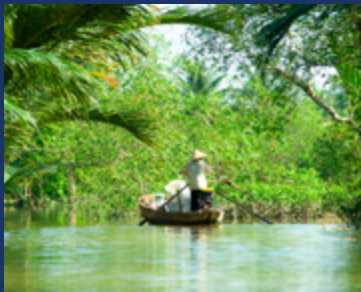
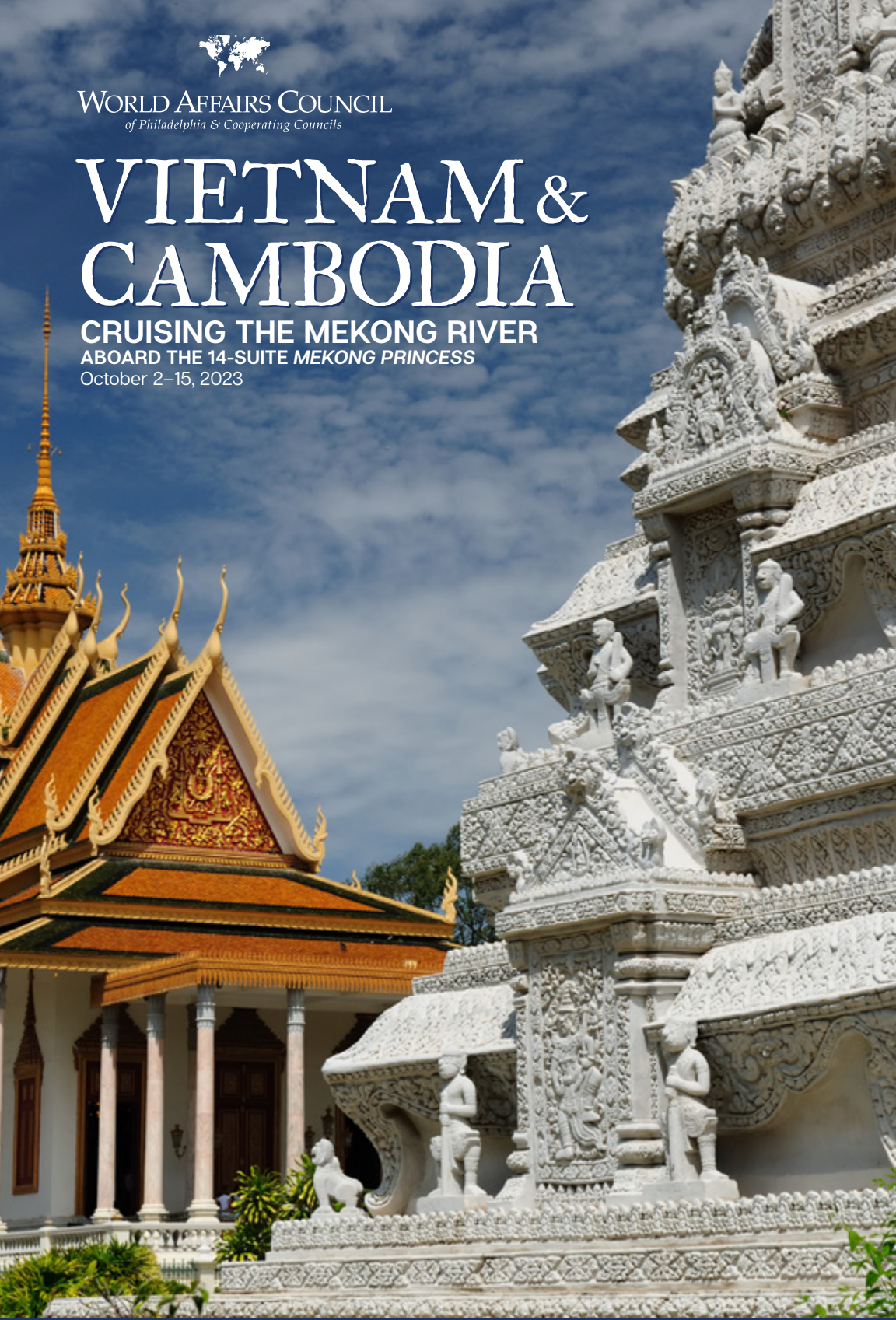




WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL  
*of Philadelphia & Cooperating Councils*

# VIETNAM & CAMBODIA

**CRUISING THE MEKONG RIVER**  
ABOARD THE 14-SUITE *MEKONG PRINCESS*  
October 2–15, 2023





# Dear Council Travelers,

We are pleased to present an opportunity to journey through a land of fascinating history and culture. Explore the wonders of tropical Indochina on our **luxurious tour to 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 experts**, and 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 preferred suite today by contacting our office.

We look forward to traveling with you,

*Shoshana Altrichter*

Shoshana Altrichter  
Vice President of Travel  
World Affairs Council of Philadelphia



# Study Leader

**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. 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.

## 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**

**COOPERATING COUNCILS:** ALASKA WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL · GLOBAL TIES ARIZONA · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF ATLANTA · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF AUSTIN · BALTIMORE COUNCIL ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS · WORLDBOSTON · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF CHARLOTTE · CHICAGO COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF CINCINNATI & NORTHERN KENTUCKY · CLEVELAND COUNCIL ON WORLD AFFAIRS · COLORADO SPRINGS WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL · COLUMBIA WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL · COLUMBUS COUNCIL ON WORLD AFFAIRS · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF CONNECTICUT · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF DALLAS/FORT WORTH · WORLD DENVER · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF DETROIT · GLOBAL MINNESOTA · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF GREATER HAMPTON ROADS · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF GREATER HOUSTON · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF HARRISBURG · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF HILTON HEAD · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF INLAND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF JACKSONVILLE · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF KENTUCKY AND SOUTHERN INDIANA · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COUNCIL, KANSAS CITY · LOS ANGELES WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL & TOWN HALL · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF MAINE · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF MID-HUDSON VALLEY · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF MONTEREY BAY · MONTANA WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL · NAPLES COUNCIL ON WORLD AFFAIRS · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF NEW HAMPSHIRE · WORLD AFFAIRS (NORTHERN CALIFORNIA) · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF ORANGE COUNTY · WORLDDOREGON · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF PALM BEACH · PEORIA AREA WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF PITTSBURGH · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF RHODE ISLAND · RICHMOND WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF SAN ANTONIO · SAN DIEGO WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL · SANTA FE COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS · SARASOTA WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF SEATTLE · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF SONOMA COUNTY · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF SOUTH TEXAS · WORLD AFFAIRS FORUM (STAMFORD) · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF ST. LOUIS · TENNESSEE WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL · UTAH COUNCIL FOR CITIZEN DIPLOMACY · VERMONT COUNCIL ON WORLD AFFAIRS · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF WESTERN MICHIGAN · WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA





APSARA DANCER



NEAR BEN TRE



TUK TUK

# Itinerary

## Monday–Tuesday, October 2–3 HOME/HO CHI MINH CITY (SAIGON), VIETNAM

Depart the U.S. 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 evening enjoy the company of fellow travelers at a welcome dinner.

PARK HYATT SAIGON (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



HO CHI MINH CITY



ANGKOR - TA PROHM



PHNOM PENH PRODUCE



ANGKOR WAT



RHESUS MONKEY

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, 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 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, 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.

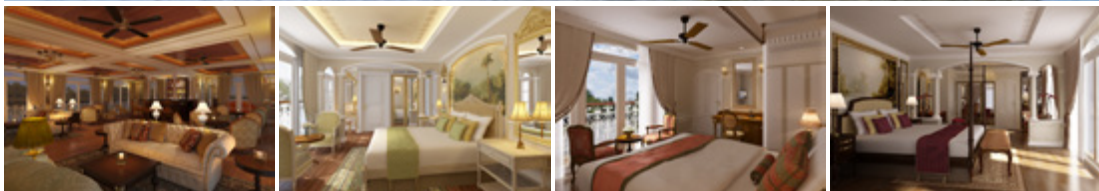
RAFFLES GRAND D'ANGKOR (B,L,D)

**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)



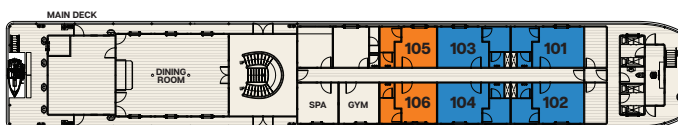
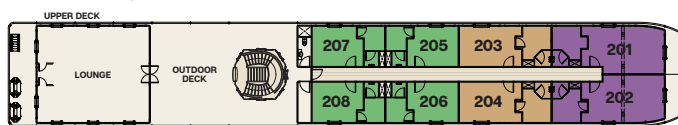
# Mekong Princess



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)

CATEGORY	DOUBLE	SINGLE
<b>JUNIOR SUITE</b> ~216 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$7,995	\$13,495
<b>SAIGON SUITE</b> ~235 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$8,995	\$15,495
<b>APSARA SUITE</b> ~235 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$9,995	—
<b>TONLE SUITE</b> ~305 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$11,495	—
<b>ANGKOR SUITE</b> ~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 12 breakfasts, 11 lunches, and 9 dinners • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Group transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates • **All gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers, and ship personnel for all group activities** • Port charges and entrance fees • One complimentary spa treatment per person during the cruise • **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 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. 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.



HO CHI MINH CITY

# VIETNAM & CAMBODIA

## CRUISING THE MEKONG RIVER

ABOARD THE 14-SUITE MEKONG PRINCESS

October 2-15, 2023

### GENERAL INFORMATION (CONTINUED)

#### PROGRAM RATES

##### DO NOT INCLUDE

- U.S. domestic and international airfare
- Passport/visa expenses
- Medical expenses, immunizations, or 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; liquor or soft drinks except as noted
- Laundry or dry cleaning
- Telephone, fax, internet, and email charges
- Room service
- Other items of a personal nature

#### 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 this expedition are included in this brochure. Information about travel insurance will be sent to confirmed participants.

To reserve a place, please contact the World Affairs Council by phone at (800) 942-5004 or (215) 561-4700 x209 or x231. You may fax the completed reservation form to (215) 561-5660 or mail to One Penn Center, 1617 JFK Blvd. Suite 1055, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

For more information please visit our website at [www.wacphila.org](http://www.wacphila.org) or email [travel@wacphila.org](mailto:travel@wacphila.org).

NAME #1 (as it appears on passport) BIRTHDATE

NAME #2 (as it appears on passport) BIRTHDATE

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP or POSTAL CODE

HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE

E-MAIL 1

E-MAIL 2

### TERMS & CONDITIONS

Complete Terms and Conditions including Statement of Responsibility will be made available to you 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.

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 World Affairs Council of Philadelphia nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.

#### 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.

#### RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

To reserve space, call (800) 942-5004, email [travel@wacphila.org](mailto:travel@wacphila.org), or return the completed reservation form with your \$1,000 per person deposit to: World Affairs Council of Philadelphia, One Penn Center, 1617 JFK Blvd. Suite 1055, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Final payment is due June 5, 2023 (120 days prior to departure). For those who register after June 5, 2023, 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 effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia. 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:

#### ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by 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, Criterion Travel reserves 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.

California Seller of Travel Program  
CST #2088800-40

### DEPOSIT

I'd like to pay my deposit by credit card.

Once a request is received, a Travel Counselor from Criterion Travel will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Deposit may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to Criterion Travel and include with the form.

--or--

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel) to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on

**Vietnam & Cambodia**

### SINGLE TRAVELERS

I prefer to have single accommodations (*limited availability*) or  I plan to share accommodations with:

### 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

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October 2–15, 2023



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AN ISLAND IN HA LONG BAY

## 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



HO CHI MINH MAUSOLEUM IN HANOI



WOODEN WATER PUPPETS AT A HANOI MARKET