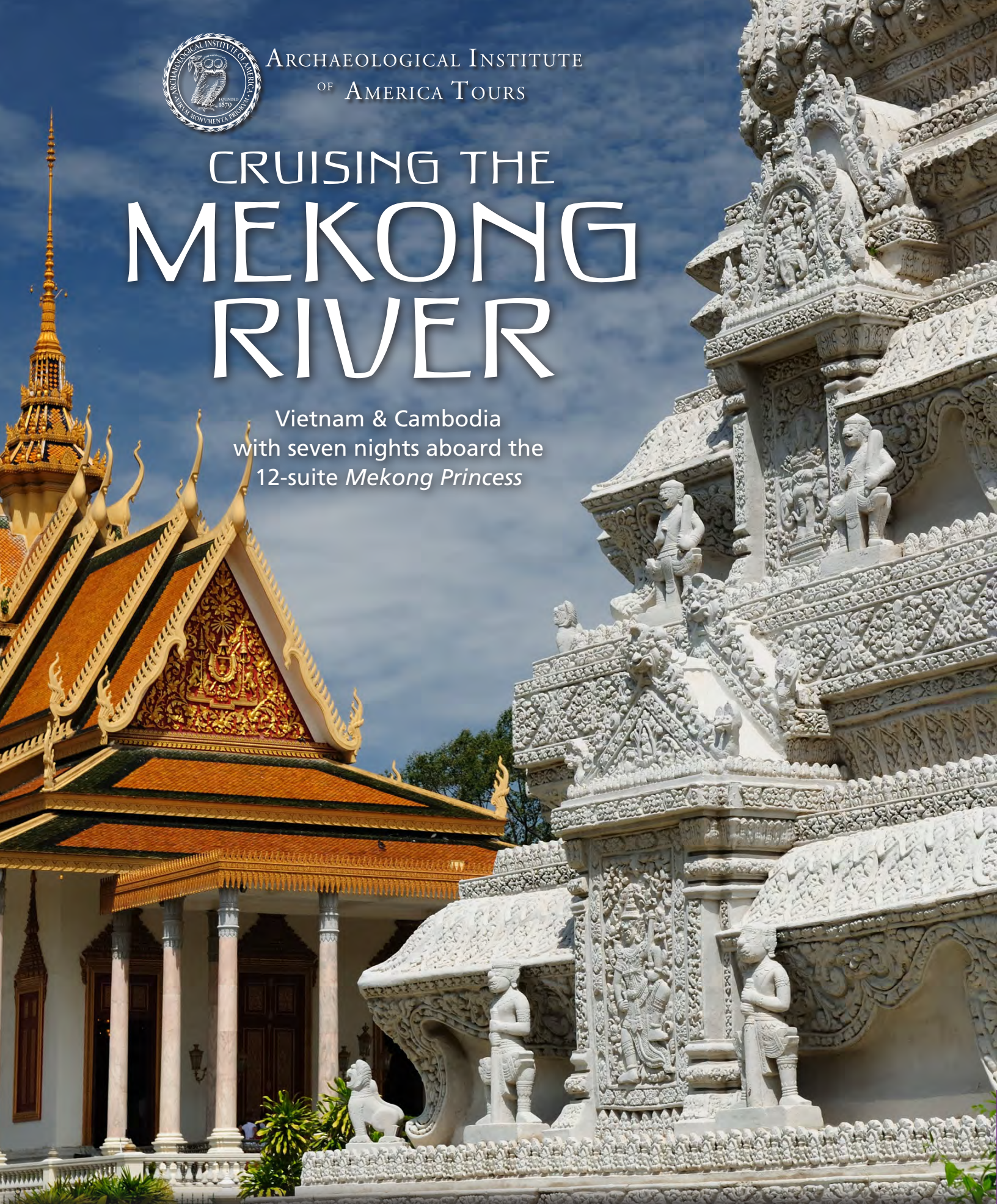




ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE  
OF AMERICA TOURS

# CRUISING THE MEKONG RIVER

Vietnam & Cambodia  
with seven nights aboard the  
*12-suite Mekong Princess*



December 2-15, 2019

With **JOYCE C. WHITE**, Executive Director,  
Institute for Southeast Asian Archaeology





## Dear Traveler,

**NEXT WINTER**, explore the wonders of tropical Indochina on our **luxurious tour of Vietnam, Cambodia, and the Mekong River**. Begin with two days in Ho Chi Minh City (still known by many as Saigon), a busy and dynamic metropolis that exudes energy and buzzes with activity. Then embark on a **seven-night Mekong River cruise aboard the beautiful *Mekong Princess*, an exclusive riverboat with only 12 suites**, elegant French colonial appointments, an ultra-shallow draft that allows us to access the nooks and crannies of the river, and all the modern comforts.

As you **cruise from Ho Chi Minh City to Siem Reap**, visit magnificent Buddhist and Hindu temples, observe floating markets bursting with colorful produce, and delve into the everyday lives of those who call the Mekong River home. Enjoy an enriching series of **presentations and discussions by accompanying AIA lecturer and host Joyce White**, who has worked in Southeast Asian archaeology since the mid-1970s and currently directs a field-based archaeological research program that focuses on the history and prehistory of the Mekong Basin. Conclude with **two glorious days to explore Angkor's** world-famous Khmer temples, the largest religious monument in the world.

Don't miss this opportunity to cruise aboard a beautiful, luxurious new riverboat as you **explore two remarkable Southeast Asian countries and the mighty river that connects them**. If you would like to start your Southeast Asia experience a little earlier, we also offer an optional pre-tour extension to Hanoi and exquisitely beautiful Ha Long Bay.

We will be sharing this adventure with National Trust for Historic Preservation travelers. With a total **guest capacity of only 22**, the *Mekong Princess* will surely fill quickly, so I encourage you to reserve your suite today by contacting AIA Tours at **800-748-6262** or [aia@studytours.org](mailto:aia@studytours.org).

Sincerely,

R. Todd Nielsen  
Director, AIA Tours  
Archaeological Institute of America

### THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA & THE AIA TOURS PROGRAM

The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) is the oldest and largest archaeological organization in North America. The AIA seeks to educate people of all ages about the significance of archaeological discovery. For more than a century the AIA has been dedicated to the encouragement and support of archaeological research and publication, and to the protection of the world's archaeological resources and cultural heritage. By traveling on an AIA Tour you directly support the AIA while personally gaining the benefit of the AIA's network of scholars and worldwide contacts.





## Study Leader



Archaeological Institute of America lecturer and host **JOYCE C. WHITE** will share insights with you throughout this journey. Dr. White has worked in Southeast Asian

archaeology since the mid-1970s and currently directs a field-based archaeological research program in Laos that focuses on the history and prehistory of the Mekong Basin. She is co-director of the Middle Mekong Archaeological Project (MMAP) and Director of the University of Pennsylvania Museum's Ban Chiang Project. Since 1987 Dr. White has been a researcher and associate curator at the Penn Museum, and she is now adjunct Professor of Anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania. In 2013 she founded the Institute for Southeast Asian Archaeology (ISEAA), where she is currently its Executive Director. Dr. White has been a lecturer on five previous tours to Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, and Myanmar, including this very AIA-sponsored program aboard the *Mekong Princess* in 2016 and 2018. During our trip, she will discuss the culture, history, and prehistory of the Mekong River Basin, the world's twelfth longest river, and the main artery for mainland Southeast Asia for communication, trade, and population movements for thousands of years. She will also discuss the ancient and historic trade networks that linked Southeast Asia to the rest of the Old World, and the origins of Southeast Asian civilizations, with a particular focus on the Khmer Empire. Her most popular lectures are about current archaeological research at Angkor, and about her experience as an expert witness for a US Justice Department case on smuggling of Asian antiquities.

**(COVER)** Explore the Royal Palace complex in Phnom Penh, including the Silver Pagoda. **(THIS PAGE, MAIN IMAGE)** Visit Ta Prohm, a World Heritage–designated temple at Angkor that has been left to merge with nature, wrapped in the embrace of enormous tree roots from the surrounding jungle. **(BACK COVER)** Marvel at the vibrancy of daily life on the waterways of the Mekong River, where colorful produce is sold in floating villages.







FISHING BOATS,  
MEKONG DELTA

## Itinerary

### MONDAY–TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2-3 HOME 🌟 HO CHI MINH CITY (SAIGON), VIETNAM

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Upon arrival on December 3rd, transfer to the Park Hyatt Hotel. The evening is at leisure to rest or explore on your own. PARK HYATT SAIGON

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4 HO CHI MINH CITY

Ho Chi Minh City is Vietnam's most economically dynamic city, and the streets are always abuzz with activity. During a motorcoach tour, drive through Chinatown and past the city's best-known monuments—Notre Dame Cathedral, City Hall, the Old Saigon Post Office, and the Presidential Palace. After lunch, take an excursion accompanied by a local expert to the Cu Chi tunnels, a vast underground network that hid thousands of Viet Cong guerrillas and Vietnamese villagers during the Vietnam War. This evening enjoy a festive welcome dinner. PARK HYATT SAIGON (B,L,D)

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5 HO CHI MINH CITY (EMBARK)

Visit the Ben Thanh market, where anything and everything is for sale, including handicrafts, traditional clothing and textiles, and local food specialties. Embark the intimate and luxurious *Mekong Princess*, your home for the next seven days, and begin cruising the Mekong River.

MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6 BEN TRE 🌟 TRA ON

Today, cruise by sampan through a channel lined with mangroves, our destination a coconut candy maker. After walking through a family-owned orchard, travel aboard horse-drawn carts to a local pier and board small boats to explore narrow creeks

Apsara dancing, the heart of classical Khmer dance, dates to the time of Suryavarman II, a 12th-century Khmer king and the builder of Angkor Wat. In Hindu and Buddhist mythology, Apsaras are female spirits of the clouds and waters—youthful, elegant, and skilled in the art of dancing. They are often compared to angels, or to the ancient Greek muses.

lined with Nipah palms. This afternoon enter an area of the Mekong Delta barely touched by tourism to visit Tra On and the Phuoc Hau pagoda. MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 CAN THO 🌟 HOA AN

Dock in Can Tho and explore by sampan the fascinating Cai Rang market, a feast for the senses and a boon for photographers. Weave in and out among floating watercraft loaded with produce and everything else the residents of the Mekong Delta need in their daily lives. Stop at a home factory to learn how instant noodles are made, and tour a family-owned orchard to see and savor exotic Asian fruits. In the afternoon continue to Hoa An, a small village known for its flowers and handicrafts. Visit the flower gardens and meet with local families, including weavers who make conical hats and mats.

MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 GIENG ISLAND

Board sampans for a visit to a village on Gieng Island where local families make hundreds of sampans. Continue along a canal to a remote riverside area with duck farms, a tropical orchard, and monkey bridges. Then ride on *xe lams* to visit a Catholic church that was built in the 1870s. MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 9 HONG NGU 🌟 PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

At several family homes in Hong Ngu, a small island hamlet, observe residents weaving and embroidering traditional Khmer scarves. Visit a temple dedicated to a unique form of Buddhism called Hòa Hảo, which focuses on aiding the poor.

Cross the border into Cambodia and continue upstream.

MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10 PHNOM PENH

Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh, retains vestiges of its French charm, including a riverfront corniche and some examples of French Colonial architecture. Ride along the riverfront aboard cyclos to the Silver Pagoda, home to an "Emerald Buddha" made of







**CITY HALL,  
HO CHI MINH CITY**



**HA LONG BAY**

Baccarat crystal and a life-size Maitreya Buddha encrusted with diamonds. Stop by the National Museum for a comprehensive look at its spectacular collection of artifacts, excavated in Angkor and brought here for safekeeping. Examine the darker days of Cambodian history at the infamous Choeung Ek killing fields and Tuol Sleng, a Khmer Rouge prison. Back on board the *Mekong Princess*, enjoy a dance performance by children from a local orphanage. *MEKONG PRINCESS* (B,L,D)

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11** **ANGKOR BAN**

Angkor Ban is a unique little village on the banks of the Mekong, one of the few that survived destruction under the Khmer Rouge regime. Centuries old villages stand intact on stilts, while the bustle of local agricultural life swirls below. Enjoy a visit with a family in their home, and with schoolchildren in their classroom. Stop at the local monastery before returning to the ship. *MEKONG PRINCESS* (B,L,D)

### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12** **KAMPONG CHAM** 🌸 **SIEM REAP**

Disembark the *Mekong Princess* in Kampong Cham and transfer to Siem Reap, the gateway to the magnificent complex at Angkor, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the largest religious monument in the world. Enjoy dinner on your own and an evening at leisure. *PARK HYATT HOTEL* (B,L)

### **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13** **ANGKOR** 🌸 **SIEM REAP**

Spend an entire morning exploring the grandest of the temples, fabled Angkor Wat, a miniature universe carved in stone. Its central tower represents mythical Mt. Meru, home of the gods, and intricate

carvings of deities and demons, graceful Apsaras (female spirits of the clouds and waters), and scenes of everyday life grace its corridors. In the afternoon, when the light is best, visit Ta Prohm, a silent and mysterious ruin shrouded in jungle vegetation. Dinner is again on your own this evening. *PARK HYATT HOTEL* (B,L)

### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14** **ANGKOR**

Early this morning visit Bakheng Temple, the perfect vantage point for a panoramic sunrise view over Angkor Wat and the surrounding plain. After a picnic breakfast, travel by elephant to Angkor Thom, once an enormous walled city, to investigate the temple at its heart, the Bayon. Its 55 large and small towers are topped by carved heads, each one wearing a mysterious Mona Lisa smile. In the afternoon, travel about Siem Reap by *tuk tuk* (auto rickshaw) on an art tour, visiting galleries and artisan workshops to view the arts and crafts of the region. This evening enjoy a special farewell dinner and a performance of Khmer classical dance, often called Apsara dance. *PARK HYATT HOTEL* (B,L,D)

### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15** **SIEM REAP** 🌸 **HOME**

This morning transfer to the airport for flights home, crossing the International Date Line and arriving the same day. (B)



**WOODEN WATER PUPPETS IN HANOI**

### **OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR EXTENSION**

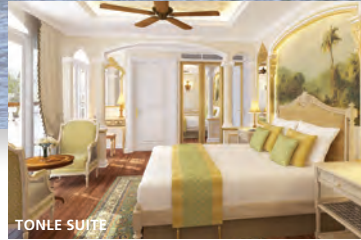
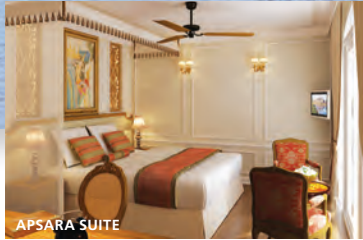
#### **NOVEMBER 29 – DECEMBER 3, 2019** **HANOI AND HA LONG BAY**

Begin your Southeast Asian experience with two nights in Hanoi, Vietnam's leafy green, lake-studded capital. A panoramic tour will introduce you to Hanoi's best-known sights, including the Temple of Literature, the "Hanoi Hilton," the mausoleum of Ho Chi Minh, and the modest "House on Stilts" in which this key figure in Vietnam's independence movement lived for many years. Take a cyclo tour through the alleyways of the city's charming historic quarter, and enjoy a delightful performance by traditional water puppets. Travel to the coast for an overnight cruise on a small luxury boat on Ha Long Bay (above), a mystical seascape of limestone islets, where you'll explore caves with fantastic stalactite and stalagmite formations. More detailed information and rates will be sent to confirmed participants.





# Mekong Princess



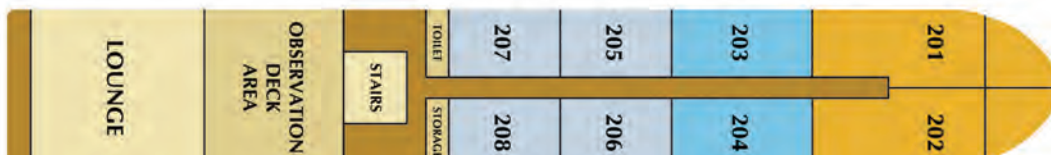
The *Mekong Princess* offers 12 luxurious suites combining the elegance of French Colonial style with the peacefulness and comfort of a Southeast Asian spa. All suites have sliding glass doors that open to a French balcony (railing); Angkor Suites also feature a private veranda with seating area. Suites have either twin beds that can be joined as a queen bed, or a king bed; a spacious seating area; en suite facilities with shower (plus separate soaking tub in the Tonle and Angkor Suites), hair dryer, spa robes, and slippers; individual climate control; daily butler service and housekeeping with nightly turndown; premium mattress and bed linens; in-room safe; and flat-screen television with satellite service. Breakfast and lunch are served buffet-style, while a single-seating dinner offers sumptuous French Indochine and gourmet Spa Cuisine featuring locally sourced fresh produce. Public spaces include open-air lounges with comfortable chaises, spa, small fitness center, and library with Internet access (subject to availability). The small size and ultra-shallow draft of this elegant riverboat allow for visits to villages and tributaries not accessible to larger vessels, and the one-to-one guest-to-staff ratio ensures an unparalleled river cruise experience.

## PROGRAM RATES per person

	DOUBLE	SINGLE
<b>SAIGON SUITE</b> (MAIN DECK) Four suites, approximately 235 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$8,995	\$15,295
<b>APSARA SUITE</b> (UPPER DECK) Four suites, approximately 235 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$9,995	\$16,995
<b>TONLE SUITE</b> (UPPER DECK) Two suites, approximately 305 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$10,995	----
<b>ANGKOR SUITE</b> (UPPER DECK) Two suites, approximately 495 sq. ft., with French balcony plus private veranda, complimentary laundry service, and evening canapés	\$12,995	----



## MAIN DECK



## UPPER DECK

## AIR ARRANGEMENTS

AirTreks can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at (415) 977-7111. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. **PLEASE NOTE:** U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Round-trip economy-class airfare from New York to Saigon, Vietnam, with return from Siem Reap, Cambodia, is approximately \$1,800 per person as of January 2019 and is subject to change without notice.

## PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary / Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations / Airport transfers for all participants on arrival (into HAN or SGN airports) and departure (out of REP airport) / Baggage handling / Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers, and shipboard personnel / Port charges / Entrance fees / Local beer, coffee, tea, and soft drinks at lunch and dinner on land / Local beer, liquor, coffee, tea, and soft drinks at all times on board the *Mekong Princess* / Wine during all dinners / One complimentary spa treatment per person during the cruise / Bottled water on motorcoaches, at hotels, and on board ship / Professional tour manager

**A NOTE ABOUT COSTS** Program rates are based upon current taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

## General Information

### PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare / Passport/visa expenses / Medical expenses and immunizations / Travel insurance / Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour / Excess baggage charges / Transfers other than those specified as included / Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and alcoholic beverages not part of the included meals / Laundry or dry cleaning / Telephone, email, and fax charges / Room service / Other items of a personal nature

**WHAT TO EXPECT** This is a moderately active program. Participants should be able to walk unassisted for extended periods (typically three hours) over uneven surfaces, and up and down narrow stairs. In December, the average temperature in Cambodia and Vietnam is in the low to high 80s F, and the average humidity is 80 percent, with intermittent rain. Although the riverboat, hotels, and motorcoaches are air-conditioned, temples and traditional conveyances such as *cyclos* and *sam-pans* are not, nor are some restaurants and museums. Travelers should be able, with assistance, to climb in and out of small boats and other local vehicles such as bicycle-driven and motorized rickshaws. There is one 5-hour drive on December 12.

**INSURANCE** Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended. Trip cancellation policies that apply to this expedition are included in this brochure. Information about travel insurance will be sent to confirmed participants.

**GROUP SIZE** This program is limited to 22 participants, including travelers from National Trust Tours and Archaeological Institute of America

## Terms & Conditions

**RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS** To reserve space, return the completed reservation form with your \$1,000 per person deposit to: Archaeological Institute of America Tours, P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608-0938 or fax to 603-756-2922. We accept personal checks, payable to Criterion Travel, as well as VISA, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover. Reservations will be processed in order of receipt. By submitting your deposit you are bound to the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure. Final payment deadline is August 2, 2019, and can be made by

check or credit card. All prices quoted in this brochure are based on tariffs, costs, and exchange rates of the United States dollar that were in effect at the time of publication.

**CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS** Upon payment of a deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by AIA Tours. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person administration fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of reservation; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. Cancellations after final payment deadline: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. For this reason we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. If the program is cancelled by AIA Tours or our tour operator, you will receive a full refund, without further obligation on our part. Refunds cannot be made to participants who do not participate in any part of the program, who do not complete the tour for whatever reason, or whose documentation for entry into any country on the itinerary is delayed or denied. NOTE: Neither AIA Tours nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.

**HEALTH** All participants should be in good health and capable of keeping up with an active group of travelers. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the passenger certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers.

**ITINERARY CHANGES** The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by AIA Tours and Criterion Travel (the tour operator). Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, AIA Tours and the tour operator reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

**RESPONSIBILITY** Complete Terms & Conditions will be sent to participants upon confirmation and are available to prospective travelers upon request. As a condition of participation, each passenger will be required to sign a Release of Liability, which will be sent along with the Terms & Conditions.

California Seller of Travel Program  
CST #2088800-40

(From Dreamstime.com): **ROYAL PALACE** ©Rafal Cichawa; **ANGKOR WAT** ©Juliengrondin; **TA PROHM TEMPLE** ©Dmitry Rukhlenko; **VIETNAMESE PRODUCE** ©Sophie Dauwe; **BUDDHIST MONK** ©Rene Drouyer; **FISHING BOATS, MEKONG DELTA** ©Hoxuanhuong; **APSARA DANCER** ©Eldelik; **CITY HALL** ©Tatiana Belova; **HA LONG BAY** ©Le Thuy Do; **PUPPETS** ©Adam Hurley; **PRODUCE BOAT** ©Ahmad Faizal Yahya; **TUK TUK** ©Ourcheri; **FLOATING MARKET** ©Hadyah.

## CRUISING THE MEKONG RIVER

Vietnam and Cambodia with seven nights aboard the  
12-suite *Mekong Princess* **DECEMBER 2-15, 2019**

Please send your deposit check, payable to **Criterion Travel**, and this form to: AIA Tours, P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608-0938; Fax: 603-756-2922. For questions, or to hold your space while you send in your Reservation Form, please contact us at 800-748-6262; or by email: [aia@studytours.org](mailto:aia@studytours.org).  
Website: [www.aiatours.org](http://www.aiatours.org).

NAME 1 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT)

NAME 2 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT)

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

HOME PHONE

CELL PHONE

FAX

EMAIL

Are you traveling with any other parties on this program?

☐ Yes, \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel), to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on *Cruising the Mekong River* OR

☐ Please charge my deposit of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person to my: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

EXP. DATE

SECURITY CODE

SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD

DATE

*I/We understand that final payment is due August 2, 2019, 120 days prior to departure. After August 2, 2019: full payment is due at registration.*

### SINGLE TRAVELERS

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:

☐ I prefer to have single accommodations.

☐ I plan to share accommodations with \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I'd like to know about roommates.

I am a ☐ Non-smoker / ☐ Smoker.

*I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of August 2, 2019, I will pay the single rate.*

### ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabin preference: 1st choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd choice \_\_\_\_\_

Bed preference at hotels (not guaranteed): ☐ Two Beds ☐ One Bed

*I/We have read the Terms and Conditions section of this brochure and understand and agree with them as stated herein.*

SIGNATURE

DATE

SIGNATURE

DATE



TUK TUK





# ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA TOURS

P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite 1, Walpole, NH 03608-0938

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit No. 604  
Sacramento, CA



## CRUISING THE MEKONG RIVER Vietnam & Cambodia

with 7 nights aboard the 12-suite *Mekong Princess*

DECEMBER  
2-15, 2019

WITH **JOYCE C. WHITE**,  
Executive Director, Institute for  
Southeast Asian Archaeology

## Highlights

- ✿ Seven nights aboard the **ELEGANT MEKONG PRINCESS**
- ✿ Two full days to explore **AWE-INSPIRING ANGKOR**
- ✿ Performance of **APSARA, A CLASSICAL KHMER DANCE**
- ✿ Authentic glimpses of rural **RIVER VILLAGE LIFE**
- ✿ Rides on **ELEPHANTS, SAMPANS, CYCLOS, AND TUK TUKS**