



Bach Ma National Park

## FROM HUE

HUEMT 09.12

### Hue by bicycle (2D/ IN)

#### Day 1: Hue (-, -, -)

Meet at your hotel in downtown Hue and start a full-day bicycle tour of Hue with the total cycling distance of approximately 30km. Cycle to visit the Temple of Literature, which was built on atop low hill in 1808 and features 33 steles inscribed with the names, ages and native villages of 239 doctors in the national examinations during the Nguyen dynasties. Then pedal your bike to the famous Phuong Duc bronze-casting village, where the Nine Great Urns, the Nine Sacred Canons and other ceremonial bronze wares of the Nguyen Dynasty were cast in this craft village. Continue biking to Tiger Arena. Take a boat trip on the Perfume River with your bikes taken along, disembark and cycle to visit King Gia Long's Mausoleum, a harmonious masterpiece between nature and man-made architecture in a peaceful and quiet poetic space. Continue cycling on the rural road to visit King Thieu Tri's Mausoleum. Pedal your bicycle at leisurely pace back to your hotel.

#### Day 2: Hue (-, -, -)

Take Hue village exploration by bicycle for this day. Depart 15-km bike ride from your hotel in downtown Hue through quiet country lanes and villages to Thanh Toan covered bridge and then Vi Da hamlet. Continue cycling to Thuan An beach (10km). Relax on the sandy beach of Thuan An. Leisurely pedal your bike back to Hue (14km).

**Note:** This cycling tour is designed for amateur cyclists with normal local bikes and without amenities for professional cyclists. There is no car or van escort during cycling.



Thanh Toan Covered Bridge - Hue



Thu Bon River - Hoi An

HUEMT 09.13

### Bach Ma exploration (2D/ IN Program)

#### Day 1: Hue - Bach Ma (-, L, -)

Pick up at your hotel in downtown Hue and transfer 40km to Cau Hai at the foot of the Bach Ma Mountain. With steep mountains and dense forests Bach Ma National Park, established in mid 1986, is home to a wide variety of animals and plants. Drive about 3 km to the park entrance. After visiting the Visitor Center, drive uphill to the park's guesthouses, where you can enjoy a panoramic view of lagoons, sand dunes and mountains. Drive up again to the end of the park road, where you will get off your car and start hiking 500 m to reach the summit of Bach Ma Mountain, 1450 m above sea level. From there you can enjoy the view across the vast coastal lagoon to the sea. After lunch served at Morin Bach Ma Hotel, trek 2 Km along the Nature Exploration Trail through sub-tropical evergreen monsoon forest to the Orchid Collection

House near the park's guesthouses. This trail is very well known for observing birds and passes several ruins from the former French hill station. Stay overnight at simple Morin Bach Ma Hotel in Bach Ma.

#### Day 2: Bach Ma - Hue (B, L, -)

Spend this day exploring the high biodiversity of the park. Trek 3 km on the Rhododendron Trail through a dense forest to the top of the Do Quyen fall (Rhododendron fall), which is 300 m in height. After relaxing at the fall, walk on a steep path with 689 steps of concrete stairs down to the bottom of the waterfall, where plenty of Rhododendron shrubs can be seen in blossom during February-March. Continue trekking along the Five-Lakes Cascade Trail to Ngu Ho (group of five lakes). If lucky enough, trekkers can see countless birds at close range along the trails. Relax and have picnic lunch by the small natural lakes under foliage. Trek about 2 Km to the main road and start a return drive to Hue. Drop off at your hotel.

**Note:** The best time lasts from April to early August, and a reasonable level of physical fitness and sturdy footwear are recommended for this trip.



Danang Beach

## FROM DANANG/HOI AN

DADMT 09.13

### Cu Lao Cham (day tour with lunch from Da Nang or Hoi An)

Pick up at your hotel in Danang or Hoi An and transfer to the pier at Cua Dai Beach a speed boat cruise of 25 nautical miles to Cu Lao Cham (Cham Island). Declared a Marine Protected Area in 2003, Cu Lao Cham consists of 7 islands altogether named according to their shapes or characteristics: Lao (spear), Dai (long), La (leaf), Kho (dry), Tai (ear), Mo (tomb), and Nom (East wind). The Cham island (the Lao, the main island) has a good climate, always cool all the year round. Cu lao Cham is a hidden treasure, where marvelous coral reefs, white sandy beaches, diverse fauna and flora are still intact. After 30 minutes by speed boat, disembark at the Lang Beach of Cham Island and have a leisurely walk to visit Hai Tang Pagoda and Bai Lang Fishing Village. Relax and enjoy sunbathing on Bai Chong Beach, considered as one of the most beautiful beaches of Vietnam as it is protected by a 517-meter high hill, the sand is white and clean and the waters are calm and crystal clear, and the rock formations on both side of the 400 meters sand bank reveals a very nice coral reef that would make many snorkellers happy. Lunch with fresh seafood served. Return to Cua Dai Beach and transfer back to your hotel in Danang or Hoi An.

**NB:** The trip is only suitable for summer time from April to August and subject to delay depending on the weather. One-way boat cruise by normal boat takes more than 2 hours.



Riverine Life - Mekong Delta

DADMT 09.14

### Hoi An countryside by bicycle (half day tour from Hoi An)

Take a short walk from your hotel in ancient town of Hoi An to Bach Dang pier. Then board a morning boat ride to Kim Bong village, where the descendants of four gifted crafting families have been perfecting their skills since the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Pedal your bike for a guided tour of the village shipbuilding yard, temples, and workshops, and cycle through scenic countryside with paddy fields and a bamboo bridge. Take a boat trip to Thanh Ha pottery village to observe the local people making pottery products. Continue your bike ride to visit a lantern workshop. Leisurely pedal your bike back to your hotel.



Hoi An - Ancient Town



Thu Bon River - Hoi An

## FROM HO CHI MINH CITY

SGNMT 09.16

### Mekong bike ride and home stay (2D/IN Program)

#### Day 1: Ho Chi Minh City - Ben Tre - Boat Cruise (-, L, D)

Depart Ho Chi Minh City for a scenic morning drive towards the Mekong Delta. Cycle as much as you please from Tan An to Cho Gao along the country road with beautiful landscapes and rural communities (30 Km/90 minutes). Then pedal your bike to Ben Tre. Arrive at a local home in Ben Tre at noon. Take an afternoon boat cruise on Mekong River, rowing local sampan to meet with local people and see their daily works. Have dinner of traditional Mekong Delta foods. After dinner take in a performance of traditional rural music. Spend the night in a local house in Ben Tre.

#### Day 2: Ben Tre - Cai Be Floating Market - Ho Chi Minh City (B, L, -)

Have a morning boat cruise from Ben Tre to Cai Be along the mighty Mekong River and its tributaries to view the daily lives of people who work and play on the waterways of the Mekong Delta. Stop by Cai Be floating market en route. Leisurely pedal you bike on village trails along the river (15 Km/1 hour). On the way, stop by an authentic Delta house, a fruit wholesale market, and a family-run business producing rice paper - a key ingredient in Vietnamese cuisine. After lunch, drive back to Ho Chi Minh City and drop off at your hotel.