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Vietnam Discovery Tour

3 Week Conducted Tour

only **\$3,885** per person twin share

This price includes airport taxes and levies

This is great value for a tour of Vietnam as all of the following are included:

- ❖ Return air fares from Sydney, Brisbane & Melbourne into Saigon and out of Hanoi with Singapore Airlines plus two flights within Vietnam with Vietnam Airlines.
- ❖ A 20-day coach and air tour of Vietnam, including 2 days touring the hill-tribe areas of Sapa and 2 days and a night cruising world heritage Halong Bay in a luxury junk.
- ❖ All Entrance fees.
- ❖ Service of a Vietnamese tour guide and if there are 12 or more participants an Australian tour escort.
- ❖ All transport and transfers.
- ❖ Very good accommodation mainly 3 - 4 star.
- ❖ Most meals.



If you do not have a travel partner, but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try and match you up with someone else in the same position. If you require a single room, there will be an additional charge of \$985.

Note: There is an optional 3 day extension to Angkor Wat available for an additional \$945 per person twin share and \$1055 single room.

Tour departs Australia
16th August and returns
5th September 2016

Itinerary for Vietnam Discovery Tour - August 2016

Note: Meals are included in the itinerary as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

16.08.16 Australia - Saigon, Vietnam

Sydney passengers depart at 7.55am on SQ 212, arriving in Singapore at 2.15pm. Brisbane passengers depart at 9.10am on SQ 256, arriving in Singapore at 3.30pm. Melbourne passengers depart at 10.30am on SQ 238, arriving in Singapore at 4.20pm.

All passengers depart Singapore at 5.35pm on SQ 186, arriving in Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) at 6.40pm. Upon arrival we will be met and transferred to our hotel, located right on the main street of downtown Saigon, conveniently situated for you to wander around.

Accommodation: Huong Sen Hotel

17.08.16 Saigon

(B/L/D)

In the morning there is a short walking tour around downtown Saigon, passing the Opera House, City Hall, Notre Dame Cathedral and The Central Post Office. After that we visit the former Presidential Palace (Reunification Palace), the War Remnants Museum and China Town, with a short walk around Cho Lon, the biggest wholesale market in Vietnam. Then visit Thien Hau Temple, which is the oldest Chinese temple dedicated to the Sea Goddess. Pho (traditional Vietnamese noodle soup) and spring rolls will be for lunch. The afternoon is at leisure. In the evening there will be an excellent dinner cruise on the Saigon River.

Accommodation: Huong Sen Hotel

18.08.16 Saigon - Cu Chi Tunnels - Cao Dai Temple

(B/L/D)

A full day tour to visit Cu Chi Tunnels and experience the Cao Dai religion in Tay Ninh. We leave Saigon in the early morning to visit the Cu Chi Tunnels (65km northwest of Saigon). The Cu Chi Tunnels are an amazing complex of underground tunnels used during the Vietnam War. Continue to Tay Ninh Church, which is the centre of the unusual Cao Dai religion, which combines Buddhism, Christianity, Taoism and Confucianism. See this spectacular church with worshippers attending the noon service in their colourful tunics. Lunch is at a good restaurant in Tay Ninh. Return to Saigon in the late afternoon. Dinner this evening is at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Huong Sen Hotel

19.08.16 Saigon - My Tho (Mekong Delta)

(B/L)

Morning departure from the hotel for our coach trip to My Tho, which is a two hour drive from Ho Chi Minh City. My Tho is a prosperous town of 250,000 inhabitants in the Mekong Delta. It is famous for its extensive orchards and immense rice fields. Enjoy a boat ride on the Mekong River as well as a horse ride on a cart, which was the traditional transportation of the area. We visit an orchard on an island, coconut candy workshop and a bee farm, with lunch included at a farmer's house. Return to Saigon in the late afternoon.

Accommodation: Huong Sen Hotel

20.08.16 Saigon - Dalat

(B/L/D)

Depart Saigon for Dalat, a cool mountain resort built by the French in the 1920's as a hill station. Its lakes, waterfall, evergreen forest and gardens make Dalat one of

the most enjoyable places in Vietnam. We have a beautiful drive through rubber, coffee and tea plantations, which includes a stopover at La Nga floating village. Lunch is at Lien Do restaurant in Bao Loc. Arrive Dalat and check in at the hotel. Dinner is at a local restaurant.
Accommodation: Hoang Anh Resort

21.08.16
(B/L/D)

Dalat

This morning there is a short drive to the Dalat cable car station for a 15 minute ride overlooking beautiful pine forests and vegetable gardens. We then visit a flower garden and beautiful Datanla waterfall. We also see the bizarre Crazy House. Next we have a short train ride through vegetable and flower farms, followed by lunch at a local restaurant. In the late afternoon we travel 12kms from town to a Lat Village to see the Khor people, who are the original people of this area. We enjoy a one hour interesting dance and gong performance, before having dinner at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Hoang Anh Resort

22.08.16
(B/L)

Dalat - Nha Trang

Depart Dalat on a scenic four hour drive to Nha Trang. Nha Trang is a very popular beach resort for both Vietnamese and foreign tourists. Lunch will be at the excellent Sailing Club restaurant. In the afternoon enjoy a very interesting mud bath. (You soak in the hot mud and mineral water, jet spray shower and swim in a mineral water pool).

Accommodation: Sunrise Hotel

23.08.16
(B/L)

Nha Trang

Enjoy a morning boat trip to visit an offshore fishing village and then enjoy swimming and snorkelling off Tam Island, in the South China Sea. Lunch will be at a local BBQ restaurant in town. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to relax or further explore Nha Trang.

Accommodation: Sunrise Hotel

24.08.16
(B/L)

Nha Trang - Danang - Hoi An

Transfer to the airport for our early morning flight to Danang. After our arrival into Danang, we stop at the Five Marble Mountains and China Beach, where the Americans came for rest and relaxation during the Vietnam war. There is a 40 minute drive to Hoi An and then a short walking tour to orient yourself with the town. Lunch is at the excellent 'Ly Cafe'. The rest of the day is at leisure to discover the historical town of Hoi An, which was a prosperous seaport city during the 16th to 18th centuries. Its community of foreign merchants resulted in a unique architectural style with Vietnamese, Chinese, Japanese and French influences. It is a very laid back town, and a good place for shopping, especially tailoring. Hoi An has been known as the tailor capital of Vietnam with hundreds of tailor, art and souvenir shops near the hotel and in town.

Accommodation: Hoi An Hotel

25.08.16
(B/D)

Hoi An

Free time to shop and wander around Hoi An. In the mid afternoon there is a one hour cruise on the Thu Bon River, before a beautiful dinner with a cooking demonstration at 'Market Place' Restaurant.

Accommodation: Hoi An Hotel

26.08.16
(B/L/D)

Hoi An - Hue

Depart Hoi An for Hue, the homeland of the Nguyen dynasty, the last dynasty of Vietnam which ruled the country from 1802 to 1945. We cross the Hai Van Pass (Pass of the Ocean Clouds), seeing many pretty red-tiled villages with fruit orchards and enjoying spectacular views of the sky and sea. Arrive in Hue and have lunch at cafe 'Mandarin' in town. In the afternoon we have a one hour cyclo ride around the city. We then have a visit to the Citadel which was built from 1804 - 1833. Then to Thien Mu Pagoda, which is famous throughout Vietnam. Afterwards there is a boat trip back to the hotel on the Perfume River. Dinner tonight is at 'La Carambole' restaurant.

Accommodation: Saigon Morin Hotel

27.08.16
(B/L/D)

Hue - Hanoi

This morning we visit the tomb of Tu Duc, the 4th emperor of the Nguyen Dynasty who ruled the country from 1848 to 1883 and the tomb of Khai Dinh, the 12th emperor of the Nguyen Dynasty who ruled the country from 1916 to 1925, a beautiful mosaic building. Lunch will be at 'Royal Park' restaurant. In the afternoon we are transferred to the airport for the flight to Hanoi. Upon arrival in Hanoi, we are transferred to the hotel for an overnight stay. Dinner this evening is at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Muong Thanh Hanoi Centre Hotel

28.08.16
(B/L/D)

Hanoi - Bac Ha Sunday Market - Sapa

Early this morning we depart Hanoi for Bac Ha, which holds a regular market every Sunday for ethnic minorities. We'll see the gathering of hundreds of people of H'Mong, Dao and Tay ethnic minorities wearing their colourful traditional costumes. It is a riot of colour and fun. There is time to explore the colourful market and meet the local tribal people to appreciate their culture and tradition. We visit a palace built in the 1920's for the so-called King H'Mong and then have lunch in Bac Ha. Afterwards we continue to Sapa, and arrive in the late afternoon. Dinner this evening is at a local restaurant.

Accommodation: Sunny Mountain Hotel or similar

29.08.16
(B/L)

Sapa

Sapa is a hill station built in 1922. The whole area is spectacular, as Sapa lies in a valley surrounded by paddy fields in a variety of shades of green and is overlooked by Vietnam's highest mountain, Mount Fansipan. We will see the local minority groups, the H'mong and the Dzao people, the largest and the most colourful ethnic groups in the region. After breakfast, take a 4 kilometre drive to the rim of a deep valley. Along the road we'll see H'Mong, Dzay and Dzao minority people dressed in their traditional costumes. There is a two hour walk at a gentle pace around Ta Van and Lao Chai, home to all three minorities. Observe their daily lives for a rare glimpse into their culture and costumes. We enjoy a traditional music show of ethnic minorities of the area and then return to town for lunch. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Accommodation: Sunny Mountain Hotel or similar

30.08.16
(B/L/D)

Sapa - Halong Bay

Today we leave Sapa on an interesting and scenic drive to Halong Bay. We have a picnic lunch on the way. We arrive in Halong in the late afternoon and have dinner

at the hotel.

Accommodation: Saigon Halong Hotel (Ocean View Room)

31.08.16
(B/L/D)

Halong Bay

This morning is at leisure to enjoy the spectacular view of the bay from your room's balcony. Halong Bay is one of the seven natural wonders of the world and listed as a world heritage site. It is an area of outstanding natural beauty. It is known in Vietnamese as 'Dragon Descending Into The Sea'. Picturesque Halong Bay has more than 1,969 limestone islets rising from the clear emerald water. Many of them contain beautiful grottoes. This afternoon we board the Victory Cruise and have lunch on board. We have a fantastic cruise on Halong Bay with a bamboo boat ride on the way to visit Vung Vieng fishing village, followed by a swim in the beautiful water off the boat. Enjoy dinner on board while watching the sunset, depending on the weather. If you wish you can participate in some squid fishing.
Accommodation: Victory Cruise

01.09.16
(B/L/D)

Halong Bay - Hanoi

You may wish to start this morning with a Tai Chi lesson on the sundeck before breakfast. We then climb a few a few hundred steps to visit Sung Sot Cave. We also see Bai Tu Long Bay, Toad Island and Bai Tho Mountain while cruising. We have breakfast and a buffet brunch on board before we disembark and head back to Hanoi, arriving in the late afternoon. Dinner this evening is at a local restaurant.
Accommodation: Muong Thanh Hanoi Centre Hotel

02.09.16
(B/L/D)

Hanoi

This morning enjoy a one hour cyclo ride around the Old and the French Quarters of Hanoi. Then we have visits to Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum and residence and One Pillar Pagoda. We also visit the Temple of Literature, which was built in the 11th century and is known as Vietnam's first university. Lunch is at KOTO, whose owner employs and trains disadvantaged Vietnamese in the hospitality industry. After lunch there is a short walking tour around the Old Quarter. In the evening enjoy the water puppet show, the unique art of the Vietnamese since the 11th Century, before having dinner at a local restaurant.
Accommodation: Muong Thanh Hanoi Centre Hotel

03.09.16
(B/D)

Hanoi

Today is at leisure. In the evening there is a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.
Accommodation: Muong Thanh Hanoi Centre Hotel

04.09.16
(B)

Hanoi - Singapore - Australia

This morning we depart for Hanoi Airport. Depart Hanoi at 12.35pm on SQ 175, arriving in Singapore at 5.05pm.

Sydney passengers depart Singapore at 8.15pm on SQ 221, arriving in Sydney at 5.55am (05.09.16).

Melbourne passengers depart Singapore at 9.15pm on SQ 227, arriving in Melbourne at 6.40am (05.09.16).

Brisbane passengers depart Singapore at 9.15pm on SQ 235, arriving in Brisbane at 7.05am (05.09.16).



Itinerary for Angkor Wat Extension

Included meals are indicated as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

04.09.16 Hanoi - Siem Reap

(B/D)

Today we transfer to Hanoi Airport, departing at 3.30pm on Vietnam Airlines flight VN837, arriving in Siem Reap at 5.10pm. We will be met and transferred to the hotel for check in. Dinner is at the hotel.

Accommodation: Tara Angkor Hotel

05.09.16 Siem Reap

(B/L/D)

Breakfast at the hotel. We begin our exploration of the Angkorian temples this morning by visiting the ancient city of Angkor Thom. Surrounded by walls with a height of 8 metres and length of 12 kms, this city was the last capital of the Khmer Empire. Five huge gates with huge stone faces provide access. Angkor Thom holds many important monuments, which you will visit, including the Bayon Temple, located in the exact centre, the Baphoun, Terrace of the Elephants and Terrace of the Leper King. We continue to Ta Prohm, a unique temple that has been left to nature with trees and vines growing amongst the structures. This is one of the most photogenic temples in the Angkor area and gained fame as the 'Tomb Raider' temple, after featuring in the Angelina Jolie movie. Enjoy walking along the sandy paths and under huge banyan trees as you explore this 12th century temple. Afterwards we return to the town of Siem Reap and enjoy an Asian fusion set lunch at Mahob. Combining the talents of the chef/owner with the freshest local ingredients, the restaurant offers a peaceful location to experiment with tantalising Khmer and fusion offerings. Mahob is set in a carefully restored Khmer wooden house. We then return to the hotel, with the remainder of the afternoon at leisure. This evening enjoy dinner whilst watching a show of Apsara dancing, first performed in the court of kings at Angkor. A set menu of Khmer cuisine will be served as we enjoy the show.

Accommodation: Tara Angkor Hotel

06.09.16 Siem Reap – Angkor Wat

(B/L)

This morning we take a remork (similar to the Thai tuk tuk) to continue our exploration of the Temples of Angkor, by visiting Angkor Wat, the largest religious building in the world. Angkor Wat is a temple complex built for King Suryavarman II in the early 12th century as his state temple and capital city. Angkor Wat is the most significant and best preserved temple in the area. It is the only one to have remained a significant religious centre since its foundation, first Hindu and then Buddhist. A magnificent moat surrounds the temple on all sides, with a long causeway providing access. An alternative eastern entrance is the best way to start our morning tour and avoid the crowds. Take your time to look at the more than 3,000 Apsara (heavenly maiden) carvings, all of which are different. Afterwards we head for lunch at Marum restaurant, which is a training restaurant where the proceeds of the restaurant go to Friends International. Featuring a winning mix of creative local cuisine, Marum is named after Moringa or “Tree of life”. This is very appropriate as we enjoy a great dining experience that helps build a new life for the disadvantaged young adult students training here. A set menu is served in the Cambodian style. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure to relax at the hotel. This evening we enjoy some modern Khmer theatre at a performance of Phare, the Cambodian Circus, by professional artists from Phare Ponleu Selpak. Originally a project set up in refugee camps as a way to encourage young people to express

themselves using art, the Phare Circus is slowly becoming a world wide name and a good example of responsible tourism that has been a success story. Enjoy an hour long show, which is a great example of modern Cambodia and mixes theatre, dance, music, juggling and contortion. Afterwards we return to the hotel.
Accommodation: Tara Angkor Hotel

07.09.16 Siem Reap - Singapore

(B/L)

This morning we travel to Tonle Sap Lake, the largest freshwater lake in South East Asia. The lake and its waters are the lifeblood of the country and millions of people depend on it. Officially a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve observing life on the lake makes for an interesting half day visit. We board a traditional wooden boat to visit Kompong Khleang, one of the lesser visited villages on the lake. Afterwards we return to Siem Reap for lunch at Champey, ideally located in front of the Old Market in an historic building in the French Quarter of Siem Reap. The restaurant offers both indoor and outdoor dining. The Khmer specialities offered by Champey are inspired from Royal Khmer recipes. Discover the tastes of Cambodian cuisine with a Khmer set menu.

In modern Cambodia today, there are many projects helping to revive lost art, music and culture. One such example is Artisan d'Angkor. We visit the workshop and see stone carvings, wooden sculptures, lacquer work and paintings, all being produced and many of which can be purchased. Later we transfer to the Siem Reap Airport for our flights home.

Depart Siem Reap at 6.30pm on Silk Air flight MI 636, arriving in Singapore at 9.35pm.

08.09.16 Singapore - Sydney

Sydney passengers depart Singapore at 12.45am on SQ 231, arriving in Sydney at 10.25am.

COST:

The cost for the Angkor Wat extension is \$945 per person twin share and \$1055 for a single room. For Brisbane and Melbourne passengers, it should be possible to arrange a similar flight from Singapore to Brisbane and Melbourne. Please inquire with our office for further details.

Conditions for Macleay Valley Travel's Vietnam Discovery Tour

Deposits and Payments - A non-refundable deposit of \$200 per person is payable within 7 days of booking. If you are doing the Cambodian extension, an additional deposit of \$200 is required. These deposits are non refundable should you later cancel. The balance is payable in full 8 weeks prior to departure.

Refunds and Cancellations - Cancellations after final payment will result in a refund limited to whatever we can recoup from the airline.

Insurance - Adequate travel insurance is essential. We can arrange this for you if desired. Macleay Valley Travel offers Suresave Travel Insurance. Please note that we can only process your travel insurance when we have received full payment for the insurance and the signed Suresave Travel Insurance application form, located on the last page of the Suresave Travel Insurance information booklet. Until this time the travel insurance cannot be processed and will not be valid. Macleay Valley Travel will bare no responsibility for any consequences that may occur as a result of an incomplete insurance application.

Passports - All travellers require a current passport with at least 6 months left on it at the end of the tour. Non-Australian passport holders require a re-entry visa for Australia. Visas are required for all passport holders to Vietnam. Visa fee for an Australian passport holder is \$95 and we charge \$30 for processing. If you are doing the Cambodian extension, the Cambodian visa fee is \$50 and we charge \$30 for processing. Please note visa fees are subject to any increases imposed by the Vietnamese and Cambodian Consulates. We do not recommend that you apply for your Vietnamese visa online, as this can result in delays at the airport when you arrive. There are also certain risks associated with this process which we hold no responsibility for. Please note that if you intend to get a visa online/arrival, you do so at your own risk. The tour group will not wait for any time spent obtaining visas at the airport & you may need to arrange a separate transfer at your own expense.

Basic Tour Price and Taxes - Air taxes and fuel levies are included in the basic tour price if the tour is paid in full on or before the due date on the final invoice. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to charge for any increase in air taxes and fuel levies if the tour is not paid in full by the due date.

Not Included in the Cost - Travel insurance, visas and all items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, drinks, excess baggage, tips, meals (except those specified in the itinerary), etc. are not included in the cost. Similarly, credit card payments can only be accepted if 2% is added to the price to help defray the heavy merchant fees charged to us by the credit card companies. There is a 3% surcharge for Diners Club.

Breakaway Fee - All fully inclusive prices are based on group travel and any deviation from the set itinerary will incur a breakaway fee. The breakaway fee for most deviations including a post-tour extension on this tour is \$55 per person. Please inquire with our office for prices on any pre-tour extensions.

Booking through other Agents - As we keep the cost of our tours as low as possible, there is insufficient margin for us to be able to pay commission to other travel agents, so some bookings can only be accepted if the client pays the other agent's commission.

Accreditation - Macleay Valley Travel is a fully accredited travel agency under the AFTA (Australian Federation of Travel Agents) ATAS - AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme. As such, you are assured of a consumer focused and quality assured business, ensuring professional conduct and ethical business practices. We are happy for any prospective traveller with us to check us out with your local Consumer Affairs (Fair Trading) department.

Twin Share Bookings - If you do not have a travel partner, but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try and assign you with another traveller but this is not guaranteed. We assign passengers by their gender, on a first come, first served basis and do not assign twin share passengers according to their age, profession, interests etc. There are risks with sharing a room with a person you do not know, and Macleay Valley Travel accepts no responsibility if you are incompatible with your assigned room mate. Additionally, if you are assigned a travelling companion to share with and they cancel off the tour prior to making the final payment, then you will either be required to pay the single room supplement or we will try our best to assign you with another twin share passenger, if one is available.

Health and Fitness - Macleay Valley Travel recommends that the passenger is reasonably healthy and/or fit to participate in this tour. Persons with a disability requiring special assistance must be accompanied by a companion. Macleay Valley Travel and their representatives cannot provide this service. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to accept/decline or terminate a passenger's participation in the tour under certain circumstances. Macleay Valley Travel is legally not permitted to provide medical advice as to vaccinations/injections which you may require for this tour and advise you to consult your local medical practitioner for specific medical advice. There are no compulsory injections required for this tour.

Limitation of Liability - As Macleay Valley Travel acts only as agent for the Airlines, Hotels, Coach Companies etc., providing accommodation, transportation and other services, Macleay Valley Travel shall not be liable or responsible for death or injury to any person or loss or damage to any property including baggage arising out of or connection with any transportation, accommodation or other services, or resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, fire, breakdown in machinery or equipment, acts of Government or other authorities, de jure or defacto wars, whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, delays or cancellations caused by changes in schedules or itinerary, or over bookings or defaults or for any causes beyond Macleay Valley Travel's control or any loss or damage resulting from improper or insufficient passports, visas or other documents and neither Macleay Valley Travel, and its servants or employees shall be or become liable or responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the tour member as a result of the foregoing causes. Additionally you must meet the entry requirements for each country you visit. Macleay Valley Travel will not be liable if you are denied entry to a country for any reason, including a past criminal history. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to modify the itinerary or the accommodation if circumstances make this necessary, provided that the amended itinerary is of equal value or greater value than that of the original program.

MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL - BOOKING FORM

PLEASE PRINT DETAILS CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS AND ALSO

A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR PASSPORT MUST BE SENT WITH BOOKING FORM

Name of Tour : _____ Departure Date: _____

Passenger 1 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Passenger 2 (as written in passport) _____

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** _____ Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Postal Address: _____

_____ **PostCode** _____ **Email** _____

Telephone / Fax Number: _____ **Mobile** _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Passport Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Passport Nationality: _____

Passport Nationality _____

(Passport must have 6 months validity from the time of tour completion)

Single room / Twin beds / Double bed: (Room type is subject to availability)

Circle which airport you wish to depart from: SYDNEY / MELBOURNE / BRISBANE

Do you have any existing medical conditions?: _____

Special Dietary Needs: _____

Optional Extensions: _____

Would you like to receive details of our travel insurance?: YES / NO (Please Circle)

In case of emergency, please notify :

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please return this sheet with your non-refundable deposit of \$200 per person.

DECLARATION. I have read and understand fully the booking conditions and I accept them.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

A copy of passport is required to verify spelling of name. If this is not provided and the information we have for the airline is incorrect and ticket is issued, then the airline will charge a reissue fee.