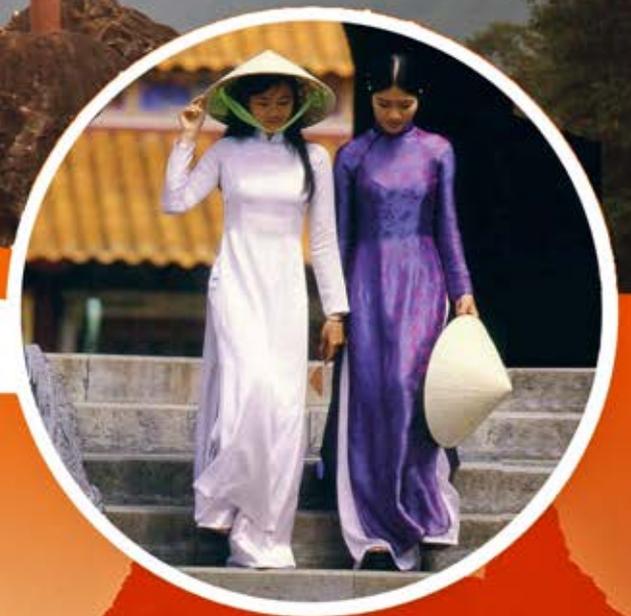


# Sample Vietnam Faculty Led Program (3.5 Weeks, 6 Cities )



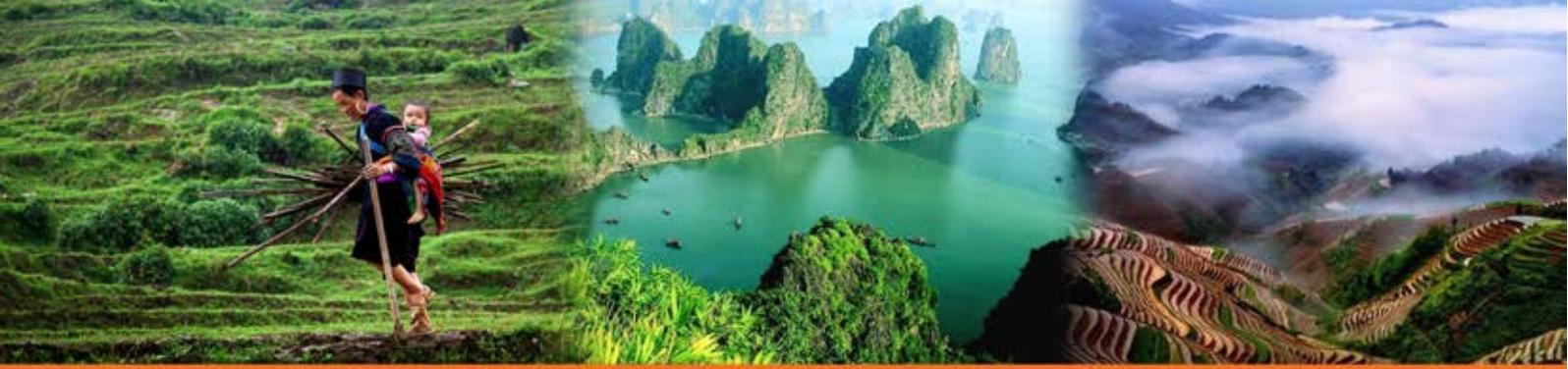
**\$ 2885**

*for support from two staff,  
class space, volunteer  
placement, domestic travel,  
entrance fees, room & board.*



## Minds Abroad

Named a "Top Ten Program" by the Center for  
Citizen Diplomacy and U.S. State Department



## Program Introduction

For a country like Vietnam which has borne the stamp of successive Chinese invasions, French colonialism, a brief Japanese occupation and the American involvement in the Vietnam War, the points of reference are many. For a Western traveller it strikes as a country of mixed influences and contrasts, where young people emulating American culture stand side by side with the country's historic and cultural past. The influence of the French that colonized Vietnam is visible in the spacious boulevards of the city of Hanoi. On the other hand, the historic old port of Hoi An as well as the royal tombs, pagodas and imperial cuisine of Hue bear the stamp of the intrinsic indigenous culture of the nation.

Blessed with natural splendours like the karst limestone topography of the Halong Bay, lush mountains in Sapa, leading to endless trekking routes and sublime coastlines in the South, Vietnam is as diverse to the eye as to the palate with its cuisine, spiked with chilli, fish sauce and coconut.

## Components of the Program

### Faculty-Led Classes

In Hanoi, the faculty members accompanying the students on the trip will offer classes on areas of their expertise. These classes will be held on weekday mornings. Minds Abroad will arrange for classroom space, where they can efficiently offer these classes. Our staff will also further assist the instructor with study materials and organizing their classes. We can also arrange for guest lecturers, who can offer classes on issues most relevant to the subject at hand.

### Afternoon Volunteer Service Learning at Local Non-Profit Organizations

In Hanoi, during weekday afternoons, participants will teach English to students in non-profit organizations that are devoted to helping children from a variety of disadvantaged backgrounds. By teaching basic English to these children, participants will indirectly give them the skills that they need to escape poverty. Through this activity, participants will not only have an excellent opportunity to immerse themselves in the local culture, but will also learn about community and developmental issues in a typical emerging Asian city.

### Academic Travel

As a part of this program, over the weekends students will visit fast growing metropolises and sites steeped in history and culture. These places are described in depth in the next section of the program.

## Locations Covered in Our Program

### Hanoi

The charming Vietnamese capital is distinct in its touch of Parisian grace that had its origin in its French colonial legacy. A plethora of historic monuments and pagodas with colonial architecture dots the city while making room for modern developments. Hanoi's charm lies in all this and its maze of markets in the Old Quarter abuzz with motorcycles.

In Hanoi, students will explore various sites of history and culture like Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum, Museum and his Stilt House. They will also visit the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology to understand the diverse culture of tribal Vietnamese people. Additionally, students will also participate in classes offered by their own faculty members in the morning. Towards the afternoon, they will volunteer in local non-profit organizations, serving the less privileged sections of the society of Hanoi. This experiential learning in form of classes, volunteer placements and excursions will give students a balanced perspective on Vietnam as a country.



## Locations Covered in Our Program (Continue)

### Hoi An

The beautiful ancient town of Hoi An was once the most cosmopolitan port city of Vietnam. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Hoi An's old town has maintained its cosmopolitan yet medieval world flavor through its traditional wooden merchant houses, its maze of alleys, its Chinese tea houses, gorgeous silk lanterns and its riverside setting that clearly bears the stamp of French influence. Students will not only explore the city, but will also, take trips to its sites of cultural and historic interest such as the Quan Cong temple, Chuc Thanh Pagoda and the Museum of History and Culture.

### Hue

An important city in Central Vietnam from the 17th to the 19th century and originally a seat of the Nguyen Dynasty, Hue remained the national capital until 1945, when a communist government was established in Hanoi. Hue is strewn with pagodas and tombs, as burial tombs were built, following the orders of local kings in the tradition of the Egyptian Pharaohs. In Hue, students will take a walking tour of the Imperial Citadel and visit the legendary tombs of the emperors by the Perfume River.

### Quang Tri Province and the DMZ

The province of Quang Tri, sitting north of the former Vietnamese capital Hue, had been the site of some of the country's bloodiest and goriest battles where many lives were prematurely snuffed out. Quang Tri is the gateway to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), which was once a locale of heavy fighting, when Vietnam went to war with the US. Still fraught with countless mines, the DMZ is home to the legendary Vinh Moc tunnels and Khe Sanh combat base, often inspiring history buffs and travellers take a jaunt through Vietnam's blood-soaked history. Here, students will visit some of the major landmarks of this epic war such as the La Vang Holy Land, Dong Ha Town, Doc Mieu base, Hien Luong Bridge, Ben Hai river, Vinh Moc tunnels, Ho Chi Minh trail, combat base of Khe Sanh etc.

### Sapa

In order to escape the din and bustle of typical Vietnamese cities with hundreds of motorcycles buzzing about, students will take a trip to Sapa in Northwestern Vietnam. Set against lofty mountains and undulating, lush green rice-fields, Vietnam is blessed with idyllic scenery that almost approaches picture postcard realms. Sapa is a market town with a tribal patchwork and breathtaking scenery. On most weekends, locals and travelers flock to open markets hosted by Vietnamese villages in the highlands. Students will explore Sapa, trek around its misty mountains, wander through its open-air tribal markets which are one of the most colorful in all Southeast Asia and visit Hmong minority terrace farming villages.

### Halong Bay

Karst limestone hills covered with lush vegetation on emerald blue seas epitomize the familiar scenery of Halong Bay. In Northern Vietnam this World Heritage Site alone has over 3000 different islands dotting the Gulf of Tonkin. Halong means "where the dragon descends the sea." It is believed that a mythical dragon descended upon the seas here creating the islands with its mighty plunge. Students here will spend their time exploring limestone caves and admiring the mystic beauty of the weather-beaten grottoes and stalactite and stalagmite formations that define these caves.



## Calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Day 3</b>
				In Transit	Hanoi	Hanoi
				Depart from home country	<b>AM:</b> Arrive Hanoi <b>PM:</b> Eat a traditional Vietnamese meal for dinner	<b>AM:</b> Temple of Literature, the Army Museum <b>PM:</b> Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum <b>Evening:</b> Lenin Park, Hoan Kiem Lake
<b>Day 4</b>	<b>Day 5</b>	<b>Day 6</b>	<b>Day 7</b>	<b>Day 8</b>	<b>Day 9</b>	<b>Day 10</b>
Hanoi	Hanoi	Hanoi	Hanoi	Hoi An	Hoi An	Quang Tri
<b>AM:</b> Faculty-led class <b>PM:</b> Volunteer at a local non-profit organization	<b>AM:</b> Faculty-led class <b>PM:</b> Volunteer at a local non-profit organization	<b>AM:</b> Faculty-led class <b>PM:</b> Ethnology Museum	<b>AM:</b> Faculty-led class <b>PM:</b> Travel to Hoi An	<b>AM:</b> Ancient town of Hoi An <b>PM:</b> Quan Cong temple, Chuc Thanh Pagoda <b>Evening:</b> Japanese Covered Bridge	<b>AM:</b> Hoi An's Museum of History and Culture <b>PM:</b> Travel to Hue and arrive Hue at night	<b>AM:</b> Vietnamese Demilitarised Zone. <b>PM:</b> Dakrong bridge, Rockpile <b>Evening:</b> Return to Hue
<b>Day 11</b>	<b>Day 12</b>	<b>Day 13</b>	<b>Day 14</b>	<b>Day 15</b>	<b>Day 16</b>	<b>Day 17</b>
Hue	Hanoi	Hanoi	Hanoi	Hanoi	Sapa	Sapa
<b>AM:</b> Imperial Citadel, Purple Forbidden City <b>PM:</b> The Tombs of the Emperors <b>Evening:</b> Journey to Hanoi	<b>AM:</b> Faculty-led class <b>PM:</b> Volunteer at a local non-profit organization	<b>AM:</b> Faculty-led class <b>PM:</b> Volunteer at a local non-profit organization	<b>AM:</b> Faculty-led class <b>PM:</b> Hoa Lo Prison Museum	<b>AM:</b> Faculty-led class <b>PM:</b> Volunteer at a local non-profit organization <b>Evening:</b> Journey to Sapa	<b>AM &amp; PM:</b> Hake up Sa Xeng-Hau Thai-Giay Chai, Y Linh Ho Hills <b>Evening:</b> Return to Sapa	<b>AM:</b> Cat Cat Village <b>PM:</b> Cat Cat waterfall, Sin Chai Village <b>Evening:</b> Take an overnight train back to Hanoi
<b>Day 18</b>	<b>Day 19</b>	<b>Day 20</b>	<b>Day 21</b>	<b>Day 22</b>	<b>Day 23</b>	<b>Day 24</b>
Hanoi	Hanoi	Hanoi	Hanoi	Halong Bay	Hanoi	Home Country
<b>AM:</b> Faculty-led class <b>PM:</b> Volunteer at a local non-profit organization	<b>AM:</b> Faculty-led class <b>PM:</b> Volunteer at a local non-profit organization	<b>AM:</b> Faculty-led class <b>PM:</b> Volunteer at a local non-profit organization	<b>AM:</b> Faculty-led class <b>PM:</b> Volunteer at a local non-profit organization	<b>AM:</b> Halong Bay <b>PM:</b> Exploring limestone caves <b>Evening:</b> Journey back to Hanoi	Depart Hanoi	Arrive back in home country