



MONTESSORI TOURS AND TRAVEL

... your window to the world of Montessori

In conjunction with 'Travel Managers' and 'Vietnam Travel and Cruise', MT&T brings you this unique window into the wonderful work of Vietnam's dedicated Montessorians and the fascinating and varied culture of their country.



2023 Montessori Vietnam Study Tour **Small Group Custom Tour**

20 July 2023 – 01 August 2023 (12 nights)

COST: Double / Twin Share – AUD 4410

Single – AUD 5970

Deposit of AUD\$400 per person required to secure your spot. Limited spaces.

Balance due Friday 19 May 2023

Highlights include: Hanoi, Hoi An, Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), cooking class, homestay in Mekong Delta, overnight cruise on Halong Bay, lantern making, Dinner in the Dark and various other dining experiences, exploring and enjoying famous Vietnamese foods.

Included in cost: Overnight accommodation including daily breakfast, all hotel tax and service charges, one night on Halong cruise, private transfers and transportation during this tour, sightseeing with local English-speaking guides, any fees, meals as specified in this itinerary, airfares from Hanoi to Danang / Danang to Saigon (economy class)



ITINERARY

Day One - Thursday 20 July 2023: Hanoi

On arrival into Hanoi, you will be met and transferred to our hotel.

Explore and orientate at your leisure.

Meet with fellow travellers in the early evening.

Accommodation: May de Ville Premier Hotel, Hanoi

Meals included: None

Day Two - Friday 21 July 2023: Hanoi

After breakfast we visit the Shining Star Montessori School and the school's farm.

Tonight we have a short walk for a water puppet show at the Thang Long Water Puppet Theatre. After the show the night is yours to explore Hanoi and indulge in food of your choice.

Accommodation: May de Ville Premier Hotel, Hanoi

Meals included: Breakfast

Day Three - Saturday 22 July 2023: Hanoi

Starting at 8am, this morning we tour the city of Hanoi. Places we will visit include: Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, built to house the preserved body of the revolutionary leader Ho Chi Minh; Ho Ch Minh Museum housing everything memorable related to Ho Chi Minh; the One Pillar Pagoda, a Buddhist temple built of wood in 1049; and the Literature Temple and Quoc Tu Giam – Vietnam's first University, constructed in 1070.

After lunch we hop on a cyclo for an hour's drive visiting Hanoi's Old Quarter.

Tonight we are guided through the streets of Hanoi gaining insights into the intricacies and traditions of the Vietnamese food culture. We eat as we go, trying seasonal fruits, and sampling tasty snacks from street carts.

Will you try; Bánh xèo, Pho, Bún chả and other delights? Finish the night's offerings with a cold beer whilst sitting at 'bia hoi corner' in Hanoi's Old Quarter.

Accommodation: May de Ville Premier Hotel, Hanoi

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day Four - Sunday 23 July: Hanoi to Halong (by road)

After checking out of our hotel, we transfer to Halong (approximately 2.5 hours) where we board Mon Cheri Cruise and enjoy a lunch before sailing to Lan Ha Bay – a member of the World's Most Beautiful Bays.

After lunch, we visit the Dark and Bright Cave, famous for the pristine natural beauty and poetic, attractive seascape of Lan Ha Bay. There will be time to swim and enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

Dinner will be served at the restaurant on Mon Cheri Cruise.

Accommodation: Mon Cheri Cruise

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day Five - Monday 24 July: Halong to Hanoi to Danang / Hoi An

After an early breakfast, visit Frog Pond and enjoy kayaking or relaxing.

Later in the morning after early lunch we depart the boat and head to Noi Bai airport for our flight to Danang.

Our guide will meet us and transfer us to our hotel in Hoi An.

Whilst in Hoi An there is a great opportunity to have any custom-made clothing (suits, dresses, blouses, etc.) made from the really talented tailors in this town. They can make and style anything you can think of. Bring along your favourite piece to be copied in a wide choice of quality fabrics.

Accommodation: La Siesta Resort and Spa, Hoi An

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day Six - Tuesday 25 July: Hoi An – Danang – Hoi An

After breakfast we visit the Montessori Training Centre.

Once we return to Hoi An, the rest of the day is yours to enjoy.

Accommodation: La Siesta Resort and Spa, Hoi An

Meals Included: Breakfast

Day Seven – Wednesday 26 July: Hoi An

Our day starts with learning the secrets of preparing traditional Vietnamese cuisine. We will visit the local gardens of the farmers who raise the plants and spices required for the traditional dishes of the region which we will prepare. Our cooking class will be in the home of a local on a small island in the river delta of Hoi An. We will leave with a collection of recipes with which to impress friends at home.

The rest of the day is free to spend as you please.

Accommodation: La Siesta Resort and Spa, Hoi An

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch

Day Eight – Thursday 27 July: Hoi An

Our guide will meet us after breakfast and take us to the old quarter for a Lantern Making Class where we can create our own Vietnamese style lantern whilst learning about the historical significance of traditional lanterns.

The rest of the day is free to spend as you please.

Accommodation: La Siesta Resort and Spa, Hoi An

Meals Included: Breakfast



Day Nine – Friday 28 July: Hoi An / Danang – Saigon – Mekong Delta

It's an early departure for our flight to Saigon.

We will be met and transferred to Cai Be (approximately 3 hours)

There will be time to visit the Cai Be floating Market then bike or walk along the village paths on Tân Phong Island to see local daily life, stopping to see weaving of dried water-hyacinth to make baskets, bags, hats, etc. After lunch, we cross one of the longest rivers in the world, Mekong River and check into our homestay where we can enjoy an intimate view of rural life in the Mekong Delta. For dinner we will cook up some special dishes with members of the local family.

Accommodation: Ut Trinh Homestay, Mekong Delta

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day Ten – Saturday 29 July: Saigon

Today day starts with a visit to the Vinh Long Market. Visit the brick kilns to see how the local people create beautiful clay potteries. You might like to learn how to make rice paper, coconut candy, pop-rice at local workshops and enjoy some sweets with a cup of hot tea.

Lunch will be at a local restaurant or our homestay.

We return to Saigon, check into our hotel and get ready for our...

Vespa Tour – Saigon after dark tour - be immersed in the cosmopolitan nightlife of Saigon. Our expert Vesper driver will take us through the busy streets of Saigon to feast on authentic, fresh dishes and experience live music at two very different venues. Pack a healthy appetite and a sense of adventure for a guided tour through the city at night.

A message from our tour guide - please note:

- *This tour is a street food adventure; some stops are not as tidy as in formal restaurants. Yet we have inspected and chosen the best shops with acceptable hygiene, to make sure you can experience the best local street food possible.*
- *Remark about traffic in Saigon:
If you have never visited Saigon - the city on the move, then it is a good idea to discover this city by motorcycles. Get well prepared that the traffic moves in a different way that at home. The roads are always busy with motorbikes, cars and buses. But take it easy, Saigonese knows how to handle all the turns. You will sit behind experienced drivers who understand their vespa and the traffic like the back of their hands. Only by sitting on a motorcycle that you can zig zag through the narrow alleys, bustling residential area to capture the real night life of Saigonese.*

Accommodation: Majestic Saigon Hotel, Saigon

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Street Food Dinner



Day Eleven – Sunday 30 July: Saigon

This morning we depart Saigon for a 21.5hr drive to the famous Cu Chi Tunnels, an immense network of connecting underground tunnels. Touring the underground compounds will provide a better understanding of the history of the tunnels, the hardship of life in the tunnels and the Vietnamese resilience during combat. Try some special tea and cassava which was the food of the guerillas during the war).

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

This afternoon our city tour takes in some of Saigon's most historic landmarks including the Independence Palace, the Notre Dame Cathedral and the Central Post Office. Close by is the former Presidential Palace, the headquarters of the Saigon Government during the American War. The War Remnants Museum exhibits a vivid perspective of the American War through the eyes of the Vietnamese. (Please note that some of the displays are very graphic.) Tonight is yours to enjoy as you wish.

Accommodation: Majestic Saigon Hotel, Saigon

Meals Included: Breakfast

Day Twelve – Monday 31 July: Saigon

After breakfast, we meet with Montessorians who are working in Vietnam to hear more about the growth and challenges of Montessori education in Vietnam. We will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant after which there will be time to relax before tonight's unique experience... 'Dining in the Dark Saigon'

How do you think your other senses react to being in complete darkness? Tonight we will embark on a sensory journey into a different world, and savour exquisite tastes and textures in complete darkness. This multi-sensory dining experience will certainly stimulate your senses and open your mind.

Accommodation: Majestic Saigon Hotel, Saigon

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day Thirteen – Tuesday 01 August: Depart Saigon

Today we say goodbye and wish you all a safe trip.

Join me in Bangkok for the 29th International Montessori Congress or make your way to your next destination.

Meals Included: Breakfast

*There will be local foods, local guides, local cultural experiences, local larrikins.
There will be surprises and activities, time to chat, time to play, time to learn, time to wonder.
Led by Roelie Hartwig with guides and drivers from 'Vietnam Travel and Cruise'.*

This tour requires travellers to be able to walk approximately 3+ miles / 5+ kms in any given day.



**To express your interest in this tour, or to secure a place, please email
Roelie Hartwig at: montessoritoursandtravel@gmail.com**

This itinerary will always be a work in progress and what we end up doing on some days may be different to what is stated here. All will be done to ensure the tour proceeds as per the itinerary whilst maintaining the integrity of the tour. Should this happen your understanding and cooperation will be appreciated. This tour will be conducted in English with local guides and local drivers.

NOTES

- If travelling on any VIETNAM AIRLINES flights, **middle names** must be on the flight tickets.
- Domestic Airlines allow for 1 piece of 20 - 23kg checked baggage and 1 piece of 7 - 12kg hand carry luggage depend on VNA or Bamboo air.
- Transfer times are approximate and subject to local, traffic conditions at the time of travel.
- Normal check in time at all hotels is 14:00; check out time is 12:00. Early check in and late checkout are subjected to availability or surcharge will be applied if requested.

TOUR INCLUSION/EXCLUSION

Inclusions:	Exclusions:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accommodation at selected hotel with breakfast• Private transfers and transportation on tour• Sightseeing with Local English-speaking guides (one guide in each city)• Entrance fees• Domestic flight: Hanoi – Da Nang; Da Nang - Saigon• Meals as specified (meals only, no drinks/ water)• Cold towels and water on sightseeing days• Welcome gifts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other meals where not mentioned in the program• Alcoholic & drinks at mealtime• International flights and airport taxes• Early check in/Late check-out (unless require)• Overweight luggage• Personal expenses• Travel Insurance (compulsory)• Tips and gratuities• Other services not listed in inclusive column

VISAS

Please ensure your passport is valid more than 6 months from the date of return for every country you are visiting. Kindly note that visa service is not included in our proposal.

Please ask your travel agent for any visa service or guidance. Or you can simply apply online via this website: https://evisa.xuatnhapcanh.gov.vn/en_US/web/guest/khai-thi-thuc-dien-tu/cap-thi-thuc-dien-tu
Online visa fee is at USD\$25 and you do not need to pay stamping fee at Vietnam airport.



Please note the following general information is subject to change.

TRIP AND TRAVEL INSURANCE

The tour price does **not** include personal insurance. Travelers are highly recommended to purchase Travel Insurance upon commitment of the booking in case of force majeure. Travel Insurance covers such costs as emergency and medical evacuation, hospital fees, property loss, etc. which could possibly happen during the trip.

Vietnam Travel and Cruise (our local travel agent in Vietnam) is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay or damage to personal property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from but not limited to acts of God or force majeure, illness, disease, acts of war, civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, animals, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind, overbooking or downgrading of services, food poisoning, mechanical or other failure of aircraft or other means of transportation or for failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart on time. Additional expenses incurred due to delays, accidents, natural disaster, political actions and unrest, must be covered by the clients. Vietnam Travel and Cruise will make every effort to recoup any losses from the service providers.

Payment:

- A **Deposit of AUD\$400** per person is required upon confirmation of your booking. This deposit is non-refundable.
- The balance is due 60 days prior to departure (Friday 19 May 2023). If you fail to pay by the due date we reserve the right to cancel your booking and retain your deposit.
- If you make a booking less than 30 days prior to departure, full payment is due within 48 hours.

Cancellation: Any cancellations must be made in writing.

- Cancellation fees apply to all cancelled reservations. The fee is determined by the date written cancellation received by Vietnam Travel and Cruise.
- Cancellation more than 30 days - Loss of deposit
- Cancellation at 30 or less days – 100% of total booking cost

Special conditions: *Depending on airlines, hotels, cruises' cancellation policies, the above conditions may be modified.*

Claims and refunds for unused services

No refunds or exchanges can be made in respect of accommodation, meals, sightseeing tours, transport, or any other services, which are included in the tour prices but not utilized by the client.

COST: Double / Twin Share – AUD 4410

Single – AUD 5970

Deposit of AUD\$400 per person required to secure your spot. Limited spaces.

Balance due Friday 19 May 2023

***To express your interest in this tour, or to secure a place, please email
Roelie Hartwig at: montessoritoursandtravel@gmail.com***

Photos courtesy of Natalie Miller, 'Travel Managers'