



In Service to America

# Vietnam Veterans of America



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## A Little Bit of Information About Vietnam

The conquest of Vietnam by France began in 1858 and was completed by 1884. It became part of French Indochina in 1887. Vietnam declared independence after World War II, but France continued to rule until its 1954 defeat by Communist forces under Ho Chi MINH. Under the Geneva Accords of 1954, Vietnam was divided into the Communist North and anti-Communist South. US economic and military aid to South Vietnam grew through the 1960's in an attempt to bolster the government, but US armed forces were withdrawn following a cease-fire agreement in 1973. Two years later, North Vietnamese forces overran the South reuniting the country under Communist rule. Despite the return of peace, for over a decade the country experienced little economic growth because of conservative leadership policies. However, since the enactment of Vietnam's "doi moi" (renovation) policy in 1986, Vietnamese authorities have committed to increased economic liberalization and enacted structural reforms needed to modernize the economy and to produce more competitive, export-driven industries.



Do you like Monkeys? The Red-shanked Douc is found only in Vietnam. Today only few hundreds of this rare langur are left in the world. It is listed as endangered in the World Conservation Union's Red Book. This colorful red-shanked douc langur resembles like a potbellied little man wearing a gray shirt and black pants. They mostly eat leaves and lives in group.

## Have You Ever Thought About Returning to Vietnam?

You would typically fly into Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) and do your thing in the area and then take a road trip or fly to Hanoi (seeing as how none of us ever saw it). Ho Chi Minh City, this place can be summed up in one word... Motorbikes! They are everywhere, the population of the city is 7 million and there are 3.5 million motorbikes. Everywhere you turn you can see them.

You can visit Cu Chi Tunnels which is where the Viet Cong lived in a labyrinth of tunnels in the Vietnam war. Guides are well versed as well as being very entertaining and are very good at explaining the lives and motivations of North and South Vietnamese during a very complex war. You can even attempt to get into one of the foxholes. The larger tunnels (for the VC) are hot, dark and difficult to breathe.

## What Does It Take to Get There?

Well, a few dollars, a VISA and an airline ticket. Hotels are relatively inexpensive and the food is better than C-Rations and MRE's. But below is a table for the getting and staying in Vietnam. Places to fly into are limited. Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) and Hanoi are it.

### to Hanoi

SFO:	<a href="#">\$899</a>
SEA:	<a href="#">\$943</a>
LAX:	<a href="#">\$965</a>
JFK:	<a href="#">\$1071</a>
WAS:	<a href="#">\$1088</a>

## Vietnam Hotels

### Hanoi

★★★★☆	<a href="#">\$27</a>
★★★★★	<a href="#">\$85</a>
★★★★★	<a href="#">\$135</a>

### Ho Chi Minh City

★★★★☆	<a href="#">\$104</a>
★★★★★	<a href="#">\$186</a>

### to Ho Chi Minh City

SFO:	<a href="#">\$913</a>
SEA:	<a href="#">\$943</a>
PDX:	<a href="#">\$960</a>
LAX:	<a href="#">\$965</a>
BOS:	<a href="#">\$1090</a>

## Vietnam Airlines

Direct air service currently includes flights from **Hanoi** to Hue, Danang, Nha Trang, Ho Chi Minh City, Buon Me Thuot, Pleiku, Dien Bien Phu, and Nasan; and from **Ho Chi Minh City** to Buon Me Thuot, Danang, Dalat, Haiphong, Hue, Nha Trang, Phu Quoc, Pleiku, and Qui Nhon.

Flights between Hong Kong, Hanoi, and Ho Chi Minh City suit the travel needs of most travelers connecting with flights from the United States. For more information, please check with [Vietnam Airlines](#).



**RVN National Railway – (Electric and Steam Trains)**

Service is available on the northern line from **Hanoi to Lao Cai** via Thai Nguyen, Hai Phong, Uong Bi, and Lang Son. The full 296 km journey takes approximately nine hours, while Hai Phong is reachable in less than four hours.

Service on the southern line from **Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City** includes the well-known Reunification Express train. Stops include Vinh, Hue, Da

Nang, and Nha Trang. The full trip takes approximately two days.

**Road network - North-South Highways and Roads**

**National Highway 1:** From the Huu Nghi Border Gate in Lang Son Province to Ho Chi Minh City and down to Go Dau Ha. This is the trans-Vietnam North-South high way.

**Highway 14:** Running along the Central Highlands from the ancient capital city of Hue to Kontum and Pleiku meeting Highway 1 at Bien Hoa.

**Truong Son Trail:** Beginning at Tan Ky, Ha Tinh province, it runs in parallel with Highway 1 through the Tay Nguyen Central Highlands down to the east of South Vietnam.

**Other roads:**

- Highway 2:** Linking Hanoi via Vinh Phu to Meo Vac (Tuyen Quang).
- \* **Highway 3:** From Hanoi to Thuy Khau (Cao Bang).
- \* **Highway 5:** Hanoi to Hai Phong.
- \* **Highway 6:** Hanoi to Lai Chau.
- \* **Highways 4B and 4A:** From the Ngoc Peninsula in Mong Cai (Quang Ninh) through Dong Dang (Lang Son) to (Cao Bang).
- \* **Highway 4:** From Ho Chi Minh City through the Mekong Delta to Nam Can, the southernmost part of Vietnam.
- \* **Highway 20:** From Xuan Loc to Da Lat.
- \* **Highway 9:** From Quang Tri to Lao Bao Gate.
- \* **Highway 19:** From Qui Nhon to Pleiku

In any event, I am considering going in 2010 and for the purpose of taking my sons with me. Where and when else could you consider doing something like this for your children. They would get a blast out of it and so might you. The war has been over with for 40+ years and most of us have been back from there for that long or longer, so why not see if we could locate that special place we “enjoyed” or were at more than once. You never know you might find it.

**Vietnamese Language (tiếng việt)**

Vietnamese is an Austro-Asiatic language spoken by about 82 million people mainly in Vietnam. There are also Vietnamese speakers in the USA, China, Cambodia, France, Australia, Laos, Canada and a number of other countries. Vietnamese has been the official language of Vietnam since the country gained independence from France in 1954.

- [Welcome](#) Hoan nghênh / Được tiếp đãi ân cần
- [Hello](#) Chào anh (to a man) Chào chị (to a woman) Á-lô! (on phone)
- [How are you?](#) I'm fine, thanks. And you? (Anh/Chị) khỏe không? Khỏe, cảm ơn. Bạn thì sao?
- [Long time no see](#) Lâu quá không gặp
- [What's your name?](#) My name is ... Bạn tên gì? Tôi tên là
- [Where are you from?](#) I'm from ... Ông từ đâu đến? Tôi đến từ...
- [Good morning](#) Chào buổi sáng
- [Good afternoon](#) Xin chào
- [Good evening](#) Chào buổi tối
- [Bon appetit](#) Ăn nào! (Enjoy!)



North at the top photo and south below



**Next Meeting**

Our next meeting is to be **October 21st 2008 at 7:00pm**. We ask that as many of you come as possible. Location is American Legion Post 56 at 1490 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Yuma, AZ. 85364.