Cruising the Mekong River
Vietnam and Cambodia
Aboard the 12-cabin Mekong Princess

James Salzman ’85
Donald Bren Distinguished Professor of Environmental Law, UCLA & UCSB

November 4–17, 2019
Dear Yale Traveler

I invite you aboard the gracious Mekong Princess riverboat for a seven-night exclusive cruise through Vietnam and Cambodia; a journey into one of the most ancient and fascinating cultures in the world. Generously appointed with a romantic French colonial style and all the modern comforts, our riverboat embodies the beauty of Southeast Asia. Her small size and ultra-shallow draft allow us to experience this mighty river from an intimate and authentic perspective, stepping into local homes to see how people live and work, and gliding through floating markets in the early-morning hours as they come to life.

Our program begins with a stay in Ho Chi Minh City — still known by many as Saigon, it is a busy and dynamic city, exuding energy and abuzz with activity — and ends with two full days to explore the remarkable Khmer temples and monuments of legendary Angkor, one of Asia’s most exquisite archaeological gems. In between, the Mekong River takes us into the seldom-visited world of one of Asia’s great waterways. We’ll marvel at floating villages whose residents literally live on the water — working, shopping, even attending school and church. Along the way, we’ll tour a family-owned orchard, visit a noodle factory and a coconut candy maker, and experiment with typical Vietnamese ingredients during a cooking demonstration.

A pre-tour extension to Hanoi and breathtaking Ha Long Bay is also available. To reserve your space visit yaleedtravel.org/meekong19 or return the attached registration form. Please don’t hesitate to contact us with questions about this extraordinary travel program at (203) 432-1952 or edtravel@yale.edu.

Best wishes from Yale,

Lauren Summers
Senior Director, Alumni Lifelong Learning and Travel

cover photo: Royal Palace, Phnom Penh

Highlights

Seven nights aboard the elegant 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.

Festive Vietnamese opera and children’s dance performances on the cruise.

Awe-inspiring temples of Angkor, including sunrise views of Angkor Wat from the peaceful surroundings of Ba Kheng Temple.
Jim Salzman, Yale College Class of 1985, is the Donald Bren Distinguished Professor of Environmental Law with joint appointments at the UCLA School of Law and UCSB Bren School of Environmental Science & Management. An international expert on drinking water, he frequently appears as a media commentator and has lectured on six continents. He has taught at Yale, Stanford, Duke, and Harvard as well as at universities in Australia, China, Israel, Italy, Portugal, and Sweden. In nine books and more than ninety articles and book chapters, his broad-ranging scholarship has addressed topics ranging from water to wildlife, to climate change to creating markets for ecosystems. There have been more than 90,000 downloads of his articles. His most recent book, Drinking Water: A History, is in its second edition and has been featured in Scientific American, the New York Times, the Washington Post, and NPR’s Weekend Edition. A dedicated classroom teacher, Salzman was twice selected as Professor of the Year by Duke students. He is active in the fields of practice and policy, serving as a member of the Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee and the National Drinking Water Advisory Committee. These government-appointed bodies provide high-level counsel to the EPA Administrator, as well as advising several environmental nonprofits. He and his wife, Heather Stanford, Yale College Class of 1980, are avid travelers.
Itinerary

WELCOME PHONE CALL
Tuesday, October 22 (tentative)
Join the group at 4:00 pm Eastern for a pre-trip welcome call with Professor Salzman in order to learn more about what to expect and to ask questions.

HOME / HO CHI MINH CITY (SAIGON), VIETNAM
Monday & Tuesday, November 4–5
Depart the U.S. On arrival, transfer to the Park Hyatt Hotel. The evening is at leisure to rest or explore on your own. Park Hyatt Saigon

HO CHI MINH CITY
Wednesday, November 6
Ho Chi Minh City’s streets are always abuzz with activity. During a motorcoach tour, drive through Chinatown and 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 a festive welcome dinner. Park Hyatt Saigon (B,L,D)

BEN TRE / TRA ON
Friday, November 8
Today, cruise by sampan (small wooden boat) through a channel lined with mangroves, our destination a coconut candy maker. After walking through a family-owned orchard, travel aboard horse-drawn carts to a local pier and board small boats to explore narrow creeks lined with Nipah palms. This afternoon enter an area of the Mekong Delta barely touched by tourism to visit Tra On and the Phuoc Hau pagoda. Mekong Princess (B,L,D)

CAN THO & HOA AN
Saturday, November 9
Dock in Can Tho and 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 everything else the residents of the Mekong Delta need in their daily lives. Stop at a home factory to learn how noodles are made, and tour a family-owned orchard to see and savor exotic Asian fruits. In the afternoon continue to Hoa An, a small village known for its flowers and handicrafts. Mekong Princess (B,L,D)

GIENG ISLAND
Sunday, November 10
Board sampans for a visit to a village on Gieng Island where local families make hundreds of these boats. Continue along a canal to a remote riverside area with duck farms, a tropical orchard, and monkey bridges. Then ride on xe lams (motorised trishaw) to visit a Catholic church that was built in the 1870s. Mekong Princess (B,L,D)

HONG NGU / PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA
Monday, November 11
At several family homes in Hong Ngu, a small island hamlet, 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)

PHNOM PENH
Tuesday, November 12
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

Continuity of guides within each country is a special bonus and ensures a true glimpse of rural village life, with visits to floating markets, farms, and villages.

Clothing and textiles, and local food specialties. Embark the intimate and luxurious Mekong Princess, and begin cruising the Mekong River. Mekong Princess (B,L,D)
Silver Pagoda, home to an “Emerald Buddha” made of Baccarat crystal and a life-size Maitreya Buddha encrusted with diamonds. Examine the darker days of Cambodian history at the infamous Choeung Ek killing fields and Tuol Sleng, a Khmer Rouge prison. Back on board the Mekong Princess, enjoy a dance performance by children from a local orphanage.

Mekong Princess (B,L,D)

ANGKOR BAN
Wednesday, November 13
Angkor Ban is a unique little village on the banks of the Mekong, one of the few that survived destruction under the Khmer Rouge regime. Centuries-old villages stand intact on stilts, while the bustle of local agricultural life swirls below. Enjoy a visit with a family in their home, and with schoolchildren in their classroom. Stop at the local monastery before returning to the ship. Mekong Princess (B,L,D)

KAMPONG CHAM / SIEM REAP
Thursday, November 14
Disembark the Mekong Princess in Kampong Cham and transfer to Siem Reap, the gateway to the magnificent complex at Angkor, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the largest religious monument in the world. Enjoy dinner on your own and an evening at leisure. Park Hyatt Hotel (B,L)

ANGKOR / SIEM REAP
Friday, November 15
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, and 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, when the light is best, visit Ta Prohm, a silent and mysterious ruin shrouded in jungle vegetation. Dinner is again on your own this evening. Park Hyatt Hotel (B,L)

ANGKOR
Saturday, November 16
Early this morning visit Bakheng Temple, the perfect vantage point for a panoramic sunrise view over Angkor Wat and the surrounding plain. After a picnic breakfast, travel by elephant to Angkor Thom, once an enormous walled city, to investigate the temple at its heart, the Bayon. Its 55 large and small towers are topped by carved heads, each one wearing a mysterious smile. In the afternoon, travel about 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. This evening enjoy a special farewell dinner and a performance of Khmer classical dance, often called Apsara dance. Park Hyatt Hotel (B,L,D)

SIEM REAP / HOME
Sunday, November 17
This morning transfer to the airport for flights home, crossing the International Date Line and arriving the same day. (B)

Optional Pre-Tour Extension
HANOI AND HA LONG BAY
November 1-5, 2019
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. Travel to the coast for an overnight cruise on a small luxury boat on Ha Long Bay (below), a mystical seascape of limestone islets, where you’ll explore caves with fantastic stalactite and stalagmite formations. More detailed information and rates will be sent to confirmed participants.

Reserve Your Trip Today
Book online: yaleedtravel.org/mekong19
WHAT IS INCLUDED:
- Program of lectures and discussions with Professor James Salzman.
- All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary
- Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations
- Airport transfers for all participants on arrival (into HAN or SGN airports) and departure (out of REP airport)
- Baggage handling
- Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers, and shipboard personnel
- Port charges
- Entrance fees
- Local beer, coffee, tea, and soft drinks at lunch and dinner on land
- Local beer, liquor, coffee, tea, and soft drinks at all times on board the Mekong Princess
- Wine during all dinners as well as the welcome and farewell receptions
- One complimentary spa treatment per person during the cruise
- Bottled water on motorcoaches, at hotels, and on board ship
- Professional tour manager
- Emergency medical evacuation services

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED:
- U.S. domestic and international airfare
- Passport and visa expenses
- Medical expenses and immunizations
- Travel insurance
- Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour
- Excess baggage charges
- Transfers other than those specified as included
- Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and alcoholic beverages not part of the included meals
- Laundry or dry cleaning
- Telephone, email, and fax charges
- Room service
- Other items of a personal nature

ITINERARY CHANGES: The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Yale Educational Travel and Criterion Travel (the tour operator). 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, Yale Educational Travel 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.

Mekong Princess

Launched in 2015, the Mekong Princess offers 12 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; premium mattress and bed linens; in-room safe; and flat-screen televisions with satellite service. Breakfast and lunch are served buffet-style, while a single-seating dinner offers sumptuous French Indochine and gourmet Spa Cuisine featuring locally sourced fresh produce. Public spaces include open-air lounges with comfortable chaises, spa, small fitness center, and library with Internet access (subject to availability). 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

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<th>DOUBLE</th>
<th>SINGLE</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SAIGON SUITE</strong> (MAIN DECK)</td>
<td>$8,995</td>
<td>$15,295</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four suites, approximately 235 sq. ft., with French balcony</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>APSARA SUITE</strong> (UPPER DECK)</td>
<td>$9,995</td>
<td>$16,995</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four suites, approximately 235 sq. ft., with French balcony</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TONLE SUITE</strong> (UPPER DECK)</td>
<td>$10,995</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two suites, approximately 305 sq. ft., with French balcony</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ANGKOR SUITE</strong> (UPPER DECK)</td>
<td>$12,995</td>
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<td>Two suites, approximately 495 sq. ft., with French balcony plus private veranda, complimentary laundry service, and evening canapés</td>
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AIR ARRANGEMENTS AirTreks can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at (415) 977-7111. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. PLEASE NOTE: U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Round-trip economy-class airfare from New York to Saigon, Vietnam, with return from Siem Reap, Cambodia, is approximately $1,800 per person as of December 2018 and is subject to change without notice.
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A NOTE ABOUT COSTS: Tour costs are based upon current 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.

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, AND FINAL PAYMENT: To reserve a space on this tour, please mail a deposit of $1,000 per person payable to “CRITERION TRAVEL,” along with the completed reservation form, to: Yale Educational Travel, Yale Alumni Association, P.O. Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010 or fax the completed form to (203) 432-0587. Deposits may be charged to a credit card. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt. Final payment is due Monday, July 8, 2019.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: All cancellations must be in writing to Yale Educational Travel. Refunds, less a cancellation fee of $300 per person, are made if we are notified in writing on or before Monday, July 8, 2019. No refunds are made after that date. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other trip features.

WHAT TO EXPECT: Participants must be in good health and able to keep up with the group without assistance from tour staff. If you have any questions about your ability to participate fully on this itinerary, please call Yale Educational Travel at (203) 432-1952.

INSURANCE: Yale Educational Travel highly recommends the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. If participants purchase trip insurance, and we hope that they do, participants are free to purchase the insurance of their choice. Most travel insurance must be purchased within 7-10 days of paying a deposit in order to include certain provisions including pre-existing conditions.

California Seller of Travel Program
CST 2088800-40
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