

15 Day VIETNAM Sights & Cooking Tour

with Travelworld Taree and

DONNA CARRIER from Bent on Food Wingham

11 – 25 Mar, 2012

Day 01: Sunday 11 March 2012 Sydney – Hanoi

VN782 DEP: 11:15 ARR: 20:00

Morning depart Sydney with Vietnam Airlines to Hanoi (via Saigon). Upon arrival, meet your tour guide and transfer to hotel. Stay 3 nights at **Mercure Hotel **** or similar.**

Day 2: Monday 12 March Hanoi - Full day cooking tour (B. L. D)

Enjoy your full day cooking class at Hoa Sua or Koto School. You and your mates will experience a traditional cooking class.

09.00: Meet the chef, briefing of the program. Enjoy tea or coffee.

09.15: Short visit to Hang Be Market. Learn to choose fresh ingredients needed for the lesson.

10.30: Back to the restaurant for a little rest, washing hands, wearing apron, chef hat and ready for cooking recipe, ingredients and utensils will be placed properly on each table Watch chef's demonstration and start practicing.

Step 1: Introduction

Brief introduction on Vietnamese food, ingredients, cooking utensils.

Step 2: Cook and enjoy

Not just observing but you will actually prepare and cook by yourself under the instruction of the chef from the beginning to the end, learning how to marinate and to spice will be the most crucial lesson. You will also enjoy decorating dishes with carrot flowers, lemon grass stems, banana leaves and curved chili.

The authentic magical dipping sauce mixed from fish sauce, water, sugar, lemon, chili, garlic, pepper and herbs is very easy to make.

12:00: Enjoy all delicious dishes you have just cooked!

14.00: Transfer back to hotel. The rest of the day is free.

Day 3: Tuesday 13 March Hanoi – Halong Bay (B. L. D)

Morning enjoy city tour in Hanoi. Then proceed to Ha Long Bay and drive pass some of the beautiful rural landscape before arriving at the World Heritage site of Ha Long Bay this afternoon. When you arrive in Halong Bay, board the deluxe overnight Junk Boat. Enjoy a welcome drink and lunch of freshly caught seafood served on board, visit Thien Cung cave. Overnight on board (Kayaking is optional).

Day 4: Wednesday 14 March Halong – Hanoi – Hue (B. L. D)

Morning transfers to Hanoi Airport for your flight to Hue. Upon arrival you will be met and transfer to four-star **Huong Giang Hotel**. After lunch, take a boat ride along the romantic Perfume River and stopping at Thien Mu Pagoda to see the 7-storey octagonal tower and an old Austin car, which transported Thich Quang to Saigon in 1963 for his self-immolation. Then continue to visit Khai Dinh Tomb. Stay 2 nights in Hue.



Donna Carrier



Day 5: Thursday 15 March Hue – full day Cooking tour (B. L. D)

Today, enjoy full day cooking tour in Tinh Gia Vien restaurant with traditional Hue cuisines. Overnight stays in Hue.

Day 6: Friday 16 March Hue - Hoi An (B. L. D)

Morning visit Imperial Citadel from where the Nguyen Dynasty ruled between 1802 and 1945. Then depart Hue for Hoi An by road via Danang (approx 120km). We drive over the mighty Hai Van Pass for whole view of Pacific Ocean and famous Long Co fishing village. Visit the Marble Mountain village on the way and check in to Hotel.

In the afternoon, take a walking tour through the narrow winding streets of the Ancient Quarter visiting Phuc Kien Temple, Chinese Assembly Halls, the 200-year old Tam Ky ancestral house, the Japanese Covered Bridge and the colourful local markets. 2nts in Hoi An.

Day 7: Saturday 17 March Hoi An – Cooking tour at Red Bridge (B. L. D)

Experience the most amazing cooking class in Hoi An at famous Red Bridge restaurant.

Schedule:

- Visit Hoi An's colourful market, and experience the amazing sights, sounds and aromas of this busy market. We will have the opportunity to interact with the local sellers and purchase some of the ingredients to be used in the cooking lesson later.
- We board the Red Bridge boat for a leisurely cruise (25 minutes) along the Hoi An River to the Red Bridge Cooking School. This is a chance to view local river life, so make sure your camera is handy.
- On arrival, we explore the cooking school's herb and vegetable garden, before learning about some of Hoi An's and Vietnam's well-known dishes. The cooking lesson runs for about 2 hours – each dish is first demonstrated by the Red Bridge chef's, before we prepare the same dish ourselves. Included in the class is a brief introduction to Vietnamese food carving (plate decoration).
- After the lesson, we sit down and eat what we have cooked.

Day 8: Sunday 18 March Hoi An – Nha Trang (B)

Take the morning flight to Nha Trang, a beautiful costal city. On arrival, you are taken to our Hotel. In the afternoon, city tour around to visit Long Son Pagoda, Ponaga Temple and Dam Market. 2 nts in Nha Trang.

Day 9: Monday 19 March Nha Trang – Cooking tour (B. L. D)

Full day cooking tour in Nha Trang, Enjoy a day away from the city by boat alongside of Cai River to have cooking class in the countryside

Day 10: Tuesday 20 March Nha Trang (B.L)

Island tour this morning, visit fishing village and watch coral reef at Mun Island. Lunch at Con Se Tre Island. Disembark the cruise and enjoy mud bath and relax.



Day 11: Wednesday 21 March Nha Trang – Saigon (B L D)

Fly to Saigon this morning. City tour in Saigon includes Notre Dame Cathedral, the Old Post Office, and the War Museum where we can view the photos of American & Vietnam War. Stop at the Reunification Palace; a glimpse into the lifestyle of the democratic regime of former South Vietnam for taking photos. Evening Dinner Cruise on the Saigon River..... 3 nts in Saigon.

Day 12: Thursday 22 March Saigon – Full day cooking tour (B. L. D)

In the morning enjoy cooking class at Vietnam cookery Central (8h30 - 12h30). From 11h00-14h00: you will join the Cooking class at Rex hotel. Detail Menu will be based on request of exact day (it has 7 menus for 7 days in a week- 1 dish will be performed)



Day 13: Friday 23 March Saigon – Mekong Delta – Cooking class - Saigon (B. L. D)

Morning departure for Mekong Delta (Vinh Long Province), drive overland to Cai Be, in the heart of the Mekong Delta. On arrival Cai Be, board a sampan boat to visit Cai Be floating market experience how local people exchanging their goods, fruit and many other commodities on the river. We will land on one of the islands and have cooking class in a garden house. Late afternoon we drive back to Saigon.



Day 14: Saturday 24 March Saigon – Sydney (B)

Morning free leisure time. Afternoon transfer to airport for your 9.05pm flight Ho Chi Minh to Sydney with Vietnam Airlines home.

Day 15: Sunday 25 March Sydney Arrival 9.15am

Morning arrive in Sydney with exciting memories.

COSTING: \$3,765 P.P (Twin Share)

Single Supplement: \$680

**** Priced on minimum 18 passengers*****

DEPOSIT \$765 pp within 7 days of booking – insurance should be taken when non refundable deposit is paid
BALANCE by 11 January 2012 - Credit Card (V&MC) incurs a 1.8% merchant fee (Amex/Diners N/A)

Tour Inclusions:

- Return international & Domestic airfare with Vietnam Airlines
- Current departure taxes of \$310 (taxes will change)
- 4 star hotel accommodation (twin share)
- Deluxe transports & transfers in Vietnam
- All meals and shows as per itinerary and cooking classes
- All entry fees and administration fees in Vietnam
- Vietnam Single Entry Visa (single entry)
- Tipping – Gratuities for guides & drivers for whole trip

Tour Exclusions:

- Travel insurance - is compulsory to participate in this group tour. Special group coverage to age 70yrs with no pre-existing illness is \$125 pp with a nil excess. Plan L Suresave – underwritten by Lloyds of London – Travelworld can assist with any questions to make sure you have the correct coverage

**BOOKINGS:- Travelworld Taree
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