

VIETNAM BATTLEFIELD TOURS

Presents:

220th Aviation Company

RETURN to VIETNAM

15 days: May 4 – 18, 2014

DAILY ITINERARY:

Day 1 & 2 (Sunday – Monday, 4-5 May 2014) – **ENROUTE**

Report to Los Angeles International Terminal by 8:30 p.m. and proceed to ticketing counter. Depart for Taipei and lose one day crossing the **International Dateline**.

Day 3: (Tuesday, 6 May) – **HANOI**

After a short layover in **Taipei**, we depart for **Vietnam**. At Hanoi's **Noi Bai Airfield**, we proceed through immigration, retrieve our bags, clear customs, and board our motorcoach and cross the **Red River** and its **dikes** to explore the **Ha Noi** environs. Our first stop is **JPAC (Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command)** for a command briefing on their efforts to find missing Americans. We then visit the **John McCain Monument**. Tonight we enjoy our Welcome Dinner.

Meals: **B (in flight) /L/D**

Day 4: (Wednesday, 7 May) – **HANOI to HUE**

This morning we visit the **Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum**, the **Ho Chi Minh House**, the **One Pillar Pagoda**, the fascinating **War Museum**, and the **Hoa Lo Prison (Hanoi Hilton)**. After lunch, we continue to **Noi Bai Airfield** and catch our flight to **Phu Bai Airfield**. After touchdown, we motor north on **Highway One** and transfer to our hotel on the southern bank

of the **Perfume River** in **Hue** (the old Imperial Capital of Vietnam) for a relaxing evening. Be sure to enjoy the hotel pool. After dinner, you can roam the fascinating shops on **Le Loi Street** until late at night.

Meals: **B/L/D**

Day 5: (Thursday, 8 May) – HUE

Today is devoted to the study of the 1968 Tet Offensive battles for Hue. We will first walk the southern battle. We follow the actions of 1/1 and 2/5, covering, among others, the **Shell Gas Station**, the former **MACV Compound**, **Tran Cao Van Street**, **Girl's High School**, **Hue University**, **Treasury**, **Public Health Building**, **Provincial Capital Building** area, the **Church of the Redemptress**, and the **ARVN BOQ**. After lunch we visit the **Citadel**, with its ramparts and towers, and visit sites specific to the northern battle, including **Phase Line Green**, the **Chuck Meadows Gate** and the **Dong Ba Gate**. We finish at the **Imperial Palace** gate blown by 1/5, which allowed the ARVN to enter and lower the NVA flag that had flown from the main flagpole for 24 days. We then visit the **Forbidden City**, home to the ancient emperors.

Meals: **B/L/D**

Day 6: (Friday, 9 May) – HUE to DONG HA

This morning we take a relaxing **Dragon Boat** cruise up the beautiful Perfume River to the **Thien Mu Pagoda** and the **Tu Duc Tombs**. After lunch we head north on **Highway One** toward **Dong Ha**, stopping at sites along the way, such as **Quang Tri City** and the **Ai Tu Airfield**. Before checking into our hotel, we explore the city which has now overgrown the Dong Ha airbase.

Meals: **B/L/D**

Day 7: (Saturday, 10 May) – DONG HA

Departing early this morning, we first stop at the **Dong Ha Bridge** (destroyed by John Ripley which stopped the initial NVA advance during the 1972 Easter Offensive). Next, we pass through the villages of **Mai Xa Chanh** and **My Loc**. Taking the beach road we cross into **North Vietnam** over the **Song Ben Hai**, the river that was the only true physical demarcation between the North and South. We then explore the tunnel complex in the NVA artillery village of **Vinh Moc**. On our return from the North, we merge onto Highway One and cross the **Peace Bridge** making a stop at **Gio Linh FSB Forward** (Alpha 2) located on the forward edge of the **DMZ** on the south. Next we visit the **Marketplace** and **Con Thien** (the Hill of Angels). Following the route of the **Rough Riders**, we cross the **Washout**, pass **C-2**, **C-3**, and stop at the **Cam Lo Bridge**. We return to Dong Ha for the evening. Today we traversed the four quadrants of **Leatherneck Square**: Gio Linh, Con Thien, Cam Lo, and Dong Ha.

Meals: **B/L/D**

Day 8: (Sunday, 11 May) – DONG HA to LAO BAO

This very early this morning, we head west on **Route 9**. Our first stop will be **Camp Carroll**, the joint services artillery plateau. We continue on to the **Rockpile** and the **Razorback**. Along the way we will come upon other sites that were of military importance during the war, including the **Khe Gia Bridge**, **Vandergrift Combat Base** (LZ Stud), and **Ca Lu**. Next is a stop at the **Da Krong Bridge** for photos and visit a **Bru Montagnard** village. After lunch in Khe Sanh village, we visit **Khe Sanh Combat Base** where we will spend ample time exploring. Our final stop is the **Lang Vei Special Forces Camp**, overrun in the first ever NVA tank assault. **Co Roc Mountain** soars to the heavens just across the border. Tonight we stay in the Laotian border town of **Lao Bao** in Spartan accommodations.

Meals: **B/L/D**

Day 9: (Monday, 12 May) – LAO BAO to HUE

After breakfast, we return east on Route 9 for a short while and then head south deep into the **Da Krong** and **A Shau Valleys**. We stop at the town of **A Loui** before turning east on **Highway 547** back to Hue City. Points of interest include stops at **FSB Bastogne** and **FSB Birmingham**.

Meals: **B/L/D**

Day 10: (Tuesday, 13 May) – HUE

Today is a free day in Hue for shopping, relaxing by the pool, or for personal exploration. Lunch and Dinner are on our own.

Meals: **B**

Day 11: (Wednesday, 14 May) – HUE to HOI AN

Departing early this morning we drive south on Highway One. Our first stop is the Airbase at Phu Bai and the home of the *Catkillers*. Continuing south, we stop at interesting sites along the way before heading up the **Hai Van** with a stop at the **Pass** to explore old French bunkers and take in a view of **Da Nang** and the bay. Heading down the Hai Van, we visit **Nam O Bridge**, and **Red Beach II**. We pass through **Dog Patch** as we enter **Da Nang City** and stop for lunch. After a quick photo stop at **China Beach** on the **South China Sea**, we pass through the **MMAF (Marble Mountain Air Facility)** area. We then visit a marble carving shop and climb **Marble Mountain** to explore the **VC hospital** area located within. Tonight we stay in **Hoi An**. You can roam by yourselves the streets and shops of this ancient port city (formerly known as **Faifo**) where Dutch, Portuguese, Chinese, and Japanese traders once walked. Shopping is excellent here and one of the best places for tailor-made clothing.

Meals: **B/L/D**

Day 12: (Thursday, 15 May) – **HOI AN**

Today we travel west and parallel to the southern edge of **Go Noi Island**. Our next stops are **Liberty Bridge** (south) and **An Hoa Regimental Combat Base**. We will make a special visit to the **My Son Holyland** located deep in the foothills of the **Que Son Mountains**. My Son is the site of **Trakieu**, the ancient capital of the **Cham Kingdom** and contains ruins dating back to the 5th Century. Tonight, we are on our own for dinner.

Meals: **B/L**

Day 13: (Friday, 16 May) – **HOI AN to DA NANG**

This morning brings us to **Hill 55**, and **Liberty Bridge** (north) at **Dai Loc**, and the **Arizona Territory**. We then travel to Da Nang, where the balance of the day is a free day for personal exploration, shopping, or relaxing. Lunch is on our own, but tonight all hands gather for a very special Farewell Dinner at the most famous restaurant in Da Nang, the Kim Do.

Meals: **B/D**

Day 14: (Saturday, 17 May) – **DA NANG to HANOI**

After a leisurely breakfast, we head to **Da Nang Airfield** for our flight to Hanoi. After lunch, we prepare for the journey home and more last-minute shopping.

Meals: **B/L/D**

Day 15: (Sunday, 18 May) – **RETURN to CONUS**

For those opting for one of our fabulous post tours, your day begins as we bid our new friends a happy journey home. After breakfast, those heading home transfer to Noi Bai Airfield for the flight to Taipei. Departing from Taipei, we gain a day enroute to the continental United States by re-crossing the International Dateline, arriving in Los Angeles at approximately 2:55 p.m. this same day.

Meals: **B/L/D (in flight)**

NOTE: This is a suggested itinerary. We pride ourselves in customizing each tour to the participant's needs. For example, it is easy to delete some sites and add others, such as Camp Evans, Wunder Beach, Chu Lai, remote outposts, or special battle sites meaningful to your members. We will custom make this tour for your interests. We can develop a stand-alone (your members only) tour with a minimum of 12 people, including wives, friends, and family (that's just 6 veterans and 6 wives).

VIETNAM BATTLEFIELD TOURS

is a Vietnam veteran owned 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. We pay no salaries. All of our highly-experienced guides are combat Vietnam veterans who would be proud to walk with you in the places of our youth.

2013 price: \$3,395 per person, double occupancy. Add \$598 for single occupancy.

WHAT IS INCLUDED:

- Customized 15-day itinerary
- Highly-experienced American combat Vietnam veteran guides who will travel with you during the entire tour
- Highly-experienced English-speaking local guides
- Vietnam Visa processing and fees
- International airfare: LA/Taipei; Taipei/Hanoi; Hanoi/Taipei; Taipei/LA
- In-Vietnam flights: Hanoi to Phu Bai; Da Nang to Hanoi
- Virtually all meals, as indicated on itinerary
- Hotel accommodations
- Air-conditioned motorcoach transportation
- Admission fees to all sites, museums, and special attractions listed
- Tour book containing information, maps, battle monographs, and a journal
- Emergency medical/Evacuation/Repatriation/Hospitalization insurance
- Bulk-baggage handling
- Gratuities to local guides, motor-coach drivers, and bulk-baggage handlers. (VBT American guides are prohibited from accepting tips.)

NOTE: If you prefer (for those who can fly for free and for those who will use their flyer miles), we can provide a “ground-only” tour. In this case you are responsible to get yourself to and from Vietnam. You are responsible for a timely arrival to meet the tour group. You are also responsible for getting your own visa (we will provide you with an official document so you can easily obtain your visa once you arrive in Vietnam). In addition, you will be responsible to obtain your own Emergency medical/Evacuation/Repatriation/Hospitalization insurance. Your in-Vietnam flights are provided in your “ground-only” pricing. A “ground-only” tour would cost approximately \$900 less than the full tour price, landing you at about \$2,495.

We can also deviate your return if you'd like to spend more time in Vietnam, or visit another area such as Nha Trang or Saigon.

Since you will be half way around the world, be sure to consider one of our Post-Tours to Ha Long Bay, Diem Bien Phu, Angkor Wat, Thailand, Singapore, or Taiwan.

We are the only Vietnam tour company that places two fully-qualified American guides on every tour. This ensures an un-interrupted tour for you if one of the guides falls ill or has to return to the US for some unforeseen emergency.

Visit us at: www.VietnamBattlefieldTours.com

Be sure to watch some of the videos under "*Customer Comments and Photos*"

William W. Stilwagen, Bush Guide

My home phone is: 757-787-4070