



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA TOURS

CRUISING THE

MEKONG RIVER

VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

ABOARD THE 14-SUITE MEKONG PRINCESS

October 17–30, 2022

WITH ARCHAEOLOGIST **JOYCE C. WHITE**

**RISK-FREE
DEPOSITS**

Deposits are
100% refundable
until June 20, 2022.

See inside for more details



Dear Traveler,

This October, join **Archaeological Institute of America lecturer and host Joyce C. White** and explore the wonders of tropical Indochina on our **luxurious tour through Vietnam and Cambodia along the Mekong River**.

Begin with two nights 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 14 suites, elegant French colonial appointments, all the modern comforts, and an ultra-shallow draft that allows us to access the remote nooks and crannies of the river. 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 **three nights based in Siem Reap to explore Angkor's** world-famous Khmer temples. This UNESCO World Heritage Site contains the magnificent remains of the different capitals of the Khmer Empire, such as the famous Temple of Angkor Wat and, at Angkor Thom, the Bayon Temple with its countless sculptural decorations. If you would like to start your experience a little earlier, we offer an **optional pre-tour extension** to Hanoi and exquisitely beautiful Ha Long Bay.

Don't miss this opportunity to cruise aboard a modern, elegant riverboat as you explore two remarkable Southeast Asian countries and the mighty river that connects them. We are sharing this adventure with another organization and, with a **total guest capacity of only 24**, I encourage you to reserve your suite today by contacting AIA Tours at **(800) 748-6262** or aia@studytours.org.

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 five previous tours to Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, and Myanmar, including three 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.

Highlights

- ◆ Spend seven nights aboard the elegant **MEKONG PRINCESS**
- ◆ Take two full days to explore awe-inspiring **ANGKOR**, including the mighty Angkor Wat
- ◆ Attend a performance of **APSARA**, a classical Khmer dance
- ◆ Catch glimpses of the region's unique **RIVER VILLAGE** lifestyle
- ◆ Enjoy rides on local **SAMPANS, CYCLOS, and TUK TUKS**

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.



APSARA DANCER



NEAR BEN TRE



TUK TUK

Itinerary

Monday–Tuesday, October 17–18 **HOME/HO CHI MINH CITY (SAIGON), VIETNAM**

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Upon arrival on the 18th, transfer to the Park Hyatt hotel. The evening is at leisure to rest or explore on your own.

PARK HYATT SAIGON

Wednesday, October 19 **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 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 the company of fellow travelers at a welcome dinner.

PARK HYATT SAIGON (B,L,D)

Thursday, October 20 **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, October 21 **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 explore 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 free evening to visit the night market and souvenir shops.

MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)

Saturday, October 22 **CAN THO/HOA AN**

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 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, October 23 **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 loi* (motorized 3-wheel rickshaw) to visit a Catholic church that was built in the 1870s. At several family homes, 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)

Monday, October 24 **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 Baccarat crystal and a life-size Buddha encrusted with



HO CHI MINH CITY



ANGKOR - TA PROHM



PHNOM PENH PRODUCE



ANGKOR WAT



RHESUS MONKEY

diamonds. Stop by the National Museum for a comprehensive look at its spectacular collection of artifacts excavated in Angkor.

MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)

**Tuesday, October 25
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 explore 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, October 26
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, October 27
KAMPONG CHAM/
SIEM REAP**

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 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, October 28
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. Dinner is on your own this evening.

RAFFLES GRAND D'ANGKOR (B,L)

**Saturday, October 29
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. 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, October 30
SIEM REAP/HOME**

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

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 flat-screen televisions 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)

CATEGORY	DOUBLE	SINGLE
JUNIOR SUITE ~216 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$7,995	\$13,495
SAIGON SUITE ~235 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$8,995	\$15,495
APSARA SUITE ~235 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$9,995	—
TONLE SUITE ~305 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$11,495	—
ANGKOR SUITE ~495 sq. ft., with French balcony, private veranda, complimentary laundry service, and evening canapés	\$12,995	—



General Information

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including 12 breakfasts, 11 lunches, and 9 dinners • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Group transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates • **All gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers, and ship personnel for all group activities** • Port charges and entrance fees • One complimentary spa treatment per person during the cruise • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • **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 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 October, 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 in and out of small boats and other local vehicles such as bicycle-driven and motorized rickshaws. 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. SARS-COV-2 (COVID 19) vaccinations are required for all participants as well as tour staff and shipboard crew. Up-to-date COVID-related protocols and procedures will be communicated in pre-trip documents.

GROUP SIZE

This program can accommodate 24 participants, including travelers from the Archaeological Institute of America and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

GENERAL INFORMATION (CONTINUED)**PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE**

U.S. domestic and international airfare · Passport/visa expenses · Medical expenses and immunizations · Travel and trip cancellation insurance · Private transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days · Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour · 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

A NOTE ABOUT RATES

Tour rates are based upon current fuel prices, currency values, 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.

INSURANCE

Travel 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.

TERMS & CONDITIONS**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 (June 20, 2022). We accept checks, payable to 'Eos Passenger Account – AIA MekongCRI10/22' 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.

PASSENGER CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Cancellations must be received in writing by AIA Tours. All payments are fully refundable if your cancellation is received by June 20, 2022 (120 days prior to departure). Cancellations received after June 20, 2022 are 100% nonrefundable. 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 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 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 and study leader 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

CRUISING THE MEKONG RIVER

VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA ABOARD THE 14-SUITE MEKONG PRINCESS

October 17–30, 2022

Please send your deposit check, payable to "Eos Passenger Account – AIA MekongCRI10/22," 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. Website: www.aiatours.org.

NAME #1 (as it appears on passport)

BIRTHDATE

NAME #2 (as it appears on passport)

BIRTHDATE

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP or POSTAL CODE

HOME PHONE

MOBILE PHONE

E-MAIL 1

E-MAIL 2

PAYMENT

Please charge the deposit to my credit card (circle one):

VISA MC AMEX

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD #

EXP. DATE

SECURITY CODE

SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD

DATE

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ (\$1,000 per person, payable to "Eos Passenger Account – AIA MekongCRI10/22") to reserve _____ place(s) on **Cruising the Mekong River**

SINGLE TRAVELERS

I prefer to have single accommodations (*limited availability*)
or I plan to share accommodations with:

_____ or I'd like to know about roommates

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of June 20, 2022, I will pay the single rate.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabin category preference:

1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Bed Preference (not guaranteed): One bed Two beds

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

SIGNATURE

DATE

SIGNATURE

DATE



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

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CRUISING THE MEKONG RIVER

VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA
ABOARD THE 14-SUITE MEKONG PRINCESS

October 17–30, 2022

WITH ARCHAEOLOGIST **JOYCE C. WHITE**





AN ISLAND IN HA LONG BAY

OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

Friday–Tuesday, October 14–18

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. Then 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.

\$2,795 per person double occupancy

\$3,750 per person single occupancy



HO CHI MINH MAUSOLEUM IN HANOI



WOODEN WATER PUPPETS AT A HANOI MARKET