

TRAVEL AND TEACH: CAMBODIA & THAILAND

July 1 – 25, 2007

The East-West Center's "Travel and Teach" program offers U.S. 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 2007 "Travel and Teach" itinerary provides knowledge-enhanced immersion experiences in Cambodia and Thailand. The program takes a multifaceted approach to exploring the incredible diversity of Southeast Asia, as exemplified by Thailand and Cambodia, while enabling participants to make "connections" between these two societies/cultures.

During their time in Cambodia, participants will get a rare glimpse of daily life through a weeklong home stay in a village, where they will have a chance to contribute to their host community through volunteer teaching and work with local children and villagers of all ages in 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.

Participants should plan to arrive in Bangkok on or before June 30, 2007. Hotel will be provided starting June 30. Accommodations can be made for those who wish to arrive a few days earlier.

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- July 1:** The program begins in Bangkok, Thailand with a morning welcome and program introduction, where you will meet other participants, program staff, and in-country scholars and regional experts. An afternoon "scavenger hunt" with student guides will have you exploring aspects of Bangkok in small groups. Activity debriefing and a welcome dinner conclude the day.
- July 2-5:** 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 country-specific issues in Thailand and Cambodia.
- July 5-8:** Depart for 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) 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 while relating it to the fast-changing dynamics of Cambodia today. As such, 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 Tribunal by visiting the site of the Tribunal and interviewing Cambodian Tribunal judges, government staff, UN officials, and journalists as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). To gather a new perspective on Cambodian life as well as on the Tribunal process, 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 8-15:** We will relocate to a village to experience daily life and culture in Cambodia today. Traveling in smaller groups to two or three different rural communities, you will spend a week living with an English-speaking host family (not more than two participants per family) and volunteer teach at a local school. You will job-shadow local teachers to learn about school life, and you will meet with international and/or local NGOs to learn about local development issues and possibly help with a community project. In the process, you will forge meaningful relationships with your Cambodian hosts and develop cross-cultural awareness based on personal interactions.
- July 15-22:** 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. You will also meet with teen monks, as you work alongside them while teaching children in an orphanage and/or community school run by Buddhist monks, further broadening the scope of your exploration of Cambodia today.
- July 22-24:** Return to Bangkok for debriefing and planning for curriculum integration.
- July 25:** 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.

Application deadline has passed.