

# RIVER BOAT BRIDGE CRUISE: VIETNAM, CAMBODIA & THE RICHES OF THE MEKONG DELTA

**FEB 5-28, 2011**

**Escorted by Barbara Seagram, Patti Lee & Alex Kornel  
of Vision 2000 Travel, Toronto REG. # TICO 50015325**



bseagram@ca.inter.net    www.barbaraseagram.com

Call Barbara Seagram: 416-487-8321    or call Liz Gibb @ Vision 2000 Travel: 416-915-2808 or 1-800-387-2440

**SHIP: MS La MARGUERITE (Built 2009) AMA WATERWAYS. Spacious cabins (226 sq ft) 92 passengers**

Feb 5: Fly from Toronto (or from your own home city) to Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) **Feb 6: Arrive HO CHI MINH CITY (D)**

Enjoy a free extra night in Ho Chi Minh City as a bonus from Vision 2000 Travel. Feb. 7. Free day to unwind and relax.

**Feb 8: HO CHI MINH CITY.** Morning drive through typical southern Vietnamese countryside to Tay Ninh province. Visit Cao Dai Temple, a fusion of different religions that combines the mixture of elements from other world religions, observe noon service. Later, visit famous Cu Chi Tunnels, an incredible underground tunnel network constructed by Vietnamese resistance fighters during the long struggle for independence. (B,L)

**Feb 9: HO CHI MINH CITY – DA NANG – HOI AN** Fly to Da Nang, Vietnam's fourth largest city. Visit ancient trading town of Hoi An, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (B,D)

**Feb 10: HOI AN.** Walking tour of town's most famous landmarks, Hoi An Museum, old Chinese Merchants' houses, Assembly Hall and the Japanese Covered Bridge. Then, travel by sampan on the Thu Bon River or spend leisure time on the beautiful sandy beach of Cua Dai. (B,L)

**Feb 11: HOI AN.** Red Bridge Cooking tour in Hoi An. Visit colorful local village market and herb garden. Learn how to prepare some of Vietnam's best-known dishes in this hands-on experience, and enjoy the lunch you have prepared. Observe the local life along the river, as you take a boat ride on the Hoi An River before returning to the hotel. (B,L)

**Feb 12: HOI AN – DANANG – HUE.** Leaving behind the peaceful atmosphere of Hoi An, travel north to Da Nang and Hue. En route, visit Marble Mountains and enjoy a scenic view from the pagoda located inside the mountain. Visit a stone-cutting craft village nearby before continuing to Da Nang for a tour and visit to the Cham Museum. Continue heading north with a stop at scenic Lang Co Beach. Cross the beautiful Hai Van Pass, before arriving in Hue, the ancient capital of Vietnam, whose monuments have earned it a UNESCO World Heritage Site designation. (B,L)

**Feb 13: HUE.** Boat trip along the serene Perfume River to visit Thien Mu Pagoda, the best known pagoda in central Vietnam. Then, drive to the Tomb of former Emperor Minh Mang, visit the elaborate tomb of Emperors Tu Duc and Khai Dinh, and the Royal Citadel with its Imperial Purple City. (B,L)

**Feb 14: HUE – HANOI: FLY TO HANOI, VIETNAM.** Welcome to Hanoi, Vietnam's vibrant capital city, known for its graceful colonial architecture, frenetic streets, verdant parks and ancient temples. After your airport greeting, transfer to the hotel. The remainder of the day is yours to explore the city on your own, or perhaps, visit the fabled Old Quarter (B,D)

**Feb 15: HANOI.** A morning sightseeing tour will take you to Hanoi's most famous historical and cultural sites: Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, Ba Dinh Square, One-pillar Pagoda and The Temple of Literature. In the afternoon, experience an authentic rickshaw ride (known as "cyclo") in the Old Quarter, followed by a traditional water puppet show. (B)

**Feb 16: HANOI – HA LONG BAY OVERNIGHT JUNK.** After breakfast, depart Hanoi for a scenic motorcoach ride to one of Vietnam's most renowned locations: Ha Long Bay. Board a traditional wooden Junk that combines classic beauty with modern conveniences, plus luxurious overnight accommodations. Set sail to discover the Bay's magnificent scenery set amidst stunning limestone cliffs. That evening, you'll enjoy dinner onboard, and overnight on the Junk. (B,L,D)

**Feb 17: HA LONG BAY – HANOI – SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA.** This morning, your Ha Long Bay Junk continues its scenic cruising while a delightful breakfast is served in the dining lounge. Late morning, disembark for a motorcoach transfer to Hanoi Airport. After a short flight, arrive in Siem Reap, Cambodia, gateway to Angkor, the former capital of the Khmer empire and one of the most renowned archeological sites in all of South East Asia. (B,L,D)

Feb 18: **SIEM REAP – ANGKOR.** After breakfast, begin a guided sightseeing tour of the Angkor Archaeological Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Highlights include Angkor Thom, Terrace of the Elephants and Terrace of the Leper King, Bayon. This afternoon, visit the most iconic of all Angkorian temples - Angkor Wat. (B,D)

**Feb 19: SIEM REAP – ANGKOR.** This morning, travel through rural countryside to the pink sandstone temple of Banteay Srei. Then visit Ta Prohm, the temple famous for its intertwined trees (showcased in the film Tomb Raider). (B)

**Feb 20: SIEM REAP – TONLE SAP LAKE/EMBARKATION – KAMPONG CHHNANG.** Travel to Tonle Sap Lake to embark the luxurious MS La Marguerite. Enjoy your Welcome Dinner onboard as you cruise to Kampong Chhnang. The ship moors overnight.

(B,L,D)

**Feb 21: KAMPONG CHHNANG – KAMPONG CHAM.** After breakfast, enjoy a motor boat excursion into the lakeside wetlands that form the mouth of the Tonle Sap River. Enjoy a stunning variety of birdlife, and observe numerous great fish traps, some over a half-mile long. Later, the ship enters the jungle as the river narrows. Temples abound along the riverbanks offer a unique opportunity to observe the rich tapestry of Cambodian rural life. Arrive in the capital city of Phnom Penh in the afternoon and enter the Upper Mekong bound for Kampong Cham. The ship makes an afternoon stop, in time for a walk through the quaint silk-weaving village of Chong Kho. Overnight, the ship moors mid-stream in Kampong Cham.

(B,L,D)

**Feb 22: KAMPONG CHAM – PHNOM PENH.** This morning, journey upriver to the hilltop pre-Angkorian temple of Wat Hanchey. Over lunch, sail back downstream to explore the Kampong Cham area. Travel by motorcoach to the 12th-century Angkorian temple of Wat Nokor, which has been “fused” with a modern Wat. Continue by motorcoach to the Eco-village of Cheung Kok. The ship departs late in the afternoon from Kampong Cham, arriving at Phnom Penh for an overnight mid-stream mooring.

(B,L,D)

**Feb 23: PHNOM PENH.** Early morning, the ship cruises into spectacular Phnom Penh and docks at the passenger port terminal. A morning tour explores the highlights of Cambodia’s capital city, famous for its French colonial architecture, busy cafés, vibrant nightlife and renovated river “corniche.” Visit the Royal Palace and the spectacular Silver Pagoda. The National Museum is another highlight, with outstanding displays of Khmer crafts. After lunch onboard, another excursion leads to the infamous Killing Fields and the Khmer Rouge’s grim Tuol Sleng or S21 Detention Center (Genocide Museum) situated in the suburbs of the city. An overnight on the waterfront provides an opportunity to dine in one of many nearby restaurants, and experience Phnom Penh’s vibrant nightlife, should passengers so choose.

(B,L,D)

**Feb 24: PHNOM PENH – BORDER CROSSING – TAN CHAU, VIETNAM.** Spend the day cruising the Mekong River, stopping at the jungle village of Preak Dach to visit fruit orchards before continuing to the Cambodian/Vietnamese border. The ship moors overnight mid-stream in Tan Chau.

(B,L,D)

**Feb 25 : TAN CHAU – SA DEC.** After breakfast, transfer via small boats to the pier, where a trishaw awaits to transport you around Tan Chau. Visit a mat-making workshop and silk-coloring workshop. Back at the pier, embark on a local boat for a channel cruise and visit to a fish farm before returning to the ship. Overnight mid-stream on the Mekong near Sa Dec.

(B,L,D)

**Feb 26: SA DEC – HO CHI MINH CITY (SAIGON).** After breakfast, board small local boats for the village of Sa Dec, where you will enjoy a morning stroll. Noteworthy as the town where the French writer (and our ship’s namesake) Marguerite Duras spent some of her childhood, Sa Dec is a sprawling town on the Mekong Delta. Visit the house of Mr. Huynh Thuy Le, Duras’ Chinese paramour, which is now a small museum. After lunch onboard, the ship continues cruising to Cai Be. A local Junk trip in the afternoon will take you to Cai Be’s spectacular floating market; then go ashore to see the French Gothic Cathedral and visit delightful flower gardens, ancient Kiet House and local rice paper manufacturers. In the evening, cruise to Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, while enjoying a sunset cocktail party and gourmet Farewell Dinner onboard.

(B,L,D)

**Feb 27: HO CHI MINH CITY – DISEMBARK.** In the early morning, the ship docks at the Saigon River Frontage. As the capital of the French colony of Cochinchina, Saigon was known as “Paris of the Orient.” Today, Vietnam’s largest city is an industrial, cultural and educational hub, but still retains vestiges of its colonial past. After breakfast, disembark for a city tour that explores famous landmarks, such as the former Presidential Palace, Central Post Office and Notre Dame Cathedral; Cho Lon (China Town) and its famous Binh Tay market and Thien Hau pagoda. Overnight at a luxurious hotel in Ho Chi Minh City.

(B,L)

**Feb 28: DEPART HO CHI MINH CITY.** Transfer to the airport for your homebound flight.

(B)

**DOUBLE OCCUPANCY RATES INCLUDE AIR FROM TORONTO & ALL HOTELS. PRICES ARE IN US DOLLARS PER PERSON**

(includes all meals & tours described above)

CAT C: 226 sq ft –	Porthole window: \$7988.00 US per person + \$650.00 tax
CAT B: 226 sq ft –	Balcony & large fixed window Add \$259.00 US to C rate
CAT A: 226 sq ft –	Balcony & large fixed window Add \$499.00 US to C rate
JR SUITE: 290 sq ft –	Balcony & large fixed window Add \$799.00 US to C rate
SUITE: 452 sq. ft –	Balcony & large fixed window Add \$1299.00 US to C rate

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## ABOUT US

Barbara Seagram and her husband, Alex Kornel, have been organizing and escorting cruises and tour groups all over the world for 25 years. Barbara is a licensed travel agent as well as an accredited ACBL bridge teacher and director. Barbara & Alex own and run Canada's largest School of Bridge, the Barbara Seagram School of Bridge, located in Toronto.

Barbara is the co-author of "25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know" and 15 other books (plus software). She is a Silver Life Master. Alex is a Gold Life Master, an accredited bridge teacher and director.

Patti Lee is a Silver Life Master, is also an accredited bridge teacher and works for the A.C.B.L. as a Tournament Director. We are privileged to have her join us on our trips as she adds a very special touch.

### VISION 2000 TRAVEL

Vision 2000 now has over 25 branches across Canada. Liz Gibb is Barbara's partner in the travel industry and is a gem.

### AMA WATERWAYS

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