

## **Hue city culture history in the past and present**

In the overall Hue a system of royal architecture with the largest scale with more than 1000 units of work and thousands of royal artifacts, presenting for the exquisite royal architectural art of Vietnam. Have been existed in the harsh climate, frequent floods, long - period fierce wars of the country for hundreds of years, Hue ancient Capital's relics were devastated. Even several architectural works have become ruins or badly damaged. However, in the overall this is a system of royal architecture with the largest scale and the only remaining of Vietnam with more than 1000 units of work and thousands of royal artifacts, presenting for the exquisite royal architectural art of Vietnam.

In history, many ancient capitals of Vietnam have been formed including Thang Long capital; however, the historical fluctuations destroyed most of the special works of royal architecture of Vietnam in a period. Fortunately, a complete system of imperial architecture has been existed in Hue, expressing development of Vietnamese royal architectural art of the prosperity and the decline through the imperial dynasties, including a system of Citadels: Hoang Thanh (Royal Citadel), Tu Cam Thanh (Forbidden City), Tran Binh City, Tran Hai City which are associated with a system of lakes, rivers and estuaries such as Ngu Ha river, Ho Thanh river, Ho Thanh moat, Kim Thuy citadel, Thuan An estuary. Hue ancient citadel is associated with a series of systems of temples, platforms, imperial mausoleums, palaces, royal gardens... and residential areas, infirmaries, providential field and land. This is a valuable system that contains much traditional architectural essence of Vietnam.

As a quite complete architectural complex; however, the citadel architecture and palaces in Hue are not as large, overwhelmed and dry as the architecture of a number of other Citadels. On the contrary, this is a sophisticated form of architecture with architectural works attached to the charming mountainscape and riverscape, containing lines of sophisticated carved decoration. In architecture of Hue ancient citadel, shape and space art reached the harmony and created a fascinating aesthetic impression. Refinement and talent of the ancients delicately hidden in every corner of the natural and architectural beauty.

Many people were interested to hear that the land for building the Hue Citadel is a terrain rearranged by the labor of thousands of militiamen. By a very large number of workforces under King Gia Long, the ancients adjusted the land "King Island"- Phu Xuan by filling in old Kim Long river, digging a series of new rivers including Ngu Ha, Dong Ba, An Hoa, Bach Yen to create the balanced land beside the Huong River and opposite to Ngu Binh mountain. The Con Hen and Con Da Vien (both are sand dunes) on the Perfume River are chosen as a geomancy condition "dragon on the left, tiger on the right" to protect the capital city. Everything is such a natural harmony that few people can realize the process of cutting the ground, filling in the river in the past.

Located in the central of Vietnam, Hue Citadel divided into two systems (Capital Citadel and Imperial City) is a form of balanced architecture. Imperial City with Royal Citadel, Forbidden City and hundreds of gold-gilded exquisite architectural works were built in a harmony, expressing stringent principles, ritual's order and prestige of the Royal. Hue Citadel as a firm, majesty Fortress has 10 symmetric Imperial City gates, the system of mansions including Luc Bo (the six ministries of Nguyen

Dynasty), Secret Department, Temple of Literature, Tang Thu Lau (a place to store old documents of agencies and records under the Nguyen dynasty), which reflected each Emperor's institutions, personality, and tastes. In addition, this is a place storing evidence of the presence of many generations of famous people as Nguyen Du, Phan Huy Vinh, Nguyen Cong Tru, Cao Ba Quat, Nguyen Van Sieu, Ba Huyen Thanh Quan, Tung Shan, But Reasons, Phan Thanh Gian, Nguyen Tri Phuong, Hoang Dieu, Ton theory, Phan Boi Chau, Phan Chu Trinh... reflecting cultural and political activities of capital Citadel under the Nguyen Dynasty.

Style of exquisite architecture of Hue also expressed in a number of imperial tombs situated in the hills and mountains along two banks of the Perfume River to the Southwest of the Capital Citadel. The imperial tombs of the Nguyen Dynasty are rather majesty with taking strict principles of Royal tombs with the system of the court, palace for impregnation, temples, surrounding walls as well as applying type of palace architecture with lotus ponds, alleys, Tung Vien, Thuy Ta, Temples and Assembly Hall; especially the pavilion for reading, the theater and the arena of the King such as Tu Duc Tomb. Each Tomb is a different architectural style, separately reflecting a part of philosophy, spirit and aesthetic values. Especially, King Nguyen Tombs don't evoke feelings of grief for the death; on the contrary, each Tomb is an elegant place for people to go for a walk, sightsee and think.

Attached to the citadel, palace, imperial tombs, there are temples, Nam Giao Platform, Xa Tac Platform, Hon Chen Temple, Linh Mu Pagoda, Tuy Van Pagoda and a system of landscapes in the ancient Capital. They were situated in the residential areas with palaces, temples, shrines, traditional garden houses. These classes of resident were attached to the ancient Capital for many generations, penetrated the traditional values. Therefore, local people still remain rituals, customs, the belief of that time, which carries the image of a Vietnam ancient urban centuries ago.

Source: [Travel to Vietnam](#)