

Northern  
Hilltribes  
and the  
Ho Chi  
Minh  
Trail

# Venture Into Vietnam

09 May - 29 May 2013 21 Days



**Venture Into Vietnam and ride the spectacular North Eastern region close to the Chinese border. The magnificent limestone Karst mountains that loom out of the mist are the perfect foil to the colourful traditional clothing worn by the ethnic minorities that live in the region. In this northern region, ethnic hilltribe people eke out a living in much the same way they have for generations.**

**From the North head back to Hanoi then travel south, frequently on lesser used roads including the famous Ho Chi Minh Trail. 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. Experience Vietnam from the seat of a motorbike!**

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, from North to South. Tour is suitable for both road, and trail riders.

## A Few 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.

**Dong Van District** - Situated right up near the Chinese border, this limestone plateau has an average height of 1200metres. Dong Van has a very diverse ethnic mix and Chinese influence is evident.



**Ha Giang District** - The Ha Giang province is the last to open to tourism and offers some of the most striking sceneries in Vietnam. Virgin forests, natural fortress mountains sculpted into terraces, rock formations plateaus split by breathtaking canyons. These majestic landscapes shelter the largest diversity of ethnic minorities in Vietnam

**Bac Ha** - At an altitude of 1200m above the sea level the scenery around Bac Ha is breathtaking. Limestone karst mountains dominate the scenery - complimented by the bright colours of the Flower H'mong women's traditional clothing.

### **Vinh Moc Tunnels**

Built in 1966 to escape the massive arial 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

**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.

**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.

### **Optional Add-On -Halong Bay**

If you would like to have an overnight on a junk in Halong Bay we can arrange this for you at the end of the tour at an **additional cost** to be confirmed.

### **Non-Riders - 'Hire a Rider' option**

While this is a motorcycle-based tour, non-riders are welcome. We can arrange an experienced local to 'chauffeur' you on the back of a bike- that way you still can experience travelling by motorbike in Vietnam, and have the chance to stop and take photos, stop and meet the locals whenever you wish. Alternatively, you can travel on the back of a friend or spouses bike, or from the comfort of our support vehicle.

**CONTACT US FOR THE UP-TO- DATE, ALL INCLUSIVE TOUR PRICE**

### **COST\* - on a twin share basis including return airfares**

**Motorcycle Rider: \$NZ**  
**Single Supplement: \$NZ**  
Ex Auckland, New Zealand

**Pillion/Van: \$NZ**  
**Hire a Rider: TBC**

### **COST\* - on a twin share basis land content only** (purchase own return airfares)

**Motorcycle Rider: \$NZ**  
**Single Supplement: \$NZ**

**Pillion/Van: \$NZ**  
**Hire a Rider: TBC**

*\* Prices may be subject to change*

### **THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES**

Return airfares from New Zealand to Vietnam (not included in Land Content only price), 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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# Venture Into Vietnam 21-Day Tour Itinerary

~ September 2012 ~						