

## ***Trip Itinerary - Judy and Jerry Porter***

January 6 - January 25, 2012

### **Friday, Jan. 6, 2012**

Leave home and drive to Dulles Airport

*Overnight at Washington Dulles Airport Marriott 45020 Aviation Drive,  
Dulles, Virginia 20166 USA Phone: 1-703-471-9500 Fax: 1-703-661-8714  
Confirmation Number: 82664622*

### **Saturday, Jan. 7, 2012**

**Orbitz record locator:** AP110101MN2PCCS3  
**Airline record locator:** Continental Airlines - HLPVGE  
All Nippon Airways - BDG7U2  
United Airlines - LTL02Q  
**Ticket numbers:** 0058706565385-386

**Continental Airlines 9681** Economy | Boeing 777 (777) | 14hr 5min |  
Operated by: ALL NIPPON -- NH 1.

Depart: **11:20am** Washington, DC [Washington Dulles Intl \(IAD\)](#)

Arrive: **3:25pm** Tokyo, Japan Tokyo Narita (NRT)

Seats: 34D, 34F

**Change planes.** Time between flights: **3hr 5min**

**All Nippon Airways 7055** Economy | Boeing 777 (777) | Dinner | 7hr 10min |  
Operated by: UNITED AIRLINES -- UA 803. Please check in with the operating carrier.

Depart: **6:30pm** Tokyo, Japan Tokyo Narita (NRT)

Arrive: **11:40pm** Bangkok, Thailand Bangkok Suvarnabhumi International Airport (BKK)

Seats: 37C, 37D

Total duration: 24hr 20min

### **Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012**

On arrival, transfer to hotel.

*Overnight at the Novotel Suvarnabhumi Airport Hotel (Superior Room) –  
Bangkok. This modern, well-appointed hotel is conveniently located within  
a 10 minute walk or a short 24-hour shuttle bus ride from Bangkok's brand  
new international airport terminal.*

## **Monday, Jan. 9, 2012**

*Meals Provided: B L D*

This morning we'll transfer to the domestic terminal for our flight to Chiang Rai.

*Fly Bangkok (BKK) to Chiang Rai (CEI) on Thai Airways International TG 130, departing 08:15, arriving 09:35*

*Economy Class*

On arrival, transfer to the historic old city of Chiang Saen, with its ancient walls, interesting museum and numerous temples. En route you'll have a chance to view the mighty Mekong River from Wat Chom Kitti and peer far into bucolic Laos. We'll enjoy lunch at the hotel. Afterward, enjoy some free time to rest and relax before reconvening for a welcome dinner tonight.

Overnight at the Anantara Resort & Spa Golden Triangle (Deluxe Room) - Chiang Saen

## **Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2012**

*Meals Provided: B L D*

This morning, meet our chef for today's Northern Thai-style cooking class at your resort. Visit the local market to collect ingredients and enjoy a taste of traditional Thai coffee with the locals. As you shop the chef will explain the vegetables, spices and herbs used in local dishes. Then visit the resort's vegetable and herb gardens and learn how the day's ingredients are grown. Back in the class, join the chef in a fun, informal demonstration of traditional techniques. Then prepare the same dishes with the chef's careful guidance. Enjoy your own cooking creations for lunch.

This afternoon visit the Hall of Opium, an excellent museum focusing on the history of the Golden Triangle and the opium trade. Then explore the Golden Triangle area, a place of spectacular beauty near the borders of Thailand, Laos and Burma. Stop at Doi Tung, a mountain with wonderful views of the surrounding countryside, visit the impressive Mae Fah

Luang flower garden, the Royal Villa and the beautiful Wat Prathat Doi Tung. Next, stop at the Burmese border town of Mae Sai, known in times past for its opium, smugglers and renegade bandits. Now it is a tranquil hamlet where the cultures of the Thai and Burmese peoples intersect. Enjoy dinner at the hotel.

Overnight at the Anantara Resort & Spa Golden Triangle (Deluxe Room) - Chiang Saen

## **Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2012**

*Meals Provided: B L D*

This morning after breakfast we'll drive to the Thailand and Lao border to cross in to Laos by small river boat. Continue driving to Luang Namtha stopping on the way at Vieng Phoukha. Arrive at Ban Nammang, a traditional Khmu village, where our village-based guide joins us. From Nammang, we ascend through rice fields and into a district forest conservation area. Atop the mountain ridge, we'll explore the forest, absorbing the sites and sounds. This area attracts many bird species with its fruit-bearing fig trees. Local guides will help you recognize the tracks of wild animals. While moving through the forest, learn about common plants used by the Khmu people. The guides will collect edible plants to add to our picnic lunch in the forest. Descend to the plains.

Visit the important cultural sites in the area such as the Ancient City, Ku Vieng, Mahapot Stupa and Wat Mahapot, remnants of a civilization that dominated this area more than four hundred years ago. Continue to Luang Namtha. We'll enjoy dinner at Hueang Lao. Overnight at the Boatlanding Guesthouse (Standard Room) - Luang Namtha

## **Thursday, Jan. 12, 2012**

*Meals Provided: B L D*

Drive to Muang La, arriving early this afternoon. Walk the short distance to Wat Chiao Pha Kham Sing, a famous temple housing a sacred Buddha statue. This afternoon partake in a traditional *baci* welcoming ceremony, which beckons the spirits of good luck. Then take a pre-dinner soak in the hot-spring-fed tub at the Muang La Resort.

Overnight at the Muang La Resort (Superior Room) - Muang La

## **Friday, Jan. 13, 2012**

*Meals Provided: B L D*

Depart on a full day exploration of the surrounding countryside by 4WD and on foot. Drive to an extremely remote Akha village perched atop a mountain at just over three thousand feet. A sea of fog often blankets the lower valley, making for striking views. The Akha tribal people who inhabit this area are one of the most unassimilated minorities in Southeast Asia. They live very traditional lives dominated by farming and weaving. Their women wear distinctive colorful headdress adorned with large silver coins, displaying the family's wealth. We will visit with the locals in their village and perhaps be invited into a home. Keep your cameras out of sight—mothers guard their children from the lens, believing a photo steals a piece of a child's soul. We'll perhaps enjoy a cup of tea or even be offered a draught of the locally made firewater (not for the faint of heart!). Don't be surprised to find pigs, ducks and chickens roaming around your table in the "dining room"—livestock move about freely throughout the village. Watch how the locals spin and dye cotton to make their clothing. With the nearest town being two days walk away, nearly everything consumed in the village is locally produced. This visit is a glimpse into a way of life that has existed in Southeast Asia for centuries, one that is fading from the modern world at a rapid rate as remote tribes are engulfed in the modern global pop-information culture. After a picnic lunch depart on an easy hour-long hike to a traditional Hmong village where you will have a chance to meet the inhabitants and observe their distinct traditional culture. Return to our resort where the natural hot spring tub and sauna await. Savor another dinner on the resort's open-air terrace.

Overnight at the Muang La Resort (Superior Room) - Muang La

## **Saturday, Jan. 14, 2012**

*Meals Provided: B L*

Drive to Muang Khua and board river boats for a four-hour journey down the Nam Ou River to Nong Khiow. After arrival in Nong Khiow drive to Luang Prabang. We'll stop along the way to visit villages. There is an enclave of abandoned cave dwellings outside of Muang Ngoi—locals lived for years in this underground labyrinth to avoid

bombings during the U.S. invasion of Laos in the 1960s, emerging only at night to tend to their fields and livestock. The evening will be free.

Overnight at the Villa Maly (Superior Room) - Luang Prabang

*Set amidst tranquil gardens, the luxurious Villa Maly enjoys an excellent location in the heart of the city, within walking distance of the main historic attractions. Formerly the residence of nobility, it showcases original 1920's-era splendor, evoking a sensual French-colonial past. Outstanding rooms subtly incorporate time-honored Laotian architecture, rich hues and textures, and modern amenities.*

## **Sunday, Jan. 15, 2012**

*Meals Provided: B L D*

Today we'll enjoy a walking tour of Luang Prabang, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Visit Wat Visoun, Wat Xieng Thong, Wat Mai, and the Traditional Arts and Ethnology Center, a non-profit museum dedicated to the ethnic cultures in Laos. A delicious lunch awaits at the acclaimed L'Elephant Restaurant. The afternoon is free to relax and explore on your own. Reconvene for dinner and a traditional Lao dance performance at a favorite local restaurant.

Overnight at the Villa Maly (Superior Room) - Luang Prabang

## **Monday, Jan. 16, 2012**

*Meals Provided: B L*

Early risers will have a chance to witness a moving ritual—as long lines of barefoot monks walk silently along the streets on their morning alms rounds, watch locals offer alms. This represents a symbiosis in which rice sustains the monks' bodies, while the monks' prayers nourish the spirit of those giving the rice. Nearly all Laotian boys enter the monkhood for a period of time during late childhood, where they live in a monastery and study Buddhism. Note: please observe at a respectful distance and silence while witnessing this ancient, sacred ceremony. After breakfast, depart for a visit to the Elephant Park Project and several surrounding villages amidst unspoiled valleys. Although historically known as the "Land of a Million Elephants," Laos is gradually losing its most treasured animals to human encroachment. The Elephant Park Project is investing in community-based eco-programs to give Lao elephants a new home. Experienced *mahouts* (trainers and care-givers) and veterinarians help the elephants adapt to their new environment. Climb atop your elephant and venture into the beautiful Lao countryside, stopping at the cascade falls of Tad Sae. After lunch enjoy an (optional) afternoon half-day hike to an ethnic Khmu village to gain insight into the daily life and culture of this hill tribe. The village is nestled at the foot of the nearby mountains. Most of the people here are farmers and fishermen and live close to the land. For those wanting to forego the village hike, we will arrange transport back to our hotel after lunch, with the rest of the day free to relax or explore on own.

Overnight at the Villa Maly (Superior Room) - Luang Prabang

## **Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2012**

*Meals Provided: B L D*

This morning we'll transfer to the airport for our flight to Siem Reap, Cambodia.  
*Fly Luang Prabang (LPQ) to Siem Reap (REP) on Lao Airlines QV 513, departing 10:50, arriving 14:20 Economy Class*

We'll get checked in and enjoy lunch at our hotel. Then depart on an afternoon exploration of Angkor, on a par with the Pyramids of Egypt as a testament to the greatest of a lost empire. We will focus on the fortified city of Angkor Thom built by the greatest Khmer king, Jayavarman VII, who ruled from 1181 AD to 1201 AD. Explore some of Angkor's most awe-inspiring sights, including the Bayon, Baphuon, Phimeanakas, and the Terraces of the Elephants and Leper King. This evening dinner will feature a classical Khmer apsara dance, featuring the same stylized movements that are depicted in the ancient Khmer carvings of Angkor.

Overnight at La Residence D'Angkor (Royal Deluxe Riverside) - Siem Reap  
*Located on the river and built in Khmer style, this intimate luxury hotel is a haven of tranquility, comfort, artistry and beauty. The hotel is surrounded by lush verdant gardens and boasts a refreshing salt water pool.*

## **Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2012**

*Meals Provided: B L*

Depart before dawn for Angkor Wat and prepare to be floored: this is the largest and most breathtaking monument of the vast Khmer Empire. Built as the funerary temple for Suryavarman II, who ruled from 1112 to 1152, the complex is awe-inspiring for its monumental scale, surreal bas reliefs and unbelievable attention to detail. Spend the morning exploring one of humankind's most magnificent creations. Return to the hotel for a late breakfast and some time to relax. Enjoy lunch at our beautiful hotel. Late this afternoon continue to Banteay Srei, which for many years was off limits due to its remote location and Khmer Rouge activity. Built in the late 10th century and dedicated to Shiva, Banteay Srei's pink limestone walls contain the best-preserved bas relief carvings of any temple at Angkor. Then visit Ta Phrom in the soft afternoon light. Built in 1186 and dedicated to the mother of Jayavarman VII, Ta Phrom is a temple of towers, closed courtyards and narrow corridors. Unlike the other temples of Angkor, Ta Phrom has been left to the elements and looks very much like the other temples must have looked when "discovered" by the Frenchman Henri Mouhot in the 1860s. Return to Siem Reap early this evening with the remainder of the evening free.

Overnight at La Residence D'Angkor (Royal Deluxe Riverside) - Siem Reap

## **Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012**

*Meals Provided: B L D*

This morning we drive to Beng Mealea, a seldom-visited ruin. This spectacular jungle temple is located about 40 kms north of Siem Reap. It was constructed during the reign of King Jayarvaman VII and surpasses even the famous Ta Phrom for atmosphere. Continue to Kompong Kdei, leaving the crowds far behind, striking out along the newly constructed Kambor Or road where few travelers have trodden. This gravel road leads

through beautiful, traditional typical Cambodian countryside. We will stop along the way at small traditional villages that almost never see a visitor. Enjoy a picnic lunch along the way. Stop at Spean Thmor Kambor Or and Spean Praptos, two impressive bridges from the Angkor period. Arrive in Kompong Thom in time for dinner.

Overnight at the Sambor Village (Deluxe Room) - Kompong Thom

## **Friday, Jan. 20, 2012**

*Meals Provided: B L D*

After breakfast head out on unpaved roads to the hidden jewel that is Sambor Prei Kuk. This was the capital of the Chenla Kingdom which predates Angkor by several centuries. This treasure-trove of ancient monuments is spread out over a vast distance and remains almost unknown to the outside world—it's as though portions of the Acropolis were newly unearthed, and you were the only one around exploring. The whole area could pass for an Indiana Jones movie set if it weren't so completely authentic. Scores of 7th century temple ruins stand silently in the forest, the roots of giant kapok trees wrapped around their elaborate Hindu carvings. Monkeys scamper through their inner chambers, and wild parrots fly overhead. These lost temples exude a serene ambience, and an intoxicating sense of mystery. Japan's Waseda University has been involved in the preservation of Sambor Prei Kuk since 1994. You will witness their restoration and excavation work. An expert guide will accompany you during the visit of the three main sanctuaries of Sambor Prei Kuk, Prasat Sambor Prasat Tao and Prasat Yeai Poeun. Enjoy a lunch amidst the ruins at local restaurant in Prei Kuk, then visit with local people. We will visit several handicraft shops that specialize in stone carving and weaving. We will also visit a high school that is funded by the Thai royal family.

Overnight at the Sambor Village (Deluxe Room) - Kompong Thom

## **Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012**

*Meals Provided: B L*

Drive to Phnom Penh, arriving in the early afternoon. Once considered the loveliest of the French built cities of Indochina, its charm, while diminished, has managed to survive the violence of its recent Khmer Rouge history. Enjoy lunch at a favorite local restaurant. Then visit the National Museum with its huge collection of Khmer sculpture and artifacts recovered from Angkor. Continue to the adjacent Silver Pagoda. Although some 60% of the pagoda's contents were destroyed under Pol Pot, what remains is spectacular. This is one of the best places in all of Cambodia where objects embodying some of the brilliance of the Khmer civilization can still be viewed. Transfer back to your hotel with the remainder of the evening free.

Overnight at Le Royal (Landmark Room) - Phnom Penh

*This historic hotel is Phnom Penh's most prestigious address. It gracefully melds Khmer, Art Deco and French colonial architecture and design influences. Located in the heart of the city.*

## **Sunday, Jan. 22, 2012**

*Meals Provided: B L D*

Visit the Russian and Central Markets. Then take an excursion to the infamous Tuol Sleng Prison, the Khmer Rouge prison camp that was located in a high school. Glimpse the devastating horrors that prevailed during Cambodia's ultra-radical Marxist movement, when the country started at Year Zero in 1975, and Pol Pot became the Number One Brother. This visit may prove distressing; it is nothing if not graphic. The life-size photos of the faces of the tortured prisoners at Tuol Slung are among the most haunting sights to be encountered anywhere on earth. It is, however, a crucial piece of this country's 20th-century historical puzzle. After lunch drive to 4 Rivers Eco Lodge.

Overnight at the 4 Rivers Floating Eco Lodge (Guesthouse) - Tatal Villiage

*This environmentally friendly resort offers an immersion in tranquility and luxury from the unusual perspective of tented bungalows that float on a calm river. High-end facilities and the amenities of a boutique resort await the few who venture into the Cambodian countryside for a stay.*

## **Monday, Jan. 23, 2012**

*Meals Provided: B L D*

Today you may opt to visit the Tatai Waterfall, where a stunning cascade of fresh water tumbles into natural swimming pools. Or take an excursion to Koh Sralau, a traditional fishing village surrounding by mangroves where you can kayak through narrow channels. Tonight we reconvene for our farewell dinner.

Overnight at the 4 Rivers Floating Eco Lodge (Guesthouse) - Tatal Villiage

## **Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2012**

*Meals Provided: B L*

This morning visit Koh Kong and a Cham village. Then head to the Peam Krasaop Wildlife Sanctuary, and maze of bays, canals and mangrove forests. Learn about the importance of mangroves to the eco-system while exploring the forest by walkway. Drive back to Phnom Penh for evening flight to Bangkok.

*Fly Phnom Penh (PNH) to Bangkok (BKK) on Thai Airways International TG 585, departing 20:25, arriving 21:30 Economy Class*

On arrival, transfer to our hotel for check in with the rest of the evening free.

Overnight at the Novotel Suvarnabhumi Airport Hotel (Superior Room) - Bangkok

## **Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2012**

*Meals Provided: B*

This morning take the hotel's complimentary shuttle bus back to the airport in time for your international flight back home. As you will be departing internationally, you will be required to check in at least 2 hours in advance.

**United Airlines 804** Economy | Boeing 777 (777) | Breakfast | 5hr

Depart: **7:10am Bangkok, Thailand** Bangkok Suvarnabhumi International Airport (BKK)

Arrive: **2:55pm Tokyo, Japan** Tokyo Narita (NRT)

Seats: 42H, 42J

**No plane change.** Time between flights: **1hr 45min**

**United Airlines 804** Economy | Boeing 777 (777) | Dinner | 12hr 21min |

Depart: **4:40pm Tokyo, Japan** Tokyo Narita (NRT)

Arrive: **3:01pm Washington, DC** [Washington Dulles Intl \(IAD\)](#)

Seats: 42H, 42J

Total duration: 19hr 51min