

Vietnam & Cambodia

July 6- Jul 20, 2017

This trip is designed for study abroad staff/counselors and potential faculty leaders who are interested in leading programs in South East Asia.

The purpose of the trip is to familiarize the participants with a variety of options for off-campus programs in each country. We will visit some of the travel highlights of each country and explore some of the unique educational options gleaned from more than 10 years of experience working with US colleges in Southeast Asia.

Itinerary

July 6: Departure USA for Hanoi.

Day 1-July 7: Arrive Hanoi and check in at May Deville Hotel (<http://maydevilleoldquarterhotel.com>)

May Deville hotel is located in the heart of Hanoi Old Quarter, just a block away from the Hoan Kiem Lake, within walking distance of the central business district and major local attractions, specialized craft streets and cafes and restaurants.

Day 2-July 8- Hanoi (B,L)

Hanoi City tour

Orientation, Hanoi Temple of Literature, Hochiminh Mausoleum, One-pillar pagoda, Ngoc Son temple, Opera house and Hoa Lo prison, Vietnam Museum of Ethnology, cyclo tour around Hoan Kiem lake.

Welcome lunch at Ngon Restaurant with local guest speaker about Vietnam overview and VN-US Relations (Dr. Can Van Luc).

Water puppet show

Dinner on your own.

Day 3 & 4 – July 9 & 10- Ha Long Bay (B,L,D)

3-hour bus drive to Ha Long bay, one of UNESCO world heritage sites. Check in for our Cruise.

You can choose to kayak, swim (or both) at Sung Sot grotto; a climb up to the top of the mountain on Titop island to enjoy the panoramic view of Ha Long Bay. Our afternoon ends with a sunset party and seafood dinner. You can relax and watch the sunset, or spend the evening squid fishing.

July 28-Bus drive back to HN after lunch. Dinner. Boarding overnight train to Dong Hoi

Day 5 – Jul 11- Dong Hoi (B,L,D)

Arrive Dong Hoi at 7.20am. Breakfast. Bus drive to Phong Nha or Paradise cave (UNESCO heritage site).

Designated a Unesco World Heritage site in 2003, the remarkable Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park contains the oldest karst mountains in Asia, formed approximately 400 million years ago. Riddled with hundreds of cave systems – many of extraordinary scale and length – and spectacular underground rivers, Phong Nha is a speleologists' heaven on earth.

Lunch at Phong Nha Lake House

Bus drive to Hue. Stop at DMZ and Vinh Moc tunnel

The Vietnamese Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) was established as a dividing line between North and South Vietnam as a result of the First Indochina War. We will visit Vinh Moc village being the underground village during the Vietnam war.

Check in at New Star Hue hotel. Group dinner

Day 6- Jul 12- Hue (B,L)

After breakfast, we will have a complete tour of Hue, the Vietnamese capital during the Nguyen Dynasty (1802-1945) and a well-known World Cultural Heritage Site. The Citadel and Imperial City still contain ruins of the city's regal past, including seven royal tombs built by the emperors themselves. We will view the Thien Mu pagoda (the oldest and most symbolic pagoda in Hue) and the royal tombs via a boat along the Perfume River.

Lunch: Biet Phu Thao Nhi

Dinner on your own.

Day 7- July 13- Hoi An (B,D)

3-hour bus drive to Hoi An along the South China Sea coastline, with breathtaking views, particularly as the road winds up to Hai Van Pass, better known as "Pass of the Clouds."

Hoi An walking tour around ancient charming town of Hoi An with many old temples and pagoda, restaurants and cafes

Cooking class and dinner at Red Bridge cooking school

Accommodation: TBA.

Day 8- Jul 14 – Hochiminh City (B,D)

Flight to HCMC

Lunch with local guest speaker (lunch is on your account)

City tour including war museum and Independent Palace

Dinner on river cruise

Day 9- Jul 15 – Cu Chi-Tay Ninh (B,L)

These tunnels of Củ Chi are an immense network of connecting underground tunnels located in the Củ Chi district of Ho Chi Minh City. The cramped tunnels were central to quite a few of the war's strategic operations, including the famous 1968 Tet Offensive. American B52 bombers dropped hundreds of bombs leaving huge craters behind in this area. The tunnels served not only as living quarters, but as supply routes and hospitals for thousands of guerrilla fighters. Many died there from malaria and other diseases.

We will have a picnic lunch and then visit the famous Cao Dai temple & its noon ceremony (www.nytimes.com/2012/05/13/travel/in-vietnam-the-cao-dai-temple-mixes-religions-and-styles.html)

After lunch we will drive toward the Moc Bai Border into Cambodia; by early evening, we will check into Harmony hotel in Phnom Penh.

Dinner on your own at one of many restaurants nearby.

Day 10- Jul 16- Phnom Penh (B)

City tour including visits to incredible Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda, and National Museum.

We'll have lunch and visit with staff members at the Daughters of Cambodia, an NGO that provides support to children working as sex workers. This organization offers training and education so they may have a life of safety, freedom and dignity.

Lunch and Dinner is on your own.

Ohana hotel, Phnom Penh

Day 11- Jul 17- Phnom Penh (B)

We will begin our day with a visit to the sobering S21 (Tuol Sleng) museum to learn about the Khmer Rouge genocide; the group will have a chance to talk to one of the seven survivors and see his cell at this prison.

Lunch will be at the Pho 24 restaurant, followed by a 30 minute bus ride to the Choeung Ek Killing field

and its excellent Genocide Museum.

Lunch and Dinner is on your own

Day 12 –Jul 18- Siem Reap (B,L)

Today we have a long bus ride to Siem Reap—but we will stop often to see interesting things, as we wind through the very fascinating country-side.

First, we have a chance to see the bustling provincial city of Kompong Cham, and then on to sample the local delicacy of deep-fried tarantulas at Skuon village! We will stop at Santuk Silk Farm to see how Cambodian silk is made, and have lunch there (lunch is included). Our drive will also take us through a stone masons' village and a walk across the ancient Praptos bridge (Naga bridge) before a 4-5:00 arrival in Siem Reap.

Once we are settled in the Central Boutique Hotel, we will have the evening to explore the fascinating Market and Pub Streets with many restaurants serving food from all over the world.

Day 13 – Jul 19 –Siem Reap (B,D)

Today we start early, with a trip to watch the sun rise on Angkor Wat (optional), back to the hotel for breakfast, and then return to visit to the Angkor Temples.

Lunch at Angkor Café (on your account)

Visiting Angkor Thom (Bayon) and Terrace of the Leper King.

Group Dinner with Apsara dancing show.

Day 14 – Jul 20- Siem Reap (B)

Today we complete the temple visits with Ta Prohm, Bantey Srei and an optional trek into Kbal Spean. Unlike most Angkor temples, Ta Prohm has been left in much the same condition in which it was found: the photogenic and atmospheric combination of trees growing out of the ruins and the jungle surrounding it have made it one of Angkor's most popular temples with visitors

Departure.

Package Price: \$1695/person. Single supplement is \$353.

Included:

- All local land transportation
- Domestic flight from Da Nang to Hochiminh city.
- Train ticket from Hanoi to Dong Hoi

- Meal as mentioned as B for breakfast, L for lunch, D for dinner
- Accommodation as twin or double sharing room
- All entrances fees to sites in itinerary.
- Private room on cruise on Halong bay
- One bottle of water everyday
- Approval for visa on arrival
- Water puppet ticket
- Tips for tour guides and drivers
- Remunerations for local guest speakers.
- Local English speaking tour guides
- Asia Academic Experience staff's company throughout the entire trip.

Excluded:

- Personal expenses
- Travel insurances
- International flight tickets
- Visa stamp fees
- International flight tickets to and from VN.