

Vietnam Veteran's Tour

April 2013

*Visiting Saigon, Mekong River, Balmoral, Coral,
Vung Tau, Ba Ria, Nui Dat and Long Tan.*



***Fully escorted from Australia plus local experienced guides in Vietnam
Tastefully renovated Colonial style deluxe hotels
Best converted Rice Barges on the Mekong overnight cruise
8 Breakfasts / 3 Lunches / 4 Dinners***



Specialised Travel & Tours

(08) 8555 0468
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***A Multi Award Winning Travel Agency
Celebrating 25 Years of Excellence in Customer Service***



9 Days South Vietnam

Your Tour Hosts, Jeff & Sylvia, owners of Specialised Travel have visited Vietnam four times in the past few years plus designed numerous tours throughout the country, in particular for Vietnam Veterans. The deluxe accommodation has been chosen to give you a feel of the hotels of yesteryear. Sylvia will meet us in Saigon as she escorts a tour from Northern Vietnam, joining us on the optional extension. Jeff & Sylvia have escorted groups to numerous countries throughout the world over a 25 year period.

YOUR HOTELS & CRUISE

Visit the websites



Website: www.majesticsaigon.com



Website: www.bassacmekongcruise.com



Website: www.grandhotel.com.vn

DAY 1: Thu 4 APR

AUSTRALIA to SAIGON (meals in flight)

Eastern state cities experience great service on the direct Vietnam Airlines A330 Airbus to Saigon. Adelaide passengers fly via Melbourne with Virgin to join our Melbourne passengers on VN780 departing at 10:35am arriving into Saigon at 4:15pm. Brisbane passengers fly via Sydney to join our Sydney passengers on VN772 departing at 10:15am arriving into Saigon at 4:25pm. Perth Passengers fly with Singapore Airlines departing at 7:40am via Singapore arriving into Saigon at 6:40pm. A private transfer is arranged from the airport to your deluxe 1925 Colonial Hotel, with your evening at leisure. Check out the roof top views.

Accommodation: The MAJESTIC HOTEL.

DAY 2: Fri 5 APR - SAIGON (B, D)

Breakfast at the hotel in the roof top restaurant. A day at leisure, maybe visit the markets, a taxi will cost you all of \$2, or take a walk then laze by the pool. Today is an opportunity to visit the War Remnants Museum should you wish to do so, it is a very graphic display. Welcome Dinner at Hoa Tuc Restaurant with return transfers.

Accommodation: The MAJESTIC HOTEL.

DAY 3: Sat 6 APR - MEKONG RIVER (B, L, D)

Breakfast at the hotel in the roof top restaurant. This morning, leave bustling Ho Chi Minh City for the 4-hour drive to the capital of the Mekong Delta, Can Tho City. Arrive in Can Tho at noon to board your boat, the Bassac. A welcome drink will be given on arrival followed by an introduction to the ship and crew. Depart downstream on the Hau River and enjoy lunch on the upper deck while en route. Pass by the tiny river town of Tra On where there is a small floating market.

Rest on the deck while the ship branches into the Nicolai Canal, towards the Mang Thit and Co Chien Rivers. View the passing scenery of rice and sugar cane fields as well as villages built on the river banks. By mid-afternoon, the Bassac will cast anchor for a shore excursion to visit a typical Mekong Delta village. Discover the way of life of the friendly locals and pass by rice fields, fruit orchards and countless tiny rivers. Back on board a complimentary drink will be served, sit back and enjoy the sunset before dinner is served, while the Bassac is cruising the Mang Thit river towards her anchorage point for the night.

Overnight on BASSAC CRUISE

DAY 4: Sun 7 APR MEKONG - SAIGON (B)

Breakfast will be served from 0630 whilst the boat cruises towards Cai Be. The Bassac will cross the Co Chien River which branches into the busy Cho Lach Canal for 30 minutes through boat traffic carrying all sorts of goods including sand, rice and coconuts. Arrival in the small town of Cai Be, check-out and board a motor boat for a tour of Cai Be floating market. Cruise through the floating market. Here, during the early morning market hours, larger boats anchor and create lanes that smaller boats weave in and out. The main items sold here are fruit and vegetables and every boat has a long upright pole at its bow from which samples of the goods for sale are hung. The waterway becomes a maze of hundreds of boats packed with mango, bananas, papaya, pineapple, and even floating coffee vendors. After visiting Cai Be return to land where your guide and driver await you for the 2.5-hour transfer back to Saigon. The rest of day is free at leisure in Saigon

Accommodation: The MAJESTIC HOTEL.

DAY 5: Mon 8 APR**BALMORAL and CORAL (B, L)**

Breakfast at the hotel in the roof top restaurant. Depart Saigon by private transport to Binh My Quarter, Tan Uyen District, Binh Duong Province. This is some 70Kms North West of Saigon. First stop is "Coral", situated seven kilometers north of the town of Tan Uyen. We walk through what is now a rubber tree plantation, then move onto "Balmoral". Our guide will walk us through the history of the "Coral & Balmoral" battle of May 1968. Time permitting we will visit Bien Hoa Military Museum. After lunch, transfer back to Saigon.

Accommodation: The MAJESTIC HOTEL.

DAY 6: Tue 9 APR**SAIGON to VUNG TAU (B, D)**

Breakfast at the hotel in the roof top restaurant. Late morning we depart Saigon for Vung Tau by Hydrofoil, a one & half hour trip which is preferred to the three and half hours via a rather rough road trip. Upon arrival we are transferred to our hotel with dinner at the hotel.

Accommodation: The GRAND HOTEL.

DAY 7: Wed 10 APR**VUNG TAU / NUI DAT / LONG TAN (B, L)**

Breakfast at the hotel. We embark on a full day tour by private transport to Ba Ria, then onto Nui Dat with a local guide with full knowledge of the Australian Command centre established in Vietnam in 1966. Take a walk up SAS Hill to get a good view of the general layout of the Base. We move onto the area where the Battle of Long Tan took place, and pay our respects at the Long Tan Cross. We are restricted to the nature of any public ceremony. We head back to Vung Tau when our party is satisfied they have seen the entire area. Lunch will be supplied as a Hamper. Evening in Vung Tau at leisure.

Accommodation: The GRAND HOTEL.

**DAY 8: Thu 11 APR****VUNG TAU to SAIGON (B, D)**

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning at leisure with private transport to have a good look at Vung Tau. Afternoon Hydrofoil to Saigon. We walk from the ferry terminal in Saigon across the road to our hotel. Farewell to Vietnam Dinner at the hotel.

Accommodation: The MAJESTIC HOTEL.

NOTE: Extensions can be arranged on a private basis to any other location in Vietnam, Cambodia or Laos. Based on your itinerary, standard of hotel and budget. Ask Jeff at Specialised Travel for a quote. See the back page for one such option.

DAY 9: Fri 12 APR - SAIGON (B)

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning at leisure, check-out and transfer to the airport late afternoon. Depart Saigon for Australia. Adelaide and Melbourne passengers on VN781 departing at 9:00pm. Brisbane and Sydney passengers on VN773 departing at 8:40pm.

Perth Passengers fly with Singapore Airlines via Singapore departing at 7:45pm

Overnight in flight

DAY 10: Sat 13 APR**AUSTRALIA (meals in flight)**

Adelaide and Melbourne passengers arrive into Melbourne at 8:35am, Adelaide passengers connecting with Virgin home. Brisbane and Sydney passengers arrive into Sydney at 8:15am, Brisbane passengers connecting with Virgin home. Perth Passengers fly with Singapore Airlines via Singapore arriving at 6:25am.

\$2,980 per person / twin share
Single Supplement: \$780

Tour includes:

- Return Economy International flights
- Govt Taxes & Surcharges
- 4 and 5 star Hotels as listed
- Overnight cruise on Mekong
- Airport transfers / tours
- Vietnam Visa \$75 + courier fees
- Tips to guides and drivers

Not included:

- Items of a personal nature
- 25% off Travel Insurance - emergency medical evacuation is mandatory on this tour in Vietnam



Optional Extension:

Designed as a relaxing few days at a Beach Resort, then the cooler mountainous French colonial city of Dalat.

DAY 8: Thu 11 APR

VUNG TAU to PHANTHIEP / MUINE (B, D)

Breakfast at the hotel. We drive around 4 hours along the coast to a fishing village with resorts spread along a fabulous beach. Check-in to your Deluxe Resort for the next three nights.

Accommodation: The Anantara Resort

DAY 9 - 11: 12 to 13 APR

Relax by the Beach (B)

Breakfast at the hotel on a daily basis. A few days of leisure time. Check out the local Vietnamese Seafood Restaurants and markets in the evenings.

Accommodation: The Anantara Resort

DAY 12 - 14: 14 to 16 APR

Relax in the cooler Mountain air (B)

Breakfast at the hotel on a daily basis.

We drive into the mountainous area of Dalat for a few days of leisure time and check-in to your Deluxe Mountain Retreat for the next 3 nights. Check out the local Vietnamese Restaurants and markets in the evenings.

Accommodation: The Ana Mandara Villas Dalat

DAY 15: Fri 17 APR SAIGON (B)

Breakfast at the hotel. Check-out and transfer to the airport for your domestic flight to Saigon, connecting with your flight to Australia. Adelaide and Melbourne passengers on VN781 departing at 9:00pm. Brisbane and Sydney passengers on VN773 departing at 8:40pm. Perth Passengers fly with Singapore Airlines via Singapore departing at 7:45pm **Overnight in flight**

DAY 16: Sat 18 APR

AUSTRALIA (meals in flight)

Adelaide and Melbourne passengers arrive into Melbourne at 8:35am, Adelaide passengers connecting with Virgin home.

Brisbane and Sydney passengers arrive into Sydney at 8:15am, Brisbane passengers connecting with Virgin home.

Perth Passengers fly with Singapore Airlines via Singapore arriving at 6:25am.

OPTIONAL TOUR ADD-ON PRICE

**\$970 per person twin share
\$630 single room supplement**

Includes domestic Vietnam flight



TERMS & CONDITIONS

ITINERARY & COSTS

- Prices are based on the exchange rate at the time of printing. They are quoted in Australian Dollars and are GST free for international travel, and GST inclusive for domestic travel and services.
- Details of particular hotels described in the itinerary may change due to quality control by the Tour Operator. Every endeavour will be made to keep details up to date. A hotel of similar or superior standard will be substituted.
- Flight schedules are correct at the time of printing. Any changes are outside of the control of Specialised Travel. Should the itinerary and tour costs change as a result of schedule changes, the passenger will bear the difference.
- In the event that change(s) cause the tour to be substantially different than the initial price quoted, the passenger has the right to withdraw from the tour. Some airline and/or hotel deposits may be forfeited.

MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS & TRAVEL INSURANCE

- It is your personal responsibility to ensure you are adequately protected for travel outside of Australia. You can obtain information from your family doctor or consult the Traveller's Medical and Vaccination Centre in your capital city by phoning 1300 658 844.
- Travel Insurance is highly recommended. Specialised Travel will require proof of a policy or a signed Declaration from any traveller declining Travel Insurance.

CANCELLATION CLAUSE

- Bookings cancelled at any time after confirmation will automatically incur a loss of deposit. In addition to the loss of deposit, other charges may be enforced by the airline, hotel or tour operator up to 100% of the tour cost, particularly within 45 days of departure.
- Any group tour may be cancelled if insufficient

numbers are booked or events outside of our control cause cancellation. Optional dates will be offered in such cases.

- Upon paying any money for deposits, part or full amounts, it is desirable to purchase your Travel Insurance to guard against most forms of cancellation.

ROOM TYPES & BEDDING

- Prices for this tour are based on existing bedding at the hotels selected. Additional bedding will need to be specifically requested and is subject to availability.
- A Single Supplement is required to be paid if sole occupancy of a room is required. Single, interconnecting, twin as against double, smoking or non-smoking rooms need to be clearly referred to on the booking form, and are based upon availability.

PASSPORT VALIDITY & VISA REQUIREMENTS

- Passports will require at least six months validity from the date of entry into a foreign country.
- Depending upon your Nationality, a Visa may be required prior to departing Australia.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE & SECURITY CONTROL

- Economy Class travellers are allowed 20kgs per person. Business Class passengers are permitted 30 Kgs. No one bag may exceed 35 Kgs.
- Carry-on luggage is restricted to 5 Kgs, and no larger in size than 48cm X 34 cm X 23 cm. No sharp objects such as a nail file, scissors, Swiss Army knife, etc; is permitted in the aircraft cabin
- Please ensure such items are packed into your check-in luggage. There are restrictions regarding the carrying onboard of liquids, aerosols and gels
- No item, including duty-free, greater than 100ml is permitted and must be shown in a clear plastic bag at the security screening point. Any charges for excess luggage will be at the passenger's expense and payable upon check-in.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Specialised Travel does not accept any responsibility for any act or omission causing loss or injury to persons or property whether by negligence or otherwise on the part of the principals (the airline, hotel, tour operator, coach company or service provider) providing any facilities or services described in the tour package.
- Specialised Travel is not liable in contact or in tort for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expense or inconvenience caused directly or indirectly by force majeure or other events which are beyond the control of Specialised Travel, or which are preventable, including without limitation, delays, changes of aircraft services, alterations to any other travel service, illness, injuries, strikes, civil disturbances, quarantines, floods or other disturbances of whatsoever nature interfering with, altering, or adding to the cost of the services requested or booked.
- Specialised Travel is not liable for any personal dissatisfaction with properties or sites. Specialised Travel will do its best to ensure all arrangements are as agreed and only accepts liability if loss is sustained as a result of its negligence or that of its employees.
- Consumer Claims should be filed within 30 days of return to Australia in writing, be it for an Insurance claim, or directed to the Travel Compensation Fund or Specialised Travel for action.
- Specialised Travel, is a Licensed Travel Agent TTA238374. ABN: 38 357 863 298

DISCLAIMER

- Neither Government Tourism Offices, Airlines, Hotels, Cruise Line or any supporter of these tours, does not by virtue of its endorsement or promotion of our brochure represent itself either as contracting with any purchases of a tour from Specialised Travel or as having any other legal relationship with any such purchaser.