

# 2012 Vietnam History Tours

Join our 2012 History Tours to Vietnam! We have operated an annual tour program covering major areas of the former III Corps military region and the Central Highlands of Vietnam for more than a decade. Hundreds of Veterans, families, friends and history enthusiasts have participated in these programs.

Our III Corps Tour extends from Vung Tau on the South China Sea, where many US Soldiers first came ashore, and others enjoyed an “in-country R&R,” to the far northwestern corner of Tay Ninh Province, near the border with Cambodia, where the Viet Cong hid COSVN (Central Office for South Viet Nam), their main headquarters.

Between those two points we visit Saigon, Cu Chi and the fabled tunnels, Dau Tieng in the Michelin Rubber Plantation, Tay Ninh City, Nui Ba Den (“the Black Virgin Mountain”), Katum, Go Da Ha, Trang Bang and numerous places along the route. Whenever possible, we will include “special places” nearby our travel route that our Veterans request.

We fly to the Central Highlands to visit Pleiku, Kontum, and Dak To. We see the sites of former US bases at Camp Enari (“Dragon Mountain”), Camp Holloway, Dak To and Ben Het Special Forces Camp. We drive Highway #19 all the way to the Cambodian border passing by or through historic sites including Jackson Hole, “The Oasis” and Duc Co Special Forces Camp.

After a visit to Plei Djereng we follow Highway #19 east through the infamous Mang Yang Pass, we see the hill overlooking the An Khe base-camp known to GI’s as “Hong Kong Mountain.” From the top of the An Khe Pass, we have a spectacular view of the countryside before continuing on to Quy Nhon. Following Highway #1 south, we pass through Tuy Hoa to Nha Trang where we stay at the world-renowned Ana Mandara Resort for several nights. Our flight back to Saigon takes off on the same Cam Ranh Bay runway that saw the arrival and departure of tens of thousands of US troops during the war.



Visiting a Montagnard Village

Our Vietnam tours are more than battlefield tours. They often include wives and adult children. We include visits to temples, colorful marketplaces and villages to give you a new appreciation and understanding of Vietnam’s culture and its people. In the Highlands we visit incredible brick towers erected by the Cham people who migrated from the Indian subcontinent centuries ago. We feature wonderful cuisine and Vietnamese delicacies. Our tour participants have ample opportunities to shop for local crafts, clothing, unique souvenirs and other quality products.

An American Tour Manager and a Vietnamese guide proficient in the English language lead these tour programs. Ground transportation is provided in modern air-conditioned vehicles with professional drivers.

Some US Veterans wonder how they will be greeted in Vietnam. The population of Vietnam has more than doubled since the war. Most were born after the war ended. To them the war is “ancient history.” While the country has a one-party communist government, they abandoned Marxism almost 25 years ago, and the people have embraced capitalism. The United States is now Vietnam’s #1 trade partner. The Vietnam Airlines fleet includes modern Boeing aircraft. KFC restaurants are all over the major cities and Ford Motor Company has an assembly plant outside of Hanoi. Americans are warmly welcomed in modern Vietnam.

You can make your own airline reservations to and from Vietnam, or you can fly with your tour group from the West Coast. Please indicate your choice on your Reservation Application.

Vietnam hosts over 3 million visitors each year. Flights fill up and hotels are often booked months in advance. Don’t delay making your reservation. Each year we have to turn away applicants who wait too long to make their reservation. Act today to secure your reservation on these great tour programs!



Gondola Lift on Nui Ba Den

Veterans on the former Dau Tieng Airstrip - 2011



**III Corps Tour: November 3 - 11, 2012**  
**Highlands Tour: November 7 - 18, 2012**  
**Both Tours: November 3 - 18, 2012**

# 2012 Itinerary



Ana Mandara Resort in Nha Trang

## Combined III Corps & Highlands Tour

November 3 - 18, 2012

### III Corps Tour Only

November 3 - 11, 2012

### Highlands Tour Only

November 7 - 18, 2012

**Saturday, November 3, 2012: USA/Aloft.** Tour participants taking the **III Corps Tour** or both III Corps and Highlands Tours depart the USA today. Meal service aloft.

**Sunday, November 4: Aloft.** "Lose a day" crossing the International Dateline.

**Monday, November 5: Saigon.** Arrive at Tan Son Nhut Airport. We are met by our MilSpec Tours English speaking guide and escorted to our hotel in central Saigon. After check in, time to freshen up before we go to the Rex Hotel Rooftop Garden for welcome cocktails and dinner. (D)

**Tuesday, November 6: Saigon.** After breakfast we board our motorcoach and leave Saigon, passing the site of the pivotal battle between the 25th Division's 3/4 Cavalry and VC/NVA battalions on the first day of the 1968 Tet Offensive. Continue north on Highway #1 over the Hoc Mon Bridge to Cu Chi, where we see the Military Museum. Leaving Cu Chi, we drive along the perimeter of the 25th Division's former main basecamp en route to the Ho Bo Woods. After lunch on the Saigon River, we visit the nearby "Cu Chi Tunnels" and the Cu Chi Military Cemetery before we return to Saigon. (B, L)

**Wednesday, November 7: Saigon / Tay Ninh.** Today we check out of the hotel in Saigon, board our motorcoach and drive north. We get off Hwy #1 at Trang Bang and continue to Highway #26. At "Checkpoint Tango" we drive through the Ben Cui Rubber Plantation to Dau Tieng where the 25th Division's 3rd Brigade was based. Then we continue through the Cau Khoi Rubber Plantation and arrive at the Cao Dai Temple in Tay Ninh in time to watch part of the midday religious service. Following lunch at a local restaurant, we go to Nui Ba Den to ride the gondola lift up to the temples built on the slopes overlooking Tay Ninh Province. Next, we visit the Tay Ninh West Basecamp (if permitted). (B, L, D) **Highlands Tour Group Only** - Depart USA today.

**Thursday, November 8: Tay Ninh / Saigon.** Today we go past French Fort to Katum, the 173rd Airborne's 1967 Drop Zone and the South Central Department Base (known as COSVN by the US & Allied forces during the war) and other "special places" en route that you want to see. Lunch is at a local restaurant. Later we head south to Saigon, stopping at the Tay Ninh City market. We may visit the site of the 9th Infantry Regiment "Mole City" combat base west of Go Da Ha. Return to Saigon. (B, L, D) **Highlands Tour Group** - Cross International Dateline today.

**Friday, November 9: Saigon.** Board a hydrofoil on the Saigon River for a two-hour cruise to Vung Tau. When we arrive, we explore the town. We will see the shipwreck museum and the Buddhist temple devoted to fish-

ermen. We can walk the beach before we motorcoach back to Saigon by way of Bear Cat and Long Binh. Return to Saigon to the American Consulate, where we will visit the grounds to see where the Embassy once stood and where a plaque has been placed to honor the Soldiers and Marines who died defending the Embassy on the first day of the Tet '68 Offensive. Tonight, enjoy dinner with Vietnamese veterans at the Indochine restaurant. (B, L, D)

**Highlands Tour Group** - Arrive Saigon today and transfer to our hotel. Join III Corps Group for dinner tonight (D)

**Saturday, November 10: Saigon. Both III Corps & Highlands Groups:** Our itinerary will include the War Remnants Museum, the French Colonial Post Office, Notre Dame Cathedral, Reunification Hall (Presidential Palace), as well as Cholon. We will have lunch followed by free time to shop on Nguyen Hue Boulevard. Tonight we all meet for a Farewell Dinner Cruise on the Saigon River. (B, L, D)

**Sunday, November 11: Saigon / Pleiku or Saigon / USA. Highlands Tour Group.** Check out of the hotel this morning and transfer to Tan Son Nhut for the morning flight to Pleiku. After hotel check in nearby the former Camp Holloway base, we walk through the colorful Pleiku main market. Then we visit a nearby Montagnard village before returning to our hotel. (B, D)

**III Corps Group** - Morning transfer to Tan Son Nhut for flight home. Cross International Dateline and arrive back in the USA the same day (B)

**Monday, November 12: Pleiku.** We start our day with a visit to Camp Enari & Hensel Airstrip at "Dragon Mountain", the former main basecamp of the 4th Infantry Division. Then we drive west on Highway #19. We will be traveling all the way to the Cambodian border, visiting as many former base areas as we can, including "The Oasis" and Duc Co Special Forces Camp. We'll also try to get to Jackson Hole if the road is passable. We will be near the famed Ia Drang Valley. (B, D)

**Tuesday, November 13: Pleiku.** Early morning drive from Pleiku through Kontum to the town of Dak To where we pass the site of the Special Forces Camp and the long airstrip that served as a base for the 173rd Airborne during the 1967 battle for Hill 875. Continue on to Ben Het, site of a Special Forces camp overlooking the tri-border area that was under heavy siege during the war. Back in Kontum, we visit a Catholic Church building (oldest wooden structure in Vietnam) and the adjacent orphanage supported by the Friends of the Vin Son Orphanage, a nonprofit organized by previous MilSpec travelers. Later, we return to Pleiku. (B, L, D)

**Wednesday, November 14: Pleiku / Quy Nhon.** Visit Plei Djereng this morning and then motorcoach east along Highway #19 through the famous Mang Yang Pass to An Khe, where we see "Hong Kong Mountain," overlooking the 1st Cavalry Division's Camp Radcliff base. Continue over the magnificent An Khe Pass with stops enroute for "Special Places" and "photo ops." Stop to tour several Cham Towers under restoration on a hill-top overlooking the coastal plain. Continue on to Quy Nhon and check in to our oceanfront hotel. (B, L, D)

**Thursday, November 15: Quy Nhon / Nha Trang.** Leaving Quy Nhon, we drive south past Tuy Hoa airport where USAF hangars are still visible from Highway #1. Visit "Special Places" and stop for photo ops along historic Highway #1. On arrival in Nha Trang, check into the spectacular Ana Mandara Resort on the Nha Trang beach. (B, L, D)

**Friday, November 16: Nha Trang.** This day gives the travelers a chance to "chill out" after their journey through the Central Highlands. Lunch on own and Dinner is at the hotel.

- Option 1: Shopping, sunbathing & snorkeling on the Nha Trang beach or schedule a spa treatment (extra expense).

- Option 2: Visit Po Nagar Tower, Long Son Pagoda and other sites in the Nha Trang area. (B, D)

**Saturday, November 17: Nha Trang / Cam Ranh / Saigon.** Drive to the former US base at Cam Ranh Bay today to fly back to Saigon. After hotel check in, free time for shopping on Nguyen Hue Boulevard and the Ben Thanh Marketplace. Tonight, enjoy a Farewell Dinner. (B, D)

**Sunday, November 18, 2011: Saigon/USA.** Transfer to Tan Son Nhut for flight home, cross the International Dateline and arrive the same day in the USA. (B)

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner



# 2012 Vietnam History Tours

## Reservation Application

From \$1,683 per person [III Corps - land only - double occupancy]

Please make \_\_\_\_ reservation(s) on the 2011 Vietnam History Tours.

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ representing \$400.00 per person deposit.

(Please make checks payable to "MilSpec Tours")

**Please PRINT clearly!**



Tour Options (Check  one)

- III Corps Tour: \$1,683 per person (double occupancy - single room \$382 additional)
- Highlands Tour: \$2,424 per person (double occupancy - single room \$718)
- Both Tours: \$3,023 per person (double occupancy - single room \$923)

Trans-Pacific Air: (Check  one)

- \$1,100 per person roundtrip from the West Coast
- I/we will make our own airline reservations

Payment Option (Check  one)

- Option A: I would like to Pay In Full. Payment enclosed.
- Option B: I am paying a deposit only and will pay in full 90 days before departure.

Insurance Option (Check  one)

I accept the travel insurance as follows and *include* the insurance premium in my deposit:

*Total Tour Cost Per Person* (tour cost + single room (if selected) + Trans-Pacific Air (if selected) = *Insurance Premium*

- \$1,501 to \$2,000 = \$129       \$2,001 to \$2,500 = \$164       \$2,501 to \$3,000 = \$200       \$3,001 to \$3,500 = \$235
- \$3,501 to \$4,000 = \$270       \$4,001 to \$4,500 = \$305       \$4,501 to \$5,000 = \$340       \$5,001 to \$5,500 = \$407
- I will obtain my own insurance.

**New TSA regulations require the full name (as it appears on the passport), gender and date of birth of each airline passenger.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

I have attached a good quality photocopy of each person's passport data pages.

I do not have a passport but will apply for one (forms available at your local US Post Office)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please furnish us with both your street address and post office box address to avoid delays in shipment of documents to you by Federal Express*

Home Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Any diet/health problems? \_\_\_\_\_

*FAA regulations require emergency notification information for all international passengers. Please print the name and phone number of a person not traveling with you who is to be notified in the event of an emergency.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Special requests/places to visit: \_\_\_\_\_

I desire:  2-in-a-room. *or* Single Room at extra charge:  \$382 III Corps Only  \$718 Highland Only  \$923 Both Tours  
 Willing to share, 2-in-a-room basis. Roommate (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

To charge your deposit to a major credit card, please complete the following:  Discover Card  Visa  Mastercard  American Express  
Tour #12-425

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

**I agree to the terms and conditions as outlined in this tour brochure.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

**MilSpec Tours**

Post Office Box 340  
Flourtown, PA 19031-0340  
Phone 215-248-2572 Fax 215-248-5250  
Email: MilSpecTours@aol.com • Web:GoMilSpec.com



Local Market Vendor in Pleiku

## Your MilSpec Tour Includes. . .

\* Nonrefundable roundtrip coach-class TransPacific airline transportation on regularly scheduled flights if elected. \* First-class and selected hotels with private bath (where available) 2-in-a-room basis. Single Room additional cost. \* Breakfast daily plus other meals as noted in the itinerary. \* Visa processing \* Mini-van or motorcoach transportation as required by the itinerary. \* Sightseeing as specified with English-speaking guide & appropriate admission fees. \* Transfers between airports and hotels if traveling on group flights. \* Portage of one (1) suitcase per person, where available. \* Tips & taxes on all prepaid services. \* Professional Escort while on tour.

**Tour Prices Do Not Include:** Airport/customs/departure taxes, fuel surcharges, passports, excess baggage charges, optional sightseeing, meals other than those shown in the itineraries, items not on table d'hote menus, laundry, liquor, mineral water, beverages with lunch & dinner, customary gratuities to Tour Guides, Coach Drivers & local guides, & any other expenses of a personal nature.

**Tour Prices are based** on a minimum of 10 tour participants as shown in the itinerary, and on tariffs and rates (currency & exchange) known at the time of printing; prices are subject to adjustment without notice in event of changes to such rates prior to departure.

**Airfares** are subject to change without notice. Coach-class airfares are often non-refundable and/or subject to cancellation fees. Trip Cancellation Insurance is strongly recommended.

**Hotels:** Unless otherwise stated, all tour prices are based on two persons sharing a twin/double room. Applicable single supplements are indicated for those wishing single room accommodations. Single rooms are limited in quantity and are sometimes not of the same size or quality as twin/double rooms. We do not recommend triple rooms as they tend to be very crowded; in most cases, triple rooms are a twin room to which a cot has been added. There is no reduction in tour cost for triple rooms. If you wish to share a room and do not have a roommate, we will place you in a twin/double room with the next same-sex participant to register for the tour who also requests to share a room. If we are unable to match you with a roommate, you will be assigned to a single room and must pay the single supplement.

**Deposits and Final Payments:** A deposit of \$400 per person is required to effect reservations. This deposit forms part of your final payment which is due when billed but not later than 60 days prior to departure. Acceptance on tour is subject to verification of payment in full to MilSpec Tours.

**Baggage:** No responsibility is incurred by MilSpec for loss or damage to baggage or any of the passengers belongings. It is recommended that all passengers purchase baggage insurance.

**Passports and Visas:** A valid passport is required for all tour participants. Visas are required for this tour program and are included in the cost of your tour.

**Smoking:** Please note that for the safety and well-being of the group, smoking is not permitted in the van, on the motorcoach, or at group meals at any time.

**Cancellations** for unforeseen and valid reasons in advance of departure are entitled to a full refund less actual expenses incurred and a \$100.00 per person service charge, if written notice is received not later than 120 days prior to departure. If cancellation occurs between 119 and 60 days prior to departure, deposits will be refunded less \$175 per person service charge; less than 60 days prior to departure date, deposits will be refunded, less a \$300 per person service charge and any cancellation charges assessed against MilSpec Tours by hotels, transportation companies, airlines and other purveyors of services. Cancellations less than 30 days prior to departure are not refundable. Trip cancellation and interruption insurance is available and strongly recommended on all tours.

**Revisions and Refunds:** All changes must be confirmed in writing. A handling fee of \$75.00 per transaction will be charged for any alteration or revision made to a tour reservation. All claims for refunds must be made within 60 days after termination of the tour and must be accompanied by a statement from the Tour Manager, certifying exactly the services not taken. No refund can be made for unused transportation where group tickets or vehicles are involved. No refund can be made for services not taken unless the services omitted cover 72 consecutive hours or more.

**Tour Participants:** In order to insure the smooth operation of all tours, and to ensure congenial tour groups, MilSpec Tours reserves the right to accept or reject any person as a tour participant and to expel from the tour any person for any reason including anyone whose conduct is deemed incompatible with the interest of the tour group. Any handicapped participant who requires special assistance must be accompanied by a qualified helper who assumes total responsibility for the handicapped participant's well-being. MilSpec Tours reserves the right to exclude from the tour any handicapped participant whose physical condition impairs customary operation of the tour. Should a wheelchair or other special equipment, care, maintenance or services be required at any time, all arrangements shall be made and all costs and obligations will be borne by the tour member. All tour members must be able to make their own way on/off the motorcoach. Well-behaved children over 10 years of age are welcome on any MilSpec Tours tour under the same conditions as noted above.

**Responsibility:** MilSpec Tours and/or its agents act only in the capacity of agent for carriers, hotels, bus operators, and other suppliers of services and shall not be held responsible for any injury or for any loss or damage caused by accidents or events beyond their control, or by any action or negligence of attendants or third parties who are not in their employ and on their payroll. The tour operator and/or its agents can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air, sea or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. The right is reserved to substitute hotels specified for others of similar category. The right is reserved to make minor adjustments in the itinerary. Prices are based upon current tariffs and are subject to adjustment in the event of change. The right is reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour unless arrangements are made prior to departure. The issuance and acceptance of vouchers or tickets shall be deemed to be consent to the above conditions. In addition, transportation companies concerned shall not be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not on board their carriers. The passenger contract in use by the carriers concerned, when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies and the purchaser of the tour and/or passengers. The itineraries shown are planned at the time of issue of this flyer, but are subject to revision should circumstances make it necessary. Such revisions will be shown on the individual traveling itinerary you receive before departure.

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Ancestor worship at a Tay Ninh Temple

## Travel Insurance

Take advantage of our valuable insurance protection. For \$129 to \$407 you can enjoy the security of the following coverage:

### Schedule of Coverages

Coverage	Up to Tour Cost
Trip Cancellation & Interruption	Up to Tour Cost
Travel Delay (\$100 maximum per day)	\$500
Baggage and Travel Documents	\$1,000
Baggage Delay	\$100
Medical Expense	\$10,000
Emergency Medical Transportation	\$20,000
Accidental Death & Dismemberment	\$25,000

*This is a brief summary of the insurance plan offered. For a full description of the benefits, exclusions & conditions, an insurance brochure is available. Or, call Travel Guard International at 1-888-826-1300.*