Vietnam by Sea

HISTORY, CULTURE AND CUISINE

January 31 to February 15, 2017

a program of the stanford alumni association
As Vietnam has emerged from the turbulence of its recent past, this fascinating nation has become one of the most popular destinations among our travelers. Cruise the 1,000-mile-long coast of Vietnam where farmers still work in terraced rice paddies and vestiges of the country’s colonial past abound. There are opportunities to learn about the cuisine of Vietnam—from rice fields to cooking classes to off-ship meals—that will let you return home with a new appreciation of Vietnamese cuisine. From charming Hanoi to the tranquil waters of Halong Bay to the cacophony of modern sounds erupting from the bustling streets of Ho Chi Minh City, this country possesses a timeless beauty that coexists comfortably alongside the promise of an emerging economy. Ambassador Kathleen Stephens lends a political and historical perspective on this exploration of the country’s highlights. Please join us!

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ‘83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

BRETT

Highlights

**Savor** delectable local cuisine, browse colorful markets overflowing with exotic produce and shop for handicrafts, including luxurious silks.

**Photograph** the dramatically sculpted limestone islands and islets of stunning Halong Bay, often veiled in an ethereal mist.

**Visit** the extensive “forbidden city” of Hue, the Khmer ruins at My Son and the historic center of Hoi An—all three are World Heritage sites.

**Stroll** through the winding streets of bustling Ho Chi Minh City and admire the elegant, colonial facades of buildings in Hanoi’s old quarter.
KATHLEEN STEPHENS, former U.S. ambassador to South Korea and the William J. Perry Distinguished Fellow at Stanford University’s Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center (APARC), also served as U.S. Charge d’Affaires in India and U.S. Consul General in Northern Ireland and, in Washington, as Acting Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, and National Security Council Director for European Affairs at the White House. During her three-plus decades with the Foreign Service, she’s witnessed the transformation of Asia and helped shape U.S. relations with the countries of the region in assignments in Washington and multiple postings in Asia.

After a junior year spent at the University of Hong Kong, an honor’s thesis on the Chinese in Southeast Asia and a two-year stint as a Peace Corps volunteer in South Korea, she was “hooked on Asia.” During our program, Ambassador Stephens looks forward to discussing with us such topics as Vietnam’s place today in Asia and the world, a cultural and historical overview of Vietnam, current South China Sea issues, the U.S.-Vietnam relationship today, and addressing environmental issues in Vietnam and the surrounding maritime regions.

- William J. Perry Distinguished Fellow, Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center (APARC), Stanford University
- Koret Fellow, Stanford University
- U.S. Ambassador, Republic of Korea, 2008–2011
- Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, 2005–2007
- Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, 2003-2005
- Senior Fellow, Georgetown University, 2012-2013
- Trustee: The Asia Foundation, The Pacific Century Institute, The Korea Society
- Author, Reflections of an American Ambassador to Korea, 2010
- Recipient, Presidential Meritorious Service Award, 2009
- BA, East Asian studies, Prescott College; MPA, Kennedy School, Harvard University
Due to the expeditionary nature of our trips, there may be ongoing enhancements to this itinerary.

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31 & FEBRUARY 1
DEPART U.S. / HANOI, VIETNAM
Depart the U.S. on independent flights to Vietnam. Upon arrival in Hanoi, check in to our hotel.
HOTEL D’OPERA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2
HANOI
After breakfast, we visit Vietnam’s most highly revered monument: Ho Chi Minh’s mausoleum. Our tour continues with stops at the Military History Museum; the Hoa Lo Prison, also known as the Hanoi Hilton; and the Museum of Ethnology. Then, it’s off to the Thang Long Water Puppetry Theatre for a performance with traditional wooden puppets. This evening we celebrate our first full day in Vietnam with a special welcome dinner. HOTEL D’OPERA (B.L.D)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3
HANOI / HAIPHONG / EMBARK CORAL DISCOVERER
This morning take a stroll through Hanoi’s old quarter, taking in the sights, sounds and smells of the many noodle vendors, patisseries and other shops we’ll find here. After lunch at a local restaurant, we set out overland for Haiphong where we embark the Coral Discoverer. Enjoy the rest of the afternoon at leisure aboard our ship. CORAL DISCOVERER (B.L.D)

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4 & 5
HALONG BAY
Enjoy two full days plying the waters of Halong Bay, an otherworldly archipelago of thousands of limestone islets and rocky outcroppings. Our ship cruises among the dramatic formations of craggy monoliths where gnarled trees cling precariously to narrow clefts. Here we meet with locals who earn a living by fishing, and we go ashore via Zodiac to swim in secluded coves. CORAL DISCOVERER (B.L.D—BOTH DAYS)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6
VINH MOC
This afternoon, Zodiaks take us ashore to visit the once notorious demilitarized zone (DMZ) at the 17th parallel, an arbitrary strip of land that marked the line between North and South Vietnam from 1954 to 1975. Stop at a bridge over the Ben Hai River and explore a labyrinth of extraordinary tunnels at nearby Vinh Moc, which served both as a refuge for the villagers while the area was bombarded and as a Viet Cong supply route. CORAL DISCOVERER (B.L.D)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7
HUE
Today we embark on a full-day excursion to the city of Hue, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Highlights include a visit to the picturesque Dong Ba Market and the Imperial City of the Nguyen emperors, which is surrounded by a vast moat-rimmed citadel begun in 1804 to protect the palace complex. After lunch cruise up the Perfume River aboard local “dragon boats” and visit the royal mausoleums of Tu Duc and Khai Dinh, which were built in Chinese-inspired architectural styles. CORAL DISCOVERER (B.L.D)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8
DA NANG / HOI AN
This morning choose from three options: explore Da Nang’s Cham Museum, a repository of sandstone carvings reflecting the Hindu styles of Champa; visit My Son, the site of extensive Cham ruins; or enjoy an immersion into Vietnamese cuisine, complete with a visit to the local market, a techniques workshop, and a lunch of traditional dishes that we help prepare with the chef. After lunch, we all gather to enjoy a walking tour in charming Hoi An. Historic 18th- and 19th-century homes, a Japanese bridge, a Chinese temple, silk shops and small museums illustrating Hoi An’s cultural riches grace the winding lanes of this World Heritage site. CORAL DISCOVERER (B.L.D)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9
QUI NHON
Stop at Qui Nhon, the seldom-visited provincial capital of Binh
Dinh province that’s home to a large and colorful coastal fishing fleet. Explore the area, visiting the spectacular twin Cham Towers, dating from the 11th century, as well as four other historic towers perched serenely on a hilltop adjacent to a Buddhist monastery. At the Quang Trung Museum, we have the chance to watch members of Vietnamese hill tribes perform superb martial arts demonstrations with music and dance—named an “intangible treasure” by UNESCO.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11
NHA TRANG
Enjoy our time in Nha Trang, which boasts a lovely coastal setting, colorful hillside houses and brightly painted boats. Explore the well-preserved Cham Ponagar Temple complex with its impressive towers built between the 7th and 12th centuries, or travel to nearby islands for snorkeling amid the striking coral reefs.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12
HO CHI MINH CITY (SAIGON)
Spend the morning cruising up the Saigon River, and after lunch onboard, visit the colorful and energetic markets in the Cholon and Chinatown districts. Return to our ship for dinner.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13
HO CHI MINH CITY / MEKONG DELTA
Board local boats for an exploration of the beautiful Mekong Delta. Savor the passing scene of emerald rice fields and orchards of coconut palms, mangos, bananas, and citrus fruits; and observe the wide variety of boats that ply this vital highway. Visit a rural farm to learn about the cultivation of a variety of exotic produce and take a look at daily life on the river.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14
HO CHI MINH CITY
This morning visit an agricultural village to learn about traditional farming techniques and watch a professional chef prepare several tasty dishes, or opt to take a leisurely bike ride through the surrounding countryside. Return to Ho Chi Minh City for an afternoon tour. Drive past Buddhist, Chinese and Taoist temples on the way to visit the Presidential Palace and the site where the North Vietnamese tank crashed through its gates, signaling the end of the Vietnam War.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15
HO CHI MINH CITY / DISEMBARK / U.S.
Transfer to the airport for independent flights home, arriving in the U.S. the same day.

Optional Pre-trip Extension to Angkor Wat

JANUARY 28 TO FEBRUARY 1

Spend two full days exploring the exquisite temple complexes of magical Angkor. Additional details will be sent to registered participants.
Coral Discoverer

The 65-guest Coral Discoverer (formerly the Oceanic Discoverer) was launched in 2005 and is scheduled for a complete refurbishment in 2016, prior to our program. Her small size is perfect for regional exploration. She carries Zodiaks; a glass-bottom boat, the Xplorer; and a powerful aluminum excursion boat that can carry all guests during excursions. A spacious lounge, equipped with two large plasma TV screens, is an ideal venue for lectures, and all guests can be accommodated in the ship’s restaurant in a single seating. All staterooms have an ocean view.

Program Cost*

Rates per person, based on double or single occupancy, as specified

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*Association nonmembers add $300 per person.
**Single accommodations may be limited to as few as 2 cabins.

Length: 207 feet
Beam: 43 feet
Draft: 10 feet
Speed: 14 knots
Registry: Australia
DATES
January 31 to February 15, 2017 (16 days)

SIZE
This program can accommodate a total of 65 participants, including travelers from Stanford and Zegrahm Expeditions. Single accommodations are extremely limited; please call for availability.

INCLUDED
2 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations • 12-night cruise aboard the Coral Discoverer • 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches and 13 dinners • Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions • Gratuities to guides, drivers and ship crew for all group activities • All tours and shore excursions as described in the itinerary • Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days • Port fees and embarkation taxes • Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance • Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information • Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED
International and U.S. domestic airfare • Passport and visa fees • Immunization costs • Meals and beverages other than those specified as included • Independent and private transfers • Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance • Excess-baggage charges • Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare from San Francisco to Hanoi and return from Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) is approximately $1,300 as of January 2016 and is subject to change without notice. Information on recommended flight itineraries will be sent by our designated agent.

WHAT TO EXPECT
For most activities, a moderate level of exertion is required. You will need to climb, unaided, into and out of Zoarcas for snorkeling and excursions ashore. You must be able to walk moderate distances over sometimes rough and uneven terrain, especially at many of the archaeological sites we visit. In some instances, such as ruins, steps are a necessary part of the tour and they may be uneven and may not have handrails. Paths and streets can be rocky and uneven. Temperatures will range in the 80s (ºF) with high humidity, and precipitation is expected. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,300 deposit is required to hold space on this program. A $200-per-person deposit is required to hold space for the optional pre-trip extension. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?vietnam2017 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the members’ price. A person traveling as a paid guest of a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. To purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and ship arrangements and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. It is understood that the ship’s ticket, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the cruise company. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in January 2016 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

TELEPHONE (650) 725-1093
EMAIL travelstudy@alumni.stanford.edu

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50

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“The organization was seamless, the sites fascinating, and the staff and the other travelers were fascinating company.”

BARBARA MCQUINN, VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA, 2015