

**STS 09.30.13**

**(13D/12N Program)**



**Siem Reap - Phnom Penh -  
Chau Doc - Can Tho - HCMC -  
Cu Chi - Da Nang - Hoi An -  
Hue - Hanoi - Halong**

**Day 1: Arrival in Siem Reap (-, -, -)**

Meet on arrival at Siem Reap Airport and transfer to your hotel in Siem Reap. Have an afternoon sightseeing tour. Visit the Siem Reap Market and Les Artisans D' Angkor; then walk up to the top of Phnom Bakheng Hill to enjoy a panoramic view of the western Baray and Angkor Wat at sunset. Evening: Enjoy Apsara show and dinner (optional with surcharge). Stay overnight in Siem Reap.

**Day 2: Siem Reap & Flight to Phnom Penh (B, -, -)**

In the morning explore the famous 12<sup>th</sup>-century temples of Angkor Wat with their five distinctive towers emblazoned on the Cambodian flag. Angkor Wat's five towers symbolize Meru's five peaks - the enclosed wall represents the mountains at the edge of the world and the surrounding moat, the ocean beyond. In the afternoon pay visit to the ancient capital of Angkor Thom (12<sup>th</sup> century), comprising the South Gate, the Royal Enclosure, Phimeanakas, the Elephants Terrace, the Terrace of the Leper King and the famous Bayon Temple, unique for its 54 towers decorated with over 200 smiling faces of Avolokitesvara. Then visit Ta Prohm, one of the most beautiful temples in the area, a filming site of Lara Croft's adventures in "The Tomb Raider". Transfer to

the airport for an evening flight to Phnom Penh. Stay overnight in Phnom Penh.

**Day 3: Phnom Penh - Chau Doc (B, -, -)**

Have a morning sightseeing tour of Phnom Penh. Visit the Victory Monument, the National Museum with a collection of art sculptures presenting different periods of Khmer history, the Silver Pagoda located in the Royal Palace, famous for its 5,000 silver floor tiles and solid gold Buddha statue encrusted with 9,584 diamonds (weighing 90kg), and the Wat Phnom Temple, Phnom Penh's name-sake. Transfer to Phnom Penh pier at about 13:00 to join a speed boat cruise to Chau Doc via the Vinh Xuong border crossing. Travelling time including customs and immigration procedures at the border check points is about 4 hours. Pick up on arrival and transfer to your hotel for check-in. Stay overnight in Chau Doc.

**Day 4: Chau Doc - Can Tho (B, -, -)**

Morning visit Lady Xu Temple, Thoi Ngoc Hau Temple and Tay An Pagoda. Then enjoy a boat cruise on the Mekong River and get to know the feeding of catfish in their natural river habitat at floating houses. Continue cruising to visit Chau Giang Hamlet, home to colorful brocade woven on wooden looms by Cham ladies. Late in the afternoon leave Chau Doc for Can Tho (120 km). Stay overnight in Can Tho.

**Day 5: Can Tho - Ho Chi Minh City (B, -, -)**

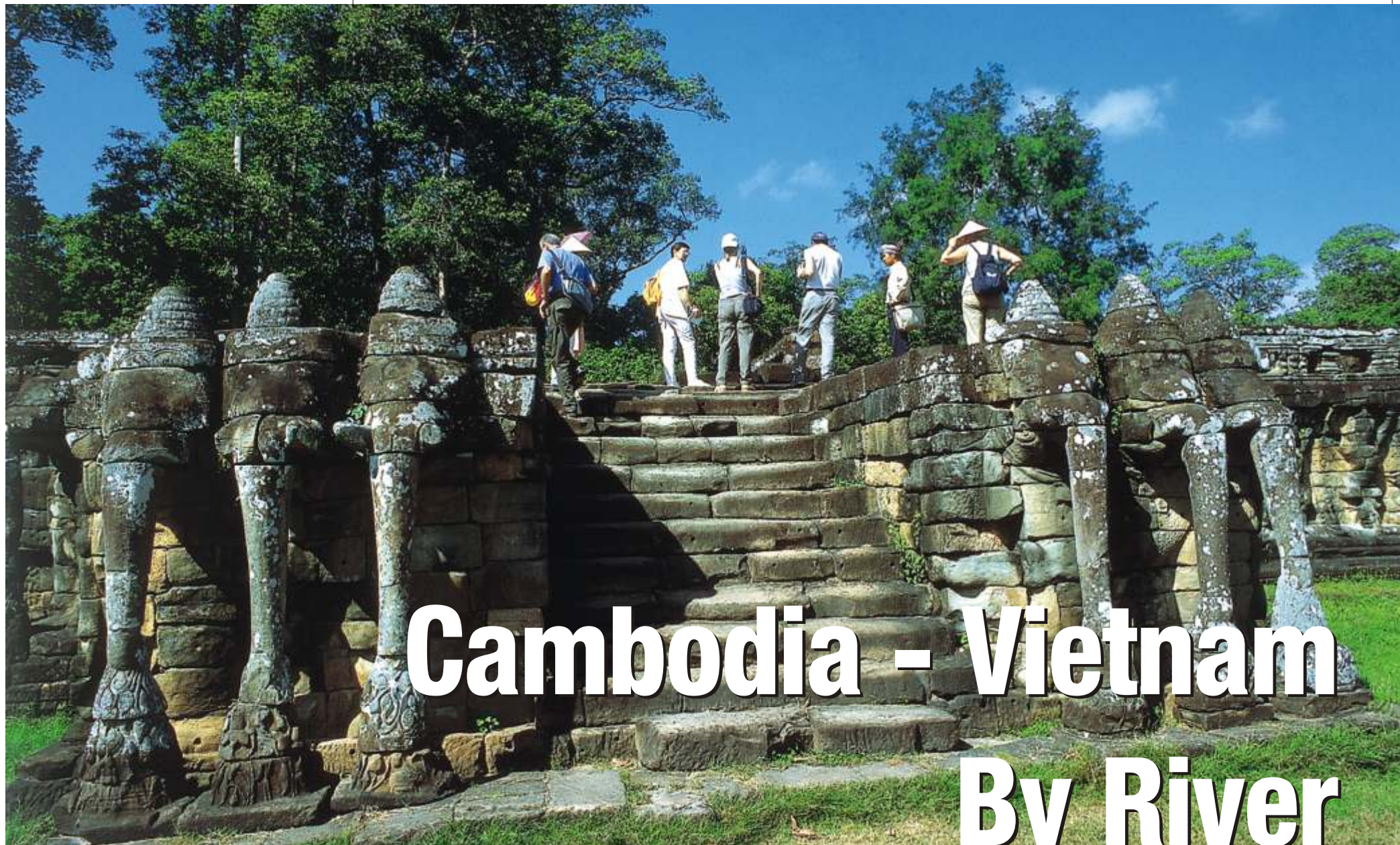
Take a boat ride along Can Tho River to the well-known Cai Rang floating market where you can view local people selling and buying vegetables, fruits, etc. in daily life. Join them to buy some fruits if you like. Your boat trip goes on through canals and stop over at Cai Nai canal. Continue with a hike for about 2 Km on the country roads to Cai Da canal viewing daily activities of local peasants en route. Then visit a local market, the 130-year old house and Binh Thuy communal house before driving back to Ho Chi Minh City. Stay overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

**Day 6: Ho Chi Minh City (B, -, -)**

Have a morning excursion to Cu Chi, famed for its elaborate network of over 200 km of three-story underground tunnels hand-dug by local people during the Vietnam War. Crawl down a tunnel to feel the underground life, and then test your marksmanship with an AK rifle at a local rifle range (optional with surcharge). Drive back to Ho Chi Minh City for an afternoon city tour. Visit the History Museum (closed on Monday), the Reunification Palace, the Central Post Office, then have a short walk along the shopping Dong Khoi Street (former Rue Catinat) from Notre Dame Cathedral to the Municipal Theatre. Drive to bustling Cho Lon (Chinatown). Drop into the lively Binh Tay wholesale market before visiting Thien Hau Temple. Stay overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

**Day 7: Ho Chi Minh City - Danang - Hoi An (B, -, -)**

Transfer to Tan Son Nhat airport for a morning flight to Danang. Pick up on arrival at Danang Airport and transfer to hotel in Hoi An. Stop over in Danang to visit the Museum of Cham Sculpture (closed on Monday) with the World's finest collection of some 300 Cham



# Cambodia - Vietnam By River

*Elephant Terrace - Siem Reap*

sculpture exhibits dating from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> centuries, and the stone-carving village of Non Nuoc. Stay overnight in Hoi An.

**Day 8: Hoi An (B, -, -)**

In the morning, have a walking tour of the ancient town centre. Stroll around the Japanese and Chinese Quarters to visit a number of temples, pagodas, communal houses, traditional shops, local markets and other places of interest and watch local daily activities, handicraftsmen at work and a lively show of traditional dancing and music. Afternoon relax on the beach or enjoy hotel facilities. Stay overnight in Hoi An.

**Day 9: Hoi An - Danang - Hue (B, -, -)**

This morning relax on the beach or enjoy hotel facilities. Afternoon depart for Hue by a scenic drive via the Pass of Ocean Clouds and the scenic fishing village of Lang Co. On arrival in Hue, the former imperial capital of Vietnam, have a panorama tour of Hue before driving to your hotel for check-in. Stay overnight in Hue.

**Day 10: Hue (B, -, -)**

Enjoy a full day tour of Hue, a former imperial city of Vietnam. Explore the Royal Citadel, built in 1804 on a site chosen in accordance with geomancy. The next

stop is the lively Dong Ba market. In the afternoon pay visits to the elaborate mausoleums of King Tu Duc (ruled 1848 - 1883). Then, drop into Thien Mu Pagoda, one of the oldest ancient architectural structures for religious worship in Hue, and from here take a boat cruise along Perfume River returning to you hotel. Stay overnight in Hue.

**Day 11: Hue - Hanoi - Halong (B, -, -)**

Transfer to Hue Airport for a morning flight to Hanoi, the Vietnam's capital city boasts tree-lined streets and centuries-old temples. Pick up on arrival at Noi Bai airport and transfer to Halong. On arrival in Halong, proceed to the Halong wharf and embark a traditional wooden boat for a 5-hour cruise in Halong Bay, a world heritage site recognized by UNESCO in 1994. Enjoy the spectacular sight of magical grottoes, marvel at odd-shaped islands and relax in the best scenic beauty of Vietnam. Lunch of fresh seafood is served while cruising. Stay overnight in Halong.

**Day 12: Halong - Bac Ninh - Hanoi (B, -, -)**

Start a morning drive back Bac Ninh, a cradle of traditional culture in the Red River Delta. Visit Phu Lang ceramic village. This old pottery village is worth visiting not only because you can meet and make friends with the locals and make original gifts for



*Saigon ride - Mekong Delta*

friends and relatives, but its natural surroundings are also attractive. Continue driving through the scenic countryside of the Red River to Dong Giao wood-carving village and the folk-painting village of Dong Ho, famous for the folk themes printed onto a special paper made from the Do tree. Then have a short-distance drive to visit But Thap Pagoda, built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and known for its four-storey stone stupa. Stay overnight in Hanoi.

**Day 13: Departure from Hanoi (B, -, -)**

Spend last minutes shopping until transfer to the airport for departure.



*Bayon Temple - Siem Reap*

**Note:** The tour itinerary is sometimes subject to small modifications depending on weather and road conditions, flight schedules, hotel room availability.