



CAT BA ISLAND & LAN HA BAY VIETNAM





Thousands of limestone karsts rise majestically from emerald waters across Halong Bay.

WELCOME TO HALONG BAY

Renowned as one of Southeast Asia’s most breathtaking landscapes, Halong Bay is a mesmerizing marine wonder shaped by natural artistry. Thousands of limestone karsts and islets rise majestically from emerald waters, their dramatic formations resembling ancient sentinels guarding the bay. Explore secluded coves, discover awe-inspiring caves, and encounter islands named for their distinctive silhouettes—some evoking animals, others inspired by folklore. This harmonious blend of natural splendor and cultural heritage fosters a deep connection to both the land and its stories, making Halong Bay an unforgettable destination for explorers.



Exploring Lan Ha Bay



It is very important to identify the anchorage position is within the territory of Ha Long city (Ha Long bay) or Hai Phong city (Lan Ha bay).

Since the two authorities no longer allow tourist boats to travel across the boundary zone between the two bays. Therefore, we have to identify the anchorage position to know if we should reserve local boats from Ha Long fleet or from Hai Phong fleet

Lan Ha Bay

In contrast to its famous neighbor, Halong Bay, Lan Ha Bay offers a more untouched and tranquil charm. Its landscape is defined by a dense collection of limestone mountains, with the calm sea carving the area into a series of smaller bays and secluded gulfs, creating a serene escape for those seeking unspoiled natural beauty.

At Anchor Ship Position Position at Lan Ha Anchorage Area:

LH1:	20°46'17.3"N 107°06'31.6"E	(Open in Google maps)
LH2:	20°46'43.3"N 107°06'32.6"E	(Open in Google maps)
LH3:	20°46'17.3"N 107°06'50.6"E	(Open in Google maps)
LH2:	20°46'43.3"N 107°06'32.6"E	(Open in Google maps)
Landing Position (Ben Beo):	20°73'21.2"N 107°05'89.4"E	



An aerial view of Cat Ba Island and some of its vast floating fishing villages.

Clearance and formalities

The Vietnamese government requires expedition ships to obtain several entry and cruising permits and to pass international clearance standards when entering and sailing around Vietnam, including Halong Bay/ Lan Ha Bay and Cat Ba Island. Because Vietnamese legal procedures are often complicated, it is recommended that vessels seeking entry and cruising permits use an experienced ship agent for legal, logistical support and advice.

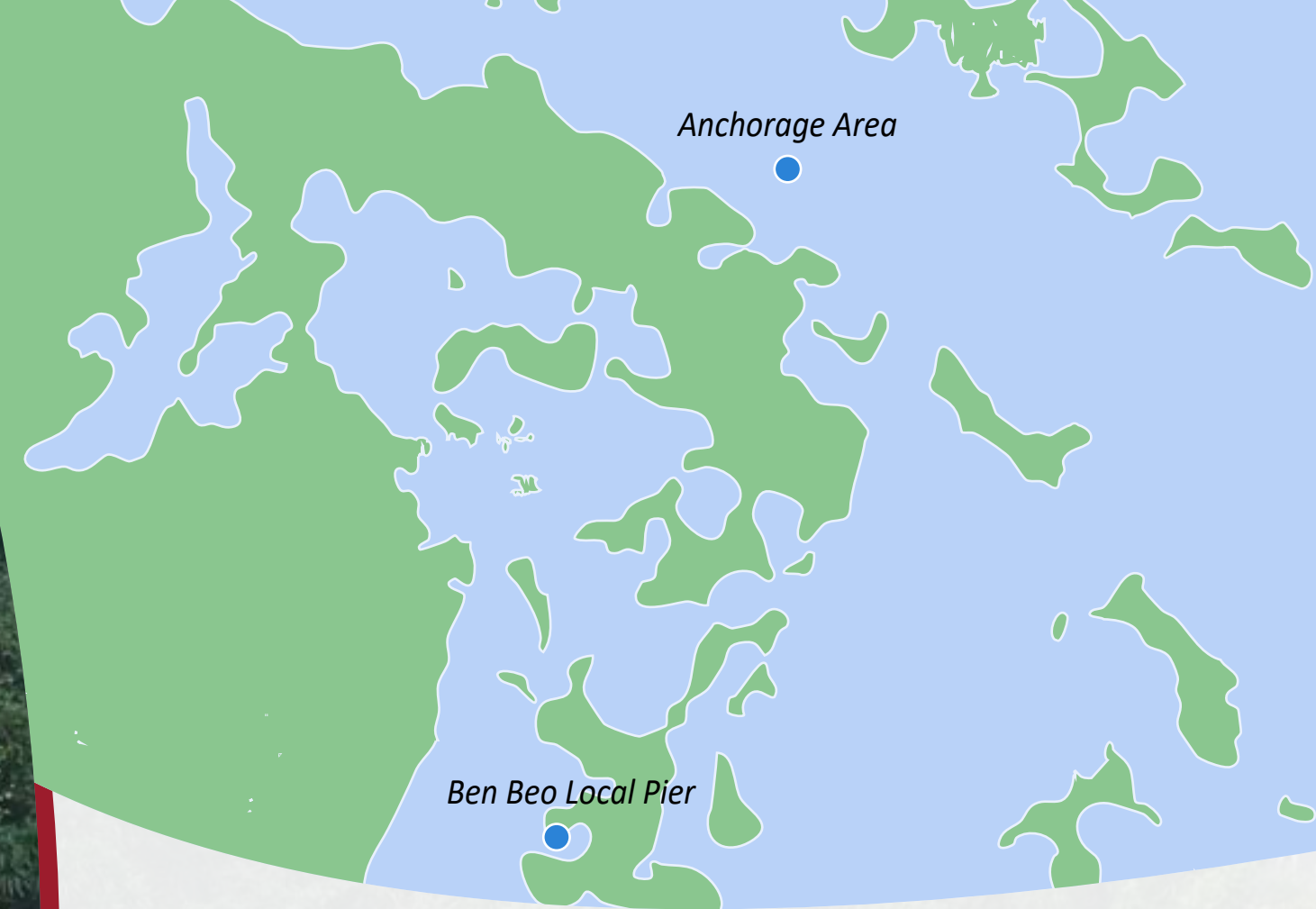
Best time to Visit

- The best time to visit Cat Ba Island depends on your preferences and what you want to do there. Generally, the peak tourist season runs from May to September (27°C) when the weather is warm and dry, making it ideal for activities like hiking, kayaking, and beach relaxation. However, this period can also be crowded.
- It is best to schedule a visit to Cat Ba Island during the shoulder seasons from October to April. During these months, the weather is still pleasant, and you can enjoy the island with fewer crowds.
- It's essential to note that Cat Ba Island experiences a monsoon climate, so from October to March (18°C - 22°C), the weather can be cooler and wetter, with higher chances of rain. However, this period can still be enjoyable if you're prepared for some rain and cooler temperatures, and it might offer a more authentic experience with fewer tourists.

Cat Ba National Park & Viet Hai Fishing Village



Take a day boat around Lan Ha Bay, disembarking at Ben Beo for a trek through Cat Ba National Park. The park, Vietnam's first to encompass both land and marine ecosystems, claims some 1,500 plant species and more than 30 species of mammals, including the critically endangered white-headed langur. This afternoon, visit Viet Hai village, an extremely isolated village on the island, and meet with local villagers to learn about their life as well as enjoy the stunning natural scenery leading into the village.



- 07.00-07.30** Guests take zodiac cruise and disembark at Ben Beo pier.
- 07.30-08.00** Coach transfer to Cat Ba national Park.
- 08.30-11.00** Trekking in Cat Ba national park (2.5 km each way). Trek to the highest peak near the national park gate along small stone paths. Takes roughly one hour to trek up and about 45 minutes down. Guests can capture magnificent photos of the Region of regeneration *Nageia fleuryi* forest (Kim Giao).
- 11.00-11.30** Coach transfer back to Ben Beo pier for zodiac back to the ship.
- 11.30-12.00** Zodiac back to ship.
- 12.00-13.30** Lunch onboard.
- 14.00-14.30** Zodiac transfer to a fishing village pier.
- 14.30-15.00** Buggy transfer from the pier to Viet Hai village (4.5km each way) (6 buggies/10 pax per buggy).
- 15.00-16.30** Walking tour to visit the village (walking distance approx. 2km).
- 16.30-17.00** Buggy transfer back to the local pier.
- 17.00-17.30** Zodiac transfer back to your ship.
- 17.30** Arrive at the ship.

Lan Ha Bay



Half-day Cruise on Lan Ha Bay by Traditional Junk Boat

A traditional wooden junk boat waits alongside the ship ready for guests to board for a half-day cruise around Lan Ha Bay. The experience includes a stop at the magnificent Lan Ha floating village, the largest fishing village in Lan Ha Bay. Learn about a uniquely local way of life before exploring the region on a scenic cruise through the grottoes, rocky outcroppings and limestone islets, allowing each guest to gain a personal experience and deeper understanding of the bay and its environment.

Ship arrives Lan Ha Bay.

Breakfast onboard.

08:30 – 12:30 The local junk boat to get alongside the ship. Guests get on the wooden junk and sailing on Lan Ha Bay including a visit to Lan Ha floating fishing village.

12:30 – 13:00 Cruise back to the ship.

13:00 Arrive at the ship.

What to expect on this expedition

In the spirit of adventure, our expedition schedule remains flexible, allowing us to seize the unexpected and adapt our course to the ever-changing conditions and opportunities. You can tailor your experience based on your preferred activity level—whether you're seeking a leisurely pace, a moderate challenge, or a mix of both. Travelers should be in good health, comfortable walking or standing for extended periods, and capable of boarding and disembarking from expedition landing craft. Activities typically include Zodiac excursions, short hikes, and visits to cultural or historic sites. For those looking for more physical challenges, there are also options for longer hikes, kayaking, and paddleboarding.

Cua Van

Cua Van Fishing Village

Embark on an unforgettable visit to Cua Van, the largest floating fishing village in Halong Bay. Here, guests meet local villagers who sustain their livelihoods through fishing and gain insight into their unique way of life. Following this cultural experience, venture into the majestic Tien Ong Cave, with its two vast chambers spanning over 10,000 square feet, adorned with breathtaking stalactites that showcase nature's artistry.

Breakfast onboard.

07:00 – 07:45 A local boat transfers guests from the ship to Cua Van fishing village.

07:45 – 09:45 Visit Cua Van Fishing Village.

09:45 – 10:45 Visit Tien Ong Cave.

10:45 – 11:30 Local boat transfer back to your ship.

11:30 Arrive at the ship.



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After graduating from the University of Calgary, Alvin strapped on a backpack and headed abroad, leading to an exciting career in travel. Having travelled to nearly 100 countries and 6 continents, Alvin has worked with some of the world's leading expedition brands to develop life-changing travel experiences. He now works with our key markets to identify new business opportunities, and directs the Expeditions by Destination Asia sales and operational departments. With a personal involvement of over 30-years in the cruise industry, many of those in the Asia-Pacific region, Alvin heads our product development, port consulting, itinerary planning, and directs the ongoing 'branding' of Expeditions by Destination Asia.



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Trieu has over a decade of experience in the cruise industry, driven by a passion for cruise ships that began at the start of a career in tourism. Dedicated to delivering exclusive and memorable experiences for each passenger, Trieu ensures exceptional hospitality and service for every vessel visiting Vietnam. Responsibilities include managing seamless operations across all Vietnamese ports, maintaining effective communication with clients, keeping up to date on the latest developments while providing expert sales services. By crafting unique and unforgettable experiences, Trieu consistently strives to exceed the expectations of our partners.