



VFP CHAPTER 160 – Hoà Bình  
**Revised Schedule: Viet Nam Peace Tour 2019**  
**SEPTEMBER 07 - 22, 2019**



VFP tour group poses after a visit to Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum in Ha Noi.

Since the March 2019 tour announced by VFP Chapter 160 in Viet Nam was cancelled – not enough sign-ups for the trip – we have had new requests for another tour. So we have designed a fall schedule with added options, Ha Long Bay and Phong Nha Cave, for VFP members who may not have come back yet, or who want to return one more time, and their spouses, family, and friends.

**COST:** \$2,900 for 16 days in-country travel to include hotels, meals, transportation + roundtrip airfare from West Coast + \$1,000 donation.

**THE MISSION CONTINUES:** Each tour participant must bring a donation of *at least \$1,000* to be pooled and divided among projects we visit – for bomb clearance, to help victims of Agent Orange, to support hospitals, orphanages, schools, or other family and community needs in Viet Nam. *The \$1,000 donation is mandatory.* We encourage additional donations from individuals not joining the tour and their families, neighbors, civic organizations.

**IMPACT:** In past years nearly \$250,000 has been donated by tour participants to projects supported by VFP 160 all over Viet Nam

# 2019 TOUR ITINERARY

SAT SEP 07 – SUN SEP 22

- DAY 01** | **SAT 07 SEP** Flight from San Francisco via Taipei arrives in Ha Noi Saturday morning. Introductory briefing, sightseeing, overnight at hotel in the historic Old Quarter.
- DAY 02** | **SUN 08 SEP** Tour Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, Uncle Ho's modest house on stilts. Visit museums, relax around Hoan Kiem Lake.
- DAY 03** | **MON 09 SEP** Visit Friendship Village for Agent Orange victims. Roundtable with VN-USA Society, Veterans Association, Agent Orange Victims Association, meet U.S. Embassy staff.
- DAY 04** | **TUE 10 SEP** Drive to Ha Long Bay, board chartered luxury junk for overnight cruise of this World Heritage Site.
- DAY 05** | **WED 11 SEP** Transfer to Hai Phong airport, direct flight to Da Nang, drive to Hoi An ancient town, check in at riverside hotel.
- DAY 06** | **THU 12 SEP** Meet with Da Nang Veterans Association, VUFO, visit Da Nang projects supported by VFP including AO / Dioxin Center No. 3.
- DAY 07** | **FRI 13 SEP** Free time at white sand beaches of Da Nang or Hoi An, optional tourism: marble Mountain, Cham Museum, Quan Am Buddhist overlook. Dinner at David's and Ushi's home.
- DAY 08** | **SAT 14 SEP** Drive across Hai Van Pass to Hue City, check in at Asia Hotel, guided tour of the Citadel and Emperors' tombs.
- DAY 09** | **SUN 15 SEP** Morning visit to Chua Duc Son Buddhist orphanage, free time in Hue City the rest of the day for reading, shopping, relaxing, optional guided tours in the city and beyond.
- DAY 10** | **MON 16 SEP** Drive west to A Luoi, visit AO / Dioxin families supported by VFP. Continue north on Hwy 14, the Ho Chi Minh Trail Hwy, to Quang Tri Province. Overnight in Dong Ha.
- DAY 11** | **TUE 17 SEP** Briefing by Project RENEW, site visits to UXO clearance teams, disability projects, Agent Orange families, battlefields along the DMZ. Overnight in Dong Ha.
- DAY 12** | **WED 18 SEP** Drive north across DMZ, visit Vinh Moc Tunnels, check in at Son Spa Beach Resort in Dong Hoi. Visit P&O mobile outreach program managed by RENEW. Overnight at Son Spa.
- DAY 13** | **THU 19 SEP** Optional visit to Phong Nha Cave where NVA regiments sheltered during bombing of Ho Chi Minh Trail. Flight to HCM City departs 7:40 PM, arrives HCM City 9:10 PM.
- DAY 14** | **FRI 20 SEP** Meet with Veterans Association, VAVA, VUFO. Optional guided tours of War Remnants Museum, Reunification Palace, historic sites
- DAY 15** | **SAT 21 SEP** Sightseeing, shopping along fashionable Dong Khoi Street. Optional excursions including Cao Dai Temple, Cu Chi Tunnels. Closing dinner cruise hosted by Ch 160.
- DAY 16** | **SUN 22 SEP** Morning meeting to decide allocation of donation money among projects visited. Afternoon departure back to the U.S.

**Note 1:** This revised tour schedule includes two additional features for the first time: (1) a visit to World Heritage Site Ha Long Bay; and (2) a visit to Phong Nha Cave in central Viet Nam. The tour has been shortened by a day (in Saigon) so the cost remains the same as previous tours. **Note 2:** Group Flight out of SFO is optional; as long as you can be in Hanoi at 10:00 a.m. on September 7th, you can book with any airline and go by any route you choose.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO HOLD YOUR SEAT, CONTACT:**

**U.S. Tour Coordinator**

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**Viet Nam Tour Coordinator**

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**DATES AND COSTS**

**TOUR DATES:** Group Flight will depart from San Francisco late night on Thursday, SEP 5, arriving in Ha Noi on Saturday morning, SEP 7. Return flight from Ho Chi Minh City to San Francisco will depart mid-afternoon on Sunday, SEP 22 and land in the U.S. on the afternoon of SEP 22 (due to time change).

**TOUR COST:** Participants pay for: (1) airfare to and from Viet Nam – group flight from San Francisco available as a package option, approximately \$900 to \$1,000 (or book your own flight); (2) in-country domestic travel and accommodations – 15 nights, 16 days, includes single room, \$2,900; (3) \$1,000 required minimum donation; (4) fee for 30-day one-entry tourist visa, \$80.

**Note:** *VFP tour organizers and hosts are volunteers. No one is paid. The Hanoi travel company which handles in-country arrangements, Viet Dreamland Travel Co., Ltd., gives us discount prices to allow larger donations to go to VFP 160's beneficiaries.*

**PAYMENTS**

**PAYMENT DEPOSIT:** To reserve your place on the tour – and to lock in the low costs we have negotiated for this tour package – your \$300 deposit must be submitted by close-of-business on Monday, July 1, made out to VFP Chapter 69. After that, prices may go up, with no guarantee that seats will still be available. Send your deposit check (**indicate FOR VFP 160 TOUR 2019**) to:

VFP Chapter 69  
c/o Denny Riley  
5519 Plumas Avenue  
Richmond, CA 94804  
H 510 524 7820 | C 510 367 9376  
E dennyriley7@gmail.com

[REMINDER: If payment is by check, please indicate it is FOR VFP 160 TOUR 2019.]

**DEPOSIT DEADLINE: MONDAY, JULY 1, 2019.**

**CUSTOM OPTIONS:** For anyone who wishes to arrive early or depart late to allow for side trips, for example visits to Cambodia or Laos, we will put you in direct contact with the Viet Dreamland travel team who can make those arrangements for you.