JANUARY 8-18, 2025
VIETNAM & CAMBODIA

Travel with FGCCT on this tour custom designed for us by Secret Indochina

On this unique journey across the southern Indochinese peninsula, discover aquatic lands by traveling along waterways, rivers and lakes. Meet locals from the Vietnamese Mekong Delta to the Khmer Stung Sen River. End the journey in Siem Reap around Angkor majestic temples. Indulge in an exclusive journey and get an enticing taste of this mystical land of waterways, history and legends. Delightful dining with almost all meals included.

- Saigon – the pearl of the Orient
- Cruise mighty Mekong River for three nights, four days on
- Angkor wonders
- The North Vietnam extension and Tam Coc Garden
- Ha Long Bay 2-night cruise on deluxe, traditional boat

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.

Vibrant Saigon Pearl of the Far East

Three Night Mekong Cruise on Bassac Pandaw

Explore Village Life and Culture

Angkor Wat and Beautiful Temples of Cambodia

Join the Extension to Northern Vietnam

QUESTIONS?

Kathy Lindroth
Kathleen.Lindroth@gmail.com

860.836.3407
Tour Coordinator

Ctgardenclubs.org

Join the Tour!

Pricing based on 25 passengers

Falling below 25 could cause a small increase in price

Main Tour	January 8, 2025 – January 18, 2025	$ 4920	PP Double
		$ 723	Single Supplement
		$ 400	Main Deck Upgrade
Non-Member Surcharge		$ 200	
Extension	January 18-23, 2025	$ 1600	PP Double
		$ 695	Single
Internal Airfare Estimate Siem Reap-Hanoi		$ 150-$285	Internal Air Estimate

The Following Services are Included

All tours and transfers that are mentioned in the itinerary.
Accommodation per itinerary
All entrance fees for sights in the itinerary
Meals in itinerary—almost all meals included!
Regional English Speaking Guides and Tour Director
Gratuities for drivers, guides and Tour Director
Mineral water in vehicles
Tea and coffee during meals, except on Mekong Cruise & Bai Tu Long Bay cruise
Wireless headset, except on cruises
Fast track on arrival in Saigon and Hanoi
$150 Donation to FGCCT

Not Included

International Flights
Internal Flights
Visa Fees
Travel Insurance (medical and evacuation insurance required)
Early check-in and late check-out fees at hotels
Personal expenses
Optional excursions
Internal air is estimate and will be confirmed upon reservation
Early check-in and late check-out charges

VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA
Culture, Cuisine and Botanical Delights
JANUARY 8-18, 2025
For Full Description of Tour, Please see Link on Website

Hotels

Saigon—Caravelle Hotel or similar
Cruise---RV Bassac Pandaw, Main Deck or optional upgrade
Siem Reap—Angkor Village Hotel or similar, water view room

1/8/25 Saigon Arrival—Fast Track through immigration, transfer to hotel
Late afternoon, enjoy a cocktail reception at Padma de Fleur, a floral Paradise. Welcome dinner at Hoa Tue Restaurant . **D**

1/9/25 Your day to choose an activity:
CuChi Tunnels: This remarkable network of underground tunnels became legendary during the 1960's. for facilitating the Viet Cong's control of this vast rural area.
OR
Mekong Delta: leave for an immersion journey to Ben Tre, a coconut paradise which just started welcoming visitors. You will experience a tuk-tuk ride to a local village, then a boat trip through small canals. See the industries of the Mekong Delta Cruise to a private riverside restaurant where you will enjoy a 5 course lunch of local specialties.
OR
Have a free day **B,L,D**

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1/10/25 Start with a City Tour. Explore the Reunification palace, as well as other highlights.
In Saigon. Lunch at Hum Vegetarian, Free time, then Saigon Tales walking tour. Including Saigon Botanical Gardens. A family style dinner at the Old Compass Café will end the day. **B,L,D**

1/11/25 In the morning after breakfast, transfer from Saigon to the river port for embarkation of our cruise. After lunch we journey by sampans through mangroves and bamboo forests to the fruit orchards of Ben Tre Embark on cruise. On deck we will be entertained by a local dance troupe. **B,L,D**
The RV Bassac Pandaw is a 4-deck cruise ship featuring colonial charm finished in teak and brass. Enjoy open-air dining, a cultural performance and onboard activities. Pandaw has been named as a finalist in the USA Today 10 Best Readers' Choice Best River Cruise Lines worldwide. Pandaw is the only Asian boutique specialist to be named as a winner in this prestigious award.

1/12/225 Morning cruise through the delta. After lunch we head ashore to Con Phuoc Island where we visit local craftspeople weaving bamboo baskets; and we experience more village life. After onboard lunch we sail to Tan Chau for overnight. **B,L,D**

1/13/25 In the morning, drive to Sam Mountain, location of Phuoc Dien Tu, climbing 400 steps to the pagoda. Then we go visit the floating fish farms by sampan. We stop at Chham Village and observe the lives of Vietnamese Muslims. Lion dance is presented!! We return to the ship and will undergo immigration formalities. **B,L,D**

1/14/25 We disembark our cruise in Cambodia's capital—Phom Penh. We will head to the city center and explore city highlights Lunch by box lunch or local restaurant. Travel to Siem Reap via motorcoach. Upon arrival, transfer to hotel to relax. Evening dinner at Pinak Pou restaurant, a refurbished Khmer wooden

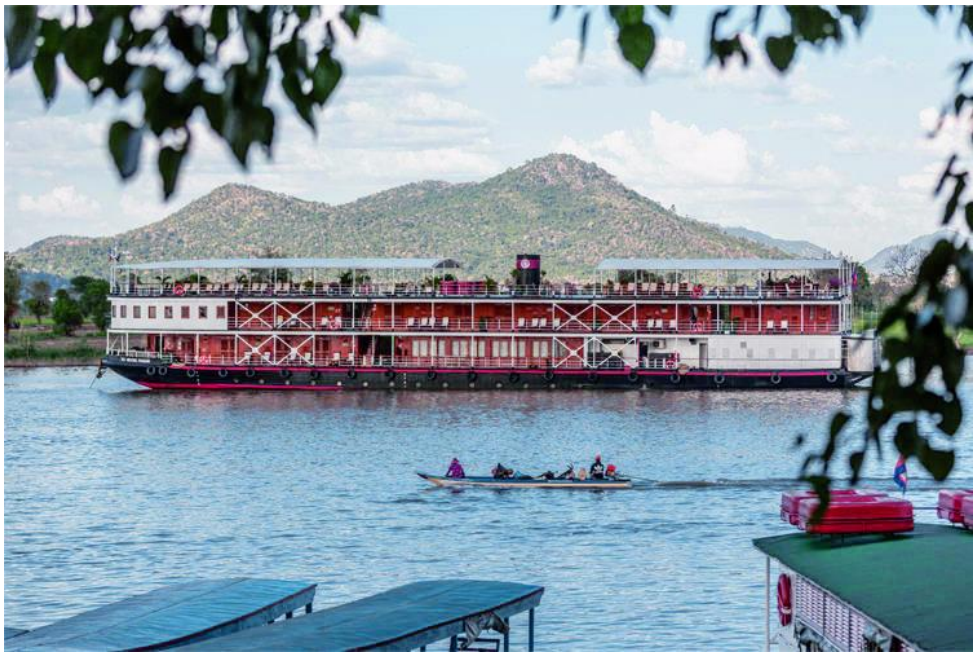
restaurant tucked behind a pagoda. Overnight Siem Reap **B,L,D**

1/15/25 We tour near Siem Reap and visit ancient Khmer monuments, and the three temples of Shiv. Lunch at a special restaurant Sala Bai, an establishment that trains Cambodian disadvantaged youth for the hospitality industry. Rest at hotel before afternoon trip to the Angkor Botanical Garden. . In the evening, dinner and a circus show have been organized by the NGO Phare Ponleu Selpak, a cultural organization for integration through artistic professions. Overnight Siem Reap. **B,L,D**

1/16/25 In the morning, visit to Angkor Wat, the most fascinating of the temples built by King Suryavarman II built in the beginning of the 12th century. A true national symbol, it is the largest and best preserved of the Angkor temples and the most typical of Khmer architecture. Lunch at Banlle—a vegan and vegetarian restaurant. Mid-afternoon we travel by road to Svay Romeat Pagoda and take a short boat trip across mankind's largest ancient reservoir. We experience village life and gardens Explore spice gardens, selecting some choice herbs to create your own cocktail; enjoy a foot massage surrounded by the rice paddies; ride our oxcart through the village; borrow a bicycle or take a short ride in the 1960s jeep to an ancient Angkorian bridge. Enjoy free-flow drinks and snacks, followed by a five-course Khmer dinner served beneath the stars and illuminated by hundreds of candles for a most memorable evening. Overnight Siem Reap. **B,L,D**

1/17/25 In the morning, transfer to Angkor Thom to visit the whole complex After lunch at a local restaurant, we visit magnificent Banteay Srei temple. The "Citadel of Women" was built between the 11th and 13th century from elaborately carved limestone slabs with pink hues and remains the best-preserved temple in Cambodia. A visit to the Golden Silk Pheach Preservation Center will show us rare remaining fully integrated silk production. There will be a visit to the shop. A farewell dinner at the famous Cuisine Wat Damnak, named one of Asia's 50 Best Restaurants. Chef Joannes Riviere cooks in this traditional Cambodian wooden house, offering a menu of authentic Cambodian flavors and French culinary techniques. Overnight Siem Reap. **B,L,D**

1/18/25 Your time is at leisure until transfer to airport for homebound flights. Multiple transfers will be available for your convenience. **B**



NORTHERN VIETNAM EXTENSION
History, Landscape and a Two-Night Deluxe Cruise

Hotels

Hanoi—Grand Mercure Hanoi or similar
Tam Coc—Tam Coc Garden Resort, Tonkin Garden Bungalow
Bai Tu Long Bay 2 Night Cruise on the Au Co

1/18/25 For those taking the extension, fly from Siem Reap to Hanoi, two hour flight. Fast-track through immigration, met by English speaking guide and transferred to our centrally located hotel. Settle in and relax.
Evening dinner at Tam Vi restaurant, a Michelin Bib Gourmand restaurant that is known for traditional Vietnamese dishes made with fresh local ingredients. Enjoy the traditional Vietnamese style of this beautiful restaurant. Overnight Hanoi **B,D**

1/19/25 In the morning, accompanied by Nguyen The Son, an incredibly talented and internationally recognized artist who devotes his time to knowing the buildings and architecture of Hanoi as well as Vietnam's heritage. Our stroll follows ancient and colonial Hanoi spanning 2,000 years representing the eternal soul of the city. We explore the concept of architecture "tomographic"-- the removal of layers of history which formed and superimposed continuously during the last hundred years. A highlight will be the mural fresco on Phung Hung, narrating the evolution of the city. Have lunch at the KOTO restaurant, a charity hotel training center for young Vietnamese from underprivileged backgrounds.

In the afternoon, visit the 11th century Temple of Literature. From the Temple of Literature, take a short ride to one of the city's unmissable sites, Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum. Described as one of the most resourceful mausoleums in Vietnam.

Enjoy dinner at Maison 1929 Vietnamese Restaurant, a restaurant run by Vincent, a Frenchman of Vietnamese origin, returned to the source to promote the flavors of the country of his ancestors. Overnight in Hanoi. **B,L,D**

1/20/25 In the morning, head to Ninh Binh Province. Absorb the incredible beauty of The Red River Delta. Make a stop at Van Long; a marshy area that was the setting for the movie Indochine. Embark on a rowing boat for two and meander along the serene waterways and idyllic rivers, all in arms' reach of green rice paddies, water lilies, lotus and reeds; all the while absorbing the breathtaking limestone peeks and stunning karst mountains that surround this truly angelic landscape.

Later, continue driving and discover the stunning landscape on the drive to the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu; visit the enchanting temples all the while becoming enlightened by their practice of Buddhism and historical events such as the union of Vietnam. After, further drive to Tam Coc and settle into Tam Coc Garden Resort. Situated in the heart of a serene limestone valley in Ninh Binh province, this "Tonkinese village" is an ideal place to experience the local culture of the Red River Delta

The rest of the day is at leisure. Evening, dinner is served at the hotel, followed by a local dance performance and folk games by local sampan rowers of the Tam Coc Women Association. Overnight in Tam Coc. **B,L,D**

1/21/25 Morning, drive to Cuc Phuong National Park, one of the last pristine rainforests of the country. Visit the endangered primate rescue center. Then, hike into the park surrounded by mountains and forest. Visit the Cave of Pre-Historic Man, an important archaeological site where the first traces of human occupation in the region were found. Picnic lunch is served in the park.

Afternoon, continue the hike under the canopy. The jungle is home to a huge diversity of flora and fauna. A number of species in the park are listed on Vietnam Red Book of endangered species. Mid-afternoon, return to hotel and relax. Dinner is served at the hotel. Overnight in Tam Coc Garden. **B,L,D**

1/22/25 Morning, embark on a journey to Ha Long; all the while absorbing the incredible beauty of The Red River Delta and colorful rice fields throughout the journey. Upon arrival at the pier around noon, receive a personal heart-warming welcome on board the deluxe Au Co boat. . The ship has a spacious sundeck, open air jacuzzi, cabins with balconies and excellent service. Visit Viet Hai Village by biking, swimming in the lagoon or observing the villagers. Later in the day we drop anchor in an isolated area to observe a cooking demonstration and savor some fine cuisine. Enjoy the beautiful sunset. Overnight on board. **B,L,D**

1/23/25 Explore Trinh Nu Cave, the finest sunlight filled cave in Ha Long Bay, and a stunning private beach to enjoy nature. Visit Cua Van Floating Village, home to generations of fisherman families. Opportunity to Kayak (included) or sunbathe on a private beach. Enjoy a BBQ party on the sundeck. **B,L,D**

1/24/25 Try sunrise Tai Chi on deck. Visit Sung Sot Cave, the largest cave in Ha Long Bay**.** Check out late morning. Upon disembarkation, transfer included back to Hanoi airport (Noibai) for homebound flights or continue your journey in Indochina. **B**

Nguyen The Son Artist

Ha Long Bay

Health Considerations

Please be aware of the following for everyone's health and wellbeing. By registering and signing the registration form for this tour all guests understand and agree to the following.

Any guest who displays symptoms of *any* upper respiratory illness such as persistent cough, sneezing, sore throat, will be asked to wear a N95 mask, from the supply that you bring, on the coach where you will be placed in the rear, and around other guests, either indoors or outside. You will be asked to socially distance whenever possible, such as during meals, to minimize the risk to others.

Any guest who is running a fever will be asked to take a rest day at our hotel (if we are returning to the same hotel that evening) to allow for isolation. Should the fever last more than 24 hours or should we be in transit that day, the guest will be asked to remain at that hotel until they are recovered from their fever and then make their way, at their own expense, to rejoin the group. We will assist as much as possible in making necessary arrangements. Purchase of travel insurance is mandatory for this tour.

IS THIS TOUR RIGHT FOR YOU?

You will need average fitness to take part in this tour. A single walking stick, only, would be fine. Anything more than this would mean the tour is possibly not suitable for you. This tour is a medium-paced tour. You must be able to walk up and down stairs, sometimes without railings, get on and off the coach and boat and be able to walk distances of 1-2 miles per day without having to sit frequently. The surfaces can be uneven and unpaved. You must be able to handle your luggage if necessary.

This is a no-smoking tour.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

On this tour medical and evacuation insurance is mandatory. Trip protection insurance will protect your investment in your trip, is optional as far as FGCCT is concerned. For best protection that includes pre-existing conditions, you must organize your travel insurance within 2 weeks of deposit. I will make several suggestions:

- Contact Discover Europe at 866-563-7077 and ask for Taylor to discuss the Allianz insurance they carry.
- Go to insuremytrip.com or squaremouth.com, enter your information and view various policies. Before purchasing, I suggest looking for reviews for the company you are considering.
- If you want an annual policy for internation trips that cover medical and evacuation, please check out GeoBlue's Annual Multi Trip policy (Trekker Choice).
- Some credit cards have various travel insurance included as one of their 'perks' and those cards include, but are not limited to, Chase Sapphire Reserve, Chase Sapphire Preserve, various Amex Cards.

FLIGHTS

Transfers in Vietnam and Cambodia are included. I will suggest recommended flights to/from the Northeast airports. . If you want an agent to help with flights, Discover Europe can assist for a fee. 866.563.1630.

Tour Details

This tour has been created and confirmed to our best ability at this time. While making the best effort to conform to the itinerary, we do reserve the right to make changes if necessary. Hotels subject to final confirmation.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE & CANCELLATIONS

Payments will be made payable to Discover Europe, 122 Island Street, Keene, NH 03431. Please note Vietnam/Cambodia in the memo line of your check. Credit cards may be used at 3% surcharge.

- Deposit due at time of registration on a first come, first served basis.
- Balance due by September 10, 2024
- Cancellations made before 8/1/24 is subject to $200 nonrefundable fee and $150 donation to FGCCT
- Cancellations made between 8/2/2024 and 10/8/2024 is subject to 20% cancellation fee that includes the $200 non-refundable fee and the $150 donation.
- Cancellations after 10/9/2024 are subject to 100% cancellation fee

FEDERATED GARDEN CLUB OF CT., INC.
Travel Health Recommendations & Protocol

The FGCCT is making the following recommendations and protocols to our members and their guests who embark on a FGCCT sponsored tour. These recommendations and protocols are subject to change based on governmental regulations, the unique tour destination, rates of infection for viral respiratory disease (including Covid) and other factors. Our goal is to do our utmost to protect our members and to work toward the anticipated experience for everyone on tour.

Before traveling, we strongly recommend that you:

- Check your travel insurance policy for illness and accident protection. To minimize any costs involved with becoming ill, we highly recommend a comprehensive medical and evacuation insurance policy. Such a policy is mandatory for FGCCT international tours. If you need more information on suggested coverage, be sure to contact the FGCCT Tour Coordinator. Please bring your travel insurance documents with you on the tour.
- Mask with a KN 95 mask in airports and during air, bus, and train travel to avoid exposure to respiratory viruses including but not limited to, Covid 19.
- Familiarize yourself with the updated CDC recommendations for respiratory viruses.
- Familiarize yourself with travel vaccine recommendations and requirements for countries you will be visiting.
- All guests traveling with FGCCT will have to sign the registration form which will indicate your acceptance of the FGCCT Travel Protocols.

Listed below are the **FGCCT** health and wellness protocols:

- Obtain all CDC recommended COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters for FGCCT group travel.
- Please be aware of the following protocols for everyone's health and well-being. By signing the registration form for this tour all guests understand and agree to the following:
- Any guest who displays symptoms of *any* upper respiratory illness such as persistent cough, sneezing, sore throat, will be asked to wear an N95 mask, from the supply that **you bring.** Any passenger showing the above symptoms will be placed in the rear of the coach and separated from other guests both indoors and outside. You will be asked to socially distance whenever possible, such as during meals, to minimize the risk to others.
- Any guest who is running a fever will be asked to take a rest day at our hotel (if we are returning to the same hotel that evening) to allow for isolation. Should the fever last more than 24 hours or should we be in transit that day, the guest will be asked to remain at that hotel until they have recovered from their fever and then make their way, at their own expense, to rejoin the group. We will assist as much as possible in making necessary arrangements. As mentioned above, medical and evacuation insurance is mandatory for overseas tours. .

By following the suggested recommendations and protocols, we are far more likely to remain healthy. We wish you a delightful and healthy tour with us!

The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.

REGISTRATION FORM DATE_____

(Print, complete both pages and return to Kathy Lindroth)

Vietnam & Cambodia, Jan. 8-18, 2025

Northern Vietnam Extension, Jan. 18-24, 2025

One Form Per Traveler
Please Print

☐ Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Ms

Name _____

Address_____

City_____

State _____ Zip _____

Mobile Phone _____

Email _____

I am a Member of FGCCT: Club Name:

_____

Date of birth_____

Passport Number_____

□ I will travel as a single

□ I will travel as a double. My roommate's name is:

Prefer: 2 Double Beds □ King Bed □ (not guaranteed)

Dietary Requirements (not guaranteed), Dietary Allergies_____

_____

Mobility Issues including any devices used:_____

_____

Medications, Medical Allergies

A $1000 per person deposit is required to hold your space. Your deposit will be credited against your final payment. The included $150 donation to FGCCT is non-refundable. $200 registration fee is non-refundable.

Final payment is due by September 10, 2024 . For those on Extension, internal air estimated at $150-285 will be billed on final invoice to be paid with final payment.

$ 4920	PP Double Main Tour
$ 723	PP Single Supplement Main Tour
$ 400	PP River Cruise Upgrade to Main Deck
$ 1600	PP Double Northern Vietnam Extension
$ 695	PP Single Supplement Extension

DEPOSIT PAYMENT METHOD
Make payable to Discover Europe

□ Visa □ MasterCard Credit cards incur 3% surcharge

□□□□|□□□□|□□□□|□□□□

Exp. Date _____/_____ Security Code _____

Signature Required:

_____

Required for all travelers*—by signing this form, you have read and agreeto the tour policy of this tour including health and wellness protocol and insurance information.*

Please print the registration form and Terms and Conditions for your records.

◯*I am fully vaccinated including Boosters* ◯ *I will purchase medical and evacuation trip insurance*

Questions? Contact
Kathy Lindroth
FGCCT Tours Coordinator

Kathleen.Lindroth@gmail.com 860.836.3407

Mail your registration form with payment info to:

Kathy Lindroth
4 Chelsea Pl
Farmington, CT 06032

Tour designed exclusively for the Federated Garden Clubs of CT by Secret Indochina