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SECRET INDOCHINA

Journeys across Vietnam, Laos & Cambodia

SUMMARY

I. About Secret Indochina p. 03

II. Classical War Tours p. 04

- 1. Vietnam Classical War Tour p. 04
- 2. Vietnam War Revisited Tour p. 10
- 3. Evasion War Tour p. 16
- 4. Family War Tour p. 22
- 5. Southeast Asia War Tour p. 28
- 6. First Air Cav War Tour p. 34

III. Adventure War Tours p. 38

- 1. Immersion War Tour p. 38
- 2. Immersion War Tour N2 p. 42
- 3. Laotian Secret War Tour p. 46

IV. Specialized War Tours p. 50

- 1. Australian War Tour p. 50
- 2. South Korean War Tour p. 54
- 3. Indochina War Tour p. 56

V. Secret Experiences p. 62

- 1. Secret Insights p. 64
 - Tour Central Vietnam with Mr Nguyen
 - Visit An Xa Village, General Giap's homeland
 - Meet M. Fillipi, Khmer specialist
- 2. Secret Expeditions p. 66
 - Long Tieng, Lima Site 20A
 - Phou Pha Ti, Lima Site 85
 - LZ Kate
 - Thonglek Secret Base
- 3. Secret Hideaways p. 68
 - Amanoï
 - Fusion Cam Ranh



War Tours across Indochina

I. ABOUT SECRET INDOCHINA

Introduction

“No event in American history is more misunderstood than the Vietnam War. It was misreported then, and it is misremembered now”

Richard Nixon, New York Times, March 28, 1985

GENESIS

Secret Indochina was conceived in 2011, following the meeting of two professionals passionate about authentic travel: Tran Quang Hieu and Nicolas Vidal. Secret Indochina, Destination Management Company branch of Amica JSC, strives to lead travellers to outstanding sites, magical places, and little-known ethnic communities. A common passion drives the project: genuine human encounters, and the ensuing cultural exchanges. The creation of Secret Indochina is the outcome of twenty-five years of research, explorations, personal investment and dedication; in addition, the agency cooperates with a group of partners and prestigious establishments sharing the same vision.

THE FOUNDERS

Tran Quang Hieu, belongs to the first generation born after the Vietnam War (1975). The hardship and difficulty that this generation went through during the post-war period inspired them the idea to open Vietnam to the world. After earning a degree both in Literature at the University of Aix-Marseille and in Law at the Hanoi Law University, Hieu worked six years for non-governmental organizations. In 2007 with his friend Manh, he founded Amica JSC, project initiated by Huong, Hieu's wife. In addition to being a business project, Secret Indochina helps Hieu achieve his desire to help the world discover and show strong love for his country, people and culture.

Nicolas Vidal originates from southern France (Aude - Pyrenees). In the early '90s, he's a prospector, guide and consultant for travel agencies and Indochinese Peninsula specialized companies. In countries and regions at this time closed-off due to embargos or internal conflicts and until nowadays, he achieve numerous reconnaissance missions, explorations and projects into Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar remote and forsaken areas, land of various ethnic groups. He's the author of the Lost Jungles - Les Jungles perdues - and continue to be inspired by explorer Henri Maitre, author of the renowned Les Jungles moi, and ethnologist Jean Boulbet, famous for his ethnographic research on Vietnam's Cau Maa' and Kbal Spean discovery.

ABOUT SECRET INDOCHINA WAR TOURS

The Vietnam War will forever be etched in world collective memories: images of B-52s, jungles dripping with napalm, American troops fighting in seemingly endless jungles, and North Vietnamese tanks braving the Annamese Cordillera dangers. Since the opening of Vietnamese borders to foreign travelers in the 1990's, many tours to Vietnam War sites have been created, especially for American Veterans. By providing a jungle experience for travelers and immersing them in local life, Secret Indochina provides a new perspective in understanding the history of the Vietnam War.

Itineraries in this booklet are not exclusively designed for American Veterans, but also for any travelers who wish to better understand the conflicts and resulting traumas, while also discovering the beauty of Vietnam, its mountains, and people, and witnesses the remains of an ambiguous and complex war.

The brochure is created around four chapters including various itineraries: Classical War Tours, Adventure War Tours and Special War Tours. All these programs are adaptable and other War Tours may be created on request. Special Tours may be organized around most battlefields such as Hill 875 or Hill 937, Ia Drang and more places; around areas of special operations such as Junction City, Lang Son 719, Tiger Hound and Steel Tiger; around former bases or LZ such as LZ Salem or in Long Tieng. For special requests, research may be conducted to locate special areas of operations.

From each traveler's tour fee, five USD is donated to Agent Orange Vietnamese organizations such as The Friendship Village in Hanoi, Peace Village at Tu Du Hospital in Saigon or Thien Giao in Haiphong.

II. CLASSICAL WAR TOURS

1. Vietnam Classical War Tour

“Vietnam was the first war ever fought without any censorship. Without censorship, things can get terribly confused in the public mind”

William Westmoreland, Time magazine, April 5, 1982



SPIRIT

A classical Vietnam War Tour, discovery Vietnam major War sites, from Hanoi to Saigon and Danang, through the former DMZ, Khe Sanh Battlefield, Annamese Cordillera and Tay Ninh



HIGHLIGHTS

- Cruise on Ha Long Bay
- Visit the former DMZ and Khe Sanh
- Discover Vietnam Central coastland
- Explore Saigon and Cu Chi tunnels



ITINERARY

Day 1. Hanoi - Arrival

Arrival in Hanoi and transfer to a downtown hotel.

Take an orientation rickshaw tour in Hanoi's Old Quarter. See Hoan Kiem Lake and visit the Ngoc Son Pagoda.

If time permits, visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum Complex or the Temple of Literature.

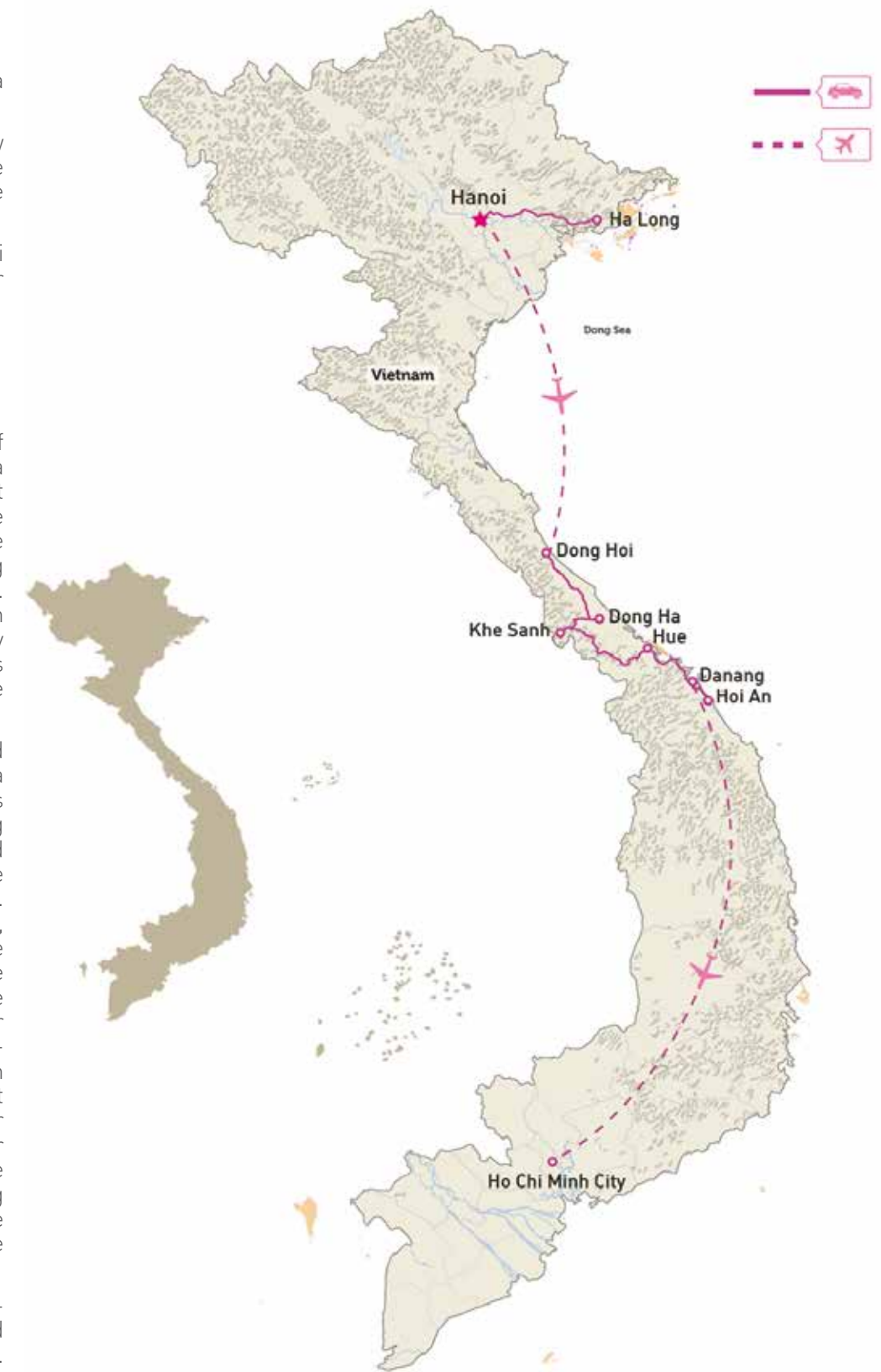
Overnight in Hanoi.

Day 2. Hanoi

Today, uncover traces of the war, accompanied by a Vietnamese veteran. Start with the Hanoi Hilton where many American POWs were imprisoned, including a young airman named John McCain. Then, head to Kham Thien Street, which was heavily bombed during Christmas 1972. See the memorial and have an opportunity to meet locals.

Then, head to Truc Bach and Huu Tiep Lakes in Ngoc Ha village where many B52 planes were shot down. See the Long Bien Bridge, a historic and strategic cantilever bridge spanning across the Red River. Continue to Thang Long Citadel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site built in the 11th century by the Ly Viet Dynasty. The ancient site was the country political center for thirteen consecutive centuries and served as the Vietnam Capital for eight centuries. Visit the underground war bunker hidden in the Citadel. The bunker played an important role in the American War, especially during the twelve days and nights of the Hanoi – Dien Bien Phu air battle in 1972.

Lunch at KOTO, a charity restaurant, served by disadvantaged youth trained in restaurant skills.





• Paradise Luxury Cruise

Mid-afternoon, visit the expansive Military Museum (closed on Mondays and Fridays). This repository of Vietnam’s military history includes rooms brimming with war propaganda as well as photographs and documents from Vietnam’s wars with China, France, and the U.S. End the day at a hidden bia hoi (closed on Sundays), a longstanding, popular meeting place for older people, especially veterans.

Overnight in Hanoi.

Day 3. Hanoi - Ha Long Bay

Morning, drive along the Red River Delta to Ha Long Bay, including a twenty-minute stop on the way. Arrive at the pier towards noon; proceed with check-in. Be welcomed on board and cruise to Ha Long Bay. Lunch served while cruising.

Afternoon, cruise surrounded by unique and awe-inspiring scenery. Visit a cave or a floating house. Enjoy kayaking and/or swimming. Relax on board. Visits and activities depend on each boat’s itinerary.

Evening, cooking demonstration, dinner on board and squid fishing activity, if weather permits.

Overnight on board.

Day 4. Ha Long Bay - Hanoi

Morning, while breakfast is served, cruise further on Ha Long Bay. The vessel cruises slowly through majestic karst peaks and back towards the pier. Depending on the boat’s itinerary, visit an additional site.

Disembark before noon and drive back to Hanoi.

If cruising with Dragon Pearl/Dragon Legend, stop at Yen Duc village for a short Water Puppet Show performed by local artists. Otherwise, visit Phu Lang, one of the last remaining pottery villages in Vietnam. Wander through workshops and meet artisans.

Arrive in Hanoi, transfer to hotel. Then, meet Mr. Le Van Lan, a renowned historian who has experienced the war from different angles. Originally from the bourgeoisie, he has lived through many changes: he has witnessed his country’s evolution, self-destruction, rebuilding and development. Head to a conference room to learn more about the Vietnam War.

Overnight in Hanoi.

Day 5. Hanoi - Quang Tri

Morning, fly to Dong Hoi in Central Vietnam. Meet Mr. Nguyen, a local expert, who will join the tour for five days; visiting Central Vietnam’s most famous war sites.

During the war, from 1960 to 1975, Mr. Nguyen served as a special reconnaissance officer in the Tri Thien Command Unit. His unit fought in A Chau, A Luoi, Tri Thien, Hue, Quang Tri. He was wounded many times. After the war, for 15 years, he worked as Director of Hue Monuments Conservation Centre. He had been in charge of the application of Hue to be recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Drive south to Quang Tri, just north of the demilitarized zone (DMZ). This area was the scene of some of the bloodiest battles during the American War. The zone was established after the first Indochina War and functioned as the division line between North and South Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

En route to Quang Tri, stop at the picturesque village of An Xa where General Giap was raised. Have the opportunity to see his former house and meet his grandchildren. Lunch at a local restaurant in An Xa.

Afternoon, drive further south to Quang Tri and transfer to hotel.

• Three Borders Map



• Saigon

Then, head to the Mine Action Center operated by the “RENEW Project” and the Department of Foreign Affairs. Housing exhibits and images, the Center provides visitors with information on the devastation of the Vietnam War, its consequences, and the recovery from loss, pain and poverty by the people as well as efforts of the government, people and international organizations to respond to this challenge. The Center also serves as an education facility for the younger generations born post-war.

Optionally, arranged by the Mine Action Center, and with safety as a priority, head to a bomb/mine clearance site to get firsthand knowledge of UXO defusing, including observation of UXO demolition.

Overnight in Quang Tri.



• Central Coast

Day 6. DMZ

Today, visit the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone), 17th parallel, Ben Hai River and Hien Luong Bridge, Vinh Moc tunnels and Truong Son National Cemetery. After lunch at a local restaurant, explore Con Thien American military base. Finally, visit Quang Tri citadel, the site of the bloody Easter Offensive of 1972.

Overnight in Quang Tri.

Day 7. Quang Tri - Khe Sanh

Morning, drive to Khe Sanh via Highway No.9. En route stop at Cam Lo (code name "Buffalo"), Rockpile, Camp Carroll, Khe Sanh Base and Ta Con Airfield. Lunch in Khe Sanh.

Afternoon, drive to Laos border to visit the Lang Vay Special Forces Camp which was overtaken by a NVA tank assault.

Return to Khe Sanh and transfer to a local hotel.

Overnight in Khe Sanh.

Day 8. Khe Sanh - Hue

Drive along the former Ho Chi Minh Trail and see the Dra Krong Bridge. Visit Ashau Valley and Ap Bia Mountain, 3000 ft in height, dubbed by the GI's as Hamburger Hill, to signify the carnage resulting from repeated efforts by both sides to take the high ground. Finally, visit Binh Dien and Bastogne Military Bases to see how the Americans built a strategic series of bases along this route to protect Hue against the Vietcong's attacks during the War.

Enjoy the fantastic mountain views along the road, the rolling green hills, and crystal-clear bubbling streams bordered by magnificent hills.

Arrive in Hue in the afternoon, check into the hotel. Rest of the day is free at leisure.

Evening, enjoy dinner in a garden house, the restored home of a family descended from the royal Nguyen family.

Overnight in Hue.

Day 9. Hue - Hoi An

Morning, visit Nguyen Dynasty's Imperial City (1804 - 1945). Take a stroll to explore the history and architecture around the Capital Citadel, the Royal Citadel and the Forbidden Citadel. Walk along Kim Long old streets, a medieval village, and see Mandarin style houses.

Get a Vietnamese traditional coffee at a local coffee shop. Take a cyclo ride through the city and arrive at Tinh Tam Lake where the Emperors were wont to relax. Lunch served at Mr. Nguyen's home. Meet his family and bid farewell.

Afternoon, embark on a scenic drive over Hai Van Pass where, weather permitting, a spectacular panorama of the central coastline can be viewed from the summit. See Danang war sites and drive along the former China Beach, visit the Marble Mountains. Transfer to hotel in Hoi An.

Late afternoon, strolling in the old streets, a lantern wonderland.

Overnight in Hoi An.

Day 10. Hoi An - Saigon

Morning, take a walking tour of Hoi An Old Town. From the proximity of the vibrant fresh market, marvel at the historical Assembly Halls, the solidly constructed Japanese Bridge and the mysterious Tan Ky House. Stroll in the old streets and have an opportunity to have clothes tailor-made at one of many renowned Hoi An boutiques. Lunch at Streets Restaurant Cafe, a training restaurant which serves a wide selection of Hoi An specialties.

Mid-morning, transfer to Danang Airport for onward flight to Saigon. On the way, pay a visit to the DAVA Centre, Danang City Association of Victims of Agent Orange. Arrive in Saigon and transfer to hotel.

End of afternoon, take an orientation walk in Saigon former colonial district which boasts Gustave Eiffel's graceful Central Post Office and the Notre-Dame Basilica. Stroll through the historic Catinat Street (now called Dong Khoi).

Evening, AO Show. Enter the historic Saigon Opera House and experience the richness of Vietnamese culture mixed with the acrobatics of a contemporary circus.

Overnight in Saigon.

Day 11. Tay Ninh

Drive through typical southern Vietnamese countryside along Route 13 to Tay Ninh. It was along this route that the North Vietnamese army entered Saigon in 1975. Tay Ninh is the birth place of Vietnam's homegrown religion, Cao Dai. Visit the Cao Dai Holy See, for insight into this eclectic religion. Then drive down toward the Parrot's Beak, on the Vietnamese-Cambodian border, where US forces invaded Cambodia in 1970.

Continue on to Cu Chi District and explore the underground village built by Cu Chi guerrilla fighters, a network of tunnels built during the long years of war first against the French and then the Americans. Visit the underground complex and meet a Viet Cong veteran who used to live there, for an introduction to the tunnels' history and life in the tunnels. Return to Saigon in the afternoon.

Overnight in Saigon.

Day 12. Saigon

Begin the day with a visit to the shrine outside of the US Consulate then continue to the former CIA building (outside visit only), where helicopters evacuated the remaining U.S. citizens in 1975. Head to the rooftop cafe of the Rex hotel, a familiar landmark for Americans during the Vietnam War. Then, visit the Reunification Palace for a guided tour of the former headquarters of the South Vietnamese Government.

Onwards to Pho Binh Restaurant for a simple lunch of noodle soup. House Number 07 on Ly Chinh Thang Street used to be the headquarters of Viet Cong Commanders, where they gathered to plan for the 1968 Tet Offensive. Take a walk upstairs to learn more about the history through the family's photo collection. Experience Antique Street (Le Cong Kieu), where genuine antiques are mixed in with "genuine" fakes. Find military cast-offs from the Vietnam War. Finally, visit the War Remnants Museum.

Overnight in Saigon.

Day 13. Saigon - Departure

Free until departure. If time permits, further sightseeing can be offered.



• Viet-Cong



{ EXTEND THE JOURNEY }

Mekong Cruise

Day 13. Mekong Cruise

Travel two hours by car to Cai Be to board a boat for a Mekong Cruise. Explore the lively Cai Be floating market, and visit the handicraft village of the local people. Visit an ancient house and sample various tropical fruits. Then, continue on to Can Tho via Cho Lach and Tra On. Disembark at Cho Lach village. Take advantage of pleasant walking and biking paths in order to discover tropical fruit orchards and the local people's activities. Continue to Tra On and enjoy a magnificent sunset on the river.

Dinner and overnight on board.

Day 14. Mekong Cruise

The cruise continues to Can Tho. Enjoy a fabulous sunrise on the river. Upon arrival in Can Tho, take a small boat to explore the Cai Rang Market, one of the most bustling floating markets in Mekong Delta. Disembark, and then return to Saigon by car.

Overnight in Saigon.

II. CLASSICAL WAR TOURS

2. Vietnam War Revisited Tour

“This is not a jungle war, but a struggle for freedom on every front of human activity”

Lyndon B. Johnson, 1964



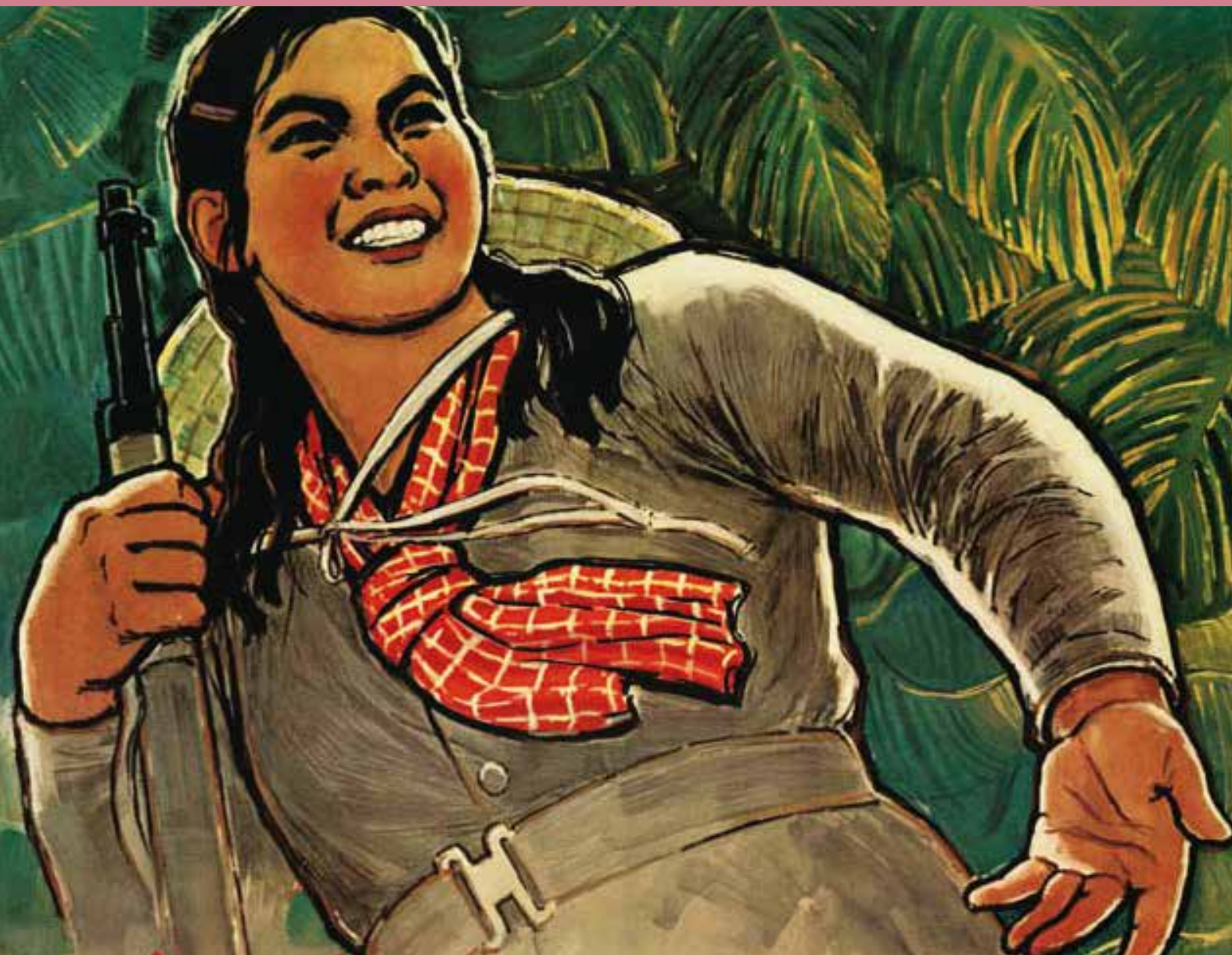
SPIRIT

Traverse Vietnam South to North, explore Vietnam War also from Vietnamese point of view. During this tour, discover various famous sites, such as Cu Chi, Danang, Khe Sanh, among many others. End the adventure with an optional Ha Long Bay Cruise



HIGHLIGHTS

- Understanding Vietnam War daily
- Discover Central Vietnam hidden treasures
- Cruise on the legendary Ha Long Bay
- Experience Hanoi and Saigon bustling streets



ITINERARY

Day 1. Saigon - Arrival

Arrival in Saigon and transfer to a downtown hotel. Take a rickshaw orientation tour in the former colonial district.

Overnight in Saigon.

Day 2. Saigon

Begin the day with a visit to the shrine outside of the US Consulate then continue to the former CIA building (outside visit only), where helicopters evacuated the remaining U.S. citizens in 1975. Head to the rooftop café of the Rex hotel, a familiar landmark for Americans during the Vietnam War. Then, visit the Reunification Palace for a guided tour of the former headquarters of the South Vietnamese Government.

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Dinner served at Ly Club Villa Restaurant.

Overnight in Saigon.

Day 3. Saigon - Tay Ninh

Morning, off to the Iron Triangle. Visit Phu Loi Airbase, continue on Road N13 to Ben Cat, the start of Thunder Road. From Lai Khe, visit FSB Lorraine I & FSB Lorraine II. Drive North to An Loc battlefield and to Ta Thiet NVA base.

On the way to Tay Ninh, stop at an old Michelin Rubber Plantation. Arrival in Tay Ninh and visit a Cao Dai temple. The temple is part-cathedral, part-pagoda, part-mosque, part-fairytale.





A peaceful vision of harmony in a once war-torn area.

Overnight in Tay Ninh.

Day 4. Tay Ninh - Saigon

North of Tay Ninh, visit Prek Klok II Airfield. Road to Trang Bang, area of Operation Cedar Falls.

On the way back to Saigon, discover Cu Chi tunnels. Explore the underground village built by Cu Chi guerrilla fighters, a network of tunnels built during the long years of war first against the French and then the Americans.

Overnight in Saigon.

Day 5. Saigon - Pleiku

Morning, fly to Pleiku, Gia Lai Province capital. Torched by departing South Vietnamese soldiers in 1975, the city was rebuilt in the 1980s with the help of the Soviet Union.

After check in at the hotel, see some battle sites around Pleiku; including: Camp Holloway and Camp Enary. No traces of those camps are left today.

Overnight in Pleiku.

Day 6. Pleiku

Day dedicated at Ia Drang Valley.

Morning, proceed to Tea Plantation southwest of Pleiku and other Air Cavalry sites along Route 14. Tour old Special Forces Camp at Plei Me where the 1/7 Cavalry helicoptered into Ia Drang in November 1965.

Afternoon, visit the infamous Ia Drang Valley where the first major battle took place between the US Army's 1st Air Cav and the NVA in 1965, as depicted in the movie «We Were Soldiers». Witness the LZ Albany and LZ X-Ray battle sites.

Overnight in Pleiku.

Day 7. Pleiku - Kontum

Morning, drive to Kontum. On the way, stop at a Banar ethnic hamlet for an insight into this minority group. On arrival in Kontum, tour its famous sites such as the hundred-year-old wooden church, Kontum Prison and the Dak Dri Suspension Bridge.

Afternoon, transfer to hotel and free at your leisure.

Overnight in Kontum.

Day 8. Kontum - Hoi An

North of Kontum, visit Dak To Combat Base, destroyed by the NVA in 1972. Edging close to the border with Laos, where a number of Trail arteries crossed over into Laos, head up the towering Lo So Pass, passing through remote areas sparsely populated by the local Montagnards across the Annamese Cordillera. From Kham Duc, leave the Trail and continue to Hoi An.

Late afternoon, arrive in Hoi An. On arrival, short walking tour in Hoi An Old Town.

Overnight in Hoi An.

Day 9. Hoi An - Danang

Morning, leisure time or optionally: take a half-day tour to the infamous My Lai Memorial Site. En route, stop at Chu Lai and visit the Chu Lai Airbase.

Afternoon, short drive to Danang, stay in a hotel or a resort near China Beach, formerly a famous R&R spot in South Vietnam.

Overnight in Danang.

Day 10. Danang - Hue

Morning, embark on a scenic drive over Hai Van Pass where, weather permitting, a spectacular panorama of the central coastline can be viewed from the summit.

On arrival in Hue, meet Mr. Nguyen. This local expert joins the tour for four days; touring Central Vietnam's most famous war sites.

During the war, from 1960 to 1975, Mr. Nguyen served as a special reconnaissance officer in the Tri Thien Command Unit. His unit fought in A Shau, A Luoi, Tri Thien, Hue, Quang Tri. He was wounded many times. After the war, for 15 years, he worked as Director of Hue Monuments Conservation Centre. He had been in charge of the application of Hue to be recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Afternoon, visit the Nguyen Dynasty's Imperial City (1804 - 1945). Take a stroll to explore the history and architecture around the Capital Citadel, the Royal Citadel and the Forbidden Citadel. Walk along Kim Long old streets, a medieval village and see Mandarin style houses. Get a Vietnamese traditional coffee at a local coffee shop. Take a cyclo ride through the city and arrive at Tinh Tam Lake where the Emperors were wont to relax.

Overnight in Hue.

Day 11. Hue - Khe Sanh

Drive to the district of A Luoi. Enjoy the fantastic mountain views along the road, the rolling green hills, and crystal-clear bubbling streams bordered by magnificent hills.

Visit Binh Dien and Bastogne Military Bases to see how Americans built a strategic series of bases along this route to protect Hue against the Vietcong's attacks during the War. Then, visit Ashau Valley and Ap Bia Mountain, 3000 ft in height, dubbed by the GI's as Hamburger Hill to signify the carnage resulting from repeated efforts by both sides to take the high ground. Finally, drive on the former Ho Chi Minh Trail and see the Dra Krong Bridge.

Arrive in Khe Sanh and visit Khe Sanh Base and Ta Con Airfield.

If time permits, drive to Lao border to visit the Lang Vay Special Forces Camp which was taken by a NVA tank assault. Return to Khe Sanh.

Overnight in Khe Sanh.

Day 12. Khe Sanh - Dong Hoi

Drive to Quang Tri. Visit the Quang Tri citadel, the site of the bloody Easter Offensive of 1972.

Then, travel to Dong Ha, learn about the strategic importance of this area during the Vietnam War. Explore the history of the American military bases of Con Tien, Doc Mieu, Gio Linh and Cam Lo (code-name "Buffalo"). Also, visit the former base of Rockpile, Camp Carroll and the village of Van Kieu.



• Bahnar Communal House

The tour continues into the heart of the demilitarized zone, crossing the Ben Hai River, which separates North and South Vietnam via the Hien Luong Bridge. Visit the famous Truong Son Cemetery and the Vinh Moc tunnels.

Drive to Dong Hoi. En route, stop at the picturesque village of An Xa where General Giap was raised. Have an opportunity to see his former house and meet his grandchildren.

Arrive in Dong Hoi, transfer to hotel.

Overnight in Dong Hoi.

Day 13. Dong Hoi - Hanoi

Morning, fly to Hanoi. On arrival, transfer to a downtown hotel.

Take an orientation rickshaw tour in Hanoi Old Quarter. See Hoan Kiem Lake and visit the Ngoc Son Pagoda.

If time permits, visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum Complex or the Temple of Literature.

Evening, Water Puppet Show followed by dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Hanoi.



Day 14. Hanoi

Today, uncover traces of the war, accompanied by a Vietnamese veteran. Start with the Hanoi Hilton where many American POWs were imprisoned, including a young airman named John McCain. Then, head to Kham Thien Street, which was heavily bombed during Christmas 1972. See the memorial and have an opportunity to meet locals.

Then, head to Truc Bach and Huu Tiep Lakes in Ngoc Ha village where many B52 planes were shot down. See the Long Bien Bridge, a historic and strategic cantilever bridge spanning across the Red River. Continue to Thang Long Citadel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site built in the 11th century by the Ly Viet Dynasty. The ancient site was the country political center for thirteen consecutive centuries and served as the Vietnam Capital for eight centuries. Visit the underground war bunker hidden in the Citadel. The bunker played an important role in the American War, especially during the twelve days and nights of the Hanoi – Dien Bien Phu air battle in 1972.

Lunch at KOTO, a charity restaurant, served by disadvantaged youth trained in restaurant skills.

Mid-afternoon, visit the expansive Military Museum (closed on Mondays and Fridays). This repository of Vietnam's military history includes rooms brimming with war propaganda as well as photographs and documents from Vietnam's wars with China, France, and the U.S. End the day at a hidden bia hoi (closed on Sundays), a longstanding, popular meeting place for older people, especially veterans.

Overnight in Hanoi.

Day 15. Hanoi - Departure

Free until departure. If time permits, further sightseeing can be offered.



• By Augustine Acuna



{ EXTEND THE JOURNEY }

Ha Long Bay Cruise

Day 15. Hanoi – Ha Long Bay Cruise

Drive to Ha Long and board a junk boat for an off-the-beaten-path cruise on Ha Long Bay. Life on the Bay is fascinating to watch. Entire angler families create floating communities of boathouses and fishing vessels.

Swim in the crystal-clear water or go kayaking amongst the extraordinary limestone towers.

Dine on fresh seafood aboard the boat and overnight in a luxurious private cabin.

Day 16. Ha Long Bay Cruise – Departure

Morning, while breakfast is served, cruise further on Ha Long Bay. The vessel cruises slowly through majestic karst peaks and back towards the pier. Depending on the boat's itinerary, visit an additional site.

Disembark and return to Hanoi airport for departure.



• Central Highlands

II. CLASSICAL WAR TOURS

3. *Evasion War Tour*

“Now we have a problem in making our power credible, and Vietnam is the place”

John Fitzgerald Kennedy



SPIRIT

On this exclusive tour, Secret Indochina caters to the discerning traveler's desire to be immersed in the history of the war, partaking of the culture and the beauty of the country, while enjoying the sophistication and refinement of ancient civilizations. In addition, enjoy the modern comforts of luxurious colonial-style architecture, with a beach holiday in Cam Ranh. Nowhere else can the beauty and charm of Vietnamese design be better appreciated than in the lobbies of the luxurious accommodations provided along the way



HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover Vietnam War other perspective
- Indulge in Vietnam most luxurious hotels
- Cruise on Ha Long Bay
- Unwind in a Cam Ranh resort
- Revel in a Mekong Delta enchanted cruise among orchards and floating markets



ITINERARY

Day 1. Hanoi - Arrival

Arrival in Hanoi and transfer to a downtown hotel.

Take an orientation rickshaw tour in Hanoi's Old Quarter. See Hoan Kiem Lake and visit the Ngoc Son Pagoda.

If time permits, visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum Complex or the Temple of Literature.

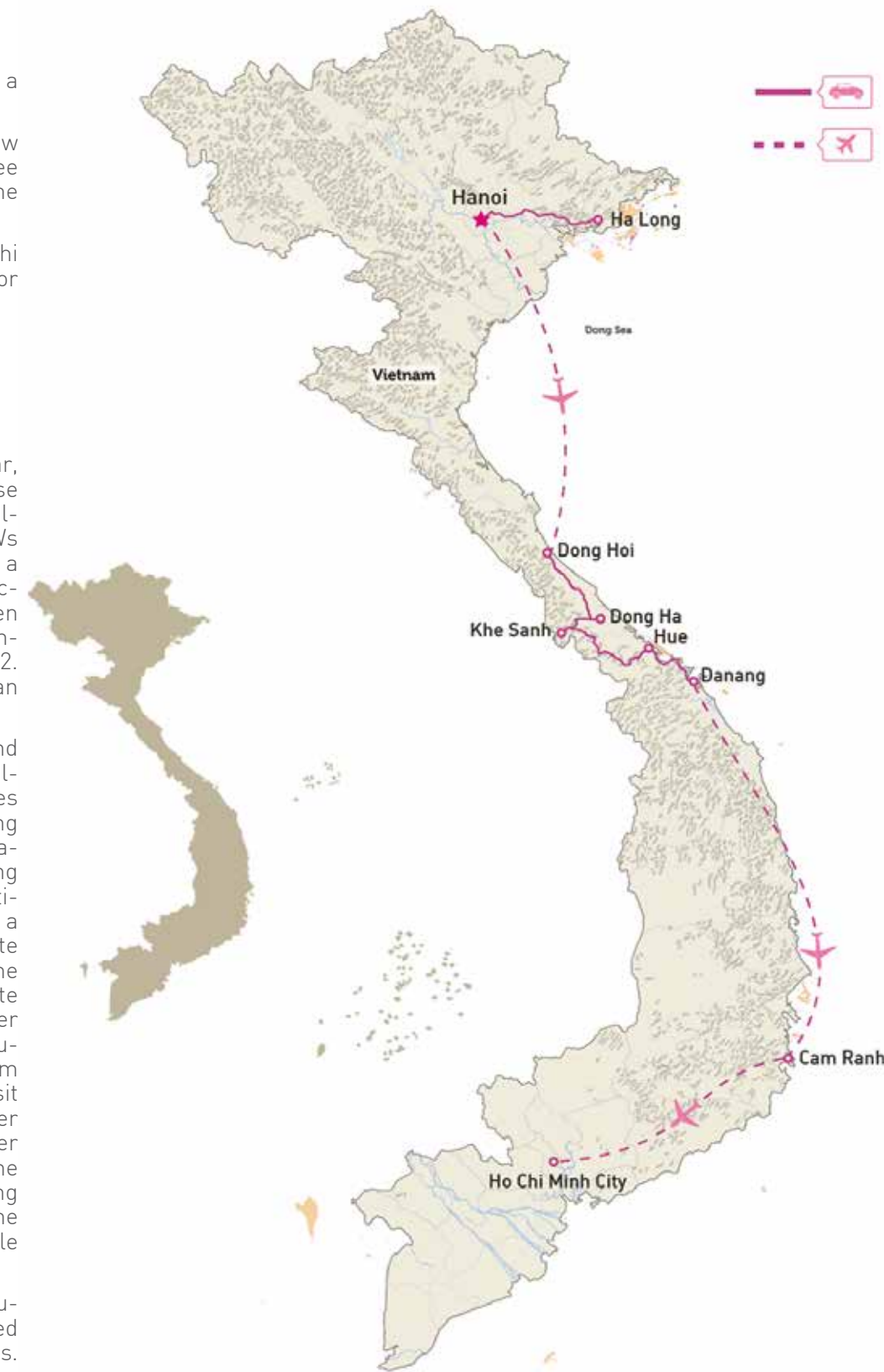
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Lunch at KOTO, a charity restaurant, served by disadvantaged youth trained in restaurant skills.



< • Amanoï



• Ha Long Bay

Mid-afternoon, visit the expansive Military Museum (closed on Mondays and Fridays). This repository of Vietnam's military history includes rooms brimming with war propaganda as well as photographs and documents from Vietnam's wars with China, France, and the U.S. End the day at a hidden bia hoi (closed on Sundays), a longstanding, popular meeting place for older people, especially veterans.

Overnight in Hanoi.

Day 3. Hanoi - Ha Long Bay

Morning, drive along the Red River Delta to Ha Long Bay, including a twenty-minute stop on the way. Arrive at the pier towards noon; proceed with check-in. Be welcomed on board and cruise to Ha Long Bay. Lunch served while cruising.

Afternoon, cruise surrounded by unique and awe-inspiring scenery. Visit a cave or a floating house. Enjoy kayaking and/or swimming. Relax on board. Visits and activities depend on each boat's itinerary.

Evening, cooking demonstration, dinner on board and squid fishing activity, if weather permits.

Overnight on board.

Day 4. Ha Long Bay - Hanoi

Morning, while breakfast is served, cruise further on Ha Long Bay. The vessel cruises slowly through majestic karst peaks and back towards the pier. Depending on the boat's itinerary, visit an additional site.

Disembark before noon and drive back to Hanoi.

If cruising with Dragon Pearl/Dragon Legend, stop at Yen Duc village for a short Water Puppet Show performed by local artists. Otherwise, visit Phu Lang, one of the last remaining pottery villages in Vietnam. Wander through workshops and meet artisans.

Arrive in Hanoi, transfer to hotel. Then, meet Mr. Le Van Lan, a renowned historian who has experienced the war from different angles. Originally from the bourgeoisie, he has lived through many changes: he has witnessed his country's evolution, self-destruction, rebuilding and development. Head to a conference room to learn more about the Vietnam War.

Overnight in Hanoi.

Day 5. Hanoi - Quang Tri

Fly to Dong Hoi in Central Vietnam. Meet Mr. Nguyen, a local expert, who will join the tour for five days; visiting Central Vietnam's most famous war sites.

Drive south to Quang Tri, just north of the demilitarized zone (DMZ). This area was the scene of some of the bloodiest battles during the American War. The zone was established after the first Indochina War and functioned as the division line between North and South Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

En route to Quang Tri, stop at the picturesque village of An Xa where General Giap was raised. Have the opportunity to see his former house and meet his grandchildren. Lunch at a local restaurant in An Xa.

Afternoon, drive further south to Quang Tri and transfer to hotel. Then, head to the Mine Action Center operated by the "RENEW Project" and the Department of Foreign Affairs. Housing exhibits and

images, the Center provides visitors with information on the devastation of the Vietnam War, its consequences, and the recovery from loss, pain and poverty by the people as well as efforts of the government, people and international organizations to respond to this challenge. The Center also serves as an education facility for the younger generations born after the war.

Optionally (at a cost surcharge), arranged by the Mine Action Center, and with safety as a priority, head to a bomb/mine clearance site to get firsthand knowledge of UXO defusing, including observation of UXO demolition.

Overnight in Quang Tri.

Day 6. DMZ

Today, visit the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone), 17th parallel, Ben Hai River and Hien Luong Bridge, Vinh Moc tunnels and Truong Son National Cemetery. After lunch at a local restaurant, explore Con Thien American military base. Finally, visit Quang Tri citadel, the site of the bloody Easter Offensive of 1972.

Overnight in Quang Tri.

Day 7. Quang Tri - Hue

Morning, drive to Hue. On the way, stop at the 500-year old village of Phuoc Tich with its worship halls and communal houses for a taste of ancient Vietnam. Arrive in Hue.

Lunch is served at Tha Om Garden House. Garden Houses are Hue's illustrious representations of ancient grand dynasties.

Afternoon, visit the Nguyen Dynasty's Imperial City (1804 - 1945). Take a stroll to explore the history and architecture around the Capital Citadel, the Royal Citadel and the Forbidden Citadel. Walk along Kim Long old streets, a medieval village and see Mandarin style houses. Get a Vietnamese traditional coffee at a local coffee shop. Take a cyclo ride through the city and arrive at Tinh Tam Lake where the Emperors were wont to relax.

Overnight in Hue.

Day 8. Hue - Danang

Morning, embark on a scenic drive over Hai Van Pass where, weather permitting, a spectacular panorama of the central coastline can be viewed from the summit. See Danang war sites and drive along the former China Beach, visit the Marble Mountains.

Stay in a hotel or a resort near China Beach, formerly a famous R&R spot in South Vietnam

Afternoon, free at leisure in South Vietnam.. Enjoy the luxurious hotel facilities and relax.

Optional activities available such as guided bicycle tour, cooking class, lantern making workshop or further sightseeing.

Overnight in Danang.





• Fusion Cam Ranh Resort

Day 9. Danang

Morning, short drive to Hoi An. Then, take a walking tour of Hoi An Old Town. From the proximity of the vibrant fresh market, marvel at the historical Assembly Halls, the solidly constructed Japanese Bridge and the mysterious Tan Ky House. Stroll in the old streets, a lantern wonderland.

Lunch at Streets Restaurant Cafe, a training restaurant which serves a wide selection of Hoi An specialties.

Afternoon, return to the resort, free at leisure.

Overnight in Danang.

Day 10. Danang - Cam Ranh

Morning, transfer to Danang Airport. On the way, pay a visit to the DAVA Centre, Danang City Association of Victims of Agent Orange. Fly to Cam Ranh. Transfer to resort and indulge in two nights' pampering in a luxurious retreat.

Overnight in Cam Ranh.

AMANOI

Amanresorts makes its debut in Vietnam with a contemporary beachside resort alongside a full-service Aman Spa. Named for the Sanskrit-derived word for 'peace' and noi meaning 'place', Amanoi is a tranquil retreat situated on a beautiful white-sand beach overlooking spectacular Vinh Hy Bay. Backed by a national park and overlooking a marine nature reserve, Amanoi embraces nature while providing guests with a serene beachside retreat on the coast of Vietnam.

Guest accommodation includes 31 Pavilions, a number with private swimming pools, and five Aman Villas, all positioned on the hillside with impressive views. The design of the Pavilions and Aman Villas fuses contemporary elegance with traditional Vietnamese architectural styles. Views are either of Nui Chua National Park, the lake on the property, or Vinh Hy Bay and the East Sea.

FUSION CAM RANH

The new Fusion Resort Cam Ranh is an exceptional beach resort on Cam Ranh main dune, nearby one of the former US most important bases. Spread over 13.6 hectares on a 40 ft high sand dune, it is an intimate resort with fresh open spaces overlooking crystal clear azure ocean. Catering to the needs of the spa lover, the beach lover or a family getaway are 72 luxurious suites and pool villas, all offering views of the ocean. Experience ultimate relaxation at Fusion Resort Cam Ranh with its all-spa inclusive concept - guests can indulge in complimentary spa and wellness everyday. It introduces specially developed Chamveda rituals, created from a fusion of Rasayana techniques and ancient Vietnamese Cham tradition.

Day 11. Cam Ranh

Spend the day enjoying the luxurious facilities and the stunning setting of resort. Make the most of the resort's prime location.

A range of optional activities are available for those who wish to participate.

Overnight in Cam Ranh.



• Sofitel Legend Metropole Hotel



• Ho Chi Minh Trail

Day 12. Cam Ranh - Saigon

Morning, leisure time.

Afternoon, transfer to airport for onward flight to Saigon. On arrival, transfer to hotel. Then, take an orientation walking tour in Saigon's former colonial quarter which boasts Notre Dame Basilica, Gustave Eiffel's Central Post Office and walk down Dong Khoi Street (formerly Rue Catinat).

Evening, AO Show, enter the historic Saigon Opera House and experience the richness of Vietnamese culture mixed with the acrobatics of a contemporary circus. Dinner at Xu Restaurant & Lounge.

Overnight in Saigon.

Day 13. Tay Ninh

Drive through the typical southern Vietnamese countryside along Route 13 to Tay Ninh. It was along this route that the North Vietnamese army entered Saigon in 1975. Tay Ninh is the center of Vietnam's home-grown religion, Cao Dai. Visit the Cao Dai Holy See, for insight into this eclectic religion. Then drive down toward the Parrot's Beak, at the border between Vietnam and Cambodia, where U.S. forces invaded Cambodia in 1970.

Continue on to Cu Chi District and explore the underground village built by Cu Chi guerrilla fighters, a network of tunnels built during the long years of war first against the French and then the Americans. Visit the underground complex and meet a Viet Cong veteran who used to live there, for an introduction to the tunnels' history and life in the tunnels. Return to Saigon in the afternoon.

Overnight in Saigon.

Day 14. Saigon

Begin the day with a visit to the shrine outside of the US Consulate then continue to the former CIA building (outside visit only), where helicopters evacuated the remaining U.S. citizens in 1975. Head to the rooftop café of the Rex hotel, a familiar landmark for Americans during the Vietnam War. Then, visit the Reunification Palace for a guided tour of the former headquarters of the South Vietnamese Government.

Onwards to Pho Binh Restaurant for a simple lunch of noodle soup. House Number 07 on Ly Chinh Thang Street used to be the headquarters of Viet Cong Commanders, where they gathered to plan for the 1968 Tet Offensive. Take a walk upstairs to learn more about the history through the family's photo collection. Experience Antique Street (Le Cong Kieu), where genuine antiques are mixed in with "genuine" fakes. Find military cast-offs from the Vietnam War. Finally, visit the War Remnants Museum.

Farewell dinner served at Ly Club Villa Restaurant.

Overnight in Saigon.

Day 15. Saigon - Departure

Free until departure. If time permits, further sightseeing can be offered.



{ EXTEND THE JOURNEY }

Mekong Cruise, from to Saigon to Phnom Penh

5 days/4 nights with a Mekong Cruise vessel from Saigon to Phnom Penh

II. CLASSICAL WAR TOURS

4. Family War Tour

"But this too is true: stories can save us"

Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*



SPIRIT

The Vietnam War had a profound impact on the lives of many American Veterans. Coming back to Vietnam with their families, and sharing so many memories may be their trip of a lifetime. An opportunity to make new memories, a special tour to share with loved ones and to discover the wonders of Vietnam, experience North to South Vietnam through its best regions, historical sites and with a beach holiday in Danang



HIGHLIGHTS

- Cruise along the magical Ha Long Bay
- Explore some of Vietnam's World Heritages: Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park, Ancient Hue City, and historical Hoi An City
- Visit some of Vietnam's most famous war sites



ITINERARY

Day 1. Hanoi - Arrival

Arrival in Hanoi and transfer to a downtown hotel.

Take an orientation rickshaw tour in Hanoi Old Quarter. See Hoan Kiem Lake and visit the Ngoc Son Pagoda.

If time permits, visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum Complex or the Temple of Literature.

Overnight in Hanoi.

Day 2. Hanoi

Today, uncover traces of the war, accompanied by a Vietnamese veteran. Start with the Hanoi Hilton where many American POWs were imprisoned, including a young airman named John McCain. Then, head to Kham Thien Street, which was heavily bombed during Christmas 1972. See the memorial and have an opportunity to meet locals.

Then, head to Truc Bach and Huu Tiep Lakes in Ngoc Ha village where many B52 planes were shot down. See the Long Bien Bridge, a historic and strategic cantilever bridge spanning across the Red River. Continue to Thang Long Citadel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site built in the 11th century by the Ly Viet Dynasty. The ancient site was the country political center for thirteen consecutive centuries and served as the Vietnam Capital for eight centuries. Visit the underground war bunker hidden in the Citadel. The bunker played an important role in the American War, especially during the twelve days and nights of the Hanoi - Dien Bien Phu air battle in 1972.

Lunch at KOTO, a charity restaurant, served by disadvantaged youth trained in restaurant skills.

Mid-afternoon, visit the expansive Military Museum (closed on Mondays and Fridays). This repository of Vietnam's military history includes rooms brimming with war propaganda as well as photographs and documents from Vietnam's wars with China, France, and the U.S.





• Ha Long Bay

End the day at a hidden bia hoi (closed on Sundays), a longstanding, popular meeting place for older people, especially veterans.

Overnight in Hanoi.

Day 3. Hanoi - Ha Long Bay

Morning, drive along the Red River Delta to Ha Long Bay, including a twenty-minute stop on the way. Arrive at the pier towards noon; proceed with check-in. Be welcomed on board and cruise to Ha Long Bay. Lunch served while cruising.

Afternoon, cruise surrounded by unique and awe-inspiring scenery. Visit a cave or a floating house. Enjoy kayaking and/or swimming. Relax on board. Visits and activities depend on each boat's itinerary.

Evening, cooking demonstration, dinner on board and squid fishing activity, if weather permits.

Overnight on board.

Day 4. Ha Long Bay - Hanoi

Morning, while breakfast is served, cruise further on Ha Long Bay. The vessel cruises slowly through majestic karst peaks and back towards the pier. Depending on the boat's itinerary, visit an additional site.

Disembark before noon and drive back to Hanoi.

If cruising with Dragon Pearl/Dragon Legend, stop at Yen Duc village for a short Water Puppet Show performed by local artists. Otherwise, visit Phu Lang, one of the last remaining pottery villages in Vietnam. Wander through workshops and meet artisans.

Arrive in Hanoi, transfer to hotel. Then, meet Mr. Le Van Lan, a renowned historian who has experienced the war from different angles. Originally from the bourgeoisie, he has lived through many changes: he has witnessed his country's evolution, self-destruction, rebuilding and development. Head to a conference room to learn more about the Vietnam War.

Overnight in Hanoi.

Day 5. Hanoi - Phong Nha

Morning, fly to Dong Hoi. On arrival, short drive to Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Afternoon, embark on a boat cruise to Phong Nha Cave via the Son River, by-passing buffalos, jagged limestone peaks, and church steeples to reach the cave's gaping mouth. On the way back, discover Tien Son Cave, climb up (via 330 steps) and see the remains of Cham altars and inscriptions that date back to



• Fusion Maia Danang

the ninth century. The cave was used as a shelter, storage area and hospital during the American War and consequently was heavily bombed.

Overnight in Phong Nha.

Day 6. Phong Nha - Khe Sanh

Morning, travel to the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone), 17th parallel. Visit Vinh Moc tunnels and see Ben Hai River and Hien Luong Bridge. Finally, visit Quang Tri Citadel, site of the bloody Easter Offensive of 1972.

Afternoon, drive to Khe Sanh via Highway No.9. En route stop at Cam Lo (codename "Buffalo"), Rockpile, Camp Carroll, Khe Sanh Base and Ta Con Airfield.

Overnight in Khe Sanh.



• Danang Beach



- Home Coming

Day 7. Khe Sanh - A Roang

Morning, drive on the former Ho Chi Minh Trail and see the Dra Krong Bridge. Visit Ashau Valley and Ap Bia Mountain, 3000 ft in height, dubbed by the GI's as Hamburger Hill to signify the carnage resulting from repeated efforts by both sides to take the high ground.

Afternoon, arrive in A Roang and meet the Ta Oy ethnic minority, former Montagnards. Be welcomed by the host and settle into a stilt house. Walking tour in the village and insight into their customs and habits.

Overnight in A Roang, homestay.

Day 8. A Roang - Bho Hoong

Morning, take a two-hour easy hike in the A Roang valley, traipsing across ethnic hamlets and lush landscapes.

Mid-morning, pick up vehicle and transfer to Dong Giang. Lunch served in a local restaurant.

Afternoon, visit a Katu village and meet a family collecting antique objects from various ethnic groups. Discover an incredible collection and learn more about ethnic minorities.

Mid-afternoon, another easy hike of approximately an hour to reach the Ka Nom village and its surroundings; discover Do Roong, a weaving village.

Finally, return to the car for a short one-hour drive to reach Bho Hoong Lodge, set amid a Katu village. Settle into the bungalow and discover the village.

Overnight in Bho Hoong.

Day 9. Bho Hoong - Hoi An

Morning, easy hike to a waterfall. Walk through a thick forest and discover various farms and plantations belonging to Katu.

Afternoon, drive to Hoi An, an invaluable cultural and historical heritage site.

Transfer to hotel and enjoy free leisure time.

Mid-afternoon, sunset cruise on the Thu Bon River.

Overnight in Hoi An.

Day 10. Hoi An

Today, free at leisure. Enjoy the hotel/resort setting and facilities or head to the beach.

Optional activities available such as guided bicycle tour, cooking class, lantern making workshop or further sightseeing.

Overnight in Hoi An.

Day 11. Hoi An - Saigon

Morning, transfer to Danang Airport for onward flight to Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon.

End of afternoon, take an orientation walk in Saigon former colonial district which boasts Gustave Eiffel's graceful Central Post Office and the Notre-Dame Basilica. Stroll through the historic Catinat Street (now called Dong Khoi).

Afternoon, continue a more in-depth discovery of the Vietnam War and visit the Reunification Palace, the War Remnants Museum and the former US Embassy. Finally, see Antique Street (Le Cong Kieu), where genuine antiques are mixed in with "genuine" fakes. Find military cast-offs from the Vietnam War. If time permits, head to Cholon, the "Chinatown" district.

Overnight in Saigon.

Day 12. Saigon - Departure

Morning, free until departure. If time permits, optionally further sightseeing can be offered.



{ EXTEND THE JOURNEY }

Extension in Ben Tre, Mekong Delta

2 days / 1 night extension to Ben Tre, Mekong Delta. Immersion at Cocolodge, a rural and coconut wonderland



- O-2A over Laos



II. CLASSICAL WAR TOURS

5. South East Asia War Tour

"We were expelled from paradise, but paradise was not destroyed. In a sense our expulsion from paradise was a stroke of luck, for had we not been expelled, paradise would have to be destroyed"

Franz Kafka. "Paradise". From Chap 9 of the Ravens. Pilots of the Secret War of Laos.
Christopher Robbins



SPIRIT

A rare experience for any traveller wishing to discover the principal remains and battlefields of the War. On this riveting, multinational tour, discover Vietnam's sumptuous landscapes, Cambodia's magical temples and learn about Lao history and culture. Interact with War Veterans and local inhabitants such as the Katu and the Montagnards. Complete your voyage with short hikes inside the jungle



HIGHLIGHTS

- Vietnam War battlefields discovery
- Education about the Laos Secret War
- Witness Special Operations remains
- Meet the Montagnards
- Venture in Angkor Wat



ITINERARY

Day 1. Saigon - Arrival

Arrival in Saigon and transfer to a downtown hotel. Take a rickshaw orientation tour in the former colonial district.

Overnight in Saigon.

Day 2. Saigon

Begin the day with a visit to the shrine outside of the US Consulate then continue to the former CIA building (outside visit only), where helicopters evacuated the remaining U.S. citizens in 1975. Head to the rooftop café of the Rex hotel, a familiar landmark for Americans during the Vietnam War. Then, visit the Reunification Palace for a guided tour of the former headquarters of the South Vietnamese Government.

Lunch at Pho Binh Restaurant for a simple lunch of noodle soup. House Number 07 on Ly Chinh Thang Street used to be the headquarters of Viet Cong Commanders, where they gathered to plan for the 1968 Tet Offensive. Take a walk upstairs to learn more about the history through the family's photo collection. Experience Antique Street (Le Cong Kieu), where genuine antiques are mixed in with "genuine" fakes. Find military cast-offs from the Vietnam War.

Mid-afternoon, depending on client preference: visit the War Remnants Museum or the Fine Arts Museum.

Evening, A0 Show. Enter the historic Saigon Opera House and experience the richness of Vietnamese culture mixed with the acrobatics of a contemporary circus.

Overnight in Saigon.

Day 3. Tay Ninh

Drive through typical southern Vietnamese countryside along Route 13 to Tay Ninh. It was along this route that the North Vietnamese army entered Saigon in 1975. Tay Ninh is the birth place of Vietnam's homegrown





• MIG-17PF

religion, Cao Dai. Visit the Cao Dai Holy See, for insight into this eclectic religion. Then drive down toward the Parrot's Beak, on the Vietnamese-Cambodian border, where U.S. forces invaded Cambodia in 1970.

Continue on to Cu Chi District and explore the underground village built by Cu Chi guerrilla fighters, a network of tunnels built during the long years of war first against the French and then the Americans. Visit the underground complex and meet a Viet Cong veteran who used to live there, for an introduction to the tunnels' history and life in the tunnels. Return to Saigon in the afternoon.

Overnight in Saigon.

Day 4. Saigon - Danang

Morning, transfer to airport for onwards flight to Danang. On arrival, see Danang war sites, drive along the former China Beach and visit the Marble Mountains. Transfer to resort in Danang.

Mid-afternoon, head to Hoi An Ancient Town, an invaluable cultural and historical heritage site. Marvel at the historical Fujian Sanctuary, the well-built Japanese Bridge and the mysterious Tan Ly House. Stroll in the old streets and have an opportunity to have clothes tailor-made at one of many renowned Hoi An boutiques.

Overnight in Danang.

Day 5. Danang

Morning, discover the former Champa Spiritual Centre, My Son Sanctuary. Leave Danang via the countryside and discover a UNESCO World Heritage site. Discover the Champa Kingdom's (4th - 13th Centuries) remaining structures, impressively surrounded by hills. On the way back to Danang, visit Tra Kieu ruins, Champa Capital between the 4th and 8th Centuries.

Afternoon, free at leisure. Enjoy the optional activities available, such as golf, bicycle tour, cooking class, lantern making workshop or further sightseeing.

Overnight in Danang.

Day 6. Danang - Hue

Morning, embark on a scenic drive over Hai Van Pass where, weather permitting, a spectacular panorama of the central coastline can be viewed from the summit. On the way, make a stop at the Danang Cham Museum. On arrival in Hue, meet Mr. Nguyen at his home. This local expert joins the tour for four days; touring Central Vietnam's most famous war sites.

During the war, from 1960 to 1975, Mr. Nguyen served as a special reconnaissance officer in the Tri Thien Command Unit. His unit fought in A Shau, A Luoi, Tri Thien, Hue, Quang Tri. He was wounded many times. After the war, for 15 years, he worked as Director of Hue Monuments Conservation Centre. He had been in charge of the application of Hue to be recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Afternoon, visit the Nguyen Dynasty's Imperial City (1804 - 1945). Take a stroll to explore the history and architecture around the Capital Citadel, the Royal Citadel and the Forbidden Citadel. Walk along Kim Long old streets, a medieval village, and see Mandarin style houses. Get a Vietnamese traditional coffee at a local coffee shop.



• Ethnic Ta Oy Hamlet

Take a cyclo ride through the city and arrive at Tinh Tam Lake where the Emperors were wont to relax.

Afternoon, embark on a scenic drive over Hai Van Pass where, weather permitting, a spectacular panorama of the central coastline can be viewed from the summit. See Danang war sites, drive along the former China Beach and visit the Marble Mountains. Transfer to hotel in Hoi An.

Dinner is served at Tha Om Garden House. Garden Houses are Hue's illustrious examples of grand dynasties past.

Overnight in Hue.

Day 7. Hue - Dong Ha

Morning, drive to Quang Tri. On arrival, visit the Quang Tri citadel, the site of the bloody Easter Offensive of 1972. Then, travel to Dong Ha, learn about this area's strategic importance. Explore Con Tien American military base history as well as Doc Mieu, Gio Linh and Cam Lo (codename "Buffalo"). Visit former Rock Pile base and the Van Kieu village.

Afternoon, continue into the heart of the demilitarized zone, crossing the Ben Hai River which separates North and South Vietnam via the Hien Luong Bridge. Visit the Truong Son Cemetery and the Vinh Moc tunnels.

Overnight in Dong Ha.

Day 8. Quang Tri - Khe Sanh

Morning, drive to Khe Sanh via Highway No.9. En route stop at Cam Lo (codename "Buffalo"), Rockpile, Camp Carroll, Khe Sanh Base and Ta Con Airfield. Lunch in Khe Sanh.

Afternoon, drive to Laos border to visit the Lang Vay Special Forces Camp which was overtaken by a NVA tank assault.

Return to Khe Sanh and transfer to a local hotel.

Overnight in Khe Sanh.



• B-52 bomb crater



• Fall of Phnom Penh by R. Neveu

Day 9. Khe Sanh - Ta Oy

Morning, cross into Laos via the new Ta Lay border and enter Saravane Province, area of Operation Lam Son 719, Steel Tiger, Tiger Hound, and Igloo White, among others. Drive along a superb road near Xe Xap Mountain, which was a PAVN Maquis during Khe Sanh Battle, in one of Laos' most remote jungles. Witness the obvious effects of Operation Arc Light: hundreds of existing road-side craters. Drive to Ta Oy District. Visit the new U.S. MIA Camp in Ta Oy, learn about MIA.

Afternoon, drive to Ta Oy Village and do a short hike to a sacred forest. Meet the Montagnards and get to know their customs and habits.

Overnight in Ta Oy.

[Shared bedroom with mattress, mosquito net. Shared bathroom without hot water].

Day 10. Ta Oy - Champassak

Morning, drive from Ta Oy to Saravane. South of Ta Oy, visit an impressive battlefield, a Katu village where bomb shells are used for underlying house structures. On arrival in Saravane, visit the UXO Office.

Afternoon, drive to Champassak. On arrival, visit the Vat Phou ruins, the majestic pre-Angkorian tenth century temple complex. Visit the museum and walk up to the highest temple.

Overnight in Champassak.

Day 11. Champassak - Siem Reap

Morning, drive to Pakse. En route; visit a former CIA hospital on the banks of the Mekong. Fly to Siem Reap. Transfer to hotel.

Afternoon, head to Angkor Archeological Park. Explore the famous and magnificent Angkor Wat temple at a less crowded viewing time.

Evening, Apsara Dinner Show.

Overnight in Siem Reap.

Day 12. Siem Reap

Morning, visit the complex of Angkor Thom, including the Bayon temple, Phimeanakas temple within the Royal Palace enclosure, Baphuon temple, the Terrace of the Elephants and the Terrace of the Leper King. Then, transfer to Ta Prohm and visit a temple that has been left largely as it was found, overgrown by jungle trees and vines, with many parts of the temple crumbling to the ground.

Afternoon, visit the Landmines Museum, an award winning museum which promotes mine awareness and education. Mr. Aki Ra, the museum founder, was a child soldier during the Khmer Rouge regime and is today working as a deminer.

Mid-afternoon, head to the Celestial Aspara Dance School of Siem Reap to meet the dancers and get a hands-on Aspara dance lesson.

Overnight in Siem Reap.

Day 13. Siem Reap

Morning, travel to Banteay Srei, also called the "gem" of Angkor, one of the best preserved pieces of Angkorian architecture. Visit the temple. Before lunch, transfer to the Kirimanon village, located inside the Angkor Archeological Park. Be welcomed by Mr. San. Meet Angkor inhabitants. Have lunch with the villagers and listen to Mr. San sharing his experience of Angkor Wat's fate during the Khmer Rouge regime.

Afternoon, participate in a sugar palm tree ("paoem thnot", a Khmer national emblem) workshop. Sugar palm trees play a very important role in providing a source of income for many locals as well as providing material for many home uses.

Evening, Cambodia Circus Show with "Phare" followed by farewell dinner at a fine restaurant.

Overnight in Siem Reap.

Day 14. Siem Reap - Departure

Morning, if time permits before departure, head to the Kompong Khleang, a remote floating village on the edge of the Tonle Sap. Kompong Khleang is a traditional stilted village community found living high above the lake's waters and the village is home to some 20,000 residents.

Observe century-old traditions of life here watching the fishermen or boat makers going about their daily work. The village center is actually an island on which there is a lively market, a pagoda and a school. Return to Siem Reap.



• By George Clark



{ EXTEND THE JOURNEY }

Return to Saigon by direct flight or via a Mekong Cruise



• CBU in southern Laos

II. CLASSICAL WAR TOURS

6. First Air Cav War Tour

“We discovered in that depressing, hellish place where death was our constant companion that we loved each other. We killed for each other, we died for each other and we wept for each other. And in time we came to love each other as brothers. In battle our world shrank to the man on our left and the man on our right and the enemy all around. We held each other’s lives in our hands and we learned to share our fears, our hopes, our dreams as readily as we shared what little else good came our way. We were the children of the 1950’s and John F. Kennedy’s young stalwarts of the early 1960’s. He told the world that Americans would go anywhere, pay any price, bear any burden in the defense of freedom. We were the down payment on that costly contract, but the man who signed it was not there when we fulfilled his promise. John F. Kennedy waited for us on a hill in Arlington National Cemetery, and in time, by the thousands, we came to fill those slopes with our white marble markers and to ask on the murmur of the wind if that was truly the future he had envisioned for us”

General Hal Moore. We Were Soldiers



SPIRIT

Through this tour, Secret Indochina wants to pay homage to the American First Air Cav Division, which suffered more casualties than any other division during the Vietnam War. Discover battlefields where they operated in the Central Highlands: An Khe, Pleiku, Ia Drang Valley, Quang Tri area... and visit Vietnam’s most famous sites across all four corners of the country, from Hanoi, the capital of the country, to former Saigon, the “Pearl of Orient”. End this commemorative tour with a cruise along the Mekong Delta



HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover First Air Cav Division’s history, Vietnam War another aspect
- Dive deep into an extensive Vietnam discovery
- Take a junk boat cruise on the legendary Ha Long Bay



ITINERARY

Day 1. Hanoi - Arrival

Arrival in Hanoi and transfer to a downtown hotel.

Take an orientation rickshaw tour in Hanoi Old Quarter. See Hoan Kiem Lake and visit the Ngoc Son Pagoda.

If time permits, visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum Complex or the Temple of Literature.

Overnight in Hanoi.

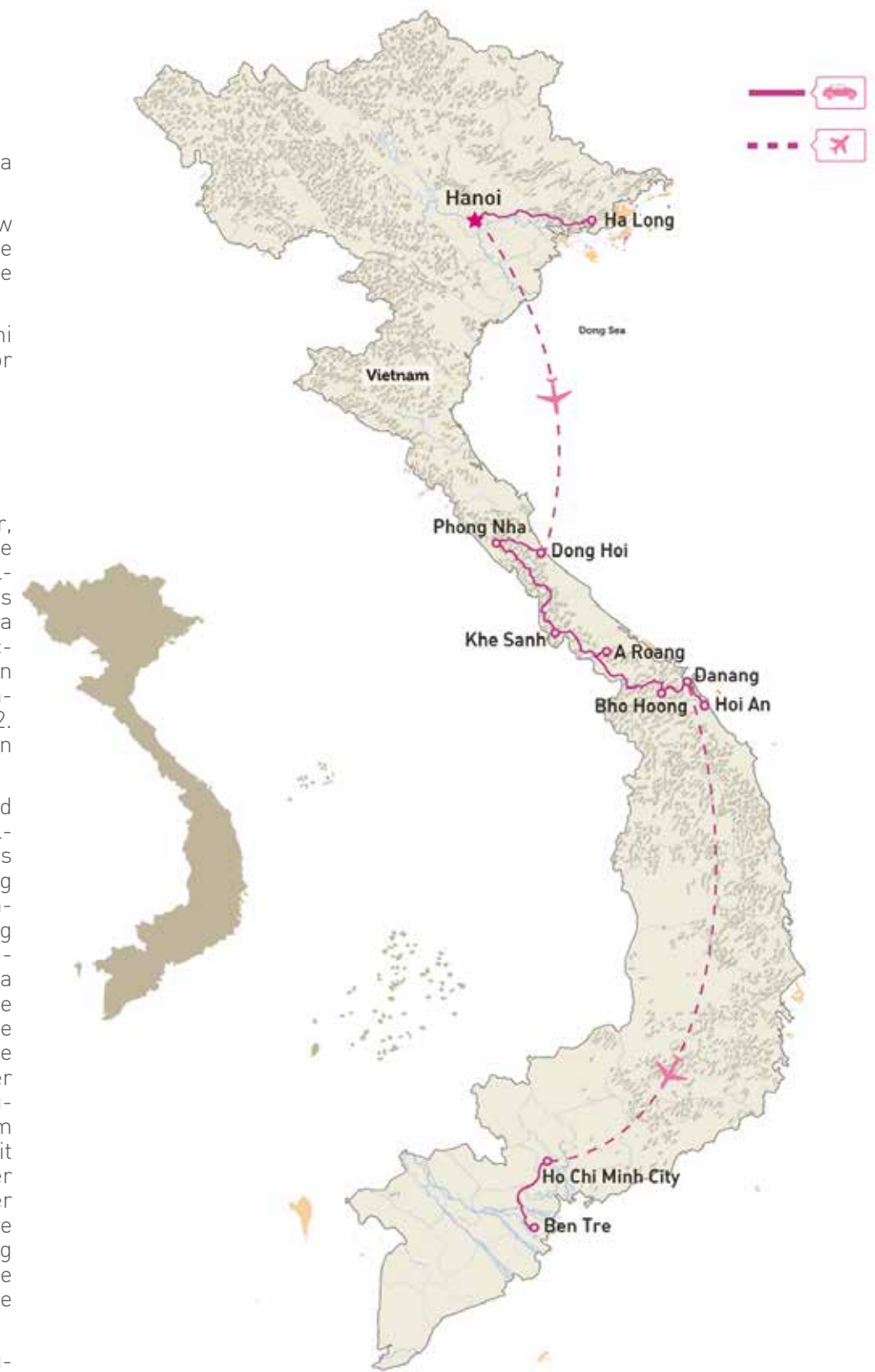
Day 2. Hanoi

Today, uncover traces of the war, accompanied by a Vietnamese veteran. Start with the Hanoi Hilton where many American POWs were imprisoned, including a young airman named John McCain. Then, head to Kham Thien Street, which was heavily bombed during Christmas 1972. See the memorial and have an opportunity to meet locals.

Then, head to Truc Bach and Huu Tiep Lakes in Ngoc Ha village where many B52 planes were shot down. See the Long Bien Bridge, a historic and strategic cantilever bridge spanning across the Red River. Continue to Thang Long Citadel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site built in the 11th century by the Ly Viet Dynasty. The ancient site was the country political center for thirteen consecutive centuries and served as the Vietnam Capital for eight centuries. Visit the underground war bunker hidden in the Citadel. The bunker played an important role in the American War, especially during the twelve days and nights of the Hanoi – Dien Bien Phu air battle in 1972.

Lunch at KOTO, a charity restaurant, served by disadvantaged youth trained in restaurant skills.

Mid-afternoon, visit the expansive Military Museum (closed on Mondays and Fridays). This repository of Vietnam’s



military history includes rooms brimming with war propaganda as well as photographs and documents from Vietnam’s wars with China, France, and the U.S. End the day at a hidden bia hoi (closed on Sundays), a longstanding, popular meeting place for older people, especially veterans.

Overnight in Hanoi.

<• Perimeter Patrol by Michael Crook



Day 3. Hanoi - Ha Long Bay

Morning, drive along the Red River Delta to Ha Long Bay, including a twenty-minute stop on the way. Arrive at the pier towards noon; proceed with check-in. Be welcomed on board and cruise to Ha Long Bay. Lunch served while cruising.

Afternoon, cruise surrounded by unique and awe-inspiring scenery. Visit of a cave or a floating house. Enjoy kayaking and/or swimming. Relax on board. Visits and activities depend on each boat's itinerary.

Evening, cooking demonstration, dinner on board and squid fishing activity, if weather permits.

Overnight on board.

Day 4. Ha Long Bay - Hanoi

Morning, while breakfast is served, cruise further on Ha Long Bay. The vessel cruises slowly through majestic karst peaks and back towards the pier. Depending on the boat's itinerary, visit an additional site.

Disembark before noon and drive back to Hanoi.

If cruising with Dragon Pearl/Dragon Legend, stop at Yen Duc village for a short Water Puppet Show performed by local artists. Otherwise, visit Phu Lang, one of the last remaining pottery villages in Vietnam. Wander through workshops and meet artisans.

Arrive in Hanoi, transfer to hotel. Then, meet Mr. Le Van Lan, a renowned historian who has experienced the war from different angles. Originally from the bourgeoisie, he has lived through many changes: he has witnessed his country's evolution, self-destruction, rebuilding and development. Head to a conference room to learn more about the Vietnam War.

Overnight in Hanoi.

Day 5. Hanoi - Quang Tri

Fly to Dong Hoi in Central Vietnam. Meet Mr. Nguyen, a local expert, who will join the tour for five days; visiting Central Vietnam's most famous war sites.

Drive to Quang Tri Province, home of the infamous DMZ. Visit the famous cemetery of Truong Son and the Vinh Moc tunnels. Cross the Ben Hai River separating North and South Vietnam via the Hien Luong Bridge.

Then, travel to Dong Ha, learn about this area's strategic importance. Explore Con Thien American military base history as well as Doc Mieu, Gio Linh and Cam Lo (codename "buffalo"). Visit former Rock Pile base and the Van Kieu village. Drive to Khe Sanh via Highway No.9. En route, stop at Cam Lo (code-name "Buffalo"), Rockpile, Camp Carroll and Khe Sanh Base.

Overnight in Khe Sanh.

• Ngoc Linh - USAF Pilots Devil's Triangle



Day 6. Khe Sanh - Hue

Drive 150 miles south along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, passing through the amazing scenery of the Annamese Cordillera. Continue on to the A Luoi District for the Ashau Valley, one of the strategic focal points of the War in Vietnam. Stop in Ashau Special Forces Camp, overrun by the NVA in 1966 and stop at the infamous Hamburger Hill, the site of the bloodiest battle between the U.S and NVA troops in the Vietnam War.

Arrive in Hue in the afternoon, transfer to the hotel. Rest of the day is free at leisure.

Evening, enjoy dinner in a garden house, a restored home of a family descended from the royal Nguyen family.

Overnight in Hue.

Day 7. Hue - Danang

Morning, visit Nguyen Dynasty's Imperial City (1804 - 1945). Take a stroll to explore the history and architecture around the Capital Citadel, the Royal Citadel and the Forbidden Citadel. Walk along Kim Long old streets, a medieval village, and see Mandarin style houses. Get a Vietnamese traditional coffee at a local coffee shop. Take a cyclo ride through the city and arrive at Tinh Tam Lake where the Emperors were wont to relax. Lunch served at Mr. Nguyen's home. Meet his family and bid farewell.

Afternoon, embark on a scenic drive over Hai Van Pass where, weather permitting, a spectacular panorama of the central coastline can be viewed from the summit.



• AIR CAV

See Danang war sites, drive along the former China Beach and visit the Marble Mountains. Transfer to hotel in Hoi An.

Late afternoon, strolling in the old streets, a lantern wonderland.

Overnight in Danang.

Day 8. Danang - Kontum

Morning, drive to the town of Kham Duc. Head up the towering Lo So Pass, passing through remote areas thinly populated by the local Montagnards. Travel close to the Laotian border, where a number of Trail arteries crossed over to Laos. Continue to Kontum.

Visit Dak To Combat Base. Sightseeing tour in Kontum to visit the 100-year-old wooden Church, the Kontum Prison, and the Dak Dri Suspension Bridge.

Overnight in Kontum.

Day 9. Kontum - Pleiku

Drive to Pleiku. Discover battles sites around Pleiku, including Camp Holloway, Camp Enary, the headquarters of the U.S Army 4th Infantry Division, Catecka Plantation, the former operational areas of the 4th Division, and old Special Forces Camp of Pleime (40 miles South of Pleiku).

Afternoon, visit sites along Route 14. Tour old Special Forces Camp at Plei Me where the 1/7 Cavalry helicoptered into Ia Drang in November 1965. Visit the infamous Ia Drang Valley where the first major battle took place between the US Army's 1st Air Cav and the NVA in 1965, as depicted in the movie «We Were Soldiers». Witness the LZ Albany and LZ X-Ray battle sites.

Overnight in Pleiku.

Day 10. Pleiku - Quy Nhon

Drive to the town of Quy Nhon and cross over the Mang Yang Pass where French Mobile Group 100 was attacked in June 1954. Arrive in An Khe, visit Camp Radcliff, the former base of the 1st Cavalry Division. Then, visit the petroleum farm, the ammunition dump, and the strategic Bong Son Area in the north. Pass by Phu Cat Airbase which is now managed by the Vietnamese Army.

Overnight in Quy Nhon.

Day 11. Quy Non - Saigon

Morning, fly to Saigon. Transfer to hotel.

Afternoon, visit the former colonial district which boasts Gustave Eiffel's graceful Central Post Office and the Notre-Dame Basilica. Stroll through the historic Catinat Street (now called Dong Khoi). Continue to the War Remnants Museum and the Reunification Palace.

Overnight in Saigon.

Day 12. Mekong Cruise

Travel two hours by car to Cai Be to board a Mekong Cruise. Explore Cai Be floating market and visit the handicraft village of the local people.

Then, continue to Can Tho via Cho Lach and Tra On. Disembark at Cho Lach Village. Take advantage of pleasant walks on the countryside footpaths and discover tropical fruit orchards, especially the orange grove farms, as well as the local people's activities. Continue to Tra On and enjoy the sunset on the river.

Dinner and overnight on board.

Day 13. Mekong Cruise

The cruise continues to Can Tho. Enjoy a sunrise on the river. Upon arrival in Can Tho, take a small boat to explore the Cai Rang Market, one of the most bustling floating markets in the Mekong Delta. Disembark and return to Saigon by car.

Overnight in Saigon.

Day 14. Saigon - Departure

Free until departure. If time permits, further sightseeing can be offered.

• Jaraï Ethnic Group



III. ADVENTURE WAR TOURS

1. Immersion War Tour N1

“Now, it should be incandescently clear that no one who has any concern for the integrity and life of America today can ignore the present war. If America’s soul becomes totally poisoned, part of the autopsy must read Vietnam”

Martin Luther King Jr



SPIRIT

The spirit of this tour is that to understand the Vietnam War, travellers must experience the jungle.

Discover the treacherous yet exquisite beauty of the wild subtropical jungle. Under the guidance of local trackers, learn about jungle survival techniques, traps once used by the North Vietnamese, and the immense difficulties the jungle posed to the American side during the war. Descend south along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, neighboring the Cambodian border via Bu Prang and the site of the battle for LZ Kate. Then, explore the Cu Chi tunnels and meet with Vietnamese War Veterans and experts in guerilla warfare



HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover Historic War Sites
- Understand jungle warfare
- Visit Vietnam’s most famous sites



ITINERARY

Day 1. Hanoi - Arrival

Arrival in Hanoi and transfer to a downtown hotel.

Take an orientation rickshaw tour in Hanoi Old Quarter. See Hoan Kiem Lake and visit the Ngoc Son Pagoda.

If time permits, visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum Complex or the Temple of Literature.

Overnight in Hanoi.

Day 2. Hanoi

Today, uncover traces of the war, accompanied by a Vietnamese veteran. Start with the Hanoi Hilton where many American POWs were imprisoned, including a young airman named John McCain. Then, head to Kham Thien Street, which was heavily bombed during Christmas 1972. See the memorial and have an opportunity to meet locals.

Then, onwards to Truc Bach and Huu Tiep Lakes in Ngoc Ha village where many B52 planes were shot down. See the Long Bien Bridge, a historic and strategic cantilever bridge spanning across the Red River. Continue to Thang Long Citadel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site built in the 11th century by the Ly Viet Dynasty. The ancient site was the political center of the country for 13 consecutive centuries and served as the capital of Vietnam for eight centuries. Visit the underground war bunker hidden in the Citadel. The bunker played an important role in the American War, especially during the 12 days and nights of the Hanoi – Dien Bien Phu air battle in 1972.

Lunch at KOTO, a charity restaurant, served by disadvantaged youth trained in restaurant skills.

Mid-afternoon, visit the expansive Military Museum (closed on Mondays and Fridays). This repository of Vietnam’s military history includes rooms brimming with war propaganda as well as photographs and documents from Vietnam’s wars with

<• Ho Chi Minh Trail



China, France, and the U.S. End the day at a hidden bia hoi (closed on Sundays), a longstanding, popular meeting place for older people, especially veterans.

• Highland Forest





• Raglāi Hunters

Day 3. Hanoi – Ha Long Bay

Morning, drive along the Red River Delta to Ha Long Bay, including a twenty-minute stop on the way. Arrive at the pier towards noon; proceed with check-in. Be welcomed on board and cruise to Ha Long Bay. Lunch served while cruising.

Afternoon, cruise surrounded by unique and awe-inspiring scenery. Visit a cave or a floating house. Enjoy kayaking and/or swimming. Relax on board. Visits and activities depend on each boat's itinerary.

Evening, cooking demonstration, dinner on board and squid fishing activity, if weather permits.

Overnight on board.

Day 4. Ha Long Bay – Hanoi

Morning, while breakfast is served, cruise further on Ha Long Bay. The vessel cruises slowly through majestic karst peaks and back towards the pier. Depending on the boat's itinerary, visit an additional site. Disembark before noon and drive back to Hanoi.

If cruising with Dragon Pearl/Dragon Legend, stop at Yen Duc village for a short Water Puppet Show performed by local artists. Otherwise, visit Phu Lang, one of the last remaining pottery villages in Vietnam. Wander through workshops and meet artisans.

Arrive in Hanoi, transfer to hotel. Then, meet Mr. Le Van Lan, a renowned historian who has experienced the war from different angles. Originally from the bourgeoisie, he has lived through many changes: he has witnessed his country's evolution, self-destruction, rebuilding and development. Head to a conference room to learn more about the Vietnam War.

Overnight in Hanoi.



Day 5. Hanoi – Phong Nha

Fly to Dong Hoi. Drive to Dong Loc, the historic site that the Vietnamese consider to be the start of the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Drive to Phong Nha National Park, an UNESCO World Heritage Site. Embark on a boat cruise to Phong Nha Cave through the Son River, by-passing buffalos, jagged limestone peaks, and church steeples to the cave's gaping mouth. On the way back, discover Tien Son Cave, climb up (via 330 steps) and see remains of Cham altars and inscriptions that date back to the 9th century. The cave was used as a shelter, storage area and hospital during the American War and consequently was heavily bombed.

Overnight in Phong Nha.

Day 6. Phong Nha – Khe Sanh

Morning, travel to the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone), 17th parallel. Visit Vinh Moc tunnels and see Ben Hai River and Hien Luong Bridge. Finally, visit Quang Tri Citadel, site of the bloody Easter Offensive of 1972.

Afternoon, drive to Khe Sanh via Highway No.9. En route stop at Cam Lo (codename "Buffalo"), Rockpile, Camp Carroll, Khe Sanh Base and Ta Con Airfield.

Overnight in Khe Sanh.

Day 7. Khe Sanh – Kham Duc

Visit the sites of the Battle of Khe Sanh and the remains of Long Vay, which was the camp of the U.S. Special Forces. Then, drive 150 miles south to A Luoi District, the site of another important battle. Along the way, stop in the remote villages of the Katu, a minority ethnic group of the region once known as the "Blood Hunters" because they used to conduct manhunts for human sacrifices.

Visit Kham Duc battle site.

Overnight in Kham Duc.

Day 8. Kham Duc – Kontum

Drive 120 miles along the mountainous road of the Annamese Cor-dillera. Voyage through the Lo Xo Pass to the Dak Po To River. Meet people from the Trieng minority group, and then visit a Sedang Village down the road. Explore the site of the Battle of Dak To and the infamous "Rocket Ridge".

Overnight in Kontum.

Day 9. Kontum – Buon Me Thuot

Travel 150 miles through the central plateau, a region dedicated to coffee cultivation. Traverse an area populated by the Jarai Ethnic Group. Pass near the Song Ba Valley where the South Vietnamese forces fled following the successful North Vietnamese offense.

Visit an Ede Village before arriving in Buon Me Thuot.

Overnight in Buon Me Thuot.

Day 10. Buon Me Thuot – Nam Nung

Morning, drive to Dak Nong Province and Nam Nung Nature Reserve. Trek into the jungle under the expert guidance of Mngong Patrolmen and Nam Nung Reserve forest rangers. Walk to the former base of the North Vietnamese Army. During the Vietnam War, the area became an underground hideout for the Viet Cong and was designated by the Vietnamese government in 2005 as a National Historic Relic.

Walk into the forest as it becomes more and more dense. Learn various survival techniques from the knowledgeable guides.

Set up a bivouac with tents, and take a short nighttime walk with the guides.

Overnight in the forest.

Day 11. Nam Nung – Gia Nghia

Morning, a two-hour trek to the edge of the jungle. Then, an hour transfer to the Cambodian border and the district of Bu Prang, near Dak Buk So, called "Les 3 Frontières", or the three borders, by the French. Visit the former U.S. military base in Bu Prang, the hill of LZ Kate, and Hamburger Hill. The area was a battle scene that raged from October to December 1969. The district of Bu Prang was adjacent to the primary Cambodian exit of the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Travel an hour to Gia Nghia.

Overnight in Gia Nghia.

Day 12. Gia Nghia – Tay Ninh

Travel to the Binh Phuoc Province, a scene of violent combat since it borders Cambodia and is at the end of the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Along the way, tour a rubber plantation. Unlike other Vietnamese and American military bases where practically everything was dismantled after the war or destroyed by 40 moonsoons, the site of Ta Thiet is particularly well-preserved. Explore the bunkers and other fortifications. Descend along route No 13, stopping at An Loc, the site of one of the most horrible battles of the war, for a tour. Continue on to Tay Ninh.

Overnight in Tay Ninh.



<•Jungle Patrol By Roger Blum

Day 13. Tay Ninh – Saigon

Learn about Cao Dai, a relatively modern religion established in Tay Ninh. Then, voyage to former Saigon, the largest city in Vietnam. Explore the system of underground tunnels at Cu Chi comprised of more than 150 miles of tunnels. Arrival in Saigon and transfer to hotel.

Mid-afternoon, take a walking tour to the former colonial district which boasts Gustave Eiffel's graceful Central Post Office and the Notre-Dame Basilica. Stroll through the historic Catinat Street (now called Dong Khoi).

Overnight in Saigon.

Day 14. Saigon

Discover the vibrant city of Saigon while continuing the in-depth study of the Vietnam War by touring the War Remnants Museum, the Reunification Palace, the former Presidential Palace of the Republic of South Vietnam, and a hospital where children affected by Agent Orange were treated.

Overnight in Saigon.

Day 15. Saigon – Departure

Free until departure. If time permits, further sightseeing can be offered.

III. ADVENTURE WAR TOURS

2 . Immersion War Tour N°2

“In World War One, they called it shell shock. Second time around, they called it battle fatigue. After ‘Nam, it was post-traumatic stress disorder”

Jan Karon, Home to Holly Springs



SPIRIT

Our Vietnam Jungle War Tour is a stimulating blend of visits to must-see sites, unforgettable encounters with local people, and once-in-a-lifetime immersion experiences into the savage and pristine jungle of North Vietnam. This itinerary is designed for travellers in good physical condition who would like to better understand this complicated war



HIGHLIGHTS

- Immerse into the jungle
- Visit poignant war and memorial sites
- Enjoy the Ha Long Bay beauty, a World Natural Heritage Site



ITINERARY

Day 1. Saigon - Arrival

Arrival in Saigon and transfer to a downtown hotel. Take a rickshaw orientation tour in the former colonial district.

Overnight in Saigon.

Day 2. Saigon

Morning, explore Saigon. Visit the Reunification Palace, which was the presidential residence until April 30, 1975, the day of the fall of Saigon.

Next, visit the War Remnants Museum. Housed in the former military building of the U.S. Information Agency, the museum highlights the history of the war.

Overnight in Saigon.

Day 3. Tay Ninh

Drive through the typical southern Vietnamese countryside along Route 13 to Tay Ninh. It was along this route that the North Vietnamese army entered Saigon in 1975. Tay Ninh is the center of Vietnam's home-grown religion, Cao Dai. Visit the Cao Dai Holy See, for insight into this eclectic religion. Then drive down toward the Parrot's Beak, on the border between Vietnam and Cambodia, where U.S. forces invaded Cambodia in 1970.

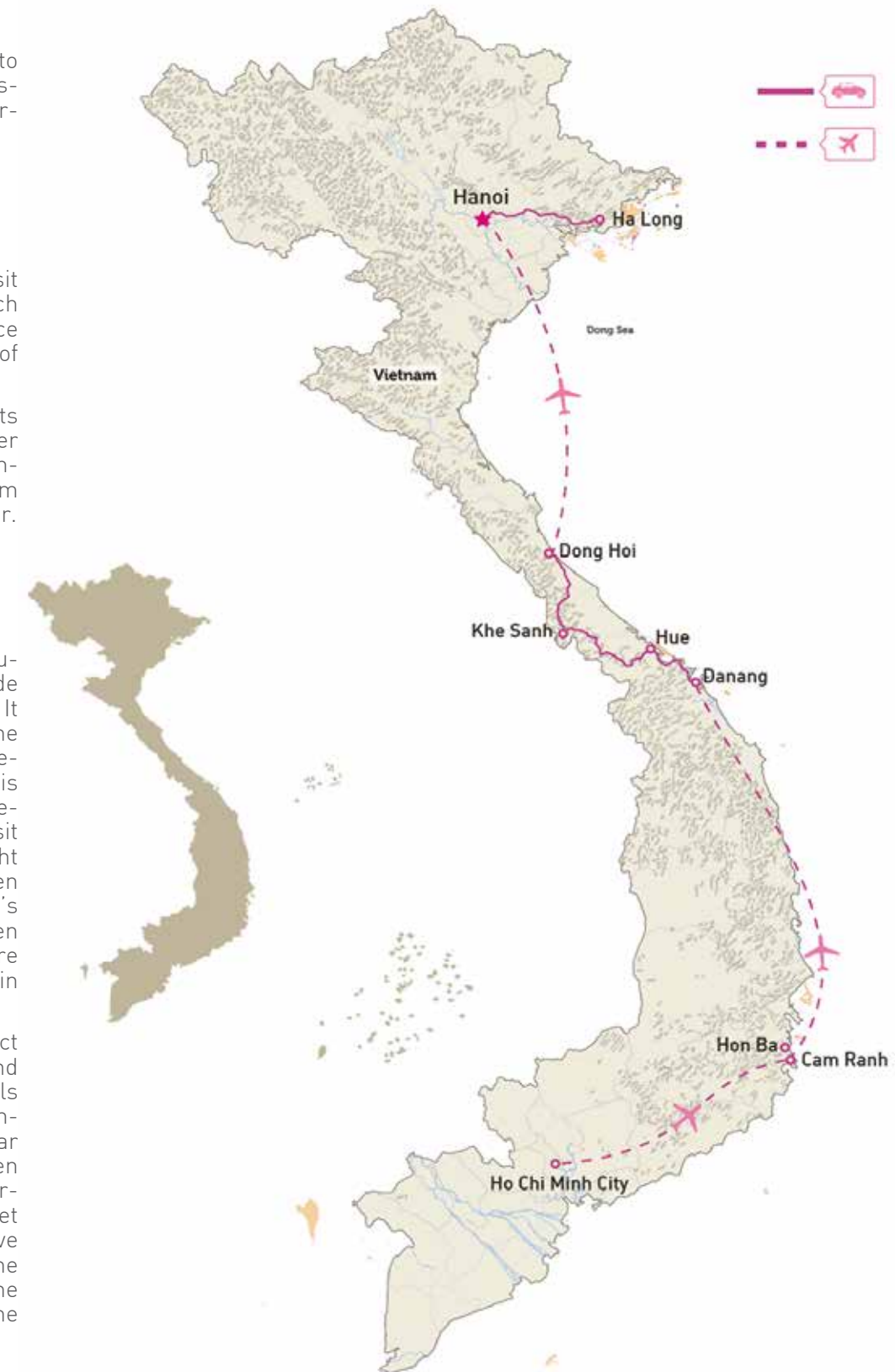
Continue on to Cu Chi District and explore the underground village, a network of tunnels built by Cu Chi guerrilla fighters during the long years of war against first the French and then the Americans. Visit the underground complex and meet a Viet Cong veteran who used to live there, for an introduction to the tunnels' history and life in the tunnels. Return to Saigon in the afternoon.

Overnight in Saigon.

Day 4. Saigon - Cam Ranh

Morning, fly to Cam Ranh, famous naval harbor and location of the 22nd Replacement Battalion, the 14th Aerial Port, and the 6th Convalescent Center.

<• Highland Forest





• Raglaï Hunter

Pass by the former helicopter base.

Afternoon, transfer to resort. Free leisure time. Optional activities offered by the resort.

Overnight in Cam Ranh.

Day 5. Cam Ranh – Hon Ba

Drive an hour and a half to Hon Ba Mountain for a war immersion experience in the jungle with some easy trekking. Hon Ba Mountain overlooks Cam Ranh Bay, which was one of the most important U.S. bases during the Vietnam War. The Vietcong set up outposts in Hon Ba in order to regularly attack Cam Ranh. Hike two hours, visit a landing zone (LZ) that served as a strategic point for helicopters. In the jungle, learn about the war-time survival methods used without food or water.

Then, head to the bungalows for an overnight stay. The bungalows are located on the summit next to the A. Yersin chalet.

Overnight in Hon Ba.

Day 6. Hon Ba – Cam Ranh

Morning, transfer back to Cam Ranh. Check in at the resort.

Afternoon, cruise in Nha Trang Bay, a paradise surrounded by tropical flora. Stop on Mieu Island to observe turtles, rays, tropical fish and a few small sharks in aquariums. On the way back, discover secluded caves that house many birds' nests.

Overnight in Cam Ranh.

Day 7. Cam Ranh – Hue

Morning, fly from Cam Ranh to Danang. On arrival, transfer to the Marble Mountains to get a view of "China Beach", a former famous spot for much-needed R&R for U.S. soldiers in South Vietnam.

Afternoon, embark on a scenic drive over Hai Van Pass where, weather permitting, a spectacular panorama of the central coastline can be viewed from the summit.

On arrival in Hue, meet Mr. Nguyen. This local expert joins the tour for three days; touring Central Vietnam's most famous war sites.

Then, visit the Nguyen Dynasty's Imperial City (1804 – 1945). Take a stroll to explore the history and architecture around the Capital

Citadel, the Royal Citadel and the Forbidden Citadel. Walk along Kim Long old streets, a medieval village and see Mandarins houses.

Overnight in Hue.

Day 8. Hue – Khe Sanh

Drive to A Luoi for the Ashau Valley, one of the strategic focal points of the War in Vietnam. Stop in the Ashau Special Forces Camp and hike to infamous Hamburger Hill. Continue to road 14 and visit the Khe Sanh Combat Base.

Overnight in Khe Sanh.

Day 9. Khe Sanh – Dong Hoi

Morning, drive to Quang Tri and to the area of the "leatherneck square" bound by Con Tien, Gio Lin, Cam Lo, and Truong Son National Cemetery, the resting place of over 10.000 men of the NVA's 559 group. Continue to the old DMZ at Gio Linh (Alpha 2) and the bridge across the Ben Hai River, the demarcation line between the two Vietnams.

Afternoon, drive to Dong Hoi. En route, stop at the picturesque village of An Xa where General Giap was raised. Have an opportunity to see his former house and meet his grandchildren.

Overnight in Dong Hoi.

Day 10. Dong Hoi – Hanoi

Morning, fly to Hanoi. On arrival, transfer to a downtown hotel.

Take an orientation rickshaw tour in Hanoi Old Quarter. See Hoan Kiem Lake and visit the Ngoc Son Pagoda.

If time permits, visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum Complex or the Temple of Literature.

Evening, Water Puppet Show followed by dinner at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Hanoi.

Day 11. Hanoi

Today, uncover traces of the war, accompanied by a Vietnamese veteran. Start with the Hanoi Hilton where many American POWs were imprisoned, including a young airman named John McCain. Then, head to Kham Thien Street, which was heavily bombed during Christmas 1972. See the memorial and have an opportunity to meet locals.

Then, onwards to Truc Bach, Huu Tiep Lakes and the Long Bien Bridge.

Lunch at KOTO, a charity restaurant, served by disadvantaged youth trained in restaurant skills.

Mid-afternoon, visit the expansive Military Museum (closed on Mondays and Fridays). This repository of Vietnam's military history includes rooms brimming with war propaganda as well as photographs and documents from Vietnam's wars with China, France, and the U.S. End the day at a hidden bia hoi (closed on Sundays), a longstanding, popular meeting place for older people, especially veterans.

Overnight in Hanoi.

Day 12. Hanoi – Ha Long Bay

Morning, drive along the Red River Delta to Ha Long Bay, including a twenty-minute stop on the way. Arrive at the pier towards noon; proceed with check-in. Be welcomed on board and cruise to Ha Long Bay. Lunch served while cruising.

Afternoon, cruise surrounded by unique and awe-inspiring scenery. Visit a cave or a floating house. Enjoy kayaking and/or swimming. Relax on board. Visits and activities depend on each boat's itinerary.

Evening, cooking demonstration, dinner on board and squid fishing activity, if weather permits.

Overnight on board.

• By Danh Den Cung



• NVA Soldiers

Day 13. Ha Long Bay – \ Departure

Morning, while breakfast is served, cruise further on Ha Long Bay. The vessel cruises slowly through majestic karst peaks and back towards the pier. Depending on the boat's itinerary, visit an additional site.

Disembark before noon and drive back to Hanoi.

If cruising with Dragon Pearl / Dragon Legend, stop at Yen Duc village for a short Water Puppet Show performed by local artists. Otherwise, visit Phu Lang, one of the last remaining pottery villages in Vietnam. Wander through workshops and meet artisans.



III. ADVENTURE WAR TOURS

3 . Laos Secret War Tour

“They made a wasteland and called it peace ”
Tacitus (C. A.D. 55-120)

SPIRIT



A special War Tour to witness Laos' Secret War. Discover Phongsavan, a fierce, heavily bombed battlefield-operation area of the former Hmong Secret Army; then explore remote South Eastern Laos, including the scene of another part of the Secret War where numerous clandestine actions were led by the Ravens, the undercover USAF pilots, and the CIA, in the cutting off of the Ho Chi Minh Trail



HIGHLIGHTS

- Witness impressive Phongsavan War Remains
- Explore forsaken parts of Ho Chi Minh Trail in southern Laos
- Discover improbable and unknown secret war battlefields
- Education about Operations such as Arc Light, Barrel Roll, Tiger Hound and Steel Tiger
- Learn about UXOs
- Descend into the Xekong River
- Encounter the Montagnards
- Navigate around the 4000 Islands

Tour only available during dry season from mid-December until mid-April.



ITINERARY

Day 1. Luang Prabang

Arrival in Luang Prabang and transfer to a downtown hotel.

Orientation walk in Luang Prabang Old Quarter, a beautiful blend of French colonial buildings and Lao architecture. The town is wedged between the Mekong River and its tributary the Nam Khan River. If time permits, explore the rich culture and history of Luang Prabang by visiting temples, the National Museum (former Royal Palace) and hidden laneways.

Overnight in Luang Prabang.

Day 2. Luang Prabang - Phongsavan

Morning, a four-hour drive from Luang Prabang to Phongsavan; along the way, discover superb limestone ranges, Xieng Khuang Plateau and the scars of war.

Afternoon, visit Site N1. Visit the NVA Bunkers, the trenches and the Jars.

Overnight in Phongsavan.

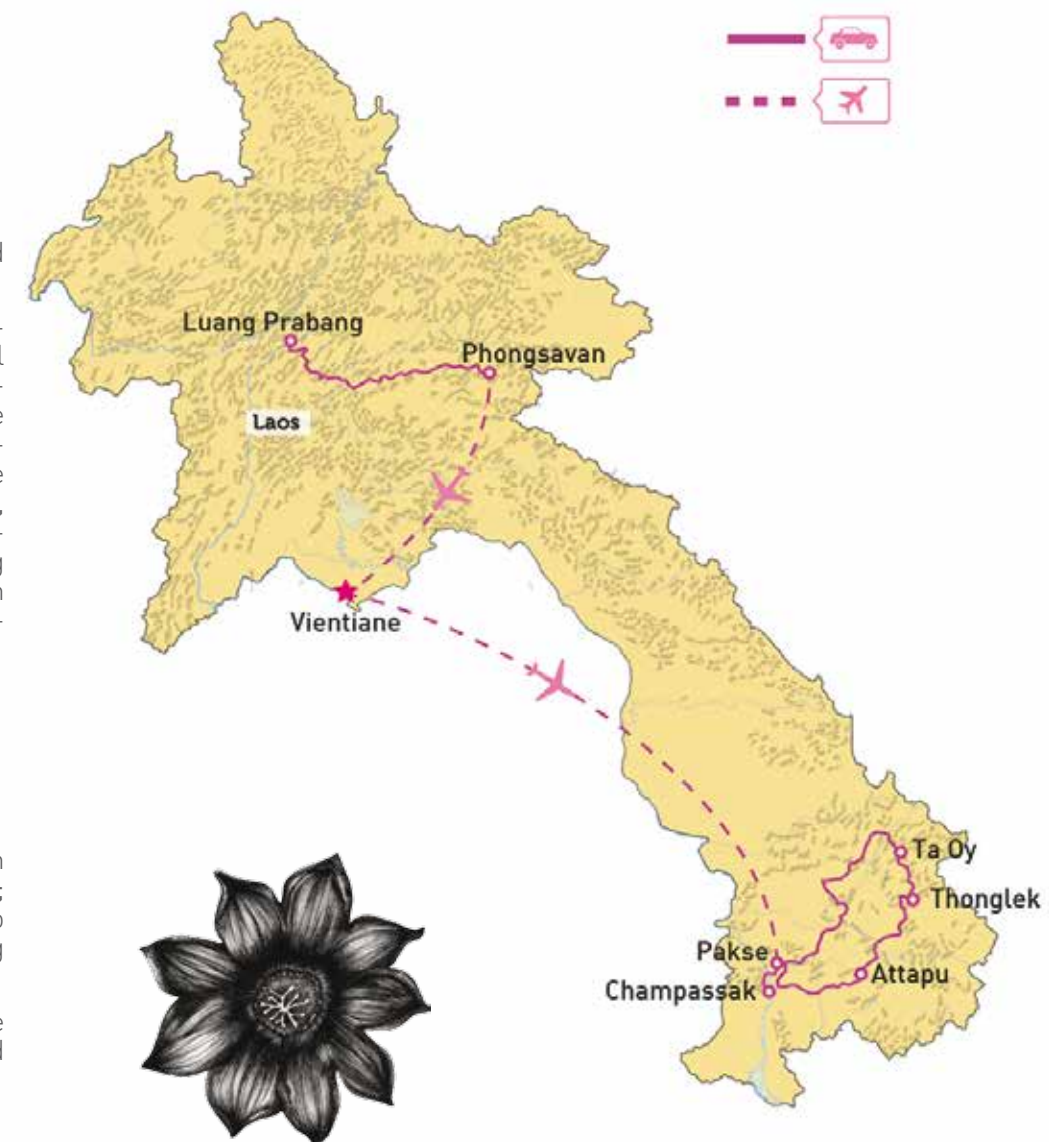
Day 3. Phongsavan

Morning, drive to the local scrapyard (where the local people buy and sell scrap metal from the war), visit the biggest Bomb Crater Valley, the Vietcong Trail and visit a traditional Hmong Village where bombs are used to build houses and fences.

Drive along route N7 West, discover the most beautiful scenery in the province. Visit the strategic mercenary camp hill, continue to the headquarters of the secret CIA Army at the Lima site 108.

After lunch continue on to visit the hospital cave used from 1964-1973, then hike one hour to visit the Viet Cong Cave used to defend Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Overnight in Phongsavan.



<• Thonglek

• Phongsavan

{ EXTEND THE JOURNEY }

Long Tieng visit, once the most secret place on earth, HQ of the Hmong-CIA Army. Two days for this special journey

Day 4. Phongsavan - Vientiane

Fly from Phongsavan to Vientiane.

Late afternoon, visit the Revolution Museum and UXO HQ.

Overnight in Vientiane.

Day 5. Vientiane - Pakse

Morning, fly from Vientiane to Pakse.

Afternoon visit Phou Xieng Thong CIA Secret Base, located one hour north of Pakse, on the banks of the Mekong.

Overnight in Pakse.

Day 6. Pakse - Champassak

Morning cruise down the Mekong from Pakse to Champassak.

Afternoon, visit Vat Phou Ruins. majestic pre-Angkorian 10th century temple complex. Visit the museum and walk up to the highest temple.

Overnight in Champassak.

Day 7. Champassak - Attapu

Drive along a former CIA route, linking the Mekong with Attapu City. Superb itinerary along the southern part of Boloven Plateau, across jungles and streams. In some parts, witness craters and traces of war.

Overnight in Attapu.

Day 8. Attapu - Thonglek

Morning, visit the UXO Office and receive education on the Secret War. Stop by the famous North Vietnamese missile.

Then, drive 100 miles on a segment of the Ho Chi Minh Trail, on a mountain pass, along proto-Indochinese villages, paths and plateaus.

Visit ethnic villages on the way. Learn about the Montagnards and their fatal involvement in the Secret War.

Overnight in an Alak Village near Thonglek Plateau.

Day 9. Thonglek - Truong Sa

Morning, visit Thonglek Plateau, discover the impressive battlefield, also known as the Field of Steel, of the old airport and the former CIA Secret Base. Thonglek was a major CIA Base in southern Laos from which the Montagnards and the CIA personally launched operations against Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Onwards to Xekong city, crossing the Xekong River via an old CIA Ferry. Visit Xekong city's UXO office.



Afternoon, drive along a superb jungle trail following the Xekong River and along a ridge line overlooking the Annamese Cordillera.

Overnight in a Katu Village.

Day 10. Truong Sa - Ta Oy

Morning, follow the path follow on the western foothills of Xe Xap Park, along Katu Villages.

• Forest near Ta Oy



Then, discover an impressive section of the Ho Chi Minh Trail through a two-hour hike to a ridge, former battle site and with an unimaginable number of bomb craters. Education about Operation Barrel Roll and Steel Tiger.

Short drive to Ta Oy District.

Visit the US MIA Camp in Ta Oy, learn about MIA.

Afternoon, drive to a Ta Oy Village and short hike to a sacred forest.

Discover Montagnards.

Overnight in a Ta Oy village.

Day 11. Ta Oy - Pakse

Morning, road from Ta Oy to Savane. Visit of the UXO Office.

Afternoon, road to Pakse.

Overnight in Pakse.

Day 12. Pakse - Departure

Free until departure.



• CIA Road near Attapu

• CBU



• CIA Road



{ EXTEND THE JOURNEY }

To Upper Xekong area or to Siem Reap

• Hmong Pilot



IV. SPECIAL WAR TOUR

1. Australian War Tour

“Television brought the brutality of war into the comfort of the living room. Vietnam was lost in the living rooms of America – not on the battlefields of Vietnam”

Marshall Mc Luhan, Montreal Gazette, May 16, 1975. In August 2016, commemorate the Long Tan battle Anniversary



SPIRIT

Take a walk in the footsteps of Australians who served during the Vietnam War. Discover the main Australian War battlefields in southern Vietnam: Long Tan, Bin Ba, Nui Le, etc. At Long Tan, come to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Australia's first battleground deployment in August 2016 to pay homage to its fallen soldiers



HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the main battlefields such as Long Tan where Australians served
- Enjoy the vibrant energy of Saigon



ITINERARY 1

Day 1. Saigon - Vung Tau

Journey by hydrofoil from Saigon to Vung Tau. Transfer to hotel. Tour the city and the former area also known as “flags”. Enjoy a stunning panoramic view of Vung Tau at the top of the “Big Hill” known as “Radar Hill”. Appreciate free time on the beach or continue sightseeing.

Overnight in Vung Tau.

Day 2. Vung Tau Area

Travel North to Nui Dat Task Force Base (SOS Hill). Stop en route in Horseshoe Base. Discover the remains of Nui Dat Camp and the Australian School established nearby.

Lunch and visit Long Phuoc tunnels. Return to Vung Tau at the end of the day.

Overnight in Vung Tau.

Day 3. Vung Tau Area

Morning, head north through the former area of operations and visit Long Tan Battlefield and the Long Tan Cross memorial site.

Afternoon, visit the scene of the battle of Bin Ba where the armored corps won a battle and travel north to the area of the Courtenay rubber plantation and the scene of the last major battle at Nui Le.

Overnight in Vung Tau.

Day 4. Vung Tau - Saigon

Drive back from Vung Tau to Saigon via the scenes of the battles of Long Khanh and Gang Toi. The Battle of Long Khanh was fought on June 6th – 7th, 1971 between the 1st Australian Task Force and the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army during Operation Overlord; the Battle of Gang Toi was fought on November 8th, 1965 between Australian troops and the Viet Cong.

Overnight in Saigon.

<• Operation Rolling Thunder



• Australian Troops by Peter Alan Lloyd

Day 5. Saigon

Morning, dedicated to visiting the War Remnants Museum and Reunification Palace.

After lunch, drive to Cu Chi tunnels. Explore a network of more than 150 miles of tunnels.



{ EXTEND THE JOURNEY }

Mekong Cruise, from to Saigon to Phnom Penh

5 days/4 nights with a Mekong Cruise vessel from Saigon to Phnom Penh

ITINERARY 2

Day 1. Saigon - Binh Long

Morning, drive to Cu Chi tunnels. Explore a network of more than 150 miles of tunnels.

Afternoon, head north to the scene of the battle of Tay Ninh. Learn about Cao Dai, a relatively modern religion established in the city. Continue to Loc Ninh Battlefield. On November 7, 1967, the 9th Vietcong Division abandoned the fight against the ARVN and troops from the 1st brigade of the 1st Infantry Division, leaving 850 dead. This Vietcong defeat at Loc Ninh encouraged American military officials to believe that at long last the enemy was trying to use conventional tactics.

Overnight in Binh Long.

Day 2. Binh Long - Saigon

Morning, visit battle site bases Coral and Balmoral with the Mass Grave Site and the Viet Cong Memorial. The Battle of Coral-Balmoral was a notable series of significant actions fought in May and June 1968, between the 1st Australian Task Force (1 ATF) and communist forces, north-east of Saigon.

Afternoon, discover Saigon's colonial district by rickshaw.

Overnight in Saigon.

Day 3. Saigon - Vung Tau

Drive to Vung Tau via the scenes of the battles of Gang Toi, Long Khan and Xuan Loc.

Overnight in Vung Tau.

Day 4. Vung Tau Area

Morning, head north across the former operations area and visit Long Tan Battlefield and the Long Tan Cross memorial site.

Afternoon, visit the scene of the Bin Ba battle where the armored corps won a battle of honor and travel north to the area of the

In Phongsavan • >



Courtenay rubber plantation and the scene of the last major battle at Nui Le.

Overnight in Vung Tau.

Day 5. Vung Tau - Saigon

Journey by hydrofoil to Saigon. Free time before departure.



{ EXTEND THE JOURNEY }

Beach stay at Alma Oasis Long Hai Resort



• F-4 Phantom



• CBU

IV. SPECIAL WAR TOUR

2. South-Korean War Tour

"In Vietnam, some of us lost control of our lives. I want my life back. I almost feel like I've been missing in action for twenty-two years"

Wanda Sparks, Vietnam War veterans



SPIRIT

Discover South of Vietnam's main sites and battlefields where South Koreans served, such as Tra Binh Dong, and explore the most famous sites of the Mekong Delta



HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover another face of the Vietnam War
- Voyage deep inside the Mekong Delta on a cruise



ITINERARY

Day 1. Saigon

Morning, dedicated to visiting the War Remnants Museum and the Reunification Palace.

Afternoon, drive to Cu Chi tunnels. Explore a network of more than 150 miles of tunnels.

Overnight in Saigon.

Day 2. Saigon - Can Tho

Transfer to Phu An, a typical village, two hours from Saigon. Board a private boat and settle into an exclusive berth while the vessel begins to cruise to Cai Be. Visit its vibrant floating market where many boats from various regions of the delta gather and exchange goods. Stop in handicraft factories. The cruise continues to Dong Ha Hiep and Sadec. Disembark and explore this area for more up-close glimpses of the daily life of the Mekong Delta dwellers. Return to the boat for lunch en route to Sadec. Sightseeing of the city, wander around the fresh produce area and exotic spices on sale at the local market and discover the colonial house once occupied by French writer Marguerite Duras. Back on the boat and sail onward to Can Tho.

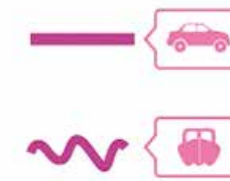
Overnight on board.

Day 3. Can Tho - Long Xuyen

Morning, wake up to the lively sound of Can Tho's floating market. Disembark and drive to Tra Binh Dong Battlefield. The Battle of Tra Binh Dong was probably the most famous battle fought by the South Korean Marines during the Vietnam War. The battle took place after a Viet Cong defector, former commander of a training camp, revealed that the North Vietnamese Army was planning an attack on the ROKMC's 11th Company. Continue to visit An Loc battlefield. Between April 13 and July 11, 1972, the siege of An Loc was a major part of the North Vietnamese Easter Offensive.

Overnight in Long Xuyen.

<• 1282 Kg



• Jungle Encounter by Janis Ellison

Day 4. Long Xuyen - Saigon

Drive back to Saigon. Enjoy free time before departure.

IV. SPECIAL WAR TOUR

3. Indochina War Tour

“You will kill ten of us, we will kill one of you, but in the end, you will tire of it first”

Ho Chi Minh



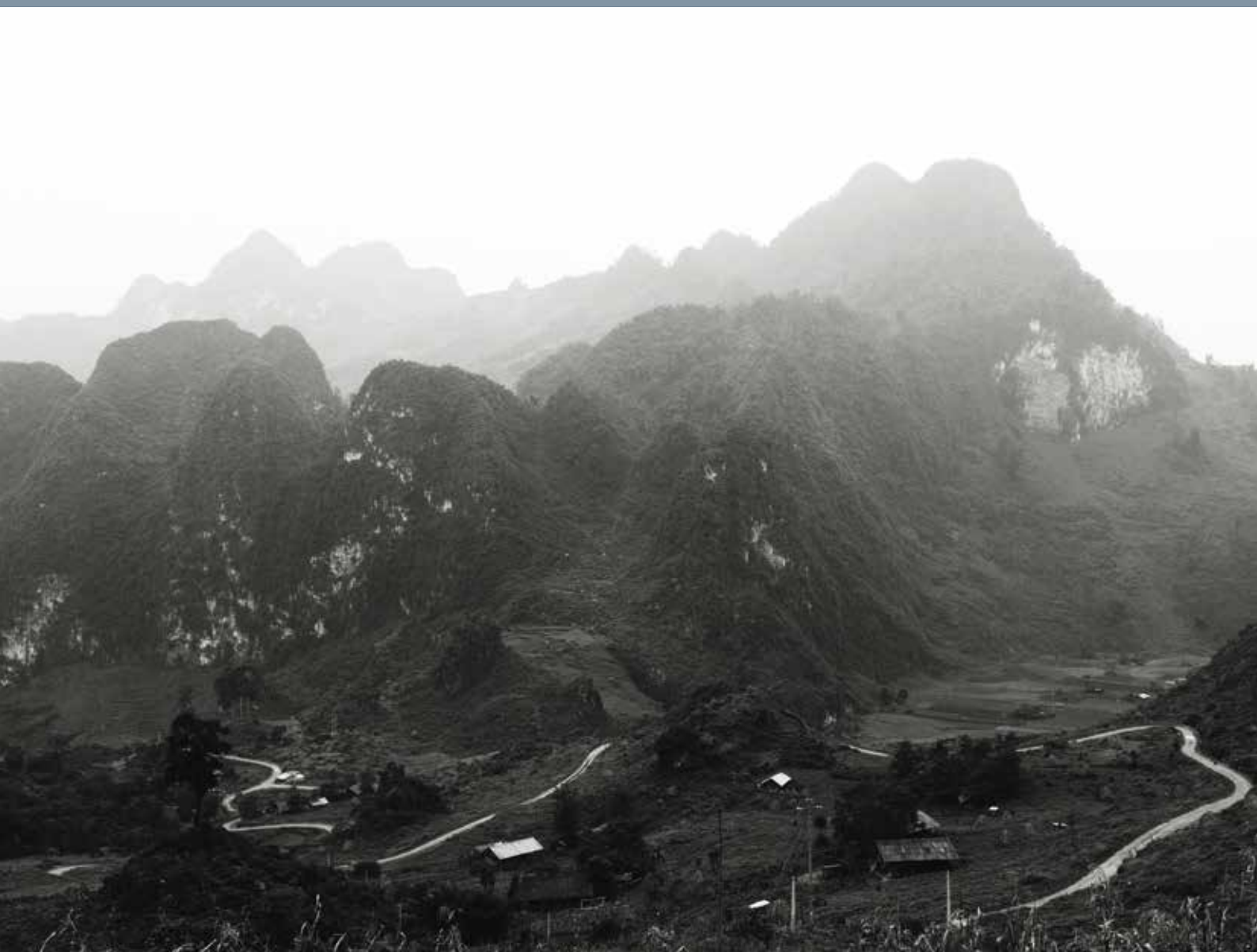
SPIRIT

Have the rare and unforgettable experience of discovering the main war sites and battlefields where French and American soldiers served during the Vietnamese War. Discover the best of Vietnam, from the charming capital city of Hanoi and picturesque Ha Long Bay, to sizzling Saigon and the ancient city of Hue on this Commemorative Vietnam Tour



HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover unique war sites such as Dien Bien Phu and Khe Sanh Battlefields
- Follow the path of the Vietnam War
- Discover Indochina Wars
- Cruise along Ha Long Bay
- Venture in Saigon



ITINERARY

Day 1. Hanoi - Arrival

Arrival in Hanoi and transfer to a downtown hotel.

Take an orientation rickshaw tour in Hanoi Old Quarter. See Hoan Kiem Lake and visit the Ngoc Son Pagoda.

If time permits, visit the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum Complex or the Temple of Literature.

Evening, welcome dinner at Cau Go, a stylish Vietnamese restaurant with the finest view.

Overnight in Hanoi.

Day 2. Hanoi

Today, uncover traces of the war, accompanied by a Vietnamese veteran. Start with the Hanoi Hilton where many American POWs were imprisoned, including a young airman named John McCain. Then, head to Kham Thien Street, which was heavily bombed during Christmas 1972. See the memorial and have an opportunity to meet locals.

Then, head to Truc Bach and Huu Tiep Lakes in Ngoc Ha village where many B52 planes were shot down. See the Long Bien Bridge, a historic and strategic cantilever bridge spanning across the Red River. Continue to Thang Long Citadel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site built in the 11th century by the Ly Viet Dynasty. The ancient site was the country political center for thirteen consecutive centuries and served as the Vietnam Capital for eight centuries. Visit the underground war bunker hidden in the Citadel. The bunker played an important role in the American War, especially during the twelve days and nights of the Hanoi – Dien Bien Phu air battle in 1972.

Lunch at KOTO, a charity restaurant, served by disadvantaged youth trained in restaurant skills.

<• Old French Outpost in Ha Giang





• By Pierre Schoendoerffer

Mid-afternoon, visit the expansive Military Museum (closed on Mondays and Fridays). This repository of Vietnam's military history includes rooms brimming with war propaganda as well as photographs and documents from Vietnam's wars with China, France, and the U.S. End the day at a hidden bia hoi (closed on Sundays), a longstanding, popular meeting place for older people, especially veterans.

Overnight in Hanoi.

Day 3. Hanoi - Dien Bien Phu

Morning, transfer to Hanoi Airport onward flight to Dien Bien Phu.

Afternoon, visit the Army museum and drive to infamous 'A1 Hill', the site which saw some of the fiercest fighting between French and Vietnamese forces in the battle of Dien Bien Phu in 1946. See the Command bunker of General De Castries.

Overnight in Dien Bien Phu.

Day 4. Dien Bien Phu - Lai Chau

Embark on a scenic five-hour drive on a mountain road through ethnic regions. On the way, visit Red Hmong, Black Thai and Man villages. Educational day about the role of the ethnic minorities during the Indochina War and about the GCMA, a French counter-guerilla group created to fight the Viet Minh.

Overnight in Lai Chau.

Day 5. Lai Chau - Sapa

Morning, a four-hour drive to Sapa, on the way visit Lu and Dao villages. Arrive in Sapa and settle into the hotel.

Afternoon, drive to Ta Giang Phin, a White Hmong village nestled in the middle of a beautiful deep valley surrounded by mountains. Hike 4-5 miles and discover local lifestyle amid stunning landscapes of rice terraces and rocky plateaus. The village of Ta Giang Phin consists of several small hamlets of traditional wooden houses. Have an opportunity to meet locals and discover their customs and traditions.

Overnight in Sapa.

Day 6. Sapa - Ha Giang

Today, take a seven-hour drive from Sapa to Ha Giang. Stop near the Vietnam - China Border, home of the Hmong maquis named "Chocolat". Drive to Pho Rang. En route, visit a tea plantation and a Hmong village. Lunch in Pho Rang.

Afternoon, drive to Ha Giang, stop in a Pathen village. Near Ha Giang, visit a Tay village, famous for its palm-leaf roofs.

Overnight in Ha Giang.

Day 7. Ha Giang - Bao Lac

A five-hour drive from Ha Giang to Bao Lac. The road goes along Song Gam, the area of the Viet-Minh reeducation camps, such as The Camp de l'Amour and Camp N113. Venture into the area of Camp de l'Amour, drive across Song Gam Canyon, Bao Lam and continue on a fabulous route along Song Gam.

Overnight in Bao Lac.

Day 8. Bao Lac - Cao Bang

A five-hour drive from Bao Lac to Cao Bang, along the infamous Colonial road NC4, site of many ambushes and battles from 1947 to 1950. Near Bao Lac, visit a Black Lo Lo Village for an hour.

Continue along the superb limestone ranges bordering road N4.

Overnight in Cao Bang.

Day 9. Cao Bang - Lang Son

Embark on a four-hour drive along a renowned bloody part of the RN4, the area of Cao Bang battle (Oct 1 - Oct 10, 1950). An hour and a half drive along the National Road 4, heading to the northern Dong Khe Village; depart for a two-hours trek along Quang Liet Valley, a historical valley used by the French to evacuate Cao Bang city. Trek along the Quang Liet Valley, a place scattered with some Tay hamlets and dominated by high cliffs, especially these well-known ones of Coc Xa where the 1st BEP, elite French army was decimated at dawn on October 7, 1950.

Lunch at the foot of the cliffs in Coc Xa, and return by road to Quang Liet Valley.

Afternoon, a three-hour drive to Lang Son City via Na Phac and the southern extremity of National Road 4.

Overnight in Lang Son.

Day 10. Lang Son - Ha Long

Morning, drive to Ha Long Bay and board a junk boat at Bai Chay Harbor for an off-the-beaten-path cruise on Ha Long Bay. Life on the bay is fascinating to watch; entire angler families create floating cities of boat-houses and fishing vessels.

Swim in the crystal-clear waters or go kayaking around the extraordinary limestone towers.

Overnight on board in a luxurious private cabin.



Day 11. Ha Long - Hanoi

Morning, while breakfast is served, cruise further on Ha Long Bay. The vessel cruises slowly through majestic karst peaks and back towards the pier. Depending on the boat's itinerary, visit an additional site.

Disembark before noon and drive back to Hanoi.

If cruising with Dragon Pearl/Dragon Legend, stop at Yen Duc village for a short Water Puppet Show performed by local artists. Otherwise, visit Phu Lang, one of the last remaining pottery villages in Vietnam. Wander through workshops and meet artisans.

Arrive in Hanoi, transfer to hotel. Then, meet Mr. Le Van Lan, a renowned historian who has experienced the war from different angles. Originally from the bourgeoisie, he has lived through many changes: he has witnessed his country's evolution, self-destruction, rebuilding and development. Head to a conference room to learn more about the Vietnam War.

Overnight in Hanoi.

Day 12. Hanoi - Khe Sanh

Fly to Dong Hoi in Central Vietnam. Meet Mr. Nguyen. This local expert joins the tour for five days; visiting Central Vietnam's most famous war sites.

During the war, from 1960 to 1975, Mr. Nguyen served as a special reconnaissance officer in the Tri Thien Command Unit. His unit fought in Ashau, A Luoi, Tri Thien, Hue, Quang Tri. He was wounded many times. After the war, for 15 years, he worked as Director of Hue Monuments Conservation Centre. He had been in charge of the application of Hue to be recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Drive to Quang Tri Province, home to the infamous DMZ. Visit the famous cemetery of Truong Son and the Vinh Moc tunnels. Cross the Ben Hai River separating North and South Vietnam via the Hien Luong Bridge.

Then, travel to Dong Ha, learn about this area's strategic importance.



- Ethnic Tho household in Cao Bang province

Explore Con Thien's American military base history as well as Doc Mieu, Gio Linh and Cam Lo (codename "Buffalo"). Visit former Rock Pile base and the Van Kieu village; drive to Khe Sanh via Highway No.9. En route, stop at Cam Lo, Rockpile, Camp Carroll and Khe Sanh Base.

Overnight in Khe Sanh.

Day 13. Khe Sanh - Hue

Drive 150 miles south along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, passing through the amazing scenery of the Annamese Cordillera. Continue on to the A Luoi District for the Ashau Valley, one of the strategic focal points of the Vietnam War. Stop in Ashau Special Forces Camp, overrun by the NVA in 1966 and stop at the infamous Hamburger Hill, the bloodiest battle between the U.S. and NVA troops in the Vietnam War.

Afternoon, arrive in Hue, check into the hotel. Rest of the day is free at leisure.

Evening, enjoy dinner in a garden house, the restored home of a family descended from the royal Nguyen family.

Overnight in Hue.

Day 14. Hue

This morning, visit the Nguyen Dynasty's Imperial City (1804 – 1945). Take a stroll to explore the history and architecture around the Capital Citadel, the Royal Citadel and the Forbidden Citadel. Walk along Kim Long's old streets, a medieval village and see Mandarin style houses. Have a Vietnamese traditional coffee at a local coffee shop. Take a cyclo ride through the city and arrive at Tinh Tam Lake where the Emperors were wont to relax. Lunch served at Mr. Nguyen's home. Meet his family and bid farewell.

Afternoon, free at leisure. Enjoy the hotel/resort facilities.

Overnight in Hue.

Day 15. Hue - Hoi An

Morning, embark on a scenic drive over Hai Van Pass where, weather permitting, a spectacular panorama of the central coastline can be viewed from the summit. See Danang war sites and drive along the former China Beach, visit the Marble Mountains. Transfer to hotel in Hoi An.

Mid-afternoon, head to Hoi An Ancient Town, an invaluable cultural and historical heritage site. Enjoy a free time at leisure to stroll in the old streets, a lantern wonderland.

Overnight in Hoi An.

Day 16. My Lai

Morning, drive to the infamous My Lai Memorial Site. En route, stop in Chu Lai and visit Chu Lai Airbase. Drive further to My Lai. On arrival, see a museum housing documents, photos and artifacts from the war. Meet locals and hear of horrific atrocities that once happened here and how the village has since recovered. In a town where almost every family has experienced loss, it is genuinely inspiring to see how they have overcome the terror, with hope for a better future. Lunch in a restaurant overlooking the beautiful Rang Beach.

Mid-afternoon, return to the hotel in Hoi An. Free at leisure.

Overnight in Hoi An.

Day 17. Hoi An - Saigon

Morning, fly from Danang to Saigon.

Explore Saigon, the largest city in Vietnam. Visit beautiful and renowned sites in the city, such as the old Colonial Quarter in the heart of the city, which boasts Gustave Eiffel's graceful Central Post Office and the Notre-Dame Basilica. Stroll through the historic Catinat Street (now called Dong Khoi) and discover the Phu Nhuan District.

Overnight in Saigon.

Day 18. Saigon

Begin the day with a visit to the shrine outside of the US Consulate then continue to the former CIA building (outside visit only), where helicopters evacuated the remaining U.S. citizens in 1975. Head to the rooftop café of the Rex hotel, a familiar landmark for Americans during the Vietnam War. Then, visit the Reunification Palace for a guided tour of the former headquarters of the South Vietnamese Government.

Onwards to Pho Binh Restaurant for a simple lunch of noodle soup. House Number 07 on Ly Chinh Thang Street used to be the headquarters of Viet Cong

Commanders, where they gathered to plan for the 1968 Tet Offensive. Take a walk upstairs to learn more about the history through the family's photo collection. Experience Antique Street (Le Cong Kieu), where genuine antiques are mixed in with "genuine" fakes. Find military cast-offs from the Vietnam War.

Mid-afternoon, depending on client preference: visit the War Remnants Museum or the Fine Arts Museum.

Farewell dinner served at Ly Club Villa Restaurant.

Overnight in Saigon.

Day 19. Saigon - Departure

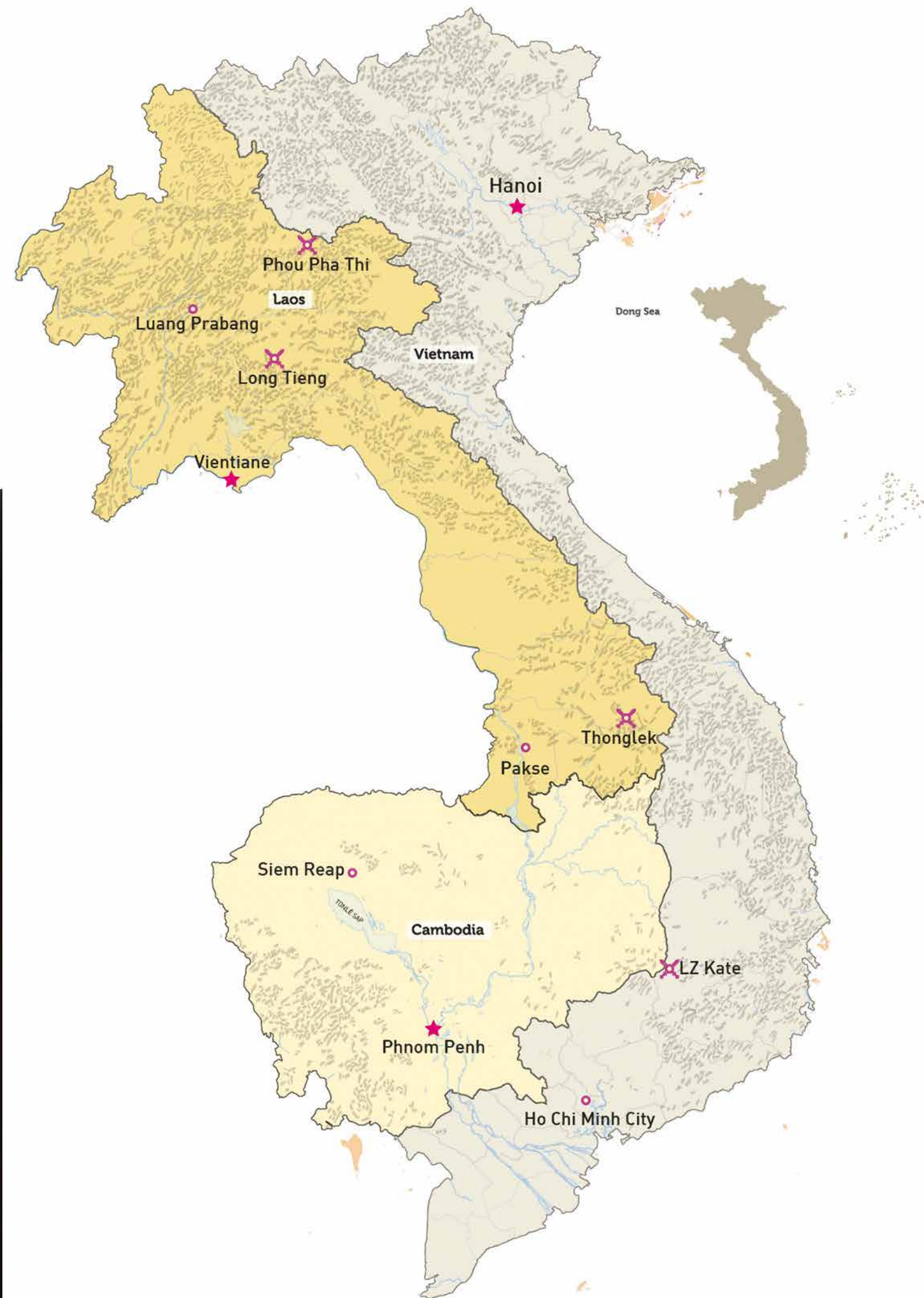
Free until departure. If time permits, further sightseeing can be offered.



SECRET

Experiences

From cultural journeys to adventure itineraries, Secret Indochina focuses on delivering life-enriching experiences, combining unique and exclusive activities, thus producing a wide range of customized itineraries. Secret Experiences lead travellers to outstanding sites surrounded by awe-inspiring landscapes while offering the opportunity to delve into the local life of unknown ethnic communities frequently nestled in human and natural sanctuaries.



V. SECRET EXPERIENCES

1. Secret Insights

TOUR CENTRAL VIETNAM WITH MR. NGUYEN

Meet Mr. Nguyen, Secret Indochina local expert guide. This expert joins clients for several days; touring Central Vietnam's most famous war sites such as the DMZ, Khe Sanh, Ashau and Hue.

During the war, from 1960 to 1975, Mr. Nguyen served as a special reconnaissance officer in Tri Thien Command Unit. His unit fought in Ashau, A Luoi, Tri Thien, Hue, Quang Tri. He was wounded many times. After the war, for fifteen years, he worked as Director of Hue Monuments Conservation Centre. He had been in charge of the application for Hue to be recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



MEET MR. FILIPPI, KHMER SPECIALIST

In Phnom Penh, have a dinner-conference about the Khmer Rouge era with Mr. Filippi at the Open Wine, a French restaurant located behind Royal Palace. Mr. Filippi is a professor of Khmer studies at the Royal University of Phnom Penh. He specializes in the Khmer language description as well as various minority languages of Cambodia and Southeast Asia. Apart from linguistics, he has always had a great interest in Cambodian history and art.



VISIT AN XA VILLAGE, GENERAL GIAP'S HOMELAND

Between Dong Hoi and Quang Tri, stop at the picturesque village of An Xa where General Giap was raised. Have an opportunity to see his house and meet his grandchildren. The house had been destroyed by French soldiers and rebuilt in 1977.

Vo Nguyen Giap, (born 1912, An Xa - died October 4, 2013, Hanoi) is Vietnamese military and political leader whose perfection of guerrilla as well as conventional strategy and tactics led to the Viet Minh victory over the French and later to the North Vietnamese victory over South Vietnam and the United States.



V. SECRET EXPERIENCES

2. Secret Expeditions

LONG TIENG, LIMA SITE 20A

Long Tieng (also spelled Long Chieng, Long Cheng, or Long Chen) is a Laotian military base located in Xiang Khouang Province. During the Laotian Civil War, it served as a town and airbase operated by the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States, also the HQ of General Vang Pao Secret army. During this time, it was also referred to as Lima Site 98 (LS 98) or Lima Site 20A (LS 20A).

At the height of its significance in the late 1960s, the «secret city» of Long Tieng maintained a population of 40,000 inhabitants, making it the second largest city in Laos at the time, although it never appeared on maps throughout this period.

Embark on a two-day trip to discover the remains of Long Tieng. This itinerary is subject to a special permit.



LZ KATE

LZ Kate is located in Vietnam Dak Nong province, near Cambodia border and Bu Prang district, west of Dak Buk So, region formerly known as The Three Borders or Indochina Roof. LZ Kate battle raged from October to December 1969, a border control matter as in front of Ho Chi Ming Trail main exit. LZ Kate is a hill, a former French outpost later fortified by the US Army, overlooking Bu Bia Map forest and whom surface is covered by numerous craters, battle dumb witness. Recently opened LZ Kate is accessible by a three-hour walk through a unique landscape constituted of green hills covered with elephant grass and woods on red lands, center of Yok Laych plateau and eastern Mondulakiri prolongation. Option to walk to a nearby hill, known as Hamburger Hill, another infamous LZ.



PHOU PHA THI, LIMA SITE 85

Discover Nam Et, the most secret and mythical region of Laos' secret war, bordering Vietnam in the north and Xam Neua at the Est. Nam Et area was inaccessible and forbidden for a long time, subject to many story, especially during the American-led secret war from 1964 to 1975, site of the legendary Phou Pha Thi, a sacred Hmong mountain, otherwise known as Lima Site 85, Vietnam War most secret base.

Nam Et – Phu Loei NBCA has been awarded National Park status. Spanning 5,950 km², its outskirts are populated with Laotian, Black Thai, Lue, Khmu, Hmong Kho and White Hmong, as well as Dao peoples. The park, made up of dense forests intertwined with limestone outcrops, with underlying scrubland and a smattering of pine trees, is home to tigers, leopards, elephants, as well as other species not commonly seen in these regions.

Two-days journey on 4WD across Nam Et, from East to West. Available from December to May, or two-days for a Nam Et Safari with an jungle night.



THONGLEK SECRET BASE

Thonglek was a major CIA Base in southern Laos from where Montagnards, CIA personnel and Ravens launched operations against Ho Chi Minh Trail. Re-currently assaulted by NVA, the vicinity of the site were heavily bombed by B-52 and called by the locals Field of Steel.

From Pakse and Attapu, discover Thonglek Plateau and Dakchung district. Walk along the former old airport and former CIA Secret Base. Continuation to Xekong City, crossing the Xekong River on an old CIA Ferry. Visit Xekong City UXO office.

Exclusive five-day itinerary for an exceptional insight into Laos Secret War.

V. SECRET EXPERIENCES

3. *Secret Hideaways*

AMANOI

Situated on a dramatic coastline overlooking spectacular Vinh Hy Bay, Amanoi offers a magnificent location combined with luxury services. Named for the Sanskrit-derived word for 'peace' and noi meaning 'place' and backed by a national park covered with a marine forest reserve, Amanoi embraces nature and luxury.

Ideal base to discover unspoiled parts of southern Vietnam coast, between Cam Ranh and Mui Ne: a series of granite promontories scattered among semi-arid and Saharan coastline plains, land of ancient Panduranga, legendary kingdom of indigenous Cham, Coho, Churu, Cau Maa' and Raglai peoples.



FUSION CAM RANH

The new Fusion Resort Cam Ranh is an exceptional beach resort on Cam Ranh main dune, nearby one of the former US most important bases. Spread over 13.6 hectares on a 40 ft high sand dune, it is an intimate resort with fresh open spaces overlooking crystal clear azure ocean. Catering to the needs of the spa lover, the beach lover or a family getaway are 72 luxurious suites and pool villas, all offering views of the ocean. Experience ultimate relaxation at Fusion Resort Cam Ranh with its all-spa inclusive concept - guests can indulge in complimentary spa and wellness everyday.









“It is always sad to leave a place to which one knows one will never return. Such as the melancolies du voyage: perhaps they are one of the most rewarding things about traveling”

{ Gustave Flaubert }



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