

Bangkok, Thailand

October 2 Day 1 slept until 1 p.m. due to late arrival. We heard that tailoring is high quality and inexpensive in Bangkok so we arranged for one to pick us up and take us to his shop. We met Steve, a fine young man of 29 years, who helped us select and fit for a new wardrobe. Judy got a custom-made blouse just as she had been seeking. They then took us to the largest shopping mall in Bangkok where we looked for just the right shoes.

October 3 Day 2 We arranged for an excursion to the Rose Garden outside of the main city. The roses weren't hitting on much but the orchids were really spectacular. We also saw an elephant show, Thai boxing, (much like ultimate fighting but without the octagon, Thai ritual dancing and heritage instruments. It was quite good. Photos from the Rose Garden:



orchids were everywhere and out in the full sun.
elephant show: 110 elephants are agile enough to step between the people. 111 elephants dance with a hula hoop,



1116 Thai boxing demonstration

Cambodia



October 4 Day 3 - Ankor Wat Cambodia, 117 Kevin taking instruction from the monks at the Buddha shrine, 118 Kevin buys a bird for release for good karma, 119 the birds for sale two for a dollar, 120 open air market selling food, people often buy their food daily as they have no refrigeration;



126 fish for sale, 127 fast food, ready to take home to eat. 128 making curry soup; 131 chickens hanging, 132 pig bladders stuffed with brains (the yellow balls) 133 cultural dancing displaying excellent coordination and balance, 136 instrumentalist, 141



dancers, 145 on one foot, 147-149 coconut dance, 150 ff dance from Indian background, monkey and horse. I had nightmares that night about what would have happened had I gone to Vietnam and been captured by the Cambodian

army. Sunday, the special day, the prisoners are served meat, pig bladders with brains and chicken heads with pig blood soup. I also dreamed about presidential campaign candidate, John McCain's, recounting his trials in the Vietnam prisoner of war camp. I'm glad that God spared me from that.

October 5 Day 4

Today we visited Tonle Sap lake. This is one of the largest freshwater lakes in the world and it is the home of Cambodia's river people. They live in a floating village in which they have floating supermarkets, floating church's, floating schools, floating libraries and many floating houses. On the way we stopped to have an ox cart ride in a neighboring village and saw the home of the ox cart driver. This lake is unique in that the flood plain increases drastically in the annual rainy season and contracts in the dry season thereafter. The boats move to accommodate the new area. The lake is critical for the food needs of all of the Cambodia people as it provides incredible supplies of fish and its flood plain provides fertile fields and fresh water for the production of rice.

Photos:



159 One of the village houses on stilts. 161 Cleaning the catfish
167 one of the newly built houses (3 mo. old)

168 Boat is being refurbished. 170 Young man brushing teeth. 171 This house was flooded on the ground floor a few months ago from the flood plain. 172 Store where food is sold.



173-74 Family of four on a motorcycle. 175 Fish drying. 178 Snakehead fish drying 180-182 Houses include television and shrine. Cable TV for \$5 per month.



It is not unusual to see houses built on the water in this area. The flood plain increases in the rainy season and the houses remain above the water level. The flooding and receding of the river are critical to life in Cambodia as the river is a great source of fresh water fish, the receding waters provide fertile fields for growing rice and the water is necessary for rice paddies.



183 Gasoline, grocery, restaurant and home, all in one house. 184-5 Us in oxcart. 186 The oxcart driver's house and his six-year old daughter. 188 in her hammock in flannel pajamas. 191 Ox cart driver and his 15 year-

old daughter. 192 Their house - 193 We board our boat to see the floating village.

196 Catholic floating church with solar electric panel 197 Floating house: though you might say, houseboat, there is no motor, the houses are moved as the lake rises and falls by a tug boat.



203 Collecting small fish for food for snake head fish and ducks. 206 Little Vietnamese girl jumped on our boat while it was moving to sell us sodas. 208 Her father drives her away. 208-209 Floating house with flowers on deck. 210 Aerial view of floating houses



Oct 6 Monday We visited one of the 21 wonders of the world, Ankor Wat, the Temple of the Capital. Photos: 211-12 Fifth grade class of school supported by Grand Circle Foundation. Each of the schools we visited seemed to apply their funding well. They graciously greeted us and sang the national anthem.

One little kid smaller than Josh is 11 years old. They don't eat much protein in southeast Asia hence their smaller size.

Those who spend a few years in America or Europe are much bigger. 213-14 Kevin and Judy in front of the class. 215 gateway 216-17 Little girl hanging out in that area.

219 Gate we drove thru. 221 The Churning of the Ocean into Milk representing the gods zeal for immortality. 222 Land mine victims play music the money.

Pp223-42 Ta Protem, the "jungle Temple." This temple has not been greatly restored as it was destroyed by the Ficus tree roots and the Strangler fig trees.



<243-46 Ta Keo



247-253> Victory gate representing the Khmer victory over the Cham army.



254.267 Bayon 268. Terrace of the Elephants 269 “Leper” King, a misinterpretation due to the missing fingers and toes. 270 House of our home-hosted lunch. We took off our shoes first, a Cambodian custom. 271 The mother cooking in a clay pot.



272-73 Our group eating lunch. The home-hosted meal is the highlight of every OAT tour. This house was not really typical but that was okay as Cambodia is really rather third-world and a bit above typical suits my taste better.

224 Their only daughter demonstrating the cooking of sticky-rice and our guide, Riht. 274 the Kitchen.



275 Ankor Wat, the reason to visit Cambodia, the largest religious monument in the world. Completed in 1150 by King Suryavarman II to the Hindu god, Vishna, it was revised to be Buddhist thereafter and was abandoned in the 15th century following the Thai invasions. Banyons, ficus and other destructive vegetation took over, much as described earlier. Numerous countries have assisted in the renovation of this historic monument.



The word Angkor means city and Wat means temple. One of the things that makes this site so special is the large population of Angkor which was estimated at 1 million. One of the largest cities of the world at its time.

279 Vishnu, the Hindu god of preservation. 280-281 Vishnu's wife (lacking head) 282 Angkor Wat reflected in the pool. 283-286 monkey in the tree

October 7, 2008 - This morning we got up at 4:30 for sunrise at Angkor Wat. Photos: 289-322 Sunrise at Angkor Wat. 323-327 Pre Rup 338 men working carrying gravel and water for construction. 339 Banteay Srey 349 the inscription on the walls showing the writing. 355 Lotus blossom. Continues to 362. 363 People working on palm sap to make palm sugar to 367



368-373 Not all days have been happy ones. Genocide committed by Cambodia's coup leader, Pol Pot. These skulls are the lighter-skinned and eyeglass-wearing, educated and merchant people who were a threat to Cambodia's Communism.

The Khmer Rouge reached Phnom Penh and took power in 1975, changing the official name of the country to Democratic Kampuchea, led by Pol Pot. The Regime, heavily influenced and backed by China, immediately evacuated the cities and sent the entire population on forced marches to rural work projects. They attempted to rebuild the country's agriculture on the model of the 11th century. They discarded Western medicine, destroyed temples, libraries, and anything considered western. Any person with trained skills, doctors, lawyers, teachers, were especially targeted. With that result, hundreds of thousands died from starvation and disease there were almost no drugs in the country.[15]

Estimates vary as to how many people were killed by the Khmer Rouge regime, ranging from approximately one to three million.[16][17] This era has given rise to the term Killing Fields, and the prison Tuol Sleng became as notorious as Auschwitz in the history of mass killing. Hundreds of thousands more fled across the border into neighbouring Thailand.

374 Street market where many purchase food daily as they do not have refrigeration.



375-382 War memorial commemorating lives lost in war between Cambodia and Vietnam



383 Artisans d' Angkor Workshops 384 Silk weaving 385-388 silk painting 389 Stone lacquering 390 polishing gold color 392-393 wood carving

Our trip continues in Thailand