ALONG THE MEKONG

A NEW LOOK AT VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA

October 8 to 25, 2015
More than two decades ago, Travel/Study began exploring the countries of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Together with 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 Karl Eikenbery, MA ’94, we eagerly anticipate coming away with an ever-deeper understanding of Indochina aboard the elegant MV Jahan. Join us!

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

Highlights

CRUISE down the Mekong River Delta aboard the newly built, intimate MV Jahan.

EXPLORE the UNESCO World Heritage site of Angkor Wat 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, Laos, center of Laotian religious life.

ENJOY two days in cosmopolitan Hanoi, Vietnam, exploring its museums and markets.
Reservation Form
Along the Mekong
October 8 to 25, 2015

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?mekong2015. Please submit your reservation only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.

S T A N F O R D T R A V E L / S T U D Y

"We have been on six Stanford trips and we found Ambassador Eikenberry to be the best lecturer of them all!"

B A R T A N D L A U R I E B R O W N , J A P A N B Y S E A , 2 0 1 3

K A R L E I K E N B E R R Y , M A ’ 9 4 , is the William J. Perry Fellow in International Security at Stanford’s Center for International Security and Cooperation and a faculty member of the Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center. He served as the U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan from 2009 to 2011. His decision to study Mandarin Chinese as a cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1969 set him on a career path that would lead to 12 military and State Department postings in east and central-south Asia over the next four decades. As a soldier and diplomat, he served in times of both war and peace to help further American security interests throughout Asia. During our program, Ambassador Eikenberry looks forward to discussing the modern histories of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, and United States security interests in Southeast Asia from the Second World War through the Vietnam War and up to the present. Ambassador Eikenberry welcomes the opportunity to serve as the faculty leader for this Stanford Travel/Study Program. He has written, “Southeast Asia has played a prominent role in America’s modern history. It has been a source of tragic loss, but now also represents a region of great hope and opportunity.”
Itinerary

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8 & 9
DEPART U.S. / HANOI, VIETNAM
Depart the U.S. on overnight flights to Hanoi, crossing the international date line en route. Arrive in Hanoi on Friday and transfer to our hotel to relax for the rest of the afternoon. HOTEL SOFITEL LEGEND METROPOLE HANOI (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10
HANOI
This morning explore Vietnam’s capital with a visit to Ba Dinh Square, the locale of Ho Chi Minh’s mausoleum and, nearby, his spartan wartime residence. Continue to the Confucian Academy, known as the Temple of Literature and considered Vietnam’s first university. This evening enjoy a welcome reception and dinner. HOTEL SOFITEL LEGEND METROPOLE HANOI (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11
HANOI
Today visit the wonderful 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 at one of the many fine restaurants in Hanoi independently. HOTEL SOFITEL LEGEND METROPOLE HANOI (B,L,D)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12
HANOI / LUANG PRABANG, LAOS
Transfer to the airport for our 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 ritual blessing at our hotel this evening followed by dinner. VILLA SANTI RESORT (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13
LUANG PRABANG
Following breakfast, take an excursion upstream on the Mekong River to visit the Pak Ou Caves located in a limestone cliff opposite the confluence of the Mekong and Ou rivers. The two large caves are repositories for thousands of Buddha images, which range from half an inch to six-and-a-half feet in height. As we travel 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)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14
LUANG PRABANG
Observe the early-morning processions through the streets of Luang Prabang 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)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15
LUANG PRABANG / SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA
Take a morning flight to Siem Reap to visit the crumbling capital of the powerful Khmer kingdom, Angkor, which flourished from the 10th to the 15th century and comprises some 400 sandstone, brick and laterite temples, walls, tombs and other structures surrounded and invaded by jungle. Begin exploring this vast archaeological UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site, starting 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)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16
SIEM REAP
This morning explore one of Angkor’s earliest and most prized sites, Banteay Srei. This temple displays the most beautifully preserved carvings remaining at Angkor in a small and out-of-the-way location. After lunch at our hotel, we conclude our investigation of the area with a visit to Angkor Thom, royal city of the 12th-century god-king Jayavarman VII, which includes Bayon with its 54 intricately carved symmetric towers topped by giant stone faces, the Terrace of the Leper King and Phimeanakas where the god-king made a nightly rendezvous with the sex goddess. GRAND HOTEL D’ANGKOR (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17
SIEM REAP / EMBARK MV JAHAN
Enjoy a morning at leisure before transferring to the port and boarding the MV Jahan, our home for the next seven nights. Spend the evening moored along the shore of Tonle Sap Lake.
MV JAHAN (B,L,D)
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18
TONLE SAP LAKE
Before sunrise, the MV Jahan cruises across Tonle Sap Lake, passing marshlands before exiting the lake. Once on the Tonle Sap River, view spectacular scenery along the riverbanks. Stop to take a memorable motorboat excursion to see the wetlands, floating houses and fish farms of Kampong Chhnang Province. Further downriver take part in an ox-cart rally before being introduced to the MV Jahan's "literacy project." This afternoon cruise further down the Jahan's route, passing marshlands before being introduced to the MV Jahan. (B,L,D)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19
KAMPONG CHAM
This morning we cruise 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 predates the glories of Angkor. Cruise downstream for a post-lunch exploration of the Kampong Cham area, and visit the 12th-century Angkorian temple, Wat Nokor. Back onboard, watch the passing scenery as our ship cruises toward the capital of Phnom Penh. MV JAHAN (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20
PHNOM PENH
Rise early this morning to witness an indescribably bustling scene as we approach the confluence of the Tonle Sap and Mekong rivers and Phnom Penh's river promenade. After breakfast, embark on a city tour in Cambodia's dynamic, historical capital, 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, heart-wrenching reminders of the Khmer Rouge regime on an excursion to the grim Tuol Sleng, or S21, the former detention, torture and execution center during the Cambodian civil war. This evening, attend a performance of traditional Apsara dance. MV JAHAN (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21
MEKONG RIVER
Enjoy a relaxing day aboard our ship as it navigates the main Mekong Channel. Disembark for a short shore visit to Pre-K Touch, a lively jungle village, and well-plotted fruit orchards. Later this afternoon cruise toward the Vietnamese border. MV JAHAN (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22
CHAU DOC, VIETNAM
Disembark for a short excursion around the town of Chau Doc, visiting the local market and a nearby temple. Return to the quay and embark on a boat excursion to nearby floating villages and fish farms where we witness masses of basa (local catfish) being fed by hand. After visiting the village of the local Muslim Cham community, head for the town of Cai Be. MV JAHAN (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23
CAI BE / BA DUC
Today's tour starts with a visit to Cai Be’s colorful floating market via a traditional sampan, the Cai Be Princess. View beautiful Mekong landscapes and observe typical Mekong Delta rural life along the shores of these evergreen islands of the Mekong River that are still unknown to many people. Further stops allow us to observe how rice paste, rice cookies and coconut candies are made and also watch 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 moving toward My Tho. MV JAHAN (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25
HO CHI MINH CITY / U.S.
Transfer this morning to the airport for international flights back to the U.S. (B)
MV Jahan

The 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 for AC, cabin lights and music; tea/coffee set-up; 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 sun beds, 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>DOUBLE</th>
<th>SINGLE**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUPERIOR</td>
<td>$9,495</td>
<td>$10,695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Deck, approx. 322 sq. ft.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DELUXE</td>
<td>$9,995</td>
<td>$11,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Deck, approx. 322 sq. ft.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIGNATURE</td>
<td>$11,495</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Deck and Upper Deck, approx. 345 to 375 sq. ft.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROYAL SUITE</td>
<td>$12,495</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Deck, approx. 550 sq. ft. Butler service, mini-bar, laundry and two free days at the spa are included onboard.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Association nonmembers add $200 per person.
** Single accommodations are limited.
DATES
October 8 to 25, 2015 (18 days)

SIZE
Limited to 48 participants

INCLUDED
9 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations • 7-night cruise aboard the MV Jahan • 16 breakfasts, 15 lunches and 14 dinners • Welcome and farewell receptions • Gratuities to porters, guides, drivers and ship crew for all group activities • All tours and shore excursions as described in the itinerary • Internal flights during program: Vietnam/Laos, 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 internet access, 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 Cathay Pacific Airlines from San Francisco to Hanoi and return from Ho Chi Minh City is approximately $1,300 as of October 2014 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. 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 uneven or do not have handrails. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. Average temperatures in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia range from the high 70s (°F) to the low 90s, and humidity can be more than 70%. Although all of the hotels and motorcoaches included in this program are air-conditioned, other traditional means of transportation and most of the museums, temples, pagodas and ruins we visit are not. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold your space for this program. Complete and return the attached reservation form or sign up 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 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.

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. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be provided to U.S. residents with their welcome materials. The product offered in this brochure includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within a specified window: 14–21 days of the date listed on the welcome letter, depending on your destination and state of residence.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association, as the program cost for nonmembers is $200 more than the members’ price. Parents and their children under 21 may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

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. It is understood that the ship’s ticket, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the cruise company. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. 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 October 2014 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048523-50
“It was a seamless trip with many highlights arranged by Stanford. The hotels were top-notch.”

LOIS CHAPPEL, ’59, ALONG THE MEKONG, 2012

ALONG THE
MEKONG

A NEW LOOK AT VIETNAM,
LAOS AND CAMBODIA

October 8 to 25, 2015

alumni.stanford.edu/goto/travelstudy