



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA TOURS

CRUISING THE MEKONG RIVER

Vietnam and Cambodia

Aboard the 14-suite *Mekong Princess*

with AIA lecturer and host

Miriam T. Stark



MARCH 1-14, 2027



Dear Traveler,

I invite you to join **AIA lecturer and host Miriam Stark** on a captivating journey through the rich history and vibrant culture of tropical Indochina on 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, 14-suite Mekong Princess**, a riverboat that embodies the gracious heritage and beauty of Southeast Asia, combined with a romantic French colonial style and all the modern comforts. Her small size and ultra-shallow draft allow us to experience this mighty river from an intimate perspective. Throughout the journey, Professor Stark will offer a **series of lectures**, share insights into what you are seeing, and encourage discussions. **Local guides** will accompany you on all excursions.

Cruise the Mekong for seven nights, from Ho Chi Minh City to Siem Reap.

The Mekong takes us into the fascinating but seldom-visited world of one of Asia's great waterways. Marvel at floating villages whose residents literally live on the water—working, shopping, and even attending school and church. Tour a family-owned orchard, visit a noodle factory and a coconut candy maker, and experiment with typical Vietnamese ingredients during a cooking demonstration. Conclude the program with 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**.

An optional pre-trip extension to Hanoi and Ha Long Bay is also available.

This adventure is **limited to only 24 guests** and is co-sponsored by another organization, so I encourage you to secure your preferred suite by contacting AIA Tours today 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 **Miriam T. Stark** will share insights with you throughout this

journey into Southeast Asia's past. With nearly four decades of field experience in the region, Professor Stark directs archaeological research programs in Cambodia that explore political economy and early state formation. She co-directs several major initiatives—including the Lower Mekong Archaeological Project, the Khmer Production and Exchange Project, Pteah Cambodia, and Phum Archaeology—in collaboration with colleagues from the University of Oregon, Yale University, Cambodia's Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, and APSARA National Authority. A faculty member at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa since 1995, Professor Stark specializes in Asian archaeology as well as archaeological method and theory, and currently leads the university's Center for Southeast Asian Studies. She also serves on the U.S. State Department's Cultural Property Advisory Committee (2022-2027), focusing on Southeast Asia, and has published extensively on the region. Her recent co-edited volume with Mitch Hendrickson and Damian Evans, *The Angkorian World* (Routledge, 2023), reflects her ongoing commitment to advancing scholarship on Cambodian archaeology. Professor Stark will illuminate the ancient trade networks that connected Southeast Asia to the wider Old World and examine the origins of the region's earliest civilizations, with special attention to the rise of the Khmer Empire. Her expertise brings the archaeological landscape to life, offering travelers rare insight into the histories that shaped this remarkable part of the world.

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.

Tour Highlights



Cruise for seven nights aboard the privately chartered, 14-suite **Mekong Princess**, whose small size and shallow draft allow visits to **villages not accessible to larger boats**, as well as embarkation in Ho Chi Minh City port itself (others miss parts of the Mekong Delta by embarking in My Tho).



Cruise in comfort: each cabin on this **all-suite vessel** features panoramic, floor-to-ceiling glass French doors and deluxe, spa-quality linens and amenities.



Stay five nights in **exceptional hotels** before and after your cruise, including two nights at the vibrant *Park Hyatt Hotel* in Ho Chi Minh City and three nights at the elegant *Raffles Grand Hotel* in Siem Reap.



Benefit from the expertise of **outstanding local guides**, with the added bonus of continuity within each country for a richer, more connected experience.



Travel by **sampan**, traditional wooden boats, through mangrove channels to visit a local coconut candy maker and an orchard.



Attend **local cultural performances** such as the children's orphanage dance troupe.



Explore the **UNESCO World Heritage temples** of Angkor, including sunrise views of Angkor Wat from the peaceful surroundings of Ba Kheng Temple.



Experience **authentic village life** during visits to floating markets, farms, and rural villages.

OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

FEBRUARY 26 - MARCH 2, 2027

Hanoi and Ha Long Bay

Begin your journey with two nights in Hanoi, including a city tour featuring the Temple of Literature, Hoan Kiem Lake, the "Hanoi Hilton," Ho Chi Minh's mausoleum and stilt house, and a cyclo ride through the Old Quarter, followed by a traditional water puppet performance. Then travel to Ha Long Bay for an overnight cruise aboard the *Paradise Legacy*, featuring a visit to Me Cung Cave, a pearl farm or kayaking, afternoon tea, and a Vietnamese cooking demonstration. Conclude with a morning visit to Ti Top Island before flying to Ho Chi Minh City. *APRICOT HOTEL HANOI (2 NIGHTS), PARADISE LEGACY (1 NIGHT); (3B,2L,2D)*

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 26 & 27**

Home / Hanoi, Vietnam

Depart home on overnight flights to Hanoi, Vietnam. Upon arrival on February 27th, you will be warmly welcomed at the airport and transferred to the elegant *Apricot Hotel*, ideally located overlooking Hanoi's iconic Hoan Kiem Lake. This refined property blends local art and contemporary design. Check-in and enjoy the evening at your leisure to rest and recover from your journey. *APRICOT HOTEL*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Hanoi

Enjoy a panoramic tour of Hanoi, including key cultural and historical landmarks such as the Confucius Temple of Literature, scenic Hoan Kiem Lake, the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" prison, the mausoleum of Ho Chi Minh, and his humble "House on Stilts." Then, experience the charm of the Old Quarter with an electric cart ride through its narrow, bustling alleyways. Conclude the day with a traditional water puppet performance, an art form unique to northern Vietnam. *APRICOT HOTEL (B,L,D)*

MONDAY, MARCH 1

Ha Long Bay / Embarkation

Drive approximately four hours to Ha Long Bay and board the *Paradise Legacy* for an overnight cruise. In the afternoon, visit a pearl farm or opt for a kayaking adventure. Later, your second stop is Ti Top Island, where you can climb to the top for panoramic views of the surrounding area or relax on the beach. Return to the ship for tea and a cooking demonstration. *PARADISE LEGACY (B,L,D)*

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

Ho Chi Minh City / Main Tour

Your excursion this morning is to the enchanting Me Cung Cave, where you can explore its winding passageways, admire the striking rock formations, and take in views of the shimmering lake hidden within this ancient grotto. Disembark in late morning and transfer to Hanoi airport for a two-hour flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Spend the remainder of the evening at leisure. The main group arrives in Ho Chi Minh City today, with the main tour program beginning tomorrow morning. *PARK HYATT HOTEL (B)*

EXTENSION PROGRAM RATES per person

Double occupancy **\$2,895**

Single occupancy **\$3,850**

Minimum participants for operation: 8

Ha Long Bay





ITINERARY

Ta Prohm



MONDAY & TUESDAY, MARCH 1 & 2

Home / Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Depart home on overnight flights to Ho Chi Minh City. Upon arrival on March 2nd, you will be welcomed at the airport and transferred to the luxurious *Park Hyatt Saigon*, an elegant five-star hotel that blends French colonial architecture with modern sophistication. Nestled in the heart of the city, the hotel offers serene gardens, refined accommodations, and exceptional service. After a brief welcome orientation, spend the remainder of the evening unwinding at your leisure. Dinner this evening will be on your own. *PARK HYATT HOTEL*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

Ho Chi Minh City

Today experience an insightful tour of the War Remnants Museum, followed by a panoramic city tour showcasing Ho Chi Minh City's vibrant energy and architectural heritage. After returning to the hotel, enjoy the afternoon at leisure. This evening, gather for a welcome dinner at a nearby restaurant. *PARK HYATT HOTEL (B,L,D)*

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

Ho Chi Minh City / Embarkation

After checkout, enjoy a guided visit to the bustling Ben Thanh Market, a cultural landmark known for its rich array of local goods. Later, transfer to the port and board the *Mekong Princess*, your home for the coming week. Once onboard, you will gather for the first lecture of the program. *MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)*

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

Ben Tre / Can Tho

Enjoy a peaceful *sampan* ride through narrow mangrove channels, followed by a visit to a traditional coconut candy workshop and a local orchard. Travel by small boat through winding creeks framed with lush Nipah palms, offering a glimpse into daily life along the Mekong Delta. In the afternoon, cruise onward to Can Tho. Visit the serene Zihuang Pagoda and enjoy a colorful welcome performance featuring a traditional unicorn dance. *MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)*

SATURDAY, MARCH 6

Can Tho / Hoa An

Glide on a *sampan* through the floating market in Can Tho, where merchants trade fresh produce from boat to boat. Visit a noodle factory and then a family orchard to see exotic fruits before continuing to Hoa An to explore its flourishing flower gardens and meet craftspeople skilled in traditional mat- and hat-making. *MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)*

SUNDAY, MARCH 7

Gieng Island / Hong Ngu

Visit a traditional *sampan*-making village on Gieng Island to observe skilled craftsmen at work. Travel along rural canals, then explore a historic Franciscan monastery. In Hong Ngu, visit a vibrant women's weaving cooperative and a colorful temple dedicated to the Hoa Hao faith. Later in the day, cruise across the border into Cambodia as your journey continues upstream. *MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)*



Ho Chi Minh City Hall



Silver Pagoda
Phnom Penh



Monk at
Angkor Wat

MONDAY, MARCH 8
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Take an authentic cyclo ride through the city to visit the Royal Palace and the Silver Pagoda, followed by a guided tour of the National Museum, home to an impressive collection of Khmer art and artifacts. Enjoy the afternoon and evening at your leisure to explore Phnom Penh independently. Guests may choose to dine ashore and/or experience the city's vibrant nightlife.

MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, MARCH 9
Phnom Penh

In the morning, visit the Choeung Ek Killing Fields and the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, the former Khmer Rouge prison known as S-21. These powerful historical sites offer deep insight into Cambodia's resilient spirit and complex past, providing an opportunity for reflection on the country's journey toward healing and recovery. The afternoon is at leisure to relax or explore at your own pace. This evening, attend a vibrant performance by children at a local orphanage. MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10
Angkor Ban

Start your day with a visit to Angkor Ban village, one of the few communities that was not destroyed during the Khmer Rouge era. Its centuries-old stilted homes stand as a testament to the village's resilience and enduring spirit. Meet local children at a nearby primary school and experience the warmth of rural life along the river. In the afternoon, unwind with a scenic cruise and enjoy a final gourmet dinner aboard the *Mekong Princess*.

MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)

Angkor Wat



THURSDAY, MARCH 11
Kampong Cham / Siem Reap

Disembark the *Mekong Princess* in Kampong Cham and journey to Siem Reap. Discover the fascinating history of the Angkor Empire at the Angkor National Museum, home to a remarkable collection of artifacts that bring the region's ancient past to life. Upon arrival, check-in at the *Raffles Grand Hotel* for a relaxing evening and dinner at leisure. Enjoy some time to unwind or explore the vibrant streets of Siem Reap. RAFFLES GRAND HOTEL (B,L)

FRIDAY, MARCH 12
Angkor / Siem Reap

Start the day at Angkor Wat, where the early morning light gently illuminates the temple's majestic silhouette. Then, take a tuk tuk tour through Siem Reap, visiting peaceful monasteries, the Tlai Tno art school, and local artisan workshops. Enjoy the remainder of the evening and dinner at your leisure.

RAFFLES GRAND HOTEL (B,L)

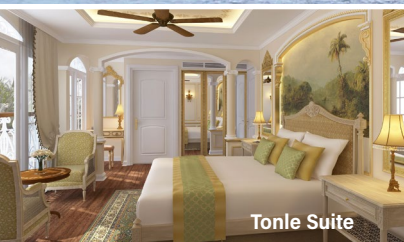
SATURDAY, MARCH 13
Angkor / Siem Reap

Begin the day with a breathtaking sunrise view over Angkor Wat from Ba Kheng Temple. Then enjoy a traditional Khmer gondola ride to Bayon, known for its serene stone faces. Explore the Terrace of the Elephants, part of an ongoing archaeological dig, and visit the atmospheric Ta Prohm, where jungle roots intertwine with ancient stone. Conclude your journey with a festive farewell dinner, savoring the rich flavors of Cambodian cuisine.

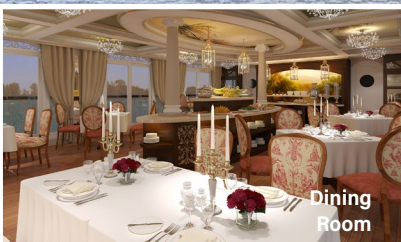
RAFFLES GRAND HOTEL (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, MARCH 14
Siem Reap / Home

Transfer to the airport for your return flight, crossing the International Date Line and arriving home the same day. (B)



Tonle Suite



Dining Room



Saigon Suite



Lounge

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 fixed 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 televisions with satellite service. Stay connected with complimentary WiFi in the ship's common areas, with the option to add in cabin access for an additional fee.

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 a 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.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

Five hotel nights and seven nights aboard *Mekong Princess* ■ Meals and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including twelve breakfasts, eleven lunches, and nine dinners ■ Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations ■ Shared airport transfers for any arrival and departure date ■ Baggage handling ■ Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides, and drivers ■ Gratuities to shipboard personnel ■ Port charges ■ Entrance fees ■ Local beer, soft drinks, water, coffee, and tea with all group lunches and dinners on land; and 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 throughout ■ Professional tour manager throughout the program

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare ■ Passport/visa expenses ■ Medical

expenses and immunizations ■ Private airport transfers ■ Travel and trip cancellation insurance ■ Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options ■ Airline baggage charges ■ Meals not specified in itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted ■ Laundry or dry cleaning ■ Telephone, Internet, and email charges ■ Room service ■ Other items of a personal nature

GROUP SIZE

This program welcomes up to 24 participants, including travelers from National Trust Tours.

WHAT TO EXPECT

This is a moderately strenuous itinerary that includes physical activity and busy days with considerable walking at certain sites. You may walk up to three miles a day on cobbled streets and uneven surfaces. Elevators may not be available, and stairs may not have handrails. Participants should be in good health and physically active. The average temperature in Vietnam and Cambodia



PROGRAM RATES (per person):

		DOUBLE	SINGLE
1	JUNIOR SUITE ~216 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$8,995	\$14,495
2	SAIGON SUITE ~235 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$9,995	\$16,495
3	APSARA SUITE ~235 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$10,995	\$18,495
4	TONLE SUITE ~305 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$12,495	—
5	ANGKOR SUITE ~495 sq. ft., with French balcony, private veranda, complimentary laundry service, and evening canapés	\$13,995	—

Junior, Saigon, and Apsara Suites have twin beds that can be joined as a queen. Tonle and Angkor Suites have fixed king beds.

during March is in the mid-80s to low 90s°F, with high humidity and occasional light rain. While the riverboat, hotels, and motorcoaches are air-conditioned, local transport such as cyclos, sampans, and some venues may not be. Travelers should be able to climb in and out of small boats and local vehicles with assistance. The *Mekong Princess* does not have an elevator, so stairs will need to be navigated. Onboard medical facilities are limited. 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.

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 or by

e-mail at tourflights@vwti.com. 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.

TRAVEL 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.

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 rates, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

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 (November 1, 2026). We accept checks, payable to "Eos AIA-MekongCRI3/27" 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 November 1, 2026 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 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

Photos from Dreamstime.com: FLOATING MARKETS ON MEKONG DELTA (COVER) ©Bacogia7; HA LONG BAY ©Sergeychernov; TA PROHM ©Iralis; HO CHI MINH CITY HALL ©Tatiana Belova; SILVER PAGODA ©Rhombur; MONK ©Rene Drouyer; ANGKOR WAT ©Lakthesis; CAO DAI TEMPLE/MAIL PANEL ©Steve Estvanik. Photos from Shutterstock.com: MEKONG DELTA ©FrentaN.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA TOURS

Cruising the Mekong River MARCH 1-14, 2027

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-MekongCRI3/27." You may also call AIA Tours at (800) 748-6262 or (603) 756-2884.

Fax: (603) 756-2922 **Email:** aia@studytours.org

Website for online reservations: www.aiatours.org

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-MekongCRI3/27") for _____ place(s) on *Cruising the Mekong River*.

Please charge the deposit to my (circle one): VISA / MC / AMEX

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD #

EXP. DATE / CVV SECURITY CODE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE

ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed)

Cabin category preference: 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

Bed Preference: Queen Twin

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 November 1, 2026 I will pay the single rate.

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

SIGNATURE #1

DATE

SIGNATURE #2

DATE



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Aboard the 14-suite *Mekong Princess*
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