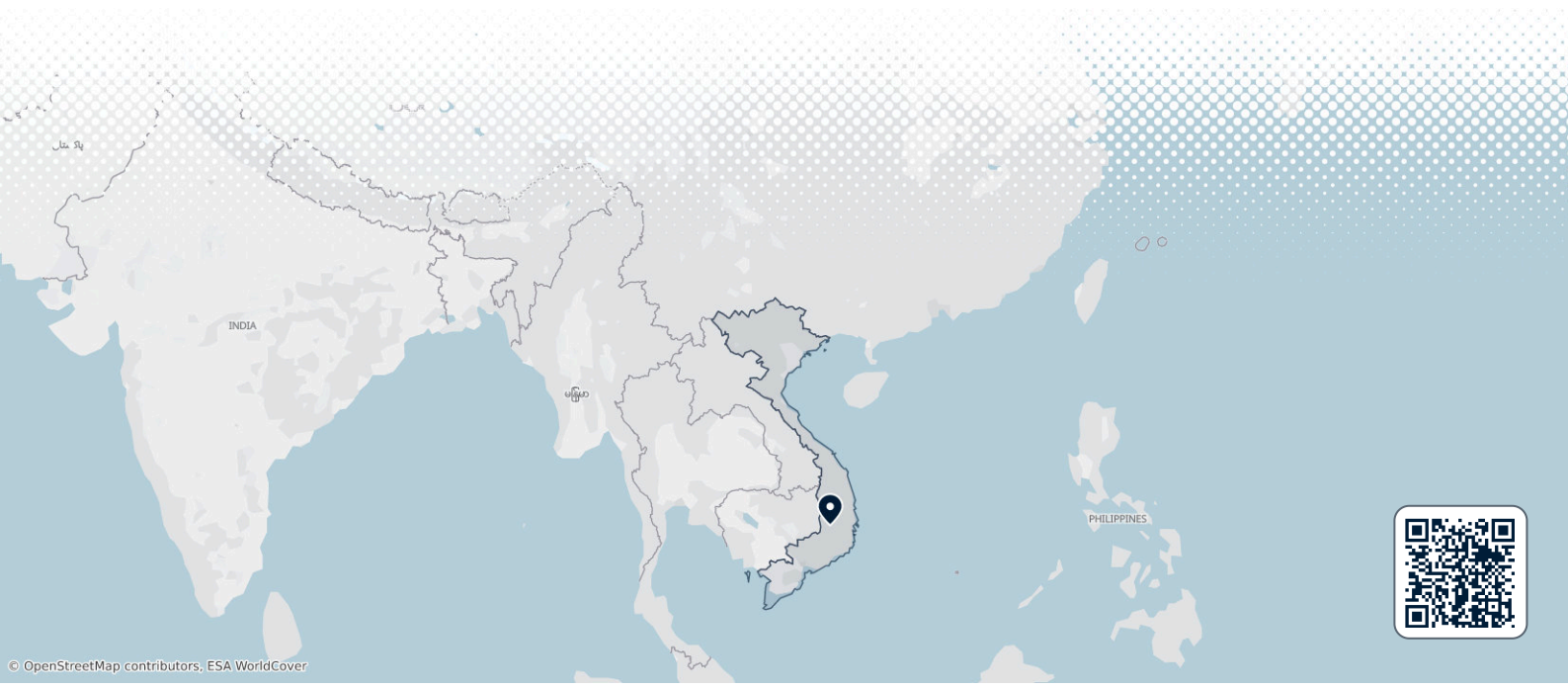


Buôn Ma Thuột

Dak Lak Province · Vietnam

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Buôn Ma Thuột is the main city of the Central Highlands and the capital of Vietnam's coffee country. The city sits on a red basalt plateau, surrounded by coffee farms, waterfalls, lakes and the villages of the Ede and M'nông peoples.

Most visitors stay two to three nights. Days are for coffee farms and the coffee museum, waterfalls and village visits. Lak Lake and Buôn Đôn make good day trips.

When to visit

November to April is the best time. It is dry, sunny and comfortable. February and March bring coffee blossom, when the farms smell of white flowers. The rainy season runs from May to October, with heavy afternoon showers. Waterfalls are at their fullest from August to October, but roads can be muddy.

The Buôn Ma Thuột Coffee Festival is held in March every two years. Check the dates before you travel.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Great Great for wildlife watching	28° / 33°	18° / 15°	Humid air · Calm winds
February	Great Great for wildlife watching	30° / 36°	18° / 15°	Humid air · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
March	Good Good for wildlife watching	33° / 37°	20° / 17°	Muggy, humid air · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme) · Up to 9 days above 35°
April	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	35° / 39°	22° / 20°	Muggy, humid air · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme) · Up to 14 days above 35°
May	Poor Poor for wildlife watching	33° / 38° Feels like 37°	23° / 21°	16 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high) · Up to 8 days above 35°
June	Fair Fair for wildlife watching	31° / 35° Feels like 35°	23° / 21°	16 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
July	Fair Fair for wildlife watching	30° / 35° Feels like 34°	23° / 21°	19 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
August	Fair Fair for wildlife watching	30° / 34° Feels like 34°	22° / 21°	19 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
September	Fair Fair for wildlife watching	30° / 34° Feels like 34°	22° / 21°	20 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
October	Fair Fair for wildlife watching	29° / 33° Feels like 33°	21° / 19°	20 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds
November	Good Good for wildlife watching	29° / 33°	21° / 18°	15 rainy days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds
December	Great Great for wildlife watching	28° / 32°	19° / 16°	Muggy, humid air · Calm winds

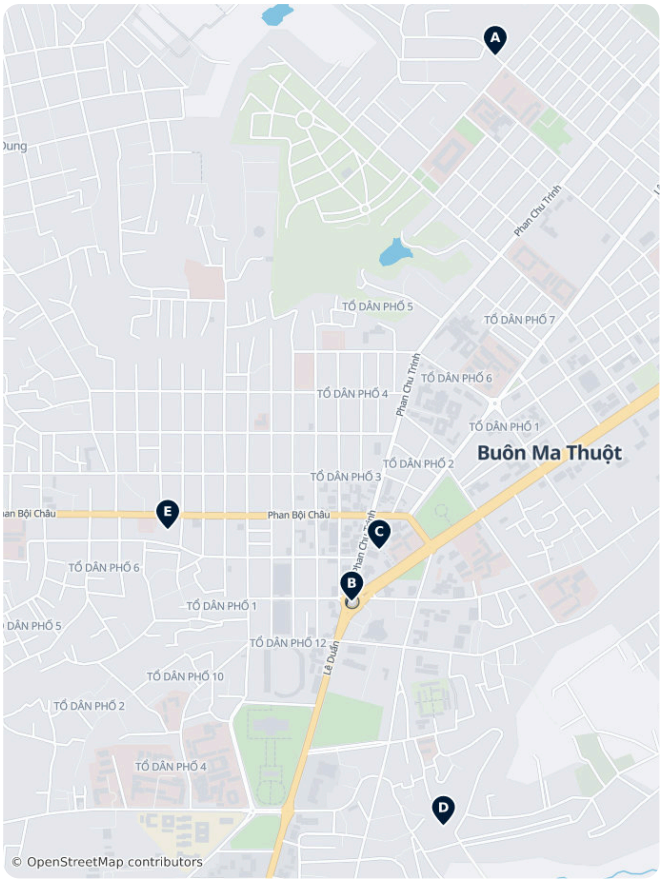
Best months: January

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights

- A Ako Dhong Village is an Ede village with traditional long houses, weaving and cultural shows.
- B Tượng Đài Chiến Thắng Buôn Ma Thuột is a tank-topped monument that remembers the 1975 battle for the city.
- C Coffee Street is a street of cafés where visitors can taste the local coffee.
- D Chùa Phổ Minh is a Buddhist pagoda in the city.
- E Chùa Khải Đoan is another city pagoda with a quiet garden.
- Đồi Thông Cư Dluê is a pine hill with views, west of the city.

The World Coffee Museum and nearby waterfalls such as Draysap and Dray Nur are other top sights outside the centre.



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What to experience

- **Taste coffee at the source**: Visit a farm to see the harvest and roasting.
- **Visit the World Coffee Museum**: Learn about coffee growing and local culture.
- **Stay in a long house**: Ede and M'nông homestays offer a quiet night near Lak Lake.
- **Walk to a waterfall**: Dray Nur and Draysap have paths along the river.
- **Join a village visit**: Choose visits that do not involve riding elephants.

Day trips

- **Buôn Đôn**: a village famous for its elephants and the Sê Rê Pốk river, about 40 km from the city.
- **Lak Lake**: a large lake in the highlands with stilt houses, about 55 km south.
- **Dray Nur and Draysap waterfalls**: two large falls on the Serepok river, about 25 to 30 km from the city.
- Ⓐ Da Lat: a cool hill city about 5 to 6 hours by road.
- Ⓑ Kon Tum: a quiet highland province to the north.



Where to explore

- **Province**: Dak Lak covers the city and surrounding highlands.
- **South**: Da Lat is a popular hill station.
- **North**: Pleiku and Kon Tum are highland towns.
- **Coast**: Nha Trang and Quy Nhon lie east on the sea.

Getting there

- **By air**: Sân bay Buôn Ma Thuột (BMV) has flights from Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Da Nang. The airport lies a short drive from the centre.
- **By bus**: Sleeper buses connect the city with Ho Chi Minh City, Da Nang, Nha Trang, Da Lat and Pleiku.
- **By car**: A private car from Nha Trang takes about 4 hours. From Da Lat it takes about 5 to 6 hours.
- **By train**: The city has no railway station. Vietnam Railways serves the coastal route.

Getting around

- **Taxi and Grab**: The easiest way to move around the city and to nearby sights.
- **Scooter**: Rental scooters are common. Wear a helmet.
- **Tours and drivers**: Day tours cover Buôn Đôn, Lak Lake and waterfalls.
- **Walking**: The city centre is compact, but sights are spread out.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The centre is compact, but waterfalls and lakes lie outside the city.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Roads are mostly flat, but the heat and distances limit long rides.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** A car with a driver is the best way to reach Lak Lake, Buôn Đôn and the waterfalls in one day.
- **Roads**: Highland roads are good but have long straights with trucks and scooters.
- **Parking**: Hotels and sites have free or low-cost parking.

Food & drink

The highlands are known for coffee, and Buôn Ma Thuột is the home of Robusta. Try cà phê sữa, coffee with condensed milk, or the local weasel-style coffees sold at specialist cafés. Local food includes bún đỏ, a red noodle soup, grilled bamboo-tube rice and wild vegetables. Ede and M'nông homestays cook with herbs from the forest.

Look for cafés on the main streets and for cheap noodle shops near the market.

What to eat & drink

BREAKFAST

Pho · Phở
Beef or chicken noodle soup with a fragrant broth, fresh herbs, and rice noodles; commonly eaten for breakfast.

LUNCH

Bun Cha · Bún chả
Grilled pork patties and slices served with rice vermicelli, herbs, and a sweet-sour dipping sauce; a Hanoi specialty.

Bun Bo Hue · Bún bò Huế
A spicy, lemongrass-scented beef noodle soup from the city of Hue.

Cao Lau · Cao lầu
A noodle dish unique to Hoi An, with thick chewy noodles, pork, and greens, traditionally made with local well water.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Banh Mi · Bánh mì
A French-influenced baguette sandwich filled with pork, pate, pickled vegetables, and herbs.

Banh Xeo · Bánh xèo
A crispy turmeric rice-flour crepe filled with pork, shrimp, and bean sprouts, wrapped in lettuce and herbs.

Goi Cuon · Gỏi cuốn
Fresh (uncooked) spring rolls filled with shrimp, pork, herbs, and vermicelli, wrapped in rice paper.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Che · Chè
A category of sweet dessert soups or puddings made with beans, fruit, jelly, and coconut milk, served hot or over ice.

DRINKS

Ca Phe Sua Da · Cà phê sữa đá
Strong drip coffee served over ice with sweetened condensed milk; Vietnam's signature drink.

Bia Hoi · Bia hơi
Cheap, light draft beer brewed fresh daily and sold at street-side stalls, especially in Hanoi.

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Safety & health

Buôn Ma Thuột is a quiet and safe city, but some points need care.

- Mountain roads can be wet and slippery in the rainy season.
- Wear a helmet on a scooter.
- Nights are cool at altitude. Bring a light jacket.
- Avoid swimming in fast water near waterfalls.
- Buy coffee from reputable shops, since fakes are common.

History

The Central Highlands have long been home to the Ede, M'nông and other peoples. Under French rule, the area became a centre for coffee and rubber plantations.

The city is known for the battle of March 1975, which began the final push of the war. Tượng Đài Chiến Thắng Buôn Ma Thuột remembers that event.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Vietnam at a glance:

CURRENCY

VND ₫

ELECTRICITY



Type A / Type C / Type F
220 V · 50 Hz

LANGUAGES

Vietnamese

TAP WATER

Not safe to drink

Buon Ma Thuot Essentials

Buon Ma Thuot serves as the cultural and economic heart of Vietnam's Central Highlands. This collection highlights the city's identity as a global coffee hub, featuring the historic Khai Doan Pagoda—the last temple commissioned by the Nguyen Dynasty—and the Dak Lak Museum, which showcases the heritage of 44 ethnic groups. Visitors can explore military history at the Victory Monument, experience daily trade at the Central Market, and observe the architecture of the city's cathedral, which is uniquely inspired by traditional Ede longhouses.



A Tượng Đài Chiến Thắng Buôn Ma Thuột

An iconic city center landmark featuring a T-54 tank to commemorate the March 1975 liberation of Buon Ma Thuot.

(12.67980, 108.04465)

B Coffee Street

A central area featuring a high concentration of cafes showcasing the region's robusta coffee beans and traditional brewing methods.

(12.68138, 108.04550)



C Chùa Khải Đoan

Founded in 1951 by Queen Mother Doan Huy, this is the city's largest pagoda, blending Hue imperial architecture with traditional Ede stilt house elements.

(12.68199, 108.03889)

D Tượng đài Bác Hồ với thiếu nhi các dân tộc

A monument in the city square depicting President Ho Chi Minh with children representing the diverse ethnic groups of the Central Highlands.

(12.67594, 108.04404)

E Temple dinh lac giao

Established in 1928, this communal house is dedicated to the founders of Lac Giao village and serves as a site for traditional Vietnamese rituals.

Phan Bội Châu 67 (12.68240, 108.04254)



F Chùa Phổ Minh

A local Buddhist temple known for its peaceful atmosphere and traditional religious architecture.

(12.67294, 108.04751)

G Chợ Trung tâm Thành phố Buôn Ma Thuột

A bustling hub for local commerce where vendors sell fresh produce, regional spices, and various grades of Dak Lak coffee.

9 Đường Y Jút, Tân Tiến, Vietnam (12.67962, 108.04246)

H Nhà thờ chính tòa Buôn Ma Thuột

A Catholic church featuring a distinctive architectural design inspired by the steep-roofed longhouses of the local Ede people.

Đường Nguyễn Tất Thành, Thắng Lợi, Vietnam (12.68086, 108.04531)

I Bảo tàng Đắk Lắk

Located on the former site of King Bao Dai's palace, this museum displays artifacts related to regional biodiversity, ethnic cultures, and history.

Tân Tiến, Vietnam (12.67602, 108.04212)

J Ethnographisches museum

A museum focused on the cultural artifacts, traditional costumes, and history of the 44 ethnic groups residing in the Dak Lak province.

(12.66584, 108.05126)

DATA SOURCES

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