

Cruising back road Vietnam

(Saigon – Dong Xoi – Gia Nghia – Buon Ma Thuot – Lak Lake - Nha Trang)

This program will let you experience the heart and soul of Vietnam away from the main tourist trail. We will start out on Saigon's congested streets and gradually cruise through a landscape transforming from the flat of seemingly endless rice fields, to jungle and foot hills, to pine forests and the breathtaking beauty of rugged mountains. Along the way we will visit and interact with the local people and get an understanding of day to day life. After a couple of relaxing days, we will set out again into the central highlands to continue the adventure. Along the way we will stop at factories, plantations, national parks and other points of interest. Prepare for an adventure of a lifetime. This tour is very fluid and destinations or accommodations can vary due to weather, illness, or any other number of unforeseen circumstances, therefore the following is a general outline.

Day 1 Saigon - Dong Xoi

We will pick you up at your hotel and depart after an early breakfast and negotiate Ho Chi Minh traffic on a drive to the Cu Chi Tunnels. The rest of the day will be cruising the back roads through rice fields and farms to Dong Xoi stopping at various points of interest and interacting with local people. **Decent L**

Day 2 Dong Xoi – Gia Nghia

The morning will find us driving through a changing landscape from rice fields and jungle then into foot hills and mountains. We will visit minority villages and stop at other points of interest along the way. There will be a lot of photograph opportunities. **B,L**

Day 3 Gia Nghia – Buon Ma Thuot

We will be driving some very small roads that come very close to the Cambodian border and be on part of the original Ho Chi Minh Trail of fame. Until recently, this area was closed to all foreigners and it offers us a unique opportunity to see the Vietnamese people as they really are untouched by foreign influence. As we approach BMT we will visit a rubber plantation, pepper farm and other agricultural venues. **B,L Eden Hotel 2 star**

Day 4 Buon Ma Thuot - Lak Lake

Today we will explore the trails of a National park, and visit Draysap waterfall. We will also visit pepper, rubber, and coffee plantations, make some stops in local hill tribe villages and perhaps go on an Elephant ride (optional) before heading to our resort where you can enjoy a quiet evening in your own bungalow and perhaps enjoy a cold drink by the pool. We also have the option of having a local tribeswoman prepare our dinner and perhaps. **B,L**

Day 5 Lak Lake – Nha Trang

The drive from Lak Lake to Nha Trang is a beautiful transition from the fields and plantations of the highlands to jungle and mountains, finally descending to sea level and the coastline. Along the route we will visit a brick and furniture factory, a coco plantation, shrimp farms and a fishing village before arriving at your hotel in Nha Trang. **B,L**

Please note that Dalat can be added for day 3 and the trip will become 6 days. The trip can be done in reverse so we can start in Nha Trang and finish in Saigon (perhaps preferable)