

| 2020

A GLIMPSE INTO THE SOUL OF VIETNAM



Culture, History, Arts, Music and more



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The following schedule is carefully designed to enable student participating in the GSVN program to enjoy the best learning experiences.

SUMMARY



DESTINATIONS

- 1/. Independence Palace
- 2/. Saigon Notre Dame Cathedral
- 3/. The Central Post Office
- 4/. Cao Dai Holy See
- 5/. Cu Chi Tunnels
- 6/. Ngoc Hoang Temple
- 7/. Ao Dai Museum
- 8/. Le Cong Kieu Antique Street
- 9/. Artiste School
- 10/. Vietnamese History Museum
- 11/. Ho Chi Minh City's Fine Arts Museum
- 12/. Ben Thanh Market
- 13/. Sai Gon Opera House
- 14/. Dong Nai College of Decorative Arts in Bien Hoa City
- 15/. A local farmer's house in My Tho City
- 16/. Binh Thuy Ancient House in Can Tho City
- 17/. Cai Rang Floating Market in Can Tho City
- 18/. A fruit orchard in Can Tho City

CULTURE



- 1/. Exploration of the Mekong Delta's Life through a two-day field trip to the Mekong Delta
- 2/. Religions in Vietnam
- 3/. Water puppet show
- 4/. Vietnamese bamboo circus
- 5/. Ceramic workshop
- 6/. Traditional music workshop
- 7/. Vietnamese cooking class
- 8/. Vietnamese traditional cuisine and street food adventure

ACCOMODATION



- 1/. T78 Guest House in Ho Chi Minh City
- 2/. A 3-star hotel in Can Tho

Day 1



Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)

ARRIVAL AT TAN SON NHAT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, HO CHI MINH CITY

- Arrival in HCMC
- Airport transfer to the hotel (included)
- Resting
- Meals on your own

Day 2



Independence Palace

MORNING ORIENTATION & LECTURE – AFTERNOON LECTURE & CITY TOUR

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Spend the morning at IEI-VNUHCM
- 8:30 – 9:30 Orientation session
- 9.30-11.30 Lecture: Vietnamese for Communication
- 11:30-13:30 Lunch at a local restaurant (included)
- 13:30-14:30 Lecture: Saigon: Revealing Its Past and a Look at the Present
- 14:30-17:30 HCMC City Tour: Visit to the most popular attractions:

Independence Palace:

Designed by the renowned Vietnamese architect Ngo Viet Thu, this landmark is an outstanding example of how the traditional and modern architecture had been beautifully integrated to convey the key principles of Eastern philosophy. It made its name in global history in 1975, when a tank belonging to the North Vietnamese Army crashed through its main gate, ending the Vietnam War. Located in the heart of Ho Chi Minh City, this National Special Relic has witnessed many important historic events of the country since the French colonial period. Today, it's a must-visit for tourists in Ho Chi Minh City.

Saigon Notre Dame Cathedral: _____

Built between 1863 and 1880 by French colonists, the Saigon Notre Dame Cathedral, which was conferred a Basilica by the Vatican in 1959, is the most impressive cathedral in Vietnam. Modeled on Notre-Dame de Paris and built with materials imported from Marseilles, the cathedral is the religious center for Vietnam's 6.3 million Catholics. The cathedral displays distinct neo-Romanesque features, such as the two giant bell towers (holding six bronze bells), ornate stained-glass windows, and a red brick façade.



Saigon Notre Dame Cathedral



The Central Post Office

The Central Post Office: _____

Constructed from 1886-1891, the Central Post Office depicts classic elements of Gothic, Renaissance and French colonial design. The post office features a unique, bright yellow exterior framed with white trim. Curved windows are elegantly framed with green shutters and a large clock is featured prominently at the building's main entrance. The stunning, spacious interior has tall, domed ceilings with metal arches and a gorgeous patterned tile floor. The building is still in full operation, offering full postal services. It also sells an array of postcards and stamps, making excellent souvenirs to bring back home.



- 18:30 Welcome dinner (included)
- Students individually work on 300-word reflective journals.



Day 3



Ngoc Hoang Temple

MORNING AND AFTERNOON LECTURE – AFTERNOON FIELD TRIP TO NGOC HOANG TEMPLE

- Breakfast at the hotel
- 8:30-11:30 Lecture: Customs & Communicative Culture of Vietnamese People
- 11:30-13:30 Lunch (included)
- 13:30-15:00 Lecture: Religions and Beliefs in Vietnam
- 15:00-17:00 Field trip: Visit Ngoc Hoang temple
- After the lecture, students will take a 10-minute walk to visit Ngoc Hoang Temple. Built in the late 19th – early 20th century by a community of Cantonese who

migrated from Guangzhou province in Southwest China, the pagoda is the only place where the Jade Emperor (or King of Heaven, Ngoc Hoang) is worshipped in Vietnam. There are many artworks in the pagoda such as worshipping paintings, statues, parallel sentences and altars made from wood, ceramic and cardboard. The pagoda boasts a set of about 300 ancient statues, including 100 made from cardboard, presenting a meeting of genies with the Jade Emperor. Using only paper and bamboo laths, artisans created lively statues. Also, Kim Hoa Thanh Mau (a goddess taking responsibility for giving birth), twelve midwives and wet nurses taking care of children are worshipped there. Therefore, many people go to the pagoda to pray for having a baby and luck for pregnant women. With its serene landscape, cultural and historical values, the pagoda has attracted a large number of visitors, both Vietnamese and international.

- Dinner on your own
- 300-word reflective journal (on your own)



Ngoc Hoang Temple

Day 4



Cao Dai Holy See

A-DAY FIELD TRIP TO THE CAO DAI HOLY SEE (TAY NINH) AND CU CHI TUNNELS

- Breakfast at the hotel
- 7:30 The students will be picked up from the hotel. The group departs to Tay Ninh Province to visit the Great Holy See Temple (Cao Dai Temple), which is located about 100 km from HCMC. Built in 1926, the Great Holy See Temple is the headquarters of the unique Cao Dai sect, which is one of the prominent religions in Vietnam. In addition to the Great Temple, the complex houses administrative offices, residences for officials, and a hospital of tradi-

tional Vietnamese herbal medicine that attracts people from all over the south for its treatments. The temple's exterior is decorated with multi-colored dragons of all shapes and sizes competing for space with a number of Buddhist symbols. The students will attend the midday prayer session to witness the daily mass held by the Cao Dai followers which is a fantastic experience to enrich their knowledge about the religion.

- After lunch, the group will proceed to Cu Chi Tunnels. This is an underground village of local guerillas in Vietnam War. This network of tunnels, which stretched for over 200km, became legendary during the 1960s. The Cu Chi tunnels played a vital part in the U.S.-Vietnam War in which they allowed the Viet Cong to control a large rural area, which is located about 35 km Northwest of Saigon. The network, parts of which were several levels deep, included innumerable trap doors, specifically constructed living areas, storage facilities, weapons factories, field hospitals, command centers and kitchens.



Cao Dai Holy See



- 16:30-17:00 Back to the hotel in HCMC
- 18:00 Dinner (included)
- Students individually work on 300-word reflective journals.



Day 5



MORNING LECTURE – AFTER-NOON FIELD TRIP TO THE VIETNAMESE HISTORY MUSEUM

- Breakfast at the hotel
- 8:30-11:30 Lecture: Vietnam through the Lenses of its Heroic History
- 11:30-13:30 Lunch (included)
- 13:30-16:00 Field trip to Vietnamese History Museum. Formerly known as the Blanchard de la Brosse Museum, it was then called Saigon National Museum in 1956. After 1975, it was renamed Vietnamese History Museum. Designed by a talented French architect, the striking building used to showcase ancient

art collections of Asian countries. After the expansion, it has displayed a magnificent collection of about 30,000 artifacts from the predynastic era of the nation till today.

- 17:00-18:00 Students watch a Water Puppet Show at the Golden Dragon Water Puppet Theater. Water puppetry is an art form dating back to the 11th century, when it originated in the Red River Delta area of Northern Vietnam. The tradition of water puppet theatre stems from a time when rice paddy fields were flooded and villagers would make entertainment by standing in the waist-deep water with the puppets performing over the water. Using large rods to support the puppets, it appeared as if they were moving across the water with the puppeteers hidden behind a screen.

- Dinner on your own
- Students individually work on 300-word reflective journals.



Day 6



MORNING VIETNAMESE TRADITIONAL MUSIC WORKSHOP – AFTERNOON FIELD TRIP TO THE AO DAI MUSEUM AND BEN THANH MARKET

- Breakfast at the hotel
- 8:30-11:30 Music workshop at Artiste School. The workshop will include 3 sessions:
 - Introduction** – time to introduce, share, and discuss traditional music trends and musical instruments in Vietnam
 - Show time** – enjoy marvelous performances of Artiste School's artists
 - Experience time** – students will have an opportunity to try to play Vietnamese traditional musical

instruments under the artists' guidance. Students are assigned into teams and learn to play a folk song together. Then the teams will compete to win a special prize from Artiste School. Finally, all teams will together perform the song again with Artiste School's artists.

- 11:30-13:00 Lunch (included)
- 13:00-15:00 a visit to Ao Dai Museum. To Vietnamese culture, Ao Dai is a symbol as kimono is to Japan or hanbok to Korea. Ao Dai is not just a costume, but a glorious culture in Viet Nam, an expression of identity and spirit of Viet Nam. It holds the soul of Vietnamese people, especially Vietnamese women. The Ao Dai museum was opened to honor the crucial role of Ao Dai in Vietnamese culture. The museum has established a name for itself among must-visit attractions in Ho Chi Minh City.
- 15:00-16:30 After a visit to Ao Dai Museum, the group will travel to Ben Thanh Market and shopping time starts! Constructed by the Brossard et Maupin Construction Company in 1912, Ben Thanh Market is well known for its special architecture and also the symbol of Saigon. The architectural experts consider it a historical monument that has some traits of a 100-year-old market. Although it was built a long time ago, it doesn't bring the feeling of irrelevance when looking out at the busy city life around. In contrast, Ben Thanh Market and its surrounding streets comprise one of HCMC's liveliest areas. Everything that is commonly eaten, worn or used by the Saigoneses can be purchased there, and souvenirs can be found in equal abundance. This shopping trip will be a great opportunity for students to practice their Vietnamese when bargaining at the market.
- 16:30-17:30 a light supper included
- 18:00 After the supper, the group will join the A O Show at Saigon Opera House. The show key features:
 - + Vietnam's contrasting portrait of peaceful country life versus the noise and irony of urbanization
 - + Vietnamese bamboo circus
 - + 121-year-old opera house
 - + Other shows (in case the A O Show is not available): Teh Dar; or The Mist
- 300-word reflective journal (on your own)

Day 7 & Day 8



Floating Market - Can Tho

A 2-DAY 1-NIGHT FIELD TRIP TO THE MEKONG DELTA

- Breakfast at the hotel
- 8:30 The students will gather at the hotel lobby and start the field trip to the Mekong Delta. The first destination is My Tho City.

DAY 7: _____

- In My Tho, take a motor-boat cruise across Mekong Delta. Enjoy coconut juice on the boat.
- Arrival at Thoi Son islet. Visit a local farmer's house, then taste the seasoned tropical fruits, honey tea, etc. while the amateur singers perform the traditional folk music. Taking hand-rowing sampans which are flat-bottomed wooden boats along small canals. Visiting a

coconut candy workshop.

- Enjoy fish catching activity.
- Get on motor-boat back to the wharf. Transfer to local restaurant for lunch. Enjoy "Fried Elephant ear fish" – a speciality of My Tho.
- Drive to Can Tho City, visit Binh Thuy Ancient House.
- Check in the hotel in Can Tho where the group will spend the night.
- Dinner at a local restaurant.
- Overnight in Can Tho.
- Students individually work on 300-word reflective journals.

DAY 8: _____

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Early morning boat cruise to visit Cai Rang floating market. The market is filled with small boats darting through the water as vendors buy and sell their wares.
- Cruise through small canals and stop at fruit orchard to taste some of the succulent fruits of the Mekong Delta.
- Have a short wandering around Can Tho City & Can Tho market before heading back to Ho Chi Minh City.
- Lunch (included)
- Dinner on your own when getting back to Ho Chi Minh City
- Students individually work on 300-word reflective journals.

Day 9



street – Le Cong Kieu street. Le Cong Kieu Street was named for an army chief in the Can Vuong Movement against the French colonialists. The street, about 200m long, is considered the oldest in Saigon and it seems unchanged with each passing day. The street is well-known among the antique collectors as a place with a vast collection of antiques and reproductions.

- 19:00 – 21:00 Board the Ben Nghe Cruise for a fantastic dinner (included) on the Saigon River
- Students individually work on 300-word reflective journals.

ARTS MORNING LECTURE – AFTERNOON FIELD TRIP TO HO CHI MINH CITY FINE ARTS MUSEUM

- Breakfast at the hotel
- 8:30-11:30 Lecture: How Vietnamese Fine Arts has Evolved Over Time?
- 11:30-13:30 Lunch (included)
- 14:00-16:00 A field trip to Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts Museum. Housed in a grand colonial-era mansion, Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts Museum holds an impressive collection of art from Vietnam and beyond.
- 16:00-17:30 Visit the antique

Day 10



A-DAY-FIELD TRIP TO DONG NAI COLLEGE OF DECORATIVE ARTS IN BIEN HOA CITY

- Breakfast at the hotel
- 8:30 The group will travel to Dong Nai College of Decorative Arts in Bien Hoa City to participate in a ceramic workshop. Students will be introduced to the long history of Vietnamese ceramics, which was dated back in the Bronze Age, and have hands-on experience instructed by experts in the field.
- Lunch (included)
- 4:00 Return to the hotel in HCMC
- Dinner on your own
- Students individually work on 300-word reflective journals.

Day 11



Street food in markets

MORNING AND AFTERNOON LECTURES – EVENING STREET FOOD TOUR

- Breakfast at the hotel
- 8:30-11:30 Lecture: Overview of Vietnam's Economy
- 11:30–13:30 Lunch (included)
- 13:30-16:30 Lecture:
 - + Vietnam, ASEAN and International Relations; or
 - + Environment and Environmental Ethics in Vietnam; or
 - + Vietnam Press Seeks to Contribute more Toward Sustainable Development
- 17:30 – 21:00 Street food tour. Students will be taken on motor-bikes through Ho Chi Minh City's alleys and explore world-famous Vietnamese street dishes in a 4-hour tour.
- Students individually work on 300-word reflective journals.

Day 12



Cooking Class

MORNING COOKING CLASS – AFTERNOON FREE TIME

- Breakfast at the hotel
- 8:30 Workshop: Hands-on cooking class - Unleash the secrets of Vietnamese Cuisine! In a warm atmosphere, students will show their cooking talents, following the chef's step-by-step instructions. Everyone has his/her own materials and ingredients for a better understanding of cooking techniques.
- 11:30-13:00 Lunch (included) after the cooking class
- After lunch: Free Time - Fun Time: Explore HCMC on your own, activities will be recommended (No transportation arranged)
- Dinner on your own
- Students individually work on 300-word reflective journalst

Day 13



MEMORABLE LAST DAY AT BEN XUA ECOLOGICAL TOURIST PARK

- Breakfast at the hotel
- 9:00 - 12:00: Reflection discussion in the coffee area (drinks on your own). Students will share their journal entries with lecturers and course mates in the forms of presentation/roundtable discussions.
- 12:00 - 13:00: Lunch (included)
- 13:00 - 17:00: Team building activities. The students will be divided into teams to participate in teamwork games and win valuable prizes.
- 17:00: Farewell gala dinner

Day 14

DEPARTURE

- Breakfast at the hotel
- Hotel check out
- Students will arrange transportation to the airport themselves. Reliable services will be recommended.

NOTE

- **STUDENTS WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY LECTURERS AND TEACHING ASSISTANTS IN ALL FIELD TRIPS.**
- **ALL LECTURE SESSIONS WILL BE HELD AT IEI-VNUHCM HEAD-QUARTER AT 8 TRAN QUANG KHAI, TAN DINH WARD, DISTRICT 1. TEA BREAKS ARE PROVIDED DURING LECTURE SESSIONS.**