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Objet : Retrouvailles JJR-MC in Vietnam 2016

Dear friends,

This is finally the program we've put together for the JJR-MC Retrouvailles 2016 in Vietnam. Some unforeseen problems had caused the event to be delayed but it's back on course. We think the gala and tours are quite fun and interesting and we hope you will be able to attend even with such short notice.

CVan oi, since I don't have all the addresses, can you forward this mail to everybody in your mailing lists? To all friends, please feel free to add friends that are missing.

1- The recommended hotel in Saigon will be the Oscar (4*) hotel on Nguyen Hue. It's centrally located on a pleasant and lively street. You can book a standard room (no window) for \$36/night on agoda.com (<https://www.agoda.com/vi-vn/oscar-saigon-hotel/hotel/ho-chi-minh-city-vn.html?checkin=2016-11-10&los=3&adults=2&rooms=1&cid=-1&searchrequestid=181d92ee-d71c-447c-8c46-7d1873460690>) or a premium room for \$48, a special deal with Mr. Phi, Oscar hotel's GM. Prices include breakfast.

2- Friday Nov 11, 2016: Gala diner at Khu du lịch Văn Thánh with live band, singers, dancing, soft drinks. Price: 55\$/person

3- Sat Nov 12: Son Ha invites all of us to his rather large property in Vung Tau. We could use of the facilities of Lan Rung Resort across the street (beaches, swimming pool, showers, restaurants...). Estimated transportation sharing cost: \$10-\$13/person. For lunch we can decide between eating at Lan Rung (\$10-15/per), Cô Ba Vũng Tàu (bánh xèo, bánh khọt - \$5-6/per)) or gỏi cá mai (a preparation of small fish to be rolled with lettuce and herbs in bánh tráng and dipped in a very special sauce - uummm, unique - my favorite place - \$5-6/per)

4- Sun Nov 13: Free time in Saigon. Une bonne occasion pour déguster ou redécouvrir les meilleures spécialités de Saigon. Bính, Hà and I have enough addresses to recommend.

5- Mon Nov 14 to Thu Nov 17: 4 days-3 nights to Da Nang-Hoi An-Hue (see detailed itinerary below), all meals included, 4* hotels double or triple occupancy. Price: \$210/person. Estimated A/R plane ticket: \$100-120. We are quite fortunate, Nov 14 happens to be a "rằm" (full moon) day and electricity in downtown Hoi An will be off: candles, lanterns, floating "hoa đăng" on the river, quite a spectacle.

6- Thu Nov 17: Back to Saigon

7- Fri Nov 18 to Sun Nov 20: Trip to Côn Đảo. Recommended resort: Con Dao Sea Travel Resort (<https://www.agoda.com/vi-vn/con-dao-sea-travel-resort/hotel/con-dao-islands-vn.html?asq=nLnFe1rWDqldVsvfMtMk7r0MZx89mawRE5g5F2TXp0N1vSNck%2bgLDhZX8%2bAJCuodpgbvCnxq3nvyPS6m1DjyGqer%2bZnCMYUbxh2RDTipaZq8L4PEWAY7M3IEtI06QAe1XYom7OnoF%2b40fQdvNP0e%2bJpvP0o%2bF%2fE7arx0Nquvf8fjzeEPq9%2fA27btjLO1JkUSS4gxqhCK1c7D03WIIXFXfg%3d%3d&cid=1606957&checkin=2016-09-25&checkout=2016-09-26&tick=636098323141>), Price (bungalow on the beach): +/- \$50/night double occupancy. A/R plane ticket +/- \$180. Fishing and diving trip: +/- \$20/person. Island tour: +/- \$10/person. Meals are not included.

I originally thought about going to Phú Quốc but the bus trip to Rạch Giá is too long (7 hrs) + ferry (1 1/2 hrs) and there's nothing very special there since the best beaches have been seized by the big hotels chains. So I think Con Dao is more interesting and November is the end of the rainy season there.

8- Sun Nov 20: Return to Saigon. Nguyễn Văn Hoàng Nam can go visit his family in Hanoi now!!!

Voilà, we hope that the program is meaningful and enticing enough to encourage you to rearrange your busy retirement schedule to make the trip. We'd greatly appreciate if you could confirm at the latest by Oct 16, 2016. We thank you in advance.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Bính (binglee@gmail.com), Sơn Hà (nguyensonha@hotmail.com) or me. We can also have phone SIM card with internet connection available on demand.

PS: Cô nương Mỹ Linh, I absolutely expect you to come.

See you all soon,

Bach V. Pham

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