

## THE AU CO ITINERARY

### The experience of a lifetime in the Gulf of Tonkin

*With a wide range of activities onboard and extra, The Au Co promises you a most memorable experience while discovering the Gulf of Tonkin and enjoying your time. Whether you choose to explore hidden caves by kayak or bamboo boats, swimming in the emerald waters, cycling to explore local village, or simply indulging in the magnificent view on the sundeck, there is always something to meet everyone's expectation. Open-air bar, spa & massage area and Jacuzzi are awaiting your time to pamper yourself. The diversity of activities onboard and so forth keep your cruise always interesting and worth remembering for a lifetime!*

#### **DAY 1: HANOI – BAI TU LONG BAY (L/D)**

**DEPARTS: 12:30 PM**

#### **One of the most beautiful floating villages in the world - Cua Van Fisherman Village**

Cua Van Fisherman Village, situated in a calm bay ringed by mountains some 20 km from Halong City, is a tranquil retreat for those seeking an authentic experience of the local lifestyle. As the largest floating village in the area, Cua Van has a population of over 700 people living in its network of floating houses. The village has been recognized as one of the most beautiful floating villages in the world.

#### Things to do

##### **Kayak in Cua Van Fisherman Village**

One of the most exciting activities that you do not want to miss out while in Cua Van is kayaking. This is when you can soak in the stunning views of the floating village while paddling along incredible tranquil emerald-colored sea and try out traditional rowing boat. It is the chance to experience moments in a life of the local fishermen who was born on the emerald-colored sea.

##### **Happy Hour – Buy 01 Get 01 Free**

Passengers have the chance to taste our most exquisite drinks varied vastly on selection, while enjoying the scenic panorama view of Halong Bay. Our open bar onboard is to serve the freshest cocktails made by awarded bartenders.

##### **MasterChef “Halong Bay Edition” Competition**

Vietnamese cuisine is renowned for its incredibly savory flavors and includes lots of health benefits. By being a part of this mini competition, all passengers can try out creating authentic Vietnamese dishes, with the winner of the competition awarded surprising gifts, and observe fruit carving demonstration by our chef.

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The Master-Chef competition also happens during the sunset, so don't forget checking out the admiring scene over the enchanting Halong Bay while The Au Co anchoring for the night.

### **Moonlight Open Cinema & Board Games**

An evening under the mineral sky of Halong Bay to enjoy a classic movie while sipping delicious cocktails is the fantasy-come-true for any romantic heart. Time seems to stop and your mind can relax and blend in with the Nature's breeze.

If you'd like to seek more stimulating activity, playing board games at the reception area is a great way to bond with friends or an ice-breaker to meet new ones.

### **Squid-fishing like a Local**

One of the most bonding activities onboard is squid-fishing, and this is when the whole group can try out the technique like a local to get the squids from the ocean, while having a wonderful time all together.

## **DAY 2: HALONG BAY – LAN HA BAY (B/L/D)**

**STARTS: 6:15 AM**

### **The serene Viet Hai Village, Cat Ba Island**

Guests can get a first look at Viet Hai Village, a small village nestle in the heart of Cat Ba National Park with Bhaya Cruises' in-house tour guides while touring a Vietnamese ancient house and learn about "Viet Hai Community Farm" & "Save the Langur", two of Bhaya Cruises' corporate social responsibilities projects. While in Viet Hai, you can emerge in the local life.

### **Ba Trai Dao (Three Peach) Area**

The area is easily recognized by its three rounded peaks of equal height, said to resemble peaches when viewed from afar. The curving Three Peach Beach has become well-known, but can only be visited at low tide when the pristine strip of sand is exposed for several hours. The sea floor does not drop off quickly here, making it ideal for swimming.

Things to do

### **Bike in the serene Viet Hai Village**

Viet Hai is perhaps the most significant destination that guests are able to visit. It takes about 4 km from the port to the village gate and there are many ways to reach Viet Hai: walking, biking, or paying for a round-trip seat on a trolley. The most suggested transportation is biking because it allows you to watch the path to the village according to your own speed and does not cause too much sweat. The surrounding is absolutely serene with clear air.

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### **Kayak in Ba Trai Dao area**

One of the most exciting activities that you do not want to miss out while in Halong Bay is kayaking. This is when you can soak in the stunning views while paddling along incredible ecosystem, especially in a more private area with no interruption.

### **BBQ Party on Sundeck**

On the last night onboard The Au Co, you will be treated with a sumptuous BBQ Buffet Party. The freshest seafood and tons of other great surprises will remain as memories of a lifetime.

### **Be excited to see fruit-carving demonstration**

Not only cooking delicious dishes in different cuisines, our chefs can also be phenomenal artists at carving fruits into lively shapes of mythical animals like dragon or aesthetic patterns. To learn more about this handicraft, joining a demonstration onboard will be a new experience for you.

## **DAY 3: HALONG BAY – HANOI (B)**

**STARTS: 6:15 AM**

### **Trinh Nu Cave, where the Love Story of Halong Bay began**

Your journey starts as The Au Co cruising towards southeast of Halong Bay, passing Trong Mai Islet, Ngon Tay Islet, Con Coc Islet, Cua Van Floating Culture Center. The first destination to visit is Trinh Nu Cave, one of the finest sunlight-filled cave in Halong Bay, covering an area of 2,000m<sup>2</sup> with stunning assortment of stalactites and stalagmites.

*\*Trinh Nu Cave is an exclusive destination for Bhaya Cruises' passengers during selected periods of the day.*

Things to do

### **Tai Chi on Sundeck**

Rejuvenating the body and spirit with a refreshing Tai Chi lesson as the sun rises over the acclaimed UNESCO Heritage Site is one of the relaxing experiences that passengers have. Practicing this beautiful art regularly can help treat a number of human ailments.

### **Swim in the “Love Story” area of Halong Bay**

Passengers can take a swim in the jade-colored water or sunbathe on a private beach nestled behind the cave. This is when you can munch in the stunning views while indulging in the pristine water, especially enjoying the most idyllic Trinh Nu scene.

### **Practice Vietnamese Tea Ceremony in royal manner**

The tradition of Vietnamese tea ceremony has existed for centuries. In ancient time, the ritual was only for the royal. How one holding the teacup was considered to show his/her living

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philosophy. Before tasting the tea, a person takes his/her time to breathe in the tea aroma. This step also allows the person to enjoy the natural tea flavors more mindfully.

Guests can find themselves back in the history and live in a noble atmosphere when enjoying the elegant tea.

## IMPORTANT NOTES

- Inclement weather, tide levels and operating conditions at sea may force changes in cruise itinerary and schedule at any time. Kayaking and swimming excursion, in particular, may be canceled due to rough weather.
- The cruise offer fusion cuisine: international, seafood and Vietnamese. Please advise Bhaya Cruises at least one (01) week ahead of departure about any specific food preference, dietary or food allergies.
- Port authority insists on advance registration including full name, gender, date of birth, nationality and passport number. At check-in, a valid passport is required. Port authority may deny boarding if these conditions are not met.

Free Wifi available on terrace deck, but note that the internet signal at sea suffers frequent interruption.

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