

The Alumni Association Travel Program LLC

Presents

Southeast Asian Odyssey - Vietnam & Cambodia

March 6 – 15, 2024

\$5,695 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago



This is an exclusive travel program presented by the Alumni Association Travel Program LLC

Day by Day Itinerary

Wednesday, March 6 – CHICAGO / EN ROUTE (I)

We depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport late this evening by scheduled service of EVA Airways on the non-stop transpacific flight to Taipei, Thailand.

Thursday, March 7 – EN ROUTE (I)

During our flight we cross the "International Date Line" and therefore our arrival in Taipei will be on Friday, March 8.

Friday, March 8 – TAIPEI / HO CHI MINH (I,D)

On arrival at Taoyuan International Airport this morning we change planes for the connecting flight to Ho Chi Minh. Known as Saigon prior to 1975, today Ho Chi Minh is Vietnam's commercial capital and is fast becoming the nation's window to the world. Although Ho Chi Minh has rapidly developed into a modern city, there are still remnants of its past visible in the historic landmarks and beautiful French colonial buildings dotted throughout the city. Upon arrival, we'll meet our Tour Guide, who will accompany us on tour, and begin our introduction to Vietnam.

Saturday, March 9 – HO CHI MINH

(Cu Chi Tunnels) (B,L)

This morning we travel northwest of Ho Chi Minh to tour the **Cu Chi tunnels**, an immense network of connecting underground tunnels that are part of a much larger network of tunnels that underlie much of the country. The Cu Chi tunnels were the location of several military campaigns during the Vietnam War and were the Viet Cong's base of operations for the Tet Offensive in 1968. Preserved as a memorial park, two sections of this remarkable network are open to the public. We'll visit the area at Ben Dinh, where there is an option to go below the surface and visit sections of the tunnels first-hand.

This afternoon we'll enjoy an introductory tour of Ho Chi Minh's historic landmarks. We'll begin with a visit to the **Reunification Palace**. Set on well-maintained and spacious grounds, this historic building was assured its place in history on April 30, 1975, when the first North Vietnamese tanks rumbled past, signaling the Fall of Saigon and ultimately the end of the Vietnam War. Nearby we'll also visit **Notre Dame Cathedral**, a 19th-century cathedral covered with red ceramic tiles shipped in from France, which serves as a popular backdrop for wedding photographs. Across the street is the city's striking French colonial-era Post Office, and the former Hôtel de Ville, officially Ho Chi Minh's City Hall. Before leaving the area around Dong Khoi Street in District 1 we'll tour the **Museum of Vietnamese History**. Built in a classic pagoda style, the museum contains an excellent series of exhibits dating from the Bronze Age to the Nguyen dynasty, the last ruling family of Vietnam. Our day of touring ends following a visit to the unforgettable **Jade Emperor Pagoda**. With the pungent smell of incense hanging heavy in the air, this Taoist temple is one of the most atmospheric places of worship in the city.

Sunday, March 10 – HO CHI MINH (Mekong Delta) (B,L)

Today we travel to the Mekong Delta, a rich fertile region of



farmland interlaced with countless waterways crisscrossed by low-lying rice paddies. As we'll soon learn, life in the Mekong Delta continues much as it has done for centuries. We'll visit Ben Tre, one of the lesser-visited provinces in the Mekong Delta, and cruise along the Ham Luong River, visiting small factories that provide an insight into how the local economy works. Stops will include a brickworks; a salt refinery; coconut processing workshop; as well as a mat weaving house, where straw mats are woven using a hand loom – you can even have a go at weaving yourself!

Monday, March 11 – HO CHI MINH / SIEM REAP (B,D)

Today we depart Ho Chi Minh and Vietnam as we take to the skies for Cambodia. Our destination is Siem Reap, a charming provincial town defined by a cluster of villages, Chinese-style shop houses, and French-colonial architecture. However, Siem Reap may be best known as the gateway to the Temples of Angkor. Designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1992, the Angkor Archaeological Park encompasses dozens of temple ruins whose artistic and archaeological significance and visual impact place it alongside other wonders of the world.

Tuesday, March 12 – SIEM REAP (Angkor Thom, Ta Prohm & Angkor Wat) (B,L)

This morning begins with a visit to **Angkor Thom**, the ancient royal city of the Khmer Empire. Located in the heart of the complex is the Bayon, one of the city's most extraordinary structures, epitomizing the "lost civilization" of Angkor. Then we're headed to picturesque **Ta Prohm**. This temple is considered Angkor's most beautiful structure and is overgrown with fig trees, giving a haunting yet exotic atmosphere.

After lunch, we'll visit the most famous of all temples on the Angkor plain. **Angkor Wat**, which literally means "the city which is a Temple" is the best preserved example of Khmer

architecture in Cambodia and is so grand in design that some rank it among the Seven Wonders of the World. The “lost city” of Angkor first attracted the interest of Europeans in the 1800s after Cambodia was colonized by the French. Today, Angkor Wat continues to draw thousands of visitors anxious to see this remarkable ancient temple.

Wednesday, March 13 – SIEM REAP

(Kampong Phluk)

(B,L)

Today we travel to Kampong Phluk to learn about the lives of the Cambodian people who live on the edge of Tonle Sap Lake. The community is actually a cluster of three villages of stilted houses built within the giant floodplain of the Tonle Sap. We’ll board a boat and weave our way through the narrow village channels of Southeast Asia’s largest freshwater lake that is the lifeblood of rural life in Cambodia. Flooded mangrove forests surround the area and are home to a large variety of wildlife. As part of our tour, we’ll visit a market to witness the sale of fresh produce being traded by the locals who have been trading in this way for many years.



After lunch and before returning to Siem Reap, we’ll visit the remote temple complex of Banteay Srei. Unlike most other monuments in Angkor, **Banteay Srei** is not a royal temple. The ‘Citadel of Women’ is cut from stone of a pinkish hue that features some of the finest stone carving anywhere on earth. We’ll also visit lesser known **Banteay Samre**, a Hindu temple built in the Angkor Wat style named after the Samré, an ancient people of Indochina.



Thursday, March 14 – SIEM REAP / HO CHI MINH (B)

Today we say “lee hi” to Siem Reap and Cambodia as we once again take to the skies on our return to Ho Chi Minh’s Tan Son Nhat International Airport. Upon arrival, we’ll transfer to our downtown hotel in preparation for the following days transpacific journey home.

Friday, March 15 – HO CHI MINH / CHICAGO (B,I)

This morning we return to Suvarnabhumi International Airport in preparation for the journey home. No better time to reflect on memories of our *Southeast Asian Odyssey* to last a lifetime and celebrate the beginning of new friendships made along the way!

*** Welcome Home ***

Visit myniu.com to make your reservation.

The Tour Price Includes:

- Pre-trip assistance.
- Informational packet.
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience.
- Airline transportation by scheduled service of EVA Airways, Cambodia Angkor Air and Vietnam Airlines.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Tour Guide.
- Accommodations in a first-class hotel.
- All meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portorage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotels.
- Airline taxes and fuel surcharge, and all taxes for included ground services.
- Vietnam and Cambodia entry visas.

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as passport fees and destination entry requirements for non-U.S. Passport holders; luggage handling at airports; gratuities to the Motor Coach Driver(s), Tour Guide, and Step-on Guide(s); meals other than those stated above; drinks with meals other than breakfasts; and Travel Protection.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TRAVEL PROGRAM LLC

PROGRAM TOUR CONDITIONS

Tour Deposit and Payment: Reservation deposits and payments may be made by check. Tour prices increase every year. Therefore, please note that price increases could occur after the printing of this brochure and in advance of your tour's departure

Tour Pricing: This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated, and additional charges may be assessed.

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your tour investment from tour cancellation/interruption penalties and to provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial tour deposit can make you eligible for (1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and (2) Optional Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Plus and Elite Options). If you wish to take advantage of these special options, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial tour deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387 or my.travelinsure.com/niu. Considering recent global events, including without limitation, the global pandemic, it is strongly recommended that all travelers purchase additional insurance to protect their travel purchase.

No Liability: By participating in this Program, you understand and agree that the Alumni Association Travel Program LLC ("AATP") and its affiliates, related entities, officers, directors, attorneys, trustees, beneficiaries, insurers, employees, managers, members, volunteers, students, agents, other representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns are not responsible for any liabilities, claims, causes of action, damages, fees, costs, and expenses of any kind relating to any tour cancellation, tour interruption and/or delay; baggage loss, theft, damage, or delay; accident and/or sickness medical expenses, accidental death; and worldwide emergency medical evacuation and assistance arising out of or in any way related to this Program.

RESPONSIBILITY

AATP does not conduct the tours and does not act as agent for any participants interested in tours. AATP acts solely as a facilitator with independent tour operators, with whom tour participants directly make arrangements for completing travel. As a courtesy only, AATP acts as a liaison with tour operators should you have any questions or concerns that may arise before, during or after your tour. AATP strongly encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with all the tour operator's terms and conditions, including without limitation, their cancellation and refund policies. AATP strongly encourages you to investigate all available insurance options from third parties. AATP and its affiliates, related entities, officers, directors, attorneys, trustees, beneficiaries, insurers, employees, managers, members, volunteers, students, agents, other representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns are not responsible for any changes to trips or travel arrangements, or for any monetary losses or additional expenses of any kind arising out of or related in any way to your travel.

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Tour Operator. The tour operator, supplier of services, or their respective affiliates, officers, directors, trustees, employees, agents or other representatives (collectively "Tour Operator") shall not be responsible for or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation, for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond their control or occurring without their fault or negligence.

The Tour Operator reserves the right to:

1. Substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary.
2. Substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories.
3. Decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour.

No Refunds. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current Tariff and Exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based.

No Travel Carrier Liability. The travel carriers involved in this Program are not responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or other conveyance. The passage contract in use by any travel carrier, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the travel carrier and the purchaser of this Program tour.

For more information, contact our office at 815-753-2586 or visit the Travel section at myniu.com to make your reservation.

\$100 of the trip cost is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

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