



**Commonwealth
Club Travel**

JOURNEY THROUGH VIETNAM

February 4-19, 2016

16 days from \$4,247 total price from San Francisco
(\$3,695 air & land inclusive plus \$552 airline taxes and departure fees)



**An Exclusive Small Group Tour for
the Commonwealth Club**

Tour membership limited to 24 guests

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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.



Thursday, February 4: Depart U.S. for Hanoi, Vietnam

Friday, February 5: Arrive Hanoi We arrive in the Vietnamese capital this evening, then transfer to our hotel.

Saturday, February 6: Hanoi This morning 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. 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 Ancient Quarter where tonight we gather at a local restaurant for a welcome dinner. *B,D*

Sunday, February 7: Hanoi/Ha Long Bay Early this morning depart on a full-day excursion to Ha Long Bay, a breathtaking waterway sprinkled with 3,000 islands and islets and surrounded by a fairy tale landscape of limestone cliffs, secret grottoes and hidden caves. Our tour includes a boat ride and seafood lunch. *B,L*

Monday, February 8: Hanoi/Da Nang This morning we enjoy a Club travel standard: a briefing with U.S. Foreign Service staff (schedule permitting). Then fly mid-day 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 reaching our beachfront hotel, the remainder of the day is at leisure in this splendid setting. *B,D*

Tuesday, February 9: Da Nang/Hoi An This morning we visit nearby Hoi An. A UNESCO World Heritage site, Hoi An’s Old Town is a

Avg. High (°F)	Jan	Feb
Hanoi	68	69
Da Nang	75	78
Ho Chi Min City	89	91

Your Small Group Tour Highlights

Hanoi walking tour including Ho Chi Minh’s mausoleum and the Presidential Palace ... Excursion to Ha Long Bay ... Briefing by U.S. Foreign Service Staff ... Charming Hoi An ... Imperial City of Hue ... Special Vietnamese music performance ... Lunch in the home of a local historian ... Visit to a local Buddhist orphanage ... Reunification Palace and the History Museum in Saigon

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	Saigon Morin	Sup. First Class
10-11	Can Tho (Mekong Delta)	Victoria Hotel	Sup. First Class
12-14	Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon)	Sofitel Saigon Plaza	Deluxe
15	Ho Chi Minh	(overnight flight)	
16	Arrive U.S.		

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

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



Observe the French architectural influences during an orientation tour of Hanoi on Day 3.

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 beachside resort for a relaxing interlude. **B**

Wednesday, February 10: 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. Later we enjoy a cooking lesson and lunch in Hoi An. **B,L**

Thursday, February 11: Da Nang/Hue Depart by coach for the ancient imperial city of Hue, whose palaces, temples and tombs evoke its past grandeur as home to emperors and mandarins. We explore the Imperial City — enjoying a traditional cyclo ride along the way — housing the Forbidden Purple City complex, a UNESCO World Heritage site. We also visit the Central Market, where locals buy fish, meat, produce and sundry goods. Tonight we enjoy a special Hue buffet, accompanied by a performance of traditional music. Ms. Phan Thuan Thao, of the Hue Academy of Music, will join us and provide a brief explanation of Vietnamese music history and performance. **B,D**

Friday, February 12: Hue This morning 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. Later we visit the palatial Tomb of Ming Mang (c. 1804), with its pavilions and courtyards

modeled after the Ming Tombs of China. This afternoon we see the tombs of Tu Doc, a gem of royal architecture; and Khai Dinh, an elaborate mix of ancient and modern, European and Asian. Finish the day with an engaging visit to a Buddhist orphanage. Meet the children, speak with the head nun, and learn about the inspiring work done to provide these children with a better future. **B,L**

Post-Tour Extension

February 18-21, 2016

CAMBODIA: ANGKOR WAT

3 days/2 nights for \$995 total price

Single Supplement: \$245

A special opportunity to discover the amazing temples and statuary from the Angkorian Empire. UNESCO site and the world's largest religious monument.

Your Tour Price Includes

- Air transportation Ho Chi Minh City/Siem Reap inclusive of airline taxes and departure fees
- 2 nights' accommodations in Siem Reap at Sofitel Angkor (Deluxe); rooms reserved for late check-out on the third day (late evening flight)
- 4 meals: 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners
- Three days' guided sightseeing of Angkor complex (UNESCO World Heritage site), including all entrance fees
- Services of an Odysseys Unlimited representative
- Private motorcoach transportation
- Gratuities for dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers

Saturday, February 13: Hue/Mekong Delta/Can Tho Today is a travel day that begins with an early morning flight to Saigon. Upon arrival we transfer to a motorcoach for the three-hour drive south to the Mekong River town of Cai Be. From there we travel by coach and ferry to the busy river port and provincial capital of Can Tho. *B,D*

Sunday, February 14: Can Tho/Mekong Delta We rise early for today's journey by boat to the bustling floating market at Cai Rang on the Mekong's lower reaches. After lunch together at a local restaurant, we return to our hotel, where the remainder of the afternoon and evening are at leisure. *B,L*

Monday, February 15: Mekong Delta/Saigon An hour-long coach ride brings us to the upper banks 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*

Tuesday, February 16: 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 display on the indigenous peoples of Vietnam. Visit the Fine Arts Museum and a modern art gallery to learn more about Vietnamese art and lacquerware. Later we attend a traditional water puppet performance. *B,D*

Wednesday, February 17: Saigon This morning we visit the Cu Chi Tunnels, the infamous underground network from which North Vietnamese forces operated in wartime. Tonight we enjoy a farewell dinner. *B,D*

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
- 24 meals: 13 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 6 dinners
- Extensive sightseeing as described, including all entrance fees
- Services of a Commonwealth Club Tour Representative with a minimum of 15 guests
- Private motorcoach transportation including bottled water throughout your trip
- Special private cultural and educational highlights
- Luggage handling for one bag per person
- Gratuities for local guides, dining room servers, airport and hotel porters, and all drivers



Along the mighty Mekong

Thursday, February 18: Depart for U.S. Following a day at leisure for independent exploration, late this evening we depart for the airport and our overnight flight to the U.S. Our rooms are reserved for our late check-out. *B*

Friday, February 19: Arrive U.S. We arrive in the U.S. and connect with our flights home.

Tour Departs: February 4, 2016

Prices include international airfare and all taxes, surcharges, and fees.

Los Angeles, San Francisco	\$4,247
Chicago, New York, Washington, DC	\$4,547
Boston, Minneapolis	\$4,647
Miami, Philadelphia	\$4,747
Land Only (transfers not included)	\$3,295

Please call if your city is not listed. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and include airline taxes, fuel surcharges and departure fees of \$552, which are subject to change until final payment is made. Single travelers please add \$1,595. All tour prices above (excluding airline taxes, surcharges and departure fees) are guaranteed.

Business Class upgrade on round-trip Trans-Pacific flight: additional \$3,695 per person (upgrade subject to availability and pricing subject to change).

Please note: This trip involves full days of sightseeing and a significant amount of walking. You should be in relatively good physical condition to enjoy the tour to its fullest.

Contact Club Travel

415-597-6720

travel@commonwealthclub.org

www.commonwealthclub.org/travel



Dear Members and Friends of the Commonwealth Club,

Join us on a special 16-day journey to Vietnam, a country that captivates travelers with its enduring traditions, breathtaking natural beauty and warm hospitality. Our exclusive small group of no more than 24 members and friends will enjoy many personal encounters and a close-up look at life in this inviting land.

Your odyssey begins in the French-accented capital of Hanoi, where you will tour historical sites and eat local specialties. Take a full-day excursion to beautiful Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site acclaimed for its limestone cliffs, grottoes, and caves. Next, fly south to Da Nang and tour the acclaimed Cham Museum, which celebrates the Cham people's Hindu legacy. In the colorful village of Hoi An, cars are prohibited and ancient traditions still hold sway. Then, travel to the ancient imperial capital of Hue – once home to emperors and mandarins – and cruise the Perfume River to peaceful Thien Mu Pagoda. During two days spent exploring the vital Mekong River Delta experience river life which will certainly leave an indelible impression. Conclude your journey in spirited Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City).

Throughout the tour, we will enjoy exclusive educational highlights including a briefing by U.S. Foreign Service staff, a special music performance, and a visit to an orphanage. Space on this exclusive Commonwealth Club tour is limited to just 24 travelers and will fill quickly. Please call today to reserve your place!

Sincerely,

Kristina Nemeth

Kristina Nemeth
Director of Travel

COMMONWEALTH CLUB RESERVATION FORM: JOURNEY THROUGH VIETNAM

Enclosed is my/our deposit for \$____(\$500 per person) for ____ person(s) on Journey through Vietnam departing February 4-19, 2016. I/we understand the final payment is due at least 95 days prior to departure. Payment may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, VISA or by personal check. Please make check deposit payable to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., and send to: Commonwealth Club Travel, 555 Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94102. For reservations and information, call (415) 597-6720, fax (415) 597-6729, or email travel@commonwealthclub.org.

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 air/our 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" Extension: Please sign me/us up

Please Note: The undersigned has read the schedule of activities for Journey through Vietnam, February 4-19, 2016, and agrees that their signature below represents their acceptance of the General Terms & Conditions.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Method of Payment Check American Express Discover MasterCard VISA

Account # _____ Security Code _____ Exp. Date _____

Name of Cardholder _____

Signature _____

Final invoicing will be sent by our tour operator, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. The balance of the program price must be paid to Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. Final payment is due 95 days prior to departure, and is payable by check or credit card.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read this information carefully, as payment of a \$500 deposit per person represents your acceptance of the following Terms and Conditions.

Not included in tour price

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

Cancellations, refunds and changes

If you must cancel your trip, the effective date of cancellation will be upon Odyssey's Unlimited's receipt of your written 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 a guest makes any changes between 94 and 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.**

Insurance

We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event you must cancel your participation in the travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Information will be sent upon registration.

Responsibility

The liability of the Commonwealth Club, as sponsor, and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc., as tour operator, is strictly limited. The Commonwealth Club and Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. purchase transportation, hotel accommodations, 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, their employees, agents, servants or representatives. The Commonwealth Club 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 line, 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 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 our itineraries cannot accommodate wheelchairs. 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, Odysseys Unlimited, Inc. and the Commonwealth Club 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 they feel 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 assignments on your international flight are usually done at airport check-in. Odysseys Unlimited 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 departure 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.**



555 Post Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

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Standard
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
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