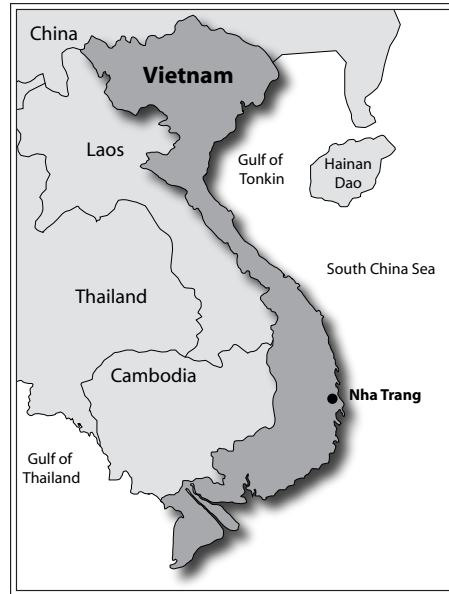


Spotlight on Nha Trang



HISTORY

The name Nha trang is a Vietnamese pronunciation of a Cham word Eatran or Yjatan. Ea or Yja means river, and tran means reed. According to the locals, there once were a lot of reeds along Ngoc Hoi river. The river winds its way through the town. Ngoc Hoi was later renamed Nha Trang river.

Nha Trang has a rich historical past, and was formerly the center of the ancient Kingdom of Champa. The kingdom dominated the region from the 2nd century A.D. until the 15th century when they were defeated by the Ly Dynasty, founders of the independent Vietnamese state.

In 1891, Dr. Alexander Yersin, a French immunologist, founded Xom Bau Village where fishermen migrated, making it a bustling and crowded village. Quickly, more and more people began migrating to the new town and a local government was established. The small village, later named Nha Trang, is now the capital of the Khanh Hoa province and has a population of approximately 300,000 inhabitants.

Today, the town's four-mile stretch of beach, with white sand and warm Caribbean-like waters attracts local vacationers and a handful of westerners.

DOCKING

The cruise ship docks at the port of Nha Trang. The pier is approximately 7 miles from downtown.

SHORE EXCURSIONS

Please check your tour ticket for the correct meeting time and location for your tour. Your cruise line representative will direct you to your transportation.

TRANSPORTATION

Taxis are available outside the port gate, approximately 330 yards from the gangway. Drivers speak limited English and accept both local currency and United States dollars.

SHOPPING

Just outside the port gates, a walk along the main street offers basic souvenir shopping. For a wider selection of items, markets in downtown Nha Trang offer handicrafts, lacquerware, silk and ceramics.

STORE HOURS

Shops generally open from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm or later Monday to Saturday.

BANK HOURS

Banks are generally open from 8:30 am to 11:30 am, and 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm Monday to Friday. They are open on Saturdays from 8:30 am to 11:30 am.

POST OFFICE

The Post Office is located at 4 Le Loi St. It is open from 6:30 am to 10:00 pm Monday to Saturday.

EMERGENCY

In case of an emergency, dial 115 or 113 for the police.



NHA TRANG

PORT & SHOPPING MAP



CAPITAL

The capital of Vietnam is Hanoi.

SIZE

Nha Trang is approximately 100 square miles in size.

LOCATION

Nha Trang is on the central coast, about 280 miles north of Saigon and 745 miles south of Hanoi.

POPULATION

Approximately 300,000 people live in Nha Trang.

LANGUAGE

The official language of Nha Trang is Vietnamese.

CURRENCY

The official currency of Nha Trang is the Dong.

TIME ZONE

Nha Trang follows GMT + 7.

PLACES TO SEE

LONG SON PAGODA

Founded in the 19th-century, the pagoda's interior features murals and images of the Buddha. An enormous white Buddha sits on the hill behind. The pagoda, built in 1965, has resident monks. The entrance and roofs are decorated with mosaic dragons constructed of glass and bits of ceramic tile. The main sanctuary is an attractive hall adorned with modern interpretations of traditional motifs.

PO NAGAR CHAM TOWERS

The Cham towers of Po Nagar were built between the 7th and 12th centuries. Dedicated to the goddess Uroja revered as the symbol of weaving and agriculture—the tower boasts a fine black stone sculpture of the goddess. The site was used for Hindu worship as early as the 2nd century AD. Today, both ethnic Chinese and Vietnamese Buddhists come to Po Nagar to pray and make offerings, according to their respective traditions.

NHA TRANG CATHEDRAL

Built in the French Gothic style, complete with medieval-looking stained glass windows, Nha Trang Cathedral stands on a small hill. It was constructed of simple cement between 1928 and 1933. Today, the cathedral is the seat of the bishop of Nha Trang.

BAO DAI'S VILLAS

These villas were formerly the retreats of Bao Dai, Vietnam's last emperor, who resigned in 1945. Between the mid-1950s and 1975, the villas were used by high-ranking officials of the South Vietnamese government, including President Thieu. This all changed in 1975 when the villas were taken over for use by high-ranking officials of South Vietnam including the prime minister, Pham Van Dong.

GUARANTEE

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Please send a letter and include the name of the ship, cruise date, store name and merchandise problem. Also enclose a copy of the sales receipt and any relevant documents relating to the sale. Onboard Media will contact the recommended store on your behalf for repair or replacement, and you will be notified accordingly.

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