



CENTRAL - SOUTH VIỆT NAM ITINERARY

November 9 - 16

Booking Inquiries: <https://culinaryescapades.openkitchenevents.com/#booking> or call 202-285-9840

Central Việt Nam - The Geographic Heart of Vietnam



Day 1: November 9 - Arrival Day - Welcome to Hội An!

- Arrival to Đà Nẵng International Airport (DAD) and transfer to hotel by private car.
- We'll kick off the Việt-Nam Culinary Escapade with an Orientation Meeting where you'll be greeted by Chef Hue-Chan Karels, Open Kitchen Team, and In-Country Team Lead. You'll also meet and get to know the other guests.
- We will take a brief tour of this charming ancient town, including scouting out some amazing shopping venues, then we will have a Welcome Dinner at the famous Cargo Club restaurant by the acclaimed chef, restaurateur and author Trinh Diem Vy, that showcase Vietnam's and Hội An's cuisine.



Accommodation in Hội An:

Anantara Hoi An Resort is set on the Thu Bồn River and less than a mile from Hội An's historic area. The resort's 94 rooms are all set in traditionally styled, two- or three-story townhouses reflecting Hoi An's history of trade with Holland, Japan, China and France.



Day 2: November 10 - Hội An

- **Bicycle or Motorbike Ride to Hội An Local Market and through Rice Paddies and Organic Garden, Cooking Class, and Lunch** - After breakfast at the hotel, we will meet our local chef instructor to go to a colorful local market to purchase fresh ingredients for our hands-on cooking class and lunch that day. Our chef has designed a cooking menu featuring Hội An's distinctive regional cuisine. We will be cooking at his family's lively restaurant in An Bang Beach, a charming beach town about 2 miles outside Hội An.
- For our cooking class, our chef will discuss local spices and their uses and benefits, while working with you to prepare three delicious dishes. We will enjoy our lunch and take in the vibe of the local village.
- **Free time in Hội An** - After our wonderful day at An Bang Beach, we'll head back to our hotel for some free time to explore Hội An, rest, and have dinner on our own. We will provide sightseeing and dining recommendations.



Day 3: November 11 - Hội An

- **A Visit to Hội An Fish Market and Countryside Bike Tour** - For early risers, we have arranged for a wonderful excursion to a fish market by boat where you'll experience a true local way of life, from fishmongers selling fish and customers bargaining on prices.
- We will return to the hotel for breakfast then meet our local guide for a Hội An Countryside Bike Tour for an idyllic ride through rice fields and rural countryside. You'll ride through beautiful emerald villages with water buffalos on farmlands and meet local artisans who will be happy to share their crafts with you, from making straw mats to milling rice into flour. There will be endless photo opportunities as we will take the most scenic country paths.
- We will stop at a small village for lunch and a cold drink and enjoy the local life and weather permitting, we will take a boat ride to discover the Thu Bồn River and its waterway.
- **Free Afternoon, Sunset Seafood BBQ Beach Dinner on An Bang Beach** - We will return to our hotel for a little rest before heading off by private bus to a wonderful Sunset Seafood BBQ beach dinner in An Bang Beach prepared by our local chef!





Southern Việt Nam - Vibrant Urban Energy & Mellow Countryside



Day 4: November 12 - Travel from Hội An to Sài Gòn

- **Uber-Urban Cultural and Culinary Immersion, and a Welcome Lunch** – After breakfast at the hotel, we'll depart for Đà Nẵng International Airport by private transportation for our 1.5-hour flight to Sài Gòn.
- We'll kick off our uber-urban Sài Gòn culinary adventures with a special and delicious lunch with celebrity Chef Nikki Tran, a Vietnamese-American (or "Fish Sauce American"), at her Kàu Ba restaurant in Saigon. Chef Nikki has appeared on Phil Rosenthal's "Somebody Feed Phil" and David Chang's "Ugly Delicious," both Netflix shows, and NBC's Travel Voyager and featured in numerous publications.
- After hotel check-in, you have the option of a tour of the Reunification Palace and War Remnants Museum by our Tour Leader OR free time.
- **Sài Gòn by Night - Cocktails & Nibbles Adventure** - Pre-sunset, we'll meet for Cocktails & Nibbles Hopping around Sài Gòn to experience the amazing sights, sounds, and flavors of this vibrant city! We've selected some of the best cocktail bars with breathtaking views of Sài Gòn with hip vibes and cool crafted cocktails and mocktails for our outing!



Accommodations in Sài Gòn:

Hôtel des Arts Saigon, located in the heart of Hồ Chí Minh City, is an exquisite 5-star boutique hotel features décor that fuses the classical charm of French Indochina with period artwork and beautiful furnishings custom designed by Vietnamese artisans. It has a gorgeous rooftop infinity pool and restaurants with amazing city views.





Day 5: November 13 - Sài Gòn

- **Discovering the History of and Lunch.** After breakfast at the hotel, we meet our local guide and travel 1.5 hours to visit the Cu Chi Tunnels. We will step back in time to learn how this vast underground network was used in the Vietnam war. We'll have lunch following the tour then back to our hotel to rest up for the evening exciting adventure!
- **Sài Gòn Scooter Foodie Tour** - Pre-sunset, we'll embark on an exciting scooter foodie tour of Saigon to experience and taste some of the best and hidden places only accessible by way of scooter.



Day 6: November 14 - Travel from Sài Gòn to the Mê Kông Delta

- After breakfast, we will check out of our hotel in Sài Gòn and begin our amazing adventure in the Mê Kông Delta. We will travel to Bến Tre, a green island between the four corners of the Mê Kông River with many canals, coconut groves, and fruit orchards (about 2 hours).
- **Experience an Exclusive Private Culinary Adventure at a Charming, Authentic Homestay** - We will experience life on the Mê Kông River on board a traditional wooden boat with a chef demonstration and lunch of dishes reflecting Mê Kông Delta cuisine and local ingredients. We will return to our homestay to relax and explore the Bến Tre island, known as the coconut kingdom in Vietnam and one of the major agricultural producers in the Mê Kông Delta. For dinner, we will feast on a traditional Mê Kông Delta meal followed by a wonderful tea service to the sound of folk music indigenous to this region.



Accommodation in the Mê Kông Delta:

Our home for an oversight stay is the very charming Út Trinh Bến Tre Homestay where the wonderful owner will be our curator for a memorial culinary experience.



Day 7: November 15 – Travel from the Mê Kông Delta to Sài Gòn – Last Day of Open Kitchen's Việt-Nam Culinary Escapade!

- After breakfast at the serene Út Trinh Bến Tre Homestay, we will journey back to Sài Gòn. We will have an incredible lunch at the LUNCH LADY, one of Anthony Bourdain's favorite food vendor! For dessert, we'll have a chocolate tasting at Marou.
- You will have a Free Afternoon to enjoy your last day in Saigon and Việt-Nam. Now is a good time to do some shopping for gifts and souvenirs!
- **Experience Vietnamese "Cuisine Mới" or "New Cuisine" with Chef Peter Cuong Franklin**
- We will meet up for our Departure Dinner to say goodbye to our friends for one last awesome meal in Việt-Nam at Anan, an elevated "Cuisine Mới," or "New Cuisine" restaurant by Chef Peter Cuong Franklin's Anan Saigon that's voted top 50 restaurants in Asia. We have arranged a "Meet & Greet" with Chef Peter, followed by a fabulous dinner.



Day 8: November 16 – Departure

- **Breakfast and Departure** - After breakfast, you'll check out and make your journey back home with such amazing memories of your time on Open Kitchen's Culinary Escapade to Việt-Nam!
- The closest airport is Tân Sơn Nhất International Airport (SGN).
- Transfers by private car to the airport. Bon Voyage! Travel Safe!



