



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours

CRUISING THE MEKONG RIVER **Vietnam and Cambodia aboard the *Mekong Princess*** **October 17–30, 2022**

ABOUT THE *MEKONG PRINCESS*

Launched in 2015, the *Mekong Princess* is the finest vessel of her kind cruising the Mekong River, with sumptuous furnishings, a dedicated staff and crew roughly equaling the number of guests on board, and elegant suites that combine French-colonial elegance with the tranquility and comfort of an exclusive spa. Given her smaller, more intimate size and ultra-shallow draft, the *Mekong Princess* is able to travel deep into the reaches of the Mekong Delta for visits to villages and tributaries not accessible to larger vessels. On board, all of the suites have sliding glass doors that open to a French balcony (railing only, no platform for standing); Angkor Suites additionally feature a full private veranda with seating area. Breakfast and lunch are served buffet-style, while a single-seating dinner in the elegant dining room offers a fusion of traditional Southeast Asian cuisine and Western dishes, featuring the freshest local ingredients. Public spaces include open-air lounges with comfortable chaises, a spa with an extensive menu of treatments, including a complimentary spa service for each passenger, and a small fitness center. These outstanding features and amenities ensure an unparalleled river cruise experience along the legendary Mekong River.

Accounts On Board

Upon embarkation, a shipboard account is automatically opened for your convenience. A “chit” system will operate for onboard purchases. Each time you make a purchase you will sign a chit and the purchase amount is debited to your shipboard account, which is settled at the end of the voyage. MasterCard and VISA credit cards and U.S. currency are the only accepted forms of payment for your account. American Express credit cards, travelers’ checks, and personal checks are not accepted. The U.S. dollar is the standard currency on board the *Mekong Princess* and all billing statements are rendered in U.S. dollars.

Baggage Storage

Baggage can be stored underneath the beds in your cabin. There are approximately 13 inches between the floor and the bed providing ample room for a standard-sized suitcase. There is also limited space in the closet in the cabin.

Bar and Beverage Services

The *Mekong Princess* features two bars/lounges: the elegant Ramvong Lounge located indoors at the rear of the Bassac Deck, and the more casual Observation Deck area, adjacent to the Ramvong Lounge, with ceiling fans and open on two sides for enjoying the breeze and passing scenery. The bars are stocked with local and international liquors and alcohol along with a selection of bottled beers and a small but varied supply of fine wines and champagnes. The bars offer complimentary teas, coffees, select local beer and local spirits (gin, vodka, whiskey, and rum) throughout the day. Higher end spirits, wines, and beers are available for purchase.

Boutique

The Boutique carries a selection of high-quality local handicrafts from Vietnam and Cambodia. The ship is partnered with shops that use sustainable practices, employ people in need, and are committed to fair wage and labor practices. The shop is open throughout the day. Purchases are debited to your shipboard account.

Cabins and Service

The ship has a total of 14 luxurious suites, all of which have a sliding glass door that opens to a French balcony (railing only), a spacious seating area with two chairs and a side table, and a desk and chair. Additional features and amenities include:

- Closet space and under-bed storage
- Premium mattress, pillow menu, duvet, and linens
- Flat-screen television
- Mini-bar with complimentary water, soda and local beer
- In-room electronic safe
- Multi-configuration plugs
- Individual climate control
- Marble spa tub in Angkor and Tonle Suites; all other suites have rain shower
- Complimentary L'Occitane body and bath products
- Hair dryer
- Luxury spa robes and slippers
- Shoe cleaning upon return from excursions

Junior Suites (#'s 105-106)

Located mid-ship on the Main/Mekong Deck, the two Junior Suites include 216 square feet of living space, floor-to-ceiling sliding doors and a French balcony. The suite's spa bath offers a glass rain shower. There are two arm chairs and a side table and two twin beds that can be combined into a queen bed.

Saigon Suites (#'s 101-104)

The four Saigon Suites are located forward on the Main/Mekong Deck. They include 235 square feet of living space, floor-to-ceiling sliding doors and a French balcony. The suite's spa bath offers a glass rain shower. There are two arm chairs and a side table and two twin beds that can be combined into a queen bed.

Apsara Suites (#'s 205-208)

The four Apsara Suites are located mid-ship on the Upper/Bassac Deck, and include 235 square feet of living space, floor-to-ceiling sliding doors and a French balcony. The suite's spa bath offers a glass rain shower. There are two arm chairs and a side table and two twin beds that can be combined into a queen bed.

Tonle Suites (#'s 203-204)

Located forward on the Upper/Bassac Deck, Tonle Suites provide guests with 305 square feet of living space. The two Tonle Suites include a spa bath with large soaking tub and glass rain shower. Floor-to-ceiling sliding doors open onto a French balcony, offering panoramic views of the passing landscape. Tonle Suites are outfitted with one king bed. Butler service is available.

Angkor Suites (#'s 201-202)

Located in the bow of the ship on the Upper/Bassac Deck, these two suites are the largest and most luxurious on the *Mekong Princess*. With 495 square feet, including a large private balcony, Angkor Suites offer panoramic views of the landscape through floor-to-ceiling glass windows, a private veranda with seating area, and a fully stocked mini-bar. The spa bath offers a large, marble soaking tub and separate glass rain shower. Angkor Suites are outfitted with one king bed. Additional amenities include complimentary laundry service all week and evening canapés. Butler service is available.

Suites are serviced every morning by your cabin attendant. They are straightened again in the evening when beds are turned down. If you require additional housekeeping service outside these visits, please advise the reception desk.

Communication Services

Communication services on board the *Mekong Princess* are somewhat limited. Complimentary wireless internet access is available in some public areas, and small email messages can be sent to and from the ship at no charge. Each suite is equipped with a phone for internal calls only and cannot be used for calls off the ship. A satellite phone is available on board the *Mekong Princess* for emergency calls only.

We recommend that you contact your cell phone service provider to ask about coverage options for making phone calls and using data in Vietnam and Cambodia. Note that most U.S. cell phone plans do *not* include international roaming, and charges can be quite high.

Please be aware that due to the ship's remote location, phone service and internet connections are often intermittent and slow, and many times, unavailable.

Currency Exchange

Currency exchange is not available on the *Mekong Princess*. However, it is not necessary since nearly all goods and services are quoted in both local and U.S. currency in Cambodia. The Cambodian riel and U.S. dollar can be used interchangeably, and in Vietnam, U.S. dollars are widely accepted. ATMs that dispense U.S. currency are readily available near where the ship docks in Phnom Penh, and although the bills are in large denominations, the ship can exchange the larger bills for smaller denominations appropriate for smaller expenses.

Daily Programs

The daily program is distributed to all suites and posted at the Office and the Spa Reception Desk every evening. The program provides details of the cruising schedule, onboard activities including lectures, shore excursions, what to bring, and notes about interesting sights. Weather and other conditions may, of course, alter the day's intended program. Your tour staff will notify you of any changes to the printed schedule.

Dietary Needs

Special dietary requests can often be accommodated, but we must be notified in writing on the **Personal Information Form** sent with your welcome mailing. The galley is equipped to prepare special dietary foods as long as you notify us **60 days or more** before departure. Please note that every effort will be made to accommodate your dietary needs, but due to limited availability of foodstuffs in local markets, some special diets (such as kosher) may be impossible to accommodate.

Dining

Meals are served in the Indochine Dining Room on the Main/Mekong Deck on an open-seating basis, with all passengers accommodated in one seating. Buffet-style breakfasts and lunches offer a variety of Asian and Western dishes, with a cook-to-order egg station during breakfast, and a hot main course, such as Vietnamese Pho, for lunch. Table service is provided at dinner, offering a four-course set menu with the option to order a la carte from within any of the courses. The chef puts an emphasis on fresh, local ingredients, and offers a selection of delicious and healthy traditional dishes as well as hearty Western favorites. There are fixed hours for service and all passengers are asked to arrive for dinner at the time posted in the daily schedule.

Complimentary local beer, liquor, coffee, water, tea, and soft drinks are available throughout the day from the lounge, and local beer, wine, and soft drinks are included with all dinners on board.

Electrical Current

The electrical current on the ship is 220 volts/50 hertz (U.S. standard is 110 volts/60 hertz). If you plan to bring any electrical appliances that operate on 110 volts, you will need to bring an electrical converter. Note that most laptop computers and digital camera battery chargers can operate on a range of currents from 110-240 volts. The cabins on the *Mekong Princess* are equipped with multi-configuration adapter plugs to accommodate most Western plugs, including the flat 2-prong plug and the 3-prong polarized plug that are used in the U.S., so you will not need to bring plug adapters for use on board.

Elevator

There is no elevator on board the *Mekong Princess*.

Exercise Facilities

The small, but state-of-the-art Fitness Center on board the *Mekong Princess* offers modern equipment including a stationary bicycle, an elliptical and a treadmill, in a comfortable atmosphere, with floor-to-ceiling windows so guests may exercise without missing a moment of the beautiful Mekong River scenery.

Gratuities

Gratuities for onboard staff and crew are included in the cost of the trip.

Hair Dryer

Each cabin is equipped with a hair dryer.

Hair Salon and Manicurist

The *Mekong Princess* does not have a hairdresser on board; manicures and pedicures are available in the Spa.

Lounge and Observation Deck

Conveniently located at the rear of the Upper/Bassac Deck, the indoor Ramvong Lounge and the outdoor Observation Deck of the *Mekong Princess* are ideal for relaxing with a good book, a fresh cup of coffee, or an evening cocktail. Comfortable chaise lounge chairs and ceiling fans in the Observation Deck provide an elegant atmosphere for enjoying the breeze while watching life on the passing riverbanks. The sumptuous furnishings of the Ramvong Lounge offer the opportunity to sink into an overstuffed sofa or chair while listening to a lecture, watching a movie, enjoying a beverage, or simply watching the world go by in a temperature-controlled atmosphere. On select evenings, local entertainment may be offered in the lounge.

Laundry

Laundry service is available on the *Mekong Princess* for a fee.

Mail

Mail service is provided for postcards and letters. If you would like your mail posted by the ship staff, drop your letters and postcards off at the Office. Mail is posted in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Cambodian stamps are available in the Purser's Office and will be charged to your onboard account.

Medical Service

The *Mekong Princess* does not have a doctor on board, although the ship's officers and staff are trained in basic first aid techniques. There is a small infirmary and pharmacy where simple painkillers and motion sickness pills are available. Any applicable fees for medical services received on board are debited to your shipboard account, payable at the end of the voyage.

It is essential that persons with any medical problems or drug allergies inform us well before departure so that we may brief the ship's staff accordingly. Please indicate these in writing on the **Personal Information Form** sent with your welcome mailing. Also, it is very important that you travel with an adequate supply of all your medications.

If you use a hearing aid that might be turned off at night or would otherwise require special assistance in case of an emergency, please advise the reception desk of this fact at the time of boarding.

Passports

All passports are collected upon embarkation and kept in the ship's safe throughout the cruise. Passports are necessary to facilitate immigration formalities for stops on our itinerary and will be returned at the end of the voyage (although they will always be available to you on request).

Office and Reception Desk

Located on the Main/Mekong Deck, this is where all your transactions with the vessel take place, where your charge account is opened and settled at the end of the cruise, and where you can ask questions or post your mail.

Safe

A safe, which you are encouraged to use, is provided in each suite. There is also a larger safe at Reception.

Safety and Security

- Safety is a major priority aboard the *Mekong Princess*. Fire detectors are located throughout the ship. All officers are trained in emergency procedures, and regular drills are held to instruct the crew in their emergency duties. A safety drill will be performed at the beginning of every cruise. This drill is compulsory and guests are required to attend. You will be advised of your muster station and the location of your lifejackets, which are located in your cabin.
- When in port there is 24-hour security, and crew members are posted at the gangplank.
- Each passenger is given a cabin key card each time he or she disembarks the ship. When the passenger returns, the key card is collected. This prevents anyone from coming aboard who isn't authorized to do so, and it also guarantees that all passengers are on board before departing for the next stop.
- Access to your suite is by use of a key card. It must be put in the wall holder for electricity to work in the cabin.

Smoking Policy

Smoking is not permitted in any enclosed public areas or in the staterooms. Smoking is only allowed outside on the aft section of the Sun Deck. Please use appropriate ashtrays for cigarette butts and used matches. Never throw cigarettes over the side of the ship, as these may blow back onto the ship and cause a fire.

Spa

There is a spa on board, open daily from 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m., offering manicures and pedicures as well as a range of massages from reflexology foot massage, to classic Khmer massage and full body Swedish massage. A menu of spa treatments is provided in each cabin. Appointments are made in the office. Each passenger will receive one complimentary spa service during the 7-night cruise. Additional spa services will be at additional cost.

Water

The tap water on board the ship is not safe to drink. The ship's water supply comes from the river after passing through a sterilization process. While this water is sufficient for bathing and brushing your teeth, it should not be consumed and you may consider using bottled water instead. Bottled water is provided free of charge throughout the cruise and can be replenished as needed.

To save water and reduce detergent use, the ship only changes towels daily if they are placed on the bathroom floor.

Technical Specifications

Registry: Vietnam

Built: 2015

Gross Tonnage: 950 tons

Capacity: 24 guests

Length: 230 feet

Beam: 43 feet

Draft: 6.2 feet

Average cruising speed: 10 knots

Maximum cruising speed: 13 knots

Crew: 28 including officers (may vary)