



Again we will honour our 36 fallen comrades with a remembrance ceremony at the memorial rock which still sits in our 1 Field Squadron HQ area at Nui Dat

Negotiate your leave pass and book now, our next tour back to Vietnam is on for this November 18 to 27

Focused on Tunnel Rats, our tour will visit key areas where we operated. We will meet several former enemy who lifted mines from the barrier minefield, and visit mine incident sites with the Tunnel Rats involved in those incidents. We will hold a service for our 36 fallen comrades at the memorial rock which still sits in our 1 Field Squadron area at Nui Dat - followed by a BBQ. We visit the recently discovered and restored VC base camp in the mangrove swamps of the Rung Sat Secret Zone. Plus we visit the Cu Chi Tunnels, the barrier minefield area and the enemy caves in the Long Hai hills. And you'll get the chance to do a nostalgic tour of Vungers, visiting The Flags area, the old Badcoe Club area and the Grand Hotel where you can have a beer, just for old time's sake.

10 days
9 nights
\$1180 PP
Twin Share

The trip is for ten days and nine nights in Vietnam, (two nights in Saigon, then five nights in Vung Tau followed by two more nights in Saigon). If you wish to stay extra nights in Saigon before or after the tour, we can extend your booking at the same low rate we negotiated at the hotel.

Getting there: Rather than adding to the costs and travel time by forcing everyone to depart from one city in Australia, each person will book and pay for their own return air ticket to Saigon, enabling them to find

the best air ticket deal from their city. The plan is for us all to meet in Saigon on Friday 18th November and from there the Tour begins.

The first event is on the 18th November – welcome drinks and dinner, so book your air travel carefully to ensure you arrive in Saigon in time to get to the hotel, check-in and make it to the 6pm function. If the airline you choose arrives too late, book your flight to arrive the day prior and we'll book an extra night in the hotel for you.

Shop around for the best airfare. There are plenty of airlines flying into Saigon, so don't grab the first airfare you find. Direct, non-stop flights take less time and there is no danger of missing a connecting flight, but it may be cheaper to fly on a non-direct flight via another city. There are regular flights out of Australia to Saigon via Singapore, Kuala Lumpur,

Bangkok or Brunei.

The return date for leaving Saigon to head home is 27 November. Current serving Combat Engineers (male and female) are again most welcome to join the tour, and several are already coming. Apart from this, it's a blokes only tour, with the Tunnel Rats welcome to have their sons and mates along on the trip to share the extraordinary experience.

When we return to our hotel each day there's always the opportunity to enjoy drinks together at the 'Designated Boozer' before people go their own way for the evening. The comradeship of these drink sessions are an absolute highlight of the tour.

The cost of the tour is detailed in the panel opposite. Despite us now staying in much better hotels in Saigon and Vung Tau, we have been able to keep the cost of the tour remarkably low, and even better value than ever before: \$1180 if you are sharing a room, and \$370 extra (total \$1550) if you want a room on your own.



Stroll along Vung Tau's Front Beach to the Grand Hotel and walk through the streets you wandered down all those years ago.

Lots of great tours and activities plus the opportunity to share the incredible levels of comradeship we enjoy on these trips

OUR TOUR ORGANISERS



We have been working very closely with Mrs. Tran Minh Phuong ('Sam') and Mr. Kelvin Luong, both of Asiana Link Travel in Saigon over the last few months. Our aim is ensure we maintain the same exceptional experiences we have been enjoying for many years on our tours back to Vietnam through the late Mr. Ha. And just as importantly, Sam and Kelvin have helped us keep our costs down, even when they have upgraded the level of our hotels for this coming tour.

TOTAL COST FOR THE TOUR

The full cost for the 10 day, 9 night tour is \$1,180 per person if you are sharing a room (twin share). If you prefer a room on your own, the extra cost is \$370 (a total of \$1550) to cover the hotel single room costs for the nine nights. We'd appreciate receiving your booking and deposit payment ASAP so we can lock down all the rooms and tours. If for any reason you need to pull out later, you'll receive a full refund.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Each guest will be met at the airport and transported to the hotel.
- Four nights in The Palace Hotel Saigon including buffet breakfast.
- Five nights in The Palace Hotel Vung Tau including buffet breakfast.
- Ferry tickets Saigon to Vung Tau and return Vung Tau to Saigon.
- BBQ lunch at Nui Dat.
- All specified land tours.

- All permits to visit restricted zones.
- Entry to all scheduled tour venues.
- All wreaths for our ceremonies.
- All bus hire costs and driver costs.
- Cost of tour guides and interpreters.
- 2 tour shirts embroidered with your name and the Tunnel Rats tour logo.
- Each guest will be picked up at the hotel and transported to the airport at the end of the tour.

All other activities, meals and drinks will be at our own cost. The following items are optional, but you may want to plan your finances for them:

- Our Welcome Dinner and Farewell Dinner, around \$60 each.
- Our dinner with the NVA musicians, around \$25.
- Donation to buy milk and rice for the orphanage, around \$20 each.
- Combined tip for the tour organiser, tour guides, bus driver etc: \$30 each.
- Lunch on the Cu Chi tour, around \$5.

TUNNEL RATS TOUR BACK TO VIETNAM - 18 NOV TO 27 NOV 2022



DAY 1 - Friday 18 NOVEMBER

Australia to Saigon: People will be arriving at the airport at different times throughout the day. Every guest on the tour is met at the airport by our travel company and transferred to The Palace hotel Saigon. After check-in you are free to roam, but be back in time for the 1800h start of our Welcome drinks and dinner gathering.

DAY 2 - SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER (Optional)

Cu Chi Tunnels tour: Our bus departs at 0900h to the Cu Chi Tunnels where we'll have a guided tour just for our group. You'll also have the chance to fire AK47, M60 and M16 Armalite weapons at their rifle range. We have lunch in a riverside restaurant, then head back to Saigon, where the rest of the afternoon and the evening are free. **Note: You can opt out of this tour if you prefer to have a free day in Saigon or want to book a separate tour or activity for the day. Our tour organiser has many options available.**

DAY 3 - SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER

Saigon to Vung Tau by ferry: A 0900h departure by bus to the Ferry Terminal on the Saigon River. The bus will continue on to Vung Tau with our luggage. On arrival in Vung Tau we will check in to the Palace Hotel, then have a briefing on our planned activities for the next five days. You then have the rest of the afternoon and the evening free for you to check out the town, including our nearby Designated Boozer (two-minutes walk away).

DAY 4 – MONDAY 21 NOVEMBER

The orphanage at Baria, the Binh Gia VC Memorial Cemetery, and various mine incident sites: We depart by bus at 0900h to visit the orphanage where we donate rice and milk products for the children. The orphanage has been supported by Australian veterans for many years. We then visit the memorial cemetery for the NVA and VC killed in the area, before heading out to various mine incident sites. In the evening (1800h) we will enjoy a music concert performed for us by former NVA and VC veterans, followed by a dinner, with the musicians as our guests.

DAY 5 – TUESDAY 22 NOVEMBER

Long Tan and Nui Dat: A 0900h bus departure to Long Tan Cross memorial where we'll place a wreath in remembrance of all Australians killed in the Vietnam War. We'll then tour our old base camp at Nui Dat, including

Luscombe Field and our old Troop Lines. We'll hold a memorial service for our fallen Tunnel Rat comrades at the site of our former Squadron HQ at Nui Dat. This will be followed by a traditional Troop BBQ and beers amongst the rubber trees.

DAY 6 – WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER (Optional)

The Long Hai Hills, the Horseshoe base and visits to various mine incident sites: Our bus departs at 0900h for the Long Hai Mountains, which was the VC's big base camp known as the "Minh Dam Secret Zone". We will walk the hills, look into the caves and visit their beautiful memorial temple to the fallen NVA and VC in the area. We then make a stop at the Horseshoe base site before visiting several mine incident sites. Then it's time to head back to the hotel in Vung Tau. The rest of the afternoon and evening is free. **Note: You can opt out of this tour if you prefer to have a free day in Vung Tau or want to book a separate tour or activity for the day through our tour organiser.**

DAY 7 – THURSDAY 24 NOVEMBER

Vung Tau free day: You'll have plenty of time to relax, explore Vung Tau, laze by the hotel pool, go shopping, walk along the beach, go for a nostalgic bar crawl with your mates, or simply stroll the streets and soak up the atmosphere. If there is a particular place out in the Province you wish to visit on this day, speak with our tour organisers so they can arrange it for you.

DAY 8 - FRIDAY 25 NOVEMBER

Ferry back to Saigon plus (optional) Subterranean Saigon and Saigon Highlights tour: Our bus departs the hotel at 0900h to the ferry terminal for a 1000h ferry departure, while our bus takes our luggage to Saigon. After our check-in at The Palace Hotel Saigon, have a quick lunch before our bus departs for the (optional) 'Subterranean Saigon' tour visiting VC bunkers and tunnels under homes and shops, used by the VC for weapons storage, print shops and hideouts. Followed by a quick Saigon Highlights tour to see some of Saigon's key attractions.

DAY 9 - SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER (Optional)

Visit to the former VC base in the Rung Sat 'Secret' zone: Our bus departs the hotel at 0900h for the Rung Sat area where we board a series of fast boats which take us through the swamps to the restored former VC camp. The bus then takes us back to the hotel in Saigon. At 1800h we have our Farewell drinks and dinner gathering. **Note: You can opt out of this tour if you prefer to have a free day in Saigon or want to book a separate tour or activity for the day. Our tour organiser has many options available.**

DAY 10 - SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER

Time to head home: (Unless you have chosen to stay on for an extra day or so to chill out). For those leaving today, pack, check out and be in the lobby at the time advised by our travel company for pickup and transport to the airport.

TUNNEL RATS TOUR BACK TO VIETNAM - 18 NOV TO 27 NOV 2022

Just a few of the highlights you can expect on the tour



Visit to the restored VC base in the Rung Sat zone



Current serving Sapper, WO2 Tom Vallas (bottom right) gets into the spirit of things at our Designated Boozier in Saigon (the same great place as last tour)



We visit the notorious Long Hai hills, site of many grim experiences for the Tunnel Rats



We visit the site of 'mine incidents and hear first hand accounts what took place



On our visit to the orphanage at Baria we donate rice, milk products and cash to help the kids and assist the staff in the great job they are doing



Following our ceremony at Nui Dat we hold a fully catered sit-down 'BBQ amongst the rubber trees. And you can tour our old troop lines after lunch.

Our Saigon hotel - perfect location and great value for us

The Palace Hotel Saigon

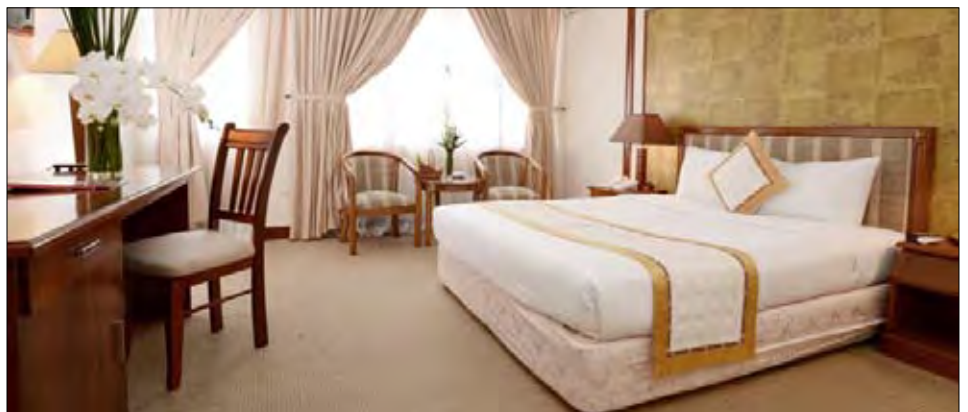
Our first two nights and last two nights of the tour are at the four star Palace Hotel. It's in a great location and just a two-minute walk to our Designated Boozer (the same one we enjoyed so much on our 2019 tour). The Palace Hotel is surrounded by a great shopping and restaurant area including the famous Dong Khoi Street. The hotel represents excellent value and provides a superb buffet breakfast which is included in our tour price.



Our hotel in Vung Tau is right in the heart of everything

The Palace Hotel Vung Tau

We'll be staying in the perfectly located four star Palace Hotel in the Front Beach area of Vung Tau. It's a great base for our tours to the old operational areas of Phuoc Tuy Province. The hotel is next to the famous Grand Hotel, and is close to popular bars and restaurants and just up the road from our 'Designated Boozer'. It has a pool and an excellent buffet breakfast which is included in the tour. For those with more money than sense, there is a casino within the hotel as well.



We have plenty of options for you to tailor your own tour

We have quite a few regulars on our tours, including some who have been on all eight tours so far. Others on our tours may have already visited Vietnam several times independently with family. We realise there is probably a limit on how many times you can visit the Cu Chi Tunnels or Long Hai Hills etc, when Vietnam has so much to offer.

If you wish, you can opt out of any day's activities (except our remembrance service at Nui Dat) and arrange your own tour or activity.

Our tour operator in Vietnam has many options available including cooking classes, walking tours, fishing trips, a game of golf, day trips to the Mekong Delta, market tours, foodie experiences, exotic temple tours and much more.

Or you may prefer to enjoy a free day in Saigon or Vung Tau to wander the streets, eat some great food and visit some of the top bars for a cold beer or sip of wine. The choice is yours.



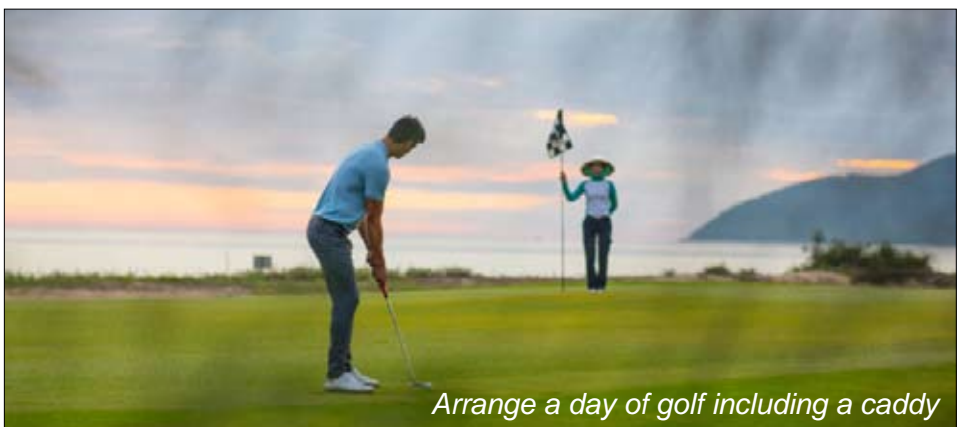
Tour the fascinating and historic Mekong Delta region



Experience some of Saigon's exotic Buddhist temples



Visit Black Virgin Mountain. Once a key US communications base, it's now a tourist attraction complete with a 'Luge' ride down the hill.



Arrange a day of golf including a caddy

If you wish to pre-arrange any private trip or activity during your tour, contact 'Sam' at Asiana Link Travel by email on: sam@asianalink.com or by mobile on: +84 937 411 088

Current Serving Sappers are again invited to join us on the tour



ABOVE: Following our remembrance ceremony in 2015 in Vietnam, current serving Combat Engineers from 1CER assemble behind the old ceremonial rock still in place at the former 1FD SQN HQ area at our old base camp in Nui Dat, Phuoc Tuy Province. (Left to right: CPL Jack Downing, SPR Teagan Murphy, SPR Trent Prestage, SPR Jacob Webb, SPR Ryan Best, SPR Damon Hill, LT Stephanie Sheldon, SPR Lindsey Albion, SPR Guy Hill, SGT David Myers and L/CPL Bryce Maybury (ranks at the time).

Current serving Sappers (male and female of all ranks) and Afghanistan era Sapper veterans are invited to join our tour - as long as they have served or currently serve in a Combat Engineer unit.

On the tour they will get an understanding of how we operated in terms of combat engineer tasks, particularly when attached to Infantry and Armoured units. They'll gain an insight into the casualties we suffered, and why, plus how we coped with it. They'll see first-hand the similarities between our tasks in Vietnam and theirs today, and how much better trained and equipped they are than we were.

An aspect of our tour which is always of great interest to current serving Sappers is when we visit the actual sites of mine inci-

HOT TIP

Current serving Sappers joining us on past tours have been able to do so without losing any of their leave. Their unit has treated the tours as beneficial training.

dents. We do this with men who were there at the incidents, and they talk us through what took place all those years ago. Many of the presenters on these visits were wounded in the incident they are describing, so we are witnessing living history. These are unique experiences for us all, and valuable training for current serving Sappers.

Plus on the tour there will be the very special experience of melding together the incredible comradeship the old and the young Sappers enjoy as a result of our service. And of course it's a real treat for us old Sappers to be around these brave and bright young soldiers. It almost makes us feel young again!

If you're a current serving or Afghanistan era Sapper veteran and you wish to join us on the tour, simply fill in the form and pay the deposit. Or if you have any questions about the tour, contact Jim Marett on: 0403 041 962 or by email on: tunnelrats.vietnam@gmail.com

If you know a Sapper who has been on one of our tours in the past, have a chat to him about the experience - he will no doubt rave about it!

VIETNAM TRIP \$300 DEPOSIT BOOKING FORM – ONE PERSON PER FORM

Full cost of the 10 day, 9 night tour will be \$1,180 (shared room) or an extra \$370 for a room on your own (\$1,550). Any extra nights you may require in the Palace Hotel Saigon before or after the tour can be calculated later once you have your flight details.

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| Name: | Mobile number: |
| Address: | |
| Postcode: | |
| Email address: | |
| Please select and tick from the options below | |
| (Tick only one option from these three lines): | |
| <input type="radio"/> I am a Vietnam Tunnel Rat <input type="radio"/> I am currently serving in the RAE | |
| <input type="radio"/> I am a veteran who previously served with the RAE | |
| <input type="radio"/> I am a son or mate of a Tunnel Rat - please provide your father's or mate's name: | |
| <input type="radio"/> I want to share a room and I will be sharing the room with: | |
| <input type="radio"/> I want to share a room, please arrange someone for me to share with. | |
| <input type="radio"/> I want a room on my own | |
| My shirt size is: <input type="radio"/> Sml <input type="radio"/> Med <input type="radio"/> Lge <input type="radio"/> X Lge <input type="radio"/> XX Lge <input type="radio"/> XXX Lge <input type="radio"/> XXXX Lge | |
| Any nickname you prefer to be known by: | |
| The deposit is \$300 and is fully refundable if you have to cancel for any reason | |
| Please tick below to indicate your method of payment: | |
| <input type="radio"/> By EFT deposit into our bank account Bank: Commonwealth Bank BSB: 063165 Account Number: 10494523 Account name: Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association Reference: VN Tour deposit | |
| <input type="radio"/> By credit card Type of cards we accept: Visa, Mastercard and American Express Name on card: Card number: Expiry date: Three or four digit CVC code: (Please note: Card bank statement will read "Ultimate Design Graphics Pty Ltd") | |
| <input type="radio"/> By cheque or Australia Post Money Order – payable to Vietnam Tunnel Rats Association | |
| Email this form to: tunnelrats.vietnam@gmail.com Or photograph the form on your phone: then text it to Jim Marett at 0403 041 962 Or post this form to: Vietnam Tunnel Rats Assoc 43 Heyington Place Toorak Vic 3142 | |