

Venture Into Vietnam

Hilltribes and the Ho Chi Minh Trail

12 May - 03 June 2012 23 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, 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) .

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.

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 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 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

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.

Hue - Once the former imperial capital, Hue has a history as one of Vietnam's main cultural, religious & educational centres. Explore emperors' tombs, pagodas, the remains of the Imperial Citadel and Forbidden City. Great shopping and 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 - '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.

COST* - on a twin share basis including return airfares

Please contact us for an up-to-date quote

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

Please contact us for an up-to-date quote

** Prices may be subject to change*

THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

Return airfares Auckland/Christchurch to Vietnam (*unless you have chosen the 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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