

*Britton*  
Motorcycle Adventures

Presents

# Venture Into Vietnam

## Northern Hilltribes & The Ho Chi Minh Trail

### 23-Day Tour

The tour is not only a motorcycle adventure but also an opportunity to experience Vietnam; it's people, the food, the landscapes, the history & the culture. Ride the North-west's 'Middle Road', - seldom travelled by westerners and be among the first non-Vietnamese to travel down the new Ho Chi Minh Highway. This tour is suitable for both road, and trail riders.

See Vietnam  
from the  
seat of a  
motorcycle

**Venture Into Vietnam** and ride through the spectacular North-West region where the colourful and fascinating ethnic hill people eke out a living in much the same way they have for generations. Travel along the famous Ho Chi Minh Trail and see places that evoke a bygone era of Vietnam's turbulent past; Khe San; A Chau Valley; and Dong Loc Junction to name a few. Stay with a hill-tribe family in the tranquil village of Mai Chau, visit the picturesque ancient city of Hoi An, the ancient capital Hue, and take in some great sights and shopping in bustling Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). Vietnam is a country of outstanding beauty, rich traditions and culture. It is a land of contradictions from its mist covered mountains, thick jungle covered hills, and patchworks of rice paddies in many hues of green, to magnificent white sand beaches, ancient temples and French influenced architecture. Despite their countries violent history, the Vietnamese are renowned for their friendliness and hospitality. This small country has retained its culture, absorbing and adapting the strength of those that have sought to claim it as their own, but never losing its traditions or sense of history.



## Non-Riders

While this is a motorcycle based tour, non riders are welcome and can take the tour on the back of a friend or spouses bike, or from the comfort of our support vehicle. With only a couple of small exceptions the tour vehicle takes the same route as the motorcycles. You can experience a taste of the true Vietnam, have the opportunity to stop and take photos, and meet the locals whenever you wish.

## Tour Highlights

**Hanoi** — The capital of Vietnam, a northern city built on the banks of the Red River. Hanoi is a city of lakes, tree lined boulevards and French influenced architecture. Explore the fascinating maze of the Old Quarter's intriguing back lanes, and the bustling Vietnamese street-market scene.

**The Middle Road** – This road takes us through ethnic minority villages and some of the most spectacular terraced rice paddies in all Vietnam. A photographic opportunity waits around every corner.

**Sa Pa** – used by the French as a summer hill country retreat Sa Pa is a small colourful town, with a vibrant market, and lots of hilltribe people wandering around in traditional dress. A great place to bargain for a few trinkets to take home.

**Mai Chau**— In this picturesque mountain valley settlement we stay in a stilt house with an ethnic White Thai hill tribe family. Take a day trip, past terraced rice paddies, to the old French road leading to the famous battleground, Dien Bien Phu.

**Ho Chi Minh Highway** – follows sections of the famous wartime Ho Chi Minh Trail, much of this highway is a sweeping concrete road that we frequently have all to ourselves, save for the odd local. It is very rare to see any other westerners on this road, and therefore we are much a curiosity to the locals as they are to us. Parts of this highway cut through spectacular jungle, and one section requires a special permit. In 2006 our tour was the first group to legally travel this scenic, and tranquil segment.

**Khe San**— A frontier town close to the Lao border, some of the fiercest battles of the American-Vietnam War took place in the area around this town. Visit a former US Marine Base, now a museum.

**Hue**— The former imperial capital, this city has a history as one of Vietnam's main cultural, religious and educational centres. Here you can explore emperors tombs, pagodas, the remains of the Imperial Citadel and Forbidden City. Great shopping and excellent cuisine add to Hue's appeal.

**Hoi An**— A picturesque, ancient, riverside town, Hoi An is regarded as the most enchanting place along the coast. Excellent local cuisine, fantastic tailors, nearby beaches, and great shopping are just some of the delights to be had in Hoi An.

**Cu Chi Tunnels**— This extraordinary network of underground tunnels and rooms was constructed by Vietnamese guerrilla fighters during their struggle for independence. More than 5,000 Vietnamese lived and hid in these tunnels during the American-Vietnam conflict.

**Ho Chi Minh City**— Formerly Saigon, this is a modern Asian city. It contains many reminders of its history including the War Remnants Museum, the Reunification Palace, and some stunning French architecture. Saigon has excellent shopping and dining opportunities.



**On our Venture Into Vietnam Tour your senses will be bombarded by the many different sights, sounds, tastes, and smells that Vietnam has to offer.** Vietnam has a unique and rich culture, spectacular scenery, and affable, friendly people. Although the Vietnamese are fiercely proud of their independence they are very welcoming to all foreigners who come as guests rather than conquerors. One of the pleasures of visiting Vietnam is the wonderful food. Despite being subject to influences from both Chinese and French cuisine, Vietnamese food has a delicious and unique flavour.

**Venture Into Vietnam and have experiences that will stay with you for a lifetime.**



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