

Inspired Expeditions

The UC Santa Cruz Travel Program for the Curious

Journey through Vietnam

February 6-20, 2025

15 days from \$5,197 total price from San Francisco

(\$4,595 air & land inclusive plus \$602 airline taxes and fees)



This tour is provided by
Odysseys Unlimited,
seven-time honoree
Travel + Leisure's World's
Best Tour Operators award.



An Exclusive Small Group Tour for
Alumni & Friends of UC Santa Cruz



Dear UC Santa Cruz Alumni and Friends,

We invite you to travel with us on an exclusive 15-day journey through Vietnam, a country that captivates travelers with its enduring traditions, breathtaking natural beauty, and warm hospitality.

Begin the journey in the capital, Hanoi, touring historical sites and sampling local cuisine. Enjoy a tranquil boat tour while taking in the fairytale landscape during a full-day excursion at beautiful Ha Long Bay. In Da Nang, tour the acclaimed Cham Museum and stay in a beachfront hotel. Visit charming Hoi An and its Old Town, a car-free pedestrian zone and UNESCO site. Then travel to the ancient imperial capital of Hue and cruise on the Perfume River. After two days of exploring the storied Mekong Delta, your river life experience will leave an indelible impression. Conclude your journey with a three-night stay in spirited Saigon. Discover Angkor Wat's amazing temples and the Cambodian city of Phnom Penh on an optional 5-day/3-night post-tour extension.

Space is limited to only 24 guests, and we expect this tour to fill quickly. Book today!

Sincerely,

Nichole Silva (Stevenson '95)
Director, Strategic Travel and Experiences

THE UC SANTA CRUZ INSPIRED EXPEDITIONS RESERVATION FORM: JOURNEY THROUGH VIETNAM

To reserve your place on tour, please call UC Santa Cruz Inspired Expeditions at 831-459-3689 or e-mail ietravel@ucsc.edu. Please have the information outlined below available to share with an Inspired Expeditions representative.

If you prefer, you may also complete this Reservation Form and submit it to UC Santa Cruz's Inspired Expeditions 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: **UC Santa Cruz Inspired Expeditions**
1156 High Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

JOURNEY THROUGH VIETNAM • FEBRUARY 6-20, 2025

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 a Business Class upgrade

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

Post-Tour "Cambodia: Angkor Wat & Phnom Penh" Extension: Please sign me/us up

Tour membership limited to 24 alumni & friends

Journey through Vietnam

15 days from \$5,197 total price from San Francisco
(\$4,595 air & land inclusive plus \$602 airline taxes and fees)

In a land of breathtaking natural beauty, abiding tradition, and profoundly hospitable people, rewards abound for the thoughtful traveler. And in our flexible and congenial small group we encounter rewards aplenty on this comprehensive journey featuring all the highlights, plus the beautiful, remote Mekong Delta, where we spend two days.



Physical Activity Level

3 **Moderate**

Walk 2-4 miles per day, often on uneven terrain; many stairs of varying height at temples throughout the tour, most without handrails; embarkation/disembarkation of multiple boats

Your Tour at a Glance

Day	Itinerary	Hotel	Rating
1	Depart U.S. for Hanoi		
2-4	Hanoi	InterContinental Hanoi Westlake	Deluxe
5-7	Da Nang	Hyatt Regency Danang	Deluxe
8-9	Hue	Silk Path Grand Hue Hotel	Sup. First Class
10-11	Can Tho (Mekong Delta)	Victoria Can Tho Resort	Sup. First Class
12-14	Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)	Sofitel Saigon Plaza	Deluxe
15	Depart Ho Chi Minh City for U.S.		

Ratings are based on the Hotel & Travel Index, the travel industry standard reference.

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

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

Day 3: Hanoi This morning we take a walking tour of Ba Dinh Square, a popular complex of cultural and historic sites, including the marble and granite mausoleum of Ho Chi Minh, the Presidential Palace, and thousand-year-old One Pillar Pagoda. Following lunch on our own, we embark on an orientation tour of this French-accented city with broad tree-lined boulevards and colonial architecture. We pass Hoan Kiem Lake; visit the marvelous Temple of Literature (c. 1070); and tour infamous Hoa Lo Prison, also known as the “Hanoi Hilton” during the Vietnam War. Later we walk the narrow streets of the diverse Ancient Quarter, where tonight we gather at a local restaurant for a welcome dinner. *B,D*

Day 4: Hanoi/Ha Long Bay This morning we depart on a full-day excursion to Ha Long Bay, a breathtaking waterway sprinkled with 3,000 islands and islets and surrounded by a fairytale landscape of limestone cliffs, secret grottoes, and hidden caves. Our tour includes a boat ride and seafood lunch. *B,L*

Day 5: Hanoi/Da Nang We fly this afternoon to Da Nang, Vietnam’s third largest city, situated on the south central coast. Upon arrival, we tour the acclaimed Cham Museum, which celebrates the Cham people’s Hindu legacy with a fine collection of sculpture and artifacts dating from the 7th to 15th centuries. After we reach our beachfront hotel, the remainder of the day is at leisure in this splendid setting. *B,D*

Day 6: Da Nang/Hoi An This morning we visit nearby Hoi An, where a succession of Dutch, Chinese, Portuguese, and Japanese traders helped to build an architecturally diverse and colorful village where many ancient traditions still hold sway. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Hoi An’s Old Town is a charming car-free pedestrian zone lined with tailors, shops, and art galleries. This afternoon is at leisure to either remain in Hoi An on your own or return to our beach-side

Cover photo: We visit the World Heritage site of Ha Long Bay on Day 4.



Observe the French architectural influences during a tour of Saigon on Day 13.

resort for a relaxing interlude. Tonight, we enjoy a cooking lesson and dinner in Hoi An. *B,D*

Day 7: Da Nang A morning walking tour of a nearby farming settlement reveals the daily life of a local community up close. Here rice paddies occupy every spare patch of ground, water buffaloes plow the fields, and villagers ride to market with produce piled high on their bicycles. *B,L*

Day 8: Da Nang/Hue We depart this morning by coach for the ancient imperial city of Hue, whose palaces, temples, and tombs evoke its past grandeur as home to emperors and mandarins. Enjoying a traditional cyclo ride along the way we explore the Imperial City – housing the Forbidden Purple City complex where emperors lived with their families and now a UNESCO site. We also visit the busy Central Market. Tonight we enjoy dinner accompanied by traditional music. *B,D*

Day 9: Hue This morning we cruise along Hue's Perfume River to peaceful Thien Mu Pagoda, a Buddhist monastery that ranks among the city's oldest and most important monuments. After admiring the seven-story octagonal tower, we visit the palatial Tomb of Minh Mang (c. 1840), with its pavilions and courtyards modeled after the Ming Tombs of China. This afternoon we see the tombs of Tu Duc, a gem of royal architecture; and Khai Dinh, an elaborate mix of ancient and modern, European and Asian. *B,L*

Day 10: Hue/Da Nang/Can Tho We return to Da Nang by coach this morning then board our flight to the river port of Can Tho, provincial capital of the Mekong Delta. With its tributaries covering some 15,600 square miles of southwestern Vietnam, the Mekong supplies half of the country's rice and

fish – and ranks as a biological treasure-trove, known for its multitude of bird and flower species. *B,D*

Day 11: Can Tho/Mekong Delta We rise early for today's journey by boat to the lively floating market at Cai Rang on the Mekong's lower reaches. After lunch together at a local restaurant, the remainder of the day is at leisure. *B,L*

Post-Tour Extension

February 20-24, 2025

Cambodia: Angkor Wat & Phnom Penh

5 days/3 nights for \$1,595 total price

Single Supplement: \$325

Discover the amazing temples and statuary from the Angkorian Empire, and also the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh.

Post-Tour Extension Price Includes

- Air transportation Ho Chi Minh City/Siem Reap; Siem Reap/Phnom Penh, inclusive of airline taxes and fees
- 3 nights' accommodations: 2 nights in Siem Reap at Sofitel Angkor Phokeethra (Deluxe); 1 night in Phnom Penh at Hyatt Regency Phnom Penh (Deluxe); rooms reserved for late check-out in Phnom Penh
- 6 meals: 3 breakfasts, 3 dinners
- Three days' sightseeing of Angkor complex (UNESCO World Heritage site), including all entrance fees
- Phnom Penh sightseeing
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation
- Gratuities for dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers



...ON THIS BEAUTIFUL PATH,
I WALK IN PEACE.”

– THICH NHAT HANH

Day 12: Mekong Delta/Saigon An hour-long coach ride this morning brings us to the upper reaches of the storied Mekong. Here we board motorized sampans for an up-close look at river life as we explore the maze of tributaries and inlets that lead to tiny settlements and villages populated by fishermen and farmers. After lunch at a local restaurant, we continue by coach to Saigon (the name Ho Chi Minh City is used interchangeably). We reach our hotel late afternoon; dinner is on our own in this vibrant city. *B,L*

Day 13: Saigon A morning tour includes the former Presidential Palace, which served as the South Vietnamese government’s wartime headquarters. Now called Reunification Palace, it was here that the first Communist tanks rolled into Saigon on April 30, 1975; it remains preserved as a museum almost exactly as it was on that day. We also tour the History Museum, with its excellent collection of art and artifacts of the indigenous peoples of Vietnam. Later we attend a traditional water puppet performance. *B,D*

Day 14: Saigon This morning we visit the Cu Chi Tunnels, the infamous underground network from



A local farmer tends a rice paddy.

which North Vietnamese forces operated in wartime. Tonight we celebrate our journey over a farewell dinner. *B,D*

Day 15: Depart for U.S. Today we transfer to the airport for our return flights to the U.S. *B*



Angkor Wat (optional post-tour extension)

Your Tour Price Includes

- Round-trip air transportation from listed cities; all flights within itinerary
- 13 nights’ accommodations in Deluxe and Superior First Class hotels
- 25 meals: 13 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 7 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director
- Private motorcoach transportation throughout your trip
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Tour Departs: February 6, 2025

Prices include int'l airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle	\$5,197
Atlanta, Dallas, New York, Phoenix, Portland (OR)	\$5,497
Boston, Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Houston, Minneapolis, Washington, DC	\$5,597
Baltimore, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Miami, Orlando, Philadelphia, Tampa	\$5,697
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$3,995

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, surcharges, and fees of \$602, which are subject to change until final payment is made.

Single travelers please add \$1,495. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges, and fees) are guaranteed.

Depending on flight schedules, certain U.S. cities may require an evening flight from Ho Chi Minh City on Day 15, arriving in the U.S. on Day 16. In this case, hotel rooms will be reserved for late check-out on Day 15.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip international flight: \$5,395 per person from JFK, LAX, SFO, SEA; \$6,995 from other cities, in addition to the above costs (upgrade is subject to availability and pricing is subject to change).

For more information and reservations, please call Inspired Expeditions at 831-459-3689, or e-mail ietravel@ucsc.edu

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The following is intended to provide you with a description of what to expect when you reserve this tour. Upon booking, you will be asked to acknowledge your acceptance of the full Terms and Conditions on the secure on-line portal, My Odyssey.

Not Included in Tour Price: Airfare when purchasing a Land Only package; costs of passports and visas; immunizations and inoculations; personal expenses such as beverages, laundry, room service, and meals not specified; airport transfers when purchasing a Land Only package; communication charges; gratuities to your Odysseys Unlimited Tour Director, which are at your discretion (suggested gratuities: \$10-\$15 per traveler, per day); optional sightseeing; and travel protection insurance. Additional baggage fees may apply and are subject to change at any time. You should confirm directly with your airline(s) prior to departure.

Cancellations, Refunds, and Changes: If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odysseys Unlimited, Inc.'s receipt of your notification. Refunds for cancellations are subject to the following per person charges: **cancel 95 days or more before departure: \$200 charge; cancel 94-65 days before departure: 50% of tour price; cancel 64-30 days before departure: 75% of tour price; cancel 29-0 days before departure: no refund.** If you make any changes to your reservation from 94 to 30 days prior to departure, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. will apply a \$100 per person administrative fee, in addition to any fees or penalties imposed by third parties. Changes are subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed. If your reservation changes from double occupancy to single occupancy for any reason, you will be charged the single supplement. **No changes are allowed within 30 days of departure. Upon reservation, you must provide your full legal name as it appears on your passport, as well as your date of birth and gender. In the event an airline ticket is issued with incorrect information you have provided, you will be responsible for charges associated with the ticket's reissue.**

Responsibility: The liability of UC Santa Cruz Inspired Expeditions, 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. UC Santa Cruz Inspired Expeditions 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 changes as necessary. If unforeseen circumstances require us to change a hotel, we will select alternative accommodations of the same or better quality.

Health and Medical Issues: We request that you be in good health to participate in this Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. tour. There is a reasonable amount of walking, and **you must be able to get on and off motorcoaches and boats on your own.** We regret that we cannot offer individual assistance; in such cases you must be accompanied by a companion who will assist you. Please note that many of our tour 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 or mental condition, in our opinion, compromises the operation of the tour or detracts from the enjoyment or safety of the other passengers. In that event, UC Santa Cruz Inspired Expeditions and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. assume no financial responsibility for any unused portion of the tour.

Air Transportation – Important Information: 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, Land Only is available on most tours. **Since international and domestic air schedules are subject to change at any time, we recommend that if you choose to make your own airline reservations, 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.**

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Santa Cruz, CA 95064



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*Guaranteed Small Group:
Limited to 24 Guests*

