



Alumni Travel

CRUISING THE MEKONG RIVER

Vietnam and Cambodia

Aboard the 14-suite *Mekong Princess*

NOVEMBER 8-21, 2027





Dear Alumni, Family, and Friends of Dartmouth,

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US 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 faculty host will offer a **series of lectures** and lead discussions throughout the program, while knowledgeable **local guides** accompany us 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.

Robin K. Albing TU'81
Director
Alumni Travel
Dartmouth

Candice Day
Assistant Director
Alumni Experiences & Travel
Dartmouth



SCAN ME
with your iPhone or tablet
to register online.

Trip 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.

Study Leader

ERIC EDMONDS *Professor of Economics*



Eric Edmonds is Professor of Economics at Dartmouth College, Editor-in-Chief of the [World Bank Economic Review](#), Senior Fellow at the [Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development](#) (BREAD), and Research Associate at the [National Bureau of Economic Research](#) (NBER). His research examines how policy can shape the choices adolescents and their families make about schooling, work, and well-being. He studies interventions that influence these pivotal transitions from childhood to adulthood, seeking evidence that helps organizations design policies that better support young people's development. He currently has projects in South Asia, Latin America, and the United States. Edmonds earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Economics from the University of Chicago and his PhD in Economics from Princeton University. At Dartmouth, he teaches Economics 24 and 64.

Optional Pre-Trip Extension Itinerary



NOVEMBER 5-9, 2027

Water Puppets

Hanoi & 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 an electric cart 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. *APRICOT HOTEL HANOI* (2 NIGHTS), *PARADISE LEGACY* (1 NIGHT); (3B,2L,2D)

Pre-tour extension program rates per person:

Double occupancy \$ 2,895

Single occupancy \$3,850

Minimum participants for operation: 8



Itinerary

**MONDAY-TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 8-9**

Home / Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Depart home on overnight flights to Ho Chi Minh City. Upon arrival on November 9, 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. Dinner this evening will be on your own. *PARK HYATT HOTEL*

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10
Ho Chi Minh City**

Begin the day with a welcome orientation before embarking on an insightful tour of the War Remnants Museum. Then, enjoy 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, NOVEMBER 11

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, NOVEMBER 12

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, NOVEMBER 13

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, NOVEMBER 14

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)*

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15

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/



Silver Pagoda
Phnom Penh

or experience the city's vibrant nightlife. *MEKONG PRINCESS* (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16

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, NOVEMBER 17

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, NOVEMBER 18

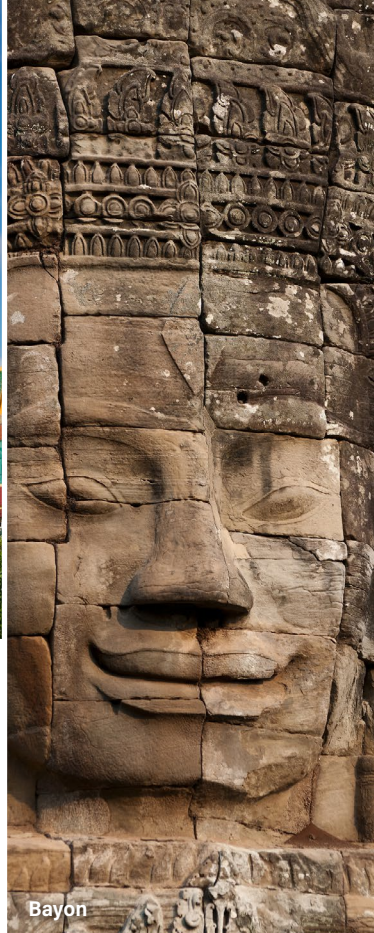
Kampong Cham / Siem Reap

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, NOVEMBER 19

Angkor / Siem Reap

Start the day at Angkor Wat, where the early morning light gently illuminates the temple's majestic silhouette, before visiting the atmospheric Ta Prohm, where jungle roots intertwine with ancient stone. Then, take a tuk tuk tour through Siem Reap, visiting peaceful monasteries, including Prea Ang Chek & Prea Ang Choern, where locals pray for longevity, good fortune, and a brighter future. You'll also



Bayon

see the bats that inhabit the large tree in front of the Royal Residence before visiting a local artisan workshop. Enjoy the remainder of the evening at your leisure.

RAFFLES GRAND HOTEL (B,L)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Angkor / Siem Reap

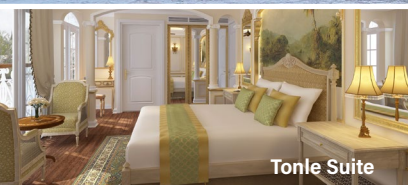
Begin the day with a breathtaking sunrise view over Angkor Wat from Ba Kheng Temple. Then enjoy a traditional Khmer gondola ride to Bayon, known for its serene stone faces. Explore the Terrace of the Elephants, part of an ongoing archaeological dig. Conclude your journey with a festive farewell dinner, savoring the rich flavors of Cambodian cuisine.

RAFFLES GRAND HOTEL (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Siem Reap / Home

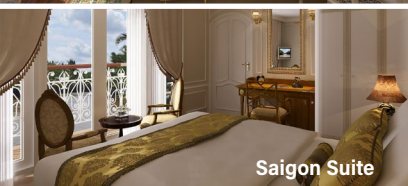
Transfer to the airport for your return flight, crossing the International Date Line and arriving home the same day. (B)



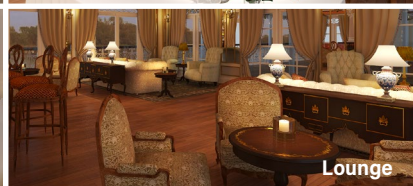
Tonle Suite



Dining Room



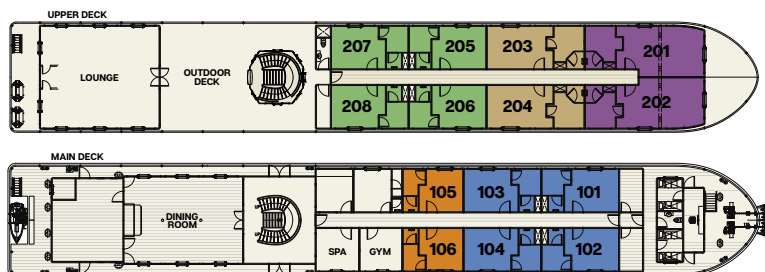
Saigon Suite



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.



RETAIL PROGRAM FEES (per person):	DOUBLE	SINGLE
1 JUNIOR SUITE ~216 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$8,995	\$14,495
2 SAIGON SUITE ~235 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$9,995	\$16,495
3 APSARA SUITE ~235 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$10,995	\$18,495
4 TONLE SUITE ~305 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$12,495	—
5 ANGKOR SUITE ~495 sq. ft., with French balcony, private veranda, complimentary laundry service, and evening canapés	\$13,995	—

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 cobble 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 November ranges from the mid-70s to mid-80s °F, with generally lower 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.

GROUP SIZE This program welcomes up to 24 participants, including travelers from Dartmouth Alumni Travel and MIT Alumni Travel.

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.

TRAVEL INSURANCE
Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended. Trip 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
Program rates are based upon current fuel prices, 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 An initial deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve space on this program. Reserve your space online at https://account.criteriontravel.com/Booking/RefStart/DAT/271108_MEK_DAT_MIT/ or complete the reservation form included in this brochure and mail it with your check or credit card information to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005, or fax to (650) 560-6400. Balance of payment is due July 11,

2027. After July 11, 2027, 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).

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 administration fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of reservation; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. After the final payment deadline on July 11, 2027, all payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. **NOTE:** Neither Dartmouth Alumni Travel nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalties incurred with the purchase of non-refundable tickets.

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 participant certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants.

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, the tour operator 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

Photos from Dreamstime.com:
Floating markets on Mekong Delta (cover) @Bacokia7;
Angkor Wat @Littlewormy;
dancer @ Eldelik;
Silver Pagoda @Rhombur;
Bayon @Pcphotography69;
monk @Rene Drouyer;
Ha Long Bay @Le Thuy Do.

CRUISING THE MEKONG RIVER

November 8-21, 2027



RESERVE ONLINE

For more information call Criterion Travel at (888) 328-2089. To reserve, please connect to the online registration form with the QR code above, or complete and return this form by email to res@criteriontravel.com. If paying by check, please return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel, to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005.

NAME #1 (as it appears on passport)	DATE OF BIRTH
NAME #2 (as it appears on passport)	DATE OF BIRTH
STREET ADDRESS	
CITY / STATE / ZIP	
PREFERRED TELEPHONE NUMBER	
EMAIL	

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 ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMEX

NAME ON CREDIT CARD	
CARD #	EXP. DATE / CVV SECURITY CODE
CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE	

ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed)
Cabin category preference: 1st _____ 2nd _____
Bed Preference: ☐ King/Queen ☐ Twins

SINGLE TRAVELERS (choose one)
☐ I prefer single accommodations (*limited availability*)
☐ I plan to share accommodations with: _____

☐ I'd like to know about roommates.
I am a ☐ non-smoker ☐ smoker
I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of July 11, 2027 will pay the single rate.

I/We have read the General Information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated therein.

SIGNATURE #1	DATE
SIGNATURE #2	DATE

CRUISING THE MEKONG RIVER

Vietnam and Cambodia



Aboard the 14-suite ***Mekong Princess***

NOVEMBER 8-21, 2027



Alumni Travel

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Alumni Center Hanover,
NH 03755

alumni.dartmouth.edu/learn/alumni-travel