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GODDARD & HOWSE

For: Australian Institute of International Affairs Victoria
Consultant: Xuan Le
To Vietnam

ITINERARY

THURSDAY 07 APR 11 HANOI ARRIVAL

[**-/-/-**]

Participants arriving on all flights will be met on arrival at Hanoi Noi Bai International Airport and transferred to the hotel for check in. Hanoi is a bustling, vibrant city that retains an old world charm rarely found in Asian cities these days. Set on the Red River and with many natural lakes, the city was once known as the Paris of the East and was home to the administrative government of the French for almost 80 years. Here you will see many fine examples of French architecture from public buildings to magnificent villas. Accommodation at Sofitel Metropole hotel (5 stars)

FRIDAY 08 APR 11 HANOI

[**B=BREAKFAST/-/D-DINNER**]

Breakfast at hotel

The day begins with a city tour taking in Ba Dinh Square (a graceful square where Ho Chi Minh declared independence for Vietnam in 1945) then continues with a visit to his former residence, as well as the One-Pillar Pagoda and the Temple of Literature.

Drop off for lunch at Koto restaurant.

In the afternoon we commence our briefing program at the Australian Embassy.

Welcome dinner at the Wild Rice restaurant.

Accommodation at Sofitel Metropole hotel

SATURDAY 09 APR 11 HANOI – HALONG BAY

[**B-/L- LUNCH/-**]

Breakfast at hotel

Pick up from the hotel and drive to Ha Long Bay. The road is interesting and varied and provides our first chance to view the countryside in the North. The country changes as we near Ha Long Bay with limestone formations appearing in the distance and with the presence of an active coal mining industry.

We arrive in Halong and board a private junk for a 3 hour cruise to discover Halong Bay, which is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage area of outstanding natural beauty. Halong Bay is known in Vietnamese as "Dragon descending to the sea". It has more than 3,000 limestone islets rising from clear emerald water, many of them containing beautiful grottoes such as Thien Cung and Dau Go. We will have a seafood lunch on board and drive back to Ha Noi in the afternoon.

Accommodation at Sofitel Metropole hotel



SUNDAY 10 APR 11

HANOI

[B-/-/-]

Breakfast at hotel

AM – We take a cyclo tour from the hotel to discover the Old Quarter
Remainder of day free day in Hanoi to explore until 1700 when we will have a talk by Mr Graham Alliband, a former Australian Ambassador to Vietnam, reflecting on developments in the country during his thirty year involvement with Vietnam.

Accommodation at Sofitel Metropole hotel

MONDAY 11 APR 11

HANOI

[B/-/-]

Breakfast at hotel

All day briefing program

Reception at residence of the Australian Ambassador (TBC)

Accommodation at Sofitel Metropole hotel

TUESDAY 12 APR 11

HANOI - HUE

[B-/-/-]

Breakfast at hotel

The briefing program continues in the morning until

Transfer to Noi Bai airport for flight to Hue.

VN245 at 1425 to arrive 1535

Met on arrival and transfer to hotel

Hue is set by the banks of the Perfume River and was the home of the former Nguyen dynasty which ruled as kings of Vietnam from 1802 to 1945.

Accommodation at La Residence hotel (5star)

WEDNESDAY 13 APR 11

HUE

[B-/-/-]

Breakfast at hotel

In the morning, after breakfast we take a boat cruise along the Perfume River to visit Thien Mu Pagoda, one of the oldest ancient architectural structures for religious worship in Hue. Continue visit to the elaborate mausoleums of emperors Khai Dinh and Minh Mang.

Accommodation at La Residence hotel

THURSDAY 14 APR 11

HUE - HOI AN

[B-/-/-]

Breakfast at hotel

After a morning visit to the Citadel we drive to Hoi An, via the Hai Van pass and Lang Co beach. Stop at Lang Co for lunch. After check in we have the remainder of the afternoon free for sightseeing and relaxation. Hoi An is the home of Vietnam's best tailors where you can have clothes made to order from the best quality fabrics at very reasonable prices.

Accommodation at Hoi An Hotel (4 star)

FRIDAY 15 APR 11

HOI AN

[B-/ -/-]

Breakfast at hotel

AM walking tour of Hoi-An. Remainder of day free

Accommodation at Hoi An Hotel



SATURDAY 16 APR 11 HOI AN - DA NANG- DA LAT [B-/-/-]

Breakfast at hotel
Transfer to Da Nang airport for flight to Da Lat
VN 349 at 1430 to arrive 1550
Met on arrival and transfer to hotel
Accommodation at Ana Mandara (5 star)

SUNDAY 17 APR 11 DA LAT [B-/-/-]

Breakfast at hotel
Tour of key tourist sights in Da Lat and environs
Accommodation at Ana Mandara

MONDAY 18 APR 11 DA LAT - HO CHI MINH CITY [B-/-/-]

Breakfast at hotel
Meet and transfer to the airport for flight to Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City).
(VN465 at 0840 to arrive 0930)
Met on arrival at Tan Son Nhat airport, City tour by bus en route to accommodation
PM Briefing with the Australian Consul-General
Accommodation at Continental Hotel (5 star)

TUESDAY 19 APR 11 HO CHI MINH CITY [B-/-/-]

Breakfast at hotel
In the morning we take a walking tour to visit the former Presidential Palace, War Remnants Museum, Notre Dame Cathedral and Central Post Office.
Lunch at Pho Hoa where you will have a chance to try one of the best noodle soups in Saigon
Afternoon continuation of briefing program
Reception by the Consul-General (tbc)
Accommodation at Continental hotel

Wednesday 20 Apr 11 HO CHI MINH CITY- MEKONG DELTA- HO CHI MINH CITY

[B/L/D] Breakfast at hotel
Day trip to Cai Be - a 2.5-hour drive from Ho Chi Minh City
We then take a boat trip along the Mekong River to view the daily life of local people who work and play on the waterways of the Mekong Delta. The trip includes a visit to canal where the floating market at Cai Be takes place and to a family-run business producing rice paper and corn flakes of Vietnamese style - a key ingredient in Vietnamese cuisine. Lunch at a local house set amongst fruit orchards and bonsai trees. A performance of traditional Vietnamese music accompanies the meal. Return to Ho Chi Minh City in late afternoon.
Late evening pick up at hotel, transfer to Temple Club for farewell dinner.
After dinner, transfer back to the hotel.
Accommodation at Continental hotel

THURSDAY 21 APR 11 HO CHI MINH CITY DEPARTURE [B-/-/-]

Breakfast at hotel
Free time at leisure till meet and transfer to the airport for onward flights



Including:

- All private transfers and group sightseeing with English speaking guides as indicated in the program
- Accommodation at hotels in Hanoi, Hue, Hoi An, Dalat and Saigon with daily breakfast
- All entrance fees as per program
- Air conditioned vehicles for all transport elements of the program.
- Breakfast at all hotels, welcome and farewell dinners, lunch on Halong Bay and Mekong Delta tours,
- Domestic flights from Hanoi to Hue, Danang to Dalat and Dalat to Saigon
- Day trip to Halong Bay by AC bus with a private boat tour of the Bay
- Day trip to Mekong Delta

Not including:

- International flights to and from Australia
- Travel Insurance
- Vietnam visa (see following notes)
- Personal expenses such as drinks, laundry etc...
- Meals not indicated in the program
- Tipping

Bookings and Reservations

To secure a booking we require a non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person and a completed booking form sent to the AIIAV 124 Jolimont Rd East Melbourne Vic 3002; fax 03 96546605; email admin.vic@aiia.asn.au. Please note that cancellation fees may apply after final payment date. For bookings made within 75 days of departure full payment is required at the time of booking.

For those booking travel to and from Vietnam through Goddard and Howse please check airline requirements with them.

Visa & Passport

Goddard & Howse can arrange the issue of your visas. Simply forward your valid passport (the passport must have at least six months validity) and passport size photographs at time of final payment and Goddard and Howse will do the rest. The current cost of a Vietnamese Visa is \$A75 per application.

Travel Insurance

You will need adequate travel insurance for this trip. If you have not made other arrangements Goddard and Howse has details of policies which cover most contingencies.

Health

We recommend consulting a Travellers' Medical Vaccination Centre or your local doctor regarding the current health requirements for travel to Vietnam.