

# Ho Chi Minh Vietnam

## ● The Cu Chi Tunnels



The town of Cu Chi is a district of greater HCMC and has a population of about 200, 000 (it had about 80, 000 residents during the American War). At first glance there is little evidence here to indicate the intense fighting, bombing and destruction that occurred in Cu Chi during the war. To see what went on, you have to dig deeper – underground.

The tunnel network of Cu Chi became legendary during the 1960s for its role in facilitating Viet Cong (VC) control of a large rural area only 18 to 25 miles from HCMC. At its height the tunnel system stretched from the

South Vietnamese capital to the Cambodian border; in the district of Cu Chi alone there were more than 155 miles of tunnels. The network, parts of which was several stories deep, included innumerable trap doors, constructed living areas, storage facilities, weapons factories, field hospitals, command centers and kitchens.



## ● The Reunification Palace

This is one of the most fascinating sights in HCMC, because of its striking modern architecture and the eerie feeling you get as you walk through the deserted halls. The building is preserved almost as it was on the last day of the Republic of Vietnam in 1975. A statue of Ho Chi Minh and a viewing room are the latest additions.

On the morning of 30 April 1975, the 43-hour-old government of South Vietnam sat quietly on the second floor of this grand building - then called the Independence Palace - waiting to transfer power to the Northern forces who were crashing through the wrought iron gates below. 'There is no question of you transferring power,' they were told by a Viet Cong officer. 'You cannot give up what you do not have.' The building took its current form in 1966 after it had been partially destroyed in an attack



by South Vietnam leader Diem's own air force (they *really* hated him, it seems). Now, the building is a magnificent example of 60s architecture - airy and open, with spacious chambers and tasteful modern decorations. The building is still used for official functions. The most interesting section of the Reunification Palace is the basement - a network of tunnels and rooms, including a war room and a telecommunications room. One of the tunnels stretches all the way to Gia Long Palace, now known as the Revolutionary Museum.

## ● Nortre-Dame Cathedral



Saigon Notre-Dame Basilica, (Vietnamese: Vương Cung Thánh Đường Sài Gòn or Nhà thờ Đức Bà Sài Gòn), is a cathedral located in the downtown of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Established by French colonists, the cathedral was constructed between 1863 and 1880. It has two bell towers, reaching a height of 58 meters (190 feet).

## ● Ben Trhanh Market

Ben Thanh Market (from **Vietnamese** Ben meaning "wharf", and Quy Thanh meaning "turtle citadel") is a big marketplace in the downtown area of **Ho Chi Minh City**, in District 1. The market is one of the earliest surviving structures in **Saigon** and today is considered one of symbols of **Ho Chi Minh City**, popular with tourists seeking local handicrafts, textiles, **áo dài**, and souvenirs, as well as local cuisine.



## **Airfare Hiroshima – Ho Chi Minh City**

JUL 01<sup>st</sup> – AUG 04<sup>th</sup> departure : **46,000yen** ~ + TAX(Approx.19000yen) for up to 1month travel

JUL 12<sup>th</sup> – AUG31<sup>st</sup> departure : **46,000yen** ~ + TAX(Approx.19000yen) for up to 1month travel

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## **Airfare Fukuoka – Ho Chi Minh City**

JUL 01<sup>st</sup> – JUL 14<sup>th</sup> departure : **39,800yen**~ + TAX(Approx.13600yen) for up to 11days

\* Arrivals in Japan on SUN : 4,000yen UP

JUL 15<sup>th</sup> – AUG 05<sup>th</sup> departure : **53,300yen**~ + TAX(Approx.13600yen) for up to 11days

\* Arrivals in Japan on SUN : 4,000yen UP

AUG 21<sup>st</sup> – AUG 30<sup>th</sup> departure : **51,300yen**~ + TAX(Approx.13600yen) for up to 11days

\* Arrivals in Japan on SUN : 4,000yen UP

- For US passport holder- Vietnam Tourist visa is required. Visa application fee is NOT included in the above airfares. (Tourist visa fee : 15,500yen as of 15<sup>th</sup> of May)

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