Along the Mekong

A NEW LOOK AT VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA

October 10 to 28, 2012

a program of the stanford alumni association
Over a decade ago, Travel/Study began exploring the countries of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Together with learned faculty leaders and legendary tour guides, we focused on illuminating some of the mysteries of these regions. For many of us, a single exploration of Southeast Asia is simply not enough to answer all of our questions. It was this thirst for greater knowledge of these diverse countries and their cultures that inspired us to create this unique itinerary that follows the Mekong River. With the expert leadership of political science professor Judith Goldstein, we eagerly anticipate coming away with an ever-deeper understanding of Indochina after traveling aboard the brand-new MV Jahan. Join us!

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

CRUISE down the Mekong River aboard the newly built, intimate, colonial-themed MV Jahan.

EXPLORE the stunning UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site of Angkor in Cambodia, a vast complex of ancient temples and tombs.

WATCH as monks young and old collect alms at an early-morning procession in Luang Prabang, a center of Laotian religious life.

ENJOY two days in cosmopolitan Hanoi, exploring its museums, cultural attractions and shopping areas.
Itinerary

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10 & 11
DEPART U.S. / HANOI, VIETNAM
Depart the U.S. for overnight flights to Hanoi. Arrive in Hanoi on Thursday and transfer to our hotel to relax for the rest of the afternoon.
HOTEL SOFITEL LEGEND METROPOLE HANOI

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12
HANOI
This morning explore Vietnam’s capital with a visit to Ba Dinh Square, the site of Ho Chi Minh’s mausoleum and, nearby, his Spartan wartime residence. Continue to the Confucian Academy known as the Temple of Literature, considered Vietnam’s first university. This evening enjoy a welcome reception and dinner.
HOTEL SOFITEL LEGEND METROPOLE HANOI (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13
HANOI
Today visit the fascinating Ethnology Museum that focuses on the lifestyle, traditions and culture of Vietnam’s minority peoples. Following an afternoon cyclo tour of the Guild District, enjoy a traditional Water Puppet performance. This evening dine independently at one of the many fine restaurants in Hanoi.
HOTEL SOFITEL LEGEND METROPOLE HANOI (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14
HANOI / LUANG PRABANG, LAOS
Transfer to the airport for morning flight to Luang Prabang, the ancient capital of the Lane Xang kingdom, the center of religious life in Laos and today a UNESCO World Heritage City. Experience a traditional “baci” blessing ceremony at the hotel this evening followed by dinner.
VILLA SANTI RESORT (B,L,D)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15
LUANG PRABANG
Following breakfast, take an excursion upstream on the Mekong River to visit the Pak Ou caves, repositories for thousands of Buddha images, which range from half an inch to 6½ feet in height. Along the river, view typical local villages and canoes bobbing by the shore. Stop in the village of Ban Muangkeo, well-known for traditional Lao rice whisky. After lunch at a riverside restaurant, return to Luang Prabang for an afternoon visit to Wat Xiengthong, the 16th-century temple that epitomizes the elegance and grace of Luang Prabang-style architecture.
VILLA SANTI RESORT (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16
LUANG PRABANG
Observe the early-morning processions through the streets of monks collecting alms. Visit the Royal Palace featuring rooms decorated in traditional Lao style and housing historic relics of the ancient Lao Kingdom, including the historic “prabang” figure, a pure gold Buddha image after which the town is named.
VILLA SANTI RESORT (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17
LUANG PRABANG / SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA
Take a morning flight to Siem Reap to visit the ruined capital of the powerful Khmer Kingdom Angkor, which flourished from the 10th to the 15th centuries comprises some 400 sandstone, brick and laterite temples, walls, tombs and other structures surrounded by jungle. Begin exploring this vast archaeological UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site, with Angkor Wat, the symbol of the Cambodian state. The complex is actually a “temple mountain,” an elaborate three-dimensional model of the Hindu-Buddhist world.
GRAND HOTEL D’ANGKOR (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18
SIEM REAP
Explore one of Angkor’s earliest and most prized sites, Banteay Srei. This temple displays the most beautifully preserved carvings remaining at Angkor. Visit magnificent Angkor Thom, royal city of the 12th-century King Jayavarman VII, including Bayon with its 54 intricately symmetric towers topped by giant stone faces.
GRAND HOTEL D’ANGKOR (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19
SIEM REAP
This morning visit Preah Khan, a temple at Angkor built in the 12th-century for King Jayavarman VII. Preah Khan has been left largely unrestored, with numerous trees and other vegetation growing among the ruins. Also visit Ta Prohm, built in the Bayon style largely in the late 12th and early 13th centuries. This afternoon visit the Siem Reap national Museum.
GRAND HOTEL D’ANGKOR (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20
SIEM REAP / EMBARK MV JAHAN
Enjoy a morning at leisure in Siem Reap before transferring to the port and boarding the MV Jahan, our home for the next seven nights. Spend the evening moored on Tonle Sap Lake.
MV JAHAN (B,L,D)
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21
TONLE SAP LAKE
Before the sun rises, the MV Jahan sets sail across Tonle Sap Lake. As our ship is about to exit the lake, we pass the marshlands and view spectacular scenery along the riverbanks of Kampong Chhnang province. Take a motorboat excursion from Kampong Chhnang to see the wetlands, floating houses and fish farms in the region. Further down the river we take part in an oxcart rally before being introduced to the MV Jahan’s literacy project. Our afternoon cruise follows the meandering Tonle Sap River, which narrows through leafy swaths of the jungle. MV Jahan (B,L,D)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22
KAMPONG CHAM
Wake up this morning to embark on a journey upriver to the pre-Angkorian temple of Wat Hanchey. Dating from the 8th century, these ancient brick structures characterize the architecture of the Chenla Empire, which predated the glories of Angkor. Cruise downstream for a post-lunch exploration of the Kampong Cham area, and visit the 12th-century Angkorian temple of Wat Nokor. Back onboard, watch the passing scenery as our ship sets sail toward the capital of Phnom Penh. MV Jahan (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23
PHNOM PENH
After breakfast, embark on a city tour in this dynamic, historical capital of Cambodia, which has managed to retain its French colonial charm. Explore the dazzling white-and-gold architecture of the Royal Palace and the Silver Pagoda, and the outstanding displays of Khmer crafts at the National Museum. After lunch at a local restaurant, examine the painful, heartwrenching reminders of the Khmer Rouge regime on an excursion to Tuol Sleng, or S21, the former detention, torture and execution center during the Cambodian civil war. This evening, enjoy a performance of traditional Apsara dance. MV Jahan (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24
MEKONG RIVER
Enjoy a relaxing day aboard the MV Jahan as our ship cruises the main Mekong channel. Disembark for a short shore visit to Pre-K Touch, a lively jungle village, and well-laid-out fruit orchards. Later this afternoon sail off toward the Vietnamese border. MV Jahan (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25
CHAU DOC, VIETNAM
Disembark for an excursion around the town of Chau Doc. Take a short walk to visit the town’s local market and a nearby temple. Return to the quay and embark on a boat excursion to nearby floating villages and catfish farms where we witness masses of “basa” fish being fed by hand. Visit the village of the local Muslim Cham community. In the late afternoon, cast off bound for Cai Be. MV Jahan (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26
CAI BE / BA DUC
Today’s tour starts with a visit to Cai Be’s colorful floating market via a traditional sampan (wooden boat), the Cai Be Princess. View beautiful landscapes along the river and observe typical Mekong Delta rural life. These evergreen islands of the Mekong River still remain unknown to many people. Further stops allow us to see how rice paste, rice cookies and coconut candies are made. Also observe the Longan fruit drying process. After touring the canals, head to the Ba Duc ancient house for a cup of tea. Board our ship for a relaxing evening cruise and farewell reception and dinner while heading toward My Tho. MV Jahan (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27
MY THO / DISEMBARK
Our cruise comes to a close as the MV Jahan winds its way to My Tho, located 44 miles south of Ho Chi Minh City in the upper Mekong Delta. Disembark and drive to Ho Chi Minh City where we enjoy some time this afternoon to explore the Presidential Palace and History Museum. Caravelle Hotel (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28
HO CHI MINH CITY / U.S.
Transfer this morning to the airport for international flights back to the U.S. (B)
MV Jahan

The brand-new, 52-guest MV Jahan, a distinctive British Indian colonial-themed ship, accommodates all guests in 26 outside cabins, each with a private balcony. All cabins are elegantly furnished with an audio entertainment system; bedside controls including AC, light and music; tea/coffee; mini-bar; and other amenities. Spacious and finely decorated public areas include a lounge that can accommodate our lecture series, an outdoor bar with sofa-style seating, a wheelhouse deck with lounge chairs, and a library and lounge with panoramic windows. The ship also includes a fitness room, steam sauna, boutique and beauty salon.

Program Costs*

Rates per person, based on double occupancy

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<th>DOUBLE</th>
<th>SINGLE**</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUPERIOR</strong></td>
<td>$8,295</td>
<td>$11,495</td>
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<td>Main Deck, approx. 322 sq. ft.</td>
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<td><strong>DELUXE</strong></td>
<td>$9,295</td>
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<td>Upper Deck, approx. 322 sq. ft.</td>
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<td><strong>SIGNATURE</strong></td>
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<td>Main Deck and Upper Deck, approx. 345 to 375 sq. ft.</td>
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<td>Butler service, mini-bar and laundry are included onboard.</td>
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<td><strong>ROYAL SUITE</strong></td>
<td>$10,495</td>
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<td>Main Deck, approx. 550 sq. ft.</td>
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<td>Butler service, mini-bar, laundry and two free days at the spa are included onboard.</td>
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* Association nonmembers add $200 per person.
** Single accommodations are limited.
Information

**Dates**
October 10 to 28, 2012 (19 days)

**Size**
Limited to 50 participants

**Included**
- 10 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations
- 7-night cruise aboard the MV Jahan
- 17 breakfasts, 16 lunches and 15 dinners
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions
- Bottled water on excursions
- Gratuities to porters, guides, drivers and ship crew for all group activities
- All tours and shore excursions as described in the itinerary
- Domestic flights among Vietnam/Laos/Cambodia
- Visa fees for Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia
- Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
- Port fees and embarkation taxes
- Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
- Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

**Not Included**
- International and U.S. domestic airfare
- Passport fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as email, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

**Air Arrangements**
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on United Airlines from San Francisco to Hanoi and return from Ho Chi Minh City is approximately $1,650 as of November 2011 and is subject to change without notice. Information on recommended flight itineraries will be sent by our operator, Bamboo Tours.

**Fuel Costs**
In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult to predict fuel costs over the long term and, more specifically, at the time of operation of this voyage. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of brochure printing. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

**What to Expect**
We consider this to be a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Daily programs involve one to three miles of walking, often on uneven terrain, and standing for long periods at times. In some instances, such as ruins, stairs are unavailable or do not have handrails. Participants must be physically fit and in active good health. Average temperatures in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia range from the high 90s (°F) to the low 70s (°F), and humidity is over 70%. Although all of the hotels and motorcoaches included in this program are air-conditioned, other traditional means of conveyances and most of the museums, temples, pagodas and ruins we visit are not air-conditioned. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

**Terms & Conditions**

**Deposit & Final Payment**
A $1,000 deposit is required to hold space for this program. Complete and return the attached reservation form or place your deposit online. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

**Cancellations & Refunds**
Deposits and any payments are fully refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply. We recommend trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you.

**Insurance**
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. We strongly recommend that you subscribe to optional baggage and trip-cancellation insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be mailed with your confirmation about one week after we receive your deposit. The product offered in this brochure includes a special Waiver of Pre-Existing Conditions and coverage for Financial Insolvency and Terrorist Acts if you postmark your insurance payment within 15 days of the date listed on the confirmation letter.

**Responsibility**
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and ship arrangements and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. It is understood that the ship’s ticket, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the cruise company. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in November 2011 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50

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Stanford Faculty Leader

Stanford professor of political science Judith Goldstein began teaching classes on the Vietnam War in the early 1980s and became interested in both the course of the war and the influence of the war on domestic politics and values. Today, her research focuses on world trade at local and international levels. She is currently completing a number of projects on the World Trade Organization, including an investigation on how developing nations enter the world trading system. She says, “Almost everything about Southeast Asia inspires passion: the people, the colonial legacy, and a new-found love of Americans. This is a truly unusual place to visit and study.” During our trip, Professor Goldstein will focus on the political problems that remain in these nations as a result of previous ideological conflicts. Her lectures will focus on the origins of these political divisions and the prospects for stability, both political and economic, in these nations in the future.

- At Stanford, the Janet Peck Professor of International Communication and the William and Dorothy Kaye University Fellow in Undergraduate Education
- Senior fellow, by courtesy, at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research and the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies
- Author of Ideas, Interests, and American Trade Policy and The Evolution of the Trade Regime; and co-author of Ideas and Foreign Policy and Legalization and World Politics
- BA, political science, UC-Berkeley
- MA, international affairs, Columbia University
- PhD, political science, UCLA

Reservation Form

Along the Mekong

October 10 to 28, 2012

I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for the program and agree to them.
Signature _________________________________________________________

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:

☐ I wish to have single accommodations.
☐ OR ☐ I plan to share accommodations with ________________________
☐ OR ☐ I’d like to know about possible roommates.

Category Preference:

1st choice: _______________________________________________________
2nd choice: _______________________________________________________

Here is my deposit of $_______ ($1,000 per person) for ____ space(s).

☐ Enclosed is my check (make payable to Stanford Alumni Association) OR
☐ Charge my deposit to my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

CARD # ___________________________ EXPIRES ____________

AUTHORIZED CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE _____________________________ DATE ____________

Mail completed form to address on mail panel or fax to (650) 725-8675 or place your deposit online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?mekong2012. Please submit your reservation only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.
“This was truly a magical adventure: three weeks, three countries, ancient history, modern history, natural geographical features and man-made wonders.”


STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

LUANG PRABANG, LAOS