

The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts presents

# JOURNEY THROUGH VIETNAM

November 2-17, 2015

16 days for \$4,247 total price from Washington, D.C.

(\$3,695 air & land inclusive plus \$552 airline taxes and departure fees)



An Exclusive Small Group Tour for Members of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

# JOURNEY THROUGH VIETNAM

# 16 days for \$4,247 total price from Washington, D.C.

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In a land of breathtaking natural beauty, abiding tradition, and profoundly hospitable people, rewards abound for the thoughtful traveler. And in our flexible and congenial small group we encounter rewards aplenty on this comprehensive journey featuring all the highlights plus the beautiful, remote Mekong Delta, where we spend two days.



# **Your Small Group Tour Highlights**

Hanoi sightseeing ... Traditional water puppet performance ... Excursion to Ha Long Bay ... Imperial capital of Hue ... Charming Hoi An ... Acclaimed Cham Museum ... Visit to farming settlement ... Extensive Mekong Delta touring ... Floating markets at Cai Be and Cai Rang ... Saigon touring

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating		
1	Depart U.S. for Hanoi				
2-4	Hanoi	InterContinental Hanoi Westlake	Deluxe		
5-7	Da Nang	Hyatt Regency Danang	Deluxe		
8-9	Hue	Saigon Morin	Sup. First Class		
10-11	Can Tho (Mekong Delta)	Victoria Hotel	Sup. First Class		
12-14	Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)	Sofitel Saigon Plaza	Deluxe		
15	Ho Chi Minh City/Depart for U.S. (overnight flight)				
16	Arrive U.S.				

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference

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

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

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. Later we walk the narrow streets of the diverse Ancient Quarter where tonight we gather at a local restaurant for a welcome dinner. *B,D* 

**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* 

**Day 5:** Hanoi/Da Nang 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* 

**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



Observe the French architectural influences during an orientation tour of Hanoi on Day 3.

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* 

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* 

## **Post-Tour Extension**

November 16-19, 2015

## **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 checkout on the third day (late evening flight)
- 4 meals: 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners
- Three days' guided 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

# "WITH EACH STEP A FLOWER BLOOMS." – Thich Nhat Hanh

**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* 

**Day 13: Saigon** A morning tour includes the former Presidential Palace, which served as the South Vietnamese government's wartime head-quarters. 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* 

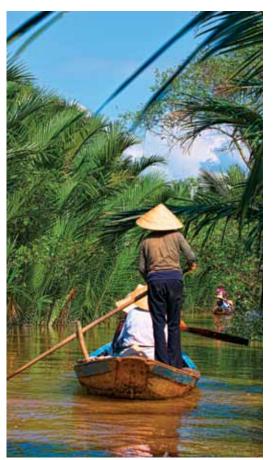
**Day 14: Saigon** This morning we visit the Cu Chi Tunnels, the infamous underground network from which North Vietnamese forces operated in wartime. Tonight we enjoy a farewell dinner. *B*,*D* 

**Day 15: Depart for U.S.** 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: Arrive U.S.** We arrive in the U.S. and connect with our flights home.

## **Your Tour Price Includes**

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities;
   all flights within itinerary
- 13 nights' accommodations in Deluxe and Superior First Class hotels
- 24 meals: 13 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 6 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers



Along the mighty Mekong

# Tour Departs: November 2, 2015

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Los Angeles, San Francisco	\$3,947
Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, New York, Phoenix, Portland (OR), Seattle, Washington, DC	\$4,247
Boston, Denver, Houston, Minneapolis	\$4,347
Baltimore, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Miami, Orlando, Philadelphia, Tampa	\$4,447
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$2,995

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, fuel surcharges and departure fees of \$552, which are subject to change until final payment is

Single travelers please add \$1,595. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges and departure fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Pacific flight: additional \$3,695 per person (upgrade subject to availability and pricing subject to change).

Please note: This trip involves full days of sightseeing and a significant amount of walking. You should be in relatively good physical condition to enjoy the tour to its fullest

For further information contact VMFA Member Travel at

804-340-1519



## Dear VMFA Members,

Join us on a special journey to Vietnam, a country that captivates travelers with its enduring traditions, breathtaking natural beauty, and warm hospitality.

Begin in the French-accented capital of Hanoi, touring historical sites and eating local delicacies. Take a full-day excursion to beautiful Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site acclaimed for its limestone cliffs, grottoes and caves, where you will enjoy fairytale landscapes and a tranquil boat ride. Fly south to Da Nang and tour the acclaimed Cham Museum, which celebrates the Cham people's Hindu legacy. In the colorful village of Hoi An, cars are prohibited and ancient traditions still hold sway. Walk in a rural farming community where rice paddies checker the land, water buffalo plow the fields, and villagers bicycle to market. Then, travel to the ancient imperial capital of Hue — once home to emperors and mandarins — and cruise the Perfume River to peaceful Thien Mu Pagoda. After two days of exploring the vital Mekong River Delta, the river life experience will leave an indelible impression. Conclude your journey in spirited Saigon (also known as Ho Chi Minh City). An optional 3-day/2-night extension in Cambodia is also available.

Space on this program is limited to only VMFA members, friends, and family. We expect it will fill quickly; your early reservations are encouraged.

Sincerely,

Adele "Hutch" Livingston
Coordinator of Member Travel

## VMFA RESERVATION FORM: JOURNEY THROUGH VIETNAM

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$(\$500 per p departing November 2, 2015. I/we understand the Payment may be made by American Express, Discoverheck payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and mail Washington St., Suite 300, Newton, MA 02458. Of fax reservation to 617-454-9199.	final payment is er, MasterCard, V check to: Odysse	due at least 95 days p ISA or by personal che eys Unlimited, One Ne	rior to departure. ck. Please make ewton Place, 275	
Full Passport Name		_ Date of Birth	Gender	
Full Passport Name		_ Date of Birth	Gender	
Address	_City	State	_ZIP	
Home Phone ()	Cell Phone (	)		
E-mail	Badge Name(s)			
Please book my air/our from		/we request a Business	Class upgrade 🗆	
I will share a room with	_ I request a single room (limited availability) □			
Post-Tour "Cambodia: Angkor Wat" Extension: Plea	se sign me/us up			
Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule 17, 2015, and agrees that their signature below repre	sents their accept	ance of the General Te	rms & Conditions.	
Method of Payment ☐ Check ☐ American ☐ Account #	Security Code	· ·		
Signature				

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure, and is payable by check or credit card.

### GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a \$500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

#### Not included in tour price

Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; optional sightseeing; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities \$10 - \$15 per day, per traveler); travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline prior to departure.

#### Cancellations, refunds and changes

If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odyssey's Unlimited's receipt of your written notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: Cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$200 charge; Cancel 94-65 days before departure: 50% of tour price; Cancel 64-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; Cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund. If a guest makes any changes between 94 and 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure.

Upon reservation you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.

#### Responsibility

The liability of the VMFA, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, restaurant, and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. The VMFA and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise line, and other independent suppliers. We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

### **Health and Medical Issues**

We request that you be in good health to participate in this Odysseys Unlimited tour. There is a reasonable amount of walking, and you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own. We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and the VMFA assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

#### Air Transportation - Important Information

Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines they feel provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. Please note that seat assignments on your international flight are usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited is unable to guarantee any seat assignments. Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and departure fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, Land Only is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.



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# JOIN US ON AN EXCLUSIVE VMFA ADVENTURE TO VIETNAM!

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