

MISSION
travel



Vietnam Swim Mission

2 - 14 JULY 2016
10 - 22 SEPTEMBER 2016

15 - 28 APRIL 2017
2 - 15 JULY 2017



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Vietnam Swim Mission

Travel to Vietnam and spend time teaching vulnerable children how to swim

Drowning is one of the leading causes of mortality among children over the age of one in Vietnam. Reasons for the increasing number of child deaths from drowning include unsafe environments, limited awareness, inadequate adult supervision and a lack of swimming skills.

It is widely reported that the death toll from drowning is higher than the road toll.

In partnership with Swim Vietnam this trip will provide vulnerable children with basic swimming and water safety skills.

There is also the opportunity to explore the beauty and vibrancy that is Vietnam with highlights including the bustling city of Hanoi, the breathtaking Halong Bay and UNESCO World Heritage sites of Hue and Hoi An.

Swim Vietnam is a registered charity which has been operating in Central Vietnam for 6 years providing free swimming lessons to Vietnamese children and training adults as swimming teachers. Participants will be following the Swim Vietnam program and duties will be flexible depending on what is needed at this time.

To participate in swimming instruction you should have Australian swim accreditation and a current working with children check.



Itinerary

DAY 1:

Arrive Hoi An

Upon your arrival at Hoi An airport look for our driver who will be waiting for you with a sign bearing your name. The journey from the airport to your hotel will take approximately 45 minutes and is an entertaining experience full of chaotic traffic, beautiful architecture and overloaded motorbikes.

Free time to explore the town.

DAY 2:

Hoi An - Swim Briefing

Free day at leisure. Optional visit to church in Danang City. A late afternoon meeting with the team from Swim Vietnam where you will be briefed on the swim program for the week ahead.

DAY 3:

Hoi An

Pick up at hotel, transfer to swimming pool for swimming instruction with Swim Vietnam.

This afternoon take a walk to the meeting point of 98 Nguyen Thai Hoc Street, Hoi An Ancient Town for a cooking class. Starting time is 2:30pm.

Visit Hoi An's colourful market, and experience its amazing sights, sounds and aromas. We will have the opportunity to interact with the local sellers and learn about all the ingredients to be used in the cooking lesson later.

We will board the Red Bridge boat for a leisurely cruise (25 minutes) along the Hoi An River to the Red Bridge Cooking School. This is a chance to view local river life, so make sure your camera is handy.

On arrival, we explore the cooking school's herb garden, before learning about some of Hoi An's and Vietnam's well known dishes. The cooking lesson runs for about 2 hours - the Red Bridge chefs first demonstrate each dish before we prepare the same dish ourselves. Included in the class is a brief introduction to Vietnamese food carving (plate decoration). After the lesson, we sit down and eat what we have cooked.

Bring your swimsuit - after the cooking tour has finished, relax and enjoy free use of our 20 metre swimming pool - towels and showers provided.

DAY 4:

Hoi An

Pick up at hotel, transfer to swimming pool for swimming course. Remainder of day is free.

DAY 5:

Hoi An

Pick up at hotel, transfer to swimming pool for swimming course. Remainder of day is free.

DAY 6:

Hoi An

Pick up at hotel, transfer to swimming pool for swimming course. Remainder of day is free.

Tonight we meet the swim instructors for chicken rice at an authentic Vietnamese street stall.

DAY 7:

Hoi An

Pick up at hotel, transfer to swimming pool for swimming course. Remainder of day is free.

DAY 8:

Hoi An - Home or Discover Vietnam Extension to Hue

Leaving Hoi An today will be a sad farewell. A transfer will be arranged to the airport for your flight home if you are only staying for the swim week.

For those staying on to discover more of Vietnam, travel through the outer suburbs of Danang before driving over the spectacular Hai Van Pass, which is considered to be one of the most beautiful in Vietnam. On arrival in Hue visit the ancient citadel and forbidden city - a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Tonight you will dress like an emperor and enjoy a royal banquet.

DAY 9:

Motorbike Tour - Ha Noi

Our guide will meet you at your hotel and introduce you to our highly skilled and qualified drivers who are sensitive to tentative pillion passengers and will travel at a gentle pace of 40km or less. After a safety briefing your adventure begins. During the tour you will ride through little laneways, beside canals and through local markets. Visit a king's tomb, pagoda and local handicrafts. Transfer to the airport for the 1 hour flight to Ha Noi. Rest of the day is free.



DAY 10:

Ha Noi

Today we will do a city tour of Ha Noi including Temple of Literature, Hoa Lo Prison, cycle through bustling old town and end a day by a water puppet show.

DAY 11:

Ha Long Bay

Your journey from Hanoi to Ha Long Bay will pass through lush farmlands and local villages.

Upon arrival at the harbour you will be welcomed on board your junk and settle in for a delicious seafood banquet as your boat glides through the towering limestone karsts.

The afternoon's activities will include kayaking around the hidden areas of the bay, swimming and relaxing at Soi Sim beach and taking an (optional) energetic climb to the top of the island for a panoramic view of the bay.

Back on the boat you will cruise to the overnight mooring point where you can enjoy cocktails at sunset with your fellow travellers before another delicious meal on board your floating home.

DAY 12:

Ha Long Bay - Ha Noi

Wake early for the opportunity to start your day with Tai Chi and morning photos, then breakfast before exploring the impressive Sung Sot Cave.

Your cruise will continue past Ba Hang fishing village, Dog Islet and many more scenic formations.

As your boat journeys back to the harbour you can watch the cooking demonstration before enjoying a traditional Vietnamese lunch.

Back on shore you will then transfer back to Hanoi, arriving late afternoon.

DAY 13:

Departure Day

Today is the chance to do some last minute shopping, photography or maybe one more spa treatment! Your driver will collect you from your hotel and transfer you to the airport for your evening flight home.



Tour Costs

Price is per person, based on a minimum of 10 passengers.

Swim Mission Only Days (Twin Share)	\$2,699.00
Full Tour (13 Days)	\$4,145.00

Single room price on application

Pre pay tips to guides/drivers: \$60 swim week/\$150 full tour

2017 EARLYBIRD OFFER: BOOK AND DEPOSIT BY 31 OCTOBER 2016 AND SAVE \$100*

*Discount off full tour only.

Inclusions

- Return economy class airfares flying Singapore Airlines/ Vietnam Airlines
- Airport transfers
- 7 or 13 nights' accommodation in hotels with air conditioning
- Breakfast daily
- Halong Bay deluxe cruise including all meals
- Royal banquet dinner in Hue
- Transport in air conditioned coaches to all swim classes and sightseeing
- English speaking guides/translation at pool
- Entrance fees to sights on itinerary
- Cooking class and market out in Hoi An
- Donation to Swim Vietnam

Not included

- Meals other than breakfast daily and full board on Halong Bay cruise & royal banquet
- Travel insurance (MTG offer a 20% discount)
- Additional donations/ tips - option to pre-pay
- Personal expenses
- Visa for Vietnam



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