

# The Northwest Big Loop

*Discover the ethnic Minorities*



Since the road has been renovated, the Northwest loop has become more touristic... It does not mean it is not worth the detour, because, **in my opinion, you will see there the most impressive landscapes of Northwest Vietnam, between Dien Bien Phu and Sapa!**

First of all, there is **Mai Chau** where the **peculiar architecture of the stilts houses** and the **Thais** handicrafts (*embroidery and couture*) are of many must-sees.

Then, there is **Son La**, a stage town in the deep of a valley. Some ethnic minorities are largely represented, such as the **black and white Thais, the H'Mongs and some Muongs**. The markets are excellent places to meet them.

A few cable-lengths away from Laos, **Dien Bien Phu** is located in a large valley, crossed over by the Nam Youn river. Surrounded by large wooded hills, **the town has been the site of a historical battle in 1954**, and still keeps its marks nowadays. Today, some ethnic minorities inhabit this province capital: they are mostly H'Mong and Thai people.

Finally, there is **Sapa**. Perched in the mountain side close to the Chinese border, Sapa is the main touristic destination of the Northwest, especially in terms of **beauty of scenery**. It mostly shelters ethnic minorities such as the red Daos and the black H'Mongs. Sapa is also surrounded by numerous small villages where different ethnic groups can meet such as the **flowers H'Mongs, the green Daos, some Thays or even some Nungs...**



# The Northwest Big Loop

# Discover the ethnic Minorities



## PROGRAM : 8 Days - 8 Nights

### Day 1 : Ha Noi – Mai Chau

A private car and an English speaking guide will come and pick you up at 8am to go to Mai Chau (*about 4h30-long journey*). Along the way, you can admire the landscapes and everyday life rural scenes of North Viet Nam.

A stop is possible in the town of Hoa Binh to see the largest water den of the Country, supplying over 30% of the Country of the water demand of the Country.

Lunch will be taken on the road in a local restaurant.

Once you arrived in Mai Chau around early afternoon, you will go on a stroll in the villages of Ban Lac and Boom Con.

There you will see the women weaving their traditional and very nice Thai outfits.

Diner and accommodation at a Thai family's place.

*Private car,  
English speaking Guide,  
Lunch,  
Tickets,  
Dinner and Night in  
homestay.*

### Day 2 : Mai Chau – Son La

After breakfast, you will hit the road for Son La (*about 8 hour long journey*).

The landscapes along the way are more and more spectacular. Many stops are scheduled to visit villages from ethnic minorities.

Lunch will be taken in a local restaurant.

Once you arrived in Son La around early afternoon, you will go on a stroll in the villages of the Thai ethnic minorities.

Diner at the inhabitant's place.

Dance and folklore music show in the evening. Liquor tasting (*called "Can"*), a drink based on fermented rice!!!

Accommodation at the inhabitant's house on stilts of the Black Thais.

*Breakfast,  
Private car,  
English speaking Guide,  
Lunch,  
Tickets,  
Dinner and Night in  
homestay.*

## PROGRAM : 8 Days - 8 Nights

### Day 3 : Son La – Dien Bien Phu

After breakfast, the car will bring you to Dien Bien Phu (*about 5 hours long journey*).

You can stop on the way to visit the very famous market of Thuan Chau where the Day, Tay, Dao and H'Mong minorities do their local business and sell their productions. The road carries on throughout the tea hills.

In the afternoon, you will be visiting the museum and the surrounding hills.

Dinner will be taken in a local restaurant.

Night at the "Muon Thanh" hotel in Dien Bien Phu.

*Breakfast,  
English speaking Guide,  
Private car,  
Tickets,  
Lunch,  
Dinner,  
Hotel.*

### Day 4 : Dien Bien Phu – Tam Duong

After breakfast, the car will bring you to Tam Duong (*about 4 hour long journey*).

On the road, several stops are scheduled to visit different villages from minorities.

Lunch and dinner will be taken in local restaurants.

You will arrive in Tam Duong around late afternoon.

You will spend the night at "Lan Anh 2" hotel. In Paso – Tam Duong.

*Breakfast,  
English speaking Guide,  
Private car,  
Tickets,  
Lunch,  
Dinner,  
Hotel.*





## PROGRAM : 8 Days - 8 Nights

### Day 5 : Tam Duong - Sapa

After breakfast, you will leave for the city of Sapa (about 5 hour long journey). On the road, several stops are scheduled to visit different villages of minorities. After about 2 hours of driving, a stop is scheduled for a trek in the villages of Binh Lu to visit the Lao, Thai and Lu minorities. There you can see the women weaving their traditional Thai outfits. Lunch will be taken in a local restaurant. Afterwards, you will be leaving by car on the road to Sapa in the mountain. The first pass before arriving to Sapa goes along the Fan Si Pan, culminating at 3143 meters high. You can also contemplate the waterfalls, called the "the silver cascades". You will carry on by going down in the valley. Arrival in Sapa is scheduled around late afternoon. Dinner will be taken in a local restaurant.

*Breakfast,  
English speaking Guide,  
Private car,  
Tickets,  
Lunch,  
Dinner,  
Hotel.*

### Day 6 : A 2 days trek in the surroundings of Sapa

At 9am, you will go on a trek in the garden of roses. You will carry on along the rice field terraces of Muong Hoa. The trek starts throughout the village of Lao Chai San, inhabited by the Black H'Mong minority (about 3 hour long walk). A picnic lunch will be taken on the road. Afterwards, you will carry on by foot to the village of Lao Chai, inhabited by the Black H'Mong minority. (about 1 hour long walk) In the afternoon, you will arrive to the village of Ta Van where you will be having dinner and will spend the night at the Day minority inhabitant's place.

*Breakfast,  
English speaking Guide,  
Private car,  
Tickets,  
Lunch,  
Dinner,  
Night in homestay.*



## PROGRAM : 8 Days - 8 Nights

### Day 7

After breakfast, the trek starts throughout a bamboo forest and you will be visiting the village of Giang Ta Chai. This village inhabited by the Red Dao minority (about 2h30 long walk). Afterwards, you will carry on along the rice field terraces to get to the main road. There, you will be having lunch prepared by the guide in a local family (about 2 hour long walk). After lunch, you will be going back to Sapa with a private car. Afternoon at liberty in Sapa where you can visit the market and the city of Sapa. Dinner will be taken in a local restaurant. You will spend the night at the "Panorama" hotel in Sapa.

*Breakfast,  
English speaking Guide,  
Private car,  
Tickets,  
Lunch,  
Dinner,  
Hotel.*

### Jour 8 : Visit of an authentic Minority Market

*TUESDAY : The Coc Ly market - THURSDAY : The Lung Khau Nhin market  
SATURDAY : The Pha Long or Can Cau market  
SUNDAY : The Bac Ha or Muong Hum market*

After breakfast, the local guide will come and pick you up to go for the ethnic minority market with a private car (between 2 and 3 hour long journey depending on the market). You will discover the market, the local handicraft products sold by the very colorful H'Mongs, Days, Daos and Nungs... You will take the time to understand the craftsmanship and the business of these ethnic groups among in the middle of all the very colorful outfits. Lunch will be taken in a local restaurant. Depending on the chosen market, a stroll is scheduled in the surroundings (by boat in Coc Ly for example) with the visit of villages in order to get to the closest of the local population and to discover the landscapes of the region. In late afternoon, you will go back to Lao Cai. Dinner will be taken in a local restaurant in Lao Cai. The night train leaves at 8.15pm from Lao Cai train station. You will be traveling with the comfort of a wagon sleepers and you will be arriving the next morning around 5am in Ha Noi.

*Breakfast,  
English speaking Guide,  
Private car,  
Tickets,  
Lunch,  
Dinner,  
Train Lao Cai - Ha Noi.*



# Fare information



Number of Persons	1 Pers	2 Pers	3 Pers	4 Pers	5 Pers
Program	1 423 €	1 687 €	2 230 €	2 604 €	3 146 €

Number of Persons	6 Pers	7 Pers	8 Pers	9 Pers	10 Pers
Program	3 414 €	3 955 €	4 220 €	4 763 €	5 030 €

*Fare valid until 31/12/2019*





