

# VIETNAM & CAMBODIA SECRETS OF INDOCHINA

YOUNG ALUMNI TOUR 2020



## BE PART OF THE TRADITION

OCTOBER 17 - U.S. DEPARTURE DATE

OCTOBER 18 - LAND TOUR START DATE

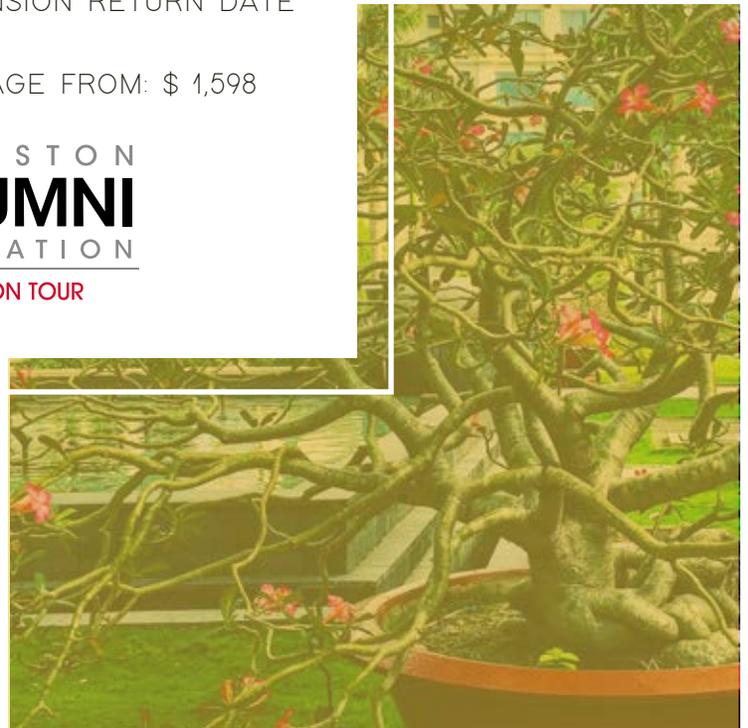
OCTOBER 25 - TRAVEL HOME

OCTOBER 28 - EXTENSION RETURN DATE

BASE LAND PACKAGE FROM: \$ 1,598

**UH** HOUSTON  
**ALUMNI**  
ASSOCIATION

COUGARS ON TOUR



# START YOUR ADVENTURE.

Dear Young Alumni and Friends!

Can you think of a better way to travel than with fellow Cougar Young Alumni?

The University of Houston Alumni Association young alumni travel program offers you this opportunity by bringing you together with individuals in the same age range, with similar backgrounds and experiences, while enriching you on well-designed, hassle-free tours of the world.

Travel with young alumni and friends of peer institutions, ages 20 - 35. These programs provide social, cultural, and recreational activities and many opportunities for learning enrichment and enjoying a connection back to the University of Houston. They are of great quality and value, operated by a travel company with over 40 years of experience in the young professional travel market. In this brochure you will find a detailed itinerary, travel dates and pricing.

If you have any questions about our young alumni travel program, please contact our tour operator, AESU Alumni World Travel, at [alumni@aesu.com](mailto:alumni@aesu.com) or call 800-638-7640.

Sincerely,



Mike Pede '89  
Associate VP for Alumni Relations  
University of Houston

 HOUSTON  
ALUMNI  
ASSOCIATION  
COUGARS ON TOUR



## TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend travel insurance. (Some schools or alumni associations may offer travel insurance to you at a reduced rate.) If not, AESU also offers group travel insurance. Ask our reservations agent for details or click on this link:

<https://www.tripassure.com/main/?welcome=AESU3922MD>

# VIETNAM & CAMBODIA

9 DAYS | PLUS OPTIONAL 3-NIGHT EXTENSION TO HA LONG BAY

## COUNTRIES VISITED:

Phnom Penh - Siem Reap, Cambodia - Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

## ABOUT THE TRIP:

Be enchanted by the lush beauty of Cambodia and the teeming excitement of bustling Phnom Penh. See the sights by tuk-tuk in Siem Reap and go deep into the jungle as we explore the mysterious 12th-century Angkor Wat. Peer into Vietnam's imperial past and descend into the Vietcong's Cu Chi tunnels. Indulge in the delicious cuisine, culture and heritage of these fascinating Indochinese countries.



## WHAT'S INCLUDED:

The 9-day land package includes:  
7 nights in superior tourist class hotels or better, 2-share rooms with private bath/shower \* One-way flight from Siem Reap to Ho Chi Minh City in economy class \* 7 continental breakfasts \* 1 Angkor Wat lunch \* 4 specialty dinners: Traditional Cambodian dinner, Siem Reap dinner, Vietnamese dinner & Saigon River cruise, Farewell pho dinner \* Welcome orientation in Phnom Penh \* Choeng Ek Memorial & Toul Sleng Museum \* Wat Phnom Buddhist Temple \* Siem Reap 'tuk tuk' trip \* UNESCO World Heritage Site Angkor Wat \* Banteay Srei Temples

## 3-NIGHT OPTIONAL HA LONG BAY HANOI EXTENSION INCLUDES:

2 nights on first class cruise ship with private bath/shower, 2-share cabins \* 1 night in superior tourist class hotels or better, 2-share rooms with private bath/shower \* Transfer from hotel in Hanoi to airport included with purchase of Halong Bay extension \* One-way economy class airfare from Ho Chi Minh City to Hai Phong \* Transfer from Halong Bay to Hanoi \* 3 breakfasts \* 1 brunch on board the 5-star cruise \* 2 specialty dinners as per itinerary \* Visit UNESCO World Heritage Site Ha Long Bay \* See Hanoi sights, such as One Pillar Pagoda, Temple of Literature.



# VIETNAM & CAMBODIA

## ITINERARY

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### DAY 1 - FLIGHT TO CAMBODIA

Our Indochina trip begins with an overnight flight to Phnom Penh, Cambodia; Kingdom of Wonder.

Meals: In-flight

### DAY 2 - LAND TOUR START DAY: PHNOM PENH

After arrival, transfer to your hotel. Take time to relax and unwind before our welcome orientation this evening. Begin to explore the unique French colonial architecture, palm-lined boulevards, majestic Khmer ruins and lush landscapes as you discover the indelible spirit of this exotic land.

Meals: In-flight

Inclusions: Transfer from airport to hotel included with purchased AESU group airfare, Welcome orientation

### DAY 3 - PHNOM PENH

Cambodia's capital is the perfect place to delve into the country's history and culture. Our morning city tour includes the ornate Royal Palace, the Silver Pagoda and the National Museum of Khmer Arts, with graceful statues of Hindu gods and ancient Sanskrit tablets. Later, we'll visit the hilltop Buddhist Temple, Wat Phnom, the Choeng Ek Killing Field Memorial, and the Tuol Sleng Museum, recounting the rise and fall of the Khmer Rouge in the 1970s. Cambodian food is Southeast Asia's oldest cuisine offering amazing curries, stir-fried lok lak, and savory noodle dishes. Experience tasty Khmer specialties at our dinner tonight.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: Guided city tour with local historian, Royal Palace, Silver Pagoda, National Museum of Khmer Arts, Buddhist Temple, Wat Phnom, Choeng Ek Killing Field Memorial, Tuol Sleng Museum, Traditional Cambodian dinner of Khmer specialties

### DAY 4 - PHNOM PENH - SIEM REAP

After breakfast, we drive to Siem Reap. En route, stop to visit the fascinating spider market and ancient Naga Bridge. Check in to our hotel early this afternoon with free time until our exciting 'tuk tuk' trip along the colorful riverside of Siem Reap. Our excursion includes a visit to a lively food market where locals gather to picnic with their families (Crispy crickets anyone?). Try out your negotiating skills as you shop for bargains before a traditional dinner this evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: Spider Market and Naga Bridge, Siem Reap 'tuk tuk' trip, Traditional Siem Reap Dinner

### DAY 5 - SIEM REAP - ANGKOR WAT

Ancient temples rise through the thick mysterious jungle as we visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Angkor Wat and Banteay Srei temples today. Angkor Wat is famous for its splendor and features the longest continuous bas-relief in the world narrating stories from Hindu mythology. It was originally constructed as a Hindu temple dedicated to the god Vishnu for the Khmer Empire, then gradually transformed into a Buddhist temple towards the end of the 12th century. After lunch at a local restaurant, we visit incredible Ta Prohm; the fortified city of Angkor Thom; the mysterious Bayon Temple; and the Terrace of the Leper Kings.



# VIETNAM & CAMBODIA

## ITINERARY

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Surrounded by the jungle, these ancient temples settle among enormous fig trees and giant creeper roots, slowly becoming reclaimed by the powerful forces of nature. Return to Siem Reap this evening.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: UNESCO World Heritage Site Angkor Wat, Banteay Srei Temple, Ta Prohm and Bayon Temple, Terrace of the Leper Kings, Traditional Angkor Wat Lunch

### DAY 6 - SIEM REAP - HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM

Board our short flight to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Upon arrival at Tan Son Nhat International Airport, we'll transfer to our hotel. Time permitting, opt to participate in a half day city tour. Sights include Notre Dame Cathedral, French-style Colonial Post Office, Jade Emperor Pagoda, the former Presidential Palace, and a visit to Ben Thanh market. Otherwise the remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. Join us for tonight's relaxing Vietnamese buffet dinner and sunset cruise on the Saigon River.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: One-way flight to Ho Chi Minh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnamese buffet dinner, Sunset cruise on the Saigon River

Optional activity: Half-day city sightseeing tour of Ho Chi Minh City

### DAY 7 - HO CHI MINH CITY - SAIGON

We depart early this morning on our excursion to the Cu Chi Tunnels. This is an incredible underground tunnel network of approximately 125 miles, built by Viet Cong, housing hideouts, hospitals and shelters. Afterwards, visit the local market of Cholon and bustling old town 'Saigon.' We'll also see the War Museum, featuring photographs and weapons of the Vietnam wars, as well as the original French 'Guillotine.' A free evening in Ho Chi Minh is perfect for night-owl revelers with a seemingly endless array of diversions from stunning rooftop bars and pulsating nightclubs, to fun night markets and street bars. Take your pick in the city that doesn't sleep.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Cu Chi Tunnels excursion, Market of Colon in old town 'Saigon,' War Museum

### DAY 8 - HO CHI MINH CITY

Enjoy today at your leisure shopping for souvenirs or join an optional excursion to the Mekong Delta where we take sampan boats through narrow jungle canals, fishing villages and floating markets. In the evening we are invited to a water puppet show, a unique Vietnamese art form performed in a large pool. At our farewell dinner, savor dishes from this thriving food scene with delicacies including pho and fresh seafood infused with fragrant herbs.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: Water puppet show, Farewell pho dinner

Optional activity: Mekong Delta excursion

### DAY 9 - TRAVEL HOME or HO CHI MINH CITY - HAI PHONG - HA LONG BAY CRUISE

For some of us, after breakfast our land program ends and we bid farewell to our new-found friends and fellow adventurers. For the rest of the group, we transfer to the airport for our flight to Hai Phong.



# VIETNAM & CAMBODIA

## ITINERARY

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Upon arrival, we travel to Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the world's most spectacular natural wonders. We board our cruise ship and enjoy a relaxing evening on board.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Inclusions: Transfer from hotel to airport included with purchase of Ha Long Bay extension - One-way flight to Hai Phong - 5-star overnight cruise - Lunch on board the cruise ship - Specialty dinner on board the cruise ship

### DAY 10 - HA LONG BAY CRUISE

Today, we cruise along the Bay and enjoy the picturesque scenery with some 2,000 limestone islands rising amazingly from the clear, emerald waters. The limestone karst formations are strewn with beaches, grottos and beautiful caves. Along the way we will anchor for a leisurely swim in a secluded cove and take an excursion to one of the many hidden grottos beneath the towering cliffs. Enjoy a leisurely dinner on board tonight with tranquil views of the bay and an unforgettable sunset from the upper deck

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Inclusions: Visit UNESCO World Heritage Site Ha Long Bay, 5-star overnight cruise, Lunch on board cruise ship, Specialty dinner on board the cruise ship

### DAY 11 - HA LONG BAY - HANOI

After brunch, we board our coach for the transfer to Hanoi. Hanoi, the capital city of Vietnam, is a stylish and gracious city that retains a unique old world charm and some of Asia's most striking colonial architecture. The many lakes and parks also create a relaxing atmosphere in this otherwise bustling city. Explore the city and visit the One Pillar Pagoda, the Temple of Literature (the first national university of Vietnam built in 1070), and the 'Hanoi Hilton' prison (where John McCain and other POWs were kept during the Vietnam War). Opt to join a fun 'Cyclo' rickshaw ride through the buzzing Old Quarter of Hanoi. During your free evening, soak up the nightlife from a plastic stool in the walking street district sampling steamed peanuts and exotic snacks, or go high-end at a famous jazz club or insane multi-level nightclub.

Meals: Brunch

Inclusions: Morning swim, Cruise ship brunch, Coach transfer to Hanoi, See One Pillar Pagoda, the Temple of Literature, the "Hanoi Hilton" Prison

Optional activity: 2-hour 'Cyclo' rickshaw ride

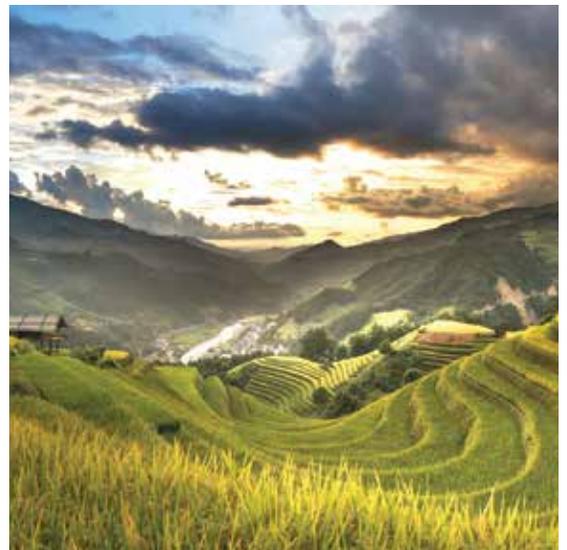
### DAY 12 - HANOI - TRAVEL HOME

This morning, we transfer to the airport for our flight home with dreams of returning to this land of enchantment soon.

Meals: Breakfast, In-flight

Inclusions: Transfer from hotel to airport included with purchased AESU group airfare

Your trip includes the services of a private tour director for the duration of the land tour. All services charges and local taxes are included. Thank your tour director and driver with a gratuity at the end of the tour (suggested amount \$4-5 per day for the tour director, \$2-3 per day for the driver.) They will do their very best to make this trip the most memorable and best time of your life.



# PROGRAM ACCOMMODATIONS

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## HOTELS

Our hotels are superior tourist-class or better, with private bathrooms. They are centrally located or have easy access to public transportation. Many have great extra amenities such as pools, gyms and roof-top bars. All land package rates are based on two people sharing a room. If traveling solo and not wanting to pay the single supplement, AESU will attempt to arrange a share with a same-gender traveler. If a share cannot be arranged a single supplement of \$195 (or \$590 if the optional extension is booked) will apply.



## ACTIVITY LEVEL 2: MODERATE

Standing and walking for extended periods of time during city tours, museum visits, and/or outdoor activities. Walking over sometimes difficult terrain (e.g. cobblestones, city hills, stairs without handrails, absence of elevators, climbing aboard buses or trains with high steps.) Appropriate for travelers who are physically fit, lead active lives and are comfortable participating in moderate activities.

Please Note:

Travel to and from the tour is not factored into our activity level ratings. You should take into account your stamina when traveling long distances and/or with multiple flight changes. Also, you must be able to handle your luggage independently throughout the itinerary.

## TOUR DIRECTORS

We are very proud of our tour directors. They are young professionals; multi-lingual and carefully selected graduates from major European universities. They are eager to show the world through the eyes of an adventurer. Our tour directors know this is a trip of a lifetime and will share their knowledge as well as interesting little-known facts. Our qualified tour directors and staff of local experts mean a trouble-free journey with the added security of group travel.



**“NOT ONLY WAS THIS AN AMAZING TRIP, IT WAS A WAKE UP CALL TO SEE THE WORLD.”**

- past traveler

# BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS

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**EXCLUSIONS:** These prices do not include passport and, if applicable, visa fees (Depending on your nationality, you may require visas in addition to a passport to enter certain countries. You must contact appropriate consulates for details on how to obtain on your own.); airport and government taxes; tipping of tour guide and driver (suggested \$4-5 per day for tour director, \$2-3 per day for driver); beverages with meals unless indicated otherwise; laundry; personal insurance; room service; telephone charges; all items of a personal nature; airport transfers when a participant deviates from scheduled flights or travel dates; private transportation; and all items not specifically stated in the itinerary.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** All cancellations must be received by AESU in writing. All cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a \$300 per person cancellation fee. Date of receipt will determine penalties assessed. In addition to \$300, cancellation between 60-31 days of departure will result in forfeiture of 35% of tour cost; between 30-16 days 50%. Cancellation within 15 days of departure or a "no-show" at the time of departure will result in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip.

AIRFARES are highly restrictive, NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-ENDORSABLE and NON-TRANSFERABLE once ticketed. Once reservation is booked and paid for AESU reserves the right to issue tickets. Once ticketed, airfare portion is non-refundable. Cancellation of airfare reservations is subject to restrictions, regulations and additional penalties of the airlines used. Reservation changes are also subject to penalties. Medical health and accident insurance is compulsory. PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO CANCELLATION POLICIES LISTED ABOVE DEPENDING ON TRIP DESTINATION.

**AIRPORT TRANSFERS & BAGGAGE:** All participants using AESU flights on regular group departure days and flights receive airport transfers (between airport & tour hotel) overseas. Land-Only participants (providing own flight overseas) do NOT receive airport transfers and must meet group at the first hotel after 3:00 p.m. on program start date. FLIGHT DELAYS - ALL AIRPORTS: In the event that airline schedule changes or delays force you to miss your airport transfer, just make your way to the first hotel listed on your hotel list. Many shuttle services are available as well as taxi or train options. As airline delays are beyond the control of AESU, additional expenses, if incurred, will be borne by the tour participant. (Save receipts for possible reimbursement by airline.) AESU is not responsible if an airline cancels, reschedules, or delays a flight for any reason. If you miss your departure flight, it is your responsibility to work with the airline on which you are ticketed to reach your destination. AESU is not responsible for any additional expenses you may incur prior to joining your trip. AESU is not responsible for and will not provide any refund for portions of trips missed due to canceled, rescheduled, or delayed flights. If you purchase your own airfare, book your overnight flight from the USA one day earlier than the tour start date listed on our website. Participants should limit themselves to one checked bag per person and one carry-on per person. Check your airline's website for any additional luggage restrictions. Liability is clearly stated on the passenger contract.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** The responsibility of AESU as a tour operator, their agents, and any sponsoring association is limited. They act only in the capacity of agents for the passenger in all matters pertaining to accommodations, sightseeing and transportation whether by railroad, motorboat, motorcar, steamship or plane, and as such they shall not be liable for any personal injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned, whether by reason of any defect in any vehicle, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger, or in carrying out the arrangement of the tour. They can accept no responsibility for strike, war, quarantine, weather and any other natural or unnatural causes. Additional expenses, if incurred under any of these circumstances, will be borne by the tour participant. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for himself/ herself or other passengers & accepts the terms of this contract. The right is reserved to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to cancel or alter the tour as required. If improvements in the itinerary can be made, or unforeseen conditions beyond AESU's control make changes necessary, they reserve the right to alter itineraries without penalty. Trip cancellation insurance should be purchased by the individual traveler in the event cancellation of the tour is compelled by circumstances beyond our control. In the event of cancellation due to insufficient number of participants, AESU's liability shall be limited to a FULL REFUND of all payments received from applicants, except non-refundable airfare and insurance. Baggage and personal injury are at owner's risk entirely. The issuance or acceptance of vouchers or tickets shall be considered consent of the above conditions. AESU reserves the right to increase the program price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, currency fluctuations or fuel surcharges. The airlines concerned and their affiliates and agents are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board the aircrafts. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or the passenger. All services are subject to the laws of the country in which these services are rendered. No refund or allowance will be made for absence during the tour, or for activities missed, even if for causes beyond the control of the participant. For complete terms & conditions, please refer to our web site at [www.aesu.com](http://www.aesu.com).