



# **VIETNAM – MAI CHAU**

## **Insight and Impact Expedition**

**September 2026**

**Supporting the Global Learning Foundation**

### **Day 1: Monday 21 September 2026 [D]**

#### **Australia to Hanoi, Vietnam**

Meet as a group at the **International Airport**. Please ensure you meet at the Vietnam Airlines check-in area. Your **GLE Tour Manager** will assist with the group's check-in.

Depart Australia mid-morning and arrive in Hoh Chi Minh City, in Vietnam, late afternoon. Upon arrival, our local GLE Tour Manager will meet us and assist with clearing customs and the transfer to our short flight to Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam. Upon arrival in Hanoi, transfer to our hotel. Dinner will be at a nearby restaurant.

**Overnight: Hanoi**

### **Day 2: Tuesday 22 September 2026 [B, L, D]**

#### **Community Impact Project, Hanoi to Mai Chau Valley**

Today is an early start where we will be going to help prepare and pack 500 meals to be delivered to local hospital patients. In Vietnam, hospitals do not provide meals for patients. Meals need to be provided by their families and sadly, there are many patients that do not have family. Therefore, patients rely on the goodwill of this organisation to provide them with meals. We will be assisting the organisers in preparing the vegetables, packing the rice and hot meals into individual containers. Further assisting by loading the packaged meals into the van for delivery to the hospitals.

After breakfast, depart Hanoi and head west towards **Hoa Binh City** where we stop for refreshments and to visit **Hoa Binh Hydro Station** which was built in the 1980's.

We then depart for the **Mai Chau Valley**. Enjoy the stunning views along the way as we descend into the valley.

In the afternoon, we have a very unique experience. Embark on a **trek through the rice fields and over some of the lower mountains** to explore the scenery of this stunningly beautiful spot. Finish our trek late in the afternoon by walking through the local village before arriving back at our accommodation for the night.

Tonight's accommodation is in a stilt house and will probably be a little more rustic than you might be used to, but an amazing experience. Our hosts for this evening will be the H'Mong Thai people who will perform traditional dancing for us after dinner. Everyone can join in the dancing with the H'Mong during the night's entertainment. Learn some new and very different dance moves!

**Overnight: Stilt House, Mai Chau**

### **Day 3: Wednesday 23 September 2026 [B, L, D]**

#### **Community Impact Project**

Today we travel to the village where we begin our Community Impact Project. There will be a full orientation of the project, covering safety and allocation of tasks. Okay, NOW it's time to start your GLF Project!!

### Examples of Projects:

- ✓ Building a small kindergarten
- ✓ Building water storage facilities
- ✓ Fruit tree planting
- ✓ Installing play equipment
- ✓ Building a volleyball court
- ✓ Adding a classroom to a primary school
- ✓ Water reticulation to the village houses
- ✓ Reading and writing with the students
- ✓ Making play areas, sand pits etc
- ✓ Teaching basic computer skills

### AND MANY MORE...

GLF will discuss with you, which options would work well for your group once the group has formed. (Professional contractors assist with any construction work.)

Return to the stilt house for dinner and the rest of the evening.

**Overnight: Stilt House, Mai Chau**

### **Day 4: Thursday 24 September 2026 [B, L, D]**

#### **Community Impact Project**

After breakfast, travel to the Project location to continue the work. Today will be another great day of project building, together with getting to know the people in the village, particularly the children. There will be time to perhaps play a game of soccer or volleyball with the kids or even teach them some Aussie games!

After lunch, depart from the village project. This afternoon, we have time to wander around the local markets in downtown Mai Chau and perhaps pick up some souvenirs.

Return to the stilt house for another great dinner and rest.

**Overnight: Stilt House, Mai Chau**

### **Day 5: Friday 25 September 2026 [B, L, D]**

#### **Community Impact Project – Project Celebration Party!**

Today is the BIG day!! Today we finish the project!! So today will be very busy, completing all the last little jobs to finish our work for the village.

Tonight is when 'it' all comes together!! After dinner in the village, there will be an official handover of the Project from your school to the village elders. There will be a great party, with 'LOUD' music, singing and dancing, hugs and laughter, put on by the village as a huge 'thank you' for the amazing difference that has been made in their lives. This is truly, an amazing experience to be a part of.

Finally, say goodbye to our grateful village friends and return to the stilt house for the evening.

**Overnight: Stilt House, Mai Chau**

### **Day 6: Saturday 26 September 2026 [B, L, D]**

#### **Mai Chau to Hanoi, Hanoi Walking Tour**

This morning, we say goodbye to Mai Chau and return to Hanoi for lunch.

This afternoon we take a walking tour to explore the beautiful tree lined boulevards and lakes of Hanoi. Take a tour around **Hoan Kiem Lake** and hear the legend of the giant Tortoise that supposedly lives in the lake.

Hanoi is also known for its blend of French, Chinese and Vietnamese architecture and in the afternoon, we join with our guide for a walking tour of Dong Xuan Market, (the biggest wholesale market in the northern part) and Hanoi's Old Quarter. The Old Quarter is also a multitude of little shops in a labyrinth of streets going in all directions! Each street will sell a specific product. There is Gold Street, Silver Street, Shoe Street, Toy Street, and the list goes on! Practice your bargaining skills shopping for souvenirs!

**Overnight: Hanoi**

### **Day 7: Sunday 27 September 2026 [B, L, D]**

#### **Hanoi to Ha Long Bay**

After an early breakfast this morning, travel by coach to **Ha Long Bay**, a unique UNESCO world heritage site.

Upon arrival, we embark our 3-storey high boat for our cruise. Enjoy a delicious lunch along the way. The cruise will begin with a visit to the **Cave of Surprise**. Here we take an hour-long **walking tour** through the cave. Weather permitting; we can take a dip at **Ti Top Beach** or climb the stairway to the top of the hill for some stunning views of Ha Long Bay.

Afterwards, head to our mooring point in the bay for our overnight stay. Dinner will be **served on board the boat** tonight.

After dinner we have free time to relax after our busy project and perhaps share some of our feelings and thoughts about our Project experiences. Relax under the stars on the top deck of our private cruise.

**Overnight: Cruise Boat on Ha Long Bay**

### **Day 8: Monday 28 September 2026 [B, L, D]**

#### **Ha Long Bay, Return to Hanoi**

This morning breakfast will be served on board our boat. Afterwards depart to explore **Luon Cave** by way of a small sampan (a traditional flat bottomed wooden boat). Return to the Junk after our visit to the cave and make our way back to port.

Our return trip will pass through the area where scenes from the famous film 'Indochina' was filmed. On our way we can see the famous islets such as **Ti Top, Marker, Fire and Dove islet**.

After lunch on board, arrive at the Wharf and then transfer to Hanoi. What time remains of the afternoon is free to spend at your leisure. Walk around Hoan Kiem Lake and the multitude of shops around the lake. Perhaps shop for some bargains.

Dinner will be at a **local restaurant** tonight.

**Overnight: Hanoi**

### **Day 9: Tuesday 29 September 2026 [B, L]**

#### **Hanoi Cultural Tour, Flight home to Australia**

After breakfast, check out of our hotel and embark on a **day tour of Hanoi** jammed packed with culture, history and all the iconic landmarks!

Visit the **Uncle Ho's resting place, the Presidential Palace and the One Pillar Pagoda** – all are must-see landmarks in Hanoi.

After lunch, then soak up the culture and history at the famous **Temple of Literature**, the first university of Vietnam dating back to the 17th century, the **Ethnology Museum, the French Colonial Opera House**, and the amazing **Hanoi Cathedral**.

Later in the afternoon, transfer to Hanoi airport for our return flight to Australia.

**Overnight: In transit**

### **Day 10: Wednesday 30 September 2026**

#### **Arrive in Australia**

Arrive in **Australia** in the morning, where your family and friends will be waiting. Tell them all about your amazing trip!

<b>Tour Inclusions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GLE Tour Manager</li> <li>GLE Project Tour Manager</li> <li>International return economy airfares departing Sydney or Melbourne with Vietnam Airlines.</li> <li>Hotel accommodation – 3-star: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Twin rooms for students, Single rooms for Expedition Leaders</li> </ul> </li> <li>Stilt House dormitory accommodation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Separate dorms for male and female travellers. Shared facilities.</li> <li><b>To upgrade to stay in hotel accommodation instead of Stilt House in Mai Chau, add \$200 per person to the total trip cost.</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>Ha Long Bay Boat Cruise: Private ensuite cabin on shared cruise – twin share (teachers – single cabins)</li> <li>Private air-conditioned coach during sightseeing trips and transfers</li> <li>Sightseeing and entrance fees to all attractions as per itinerary</li> <li>Traditional Thai Music Show in Mai Chau</li> <li>All meals on tour – listed in the itinerary (B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner)</li> <li>Drinking water daily</li> <li>1x soft drink per meal</li> <li>Local English-speaking guide</li> <li>Car for emergency purposes, whilst at the Project</li> <li>Travel Insurance: <i>This is arranged by the school through the school's insurer – Please contact them for policy details and the Product Disclosure Statement and Financial Services Guide.</i></li> <li>Tips for Drivers/Guides. <i>Please feel free to tip more for excellent service.</i></li> <li>GLE Traveller Pack including: 1 x backpack and 2 x t-shirts</li> </ul>
<b>Tour Non-Inclusions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Passport application fee (if you do not already have a passport)</li> <li>Vietnam eVisa fee – GLE will provide information on how to apply for your Vietnam eVisa.</li> <li>Government taxes which are subject to fluctuations depending on airline and US Dollar rates at the time of ticketing – approx. \$300 AUD.</li> <li>Fundraising donations to Global Learning Foundation for the Social Impact Project. Projects and project costs and fundraising targets to be discussed and selected by the group. (Donations are tax deductible).</li> <li>Spending money and items of a personal nature</li> </ul>
<b>Pricing:</b>	<p><b>Based on a <u>minimum</u> number of 20 full paying passengers and 3 teachers &amp; 1 GLE tour manager</b></p> <p><b>From \$5,695 AUD *(price may vary subject to individual group requirements)</b></p> <p><b>Based on travel September/October 2026.</b></p>
<b>Deposit:</b>	<p><b>A non-refundable deposit of AUD \$500.00 per person is required to confirm your place on the tour.</b></p> <p>Cancellation Terms and Conditions can be found in the online Trip Hub (under Tasks). Please note if <b>cancellation occurs in the lead up time to the tour, further cancelation penalties will apply</b> in addition to the \$500 non-refundable deposit. See Terms and Conditions for full details.</p>
<b>Notes:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Itinerary is subject to change due to airline schedule changes etc.</li> <li>All prices quoted are in Australian Dollars</li> <li>Application forms and booking Terms and Conditions are detailed on the GLE Trip Hub</li> <li>GLE reserves the right to alter or amend the itinerary at any time.</li> <li><b>No airline space, accommodation or services are being held and therefore are subject to availability. The Tour Price quoted above is indicative and not firm until airline seat confirmation and confirmed ticket price has been received from the airline.</b></li> <li>A reduction in the number of quoted paying passengers will vary the tour cost. The tour cost for the minimum quoted <b>20 paying travellers</b> will remain the same if the group size increases above 20 paying travellers.</li> <li>Tour cost is based on rates for hotel accommodation; airfares, entry fees, etc., as at <b>1<sup>st</sup> October 2025</b> and the <b>AUD \$1.00</b> exchange rate of <b>USD \$0.66</b> Fluctuations in the exchange rate may vary the final cost marginally.</li> </ul>