



PROGRAM ITINERARY

► **December 27**

Departure on an international flight.

► **December 28**

Arrival in **Hanoi**. After a short rest, set out to take a one hour **Cyclo ride** around Hanoi's old streets. Relax as you weave through the narrow alleys of Hanoi's ancient Old Quarter, glimpsing everyday life. We will take you past **Hoan Kiem Lake** stopping at **Ngoc Son Temple**.

This evening attend a traditional **water puppet show**, a uniquely northern Vietnamese art form especially designed for depicting scenes from rural life, and many episodes of national history. Dinner at **Wild Rice Restaurant**.

► **December 29**

This morning enjoy a city tour of Vietnam's capital. Hanoi is a unique city with tree-lined boulevards, French colonial architecture, peaceful lakes and oriental temples. The city tour includes such sights as **Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum**. Enjoy the architectural and historical aspects of "Uncle Ho's" final resting-place. Continue your visit to see Ho Chi Minh's 'house on stilts', his home from 1954 until 1969. The wooden ethnic minority style house is surrounded by quiet and peaceful gardens. Sitting to one side of the Mausoleum is the One Pillar Pagoda, founded by King Ly Thai To in 1049; the structure has become an important symbol for the people of Hanoi. Journey to the **National Fine Arts Museum**, located in colonial France's former Ministry of Information has an eclectic mix of contemporary Vietnamese art, religious pieces, lacquer-ware and sculptures. Continue to the **Temple Of Literature**.

Vietnam's first university constructed in 1070, its gardens and well-preserved architecture offers a relaxing glimpse into Vietnam's past.

After lunch at a **local restaurant**, continue to the **Hoa Lo prison** (known as the "Hanoi Hilton" during the American war). Continue to visit the Buddhist **Tran Quoc Pagoda** on West Lake (one of the oldest in Vietnam) and **Quan Thanh Temple** (Taoist, dating from the Ly Dynasty).



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Vietnam is one of the most fascinating countries in Asia. At a major crossroads for commerce and cultural exchange, Vietnam has been shaped for centuries by outside influences and religions. Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism and Christianity, the Chinese, Khmers, French, and Americans have all left their mark on Vietnam, and together have created the unique culture which exists today. Modern Vietnam exhibits a vibrant contemporary energy, blended with the strong traditional culture of a proud and ancient past. This program is designed to introduce students to this rich cultural heritage, while experiencing hands-on the reality of present-day Vietnam through lectures, visits, and interaction with Vietnamese from different walks of life. Particular attention will be given to the American War and its impact on contemporary culture, especially literature. The program concludes in Bangkok, Thailand, one of the most important cultural centers in Southeast Asia.

The World is Your Classroom

Later visit the **Museum of Ethnology** to enhance your understanding of Vietnam's diverse culture through its unique presentation of objects and dress from daily life.

► **December 30**

Leave Hanoi by road for **Halong Bay**. Enjoy the journey through the rich farmlands of the Red River Delta and the scenery of rice fields, water buffalo and everyday Vietnamese village life.

Arrive in Halong and board the **Huong Hai** or **Bai Tho** traditional sailing junk. While cruising the exquisite waters sample the regions fresh seafood. Visit the recently discovered **Surprise Grotto** with its great views, and on the next island see the yawning mouth of **Bo Nau Cave**. Alternatively journey to **Dau Go Cave** and nearby see the famous stalagmites and stalactites of **Thien Cung Cave**. Enjoy a swim in the emerald waters of Halong Bay at any spot that you wish to visit. Watch the sun set over the bay while enjoying a delicious dinner. Overnight on board the junk.

► **December 31**

After breakfast cruise by **Monkey Island** before arriving in **Cat Ba**. Cat Ba offers a stunning variety of landscapes and ecosystems, including offshore coral reefs, sandy beaches, and mangrove swamps. Optional activities include kayaking and hiking. Lunch on board.

► **January 1**

Happy New Year! After breakfast drive to **Cat Ba National Park** with a stop at the **Trung Trang cave**. Trek to **Viet Hai village**. You have a picnic lunch before taking a boat back to Cat Ba. Dinner at the hotel.

► **January 2**

Today transfer back to Hanoi. This evening board an overnight train to the Imperial City of Hué.

► **January 3**

The ancient city of **Hué** has somehow avoided the current economic frenzy which grips most Vietnamese cities.

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PROGRAM ITINERARY continued . . .



A small, peaceful city of lakes, canals, lush greenery and magnificent historical monuments, **Huế** has maintained a unique cultural identity.

Arrive Huế in the morning, pick up and transfer to the hotel for check in.

After check in, you will experience two of the city's defining landmarks accessed by boat on the **Perfume River**. Modeled on the Forbidden City in Beijing, the **Imperial Citadel** was built by the Nguyen Emperors who resided within its moated walls for 150 years. The **Thien Mu Temple** rises majestically over the tranquil river, and is both an historic site and a living religious center. The blue Ford Austin kept on the grounds took Thich Quang Duc to Saigon in 1963. This revered monk from Thien Mu caught the attention of the world's media when, in protest of the repressive Diem regime, he committed an act of self-immolation which was relayed to television sets around the world. Lunch at a local restaurant.

Later visit the **Dong Ba market** for a glimpse of daily life. In the late afternoon visit Mr. Phan Thuan An in his traditional house. Considered an expert on the history of Huế, Phan Thuan An will lead a discussion on his native city and its illustrious past. Dinner at his home.

► **January 4**

The hills surrounding Huế are studded with the mausoleums of the 13 Nguyen Emperors who established their capital here.

Today you will study the development of Imperial funerary architecture by comparing and contrasting two very different examples. The **Tomb of Emperor Tu Duc** is resplendent in traditional architecture, while that of **Khai Dinh**, known as the 'Puppet Emperor' due to his affiliation with the French, is designed with a colonial flair.

Leave Huế this afternoon and traverse the beautiful **Hai Van** (Cloudy) Pass en-route to **Hoi An**. En route visit the historically significant **China Beach**. Check into the hotel upon arrival in Hoi An.

► **January 5**

Hoi An is simply a jewel of a town. In a country so ravaged by war, this UNESCO World Heritage Site has miraculously remained unscathed. The historic district is a rich architectural fusion of Chinese, Japanese,



European, and Vietnamese influences reflecting the international status of this important port. Hoi An was the gateway through which many new ideas entered Vietnam, including both Buddhism and Christianity. After a comprehensive study of this fascinating, ancient city, continue on to **Danang**.

This afternoon, you visit beautiful **Non Nuoc Beach** and the **Cham Museum**, which contains the finest collection of Cham sculpture in the world. In Danang you will visit the **Marble Mountains**, five sacred hills containing dozens of Buddhist shrines.

► **January 6**

Transfer from your hotel for a half day trip to the capital and religious centre of the former Champa Kingdom. **My Son**, 40km southwest of Hoi An, sits in a lush green valley with dozens of red brick towers and sanctuaries dating from the seventh through the thirteenth centuries. Your guide will take you through the museum and the holiest of sites before returning to your hotel.

► **January 7**

Board a morning flight to **Ho Chi Minh City**. Still affectionately called Saigon by residents and visitors alike, Ho Chi Minh City is an amazing and intoxicating blend of old and new. In the afternoon you will have a tour of this fascinating city. Highlights will include the former **Presidential Palace**, complete with underground bunkers, the **History Museum** and **Notre Dame Cathedral**. Later meet with a former UPI photographer, Mr. Hoang Van Cuong, who will provide a personal account of his work, and of war photography during Vietnam in the 60's and 70's. Following your discussion with Mr. Cuong visit the **Museum of War Remnants**. Previously known as the Museum of War Atrocities, this museum is housed in the former U.S. Information Services Building. Dinner at Indochine Restaurant.

► **January 8**

This morning journey out of the city center to vast network of underground tunnels at **Cu Chi**. You will see secret trap doors, and underground kitchens, living quarters and meeting rooms. Return to Saigon for lunch.

Dinner at Ngon restaurant before returning to Saigon.





CU CHI TUNNELS

The first tunnels were dug here by anti-colonial Viet Minh during the 1940s; however it was the Viet Cong who expanded this labyrinth of narrow burrows, creating the network we see today. During the American war, as the conflict is referred to in Vietnam, the villages around Cu Chi supported a substantial VC presence. Faced with American attempts to neutralize the situation, the rebels literally dug themselves out of harm's way. By 1965 over 250 kilometers of tunnels made subterranean Cu Chi resemble something like Swiss cheese! Tunnels could be as small as 80 centimeters wide and in many cases were 4 levels deep. They included latrines, meeting rooms, wells, and even rudimentary hospitals in which makeshift operations were carried out by flashlight. In many instances the instruments used were crudely fashioned from remnants of military ordnance.

► January 9

Morning transfer to the airport. Flight to **Bangkok**, the capital of the Kingdom of Thailand. Meet your local guide and transfer to your hotel. Free evening.

► January 10

Begin your exploration of this fascinating city at the **Grand Palace**, where you visit the main sites including the magnificent throne halls and the emerald Buddha. We then continue to visit **Wat Po**. Bangkok's oldest temple is home to the magnificent reclining Buddha as well as the first school of traditional medicine and Thai massage and is also regarded as Thailand's first University.

Later experience an exhilarating boat ride along the bustling **Chao Phraya River** and the quiet Klongs (canals) in a long-tail boat. Be taken back in time to a more traditional way of life, far removed from

Bangkok's modern skyscrapers. Visit the **Royal Barge Museum** to witness the beautiful barges used by the King on state occasions. And **Wat Arun**, the magnificent temple of Dawn with its 79-meter pagoda or 'prang', built in the Khmer style.

► January 11

After a free day enjoy a special seafood dinner at **Supatra River House**. Formally the home of Khunying Supatra Singholaga, a leading advocate of women's rights, this beautiful two-storey traditional Thai house is located on the banks of the Chao Phraya River with a spectacular view of the Grand Palace and Wat Arun. The décor is contemporary, blending perfectly with the traditional architecture, and the views of the River, Grand Palace and Wat Arun are spectacular.

► January 12

Transfer to the airport for your return flight.



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Accident & Sickness Insurance

CSA includes full medical and accident insurance for every program participant. This coverage includes:

- \$50,000 Accident & Sickness Medical Expense (\$100.00 deductible)
- \$50,000 Emergency Medical Evacuation
- \$25,000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment
- \$10,000 Repatriation of Remains
- Bedside visitation by friend or relative – economy class airfare
- An international assistance center which is available to help 24•hours a day

Cultural Studies Abroad (CSA) is the agent for, certain carefully selected carriers, wholesalers and service companies, all of which are disclosed principals and independent contractors. CSA is not responsible for any negligent act or omission by any of these organizations, such as ship or flight delay, cancellations or prevention of the performance of any obligation its part to be performed including, but not limited to, any product sold by CSA resulting from seizures under local process, sanctions, quarantine restrictions, acts of governmental authority, strikes, work stoppages or labor disputes (whether resulting from disputes between carriers and employees, or between other parties), war or hazards incident to a state of war, fire, acts of god or nature including, without limitation, floods, earthquakes or weather conditions, mechanical difficulties, riots or civil commotions, or any other acts, matters of things, whether or not of a similar nature, beyond the control of CSA or its representative carriers, wholesalers and service companies.

Cultural Studies Abroad reserves the right to refuse service and /or terminate the participation of any program participant whose health or mental condition or physical infirmity impedes the operation of the program, or whose conduct is discourteous to others or incompatible with the best interests of the group. In case of removal, participant shall have no claim for refund of any kind for any portion of the program, used or unused.

Accommodations: Often, quoted hotels are not confirmed until the entire group has made the initial deposit. CSA reserves the right to change hotels, if necessary, within the same category. Changes in hotels do not warrant cancellation by participant without penalty. All rates are based on double occupancy unless otherwise specified.

A limited number of single rooms will be available at a supplemental charge due at the time of final payment

Alterations to Published Itinerary: CSA reserves the right to alter, modify, or withdraw the itinerary of any program if air schedules and/or events beyond its control deem it necessary. Itinerary changes made by contractors abroad are beyond the control of CSA and should changes be made, the participant and CSA are bound accordingly.

Itinerary Deviations: Extensions after the program must be requested in writing to Cultural Studies Abroad as soon as possible but no later than 90 days prior to departure. A \$50.00 per person deviation fee will apply plus any supplemental airfare. Cultural Studies Abroad assumes no liability or responsibility for any participants deviating from the group program. Participants arriving and departing independently are responsible for their own transfers.

Not included in the cost of the program: Visa fees not specifically mentioned; passport and photos; items of a personal nature, such as laundry, telephone calls, beverages or items not covered in included meals; meals not included, optional excursions, excess baggage charges, luggage handling in U.S. at beginning and end of the program; expenses due to flight delays or other irregularities.

Program Price: Program prices are based on rates of exchange, land, and air tariffs as of the date of initial deposit and are subject to adjustment due to circumstances beyond the control of CSA, including lack of participation. Any adjustment to the price for these reasons is not grounds for withdrawal with full refund.

Air Transportation: Departures from the U.S. are on recognized scheduled air carriers utilizing special group fares. The specific airline, fare used, and itinerary is at the discretion of CSA and is not confirmed until the minimum group size has been met. Airline and schedules are subject to change at all times.

Cancellation: Cancellations will only be accepted in writing via email, or mail addressed to Cultural Studies Abroad, 1401 Jones Street, Suite 205, San Francisco, CA, 94109. The date the cancellation is received by CSA shall determine the cancellation date.

Standard Cancellation Fees: the standard cancellation fees apply as follows:

- Up to 90 days prior to departure, \$100.00 per person
- Between 90 and 61 days prior to departure, \$250.00 per person
- Between 60 and 31 days, 50% of the program price
- Between 30 days and day of departure, 100% of program price

