

### **Vietnam & Cambodia**

November 2012

Tour Cost: \$ TBD

Lying on the Indochinese peninsula, Vietnam borders with China to the North; Laos and Cambodia to the West and looks out to the sea in the East and the South. It is a country with immense geographic and cultural diversity. The country's varied climate and landscape range from four seasons in the mountainous North, to year-round tropical temperatures in the lush South. During your trip to Vietnam, you can look forward to, beautiful beaches, exotic evergreen islands and floating markets. You can also expect to see ancient temples, pagodas, palaces, royal tombs and many more historical landmarks and thrilling attractions.

Next destination - Cambodia, which after decades of isolation finally opened its doors to visitors in the late 1990s. With its, fascinating history, rich culture and exotic World Heritage Centers, Cambodia is fast becoming one of the top destinations in South East Asia. During the trip, you will witness the Bayon towers decorated with more than 200 enigmatically smiling stone faces, the Banteay Srey, the Terrace of Elephants and the legendary Angkor Wat.

Both the Vietnamese and Cambodian people have been to hell and back. They were occupied and subject to periods of horrific violence, yet they have somehow emerged with their smiles intact and offer one of the warmest welcomes in Asia.



#### **Tour price includes:**

- Accommodations, room tax
- All sightseeing tours and transfer services
- English-speaking locally-stationed guides
- Entrance fees

#### **Not included:**

- International airfare and tax
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance
- Visa: \$ 75 estimate
- Tips: \$ 75 estimate
- Optional Single Supplement: \$ TBD

# Itinerary:

## USA – DEPART FROM USA

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### Day 1:

Fly from USA to Singapore

## SINGAPORE

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### DAY 2:

Transit in Singapore

No meals are included.

## HO CHI MINH CITY

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### DAY 3:

Upon arrival, a guide will transfer and accompany guests to the hotel.

Ho Chi Minh City previously known as Saigon, is home to nine million people and is very much the heart of Vietnam's market economy. And yet for all this modernity, the city's core is still adorned with wide elegant boulevards and historic French colonial buildings. In Cholon, Saigon's Chinatown, dozens of elegant temples and pagodas can be seen.

All meals are included. Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

## HO CHI MINH CITY

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### DAY 4:

This city tour explores Ho Chi Minh City's turbulent past and preserved cultural treasures.

We will be visiting:

- Reunification Palace - preserved almost exactly as it was in April 1975, when its gates were stormed and the war ended
- War Remnants Museum - the largest war museum in Vietnam, it includes documentation of weaponry, Agent Orange photography and reconstructed POW camps
- Notre Dame Cathedral and the Old Post Office - classic French architecture from the 19th century
- Ben Thanh Market - extensive selection of goods ranging from shoes to beautiful silk ao dais (traditional Vietnamese dress). Bargaining is the norm.

All meals are included. Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

## HO CHI MINH CITY – CU CHI TUNNELS

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### DAY 5:

We leave Ho Chi Minh City by vehicle to the Cu Chi Tunnels. Upon arrival, guests will watch a short introductory video on the construction of the tunnels. The next hour is spent exploring the maze of tunnels, accompanied by the guide.

All meals are included. Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

## HO CHI MINH CITY – MEKONG DELTA CRUISE

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### DAY 6:

Drive out from the hotel at 08:00 am and board the Cai Be Princess at around 10:00am for a one day cruise excursion. The tour will start with the visit of Cai Be colorful floating market. The trip continues along the Mekong canals to Dong Hoa Hiep Island located between Vinh Long and Cai Be. During the cruise you will discover beautiful landscapes along the river and observe the typical Mekong delta rural life. Lunch awaits you at Le Longanier restaurant at La Residence de Phu An Resort, a superb Indochine style resort. After a short walk along a narrow canal, the excursion will end at around 15:30pm where the vehicle is waiting to transfer you back to Ho Chi Minh City.

All meals are included. Overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

## HO CHI MINH - HUE

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### DAY 7:

Hue was the Vietnamese capital during the Nguyen Dynasty 1802-1945 and ruins of the city's regal past can still be seen inside the Citadel and the Imperial City. Created in the 19th century, the Imperial City was modelled on the Forbidden City in Beijing and holds many palaces and temples inside its giant walls.

The tour begins with a trip into the surrounding countryside to see the final resting place of the Emperors at three of the most impressive Royal Tombs: Khai Dinh, Minh Mang and Tu Duc. Then we take a boat ride on Perfume River to Thien Mu Pagoda and Truong Tien Bridge. In the evening, we will enjoy a royal dinner with traditional music.

All meals are included. Overnight in Hue.

## HUE – HOI AN

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### DAY 8:

Depart at 09:00am from the hotel. This morning, continue south to the riverside town of Hoi An. The five hour trip hugs the coastline along the South China Sea with breathtaking views particularly as the road winds its way up Hai Van Pass ("Pass of the Clouds"). Upon arrival into Hoi An, check in to the hotel and the rest of the day is free to explore or relax at leisure.

All meals are included. Overnight in Hoi An.

## HOI AN – MY SON

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### DAY 9:

One of five World Heritage listed sites in Vietnam, My Son is a must-see for architecture and history enthusiasts. The complex is comprised of seventy Hindu-like towers and temples dating from the second century. Hinduism heavily

influenced the Cham religion and many of the temples are dedicated to Cham divinities, including Shiva. Following lunch, enjoy a half day walking tour through the narrow winding streets of the Ancient Quarter visiting Chua Ong Pagoda, Assembly Hall, 200-year-old Tam Ky house and the Japanese Covered Bridge.

All meals are included. Overnight in Hoi An.

## HOI AN – HALONG BAY CRUISE

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### DAY 10:

In the morning take the early flight to Hanoi, drive to Halong Bay (3.5 hours), with a refreshment break en route. Board 'Paradise' junk on Tuan Chau Island and meet the crew. Enjoy a welcome cocktail and Asian buffet lunch while admiring the beautiful bay scenery. Spend the day cruising around the UNESCO heritage-listed bay. In the afternoon the group explores a famous limestone grotto and traditional fishing village.

Go kayaking or swimming (weather permitting) or relax on the sundeck and enjoy the sunset over the islands as the boat arrives at its anchorage for the evening. Dinner is a freshly prepared seafood feast and the evening entertainment includes movies, board games or spa treatments.

All meals are included. Overnight onboard Cruise.

## HALONG BAY – HANOI

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### DAY 11:

Awake to morning tai chi and a buffet breakfast and cruise to Ti Top - one of the most beautiful beaches of the bay. Climb 400 steps up to the top of the island and capture a breathtaking panoramic view of the bay before cruising back to Tuan Chau Island, arriving at 10.30am. Meet up with the vehicle for the drive back to Hanoi, arriving at 14:30pm.

All meals are included. Overnight in Hanoi.

## HANOI

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### DAY 12:

Spend a day taking in Hanoi's essential sites:

- The Temple of Literature - Vietnam's first university
- Museum of Ethnology - life-size structures dedicated to Vietnam's 54 ethnic minority peoples
- A one-hour cycle tour through the tiny, chaotic streets of the Old Quarter - a must for any visitor to Hanoi.

- A traditional performance of the famous Vietnamese water puppets

All meals are included. Overnight in Hanoi

## HANOI

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### DAY 13:

The day begins at 9am with a guided walk around a local market. Here the group learns about traditional ingredients and Vietnamese herbs and spices.

At 10am start cooking with hands-on instructions in a small group. Afterwards, sit down and enjoy the meal the group has just prepared! (Class details is subject to change)

In the afternoon, we will visit:

- Ho Chi Minh Complex including the Mausoleum (only can be viewed from the outside in the afternoon), his former stilt-house residence, the Presidential Palace and the Ho Chi Minh Museum
- Hoa Lo Prison

All meals are included. Overnight in Hanoi.

## HANOI – SIEM REAP

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### DAY 14:

You are transferred from the hotel to the airport for your flight. Upon arrival at Siem Reap airport, you are greeted by our guide and then transferred to hotel. Free at leisure.

All meals are included. Overnight in Siem Reap.

## SIEM REAP – ANGKOR COMPLEX

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### DAY 15:

Begin your day at the South Gate of Angkor Thom, and then explore the centerpiece of this ancient city, the Bayon. The Bayon holds 54 towers decorated with more than 200 enigmatically smiling stone faces. The morning tour also visits the Royal Enclosure, Phimeanakas, the Terrace of Elephants and Terrace of Leper Kings, as well as Ta Prohm Temple, made famous by the movie Tomb Raider.

Afterwards, enjoy a relaxed lunch in Siem Reap before heading to the famous Angkor Wat – best preserved of all the Angkor temples. You have time for a thorough exploration before heading back to the hotel.

All meals are included. Overnight in Siem Reap

## **SIEM REAP – BANTEAY SREY – PHNOM PENH**

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### **DAY 16:**

Rise early to witness a beautiful sunrise over Sra Srang Royal Pond. After breakfast, you'll explore the exquisite Banteay Srey, "Citadel of the Woman", home to some of the finest examples of classical Khmer art, followed by a tour of Banteay Samre. Free at leisure until your transfer to airport for your short flight to Phnom Penh. On arrival at Phnom Penh airport, you are met and transferred to airport. Free at your leisure.

All meals are included. Overnight in Phnom Penh

## **PHNOM PENH**

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### **DAY 17:**

Our guide will show you all the highlights of this bustling, vibrant city, including the fascinating Royal Palace, the Silver Pagoda, and the National Museum. You can climb the hill to Wat Phnom, the city's main temple, where you'll find throngs of worshippers. In the afternoon, you can visit the sobering and poignant Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, which documents the atrocities of the Khmer Rouge against the Cambodian people. Then you may wish to visit the colorful stalls of the vast Central Market.

All meals are included. Overnight in Phnom Penh

## **PHNOM PENH – DEPARTURE**

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### **DAY 18:**

Free at leisure until your transfer to airport for your own departure flight.

PLEASE NOTE that tour ends in Phnom Penh. So we need to arrange deviation on Singapore Airlines for return from Phnom Penh, which may have an additional charge

# World Affairs Council of Houston

Vietnam & Cambodia, November 2012

## Traveler Information (one form for each traveler)

Last:	First:	M.I.:	
Address:	City:	State:	ZIP:
Day Phone:	Email:		
Emergency contact (name, phone):			
Passport number:		Expiration date:	
Location issued:		Date of birth:	Citizenship:

## Tour Cost

Basic tour cost	\$ TBD	Terms: 1. Deposit of \$500 due 8/15/12 2. Deposit fully refundable up to 90 days before departure 3. Balance due 10/01/12 4. Balance partially refundable up to 45 days before dep. 5. Tips for guide, driver and bag handlers due 11/01/12
International airfare * (estimated)	\$ 1,500.00	
Air taxes TBD		
Single supplement (\$ TBD)		If sharing a room, with whom?:
Tips (estimated)	\$ 75.00	* Flights - you are welcome to make your own flight arrangements as long as you provide us with your flight itinerary and arrive no later than the tour group.
Total Charges (estimated)		

## Payment Information

Circle one: Master Card - American Express - Visa - Check	Amount: \$ 500.00	
CC #:	Exp date:	CVS code: (required)
Name (print as it appears on card):		
Signature:		
Do you have a theme, focus, or particular area of interest that you would like to study during the trip?		

**Important note:** Please include a color photocopy of your passport & health insurance card

Mail to:  
World Affairs Council of Houston  
PO Box 920905  
Houston, Texas 77292-0905

or Fax: (713) 522-7812

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Health information for

Name:

Are you healthy enough to travel internationally and keep pace with an agenda that includes

Some stairs  
moderates walks  
mountain trails  
this is considered moderate activity level

Do you have any medical conditions that should be known?

Please list any medications that you currently take

Do you have any allergies?

Your doctors name and phone number

Your health insurance plan

Who to contact in case of emergency