

American Celebration of Music in Vietnam

Saigon – Mekong Delta – Mui Ne – Cu Chi – Tay Ninh

Standard Tour #2 (7 nights / 9 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled airline service to Saigon, Vietnam. Enjoy full meal and beverage service and in-flight entertainment during this trans-Pacific, overnight flight. Cross the International Date Line during this flight

Day 2

Saigon

(B,L,D)

Arrive in Saigon. Meet your MCI Vietnamese Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer to the hotel. Along the way to the hotel, time permitting, we will enjoy a brief orientation tour of Saigon, the Notre Dame Cathedral, Central Post Office, Reunification Palace and Ben Thanh Market

Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) is the heart and soul of Vietnam. It's a bustling, dynamic and industrious centre, the largest city in the country, the economic capital and the cultural trendsetter. Yet within the teeming metropolis are the timeless traditions and beauty of an ancient culture

Day 3

Saigon / Mekong Delta / Can Tho (B.L.D)

After breakfast at the hotel, we will drive to Cai Be. Once in Cai Be we will have the opportunity to experience the Mekong Delta by visiting a Vietnamese candy factory, exploring an orchard garden, listening to traditional Vietnamese music and having lunch with a local family in a rustic garden. We will experience the true countryside of the Mekong Delta by rowboat, as we visit an island on the other side of the Mekong River

Later in the afternoon we will take a short walk to explore a local market or prepare for the evening performance

We will spend the night in the city of Can Tho – the capital of the Mekong Delta
Evening performance at the Can Tho City Theater

Can Tho is the main city of the Mekong Delta. It is the transportation center for the region, as it is connected to the other towns of the Delta by an extensive system of rivers and canals. The Mekong river is particularly wide there, and must be crossed by ferry, but it is along the smaller canals that most of the rural population lives. One of the most interesting sights in the Delta are the floating markets and associated river life. Near Can Tho, there are three different floating markets

Day 4

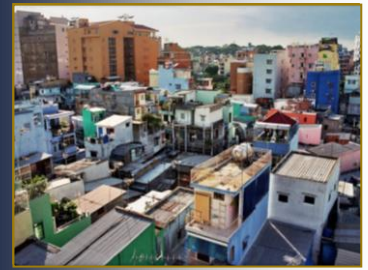
Can Tho / Saigon

(B,L,D)

We will leave the hotel early in the morning and board a motorized boat. Once on the boat, we will visit the famous Cai Rang Floating Market, fruit orchards, and a crocodile farm. This trip will give us a wonderful opportunity to sample some of the tropical fruits that are grown in Vietnam

We will then drive back to Can Tho, where we will enjoy lunch

We will head back to Saigon in the afternoon



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Day 5 **Saigon** **(B,L,D)**

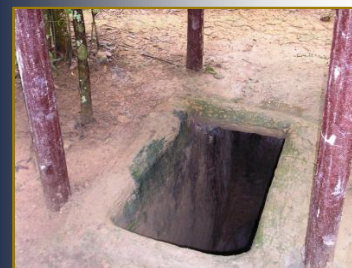
Early in the morning we will depart for Cu Chi to visit the tunnels, a network of underground tunnels. We will have the opportunity to go into the underground tunnels

We will then continue on to Tay Ninh to visit the Cao Dai Temple, where a prayer service is held every day at noon. Caodaism was founded in the 1920's by using a combination of teachings from Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Hinduism, Christianity, Islam and other religions into one religion to promote peace

We will have lunch and then travel back to Saigon

There will be time in the afternoon to relax and prepare for the evening performance

Evening performance at the Saigon Conservatory or Theater



Day 6 **Saigon / Mui Ne** **(B,L,D)**

After breakfast, we will take a 4-hour drive to the beautiful seaside resort of Mui Ne

We will have the entire afternoon free to enjoy the sandy beaches

We will spend the evening in Mui Ne

Mui Ne has long been considered the "Hawaii" of Vietnam. It boasts shady roads under coconut trees, a beautiful beach and cliffs battered by the waves of the sea. The typical scenery of Mui Ne lies in the moving lines of golden sand caused by the wind and when they are seen from afar they look like moving waves. Mui Ne is an ideal place for rest and relaxation. Visitors can certainly enjoy swimming in the blue water of the sea, climbing the sand dunes or relaxing by a swimming pool. In fact this oasis entertains people of all ages, and furthermore, provides an endless inspiration to the artists' creation



Day 7 **Mui Ne / Saigon** **(B,L,D)**

In the morning we will visit the Fairy Spring Falls and Reclining Buddha in Mui Ne. As well, we will have a chance to view the breath-taking sand dunes. If we feel adventurous, we may also try "sand sledding" (protective foot-wear is a necessity)

We will then head back to Saigon, visiting a local fishing village along the way

Evening performance at the Saigon University



Day 8 **Saigon** **(B,L,D)**

Following breakfast in the hotel, ***we will have the option to participate in mass at the Notre Dame Cathedral***

We will then visit the Chinatown area, a Buddhist Temple, the Reunification Palace and the War Museum

We will have the afternoon free

We may choose to spend the rest of the day sightseeing or shopping for souvenirs

Farewell Dinner and overnight



Day 9 **Depart for home** **(B)**

Breakfast will be served upon awakening. Transfer to Saigon's International Airport for return flight

Arrive home in the evening of the same day

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

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