

spirit of vietnam southbound



ORIGINAL

AU\$980*

*plus Local Payment US\$150

●●○○○○ PHYSICAL
●●○○○○ CULTURE SHOCK

- Experience Hanoi's old-world elegance
- Discover the rich history of the Nguyen dynasty in Hue
- Learn how longan honey is made



10 days, Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City

ITINERARY... **Day 1 Hanoi** With its French-colonial buildings, graceful boulevards and aromatic *cafe au lait*, Hanoi has an elegant timelessness. Take in the ambience strolling around the city streets or taste the country's blend of old-world Europe and modern Asia in the restaurants. **Days 2-3 Halong Bay** An overnight boat trip in this bay of wonders is sure to be a memorable experience. Sit back and soak up the scenery, swim in the balmy waters and sleep on board beneath a star-studded sky. Back in the capital, there's time to buy snacks for the journey ahead, aboard the famed Reunification Express railway. **Days 4-5 Hue** Fringed by misty mountains and washed by the South China Sea, Hue was appointed imperial capital due to its beauty and isolation. Let the royal past come to life among the ruins of the Imperial Citadel and the Nguyen emperors' intricate tombs. **Days 6-7 Hoi An** Traverse the spectacular Hai Van Pass en route to Hoi An, once a thriving port town. Today, trade remains central to everyday life, with shops offering everything from tailored clothes to custom-made shoes and silk lanterns. Get a pair of boots made or pick up some traditional paintings for friends back home. **Days 8-10 Ho Chi Minh City** See the sights of the city from a cyclo and be moved by the displays at the War Remnants Museum. Enjoy a boat cruise along the Mekong Delta to spot the stunning Dragon, Unicorn, Tortoise and Phoenix islets before learning the secrets of longan honey from a local family of beekeepers. The lush scenery in this part of the world makes a fabulous backdrop for final photos.



Intrepid Photography Competition 2006, Local painting, Vietnam - Jason Pemberton

ACCOMMODATION Hotels (7 nts), sailing junk (1 nt), overnight train (1 nt)
TRANSPORT Plane, overnight train, minibus, boat, cyclo, walking **GROUP SIZE**
Max 12 **MEALS** 8 Breakfasts, 1 Lunch, 1 Dinner **BUDGET** Allow US\$180 for
meals not included **DEPARTS** Every Tue, Thu, Sun & selected Wed **GUARANTEE**
Departure guaranteed **TRAVELLER RATING** 4.78 out of 5

TRIP CODE
VSF

colours of vietnam



ORIGINAL

AU\$1260*

*plus Local Payment US\$400

●●○○○○ PHYSICAL
●●○○○○ CULTURE SHOCK

- Imagine life in the Cu Chi Tunnels
- Appreciate a cool change in Dalat
- Go gibbon-spotting in the Cuc Phuong National Park



20 days, Ho Chi Minh City to Hanoi

ITINERARY... **Days 1-2 Ho Chi Minh City** Discover this dynamic economic hub on a cyclo tour through chaotic streets. An excursion to the War Remnants Museum makes for a disquieting interlude. **Days 3-4 Mekong Delta** Wake early to watch the waterways of the Mekong Delta come alive with floating markets. Visit the Cu Chi Tunnels to unearth a world of underground mystery. **Days 5-6 Dalat** Vietnam's 'honeymoon capital' is like spring all year round, with its cool climate, charming French villas and vibrant market. **Days 7-8 Nha Trang** Enjoy breathtaking views around every corner on the Ngoan Muc Pass and stop at the striking Po Klong Garai Cham Towers. In Nha Trang, sultry waters, swaying palms and a sailboat await. **Day 9 Quy Nhon** Relish the breathtaking scenery travelling to Quy Nhon, where there's a chance to spend time teaching English to local kids at the Nguyen Nga Centre. **Days 10-12 Hoi An** Boasting over 500 tailors and handicraft shops, Hoi An is a shopper's paradise. **Days 13-14 Hue** Stop at the famed China Beach en route to regal Hue. Take a dragon boat cruise along the timeless Perfume River and admire the stately Thien Mu Pagoda. **Day 15 Ninh Binh** Travel by train to friendly Ninh Binh where farmers and their buffaloes work the picturesque rice paddies. **Day 16 Cuc Phuong National Park** Get up close to monkeys at the Endangered Primate Rescue Centre. **Day 17 Halong Bay** Cruise past dramatic karsts rising out of the waters of Halong Bay. **Days 18-20 Hanoi** Stroll along leafy boulevards to the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and see a water puppet performance.



Intrepid Photography Competition 2008, Coloured lanterns, Hoi An, Vietnam - Sergi Balaguer Herrero

ACCOMMODATION Hotels/guesthouses (16 nts), sailing junk (1 nt), simple stilt house (1 nt), homestay (1 nt) **TRANSPORT** Train, minibus, boat, cyclo, walking
GROUP SIZE Max 12 **MEALS** 18 Breakfasts, 3 Lunches, 3 Dinners **BUDGET** Allow
US\$350 for meals not included **DEPARTS** Every Sun & selected Thu **GUARANTEE**
Departure guaranteed **TRAVELLER RATING** 4.74 out of 5

TRIP CODE
VST