



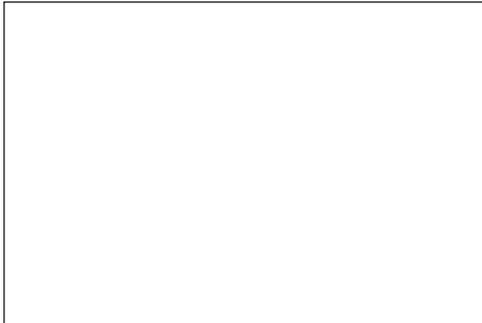
# TRAVEL ESSENTIALS NEWS

ASHLAND, OREGON

[www.travelessentials.com](http://www.travelessentials.com)

## Celebrate Our Grand Opening in Our New Location

We are finally completely moved in to our new space at 252 East Main Street in Ashland—the new awning is up, our new logo is painted on the door, and we're ready to celebrate! Friday, June 17 through Sunday, June 19 is our grand opening weekend, and you're invited to take part in the celebration. We'll offer storewide savings, a free gift for purchases over \$100, a drawing for a free piece of Swiss Army luggage, and we'll have several experts on hand to answer your questions about travel.



Our new store is right next door to and almost twice as big as our old store, and with the extra room, we now offer an even wider selection of innovative travel accessories, clothing and luggage. Our mailroom is much bigger too, so we can provide great service both in the store and via our website at [www.travelessentials.com](http://www.travelessentials.com). Our block is chalk full of great businesses, and we're delighted to be a part of the vital downtown here in beautiful Ashland. *continued on page 8*

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Travel Photo Contest Prizes Just a Click Away

Have you got a great picture of a sunset on a beautiful beach? Maybe a photo of the Matterhorn at sunrise or Big Ben at midnight? Whatever the travel subject, it's time to dust off your favorite and finest travel photographs for Travel Essentials' Fifth Annual Amateur Travel Photo Contest! Now through August 31, enter any two of your travel snapshots, and you'll be eligible to win great prizes, and have your photo displayed in large format online and in Travel Essentials' Ashland, Oregon store-front window display! For the month of September, Travel Essentials will display the winners' photos, along with the

honorable mentions too (as many as we can fit!). Here are the nitty gritty details:

- Submit any size, color or black and white photograph (no negatives or slides please), in person, by mail or online at [www.travelessentials.com](http://www.travelessentials.com) to Travel Essentials, 252 E. Main St., Ashland. Include your name, address and telephone number.
- All photographs will become the property of Travel Essentials. Don't send it if you can't part with it!
- Travel Essentials will be the sole judge of the contest, and reserves the right to display the photographs.

*continued on page 8*

## Vietnam's Many Wonders

By Nancy Bestor

Our family recently returned from three weeks in Vietnam and what an amazing journey it was. While not the easiest trip we've ever taken, nor the most relaxing, it was certainly the most fascinating—an amazing look at a culture completely different from our own here in the good old US of A. To make the most of our journey we wanted to see as much of the country as possible. But we also needed to balance that desire and spend ample time at each stop to get a good feel for each region we visited. Although it worked out great for Bob and I, it kept us on the move via bus, plane, boat and taxi, which was hard at times on Emily and Sarah (ages 10 and *continued on page 6*

**TRAVEL  
FIRST PERSON**

### Travel Essential News • Summer 2005

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**TRAVEL ESSENTIALS  
ASHLAND, OREGON**

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# The Vietnamese Rules of the Road

By Nancy Bestor

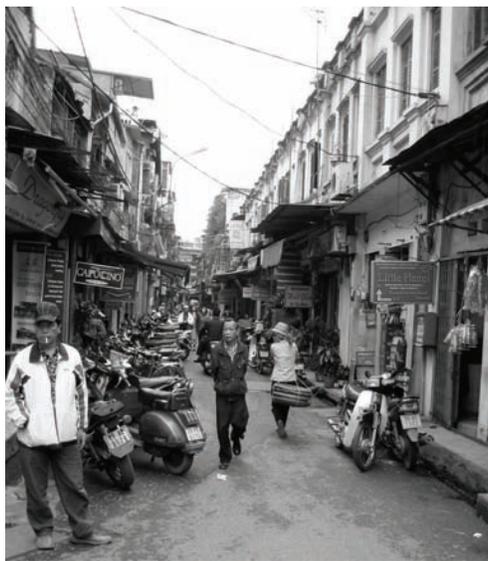
The first thing we learned when riding in a car or trying to cross the street on our recent trip to Vietnam is that there are few rules of the road, and the rules that do exist are followed by even fewer people. Speed limits? Nah! Stop signs or lights? Nope (well, a few, but mostly nope). Right of way? You have got to be kidding! To better understand how traffic works, here is some background. Saigon (whose proper name is Ho Chi Minh City) is a city of about eight million people. Within the city, there are four million motorbikes. There are cars, but not very many. Cars are of course, much more costly, and they don't maneuver nearly as well through the crowded city streets.

Very few motorbike riders bother to wear helmets, particularly within city limits. Helmets are very expensive and very hot in the tropical climate. We saw hundreds of children on motorbikes, with no helmets, riding around with mom or dad, or both! In fact it was common to see a family of four piled onto a single motorbike, baby in the front (we're talking young baby too, six months old maybe), Dad driving the bike, older child behind Dad, and Mom bringing up the rear. Our girls were fascinated, and our record sighting was five people on one motorbike—a man and four children! It wasn't just people on motorbikes that we found fascinating. Often it was what they could, and would, load onto their motorbike. The Vietnamese use these motorbikes to ingeniously transport an amazing array of goods. We saw two men and one large computer on a bike, two men and several large glass windows on a motorbike, a man with dozens of dead chickens, and much, much more! The most amazing load we saw was about twenty 24x24 flats of eggs. It may seem impossible but I saw it with my own eyes and did the math three times on a calculator, this motorbike appeared to be transporting over 10,000 eggs!

Another interesting traffic feature in Vietnam is the almost complete lack of lights at intersections. For the most part drivers just slow down a bit, honk, and head on through. Even at red lights, drivers rarely stop, instead, as above, they

slow down, honk and head on through. Honking seems to be the favorite pastime of drivers. Rather than honking for a reason, like drivers in the United States and Europe, drivers in Vietnam honk constantly to announce their presence. In fact on our 30 mile, 45 minute private car ride to My Son, Bob counted the number of times our driver honked—778 times!

Cars, motorbikes, and even pedestrians do not seem to give anyone the right of way at any point. It is survival of the fittest on these roads, and if you are hesitant, you won't get far. That includes crossing the street. There are no crosswalks, and not one single car or



motorbike will stop for you when you want to cross. Thus the only way to cross a street is to slowly wade out into oncoming traffic, and keep moving slowly forward no matter what. Cars and motorbikes will ultimately maneuver around you, swerving slightly to miss you by inches on all sides, but if you wait for any reason at all, you will be waiting all day! Older people walk right in front of cars and motorbikes as do children and bicycle riders. Crossing the street was hard to get used to at first, but after a while even Emily and Sarah didn't flinch when we would cross the road holding hands. Now you might think that a kindly older woman would see a bewildered western family with young children wanting to cross the street

and would slow down. Not a chance. Everybody follows the same rule, and that rule is every man for himself!

Vehicles do not always drive on the correct side of the road. At any given time, cars and motorbikes can be driving in one direction in three lanes, or three directions in one lane. If traffic on the proper side of the road is too slow, cars and motorbikes just move to the other side of the road and swerve around cars coming in the opposite direction.

The city streets are unbelievably busy, seemingly at all times of the day and night. The Vietnamese do not seem to sleep and the streets don't quiet down until well after midnight, and by 6am are teeming with people again. Kids are playing ball on the side of the street, and in some cases in the middle of the street. Older men are playing cards right on the curb, rice is drying right along the edge of the road. People are selling every item imaginable, even on the shoulders of busy highways. And then of course there are the animals. You can be driving on a "highway" at 60-70 miles an hour, and come across an oxen pulling a cart, or have to slow down for cows or chickens in the road. Dogs are everywhere as well, constantly darting in and out of traffic. Most cities have no sidewalks, so when walking around, you're actually walking along the edge of the street. Restaurants along with motorbike parking often occupy most of the sidewalks that do exist, and you must get used to eating a meal outdoors amongst the mayhem.

It was amazing to come home to little Ashland, and see cars actually come to a complete stop at a cross-walk as people would begin to cross the street. The lack of rules in Vietnam may seem crazy, but after getting used to it, I have to admit, it seems to work just fine. It was another great life lesson in how different cultures do things differently, and just because we're used to one way, it's not necessarily the right way.

—Nancy Bestor is the co-owner of *Travel Essentials*. She *always* looks both ways when crossing the street.



*"Our happiest moments as tourists always seem to come when we stumble upon one thing while in pursuit of something else."* — LAWRENCE BLOCK

# Especially for the European Traveler

By Robert Bestor, Jr.

European rail travelers in need of renting a car just for one or two days should consider the Eurail Selectpass. It's good for three, four, or five countries — your choice — and if purchased by July 28 a free rental car is included. A couple traveling together gets five days first-class rail travel in three countries plus two free days in an economy car for \$632. It's a great way to see the countryside while headquartered in a large city. The car would come in handy, for example, if you were in Paris and wanted to spend a weekend in Normandy. You'd probably want to save your rail days for longer journeys, and anyway Normandy is not an area easily toured by rail. The free car is a great solution; pick it up Friday afternoon, spend Friday night, Saturday and Sunday morning in countryside, and return it Sunday afternoon. As long as you bring the car back no later in the day than you picked it up, it's a two-day rental.

The countries selected on this pass must be contiguous or connected by ferry. For example, if two of your chosen countries were France and Italy, your third country could be Ireland and your pass would be valid for a 50% discount on the Irish Ferry from France. Ya cud than youz yar caahr ta see tha coontraside.

## The Four Best Rail Pass Deals

For those planning even a couple of three-hour train trips in a single country such as France, Italy, Germany or Switzerland, purchasing that country's rail pass in the U.S. will almost always save money. For example, Rail Europe sells a Paris-Avignon round-trip first-class for \$286 per person. For \$225 per person, a couple can buy a first-class France Saver and get four full days travel throughout the country. The four days need not be

consecutive but must be used within a one-month period.

Here are four rail pass deals we think offer exceptional value:

- German Twin Pass — \$135 second-class, \$195 first-class for four days unlimited travel within one month, extra days \$18 and \$25.50 respectively. If you add the extra days and buy a 10-day German pass you travel for just over \$24 per day second-class and less than \$35 first-class. And that includes the marvelous 167mph ICE (Inter-City Express) trains that connect Germany's major cities.



- France Saver Pass — \$195 second-class, \$225 first-class. Extra days are \$29 first-class, \$25 second-class. The pass is valid on any TGV, though purchase of a seat reservation for about 3 euro may be required. The four days travel could be Paris to Bordeaux, Bordeaux to Nice, Nice to Lyon, then Lyon back to Paris...or any other combination. The pass price is a huge savings over these four point-to-point trips.

- 15-Consecutive Day Swiss Saver Pass — \$264 second-class and \$395 first-class. This figures out to less than \$18 per day second-class and slightly more than \$26 per day first-class, and includes trains,

boats, buses, and other perks. Fast trains, with service every 30 minutes, connect all major Swiss cities. There's almost no place in Switzerland not accessible with this pass.

- Trentalia Saver Pass — \$175 second-class, \$221 first-class. Extra days are \$23 and \$19, respectively. Offers four full days travel anywhere in Italy within a two-month period. (Note: All passes mentioned above requires that two or more persons travel together.)

## Special Travel Services for Travel Essentials' Europe-Bound Customers

Through the travel department of our sister company, *Gemütlichkeit*, *The Travel Letter for Germany, Austria & Switzerland*, we offer Travel Essentials' customers low consolidator air fares to Europe — including, via contract with Lufthansa, consolidator fares on Lufthansa's Portland-Frankfurt nonstop, with connections from Frankfurt to dozens of other European cities.

*Gemütlichkeit* is also Southern Oregon's only Rail Europe authorized issuer and seller of European rail passes, which means our customers can pick up passes at the Ashland store and there is no shipping charge. We also offer free delivery of passes in Ashland.

For car rentals in Europe, Australia and New Zealand, *Gemütlichkeit* offers guaranteed lowest car rental rates with major suppliers such as Hertz, Avis, National, Sixt, and Europcar.

Contact *Gemütlichkeit* at 800-521-6722, in the Rogue Valley at 541-488-8462, or on the web at [www.gemut.com](http://www.gemut.com).

—Robert Bestor, Jr. is a part owner of *Travel Essentials*. He and his wife Elizabeth have published *Gemütlichkeit* for 19 years.



"It is good to have an end to journey towards, but it is the journey that matters in the end." — URSULA K. LEQUIN

# Putting Travel Products to the Test

By Bob Bestor

Seeing as how we own a travel store, we can't travel to a foreign country like Vietnam and not take a bundle of great travel accessories to try out while on the road. Here are a few of the items I was delighted we brought with us.

### Ex Officio Travel Underwear—

Nancy and I each brought two pairs of travel underwear from Ex Officio and boy were we happy with them! The nylon/spandex fabric combination makes for a very comfortable fit, and even more important, a very quick drying time. We'd wash out our pair in the evening, and by morning both would be completely dry. I even washed a pair out once then



wrung them dry in a towel and put them right back on. In fact, these undies are so comfortable, I wear them at home all the time now. They're available in many different styles and colors for both women and men, including bikini brief, full size brief, string bikini, boxer brief, and regular brief. A great space saving travel purchase and well worth the \$15-18 per piece.

**Woolite Soap Packs**—To wash out our underwear (see above) and other quick drying clothes, it was great to have individual packs of liquid Woolite. These slim packages don't take up much room and are burst proof so they won't make a mess of your luggage. Travel Essentials offers a 10 pack of Woolite (\$4.95) with a plug stopper, so you can easily wash some



in the bathroom sink of your hotel.

### Ex Officio Dri-Release Shirts—

Nancy and I each brought along a long sleeved "dri-release" shirt from Ex Officio. Made of a very comfortable polyester/cotton blend, the shirts are easy to wash out at night, and again, almost every time, they were completely dry in the morning. They both have great venting to keep you cool in warm weather and, very important, they also have hidden zippered pockets to store money when you're out in the city. I love my shirt, and also wear it at home as well! Ex Officio also makes



short sleeved shirts in the same dri-release fabric.

**Eagle Creek 22 inch Tarmac ES Rolling Suitcase and ES Carry-on Tote**—We did quite a bit of moving about on planes, buses, taxis, and boats within Vietnam. Having our handy rolling suitcase with a tote bag conveniently slipped over the handle sure made things

easier. In addition to the wheeled suitcase and tote bag, we also traveled with a backpack each (amazingly also from Eagle Creek) in which we stored our snacks, water and books. We always checked our bags, and kept the two backpacks for on plane items. It's always funny to see people who are so surprised that our family can travel for so long in so few bags, and we in turn are astounded when we see one person traveling with huge suitcases that



don't roll well at all! To each their own I guess!

**Lonely Planet and Rough Guide to Vietnam**—I never take just one guidebook when I travel. Each line of guidebooks has its own style and opinions, and I prefer to compare them when looking for a restaurant or hotel recommendation. One might have better historical information than the other, and it was great when Nancy would read one and I would read



ear and socks and a shirt or dress.  
*Travelling is the rum of all happiness! There's no looking at a sunset after seeing Italy.* — FANNY BURNBY

*continued on page 5*

# Putting Travel Products to the Test

continued from page 4

the other and we would compare notes and discuss the history or background of different cities or sites. I can't tell you how many times these guidebooks led us to places, restaurants, hotels, and sites we would not have found on our own. Guidebooks save an incredible amount of time as well, and who wants to waste time trying to find somewhere to eat or sleep when on vacation? A couple of guidebooks are worth their weight in gold for any trip.

**Eagle Creek Money Belts**—Nancy and I each took a different kind of security wallet/money belt on this trip to Vietnam, and that worked out great, because we were able to switch belts depending on what we were wearing or what our scheduled activities were for the day. I am surprised when I hear from customers who don't carry their valuables in a money belt/security wallet. Keeping our passports, traveler's checks and credit cards in these pouches makes me comfortable and secure when I am out walking on the streets, and



for \$8-20 depending on the style, they are a steal (get it?). If someone runs off with our backpack, they'll find a water bottle, some snacks, and our guidebooks, all replaceable. They won't get our passports, our digital camera (which I

kept in a zippered pocket in my Ex Officio pants), or our travelers checks, which are replaceable, but who wants to waste time getting them replaced?

**Noise Canceling Headphones**—I convinced Nancy that we should make room in our carry-on backpacks for two pair of Noise Canceling Headphones, and she'll be the first to say that was a good decision! We took a pair of the Plane Quiet Version 6 headphones, and a pair of the Solitude headphones, both of which make a huge difference on a loud plane. I didn't realize how loud the plane's engine was until I put on the headphones, wore them for a while, and then took them off again. Even Emily and Sarah were asking to listen to music using the headphones. The Solitudes are by far the better of the two (at \$199) but the version 6 headphones (\$54) also did a good job.

**Travel Sized Charmin Toilet Paper**—This may sound silly, but the



travel sized Charmin toilet paper, in its own plastic dispenser, was a godsend! None of the public restrooms we encountered in Vietnam had toilet paper, and I don't think I need to say any more. We also used the Charmin for the multitudes of bloody and runny noses our family seemed to have on this trip. I will not take another trip without this travel-sized Charmin tissue, and it's only \$1.49.

**Steripen Water Purifier**—We didn't want to drink anything but bottled water while in Vietnam, nor did we want to brush our teeth in tap water, so we took along the Steripen Water Purifier. The handheld lightweight Steripen purifies 32



ounces of water in less than two minutes, using ultra-violet light. It is so easy to use, simply stir the Steripen in water, and wait for the green light to flash when it's done. Powered by batteries, the Steripen destroys all bacteria and viruses. When you're in a country like Vietnam, where the water is sketchy at best, the Steripen



(\$139.95) is a great item to have in your suitcase.

—Bob Bestor is the co-owner of Travel Essentials. If you've read this story carefully, you now know way more about Bob's undergarments than you'd like to.

END



"Perhaps travel cannot prevent bigotry, but by demonstrating that all peoples cry, laugh, eat, worry, and die, it can introduce the idea that if we try and understand each other, we may even become friends." — MAYA ANGELOU

# Vietnam's Many Wonders...

*continued from page 1*

8), particularly when they were fighting colds and fevers (but that is another tale, see [www.travelessentials.com](http://www.travelessentials.com) for my story *Culture Shock Vietnam Style*).

Early in the trip a two-day tour of the Mekong Delta gave us a glimpse of how the Vietnamese live outside their major cities. The Delta covers quite a large portion of southern Vietnam. Formed by sediment deposited by the 2,600-mile Mekong River, it teems with agricultural trade and produces enough rice to feed the entire country.

Our tour included boating throughout the Delta and short hikes among the Delta countryside and small towns and cities. We saw barges full of sand for building and others full of rice for eating. We toured floating markets, visited a family who makes "pop-rice" and another who makes coconut candy. We walked through many, many rice fields, and met up with a group of young children who were so thrilled when we said Xin Ciao (hello) to them in our fractured Vietnamese that they followed us for half a mile, laughing, marching and chanting Xin Ciao the whole way. Women passed by on boats with cut up meat or vegetables for sale, while others were cooking on board and selling meals. We bought a fresh and tasty pineapple from a pineapple boat, served whole on its stem, peeled and trimmed, for 3,000 dong (20 cents). Tourism is still new in this part of the country. Children always waved to us, but often adults looked at us like we were either crazy or from another planet. We encountered very few Americans during our stay in Vietnam, and virtually no children. So I'm certain that western children were not often seen, particularly in the Mekong Delta.

The Vietnamese people were friendly



to us, but everyone, and I mean everyone, wanted to sell us something. Because the average Vietnamese takes home just \$50 per month, I am sure they feel that anyone who can afford to travel halfway around the world must have money to burn. And let's face it, comparatively, we

do. All "casual" conversations would start out with questions about us, our family and our trip, and inevitably, would turn into an invitation to show us this or that "great deal", or take us to their "auntie's" shop, or sell us gum, fruit, bread, or books. A trip to the beach was terrific, except that we were constantly asked to buy any number of things by vendors. They didn't always easily take no for an answer either. They would tell us how bad business was that day, and how they needed money, and couldn't we just help out by buying sunglasses, or postcards, or cigarette lighters or a massage. It sometimes took several firm no's before they would move on to their next target. That being said, when finally we did want something, the service, hospitality and offerings were fabulous. Lobster and shrimp fresh cooked right there on the beach. Beer, sodas, candy and other snacks were all available along with foot and leg massages whenever you so desired. One never had to look too far or wait too long and we were always fair game, and not just while at the beach, but also while eating in restaurants or drinking a

beer in local bars.

One of the highlights of our trip was a five day stop in Hoi An, a coastal town halfway between Saigon and Hanoi. Here we stayed at the brand new and lovely Hoi An Pacific Hotel, where we booked a two-room suite for \$80 a night. The hotel was terrific, with free shuttle service both downtown and to the beach, a rooftop restaurant and a refreshing pool. During our stay in Hoi An we didn't see many tourists, and we decided that most must stop in this city as part of a tour for just a few hours, and see the sites early in the morning before heading off on another stop. Even our hotel was uncrowded, at least when we were around. The town itself is enchanting and well worth a several day stay. The streets are narrow, and crowded with mostly locals. We ate several Hoi An specialty dishes here, including the "white rose," shrimp in a steamed wonton served with crunchy onion bits and drizzled with lemon and fish sauce, and fish grilled in banana leaves.

Hoi An is well known for silk tailor shops offering made to order clothing. Bob decided to have a Nat Nast-style bowling shirt made, and as the shop he



chose had no idea what a bowling shirt

*continued on next page*



*"I am so convinced of the advantages of looking at mankind instead of reading about them, that I think there should be a law amongst us to set our young men abroad for a term among the few allies our wars have left us." — LORD BYRON*

## Vietnam's Many Wonders...

*continued from previous page*

was, he ended up drawing the shirt out for the proprietor. Less than 24 hours later it was ready to go, perfectly tailored to his specifications and the color combination he chose turned out great. It was \$15 and loads of fun!

A great day trip from Hoi An is a visit to the My Son ruins of the Cham civilization. We rented a car and driver, so we could arrive at My Son early in the morning, before most tour buses arrive. The road to My Son is a bumpy 45 minute journey. Sarah got car sick and threw up in her hat, but it was well worth the trip. The ruins, which are included on UNESCO's World Heritage site list, are in an isolated rural setting that we had virtually to ourselves. The towers and sanctuaries of My Son were erected between the seventh and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries, and at one time included 70 buildings.



Many were bombed during the Vietnam war, but there are at least 20 left and we spent a fascinating morning wandering

through the ruins.

In 1994 just 10,000 foreign tourists visited Vietnam. Today two million visit each year. While visits have increased dramatically, Vietnam is still getting its tourism feet wet. Getting around the country by land is still very slow, and hotels tend to cater either to high-end tourists and tour groups, or low-end backpackers. But Vietnam is a beautiful country, and the Vietnamese people seem to have put the war behind them, and harbor no resentment towards Americans (at least as far as we could tell). The sights, smells and sounds of Vietnam will stay with my family for a long time, hopefully forever, and I'm delighted we had the opportunity to visit another wonderful place in this great world.

END

## Join Us On Travel Essentials' Inaugural Journey

In the company of store owner Bob Bestor, travel to Vietnam and Cambodia aboard the lovely *Clipper Odyssey*, on a study tour with Stanford and Yale alumni and members of the American Museum of Natural History.

For years, customers have been asking Bob to lead trips. Now, just returned from a visit to Vietnam with his family, Bob and Travel Essentials are proud to share with their loyal customers an amazing opportunity to explore this spectacular part of the world.

Best of all, we were able to secure cabins on an American ship with a tour operated by well-respected High Country Passage, a tour operator for the top tier of non-profit museums and alumni groups. **As a special one-time offer to Travel Essentials customers, we're able to offer this tour at a greatly reduced fare!** You still get all the attention to detail that is a

hallmark of working with Travel Essentials and High Country Passage, from inclusive touring and meals to included tips and ease of travel, and comfort when you return each night to your private spacious cabin. So don't delay—availability is limited! Call Bob at 800-258-0758 to reserve your space now! Or go to our website [www.travelessentials.com](http://www.travelessentials.com) for more information.

### Trip Details

- Tour Dates: September 20-October 6, 2005.
- Travel Essentials' Customer Special Price: starts at \$5,995 per person (excluding airfare), a savings of more than \$1500 off the direct price.
- Itinerary Includes: Hanoi, Halong Bay, Hoi An, Nha Trang, Ho Chi Minh City, Angkor Wat and more.
- Nine nights aboard the ship *Clipper Odyssey*.

- Six nights accommodations at world-class hotels.
- Pre-departure materials, including reading list, books and travel information.
- Lectures by leading experts including Nayan Chanda, director of publications for Yale's Center for the Study of Globalization. In April 1975, as other reporters fled Saigon, he stayed behind and filed the first report detailing the city's fall.

Another expert is Peter Duus, William H. Bonsall Professor of History Emeritus at Stanford University. Duus served twice as Director of the Center for East Asian Studies, and he has taught and traveled extensively in Asia. In 2000 he was elected President of the Association for Asian Studies, the largest national academic organization of Asian specialists.

Please consider joining us. It will be a great trip!

END



"Living on earth may be expensive, but it includes an annual free trip around the Sun." — ANONYMOUS



# TRAVEL ESSENTIALS

## ASHLAND, OREGON

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## Photo Contest...

*continued from page 1*

• The contest is open to amateur photographers, and no more than two entries will be accepted per person. Prizes are as follows:

**1st Prize:** A \$200 gift certificate to Travel Essentials, a one year's subscription to National Geographic Traveler Magazine, and a blown up display photograph of your Grand Prize winning photo.

**2nd Prize:** A \$100 gift certificate to Travel Essentials, a one year's subscription to National Geographic Traveler Magazine, and a blown up display photograph of your photo.

Five honorable mentions will have their photos displayed in the store and will receive a \$25 gift certificate to Travel Essentials. So wow us with your best or favorite travel photograph. We look forward to seeing your photos! **END**

Thank you customers!  
Because of your purchases in January,  
Travel Essentials donated more than  
\$2500 to AmeriCares for  
Tsunami relief.

## Grand Opening...

*continued from page 1*

Oregon.

Here are some key grand opening celebration details:

- 10% off storewide
- 20% off books and maps
- Swiss Army NXT Luggage on a 20% off closeout sale—while supplies last.
- In store clearance items up to 75% off from Royal Robbins, Ex Officio, Sierra Designs, 180's and more!
- A free gift for purchases over \$100—the TravelPro Mystery Expand-A-Pack (a \$29.95 value) while supplies last!
- Grand Opening Drawing for a free Swiss Army WT Wheeled Carry-on Tote (a \$189.99 value). Sign up in person or at [www.travelessentials.com](http://www.travelessentials.com) during the sale. No purchase necessary.

• 10:30 am-12:00 noon—*At Home in France* owner Bruce Dicoskey will be in

### In Store Expert Advice Schedule Saturday, June 18th, 2005

the store to answer your questions about traveling in France and France vacation rentals.

- 12:00-2:00 pm—Robert Bestor Jr., owner of *Gemütlichkeit European Car Rentals* and publisher of *Gemütlichkeit, the travel newsletter for Germany, Austria and Switzerland*, will be available to answer your questions on transportation options in Europe, including Eurail passes and automobile rentals.
- 2:00-4:00 pm—Karin Volpert, owner of *Drawbridge to Europe*, will answer questions about traveling in Europe and vacation rentals throughout the rest of Europe.

If you haven't seen our new store yet, or if you're just looking for some great deals, stop by sometime during our Grand Opening Weekend and say hello.

**END**