

## CHINA AND VIETNAM



### SEVEN SEAS VOYAGER

SEGMENT 4  
SHANGHAI TO SINGAPORE  
MARCH 6, 2009

13 DAYS | 12 NIGHTS

DATE	PORT	ARRIVE	DEPART
<b>Mar 6</b>	<b>F Shanghai, China (overnight)</b>		<b>Embark</b>
7	S Shanghai, China		4pm
8	SU <i>Cruise the Formosa Strait</i>		
9	M Hong Kong, China (overnight)	6pm	
10	T Hong Kong, China (overnight)		
11	W Hong Kong, China <i>Special shore event included</i>		11pm
12	TH <i>Cruise the South China Sea</i>		
13	F Chan May (Hue), Vietnam	8am	6pm
14	S <i>Cruise the South China Sea</i>		
15	SU Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Vietnam (overnight)	9am	
16	M Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Vietnam		4pm
17	T <i>Cruise the South China Sea</i>		
<b>18</b>	<b>W Singapore</b>	<b>8am</b>	

You'll begin in Shanghai, gateway to Beijing, Xian and Guilin. Spend two nights in Hong Kong, a wall-to-wall marketplace in one of the world's most beautiful settings. Then spend nine days winding along the coast of Vietnam where "Old Asia" comes alive: peasants in conical hats, water buffalo plowing the fields. Visit Hue, Vietnam's cultural center. Explore Saigon's bustling markets. Admire the gilded spires of Bangkok, and relax in Ko Chang, where butterflies hover over cascading waterfalls and wild boars still roam the jungle.

## 21st Century Shanghai and the Maglev Train • SHA-6691

**Duration:** 3 Hours

**Transport:** High Speed Train



Experience the most modern forms of transportation and architecture in Shanghai during a thrilling ride on the Maglev Train, and a scenic visit to Lujiazui.

Made with groundbreaking German technology, the Magnetic Levitation Train, also known as the Maglev Train, is Shanghai's newest, state-of-the-art mode of transportation. The wheel-less Maglev floats on an electromagnetic cushion, and is propelled along a guideway at incredible speeds. Built at a cost of over \$1 billion U.S., the Maglev runs for 20.5 miles from Long Yang Lu Station to the Pudong International Airport. It can reach speeds of up to 200 mph, the fastest ever recorded for any ground-operated mode of transport.

Depart the pier for the drive to the Long Yang Lu Station at New Pudong District, where you will board the Maglev Train for an 8-minute ride to the Pudong Airport. During the ride, you will experience the sensation of flying as the train instantly accelerates to maximum speed. Upon arrival, a brief pause will be made before the ride back to Long Yang Lu Station.

After re-boarding your coach, you will visit the Lujiazui area of the New Pudong District. Developed from farmland only a decade ago and now home to numerous high-rise office buildings, this area has become the financial center of China. From here, you will continue on for a visit to the futuristic Jinmao Building, the most renowned skyscraper in Shanghai. At the Observation Lounge, you will take in spectacular panoramic views and photo opportunities of Shanghai on both sides of the Hangpu River.

Following your tour, you will rejoin your coach for the return drive to the pier and ship.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *The ride on the Maglev Train is 8 minutes in each direction.*



## Ancient Water Town of Zhujiajiao – Shanghai's Venice • SHA-004

**Duration:** 5½ Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach and Boat



Discover a touch of Venice during this scenic tour of historic Zhujiajiao.

Depart the pier for the 1.5 hour drive to Zhujiajiao, or Pearl Stream, an ancient town with a history dating back over 1,700 years. Zhujiajiao is the best-preserved among the four ancient towns in Shanghai. Its unique old bridges over bubbling streams, small rivers shaded by willow trees and houses with attached courtyards offer a relaxed, tranquil environment.

Upon arrival, you will take a tour of this fascinating little town, and view the stone and wooden structures known for their simplicity and elegance.

The highlight of this tour is a boat ride through the waters of Zhujiajiao that will enable you to better appreciate its delicate bridges, old residences and peaceful way of life on the water. You will then continue on to Daqingyouju, a post office in the Qing Dynasty, and the only remnant of its kind in East China. Your tour will conclude with a visit to a rice museum, where you will view various types of rice, and the process by which it is prepared for sale.

Afterward, you will rejoin your coach for the return drive to the pier and ship.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This tour involves approximately 1 mile of walking and many steps. No snacks nor refreshments are included on this tour.*

## Chinese Acrobatic Show • SHA-5000

**Duration:** 23/4 Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



Witness the incredible skill and agility of a truly unique group of artists during this unforgettable demonstration of Chinese acrobatics.

Ancient stone carvings, earthen pottery and early written works trace the ancestry of today's Chinese acrobats back to 700 B.C. Confucius' father was an acrobat and strongman of unrivaled strength, and is reputed to have once lifted 1,000-pound city gates to permit an army to storm through.

During the Han Dynasty more than 2,000 years ago, the first Chinese acrobats, magicians and jugglers sprang forth from the annual village harvest celebrations. With relatively little to do over the long winter, Chinese farmers and village craftsmen decided to spend their idle time improving their social position by becoming acrobats. They practiced the art form with items found around the house and farm, using cups, saucers, tables, chairs, plates, and even their own bodies to form human walls and pyramids.

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Depart the pier for the drive to the Portman Theater to see a spectacular performance of incredible balance and amazing displays of strength by highly skilled and trained Chinese acrobats. Building on the traditional performances, today's artists have added new techniques and spectacular stunts designed to thrill and amaze audiences all around the globe.

Following the show, you will rejoin your coach for the return drive to the pier and ship.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *There are steps at the theater to access your seats.*

## Jewish Heritage of Shanghai • SHA-4848

**Duration:** 3½ Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



Explore the Jewish history of Old Shanghai during this unique and informative visit to the city's most renowned historic Jewish sites.

Depart the pier for the drive to the Ohel Moishe Synagogue, former site of Jewish haims and ghettos. The Ohel Moishe Synagogue is now open to the public, not for religious practice but as a museum, with many pictures recalling the past of Shanghai's Jewish community. Next, you will continue on to see Houshan Park and the Hongkou area, where thousands of Jews who escaped from Nazi Germany, Austria and Poland came to settle and live during WWII. In Houshan Park, you will find a memorial tablet that is inscribed in Chinese, English and Hebrew. The plaque is dedicated to the approximately 2,000 Jewish survivors who emigrated to this area, and the friendship of the Chinese people who made it possible.

Next, your drive will continue through the former French concession area. En route, you will be able to see the former Jewish Theatre, now the Lyceum Theater, and the Jewish Club, presently the Shanghai Conservatory. You will also visit a former Jewish home that currently serves as the Arts and Crafts Research Institute. Here, you will see a variety of workshops producing silk embroidery, woolen needlepoint work, paper cutting, dough figurine-making, and more. You will also explore the area around Zhoushan Road and Gaoyang Road, formerly the site of Jewish haims and ghettos.

Following your tour, you will re-board your coach for the return drive to the pier and ship.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This tour has very limited participation, as there is only one qualified guide in Shanghai for this tour.*

## Scenic Suzhou • SHA-4810

**Duration:** 10 Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



Explore the lifestyles, traditions and scenic natural beauty that have shaped the lives of Suzhou's people for centuries during a full-day tour of this ancient town.

Depart the pier for the scenic, 2-hour drive through the countryside to Suzhou, a picturesque 5th-century town highlighted by verdant gardens and orchards. Upon arrival, you will proceed for a visit to Suzhou's 10-acre Humble Administrator's Garden, one of the most famous gardens in China. About two-thirds of the garden is comprised of scattered lakes dotted with tiny islands, and offers wonderful views and photo opportunities.

Next, you will embark on a boat ride along the Grand Canal that reveals the charm of Suzhou; whitewashed houses with gray tile roofs, old stone bridges spanning a maze of waterways, women washing clothes in the river and children playing nearby. After lunch at the nearby Bamboo Grove Hotel, you will continue for a visit the Liu Garden. A vast, complex environment, this setting offers lakes, bridges and pavilions, along with specialty gardens and a fruit orchard.

Your visit to Suzhou will conclude with a stop at the Silk Embroidery Research Institute, where you will learn about the region's important contribution to the silk and textile industries.

Following your visit, you will re-board your coach for the return drive to the pier and ship.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *The drive to and from Suzhou is approximately 2 hours in each direction. This tour involves approximately 2.5 hours of walking, and many steps along the way. This tour is not recommended for guests with limited mobility and guests who utilize a wheelchair.*

## Shanghai by Night and Dinner • SHA-005

**Duration:** 4½ Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



Experience the beauty of a city showered in lights during this nighttime tour and dinner in Shanghai.

Depart the pier for the drive through the tunnel under the Huangpu River, and on to Pudong New District. Upon arrival at the Jinmao Building, the tallest building in China and third tallest in the world, you will travel by express elevator to the Observation Lounge on the 88th floor. From this vantage point, you will see the skyline of Shanghai all lit up on both sides of the river.

After taking the elevator back down to ground floor, you will re-board your coach for the drive to the Bund, which is located on the other side of the river. As you stroll along the Bund, you will take in breathtaking

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views and photo opportunities of old European-style buildings and modern skyscrapers along the Huangpu River.

Your tour will conclude with a drive through the bustling Nanjinglu shopping area, and on to the Art Deco-styled Xian Qiang Fang restaurant for a Shanghai-style dinner.

Following your meal, you will re-board your coach for the return drive to the pier and ship.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *When this tour operates in March, the stop at the Bund may be substituted for a scenic drive (weather and temperature dependent). Shanghainese cuisine blends foods and techniques from throughout China. The liberal use of sugar and large doses of local rice wine vinegar often produces sweet-and-sour specialties.*

## Shanghai Delight • SHA-4811

**Duration:** 4 Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



Experience some of China's most beautiful and historic venues during this half-day tour of the Shanghai Museum, Yu Garden and Old Town area.

Depart the pier for the drive to the Shanghai Museum. Located in People's Square, the Shanghai Museum is among the finest and most significant museums of its kind in the country. Upon arrival, you will view a portion of its staggering contents: 110,000 historical objects and 430,000 reference pieces. The museum's collection of bronzeware from the Shang (1600-1027 B.C.) and Zhou (1027-256 B.C.) dynasties, along with pottery, porcelain, paintings and calligraphy, garners national and international fame. During your visit, you will have an opportunity to see its monographic galleries consisting of bronze, ceramics, calligraphy, painting, sculpture, seal, jade, furniture, coins, and artwork. The museum also houses a special gallery of donated ceramics, and three exhibition halls to display temporary exhibits. All exhibits will include English interpretations.

After your visit to the Shanghai Museum, you will proceed to the Yu Garden. The Pan family, wealthy Ming Dynasty officials, had the Yu Garden built for their enjoyment between 1559-1577 A.D. Small bridges consisting of different shapes, beautiful rocks, clear-water ponds, elegant pavilions and zigzagging, covered corridors are expertly designed and built in this very delicate, yet beautiful garden. In the mid-19th century, the garden became the home base for the Society of Small Swords, who were a part of the Taiping rebels.

Your tour will conclude with a visit to the Old Town, whose maze of narrow alleys and cobblestone lanes served as the center of Shanghai centuries ago.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This tour involves 2 hours of easy walking and standing.*

## Shanghai from a Lofty Perspective • SHA-003

**Duration:** 7 Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



Experience Shanghai past and present during this full-day visit to historic locales, gardens and museums, and a sky-high lunch at the Oriental Pearl TV Tower.

Your journey begins with a guided walking tour that explores Shanghai's narrow, centuries-old alleys and cobblestone lanes. The highlight of your tour is a stop at Yu Garden, a classic Ming Dynasty garden featuring more than 30 halls and pavilions. Afterward, you will board your coach for a drive through the former French Concession area. Here, tree-lined boulevards and elegant mansions reflect a bygone era.

Next, you will proceed to Pudong, the New World of Shanghai, via an underground tunnel. Upon arrival, you proceed to the Oriental Pearl TV Tower for a buffet lunch served in its 876-foot high revolving restaurant. The tower is Shanghai's landmark; an architectural marvel that defines the skyline of the city. Inside the restaurant, you will take in spectacular panoramic views overlooking Shanghai.

After lunch, a visit will be made to the Shanghai Historical Museum. Housed in the Oriental Pearl Tower, this fascinating museum features a miniature model of the city as it appeared in the 19th and early-20th century. The Museum also features walk-through sections that recreate Shanghai's historic sites and old houses, complete with wax figures.

Your tour will conclude with a scenic drive along the Riverside Avenue, and a photo stop at the Riverside Walkway. Located on the opposite bank from the Bund, this paved walkway affords excellent views of the Bund's 19th-century buildings, as well as the modern commercial district at Pudong.

Following your visit, you will re-board your coach for the return drive to the pier.

## Shanghai Old and New • SHA-4847

**Duration:** 4 Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



Explore a city of remarkable historic and modern changes and contrasts during this scenic visit to picturesque Shanghai.

Depart the pier for the drive through Shanghai's Bund and former French Concession areas for a glimpse at wonderful European-style mansions built early in the 20th century. Next, a visit will be made to the Shanghai Arts and Crafts Research Institute. Upon arrival, you will observe local artists practicing their centuries-old traditional art forms, including paper cutting, boxwood carving, silk embroidery, woolen needlepoint work, paper cutting, dough figurine-making, and more.

Your tour will continue with a drive through the tunnel under the Huangpu River, then on to the Pudong Economic Zone. Here, you will

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see the skyscrapers, most of which were built within the last decade, that abound in this modern area of Shanghai. After a photo stop at the Oriental Pearl TV Tower, you will travel to the very top of the Jinmao Building that houses the Grand Hyatt Hotel; currently the tallest building in China. From the 88th floor, you will take in wonderful panoramic views and photo opportunities of the city.

Following your tour, you will rejoin your coach for the return drive to the pier and ship.

## Suzhou in Depth • SHA-5002

**Duration:** 10½ Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



Discover exactly what inspired the famous Chinese proverb, In heaven there is paradise; on earth Suzhou and Hangzhou, during this memorable full-day tour of the ancient city of Suzhou.

Depart the pier for the scenic drive to the Garden City of Suzhou, founded in the 5th century B.C. Escorted by Li Yande, the deputy chairman of Suzhou Garden Association and your guide, you will commence your tour with a visit to the Garden of Net's Master. Here, you will learn about the complex techniques of Chinese garden design during a stroll through the meandering alleyway, then past delicate and tranquil ponds, bridges, pavilions and houses. Your tour continues with a visit to the Suzhou No.1 Silk Factory, where you get a first-hand look at how this fabric is produced from a round-shaped cocoon into shiny silk thread.

Next, you will proceed to the Suzhou Sheraton Hotel for lunch accompanied by a demonstration of Suzhou Pingtan, the ancient local performance art of storytelling with music. After lunch, you will explore scenic Suzhou during a boat ride on the Grand Canal. Along the way, you will see whitewashed houses with gray tile roofs, old stone bridges spanning a spider web of waterways, women washing clothes in the river and children playing nearby.

Your tour will conclude with a visit to the Suzhou Museum, designed by the world-famous Chinese architect I.M. Pei. The museum maintains the character of Suzhou-style gardens with its simple geometric form and exquisite, fully-functioning structural layout. As you stroll through each successive exhibition hall, you will garner a better appreciation of Chinese and Suzhou design styles.

Following your visit, you will rejoin your coach for the return drive to the pier and ship.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This tour involves a considerable amount of walking. This tour is not recommended for guests with limited mobility and guests who utilize a wheelchair.*

## The Best of Shanghai • SHA-4808

**Duration:** 8½ Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



Discover why Shanghai is fondly known as the Paris of the East and Queen of the Orient during this full-day orientation tour of the city.

Depart the pier for the scenic drive into Shanghai, where you will explore the many highlights of China's largest city. Your tour will begin with a drive through the Huangpu River Tunnel, then continue on past the skyscrapers in the ultra-modern Pudong Economic Zone. A stop will be made at the Jinmao Building, which houses the Grand Hyatt Hotel; currently the tallest building in China. Upon arrival, you will then ascend to the 88th floor for panoramic views and photo opportunities of the city.

Next, you will proceed back to the other bank of the Huangpu River for a visit to the Shanghai Museum. Upon arrival, you will view a portion of its staggering contents: 110,000 historical objects and 430,000 reference pieces. Its collection of bronzeware from the Shang (1600-1027 B.C.) and Zhou (1027-256 B.C.) Dynasties, along with pottery, porcelain, paintings and calligraphy, garners national and international fame. The Museum's monographic galleries consist of bronze, ceramics, calligraphy, paintings, sculptures, seal, jade, furniture, coins, and artwork. The Museum also houses a special gallery of donated ceramics, and three exhibition halls to display temporary exhibits.

After a Chinese-style lunch at a local hotel, you will tour the Yu Garden and Old Town areas. The 16th-century Yu Garden has more than 40 scenic spots in the inner and outer gardens, and reflects the classic styles of the Ming Dynasty. Small bridges consisting of different shapes, beautiful rocks, clear-water ponds, elegant pavilions and zigzagging, covered corridors are expertly designed and built in this very delicate, yet beautiful garden paradise. At the Old Town, you will see a maze of narrow alleys and cobblestone lanes that served as the center of Shanghai centuries ago.

Your tour of Shanghai will conclude with a visit to the Children's Palace, a comprehensive after-school educational facility where children learn special skills that include music, dance, Chinese calligraphy, painting, computers, and martial arts.

Following your visit, you will re-board your coach for the return drive to the pier.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This tour involves approximately 4 hours of easy walking and standing. However, there are approximately 50 steps to climb at the Children Palace and Yu Garden.*

## 21st Century Shanghai and the Maglev Train • SHA-6691

**Duration:** 3 Hours

**Transport:** High Speed Train



See page 138 for description.

## Ancient Capitals of China: Beijing and Xian • SHA-P005

**Duration:** 3 Nights

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach and Plane



*This optional tour must be pre-purchased, and is not included in the regular tour program. If you have not already pre-booked this optional shore excursion, please contact Regent Seven Seas Cruises Reservations at 800-285-1835 to verify the current status of this program. Limited space may be available, and should be booked via reservations. You may also check with The Regent Travel Concierge Manager upon embarkation to verify if this tour is still available. RSSC reserves the right to withdraw this program if minimum participation requirements are not met.*

*A 100% cancellation penalty applies to overland programs cancelled within 90 days of departure.*

Explore the ancient Chinese capitals of Xian and Beijing during this picturesque journey through Asian history. In Xian, you will get a first-hand look at China's past during visits to the Museum of Qin, home of the world-renowned terra cotta warriors, Great Mosque, Xian City Wall and Big Wild Goose Pagoda. In Beijing, you will visit the Great Wall of China, Forbidden City, Chinese Imperial Palace and Tiananmen Square, the world's largest open-urban square, before flying to Hong Kong and embarking the ship.

### March 7, 2009 – Shanghai/Xian

After disembarking the ship, you will be met and transferred to Shanghai Pudong Airport for your flight to Xian, with lunch served in-flight. Upon arrival, you will visit the Big Wild Goose Pagoda. Built in 652 A.D. during the Tang Dynasty, the Big Wild Goose is one of the most renowned Buddhist pagodas in China. This structure originally had five stories, and was built to house the sutras and figurines of Buddha that were brought to China by the Buddhist translator and traveler Xuanzang. Five additional stories were added in the early-8th century, but the

Pagoda was damaged in later wars, and subsequently reduced to its current height of 7 stories. Today, it stands over 200 feet tall, and offers panoramic views of Xian from its pinnacle.

Following your tour, you will be transferred to your hotel for check-in and some time to freshen-up before departing for a Tang Dynasty dinner and show at the Tang Palace Restaurant. Overnight at the Sofitel Hotel-Xian.

### March 8, 2009 – Xian

After breakfast at the hotel, you will depart for the drive to the 150,000-square-foot Museum of Qin, home to one of the most significant archaeological discoveries of the 20th century. In Pit No. 1, you will see a truly remarkable sight; 6,000 amazing life-sized terra cotta warriors and horses created after Duke Xian ascended to the throne of the State of Qin in 384 B.C. For centuries, the famous terra cotta warriors guarded the tomb of Qin Shihuang Di, first emperor of a united Chinese people. Today, the warriors are a major attraction, and have been listed by UNESCO as a World Cultural Heritage Site.

After lunch at the Museum's Friendship Restaurant, you will continue on to the massive City Wall, the most complete city wall surviving in China, and one of the largest ancient military defense systems in the world. Zhu Yuanzhang, first Emperor of the Ming Dynasty, created the City Wall by enlarging an existing wall originally built during the Tang Dynasty. Since its extension, the 8.5-mile-long Xian City Wall now features 98 ramparts and stands 40 feet tall, up to 46 feet wide and 60 feet thick at its base.

Your tour will conclude with a visit to the Great Mosque, one of the oldest, largest and best-preserved Islamic mosques in China. Built in 742 A.D. during the Tang Dynasty, the Great Mosque offers a wonderful introduction into its centuries-old history, and a unique blend of traditional Muslim and Chinese architectural styles. Following your tour, you will be transferred back to the hotel. A buffet dinner will be served at the hotel. Overnight at the Sofitel Hotel-Xian.

### March 9, 2009 – Xian/Beijing

After breakfast at the hotel, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Beijing. Upon arrival, you will be met and depart for a brief tour en route to lunch served at a local restaurant. Next, you will continue on to the world-renowned Great Wall of China. One of the only structures on earth thought to be visible from the moon, this UNESCO World Heritage Site was built between the 5th century B.C. and early-17th century A.D. As the world's longest manmade structure, the Great Wall of China stretches over 3,948 miles. During your visit, you will observe a handful of the watchtowers that number over 10,000 in all. While barracks and administrative centers are located at larger intervals, you will view some of the many holes that were built in both sides of the Great Wall to enable arrows to be shot at advancing enemies. Following your tour, you will be transferred to your hotel for check-in. Dinner will be at the hotel. Overnight at the Regent Beijing.

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## March 10, 2009 – Beijing/Hong Kong

After breakfast, you will depart for a visit to the Forbidden City and Chinese Imperial Palace, built during the mid-Ming and Qing Dynasties. Now known as the Palace Museum, the extensive grounds of the Forbidden City span 7.7-million square feet, and include a total of 800 buildings with 8,886 rooms. Listed by UNESCO as the largest collection of preserved ancient wooden structures in the world, the Forbidden City was also declared a World Heritage Site in 1987 as the Imperial Palace of the Ming and Qing Dynasties.

Next, you will proceed to Tiananmen Square, built in 1417 during the Ming Dynasty, then renovated and given its present name in 1699 during the early-Qing Dynasty. With a total area of over 4.7-million square feet, Tiananmen Square is the largest open-urban square in the world. Located near the center of Beijing, Tiananmen Square was named after the Gate of Heavenly Peace, or Tiananmen, which is situated to the north and separates Tiananmen Square from the Forbidden City. In more recent times, Tiananmen Square has been the site of numerous political events, military displays, mass rallies and turbulent protest movements, the most recent being the Tiananmen Square student protests of 1989. During your visit, you will see the Monument to the People's Heroes, Mausoleum of Mao Zedong, Great Hall of the People, National Museum of China, and Chang'an Avenue, which is used for parades. Following lunch at a local restaurant, you will be transferred to Beijing Airport for your flight to Hong Kong. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to the pier and ship.

### Program Includes:

- 2-night stay at the Sofitel Hotel - Xian
- 1-night stay at The Regent Beijing
- Scheduled one-way, coach-class flights: Shanghai/Xian/Beijing/Hong Kong
- All tours as per itinerary
- 3 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 3 dinners (includes choice of 2 glasses of house wine, local beer, soda, bottled water, tea, or coffee during lunch and dinner)
- Tang Dynasty dinner in Xian
- All transfers, sightseeing and entrance fees as per program

**Not Included:** All meals and drinks not specified above, tips to drivers and tour director, gratuities, laundry, telephone calls, cancellation insurance, and other personal items.

**PLEASE NOTE:** An individual visa for China is required for this program. Flights are based on current schedules, and subject to change without notice. The order of sites visited may vary to avoid crowds and congestion.



## Ancient Capitals of China: Beijing and Xian with Unique Access • SHA-P007

**Duration:** 3 Nights

**Transport:** Scheduled Air and Air-Conditioned Coach



*This optional tour must be pre-purchased, and is not included in the regular tour program. If you have not already pre-booked this optional shore excursion, please contact Regent Seven Seas Cruises Reservations at 800-285-1835 to verify the current status of this program. Limited space may be available, and should be booked via reservations. You may also check with The Regent Travel Concierge Manager upon embarkation to verify if this tour is still available. RSSC reserves the right to withdraw this program if minimum participation requirements are not met.*

*A 100% cancellation penalty applies to overland programs cancelled within 90 days of departure.*

***This upgraded program must be purchased in conjunction with Ancient Capitals of China: Xian and Beijing SHA-P005 program and features the following unique accesses:***

*Xian:* Guided by an archaeologist, you will have the chance to walk down to the second level in the pit to get a closer look at the terra cotta warriors, and have your picture taken with them in the pit. In Pit No. 1, you will see a truly remarkable sight; 6,000 amazing life-sized terra cotta warriors and horses created after Duke Xian ascended to the throne of the State of Qin in 384 B.C. For centuries, the famous terra cotta warriors guarded the tomb of Qin Shihuang Di, first emperor of a united Chinese people. Today, the warriors are a major attraction, and have been listed by UNESCO as a World Cultural Heritage Site.

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*Beijing:* You will visit the Jingqi Study in the inner court of the Forbidden City, and dine on an Imperial lunch inside the Forbidden City. After breakfast at your hotel, you will depart for a tour of the Forbidden City, including an exclusive visit to the Jingqi Study in the inner court. Upon arrival, you will explore the Forbidden City and Imperial Palace, built during the mid-Ming and Qing Dynasties. Now known as the Palace Museum, the extensive grounds of the Forbidden City span 7.7-million square feet, and include a total of 800 buildings with 8,886 rooms. Listed by UNESCO as the largest collection of preserved ancient wooden structures in the world, the Forbidden City was also declared a World Heritage Site in 1987 as the Imperial Palace of the Ming and Qing Dynasties.

The Jingqi Study is a quiet and deep courtyard in the Imperial Palace. During your exclusive visit to the Jingqi Study, which is not open to the public but has been specially arranged for RSSC guests, your Research Center guide will help you gain an in-depth appreciation of the Forbidden City. Following your visit, you will proceed for an Imperial lunch, Emperor Qianlong's Family Feast, inside the Forbidden City.

Qianlong was a food connoisseur who paid careful attention to his healthy diet. After ruling the country for 60 years, he died at the age of 89, the longest-lived emperor in Chinese history. Emperor Qianlong's Family Feast, originated in the Qing Court, and is based on a combination of food styles that include Manchu, nationality of the Qing royal family, Han and Southern China. Cheng Ruming, a renowned Chinese chef that served Chairman Mao and successive Chinese government leaders, will prepare your exclusive meal.

## Beijing and the Great Wall • SHA-P010

**Duration:** 2 Nights

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



Take a stroll through Asia's storied past during this scenic sojourn to the ancient Chinese capital of Beijing, and a 2-night stay at The Regent Beijing. You will explore the beauty and mystery of the Forbidden City, a World Heritage Site, Chinese Imperial Palace, Tiananmen Square, the world's largest open-urban square, and Temple of Heaven. Your tour will conclude the next day with a visit to the renowned Great Wall of China and Sacred Way before your flight back to Hong Kong, and the ship.

### March 7, 2009 – Shanghai/Beijing

After lunch on board the ship, you will be transferred to the Shanghai airport for your flight to Beijing. Upon arrival, you will be met and

transferred to your hotel for check-in. Dinner will be served in the hotel, with the rest of the evening to be spent at your leisure. Overnight at the Regent Beijing.

### March 8, 2009 – Beijing

After breakfast at your hotel, you will depart for a tour of the Forbidden City and Chinese Imperial Palace, built during the mid-Ming and Qing Dynasties. Now known as the Palace Museum, the extensive grounds of the Forbidden City span 7.7-million square feet, and include a total of 800 buildings with 8,886 rooms. Listed by UNESCO as the largest collection of preserved ancient wooden structures in the world, the Forbidden City was also declared a World Heritage Site in 1987 as the Imperial Palace of the Ming and Qing Dynasties.

Next, you will proceed to Tiananmen Square, built in 1417 A.D. during the Ming Dynasty, then renovated and given its present name in 1699 during the early-Qing Dynasty. With a total area spanning over 4.7-million square feet, Tiananmen Square is the largest open-urban square in the world. Located near the center of Beijing, Tiananmen Square was named after the Gate of Heavenly Peace, or Tiananmen, which is situated to the north and separates Tiananmen Square from the Forbidden City. In more recent times, Tiananmen Square has been the site of numerous political events, military displays, mass rallies and turbulent protest movements, the most recent being the Tiananmen Square student protests of 1989. During your visit, you will see the Monument to the People's Heroes, Mausoleum of Mao Zedong, Great Hall of the People, National Museum of China, and Chang'an Avenue, which is used for parades.

Following lunch at a local restaurant, you will proceed for a visit to the Temple of Heaven before being transferred back to the hotel. The remainder of the afternoon and evening will be spent at your leisure. Dinner tonight will be on your own. Overnight at the Regent Beijing.

### March 10, 2009 – Beijing/Hong Kong

After breakfast at the hotel, you will depart for the drive to the world-renowned Great Wall of China. One of the only structures on earth thought to be visible from the moon, this UNESCO World Heritage Site was built between the 5th century B.C. and early-17th century A.D. As the world's longest manmade structure, the Great Wall stretches over 3,948 miles. During your visit, you will observe a handful of the watchtowers that number over 10,000 in all. While barracks and administrative centers are located at larger intervals, you will view some of the many holes that were built in both sides of the Great Wall to enable arrows to be shot at advancing enemies. After lunch at a local restaurant, a visit will be made to the Sacred Way en route to the Beijing Airport for your flight to Hong Kong. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to the ship.

#### Program Includes:

- 2-night stay at The Regent Beijing
- Scheduled one-way, coach-class flights: Shanghai/Beijing/Hong Kong

# SHANGHAI, CHINA

MARCH 7, 2009

- All tours as per itinerary
- 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 1 dinner (includes choice of 2 glasses of house wine, local beer, soda, bottled water, tea, or coffee during lunch and dinner)
- All transfers, sightseeing and entrance fees as per program

Not Included: All meals and drinks not specified above, tips to drivers and tour director, gratuities, laundry, telephone calls, cancellation insurance, and other personal items.

**PLEASE NOTE:** An individual visa for China will be required for this program. Flights are based on current schedules, and subject to change without notice. The order of sites visited may vary to avoid crowds and congestion.

## Beijing with Unique Access and The Great Wall • SHA-P009

**Duration:** 2 Nights

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



*This optional tour must be pre-purchased, and is not included in the regular tour program. If you have not already pre-booked this optional shore excursion, please contact Regent Seven Seas Cruises Reservations at 800-285-1835 to verify the current status of this program. Limited space may be available, and should be booked via reservations. You may also check with The Regent Travel Concierge Manager upon embarkation to verify if this tour is still available. RSSC reserves the right to withdraw this program if minimum participation requirements are not met.*

*A 100% cancellation penalty applies to overland programs cancelled within 90 days of departure.*

Take a stroll through Asian history during this scenic sojourn to the ancient Chinese capital of Beijing, and a 2-night stay at The Regent Beijing. While exploring the beauty and mystery of the Forbidden City, a World Heritage Site, an exclusive visit will be made to the Jingqi Study in the inner court. After lunch prepared by a renowned Chinese chef, you will proceed for a visit to Tiananmen Square, the world's largest open-urban square, and the Temple of Heaven. Your tour will conclude the following day with a visit to the Great Wall of China and Sacred Way before your flight back to Hong Kong, and the ship.

***This upgraded program must be purchased in conjunction with Beijing and the Great Wall SHA-P010 program and features the following unique accesses:***

***Beijing:*** You will visit the Jingqi Study in the inner court of the Forbidden City, and dine on an Imperial lunch inside the Forbidden City. The Jingqi

Study is a quiet and deep courtyard in the Imperial Palace. During your exclusive visit to the Jingqi Study, which is not open to the public but has been specially arranged for RSSC guests, your Research Center guide will help you gain an in-depth appreciation of the Forbidden City. Following your visit, you will proceed for an Imperial lunch, Emperor Qianlong's Family Feast, inside the Forbidden City.

Qianlong was a food connoisseur who paid careful attention to his healthy diet. After ruling the country for 60 years, he died at the age of 89, the longest-lived emperor in Chinese history. Emperor Qianlong's Family Feast originated in the Qing Court, and is based on a combination of food styles that include Manchu, nationality of the Qing royal family, Han and Southern China. Cheng Ruming, a renowned Chinese chef that served Chairman Mao and successive Chinese government leaders, will prepare your exclusive meal.

## Jewish Heritage of Shanghai • SHA-4848

**Duration:** 3½ Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



See page 140 for description.



# SHANGHAI, CHINA

MARCH 7, 2009

## Panda Encounter – A Day at the Panda Research Base • SHA-P008

**Duration:** 2 Nights

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Vehicle



*This optional tour must be pre-purchased, and is not included in the regular tour program. If you have not already pre-booked this optional shore excursion, please contact Regent Seven Seas Cruises Reservations at 800-285-1835 to verify the current status of this program. Limited space may be available, and should be booked via reservations. You may also check with The Regent Travel Concierge Manager upon embarkation to verify if this tour is still available. RSSC reserves the right to withdraw this program if minimum participation requirements are not met.*

*A 100% cancellation penalty applies to overland programs cancelled within 90 days of departure.*

Experience the stunning natural beauty of Chengdu City, and a close encounter with a lovable panda at the Giant Panda Breeding Research Base during this memorable visit to the capital of China's southwest Sichuan Province.

## March 7, 2009 – Shanghai/Chengdu

After an early lunch on board the ship, you will be transferred to Pudong Airport for your afternoon flight to Chengdu City, the verdant capital of China's southwest Sichuan province. Balmy, often-misty weather keeps Chengdu green and full of flowers the year round, and makes it an ideal natural habitat for the giant panda. Upon arrival in Chengdu City, you will be met and transferred to your hotel for check-in. Dinner tonight will be at the hotel. Overnight at the Crowne Plaza Hotel-Chengdu.

## March 8, 2009 – Chengdu

After breakfast at the hotel, you will depart for the drive to the Chengdu Giant Panda Breeding Research Base. Bound by fresh air, luxuriantly growing bamboo and flocks of wild birds, the base is the best-known conservation, protection and observation center for giant pandas. Upon arrival, you will register and receive your introductory documents, then take a guided tour around the base. Along the way, you will visit the panda houses, playgrounds, office and research areas, and museum. After watching a documentary about the giant panda, you will proceed for lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, you will return to the base to learn about basic panda training and safety regulations, and observe the daily life and interaction between the keeper and giant pandas. You will also have an opportunity to hug and have your picture taken with a panda. Following your tour, you will be transferred back to the hotel. Dinner will be at your own leisure.

## March 9, 2009 – Chengdu/Hong Kong

After breakfast at the hotel, you will check-out and depart for a visit to the Martial Marquis Shrine, a monastery commemorated to Zhu Geliang, a military saga during the 3rd century. Some time will then be available for a stroll along Jinli Pedestrian Street, a famous shopping area, where you can browse the local shops for souvenirs. Following lunch at a local restaurant, you will be transferred to airport in Chengdu for your afternoon flight to Hong Kong. Upon arrival, you will be transferred back to the pier and ship.

### Program Includes:

- 2-night stay in a Deluxe Room at the Crowne Plaza Hotel - Chengdu
- Scheduled one-way, Coach Class flights: Shanghai/Chengdu/Hong Kong
- Photo opportunity with panda
- 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 1 dinner (includes choice of 2 glasses of house wine, local beer, soda, bottled water, tea, or coffee with lunch and dinner)
- All transfers, entrance fees and sightseeing as per program

**Not Included:** All meals and drinks not specified above, tips to drivers and tour director, gratuities, laundry, telephone calls, cancellation insurance, and other personal items.

**PLEASE NOTE:** An individual visa for China is required for this program. Flights are based on current schedules, and subject to change without notice. The order of sites visited may vary to avoid crowds and congestion.

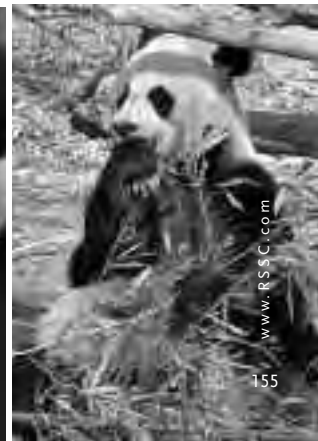
## Shanghai Delight • SHA-4811

**Duration:** 4 Hours

**Transport:** Air-conditioned Coach



See page 142 for description.



# HONG KONG, CHINA

MARCH 9, 2009

## Hong Kong by Night • HKG-004

**Duration:** 3 Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach and Tram



Spectacular views from the top of Victoria Peak are yours to behold during this unforgettable evening sightseeing tour of Hong Kong.

Depart the pier for Hong Kong Island via the Harbor Tunnel, and begin your tour to the top of Victoria Peak, a popular tourist destination. You will exit your coach to join the Peak Tram for the exciting 7-minute ascent on its 4,593 foot-long track, then rejoin your coach at the top. The Peak Tram has been in operation since 1888, and offers unparalleled views of the city and harbor on the steep climb to its upper terminus.

Upon arrival at the Peak, you will proceed to Café Deco, where sheer glass walls are all that stand between you and the Hong Kong Harbor below. You will be served refreshments and canapés while admiring stunning vistas of the city.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *The views from Victoria Peak are weather dependent. The Peak Tram ride is not wheelchair-accessible. This tour must be requested at least one week prior to sailing date, and is non-refundable once booked.*



# HONG KONG, CHINA

MARCH 10, 2009

## Hong Kong Orientation • HKG-4070

**Duration:** 4½ Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



Explore some of Hong Kong's most scenic and popular landmarks during this memorable orientation tour of the island.

Depart the pier for Hong Kong Island via the Harbor Tunnel, and begin your tour with an ascent of Victoria Peak. Upon arrival, you will exit your coach to join the Peak Tram for the exciting ascent, then rejoin your coach at the top. The peak is visited by millions of tourists and locals every year, and offers unforgettable views and photo opportunities of both the city and harbor.

Continue on for the drive past Repulse Bay to the southern side of the island. Upon arrival, you will take in panoramic views of one of Hong Kong's most popular and beautiful beaches, along with the beautiful hotel that has long been a landmark. Next, you will proceed to Aberdeen, an old fishing town where boat people still live traditional lives, and noisy sampan ladies vie for customers to take their water taxis and sightseeing trips. One of Hong Kong's most famous landmarks, the Jumbo Floating Restaurant, can be found here. You will then be transferred to one of the motorized sampans for a ride in the harbor, and visit one of Hong Kong's jewelry factories. Restrooms and refreshments will be available.

Your tour will conclude with a stop at Hong Kong's Stanley Market, located at the southernmost point of Hong Kong Island. Here, you can browse the narrow lanes lined with small shops selling the latest fashions, including leather and silk clothing, Chinese bric-a-brac and Hong Kong souvenirs.

Following your tour, you will rejoin your coach for the return drive to the pier and ship.



## Insight into Heart of Hong Kong • HKG-001

**Duration:** 4 Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



Explore the many ways in which Hong Kong is still in touch with its age-old traditions of yesterday during this intriguing tour of the city.

Depart the pier for the drive to Hong Kong's Western District. Upon arrival, you will explore its historic past. As you stroll past the dried seafood and Chinese herb shops, you will see old traditions that remain vibrant to this day. From here, you will continue on to the Central District, the bustling financial heart of Hong Kong, where modern landmarks and towers of steel and glass symbolize the city's enormous successes over the years.

On Wing Lok Street, you will pass by specialty shops selling ginseng, and on Des Voeux Road West, abalone, scallops and other exotic dried seafood items can be purchased from street vendors. Strolling down Ko Shing Street, the wholesale center of Hong Kong's thriving herbal medicine trade, a wide selection of herbal medicines and shops can be found. Next, you will see the antique and curio shops on Hollywood Road before visiting the Man Mo Temple. One of Hong Kong's oldest and most famous temples, Man Mo is named after the God of War and God of Literature. Afterward, you will stop by an authentic Hong Kong-style café, a favorite local hangout, for a cup of English tea or local coffee accompanied by a famous egg custard tartlet.

Your tour will conclude with an 8-minute ride aboard the *Star Ferry*. As you ride between the Central District and Tsim Sha Tsui, you will take in panoramic views of both sides of the fabled Victoria Harbor.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This tour involves a moderate amount of walking, and several steps.



# HONG KONG, CHINA

MARCH 10, 2009

## Macau Old and New • HKG-003

**Duration:** 9 Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach and Fast Ferry



Experience Macao's diverse history, influences and architecture of Macao during a full-day sightseeing tour of this thriving enclave.

Depart the ship via ferry for the 1-hour and 15-minute ride to Macau. Upon arrival, you will board your coach for a scenic ride along the coastline, and see how this former Portuguese colony has evolved into an eclectic blend of Florence, Monte Carlo and ancient China.

Your first stop will be at the Kun Lam Statue, a towering structure that has become a popular landmark of the city. It stands on a platform above the Ecumenical Center of Religions, where you will be invited to rest and meditate. From here, you will continue on to see the A-Ma Temple. Macau's most famous and picturesque temple, it consists of four levels of prayer pavilions dedicated to the Taoist Goddess of A-Ma.

Next, a visit will be made to the Ruins of St. Paul, which depict the history of Christianity in Asia. You will see its exquisitely carved, early-17th-century stone facade and grand staircase; the only remnants of the first Church and College of the Jesuits in China after a fire destroyed the structure in 1835. You will then proceed to the former civic hub of Senado Square, which is paved with a wave-patterned stone mosaic that extends all the way to St Paul's, and was specially-created by Portuguese artisans.

The highlight of your tour will be a visit to the Macau Tower, the best way to view the Pearl River delta during the day or night. You will ascend the Macau Tower via high-speed glass-fronted lifts. Upon reaching the Tower's upper limits, unforgettable vistas and a delicious buffet await your arrival. Your tour will conclude with a visit to the ever-popular Sands Casino, one of many in this bustling cosmopolitan city. In addition to baccarat, blackjack, roulette, *boule*, big and small, and fan-tan, you will see hundreds of glittering slot machines, called hungry tigers by the locals.

Following your tour, you will embark your ferry for the 1-hour and 15-minute return ride to the ship.

**PLEASE NOTE:** You will be required to carry your passport to participate on this tour. Guests who require an entry visa for Hong Kong and wish to participate on this tour, will need to apply for a double-entry visa. Please allow up to an hour in each direction for immigration. In the event lunch at the Macau Tower is not available, a set Macanese lunch will be served at the Club Militar de Macau, which is located in an historic old building. This tour involves a considerable amount of walking, at times on uneven ground, and approximately 150 steps. This tour is not recommended for guests with limited mobility and guests who utilize a wheelchair.

## Panoramic Hong Kong • HKG-005

**Duration:** 4 Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



Experience the scenic beauty and splendid sites of Hong Kong during this panoramic half-day sightseeing tour of the city.

Depart the pier for Hong Kong Island via the Harbor Tunnel, then take a scenic uphill drive to Victoria Peak. Upon arrival, a stop will be made for unforgettable views and photo opportunities of the city, harbor and beyond.

Next, your drive will continue past the green and low block houses toward the southern side of the island, and on to beautiful Repulse Bay. Here, you will take in splendid views of the South China Sea, beautiful beaches and a uniquely designed luxury apartment adorned with a hole in the middle; the hole is believed to be Feng Shui-related.

Afterward, you will return to Kowloon via the Western Tunnel, and proceed on the highway to the New Territories. Along the way, you will drive on one of the world's biggest civil projects, the Tsingma Bridge, which offers a wonderful view of the passage to the ocean. At the town of Tung Chung, you will have an opportunity for a photo stop via the Ngong Ping 360 Skyrail; a scenic and unique way to view the Hong Kong Airport runway, and visit the Po Lin Monastery where the giant Buddha is located.

Following your tour, you will be transferred back to the pier.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This tour has been specially created for guests not wishing to walk. The tour includes three photo stops, and 1 comfort stop; the remainder of the tour will be spent on the coach. Each guest will have a window seat on the coach to maximize his or her view of the sites to be seen along the way.



### Insight into Heart of Hong Kong • HKG-001

Duration: 4 Hours

Transport: Air-Conditioned Coach



See page 159 for description.

### Lantau Island Monastery • HKG-2411

Duration: 7 Hours

Transport: Air-Conditioned Coach and Cable Car



Discover the scenic beauty of Hong Kong's spectacular bridges, mountains and historic sites during this delightful visit to Lantau Island.

Depart the pier for the drive to Lantau Island, Hong Kong's largest outlying island. Upon arrival, a brief stop will be at the Tsing Yi viewing platform for spectacular views and photo opportunities from the Tsing Ma Bridge, the world's longest road and rail suspension bridge. With a length of over a mile, the Tsing Ma Bridge links the new airport on Lantau Island to the Kowloon Peninsula.

Upon arrival at Tung Chung New Town, you will commence your tour of Lantau Island. Your first stop is the Tai O fishing village, built on stilts by the side of the river, and the center of Hong Kong's salt-panning industry for 100 years. Enjoy walking these local streets allowing for a closer glimpse at the daily life of its inhabitants. You will then travel through the beautiful mountain scenery to Po Lin Monastery, the hub of Buddhism in Hong Kong. Po Lin houses three magnificent statues of Buddha, including Asia's largest outdoor bronze Buddha, a bronze Buddha standing more than 50 feet high and weighing 2,800 pounds.

After a vegetarian lunch at the monastery, you will have free time to explore the Ngong Ping Themed Village prior to taking the 25-minute cable car ride down to Tung Chung town.

Following your tour, you will rejoin your coach for the drive back to the pier and ship.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This tour involves extensive walking, and many steps. Cable car service is dependent upon weather conditions.*



### Living Traditions of Hong Kong • HKG-002

Duration: 5 Hours

Transport: Air-Conditioned Coach



Hong Kong has long been known for its unique tastes, traditions and cultures, and this colorful tour of the city will show you why.

Depart the pier for the drive to the Hau Temple, where the local fishing population prays to the Taoist goddess for safety and good catches. This centuries-old temple is a fine example of Chinese architecture, and filled with impressive overhanging incense coils and colorful religious paraphernalia.

Next, you will visit the vibrant Wet Market, where eager neighborhood shoppers converge for an amazing assortment of fresh exotic produce, catches from the South China Sea and more. You will then take a ride aboard Hong Kong's famous tram; the only double-decker tram service in the world, and a favorite among locals and visitors alike. As your tram winds its way through Hong Kong neighborhoods, you will view panoramic vistas of the ever-changing street scenes, pre-war era apartment buildings and eclectic shops. Afterward, a stop will be made at an authentic Hong Kong-style café for a cup of English tea or local coffee accompanied by an egg custard tartlet.

Your tour will conclude with a visit to the historic Western District, the oldest Chinese settlement and trading district in Hong Kong. The shops in this area offer dried seafood, aromatic herbal medicine, traditional wedding dresses, paper lanterns and incense, all of which capture the essence of local Chinese traditions and culture.

Following your visit, you will re-board your coach for the return drive to the pier and ship.

# HONG KONG, CHINA

MARCH 11, 2009

## Races • HKG-E04

**Duration:** 2½ Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



***This exclusive event is included for all guests, compliments of Regent Seven Seas Cruises.***

If one image sums up the spirit of Hong Kong, it is the passion of the race day crowd. Since the first plenipotentiary's cup of 1846, horseracing has continued to be one of the few social activities that has truly brought the diverse cultures of Hong Kong together.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club stands today as a unique model amongst the world's leading racing organizations, and stages the city's most popular form of sporting entertainment. The club plays host to international race meetings, and is also a major contributor to local charities and social events.

Adrenaline – the two storey glass-fronted venue – offer a stunning view of the race track where one could sip their favorite cocktail and mingle around. The open-air balcony allows one to enjoy the lights around or experience the excitement of the racing crowd!

## Tai Chi, Dim Sum and Tea • HKG-4158

**Duration:** 5½ Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



Explore ancient Chinese customs designed to nourish the mind, body, spirit and appetite during this relaxing and informative visit to Hong Kong.

Depart the pier for the drive into Hong Kong. Your tour begins with an insightful look into the graceful art of Tai Chi, an ancient form of martial arts created in the 12th century. Tai Chi has been known to help develop balance, improve muscle tone and breathing, and aid in the digestion process.

Next, you will continue on to sample a traditional Chinese breakfast consisting of dim sum. Invented during the Qing Dynasty by the Imperial chef to please the Empress Dowager, these light snacks include a variety of dumplings, buns and pastries containing meat and vegetables, and are traditionally served for breakfast or lunch. Steamed in bamboo baskets, this unique cuisine covers tastes from sweet to savory to spicy.

Having exercised the body and fed the appetite, you will be served a cup of tea, a drink that the Chinese find to be more than just a refreshing beverage. The custom of drinking tea, or *cha*, is a ritual steeped in tradition and deeply ingrained in the people of China. This is probably due to the fact that tea contains vitamins, essential oils and fluoride. It is also used as a cure for many illnesses, and an essential element in Chinese folk medicine.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Tai Chi exercises may be conducted after the dim sum breakfast, depending on the schedule of the Tai Chi master. The order of the visits may vary depending on time of week and year the tour is operated.*



**Da Nang and China Beach • CMY-7268**

**Duration:** 5 Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



Discover the natural beauty and historic sites of Vietnam during this scenic tour of Da Nang and China Beach, former base of American Marines stationed in Vietnam.

Depart Chan May Port for the scenic 1-hour drive to Da Nang. En route, you will ascend the Lucky Elephant Pass before entering the Cloud Pass Tunnel, which will take you to the center of Da Nang, home of Vietnam's most historic architecture, temples and Colonial-style buildings. You will visit the Cham Museum, founded by the French *Ecole Française d'Extreme Orient* in 1915, to see a unique collection of Cham artifacts. This charming, but rather primitive museum is also home to an extensive collection of sculptures from the Cham people. The exhibits depict four different periods: My Son, Tra Kieu, Dong Duong and Thap Mam.

Next, you will take a local pedicab ride to the Han Market. At this neighborhood market, everything from a needle to a washing machine can be purchased. Your drive then continues on to the village of Marble Mountain, where a photo stop will be made at the five marble mountains that dominate the landscape. Each mountain is dedicated to an element of the universe, and you will find various marble sculptors in this village laboring over their work. Here, you will briefly visit the inside of Hell Cave; after a couple of steps to enter the cave, the floor surface is flat.

Your tour concludes with a drive to famous China Beach, once a huge base for American Marines during the Vietnam War. Although nothing from the era remains, a stop will be made for a soft drink at a local restaurant opposite the beach before re-boarding your coach for the 1-hour return drive to the ship.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *There are many vendors at the Marble Mountain village, and all purchases made there are at your own risk. RSSC does not endorse any of the shops.*

**Da Nang and Hoi An • CMY-7267**

**Duration:** 8 Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



Explore Vietnam's exquisite architecture, historic sites and ancient culture during this scenic full-day visit to Da Nang and Hoi An.

Depart Chan May Port for the scenic 1-hour drive to Da Nang. En route, you will ascend the Lucky Elephant Pass before entering the Cloud Pass Tunnel, which will take you to the center of Da Nang, home of Vietnam's most historic architecture, temples and Colonial-style buildings. You will visit the Cham Museum, founded by the French *Ecole Française d'Extreme Orient* in 1915, to see a unique collection of Cham artifacts. This charming, but rather primitive museum is also home to an extensive collection of sculptures from the Cham people. The exhibits depict four different periods: My Son, Tra Kieu, Dong Duong and Thap Mam.

Next, your drive will continue on to the ancient town of Hoi An, recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and unchanged for centuries. After a restroom break at the Hoi An Town Meeting Hall, you will embark on a walking tour of this charming town. After a visit to the Hoi An Museum and a traditional merchant house, you will take a stroll along the scenic river that runs through the town. Along the way, you will see the Phuoc Kien Temple, built in honor of Thien Hau, Goddess of the Sea, and an old Japanese covered bridge. You will then visit Hoi An's open market, and stop by an ancient merchant house for a drink before heading to a local restaurant for lunch.

On the 1-hour return drive back to port and your ship, a photo stop will be made at the five marble mountains that dominate the landscape. Each mountain is dedicated to an element of the universe, and you will find various marble sculptors in this village laboring over their work. There are 155 steps to reach the top of the mountain. However, climbing up and down the mountain is not included in this tour.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This tour involves a considerable amount of walking, mainly on flat ground. Hoi An can be crowded, so please stay with your guide. If you opt to walk the streets independently, please alert your guide to arrange a convenient meeting point.*



# CHAN MAY [HUE], VIETNAM

MARCH 13, 2009

## Hue and the Perfume River • CMY-7265

**Duration:** 8½ Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



Discover the historic natural beauty of Vietnam during this orientation tour of Hue, and a delightful cruise on the Perfume River.

Depart Chan May Port for the 1-hour and 45-minute drive to Hue, the former Imperial City of Vietnam during the 19th century. Upon arrival, a visit will be made to Thien Mu Pagoda, the symbol of the city and one of the most holy pagodas in all of Vietnam. Founded in 1601 A.D., the Thien Mu Pagoda was the scene of anti-government protests during the early-1960s. Today, by contrast, it is home to a more serene setting that features bonsai gardens and monks delivering incantations in the main temple.

Next, you will embark a dragon boat in front of the Heavenly Lady Pagoda for a cruise on the Perfume River. Along the way, you will take in the scenic views and photo opportunities on both sides of the river. A stop will be made to visit the magnificent tomb of Emperor Minh Mang, considered the most brilliant Emperor of the Nguyen Dynasty.

On the 1-hour and 45-minute return drive to the city, you will stop at a restaurant in the citadel for a Vietnamese buffet lunch accompanied by traditional Imperial music and formalities. After lunch, a visit will be made at the Royal Citadel, built by Emperor Gia Long in 1804. From here, you will proceed to the impressive Noon Gate, followed by the Palace of the Supreme, which has been impeccably restored to its original grandeur with regal red and gold columns, and lavish furnishings. From here, you will walk to the Imperial Enclosure, where the Emperor's official duties were once carried out. A citadel within a citadel, the Forbidden Purple City was reserved for the private life of the Emperors. From 1802 to 1945, 13 Emperors of the Nguyen Dynasty ruled from the Forbidden City.

Your tour will conclude with a stop at Dong Ba Market, the largest and oldest market in the city, which features a variety of items and handicrafts for sale. Some time will be made available to browse through the market before returning to the ship.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *The order of sites visited may vary. The drive between Chan May Port and Hue is approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes in each direction.*



## Hue Highlights • CMY-7266

**Duration:** 8 Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



The scenic beauty and historic sites of Hue are yours to discover during this full-day orientation tour of the city.

Depart Chan May Port for the 1-hour and 45-minute drive to Hue, the former Imperial City of Vietnam during the 19th century. Upon arrival, a visit will be made to the Royal Citadel, built by Emperor Gia Long in 1804. From here, you will proceed to the impressive Noon Gate, followed by the Palace of the Supreme, which has been impeccably restored to its original grandeur with regal red and gold columns, and lavish furnishings.

From here, you will walk to the Imperial Enclosure, where the Emperor's official duties were once carried out. A citadel within a citadel, the Forbidden Purple City was reserved for the private life of the Emperors. From 1802 to 1945, 13 Emperors of the Nguyen Dynasty ruled from the Forbidden City.

Next, you will proceed for a visit to Thien Mu Pagoda, the symbol of the city and one of the most holy pagodas in all of Vietnam. Founded in 1601 A.D., the Thien Mu Pagoda was the scene of anti-government protests during the early-1960s. Today, by contrast, it is home to a more serene setting that features bonsai gardens and monks delivering incantations in the main temple. After a visit to the Heavenly Lady Pagoda, you will drive to a local hotel for a Vietnamese buffet lunch accompanied by traditional Imperial music and formalities. After lunch, a visit will be made at the conical hat village to view local people making hats and incense sticks.

Your tour will conclude with a visit to the magnificent tomb of Emperor Tu Duc, considered the most romantic Emperor of the Nguyen Dynasty. This large tomb features buildings that include the city's oldest theater, a mausoleum, work area and the Poem Pavilion.

Following your tour, you will rejoin your coach for the return drive to the port and ship.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *The order of sites visited may vary. The drive between Chan May Port and Hue is approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes in each direction. The visit to the Citadel involves extensive walking over uneven surfaces.*

# CHAN MAY [HUE], VIETNAM

MARCH 13, 2009

## Imperial to Colonial and

### Mai Chau's Hill Tribes • CMY-P002

**Duration:** 3 Nights

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Vehicle



*This optional tour must be pre-purchased, and is not included in the regular tour program. If you have not already pre-booked this optional shore excursion, please contact Regent Seven Seas Cruises Reservations at 800-285-1835 to verify the current status of this program. Limited space may be available, and should be booked via reservations. You may also check with The Regent Travel Concierge Manager upon embarkation to verify if this tour is still available. RSSC reserves the right to withdraw this program if minimum participation requirements are not met.*

*A 100% cancellation penalty applies to overland programs cancelled within 90 days of departure.*

Explore the unique culture, beauty, architecture and people of Vietnam during this picturesque journey through Hue, Hanoi and Saigon. In Hue, the former Imperial Citadel City of 19th-century Vietnam, you will explore the Royal Citadel, Heavenly Lady Pagoda, tomb of Nguyen Dynasty Emperor King Tu Duc, and Dong Ba Market. The next day, you will fly to Hanoi, the cultural and political hub of Vietnam. Highlights of your stay in this 1,000-year-old city include a visit to the 11th-century Temple of Literature, Ba Dinh Square, final resting-place of Ho Chi Minh, One Pillar Pagoda, Presidential Palace, and a tour of the Old Quarter via trishaw. While in Hanoi, a special visit will be made to the scenic mountain province of Mai Chau, where you will delve into Vietnam's ethnic diversity, and have lunch in an authentic home on stilts belonging to a Thai tribal family. Your program will conclude with a tour of bustling Saigon. Sites to be seen during your visit include the Reunification Hall, Notre Dame Cathedral, City Post Office, former U.S. Embassy, and a lacquerware factory before embarking the ship.

### March 13, 2009 – Chan May/Hue

Upon disembarking the ship, you will be met and transferred to Hue, a former Imperial Citadel City of Vietnam during the 19th century. Upon arrival, you will proceed for a visit to the Royal Citadel, built by Emperor Gia Long in 1804. Here, you will visit the Noon Gate and Heavenly Lady Pagoda, the symbol of the City and one of Vietnam's holiest pagodas. Founded in 1601 by Lord Nguyen Hoang, Governor of Thuan Hoa Province, the Heavenly Lady Pagoda was a hotbed of anti-government protest during the early 1960s. Today, by contrast, it is a serene place with bonsai gardens and monks praying in the main temple. Next, you

will take a dragon boat trip on the scenic Perfume River before stopping for lunch at a local restaurant.

After lunch, you will be transferred to your hotel for check-in and time to relax before departing for an afternoon drive to the Tomb of King Tu Duc, Emperor of the Nguyen Dynasty. This expansive tomb features the oldest theater, mausoleum, working place and poem pavilion. A visit will also be made to the conical hat-making village and Dong Ba Market, the largest and oldest market in town. Following your tour, you will be transferred back to your hotel. You will have some free time to be spent at your leisure before departing for a Royal dinner at a local restaurant. Upon arrival, you will see patrons dressed like kings, queens and mandarins, and your dinner will be accompanied by traditional Hue music. After dinner, you will be transferred back to the hotel. Overnight at the La Residence Hotel-Hue.

### March 14, 2009 – Hue/Hanoi

After breakfast at the hotel, you will check-out and be transferred to the airport for your morning flight to Hanoi. Upon arrival at Noi Bai Airport, you will be met by your guide and depart for the 25-mile drive to the 1,000-year-old city of Hanoi. The cultural and political hub of Vietnam, Hanoi has served as its capital city for many years. This bustling metropolis of 3 million people features glorious French-Colonial architecture, numerous lakes and bustling, bicycle-cluttered streets.

Upon arrival in Hanoi, you will proceed to the hotel for check-in, then depart for lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch, a visit will be made to the Temple of Literature. Founded in 1070 A.D. and dedicated to Confucius, it is the city's biggest temple attraction. In 1076, Vietnam's first national University was built next to the temple. During a walk through the 5-walled courtyards, you will see the big bronze bell, multi-storied roofs and the pavilion where men of letter once recited their poetry. Your next stop is the Fine Art Museum, located next to the University. Inside this small but interesting museum, you will view a collection of bronze drums, and both old and modern Vietnamese canvas and oil paintings.

Next, you will continue on to Ba Dinh Square, which is dominated by the impressive marble and granite tomb in which the father of the country lies in state. During your visit, you will stroll past tranquil lotus ponds and gardens to Ho's cottage, a simple steak building designed like the homes of the ethnic hill tribes. You will have an opportunity to take a look inside this humble abode, which Ho Chi Minh preferred to living in the palace. You will also see the 11th-century One Pillar Pagoda, which was destroyed by the French, and later rebuilt by the Vietnamese. A photo stop will be made at the former Presidential Palace, one-time residence of the French governors of Indochina.

From here, you will continue on to the Opera House. Upon arrival, you will take a guided ride through the Old Quarter on a trishaw, once a luxury mode of transportation. Centered around the lake, the Old Quarter of Hanoi is a maze of narrow alleys with shops selling antiques, flowers and handicrafts. On a tiny island in the middle of the lake stands the Ngoc Son Pagoda, accessible via an arched footbridge. Your guide

# CHAN MAY [HUE], VIETNAM

MARCH 13, 2009

will explain the ancient legend connected with the lake. Many of the streets in the Old Quarter, including Tin Street, Paper Street and Silk Street, among others, were named after the tradesmen who toiled here. During your visit, some time will be made available for you to browse the shops of the Old Quarter on foot, or just relax and take in your surroundings.

Your day's tour will conclude with a unique Vietnamese tradition, a water puppet show at the Thang Long Theater. Water puppetry was created by Ly kings in the 11th century, and is still very popular with locals and visitors to this day. The artists control the puppets' movements by maneuvering strings and poles underwater. Acting out legends, the show is accompanied by folk music and special lighting. From here, you will proceed for a set-menu dinner at a local restaurant before being transferred back to the hotel. Overnight at the Le Metropole Hotel-Hanoi.

## March 15, 2009 – Hanoi/Mai Chau/Hanoi

After an early breakfast at the hotel, you will depart Hanoi for the 3-hour drive west to Mai Chau. A refreshment stop will be made in Hoa Binh City before continuing on to the scenic Mai Chau Valley. Nestled amidst winding mountain roads overlooking the green valley and stilt houses, the scenic province of Mai Chau is home to some of Vietnam's ethnic minority groups, including the White Thai, Black H'mong, Red Dao and Muong. The local denizens live mainly on agriculture, traditional weaving and handicrafts. Upon arrival in Mai Chau, you will take a walking tour through the surrounding villages of Ban Lac and Pom Coong to explore the local way of life. A visit will then be made to a Thai tribal family in their authentic stilt home. Upon arrival, you will be treated to lunch accompanied by Thai folk dancing, or *mua xoe vong* and music, along with a taste of the popular local whiskey, *ruou can*. During your visit, you will learn about the local way of life, and have an opportunity to engage in a cultural exchange with your hosts. Following a visit to the local market, you will depart for the 3-hour return drive to Hanoi, with a comfort stop en route. Dinner will be at the hotel. Overnight at the Le Metropole Hotel-Hanoi.

## March 16, 2009 – Hanoi/Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City)

After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for the flight to Saigon, also known as Ho Chi Minh City. Unlike the more traditional cities like Hanoi, the more progressive Saigon embraces the nation's revitalization movements, or *doi moi*, along with Western influences and market economies. As a result, the frenetic streets teem with shoppers and vendors alike. Upon arrival at Saigon's Tan Son Nhat Airport, you will be met and depart for a drive through the streets of this bustling city, the commercial hub of Vietnam. Your tour begins with an inside visit to the Reunification Hall before proceeding for photo stops at the

Notre Dame Cathedral and Colonial-style City Post Office. The Cathedral was built with bricks imported from Marseilles, and stained-glass windows created by artisans from the Lorin Company of Chartres, France at a total cost of 2.5-million francs. Construction on the Cathedral was completed in 1880, and considered to be one of France's most ambitious projects in Indochina at the time. In 1962, the Vatican bestowed the title of Basilique on the Cathedral.

Next, you will proceed for a photo stop at the recently rebuilt former U.S. Embassy, perhaps best-remembered through media footage as the tall building from whose rooftop the last U.S. personnel were removed via helicopter during the fall of Saigon. Though the building no longer exists, the area still marks the memory of this renowned Vietnam War-era site. Following a photo stop at the Presidential Palace, or Independence Palace, your tour will conclude with a brief visit to a lacquerware factory before you are transferred back to the ship for embarkation.

### Program Includes:

- 1-night stay at the La Residence Hotel - Hue
- 2-night stay at the Le Metropole Hotel - Hanoi
- Scheduled one-way, Coach Class flights: Hue/Hanoi/Ho Chi Minh
- All tours as per itinerary
- Boat trip on Perfume River
- Water puppet show
- Pedi-cab ride in Hanoi
- Lunch with Thai ethnic group
- 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners (includes choice of 2 glasses of local beer, wine, soft drinks, water, coffee, or tea during lunch and dinner)
- All transfers, sightseeing and entrance fees as per program

Not Included: All meals and drinks not specified above, tips to drivers and tour director, gratuities, laundry, telephone calls, cancellation insurance, and other personal items.



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### Highlights of Saigon • HCM-163

**Duration:** 4½ Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



Explore the highlights of bustling and historic Ho Chi Minh City formerly known as Saigon, during this lively half-day orientation tour.

Depart the pier for the drive to Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known as Saigon. Ho Chi Minh City is home to such grand old buildings as the wedding cake-styled Hotel d'Ville and historic Rex Hotel that tower over the colorful markets, along with an endless stream of bicycles, cycles and motorbikes. Upon arrival, you will visit the former Presidential Palace, now known as Reunification Hall, which has been converted into a public museum. Afterward, you will continue on to the History Museum. Built in 1929, the History Museum is home to an excellent collection of artifacts depicting the evolution of Vietnam from the Bronze-Age Dong Son to present day. Here, you will see a brief performance of traditional water puppetry, once the entertainment for kings and emperors.

Next, you will take a pedicab from the Botanic Garden. En route, a photo stop will be made at the Notre Dame Cathedral, followed by a visit to the Colonial-styled central post office to see rare ancient maps decorated on the dome inside the building. Another photo stop will then be at the recently rebuilt former U.S. Embassy. From Central Saigon, your tour will continue into the heart of Chinatown, or Cho Lon. A short walk into the bustling Cho Lon Market will provide you with a glimpse of its numerous street stalls amidst hundreds of hidden temples, shrines and pagodas.

Your tour will conclude with a visit to the Thien Hau Temple, which dates back to the late-18th century and is dedicated to the Goddess Protector of Sailors. A stop will be made for an inside visit to a lacquer ware factory before re-boarding your coach for the return drive to the pier and ship.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Traffic can be heavy, resulting in delays. The order of the sites visited may vary. No snacks are included on this tour.*



### Mekong River Delta • HCM-1924

**Duration:** 7½ Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach and Boat



Experience a first-hand look at everyday life in Vietnam during this scenic and memorable visit to the Mekong Delta.

The Mekong River originates in Tibet, and flows through six countries: China, Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam. When it reaches Vietnam, the Mekong River divides itself into nine tributaries that form a huge fertile delta. Until the 16th century, the Mekong Delta was an area of marshland and forest. Gradually, the marshland was reclaimed, and a canal network built to enable citizens to raise rice, fish, soybeans, maize, peanuts, tobacco, melons, and more.

Depart the pier in Ho Chi Minh City for the scenic, 1.5-hour drive to My Tho. The first city of the Mekong Delta, My Tho is the largest Buddhist center in the Mekong Delta, and famous for its coconut palms and fruit orchards. Photo stops will be made along the way, and you will pass miles of flat rice fields prior to reaching My Tho. Upon arrival, you will visit the ancient Vinh Trang Pagoda to view its many wooden Buddha statues and two sets of wooden *arhats*. Next, you will board a boat for the highlight of the day; a cruise on the Mekong River. Along the way, you will see all types of boats, many with an unusual eye painted on their bows to frighten off evil underwater spirits. As you ride through a maze of small canals, you will witness the everyday lives of the river dwellers before visiting one of the many islands in the Delta to see the traditional homes of fruit farmers and fishermen, and sample local candies and tea.

After a brief sampan ride on a small canal, you will ride back into town aboard the boat. A lunch consisting of fried fish and vegetables wrapped in rice paper with spicy sauce will be served at a local restaurant, and followed by a variety of exotic, locally grown tropical fruits. After lunch, you will re-board your coach for the 1.5-hour return drive to Saigon.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Lunch will include soft drinks, local beer or mineral water. Four guests will ride on each sampan. The drive from Ho Chi Minh City to My Tho is approximately 1.5 hours in each direction.*

# HO CHI MINH CITY [SAIGON], VIETNAM

MARCH 15, 2009

## Panoramic Saigon • HCM-002

**Duration:** 2½ Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



Explore the scenic beauty and historic sites of the former Saigon during this panoramic tour of Ho Chi Minh City.

Depart the pier for the guided drive through Ho Chi Minh City. This picturesque city is spread over two million square-miles, and home to more than seven million people. Ho Chi Minh City features such grand old buildings as the wedding cake-styled Hotel d'Ville and historic Rex Hotel that tower over the colorful markets, along with an endless stream of bicycles, cycles and motorbikes. Upon arrival, you will see Presidential Palace, now known as Reunification Hall, which has been converted into a public museum, City Hall, Colonial-styled City Theater, former American Embassy and British Council.

Next, you will drive past the Ben Thanh central market, which has become the symbol of the city. From here, you will continue on to Chinatown, or Cho Lon, home to more than a half-million Chinese citizens. The bustling Cho Lon Market features numerous street stalls amidst hundreds of hidden temples, shrines and pagodas.

On the return drive to the pier, you will pass by the city's largest industrial park. Here, more than 50,000 workers produce goods for export.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This tour has been specially created for our guests who do not wish to walk. Stops on this tour will be limited to 2 brief photo stops. Each guest will have a window seat on the coach to maximize the quality of sightseeing.*



## Angkor Wat and the Grand Hotel d'Angkor • HCM-P002

**Duration:** 2 Nights

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



*This optional tour must be pre-purchased, and is not included in the regular tour program. If you have not already pre-booked this optional shore excursion, please contact Regent Seven Seas Cruises Reservations at 800-285-1835 to verify the current status of this program. Limited space may be available, and should be booked via reservations. You may also check with The Regent Travel Concierge Manager upon embarkation to verify if this tour is still available. RSSC reserves the right to withdraw this program if minimum participation requirements are not met.*

*A 100% cancellation penalty applies to overland programs cancelled within 90 days of departure.*

Experience the ancient beauty and mystery of Southeast Asia during this scenic journey through Cambodia. Upon arrival in Siem Reap and an overnight stay at the Grand Hotel d'Angkor, you will depart for a full-day tour of historic Angkor Wat. Along the way, you will explore extraordinary temples and temple complexes that include Banteay Srey, the spectacular Khmer ruins of Angkor, Angkor Thom, the Bayon Temple and Angkor Wat, a World Heritage Site. The next morning, you will fly on to Singapore and embark your awaiting ship.

### March 16, 2009 – Ho Chi Minh / Siem Reap

After disembarking the ship, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Siem Reap. Upon arrival, VIP visa clearance will be arranged by our local representative. You will then be met at the exit lounge, and transferred to the hotel for check-in. Dinner will be served at the hotel, with the rest of the evening to be spent at your leisure. Overnight at the Grand Hotel d'Angkor-Siem Reap.

### March 17, 2009 – Angkor Wat

After breakfast at hotel, you will depart for your full-day tour of Angkor Wat. You will begin with a visit to the late-10th-century temple of Banteay Srey. Dedicated to the Hindu religion of King Rajendrarman, the temple was built at a time when the Khmer Empire and classical Khmer art thrived. This archaeological site is loosely translated as the Citadel of Women, a modern designation that likely refers to the delicate beauty of its carvings.

Next, you will drive to the spectacular Khmer ruins of Angkor, renowned throughout Asia as one of the Wonders of the World. This sacred site is nestled amidst a splendid jungle setting, and comprised of many expansive complexes. Your tour will include a stop at the South

Gate of Angkor Thom, a self-contained, 10-square-mile city built by Jayavarman VII. At the heart of Angkor Thom you will find the Bayon Temple, which features 54 towers carved with images of Avalokiteshvara. You also see the Terrace of the Leper King, Terrace of the 12 Elephants, Baphoun and Royal Palace.

After lunch at a local restaurant, your drive will continue on to Angkor Wat. This World Heritage Site features a huge, magnificent main temple whose walls are intricately carved with bas reliefs depicting mythological battles and scenes of everyday life. Your journey will conclude with a visit to the mysterious enclosed jungle temple of Ta Phrom.

Following your tour, you will be transferred back to the hotel, with the rest of the afternoon to be spent at your leisure. Dinner will be served at a local restaurant, and accompanied by an Apsara dance show. Overnight at the Grand Hotel d'Angkor-Siem Reap.

### March 18, 2009 – Siem Reap/Singapore

After breakfast at the hotel, you will check out and be transferred to the airport for your flight to Singapore. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your awaiting ship.

#### Program Includes:

- 2-night stay at the Grand Hotel d'Angkor - Siem Reap
- Scheduled one-way, economy-class flights: Ho Chi Minh/Siem Reap and Siem Reap/Singapore
- Transfers, entry fees and sightseeing as per program
- 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 2 buffet dinners (one with an Apsara dance show)
- Choice of 2 local beers, soft drinks or mineral water included with lunch
- Choice of 2 local beers, 2 glasses of house wine, soft drinks or mineral water included with dinners
- Entry visa to Cambodia
- International airport tax

**Not Included:** All meals and drinks not specified above, tips to drivers and tour director, gratuities, laundry, telephone calls, cancellation insurance, and other personal items.

## Cu Chi Tunnels • HCM-190

**Duration:** 5 Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



Learn about the Vietnamese fighters who lived in, and fought from, a network of underground tunnels during this visit to Cu Chi.

Depart the pier for the 44-mile drive from the city center to the surrounding countryside. Along the way, you will see the villages of former revolutionary fighters, and French rubber plantations where bombing remnants still remain three decades later. After passing through tranquil rice paddies, a brief photo stop will be made at a small village, where your guide will explain the process of rice paper

## HO CHI MINH CITY [SAIGON], VIETNAM

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production. Hundreds of sheets dot the countryside, drying on woven racks in the relentless sun.

Upon arrival at Cu Chi, you will watch a short video tracing the origins, construction and design of the thick-roofed underground tunnels. These tunnels were capable of withstanding the weight of tanks and impact of 50-pound bombs. A military guide will explain the underground network, and display some of the tools and weapons utilized by the guerrillas. This open and ventilated tunnel complex provides a full view of the underground meeting rooms, smokeless kitchens, a healthcare center and sleeping areas. If you are agile, you will have an opportunity to enter an unlit passage that has not been enlarged for the comfort of visitors. Refreshments, souvenirs and displays of military paraphernalia can be found in the nearby parking area.

On the 44-mile return drive to Saigon, you will visit the recently erected memorial honoring the 10,000 guerrilla soldiers who died during the fighting at Cu Chi.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Guests are strongly advised to wear sturdy shoes, a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen and mosquito repellent. Guests visiting the lower levels of the tunnel complex may get dirty. The area of the tunnels represents a memorial to resistance by the Vietnamese, and is presented by the armed forces of Vietnam. Any disparaging references made to past foes of the government may be deemed offensive. Depending upon traffic conditions, the duration of this tour may be longer.*

### Cu Chi Tunnels and Fruit Gardens • HCM-001

**Duration:** 6½ Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Coach



Experience the stark contrast that exists between Saigon's lush, natural beauty and war-torn past during visits to the country's orchard region and Cu Chi tunnels.

Depart the port for a memorable visit to the largest tropical orchard region in Eastern Saigon. Here, local farmers raise a wide array of tropical fruit trees, including aangostines, rambutans, papayas, jackfruit, pineapple, and milk apples, and irrigate their crops via the Saigon River. You will have an opportunity to sample these seasonal fruits in a farmer's garden, explore the garden and visit the inside of the house. You will also watch the local farmers cook food by using everything in their gardens as firewood, and sip green tea made from leaves plucked from their gardens.

Next, your drive will continue toward northwest Saigon to visit the famous Cu Chi Tunnels, the vast underground tunnel network that hid and protected thousands of Vietnamese during the war. They lived and fought from solid underground tunnels capable of withstanding the weight of tanks, and impact of 50-pound bombs. These vast networks extended more than 120 miles, and included meeting rooms, smokeless

kitchens, sleeping quarters, a healthcare center, and tunnel entrances. Along the way, you will view the processing of fragile rice paper, a booming home-industry in this area. Upon arrival at Cu Chi, you will watch a short video tracing the origins, construction and design of the thick-roofed underground tunnels. A military guide will explain the underground network, and display some of the tools and weapons utilized by the guerrillas. You will also visit a shooting range where you can fire guns used during the Vietnam War.

Finally, you will proceed to the bank of the Saigon River for lunch at a local restaurant owned by a former soldier who fought from the Cu Chi Tunnels. After lunch, you will re-board your coach for the return drive to Saigon.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Guests are strongly advised to wear sturdy shoes, a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen and mosquito repellent. Guests visiting the lower levels of the tunnel complex may get dirty. Lunch includes one beverage (local beer, soft drink or bottled water). The cost of firing guns at the shooting range is approximately US \$1.20 per bullet.*

### The Mekong Delta in Depth • HCM-6854

**Duration:** 7½ Hours

**Transport:** Air-Conditioned Van



Explore everyday life on the Mekong Delta during this picturesque visit to Cai Be, and a boat ride on the Mekong River.

Depart the pier in Ho Chi Minh City for the 2-hour drive to Cai Be. Along the way, you will pass through miles of flat rice fields, small villages and highways bustling with bicycles and oxcarts riding to and from the market. You will have numerous photo opportunities to capture life in the country, including rice threshing and milling, vegetables drying on the flat, hot roadside and children caring for their water buffalo. Upon arrival at Cai Be, located in the heart of the Mekong Delta, you will see the century-old floating market, where people living along the canals exchange goods from their boats and display their wares on long bamboo poles protruding from the boat. Across the way is a French-built church that provides a scenic background for more photo opportunities.

Next, you will embark a private boat for the highlight of the day; a chance to discover the day-to-day life of the friendly locals living along the Mekong River. Your trip will take you through a maze of canals, past many boats, and on to one of the many islands in the Delta to visit the traditional homes of fruit farmers and fishermen. You will stroll in a mandarin orchard, and visit an ancient teakwood house located within the orchard. You will be treated warmly by locals offering tea and garden fruits, then see where they make coconut candies and rice paper. After sampling some local fare, you will take the boat back to town, and rejoin your coach for the 2-hour return drive to the pier and ship.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This tour is limited to 6 guests per group. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant. The drive from Ho Chi Minh City to Cai Be is approximately 2 hours in each direction.*