

## Odysseys Vietnam Itinerary

November 17 – December 4, 2016

### **Thursday Day 1: Depart U.S. for Hanoi, Vietnam**

**Friday Day 2: Arrive Hanoi** We arrive in the Vietnamese capital late this evening then transfer to our hotel.

InterContinental Hanoi Westlake , Hanoi / Days 2-4 / Deluxe

**Saturday Day 3: Hanoi** This morning we take a walking tour of Ba Dinh Square, a popular complex of cultural and historic sites, including the marble and granite mausoleum of Ho Chi Minh, the Presidential Palace, and thousand-year-old One Pillar Pagoda. Following lunch on our own we embark on an orientation tour of this French-accented city with broad tree-lined boulevards and colonial architecture. We pass Hoan Kiem Lake; visit the marvelous Temple of Literature (c. 1070); and tour infamous Hoa Lo Prison, also known as the “Hanoi Hilton” during the Vietnam War. Tonight we gather at a local restaurant for a welcome dinner. **B,D**

**Sunday Day 4: Hanoi/Ha Long Bay** Early this morning we depart on a full-day excursion to Ha Long Bay, a breathtaking waterway sprinkled with 3,000 islands and islets, and surrounded by a fairytale landscape of limestone cliffs, secret grottoes, and hidden caves. Our tour includes a boat ride and seafood lunch. **B,L**

**Monday Day 5: Hanoi/Da Nang** In the morning, we walk the street’s of Hanoi’s Old Quarter. We fly mid-day to Da Nang, Vietnam’s third largest city situated on the south central coast. Upon arrival, we tour the acclaimed Cham Museum, which celebrates the Cham people’s Hindu legacy with a fine collection of sculpture and artifacts dating from the 7<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. After reaching our beachfront hotel, the remainder of the day is at leisure in this splendid setting. **B,D**

Hyatt Regency Danang , Da Nang / Days 5-7 / Deluxe

**Day 6: Da Nang/Hoi An** This morning we visit nearby Hoi An, where a succession of Dutch, Chinese, Portuguese, and Japanese traders helped to build an architecturally diverse and colorful village where many ancient traditions still hold sway. A UNESCO World Heritage site, Hoi An’s Old Town is a charming car-free pedestrian zone lined with tailors, shops, and art galleries. This afternoon is at leisure to either remain in Hoi An on your own or return to our beachside resort for a relaxing interlude. **B**

**Day 7: Da Nang** A morning walking tour of a nearby farming settlement reveals the daily life of a local community up close. Here rice paddies occupy every spare patch of ground, water buffaloes plow the fields, and villagers ride to market with produce piled high on their bicycles. Later we enjoy a cooking lesson and lunch in Hoi An. **B,L**

**Day 8: Da Nang/Hue** We depart this morning by coach for the ancient imperial city of Hue, whose palaces, temples, and tombs evoke its past grandeur as home to emperors and mandarins. We explore the Imperial City – enjoying a traditional cyclo ride along the way – housing the Forbidden Purple City complex where emperors lived with their families and now a UNESCO

World Heritage site. We also visit the Central Market where locals buy fish, meat, produce, and sundry goods. Tonight we enjoy a special Hue buffet, with traditional music. **B,D**

Saigon Morin , Hue / Days 8-9 / Superior First Class

**Day 9: Hue** This morning we cruise along Hue's Perfume River to peaceful Thien Mu Pagoda, a Buddhist monastery that ranks among the city's oldest and most important monuments. After admiring the seven-story octagonal tower, we visit the palatial Tomb of Ming Mang (c. 1804), with its pavilions and courtyards modeled after the Ming Tombs of China. This afternoon we see the tombs of Tu Doc, a gem of royal architecture; and Khai Dinh, an elaborate mix of ancient and modern, European and Asian. **B,L**

**Day 10: Hue/Mekong Delta/Can Tho** Today begins with an early morning flight to Saigon. Upon arrival we board a motorcoach for the three-hour drive south to the Mekong River town of Cai Be then on to the busy river port and provincial capital of Can Tho. **B,D**

Victoria Hotel , Can Tho (Mekong Delta) / Days 10-11 / Superior First Class

**Day 11: Can Tho/Mekong Delta** We rise early for today's journey by boat to the bustling floating market at Cai Rang on the Mekong's lower reaches. After lunch together at a local restaurant, the remainder of the day is at leisure. **B,L**

**Day 12: Mekong Delta/Saigon** An hour-long coach ride this morning brings us to the upper reaches of the storied Mekong. Here we board motorized sampans for an up-close look at river life as we explore the maze of tributaries and inlets that lead to tiny settlements and villages populated by fishermen and farmers. After lunch at a local restaurant we continue on by coach to Saigon (the name Ho Chi Minh City is used interchangeably). We reach our hotel late afternoon; dinner is on our own in this vibrant city. **B,L**

Sofitel Saigon Plaza , Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) / Days 12-14 / Deluxe

**Day 13: Saigon** A morning tour includes the former Presidential Palace, which served as the South Vietnamese government's wartime headquarters. Now called Reunification Palace, it was here that the first Communist tanks rolled into Saigon on April 30, 1975; it remains preserved as a museum almost exactly as it was on that day. We also tour the History Museum, with its excellent collection of art and artifacts of the indigenous peoples of Vietnam. Later we attend a traditional water puppet performance. **B,D**

**Day 14: Saigon** This morning we visit the Cu Chi Tunnels, the infamous underground network from which North Vietnamese forces operated in wartime. Tonight we enjoy a farewell dinner. **B,D**

**Day 15: Depart for U.S.[EXTENSION]** Following a day at leisure for independent exploration, late this evening we depart for the airport and our overnight flight to the U.S. Our rooms are reserved for our late check-out. **B**

**Day 16: EXTENSION**

**Day 17: EXTENSION – Night flight out of Siam Reap**

**Day 18: Arrive U.S.** We arrive in the U.S. and connect with our flights home.

**Post-Tour Extension**

*Cambodia: Angkor Wat*

3 days/2 nights for \$895 total price

Single Supplement: \$245

*A special opportunity to discover the amazing temples and statuary from the Angkorian Empire. UNESCO site and the world's largest religious monument.*

**Your Tour Price Includes**

- Air transportation Ho Chi Minh City/Siem Reap inclusive of airline taxes and departure fees
- 2 nights' accommodations in Siem Reap at Sofitel Angkor (Deluxe); rooms reserved for late check-out on third day (late evening flight)
  - Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra Golf and Spa Resort , Siem Reap / Extension / Deluxe
- 4 meals: 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners
- Three days' sightseeing of Angkor complex (UNESCO World Heritage site), including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited representative
- Private motorcoach transportation
- Gratuities for dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers