

Danu Vets Newsletter

Art | Adventure | Educational | Travel

Changes in Airline Industry Creates Headaches

The airline industry has decided it will no longer cater to the needs and pocketbooks of travelers, tour organizers and travel agents, and are thus causing major changes in how companies like ours must operate.

Good Old Days: We made a group reservation, based on size estimates through Wendy, our agent at Pacific Harbor Travel. Six weeks before departure, we collected final payments, and when checks cleared, paid Wendy who paid for the tickets about 4 weeks before departure.

New Reality: Group reservations are held a relatively short amount of time, and names, birth dates and passport numbers must be attached. Tickets must be paid for soon after reservations, and prices rise dramatically as takeoff time approaches.

Good Old Days: Wendy could secure RT tourist class tickets on Singapore Airlines to Bali for \$1200.-\$1450., based on high or low season.

New Realty: The recent consolidator price on Singapore Airlines starting this year began at \$1800. and goes up to \$1900. for RT west coast to Bali.

Good Old Days: With some flexibility, you could find an air ticket available up to 3-4 weeks prior to departure.

New Reality: Airlines have cut way back on numbers of flights, and stuff every flight as full as possible by partnering with other airlines. All flights can be full 6 months prior to departure.

A Word to the Wise: Make your travel plans and book early.

'Bali: Art, Ritual, Performance' a Big Hit at The Asian Museum SF

The first Museum show in the USA devoted entirely to Balinese art opened to great excitement in San Francisco on Feb. 25 2011. Made Surya performed Mask dance at the pre-opening event on Feb. 24, and officiated at the grand opening purification ceremony.

San Francisco Chronicle Art Critic Kenneth Baker said "The aesthetic and emotional atmosphere of the artifacts in "Bali," and their nicely paced installation, make the current exhibition one not to miss." The show continues till Sept. 11. www.asianart.org

Visitors to the Museum Store will notice many copies of Judy's book, "Balinese Masks" for sale, and also notice baskets by Tenganan villagers, masks by Cokorda Raka Tisnu and Wayan Tangguh, paintings by Made Suciarmi, and lontar books by Ketut Murti that many of those of you who traveled with us to Bali purchased. Judy was the private guide for Peri Danton, the Stores Buyer last August and took him to her favorite resources.



Kris stand in the form a composite frog, approx. 1900-1940. Bali. Wood and pigments. Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam.

Judy and Surya's presentations at the museum are as follows:

(Thursday, March 31, 2011, 6:30 - 8:00 pm , Samsung Hall)



Made Suryasa talks about Balinese a capella singing images in a revolving Power Point show. Learn about Balinese/Hindu chants, an essential part of all their ceremonies. \$5 members; \$22 general (includes museum admission and special exhibition surcharge) Friday and Saturday, April 1 and 2, 12:00 noon-4:00 pm, North Court. Demonstration: Balinese Vocal Music with I Made Suryasa. This Balinese artist

and performer presents the traditional a capella offering performed at Bali-Hindu ceremonies. "Surya" perform sample chants with their lyrics projected in old Javanese (Kawi).

Sunday, April 3, 2011 2:00 - 3:00 pm , Samsung Hall Traditional mask dance performance with I Made Suryasa.

Thursday, April 7, 6:30 pm- 7:30 pm, Education Studios "Balinese Masks: Trance, Myth and Magic" With Judy Slatum and I Made Suryasa

Lecture, power point show and dance performance. There will be a book signing after the lecture. \$5 after Museum admission

Mothers Day Sunday May 8: Surya will be demonstrating Mask Carving all day from 10-4:00

Our wonderful guide in Hanoi, Quynh Nguyen has told us stories of the revered "Grandfather Turtle" who dwells in Hoan Keim lake. Many of us secretly believed the turtle was fictitious, yet this article appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle on March 8, 2011:

Turtle in Hanoi Escapes Would-Be Rescuers

(By Seth Mydans)



Rescuers in Vietnam began an urgent effort on Tuesday to capture and treat an old and ailing turtle that lives in a landmark lake in Hanoi and is revered as the city's spiritual symbol.

Thousands of onlookers jostled at the edge of the tree-fringed lake as divers and boatmen tried to wrestle the huge turtle onto an artificial island where an elaborate "turtle hospital" had been created with a holding pen and filtered water tank.

But the rescuers lost their quarry, as the turtle, which weighs about 440 pounds, ripped through their net and plunged deeper into the cold and murky water and disappeared. Seemingly fruitless efforts continued throughout the day.

The turtle, which scientists say could be more than a century old, is revered as the incarnation of a mythical creature that snatched a magic sword from a 15th-century king and returned it to its divine owners beneath the water, giving the lake its name, Hoan Kiem, or Lake of the Returned Sword. Romantics say the turtle is that legendary creature, believing it to be more than 600 years old.

For months, scientists and officials have argued over how to save the turtle, whose shell has become gouged and whose flesh is raw with wounds, raising fears of infection from the pollution that has fouled the lake. Some blame an infestation of small turtles called red-eared sliders. It surfaces from time to time, then quickly disappears as cars and motorbikes whirl past, bathing the modern lakeside in the white noise of traffic. Such appearances have grown more common as his condition has deteriorated. Though some experts warned that disturbing the solitary creature could cause him further harm, alarm over his condition prompted an urgent effort to determine and treat his ailments.

Hoan Kiem Lake, surrounded by weeping willows and other foliage, lies at the heart of the city, its curved red bridge leading to a tiny island with a temple. Visitors surround it throughout the day, eating ice cream or staring out at the water from benches.

Experts say the turtle could be even more than a century old. Turtles have been known to live to the age of 175, said Timothy McCormack, a coordinator at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo's Asian Turtle Program, a network that seeks to develop and promote turtle conservation efforts in Asia.

While Mr. Duc insists that the Hoan Kiem turtle is unique, a species of its own, scientists generally agree that it is one of just four members of its species, Rafetus swinhoei. There is a second in another lake in Hanoi and two more in a zoo in China.

Mr. McCormack watched Tuesday morning as six boats and two divers with two nets struggled to land the powerful turtle.

"When you're down to the last four animals," he said, "the options are running out."

Our next Art and Culture Tour to Laos and Vietnam will occur from **Jan. 4-23, 2012.**

Check out our web site site for itinerary and details: www.danutours.com and for a slideshow of images from last years trip, go to:

Vietnam <http://www.flickr.com/photos/53578308@N05/sets/72157626069430479/>

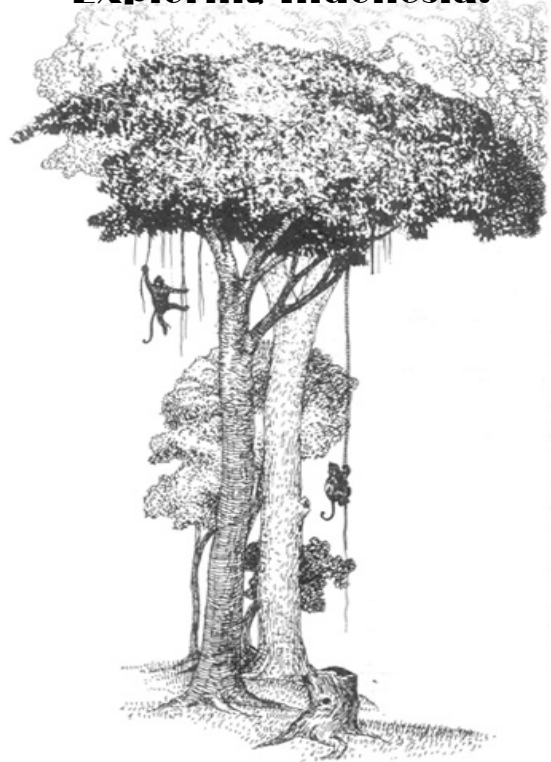
Hmong People of Vietnam <http://www.flickr.com/photos/53578308@N05/sets/72157626069569735/>

Laos: Street Life <http://www.flickr.com/photos/53578308@N05/sets/72157626091445167/>

Laos: In the Countryside <http://www.flickr.com/photos/53578308@N05/sets/72157626216918550/>

Laos: Spiritual Life <http://www.flickr.com/photos/53578308@N05/sets/72157626091864069/>

Exploring Indonesia:



Java, Borneo, Sulawesi

Indonesia is a vast and diverse country. The 13,667 islands that lie along the equator in Southeast Asia contain a tropical kaleidoscope of sensory delights; majestic volcanoes, cascading water falls, sea gardens rampant with coral and tropical fish, emerald green rice fields, complex arts and crafts, rare fabrics, unusual endangered species, and unique fruits and vegetables are only a few of the islands' offerings. Our safari concentrates on the areas we believe contain some of the most exciting experiences Indonesia has to offer. Aug. 15-31, 2011, with an extension to Komodo possible.

For further information and a detailed itinerary go to: www.danutours.com



Exploring Greek Islands: Crete and Santorini



Are you seeking a holiday that is fun, beautiful, physically and intellectually stimulating, and educational? The Greek islands provide a stunning backdrop for the extensive archeological sites on both Crete and Santorini. The itinerary includes some soft trekking each day, as well as visits to museums, seminars on history, mythology, poetry, art and architecture, and a little happy hour hedonism as well.

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For a slideshow from last years tour, go to:

http://cronin.smugmug.com/Travel/Danu-Greece/16209612_eBBjH

For a complete itinerary and details: www.danutours.com

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