

Southwest Asia Tour History

May 1, 2017 - May 22, 2017



BYU International Folk Dance Ensemble
2016-2017

Personnel List

Tour Leaders

1. Rex Barrington, Tour Manager
2. Dixie Barrington, Chaperone
3. Jeanette Gestlison, Artistic Director
4. Mark Ohran, Technical Director
5. Brenda Critchfield, Trainer

Student Participants

- Abram Allred
- Matthew Baird (band)
- Brandon Carter
- Sami Chun
- Alex Farnsworth
- Joshua Fawcett (tech)
- Jake Fullmer (tech)
- Isaac Gestlison (band)
- Marshall Gibson (band)
- Jake Goehring (band)
- Christian Halversen
- Branson Handy
- Christian Hansen
- Orion Howard
- Johnathan Liporada
- Tanner Long
- Jacob Madsen
- Taylon Mann
- Ken Nukaya
- Shaun Ramage (tech)
- Wesley Valdez
- Brenna Bartholomew
- Heidi Comish
- Breanna Daniels
- Grace Dayton (band)
- Allyssa Pehrson
- Elisabeth Frischknecht
- Emily Huckstep
- Mary Beth Johnson
- Rebecca Kiser
- Carissa Moser
- Aubrey Nielson (band)
- Auriana Pendleton (band)
- Hayley Shepherd
- Eryn Hunt
- Allison Moon
- Victoria Leavitt
- Jordan Ringer (tech)
- Amanda Welch
- Bryson Alley (videographer)

May 1, 2017

Departure

Alyssa Pehrson and Tanner Long

After waking up absurdly early (or just not sleeping at all) we arrived at the RB at 2:30 in the morning. Fortunately, everyone was pretty much on time so we got a prompt start. Peggy got us to the airport in good time. Unfortunately, we had to wait outside the airport to check our luggage. Fortunately, we all made it through TSA fairly unscathed except for Mary Beth, who was carrying a bag of a suspicious white powder. Fortunately, Taylon's dad bought a ridiculous amount of sweets and snacks that we happily munched on during our first flight from Salt Lake to LAX. Unfortunately, it meant all of us had a slight sugar hangover as well as a sleep deprivation when we arrived. After going through TSA and forwarding our luggage we all set about in search of food and waited for the next leg of the journey. I don't think any of us quite comprehended how long a 15 hour flight actually is. As the flight continued with no end in sight, I (Alyssa Pehrson) felt like the pioneers who walked and walked except we flew and flew and flew and flew. Thanks heavens for modern technology though-what is a 15 hour plane flight compared to a three month boat trip?!

May 2, 2017

Hong Kong, China & Bangkok, Thailand

Victoria Ringer and Jordan Ringer

Happy anniversary to Jordan and Tori! It was only a three hour flight from Hong Kong to Bangkok, and most of us swore we wouldn't fall asleep. Well, that didn't happen! When we got to Thailand, we had to wait a while to go through customs and get all of our luggage. We were missing some luggage unfortunately. I (Tori Ringer) actually would have been surprised if we got all of our luggage because we had so much of it. We met our presenter, May, who has short black hair, two earrings in her left ear, and an awesome sense of humor. We got to the Miracle hotel and crashed!

May 3, 2017
Bangkok, Thailand
Hayley Shepherd and Jacob Madsen

We started off our morning with a blood test and breakfast. Some people took an early morning dive in the pool, others took a walk along the river, and others played some Exploding Kittens! Then we had a devotional where Mary Beth talked about not sitting back on our faith, we should exercise our faith and work on it daily!

We then moved over to the next hotel, the Golden Tulip! We all went out to eat at various places around the hotel; the majority went to the hospital across the way. Then we had a rehearsal because 1) Johnny's family came to Thailand from the Philippines to see our Hua Hin show but since that got cancelled we decided to do it for them, and 2) we really needed to practice because we hadn't done the show in a loooong time!

During Poltavsky Tuet, Johnny's cousin kept coming and beating him up. The rehearsal was on carpet in a conference room in the hotel and we were super hot and sweaty.

Dinner was at the MangoTree. Jeanette talking about the "water spinach" said, "This is the good stuff; it's not spicy." She also had to count to three before every spoonful of her soup because "It has such a zing!" After dinner, we went to the Asiatique Market. It is a famous night market here in Bangkok.

While playing the whisper challenge:

Johnny's phrase: Pour some sugar on me.

Orion's guess: Boys should call me more.

Jacob's clue: she sells sea shells by the seashore.

Orion's guesses for "she": Jesus, cheeze-its, jeans, sheen, chic,

shhhh...eee...

shhh..eee.... she? She! She sells seashells by the seashore!s

There is one light in each room that isn't controlled by any of the regular light switches. There is a box on the nightstand that will turn it off. Most of us didn't know about the box so we couldn't figure it out. Some left the lights on and others took the card out of the slot that gives the room power-which also mean no A/C.

May 4, 2017

Hua Hin, Thailand

Allison Moon and Taylon Mann

We had a very early morning today but we were able to feast on the bounteous buffet provided by the hotel. On our long bus ride, we watched a movie about British POWs and their struggles building a bridge. We ended up quickly visiting the Death Railway Museum and Research Centre which commemorates the maltreatment of Allied Prisoners which was in front of the prisoners' cemetery.

Next, we went to a bridge on River Kwai (like in the movie), then we rode a scenic train across the countryside which was sweltering HOT! No one escaped with a dry shirt. We were sweating like crazy! Luckily, they brought us free cold waters, and some teammates bought tapioca sweet and sour chips.

We ate lunch at Chan Chala which was delicious (probably because it was an Americanized buffet). Next came the touristic pinnacle of our entire tour: the elephants. In the base of the camp they had three elephant performers. For one of their tricks, they invited tourists to lay in front of the elephants and be stamped on or spanked by their trunks. So many boys volunteered! Even Jeanette couldn't resist a good spankin'. Everyone also received an elephant kiss!

Everyone had the chance to have an elephant ride, we even got to sit behind its ears. Some of the drivers made special flower crowns for their lady riders! While one half of the group was riding elephants, the others were on a bamboo raft floating down the river.

On the way back to the hotel, we got Thai treats at a gas station. We had a pool party while some of the guys got tailor-made suits. We ate dinner on the town. Becca ran into the guys bathroom. Also, Becca's buying everyone ice cream!

May 5, 2017

Hua Hin and Bangkok Thailand
Amanda Alley and Bryson Alley

We stayed in Bangkok today. No Hua Hin, sadly (but turns out we got to the beach tomorrow, so that worked out well). We started the day by performing an outreach program at a school/orphanage called the Mercy Center. Started by an incredibly generous man named Father Joe, the center has been providing school and other basic needs for thousands of children over 50 years. It was so much fun to interact with the kids and see their smiles! They performed for us first, with their instruments and intricate costumes, including head pieces. We then did some dances and songs for them. Some were even able to sing along with "Oh, Suzanna!" Jacob Madsen made trading cards for the team, and a lot of people passed them out to the kids. They loved them! A little boy named Gun especially liked them. He dabbed frequently and learned how to say "yeehaw!" It was sweet to see the kids connect with members of the team.

Oh! The young girls who danced also showed our dancers some traditional Thai hand movements. They would bend our hands to make sure they were in the right position. They are flexible! Afterwards, we said goodbye (but not before trading some music lessons on their Thai instruments). It was a humbling, beautiful experience.

As we left the Mercy Center, we were directed to look down either side of the railroad tracks and see the living conditions of many of the center's students. Elder and Sister Pollman, the PR senior missionaries in Thailand who are helping us, explained that if the Mercy Center weren't able to provide an education for those kids, that they wouldn't receive an education. It was extremely humbling.

We were then bussed to a Marriott Hotel for the evening's performance. It was such a stark contrast to the conditions we had just seen—chandeliers and chic, expensive furnishings were everywhere. It was odd to go from one extreme to the other so quickly.

We had lunch at a Japanese restaurant at the hotel. It was a new experience for most. For dessert, we were given a cold green tea soup. We found out it was green tea AFTER we ate it... oops.

After blocking, a few students went exploring. Some got manicures, while others stumbled upon an aerobics class at the park. The show was... interesting. The stage was made of carpet-covered platforms. The carpet absorbed percussive footwork sounds and made it hard to turn. The edges of the platforms caught on shoes—a clogging tap was ripped off before the show, and the heel of Eryn's Hopak boot came off during the show. In addition to that, Heidi's apron fell off and a strand of beads from her necklace broke. Crazy!

In spite of the challenges, the show was well received. It was part of a benefit/charity event for a women's organization called the Prathanadee Foundation. Our presenter was Lady Benchapa, a Thai princess!

After the show, Jeanette, Rex, and Emily Huckstep received flowers on behalf of the group. Jacob Madsen presented Lady Benchapa with our tour photo, a belt buckle, and a Mountain Strings CD. While greeting the audience, a few of us got to be on the news! It was confusing and made our cheeks hurt from smiling, but it was fun. All in all, a well-rounded and successful day!

May 6, 2017
Pattaya and Bangkok, Thailand
Grace Dayton and Ken Nukaya

We got up with the sun because we were going to the beach - or so we thought. It turned out that due to bad traffic, we were not able to spend any time by the beach.

We performed in the Alcazar Theater for a benefit show for the Father Ray Foundation. It was interesting because the theatre is used for cabaret. The stage had moving parts in the floor that bounced and spun which made dancing fun. Even with a new type of stage, it was a solid show. We were very touched because many of the audience members were children who have been helped by the foundation. When the performance was over, we interacted with the audience and received many kind remarks. The MC of the event said, "The only word I have is wow... Please come back very soon. Come back next year." We even surprised some of the audience members. Someone told us "I didn't know what to expect. I came to support the foundation. I was blown away! I had no idea I was coming to such a professional production. It was absolutely top notch."

After the show, we went to the Nong Nooch Tropical Botanical Garden which was beautiful. There were gorgeous tropical designs and a lot of animal sculptures. We got to see a Thai cultural presentation and an elephant show which was exciting. Some of the members on the team had the opportunity to be carried by the elephants, and we all got to take pictures with the elephants as well. We were then treated to a delicious authentic Thai meal, and one of the ladies from the Father Ray Foundation told us a bit more about the work that the foundation does. They do a lot of wonderful work for people with disabilities, and we were all touched by what we heard. We left them with Irish Blessing.

After that, we drove back to the hotel and were ready for a good night's sleep. Overall, it was a great day.

May 7, 2017
Bangkok, Thailand
Aubrey Nielsen and Wesley Valdez

Today we went to church with members of the Bangkok area. Some of us went to church at 9, 11, and 1 o'clock, and some of us went to Thai wards where headsets and translators were provided, while others went to an English ward. To get to the different wards, Rex gave a lot of us some money and a map before sending us off in a taxi. While most of us did not get lost, Breanna and Marybeth were not so lucky. Their driver got lost and took a lot of U-turns and they were not able to communicate due to the language barrier. Luckily, they were able to make it to the chapel in the end. Overall, church was a good experience, and we got to feel the spirit. We found that it is the same everywhere you go. Hailey and Aubrey had a special experience at church. While Aubrey was playing prelude music she received a tap on the back. It turned out that Hailey and Aubrey's host family from California was in Thailand visiting her Father. What are the odds that Hailey and Aubrey were put together to go to that ward. It was something so small, but it showed how smart God is.

After church, we got to go home with host families and have an authentic Thai experience. While at the different areas, members on the team learned a couple Thai games and we shared some of our culture with them as well. Johnny learned a speed hand slapping game, and Tanner, Matthew, Marshal played the cup song with them. At the stake center, there was also lunch provided for people who attended church there.

After lunch, we all met up at the stake center to get ready for the fireside. The fireside was great, and we had some funny moments. Marshal tried to take advantage of the translator by trying to get him to say things like, "Marshal is cool," but the translator just stayed silent and wouldn't repeat it. The translator also got really into Brandon's testimony especially when he began to talk about the proof of calculus. It was great seeing how we can connect to people in that way. In the end, the fireside was great, and the spirit was strong. President Sathit was very thankful for what we did and he informed us that the church is growing in the area and at least one of the wards is getting ready to split.

We ended the night by having dinner at an oddly romantic area. It was an outside restaurant that was on the river's edge that had live music playing. We all enjoyed dinner and some of us even enjoyed dancing to the music.

May 8, 2017

Bangkok Thailand

Auriana Pendleton and Marshall Gibson

Today we got up early and went to visit the coconut house. It is a house that is located on a coconut farm. Our tour guide May taught us about the different uses of coconuts. There were chickens running around, and even monkeys. Heidi screamed when one touched her.

After the farm, we boarded long boats and rode up the river to get to the floating markets. The boat ride was beautiful and there were tons of coconut trees and flowers. It was interesting to see the contrast between the different houses that were along the river. Some of them were super nice, while others were shacks. It looked like a neighborhood on a river which was neat.

The floating market was awesome and pretty much everyone bought something. We all got to try our hand at haggling. Some of us were better at it than others. It was funny because we would buy something and then show people and compare the prices we bought things for. Some were disappointed with the deal that they got.

One of the best things we got to do today was a workshop at the university of Bangkok. The dancers got to work with a group of Thai dancers and learn a traditional Thai dance and we taught them Boot Kicking. Members of the band had the opportunity to talk with some YSA members who were watching the workshop. There was a lot of the excitement in the room, and everyone made some sort of connection with the students at the university. It was incredible to see the impact these people have on our lives

When all the instruction was done, we had dinner with the Thai dancers, and the YSA's in the area. It was fun being able to interact with them and to get to know them more. When dinner was done, we had a show. The students of the university performed a traditional Thai piece which was beautiful, and we performed some of our numbers. After we performed our numbers, we performed the dances that we had learned before dinner which was a lot of fun. Tour just seems to get better and better each day.

May 9, 2017
Bangkok Thailand
Brenna Bartholomew and Matthew Baird

First things first, sunrise in Thailand! Call time was 5 freaking 30 and to leave by 7. I guess at this point on tour it took us Two Hours To Eat Breakfast. Priorities. Anyway on the bus ride to "Watpramit" or "The Golden Buddha temple" May told us the significance of Buddha and her religion. "Buddha is not decoration, respect is common sense" is one Southeastern billboard I will Never Forget. Turns out that all the gold In The World has been hoarded by Thailand. This temple is forged out of Solid Gold. Such a thorough appreciation of decadence - well done Thailand! We took our shoes off and aired out our Orange Nikes because "respect" and enjoyed the early morning. We then left for "Watehopro" or "The Leaning Buddha temple." It was a whole big sha-bang with adorable cats running everywhere. I guess there was a massive Buddha reclining causally As Well. Also forged out of solid gold, remember what I said about hoarding? There were these random mini-rich lady pyramids called "Wats" and they were heavily bejeweled. Also Confucious is basically the George Washington of Southeast Asia. There were statues of him everywhere - he's a Real Looker.

We then walked to the Grand Palace. Like entering another realm, as soon you step into the palace it becomes like 10 Degrees Hotter and Packed With More People than the king would probably want at his house. We learned how to Yell In Chinese and developed an impressive tolerance for body odor. At this point any pride we had about our hygiene was cast violently from our persons as we sweat through Every Item of Clothing and posed somewhat uncertainly for pictures. Those Sweat Marks live in infamy. We supposedly see The Emerald Buddha there, in theory anyways, but does it count as sight seeing if you're just looking for Space to Breathe. I have no recollection of any Emerald Buddha but I imagine it's made Entirely Of Emeralds and Thailand's also hogging the world's emeralds. There was also yet another Huge Golden Building because Thailand is the most Golden Place On Earth. It rained for about 30 seconds and we all praised the heavens as rivlets of sweat ran onto the asphalt. Folk Dance is a beautiful spectacle.

We finally experience the Sweet Relief of Air Condition when we eat lunch and everyone's mood spikes with optimism. As is the case with most places in Asia there is no toilet paper and because We Are Survivors we Figure It Out. I have in my notes that we ate fish, cool brown noodle things, soups, veges, fruit, weird curry fat paddies, and fried rice. And again because We Are Survivors we eat it anyways. Cause you know eating Thai cuisine is such A Trial. After all of our sweat dries we venture outdoors to Sweat Some More on a boat ride through the Choa Praya. We are the recipients of Blessed Breeze and a few unwelcome splashes.

We arrive at the theatre literally 7 hours before showtime. But our show was Sold Out so no preparation is Too Much Preparation. We indulge heavily in ice cream while Grace serenades us on the violin backstage. BLESS GRACE. As usual there are lighting troubles and everyone has a not-so-subtle Look Of Death as we clean dances. We perform and take a million pictures with the beautiful people of Thailand. So a pretty unproductive day 😊

May 10, 2017

Bangkok, Thailand and Siem Reap Cambodia

Breanna Daniels and Jake Goehring

Today started sad because we had to say goodbye to May (our tour guide), Twisty (the man in charge of our costumes and props), and Thailand. When we got to the airport, May gave us a sweet goodbye speech and said that we were her family. It was so neat being able to learn from her. We wish she could come with us to Cambodia.

The flight was short thankfully, but we had a problem with weighing luggage. All our things could not fit on the turbo prop plane and so many of us did not get our luggage when we got to Cambodia.

When we landed, we got to see how beautiful Cambodia is. Siem Reap has a very different feel than Bangkok. It seems more like a tropical island, and it was even hotter, but less humid. A difficult thing for us when we got there was having to split into two different buses since we all did not fit in one. We all met up though for our first Cambodian meal and it was yummy. The food seems similar to Thailand, but it is not spicy.

After dinner, we drove to the church for a devotional. WE loved singing and sharing our testimonies with the sweet people of Cambodia. There were a lot of children there, and they joined us when we sang A Child's Prayer in Cambodian. It was very special. They were cute and friendly. A funny moment happened during the devotional though. When Jordan was giving his testimony, he said that he was enjoying his first visit to Europe. Thankfully everyone laughed. After the fireside, we got to play with the children and talk with the members. It was a lot of fun and it is safe to say that we all love Cambodia.

May 11, 2017

Siem Reap, Cambodia

Elisabeth Frischknecht and Isaac Geslison

Today was the hottest day of our lives. It was 43 degrees Celsius which is about 110 degrees Fahrenheit with 90% humidity. We got to visit Angkor Thom, Angkor Wat, and the Jungle temple which reminded us of Tomb Raiders. It was great being able to see something so authentic and unique to Cambodia. There were a lot of monks within the temple which was cool. Some of us even got to dance a part of Saman with the temple in the background. It was neat seeing the architecture of the temples and seeing all the carvings and statues that were there. At the entrance to Angkor Thom, there were statues lined up on both sides. One side show happy statues which represented heaven while the other side had ugly faces which represented demons and hell. It was a cool cultural experiences

After the temples, we all went to the pool to cool off before dinner. Dinner was great, and after that we had free time. A lot of us went to visit the markets, but before that we went to an ice cream place called Blue Pumpkin. It was neat seeing the different fruit flavors they had along with the usual flavors we have here in the states. The market was a lot of fun and we all got to practice our haggling skills a little bit more. To get back to the hotel, a lot of us rode back in Tuk Tuks which are karts pulled by motorcycles. Overall it was a very successful day in Asia.

May 12, 2017

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Heidy Comish and Abram Allred

Today started like every other day: early. We checked out of the Somadevi Angkor Resort in Siem Reap and loaded the two busses. We then spent Six hours (On moderately hot busses) traveling to Phnom Penh. In between our two rest stops, most of us tried to catch some z's. Abram studied Lehi's dream! We then ate lunch at a nice Cambodian restaurant. The banana pudding with coconut milk was delicious!

After taking a quick stop at the hotel, we then headed to a YSA conference for all of the young single adults in Cambodia! Tons of tables were set up in the parking lot, so there was no escaping the wet heat! The white tablecloths and chair covers made it feel like a fancy event. The food was pretty good, except Abram's meal was ruined by some peppers.

We enjoyed the live Cambodian music during dinner. Alex enjoyed it so much that he decided to become the singer's back-up dancer. We then joined together with the YSA's for a game and dancing! The Cambodian YSA's seemed to really enjoy the country line dance, but the grand right and left and Cumberland Square proved to be a bit more difficult. They took their turn to show us Cambodian dancing, and we parted ways.

May 13, 2017

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Emily Huckstep and Brandon Carter

This day started with a fun trip to the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda. As we were being instructed by the tour guide, many Chinese tourists took photos and videos of us. It really bugged us as well as the tour guide. Some members of the team weren't too excited to see another palace but many were grateful for the cultural experience. The tour guide enjoyed telling us all about the palace and The King. Our favorite comment he said regarding The King, was that he was probably single because he studied ballet, which probably meant that he was gay.

We then made our way to the S-21 Museum. It was a very sobering experience. We actually got to meet one of the survivors of the torture facility. Because the Cambodian Government does not take care of the elderly, he was selling books about his life story to earn money for him and other old men. He was a very kind man and said he felt it was his duty to share his experience with others. There was a wall full of human skulls of the victims and other bones found in the killing fields. All of our tour guides were children during the Pol Pot regime and had very humbling stories. There were still blood stains in the rooms where they kept the victims and also pictures of everyone that was killed.

After visiting the prison, we went to the mall to help advertise our show. The stage was 10x10 feet, aka undanceable, so we danced Volyn and Papa Loko in front of it on the tile floor. These are two dances which require a lot of space so it was very interesting! However, we did gather a very large crowd.

We got to perform in a very large theater. We spent all of our time blocking dances because we were worried that the extra space would make it difficult. The stage was about 100 feet across, although we only used 60 feet to dance. There was 20 feet on stage left and right that we had to use to make our entrances/exits. This was a charity performance to raise funds for the Nokor Tep Women's Hospital. The missionaries that are serving in the area were the ushers for the performance, and one companionship had 12 investigators there! The theater was pretty full--which is a huge deal in Cambodia. Amazing to be able to perform for people who all grew up during war, and many of whom still suffer from their traumatic experiences.

One funny story: We like to break things in every theatre we go to (accidentally of course), so to one up Carissa's breaking of the glass coffee table a few days ago four people sat on a counter in the dressing room which ripped out of the wall while Jeanette was giving us notes.

During Charleston, Branson finally said "Huh". The problem was, he spit all over the stage. It was not only on the ground but running down his chin. Breanna was laughing so hard you could tell from off stage that she was shaking!

May 14, 2017

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Eryn Hunt and Sami Chun

Sundays! The best days! We got to wake up a little later today--we didn't meet until 9:15! We went to stake conference at the same church we had the YSA activity on Friday. The members gave flower bracelets to all the moms for Mother's Day, and even gave the extras to the girls in our group. Elder Evans, a general authority, said that the saint's obedience in Cambodia would bless Columbia--3 times. He also told the story of Jaymie, the inactive young man whom Elder Evans loved. The story of Jaymie's redemption was inspirational.

After the meeting, we split up and joined a YSA who took us to their homes via tuk-tuks, motos, and cars. Mary Beth and Eryn headed out in a tuk-tuk for 30 min and left the city of Phnom Penh with Ratha! She lived right off the side of a busy road down an alleyway with all of her family members--grandma, aunt, uncle, cousins, nieces, and nephews. Her cousin James shared their conversion story. His oldest sister was the first person to be baptized in Cambodia! The rest of her family slowly joined the church after that. Ratha served a mission in Phnom Penh and showed us a picture of her mission president and his wife. It was Mackenzie Moon's parents! What a small world!

Sean and Sami went with Mandy and had a similar tuk-tuk ride as Mary Beth and Eryn. At Mandy's home, they played with many puppies. Then, they found out Mandy was quadrilingual, speaking Chinese, English, Vietnamese, and Khmer. Sean and Sami then went to the Vietnamese branch in Phnom Penh. After an amazing block of meetings, they went back to the stake center. Other students had adventures like driving mopeds through traffic, eating larvae, and being held an hour late by members.

We got ready for our fireside. Amanda, Wesley, Breanna and Jake Goerhing shared wonderful testimonies. The spirit was so strong and it was fun to see the members sing along in Khmer when they recognized the song. Afterwards the members told us we sounded really good when we sang "A Child's Prayer" in Khmer. A few said the girls sounded wonderful but asked what language the men were singing! Too funny. We think it was just harder for the guys because their part is a lot slower which makes any mispronunciation more obvious. Then we went to a restaurant and were very, very, very loud. Then we went home and packed for our early morning.

May 15, 2017

Phnom Penh, Cambodia and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Mary Beth Johnson and Alex Farnsworth

Woke up in the mornin and the time was 3:30 am, but for real. Had a super balanced breakfast of bread and a hard boiled egg.

We filled an entire plane with 45 people and ALL our luggage.... Well almost half our luggage. Rex and Dixie were asked to pay \$3,000 in cash for our luggage fee. They almost missed the flight. Once we landed in Vietnam, the baggage lady wanted to check all our bags and verify which ones were missing. That only took an hour :)

Our first outside of the airport experience in Vietnam was at the Cu Chi Tunnels. There we saw the amazing small, hot tunnels that had little entrances in the jungle floor. The longest tunnel was 100 meters, and only the bravest in our group went through the whole thing. It was interesting to hear about the Vietnam war from the opposing side. We saw the traps they created for the American soldiers. We really learned that war is brutal and cruel.

Our first taste of Vietnam was wonderful. We were all relieved. The restaurant was beautiful with a river running through the forest and a storm rolling in. Then we checked into our hotel with 2 hours of free time (almost everyone fell asleep) and then left for the YSA activity. Accidentally, we forgot to bring Jake G. who was sleeping in his room. This was realized as we were eating at the crazy big McDonalds. Then we made it to the YSA activity. We arrived thinking we would be dancing but there was so little room that we decided to make it a devotional instead. Christian and Tori shared beautiful testimonies and the spirit was very powerful as we shared our testimonies through word and song. It was a beautiful combo of fun and spiritual. I heard from multiple people that it was the most spiritual devotional we've had on tour. After we ate strange refreshments....

Amen.

May 16, 2017

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Rebecca Kiser and Christian Halversen

Today was our break to sleep in until 7ish. It was a real treat! Our first stop was a cathedral modeled after Notre Dame and a post office built by the French. After that we left to tour the reunification palace/museum which was the center of operations for the U.S. and Vietnam during the war. We then made a brief stop at a Chinese temple of the Lady of the Sea. Our next stop was lunch at another traditional Vietnamese restaurant. Then it was time to make way to the theatre, at which we briefly dropped off our things. Then some of us headed over to participate in a workshop with the HCMC School of Dance Studio where we first taught them a section of Charleston and then they taught us one of their traditional Vietnamese dances. The dance they taught us was super fun. We were even able to execute it decently! They caught on to Charleston well too. So even though it was super sweaty and hot it was a great experience.

After that it was time to get ready for the show. It was supposed to start at 7pm, but because over half the audience was just chilling in the lobby we didn't start until 7:30. The show went super well and the audience was the best audience we've had so far! They were cheering for literally everything! But the best part was that after the show, as we started to walk into the audience to meet everyone, they literally erupted in screams. No joke. On top of that, people were reaching out right and left just to touch our hands or give us high fives. It was like we were movie stars. Rebeca even had a random woman come out of nowhere, grab her by the face, and kiss her... a big one... right on the cheek. So it was a very good show, which was indeed a blessing because people were seriously lacking in energy most of the day. God is with us!

After we got home we had to get ready for another 3:45 am wake up call to catch our plane to North Vietnam. We had a great last hoorah for our last day in Ho Chi Minh City.

May 17, 2017

Ha Long Bay, Vietnam

Carissa Moser and Christian Hansen

Today was an early morning departure (4:45 am) and stressful-ish since Hayley and Eryn were detained because of a supposed missing towel. We got to the airport on time and within a short time were off on our way to Ha Long Bay! We knew this would be a good day because for the first time every we got all of our luggage. The day just got better as we only had a private cruise scheduled. Alex was the head of the boating staff and easily put us all in a good mood. The skies were overcast with a breeze as we set sail and I think for the first time we weren't sweating bullets. After a delicious lunch we walked out on the deck to enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells. Grace made it even better because she treated us to tunes like Pirates of the Caribbean. Then we split into groups, one to caves and one to an island to swim. Eryn, who went to the cave, said it was very big with pools of crystal clear water and a sandy ceiling. The caves only had a small amount of people touring so it was a beautiful experience. The other group, which had most of the group, went onto an island. On the island there was an overlook at the top that took many stairs and patience to get to but was totally worth the struggle. On top you could see for miles. The other main activity on the island was SWIMMING in the OCEAN!!! It was super salty and wonderful all at once. Everyone in both groups were treated with natural beauty that easily relaxed us all.

After loading the boats again, we returned to our cruise ship and relaxed for a bit. We had a sweet, rice-paper spring roll lesson provided by the crew members. We then had a delish seafood meal (that some didn't eat). After that, we tried to catch squid for a few hours. A few were caught! Let's just say Ha Long Bay is rad! We are so lucky!

May 18, 2017

Hanoi, Vietnam

Allyssa Pehrson and Branson Handy

The morning we spent in Ha Long Bay was magical. As we pulled into the harbor the mist revealed the majestic monoliths that surrounded the boat. When we got to shore we had to drag Mark off the boat, kicking and screaming, because he didn't want to leave.

We then spent four hours on the bus driving back to Hanoi, stopping at the rest stop along the way. The country was picturesque and very communist (meaning rural). There were rice patties interspersed with small towns that were dotted with the communist symbol and crumbling buildings.

When we arrived at the hotel in Hanoi we checked in, then enjoyed lunch at the hotel. During lunch Rex received some bad news. Because of some miscommunications, our show that evening was cancelled. It was supposed to be a private show, but missionaries started inviting too many people. The University who was hosting didn't want any trouble with the government, so they cancelled the show. We said a prayer as a team and hoped our show the next night wouldn't be cancelled.

We then attended a workshop with the host university, where we got a crash course in Vietnamese folk dance. We taught Charleston and performed Irish and Boot Kickin'.

Since we didn't have a show, we had a free evening. People craving American Food flocked to KFC and Pizza Hut further supporting the stereotype that Americans only eat pizza.

I testify that everything written by Allyssa is true to the best of my knowledge.

-Branson Handy

May 19, 2017

Hanoi, Vietnam

Victoria Ringer and Jordan Ringer

So today was kind of a weird day... I'll soon tell you why. In the morning we went to do some more sightseeing and that was pretty uneventful. Then we were excited because we got to do a workshop with the local university students and they were so excited! Tori and Wes helped teach Charleston, and they had some mad skills and were able to pick it up so fast, it was great. After that, we went to our last performance, which was sad for Tori and all those who were leaving this year. It was weird because the university staff was so mad that the techs and dancers were split up and literally would not let us techs touch anything for like fifteen minutes. It was super weird.

May 20, 2017

Hanoi, Vietnam

Hayley Shepherd and Orion Howard

We started off our day with a bike tour around Hanoi. We each had our own drivers and most people decided to take a little nap! For the rest of us though, we had to watch our drivers weave in and out of vietnam traffic...which is insane! Then we walked along the river to the Water Puppet Show. Once again, most people were asleep. The show was interesting to say the least. :) Then after lunch we went to the Ethnicity and Culture Museum. This was pretty cool because it describes how the many different ethnic groups here in Southeast Asia still live. Then we were all ready for a bit of free time at the hotel. After relaxing for a couple hours, the YSA took us out to dinner and then to the night market where we were able to finish our last little bit of shopping!

May 21, 2017

Hanoi, Vietnam

Allison Moon and Johnathan Liporada

Sunday's are always a special day on tour, and today was no different. Originally, we were going to split up and go to two different meetings, but to our surprise, we all went together to the same branch. What was nice about the branch is that it was in English for the most part. We even got to sing "Fear Not" as a special musical number, and Alli and Aubrey helped with leading and playing the music. Another cool thing was Sami got to translate for a Japanese couple who was there, and best of all our tour guide Son stayed for the whole meeting, including Sunday School. He really enjoyed it. We talked about the Law of Consecration in Sunday School and after, we went and had lunch then free-time at the hotel. During free time, Brandon organized some card games with a few of our YSA friends.

That evening we went to the Hanoi Branch building for our fireside, where we saw most of the YSA's that were with us at the market the night before. The spirit was really strong as we sang, played music, and heard testimonies from our teammates. It was a neat experience to have the YSA investigators tell us about the spirit they felt, and how they knew it was the right decision to be baptized. We love them! Allyssa and Sami, our choristers, had a fun time trying to organize us all into a singing formation in the small chapel room.

To end the night, our tour, and our final time together as a team, we squished into a small area in the hotel lobby and shared thanks and kind words. Many of the people graduating from our group share, thanks for the friends made, and the folk program that we all love. To add to the emotions, the hotel had some background music playing that really added to the mood (and made us laugh). We love and will miss the seniors!

What a wonderful tour we have had! Many of the conversations at our last dinner in Vietnam drifted to day dreaming about American food, and we could tell that we were ready for home. Dinner this day was also a lot of fun because many people forced themselves to try oysters for the first time!

May 22, 2017

Hanoi, Vietnam Departure

Amanda Alley and Bryson Alley

This morning after breakfast we all gathered and loaded up on the busses. We headed to the airport, checked in, and said goodbye to our tour guides, Hung and Son.

Our first flight took us to Hong Kong. We had a few hours at the airport, so many of us bought some food or browsed the shops. Of course, groups were formed to play card games like Lucky Undies (Lucky Fool) and Egyptian Rat Screw. Then we braced ourselves for our long, long flight (at least 12 hours...maybe more).

While we waited at customs, there was a high pitched ringing (almost a constant alarm) that sounded for around ten minutes. It was awful, so when they were able to shut the alarm off, we all applauded.

After picking up our luggage, re-checking it, and walking to another terminal, we had a few hours to kill. Naps were had, books were read, and (of course) card games were played. Some of the group invited a returning sister missionary to spend time with them. Her name is Sister Lily Mortense and she served in Armenia. Turns out she went to prom with Mary Beth's cousin. Small world!

When we first checked in, we learned our flight was possibly overbooked. We were all asked if we would be willing to give up our seat in exchange for a flight voucher, but only Bryson and Amanda volunteered. We got closer to boarding. Bryson asked if they would need to give up their seats. The employee said, "No, the flight wasn't overbooked, but thanks for volunteering." To show their thanks, the airline bumped Amanda and Bryson up to first class! They got a lot of questions as everyone boarded and saw them in first class.

There was a mi up with Dixie's ticket, so she was also upgraded to first class! Unfortunately, Rex wasn't upgraded with her...

Then, we finally made it home! We received all our luggage (hallelujah) and loaded up the bus. It was great to be on one bus again!

It was so sweet to see husbands and wives, girlfriends and boyfriends, families and friends all united when we got home. We had such a great time, and we wouldn't change it for anything--but it's nice to be home.

'Merica.

Extra Details

Marriott Hotel Performance -May 4th

During the opener, Brandon walks out and strikes his usual Ukrainian pose and realized that he was in his Haitian costume!

Jeanette walked into the girl's dressing room after the show and said, "There's alcohol in the next room over, everyone!" We must have looked shocked or confused, because she said, "Oh, it's for your costumes!" and started laughing, then joked, "Let's all have a drink!" We love Jeanette.

Pattaya Performance - May 6th

"I didn't know what to expect. I came to support the foundation. I was blown away! I had no idea I was coming to such a professional production. It was absolutely top notch."

- Lela Ankes-Nierner (Dutch lady living in Thailand)

"The only word I have is WOW... Please come back very soon. Come back next year."

- Thai MC

Host Family Stories -May 7th

Mary Beth and I had a crazy taxi ride from our host family's house to the chapel where we had our devotional. Our driver got lost. We probably took more u-turns in that one hour of my life than I ever have in the United States. We obviously couldn't communicate at all, so it was certainly an adventure, but we luckily made it to the chapel eventually!

- Breanna Daniels

I was sitting on the bench, and Aubrey was playing prelude music when someone tapped me on the back. I turned around, and it was our host mom from Carson City! She said her dad got sick, so she came to Bangkok. What are the chances? Not only did we get assigned to that time and ward, but Aubrey and I were together again! The world is so small, and God is so smart!

- Hayley Shepherd

After the church meeting, there was a munch and mingle. Tanner, Matthew, Josh, Marshall, and Johnny went and interacted with the YSA's. Johnny played a speed hand clapping game with one of them and won. Someone who went to our show then brought up Saman, and Tanner and Johnny started to teach them a bit. After, they brought over cups, and the five of us did the cup song and played the cup passing game with them.

Photos



While in Thailand, we watched an elephants and other animals do amazing tricks. We all fell in love with elephants at the Nong Nooch Botanical Gardens!



We loved performing for the children of the Mercy Center School in the heart of Bangkok, Thailand! Not only did we perform, but some of the school girls performed traditional Thai dancing for us. We all had so much fun smiling and dancing together!



We fell in love with the little Thai children! After our performance in Pattaya, Thailand, we were presented with flowers thanking us for our support for the Father Ray Foundation (which these little boys benefit from).



Learning different cultural dances was one of our favorite parts of tour! We learned Thai dancing from students and teachers from Srinakharinwirot University in Bangkok, Thailand. They did a great job at learning our American dances, as well.



A check for 800,000 Thai baht was presented to leaders of the St. Joseph's Foundation in Bangkok after our last performance in Thailand.



At our first fireside in Cambodia, the little children all came to join us as we sang "I Am a Child of God" together. We love meeting with fellow members of the Lord's church!



Visiting the ancient temples in Cambodia was another highlight of our trip! Angkor Thom was one of the many ancient sites we visited.



We practiced Saman in as many of the Cambodian ancient temples as we could!



We posed for a picture with representatives of the Nokor Tep Women's Hospital, which benefited from the charity performance in the Koh Pich Theater.



We took our first Vietnamese dancing lesson with students and teachers at the HCMC School of Dance Studio in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.



We were able to participate in another dance workshop, but this time in Vietnam! We learned traditional Vietnamese dance, and they learned Boot Kickin'. We loved meeting and dancing with students at the Hanoi Academy of Theatre and Cinema.



It rained a lot in Vietnam, but we still managed to take a photo in front of the Temple of Literature in Hanoi, Vietnam.



We participated in a rigorous dance workshop with dancers and leaders at the Vietnamese Dance College. We still can't understand how their hands became so flexible.

Itinerary

Monday, May 1 Departure

2:30 am Load bus at Richards Building loading dock (NE corner, next to Tanner Building)

Holiday Bus lines driver: Peggy Richards 801-558-7390

3:00 am Depart for SLC Airport

4:00 am Arrive SLC Airport (Terminal I); flight check-in

6:00 am 45 people depart Salt Lake City - Alaska Air #722

6:54 am Arrive Los Angeles (LAX)

Breakfast - per diem \$10/person

9:30 am 45 people depart Los Angeles - Cathay Pacific Flight #897

Cathay Pacific is part of the Star Alliance Group (American Airlines network)

Tuesday, May 2 Hong Kong, China / Bangkok, Thailand

3:25 pm Arrive Hong Kong (HKG)

Dinner - per diem at airport

7:55 pm 45 fly Hong Kong - Bangkok, Cathay Pacific #703

9:45 pm Arrive in Bangkok

Meet 53-seat bus and 2 trucks for transportation (arranged through Pacific Pro Tour)

-Pacific Pro Tour Thai Guide: May c. 66-81-827-6779 / also thru WhatsApp

Load truck; load bus

10:45 pm Travel to Bangkok hotel near the airport for overnight

Check-in -leave equipment & costumes in trucks overnight

Hotel: Miracle Airport Hotel Bangkok -68/101 King-Keow Road Tachathewa Sub District Bang Phli

Samut prakan, Suvarnabhumi Airport, Bangkok 10540 Tel: 66-2-338-0333

Wednesday, May 3 Bangkok, Thailand

am **Breakfast - at hotel**

8:00 am Work permit blood tests - in designated hotel room

-done by the Kluaynamthai Hospital Team (cash payment for the medical exam)

9:00 am Work permit documents to be picked up (3 photos, departure cards, passports)

10:30 am Check-out of hotel

11:00 am Travel by bus & truck to Golden Tulip Sovereign Hotel

12:00 pm Arrive at hotel; check-in (7 nights) -equipment / costumes stay in the truck

Lunch per diem (formerly a dinner per diem this day)

Pm Rest & relaxation time; exchange money

6:00 pm Travel by bus to Asiatique (riverfront open-air mall) and night market

Dinner

9:30 pm Return to hotel for overnight

Hotel: Golden Tulip Sovereign Hotel Bangkok (formerly the Radisson Hotel)

92 Soi Saengcham Rama 9 Road Huai Khwang, Krung Thep Maha Nakhon 10320

Tel: 66-2-641-4777

Thursday, May 4 Bangkok

am Breakfast - at hotel

6:30 am Cultural visit: Travel to and visit Bridge Over River Kwai Museum & Cemetery, train ride and Elephant Camp (elephant rides, and river rafting)

Lunch

4:00 pm Return to hotel (~3 hours drive)

7:30 pm Dinner -BYU per diem

Pm Overnight in hotel

Friday, May 5 Bangkok

am Breakfast - at hotel

7:30 am Travel to Mercy Center Orphanage

9:00 am Arrive; set up

10:00 am Performance

Mercy Center Orphanage (-45)

100/11 Kae-ha Klong Toey 4,
Dhamrongrattaphiphat Rd., Klong Toey,
Bangkok 10110 Thailand

-Dance area 4 m x 8 m; about 100 children to be in attendance

11:30 am Travel by bus to Marriott Marquis Queen's Park Hotel

Lunch - Japanese Restaurant in Marriott Hotel

2:00 pm Set up for performance -truck also arrives

-Thai work permits to be delivered to BYU here

4:30 pm Dinner - provided by presenter at or near the venue

7:00 pm "Dinner Gala" Performance

Thai Chitlada Ballroom, Marriott Marquis Queen's Park Hotel (seats 500)

199 Sukhumvit Soi 22, Klong Ton, Klong Toey, Bangkok 10110

-US Ambassador Davies has been invited; also LDS member Peter Haymond will be there from the US Embassy

9:00 pm Strike; load truck

10:00 pm Travel by bus to hotel for overnight

Overnight in hotel -equipment / costumes stay in the trucks

Presenter:Pratthanadee Foundation

Contact: "Beer" Sarochinee Unyawachsumrith, Managing Director
Nudang (Lady Benchapa's daughter) / Lady Benchapa Krairiksh

Saturday, May 6 Pattaya & Bangkok, Thailand

am Breakfast - at hotel

8:00 am Travel by bus & truck to Pattaya (2 hours)

10:00 am Arrive at venue - Alcazar Theatre; set up for performance

~11:45 am Lunch - provided by presenter at or near the venue

1:00 pm Performance

Alcazar Theatre (seats 718)

78/14 Moo 9, Pattaya 2nd Road, Nongprue, Pattaya, Thailand

A benefit performance for the Mahatai Vocational School, Father Ray Foundation

3:00 pm Strike; load truck

- 4:00 pm Local tour & performance, including dinner, arranged by Father Ray Foundation
 - Nong Nooch Tropical Botanical Garden
- 8:00 pm Travel by bus & truck to Bangkok (2 hours)
- 10:00 pm Arrive in Bangkok
- pm Overnight in hotel
- 9:10 pm **Kirt and Julie Saville (Director, BYU School of Music) arrive to join the tour**
 - Delta #7852, arrives at 9:10 pm from Seoul

Presenter: Father Ray Foundation

- Contacts:
- Krairat Watson, Supervisor of arrangements
 - Channakkorn (Earth) Phonak-ngern, coordinator
 - Ajima Chavalit-Thamrong, Fundraising Manager & Manager of the Vocational School

Sunday, May 7 Bangkok, Thailand

- am **Breakfast - at hotel**
- 8:15 am Travel by taxi to church meetings (by assignment) and lunch afterward
 - Attend LDS church meetings in Bangkok:
 - 9:00 am Pakkret Ward, Thai speaking
 - 11:00 am Donmuang Ward, Thai speaking
 - 1:00 pm Chaengwattana Ward, English speaking
 - After Church, BYU group members go home with Church members for lunch and social time
- 12:30 - 4:30 **Lunch & social time with members**
 - If there are unassigned group members for host homes, they will have a potluck lunch at the Donmuang Ward building at 2:00 pm (after the block of meetings).
- 5:00 pm Host families arrive with BYU students at Chengwattana Chapel
- 6:00 pm **Devotional**
 - Chaengwattana Chapel (seats 7350)**
 - 50/33 Moo 4 Chaengwattana Road, T. Pakkret, A. Pakkret, Nonthaburi, 1120 Thailand**
 - Local organizers will provide translator(s) as needed
 - President Sathit, Bangkok North Stake President will conduct
 - Translation help by Supantanida Kaenjak &/or Nopporn Janyasawangporn

7:30 pm Travel by bus to hotel
8:00 pm **Dinner - at or near hotel**
Overnight in hotel

Presenter: Bangkok area stakes

Contact: President Sathit Kaivaivatana, Bangkok North Stake President
Elder & Sister Pollmann, Public Affairs Missionaries

Monday, May 8 Bangkok, Thailand

am **Breakfast - at hotel**

9:30 am Cultural visit: Domnoen Saduak Floating Market Tour (arranged by Pacific Pro Tour)

12:00 pm **Lunch**

2:30 pm Travel to Srinakharinwirot University (in Asoke)

3:30 pm Arrive at University; prepare for workshop -truck also arrives

4:00 pm **Workshop with Srinakharinwirot University**
5th Floor Studio Room

-Local organizers will provide 2 translators. BYU teaches an American folk dance, and S. Univ. teaches a Thai folk dance

-30 local dance students expected + 10 SWU staff

6:30 pm **Dinner - provided at university - Prof. Saroj Buasri Innovation Building, ground floor**

7:00 pm **Joint YSA & University Student exchange**
Srinakharinwirot University
Asokmontri Music & Performing Arts Main Hall (seats 328)
114 Sukhumvit 23, Wattana District, Bangkok

-YSAs arrive to join for the audience; both BYU and SU dance more folk dances for each other, and present the two they learned together

-Tech: stage is 12 x 9 meters in size

9:00 pm Load truck

Travel by bus to hotel for overnight

Presenter: Srinakharinwirot University

Contact: Dr. Darinee Chamnanmor

Nurak Monosujarittam, (LDS), Dept. of Juvenile Corrections
Chaitaya Thongmee (Cherry)

Tuesday, May 9

Bangkok, Thailand

- am **Breakfast - at hotel**
- 9:30 am Cultural visit: Bangkok City & Temple Tour & Grand Palace Tour (arranged by Pacific Pro Tour)
- 12:00 pm **Lunch**
- 7:15 pm Travel to National Thailand Cultural Center
- 2:00 pm Arrive at venue - National Thailand Cultural Center -Truck also arrives
Unload, set up for performance
- 4:30 pm **Dinner - provided by presenter at or near the venue**
- 6:30 pm **VIP / Opinion Leader reception**
-Organized by Elder & Sister Pollmann
- 7:00 pm Performance**
Thailand Cultural Center (seats 2,000)
Ratchadaphisek Road, Huay Kwang, Bangkok
- 9:00 pm Strike, load truck
- 9:30 pm Travel by bus to Silom Village, on Silom Road --30 drive
- 10:00 pm Thai traditional dinner w/Thai cultural performances (2 hours)
-This is to be a farewell party for BYU, in preparation for leaving Thailand tomorrow
- 12:00 am Travel by bus to hotel for overnight

Presenter:RE-CU Chulalongkorn University

St. Joseph Foundation / King's Foundation

Contact: Satapat Preeda, Director, St. Joseph's Foundation, Manager of event

Krairat Watson, Coordinator with BYU

Ms. Sunantha Sombuntham, Chairman and Key Supporter

Wednesday, May 10 Bangkok, Thailand / Siem Reap, Cambodia

- am **Breakfast - at hotel**
- Am Free time / rest in hotel
- 10:00 am Hotel check-out; travel by bus & truck to the airport
- 11:30 am Arrive; flight check-in
- 12:30 pm **Lunch -at airport - BYU per diem**
- 2:05 pm 47 people depart Bangkok Airways flight #PG 913
-Overweight costs = \$7/kg
- 3:15 pm Arrive in Siem Reap
Meet 2 busses and 2 luggage vans for transportation (arranged through Pacific Pro Tour)
- 4:30 pm Travel to hotel
- 5:00 pm Arrive and check into hotel (2 nights) -Equipment / costumes stored in side of the lobby
-ATMs not in the hotel, but nearby in the city; free wifi
- 5:45 pm **Dinner**
- 6:45 pm Travel by busses to Siem Reap LDS chapel
- 7:00 pm Devotional**
Siem Reap District Chapel (seats 150)
National Road #6, Chhong Kao Sou Village, S/K Storkram
Siem Reap, Cambodia
-Local organizers will provide translator(s) as needed
- 8:30 pm Travel by busses to hotel by bus for overnight

Presenter: Siem Reap District

Contact: Samantha Da, 2nd Counselor, District Presidency

Hotel: Hotel Somadevi Angkor Resort & Spa - Sivatha Blvd, Mondol II Village, Sangkat Svaydangkum, Siem Reap Town, Cambodia - 855 63 967 666

Thursday, May 11 Siem Reap, Cambodia

- am **Breakfast - at hotel**
- 9:30 am Cultural visits: Angkor Thom, Angkor Wat, and Ta Prohm (Jungle Temple)

(arranged by Pacific Pro Tour)

- 12:00 pm **Lunch**
- Pm Return to hotel
- 6:30 pm **Dinner - local restaurant**
- Overnight in hotel

Friday, May 12

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

- am **Breakfast - at hotel**
- am Load luggage vans
- 7:00 am Hotel check-out; load busses
- 7:30 am Travel by busses & luggage vans to Phnom Penh 320 km / 5 - 6 hours
- 12:30 pm **Lunch (in Phnom Penh area)**
- 2:00 pm Arrive Phnom Penh, at Nokor Tep Women's Hospital
--#109 Path Road, Prey Sor East Village, Prey Sor Communie, Dangkor District, Phnom Penh
Tour Nokor Tep Women's Hospital construction site & meet Janne Riskes, Founder of Tabitha Foundation Cambodia
- 3:00 pm Cultural visit: S21 Prison / Tuol Sleng Museum (arranged by Pacific Pro Tour)
- 4:00 pm Travel by busses & luggage vans to Phnom Penh South District Center
- 5:00 pm Arrive
Join YSA Conference Activity
Cambodia YSA Conference (approx.. 500 YSAs)
Phnom Penh South Stake Center
House 267, Street 63, Sangkat Tole, Bassac Khan Chamkarmon
Phnom Penh
- 5:30 pm **Dinner - with YSAs at Conference**
- ?6:30 pm **Teaching by BYU dancers**
Stake Center Parking Lot
-Local organizers will provide translator(s) as needed; a small stage (18' x 12') will be set up for the dance teacher to work from; sound equipment will be provided; objective: "to get the YSAs mixing"
- 8:00 pm Conference ends; travel to hotel
- 9:00 pm Arrive; check into hotel (3 nights) -equipment/costumes stored in a ground floor store room

Presenter: Cambodia YSA Leaders

Contact: Elder & Sister Dowd- Note: Elder Evans of Area Presidency to be in attendance

Hotel: Ohana Phnom Penh Palace Hotel - #4 & 6, Street 148, Sangkat, Phsar Kandal I, Khan Daun Penh,
Phnom Penh, Cambodia - 855 23 989 671

Saturday, May 13 _____ Phnom Penh, Cambodia

am **Breakfast - at hotel**

am Load luggage vans

8:00 am Cultural visits: Silver Pagoda & Royal Palace (arranged by Pacific Pro Tour)

11:00 am Arrive at Aeon Mall -luggage vans also arrive

11:30 am Short performance and/or walk about the mall in costume

Aeon Mall

***132 Street Samdach Sothearos, Dangkat Tonle Bassac, Khan, Chamkarmon**

Phnom Penh

-Restrooms close to the dance area for costume changing; possible that dancers will only be asked, in costume, to hand out flyers in the mall

12:30 pm **Lunch -BYU per diem in the mall**

1:00 pm Load luggage vans; travel by busses and luggage vans to venue

2:00 pm Arrive at venue - Koh Pich Theatre

Unload & set up

4:30 pm **Dinner - provided by presenter at or near the venue**

~6:15 pm **VIP / Opinion Leader reception**

7:00 pm Performance

Koh Pich Theatre (seats 2,970)

National No. 1 Tabea Village Sangkat Bavet Krong Bavet Svay Rieng Province

Phnom Penh

Charity Performance for Nokor Tep Women's Hospital

9:00 pm Strike; load luggage vans

10:00 pm Travel by busses to hotel for overnight

Presenter: Tabitha Foundation Cambodia

Contact: Janne Riskes, Founder
Elder & Sister Dowd, LDS coordinators

Sunday, May 14 _____ Phnom Penh, Cambodia _____

- am **Breakfast - at hotel**
- 8:30 am Travel by busses to church location - Phnom Penh South Stake Center
House 267, Street 63, Sangkat Tonlebasak, Khan Chamkar Morn
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- 9:30 am Arrive
- 10:00 am Attend Stake Conference of the Phnom Penh South Stake
- 12:00 pm Afterward, BYU group divides and goes home with members for lunch and social time
-If needed, transportation will be there to return the tour leaders to their hotel
- 12:30 pm **Lunch & social time with LDS members**
- 5:00 pm Host families bring BYU students to devotional location
- 6:00 pm Devotional**
Phnom Penh South Stake Center (seats ~500)
House 267, Street 63, Sangkat Tonlebasak, Khan Chamkar Morn
Phnom Penh, Cambodia
-Local organizers will provide translator(s) as needed
- ~7:30 pm Travel by busses to hotel
- 8:00 pm **Dinner - at or near hotel?**
- Pm Overnight in hotel

Presenter: Phnom Penh area stakes

Contact: Elder Lance and Sister Joni Dowd, Public Affairs Missionaries

Monday, May 15 _____ Phnom Penh, Cambodia / Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam _____

- 4:00 am Load luggage vans
- 4:30 am Check out of hotel rooms; load busses; transfer to airport
Breakfast box

- 5:00 am Arrive at airport; flight check-in
- 6:55 am 47 people depart Phnom Penh for Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam Air #VN3582
- 7:55 am Arrive Ho Chi Minh City
Meet 2 busses and 2 luggage vans for transportation (arranged through Pacific Pro Tour)
- 9:00 am Travel by busses & luggage vans to cultural tour (~1 hour travel)
- 10:00 am Cultural Visit: Chu Chi tunnels (arranged by Pacific Pro Tour)
- pm **Lunch**
- ~2:00 pm Check into hotel (2 nights) -equipment/costumes stored in the hotel (tbd)
Free time / rest
Dinner - BYU covers cost (tbd)
- 6:30 pm Travel by busses to Young Single Adult (YSA) activity
- 7:00 pm **YSA Activity / Social**
Tan Son Nhat Branch meeting location (seats 80)
16A Phan Tôn, Da Kao
Ho Chi Minh City
Followed by **refreshments provided by BYU**
-Local organizers will organize opening song and prayer, and program, including BYU Folk Dancers in it; will also provide translator(s) as needed
- 8:30 pm Travel by busses to hotel
Overnight in hotel

Presenter: Tan Son Nhat LDS Branch

Contact: Thang Tran & Sister Huong, Communications Committee
Elder & Sister Greg & Deborah Coffey, Support missionaries
Phuc Thinh Phan, Branch President

Hotel: Northern Hotel - 11a Thi Sách, Bến Nghé, Quận 1 Hồ Chí Minh, Vietnam
w. 84-8-3825-1751

Tuesday, May 16 Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

- am **Breakfast - at hotel**
- am Load luggage vans
- 9:30 am Cultural visit: Reunification Palace, Notre Dame Cathedral, Central Post Office, China Town,
and War Remnants Museum (arranged by Pacific Pro Tour)
- 12:00 pm **Lunch**
- 12:30 pm Travel by busses to venue
- 1:00 pm Arrive at venue - Ben Thanh Theatre -luggage vans also arrive
Unload & set up for performance
Busses continue to HCMC School of Dance for workshop drop-off -1.7 km / 7 min
- 1:30 pm **Workshop - Dance exchange (2 hours)**
HCMC School of Dance Studio
155bis Nam Kỳ Khởi Nghĩa
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
-BYU teaches American; School of Dance teaches a Vietnamese dance
-Local organizers will provide translator(s) as needed
- 3:30 pm Busses bring workshop participants to venue for continued work with set up
- 4:30 pm **Dinner -provided by local presenter at the theatre**
- 5:30 pm Rehearsal on stage
- 7:00 pm** **Performance**
Ben Thanh Theatre (seats 1,041)
06 Mac Dinh Chi Street, District 1
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam 70000
-Tickets available through HCMC School of Dance, Thuy Chi Ta, Assistant Manager of Experimental Theatre
- 9:00 pm Strike; load luggage vans
- 10:00 pm Travel by busses to hotel for overnight

Presenter:Ho Chi Minh City School of Dance

Contact: Thuy Chi Ta, Assistant Manager of Experimental Theatre, HCMC School of Dance
Há Thê Dũng, Director, School of Dance

Wednesday, May 17 Ha Long Bay, Vietnam

- ?am **Breakfast - at hotel**
- Am Loads luggage vans
- 4:30 am Check out of rooms; load busses; transfer to airport
- 5:30 am Arrive; flight check-in
- 7:00 am 45 people depart Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam Air #VN216
-Overweight: 20 kgs of extra weight obtained by coupon = 40 kgs/ person for this flight
Saville's leave the tour in HCMC to fly to Manila
Philippine Air #592, departs at 9:30 am
- 9:05 am Arrive in Hanoi
Load 2 luggage vans; taken to Hanoi for safe storage by the transportation company (1 night only possible for this)
Load 2 busses
- 10:00 am Travel by busses to Ha Long Bay ~3 hours
- 12:00 pm **Lunch (snack boxes while on busses)**
- 2:00 pm Arrive at Ha Long Bay; check in for chartered cruise (1 night)
Cultural visit: cruise within Ha Long Bay, including overnight (arranged by Pacific Pro Tour)
- ~6:30 pm **Seafood dinner during the cruise**
Overnight on cruise
- Hotel: La Vela Classic Cruise (1 or 2 beds per berth)
Lodging: 45 total = 3 couples, 2 women leaders, 1 man leader, 15 student women, 21 student men
-1:05 pm Jaren Wilkey, University Photographer, arrives in Hanoi to join the tour (Vietnam Air #232 fr HCMC)
- to stay in the La Belle Vie Hotel (pre-arranged)
Jaren: c. 801-592-7585

-President Kevin Worthen and Vice-President Sandra Rogers arrive in Hanoi this day
7:40 pm Thai Air from Bangkok (will stay in JW Marriott Hotel)

Thursday, May 18 Hanoi, Vietnam

- am **Breakfast - on cruise boat**
- am Arrive at cruise terminal

- 8:00 am Travel by 2 busses to Hanoi -5 hours incl lunch stop
President Worthen in Hanoi government meetings
- 12:00 pm Lunch en-route
- 1:00 pm Arrive in Hanoi; Check into hotel (4 nights)
Jaren Wilkey joins the tour group
- 2:00 pm Travel by busses to venue
- 2:30 pm Arrive at venue - Hanoi Academy of Theatre & Cinema -luggage vans also arrive
Unload & set up
- 3:00 pm **Dance Workshop** - Hanoi Academy
At or near the venue - (~20 students to attend)
-Local organizers will provide translator(s) as needed; learn Vietnamese Dance and teach an American dance
- 4:30 pm Dinner - **BYU per diem (restaurants near the venue)**
- 6:30 pm **VIP reception line** (Mission President, President Worthen, Mission PAD, VP Rogers meet VIP guests upon arrival)
- 7:00 pm **Exchange performance**
Hanoi Academy of Theatre and Cinema (seats 300)
Mai Dich, Cau Giay, Hanoi, Vietnam
-President & Sister Worthen and VP Rogers in attendance
- 9:00 pm Strike; load luggage vans
- 10:00 pm Travel by busses to hotel
Overnight in hotel -equipment / costumes stored in a basement storage room

Presenter:Hanoi Academy of Theatre and Cinema, Department of Dance

Contact: Nguyen Hong Son, International Relations Officer

Hotel: La Belle Vie Hotel -105 Nguyen Truong To Quan Thanh, Ba Dinh, Hanoi

Tel: 84-4-3927-5515

Lodging: 46 total = 3 couples, 2 women leaders, 1 man leader, 15 student women, 21 student men

+ Jaren Wilkey

Friday, May 19

Hanoi, Vietnam

- am **Breakfast - at hotel**
- am Load luggage vans
-President & Sister Worthen and VP Rogers join the group all day
- 8:00 am Cultural Visits: Ho Chi Minh's Residence, One Pilla Pagoda, Temple of Literature, & Hoa Loa Prison (arranged by Pacific Pro Tour)
- 12:00 pm **Lunch**
- 1:00 pm Travel by busses to venue
- 1:30 pm Arrive at venue - Vietnam Dance College -luggage vans also arrive
Possible meeting with College administration
Unload and set up for performance
- 2:00 pm Dance workshop - Vietnam Dance College**
Vietnam Dance College classroom
-Local organizers will provide translator(s) as needed; teach American Folk dances
- 4:30 pm Dinner -at or near the college**
(bread & drinks provided by the school; Vietnamese noodles added to the order)
- 7:00 pm Exchange performance**
Vietnam Dance College Theater (seats 500)
Ho Tung Mau St
Mai Dich, Cau Giay Dist., Hanoi, Vietnam
-President & Sister Worthen and VP Rogers in attendance
- 9:00 pm Strike; load luggage vans
- 10:00 pm Travel by busses to hotel -equipment / costumes stored in hotel rooms

Presenter: Vietnam Dance College

Contact: Ms. Nguyen Thi Phuong Lan, International Relations
Ms Do Thi Thu Hang, Vice Rector
Mr. Nguyen Cong Nhac, Vice President, Vietnam Dance Association

Saturday, May 20 Hanoi, Vietnam

- am **Breakfast - at hotel**
- 9:00 am Cultural Visits: Cycling ride through Old City quarters, arriving at puppet show location
- 10:30 am Water Puppet Show (1 hour) (arranged by Pacific Pro Tour)
- 11:30 am Transfer by bus to lunch
- 12:00 pm **Lunch**
- 1:30 pm Travel by busses to additional activity (tbd): shopping, free time, and/or Museum of Ethnology or the Women's Museum
- 6:30 pm Arrive at meeting point with YSAs - go together with them to the Night Market in the Old Quarter, including **dinner together**
- 9:30 pm Travel by busses to hotel
Overnight in hotel

Sunday, May 21 Hanoi Vietnam

- am **Breakfast - at hotel**
- 8:15 am Travel by busses to LDS churches
- 9:00 am Attend local LDS church meetings--- to be in two separate locations (Meeting times 9 or 11)
Hanoi Meeting House
Số 2 lô 6 đường trung yên 9
Phường Trung Hòa, Cầu Giấy, Hà Nội

Long Bien Meetinghouse
Số 251, Ngõ Gia Tự, phường
Đức Giang, Quận, Long Biên, Hà Nội
- 12:15 pm Travel by busses to hotel
- 1:00 pm **Lunch**
Free time / rest
- 4:00 pm Travel by busses to devotional location
- 4:30 pm Arrive; prepare for devotional

6:00 pm Devotional -Hanoi LDS Branches (seats ~300) (President Worthen included as speaker)

Hanoi Meeting House

Số 2 lô 6 đường trung yên 9

Phường Trung Hòa, Cầu Giấy, Hà Nội

Hanoi, Vietnam

-President & Sister Worthen and VP Rogers in attendance

-Local organizers will provide translator(s) as needed

7:30 pm Travel by busses to hotel

8:00 pm Dinner - at or near hotel

Overnight in hotel

Monday, May 22 Hanoi, Vietnam Departure

am Breakfast - at hotel

am Load luggage vans

7:15 am Check out of hotel; load busses; transfer to airport

8:15 am Jaren Wilkey files Hanoi - Tokyo - LAX - SLC (Vietnam Air 384 / American Air 26)

8:30 am Arrive; flight check-in

-10:00 am President & Sister Worthen & VP Rogers depart Hanoi

10:35 am 45 people depart Hanoi, Cathay Dragon #296

Lunch served on the flight

1:35 pm Arrive in Hong Kong

Departures from the group for post tour travel:

Jeanette Geslison flies to Beijing for BYU work (returns to SLC on May 28)

4:35 pm 44 depart Hong Kong - Cathay Pacific Flight #882

2:50 pm Arrive in Los Angeles

Dinner - \$10 per diem

7:55 pm 44 depart Los Angeles - Alaska Air #721

10:42pm Arrive Salt Lake; load truck; travel by bus to Provo

12:30 am Arrive in Provo