

# A 2012 GOURMET TOUR OF VIETNAM



We offer our travelers an exceptional opportunity to sample the complex and varied food and drink of Vietnam. The tour is offered on your dates from January through May or October through December. We don't recommend travel during the wet season (June through September).

This tour program is available for individuals, small groups or families. The cost depends on the number of travel-

ers, whether you want Superior class hotels or Deluxe class hotels, and whether you want us to include Trans-Pacific flights. Some of our clients want to utilize their frequent flier points.

Comparatively low in fat and high in carbohydrate, the Vietnamese diet is varied, nutritious and distinctive. The cuisine of Vietnam today is based on a long history and tradition heavily reliant on cooking over fire by boiling, steaming, barbecuing and frying. There is very little roasting. Baking was introduced by the French in the 19th century and wonderful baked goods are a reminder of French culinary traditions introduced into the Vietnamese culture.

Many Vietnamese meals utilize bowls, ceramic spoons and chop sticks. Foods are accompanied by a variety of sauces, dips and salads. Rice or noodles are featured in almost every Vietnamese meal. Prime ingredients include beef, pork, veal, chicken, duck, rabbit, and a variety of fresh water fish and seafoods. Lobster, crab and scallops are available. Shrimp farms are numerous along the South China Sea coast. Vietnamese shrimp are exported and can be found on the menus of many fine American restaurants including *Legal Seafoods*. In some regions of Vietnam more exotic dishes may include venison, wild boar, frog legs or alligator.

Fruits and vegetables are bountiful in Southeast Asia and Vietnamese cooks utilize tomatoes, lemon grass, asparagus, eggplant, cucumbers, cabbages, corn, potatoes, cauliflower, green beans, mushrooms. Fruits include banana, orange, guava, star fruit, breadfruit, dragon fruit, pineapple, melon, coconut, and custard apples.

There are a number of "signature" Vietnamese dishes, most with regional variation. Pho is a noodle soup that is a breakfast standard, but the



noodles are different in Hanoi, Hue and Saigon. Spring rolls that consist of pork or other ingredient wrapped in rice paper and served with lettuce are found throughout Vietnam, but with an astounding variety of presentations.

Vietnam is now one of world's largest exporters of coffee. There is also a growing wine industry complimenting quality imports. Regional beers compete with international brands brewed in Vietnam including Heineken and Fosters. Coke and Pepsi are widely available, as is pure bottled water.

Our Gourmet Tour of Vietnam will introduce you to the ingredients, recipes and traditions of Vietnamese cuisine. You will learn side-by-side from skilled Vietnamese cooks and sample a variety of foods in a range of settings from street vendors to the finest restaurants.

Select the month and approximate date that you want to start your tour and send us your Reservation Application. We will get the "ball rolling" and contact you to confirm your travel dates. We can fly you to and from Vietnam or you can make your own Trans-Pacific flight arrangements. Travel with your spouse, a friend, relative or a larger group of your buddies. The more travelers who accompany you, the better price we can offer for you and your companions. Don't let this opportunity pass you by. Flights and hotels fill up months in advance, so act now to insure your tour!

## **Vietnam Gourmet Tour Itinerary**

*Available January to May  
& October to December*

**Day 1: USA/Aloft.** Depart USA.

**Day 2: Aloft** – Cross International Dateline

**Day 3: Saigon.** Arrive in Saigon at midmorning and transfer to your downtown hotel. Along the way your English-speaking guide will discuss street foods available from hundreds of curbside vendors throughout Saigon. Tonight a Welcome Dinner at Quan An Ngon Restaurant featuring



ing market-style service and regional specialties. Overnight in Saigon (D)

**Day 4: Saigon.** Today we begin the experience of Vietnamese traditional cuisine with Chef Dung. Chef Dung is well known in Vietnam as host of a televised cooking program. She will take you to the central market where you will buy ingredients and learn about the components of basic Vietnamese meals. Returning to her home, you will participate in a hands-on preparation of a typical Southern Vietnamese lunch.

After you enjoy the meal that you have assisted to prepare, you will tour city sites including historic landmarks and learn of both traditional and external influences on the local culture. Tonight, a wonderful meal at the Temple Club. Overnight in Saigon (B, L, D)



**Day 5: Saigon.** This morning we take a scenic drive to the Mekong Delta. One of our first stops will be a reptile farm where we see a variety of snakes and other reptiles found in Vietnam and occasionally used for medicinal purposes. Then we board a private boat for a cruise on part of the upper Mekong River. We will make stops along the shore to bonsai and fruit gardens, a wine factory and visit local homes. You will sample fruits and tea mixed with honey. Returning to dock, we enjoy Mekong specialties at the Ngoc Gia Trang Restaurant in My Tho. Later we return to Saigon and have dinner with a special folk dance show. Overnight in Saigon (B, L, D)

**Day 6: Saigon/Hoi An.** This morning we fly to DaNang, a major port city on the South China Sea. We tour the Cham Museum, documenting the art and architecture of the Cham peoples who migrated into this region from the Indian subcontinent a millennium ago. Then we climb to the temples on Marble Mountain for spectacular views of China Beach. After a lunch of DaNang specialties at the Mi Quang Noodle Restaurant, we drive to Hoi An, a charming small town that was an international trading port in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. In Hoi An we are greeted by Chef Duke, a Vietnamese-American who makes a unique fusion of local and international flavors. We enjoy dinner at his restaurant. Overnight in Hoi An



**Day 7: Hoi An.** Our walking tour of the town's narrow cobblestone streets includes visits to former merchant homes, Phuc Kien Pagoda, the 400-year-old Japanese Covered Bridge and the colorful bazaar where we see and sample a fascinating collection of fresh vegetables and herbs. At Mrs. Vy's Cooking School we have a hands-on class in the preparation of specialized local cuisine. The balance of the day is free to explore the town on your own, or take an optional bike ride to the Herbal Garden. Overnight in Hoi An. (B, L)

**Day 8: Hoi An/Hue.** Our three-hour drive to Hue takes us over the scenic Hai Van Pass and through the Lang Co fishing village among the sand dunes. In Hue we visit the Imperial Citadel, an ancient fortress with over 11 kilo-



meters of moats that once protected it from invaders. From this royal capital, Vietnamese emperors ruled the country before the arrival of the French. After a casual lunch featuring Hue's famous noodles, we take a Dragon Boat ride on the Perfume River to the Thien Mu Pagoda, Hue's most preserved religious



monument. Tonight we join Chef Cam Tu, well educated in traditional cooking, as she prepares our dinner at her royal-styled pavilion. Overnight in Hue (B, L, D)

**Day 9: Hue.** Today we see the carefully restored Royal Tombs of Emperor Khai Dinh and Tu Duc. Our lunch features Hue specialties followed by a visit to a family that makes noodles and tofu. Tonight our guide takes us on a walking dinner on the Hue streets as we sample various street foods sold by many vendors. Overnight in Hue. (B, L, D)

**Day 10: Hue/Hanoi.** We fly to Hanoi this morning. After checking into our hotel, we have a lunch of Hanoi's traditional Pho noodle. (Pho is pronounced "fa" like the musical note *do re me FA so la...*) In the afternoon we tour the Fine Arts Museum, the Temple of Literature, the Lake of the Restored Sword and ride a cyclo through the Old Quarter of "38 streets



and wares." This evening a water puppet show and then a meal featuring the wine and specialties of the northern mountains along the border with China. Overnight in Hanoi (B, L, D)

**Day 11: Hanoi.** A full day of sightseeing includes the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, One Pillar Pagoda, the Quan Thanh Temple and the Tran Quoc Pagoda. Lunch is at a family operated restaurant specializing in a 100-year old recipe for fish paste. After time for shopping, we dine in the Old Quarter. Overnight in Hanoi. (B, L, D)

**Day 12: Hanoi/Halong.** After breakfast, we check out of our hotel and drive 160 kilometers to Halong City. Along the way we have a coffee break at the Sao Do Handicraft Village. Arriving at the dock around noon, we board our private junk for a 4-hour cruise among the hundreds of limestone



islands designated a World Heritage Site. On board, we enjoy a fresh seafood lunch. Returning to shore, we check into our hotel and then have dinner at a nearby fish restaurant. Overnight hotel in Halong City. (B, L, D)

**Day 13: Halong/Hanoi.** This morning we return to Hanoi with a stop at Bat Trang, a century-old ceramic production village. Back in Hanoi we have time for last minute shopping before we enjoy our Farewell Dinner at the Wild Rice Restaurant. Overnight in Hanoi. (B, D)

**Day 14: Hanoi/USA.** Transfer to Noi Bai International Airport today for our flight home to the USA. Crossing the International Dateline, we arrive back in the USA the same day.

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner

# Independent Travelers: Vietnam Gourmet Tour

**Please PRINT clearly!**

## 2012 Reservation Application

From \$2,138 per person (Cost based on double occupancy in Superior hotel category - single room additional)

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservation(s) on a 2012 Vietnam Gourmet Tour. Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ representing \$400.00 per person deposit.

(Please make checks payable to "MilSpec Tours")

Date in 2012 you wish to depart the USA to begin your tour: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ (Available January to May & October to December)

Tour Participants (Check )

- One Person \$4,034 per person (inclusive of private room)     Deluxe Hotels \$1,172 additional for one person  
 Two Persons \$2,641 per person (double occupancy)     Three - Four Persons \$2,378 per person (double occupancy)  
 Five - Six Persons: \$2,179 per person (double occupancy)     Seven or More Persons: \$2,138 per person (double occupancy)

Two or more persons:  Upgrade to Deluxe Hotels for an additional \$664 per person - double occupancy.

- Superior Hotel Single Room \$631 additional per person     Deluxe Hotel Single Rooms \$999 additional per person.

Trans-Pacific Air: (Check )  \$1,100 per person roundtrip     I/we will make our own airline reservations.

Payment Option (Check )

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

Insurance Option (Check )

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) + Deluxe Hotel (if selected) + Trans-Pacific Air (if selected) = *Insurance Premium*)

- \$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     \$5,501 to \$6,000 = \$445  
 I will obtain my own insurance.

**We require the full name (as it appears on the passport), gender and date of birth of each tour participant.**

#1 \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
#2 \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
#3 \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
#4 \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

*Attach a list for additional participants or submit additional Reservation Applications.*

- I have attached a 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 ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

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.     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     AMEX

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

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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



Typical Vietnamese Market

## Your MilSpec Tour Includes. . .

\* Nonrefundable roundtrip coach-class TransPacific airline transportation from the West Coast on regularly scheduled flights if selected. \* 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. \* Van or motorcoach transportation as required by the itinerary. \* Sightseeing as specified with a Professional English-speaking Guide & appropriate admission fees. \* Visa processing. \* Transfers between airports and hotels if traveling on group flights. \* Tips & taxes on all prepaid services.

**Tour Prices Do Not Include:** Airport/customs/departure taxes, 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 number of tour participants as shown in the Reservation Application, 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 in a Superior Class hotel. Deluxe hotels are available at additional cost as indicated. 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 90 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. Instructions will be sent to you.

**Smoking:** Please kindly note that for the safety and well-being of the group, smoking is not permitted in the van or on the motorcoach 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 \$75.00 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 \$150 per person service charge; less than 60 days prior to departure date, deposits will be refunded, less a \$250 per person service charge and any cancellation charges assessed against MilSpec Tours by hotels, transportation companies, airlines and other purveyors of services. There will be no refunds for cancellations of 30 days or less. 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 \$50.00 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 van or 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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## Travel Insurance

Take advantage of our valuable insurance protection. For \$164 to \$445 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.*