

VIETNAM BACKGROUND

(Source: *The World Factbook*)

The Vietnamese have a long and proud history of fighting for their independence. After hundreds of years of warfare, occupations and reasserting their sovereignty, Vietnam declared independence after World War II, but France continued to rule until its 1954 defeat by Communist forces under Ho Chi Minh.

Under the Geneva Accords of 1954, Vietnam was divided into the Communist North and anti-Communist South. US economic and military aid to South Vietnam grew through the 1960s in an attempt to bolster the government, but US armed forces were withdrawn following a cease-fire agreement in 1973.

Two years later, North Vietnamese forces overran the South reuniting the country under Communist rule.

However, since the enactment of Vietnam's "doi moi" (renovation) policy in 1986, Vietnamese authorities have committed to increased economic liberalization and enacted structural reforms needed to modernize the economy and to produce more competitive, export-driven industries.



Mr. Kevin Morgan, President of Geovisions, a Cultural Exchange program with students of Da Nang University.



HCM City Hall, Southern Vietnam



Ha Long Bay, Northern Vietnam



Beautiful Beach in Da Nang, Central of Vietnam



VIETNAM STUDY & CULTURAL EXCHANGE TOURS

Coordinated by:

Vietnam Resource Group

www.vietgroup.net

*In cooperation with:
Vietnam Association
of Community Colleges*

www.vacc.edu.vn

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BACKGROUND

Vietnam Resource Group (VRG) has been working in Vietnam since 1995 to promote cooperation between American companies/organizations with Vietnamese counterparts.

In addition to business development, VRG has also worked to promote cultural understandings by implementing a number of cultural exchange programs.

VRG is looking to cooperate with educational, social and professional organizations in the US to promote the Study & Cultural Exchange Tours in Vietnam.

With our well-established base of operations in Vietnam and the cooperation of the Vietnam Association of Community Colleges, VRG is confident that these tours will be implemented in a most cost effective and productive manner.

OBJECTIVES

To provide participants with:

- Interaction with Vietnamese students.
- Understanding of Vietnam History.
- Opportunity to experience Vietnamese culture.
- Visit some of the most beautiful natural tourist spots in Vietnam.
- Experience the new economic development in the country.

Targeted participants: American students and professionals who are interested in the History and Culture of Vietnam.

Dates: Flexible depending on the needs of our American partners.

Participation Fees: will be submitted to our partners.

Fees include: visa application fee, international airfare/travel insurance and all in-country expenses (accommodation, meals, ground, domestic air transportation, except incidental expenses).

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

(Detailed program will be submitted to our partner)

Day1: Depart from San Francisco/Los Angeles to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) - Transit in Hong Kong.

Day 2: Arrive in **HCM City** - Immigration/Customs - Airport Greetings - Transfer to Hotel - Relax.

Day 3: City tour (Reunification Palace - City Cathedral - War Museum - Central Market Chinatown ...) Welcome Reception by Vietnam Association of Community Colleges.

Day 4: AM: **Seminar on Vietnam History** – PM: Visit a furniture manufacturer - Meeting with Vietnamese Students of English Faculty. Dinner, with cultural performance.

Day 5: Travel to **Mekong Delta** (bus) - Visit **Tra Vinh University**. Meeting with students.

Day 6: Depart to Can Tho (bus) - Visit a seafood export company - Visit **Can Tho University**.

Day 7: Return to HCM City - Depart to Da Nang (air) - Visit **Da Nang University**.

Day 8: Sunbathing at My Khe Beach - Depart to **Ha Noi** (air) - Hotel - City Tour - Traditional Water Puppet Show.

Day 9: AM: Seminar on **Vietnamese Culture/Language** at Ha Noi University of Agriculture. PM: **Seminar on Vietnam Export Program** at the Export Promotion Center.

Day 10: Travel to Hai Phong (bus) - Visit Hai Phong Community College.

Day 11: Visit **Ha Long Bay** – Return to Ha Noi

Day 12: Depart to HCM City (air) - Hotel - Relax

Day 13: Souvenir shopping - Free - Farewell Party

Day 14: Return to the US

PROGRAM COORDINATOR:

Mark Fishel, VRG Director, Training Programs.

Mark has been working in Vietnam since 2007 on various programs: from Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) to Career Development Workshop. With his experience in working with Vietnamese students and his understandings of the Vietnamese educational systems, Mark will assist American participants to make their trip to Vietnam most productive and enjoyable.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROGRAM

- Seminars on Vietnamese Culture, History conducted by University professors.
- Visits various universities in HCM City, Mekong Delta, Da Nang and Ha Noi.
- Interaction with Vietnamese students.
- Visit famous, most visited tourist spots throughout Vietnam.
- Visit Vietnamese manufacturers.
- Tour coordinator is available 24/7 to coordinate the trip activities.
- Certificate of Completion will be provided by the Vietnam Association of Community Colleges.



Mark Fishel, Program Coordinator, with Vietnamese students of Tra Vinh University.



A typical Vietnamese open market.