



# Hong Kong Gardening Society

## Gardens of Vietnam 1 – 8 November 2018



### *Itinerary*

- |          |                   |           |   |
|----------|-------------------|-----------|---|
| Thursday | <b>1 Nov 2018</b> | morning   | <i>Depart Hong Kong by air</i>  |
|          |                   | afternoon | <i>Arrive in Danang and transfer to <b>Hue</b><br/>Stay at <a href="#">Eldora Hotel</a></i>   |
| Friday   | <b>2 Nov 2018</b> | morning   | <i>Explore the <b>Imperial Citadel</b> at the centre of the Complex of Hue Monuments inscribed by UNESCO as a World Heritage site. Enter through the towering main gate and appreciate the magnificent architecture and gardens while your guide explains the events and the intrigue surrounding the former royal court.<br/>Visit the <b>Tu Duc Royal Tomb</b>, the most impressive of all the royal mausoleums, built by Emperor Tu Duc between 1864 and 1867.</i> |
|          |                   | afternoon | <i>Drive 30mins to the <b>An Hien garden house</b>, originally the residence of Emperor Duc Duc's 18th daughter. The house is an excellent example of traditional Vietnamese architecture.<br/>Continue to another classic example of a garden house, the former <b>home of Princess Ngoc Son</b>.</i>  |
|          |                   | evening   | <i>Enjoy a <b>Dinner of traditional Hue specialties</b> prepared by the family at their historical home while you unearth Hue's fascinating past.</i>   |

Saturday 3 Nov 2018

morning *Depart from Hue to the picturesque **Tam Giang Lagoon** for insight into the daily life of local fishermen. After crossing the Thuan An Bridge, visit the historic **Catholic Church in Ha Uc Village** which dates back to the 18th century and still has its beautiful, original steeple. Next, explore the incredible ensemble of tombs nicknamed the "**City of Ghosts**" at An Bang Village. The graveyard features brilliantly colored structures in various styles: **Buddhist, Taoist, Catholic, Vietnamese, Chinese and Western**, built by humble villagers with overseas funds from family members.*

afternoon *Complete your exploration at the ancient **Thuy Van Pagoda** perched high up on a hill overlooking the Cau Hai Lagoon. Enjoy a picnic lunch before returning to Hue via the scenic countryside.*

evening *Evening at leisure.*

Sunday 4 Nov 2018

morning *Pay a visit to a private bonsai garden where you can talk with the **artisan in bonsai, Ms. Ton Nu Ha**. Learn about the preparation and fertilization of the land, along with techniques on how to identify an outstanding bonsai.*

afternoon *Take a drive to **Thanh Toan village** and be prepared to get yourself involved in some hands-on experiences. Continue by rickshaw to explore the countryside, the village and clans' shrine house, and some typical local workshops. Visit the informative **agriculture museum** to understand more about rice production before riding on a sampan to experience ancient fishing techniques.*

Monday 5 Nov 2018

morning *Transfer to **Hoi An** visiting Marble Mountain en route. This World Heritage ancient town is recognised for its well-preserved architecture, pedestrian-only streets and distinctive local cuisine, allowing visitors a glimpse of its illustrious past.*

afternoon *Take a guided walking tour of its many atmospheric sights including: the old **merchant houses** with influences from Chinese, Japanese and Vietnamese architecture; the 400-year-old **Japanese Covered Bridge**, first built in the 1590s by the Japanese community to link them with the Chinese quarters across the stream; the **Assembly Hall of the Chaozhou Chinese Congregation** with its intricate woodcarvings; and the **colourful market** with stalls brimming with local specialties including silk, which can be turned into fashionable garments within a day or two.*

evening *Stay at [La Siesta Resort & Spa Hoi An](#)*

Tuesday **6 Nov 2018** morning *Learn the secrets of preparing traditional Vietnamese cuisine with a market tour and cooking class. Set off to a local market with a chef from the **Market Restaurant and Cooking School**. Then participate in an entertaining, **hands-on cookery course** held in one of three teaching areas with modern equipment for a truly immersive cooking experience.*

afternoon *Embark on an **organic farming discovery tour** with the local farmers in the rural outskirts of Hoi An's Ancient Town. Drive through the countryside, heading to **Tra Que Vegetable Village**. Upon arrival, stroll around the fishponds and through the neatly organized organic gardens and observe local farmers working the fields using traditional methods that date back hundreds of years.*

evening *Enjoy a chance to learn more about this lost Kingdom and the flourishing **Champa** culture and lifestyle through a Champa dance performance.*

Wednesday **7 Nov 2018** morning *Take a 2-hour drive through the **Thu Bon river** delta to the ethnic minority town of **Trung Mung**. Have a chance to meet the **patriarch of the Co Tu minority tribe** and listen to his story of ancient rural culture and history.*

afternoon *Enjoy a **home-hosted lunch** at the patriarch's house while enjoying his performance of traditional musical instruments. After lunch, pay a visit to the **traditional Ghoul house**, stop by the tea plantation for some photos, then walk around the local market and the zig-zagging paths to chat with the villagers.*

Thursday **8 Nov 2018** morning *Depart Danang by air*  
afternoon *Arrive Hong Kong*

## *Hoi An*

Between the 15th and 19th centuries, Hoi An known then as 'Faifo', was a prosperous trading port, attracting Chinese, Japanese, Dutch, Portuguese and Spanish ships amongst others. Today, this World Heritage ancient town is recognised for its well-preserved architecture, pedestrian-only streets and distinctive local cuisine, allowing visitors a glimpse of its illustrious past.

Hoi An's narrow lanes are ideal for a morning guided walking tour of its many atmospheric sights including: the old merchant houses with influences from Chinese, Japanese and Vietnamese architecture; the 400-year-old Japanese Covered Bridge, first built in the 1590s by the Japanese community to link them with the Chinese quarters across the stream; the Assembly Hall of the Chaozhou Chinese Congregation with its intricate woodcarvings; and the colourful market with stalls brimming with local specialties including silk, which can be turned into fashionable garments within a day or two.



### *Cooking Class at Market Restaurant and Cooking School*

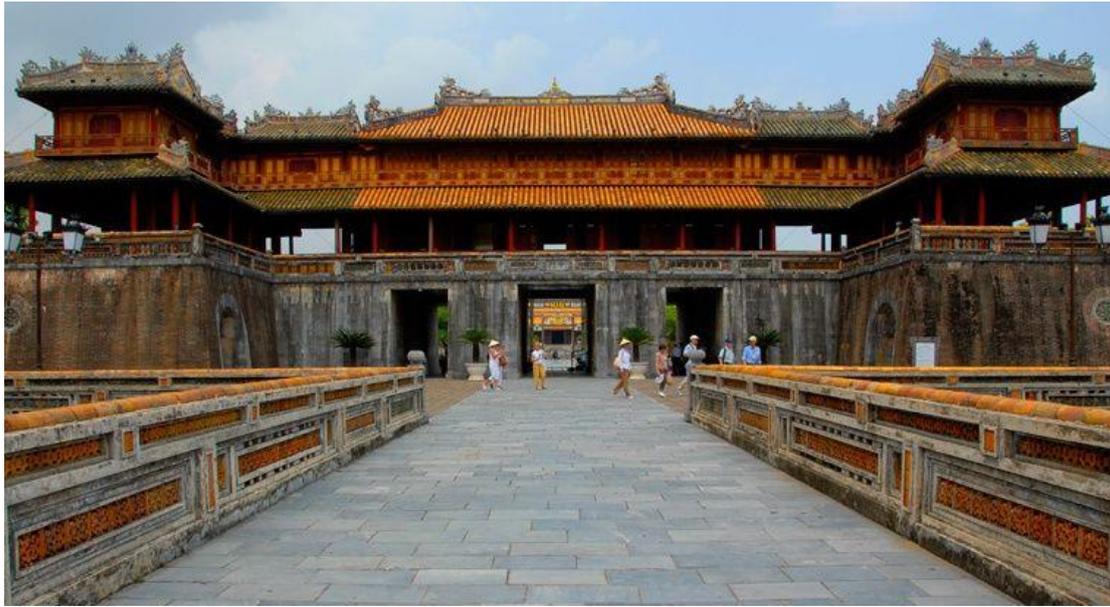
Learn the secrets of preparing traditional Vietnamese cuisine, with a market tour and cooking class. Set off to a local market with a chef from the Market Restaurant and Cooking School.

Your chef will share shopping tips including how to select fresh eggs and ripe fruit and which herbs are used in Vietnamese cuisine. Continue to the

school, an elegant old building with a French colonial-style exterior and traditional Hoi An interior. Then participate in an entertaining, hands-on cookery course held in one of three teaching areas with modern equipment for a truly immersive cooking experience.

Chat with your chef to learn more about typical ingredients of Central Vietnamese cuisine then enjoy tasting what you have prepared.





### ***The Imperial Citadel***

Once the imperial capital of the Nguyen Lords from the 17th to the 19th centuries, Hue's splendid emperors' tombs, ancient pagodas and the remains of the Citadel, contribute to its undeniable royal charm.

The Imperial Citadel at the centre of the Complex of Hue Monuments is inscribed by UNESCO as a World Heritage site.

Despite being heavily bombed during the Vietnam War, there are some incredibly well-preserved sections intact and others which are being carefully restored.

The Tu Duc Royal Tomb, the most impressive of all the royal mausoleums, built by Emperor Tu Duc between 1864 and 1867. Interestingly, Tu Duc had 104 wives and countless concubines but left no heirs to the throne. While the complex does include a tomb, together with pavilions and temples, no one knows exactly where Tu Duc was buried as all 200 servants who buried the king were beheaded to keep his final resting place a secret from grave robbers.



## *An Hien garden house*



The charming Garden Houses of Hue were mostly built for mandarins and royal relatives and are an enchanting look into privileged life under the Nguyen Lords.

Hue is said to have 1,778 garden houses, with dozens designated as cultural heritage sites.

The An Hien garden house, originally the residence of Emperor Duc Duc's 18th daughter. The house is an excellent example of traditional Vietnamese architecture, featuring a large tiled roof supported by massive pillars to form three

large bays, the middle of which houses the family altar. Most of the timber is ironwood with richly carved and ornamented beams and doors.

A lush Feng Shui garden surrounds the house on all sides, and is full of flowers and fruit trees including lychee, persimmon and pear.



## *The art of Bonsai*

Over the past several years, thousands of people have learned the value of bending two ancient Asian art forms representing harmony, peace, and prosperity – Feng Shui and Bonsai.

Understand why these ancient oriental practices and principles are such a great match along with the essential methods to care for Bonsai and the skills involved in creating these horticultural masterpieces.



## Sign-up.

The cost will be **HK\$12,230** per person (twin sharing) for members. Single Room Supplement is **HK\$2,550**.

Please note that this cost is based upon a minimum of 12 people signing up. Non-members/guests pay **HK\$12,830** (plus single supplement @ **HK\$2,550**, if applicable) but this includes membership of the HKGS for the current year (2018).

A final quotation will be provided (should the number not reach 12) on the **18 September 2018** for your consideration.

The tour price covers:

1. Special Economy Class fare Hong Kong/Danang/Hong Kong
2. Local transportation
3. All meals (breakfast, lunch & dinner)
4. Entrance tickets to local sightseeing as per the itinerary
5. English speaking guide
6. Daily bottled water

The tour price does not include:

- a. Transportation to and from the airport on departure and return.
- b. Visa Fees: please ensure that you hold a valid passport with at least 6 months validity remaining, together with your visa for entry to Vietnam.
- c. Personal expenses such as room service, internet charge, laundry, alcoholic drinks or beverages for personal consumption, fax, telephone call, optional activities, etc.
- d. Excess Handling and Insurance Charges.
- e. Travel Insurance. Please kindly note that the full coverage travel insurance from your country of origin should be purchased in advance on your own.
- f. Tips & gratuities.
- g. 4% surcharge if you pay by credit card.

If you would like to sign up in this tour, please complete the required information in this email - click [doris.leung@jebsenholidays.com](mailto:doris.leung@jebsenholidays.com). This email link will also go automatically to Jessica, Ash, Doris and Graham

The Closing Date is **14 September 2018**.

Let me know if you have any questions or if we can assist in any way.

Many thanks,

Jessica Park,  
Chair

[chair@hkgardeningociety.org](mailto:chair@hkgardeningociety.org)

*Places we will visit...*

