

THIS MESSAGE UNDER CINCPAC SSO CONTROL

26 APR 75 22 46

Explore Indochina

adventure expeditions in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam

The Ho Chi Minh Trail

HT#1

The legendary Ho Chi Minh Trail was the supply line used by North Vietnam to link North and South Vietnam during the American War. Soldiers, ammunition, weapons and supplies were carried by hand, bicycle and truck for hundreds of kilometres through the otherwise impenetrable jungle that covered Vietnam's mountainous border with Lao. A testimony to the ingenuity, fortitude and commitment of the North Vietnamese, the Trail slipped from use at the end of the war and was taken back by the jungle. Recent road works that follow original sections of the Trail have changed this. Besides incredible driving, deep in the Vietnamese countryside, this ride takes in the former imperial capital of Hue, the ancient trading town of Hoi An, Khe Sanh battle site, the infamous A Shaw valley, China beach, Vietnamese war museums and the DMZ. We also take time to stay overnight in a traditional Thai hill tribe village and visit the former Imperial Tombs of Hue. Take this one off chance to be among the first to traverse the Ho Chi Minh Trail!

Length: 1,331km - Difficulty: Moderate

Hanoi - Mai Chau - Vinh - Dong Hoi - Khe Sanh - Hue - Hoi An
9 days, 8 nights)

Day 1 : In the morning we visit the Ho Chi Minh Trail museum on the outskirts of Hanoi. Then we jump on the bikes and pass extensive farming lands comprising a sea of paddy fields split by tree-lined roads punctuated by limestone karst scenery. After a light lunch near Hoa Binh we cross two mountain passes before descending to the mountain valley settlement of Mai Chau. Overnight in a Thai ethnicity stilt house in Mai Chau (B, L, D) 140km

Day 2 : In the morning we explore the mountains to the north of Mai Chau, passing Hmong and Dao hilltribe communities living as they have for centuries. In the evening we enjoy a traditional music and dancing performance. Overnight in a Thai ethnicity stilt house in Mai Chau (B, L, D) 80km

Day 3 : We head south on a beautiful winding road which follows the banks of the Ma River until we join the new Ho Chi Minh Highway. This newly carved route leads us due

south, through remote back country, not far from the Lao border. In the afternoon we cut eastwards towards the coast and stay overnight in the coastal city of Vinh, which is close to where Ho Chi Minh was born. Overnight in Vinh. (B, L, D) 286km

Day 4 : We head south along Highway One, before heading inland towards the Lao border. We pass the Dong Loc intersection, (main junction for supply lines during the War) which is widely regarded in Vietnamese eyes as the beginning of the Ho Chi Minh Trail. We then pass through remote back country, close to the border, as the scenery steadily becomes dominated by karst limestone rock formations. We pass two famous intersections where until 1972 most of the Trail's traffic passed over into Lao. In the afternoon we arrive at the World Heritage site of Phong Nha where local civilians and military sheltered from incessant bombing during wartime. Then we drive down to the coastal town of Doing Hoi, which was heav-

CINC	ASST	F/JLT	C/S	C/S	INSP	PA	JT	SEC	PER	INF	DPS	LOG	PLN	CEL	TRD	SEC	ASST	OPR	IPC	OPR	NOG	SSG
100	1001	1002	1003	1004	1005	1006	1007	1008	1009	1010	1011	1012	1013	1014	1015	1016	1017	1018	1019	1020	1021	1022

