VIETNAM & CAMBODIA
CRUISING THE MEKONG RIVER
ABOARD THE 14-SUITE MEKONG PRINCESS
October 2–15, 2023
WITH ARCHAEOLOGIST JOYCE C. WHITE
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 seven previous tours to Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, and Myanmar, including four 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.
Monday–Tuesday, October 2–3
HOME/HO CHI MINH CITY (SAIGON), VIETNAM
Depart home on an overnight flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Upon arrival on the 3rd, transfer to the Park Hyatt hotel. The evening is at leisure to rest or explore on your own.

PARK HYATT SAIGON

Wednesday, October 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 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 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)

Thursday, October 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 elegant Mekong Princess, your home for the next seven nights, and begin cruising the Mekong River.

MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)

Friday, October 6
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 7
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 8
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 Hảo, which focuses on aiding the poor. Cross the border into Cambodia and continue upstream.

MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)

Monday, October 9
PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA
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...
Baccarat crystal and a life-size Buddha encrusted with diamonds. Stop at the National Museum for a comprehensive look at its spectacular collection of artifacts excavated in Angkor.

MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)

Tuesday, October 10

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 11

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 12

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 Ankgor 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 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. 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 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. 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 15

SIEM REAP/HOME

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

**Program Rates (per person)**

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**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 a television with satellite service. Breakfast and lunch may be served on deck, and single-serving 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.

**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 World Affairs Council of Philadelphia.
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 the next 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 the $1,000 per person deposit to: AIA Tours, P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608-0938 or fax to 603-756-2922. Balance of payment is due 120 days prior to departure (June 5, 2023). We accept checks, payable to "Eos Passenger Account – AIA MekongCR10/23" 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. 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 June 5, 2023 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 any 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.

AIA Tours
Cruising the Mekong River
October 2–15, 2023

Please send your deposit check, payable to "Eos Passenger Account – AIA MekongCR10/23," 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 secure your Reservation Form please contact us at 800-748-6252; or by email: aia@studytours.org. www.aiatours.org

NAME #1 (as it appears on passport) BIRTH-DATE

NAME #2 (as it appears on passport) BIRTH-DATE

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 MekongCR10/23”) to reserve _______________ place(s) on Vietnam & Cambodia.

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 5, 2023, 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

GENERAL INFORMATION (CONTINUED)
VIETNAM & CAMBODIA
CRUISING THE MEKONG RIVER
ABOARD THE 14-SUITE MEKONG PRINCESS
October 2–15, 2023
WITH ARCHAEOLOGIST JOYCE C. WHITE
OPTIONAL PRE-TOUR EXTENSION
Friday–Tuesday, September 29–October 3
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