

VIETNAM



BOOSTING COMMUNITY-BASED TOURISM
AND YOUTH WORK FOR GLOBAL
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



1 month d u r a t i o n



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LOCATION

Ha Giang

THEME OF YOUR CBT VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE

Training in responsible tourism/Building capacity for local people in tourism



CONTEXT

Ha Giang have just opened for tourism in recent few years. Ha Giang is a far-north province of Vietnam with untouched natural landscapes of rocky mountains, deep valleys & stunning rice terraces. With breathtaking landscape, colorful and diverse culture, it is one of the must-see & off-the-beaten path destination for adventure & nature lovers in Vietnam.

However, as many people has discovered it and visited in a short time, this brought up two issues:

First of all, the infrastructure and the touristic service-providers are not fully ready and prepared to welcome visitors. Therefore, there is limitation in lodging, infrastructure, and in some of the competences of local people (language skills, quality of services etc).

Secondly, there has not been enough time to properly develop and manage the way tourism shall happen in the area, and there is a high risk that this way the environment and the traditional characteristics of the area will be damaged, as well as the lives of local people might be affected in a negative way. The over-development of tourism can lead to bad influence on environment, create social problems, leak the economy outlet, and damage the landscape.

It is recognised, that urgent actions need to be taken to protect this area from mass tourism and keep the authenticity of local community here. This is what is driving the activities of YESD.



PURPOSE OF YOUR CBT VOLUNTEERING PROJECT:

- To improve the skills of local tour guides, local homestay owners
- To increase the quality of service provided by locals in concept of responsible tourism
- To develop the capacities of local communities to protect the natural and cultural authenticity of the area

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN BE ENGAGED IN - BASED ON YOUR INTERESTS AND SKILLS:

You will be cooperating with YESD to produce a training curriculum which aim to improve the quality service of local activities. And, under support of interpreters, you will take part in the organization of the training for local people in how to improve their services that they offer in the hospitality and touristic sector and other skills needed (hygiene, first-aid, management, communication etc). Then at the end, produce an easy-understanding manual to instruct step-by-step guidelines to apply.

The training will be realized in 2 different locations:

- 2 weeks in Tha village
- 2 weeks in Nam Dam village (which is 80 kms far from Tha village)

Why? There are currently CBT models there and they are running themselves but the skills of owners/managers are still limited, and needs further support and training to be improved. Plus, the 2 villages belong to the same 'loop', therefore visitors usually visit both places during their trips.

INTERCULTURAL EXPERIENCE YOU WILL BE PART OF:

Depending on the need of the host family, you may expect to work on some following tasks:

Harvesting: Ha Giang's scenery in early October is the golden rice fields during harvesting seasons. You will be delighted by the yellow color in harmony with blue sky, green mountains and rustic



ethnic houses. Joining the harvest work, reaping or cutting is the first operation in harvesting. The rice crop is cut by using simple hand tools like sickle or hand-held knives.

You can also help the village's farmers to ride a buffalo or take care of the family garden with 100% home-grown products. You can also join the cooking demonstration with the host family for their meals.



FACULTATIVE TRIPS YOU CAN CHOOSE FROM:

- Ha Giang is the land of mountainous & hilly topography, especially the up-northern districts of this province including Quan Ba, Yen Minh, Meo Vac & Dong Van – the stretching length of Dong Van Limestone Plateaux creating the main majestic scenery with towering mountains & immense valleys in the region.
- Lung Cu flag tower: the northernmost point of Vietnam, where you can extend your view to the horizon of local villages, their standing-out rice terraces and stunning mountains near and far.
- Vuong mansion: it is a special building of old & beautiful architecture built for the king of Hmong – Vuong Chi Sinh & his family in 1914. It was constructed by Chinese engineers & skilful local Hmong workers so the architecture of this house is the harmonical combination of Chinese & Hmong's styles.
- Visits at remote tribal villages: trekking to various places, being hosted in their homestays, try their home-cooked dishes or join them in local weekly markets, notably Dong Van market, Meo Vac market, or Quyet Tien market in Quan Ba
- The Ma Pi Leng Pass: conquering the king of all passes in Vietnam - this adventure is one of the top things you have to do in your Ha Giang excursion
- Quan Ba Heaven Gate & Twin Mountains: trekking to the top of Heaven Gate & having a panoramic view of surrounding regions including the Twin Mountains and the Tam Son town. It is a unique art of nature with interesting fairy tales narrated by locals.

YOU WILL BE HOSTED AT:

Tay ethnic house in Thon Tha village, 5km from Ha Giang city on the direction to Thanh Thuy border gate. The Tay traditional house is the stilt thatched-roof house where everyone sleeps on the floor with the thick mattress, warm blankets, mosquito net, pillows, and be separated with other beds by curtain. Bathrooms are shared on the ground floor.

You will stay in homestay with local people. Food will be prepared by homestay owners. However, depending on your preferences, hotel can be an option as well.

