

# Venture Into Vietnam



## Hilltribes and the Ho Chi Minh Trail Plus Mekong Delta By Boat

30 May - 21 June 2012 23 Days



**Venture Into Vietnam and ride the spectacular Northern region close to the Chinese border. In the northern region, 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, take in some great sights and shopping in bustling Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) and overnight on a boat in the Mekong Delta.**

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 ...

#### Halong Bay

The natural beauty of the 2000 plus islands, that rise from the Gulf of Tonkin, make Halong Bay one of Vietnams World Heritage Sites. Stay overnight amidst the beauty of the limestone islands.

#### 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.

#### 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 Unlike the Cu Chi Tunnels near Saigon, the Vinh Moc tunnels have not been altered for tourists and are in a more original form.



**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.

**Bac Ha** - At an altitude of 1200m above the sea level, Bac Ha is famous for its Sunday market – and we're in town on a Sunday morning!

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Mekong Delta** - A colorful and vibrant region, deemed the rice bowl of Vietnam. Home to a complex system of distributaries and dotted with countless rice fields, fruit orchards, handicraft villages and floating markets. The great way to experience the Mekong Delta's endless waterways is an overnight cruise.

### 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

**Motorcycle Rider: \$ Pillion/Van: \$**  
**Single Supplement: \$**

Contact us for up-to-date prices

\* Price may be subject to change

### 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.

### CONTACT

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