

Dold World Journeys presents

Mekong River Cruise, Vietnam & Cambodia 19 Days

Including Train ride to Hillside Station of Sapa & Ha Long Bay Overnight Cruise



Dates & Prices

Leave **Mon. Oct. 15** - Return **Fri. Nov. 02**, 2018 - **\$8,635**

Single Room Supplement - \$3,580 / Land Only - \$7,320 / Travel Insurance - \$379

* Priced based on "B" category. Upgrade to "A" (upper deck) for \$400 per person more.

First 15 to sign up **Save \$75**. Second 15, **Save \$50**.

\$270 - Globus Journeys Club Discount (*submit your Globus Journeys Club number to qualify*).

Highlights

- Deluxe 7-nights River Cruise from Siem Reap to Ho Chi Minh (Saigon) on the *Avalon Saigon* in hotel-style, outside staterooms; 8-nights in Deluxe, or Superior First-Class Hotels; Overnight Victoria Express Train to Sapa; and Overnight Paradise Elegance Ha Long Bay Cruise. **Deluxe Avalon Waterways.**
- 17 (B) Breakfasts, 13 (L) Lunches, 11 (D) Dinners. Bottle water on excursions. Free coffee, tea, soda, local beer/spirits on ship.
- Hosted by **Alex Dold** from Honolulu. Professional Cruise Director, N. Vietnam Tour Director and a selection of certified local guides. Twin-bedded rooms/cabins with private bath or shower, service charges, and baggage handling tips.
- Japan Airlines from Honolulu and intra-flight. Cyclo "rickshaw" through Hanoi and Phnom Penh; Oxcart Ride past the rice paddy fields of Kampong Tralach; multiple sampan trips to access remote areas. Private deluxe coach with air-conditioning.
- Unique visits and interaction with locals at: Koto non-profit restaurant and hospitality program; Sapa's famous Weekly Markets; Les Artisans d'Angkor; meet with a Local Farmer and learn about his daily life; enter a Silversmith Village to see talented craftsmen; view the traditional *Khmer* houses of Angkor Ban and visit a local school; experience Chau Doc Local Market; spend time with a local family and watch a Cotton-Weaving Demonstration; stop at a local home who handcrafts sampans; visit Vietnam's oldest churches and converse with its priest; explore a rice wine and traditional coconut candy workshop; stop at the Rex Hotel's popular Rooftop Bar where the U.S. Military held the infamous "Five O'clock Follies."
- Some fascinating sights include: Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum and Cottage; ascend the highest road in Vietnam to Heaven Gate; The village of the Red Dao people; UNESCO's Ha Long Bay; the amazing Temples of Angkor; Phnom Penh's Royal Palace and Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, a high school that housed over 17,000 prisoners; 8th Century Wat Hanchey Temple; Ho Chi Minh Square, Notre Dame Cathedral, and the immense Cu Chi Tunnels was used by the Viet Cong.
- Special performances like: Hanoi's renowned Water Puppets; Apsara Dance, brings to life the ancient *Khmer* culture; Phnom Penh orphanage show featuring local song and dance. *Ran out of space: (more highlights found in the itinerary!)*

Itinerary

Day 1. Honolulu Departure. Our adventure to fascinating **Vietnam** and **Cambodia** begins today with an overnight departure for the Orient. Once the preliminary flight schedule is ready it will be displayed online at doldworldjourneys.com under the journey's web page.

Day 2. Via the Orient to Hanoi, Vietnam. Based on current flight schedules we make a brief stop in the Orient before continuing our journey to Hanoi, Vietnam. We touchdown in the evening, clear customs and immigration, and are met by our Northern Vietnam Director who will take us to the InterContinental Westlake, our home for the next two nights.

Day 3. Discovering Hanoi. Today we start by exploring the life of **Ho Chi Minh**, the father of modern Vietnam. First, visit the **Mausoleum** and the humble **Cottage** from which “*Uncle Ho*” ruled Vietnam until his death in 1969. Next experience: the iconic **One Pillar Pagoda**, the Soviet-style **Ho Chi Minh Museum**, and the Presidential Palace. Stop at the infamous “*Hanoi Hilton*” before continuing to mystical **Hoan Kiem Lake**, where we will enjoy a brief guided stroll. Nearby we discover the ancient **Temple of Literature**, over 900 years old and Hanoi’s first university.

Lunch is at **Koto**, a non-profit restaurant and hospitality program that trains local street children in restaurant skills they can use to find a job and build a stable life. The balance of our day is free to relax or wander around town. Our local director and Alex will have suggestions. (B), (L)

Day 4. Experiencing Hanoi and Overnight Train to Sapa. Enjoy our leisurely morning to prep for the nights adventure. In the afternoon, enjoy a **Cyclo “rickshaw” Ride** through the fascinating **Old Quarter**, 36 ancient streets where peddlers trade as they have for centuries. An early dinner this evening is followed by a fascinating performance of Hanoi’s renowned **Water Puppets**, a traditional art form dating back to the 11th century.

After our show we head to the train station to board the famous **Victoria Express Train** for an overnight journey to the hill-station town of **Sapa**. (B), (D) ****PLEASE note singles will have to pair up for the night.**

*For a truly one of a kind experience, we travel overnight on the **Victoria Express Train**. The interior is artistically decorated in a classic Victorian style with an Eastern fusion. Located at both end of the carriage are restrooms which are well kept. The staff is friendly and there to make the more of our journey. All cabins feature 2 berths, air-conditioning, and large picture window. (See Victoria Express Train Details.)*

Day 5. Exploring Sapa. In the early morning we say “*Aloha*” to the accommodating train staff and transfer to the **Victoria Sapa Resort & Sapa** for breakfast and later our overnight stay.

We begin our day's exploration with a visit to **Ta Van** and **Lao Chai** villages, to see the traditional way of life of the *Zay* and *Black Hmong* ethnic groups. These ethnic groups live together here under the watch of **Fansipan Mountain**. The *Zay* live a sedentary lifestyle and choose land near the valley’s bottom for growing wet rice. The *Hmong* have historically preferred higher elevations for corn farming but recently they’ve started gradually moving to lower land and learning from others like the *Zay*.

After lunch, visit the beautiful **Silver Waterfall** and ascend the highest road in Vietnam to **Heaven Gate** for stunning views of the surrounding mountains and valley. Tonight, for those interested let's venture through Sapa and perhaps stop at the famous “*Love Market*,” where local Hmong and Dao come from their villages for the chance to see one another and perhaps go on a date! (B), (L)

Day 6. Sapa Sightseeing and back to Hanoi. This morning we visit one of the famous **Weekly Markets**. Here, the local ethnic minority groups wear their most beautiful costumes as they sell and trade their homemade products. The *Flower Hmong* group is most recognizable with their colorful dress. After a quick photo stop at the **China border**, visit **Taphin Village**, home of the *Red Dao* people who migrated from China starting in the 12th century. The Dao women are recognizable by the bright red turban they wear and, in some cases, shaved eyebrows.

In the afternoon we travel back to **Hanoi** and overnight at the InterContinental Westlake. The balance of the evening is free for was to wander or just relax. Alex will have something planned. (B), (L)

Day 7. To Ha Long Bay and overnight Bay Cruise. This morning we travel through the fertile countryside to **Hon Gai**, gateway to **Ha Long Bay**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Located in the **Gulf of Tonkin**, the Bay is dotted with over 3,000 limestone islands carved into fanciful shapes by the action of the water. Tunnels, caves, and weirdly shaped outcroppings with imaginative names can be found on many of the small islets sprinkled across the bay.

Board the luxurious **Paradise Elegance** for an overnight cruise on the bay. After lunch, experience the amazing **Sung Sat Cave**, considered one of the most beautiful in the area with its magnificent formations. Enjoy scenic sailing for the remainder of the day before anchoring of **Coconut Tree Island** for the night. (B), (L), (D)

*On Board the **Paradise Elegance** enjoy a Cooking Demonstration and a morning Tai Chi session. Savor complimentary tea and coffee. Why not pamper yourself with a spa treatment or enjoy some time at the Piano Bar. Of course, you can just sit back, relax and take in the amazing scenery from the upper deck or your balcony. (See Ha Long Bay Ship Details.)*

Day 8. Via Hanoi to Siem Reap. Before breakfast this morning, discover **Titop Island**, where we have an opportunity to swim or climb the 400 steps to the top for stunning views. Afterwards, we head back to **Hanoi** for our two-hour afternoon flight to **Siem Reap**, home of the **Temples of Angkor**. On arrival we transfer to the prestigious Park Hyatt Siem Reap for the next three nights. Located in the heart of the city, this award-winning hotel blends an elegant and contemporary design to create an enlivening resort and residential feel. (B)

Day 9. Discover Angkor Temples. Our highlight today is the famous **Temples of Angkor**. Constructed between the 9th and 13th centuries, the temples were built around the *Khmer Interpretations* of Indian religious and political beliefs that ultimately evolved from *Hinduism* to *Buddhism*. The complex architectural grandeur of the Angkor temples is arguably unmatched among ancient ruins anywhere in the world.

Begin with a visit to the best preserved and most famous of all the temples: **Angkor Wat**, honoring the Hindu god Vishnu. Featuring five trademark towers and stunning bas reliefs, it has become a symbol of Cambodia. Then, explore **Banteay Srei**, a unique temple dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva. Unlike other temples, it is built on a small scale from red sandstone, which can be carved like wood. This evening, savor a **Private Apsara Dance Performance**, where the ancient *Khmer* culture is brought to life by talented dancers, singers, and musicians. (B), (L), (D)

Day 10. Continue Angkor Temple Experience. Today we continue our exploration of the **Angkor Temples** by *tuk-tuk*. Start at **Angkor Thom** where we will explore **Bayon Temple**. One of the few Buddhist temples in Angkor, it features some 200 striking faces carved in 54 towers and impressive bas reliefs. Next stop is **Ta Prohm**, which, unlike the other temples, has been left relatively untouched. Tree roots grow over and through the ruin walls, allowing us to experience the temple with the same wonder as the early explorers who discovered it. Lastly, stop at **Les Artisans D'Angkor**, a development project teaching young adults traditional handicraft techniques. The rest of the afternoon is at our leisure to explore this charming town. Alex and our Cruise Director will take us over to Pub Street for a variety of eating options. (B)

Day 11. Embarkation and cruising Tonle Sap. After breakfast at our hotel, we transfer to the port and board the newly built Avalon Saigon and begin our cruise down the mighty **Mekong** through **Cambodia** and **Vietnam**. Savor our deluxe vessel as we head through **Tonle Sap** "Great Lake" in the afternoon. After the rainy season, this massive body of water can cover around 10,000 square miles and provides the perfect breeding ground for fish, which provide food for people living on the lake. This evening, savor a **Welcome Reception**. (B), (L), (D)

*The all-suite **Saigon** is Avalon's newest (set to launch in 2018) Suite Ship in Asia specifically designed to offer the best cruise experience on the Mekong River. She is one of only two ships in the industry (along with her sister ship the Avalon Siem Reap) cruising from Siem Reap* to Ho Chi Minh City eliminating hours of motorcoach travel time, which means more deluxe cruising!*

The ship retains the colonial charm fitting to Vietnam and Cambodia while offering all the comforting modern features. Carrying only 36 guests the ship offers an unrivaled small-ship cruise experience ensuring we engage with locals, experience their culture, and revel in the unique sights along the majestic Mekong. It is built as long and wide as other ships that carry twice as many guests. From the spacious dining room, open-air observation lounge and air-conditioned Panorama Lounge there are plenty of places to sit, relax, and have a magnificent view of the passing scenery. In addition, there's a fitness center, library and games, and spa room offering relaxing massages. And with a crew to guest ratio of nearly 1:1 we will experience personalized service throughout our journey.

The hotel-style Avalon Suites features an expansive 245 square feet of living space. The innovative Open-Air Balcony is a floor-to-ceiling, wall-to-wall panoramic window measuring a massive 14 feet across. The doors slide open a full 9 feet, creating the feeling of sitting outside. And when the window is closed the space transforms into a comfortable sitting room as you watch the passing scenery. You'll also appreciate the thoughtful design of the bathroom. with its enlarged showers, marble countertops, premium fixtures, and a rain shower head. It's a luxurious hotel room on a ship.

With all meals included on board, every dining experience brings our destination to life. Try authentic cuisine from Vietnam or Cambodia or more familiar Western alternatives. The breakfast buffet offers a wide variety of dishes to start

our day off right. Lunch features a buffet and a live cooking station showcasing local specialties served by our Head Chef. In the evening, a four-course à la carte dinner awaits with choice of salads, soups, entrées, dessert or cheese, and complimentary wine, local beer/spirits, soft drinks, coffee & tea. Vegetarian options are available with all meals. (See Avalon Saigon Ship Details.)

* Cruising from Siem Reap is dependent on water levels.

Day 12. Kampong Tralach, Konpong Louang and Phnom Penh. Start our day with an *Oxcart Ride* past the rice paddy fields of **Kampong Tralach** and the beautiful Cambodian countryside. Along the way we *meet with a Local Farmer* and learn more about his daily life. Next visit the **Silversmith Village** of **Konpong Louang**. Here we see talented craftsmen use age-old techniques to turn pure silver into works of art. Then sail to the capital city of **Phnom Penh**. After lunch, our sightseeing by private *Cyclo Ride* includes stops at the **Royal Palace** with the spectacular **Silver Pagoda** and the **National Museum**, featuring an outstanding display of *Khmer* artifacts. (B), (L), (D)

Day 13. Discovering Phnom Penh. Sightseeing this morning provides a glimpse of the atrocities inflicted on the Cambodian people by the *Khmer Rouge* regime. Explore the **Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum**, a former high school that housed over 17,000 prisoners. Of this number, it is believed that less than 15 survived the torture and avoided being sent to the Killing Fields. We'll also visit one of the **Killing Fields**, where over 200,000 people were killed by the *Khmer Rouge*. The remainder of the day is at our leisure to explore the city. Just before dinner, children from a local orphanage will put on a **show** featuring local song and dance. (B), (L), (D)

Day 14. Wat Hanchey and Angkor Ban. This morning experience **Wat Hanchey**, a temple dating back to the 8th century and the *Chenla Empire*. From its hilltop location enjoy stunning views of the surrounding area and partake in a **Traditional Water Blessing** given by local monks. After lunch, enjoy a guided stroll through the rural village of **Angkor Ban**. Here we will view traditional *Khmer* houses and visit a **local school**. (B), (L), (D)

Day 15. Chau Doc, Vietnam. Cross the border this morning into **Vietnam** and sail to **Chau Doc**. Upon arrival, walk through the **Local Market** and absorb the atmosphere as locals are busy buying and selling fish, meat, and produce. After lunch, join a *sampan* excursion down the backwaters of the river to the religious sites at the base of **Sam Mountain**. Along the way, see traditional floating homes, speedboat merchants, a market selling dried goods, and more. (B), (L), (D)

Day 16. Long Khong A and Cu Lao Gieng. After breakfast a *sampan* will bring us to the village of **Long Khong A**, where cotton weaving is a well-preserved tradition. We spend time at a house to talk with the family and watch a *Cotton-Weaving Demonstration*.

Once again, in the afternoon we board a *sampan* and enjoy scenes of daily life along the river. Stop at a *Local Home* to learn how this skilled family works together to hand-craft sampans for a living. Later ride a specially designed *motor cart* to one of Vietnam's oldest churches for an *Interesting Conversation* with a Catholic Priest. (B), (L), (D)

Day 17. Experience Ben Tre. After breakfast we board a sampan for a scenic cruise to **Ben Tre**. Visit a *Local Workshop* to see how rice wine and traditional coconut candy are made. Then we continue to a *Local Garden* where several types of fruit indigenous to the area are grown. Spend the rest of our day savoring life on board our deluxe ship and say "Aloha" to our newly made friends, as we sail to exciting **Ho Chi Minh City**, the last port of our cruise. (B), (L), (D)

Day 18. Disembarkation and Exploring Ho Chi Minh City. Welcome to **Ho Chi Minh City**, still known as *Saigon* to many. This morning, enjoy a *Guided Walk* of the city's famous and historic landmarks as we stroll through the heart of the city along **Dong Khoi Street** (formerly *Rue Catinat*) past **Ho Chi Minh Square**, the **Municipal Theatre**, the **Central Post Office**, and **Notre Dame Cathedral**. Stop at the **Rex Hotel** for a refreshing drink at the popular **Rooftop Bar** where the U.S. Military held the infamous "*Five O'clock Follies*" during the war. Next, visit the **War Remnants Museum** followed by **Ben Thanh Market**, the largest and oldest in the city. For lunch, participate in a hands-on **Vietnamese Cooking Class**. Then head into the classroom and learn how to prepare different local dishes and the techniques necessary to recreate them once we return home. Last but not least, sample our delicious creations!

This afternoon we leave the city and drive through vast expanses of rice paddies to visit the **Cu Chi Tunnels**, an extraordinary network of tunnels more than 120 miles in length that was used by the Viet Cong as a hideout and secret village during the war. Here we learn about how the tunnels were constructed and have a chance to walk through a section to experience what life would have been like underground. This evening savor a special farewell dinner hosted by our Cruise Director. The awarding winning Reverie Saigon Hotel. (B), (L), (D)

Day 19. To Honolulu. Fabulous memories of an amazing experience are with us as we make our way home today. Our flight should arrive into Honolulu before noon today (*due to the time change*). (B)

General Conditions – Mekong

DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT: A **\$250** per person *credit card deposit* (please *CALL with your information*) processed by the Globus Family is required to secure your space and your **RESERVATION FORM** to set your discount spot. This deposit is part of your final payment, which is due no later than **90 days** prior to departure. You will receive a final payment request approximately two weeks before its due date. Final payment will be divided, with the land portion going to the Globus Family and the domestic airfare plus any non-chargeable costs going to ES International (DWJ's airline ticketing agent).

Sign-up discounts are combinable with other discounts, but are not transferable to other programs. **Land-only** space is limited. Land price does NOT include airport transfers, dayrooms, or pre- or post-night hotel accommodations. *These can be purchased.*

CANCELLATION AND REFUND: Full refund* will be made, if cancellation is received up to **185 days** prior to departure; thereafter, only the monies which will be recovered from the hotels, tour operators, airlines, etc., will be refunded. No refund will be made for services not used once the tour commences. All refunds or penalties are subject to the rules and tariffs of the vendors concerned. (*Note: once your airline ticket is issued it is non-refundable.) There is a \$25 fee for any changes made after 90 days.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We recommended purchasing travel insurance with your DEPOSIT. This will insure you are covered from a *pre-existing condition* AND “*Cancel for Any Reason.*” We will send you a copy of the coverage offered for this journey. This insurance is refundable up to **185 days** prior to departure. You can also purchase insurance with final payment but **will not** be covered for a *pre-existing condition* or “*Cancel for Any Reason.*”

PRICE: Prices are per person based on two people sharing a room/cabin and accurate as of December 13, 2017. Our program prices are guaranteed (unless taxes increase). We need a minimum of 14 people flying with the group to operate this program.

PRICE INCLUDES: The journey price includes airfare (and taxes) based on a special group fare, which is subject to certain restrictions; accommodations in First or Superior First-Class hotels/ships based on two people sharing a room/cabin with private facilities (bath or shower); meals as indicated in the itinerary: (B) breakfast, (L) lunch, and (D) dinner; and entrance fees where applicable.

NOT INCLUDED: The trip price does not include passport expenses; meals not listed in itinerary; all beverages; country tax; baggage fee, baggage and health insurance; laundry expenses; and all items of a personal nature. Tips to tour directors, tour drivers, local guides, and hotel personnel; excursions; city sightseeing; and entrance fees are excluded unless specifically noted in the itinerary.

PASSPORT AND DOCUMENTS: A passport, valid 6 months past the date of your return with at least 4 blank pages is required. Tourist Visas for both Vietnam and Cambodia is required for U.S. citizens (approx. \$200). We will obtain these Visas online. Visa fees are not included in the journey price. A copy of your passport is due with final payment.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: Single rooms are **limited**. For persons who wish to share hotel rooms/cabins, every effort will be made to find you a roommate; however, if this is not possible, the single supplement must be charged (*if a single room is still available*).

SIGHTSEEING AND TRANSFERS: All sightseeing and transfers are by private deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach with extra leg room. No Smoking on Cosmos coaches.

BAGGAGE: Due to limited motorcoach capacity, only one suitcase (50 lbs. maximum) and one carry-on per person will be allowed. Porterage for this suitcase is included in the journey's price. Airline baggage fees are not included. No responsibility is accepted for loss of or damage to baggage or any of the passengers' belongings. We recommend buying travel insurance.

RESPONSIBILITY: Dold World Journeys, LLC. and Group Voyagers Inc., dba Globus, 5301 S. Federal Circle, Littleton, CO 80123 (hereinafter referred to as "the Companies") are responsible to you in making arrangements for the tour services offered in the itinerary or on its Web site, including transportation, sightseeing, and hotel accommodations through independent contracts.

The carriers, hotels and other suppliers providing tour services are independent contractors and are not agents, employees, or servants of, or joint ventures with, the Companies or its affiliates. All certificates and other travel documents for tour services issued by the Companies are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the supplier and to the laws of the countries in which the services are supplied. If, after tour departure, the services included in the tour cannot be supplied or there are changes in an itinerary for reasons beyond the control of the Companies, the Companies will arrange for the provision of comparable services. Any resulting additional expense will be payable by tour participants and any resulting savings will be refunded by the Companies to tour participants.

The Companies reserves the right to accept or reject any person as a tour participant, to expel any tour participant from the tour, to make changes in the itinerary whenever the Companies deems it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the tour participants, and to cancel a tour at any time.

Any disability requiring special attention should be reported to Globus at the time the reservation is made. Globus will make reasonable attempts to accommodate the special needs of disabled tour participants, but the Companies are not responsible for any denial of services by carriers, hotels, restaurants, and other independent suppliers. The motorcoach company and other carrier employees may not physically lift participants or assist them on or off transportation vehicles. Persons requiring such assistance must be accompanied by a qualified companion.

The tour participant agrees that neither the Companies nor its affiliates shall be liable for any damages, loss (including personal injury, death, and property loss), or expense occasioned by any act or omission of any supplier providing tour services or of any other person.

Legal proceedings against the Companies may be instituted only in a state or federal court located within the State of Colorado, and any claim involved in such proceedings shall be decided in accordance with the laws of the State of Colorado. Any legal proceedings against the Companies must be commenced within one year following the date of tour completion.

No person other than an authorized representative of the Companies, by a document in writing, is authorized to vary, add, or waive any term or condition in regard to this tour program, including any term or condition set forth in the preceding provisions. (Travel Agents Registration #7051)

Reservation Form

Mekong River Cruise

Date of Tour: **October 15, 2018**

To join our journey please complete, sign, and return by e-mail or mail. If the itinerary has been finalized a per person credit card deposit (and possibly insurance payment) will be due to hold your space.

Dold World Journeys, LLC

4348 Waialae Avenue, Box 372, Honolulu, HI 96816

alex@doldworldjourneys.com / www.DoldWorldJourneys.com / (808) 732-9430

Name (1): Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____

Roommate (2): Mr. Mrs. Ms. _____

Correspondence & Billing Information

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Other Phone _____

Email _____

In Case Of Emergency While On Tour, Please Notify

Name _____ Relation _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Other Phone _____

Secure Flight Passenger Information

We need your LEGAL NAME and BIRTH DATE for all tours

Passport copies are due with final payment for all international tours, including Canada & Mexico.

Person 1

Legal Name _____ Birth Date _____

Citizenship _____ Example: United States, Japan, Philippines

Person 2

Legal Name _____ Birth Date _____

Citizenship _____ Example: United States, Japan, Philippines

By signing this application, I acknowledge that I have read the General Conditions and agree with the terms outlined therein.

Signature _____

World Explorations in the Dold Family Tradition of Value and Service!