

UC SANTA BARBARA
Alumni

SECRETS OF INDOCHINA

2025 YOUNG ALUMNI JOURNEY



US DEPARTURE DATE: **SEPTEMBER 27, 2025**

SIEM REAP LAND TOUR START DATE: **SEPTEMBER 29, 2025**

HO CHI MINH RETURN DATE: **OCTOBER 5, 2025**

HANOI RETURN DATE: **OCTOBER 8, 2025**

LAND PACKAGE FROM: \$1,985

Visit our website www.aesu.com/ucsb for more details and to book.

START YOUR ADVENTURE

Dear Young Alumni and Friends!

Can you think of a better way to travel than with fellow UCSB Alumni?

UC Santa Barbara young alumni travel program, designed for grads ages 22 – 35, offers you this opportunity by bringing you together with individuals in the same age range, with similar backgrounds and experiences, while enriching you on well-designed, hassle-free tours of the world.

These programs provide social, cultural, and recreational activities and many opportunities for learning enrichment and enjoying a connection back to UCSB. Our journeys are of great quality and value, operated by a travel company with over 48 years of experience in the young travel market.

In this brochure you will find a detailed itinerary, travel dates and pricing.

If you have any questions about this tour, please contact our tour operator, AESU Alumni World Travel, by calling 800-638-7640 or email alumni@aesu.com.

To make an online booking, please visit our young alumni tour landing page www.aesu.com/ucsb and select this tour to be directed to the tour web site.

We are looking forward to traveling with you this coming season.

Sincerely,

Alumni Affairs Office
University of California, Santa Barbara

Travel insurance is compulsory. UCSB offers travel insurance through the link below.

<https://select.travelinsure.com/?pcode=32408>

“ THIS TRIP WAS A ONCE IN A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE.
IT WAS TRULY AMAZING. I LOVED THE SIGHTS,
PEOPLE, FOOD, AND MANY CULTURES! ”

FORMER TRAVELER



CAMBODIA & VIETNAM

9 DAYS IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM PLUS EXTENSION TO HA LONG BAY

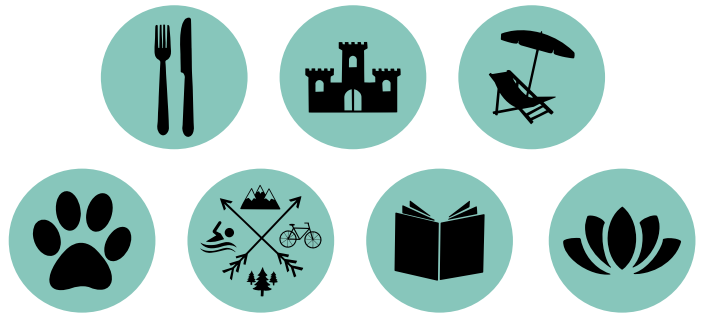
PLACES VISITED

SIEM REAP | PHNOM PHENH
HO CHI MINH CITY | HANOI



PROGRAM ACCOMMODATIONS

This trip has been carefully designed to feature these fantastic inclusions and highlights:



For a glossary of these experiences, visit:
www.aesu.com/aspects-awt



ACTIVITY LEVEL: MODERATE

For more details, please visit:
<https://www.aesu.com/activity-levels-awt/>

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

9-Day Land Package Transportation and Lodging

- 6 nights in 4-star hotels, 2-share rooms with private bath/shower
- One-way flight from Siem Reap to Ho Chi Minh City in economy class
- All ground transportation by air-conditioned motor coach, as per itinerary
- Domestic airport transfers included with land package price
- Arrival and departure airport transfers included with purchased AESU group airfare

Meals

- 13 meals: 6 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 4 specialty dinners
- 1 bottled mineral water per day per person

Activities & Admissions

- Guided tours, led by a local English-speaking expert in Siem Reap, Angkor Wat, Phnom Penh & Ho Chi Minh City
- Welcome orientation in Phnom Penh
- Choeng Ek Memorial & Toul Sleng Museum
- Wat Phnom Buddhist Temple
- Siem Reap tuk-tuk tour
- UNESCO World Heritage Site Angkor Wat
- Banteay Srei Temples
- Ta Prohm & Bayon Temple
- Saigon River Cruise
- Vietcong Cu Chi Tunnels
- Cholon Market
- Water puppet show

3-Day Optional Extension Transportation and Lodging

- 2 nights on a 5-star cruise ship with private bath/shower, 2-share cabins
- 1 night in 4-star hotel in Hanoi, 2-share rooms with private bath/shower
- Transfer from hotel in Ho Chi Minh City to airport included with purchase of Ha Long Bay extension
- One-way economy class airfare from Ho Chi Minh City to Hanoi
- Transfer from Ha Long Bay to Hanoi by motor coach as per itinerary

Meals

- 9 meals: 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches (including one 1 brunch on board cruise), 3 dinners

Activities & Admissions

- Guided tour of Hanoi, led by a local English-speaking expert
- Cyclo tour of Hanoi
- Visit UNESCO World Heritage Site Ha Long Bay
- See Hanoi sights, such as One Pillar Pagoda, Temple of Literature, "Hanoi Hilton" Prison

Optional Excursions

(not included in land package price)

- Day 8 – Ho Chi Minh City - Mekong Delta excursion including local English-speaking guide, transfers, entrance fee, boat trip, lunch with 1 beer or soft drink, water on motor coach



SECRETS OF INDOCHINA ITINERARY

About the Trip!

Embark on an exhilarating journey through Cambodia and Vietnam. From the vibrant streets of Phnom Penh to the ancient wonder of Angkor Wat, explore Cambodia's hidden gems by tuk-tuk and venture deep into the lush jungle. In Vietnam, unveil the secrets of its imperial history, crawl through the Cu Chi tunnels, and savor the delectable cuisine that defines these captivating destinations. And if you're up for more adventure, don't miss the chance to set sail and explore the stunning Ha Long Bay.

- **DAY 1 FLIGHT TO CAMBODIA**
(crossing the international date line and arriving on DAY 3)
Our trip begins with an overnight flight to Siem Reap, a city filled with bustling markets, eclectic cuisine, and a lively arts scene, making it a dynamic cultural hub in Cambodia.
Meals: In-flight
- **DAY 2 Crossing the international date line**
- **DAY 3 LAND TOUR START DAY: SIEM REAP**
Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel. In the afternoon, hop on a Tuk-Tuk for a tour that includes visits to the Royal Independence Gardens, the Royal Residence, the shrines of Ya Tep and Preah Ang Check Preah Chom, significant places of local worship.
Explore the city's vibrant open markets, including Psar Chars, also known as the 'Old Market,' where locals gather to picnic with their families (Crispy crickets anyone?).
Try out your negotiating skills as you shop for bargains before we wrap up the day with our welcome orientation followed by a welcome dinner featuring Khmer specialties.
Meals: In-flight | Dinner
Inclusion: Transfer from airport to hotel included with purchased AESU group airfare | Tuk-Tuk tour of Siem Reap | Guide tour of Siem Reap, led by an English-speaking local expert | See the Royal Independence Garden, the Royal Residence and places of local worship, Psar Chars, the 'Old Market' | Welcome orientation | Welcome dinner of traditional Khmer specialties | 1 bottle of mineral water

DAY 4 SIEM REAP – ANGKOR WAT

Ancient temples rise through the thick mysterious jungle as we visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Angkor Wat and Banteay Srei Temples today. Angkor Wat is famous for its splendor and features the longest continuous bas-relief in the world narrating stories from Hindu mythology. It was originally constructed as a Hindu temple dedicated to the god Vishnu for the Khmer Empire, then gradually transformed into a Buddhist temple towards the end of the 12th century. After lunch at a local restaurant, we visit incredible Ta Prohm; the fortified city of Angkor Thom; the mysterious Bayon Temple; and the Terrace of the Leper Kings. Surrounded by the jungle, these ancient temples settle among enormous fig trees and giant creeper roots, slowly becoming reclaimed by the powerful forces of nature. We return to Siem Reap for our overnight.

Meals: Breakfast | Lunch

Inclusions: UNESCO World Heritage Site Angkor Wat | Guide tour of Angkor Wat, led by an English-speaking local expert | Banteay Srei Temple | Ta Prohm and Bayon Temple | Terrace of the Leper Kings | Traditional Angkor Wat lunch | 1 bottle of mineral water

DAY 5 SIEM REAP - PHNOM PENH

Following breakfast, we board our motor coach for the drive to Phnom Penh. Along the way we stop to explore the intriguing Spider Market and the historic Naga Bridge. In Phnom Penh, we dive into the poignant history of the region with a visit to the Tuol Sleng prison, also known as the Genocide Museum or S-21 (Security Office 21). This facility, once a Khmer Rouge security camp, offers insights into its dark past, originally designed for the interrogation and persecution of those deemed anti-Angkor. The day concludes with a delightful dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast | Dinner

Inclusion: Spider Market | Naga Bridge | Tuol Sleng prison | 1 bottle of mineral water

DAY 6 PHNOM PENH – HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM

Cambodia's capital is the perfect place to delve into the country's history and culture. Our morning city tour includes the ornate Royal Palace, the Silver Pagoda, and the National Museum of Khmer Arts, with graceful statues of Hindu gods and ancient Sanskrit tablets. Later, we'll visit the hilltop Buddhist Temple, Wat Phnom, the Choeng Ek Killing Field Memorial, and finally the central market, designed by French architect Louis Chauchon. It was constructed in 1937 in the shape of a dome with four arms branching out into vast hallways with countless stalls offering goods for sale. Tonight, we fly to Ho Chi Minh City and check into our hotel upon arrival around midnight. A light snack, such as pho or stir-fried noodles is available before resting up after a busy day.

Meals: Breakfast | Lunch | Light dinner

Inclusions: Guide tour of Phnom Penh, led by an English-speaking local expert | Royal Palace | Silver Pagoda | National Museum of Khmer Arts | Buddhist Temple, Wat Phnom | Choeng Ek Killing Field Memorial | One-way flight to Ho Chi Minh | 1 bottle of mineral water

DAY 7 HO CHI MINH CITY

Early this morning, we take an excursion to the Cu Chi Tunnels, an impressive underground network spanning approximately 125 miles. These tunnels, painstakingly constructed by the Viet Cong, served as hideouts, hospitals, and shelters during the Vietnam War. Following this historical exploration, we visit the Reunification Palace, an enduring symbol of the war's conclusion in 1975. Our next stop is the Ben Thanh Market, an iconic landmark in the city.

In the evening we are invited to a water puppet show, a unique Vietnamese art form performed in a large pool. Later you may explore Ho Chi Minh City's nightlife. From captivating rooftop bars and lively nightclubs to vibrant night markets and inviting street bars, this bustling metropolis offers endless opportunities.

Meals: Breakfast | Lunch

Inclusions: Guide tour of Ho Chi Minh City, led by an English-speaking local expert | Cu Chi Tunnels excursion | Reunification Palace | Ben Thanh market | Water puppet show | 1 bottle of mineral water

DAY 8 HO CHI MINH CITY

Enjoy today at your leisure shopping for souvenirs or join an optional excursion to the Mekong Delta where we take sampan boats through narrow jungle canals, fishing villages and floating markets. At our farewell Saigon River dinner cruise, enjoy a delightful blend of culinary treats and captivating riverfront views, allowing you to unwind while exploring the vibrant atmosphere of Ho Chi Minh City.

Meals: Breakfast | Dinner

Inclusions: Saigon River cruise and dinner | 1 bottle of mineral water

Optional excursion: Mekong Delta excursion

DAY 9 HO CHI MINH CITY – TRAVEL HOME or continue to HANOI and HA LONG BAY EXTENSION

For some of us, our Indochina adventure ends after breakfast as we say good-bye to new-found friends. For the rest of us, a quick flight to Hanoi awaits!

It is the capital of Vietnam, and a stylish and gracious city that retains a unique old-world charm and some of Asia's most striking colonial architecture. The many lakes and parks also create a relaxing atmosphere in this otherwise bustling city.

Explore the city and visit the One Pillar Pagoda, the Temple of Literature (the first national university of Vietnam built in 1070), and the "Hanoi Hilton" prison (where John McCain and other POWs were kept during the Vietnam War). In the afternoon, join a fun 'Cyclo' rickshaw ride through the buzzing Old Quarter of Hanoi.

For dinner, we have the pleasure of dining at KOTO Van Mieu restaurant, which not only serves delicious food but also contributes to a noble cause by providing hospitality training and life skills to disadvantaged youth in Vietnam.

During your free evening, soak up the nightlife from a plastic stool in the walking street district sampling steamed peanuts and exotic snacks, or go high-end at a famous jazz club or insane multi-level nightclub.

Meals: Breakfast | Dinner (for travelers continuing on the extension)

Inclusions: Transfer from hotel to airport included with purchase of AESU group airfare | Flight from Ho Chi Minh City to Hanoi | Transfer and city tour of Hanoi, led by a local English-speaking expert | See Ba Dinh Square | Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum | One-Pillar Pagoda | Temple of Literature | Cyclo tour of Hanoi | 36 Street shops

DAY 10 HANOI – HA LONG BAY CRUISE

This morning, we travel to Ha Long Bay, located in northeastern Vietnam, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its breathtaking natural beauty.

This iconic bay is characterized by its thousands of limestone karsts and islets, often shrouded in mist, creating a surreal and picturesque seascape that has made it a symbol of Vietnam's natural splendor.

We board our cruise ship and enjoy a relaxing evening on board.

Meals: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Inclusions: Transfer to Halong Bay | 5-star overnight cruise | Lunch on board the cruise ship | Specialty dinner on board the cruise ship



DAY 11 HA LONG BAY CRUISE

We cruise along the Bay and enjoy the picturesque scenery with some 2,000 islands rising amazingly from the clear, emerald waters.

The stone karst formations are strewn with beaches, grottos, and beautiful caves. Along the way we will anchor for a leisurely swim in a secluded cove and take an excursion to one of the many hidden grottos beneath the towering cliffs.

Enjoy a relaxing dinner on board tonight with tranquil views of the bay and an unforgettable sunset from the upper deck.

Meals: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Inclusions: Visit UNESCO World Heritage Site - Ha Long Bay | 5-star overnight cruise | Lunch on board the cruise ship | Specialty dinner on board the cruise ship

DAY 12 HA LONG BAY - HANOI - TRAVEL HOME

After brunch, we board our coach for the transfer to Hanoi Airport. We bid farewell to fellow travelers and make plans to reunite on another young alumni adventure in the near future.

Meals: Brunch | In-flight

Inclusions: Morning Swim | Cruise ship brunch | Coach transfer to Hanoi Airport

IMPORTANT NOTE

U.S. citizens require visas for Cambodia and Vietnam – see terms and conditions or contact AESU for details. Current cost: single entry visas for Vietnam \$25 plus the Vietnam Approval letter \$15 per person (one month, single entry); Cambodia visa \$30 plus fees.

AESU does not arrange visa applications. Visa and stamp fees are not included in the land package price. Visa information is subject to change without notice. For updates on Vietnam visa, please visit: <https://vietnamvisa.govt.vn/travel-tips/> for Cambodia: <https://www.evisa.gov.kh/>

TOUR DIRECTORS

Your land package tour includes the services of a professional tour director, who knows this is a trip of a lifetime for you. They are young professionals; multi-lingual and carefully selected graduates from major universities. They are eager to show you the world through the eyes of an adventurer, sharing with you their vast knowledge, as well as interesting little-known facts.

Our qualified tour directors and staff of local experts mean a trouble-free journey with the added security of group travel. We are very proud of our tour directors, therefore it is customary to include gratuity.

Show the tour director and driver your appreciation with a tip. We suggest \$6-7 per person/per day for your tour director and \$4 per person/per day for your driver.

HOTELS

We stay in 4-star hotels, all with private bath/shower in 2-share rooms. Our hotels have been specially selected for their atmosphere, friendly hospitality, and cleanliness. Our hotels are centrally located or within a short walk of public transportation to take you to the landmarks of your choice in the city you are visiting. The Ha Long Bay cruise ship is a 5-star vessel.

All land package rates are based on two people sharing a room. You can book a single-room by paying an additional single supplement of \$425 for the 9-day land package or \$1,120 for the 12-day land package.

If you are a solo traveler and don't want to pay the single supplement, AESU will attempt to arrange a share with a same-gender traveler. If we are unable to arrange a share, the single supplement will be added to your invoice.

By booking your trip with AESU, you are agreeing to all the terms and conditions as outlined on our website: <https://www.aesu.com/terms-conditions-awt/> | For details on our payment plan, please visit: <https://www.aesu.com/payment-plan-awt/>