

WWF EXPEDITIONS

Magical Mekong

Vietnam & Cambodia | October 19–27, 2017
(Angkor Wat extension | October 27–29, 2017)



WWF Expeditions is an invitation-only conservation travel program for our closest supporters, along with friends and family, to see firsthand the positive impact World Wildlife Fund is making.

These custom-designed journeys are led by WWF experts and offer exclusive opportunities to discover the wildlife and ecosystems we protect; meet community members whose lives are being improved because of our work; and immerse yourself in the worlds of our field staff and partners on the ground.

Come explore the best of the natural world and see how together we are making a difference for our planet.

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CHRISTOPHE BOISVIEUX / AWL

The Greater Mekong region holds irreplaceable riches—ranging from rare wildlife in spectacular natural landscapes to communities with distinct cultural heritages. Winding almost 3,000 miles from the Tibetan plateau down to the South China Sea, the Mekong River boasts the world's largest inland fishery and is second only to the Amazon River in terms of fish biodiversity. However, unprecedented social and economic development in the region makes conservation work

here especially urgent and crucial. Join Stuart Chapman and local WWF experts to gain insight into the lives of the people who depend on the river for their way of life, the wildlife that rely on its waters, and the ways WWF is helping protect its future.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit Tram Chim National Park, one of Vietnam's most important remaining expanses of wetlands, where WWF has taken a unique approach to preserving and restoring the park's natural state.
- In Phnom Penh, Cambodia's bustling capital, visit WWF's office and discover its rich French colonial past and cultural sites.
- Explore Tonle Sap Lake. Designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1997, it is the richest freshwater fishing grounds in the world and home to entire floating villages.
- Cruise in comfort aboard the newly launched 205-foot Aqua Mekong, with options to pedal and paddle portions of the trip.
- Join the optional Siem Reap/Angkor Wat extension to marvel at the sprawling complex of ancient temples, the most exquisite example of ancient Khmer architecture in Southeast Asia.

To register or if you have questions please contact Jen Reutershan at 202-495-4745, jennifer.reutershan@wwfus.org.



About Our Expert

As Representative for the WWF-Greater Mekong Program, **Stuart Chapman** delights in sharing his deep experience and unparalleled passion for the Mekong

River—and the people and animals it supports—with others. A graduate of the first professional conservation course in the UK, Stuart has parlayed his childhood ambition of working in nature into a dynamic career with WWF of more than two decades. Spending time with Stuart may turn up stories from training park rangers in a Chinese panda reserve early in his career to cracking down on illegal wildlife trafficking as head of the WWF-UK Species Program. Since 2008, Stuart has focused his considerable conservation skills on protecting the fascinating-yet-fragile ecosystem of the Mekong region, as well as establishing a new WWF office in Myanmar in 2014.

ITINERARY

Day 1, October 19: Arrive Saigon, Vietnam Upon arrival in Saigon (also known as Ho Chi Minh City), you will transfer to the Park Hyatt Saigon for an overnight stay. This evening we will enjoy a celebratory welcome dinner in order to launch your journey and meet your fellow travelers.

Overnight Park Hyatt Saigon (D)



Day 2, October 20: Saigon/Mekong River

This afternoon we will depart for My Tho dock. Upon arrival, we will board the Aqua Mekong for our seven-night cruise. Settle into your elegantly appointed river-facing room to enjoy one of life’s most memorable and photogenic adventures. Over the coming days, we sail from here along the Mekong, one of the world’s great rivers, towards remote natural and cultural destinations visited by only a few—and into the heart of WWF’s work in the region.

Overnight Aqua Mekong

(B,L,D)

Day 3-8, October 21-26: Mekong River/Tonle Sap Lake

Over the next several days we will wind our way through the Mekong’s southern delta. The Mekong river will take us into the fascinating yet less-visited world along one of Asia’s great waterways. Before crossing into Cambodia we’ll visit Tram Chim National Park, one of the most important remaining expanses of wetlands in Vietnam, where WWF is working to restore natural water flows, fisheries and wildlife. In Phnom Penh, Cambodia’s bustling capital, we’ll visit cultural sites and WWF’s office before continuing on to Tonle Sap Lake. Designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1997, Tonle Sap Lake is home to entire floating villages and the richest freshwater fishing grounds in the world. Along the way we will experience remote villages, lively markets, ancient temples, verdant plantations and stunning river landscapes. Evenings will be spent learning



TERRY WHITTAKER / ALAMY

more about the region with thoughtful discussions from Stuart Chapman and local WWF experts.

Overnight Aqua Mekong (B,L,D)

Day 9, October 27: Tonle Sap Lake/Siem Reap Early today we will be joined by a local WWF representative as we set off by skiff into the Prek Toal Core Bird Reserve, one of the largest bodies of freshwater in Asia. This afternoon, say your goodbyes and disembark



RENE MATTES / AWL

OPTIONAL EXTENSION

October 27-29: Siem Reap/Angkor Wat Angkor Wat is a must-see for any traveler. This journey gives you a chance to experience its majestic beauty well away from the crowds. You'll explore the region's other imposing temples, including Ta Prohm, and the ancient walled city of Angkor Thom. This trip is packed with unique experiences: exploring local artisan workshops, watching the sunset over the Cambodian countryside from a private villa, and learning about Angkor from one of the world's leading archaeologists specializing in the temple's reconstruction.

Overnight Park Hyatt Siem Reap



JON ARNOLD / DANITA DELMONT

from the Aqua Mekong and transfer to Siem Reap. Upon arrival you will be transferred to the airport for your international departure or join the optional Angkor Wat extension to marvel at the sprawling complex of ancient temples.

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Limited to 30 passengers
Pricing: \$9,930 per person, single supplement \$2,495
Optional Angkor Wat/Siem Reap extension: \$980
Single supplement for extension: \$225

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AQUA MEKONG

ABOUT THE AQUA MEKONG

The Aqua Mekong has 20 suites, but our group size of 30 guests will provide the intimacy this trip requires. The entire experience is reminiscent of staying at a boutique hotel, with modern amenities, and excellent dining and spa facilities. There are magical views of the Mekong from the observation desk as well as a plunge pool, sun deck, private theater, and indoor and outdoor lounges. All the superbly designed and spacious suites have floor-to-ceiling windows, air-conditioning and en suite bathrooms. Equipped with four private skiffs and expert guides, the boat will act as our home base for onshore excursions to venture into the mangroves, explore narrow tributaries, and visit remote villages. These excursions will provide unique experiences in lesser visited areas along this scenic and fascinating stretch of river.



AQUA MEKONG

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As much as any other place on Earth, the Mekong captures the imperative of finding ways to meet the needs of people without destroying the planet that sustains us all.

—Carter Roberts, President and CEO, WWF



Building a future in which people
live in harmony with nature.
worldwildlife.org/expeditions

