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**Catalyst Foundation Vietnam Cultural Tour  
November 10, 2021**

In response to the numerous inquiries concerning travel to Vietnam, I will provide the most current information that I can find and update it accordingly. I am closely monitoring the official announcements from Vietnam's Ministry of Immigration, as well as World Health Organization (<https://www.who.int/travel-advice>) regarding international travel allowances and requirements to Vietnam during the COVID pandemic. As many of you know, Catalyst Foundation sponsors a highly popular "Cultural Tour" of Vietnam and we are very excited to resume this as soon as possible. That said, here is some important information:

- Vietnam has suspended the entry of ALL foreigners since March 22, 2020, until further notice to limit the spread of COVID-19. This measure does not apply to diplomats, officials, foreign investors, experts, and skilled workers. Those applicants that do get approved for entry into the country have had to quarantine from 7-21 days (I personally quarantined for 14 days).  
(<https://vn.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/local-resources-of-u-s-citizens/vietnamese-visas-and-entry-exit/>)
- There are currently several international or chartered flights that are being advertised and sold; HOWEVER, please note that they are ONLY for repatriated approved Vietnamese citizens and/or pre-approved foreign experts that are sponsored by their employer.

Currently these are the only 2 categories that are allowed to enter Vietnam. There are no commercial flights even if you find them online. I am aware of many people losing thousands of dollars because they have purchased non-refundable flights from airlines that are trying to recoup lost revenue because of the pandemic.

- Once one has been pre-approved and have been selected for a flight into the country, upon entry there are MANDATORY quarantine requirements regardless of your vaccination status.
- Domestic flights within Vietnam are also limited and there are MANDATORY vaccinations requirements that limit movement to/from provinces and within cities.
- Since 2020, countless numbers of hotels, restaurants and tourist sites have temporarily closed, gone out of business and/or have not announced their future. I would not trust any website that is allowing current or future reservations unless you have someone local that can walk into the establishment to confirm that they are indeed open. Sadly, many of my own favorites have gone out of business.
- The latest government proposal concerning reopening does not start until 2022 and is based by country, vaccine rates and Covid19 statistics. Everything is very fluid and changes constantly, but this proposal will allow tourists from the USA to enter Vietnam in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2022. This may change and the future remains hopeful.

As soon as I am allowed to resume travel throughout Vietnam, I will begin the process of evaluating hotels, restaurants, and cultural sites to access where the Cultural Tour will go. I feel that the tour will change dramatically from the previous version, but we will still provide the best experience for all.

As it stands now, I cannot estimate the price for the tour. Everything has changed, if you reflect upon the current state of the U.S.A., everything is more expensive than 2019. The prices for fuel have risen, the prices for food have risen, the prices for services have risen. That is the current state of the world as well. As soon as I can, I will provide a realistic



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estimate for the price of the tour, please be patient and remember that will only be an ESTIMATE. I cannot confirm anything.

Catalyst Foundation has a unique advantage to assist you with your travel and Cultural Tour plans. We have worked in Vietnam for 21 years doing humanitarian, community development work. We also have 21 years of connecting adoptive families that have children from Vietnam with their birthplace, with orphanage visits in every province, and have the unique skillset of coordinating transportation, providing translators, and bridging those gaps.

I have 10 years running the Vietnam Cultural Tour in every major city, exposing families to the best that is offered, as well as the beauty and majesty that is Vietnam.

I am looking forward to and hopeful for the time when these tours will resume. Again, there is not a set date for when Vietnam will be "open" or when tourists will be able to travel as before.

As COVID-19 has changed so many things in the world, so has it changed our Cultural Tour. I am proud to announce that I will be able to provide private, small, guided, and personalized tours for your family throughout Vietnam. Again, when I know, YOU will be the 1<sup>st</sup> to know.

Thank you for your patience,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Caroline Ticarro", written over a thin horizontal line.

Caroline Ticarro  
Founder & Executive Director  
Catalyst Foundation