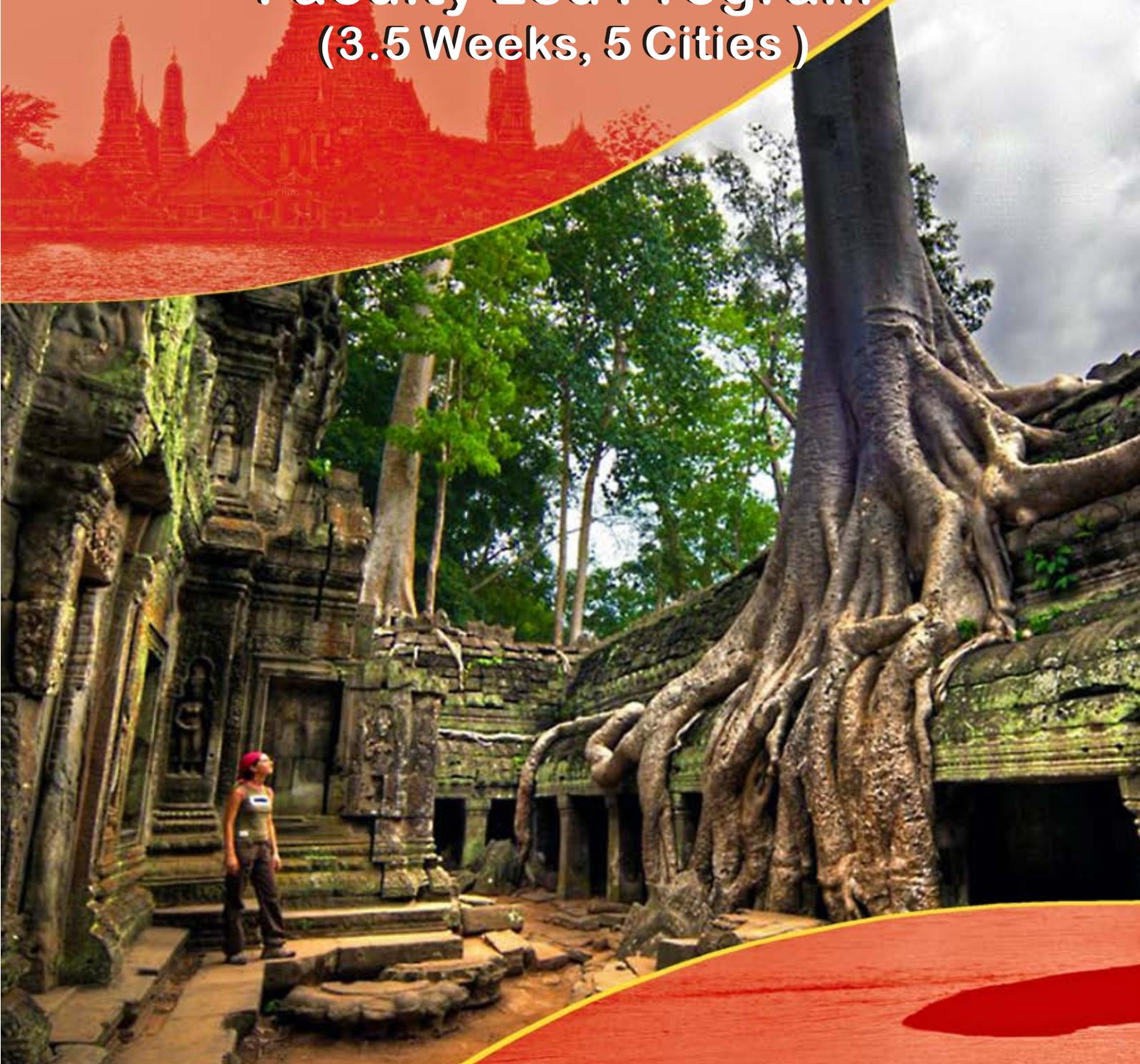


Sample Thailand & Cambodia Faculty Led Program (3.5 Weeks, 5 Cities)



\$ 2885

*for support from two staff,
class space, volunteer
placement, domestic travel,
entrance fees, room & board*



Minds Abroad

Named a "Top Ten Program" by the Center for
Citizen Diplomacy and U.S. State Department



Program Introduction

With their cache of well-preserved temples, dense jungles that have become sanctuaries of endangered animals, immense outdoors, scenic beauty, rich tapestry of cultures, traditions and history, Thailand and Cambodia top the itinerary of every explorer.

Beyond its vast, blue seas laced with coral reefs, Thailand is held in high regard for its shimmering temples and figurines of Buddha rimmed in gold that dominate both rural and urban backdrops. In fact, Buddhism is a way of life for the Thais, as is evident from the giant altars of Buddha in its mountain caves and hill-top temples, the good-luck shrines that decorate every modest noodle-bar and glitzy mall, and the garland festoons, sitting on the dashboard of every car to keep road accidents at bay. No matter what entices travellers from around the world to the country, its history and the way it so effortlessly blends in with the urban mayhem of cities, its pristinely beautiful outdoors, its wild mountainous treks, its tasty cuisines and its animal sanctuaries in dense jungles, are definitely some of its major drawcards. Here, students will step back in time and take a peek into Thailand's past by visiting many of its historical landmarks for which the country has earned a distinct spot on the world map.

Cambodia is home to the former Khmer Empire and some of the world's most phenomenal temples. In fact, the town of Siem Reap is the doorway to this land of fabled temples, where every brick whispers history, narrating stories of lofty human ambitions, unstinted spiritual devotion and battles gone awry. Here, students will come face to face with history, witnessing the ruins of ancient civilizations, their dramatic rise and fall. Besides discerning the history of the place, students will volunteer at a local non-profit organization and attend the classes offered by their faculty-members, most weekday mornings, in Siem Reap.

Components of the Program

Faculty-Led Classes

In Siem Reap, the faculty members accompanying the students on the trip will offer classes on areas of their expertise. These classes will be held on weekday mornings. Minds Abroad will arrange for classroom space, where they can efficiently offer these classes. Our staff will also further assist the instructor with study materials and organizing their classes. We can also arrange for guest lecturers, who can offer classes on issues most relevant to the subject at hand.

Afternoon Volunteer Service Learning at Local Non-Profit Organizations

In Siem Reap, during weekday afternoons, participants will teach English to students in non-profit organizations that are devoted to helping children from a variety of disadvantaged backgrounds. By teaching basic English to these children, participants will indirectly give them the skills that they need to escape poverty. Through this activity, participants will not only have an excellent opportunity to immerse themselves in the local culture, but will also learn about community and developmental issues in a typical city in emerging Asia.

Academic Travel

As a part of this program, over the weekends students will visit fast growing metropolises and sites steeped in history and culture. These trips are described on the following page.



Locations Covered in Our Program

Bangkok, Thailand

Bangkok, with its gold-speckled temples, traditional musical performances, and world-class cuisines, rides high on the world travel list. In order to understand Bangkok, it is necessary to go beyond its commercial call to discover some of the most wondrous cultural and historical gems of the world.

As a part of their Bangkok adventure, students will tour the Grand Palace and Emerald Buddha Temple (Wat Phra Kaew), the most renowned temple in Thailand. Students will also visit Wat Arun, famously known as the Temple of Dawn. They will round off their Bangkok trip with tours of the home of the legendary American adventurer, Jim Thompson, the Wat Traimit that houses an enormous gold statue of Buddha and the Tiger Temple, a sanctuary for wild tigers.

Ayutthaya, Thailand

Ayutthaya, once the capital of the "Siamese" or "Tai" kingdom, boasts of some of the most formidable and awe-inspiring temple ruins of Thai antiquity. Although many temples have been partially restored and salvaged from the ruins, most of them could not withstand the blows of time and as a result, perished. They encompass ancient, lofty Buddhist monasteries and tall prangs (reliquary towers), representing the former glory of the kingdom of Ayutthaya. All these awesome historic ruins are now preserved in Ayutthaya Historical Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Exploring the ruins of this park and taking a trip to one of the renowned elephant camps of the city will be the main highlights of this leg of the trip.

Mueang Kanchanaburi, Thailand

Set against the gorgeous backdrop of undulating sugarcane fields and nestling amid the imposing limestone hills, the serene provincial capital played a major role during the WWII. Here, the Japanese forces captured the Allied prisoners of war (POWs) and sought the help of the local people to construct a dangerous rail route to modern-day Myanmar. This story has been immortalized by the French novelist Pierre Boulle in his novel *The Bridge on the River Kwai*. Besides its rich outdoor appeal and mountains studded with temple caves, Kanchanaburi's claim to fame are its memorials of the dead - the legendary bridge across the River Kwai, a few museums and cemeteries.

Siem Reap, Cambodia

Siem Reap, the capital city of the Siem Reap Province of northwest Cambodia, is the ticket to Angkor Wat, the country's pride and a global icon. It enshrines the majestic relics of the Khmer Empire, including the daunting yet incredibly beautiful Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom, the walled capital of the empire that stares right back in the face. In 802 AD, Jayavarman ascended the throne of Cambodia, laying the foundation stone of the Khmer Empire which flourished for over 600 years. This Hindu kingdom paved the way for Angkor Wat. In Siem Reap, students will not only marvel at the grandeur of these temples, but they will also participate in classes offered by their own faculty and volunteer in local non-profits.

Roluos, Cambodia

Roluos is a modern, small Cambodian town and an archaeological site, located about an hour from Siem Reap. The world-famous cluster of Roluos temples contains some of the most ancient, permanent brick structures, founded during the Khmer Empire. The temples embody the beginning of the classical period of Khmer Empire. Here, students will tour some of its most renowned temples such as the Bakong, Preah Ko and Lolei, unravelling the history and legends behind their edifice.



Calendar

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| | | | | Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 |
| | | | | In Transit | Bangkok | Bangkok |
| | | | | Depart from home country | AM: Arrive at Bangkok PM: Eat a traditional Thai meal for dinner | AM: Grand Palace, Emerald Buddha Temple and Wat Arun PM: The National Museum Evening: Siam Niramit show |
| Day 4 | Day 5 | Day 6 | Day 7 | Day 8 | Day 9 | Day 10 |
| Bangkok | Ayutthaya | Ayutthaya | Mueang Kanchanaburi | Siem Reap | Siem Reap | Roluos |
| AM: The home of Jim Thompson PM: Wat Trimitr Evening: Travel to Ayutthaya | AM: Elephant camp PM: Spend some time with the animals | AM: Wat Yai Chaimongkhon PM: Ayutthaya Historical Park Evening: Take a train back to Bangkok. | AM: River Kwai PM: Tiger Temple, Rehabilitation and rescue center for wild animals Evening: Travel back to Bangkok | AM: Journey to Siem Reap, brief stop at Aranyaprathet and Poipet PM: Arrive at Siem Reap | AM: Angkor Thom, explore the Terrace of the Elephants PM: The Angkor Archaeological Park Evening: Hike up to Phnom Bakheng | AM: Angkor Wat PM: Sra Srang Evening: Banteay Kdei |
| Day 11 | Day 12 | Day 13 | Day 14 | Day 15 | Day 16 | Day 17 |
| Siem Reap | Siem Reap | Siem Reap | Siem Reap | Siem Reap | Siem Reap | Siem Reap |
| AM: Faculty-led class PM: Volunteer at a local non-profit organization | AM: Faculty-led class PM: Volunteer at a local non-profit organization | AM: Faculty-led class PM: Volunteer at a local non-profit organization | AM: Faculty-led class PM: Volunteer at a local non-profit organization | AM: Faculty-led class PM: Volunteer at a local non-profit organization | AM & PM: Visit the floating villages of Chong Kneas | AM: Cambodia Landmine Museum PM: Banteay Srei Butterfly Center |
| Day 18 | Day 19 | Day 20 | Day 21 | Day 22 | Day 23 | Day 24 |
| Siem Reap | Siem Reap | Siem Reap | Siem Reap | Bangkok | Bangkok | Home Country |
| AM: Faculty-led class PM: Volunteer at a local non-profit organization | AM: Faculty-led class PM: Volunteer at a local non-profit organization | AM: Faculty-led class PM: Volunteer at a local non-profit organization | AM: Faculty-led class PM: Volunteer at a local non-profit organization | AM: Students will travel to Bangkok Evening: View exotic, rare orchids and flowers | Depart from Bangkok | Arrive back in home country |