

Venture Into Vietnam



The Ho Chi Minh Trail

28 May to 12 June 2010

Venture Into Vietnam and 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. This tour is suitable for both road, and trail riders.

A Few Tour Highlights ...

Mai Chau

In this picturesque mountain valley settlement we stay in a stilt house with an ethnic White Thai hill tribe family. Enjoy the peaceful village life that happens all around. Here you can see silk being made, from the silkworms spinning cocoons right through to the finished product – beautiful hand woven garments and scarves.

Khe Bang World Heritage Park – We consider the road through this park to be the best section of the Ho Chi Minh Highway. Seldom travelled by foreigners, even the locals have to get a permit. This road winds through spectacular jungle with almost no other traffic present.



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.

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 which is now a museum.

Vinh Moc Tunnels— Built in 1966 to escape the massive aerial 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 in the tunnels, 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 is based on a twin share

Ex Auckland or Christchurch, New Zealand

THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

Return airfares 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.

For more information and prices contact:

Mike or Angela - BRITTON MOTORCYCLE ADVENTURES
Phone: +64 7 8556132 Mobile: +64 21 2849047
PO Box 12180, Chartwell, Hamilton 3248, New Zealand
Email: mike@adventurerides.co.nz

www.adventurerides.co.nz

