

# I CORPS VIETNAM TOUR

On the 50th anniversary of the 1968 Tet Offensive, tour the former US military region of Vietnam known as I Corp. We offer a very comprehensive tour including battlefields and sites not visited by other groups as well as your own “special places.”

*Hue 1968*, the recent best-seller by Mark Bowden about the Battle of Hue, reminds us of the deadly struggle that played out in Vietnam’s most beautiful and historic city and lasted longer than any other battle of the Tet Offensive. We examine closely that battle fought by the US Marine Corps in the places where it occurred.

We also take you to the other important USMC and US Army military sites in I Corps, prior to, during and following the 1968 Tet Offensive. We go north on Highway #1 and drive into the mountains within eyesight of Laos. We drive west over the mountains and into the A Shau Valley. You revisit the battlefields and bases around DaNang and the Arizona Territory. See remnants of the past in the setting of the present - a beautiful country and enduring culture.

The echoes of the guns are long gone now and the people have lived without armed conflict for more than three decades. After 1975, the Vietnamese struggled to survive under the misguided policies of economic Marxism. In the 1980s Vietnam turned away from that ill-suited economic model and embraced capitalism. The Ford Motor Company assembly plant outside of Hanoi and the Nike shoe factory outside of Saigon are probably not what Ho Chi Minh and his followers had in mind. But those ventures and others have turned around the lives of millions of Vietnamese.

Return to I Corps today and see what has changed and what remains the same. Get reacquainted with the Vietnamese people and experience hospitality, culture and cuisine that were not exactly hallmarks of your first “tour” to I Corps.

Your tour begins in Hanoi. Here you will be surprised by the warm welcome that awaits American visitors. You have an opportunity to tour Hanoi historic and cultural sites before you move onto I Corps.

Fly to Phu Bai and check into a modern hotel in Hue. From there you will venture forth to explore Hue and historic sites along Highway #1 and Highway #9.



A USMC Vet on Highway #9

In Hue we’ll take you to explore the world famous Citadel. The Vietnamese have been carefully restoring the buildings in this moated imperial city that were largely destroyed during the 1968 Tet Offensive.

You’ll see the A Shau Valley and the 101st Airborne’s Hamburger Hill battlefield.

Then you drive along the coast of the South China Sea, over the Hai Van Pass and into DaNang, once the logistical and command cen-



Part of the Citadel Restoration

ter of US military activities for I Corps. You will stay on China Beach and then in the picturesque fishing town of Hoi An as you explore sites in the region. Then fly to Saigon (officially “Ho Chi Minh City,” with few exceptions, everyone still calls it Saigon.)

In Saigon you have a full day to tour the city and its many fascinating sites. After two weeks, you will head home to the USA with a fresh view of Vietnam and the Vietnamese people.

We can fly you to and from Vietnam or you can make your own Trans-Pacific flight arrangements. This will be a small group of approximately 10 participants. Don’t let this opportunity pass you by. Flights and hotels fill up months in advance for historic anniversaries like this, so act now to insure your tour!

**Terry Williamson** is your Tour Leader. A decorated infantry officer, he served with the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines in 1968-69. After Vietnam he was a fellow in the Asian Studies Program at the University of Hawaii sponsored by The Gannett Newspaper Foundation and studied International Relations at American University. Terry currently is a communications and issues management consultant, following an extensive career as a government press officer and corporate executive. He remains active in Veterans affairs, serving as President of the Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Terry is author of *Rocks and Fists: The Decimation of the 141st NVA Regiment*.

## Itinerary

**Day 1: Saturday, January 20, 2018 - Depart West Coast.** Meal service aloft

**Day 2: Sunday, January 21 - Aloft: Cross Int’l Dateline.**

**Day 3: Monday, January 22 - Hanoi.** Arrive in Hanoi and transfer to your downtown hotel. After time to freshen up, enjoy a cyclo tour through the Old Quarter of “36 Streets and Wares.” Tonight, enjoy a welcome dinner of traditional Hanoi dishes. (D)

**Day 4: Tuesday, January 23 - Hanoi/Hue.** Begin a sightseeing tour of this capital city including the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum (subject to availability), Ho Chi Minh House, One Pillar Pagoda, Temple of Literature. Afternoon, visit to the Army Museum, the Hoa Lo Prison, Lake of Restored Sword. Then transfer to the airport for the evening flight to Hue. On arrival, transfer to your hotel for check in. Dinner tonight is at the hotel with an overview presentation of the Battle of Hue. (B, L, D)

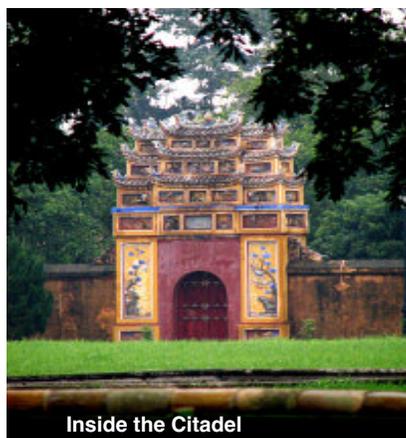
**Day 5: Wednesday, January 24 - Hue.** After breakfast, enjoy a boat ride down the Perfume River to visit the Thien Mu Pagoda.

Back from the river trip, we'll lunch at a local restaurant. We'll then focus on the south side of the Perfume River and the engagements, starting on Jan. 31 by the units of the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines and the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines around the Nguyen Hoang Bridge and MACV Compound. We'll follow the building-by-building, fierce fighting, including the treasury, university and city hospital, that eventually led to securing of the Provincial City on Feb. 10. The late afternoon and evening will be on your own to enjoy Hue's great restaurants and shopping in the Dong Ba Market. (B, L)

**Day 6: Thursday, January 25 – Hue.** The battle for the Citadel will occupy our attention today as we trace the fighting along the northeast wall starting when the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines take over from the ARVN 1st Airborne, who continued their assault on the Imperial Palace. We'll follow the progress of 1/5, later joined by 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, in nine days of brutal fighting to take the wall. We'll also learn about the fierce assault and breakout by units of the 1st Cavalry Division and combat by the 101st Airborne Division east of the city in La Chu against a regimental-sized force. In the late afternoon we'll visit Hue Military Museum and the Royal Tombs of Emperor Tu Duc & Khai Dinh Royal. We end the day with free time and then enjoy a home-hosted dinner at the restored royal home of Ms. Vinh Tu.

**Day 7: Friday, January 26 – Hue/DMZ/Hue.** An early morning departure for important sites along the DMZ. Heading north on Hwy 1, the infamous "Street Without Joy" to Dong Ha. There we turn west and climb into the mountains on Hwy 9. Passing through Cam Lo, we detour on our route west to Con Thien and Camp Carroll. On a hillside we overlook the famed Rockpile. Continue on to the site of the Lang Vei Special Forces Camp overlooking the Laotian border. It was here that NVA tanks were first employed against US forces in February 1968. Doubling back on Hwy 9, we pass through the town of Khe Sanh again and then to a coffee plantation that was once the site of the USMC Khe Sanh Combat Base. Here we can see the remnants of the last airstrip that was constructed here and visit a museum that presents the current "official" Vietnamese version of the incredible battle for this corner of Vietnam. Returning to Dong Ha, we have opportunities to photograph Montagnard villages along the roadway. Depending on the time and wishes of the group, we may drive a dozen kilometers north of Dong Ha to the river that once marked the border between North and South Vietnam. We return through Quang Tri to Hue. (B, L, D)

**Day 8: Saturday, January 27 - Hue/A Shau/Hue:** Today we venture west along Route 512. Passing the sites of Fire Support Base Bastogne and Fire Support Base Birmingham, we enter the A Shau Valley. Many significant actions took place here including Operation Delaware and Operation Dewey Canyon. Perhaps the best

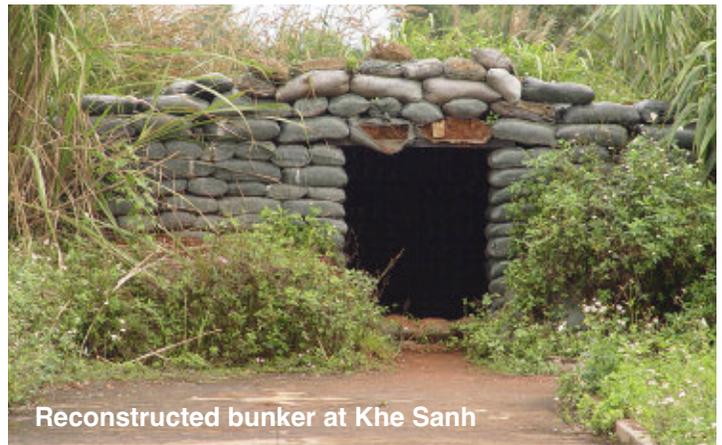


Inside the Citadel

known battle was during Operation Apache Snow, better known as "Hamburger Hill." We will visit Hill 937 where this action took place. Later, we return to Hue. (B, L, D)

**Day 9: Sunday, January 28 – Hue/DaNang.**

After breakfast, we drive south on Hwy #1 over the Hai Van Pass into DaNang. After lunch in DaNang, we



Reconstructed bunker at Khe Sanh

check into our DaNang hotel. Afternoon is free at leisure and dinner is at hotel. (B, L, D)

**Day 10: Monday, January 29 – DaNang/Hoi An.** Today we explore the region around DaNang. We visit Monkey Mountain peninsula where remnants of our long ago base are still visible. Then we go to My Son, a collection of Champa Kingdom temples in the infamous Arizona Territory. As we travel in the area around DaNang we will visit as many of your special places as we can. Later we check into our hotel in Hoi An, an ancient fishing village that was once Vietnam's major port. (B, L, D)

**Day 11: Tuesday, January 30 - Hoi An.** We drive north to Marble Mountain where we can climb the stone steps to the caves overlooking China Beach and shop the marble shops at the base. Returning to Hoi An we will visit some of the craft shops and tailors famous for the 7-hour suits, jackets, shirts and dresses. Our guide takes us on a walking tour of this very old and picturesque fishing town. (B, L, D)

**Day 12: Wednesday, January 31 - Hoi An/Saigon.** Transfer to DaNang International Airport for our flight to Saigon. On arrival, check into our centrally located hotel. Tonight, a dinner and folk dance/music program at the Rex Hotel. (B, D)

**Day 13: Thursday, February 1 – Saigon.** A morning tour of Saigon highlights. We begin at the US Consulate, former site of the US Embassy. On the grounds we see a plaque honoring the Soldiers and Marines who died defending the Embassy on 31 January 1968. This is the only monument honoring US forces in Vietnam today. (Note: subject to Consulate staff schedule). Then we visit the Colonial Post Office, Notre Dame Cathedral, Reunification Hall (former Presidential Palace), War Remnants Museum and a picturesque temple in the Cholon district of Saigon. After lunch at the Rex Hotel Rooftop Restaurant, we have free time for shopping at the nearby Ben Thanh Market, in the shops on Nguyen Hue Boulevard or in the upscale shops along Dong Khoi Street (former Tu Do Street). Tonight, a Farewell Dinner on a floating restaurant cruising up and down the Saigon River. (B, L, D)

**Day 14: Saturday, February 2 - Saigon/USA.** We transfer to Tan Son Nhut Airport at midmorning for our flight home to the USA. Crossing the Int'l Dateline, we arrive back in the USA the same day. (B & meal service aloft)

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner

# 50th Anniversary I Corps Tet Tour

## Reservation Application

Please PRINT clearly!

from \$3,168 per person (Cost based on double occupancy - single room additional)

Please make \_\_\_ reservation(s) on a 2018 Tour of I Corps Tet Tour. Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_ representing \$500.00 per person deposit.

(Please make checks payable to "MilSpec Tours")

### Tour Participants (Check )

50th Anniversary Tet tour of I Corp battlefields and sites \$3,548 per person.

Trans-Pacific Air: (Check )  \$1,000 per person roundtrip from the West Coast  I/we will make our own airline reservations.

### Payment Option (Check )

Option A: I would like to Pay In Full. Payment enclosed.  Option B: Paying a deposit only. I will pay in full 90 days before departure.

### Insurance Option (Check )

I accept the travel insurance and include the insurance premium in my deposit

(Circle the amount at right):

Cost Per Person	Age of Traveler & Insurance Cost						
	0-34	35-59	60-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+
\$3,001 - \$3,500	\$ 109	\$ 173	\$ 227	\$ 305	\$ 373	\$ 521	\$ 720
\$3,501 - \$4,000	\$ 124	\$ 195	\$ 256	\$ 343	\$ 420	\$ 583	\$ 806
\$4,001 - \$4,500	\$ 130	\$ 204	\$ 266	\$ 357	\$ 438	\$ 608	\$ 839
\$4,501 - \$5,000	\$ 175	\$ 278	\$ 366	\$ 487	\$ 600	\$ 822	\$ 1,146

I will obtain my own insurance.

**We require the full name (as it appears on the passport), gender and date of birth of each tour participant.**

#1 \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
#2 \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
#3 \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
#4 \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Attach a list for additional participants or submit additional Reservation Applications.

I have attached a photocopy of each person's passport data pages.

I do not have a passport but will apply for one (forms available at your local US Post Office)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Please furnish us with both your street address and post office box address to avoid delays in shipment of documents to you by Federal Express

Home Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Any diet/health problems? \_\_\_\_\_

FAA regulations require emergency notification information for all international passengers. Please print the name and phone number of a person not traveling with you who is to be notified in the event of an emergency.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Special requests/places to visit: \_\_\_\_\_

I desire:  2-in-a-room.  Willing to share, 2-in-a-room basis. Roommate (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

To charge your deposit to a major credit card, please complete the following:  Discover Card  Visa  Mastercard  AMEX

Note: All Credit Card transactions processed through PayPal

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CCV # \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to the terms and conditions as outlined in this tour brochure.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Tour #18-168

Mail to:

 **MilSpec Tours**

Post Office Box 340  
Flourtown, PA 19031-0340  
Phone 215-248-2572 Fax 215-248-5250  
Email: MilSpecTours@aol.com • Web: GoMilSpec.com



Spec Tours by hotels, transportation companies, airlines and other purveyors of services. There will be no refunds for cancellations of 30 days or less. Trip cancellation and interruption insurance is available and strongly recommended on all tours.

**Revisions and Refunds:** All changes must be confirmed in writing. A handling fee of \$50.00 per transaction will be charged for any alteration or revision made to a tour reservation. All claims for refunds must be made within 60 days after termination of the tour and must be accompanied by a statement from the Tour Manager, certifying exactly the services not taken. No refund can be made for unused transportation where group tickets or vehicles are involved. No refund can be made for services not taken unless the services omitted cover 72 consecutive hours or more.

**Tour Participants:** In order to insure the smooth operation of all tours, and to ensure congenial tour groups, MilSpec Tours reserves the right to accept or reject any person as a tour participant and to expel from the tour any person for any reason including anyone whose conduct is deemed incompatible with the interest of the tour group. Any handicapped participant who requires special assistance must be accompanied by a qualified helper who assumes total responsibility for the handicapped participant's well-being. MilSpec Tours reserves the right to exclude from the tour any handicapped participant whose physical condition impairs customary operation of the tour. Should a wheelchair or other special equipment, care, maintenance or services be required at any time, all arrangements shall be made and all costs and obligations will be borne by the tour member. All tour members must be able to make their own way on/off the van or motorcoach. Well-behaved children over 10 years of age are welcome on any MilSpec Tours tour under the same conditions as noted above.

**Responsibility:** MilSpec Tours and/or its agents act only in the capacity of agent for carriers, hotels, bus operators, and other suppliers of services and shall not be held responsible for any injury or for any loss or damage caused by accidents or events beyond their control, or by any action or negligence of attendants or third parties who are not in their employ and on their payroll. The tour operator and/or its agents can accept no responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air, sea or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. All such losses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. The right is reserved to substitute hotels specified for others of similar category. The right is reserved to make minor adjustments in the itinerary. Prices are based upon current tariffs and are subject to adjustment in the event of change. The right is reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour unless arrangements are made prior to departure. The issuance and acceptance of vouchers or tickets shall be deemed to be consent to the above conditions. In addition, transportation companies concerned shall not be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not on board their carriers. The passenger contract in use by the carriers concerned, when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation companies and the purchaser of the tour and/or passengers. The itineraries shown are planned at the time of issue of this flyer, but are subject to revision should circumstances make it necessary. Such revisions will be shown on the individual traveling itinerary you receive before departure.

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## Your MilSpec Tour Includes. . .

\* Nonrefundable roundtrip coach-class TransPacific airline transportation from the West Coast on regularly scheduled flights if selected. \* First-class and selected hotels with private bath (where available) 2-in-a-room basis. Single Room additional cost. \* Breakfast daily plus other meals as noted in the itinerary. \* Van or motorcoach transportation as required by the itinerary. \* Sightseeing as specified with a Professional English-speaking Guide & appropriate admission fees. \* Visa processing. \* Transfers between airports and hotels if traveling on group flights. \* Tips & taxes on all prepaid services.

**Tour Prices Do Not Include:** Airport/customs/departure taxes, passports, excess baggage charges, optional sightseeing, meals other than those shown in the itineraries, items not on table d'hote menus, laundry, liquor, mineral water, beverages with lunch & dinner, customary gratuities to Tour Guides, Coach Drivers & local guides, & any other expenses of a personal nature.

**Tour Prices are based** on a minimum number of tour participants as shown in the Reservation Application, and on tariffs and rates (currency & exchange) known at the time of printing; prices are subject to adjustment without notice in event of changes to such rates prior to departure.

**Airfares** are subject to change without notice. Coach-class airfares are often non-refundable and/or subject to cancellation fees. Trip Cancellation Insurance is strongly recommended.

**Hotels:** Unless otherwise stated, all tour prices are based on two persons sharing a twin/double room in a Superior Class hotel. Deluxe hotels are available at additional cost as indicated. Applicable single supplements are indicated for those wishing single room accommodations. Single rooms are limited in quantity and are sometimes not of the same size or quality as twin/double rooms. We do not recommend triple rooms as they tend to be very crowded; in most cases, triple rooms are a twin room to which a cot has been added. There is no reduction in tour cost for triple rooms. If you wish to share a room and do not have a roommate, we will place you in a twin/double room with the next same-sex participant to register for the tour who also requests to share a room. If we are unable to match you with a roommate, you will be assigned to a single room and must pay the single supplement.

**Deposits and Final Payments:** A deposit of \$500 per person is required to effect reservations. This deposit forms part of your final payment which is due when billed but not later than 90 days prior to departure. Acceptance on tour is subject to verification of payment in full to MilSpec Tours.

**Baggage:** No responsibility is incurred by MilSpec for loss or damage to baggage or any of the passengers belongings. It is recommended that all passengers purchase baggage insurance.

**Passports and Visas:** A valid passport is required for all tour participants. Visas are required for this tour program. Instructions will be sent to you.

**Smoking:** Please kindly note that for the safety and well-being of the group, smoking is not permitted in the van or on the motorcoach at any time.

**Cancellations** for unforeseen and valid reasons in advance of departure are entitled to a full refund less actual expenses incurred and a \$75.00 per person service charge, if written notice is received not later than 120 days prior to departure. If cancellation occurs between 119 and 60 days prior to departure, deposits will be refunded less \$150 per person service charge; less than 60 days prior to departure date, deposits will be refunded, less a \$250 per person service charge and any cancellation charges assessed against Mil-



## Travel Insurance

Take advantage of our valuable insurance protection. You can enjoy the security of the following coverage:

### Schedule of Coverages

	Up to Tour Cost
• Trip Cancellation & Interruption	\$500
• Travel Delay (\$100 maximum per day)	\$1,000
• Baggage and Travel Documents	\$100
• Baggage Delay	\$10,000
• Medical Expense	\$20,000
• Emergency Medical Transportation	\$25,000
• Accidental Death & Dismemberment	

*This is a brief summary of the insurance plan offered. For a full description of the benefits, exclusions & conditions, an insurance brochure is available. Or, call Travel Guard International at 1-888-826-1300.*

