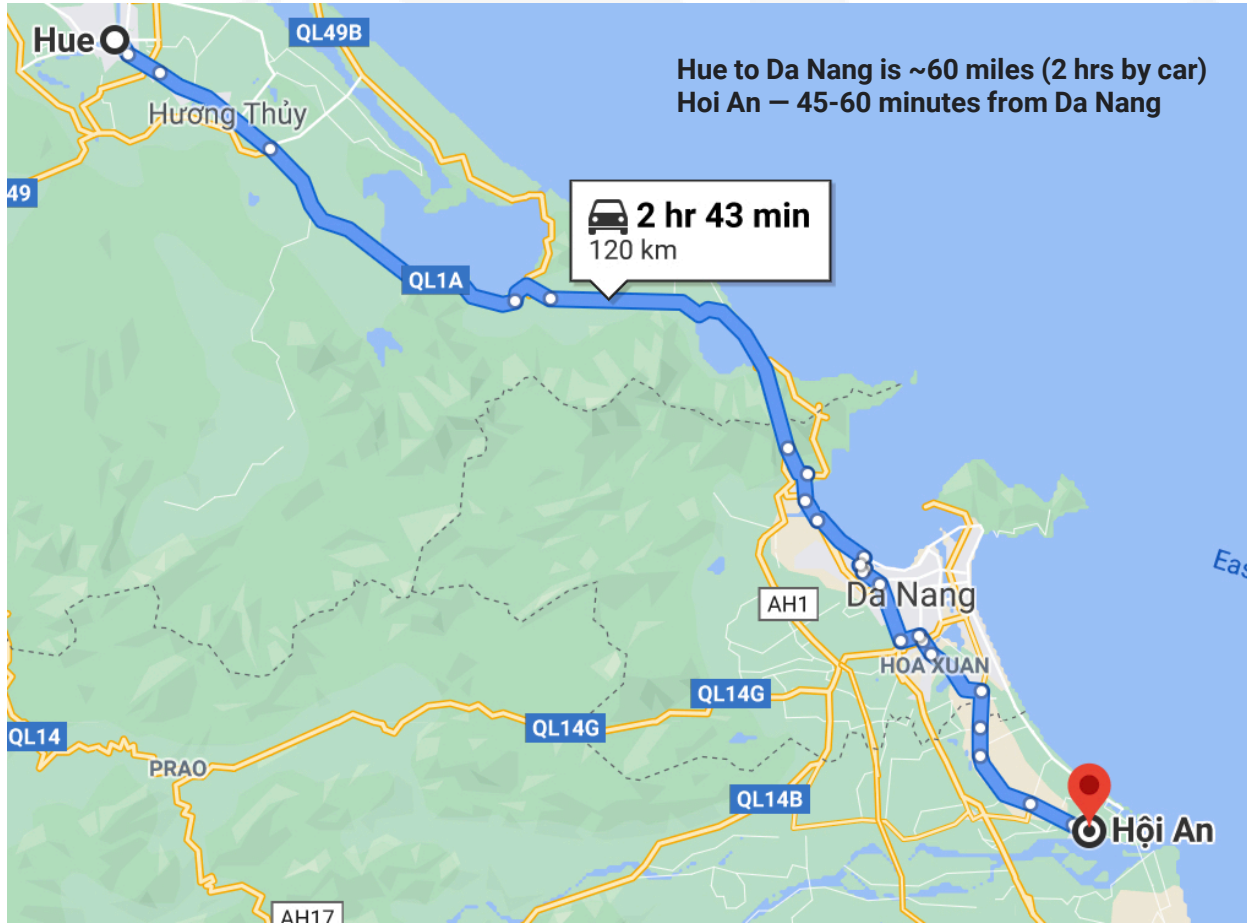
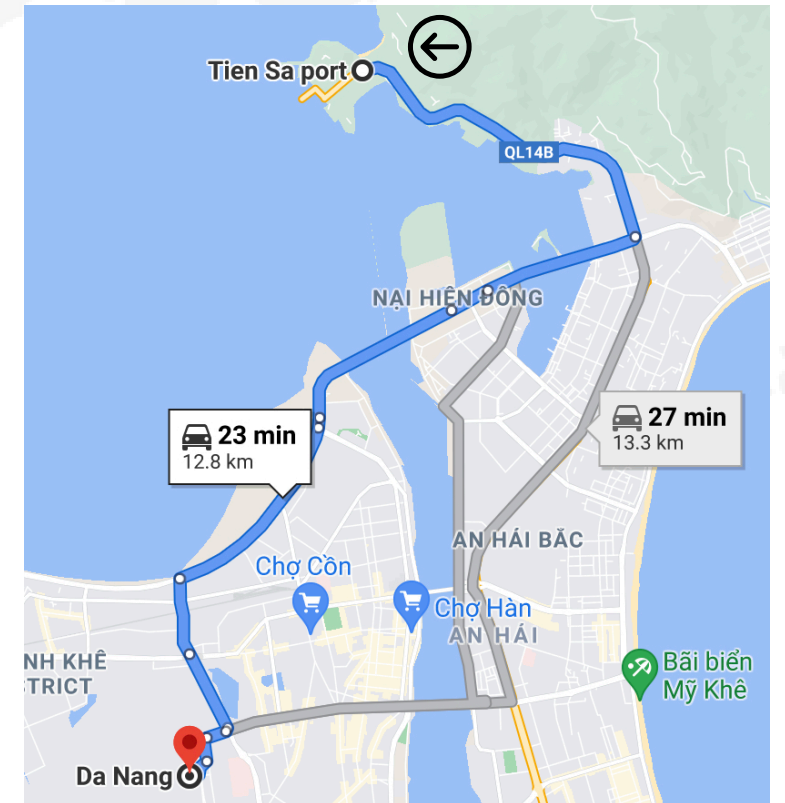


# Da Nang (Hue), Vietnam Sunday March 20 8am-11pm 83 high/71 low .07" rain 85% humidity

\* Hue is not usually used by cruise ships as there are closer ports to Da Nang  
We currently are only ship in port that day.



The port of Tien Sa, Da Nang, Vietnam. Most cruise ships dock here. The bus ride to Da Nang takes around 30 minutes. Taxis are available at the port entrance which is ~ 500 meters from the pier—prepare to haggle.



The dock area is industrial. Plans are underway to change this, as the cruise market is growing fast.



## General Info

- Official currency the dong, but many places may take USD—ask first
- 100,000 dong = \$4.34
- Under Vietnamese law, ATM may only dispense **cash in** Vietnamese Dong. Current amounts that can be withdrawn at any one time is usually very low, 2,000,000 Dong with an additional usage charge variable from 30.000d up
- Cash rules in **Vietnam**, though **credit cards** are **accepted** in many restaurants, hotels, and shops in **Vietnam's** big cities
- **Tipping** is not customary in **Vietnam** though it is highly appreciated. ... In fact, **tipping** is not a habit of the citizens, unless **you** go to spas for a massage or upscale restaurants
- You can try out your negotiation skills in markets, independent shops and even beauty and massage salons. You can either ask for a “better price” or tell them what you’re willing to pay. If they let you walk out of their shop without discounting the price further, you know you’ve gone too low. In restaurants and bars, prices are fixed
- A normal **working** day in **Vietnam** starts from 7am to 8.30am and finish between 4pm to 6pm, from Monday to Friday and until noon on Saturday, leave the afternoon (most) and Sunday off. Lunch is taken very seriously and virtually. Everything shuts down between noon and 1.30pm

## General Info

- **US will need a visa, but ship likely will provide them for you**
- **Vietnam** is a friendly and **safe** place to **travel**
- Internet and wi-fi are widely available. Wi-fi is almost always free of charge. Many cafes and restaurants also have (free) wi-fi. Connection speeds are normally good. Internet cafes are also available, costing 3000d to 8000d per hour. Most travellers also surf the net using 3G or 4G mobile phone connections. Best sims: Viettel, Vinaphon, MobiFone. Temples and mosques: women bring a shawl and both men and women should wear long pants
- Traffic will be hectic and honking is common
- Avoid tap water
- In tourist centers many Vietnamese will speak some **English**. However, English is becoming more popular as a second language. English study is obligatory in most schools.
- Temples and mosques: women bring a shawl and both men and women should wear long pants

## What to watch out for:

<https://theculturetrip.com/asia/vietnam/articles/11-common-tourist-scams-to-avoid-in-vietnam/>

- Speed thieves
- Fake leather
- Peanuts are not always free in the bars
- Prices in Vietnam are often abbreviated and sometimes quoted in US currency – so 10 can just as easily mean \$10 as it can 10,000 dong (about £0.35)
- Money switch - The most common scenario is switching a 500,000VND note for a 20,000VND, which is an easy trick to spring since they're both blue

## Overview

**Da Nang** is Vietnam's third largest city (1,125,000 people). It was originally known as Cho Han (the Market of the Han), later to be renamed Tourane by the French. It has unique attractions, spectacular scenery and the friendliness of the local population. Despite of its war-torn history, Da Nang is one of the most progressive cities in Vietnam, taking advantage of the new free-market principle. Da Nang, however, may be most familiar to Americans who watched the movie Good Morning Vietnam and the popular television series China Beach.

**Hoi An**, once known as Faifo, was a major international port in the 16th and 17th centuries, and the foreign influences are discernible to this day. The heart of the city is still the Old Town, full of winding lanes and Chinese-styled shop houses, which is particularly atmospheric in the evening as the sun goes down. While almost all shops now cater to the tourist trade, the area has been largely preserved as is, which is unusual in Vietnam, and renovation has proceeded slowly and carefully - it's mercifully absent of towering concrete blocks and karaoke parlors. The Old Town of Hoi An is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Hue**, whose economy is primarily built around tourism, as it contains one of the few UNESCO designated sites in Vietnam, the [Complex of Huế Monuments](#) being a tourist attraction, alongside its moat and thick stone walls. The complex encompasses the Imperial City, with palaces and shrines; the Forbidden Purple City, once the emperor's home; and a replica of the Royal Theater.



## Da Nang

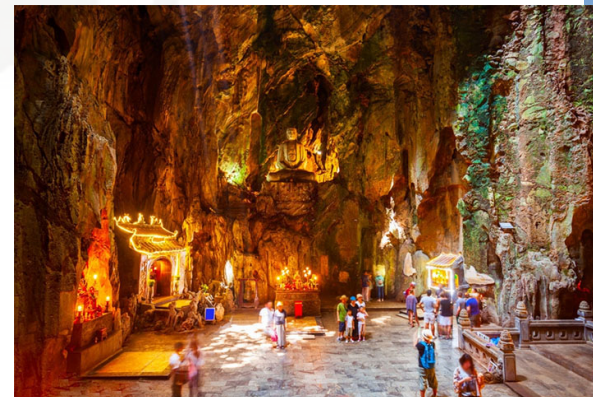
**Cham Museum**, housing close to 300 7<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century sculptures of the Cham people.

**Golden Bridge** is a 490 ft pedestrian bridge in the **Bà Nà Hills** resort, designed to connect the [cable car](#) station with the gardens.

**Marble Mountains** is a cluster of five marble and limestone hills located in Ngũ Hành Sơn District, south of Da Nang city in Vietnam. The five mountains are named after the five elements of feng shui: Kim, Thuy, Moc, Hoa and Tho. are known for their Buddhist pagodas and shrines which are dedicated to various local gods.

The **Da Nang Cathedral** is one of the most famous catholic churches in Vietnam thanks to its amazing design features. The cathedral has a signature pink edifice as well as colorful stained-glass windows and a large bell tower which has an iconic weathervane at the top in the shape of a rooster. The cathedral dates from 1923 and it also goes by its local nickname which is Con Ga or Rooster Church.

Cham Island ~ 1hr away; beaches include Non Nuoc Beach and My Khe Beach



## Da Nang

**Monkey mountain** - home of a rare species of monkey called the red face monkey and the Linh Ung Pagoda, known for having the tallest statues of the Goddess of Mercy in the region which was built on top of a platform in the shape of a blooming lotus. You will also find some 21 statues of the Buddha here which are in turn located inside a larger 67 meter tall Buddha figure.

**My Son** is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is made up of a collection of ruins which would have formed the base of the fearsome Champa Kingdom. The architecture here spans eight centuries and you will see ornate carvings as well as impressive stone pillars and buildings.

The **Cao Dai Temple** in Da Nang is the largest of its kind in Vietnam and is said to have some 50,000 worshippers. Here you will find a sign that says that 'All Religions Have the Same Reason' and you will find references to important figures from the main five world religions. These include statues of Jesus, Mohammed, Laotse, Buddha and Confucius and there is also a huge altar which is fitted with a large globe known as the Divine Eye.

**Dragon Bridge** - every Saturday and Sunday at 9 pm you can walk down to the waterfront and watch a show which lights up the bridge and the dragon even spits out fire and water from its mouth.



# Hoi An

Hoi An is known across Vietnam for being a hub for beautiful locally made products and you will be able to shop for these in places like the main central market. There are also a number of handicraft villages dotted on the outskirts of the town and you can usually take a tour to these. The **Hoi An Silk Village** with homes built in the traditional style and filled with artisans who will teach you how to make beautiful silk pieces and you can even feed the silkworms here and help to unravel their cocoons.

Hoi An is known for having a number of **cooking schools** where you can get stuck in and learn all about how to make some local dishes. One of the more famous schools is the Gioan Restaurant and Cooking School and you can choose between either ordering something to eat here in the restaurant or you can sign up for a class.

One of the most opulent buildings in all of Hoi An is the **Fujian Assembly Hall** which dates from the 17th century. The main hall here is covered in carved figures that feature around a gateway which is etched with carvings of mythical Chinese creatures and 12 Midwives which are carved fertility statues that stand in the grounds of the hall.

Fujian Assembly Hall



Lantern Market



Old Town



Japanese Bridge



Hoi An Museum





# Hue

**Tombs of the Ancient Emperors** date from the 19th and 20th centuries and are carved to tell the stories of Buddhist legends. Some of the main tombs not to miss include the Tomb of Tu Duc, the Tomb of Minh Mang and the Tomb of Khai Dinh.

**Tu Hieu Pagoda** is one of the most famous in all of Hue and dates from 1843. This pagoda was also the home of eunuchs during the times of the Ancient Citadel in Hue and nowadays some 70 monks live here.

The **Huyen Tan Princess Temple** consists of a large complex which is covered with lakes of lotus flowers. The monastery of Emperor Tran Nhan Tong is also located here and you will also be able to stroll in picturesque orchard gardens when you visit.

The **Imperial Citadel** in Hue would have been the previous center of the government and is made up of a vast complex. When you walk around you can admire the moats, carved gates and royal pavilions, and there are also a clutch of engaging museums on the grounds. If you like Vietnamese costumes, textiles and art then make sure not to skip the main galleries here.

Thanh Toan Bridge is the most famous bridge in Hue and is said to date back some 200 years and is made up of a wooden platform which is topped with a tiled roof.

The Tiger Fighting Arena built during the time of the Minh Mang Dynasty and would have been the venue for dramatic fights between tigers and elephants; a Royal Antiquities Museum, Huda Brewery Tour; Thien Mu Pagoda; Royal Theater.



# Getting around



Coco bus in Da Nang  
Hoi An is walkable  
Hue use taxi, motorcycle taxi, rent a bike



## Transportation

While technically, Vietnam now accepts international drivers licenses, in reality it will be difficult to find an agency that will rent a car without you also having a Vietnamese driver

<http://vmcar.com.vn/tien-sa-port-to-hoi-an/>

[Car Rental Per Hours In Danang – Hoi An – Hue](#) \$60

[Da Nang to Hoi An transfer](#) \$15

[Danang to My Son sanctuary to Hoi An by car](#) \$50

[Danang to Hue by car.](#) \$55

A cab to Hoi An will run \$16 to \$25, and to Da Nang about \$10 each way.

Trains not a good option

### Taxi tips

Throughout Vietnam, there are really only two reputable cab companies: Mai Linh and Vinasun. If you're stuck with some second rate company, you need to ensure the meter is running, as less than honest cabbies often have a hard time remembering to click the button. A ride should generally set you back about 15,000 VND (about 65 cents in USD) per kilometer.

Never beckon someone with one finger as you would in the States. Instead, you should use your whole hand. To motion for someone, point your arm out, and lay your hand flat with your palm down. Bend your fingers toward you as if you're trying to grab something without using your thumb. Getting a cab should be quite similar; just raise your arm, flatten your hand, and bend your fingers toward you. If you just hold your arm up and out, that should work too.

Uber equivalent is GRAB



## HAL Excursions

### Da Nang:

Artisans of Da Nang	\$ 59.95 (S)	5 hrs
Da Nang by Rickshaw & the Cham Museum	\$69.95 (M)	4 hrs

### Hoi An:

Ancient Hoi An & Beach	\$ 79.95 (M)	4.5hrs
Best of Ancient Hoi An	\$129.95 (M)	7.5hrs
Hoi An Highlights	\$ 79.95 (M)	4.5hrs

### Hue:

Imperial Hue	\$154.95 (S)	9 hrs
My Son Heritage & Cham Art	\$119.95 (S)	8 hrs



## Shopping – haggling at markets is expected



**Con Market** may not be a promising name for a shopping area but you will find some 2,000 shops here which sell everything you could ever need in **Da Nang**. These include clothes and footwear as well as local handicrafts, so this is a great place to pick up some gifts or souvenirs. This shopping area has been here since the 1940s and it was renovated in 1984 to its present form.



Lying along the lush banks of the Thu Bon River is the Hoi An **Central Market** which is the best place to shop for handicrafts while you are in **Hoi An**. You will find a huge mixture of products here including silk pieces and other textiles as well as local foodstuffs and aromatic spices.



The **Hope Center** is a project that has been set up to help disabled and disadvantaged residents in **Hue** find employment. The center makes a number of garments and you will find amazing local handicraft items.

## What to Buy

Item	Cost	Budget Tailor	High-Quality Tailor
Short Casual Dress		500k VND	800k VND
Midi Evening Dress		1.2m VND	2m VND
Collared Long Sleeve Shirt		600k VND	1.2m VND
Full Suit (Jacket, Pants and Shirt)		2.5m VND	4.5m VND

[Yaly Couture](#) in Hoi An. They have three stores located within Hoi An:

- 47 Nguyen Thai Hoc Street
- 47 Tran Phu Street
- 358 Nguyen Duy Hieu Street

Paintings - the best places to buy paintings are either on the streets of Hoi An or in small boutique shops.



Embroidery

Silk - Hoi An: Bao Khanh Silk at 101 Tran Hung Dao Street, Son Phong Ward



Ao dai is the traditional Vietnamese

## What to Eat

### Dishes you need to try in Vietnam 🍜

- 🍜 **Pho**: the national Vietnamese dish. A hearty noodle & meat soup with fresh herbs eaten primarily at breakfast.
- 🍜 **Bun cha**: grilled pork and noodles.
- 🍜 **Gỏi cuốn**: my personal favorite. Fresh spring rolls filled with noodles, meat/prawns/crab and greens.
- 🍜 **Cha ca**: one of Hanoi's best, it features white fish sautéed in butter with dill and spring onions.
- 🍜 **Nem Ran/Cha Gio**: preferred in special occasions, this fried spring roll involves different combinations of lean minced pork, sea crabs or unshelled shrimps, edible mushrooms and dried onions.

Vietnamese coffee is an absolute must-do during your trip. Vietnam is the largest producer of Robusta coffee beans in the world. Even if you're not a big fan of coffee, give one a taste. You can buy an iced coffee for as little as 20000 VND which is a great, refreshing way to start the day.

**Ken** – Vietnamese Ice Cream  
**Nem Lui** – Hue Lemongrass Pork Skewers

