

11<sup>th</sup> Sakyadhita International Conference on Buddhist Women  
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam  
December 28, 2008, to January 3, 2010

"Eminent Buddhist Women"

**SAKYADHITA CONFERENCE UPDATE**

Great to hear that you're registered for the Sakyadhita Conference in Vietnam!

**HOTELS**

As requested on the registration form, we are making hotel reservations at discounted rates from December 27 to January 5. If your plans change, please inform us, to avoid problems with billing.

The Park Royal Hotel, just a few minutes' walk from the conference venue, is offering a special discount. This luxury hotel has offered us rooms at half price (superior rooms at US\$60 and deluxe at US\$70, single or double occupancy). These rates include a first-rate breakfast buffet from 6 to 10 am, free wireless, gym, swimming pool, and 2 bottles of mineral water per day. The hotel rooms are equipped with TV, fridge, and hair dryer. The hotel has a sauna, steam bath, and massage available for a charge. Please let us know *asap* if you would like to upgrade to one of these rooms or share one.

**TOUR INFORMATION**

On January 4, we will visit temples around Ho Chi Minh City and return to our hotels that evening. On January 5, we will visit a Zen "forest of practitioners" and Buddhist temples in the coastal town of Vung Tau. The tour is free of charge.

The tour from January 6 to 10 stops in Da Lat, Binh Dinh, Hoi An, Da Nang, Hue, and Ha Noi. Our kind Vietnamese Buddhist hosts will offer meals, accommodations, and bus transportation free of charge. Accommodations and vegetarian meals will be provided in Buddhist temples. *Please let us know asap if you would like to join this tour.*

Participants should book their own flights from Hue to Ha Noi and from Ha Noi to HCMC (total cost ~US\$150) online. According to the tour schedule, we will fly from Hue to Ha Noi on Vietnam Airlines on January 9 at 9 am. Please book your return flight to Ho Chi Minh City according to your schedule.

Airfares are subject to change and reservations cannot be guaranteed. The earlier you book, the better chance of booking flights at the lowest economy fares. The Vietnam Airlines website is: [www.vietnamairlines.com](http://www.vietnamairlines.com). At the top of the homepage, you can select your location and language (English, German, French, Japanese, Korean, or Vietnamese). The fare chart is attached. If you have any questions, please contact us.

## **TENTATIVE TOUR SCHEDULE**

### *January 6 Ho Chi Minh City to Da Lat*

The journey starts early (5am) from Ho Chi Minh City to avoid traffic and continues along the scenic coastline, reaching the cool highlands of Da Lat for lunch (about 4 hrs. by bus). We will tour temples in the afternoon and meet Bhikkhu Thich Thanh Tu, Vietnam's most respected meditation master. Accommodations for the night will be in temples known for their meditation practices.

### *January 7 Da Lat to Hoi An*

After an early breakfast, the journey takes us further up the coast. In the town of Binh Dinh (about 6 hrs. by bus), the nuns of Loc Uyen Temple will host us for a tasty vegetarian lunch. Continuing along the coastline, we reach the ancient town of Hoi An, a UNESCO Heritage Site, and stay the night at Bao Thang Temple.

### *January 8 Hoi An to Hue*

In the morning, we visit the quaint shops of Hoi An, a major trading center in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. We continue up the coast by bus to Da Nang (1 hour), where we stop for tea at Quang Minh Temple. Arriving in Hue (about 3 hours), we will be hosted for lunch at Tu Dam Temple. In the afternoon, we tour Thien Mu ("Heavenly Lady") Temple, the Imperial Palace, and several exemplary nunneries. Kieu Dam Temple will host our overnight stay.

### *January 9 Hue to Ha Noi*

After a morning flight to Ha Noi, we gather for lunch at Bo De Temple. In the afternoon, we visit the old section of the capital and several ancient temples. Accommodations for the night will be at Bo De Temple.

### *January 10 Ha noi*

In the morning, we visit Nga Mi Temple, a UNESCO Heritage Site, on the outskirts of the city. We also visit Hai Ba Trung Temple, which commemorates two Vietnamese heroines, Trung Trac and Trung Nhi, who fought courageously against the Chinese. Afternoon is free.

## **VISAS**

Participants from most countries require visas to enter Vietnam. If you have not already done so, please send your passport details (exact name on passport, passport number, date of expiry) and we will request the Foreign Ministry in Vietnam to help expedite your visa.

## **CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

Participants should arrive in time for the opening ceremony at Pho Quang Temple on December 28 at 8 am. The conference ends with a candle lighting for world peace on January 3 at 7 pm.

## **INFORMATION UPDATES**

In case you registered late, previous updates are available at: <http://www.sakyadhita.org/travelvietnam/>