

2018 Tet 50th Anniversary Tour

Saigon and III Corp Battlefields & Bases at the Center of the Storm



Introduction

On January 30, 1968, the Communists kicked off the infamous Tet Offensive in central and northern provinces of South Vietnam. The next night the offensive extended to cover all of South Vietnam. Two of the most well known targets were Hue and Saigon. The attack by less than two dozen sappers on the US Embassy in Saigon caught the attention of the world as many reporters lived and worked only a few blocks away from the embassy. Other battles in Saigon, including the fight for the radio station, the battle in Cholon, the Racetrack and the attempt to overrun Tan Son Nhut received little notice at the time, but were much more significant. At Tan Son Nhut over 2,500 Viet Cong and North Vietnamese attacked in an attempt to capture the world's busiest military airport that was also headquarters for Military Assistance Command - Vietnam (MACV) and the South Vietnamese Joint Chiefs of Staff. Little noticed by the outside world, the 25th Division's 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, fought a day-long battle to deny the enemy victory at Tan Son Nhut. We will visit this and other significant Tet battlefields on the exact date 50 years later. This tour will concentrate on the Battle for Saigon as well as other significant battles and bases stretching from Saigon to the Cambodian border, before and after Tet.

If you are a Veteran of the Tet Offensive or any other time serving in Vietnam, this is your chance to not only return in peace, but also bring significant friends and family to see where you served. You can also see for yourself how Vietnam has changed over a half century, especially after they abandoned Marxism and adopted Capitalism. If you are a history enthusiast or scholar, this is your opportunity to visit Vietnam with Veterans of that war, including Veterans of the Tet Offensive of '68.

We travel in modern air-conditioned vehicles with professional drivers and well-trained English-speaking Vietnamese guides. Our hotels range from modern, clean and comfortable to 4 and 5-star luxury. The food is terrific. The people are welcoming to Americans returning as well as those visiting for the first time. The vast majority of Vietnam's population was born after 1975, Both the "French War" and the



"American War" as they are known in Vietnam, while noted at some locations, are ancient history to most Vietnamese.

For some of our travelers this will be a "bucket list" opportunity. Others will relish the opportunity to travel with men who were participants in history 50 years ago. Family and friends will have an enlightened understanding of how Vietnam helped shape the lives of those dear to them.

Make your reservation today. Family, friends and history enthusiasts and scholars are welcome. Don't wait until the last minute. Planes and hotels will fill up well in advance of this historic occasion. Deadline for registration is October 1, 2017. Questions? Call us!

Itinerary

Saturday, January 27, 2018: USA/Aloft.

Sunday, January 28: Cross International Dateline

Monday, January 29: Arrive Saigon. Check into our downtown hotel. After time to freshen up, go to the Bitexco Financial Tower to view the new Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) from the 38th floor observation deck. Then an early dinner at the Majestic Hotel. (D)

Tuesday, January 30: Saigon, City tour including: Colonial Post Office; Notre Dame Cathedral; Former US Embassy - now a US

Consulate (we will request an on-site visit through US channels - Memorial Plaque on the grounds honors US Military who died protecting the Embassy on the 1st day of Tet); Racetrack where US forces set up a base to conduct urban operations during Tet; Cholon, including a picturesque Buddhist temple; the Presidential Palace (now known as Unification Hall) and other Tet '68 sites. Lunch at a Pho (noodle soup) restaurant. Then your guide takes you on a tour of the Ben Thanh Market. Dinner cruise on river tonight. (B, L, D)

Wednesday, January 31, 2018: Saigon. Visit the Gate 51 Military Park where the C Troop, 3/4 Cavalry fought VC/NVA trying to cross Highway #1 onto Tan Son Nhut Airbase on this date 50 years ago. Then continue past the Vinatexco textile factory where VC/NVA fired from the roof onto B Troop as they moved to flank the force facing C Troop. Drive up Highway #1 over the Hoc Mon Bridge to the Cu Chi Mil-



1968



2017

itary Museum. Then drive along the perimeter of the Cu Chi base that once was HQ for the 25th Infantry Division. Stop at the Cu Chi Military Cemetery, perhaps the largest in Vietnam. Then tour the Tunnels of Cu Chi. Option to crawl through some of the tunnels or walk above ground from bunker to bunker. After a lunch on the Saigon River, return to Saigon. (B, L)

Thursday, February 1: Saigon/Tay Ninh. Back up Highway #1 then through Ho Bo Woods to Ben Suc where we cross the Saigon River in the Iron Triangle and enter the Michelin Rubber Plantation. Visit Dau Tieng, wartime brigade size base where remains of the macadam airstrip are still visible, as are several structures from the war including the Plantation manager's house and the above ground swimming pool, once frequented by GIs. Then recross the Saigon River, pass through the Ben Cui Rubber Plantation and get on Highway #26 at Checkpoint Tango, proceeding to Tay Ninh City through the Cao Khoi Cui Rubber Plantation, past Fire Support Base Rawlings III (still an active artillery base) to the fabled Cao Dai Temple. Observe part of the noon service before lunch. Then proceed to Nui Ba Den, the "Black Virgin Mountain," and take a gondola lift up the east side of the mountain with spectacular views across Lake Dau Tieng to the Razorback Mountains. After a drive past the entrance to Tay Ninh West, another war era brigade base (and still a military base), check into our hotel. (B, L, D)

Friday, February 2: Tay Ninh. Today we explore northern Tay Ninh Province all the way to the Cambodian border. This area was the site of several multi-unit operations including Operation Attleboro in 1966 and Operation Junction City in 1967, Units operating in this areas known as War Zone C, included 196th Light Infantry Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, 25th Infantry Division, 4th Infantry Division and the 173rd Airborne Brigade. We drive through the former Fire Base Buell, around Nui Ba Den, past the roadway that once led to Camp Saint Barbara ("French Fort") and continue through the site of the former Prek Klok Special Forces Camp to the town of Katum. The main street of this busy town was once an airstrip. We turn east and go to the overgrown site that was once Fire Support Base Burt, attacked on the night of January 31, 1968, a battle that one participant, Oliver Stone, fictionalized as the climatic battle in his movie, *Platoon*. Back at Katum, we turn north again and stop several kilometers up the roadway that cuts across the Drop Zone for the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Operation Junction City in 1967. Then we follow the road as it closely parallels the Cambodian border before turning south into a dense jungle where we visit the site of fabled COSVN (Central Office for South Vietnam – the Viet Cong's military and political headquarters.)

Leaving COSVN and the museum there, we pass the Vietnam/Cambodia border crossing and the site of Fire Support Base Pace. As we drive south on Hwy 22, the fields and forest to our right was once called the Dogface because of the image made by the border jutting into Cambodia. Passing Nui Ba Den again, we return to our Tay Ninh Hotel.

Saturday, February 3: Tay Ninh/Saigon. Return today as Highway 22 parallels the Van Co Dong (Oriental River) to Go Da Ha where we rejoin Highway #1 back through Trang Bang, Cu Chi, Hoc Mon and, once again, Tan Son Nhut. Time to shop in the afternoon or chill-out at the hotel pool. Tonight a Farewell Dinner at the Indochine Restaurant. (B, D)

Sunday, February 4: Saigon/USA. Midmorning transfer to Tan Son Nhut for flights home. Cross International Dateline and arrive back the USA the same day. (B)

Extra Days!

You may spend extra days in Saigon or travel to other places in Vietnam at the end of this tour. Two beautiful cities that come right to mind are Hue, the ancient imperial capitol of Vietnam and Hanoi, the current capitol. Both are spectacular, exciting places. You could also go to DaLat in the Highlands or Nha Trang on the coast Call us if you want to other options or just check off the appropriate boxes and fill in the blanks on your Reservation Application.

© MilSpec Tours Inc.



2018 Tet 50th Anniversary Tour



Please PRINT clearly!

Reservation Application

From \$1,662 per person [land only - double occupancy - single room extra]

(Please make checks payable to "MilSpec Tours")

Please make ___ reservation(s) on the 2018 Tet 50th Anniversary Tour. Enclosed is \$_____ representing \$500.00 per person deposit.

New TSA regulations require the full name (as it appears on the passport), gender and date of birth of each airline passenger.

Name: _____ Male Female Date of Birth: _____

Name: _____ Male Female Date of Birth: _____

I have attached a good quality 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 FedEx

Home Phone (____) _____ - _____ Work Phone (____) _____ - _____ Email: _____@_____

Any diet/health problems? _____

Tour Options (Check ✓ one)

Land-only tour \$1,662 per person (double occupancy - single room \$364 - total \$2,027). I will make my own airline reservations.

Tour with roundtrip air from LAX \$2,662 per person - double occupancy (single room \$364 - total \$3,027)

Extra Day Options (Check ✓ if desired)

I would like to spend ___ extra days in Saigon Please quote me the additional cost.

I would like to visit other places in Vietnam. Please quote me the additional cost for touring to: _____

Payment Option (Check ✓ one)

List the places you wish to visit

Option A: I would like to Pay In Full. Payment enclosed.

Option B: I am paying a deposit only and will pay in full 90 days before departure.

Insurance Option (Check ✓ one)

I accept the travel insurance as follows and include the insurance premium in my deposit (circle amount of insurance premium)



Trip Cost Per Person	Age of Traveler & Cost						
	0-34	35-59	60-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+
\$1,501 - \$2,000	\$ 66	\$ 102	\$ 134	\$ 183	\$ 222	\$ 317	\$ 427
\$2,001 - \$2,500	\$ 79	\$ 124	\$ 165	\$ 223	\$ 272	\$ 382	\$ 523
\$2,501 - \$3,000	\$ 96	\$ 151	\$ 198	\$ 267	\$ 325	\$ 456	\$ 629
\$3,001 - \$3,500	\$ 109	\$ 173	\$ 227	\$ 305	\$ 373	\$ 521	\$ 720

Note: If you select additional days in Saigon or elsewhere in Vietnam we will quote you on the additional insurance premium required. But you should purchase your insurance for the basic tour program now with this reservation application to avoid any pre-existing condition exclusions.

I will obtain my own insurance.

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) _____

Single Room at \$364 additional.

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

Name on Card: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____

Tour #18-111

Credit Card #: _____ Note: All credit card transactions processed through PayPal

CSC Number: _____ (3 digits on back of card except 4 digits on front of AMEX)

Expiration Date: Month _____ Year _____

Signature of Cardholder: _____

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

Signature: _____

Date: _____





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

Mail to:



Your MilSpec Tour Includes. . .

* Nonrefundable roundtrip coach-class TransPacific airline transportation on regularly scheduled flights if elected. * 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. * Visa processing * Mini-van or motorcoach transportation as required by the itinerary. * Sightseeing as specified with English-speaking guide & appropriate admission fees. * Transfers between airports and hotels if traveling on group flights. * Tips & taxes on all prepaid services. * Professional Escort while on tour.

Tour Prices Do Not Include: Airport/customs/departure taxes, on-arrival visa fees, fuel surcharges, 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 of 15 tour participants as shown in the itinerary, 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. 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. We will assist you to obtain your visa.

Smoking: Please note that for the safety and well-being of the group, smoking is not permitted in the van, on the motorcoach, or at group meals 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 \$100.00 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 \$175 per person service charge; less than 60 days prior to departure date, deposits will be refunded, less a \$300 per person service charge and any cancellation charges assessed against MilSpec Tours by hotels, transportation companies, airlines and other purveyors of services. Cancellations less than 30 days prior

to departure are not refundable. 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 \$75.00 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 motorcoach or van. 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.

© MilSpec Tours 2017



Travel Insurance

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

Schedule of Coverages

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

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.