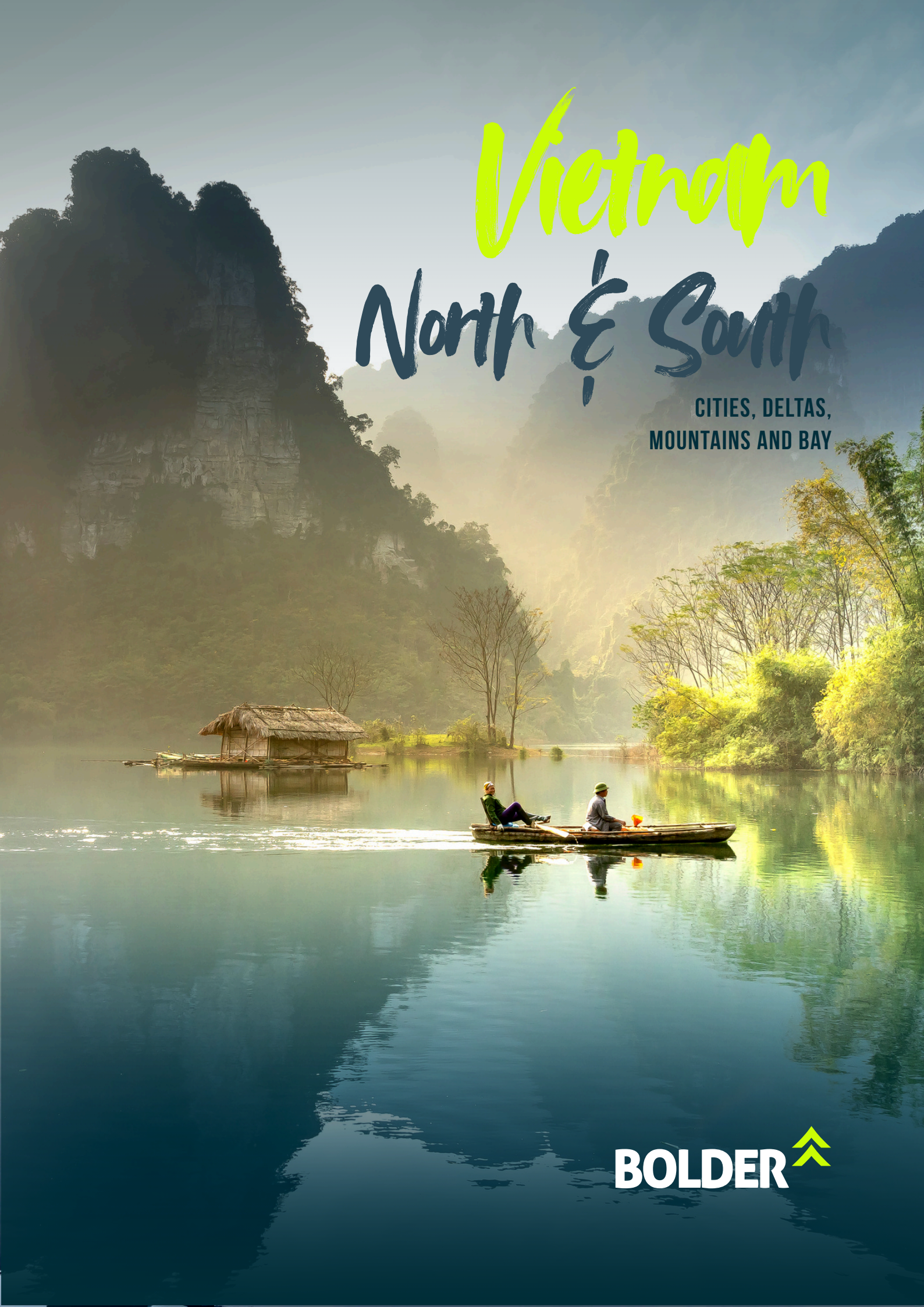


A scenic landscape of a river in Vietnam. In the foreground, two people are in a small wooden boat on the water. To the left, a small hut with a thatched roof sits on a raft. The background features steep, forested mountains under a hazy sky. The water is calm, reflecting the surrounding scenery.

Vietnam

North & South

CITIES, DELTAS,
MOUNTAINS AND BAY

BOLDER 

Adventure

HIGHLIGHTS



MEKONG LIFE

Travel by boat through canals and orchards, stay locally and learn how communities adapt to water, agriculture and climate pressure.



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Explore urbanisation, rainforest, mangroves and practical restoration through a connected field-learning programme.



MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES

Walk through rice-farm landscapes and visit villages around Mai Chau or Pu Luong.



HA LONG BAY

End among limestone islands with kayaking, swimming and an overnight cruise that brings geology to life.

Destination

SNAPSHOT



LANDSCAPE

Dense cities, river delta, mangrove, rainforest, rice valleys, karst mountains and tropical coast.



CULTURE

Regional food, music, craft, faith, layered history and distinctive urban and rural ways of life.



CHALLENGE LEVEL

Moderate and varied. Trekking, heat, humidity, project work and long transfers can all add challenge.



ACCOMMODATION

Hotels, homestays, national-park lodging and an overnight cruise on longer routes.



CLIMATE

Strong regional and seasonal variation, with heat, humidity and heavy rain all possible.



TRAVEL

Fly into Ho Chi Minh City or Hanoi; longer routes use an internal flight and substantial road transfers.



ATMOSPHERE

Lively, layered, welcoming and constantly changing.



BEST FOR

Schools wanting strong experiential learning with a choice between environmental fieldwork, community partnership and a broader cultural journey.

VIETNAM



HANOI



HO CHI MINH CITY



VIETNAM NORTH & SOUTH 14 DAYS

ONE POSSIBLE JOURNEY This sample itinerary shows how we believe you can get the most from your time and create a well-balanced adventure. The exact running order and individual elements may vary according to availability, local conditions and the needs of the group. Most aspects can be tailored to suit your school's aims, preferred duration and priorities, so please get in touch and we can shape the right programme with you.

Day 1

Depart the UK

The group begins the international journey to Ho Chi Minh City. The route ahead will travel from southern Vietnam and the Mekong Delta to Hanoi, Mai Chau, Ninh Binh and Ha Long Bay, so this first day is about settling into the team and preparing for a programme with several distinct stages.

Day 2

Arrive in Ho Chi Minh City

On arrival, the group is welcomed by the Green Summers leader and transfers directly to the hotel. After time to rest and recover from the flight, an orientation introduces the route, practical arrangements and expectations for the days ahead. If timings allow, a brief guided outing offers a first look at Ho Chi Minh City without making the arrival day too demanding.

Day 3

Ho Chi Minh City: History & Urban Life

The first full day explores the contrasts of Ho Chi Minh City, also known as Saigon. Guided visits connect modern street life with the history of South Vietnam through sites including the Reunification Palace and War Remnants Museum. The route also takes in spiritual and commercial spaces such as Thien Hau Temple and Binh Tay Market, showing how different communities and histories sit within the same city. Rather than treating this major southern city as a quick stop, the day gives students enough context to understand the urban world they will leave behind when the journey turns towards the Mekong Delta.

Day 4

Into the Mekong Delta

Today the group leaves the city for the Mekong Delta, a landscape shaped by rivers, canals, orchards and rice farming. Travelling by boat reveals how communities move, work and adapt around water, while local guides discuss both the productivity of the delta and the environmental challenges facing it. Students visit rural communities and stay overnight at an orchard homestay, moving from observation into the daily rhythm of the region. Cooking with the host may form part of the evening before everyone shares dinner and settles into a very different setting from Ho Chi Minh City.

Day 5

Mekong Life, Mangrove Planting & Return

After saying goodbye to the homestay, the group travels towards the coastal edge of the delta and explores brackish-water forest by local boat. Hosts explain livelihoods linked to crabs, oysters and clams before students join a mangrove-planting activity under local direction. The sequence connects people's use of the water with the need to protect and restore the habitat around it. After lunch, the group drives back to Ho Chi Minh City. It is a full transition day, moving from rural life and practical restoration back into the energy of the city.

Day 6

Food, Movement & New Skills

The morning begins at a local wet market, where the group learns how ingredients are selected for everyday Vietnamese cooking. Back in the kitchen, students prepare several common dishes with guidance and then eat what they have made, turning food culture into a practical shared experience. In the afternoon, a Vietnamese Kung Fu instructor introduces the history and philosophy of the discipline before teaching basic movements during a structured session. The two activities are very different, but both ask students to watch closely, follow technique and learn by doing rather than simply being told.

Day 7

Fly North to Hanoi

A domestic flight carries the group from Ho Chi Minh City to Hanoi, beginning the northern half of the journey. After checking into the hotel and taking time to refresh, students explore the Old Quarter by cyclo, a passenger vehicle related to the rickshaw that offers a distinctive view of the busy streets. The route ends at the Thang Long Water Puppet Theatre, where traditional stories, music and performance reflect an art form associated with life in the flood season. In one afternoon, the character of the programme shifts clearly from south to north.

Day 8

Hanoi & Bat Trang Pottery

A guided city tour introduces key layers of Hanoi through sites such as the Ho Chi Minh complex, One Pillar Pagoda and Temple of Literature. These places open conversations about politics, belief and the long history of education in Vietnam. Later, the group travels to Bat Trang, a village known for pottery production over many centuries. Local makers introduce materials, patterns and techniques before students create and decorate a piece with workshop support. The day moves from national history to a craft tradition kept alive through skilled hands, giving students two very different ways into the culture of the capital region.







Day 9

Mai Chau Villages & Rice Fields

Leaving Hanoi, the road climbs towards Mai Chau through rice farms, hills and villages. The group settles into a stilt-house lodge associated with the local Thai ethnic minority community, then explores the surrounding villages and fields on foot. Guides explain farming life and cultural traditions while students experience the valley at walking pace. After dinner, local music and bamboo dance provide a participatory close. The move from capital city to mountain valley creates one of the itinerary's clearest changes in atmosphere.

Day 10

Ninh Binh by Sampan

The journey continues to Ninh Binh, where the group boards small sampans rowed by local people and follows canals between rice fields, limestone mountains and caves. The slow pace makes the landscape easy to appreciate and contrasts sharply with Hanoi's streets. Later, a farm visit introduces the role of water buffalo in rice cultivation and the relationship between animals, people and farming. By evening, the group has moved from upland village paths into a lowland river landscape.

Day 11

Ha Long Bay: Cruise & Cave Discovery

The journey through the Red River Delta reaches Ha Long Bay, where everyone boards the overnight cruise and settles into cabins. As the boat moves among limestone islets, guides introduce the bay's geology and the communities connected with its waters. The programme includes a cave visit to examine stalactites and stalagmites; swimming or other activity depends on conditions and the final cruise schedule. Dinner is shared on board, giving the group time to absorb the scale of the landscape from a new base.



Day 12

Kayak, Reflect & Return to Hanoi

An early Tai Chi session may begin the second morning before the group kayaks around the islets. Moving at water level changes the perspective and asks students to coordinate closely after many days of travel by road and boat. Swimming or additional activity is included only where conditions and the cruise plan allow. After lunch, the group disembarks and returns to Hanoi, using the journey for reflection. A farewell dinner brings the southern and northern chapters together before departure.

Day 13

Depart Hanoi

After breakfast and final packing, the group transfers to the airport for the flight home. The route closes in Hanoi after travelling the length of Vietnam from Ho Chi Minh City and the Mekong Delta through Mai Chau and Ninh Binh to Ha Long Bay.

Day 14

Arrive Home

The group arrives back in the UK with a journey of strong contrasts behind it: major cities and rural homestay, market cooking and martial arts, rice fields and limestone waterways, mangrove restoration and an overnight cruise. The experiences connect as one progression rather than a list of stops.



SHAPE YOUR Adventure

10 DAYS

IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT

Focus on Ho Chi Minh City's urban systems, the Mekong Delta, mangrove planting, Cat Tien rainforest trekking and Can Gio's restored biosphere.



11-14 DAYS

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Base in the Mekong for a locally selected project such as a school, library, sanitation or access improvement, followed by history and recovery time.



14 DAYS

NORTH & SOUTH

Explore two different worlds. Use the sample itinerary above as a guide for maximum variety, including an internal flight, northern village landscapes and Ha Long Bay.



OUTCOMES

LEADERSHIP FRAMEWORK

Every adventure delivers structured student leadership, reflection and team development.



NOT SURE WHICH WORKS BEST?

That's where we come in. We'll help shape the right adventure for your team.



WHAT'S INCLUDED



Free teaching staff places
Bolder Adventure Programme Leader 

International flights



All in-country transport
All accommodation, meals and safe drinking water

All required permits/park fees
Guided activities with expert local partners



Group safety, communication & sleep-out equipment
Travel Pack, inc. hoody or tech tee

Comprehensive travel insurance
Safety management & planning
24/7 support during travel



Highly experienced UK account management
Pre-trip briefings & training *(as applicable)*

PLEASE NOTE: Cancellation insurance, visas, vaccinations, personal expenditure, tips for leaders, guides and drivers - and any other services not listed above are not included.

NEXT STEPS

1

Consider your preferred itinerary or direction



2

Book a 20 minute planning call. We'll confirm your aims, shape the itinerary, and prepare what you need for SLT and promotion

3

Receive your customised pack for confirmation and launch

4

Reserve your dates with a small holding deposit



BOLDER 

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DIFFERENTLY**



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