



Silver Falls, Thac Bac, Sapa

Eight miles (13km) from Sapa is the Thac Bac Water fall (the one in the picture). You can get here easily on a motorbike which you can rent at any [hotels in Sapa](#). This is one of the region's major attractions. It is possible to climb to the top of the waterfalls. From there, there is an excellent view of the waterfalls. If you come here, follow the road and you will get to the Tram Ton pass.

The Japanese Bridge, Hoi An, The Japanese Bridge in Hoi An, Hoian

The bridge was built by the Japanese trading community in 1593 to link them with the Chinese quarter on the other side of a small stream. The bridge is obviously very solidly built, almost out of proportion to the small trickle which runs under it. At either end of the bridge are alters to guardians of the bridge. One end has a pair of monkeys, while the other is guarded by dogs (left). There's also a sort of temple on the north side of the bridge, right in the middle over the stream. As the entrance is low to the ground, you can see a lot of detail in to roof, including the little porcelain bowls used to cap the ends of the tiles (right). The "other "side of the bridge is where you'll find the more interesting art galleries.

Nui Bai Tho, Poem Mountain, Halong

Poem Mountain stands over the city of Hon Gai. On his visit to Ha Long, King Le Thanh Tong (15th century) wrote a poem glorifying Ha Long's beauty. This poem is carved on a stele on Nui Truyen Dang which was later renamed Nui Bai Tho or Poem Mountain. The King was a poet and the person responsible for forming the group of intellectuals, Tao Dan Nhi Thap Bat Tu, or Tao Dan twenty-eight scholars. Cua Ong Temple is located on a hill over looking Bai Tu Long Bay. The temple was built as a shrine to mandarin Tran Quoc Tang, the son of Vietnams most famous general Tran Hung Dao.

In 1283, during the height of the war against Mongolia, Tran Quoc Tang was sent here to build a fort to defend this frontier. This area was known for its rough and less than ideal conditions. Tran Quoc Tang created a government here and turned the area into a prosperous place. Tran Quoc Tang was made supreme commander and became one of Vietnams most successful general. During this period, there were many bands of outlaws and pirates harassing the people in this region. General Tang successfully wiped out many of these bandits and brought peace to this area. He was also successful in keeping the great Mongolian army at bay during their numerous attempt to invade Vietnam. The people revered him so much that he became a demigod to them. So much reverence was given to general Tang that he was dubbed King of the Sea while he was still alive

Binh Son Tower, Vinh Phuc

Binh Son Tower is located near Vinh Khanh Pagoda in Binh Son Village, Lap Thach District, Vinh Yen Province, 150km from Hanoi. Built during the Ly-Tran Dynasty, this 16-m tower has 11 floors, each with a curved roof. The tower is empty on the inside and located on a square platform. The tower was built with solid red bricks and its foundations was built with Vo bricks. The surface of the fine Vo bricks is dark and has flower imprints. These features create an harmonious building style, suitable to

different architectural trends. The tower was restored in 1972 after a landslide caused the tower to sink to one side. Although the tower's foundations were raised 4m higher than they were before the landslide, all the architectural attributes of the tower were kept intact. Binh Son Tower is a unique architectural building of the Ly-Tran period that has been conserved in its original design.

Palace Of Ocean King, Nha Trang City

Palace of Ocean King is at the present the largest side nationwide, opened in 1998 on Hon Mieu Island, close to Tri Nguyen fish lake. Palace of Ocean King was designed and constructed with the look of a sailing yawn, allowing visitors to relax, to behold the live life of marine royal and mermaids.

The Citadel, Hue

The Citadel is a square enclosure with a circumference of 10,000 m, a height of 6.6 m and a thickness of about 21 cm. The center of the wall is packed with dirt while the outer shell is built with bricks. There are ten gates to access the Citadel each with a two story watch tower. The gates are named according to their direction of exit. The southeastern gate is also known as Thuong Tu gate, The Eastern gate is also called Cua Dong Ba etc... The Citadel was built to accommodate 24 bastions with over 400 canons.

Mount Ngu Binh & Perfume River

Based on the ancient practice of geomancy, the Citadel was designed and planned around the natural elements in the area north of the Perfume river. The complex faces southeast, taking Mount Ngu Binh (Royal Screen Mount) as a natural screen. Two islets in the Perfume river, Ta Thanh Long (Left Green Dragon) and Huu Bach Ho (Right White Tiger) play the role of sentinels for the Citadel. The construction of the Citadel took place from 1805 to 1832.

Nha Tho Duc Ba, Cathedral of our Lady, Ho Chi Minh City

Proposed to be one of France's most ambitious project in Indochina at the time, Rev. Colombert laid the cornerstone for the cathedral on October 7, 1877. Three years later, in 1880, the cathedral was opened to the public. These two dates are inscribed on a marble placard in the cathedral. The bricks used to build the structure were shipped from Marseilles. Artisans from Lorin Company (Chartres, France) were commissioned to create the stained glass windows. The cost of construction was a whopping 2.5 million francs. In 1962, the Vatican gave the cathedral the title Basilique.

Ba Danh Pagoda, Ha Nam

The Ba Danh Pagoda can be found in the Kim Bang District of Ha Nam Province, about 10km from the town of Phu Ly. The pagoda is situated on the bank of the Day River in a large peaceful area far from any settlements. At first, it was just a small temple for worshipping Tu Phap deities. Then, during the reign of Emperor Le Hy Tong (1675 - 1705), it was upgraded to become more beautiful and magnificent. Later, locals tore down the temple and brought a statue of Buddha to the site and built the Ba Danh Pagoda. After offering incense at the pagoda, visitors can continue on to see Ngoc Mountain and its lush green forests.

Thien Tru Temple, Chua Huong

There is an informal protocol when arriving to Chua Huong. The first stop must always be a visit to Den Trinh. Den Trinh means registration shrine. All visitors to Chua Huong must first "trinh "or register at the shrine and to announce their intentions. The next point of interest would be a visit to Thien Tru temple (chua Ngoai - Outer Temple). The temple was built in the 18th century. Thien Tru means heavenly kitchen. This name was derived from the imagination of the locals in this region. Supposedly, the rock formations in this area look like chefs busily working in the kitchen. The name Thien Tru is also the name of a constellation - for the god of the kitchen. Thien Tru temple is famous for the Thuy Tien tower, a granite monolith. To the right of Thien Tru temple is Tien Son grotto. Tien son is famous for the five granite statues and the various formations on the walls of the cave. When struck, these formations sound like a Vietnamese percussion instrument called "Khanh", and some sound like bells.

Hoan Kiem Lake, Lake of the Returned Sword, Hanoi

Ho Hoan Kiem or Lake of the Returned Sword was once a part of the Red river (song Hong). Through thousands of years of changes in the geography, the lake moved eastward to its present position many kilometers from the river. The lake was once called Luc Thuy or Green Water because the water was green year round. In the fifteen century, the lake was named Ho Hoan Kiem, based of a legend that is quite similar to King Arthur and the Lady of the Lake's legend.

While fighting against the Chinese, King Le Thai To has in his possession a very valuable sword. After 10 years of continuous struggle, the King finally defeated the Chinese and reclaimed Vietnam's independence. One day, while sailing on lake Luc Thuy, a large turtle appeared. The king drew his sword and pointed at the creature. The turtle immediately grab hold of the sword with its mouth and submerged. The king mourned the lost of such valuable sword, demanded that the lake be emptied and dredged. Both the turtle and the sword were not found. The king realizing that the gods must have lent him the sword to drive back the enemy, but now that Vietnam is free, the sword must be returned. King Le Thai To named the lake Ho Hoan Kiem or Lake of the Returned Sword.

Since the reign of king Le Trung Hung (XVI century), every king in the Le dynasty, and Lord Trinh have all contributed to the beautification of the lake. Lord Trinh Giang built Khanh Thuy shrine on Ngoc island on the north end of the lake. He also had the two man made hills built across from Ngoc son Shrine. At the end of the Le Dynasty, Khanh Thuy was destroyed by Chieu Thong. A philanthropist named Tin Trai built Ngoc Son pagoda. Ngoc Son pagoda was renamed Ngoc Son shrine during the reign of Thieu Tri III (1843) because it was no longer a Buddhist shrine. Instead, Ngoc Son is a shrine to Van Xuong, a deity, in charge of literature and the various tests required to become a mandarin. It is also a shrine to general Tran Hung Dao, a national hero responsible for many victories against the Mongols.

Since then Ngoc Son has gone through many renovations, one of which was the addition of Thap But (Pen Tower) on the hill which was once called Dao Tai. Three words inscribed on the tower "Ta Thien Thanh "or "write on blue sky". Inside the gate a pool resembling the shape of an ink well was added. Beyond the ink well is The Huc bridge or "where the sun light is absorbed". The bridge leads to Dac Nguyet Lau or "Moon Light tower "- Ngoc Son shrine. Beyond the gates to the shrine, there are

two walls called bang Rong and bang Ho (dragon and tiger slate) where the names of those who passed the national test are inscribed. On the southwest end of the lake is Thap Rua. It was rumored that king Le Thanh Tong used to fish here. Lord Trinh also built the structure to house his entourage while visiting the lake.

Source: [Get Vietnam Visa](#)