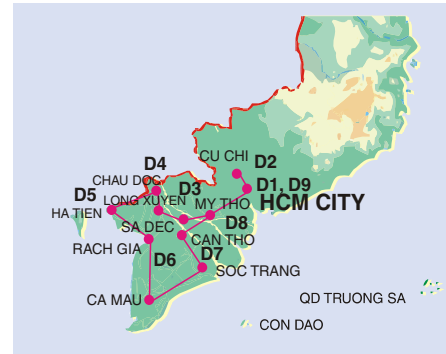


STS09.07.09

(9D/8N Program)



Ho Chi Minh City - My Tho - Sa Dec - Long Xuyen - Chau Doc - Ha Tien - Hon Chong - Rach Gia - Ca Mau - Soc Trang - Can Tho - Ho Chi Minh City



Vietnamese Pancake

Day 1: Arrival in Ho Chi Minh City (B, -, -)

Saigontourist representative will greet and pick you up at Tan Son Nhat airport in Ho Chi Minh City. Transfer to your hotel for check-in. Enjoy an evening water puppet show, a theatrical genre reflecting the agricultural civilization of thousands of years ago. Stay overnight in HCMC.

Day 2: Ho Chi Minh City - Cu Chi - Ho Chi Minh City (B, -, -)

Have a morning sightseeing tour of Ho Chi Minh City. Visit the History Museum (closed on Monday), the Reunification Palace (the former Presidential Palace), the Central Post Office, then have a short walk along the shopping Dong Khoi Street from Notre Dame Cathedral to the Municipal Theatre. Drive to bustling Cho Lon (Chinatown). Drop into the lively Binh Tay wholesale market before visiting Thien Hau temple. In the afternoon drive 70 km to Cu Chi, famed for its

elaborate network of over 200 km of three-story underground tunnels hand-dug by local people during the Vietnam War. Crawl down a tunnel to feel the underground life, and then test your marksmanship with an AK rifle at a local rifle range (optional with surcharge). Stay overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

Day 3: Ho Chi Minh City - My Tho - Sa Dec - Long Xuyen (B, -, -)

Drive 75km to My Tho. On arrival board a private boat for a boat cruise along one of the Mekong River's main tributaries to an islet. Once at there, visit some local homes and orchards where you can taste seasonal fruits and honey tea and enjoy a performance of traditional southern singing. Continue with a sampan ride through palm-shaded creeks. Lunch of Mekong specialties is served at local restaurant. Travel to Long Xuyen. Stop over in Sa Dec to visit Sadee's bustling riverside market where many scenes from the film adaptation of Dura's novel "The Lover" were filmed in front of the shop terraces and merchants' houses here. Proceed to Tan Quy Dong Commune to visit the famous flower village of Tan Quy Dong, home to 50 varieties of rose and more than 500 other types of plants, from medicinal herbs to exotic orchids. Have a leisurely walk on the country road through various



Khmer Pagoda



Floating Market - Can Tho

Mekong Delta In Depth

gardens with colorful flower beds and quaint rural homes. Stay overnight in Long Xuyen.

Day 4: Long Xuyen - Chau Doc (B, -, -)

Take a boat ride to Long Xuyen floating market where you can view local people selling and buying vegetables, fruits, etc. in daily life. Leave Long Xuyen for Chau Doc with stops-over at an incense stick making village and a crocodile breeding farm on the way. In the afternoon, enjoy a boat cruise on the Mekong River and get to know the feeding of catfish in their natural river habitat at floating houses. Continue cruising to visit Chau Giang Hamlet, home to colorful brocade woven on wooden looms by Cham ladies. Then drive to visit Lady Xu Temple,

Flower Village of Tan Quy Dong - Sa Dec



NB: B: breakfast, L: lunch, D: dinner.

Thoi Ngoc Hau Temple and Tay An Pagoda. Stay overnight in Chau Doc.

Day 5: Chau Doc - Ha Tien - Hon Chong (B, -, -)

Leave Chau Doc for Ha Tien (96 km). On arrival, visit Mac Cui Temple, built during 1898-1902 in dedication to the worship of Mac Cui, the first provincial governor of Ha Tien. Transfer 3 km from Ha Tien town and then hike a short distance uphill from the road to reach Thach Dong pagoda, dedicated to the goddess Quan Am. The pagoda is situated inside a limestone hill which consists of a series of caves and clefts in the rock. Visit Thach Dong pagoda, Thach Dong caves and enjoy beautiful views of the surrounding, remarkably flat, country. Then drive to Hon Chong, a well known beach area about 32 km from Ha Tien. Relax on the beach. Stay overnight in Hon Chong.

Day 6: Hon Chong - Rach Gia - Ca Mau (B, -, -)

Transfer to Ca Mau with stop over in Rach Gia to visit Nguyen Trung Truc temple. Stay overnight in Ca Mau.

Day 7: Ca Mau - Soc Trang - Can Tho (B, L, -)

After visiting Ca Mau floating market, transfer to Soc Trang. On arrival, visit Bat Pagoda, Clay Pagoda and Khmer Museum. Late in the afternoon travel to Can Tho. Stay overnight in Can Tho.

Day 8: Can Tho - Ho Chi Minh City (B)

Take a boat ride along Can Tho River to the well-known Cai Rang floating market where you can view local people selling and buying vegetables, fruits, etc. in daily life. Join them to buy some fruits if you like. Your boat trip goes on through canals and stop over at Cai Nai canal. Continue with a hike for about 2 Km on the country roads to Cai Da canal viewing daily activities of local peasants en route. Then visit a local market, the 130-year old house and Binh Thuy

communal house before driving back to Ho Chi Minh City. Stay overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

Day 9: Departure from Ho Chi Minh City (B, -, -)

Spend last minutes shopping (ceramics, silver-carvings, silk, etc.) before check-out. Transfer to the airport for departure.

Note: The tour itinerary is sometimes subject to small modifications depending on weather and road conditions, flight/train schedules, hotel room availability.



Bat Pagoda - Soc Trang