

NOBLE CALEDONIA

A photograph of the Angkor Wat temple complex in Cambodia. The temple is a large, ancient stone structure with multiple tiers and spires, surrounded by lush green grass and several palm trees. The entire scene is reflected in a calm body of water in the foreground. The sky is a clear, bright blue with a few wispy clouds.

TIMELESS  
TREASURES OF THE  
MEKONG

A river journey through Vietnam and Cambodia  
aboard the luxurious **RV Mekong Princess**

Join us aboard the luxurious RV Mekong Princess and discover the diversity of the mighty Mekong as it flows through Vietnam and Cambodia. With just 24 guests on board, we can offer an intimate experience and close-up perspective of the river including some ports of call along both the Mekong and Bassac Rivers which are virtually untouched by tourism. Our cruise combines scenic interest with a study of local life and culture as well as ample time to relax on board our beautiful vessel admiring the passing scenery.



Our seven night river journey offers the most beautifully relaxing way to discover the stunning, unspoiled countryside, fascinating culture, bustling markets and timeless villages of the Mekong. We have combined our cruise with hotel stays in the iconic Vietnamese city, Ho Chi Minh as well as time in Siem Reap allowing the opportunity to visit the magnificent temple complex at Angkor Wat. During the cruise you will soak up the diverse culture of the region and everyday life of the local people for whom the Mekong plays such an important role and one of the greatest experiences of our journey will be encountering their great charm and natural warmth.

## ITINERARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Time spent cruising along the Mekong and Bassac Rivers
- Colourful Cai Rang floating market
- City tour of Phnom Penh visiting the famous Emerald Buddha
- Experience different local transportation "xe loi"
- Ride on traditional Vietnamese sampans through mangroves
- Exploration of Angkor Wat

## GUEST SPEAKER



### Jean-Michel Filippi

Corisican born Jean-Michel Filippi is professor of Khmer linguistics at the Royal University of Phnom Penh and is a leading scholar of Cambodian languages. He completed his PhD in linguistics at the Sorbonne in Paris and has since run a number of UNESCO programmes about minority languages and cultures in the Cardamom Mountains and the North East highlands of Cambodia. He has also published several articles and books about Cambodia including 'Strolling around Phnom Penh'. His long-time fascination with Cambodia includes a passion for the country's extraordinary history, art and architecture and we are delighted that he will be joining us on board in Phnom Penh to deliver a talk on modern Cambodian history.

## THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight to Ho Chi Minh City.

**Day 2 Ho Chi Minh City.** Arrive this morning into Ho Chi Minh City (formerly known as Saigon) and transfer to the centrally located Park Hyatt hotel for a two night stay. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure and tonight meet your fellow travellers for dinner at the hotel. (D)

**Day 3 Ho Chi Minh City.** After breakfast, join a guided tour of the city which was built by the French in 1850. We begin our day with a visit to the Central Post Office and along the way we will also view the

Saigon Opera House, constructed by the French in the 1898. We visit Independence Palace, also known as Reunification Palace, which was designed by the architect Ngo Viet Thu. The palace was the home and former workplace of the president of South Vietnam during the Vietnam War. We also visit the War Remnants Museum which primarily contains exhibits relating to the Vietnam War. Next we learn how to make a traditional Vietnamese dish in a cooking class followed by lunch. (B, L)

**Day 4 Ho Chi Minh City.** This morning there will be some free time after breakfast before

we transfer to the RV Mekong Princess. Enjoy lunch on board with breathtaking views as we set sail for our journey along the Mekong. Join your fellow travellers this evening for the welcome reception and dinner on board. (B, L, D)

**Day 5 Ben Tre & Can Tho.** This morning we sail on traditional Vietnamese sampans through a channel lined with mangroves to visit a local coconut candy maker. After watching the candy-making process we will walk through the village to visit an orchard where fruits native to Vietnam can be seen in various stages of maturity on the vine. After a fresh fruit tasting, we continue to a pier where we board small, local boats (two guests per boat) for a trip through the narrow creeks lined with Nipah palm before returning to the ship. This afternoon we sail through an area of the Mekong Delta barely touched by tourism to Can Tho city, the riverside capital city of the Vietnamese Mekong Delta. We take a brief city tour including a visit to the Zihuang Pagoda and experience the welcome unicorn dances. There will be some time at leisure to explore this charming city before dinner is served on board. (B, L, D)

**Day 6 Can Tho & Hoa An.** We begin our morning before breakfast aboard the sampans for a cruise through the fascinating Cai Rang floating market near Can Tho. The sampans will weave in and out of the many boats that sail into the market each morning to sell produce and other items the residents of the Mekong Delta need in their daily lives. As they weave through the market, there will be many opportunities

for amazing photographs, while enjoying fresh fruit and the Vietnamese "anti-aging drink," fresh coconut water. Before returning to the ship for breakfast, we stop at a local noodle factory, where we witness the amazing process of how they are made. After lunch, the sampans take us to visit Hoa An village which is well-known for flower growing and handmade crafts. Starting with a visit to the flower gardens, we will see many different kinds of flowers and especially tropical ones. We will then take a short walk to a local house with an opportunity to meet the family and learn about their lifestyle. After a short break, we continue by local transportation to another village where we enjoy a walk. Before returning to the sampans, we stop by at the conical hat-making and mat weaving families, with an opportunity to speak with local family members and learn how to create products through hands-on experience. (B, L, D)

**Day 7 Gieng Island & Hong Ngu - Border Crossing.** This morning we board sampans that will take us into Gieng Island. After a short walk around the local sampan village, where hundreds of sampans are produced daily by local families, we take a canal drive to explore the untouched floating area with duck farms, monkey bridges, and tropical orchards along the riverside. We will try one of the most popular local transportation modes named "xe loi" (motor trishaw) driving through the island to visit a Catholic church, built around the same time as the Notre Dame Cathedral in Saigon in the 1870s. This afternoon we visit the local island village of Hong



Ngu, not far from the Vietnam-Cambodia border. Hong Ngu produces a large number of the traditional Khmer scarves exported to Cambodia and we will have the opportunity to see the weaving process in several of the homes as well as displays of embroidery. The inhabitants of this area had only encountered one western visitor prior to the arrival of the RV Mekong Princess and are especially friendly and welcoming. Also visit the local temple dedicated to a unique religion founded in this area of Vietnam, Hoa Hoa. In the late afternoon, the RV Mekong Princess will cross the border into Cambodia and continue up the Mekong River. (B, L, D)

**Day 8 Phnom Penh.** This morning the RV Mekong Princess sails towards Phnom Penh. After lunch on board join local cyclo drivers for an afternoon city tour of Phnom Penh. We ride along the riverfront to the Royal Palace, where we enjoy a leisurely walk through the grounds, with opportunities to visit the Throne Hall and moonlight Pavilion. Upon crossing into the second section of the complex, we walk amongst enormous stupas and spirit houses. We continue to the famous silver pagoda, home of Cambodia's Emerald Buddha and Maitreya Buddha, encrusted with more than 9000 diamonds. Following some free time we return to the cyclos for a ride to the National Museum which houses the largest pre-Angkorian and Angkorian holdings in Cambodia. (B, L, D)

**Day 9 Phnom Penh, Cambodia.** After breakfast we depart on a drive to Choeung Ek, the 'Killing Fields'. Here we visit the small museum and Memorial Stupa and learn about the atrocities committed during the Khmer Rouge regime. On the return drive to Phnom Penh, we stop at Tuol Sleng (infamously known as S-21), which was converted by the Khmer Rouge from a large school to a prison and torture headquarters. Return to the vessel for lunch and enjoy the afternoon at leisure to relax on board or perhaps explore

the city independently. Before dinner this evening there will be a performance of traditional folk dance on board. (B, L, D)

**Day 10 Angkor Ban.** Today we start the day with a visit to the charming town of Angkor Ban. Here, we witness the daily life of the local people, starting with a visit to a family's home, to meet the family and discuss their lifestyle. We continue through the village to the local school where we join the children in their classroom and experience what their typical school day is like. There will be opportunities to take photos during our return journey to the vessel, including a brief stop at the local monastery complex. (B, L, D)

**Day 11 Kampong Cham/Siem Reap.** After breakfast we disembark the RV Mekong Princess in Kampong Cham and transfer to the Park Hyatt Siem Reap for a three night stay. The Park Hyatt Siem Reap is the city's most prestigious address. Located in the heart of the city, the 108 rooms are encased in an elegant, contemporary,

residential facade that dramatically rises above Siem Reap's skyline and is surrounded by manicured gardens. The remainder of the day will be at leisure to enjoy this beautiful city independently. Enjoy dinner at the hotel this evening. (B, D)

**Day 12 Siem Reap.** This morning we visit the famous Angkor Wat complex, situated 5.5 kilometres north of the modern town of Siem Reap and built during the reign of King Suryavarman II in the early 12th century. The modern name Angkor Wat means 'Temple city' or 'City of Temples' in Khmer. After lunch at a local restaurant we ride on Tuk Tuks to visit the walled city of Angkor Thom, the last capital of the great Khmer Empire under the reign of Jayavarman VII. Bayon Temple is located at the end of the south gate entrance and is regarded as a 12th century masterpiece. Inside the city we will see impressive stone carvings. (B, L)

**Day 13 Siem Reap.** Today, we travel to the gem of the Angkor area and the pretty temple of

Banteay Srey. The so-called "Citadel of the Women" remains the best preserved temple in Cambodia. Next we visit Ta Prohm; it has been largely left as it was found, overgrown by jungle trees and vines, making it one of the most picturesque of the Angkor temples. This afternoon, we visit the Roulous temple group, the site of the ancient centre of the Khmer civilisation known as Hariharalaya. Enjoy dinner this evening at a local restaurant. (B, D)

**Day 14 Siem Reap to London.** After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the airport for the scheduled indirect flight to London. (B)

*Siem Reap to Saigon*  
\* Please note that the 2nd February, 22nd November 2020; 3rd January & 14th February 2021 departures operate in the reverse direction to that shown, from Siem Reap to Saigon. Full itinerary can be viewed at [www.noble-caledonia.co.uk](http://www.noble-caledonia.co.uk)

## DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

18<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019; 13<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> February\* & 22<sup>nd</sup> November to 5<sup>th</sup> December\* 2020; 3<sup>rd</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> January\*, 11<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> January, 14<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> February\* & 22<sup>nd</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021

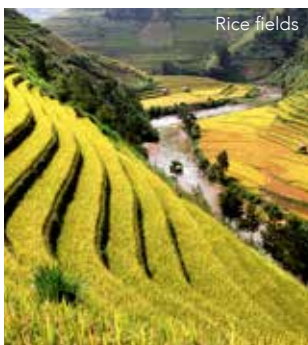
### SPECIAL OFFER – SAVE £400 PER PERSON FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

Cat	Cabin Description	18th Nov 2019; 13th Jan & 2nd Feb* 2020		22nd Nov* 2020; 3rd Jan*, 11th Jan, 14th Feb* & 22nd Feb 2021	
		Brochure Price	Special Offer Price	Brochure Price	Special Offer Price
4	Saigon Suite with French Balcony	£6095	£5695	£6195	£5795
3	Apsara Suite with French Balcony	£6395	£5995	£6495	£6095
2	Tonle Suite with French Balcony	£6895	£6495	£6995	£6595
1	Angkor Suite with Private Veranda	£7595	£7195	£7695	£7295
4	Saigon Suite with French Balcony for sole use	£9095	£8695	£8195	£7795

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel • Two nights accommodation at the Park Hyatt Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City • Seven nights aboard the RV Mekong Princess • Local spirits and beers included with lunch and dinner on board (house wine with dinner only) • Three nights accommodation at the Park Hyatt Siem Reap Hotel • Meals as indicated (B - Breakfast, L - Lunch, D - Dinner) • Cruise Director and Noble Caledonia Tour Manager • Shore excursions with local English speaking guides • Entrance fees • Gratuities • Transfers • Port taxes • One hour spa treatment per person whilst on board.

**Not Included:** Travel insurance, Cambodian visa.

**Important Visa Information:** A visa is required for Cambodia. Noble Caledonia will provide further information about the visa application process to booked passengers.



Rice fields



Mekong River delta



Bayon Temple, Angkor Thom



Traditional cyclo, Phnom Penh



Buddhist monks at Angkor Wat

## HANOI & HALONG BAY EXTENSION



Halong Bay

If you wish to spend some more time in Vietnam, join us for this visit to Hanoi, Vietnam's small and alluring capital renowned for its architecture, rich culture and wealth of sights. Experience the bustling old quarter, an attraction in itself and divided into narrow streets where locals trade anything from fresh produce to household goods, visit the centre and its mix of tree-lined avenues and admire the many beautiful buildings from the French colonial era. There will also be the opportunity to visit beautiful Halong Bay, known for its emerald green waters and thousands of towering limestone islands, for a relaxing sailing and overnight aboard the 'Paradise Elegance'.

### THE ITINERARY

**Day 1 London to Hanoi, Vietnam.** Fly by scheduled indirect flight.

**Day 2 Hanoi.** Arrive today and transfer to the French colonial Sofitel Legend Metropole Hotel for check in. Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure and dinner at the hotel this evening. (D)

**Day 3 Hanoi.** After breakfast enjoy a city tour including the exquisitely preserved 12th century Confucius Temple of Literature, Hoan Kiem Lake, the "Hanoi Hilton", the Presidential Compound and the modest "House on Stilts" where Ho Chi Minh lived for many years. We will also take an electronic cart tour through the city's charming historic quarter to explore the hidden alleys, cafes and shops. After a charming water puppet performance, we will meet this evening for dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)

**Day 4 Hanoi to Halong Bay.** Today we travel approximately four hours to Halong Bay, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its emerald

waters and more than 1,600 limestone islands rising from the sea. Here we embark our vessel, the Paradise Elegance. Lunch will be served whilst the vessel cruises around Halong Bay. After lunch we will visit Sung Sot Cave which is considered one of the most beautiful caves in Halong Bay. It was discovered by a group of French explorers in 1901 with some magnificent limestone formations. Enjoy afternoon tea on board followed by a cooking demonstration with the onboard chef. Dinner will be served on board this evening. (B, L, D)

**Day 5 Halong Bay to Hanoi.** Early this morning, a Tai Chi lesson will be held on deck. During breakfast we will cruise to Titov Island, known for a beautiful crescent-shaped beach which is popular with swimmers. The more active may wish to hike 420 steps up to the pavilion at the summit for a panoramic view of Halong Bay. Return to the vessel and sail back to Halong City where we disembark and transfer back to Hanoi. On route we will stop at a local restaurant for lunch before we continue onto our Hanoi hotel for check in and an evening at leisure. (B, L)

**Day 6 Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City.** Enjoy breakfast at the hotel this morning before transferring to Hanoi airport for our flight to Ho Chi Minh City. Upon arrival, transfer to the Park Hyatt hotel and join day 2 of the main itinerary. (B)

*\*Please note that the extension will operate post-cruise for the 2nd February, 22nd November 2020; 3rd January & 14th February 2021 departures and you will check out of your hotel in Ho Chi Minh City on day 1 and arrive back to London on day 6. For full details of the itinerary & inclusions please visit [www.noble-caledonia.co.uk](http://www.noble-caledonia.co.uk)*

### DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES PER PERSON

Based on double occupancy

14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019; 9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> January, 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February\* & 5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> December\* 2020; 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> January, 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> January\*, 18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> February & 27<sup>th</sup> February to 4<sup>th</sup> March\* 2021

Twin: **£1995**      Single: **£2995**

**PRICE INCLUDES:** Economy class scheduled air travel from Hanoi to Ho Chi Minh City • Three nights hotel accommodation in Hanoi with breakfast • Overnight aboard the Paradise Elegance in Halong Bay • Gratuities • Excursions with local English speaking guides • Meals as indicated (B -Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner) • Transfers • Entrance fees • Noble Caledonia Tour Manager. **Not Included:** Travel insurance.



# RV MEKONG PRINCESS

For our exploration of the Mekong we have chartered the all-suite, luxurious river vessel the RV Mekong Princess. Launched in September 2015, with just 12 spacious suites she is perfect for our journey. The friendly onboard staff of 27 will provide you with excellent service and do much to contribute to your enjoyment throughout your cruise.

## Your Suite

The 12 spacious suites are attractively furnished and feature panoramic floor to ceiling French doors and a comfortable seating area. The décor combines the elegance of French-colonial style with the tranquillity, comfort, modern convenience and luxuries which would rival the finest hotels in Asia. All suites feature individual climate control,

premium mattresses, duvets and bed linens, choice of pillows, flat-screen television with satellite TV channels, generous storage, in-room safe, ceiling fans and desks. Each suite is serviced twice a day and bottles of water are replenished daily. Spa robes, slippers and specially-selected, spa bath amenities are also provided for your comfort and convenience.

## Suite Categories

**Angkor Suite:** Located on the Upper Deck, 560 square feet, Angkor suites offer the most spacious and luxurious accommodation aboard the RV Mekong Princess. In addition to French doors opening onto a private veranda with seating area, the suites floor to ceiling glass windows allow for breathtaking views of the passing scenery. The suites feature a king sized bed with a premium mattress and linens, a bathtub with a separate shower, and a fully stocked minibar. Guests choosing one of the Angkor suites enjoy an extra level of personal service, with complimentary laundry service, complimentary evening canapés and scented bath preparation on request.

**Tonle Suite:** Located forward on the Upper Deck, the two Tonle suites provide guests with 323 square feet of living space featuring a king sized bed, a bathtub with a separate shower and floor to ceiling sliding doors that open to a French balcony



Saigon Suite

offering panoramic views of the passing landscape.

**Apsara Suite:** The four Apsara suites are located mid-ship on the Upper Deck. With 256 square feet of living space, they feature floor-to-ceiling sliding doors with a French balcony and en suite shower. Guests choosing an Apsara suite may request two twin beds or one queen bed.

**Saigon Suite:** The four Saigon suites are located forward on the Main Deck and offer 256 square feet of living space with floor to ceiling sliding doors that open to a French balcony and en suite shower. Guests may request two twin beds or one queen bed.



Angkor Suite



Outdoor Lounge



Indoor Lounge



Tonle Suite



Dining Room

### Your Space

The RV Mekong Princess is elegantly furnished, intimate and spacious throughout the public areas. The indoor Ramvong Lounge and outdoor Observation Deck are ideal areas for relaxing with a good book or socialising with fellow guests whilst enjoying the passing scenery. The sumptuous furnishings of the Ramvong Lounge offer the opportunity to sink into a comfortable chair while listening to a local guides' lecture, watching a movie or simply watching the world go by. The Observation Deck features chaise lounges and shade. Other facilities on board include a library, the Princess Spa where each guest will receive a complimentary spa treatment, a boutique shop and a fitness centre which features amazing panoramic views of the landscape with floor to ceiling windows.

### Your Dining

The Indochine Dining Room seats all passengers in one seating and is located on the Main Deck. Using locally-sourced, fresh herbs, fruits, and vegetables, some of which are rarely seen elsewhere, the Chef and his culinary team will ensure each meal is an experience to delight all of your senses. Buffet-style breakfasts and lunches offer a variety of Asian and western dishes featuring the freshest local ingredients. Elegant multi-course dinners are paired with wine and offer a selection of deliciously

healthy traditional dishes as well as western favorites. Complimentary coffee, water, tea, soft drinks and

local beer are offered throughout the cruise with complimentary wine served with dinner.



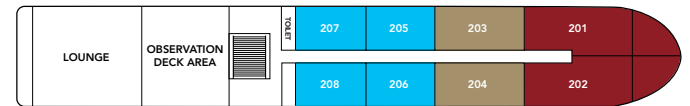
Library

## DECK PLAN

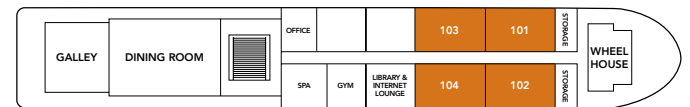
### SIDE ELEVATION



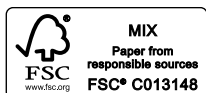
### UPPER DECK



### MAIN DECK



■ CATEGORY 1 ■ CATEGORY 2 ■ CATEGORY 3 ■ CATEGORY 4



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