“It was a fantastic, fascinating and memorable trip that Stanford facilitated beautifully.”

Lori Cove Land of the Himalaya, 2010

Colors of Bhutan
LAND OF THE THUNDER DRAGON
Featuring the Gom Kora Festival in Trashigang
March 27 to April 13, 2012
I’ll never forget the first time I visited Bhutan with a Stanford group: the people welcomed us with genuine, open smiles and the sky was such a clear, crisp blue it literally took my breath away. One of the world’s most isolated countries, Bhutan still possesses an unparalleled mystique and charm for the intrepid traveler, filled with treasures few tourists ever see. A highlight of our 2012 sojourn is the chance to enter Bhutan from its eastern border and drive through to Paro in the west – a journey seldom undertaken by western visitors. Stanford history professor Mark Mancall, a royal appointee and resident of Bhutan’s capital, Thimphu, guides our understanding of this incredible land and its people. We hope you can join us!

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

Highlights

DISCOVER Bhutan’s seldom visited far eastern section and attend the vibrant Gom Kora Festival in Trashigang

ADMIRE the impressive dzongs (monumental fortresses) and artifact-filled museums in Punakha, Trongsa and Paro

HIKE to the 10,000-foot-high Taktsang (“Tiger’s Nest”) Monastery, perched on a cliff 3,000 feet above the valley floor
Itinerary

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27 & 28
U.S. / KOLKATA, INDIA
Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Kolkata, arriving late Wednesday evening or early Thursday morning. OBEROI GRAND HOTEL

THURSDAY, MARCH 29
KOLKATA
Spend the afternoon sightseeing in Kolkata, including the impressive Victoria Memorial, with its vast collection of artifacts from the days of the British empire; and the Botanical Gardens, with its 200-year-old banyan tree. Join fellow travelers at a welcome reception and dinner this evening.
OBEROI GRAND HOTEL (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, MARCH 31
SAMDRUP JONGKHAR / TRASHIGANG
Spend the day traveling along Bhutan’s national highway through seldom-visited eastern Bhutan. Pass through rolling foothills, over mountain passes and by villages that have changed little for centuries.
RANGJUNG GUEST HOUSE (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, APRIL 1
TRASHIGANG
Partake in the vibrant Gom Kora Festival, one of the most important festivals of eastern Bhutan and a sight rarely seen by westerners. Locals from all over Trashigang District gather to attend the annual festivities centered around the 400-year-old Gom Kora Monastery.
RANGJUNG GUEST HOUSE (B,L,D)

MONDAY, APRIL 2
TRASHIGANG / MONGAR
Visit the Trashigang Dzong, the monastic and administrative headquarters for Trashigang District. Depart for Mongar, stopping en route to see the last of the festivities at the Gom Kora Festival.
DRUK ZhONGAR HOTEL (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, APRIL 3
MONGAR / BUMTHANG
Drive west towards Bumthang, crossing over Thrumsela Pass (12,400 feet above sea level). Look for brightly colored rhododendron flowers in bloom. Arrive in the village of Jakar, a district of four mountain valleys.
GONGKHAR LODGE (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4
BUMTHANG
Explore the area around Bumthang, visiting the royal monastery of Kurjey Lhakhang and stopping at a traditional country house to see how puta (buckwheat noodles) are made and to sample ara, the locally brewed rice wine.
GONGKHAR LODGE (B,L,D)
THURSDAY, APRIL 5
BUMTHANG / TRONGSA
Continue westward to Trongsa. Explore the Trongsa Dzong, the great ancestral home of Bhutan’s royal family, and tour the dzong’s watchtower’s museum, with relics and artifacts from the royal family’s archives.
HOTEL YANGKHILL (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, APRIL 6
TRONGSA / PUNAKHA
Depart for Punakha, stopping to visit the Wangdi Phodrang Dzong. Descend into Punakha Valley and walk through crop fields and villages to visit Chimi Lhakhang, a 15th-century fertility pilgrimage shrine.
ZANGTO PELRI HOTEL (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, APRIL 7
PUNAKHA
An optional morning hike takes us to Khamsum Yuley Namgya Chorten, a monument festooned with colorful images of Guru Rinpoche, “the second Buddha.” Continue to the 17th-century Punakha Dzong, winter fortress of the Je Khenpo, traditional chief hierarch of Bhutanese Buddhism.
ZANGTO PELRI HOTEL (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, APRIL 8
PUNAKHA / THIMPHU
Depart for Thimphu, stopping en route at Dochula Pass (10,200 feet) with its views of the Himalayas on clear days and 108 chortens, small religious monuments that symbolize enlightenment. Visit the Memorial Chorten, which dominates the skyline and overflows with Buddhist iconography.
TAJ TASHI HOTEL (B,L,D)

MONDAY, APRIL 9
THIMPHU
At the Arts and Crafts School, see Bhutanese students learning the traditions of wood carving, painting and weaving, then see examples of weaving and traditional clothing at the National Textile Museum. Enjoy dinner with Bhutanese dignitaries and scholars.
TAJ TASHI HOTEL (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, APRIL 10
THIMPHU / PARO
Visit the Paro Dzong, one of the most beautifully situated fortresses in Bhutan. As the location for the movie, Little Buddha, this dzong is one of the most recognizable in the West. At the National Museum, view historical and cultural exhibits about Bhutan.
ZHWA LING HOTEL (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11
PARO
Hike to the famous Taktsang (“Tiger’s Nest”) Monastery. The sight of the white temples at an elevation of 10,000 feet and clinging to a cliff 3,000 feet above the valley is spectacular. Alternatively, view the monastery from afar, then visit Kyichu, a 7th-century monastery; and Dungtse Lhakhang, housing beautiful wall paintings. Celebrate the conclusion of our adventure at a farewell reception and dinner.
ZHWA LING HOTEL (B,L,D)

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, APRIL 12 & 13
PARO / BANGKOK, THAILAND / U.S.
Depart early Thursday on a flight to Bangkok and check into our airport hotel, connecting to international flights to the U.S. late Thursday evening or Friday morning.
AIRPORT NOVOTEL SUVARNABHUMI (B, BOTH DAYS; L,D, 4/12)
Information

**DATES**
March 27 to April 13, 2012 (18 days)

**SIZE**
Limited to 24 participants

**COST**
- $10,495 per person, double occupancy
- $13,495 per person, single occupancy
*Association nonmembers add $200 per person

**INCLUDED**
- 16 nights of hotel accommodations
- 16 breakfasts, 15 lunches and 15 dinners
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions
- Bottled water on excursions
- Gratuities to porters, guides and drivers for all group activities
- Bhutan and Indian visas for U.S. citizens
- All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary
- Flights between Kolkata and Guwahati on March 30 and Paro and Bangkok on April 12
- Transfers and baggage handling throughout program
- 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

What to Expect

We consider this to be a fairly strenuous program that is at times demanding and busy. Participants must be physically fit and in active good health. Travel in Bhutan puts us at high altitudes, from approximately 5,000 to 12,400 feet above sea level. Daily programs involve several early-morning departures, and most excursions require a considerable amount of walking, often on uneven terrain such as that found at temples and fortresses, where elevators are unavailable and stairs are very steep and may not have handrails. Roads in Bhutan are winding, narrow and often undergoing repair, and our journey at times requires long travel days in small minibuses (up to 8 or 9 hours on the longest days). We make occasional rest stops, but often toilets are not available and nature’s facilities are more inviting and abundant than those that are man-made.

The hotels we use are the best-available; all are clean, safe and comfortable, but a few (with the exception of the hotels in Thimphu and Paro) are considered quite basic by Western standards. We expect that participants will be a self-selecting group whose appreciation for the places we visit outweighs the need for creature comforts. 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 space for Colors of Bhutan. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure.

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.

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 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. 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 June 2011 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.
Mr. / MRS. / MS.  
MISS / DR. / PROF.  
ADDRESS  
CITY / STATE / ZIP  
PHONE  
EMAIL ADDRESS  
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.  

Mark’s expertise and perspective couldn’t be more valuable in helping us learn and begin to understand Bhutan’s history and current state of affairs.”  

cora lee mack, ’72, bhutan suitcase seminar, 2009

reservation form  colors of bhutan

Name        Age        Stanford Class
Name        Age        Stanford Class

Address  
City / State / Zip  
Cell / Work / Home  
Phone  
Email Address  

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.

Here is my deposit of $______ ($1,000 per person) for _____ space(s)  
☐ Enclosed is my check (payable to Stanford Alumni Association)  OR
☐ Charge my deposit to my:  
  ☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ American Express

Card #  
Expiration 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?bhutan2012. Please submit your reservation only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.

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Mark ManCall trained at Harvard University in Chinese studies, specializing in Sino-Russian relations in Siberia and Mongolia. He came to Stanford in 1965 and has taught hundreds of students in such diverse courses as Chinese history, Buddhism, Buddhist social and political theory, South Asian history, the history of socialism and Marxism, and Israeli history. For more than 15 years now, Mark’s primary focus has been in the Himalayan regions of Asia, including India, Bhutan and Tibet. Appointed director of the Royal Education Commission of Bhutan, Mark resides most of the year in Bhutan’s capital, Thimphu. He has led over 35 Travel/Study programs since arriving at Stanford.

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- Founder and director, Stanford Program in Structured Liberal Education (SLE), 1973 – 2007
- Has taught at Harvard University, El Colegio de Mexico and the University of Haifa, Israel
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LORI COVEL CLELLAND, ’77, LANDS OF THE HIMALAYA, 2010