



The Australian Institute of International Affairs

Vietnam Study Tour

Hanoi – Halon Bay - Dien Bien Phu – Hue - Hoi An - Dalat - Saigon

16 Days Program

15th - 30st October 2016

Top 5 things we'll experience

- Briefings by the Australian Ambassador and senior Vietnam officials as well as round table discussions about Vietnam's domestic situation and its foreign policy.
- Visit **Dalat**, the former French hill station, once called '**Le Petit Paris**'
- Experience the World Heritage listed area of **Halong Bay**, and experience the amazing scenery of the lime stone islands.
- Visit **Dien Bien Phu** revolutionary martyr Cemetery and the **Victory Museum**
- Visit the Imperial Citadel where known as the former imperial capital of Vietnam and the tomb of the **Emperor Khai Dinh** with its mix of Asian and Western architecture.

Itinerary:

B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D - Dinner

Day 1, Sat 15th October 2016

Sydney to Hanoi

(D)

Arrival at Noi Bai Int'l Airport in Hanoi (please advise your flight arrival time to Odyssey Travel, especially if you need airport transfer), make your own way to hotel, approx. one-hour-drive.

Check in hotel and free at leisure until 17:00, we meet at the hotel lobby for the welcome drink and tour briefing, follow by the Welcome dinner at the local restaurant.

Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, is located in the Red River Delta in the center of North Vietnam. It is the political, economic, cultural, commercial, and tourist center of the country. It was founded in 1010 AD during the reign of King Ly Cong Uan. Many ancient architectural features are still preserved in Hanoi, particularly in the fascination warren of streets known as the Old Quarter. There are over 600 pagodas, numerous lakes and parks, where locals tend to gather on weekends and in the evenings.

Accommodation: *Silk Path Hotel, Premium Deluxe room or similar.*

Day 2, Sun 16th October 2016

Hanoi

(B/L/D)

Today, we will visit **Ba Dinh Square** where silent sentries guard the mausoleum where Ho Chi Minh lies in state (closed every Friday & Monday & October/ November). See the **simple cottage** where Ho lived and worked. The next stop is the **Temple of Literature**.

Later in the afternoon, explore **Hoan Kiem Lake** and **Ngoc Son Temple**, followed by a cycle tour through the old quarter of Hanoi (if you like) and if time permits, we will stroll around the **old French quarter**, before attending a traditional **water puppetry show**.

Accommodation: *Silk Path Hotel, Premium Deluxe room or Similar.*

Day 3, Mon 17st October 2016

Hanoi

(B)

Whole day briefings arranged by president Richard Broinowski with the local officials – **TBA**

Transfers & guide are included. Within the city limits, service time from 08:00 am – 17:00 pm

Accommodation: *Silk Path Hotel, Premium Deluxe room or Similar.*

Day 4, Tue 18th October 2016 **Hanoi** **(B)**

Whole day meeting with the local officials - TBA.

Transfers & guide are included & within the city limited service time from 08:00 am – 17:00 pm.

Accommodation: *Silk Path Hotel, Premium Deluxe room or Similar.*

Day 5, Wed 19th October 2016 **Hanoi – Halong Bay** **(B/L/D)**

Travel to the World Heritage listed area of **Halong Bay** where we board the exquisite sampan. This traditional-style boat is lavishly furnished with private cabins, sun deck and a dining room. We also have the option of taking a kayaks amid the towering karst peaks and swim in secluded bays.



Remarks:

- *we can leave the main luggage at the hotel in Hanoi; just take a small bag with a change of clothes and essential travel items on board.*
- *Kayaking is not included and serves upon request at additional cost*
- *The cruise itinerary is subject to change upon the weather condition.*

Accommodation: *Overnight on Bhaya Classic Cruise, Deluxe room or similar.*

Day 6, Thursday 20th October 2016 **Halong - Hanoi** **(Brunch)**

Start the day with an early **morning exercise** on the sundeck or **watch sunrise from the sundeck** with a warming coffee. After a late breakfast, disembark at approximately 11:00 am for our return transfer to Hanoi arriving approximately 4 pm.

Accommodation: *Silk Path Hotel, Premium Deluxe room or Similar.*

Day 7, Friday 21st October 2016 **Hanoi – Dien Bien Phu** **(B/D)**

After breakfast, check out the hotel and transfer to the airport to take short flight to **Dien Bien** via **VN8202 HAN-DIN 1155/1305**. Meet with the driver on arrival and transfer to the hotel.

In the afternoon, we visit **Dien Bien Phu revolutionary martyr Cemetery** and **Dien Bien Phu Victory museum**, the **A1 Hill** where bitter fighting took place. Continue to visit the **bunker** of French Commander, **Brig. Gen. Christian de la Croix de Castries**. Return to the hotel for leisure.

Accommodation: *Muong Thanh Dien Bien Hotel, Deluxe room or Similar*

Day 8, Saturday 22nd October 2015 **Dien Bien Phu – Hanoi -Hue** **(B/L)**

Today, we will visit the former battlefields and the head quarter of **General Giap** during the Dien Bien Phu Campaign. Here, when we visit the villiage, we will have a chance to meet several of the different ethnic minority tribes, including Thai and H'Mong people. Afterward, we transfer to the airport to take a short flight back to Hanoi via **VN2804 DIN-HAN 1510/1620**. On arrival to Noi Bai Airport, connect flight to Hui via **VN1545 HAN-HUI 1905/2015**. on arrival, we meet with the local tour guide and transfer to our hotel in centre of the town.

Accommodation: *Imperial Hue Hotel, Deluxe City View room..*

Day 9, Sunday 23rd October 2016 **Hue** **(B/L/D)**

Today we explore this historically significant city of **Hue** – it is the former Imperial City. We start the day with a boat trip along the Perfume River to **Thien Mu Pagoda**, built in 1601. Then continue by car to the Ancient Citadel, the capital of Vietnam from 1802-1945, where the last King of Vietnam – Bao Dai King – abdicated on 30 August, 1945. After a delicious lunch at a popular local restaurant – we visit the **tomb of the Emperor Khai Dinh** with its mix of Asian and Western architecture. On the return to our hotel, we stop at a roadside village to observe how locals make **incense** and traditional **conical hats**.

Accommodation: *Imperial Hue Hotel, Deluxe City View room.*

Day 10, Monday 24th October 2016 **Hue – Danang - Hoi An** **(B)**

Today, we will depart Hue for Hoi An. Travel via the spectacular **Hai Van Pass**, with stunning views awaits at the top of **Lang Co Beach** and out to Danang Beach. On the way, take a photo stop at **Marble**

Mountain, a scenic spot with caves, temples, shrines, pagodas and a great view of the surrounding area. Continue the journey to Hoi An, check in on arrival and relax.

Hoi An is one of the most popular places to visit in Vietnam with its charming old town filled with art shops, home-wares, cafés and tailors. During the 17th and 18th centuries Hoi An was a major Asian trading centre, it is a wonderful town for getting clothes tailor-made or for buying souvenirs, Hoi An also boasts an excellent beach.

Accommodation: *Hoi An Hotel, Superior room.*

Day 11, Tuesday 25th October 2016 Hoi An (B/L)

You can choose one of the below options for the morning excursion:

OPT 1: Red Bridge Cooking Class

Red Bridge offers one of the most professional and fun cooking classes in Vietnam. Begin with a market visit to purchase produce, followed by a boat trip to the school. Red Bridge will teach you how to create many of the popular Vietnamese dishes you will encounter on your holiday. Begins at 8.15am – 13.00 pm in Hoi An town.

OPT 2: Countryside Village by bike

Using quality local bikes our guide will collect us from hotel for a cycle through the countryside to a local village where the way of life remains as it has for generations. You'll see pottery making and visit the Tra Que farming Village, the fresh vegetable gardens and many of local farmers work at their fields using traditional methods. On the way see small handicrafts, such as rice paper making.



This afternoon, we will take a leisurely discovery tour on foot, visit some of the historic merchant and community houses, pagodas and places of worship, famous Japanese Covered Bridge, and the market. While we wander around Hoi An's back streets, we'll notice a soft, clattering hum. It's the sound of sewing machines. This little town is also home to literally hundreds of tailor shops. No one knows exactly when, how or why Hoi had become sewing central. Many of the buildings have souvenir shops at the front, but a few have been opened to visitors and still retain all their original charm, furniture and ceramics. Some of the houses has been occupied by the same family

for generations.

Accommodation: *Hoi An Hotel, Superior room or similar.*

Day 12, Wednesday 26th September 2016 Hoi An - Danang – Dalat (B/L)

Breakfast box, check out the hotel in early morning @4 am, transfer to the airport to take short flight to Dalat via **VN1955 DAD-DLI 0630/0740**.

Dalat, the former French hill station, once called '**Le Petit Paris**', is situated 300 km north of Ho Chi Minh City in the Central Highlands. It is an ideal place to escape from the heat. Because of its elevation, 1,500 metres above sea level, Dalat's climate is much cooler than that of the surrounding lowlands.

Upon arrival, we first visit **Prenn Waterfalls** about 10km away from Da Lat, then visit **Tuyen Lam Reservoir & Truc Lam grandiose temple** by cable car. Surrounding by pine forest, Tuyen Lam Lake looks like a paradise with the Zen meditation monastery named Truc Lam, very quiet scenery beside its beautiful flower garden, which is built on the top of Phoenix Hill. After lunch, we take a trip on train from Dalat to Trai Mat and visit **Linh Phuoc pagoda**. Dalat Railway Station, called **Ga Da Lat**, was built in 1938 by the French and is the start of a short railway line on which a train runs several times a day taking us to the small town of Trai Mat and it's pagoda. The last stop for today is **Dalat University** where its campus sits on a hilly area of 40 hectares with variety of styled building hidden throughout pine trees. Return to the hotel for leisure.

Accommodation: *Saigon Dalat Hotel 4*, Superior room.*

Day 13, Thursday 27th October 2016 Dalat - Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) (B/L)

After breakfast, we have half day trip around **Da Lat City**. The **Palace of Bao Dai** was built from 1933 to 1938 according to a design by a French architect and Vietnamese architect Huynh Tan Phat. The

Crazy House is one of the most interesting discoveries in Da Lat. As the perfect outcome of revolutionary spirit and imagination, the house looks like a world in fairy tale, a little Disney Garden. Da Lat holds annual flower festival as a message to call and attract investors to the development of Da Lat and its suburbs into the centre of production, exportation of flower of the country and Southeast Asia. After lunch, it is free time for us to explore the city by ourselves.

Accommodation: Saigon Dalat Hotel 4*, Superior room.

Day 14, Friday 28th October 2016 Dalat - Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) (B/L/D)

Breakfast box, check out the hotel in early morning @05.30 and then transfer to the airport to take short flight to Ho Chi Minh City via **VN1381 DLI-SGN 0800/0845**. On arrival, transfer to the hotel for check in (early room check in is subject to the availability).

Whole day meeting with the local officials (meeting will be arranged by AIIA transfers & guide will be provided & within the city limited, service time from 08:00 am – 17:00 pm).

Ho Chi Minh City (or Saigon as it is also known) is a bustling cosmopolitan city known for its history, people, and architecture. With a population of close to seven million Ho Chi Minh City is full of life and contrasts. Everywhere you look there is activity, be it school girls on bicycles, their traditional “Ao Dai” tunics fluttering in the breeze or vendors engulfed in bright bubbles of balloons or pushing carts heaped with wares. The French influence is still apparent in Ho Chi Minh City – from the broad tree-lined boulevards to the imposing villas and colonial architecture. A short walk within District 1 will instantly immerse us in daily life, with an overwhelming mix of street cafes, markets, vendors and shops.

Accommodation: Renaissance Riverside Hotel, Deluxe City View room.

Day 15, Saturday 29th October 2016 Saigon (B)

Today, we will discover this vibrant city’s landmarks with a visit to the stunning **Notre Dame Cathedral** and the **Ho Chi Minh Central Post Office**, two major **French colonial landmarks**. Then visit the **War Museum** – a stark reminder of the US-Vietnam War. Next stop is the **old Reunification Palace** with its remarkable network of underground bunkers. Then visit a traditional medicine museum where you’ll discover the use of natural herbs and traditional medicines. Venture through bustling Chinatown, locally known as Cholon, with its colourful atmosphere and mysterious temples. Free for shopping at Ben Thanh colourful market and transfer back to the hotel.

Accommodation: Renaissance Riverside Hotel, Deluxe City View room.

Day 16, Sunday 30th October 2016 Saigon – Departure (B)

Today, our program concludes after breakfast! Hotel check out time is before 12.00 noon, late check out subject to the availability on request. We are at leisure until transfer to airport for flights home.

END OF SERVICES

Please note: itinerary may be changed due to operational and condition at the time of the tour.

Price inclusions:

- All tours and transfers, as indicated, in private vehicle with local English speaking guide at each destination.
- Accommodation at the above mentioned hotels, based on twin occupancy with daily breakfast,
- 2D1N Cruise package in Halong Bay, based on twin occupancy with full board meals
- Boat trip and sightseeing admission fees where applicable,
- Meals **14 Breakfasts** , **9 Lunches**, **6 Dinners** – foods only
- Mineral waters & cool towels during tours (2 bottles per person per day)
- VISA to enter the country (\$75)
- **Domestic flights:**

HAN-DIN//DIN-HAN &tax: \$214.00 per person (subject to change)
 HAN-HUI & tax: \$164.00 per person (subject to change)
 DAD-DLI & tax: \$136.00 per person (subject to change)
 DLI-SGN & tax: \$114.00 per person (subject to change)

Price exclusions:

- International flights
- Any tours and transfers that not mentioned in the itinerary
- Any meals that not mentioned in the itinerary
- Any drink & beverages
- Travel insurance (Odyssey Offers 20% discount to AIIA members)
- Any means of personal expenses i.e. telephone bills, laundry, tipping, drinks & beverages, mini-bar consuming, etc.
- Extension to Mekong Delta can be offered, Price on Request

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Pricing per person in Twin share AUD\$:

Group size	20	Single supplement
Land package	\$3,550	\$1,330

Airport Transfer per person

Group size	1	2	3-5	
Hanoi	\$80	\$40	\$30	
Saigon	\$60	\$30	\$25	



By Tri Nguyen - <http://travelcoffeebook.com/post/96168714388/dalat-vietnam-download-here-contributor-tri>

Odyssey Travel is a not-for-profit organisation, established since 1983, with over 30 universities and educational institutions as members, the organization is own by Australia and New Zealand College for seniors.

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