Southeast Asia Odyssey

19 days from $6,947 total price from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle ($6,445 air & land inclusive plus $502 airline taxes and fees)

Engaging, diverse, intriguing ... This just begins to describe Southeast Asia and our small group odyssey. We cruise the Mekong through Laos; explore the spectacular – Angkor Wat – and the sublime – Ha Long Bay; and engage with local farmers and hill tribespeople on this comprehensive, well-paced adventure.

We spend three days touring Cambodia’s Angkor Wat temple complex. Above: Victory Gate entrance at Angkor Thom

Day 1: Depart U.S. for Hanoi, Vietnam

Day 2: Arrive Hanoi We arrive in the Vietnamese capital late this evening then transfer to our hotel.

Day 3: Hanoi Our tour of this French-accented city begins in Ba Dinh Square at the revered mausoleum and home of Ho Chi Minh. Next: historic One Pillar Pagoda, a Buddhist retreat; the serene Temple of Literature (c. 1070); Hoa Lo Prison, the infamous “Hanoi Hilton” of the Vietnam War; and Hanoi’s Ancient Quarter, dense with street vendors, where we enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant this evening. B,D

Day 4: Hanoi/Ha Long Bay We depart this morning on a full-day excursion to Ha Long Bay, a breathtaking waterway in the Gulf of Tonkin dotted with 2,000 islands and islets, and surrounded by limestone cliffs and hidden caves. Here we board a traditional “junk” for lunch and an afternoon cruise through the fairy-tale seascape, a UNESCO site. B,L

Day 5: Hanoi/Da Nang/Hoi An We fly this afternoon to Da Nang then continue on to Hoi An and our riverside hotel. We get our first glimpse of the Old Town and its colorful lanterns as we dine together this evening. B,D

Day 6: Hoi An An easy boat ride on the Thu Bon River brings us to the colorful ancient port of Hoi An. We tour the lively daily market, and stroll the shop- and gallery-lined back streets and alleyways of Old Town, now a UNESCO site. Tonight’s small group highlight: an interactive Vietnamese cooking class, followed by dinner. B,D

Day 7: Hoi An/Da Nang/Siem Reap, Cambodia We see local life up close this morning as we take a walking tour of a nearby farming settlement. Later we visit the acclaimed Cham Museum then transfer to the airport for the flight to Siem Reap, arriving this evening. B,L

Day 8: Siem Reap We make our first visit to the temples at the Angkor Wat complex, a small-scale city built between the 9th and 13th centuries and now a UNESCO site. We travel via tuk-tuk (auto rickshaws) to Angkor Thom, the last Khmer capital; and Bayon Temple, an imposing stone edifice of 54 towers each carved with four enigmatic faces. We also explore 12th-century Ta Prohm, the mystical, decaying Buddhist shrine where the giant roots and limbs of banyan trees have overtaken the labyrinth of stone rooms and hallways. Later we tour stunning 12th-century Angkor Wat itself, the world’s largest temple. B,L,D

You Small Group Tour Highlights

Hanoi sightseeing • Ha Long Bay cruise • Charming Hoi An • Extensive touring of Angkor Wat complex • Luang Prabang alms giving ceremony • Interactive rice farming experience • Two-day Mekong cruise with overnight in riverside lodge • Elephant sanctuary • Bangkok sightseeing

Day 1 Itinerary Hotel Rating
1 Depart U.S. for Hanoi
2-4 Hanoi Melia Hanoi Sup. First Class
5-6 Hoi An MGallery Hotel Royal Deluxe
7-9 Siem Reap Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra Deluxe
10-12 Luang Prabang Avani Luang Phrabang Sup. First Class
13 Pakbeng (Mekong River) Le Grand Pakbeng Sup. First Class
14-15 Chiang Rai The Riverie by Katathani Deluxe
16-18 Bangkok Royal Orchid Sheraton Deluxe
19 Depart Bangkok for U.S.

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.
Day 9: Siem Reap  Today’s highlights include the restored 12th-century monastary and temple complex at Preah Khan; and 10th-century Banteay Srei, the “citadel of women” dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva and known for its delicately carved pink sandstone. B,D

Day 10: Siem Reap/Luang Prabang, Laos  This morning we visit Les Artisans d’Angkor, a development project for young adults to learn traditional crafts. Late this afternoon, we fly to Luang Prabang. B,L,D

Day 11: Luang Prabang  Our introduction to Laos begins early today with a time-honored tradition: the “tak-bat,” where hundreds of saffron-robed monks collect alms from their fellow Buddhists. Later we set out to explore this ancient royal city; our walking tour features the Old City, a UNESCO site, where we tour the beautiful 16th-century Wat Xieng Thong temple complex, and the National Museum, formerly the royal palace. We return to our hotel for an afternoon at leisure then enjoy dinner in a family restaurant set in a village outside the town and styled like a traditional Laotian stilted bamboo house. B,D

Day 12: Luang Prabang  This morning we visit an elephant sanctuary – a community-based eco-project – in the scenic Nam Khan River valley. Then we learn about the lives of local farmers firsthand as we travel to a communal rice farm, where we enjoy lunch before joining in such farm-based activities as bamboo weaving, blacksmith work, and sugar cane processing. B,L

Day 13: Luang Prabang/Mekong River Cruise/Pakbeng  We begin a tour highlight today as we board a private riverboat for an upstream voyage on this remote stretch of the Mekong. Along the way we stop to visit villages of ethnic hill tribes, and the Pak Ou Buddha Caves, housing hundreds of Buddha icons. We enjoy lunch on board our boat, a traditional wooden river cruiser with unobstructed views of the Mekong’s lush banks. Upon arrival in Pakbeng, we check in at our hotel. B,L,D

Day 14: Pakbeng/Mekong River Cruise/Chiang Rai, Thailand  Back on board our riverboat, we cruise past diverse mountain scenery, stopping in a small village. After crossing the border into Thailand, we transfer to our Chiang Rai hotel. B,L,D

Day 15: Chiang Rai  At this morning’s Thai cooking class, we prepare the feast that we’ll enjoy for lunch today. Then we pay an afternoon visit to Wat Rong Khun, the unusual “White Temple” celebrating Lord Buddha’s purity. Tonight: Chiang Rai’s lively night market, where we can select dinner on our own from the many food stalls. B,L

Day 16: Chiang Rai/Bangkok  Today we visit the Doi Tung Royal Villa and Gardens, the former home of the king’s mother who led efforts against the heroin trade. Late today we fly to Bangkok. B,L,D

Day 17: Bangkok  We discover the Thai capital at the colorful Flower Market; Wat Pho Temple, home of the gold-leafed Reclining Buddha; and the splendid Grand Palace complex, where we visit the revered Temple of the Emerald Buddha. B,L

Day 18: Bangkok  This morning’s visit to the Jim Thompson House reveals the prized Southeast Asian art collection of the American who revived the Thai silk industry. Tonight we celebrate our south-east Asia odyssey at a farewell dinner. B,D

Day 19: Depart for U.S.  Today we transfer to the airport for our return flights to the U.S. B

Post-Tour Extension
December 23-26, 2024
Singapore
4 days/3 nights for $1,495 total price
Single Supplement: $395
Encounter this multi-cultural city-state, at once exotic and sophisticated.

Your Tour Price Includes
• Air transportation Bangkok/Singapore
• 3 nights’ accommodations at Carlton City Hotel Singapore (Superior First Class)
• 5 meals: 3 breakfasts, 2 dinners
• Extensive sightseeing, including Singapore cultural tour, bumboat ride on Singapore River, National Orchid Garden, and Gardens by the Bay
• Private motorcoach transportation
• Services of an Odysseys Unlimited representative
• Gratuities for dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

You carry Mother Earth with you.”
— Thich Nhat Hanh

For reservations, call Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. toll-free (888) 370-6765 m-f, 9:00am-7:00pm, eastern time
Tour Prices
Tour prices quoted are guaranteed through December 31, 2024, and include accommodations based on double occupancy; airfare from your departure city; airline taxes, surcharges, and fees, and port charges and cruise line fees (where applicable), which are subject to change until final payment has been made; internal air, rail, and motorcoach transportation; meals, sightseeing, and transfers as described; hotel taxes; entrance fees for included sightseeing; the services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director; luggage handling for one bag per person; and all gratuities as described below. Please note that the cost of air upgrades is subject to change.

Gratuities
Tour prices include all gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers on base tours and on optional extensions when accompanied by an Odysseys Unlimited representative. Please note that gratuities for the Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour) are not included. These tips are optional and should be extended on a voluntary basis. Gratuities are not included on “On Your Own” optional extensions.

Not Included in Your Tour Price
Airfare from your hometown to your departure city; costs of passports and visas; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; immunizations, inoculations, and COVID-19 testing; communications charges; airport transfers when purchasing a land-only package; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director and shipboard personnel (if a cruise is included in your tour), which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: $10-$15 per guest, per day); and a Travel Protection Plan. Additional baggage fees levied directly by the airline(s) may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Registration and Payment
A deposit of $500 per person confirms your reservation. Full payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure and may be made by personal check or credit card. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. reserves the right to cancel any reservations that are not paid in full at any time after final payment is due. If you make your reservation after the final payment date, payment in full will be required upon reservation.

Cancellations and Refunds
If you must cancel your tour, the effective date of cancellation will be upon our receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges:
For all tours (except as noted)

Prior to departure Charge
95 days or more: $200
94-65 days: 25% of tour price
64-45 days: 50% of tour price
44-30 days: 75% of tour price
29-0 days: No refund

For Africa's Wildlife, Ancient Greece, Southeast Asia Odyssey

Prior to departure Charge
95 days or more: $200
94-65 days: 50% of tour price
64-30 days: 75% of tour price
29-0 days: No refund

Please note that we will not refund the cost of any unused portion of your tour package. If due to unforeseen circumstances Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. cancels your tour, you will receive a complete refund of all payments you have made to us.

Pre-Departure
Upon reservation, you will be able to access all information regarding your tour in My Odyssey, our secure on-line portal. This material includes your invoice, a detailed day-by-day itinerary, visa requirements (if applicable), Travel Protection Plan information, and more. Your final tour documents, including airline itineraries (with e-ticket numbers), will be available in the portal two to three weeks before departure.

Single Travelers
We welcome single travelers, and offer a limited number of single accommodations on each tour. Because hotel and cruise rates are priced by the room or cabin, the per person cost for accommodations occupied by one person is higher than that shared by two people. We endeavor to keep single supplements at a reasonable cost. Please note that single rooms in many foreign hotels may be smaller than those to which you are accustomed.

Changes to Your Reservation
We will not charge a fee for any changes made to your reservation outside of 95 days before departure. From 94 to 30 days before departure, if you make any changes to your reservation, a $100 per person administrative fee will apply, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by airlines, hotels, or other third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason or at any time, you will be charged the single supplement. No changes to your reservation can be made within 30 days of departure.

Required Information
Upon reservation, we will need to obtain from you the following, in accordance with the Transportation Security Administration’s (TSA) Secure Flight program (for details, please visit www.tsa.gov), as well as for our international travel partners: your full name as it appears on your passport, date of birth, and gender. In addition, airlines may require that we provide them with your contact information prior to departure. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, or if you use a different passport than originally cited, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.

Travel Documents
A passport valid for at least six months after the completion of your tour is required for U.S. citizens on all of our international tours. For all domestic tours, where we fly into a U.S. city to begin the tour or out of a U.S. city at the end, you must present a valid U.S. government-issued photo identification. Starting on May 7, 2025, your government-issued photo ID must be REAL ID-compliant (or you can present an alternate form of ID, such as a passport). Visit www.dhs.gov/real-id or contact your local DMV for more information. If your tour requires a visa(s), we strongly recommend that you have at least six blank visa pages available; for tours not requiring a visa(s), we recommend that your passport have at least three blank visa pages. We will send you specific visa and entry requirements after you make a reservation. You are responsible for obtaining these documents. If you need to obtain a visa, we recommend our preferred provider G3 Global Services. If you are traveling with a minor, please contact us for special entry requirements. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please contact your embassy or consulate to ensure you obtain the proper documentation.
Health and Medical Issues
We welcome all travelers, but request that you be in good health to participate in an Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. tour. All of our tours involve a reasonable amount of walking (typically two to three miles per day), often uphill or on uneven or cobblestone streets. **You must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own.** We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our itineraries, for reasons beyond our control, do not accommodate wheelchairs. Please call or e-mail us to inquire, and we will do our best to answer any questions you may have. We reserve the right to remove anyone whose physical condition or behavior, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other tour members. In that event, Cornell Alumni Travel and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour. While we do our best to accommodate food allergy concerns, we cannot guarantee zero cross-contamination.

Air Transportation
Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. includes in its tour price round-trip economy air from designated gateway cities as shown and contracts with those airlines the company feels provide the level of service, routings, and value necessary for your entire trip. While another airline may offer a more direct connection, it may be at a price unavailable at the lower group rates. You will receive your preliminary air schedule approximately 2½ months prior to departure. **Please note that seat assignment on your international flight is usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. is unable to guarantee any seat assignments.** Due to the nature of tour operator tickets, other restrictions apply, including, but not limited to, frequent flyer mileage accrual, stopovers, alternate travel dates, upgrades, and airline taxes and fees. If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, booking the tour “Land Only” is available on most tours. Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that you do not purchase non-refundable tickets or those with high penalties for changes. If you choose to make your own air arrangements, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. shall not have any liability for any loss resulting from cancellation of this tour or changes in this tour.

Responsibility
The liability of Cornell Alumni Travel, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchases transportation, hotel accommodations, and restaurant and other services from independent suppliers not under our control. We serve only as agents for these suppliers in securing tour arrangements, and therefore will not accept responsibility for wrongful, negligent, or arbitrary acts or omissions of these independent contractors, or of their employees, agents, servants, or representatives. Cornell Alumni Travel and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. are not liable for injury, damage, loss, accident, or delay that may be caused by events not within our control, including, without limitation, acts of terrorism, war, strikes, the defect of any vehicle, or the negligence or default of any third party. All coupons, receipts, and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the air carriers, cruise lines, and other independent suppliers.

We will make every effort to operate our tours as planned, but we reserve the right to make itinerary or staff changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Please Note
While Cornell is pleased to facilitate travel opportunities for its alumni and friends with tour operators that specialize in high-quality educational travel, please be aware that Cornell does not conduct, manage or operate these travel experiences, or act as an agent for travelers interested in tours. Tour operators and travelers are responsible for making their own safety decisions concerning this travel, and, as a facilitator between travelers and the tour operators with whom travelers make arrangements for completing travel, Cornell’s role and liability are strictly limited. Specific tour operator and national health and safety protocols will apply to each trip, and travelers should review all protocols and trip terms and conditions, including terms and conditions regarding cancellations, refunds, health and safety, and insurance prior to making a reservation. Cornell is not responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements or for losses, expenses, damages, or injuries resulting from travel.
RESERVATION FORM

To reserve your place on tour, please call Odysseys Unlimited toll-free at 888-370-6765. Please have the information outlined below available to share with an Odysseys Unlimited Travel Counselor.

If you prefer, you may also complete this Reservation Form and mail it to Odysseys Unlimited’s office. Once this request is received, a Travel Counselor from Odysseys Unlimited will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and include with the form. Final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure.

Send to: Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.
    Attn: Special Interest Groups
    One Newton Place
    275 Washington Street, Suite 300
    Newton, MA 02458

| Tour Name ____________________________________________________________ |
| Departure Date ____________________________ | Pre- or Post-Tour Extension (as described on tour page): Please sign me/us up ☐ |

I/We would like to request ________ place(s). (Deposit amount is $500 per person.)

Full Passport Name______________________________________________ Date of Birth ______________ Gender ______

Full Passport Name______________________________________________ Date of Birth ______________ Gender ______

Address _____________________________________________________________________________________________

City ____________________________________________________________ State ____________ ZIP _________________

Home Phone (_____)_____________________________ Cell Phone (_____)_______________________________

E-mail(s) ___________________________________________ Badge Name(s) ___________________________________

Please book my/our air from ____________________________ I/We request an air upgrade to ______________________

I will share a room with __________________________________________ I request a single room (limited availability) ☐

I/We request an upgrade to cabin category _____________________________ (for Patagonian Frontiers only)