



Trails of Indochina

VIETNAM- SHORE EXCURIONS – Extreme & Extraordinary activities



HANOI

▣ MODULE 1: Cocktail reception at the home studio of the celebrated artist – Anh Khanh & Home-hosted meal (maximum 15 pax)

Road surface:	Paved roads
Level of activities:	Walking through an alley for 5min from the main road to Anh Khanh's home
Limits on height, weight, age	No
Limit on wheelchair & handicapped	The alley might be a little bit bumpy but it is just a short distance
Toilet/Refreshment stops	No (short driving distance)
Mineral water & refreshment towel	Available in cooler on car/bus
Beverages at Meal(s) (just in case meals inclusive in this module)	1 glass of House wine OR 1 can of beer OR 1 can of soft drink 1 small bottle of mineral water 1 cup of tea OR 1cup of coffee

0430pm: Drive out of Hanoi downtown

0500pm: Arrive at the studio and home of Mr.Khanh, who is a well known Vietnamese painter, sculptor and performance artist. Meet with him for an introduction

0515pm: Enjoy an interactive cocktail reception while watching his paintings exhibition on the ground floor of his wooden stilt house. Stroll around the lush garden with interesting sculptures scattered around the compound along with dozens of plastic humanoid figures suspended from

trees. Take this opportunity to interact with Mr Khanh to get a glimpse of the mysticism of Vietnamese art through his eye as well as his lively art life.

0615pm: Transfer back to town and drive straight to the home where you spend dinner tonight

0655pm: Arrive at the musician couple's home
 Located in a very quiet lane of Hanoi, 6km from the center is the home of the flutist Mr. Bang & his wife the pianist Ms. Huong. Despite the decor, the house has its own charm of colonial architecture. Being a noted flutist in the National Orchestra, the husband has been traveling around the world. The wife is now a piano teacher for foreigners. Enjoy a home hosted meal with the musicians in their cozy dining room and understand how Vietnamese families treat a home-cooked meal essential during these hectic days. Chat and share with them life experiences & memories through their family albums. After meal, evoke in a melodious performance of flute and piano under sparkling candles.

Accommodation: to be advised

Meal: Dinner

HUE

▣ MODULE 2: Royal Martial Art and lunch or dinner at the Restored Royal home (maximum 25 pax)

Road surface:	Paved roads
Level of activities:	10min walking from the main road to the alley leading to Temple of the Left Commanding General (35-seater bus is not accessible)
Limits on height, weight, age	No
Limit on wheelchair & handicapped	No
Toilet/Refreshment stops	No (short driving distance)
Mineral water & refreshment towel	Available in cooler on car/bus
Beverages at Meal(s) (just in case sitting meals inclusive in this module)	1 glass of House wine OR 1 can of beer OR 1 can of soft drink 1 small bottle of mineral water 1 cup of tea OR 1 cup of coffee

0400pm: Drive to Temple of the Left Commanding General under Gia Long King of 1800s– Le Van Duyet where the Royal Martial Arts performance held

0415pm: Arrive and enjoy a great cultural feature inherited from the Nguyen Dynasty, Royal Martial Arts. The Palace, which was used for martial arts training and performance, still retains its own historic ambience. This is a great opportunity to see an interesting performance of a one-hour feature on different forms of martial art technique. The performance is held at the. The family who is currently living here is the 10th generation. The whole sight here will be a reminiscence of the past heroic plots of Vietnamese patriots against the colonialists' suppression.

0515pm: Transfer back to hotel for fresh up and get ready for the home-hosted meal tonight

0645pm: Transfer to the Restored Royal home – Tha Om

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0700pm: Arrive at the home.
Behind the gate, a green space with a water-lily pond, orchid pots, chatter of birds gives you a peace of mind. Tha Om restored royal home owned by the construction engineer – Vinh Tu – is a harmony of nature and architecture. Enjoy a home-hosted meal in the dining room with elaborate relief. Interact with the family to learn about the daily life and how they bring the quintessence of the Royal ambiance and culture into their home.

Accommodation: to be advised

Meal: Dinner

▣ MODULE 3: Cultural interaction with historian/researcher – Mr. Phan Thuan An & home-hosted meal at his home (maximum 30 pax)

Road surface:	Paved roads
Level of activities:	10min walking from the Imperial Citadel gate to the complex
Limits on height, weight, age	No
Limit on wheelchair & handicapped	Yes, some sections are with stairs
Toilet/Refreshment stops	No (short driving distance)
Mineral water & refreshment towel	Available in cooler on car/bus
Beverages at Meal(s) (just in case sitting meals inclusive in this module)	1 glass of House wine OR 1 can of beer OR 1 can of soft drink 1 small bottle of mineral water 1 cup of tea OR 1 cup of coffee

1000am: Start your trip with a 10min **cylco tour** from your hotel to the **Imperial Citadel**.

1010am: Arrive and start walking to the complex
Hue served as the imperial capital of the Nguyen Lords, a feudal dynasty from the 17th to the 19th century. With splendid emperors’ tombs, ancient pagodas and the remains of the Citadel, the city still owns the mysteries of the Royal Court.
Enjoy a walking trip through the Imperial Citadel with the historian/ researcher Mr. Phan Thuan An who is a direct descendent of the Imperial Court, his grandfather was Emperor Khai Dinh’s senior Mandarin. Being also a collector of artifacts and mementos from the days of Empire, he will bring you better knowledge of the Royal history, culture and architecture

1130am: Transfer to his home formerly home of Princess Ngoc Son.

1145am: Wander about his home & garden

1200pm: Back to the dining area his family is waiting to host a warm lunch
Opportunity to talk with him and learn how he preserves this traditional house, his family life. Contemplate his fascinating collection of artifacts and mementos from the days of Empire.

Accommodation: to be advised

Meal: Lunch

▣ MODULE 4: Cultural interaction with a member from Hoi An Relicts Conservation Center & Home-hosted meal at a traditional wooden house (maximum 15 pax)

Road surface:	Paved roads
Level of activities:	1-1,5 hour walking around the old quarter
Limits on height, weight, age	No
Limit on wheelchair & handicapped	Not really
Toilet/Refreshment stops	No (short driving distance)
Mineral water & refreshment towel	Available in cooler on car/bus
Beverages at Meal(s) (just in case sitting meals inclusive in this module)	1 glass of House wine OR 1 can of beer OR 1 can of soft drink 1 small bottle of mineral water 1 cup of tea OR 1 cup of coffee

- 0930am: Shuttle or walk (depend on your hotel location) to the old quarter
Listed as a World Cultural Heritage Site by UNESCO, the ancient town Hoi An is well-preserved, some streets are off-limits to motorbikes and building alterations are well enforced.
- 0940am: Start the trip with a cultural interaction with a member from UNESCO, Mr. Tran Van Nhan, who used to be Vice Director of the Hoi An Relicts Conservation Center, at his office. Get a glimpse of the current preservation projects before taking a walking trip through the old quarters with your guide.
- 1100am: Time to do shopping or tailor made clothing
- 1130am: Guide to get your group together and walk to the home of Trung Hieu couple
Nested in a tiny alley in the old quarters is the little home of the Trung Hieu couple with 2 children, the husband is a salesman at a lantern shop and the wife is a housekeeper. There is still an extended family chapel called “The Chapel of Great Virtue”. It is a traditional wooden house of Hoi An beautifully ornamented with antique furniture, paintings and wood carvings. Built in 13th century by a Princess of the Tran Dynasty, up to now the chapel has been taken care by 9 generations. Enjoy a home-hosted meal prepared by the family, and interact with them to understand their daily life and their traditional house.

Accommodation: to be advised

Meal: Lunch

SAIGON

▣ MODULE 5: Feng Shui demonstration & Cocktail reception & Home-hosted meal at Ambassador’s former residence (maximum 30pax)

Road surface:	Paved roads
Level of activities:	Easy
Limits on height, weight,	No

<i>age</i>	
<i>Limit on wheelchair & handicapped</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Toilet/Refreshment stops</i>	<i>No (short driving distance)</i>
<i>Mineral water & refreshment towel</i>	<i>Available in cooler on car/bus</i>
<i>Beverages at Meal(s) (just in case sitting meals inclusive in this module)</i>	<i>1 glass of House wine OR 1 can of beer OR 1 can of soft drink 1 small bottle of mineral water 1 cup of tea OR 1 cup of coffee</i>

0445pm: Transfer to the former home of the US Ambassador to Saigon 1960s. Mr. Henry C. Lodge carried a mission of overthrowing the Southern Government at that time. When he came, the area of district 3 was taken over by the French and turned into the Ambassador's residence. Mr Lodge was in this home during 1960-1965 and the architecture is a mix of Vietnamese, French and American. Today it is a private residence of a local family.

0500pm: Get off your coach and enjoy a short walk through an alley dotted with some colonial mansions (some mansions turned to be charming open-air coffee shops) until you reach the home marked "6C."

0505pm: Enjoy Feng Shui demonstration
The term Feng Shui can be translated as "wind and water." It is the practice of living a harmonious life with the energy of the environment. For generations, Vietnamese studying the dynamic relationship between humans and the surrounding and using Feng Shui widely in home as well as business. Visit a typical house – the former residence of the US Ambassador 1960s which is a perfect example of Feng Shui practice. Take this opportunity to interact with an expert to see how the owner locates the interiors and furniture in order to maximize the energy flow. The presenter can also show you some more good & bad examples of Fengshui of the other houses (photos). Sip your house-wine while enjoying the expert's presentation.

0605pm: Back to the yard to enjoy some Vietnam Traditional Dances.

0620pm: View a short film about the history of Saigon and this house.

0635pm: Then it's time to enjoy home-hosted meal in the elegant dining room. The home owner will brief you about his family life. Piano and violin warm up the atmosphere

Accommodation: to be advised

Meal: Dinner

▣ MODULE 6: Mekong Delta trip & Sampan donation

<i>Road surface:</i>	<i>Mixed of paved and dirt roads, broken lanes</i>
<i>Level of activities:</i>	<i>Walking through tiny lanes/Possibly get on motorcycle to get through the family that you donate sampan (if that family's house located off the track)</i>
<i>Limits on height, weight, age</i>	<i>No</i>

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<i>Limit on wheelchair & handicapped</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Toilet/Refreshment stops</i>	<i>At a local home (standard is basic but the best available)</i>
<i>Mineral water & refreshment towel</i>	<i>Available in cooler on car/bus</i>
<i>Beverages at Meal(s) (just in case sitting meals inclusive in this module)</i>	<i>1 glass of House wine OR 1 can of beer OR 1 can of soft drink 1 small bottle of mineral water 1 cup of tea OR 1 cup of coffee</i>

- 0800am: Set out on an excursion to My Tho, the closest city in the Mekong Delta to Saigon. A 2-hour drive brings you through urbanized areas till you reach river tributaries, there Mekong Delta!
- 0900am: Stop at a local home for refreshment. Sip a cup of tea and enjoy brief interaction with the family
- 0910am: Continue your drive to My Tho
- 0950am: Stop at Vinh Trang pagoda built in 1849. The monk who ordered the build had been to Angkor Wat so here and there influences of the famous Cambodian temple complex.
- 1020am: On arrival in My Tho pier, board a local private motorized boat (sub-standard) for a river cruise on the upper part of the Mekong River and a taste of the agricultural life of the mighty Mekong River. Visit to a fish-raising village before entering Vam Xep canal and its beautiful scenery of water palm. Disembark and stroll around Quoi An fruit orchard, visiting fruit-drying kilns and coconut craftwares home. Enhance your trip with a short *horse-drawn cart* ride along the village road. Upon arrival at Ben Truc – Phong Phu garden, sample Mekong delta fruit whilst enjoying traditional local music, and an opportunity to interact with the local people, whose livelihood is on the river here. Rowing boat trip to explore the water palm canals
- 1100am: Get to a needy family to donate a sampan
Sampan is a substantial means for transportation and for living earning in Mekong Delta. Some families for generations could not afford a sampan to improve their life; day in and day out they live in hunger & illiterate as they could not catch fish, go to the school especially for those in the remote river part. Let taste the needy family's happiness as seeing you bringing their 'dream' over. The small sampan donation ceremony to be taken place in the witness of the local authorities and villagers. Opportunity to interact with the local people, whose livelihood is on the river here.
- 1200am: Re-board the main boat and transfer back to My Tho.
- 1230pm: Arrive at the dock. Lunch at Ngoc Gia Trang eatery, the standard is basic but it offers great Mekong specialties. Drive back to Saigon and transfer to your hotel

Accommodation: to be advised

Meal: Lunch

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