ACCESS ASIA STUDY TOURS

Professional Learning that takes you places!

THAILAND/LAOS STUDY TOUR

2-18 January 2007

Gain an insight into two of south-east Asia's beautiful nations – Thailand and Laos. Contrast the hustle and bustle of Bangkok with the peaceful city of Luang Prabang, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Meet with Australian representatives in the region and gain an understanding of education and Australian relations in the region. Further your understanding of Thai and Laos culture and education through personal interactions with local teachers and students. Begin a sister school relationship with a Thai school!

ITINERARY

Whilst every attempt has been made to ensure that all of the information in this brochure is true and correct at the time of printing, the Asia Education Foundation reserves the right to change the details of the tour at any time.

Tue 2 Jan	Chiang Mai	Early arrival into Chiang Mai and check in to the hotel. A free morning to explore and orientate yourself. Participate in a workshop on cultural literacy – a great preparation for learning more about Thailand and Laos and how the experience might be used professionally. Options include taking the opportunity to experience a Thai massage Breakfast and dinner included.
Wed 3 Jan	Chiang Mai	Ever wanted to be able to cook that perfect Thai dish? Enjoy a full day cooking course and opportunity to explore the local market for required ingredients. Utlise the evening for preparation for the upcoming school visit. Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.
Thu 4 Jan	Chiang Mai	Learn about Thai schools and education firsthand with a morning school visit and half day teaching. Meet Thai teachers and students and network internationally. Enjoy a free afternoon for curriculum development and to explore additional sights of Chiang Mai. Breakfast and lunch included.
Fri 5 Jan	Chiang Mai / Luang Prabang	Have a relaxing morning before taking a lunch time flight to Luang Prabang, the former royal capital of Laos and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Participate in an Introduction to Luang Prabang by a local historian. Gain an insight into the history of Laos and the significance of Luang Prabang. Learn about the functioning *wats* and see the colonial architecture and burgeoning boutique stores, Luang Prabang is situated at the confluence of the Mekong and Khan rivers. Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.
Sat 6 Jan	Luang Prabang	An opportunity to network with Laos educators with a visit to the Luang Prabang Teachers College/College of Fine Arts. Teach fellow Laos teachers about Australia and its culture. Discuss the differences and similarities in student needs and in classroom teaching in Australia and Laos over a luncheon workshop. Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

Sun 7 Jan	Luang Prabang	Participants can enjoy a free morning to wander Luang Prabang and 'eat out' for breakfast. Enjoy a walking tour of Luang Prabang. This will include the former Royal Palace national museum, a climb to Wat Poussi (overlooking Luang Prabang), the 15th century Wat Xieng Thong, and wandering through the laneways to observe the architecture of this UNESCO designated heritage city centre. A free evening allows participants free to sample local restaurants before wandering through the night market. Lunch included.
Mon 8 Jan	Luang Prabang	A morning visit to a city primary school and afternoon visit to a minority school outside of the city will highlight the difference between rural and city schools in Laos. Utilise your last evening in Luang Prabang to visit your favourite restaurant or try a new one. Breakfast and lunch included.
Tue 9 Jan	Luang Prabang / Vientiane	Fly south to the central Laotian city of Vientiane. Enjoy a lunch briefing on Vientiane. Participate in an evening briefing and dinner by the Australian Embassy. Learn more about Australia's relations with Laos and the Australian education aid programme. Breakfast, lunch and dinner provided.
Wed 10 Jan	Vientiane	Further your knowledge of Laos education with a briefing at the Ministry of Education on their Education Plan, teacher development and priorities. After lunch, visit Vientiane High School to observe classes and meet teachers. Learn more about the '*Student-Mentored Day'*. Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.
Thu 11 Jan	Vientiane	*'Student-Mentored Day'* - Tertiary Students from Soutsaka Institute of Management and Technology (SIMT-http://www.simt.edu.la/english/) will be asked to be guides to Vientiane for this day. They have been asked to show you '*their Vientiane'*. Each team will be allocated 2 student hosts and one local tuk-tuk/driver for the day (from breakfast until 4.30 pm). This activity will not only give you the opportunity to experience first hand a local's perspective of this city, but students will be given assessable assignments in organising this day. After this day of local insight, use your newfound knowledge to explore some of Vientiane's culinary delights. Breakfast and lunch included.
Fri 12 Jan	Vientiane	A visit the morning market allows you to explore the city environs and provides an opportunity to purchase materials for curriculum and teaching resources. A farewell dinner and cultural presentation held by the SIMT students will allow for further discussion and goodbyes. Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.
Sat 13 Jan	Vientiane / Bangkok	A free morning to visit any of those last minute sights before transferring across the border to Nongkai, Thailand. From here, the group will take an overnight sleeper train to Bangkok. Breakfast and dinner included.
Sun 14 Jan	Bangkok	Arrive early into Bangkok and check in to hotel. Experience Bangkok's mass transit system with a visit out to one of Thailand's largest and most diverse markets - Chatachuk market. Breakfast included.
Mon 15 Jan	Bangkok	Participate in a briefing on Australia-Thai relations and Thai education by Australia Education International (AEI) and Austrade, Australian Embassy. Learn about the new Australia-Thai Sister School project managed by AEI and the Asia Education Foundation. That afternoon, teach at a local Bangkok school and explore opportunities of building a sister school relationship with Thailand. Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.

Tue 16 Jan	Kanchanaburi	Learn more about Australia's history in the region. Catch an early morning train to Kanchanaburi, the site of Hell Fire Pass. Visit the Australian Government Museum, Hell Fire Pass – JEATH (Japan, England, Australia, Thailand and Holland) War Museum (WWII Museum), Kanchanaburi War Cemetery, Bridge over the River Kwai and Death Railway. Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.
Wed 17 Jan	Bangkok	Return to Bangkok in the morning. Take a guided tour of the majestic Grand Palace before a visit to the floating markets just outside Bangkok. Participate in a farewell dinner. Breakfast, lunch and dinner included.
Thu 18 Jan	Bangkok	Utilise your last day to catch those extra sights (such as the Jade Buddha, etc) and further your curriculum development. Evening flights home. Breakfast included.

HOTEL CONTACT DETAILS IN THAILAND/LAOS

*Please note, hotels are subject to change

2-5 January 2006	Chiang Main	**TBC**
5-9 January	Luang Prabang	**TBC**
9-13 January	Vientiane	**TBC**
13-14 January	**ON OVERNIGHT TRAIN**	
14-16 January	Bangkok	**TBC**
16-17 January	Kanchanaburi	**TBC**
17-18 January	Bangkok	**TBC**

NB: Thailand's country code is +66 and Lao's country code is +856, please use these when dialling internationally.

TOUR LEADERS
TBC

TOUR COST (Land Cost)
Access Asia Study Tours ***may be tax deductible*** for teachers. Contact your tax agent to see if you are eligible!

$3,500 Land Cost (16 nights) twin share (if you are travelling alone, we will partner you with another participant)
$700 single supplement

The land cost includes:

- Accommodation
- Experienced tour leader/s with a teaching background
- All land transportation & domestics flights
- Meals as listed in the itinerary (All breakfasts, 11 X lunches, 14 X dinners)
- Entrance fees to sites listed in the itinerary
- English speaking guide

The land costs excludes:

- Meals not listed in the itinerary
- Tips/gratuity
- Optional activities
- Photography and camera expenses
- Visas
- Laundry, communication and tips
- Personal travel insurance
- International and domestic airport taxes

AIRFARES
Participants can book and organise their own international airfare to Thailand or they can utlise the fares held by the AEF. The tour will start in Chiang Mai on Tuesday 2nd January 2007 and will end in Bangkok on Friday 19th January 2007. Please see the attached *Thailand/Laos January Airfares* document.