



VIETNAM WAR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Discovering one of the World's Most Enigmatic Wars



I ABOUT THE PROGRAM

"No event in American history is more misunderstood than the Vietnam War. It was misreported then, and it is misremembered now." – Former US President Richard Nixon, in the New York Times, March 28, 1985.

The Vietnam War will forever be etched in the world's collective memories. American troops fighting in endless forests, B-52s lumbering through the skies, and North Vietnamese tanks braving the dangerous Annamese Cordillera are among the indelible images that still linger today, issuing silent warnings of the destruction, bloodshed, and horror of war. Yet, even now, many aspects of the war are misunderstood, shrouded in decades of secrecy and shared trauma.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War and the reunification of the country, Secret Indochina has crafted a unique educational program that aims to foster a better understanding of its complexities. Learning discussions and visits to key sites invite reflection on the causes, course, consequences, and legacy of this controversial war. At the same time, the program highlights the resilience of modern Vietnam, the matchless hospitality of its people, and rich cultural heritage.



Nguyen Duc Tho, April 23, 1972, Quang Tri Province, "New House Quang Tri", Collection of National Gallery Singapore

I ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The program is structured around classic and exclusive experiences, including a jungle immersion on Hill 937 (A Luoi), camping at A Chau, exclusive access to the legendary COSVN area, lectures by experts such as prolific author Prof. Jean-Michel Filippi, and encounters with Vietnamese and American veterans.

Section 2 of this publication outlines a detailed two-week itinerary starting in Hanoi and concluding in Saigon. Upon request, Secret Indochina may also consider additional places of interest.

Section 3 includes an overview of special extensions that may be organized around sites such as:

- Areas of special operations, including Junction City, Lang Son 719
- Major battlefields, such as Ap Bac, Ia Drang and Hill 875
- Former bases and landing zones, such as Camp Radcliff in Vietnam and Thonglek, Phu Pha Thi and Long Tieng in Laos.

Section 4 provides information about extensions in Angkor and other regions, while Section 5 suggests resorts and family-friendly experiences.

Australian Veterans
by Peter Alan Lloyd





UXO and flower in South Laos

II TOUR ITINERARY



"Now we have a problem in making our power credible, and Vietnam is the place." – Former US President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.



On the Truong Son Trail, between Quang Binh and Laos by Bui Quang Anh, 1968

01 DAY *International flight*

Flight to Vietnam.

02 DAY *Hanoi arrival*

Arrival in Hanoi and transfer to the Metropole Hotel.

Free time at the hotel.

Overnight at the Metropole.

03 DAY *Hanoi*

Blending colonial architecture, breathtaking temples, and a vibrant modern culture, Hanoi is one of Southeast Asia's most beautiful cities. This day is dedicated to a classic Hanoi visit.

Discover the simple stilt home of Ho Chi Minh and the lotus-shaped One Pillar Pagoda. Visit the Temple of Literature, an 11th century university originally built as a center for Confucian studies.

Enjoy a one-hour walk through the winding lanes of the Old Quarter.

In the afternoon, visit the extensive Army Museum. This repository of Vietnam's military history includes rooms filled with war propaganda, photographs, and documents from Vietnam's wars with China, France, and the United States. End the day at a hidden Bia, a historical and popular meeting place for older people, especially veterans.



The One Pillar Pagoda (Một Cột)
Graphite and watercolor, Unsigned, 1930

At 6 pm, attend a welcome reception and dinner lecture at the Metropole with Phung Thuy Thinh, journalist-veteran during the Vietnam War.

Overnight at the Metropole.

04 DAY Hanoi

Spend the day discovering the Vietnam War in Hanoi.



Uncover traces of the war accompanied by a veteran. Start at the Hanoi Hilton, where many American prisoners of war were held, including a young airman named John McCain. Then, head to Kham Thien Street, which was heavily bombed during the 1972 Christmas campaign. See the memorial and have the opportunity to meet locals.

Then, head to Truc Bach and Huu Tiep Lakes in Ngoc Ha village to see where B-52 planes were shot down. View the Long Bien Bridge, a historic and strategic cantilever bridge that crosses the Red River.

Continue to Thang Long Citadel, a UNESCO World Heritage site built in the 11th century by the Ly Viet Dynasty. The ancient citadel was the political center of the country for 13 consecutive centuries and served as the capital of Vietnam for eight centuries. Visit the Citadel's hidden underground war bunker, which played an important role in the American war, especially during the 12 days and nights of the Hanoi-Dien Bien Phu air battle in 1972.



Sofitel Legend Metropole

Visit the Sofitel Hotel bunker.

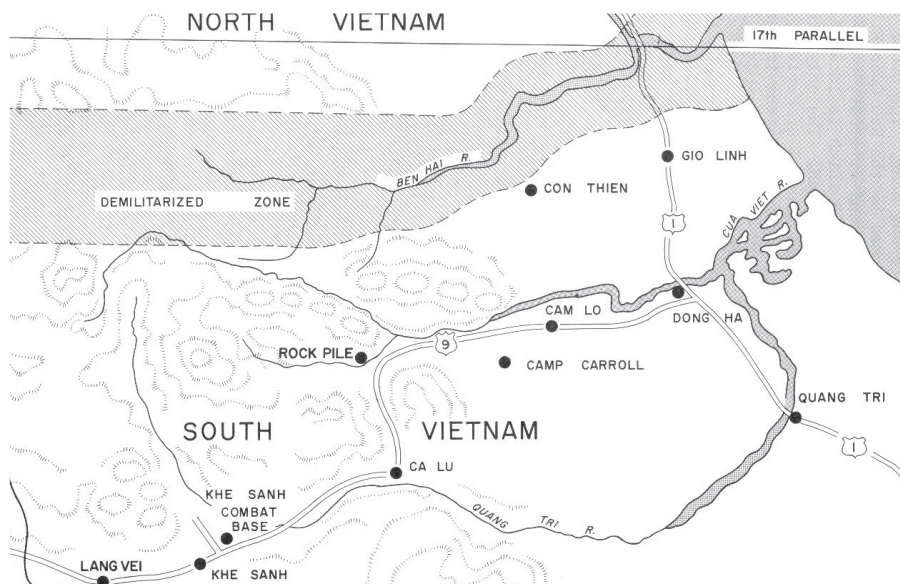
At 6 pm, enjoy a pre-dinner discussion at the Metropole about the Vietnam War with Prof. Jean-Michel Filippi, Professor of Khmer Linguistics at the Royal University of Phnom Penh.

Overnight at the Metropole.

05 DAY *Hanoi-Dong Hoi-Quang Tri*

In the morning, fly to Dong Hoi in Central Vietnam.

During the day, travel 117 km over 2.5 hours. Drive south on QL (national route) 1A to Quang Tri for 80 km and arrive in the Vinh Moc area. The Vinh Moc tunnels were built as an underground base to help locals escape American bombs and to organize operations against the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). Spend 45 minutes visiting the tunnels.



DMZ map

Drive to the 17th parallel and visit Hien Luong Bridge, which was frequently bombed to prevent North Vietnamese troops from advancing south. Meet Mr. Minh, the bridge keeper, as he shares his insights into the history of the DMZ.

Drive to Quang Tri and check in at the resort.

Overnight at the Saigon Dong Ha hotel.

06 DAY *DMZ*

This day is devoted to the DMZ.

Travel approximately 70 km over three hours. The DMZ was established in 1954 at the end of the French Indochina War. The boundary between North and South Vietnam ran east to west, roughly at the 17th parallel and along the Ben Hai River. The DMZ extended five km in both directions from that line, and neither country was allowed to place troops within that designated space. During the American war, the area surrounding the DMZ saw some of the bloodiest battles of the war.

Drive 35 km to the Con Thien Military Base via QL AH 16 and QL 15. Con Thien (the Hill of Angels in Vietnamese) was originally built as a Special Forces camp. It was taken over by the Marines in late 1966 and, together with other Marine bases in the area, was part of the McNamara Line to prevent North Vietnamese Army infiltration across the DMZ.

Spend around 30 minutes walking around the remains of the camp.

Drive 10 km north and visit the Truong Son National Cemetery, a memorial to the North Vietnamese soldiers who died along the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Head five km south to the area between Gio Linh and Con Thien bases known as the Trace and spend an hour touring the area by bicycle.

Then, head back to the Quang Tri suburbs along QL 1 to the Mine Action Center operated by the RENEW Project and the Department of Foreign Affairs. Meet with members of the organization to learn about their efforts to educate and heal locals affected by leftover relics from the war.

Through powerful exhibits and images, the Center provides a harrowing look into the devastation caused by the Vietnam War – its consequences, the loss, pain, and poverty suffered by those impacted, as well as efforts by the government, individuals, and international organizations to respond to this massive challenge. The Center also serves as an education facility for younger generations born after the war.

Back in Quang Tri, visit the old Citadel, the site of a bloody battle during Easter 1972.

Overnight at the Saigon Dong Ha hotel.

07 DAY *Quang Tri-Khe Sanh*

Learn about the tactics both the Americans and the Vietnamese used to achieve their strategic goals. Head into the mountains, visiting the sites of several American bases along the way.



Swamp Patrol by Roger Blum

Learn about the advantages and disadvantages of each site and the strategies the bases were meant to support. Total transfer distance 75 km (approximately two hours).

Travel by road on QL AH 16. En route, stop at the Cam Carroll Marine Base and spend 15 minutes on site. Continue east to the Rockpile and walk 30 minutes to the Rock. Continue on to the Annamese Cordillera counterforts, passing the famous ambush area Dra Krong bridge on the way before arriving at Khe Sanh Valley.

Visit the Khe Sanh Museum and, after a short introduction by the museum director, tour the remains of the base.

Then, head west, almost to the border with Laos, to visit the Lang Vay Special Forces Camp – the site of a brutal battle that marked the first successful use of North Vietnamese tanks in the war.

Conclude the excursion with a visit to an ethnic hamlet inhabited by the Bru people, a Montagnard sub-group. Meet villagers and learn about their traditions and customs as well as their involvement in the Vietnam War.

Overnight in Khe Sanh.

08 DAY *Khe Sanh-A Shau*

Day 8 is dedicated to exploring the strategic A Shau Valley, a major battleground from the earliest days of the US involvement in South Vietnam.

This day involves transfers of 130 km, around three hours. In the morning, depart Khe Sanh for A Roang via road N14 (the Ho Chi Minh Road). Travel along QL AH 16 and QL 14 to the southern Khe San Valley, nestled among the Phu Hiom (1,179 meters) and Dong Koum Be Le (1,232 meters) mountains – although their peaks are located in Laos, the chaotic foothills tumble towards Vietnam. Further south, the road skirts the Phu Dong Ce Coi massif (1,471 meters), whose southern flank dominates the A Luoi Valley, before reaching Mount Dong Ap Bia (938 meters), the site of the Battle of Hamburger Hill (Hill 937) in 1969.



A Shau Valley map, Army Map Service (AM), Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army, Washington D.C.

Spend four hours hiking Hamburger Hill (approximately 4 km, 400-meter positive ascent, 400-meter negative descent), experiencing the dense jungle environment before taking a 30-minute drive to A Shau Camp site (LS 611) south of A Shau Valley.

Established in 1963, the A Shau Special Forces Camp was located in the A Shau Valley, about 50 km southwest of Hue and 2 km east of the Laos border. The valley was strategically important for the PAVN as a major infiltration route because it served as a bridge from the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos into the populated coastal areas of Thua Thien Hue Province.

On March 9, 1966, PAVN forces attacked the camp, which was defended by 10 Green Berets from the 5th Special Forces Group and 210 South Vietnamese Civilian Irregular Defense Group, supported by Air Commando units equipped with A-1 Skyraiders and AC-47 Spooky gunships.

On March 10, 1966, the A Shau Special Forces Camp fell, ending the two-day Battle of A Shau. It was a strategic victory for the PAVN, who took control of the A Shau Valley and used it as a base area for the rest of the war.

There are two overnight options:

- ▶ A Shau Camp, in a tent camp along the river.
- ▶ An A Shau valley hotel.

09 DAY *A Shau-Hue*

Depart A Shau for a 65 km, two-hour morning transfer to Hue.

Operation on Hamburger Hill by First Lieutenant Landon



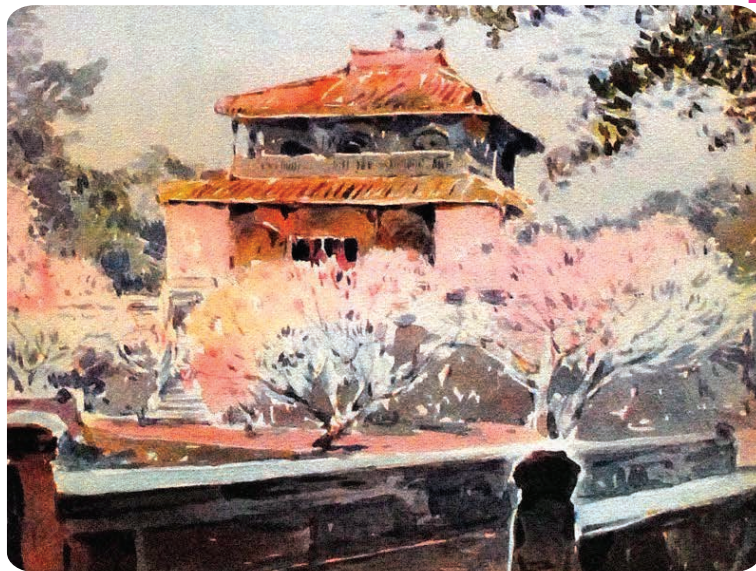
Enjoy the fantastic mountain sights along the way, with rolling green hills and the crystal-clear streams running between magnificent hillsides.

Stop for a visit to Fire Base Bastogne and witness how the Americans built a strategic series of bases along this route to protect Hue from Vietcong attacks.

Arrive in Hue and check in into the hotel, a former governor's residence on the banks of the Perfume River.

Overnight in Hue.

Imperial Tomb in Hue by Marius Hubert Robert, 1933



10 DAY Hue

Day 10 is devoted to exploring Hue, including the remains of the Tet Offensive that largely took place in and around the former capital.

The city served as an imperial capital to the Nguyen Lords, a feudal dynasty which reigned from the 17th to the 19th centuries. It retains its royal charm, with splendid tombs of emperors, ancient pagodas, and the remains of the Citadel. Hue was at the heart of heavy fighting during the Tet Offensive of 1967, and many historical buildings were badly damaged.

Begin the day at the Imperial Citadel. Take a stroll around and explore the history and architecture of the Capital Citadel, Royal Citadel, and the Forbidden Citadel (the royal family's residence). Enjoy a vegetarian lunch with the monks at the ancient Ba La Mat pagoda.

In the afternoon, drive along the riverbank to the Buddhist Thien Mu pagoda, Hue's best preserved religious monument with its seven-story tower. See the car featured in the iconic 1963 photograph Burning Monk by Malcolm Browne, arguably one of the most influential protest images of the Vietnam War.

Overnight in Hue.



Nam Phuong, the last empress of Vietnam

11 DAY *Hue-Danang*

Depart Hue in the morning for a two-hour, 95-km scenic drive to Danang. Travel through the Hai Van Pass where, weather permitting, a spectacular panorama of the central coastline can be viewed from the summit.

Arrive in Danang and visit sites around town relevant to the war, including the grounds of the former US consulate and China Beach.

Visit the DAVA Center dedicated to caring for victims of Agent Orange and their families. If time allows, visit the Zone 5 Military Museum.

Overnight at the Danang Intercontinental Son Tra Peninsula.

12 DAY *Danang*

In the morning, take a one-hour, 40-km drive to Son Tra peninsula for a visit to the Son Tra Nature Reserve, which is dominated by Mount Son Tra (693 meters).

Walk or transfer by vehicle along a jungle trail guided by a researcher from the Center for Biodiversity Protection. Learn about the red-shanked douc langur (*Pygathrix nemaeus*), a species of monkey endemic to Southeast Asia. Son Tra is home to around 2,000 red-shanked doucs, and it is the best place in the world to observe this extremely rare species.



Red Shanked Douc by Eric Losh

From Son Tra extends a second small peninsula (Tiensha or Mui Da Nang) with a lighthouse and a rocky cape at its southern end. To the southwest lie the remnants of a former French cemetery and chapel (Y Pha Nho) and a former American base (Monkey Mountain Camp). There is an option to visit the site of Monkey Mountain Camp.

Overnight at the Danang Intercontinental Son Tra Peninsula.*

- *There is also an option to add an additional day to trek Bach Ma Mountain and camp there.

13 DAY

Danang-Saigon

Transfer to Danang Airport for a morning flight to Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City). On arrival, transfer to the hotel.

Take a historical walking tour through the modern city with an urban module that immerses visitors in the final days of the fall of Saigon. The tour lasts approximately 3 hours and covers 3 km.

Depart for the tour from the Opera House in the center of District 1. Maps and old photographs explain the significance of the triangle formed by the Opera House and three nearby hotels: the Rex, the Continental, and the Caravelle. Learn about the history of the United States Information Service (USIS) at the Rex and the Continental bunkers, where the French and Vietnamese hid their treasures.

Walk to the former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) building used as an evacuation point during Operation Frequent Wind. Gain exclusive access to the roof that was the site of the iconic 1975 photograph Helicopter Evacuating Crowd from Rooftop by Hubert van Es. Visit the nearby Independence Palace and its lush park, followed by the Hồ Chi Minh Campaign Museum.

End the day by enjoying a drink on the 9th floor of the Caravelle, a café famous in the American era with a superb view of the central triangle.

Overnight at the Caravelle.

Saigon, April 30, 1975 by AFP



14 DAY Saigon-Tây Ninh

In the morning, depart for a 2.3-hour, 87-km drive to Tay Ninh via roads QL 22 and 784 through quintessential southern Vietnamese countryside.

Tay Ninh is the center of Vietnam's homegrown religion, Caodaism. Visit the Caodai Holy See to learn about this eclectic faith, its history and role during the wars. There is an option at 12 pm to participate to a Caodaist mass.

Then visit the Nui Bai Den Mountain, a sacred mountain since the Funan Kingdom and the epoch of the Khmer empire.

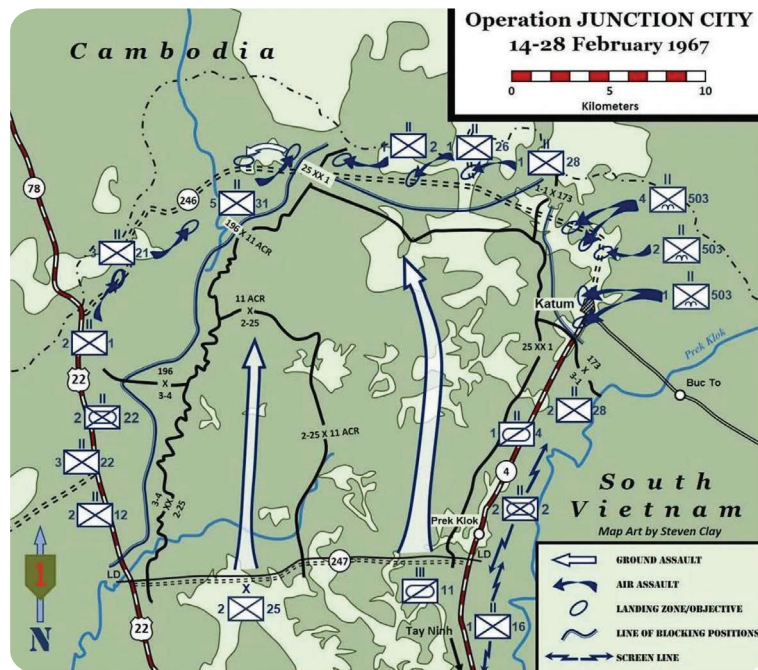
At the end of afternoon, return to Tay Ninh.

Overnight at the Melia Tay Ninh.

15 DAY Tây Ninh-Saigon

This day is dedicated to the legendary Central Office for South Vietnam (COSVN) area, the Junction City Operation and the Iron Triangle.

Along road QL 22 B, the old road to Phnom Penh, drive 1 hour (40 km) toward the extreme north of Tay Ninh province, to the Lo Go Xa Mat National Park – the elusive location of the legendary COSVN during the war. Drive inside the forest, visit the COSVN former school, then bike 10 km inside the park, on a laterite track shadowed by dense trees.



Operation Junction City map

Continue to the northern part of the park, where the COSVN was reconstituted, and spend an hour visiting the place. Travel 2 km to visit the new COSVN Museum and discover a colorful fresco of the war.

Take Road 792 along the Khmer border towards Katum and discover the different axes of Operation Junction City, which featured armored, helicopter, and airborne assaults.

Continue on Road 744 for 2.3 hours (102 km) to Cu Chi District and the area known as the Iron Triangle. North of Cu Chi, visit the edge of Ho Bo and Filhol rubber plantations where fierce combat took place during the war. Then, explore the underground city, a network of tunnels built during the war, first against the French and then the Americans. Visit the underground complex and meet a Viet Cong veteran who lived there for an introduction to the history of the tunnels and what life was like in them.

From Cu Chi, embark on a 40 km, hour-long cruise on the Saigon River to downtown Saigon.

Conclude the day with an optional dinner discussion with experts such as Dr. Bui Tran Phuong, Tim Doling, or Fanny Quertamp.

Overnight at the Caravelle.



COSVN School

16 DAY *Saigon Departure*

Transfert to Tan Son Nhat International Airport and departure.

- Option to add a one or two-day extension to the Mekong Delta or Cambodia.

17 DAY *International flight*

International flight.

III

SPECIAL SITES & EXPERTS

One of the unique aspects of this program is that it features extension modules to special sites that are typically not included in itineraries, as well as remote areas that have been difficult to access. It also offers the opportunity to engage with experts for new and personal perspectives on the war.



"They made a waste-land and called it peace." – Tacitus (ca. 55-120 AD).

Phu Pha Thi area map (LS 81)

Phu Pha Thi

Discover Nam Et, the most enigmatic and mythical region of the Secret War in Laos. Bordering Vietnam to the north and Xam Neua to the east, Nam Et's inhospitable terrain made the area difficult to reach, and access was forbidden for many years. It was at the center of many stories, especially during the American-led Secret War from 1964 to 1975. Nam Et is the site of the legendary Phu Pha Thi (1786 meters), a sacred Hmong mountain, otherwise known as Lima Site 85 (LS 85), the most secret Vietnam War base.

Today, the Nam Et-Phu Loei National Biodiversity Conservation Area (NBCA) is a national park spanning 5,950 km². Various ethnic groups live in its outskirts, including the Laotian, Black Thai, Lue, Khmu, Hmong Kho, White Hmong, and Dao peoples. The park is made up of dense forests intertwined with limestone outcrops, with underlying scrubland and a smattering of pine trees. It is home to tigers, leopards, elephants, as well as other species not commonly seen in the region.

From December to May, Secret Indochina offers a two-day journey on 4WD across Nam Et from east to west, or a two-day Nam Et safari with jungle overnight.



Antonov An-2 over the Phu Pha Thi by Keith Woodcock



The A-4F Skyhawk



Long Tieng Airfield (LS 20A)

Thonglek

Thonglek was a major CIA base in southern Laos from which Montagnards, CIA personnel, and Ravens launched operations against the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Repeatedly assaulted by NVA and bombed by B-52s, the area around Thonglek was called the Field of Steel by locals.

From Pakse and Attapu, discover Thonglek Plateau and the Dakchung district. Walk along the former airfield and CIA base, then continue to Xekong city, crossing the Xekong River on an old CIA ferry. This exclusive five-day itinerary offers an exceptional insight into the Secret War in Laos.

Long Tieng

Long Tieng (also spelled Long Chieng, Long Cheng, or Long Chen) is a Laotian military base located in Xiang Khouang Province. During the Laotian Civil War, it served as a town and airbase operated by the CIA as well as the headquarters of General Vang Pao's secret army.

During this time, it was referred to as Lima Site 98 (LS 98) or Lima Site 20A (LS 20A). At the height of its significance in the late 1960s, the "secret city" of Long Tieng maintained a population of 40,000 inhabitants, making it the second largest city in Laos at the time, although it never appeared on maps throughout this period. Long Tieng is accessible from Phongsavan with special permits.

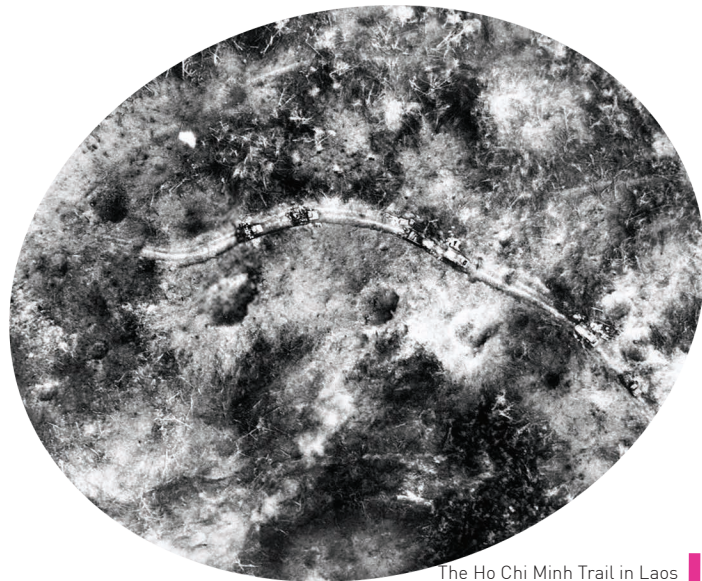


Along the Ho Chi Minh Trail by Hoang Tich Chu

Camp Radcliff

Camp Radcliff – also known as An Khe Army Airfield, An Khe Base, or the Golf Course – is a former US Army base in the An Khe District of Gia Lai Province. It was established in late August 1965 by the 70th Engineer Battalion as a base camp for the 1st Cavalry Division.

The camp was named after 1/9 Cavalry Major Donald Radcliff, the division's first combat death, who was killed on August 18, 1965, while supporting US Marines from his helicopter gunship during Operation Starlite. The remains of the camp are accessible from Quy Nhon on the coast or from Plei Ku in the central highlands.



The Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos

Jean-Michel Filippi

Visiting Professor of Khmer Linguistics at the Royal University of Phnom Penh, Jean-Michel Filippi originally specialized in the languages and civilizations of Eastern Europe, where he lived and researched until 1995. He is currently working on Khmer, Vietnamese, minority languages, and ethnic groups in Cambodia and South-east Asia, with a view to description and preservation. He is the author of *Preliminary Research on Minority Languages in Cambodia*, as well as various studies on the languages and peoples of the Cardamom Mountains for UNESCO. He has published numerous articles and books in Khmer, French and English and is writing books devoted to Phnom Penh and the city of Hanoi. In recent years, he has begun studying Khmer statuary and is working on a separate publication on the subject.

IV EXTENSIONS

Various extensions can be added to the base programs in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. They include:



"But this too is true:
Stories can save us."
– Tim O'Brien, *The Things
They Carried*.



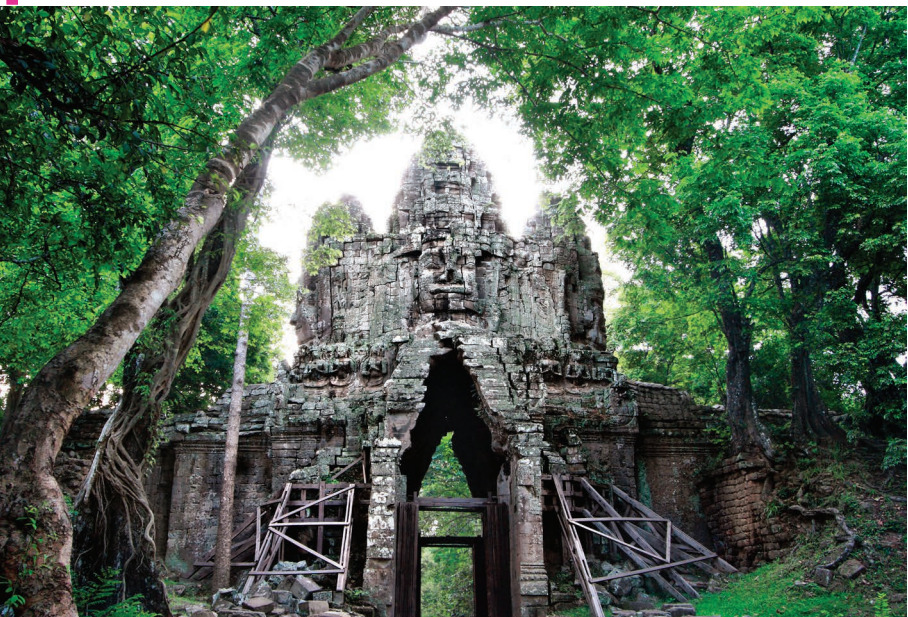
Old bridge in Upper Xekong, Laos

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

Learn about the Khmer capital and the Khmer Rouge era.

Once known as the “Pearl of Asia” during the French colonial era, the Kingdom’s capital boasts a privileged geographical location at the convergence of three major waterways – the Mekong River, Lake Tonlé Sap, and the Bassac River. During the civil war provoked by the Khmer Rouge in 1975, many of the city’s inhabitants were executed or forced to leave their homes, leaving Phnom Penh deserted for over four years.

One of the Angkor gates



Bouddha, Phnom Penh National Museum

SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA

Discover Angkor temples.

Northeast of the town of Siem Reap, Angkor is home to dozens of temples and structures left over from the Khmer kings. The Khmers achieved this masterpiece by channeling water resources through a sophisticated system of canals, dikes, moats, and reservoirs – a concept historians refer to as the “Angkorian hydraulic city.”

SOUTHERN LAOS

Discover the Southern Mekong Basin.

The Southern Mekong Basin lies between the Champassak, Xekong and Attapu Provinces in south Laos. It is known for hundreds of islands formed by the Mekong, Angkorian temples, volcanic formations, its people, and a deep forest heritage. Pakse is the capital of southern Laos and, like Champassak, an old Muong and colonial town. Various Laotian Secret War battles and operations took place in the area, including Paksong and Tonglek.

Son Doong cave in Phong Nha-Ke Bang, one of the world's largest caves



Wat Phu temple

KE BANG-PHONG NHA, VIETNAM

Explore the caves of Phong Nha.

The Ke Bang-Phong Nha massif extends over 2,000 km² between Vietnam and Laos. One of the most remarkable examples of complex karst relief in Southeast Asia and the world, the massif is a complex system of peaks, caves, sinkholes, and underground networks. The area has attracted international attention as one of the filming locations for the 2017 film Kong: Skull Island, and members of the British Cave Research Association recently discovered one of the largest caves in the world there, the So'n Doong cave, which has been featured by National Geographic.



V RESORTS & FAMILY EXTENSIONS

Secret Indochina has carefully selected truly exceptional resorts and hotels for extensions, where guests of all ages can enjoy Southeast Asia's famous hospitality and one-of-a-kind cultural experiences.

"We were expelled from paradise, but paradise was not destroyed. In a sense our expulsion from paradise was a stroke of luck, for had we not been expelled, paradise would have to be destroyed." – Franz Kafka, "Paradise."



Immersion in Tam Coc



Welcome to Tam Coc Garden

ZANNIER BAI SAN HO

Zannier Bai San Ho is set on the slopes of a coastal cirque overlooking Vung Mu Bay. Its beachfront and hilltop villas are scattered among endemic maritime vegetation, inviting guests to explore or contemplate. From its solitary villas, travelers can enjoy a variety of vistas, including breathtaking views of the bay and its two rocky promontories or the moonlit waters of the Pacific shimmering at night. The Zannier's architecture is inspired by the Jarai, a local ethnic group distinguished by its longhouses.

TAM COC GARDEN

Tam Coc Garden is a jewel of hospitality, gastronomy, and romance, harmoniously integrated into rural life. Nestled in a peaceful valley between karst knolls and rice paddies in Ninh Binh Province, this Tonkinese village is an ideal place to understand the local culture by discovering the traditional crafts, beliefs, and lifestyle of the Red River Delta. It is an excellent base for exploring the enchanting Ha Long Bay Land, with immersive experiences at the Yen Mo villages, sampan excursions along a karst maze dotted with verdant nature, and visits to splendid cultural sites within a UNESCO World Heritage natural sanctuary.

The view from a Hill Pool Villa at Zannier Bai San Ho





View from Amani's restaurant

LEGACY MEKONG

Inspired by the caravanserais of the past, the Legacy Mekong offers elegant design and discreet, attentive service in a peaceful setting outside the city. Ideal for individuals, couples, and families seeking comfort and quality, the hotel features a year-round outdoor pool, gym and yoga studio, spa, and sauna.

With 60 contemporary rooms and spacious pool villas ranging from one to five bedrooms, the property blends seamlessly into the tropical landscape. Surrounded by lush gardens, the villas follow the island's northern coastline, while the riverside spa sits tucked among mangrove canals under banyan trees.

AMANOI

Skillfully integrated into a lush maritime forest protected by a national park in south-central Vietnam, Amani overlooks white sandy coves and Vinh Hy, a superb bay framed by reddish granite promontories plunging into crystal-clear waters. An exotic paradise combining remarkable service and prestige, it is an ideal base for discovering little-known coastal areas between Cam Ranh and Mui Ne. Experience cultural encounters with the Cham people or explore improbable rocky coastlines, stone labyrinths, or maritime ergs in the heart of the last kingdom of Champa, Panduranga.

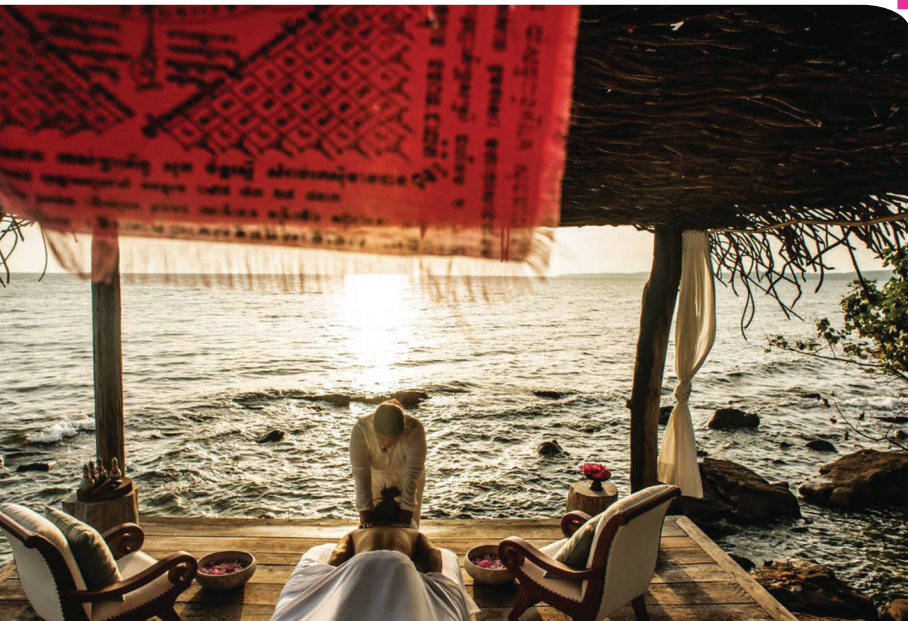
Minh Song, School of Thu Dau Mot, The Return from Fishing (circa 1955)



AMANTAKA

Utterly in tune with the seductively slow pace of Luang Prabang, Amantaka rests at the foot of sacred Mount Phousi amid the golden-spired wats and quaint lanes of this charming UNESCO World Heritage site. A short stroll from the banks of the mighty Mekong, the resort is set on a historic garden estate with a shimmering pool and the serene Aman Spa. This boutique hotel contains 24 lavish suites encircling a central courtyard, all designed with a mixture of traditional and modern Lao furnishings. The suites range in size from 70 to 120 sqm and include eight suites, four pool suites, eight Khan pool suites, two Mekong pool suites, and two Amantaka pool suites.

Outdoor spa sala at Song Saa



Splendor of Xieng Thong, painting by Sompaseuth Chounlamany

SONG SAA PRIVATE ISLAND

Created with love, Song Saa private island offers luxury, serenity, and a deep connection with the environment. It is fashioned with sustainability in mind, and reflects the beauty of the Cambodian coastline. It is a place that breathes the rhythm of nature, built from local materials by local hands and imbued with the area's artistic soul.

A tropical getaway with a pristine private beach, spacious wooden villas, heavenly spas, and an unspoilt coral reef, Song Saa is truly a magical, luxurious escape.

ZANNIER PHUM BAITANG

Nestled in 20 hectares of lush gardens and rice paddies, this prestigious “green village” is located on the outskirts of Siem Reap at the gateway to Angkor. Inspired by Khmer architecture, Phum Baitang embodies the cultural richness of Cambodia, featuring 45 private villas with terraces and swimming pools. Designed as traditional farmhouses on stilts, they pay homage to the rustic charm of traditional Khmer houses. Inspired by the architecture of Angkor Wat, the Spa Temple combines holistic well-being, therapies, and relaxing traditional Khmer rituals, including a water blessing by a Buddhist monk.

A bird's eye view of La Folie Lodge



Stone carving in Siem Reap

LA FOLIE LODGE

Tucked away in the peaceful countryside of Champassak, Southern Laos, La Folie Lodge is a family-run boutique hotel with 26 traditional-style rooms and villas. Set on a lush island in the Mekong River, near the UNESCO-listed Wat Phou temple, it offers a serene escape where nature, culture, and spirituality meet. More than a retreat, it is a sanctuary for wellness seekers, blending traditional healing with modern tranquility.



Cau Maa' warrior







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