Vassar Travel Program

VIETNAM EXPLORED:
A JOURNEY THROUGH ITS HISTORY AND CULTURE

Vassar Hosts: Professor Robert K. Brigham, Shirley Ecker Boskey Professor of History and International Relations and Monica d. Church, Associate Director of the James W. Palmer ’90 Gallery

MARCH 12 – 23, 2018

DAY 1
Monday. March 12
Hanoi

Upon arrival in Hanoi you will be escorted through the VIP immigration and customs channel and transferred to the Sofitel Legend Metropole Hotel. Rooms have been reserved in the Historical Metropole Wing. (Meals aloft)

The Hotel Metropole Hanoi was the first Sofitel Legend property in the world and is the recipient of numerous international awards for its fine service. This legendary landmark has contributed to the history & heritage of the city. The hotel has a long tradition as a luxury venue for prestigious events & as a popular rendezvous for business and leisure travellers including playwrights, ambassadors and heads of state.

DAY 2
Tuesday. March 13
Hanoi

We start the day with a faculty/staff introduction meeting before we set out on a full day tour of Hanoi. The first stop will be Ba Dinh Square, the site where Ho Chi Minh once declared Vietnam’s independence and is now the place of his burial. From here, a short walk takes us to the One-Pillar Pagoda and the Hanoi Citadel. After lunch Professor Brigham will guide us on a tour through the B52 Victory Museum, which includes displays on the history of the First Indochina War and the Vietnam War. Our welcome dinner this evening will be held at the Ly Club.

• Sofitel Legend Metropole Hotel (B,L,D)

DAY 3
Wednesday. March 14
Hanoi

Enjoy an optional early morning walk along Hoan Kiem Lake where you will see hundreds of locals practicing tai chi. After breakfast we explore Hanoi’s Old Quarter. During the 13th century, the city’s 36 guilds of craftsmen and artisans established themselves here. Subsequently, each street has been named after the specific product that was produced and sold at this location. One cannot help but feel the essence of life from centuries past. Our next stops will be St. Joseph Cathedral and Hoa Lo Prison, famously named the “Hanoi Hilton” by American POWs.

• Sofitel Legend Metropole Hotel (B,L)

DAY 4
Thursday. March 15
Hanoi

Today’s excursions include a tour of the Temple of Literature. Built in 1076, it was Vietnam’s first university dedicated to the education of the country’s royalty, mandarins and members of the elite. The well-preserved architecture and beautiful garden make for a lovely place for today’s young students to gather or find a quiet spot to read. We will also be visiting the American Embassy this afternoon.

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• Sofitel Legend Metropole Hotel (B,L,D)
Today, we cannot escape the energy and bustle of this vibrant city as we head to some of its historical highlights such as the Reunification Palace, the famous Post Office, constructed in the late 19th century during the days of French Indochina and the War Remnants Museum, displaying, at times in a very graphic way, the legacy of the Vietnam War. No tour of the city would be complete without a stroll through one of the local markets with its colorful array of fruits, vegetables and flowers all accompanied by the friendly chatter of the vendors.

- Park Hyatt Hotel (B,L,D)

Day 8

Monday, March 19

Ho Chi Minh City

Enjoy an excursion to My Son, one of the most stunning sites in Vietnam and home to the wonderful open air Cham Museum. The monuments are set in a verdant valley overlooked by the Cat’s Tooth Mountain. My Son was once a center for spirituality and worship during the reign of the Champa Kingdom. It is a bit reminiscent of the great monuments at Angkor Wat. We then depart on an afternoon flight bound for Ho Chi Minh City. Enjoy dinner this evening at Xu Restaurant, one of the city’s finest.

- Park Hyatt Hotel (B,L,D)

Day 9

Tuesday, March 20

Ho Chi Minh City

Today, we cannot escape the energy and bustle of this vibrant city as we head to some of its historical highlights such as the Reunification Palace, the famous Post Office, constructed in the late 19th century during the days of French Indochina and the War Remnants Museum, displaying, at times in a very graphic way, the legacy of the Vietnam War. No tour of the city would be complete without a stroll through one of the local markets with its colorful array of fruits, vegetables and flowers all accompanied by the friendly chatter of the vendors.

- Park Hyatt Hotel (B,L)
Dear Vassar College Traveler,

With its dramatic landscapes, fascinating history, epic food, and pulsating energy, Vietnam is the perfect travel destination. We invite you to join us March 12-23, 2018, as we explore Vietnam’s past and present in a remarkable tour of the country.

We begin in charming Hanoi, whose French architecture blends seamlessly with the serenity and timelessness of ancient pagodas and temples. Time in Hanoi allows us to take in the city’s colorful Old Quarter, its historical highlights, and its many museums. We will meet the people primarily responsible for Vietnam’s remarkable transformation into one of the most dynamic countries in Asia. We will enjoy a night on a boat in Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its majestic karst limestone mountains jutting out of the water. We next fly to Da Nang in Central Vietnam. A short drive takes us to Hoi An, another UNESCO World Heritage site, with its eclectic mix of merchant architecture showcasing old houses in French, Chinese and Japanese style all of which miraculously escaped the ravages of war. We end the trip in bustling Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), a mix of old and new that makes the perfect bookend for the journey. We will be in Ho Chi Minh City during the 50th anniversary of the Tet Offensive, a key turning point in the war.

Private meetings with government officials, public health experts, NGOs, educators, entrepreneurs, diplomats, writers, and artists that have been arranged throughout the tour will be announced prior to departure.

Tour Cost $6,980 per person based on double occupancy.

For a detailed itinerary and additional information on this journey through Vietnam, please contact Tina Patterson at Authentic Asia at (888) 586-9958 or tina@authenticasia.net

With kindest regards

Robert K. Brigham
Shirley Ecker Boskey Professor of History and International Relations

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DAY 10

Wednesday, March 21
Ho Chi Minh City

Our private speedboat is waiting for us this morning to take us to the Cu Chi Tunnels that played an important role during Vietnam’s wars for independence and unification. Seeing the 200 km of tunnels built by the Communist guerrillas and imagining what life was like underground is a unique and fascinating experience.

- Park Hyatt Hotel (B,L,D)

DAY 11

Thursday, March 22
Ho Chi Minh City

Enjoy some free time today before we walk to the rooftop terrace of the Rex Hotel in the late afternoon in time for cocktails. This was once the gathering place of the foreign war correspondents and became famously known as the “5 O’clock Follies”. Our journey concludes with a sumptuous farewell dinner this evening.

- Park Hyatt Hotel. (B,D)

DAY 12

Friday, March 23
Departure

You will be transferred to the airport in time for your departure flight.

* Private meetings with government officials, public health experts, NGOs, educators, entrepreneurs, diplomats, writers, and artists that have been arranged throughout the tour will be announced prior to departure.
Included are: All accommodations as listed; internal flights in Vietnam in economy class; all meals as listed; individual airport transfers in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City; tea and coffee with all meals; bottled water with all meals and during all sightseeing; soda and juice drinks with all meals; domestic beer and wine with dinner; all sightseeing and entrance fees; gratuities to guides, drivers and porters and wait staff; Vietnam visa fee, service of a professional tour manager and national Vietnamese guide, talks/lectures by Professor Brigham and Monica Church.

Not included are: U.S. domestic and international airfare in and out of Vietnam; trip cancellation/baggage insurance; excess baggage fees; items of purely personal nature and those not expressly mentioned as included.

Capacity: This departure is limited to a maximum of 20 paying participants.

What to expect: This trip does involve a certain amount of physical activity such as moderate walking, stair climbing, walking on uneven surfaces and getting in and out of boats. Travelers must be in good physical health in order to fully participate in the tour.

Reservations & Payments: To reserve a space, return the completed reservation form with your $1,000 per person deposit to: Authentic Asia, 1035 Pearl Street, Suite 403, Boulder, CO 80302 or fax it to (720) 549-9799. Balance of payment is due 75 days prior to departure. Personal checks should be made payable to our tour operator Authentic Asia Tours and Travel. VISA, MasterCard and American Express are also accepted. Reservations will be processed in order of receipt. Your trip deposit is non-refundable.

Cancellation Policy and Refund: The trip deposit of $1,000 is non-refundable. The final invoice will be sent 75 days prior to departure and is due upon receipt. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by Vassar Travel Program. The following cancellation fees will apply:

- If a written cancellation is received within 75 – 61 days prior to departure: 50% of the trip price will be refunded.
- If a written cancellation is received within 60 – 45 days prior to departure: 25% of the trip will be refunded.
- If a written cancellation is received within 45 – 30 days prior to departure: 15% of the trip will be refunded.
- If a written cancellation is received within 29 – 15 days prior to departure: 10% of the trip will be refunded.
- If a written cancellation is received within 14 – 7 days prior to departure: 5% of the trip will be refunded.
- If a written cancellation is received within 6 – 0 days prior to departure: 0% of the trip will be refunded.

No refund shall be issued after the tour has commenced, or for leaving the tour early. No refunds shall be issued for missed meals, sightseeing or any unused services.

Responsibility: Tour participants assume the responsibility to select a tour that is appropriate for his or her abilities and health. Authentic Asia, Vassar College and Vassar College Travel act only in the capacity of agents for the hotels, airlines, bus and ship lines or owners of contractors providing accommodations, transportation or other services. As a result, all coupons, receipts or tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the supplier. By acceptance of tour membership, the participant agrees that neither Authentic Asia, Vassar College and Vassar College Travel nor any of its subsidiaries shall become liable or responsible for personal injury or illness, damage to person or property, loss, delay or irregularity caused by person not controlled by it, such as (without limitation) airlines, bus and shipping companies, suppliers of accommodations or other services, or resulting from any acts of God, defects in vehicles, strikes, wars, whether declared or otherwise, civil disturbances, medical or customs regulations, acts of terrorism, epidemics, government restrictions, criminal or negligent acts, weather, or any other circumstances over which Authentic Asia, Vassar College and Vassar College Travel have no control. Authentic Asia, Vassar College and Vassar College Travel are not responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the participants as a result of the above mentioned causes.

Tour participant acknowledges receipt of a copy of these terms and conditions and signifies acceptance of, and consents to all of the terms and conditions set forth herein, when registering for the tour, or making payments on this tour.

Association’s Disclaimer: Please note that Vassar College does not conduct tours, nor does it act as an agent for guests interested in tours. Vassar College acts as a facilitator with tour operators, with whom tour participants make arrangements for completing travel, and is pleased to act as a liaison with tour operators should you have any questions that may arise before, during or after your tour. Vassar College encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with the tour operator’s cancellation and refund policy, and also to investigate available services such as trip cancellation insurance. Vassar College is not responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements or for losses or additional expenses resulting from travel.

Robert K. Brigham, Shirley Ecker Boskey Professor of History and International Relations, joined the Vassar faculty in 1994. He is a specialist on the history of U.S. foreign policy, particularly the Vietnam War. Bob has been traveling and leading study trips to Vietnam since the 1980s. He is author of ten books on the war, including Argument Without End: In Search of Answers to the Vietnam Tragedy, written with former Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and James G. Blight of Brown University. His current book project examines Henry Kissinger and the Paris Peace Agreement to end the war (PublicAffairs).

Monica d. Church is the Associate Director of the James W. Palmer ‘90 Gallery, Advisor to PHOCUS and The Baldeck Photographic Center at Vassar College. Church first traveled to Vietnam in 1992 on a research visa. While in Hanoi, she collected what little trash and detritus she could find and combined it with Joss papers to create a series of collages entitled, From the Streets of Hanoi. This series was exhibited in Lexington, KY, published on the cover of Vietnam Generation, and went on to win a Merit Award from the Anderson Fine Arts Center in Anderson, IN. In 2012, her post-war Vietnam inspired installation was part of Conflict, Destruction, Renewal: Contemporary Artists on War at Vassar’s Palmer Gallery. Many of her photographs have appeared in award-winning journals and books including, The Teacher’s Guide for The Fog of War: A Errol Morris Film; Marigold: The Lost Chance for Peace in Vietnam, by James G. Hershberg and others.
RESERVATION FORM

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March 12 – 23, 2018

Please make your check payable to Authentic Asia Tours and Travel and mail it to Authentic Asia, 1035 Pearl Street, Suite 403, Boulder, CO 80302 or fax the credit card/reservation form to attn. Tina Patterson at (720) 549-9799.

For more information or a detailed trip itinerary, please contact Tina Patterson at Authentic Asia at (888) 586-9958 or at tina@authenticasia.net

PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is my check for $ ___________ ($1,000 per person), payable to Authentic Asia, to reserve__________ places on the journey to Vietnam. OR

☐ Please charge the deposit to my:  ○ VISA  ○ MasterCard  ○ AmEX

________________________________________     __________________________________
Card Number                                  Exp. Date

________________________________________     __________________________________
Card Holder Signature                             Security Code

I/We understand that the final payment is due December 27, 2017, 75 days prior to departure. Registrations after December 27, 2017: Full payment is due.

Your trip deposit is non refundable!

_________________________    _____________
Signature        Date

_________________________    _____________
Signature        Date

NAME # 2 (AS LISTED IN PASSPORT)   Vassar Affiliation

Name # 2 (AS IT SHOULD APPEAR ON NAME BADGE)

$ 6,980 per person based on double occupancy   |   Single Room Supplement $ 1,880

ACCOMMODATIONS

☐ Double/Share

☐ Single (Single Room Supplement $ 1,880)

I/We have agreed to read the tour itinerary and information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions as stated therein.

_________________________    _____________
Signature        Date

Name # 1 (AS LISTED IN PASSPORT)   Vassar Affiliation

_________________________    _____________
Signature        Date

Name # 1 (AS IT SHOULD APPEAR ON NAME BADGE)

_________________________    _____________
Signature        Date

Name # 2 (AS LISTED IN PASSPORT)   Vassar Affiliation

Name # 2 (AS IT SHOULD APPEAR ON NAME BADGE)

Vassar Travel Program
161 College Avenue, Box 14
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

HANOI

SAIGON

HOI AN

HALONG BAY