**Vietnam Project March 2020**



Well the early stages of our 2020 March trip planning is underway. I know that it’s around 7 months away; however it will come around very quickly.

Our 2020 Project is situated about 30kms west of the coastal town/city of Dong Hoi in the vicinity of a pretty rural village called Phong Nha. Dong Hoi is situated about 400 klms south of Hanoi.

This Project trip will comprise of three main tasks.

1) Roof Restoration of a rural School Block plus installation of new ceilings along with painting as required.

2) Phong Nha Medical Centre, Installation of an all-weather 10m X 10m roofed shelter with a concrete floor. Restoration of two of their consultation rooms.

3) The upgrade of a water reticulation system at a rural Kindergarten, new pipes and taps plus arrange the construction of a new well to improve their water supply throughout their summer period.

I would like to take this opportunity to outline and inform you of the details and requirements needed to participate on our project trips.

First up you must be a financial member of PVI and also submit your trip expression of interest form, along with the signed code of conduct declaration.

All of those forms are available on our Website – [PVI Forms to download](http://projectvietnam.com/how-you-can-help/)

Forms can be sent to:

***The Secretary
Project Vietnam Inc.
PO Box 299
Golden Beach Qld 4551***

Also, I will need your passport details as follows:

1. Date of Birth.
2. Passport number.
3. Passport expiry date.
4. Place of Issue.
5. Your Name (as its written) in your Passport

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Once you have your flight ticketing finalized, I will need your flight arrival and departure details both into Vietnam and Dong Hoi.

I will need those details to enable me to arrange accommodation and local transfer arrangements.

Now I’d just like to make mention to all of our pending team members, even though you’ve expressed interest in joining our 2020 Project team I will need from you all your Trip contribution monies and also confirmation of your flight ticketing, then you will be officially on the team for next March.

**Your responsibilities re costs are as follows:**

* We ask all of our team members to contribute $200.00 as a Building contribution.  Couples are charged at $300.00.
* We carry our own compulsory travel insurance, and compared to the standard travel industry rates it represents very good value.  It is generally around $120.00 which covers you for about 6 weeks of travel, and also covers you whilst on the project.
* Also we ask all members for an in country transport and meal levy, to cover lunches, morning teas and coffee.  This also includes a transport levy to and from the work sites of $100.00.
* The average hotel tariff is about $25.00 per night AUD including breakfast.

So with all the costs I have just mentioned, your daily average costing including your accommodation, all meals and social drinks and dinner at night works out to about $80.00 per day. As we get closer to finalizing our team manifest you will be contacted for a one off payment of the fore mentioned fees.

**Our daily routine** starts at about 06.30 for breakfast and we generally start work about 8 am, with breaks for morning tea and lunch and we finish about 4pm. I can assure you that nobody has ever suffered from industrial fatigue whilst on our projects.

**Visas for Vietnam** can be obtained through the Vietnamese Embassy in Canberra or alternately you can obtain a visa upon arrival on entry into Vietnam.

Please call me for advice re obtaining a visa via the Vietnamese Embassy in Canberra, along with a visa upon arrival in Vietnam.

All of your accommodation, daily transport and meals on the job will be put in place for you.

**Our project start date** is set down to commence on Monday **9th March 2020**, and I would like all team members to be in the village of Phong Nha by Saturday 7th or at the latest Sunday 8th.

All I ask you to do is to organize your flight details from Australia to Vietnam and into Dong Hoi.

Now it’s not possible to fly direct into Dong Hoi so you must plan to fly either into Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) or Hanoi and catch a connecting flight onto Dong Hoi.

My suggestion would be to fly into Saigon and then fly onto Dong Hoi, the reason I say that, is if you have to overnight with you travel itinerary it’s a lot easier to commute to overnight accommodation in Saigon than Hanoi distance and time wise. I can assist you with accommodation both in Saigon or Hanoi if need be. Any queries that you may have, please feel free to email me or call and I will assist you. The time spent on the project generally spans from the Monday commencement day through till the following Friday week. The bulk of our team members take the opportunity to travel on to other areas after the project is over for sightseeing.

Countries like Cambodia, Lao and Thailand are very close, if you do not want to visit some of the great attractions of Vietnam, keep in mind with your return ticketing it’s possible to fly home from Lao, Cambodia and Bangkok at no extra cost.

Please keep in mind that it’s a lot cheaper to book and plan any in country tours and transport in Vietnam than what it is here in Australia.

I will assist you with any travel planning that you may need once we are in country.

O K that’s about it for this pre-trip report, I will be updating you as our trip planning progresses.

My contact details are 07 5403 7931 Mob 0418 873 871 please contact me via email   ianbathpvi@hotmail.com   or alternately contact our Vice President Jim OShannessy 07 5494 0196  Mob 0488 598 531  or email jimoshpvi@hotmail.com

The **main airline carriers that fly to Vietnam** are Air Vietnam, Singapore Airlines, Thai Airways, and Malaysian Airlines and of course Air Asia of which is generally the cheapest.

The cost of the average return ticketing to Vietnam is between $900.00- 1000.00 and generally the earlier the travel arrangements are made the cheaper the fares are. Air Asia is tends to be the cheapest carrier, so one has to be vigilant and monitor their booking site. At the moment there are some good specials available with Singapore Airlines, so I suggest that you see your travel agent or jump on the net and check out Singapore’s site and see what’s available.

The **Vietnam internal flight carriers** to Dong Hoi are Vietnam Airlines, Viet Jet and Jet Star; once again I suggest that you monitor those carriers’ respective sites for any good flight deals.

With all of the carriers I have mentioned apart from Air Vietnam there will entail a flight change at their country of origin.

Sincere Regards.

*Ian Bath
Trip and Project Coordinator
Project Vietnam Inc.*