



AGRICULTURE DISCOVERY

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TOUR BOOK CONTENT

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1. TOUR TARGET

2. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

- a. Participants list in details as attached below

3. REGISTRATION FORM

4. TOUR DESCRIPTION

- a. Field trip and practical workshop assignment
- b. Tour exploration
- c. Factory visit
- d. Group discussion Assignment & Tour Summary
- e. Agriculture and horticulture research

5. TOUR LOCATION INTRODUCTION

- a. Hoc Mon, Cu Chi in Ho Chi Minh City
- b. Binh Duong, Dong Nai Provinces
- c. Mekong Delta
 - i. Tien Giang & Ben Tre
 - ii. Dong Thap, Vinh Long & Can Tho
 - iii. An Giang, Chau Doc

6. COUNTRY PROFILE

Vietnam - a country of Agriculture and Horticulture Development and of beautiful landscape

7. PACKAGE SERVICE, PRICE AND CANCELLATION

TOUR TARGET

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1. Practical field trip and workshop assignment in agriculture and horticulture discovery in Vietnam
2. Globalize the study through this program
3. Valued experience in information and study during the tour together with exploring history and culture of Vietnam
4. Leisure holidays in Mekong Delta and Vietnam Discovery particularly
5. Practical research by the guidance and help of experts and local farmers
6. the students will master the traditional and modern technology in rice paddy growing in Vietnam by the field trip with farmers and gardeners and visiting the agriculture factories and horticulture high tech park
7. Understanding Vietnamese government has focused and invested and applied and equipped the new modern technology in agriculture and horticulture particularly in rice paddy growing and fruit nursery plantation.
8. The students will realize and understand what and how the potential development in agriculture and horticulture industry in Vietnam
9. Other valued information during the trip with practical and theoretical guidance of gardeners, farmers and professors
10. The students will get certificate from agriculture institute of Vietnam valued at their hard study at this short semester study abroad in Vietnam
11. The students will understand the history and culture of the Vietnamese people
12. During the tour, students will have chance to do social work by helping poor people such a work of house roofing, teaching English children at primary school and helping school in repairing equipment and school painting and decoration

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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No	Name in full	Photo	Email	Profession	Year of study
1					
2					

3					
4					
5					

Layout of participation card

Photo	Name in Full
	University
	Faculty
	Email

REGISTRATION FORM

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REGISTRATION FORM				
Part 1. University Info				
No	University	Address	Year of Study	Faculty and profession

Part 2: Students' Info					
No	Name in full	Faculty	Email	Phone	Photo
	Passport No	Place of issued	Date of issued	Payment Term	
				In cash	Wire transfer

TOUR DESCRIPTION

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A. Organizer

- **The Western Travel (Brief information and background)**

The Western Travel Corporation, growing a range of holidays and typical tour and targeted to always to create a difference for your tour – is one of the professional travel agencies tailoring tours in Mekong Delta and targeted to become as No 1 holiday brand in Mekong Delta, nationwide and worldwide through our tour land and service. Altogether, a package tour at mekongstours.com or westerntravell.com is of the chain of services with a diverse menu dishes and of the services of air ticket, visa, transportation, garden trekking activities, boat trip, spa with massage and nail care, home stay and music performed with local people. Together with the chain of typical tours arranging for business people and tours in a combination of education and training for example agriculture discovery, we have also tailored and made tour with theme and stylish different and diversified services.

The well known brand that fall under the Travel with mekongstours.com logo include such typical tours named as particular Holidays at Mekong Delta, the VIP service and typical architecture design of our tour land development targeting at always to create the differences to serve our customers and tourists.

The range and potential of travel with Mekongstours.com has grown even greater, to offer our customers an extraordinary level of service. There is more and more new destination opening up to our customers

and tourists with each new acquisition and the possibilities are becoming increasingly widespread and exciting

- **University of Agriculture and Horticulture (brief Information and Background)**

B. Distinguished Guests

- a. Professors at University of Agriculture and Forest in Ho Chi Minh City
- b. Professors at agriculture institute
- c. Farmers at Mekong Delta, Binh Duong, HCMC (Cu Chi and Hoc Mon District)
- d. Board of Management at Factories of Agriculture processing
- e. Fashion show team

C. Topics for theoretical and practical presentation

OBJECTIVE: Vietnam is an agricultural country with more than seventy percent of population lived in rural area, which is why rural development and agriculture are critical to Vietnam’s development. The majority of the rural population makes their living by growing and selling crops (rice accounts for 45 percent of agricultural production), raising and selling livestock and fish, and from forest products. Vietnamese agriculture remains to keep the traditional farming, which had been existed for a long time.

The main objective of the proposal is to introduce the plant breeding, theoretical and practical skills in morphology of plants, nursery stage of plant, plant growing, flowering, plant protection and harvesting including rice, fruits, vegetable and flower by traditional technique to the students.

No	Topic content	Remarks
1	Overview on traditional agriculture in Vietnam - History and development	In class
2	Theory and practical activity of nursery stage of plants	In class and field
3	Practical activity for transplanting of plants	In field

4	Theory and practical activity for the nutrition of plant	In class and field
5	Practical activity for harvesting of plants and visit to factories of agricultural product processing	In field
6	Visit to Cattle and Poultry farm and horticulture and agriculture garden and park	In field

- a. Agriculture and Horticulture technology in Vietnam
 - i. Growing rice in traditional technology
 - ii. Fruit Nursery plantation
 - iii. Traditional technique in growing paddy rice, fruit and vegetable and flower
- b. Growing tree, vegetable and flower in traditional technique
- c. Field trip and practical workshop with farmers and gardeners
- d. Factories visit (rice mill, fruit processing factories, park of clean vegetable plantation) – role of agriculture and horticulture in economic development
- e. Model of agriculture and horticulture business of local people and farmers and gardeners

D. Tour with leisure holiday and information exploration

Day 1: Welcome at airport and hotel check in – dinner at Bon Sai Cruise on Saigon River – Distinguished guests from General Consulate

Day 2: Agriculture conference

6:00: Breakfast at hotel

8:00: Agriculture conference with experts and professors at Agriculture institute

12:00: Lunch at Indochine restaurant with specialties in Saigon

13:30: Open discussion with local farmers and gardeners in Hoc Mon where a home of horticulture and cow farming

18:30: Dinner at BBQ garden restaurant

Day 3: Mekong Discovery

6:00: Breakfast at hotel

8:00: Heading for My Tho – Ben Tre

9:30: Tour entertainment to explore the rural in Mekong Delta

12:30: Lunch at Mekong restaurant on Phoenix Island with Mekong Delta's specialties

13:30: Hotel check in

14:00: Field workshop with paddy rice growing activity guided by local gardeners

18:30: Gala dinner with traditional music show at fruit garden

Overnight in Ben Tre

Day 3: Nursery plantation in Mekong Delta

6:00: Breakfast at hotel

7:00: Head for Can Tho and hotel check in

12:00: Lunch at Nam Bo restaurant with Mekong specialties in Can Tho city

13:30: Conference with Can Tho University and visit to agricultural product processing factory

18:30: Dinner at Can Tho cruise on Hau River

Day 4: Field trip with agriculture workshop

6:00: Breakfast at hotel

7:00: Nutrition and Harvesting

12:00: Lunch at local restaurant

13:00: Chau Doc hotel check in

18:30: Dinner at Bay Bong restaurant – Chau Doc specialties

Day 5: Fish farm visit in Chau Doc

6:00: Breakfast at Hotel

7:30: Visit fish farm, Sam Mountain

11:30: Lunch at Hoa Binh restaurant

12:00: Driving to Saigon

18:00: Hotel check in

19:00: Dinner at Vietnam house

Day 6: City tour and Da Nang City

6:00: Breakfast at hotel and hotel check out

7:00: Visit Cu Chi Tunnel and handicapped house

12:30: Lunch at La Tarvene restaurant

13:30: Visit independence palace, war museum, city post office and city church

17:30: Dinner with Vietnamese special noodle

19:00: Flight to Danang and Palm Garden Resort check in at 20:30

21:00: Dinner at resort by the beach

Day 7: Enjoyable life by most beautiful beach in Da Nang City

6:00: Breakfast at resort

7:00: Personal time by the beach

12:00: Lunch at Pho Trang restaurant (Fullmoon Town) with Hoi An specialties

13:30: Cyclo tour around Hoi An ancient town

14:30: Walking tour to explore ancient town

17:00: Back to resort and personal time

19:00: Phuoc My 2 restaurant dinner with seafood by the beach

Day 8: Hue – Citadel exploration

6:00: Breakfast at resort and check out

8:00: Drive to Hue

12:00: Lunch at Lang Co Beach Resort

15:00: Hotel check in

16:00: Boat trip on Huong River

18:30: Dinner at Royal restaurant

Day 9: Hue City

6:00: Breakfast at Hotel

7:00: Visit the Nguyen kingdom

12:00: Lunch at Hue restaurant

13:30: Visit imperial tomb and Thien Mu pagoda

16:00: Agriculture open discussion with local gardeners

18:30: Gala dinner with agriculture department in Hue City

Day 10: Flight to Hanoi

6:00: Breakfast at hotel and hotel check out

8:00: Flight to Hanoi

10:00: Hotel check in and personal time

12:00: Lunch at Pho Bien restaurant

13:00: Visit old town of 36 street and Van Mieu

18:30: Dinner at San Ho restaurant

Day 11: Ha Long Bay – visit fishery village and wonder world

6:00: Breakfast at hotel and check out for Ha Long Bay

8:00: Leaving for Ha Long Bay

12:00: Paradise Cruise

Day 12: Ha Long Bay – Ha Noi City

10:30: Check out Paradise Cruise

12:30: Lunch at rest stop

16:00: Hotel check in

18:30: Dinner with Professors of Agriculture University in Hanoi restaurant

Day 13: Agricultural product processing factories

6:00: Breakfast at Hotel

8:00: Visit Agriculture Factories

12:00: Lunch at Hanoi restaurant

14:00: Visit Hanoi Museum

17:00: Free at leisure for shopping

19:00: Hanoi restaurant

Day 14: Hanoi City Tour

6:00: Breakfast at hotel

7:30: Hanoi City tour

12:30: Lunch at Hanoi restaurant

13:30: Cyclo tour around Hanoi City

18:30: Vietnamese noodle (La Vong fish noodle)

Day 15: Flight back home

6:00: Breakfast at hotel then check out

8:00: Leave for airport to flight to Saigon

11:00: Transit to international flight

E. Summary for whole tour

- a. Agriculture conference and tour review with group discussion experienced during the tour

TOUR DESTINATION

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1. Ho Chi Minh City – Cu Chi



over the labor age norm (in Vietnam it's 60 for male and 55 for female workers). In 2009, GDP per capita reached 2,800 USD, compared to this country's average level of \$US 1042 in 2009.

Ho Chi Minh City is the most important economic center in Vietnam as it accounts for a high proportion of Vietnam's economy. Ho Chi Minh City plays an important driving impetus of Economy of Vietnam. This city just accounts for 0.6% land area, 7.5% population of Vietnam nevertheless accounts for 20.2% GDP, 27.9% industrial output and 34.9% FDI projects in this country in 2005. In 2005, this city had 4,344,000 laborers, of which 130,000 are



The economy of Ho Chi Minh City covers different fields, from mining, seafood processing, agriculture, construction to tourism, finance, industry, trading. The state-owned sector makes up 33.3%, private sector of 4.6%, the other remaining percentage lays in foreign businesses. As far as economic structure is concerned, service sector accounts for 51.1%, industry and construction accounts for 47.7%, forestry, agriculture and others make up just 1.2%.

** Agriculture in HCMC

Agriculture encompasses a wide variety of specialties and techniques, including ways to expand the lands suitable for plant raising, by digging water-channels and other forms of irrigation. Cultivation of crops on arable land and the pastoral herding of livestock on rangeland remain at the foundation of agriculture. In the past century, there has been increasing concern to identify and quantify various forms of agriculture. In the developed world the range usually extends between sustainable agriculture (e.g. perma-culture or organic agriculture) and intensive farming (e.g. industrial agriculture).

Modern agronomy, plant breeding, pesticides and fertilizers, and technological improvements have sharply increased yields from cultivation, and at the same time have caused widespread ecological damage and negative human health effects. Selective breeding and modern practices in animal husbandry such as intensive pig farming (and similar practices applied to the chicken) have similarly increased the output of meat, but have raised concerns about animal cruelty and the health effects of the antibiotics, growth hormones, and other chemicals commonly used in industrial meat production.

The major agricultural products can be broadly grouped into foods, fibers, fuels, and raw materials. In the 2000s, plants have been used to grow bio-fuels, biopharmaceuticals, bio-plastic and pharmaceuticals. Specific foods include cereals, vegetables, fruits, and meat. Fibers include cotton, wool, hemp, silk and flax. Raw materials include lumber and bamboo. Other useful materials are produced by plants, such as resins, Bio-fuels include methane from biomass, ethanol, and biodiesel. Cut flowers, nursery plants, tropical fish and birds for the pet trade are some of the ornamental products.

Cholon, 堤岸, Ho Chi Minh, Saigon, Chinatown



The largest Chinatown in Vietnam is Cholon, 堤岸, in district 5 and 6 of Ho Chi Minh, 胡志明, former Saigon. Cholon's current status was the result of political developments in the 18th and 19th centuries.

In 1772, the Tay Son rebellion led by three Vietnamese brothers overthrew the Nguyen rulers. A young prince Nguyen Phuc Anh, 阮福映, or commonly recorded as Nguyen Anh, managed to escape from the Tay Son forces and eventually recovered the southern Vietnam as his base. Both contending parties regarded the **Chinese population in Vietnam** as sources of manpower and financial support. This relationship placed the Chinese in a delicate situation.

In 1776, the Tay Son forces pillaged the Chinese trading centre under their control. The Chinese population fled and joined existing Chinese communities in Cholon. Unfortunately, the Tay Son forces captured Cholon six years later and massacred about 10 000 Chinese for their support of the



Nguyen lords.

In 1802, Nguyen Anh managed to defeat the Tay Son forces with French help. He founded the Nguyen dynasty, ascended the throne as Emperor Gia Long, 嘉隆, and established his capital at Hue. Although he managed to unify Vietnam, his reliance on the French to defeat Tay Son forces opened the door for French influence in Vietnam.

While the Nguyen court resisted and attempted to contain western political influence, they could not escape the forces of colonization that was unfolding in other parts of Asia and around the world. By 1887, eighty five years after the founding of Nguyen dynasty, Vietnam was incorporated into the French Indo China. This new environment attracted many Chinese to Vietnam and expanded the population of Cholon.

These political events and the resulting Chinese population shifts were reflected in the emergence of new Chinese public institutions like clan associations, temples, and monasteries alongside existing ones. Relatively new temples include **Jade Emperor Temple, Chua Ngoc Hoang.**

These institutions enabled the Chinese populations to organize themselves socially and to address religious and cultural needs.

Similar to some Chinatowns such as **Manila Chinatown**, the Chinese and the local population have different names for the same area. Cholon, meaning “big market”, is the Vietnamese name for the area but the Chinese refer to it as ti-an, 堤岸, meaning an embankment.

The central market in Cholon is the Binh Tay market offering a wide range of products from food to clothing to daily necessities. It is also a wholesaler market and a tourist attraction. The founding dates of the various clan associations, temples, monasteries and Chinese institutions act as markers of Chinese activities and development of Cholon. Some of these institutions existed before the Tay Son rebellion while others were established during the French rule.

They are the embodiment of Chinese cultural life as traditional religious and cultural events continue to be celebrated and commemorated in these institutions. See **Mid Autumn celebration in Nhi Phu Club.**

The Vietnam Government has recognized many of these temples and clan associations as national level historical and cultural sites and the committee members of respective organizations continue to restore and to maintain the physical structures. These historical sites also function as tourist attractions and contribute to the tourism industry of Ho Chi Minh and Vietnam.

Another indication of Chinese activities in Cholon is the number of shops specializing in Chinese cultural and ritual items like religious objects and **lion dance** equipments. Walking around Cholon, it is also not difficult to spot traditional Chinese practices like shrines to earth gods outside homes and shop houses and most obviously of all, Mandarin pop songs blasted from home entertainment systems.

Today as modern buildings emerged in Cholon, the historical clan associations, temples and monasteries served as markers of history, reflect the relationship between the Chinese population and the state and continue in their roles as centers of Chinese cultural activities.



2. Binh Duong Province

The area is considered to be good cropland, and agriculture is an important industry in the province. Bình Dương is also home to a significant manufacturing industry, and in the first half of 2004, the province had the second highest levels of foreign investment in Vietnam. Nike, Adidas, H&M and McDonald's have set up factories to manufacture goods they sell locally and abroad in the province. The southern Dĩ An and Thuận An wards are highly urbanized and are now encompassed within the HCM City metropolitan area.

3. Mekong Delta

The **Mekong Delta** (Vietnamese: *đồng bằng sông Cửu Long* “Nine Dragon river delta”) is the region in southwestern Vietnam where the Mekong River approaches and empties into the sea through a network of distributaries. The Mekong delta region encompasses a large portion of southeastern Vietnam of 39,000 square kilometres (15,000 sq mi) . The size of the area covered by water depends on the season.

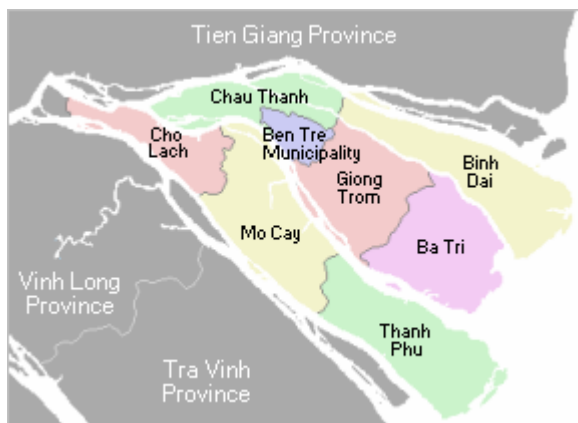
a. Tien Giang province

Tien Giang is located north of the Mekong Delta, alongside the north of Tien River. The Kinh ethnic group accounts for more than 99% of the total population. The climate is divided in two distinct (dry and rainy) seasons. The rainfall in this province is considered lower than in the other provinces located in the Mekong Delta. Famous sites include Thoi Son Islet, Dong Tam Snake Farm, and Dong Thap Muoi Area.

A province in the Mekong River Delta, the rice granary of Vietnam, Tien Giang has vast areas of durian, mango, rambutan, and other delicious tropical fruit trees. The province is 7 km southwest of Ho Chi Minh City.

The province is inhabited by the Kinh, who account for 90% of the province's population, and ethnic minorities of the Cham, Hoa and Khmer.

b. Ben Tre province



Geographically, Bến Tre is wedged between the two main branches of the Tiền Giang River, which is itself one of the two main branches of the Mekong. The province's northern boundary is formed by the Tiền Giang's main course, while the province's southern boundary is formed by the Tiền Giang's largest branch (which breaks away from the Tiền Giang just upriver from Bến Tre province). Between the Tiền Giang and its main branch are two smaller branches, passing through the middle of Bến Tre. The entire province is criss-crossed with a network of smaller rivers and canals. The extensive irrigation

that this provides makes Bến Tre a major producer of rice, but also means that the area is prone to flooding. Bến Tre province is, on average, only 1.25 metres above sea level.

c. Dong Thap - Vinh Long – Can Tho

c.1. Dong Thap:

Like other provinces in the Cuu Long (Mekong) Delta, Dong Thap has ample potential for the development of agricultural products, agricultural processing, fisheries, construction materials, consumer goods production, trade, service and particularly eco-tourism.

Regarding the investment environment, the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) put Dong Thap in 11th place among 64 centrally-controlled provinces and cities in 2005. Moreover, the province ranked second in the Mekong Delta in 2006. With this in mind, it is expected that the development in Dong Thap will contribute to boosting the growth in the region and the country. Aware of its role, Dong Thap has paid special attention to allying with neighboring provinces and cities and sharpening the economic competitive edge now that Vietnam has become a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

c.2. Vinh Long

Prawns and the Basa and Tra catfish are among the many types of fish that exist in abundance in the waters of Vinh Long. Its rich, fertile soil makes Vinh Long an ideal location for the growing of many exotic and delicious fruits, including the strange-looking mangoes teen, the spikey rambutan and the pungently fragrant durian. Because of Vinh Long's extensive network of waterways, these fruits and many other items can be purchased for mere pennies from the huge water-based squadron of floating merchants.

Traveling by water is a common practice here for such mundane tasks as grocery shopping as well as getting to restaurants and tourist attractions located on small islets accessible only by boat. Tourist infrastructure is still in its infancy here, but comfortable lodging and great food can be had for very reasonable prices.

c.3. Can Tho

Can tho, white rice, clean water

All who come wish never leave

Cần Thơ is famous for its floating markets, Cai Rang and Phung Hiep, where people sell and buy things on the river, its bird gardens (Bàng Lãng), and Ninh Kieu port. The city offers a wide range of tropical fruits such as pomelo, longan, jackfruit, mango and durian,

Floating Markets

There is a very interesting kind of market in the Mekong River Delta. Thousands of boats gather to form a place of economic activity. Trading activities take place all day, but the most exciting time is in the morning when boats arrive loaded up with agricultural products

d. An Giang – Chau Doc

An Giang occupies a position in the upper reaches of the Mekong Delta. The Hau Giang and Tien Giang branches of the Mekong are the dominant geographical features of the province. With the exception of the west, most of An Giang is fairly flat, and is criss-crossed by many canals and small rivers. This terrain has led to An Giang being a significant agricultural centre, producing significant quantities of rice

The site of Châu Đốc (Khmer: បាវ៉ាត) was long in history a territory of the Kingdom of Funan (Khmer) (Vietnamese: Vương quốc Phù Nam). The territory became Vietnam's about 300 years ago. The town is near the picturesque mount of Sam where the Sam mount lady (Vietnamese: Bà Chúa Xứ Núi Sam) is worshipped. The Sam Mount Lady Ceremony is held every April of lunar calendar (May) every year.

"Mort Chrouk"(Khmer) was the Cambodian name vietnamized in Chau Doc

4. Da Nang City

DANANG CITY – HON NON NUOC

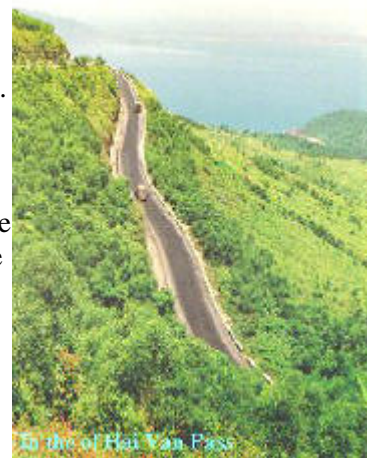
Attractions

Ngu Hanh Son (Marble Mount) or Hon Non Nuoc:

Ngu Hanh Son is about 8km southeast of Da Nang City. This is a cluster of five marble mountains lying close to the sea. That is why it is dubbed Hon Non Nuoc, which means Mountain and Water in Vietnamese. In the early 19th century, King Gia Long, the founder of the Nguyen Dynasty, passed by and named the five mountains Ngu Hanh Son. He also named each of them according to one of the five elements of the universe: Kim Son (metal of gold), Moc Son (wood), Hoa Son (fire), Tho Son (earth), and Thuy Son (water). The latter is both the largest and the most beautiful. Thuy Son covering an area of 15ha has three peaks namely Thuong Thai, Trung Thai and Ha Thai. Consequently, the pagoda built on the mountain was named Tam Thai. Also on the cliff of the mountain are such beautiful grottoes as Linh Nham Grotto, Van Thong Grotto, Tang Chon Grotto and Huyen Khong Grotto.

Tam Thai Pagoda :

The pagoda was built in 1825 on the Thuong Thai peak and was repaired or restored on several separate occasions. Close to the pagoda stand the Pho Dong Tower, Tu Tam



Pagoda and Vong Giang Dai (River-Viewing Pavilion). Standing on Vong Giang Dai visitors can see the Cam Le River meandering among the fertile fields of Hoa Vang district. On the left of Tam Thai Pagoda is Huyen Khong Grotto. Its large chamber has cool fresh air and numerous beautiful stalactites.

Linh Ung Pagoda:

It was built under the reign of King Minh Mang on the cliff of Son Thuy mountain facing the sea. It was rebuilt in 1970 with contributions from followers of Buddhism. The pagoda houses a set of La Han statues in white stone. On the right of the pagoda is Vong Hai Dai (Sea-Viewing Pavilion) which offers a clear view of white sandy Non Nuoc beach.

Tang Chon Grotto:

(Truth-Storing Grotto) lies behind Linh Ung Pagoda. This rectangular grotto is 10m long and 7m wide. Day light reaches down to the grotto chamber, enhancing its beauty. On the foot of Ngu Hanh Son are the mason's village of Khoan Khoai and Hoa Khue, which boast traditional marble carving. Diverse stone carvings such as bracelets, ash-trays, animal statuettes and so on made here by skilled craftsmen. They make great gifts for tourists.

Non Nuoc Beach:

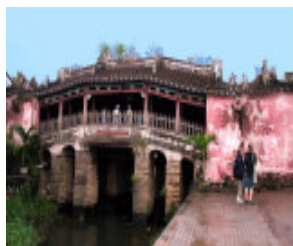
The beach stretches for several kilometers north and south of Ngu Hanh Son. This fine sandy beach with sunshine all the year round makes it suitable for tourism in all four seasons. On the beach is the Non Nuoc Hotel

SITE DESCRIPTION



The ancient town of Hoi An, 30 km south of Da Nang, lies on the banks of the Thu River. Occupied by early foreign traders as Japanese, Chinese, Portuguese, Spanish ... Hoi An was one of the major trading centers of Southeast Asia in the 16th century and was very popular with the name Faifoo. Hoi An has a distinct Chinese atmosphere with low, tile-roofed houses and narrow streets; the original structure of some of these streets still remains almost intact.

All the houses were made of rare wood, decorated with lacquered boards and panels engraved with Chinese characters. Pillars were also carved with ornamental designs. Hoi An old town has been recognized as a world cultural heritage site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Now tourists can enjoy the beauty of the old town with over 300 years old. Especially in the 14th night every month (lunar calendar), there are no light, no motorcycle, no television. There are only decorative multi colored lanterns make the old town sparkling.



5. Hue – Citadel

SITE DESCRIPTION



Hue, the ancient capital, familiar to many Americans as the scene of heavy fighting in the Tet offensive in 1968, is the hub of a network of war tours. Street side kiosks offer lists of attractions: "Khe Sanh, Dong Ha, Marble Mountain, China Beach, bombed-out church, DMZ with statue of Ho Chi Minh."

Even the site of the American massacre at My Lai has been turned into something of a theme park, with a cemetery, museum, professional storytellers and a memorial reading, "Forever hate the American invaders."

There are plans to develop the DMZ -- the wartime demilitarized zone separating the north and the south -- as well as parts of the Ho Chi Minh Trail, neither of which now offer much for tourists to see.

6. Ha Noi

SITE DESCRIPTION



Throughout the thousand years of its eventful history, marked by destruction, wars and natural calamities, Hanoi still preserves many ancient architectural works including the Old Quarter and over 600 pagodas and temples. Famous sites include the One Pillar Pagoda (built in 1049), the Temple of Literature (built in 1070), Hanoi Citadel, Hanoi Opera House, President Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum...

Hanoi also characteristically contains 18 beautiful lakes such as Hoan Kiem Lake, West Lake, and Truc Bach Lake..., which are the lungs of the city, with their surrounding gardens and trees providing a vital source of energy.

Many traditional handicrafts are also practiced in Hanoi including bronze molding, silver carving, lacquer, and embroidery. Hanoi has many famous traditional professional handicraft villages such as Bat Trang pottery village, Ngu Xa bronze casting village, Yen Thai glossy silk...



7. Ha Long Bay



Ha Long Bay is located in the northeastern part of Vietnam and constitutes part of the western bank of Bac Bo Gulf, including the sea area of Ha Long City and Cam Pha Town and part of Vân Don island district. It abuts Cat Ba Island in the southwest. Toward the west is the shore with a 120 km-long coastline. It is located within 106°58' - 107°22' east longitude and within 20°45' - 20°50' north latitude. The site is 1553 sq. km with 1969 islands of various sizes, of which 989 have been named.

The islands in Ha Long Bay are mainly limestone and schist islands most lying in the two main areas: the southeastern part of Bái Tử Long Bay and southwestern part of Hạ Long Bay. These islands represent the most ancient images of a geographical site having a tectonic age of from 250 million to 280 million years. They are the result of many times of rising and lowering processes of the continent to form a karst. The process of nearly full erosion and weathering of the karst created the unique Hạ Long Bay in the world. In a not very large area, thousands of islands with different forms look like glittering emeralds attached to the blue scarf of a virgin. The area where many stone islands concentrate has spectacular scenes and world-famous caves and is the center of Ha Long Bay Natural Heritage, including HaLong Bay and a part of Bái Tu Long Bay.

The area is recognized as the World Natural Heritage that is the area of 434 sq. km with 775 islands. It looks like a giant triangle with Đầu Gỗ Island (in the west), Ba Hầm Lake (in the south) and Cống Tây Island (in the east) as its three angle points. The nearby area is the buffer area and areas classified as national beauty spots in 1962 by the Ministry of Culture and Information.

Viewed from above, Hạ Long Bay looks like an extremely vivid huge drawing. This is a wonderful and skilful masterpiece of the Creation and of nature that turns thousands of dumb soulless stone islands into fantastic sculptural and artistic works of various graceful shapes, both familiar and strange to human beings. Thousands of islands emerging uneven in the fanciful waves look strong and magnificent but also mild and vivid. Amidst these islands we feel as if we were astray in a petrified legendary world. There are many names given to islands according to their shapes and forms. This one looks like somebody heading toward the shore: Hòn Đầu Người (Human Head Island); that one looks like a dragon hovering above the sea surface: Hòn Rồng (Dragon Island); another looks like an old man sitting fishing: Hòn Lão Vọng; some look like big sails struggling amidst the wind to set off for the sea: Hòn Cánh Buồm (Sail Island); then two islands look like a pair of chicken lovingly playing with each other above the sea: Hòn Trống Mái (Male and Female Chicken Island); and amid the vast sea stands an island like a big incense burner like a ritual offering to Heaven: Hòn Lư Hương (Incense Burner Island). All are so real that people are taken aback by them. Those stone islands have experienced unpredictable changes over time and they take different shapes from different angles of view. Here, we come to realize that they are not dumb inanimate things but are vivid and soulful.

Inside the stone islands are various breath-taking caves, such as Thiên Cung, Đầu Gỗ, Sừng Sốt, Trinh Nữ, Tam Cung and others. These are really magnificent palaces of the Creation on earth. Long ago, Hạ Long Bay has been called by the great national poet Nguyễn Trãi: "a wonder of the earth erected towards the high sky". Many men of letters from all over the world have been taken aback at the grandiose scenery of Hạ Long. They seem to get puzzled and incompetent as their treasure of vocabulary is not rich enough to depict the splendor of this place.

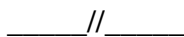
Hạ Long Bay is also attached to glorious pages of Vietnamese history, with famous sites such as Vân Đồn, a bustling trade port in the 12th century, charming Bài Thơ Mountain, and not very far away from here is the Bạch Đằng River

which witnessed two famous naval battles of the Việt's ancestors against invaders. Also, Hạ Long is one of the cradles of human kind with the glorious Hạ Long culture in the late Neolithic age, discovered at such archeological sites as Động Mang, Xích Thổ, Soi Nhụ and Thoi Giếng.

Hạ Long is also home to great biodiversity with typical eco-systems like mangrove forest, coral and tropical forest. It is also home to thousands of plants and animals of numerous species, for example shrimp, fish and squid. Some species are particularly rare and can be found no where else.

With such special values, at the 18th Session of UNESCO's Council of World Heritage held on 17 December 1994 in Thailand, Hạ Long Bay was officially placed on the list of the World Natural Heritage. In 2000, UNESCO recognized it as the World Heritage for the second time for its geographical and geomorphologic values. This confirms the global premier value of Hạ Long Bay

COUNTRY PROFILE



Vietnam – A Country with Agriculture and Horticulture -

Mainland Territory: 331,211.6 sq. km

Population: 85,789.6 thousand inhabitants (Apr. 2009)

National Capital: Hanoi

Lying on the eastern part of the Indochinese peninsula, Vietnam is a strip of land shaped like the letter “S”. China borders it to the north, Laos and Cambodia to the west, the East Sea to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the east and south.

The country's total length from north to south is 1,650km. Its width, stretching from east to west, is 600km at the widest point in the north, 400km in the south, and 50km at the narrowest part, in

the centre, in Quang Binh Province. The coastline is 3,260km long and the inland border is 4,510km.

Latitude: 102° 08' - 109° 28' east

Longitude: 8° 02' - 23° 23' north

Vietnam is also a transport junction from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean.

Climate: Vietnam lies in the tropics and monsoon (detail)

Topography: Three quarters of Vietnam's territory consist of mountains and hills (detail)

Administrative Units: Vietnam is divided into 63 provinces and cities

PACKAGE SERVICE STANDARD

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A. Included

- a. Bus/ van/ car (With cool drink and paper tissue)
- b. Airport pick-up and send-off
- c. English speaking guide and translator
- d. Printing documents for study
- e. Field trip and practical workshop assignment
- f. Hotel and home stay service (2 – 3 stars standard)
- g. Meal (B, L, D)
- h. Domestic air ticket
- i. Drink (Coca and Water: 2 cans or bottles/ person/ meal)
- j. Tour entertainment (boat trip, rowing sampan, horse cart, Honda carriage, traditional music performance, tea and seasonal fruit etc)
- k. Equipment for social and charity work
- l. Service of charge
- m. Tour insurance

B. Excluded

- a. Personal expenses
- b. Documents for research

- c. International Air Ticket, VISA fee and personal transportation
- d. Shopping
- e. VAT Tax

C. Price

- a. 3.000USD/ person/ full package program for 15 days

D. Cancellation

- a. 48 hours before tour departure: 70% charge
- b. 24 hours before tour departure: 100% charge