

Cornell **CAU**  
**Education Vacations**



# THE FLOW OF HISTORY

A JOURNEY UPON THE MEKONG RIVER  
THROUGH VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

**JANUARY 8 - 21, 2024**

# DEAR CAU FRIENDS,

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 explore two remarkable Southeast Asian countries and the mighty river that connects them. With a total guest capacity of only 24, I encourage you to reserve your preferred suite today by contacting Criterion Travel.

Sincerely,



Lora Gruber-Hine  
Director  
Cornell's Adult University

## STUDY LEADER



### Eric Tagliacozzo

John Stambaugh Professor of History

Eric Tagliacozzo is a professor of history at Cornell University, focusing primarily on Southeast Asian History. For more than twenty years, he has focused on the history of people, ideas, and materials in motion in and around this region of the world, from earliest times up to the present.

Eric has written and edited more than a dozen books about the cultural implications of Southeast Asia's connections with the outside world, including *Secret Trades, Porous Borders: Smuggling and States Along a Southeast Asian Frontier, 1865-1915* (Yale, 2005), which won the Harry J. Benda Prize from the Association of Asian Studies (AAS) in 2007. His monographs and volumes have looked at Southeast Asia's links with the countries of the South China Sea and also the Indian Ocean, through trade, religion, and maritime exchange over the past two millennia.



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Seven nights aboard the 28-passenger **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 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 **explore the temples of Angkor**, including sunrise views of Angkor Wat from the peaceful surroundings of Ba Kheng Temple, and opportunities to ride an elephant and a *tuk tuk*.
- **Excursions offer authentic glimpses** of rural village life, with visits to floating markets, farms, and villages.







## ITINERARY

**MONDAY-TUESDAY, JANUARY 8-9**

**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, JANUARY 10**

**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, JANUARY 11**

**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, JANUARY 12**

**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, JANUARY 13**

**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, JANUARY 14

### 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, JANUARY 15

### 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 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, JANUARY 16

### 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, JANUARY 17

### 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, JANUARY 18**  
**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, JANUARY 19**  
**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, JANUARY 20**  
**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, JANUARY 21**  
**SIEM REAP / HOME**

This morning transfer to the airport for flights home, crossing the International Date Line and arriving the same day.

(B)

**CORNELL'S TRAVEL AND SAFETY POLICY**

*While Cornell is pleased to facilitate travel opportunities for its alumni and friends with tour operators that specialize in high-quality educational travel, please be aware that Cornell does not conduct, manage or operate these travel experiences, or act as an agent for travelers interested in tours. Tour operators and travelers are responsible for making their own safety decisions concerning this travel, and, as a facilitator between travelers and the tour operators with whom travelers make arrangements for completing travel, Cornell's role and liability are strictly limited. Specific tour operator and national health and safety protocols will apply to each trip, and travelers should review all protocols and trip terms and conditions, including terms and conditions regarding cancellations, refunds, health and safety, and insurance prior to making a reservation. Cornell is not responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements or for losses, expenses, damages, or injuries resulting from travel.*





## PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

**FRIDAY-TUESDAY, JANUARY 5-9**

### **HANOI & HA LONG BAY**

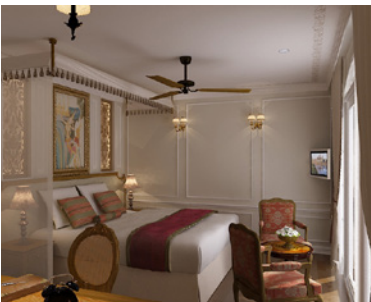
Begin your Southeast Asian experience with two nights in Hanoi, Vietnam's leafy green, lake-studded capital. A panoramic tour will introduce you to Hanoi's best-known sights, including the Temple of Literature, the "Hanoi Hilton," the mausoleum of Ho Chi Minh, and the modest "House on Stilts" in which 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.

**\$2,795 per person double occupancy**

**\$3,750 per person single occupancy**



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER,  
CALL (888) 328-2089 OR EMAIL [RES@CRITERIONTRAVEL.COM](mailto:RES@CRITERIONTRAVEL.COM)



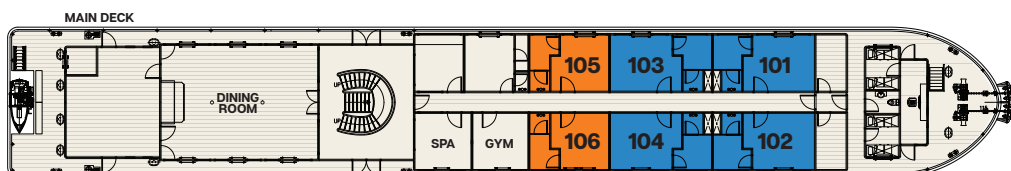
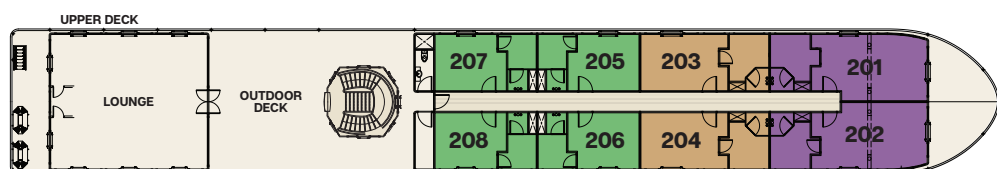
## MEKONG PRINCESS

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	—

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER,  
CALL (888) 328-2089 OR EMAIL [RES@CRITERIONTRAVEL.COM](mailto:RES@CRITERIONTRAVEL.COM)

# 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 • Arrival and departure airport transfers • **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 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. As of publication, 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 exclusive program is limited to a maximum of 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 time of travel • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • 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, or email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

## TRAVEL 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve space on this program. To register using a credit card, please call (888) 328-2089 or email [res@critteriontravel.com](mailto:res@critteriontravel.com). Final payment deadline is September 11, 2023. For those who register after September 11, 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 in effect until they are received in writing and confirmed by Criterion Travel. 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. For cancellations after final payment deadline: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. NOTE: Neither Cornell University 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 Cornell University 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, Cornell University 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.

California Seller of Travel Program CST #2088800-40