

ORIENT ODYSSEY 2008

Tour Code: GIE

20 Day

# Grand Indochina Expedition

## Laos, Vietnam & Cambodia

USA – Bangkok – Luang Prabang – Vientiane – Hanoi – Halong Bay – Hue – Da Nang –  
Hoi An – Saigon – Siem Reap – Bangkok – USA

**A true journey of a life time that is inerasable from the memory**

*The remote plateau, ethnically exuberant hills, the lush hinterlands, fascinating varied cultures  
A part of the world bustling with diversity and color, positively explode with unusual tribes & customs  
and the magnificent **Angkor Wat**, as written by Rose Macaulay in her "Pleasures of Ruins"  
"..... calling you silently, irresistibly, day and night"*

20 Day Grand Indochina Expedition Laos, Vietnam & Cambodia 2008 Departure Date	Tour Cost (US\$) Per person double occupancy direct non stop flight from			Land Only Package	Single Room Supplement
	Los Angeles LAX	New York JFK	Vancouver YVR		
Jan 6, Feb 17, Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4, Jun 8, Jul 6, Aug 3, Sep 7, Oct 5, Nov 2, 30, 2008 Jan 4, Feb 8, Mar 8, Apr 5, 2009	\$4350	\$4500	\$4880	\$3730	\$1090

US tax of \$88, International flight fuel surcharge of \$198, and Vietnam & Cambodia air tax of \$82 per person is extra.

\*Jun / Jul / Aug / Dec departure is subject to peak season airfare surcharge of \$150 per person.

Operated by *Orient Odyssey*



(B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner, SD-Special local  
flavor dinner or banquet, F-In flight meals)

### Day01 Los Angeles – Bangkok

Tonight, check in at Los Angeles International Airport for *Eva Air* flight BR015, departing around midnight at 11:50 p.m..

\*You can also take Eva Air or China Airlines' flight from New York (EWR or JFK) and Vancouver, Canada (YVR).

### Day02 En Route

Fly cross the international dateline and enjoy award winning in flight meals and services - two full meals & one snack will be served, complete with complimentary beverage services. **F**

### Day03 Bangkok

You will arrive in Taipei at 6 a.m.. Connect flight BR211 at 8:30 a.m., arrives Bangkok at 11:15 a.m.. After immigration & customs, our local representative will greet and accompany you to the 4 star deluxe *Century Park Hotel*. This afternoon is at leisure for you to rest from the jetlag or to explore the city at own pace. (Optional half day city tour is available – enjoy a visit to the splendid Grand Royal Palace and cruise Bangkok's many bustling canals with

floating community on a traditional hand crafted long tail boat). **F**

#### **Day04 Bangkok – Luang Prabang, Laos**

Guide will accompany you to the airport and assist you to check in for *Bangkok Airways'* flight PG941 departing at 9:50 a.m., arrives Luang Prabang at 11:50 a.m.. After immigration and customs, guide will meet you and accompany you to the 4.5 star luxurious *Villa Santi Hotel* to check in. Welcome to Luang Prabang, a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site, an ancient capital city of Lan Xang Kingdom, famous for its historic temples and beautiful setting surrounded by mountains. Set between the Nam Khan and Nam Ou rivers, It is an enchanting town filled with historic temples and colonial style buildings. Today's program calls for a visit to Wat Visoun (Wat Wisunalat). Dating back to 1513, it is the oldest living temple in the city with a collection of antique gilded wooden Buddha from the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Then you will proceed to Wat Aham and Wat Xieng Thong – it is the crowning jewel and the most beautiful monastery located on the banks of the Mekong River, showcasing the typical Lao art style with old religious artifacts and ancient masterpiece of Lao art. Its many ornate buildings feature exquisite mosaic and gold stenciled murals. You will then stroll down the main street and observe the bustling local life. Time permitting, you will stop at the some of the many temples that line its sides, including Wat sibounheuang, Wat Si Mounghoun, Wat Sop and Wat Sene. **B/D**

\*Due to flight schedule and local logistic, part of today's sightseeing program might be conducted on day 06.

Explore Wat Xieng Thong – the most beautiful monastery located on the banks of the Mekong River, showcasing the typical Lao art style with old religious artifacts and ancient masterpiece of Lao art. Visit the Wat Wisunalat (Vat Visoun) – the oldest operating temple in the region with a collection of Tour Wat Saen and Wat Mai – once the residence of Phra Sangkharaj, the Patriarch of the Buddhist clergy. At Wat That Luang, see the large central stupa containing the ashes of King Sisavang Vong. **B/L/D**

#### **Day05 Luang Prabang (Pak Ou Cave Excursion)**

Today's program calls for a visit to the National Museum – the former Royal Palace. It is a

modest but graceful building which combines traditional Lao and French beaux-arts motifs. This turn of the century royal residence has been preserved as it was when the royal family last lived here and provides unique insights into the history of Laos. Inspect the Royal Throne of the Lan Xang Kingdom and other pieces of regalia and religious treasures. You will then enjoy a scenic boat ride passing villages & rice fields. Explore Pak Ou Caves (the Tham Thing Cave and the Tham Phum Cave). Located in the steep rock cliff at the confluence of the Mekong and Ou River, you will see an amazing collection of Buddha images of varying styles, ages and sizes. Enjoy *Orient Odyssey's* signature “**People to People Contact**” feature, you will visit the nearby village of Ban Xang Hai – once a “Jar Maker Village”, nowadays the community fills the jars with lao-lao, a local rice whisky. Chat with villagers and enjoy insights of the rural village life of the country. Return to Luang Prabang. Shortly before sunset, you will climb the hillside stairs to the small temples at the top of Mount Phou Si. Sits in the middle of the town, it offers unforgettable views of magnificent sunset over the temples and the river. **B/L/D**

#### **Day06 Luang Prabang – Vientiane**

Guide will take you to the airport and depart via a short 40 minutes flight to Vientiane, the capital of Laos. Sitting in a bend of the Mekong River amidst fertile alluvial plains, pronounced “Wieng Chan” by locals, it still feels like a sleepy city with relaxed charm, tree lined boulevards, interesting wats and colorful markets. Our local representative will meet you at the airport and transfer you to the 4 star deluxe *Lao Plaza Hotel*. **B/L/D**

\*Due to flight schedule and local logistic, part of Day04's sightseeing program might be conducted today.

#### **Day07 Vientiane – Hanoi, Vietnam**

Enjoy an in-depth exploration of the highlights of the city, beginning with That Luang – “the Great Sacred Reliquary”. The gleaming golden stupa is the most important national monument, functioning as a dual symbol of the Buddhist religion and the Lao nation. Next stop is Ho Pha Keo – the former royal temple of the Lao monarchy built in 1565, now converted into a museum containing some of the best examples of Buddhist sculptures found in Laos. Visit Wat Si Saket with small niches carved in interior walls containing more than 2000 silver and ceramic

Buddha images. See Patuxai, a large monument in the style of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris with a stairway leading to the top level, providing a good birds' eye view. Visit Wat Si Muang, which contains the city pillar and acts as the home of Vientiane's guardian spirits. End the program at Talaat Sao – the bustling market selling a wide range of traditional Lao fabrics and jewellerys, even some electronic goods. Guide will accompany you to the airport and assist you to check in for **Vietnam Airlines'** flight VN840 departing at 5:45 p.m., arrives Hanoi at 6:45 p.m.. After immigration and customs, our representative will greet and accompany you to the 4 star deluxe **Sunway Hotel**. Welcome to Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, a city of lakes, tree-lined boulevards and public parks, complimented by the mystery and charm of past centuries with narrow lanes and traditional shop houses, creating an atmosphere of elegance and harmony with nature.

B/L



#### Day08 Hanoi

Visit the intricate One Pillar Pagoda. Built by the Emperor Ly Thai Tong in 11<sup>th</sup> century, it is constructed of wood on a single stone pillar, designed to resemble a lotus blossom. Continue to the Temple of Literature, a peaceful series of walled courtyards and graceful gateways. It is one of the best surviving examples of traditional Vietnamese architecture. Founded in 1070 as a dedication to Confucius in order to honor scholars and men of literary accomplishment, it

was also the site of Vietnam's first university. You will head to the picturesque Hoan Kiem Lake, located in the heart of Hanoi, contains an islet with tiny tortoise Pagoda. En route, you will enjoy picture taken at the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and the magnificent 1911 Opera House. Visit the impressive St Joseph Cathedral – a neo-Gothic masterpiece finished in 1886 with square towers, elaborate altar and stained glass windows. Tour History Museum (Bao Tang Lich) – once was the museum of the Ecole Francaise d'Extreme Orient, the 1930's elegant building now houses exhibits spanning the entirety of Vietnam's history including prehistory, proto-Vietnamese civilizations, the Dong Son culture, the Oc-Eo culture and the Khmer Kingdoms. Also explore the Museum of Ethnology where the astonishing ethnic diversity in the country is brought to life. Inside are detailed descriptions of minority groups, with examples of their traditional clothing and way of life. Outside are faithful reconstructions of traditional longhouses, cemeteries and other distinctive ethnic buildings. Tonight you will enjoy the Water Puppet Show – a fantastic art form originating in northern Vietnam – at the famous Municipal Water Puppet Theatre located on the shore of Hoan Kiem Lake.

B/L/D

#### Day09 Halong Bay Excursion

This morning you will enjoy a scenic coach ride passing villages, markets, small towns and rice fields to Halong Bay. Board a traditional wooden fishing boat for a 4 hour's relaxing cruise. "Halong", literally means "dragon descending to the sea". The area is listed by the United Nation as a World Heritage Site of "Outstanding Natural Beauty". Countless limestone islets, many containing beautiful grottos, rise from the sea. Cruise on the emerald clear waters, passing craggy limestone cliffs, stopping at different islands to explore the caves. Sail past floating villages, fisherman casting their nets and pearl fisheries. Observe rhythms of the peaceful daily life on the bay. Fresh seafood lunch will be served onboard. Return to Hanoi via scenic coach ride late afternoon. Evening is free for you to rest, or explore the bustling city streets & markets at own pace.

B/L/D

#### Day10 Hanoi – Hue

After breakfast, our guide will accompany you to the airport and assist you to check in for **Vietnam Airlines** flight VN245, departing at 10:10 a.m., arrives Hue at 11:20 a.m.. You will

be met and transferred to the 4 star deluxe *Saigon Morin Hotel*. Hue served as the capital of Vietnam for more than 140 years. Established in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, it houses ancient temples, imperial building and French style edifices. Explore the Imperial Citadel, a vast complex built in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and modeled after the Forbidden City in Beijing. The original walls were surrounded by a wide moat. Today most of the buildings, palaces, and halls have been destroyed due to bombing during the Vietnam-American War, but the monuments that remain provide a fascinating glimpse into the court life of the Nguyen Dynasty. First see the striking Flag Tower, where a giant Vietnamese flag waves proudly overhead. Then approach to the imposing Ngo Mon Gate – the principal entrance of the Imperial Enclosure, the central passageway with its yellow doors was reserved for the use by the Emperor only, as was the bridge across the lotus pond. Entering into an area of spacious courtyards and serene lotus ponds, you reach Thai Hoa Palace, the magnificently decorated reception hall with an ornate roof of huge timbers supported by 80 carved and lacquered columns. Also inspire the Halls of the Mandarins, the original Nine Dynastic Urns and the ruins of the Purple Forbidden City, among other sites. With *Orient Odyssey's* “*People to People Contact*” program, you will have the opportunity to stroll in the bustling Don Ba Market and enjoy an insight of the local's daily life. **B/L/D**

\*Due to local condition & actual flight arrival time, visits to the Don Ba Market might be rescheduled to tomorrow.

#### **Day11 Hue**

This morning, enjoy a leisurely boat ride down the legendary Perfume River to Thien Mu Pagoda, an elegant seven-tiered octagonal tower, one of the oldest ancient architectural religious structures in the country which has now become Hue's most widely recognizable monument. Continue cruising into the countryside to the Imperial Tomb of Emperor Minh Mang – a majestic complex of courtyards, pavilions and temples in a beautiful natural setting, known for its architecture, military statuary and elaborate decorations. Afternoon venture further and explore Royal Tomb of Tu Duc – the longest reigning Vietnamese emperor, who designed and built this elegant tomb during his life time, using it as a retreat for meditation, reading and theater performances. Take some time to soak in the

tranquil atmosphere, wandering among the gracefully proportioned pavilions setting among the forested hills, courtyards and lotus ponds. Afterwards visit Khai Dinh – the last of the monumental tombs of the Nguyen Dynasty incorporates distinct European elements into the traditional Vietnamese architecture. Completed in 1931, it sits magnificently on the slopes of Chau E Mountain in Chau Chau Village, featuring a long staircase flanked by dragons, and a spectacular ceiling filled with murals and amazing ceramic frescoes. **B/L/D**

#### **Day12 Hue – Da Nang – Hoi An**

A beautiful day awaits! The scenic coach ride takes you through the dramatic Hai Van Pass – “the Pass of Ocean Clouds”, crossings over a spur of the Truong Son Mountain Range that juts into the South China Sea. Enjoy scenic mountainous roads with spectacular views over the coastline. En route you will stop at the Lang Co Fishing Village where a lovely stretch of beach curving outwards between a clear blue lagoon and the South China Sea. Approaching Da Nang – Vietnam's fourth largest city which marks the northern limit of the country's tropical zone, boasting a pleasant year round climate. Visit the famous Cham Museum, home to worlds' best collection of Cham Art. There are more than 300 artifacts dating to the 4<sup>th</sup> century including some beautiful sculptures reflecting the 1000 years of mystery. You will also stop and stroll at the famous China Beach – a spectacular stretch with “pink” sands & roaring waves, it was the famous land spot and later resort for American soldiers during the Vietnam-American War. Also on the agenda is a visit to the Marble Mountain – consisting of 5 stone hillocks, once were islands but now rising sharply from the surrounding rice fields. Riddled with caves and shrines, they are said to each represent one of the five elements of the universe. The largest and the most famous, Thuy Son, has a number of natural caves in which Buddhist sanctuaries have been built over the centuries. When Champas ruled this area, these same caves were also used as Hindu shrines. This evening you will arrive Hoi An and check in at the 4.5 star luxurious *Hoi An Riverside Resort*. **B/L/D**

#### **Day13 Hoi An**

Also known as Faifo to early western traders, Hoi An is a graceful, picturesque, engaging back water village town complete with hump-backed bridges and shops bursting with silks, painting, embroidered goods and lacquer ware. Here was



once Southeast Asia's major international port for Western, Chinese and Japanese traders during the 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. In 1999, UNESCO had designated this exquisitely preserved merchant town a World Heritage Site. Today it is a thriving center of traditional crafts and a shopper's paradise. Enjoy a leisurely walking tour and wander through the cobble stone streets to inspire the distinctive low tiled roof houses and the bustling central market. Explore Quan Cong Temple – founded in 1653, dedicated to Quan Cong, whose partially gilded statue is in the central altar at the back of the sanctuary. Stone plaques on the walls list contributors to the construction and repairing of the temple. At Phuoc Kien Pagoda, check out the typical Chinese “clans” that established in the area. The temple is dedicated to Thien Hau Thanh Mau – Goddess of the Sea and Protector of Sailors and Fishermen. Walk across the unique Japanese Covered Bridge – constructed in 1593 by Japanese community to link the town with Chinese quarters across the stream. The bridge was provided with a roof so it could be used as a shelter for rain and sun. Visit Tran Family Chapel – this house for worshipping ancestors was built 200 some years ago. The Tran family traces its origins to China and moved to Vietnam around 1700. The architecture of the building reflects the influence of Chinese and Japanese styles. Also explore the Sa Huynh Museum, containing exhibitions from the earliest period of Hoi An's history. Highlights of the day will be a visit to the “Phung Hung House” – the same family has been living here for eight generations. Chat and mingle with family members while inspiring the beautiful engraved penail with exquisite ancient figures. You will then stroll in the rockery courtyard of Quang Dong Pagoda, passing a lintel gate with lucky animals depicted in statuary. Enjoy *Orient Odyssey's* unique “**People to People Contact**” program and board a local boat to cruise down the Thu Bon River, enjoy the unspoiled countryside and stopping to visit a Pottery Village and a Woodcarving Village. Chat & mingle with locals – peasants, boat builders & craftsman. Return to the small Hoi An Harbour where colorfully painted boats are moored. The remaining of the day is at leisure to rest, or to explore this serene historic town at own pace. **B/L/D**

#### **Day14 Hoi An – Saigon (Ho Chih Minh City)**

Enjoy a scenic morning drive to Da Nang Airport. Checking in for *Vietnam Airlines* flight VN321 departing at 8:00 a.m., arrives Saigon at

9:10 a.m.. Welcome to Saigon, also called Ho Chih Minh City, Vietnam's most vibrant metropolis teeming with energy, activity and motion. The meeting of the traditional and modern life are visible every where. The emerging modern skyline stands cheek by jowl with colonial buildings and traditional temples. Young professionals zip by on motorcycles, chatting on cell phones. Inside quiet temple courtyards, worshippers pray amidst clouds of incense. The city chums and bubbles - yet within this teeming metropolis are 300 years of timeless traditions and the beauty of an ancient culture. Begin your tour by strolling along the Dong Khoi Street, formerly known as the Rue Catinat during the French years. It is now a main shopping thoroughfare in the heart of old colonial Saigon, with endless choice of handicrafts and laquerwares. Drive by classic European style landmarks such as the ornate City Hall (once the Hotel de Ville) with its distinctive gingerbread façade, passing the Opera House – built around the turn of the century to house the lower division of the National Assembly, it is now a Municipal Theatre & Saigon Concert Hall. You will tour Reunification Palace – formerly the Independence Palace of the South Vietnamese president. This 60s style compound was stormed by tanks on Apr 30, 1975 signifying the fall of South Vietnam. It has been preserved in its original state, and the original tanks remain on display near the entrance gates. Also visit the horrowing War Remnants Museum. Then head to the west of the city to District 5, the sprawling, densely packed Chinese neighborhood called “Cholon”, meaning “big Market”, now commonly refers to as Chinatown. Visit two of the oldest and most interesting pagodas – the Jade Emperor Pagoda and Giac Lam Pagoda. Enjoy a short stroll in the fascinating Binh Tay Market - the vast wholesale market selling every kind of goods from dried foods to T shirts to electronics. Then proceed to Thien Hau Pagoda – built by the Cantonese congregation and dedicated to the heavenly goddess. Today's program ends at Ben Thanh Market, where vendors display a vast array of goods and handicrafts, appealing to every taste. Overnight at the 5 star luxurious *Equatorial Hotel Saigon*. **B/L/D**

#### **Day15 Cu Chi Tunnel & Tay Ninh Excursion**

A scenic drive takes you to Tay Ninh, the birth place of the unique Cao Dai religion, a fusion of Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Christianity, Islam and native Vietnamese spiritual beliefs.

Every day at noon, worshippers garbed in colorful robes flock to the Cai Dai Great Temple to participate in the daily prayer sessions, which visitors may respectfully observe from the upper balconies. Continue to the famous Cu Chi Tunnels. Never discovered by American forces, these tunnels were an important Vietcong base during the American War. Stretching over 200 km, this incredible underground network, dug by hand out of hard laterite, connected command posts, hospitals, shelter and weapon factories. Today you can walk through the area and learn about the day-to-day life of the VC, see the cleverly disguised entrances and elaborate booby-traps, and even venture inside the tunnels, some of which have been modified to accommodate foreign travelers. Return to Saigon in late afternoon. Enjoy evening at leisure. [B/L/D](#)

*\*Daily ceremony of the priests in Tay Ninh may be cancelled without prior notice during special festivals, like the annual TET (Vietnamese New Year).*

#### **Day16 Mekong Delta & Mytho Village Excursion**

Enjoy a scenic excursion to My Tho, a bustling town in the rich agricultural region of the rich Mekong Delta, and the capital of the Tien Giang Province. En route, feast your eyes with serene and lush rice fields. The area is known as Vietnam's "Bread Basket" – the rice produced here feeds the entire country. Visit Vinh Trang Pagoda, a beautiful temple and a well maintained sanctuary, it is the oldest pagoda in the Mekong Delta. The charitable monks here now turn it into a home for orphans, disabled and other needy children. You will board a traditional wooden boat to explore Mekong River Islands full of fruit orchards, featuring lush, palm fringed shores frequently lined with wooden fishing boats. Enjoy fruit and tea while listening to the local music. Highlight would be a ride on a small wooden sampan through the tiny waterways that thread the islands. Return to Saigon in the evening to enjoy farewell dinner and savor your unforgettable journey of Vietnam! [B/L/D](#)

#### **Day17 Saigon – Siem Reap, Cambodia**

Guide will accompany you to the airport and depart via [Vietnam Airlines'](#) flight VN827 at 11:40 a.m., arrives Siem Reap, Cambodia at 12:40 p.m.. After immigration and customs, local representative will meet you outside the restriction area and accompany you to check in

at the 5 star luxurious [Angkor Century Resort & Spa](#). Welcome to the home of Angkor, the capstone to this hearty trip. "An epic poem," Arnold Toynbee once wrote of this triumphant expression of humanity's diligence and talent. "Like the Odyssey and like Paradise Lost," he said, "it makes its effect by the grandeur of its structure as well as the beauty of its details." This afternoon will be devoted to the visit of Angkor Wat, the crowning jewel of Khmer architecture, the national symbol and the highlight of any visit to Southeast Asia. The largest, best preserved and most religiously significant of the Angkor temples, it impresses visitors both by its sheer scale and beautifully proportioned layout, as well as the delicate artistry of its carvings. To approach the site, you will first cross the vast moat, continuing along a broad causeway lined with naga balustrades. As you enter the main building, ascend through a series of galleries and courtyard before reaching the central sanctuary, which offers beautiful views back over the causeway and across the surrounding countryside. You will stop to enjoy the intricate stone carvings that adorns nearly every surface, with some 1700 Apsaras, or celestial dancers, sculpted into the walls. Along the outer gallery walls run the longest continuous bas-relief in the world, which narrates stories from Hindu mythology. The temple ground covers 81 hectares and took over a period of 30 years in 12<sup>th</sup> century to complete the construction. Now considered by art historians the definitive example of classical Khmer art and architecture, it is designated by UNESCO as the World Culture Heritage Site. Angkor Wat is stunning at any time of the day, but the sunrise and sunset are especially beautiful times to watch the play of light on the stones. This evening, you will have the opportunity to watch the magnificent sunset over the Cambodian countryside from the upper terraces of an ancient Angkorian Temple! [B/L/D](#)

#### **Day18 Siem Reap**

Enjoy our comprehensive & extensive sightseeing program of the spectacular ruins & temple grounds of this site. You will first proceed to the fortified royal city of Angkor Thom – built in 1100s, covers an area of 10 square km. It is enclosed by a wall and five monumental gates, encircled by a moat 100 meters wide. Inside are many of Angkor's most popular sights. Enter the imposing South Gate over a causeway lined on either side by statues of demons and gods, each carrying a giant naga.

Continue to the Elephant Terrace once used for viewing public ceremonies and also as a base for King's grand audience hall. You can now see famous lines of elephants at either end of the retaining walls. Proceed to the Terrace of the Leper King - a platform with a nude statue, one of Angkor's many unanswered mysteries. Visit the ruined Baphuon, Royal Enclosure and Phimeanakas - the Celestial Palace. Continue to the mysterious Bayon Temple. Here is one of the most popular and compelling ground in Angkor. You will explore the galleries of beautifully preserved bas reliefs and ascend narrow stairs to reach the central sanctuary, where an amazing collection of 54 towers decorated by 200 faces of Avolokitesvara, all smiling enigmatically down at you from every angle. Leaving Angkor Thom, the next stop is Preah Khan. You will visit the Banteay Kdei - a massive Buddhist temple dating from the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It is surrounded by four concentric walls, featuring towered enclosures and shoulder hugging corridors in a jungle setting. Continue on to the Banteay Srei Temple. Seemingly miniature in comparison to the other Angkor temples, it represents the pinnacle of the classical Khmer art. Built in pink sandstone in 10<sup>th</sup> century, the walls are covered in exquisitely preserved carvings of unusual delicacy. Because of its small size, fairy like atmosphere and extraordinary examples of Khmer sculpture, the site becomes a favorite among visitors. Highlight of the day will be a call to Ta Prohm - one of the picture perfect attractions of Angkor as much of the jungle has not been cleared and it looks very much the same as most of the Angkor monuments did when European explorers first stumbled across them! Also tour Ta Keo - the first Angkorian monument built entirely of sandstone and was dedicated to Lord Shiva. The summit of the central tower is 50 meters high and is surrounded by four lower towers. Also on today's agenda is a visit to Chau Say Tevoda - the temple dedicated to Lord Shiva and Vishnu, it was built during the second quarter of the 12<sup>th</sup> century; and Sras Srang - "The Pool of Ablutions", a centuries - old basin with a tiny island in the middle where only the stone base remains of what was once a wooden temple. Enjoy *Orient Odyssey's* legendary "People to People Contact" feature - you will visit Psah Chah - the old market in the middle of the town, once destroyed by the Khmer Rouge in 1975, and later reopened in 1996. It has many food stalls and souvenir shops. Stroll freely and

minge with shop keepers to observe true local life..... [B/L/D](#)

\*Due to flight schedule and local conditions, it might be necessary to switch the order of the sightseeing items between day 17, 18, & 19.



### Day19 Siem Reap - Bangkok

Continue to explore the magnificent Angkorian archeological ruins in the region. Check out the Roluos Group Temples - the monuments mark the beginning of the classical art, as some of the earliest great temples built by the Khmer. They served as the capital of Indravarman who reigned from 877 to 889AD. Visit Lolei - built on an islet by Yasovanman I, the founder of the first city of Angkor. Inspire the sandstone carvings in the niches of the temples and the Sanskrit inscriptions on the doorposts. Visit Preah Ko - dedicated to the defied ancestors of Indravarman I. Tour Bakong - dedicated to Lord Shiva, it is the largest and most interesting temple of Roluos group and still has an active Buddhist monastery on site. Highlights of the day will be a boat cruise to the Tonle Sap Lake (the Great Lake). Located in the heart of Cambodia, this extraordinary lake swells up to seven times its original size during the monsoon season. Its ecosystem is one of the richest and most diverse in the region. As part of *Orient Odyssey's* exclusive "People to People Contact" feature, the boat trip explores the floating fishing villages that live at the edges of the lake, passing submerged forests and fishing farms. Enjoy the insight exploration of local village life. Tonight, after the farewell dinner, guide will accompany you to the airport and assist you to check in for *Bangkok Airway's* flight PG916, departing at 8:55 p.m., arrives Bangkok at 9:50 p.m.. Local representative will meet you after immigration

and customs and accompany you to the 4 star deluxe *Century Park Hotel*. B/L/D

\*During the dry season the water might be too shallow for the boat ride Tonle Sap Lake. You will then visit the surrounding village via coach ride.

**Day20 Bangkok – USA**

Savor the memory of the Grand Indochina Expedition. Our representative will accompany you to the airport and assist you to check in for *Eva Air* flight BR212 departing at 12:35 a.m., arrives Taipei at 4:55 p.m.. Connect flight BR12 at 6:20 p.m., arrives Los Angeles at 3 p.m. the same day (L.A. local time) B/F

\*You can also take Eva Air or China Airlines' flight from Bangkok to New York (EWR or JFK) or Vancouver, Canada (YVR).

*Kindly refer to General Terms & Conditions*

For inquiry, please feel free to call

**1-800-637-5778**

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