



THE FIRST ZEN INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

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會協禪一第國美

Film Series

Angkor Wat

Journey into Buddhism – Prana Earth, Directed by John Bush

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Mysteries of Asia -- Jewels in the Jungle, Narrated by Michael Bell

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Mysteries of Asia – Jewels in the Jungle presents a very good overview of the art and architecture of Angkor Wat, its role in Cambodian history, and its transformation from a Hindu to a Buddhist temple. Originally a temple to Vishnu, Angkor Wat was built by Cambodian King Suryavarman II in the early 12th century. It is decorated with a wide variety of carvings, many of them depicting scenes from the Hindu epic, the *Ramayana*, but it currently functions as a Buddhist temple. *Mysteries of Asia – Jewels in the Jungle* also discusses the destruction of Cambodian culture under the Khmer Rouge. The film was made for *The Learning Channel* in 2000, is narrated by Michael Bell and runs for 50 minutes.

Journey into Buddhism: Prana Earth is a documentary film on “Yatra” – sacred pilgrimage. Made for Public Television, it visits sites in Southeast Asia where the Buddhist and Hindu traditions have intermingled over the centuries – most notably Angkor Wat. It shows us the current state of Cambodian Buddhism, with old and young monks, but no middle generation, most of whom were lost to the genocidal policies of the Khmer Rouge. The film also takes us to Borodpur – another massive Buddhist temple in Java, Indonesia, and then on to Bali. *Journey into Buddhism: Prana Earth* was directed by John Bush, narrated by Sharon Stone, and runs for 85 minutes.

Admission is free.

