

WASHINGTON AND LEE
UNIVERSITY

Lifelong Learning

Vietnam:

A JOURNEY ON THE MEKONG RIVER TO CAMBODIA

Aboard the 14-cabin *Mekong Princess*

JANUARY 19—FEBRUARY 1, 2026

W&L FACULTY HOSTS

Tim Lubin & Laure Stevens-Lubin





Dear W&L Alumni, Parents, and friends,

EXPERIENCE THE ALLURE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, the Mekong River, and the magnificent temples of Angkor on our journey through Vietnam and Cambodia. Begin your adventure with two nights in Ho Chi Minh City, also known as Saigon, a bustling city reflecting the old and new Vietnam. Then, board the 14-suite *Mekong Princess*, for an exploration of one of the world's longest rivers. Thanks to its ultra-shallow draft, this exclusive riverboat offers unparalleled access to the Mekong's hidden gems, allowing you to explore remote corners of the river. Here, you'll encounter vibrant local communities whose lives are deeply intertwined with the river's rich ecosystem, teeming with a remarkable variety of fish and wildlife that sustain their way of life.

As you cruise to Siem Reap, delve into the heart of Southeast Asia, visiting ornate Buddhist and Hindu temples, navigating vibrant floating markets, and immersing yourself in local cultures. Enjoy enriching conversations with local expert guides and a hands-on Vietnamese cooking demonstration. Conclude your adventure with three nights in Siem Reap experiencing the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Angkor, home to iconic structures like Angkor Wat and the Bayon Temple. For those seeking an even earlier start, an optional pre-tour extension to Hanoi and Ha Long Bay is available.

With a total guest capacity of only 24, our journey promises an intimate and authentic perspective on this breathtaking region of the world which is increasingly a bucket-list destination for many. I encourage you to reserve your space now. To make your reservation, please visit: go.wlu.edu/vietnam25 or email the attached reservation form to lifelong@wlu.edu. You may also call (540) 458-8723.

Sincerely,

Ruth Candler

Associate Director of Lifelong Learning

W&L FACULTY HOSTS

Tim Lubin, the Jessie Ball duPont Professor of Religion, and Head of the Law, Justice and Society Program, studies the origins of Hindu and Buddhist culture in India and its spread to Southeast Asia. He focuses on how religion shaped law and society in antiquity, and how these changed during the colonial era.

Laure Stevens-Lubin, a painter whose work explores "human-systems" and "eco-systems," their divergences and intersections, has often been Visiting Assistant Professor of Studio Art. She has many years' experience living, painting, and bird-watching in Asia (including Cambodia), and can share her deep familiarity with Asian art and culture.



Trip Highlights

Enjoy seven nights aboard the 14-cabin **Mekong Princess**. The small size and shallow draft of our riverboat allow for **visits to villages not accessible to larger boats**, and embarkation at the more desirable Saigon port.

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.

Welcome dinner in Saigon, Vietnamese opera, and children's dance performances on the cruise, and a festive farewell dinner in Siem Reap.

Travel by sampan, traditional wooden boats, through mangrove channels to visit local coconut candy maker and orchard.

Interact with local people and witness traditional music and dance performances.

Behold the **UNESCO World Heritage temples of Angkor**, including sunrise views of Angkor Wat from the peaceful surroundings of Ba Kheng Temple, and opportunities to ride a tuk tuk.

Experience excursions offering **authentic glimpses of rural life**, with visits to floating markets, farms, and villages.

Excellent local guides offer valuable insight throughout the program.



Apsara dancer

Pre-Trip Extension

JANUARY 16-20, 2026

Hanoi & Ha Long Bay

Begin your Southeast Asian experience with a two-night stay in Hanoi, Vietnam's verdant and lake-studded capital. A panoramic tour will introduce you to the city's well-known landmarks, including the Temple of Literature, the "Hanoi Hilton," the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, and the modest "House on Stilts," where this influential figure in Vietnam's independence movement lived for many years. Take a cyclo tour through the charming historic quarter's alleyways and enjoy a delightful traditional water puppets performance. Next, begin your coastal journey with an overnight cruise on a small luxury boat in Ha Long Bay. This mystical seascape, adorned with limestone islets, features caves with fantastic stalactite and stalagmite formations. APRICOT HOTEL HANOI (2 NIGHTS), PARADISE ELEGANCE (1 NIGHT); (2B,L,D)

Per person, sharing accommodations **\$2,895**;
Single Supplement **\$955**
Further details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.



Monk at Angkor Wat



Itinerary

**MONDAY-TUESDAY,
JANUARY 19-20**

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 independently.

PARK HYATT SAIGON

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

Ho Chi Minh City

Ho Chi Minh City is Vietnam's most economically dynamic city, and the streets are always abuzz with activity. This morning, you have the option of visiting the Cu Chi tunnels, a vast underground network that hid thousands of Viet Cong guerrillas and Vietnamese villagers during the Vietnam War, or visiting the War Remnants Museum and the Presidential Palace. After lunch, take a motorcoach tour highlighting the city's best known monuments—Notre Dame Cathedral, City Hall, and the Old Saigon Post Office. This evening enjoy the company of fellow travelers at a celebratory welcome dinner.

PARK HYATT SAIGON (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

Ho Chi Minh City (Embark)

This morning, experience the vibrant atmosphere of the extensive Ben Thanh market and its diverse array of offerings. Then board the *Mekong Princess* to begin your seven-night cruise along the Mekong River.

MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

Ben Tre / Can Tho

Today, cruise by sampan (small wooden boat) to a coconut candy maker and visit a local village. In the afternoon, cruise to Can Tho, the main city of the Mekong Delta, and take a guided walking tour. Enjoy a traditional Unicorn dance at the Zuhang Pagoda and some free time to visit the night market and shops.

MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

Can Tho / Hoa An

Experience the unique and colorful Cai Rang floating market by sampan. Weave in and out among floating watercraft loaded with produce and anything the residents of the Mekong Delta need in their daily lives. Then visit a noodle factory

and continue to the tranquil community of Hoa An, known for its flowers and unique handicrafts. There, you'll have the opportunity to meet and interact with local families.

MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

Gieng Island / Hong Ngu

Today experience the idyllic natural beauty, charming French-colonial architecture, and Buddhist temples of Gieng Island. Witness the local arts of sampan making and the weaving and embroidering of traditional Khmer scarves. Venture into a remote riverside area to explore duck farms, tropical orchards and "monkey bridges." Visit the historic Phanxico Monastery, built by the French in 1879, and a Hòa Hảo temple, dedicated to a unique form of Buddhism which focuses on aiding the poor. Back on board the *Mekong Princess*, cross into Cambodia and continue upstream.

MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)

MONDAY, JANUARY 26

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

A hub for both the Khmer Empire and French colonialists, Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh, retains vestiges of its French charm. Take a



Silver Pagoda
Phnom Penh



Water
puppets

cyclo (bicycle taxi) tour along the park-lined riverfront and see the city's highlights, including the extravagant Silver Pagoda, also known as the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, and the National Museum, home to the world's finest collection of Khmer sculpture. *MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27 **Phnom Penh**

This morning take time to honor the victims of some of the darkest days of Cambodian history. Visit Choeung Ek, a former orchard that was used as a Killing Field by the Khmer Rouge during the Cambodian genocide. Then continue on to Tuol Sleng, the National Genocide Museum. This afternoon offers free time to reflect on these powerful and emotional sites, or to appreciate the city of Phnom Penh at your own pace. This evening, enjoy a cultural performance aboard the *Mekong Princess*, including Apsara, Cambodia's national dance, as well as several traditional folk dances. *MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28 **Angkor Ban**

The cruise continues to the unique village of Angkor Ban, where centuries-old houses

stand on stilts above water while the bustle of local life swirls below. Attend a special blessing ceremony at the pagoda conducted by local Buddhist monks and stop at the local monastery before returning to the ship.

MEKONG PRINCESS (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29 **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 different capitals of the Khmer Empire from the 9th to the 15th century. Immerse yourself in the Angkor National Museum in the afternoon, then enjoy dinner on your own and an evening at leisure. *RAFFLES GRAND HOTEL D'ANGKOR (B,L)*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30 **Angkor / Siem Reap**

A trip highlight, begin the day with an early-morning visit to Bakheng Temple, offering the perfect vantage point for a sunrise view over Angkor Wat and the surrounding plain. After a picnic breakfast, enjoy a traditional Khmer gondola ride to Angkor Thom, once an enormous walled city. Delight in the temple at its heart,

adorned with 55 large and small towers crowned with intricately carved heads, each wearing a mysterious smile. In the afternoon, under the optimal light, venture to Ta Prohm, a silent ruin entwined with jungle vegetation. Enjoy dinner on your own this evening. *RAFFLES GRAND HOTEL D'ANGKOR (B,L)*

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31 **Angkor / Siem Reap**

This morning is dedicated to the grandest of Siem Reap's temples, fabled Angkor Wat, a miniature universe carved in stone. Spend the full morning taking in the vastness and the details of this architectural masterpiece. 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. Conclude the day by bidding farewell to your fellow travelers at a festive farewell dinner with live Cambodian music and dance performances. *RAFFLES GRAND HOTEL D'ANGKOR (B,L,D)*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1 **Siem Reap / Home**

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

General Information

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

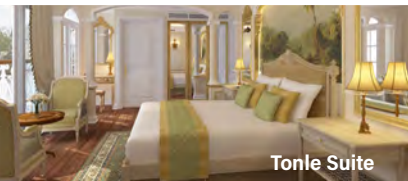
All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including eleven breakfasts, eleven lunches, nine dinners, five hotel nights and seven nights aboard *Mekong Princess* ■ Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations ■ Arrival and departure airport transfers ■ Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers and shipboard personnel for all group activities ■ Entrance fees and port charges ■ Local beer, coffee, tea, and soft drinks 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 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 strenuous program, at times physically demanding and busy, with considerable walking at some sites. Daily activities can involve up to three miles over the course of a day, often on cobbled streets and uneven terrain; elevators may not be available and stairs may not have handrails. Participants should be fit and in active good health. 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. The ship does not have an elevator, so you will need to navigate stairs. Limited medical facilities are available on board the *Mekong Princess*. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by W&L Office of Lifelong Learning or Criterion Travel, local staff, and host country laws.

GROUP SIZE This program is limited to 24 participants.

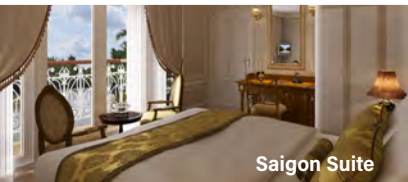
PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE U.S. domestic and international airfare ■ Passport/visa expenses ■ Medical expenses and immunizations ■ Travel and trip cancellation insurance ■ Private airport transfers ■ Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options ■ Airline



Tonle Suite



Dining Room



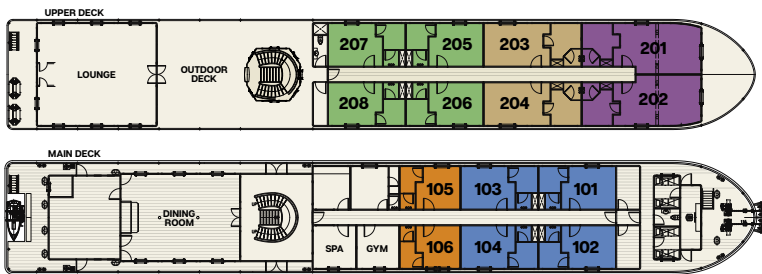
Saigon Suite



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 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	\$7,995	\$13,495
2 SAIGON SUITE ~235 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$8,995	\$15,495
3 APSARA SUITE ~235 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$9,995	—
4 TONLE SUITE ~305 sq. ft., with French balcony	\$11,495	—
5 ANGKOR SUITE ~495 sq. ft., with French balcony, private veranda, complimentary laundry service, and evening canapés	\$12,995	—

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 ■ Phone, fax, internet, and email charges ■ Room service ■ Other items of a personal nature

TRAVEL INSURANCE 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 rates, 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. For ease, please reserve your space at go.wlu.edu/vietnam25 or call (540) 458-8723. You may also email the completed reservation form to: lifelong@wlu.edu. Within two business days after receiving your reservation, Criterion will contact you to confirm your reservation and collect the deposit. We accept personal checks, payable to Criterion Travel, as well as VISA, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover. Reservations will be processed in order of receipt. Final payment deadline is September 22, 2025. Final payment may be made by check, wire transfer or credit card (credit card payments will incur a processing fee of 2%).

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 W&L Office of Lifelong Learning. Cancellations are subject to the following refund schedule: within 30 days of booking, refundable less a \$250 per person administrative fee; Up to 6 months prior to departure, refundable less a \$500 per person administrative fee; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. After September 22, 2025 final payment deadline: 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. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended.

NOTE: Neither W&L Office of Lifelong Learning nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalties incurred with the purchase of non-refundable tickets.

RESPONSIBILITY W&L Office of Lifelong Learning, Washington and Lee University, and Criterion Travel, its officers and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors, successors, agents, and assigns (hereafter referred to as "the Organizers") act only as agents for the passenger with respect to the travel services on this program, including but not limited to transportation, ship arrangements, food services, etc. The Organizers are not responsible for any injury, loss, accident, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, negligence, acts of God or force majeure, COVID-19 or other illness, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, animals, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind, mechanical or other failure of airplanes or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart on time. If delayed past tour dates due to weather, flight schedules, or other uncontrollable factors, you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers, and meals costs. Baggage is entirely at owner's risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this program at any time. Passenger certifies not to have any mental, physical, or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers. We reserve the right to change the itinerary, trip features, or accommodations at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, as deemed necessary by program staff. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the program. The Organizers do not accept liability for any airline carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket connected with the tour. Upon payment of their deposit, tour participants indicate acceptance of the above Terms and Conditions.

California Seller of Travel
Program CST #2088800-40

Vietnam: A JOURNEY ON THE MEKONG RIVER TO CAMBODIA

JAN 19—FEB 1, 2026

TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION, PLEASE VISIT:

go.wlu.edu/vietnam25 or email the attached reservation form to lifelong@wlu.edu. You may also call (540) 458-8723. Once you have submitted your request, Criterion Travel will call within two business days to confirm your reservation and collect your deposit.

NAME #1 (as it appears on passport) W&L AFFILIATION

NAME #2 (as it appears on passport) W&L AFFILIATION

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP OR POSTAL CODE

HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE

EMAIL #1

EMAIL #2

PAYMENT

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel) for _____ place(s) on Vietnam: A Journey on the Mekong River to Cambodia.

ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed)

Cabin category preference:

1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Bed Preference (not guaranteed):

One bed Two beds

SINGLE TRAVELERS (choose one)

I prefer single accommodations (limited availability)

I plan to share accommodations with:

I'd like to know about roommates. I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of September 22, 2025, I will pay the single rate.

I / we have read the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure and understand and agree with them as stated therein.

SIGNATURE #1 DATE

SIGNATURE #2 DATE

Vietnam: A JOURNEY ON THE MEKONG RIVER TO CAMBODIA



W&L Lifelong Learning
Washington and Lee University
204 West Washington Street
Lexington, VA 24450-2116

**Lifelong
Learning**

Aboard the 14-cabin *Mekong Princess*

JANUARY 19 – FEBRUARY 1, 2026

