



SPECIAL LAND ONLY PROGRAMME SAIGON-SAIGON

VIETNAM LONG TAN 5 DAY TOUR to VUNG TAU + SURROUNDING AREA ex Saigon & return for the 46th Anniversary of the Battle of Lon Tan 15th - 19th August 2012

Day 1: Wednesday 15th Aug 12 - Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) to Vung Tau – (L)

This morning you journey east by hydrofoil down the might Sai-Gon River to Vung Tau. Meet in the lobby of the Huong Sen Hotel at 09:00.

On arrival Vung Tau, meet & greet at quayside by our local guide (with name board) and transfer to your local hotel.

After check-in at your hotel . The Sammy Hotel+Located on Back Beach # 157 Thuy Van Street Vung Tau Vietnam, meet in the lobby for lunch at a local restaurant.

Afternoon tour of Vung Tau area . visit fishing village, White Villa (ex French Governor's residence . now a museum). Visit the town area and the very large Jesus statue on the hill . for the energetic (there are many steps) it's quite a view from the top.

On to the area once known as the 'Flags', on the beach to the right, sea-facing, opposite the very new Imperial Hotel/department store which, until a few years ago, was the site of the Harold Holt Club (re-named after Captain Peter Badcoe VC (AATTV).

Then back to your hotel via the gigantic roundabout, once the location of 1ALSG (1st Australian Logistics Support Group). If you kept your eyes open as we turned left towards the roundabout (now) a NLF (National Liberation Front) Viet Cong Memorial, you'd notice some bitumen . this was the hard stand for the helicopters. Nothing much left, but it is some 39 years since we left Vietnam!

Day 2: Thursday 16th Aug 12 - Vung Tau-Baria-Long Phuoc-Nui Dat-Hoa Long Village – (B/L)

After breakfast, travel NE up the peninsula to the township of modern-day Baria. See two sites from our time . the Roman Catholic Church and the Water Tower with its swallows. The old picture theatre that was the site of a dust-up is now quite a modern department store where you may like to purchase some gifts for the children at the AVVRG (Australian Vietnam Veterans Reconstruction Group) orphanage, run in association with the local People's Committee.

A short stop to see the children who range in age between a few days old to 17-18 yrs of age. The guide will recommend purchases suitable for use at the Centre. On exiting the orphanage

road, opposite is a very large NLF/VC cemetery . it's worth a quick look. This was once the site of an old French Fort in colonial times.

Next stop, the stand-up fighting tunnels of Long Phuoc, built in the 1st Indo China war against the French and also used when this area was part of our AO (Area of Operation). There will be time to try out the tunnels for size and look in on the adjacent small museum with its assorted relics.

Nui Dat . home to the 1st AFT (Australian Task Force) and to most of the diggers for their in-field time tour of duty. Established in June 1966, vacated in December 1971, 4RAR were the last out of here! You'll see the gates (what's left of them), some artillery rocks, bunkers, Luscombe Field, SAS Hill and time just to look around at what's left.

On to Kangaroo Pad and orientate with the guide's pictures of a time long ago.

Final visit today will be Hoa Long Village, it's famous for making wine from rice. You'll see the wine making process and rice paper, and maybe sample both. Lunch locally before returning to Vung Tau.

Day 3: Friday 17th Aug 12 - Vung Tau-Horseshoe-Dat Do-Long Hai Area – (B/L)

Return via Baria to what's left of Fire Support Base (FSB) Horseshoe . today it's a road base quarry and it's not possible to drive closer. The front of the horseshoe is almost all quarried and it looks like a gaping tooth-hole . a picture stop will be made before carrying on to the village of Dat Do, located on the eastern side of Horseshoe.

Final stop will be up the top of the Long Hai hills . wicked witch+country in times past! For those who want to see it all, prepare yourself for a little trek into the Minh Dam Secret Zone (named after two VC local commanders Minh and Dam). See the caves that they used to hid their troops who infiltrated via the Ho Chi Minh Trail by sea, store areas and hospitals . all hidden from sight deep in the Hills. Also here is the Pagoda Temple recently built to commemorate the war time local dead.

Today's lunch will be on Long Hai beach . local seafood and ice cold refreshments (the latter at your expense). Lunch could be around 2 pm so eat hearty at breakfast! But the wait will be well worth it!

Return to Vun Tau late afternoon direct from lunch via the local villages and hamlets.

Day 4: Saturday 18th Aug 12 - Vung Tau-Long Tan Cross Site – (B)

Morning free for your leisure . some local shopping or a swim.

Our only visit today is to Long Tan village and Long Tan Cross itself. We'll arrive around 15:15 to be ready for 15:30, the time the battle started on the 18th August 1966. Departure pick-up 14:00 from the hotel lobby.

A time to remember mates and colleagues who didn't make it home. A time to shed a tear and lay a flower in remembrance.

Eighteen men were lost on that day . 17 infantry and one Cav (APC). The next day some 245 enemy soldiers were buried. This was one day we lost so many. I recommend two publications they are: (i) Long Tan+by Alex McAulay and(ii) All Guts & No Glory+by ex Sgt Bob Buick AA .

After your remembrance time, return to Vung Tau for some close-quarter R&R with friends.

Day 5: Sunday 19th Aug 12- Vung Tau via-Binh Ba-Bien Hoa-Saigon by road

After breakfast, we leave Vung Tau and head back to Saigon, a distance of some 130 kms. on the new road. Time to look and see the villages enroute until reaching town. We'll drop you off to The HUONG SEN Hotel 66-67-68 Dong Khoi Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City (Old Saigon). This is the formal end to these arrangements

This tour will operate with a minimum of four (4) travellers. Cost is **AUD 655.00 per person in a share twin room**. Single, sole use room is available at an additional cost of AUD 210.00

Inclusions:

- * Meet and greet services.
- * Local English speaking guide service.
- * Transportation as detailed in the itinerary, road transport is airconditioned.
- * Return hydrofoil ticket from down town Saigon (HCMC) to Vung Tau.
- * Four nights hotel accommodation in Vung Tau at the Sammy Hotel or similar.
- * Breakfast daily in your hotel whilst at Vung Tau.
- * Daily tours as detailed in the itinerary.
- * Lunch on day 2 & day 3 in local restaurants, refreshments at own expense.
- * Entry approval and attendance at the LONG TAN Cross on Memorial Day the 18th August, 2012

Note: For any ex servicemen attending NO ribbons or medals are considered appropriate at the cross site service.

Not included:

- * Any service not detailed.
- * Items of a personal nature, room service, laundry, telephone etc
- * Gratuities to guides or drivers.
- * Vietnam entry visa.

Note: If you are looking to incorporate such a visit into an more extensive individual journey, please email or call Dennis



Long Tan Cross Site - Vietnam

If you would like to join us contact:
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