

Good old days are never gone. Bet you must have put Hoi An tours in your Vietnam travel list after you have got tourist [Vietnam visa](#), for not a Vietnam tours fan could resist its beauty and magic.

History of Hoi An dating back to 2200 years ago is mixed up with a lot of historical, cultural and religious features. Hoi An began its career as an international port from the 15<sup>th</sup> century when normal commerce was allowed to resume after Cham King's death. Although it traces its trading roots to the Cham era, Hoi An (known to Europeans as 'Faifo') gained its reputation as a central port frequented by Chinese. Today, Hoi An does a brisk business in the tourist trade. Merchants' mansions, ornate Chinese assembly halls, and laid-back charm - plus over 100 quality tailoring shops - win over travelers' hearts. Full moon night of every month is a big deal to Hoi An people, as it is to Hoi An travel fans. The Old Town of Hoi An turns into an incredibly magical land with silk lanterns, colorful costumes and dancing people. Along with the yummy traditional food and lively street side games, the celebration is absolutely a great treat for you! There are also many [boutique hotels in Hoi An](#) for you to choose to stay.

My Son is another place to explore more historical magnetism. The enigmatic ruins evident the history of the ancient kingdom of Champa, and now it's a UNESCO World Heritage site. It's not the only place that keeps that much Champa Kingdom remains, but not another place in the country could outmatch its surroundings. The verdant valley is surrounded by hills and overlooked by Cat's Tooth Mountain (Hon Quap), and clear streams are running between the structures. This is My Son, the very paradise that the good old days are peacefully and greatly preserved. Hoi An and its oozing charm and history managed to escape from the destructive wars. Today Hoi An is still enveloping you with its unfading sense of history during your Hoi An tours.

#### Cham Island

Lying 18 km offshore from Hoi An, the Cham Islands (known locally as Cu Lao Cham) feature beautiful seascapes and landscapes. This island group has 3,000 inhabitants; most of whom make a living from fishing. During the 1960s, Cu Lao Cham was known as "Paradise Island". Only 1 + 1/4 hour by a junk and 30 minutes by speedboat from Hoi An Town (Cua Dai Quay), it is perfect for a day trip with snorkeling or a dive on some beautiful corals, a delicious seafood lunch on the island, or a walk along the "eco-tour" trail. It is much nicer to spend overnight on the island, then you will have chances to explore the island and experience your great time with sunset and sunrises which is much spectacular or go fishing at night and have barbecue on the island.

There are many other interesting attractions for visitors, including fresh seafood, traditional crafts, swimming and sightseeing. Recently important archaeological remains were found and these are now exhibited in a small museum near the main jetty. The island is rich in aquatic resources, with 165 hectares of coral and 500 hectares of sea weeds. The waters around Cu Lao Cham is home to 135 species of coral, four species of tiger shrimp and 84 species of mollusk, many of which are listed in Vietnam's and the world's Red Book of endangered species.

Today the Cham islands are also a Marine Protected Area (MPA) because of their many important marine habitats, especially beaches and coral reefs, and rich biodiversity. The MPA includes eight islands; the largest island Hon Lao, features magnificent beaches and forests, the township of Bai Lang, a small harbor, a traditional fishing village (Bai Lang),

temples, shrines and a pagoda. Cham Islands, offshore island of Hoi An City has just been recognized as the World Biosphere Reserve by the UNESCO.

### Thanh Ha Pottery Village

Pottery is not just a significant and traditional craft in Vietnam, but also an important means of livelihood. The Thanh Ha Pottery Village in Hoi An is a famous example in this type of an establishment that aims at furthering tradition as well as employment. The Thanh Ha Pottery Village in Hoi An is located in the Quang Nam Province in the Thanh Ha ward; Hoi An lies 3 Km to the east of it. The pottery village has a long historical legacy attached to it.

The tradition dated back to the time when the Nguyen Dynasty of Hue invited craftsmen from the Thanh Ha Pottery Village to fashion some decorative as well as useful articles for the palace. This one event gained them sufficient renown to last them a lifetime.

Henceforth, the village began a Mandrain system of grading craftsmen according to their talent. The most talented held the ninth position. The pottery at the Thanh Ha Pottery Village in Hoi An are all manually crafted and are exported world over. The techniques that they use are unique from those prevalent in other provinces. The Thanh Ha Pottery Village in Hoi An crafts decorative articles along with useful items like cups, jars, bowls and pots. The flower pots made here are particularly sought after.

The Thanh Ha Pottery Village in Hoi An used clay mixing techniques, burning and baking time and heat modulations to bring out different colors like pink, pinkish-yellow, red, light brown and ink-black in the wares. The craftsmen also modulate all these aspects to achieve immense durability in their products. Aside of the regular articles, the Thanh Ha Pottery Village in Hoi An is also renowned for its bricks and tiles of various shapes and sizes. In fact, its bricks and tiles are sourced out to the entire local as well as many foreign regions. It is the most trusted name for contractors engaged in tasks of renovation.

### My Son

Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999, the ruins of My Son were once the major religious center of the ancient Champa Kingdom. These temples reveal the ancient integration of different cultures. The walls and pillars rising out of the jungle, as well as the image and sculptures, are a meeting point of Hindu and indigenous culture. The earliest artifacts date from the 4th century, though more permanent temples were not built until the 7th century. From the 7th to the 13th centuries, over 70 towers were built. Today, the ruins are organized into group A-H.

Regrettably, there is little written description of the sights. The path from the entrance leads first to the E (7-8th century) and F groups, then to the G group. These groups do not offer much to see and are simply warm-up for the crown jewel B-C-D group. The C1 kalan (main tower) is the most prominent; the broad, rectangular D1 and D2 were once mandrapart (meditation chambers) for the Band C temples, respectively. Now they house a motley assortment of sculptures—unfortunately, the best has been moved to Da Nang's Cham Museum. US bombs reduced the A1 tower—once a spectacular testament to 10th century Cham artistry—to a sad perimeter of stone. Today A1's best offering is a small rise which offers a picturesque view of the B-C-D group. As the ruins of My Son could be in better condition, it is recommended to pay a visit to the Cham Museum in Da Nang first—this helps you to imagine the site in its full majesty. Also, it is advisable to arrive early to beat the swarms of visitors. Being along at My Son will allow you to appreciate the serene grace and beauty of the site. {My Son is located 50km west of Hoi An. Minibus tours allow

2hr at the ruins (leave 8am, return by 2pm).

#### Phuc Kien Assembly Hall

This one is the best choice for your Hoi An vacation ticket. Hoi An's oldest, largest, most colorful, and most complex structure, this hall was first constructed in 1697 by Fukienese immigrants who later rebuilt it in 1757. Past the pink columns of the Red Phoenix Gate, look down to see the symbol for longevity surrounded by five bats of happiness (well, as if there was any other kind of bat). The first courtyard contains stonework and a statue called "Carp Contemplating a Moon." Above the inner archway, five bats frame the phrase "The goddess will give her follow man favor." This goddess is Thanh Mau, Holy Mother, Protectress of sailors, and goddess of the Sea. Just inside the main building, a mural depicts Thanh Mau preparing to rescue a ship from a wipeout-caliber wave. The main altar pays tribute to the congregation's ancestors' a smaller one to the right honors the God of Prosperity. (46 Tran Phu. Open daily 7am-6pm)

#### Hoi An Museum of Historic and Cultural

This 300-year-old museum (which used to be a Quan Am Pagoda) provided a decent, albeit somewhat meager, overview of the city's history. Today, is secular displays traces local civilization through the early Sa Huynh culture, the Champa Empire, and the Dai Viet Era. Sadly, a poster and an old cannon are the main attractions.

#### Quan Cong Temple

Founded in 1653, Quan Cong Temple (Chua Ong; 24 Đ Tran Phu: admission Hoi An Old Town ticket) is dedicated to Quan Cong - a highly esteemed Chinese general who is worshipped as a symbol of loyalty, sincerity, integrity and justice His partiallv gilt statue, made of papier-mâché on a wooden frame, is in the central altar at the back of the sanctuary. On the left is a statue of General Chau Xuong, one of Quan Cong's guardians, striking a tough-guy pose on the right is the rather camp and plump administrative mandarin Quan Binh. The life-size white horse recalls a mount ridden by Quan Cong, until he was given a red horse of extraordinary endurance, representations of which are common in Chinese pagodas. Check out the carp-shaped rain spouts or, the roof surrounding the courtyard the carp is a symbol of patience in Chinese mythology and is popular in Hoi An. Shoes should be removed when mounting the platform in front of the statue of Quan Cong.