

ITINERARY | DAY-BY-DAY



CAREER DEVELOPMENT



Speech-Language Pathology Journey to Vietnam

May 6-15, 2022

10 days / 7 nights – Vietnam

\$5,399 (based on double occupancy)

\$999 (Based on double occupancy)

Enjoy the unique culture and traditions of Southeast Asia while you engage with the local people. This adventure includes the special opportunity to interact with your professional counterparts in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

BOOK NOW 888.747.7501

Vietnam Highlights

- ✓ Smaller group size and private guided journey will allow for a high level of **interaction with your peers and time for networking** with your travel companions and meeting hosts.
- ✓ **Accompanying guest program** – *alternate activities will be provided for those who do not wish to attend the meetings.*
- ✓ *Optional* pre-program extension to **Hạ Long Bay** will be offered.

Focus on Speech-Language Pathology

- ✓ **Meaningful interaction and collaboration** with SLP and rehabilitation counterparts will focus on the greatest challenges faced in the provision of services as well as other topics of interest.
- ✓ **Establish connections** with speech-language pathology, physical therapy, and occupational therapy professionals in various settings like local hospitals.
- ✓ Interact with **speech-language pathology and audiology professionals** from a variety of facilities in both Hanoi & Ho Chi Minh City such as **Operation Smile**, a local school as well as a **local university**.

Community Connections

- ✓ Giving back and **engaging with the community** face to face is an important part of your journey.
- ✓ Attend a Vietnamese cultural show: **Lang Toi My Village**.

What's Included:

- 4-5* accommodations throughout
- All transportation and activities outlined in the itinerary
- Group transfers to and from the international airports
- International air (gateway city set out of Los Angeles) and flights throughout the program
- National guide and local specialized guides
- Two meals most days and most tips

Not Included:

- Personal expenses at the hotel
- Meals not specified
- Obtaining or renewing passport
- Domestic flight to and from the U.S. gateway city
- Deviations or special requests
- Tourist visa for Vietnam

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📍 Los Angeles, California

Days 1-2

Depart for Vietnam

Depart on your way to **Hanoi**, Vietnam (transit stop expected and will vary depending on airline). The stunning beauty and friendly people alone are worth a visit! Vietnam's capital city has a complex personality and impressions of the city can vary depending on a person's location within it. Like other large Asian cities, busy commercial streets are filled with cars and bicycles and are edged by shops, restaurants, bars and stalls.

Lose a day as you cross the International Date Line.

Included meals: N/A

📍 Hanoi, Vietnam

Sunday, Day 3

Arrival & welcome

Please Note: Breakfast is included daily in your program.

Upon arrival, you will be met by your national guide who will travel with you throughout this program. Transfer to the hotel for check in and some time to relax before a welcome and orientation session. Lunch is by individual arrangement today.

Mövenpick Hotel is conveniently located in the business district and near the Old Quarter. The hotel has a wellness center, spa, onsite dining, conference center and other upscale amenities.

Dinner will be provided at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Movenpick Hotel (or similar)

Included meals: Dinner



📍 Hanoi, Vietnam

Monday, Day 4

Cultural Exploration

Today enjoy some of Hanoi's cultural treasures. Visit **Ba Dinh Square** where silent sentries guard the marble mausoleum in which Ho Chi Minh lies in state. Continue to the modest stilted wooden bungalow where Uncle Ho lived and worked, before visiting **Ho Chi Minh Museum**. Dedicated to the 'father of the country', it chronicles the evolution of Vietnamese independence. Your explorations will also take to you see the **One Pillar Pagoda**, which dates to the 11th century and was built to resemble a lotus blossom. The final stop is the **Thang Long Royal Citadel**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

After lunch at a local restaurant, continue your panoramic tour with a drive by the Opera House and Hoan Kiem Lake in route to visit **Hỏa Lò Prison**, which was used by the French colonists in Vietnam for political prisoners, and later by North Vietnam for U.S. Prisoners of War. Last stop is the **Temple of Literature**.

This evening you will attend a Vietnamese cultural show: **Lang Toi My Village**. The innovative performance highlights the poetic beauty of Vietnamese village life using folk instruments, dance, and acrobatics. Dinner will be provided at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Movenpick Hotel (or similar)

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

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📍 Hanoi, Vietnam

Tuesday, Day 5

Career Enrichment Program Day

Today the professional members of the group will meet with professional counterparts in Vietnam to learn about speech language pathology offered in this part of the world and its delivery and in what settings. Meetings will likely include a visit to a local university like **Hanoi University of Education** to meet with faculty of the Speech-Language therapy program. Also visit a local school such as the **United Nationals International School of Hanoi** to learn about access to SLP therapies in this setting.

Accompanying guests:

Accompanying guests will enjoy a Vespa ride through the city. Start off sampling the local Café culture at an Italian style Café in the heart of old quarter. Ride through the iconic narrow streets to see how the locals live & work in tall narrow houses. After a short ride toward Huu Tiep Lake, meet a fascinating elderly resident of the area who regales you with stories of the past in a 400-year-old temple. A short walk into traditional market streets takes you to the B52 crash site at the lake. This US bomber was shot down during the 1972 bombing raids of the city. Ride to the Ngoc Ha Market to stroll around the bustling area. Ride out of the city center to the Long Bien Bridge, a magnificent structure built over a hundred years ago which spans the Red River and connects Hoan Kiem and Long Bien districts. Head along the riverside and whizz past the ancient dike wall, beautifully decorated with mosaic artworks and on to a Kumquat Farm, located in a peaceful green agricultural oasis in the city. Jump on the Vespas and head to your final spot, a little snack stop before returning to the hotel.

Dinner is on your own this evening.

Overnight: Movenpick Hotel (or similar)

Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch



📍 Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam

Wednesday, Day 6

Depart for Ho Chi Minh City

Time permitting you will have another professional visit this morning to continue discussions of mutual interest with your **local SLP counterparts**. Lunch is on your own today.

Fly to **Ho Chi Minh City** today where you will be met by your local guide. With a population of nearly 8 million inhabitants and an almost equal number of scooters, mopeds and motorcycles all competing for space on the ultra-busy streets, bustling and noisy Ho Chi Minh City is quite literally a metropolis on the move. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel.

Liberty Central Hotel features the ultimate in comfort and makes an ideal base to explore the city. The hotel has a fitness center, rooftop pool, onsite dining, a spa, and business center. Guest rooms have free Wi-Fi, AC, bottled water, desk, safe, tea/coffee maker, minibar, and bathroom amenities.

Dinner will be provided this evening at a local restaurant.

Overnight: Liberty Central Hotel (or similar)

Included meals: Breakfast & Dinner

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📍 Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam

Thursday, Day 7

Career Enrichment Program Day

Continue your professional meetings **with local SLP professionals**. This morning start with a visit to a **local hospital** like Children's Hospital 1 or FV Hospital.

Lunch will be provided this afternoon.

This afternoon, meet with a representative of **Operation Smile** in HCMC. Their care center provides year-round comprehensive care by locally-based teams of Operation Smile-trained and credentialed medical professionals in the fields of plastic surgery, dentistry, pediatrics, and speech pathology, and also provides psychosocial services to patients and their families. Talk to them about their SLP services and how they have been helping families in Vietnam since 1989.

Accompanying guests:

Accompanying guests will visit the War Remnant Museum which is primarily dedicated to the Vietnam War but also includes exhibits dating back to the French colonialist period and the first Indochina War. Next stop is to "Chay Garden" to rest of your feet and enjoy a drink as you relax. The tour continues via Tao Dan Park to Saigon Skydeck for a panoramic view of Ho Chi Minh City from this lovely viewpoint. The deck is in the Bitexco Financial Tower, a true example of innovation and design that helps redefine the commercial space of Vietnam. Return to your hotel for some free time.

Dinner is by individual arrangement.

Overnight: Liberty Central Hotel (or similar)

Included meals: Breakfast & Lunch



📍 Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam

Friday, Day 8

Cultural Program

This morning you will visit the **Cu Chi Tunnels**, one of the few remaining monuments to the war, and learn the story of life underground as told by the people who lived the experience. During the conflict in Vietnam, thousands of people in the Vietnamese province of Cu Chi lived in this elaborate 200 km long system of underground tunnels. These tunnels provide a fascinating glimpse into the prolonged resistance war that the Vietnamese people endured and will highlight the national characteristics of perseverance and ingenuity.

Lunch will be provided this afternoon before your **walking tour** of Ho Chi Minh. Walking past magnificent French colonial monuments such as the **Opera House, City Hall** and a stop at the **Notre Dame Cathedral and Post Office**. After a selfie stop, follow the path to **Reunification Palace** nearby. Formerly named the Presidential Palace, this important city landmark was assured its place in history on April 30, 1975, when the first North Vietnamese tanks rumbled past, signaling the Fall of Saigon and ultimately the end of the Vietnam War.

Dinner will be provided at a local restaurant this evening.

Overnight: Liberty Central Hotel (or similar)

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

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📍 Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam

Saturday, Day 9

Cultural Explorations

Today, explore **Mekong Delta villages & the local market** by speed boat. The Mekong Delta is one of Vietnam's most enchanting landscapes and this special tour focuses on staying away from the well-beaten tour path and aims to show you untouched villages and tranquil spots. Travel by speedboat through downtown Ho Chi Minh directly into the 'rice bowl' of Vietnam and enjoy a light breakfast on board. As you slip away from the city, via narrow canals, you enter the verdant green tributaries of the Mekong Delta.

Enjoy a brief stop at the ornate, overwater **Tuong Van Pagoda**, whilst your guide explains the importance of Buddhism to the many people of the Delta. Visit a bustling, colorful riverside market full of local curiosities, tropical fruits and all manner of fish and shellfish. Great photo opportunities!

Mid-morning, reach the idyllic watery expanses of the Delta itself, known as the '**Delta of Nine Dragons**' after the nine tributaries that splinter from the main Mekong River. Turning off the Delta into small, winding canals of the Thu Thua area, drift along lazily shaded by a canopy of foliage.

Spend time at family homes where you'll be invited to enjoy some refreshing, freshly cut coconuts and fiery Mekong whisky.

Lunch will be provided this afternoon.

After lunch, visit the nearby **Cao Dai Temple**; a riot of colors celebrating a combination of different religions. Cruising through the Delta's canals there are countless opportunities to capture amazing photos of the scenery and local people as the boat passes buffaloes being used to plough fruit orchards and rice fields and other bucolic scenes. After the tour, drive to Ho Chi Minh City.

Enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant this evening.

Overnight: Liberty Central Hotel (or similar)
Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

📍 Ho Chi Minh Vietnam

Sunday, Day 10

Depart

Head to the airport this morning for your flight home. Arrival back in Los Angeles the same day.



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📍 Hanoi

Mövenpick Hotel Hanoi 5*

83A Lý Thường Kiệt, Cửa Nam, Hoàn Kiếm

Hanoi, Vietnam

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<https://www.movenpick.com/en/asia/vietnam/hanoi/hotel-hanoi/overview/>



📍 Ho Chi Minh

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