

Deep in the Delta: Wintersession in Vietnam
Planned Itinerary for University of Montana Vietnam Study Abroad Program

28 December 2016 to 19 January 2017

Wednesday 28 December	Day 1: Ho Chi Minh City
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10am – 12:40 am (12/29)	Flights arrive, go through customs, then baggage claim, then change money (suggested amount: \$100). Meet others in your group where money is changed. Once ready, exit the airport and look for a “University of Montana” sign. You will be welcomed by a Vietnamese Teaching Assistant Ms Nghi Phan . Take airport shuttle to the hotel; _____ will help you check in.
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<u>Accommodation</u>	Victory Hotel
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Thursday 29 December	Day 2: Ho Chi Minh City
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8:30 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast at hotel, group check in
10:00 am	Introduction to Vietnam (Mr. Tuan Dat Tran , Associate Head of International Relations, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University HCMC). Introduction to Vietnam and Ho Chi Minh City. Geographical overview, history of Vietnam (including Chinese, French and American influence), Vietnam today (including its place in the world, international relations, important domestic and international issues), and an overview of the government system and structure.

12:00 pm	*Lunch on your own (as a group) near Victory Hotel
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1:30 pm	Visit War Remnants Museum (a two block walk from the hotel)
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4:00 pm	Return to hotel. Debrief War Remnants Museum visit.
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5:00 pm	Free Time
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6:30 – 8:30 pm	Group dinner at Nha Hang Ngon Restaurant; 160 Pasteur St.
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<u>Accommodation</u>	Victory Hotel
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Friday 30 December	Day 3: Ho Chi Minh City
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8:30 am	Breakfast at hotel
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9:30 am	Leave for U.S. Consulate
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10:00 am	U.S. Consulate meeting: U.S./Vietnam relations U.S. Consulate General, 8 th floor; Diamond Plaza, 34 Le Duan, District 1. Meet with Malakit Raif , Cultural Affairs Officer, and Garrett Harkins , Political Officer
12:00 pm	*Lunch on own (as a group) near Victory Hotel
2:00 pm	Introduction to Vietnamese language and cultural codes of conduct with Ms. Nghi Phan . Tour Ben Thanh Market and practice basic Vietnamese phrases and appropriate conduct.
5:00 pm	Return to Victory Hotel
6:00 pm	*Dinner on your own (as a group) in Ho Chi Minh City Optional: Traditional tea house
<u>Accommodation</u>	Victory Hotel
Saturday 31 December	Day 4: Ho Chi Minh City
7:00 am to 5:30 pm	Visit to Can Gio Nature Reserve with Dr. Vo Quoc Tuan ; mangrove restoration project
7:00 am	Depart HCMC for Can Gio Reserve
9:00 am	Visit Center for Environmental Education, Communication and Ecotourism at Can Gio
9:30 am	Visit Zone A of the Reserve
11:30 am	Visit Shrimp Farmer and project; Travel by boat through Mangrove Forest
1:30 pm	Lunch at Can Gio Reserve
3:00 pm	Mangrove planting and restoration project
4:30 pm	Return to Ho Chi Minh City
6:30 pm	*Dinner on your own in Ho Chi Minh City. Options provided.
9:00 pm onward	New Year's Eve festivities in District 7 with Nghi, Zenda, and Ms. Dang Thao Huong and fireworks in downtown Ho Chi Minh City
<u>Accommodation</u>	Victory Hotel
Sunday 1 January	Day 5: Can Tho

8:00 am to 11:00 am	Breakfast at hotel, work on first response essay, pack up rooms for departure to Can Tho
10:30 am to 11:30 am	Group debrief; Review blog post schedule
12:00 pm	Check out and depart for Can Tho City (pick up by CTU bus) Stop for snack on route
4:00 pm	Check- in to Guest House Number 2 in Can Tho
6:00 pm	Meet Teaching Assistants Nguyen Quyen and Mai Hoang Anh . Orientation and visit to ‘Old Can Tho’ along the Mekong *Dinner on your own (with TAs)
9:00 pm	1st Response Essay DUE – Critical Review of Vietnam: Rising Dragon with focus on history, economy & political structure of Vietnam
<u>Accommodation</u>	Guest House Number 2, Can Tho

Monday 2 January	Day 6: Can Tho University
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8:00 am	Breakfast in Guest House Number 2
8:30 am	Depart for Can Tho University
9:00 am to 11:00 am	Sustainable Development in the Mekong Delta with Dr. Dang Kieu Nhan , Deputy Director of Mekong Delta Research Development Institute
11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Guest Lunch Dr. Le Viet Dung, Vice-Rector, Can Tho University
1:00 to 3:00 pm	Remote Sensing, Ecosystem Services, and climate change adaptation models in the Mekong Delta with Dr. Vo Quoc Tuan , School of Environment and Natural Resources
3:30 to 5:00 pm	Vietnamese culture lecture and activities – music and language/religion with Mr. Le Dinh Bich ; translation by Ms. Le Thi Huyen; Soloist: Miss Gam
6:00 pm	*Dinner on your own
<u>Accommodation</u>	Guest House Number 2, Can Tho

Tuesday 3 January	Day 7: Can Tho University
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8:00 am	Breakfast in Guest House Number 2
8:30 am	Depart for Can Tho University

9:00 am to 11:00 am	Development in the Mekong Delta with Dr. Nguyen Huu Chiem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture and aquaculture development, management practices and environmental and socio-economic impacts • Other important industries in the Mekong Delta • Discuss the complex issues surrounding sustainable development in the Mekong Delta
11:00 am to 1:00 pm	*Lunch on your own near University
1:00 to 3:00 pm	Dr. Le Khuong Ninh: The economy of the Mekong Delta, livelihoods of local people, economic impacts of climate change on the Mekong Delta
3:30 to 5:00 pm	Climate change in the Mekong Delta and the work of the DRAGON Institute by Dr. Le Anh Tuan , Deputy Director of DRAGON institute-Mekong-CTU
6:00 pm	*Dinner on your own
<u>Accommodation</u>	Guest House Number 2, Can Tho

Wednesday 4 January	Day 8: My Khanh Commune: Biogas Digesters
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8:00 am	Breakfast in Guest House Number 2
8:30 am	Depart from Guesthouse #2 for My Khanh Commune
9:00 am to 12:00 pm	Field Lecture on the sustainable development research activities in My Khanh with Dr. Nguyen Huu Chiem . Visit to a model VACB farm and examine a biogas system.
12:00 pm to 1:30 pm	Group Lunch with a household
1:30 pm to 4:00 pm	Visit additional VACB farms with biogas systems
4:00 pm	Return to Can Tho City
6:00 pm	*Dinner on your own
<u>Accommodation</u>	Guest House Number 2, Can Tho

Thursday 5 January	Day 9:
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8:00 am	Breakfast in Guest House Number 2
8:30 am	Move out of rooms in preparation for Homestay

8:30 am to 12:00 pm	Free Time
12:00 pm	*Lunch on your own
1:00 pm	Free time
3:30 pm to 5:00 pm	Group debrief discussion: Guest House dining room patio
5:30 pm	Homestay families pick up students at Guesthouse #2
<u>Accommodation</u>	Homestay

Friday 6 January	Day 10: Can Tho
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8:00 am	Breakfast with Homestay families
9:00 am	Homestay families drop students at Can Tho University
9:30 am to 11:30 am	Meet at Can Tho Univ. Exchange with students from the Delta Youth Alliance about youth involvement in environmental sustainability initiatives; organized by Mr. Ly Quoc Dang , researcher in the Department of Socio-Economic and Policy Studies, Mekong Delta Development Research Institute at Can Tho University
11:30 am --1:00 pm	*Lunch on your own
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm	Presentations from Can Tho University and University of Montana students; question and discussion
2:30 pm to 3:30 pm	Small Group Exercise and Discussion
3:30 pm to 5:00 pm	Soccer or volleyball game at MDI court
5:00 pm	Homestay families pick up students at CTU for shower and to dress for dinner.
6:30 pm	Welcome Dinner with Can Tho University hosts
<u>Accommodation</u>	Homestay

Saturday 7 January	Day 11: Can Tho
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8:00 am	Breakfast with Homestay families
9:00 am	Families drop students at Guesthouse #2 Depart from Guesthouse #2 for Son Island
9:00 am to 2:30 pm	Visit to Son Island with Mr. Ly Quoc Dang , Mekong Delta

	Development Research Institute and members of the Delta Youth Alliance to discuss issues of dykes and erosion, catfish production, local livelihoods and lifestyles, lack of local infrastructure and education facilities, and health and sanitation problems. Lunch at Green House Restaurant near Son Island.
2:30 pm to 5:30 pm	Free time & time to work on second response essay: Impact of Climate Change on Vietnam's coastal and low-lying areas
5:30 pm	Homestay families pick up students at Guesthouse #2
<u>Accommodation</u>	Homestay
Sunday 8 January	Day 12: Can Tho
7:00 am onward	Breakfast and day with Homestay family
Anytime between 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm	Check back into Guest House Number 2
5:30 pm	Group gathering at sunset at rooftop lounge, Muong Thanh Hotel
6:30 pm	*Dinner on your own
9:00 pm	RESPONSE ESSAY #2 DUE – Climate change impacts on Vietnam's coastal and low-lying areas
<u>Accommodation</u>	Guest House Number 2, Can Tho
Monday 9 January	Day 13: Soc Trang and Bac Lieu Provinces
6:00 am	Breakfast in Guest House Number 2
7:00 am	Check out of Guest House Number 2
7:30 am	Travel to Soc Trang with Mr. Ly Quoc Dang and the Delta Youth Alliance students to visit cultural sites: Bat Pagoda & Khleang Khmer Monastery and Temple
9:00 am to 9:45 am	Presentation at Bat Pagoda by Mr. Ly Quoc Dang : "Bat Conservation Education Project- Key Forwards to save the Bats and Khmer Culture in the Mekong Delta.
9:45 am to 10:30 am	Visit Bats' Living Area in the Bat Pagoda
10:30 am to 11:30 am	Visit Khleang Pagoda & Monastery; talk with monks
11:30 am to 12:30 pm	Lunch at restaurant in Soc Trang with the Delta Youth Alliance students and Mr. Ly Quoc Dang.

Note: all meals on field trips are covered by the program

1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Travel to coastal area with **Dr. Tran Ngoc Hai**, College of Aquaculture and Fisheries, Vice Dean with support of **MSc. Tran Nguyen Duy Khoa**; learn about the livelihoods of local shrimp and rice farmers through discussions with farmers. How is climate change likely to affect the natural environment upon which their livelihood depends? Visit dikes being built to protect farmland from seawater intrusion due to climate change. Site visits: intensive shrimp farming farm & CTU Artemia Research Station.

6:00 pm

Dinner in Bac Lieu

Accommodation

Hotel in Bac Lieu

Tuesday 10 January

Day 14: Farms & Rice Institute, Bac Lieu Province

8:00 am to 12:00 pm

With **Dr. Hai** visit wind turbine farm along Bac Lieu coast; sea dike and protective mangrove forests; Xiem Can Khmer Pagoda.

Lunch in Bac Lieu

1:30 to 5:00 pm

Visit family rice, shrimp and aquaculture farms. View rice-shrimp rotation farming. Include rice harvesting activity.

6:00 pm

Dinner in Ca Mau

Accommodation

Hotel in Ca Mau

Wednesday 11 January

Day 15: Ca Mau – Nam Can

8:00 am to 5:00 pm

With **Dr. Hai** visit coastal sites where mangroves have been removed and where healthy stands remain to demonstrate the importance of mangroves for stabilizing the coast and for healthy aquatic ecosystems. Explore the implications of climate change on the health of mangrove ecosystems and the flow-on implications for marine and terrestrial ecosystems. Site visit: Cape Ca Mau National Park by boat, mangrove-shrimp integrated systems areas.

Accommodation

Hotel in Can Mau

Thursday 12 January

Day 16: Kien Giang Province; U Minh Thuong Natl. Park

8:00 am to 3:00 pm

With **Dr. Hai** explore the implications of climate change on the health of melaleuca forest and peat swamp ecosystems and the flow-on implications for marine and terrestrial

	ecosystems. What are the implications of damaged ecosystems for local livelihoods and Vietnamese society more generally? Presentation by Ms. Khuc Thi Hai, Yen & Mr. Chau Phat of U Minh Thuong N.P. Lunch in the park.
3:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Return to Can Tho. Check into Guest House Number 2.
7:00 pm	Dinner at Nam Bo Restaurant with Dr. Hai, Khoa, Quyen, & Anh.
<u>Accommodation</u>	Guest House Number 2, Can Tho
Friday 13 January	Day 17: Can Tho
8:00 am	Breakfast in Guest House Number 2
10:00 to 11:30 am	Group debrief discussion: Guest House dining room patio
11:30 am onward	Free time & time to work third response essay: Livelihoods and Climate Change, and explore Can Tho.
5:00 pm	RESPONSE ESSAY #3 DUE – Livelihoods and climate change
6:00 pm	*Dinner on your own near Guest House
<u>Accommodation</u>	Guest House Number 2, Can Tho
Saturday 14 January	Day 18: Can Tho to Tai Lai Longhouse
7:00 am	Breakfast in Guest House
8:00 am	Full check out of Guest House Number 2 for final field trip
8:30 am	Depart for Ta Lai Longhouse
	Lunch on route. Note: all meals on field trips are covered by the program
3:00 pm	Check into Tai Lai Longhouse
4:00 pm	Overview of the mission, history and operations of this community-based ecotourism project and one-hour village tour
6:00 pm	Dinner
<u>Accommodation</u>	Sleep at Tai Lai Longhouse
Sunday 15 January	Day 19: Tai Lai Longhouse -- Cat Tien National Park

7:00 am	Breakfast, then free time to explore. Optional rentals: bike (\$5/hour) or kayak (\$9/hour)
10:00 am	Depart for Cat Tien National Park (12 kilometers).
10:30 am	Check into rooms at Park Headquarters, meet Naturalist Guides Mr. Troung and Mr. Tim, visit wildlife rescue centers and museum
12:00 pm	Lunch followed by siesta
2:00 pm	Park Overview with Dr. Pham Huu Khanh , Head Scientist, in one of the meeting rooms.
3:30 pm	Hike or bike to some of the natural sites near Head Quarters (giant tree, Heaven's Rapids, 100 trunk ficus, etc.)
6:00 pm	Dinner
8:00 pm	Night safari with naturalist guides Mr. Troung and Mr. Tim (and possibly Mr. Hai?)
<u>Accommodation</u>	Sleep at Park Headquarters

Monday 16 January	Day 20: Cat Tien National Park (Crocodile Lake)
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7:00 am	Breakfast, pack for Crocodile Lake, store luggage at Park HQ
8:30 am	Welcome & photo with Mr. Diem, Park Director, and Dr. Khanh, Head Scientist
9:00 am	Bike to trailhead, then hike 5 km to Crocodile Lake wetland
1:00 pm	Lunch, siesta, explore area
4:00 pm	Naturalist tour with guides, overview of Crocodile Lake ecology and service project
6:00 pm	Dinner with Rangers
<u>Accommodation</u>	Sleep at Ranger Station at Crocodile Lake

Tuesday 17 January	Day 21: Cat Tien National Park (Crocodile Lake)
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7:00 am	Breakfast
8:30 am	Service Project – assist in removing Mimosa shrubs, an invasive plant (2-3 meters in height) that grows on the edge of Crocodile Lake.

12:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm	Continue service project, then student work-time to complete final question set, journal, speaker responses
6:00 pm	Dinner, then course wrap-up discussion
<u>Accommodation</u>	Sleep at Ranger Station at Crocodile Lake

Wednesday 18 January	Day 22: Cat Tien National Park & Ho Chi Minh City
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7:00 am	Breakfast and pack up; load luggage in bus
8:00 am	Return hike 5km to Park road, catch ride to Park HQ
12:00 pm	Lunch at Park Headquarters; load luggage in bus
1:30 pm	Depart for Ho Chi Minh City
5:00 pm	Check into Victory Hotel
6:30 pm	Final group dinner: Nha Hang Ngon Restaurant 160 Pasteur Street.
9:00 pm	Depart for airport for those leaving in the evening
<u>Accommodation</u>	Victory Hotel

Thursday 19 January	Day 23: Ho Chi Minh City
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4:00 am onward	Depart for airport for those leaving in the morning
	JOURNAL AND SPEAKER RESPONSES DUE

Friday 20 January	Day 24: Ho Chi Minh City
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Sunday, January 22, 5:00 pm: FINAL CRITICAL RESPONSE ESSAY DUE