



BIG NORTHERN LOOP : THE LONG WAY AROUND!

(14 days)

Day 1: Hanoi – Black river

We will set up a start point out of Hanoi city so you do not have to ride through its chaotic traffic. Our bus will pick you up at your hotel, transferring you to where the motorcycles will be ready to go!

The ride today gets much more enjoyable on a short distance to our first place. Through beautiful countryside, here we are at the riverside eco-lodge. In the evening, we will enjoy a local dinner and then a Thai traditional music show in the lights of roaring fire. A good start for the many days to come on Vietnam mountain roads.

Highlight of the day	countryside road, scenic Black river
Meal plan	L,D (Picnic lunch included)
Accommodation	Local eco lodge
Duration of travel	3-5 hours

Day 2: Black river - Son La

Stick on rough back-road, we make our own way heading towards majestic mountains, homeland of the colorful H'mong minority, on the Moc Chau plateau. Our journey continues through abundant landscapes with green valleys, fields of corn and cassava, all the way to Son La plateau.

Find our homestay away from the city. Here again, we are welcome by a local family in their own home; surrounded by the garden, fish pond, rice fields and hills backdrops.

Highlight of the day	countryside back road, rural villages, Moc Chau landscape
Meal plan	B,L,D (Picnic lunch included)
Accommodation	Local homestay
Duration of travel	4-6 hours

Day 3: Son La - Muong Lay

Our morning ride brings more scenic mountain passes with Son La, Chieng Pac, and Pha Din – awaiting to challenge us. Pha Din forms a natural border between Son La and Dien Bien Phu, site of the decisive battle in Vietnam’s struggle for independence in 1954. It’s also crowned as one of the 4 most magnificent passes in Northern Vietnam.

Today we also venture into remote Northwest region on historical route 6. The road is rough but the scenery is unbelievably beautiful and magnificent along the upstream of the Black river. Moreover, the biggest part of pleasure in motorcycling in this region is the many friendly smiles and greetings from locals and kids, which make all hardship worthwhile.

Highlight of the day	Mountain passes, rural villages, rough track
Meal plan	B,L,D (Picnic lunch included)
Accommodation	Local homestay
Duration of travel	5-7 hours

Day 4: Muong Lay - Sapa

A good day of ride on the great mix of road forms and conditions. Starting from the valley of Muong Lay, we head up to mountainous Lai Chau, crossing over non-touristy regions of ethnic minorities, taking such a twisted road and ending up on the mighty O Quy Ho pass, just at the gate of Sapa mountain town.

You will enjoy a picnic lunch en route in the middle of nowhere.

Highlight of the day	Mountain roads, lush landscape, mountain passes
Meal plan	B,L,D (Picnic lunch included)
Accommodation	Local homestay
Duration of travel	5-7 hours

Day 5: Sapa, a rest day

When the French first located Sapa as a holiday spot for summer time, its valley was so mysterious. Nowadays, the valley of Sapa is still a great attraction to explore. At the foot of Hoang Lien mountain range, you will witness a lively and colorful lifestyle well blended in exotic landscapes of terraced fields, villages and people.

Highlight of the day	Sapa nature, terraces, villages
Meal plan	B,L,D (Picnic lunch included)
Accommodation	Local homestay
Duration of travel	4-6 hours

Day 6: Sapa – Bac Ha District

Today, we head to the Northeast side, crossing over the massive mountainous region of Lao Cai province. It's not easy to travel through, we ride on rocks and mud which gives us the raw taste of a classic motorcycle tour in Vietnam. This route also gives us an opportunity to witness some of the best terraced fields that you can expect to see during the tour. Here, life is growing well in rough conditions!

Highlight of the day	Mountain range, terraces, mountain roads
Meal plan	B,L,D (Picnic lunch included)

Accommodation	Local homestay
Duration of travel	5-7 hours

Day 7: Bac Ha Dist – Ha Giang

We keep venturing on the mountainous route heading far Northeast, and it's the most twisted route in the country with thousand of bends and demanding corners. For the last distance of that day, we have a smooth ride to Ha Giang on the highway 2. You're welcome to a beautiful village of Tay people.

Highlight of the day	Mountain roads, rural villages
Meal plan	B,L,D (Picnic lunch included)
Accommodation	Local homestay
Duration of travel	6-8 hours

Day 8: Ha Giang – Dong Van

It's the starting point to reach the heart of Northeast Vietnam: Dong Van rocky plateau. This is a great route on vast limestone mountain ranges and in between vertical walls of rock. You will get the feeling of being lost in Heaven.

All these remote regions of Ha Giang are also well-known for the colorful hill-tribes and their culture, old towns and historic architecture which you wouldn't expect to see on this land of rocks.

Highlight of the day	Mountain passes, karst plateau, limestone mountains
Meal plan	B,L,D (Picnic lunch included)
Accommodation	Local homestay
Duration of travel	4-6 hours

Day 9: Dong Van – Lung Phin - Meo Vac

We will make it right on time for the market day in the region. A real festival for all locals from the surrounding villages, and they do it on their very unique way. It's a must-see event in the tour!

Back on the motorcycle, we take a cliff-road hanging up at an height of 1,800 m and looking down to the Nho Que river. You will enjoy every moments on it.

Highlight of the day	Local market, rugged mountains, Tu San abyss
Meal plan	B,L,D (Picnic lunch included)
Accommodation	Local homestay
Duration of travel	4-6 hours

Day 10: Meo Vac - Ban Gioc

It's an awesome day of riding. All mountain roads we ride, all villages we pass by, and all the people we meet en route are authentic to Northern Vietnam.

Since we cross over Nho Que river at its bottom, there will be a crawling route along the border with China all the way to Ban Gioc. This route is completely spared from tourists, reaching far Northeast remote areas.

Highlight of the day	Bamboo raft crossing, mountains, karst landscape
Meal plan	B,L,D (Picnic lunch included)
Accommodation	Resort
Duration of travel	6-8 hours

Day 11: Ban Gioc - Quang Uyen

The magnificent Ban Gioc waterfalls form a natural border between Vietnam and China in this area. The echo of the falls can be heard from kilometers away. We will take a bamboo-raft tour, have a picnic lunch, and have some relaxing time before we carry on with the motorcycling.

In the afternoon, we ride shortly to a peaceful village of Tay people for a night-stay.

Highlight of the day	Bac Gioc waterfalls, karst landscape
Meal plan	B,L,D (Picnic lunch included)
Accommodation	Local homestay
Duration of travel	2-4 hours

Day 12: Quang Uyen - Bac Son

The most impressive landscape of Cao Bang is its sharp peaks of limestone scattered on green sugar-cane fields while the road bends around. Riding through this landscape is a real pleasure. Lately during that day, we will do some more challenging riding on rough roads which will take us to our beautiful village at the end.

End of the motorcycling part!

Highlight of the day	limestone mountains, back roads, villages
Meal plan	B,L,D (Picnic lunch included)
Accommodation	Local homestay
Duration of travel	5-7 hours

Day 13: Bac Son – Halong

We will send a minibus for the travel part from Bac Son to Halong city because of the traffic conditions. After lunch, you'll get on board to explore a new Natural World Wonder - the Halong bay. Spend the night on board.

Highlight of the day	Rural countryside, Halong bay landscape
Meal plan	B,L,D (Picnic lunch included)
Accommodation	On board
Duration of travel	Minibus/Traditional junk

Day 14 : Halong - Hanoi

You will enjoy the entire half-day of cruising before the last travel back to Hanoi at mid-day. Tour ends!

*** An optional extension will be spending one more night on boat.

Highlight of the day	countryside back road, rural villages, Moc Chau landscape
Meal plan	B,L,D (Picnic lunch included)
Accommodation	On own arrangement
Duration of travel	Traditional junk/Minibus