



VHPA's "Rotorheads Return"

Helicopter Operations in Vietnam

15 - 28 April 2025

Tour Leader: LTC John Powell USA(Ret) 1st/9th Cav Tour

Tour Historian: LTC Bob Hesselbein, USAF(Ret)



Right: Bob started his aviation career as a AH-1G pilot for the U.S. Army in Vietnam.



MILITARY™
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Capt Ed Garr paying tribute at a crash site...



During the Vietnam War, the United States relied on the helicopter as never before. The helicopter's role in combat expanded enormously in this conflict as thousands of "choppers" rapidly transported personnel throughout the war zone. Heavily armed helicopters offered a fearsome component to ground operations as close air support. With their mobility and firepower "helos" would be the keys operations in Vietnam providing an abundance of both. Helos role in support activities must not be overlooked, as thousands of missions were flown to re-



supply and reinforce troops on the ground, to evacuate the wounded, and to offer countless other services for the war effort. The UH-1 "Huey" is the ubiquitous symbol of the American War in Vietnam. Without a doubt, the Vietnam War was the Helicopter War.

There are few times in a man's life when he has the opportunity to walk the places that profoundly shaped the rest of his life --- places with deep meaning for him --- like: **Saigon, Cu Chi, Dong Tam, Phouc Vinh, Bien Hoa, An Loc, Long Bien, Da Nang, An Hoa, Quang Tri, An Khe, Pleiku, Route 9, Tay Ninh, Tan Bien, Song Be, China Beach, Hanoi, the Hai Van Pass,** and many, many more.

The highly experienced, **Vietnam-veteran battlefield guides** of **MILITARY HISTORICAL TOURS** have walked them all. We have an outstanding working relationship with the Vietnam government that allows us access to areas previously restricted to other travelers. Our guides have been back to Vietnam dozens of times and are intimately familiar with the terrain, the battlefields, and the people. They have escorted American veterans and family members, aged 18 months to 84, all of whom had richly rewarding and highly memorable trips. Each tour is custom-tailored from our time-proven basic itinerary. This ensures the most complete tour package possible, taking you to the most important places of your particular time or interest in the war. Vietnam is eager to welcome the returning American veterans. The Vietnamese people are gracious and sincerely happy to have us with them again.

The scenery is great, the food is delicious and the hotels in which we stay are beautiful and very comfortable. Your spouse and children will love it, too.

And now the best part . . . **at only \$3395 per person**, this tour is an outstanding value, making it not only affordable for you to travel, but also to bring other family members. You can invite your friends to come along, too. Together we will visit the sites at which we fought and which are written in our collective history. The price includes everything you see except your airfare, drinks and souvenirs. The single supplement is **only \$895**. If you need to visit any place in Vietnam that is not on the itinerary, please contact us and we will see if we can get you there!



Tour Price: \$ 3,395

Based on double Occupancy

Single Supplement \$ 895

Tour Price Includes:

- Vietnam Visa Processing and fees *
- First Class Hotel Accommodations throughout tour *
- Air-conditioned motor coach transportation *
- Meals as indicated in itinerary *
- MHT Historical Trip information packet. *
- Admission fees to all sites, museums and special attractions listed *
- Services of experienced Tour Leaders, and English- speaking local guides



Airfare not included. MHT will do Optional Round-trip economy class airfare from your city or Los Angeles to Vietnam upon your request & registration

Daily Itinerary

15 & 16 APR TUE/WED - (Day 1 & 2)

Depart Los Angeles for flight to Vietnam—Cross International Dateline, lose a day transfer. (International Air will be quoted upon registration and can be tied into domestic flights upon request.) Arrive Saigon and check-in for evening. **Hotel: Le Méridien**

17 APR THUR - (Day 3) After a western style breakfast we will have an early departure for a full day of seeing the local site including the Notre Dame Cathedral, the old Post Office, the Presidential Palace, the Army Museum and the former location of the US Embassy. We will have lunch in a local restaurant and as a final stop before returning to the hotel we will tour a lacquer factory to watch craftsmen at work. If time permits we will visit one of Saigon's markets to shop for souvenirs. **Hotel: Le Méridien (B/L/D)**

18 APR FRI - (Day 4) Morning departure for the Mekong Delta to board a boat in the quaint provincial town of My Tho and then wind our way through the labyrinth of small canals bordered by tiny villages. After viewing the endless fields of rice paddies tended by peasants in their traditional conical-shaped hats we transfer to a sampan for a tour of scenic Thoisson Island. We will have lunch on the island and view the unique pottery produced on the island. We finish the day by returning to Saigon for some exploration of Saigon's markets before dinner. **Hotel: Le Méridien (B/L/D)**

19 APR SAT - (Day 5) This morning we head for the famous Cu Chi Tunnel system. We then continue to the Michelin Rubber Plantation, Lai Khe, Dau Tieng, and Nui Ba Den. As we end the day in Tay Ninh, we will stop to see the fabulous Cau Dai Temple. We end the day back in Saigon where we have an opportunity to enjoy the city at night with dinner on your own. **Hotel: Le Méridien (B/L)**

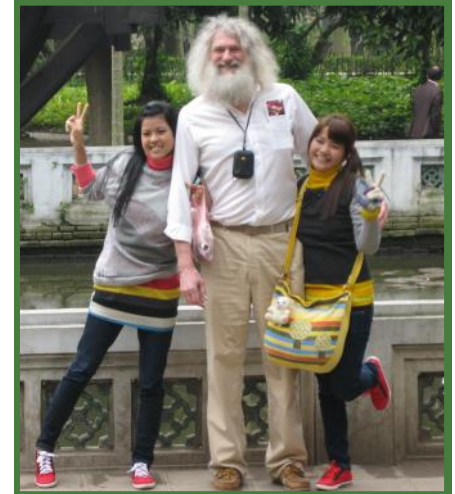
20 APR SUN - (Day 6) We check out of the hotel and catch a flight to Quy Nhon. The route up the famous Highway 19 is also re-



membered as a major French defeat and known as the "Death of GM 100" and the old 1st Cav HQ at An Khe. While overnighing in Pleiku we visit the old 4th Inf Div CP at Camp Enari & Holloway. **Hotel: Kontum (B/L/D)**

21 APR MON - (Day 7) This morning we drive from Kontum to Da Nang seeing the military sites in Northern II Corps and lower I Corps. **Hotel: Almanity (B/L/D)**

22 APR TUE - (Day 8) Today we



commence touring the Da Nang area to include Elephant Valley, Red Beach, Nam O, Hill 34, Dog Patch, and the old China Beach. We visit Marble Mountain and for the adventurous, we will climb to the top and see where the VC maintained a secret hospital throughout the war. We will also visit a marble carving shop before touring the ancient city of Hoi An and the many shops there. **Hotel: Almanity (B/L/ Dinner on your own)**

23 APR WED - (Day 9) After an early breakfast we depart Da Nang for



Hue with stops at the Hai Van Pass, Lang Co and Phu Bai Airfield. We will commence a short city tour south of the Perfume River starting at the Phu Cam Canal and ending at Hue University. **Hotel: Imperial (B/L/Dinner on your own)**

24 APR THUR - (Day 10)

This day we explore the north side of the Perfume River and discuss the battles for the Citadel and TT woods. We also visit the Forbidden City via the Dong Ba Gate and visit the airfield site within the Citadel. Later we take a short visit to the Thien Mu Pagoda. **Hotel: Imperial (B/L/ Dinner on your own)**

25 APR FRI - (Day 11) After an early morning departure we drive north to the DMZ with stops at Camp Evans, and LZs Sharon and Nancy. We briefly stop in Dong Ha and then continue west along Rt 9 with stops at Camp Carroll, Khe Gia Bridge, the Rockpile, Lang Vei and the Khe Sanh Combat Base. Lang Vei was where the NVA first used tanks against the Special Forces Camp.



Hotel: Saigon Tourist (B/L/D)

26 APR SAT - (Day 12) An early morning check-out finds us touring Leatherneck Square start-



ing at Cam Lo, "The Washout", Con Thien, the Market Place, Gio Linh and the blowing of the Dong Ha Bridge.

After lunch in Dong Ha we make it back to Hue arriving early afternoon. **Hotel: Imperial (B/L/D)**

27 APR SUN - (Day 13) Early morning flight to Hanoi. We start our tour with visits to the Hoa Lo Prison, Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, the John McCain Monument, and the Army Museum. **Hotel: Silk Path (B/L/D)**

28 APR MON - (Day 14) After breakfast, we depart Hanoi (cross international dateline) arrive in Los Angeles or your hometown same day.

Left & Above Left: North of the Cua Viet River where Rusty Cascio's MedEvac picked up 8 WIAs

Siege of Dien Bien Phu Post-Tour Available 28 Apr—1 May for only \$995. Ask for more info.

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