

55th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Operations in I-CORPS 6 — 18 August 2024

Tour Leader: Ron Dudek, USMC, 3rd Tank Bn Vietnam

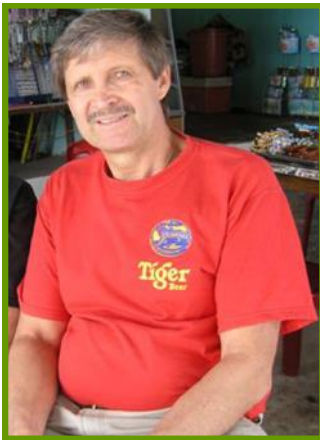


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Tour Leader:
Ron Dudek has been back to Vietnam over 45 times & will get you there!

Go back to see ALL of I-Corps...join MHT no matter when you were there or if you just read about the heroes who fought in I-Corps throughout the war!

LtGen "Lew" Walt presided over the essential expansion of the Marine Corps effort during the Vietnam War. When he arrived in June 1965, the III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF) amounted to a collection of battalions posted to a few key points in I-Corps, the tactical zone composed of South Vietnam's five northernmost provinces. When General Walt left, replaced by LtGen Robert Cushman in June 1967, III MAF was a full corps with both the 1st & 3rd Marine Divisions, the Army's Americal Division, and the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, a reinforced air wing fielding more than 500 aircraft and helicopters plus a host of supporting units. General Walt's forces were engaged everywhere from the coastal zone below the Central Highlands to a stretch of Route 1 the French had named "the Street Without Joy" to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating the two Vietnams.

Phase III of the Tet Offensive of 1968 (also known as the August offensive) was launched by the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) and Viet Cong (VC) on 22 August in I-Corps

On the night of 22-23 August NVA and VC units attacked 36 bases, towns and cities across I Corps mainly with rocket and mortar fire. A VC sapper attack on Landing Zone Bowman in the Que Son Valley. In Da Nang, an enemy company from the R20 Battalion (Bn) with a sapper platoon infiltrated Forward Operating Base 4, attacking the compound just south of Marble Mountain Air Facility that contained a Military Assistance Command, Vietnam Group HQ, several Special Forces teams and a Mobile Strike Force Command (MIKE) Force company.



On 23 August, the VC V25 and T89 Bns tried to capture the Cầm Lê Bridge, just south of Da Nang Air Base to allow follow-on units to attack the city. A platoon of U.S. Marines from Company D, 1st Military Police Bn defended the bridge from their bunkers until they were relieved by the 1st Bn, 27th Marines and ARVN Rangers. North of the bridge, a company from the VC 402nd Sapper Bn tried to seize the Hòa Vang District but were held back by ARVN units until reinforced by Marines and Rangers. The 402nd Sappers fell back to the Cầm Lê Bridge, where they continued to fight for a further nine hours, but by late afternoon after air strikes and artillery fire they abandoned the position leaving 184 dead.

1st Marine Division commander MajGen Carl Youngdale ordered his units to block the retreat of the NVA from Da Nang with Operation Sussex Bay. At 08:15 on 29 August Company M, 3rd Bn, 7th Marines engaged a NVA force 4 km south of Hill 55. Company D 1st Bn, 1st Marines and Company G, 2nd Bn, 27th Marines supported by tanks arrived to support the 3/7 Marines killing 42 NVA.

By 1968 in I-Corps, LtGen Cushman had 81,000 Marines, 32,000 soldiers, 22,000 sailors, 7,000 airman and 6,000 Korean Marines. In 1970, the U.S. Marines turned over control of the five northernmost provinces in South Vietnam to the U.S. Army. The Marines had been responsible for this

area since they first arrived in South Vietnam in 1965. After the departure of the 3rd Marine Division from Vietnam in late 1969, the 1st Marine Division was the only Marine division left operating in South Vietnam.

Come back to walk the places that profoundly shaped the rest of his life 55 years ago--- places that have deep meaning for him --- places with names like: **the "Arizona Territory", Elephant, Happy & Antenna Valleys, Liberty Bridge, Cam Lo, Razorback, the Rockpile, Con Thien, Hoi An, Hanoi, Khe Sanh, Dong Ha, Route 9 & Hwy 1, Hue City, Con Thien, Leatherneck Square, Da Nang, An Hoa, the Que Sons, China Beach, the Hai Van Pass,** and many, many more.

The highly experienced, **Vietnam Veteran Battlefield Tour Leaders of MHT** 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. 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 family would love it, too.

And now the best part **at only \$ 3,095 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 \$ 795**.

Tour Price: \$ 3,095
(Based on double Occupancy)
Single Supplement: \$ 795

Tour Price Includes:

- * Vietnam Visa Processing & fees
- * First Class Hotel Accommodations
- * Air-conditioned motorcoach transportation
- * Meals as indicated in itinerary
- * MHT Historical Trip information packet
- * Admission fees to all sites & museums
- * Services of experienced Battlefield Tour Leaders and English-speaking local guides



Airfare not included: Round-trip economy or business class airfare to Vietnam is available

Daily Itinerary

6-7 Aug Tue/Wed - (Day One & Two) Depart Los Angeles in the afternoon on a flight to Vietnam— Cross International Dateline, lose a day transfer in Incheon. (International Air will be quoted upon registration and can be tied into domestic flights upon request.) Arrive Da Nang. **Hotel: Almanity (D-Dinner)**

8 Aug Thur - (Day Three) This day will be devoted to touring of Da Nang, Red Beach, Marble Mountain, China Beach, and the old Air Facility. Lunch at Kim Do and the remainder of the day devoted to exploring Da Nang. **Hotel: Almanity (B-Breakfast/L-Lunch/D)**

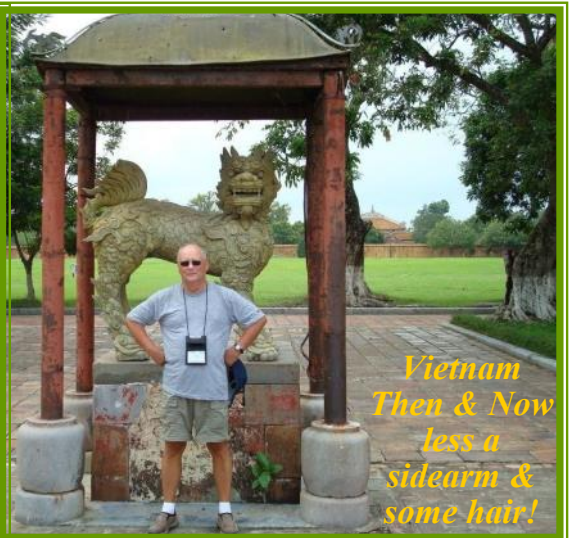
9 Aug Fri - (Day Four) After breakfast, we start down Highway 1 with stops at LZ Baldy, Tam Ky, Hill 54, 69 and 43. We will visit the Chu Lai Air Base which is currently a commercial and military airfield. **Hotel: Almanity (B/L/D)**

10 Aug Sat - (Day Five) This morning we get an early start for a full day of touring along the Tu Bon – Vu Gia River basin, including the western edge of the

“Rocket Belt.” Our emphasis includes Hill 55, 65, 37, An Hoa Combat Base, Liberty Bridge, the Arizona Territory, Go Noi Island, & other sites. **Hotel: Almanity (B/L/D on own)**

11 Aug Sun - (Day Six) Our day begins with a drive north to Hue City, passing over the top of the Hai Van Pass, and down through Lang Co and the Phu Loc Region - one of the prettiest and most photogenic in all of Viet Nam. We'll have plenty of time to stop along the way for any special requests. Upon entering Hue, we proceed to our hotel and check in and have lunch at a local restaurant. The remainder of the day will be devoted to personal exploration of the city. Dinner at the Little Italy. **Hotel: Silk Path (B/L/D)**

12 Aug Mon - (Day Seven) Today we begin our exploration of the start of the Tet Offensive in the Phu Bai area of operations as 1st Battalion (Bn), 1st Marines (1/1) and the 1st & 2nd Bns of the 5th Marines react to the attack including the relief of the CAP position and the movement to Hue to defend the MACV compound and the assault across the Nguyen Hoang



bridge. In the afternoon there will be a walking tour, in the footsteps of the original participants in January-February of 1968. Key objectives will be the treasury and postal buildings as well as the pivotal provincial capital building. Dinner at the DMZ Bar. **Hotel: Silk Path (B/L/D)**

13 Aug Tue - (Day Eight) Early morning departure as we travel west on Route 9 towards the Lao Border. Our objective is Khe Sanh, with side visits to Lang Vei Special Forces Camp, a view of the Lao Border and Co Roc. We will travel the extent of Route 9, stopping at The Rockpile, The Razorback, Khe Gia Bridge, Da Krong, LZ Stud, and Khe Sanh Village. If time allows, a stop at a Bru tribal village. Dinner at hotel. **Hotel: Silk Path (B/L/D)**



14 Aug Wed – (Day Nine) Today we tour “Leatherneck Square” in Quang Tri Province and visit these important sites - Con Thien, Cam Lo, the “Washout” & Gio Linh. **Hotel: Silk Path (B/L/D on your own)**

15 Aug Thur – (Day Ten) Today we view the Peace Bridge at the Ben Hai River and the Dong Ha Bridge. After

lunch in Quang Tri, we head back to Hue. **Hotel: Silk Path (B/L/D on your own)**

16 Aug Fri – (Day Eleven) Morning flight to Hanoi and sites to arrive at noon. After lunch, include the John McCain Monument and Ha Loa (Hanoi Hilton) Prison. We check into our hotel with a chance to enjoy Hanoi’s nightlife. **Hotel: Silk Path (B/L/-)**

*Vietnam
Then & Now
less a
sidearm &
some hair!*



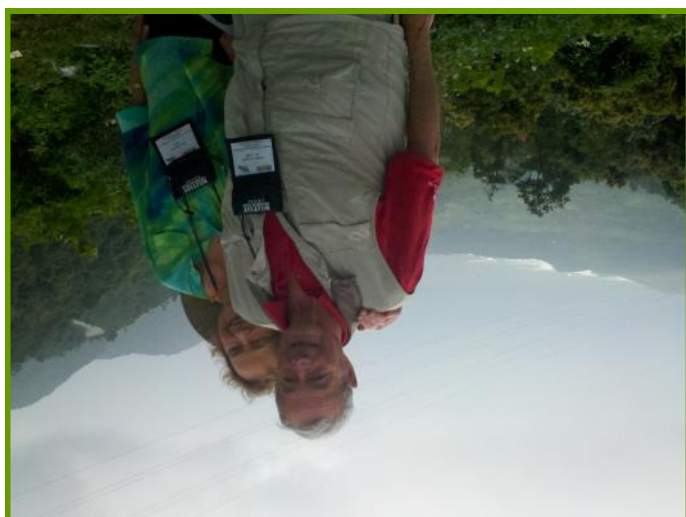
17 Aug Sat – (Day Twelve) We finish our visit to Hanoi with a walking tour of the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and Presidential Palace plus a trip to the National Army Museum and if time permits the Ethnicity Museum. The remainder of the day is for preparation for evening flight home. **Hotel: Silk Path (B/L/D)**

18 Aug Sun – (Day Thirteen) We cross the International Dateline (gain a day) and arrive home the same day.



Don't Miss the Dien Bien Phu Post Tour Only \$1,100. 18-21 Aug visit the site of the French loss of Indochina.

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