NOVEMBER 4: DEPART

Depart the USA.

NOVEMBER 5: HANOI

• Arrive in Hanoi. Transfer to the Melia Hanoi where rooms have been reserved on the executive floor.

• Meet for a welcome reception before dinner at Luk Lak, a short walk from the hotel.

NOVEMBER 6: HANOI

• Begin the day with a walking tour of the Old Quarter. Visit the Temple of Literature which was erected in 1070 under the Emperor Ly Thanh Tong during the construction of the royal city. The temple is home to two very important institutions, the shrine to Confucius as well as the site of the first university. The cluster of well-preserved buildings is considered to be an example of traditional Vietnamese architecture.

• Enjoy lunch at KOTO Restaurant. (Know One, Teach One). This restaurant overlooks the Temple of Literature and is a restaurant/training facility that works with street kids.

• Joining the group for lunch is Chuck Searcy, who was assigned to the 519th Military Intelligence Battalion in Saigon from June 1967 to June 1968. He later joined the Vietnam Veterans Against the War (VVAW) and helped launch Project RENEW in Quang Tri Province, to clean up unexploded ordnance and provide medical assistance, rehabilitation, and income generation for UXO victims. Project RENEW’s mission also includes support for Agent Orange victim families. Searcy is co-chair of the NGO Agent Orange Working Group in Vietnam and in 2003 he was awarded Vietnam’s National Friendship Medal.
VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, LAOS | November 4–18, 2021

Scheduled events and their timing are subject to change

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• This afternoon enjoy an art tour which takes a closer look at Vietnam through the eyes of artists. Based on the personal experiences of artists who studied, fought, witnessed and documented major changes in 20th and 21st century Vietnam, this experience will give you a deeper understanding of Vietnam’s modern and contemporary history. The tour will be led by Maia Do, who works with artists and art spaces on art projects, art fairs and exhibitions.

• Enjoy dinner at Home Restaurant.

NOVEMBER 7: HANOI

• This morning meet with Nguyen Qui Duc, a Vietnamese American radio broadcaster, writer, editor and translator. He has been a radio producer and writer since 1979, working for the BBC, NPR, and others. His essays have been published in The Asian Wall Street Journal Weekly, The New York Times Magazine, The San Francisco Examiner, and other newspapers. Mr. Nguyen will discuss his life, his return to Vietnam from the U.S., and his observations on contemporary Vietnamese society.

• Continue on to Ho Chi Minh’s Mausoleum and the One Pillar Pagoda. Built of wood on a single stone pillar, the pagoda is designed to resemble a lotus blossom, the symbol of purity, rising out of a sea of sorrow. One of the last acts of the French before quitting Hanoi in 1954 was to destroy the original One Pillar Pagoda.

• Continue on to Hang Da Market. Hanoi’s street food has been recognized as some of the best in the world and this morning we will stroll through the bustling market and learn about the traditions and intricacies of Vietnamese food and culture. During the walk purchase ingredients for our lunch which you will learn to prepare. Walk to the Ngon Villa Restaurant for a cooking class where you will create your own lunch.

• After the class take cyclos to the Zo Project, an award-winning social enterprise established in 2013 by Tran Hong Nhung. The project works in collaboration with a village in Bac Ninh Province that produces traditional Vietnamese do paper. The Zo team then uses the paper to create notebooks, postcards, lamps and other niche crafts that they sell from their workshop in Hoan Kiem.

• Tonight dinner is at leisure.

NOVEMBER 8: HANOI

• In the morning, drive to the Red River Delta countryside to the village of Phung Xa. This village is the cradle of the traditional silk weaving loom that has been perpetuated over the centuries throughout Asia. On arrival, meet with Mrs. Thuan, officially the first Vietnamese woman to weave silk from lotus fiber.

• Originally from the village of Phung Xa, Phan Thi Thuan is part of the 3rd generation of a family of weavers. Driven by the desire to reinvent an ancestral profession, this 60-year-old woman has revived a new kind of lotus fibre silk, the national symbol of Vietnam. After two years of research, Mrs Thuan succeeded in making the first lotus silk scarves, grown in her own field. Visit her workshop and discover different stages of silk production.

• Afterwards, head to the village of Uoc Le. The village is well-known for the handicraft of making non, the famous Vietnamese conical hat. Participate in a tradition hat workshop to learn how simple materials like palm leaves, bamboo and tree bark come together harmoniously into an elegant and iconic accessory worn by so many Vietnamese people.
• Meet with a local family and share an intimate lunch of local dishes including a tasting of the village’s specialty gio cha (pork sausage).
• Tonight dinner is at leisure.

**NOVEMBER 9: SAIGON** B, L, D

• Take a morning flight to Saigon. Upon arrival enjoy a walking tour of the historical area of Saigon including the former Opera House, the Notre Dame Cathedral and the City Post office. Enjoy a good view of 22 Ly Tu Trong Street in Saigon’s District 1. It was from this roof-top that the last helicopter before the Communist take-over took off on April 29, 1975. A scene captured by Dutch photojournalist Hubert van Es produced one of the most iconic and dramatic photographs from the Vietnam War. Leading the tour will be Ms. Duong. Ms. Duong was born in 1979 in the north but raised in the south with a father in the air force. A passionate history buff and a keen follower of art and architecture in Saigon. Ms. Duong is also the co-owner of the Compass Café, where we will stop for lunch.
• Later meet with journalist Dien Luong, a free-lance and investigative journalist who covers politics, inequality and globalization. He has worked as a reporter and deputy editor for the English-language editor of Thanh Nien, a major daily in Vietnam, and his work has appeared in The Guardian, Al Jazeera, The Diplomat, and YaleGlobal.
• Transfer to the Caravelle Hotel, located in the heart of the business, shopping and entertainment district.
• This evening gather in the hotel’s iconic roof-top which bar has been welcoming patrons since 1959 and was a popular spot amongst journalists in the 1960’s - at which time it was the highest point in the city! Today this spot is still a great place to watch the sun go down over the lights of the city. The views overlooking Lam Son Square and the heart of the city offer a look into the hustle and bustle of Saigon.
• Enjoy a cocktail before dinner at the hotel.

**NOVEMBER 10: SAIGON** B, L, D

• For those who would like, walk from the hotel to a nearby venue for a traditional Vietnamese breakfast of Vietnamese condensed milk coffee (cà phê sữa) and a Vietnamese baguette (bánh mì).
• Depart the hotel and drive to the Reunification Palace where the first Communist tanks arrived in Saigon on April 30, 1975.
• Head to Pho Binh Restaurant for a traditional Pho lunch. Tucked away in an area rarely visited by non-locals, this humble noodle shop is of great historical significance. It was the former secret headquarters of the elite Viet Cong unit and from here that the Saigon chapter of the infamous TET Offensive was planned.
• After lunch visit the War Remnants Museum which opened in 1975 as the “Museum of American War Crimes”. The museum offers a chilling and upsetting account of the Vietnam War, known in Vietnam as the American War.
• Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant located in a former opium den.
**NOVEMBER 11: PHNOM PENH**  
*B, L, D*

- Morning flight to Phnom Penh. Cambodia’s capital city.
- No visit to Cambodia would be complete without a visit to National Museum of Arts, with its impressive collection of Khmer art. Spend time exploring the museum.
- After lunch at a local restaurant learn about the current political climate of the country. In less than a year, Cambodia has gone from having the freest press in the region to being one of the most repressive and dangerous places to be a journalist. In the 2018 Reporters Without Borders press freedom index published, Cambodia dropped 10 places from 132 to 142, and the country’s independent press was described as being “in ruins”.
- Meet with staff at the Cambodian Center for Independent Media who work for the promotion of independent media, press freedom, freedom of expression, access to information and democratic governance. In August 2017, the Cambodian government ordered the stoppage of broadcast of Radio Free Asia (RFA), Voice of America (VOA) and radio programs of political opposition parties. Meet with executive director, Chak Sopheap (pending availability) to learn more about the organization’s challenges.
- Later meet with staff at the Cambodian Center for Human Rights. The Government’s failure to systematically respect and promote human rights has led to widespread violations, which continue to hinder the development of true democracy in the country.
- Overnight at the Palace Gate Hotel, which combines deluxe modern accommodation with a traditional Angkorian fee.
- This evening enjoy dinner in the hotel’s restaurant, located in a lovingly restored French colonial villa—formerly the seat of power of the French colonial government.

**NOVEMBER 12: SIEM REAP**  
*B, L, D*

- After breakfast meet with former opposition figures from the now dissolved Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP). We hope to meet with party co-founder Kem Sokha who was arrested in 2017 and accused of plotting to overthrow the government of strongman Hun Sen. He was released from house arrest in November 2019.
- Mid-day flight to Siem Reap.
- Upon arrival enjoy lunch at Angkor Café.
• After lunch visit the site of **Ta Prohm**, which has been left just as it looked when French explorers first set eyes on it over a century ago. It was built as a Buddhist monastery during the 12th century and under King Jayavarman VII. Ta Prohm stands as a monument to the awesome power of the jungle. Over the years, tree roots have pried the stones of the temple asunder, and the many beautiful friezes are covered by the branches and leaves of the huge trees.

• Transfer to the **FCC Angkor Boutique Hotel**, one of Cambodia’s most iconic hotels.

• Dinner this evening at the delightful Sugar Palm Restaurant. Afterward, for those who would like, visit the night market.

**NOVEMBER 13: SIEM REAP**

**B, L, D**

• This morning begin at the most famous of all Angkor monuments – **Angkor Wat**. You will be immersed in this inspired melding of sacred geometry, architecture, and adornment. Built by Suryavarman I in the first half of the 12th century, this temple complex is unsurpassed in the artistic accomplishment of its myriad sculptures and the bas-relief friezes that line its galleries and narrate stories of great significance to Khmer (Indian-derived) mythology and history. Angkor’s iconic five towers – four organized around a central fifth – have come to represent the Khmer cultural heritage and the country of Cambodia.

• Explore the **Bayon Temple** which was built by Jayavarman VII in the exact center of the city of Angkor Thom. It is decorated with 1,200 meters of extraordinary bas-reliefs incorporating over 11,000 figures. The famous carvings on the outer wall of the first level depict vivid scenes of everyday life in 12th-century Cambodia. Within the complex is the Terrace of the Leper King which is so-called because of a statue here which is believed by locals to be of King Yasovarman, founder of Angkor, whom legend says died of leprosy.

• Enjoy lunch at Srah Srang.

• After lunch drive to **Banteay Srei**, an architectural jewel located about 16 miles north of Angkor Thom. It was built by an official of Jayavarman V (968-1001) and dedicated to Shiva. This large monument, considered by many to be the most perfect Khmer temple, is famous for its exquisite pink sandstone carvings.

• End the day at the **Angkor Hospital for Children (AHC)**, founded by Kenro Izu, a renowned Japanese-born photographer based in the United States. Between 1993 and 1996, Izu made a series of trips to Cambodia to capture images for his photographic series, *Light Over Ancient Angkor*. He was deeply moved by his encounters with the ill, maimed, and malnourished children of the war-torn country. As a way of giving something back to Cambodia in return for the many images he captured there, and as a symbol of gratitude for the inspiration he gained from Cambodia’s ancient monuments, Izu dedicated himself to building a pediatric hospital near the temples. Meet with staff to learn more about the facility.

• Dinner at the delightful Viroth’s Restaurant.
VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, LAOS | November 4–18, 2021

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<tr>
<th>November 14: Siem Reap</th>
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<td>Morning visit to the wonderful Angkor Museum before heading out to meet with Morimoto Kikuo, director of the Institute for Khmer Traditional Textiles (IKTT). This area once barren scrub land is now a village surrounded by forest and fields. Mr. Kikuo will show us how the “Wisdom from Forest” project is regenerating the landscape and village living conditions that once produced the beautiful fibers and dyes of Khmer textiles. The project includes the replanting of trees preferred by lac insects (source of red dye), indigo for blue dye, and mulberry to raise silkworms. Mr. Kikuo’s village of weavers and their families now produce 100 percent local silk and cotton textiles of exquisite quality. Tour the village complex where women are the principal weavers. IKTT works in close collaboration with international aid agencies and local and international NGOs.</td>
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<td>Return to Siem Reap for lunch at the Angkor Palm Restaurant in town.</td>
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<td>Afternoon and dinner at leisure.</td>
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<th>November 15: Luang Prabang</th>
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<td>This morning visit the Angkor Artwork Workshop. Meet with the creator of the workshop, Mr. Eric Stocker, a French craftsman, who will introduce the different techniques of lacquer, gilding paintings and statuary in hand-carved wood. End the morning at Angkor Handicraft Association for fair trade souvenir shopping.</td>
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<td>Lunch at Café d’Indochine.</td>
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<td>After lunch take an afternoon flight to Luang Prabang. Luang Prabang, the former capital of Laos, is an ancient city of Buddhist temples and pagodas which stands in a northern valley carved from the mountains by the Mekong River. The town of approximately 25,000 people has been home to 63 kings.</td>
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<td>Upon arrival transfer to the Avani Hotel. Enjoy dinner at the hotel this evening.</td>
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<th>November 16: Luang Prabang</th>
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<td>This morning, take a walking tour of Luang Prabang’s Old Quarter. Luang Prabang has changed little over the years. View water buffalo asleep on the streets, Buddhist monks with their alms bowls, and Hmong women dressed in black clothing blazing with bright-colored embroidery.</td>
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<td>Continue by a private, covered, motorized long-boat to the Pak Ou Buddhist Caves. Stop en route at the village of Sang Hai which is noted for its potent rice alcohol, and the village of Done Kien where you can see local villagers panning for gold in the Mekong River. The caves, which are set in towering cliffs, houses 3,000 Buddhist statues most of which are about 400 years old. On the way back to Luang Prabang stop at Phanom village, home to 800 people of the Leu minority who produce textiles which they sell at the local market.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Return to Luang Prabang mid-afternoon.</td>
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<td>Dinner at leisure.</td>
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NOVEMBER 17: LUANG PRABANG

- Rise early this morning to watch monks walk through the town with their alms bowls. Each morning the local community feeds the monks. Stop by at Wat Xieng Thong temple to understand the threat of tourism to Luang Prabang’s culture. The spiritual ritual of giving alms has now veered into a tourist circus, with visitors from all over the world barring the way to the procession. Through a translator understand what this means.

- Continue on to L’Etranger Books and Tea, where we have asked members of the Save the Mekong Coalition to join us. The coalition aims to do three things: support local people and communities in the Mekong region to raise their voices and concerns over the impacts of hydropower development; raise public awareness about the risks associated with damming the Mekong mainstream and its tributaries, and ensure that policymakers are accountable to Mekong people and adopt more sustainable and peaceful ways of meeting people’s energy and water needs.

- From here head out of town for lunch at Manadalao, an elephant welfare sanctuary. Situated near Nam Poui National Protected Area it remains one of the last strongholds for wild elephants in Laos. Forty to fifty elephants call it home, as do many other species iconic to southeast Asian jungles.

- Enjoy a traditional Baci ceremony and Laotian dance performance. Meet Prince Tiao Somsanith at a royal mansion while musicians will play traditional instruments and costumed women perform several dances. Afterward enjoy a farewell dinner.

NOVEMBER 18: DEPART

- Transfer to the airport to depart Luang Prabang this morning for connections home.

PRICING

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Per person double occupancy:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Single supplement:</td>
<td>$1,780</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inter-Tour Airfare:</td>
<td>$780</td>
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Includes economy class airfare from:
Hanoi-Saigon; Saigon – Phnom Penh; Phnom Penh – Siem Reap; Siem Reap – Luang Prabang

INCLUDED

- Accommodation, based on double occupancy, in hotels as listed in the itinerary
- Airport transfers for those arriving and departing on designated group tour dates
- Meals as listed in the itinerary including wine at the welcome and farewell dinner
- Water on the bus at all times
- All sightseeing and excursions in a private air-conditioned bus
- All private events and speakers as listed
- All entrance fees listed
- Services of an English-speaking local guide in each country and a tour manager who will travel with the group throughout the program
- Basic gratuity to tour manager/guides and bus driver
- “Whisper” devices that allow for ease of hearing guides at sites
- Pre-departure materials and post-trip photo book

DOES NOT INCLUDE

- International airfare to Hanoi and from Luang Prabang
- Inter-trip airfare currently priced in at $780: Includes economy class airfare from: Hanoi-Saigon; Saigon – Phnom Penh; Phnom Penh – Siem Reap; Siem Reap – Luang Prabang
- Drinks with meals except those listed
- Passport fees
- Visa fees
- Excess luggage charges
- Travel Insurance
- Items of a purely personal nature
- Any item not listed as included