

Schedule	Itinerary
Sat Sep 19	Arrive Ha Noi, relax, enjoy Old Quarter, stroll around Hoan Kiem Lake.
Sun Sep 20	Visit Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, tour Ha Noi capital, visit Ha noi Hilton Prison.
Mon Sep 21	Friendship Village for AO / dioxin kids and vets. Afternoon policy round-table, open dialogue with vets, VUFO, VAVA, expats, and media.
Tue Sep 22	Ha Long Bay, cruise on luxury junk overnight.
Wed Sep 23	Fly to Da Nang. Check-in at riverside hotel in Hoi An.
Thu Sep 24	Tour and Shop in Old Town Hoi An, visit Marble Mountain, enjoy sun and sand at China Beach.
Fri Sep 25	Meet association of veterans in Da Nang, VUFO, see DAVA Center or AO victims. Dinner with David and Ushi.
Sat Sep 26	Drive to Hue across Hai Van Pass. Visit Citadel, tombs of Emperors, Thien Mu Pagoda.
Sun Sep 27	Meet HUFO, visit Chau Duc Son Buddhist orphanage

ANNOUNCING
VFP Viet Nam
Peace Tour
19 Sep-4 Oct 2020



NOTE DATE CHANGE!!! (Not original Sep 15-30)
 We had the date of the Waging Peace exhibit in HCMC wrong.
 It is Oct 3, and we don't want to miss it!

This is the ninth year that Viet Nam's Hoa Binh (Peace) Chapter 160 of Veterans For Peace has hosted a two-week custom tour of Viet Nam, the place that resonates with most of us vets as an unforgettable part of our lives. For many, the memories are painful; for others, not terribly unpleasant but the experience is not one we'd want to repeat. Others – spouses, friends, anti-war activists, ordinary citizens – have experienced Viet Nam in their own formative ways as well. Viet Nam is part of us.

This year we have also been invited to participate in a unique conference based on the Waging Peace exhibit and book, and related touring events that have been held in the U.S. in recent months. The topic, *The Outcome of the American War in Viet Nam: American and Vietnamese Perspectives -- A Conference of Historians and Peace and Conflict Scholars*, will feature a number of distinguished professors and researchers, historians, veterans, students, and journalists. It will explore how the United States and the Saigon government, despite superior military power and weapons technology, were unable to defeat the Vietnamese liberation forces or achieve political control over the south of the country. The date is **3 October**, the day before our tour ends.

Mon Sep 28

Drive to Quang Tri and DMZ for UXO and AO briefing at Project RENEW. Visit tunnels at Vinh Moc.

Tue Sep 29

Visit AO families helped by VFP; tour Khe Sanh base, Rock Pile, Truong Son National Cemetery, La Vang Church. Late flight to HCM City.

Wed Sep 30

HCMC/Saigon, Free time for relaxing and shopping, tour guide available.

Thu Oct 1

Optional trip to Cu Chi Tunnels, Cao Dai Temple. In-town sights and shopping

Fri Oct 2

Morning visit to Tu Du Hospital AO facility.

Sat Oct 3

Conference, topic: "Outcome of the American War in Viet Nam: American and Vietnamese Perspectives."

This conference of historians and peace and conflict scholars is an extension of the *Waging Peace* exhibit, book, and public events over the past three years. The VFP delegation are special guests.

Sun Oct 4

Morning vote on disbursing tour funds. Afternoon hotel check-out, and transport to Tan Son Nhat airport for flight to USA.

Viet Nam is a country now at peace, a place of natural beauty, a land of mountains as rugged and resilient as the people who inhabit them, of white sand beaches and inviting palm trees that sway in gentle sea breezes. The people, too, are gentle, and generous in spirit. They welcome Americans today – and especially veterans – with open arms, and forgiveness. A visit to Viet Nam can be heartening, even inspiring, for American veterans.



Chau Duc Son Orphanage, Hue

VFP Chapter 160 addresses the legacies of America's war. We help veterans and their families struggling to keep safe from unexploded ordnance (UXO), recovering from UXO injuries, and dealing with the tragedy of Agent Orange/Dioxin.

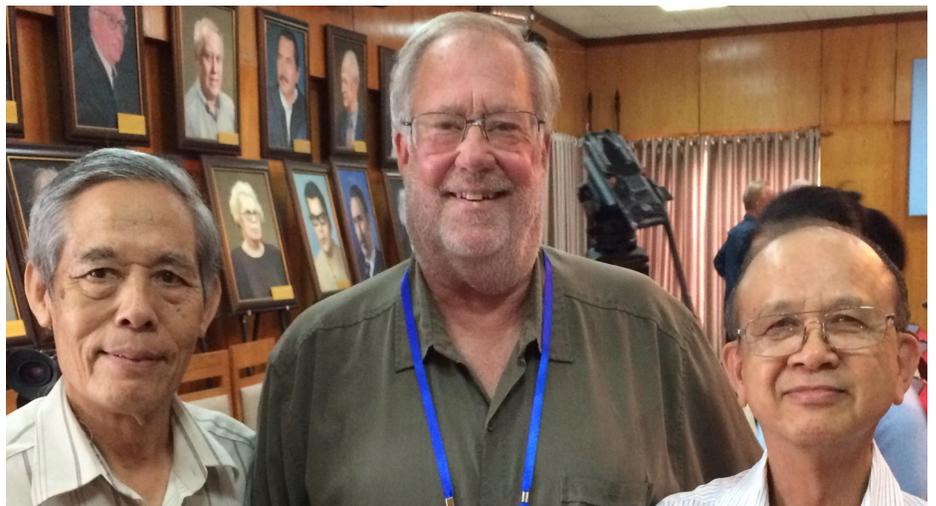
One purpose of our annual tours is to make a tangible financial contribution to VFP 160's mission.

Each tour member is

asked to donate *at least \$1,000* to be pooled at the end of the trip. Participants will decide how to disburse the funds – for bomb clearance, to help Agent Orange victims, to support hospitals, orphanages, schools, and other community needs.

The \$1,000 donation is mandatory. Some participants raise additional funds from their extended families, communities and neighbors, which we encourage. During the past eight years, some \$300,000 has been donated by tour participants and distributed to projects supported by VFP 160 throughout Viet Nam.

TOUR DATES: Most tour participants depart San Francisco late **Thursday, 17 September (actually around 1 am, 18 September)**, and arrive back in the U.S. on **Sunday afternoon, 4 October**. East coast and folks from other routes will have other flight dates—as long as all *get to Hanoi by midday September 19 (Vietnam time)*.



Meeting with friends—former enemy—Hanoi.



Filling Ho Chi Minh's Shoes, Hanoi

Note: VFP organizers and in-country hosts receive no compensation. The Hanoi travel company which handles in-country logistics, Viet Dreamland Travel Co. has always given us generous discounts and sometimes separate donations to allow the maximum amount possible to go to VFP 160's beneficiaries.

COSTS:

- **Tour Fee: \$2,950 USD**, which covers all in-country Viet Nam travel (domestic flights, trains, buses, boats, but not tire sandals); single occupancy hotel accommodations; food and drink (alcohol not included); event tickets.
- **Donation: \$1,000** required minimum charitable donation.
- **Airfare: less than \$1,000** (from San Francisco; currently coach fares are \$728.75 and premium economy \$1388.75 with China Air), plus airfare from your home to our departure point at SFO. You can, of course, arrange your own direct flight to Viet Nam as long as you are in Ha Noi when the group arrives September 15.
- **Visa: \$80 USD** for a 30-day, one-entry tourist visa. Multiple entry or 90-day visas cost more.



Did we mention the excellent food? Vegetarian/vegan? No problem.



Trung Son National Cemetery, Quang Tri



Meeting with the leaders of HCMC Vietnamese Association of Victims of Agent Orange/dioxin (VAVA)

PAYMENT, DEPOSIT, AND DONATIONS: To reserve your booking for this tour, an initial (refundable) deposit of **\$300** must be submitted by **Thursday, April 30th** to:

Denny Riley

5519 Plumas Avenue

Richmond, CA 94804

(H) 510-524-7820

(C) 510-367-9376

dennyriley7@gmail.com

IMPORTANT: Make checks payable to Veterans for Peace, San Francisco Chapter 69 (or **VFP 69**) with **Viet Nam Tour 2020** on the memo line!

FINAL PAYMENT (Tour Fee + Donation): due **Thursday July 9.**

FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS: Contact Paul Cox. Because our tour fee has no slack in it, and the credit card company takes their bite, there will be a 3.5% surcharge for credit card payments (or an additional \$138.45. i.e. $(\$2,950 + \$1,000) + \$138.40 = \$4,088.40$).

FINAL REMINDER: Be sure your passport is current, and apply for your visa early. Visas can be had from the [Embassy](#) in DC or the [Consulate](#) in SF.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

US Tour Coordinator Paul Cox

Board Member VFP Chapter 160

+1 510-418-3436 (leave message)

paulcox890@comcast.net

Viet Nam Tour Coordinator Chuck Searcy

President, VFP Chapter 160

+8 490-342—0769

chuckusvn@gmail.com



Long Hung Church, Dong Ha. One of only two structures in Quang Tri Province destroyed, but still standing, by the end of the war



The Citadel, Hue, partially restored after the war

PHOTO GALLERY:

Sep 22: Overnight in Ha Long Bay, a World Heritage Site!!!



Da Krong Bridge, leading from Khe San to A Luoi, built for Viet Nam by the Cubans after the war, twice.



Khe Sanh



Local market, Dong Ha



Thich Nu Minh Tu, Buddhist monk and founder of Chau Duc Son Orphanage charms and delights tour while raising 200 orphans, Hue.



Agent Orange victim, Thua Thien



Agent Orange victim, Tu Do Hospital, HCMC



Chau Duc Son Orphanage, Hue.



Project Renew demining teams haul away the American War, one bomb at a time.



One of Project RENEW's all-woman demining teams.



Too late for this farmer,



or this boy.



One less munition!



Explaining planned demining operation near Dong Ha



Project RENEW created this incense factory for blind persons in Quang Tri so that they can earn a living. At their request, VFP 160 built them an on-site kitchen.



Ho Van Lai, UXO victim and teacher at RENEW Mine Education Center, with class of minority children



RENEW's prosthetics center, Dong Ha, Supported by VFP 160