Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd.

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Exotique Indochina Sunday, February, 2nd to Friday, February 21st, 2020

Your Pauwels escort Garry Burns takes you on a 20-day exploration of the part of Southeast Asia known, when the French were still its colonial masters, as "Indochina" because this is where the cultures of China and India overlap. Today the region consists of three independent countries, each with its own fascinating culture and traditions: Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.

Tour cost \$6,875.00 from Toronto, based on double occupancy. Land only \$5,720.00, based on double occupancy. Single room supplement: \$1,495.00

PROPOSED ITINERARY:

Day 1 - Sunday, February 2nd:

Departure at 1:20 AM from Toronto for Hong Kong with Cathay Pacific Airlines, one of Asia's and probably the world's best airlines. You will enjoy excellent service as you cross the Pacific on your way to China!

Day 2 - Monday, February 3rd: Hong Kong/Ho Chi Minh City

Arrival in Hong Kong in the early morning, with connecting flight to Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), formerly known as Saigon. Arrival in HCMC and transfer to the deluxe (five-star) Hotel Sofitel Plaza <u>https://www.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-2077-sofitel-saigon-plaza/index.shtml</u>). Check in and free time to settle in. Welcome dinner with traditional Vietnamese entertainment in a nearby restaurant. (D)

Day 3 - Tuesday, February 4th: Ho Chi Minh City

Full-day sightseeing tour of HCMC, with as highlights Notre Dame Cathedral, the grand Municipal Post Office, City Hall, the Municipal Theatre, the former "South Vietnamese" Presidential Palace, the former US Embassy, and the War Remnants Museum. We will also visit some workshops where artisans fabricate typical products such as silks, fine lacquer ware, jewelry, and all sorts of traditional handicrafts. Dinner in a floating restaurant on the Saigon River! (Asian menu) (**B**, **D**)

Day 4 - Wednesday, February 5th: Ho Chi Minh City(& Environs)

Morning excursion into the countryside and visit to the amazing network of tunnels dug by the Vietcong guerrilla fighters during the Vietnam War, known here as the American war. Short stop en-route at a rubber tree plantation and possibly participate in a rice paper demonstration. Returning to HCMC in the afternoon, we visit the bustling Chinatown with its markets and temples. This evening, dinner and show inspired by the theme of a traditional Vietnamese wedding, in Binh Quoi Village Restaurant. (B, D)



Day 5 - Thursday, February 6th : Mekong Delta Departure from HCMC after breakfast. We motor to the town of My Tho, gateway



to the lush Mekong Delta, the food basket of Vietnam, which produces an abundance of rice, vegetables, and all sorts of fruits. In My Tho we board a river boat and enjoy a leisurely cruise through the delta, disembarking

occasionally to visit villages, orchards and farms. We also get to taste local products such as coconut candy, dragon fruit, leechees, and honey. Return to HCMC early evening with dinner in a local restaurant. (B, D)

The **Mekong** is one of the world's major rivers. It is the 10th-longest river in the world, and the 10th-largest by volume (discharging 475 km³ of water annually). Its estimated length is 4,023 km. From Tibet it runs through China's Yunnan province, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. The Mekong Delta is the region in southwestern Vietnam where the Mekong River approaches and empties into the South China Sea.

After a leisurely breakfast, we transfer to the airport for the short flight to Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia where on arrival we meet our local guide and transfer by private coach to "The Killing Fields of Choeung Ek". Here rising above the mass graves is a blinding white stupa containing Buddha relics that serve as a memorial to the 17,000 men women and children who were executed here by the Khmer Rouge between mid 1975 and December 1978. Encased inside the stupa are almost 9000 human skulls

found during excavations here in 1980. Return to Phnom Penh, where after lunch we visit the "Genocide Museum", the Khmer Rouge's notorious Tuol Sleng Prison. Prior to 1975 it was a high school but under the Khmer Rouge was turned into a torture facility and is preserved as the KR left it. Late afternoon we transfer to our hotel with dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight in Phnom Penh. (B, D)

Day 7 - Saturday, February 8th : Phnom Penh

After breakfast, we meet our guide for a panoramic city tour, with buildings and villas of the French colonial era, the Independence Monument including visits to the Royal Palace compound with the beautiful Silver Pagoda, and to the 1930's Restored Art Deco Central Market before returning to our hotel. The afternoon is free for shopping or just to relax. Dinner tonight in the hotel. (**B**, **D**)

Day 8 - Sunday, February 9th: Siem Reap (Angkor Wat)

After an early breakfast, departure by private coach for the town of Siem Reap, cradle of the Angkor Civilization and home of the world-famous ruins of Angkor Wat. We travel through a beautiful landscape featuring vast rice fields, ponds with lotus blossoms, and palm trees, following the general direction of the Mekong River and passing by Lake Tonle Sap, the largest freshwater lake in South East Asia, ecological marvel that was designated as **UNESCO** biosphere an а (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tonle_sap). In this area we will stop for a group lunch. Afternoon arrival, and transfer to the 4-star Somadevi Angkor Hotel and Spa or similar. No group dinner this evening but the town of Siem Reap has many restaurants with international cuisine. Overnight in Siem Reap. (B, L)



Ancient view of the ruins of Angkor Wat

Day 9 - Monday, February 10th; Siem Reap

Amazing discoveries await us in a vast junglecovered complex of more than 100 magnificent temples, and monuments dating back to the Khmer Dynasty of the 9th-13th centuries. We will visit Angkor Wat itself, plus other famous "Angkorian" temples and sites such as the Bayon and the pyramidal Baphuon which along with Angkor Wat are structural representations of mythical Mount Meru. We examine the Terrasse of Elephants used as a giant reviewing stand for public ceremonies and served as a base for the king's grand audience. Beside it is the Terrace of the Leper King a platform 7m high on the top of which stands an enigmatic nude statue. In the heart of Angkor Thom we reach the

area of the former Royal Palace and the Phimean Akas meaning "Celestial Palace", a venue for Hindu ceremonial rites.

Dinner at ANGKOR VILLAGE APSARA THEATRE with a traditional Apsara Dancing Show. Overnight in Siem Reap. (B, D)



Day 10 - Tuesday, February 11th : Siem Reap – Champey Cooking class

After breakfast, we enrich our culinary knowledge with a Champey Cooking Class offering authentic Khmer cooking. A fully-trained team guides you through the process of creating a delicious Cambodian meal in a modern cooking space with international hygiene standards. You'll visit the local market, and learn about the produce soon to become your food. The clean, professional facility is centrally located nearby the Old Market in a traditional style Cambodian house with beautiful gardens in which we enjoy dining once our meal is made. After our Champeyan lunch, we'll be presented with our gift pack which includes a box of spices, a certificate to say you've passed the Champey Cooking Class, and a recipe book to take home with you.

In the afternoon we venture east beyond the Victory Gate of Angkor Thom to a more intimate pair of temple enclosures the Thommanon and the Chaosay Tevoda built, in the Angkorian style, during varying kingdoms from the 9-14th C. Other structures in this complex include Banteay Kdei, Srash Srong, Kravan & especially Ta Phrom Temple, a monastery built by Jayavarman VII as a residence for his mother now embraced by the serpentine roots of a gigantic Tetrameles *nudiflora* tree.

Dinner at local restaurant. Overnight in Siem Reap. (B, L, D)

Day 11 – Wednesday, February 12th : Siem Reap

This morning we venture out to the 10th C. jewel of Khmer art, built not by a Khmer monarch, but by his courtiers about 20km. from Angkor Wat. The captivating charm of Banteay Srei temple, dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva, lies in its compact size, remarkable state of preservation, and the excellence of its elaborate decorative features. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner at local restaurant. Overnight in Siem Reap. (B, D)

Overnight in Stein Reap. (B, D)

<u>Day 12 – Thursday, February 13th: Luang Prabang</u>

Today we make our way to the floating village of the Chong Khneas, located 10 kilometers south of Siem Reap where we board a traditional wooden boat for a ride on Tonle Sap, the "Great Lake" of Cambodia and the largest in Asia. Its extraordinary bio-diversity and hydrology make it an ecological wonder of the world, while offering visitors an insight into the old tradition of riparian life and natural splendour of Cambodia. We'll take some time to enjoy interacting with the local vendors plying a wide range of products in the Old Market and colonial quarter before transferring to the airport for our flight to Luang Prabang in Laos, the landlocked, mountainous, and isolated little country known as the "land of a million elephants", where the traditional lifestyle of Southeast Asia is best preserved. Luang Prabang, the ancient capital of the Lao Kingdom, situated on the Mekong River, is the country's paramount tourist attraction. This treasure trove of temples and monuments as well as French colonial buildings has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1995. Dinner and overnight in the traditional 4-star Grand Hotel Luang Prabang (*http://grandluangprabang.com*). (**B**, **D**)



<u>Day 13 – Friday, February 14th</u>: Luang Prabang

Full-day sightseeing tour of Luang Prabang, with the National Museum in the former Royal Palace and a number of the city's famous royal temples, such as Wat Mai, Phousi Temple, Wat Visoun, and Wat Aham, former residence of the supreme patriarch of Lao Buddhism. There will also be time to explore the market and shopping district. This evening before or after dinner in a typical restaurant, we visit the local night bazaar! (B, D) < Temple in Luang Prabang

Day 14 – Saturday, February 15th: Luang Prabang (& Environs)

Today's adventures take us into the tropical terrain around this world heritage city. Sightseeing along the way, we board a motorboat to cruise along the Namkhan River to Tad Sae waterfalls. Lunch at Tad Sae restaurant before reaching an Elephant Camp and Sanctuary where we can enjoy interaction programs, riding, washing and feeding the elephants. Return to Luang Prabang in time for some shopping and dinner in a typical restaurant. (**B**, **L**, **D**)

Day 15 – Sunday, February 16th: Vientiane

After breakfast, transfer to the airport and flight to Vientiane, the Laotian capital. Arrival in early afternoon, and introductory city tour, with focus on Pha That Luang, symbol of both the Buddhist religion and Lao independence, with its tall stupa, and Patuxai, an impressive war memorial resembling the Arc de Triomphe. Accommodation in the 4-star Crown Plaza or similar, and dinner - accompanied by a demonstration of traditional Lao dances. in Kalao Restaurant (or similar). (B, D)

Day 16 – Monday, February 17th: Vientiane - Halong Bay

Additional sightseeing in Vientiane in the morning, including the superb temple complex of Wat Si Saket, featuring niches with thousands of Buddha images, and,

just across the street, Haw Pha Kaew, a royal temple associated with the famous Emerald Buddha. Also sidetrip to Xien Khuan for a visit to "Buddha Park", a quixotic outdoor collection of enormous Buddhist and Hindu sculptures. Transfer to the airport around noon, and afternoon flight to Hanoi. Arrival in the Vietnamese capital, and **immediate transfer** through the Red River delta with its rice fields to Halong Bay, another UNESCO World Heritage Site, situated on the shores of the South China Sea just north of the harbour of Haiphong. Dinner and overnight in the new and very impressive first-class (but virtually deluxe!) Hotel Novotel, overlooking the bay (*www.novotelhalongbay.com*). (B, D)



Typical scenery of Halong Bay >

Day 17 - Tuesday, February 18th: Halong Bay

Full day to enjoy the splendour of Halong Bay. A 4-5 hour cruise on a traditional wooden junk will allow us to explore this amazing archipelago of 3,000 small rocky limestone islands that are scattered in the bay. We stop at one of these islands to explore a limestone cave and, conditions permitting, to sunbathe on the beach and/or swim in the calm blue waters of the South China Sea. A fine seafood lunch will be served on board! Return to the mainland in early afternoon, and rest of the day at leisure. No group dinner this evening, but there are many restaurants (including Japanese and Italian!) in the vicinity of our hotel. (**B**, **L**)

Day 18 - Wednesday, February 19th: Hanoi

After breakfast we motor inland to Hanoi. Afternoon city tour with sights such as the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, One-Pillar Pagoda, Ba Dinh National Square, Quan Thanh Temple on a little island in West Lake, the garden of Hoan Kiem Lake, and the Confucian Temple of Literature. Dinner in Minh Anh Restaurant, and accommodation in the centrally-located 5-star/deluxe Pan Pacific (formerly Sofitel). (B, D)

Day 19 – Thursday, February 20th: Hanoi

More sightseeing in the Vietnamese capital, with visits to the Vietnam History Museum and the Fine Arts Museum, as well as a pedicab tour of the old quarter and free time for shopping at Dong Xuan Market. We also attend a performance of a traditional water puppet theatre. This evening, superb "au revoir"- buffet dinner of Vietnamese culinary specialties. (B, D)

Day 20 - Friday, February 21st : Hanoi - Toronto

After breakfast, transfer to the airport and return flight to Canada, via Hong Kong, with same-day arrival in Toronto. (B)



Tour price, based on double occupancy, from Toronto: \$6,875.00 Land only \$5,720.00 based on double occupancy Single room supplement: \$1,495.00

Included in the price are:

- Trans-Pacific flight from Toronto to Saigon and back from Hanoi via Hong Kong, with Cathay Pacific, plus domestic flights as shown in the itinerary above;

- Accommodation based on double occupancy, mostly in very comfortable 4-star/first-class and sometimes (Saigon, Hanoi) in 5-star/deluxe hotels.

- Breakfast and dinner (or sometimes lunch) daily;

- Local transportation via air-conditioned private coach and speedboats;

- All visits and sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary, including admission to museums and monuments mentioned;

- Taxes and gratuities;

- Services of local guides as well as a Pauwels Travel tour escort.

Not included:

- Visas fees for all 3 countries. Approximately \$125.00 US, exact amount to be advised. Vietnam (double entry), you will need two passport photos. Cambodia also requires 2 passport photos and Laos needs one photo. Pauwels Travel will arrange with our On Location supplier for as many visas as possible in advance. More information will be provided when the departure is guaranteed.

- Beverages with dinners, and meals other than those outlined above;

- All expenses of a personal nature;

- Travel insurance is available, please call for rates.

BOOKS ON INDOCHINA:

Phil Karber, <u>The Indochina Chronicles: Travels in Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam</u> Gabriel Kolko, <u>Anatomy of a War: Vietnam, the United States, and the Modern Historical Experience</u> Gabriel Kolko, <u>Vietnam: Anatomy of a Peace</u> John Tully, <u>A Short History of Cambodia: From Empire to Survival</u> Grant Evans and Milton Osborne, <u>A Short History of Laos: The Land in Between</u> Charles Higham, *The Civilization of Angkor* Camilla Gibb, *The Beauty of Humanity Movement* Kim Echlin, *The Disappeared*

WIKIPEDIA WEBSITES WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Vietnam: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vietnam Mekong Delta: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mekong_Delta Cambodia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cambodia Phnom Penh: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phnom_Penh Angkor Wat: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angkor_Wat The Khmer Empire: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khmer_Empire Laos: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laos Vientiane: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vientiane Luang Prabang: <u>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luang_Prabang</u> Halong Bay: <u>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halong_bay</u>

TERMS & CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$750.00 required at the time of registration. Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and registration form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed registration form.

REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

Refund of deposit is made if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non-refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply: 90 days to 61 days before departure: 25% of tour cost

60 to 31 days before departure: 50% of tour cost

Within 30 days prior to departure: 100% of tour cost

RESPONSIBILITY:

The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. We also reserve the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. We reserve the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, travel warnings by the Canadian Government etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable.

By commencing the tour, I agree to the release and agreement as included below.

RELEASE & AGREEMENT:

By placing my deposit and commencing the tour I understand and agree to the following:

- 1. That all tours are delivered in conjunction with other service providers, including but not limited to travel agent and booking services, airlines, hotel and accommodation providers, transportation providers including but not limited to coach, train and ferry services, restaurant providers, and local guides. We shall not be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotels, transportation and other travel services are provided subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally.
- 2. I know that tour programs include walking, and may including hiking and fitness programs that have potential hazardous activities associated with them. I should not participate prior to approval by my physician. I assume any and all other risks associated with these events included but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effects of the weather including high heat and/or humidity.
- 3. To release, indemnify and hold harmless Pauwels Travel Bureau and their affiliates (which term shall include parents, subsidiaries, officers, directors, shareholders, agents and employees of Pauwels Travel Bureau as well as Pauwels Travel themselves) (the "Released Parties") from, and agree not to sue the Released Parties for, any claims that I may have arising from, or in connection with, any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from any cause whatsoever related in any way to my participation in this tour. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, I release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from, and agree not to sue them for any personal injury, bodily injury, mental anguish, emotional distress, physical, property or other damage that I may suffer from the Released Parties' negligence other than from intentional or reckless acts by such parties. I further agree to release, indemnify and hold harmless the Released Parties from any and all acts of God, war (whether declared or undeclared), terrorist activities, incidents of politically motivated violence, illness or quarantine, strikes or government restrictions or the acts or omissions of any other agents over which the Released Parties have no direct or indirect control, including, without limitation, airlines, railways, bus companies, hotels, shipping companies, guides and sub-contracted agents or tour operators. This re-

lease also includes activities not offered that may be considered risky. I further release any Tour Directors, bus drivers or other individuals involved in my tour.

- 4. That the air carrier's liability for loss of or damage to baggage or property, or for death or injury to person, is limited by their tariffs, or the Warsaw Convention, or both.
- 5. That Pauwels Travel Bureau shall have no liability or responsibility for me when I am absent from activities, such as visits to friends or relatives or during stay-ahead/stay-behind option periods if the stay-ahead/stay-behind period does not include the services of a Tour Director.
- 6. To abide by directions of my Tour Director or other leadership personnel during my tour. Failure to do so may result in my termination from tour immediately. I understand that to disobey such rules or directions are to waive the right to any refund, and that I may be sent home at my own expense. The participant and family undertake full financial responsibility for any damage caused by the participant and agree to pay his/her return home on the first available flight, should his/her behavior be deemed detrimental to the welfare of the group.
- 7. To abide by all local laws when in Canada and abroad, including those concerning drugs and alcohol. (Minors must have parents' permission to use alcohol even if the local law would otherwise permit them to.) I understand that if I abuse or disobey such laws, even unintentionally, I waive my right to a refund, and Pauwels Travel may send me home at my own expense. I also understand that should local authorities be involved, I will be subject to the laws of the country I am visiting.
- 8. That if I become ill or incapacitated, Pauwels Travel and its employees, or a designated chaperone may take any action they deem necessary for my safety and well-being, including securing medical treatment (at my own expense) and transporting me home. Pauwels Travel retains the right, in its sole discretion, to contact the traveller's parent(s) and/or guardian or emergency contact with regard to health issues or any matters whatsoever that relates to the traveller's tour. These rights transcend any and all privacy regulations that may apply. In the event of a medical emergency, Pauwels Travel will attempt to cause appropriate treatment to be administered, and the traveller authorizes Pauwels Travel to do so. Pauwels Travel, however, makes no warranty that it will be able to cause effective (or any) emergency treatment to be administered.
- 9. That Pauwels Travel may use any film likenesses taken of me and any of my comments while on a tour for future publication and also use my contact information for future Pauwels Travel communications.

A WORD ABOUT *GROUP* AIRFARES:

Please note that when booking one of our air inclusive tours, Pauwels Travel has negotiated reduced rates with the airline that we are able to confirm and lock in up to 359 days before travel. While it is wonderful to share the savings and flexibility this provides with you, our valued guests, the privilege does come with some restrictions. In some cases it may not be possible to collect frequent flyer miles, you may not be able to check in online 24 hours before travel, or you may need to try checking in with your ticket number rather than your booking reference and, in **almost ALL cases we are not able to offer advanced seat selection.**

It is the airline that makes the reservation and has control over the booking so it is their policy, not ours, that prevents us from assigning specific seats. If a request is made, it is passed on to the airline by our staff when they submit the names to the airline, i.e., 30-60 days prior to departure. Calling us several days before you leave will not change this fact nor will getting upset with our staff.

If a certain type of seat is indispensable to you, we suggest that you book our tour on a "land only" basis and make individual flight arrangements, in which case you may be able to get the seat of your choice; Pauwels Travel would be happy to assist you with that reservation at absolutely no additional charge. We will offer you the best fare available, but please note that this can only be done once a tour is a guaranteed departure because your individual airfare's conditions are likely to involve cancellation penalties. We thank you in advance for your kind understanding of the above!

REGISTRATION FORM

Please book	_ seat(s) on the "Exotic	que Indochina" tour of February 2-21, 2020
Enclosed is my/our deposit of		(\$750 per person, <i>plus</i> insurance premium if taken.)
I wish to book on group flights		OR land only
-	-	, are due with registration. You will be invoiced for an d the balance due 45 days prior to departure.
•		SSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) VALID 6 ENT IN WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM.
PASSPORT NAME(S): Please indicate th	e appropriate title (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)
Surame	First	Middle(s)
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If applicable, give you "Liz" for "Mary Elizab	•	name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g.
Adress		_City:
Postal Code:	Phone:	Email:
If traveling alone, is a	SINGLE ROOM REQ	UIRED? YESNO
If sharing, what is your	r bed preference: twin	(2 beds) double (1bed)?
We cannot ensure requ	lests made 30 days or l	cial physical needs etc here. ess prior to departure will be possible.
	-	as then record it on application and add premium to deposit.
I /we would like to pur	· 1	•
		Date of Birth:
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All-inclusive Package		Non-medical Package
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	-	Signature:
"I/we agree to the ter choice, indicated any		ached to the program, have indicated our insurance included payment".
Date	(Signature)(s)	
Please fo		d signed form, copy of passport and payment to: TRAVEL BUREAU LTD.
Tel: 519-753-2695/1		re, Brantford, Ontario N3T 4P6 -4900 – Fax: 519-753-6376 Email:tours@pauwelstravel.com