



International seminar focuses on preserving Halong Bay

More than 150 foreign and Vietnamese scientists and managers discussed ways to preserve and promote the values of Halong Bay in the northern province of Quang Ninh on July 24. Addressing the seminar, Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism Hoang Tuan Anh, pointed out that Halong Bay, a UNESCO World Natural Heritage, offers beautiful sightseeing and attracts millions of tourists, bringing in trillions of VND per year to the province.

However, [Halong Bay cruise](#) tours are facing major challenges in its course of development, Anh said, suggesting that Quang Ninh province should focus on the quality and efficiency of tourism and take responsibility for preserving and promoting the values of this precious natural attraction.

Secretary of the provincial Party Committee Tran Minh Chinh said Quang Ninh is integrating the development of Halong Bay tourism with its plan to boost sustainable economic growth and environmental protection. The provincial and national strategies for tourism development until 2020, with a vision towards 2030, define Halong Bay as a key tourism destination that will attract great numbers of both domestic and foreign visitors, he added.

Chinh also emphasized that the province aims to develop a tourism trademark, explore for new tourist sites, promote environmental protection and raise public awareness of preserving Halong Bay.

Katherine Muller-Matin, UNESCO Chief Representative in Vietnam, said that the State and the private sector should join efforts to protect and advertise Halong Bay on a national and international scale. According to reports from Quang Ninh province, Halong Bay receives an average of 2.5 million visitors each year, including one million foreigners. In recent years, Halong Bay and the surrounding areas have recently attracted over 40 foreign investment projects with total capital of more than US\$1 billion.

Ho Chi Minh City Museum

Ho Chi Minh City Museum (Vietnamese language: Viện bảo tàng Thành phố Hồ Chí Minh) is a historical site in Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam. The museum is situated at the corner of Lý Tự Trọng and Nam Kỳ Khởi Nghĩa streets, near Reunification Palace, originally known as Independence Palace. The building now occupied by the museum was built during the French colonial era and was the residence of high-ranking French colonial officers. Called Gia Long Palace before the fall of Saigon, it was the last residence of President of the Republic of Vietnam Ngô Đình Diệm, beginning 27 February 1962. Diệm had been Prime Minister since 1954, and president since 1955, but originally lived in Independence Palace until it was bombed by two mutinous pilots of the Vietnam Air Force. As a result, Diệm had to relocate, and ordered a new palace to be built, moving to Gia Long Palace in the interim. It was the last place Diệm worked before his assassination on 2 November 1963 in a coup d'etat.

Diệm ordered the construction of three extremely deep underground tunnels leading from the palace to other parts of the city so that he could escape in the event of a

coup. During his downfall, Diệm is widely believed to have used one of these escape routes to escape the siege on the palace, which caused considerable damage. He fled to a supporter's house in Cholon but was captured and executed a day later. The successor presidents still worked there until the completion of re-built Independence Palace, now Reunification Palace, in 1966. After the fall of Saigon on 30 April 1975, Gia Long Palace was turned into a museum.

Tran Bien Temple of Literature in Bien Hoa city

Have you ever been in Bien Hoa City? A city without traffic jam, hurry, in Dong Nai Province can bring quiet, peace to your mind and bring you back to the old days. Go for a walk around the city and drop by Tran Bien Temple of Literature where you can enjoy these things.

Tran Bien Temple of Literature is located near Buu Long Cultural Park, about three kilometers from the center of Bien Hoa City, the temple is emerging as a peaceful and silent space, with curved domes and majestic rooms under the shade of green trees standing in harmony with the surroundings. Tran Bien Temple of Literature, built in 1715 under King Nguyen Phuc Chu, was the first temple of its kind in the South. The temple is a place to honor Confucius. It also serves as an educational center. Tourists will learn a great deal about the history of Vietnam through the stories of the national heroes and icons.

Architecturally inspired by the Quoc Tu Giam (Temple of Literature in Hanoi), the Tran Bien Temple of Literature was rebuilt twice in the Nguyen Dynasty and then destroyed by the French in 1861. It was restored in 1998 and the first phase was inaugurated during the Tet holidays in 2002. The second phase is under construction.

Tourists can also discover more about Vietnamese history in the tranquil setting of Tinh Quang Lake, as well as at Khue Van Cac, Dai Thanh Mon and especially the stele house of Confucius. In the center is the altar of the Ho Chi Minh President. Besides, eighteen kilograms of soil and eighteen kilograms of water from Hung Temple symbolizing the eighteen Hung kings and the origin of Vietnam are displayed in the temple. The temple also honors southern cultural icons such as Chu Van An, Nguyen Binh Khiem, Le Quy Don, Nguyen Dinh Chieu and Le Quang Dinh. Enjoying fresh air and finding comfort after a long day of work is one of the special features in Tran Bien Temple that attracts many local people. They can go for a walk, sit under the shade of green trees to find themselves. If you are an introvert people, like peace and gentle, Tran Bien Temple of Literature will be the best choice for you!

Source: getvietnamvisa.com