

# CRUISING THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS

**05 days / 04 nights**

**NHA TRANG - LAK LAKE - BUON MA THUOT -  
TOM KUM - KHAM DUC - HOI AN**

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This program will let you experience the heart and soul of Vietnam away from the main tourist trail. We will start out from Nha Trang and gradually cruise through a landscape transforming from the flat of rice fields, to jungle and foot hills, to pine forests and the breathtaking beauty of rugged mountains. Along the way we will visit and interact with the local people and get an understanding of day to day life. We will descend into the central highlands to continue the adventure.

Along the way we will stop at factories, plantations, national parks and other points of interest. Prepare for an adventure of a lifetime. This tour is very fluid and destinations or accommodations can vary due to weather, illness, or any other number of unforeseen circumstances, therefore the following is a general outline.

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## DAY 1: NHA TRANG - LAK LAKE (L)

Morning start a day of driving through some of the most beautiful scenery seen anywhere. Along the way we will, learn how rice paper and noodles are made. Stop to visit a temple of incredible beauty. Continue riding into the countryside and stop at scenic locations to stretch our legs. The drive takes us past the village of YaRay ethnic group and through the Phuong Hoang pass, and an Ede village. Stop to see a wood carving workshop and have lunch at local restaurant. Stop at a coffee and cocoa plantation before continuing on past other minority villages to our destination.





#### **DAY 2: LAK LAKE - BUON ME THUOT CITY (B,L)**

Visit Bun Jun village to discover the life of M'ong people and perhaps riding elephants. We will understand the stone splitting process and visit the ruined church of French architecture. Then examine the coffee making process if in season. We will adventure down smaller country roads and encounter locals who have rarely seen foreigners before. After lunch, visit Dray sap waterfall and do a jungle trek before ending the day in our hotel in Buon Me Thuot.

#### **DAY 3: BUON ME THUOT CITY - KON TUM (B,L)**

Ride along Ho Chi Minh road, exploring a history of Vietnam War, and observing the lifestyles of ethnic groups along the way. We will visit rubber, pepper, and tea plantations along the way. Near Pleiku we will stop to see Sea Lake, a tea plantation and we will see a number of war memorials. Overnight in Kon Tum.

#### **DAY 4: KON TUM - KHAM DUC (B,L)**

Visit a wooden church built in 1913. We will examine the life of Ba Na ethnic group in their village and after we will leave Kon Tum for historic Dac To, Tan Canh where in 1972 there was a historic fierce battle at the Phoenix temporary airport on Charlie Hill. We will intersect at the turn for Vietnam-Lao- Cambodia border and journey along the historic Truong Son trail (the original Ho Chi Minh Trail which is mostly in Laos). We will cross "cau khi" (monkey bridge) and witness life in a village of M'ong ethnics. We will overnight at the town of Kham Duc, a place famous for gold mining and once a former US air base that has an interesting history.

#### **DAY 5: KHAM DUC - HOI AN (B,L)**

Following breakfast we will do some sightseeing on Truong Son trail and stop at Co Tu village to discover the matriarchal society of the K'Tu ethnic group. We will continue on Truong Son road used in 1969 as the path of underground oil supplies for the Vietnamese army, and pass through Danang past the old American airbase and visit the Marble Mountains before ending the journey in Hoi An approx. 3 pm.

**HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY!**



❖ MEAL CODE B: BREAKFAST L: LUNCH D: DINNER