

THE SOCIETY FOR ASIAN ART PRESENTS

Exploring Vietnam & Laos: Art & Culture, Past & Present

JANUARY 25 – FEBRUARY 10, 2018



Wat Wisunalat, Luang Prabang

Come join the Society for Asian Art as we explore the art and culture of the 21st century and of centuries past in Laos and Vietnam. Contrasts between old and new, past and present are seen throughout Southeast Asia, but are most strikingly evident in these two fascinating countries. On one day in Vietnam, we will be very much in the present as we dine with local professionals in their private homes discussing the art and culture of today. On another day, we will transport ourselves back to 192 AD and the kingdom of Chama as we explore the Cham temple ruins. The journey between past and present continues all the way to the magical Laotian city of Luang Prabang situated between the Mekong and Nam Khan Rivers. Here you will see beautiful textiles made using techniques that have remained the same over the centuries. You will also have the opportunity to dine at a variety of restaurants with cuisine rivaling the menus in any of today's major cities. The SAA is proud to offer this specially crafted journey to Vietnam and Laos giving you the opportunity to immerse yourself in their cultures, their histories and their ideas.

Tour Highlights

HANOI – 4 nights

Metropole Hotel

- ♦ Morning tour by pedi-cab around Hoan Kiem Lake
- ♦ Stroll through the ancient quarter of “36 streets & 36 wares” and local markets
- ♦ Explore Ethnology Museum
- ♦ Enjoy the performance of Traditional Vietnamese Water Puppets
- ♦ Tour the National Gallery of Arts with the local art expert, Suzanne Lecht
- ♦ Private reception at Art Vietnam Gallery
- ♦ Day excursion to the famous Bat Trang Pottery Village
- ♦ Dinner at a private home



Hanoi's ancient quarter

- ♦ Experience the early morning fish market
- ♦ Day excursion to Cham ruins of My Son with a local historian

HO CHI MINH CITY (HCMC) – 2 nights

Continental Hotel

- ♦ Take an orientation city tour of HCMC (Saigon)
- ♦ Free time at the famous Ben Thanh market
- ♦ Day excursion on the majestic Mekong River

VIENTIANE – 2 nights

Green Park Boutique Hotel

- ♦ Explore the city and its many Wats and markets
- ♦ Witness local artisans at work
- ♦ Visit to the well-known artisan Carol Cassidy's textile shop

HUE – 2 nights

La Residence Hue Hotel & Spa

- ♦ Tour the ancient Citadel and Royal Tombs
- ♦ Morning boat cruise on Perfume River to visit Thien Mu Pagoda
- ♦ Enjoy authentic cuisine of Hue's royalty for lunch
- ♦ Visit to New Space Arts Gallery
- ♦ Special Tha Ohm dinner at a private traditional Hue style garden home



Laos' textiles

LUANG PRABANG – 3 nights

Sofitel Luang Prabang Hotel

- ♦ Visit to Wat Xieng Thong, National Museum (formerly Royal Palace), Wat Mai, Wat Sensoukarahm, and local market
- ♦ Join a private welcome Barsi ceremony
- ♦ Explore the weaving center Ock Pop Tok with an opportunity to take courses on weaving and natural dyes
- ♦ Experience the special monks' daily alms with an opportunity for food donation
- ♦ Private dinner with local experts at the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Center

DIFFICULTY LEVEL and TRAVEL INSURANCE:

There will be walking on uneven surfaces, stair climbing, and extended periods of standing. The trip is not suitable for those with mobility problems. SAA sells CSA Travel Protection Insurance 800.348.9505 www.csatravelprotection.com, Producer code: 20100719. You can buy trip insurance which will repay all non-refundable costs for cancelling this trip for ANY reason. This must be purchased at the time of your initial deposit.

Our trip begins in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, with a morning tour by pedi-cab around the historic Hoan Kiem Lake (Lake of the Restored Sword) and then continues with a walking tour to the ancient quarter of “36 streets and 36 wares”. We will visit the Ethnology Museum, Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, National Gallery of Art; and enjoy the performance of traditional Vietnamese water puppets. We will travel in a day trip to Bat Trang, the traditional

porcelain and pottery village which is seven centuries old.

We will fly to the former royal capital of Hue, visiting the Citadel and Royal Tombs and take a leisurely cruise on the Perfume River to the iconic Thien Mu Pagoda. In Hue, we will stop by the New Space Arts Gallery and enjoy both a Royal lunch and special Tha Ohm dinner.

From Hue, we travel by car to the quaint old town of Hoi An with a stop to visit the Cham Museum in Danang City. We will enjoy a walking tour of Hoi An visiting its numerous places of interest: the 400-year old Japanese Covered Bridge, the Phuc Kien Assembly Halls, the old House of Tan Ky. Get up early to visit the morning fish “wet” market to see the fishermen coming back with their first catches. We will have an excursion with a local historian to explore the Cham ruins of My Son. Enjoy some free time strolling around this lovely town with its many shops and galleries.

A morning flight takes us to Ho Chi Minh City, a bustling city of commerce. Spend the day to exploring the city

and feeling its energy, visiting the Reunification Hall (formerly Presidential Hall), the old Post Office, Notre Dame Cathedral and spend some free time at the busy Ben Thanh market. We will travel to the Mekong Delta for a full day excursion to experience the lush landscape, with its checkered rice paddies and winding rivers. Its abundant fruits and vegetables are evident in the colorful floating and land markets.

We will board the plane to Vientiane, the capital city of Laos, where we can explore its many Wats and markets. We will also visit the silk weaving facility and shop of the well-known artisan Carol Cassidy to see some of the finest Ikat works in the Southeast Asia.

With less than one hour flight, we will arrive at Luang Prabang, the former royal capital and cultural center and a World Heritage Site. This picturesque small town, located on the banks of the Mekong River and at the foothills of Mount Phousi, is endowed with stunning pastoral landscapes, ancient golden temples, and numerous monasteries. There is little traffic on the streets of Luang Prabang and monks in orange robes scurry in all directions carrying umbrellas to shade them from the sun. The Royal Palace, now the National Museum, Wat Xieng Thong, Wat Mai, Wat Sensoukaram will be on our schedule. We will have an opportunity to participate in a

local welcome Barsi ceremony. We will also visit the weaving center Ock Pop Tok to learn about the many different textiles from various ethnicities of Laos and to the Living Land Farm to experience the whole process of rice production. The trip will end with a private farewell dinner with local experts at the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Center.

**EXPLORING VIETNAM & LAOS:
ART & CULTURE, PAST & PRESENT
\$6,550 Per Person sharing a room
Single Room Supplement \$2,570**

The Tour Cost includes:

- 16 nights at hotels as listed in the itinerary, based on double occupancy
- Breakfast daily, 15 lunches, 12 dinners
- Two soft drinks or bottled water included with each meal, and bottled water during local transit
- Private reception and dinners
- One National tour guide & one local tour leader will travel with the group in each country
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- Ground and air transportation within & between Vietnam & Laos
- Private welcome Barsi ceremony
- Private boat trip on Mekong Delta
- Portage at airports
- Visa fees

Not included are:

- A \$400 donation to the Society for Asian Arts
- International airfares to Vietnam and from Laos
- Tour-related gratuities to guides, drivers, waiters and hotel porters
- Personal insurance for health, baggage, trip cancellation
- Items of a purely personal nature and any items not listed
- Excess luggage charges, laundry charges, and communication (phone, fax, internet) charges

RESERVATION FORM: Exploring Vietnam & Laos: Art & Culture, Past & Present

I would like to reserve ____ space(s) for EXPLORING VIETNAM & LAOS: ART & CULTURE, PAST & PRESENT, 2018

Enclosed is a deposit of \$500 per person, a total of \$ _____. **Please make checks payable to GLOBAL SPECTRUM**

(Your deposit is refundable any time prior to October 20, 2017, less a \$250 per person administration fee)

Room Arrangements: Single Supplement Double Occupancy, I will be sharing a room with _____

I would prefer a roommate, but will pay the single supplement if one is not available.

Personal Information (please write clearly)

Name (participant 1) _____

Name (participant 2) _____

Address _____

Phone (1) Cell _____ Land line _____

Phone (2) Cell _____ Land line _____

Email (1) _____

Email (2) _____

Please send your Reservation Form and deposit check to: Society for Asian Art, 200 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Applications will be accepted by mail only, enrollment priority will be based on the postmark date, and confirmed by email.

For more information, please call Global Spectrum at 703-890-0595 or the Society of Asian Art office at 415-581-3701