



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA TOURS

Vietnam & Cambodia

CRUISING THE MEKONG RIVER ABOARD
THE 14-CABIN *MEKONG PRINCESS*

FEBRUARY 3–16, 2025

FEATURING ARCHAEOLOGIST
JOYCE C. WHITE



Angkor Wat

DEAR TRAVELER,

I invite you to **join Archaeological Institute of America lecturer and host Joyce C. White** on a captivating journey through the rich history and vibrant culture of tropical Indochina with our luxurious tour of Vietnam and Cambodia along the majestic Mekong River.

Spend two nights in the bustling metropolis of **Ho Chi Minh City** (still known as Saigon), a dynamic hub that exudes energy, before embarking the **exquisite Mekong Princess, an exclusive riverboat with only 14 suites**, elegant French colonial appointments, and all modern comforts. Her ultra-shallow draft allows access to the remote corners of the river, offering a unique perspective. **Cruise for seven nights from Ho Chi Minh City to Siem Reap**, immersing yourself in the beauty of Buddhist and Hindu temples, vibrant floating markets, and everyday life along the Mekong River.

AIA lecturer Joyce White, who has decades of experience in Southeast Asian archaeology, will be joined onboard by Grace Gary, an architectural historian aboard with National Trust, and together they will provide a series of enriching presentations and discussions. Concluding the cruise, spend three nights in **Siem Reap**, where you can immerse yourself in the world-famous Khmer temples of Angkor, designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Marvel at the remains of different capitals of the Khmer Empire, including the iconic **Angkor Wat** and the Bayon Temple at **Angkor Thom**.

For those seeking an extended experience, an **optional pre-tour extension to Hanoi and exquisite Ha Long Bay is available**. This exclusive adventure is shared with another organization, and with a **limited guest capacity of only 24** I encourage you to secure your preferred suite today by contacting AIA Tours at **(800) 748-6262** or **aia@studytours.org**. Don't miss this opportunity to cruise aboard a modern, elegant riverboat and experience the wonders of two remarkable Southeast Asian countries connected by the mighty Mekong River.

Sincerely,

Lauren Cummings

Education & Program Manager, AIA Tours | Archaeological Institute of America

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 eight previous tours to Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, and Myanmar, including five times with the AIA on this very *Mekong Princess* program since 2016. 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.



Ho Chi Minh City Hall

ITINERARY

MONDAY–TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3–4

HOME / HO CHI MINH CITY (SAIGON), VIETNAM

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

HO CHI MINH CITY

Ho Chi Minh City is Vietnam’s most economically dynamic city, and the streets are always abuzz with activity. This morning, have the option of visiting the Cu Chi tunnels, a vast underground network that hid thousands of Viet Cong guerrillas and Vietnamese villagers during the Vietnam War, or visiting the War Remnants Museum and the Presidential Palace. After lunch, take a motorcoach tour, driving past the city’s best known monuments—Notre Dame Cathedral, City Hall, and the Old Saigon Post Office. This evening enjoy the company of fellow travelers at a welcome dinner. *PARK HYATT SAIGON (B,L,D)*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

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 elegant *Mekong Princess*, your home for the next seven nights, and begin cruising the Mekong River. *MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

BEN TRE / CAN THO

Today, cruise by sampan (small wooden boat) through a channel lined with mangroves to a coconut candy maker. After walking through a small village, travel aboard horse-drawn carts to a local pier and board small boats to navigate narrow creeks lined with Nipah palms. This afternoon, cruise through an area barely touched by tourism to Can Tho, the main city of the Mekong

Delta and its economic, cultural and transportation center. Take a guided walking tour and enjoy a traditional Unicorn dance at the Zuhang Pagoda and some free time to visit the night market and souvenir shops. *MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

CAN THO / HOA AN

Cruise by sampan to experience the intriguing Cai Rang market, a sensory feast and a paradise for photographers. Weave in and out among floating watercraft loaded with produce and anything the residents of the Mekong Delta need in their daily lives. Stop at a factory to learn how instant noodles are made and tour a family-owned orchard to see and savor exotic Asian fruits. Continue to Hoa An, a small village known for its flowers and handicrafts. Meet with local families, including weavers who make hats and mats. *MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

GIENG ISLAND / HONG NGU

Visit a village on Gieng Island where local families make sampans. Continue along a canal to a remote riverside area with duck farms, a tropical orchard, and monkey bridges. Then ride on a xe lam (motorized trishaw) to visit Phanxico monastery, a historic Christian monastery built by the French in 1879. At several family homes, observe residents weaving and embroidering traditional Khmer scarves. Visit a temple dedicated to a unique form of Buddhism called Hòa Hào, which focuses on aiding the poor. Cross the border into Cambodia and continue upstream. *MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)*

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

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



Silver Pagoda

Baccarat crystal and a life-size Buddha encrusted with diamonds. Stop by the National Museum for a comprehensive look at its spectacular collection of artifacts excavated from Angkor.

MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

PHNOM PENH

Travel to the killing fields of Choeung Ek, the center of the darkest days of Cambodian history. Walk through the fields, visit the small museum and Memorial Stupa, and learn more about the atrocities committed during the Khmer Rouge regime. On the return drive to Phnom Penh, stop at Tuol Sleng (infamously known as S-21), which was converted by the Khmer Rouge from a school to a prison and torture headquarters. The afternoon is at leisure to enjoy the city of Phnom Penh. Back aboard the *Mekong Princess*, enjoy a cultural performance including Apsara, Cambodia's national dance, as well as several traditional folk dances.

MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

ANGKOR BAN

Angkor Ban is a unique village on the banks of the Mekong, one of the few that survived destruction under the Khmer Rouge regime. Centuries-old houses stand on stilts above water while the bustle of local life swirls below. Visit the pagoda for a special blessing ceremony by local Buddhist monks and stop at the local monastery before returning to the ship. *MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

KAMPONG CHAM / SIEM REAP / DISEMBARK

Disembark in Kampong Cham and transfer to Siem Reap, the gateway to magnificent Angkor, a UNESCO World Heritage Site comprising the remains of the capitals of the Khmer Empire. In the afternoon, enjoy a visit and audio tour of the Angkor National Museum to learn all about the history of the Khmer civilization. Through the use of interactive exhibits, develop a deeper understanding of the customs, traditions and different beliefs of



Apsara dancer

the ancient empire, giving you a great foundation for the remarkable temples you will see the next day. Enjoy dinner on your own and an evening at leisure. *RAFFLES GRAND D'ANGKOR (B,L)*

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

ANGKOR / SIEM REAP

Early this morning visit Bakheng Temple, the perfect vantage point for a sunrise view over Angkor Wat and the surrounding plain. After a picnic breakfast, relax on a traditional Khmer gondola ride to Angkor Thom, once an enormous walled city, to investigate the temple at its heart. Its 55 large and small towers are topped by carved heads, each one wearing a mysterious smile. In the afternoon, when the light is best, visit Ta Prohm, a silent ruin shrouded in jungle vegetation. Dinner is on your own this evening. *RAFFLES GRAND D'ANGKOR (B,L)*

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

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. 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, travel around 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 bid farewell to your fellow travelers during a festive farewell dinner with live Cambodian music and dance performances. *RAFFLES GRAND D'ANGKOR (B,L,D)*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

SIEM REAP / HOME

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



Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum



Ha Long Bay

Trip Highlights

- ▶ Seven nights aboard the 14-cabin **Mekong Princess**. The small size and shallow draft of our riverboat allow for **visits to villages not accessible to larger boats**, as well as embarkation in Saigon port itself (others miss parts of the Mekong Delta by embarking in My Tho).
- ▶ **Comfortable cabins** (all suites) measure 216 to 495 sq. ft., with panoramic floor-to-ceiling glass French doors, deluxe spa-quality linens and amenities, as well as a safe, individual climate control, and a flat-screen TV.
- ▶ **Excellent local guides** throughout. Continuity of guides within each country is a special bonus.
- ▶ **Welcome dinner in Saigon**, traditional performances on the cruise, and a festive farewell dinner in Siem Reap.
- ▶ Two days to behold the **temples of Angkor**, including sunrise views of Angkor Wat from the peaceful surroundings of Bakheng Temple.
- ▶ **Excursions offer authentic glimpses of rural village life**, with visits to floating markets, farms, and villages.

Mekong Delta



Floating market produce



Tuk-tuk



PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

JANUARY 30–FEBRUARY 4

HANOI & 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. Then travel to the coast for an overnight cruise on a small luxury boat on Ha Long Bay, a mystical seascape of limestone islets, where you’ll explore caves with fantastic stalactite and stalagmite formations.

Per person, **\$2,895**
sharing accommodations

Single Supplement **\$955**
(limited availability)

Further details will be sent to confirmed participants.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA AND 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.



Outdoor Lounge



Lounge



Apsara Suite



Tonle Suite



Angkor Suite

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including twelve breakfasts, eleven lunches, nine dinners, five hotel nights and seven nights aboard *Mekong Princess* • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Arrival and departure airport transfers • Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers and shipboard personnel for all group activities • Entrance fees and port charges • Local beer, coffee, tea, and soft drinks with all group lunches and dinners on land, including wine with dinners • All local liquor, beer, and soft drinks on board *Mekong Princess* (wine and imported liquors available for an additional cost) • Bottled water on motorcoaches • Comprehensive packet of pre-departure information • Professional tour manager throughout the program

AIR ARRANGEMENTS

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

WHAT TO EXPECT

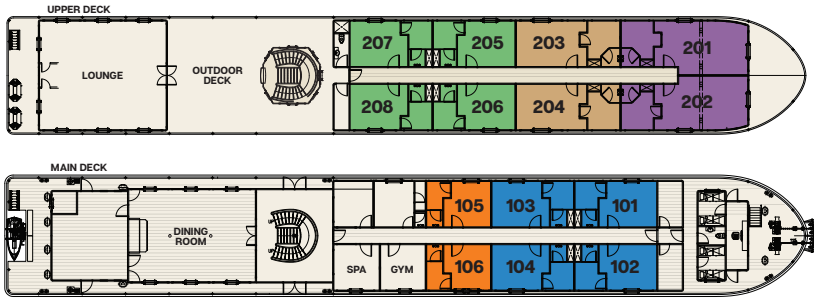
This is a moderately strenuous program, at times physically demanding and busy, with considerable walking at some sites. Daily activities can involve miles of walking, often on cobble streets and uneven terrain; elevators may not be available and stairs may not have handrails. Participants should be fit and in active good health. In February, the average temperature in Cambodia and Vietnam is in the low to high 80s F, and the average humidity is 80%, with intermittent rain. Although the riverboat, hotels, and motorcoaches are air-conditioned, temples and traditional conveyances such as cyclos and sampans are not, nor are some restaurants and museums. Travelers should be able, with assistance, to climb into and out of small boats and other local vehicles such as bicycle-driven and motorized rickshaws. The ship does not have an elevator, so you will need to navigate stairs. Limited medical facilities are available on board the *Mekong Princess*. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by AIA Tours or Criterion Travel, our tour operator; local staff; and host country laws. If the tour manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested; additional costs may apply.

MEKONG PRINCESS

The *Mekong Princess* offers 14 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; in-room safe; and television with satellite service. Breakfast and lunch may be served on deck, and single-seating dinners offer sumptuous French Indochine and gourmet Spa Cuisine featuring locally sourced fresh produce. Public spaces include open-air lounges with comfortable chaises, spa, and small fitness center. 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
JUNIOR SUITE ~216 sq. ft., with French balcony; Queen or 2 Twins	\$7,995	\$13,495
SAIGON SUITE ~235 sq. ft., with French balcony; Queen or 2 Twins	\$8,995	\$15,495
APSARA SUITE ~235 sq. ft., with French balcony; Queen or 2 Twins	\$9,995	—
TONLE SUITE ~305 sq. ft., with French balcony; Fixed King Bed	\$11,495	—
ANGKOR SUITE ~495 sq. ft., with French balcony, private veranda, complimentary laundry service, and evening canapés; Fixed King Bed	\$12,995	—



GROUP SIZE

This program is limited to 24 participants, including travelers from the Archaeological Institute of America and National Trust Tours.

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses, immunizations, and COVID-19 testing if required at the time of travel • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Private transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, internet, and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

TRAVEL INSURANCE

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

A NOTE ABOUT RATES

Program rates are based upon current fuel prices, 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. Complete Terms and Conditions including Statement of Responsibility will be made available to you at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

To reserve space, return the completed reservation form with your \$1,000 per person deposit to: AIA Tours, P.O. Box 938, 47 Main St., Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608-0938 or fax to 603-756-2922. Balance of payment is due 120 days prior to departure (October 7, 2024). We accept checks, payable to "Eos AIA-MekongCR12/25" as well as VISA, MasterCard and American Express for deposits. Reservations will be processed in order of receipt. Credit cards are NOT accepted for final payment.

PARTICIPANT CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Cancellations must be received in writing by AIA Tours. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person admin fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of

booking; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. After the October 7, 2024 final payment deadline: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. 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 entry into any country and/or hotel or aboard any cruise vessel on the itinerary is delayed or denied.

TRIP CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

If the program is cancelled by AIA Tours or Criterion Travel, our tour operator, you will receive a full refund, without further obligation on our part. However, if trip cancellation, itinerary changes, and/or delays are mandated by causes beyond our control, the participant shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by AIA Tours or Criterion, or else receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as AIA Tours and Criterion are able to recover on the participant's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc. Neither AIA Tours nor Criterion shall have any obligation or liability to the participant beyond the foregoing.

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 participant certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants.

ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary and study leaders presented for this tour are subject to modification and change by AIA Tours and Criterion Travel. 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

By submitting your deposit, you are bound to the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure. Due to space limitations these are not AIA Tours' complete Terms & Conditions, which are available upon request, can be viewed on-line at www.aiatours.org, and will be sent to you along with a Release of Liability requiring your signature.

California Seller of Travel Program CST #2088800-40



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA TOURS

VIETNAM & CAMBODIA CRUISING THE MEKONG RIVER

ABOARD THE 14-CABIN MEKONG PRINCESS

FEBRUARY 3-16, 2025

RESERVATION FORM

To reserve your space, please complete this form and send it to: AIA Tours, P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608-0938. Deposit checks should be made payable to "Eos AIA-MekongCR12/25." You may also call AIA Tours at 800-748-6262 or 603-756-2884. Fax: 603-756-2922. Email: aia@studytours.org. Website: www.aiatours.org.

CONTACT INFORMATION (please print)

NAME #1 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT) DATE OF BIRTH
NAME #2 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT) DATE OF BIRTH
MAILING ADDRESS
CITY / STATE / ZIP
HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE
EMAIL #1
EMAIL #2

Are you traveling with any other parties on this program?

[] Yes, _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

[] Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person, payable to "Eos AIA-MekongCR12/25" for _____ place(s) on Vietnam & Cambodia: Cruising the Mekong River.

[] Please charge my deposit of \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person) to my

[] VISA [] MasterCard [] American Express

NAME ON CREDIT CARD
CREDIT CARD NUMBER EXP. DATE SECURITY CODE
CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE

ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed)

Cabin Category Preference: 1st _____ 2nd _____
Bed Preference [] Queen [] Twin

SINGLE TRAVELERS (choose one)

- [] I prefer to have single accommodations. (limited availability)
[] 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 October 7, 2024 I will pay the single rate.

I/We have read the General Information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated therein.

SIGNATURE #1 DATE

SIGNATURE #2 DATE



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA TOURS
P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite 1, Walpole, NH 03608-0938

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Sacramento, CA



Vietnam & Cambodia

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THE 14-CABIN **MEKONG PRINCESS**

FEBRUARY 3-16, 2025

FEATURING ARCHAEOLOGIST
JOYCE C. WHITE

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