



# National Network Travel & Cruise

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**SINGAPORE  
AIRLINES**



## ITINERARY

(As at 06 July 2015)

### DECISIVE BATTLEFIELDS

### LONG TAN TREK TOUR

DEPARTING 15 AUG 2016

9 DAYS/8 NIGHTS

LED BY BATTLE of LONG TAN VETERAN - DAVE SABBen MG



#### DAY 1. MON 15 AUG

Depart Brisbane, Sydney or Melbourne on Singapore Airlines.  
Please check in 3 hours prior to departure.

**Melbourne** passengers SQ 238  
Depart 1030 Arrive Singapore 1620

**Brisbane** passengers SQ 256  
Depart 0910 Arrive Singapore 1530

Price on application from other cities.

#### CONFIRMED FLIGHT SINGAPORE AIRLINES SQ 212

15 Aug 16	Mon	Check in at Sydney			
15 Aug 16	Mon	<b>Depart</b>	Sydney	0755	Economy/Coach
15 Aug 16	Mon	<b>Arrive</b>	Singapore	1415	Non-stop

On arrival in Singapore join groups from other cities for travel on to Ho Chi Minh City.

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**CONFIRMED FLIGHT SINGAPORE AIRLINES SQ 186**

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15 Aug 16	Mon	Check in at Singapore			
15 Aug 16	Mon	<b>Depart</b>	Singapore	1735	Economy/Coach
15 Aug 16	Mon	<b>Arrive</b>	Ho Chi Minh City	1840	Non-stop

**WELCOME TO VIETNAM**

On arrival at Ho Chi Minh City Airport (Tan Son Nhat Airport) we will be met and transferred to our hotel for one night.

ACCOMMODATION:

**GRAND HOTEL SAIGON**

8 Dong Khoi St,  
District 1 Ho Chi Minh City  
Tel: 84 8 39155555  
In: 15 Aug Out: 16 Aug

Dinner own arrangements arrival day  
15<sup>th</sup> Aug.

**DAY 2  
TUE 16 AUG**

**HO CHI MINH CITY (SAIGON)  
Early Morning Call (EMC) 0600;  
Breakfast (BFAST) 0700;  
Be on the bus (BUS) 0800**



Please meet in the Grand lobby at 0745 for an 0800 departure & commence a sightseeing tour by coach of Ho Chi Minh City to include the Presidential Palace and it's command bunkers for 1.5 hours, the Central Post Office (with an explanation of the architecture), the Notre Dame Cathedral, then to the War Remnants Museum for 1.5 hours.



We conclude the tour at the Ben Thanh market with the afternoon free. If you wish you may like to try the Restaurant Pho 2000 for lunch opposite the market, or the rooftop at the Rex for a drink or lunch where the war news reporters held their "5 O'clock Follies", or stay on the bus and return to the hotel.

Please meet in the Grand Hotel HCMC lobby at 1500 hours with luggage where we will travel by coach (2 hours approx) to Vung Tau where we will stay for the next 5 nights.  
Set menu dinner included tonight.  
Optional 1 hour Long Tan presentation with Dave after dinner.

Have your kit ready for the Long Tan Trek tomorrow. We suggest you bring extra batteries for cameras etc., together with a spare set of clothes. We have access to the bus so no restriction on extra shoes and clothes just in case it pours.

ACCOMMODATION:

**THE PALACE HOTEL**

1 Nguyen Trai 1 TP Vung Tau City Vietnam  
Tel: (84-64) 3856411  
Fax: (84-64) 3856878  
In: 16 Aug out 21 Aug 2016

**OR**

**THE GRAND HOTEL**

2 Nguyen Du Str Vung Tau City  
Tel: (84-64) 3856888  
Fax: (84-64) 3856088  
In: 16 Aug out 21 Aug 2016

**Breakfast and Set Menu Dinner included. Lunch on 16<sup>th</sup> own arrangements.**

**DAY 3.  
WED 17 AUG**

**NUI DAT - TREK - LONG TAN BATTLEFIELD  
EMC 0600: BFAST 0700: BUS 0800 (bus with loo)**

Today will be a long day. Please be in the Hotel Lobby at 0745 for an 0800 departure.

We travel along the New Highway to Nui Dat "SAS HILL" arriving 0845 approx.

0845 - 0945 Dave explains the lay-out of the Nui Dat base and enemy intentions in August 1966.

We then move by bus to the KINDY at Nui Dat (one of the AVVRG projects that this Tour is supporting).

1030 - Move to the Eastern end of the air strip for a pre-trek briefing.

1100 - 1230 Allow 1.5 hours for the LONG TAN TREK. We will walk as near as possible the same route that Delta Company walked from the base to Long Tan on 18 Aug 1966.



1230 - 1300 Individual packed Picnic lunch on ground sheets at Western Edge of the rubber plantation. Toilet facility will be provided (on bus).

1300 - 1700 Walk the Battlefield. This 4-hour walk will trace the movements of each of the three Platoons and Company HQ during the course of the battle. As the original battle lasted 3.5 hours, today's walk will be a "real time" recreation of the start, development and conclusion of the battle.

1700 - 1730 Time at the LONG TAN CROSS for Ceremonies. A wreath will be laid and joss sticks lit. Then time for a group photo.



1730 - Depart Long Tan Cross back to Vung Tau via the New Highway arriving at the Hotel approx 1830pm. Dinner own arrangement tonight.

**Breakfast and Cut Lunch included on 17<sup>th</sup>. Dinner own arrangement.**



**DAY 4  
THU 18 AUG**

**LONG TAN DAY  
FOR DAWN SERVICE:  
EMC 0300; BUS 0330: BFAST ON THE BUS (bus with loo)  
FOR 3PM SERVICE  
PLEASE BE IN THE HOTEL LOBBY AT 1200 HOURS. (bus with loo)**

Today an option to travel to two services, the Dawn Service and the 3PM service. Seating is not guaranteed, as there can be a thousand people vying for space. For the Dawn Service please be in the Hotel lobby at 0300 for an 0330 departure with a cut breakfast on the bus. For the 3pm service please be in the hotel lobby at 1200 hours for a 1230 departure.

**Breakfast included on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Lunch and Dinner own arrangement.**

**DAY 5  
FRI 19 AUG**

**FREE DAY  
EMC NIL; BFAST AT LEISURE:**

Time today to explore new ground or return to old haunts. We are happy to assist with information on what to do today.

**Breakfast included on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Lunch and Dinner own arrangement.**

**DAY 6  
SAT 20 AUG**

**HORSESHOE – MINEFIELD – MINH DAM AND MORE  
EMC 0600; BFAST 0700; BUS 0800 (bus with loo)**

Please be in the Hotel Lobby at 0745 for an 0800 departure. 0800 - 0845 Bus to the Long Tan Village, where we visit the dental clinic approx 30 minutes 0845 – 0915. (This is another AVVRG project set up by ex Vietnam Veteran & dental surgeon Colin Twelftree from Adelaide. It provides dental facilities to the Long Tan region of the Baria - Vung Tau Province. It is periodically visited by Australian dentists able to assist with ongoing dental care.)



From the Dental Clinic we bus to the Horseshoe for a few minutes. As this is a working quarry, we can not gain access. However, we will stop on the roadside, view the feature and have its importance explained.

Then we'll travel through Dat Do for a stop on a site where part of the Minefield was. Approx 20 minutes. This will also reveal another view of the Horseshoe.

We visit the area of the incident that gave rise to the song "I Was Only 19".

Lunch will be at the TROPICANA BEACH RESORT beach restaurant overlooking the sea, 1315 – 1430 approx, after which we will then travel to the Minh Dam temple – a VC sanctuary in the Long Hai Hills. Brave souls may venture into some VC caves. A small torch would help.

Depart Minh Dam to Baria to board a fishing boat.





1500–1630. Cruise from Baria to Cat Lo – 90 minutes. This will give you a view as seen by those who patrolled the mangrove islands from small boats. It is also the route that the tanks had to be brought from the port to Nui Dat, because the bridges couldn't take the weight of the vehicles. Bus Cat Lo to Vung Tau returning to hotel approx 1715 for a set menu dinner at hotel 1900 or nearby.  
Optional 1 hour presentation after dinner.

**Breakfast, Set Menu Lunch & Set Menu Dinner included on the 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**DAY 7  
SUN 21 AUG**

**VUNG TAU-BIEN HOA-CORAL-BALMORAL-HCMC  
EMC 0600; BFAST 0700; BUS 0800 (bus with loo)**

Please bring luggage to the foyer this morning. . We will travel by coach to the Back Beach home of 1ALSG (sorry no reminders exist of the 1ALSG presence), then along Route 15 to Ba Ria and to Bien Hoa, and the Dong Nai Museum to view the original Long Tan Cross and to see the Outdoors weapons display.

Lunch at Bien Hoa before proceeding to the site of FSB Coral and inspect the VC Memorial and Shrine.

Afterwards we travel 10kms North to the site of **FSB Balmoral** (pictured).



View the many B52 bomb craters and have the layout of the forward lines explained. We continue on the HCMC for two nights.

ACCOMMODATION:

**GRAND HOTEL SAIGON**

**8 Dong Khoi Street, District 1 Ho Chi Minh City**

**Tel 84 8 39155555**

**in 21 Aug out 23 Aug**

**Breakfast and Set Menu Lunch included on the 21<sup>st</sup> , Dinner own arrangement.**

**DAY 8  
MON 22 AUG**

**CU CHI TUNNELS OR SHOPS  
EMC 0600; BFAST 0700; BUS 0800 (bus with loo)**

Today there is an optional 6 hour tour to take in the CU CHI Tunnels & maybe do some LIVE FIRING (Fire an AK47, an Armalite or even an M60. But be warned - ammo is about US\$2.00 a round!).



(The Northern Decisive Battlefields Tour goes to the tunnels at Vinh Moc in the north side of the DMZ. These are as good as Cu Chi, but less “commercial” and do not have the option of firing weapons. If you’re not on that Tour you may want to visit Cu Chi.)

Or you may prefer to stay in Saigon and visit the markets or shops for gifts for home. Set menu lunch is included on the return from the Cu Chi Tunnels at the Bay Nay Restaurant.

An Evening Farewell Dinner tonight at 1930 at the Viet Village Restaurant with presentation of Trek Tour plaques.

**Breakfast and Farewell Dinner included on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Set menu lunch for Cu Chi Tunnel people on return. For those staying in Saigon lunch is your own arrangement.**

**DAY 9  
TUE 23 AUG**

**HCMC – HOME; - EMC 0800; BFAST 0900; BUS 1600  
HCMC – EXTENSION TOUR: - EMC 0500; BFAST 0600; BUS 0700**

For those homeward bound we will check out of our rooms at 12pm and have use of a share room to store luggage and freshen up till departure for the airport at 1600 to board Singapore Airlines SQ 185 departing HCMC at 1945 hours for Singapore with connections home arriving Wed 24 Aug.

Those on the Decisive Battlefields Tour extension will be transferred to HCMC airport at 0700 for a flight to Da Nang at 1000

**Breakfast included on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
For those returning to Australia, lunch is your own arrangement, dinner in flight.  
For those on the Extension Tour, lunch will be in Da Nang.**



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**CONFIRMED FLIGHT SINGAPORE AIRLINES SQ 185**

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23 Aug 16	Tue	Check in at Ho Chi Minh City			
23 Aug 16	Tue	<b>Depart</b>	Ho Chi Minh City	1945	Economy/Coach
23 Aug 16	Tue	<b>Arrive</b>	Singapore	2240	Non-stop

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**CONFIRMED FLIGHT SINGAPORE AIRLINES SQ 231**

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24 Aug 16	Wed	Check in at Singapore			
24 Aug 16	Wed	<b>Depart</b>	Singapore	0045	Economy/Coach
24 Aug 16	Wed	<b>Arrive</b>	Sydney	1025	Non-stop

**Melbourne passengers: SQ 237 23 Aug**

Singapore	Depart	2355
Melbourne	Arrive	0920 24 Aug

**Brisbane passengers: SQ 255 24 Aug**

Singapore	Depart	0045
Brisbane	Arrive	1035 24 Aug

Other cities by arrangement

**End of Fundraising Long Tan Tour Arrangements**



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**TOUR COST:**

**\$ 3,348 AUD** per person based on twin share accommodation & economy class air fare with Singapore Airlines ex Mel, Syd or Bne. Please ask Judi for fares from other cities, & for business class surcharges if wish Single supplement **\$ 699 AUD** per person. Prices are based on 2015 rates by providers and rates of exchange on day of itinerary preparation and are subject to change and/or currency fluctuation for 2016.

Not included are air taxes and fuel levies which are currently **\$550 AUD** as at 06 July 2015. These are subject to change at time of ticket issue.

A deposit of \$500 AUD per person (non-refundable) is required within seven days of booking confirmation. Balance (final payment) will be due on **17 May 2016**

Tour costs subject to achieving 16 passengers. Cost may vary if numbers not achieved.

**FITNESS:** – Those intending to do the Trek must be able to walk about 5Km in under 2.5 hours over relatively flat but unpaved ground. An option will exist to bus to the Trek destination. Some hardships exist, climbing in and out of fishing boats, tunnels, caves, steps to caves, rough tracks, weather conditions. All are achievable for a moderately fit person.

#### **TOUR INCLUSIONS:**

- Singapore Airlines fare from Brisbane, Sydney or Melbourne to Ho Chi Minh City & return Economy Class. Please ask NNT re departure from other cities.
- Accommodation including current local taxes as specified in the itinerary or similar.  
**HCMC: Grand Hotel Saigon** 4 star hotel junior deluxe rooms (& day use 1 room Tue 23 Aug till 4pm for guests to share).  
**Vung Tau: Palace Hotel** 4 star Run of House rooms **OR Grand Hotel** 4 star Run of House rooms.
- Breakfast daily,
- 1 picnic lunch at Long Tan Day 3
- 1 beach restaurant lunch Day 6 Tropicana
- Set Menu lunch Day 7 Bien Hoa
- Set menu lunch Cu Chi visitors only Day 8 Bay Nay
- Set menu dinner Day 2 & Day 6.
- Farewell dinner Day 8 HCMC Viet Village Rest
- Entrance fees to sightseeing venues.
- Services of local English speaking guides.
- Transportation and transfers in exclusive air-conditioned vehicles as specified in itinerary.
- Sightseeing tours & excursions as per the itinerary.
- Fishing Boat Cruise from Baria to Cat Lo Wharf
- Permission fees to Long Tan - Nui Dat area, Long Hai Hills, Coral and Balmoral.
- 3 bottles mineral water & cold tissues per passenger per day
- Personalised Tour Certification Plaque with a photo of the cross.
- A tour dossier will be provided with the documentation
- Prepaid gratuities
- Bus on days 3, 4, 6, and 8 to have loo.
- Private conference room with screen and projector for Audio Visual presentations evenings of day 2 & 6

#### **EXCLUSIONS:**

- Air taxes and fuel levies are not included and are subject to change at time of balance payment.
- As at 10 June 2015 the air taxes and fuel levies are \$ 550 AUD per person.
- Domestic flights used to join Singapore Airlines in Brisbane, Sydney or Melbourne.
- Travel Insurance is mandatory – National Network Travel will be happy to assist.
- Passport & Visa Fees. Vietnam visa is required on Australian passports. NNT can assist.
- Meals not specified.
- Beverages (including at meals)
- Optional touring not listed in itinerary. – e.g., optional weapon firing at Cu Chi.
- Any services not specifically mentioned.
- Items of a personal nature.

**EMC = early morning call - BFAST = breakfast - BUS = bus will depart at this time**

**All set menus will include at least 1 rice, 1 vegetable, 1 beef, 1 chicken and 1 fish dish plus other dishes which could include pork, duck or seafood. Each group/table of four will receive one of every dish. Drinks at meals will be your own expense, very affordable in Vietnam.**

**Singapore Airlines will weigh your carry on bag, total permitted 7 kilos and they are usually very strict. This is in addition to your handbag or your camera case.**

**BOOKINGS: Please read the Tour Terms and Conditions and complete the attached booking form which can be found on the NNT website or can be sent to you on request, and return to Judi at National Network Travel with the non-refundable deposit. We do reserve the right to amend the itinerary due to unforeseen circumstances or local conditions. Every effort will be made to operate the tour as shown. Times mentioned in the land and boat arrangements are a guide only and are subject to conditions at the time. The tour rates quoted are based on 2015 rates by providers and exchange rates as at the date of itinerary preparation. National Network reserve the right to amend the tour cost should there be a change by providers and/or a fluctuation in the currency for 2016.**