THAILAND AND CAMBODIA:
An Overland Journey Across The Two Kingdoms
JANUARY 20 – 30, 2018

Trip Extension: THE KINGDOM OF LAOS
JANUARY 30 – FEBRUARY 3, 2018
Dear Smith College Traveler,

I invite you to join Andy Rotman and Janna White on a journey that will begin in Bangkok, the “City of Angels” where we will not only discover the city’s highlights but will spend time in magnificent private mansions, enjoy a lecture and drinks in the exquisite home of a silk merchant and give alms in a quiet neighborhood monastery.

We then travel across Thailand’s countryside and will reach Ayutthaya, its ancient capital and a UNESCO World Heritage Site with its historic monuments scattered around. As we continue, the jungle of Khao Yai awaits where tigers, leopards, elephants and bears still roam in the wild. We will visit the nearby vineyard situated in a beautiful valley spread out over 400 hectares for a chance to taste some of Thailand’s finest wine.

As we cross into the Kingdom of Cambodia on the Ancient Khmer Highway, we will soon reach the majestic temples of Angkor, ornamented by the finest artisans of its time, and representing the height of the extraordinary Khmer creativity. Sunrise at Angkor is unforgettable as the sounds of the surrounding jungle come alive. Spend the days exploring the temples which were once lost beneath the sands of time only to be re-discovered at the opening of the last century!

We anticipate that interest in this well-paced, vibrant program will be strong. Contact Smith Travel at (800) 225-2029 or alumtrav@smith.edu to reserve your space today.

With kindest regards,

Elizabeth Bigwood, Director, Smith Travel

Smith Lecturers

Andy Rotman is a professor of Religion, Buddhist Studies, and South Asian Studies at Smith College, where he has been teaching for the past fifteen years. Andy specializes in the cultural history of Buddhism and Hinduism, and he teaches a wide range of courses about religious life in South Asia. Andy has spent many years living in the subcontinent and speaks a number of vernacular and classical languages. His next book, which will be published in 2017, is a second volume of translations from the Divyāvadāna, one of the most important collections of ancient Buddhist narratives.

Janna White (’07) is a writer and editor specializing in South Asian and Buddhist materials. She has been living and working in Asia intermittently since 2005, including time as a consultant to a study abroad program in India and as a travel-writing fellow sponsored by the National Geographic Society. She is also Academic Programs Coordinator for the Five College Consortium. Janna is the co-editor of a volume on the intersections of Western science and Tibetan Buddhism, The Monastery and the Microscope: Conversations with the Dalai Lama on Mind, Mindfulness, and the Nature of Reality, published by Yale University Press in 2017.
**DAY 1 | SATURDAY, JANUARY 20**

**BANGKOK**

Upon arrival in Bangkok you will be met and transferred to the Riva Surya Hotel.

*Riva Surya Hotel (Meals Aloft)*

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**DAY 2 | SUNDAY, JANUARY 21**

**BANGKOK**

We start the day with a faculty/staff introduction meeting before we set out on a full day tour of the “City of Angels”. Tucked amidst the glamorous architecture of the city are some of its historically most important sites such as the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, the most revered shrine in Thailand and Wat Pho, home to a center for meditation and a traditional Thai massage school. A stroll through the Amulet Market proceeds our visit to a quiet neighborhood temple for a private blessing to end our first day. Enjoy a sumptuous traditional Thai welcome dinner this evening.

*Riva Surya Hotel (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*

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**DAY 3 | MONDAY, JANUARY 22**

**BANGKOK**

We start early this morning to witness the city come alive as we travel by private longtail boat through Bangkok’s maze of canals before returning to the hotel for breakfast. Today’s itinerary is highlighted by two exclusive visits beginning at the eclectic mansion of the Prasart Art Museum owned by a wealthy entrepreneur and art lover. A midday visit takes us back to the river for a tour of Wat Arun, the striking Temple of Dawn before we travel by boat and skytrain to the famous Jim Thompson House in time for a private after-hours tour and cocktails. American business man, Jim Thompson is credited with having saved Thailand’s now flourishing silk industry. His home is full of Asian art and exquisite teak furniture.

*Riva Surya Hotel (Breakfast, Lunch)*

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**DAY 4 | TUESDAY, JANUARY 23**

**BANGKOK/KHAO YAI NATIONAL PARK**

The overland journey begins as we depart Bangkok for Ayutthaya, the ancient capital of Siam and once a splendid city, home to thirty-three kings of various dynasties. This historical park with its hundreds of temples and monuments (some dating back to the 15th century) is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After a riverside lunch, our drive will take us to the dense tropical jungle of Khao Yai, Thailand’s oldest park, and considered by many to be the finest in the world. It provides habitat for elephants, tigers, leopards and the Asiatic black bear.

*Escape Khao Yai Hotel (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*

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**DAY 5 | WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24**

**KHAO YAI NATIONAL PARK**

We meet the founder of Khao Yai Nature Life, a renowned nature expert for a lecture on the park’s wildlife and history. By mid-morning we set out to spend the day in the park stopping at Haew Narok waterfall, the starting point for our jungle walk in search for wildlife. A drive to the top of one of the highest mountains allows for a 360-degree view of the surroundings. As the sun sets, we might see the herd of wild elephants come for their daily salt lick. Dinner this evening will be accompanied by a wine tasting in one of Thailand’s most beautiful wineries.

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**DAY 6 | THURSDAY, JANUARY 25**

**KHAO YAI NATIONAL PARK/BURIRAM**

On our way to the Cambodian border we will stop at Phimal Historical Park, which marks the end of the Ancient Khmer Highway from Angkor. Many of the monuments and buildings here date from the late 11th to the 12th century and were built in the Bayon and Angkor Wat style. Today’s final destination is Buriram and Phanom Rung, what many consider to be the most spectacular Angkor monument within Thailand.

*Hotel De L’Amour Buriram (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)*

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**DAY 7 | FRIDAY, JANUARY 26**

**BURIRAM/SIEM REAP**

This morning we cross the border into Cambodia at the dusty border town of Along Veng, perched on a plateau overlooking the vast flatlands of the country. It is also the final resting place of the infamous Khmer Rouge leader, Pol Pot. As we make our way to Siem Reap we will have a chance to visit the Cambodian Landmine Museum, Prevention and Rehabilitation Center, made famous by the Princess Diana Foundation. We stop for a village lunch before making our way to Siem Reap, home to Indochina’s most magnificent sites, the temples of Angkor, ornamented by the finest artisans of their time and once redolent with incense and prayer.

*Shinta Mani Resort (B, L)*
DAY 8 | SATURDAY, JANUARY 27
SIEM REAP
A sunrise at Angkor is an unforgettable sight and the perfect place to experience it is the lake temple of Srah Srang when the surroundings come alive and the sun comes up over the “kings bath” with the fabulous jungle temple of Ta Prohm behind us. We visit Ta Prohm before the crowds arrive and return to the hotel for breakfast.

Our day will be spent inside the Angkor complex visiting the most important temples such as the Bayon, the Baphoun and of course, Angkor Wat, one of mankind’s greatest achievements demonstrating the skill of the Khmer builders. As the sun sets, we gather at the ancient city wall and enjoy the ambiance as tour buses give way to the sounds of the cicadas in the grass and the frogs in the lotus ponds.

Shinta Mani Resort (B,L,D)

DAY 9 | SUNDAY, JANUARY 28
SIEM REAP
This morning’s excursion takes us to the Rolous Group Temples, the remains of the first major capital of the Angkoiran-era Empire. We continue on a traditional ox-cart ride through the countryside and villages until we arrive at a local Khmer house for a privately catered lunch. Afterwards, we will meet with Dr. Damian Evans, Deputy Director of the Greater Angkor Project for a talk on the great temple complexes of Cambodia. He was listed by Foreign Policy magazine as one of the 100 Leading Global Thinkers of 2013.

Shinta Mani Resort (B,L)

DAY 10 | MONDAY, JANUARY 29
SIEM REAP
We leave the archaeological landscape of Angkor behind as we depart for the stilted village of Kampong Pluk and a boat trip through the mysterious flooded forest. Lunch will be served in a beautiful ancient Khmer House before we drive to the pink sandstone temple of Banteay Srei, the most exquisite and best-preserved example of classical Khmer architecture. We arrive back in Siem Reap for a tour of the Angkor National Museum and celebrate the end of our journey this evening with a festive farewell dinner at Chanrey Tree Restaurant.

Shinta Mani Resort (B,L,D)

DAY 11 | TUESDAY, JANUARY 30
DEPARTURE
You will be transferred to the airport in time for your departure flight.

(B)

TOUR COST $4,870 per person based on double occupancy
For a detailed itinerary and additional information on this journey through Vietnam and Cambodia, please contact Smith Travel at (800) 225 2029 or email alumtrav@smith.edu.

TRIP EXTENSION:
THE KINGDOM OF LAOS
JANUARY 30 – FEBRUARY 3, 2018
Continue on a three-night extension to Southeast Asia’s “Shangri-La”: the Kingdom of Laos, for a chance to walk through an ancient town of Buddhist Temples, a trip to the famous Pak Ou Caves and a visit to some of the country’s most colorful hilltribe villages.

TRIP PRICE
$1,100 (inclusive airfare and overnight in Bangkok on February 2nd)
$850 (ending in Luang Prabang February 2nd)
REsERVaTION foRM
Please make your check payable to Authentic Asia Tours and Travel and mail it to:
Smith Travel, Office of Alumnae Relations, 33 Elm Street
Northampton, MA 01063 or fax the credit card form to 413-585-2015. For more information, please contact Smith Travel at (800) 225-2029 or at alumtrav@smith.edu.

Payment
☒ Enclosed is my check for $ ___________ ($1,000 per person), payable to Authentic Asia), to reserve______ places on the journey to Thailand and Cambodia. OR
☒ Please charge the deposit to my:
☒ VISA ☒ MasterCard ☒ AmEX

CARD NUMBER ___________________________ EXP. DATE ___________ SECURITY CODE ___________

CARD HOLDER SIGNATURE ________________________________

I/We understand that the final payment is due November 22, 2017, 60 days prior to departure. For registrations received after November, 22, 2017, full payment is due.
Your trip deposit is non refundable!

NAME #1 (as listed in passport) ___________________________ Smith Affiliation ___________________________

NAME #1 (as it should appear on name badge) ___________________________

NAME #2 (as listed in passport) ___________________________ Smith Affiliation ___________________________

NAME #2 (as it should appear on name badge) ___________________________

STREET ADDRESS ___________________________ City ___________________________ State ___________________________ Zip/Postal Code ___________________________

PHONE (Home/Cell) ___________________________ PHONE (Work) ___________________________

EMAIL ___________________________ FAX ___________________________

Accommodations
☒ Double/Share ☒ Single (Single Room Supplement $890 )

I/We have agreed to read the tour itinerary and information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions as stated therein.

SIGNATURE ___________________________ DATE ___________________________

SIGNATURE ___________________________ DATE ___________________________
Tour Cost $4,870 per person based on double occupancy

Included are: All accommodations as listed; all meals as listed; individual airport transfers in Bangkok and Siem Reap; tea and coffee with all meals; bottled water with all meals and during all sightseeing; soda and juice drinks with all meals; domestic beer and wine with dinner; all sightseeing and entrance fees; gratuities to guides, drivers and porters and wait staff; Cambodian visa fee; service of a professional tour manager and national Thai/Cambodian guides; talks/lectures by Professor Andy Rotman.

Not included are: U.S. domestic and international airfare in and out of Thailand/Cambodia; trip cancellation/baggage insurance, excess baggage fees; items of purely personal nature and those not expressly mentioned as included.

Size: This departure is limited to a maximum of 20 paying participants.

What to expect: This trip does involve a certain amount of physical activity such as moderate walking, stair climbing, walking on uneven surfaces and getting in and out of boats. Travelers must be in good physical health in order to fully participate in the tour.

Reservations & Payments: To reserve a space, return the completed reservation form with your $1,000 per person deposit to: Smith Travel, Office of Alumnae Relations, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063 or fax the credit card form to 413-585-2015. Balance of payment is due 60 days prior to departure. Personal checks should be made payable to our tour operator Authentic Asia Tours and Travel. VISA, MasterCard and American Express are also accepted. Reservations will be processed in order of receipt. Your trip deposit is non-refundable!

Cancellation Policy and Refund: The trip deposit of $1,000 is non-refundable.

No refund shall be issued after the tour has commenced, or for leaving the tour early. No refunds shall be issued for missed meals, sightseeing or any unused services.

Responsibility: Tour participants assume the responsibility to select a tour that is appropriate for his or her abilities and health. Authentic Asia acts only in the capacity of agents for the hotels, airlines, bus and ship lines or owners of contractors providing accommodations, transportation or other services. As a result, all coupons, receipts or tickets are issued subject to the terms and conditions specified by the supplier. By acceptance of tour membership, the participant agrees that neither Authentic Asia nor Smith College nor any of its subsidiaries shall become liable or responsible for personal injury or illness, damage to person or property, loss, delay or irregularity caused by person not controlled by it, such as (without limitation) airlines, bus and shipping companies, suppliers of accommodations or other services, or resulting from any acts of God, defects in vehicles, strikes, wars, whether declared or otherwise, civil disturbances, medical or customs regulations, acts of terrorism, epidemics, government restrictions, criminal or negligent acts, weather, or any other circumstances over which Authentic Asia and Smith College have no control. Authentic Asia and Smith College are not responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the participants as a result of the above mentioned causes.

Tour participant acknowledges receipt of a copy of these terms and conditions and signifies acceptance of, and consents to all of the terms and conditions set forth herein, when registering for the tour, or making payments on this tour.

Disclaimer: Please note that Smith College does not conduct tours, nor does it act as an agent for guests interested in tours. Smith Travel acts as a facilitator with tour operators, with whom tour participants make arrangements for completing travel, and is pleased to act as a liaison with tour operators should you have any questions that may arise before, during or after your tour. Smith Travel encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with the tour operator’s cancellation and refund policy, and also to investigate available services such as trip cancellation insurance. Insurance information will be sent to you by Smith Travel once your registration and deposit have been confirmed. Smith Travel is not responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements or for losses or additional expenses resulting from travel.