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December 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians

Eleven Days of Culture and Adventure in Vietnam from 22 October to 1 November 2016

The PSHE Department at Stowe is delighted to be able to offer an 11 day trip to Vietnam in October 2016.

The trip will give Stoics an opportunity to visit the famous Cu Chi tunnels, the Reunification Palace in Ho Chi Minh, spend a day visiting the Mekong Delta and visit remote villages. The trip encompasses the World Heritage Sites of Hoi An and Hue, culminating in an overnight private Junk cruise of Halong Bay, before a final tour of Hanoi.

The cost of the trip will be £1825.00 per pupil and includes meals on a half-board basis, all flights, transfers and our own private tour guide for the duration of the trip. Stoics will only require spending money. There are currently no visa requirements to Vietnam.

Further details and an application form are enclosed with this letter although flight times may vary slightly. The trip will be limited to 12 pupil places only.

If you require more information, please do not hesitate to contact me via email to kmclintock@stowe.co.uk or by telephone on +44 (0)1280 818136

Yours sincerely

Kirsten McLintock



The PSHE Department presents:
**Eleven Days of Culture and Adventure
in Vietnam**



22 October to 1 November 2016

Cost: £1825.00

Stowe staff accompanying the trip

Ms K McLintock (Head of Pupil Welfare)

Mrs V Green (Lyttelton Housemistress)

Itinerary

Day 1

Saturday 22 October

Coach from Stowe School to Heathrow.

Depart from Heathrow Airport on Emirates at **20.35**.

Arrive at Ho Chi Minh Airport in Vietnam at **19.40 on Sunday 23 October**.

Day 2

Sunday 23 October

Ho Chi Minh

We will be met at the airport by our tour leader.

Day 3

Monday 24 October

Cu Chi and Ho Chi Minh City Tour

This morning we visit the famous Cu Chi Tunnels. Built by local fighters during the Indochina conflict as a base from which the Viet Cong could operate from close to the South Vietnamese capital. Our local guide will take us on a fascinating trip around the tunnels where we learn more about the conditions people lived in, the hardships they faced and the amazing ingenuity employed to maintain life in the tunnels.

This afternoon we will visit the Reunification Palace and the War Remnants Museum.

Day 4

Tuesday 25 October

Mekong Delta and Overnight Train

Today we will head out on a day trip to explore the Mekong Delta. We will board the boat to Ben Tre to see a coconut candy factory and sample local candies for which this region is famous. We will then have the opportunity to take a tuk-tuk around this remote village with a stop to sample tropical fruits and learn more about local rural life. Then we visit a nearby restaurant in the heart of the delta, where we can sample some of the regional specialties such as the famous elephant-ear fish.

After lunch, we will board sampans and paddle past the many water coconut trees that populate the Mekong Delta. Boarding our own private boat, we will cruise through major waterways to arrive in My Tho town before returning to Ho Chi Minh by bus.

After returning to the hotel to collect our bags, we will board an overnight sleeper train to Hoi An.

Day 5

Wednesday 26 October

Hoi An

A World Heritage Site, Hoi An is beautifully restored and preserved. Today, parts of Hoi An look exactly as they did more than a century ago. On arrival, our tour leader will take us on an orientation walk around the Ancient Town. There will be time to explore the

beautifully restored and preserved Chinese shop houses, enjoy the vibrant and busy market and visit Cua Dai Beach.

Day 6

Thursday 27 October

Hoi An

Today we take a unique boat and bike tour in Hoi An to escape the hustle and bustle and reach some of the villages that are dotted throughout the region, stopping to talk to the locals and learn more about life in this part of Vietnam. Our guide will take us to the banks of the Thu Bon River for a cruise to one of the river's small islands for a barbecue feast while we watch the sun set over the river before heading back to Hoi An.

Day 7

Friday 28 October

Hue

Departing from Hoi An, we will stop at China Beach before crossing the dramatic Hai Van Pass to the picturesque fishing village of Lang Co. After a quick stop, we will continue on to Hue (approximately 5 hours including stops). We will visit the Imperial Citadel, including the Forbidden Purple City which was almost entirely destroyed during the Vietnam's War Tet Offensive.

Day 8

Saturday 29 October

Halong Bay

We will take a morning flight to Hanoi and travel by private charter bus to the spectacular World Heritage Site of Halong Bay (approximately 4 hours).

In Halong Bay, we will board our private boat and cruise along the dramatic limestone peaks. There will be an opportunity to swim in the famed South China Sea, as well as to explore caves filled with stalactites and stalagmites. We will spend the night on board in twin-share cabins that have air-conditioning and private facilities. There is also a dining room and bar where we will enjoy a sumptuous lunch and dinner.

Overnight: on the boat in twin cabins

Day 9

Sunday 30 October

Hanoi

We will take a bus back to Hanoi (approximately 3.5 hours). Hanoi is a charming city, famous for its beautiful lakes, shaded boulevards and its thriving Old Quarter, which is an architectural museum piece with blocks of ochre buildings retaining the air of a 1930s provincial French town.

Day 10

Monday 31 October

Hanoi and flight home

In the morning we will visit the Ho Chi Minh complex, which includes the One Pillar Pagoda and the Ho Chi Minh museum.

Internal flight from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh approximately 16.00 (time to be confirmed)

Depart Ho Chi Minh airport at 23.55

Accommodation: Day room use for late check-out at Hong Ngoc Hotel

Day 11

Tuesday 1 November

Arrive Heathrow at 11.35am

Stoics will then travel by coach to Stowe School or can be collected from Heathrow, if arranged in advance.

Tour Style

The tour is operated by Intrepid Travel.

Stoics will be accompanied by experienced guides and drivers at all times.

All accommodation is in twin rooms.

Cost: £1825.00

Includes:

Food on a half-board basis (Breakfast and dinner) plus two lunches

Hotels

Activities and entrance fees plus internal flights and transfers

Return flights to Ho Chi Minh

Return coach from Stowe to Heathrow

Stowe medical/accident insurance

Excludes:

Recommended vaccinations (These can be organised through the Medical Centre)

Spending money





Eleven Days of Culture and Adventure in Vietnam 22 October to 1 November 2016

1. Non-refundable cheque of £1000.00 by Monday 25 January 2016
2. Final payment of £825.00 by Monday 16 May 2016

THIS FORM MUST ONLY BE RETURNED TO Ms K McIntock

I hereby give permission for:

Pupil Name: School Number:

to attend the PSHE Department Vietnam Trip 22 October to 1 November 2016

I enclose a cheque made payable to 'Stowe School' for the deposit of £1000.00 and understand this deposit is **non-refundable** if the trip goes ahead and Stowe is unable to fill the space.

Signed: (Parent/Guardian)

Name: Date:

Passport details of Stoic

Passport must be valid for a further six months from October 2016 (i.e. until April 2017)

Full Name as on Passport:

Date of Birth:

Passport Number:

Passport Valid From: Expiry Date:

Country of Issue:

Contact: Ms K McIntock (Head of Pupil Welfare & PSHE)

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Stowe