

Venture Into Vietnam

See Vietnam from the
seat of a motorcycle.

Hilltribes & the Ho Chi Minh Trail

23 Days. 21 May - 12 June 2010

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 south along the famous Ho Chi Minh Trail and see places that evoke a bygone era of Vietnam's turbulent past; Dong Loc Junction, Khe San and Vinh Moc tunnels 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 former Imperial 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. 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 different ways of life. Ride the North-west's 'Middle Road', seldom travelled by westerners. Tour is suitable for both road, and trail riders.

A Few Tour Highlights ...

The North West's 'Middle Road'

This road takes us through ethnic minority villages that have few western visitors. Most tourists travel to Sa Pa on the train, by travelling on motorbikes we see some of Vietnam's most spectacular terraced rice paddies.

Sa Pa

Used by the French as a summer hill country retreat Sa Pa is a small colourful town with a vibrant market. With many different ethnic minorities in traditional dress wandering about offering handmade traditional jewellery, embroideries and other treasures, Sapa is 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 whose hospitality is unrivalled. Daily village life unfolds around us. Here you can see silk being made, from the silkworms spinning cocoons right through to the finished product – beautiful handwoven silk scarves.



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.

Halong Bay— The natural beauty of the 2000 plus islands, that rise from the Gulf of Tonkin, make Halong Bay one of Vietnam's World Heritage Sites. We stay overnight amidst the beauty of the limestone islands, onboard our comfy junk.

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. Visit the former US Marine Base, now a museum.

Vinh Moc Tunnels— Built in 1966 to escape the massive Ariel and artillery bombardment of North Vietnam. Vinh Moc village lies just North of the DMZ, so was subjected to heavy bombing and shelling by the American forces. Villagers tunneled 2.8km maze of tunnels on three levels from 15m to 26m below the ground into the red earth clay. An enormous Viet Cong base was established down there, along with accommodation for the civilians and their families who had built the tunnels. Unlike the Cu Chi Tunnels near Saigon, the Vinh Moc tunnels have not been altered to fit large western tourists and are therefore in a more original form.

Hue— An attractive city that was once the former imperial capital, this city has a history as one of Vietnam's main cultural, religious and educational centres. 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.

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.

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, stop and meet the locals whenever you wish.

COST* – on a twin share basis

Contact us for the tour price

** Price may be subject to change*

THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

Return fares Auckland/Christchurch to Vietnam (*unless you have contacted us to arrange a special land content only package*), transport to and from the airport in Vietnam, the services of the tour co-coordinators and our Vietnamese guides, luggage transport in the tour/backup vehicle (20kg max per person), mechanical and puncture repairs, petrol and oil. All accommodation for the duration of Venture into Vietnam Tour is included. Breakfast is provided daily on our tour, and most meals as stated in the itinerary. Motorcycle hire or a place in the tour vehicle.

CONTACT

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