



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

Vietnam & Cambodia

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

FEBRUARY 3-16, 2025

FEATURING
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
GRACE GARY





Angkor Wat

DEAR NATIONAL TRUST TRAVELER,

I invite you to join a captivating journey through the rich history and vibrant culture of tropical Indochina with our luxurious tour to Vietnam and Cambodia along the majestic Mekong River.

Commence your exploration with two nights in the bustling metropolis of Ho Chi Minh City (still known as Saigon), a dynamic hub that exudes energy. Next, board the **exquisite Mekong Princess**, an exclusive riverboat with only 14 suites, elegant French colonial appointments, and all modern comforts. Its 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 the everyday lives along the Mekong River.

Accompanying the journey, Archaeological Institute of America expert lecturer **Joyce C. White**, with decades of experience in Southeast Asian archaeology, will provide 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 the exquisite Ha Long Bay is available. This exclusive adventure is shared with another organization, with a limited guest capacity of only 24. Ensure you secure your suite by calling our office at (888) 484-8785 today! Don't miss the opportunity to cruise aboard a modern, elegant riverboat as you explore the wonders of two remarkable Southeast Asian countries connected by the mighty Mekong River.

With kind regards,

Meg Annacone-Poretz
Director, National Trust Tours

STUDY LEADER



Grace Gary, an architectural historian with degrees from Randolph-Macon Woman's College and the University of Virginia, is a veteran leader of more than 30 Trust tours. Most recently she served as the executive director of Nemours Mansion and Gardens in Wilmington, DE, where she oversaw an award-winning, multi-year, \$70 million restoration of building and gardens. She and fellow National Trust lecturer Dwight Young are the authors of *Nemours: A Portrait of Alfred I. duPont's House*, which was published by Rizzoli in 2011. Grace also is the author of two volumes in the Trust's "Information" series and has also served as director of the Trust's Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, Preservation PA, and Longue Vue House and Gardens. She was the first director of Colonial Williamsburg's Tourism Leadership Center.

Other opportunities to travel with National Trust Tours and Criterion Travel

CRUISING THE MEDITERRANEAN: ATHENS TO ROME ABOARD EMERALD SAKARA

SEP 26, 2024–OCT 5, 2024

SAILING THE FRENCH & ITALIAN RIVIERAS ABOARD SEA CLOUD II

APRIL 15, 2025–MAY 3, 2025

HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS & FJORDS: SCOTLAND, ORKNEY ISLANDS & NORWAY ABOARD EXPLORIS ONE

MAY 29–JUNE 8, 2025

For a full list of travel programs visit
www.nationaltrusttours.com



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. 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 a motorcoach tour, drive past the city's best known monuments—Notre Dame Cathedral, City Hall, 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



Ta Prohm



Apsara dancer

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 in 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 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, 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

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**

Further details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.

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 safe, individual climate control, and flat-screen TV.
- ▶ **Excellent local guides** throughout. Continuity of guides within each country is a special bonus.
- ▶ **Welcome dinner in Saigon**, Vietnamese opera, and children’s dance performances on the cruise, and a festive farewell dinner in Siem Reap.
- ▶ Two full days to behold the **temples of Angkor**, including sunrise views of Angko Wat from the peaceful surroundings of Ba Kheng Temple, and opportunities to ride a tuk tuk.
- ▶ **Excursions offer authentic glimpses of rural village life**, with visits to floating markets, farms, and villages.

Mekong Delta



Floating market



Tuk-tuk





Outdoor Lounge



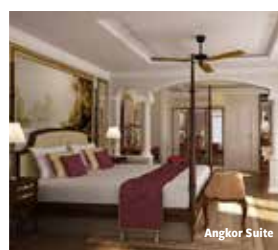
Lounge



Apsara Suite



Tonle Suite



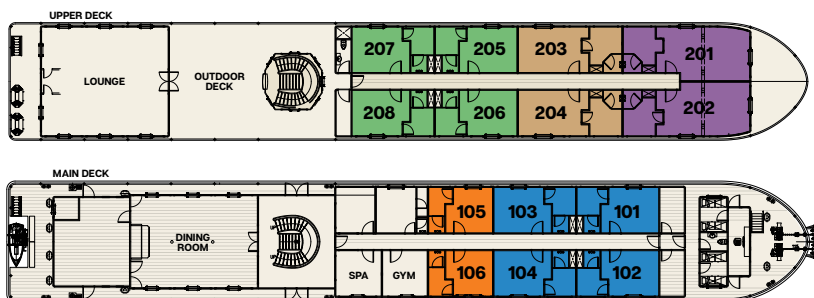
Angkor Suite

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 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)

	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 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 cobbled 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 January, 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. 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 National Trust 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.

GROUP SIZE

This program is limited to 24 participants.

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; alcoholic beverages and soft drinks • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, internet, and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

TRAVEL INSURANCE

National Trust Tours strongly recommends the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to covered illness or accident. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. USITravel Insurance Services offers a plan designed specifically for National Trust Tours travelers, providing coverage for Trip Cancellation, Trip Interruption, Emergency Medical, and more. Plus, you can upgrade your plan with Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR) coverage for the utmost flexibility. CFAR allows you to cancel your trip for ANY reason at all and be reimbursed up to 75% of your pre-paid, non-refundable trip costs (conditions apply, see plan for details). To purchase travel insurance today, call: (800) 937-1387. For additional information, please contact National Trust Tours at (888) 484-8785. Complete Terms and Conditions including a Statement of Responsibility will be made available 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

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve space on this program. If you have questions, or to register using a credit card (preferred method), please call (888) 484-8785 or email info@nationaltrusttours.com. Final payment deadline is October 7, 2024. For those who register on or after October 7, 2024, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment must be made by check or bank transfer.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of the \$1,000 per person deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be in effect until they are received in writing and confirmed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person administration fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of reservation; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. After final payment deadline on October 7, 2024 all payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. NOTE: Neither the National Trust for Historic Preservation nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalties incurred with the purchase of non-refundable tickets.

ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by the National Trust for Historic Preservation 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, the National Trust for Historic Preservation 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.

ELIGIBILITY

National Trust for Historic Preservation tours are open to members only. Membership dues for 2024/2025 are \$30 for family and \$20 for individual membership. The minimum age limit for the program is 14. Children must pay the full price, and those under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. There is no maximum age limit. PLEASE NOTE: Participants must be in excellent health and able to participate in tour activities. Any physical condition that may require special medical attention must be reported at the time of your reservation. If you have any doubt about your ability to participate fully due to health conditions or disabilities, contact the National Trust at (888) 484- 8785 or (202) 588-6300. The National Trust for Historic Preservation and Criterion Travel reserve the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of this tour at any time. In such case, the refund will be limited to the recoverable cost of unused tour services.

California Seller of Travel Program CST #2088800-40



National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

**VIETNAM & CAMBODIA
CRUISING THE MEKONG RIVER**

FEBRUARY 3-16, 2025

**ABOARD THE 14-CABIN
MEKONG PRINCESS**

RESERVATION FORM

For more information or to register by phone (preferred method of registration), please call **National Trust Tours at (888) 484-8785**.

Or, return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person, **payable to Criterion Travel**. Mail to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005.

CONTACT INFORMATION (please print)

NAME #1 BIRTHDATE
NAME #2 BIRTHDATE
MAILING ADDRESS
CITY / STATE / POSTAL CODE
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 payable to Criterion Travel, 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 King/Queen Twins

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 tour information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated therein.

SIGNATURE #1 DATE

SIGNATURE #2 DATE

Vietnam & Cambodia

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ABOARD THE 14-CABIN MEKONG PRINCESS

FEBRUARY 3-16, 2025


FEATURING
ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
GRACE GARY



National Trust for Historic Preservation
National Trust Tours

1155 15th Street, NW, Suite 300 Washington, DC 20005

www.nationaltrusttours.com
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info@nationaltrusttours.com

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