



INTERNATIONAL CAORoads TRAVEL

CÔNG TY TNHH DU LỊCH QUỐC TẾ CAORoads

Hotline: +84912103020

<http://www.caoroadstravel.com>

CAORoads
TRAVEL

ADD.: 57 Hang Chuoi st, Pham Dinh Ho, Hai Ba Trung district, Hanoi, Vietnam

Office: +84(0)2432181325

Email: info@caoroadstravel.com

2020 Creative Photography & Heritage Tour—VIETNAM

With a retired professional photographer & judge as your photo guide, tutor and mentor

10-26 September — Max 16 pax

Travel consultant & confirmation person:

HIEP VAN CAO (LEO)

Photography mentor:

Rob Smith (wowfactorpix.com)

Name of booking client:

Direct

Booking code:

CRO/AUS2020

Number of Passenger:

16 pax (maximum)

Room type:

Double, Twin, Single (customer's choice)

Travel date:

September 10th—26th 2020

Type of Trip:

MENTORED CREATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY

Key to meals included:

☉B=Breakfast ☉L=Lunch ☉D=Dinner

● Key information about photography activities and learning opportunities

Day 01	Arrive at Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)
☉D	✈ Vietnam airlines VN772 @ 1150-1630 ex. Sydney (or your own arrangement)
	Saigon Palace Hotel — Double or twin room www.palacesaigon.com

- Visa approval at Tan Son Nhat airport & fast track service
- Check in at hotel, free time at leisure
- Welcome dinner & briefing from tour leader Leo and photography mentor Rob



Day 02	Ho Chi Minh City
☉BL	FULL DAY — Vietnam & Saigon Overview to provide cultural background for tour
	Saigon Palace Hotel — Night 2

08:00

Presentation by British cultural historian Tim Doling (50m)

<http://www.historicvietnam.com/tim-doling/>

09:00  Depart from hotel for Tim's heritage tour

Chợ Lớn Through the Ages

Tim Doling's Chợ Lớn heritage tour commences with an illustrated talk examining the city's origins in the 1680s as a tiny settlement of Chinese refugees, and then recounts the history of its seven distinct Chinese communities and their "assembly hall" temples, as well as the canals, creeks, tramways and railways which once passed through the city.

Our tour of the city will be undertaken partly on foot and partly by minibus. We will visit a number of heritage sites, and also see many other interesting historic relics, including: the house in which South Vietnamese President Ngô Đình Diệm and his brother Ngô Đình Nhu took refuge following the November 1963 coup; the site of the first Central Market and the current Bình Tây Market; and the routes of the various former inner-city waterways




12:30 Tim's schedule allowing, he is invited to join us for a set menu lunch of authentic Vietnamese food at Chopstick Saigon Restaurant **(1h30m)**

14:00 Meet a local expert for an art tour at the Fine Art Museum. **(1h)**
<http://sophiesarttour.com/>


15:30 Visit War Remnants Museum. <http://warremnantsmuseum.com/>

17:00 Return to hotel for relaxation—or photo-wander in Downtown Saigon—and dinner on your own account. Discuss ideas for tomorrow's free day.



Day 03  B	Saigon free day at your leisure Can Tho	 PHOTO-WANDER
	Can Tho Ecolodge — Double or twin room	

As with all free days on tour, clients can please themselves. However, there will be opportunities for the group to discuss options and make plans. Rob will be 'on duty' and available to those wanting to tag along to his choices of locations.

17:00  **2h** — Coach to Can Tho Ecolodge for relaxation, swimming or your own activities at lodge facing a peaceful river (check-in 7:30pm and dinner on your own account)



Day 04 📅BL	Can Tho Vinh Long Can Tho	FLOATING MARKET
🏠	Can Tho Ecolodge — Night 2	

- 05:30 15 minute walk from the resort to the pier, then boat to floating Cai Rang Market.
- 06:30 ● **An early morning shoot at the biggest and busiest wholesale floating market in the Mekong Delta where a hundreds of vendors sell from their boats in the traditional way.**
- 08:00 Arrive back at hotel for breakfast.
- 09:30 🚗 1h — Drive to Vinh Long to see residents' daily activities (walking & boat trip).
- 13:00 Lunch with a local host family restaurant.
- 14:30 🚗 Visit rural areas. ● **Free-range shooting after briefing by local guide (2h)**
- 16:30 Kick back at resort, free time at leisure. ● **Or go photo-wandering with Rob.**
Dinner on your own account.



Day 05 📅BL	Can Tho Da Nang Hoi An ✈️ early flight VCA-DAD VN1440 @ 0655-0820	
🏠	Palm Garden Resort — Superior or Deluxe room available http://palmgardenresort.com.vn/	

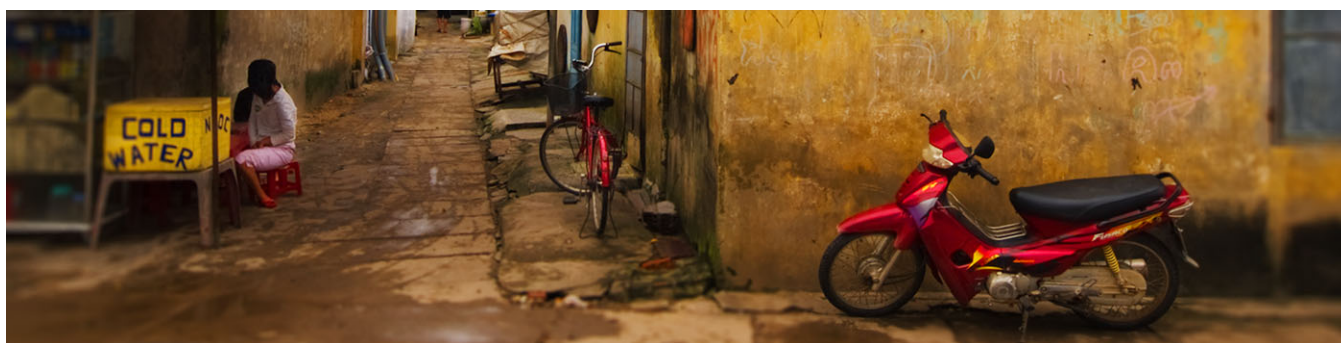
MORNING

Hoi An ancient town shooting (old houses, market, Thu Bon River, Japanese bridge, and other sites)

● **Photographing traditional handicrafts and artisans at work in their village.**

** Want some tailor-made clothing? Head in to town for measuring.*

- 14:00 Cooking class at Red Bridge Restaurant and Cooking School.
- 16:30 Back to resort for beach sunset relaxation.



Day 06 📷 B	Hoi An free day at your leisure	● PHOTO-WANDER ALL DAY
🏠	Palm Garden Resort — Night 2	

A free-range day. *Make the most of it!*

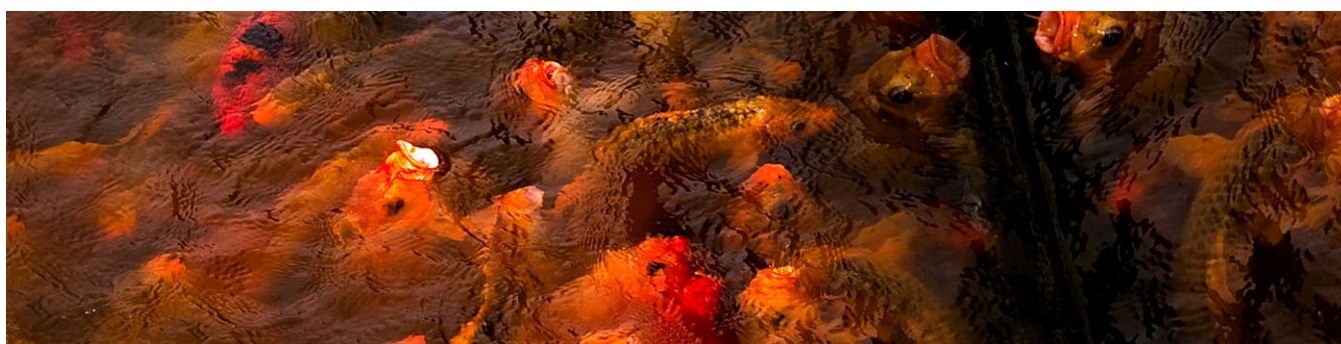
● Rob recommends an early start at the markets, where he'll be photo-wandering. Why not join him before breakfast and sharpen your skills? After breakfast, feel free to do your own thing or tag along with Rob to explore with your camera. What will we find?

** If you ordered tailor-made clothing yesterday, pick it up from the tailors this afternoon.*

EVENING

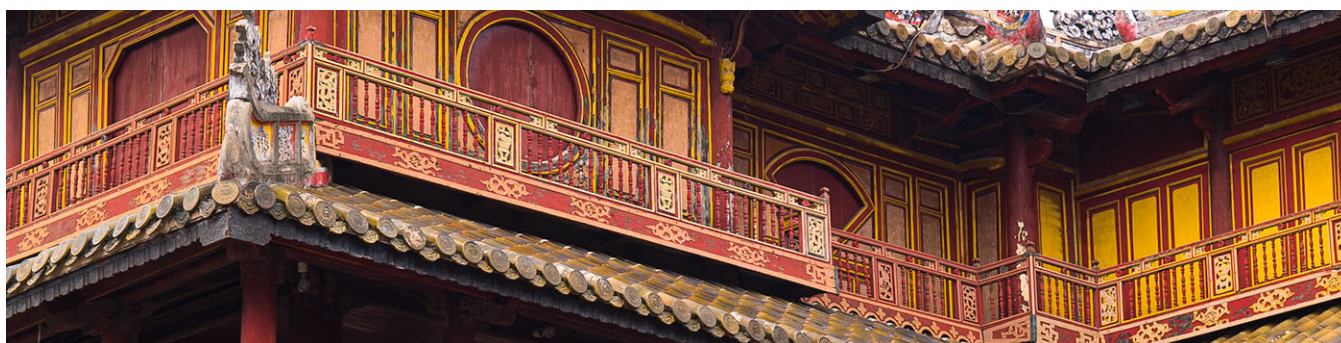
Dinner on your account.

● Discuss the day's shoot: Rob will lead an evaluation session of an image or two from each group member; we will explore how some of the images can be processed in Adobe Lightroom to serve the photographer's creative intent.



Day 07 📷 BD	Hoi An Hai Van Pass Hue — 🚌 3h 121km ● Q&A with Rob
🏠	Huong Giang Resort Hotel & Spa — Double or twin room https://www.huonggianghotel.com.vn/

- Shooting at the strategic Hai Van pass.
- Lang Co fishing village.
- Hue hills & Perfume River and its peninsula by sunset.
- Concert & fine dining at Ben Xuan Restaurant. <http://www.benxuan.asia/>



Day 08 📅 BD	Hue Heritage Day	● MEET ROYALTY CELEBRITY Ton Nu Thi Ha
🏠	Huang Giang Resort Hotel & Spa — Night 2	

- Imperial Citadel.
- Tombs & rural villages.
- Imperial cuisine with former royal family relative (who is also a photographer).

[Culinary Artisan Ton Nu Thi Ha](#)

[Hue cuisine "conquers" travelers](#)



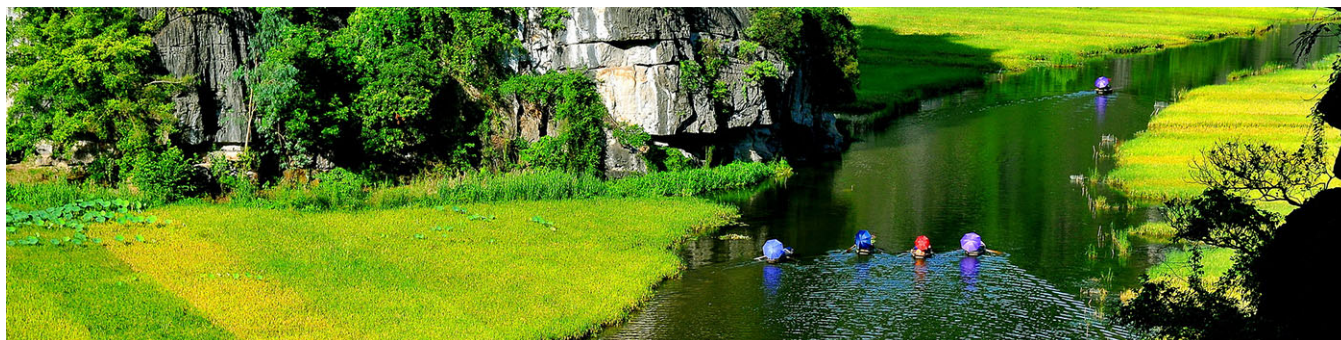
Day 09 📅 B	Hue Hanoi ✈ morning flight	● THE FRENCH OLD QUARTER
🏠	Conifer Grand Hotel — Double or twin room http://conifergrandhotel.com/	

● Our hotel is in the photographically rich and charming French Old Quarter of Hanoi and we have the afternoon to photo-wander among ample opportunities for creative images, including optional...

- Rickshaw (cyclo) ride
- Long Bien bridge by sunset & Red River
- Hanoi Railway Street

What is... ● Q&A with Rob ?

Necessarily, our itinerary includes periods of travel and what may be considered *downtime*. While we're in the coach, Rob is available to answer questions or talk about anything to do with photography. For example, is there something that challenges you and you need some help with? Ask Rob.



Day 10 🕒BL	Ninh Binh & Tam Coc — day trip 🚌 including a late lunch 14:15 ● "HALONG BAY ON LAND"
🏠	Conifer Grand Hotel — Night 2

- 08:00 🚌 2.5h 110km — Coach south from Hanoi to Ninh Binh. ● **Q&A with Rob**
- 10:30 Visit Hoa Lu, the ancient capital of Vietnam (968-1009) before Hanoi.
- 11:15 🚌 coach ride (15m) to Hang Mua to see the Mua Cave and/or climb 500 steps to the Hang Mua lookout to take in what the NY Times has described as the most stunning natural outlook in Vietnam. Then continue to Tam Coc pier by coach (5m).
- 12:45 Assemble at Tam Coc pier and embark on a sampan river cruise (1.5h) to enjoy the wonderful karst landscape described as *Halong Bay on Land*.
- 14:15 Return to Tam Coc pier, then 5m coach to Tam Coc Nature Ecolodge for late lunch.
- 16:00 🚌 Drive back to Hanoi arriving around 18:30. ● **Q&A with Rob**



Day 11 🕒BL	Hanoi Mu Cang Chai — 🚌 6.5h 251km
🏠	Mu Cang Chai Ecolodge — Double or twin valley view http://mucangchaicolodge.com/

- 08:00 🚌 6.5h 251km Depart from Hanoi to Mu Cang Chai with lunch en route. See the Khau Pha pass (one of the four greatest passes in northern Vietnam). We'll cross by Tu Le and Mu Cang Chai, the two remote lands of Yen Bai province where the Black H'Mông, Dzao and Thai people tend iconic rice terraces on mountainsides. Travel the scenic roads that offer many stops for photography. Lunch at local restaurant in Tan Son town.
- 16:30 Check-in to Mu Cang Chai Ecolodge.
● **Photo-wander around village at your leisure. Practice seeing beyond the ordinary!**



Day 12 🕒 BL	Mu Cang Chai — 🚌 3h & light trekking 3-4h ● PEAK TIME in ICONIC RICE HARVEST REGION
🏠	Mu Cang Chai Ecolodge — Night 2

MORNING

Depart from our lodge to center of La Pan Tan.
Continue trekking from La Pan Tan commune to see the Mam Xoi rice terraces of H'mong people or Che Cu Nha Commune in Mu Cang Chai. Picnic lunch is served along trekking path. Visit some schools or H'Mông houses, play with children. You will also have opportunities to explore the culture and life of H'Mông people, such as traditional music, agricultural tools, and traditional clothing.

Total trek distance is about: **4km** on hilly road (It is flexible to make our route to be longer at 12km)

AFTERNOON

- Return to Ecolodge in time to relax at sunset
- Dinner on your account.

● **After dinner, discuss the day's shooting: surprises?; positives?; disappointments?; difficulties? How we can we learn from these. Session led by Rob.**



Day 13 🕒 B	Mu Cang Chai Hanoi — 🚌 6.5h 251km
🏠	Conifer Grand Hotel — Double or twin room http://conifergrandhotel.com/

Early	Free-range session at our disposal (coach & guide available for extra miles on request).
10:00	🚌 6.5h 236km — Drive from Mu Cang Chai to Hanoi. ● Q&A with Rob
16:30	Arrive at Hanoi for check-in. Free time at your leisure. Dinner on your own account.



Day 14 📅 B	Hanoi — free day at your leisure ● ROB IS AVAILABLE — tag along or do your own thing
🏠	Conifer Grand Hotel — Night 2

We can please ourselves. Lunch and dinner on our own account.



Day 15 📅 BLD	Hanoi Halong Bay — 🚗 2h40m 172km ● DESCENDING DRAGON LAND
🏠	La Regina Legend Cruise Boat — Double or twin room http://lareginacruise.com/

● **Experiment with creative night photography from the deck with Rob's guidance.**

08:30-09:15 🚗 2.6h — Depart from Hanoi for Halong Bay. ● **Q&A with Rob**

12.00 Arrive La Regina Cruises' waiting lounge in Tuan Chau Marina

12.30 Guests are transferred to Gia Luan for boarding via speed boat or tender. Have lunch on board and relax while cruising through the seascape between Halong Bay and Lan Ha Bay 16.00 Arrive Viet Hai fishing village and start your activity.

Activities options:

- 1: Kayaking, swimming.
- 2: Board a tender for a ride around Viet Hai fishing village and swim at a nearby beach if you wish

17.30 - 18.30 Back on board for happy hour at top deck bar

18.00 - 18.30 Cooking demonstration

19.00 BBQ dinner

20.30 Relax, squid fishing



Day 16 🏠BLD	Halong Bay	● DESCENDING DRAGON LAND (continued)
🏠	La Regina Legend Cruise Boat — Night 2	

- 05:15 ● **Rise before the sun for some more creative photography as the bay wakes . Optional!**
- 7.30 - 8.00 Breakfast
- 8.00 Boarding our day boat and start cruising toward Viet Hai fishing village
- 9.00 Arrive Viet Hai local pier for a 30-minute bike or buggy ride on a paved road by a nice lagoon then up a small slope before descending through a tunnel cave. The pleasant ride along the jungle path will lead you to Viet Hai, a small village nestled between jungle and limestone towers.
- 9.30 - 11.30 Arrive at Viet Hai Cultural Farming Conservation Houses. Join hands with our host to do farming work: hoeing the soil; planting and watering vegetables; water scooping; fishing...then preparing fresh-cut vegetables from the garden, and fish that you just caught, for a cooking class
- 11.30 - 12.00 Relaxing break and try fun walking over bamboo bridge crossing over the fish pond
- 12.00 - 12.30 Participate in a cooking class
- 12.30 - 13.45 Enjoy your own-cooked lunch
- 13.45 - 14.30 Bike around the village and back to Viet Hai pier (or buggy is available)
- 14.30 - 16.00 Get on board our day boat and transfer to the nearby hidden lagoon to join local fishermen on their traditional fishing boat, participate in the mystic praying ceremony then start your fishing experience
- 16.00 Back to Viet Hai fishing village—your choice of getting back on board to relax or continue kayaking, swimming

● **Optional after dinner image processing and evaluation session**



Day 17 🍽️ Brunch	Halong Bay Viet Hai fish farm 🚌 Return to Hanoi (2h40m 172km) ● DESCENDING DRAGON LAND (concludes)
🏠	End of services and departures from Hanoi

6.00-6.30	Tai Chi exercises on top deck
7.00	Light breakfast while passing Ba Trai Dao beach area
7.30-9.00	Pass Cua Van area and visit Dark and Light cave by bamboo row boat
9.00	Back on board cruise boat for refreshments, brunch, and preparations for disembarking while cruising back to Gia Luan area
12:00	Disembark—farewell La Regina crew and return to Tuan Chau Marina by tender
13:30-15:00	🚌 2.6h 172km Return to Hanoi and resume city tour. ● Q&A with Rob
17:00	Farewell and clients' own arrangements for further travel or escort to Hanoi airport

——*End of Services*——

Tour Inclusive of	Tour Non-inclusive of
Domestic flights Visa approved on arrival Airport fast track services All Accommodation Daily breakfast Meals as per published program (14 lunches & dinners) La Regina Legend cruise Lan Ha bay (join-in overnight boat 03days -02 nights program) All transfer on sightseeing day Tour manager Leo & mentor Rob services Local guide services Professional Photographer at required regions (Hue & Hoi An) Red Bridge cooking class All entrance tickets Drinking water and wet tissues Special arrangements	International flights Overweight luggage Personal Insurance Personal expenses and unspecified meals Tipping Others not included in "Tour Inclusive of"

HOTEL CATEGORY

Location	Accommodation name	Class	Length of stay
Saigon	Saigon Palace hotel	4 star	02 nights
Can Tho	Can Tho Ecolodge	4 star	02 nights
Hoi An	Palm Garden Resort	5 star	02 nights
Hue	Huong Giang Resort Hotel & Spa	4 star	02 nights
Hanoi	Conifer Grand hotel	3+ star	04 nights
Mu Cang Chai	Mu Cang Chai Ecolodge	Lodge	02 nights
Halong Bay (Lan Ha Bay)	La Regina Legend Cruise	5 star	02 nights