Cruising the Mekong

Treasures of Vietnam & Cambodia Aboard the Jahan

Arne Westad
Elihu Professor of History and Global Affairs
Dear Yale Traveler

Floating markets, riverside villages, untamed jungles, and ornate temples are simply a few of the sights to behold along the mighty Mekong River, the lifeblood of Vietnam and Cambodia. In the 9th century, this river fueled the rise of the Khmer Empire, whose opulent Hindu and Buddhist temples continue to impress visitors, evidence of the advanced civilization that thrived in this remote part of the world. I invite you to join Yale on a cruise along this legendary waterway next fall. We’ll enjoy extraordinary access to the diverse treasures of Southeast Asia aboard the luxurious Jahan, a colonial-style ship with modern amenities.

Beginning in lively Ho Chi Minh City, our tour follows the Mekong through towns dotted with French colonial mansions and wooden houses on stilts. Along the way, we’ll discover vibrant communities and observe skilled artisans as they ply ancient trades, from silk making to pottery to ingenious uses of the region’s most important crop, rice. In the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, the extravagance of the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda will inspire awe. The city’s dynamic art scene, will delight us - from the Khmer gems in the National Museum to the textiles and contemporary works in Phnom Penh’s world-renowned galleries.

Our journey concludes as we cross the shimmering Tonlé Sap Lake to disembark in Siem Reap. Here, an architectural jewel—the Angkor Wat complex of temples, a UNESCO World Heritage Site—awaits. The majesty of this former Khmer capital, is among the highlights of our explorations including a behind-the-scenes tour of this 12th century, 400-acre stone city.

Our faculty lecturer will be Arne Westad, Elihu Professor of History and Global Affairs at Yale, a scholar with a specialization in global and international history including the history of eastern Asia. We will also be joined by Christopher Noey, a lecturer at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, and expert on Asian art. You may enjoy our optional postlude to Luang Prabang, Laos, home to striking colonial villas and distinctive temples.

Please visit www.yaleedtravel.org/mekong20 to register now, or call Yale Educational Travel at (203) 432-1952 or email edtravel@yale.edu, and we will be delighted to answer your questions.

Sincerely,

Lauren Summers
Senior Director for Lifelong Learning and Travel Association of Yale Alumni

www.yaleedtravel.org/mekong20

Highlights

Experience a behind-the-scenes tour of Angkor Wat in the company of an expert, exploring this vast UNESCO World Heritage Site, its exquisite Khmer sculptures, and its lesser-known temples with an in-depth perspective away from the crowds

Enjoy special access to the energetic communities, workshops, riverside villages, and floating markets along the mighty Mekong River, observing the daily creative work of skilled artisans up close, including the production of luxurious silks

Wander the grounds of Phnom Penh’s opulent Royal Palace and the spectacular Silver Pagoda, where highlights include formal gardens, French-inspired footpaths, sparkling temples, golden thrones, and collections of murals
Yale Study Leader

Arne Westad
Elihu Professor of History and Global Affairs

Arne Westad, Elihu Professor of History and Global Affairs, is a scholar of modern international and global history, with a specialization in the history of eastern Asia since the 18th century. An alumnus of the University of Oslo, he earned a graduate degree in U.S./international history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Westad has published sixteen books including *The Global Cold War*, for which he received the Bancroft Prize; *Restless Empire*; and *The Cold War: A World History*. He previously taught at the London School of Economics, where he was School Professor of International History, and at Harvard University, where he was the S.T. Lee Professor of U.S.-Asia Relations. Westad has been named one of the LSDP Top 100 Global Thinkers, mainly for his work on linking policymaking to an understanding of history.

Upcoming Trips

**The Pearls of the Po: From Venice to Parma**
Aboard *La Venezia*
5/9/20-5/17/20
Craig Wright,
Henry L & Lucy G Moses Professor Emeritus of Music

**Enchanting Greek Isles: Northern Aegean Islands & the Sporades**
Aboard *Sea Cloud*
6/25/20-7/3/20
Jessica Lamont,
Assistant Professor of Classics

**Celtic Classics on the Irish Sea: Round-trip Dublin**
Aboard *Sea Cloud II*
8/8/20-8/16/20
Katie Trumpener
Emily Sanford Professor of Comparative Literature, Professor of English
ITINERARY
SEPTEMBER 24–OCTOBER 5, 2020

WELCOME PHONE CALL
Tuesday, September 8
(Tentative)
Please join a pre-trip welcome call with Professor Arne Westad, at 4:00pm Eastern to meet other travelers, learn more about what to expect, and ask questions.

DEPARTURE
Thursday, September 24
Depart on an overnight flight to Ho Chi Minh City, with a connection.

HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM
Friday, September 25
Arrive in Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) tonight and transfer to the Hôtel Des Arts Saigon MGallery Collection. Guests opting for the suggested flights will be met at the airport for the group transfer to the hotel. (D)

HO CHI MINH CITY / MY THO / CAI BE
Saturday, September 26
Drive to My Tho for an early afternoon embarkation. Lunch will be served aboard the Jahan as we begin our voyage upstream on the Mekong. Attend an introductory lecture before evening arrival in the charming town of Cai Be. Gather for a festive welcome dinner tonight. (B/L/D)

CAI BE / SA DEC / CHAU DOC
Sunday, September 27
The morning is the perfect time to observe the traditional floating market in Cai Be, deep in the heart of the Mekong Delta. Visit a rice workshop, board small local boats to explore the canals, and see farmers in the fields. In the afternoon, stroll through the lovely colonial town of Sa Dec, where French writer Marguerite Duras lived as a child. Alternatively, discover Binh Thanh Island, where local villagers make their living growing water hyacinths. The Jahan moors near Chau Doc tonight. (B/L/D)

CHAU DOC / PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA
Monday, September 28
A town with sizable Chinese, Kinh, and Khmer communities near Cambodia’s border, Chau Doc boasts a diverse range of thrilling sights. Travel by xeloi, a type of rickshaw, and small boats to see workshops, the local market, floating houses, and a fish farm. As you cruise this afternoon toward Phnom Penh, enjoy the Jahan’s amenities and attend a lecture at teatime. Arrive in Cambodia’s capital this evening. (B/L/D)

PHNOM PENH
Tuesday, September 29
Explore this charming French colonial city and vibrant cultural hub. Discover the gleaming Royal Palace and the Silver Pagoda, and browse the National Museum, with its masterpieces of ancient Khmer art. After lunch, an optional excursion to the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and the Killing Field is planned. Alternatively, you may visit a textile designer or gallery. This evening, take a seat on the ship’s sun deck to watch a mesmerizing private apsara dance. (B/L/D)

ANGKOR BAN / KAMPONG CHAM
Wednesday, September 30
On the banks of the Mekong, the village of Angkor Ban was one of the few not destroyed under the Khmer Rouge regime. See traditional wooden houses on stilts and colorful temples. After lunch, meet the children of a local school before continuing to hilltop Wat Hanchey, a pre-Angkorian temple complex with breathtaking views of the Mekong. We hope to meet with monks at their nearby monastery before returning to the Jahan. (B/L/D)

KOH OKNHA TEI / KAMPONG TRalach
Thursday, October 1
Stop this morning at the island of Koh Oknha Tei to learn about the process of silk making and visit workshops where this luxurious fiber is produced. Back on board, enjoy a presentation on the geography of the Mekong Delta and Tonlé Sap Lake before lunch. In the afternoon, admire the architecture and fading frescoes of the pagoda in the village of Kampong Tralach. (B/L/D)

KAMPONG CHHNANG / TONLÉ SAP LAKE
Friday, October 2
In the area around Kampong Chhnang, most buildings are built on stilts above the waterrich soil. Visit a rural village that specializes in making Khmer-style pottery and explore some of the wetlands. During the afternoon, the Jahan continues along the narrow Tonlé River to vast Tonlé Sap Lake, the largest freshwater lake in Asia. Attend a lecture before a festive dinner this evening. (B/L/D)
TONLÉ SAP LAKE / SIEM REAP
Saturday, October 3
Continue crossing impressive Tonlé Sap Lake during breakfast, then disembark in Siem Reap. An exploration of this fascinating area begins at the remarkably well-preserved temple of Banteay Srei. After lunch, visit Thommanon, a small Angkor Wat period temple, and Ta Prohm, which has been dramatically entangled by the unfeathered growth of trees around its structure. Check in at the hotel in the late afternoon. The remainder of the day is at leisure.

(SIEM REAP)
Sunday, October 4
Sunrise over the temples of Angkor is exquisite, and those who wish may rise early to experience this astonishing vista (weather permitting). Discover magnificent Angkor Wat, the best preserved of the area’s temples and the most spectacular of the Khmer temples. Learn about ongoing conservation efforts during a behind-the-scenes visit. Tonight attend a special farewell dinner featuring a music performance. (B/D)

SIEM REAP / RETURN
Monday, October 5
Enjoy a morning tour of the 9th-century “Roluos Group” of three temples—the earliest Angkor sites open to the public, or stroll local galleries with a former museum curator. Lunch and the afternoon are free for additional exploration or relaxation. Rooms are reserved until departure. Following a light dinner, transfer to the airport for the overnight flights home. (B/D)

OPTIONAL POSTLUDE IN LUANG PRABANG, LAOS
October 6–9, 2020
Discover this historic, UNESCO-protected town perched on a narrow peninsula at the confluence of the Nam Khan and Mekong Rivers. On a walking tour starting at the Royal Palace, take in gilded temples, saffron-clad monks, faded colonial villas, and peaceful river scenery. Visit the town’s oldest temple, Wat Visoun, and cruise on a long boat to the famed Pak Ou Caves, home to 4,000 sacred Buddhist artworks. Meet local weavers in a small village, wander a bustling morning market, and tour the ethnic Laotian exhibitions at the Traditional Art and Ethnology Center.

Double rate/per person: $1,699
Single rate: $2,399
Includes: three nights at Avani Luang Prabang Hotel with breakfast daily, one lunch, three dinners. Sightseeing as noted.
This magnificent ship, named after the Indian emperor Shah Jahan, evokes the opulent vessels of British India. No expense has been spared in the interior or exterior decorations, which showcase the talents of local woodworkers, weavers, and artists. When guests aren’t relaxing in luxurious cabins, they can meet friends in the atmospheric East India Club; soak in the Jacuzzi on the Pool Deck; read a book in the Observatory Lounge; or enjoy a pampering massage in the Apsara Spa. With three decks, this vessel offers all the amenities of a fine resort, including a fitness center, steam rooms, a range of dining venues, and an excellent spa. You may also wish to participate in daily tai chi classes. The Jahan features 26 beautifully designed cabins on two decks, each with its own private balcony.
To register, return this form with your deposit of $1,000 per person. Final payment is due May 4, 2020.

1) name as on passport

date of birth

passport origin

2) name as on passport

date of birth

passport origin

Optional Postlude

☒ I/we wish to join the optional postlude in Laos

Optional Postlude Accommodations

☒ I wish to have a single (limited availability – please call)
☒ I will share accommodations with:

Payment Options

☒ pay by check made payable to Arrangements Abroad

Please charge the deposit of $1,000 per person to:
☒ debit card ☒ amex ☒ visa ☒ mastercard ☒ discover card

card number

extpiration date

Terms & Conditions

☒ I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read the Terms & Conditions and Responsibility section of this brochure and agree to their terms on behalf of myself and the members of my party named above.

signature

date

signature

date

Contact Information

address

city/state/zip

primary phone

secondary phone

e-mail

To reserve, return the above form with credit card authorization or check payable to Arrangements Abroad to: Yale Educational Travel, Yale Alumni Association, P.O. Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010. Phone: (203) 432-1952. Fax: (203) 432-0587.

Terms & Conditions

MOBILITY & FITNESS TO TRAVEL

The right is retained to decline, to accept, or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of Yale Educational Travel ("YET") is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

CANCELLATION

In addition to airline cancellation penalties, all cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a $500 per person cancellation fee. Cancellation from 120 days to 91 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 20% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 90 days to 61 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 60 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. All cancellations must be submitted in writing to Yale Educational Travel.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

A deposit of $1,000 per person, payable to Arrangements Abroad, of which $500 (see CANCELLATION) is nonrefundable for administrative fees, is required with the reservation application. Final payment must be received 120 days prior to departure. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10018-3721. Or call: 212-514-8921 or 800-221-1944.

Complete Terms and Conditions will be sent after registration and are available at: www.yaleedtravel.org/faqs
Cruising the Mekong
Treasures of Vietnam & Cambodia Aboard the *Jahan*
September 24–October 5, 2020

Discover the magnificent treasures and vibrant communities of Vietnam and Cambodia on a Mekong river cruise aboard the *Jahan*, a colonial-style ship meticulously finished in brass and teak, and savor its soft-hued wood, classic French furnishings, private balconies, and expansive, air-conditioned public areas.

Roam the fascinating galleries of Siem Reap, Cambodia, a resurgent art destination, with a former museum curator who is a longtime resident.

Cruise the Mekong aboard the *Jahan*, roam the fascinating galleries of Siem Reap, Cambodia, and witness the fascinating communities along the way.

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