



Mr Harris and Ms Wormleighton
9 - 27 February 2012
Vietnam

The Ultimate Travel Company
The Asia Travel Specialists

Mr Harris and Ms Wormleighton

Vietnam

Contact	Zelie Lewis - Asia Specialist
Direct Line	020 7386 4658
Telephone	020 7386 4646
Fax	020 7381 0836
Email	zelie@theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk

International flights

Flights have been booked as per the itinerary. It is vital that names (shown below) on the airline bookings are as written in your passports. Discrepancies may cause airlines to refuse boarding on security grounds.

Ian Harris Celia Wormleighton

Accommodation and services

Accommodation has been booked as per the itinerary.

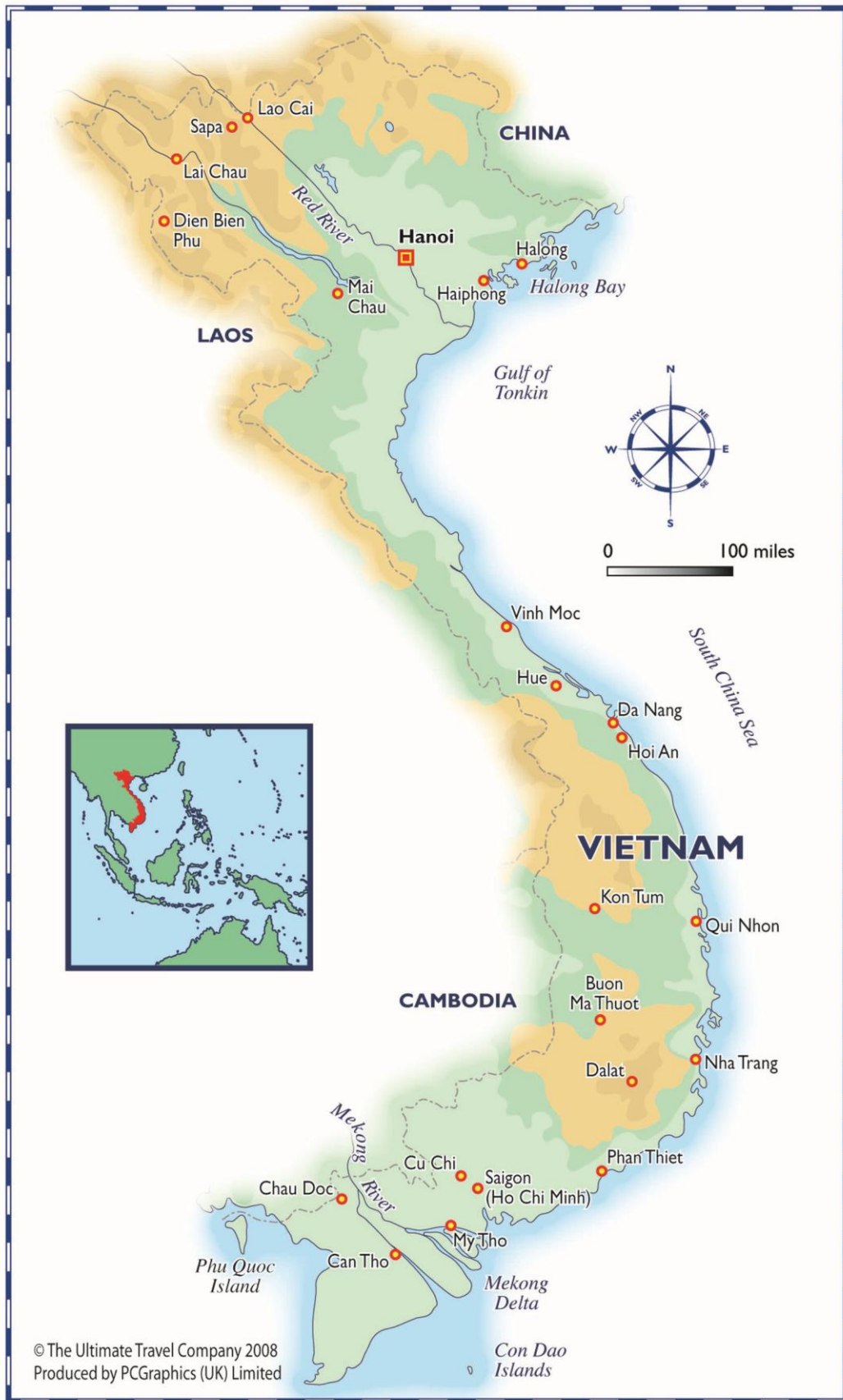
Quality of service

We like to think that our success has been built on a simple formula - to deliver a high standard of service before, during and after each holiday, a duty of care and commitment to you, and value for money. We aim to be totally flexible in our approach, as this allows us to create the holiday that you want and one that is easy and enjoyable to plan.

However, if you feel that there are areas in which we could improve our service to you, please do not hesitate to contact either our Managing Director Nick Van Gruisen, or Executive Director Rowan Paterson, on 020 7386 4646. You can also email them:

nick@theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk

rowan@theultimatetravelcompany.co.uk





Outline Itinerary

9 Feb	London - Saigon
10 – 11 Feb	Saigon
12 Feb	Can Tho
13 Feb	Mekong Delta
14 Feb	Dalat
15 Feb	Dalat
16 Feb	Dalat
17-25 Feb	Ninh Van Bay
26 Feb	Departure
27 Feb	Arrive London

Detailed Itinerary

9 Feb London - Saigon

Check in at London Heathrow Terminal Three at the Thai Airways desk no later than 0950 hours.

Depart London Heathrow on TG911 1150 hours (business class)

10 – 11 Feb Saigon

Arrive Bangkok 0610 hours

Connect onto the Thai Airways flight to Saigon.

Depart Bangkok on TG550 0745 hours (business class)

Arrive Saigon 0915 hours

You will be met on arrival and transferred to your hotel.



Situated in the heart of Lam Son Square, the Park Hyatt Saigon hotel is within walking distance of the business, shopping, entertainment district. One of the most popular hotels in Ho Chi Minh, the hotel offers colonial style rooms with 5 star, pampering luxury. Rooms are spacious and offer optimum comfort, featuring all the modern amenities of a top class hotel. The Xuan Spa, situated next to the beautifully landscaped pool area, is a sanctuary of luxury and tranquillity. With exquisite surroundings it offers a wide range of therapeutic treatments to relax and revitalise.

Two nights at the Park Hyatt in a Park Deluxe Room, including breakfast



11 Feb Saigon

At dawn, take a cab to Tao Dan Park and mingle with the locals who are in the middle of their morning exercising routines. Some gather here to get in shape, others to lose weight or gain energy for the new day, and the remaining to simply socialize with their friends. There are several active activities including Tai Chi, jogging, and badminton. Visit the Saigon Bird Club and be entertained by the lively chirping songbirds while sipping a cup of Vietnamese hot coffee with condensed milk. Take a walk to the famous Ben Thanh Market and pass some ornate Chinese and Hindu temples along the way. Enjoy your breakfast with authentic Pho noodle soup at Pho 2000, which had the honour of receiving the former U.S. President Bill Clinton. Take a cab back to the hotel.

The remainder of the day is free at leisure.

12 Feb Can Tho

Leave Ho Chi Minh City for Can Tho. On arrival, enjoy a 20-minute foot massage at the hotel's spa. The remainder of the day is free at leisure.

The Victoria Can Tho Resort is the only luxury hotel in the centre of the Mekong Delta. Set in tropical gardens, on the banks of the Hau River, this four star resort blends colonial style architecture with the natural beauty of the river. Being located in the heart of the delta, the Victoria Can Tho is an excellent base from which to explore the floating markets and local villages. All of the rooms are designed with wood flooring, authentic Vietnamese decoration and balconies offering spectacular views of the river, pool and garden. Every room combines the elegance of traditional artefacts and the comfort of an international standard of hotel. The restaurant overlooks the river and offers casual, all day dining with both European and Vietnamese cuisine.

One night at the Victoria Can Tho in a Suite, including breakfast



13 Feb Mekong Delta

This morning enjoy a sunrise breakfast cruise on Lady Hau boat (shared with other passengers) and visit the Cai Rang floating market. On arrival at the market, transfer to a smaller boat in order to move freely around the market. The local barges which are full of fruit and vegetables.

After that, take a boat and cruise from Can Tho to Vinh Long. Stop for a short walk (approx.. 1km) to visit a place that specializes in making dried tofu. Lunch is served on the boat.

Jane will start cycling with your guide, and Ian will travel separately with a local guide on the back of his motorcycle. Travel around 5km through the serene Phuoc Hau countryside passing by a local market, schools and a vegetable village. You will also have the chance to walk some of the way.

Arrive at Ut Trinh and have some fruits and tea while enjoying the traditional music. This evening, you will help prepare some dishes with the owners. Enjoy dinner while talking with the family. You have the opportunity to ask the locals about the culture, people, and history of the Island.

One night at Ut Trinh Home Stay, including breakfast



14 Feb Dalat

This morning, cross the river and cycle/walk along the Cai Thia village path through serene countryside, and stop at an orchard to sample the local fruit. Board your boat and cruise to Cai Be where your car will meet you and transfer you 2.5-3 hours to Saigon in time for your flight to Dalat.

Depart Saigon on VN1386 1710 hours (economy class)

Arrive Dalat 1800 hours

**Please note that the maximum luggage allowance per suit case is 23, and the luggage allowance is 20kg per person. Excess luggage will be charged at approximately \$2.5 USD per kilo.*

On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Ana Mandara Villas Dalat Resort & Spa, an award winning resort and spa, is located in the central highlands of Vietnam, within lush rolling hills. This unique destination offers a peaceful haven away from the stresses of city life.

For your accommodation in Vietnam, Ana Mandara Villas Dalat Resort & Spa is a 70 room resort, set in the rural highlands of Dalat, Vietnam. This luxury resort comprises of seventeen fully restored colonial-style villas, each originally constructed between the 1920's and 1930's by the French settlers of the time. The villas retain the unique personalities of their original owners while being lovingly restored to their former glory – albeit with a touch of luxury, with all care taken to preserve original design, décor and charm.

Three nights at the Ana Mandara Dalat in a Villa Studio, including breakfast



Dalat is located on a verdant plateau containing pine forests and lakes 300 km northeast of Ho Chi Minh City. At 1,500 meters above sea level, Dalat's cool climate provides a pleasant respite from the heat and humidity of the lowlands and it was for this reason that the French developed it in the early 1900's as a summer retreat. Dalat's colonial influences can still be seen in its cathedral and some of the 2,000 villas that dot the town. The town has a relaxed atmosphere and is very popular with Vietnamese holiday makers, primarily honeymooners.

In recent years, enormous amounts of money have been spent to restore the city to its former glory. Lakes have been dredged and cleaned, old buildings have been restored, and new hotels have been built.



15 Feb Dalat

After breakfast at your hotel, take a horse-cart ride along the beautiful Xuan Huong Lake where the air is fresh and the scenery is lush. The city of eternal spring is also known for its fresh local produce and you will get the chance to visit beautiful farms full of vegetables, flowers or strawberries. Then, visit Dalat railway station and afterwards, drive to Domain de Marie church, used by catholic nuns of the Missionary of Charity sect. Built in 1938 atop a hill, it has stunning panoramic views. Continue to visit Truc Lam Buddhist Monastery and crazy house.

16 Feb Dalat

Full day guided walking through this forested area, with the chance to meet hill tribes enroute. The hill tribes villages (Buon Chuoi or Lat village) of the K'Ho people will help you understand Gong cultural features and the local lifestyles. Time permitting, visit Elephant waterfall.

17-25 Feb Ninh Van Bay

Transfer 5 hours by road and boat to Six Senses Ninh Van Bay.

The Six Senses Hideaway sits on Ninh Van Bay, overlooking the South China Sea. Its impressive rock formations, white sand beach and dramatic mountainous backdrop all add to the sense of being luxuriously at one with nature. Only accessible by water, the 58 pool villas are situated on the beachfront, on the hillside and over rock formations and all have private swimming pools.



This resort also presents the reality of the destination, with an architectural style reflecting the traditions of Vietnam. This is very evident in the reception champa and dining pavilion, which are classic Vietnam structures transported across the water and assembled at the site. Facilities include tennis, water sports and dive facilities, gymnasium, and trekking and nature trails that take advantage of the unique location of the Hideaway. The excursion centre organizes river trips, mountain and cultural excursions around Nha Trang city.



Nine nights at the Six Senses Ninh Van Bay in a Beach Pool Villa, including breakfast

26 Feb Departure

Transfer to the airport for your Vietnam Airlines flight to Saigon.

Depart Nha Trang	1440 hours (business class)
------------------	-----------------------------

Arrive Saigon 1535 hours

Car and driver at your disposal until your Thai Airways flight to Bangkok.

Depart Saigon on TG557 2055 hours (business class)

Arrive Bangkok 2220 hours

Connect onto the Thai Airways flight to London Heathrow.

27 Feb Arrive London

Depart Bangkok on TG910 0015 hours (business class)

Arrive London Heathrow 0620 hours

Visa fees

£44 for Vietnam entry visa

Price includes

- International flights in business class
- domestic flights in business / economy class as stated
- airport transfers in private vehicles
- accommodation, meals and activities as stated

Price excludes

- visa fees
- travel insurance
- airport taxes
- meals and activities other than those stated
- personal gratuities

General Information – Vietnam

The flight time from London to Bangkok is 11 hours and 10 minutes.

Check In

Thai Airways: Thai Airways do not currently offer online check in. We recommend that you check in at the airport 3 hours before departure. www.thaiairways.com. Please note that it is usually possible and therefore advisable to check in online for your return flight as well.

Airline Reference: **SBR2EQ**

Baggage Allowance

We strongly recommend that you carry overnight essentials and any prescribed medication in your hand luggage on international flights, particularly if connecting to an onward destination.

Thai Airways:

Royal Executive Class: You are allowed 30 kg of luggage.

You are also allowed 1 piece of hand baggage weighing 7kg or less and no more than 56cm x 45cm x 25cm or 115cm overall.

Royal Orchid Plus Gold members are entitled to check in an additional 20 kg and Royal Orchid Plus Silver members can check in an additional 10kg.

Vietnam Airlines:

Business Class: You are allowed 30 kg of luggage.

Economy Class: You are allowed 20 kg of luggage (a single suitcase must not exceed 23 kg. Excess luggage will be charged at approximately \$2.5 USD per kilogram.

Immigration & Visas

You can arrange your visa prior to departure. The visas cost £44 per person and can either be obtained through CIBT, at an additional cost (all the details on how to do this were in your confirmation letter – please let me know if you require additional copies). Or alternatively apply directly to the Vietnam Embassy.

Please make sure that your passport is valid for 6 months from the date of your return.

Airport departure taxes

Your British and Vietnamese international airport taxes have been prepaid with your air tickets.

Currency

The currency in Vietnam is the Vietnamese Dong.

We advise that you take either US dollars or travellers' cheques, which can be exchanged on your arrival in Indochina. Many places also accept dollars as payment but exchange rates vary! All the hotels will have banking facilities and credit cards are widely accepted in hotels and restaurants. ATM machines are also prevalent.

Tipping

It has become increasingly customary in Vietnam, especially in tourist areas – these include porters, chauffeurs, tour guides, and in upscale restaurants. If you want to tip, 10% percent is pretty generous and foreign currency, especially U.S. dollars is appreciated. On tours with private sightseeing, gratuities of USD \$5 - 10 for travel guides, and USD \$1 - 2 for drivers per person / day is customary.

I do stress that tipping is a personal matter and should only be given if you feel the service deserves it.

Climate/clothing

The climate in Vietnam varies significantly between regions as follows:

- The South has a sub-tropical climate with average temperature of 27°C. Temperatures are higher from March to May. The dry season lasts from November to May and the wet season from June to October when rainfall is not incessant but limited to heavy showers in the late afternoon. Typhoons are common in coastal areas between July and November.
- The Central Highlands' climate is similar to that of the South but with greater temperature variances - from 30°C during the day to as low as 15°C at night.
- The Central Coastal Regions enjoy average temperatures of between 25-27°C. The 'wet' season lasts from October to February, but Hue can be overcast at any time of year.
- The North is characterised by a dry winter season (November to April) and a wet summer season (May to October).

Temperatures in Hanoi average around 18°C (6°C at night) in the winter and around 30°C in the summer. The Highlands are colder with daytime temperatures between 4-10°C in the winter and around 27°C in the summer. Rainfall is unpredictable but fairly heavy at times.

In addition to the usual lightweight clothing, waterproof and warmer gear is advisable particularly for trips to the North and Central Highlands.

Health

Stomach upsets are an ever-present problem but avoidable if you are careful with your diet. It is advisable to stick to drinking mineral water; most hotels do now provide complimentary water in your room.

Please do also make sure that your vaccinations are up to date as per your doctor's instructions and that you are taking your malaria pills if this is applicable.

Time

Indo China is seven hours ahead of GMT.

Other

Please ensure that your travel insurance is in order. It is important that you take details of your travel insurance with you since this will contain important contacting information in the case of an emergency.

