



CATHAY/HSBC HONG KONG SEVENS, SINGAPORE & VIETNAM TOUR



26th March - 7th April

ITINERARY

Wednesday 26th March

Depart Dublin to LHR to connect onto your 17:50 flight with Cathay Pacific direct to Hong Kong.

Thursday 27th March

Land at 14:35 local time and transfer to the 5* InterContinental Hotel. Check in for 4 nights B&B. This evening, enjoy an amazing Sunset Dinner & Cruise package. Witness Hong Kong's breathtaking harbour view during sundown while dining at an award-winning Chinese restaurant. Then board an iconic red-sail junk boat for a 45 minute cruise with the best seats in town for the spectacular lights, laser and music show that lights up the harbour and the city's skyscrapers.

Friday 28th March

Enjoy today at leisure. You have plenty of time to explore Hong Kong because the opening matches do not begin until the afternoon and usually feature teams from lower-ranked rugby nations. The hotel runs a complimentary shuttle to and from the Kai Tak Sports Ground (10 mins) and is on a first come first serve basis. In the evening enjoy the more high-profile matches involving top-tier teams. Enjoy the electrifying vibe as the stadium fills up! You can then head out after the last match to explore the nightlife in areas like Lan Kwai Fong or Wan Chai.

Saturday 29th March

This morning the matches continue, with teams trying to advance out of the group stages. The afternoon has more intense matches as some of the bigger rugby nations compete in the knockout stages. This evening is typically the most lively time with fans in full fancy-dress costume! Explore some of Hong Kong's nightlife post-games, such as Victoria Peak for evening views or bar hopping.

Sunday 30th March

It's Finals Day! The morning kicks off with more knockout-stage matches as the competition narrows down. This is a great time to catch up on local Hong Kong food nearby for a brunch before entering the stadium. In the afternoon the semi-finals and finals are held to determine the winners. The atmosphere is electric, and the crowd energy peaks with every big play. After the final match, there is huge fireworks display and prize ceremony. You can celebrate with fans and enjoy the city's nightlight one last time.



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Monday 31st March

Check out of the InterContinental Hotel and transfer to Hong Kong Airport for your 14:25 flight to Singapore. Land at 18:20 and transfer to the centrally located 5* Naumi Hotel for two nights. Evening at leisure.

Tuesday 1st April

This morning visit the Buddha Tooth Temple that houses what is believed to be a tooth relic of Buddha. Then visit one of Singapore's top attractions, Merlion Park to see the iconic Merlion statue with views of Marina Bay Sands. Enjoy a stroll at the stunning Gardens by the Bay, known for its futuristic Supertree Grove and Cloud Forest, the Supertree Observatory offers great views of the skyline. Then onto the famous Marina Bay Sands for panoramic views of the city from the SkyPark Observation Deck. Then it is off to the iconic Raffles Hotel for an obligatory Singapore Sling! This evening experience the brilliant Spectra Light & Water Show with dinner included.

Wednesday 2nd April

Check out of the hotel and enjoy a visit to the beautiful National Orchid Gardens which has the world's largest collection of orchids. Then transfer to the airport for your 15:05 flight to Hanoi, Vietnam. Land at 17:05 and transfer to the 5* The Legend Hanoi Hotel for two nights. Evening at leisure.

Thursday 3rd April

Today enjoy a full city tour of Hanoi with our English speaking tour guide. The tour will take you through the famous city with the first stop at the Temple of Literature. This was Vietnam's first national university and dates back to 1070. Following this, visit Dong Xuan market, which is the Old Quarters largest market, home to exotic plants, fruits and fragrant flowers. Then continue to the Hoa Lo Prison which holds lots of history of the American war. In the afternoon, visit Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum (outside visit) and his personal residence, the One Pillar Pagoda. There is then the option of a leisurely ride on a cyclo around Hoan Kiem Lake, before enjoying a water puppet show in the early evening. If time permits, pay a visit to a local coffee shop and enjoy Hanoi's specialty - Egg Coffee. Dinner (set menu) is at the Ly Club local restaurant and is part of your tour price (includes a mineral water/coffee/tea or soft drink).



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Friday 4th April

After an early breakfast, you will travel to the stunning and picturesque Ha Long Bay (around 2.5 hour drive) located in the Gulf of Tonkin. You will be taken aboard our support vessel and travel from Tuan Chau Marina via the bay to board the luxurious craft, the 5* Mon Chéri Cruise. Welcome fresh drinks, wet towels and a special lunch of fresh food and an assortment of appetizing delicacies will be served. You will be enchanted when decadently dining on the luxury junk. Life just doesn't get better than this! We then set sail for Lan Ha Bay - A member of the World's Most Beautiful Bays. Enjoy the delicious luncheon and an assortment of appetizing delicacies while cruising along Lan Ha Bay with the breathtaking scenery. Visiting Tra Bau area which is known as an area famous for its unspoiled, poetic natural beauty and attractive seascape of Lan Ha Bay. This is the best time for kayaking (included) to discover the truest beauty of the limestone islands. Immerse yourself in the emerald green water of the bay or enjoy the Jacuzzi pool on the Mon Chéri. Later, enjoy a cooking demonstration to learn how to make one of the most famous Vietnamese cuisines, the spring rolls. Visit the top deck of the cruise where you can admire the magnificent sunset over the Gulf of Tonkin. Relax on the top deck just under the cover of a brightly illuminated sky or try to get your luck at the squid fishing on the main deck. Overnight is on board!

Note: Due to operation or weather conditions, itineraries and food may change without prior notice.

Saturday 5th April

If you wish, begin the day full of energy with a Tai Chi session and enjoy the sun just rising up beyond the horizon. Breakfast is served while cruising back to Gia Luan jetty. You will join the tour of Cat Ba World Biosphere by transshipment. It takes 30 minutes to transfer from Gia Luan to Trung Trang – one of the most impressive caves in Cat Ba Island, Vietnam. The limestone cave has thousands of stalactites in various shapes, offering geological values with a typical cave ecosystem. Return to the main boat from the cave and then check out (please place luggage outside of the cabin). Disembark and transfer back to Hanoi. On the way, stop to visit the village of Yen Duc in Dong Trieu District which is situated on the way between Hanoi and Ha Long. Recognized in 1993 as a national relic, Yen Duc is typical of a countryside Vietnamese village still engaged in rice cultivation and farming activities. The village's historical ties date back to the Ly and Tran dynasty (10-14th century) and in modern history was considered a cradle of the revolutionary movements during the French Indochina War. Enjoy a tour around the village beginning with the charming fields, and the amazing tranquility in Yen Duc village, stop to visit the Canh Huong pagoda was built in the Tran Dynasty and associated with Buddha Emperor Tran Nhan Tong and Truc Lam Yen Tu Buddhism. Meet and talk with the friendly villagers to get an understanding of local life and family tradition and join the rice-pounding experience with them.

Then you depart and return to Hanoi. Check back into the 5* The Legend Hanoi Hotel for one night. End of tour dinner (included) tonight.



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Sunday 6th April

Transfer to Hanoi airport for your 10:55 flight to Hong Kong. Land in Hong Kong at 14:00. Your flight back home is not until 23:15 so we have organised a lovely excursion on arrival at Hong Kong! Private transfer (30 mins) to a lovely beachside restaurant on Cheung Sha Beach with stunning views next to Hong Kong's longest white sand swimming beach. Instant holiday vibes guaranteed, edged between the peaks of Lantau and the ocean of the South China Sea. A late lunch (set menu) is included (ex drinks). 19:00 Transfer back to the airport and check in for your flight. 23:15 Flight departs for LHR.

Monday 7th April

Land in LHR at 06:20 and connect onto your 08:25 flight for Dublin.

What a great tour and thank you for travelling with Rugby Travel Ireland.

VISA / PASSPORT INFORMATION

When travelling to Singapore, a visa is NOT required for Irish or UK passport holders but your passport must be valid for at least six months beyond your date of departure.

When travelling to Vietnam, Irish passport holders are required to hold a visa and the eVisa must be applied for through Vietnam Immigration's eVisa portal https://evisa.xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn/en_US/web/guest/khai-thi-thuc-dien-tu/cap-thi-thuc-dien-tu (please note that this is the only official eVisa portal for Vietnam). Current cost is €23pp.

UK passport holders do NOT require a visa for trips up to 15 days in Vietnam.

