

STS 09.31.12

(12D/11N Program)



**Siem Reap - Phnom Penh -
Ho Chi Minh City - My Tho -
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 of the charming tree-lined city with a narrow river flowing through the center of town. 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 (B, -, -)

In the morning explore the famous 12th-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 (12th 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". Stay overnight in Siem Reap.

Day 3: Siem Reap - Phnom Penh (B, -, -)

Transfer to the airport for a morning flight to Phnom Penh. Meet upon arrival at Phnom Penh Airport and transfer to the downtown of Phnom Penh. Visit the Russian Market (Psah Tuol Tom Pong) and the transfer to your hotel for check-in. Have an afternoon city tour to include 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. Enjoy a sunset cruise on the Mekong River with a view of the locals at work along the banks. Stay overnight in Phnom Penh.

**Day 4: Phnom Penh - Cu Chi -
Ho Chi Minh City (B, -, -)**

Depart from Phnom Penh for a scenic morning drive to Bavet/ Moc Bai border check points. Traveling time including customs and immigration procedures at the border check points is about 5 hours. Proceed to Ben Duoc to visit 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). Late in the afternoon, leave Cu Chi for downtown Ho Chi Minh City. Stay overnight in Ho Chi Minh City.

Day 5: Ho Chi Minh City - Danang (B, -, -)

Have a morning Ho Chi Minh City tour. Visit the History Museum (closed on Monday), the Reunification, the Central Post Office, then have a short walk along the shopping Dong Khoi Street from Notre Dame Cathedral to the Municipal Theatre. Drive to bustling Cho Lon (Chinatown) and drop into the Binh Tay wholesale market before visiting Thien Hau Temple. Stop over at a lacquer workshop on the way back to your hotel. In the afternoon discover the city on your own until transfer to Tan Son Nhat Airport for an evening flight to Danang. Stay overnight in Danang.

Day 6: Danang (B, -, -)

Danang is a city of contrasts, sparking seaside beauty and spectacular mountain scenery. Rich in history, it has been the centre of many different cultures over the centuries. A morning city tour of Danang features the Marble Mountains with numerous caves and Buddhist shrines, the stone-carving village of Non Nuoc, the Museum of Cham Sculpture (closed on Monday) with the World's finest collection of some 300 Cham sculpture exhibits dating from the 7th to the 15th centuries and a pedicab ride (1 hour) along the Han River to shopping centers. In the afternoon relax on the Non Nuoc beach and enjoy the hotel facilities. Stay overnight in Danang.

Day 7: Danang - Hoi An (B, -, -)

Transfer to Hoi An, 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



Southern Gate of Angkor Thom - Siem Reap

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 8: Hoi An - Hue (B, -, -)

This morning depart for Hue by a scenic drive via the Pass of Ocean Clouds and the scenic fishing village of Lang Co. On arrival, visit the lively Dong Ba market before transferring to your hotel for check-in. Enjoy an afternoon tour of Hue, a former imperial city of Vietnam ruled by 13 Nguyen dynasties. Explore the Royal Citadel, built in 1804 on a site chosen in accordance with geomancy. The next stop is a typical Hue garden, featuring various kinds of fruit trees and flowers and covering an area of about 2,000 square meters. Stay overnight in Hue.

Day 9: Hue - Hanoi (B, -, -)

In the morning visit the Mausoleum of King Minh Mang (1820-1840) which consists of about 40 monuments of various dimensions and was built by some 10,000 soldiers and workers in four years (1840-1843). The next stop is Thien Mu Pagoda, one of the oldest ancient architectural structures for religious worship in Hue, and then return to your hotel by a traditional boat cruise along Perfume River.

NB: B: breakfast, L: lunch, D: dinner.

Cambodia - Vietnam Overland

Royal Palace - Phnom Penh

Transfer to Phu Bai Airport for an afternoon flight to Hanoi. Pick up on arrival at Noi Bai airport and transfer to your hotel. Enjoy an evening water puppet show, a theatrical genre reflecting the agricultural civilization of thousands of years ago. Stay overnight in Hanoi.

Day 10: Hanoi - Bac Ninh - Halong (B, -, -)

Have a morning sightseeing tour of Hanoi with cultural and historical highlights, comprising Lake of Restored Sword, Ngoc Son Temple, the Temple of Literature, the Ethnology Museum (closed on Monday) and a downtown pedicab ride (1 hour) round the old quarters of Hanoi, a collection of narrow streets, each named after the product sold. Leave Hanoi by an afternoon scenic drive for Halong, 170km east of Hanoi. Along the way, stop to visit Phu Lang ceramic village, located at the foot of the majestic Son Mountain and on the banks of the Cau River, 18 km northeast of Bac Ninh Town. This old pottery village is worth visiting not only because you can meet and make friends with the locals and make original gifts for friends and relatives, but its natural surroundings are also attractive. Stay overnight in Halong.

Day 11: Halong - Hai Duong - Hanoi (B, -, -)

Transfer 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. Return to Hanoi with stop-over at Dong Giao wood-carving village en route. Stay overnight in Hanoi.

Day 12: Departure from Hanoi (B, -, -)

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

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