



VIETNAM IN FOCUS

PHOTO TOURS AND WORKSHOPS



BAC HA

HORSE RACING FESTIVAL

Capture one of Vietnam's most colourful and exciting festivals. The Bac Ha Horse Races draw thousands of ethnic minority spectators to this scenic mountain town, making for a carnival of colour and festivity. Jockeys come from H'mong, Nung and Dzao villages all over the province, and, riding bareback, compete in both team and individual races. Our trip means a chance to explore and photograph this unique event, while learning how to create, pace and picture a photojournalistic story. We base ourselves at the homestay of our Tay minority friends on the banks of the River Chay, and the weekend also includes a journey by longboat and landscape workshop in the stunning nearby valley.

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Arrival in Hanoi

Flights arrive at various times of day. In the afternoon, we'll have a city tour and visit the fascinating Museum of Ethnology. At 6pm, we sit down for a delicious welcome dinner, before catching our sleeper train north. On the way, we'll have a brief introduction to the tour, camera essentials, and a look at photographic storytelling.



Day 3

We'll make an early start to photograph the beginning of the final day's races. Teams prepare their horses and jockeys, and whole families of H'mong, Hoa and Thai people wander into town at sunrise to enjoy the festivities. We'll then move to the main stadium to capture all the action, and you'll be working independently on producing your own photographic story of the day's action. The races finish before lunchtime, and the prizes are awarded. We'll then head down to the River Chay for an afternoon longboat trip to visit Fairy Cave. As well as enjoying and photographing the stunning scenery, there is a chance for a cool swim in the river. We then hit the road again for Sapa, arriving at our hotel at 5pm. After dinner we have a chance to explore Sapa's ethnic minority night market.



Day 2

We arrive in Lao Cai at daybreak, and head straight for Bac Ha town, in the mountains to the east. The road takes us up through some beautiful valleys, and we'll have a chance to work on landscape photography. The races are already underway by the time we arrive, and the town has filled with people from many ethnic minorities. We'll check into our hotel and then venture out to explore the festival. Today we're focusing on how to compose the key photos for a 3 picture story, looking at the races, jockeys and horses, and the colourful mix of spectators. In the afternoon, we drive out to some of the small villages surrounding Bac Ha, for a look at local life in this scenic area. There will be time for a photo review session before dinner.





Day 4

In the morning, we'll head out to some of the most stunning vantage points around town, including the Tram Ton and O Quy Ho Pass. We'll then have time for a short trek to visit some of the villages in the valleys nearby. Local minorities include the Black H'mong and Red Dzao, and we'll be looking at how to approach portraiture. After lunch in town, there's a last chance to do some shopping in Sapa market, enjoy a Dzao hot rock spa, or review photos from the trip. Our car takes us back down to Lao Cai at 4pm, and we'll have dinner there, before boarding our train.



Day 5

We arrive back in the capital at 5am, and head straight for Long Bien market to capture the morning's action. On our way to breakfast, we pass Hanoians waking up for the day and performing their exercises near the century-old water tower. Time for a bowl of 'pho' noodle soup or a baguette, and we check into our hotel. Flights depart at various times of day.

Included

- All transportation
- All accommodation during the tour
- All meals
- All non-alcoholic drinks
- All tickets and permits for sightseeing

Excluded

- International flights
- Participants' travel insurance
- Participants visas



Tour Dates

1st – 4th June 2018

Tour Highlights

- Hanoi Explorer Photo Tour
- Museum of Ethnology
- Overnight sleeper train
- Bac Ha Horse Racing Festival
- Longboat trip on the River Chay

RECOMMENDED BY

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