



National Trust for Historic Preservation  
National Trust Tours

# CRUISING THE MEKONG RIVER

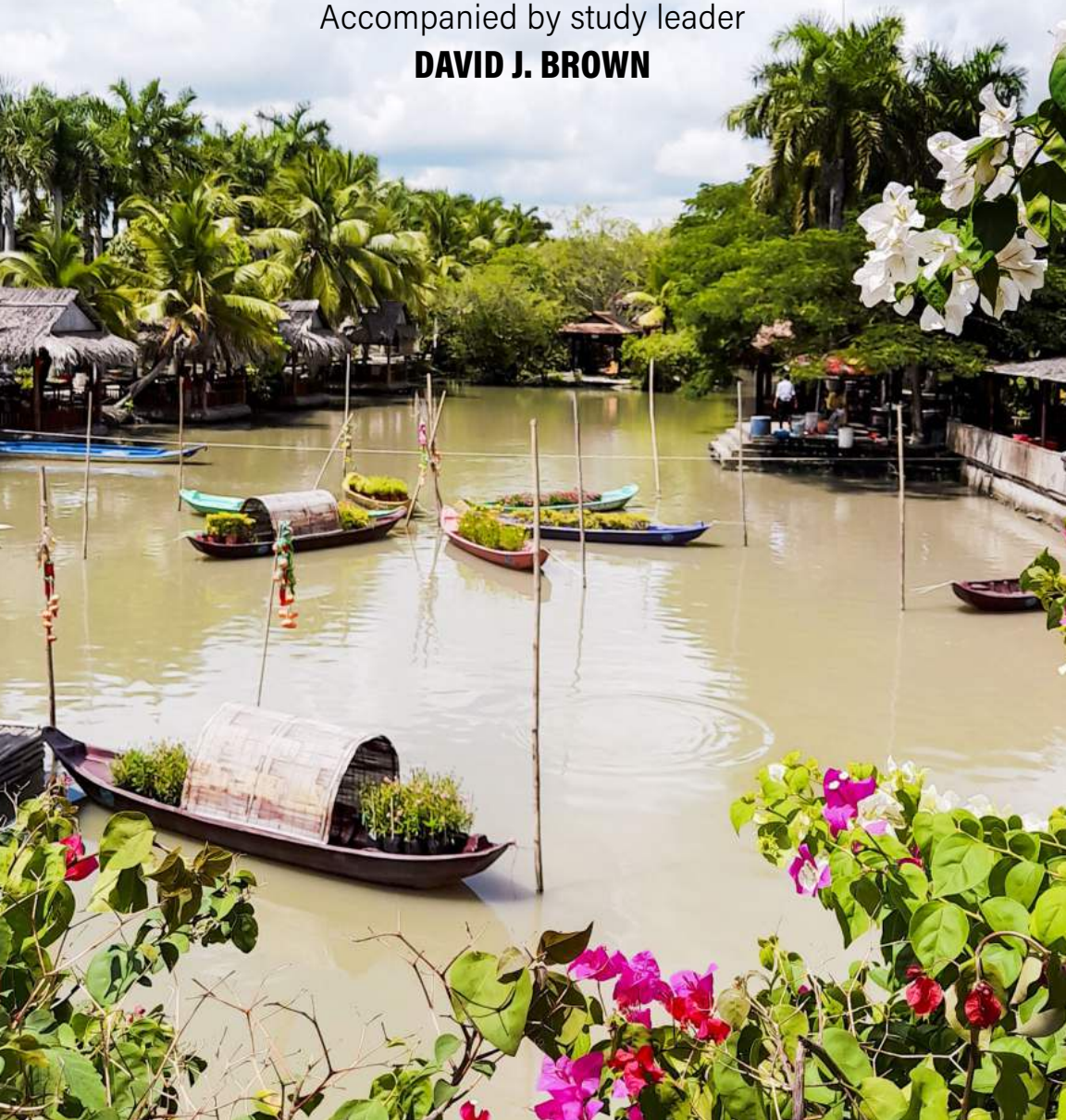
## Vietnam and Cambodia

Aboard the 14-suite *Mekong Princess*

**MARCH 1-14, 2027**

Accompanied by study leader

**DAVID J. BROWN**



## Dear Traveler,

**I INVITE YOU TO JOIN National Trust Tours Study Leader David Brown**, 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, your expert 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.

With kind regards,



Meg Annacone-Poretz  
Director, National Trust Tours



### STUDY LEADER

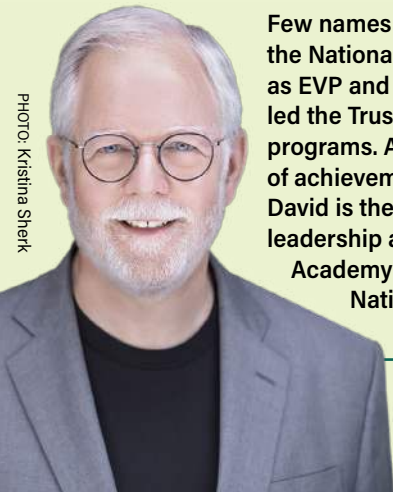


PHOTO: Kristina Sheik

Few names over the past twenty-plus years have been as synonymous with the National Trust for Historic Preservation as **DAVID J. BROWN**. David served as EVP and the organization's founding Chief Preservation Officer, where he led the Trust's advocacy, educational, eldwork, research, and historic sites programs. A national leader, speaker, and author with a four-decade record of achievement in saving historic places and supporting thriving communities, David is the founder of Bearden Brown LLC, which works to build nonprofit leadership and grow organizational impact. An affiliate fellow at the American Academy in Rome and a founding board member of the International National Trusts Organization, David brings an international perspective to his discussions of preservation, history, and architecture.

A co-sponsoring expert from the Archaeological Institute of America will also offer lectures throughout the program.

## Highlights

Cruise for seven nights aboard the privately chartered 14-suite **Mekong Princess**, whose small size and shallow draft allows **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* 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 local coconut candy maker and 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.

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26 AND 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)*

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**Pre-tour extension program rates, per person:**  
double occupancy **\$2,895**; single occupancy **\$3,850**.



Monk at  
Angkor Wat



## Itinerary

### 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)



Ta Prohm



Water puppets

### **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, be uplifted by a vibrant performance from children at a local orphanage, showcasing their talents and joy. *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)*

### **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 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 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**

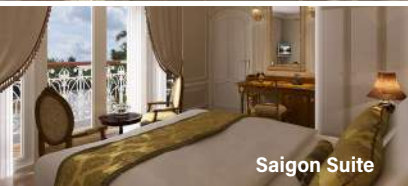
Transfer to the airport for your return flight, crossing the International Date Line and arriving home the same day. (B)



Tonle Suite



Dining Room



Saigon Suite

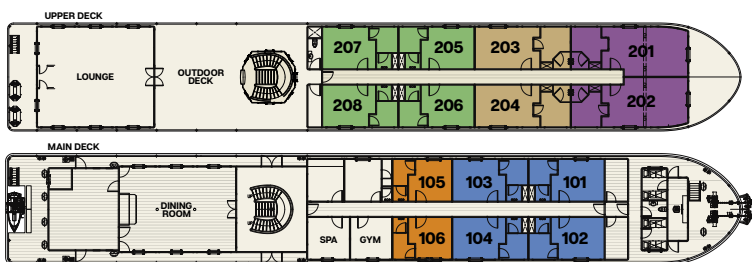


Lounge

## 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 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
<b>1 JUNIOR SUITE</b> ~216 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$8,995	\$14,495
<b>2 SAIGON SUITE</b> ~235 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$9,995	\$16,495
<b>3 APSARA SUITE</b> ~235 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$10,995	\$18,495
<b>4 TONLE SUITE</b> ~305 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$12,495	—
<b>5 ANGKOR SUITE</b> ~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.

## 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, 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

**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 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.

### 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](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto:info@nationaltrusttours.com). Final payment deadline is **November 1, 2026**. For those who register on or after November 1, 2026, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment may be made by check, bank transfer, or credit card (credit card payments will incur a 2% fee).

## 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.

## Passenger Cancellations & Refunds

Upon payment of a 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 effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. 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 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. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. **NOTE:** Neither the National Trust for Historic Preservation nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of nonrefundable tickets.

## 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. USI Travel 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, nonrefundable 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.

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

Complete Terms & 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.

**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 2026/2027 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

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# CRUISING THE MEKONG RIVER

March 1-14, 2027

## Reservations

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

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 Criterion Travel) for \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on **Cruising the Mekong River**.

Please charge my deposit of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person) to my (*circle one*): VISA/MC/AMEX

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD #

EXP. DATE / CVV SECURITY CODE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE

DATE

## ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed)

Cabin category preference: 1st \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_

Bed Preference:  One bed  Two beds

## SINGLE TRAVELERS (choose one)

I prefer single accommodations (*limited availability*)

I plan to share accommodations with:

I'd like to know about roommates. *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



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation  
**National Trust Tours**

105 Loudoun Street, SW, Unit 1, Leesburg, Virginia 20175

[www.nationaltrusttours.com](http://www.nationaltrusttours.com)

(888) 484-8785 or (202) 588-6300

[info@nationaltrusttours.com](mailto:info@nationaltrusttours.com)

Find us on  National Trust Tours

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