

Eiffel Tower on Cambodia Note

I continue with a series on banknote images not from the country of issue.

In October 2021, Cambodia released a 30,000 Rial note. The note produced by Banknote Printing Works of the National Bank of Cambodia is the only note with the peculiar 30,000 Rial denomination, with an exchange rate of about \$7.30. Also unique for Cambodia is the banknote material called Durasafe. The substrate is manufactured by Landqart of Switzerland. This is a “sandwich” blend of paper and polymer, with paper on the outer layers and polymer in the center. Yet another unique feature is the image of the Eiffel Tower in the background on the reverse of the note. The reason for the odd denomination, special banknote material, high volume for commerce of the banknote, and the presence of the Eiffel Tower is it celebrates the 30th Anniversary of the signing of the Paris Peace Accords in October 23, 1991. It marked the end of the Third Indo-China War, also called the Cambodian – Vietnamese War. For Vietnam it finally marked the end of three periods of war since the end of World War II, stretching 41 years of nearly continuous wars with France, and then a civil war with U.S. backing of the South, and finally followed by Cambodia.

The front of the 30,000 Rial commemorative displays naga, mythical snake, King Norodom Sihanouk in a civilian suit and flowers. A Cambodian Naga is a mythical serpent, often depicted as a seven-headed snake. The Naga is prominent in Cambodian culture and mythology. The reverse features Samdech Techo Hun Sen (Lord Prime Minister and Supreme Military Commander Hun Sen) of Cambodia holding upright hand of Preah Borom Ratanak Kaudh (National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia - a major political party in Cambodia), both signers of the Paris Peace Accord. The Royal Palace throne room, the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France and the Independence Monument in Phnom Penh, Cambodia are also shown on this note. During the war Vietnam had successfully removed Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge from Cambodia.

While the banknote celebrates] the end of the Cambodia-Vietnamese War, hostilities with Cambodian neighbors are yet just now reappearing. Cambodia, in a border dispute with Thailand was the first to strike militarily. At the end of last month (July 2025), Cambodian artillery fired on civilian areas in Thailand's border provinces. There is strong evidence, Hun Sen, signer of the Paris Peace Accords shown on this banknote is actively involved in actions of the conflict. He is no longer the Prime Minister, but rather the President of the Senate. He turned over the Prime Minister role to his son after four decades in that role.



The note displays impressive ultraviolet security inks, shown here under UV light.

