/2022 midday

Nha Trang, the capital of the **Khanh Hoa** province in **Vietnam**, is a coastal city with 300,000 inhabitants. Famous for its long, 7-km white sand beach along which runs **Tran Phu Street**, the city's main thoroughfare, **Nha Trang** is a member of the Most Beautiful Bays in the World Club, an international association that includes 41 bays. The bay is the reason the city is sometimes called the "**Riviera of the South China Sea**". You will have the opportunity to discover the city during a rather original experience: **a tour in a rickshaw**.

QUY NHON

Arrival 28/10/2022 early morning

Departure 28/10/2022 early afternoon

When your ship calls at **Quy Nhon** you will be able to discover the **Ganh Da Dia**, an area of impressive basalt rock formations created by a volcanic eruption that occurred 200 million years ago. When the blocks of lava came into contact with the freezing water, neat vertical fissures appeared, forming an amalgam of columns whose surface, once cooled, became square, round or hexagonal. Some are vertical, others oblique, and in places they are of different sizes. Some of the structures almost look like piled up dishes. You will be able to discover this surprising rock formation which, although made entirely by nature, seems to have been perfectly designed by man.

DA NANG

Arrival 29/10/2022 early morning

Departure 30/10/2022 late afternoon

Mid-way between Ho Chi Minh City to the south and Hanoi to the north, **Da Nang** enjoys an ideal location in Vietnam. The old colonial town has skilfully navigated the transition to economic growth, becoming a wealthy tourist destination. With its five **Marble Mountains**, its 72-metre high Buddha and white sand beach, Da Nang will create some magical memories, made sublime by a secular culinary tradition that has nothing left to prove. It is also the gateway to the country's treasures, including the cities of Hoi-An and Hue, which are both UNESCO World Heritage sites.

HON LA

Arrival 31/10/2022 early morning

Departure 31/10/2022 early evening

From **Hon La**, your port of call, you will sail to one of the most exceptional limestone karst ecosystems in the world, **Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park**, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2003. Nearly 300 caves and over 100 km (62 miles) of galleries and underground rivers are scattered across this park with an extraordinary biodiversity which is also home to a large variety of protected species. The park's reputation is on a par with the awe its treasures inspire. You will very likely have the privilege of visiting one of these caves. In this magical setting, surrounded by lush vegetation, you will witness a masterpiece that only nature could have created. Enjoy a pure moment of grace.

SAILING IN HA LONG BAY

Arrival 1/11/2022

Departure 1/11/2022

Located 170 kilometres east of Hanoi, in the gulf of Tonkin, **Halong bay** is a marvel of marvels. A must for all who wish to soak up the spirit of Vietnam, at once **peaceful and mysterious**. You'll sail into the heart of this legendary natural beauty, not surprisingly listed as UNESCO World Heritage. Over approximately 1,500 square kilometres, the famous bay offers an **infinite** quasi supernatural and ghostly spectacle of limestone pillars rising from the sea in all shapes and sizes, sculpted by nature for centuries. This exceptional scenic beauty of this site includes myriad creeks, caves and other interior lakes to feast your eyes on.

HA LONG

Arrival 1/11/2022 early evening

Disembarkation 2/11/2022 at 7:00 am

Shielded by majestic karstic peaks, Halong reveals itself through a string of spectacular landscapes. Known the world over for its bay, listed with UNESCO, this city in northern Vietnam is lesser known for its heritage. That is a shame, as the authenticity and cultural richness of Halong is surprising. Boasting a unique mix of modern architecture and heritage from the dynasty of the Hung kings, the tourism capital of the Quang Ninh province promises unexpected moments in its bustling streets and breathtaking panoramas of one of the most beautiful bays in the world.