

CHATHAM UNIVERSITY

PRIVATE DEPARTURE

February 21 - March 3, 2012

**EXPLORE THE BEAUTY OF VIETNAM, SIEM REAP AND BANGKOK
FEATURING VIETNAM, CAMBODIA AND THAILAND
(Arrival in Hanoi/ Departure from Bangkok)**

Day 1. Hanoi arrival (D)

Flight code: TBA

E.T.A: TBA (Local time)

Upon your arrival, you will be warmly welcome at the airport in Hanoi and then transfer to your hotel for check in. [The hotel is at your disposal from 13.30.](#) The balance of day is free at leisure to recover from jet lag until evening. In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner at a nice restaurant where we will begin our exploration of the culinary delicacies of Vietnam and have our trip orientation. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 2. Hanoi visiting (B,L)

Today we will have a full day tour of Hanoi. After breakfast, we visit Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum (closed on Monday and Friday), his former residence - a lovely wooden house on stilts, the nearby One Pillar Pagoda and the Temple of Literature founded in the year 1070 AD, famous for being the first University of Vietnam. After lunch at Cha Ca restaurant, continue our visiting at the Hoa Lo prison museum – also known as the “the Hanoi Hilton”. Later, we will explore Hoan Kiem Lake - a symbol of the Hanoi city and its famous 36 streets of Old Quarter by a combined tour between walking and taking a cyclo ride. Finish your day with a water puppet show, an unique Vietnam traditional art. **Dinner on your own.** Overnight at the hotel.

Day 3. Hanoi – Halong (B,L,D)

Today will start earlier than other mornings as we are going to practice Tai Chi on the lakeside or in a park. Tai Chi is a traditional martial art which is more like a dance than a martial art. The instructor will teach you some warm-ups and then basic movements. Finally, he will finish with a solo demonstration or a demonstration with some of his pupils. In the morning, leave for Ha Long on a new highway that passes through large rice fields of the Red River Delta and at noon arrive at Ha Long. Boarding on a private beautiful wooden junk for an overnight cruise on Ha Long Bay with an excellent menu of fresh seafood. In the evening, enjoy a delicious dinner on board and enjoy the tranquil night of mystic Ha Long bay. Overnight on board in the open air of the bay.

Day 4. Ha Long – Hanoi – Saigon (B,D)

You are advised to set the alarm clock to enjoy a spectacular dawn over the bay. After breakfast on board, return to the pier at noon. While returning to Hanoi, you should enjoy the lively villages and the amazing natural scenery along the road. Then transfer directly to airport for a 2-hour flight to Ho Chi Minh city – also called as Saigon by many locals. Flight **VN 1147 HAN – SGN (17.10 – 19.10)**. Warmly at the airport upon arrival and transfer to your hotel for check in. **Dinner** and overnight at the hotel.

Day 5. Cu Chi tunnels – Saigon visiting (B,L)

After breakfast, we depart to Cu Chi where you will visit the amazing tunnel network built by Vietnamese fighters during the American War. Back to Saigon for lunch at a nice restaurant in town.

Following lunch, set out to tour the highlights of the former capital of French Indochina. Historic landmarks include the Old Saigon post office, Notre Dame Cathedral and the Opera House. Round out the day with a special visit at the home of a famous husband-wife team of musicians. The couple are international performers and have a great love for traditional, folkloric Vietnamese music. Their home is a musical museum filled with their extensive collection of musical instruments, many of which they made themselves. Their lovely performance and gracious hospitality will certainly endear you. The evening is free at your leisure. **Dinner on your own.**

Day 6. Saigon – Siem Reap (B,L)

This morning, spend your time for last visiting the famous Dong Khoi street and Ben Thanh market, in the center of the city with everything from tourist souvenirs and t-shirts to fresh produce and stalls selling local snacks. After lunch at a nice local restaurant, be transferred directly to airport for Siem Reap flight. Flight **VN 829 Saigon – Siem Reap (16.30 – 17.30)**. Arrive and welcome by local guide at Siem Reap airport. Then transfer to the city for check in to your hotel. **Dinner on your own.** Overnight at the hotel.

Day 7. Angkor Wat – Angkor Thom (B,L)

After having breakfast at the hotel, pay a visit to the marvelous temple of Angkor Wat, under the guidance of one of our temple expert (an archeologist) who has rich knowledge in temple architecture as well as Siem Reap's history. He will explain the religious meaning of the temples and help clear up all your wonderings (certainly within his ability). Enjoy lunch at Chez Viroth's restaurant. In the afternoon, travel by tuk tuk to get to the great site of Angkor Thom with the temple expert again. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon. Dinner on your own. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 8. Tonle Sap Lake – Bang Mealea (B,L,D)

On an excursion to the Kompong Kleang floating village located on the northern lake-edge about 35 km east of Siem Reap town, more remote and less tourist than other floating villages. These houses are built on higher ground but during the high water level season these houses will all be surrounded by water and boats will be the only means of transport. All the local boats will be arranged with our own pillows and decoration for your most convenient. Enjoy picnic lunch with nice set up at the village before heading back to hotel in Siem Reap. On the way to the town, we stop at Temple of Bang Mealea in the jungle. The temple was built during the reign of Suryavarman II, in the middle of the twelfth century. It gives the visitor the impression of being the first explorer of the temple. After exploring, return to Siem Reap. Enjoy farewell dinner with Apsara dance show at a nice local restaurant. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 9. Siem Reap – Bangkok. Visiting (B,D)

Say goodbye to Angkor town of Siem Reap for a morning flight to Bangkok. Flight **PG 924 Siem Reap – Bangkok (09.50 – 10.45)**. Meet your local guide at the airport and transfer to hotel. [The hotel is at your disposal from 13.30.](#)
Lunch on your own.

The afternoon is devoted for exploring the China Town, Flower Market combined with Bangkok Klongs of Bangkok. Bangkok's China Town is a colorful area with a unique character and a mishmash of bustling markets. Stop at Wat Traimitr, or Golden Buddha Temple, and the revered Chinese temple Wat Leng Noei Yee. Explore the narrow and twisted lanes by foot and be dazzled with exotic sights, sounds and smells while discovering traditional noodle shops, herb and medicine sellers and gold shops.

Afterwards stroll through the Flower market. Pak Klong Flower Market is the biggest fresh flower market in the city. This is where flower traders from all over the country convene at the wee hours of each day to unload their freshly cut blossoms in bulk. The kaleidoscope of bright, blooming colours, coupled with a symphony of fragrant smells, from roses, daisies, chrysanthemums, indigenous orchids, and many more, is just amazing.

Then we keep on our Klong Tour. This is perhaps the best opportunity to see the famous 'water people' of Thailand. You board special, covered boats, traveling along the Chao Phraya River and into a large klong (canal) on the Thonburi side. You will see modern as well as traditional teakwood houses on stilts. On your return, you will stop at what is probably the best known symbol of Bangkok, the Temple of Dawn (Wat Arun), with its sparkling spires covered with broken bits of glass and pottery, most impressive at sunrise.

Enjoy BBQ dinner at Terrace of hotel restaurant. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 10. Bangkok visiting (B,L)

This morning, we will spend time to explore Grand Palace - home of the Kings of Siam of the Chakri Dynasty, originally built by King Rama I, it served as the royal residence until 1946. Today the palace is still used on certain occasions for visiting royalty or special guests of the Kingdom. Adjoining the Grand Palace you will find the Temple of the Emerald Buddha (Wat Phra Keo), this is probably the best known of the royal temples. It is regarded as the most important temple in all Thailand and it is the venue of many of the numerous religious ceremonies in which the King participates, especially at the beginning of each of the three seasons when His Majesty personally changes the elaborate robes of the Buddha image, carved out of a single piece of emerald-green jasper. Continue to see the nearby temple of the Reclining Buddha (Wat Po), the actual name of which is Wat Phra Jetupon, famous as the oldest and largest temple in Bangkok, with its precincts covering 80,000 square meters in all.

A sumptuous Thai lunch awaits you at Supatra River House.

Then entire of day is at leisure for relax or shopping. **Dinner on your own.** Overnight at the hotel.

Day 11. Excurion to Ayutthaya (B,L)

Today we will depart the hotel for a driving north to the ancient city of Ayutthaya, where the tempels and ruins of this great city have now been declared a World Heritage Site. Your first stop is to visit Bang Pa In, site of the former Royal Summer Palace displayed a wondrous mix of European and Oriental architecture. Afterwards discover the magnificent ruins and ancient temples in the historical park: Wat Yai Chai Mongkol, Wat Phra Sri Sanpetch and Wat Phanan CHOeng. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant. Return to Bangkok by private vehicle and the balance of day is free at leisure. Dinner on your own. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 12. Bangkok departure (B)

Spend your time free at leisure for last minute shopping or further exploring the town until transferring to airport for onward flight. **Rooms are available until noon time only. End of services.**

Flight: TBA

E.T.D: TBA

Location	HOTEL	ROOM CATEGORY
Hanoi	Intercontinental Westlake Hanoi *****	Deluxe Hanoi View
Halong	Private traditional wooden junk	AC cabin with private bathroom
Saigon	Majestic Saigon *****	Colonial City Deluxe
Siem Reap	Victoria Angkor Resort ****	Superior
Bangkok	Shangri La Hotel *****	Deluxe

The prices are quoted in US Dollars per person based in double room

Group size / Price per person	8-12 Guests	12 – 15 Guests	16 – 19 Guests		SGL Supplement
	see below	4530	4095		1,055

A small group surcharge of 10-15% will apply if less than 12 guests sign-up. Minimum 8 guests total.

These prices include:	These prices do not include:
Escorted by President Esther Barazonne Professional Western Tour Guide Local English speaking licensed Guides, Specialists, and Site Experts where mentioned in the program All internal and regional flight ticket: Hanoi – Saigon; Saigon – Siem Reap and Siem Reap - Bangkok in economy Departure Tax \$25 from Siem Reap Transportation by private vehicle with A/C. Accommodation in the category noted or similar. Breakfast and other meals mentioned in the program. B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner. Bottled Water at group meals noted as included. All local boat rentals as mentioned in the program. All entrance fees, biking fees where mentioned. Cruising on private wooden junk in Halong bay.	Meals are not mentioned in the program, drinks and beverage during the meals. Personal insurance. Tips & personal expenses. International flight tickets. Approval letter for Vietnam visa (20 USD/ pax) Vietnam visa fee on arrival (25 USD/ pax) Cambodia visa on arrival (30 USD/ pax). US passport holders are exempted from Thai Visa Any service not mentioned in the program.

Note: The flight ticket is subject to change without prior notice

General Terms and Conditions

Booking: Please contact Perry Robertson of Blue Odyssey Tours at the numbers below to reserve your space or ask any questions that you may have. A deposit of 30% is required to save your place. We will send you a Welcome Packet with all vital documents and pre-trip materials once you are signed-up. Please start looking for international airline tickets ASAP to secure the best route, price and/or to obtain mileage awards using Singapore, United, Cathay Pacific, Thai, Eva or Asiana airlines. We will obtain all your regional flights once you arrive. Please note that you will arrive in Hanoi, Vietnam and depart from Bangkok, Thailand at the end of your trip. This is called an "open jaw" ticket.

Hotel Selection

We use centrally located hotels whenever available. On occasion, we select hotels which are a little more remote if they suit the client needs or if other properties are unavailable. The selection of hotels may vary depending on availability at the time of booking.

Check in and Check Out Times for Hotels in Vietnam

Please note that the official check in time for hotels in Vietnam is 14 PM for check-in and 12 PM for check-out. We may request an early check in or late departure for you and a fee may apply as noted below:

- Extra charge for early check in before 14h00: 100% room charge = extra charge of an additional night
- Extra charge for late check-out (until 18h00): 50% room rate
- Extra charge for late check-out (after 18h00): 100% room rate

In the proposal, we may mention, "Welcome at the airport. Transfer to town. Check in at the hotel", it does not mean that the early check in is included. All prearranged early check ins or late check outs will be noted in the "Services included" portion of the proposal.

Dining and Restaurants

A trip to Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia is truly a culinary experience. Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian cuisines are very rich and delicious with unique spices and flavors. We make arrangements at beautiful restaurants where clients will discover flavorful, local dishes. American and European cuisine are also readily available in most areas and hotels.

Payment Conditions

- To confirm your booking and quoted pricing, a 30% non refundable deposit is required by check, wire transfer or credit card to Blue Odyssey Tours.
- Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure date. Failure to do so may result in the cancellation of any travel arrangements made for Client/Agent without any refund.

Cancellation of Domestic or International Flights

If a cancellation occurs after a deposit was paid to the airlines, a cancellation fee representing 25% of the air-fare for the domestic flight or USD \$30/pax for an international flight, will be charged (according to airline policies). In case any non-refundable deposits have been made and agreed on, there will be reimbursement for the amount by Easia Travel or the Airlines.

Cancellation Policy

Should a client need to cancel their trip, the cancellation fee will be calculated as follows based on the date of cancellation in writing by the Client/Agent.

Days Prior to Trip Start	Cancellation Fee (based on total tour price)
91+ days	Trip Deposit
61-90 days	100%
31-60 days	100%

IN ASSOCIATION WITH BLUE ODYSSEY TOURS

0-30 days	100%
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- There is no refund if a tour participant shortens or interrupts the tour on his own accord
- We strongly encourage travelers to purchase trip insurance. Cancellation fees may be reimbursed by your insurance company if you are properly insured and in the event of a justified cancellation (illness, accident, death, etc.)
- If final payment for the tour invoice is not received by the deadline of the 90th day prior to the Client's arrival, Easia Travel reserves the right to cancel the reservation without indemnity or any reimbursement.
- If Easia Travel is forced to cancel the departure due to unforeseeable reasons, the participants will be fully reimbursed without intention to claim any indemnities.

Vouchers

Vouchers are to be issued by Easia Travel for all booking arrangements. A copy of the Client's final itinerary will be enclosed with the vouchers and will be delivered to the Client upon his arrival or start of the trip.

Liability

Easia Travel (Tour Operator) and Blue Odyssey Tours (booking agent) shall always do its utmost to provide the services stated in the trip itinerary to the best of its capacity and to the satisfaction of the Client. It is the understanding of all parties that Easia Travel acts as an intermediary between the Client/Agent and airlines, hotels, transport operators, local tourist offices and other contractors providing the services to the Client. Easia Travel shall in no event be liable to the Client/Agent, by reason of breach of services or unsatisfactory services provided to the Client by third parties or by way of indemnity or in tort or otherwise, for any loss, injury, damage, delay, change in schedule or other adverse events which are beyond the control of Easia Travel and/or sustained by an act or default of any person or company providing the services to the Client. The Client/Agent warrants that Easia Travel shall not be responsible and/or liable for additional expenses and/or damages incurred due to any delay, accidents, natural disaster, political action or unrest. The proposed programs, prices and services are valid at the time of issuing. Easia Travel reserves the right to make modifications with or without prior notice due to changing of suppliers, market, etc.

Claims

All disputes, claims and litigation regarding services shall first be settled by way of negotiation and mutual understanding. In the event such negotiation and mutual understanding fail, the disputes, claim or litigation shall be finally settled by arbitration of the Vietnam International Arbitration Center (VIAC) at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. All claims must be submitted in writing within 30 days after the end of the services in dispute.

Please direct all questions to your main point of contact, Perry Robertson at Blue Odyssey Travel

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Happy Travels!