Journey Through Vietnam

November 06-20, 2023

Presented By:
GLP Worldwide for University of Saskatchewan Alumni and Friends
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Exotic and compelling, Vietnam is a country with rich cultural traditions, incredible natural beauty and a fascinating history of its struggle to independence.

All your senses will be awakened on this 15-day journey as you are immersed in the sights, sounds and tastes of this fascinating country, from northern Hanoi to southern Saigon.

Marvel at French architecture as you learn about Vietnam’s history as a colony of France. Enjoy an overnight cruise on majestic Halong Bay, visit the Imperial Citadel in Hue, and try your hand at traditional farming methods in Hoi An. Take a trip on one of the world’s longest cable cars to the resort of Ba Na Hills, and go underground to explore the incredible Cu Chi Tunnels near Ho Chi Minh City.

Throughout this adventure, you will feast on Vietnamese delicacies, learning about local specialties, exotic ingredients and the distinct flavours of different regions.

Tour includes all transfers between the main destinations of Hanoi, Halong Bay, Hue, Ba Na Hills, Hoi An and Ho Chi Minh City. For more information or to make a reservation, please contact GLP Worldwide at 1-866-760-1987 or alumni@glpworldwide.com.

Sincerely,

Dawn Warren
University of Saskatchewan Alumni Travel Program
Included meals: B - breakfast, BR - brunch, L - lunch, D - dinner

JOURNEY THROUGH VIETNAM
November 06 - 20, 2023

DAY 1 | NOV 6 | DEPART TORONTO
Board your overnight flight to Hanoi, Vietnam.

DAY 2 | NOV 7 | ARRIVE IN HANOI (L,D)
Your first day in Vietnam promises a feast for the senses. From the airport, you’ll be taken for lunch before heading to the hotel where you’ll stay for three nights. That evening, a guided tour of Hanoi’s street food scene will give you a taste of Vietnamese food culture. In the maze of Hanoi’s Old Quarter, watch skilled chefs prepare the city’s famous banh cuon (steamed rice rolls). Join locals at outdoor barbecue stalls to sample meat, vegetables and breads that have been grilled over hot coals. Finish with a cup of fresh fruit smothered with crushed iced and condensed milk.

DAY 3 | NOV 8 | HISTORY OF HANOI (B,L)
Begin with an introduction to Ho Chi Minh, considered the father of the nation. See “Uncle Ho’s” modest bungalow, visit the marble mausoleum where he lies in state and learn about the evolution of Vietnamese independence at the Ho Chi Minh Museum. Visit the Imperial Citadel of Thang Long, a UNESCO World Heritage Site built in the 11th century. Marvel at Hanoi’s French colonial architecture, such as the exquisite Opera House, and enjoy the peacefulness of the serene Temple of Literature. On a cyclo tour of Hanoi’s Old Quarter, learn about the labyrinthine alleyways that were once an important centre of commerce.
DAY 4 | NOV 9 | HANOI CUISINE AND COFFEE (B,L)

Vietnamese cuisine has five fundamental taste elements that you’ll learn about during a cooking class and shopping trip with the chef. At a local market, learn about tropical fruits, vegetables, herbs and unusual items like silkworms that are for sale. Back in the kitchen, you’ll prepare a range of mouth-watering dishes. The afternoon will be devoted to one of Vietnam’s favourite pastimes: coffee! Try an “egg coffee” at Giang Cafe in the Old Quarter, and then visit other quirky cafes such as the atmospheric Cafe Lam, with its walls covered in artwork collected over the decades in exchange for coffee.

DAY 5 | NOV 10 | HANOI – HALONG BAY (B,L,D)

After a 3-hour drive to Halong Bay, board a Bhaya Classic cruise ship and embark on an adventure to discover its emerald waters, hidden pools and mystical islands. Off-boat excursions offer an opportunity to get closer to the region’s beautiful landscapes and sandy beaches. Explore Trinh Nu cave, a sunlight-filled, 2,000-square-metre grotto filled with stunning stalactites and stalagmites, or remain on board and take in the glorious vista from the sundeck. As night falls, the boat will drop anchor in a peaceful spot. Sip a drink and watch the sunset over Halong Bay, then enjoy dinner and overnight on board.

DAY 6 | NOV 11 | HALONG – HANOI – HUE (B,BR)

Early risers can take in sunrise during a morning tai chi lesson on the deck before heading out on kayaks to enjoy the beauty of Halong Bay and its incredible ecosystem. After breakfast, the boat will return to port, passing several fishing villages along the way. Disembark at Tuan Chau marina and head to Hanoi’s airport for a short flight to the central Vietnam city of Hue. Check in to the hotel where you’ll spend two nights. Remainder of the day is free.

DAY 7 | NOV 12 | ROYAL KINGDOM OF HUE (B,L)

Start at the Imperial Citadel, a fortress built in the early 1800s that is still very much the centerpiece of modern-day Hue. Cruise along the Perfume River to the seven-storey Thien Mu Pagoda, the tallest religious building in Vietnam. Visit the magnificent riverbank tomb of Emperor Tu Duc, as well as the eclectic European and Vietnamese tomb of the “Puppet Emperor” Khai Dinh. A cyclo foodie tour includes a stop at Hen Island

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for mussels before exploring the back streets of Old Hue to sample regional specialties like banh uot thit nuong (spring rolls with grilled pork) and khoai cake (Hue-style Vietnamese pancakes).

DAY 8 | NOV 13 | HUE – DA NANG – BA NA HILLS (B,L)
A scenic drive takes you to Ba Na Hills via the Hai Van Pass. Experience an amazing view over the primitive forest as you ride on one of the longest cable cars in the world from the foot of the hills to the peak. Overnight in Ba Na Hills.

DAY 9 | NOV 14 | BA NA HILLS – HOI AN (B,L)
Arise early to catch a glimpse of the morning’s first light hitting the distant Golden Bridge before boarding a cable car to visit the structure, famous for its giant, outstretched Buddha hands. Breakfast back at the hotel, then take the cable car back to the bottom where your driver will transfer you to Hoi An, a riverside town 30 kilometres south of Da Nang. During the evening’s secret cocktail tour, sample five unique beverages in unexpected locations as a knowledgeable host explains the history of the Vietnamese relationship with French, Japanese and Chinese merchants. Spend two nights in Hoi An.

DAY 10 | NOV 15 | COUNTRYSIDE EXPERIENCE IN HOI AN (B,L)
A visit to the village of Tra Que, renowned for its organic herb and vegetable gardens, includes a hands-on opportunity to help farmers prepare the land. Using traditional implements, fertilize with seaweed from the nearby river, then water using cans supported on a bamboo pole across the shoulders. An herbal foot massage and scrumptious lunch will reward your efforts. During an afternoon walking tour, see Hoi An’s Chinese communal houses, its iconic 400-year-old Japanese Bridge, and the beautifully preserved merchant houses from traders of a bygone era. Devoid of most motorized transport, the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Old Town is ideal to explore on foot.

DAY 11 | NOV 16 | HOI AN – HO CHI MINH CITY (B,L)
Morning flight followed by a half-day tour of Ho Chi Minh City. Stop at Reunification Palace, which earned its place in history in April 1975 when the arrival of North Vietnamese tanks signalled the end of the Vietnam War. Explore nearby Notre Dame Cathedral, the French colonial-era Central Post Office and the Hotel de Ville de Saigon. The day’s final stop is the unforgettable Jade Emperor Pagoda. With incense, ornate carvings and fierce-looking statues, this Taoist temple is one of the most atmospheric places of worship in the city. Spend four nights in the city many still call Saigon.

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DAY 12 | NOV 17 | SAIGON SIGHTSEEING *(B,L)*

A half-day tour to the Cu Chi tunnels, the underground network of passages that are a testament to the determined spirit of the Vietnamese people. Work on the tunnels began during the war against the French in the 1940s. They were expanded to create an underground city almost 200 kilometres long over the next 25 years as the conflict with America escalated. Adventurous travellers may choose to explore inside the tunnels but there is a lot to see aboveground as well. In the afternoon, savour a tasting experience at an artisan chocolate shop in Ho Chi Minh City.

DAY 13 | NOV 18 | HO CHI MINH CITY *(B,L)*

All five senses will enjoy this two-wheeled tour of Ho Chi Minh City. This Vespa adventure begins in busy, historic District 1. In Chinatown, see century-old shops nestled amid modern buildings. Listen for the chirping of the bird street market, where locals shop for their singing pets. Appreciate the aroma of coffee beans at a roasting workshop, then savour a sample of Vietnamese coffee, iced or hot. Zigzag through District 4, and then go souvenir shopping at Ben Thanh Market. In the evening, see a performance of the acclaimed A O Show (pronounced Ahhh! Ohhh!) at the Saigon Opera House.

DAY 14 | NOV 19 | HO CHI MINH CITY *(B,L)*

Free day to rest, enjoy the hotel's facilities or continue to explore the city on your own. Farewell dinner at Hoa Tuc restaurant.

DAY 15 | NOV 20 | DEPART HO CHI MINH CITY *(B)*

Transfer to Ho Chi Minh City airport for your flight home.

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PACKAGE PRICE:
CAD $7,490 per person based on double occupancy
CAD $8,940 per person based on single occupancy

INCLUSIONS:
• International roundtrip airfare in economy class from Toronto to Hanoi and return from Ho Chi Minh City to Toronto
• Domestic flights from Hanoi to Hue; from Da Nang to Ho Chi Minh City
• 3 nights hotel in Hanoi
• 2 nights hotel in Hue
• 1 night hotel in Ba Na Hills
• 2 nights hotel in Hoi An
• 4 nights hotel in Ho Chi Minh City
• 1 night onboard the Bhaya Classic in Halong Bay
• Meals as indicated in the itinerary
• Tours and transfers as per itinerary
• Vietnam e-visa fee
• Gratuities for local guides and drivers

EXCLUSIONS:
• Meals not included in itinerary
• Optional travel, health, accident or other insurances

Note:
1. Passenger names must match passport.
2. Please ensure that passports are valid up till after six (6) months at last destination.

DEPOSITS AND PAYMENTS
First deposit: CAD $1,000 per person at time of booking
Second deposit: CAD $1,000 per person due on February 3, 2023
Final payment: Due on July 7, 2023

CANCELLATION CHARGES
From time of booking to February 2, 2023 CAD $1,000 per person
February 3, 2023 – July 6, 2023 CAD $2,000 per person
July 7, 2023 – August 31, 2023 50% of tour cost
September 01, 2023 to date of departure 100% of tour cost

Air Cancellation penalties are subject to airline regulations.

We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation or comprehensive travel insurance at the time of booking. Please contact us for a quotation. Prices above are in Canadian Dollars. The program and all related travel services described herein are subject to the detailed terms & conditions of GLP Worldwide which are available at any time upon request and which will be provided with your booking confirmation.

The University of Saskatchewan, its officers, and employees do not assume any responsibility for the financing, arranging or conducting the tour. They shall not be liable for any damages or financial loss to person or property of any description that might occur in connection with the tour, howsoever arising from the negligence, omission or otherwise of travel services arranged through GLP Worldwide.