



National Trust for Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

CRUISING THE MEKONG RIVER

Vietnam and Cambodia

Aboard the 14-suite *Mekong Princess*

March 3 - 14, 2027
(14 Days)

Indochina. The Mekong River. Angkor Wat. These names evoke appealing images of exotic cultures, magnificent Buddhist and Hindu temples, and lush tropical landscapes punctuated by a patchwork of rice paddies. Join us for a fascinating journey through Vietnam and Cambodia, including a 7-night Mekong River cruise aboard the *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 and authentic perspective, stepping into local homes to see how people live and work, and gliding through floating markets in the early-morning hours as they come to life.

Our program begins with a stay in Ho Chi Minh City, a busy and dynamic city still known by many as Saigon, and ends with two full days to explore the remarkable Khmer temples and monuments of legendary Angkor, one of Asia's most exquisite archaeological gems. In between, the Mekong River 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, 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. A pre-trip extension to Hanoi and breathtaking Ha Long Bay is also available. A post-trip extension to the ancient capital of Luang Prabang, Laos can also be explored.

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).
- Stay in comfortable suites measuring 216 to 495 sq. ft., each with panoramic floor-to-ceiling glass French doors, deluxe spa-quality linens and amenities, as well as individual climate control and a flat-screen TV.
- Spend five nights in luxurious hotels on either side of cruise - two nights in dynamic Ho Chi Minh City's Park Hyatt Hotel and three nights at Grand Raffles Hotel in Siem Reap.
- Learn from excellent local guides throughout with continuity of guides within each country a special bonus.
- Travel by *sampan*, traditional wooden boats, through mangrove channels to visit local coconut candy maker and orchard.
- Attend local cultural performances including a Vietnamese opera and 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.

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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 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.



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Vietnam & Cambodia

Aboard the 14-suite *Mekong Princess*

ITINERARY MAP



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ITINERARY OUTLINE

Day 1	Depart U.S.		Overnight flights to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Day 2	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	Park Hyatt Hotel	Arrive Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon); transfers to hotel; evening at leisure to rest and recover from flight.
Day 3	Ho Chi Minh City	Park Hyatt Hotel	Morning welcome orientation and lecture; choice of visit to the Cu Chi Tunnels with former Viet Cong officer or local expert or War Remnants Museum; lunch and city tour; welcome dinner at local venue. BLD
Day 4	Ho Chi Minh City (Embark)	<i>Mekong Princess</i>	Mid-morning check out; guided visit through Ben Thanh market; embark <i>Mekong Princess</i> . BLD
Day 5	Ben Tre & Can Tho	<i>Mekong Princess</i>	<i>Sampan</i> ride through mangrove channels; visit local coconut candy maker and orchard, travel by local boats to explore creeks lined with Nipah palms; cruise on to Can Tho to visit the Zihuang pagoda and see a welcome unicorn dance. BLD
Day 6	Can Tho & Hoa An	<i>Mekong Princess</i>	<i>Sampan</i> ride through Can Tho's floating market; visit a local factory and family-owned orchard; wander the flower gardens in Hoa An and meet families who weave hats and mats. BLD
Day 7	Gieng Island/ Hong Ngu	<i>Mekong Princess</i>	Visit a sampan-making village on Gieng Island; canal drive through duck farms; Franciscan monastery visit; Hong Ngu women's weaving cooperative; temple devoted to Hoa Hoa; cross into Cambodia. BLD
Day 8	Phnom Penh	<i>Mekong Princess</i>	<i>Cyclo</i> ride to Royal Palace and Silver Palace; tour of National Museum; free afternoon and evening in Phnom Penh; option to dine ashore and/or take-in night life. BLD
Day 9	Phnom Penh	<i>Mekong Princess</i>	Morning visit to Choeung Ek Killing Fields and Tuol Sleng (former Khmer Rouge prison) *Potential Special talk and Q&A session with a 90 year old survivor*; afternoon cruising; evening (local orphanage) children's performance. BLD
Day 10	Angkor Ban	<i>Mekong Princess</i>	Morning visit to Mekong village that survived Khmer Rouge with centuries-old private homes on stilts, meet children at local primary school; afternoon cruising and final shipboard dinner. BLD
Day 11	Siem Reap	Raffles Grand Hotel	Disembark ship in Kampong Cham; transfer to Siem Reap; visit to Angkor National Museum; evening at leisure. BL
Day 12	Siem Reap	Raffles Grand Hotel	Sunrise view over Angkor Wat from Ba Kheng Temple; traditional Khmer gondola ride to Bayon; visit to Terrace of the Elephants dig site; Ta Prohm; evening at leisure. BL
Day 13	Siem Reap	Raffles Grand Hotel	Early morning at Angkor Wat; Siem Reap city tour by <i>tuk tuk</i> with visits to monasteries, Tlai Tno art school and artisan workshops; festive farewell dinner. BLD
Day 14	Return to U.S.		Transfers to Siem Reap airport for return flights to the U.S. B

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Retail Program Fees:

Junior Suite (Main Deck, ~216 sq ft, French balcony), per person, sharing	\$8,995
Saigon Suite (Main Deck, ~235 sq ft, French balcony), per person, sharing	\$9,995
Apsara Suite (Upper Deck, ~235 sq ft, French balcony), per person, sharing.....	\$10,995
Tonle Suite (Upper Deck, ~305 sq ft, French balcony), per person, sharing.....	\$12,495
Angkor Suite (Upper Deck, ~495 sq ft, French balcony, private veranda, complimentary laundry service, and evening canapés), per person, sharing.....	\$13,995
Junior Suite, single occupancy	\$14,495
Saigon Suite, single occupancy	\$16,495
Apsara Suite, single occupancy	\$18,495

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

Program Length, Capacity:

14 days roundtrip from the U.S.

Minimum capacity: 14 passengers; Maximum capacity: 24 passengers (if no singles)

Fees 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

Fees 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

CRUISING THE MEKONG RIVER

Hanoi & Ha Long Bay Pre-Trip Extension

(5 Days)

Begin your Southeast Asian experience with two nights in Hanoi, Vietnam’s leafy green, lake-studded capital, and travel to the coast for an overnight cruise on Ha Long Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its mystical seascape of limestone islets, where you’ll explore caves with fantastic stalactite and stalagmite formations.

EXTENSION ITINERARY OUTLINE

DAY	OVERNIGHT	HOTEL	ACTIVITIES
Day 1	Depart U.S.		Overnight flights to Hanoi, Vietnam
Day 2	Hanoi, Vietnam	Apricot hotel	Arrive Hanoi; transfers to hotel; evening at leisure to rest and recover from flights.
Day 3	Hanoi	Apricot Hotel	Panoramic tour including Confucius Temple of Literature, Hoan Kiem Lake, the “Hanoi Hilton,” the mausoleum of Ho Chi Minh, and the modest “House on Stilts” where Ho Chi Minh lived; cyclo (a three-wheel bicycle taxi) tour through the alleyways of the city’s historic quarter; water puppet performance. BLD
Day 4	Ha Long Bay	<i>Paradise Elegance</i>	Drive ~4 hours to Ha Long Bay; embark aboard the <i>Paradise Elegance</i> for an overnight cruise on Ha Long Bay; afternoon shore excursion to one of the islands to climb the stairs up the side of a rock formation and into the Sung Sot Cave and visit a pearl farm or kayak; return for tea and a cooking demonstration on board. BLD
Day 5	Ho Chi Minh City (<i>main tour starts</i>)		Sail to Titov Island for a morning on the beach or climb up the pavilion at the summit for a panoramic view of Ha Long Bay; disembark late morning and transfer to Hanoi airport for 2-hour flight to Ho Chi Minh City; remainder of evening at leisure; main group arrives Ho Chi Minh City today and events for the main tour program begin tomorrow morning. B

Extension Fee and Staffing:

Per person, sharing accommodations\$ 2,895
 Single occupancy.....\$ 3,850

Extension fee includes a tour manager but no organization staff.

Extension Capacity:

Minimum capacity: 8; Maximum capacity: 14

CRUISING THE MEKONG RIVER

Luang Prabang, Laos Post-Tour Extension

(5 Days)

Spend three nights in Luang Prabang, Laos, an UNESCO World Heritage city. This quietly compelling Laotian city nestled between the massive flow of the Mekong River and the Nam Kahn tributary is essential for a true understanding of the river and its spiritual significance. Luang Prabang is, in so many ways, a quintessence of the Southeast Asian world.

EXTENSION ITINERARY OUTLINE

DAY	OVERNIGHT	HOTEL	ACTIVITIES
Day 1	Siem Reap, Cambodia	Raffles Grand Hotel	Half-day tour of Kampong Phluk Floating Village, home to approximately 3000 fishing people on Tonle Sap Lake; Scenic drive through villages to learn about local Cambodian daily life and view unique stilt houses and rice paddies; Return to the hotel for a final day of leisure in Siem Reap. B
Day 2	Siem Rap/ Luang Prabang	Satri House Boutique Hotel	In the morning travel 15km from Siem Reap to Angkor Silk Farm, one of the most famous farms in Cambodia; Learn about the life cycle of the silkworms, the weaving process, and view the silk garments on display; Located near the largest Angkorian reservoir, for over 25 years, Angkor Silk Farm has helped to revitalize traditional craft industries whilst providing training and job security for nearly a thousand artisans; After lunch, transfer to the airport for the hour-and-a-half flight to Luang Prabang, Laos. The remainder of the evening is at leisure. BL
Day 3	Luang Prabang	Satri House Boutique Hotel	Rise early with the sun and give alms to the local monks; Return to the hotel for breakfast; Later, depart for a walking tour through the streets of Luang Prabang to feast on the beautiful variety of architecture; Visit Wat Visoun, That Makmo (the Watermelon Stupa) and Wat Xieng Thong; Continue along the Nam Khan River to Wat Kili, where Hans George Berger, a renowned photographer and author, will take you on a private tour of his permanently installed exhibition "The Floating Buddha"; Our final stop is the National Museum, which at one time served as the Royal Palace; After lunch, visit a private home and take part in a traditional Laotian Baci Ceremony, where cotton cords are placed around the wrists for good fortune and health, followed by a performance of traditional Laotian dance; The remainder of the evening will be at leisure. BL
Day 4	Luang Prabang	Satri House Boutique Hotel	The morning is at leisure; or else an optional walk up Phousi Hill, to enjoy its sacred atmosphere and the marvelous views it affords; After breakfast visit the magnificent waterfalls and forest pools of Kuang-Si; After

			lunch at L'Éléphant, boat cruise to the Pak Ou Caves, a revered pilgrimage site, and home to thousands of smiling Buddha images and statues; stop at Lao Whisky Village to observe how sticky rice is distilled into Lao Lao liquor; On the return boat ride to Luang Prabang, enjoy the sunset on the river with cocktails and canapés, followed by dinner at the hotel. BLD
Day 5	Depart Luang Prabang		Fly home; suggested flight schedule TBD with transfer included.

Extension Fee and Staffing:

Per person, sharing accommodations\$ 3,695
Single occupancy.....\$ 4,495