

“Heaven & Earth: A Citizen Diplomacy Delegation”

Option 1: March 3rd- 15th 2025

DAY ONE: Arrival in Danang

We will kick off this special expedition with a group dinner, hosted by author and humanitarian Le Ly Hayslip in the coastal city of Da Nang. Guests will be picked up at the international airport for transport to the hotel on Danang Beach near Marble Mountain.

DAY TWO: Humanitarian Tour

The pilgrimage begins with a visit to Mother's Love Health Clinic, built by 3 US/VN vets and former VCs in 1989 in Le Ly's village. We will then visit the Man Quang Primary School before continuing on to enjoy a luncheon at Le Ly's regional birthplace, the house built in 1927. There, Le Ly will demonstrate her respect to the ancestral temple, family shrines, and how she communicates with heaven. Wonderful stories will be shared by Le Ly, her brother Bon Nghe (who was a North Vietnamese NVA), and Le Ly's friends who she grew up with. In the afternoon, we will visit Marble Mountain before heading back to the hotel and prepare for dinner.

DAY THREE: Tour of Historic Da Nang City & Central Vietnam

Today we will visit the historic sites of Cham Masum and Linh Ung Temple, have lunch, and relax at InterContinental Danang Sun Peninsula Resort on Son Tra Peninsula. In the afternoon we will visit and deliver gifts and supplies to the Eitch minority villages in Ha Gian, Quang Nam. Continue to Hoi An for the night.

DAY FOUR: Cultural Immersion

In Hoi An, we will spend the day visiting the authentic and unique heritage of the old city and have lunch at a renowned restaurant, owned by Le Ly's longtime friend. In the evening we will enjoy a special dinner of French & Vietnamese Cuisine on Cua Doi Beach. Participants will then be free to enjoy the night market and folk singing.

DAY FIVE: Helping Hands & UNESCO Site Tour

After checking out of the hotel, we will journey to Peace Village Orphanage in Quang Nam Province. After touring the facilities we will distribute donations and interact with the inhabitants. Lunch will be shared with the staff and administration at the center. After lunch, we will visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Mỹ Sơn, a UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hindu Temples built between the 4th – 14th century by the kings of Champa in Duy Xuyen District. While at Mỹ Sơn, Le Ly will share the Champa ghost story before heading back with the group to Da Nang.

DAY SIX: Remembrance & Citizen Diplomacy in Action

Today is dedicated to the remembrance of "D day" in Red Beach (March 8, 1965) when the first official US troops landed on the Red Beach in Danang for the start of the Vietnam War. In the morning we will attend and celebrate the grand "Re-opening" of Village of Hope Orphanage (celebrating 32 of service to the community). Participants will interact with the community, engaging in English language practice, technology tutoring, and shared artistic endeavors. Lunch will be shared with everyone at the center. In the afternoon, we will visit Red Beach, and have a ceremony for those souls who arrived here on March 8, 1965, but did not return after 1975. We will partake in a candlelight vigil led by the Buddhist Monks on Da Nang beach.

DAY SEVEN: Spiritual Tour: Heaven & Earth

After departing Da Nang, will drive to the Imperial City of Hue. Along the way, we will cross the majestic Hai Van Pass with its spectacular landscapes and views. There, participants will have the opportunity for exploration, hiking, and shopping. After a group lunch we will check into the Huong Gian Hotel Perfume River for some much-needed R & R. In the afternoon there will be a walking tour of the The Citadel, home of the last Vietnamese King of the Bao Dai Dynasty. We will enjoy the group dinner and enjoy some traditional singing on Perfume River. Overnight in Hue.

DAY EIGHT: Cultural Immersion

We will visit the oldest pagoda of Tu Hieu, where Thay Thich Nhat Hanh started his monkhood at the age of seven and now serves as one of the premier mindfulness centers in the world. There, participants will be able to sample the vegetarian cuisine at Tu Hieu Temple. From there, we will journey to Truong Son Martyr's Cemetery where we will experience a traditional Vietnamese ceremony to communicate with spirits. Free time for dinner.

DAY NINE: Visit to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)

We will cross the famed Hien Luong Bridge at the Ben Hai River where the 17th parallel divided Vietnam into two countries from July 1954 through July 1976. We will tour the famed US military sites from the war including the Marine hilltop base at Khe Sanh, the Rock Pile observation post, the bridge at Dong Ha and the North Vietnamese Tunnel complex at Vinh Moc. Overnight stay in Quang Binh.

DAY TEN: Ecological Tour

Enjoy a boat ride and visit Phong Nha Cave and Paradise Ke Bang National Park - a UNESCO site characterized by beautiful mountains, tropical forests, and underground rivers – renowned for its ancient limestone karsts and vast network of many caves.

DAY ELEVEN: Village of Hope

During our final time together with Le Ly Hayslip, we will visit Ba Na Hills and enjoy a special farewell dinner with a complete with traditional music and a cultural dance demonstration performed by the children at the Village of Hope.

DAY TWELVE: Free Day!

Rest and relax on the beach or catch up on some souvenir shopping. Optional opportunity to meet with a group of authorities in Da Nang city for a Q-A session.

DAY THIRTEEN:

Transport to the airport.