

5days4nights

SAIGON

VIETNAMESE
WOMAN SELLING
LOTTERY TICKETS



GOOD MORNING VIETNAM

Saigon, or Ho Chi Minh City; love it or hate it, but you mustn't miss it. Vietnam is in the midst of rapid development and change; this is your chance to savour traditional Vietnam before it is transformed forever...

DAY 1

ARRIVAL @ HCMC

Welcome to Tan Son Ngat International Airport, HCMC. You will be transported to your comfortable 3-star hotel. Once you have settled down, we'll help arrange for the changing of money followed by a late afternoon familiarization tour of the city. We will visit the Notre Dame Cathedral, the Central Post Office, the Opera House and have your photograph taken with the Uncle Ho statue in front of the People's Committee Building.*

This evening after dinner, we'll bring you to Ben Thanh Night Market for a "shopping" good time.

(Transport back to hotel at own cost)

DAY 2

CU CHI TUNNELS-CHINATOWN

Today, we make our way to the Cu Chi Tunnels, a 250km underground network of tunnels dug by the Vietnamese and used by the Viet Cong during both the French-Indochina War (1946-1954) and the Vietnam War (1955-1975).



A local vendor crossing the street. Scenes like this are common in Saigon. What strikes you about this photograph?

Do note that the name Saigon and Ho Chi Minh City are used interchangeably.

MEKONG DELTA



After lunch, we take a tour of the bustling Chinatown dominated by Vietnamese Chinese. We will visit Binh Tay Market, the biggest wholesale market in Saigon. Next stop - the new An Dong Plaza and the old An Dong Market - for you to compare how time has changed the landscape. Local products and handicraft are a good buy at the old An Dong Market. Thien Hoa Pagoda is our next location. Dedicated to the Goddess of the Sea, this pagoda is popular with seafarers giving thanks and prayers for their safe voyages from China to Vietnam. The huge coils of incense make for a wonderful photo opportunity.

Free time after dinner.

DAY 3

MEKONG DAY TRIP

Today we move out of the city into the local suburbs and padi fields. We begin our tour of the Mekong Delta with a ride on a motorized boat to the Cai Be Floating Market.

We land at An Binh island, located between Cai Be and Vinh Long, to view the local industries of poprice (local version of popcorn) and rice paper making, and coconut candy workshop.

Lunch is followed by a short walk around the island. We will paddle along the small canals back to our big boat and set off for the brick and pottery factory at Vinh Long. As we head back to the city, think about how the My Thuan Bridge has helped to reduce the travelling time to Vinh Long. There will be a short stop at Vinh Trang Temple to understand the religion at the Mekong Delta.

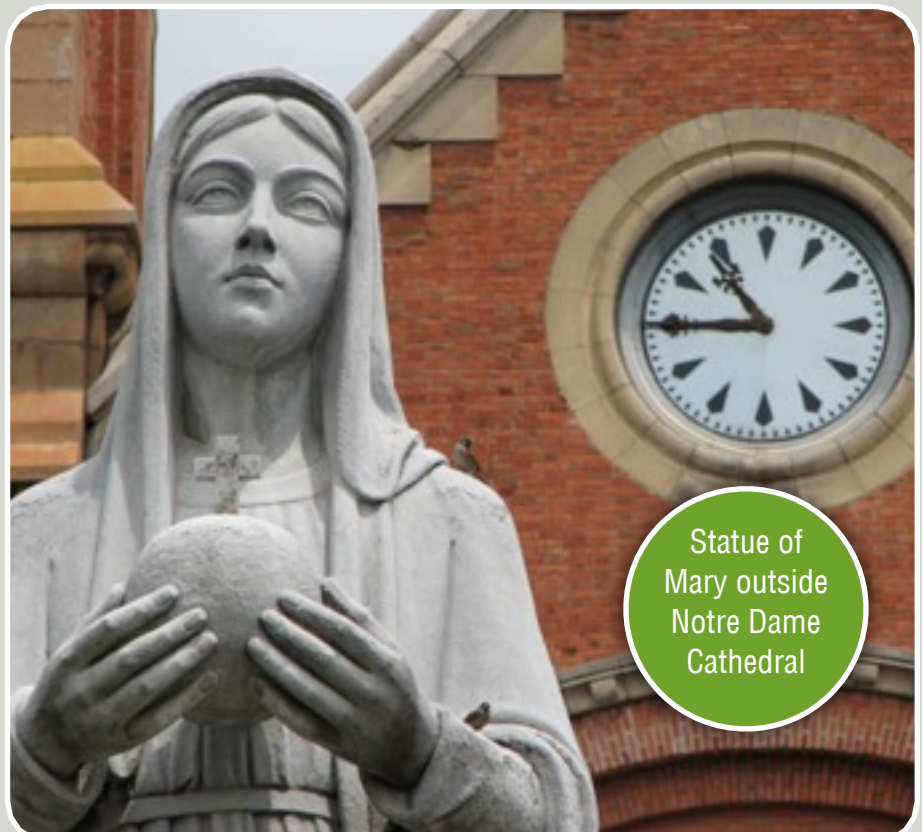
Free time after dinner.

DAY 4

SHOPPING DAY

We embark on one of Singapore's most loved hobbies today. It's shopping day as we explore the various shopping centres in town - from the traditional to the modern. On our proposed list will be Ben Thanh Market, Saigon Tax Trade Centre, Parkson, Diamond Plaza, Lucky Plaza, Opera View, Zen Plaza, Saigon Centre and Saigon Square - "proposed" because we may not have time to cover all depending on your preferences. There is also Le Loi and Nguyen Hue streets to cover as the numerous shops there will take up quite a bit of time.

Free time after dinner.



Statue of Mary outside Notre Dame Cathedral

DAY 5

SHOPPING/HOME

All too soon, your tour has come to an end. After breakfast, we'll do some final shopping for those obligatory souvenirs at the Saigon Tax Trade Centre before transporting you to the airport.* We wish you a safe flight back and trust that you have enjoyed yourselves. The best testimony of this would be a return trip later.

NOTES :

- * Activities are subject to change depending on season, weather, timing and availability of resources. They are also dependent on your time of arrival and departure.
- * Please note that all tips are paid by our company. However, if you feel that our guide has served you well, any tip as a token of appreciation will be gratefully accepted with thanks.
- * For your free time after dinner, our guide will help you plan an itinerary for yourself or in small groups. Transport is at own cost.
- * If you would like the bus driver to provide you with transportation at night, please discuss with our guide who will help you arrange. Minimum is 20 pax at US\$2/pax. For small groups, taking taxis is more convenient.

SAIGON



Ben Thanh
Market

