



Da Nang

 Vietnam

TRAVEL GUIDE



Overview

Da Nang sits on Vietnam's central coast, squeezed between the South China Sea and the forested Son Tra Peninsula. It is one of Vietnam's major cities, but it feels calmer and greener than Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh City, with wide beaches a short ride from the center and mountains visible from almost everywhere.

The city works well as a base for a few nights: it has its own beaches, bridges, and a growing food scene, and it sits within easy reach of the ancient town of [Hoi An](#) and the imperial capital of [Hue](#). Modern infrastructure and a relaxed pace make it an easy introduction to central Vietnam.

When to visit

Da Nang has a warm, tropical climate with two broad seasons: a dry season from roughly February to August, and a wetter, stormier season from September to January that brings the highest chance of typhoons in October and November. The dry months, especially February to May, offer the most reliable beach weather before the summer heat and crowds peak in June and July.

Plan around the **Da Nang International Fireworks Festival**, held over several weekend nights from late May into July, when international teams compete on a barge on the Han River and the city fills with visitors for the shows. Book accommodation well ahead if visiting during the festival.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	● Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 27°	20° / 17°	☂ 20 rainy days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds
February	● Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 29°	20° / 17°	☂ 15 rainy days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds
March	● Good Good for watersports	27° / 32° Feels like 30°	22° / 19°	☂ 13 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
April	● Good Good for watersports	30° / 34° Feels like 34°	24° / 21°	☂ 14 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
May	● Fair Fair for watersports	32° / 35° Feels like 37°	26° / 24°	☂ 22 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 10 (Very high)
June	● Fair Fair for watersports	33° / 35° Feels like 38°	27° / 25°	☂ 20 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)
July	● Fair Fair for watersports	33° / 35° Feels like 38°	27° / 26°	☂ 22 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)
August	● Poor Poor for watersports	32° / 35° Feels like 37°	27° / 25°	☂ 23 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 11 (Extreme)
September	● Poor Poor for watersports	30° / 33° Feels like 35°	26° / 24°	☂ 26 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
October	● Poor Poor for sightseeing	28° / 30° Feels like 31°	24° / 23°	☂ 26 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds
November	● Poor Poor for sightseeing	26° / 29°	23° / 21°	☂ 24 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds
December	● Fair Fair for sightseeing	24° / 27°	21° / 18°	☂ 25 rainy days · Muggy, humid air · Calm winds

Climate data: NASA POWER + Copernicus ERA5-Land and ERA5 · 1996–2025

Top sights

A Ba Na Hills is a hilltop resort reached by a long cable-car ride, built around a recreated French village and a garden of giant stone hands cradling a golden footbridge. It is a full-day outing and one of the most visited sights in the region.

B Dragon Bridge arcs across the Han River in the shape of a dragon and is the city's best-known modern landmark, especially when lit up at night.

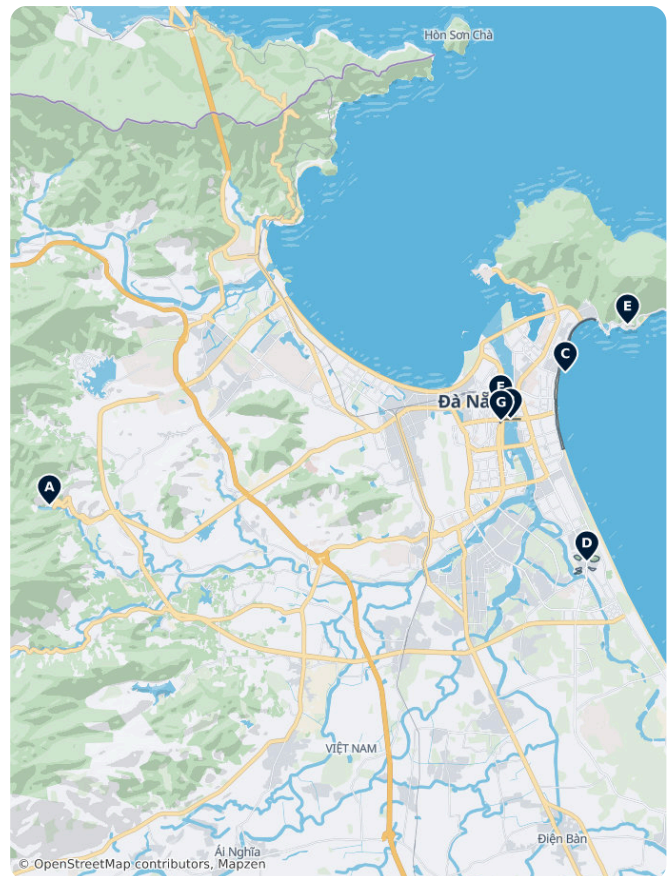
C My Khe Beach is a long stretch of soft sand backed by hotels and seafood restaurants, and a favorite spot for an early swim or a sunrise walk.

D Ngu Hanh Son (Marble Mountains) is a cluster of marble and limestone hills riddled with caves and Buddhist sanctuaries, a short trip south of the city center.

E Lady Buddha rises on the Son Tra Peninsula as one of the tallest statues in Vietnam, and its viewing terrace looks out over the bay and the city skyline.

F Da Nang Cathedral is a pink, neo-Gothic church from the French colonial era, still an active parish and a favorite photo stop in the city center.

G Da Nang Museum of Cham Sculpture holds the world's largest collection of Cham sculpture, giving context to the ancient kingdom that once ruled this coastline.



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What to experience

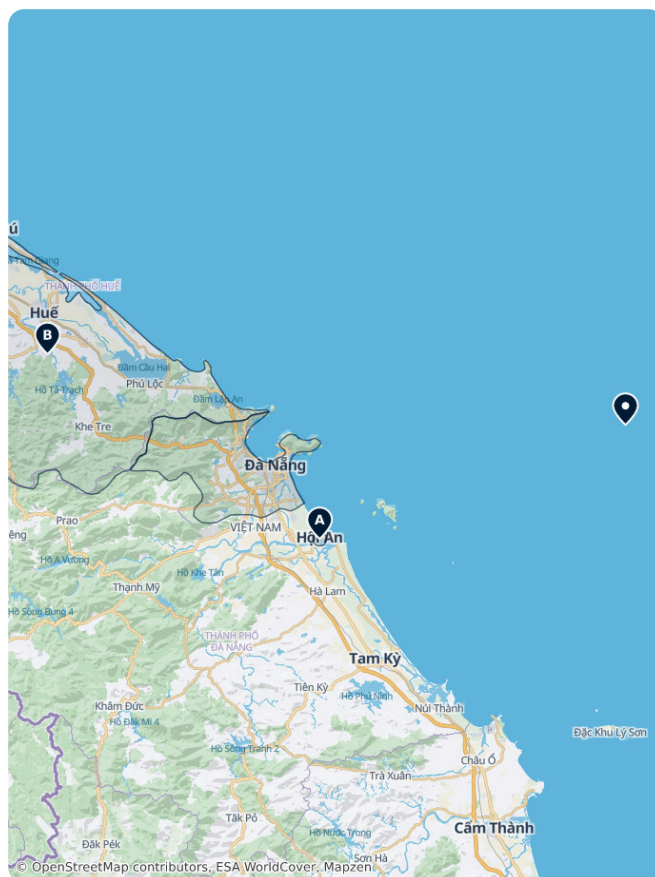
A few things are worth timing your visit around rather than just photographing in passing.

- Watch [Dragon Bridge](#) on Saturday and Sunday nights, when the dragon's head breathes fire and then water to a crowd gathered along the riverfront.
- Rent a scooter and ride the loop road around the Son Tra Peninsula, past [Nui Son Tra](#), where red-shanked douc langurs are sometimes spotted in the treetops above the road.
- Get up early for a swim at [My Khe Beach](#) before the day heats up, when the beach is at its quietest and the light is best.

Day trips

Da Nang's location makes it an easy base for both quick outings and longer heritage trips.

- **A** [Hoi An](#) — ≈45 min by car or taxi. This UNESCO-listed trading port is packed with lantern-lit streets, tailor shops, and riverside cafes; go for the day or stay for the evening lantern displays.
- My Son Sanctuary — ≈1.5 hours by car. A cluster of brick Cham temple ruins set in a jungle valley, the best surviving remains of the ancient Champa kingdom.
- **B** [Hue](#) — ≈2.5 hours by car or train over [Hai Van Pass](#), one of Vietnam's most scenic mountain roads. Vietnam's former imperial capital has a walled Citadel, royal tombs, and the Perfume River — worth a full day, or an overnight stay if time allows.



Where to explore

Da Nang anchors central Vietnam's main heritage trail, between two very different neighbors.

- Heading south into [Quang Nam](#), you reach the lantern-lit streets of [Hoi An](#) and the Cham ruins further inland — many travelers combine Da Nang with a few nights in Hoi An.
- Heading north over the coastal mountains, [Hue](#) offers a completely different side of Vietnam: an imperial capital of citadels, tombs, and a slower, more traditional pace.

Getting there

- **By air:** Da Nang International Airport (DAD) sits only about 3 km from the city center and handles both domestic flights and a growing number of direct international routes. A taxi or ride-hailing car to downtown hotels takes 10–15 minutes and costs roughly 80,000–120,000 VND.
- **By train:** Da Nang railway station sits on the North–South Reunification Line, with services to [Hanoi](#), [Ho Chi Minh City](#), and [Hue](#). The stretch over [Hai Van Pass](#) toward Hue is one of the most scenic rail journeys in the country.
- **By bus:** Long-distance coaches connect Da Nang to Hoi An, Hue, and towns further afield; most hotels can book seats directly.

Getting around

- **Public transit:** City buses exist but run infrequently and mostly serve locals rather than tourist routes. Most visitors get around by ride-hailing apps such as Grab, which is cashless and shows the fare upfront.
- **Taxi / ride-hailing:** Grab cars and motorbike taxis are widely available and generally cheaper and more transparent than hailing a taxi on the street.
- **On foot / cycling:** The riverside promenade and the streets around My Khe Beach are pleasant to walk or cycle, but the city is spread out, so plan on a ride for anything further afield.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

Central areas along the Han River and My Khe Beach are easy to explore on foot, but the city is spread out, so expect to use a taxi or rideshare between neighborhoods.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

The riverside and beachfront have dedicated paths, though busier roads elsewhere make cycling less comfortable.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?:** Not for the city itself — traffic is dense and chaotic for unfamiliar drivers, and Grab cars and motorbike taxis cover it easily. A rental car with driver, or a self-driven scooter for confident riders, is popular for day trips to Hoi An, Hue, or the passes above the coast.
- **Parking:** Most hotels offer free or low-cost parking for cars and scooters. In the center, look for marked motorbike parking lots (attended, small fee) rather than leaving a scooter on the sidewalk.
- **Restrictions:** No congestion charges or low-emission zones apply to visitors.

Food & drink

Da Nang's kitchen leans on the wider region's specialties: turmeric-yellow **mi quang** noodles topped with shrimp and pork, and **bun cha ca**, a fish-cake noodle soup that is a local breakfast staple.

For an easy introduction, head to the stalls and eateries around [Han Market](#) near the river, where local dishes are cheap and the choice is wide. Sit-down seafood restaurants line the beachfront near My Khe for a more formal dinner.

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

Da Nang is one of Vietnam's safer, more orderly cities for tourists, with low rates of violent crime. The main risks are the ordinary ones: watch for bag-snatching by passing motorbikes in busy tourist areas, and take care crossing wide roads, where traffic rarely stops for pedestrians — cross at a steady, predictable pace rather than waiting for a full gap.

Swim only at beach sections with lifeguards and flags, particularly around My Khe, where rip currents can be strong outside the calmer central stretch.

History

Long before Da Nang was a beach city, this coastline was the heart of the Hindu-Buddhist Champa kingdom, whose sculpture and temple carvings are gathered at [Da Nang Museum of Cham Sculpture](#). The nearby [Ngu Hanh Son \(Marble Mountains\)](#) sheltered Cham sanctuaries in their caves for centuries.

The city itself grew under French colonial rule, when it was known as Tourane and developed as a port — a legacy still visible in buildings like [Da Nang Cathedral](#). During the Vietnam War, American forces used the city's beaches as an in-country recreation base, and My Khe was widely known to soldiers as China Beach. Since the 2000s, Da Nang has rebuilt itself around its bridges and waterfront as one of Vietnam's fastest-growing cities.

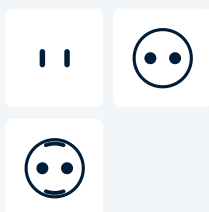
Country facts

Quick practical facts for Vietnam at a glance:

CURRENCY

VND đ

ELECTRICITY



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

LANGUAGES

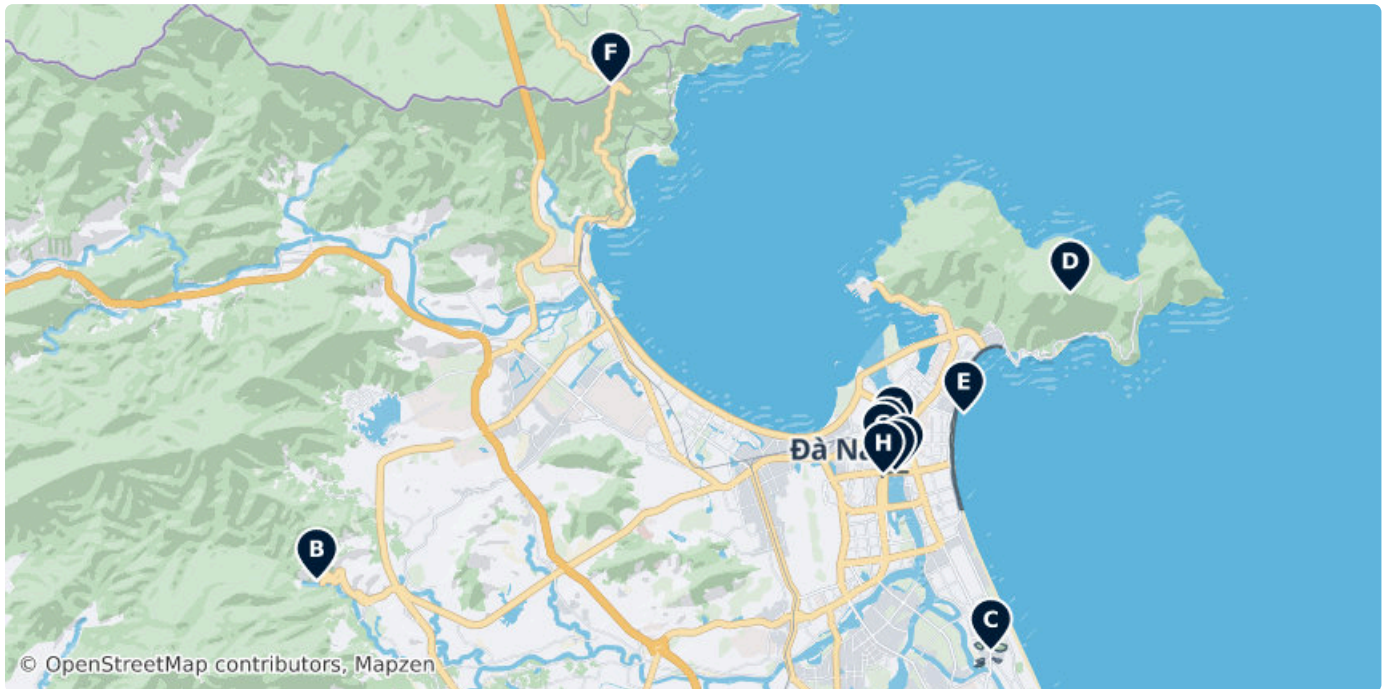
Vietnamese

TAP WATER

**Not safe to
drink**

Da Nang Essentials

Da Nang combines coastal geography with rapid urban development. This selection covers the Han River's architectural landmarks, including the fire-breathing Dragon Bridge and the rotating Han River Bridge. Natural sites include the white sands of My Khe Beach, the limestone caves of the Marble Mountains, and the Son Tra Peninsula's biodiversity. Cultural highlights range from 7th-century Cham artifacts in the Museum of Cham Sculpture to the French-influenced Da Nang Cathedral and the hilltop resort of Ba Na Hills.



A Dragon Bridge

A 666-meter steel bridge designed in the shape of a golden dragon. It spans the Han River and features a weekend performance every Saturday and Sunday at 9 PM, where the dragon's head breathes fire and water.

Dragon Bridge, An Hải Ward, Đà Nẵng, 02363, Vietnam
(16.06115, 108.22722)

Mo-Su

danangfantasticity.com/en/dragon-bridge



Open 24/7



B Ba Na Hills

A mountain resort accessible via an extensive cable car system. It features the Golden Bridge, supported by two giant stone hands, a replica French village, and the Linh Ung Pagoda located 1,500 meters above sea level.

Bà Nà Commune, Đà Nẵng, Vietnam (16.02575, 108.03115)

sunworld.vn/en/banahills, +84905766777





C Marble Mountains

Marble Mountains is a cluster of five marble and limestone hills located in Ngũ Hành Sơn District, south of Da Nang city in Vietnam.

507 Đường Lê Văn Hiến, Hòa Hải, Vietnam
(16.00279, 108.25971)

nguhanhson.org

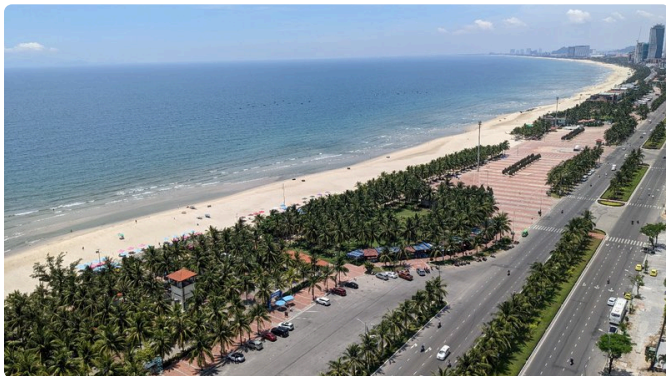


D Son Tra Mountain

Located on the Son Tra Peninsula, this peak is home to the 67-meter-tall Lady Buddha statue at Linh Ung Pagoda. The surrounding forest serves as a habitat for the rare, indigenous red-shanked douc langur.

Vietnam (16.11946, 108.28661)

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/S%C6%A1n_Tr%C3%A0_Mountain



E My Khe Beach

A 30-kilometer stretch of white sand and clear water extending from the base of Son Tra Peninsula to the Marble Mountains. Known for its gentle slope and suitability for swimming and surfing.

Võ Nguyên Giáp, Sơn Trà Ward, Đà Nẵng, 50408, Vietnam
(16.08027, 108.25052)

danangfantasticity.com/en/enjoy-danang-festival-2024/



F Hai Van Pass

Scenic 21-kilometer mountain pass traversing a spur of the Annamite Range with winding roads overlooking the sea. It features historical remains of a Nguyen Dynasty-era lookout post and serves as a natural weather divide.

Hai Van Pass, Huế, Vietnam (16.18747, 108.13082)

danangfantasticity.com/en/heritage-landscape/hai-van-p...





G Da Nang Cathedral

This strangely colored cathedral is one of the most photogenic spots in Da Nang due to its 'millennial' pink color.



Đường Trần Quốc Toản, Phước Ninh, Hải Châu Ward, 50207, Vietnam (16.06668, 108.22306)

Mo-Sa 05:00–17:30
Su 05:00–17:00

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Diocese_of_%C4%...



H Museum of Cham Sculpture

The Museum of Cham Sculpture is a museum located in Hải Châu District, Đà Nẵng, central Vietnam, near the Han River.



Đường Bạch Đằng (16.06038, 108.22326)



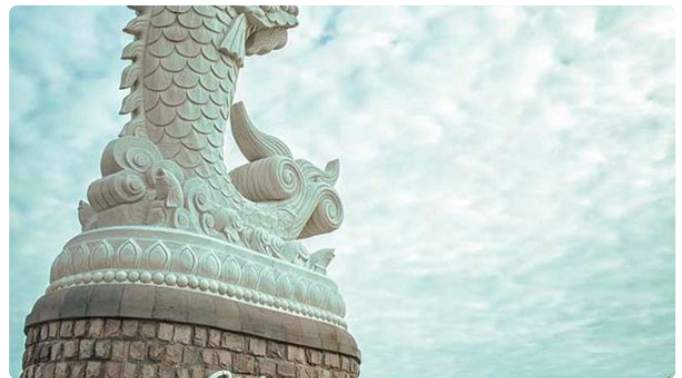
I Han Market

A market for both locals and tourists, offering local products and clothes as well.



16 Đường Nguyễn Thái Học, Đà Nẵng, Vietnam (16.06828, 108.22452)

Mo-Su 06:00–19:00



J Dragon Carp Fountain Statue

A six-ton marble statue on the east bank of the Han River. Modeled after the legend of a carp transforming into a dragon, it features a fountain mechanism and color-changing LED lights at night.



Đường Trần Hưng Đạo, Sơn Trà, Vietnam (16.06273, 108.23010)



K Han River Swinging Bridge

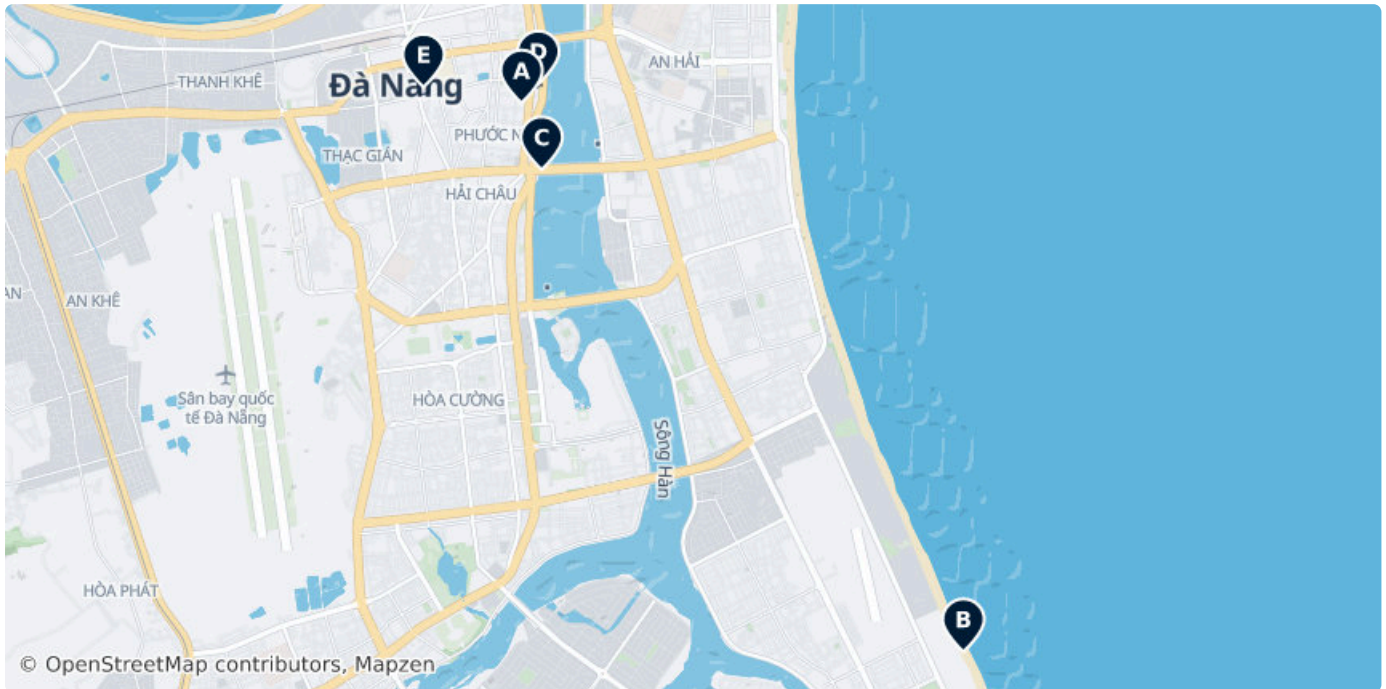
Vietnam's first swing bridge, completed in 2000. To facilitate shipping traffic, the middle section of the bridge rotates 90 degrees around its axis at midnight on weekends.



Đường Phạm Văn Đồng, An Hải Bắc, Vietnam
(16.07214, 108.22681)

Hidden Gems of Da Nang

Da Nang's landscape features the Gothic-style Da Nang Cathedral, notable for its pastel pink exterior and weathercock-topped steeple. Along the coast, Non Nuoc Beach offers calm waters and white sands near the Marble Mountains. The city is connected by the Dragon Bridge, which spans the Han River and features a steel dragon design that breathes fire and water on weekend nights. For local commerce, Han Market specializes in dried goods and textiles, while Con Market serves as a central hub for regional street food and fresh produce.



A Da Nang Cathedral

This strangely colored cathedral is one of the most photogenic spots in Da Nang due to its 'millennial' pink color.

Đường Trần Quốc Toản, Phước Ninh, Hải Châu Ward, 50207, Vietnam (16.06668, 108.22306)

Mo-Sa 05:00-17:30
Su 05:00-17:00

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Diocese_of_%C4%...



B Non Nuoc Beach

One of the cleanest and most peaceful beaches to visit. It's usually less crowded than others and the water is calmer, depending on the...

Ngũ Hành Sơn, Vietnam (16.02053, 108.26174)





C Dragon's Tail

This 666-meter-long steel bridge spans the Han River and is modeled after a Ly Dynasty dragon. Every Saturday and Sunday at 9:00 PM, the structure features a public display where the dragon's head breathes fire and water.

Đường Võ Văn Kiệt, Phước Ninh, Vietnam
(16.06108, 108.22482)

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dragon_Bridge_\(Da_Nang\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dragon_Bridge_(Da_Nang))



D Han Market

A market for both locals and tourists, offering local products and clothes as well.

16 Đường Nguyễn Thái Học, Đà Nẵng, Vietnam
(16.06828, 108.22452)

Mo-Su



06:00-19:00



E Con Market

If you wish to experience the local culture and buy some local products, this is a place to be.

Đà Nẵng (16.06801, 108.21448)

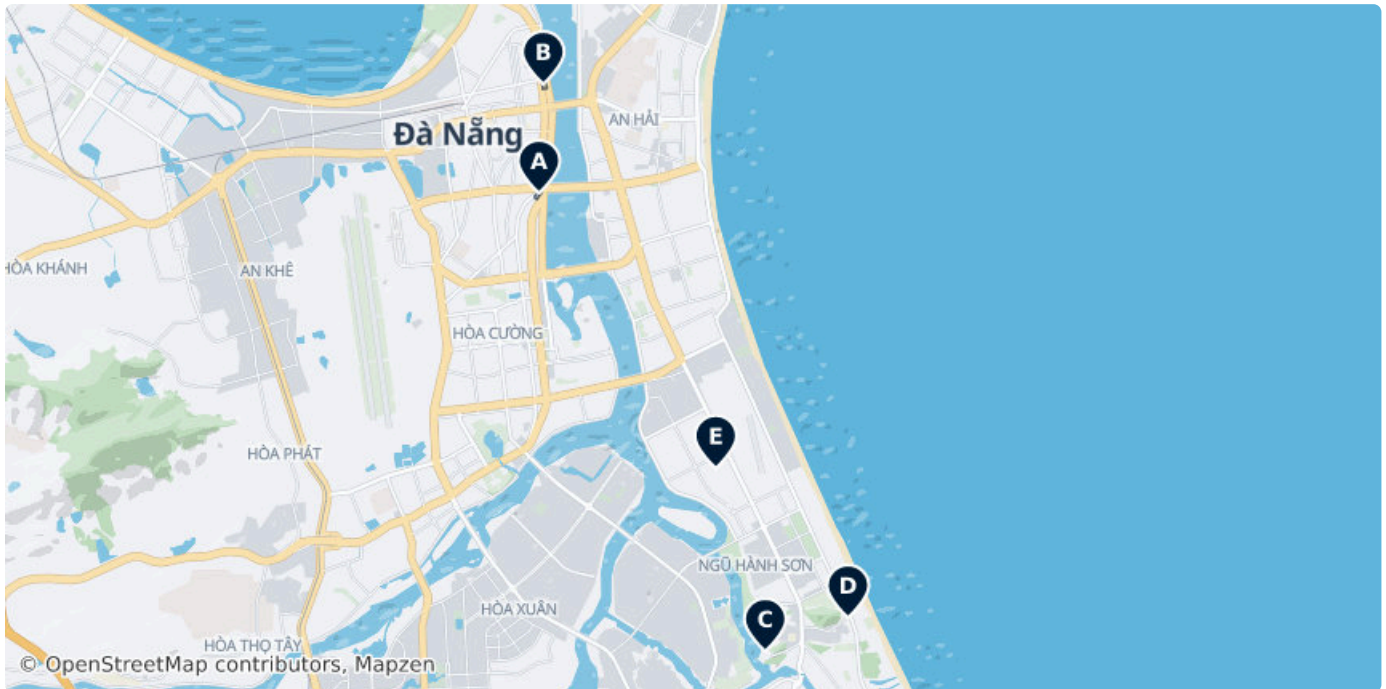
Mo-Su



06:00-20:00

Museums & History

Explore the historical evolution of Da Nang through its specialized museums and monuments. This collection features the world's largest assembly of Cham terracotta and sandstone sculptures, dating from the 7th to 15th centuries. Discover Vietnam's first Buddhist museum located within a pagoda, and learn about regional history at the site of the 19th-century Dien Hai Citadel. The list also includes significant war memorials and exhibits dedicated to the traditional stone carving heritage of the Marble Mountains.



A Museum of Cham Sculpture

The Museum of Cham Sculpture is a museum located in Hải Châu District, Đà Nẵng, central Vietnam, near the Han River.

Đường Bạch Đằng (16.06038, 108.22326)



B Đà Nẵng Museum

Located within the historic Dien Hai Citadel, this museum displays over 2,500 artifacts detailing the history and culture of Da Nang. Exhibits cover prehistoric origins, the city's role in the resistance wars, and its modern development.

Đường Trần Phú 42 (16.07488, 108.22386)

Mo-Su

08:00-17:00

+84 236 3886 236



C Bảo tàng Phật giáo

Situated within the Quan The Am Pagoda, this is Vietnam's first Buddhist museum. It houses a collection of over 200 artifacts, including ancient statues, bronze bells, and ritual items reflecting centuries of Buddhist art and tradition.

Đường Sự Vãn Hạnh, 550000 (15.99943, 108.25458)

Mo-Su

09:00–17:00



D Marble Mountains Museum

An exhibition space focused on the 400-year-old Non Nuoc stone carving village. It showcases traditional carving techniques, the geological history of the limestone mountains, and intricate marble sculptures produced by local artisans.

(16.00391, 108.26603)



E To Quoc Ghi Cong

A central war memorial and monument dedicated to martyrs who died for national independence. Located near the Han River, the site features a large ceremonial plaza used for official commemorations and remembrance.

(16.02379, 108.24773)



DATA SOURCES

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IMAGE CREDITS

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