

Vietnam

With Cindy Bakerell
~Confirmed Group Itinerary~



09 Sep 2016: Saigon Arrival (Flight information to be advised/Own ticket)

Upon arrival, when you leave the airport terminal please look for a tour guide displaying a welcome signboard with your name. Transfer to your hotel.

(The regular check-in time for all hotels is 2.00pm. Early check-in is not included)

Enjoy dinner at Wrap and Roll restaurant.

Meals: Dinner
Accommodation: Grand Silver Land Hotel & Spa/Premier Deluxe – Confirmed

Vietnam's largest city was renamed Ho Chi Minh City (after the communist leader Ho Chi Minh) in 1975, following the fall of South Vietnam. Previously known as Saigon, both locals and foreigners alike still call it this. Saigon was greatly influenced by the French during their colonial occupation and the city's architecture reflects this, so much so that Saigon is referred to as "Paris in the Orient". Today, the city's core is still adorned with wide elegant boulevards and historic French colonial buildings. With a population of over 6 million people, Saigon is also a dizzying jumble of street markets, shops, pavement cafes, stands-on-wheels and vendors selling wares spread out on sidewalks.



10 Sep 2016: Private cooking class at Culinary Art Centre



A local chef will accompany you to the vibrant central market and guide you while selecting the fresh vegetables, spices and other ingredients. Proceed to **Saigon Culinary Art Centre** for your private hands-on cooking class. Here you will see familiar images from traditional Vietnamese kitchens such as clay stoves or "garde-manger". Receive a detailed explanation of the ingredients and utensils often used in the Vietnamese kitchen. This **cooking class** offers the flavour of Southern Vietnamese cuisine.

Notes

- *Availability: Morning, Afternoon*
- *Suggested time: 09:30, 15:30*
- *Duration: 3.5 hours*
- *Capacity: Min. 7 pax*

Saigon is the country's commercial centre and, with over eight million inhabitants and four million motorbikes, a city that never sleeps. Despite the well-documented hustle and bustle, Saigon retains its connections with the past. Embark on a city tour to admire Saigon's historic landmarks including the Notre Dame Cathedral, a red brick edifice with twin spires based on the original construction from Paris (*It is only possible to visit inside when no service is being performed*). Then head across the square to the Central Post Office, designed by the French architect, Gustav Eiffel. Continue to visit the former Presidential Palace, the headquarters of the Saigon Government during the American war, revealing the history of Saigon during its turbulent recent past.





Early this evening, meet your Vespa driver at the hotel lobby. Then be driven to the local Zoom coffee shop for a welcome drink and briefing about the trip. Start the journey with en-route stops including dinner and drinks at Saigon's best **authentic street food**, and a Vietnamese-style coffee shop. Drive to District 4 to taste various snail dishes which are very popular in Saigon. Then it's back to District 3 to sample a southern Vietnamese specialty – Banh Xeo (rice pancake with pork and prawns). Finally, head to a local Vietnamese style coffee shop and enjoy a local coffee.

Notes:

- *Suggested time: 6:00pm - 10:30pm*
- *Minimum: 2 persons*
- *Guests ride as passenger behind an experienced driver*
- *The standard of local street food shop is very basic*
- *You will sample several foods during this tour, we recommend saving your appetite to savor the experience*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation: Grand Silver Land Hotel & Spa/Premier Deluxe - Confirmed

11 Sep 2016: Ben Tre Mango cruise - Saigon



Depart from Saigon around 8:00am and head south to My Tho situated in the Delta of the Mekong River. **Board the charming Mango Cruise** along An Hoa River for a glimpse at the Delta scenery while enjoying coconut juice. Make the first stop to learn how the coconuts are processed. Then cruise further to a **small brick kiln** where the locals still use centuries-old traditional methods to make the bricks by hand. Enjoy a 4km ride on a tri-motor cycle along the narrow village roads and stop at **the rice noodles factory** “hu tieu”, one of the most popular breakfast dishes in the region. Be paddled by a personalized rower trip to discover the maze of small canals until you reach the Mango boat and cruise to

Mango Home restaurant for a lunch with Mekong Delta specialties. Then walk along the shady village roads to **Mr. Sau Tuong's house**. He is a former soldier who survived after 4 years fighting the Khmer Rouge in Phnom Penh. Now he and his wife live on making rice paper. Have a chat with him and enjoy the crispy rice paper made by his wife, and see how it is made. After the visit, walk back to the Mango Home restaurant where the boat will be waiting to bring you to Hung Vuong pier in Ben Tre City. Your driver will drive you back to Saigon.

Notes:

- *Suggested time: 8:00am - 5:00pm*
- *Capacity: max 18 pax*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation: Grand Silver Land Hotel & Spa/Premier Deluxe - Confirmed

12 Sep 2016: Saigon - Danang - Hoi An via VN112 @ 0955 - 1115 (Economy Class WJ to book)



Breakfast at hotel and transfer directly to airport for your flight to Danang. On arrival, meet your guide and transfer for a half day of Hoi An. In the 17th and 19th centuries, Hoi An was a prosperous trading port. Today, this World Heritage-listed ancient town boasts well-preserved buildings, pedestrianized streets and unique cuisine, allowing visitors a glimpse of its illustrious past. The narrow lanes are ideal for a guided walking tour. There is plenty to visit including the **old merchant's houses** with influences from Chinese, Japanese and Vietnamese architecture; the 400-year-old **Japanese Covered Bridge**; the **Assembly Hall** of the Chaozhou Chinese Congregation with outstanding wood carvings; and the

colourful market with stalls brimming with local specialties including silk, which can be turned into fashionable garments within a day or two.

Notes:

- *Suggested time: 9:00am - 12:00pm or 2:00pm - 5:00pm*
- *Duration: 3 hours*

Lantern Making With Mr Huynh Van Trung

Lantern, the simple yet colourful item is now an essential part of Hoi An culture. The lantern is inspired and hand-made by local artisans and is meant to bring good fortune. It is really made a comeback by an experienced descendant – Mr. Huynh Van Trung who was born in the traditional lantern making family for generations. Trung inherits valuable skills in making lantern from his father – the well-known artisan Huynh Van Ba. Chat with him for a brief introduction to the history, shape, and color of the lanterns as well as the stages of production. Try creating your own lantern and take it home as a souvenir. Afterwards you will head back to the hotel and the remainder of the afternoon is at leisure.



Notes:

- *Duration: 1 hour*
- *Suggested time: 1:30pm - 5:00pm*

- *Venue location: Doi Temple - 10 minutes from Hoi An Center*
- *Capacity: 1-30 pax*

Meals: Breakfast
Accommodation: Boutique Hoi An Resort/Superior – Confirmed

13 Sep 2016: Hoi An

Today is free at your leisure or choose optional tour.

Meals: Breakfast
Accommodation: Boutique Hoi An Resort/Superior - Confirmed

Optional tour:

Street Food Tour with Mr Dean (Join-In)

This morning, save your appetite for a join-in street food tour with other guests from different hotels (**not on Sundays**). Meet with your culinary expert, Neville Dean, and visit a local market in Hoi An to enjoy the tantalizing sights, smells and flavors of local produce. Then walk through zigzagging alleys to savour real street food as the local people do. Along the way, engage in conversation with Neville to understand his passion for food and experience the local culture through the eyes of an expatriate. Gather at a local restaurant to examine and taste traditional central dishes and learn more about this fascinating region.

Depart for a 3.5 hour drive over the Hai Van Pass. The Pass offers a spectacular panorama of the central coastline at the summit, with numerous photo opportunities.

Princess Ngoc Son was a daughter of Emperor Dong Khanh - when she married, her father granted her the land to build a home. Today, it is one of the best garden houses and has been maintained largely in its original form. The house is a classic structure with three bays and two wings. The highlight is a small artificial rock garden. The present owner also has a fascinating collection of artifacts and mementos from the days of the former Royal Empire. Enjoy a lunch of traditional Hue specialties prepared by the family at their historical home while you unearth Hue's fascinating past.

14 Sep 2016: Hoi An

Today after breakfast enjoy the day at leisure exploring the city of Hoi An.



Hoi An is a destination with two faces – the charming, old world trading post of narrow streets and traditional houses, and the beach with its beautiful resorts and long stretch of clean white sand. Sometimes called the “Venice of Vietnam” because of the narrow canals that cut through part of the town, Hoi An seems to have been accidentally left here by some ancient long-forgotten people. Founded by Japanese traders in the 16th century, Hoi An became Central Vietnam’s most important port and trading centre until Danang came to the fore. Many of the buildings have barely changed in five hundred years. Rows of tile-roofed shop houses memorialize a century of Portuguese traders, while others look as if they were lifted straight out of China. Many homes here have been in the same family for

hundreds of years and have become private museums that you can visit for a small fee. There are several fascinating old temples worth seeing as well as the covered 17th Century Japanese Bridge that has become the icon of Hoi An. The town's tiny shop houses now host a range of craft shops and artisans including some of Asia's best tailors. At night, Le Loi Street is lined with glowing ricer paper lanterns in unusual shapes and vibrant colours.

Meals: Breakfast
Accommodation: Boutique Hoi An Resort/Superior - Confirmed

15 Sep 2016: Hoi An Cooking Class With Chef Duc

Enjoy a morning tour of one of the most colourful local marketplaces in all of SE Asia. Chef and proprietor Duc Tran from Mango Mango restaurant creates eclectic and innovative flavors reflective of his worldwide culinary journey. A passionate and extremely talented chef with in depth knowledge on the Hoi An food scene, Duc will take you on a culinary journey embracing a combination of refreshing flavors, beautiful presentations as well as a visit to Hoi An Market to meet the vendors who supply him daily with some of the finest and freshest ingredients in Vietnam. Join Duc in an intimate hands-on learning at his boutique restaurant, and reward yourself with a wonderful meal at the end of the class. (The class is not available on Sunday)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation: Boutique Hoi An Resort/Superior - Confirmed

16 Sep 2016: Hoi An - Danang - Hanoi via VN7166 1110 – 1230 (Economy Class – WJ to book)

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast this morning before you transfer to the airport for the flight to Hanoi. Upon arrival meet your guide and transfer to hotel for check in

The remainder of the day is free at leisure or choose optional tour.

Meals: Breakfast
Accommodation: Silk Path Hotel/Premium Deluxe (City View) - Confirmed

Optional tour:

Half Day Tour Hanoi

With ochre-coloured colonial buildings, tree-lined boulevards and scenic lakes, Hanoi is full of charm. Start the tour at the historic Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum (*viewed outside as Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum is closed every Monday & Friday, all afternoons and from early September until mid - November*) an imposing monument lavishly built using marble and granite, and where the preserved body of “Uncle Ho” resides. Behind the Mausoleum, you can see Ho Chi Minh's House. The simple house where Ho Chi Minh lived and worked is made of wood and enjoyed a tranquil setting, with a view of a lotus pond. Ho Chi Minh's belongings are on display and you can walk up the steps of his house to see his bedroom. A short walk from the mausoleum is the lotus shaped One Pillar Pagoda - resting on a single stone pillar emerging from the water. Wind your way afterwards to the Temple of Literature, the first University for the sons of mandarins, for an overview about Hanoian culture and appreciation for ancient Vietnamese architecture.



Many of Hanoi's grandiose villas and palaces built by the French are still in use today. Wide tree-lined boulevards skirt the misty lakes of the city and amongst it all are ancient temples and busy markets. As the sun rises over the city and the mist rises from the lakes, seemingly the entire population of the city takes to the lakesides, parks and streets for Tai Chi. Highlights of this city include the colourful and vibrant flower market, the shopper's paradise in the "Old Quarter" and the up-market boutiques on Nah Tho Street.

17 Sep 2016 : Hanoi Cooking Class With Chef Dzung

In the morning, meet with Mr. Dzung, a key member of Hanoi Chef Association for a market tour. Having a decade-old experience working at a noted 4-star hotel, he can show you how to select the freshest & typical ingredients for local foods. Enjoy sight, sound and flavour of the market. Then drive 20-min out of Hanoi to his beautiful private home for a private hands-on cooking class and stories of his participation in Culinary Festivals in France. Taste your own creations at lunch.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
Accommodation: Silk Path Hotel/Premium Deluxe (City View) - Confirmed

18 Sep 2016 : Hanoi – Halong (3.5-4 hours per driving~180km)

Embark on a 3.5 hour drive to Halong Bay with a quick rest stop at Hong Ngoc Center – the best place to stop and stretch your legs en route. On arrival in Halong Bay, board your junk, settle into your cabin and prepare your appetite for an enjoyable lunch on deck. Mid-afternoon you will visit the mysterious atmosphere of Tien Ong cave, adorned with stalactites and stalagmites, then continue to the Cua Van fishing village, the largest community on the bay. This will allow a closer look into the lives of local fishermen before you transfer to a bamboo boat and are rowed slowly through the village with a museum and a school among floating houses. Back to the boat, a cooking class is offered with the chef if you are interested while your boat leisurely cruise be amazed or



enjoy sunset cocktails and canapés on up top deck before served wonderful dinner on board tonight.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Accommodation: Pelican Cruise/ Deluxe Oceanview Private Cabin - Confirmed

19 Sep 2016: Halong – Hanoi (3.5-4 hours per driving~180km)

Wake up early and partake in a Tai Chi class which is held on the upper deck. Visit Soi Sim Island, here you can relax in the azure water of Halong Bay or climb over 200 steps to the top for panoramic views of the whole bay. Back to the boat for boarding towards the shore while brunch is served. Prepare your luggage and hand your key to the reception for check out. Arrive at the jetty late morning and transfer back to Hanoi with light snack provided en route. Opt to visit a traditional pottery workshop en route.

In the early evening transfer to a public theatre for a Water Puppet performance. The art of water puppetry began approximately a thousand years ago, possibly in the flooded rice fields of Vietnam. Puppeteers stand in waist-high water and manipulate their charges in such a way that you can't help but be swept up in the legend being told. Each short skit in the performance relates to the daily life of the people.



Notes:

- *Availability: Late Afternoon*
- *Suggested time: 17:00*
- *Duration: 1 hour*

Meals: Brunch
Accommodation: Silk Path Hotel/Premium Deluxe (City View) - Confirmed

20 Sep 2016: Hanoi Departure (Flight information to be advised/Own ticket)

This morning is free at leisure until you transfer to the airport for your departure flight.
(The regular check-out time for all hotels is 12.00pm. Late check-out is not included).

Meals: Breakfast

~ Your Vietnam Journey Concludes ~

Tour Price	Base group 11 person on twin share	Single Supplement
Rate per person	NZD3,175.00	NZD975.00
Optional Tours		
Surcharge for half day Cu Chi y road	NZD35 per person	
Surcharge for Street Food Tour With Mr Dean (Join-In)	NZD195 per person	
Surcharge for half day tour Hanoi	NZD30 per person	

TOUR INCLUSIONS

Inclusive of:	Non-inclusive of:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overnight accommodation includes daily breakfast. 2D1N Pelican Cruise Halong Bay (Shared cruise/private cabin). Private transfers and transportation on tour. Sightseeing with Local English speaking guides (one guide in each city). Entrance fees and private boat rides. Cold towels and water on sightseeing days. Special visit and interaction arrangement. Welcome pack. Airfares: SGN-DAD/DAD-HAN (Economy class with airport tax) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Airport Assistance Service. Vietnam visa. Other meals where not mentioned in the program. Drinks/water at included lunches and dinners. Other flights and international airport taxes. Hotel early check in / late check out. Overweight luggage. Personal expenses. Travel insurance. Tips and gratuities. Separate luggage truck. Other services not listed in inclusive column.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

PAYMENT

20% non-refundable deposit due within 7 days of confirmation

Remaining balance to be paid 60 days prior to arrival date.

CANCELLATION: Any cancellations should be made in witting.

- 21 - 15 days prior to arrival date: 50% of the total tour cost

- 14 - 8 days prior to arrival date: 75% of the total tour cost

- 7 days or less prior to arrival date: 100% of the total tour cost