



educational travel for international schools

The International School of Macao



Central Vietnam Exploration

Day 1 Sunday, 10th March

MFM 19:45 DAD 20:30 / Danang - Hoi An

Upon arrival in Danang we will clear customs and immigration before being greeted by our etr program leaders. From here we will make our way by private coach to our hotel in the former silk route trading town of Hoi An where we check-in, shower and get a good night's sleep.

Day 2 Monday, 11th March

wetlands tour, orientation tour, cooking class

As we had a late arrival the evening before, this morning we will start a little later than usual and then venture a short distance from town to learn of central Vietnam's unique agricultural areas, some farms and wetlands. We will take a private boat tour through nearby wetlands to see fishermen in action, the resident bird life and how the impact of urban development has taken place on this fragile eco system. We will also learn of traditional fishing techniques and have the chance to go for a paddle in the strange and unique Vietnamese bamboo basket boats while exploring the tranquil coconut-palm flanked waterways. Whilst here we will also enjoy a local lunch.

In the afternoon we will enjoy an orientation tour around Hoi An and visit some of its most important places of interest including an ancient trading house, Japanese bridge and one of Hoi An's ornate Chinese temples. Declared a World Heritage Site in 1998, Hoi An serves as a model town for students interested in the development of sustainable tourism.

Following our time exploring town, we wander down to a famous local cooking school where we will enjoy a hands-on cooking class and discover the secrets to preparing some of Vietnam's essential dishes, all hosted by one of the town's talented chefs.

Day 3 Tuesday, 12th March

My Son & Hoi An Great Race

Departing later this morning we will travel out to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of My Son. The most important political, religious and cultural center for the Cham civilization, My Son was the seat of a kingdom stretching from the province of Quang Tri north of Hue and



to the southern reaches of Vietnam near Phan Thiet. Today there are some 300,000 Cham descendants in Vietnam, the remnants of a proud and once powerful people who once boasted glorious victories over the Khmer and Thai's before utter defeat at the hands of the Vietnamese. At its peak in the 12th century My Son was home to many

beautifully carved brick towers decorated with depictions of Hindu gods such as Bhadresvara and Shiva.

This afternoon when we return to Hoi An town we will enjoy a 'Great Race' around the city. This activity is designed to facilitate urban exploration and to enhance students' knowledge of this historic city as well as our appreciation of Southeast Asian culture. We will complete tasks, navigate and collect information and complete activities that will be challenging, fun and educational. NB: As the great race requires about 2 hours to complete, race activities may take place in the morning and the afternoon. Students not racing will visit the attractions described above in the morning and compete in the Great Race in the afternoon and visa-versa.

Day 4 Wednesday 13th March

Eco Service (clean up, bike ride)

Our day will be dedicated to the pressing environmental issue of plastic pollution. The evidence is staggering with tons of plastic debris discarded daily in a manner which pollutes land, rivers, coasts and oceans. Plastic, a non-biodegradable product, causes great harm to the environment and today we will learn the root cause of this growing problem, the negative effects of plastic pollution to wildlife and marine life and research possible regional solutions. Working alongside a local NGO, we will view firsthand the impact this issue has on the local community and then utilizing kayaks, we will venture amongst mangroves and

Nipa palm cultivations cleaning up the riverside of discarded rubbish, mostly plastic, of course!

The afternoon we spend out in the countryside as we take a bike ride to a local village, mostly through flat countryside paths. We enjoy marvelous views over rice paddies and learn about the traditional rice production which dominates the life of so many families here. We will also stop to admire the houses with roofs made of coconut leaves. The local people make a living by creating furniture out of those leaves as well as bamboo. We finish our busy day as we return to Hoi An for dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 5 Thursday 14th March Marble Mountain, lantern making

After breakfast we load our coach and leave Hoi An for close-by Marble Mountain where we will climb to the top to enjoy views of China Beach and the South China Sea. Marble Mountain (which is actually better described as a giant limestone karst) is home to some of central Vietnam's oldest grottos and caves and remains a place of worship for many local people.



After a well-deserved break for lunch we will travel back to Hoi An where we will learn of the ancient Vietnamese craft of lantern making. Traditionally, lanterns were made of silk and the shapes in which they were made were limited. With the passage of time however, lantern makers have diversified not only the shapes of the lantern but also the medium with which they are made. We will have

the opportunity to make our own lantern which we take back home as a colorful souvenir of our time in Vietnam.

Time and energy permitting, we can go for swim at the beach near our hotel before we have time to freshen up and head out for a delicious evening meal.

Day 6 Friday, 15th March Hoi An – Danang / DAD 21:50 MFM 00:25 + 1 day

After a leisurely breakfast we finish packing our bags, load our private coach and make our way to Ba Na Hill Station, a resort founded in 1919 by French colonists and located 40km west of Danang. The latest addition to the resort is Cau Vang or the Golden Bridge which already has attracted countless curious visitors since its opening in June 2018. The bridge

not only impresses with its amazing architecture, it is the stunning views over the lush, surrounding mountains and far beyond to the East Vietnam Sea.

Upon arrival at Ba Na Hill Station we take the cable car to the top, which happens to be the world's longest single cable car system. We then get the chance to walk on the Golden Bridge and take as many photos as we wish. (Please bring an additional layer or two of clothing to keep yourself warm. The difference in temperature compared to the lowland can be quite perceptible.) We plan our descend to make it to Danang International Airport in time for check-in and our flight home.



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Thank you.



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