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“EXOTIC INDOCHINA”

A tour of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos, with Saigon - the Mekong Delta - Phnom Penh - Angkor Wat – Luang Prabang - Vientiane - Halong Bay - and Hanoi.

Monday, November 1, to Friday, November 19, 2010

A 19-day exploration of the part of Southeast Asia known, when the French were still its colonial masters, as “Indochina” because this is where the cultures of China and India overlap. Today the region consists of three independent countries, each with its own fascinating culture and traditions: Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos. Escorted by Jacques R. Pauwels, PhD.

Just \$4,995 from Toronto, based on double occupancy – single room supplement: \$985

PROPOSED ITINERARY:

Day 1 - Monday, November 1:

Just after midnight, departure from Toronto for Hong Kong with Cathay Pacific Airlines, one of Asia’s

and probably the world's! best airlines. You will enjoy excellent service as you cross the Pacific on your way to China!

Day 2 - Tuesday, November 2:

Arrival in Hong Kong in the early morning, and connecting flight to Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), formerly known as Saigon. Arrival in HCMC, and transfer to the deluxe (five-star) Hotel New World (www.newworldsaigon.com/eng/home/main.php). Check in and free time to settle in. Welcome dinner with traditional Vietnamese entertainment in a nearby restaurant.

Day 3 - Wednesday, November 3:

Full-day sightseeing tour of HCMC, with as highlights Notre Dame Cathedral, the grand Municipal Post Office, City Hall, the Municipal Theatre, the former "South Vietnamese" Presidential Palace, the former US Embassy, and the War Remnants Museum. We will also visit some workshops where artisans fabricate typical products such as silks, fine lacquerware, jewelry, and all sorts of traditional handicrafts. Dinner in a floating restaurant on the Saigon River!

Delicacies in Binh Quoi Village Restaurant >

Day 4 - Thursday, November 4:

Morning excursion into the countryside and visit to the amazing network of tunnels dug by the Vietcong guerilla fighters during the Vietnam War, known here as the American war. Returning to HCMC in the afternoon, we visit the bustling Chinatown with its markets and temples. This evening, dinner and show inspired by the theme of a traditional Vietnamese wedding, in Binh Quoi Village Restaurant.



Day 5 - Friday, November 5:

Departure from HCMC after breakfast. We motor to the town of My Tho, gateway to the lush Mekong Delta, the food basket of Vietnam, which produces an abundance of rice, vegetables, and all sorts of fruits. In My Tho we board a river boat and enjoy a leisurely cruise through the delta, disembarking occasionally to visit villages, orchards and farms. We also get to taste local products such as coconut candy, dragon fruit, leeches, honey, etc. Late afternoon arrival in Can Tho, capital of the Mekong Delta, and dinner and overnight in the 4-star Hotel Golf (www.golfhotel.vnn.vn).



< Scenery in the Mekong Delta

Day 6 - Saturday, November 6:

Early breakfast, followed by a sunrise cruise and a visit to a floating market. Afterwards we drive to the riverside town of Chau Doc, situated near the Cambodian border. Here we take a boat tour and visit a floating community of fishermen as well as a village inhabited by people of the Cham ethnicity. Accommodation in the first-class colonial-style Hotel Victoria, located on the banks of the Bassac River, a

branch of the Mekong, in Chau Doc (<http://victoriahotels-asia.com/eng/hotels-in-vietnam/chau-doc-hotel>), and opportunity to enjoy a swim in the pool before dinner in the hotel's fine restaurant.

Day 7 - Sunday, November 7:

After an early breakfast, we travel to Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, by speedboat, departing at 7:30 and arriving around noon. In the afternoon, panoramic city tour, with buildings and villas of the French colonial era, the Independence Monument, the Royal Palace with the beautiful Silver Pagoda, and the “Genocide Museum”, the Khmer Rouge’s notorious Tuoi Sieng Prison. Dinner and overnight in the 4-star Hotel Sunway. (<http://phnompenh.sunwayhotels.com>)

The **Mekong** is one of the world's major rivers. It is the 10th-longest river in the world, and the 10th-largest by volume (discharging 475 km³ of water annually). Its estimated length is 4,023 km. From Tibet it runs through China's Yunnan province, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. The Mekong Delta is the region in southwestern Vietnam where the Mekong River approaches and empties into the South China Sea through a network of tributaries. (From: Wikipedia)

Day 8 - Monday, November 8:

After an early breakfast, departure by speedboat for the town of Siem Reap, cradle of the Angkor Civilisation and home of the world-famous ruins of Angkor Wat. We travel via the Mekong River and Lake Tonle Sap, the largest freshwater lake in South East Asia and an ecological marvel that was designated as a UNESCO biosphere (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tonle_sap). Arrival around 1 PM, and transfer to the 4-star Somadevi Angkor Hotel and Spa (www.somadeviangkor.com). Opportunity to shop in the local market and colonial quarter and/or swim in the hotel’s lovely pool before dinner in the restaurant of our hotel.



< *Ancient view of the ruins of Angkor Wat*

Day 9 - Tuesday, November 9 and Day 10 - Wednesday, November 10:

Two days of sightseeing in Angkor Wat, a vast jungle-covered complex of more than 100 magnificent temples, pyramids, towers and other monuments dating back to the Khmer Dynasty of the 9th-13th centuries. We will visit Angkor Wat itself, plus other famous “Angkorian” temples and sites, such as Angkor Thom, the Bayon, the Terrace of Elephants, and Ta Prohm, a temple overgrown, spectacularly so, by the jungle! Also opportunity to

shop at Siem Reap’s amazing markets! Dinner daily, including one dinner with a traditional Apsara Dancing Show.

Apsara dancers >

Day 11 – Thursday, November 11:

After breakfast, transfer to the airport and flight to Luang Prabang in Laos, the landlocked, mountainous, and isolated little country known as the “land of a million elephants”, where the traditional lifestyle of Southeast Asia is best preserved. Luang Prabang, the ancient capital of the Lao Kingdom, and situated on the Mekong River, is the country’s paramount tourist attraction; this treasure trove of temples and monuments as well as French colonial buildings has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1995. Dinner and overnight in the traditional 4-star Hotel Vangtong (www.vangthonghotel.com).



Day 12 - Friday, November 12:

Full-day sightseeing tour of Luang Prabang, with the National Museum in the former Royal Palace; a number of royal temples, including Wat Mai and the Phousi Temple; the stupa of Wat Visoun; Wat Aham, former residence of the supreme patriarch of Lao Buddhism. There will also be time to explore the market and shopping district, and this evening before or after dinner in a typical restaurant, we visit the local night bazaar.

Day 13 - Saturday, November 13:

Today we explore the lovely countryside around Luang Prabang. In the morning we enjoy a boat ride on the Mekong River to visit the sacred caves of Pak Ou and the picturesque village of Bang Xang Hai. In the afternoon we visit the waterfalls and pools of Kuangsi. Return to Luang Prabang in time for some shopping and dinner in a typical restaurant.



< *Temple in Luang Prabang*

Day 14 - Sunday, November 14:

After breakfast, transfer to the airport and flight to Vientiane, the Laotian capital. Arrival in early afternoon, and introductory city tour, with focus on Pha That Luang, symbol of both the Buddhist religion and Lao independence, with its tall stupa, and Patuxai, an impressive war memorial resembling the Arc de Triomphe. Accommodation in the 4-star Novotel

(www.novotel.com/gb/hotel-1828-novotel-vientiane/index.shtml), and dinner, accompanied by a demonstration of traditional Lao dances, in Kalao Restaurant.

Day 15 - Monday, November 15:

Additional sightseeing in Vientiane in the morning, including the superb temple complex of Wat Si Saket, featuring niches with thousands of Buddha images, and, just across the street, Haw Pha Kaew, a royal temple associated with the famous Emerald Buddha. Also sidetrip to Xien Khuan for a visit to “Buddha Park”, a quixotic outdoor collection of enormous Buddhist and Hindu sculptures. Transfer to the airport around noon, and afternoon flight to Hanoi. Arrival in the Vietnamese capital, and immediate transfer through the Red River delta with its rice fields to Halong Bay, another UNESCO World Heritage Site, situated on the shores of the South China Sea just north of the harbour of Haiphong. Dinner and overnight in the first-class Hotel Novotel, overlooking the bay (www.novotelhalongbay.com).

Typical scenery of Halong Bay >

Day 16 - Tuesday, November 16:

Full day to enjoy the splendour of Halong Bay. A 4-5 hour cruise on a traditional wooden junk will allow us to explore this amazing archipelago of 3,000 small rocky limestone islands that are scattered in the bay. We stop at one of these islands to explore a limestone cave and, conditions permitting, to sunbathe on the beach and/or swim in the calm blue waters of the South China Sea. A fine seafood lunch will be served on board! Return to the mainland in early afternoon, and rest of the day at leisure. No group dinner this evening, but there are many restaurants (including Japanese and Italian!) in the vicinity of our hotel.



Day 17 - Wednesday, November 17:

After breakfast we motor inland to Hanoi. Afternoon city tour with sights such as the Ho Chi Minh

Mausoleum, One-Pillar Pagoda, Ba Dinh National Square, Quan Thanh Temple on a little island in West Lake, the garden of Hoan Kiem Lake, and the Confucian Temple of Literature. Dinner in Minh Anh Restaurant, and accommodation in the centrally-located 5-star/deluxe Hotel Melia (www.meliahanoi.com/default.aspx).

Day 18 - Thursday, November 18:

More sightseeing in the Vietnamese capital, with visits to the Vietnam History Museum and the Fine Arts Museum, as well as a pedicab tour of the old quarter and free time for shopping at Dong Xuan Market. We also attend a performance of a traditional water puppet theatre. This evening, superb “au revoir”-buffet dinner of Vietnamese culinary specialties in – ignore the western name! - Brother’s Café-Restaurant.

Day 19 - Friday, November 19:

After breakfast, transfer to the airport and return flight to Canada, via Hong Kong, with same-day arrival in Toronto.

Tour price, based on double occupancy: \$4,995 from Toronto

The single room supplement is \$985

Included in the price are:

- Trans-Pacific return flight to Saigon and back from Hanoi via Hong Kong, plus domestic flights as shown in the itinerary above;
- Accommodation based on double occupancy in very comfortable 4-star/first-class hotels except in Hanoi, where a 5-star/deluxe hotel will be used. The single room supplement is \$985;
- Breakfast and dinner (or sometimes lunch) daily;
- Local transportation via air-conditioned private coach and speedboats;
- All visits and sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary, including admission to museums and monuments mentioned;
- Hotel taxes and gratuities;
- Services of local guides as well as a Pauwels Travel tour escort.

Not included:

- **The usual combination of airport taxes, security fees, and fuel surcharges, presently (January 2010) approximately \$180, but subject to change; the final amount will be shown on your final invoice;**
- **Visas for all 3 countries, available upon arrival (bring pictures!) and presently priced at approximately US \$ 100 for Vietnam (double entry), US \$ 20 for Cambodia, and US \$ 40 for Laos;**
- Beverages with dinners, and meals other than those outlined above;
- All expenses of a personal nature;
- Some gratuities for local guides and drivers, in total approximately \$60 US;
- Travel insurance, available as follows:

All inclusive insurance:
Up to age 59: \$327.24
Ages 60 - 64: \$413.64
Ages 65 - 69: \$479.52
Ages 70 - 74: \$739.80
Ages 75 - 79: Call for rates

Non medical insurance:
Up to age 59: \$272.16
Ages 60 - 64: \$315.36
Ages 65 - 69: \$357.48
Ages 70 - 74: \$408.24
Ages 75 - 79: Call for rates

With single supplement:

All inclusive insurance:
Up to age 59: \$370.44
Ages 60 - 64: \$467.64
Ages 65 - 69: \$544.32
Ages 70 - 74: \$815.40
Ages 75 - 79: Call for rates

Non medical insurance:
Up to age 59: \$315.36
Ages 60 - 64: \$369.36
Ages 65 - 69: \$422.28
Ages 70 - 74: \$483.84
Ages 75 - 79: Call for rates

BOOKS ON INDOCHINA:

Phil Karber, *The Indochina Chronicles: Travels in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam*
Gabriel Kolko, *Anatomy of a War: Vietnam, the United States, and the Modern Historical Experience*
Gabriel Kolko, *Vietnam: Anatomy of a Peace*
John Tully, *A Short History of Cambodia: From Empire to Survival*
Grant Evans and Milton Osborne, *A Short History of Laos: The Land in Between*
Charles Higham, *The Civilization of Angkor*

WIKIPEDIA WEBSITES WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Vietnam: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam>
Mekong Delta: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mekong_Delta
Cambodia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cambodia>
Phnom Penh: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phnom_Penh
Angkor Wat: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angkor_Wat
The Khmer Empire: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khmer_Empire
Laos: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laos>
Vientiane: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vientiane>
Luang Prabang: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luang_Prabang
Halong Bay: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halong_bay
Hanoi: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanoi>

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$750.00 is required at the time of registration. **Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and application form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed application form.**

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made in full if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

90 days to 46 days before departure: 25% of tour cost
45 to 15 days before departure: 50% of tour cost
Within 14 days prior to departure: 100% of tour cost

RESPONSIBILITY:

Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. reserves the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary as outlined. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable. Any savings realized by these changes will be passed on to the passengers, any resultant expenses shall be borne by the passenger. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. acts only as an agent in securing hotel, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotel, transportation and other travel services are provided to tour members subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally. The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. also reserves the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour, in which case equitable refund will be made at the discretion of the tour operators.

AIR TRANSPORTATION:

International economy flight by scheduled IATA carrier(s), based on an economy class group fare. All fares are subject to specific rules and regulations, to changes and to government approval. Deviations from the group flights are possible but subject to higher rates.

CURRENCY:

The tour cost is based on the current exchange rate of CAD 1.05 USD. Should the rate of exchange rise or fall by more than 5%, the tour cost will be adjusted accordingly.

APPLICATION FORM

Please book ___ seat (s) on the "Exotic Indochina" tour, November 1 – 19, 2010.

Enclosed is my/our deposit of _____ (\$750 per person, *plus* insurance premium if taken.)
Deposit and insurance premium, if taken, are due with registration. You will be invoiced for the balance approximately 45 days prior to departure.

WE NOW REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) TO BE SENT WITH YOUR APPLICATION FORM AT TIME OF REGISTRATION.

Name as on Passport. Indicate the appropriate title before each name (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)

NAME(S): _____

If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. "Liz" for "Mary Elizabeth") _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: (Residence) _____ (Business) _____ (Fax/Email) _____

If traveling alone, please indicate your willingness to share accommodations: YES _____ NO _____

SINGLE ROOM REQUIRED: _____

(We will try to find a roommate for those willing to share, but cannot guarantee success in doing so. For single travelers we are not able to match, the single supplement will apply.)

SPECIAL REQUESTS: (Dietary, wheelchair assistance, frequent flyer number, twin beds, etc.): Please list here so we can do our best to assist you. **Please be advised that due to airline policies, individual seat selection is not available on group fares and cannot be guaranteed by our Agency.**

I/we agree to the "terms and conditions" attached to the program. _____

Insurance, I/we accept:

All-inclusive Package _____ Non-medical Package _____ Decline Insurance _____

Signature (s) _____

If purchasing travel insurance, we require your date of birth:

Name: _____ Date of Birth _____

Name: _____ Date of Birth _____

PAYMENT:

Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel Visa American Express Mastercard

Amount Paid: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiry: _____

Signature: _____

Please forward this completed form, copy of passport and payment to:

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