



INSIDER'S VIETNAM

Southeast Asia Extension

EASY TOURING ~ 8 DAYS

Vietnam is an incredibly beautiful country with a unique, rich civilization and a highly cultured people. Perhaps most remarkable of all is to see that Vietnam's rich, ancient culture has survived colonial rule and civil war virtually intact. From bustling Ho Chi Minh City (old Saigon), we fly to Da Nang, where we visit the famous French-built Cham Museum and China Beach. We'll then explore the karst formations of the Marble Mountains and stroll in the well-preserved 17th-century trading port of Hoi An, much of which looks just like it did 150 years ago. We continue our odyssey with a visit to Hue, the old imperial city spread along the Perfume River. We end our adventure in Hanoi, the up-and-coming capital of the new Vietnam, with its sycamore-lined boulevards and ambience of decaying colonial grandeur.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 ~ Ho Chi Minh City

Arrive in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly known as Saigon) in the morning. Transfer to hotel. Afternoon city tour, including a visit to the old Saigon Post Office, Notre Dame cathedral, the Reunification Palace, and Chinatown. Lunch and dinner on your own.

Sofitel Plaza Hotel

DAY 2 ~ Hoi An

After breakfast, we fly to Da Nang, the administrative center for Central Vietnam and a busy port city. In March 1965, the first battalion of American Marines landed along the coast of Da Nang, and this area is also home of famed China Beach, from the old television series. We visit the Cham Museum, containing statuary and bas-relief sections of thousand-year-old Hindu temples (the Cham empire once stretched from China to Thailand). We then drive to the karsts of the Marble Mountains to explore some of the hidden caves housing Buddhist shrines. (These caves were used by Communist forces in their fight against the American presence in Da Nang.)

We continue to Hoi An, once the wealthy trading port of Faifo. Chinese and Japanese architecture, temples and bridges abound from its glory days. Nowadays, Hoi An is a small traditional village noted for its artist colony. After a short walking tour, the time is yours to explore and shop.

B,L,D... Victoria Hoi An Hotel

DAY 3 ~ My Son

Today we drive westward toward the foothills of the mountain spine of Indochina. From here we'll hike into the sacred valley of Vietnam's most spectacular historic and religious site. Dating back to the fourth century, My Son was the holiest site of the Champa kingdom where over a period of 900 years, 68 significant Hindu temples, most dedicated to Shiva, were built. The towers are built of a combination of perfectly fitted, mortarless, fired brick and

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elaborately carved sandstone bas-relief panels. Only 25 survived the centuries of pillaging by Chinese and Khmer invaders as well as U.S. bombings. Return to Hoi An. Remainder of the afternoon free.

B,L,D...Victoria Hoi An Hotel

DAY 4 ~ Hue

We embark on a morning boat trip to craft villages specializing in pottery, then indulge in a lunch of Hoi An's special noodles—*cao lau*. We then drive 3½ hours over Cloudy Pass and along the spectacular tropical coastline to the ancient imperial capital of Hue, situated along the Perfume River. As Kyoto is to Japan, Hue is to Vietnam: an intellectual center with twelve educational academies and home to the fascinating 19th century Imperial ruins. Many of these remain damaged and serve as reminders of the Tet Offensive of 1968. Along the banks of the famed Perfume River we find magnificent Nguyen architecture: citadels, palaces, royal tombs, pagodas, and temples. The old moss and rust-stained buildings give the city an atmosphere that seems frozen in time.

B,L,D...Morin Hotel

DAY 5 ~ Hue

In the morning we visit the unusual Royal tombs of Emperors Tu Duc and Khai Dinh, monarchs during the last dynasty of Vietnam, the Nguyen. We also explore the town's market and view colonial architecture. After lunch, we board a dragon boat, traveling up the Perfume River to visit the Thien Mu pagoda and Ming Mahn tombs. We then continue to the ruins of the Imperial Palace (the Citadel), located right on the banks of the Perfume River.

B,L,D...Morin Hotel

DAY 6 ~ Hanoi

This morning, we fly to Hanoi. Upon arrival, we'll be immediately immersed into this great governmental center of almost three million people. Founded in 1010 A.D. as Thang Long, Hanoi's narrow tree-shaded streets are filled with lovely examples of French colonial architecture. We'll spend the day exploring the old town on foot, visiting streets that specialize in hardware, funerary items, carpentry, and textiles. If you wish, a folk performance of traditional water puppets is available.

B,L,D...Sofitel Metropole (Premium Old Wing)

DAY 7 ~ Hanoi

This morning we continue touring Hanoi, visiting Ho Chi Minh's tomb (closed in October and November) and the one-pillar pagoda, symbol of Hanoi. We also visit the Lake of the Restored Sword, the old "Hanoi Hilton" Prison, and walk through the Old Quarter. We continue to the Temple of Literature and the Fine Arts Museum, where we can see displays of tools and costumes of the ethnic minorities of Vietnam, plus some classical and modern art.

B,L,D... Sofitel Metropole (Premium Old Wing)

DAY 8 ~ Hanoi - Depart for Home

Transfer to airport for departure on homeward-bound flight.

B...

LAND COST

Prices valid until December 2005.

\$1890 per person (5 or more)
\$1990 per person (3-4 persons)
\$2190 per person (2 persons)
\$2690 (1 person)

Single Supplement—\$490.

Land Cost includes hotel accommodations, meals as specified in the itinerary, full guiding with local Vietnamese English-speaking guide, van or car, airport transfers, internal air (Saigon/Da Nang and Hue/Hanoi), transportation for tours all entrances and services.

Not included are the international flights, tipping to guides, visas, items of personal nature.

Deposit, Transfer & Cancellation Policy

The following policy applies to single- or multi-day extensions to the standard Mountain Travel Sobek program you have signed up for. A nonrefundable \$100 deposit is required to reserve these extra services (your deposit is fully refundable if we cannot secure your request). Full payment is due immediately upon confirmation of your request.

If written notice of cancellation or transfer is received:	Cancellation Fee will be:
60 or more days prior to departure	\$100
30 to 59 days prior to departure	50% of Extension Cost
Less than 30 days prior to departure	100% of Extension Cost

We recommend that you purchase Trip Cancellation Insurance to protect yourself.

Note on Itinerary

Although we will do our very best to adhere to the itinerary schedule as listed, it is subject to change for numerous reasons beyond our control. Please read the Limitations of Liability and Booking Conditions in the four-page Participant Information Form.

Commissions

Extensions are sold at a net price and are non-commissionable.

Conditions of Participation

Your participation on a Mountain Travel Sobek trip is subject to the conditions stated in the four-page Participant Information Form, which includes the Agreement and Release from Liability and the Booking Conditions. We urge you to read this information carefully, and to call us if you have any questions.

Note on Services

We often use local suppliers who provide services that may include transportation, equipment, logistic support, and other services (hotels, restaurants, etc.). We do not own or operate these independent suppliers. We work with service providers who share our commitment to safety and quality, and work closely with them to develop itineraries unique to Mountain Travel Sobek.

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