



TRAVEL AND TEACH: CAMBODIA

July 6 – 22, 2008

July 22-27: Optional Buddhist Meditation Retreat and Pilgrimage Tour

The East-West Center's "Travel and Teach" program offers U.S. K-12 teachers the opportunity to develop meaningful real-life connections to world cultures, religions, economies, ecologies, and more through experiential professional learning, enriched by one-on-one interactions with people in local communities.

The 2008 "Travel and Teach" itinerary provides knowledge-enhanced immersion experiences in Cambodia. The program takes a multifaceted approach to exploring the incredible diversity of Southeast Asia, as exemplified by Cambodia. **Application deadline is February 18, 2008.**

Participants will examine Cambodia's international relations as well as social, political and economic power-relations, while looking at the changing power dynamics in the region, in particular the growing importance of China and the role of Western influences, including the U.S., in the history of the region. In addition, they will examine Cambodia's foreign aid relationships and the influence of multiple foreign donors on national policies. Further, the issues of political, social and cultural marginalization, and attitudes of cultural superiority/inferiority within the region will be examined. These issues will be explored through the paradigms of the international media, the education systems in Cambodia, religious institutions, social-service organizations, forums for civic engagement, and from the perspectives of justice, gender, and international relations.

While in Cambodia, participants will have the opportunity to witness an event of international significance as the Khmer Rouge Trials unfold. In doing so, participants will test the dominant frame of reference while examining cross-cultural perspectives on government, citizenship, community and national identity, drawing on the firsthand accounts of Cambodians and specialists consulted with during the program.

Participants will also get a rare glimpse of daily life through a village home stay and contribute to their host community through volunteer teaching and work with local children in a formal classroom environment as well as informal group settings. These experiences will provide participants with multiple ways to "connect" not only with topics and places, but also with individual people in the village. As such, the program offers teachers many options for integrating materials on Asia/Southeast Asia into new or existing curricular units in ways that are authentic and enriched by personal knowledge and experience.

ADD ON: An optional five-day Buddhist meditation retreat and pilgrimage tour will enable participants to discover Cambodian Buddhism, practice meditation, and learn about the daily life of ordained monks as they practice and work alongside monks while teaching children in an orphanage and a school run by monks. In pairs and guided by an individual translator, participants will have the option of visiting pilgrimage sites close by.

Participants should plan to arrive in Phnom Penh on July 5, 2008. Hotel will be provided starting July 5. Accommodations can be arranged at cost for those who wish to arrive a few days earlier.

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July 6: The program begins in Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh, with a welcome and program introduction, where you will meet other participants, program staff, and in-country scholars and regional experts. An afternoon "scavenger hunt" with local student guides will have you exploring aspects of Phnom Penh in small groups. Activity debriefing and a welcome dinner conclude the day.

July 7-11 Through presentations, field trips, and discussions with world-class experts, you will learn first-hand about the dynamism of Southeast Asia and its realities as well as specific aspects of Cambodia, a country still struggling to overcome the legacies of its genocidal past. It is believed that an estimated 1.7 million Cambodians (or nearly one out of four Cambodians) died from starvation, overwork, disease, torture, and execution during 1975-1979, when the Khmer Rouge controlled the country. Our goal in Cambodia is to better understand this tragic past without losing sight of today's Cambodia with its vibrant society.

While in Phnom Penh, we will visit the Toul Sleng Genocide Museum, formerly Tuol Svay Prey High School taken over by Pol Pot's security forces and turned into Security Prison 21 or S-21, which became the largest center of detention and torture for perceived dissidents within the ranks of Khmer Rouge. Between 1975 and 1978, more than 17,000 people were held at S-21, and the detainees who died during torture were buried in mass graves at the "Killing Fields" in Choeung Ek, which we will also visit. Importantly, we will learn about the progress of the Khmer Rouge Trials (formally known as the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, or ECCC for short) by visiting the site of the Trials and meeting with ECCC personnel as well as other UN officials, journalists, and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). To gather a new perspective on Cambodian life, you will team up with Cambodian university students to interview local families in urban and rural settings and hear their hopes and dreams for the future.

July 12-16: We will relocate to a village to experience daily life and culture in Cambodia today. Traveling in smaller groups to three to five different rural communities, you will spend five days living with an English-speaking host family (one participant per family) and volunteer teach at a local English language school. You will job-shadow a family member, meet with international and local NGOs to learn about pressing development issues, and help with a community project. In the process, you will forge meaningful relationships with your Cambodian hosts and develop cross-cultural awareness and understanding of local issues based on personal experiences and interactions.

July 17-21: Following your home stay, you will travel to Siem Reap, a former Khmer Rouge stronghold and home to the spectacular Angkor Wat temple complexes. You will visit the famous Temple of Angkor Wat and other World Heritage sites dating back to from the 9th to 15th century Khmer Empire. You will meet with villagers living in the 'shadow' of Angkor Wat to explore its influence on the Khmer identity not to mention on the village economy and ways of life. You will take a guided excursion to the Tonle Sap Lake, the largest freshwater lake in Southeast Asia (covering 27,000 hectares in dry season and 150,000 hectares during the rainy season), and nearby villages, to learn about the changing ecology and economy of communities that are part of the Mekong River ecosystem and how these changes are affecting families and lifestyles.

- July 22:** For those not doing the optional Buddhist meditation retreat and community service, you will return home on this day.
- July 22-26:** For others, you will spend five days living in a simple temple setting, learning Buddhist chants, rising before dawn for morning meditation, eating one meal a day, helping with temple projects, visiting pilgrimage sites, and experiencing firsthand the life led by ordained monks in Cambodia, further broadening the scope of your exploration of Cambodian culture and society.
- July 27** You will return home with more than new knowledge and skills; you will bring back unforgettable memories and new friendships spanning across cultures.

The program is open to full-time K-12 classroom teachers of any discipline, K-12 school librarians and administrators, and K-12 school/district curriculum coordinators.

Important: All applicants must be committed to engage in pre-program readings, discussions, and reflective writing assignments in the two months preceding the program, and to completing teaching-related program assignments upon their return home.

Participation is offered at the subsidized cost of \$1,350 with East-West Center support and includes all program-related air, land, and river/lake travels in Cambodia, all hotel/housing, host family honoraria, presenter honoraria, interpreters and guides, entrance fees to cultural and historic sites, and at least two meals per day. Program resources and relevant teaching materials will also be provided.

An additional fee of \$400 will cover costs for the Buddhist meditation retreat and community service, including housing, food, individual personal translator and car, supplies, and “merit-making” giving to the temple.

Participants are responsible for travel to/from Cambodia, Cambodian visa (\$20 upon arrival), and airport exit fees (under \$50).

Application deadline is February 18, 2008.

Selection Process: Applicants will be notified of their selection for the program by February 25 and a deposit of \$350 will be due March 10 to reserve a place on the program. This deposit will be non-refundable after April 1.

For more information, contact:

AsiaPacificEd Program
East-West Center
1601 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96848-1601
TEL: 808 944 7378; FAX: 808 944 7070
EMAIL: AsiaPacificEd@EastWestCenter.org
WEBSITES: www.AsiaPacificEd.org; www.EastWestCenter.org