

Dong Hoi

Quang Binh Province · Vietnam

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



Overview

Đồng Hới is the capital of Quảng Bình province and the practical base for Phong Nha–Kẻ Bàng National Park. The city sits on the coast at the mouth of the Nhật Lệ River. It is a quiet town of wide streets and long beaches, rebuilt after heavy bombing in the war.

Most visitors pass through for a night on the way to the caves. It is worth a half day for the beach, the Tam Tòa church ruins and the seafood.

When to visit

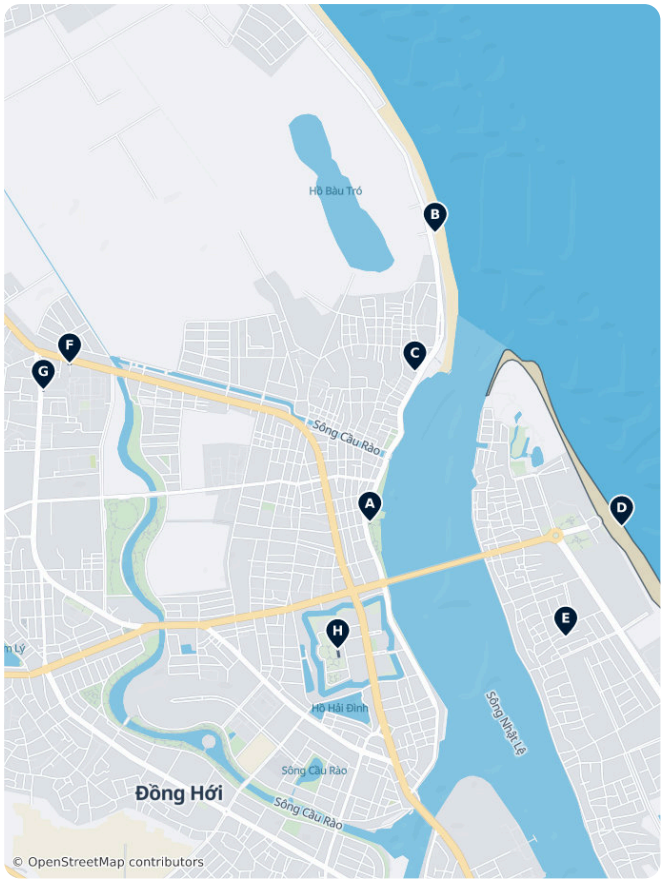
February to August is the best time for the beach, with dry and warm weather. From September to November the coast gets heavy rain and typhoons, and floods are common in the province. Winter from December to February can be cool and grey.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Fair Fair for sightseeing	21° / 25°	18° / 15°	21 rainy days · Humid air
February	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 28°	19° / 15°	17 rainy days · Muggy, humid air
March	Good Good for sightseeing	25° / 31°	21° / 17°	16 rainy days · Muggy, humid air
April	Good Good for the beach	28° / 35° Feels like 31°	24° / 20°	13 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds
May	Fair Fair for the beach	31° / 36° Feels like 35°	26° / 23°	14 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · Calm winds · UV 9 (Very high)
June	Great Great for the beach	33° / 36°	28° / 25°	Oppressive humidity · UV 9 (Very high) · Up to 5 days above 35°
July	Good Good for the beach	32° / 36°	27° / 25°	Oppressive humidity · UV 9 (Very high)
August	Good Good for the beach	32° / 35°	27° / 25°	12 rainy days · Oppressive humidity · UV 9 (Very high)
September	Poor Poor for sightseeing	30° / 33° Feels like 33°	26° / 24°	20 rainy days · Oppressive humidity
October	Poor Poor for sightseeing	27° / 30°	24° / 22°	25 rainy days · Oppressive humidity
November	Fair Fair for sightseeing	25° / 28°	22° / 20°	23 rainy days · Muggy, humid air
December	Fair Fair for sightseeing	22° / 26°	20° / 17°	24 rainy days · Humid air

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

Top sights

- A Tam Toa Church is the ruin of a church damaged in the war. Only the bell tower and part of the walls remain.
- B Nhat Le Beach is the city beach, on the north side of the river mouth.
- C Hải đăng Nhật Lệ is the lighthouse at the river mouth, near the beach.
- D Bao Ninh Beach is a long sandy beach on the Bảo Ninh peninsula, across the river.
- E Bao Ninh fish sauce is a fishing village on Bảo Ninh, known for fish sauce.
- F Cổng số 2 and G Cổng số 3 are old city gates left from the Quảng Bình citadel.
- H Tượng đài Bác Hồ is a monument to Hồ Chí Minh in the city centre.



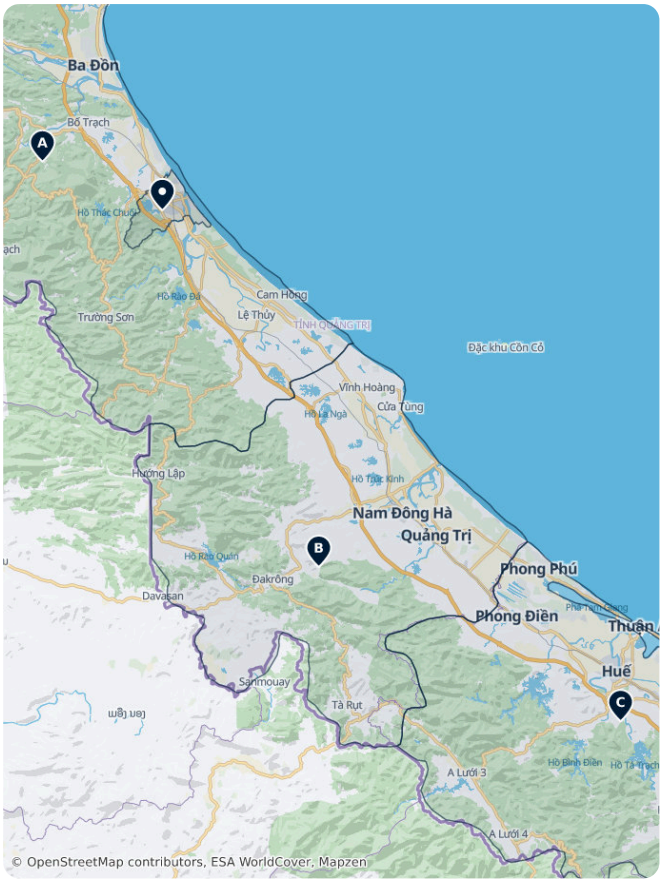
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What to experience

- **Watch the sunrise at Nhật Lệ beach**: Quiet in the morning and popular for early walks.
- **Eat seafood on the coast**: Fresh fish, squid and crab are sold along the beach roads.
- **Visit Bảo Ninh**: A fishing village with a sandy beach and fish sauce workshops.
- **Use the city as a base for the caves**: Book a Phong Nha day tour from here.

Day trips

- A Quang Binh: Phong Nha–Kẻ Bàng National Park is about 50 km north-west, with Phong Nha Cave and Paradise Cave.
- **Bảo Ninh**: the beach peninsula across the river, a short ride from the city.
- B Quang Tri: the former demilitarised zone lies to the south, about 2 hours by road.
- C Hue: Huế is about 3 to 4 hours south.



Where to explore

- **Province**: Quang Binh covers Phong Nha and the caves.
- **South**: Quang Tri and Hue lie along the coast road and railway.
- **North**: Ha Tinh is the next province up the coast.

Getting there

- **By air**: Đồng Hới Airport (VDH) is about 6 km north of the centre. Flights run from Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.
- **By train**: Đồng Hới station is on the north–south line. Trains stop from Hanoi, Huế and Da Nang. Vietnam Railways
- **By bus**: Long-distance buses run along Highway 1.
- **To Phong Nha**: Buses, taxis and private cars take about 1 hour.

Getting around

- **Taxi**: Available in the city. Use the meter or a booking app.
- **Motorbike hire**: Easy to rent, and the best way to reach Bảo Ninh and the beaches.
- **Bicycle**: The coast is flat. Rent a bicycle for the river and beach.
- **Walking**: The centre is compact and walkable.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

The centre is flat and compact, but the beaches are a few km out.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

High

The coast and city are flat, so cycling is easy.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** For Phong Nha and the coast, a car or driver is convenient. In the city, taxis and bikes are enough.
- **Roads**: Highway 1 runs through the city and is busy with trucks.
- **Floods**: In autumn, check road conditions before long trips.

Food & drink

Quảng Bình cooking is simple and spicy. Try bánh bèo, small steamed rice cakes with shrimp, and cháo canh, a thick noodle soup. Fresh seafood is cheap near the beach. Local fish sauce from Bảo Ninh is a common gift.

Look for small family places near Nhật Lệ beach and the central 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

Đồng Hới is safe for visitors.

- Typhoon and flood season runs from September to November. Check forecasts and local advice.
- Swim only where there are lifeguards or other swimmers, as currents can be strong.
- In the countryside, stay on marked paths. Unexploded ordnance from the war is still found in Quảng Bình.
- Use sun protection from April to August.

History

Đồng Hới was a walled citadel town of the Nguyễn lords and later a provincial centre. During the war the city was bombed heavily, and almost nothing of the old town survived. It was rebuilt from the 1970s.

The ruins of Tam Tòa church remain as a reminder of that period. Today the city is a regional hub and the gateway to the Phong Nha–Kẻ Bàng caves, which were listed by UNESCO in 2003.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Vietnam at a glance:

CURRENCY
VND ₫

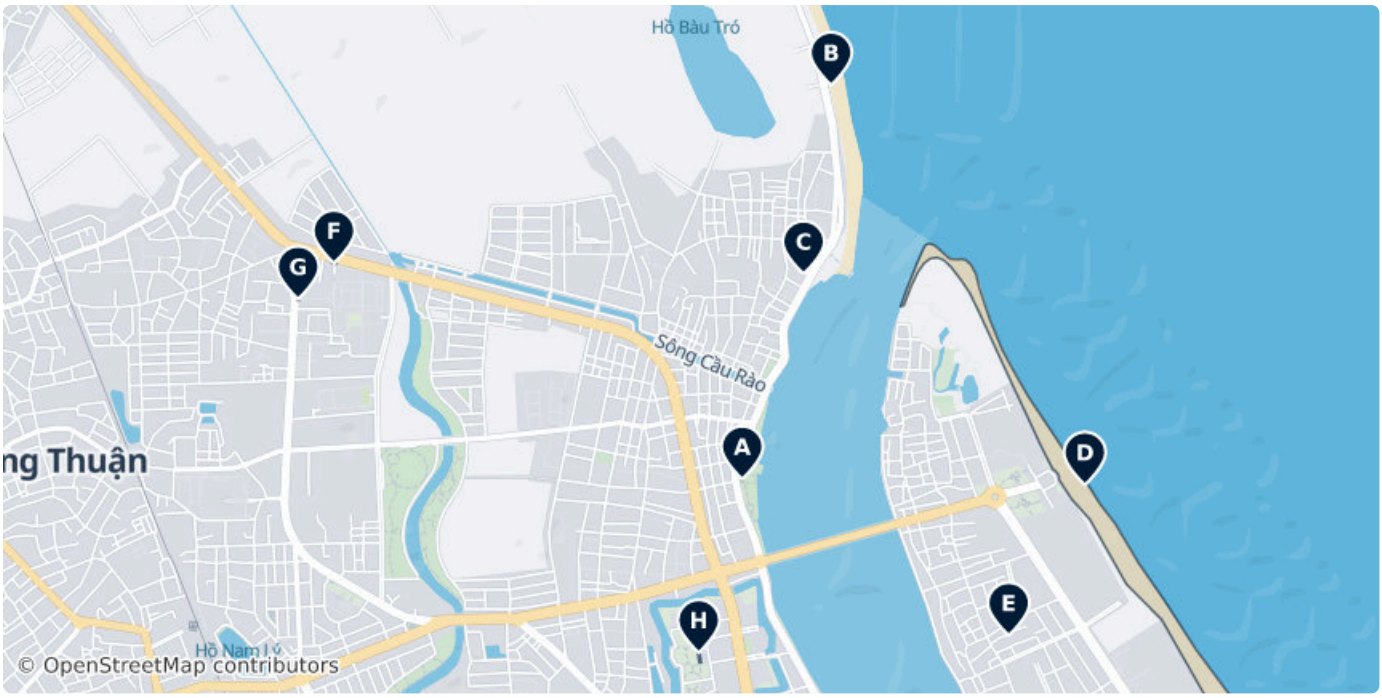
ELECTRICITY

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

LANGUAGES
Vietnamese

TAP WATER
Not safe to drink

Top sights



A Tam Toa Church

(17.47498, 106.62335)

B Nhat Le Beach

(17.49105, 106.62715)

C Hải đăng Nhật Lệ

(17.48335, 106.62597)

D Bao Ninh Beach

(17.47474, 106.63801)

E Bao Ninh Commune - Fish sauce making profession

(17.46859, 106.63476)

F Cổng số 2

(17.48379, 106.60586)

G Cổng số 3

(17.48232, 106.60433)

H Tượng đài Bác Hồ

(17.46789, 106.62148)

DATA SOURCES

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