JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the exquisite treasures of Cambodia's Angkor temples and the superb World Heritage Sites, traditional villages, and natural beauty of Vietnam.
- Guided visits to 11th-century Cham temples, including My Son; the Imperial City of Hue; the tunnels of Vinh Moc; and Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum.
- Private cultural events include Hanoi's famous Water Puppets, and martial arts and dance performances by Vietnam's hill tribe people.
- Experience Vietnamese life with walks through colorful local markets, a bicycle ride through beautiful rice paddies, and opportunities to savor local cuisine.

We loved our trip to Cambodia & Vietnam. The programs were interesting and enlightening and the opportunities for photography were endless! You really tried to cater to everyone's requests.

C. Toews & C. Carton

DEAR ADVENTURER

We're delighted to return to Vietnam and Angkor Wat where exquisite cultural treasures await, and where we are welcomed with an open friendliness rivaled by few other countries. From the forest-enshrouded Angkor temples, a legacy of Cambodia's great Khmer Empire, to the bustling cities and timeless villages of Vietnam, our journey showcases the wonders of Indochina.

We begin in Siem Reap, our base as we explore breathtaking temple complexes, including the chance to watch the sun rise over the soaring towers of Angkor Wat, one of six World Heritage Sites on our itinerary. In Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) we board the superb 110-passenger Clipper Odyssey, the perfect vessel for our thousand-mile voyage, and sail northward. Geographically, the landscape is one of profound and contrasting beauty, with lush jungle-coated mountains, dazzling beaches, dramatic limestone formations that rise straight from coastal seabeds, and terraced rice fields made fertile by the immense Red River and Mekong Deltas.

With its early settlement dating back more than 4,000 years, Vietnam reflects the influences of a succession of empires and would-be conquerors in its architecture, religion, and traditions. You'll be captivated by the design intricacies of temples, shrines, and monuments—the ancient Cham Ponagar Temple in Nha Trang, the ruins at My Son, the historic center of Hoi An, and the Imperial City of Hue. And, in the dreamscape archipelago of Halong Bay, witness nature’s dramatic limestone architecture that legend calls “the handiwork of celestial dragons.”

The cities of both Cambodia and Vietnam reveal thriving urban centers; Ho Chi Minh City radiates a freewheeling entrepreneurial spirit, its French-colonial buildings the last vestiges of the era of Western control. Hanoi and Phnom Penh present a more sedate elegance with their lovely shaded boulevards, presidential palaces, museums, ornate colonial buildings, temples, and pagodas. Colorful street scenes—market vendors, silk lantern stands—along with the perpetual motion of thousands of motorcycles and cyclos, catch the eye from every direction. As one of our recent travelers put it, “This amazing place is one great photo opportunity after another.”

We also encounter Vietnamese daily life along the Mekong Delta and the Perfume River, as we walk the narrow streets of tiny villages, surrounded by a patchwork of rice paddies. Among the many highlights of our voyage is a performance at Hanoi’s famous Water Puppet Theater, a bicycle ride through the countryside, and a private performance by Vietnamese hill tribe people whom UNESCO has designated an “intangible treasure.”

As always, our distinguished team of leaders and lecturers share their knowledge and insight, providing an intimate and in-depth experience. For exquisite natural beauty, ancient cultural diversity, and the warmth of welcomes by a resilient and forward-looking people, we hope you’ll join us as we explore the magical lands of Indochina.

Warm regards,

Jon Nicholson
President
VIETNAM & ANGKOR WAT
March 27 – April 12, 2010
Aboard the Clipper Odyssey | 17 Days

Saturday & Sunday, March 27 & 28, 2010
Depart USA

Monday, March 29
Siem Reap, Cambodia

Tuesday, March 30
Siem Reap / Angkor Towers

Wednesday, March 31
Siem Reap / Angkor Wat & Banteay Srei

Thursday, April 1
Siem Reap / Phnom Penh / Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam / Embark Clipper Odyssey

Friday, April 2
Ho Chi Minh City / Mekong Delta

Saturday, April 3
Ho Chi Minh City

Sunday, April 4
Nha Trang / Van Phong Bay

Monday, April 5
Qui Nhon

Tuesday, April 6
Da Nang / My Son / Hoi An

Wednesday, April 7
Hue

Thursday, April 8
Vinh Moc

Friday, April 9
Halong Bay

Saturday, April 10
Haiphong / Disembark Clipper Odyssey / Hanoi

Sunday, April 11
Hanoi

Monday, April 12
Hanoi / Homeward

Limited singles available at the quoted single rate above. Additional singles may be available at 1.7 times the share rate (suites not applicable).

Included: Accommodations in our hotels and on board Clipper Odyssey as outlined in the itinerary; all onboard meals; all group meals on land; group transfers; services of the expedition staff, including lectures, briefings, slide/film shows; all group activities and excursions; landing and port fees; all gratuities.

Not Included: All air transportation (except as noted above); all excess baggage charges; airport arrival and departure taxes; transfers for independent arrivals and departures; passport and/or visa fees; travel insurance; items of a personal nature such as laundry, bar charges, alcoholic beverages, e-mail/Internet/fax/telephone charges.

Air Fare: A tentative flight schedule is available upon request. Zegrahm Expeditions will contact you approximately 180 days prior to the departure of this program to finalize your flight plans. As of April 2009, the approximate economy air fare as listed in the itinerary is $1,880 for Los Angeles / Siem Reap / Phnom Penh / Siem Reap – Hanoi / Los Angeles. Additional airfare from other cities will be quoted as needed.

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Warm regards,

Jon Nicholson
President
Saturday & Sunday, March 27 & 28, 2010

Depart USA

Depart USA for your independent evening flight to Asia. Day lost crossing the International Date Line.

Monday, March 29

Siem Reap, Cambodia

Arrive in Siem Reap in the afternoon. Transfer to the Raffles Grand Hotel d’Angkor for dinner and overnight.

Tuesday, March 30

Siem Reap / Angkor Temples

Khmer emperors built enormous temple complexes during the 9th to 15th centuries; these buildings reveal extraordinary sculpted bas-reliefs in Hindu motifs, portraying the lives of deities, Khmer royalty, warriors, and townspeople. After breakfast we visit Ta Prohm Temple built in 1186 at the height of Angkor’s cultural flowering by Jayavarman VII to honor his family. Atmospheric and mystical, many of the temple monuments are enveloped by the sinuous roots of soaring silk cottonwood trees, left as they were when French archaeologists discovered them in the mid-1800s. We continue to Preah Khan Temple, surrounded by a moat and guarded by statues of warrior deities. In the afternoon we explore wondrous Angkor Thom, the 12th-century capital built by Jayavarman VI encompassing the Bayon temple with its enormous mysterious faces, creating an otherworldly scene. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Wednesday, March 31

Siem Reap / Angkor Wat & Banteay Srei

We depart early to view the sunrise at the World Heritage Site of Angkor Wat, one of the world’s greatest architectural achievements. After breakfast in a tranquil outdoor setting, we spend the morning exploring its soaring towers, courtyards, and elaborate tiered galleries. After lunch at our hotel we visit Banteay Srei, the Citadel of Women, a temple dedicated to Shiva dating from the 10th century. Perhaps the most beautiful temple in Siem Reap, it is remarkable for its total restoration and its fine pink-sandstone carvings relating episodes from the Ramayana. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Thursday, April 1

Siem Reap / Phnom Penh / Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam / Embark Clipper Odyssey

We transfer to the airport for a morning flight to the bustling city of Phnom Penh where we tour the stunning Presidential Palace complex.
with its golden roofs. We also visit the Silver Pagoda—more than 5,000 silver tiles cover its floor—housing an extraordinary collection of Khmer artifacts, including dozens of Buddhas. Following lunch we depart for the Tuol Sleng Museum, the infamous S21 Khmer Rouge security prison. We then transfer to the airport for our afternoon flight to Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), and enjoy a brief sightseeing tour en route to the Clipper Odyssey. Dinner and overnight on board.

Friday, April 2

**Ho Chi Minh City / Mekong Delta**

The drive out of Ho Chi Minh City towards the Mekong Delta takes us through miles of rice fields and along a highway always busy with bicycles, motorcycles, and people heading to or from market. We travel to the My Tho area, famous for its coconut palms and orchards of mangoes, longans, bananas, and citrus fruits. Here we board local sampans to sail along the Mekong River, observing daily river life and the many different types of boats that use the river as a highway.

Until the 16th century the Mekong Delta was an area of marsh and forest. Gradually the marshland was reclaimed and a canal network built, facilitating the transport of locally grown rice, soybeans, peanuts, and fish throughout the area. We explore a traditional Mekong island, surrounded by the timeless beauty of the river scenery, and enjoy a sampan ride along narrow, palm-lined canals. After a lunch of local specialties we return to Ho Chi Minh City and overnight on our ship.

Saturday, April 3

**Ho Chi Minh City**

We continue our exploration of Ho Chi Minh City this morning, driving past Buddhist, Chinese, and Taoist temples on the way to visit the Presidential Palace—the site where the North Vietnamese tank crashed through its gates, signaling the end of the Vietnam War. We also visit the colorful and energetic markets in the Cholon Chinatown district before returning to the ship for lunch and the afternoon on board. We sail down the meandering Saigon River on a 45-mile journey through the fascinating traffic of sampans, cargo junks, and floating fruit markets.

Sunday, April 4

**Nha Trang / Van Phong Bay**

After sailing north we arrive in Nha Trang with its lovely coastal setting, colorful hillside houses, and brightly painted boats. We travel to nearby islands for snorkeling along the striking coral reefs, or explore the well-preserved Cham Ponagar Temple complex with its impressive towers built between the 7th and 12th centuries. The shores of...
Van Phong Bay are lined with massive sand dunes and the picturesque fishing village of Port Dayot offers excellent photographic and birding opportunities.

Monday, April 5

**Qui Nhon**
The seldom-visited provincial capital of Binh Dinh province hosts a large and colorful coastal fishing fleet. We explore the area, visiting the spectacular twin Cham Towers, dating from the 11th century, as well as four other historic towers perched serenely on a hilltop adjacent to a Buddhist monastery. At the Quang Trung Museum members of Vietnamese hill tribes perform superb martial arts demonstrations with music and dance—named an “intangible treasure” by UNESCO.

Tuesday, April 6

**Da Nang / My Son / Hoi An**
This morning choose from two options: Explore Da Nang’s excellent Cham Museum, a repository of magnificent sandstone carvings reflecting the Hindu styles of Champa, a powerful 4th – 15th-century empire of central Vietnam, or alternatively, visit My Son, the site of extensive outdoor Cham ruins and a World Heritage Site. Once a stronghold of the Viet Cong, today’s placid My Son offers a walk across bamboo bridges to the jungle-surrounded brick ruins.

We savor lunch in the small town of Hoi An, followed by a walking tour of this architectural gem. Historic 18th and 19th century homes, a Japanese bridge, a Chinese temple, silk shops, and small museums illustrating Hoi An’s cultural riches grace the winding lanes of this World Heritage Site.

Wednesday, April 7

**Hue**
Today we enjoy a full-day excursion to the city of Hue, another World Heritage Site on our itinerary. Highlights include a visit to the picturesque Dong Ba Market, and the vast moat-rimmed citadel, the Imperial City of the Nguyen Emperors, built between 1802 and 1945. After lunch we cruise up the Perfume River aboard local “dragon boats” and visit the stupendous royal mausoleums of Tu Duc and Khai Dinh reflecting Chinese-inspired architectural styles.

Thursday, April 8

**Vinh Moc**
Zodiacs take us ashore to visit the once-notorious demilitarized zone (DMZ) at the 17th parallel, an arbitrary strip of land that demarcated North and South Vietnam from 1954 to 1975. We view a bridge over the Ben
Hai River and a labyrinth of extraordinary tunnels at nearby Vinh Moc which served both as a refuge for the villagers while the area was bombarded and as a Viet Cong supply route.

Friday, April 9

**Halong Bay**

A World Heritage Site, Halong Bay is a dreamscape archipelago of thousands of limestone islets and rocky outcroppings. Our ship anchors amid the dramatic formations that rise straight from the seabed. We board beautiful wooden vessels to explore these craggy monoliths where gnarled trees cling precariously to narrow clefts; by Zodiac we may choose to go ashore to swim in secluded coves of adjacent Vinh Lan Ha Bay.

Saturday, April 10

**Haiphong / Disembark Clipper Odyssey / Hanoi**

After breakfast on board, we disembark the Clipper Odyssey and drive from Haiphong to Hanoi. At the downtown Water Puppet Theater we witness a unique, and utterly charming, Vietnamese performing art. In the afternoon we visit the Tay Phuong Pagoda whose carvings illustrate Buddhist stories, with the option of further exploring Hanoi’s countryside by bicycle. Or, continue by motorcoach to the 11th-century Thay Pagoda, famous for its vast display of finely carved wooden statues of former monks. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Sunday, April 11

**Hanoi**

After breakfast we visit Ho Chi Minh’s mausoleum, Vietnam’s most highly revered monument; the Presidential Palace; the charming One Pillar Pagoda; and the history museum before returning to the hotel for lunch. In the afternoon the Museum of Ethnology offers a comprehensive introduction to the 54 minority groups populating Vietnam. We stroll the narrow streets of Hanoi’s old quarter which teem with small shops, noodle vendors, and patisseries. This evening flaming torches line the entrance to the ancient Co Loa Citadel, and colored lanterns illuminate the courtyard during our farewell dinner at this quintessentially Vietnamese locale. We are entertained by music and dance performances from around Vietnam. Overnight at our hotel.

Monday, April 12

**Hanoi / Homeward**

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your independent flight to Hong Kong and connecting flights homeward.
For most activities, a relatively moderate level of exertion is required. You will need to climb unaided into and out of Zodiacs for excursions ashore, where staff and crew members will be on hand to assist. Ashore, you must be able to walk moderate distances over sometimes rough terrain. Temperatures will range from the mid 70sºF into the high 80sºF with some humidity and precipitation to be expected. We will mail a complete list of recommended clothing to you approximately five months prior to departure. Participants will most enjoy the remarkable opportunities this expedition offers if they travel with a spirit of adventure.

The Clipper Odyssey is a 110-passenger luxury vessel, ideally suited for expedition cruising. She carries a fleet of Zodiacs, which allows us to land anywhere nature or curiosity dictates. All cabins have an ocean view, safe, minibar, individually controlled heat/air conditioner, in-room music system, and sitting area with sofa. Passengers can track the progress of their voyage on the Global Positioning System broadcast in each cabin. Beds can be configured for twin or queen-size sleeping arrangements. All cabins have an en suite bathroom with shower. The Clipper Odyssey maintains a gourmet kitchen, providing American and international specialties. Facilities on board the Clipper Odyssey include a dining room, lounge, small library and gym, outdoor pool, massage room, Internet café and wireless access, and gift shop. An elevator services all passenger cabin decks. The Clipper Odyssey has an infirmary staffed by a registered physician and a sophisticated telecommunications system permitting Internet access and telephone and fax communication with any location around the world. Ship registry: Bahamas.
TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Reservations: 25% of the expedition fare, along with a completed and signed Reservation Form, will reserve a place for you on this Zegrahm Holdings LLC, d/b/a Zegrahm Expeditions (ZE), program. The balance of the expedition fare is due 120 days prior to departure. Air fare is also due at this time. All prices are quoted in U.S. dollars and must be paid in U.S. dollars. Credit cards accepted for deposit only.

2. Cancellation and Refund Policy: Notification of cancellation must be received in writing by ZE. At the time we receive your written cancellation, the following penalties will apply:
- 120 days or more prior to departure: 25% of the expedition fare
- 60 through 119 days prior to departure: 50% of expedition fare
- 1 through 59 days prior to departure: 100% of expedition fare

Some air fare may be nonrefundable. Once an expedition has departed, there will be no refunds from ZE for any unused portions of the trip. The above policy also applies to all extensions and independent travel arrangements made in conjunction with this program.

3. Trip Cancellation and Interruption Insurance: We strongly advise that all travelers purchase trip cancellation and interruption insurance as protection against an emergency that may force you to cancel or leave an expedition while it is in progress. A brochure describing coverage will be sent to you upon receipt of your reservation.

4. Share Policy: Accommodations on all ZE programs are based on double occupancy. If you are traveling alone and wish to share accommodations, a roommate will be assigned to you whenever possible. When pairing roommates, we will always pair participants of the same sex. All shared accommodations are nonsmoking. If it is not possible to pair you with a roommate, you may be asked to pay a single supplement for the land portion of the program.

5. Medical Information: Participation in a ZE program requires that you be in generally good health. It is essential that persons with any medical problems and related dietary restrictions make them known to us well before departure. We can counsel you on whether the expedition you have selected is appropriate for you.

The tour leader has the right to disqualify any participant at any time during the tour if he or she feels the participant is physically incapable and/or if a participant’s continued participation will jeopardize either the individual involved or the group. There will be no refund given under these circumstances.

6. Luggage Restrictions: Luggage size and weight limitations for both checked and carry-on luggage, imposed by the airlines or as an operational requirement due to type of aircraft, will apply for flights to/from/within this program. Specifications will be provided with pre-departure materials.

7. Fuel Cost Increases and Currency Fluctuations: In order to keep rates as low as possible, we do not build into the trip fare an allowance to cover possible increases from fuel costs or currency fluctuations. Therefore, as fuel-cost increases may occur and currencies do fluctuate around the world, it may be necessary for us to initiate a rate surcharge at any time before departure if there are exceptional cost increases beyond our control.

8. Itinerary Changes & Trip Delay: Itineraries are based on information available at the time of printing and are subject to change. ZE reserves the right to change a program’s dates, staff, itineraries, or accommodations as conditions warrant. If a trip must be delayed or the itinerary changed due to bad weather, road conditions, transportation delays, government intervention, airline schedules, sickness, or other contingency for which ZE or its agents cannot make provision, the cost of delays or changes is not included.

9. Itinerary Cancellation: ZE reserves the right to cancel an itinerary before departure for any reason whatsoever, including too few participants or logistical problems such as strikes, wars, acts of God, or any other circumstances that may make operation of the trip inadvisable. All trip payments received will be promptly refunded; and this refund will be the limit of ZE’s liability. ZE is not responsible for any expenses incurred by trip members in preparing for the trip, including nonrefundable or penalty-carrying airline tickets, special clothing, visa or passport fees, or other trip-related expenses.

10. Participation: ZE reserves the right to decline to accept any individual as a trip member for any reason whatsoever.

11. Limitations of Liability: This section defines ZE’s responsibility with respect to all of our trips, including extensions and independent arrangements. Please read it carefully.

ZE, its Owners, Agents, and Employees give notice that they act only as the agent for the owners, contractors, and suppliers providing means of transportation and/or all other related travel services and assume no responsibility howsoever caused for injury, loss, or damage to person or property in connection with any service resulting directly from: acts of God, detention, annoyance, delays, expenses arising from quarantine, strikes, thefts, pilferage, force majeure, failure of any means of conveyance to arrive or depart as scheduled, civil disturbances, terrorism, government restrictions or regulations, and discrepancies or changes in transit or hotel services over which it has no control. Reasonable changes in the itinerary may be made where deemed advisable for the comfort and well-being of the passengers.

As described in item 7 above, all prices are subject to change. As described in item 9 above, in the event that an expedition must be cancelled, ZE is not responsible for any personal expenses incurred by trip members in preparing for the program.

Certain ship owners require use of preprinted ticket forms that limit the ship owner’s and operator’s liability. When such tickets are used, you are generally bound by the terms of these tickets with respect to your legal relationship to the owner and operators of the ship, their agent (ZE), and the ship’s crew.

On advancement of deposit to ZE, the depositor acknowledges that he/she has read and understands the above recited terms and conditions, and agrees to be bound by them.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration # 2031043-40
Especially chosen for this voyage, our team of expert leaders and lecturers serves to bring a comprehensive educational component to your adventure through lectures, guided excursions, and daily recaps.

**John Yersin (Expedition Leader)** – John’s love of travel and life on the sea evolved during his 33 years as an industrial microbiologist in Britain, Europe, the Middle East, and Far East. After graduating from Exeter University in England, John conducted marine, freshwater, and terrestrial surveys; the tools of his trade—diving, hovercraft piloting, and powerboat driving—became foundations for his present work in the travel industry as a lecturer, Zodiac driver, and expedition leader. Since 1998 he has been working on small cruise ships in the wild and pristine parts of the world, from the Arctic to the Antarctic.

**Greg Homel** – A birder-naturalist since early childhood, Greg now travels the world on a full-time basis in search of rare and little-known birds and wildlife, which he presents through digital lecture series, television, and publications. Since 1990 he has guided, educated, and inspired travelers in over 80 countries throughout the world. Greg has personally seen over 50 percent of the planet's roughly 9,800 bird species in the wild.

**Rick Price** – Rick began his career as a marine biologist in 1978, working for the British Antarctic Survey. In 1988, he was awarded the Polar Medal by Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace. Life as a marine biologist sparked an interest in underwater photography that evolved into a career as a freelance wildlife cameraman. Since the early 1990s, Rick has filmed for the BBC Natural History Unit and The Discovery Channel—both on land and underwater—and he has worked on David Attenborough’s documentary series, *Life of Birds* and *Life in the Freezer*.

**Kim Jane Saunders** – A teacher and writer, Kim is a graduate of international politics and history and holds a master’s degree in education. She has lived in Hong Kong and Indonesia, and has traveled extensively throughout East and Southeast Asia. She is the author of *Contemporary Tie and Dye Textiles in Indonesia* and is engaged in research on tourism and handicraft production in Southeast Asia. Currently living in Singapore, Kim is a lecturer and consultant and also works with the travel and tourism industry, promoting awareness and appreciation for locally produced Southeast Asian handicrafts.

**Ron Wixman** – Professor Ron Wixman, a specialist in world cultural geography, is well versed in both the ancient and modern societies of the Mediterranean, Eastern Europe, Japan, Southeast Asia, Central Asia, and the Middle East. In addition to nine research trips to China, Tibet, Mongolia, and all of the countries of Southeast Asia, he has spent quite a bit of time traveling and studying in Asia. His lectures on the traditional way of life and religions and how they influence development in this region will bring the Vietnamese culture to life. At home in Oregon, Ron is not only a well known professor at the University of Oregon, but he is also a regular commentator on radio and television as an expert on religion, culture, geopolitics, and ethnicity.

**Julie Christensen (Cruise Director)** – During Julie’s tenure leading travelers around the world she has visited all seven continents. Aboard a variety of expedition vessels such as *Le Levant*, *Le Ponant*, and the *Clipper Odyssey* she has traveled to the Russian Far East and Alaska; the numerous countries rimming the Mediterranean, Black, and Baltic Seas; Central America; Micronesia and Melanesia; the Middle East; and India. During several of our past voyages, Julie has been integral to the success of the expedition team due to her calm, decisive, and affable nature.
VIETNAM & ANGKOR WAT  March 27 – April 12, 2010

Name #1 (as it appears on passport)
(Preferred name)

Name #2 (as it appears on passport)
(Preferred name)

Address
City   State  ZIP           Country

Phone (Home)   (Office)

E-mail     Fax

Cabin Category:  1  2  3  4  5  6  Suite
Accommodations:  Twin  Share (roommate to be assigned)  Single

I am/We are:  Nonsmokers  Smokers

Deposit Information:
Enclosed is a deposit check for $ (25% per person of the program fare)
Charge 25% deposit per person to:  VISA  MasterCard  American Express

Card Number     Expires

Authorized Cardholder Signature     Date
Note: Credit cards accepted for deposit only

I/We have read and understand the enclosed Terms & Conditions for this program, and agree to abide by them.

Signature     Date

Signature     Date

Please complete and return this Reservation Form with your deposit of 25% per person of the program fare to:

ZEGRAHM EXPEDITIONS
192 Nickerson Street #200  Seattle, WA 98109 USA • tel: (206) 285-4000 or (800) 628-8747
fax: (206) 285-5037 • e-mail: info@zeco.com • web site: www.zeco.com

Reservation requests can also be made online at www.zeco.com.
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We begin in Siem Reap, our base as we explore breathtaking temple complexes, including the chance to watch the sun rise over the soaring towers of Angkor Wat, one of six World Heritage Sites on our itinerary. In Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) we board the superb 110-passenger Clipper Odyssey, the perfect vessel for our thousand-mile voyage, and sail northward. Geographically, the landscape is one of profound and contrasting beauty, with lush jungle-clad mountains, dazzling beaches, dramatic limestone formations that rise straight from coastal seaboards, and terraced rice fields made fertile by the immense Red River and Mekong Deltas.

With its early settlement dating back more than 4,000 years, Vietnam reflects the influences of a succession of empires and would-be conquerors in its architecture, religion, and traditions. You’ll be captivated by the design intricacies of temples, shrines, and monuments—the ancient Cham Ponagar Temple in Nha Trang, the ruins at My Son, the historic center of Hoi An, and the Imperial City of Hue. And, in the dreamscape archipelago of Halong Bay, witness nature’s dramatic limestone architecture that legend calls “the handiwork of celestial dragons.”

The cities of both Cambodia and Vietnam reveal thriving urban centers, Ho Chi Minh City radiates a freewheeling entrepreneurial spirit, its French-colonial buildings the last vestiges of the era of Western control. Hanoi and Phnom Penh present a more sedate elegance with their lovely shaded boulevards, palatial presidential palaces, museums, ornate colonial buildings, temples, and pagodas. Colorful street scenes—merchants, noodle vendors, silk lantern stands—all along with the perpetual motion of thousands of motorcycles and cyclos, catch the eye from every direction. As one of our recent travelers put it, “This amazing place is one great photo opportunity after another.”

We also encounter Vietnamese daily life along the Mekong Delta and the Perfume River, as we walk the narrow streets of tiny villages, surrounded by a patchwork of rice paddies. Among the many highlights of our voyage is a performance at Hanoi’s famed Water Puppet Theater, a bicycle ride through the countryside, and a private performance by Vietnamese hill tribe-people which UNESCO has designated an “intangible treasure.”

As always, our distinguished team of leaders and lecturers share their knowledge and insight, providing an intimate and in-depth experience. For exquisite natural beauty, ancient cultural diversity, and the warmest of welcomes by a resilient and forward-looking people, we hope you’ll join us as we explore the magical lands of Indochina.

Warm regards,

Jon Nicholson
President