

05 Must-See Heritage Sites In Vietnam

For culture lovers, every small moment of discovery is a step closer to understanding a new and different way of life. Scattered throughout the country, Vietnam's UNESCO Heritage Sites are jackpots for these moments of discovery. Each one promises exceptional beauty and exceptional insight into Vietnamese culture. Of the eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites found in Vietnam, here are five you absolutely must not miss.





1. The Complex of Hue Monuments

Hue was named as the capital of Vietnam in the early 19th century. It served as the political, religious and cultural center until 1945 under the rule of the Nguyen dynasty. The complex monuments located within the city also serves as the geographical center of Vietnam making it easily accessible via the sea. The monuments and the entire city of Hue was planned in accordance with its natural setting while incorporating ancient oriental philosophy.



2. Ha Long Bay



The Ha Long Bay was inscribed as one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Vietnam (1994, 2000). It is a group of islands and islets (about 1,600 in total) within the Gulf of Tonkin. These islands and islets form a beautiful landscape of limestone pillars. However, majority of these islands are uninhabited and had not been touched by human presence. The great biological interest coupled with the natural beauty of the bay's setting combine to earn the nod from UNESCO.

3. Trang An Landscape Complex





Located in Ninh Binh Province, the Trang An Landscape Complex is a spectacular landscape of limestone karst peaks permeated with valleys, many of them partly submerged and surrounded by steep, almost vertical cliffs. It was included into the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Vietnam in 2014 both for its cultural and natural value. It is often called as the "Inland Ha Long Bay".

4. Hoi An Ancient Town

The town of Hoi An was an important trading port from the 15th to the 19th century. But to this day, you will still see remnants of the port town that flourished during the earlier centuries. The buildings and the street plans remain largely intact. Hoi An is even better in the evenings, when the faded streets glow in the light of thousands of lanterns.



5. Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park



This national park was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003. The park consists of the oldest karst mountain in Asia that was believed to have formed for over 400 million years. The karst cave is home to multiple cave systems and underground rivers.

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