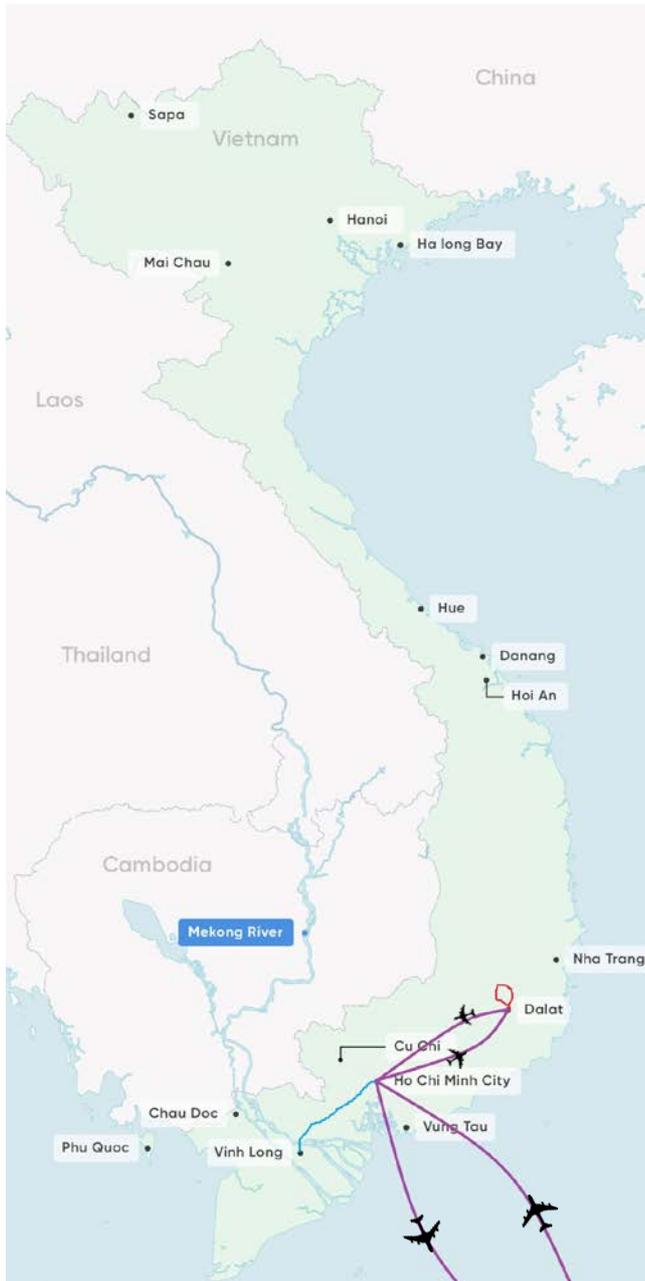


Vietnam Award trip - Adventurous journey & service (10 days)



Departs anytime (2018 -19)



Please note: This itinerary can be modified in any way to best suit your school's particular aims, learning objectives and budget.

Please contact us detailing any changes you'd like to make.

NB2: whilst the outdoor educational component of this trip is designed to be run as an Award (Duke of Ed.) program, it is naturally also suitable for any student group looking for a unique and challenging outdoor educational experience and will include a seminar on navigation and bushcraft for student with no prior map reading or navigational experience.

This challenging, 10-day trip of Vietnam's south and south-central highlands has been specifically designed for spirited students wanting a fast-paced and activity-rich travel experience.

This itinerary features several active programs and cultural activities; specifically, a challenging 4-day program that will involve a significant team building component, as well as mountain biking and abseiling in these remote and picturesque regions of Vietnam. Throughout their adventure, students are always supported by our team guides and ground staff. The trip will further entail a very meaningful community service element, intended to give students an appreciation of the rural hardship confronting some communities in Vietnam.

The trip is designed to foster comradery and team building skills amongst students. It is further intended to awaken students to their global citizenship and help instigate the lifelong process of understanding the complex issues of poverty and development.

Most importantly, this trip is also designed to be highly enjoyable and features several excursions and activities. We hope provide students with a very memorable and fulfilling introduction to this fascinating developing nation.



David Eales
Asia Manager

Day 1

Arrive Ho Chi Minh City



On arrival in Vietnam, our tour leaders will greet and escort us to our hotel. They will run through the itinerary and answer any questions before we set out on an orientation walk around the city. In the early evening, we will stop at a popular local eatery to enjoy our first taste of Saigon's fine cuisine. Food is the highlight of any trip to Vietnam – something we will come to appreciate over the course of our trip!

Following dinner, there will be a short time to explore the city's buzzing walking street adjacent to our hotel for a taste of the city's dynamic youth culture.

(dinner) **Flight details to be advised**

Day 2

Ho Chi Minh City (Great Race Activity)



This morning we will set out for a thorough exploration of Ho Chi Minh City – one of Asia's most dynamic metropolises and the powerhouse of Vietnam. We will visit the city's dynamic China Town as well as a bustling local 'wet' market. This afternoon we will visit The War Remnants Museum to learn of the Vietnamese experience during the Vietnam War. It is referred to in Vietnam as the American War, to distinguish it from four others that were fought in the 20th century.

This afternoon we will enjoy a 'Great Race' around Ho Chi Minh City. This activity is designed to facilitate urban exploration, enhance students' knowledge of this historic city as well as our appreciation of Southeast Asian culture. We will

complete tasks, navigate and collect information and complete activities that will be challenging, fun and educational. Today we will also take time to visit some of the city's other most important sites including its historic post office, a beautiful French-built cathedral and its colonial inspired streets. NB: As the great race requires a significant amount of time complete, race activities will take place in the morning and the afternoon. Students who are not racing will visit the attractions described above in the morning and compete in the Great Race in the afternoon (and vice-versa). (breakfast, dinner)

Day 3

Ho Chi Minh Dalat



This morning we will visit some of the city's most important places of interest, including the War Remnant Museum to learn of the 'American' war in Vietnam as well as paying a visit to the Notre Dame Cathedral and the central Post Office. Later there will be time for students to stock up on supplies (food etc.) for our trekking which will start tomorrow.

At lunchtime, we will check out of our hotel and transfer to the airport for our short flight to the southern highland's township of Dalat. On arrival, we will head out to explore this French-inspired town and visit its vibrant local market before dinner

should time permit.

This evening our tour leaders will brief us more thoroughly on the program over the coming days at which time we will organise and check all our equipment, supplies and maps in preparation for the days ahead. (breakfast, dinner) **FLIGHT: Ho Chi Minh City – Dalat (early afternoon)**

Day 4

Dalat (Camping)

A very early start this morning will ensure each group gets away in good time. This morning's program will begin as staggered groups embark on a mountain bike ride over undulating terrain, across waterways and natural obstacles (approximately 1-2 hours) before arriving at our first checkpoint. From here we will collect our equipment to begin the hike through sparse farmland and lightly wooded terrain, and then begin a steep climb to the summit of Lang Biang Mountain.

Whilst there are several possible routes to the summit, each group will need to decide which approach will be the most suitable for their team. On reaching the summit, there will be the opportunity for a short break before groups descend for an hour or so to the top of a steep cliff for the abseiling activity. For students with no prior abseiling experience or those requiring a refresher course in the activity, instruction will be available before undertake the main obstacle – a 30-metre ascent. From the bottom on the obstacle, each group will be required to continue navigating to reach the campsite (campsite 1) this evening, a further 1-2 hours through a steep pine forest. Tonight, we will enjoy a bonfire and a performance by a local minority tribe native to this area. NB: Students to provide own meals during this section {NB: breakfast is included this day} (breakfast, lunch, dinner)



Day 5

Dalat ✈ Ho Chi Minh City



We will continue the final leg of our hike this morning; a long and navigationally challenging route through lightly wooded forests to our last checkpoint. On arrival here, we will farewell our guides. We will then board our awaiting buses to Dalat to enjoy dinner, before boarding our flight back to Ho Chi Minh City in the early evening. After a long day of travelling, students will have plenty of time to relax. For those not wanting to go straight to bed, there is plenty of opportunities to explore the city! (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

Day 6

Mekong Delta

Today another adventure begins as we journey into the country's deep southern waterways of the Mekong Delta. After travelling about three hours south of Ho Chi Minh City, we will board our private boat to cruise through remote tributaries. In the afternoon we will arrive at a village, where we will spend the coming days undertaking our community project which will entail building a dwelling for an impoverished Delta family.

We will also enjoy a bike ride through the surrounding villages to get a feeling for the lives of the local people and learn of the Delta environment, home to nearly a third of the country's population. We visit a local school to gain an understanding of the country's education system.

Waste management is a major issue in Vietnam and the Mekong Delta region. Although despite this, many residences of the Delta provinces practice sustainable methods of living, including recycling of manufacturing materials and the use of sustainable fuel which we will learn of today. (breakfast, lunch, dinner)

NB: The homestay is a private home overlooking the Mekong River. Accommodation is very basic featuring basic bedding, pillows and blankets, mosquito nets, ceiling fans, electric lights, mosquito coils and western toilets. Main luggage may be left in our city hotel storage room while on the community project. (All meals included during building component)

Day 7 & 8

Mekong Delta



Life in the Mekong Delta begins early, as we will this morning to have breakfast and begin our building project.

Breaking into groups, there will be a variety of tasks to undertake each day of the project from cutting bamboo scaffolding, assembling frames, bricklaying, hammering, sawing and transporting of materials. Local tradesmen and tour leaders will be supervising and assisting throughout the project, often identifying students with particular skills to perform the more difficult or skill-orientated tasks. Groups will be rotated throughout the project. During our time in this region, we

will be expected to assist with the preparation and cooking of meals for our group and local family. The days will be long and the results rewarding as we see our project come to fruition and as curious villages from all around come to watch and assist us. (2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners)

Day 9

Mekong Delta



This morning we will put the finishing touches on the dwelling we have spent many hours building and have a short hand-over ceremony with its new family. There will be a few tasks that will be required before the house is completed, however it is expected we will finish the great majority of the building. We will begin our journey north, stopping for the night in Vinh Long province. On arrival, we will board our private boat to cruise through tributaries, stopping to visit various cottage industries including confectionary manufacturing, incense production and pottery making. In the afternoon we will enjoy a bike ride through some local villages to get a feeling of the lifestyles. We will also be visiting a fish

sauce factory to learn the process of making Vietnam's most famous condiment.

Arriving back in Ho Chi Minh City around midday, there will be ample time to relax and explore the city's vibrant retail districts, as well as its unique markets which are among the best in Asia. After dinner tonight, we will have time at a local night market followed by an energetic session of one of Vietnam's favourite past times – karaoke!
(breakfast, lunch)

Day 10

Cu Chi Guerrilla Tunnels 🚗 **Depart Ho Chi Minh City** ✈️ **Home**



There will be a final time this morning to pick up any last-minute keepsakes for family and friends back home. Today, we will enjoy an excursion to the Cu Chi Tunnels – once home to the communist guerrillas in their struggle against the French and Americans. We can climb down into the tunnels to learn of the conditions the local communist guerrillas had to endure. It is this area of South Vietnam that witnessed the fiercest fighting during the American conflict and was also subject to an extensive air defoliation program, the results of which can still be observed in the area today.

From Cu Chi, we will journey back towards Ho Chi Minh City to enjoy our final meal in Vietnam before transferring to the airport for our homebound flight. Our group leaders will take care of all flight re-confirmations, assist with check-in and wave us farewell. (Please note hotel check out time is 12noon).
(breakfast) **Flight details to be advised**

Summary

Grading

Challenging: Students and staff will be required to be in a reasonable state of fitness to participate in the activities described on this trip. Hiking and mountain biking ability is required by students wishing to take part in all trip activities. Abseiling instruction will be given before this trip activity. Students will be expected to carry your luggage (tents and sleeping equipment) throughout the trip.

NB2: For student groups with no prior navigational experience, Student Educational Adventures will provide a comprehensive seminar on basic navigational skills before the commencement of the activity.

Accommodation

Student accommodation is on a twin/triple in hotels and whilst camping. Teacher accommodation is on a single room basis. The group will be staying in 3-Star hotels and Homestay in the Mekong Delta.

N.B. During the Award component of the trip, 2 nights will be spent in the wilderness area surrounding Dalat in tents (tents, equipment and other camping equipment supplied as required/necessary and transported by our local guides). During this time, students will be responsible for cooking and transporting all their own food and cooking equipment.

Transport

Modern air-conditioned bus, boat, plane and bicycle.

Group Size

Minimum group size 20 students & 2 staff members travelling *free of charge*.

▲ [Smaller group sizes can be quoted upon application](#)

Your Tour Leader

Your tour leader is probably the person who most influences the success of your trip. Thus, Student Educational Adventures employs our own team of meticulously trained student dedicated, local tour leaders - not foreigners, imported at your students' expense with no language skills or insight into your host culture.

These nationals are not only the best folk to show you their country. They are your teachers, translators and an enthusiastic purveyor of authentic experiences. They are there to facilitate your immersion into new cultures and are the bridge between you and the world of education and new experiences.

Your tour leader is always with your students throughout your trip and is thoroughly versed in safety protocols and duty of care responsibilities. This ranges from assisting in the most basic of health and safety measures to ensuring that teachers & students are always safe during our trips. All have been chosen because of their ability to deal with the needs and unique issues associated with escorting young people through this wonderful and at times, most foreign of regions.

Service Learning Program

All service-learning programs initiated by Student Educational Adventures in Vietnam are conducted after careful consultation with the local community and with the local People's Committee.

These projects are initiated based on a model of mutual learning and designed as an immersion experience. An understanding of the importance of an integrated approach to community development is useful to frame what students and teachers might see, learn or experience during a student immersion.

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Inclusions

- All accommodation, transport, activities, entrance costs and other programs as described in the itinerary
- *Student Educational Adventures* tour leader throughout the trip & additional specialist guides
- **2 internal flights Ho Chi Minh City – Dalat, Dalat - Ho Chi Minh City**
- All camping equipment for outdoor adventure activity including tents and bicycles
- Meals (+ drinking water) as listed in the daily itinerary
- Pre-departure support, briefings & planning meetings for students and parents
- 24/7 in-country support

Exclusions

- International flights to/from Vietnam
- Cost of community project (US\$1,800)
- Some meals
- Vietnam Visa (not required by some nationalities)