



## Travel with PeaceTrees in January 2024!

### Interested in Becoming a Citizen Diplomat?

PeaceTrees Vietnam Citizen Diplomacy Trips continue the work of those who re-established diplomatic relations between the US and Vietnam in 1996. Program participants practice Citizen Diplomacy by:

- learning about Vietnamese history and culture
- hearing from US Embassy staff about US diplomatic priorities in Vietnam
- meeting and getting to know PeaceTrees Vietnam in-country staff and local partners
- experiencing PeaceTrees Vietnam war legacy work including demining and community development
- paying respects, in the traditional Vietnamese manner, to those who lost their lives during the War.

By working together, sharing meals, and planting trees, participants contribute to the on-going process that has transformed former adversaries into close friends. Participants often experience a transformation in their own view of Vietnam as trip experiences shed light on life as it is lived in central Vietnam today where 74% of the land is still contaminated with unexploded bombs and mines. PeaceTrees Vietnam Citizen Diplomacy Trips provide participants a unique and rewarding perspective rarely offered to tourists.

### Trip Highlights:

This trip, led by Tracy Garland and Daniel Nguyen, and will include time in Hanoi, central Vietnam, Hoi An, and Ho Chi Minh City. Travelers will have a chance to participate in meetings with local partners, visit sites of historic and cultural importance, participate in group discussions, and visit PeaceTrees' projects. The trip will also include opportunities to visit museums, explore Vietnamese cuisine and markets, meet with deminers, and gain a deep understanding of PeaceTrees' work.

### Dates and details:

- **Dates:** Trip departs from Seattle Friday January 19th, returning Friday February 2nd. This trip also includes approximately 3 pre-departure orientations beginning in November 2023.
- **Activity Level:** Medium, including walking and standing for up to 2 hours at a time. Several historic sites and some buildings are only accessible via stairs.



**Want to Learn More?** Contact us at [info@peacetreesvietnam.org](mailto:info@peacetreesvietnam.org) or call us at (206) 441-6136

# Itinerary:

## PeaceTrees Vietnam Citizen Diplomacy Trip – January 2024

*Draft itinerary: details will change*

**Friday, January 19th: Depart Seattle-Tacoma International Airport Saturday, January 20th –**

### **Monday January 22nd:**

- Arrival in Hanoi and orientation to Hanoi and the Old Quarter
- Orientation and Briefing at the US Embassy in Hanoi and the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations
- Sightseeing and history: Temple of Literature; Hanoi Citadel; Ethnology Museum

*Hotel: Golden Lotus Luxury Hotel or similar*

### **Tuesday, January 23rd – Saturday January 27th: PeaceTrees Vietnam and Central Vietnam**

- Engage with PeaceTrees Vietnam's work in the area of war land remediation, observing Explosive Ordnance Disposal teams in the field, visit education and economic development projects, and participate in cultural exchange and tree planting activities
- Along the way, learn about central Vietnam as it is today as well as before, during, and after the war. Area excursions include the Vinh Moc Tunnels, Cua Tung beach, Ben Hai river, Khe Sanh
- Opportunity to meet PeaceTrees' team members and implementing partners
- *Hotel: Moung Thanh Hotel or similar*

### **Sunday, January 28th – Tuesday, January 30th: Hoi An**

- Visit Hue and Hue Citadel en route to Hoi An
- Day trip to My Lai
- Time for exploring Hoi An, a UNESCO World Heritage site, group discussions and reflection
- *Hotel: Hoi An Historic Hotel or similar*

### **Wednesday, January 31st – Thursday, February 1st: Ho Chi Minh City**

- Visit historic and cultural sites such as the Reunification Palace, War Remnants Museum, Ben Thanh Market, and Opera House
- *Hotel: Alagon Saigon Hotel or similar*

### **Friday, February 2nd: Departure**

- Departure from Tan Son Nhat International Airport (SGN) or continue independent travel



## About Trip Leaders Tracy and Daniel:

**Tracy Garland's** passion for Vietnam grew out of her studies in the SouthEast Asia Program at Cornell University and her nine years of service on the Board of PeaceTrees Vietnam. After participating in multiple trips to Vietnam, Tracy became a PeaceTrees Vietnam Trip Leader in 2023 - a new channel for her passion for maintaining our commitment to this important part of the world. Tracy's career includes serving in executive roles in finance and philanthropy. She is a member of Seattle Rotary Club #4, a volunteer for Common Power, an avid equestrian and, together with her husband, Tom Garland, an engaged parent and grandparent.



**Daniel Nguyen's** parents immigrated from Saigon by boat after the end of the Vietnam War and arrived to Seattle as refugees in January 1980. He was born and raised in Seattle and graduated from the University of Washington. Upon graduation he moved to Ho Chi Minh City to teach English and reconnect with Vietnamese culture, community and family. After years of working and living in Asia, he returned to Seattle to work in the technology industry. Daniel has been a board member with PeaceTrees Vietnam since 2018, is a member of the fundraising and governance committees, and has participated in several Citizen Diplomacy Trips.

## Testimonials:

"PeaceTrees Vietnam's Citizen Diplomacy program allowed me to connect with the Vietnamese people, hear from them about the war, and helped me reconcile my connection to that war of 50 years ago. I learned what PTVN was doing to build friendship with the Vietnamese people and ways they were reversing the destructive legacy of the war by removing the bombs and mines left from the war, but also the economic development that was going on to provide economic opportunities to those most affected by the war in Central Viet Nam. It was such a great experience that I have taken the tour twice and will return again in September. It's a wonderful tour of a lifetime."

- Dan Gilman, Veteran and PeaceTrees Vietnam Board President



"Traveling to Vietnam as a Citizen Diplomat ... has been the most rewarding trips I've ever taken. Being able to meet people whose lives are better because of PeaceTrees Vietnam has inspired me with the possibility and the value of reconciliation. At the same time, I experienced the culture and history of this country and the many ways we are connected to each other. It was mind-expanding and awareness-raising and unforgettable."

- Julie Hungar, March 2019 Citizen Diplomat

## Program Price:

Tuition for the trip is \$3,500. Tuition includes all in-country transportation (including airfare), lodging, most meals, administrative costs and project costs. International airfare, travel insurance, and visa fees are not included. Some personal expenses will be incurred during free time for meals, taxis, etc.

### Payment schedule:

\$500 nonrefundable deposit  
due upon registration

### November 1, 2023

\$1,500 deposit due

### December 1, 2023

Final invoice due