



SmallGroup Travel Tour of Vietnam

November, 2013

To live is to travel.....share the experience

Day 1 [Fri 01 Nov 13]: Arrival Hanoi (with guide)

Upon arrival, a guide is waiting to transfer guests to the hotel.

Hotel: Sunway Hotel Hanoi
Room type: Superior Dbl/Twn
Website: http://www.sunway-hotel.com/vietnam/hotel_overview.jsp
Address: 19 Pham Dinh Ho Str, Hai Ba Trung District
Phone Number: 84439713888

Optional upgrade: Hotel Silk Path Hanoi hotel (Deluxe) +A\$ 26 per room
Address: 195 - 199, Hang Bong, Hoan Kiem
Phone Number: 84432665555

Day 2 [Sat 02 Nov 13]: Hanoi Half day city - half day street food Tour (B, D)

Pick up at 13:30am from your hotel for a half day tour with street eat tour late afternoon

- Museum of Ethnology: This museum is widely acknowledged as the best in the country and has an extensive display dedicated to Vietnam’s 54 Ethnic minority peoples. As well as the comprehensive array of exhibits inside, there are also traditional tribal houses reconstructed within the grounds.
- The Temple of Literature: Originally built as a temple to Confucius, this is the site of Vietnam’s first university dating back to 1070. Inside are the stone steles mounted on the backs of turtles, inscribed with the names of the university’s graduates. The complex is divided into five courtyards with different paths that would originally have been reserved for the Emperor and his mandarins. One of the courtyards contains the statue of Confucius guarded by two beautiful bronze storks standing on turtles. The temple highlights the importance influence that Vietnamese society has placed on education.
- One hour cyclo tour through the Old Quarter - a must for any visitor to Hanoi! A cyclo (pronounced see-clo) is a Vietnamese version of a cycle rickshaw, originally used as the main form of transportation in Vietnam, it has now been overtaken by motorbikes, but still very much remains at the heart of Vietnamese culture. Sit back and relax as you witness the hustle and bustle of Vietnamese life from the comfort of your arm chair! The Old Quarter, also known as the 36 streets, is a bustling area of narrow streets home to literally thousands of small businesses, shopkeepers and street vendors, selling everything from bananas to books. Originally each of the 36 streets names’ were related to the products being sold there. Hence you can walk from Fish Street to Tin Street to Bamboo Street. It’s a great place to explore and the slow pace of a cyclo will enable numerous photo opportunities



Start your evening at 17.30pm with an introduction to the tour from your guide before heading to ‘bia hoi corner’ where you can try the local brew while you watch the busy streets of Hanoi’s Old Quarter. Bia Hoi is a draft beer that is brewed daily and usually drunk by locals sat on small plastic stools. Continue on through the bustling old quarter and listen as your guide tells you about the various foods on offer. Stop and try some samples before you head for a Vietnamese style barbeque dinner. Here your

guide will select an array meats, tofu and vegetables on skewers while you sit down as they flame grill the food for you.

Walk a little more along the streets and then along the Hoan Kiem lake for dessert. On the way, admire the energetic ladies sharing a public aerobic class. Your final stop is at Hanoi's most famous ice-cream street. An unforgettable experience shared with scores of young Hanoians. Talk to any Hanoian, they all love the place!

Please note: In case of heavy rain the itinerary may be altered to visit a covered local noodle stall.

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Day 3 [Sun 03 Nov 13]: Hanoi – Halong Bay – Paradise Cruise (B, L, D) – Shared group tour

In the morning, drive to Halong Bay (3.5 hours), with a refreshment break en route. Board 'Paradise' junk on Tuan Chau Island and meet the crew. Enjoy a welcome cocktail and Asian buffet lunch while admiring the beautiful bay scenery. Spend the day cruising around the UNESCO heritage-listed bay.



Go kayaking or swimming (weather permitting) or relax on the sundeck and enjoy the sunset over the islands as the boat arrives at its anchorage for the evening. Discover the secrets of Vietnamese cuisine with the cooking demonstration. Dinner is a freshly prepared seafood feast and the evening entertainment includes movies, board games or spa treatments.

Hotel: Paradise Luxury (Paradise Cruises Halong)
Room type: deluxe 2d1n dbl/twn
Website: www.paradisecruises.org
Address: Tuan Chau Island
Phone Number: 84333842368

Day 4 [Mon 04 Nov 13]: Halong Bay – Hanoi (Paradise Cruise) - Flight to Danang/Hoi An (B)

Awake to morning tai chi and a buffet breakfast and cruise to Ti Top - one of the most beautiful beaches of the bay. Climb 400 steps up to the top of the island and capture a breathtaking panoramic view of the bay before cruising back to Tuan Chau Island, arriving at 10.30am. Meet up with the vehicle for the drive to the airport for flight to Danang. Transfer to hotel in Hoi An

Hotel: Palm Garden Beach Resort & Spa
Room type: Superior Garden View
Website: www.palmgardenresort.com.vn
Address: Lac Long Quan Street, Cua Dai Beach
Phone Number: 845103927927

Optional upgrade: Hotel Life Heritage Resort Hoi An (Superior Garden View) +A\$ 30 per room
Address: 1 Pham Hong Thai St.,
Phone Number: 845103914555

Day 5 [Tue 05 Nov 13]: Hoi An cooking class at Red Bridge (B, L)

Hoi An food is markedly different to that of the north and south and has a number of very popular specialities. Interact with local sellers at the outdoor markets and purchase ingredients for the cooking class, before cruising down the Thu Bon River to the cooking school for an engaging hands-on lesson with the chef. At the completion of the class sit and enjoy a delicious lunch, including what you have just prepared.



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Day 6 [Wed 06 Nov 13]: Hoi An Farmer and Fisherman (B, L)

This exciting full day tour gives you an insight into the lives of the farming and fishing communities in this beautiful region of Vietnam. Begin your adventure by cycling out into the countryside through emerald green rice paddies. After a short ride you will arrive at the village of Tra Que. This charming little settlement, on the edge of Hoi An, is famous for its sweet scented green vegetables that spice up Hoi An's famous delicacies such as Cao Lau and Mi Quang. On arrival you will be introduced to the history of the village and the cultivation of the vegetables. Continue with a walk around the vegetable garden and join the farmers in preparing the land and planting some crops. Finish off your village experience with a fun cooking demonstration. Later, return to Hoi An and board the Eco Tour boat for a river cruise to meet and engage with local fisherman. You are sure to enjoy the hands on experience of river net fishing with the locals. Next, you have the opportunity to paddle a unique bamboo basket boat, known as a coracle, as you explore the area's coconut palmed waterways.

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Day 7 [Thu 07 Nov 13]: Hoi An - Danang – Fly to Ho Chi Minh City - Half day tour (B, D)

Transfer to the airport in Danang. Take a flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Upon arrival, you are met by your guide and transferred to your hotel. Afternoon enjoy half day city tour with dinner

You will be picked up at 13:30 pm in the main lobby of your hotel.

- **The Notre Dame Cathedral and Old Post Office:** Built between 1877 and 1883 this is one of the best examples of classical French colonial architecture. Remarkably every stone used in its creation was shipped from France to Vietnam. Her two forty metre towers, topped with iron spires, still dominate the city's skyline. The Old Post Office is another example of French colonial architecture and is also the country's largest post office.



- **Dong Khoi Street, the Opera House and the Peoples' Committee Building:** built in 1897 by French architect Ferret Eugene, the 800 seat Opera House was used as the home of the Lower House Assembly of South Vietnam after 1956. It was not until 1975 that it was again used for performances. The structure was restored in 1995. The Opera House is located on the historical Dong Khoi Street which is home to many boutiques and fine restaurants. Just around the corner are the iconic Rex hotel and the beautiful Peoples' Committee Building.
- **The Reunification Palace:** This is one of the most important buildings in the city. Here on April 30th 1975 the 'American War' officially ended when tank number 843 of the North Vietnamese Army crashed through the gates of what was, at the time the residence of the President of the Republic of Vietnam.
- **The War Remnants Museum:** Formerly known as the Museum of American War Crimes, this is a poignant display of the futility of war. Some of the black and white photography in the 'Requiem' exhibit is particularly touching, dedicated to both foreign and Vietnamese journalists and photographers who perished during the conflict. The courtyard outside contains the spoils of war, namely rusting jets, tanks and cannons captured from the American military machine.

Then transfer for dinner at Temple club

Hotel: Liberty Central Hotel
Room type: Deluxe
Website: www.libertycentralhotel.com
Address: 175 - 177 - 179 Le Thanh Ton, District 1
Phone Number: 08 3823 9269

Optional upgrade: Hotel Duxton Hotel Saigon (Deluxe) +A\$ 30 per room
Address: 63 Nguyen Hue Boulevard, District 1
Phone Number: 84838222999



Day 8 [Fri 08 Nov 13]: Ho Chi Minh City – Cu Chi Tunnels by Saigon River Group Tours (Road - River) (B, L)

Itinerary day by day - full descriptions

Be picked up from your hotel at around 8.00am for your transfer to Cu Chi Tunnels by road.

On your journey to Cu Chi Tunnels you'll visit a Vietnamese home where traditional rice paper, used in spring rolls, is made by hand. Rice husks are used for fuel and the cooking station is made of bricks and sand. Your guide will explain the cooking and drying process, the latter of which takes place in the sun.

Upon your arrival at the tunnels you'll see a short introductory video about the building of the tunnels and life in the region during the Vietnam War.

During the Vietnam War, known locally as the 'American War', the vast spread of tunnels at Cu Chi was the location of several military campaigns and was a base for the Tet Offensive of 1968. The tunnels had many uses ranging from living areas and hospitals for fighters to hiding places for food and weapons. Also used as communication routes, these narrow passageways played a vital role in securing victory for the Vietnamese forces over the Americans and are a testament to the resilience and determination of the Vietnamese people.

You'll leave by speedboat at around 11.15am and cruise the Saigon River to your lunch stop serving traditional Vietnamese food on the riverfront. After lunch, the boat will take you back to the pier in Ho Chi Minh City for your transfer back to the hotel between 2.20pm and 3.00pm.

Hotel: Liberty Central Hotel
Room type: Deluxe

TravelManagers Australia Pty Ltd trading as SMALLGROUP TRAVEL
Mobile 0414598157

Email: suek@travelmanagers.com.au

License No. 2TA5758 ABN 35 113 085 626 Member IATA, AFTA, TCF Website: www.smallgrouptravel.com.au

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Day 9 [Sat 09 Nov 13]: Ho Chi Minh City - Mekong Delta Le Jarai day cruise - Small group Tours (B, L)

You will be picked up from your hotel at about 8am and travel by road (approx. 2 hours) from Ho Chi Minh City to embark a local boat at Ben Tre, from where the cruise visits a local coconut processing enterprise where this vital fruit is treated in the age-old way to separate oil, flesh and husk to be used variously in coconut oil, coconut matting and coconut candy.

After a further short journey through winding arroyos by local boat, take a short walking tour in the relaxing creekside setting of a local village and see traditional mat weaving by hand in a friendly local farmer's house. Then hop on a 'xe loi', a local motor cart, and drive through the beautiful rice paddies of the Mekong countryside to a local pagoda and learn about the role of traditional communal temples in Vietnamese village culture.

Embark Le Jarai and cruise along winding arroyos in the shadow of water-coconut palms. Enjoy a demonstration of traditional Vietnamese cooking before a sumptuous three course lunch including Mekong specialities onboard.

Relax while cruising the pleasant waterways on the way back to Ben Tre and return to Ho Chi Minh City by road (approx. 2 hours). You will be dropped off at your hotel in Ho Chi Minh City at about 4:30pm and the rest of the day is at leisure.

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Day 10 [Sun 10 Nov 13]: Ho Chi Minh - Depart (B)

You are transferred from the hotel to the airport for your flight.

TOUR PRICE PER PERSON:

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|---|-----------|
| Land costs Per Person | A\$ 1,550 |
| Flights Vietnam Airlines – economy Sydney – Hanoi – Danang – Ho Chi Minh – Sydney (Taxes included but subject to change) | A\$1440 |
| Total Tour Cost Per Person (land and air) | A\$ 2,990 |

Tour includes:

- Accommodation based on twin share at above selected hotels with daily breakfast
 - Check-in time at all hotels is 2.00PM and check-out time at all hotels is 12.00PM.

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- Early check-in and late check-out is subject to availability with surcharge.
- All transfers as mentioned by air-conditioned vehicle
- All airport transfers with English speaking guide
- All meals: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner as mentioned in the program.
- All entrance fees
- English speaking guide

Tour excludes:

- Travel Insurance (Compulsory). I can help you with your travel insurance and offer all SmallGroup Travel clients a 15% discount on travel insurance.
- Visas
- All flight tickets (unless flight option is taken)
- Services and meals if not mentioned in itinerary
- All drinks, including water, soft drink and alcohol on all included or optional excursion
- Laundry, telephone calls and expenditure of a personal nature
- Tips and gratuities

Please note that none of the services have been booked and this proposal is subject to availability.
N/B: Prices may be subject to currency fluctuation until full payment is made

HOW DO I BOOK THE TOUR?

You will need to contact Sue Kuti for a booking form. A **non-refundable** deposit of \$300 will then be required to secure your place.

suek@travelmanagers.com.au or 0414598157.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Please be aware that flight times, hotels and all other logistics, services and days of travel are subject to availability. Where flights are cancelled or delayed SmallGroup Travel will endeavour to secure alternative arrangements of similar value as noted in our booking conditions.
- This quotation is valid for above travel date. Any bookings made after this date are subject to change, as local economic conditions require.
- The travelling times mentioned within this dossier are approximations only. These times will vary according to weather, road, traffic or any other prevailing conditions.
- This itinerary and supplementary information has been compiled in good faith and was accurate at time of writing. However it DOES NOT form part of a contract between the client and Buffalo Tours.
- Please ensure you have the correct visas for travel. I can help you with getting your visa. SmallGroup Travel is not responsible if you enter a country and do not have the correct visa.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Cancellations

In addition to the cancellation fees below, an administration fee of \$70 per booking will apply if changes are made to an itinerary after confirmation is received.

Cancellations fees will be charged as follows:

- Once a booking status is confirmed all deposits are **non refundable**
- 14-60 days before arrival: 35% of the price
- 13 days before arrival: 100% of the price

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The above excludes certain classes of domestic air tickets (i.e.: M class). These must be paid by SmallGroup Travel at time of booking and are thus non-refundable.

Claims and Refunds of Unused Services

- No refunds or exchanges can be made in respect of accommodation, meals, sightseeing tours, transport or any other services which are included in the tour prices but not utilized by the tour member.
- For claims to be considered, they must be received in writing within 30 days of the termination of the program and be accompanied by supporting documentation. Any adjustment considered will be based on the actual price of the services involved and not on a per diem basis. Buffalo Tours will not accept any liability for any claims that are not received within 30 days of the termination of your travel program. All claims for days missed while travelling should be made in writing within 30 days of the termination of the program.

Children and infants

For all tours children (from 6 to 11 years of age at the time of travelling) are charged at 75% of the adult price. Children from two to six years are charged 50% of the adult price. Infants (under 2 years of age at time of booking) are charged 10% of the adult price unless otherwise stated in the tour programs. 12 yrs and over is adult price according to airlines and hotels.

Itineraries

Accommodations (hotel or vessel) and pre-arranged sightseeing are subject to change at any time due to unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond Buffalo Tours' control. Every effort will be made to operate tours as planned.

Halong Bay

Local authorities have the right to delay or cancel the Halong Bay cruise at any time, even after the tour has departed if they feel the current or forecasted weather conditions are not suitable. The decision reinforces that client safety is the main priority of the local authorities.

Please note that SmallGroup Travel have no control over the decision or when it is announced

Early Check-in

Early check-in has not been included in the tour prices. Most hotels allow check-in to take place during the mid afternoon. If you require your room ready for immediate check-in upon your arrival SmallGroup Travel can arrange this for an additional charge. Please ask for details and prices.

Liability & Insurance

- In addition and without limitation, SmallGroup Travel is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay or damage to personal property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from but not limited to acts of God or force majeure, illness, disease, acts of war, civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, animals, strikes or other labour activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind, overbooking or downgrading of services, food poisoning, mechanical or other failure of aircraft or other means of transportation or for failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart on time. Additional expenses incurred due to delays, accidents, natural disaster, political actions and unrest must be covered by the tour members.
- There are certain inherent risks in adventure travel of the type involved here. These include, but are not limited to, risks of kayaking and rafting (for example dangers of rapidly moving water, rocks and other submerged objects, hypothermia, etc), hiking, trekking or climbing (for example, equipment failures, or other trail obstructions) and in all trips dangers of animals, inaccessibility to medical attention and difficulty in evacuation from remote locations in the case of a medical emergency. Passenger assumes all such risks with regard to these possibilities.

- Airline schedules and local conditions may affect accommodation and itineraries. If this should occur Buffalo Tours will endeavour to substitute a suitable arrangement of similar value.
- Participation on any tours implies full agreement to the above conditions by all parties involved.
- The Consumer is required to have full travel insurance. It is the responsibility of the Consumer to read their insurance policy before they travel and ensure that the insurance scheme provides the Consumer with the requisite level of cover.

Participation on any tour implies full acceptance of the above conditions by the Consumer.

I look forward to welcoming you on a Smallgroup Travel Tour!

Best wishes
Sue Kuti



TravelManagers Terms & Conditions

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Please click below to read our Terms and Conditions:
<http://www.travelmanagers.com.au/terms-and-conditions.htm>